

## THE INGE BROTHERS– AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE CHAMPIONS

When you think about champion lacrosse brothers or families it is hard to recall two or three who were champions and considered up there with the best. Some maybe very good representative players but not necessarily national champions, but as champion lacrosse brothers go it is hard to go past the Inge brothers.

We of course recall Doug Fox and his younger brother Graeme (“Grinner”), both right up there as champions, we also had the Hobbs brothers (3 represented Australia and 4 represented S.A.), Roy and Graeme Reddaway, Jeff and Gary Kennedy, Bill and Jim Daw, no doubt there are quite a few not mentioned.

The Inge brothers are from the modern era, born in the 1970's, when the hickory stick became extinct in field lacrosse!

James recalls “At fifteen I realised that if I was going to play cricket or football at a high level then it was time to pick one and concentrate on it. I'd played a lot of cricket as a kid and my interest was waning, and being 5'6" was going to naturally take care of any football aspirations. I don't remember who suggested it, but dad and I went out to Findon Oval to watch a Woodville vs Brighton game in 1990.

When we arrived the game was underway and I could not believe the pace of the game or how aggressive it was. I had the urge to run through someone just watching! We'd been there for about 20 minutes when right in front of me Mike Paul knocked out a Brighton player with a hip and shoulder. It was a beautiful clean hit and from that moment I wanted to be a lacrosse player”.

James and Peter both started playing in 1991, James was 15 and was one of the top young cricket players in South Australia at the time, and Peter 13. Pete was advancing through the ranks of state development squads for hockey at the time and didn't intend to play lacrosse. The U13's were short for the first game of the year so Pete geared up, went and scored 5-5, but didn't even rate a mention in the best players!! As Peter recalls “I considered myself to be fit but lacrosse just presented a whole sphere of new challenges that I hadn't seen before. At the end of that first game I was physically exhausted. That was a big thing for me and that day was a drastic turn around in my thinking. I'd had good careers in other sports but after playing that first game, I knew lacrosse was going to be my sport. A sport like lacrosse is one you can't immediately master and I guess by nature I am an obsessive compulsive, competitive type. Trying to master the sport presented a great challenge and bit by bit, I found myself in the backyard with a lacrosse stick in my hand, picking up the skills, subconsciously falling in love with the game”.

James recalls “For the next few years, if I wasn't in the backyard throwing the ball against the wall or practising with Pete, I was in front of the TV studying games on video. The TV routine was the same; watch a great move, rewind the tape, work out how it was done, press play and on to the next move worth studying”.

Peter again “More than anything else in lacrosse the big drive for both of us has been the family aspect. Mum and dad have always been very supportive and involved in whatever sports James and I played, but it wasn't until lacrosse came along that I developed a true passion for a sport. Lacrosse was something we all did together and something we all got equally excited about”.

The first premiership we won at Woodville is always going to be a treasured memory for the Inge family. It was so physically and emotionally draining to win that game after being down by such a significant margin. To go into overtime, and to win in

overtime in such dramatic fashion, is a really poignant memory. But there is a lot more to that memory than just the actual victory itself.

As a club, a premiership was certainly a destination we wanted to reach. But in terms of Woodville it was symbolic as a start of our era. We lost in 1997 and to start the 1998 final we weren't doing well. At three quarter time the coach, Peter Brown, had a go at me about stepping up and trying to win the ball. With a minute to go we were one goal down and we needed to score. I popped one forward from the face off and ran down and threw a goal. That tied it up and sent the game to overtime. At that point a sense of belief was surging through the team and we went on to win it from there.

The memory of winning is great but it's not always just the act itself but the things that occurred to make that memory special. When you look at the 1998 victory it was the realisation of dad's 5-year plan (that took 7 years to come to fruition), James was captain of the team, I was a key player and mum came out and watched every game - it was a very defining family moment as well as a club moment. After that game I gave dad my medal, his reward for all the effort he had put in getting us there.



Above is James, father David and Peter the day Woodville won its first league premiership in 39 years in 1998

David Inge was the guy that really started it all on his return to the club. David Inge started with the predecessor club Port Adelaide in 1956 as a 9 year old, his brother went on to play state senior lacrosse for SA, including playing against Washington & Lee/University of Virginia in 1959. David came up with the original 5-year plan and he was the one focused on developing the young kids into league players, and he was the one that recruited John Carter and Noel Speck to come and play for us. He was what we called 'The Vision'.

Dad was the one that looked into the future and saw "Our golden era". I understand the commitment he had to the club and his input was instrumental in running the club around our era. It is because of his plan that we had this era and if you took David

out of the equation, I certainly don't think we would have had anywhere near the success we had.

At club level James played 374 senior games for Woodville, threw 1,309 goals and 608 assists whereas Peter played 233 games, threw 429 goals and 407 assists. They both played in league grand finals from 1997-2002, 2005 & 2007-2009 (10 times), winning all of them except 1997 and 2009. They jointly won the club best and fairest in 1996 and Peter won it from 1996-2000 and 2002. James was captain of the Woodville league team from 1995-2004.

In terms of the Memorial Medal (S.A. B&F) James won it in 1997, 99, 2001, 04, 06 & 07 (6 times) and Peter won it in 1996, 2000 & 2002 (3 times). James won the 1997 Memorial Medal on a countback from his brother Peter, whereas these days the medal is awarded to all players with the same number of votes (Peter lost twice on a count back).

James won the Isaachsen Trophy (Best and fairest club player across Australia) in 2004 & 2006 and Peter won it in 2002, which in itself is amazing given that 2002 and 2006 were World Championship years and reduced the number of club games that could have been played.

With respect to SA senior team representation James was selected from 1994-99 and 2001 (7 carnivals) and Peter in 1995, 97, 99, 01 & 05 (6 carnivals), noting they were not available for carnivals when world championships or tours were played in 1996, 1998, 2002 and 2006. Peter won the Don Hobbs Trophy (Best and fairest player at the national carnival) in 2005. Peter was also selected in the Australian All-Star lacrosse team following national carnivals from 1996-2001 & 2005. Peter was also named the Australian Lacrosse Championship MVP in 2001 & 2002 and made Australian All-Star selection in every senior national championship that he played in except for his first in 1995 as a 17 year old.

In terms of Australian team representation James played in the 1996 Australian touring team and in the 1998 (Baltimore) & 2002 (Perth) World Championship teams whereas Peter was selected in the 1998 (Baltimore), 2002 (Perth) & 2006 (Toronto) World Championship teams. Peter was also captain of the 1996 Australian U19 World Games team and played in the 1995 Australian U19 U.S.A. touring team.

Peter was also selected in the ILF All World lacrosse team as a centre/midfield in 2002.

James was selected in the Lacrosse SA All-Star lacrosse team 1994-2004 & 2006 (Each year the SA league coaches pick a league all-star team) and was leading goal scorer 1995-02, 06 & 07 and Peter was selected in the Lacrosse SA All-Star team from 1995-2002 and was SA MVP from 1997-00 & 2002.

### **Peter Inge - great people and key memories**

I was fortunate to have a lacrosse career that included playing for Woodville, South Australia, Australia and professionally in the U.S. in the MLL. From a young age I had always aspired to be the best player I could be, and achieving that was a journey that required a significant amount of commitment.

In terms of understanding where I was in terms of my lacrosse at the world standard, the 1998 World Cup in Baltimore was a humbling experience for me. I had aspired to be one of the best players in the world at my position and I had my eyes opened on

that trip. I had a false sense of how good I was. On natural athleticism I could feel I could compete with the best in the world but if I wanted to be the best in the world it was going to take a lot more commitment to develop my game. When James and I decided to go into the 2002 campaign it was with the commitment to leave no stone unturned. I wanted to see how good I could possibly be.

In terms of character defining, the 2002 World Games preparation was a huge part of my development as a person and a player. In terms of my lacrosse career, the 2002 Aussie campaign is not just a lacrosse memory, but a life memory. When you get to stand side-by-side and play for Australia with your brother, someone who invested so much time with you in preparing to get to that level, it is really special. That is probably one of my most treasured on-field memories.

Playing my first professional game in Major League Lacrosse (MLL) was another significant milestone and treasured playing memory in my career. The Woodville lacrosse club played a major role in shaping the players and people that James and I became. I attribute that to the culture, leadership and great people at the club at that time. People like David Inge, John Carter and Peter Brown were instrumental in shaping those elements of the club.

John Carter was incredibly important in developing the club during that time. He defined the culture that set us apart in those early days. He brought a level of professionalism, commitment and expectation that no other club had. Woodville also had great on-field and off-field senior role models through players like Ignazio Marchesan, which was critical in shaping how younger players learned and understood sportsmanship and coachability.

Every successful era has someone that is the heartbeat of the program. Great teams always have a great player who stands up and makes plays when they are needed. James Inge was that 'Leader' and was not just an on-field thing. He was always so focused and committed and embraced and drove the culture, and because he was doing it, everyone else was doing it. That resulted in the team setting this incredibly high benchmark for itself. If I was to take James out of the equation I certainly don't see that I would have individually had the capacity to aim so high or Woodville having an era of success.

When Woodville started to dominate, our work ethic was unparalleled. No other club was as committed or worked as hard as we did. We trained three times a week, we lifted weights, we did heavy pre-seasons, and we essentially did everything we knew our opponents weren't doing. We worked so much harder than anyone else, we feel like we raised the benchmark. In the years between 1998 and 2008, every time Woodville had a full team come finals time we won the premiership. I have always been a focused and committed person and lacrosse has taught me how to set goals, how to commit to things and how to be successful. It has been character defining. Lacrosse and the Woodville Lacrosse Club has been a shared passion for my family and I certainly think that has brought us closer together as family.

After 2002 World Championship, I was approached by a number of MLL coaches to see if I was interested in playing. I registered for the supplemental draft and was selected by Boston at pick number 3. I was working with Ernst & Young at the time and they allowed me to take the time off each year to go to the U.S. and play. I was paid to play, about \$1,000 (AUD) /match in the league along with travel and accommodation expenses. We played 12 games a season plus playoffs, with training camp and try outs it was generally a 5-6 month exercise.

I spent my "Peak" lacrosse years playing in the MLL (2003-06) in the U.S., at this time the league consisted of what could be considered the top 100 players in the world. It was rare opportunity to live and train as a full-time professional lacrosse player. The level of competition in the MLL was the highest I played in, I rate the standard of the MLL at that time as higher than world championships, or at least I found it more challenging.

I retired from professional and international lacrosse in 2006 and as a domestic lacrosse player in 2008. Post playing I had the pleasure of being an assistant coach of the 2009 Aussie women's team under head coach and legend of the game Sue Sofarnos. That was an incredibly talented team and a very rewarding experience. It is hard to go past Jen Adams as the most talented lacrosse player I ever saw. That team also consisted of Sarah Forbes who is just a total force of nature and probably the best female athlete to play the game, her leadership and ability to motivate and inspire a team was second to none. It is also hard to leave players like Stacey Morlang-Sullivan, Hannah Nielsen and Sonia Lamonica out of that conversation of Australia's greatest and most successful lacrosse players.

### **James Inge – key people and great memories**

The first game of the 1992 season we played Brighton on their home ground. Over the summer Brighton had recruited well and had a loaded team. JC [John Carter] was coaching us and we were fit, we had a few simple plays to run, and we were hungry to impress our new coach. I was taking a faceoff and being inexperienced in playing the game of lacrosse, not to mention playing against good league players, I had a tough game. I took at least half a dozen big hits before half time as Brighton's midfielders swooped on me contesting faceoff. During a timeout the team packed in around JC and I was feeling hammered. Brighton had knocked the hell out of me.

Directly across the huddle was the "Beast" [Simon Darling] and he was the kind of guy who looked after his own. He was one of our best players and the look he gave me was one of determination, a look of fatherly protection. I couldn't believe it, but as he grinned at me to say as much, I noticed that he had lost some teeth, at least three. Here I was feeling beat up because I'd taken a few hits and there was the "Beast" smiling at me after he'd lost teeth. I couldn't believe how tough the guy was.

We ended up losing 35-15 and it wasn't until a few weeks later that I found out the "Beast" always took out his false teeth when he played. He'd left those three real teeth out front of a pub long ago!

In February 2001 the first tryout for the 2002 Australian team that would compete in the World Cup was held at the Port Adelaide Hockey Club. Representing your country at anything is a huge honour and it feels un-Australian to say, but as I turned up for that morning I was unsure if I wanted to go through the process again.

Playing in the Baltimore World Cup, on the world's biggest lacrosse stage in 1998 was a disappointing experience for me. We didn't get the result I wanted and as a team I really felt like we didn't bring our best by being prepared at the level required to compete and win. So, as I stood at the hockey club that morning listening, I really wanted to know something was going to be different.

Then, Ben Hitchens rounded up the players and put us through a fitness test. Ben was the fitness coach for an NBL team and he was professional about his role, and more importantly, he expected a lot from the players trying out for an Australian team. As the morning's session wound up, I was gearing down for lunch when Ken Nichols,

the assistant coach, came over to chat. Ken relayed something to me he had been told, and that was "I wasn't the player I used to be". I don't know if Ken made that up but it pissed me off. Suddenly, through the combination of Ben Hitchens' professional approach and Ken stabbing my pride, I was all in.

I am not sure what lit Pete's fire but he was inspired too. From that day, until the World Cup in Perth was over in July 2002, we gave that team, and in a sense our country, total commitment. We gave up drinking, and eating was about fuelling up for the workload; five gym sessions a week, club training, games, shooting practice, sprint training, distance runs and playing squash as cross-training. We didn't miss sessions and worked out at full intensity. Pete and I got much more out of that experience than fitness and better lacrosse skills. That journey was testing in many ways and I am extremely proud of the commitment I made. Although bronze isn't the colour medal I wanted, I can look at myself in the mirror knowing there is nothing more I could have personally done to make that Australian team better.

The list of Australians selected in the All World team is short and distinguished. Peter Inge is on that list, and undoubtedly one of the best players this country has ever produced. Ian Thorpe once said "I didn't learn anything from any of the successes that I had in the pool, I learned everything I know about myself today, from how I got there and what I had to sacrifice." The first time I saw that statement it made me think of Pete. He has always had talent, not just at lacrosse, and he has sacrificed and he has worked harder than anyone I know to make the most of his talents. It takes real courage to dare to be as good as you can be at something. If what "Thorpey" says is true then Pete certainly knows a lot about himself and that is what makes him not just a great player but a great person to know.

Successful teams can be created in the short term through strong and charismatic leadership, a few exceptional players, a few experienced players and a sense of purpose and camaraderie. Teams can put together a performance above their ability on a day, or in some cases across a season. But that is short term. Because the Woodville club's administration, coaching, players, I got to play in an era of success which is built differently. An era requires vision, discipline, leadership and a culture that embeds itself in the habits and attitudes of a core group of people.

The era I played in was heavily influenced by two very different coaches and coaching styles; John Carter and Peter Brown. John has left a legacy at the Woodville Lacrosse Club that will endure. John had a habit of spouting lacrosse truths that succinctly sum up his approach to coaching and life. "At the end of the game you have to be able to look at yourself in the mirror" and "No quarter given, no quarter taken. John changed the way the players and the club approached the game by making everyone accountable for the results on the field. If the team lost, and you played the greatest game of your life, you were still a loser. Being a winner is based on the team result and that extends to the individual, the team and the club.

"Brownny" bonded the players and rounded out the Woodville playing groups attitude and commitment developed by John. He set the performance standard high and helped us understand the game and focus on how to put together a winning team structure. I owe a lot to what I learned from both.

I have been fortunate to have shared lacrosse with my family. My Dad was instrumental in the Woodville Lacrosse Club's transformation by creating a plan for achieving success, then building an environment at the club that gave the plan an opportunity to succeed. Mum was, and still is, a pillar of support for all the Inge men.

And, Pete - he is my best mate. We gave lacrosse everything we had together, we pushed each other further than we could have individually and I could not have achieved what I did without him. I am incredibly proud of what he has achieved and we had a great time contributing to moving the Woodville club from no premierships in 39 years, to 8 premierships in 10 years, and representing SA and Australia.

### **The best James played with?**

**Goalkeeper** - Greg Larwood was amazing at three things you want a goal keeper to have. Firstly, he guided the defence in front of him so that the opposition was forced into taking low quality shots. If they did manage to get a quality shot off then he was always in great position with a great instinct for stopping the ball. And if he did grab the save he'd drop it in the tightest of spaces for breaking midfielders.

**Defence** - Terry Sparks was such a presence in the defence due to his size, the pressure he put on the opposition because of his reach and checking, and he was just a smart player; doubling, backing up shots, clearing.

**Midfield**—Face-off players step on the field time and multiple times per game compete in a fierce one on one battle with the outcome of how good you are is immediate. Peter Inge worked tirelessly on his faceoff game and the athleticism required to give his team first use of the ball, and once that was done he dodged and cleared and defended. Rob Stark and Darren Nicholas had that same quality and it was always inspiring to play alongside all of them.

**Attack**—Gordon Purdie spent much of career as an outstanding midfielder but when I played with him in 02 we spent some time playing attack together. Gordon has had an outstanding lacrosse career and with his dodging and vision was such an effective player that no team could leave for a moment.

### **The best Peter played with?**

**Centres** - Rob Stark & Darren Nicholas like me were intensely focused and committed players and were not only the two best face-off guys I got to play with but all-round lacrosse players. I have tremendous respect for both Rob and Darren as team mates and opponents and for the success they both had in their careers.

**Attack** - James Inge is the attacker that I have the highest respect for, his work ethic, consistency, leadership and talent were almost unparalleled - as anyone that played with him would know. Other greats include Darren Gibson, Jamie Buchanan and Gordon Purdie. Playing in the MLL I got to play with some incredible attackers, Ryan Powell was probably the most talented and Mark Millon and Mike Watson were athletically two of the best.

**Defenders** - In Australia, John Tokarua & Terry Sparks were the best defenders I played with. Craig Schicker was the hardest-hitting defender I ever played with. Ryan Curtis from the Boston Cannons was the best defender I played with, he consistently played against the best attackers in the world and consistently dominated the best attackers.

**Goalkeepers** -. In Australia Aaron Sargent was an incredibly gifted stopper of the ball and had the raw talent to have played the game at a higher level. Aaron was

instrumental in some of our victories at Woodville and with South Australia. Chris Garrity for the Boston Cannons was by-far the best goalkeeper I ever played with.

### **The best James played against?**

**Goalkeeper** - Sal Locasio the U.S. 98 goalkeeper was a big presence in the goal and his stopping and talk to coordinate an all-star defence in front of him was very difficult to play against.

**Defence**—I watched as many Syracuse college games as I could get hold of as a kid and I always loved watching Pat McCabe play. He played for the U.S. in 98 and his stick work and poise was just as impressive in real life as it was on VHS.

**Midfield** - Gary Gait - I think he is the most impactful player of all time.

**Attack** - Mark Millon -Just an incredible turn of speed and changed games off his own stick.

### **The best Peter played against?**

**Centres** —I rate Australia's pedigree of face-off players at the time amongst the best in the world and players like Rob Stark and Darren Nicholas for me were the toughest opponents. John Butkiewicz set a precedent for excellence that had a lasting effect on how Aussie face-off players approached facing off and the success many of us had. Face-off went through a bit of renaissance with the introduction of the MLL, where the best players in the world went head to head every week (as opposed to once every 4 years). During that period I had to evolve my game as a face-off player significantly and I found that environment the most competitive I ever experienced. I played consistently against Paul Cantebene, Chris Cercy, Peter Jacobs and Doug Shanahan, they were all great face-offs guys and it was always a challenge.

**Defenders** - In Australia, John Tokarua was the toughest guy to play against, JT was a superb athlete, incredibly agile for a big guy and brought an intimidating intensity.

**Goalkeepers** - I would probably say that Greg Larwood is as good as I have seen and was a very tough opponent domestically over the years. In the MLL Greg Catrano was just on another level.

**Midfield** — It is hard to go past Gary Gait as the greatest midfielder/player the game has ever seen.

**Attackers** - Casey Powell (MLL) was the best I played against.





James and Peter at the 2002 World Cup closing dinner with the All-World trophy in Peter's hand

## **TESTIMONIALS**

### **JOHN CARTER (Former Australian player and coach, who coached both James and Peter at Woodville)**

My involvement with the Inge boys and family was very early in their careers. Initially it involved developing their game skills and establishing a club philosophy, ie what it meant to be a lacrosse player and in particular establishing Woodville's ethos.

James was an extremely tough, intelligent, honest and dedicated athlete, he epitomised the word commitment and he totally understood the concept of "team" with all its implications and manifestations.

Peter was committed and dedicated to perfecting his "Art". Hard work honed his natural athletic ability, along with his strong sense of self.

Both James and Peter exhibited a natural competitive characteristic and sense of purpose that underlined their success. And they both went on to fully develop all of the technical skills relevant to their respective playing positions.

### **PETER BROWN (Former Australian player & coach & Woodville coach)**

September 1995, I was the playing-coach of East Torrens Payneham in a 1<sup>st</sup> semi - final against Woodville. We were "soundly" beaten and a couple of brothers played a key role in our demise, James (Jimmy) and Peter Inge. Little did I know I would be coaching Woodville in 1996.

Legendary coach John Carter had transformed the culture of Woodville, and they were looking for a more offensive orientated coach. Woodville had an ideal mixture of experience and youth and they were "hungry", with their last salute in 1959 when they were called Port Adelaide.

They were driven, and those that weren't had already been "weeded out" by John Carter.

There were many leaders in that team but the Inge brothers were driven by more than the search for that elusive flag. Parents, David and Pauline Inge, had brought up a couple of "gems".

Lacrosse wise, David was driving the Woodville ship, and his two sons were well on the way to becoming V8's. Early on, Peter was naturally a little immature, being the younger sibling. Hated being beaten in any contest and would outwardly display his displeasure. Jimmy took the drive to win personally, sometimes blaming himself unnecessarily for a loss.

The progression to "the holy grail" was very special and was not without pain, the club had not won a flag since 1959, so it was very special. West Torrens had beaten us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semi but we smashed Glenelg in the prelim' and to win that elusive flag, we would have to dethrone the dynasty known as West Torrens.

From memory we were, 2 goals down, with about 2 minutes to go and managed to "Force" the game into O/T. Brett Howe, had 4 goals in the last term, and that was against one of the best, Greg Larwood. I remember at half time, challenging Peter Inge, as Jim Mihelios was minimising his influence.

Now, I know Pete, recalls it as being at  $\frac{3}{4}$  time, but regardless, it was the momentum he created in the face-off that turned the game. Jimmy, quite rightly recalls, using the umpire as a shield late in the game to run the clock down. As one lacrosse dynasty was dethroned, another was born.

Peter Inge, is arguably our greatest face-off player since the legend known as "Keka". All World, Major League Lacrosse, and a string of awards longer than your arm.

He was a pleasure to coach. Like me, he hated losing not only the game, but every individual contest. As he matured, he harnessed this drive to become a GREAT player. Make no mistake, this only happened through dedication and hard work, he had a work ethic that every coach wished all players had.

In 2006, Peter once again went "Head to head" against the best, Snider (Canada) and Shanahan (USA) and like 2002, when he was All World, he rarely lowered his colours.

Now, Jimmy Inge is in the conversation as one of SA's greatest lacrosse players. At the heart of his game is "toughness". I rank James Inge alongside Nathan Stiglich and Shane Gilbert as the toughest lacrosse players I have ever coached.

Toughness, in that despite the "hammering" they would endure from their opponents, they would rarely, if ever, retaliate. Instead, they would come harder and with greater frequency.

My good friend Paul Freeman, in the latter part of his career as a defender, recounts playing on Jimmy and "wailing way" all game, and the only words spoken by Jimmy, was after the game, "Thanks Freemo".

But Jimmy had more attributes than "toughness". A low maintenance individual, never craving individual accolades, just driven to do what he could to enhance his team's chances of winning. His best was brilliant and his average game was very good. That's what sets James Inge as a GREAT player. He played at an incredibly high level of output for a very long time.

The Inge Brothers are winners. But please remember, the harder they worked, the better they got. Funny about that!

I count myself a privileged person to have coached James and Peter Inge in their formative years and to witness them develop into GREAT AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE PLAYERS.

## **CAREERS**

James and Pete both went to Taperoo High School, both got a scholarship at Uni SA in the Information Systems(Business) program, Pete finished with a Masters in Information Systems, and James finished with a Business Degree (Honours).

James is currently Head of IT for Babcock International, an aerospace, defence and nuclear engineering services company, and is based in Adelaide.

Pete is founder and CEO of Ingenious Insights, and co-founder and Chief Data Scientist for insightfactory.ai, both based in Adelaide. Both companies specialise in big data, machine learning, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. To put that into more basic terms, Pete specialises in helping organisations use leading edge computing techniques to make sense of their data, and provides answers to questions they didn't know they wanted to ask. (I still don't understand what they do!!).

## **CONCLUSION**

Having never met these two young men I had heard of them but I am astonished what two players, more so brothers, have achieved at one club, for one state and for Australia. How often do you see champions from the same club robbing themselves of votes or playing opportunities, but the Inge brothers obviously dominated at Woodville, as well as in the S.A. best and fairest voting over a long period, along with achieving other awards.

Sure they were talented, but it is obvious that they were very driven to get the very best out of what they had, and how often do we see players with "Potential" who never quite get there? You can see why these two got there and succeeded, and you must also give credit to their parents, who haven't made it happen but clearly been fabulous role models in all facets of life, and clearly would be very proud of their sons.

Look at the facts – they have been to 5 world championships, played for their state at the top level for over a decade, they won 9 out of 12 best and fairest at state level from 1996-2007, which is particularly astonishing when you consider they were competing against each other for votes and were often absent on state and national duties.

This is a lengthy document, I don't apologize for that, because the more I found out about these two men the more I was surprised and the more facts I had to bring out. There are many successful sports people who aren't necessarily the most industrious or the nicest of characters, I think from what I can see these two meet all of the criteria you would expect of a champion and a gentleman.

Well done James and Peter Inge, you are truly Australian lacrosse champions of the modern era, and pleased to say younger members of Lambton Mount Lacrosse Club. Well played!