

Well viewers most are aware that I have played at more clubs than Barry Crocker so I consider myself qualified to write this article.

We all know that the tea break can last up to a half four and is quite often game changing. Back in the early seventies when I started playing the break was welcome (25 ends & no time cut off). When you went in for afternoon tea you were greeted with your own plate of sandwiches, your own cup, saucer, a pot of tea kept warm with a knitted tea pot cosy, a sugar bowl, two hot jugs of water, a glass(with croqueted cover) containing eight spoons and a jar of coffee. Normally there were homemade scones, jam and cream and biscuits. The bread was always white and butter was used, remember butter! What a treat!

Now what do you get?

The majority of sandwiches are brown except for the required egg sandwiches which have to be white although Toorak/Burnside tried brown egg which was a complete failure.

You line up at the urn with a foam cup to enjoy your "cuppa" buy your raffle tickets and listen to dribble for a half an hour. Others like me grab a pint and head off to the designated smoking area.

Some players leave the club early and have a counter lunch on the way to bowls so they don't have to eat the rubbish served up.

Sandwiches these days are normally brown bread, poly bloody unsaturated margarine, fat free cheese and the ingredients are usually unsalted. In most instances they are prepared without chopping boards; disposable gloves etc so health regulations are ignored. Some clubs are serving three inch subs and bowlers are paying 5-6 dollars for the pleasure and we still have to thank the bloody ladies for the afternoon tea.

The last club I played at I continued to pay my five dollars and continued to complain about the amount of brown sandwiches only to be told to eat them because they are good for you. Do they realize I smoke sixty cigarettes a day, drink everyday and live on bbq's consuming plenty of salt and butter? But no the ladies are right and a bloody brown sandwich can only do me good.

The best sandwiches I have had are at Trinity Gardens, they even use pepper and salt. Adelaide was another top sandwich made by a bloke, and Salisbury isn't bad just ahead of Uraidla.

But the worst sandwiches that are produced by a mile is at Toorak/Burnside all brown rubbish followed closely by Beaumont, my suggestion is get rid of afternoon tea go back to twenty five ends and finish at the same time! After all we are missing out (after 18 rounds) on seventy five ends of bowls which means subs and capitation should be reduced because that's over 3 games per season.

Buster.