

by Bill Murray

The recent Sporting Traditions V conference in Adelaide was held in. The State Government Convention Centre which was the last word in comfort and convenience: but it did pose one serious problem for the participants - where and when was the traditional football match to be played? Situated in the centre of Adelaide, surrounded by busy streets, the immediate precincts were unusable; the nearest green areas were half a mile away, but weather caused the cancellation of the game intended to follow the final session.

Gloom and a certain degree of anguish was lifted from the spirits of those colleagues still there to hear Paul Bartrop bring the conference to a close when determination and initiative ruled that a tradition would not die.

A sock was filled with paper, two chairs were chosen for goals and sides quickly formed themselves to do battle in stockinged feet in the reception area. The ensuing competition was aptly called "free market football" by John O'Hara, as rules were invented and discarded as the game progressed. Scoring was 6 points for kicking the ball through the goals, one point for putting it through by other means. Barry Andrews was to be referee but in the absence of rules decided to join the fray, which he did with much success, scoring two six pointers. Donna Rae also scored a six pointer, which was much more pleasant for those of us who had to kiss the scorer as she doesn't wear a beard.

The result, in true Korfball spirit, will be regarded as irrelevant, while the technical losers cannot be regarded as having won because of their manner of accepting defeat.