

Rant and Rave . . .

by Paddles Hackett



Worn out

IN THE case of Shane Warne, which is the highest number: Test wickets or the number of times he has cheated on his missus?

It's the latest gag going around, but is it all that funny? No, it's a sad indictment on a pathetic bloke.

So, who do you feel sorriest for:

1. Other members of the Australian Test team. They must retain a playing bond with the guy, but have wives who take an extremely dim view of these sexual shenanigans.

2. Simone Warne. She has to raise three children, and explain to them why daddy doesn't live here any longer.

3. The Warne children. Being caught in the marital crossfire is bad enough, but for them there's the media spotlight. Ouch.

4. You and me. We put the cash into his wallet to finance his infidelity.

5. The hair replacement industry. New hair growing out of your melon helps to win a girl, but not if you've already got one. It's hardly the image you want to sell ... or is it?

Call me old-fashioned if you must, but I reckon Simone Warne goes OK in the Aesthetics Stakes.

But not to the Earl of Twirl, who's apparently a bimbo seeking missile. The same radar that gets the zooter homing in on middle stump works double-time out on the streets and in the pubs.

And talking of Warne jokes: 1000 British women were interviewed about the spinner. They were asked if they would have sex with Shane Warne. 70 per cent replied "never again". Boom boom.

Five-ring circus

Those IOC members, they're a strange bunch. Not the fact that they decided London should have the 2012 Olympics, but

the way they got to that decision. The elimination process ended with five candidates: London, Paris, New York, Madrid and Moscow.

Going into the ballot of 104 IOC members, Paris was the hot favourite. It had much of the Games infrastructure in place, it had successfully conducted the soccer World Cup, it has an excellent public transport system. It should have been over the line.

Moscow was eliminated in the first round of the ballot. That was to be expected, it was a poor bid.

But then New York went out next, actually losing support after the first round of voting, when it won 19 votes, and the second round, when it got 16.

What's going on there? That means at least three IOC members who thought it was the best spot when there were five candidates didn't think so when it was a four-horse field. That logic baffles me.

In each ballot, amazingly, London was the leader, eventually besting Paris on the fourth and final ballot, 54-50.

In May last year London eased in the Olympics race after the IOC pointed out the bid's serious deficiencies in transportation, distances between venues and lack of public support.

London has relatively low public support for its bid, 67 percent in a poll the IOC commissioned earlier this year.

Somehow it convinced the evaluation commission that a subway system the IOC had branded "obsolete" 14 months ago could be upgraded to handle Olympic transport needs.

Did anyone whisper "bribes to IOC members", just like in the bad old days when Melbourne lost the 1996 Olympics to Atlanta? No, not me.

I believe that the IOC decision is entirely above board ... and also in flying pigs and pots of gold as the end of rainbows.

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