

WILLIAMSTOWN CONGS CRICKET CLUB

TEAM OF THE CENTURY

WILLIAMSTOWN RSL CLUB – FEBRUARY 1st 2003

1. ALEC HYDE

Our first opening batsman is one of our older players and therefore no stats are available, however we can advise that Alec played in the 1920's & 30's, during this period he opened the batting and was also regarded as a very fast opening bowler. Although he is not picked in this team as an opening bowler, he would be a very handy bowler later in the innings. He was also a captain of the club in his era and also a premiership player. Those people that knew him have stated that he was a very good fielder and would have had a very healthy batting and bowling average. Unfortunately, Alec player passed away many years ago, and at this stage, we are unable to find any relatives although we will keep trying.

* We located Alec's wife and daughter and our President Alan Reitman presented them with Alec's cap and plaque.

2. NORM HIGHAM - CAPTAIN

Our other opening batsman is again one of our older players and therefore no stats are available. However, we can advise that Norm commenced playing in the 1930's and continued up until the 1980's, close to 50 years. He was regarded as a dogged batsman who cherished his wicket. He was also regarded as an excellent fielder, especially close to the wicket. He played in four premierships and was captain in one of those. Norm was also President of the club for many years, finally retiring in 1983 and is a Life Member of the club and of the W.S.U.C.C.A.

3. STEVEN CHARLES – VICE CAPTAIN

The number three position is generally regarded as team's best batsman but Steven not only fits that mould but is also a handy bowler. He commenced playing in the 1991/92 season, and ended up playing 93 games. In that time, he amassed 3,213 runs, at an average of 41.19. He has made 8 centuries, with the highest being 183. In that innings, he shared in a record 2nd wicket partnership of 277 runs of which he made 181. He took 59 wickets at an average of 21.51 and has taken 41 catches. Steven also captained/coached the club for many seasons and has played in three Premierships for our Over 35 team, one of which he captained in 2001/02. He has also won quite a few association awards; he has also represented the W.S.U.C.C.A Carnival team on many occasions. He won selection to the Australian Churches XI on two occasions. He has served on the club committee and has been a junior coach/manager for a lot of that time. His brother is also a current day player.

It should be noted that Steven achieved a significant amount during his playing time with the Congs, and contributed significantly to the club off the field.

4. DAVID LEACH

David joined the club in the 1996/97 season, in that time he has played 85 matches. During this time, he amassed 2,245 runs at an average of 32.07. He hit 2 centuries; with his highest being 137 n.o. He took 65 wickets at an average of 20.77, with a best of 6/5. He took five wickets or more in an innings on three occasions. He has also taken 25 catches. He played in three Premierships for us in the Over 35 competition, he was captain for our first premiership in the over 35's in 1999/2000. David has also coached/managed our junior teams for many seasons. He has also been a winner of the "Presidents Medal" (A Grade) in 1997/98; this is the Associations equivalent of the Brownlow Medal. He has also served on the club & W.S.U.C.C.A committees. In addition, his son has played in our junior grades.

David came to our club in the twilight of his career and on many occasions, proved to be an inspiration to our younger players with his sheer persistence and determination.

5. JOHN OLIVE

Our first all rounder, John Olive joined the club in about 1980 for which we do not have statistics for the first few years of his playing career. However, what we do have is very impressive. He played 171 games since 1982/83; amassed 4,932 runs at an average of 29.18, from 199 innings. He hit 5 centuries; with the highest being 158 n.o. whilst these stats are impressive, his bowling record stands alone. He bowled an amazing 2,916 overs and took 575 wickets at an average of 15.05, with his best figures being 8/43. He also took five wickets or more in an innings an amazing 42 times and ten wickets in a match on six occasions. He has also taken 2 hat tricks and 91 catches. On seven occasions, John took 40 or more wickets in a season, his most being 64 wickets on two occasions. He has also served on the club committee. He has played in three Premierships, one of which he was captain. He has also represented the W.S.U.C.C.A Carnival team on a few occasions and has won Association awards.

A player that carried a lot of the load for the club during our lean period in the late 1980's and early 90's.

6. MURRAY BOURCHIER

Our next player is from the 60/70's and accordingly we have no statistics. He played in 3 premiership teams during 60's...he also had the ability to change batting stances, if things weren't going right and was regarded as technically proficient at both left and right handed. Murray was also a very attacking left arm bowler. His grandson has started playing in our Under 12 team this season and is playing very well. We hope he goes onto play like his grandfather.

Unfortunately Murray has passed away

7. MARTIN BOWYER

Martin played from the mid 20's to 50's and accordingly no statistics are available. He was an opening bowler who swung the ball appreciably and was regarded as a forceful batsman (and thus the reason for his selection as an all-rounder). He was also regarded as a fantastic fieldsman, so much so that when he left cricket, his skills were used for the game of baseball and he has an Oval in that code named after him. His two sons have also played for us.

8. KEITH REITMAN

Keith played from the 1930's to the 1950's and accordingly no statistics are available. He was regarded as an aggressive batsman and a very handy off spin bowler (and thus the reason for his selection as our spin bowler). Also regarded as a very good outfielder. Keith was captain at the age of 19, due to players going off the Second World War. He is a Life Member of the W.S.U.C.C.A. His father and two brothers, plus his two sons have also player for the club (another family affair).

9. GARY GRIFFIN

Gary is selected as our wicket keeper, he joined the club about 1980 and we do not have all his statistics for the first few years of his playing career. But since 1982/83, he played 228 games. He also amassed 4,036 runs at an average of 17.78; he made one century, with a score of 119. Whilst, not bad stats in their own right, it was his wicket keeping that made him stand out. He took 264 catches, 63 run outs and 91 stumpings. On three occasions, he took more than twenty catches in a season. Gary was widely regarded as the best wicketkeeper in the Association in the 1990's. He has played in six Premierships for us (two being in the Over 35's); he captained our B grade Premiership in 1989/90. He has also served on our club committee for many years. He has also represented the W.S.U.C.C.A Carnival team on a few occasions. His son has also played for us, and well as his two brothers, and his nephew...nothing short of a family affair...He is a Life Member of the Club.

10. ANTHONY CASSAR

Anthony is selected as one of our opening strike bowlers He joined the club about 1980 and we do not have all his statistics for the first few years of his playing career. However, since 1982/83, he has played more than 200 games, has amassed 3,203 runs at an average of 16.43, with his highest being 104 n.o. He was known as a very aggressive and intimidating fast (first mat) bowler, he has taken 333 wickets at an average of 17.47, with his best being 7/64, along with 84 catches. A lot of Anthony's bowling prowess can be attributed to his height – at 6 Foot 6. He has taken five wickets or more in an innings on 10 occasions. He has played in six Premierships for us and captained our Over 35's Premiership team in 2000/01. He has also served on our club committee and is currently our Vice President. He is a Life Member of the Club.

11. PETER HOGG

Our other new ball bowler Peter Hogg played during the 60's and 70's and accordingly there are no statistics available. However, like his opening bowling partner – Anthony Cassar, Peter was a big strong fast and intimidating bowler. He also played in our 1964/65 Premiership team. His brother also played in that Premiership team.

Unfortunately Peter lives in Perth and is celebrating his birthday this weekend, and therefore cannot be with us. We will be telephoning him shortly to let him know of his selection.

12. IAN YOUNG

Our twelfth man Ian Young played in the 1940's to the early 1980's and accordingly no statistics are available. He was a left-hand batsman and a very good part time leg spin bowler. He played in three Premierships for us, of which he captained one. (His brother also played in premiership sides with him). He has also represented the W.S.U.C.C.A Carnival team on a number of occasions. He also served on our committee and was President of the W.S.U.C.C.A. for 9 years. He is also a Life Member of our Club and of the W.S.U.C.C.A.