

Bruce Ferguson – A Pugnacious Cricketer

Bruce Ferguson was a tough, determined and wholehearted cricketer, and long-term worker for the Parramatta District Cricket Club. He is a member of a family that made *'their mark'* in the club's historic story, his brothers Kel and Brad playing lower grades, whilst Father Dave was Club President for fifteen years, and Brad occupied the top executive's chair for two years – both Bruce and Dave were made **Life Members** for their service to the Parramatta club.



Bruce Ferguson

Bruce was a throw-back to the older style of cricketer, he played it hard on the field and enjoyed the social conviviality offered by the game off the field. Jovial by nature he was always a popular teammate with his contemporaries, and the sturdily built Granville RSL junior forged a highly creditable career with the Parramatta Club as an all-rounder.

After starting his career primarily as a right-arm fast-medium bowler he matured into a cunning slow medium stock bowler and a pugnacious left-handed batsman.

He entered the grade ranks in **1978/79** appearing in both the club's Fifth grade A and B teams and regularly turned out in the 'Bumble-Bee' colours until **2004/05** (he missed 2000/01 and 2001/02 due to business commitments).

By the time he *'pulled up stumps'* on his playing days with Parramatta the charismatic "Fergo" had compiled an impressive record, he had played in each of the five grades struck up **5,711 runs @ 19.46 (best – 93)**, snared a

voluminous **420 wickets @ 22.71** and accepted **108 catches**.

Towards the end of his career Bruce became a canny captain and guided the fortunes of the **Fourth** grade team for a total of **six** seasons spread between 1996/97 and 2004/05. The highlight being the steering of the very young **1996/97** team to a **Premiership** victory.

Bruce briefly 'dipped his toe' in **First Grade** between 1981/82 and 1986/87:

- **175 runs @ 13.46 (H.S. 54)** and **10 wickets @ 35.30**. His best memory being sharing a 6th wicket partnership of **109** with Ken Gentles v. Penrith.
- Parramatta District Cricket Club – **First Grade Player Number: 436**

But it was in the lower grades where over the course of his 24-year career he was a club celebrity.

In these grades Bruce proved to be a consistent all-rounder contributing to his team's cause regularly with both bat and ball. His efforts in **Second grade** yielded him **2,029 runs @ 20.09** (H.S. 93) and 8 half-centuries, whilst his bowling claimed **94 wickets @ 29.65**. His finest all-round season was 1990/91 in which he managed 303 runs @ 27.55 (including scores of 76, 69, 56) and took 20 wickets @ 19.55.

He also performed stoutly in **Third grade** scoring **1,873 runs @ 18.54** (H.S. 72) – accumulating another 8 half-centuries and capturing 160 wickets @ 20.76 (best bowled – **5/29, 5/52**). Bruce spent the later moments of his career mentoring the club's youngsters in Fourth grade, utilising his

experience to compile **1,291 runs @ 22.65** (H.S. – 76) with 4 more half-centuries, and take **127 wickets @ 20.06** (Best bowled – 5/11, 5/31).

Bruce featured prominently in the off- field activities of the club being a regular member of the **Management Committee**, serving as the club's **Deputy President** from 1984/85 to 1987/88, and capping that with a three-year stint as **Assistant Club Secretary** (1985/86 to 1987/88). A Parramatta stalwart to his very core.

NSWCA 1996/97 Fourth Grade Premiers



Back Row: Rob Zeller, Mitchell Spencer, Luke Forbes, Ben Lambert, Darren Simpson, Scott Mosely, Michael Wood (12th man)

Front Row: James Wood, Matthew Hilder, Bruce Ferguson (capt), Graeme Garrett, Alex Murphy.

Unfortunately, in the current or modern era of NSW Premier Cricket, club members who participate in the dual functions of '*on field players*' and '*Off the Field Administrators*' are a dying breed and most clubs are struggling to unearth people of the ilk of Bruce Ferguson.

[By Tom Wood – Parramatta District Cricket Club Historian]

