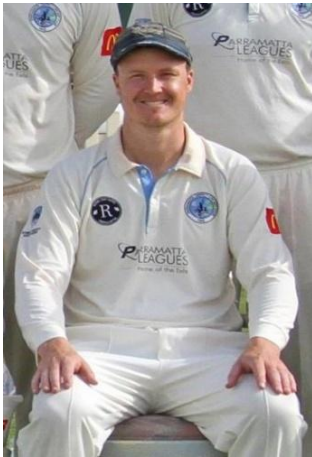


# Parramatta District Cricket Club

## Brenton Cherry a Batsman of Class

(By Tom Wood – Club Historian)



**Brenton Cherry (180)  
&  
Will Affleck (113 no)  
on your  
291 run opening  
stand vs Nth Sydney  
- equal 8th highest  
opening stand in first  
grade competition**

The conclusion of the 2019/20 season saw club stalwart **Brenton Cherry** 'draw down the curtain' on a tremendous one-club career that had its roots way back in 2000/01, and ended with him compiling a mountain of runs for Parramatta and being respected as one of the leading batsmen in Sydney's Premier Grade cricket competition.

Quite a tall man Brenton was a stylish right-handed batsman - who spent most of his playing days as an opener only switching to No.4 in his last couple of seasons – possessing a well organised technique and a fine repertoire of flowing attacking strokes, highlighted by his firm off-drives and 'signature' pull shots, and he was also a most competent slips fieldsman.

Brenton's journey began in A.W. Green Shield in 1999/00 when he was a diminutive left-arm Chinaman bowler, and in **2000/01** he played a handful of **5<sup>th</sup> grade** matches before being promoted and playing a key role in 4<sup>th</sup> grade's charge to the Semi-Finals by capturing 23 wickets @ 15.57 (B.B. – **5/60** v. Manly).

By 2002/03 he had a growth spurt, and his bowling opportunities tapered off, but on the positive side this season witnessed his batting 'take wings' and for the first time the club got a glimpse of his ability to forge large centuries. Starting in 5<sup>th</sup> grade Brenton struck a brilliant **167** sharing a still standing **5<sup>th</sup> grade 2<sup>nd</sup> wicket record partnership of 212** with Adam Lovett, and then in the next game after promotion to 4<sup>th</sup> the same pair both notched consecutive centuries [Cherry – **140**] – he finished the season with an all grades total of 516 runs @ 36.86.

Between 2003/04 – 2005/06 he tended to float between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, nevertheless in 2005/06 he laid the platform for his advancement to the higher grades by producing 426 runs@ 28.40 [H.S. – **127\***]. Strong early form in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in 2006/07 including **111\*** v. Bankstown took Brenton to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade where a bright **106** v. Sutherland consolidated his place.

Strong performances in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade [471 runs @ 33.64 – **115** v. North Sydney] won him his initial tilt at **1<sup>st</sup> grade** in **2007/08** – yet the next three seasons was like a game of 'Snakes and Ladders' up and down between the top two grades – shaping well but not quite 'nailing down' the 1<sup>st</sup> grade opener's spot.

It all clicked into place in 2010/11 and right through to 2019/20 Brenton morphed into one of the most prolific batsmen in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade competition principally as an opener, until slipping down the order to No. 4 in the 2017/18 Belvidere Cup winning team – producing **815 runs @ 50.94** incl. 3 centuries [104, 102\*, 103]. At end of the 2019/20 season Brenton had locked in **4,708 runs @ 28.36** in **1<sup>st</sup> Grade**.

Between 2014/15 and 2016/17 Cherry and Will Affleck formed one of the most successful opening partnerships to represent the Parramatta Club – in 2016/17 they became the only Parra openers to ever make **two double century partnerships** in the same season [**291** v. North Sydney, **218** v. Manly]. In 2017/18 Cherry contributed to another giant partnership – **253** 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket v. Bankstown with Nick Bertus.

Across the span of all grades, he has scored an impressive **16 centuries for Parramatta** – [1sts – **7**, 2nds – 5, 3rds – 1, 4ths – 2, 5ths – 1].

Brenton was also a rarity amongst modern players, in that he has played an off-field role in the functioning of the Parramatta District Cricket club by being a member of the **Management Committee** from 2014/15.

The statistics shown here under provide evidence of his outstanding NSW Premier Cricket career:

