

Jack Treanor – A Leg-spinner of the highest order

Jack Cassimar Treanor was born on 17th August 1922 at Darlinghurst and died on 7th November 1993 at East Ballina, NSW. He was a right-hand leg-spin bowler and moderate left-handed batsman.



Treanor bowled in a similar manner to the former great Test leg-spinner Bill O'Reilly, pushing the ball quickly through the air and bowling with great accuracy. Not being a big spinner of the ball, he relied on trapping the batsman around the crease line – utilizing a combination of the accuracy, nip off the pitch and a bouncing top-spinner to detonate the batsman's downfall. A dedicated bowler he had 'scant respect' for batsmen – *'they were his sworn enemies'*.

After commencing his early grade cricket with the Randwick club, he returned to them after serving in World War II, but in **1952/53** decided to switch to Central Cumberland then captained by Ron James. Jack played for the Parramatta club from **1952/53 to 1958/59** and was tremendously successful, establishing himself as one of the very best bowlers of any type to ever represent Cumberland.

He captured **281 wickets @ 18.83** in just **7** seasons, an amazing average of 40 wickets a season (the club's best). In the 1957/58 season he snared **56 wickets** to equal the club record (Belvidere Cup) set by R.C. Coogan in 1913/14 (still the existing record), he topped the 50+ wickets in a season mark on another two occasions – **54** in 1953/54 and **53** in 1955/56. His ability to destroy the opposition batting line-ups is aptly illustrated by listing a few of his feats – **9/46** v. Manly (1954/55), **9/82** v. Manly (1957/58), **5/35** & **6/27** v. Mosman (1956/57). *Sydney* in the *Sporting Globe* 17/10/1956 said:


"In just four seasons NSW slow bowler Jack Treanor has taken 202 wickets for Cumberland. He took his 200th wicket on Saturday when he had Manly opening batsman Brian Taylor caught behind. Coming on with the Manly total 1/58, Treanor took the next five wickets to fall and finished with 5/67 in an unbroken spell of 19 overs. At one stage he took three wickets for four runs."

Jack's left-handed batting qualified him for a permanent 10 or 11 spot in the order, and with a mere **317 runs @ 9.32** (best – 58), it can safely be said his batting wasn't as bountiful as his bowling.

At first-class level Jack represented NSW from **1954/55 to 1956/57** playing 17 matches – claiming **63 wickets @ 27.71** (4 x 5wkt. hauls – best **5/36** v. Victoria 1956/57) and managed 197 runs @ 11.58 (best – 33*).

After being called to Brisbane as a late replacement the day before the match with Queensland (29th October 1954) was due to commence – Jack debuted at the age of 32 years

in triumph – bowling beautifully to claim **5/146** (37 overs) and **3/59** (including a **Hat-trick**) – he remains to this day the only Australian to take a **hat-trick** in his first-class debut. That season he also picked up 12 wickets in the two matches against the touring English Test team (batting greats Len Hutton and Peter May twice each) and claimed **5/97** v. Victoria.















PARRAMATTA DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB INC

(Formerly Central Cumberland District Cricket Club)

SELECTED MERIT TEAM OF THE 1950's

(in batting order)

 1. Bert Alderson	 2. Bruce Ritchie	<p>The 1950s stands as one of the great eras of the Parramatta (Central Cumberland) District Cricket Club, throughout this period the Club stood amongst the vanguard teams in the prestigious Sydney First Grade competition and was represented on the field by a multitude of gifted players (including First-class cricketers Richie Benaud, Ron James and Jack Treanor).</p> <p>The quality of the first grade teams' performance during this decade is illustrated by the following record – runners-up in 1952/53, 1953/54 and 1955/56 – fourth place in 1951/52 and 1958/59.</p> <p>The Club was also honoured in 1958/59 by its First Grade skipper Richie Benaud being appointed captain of the Australian Test team against the old enemy England.</p>	 7. Walter Cornock	 8. Greg Beisler
 3. Wilfrid Ewens	 4. Richie Benaud		 9. Colin Barr	 10. Jack Treanor
 5. Ron James (c)	 6. Norm Lockhart		 11. Ron Mulock	 12. Leo Smith

(By Tom Wood – Parramatta District Cricket Club Historian)