

BENTLEY CRICKETER

END OF SEASON ISSUE

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THE 1974/75 SEASON IN RETROSPECT

Although the 1974/75 season saw no obvious rewards such as Grade Winners trophies or Premiership pennants, it was still a season of which the Bentley Cricket Club can be proud. The A Grade, after tumbling from 1st to 3rd Grade in 2 years, have, just as quickly, regained a place in the top grade. Their meteoric rise has been a result of a far more dedicated and professional approach to the game. They exceeded everyone's expectations when they not only made the four, but they gave the top side a lesson in perseverance and fighting spirit before they eventually went down in the Grand Final. The B Grade, although just failing to make the four, had one of their better seasons. They played some fine cricket and put together 5 consecutive wins before dwindling numbers took inevitable effect.

During the season, some fine individual performances were made. The most outstanding of these was STU RANKIN's match figures of 11 for 47 against South Perth. This equals the best bowling performance in A Grade set by BRIAN TROUCHEP in 58/59. STU followed this up with 10-56 against S.T.C. and became only the 4th bowler to take 10 or more wickets in a match more than once for Bentley. Other note-worthy bowling performances in the A Grade were STU's 5-11 in the Semi-final; HERB WIEGELE with 4-5-42 in the Grand Final, 5-46 vs Mt Lawley and JOHN WILLIAMS with 5-41 against Vic Park. Five wickets in an innings was only achieved twice in the B Grade (the cases in point being TONY MALINS with 5-46 vs Navy and GEORGE WOODHEAD with 5-70 vs Claremont) however, George took 4 wickets in an innings on no fewer than 4 occasions. From an A Grade batting point of view, LLOYD DUNGEY's 3 half-centuries was an outstanding effort. This performance comprised of 87 vs South Perth, 59 vs S.T.C. and 54 against Nollamarra. GREG DART (54 vs Nollamarra) and HERB WIEGELE (52* vs Vic Park) also made half-tons. When LLOYD and GREG put on 102 for the 2nd wicket against Nollamarra it was the 13th century partnership for the club and the 4th in which LLOYD has featured. The B Grade had 3 "half-centurians" in PHIL KENRICK (61* vs Nollamarra), ANDY HAYWARD (54* vs W.A.I.T.) and KEN LITTLE (50* vs Tuart Hill).

Congratulations are in order to LANCE THOMPSON and LLOYD DUNGEY who, in the course of the season, played their 100th game for the club. Only 6 other players have achieved this fine feat. Other milestones were reached when GREG, STU and LLOYD each made their 2 000th run for Bentley, PHIL KENRICK, KEN LITTLE and KEN RITCHIE all reached the 1 000 mark, STU took his 200th wicket and HERB his 100th.

The aforementioned performances pale somewhat in the light of one GEOFFREY FARRALL (228 games, 3418 runs and 763 wickets). During his 20 years association with the Club, GEOFF has served in almost any official capacity one would care to name. In recent seasons as President he has given the Club the benefit of his infinite experience and wisdom. It is, therefore, ~~with regret~~ with regret that we hear of his decision to step down from the administrative side of the Club next season. On behalf of all members may I thank you for your service to the Club over the many years.

Half way through the season the financial situation of the Club looked extremely grim and it was only through the initiative and drive of one man that the tide was turned. I well remember the training night that WAYNE PULVER asked for a fellow social-club member to assist him in investigating the possibilities of organised Bingo as a fund raiser. He received no volunteers. It is frightening to think of the position the club would be in had not WAYNE persevered in this direction. It is history now that he went ahead, made the arrangements and received support later on. The Club is deeply in WAYNE's debt and will reap the rewards of his efforts. Thanks WAYNE!

Once again the tradition of sportsmanship and fair play which has been with Bentley for years was upheld even if not to the fullest.

Unfortunately, there has been the odd occasion when one or two Bentley players (who shall be un-named) have engaged in unnecessary histrionics on the arena. By emulating the childish antics of other sides we are not only degrading ourselves but tarnishing the Bentley tradition.

What of next season? The A Grade will be up against some pretty stiff opposition but have the talent in most departments to hold their own. If they have a weakness it would be in the batting department. This aspect of their game undoubtedly cost them a premiership and must be bolstered before next season. Perhaps the answer lies in a recruiting drive with the idea of having 3 sides in the competition next season. This season saw us start with 30 players; a number which dwindled to 22 by the end of the season. With 3 sides we would be providing games for players who otherwise might drift away. A long term investment of course would be to enter a Junior side as well. Clubs such as Nollamarra are reaping the benefit of their Juniors. What about the B Grade? They won't automatically have a good season because W.A.I.T. and Teachers rise a grade. These two sides will be replaced by two teams that are relatively new to our Association and have carried all before them in lower grades. The result of 3 Bentley sides would obviously be a stronger B Grade side.

The idea of 3 sides and a Junior side is by no means a new one. It has been suggested before but there have been 3 major obstacles. Let us look at each of these one at a time. 1. NUMBERS - no problem! If we can start a season with 30 players without any recruiting or advertising, then we can surely find the extra 6 or 8 if we put in the effort. As for the Juniors, just look at the number of kids at Wyong just waiting to be organised. 2. FINANCE - a trickier one! But due to the efforts of WAYNE and the Social Club we are now in a position to move. 3. FACILITIES - our biggest problem. Ideally we would need two wickets and better training facilities. We could get by with Wyong and Higgins and split training nights. To improve the situation at Wyong we will definitely need to organise a deputation and present our case to the Town Council. This will have to be done well in advance of the next season.

If we are to tackle these projects, it would be apparent that we will have to hold our Annual General Meeting much earlier than usual so that the newly elected Executive can have time to work out all the details.

C.A.

CAREER PERFORMANCES OF 1974/75 PLAYERS

Bowling

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
G.FARRALL	2350	310	7962	763	10.4
R.RITCHIE	1365	149	5115	394	12.9
A.MALINS	1059	211	3558	260	13.6
S.RANKIN	832	179	2622	208	12.6
K.LITTLE	803	151	2346	174	13.5
G.WOODHEAD	405	29	1781	143	12.5
R.STREET	586	88	2217	133	16.7
S.FARRALL	558	94	1851	128	14.5
H.WIEGEBLE	409	92	1184	115	10.3
M.FARRALL	123	6	513	48	10.7
L.WOODLEY	180	32	531	44	12.1
B.HAYWARD	130	24	426	36	11.8
L.DUNGEY	128	11	437	33	13.2
L.THOMPSON	136	22	575	35	16.4
L.PRICE	97	24	290	24	12.1
K.CHAPMAN	52	4	340	24	14.2
J.WILLIAMS	83	9	282	19	14.8
G.DART	60	3	287	13	22.1
P.KENRICK	37	1	185	12	15.3
K.RITCHIE	17	3	52	6	8.7
L.MOULTON	9	-	68	4	17.0

also: W.PULVER 2-0-10-1; A.LOOS 2-1-9-1; A.HAYWARD 2-0-7-1;

T.RANKIN 0.4-0-0-1; W.McGrath 2-0-5-0; R.HOLDCROFT 4-0-23-0;

R.BYCROFT 4-0-29-0.

Past players to have taken over 100 wickets are:- B.TROUCHEP 338, E.TREASURE 197, P.FARRALL 169, E.STREET 148, DENNIS TOBIN 122, R.DOWN 122 and E.PUMPHREY 103.

Batting

	Games	Inns	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average
G.FARRALL	228	333	27	75	3418	11.2
L.THOMPSON	105	175	13	94	2393	14.8
S.RANKIN	71	107	18	132	2139	24.0
G.DART	123	189	19	77*	2183	12.8
R.RITCHIE	195	324	13	53	2121	6.8
L.DUNGEY	103	148	28	94*	2104	17.5
K.CHAPMAN	69	105	8	95	1441	14.9
P.KENRICK	65	100	9	64	1271	13.9
K.LITTLE	96	145	8	50*	1122	8.2
K.RITCHIE	66	98	7	69	1051	11.5
R.STREET	80	107	14	52	960	10.3
L.MOULTON	69	104	11	37*	942	10.1
H.WIEGELE	35	52	10	52*	660	15.8
B.HAYWARD	44	58	10	31*	554	11.5
S.FARRALL	61	89	10	45	521	6.6
A.MALINS	82	99	20	27	460	5.8
W.PULVER	29	40	5	43	413	11.8
M.FARRALL	44	65	15	41	391	7.8
G.WOODHEAD	76	94	32	16	278	4.5
L.WOODLEY	31	42	8	21	237	6.9
J.WILLIAMS	12	16	1	32	209	13.9
J.WHYTE	38	48	8	30	208	5.2
R.BYCROFT	9	13	3	40*	173	17.3
A.HAYWARD	10	14	1	54*	158	12.2
L.NEWTON	18	22	4	17	74	4.1
S.CAIRNS	20	28	16	12*	56	4.7
T.JOHNSON	3	4	1	25	38	12.7
L.PRICE	11	13	4	9	30	3.3
W.McGRATH	4	7	2	9	26	5.2
A.LOOS	4	4	-	15	25	6.2
D.MARTIN	5	5	2	11*	12	4.0
R.JOHNSON	2	2	-	7	11	5.5
G.DICKERSON	6	5	-	4	10	2.0
T.RANKIN	2	3	-	3	3	1.0
R.HOLDCROFT	2	1	-	1	1	1.0

Past players to have scored over 1 000runs are:- K.ESMOND 3197, T.TAYLOR 1684, B.TROUCHET 1680; P.FARRALL 1575; R.DUNGEY 1554; E.PUMPHREY 1385; T.HARRISON 1382; J.SPENCER 1321; R.DOWN 1192; E.TREASURE 1096 and V.SARRE 1012.

For those who doubt Bentley's ability to field 3 teams, have a look at these 3 teams made up from players who represented the Club this season. I have tried to give the C Grade some semblance of balance so don't be offended if your name is in this line-up!!

A Grade	B. Grade	C GRADE
L.DUNGEY	K.LITTLE	T.JOHNSON
L.THOMPSON	K.RITCHIE	W.McGRATH
P.KENRICK	L.MOULTON	R.JOHNSON
G.DART	W.PULVER	R.STREET
B.HAYWARD	R.BYCROFT	L.WOODLEY
S.RANKIN	K.CHAPMAN	A.LOOS
H.WIEGELE	S.FARRALL	R.RITCHIE
J.WILLIAMS	M.FARRALL	J.WHYTE
A.HAYWARD	A.MALINS	S.CAIRNS
G.FARRALL	G.DICKERSON	L.NEWTON
L.PRICE	G.WOODHEAD	D.MARTIN

Emergencies T.RANKIN & B.HOJDCROFT

A message to WAYNE who is contemplating retirement next year:-
"Old players don't retire; they captain B Grade!"

Enjoy the Wind-Up and all the best between now and the next season.