

Eric Edward White

Eric passed away peacefully on July 24, 2015 at Christchurch Hospital, loved husband to the late Mavis and father and father-in-law to Martin and Dianne, and Graeme and Melissa. Many club members were present at Eric's funeral to pay their respects and to support the White family.



Eric moved from England to Christchurch with his young family in November 1976 to take a position as an industrial designer at PDL Industries, a position he held up until his retirement. Having moved into the Avonhead area, Eric soon tracked down his local park, Burnside, where he would dedicate himself to playing cricket, supporting football and raising a family.

Cricket was a great passion for Eric whose left-arm slow spin bowling would be crafted over 33 seasons of play at Burnside. All of his matches were meticulously recorded by fountain pen in a ledger he had kept since he first started the game in England back in 1956. Some of the entries in the notes column are only a few words and describe matches hard fought down to the wire: "I had 1 ball to face and needed 4 runs to win. Straight drove the ball over the bowler's head for 4 to win"; "David Fox dropped a caught and bowled chance with LP requiring 2 runs to win". A particular entry on 16 November 1996 would have been proudly inked into the ledger - "2nd Wkt - R.J. Hadlee caught Cunningham bowled White 11".

Eric captained third and fourth grade cricket as well as playing second grade and Presidents for the club and was invited to play for and captain a CCA third grade side. He won the JS Patrick Trophy for club spin bowler of the year on six occasions and the Ralph Byrne memorial trophy for club afternoon grades bowler of the year three times, as well as being named club player of the year in 1982. That would have been a great sporting year for Eric as Tottenham Hotspur also won the FA Cup.

It was a pleasure to play with Eric over some of his career. He had a keen eye for the game and a knack for tweaking out the best of players, as his statistics show: 3910 overs, 577 maidens, 15,648 runs, 838 wickets at an average of 18.68. He played 391 matches in Presidents grade alone.

Shane Young