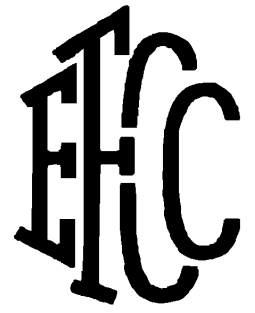


EAST FREMANTLE  
CRICKET CLUB



TEAM OF THE CENTURY



*“Celebrating 100 years...Built on tradition, played with pride”*

## **Loss of records**

The current committee would like to point out the difficulty it has experienced in collating accurate statistical records. Due to a significant loss of records, as may be expected over more than 100 years, the statistics that appear in this publication are not a complete set of records. The club holds limited records before 1981 other than outstanding individual performances and details of premierships.

For this reason, statistics for players who have played at the club for many years may show anomalies (eg a player taking a 5 wicket haul in an innings may only show as having 2 career wickets due to a lack of individual season statistics).

While this is an unfortunate situation, every avenue has been explored to retrieve records, which has met with limited success. There are too many people to individually thank for assisting us in this search, however special thanks must go to Brian Waterer who has helped out in researching the clubs early history.

It is also worth noting that the statistics in this book represent the records for the club as at the end of the 2002/03 season.

We hope that you enjoy both the book and the occasion and that it brings back fond memories to all.

The Committee  
East Fremantle Cricket Club

29<sup>th</sup> February 2004

## **History of the East Fremantle Cricket Club**

Records indicate that the East Fremantle Cricket Club was founded in the 1897/98 season, with a Dr Birmingham being the first President as the club fielded a side in the WACA competition. In the 1903/04 season the club won its first premiership in the Fremantle Junior Cricket Association, which was actually a senior competition. There were 6 teams in the competition, with East Fremantle defeating Coogee in the grand final.

In 1905/06 the club had moved over to what was referred to as the Fremantle Senior Cricket Association, however in 1907/08 the club rejoined the WACA competition as did South Fremantle, North Fremantle and Fremantle.

No records exist for the club from 1909/10 through to 1912/13, however the club returned in 1913/14 to win a premiership in the Fremantle Turf & Matting Association with a defeat of Lumpers in the grand final. From 1915/16 until 1918/19 there was no cricket due to World War 1, but cricket resumed in the region through the Fremantle Districts Cricket Association in 1919/20, with the club then referred to as High Street East Cricket Club. From 1926-1930, East Fremantle disbanded due to economic conditions caused by the approaching depression, however the club reformed in 1930/31 to begin what was the most dominant era of their history.

Having finished runners-up to South Fremantle in 1930/31, the club then won four premierships in a row, starting with a defeat of South Footballers in 1932/33. It was at this time that a young man named Bill Doig recorded a most remarkable feat by clean bowling all 20 batsman in a match, finishing with 10/6 off 6 overs and 10/15 off 8 overs, as well as top-scoring with 40 not out! 1937/38 finished with the club being runners-up to Scots to end what was a decade of dominance.

World War 2 meant that there was no cricket from 1941-1945, however the club again formed and lost consecutive grand finals to Mosman Park and South Fremantle in 1945/46 and 1946/47 respectively. A series of mid-ladder finishes marked the late 1940's and early 1950's, other than a grand final loss to Waterside Workers Federation in 1951-52. The club did not go without a trophy though, winning back-to-back Treloar Shields in the late 1940's, which was a competition between the bottom four sides.

1954/55 saw the introduction of two grades in the Fremantle & Districts Mercantile Cricket Association for the first time. Further success came in the early 1960's as the club finished runners-up to Park Cricket club and then won the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Premiership in 1962/63 against Lumpers Union to elevate them into 1<sup>st</sup> grade. This was the clubs first premiership success in some 27 years since the golden era of the mid 1930's. During this period, Les Capes captured all 10 wickets for 47 runs in an innings against Lumpers. In the second innings of that match, only Capes and Norm Rogers bowled, with both taking 5 wickets apiece.

After winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade premiership again in 1967/68, a very lean period followed in terms of premierships for the club. The club still showed signs of development however, fielding four sides in 1977/78. Another 10 years passed until one of the greatest moments in the clubs history. 1987/88 saw a 1<sup>st</sup> grade premiership by the narrowest of margins – a one run victory over Kardinya bring the club its first 1<sup>st</sup> grade premiership in 52 years. The victory was made more memorable by the fact that the team only snuck into the finals courtesy of an outright victory in the last qualifying game of the season.

Modern times have seen the introduction of the one-day format in what has now become the South Metropolitan Cricket Association. The club has built a solid reputation in the one-day game, winning several premierships and featuring in many one-day finals. 1997/98 saw the club win its first two-day premiership since the historic 1987/88 1<sup>st</sup> grade win. This was achieved from fourth spot, with a memorable grand final victory over Kenwick highlighted by an unbeaten 116 from captain Brodie Renouf.

2001/02 saw a club first, with East Fremantle winning the club championship for the first time. All 5 sides made the finals, with 4 reaching grand finals but unfortunately no premierships were won. At present the club fields four to five sides each season and has built a sound off-field base to secure its future. The club's home ground at Preston Point Reserve is one of the most picturesque and unique grounds in the state, with the short boundaries straight down the ground an attractive feature to all batsmen.

Many great players, characters and administrators have come and gone over the years since the formation of the East Fremantle Cricket Club. The current committee would like to thank all of these people, particularly the life members, for making this great club what it is today.

# **The East Fremantle Cricket Club Team of the Century**

## **Background**

Given the difficulty in picking a true Team of the Century with limited statistical information prior to the 1980's available, it was decided by the Team Of The Century Committee to select two teams (one comprising pre-1980 players and one post-1980 players) with the aim of picking one Team of the Century from those two teams.

## **Selection Criteria**

- A minimum 5 years of service to the club with an emphasis on longevity
- Minimum 1 game of 1<sup>st</sup> grade (note: must be 1<sup>st</sup> grade cricket, not the top side of the club at the time)
- More weight given to 1<sup>st</sup> grade performances
- Reluctance to include players pre-1950 due to a lack of information

## **Selection Process**

A squad of around 40 players was listed and the final two teams were selected from that. Players were selected on merit and once the teams were settled, placed into batting order. The two teams forming the team of the century squad were selected as follows:

### **Pre-1980 team**

1. Billy Branch (VC)
2. Bob Foster
3. Ashley August
4. Les Capes (C)
5. Bill Doig
6. Trevor Sprigg
7. Eric Sarich (WK)
8. Don Gabrielson
9. Jim Hurst
10. Norm Rogers
11. Merv Andrews

### **Post-1980 team**

1. Des Hoare
2. Graeme Verco (VC, WK)
3. Brodie Renouf
4. Peter Stephen (C)
5. Jason Hof
6. Brian King
7. John Olczyk
8. Darren Muir
9. Graeme Howard
10. Mark Holt
11. Jon Middleton

The selection committee then each named their own preferred side from the squad of 22 and the players with the most votes made up the final twelve players, with any 'ties' going to a second vote. The twelve players selected in the East Fremantle Cricket Club Team of the Century appear on the following page.

## **Team Of The Century - Player Profiles** (in batting order)

### **1. Billy Branch**

Imposing right hand opening batsman who was a prolific run scorer for the club for over 30 years. Bill won numerous F&DMCA aggregate and average awards and created enormous respect from opposition sides in his great ability to score heavily as an opening bat. His repertoire of shots and scores were made up of fours, sixes and singles as Bill was not too keen to run two's and three's. Bill was made a Life Member of the EFCC in 1960. Unfortunately no Club records are held for Bill's achievements other than by word of mouth from former team mates and opposition players.

### **2. Des Hoare**

After a distinguished career playing State and Test cricket, Des saw out the remainder of his career playing for East Fremantle. A highly respected player, his 1,200 plus runs for the club came in a typically stubborn manner in which he valued his wicket highly, with a highest recorded score of 127\* in 1st grade. His 100 plus wickets came in a variety of bowling styles, from pace to the spin with which he took the winning wicket in the 1987/88 1st grade grand final. A passionate cricketer, he was always willing to pass on his expert knowledge to the young cricketers at training, bruising a few hands along the way when he took catching practice.

### **3. Ashley August**

Middle order batsman who opened at various stages of his career and part-time off-spin bowler. A very determined cricketer who played at a higher level in the WACA competition, as well as playing league football for East Fremantle and South Fremantle. A club champion in 1970/71, 1971/72 and 1976/77, Ashley was a real fighter and a great team-mate to have on your side, and was able to turn a match in the blink of an eye with his powerful strokeplay.

### **4. Brodie Renouf**

Right hand middle order batsman. Club champion in 1997/98, played in a 1<sup>st</sup> grade premiership and captained three 2<sup>nd</sup> grade premierships. Has scored eight centuries for the club, including one in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and a memorable unbeaten century to lead East Fremantle to its first two-day premiership in 10 years in 1997/98. Over 6,000 runs to his name at present and is also an excellent fielder and life member.

## **5. Peter Stephen** (Vice captain)

Arguably the greatest cricketer to grace Preston Point, 'Blinky' was a talented all-rounder who usually saved his best for arch rival CBC, seemingly scoring a century every time he played against them. Peter scored 6,829 runs which includes a club record 14 centuries and took 285 wickets with his medium-fast bowling. A life member, seven-time club champion and member of the 1987/88 1st grade Premiership side, Peter is a great clubman and was a very popular player amongst his team mates.

## **6. Les Capes** (Captain)

Right hand batsman and right arm fast-medium bowler. Opening both the batting and bowling for many years, Les was regarded as easily the best player in the strong F&DMCA in the mid-1960's. Consistently scored 400 runs and took 40 wickets per season and captained the side with distinction. Club champion on some seven occasions and once took all 10 wickets in an innings.

## **7. Graeme Verco** (Wicket keeper)

'Verco's' was a true all-rounder of the club. Club President for 8 years, club champion, leading batsman, life member, wicket keeper, great slips fieldsman and slow left arm bowler, he did it all. Graeme was a member of the 1987/88 Premiership side and being the great team man that he is, celebrated harder than anybody. His 3,522 runs, 193 wickets and 173 catches speak volumes of the important role that he has played at this club.

## **8. John Olczyk**

A highly competitive all-round cricketer who never gives up no matter what the situation. A dual Club champion, his batting held together the middle to lower order of 1st grade for a number of years and at present he has scored over 5,000 runs for the club. He is able to generate express pace from a short run up and whippy action which has troubled many batsmen over the years in taking 350 plus wickets. A member of the 1987/88 1st grade Premiership side and captained 4<sup>th</sup> grade to a convincing victory in 2002/03, breaking the record for the most runs in a season in the process.

## **9. Mark Holt**

Mark has had two careers at the club due to work commitments. A left arm fast bowler whose swing and seam have bagged him many 5-wicket hauls in over 200 career wickets, he took 50 wickets in the 1st grade Premiership season of 1987/88. Mark was also Club Champion in the same season. As a dogged batsman, he scored many fighting runs in the lower order as he valued his wicket highly in scoring over 1,000 runs for the club.

## **10. Don Gabrielson**

Left arm opening swing bowler and solid left hand batsman and very agile fieldsman. Scored a number of centuries for the Club. Don was a prolific wicket taker and a top cricketer in the F&DMCA in the 1940's/50's/60's. Unfortunately no Club records are available for Don's exploits other than by word of mouth and former team mates.

## **11. Norm Rogers**

Norm started with East Fremantle Cricket Club at age 15 and played consistently for over 30 years. He was an outstanding right arm opening pace bowler who constantly troubled top order batsmen with his pace and guile. Prolific wicket taker over many seasons with 20 plus five wicket hauls in addition to making 50's batting down around 8, 9, & 10. Norm was a very respected player and person during his cricketing career at East Fremantle and as he did with his football, gave his all to winning. Unfortunately Norm was never nominated for Life membership - probably a sad indictment in hindsight. Limited records of Norm's achievements are held by the Club and all references of his feats were by way of former club members and opposition players.

## **12. Trevor Sprigg (12<sup>th</sup> man)**

Trevor joined East Fremantle through Norm Rogers in 1965 as a slow bowler and top/middle order batsmen. He found immediate success in a strong and competitive F& DMCA of the 1960's and 70's. Trevor was an inter-association premierships player, is a life member and also won a club champion award. He was also in a number of premierships sides from first grade down to the lower grades. Off the field Trevor was always a strong administrator for the Club and Association alike over many of his 30 odd years with the club. Club records of Trevor's achievements are incomplete and therefore do not completely record his achievements with bat and ball during his playing days. A strong, vigorous competitor who always gave his utmost to achieve victory for East Fremantle, along with being an excellent team member.



# EAST FREMANTLE CRICKET CLUB TEAM OF THE CENTURY



Billy Branch



Des Hoare



Ashley August



Brodie Renouf



Peter Stephen (VC)



Les Capes (C)



Graeme Verco (WK)



John Olczyk



Mark Holt



Don Gabrielson



Norm Rogers



Trevor Sprigg (12th Man)

## **Memorable events, stories etc**

- Former player and life member Sid Thomas (now deceased) was given the nickname "Claw" - it was reported that his hands were twice the size of any man!
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade using 4 new balls in the 1980/81 Grand Final, when C.B.C. made a massive 498. Bowling figures included: Des Hoare 76-26-2-121, Hayes 50-17-1-110, Stuart Cole 44-11-0-96
- 1980/81 - fees were \$4 per match and \$30 up-front
- 1981/82 – Bill Peake bowled a Cockburn batsman, only to watch in dismay as the bails failed to fall off. The following week the same thing happened again - but this time Bill was the batsman!
- 1981/82 – Alastair Wilkie took a hat-trick within his first seven deliveries for the club
- 1982/83 – Brad McCaughan reached a century in 55 minutes – he ended on 130, including six 4's and sixteen 6's!
- 1983/84 – Tony Miguel made 94 and took 3/37 in his first game for the club
- 1984/85 – in a 6<sup>th</sup> grade match against Phoenix, there was one over to go with Phoenix needing 2 runs and East Fremantle needing 6 wickets. The end result – East Fremantle took 4 wickets but Phoenix scored one run to tie the game
- 1989/90 – George Strnadica hit eleven 4's and six 6's in making 138 v Leeming, as well as taking 5/51 in the same match
- 1990/91 - East Fremantle became an incorporated club and ran its own bar for the first time
- 1990/91 – East Fremantle lost every game in 1<sup>st</sup> grade except for a tie against Jandakot. In the first game of that season, Leeming had slumped to 6/34 before recovering to make 7/312
- Rod Heaton once took one of the longest hat-tricks possible...two wickets with his last 2 balls of one season, and a wicket with his first delivery of the following season!
- 1991/92 – On the same day but in different grades, twins Graeme and Greg Howard both took 5/37 off 18 overs
- John Cutting bowled a piece of fruit at the batsman in a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade match – the batsman smashed it and the piece of fruit disintegrated in mid-flight!
- 1995/96 – in a 4<sup>th</sup> grade match against Hilton, East Fremantle were 7/147 chasing 167 with 2 overs remaining. Enter Troy Grant, who helped EFCC to take 29 off the final 2 overs for a memorable win
- 1996/97 – Coming in at 2/7 as a nightwatchman, Greg Terpsis (the usual No. 10 batsman) joined Jason Hof to record a club record partnership for any wicket of exactly 300 – Terpsis scoring 113 and Hof a then club record of 184
- 1997/98 – in the last qualifying game of the season before eventually going on to win the premiership, 2A's went to tea after the first hour with openers Michael Jenkins on 101\* and Scot Mathews on 5\*! Jenkins finished with 134 out of an opening partnership of 165
- On 13/12/1997, Sasha Dixon became one of few, if not the only, female cricketer to play in a match for the club, against Gosnells in 6B's

- 1998/99 – in a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade match against Gosnells, Steve Strnadica went in at 5/67 and was out for a belligerent 165 to take the team total to 391 all out
- 1999/00 – “The Boozehags” achieved a run of 11 consecutive victories before only just missing out on the finals in their inaugural year
- 2000/01 – C.B.C. batsman Peter Christie reluctantly stormed from the ground after having been clean bowled by Brian Powe – the problem was that he was not watching and had not taken strike when the ball clipped the stumps!
- 2000/01 – Steve Beatty, on 40\* overnight, went on to make a club record 197 the following week before being caught on the boundary
- 2001/02 - the club scored more than 1,500 runs in one weekend across all grades with the top 3 sides finishing as minor premiers
- 2001/02 – Mark ‘Maggot’ Magerl filled the role of captain for The Boozehags whilst also being 12<sup>th</sup> man. In a separate match during the year, he received a blood nose during a wild celebration for Shane ‘Robo’ Robeson’s hat-trick

### **Other miscellaneous tales**

- After a few quiet beers at the club one night, David “The Cat” Vass drove off to get some tomato sauce and was pulled over by the cops. He got done for DD and lost his licence....not to be out done though, The Cat turned up the next night on a motorised pushbike
- A story about Bobby Magee, a man with natural ability that was unfortunately housed in unnatural surroundings. In a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade match where a victory would have assured the club of a top-two position, Magoo was padded up after the team was in early trouble. What was needed was a steadying of the ship, leading to a controlled attack in the latter stages. The captain instructed Bobby to “wait for the right ball”. Enter Magee to face a bowler who was of pedestrian pace at best...his eyes lit up, the head went back...and so did the offstump. When he returned to the group, the captain couldn’t help himself...“Bobby, for F\*\*\*sake I said wait for the right ball”..as he turned he uttered the only comment Bobby could make...“It was the right ball I just played the wrong shot” Typical Magee.
- In a match between East and South Fremantle, South Fremantle only had 3 players in attendance (the two opening batsmen and the number 11) due to a football scratch match scheduled for the same day. After winning the toss, East Fremantle captain Les Capes sent South Freo in to bat...at the end of the first day, openers Charlie Tyson and Tony Parentich had batted through the day to reach 0/290!!

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## **Neil Anderson – A season to remember!**

The 1930/31 season saw a young Neil Anderson perform some remarkable feats, including a double hat-trick against South Fremantle Footballers Cricket Club. Anderson took six wickets in six balls in the first innings, but his day's work was not over after South were forced to follow-on. Anderson took the new ball again in the second innings and dismissed the first five South batsmen for 10 runs.

Anderson ended up taking an incredible 118 wickets in the season at an average of 5.40, as well as making some valuable contributions with the bat. A summary of his 5-wicket innings for the season is as follows:

9/42 v Irish National Forresters  
8/23 v Wesley's  
7/33 v Workers  
7/34 v Perth Manufacturing Company  
7/39 v South Footballers  
7/47 v C.B.C.  
7/55 v Irish National Forresters  
6/3 v Essandee  
6/6 v Irish National Forresters  
6/25 v Irish National Forresters  
6/26 v Druids  
6/52 v Workers  
5/17 v C.B.C.  
5/21 v South Footballers  
5/35 v Wesley's  
5/45 v Perth Manufacturing Company