

BEDE – MR RELIABLE

One thing that you can rely on Bede Allsopp taking the new cherry and steaming in at the batsman. A rhythmic run-up followed by crafty turn of his wrist and the in-dipper is zeroing in on the stumps. In February 2023, Bede became the sixth player in the club to attain the 300-game milestone.



Bede Allsopp at his 300th game

To understand the appreciation of Bede, these tributes are worth if repeating:

(1) BDCC Annual Report 2004/2005 - B1 Grade team – Ash Warren (Captain Third XI)

“Bede (Bring on the lefthanders) Allsopp won the bowling again with a five-wicket haul in the last game clinching the title. His attitude to training, and on game day is second to none and is one which everyone in the club should take on board and we are sure to reap the benefits. Congratulations, mate let’s hope Lynn plays hockey for many years to come.”

(2) Written Acclamation for Life Membership - Adrian Reus 24 June 2015

“Bede is always one of the first to put his hand up and help around the club for almost anything. His work ethic on Committee has been greatly appreciated by the club and his peers over the years. It’s guys like Bede who have helped kept this club going over time.

Bede spent his early years in the thirds and fourths and had great success with the ball. He played a handful of games in the seconds, however, was unable to cement a regular spot in the side due to the talented players ahead of him. After the retirement of Vaughan 'Chooka' Sedgewick and the departure of Doug Paroissien and other bowlers, Bede took his chance and become a vital cog in the seconds. This didn't last long unfortunately as he was soon on his way to become a regular member in the Firsts, where he has continued on his merry way.

In the beginning Bede was an automatic selection for number 11 in the batting line up. Over time Bede's batting has improved with him having improved his cut/slash shot through the off side with minimal foot movement. And his behind the back shot looks good when it comes off.

Bede also has a vast music memory and was always in demand when trivia nights came around. He has numerous stories to tell about his worldly adventures and big family."

From a Seed an Acorn grows

Bede was born in Georgetown (near Launceston), Tasmania into an itinerant family. His Canberran, ACT born father was an aluminum construction specialist and moved around as jobs required. His Liverpoolian mother just went with the flow – to Invercargill (southern tip of the South Island of New Zealand) to Seaford (Melbourne) back to New Zealand and then to East Ivanhoe. The family settled for a while and Bede enjoyed his secondary education at Marcellin College. He particularly relished appearing in the blue, maroon and gold colours of the school, whilst he ran around in cricket, soccer and athletics.

Whilst he stayed to focus on his year 12 studies in 1984, work took his parents to Sydney. The following year he resided at Melbourne University to undertake studies in Science. This didn't last long as in 1986 he took up a full-time job with DXC Technology, an information technology outsourcing company, which adopted a virtual-first model allowing employees to work from home. He remains with DXC until today.

Soccer was his fanciful sport with his midfield energy and running power boosting his local team, leading to him representing Invercargill in a New Zealand regional competition. Working hard to establish himself at DXC he wasn't attracted to a full-time commitment to sport but loved running around the streets and ovals nearby his residence to maintain his fitness and well-being.

The lightbulb moment in life happened and he met his future life Lynn. Lynn was committed to sport and was an inaugural member of the Sunshine Hockey Club. She savored the friendly environment in the club and loved the outlet from her working life.



Bede and Arjit in 2020

Cricket Baby Steps

Bede was playing recreational indoor cricket at the Doncaster Centre and came under the eye of Andrew “Snapper” Petersen. The influential Snapper cajoled him into joining the Burras at Hartwell Sports Ground for the 1995/96 season. After a couple of training sessions his name went on the team list for the fifth eleven. Proudly donning a crispy new baggy green he went through his warm-up routine on the lush Mullauna Secondary College (Mitcham) outfield. Snapper gave him two pieces of advice before the game:

- (1) Get a nick and I will look after you.
- (2) Don’t make any funny comments when the skipper Darren “Captain Grumpy” Veitch gives his pre-match inspirational speech.

Things didn’t start well as Veitchy made a duck, to make him more irritable, and only two players reached double figures but Bede managed an unbeaten 3 runs. Mitcham made light work of the chase although losing 7 wickets. Bede got only one over. Amongst his team-mates, currently playing in the Vets were Ash Warren, Peter Brettrecker and of course Captain Grumps.

It was a good year as the fifths managed to finish in the top four which led them to being reacquainted with Mitcham in the semi-final. Top Dogs Mitcham smashed our attack around Doncaster Reserve to tally 383 with Bede 0/84 off 15 overs. Coming in at number 11 and the score 9/143 Bede had Snapper get in his face and tell him "Make Them Earn It!" In a fore comer of future exploits they added 35 runs for the last wicket, Snapper 38no and Bede 12. Not a bad debut season for Bede - 20 wickets and 189 runs. Snapper's mindset is one that Bede has taken to heart.

Some Highpoints

When asked about his highlights during his time at the Burras Bede reeled them off. Without going to a two-part edition, I will relate a few of the major events.

Whilst Bede is renowned for his bowling, but an incredible feat with the bat in 2002/2003 still has him in the record books and memories. After being runners-up in 2001/2002 the Third Eleven were excited about possibly going one better the next season. Facing Box Hill North in the semi-final we had dropped to 8/76 when Bede came to the wicket and shortly after at 9/83 we were facing oblivion. Number 11 Andrew Heagney came in during the 38th over of the 80 possible. Bede and Heagers were resolute and both played the hands of their life. There were some crunching shots, a bit of luck and lots of determination. Heagers kept Bede motivated by advising milestone gems they had achieved. By the last over of the day, 151 runs had been added for the last wicket. Bede had his stumps re-arranged in the first ball of the last over for an impressive score of 79, whilst Heagers was 70no. Both guys have not surpassed these individual tallies. On the following day the Northerners were well-placed at 4/160 before falling to 191. Blackburn South assigned them to runner-up status once again in the Grand Final.

His best match with the ball was, in combination with Andrew George, snaring all 20 wickets. This was in the 2003/2004 Round 9 clash with East Box Hill at the Trinity Grammar School playing fields. In a humid day the ball was hooping everywhere and Bede claimed match figures of 12/70 (5/22 & 7/48). Georgey's 5/15 and 3/34 were also stunning in an outright win.

After another Grand Final loss in 2007/08, this time in the Seconds, Bede finally wore the laurels of success in 2016/17 and backed it up in 2019/20, both in the firsts.



Bede with M1 Premiers team in 2016/17

In 2017/18 Bede played an inspiring role in piloting the first eleven into the finals. The spearhead was brilliant in grabbing 4/16 and 5/38 in the last round. This performance was rewarded with the Don McLaine trophy for the most outstanding on-field performance for the season.

Bede's list of honours included a Club Championship in 2016/17 (Firsts premierships) and BHRDCA bowling trophies in the following two seasons. His trophy cabinet is well-stocked with a further 8 bowling trophies and 3 fielding gongs.

Life Membership

Bede is one of the greats in the club and has had an enormous influence over the club's success. He served as Treasurer for 6 seasons from 2004/05 to 2009/10 and a further 5 terms as Secretary from 2012/13 to 2016/17. He was awarded a President's Trophy in 2008/2009 for his incredible contribution off-field. He was Chairman of Selectors in 2009/10 and has captained teams for 4 seasons. The bestowing of Life Membership on 24 June 2015 was justified recognition for Mr Reliable.

Exotic Holidays

Bede and Lynn don't follow the crowd when they take a well-deserved holiday break. You won't find them sunbaking on the French Riviera or the Greek Isles, going on boat cruises through the Mediterranean or cruising along the Rhine in Europe. Their style is active adventurous – Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Mexico, Tanzania or Madagascar. Cycling through the south of China or hiking on Macquarie Island and getting up close to sea lions & penguins. One of their joys is relaxing whilst tasting fine reds in vineyards dotted around the planet.

BDCC CAREER SUMMARIES

<i>Players</i>	<i>Seasons</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Wkts</i>	<i>Catches/Stp</i>
Bede	1995-2023	300	2,086	594	126/0

Ian Scholefield

26 February 2023

- Since writing this article, Bede has also reached 600 wickets for the club