

200 FOR ASH WARREN

Written by on Ian Scholefield 28th October 2022

Ashley Warren completed his 200th game for the Burras in Round 1 of the Vets this season. He opening the innings with returning legend Aaron Smith. The pair put on a stand of 52 before Ash departed for a typical aggressive dig of 28.

He came to the Club in 1995-96 after meeting Tracey Veitch. Tracey encouraged him to watch her brother Darren play in a game at the Heatherdale Basin. Ash decided that the size of the ground and standard of the opposition was right up his alley. (In this game D Veitchy top edged a six in his dominant opening batting innings of 58).

Sporting Background

Ashley first dipped his toes in the cauldron of cricket when he spent two seasons participating in the Larpent Street Glen Waverley program. He extended his cricket activities at St Kevins College but once work demands kicked in, he drifted away. His sporting interests focussed on basketball and tennis. The tennis connection came from his father who had managed the Ballarat Tennis Centre for a period.

Swashbuckling Ash imposes his backfoot batting style and aggressively pulls or hooks any short or slightly short ball. In his 200 games, Ash has reached the coveted 50 on 14 occasions together with the one ton. He particularly hates being given out lbw (MyCricket says 34 times) and shakes his head from side to side as he walks off, not believing that he could be out that way.

Team-mate Christian Kelley (CK) – *“Ashley regularly was given out lbw because he stepped across his stumps trying to hook or pull, or being caught on the leg side, whilst playing such shots ... if you have one good shot, you may as well keep playing it.”*

His best knock was 116 in 1997-98 season against Mazenod Old Collegians. He went to the crease wanting to gain enough runs to enable the Fifts to push for an outright result after being 22 runs in deficit on first innings. A soaring six to reach three figures smashed the College's Library window. In 25 overs our team reached 2/187 highlighted by Ash's ton and an opening stand of 142 with David Winterton (28). Eventually His team fell short of the maximum points by four wickets. In his buccaneering hand he smashed 9 sixes and 10 fours. The innings followed an entertaining 59 (4 sixes) in the first innings.

(CK) – *“I always remember that I shared the Club’s player of the Day Award when Ash made his hundred. Obviously my unbeaten 69 in the thirds was rated just as classy.”*

Ash is one of those people that bats righthanded, but bowls and throws left handed. He believes that his meagre tally of wickets represented the lack of confidence that his captains had with his bowling repertoire.

CK – *“Georgie (Andrew George) would rather bowl himself into exhaustion with 39 overs from one end rather than throw the ball to Ash.”*

Reminiscences

Fielding is a very important part of the game and Ash loves nothing more than going in close at short leg. His athletic reflexes and willingness to get up close, under the batsman’s nose, has brought him a great number of catches. He enjoys exchanging barbs with the batsman. He recalls the day that Steve Green (good to see him back in the club colours last Sunday at Woori Yallock) ripped through a fireball and the batter made a back step. Ash gave him a blast about treading on his toes. It paid off as he was out next cherry.

CK reckons *“Ash suffered from white line fever, particularly in the heated battles against Blackburn South.”*

He recollects hat-tricks by team-mates in games he played. It was amazing when Ben “Killer” Killeen flattened the stumps of three consecutive Forest Hill batsmen in 2001. He also has fond memories of grabbing a catch in slips deflected from Andrew George off Marc “Keggers” Hall.

(Ash believes that it was a hat-trick catch. I am unable to verify this but note that CK



mentioned in the annual report dropping a hat-trick catch in 2002/2003 off Keggers. Perhaps the memories have merged.)

Amongst his debut game team-mates he remembers Bede Allsopp, Andrew “Snapper” Petersen and Mike Whitney. He has been active in recruiting Dave North, Andrew George and brother Greg Warren to the club. One thing that happened when Greg joined was that Ash became “Junior” Warren whilst Greg earned the moniker “Senior”.

Brother Greg

Opening left-handed batsman Greg Warren had played most of his cricket with St Kevins Old Boys where he excelled in the top grade of VTCA turf. He was renowned for his powerful cover drive. Greg dominated in the 2007-08 season with BDCC when, in his second season as the second XI skipper, scored three tons in his tally of 498 runs at an average of 55.33. This included 137 in the semi final and 42 in the Grand Final. He won the BHRDCA Shield Seconds Batting Trophy that year as well.

Sundries

One of the aims of any sportsman is to win premiership. Ash has been in five Grand Finals and is yet to walk away with a smile on his face. But there is still hope!

Ash “Junior” Warren served continuously on the BDCC Committee from 2000-01 until 2012-13. This included four seasons as President (2009-2010 to 2012-13) and three as Treasurer. During this period he also skippered the Third eleven for two seasons and led the fourths for two years.

Once he passed the age of 40 a friend persuaded him to try out in the less pressurized Vets at Heatherdale CC. He enjoyed 5 seasons there from 2014-15 to 2018-19. With the Burra blood running through his veins, and with his brother-in-law in his ear, he returned to Vets with BDCC in 2021-22.

BDCC CAREER SUMMARIES

<i>Players</i>	<i>Seasons</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Wkts</i>	<i>Catches</i>
Ashley	1995-2022	200	4,035	10	80
Greg	1997-2009	40	1,289	33	27

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