

DOGGY'S UNIQUE DOUBLE

Written by on Ian Scholefield 7 December 2022

Last Sunday Adrian “Dogman” Reus completed the final leg of an exceptional double – 1,000 wickets and 500 games. There was a stumble and plenty of fumbles, but number 1,000 came on the last ball of the day against Croydon Ranges CC Vets’ team at Silcock Reserve. Doggy had to grasp a caught and bowled and not rely on his team -mates.

“I have had so many catches dropped over time, I didn’t want to take the risk of another one hitting the floor.”

The term legend or superstar is bandied about too easily to inflate the image of a person nowadays. There is no doubt that Adrian is a legend in our club not just for his outstanding achievements, but for his competitive nature, determination, persistence, endurance, loyalty and longevity. Since starting in 1977 he has always been there, on field and helping where his handy craft skills were of value.

We all dip our hats to a fabulous journey by the Dogman.

How does his feats rate in our club and Association?

Doggy has played the most games and taken the most wickets in our club.

Closest to him are Ian Scholefield 356 games and Colin McDonald 732 wickets.

Of current players Bede Allsopp 293 games and 580 wickets is the next in line.

Where does that achievement sit in comparison to the others within the BHRDCA?

There are other factors to be considered before answering that question – BHRDCA was formed in 1890 and our club was first affiliated with BHRDCA in 1968/69.

Work is currently ongoing to produce detailed records within the Association. At the moment Andy Lambert and his BHRDCA Heritage Committee have reached the 1975/76 season and are working on the following decade.



What we know is:

- Adrian has played 46 seasons in BHRDCA (Previous record is Cedric Crouch 39 seasons - Doncaster Heights, Doncaster, Blackburn and East Doncaster 1905-1946).
- Games - we believe he holds the BHRDCA record with the closest being Mark Jones (East Burwood) with 484 games. Mark is current coach at East Burwood but retired from playing after the 2020/21 season.
- 1,000 wickets – Four others are known to have reached this milestone - Cedric Crouch 1,160, Frank Barker (Box Hill C of C) 1,106, Joe Beale (Templestowe) 1,032 and Sid Barker (Box Hill C of C) 1,030. The Barker brothers bowled against our club in the early seventies. Of more recent players, the aforementioned brilliant left arm spinner Mark Jones (East Burwood) is most likely to have achieved the landmark.

He would have to be the oldest player in our club's history?

I would like a dollar for every time that question has been raised with me.

The answer – probably. There is no conclusive evidence of ages of players in our club. It just wasn't one of the chronicles kept until the 1980's. For the record Adrian Peter Reus Junior was born on 24 February 1959 which makes him 63 years old at the moment. (No, Bernie Hall wasn't older, he just looked like he was.)

How did a Bayswater boy get to our club

Adrian started his cricket career aged 13 for St Josephs, Boronia CC in the Ferntree Gully District Cricket Association (FTGDCA). After two years there, the coaxing of schoolmates caused him to transfer to the Bayswater Park Catholics CC for his final season in the junior ranks. Reusy described his fledgling seasons as being *"just an average player, the only time that I bowled was in the nets"*.

After splitting his Secondary schooling between Ringwood High School and Bayswater High School, it was agreed by his parents and teachers that now aged 17 years, he wouldn't be suited to tertiary study and should look get into the working industry. He joined the insurance industry in the city and came across the charismatic Lindsay Cannan, who had a similar love of cricket. It wasn't hard to convince Adrian to join Burwood Socials CC (as we were then named.)

How did he get his nickname?

Former First XI batsman Darron Wilkinson had seen a picture of a “half man, half dog” and thought that it resembled Adrian at the time. The nickname has continued for almost 40 years.



Debut in Green and Gold

After one impressive training session at Hartwell, Reusy was chosen in the thirds to play against Blackburn at Morton Park lower oval in a two-day match commencing 29 October 1977 for his inaugural game under the green cap. Our club fielded five senior teams at the time with the top three elevens in Shield Grade, so picking him in Shield Thirds showed the confidence the selectors had in him. Team-mates (in batting order) were Gilbert Dwight, Malcolm Hull, Mark White, Ed Nylander, Geoff Styler, Bill Hosken, Bruce Ayres (Captain), Keith Dickman, Ivan McLeod and David McCrae. Doggy batted occupied what was to be his customary number 11 position.

Blackburn batted first and dawdled to 136 off 64.2 overs. Adrian was given his chance after strike bowlers “Mad-dog” McCrae and young star left-armer Mark White had taken

the shine off the new cherry. Striking a length quickly with some movement into the bat it was a notable start. Reusy knocked over their top scorer and finished with 1/24 off 9 overs. *"It could have been more than one victim if catches in slips had been taken"* remarked Adrian.

Chasing a mediocre score, we were on target with an opening partnership of 41 by Dwight and Hull but we fell away dramatically after that. Adrian came to the crease with us 9/99 and needed a miracle to get the points. A last wicket stand of 12 was broken when our man was run out for 7. The Thirds' 111 had come off 60 overs so the match had been a grind.

His second game was memorable for his batting! He was promoted to number 10 and went in at 8/161. Together with Ivan McLeod a 108 run stand boosted the Thirds. Adrian made his first fifty - 57 (one of only three in his full career) aiding BSCC to reach a considerable 279. Despite a formidable new ball attack of Tony "Hanger" Metherell and Steve Burfurd, opponents Box Hill North 7/411 gave us a spanking. Reus 2/69 off 13 overs continued his stirring start.

At the end of his first season Adrian had 20 wickets and 96 runs.

Second Year Blues

After a promising initial season, 1978/79 produced heartbreak and drama combined with a few special performances. Returning to the Thirds he was on a high when he snared his first bag of ten wickets in a match with 6/57 & 4/36 in Round 2. Adrian was a feisty, combative character in his late teens and early twenties and didn't appreciate discipline nor take a backward step in battle. In Round 4 he had a falling out with strict skipper Bruce Ayres. After an unsuccessful eight over opening spell (0/42) Adrian was seething (he had earlier made a duck as well) as Mitcham CC were coasting to an easy victory. Daryl Hauesler bowled two short balls which were smashed for boundaries and our man had to chase the ball down Bath Road. On returning with the nut, he yelled to Daryl *"Put them on the Effing off stump"*. Skipper Ayres treated this comment as disrespect to his team-mate and sent Adrian off the ground.

Reusy was shattered but still turned up to the after-match drinks. The next week he was banished to the fourths and after two mediocre matches dropped even further down to the sixths. He calmed down and had a devastating last four games where he grabbed 25 wickets. This included his second ten for in a match with 5/25 & 6/31 (11/56). Distinctively the only two career "ten fors" were in this second season.

Reminiscences

The most significant influence on his main armory were Bob Naismith and Bob Lainson. Both Bobs instructed him in where to bowl to each batsman and infused him with the tactics which needed to be applied.

AR - "Initially I bowled natural indippers, but after learning from the boys, and with practice, managed to swing it away. Once I learnt the technique I was happy to share it, but with Heagers and his arms in all directions, I had to say no hope."

Greatest satisfaction was to captain two premierships and be Team Manager for two Under 12 flags. The senior pennants were in the Second XI (1991/92 & 1998/99) with great friends Tim Mortensen and Steve Brownley sharing premiership smiles on each occasion. Both the Under 12 victories (1991/92 U12B and 1992/93 U12A) were shared with Simon Croxford (Captain both times) and Joly Leaver.

His favourite Grand Final was 1991/92 A3 Grand Final Vs Blackburn South at Ted Ajani Reserve in Bulleen. Tight, desperate bowling restricted the Southerners to only 97 off 72 overs. Leggie Andrew Martin 3/22 and quick Mark Lavars 3/24 were the prime wicket-takers. We were in trouble at 6/84 but ended up surviving 130 overs batting almost to tea on the third day of the match. The cream was a last wicket partnership of 76 between Andrew "Snapper" Petersen and Jamie "Jymie" Fergusson which settled any chance of any outright points. The Jymster had only been elevated to the team after Vaughan "Chooka" Sedgewick broke his leg two games out from the final series.

For a fair length of time one of his Committee responsibilities was to manage and maintain the club's equipment. He was frequently frustrated when Tim Mortensen kept hiding protectors in the Ladies' kitbags.

In describing his batting Doggy loved his main scoring shots - a glide past backward point and a hoick over the legside. The problem was that he tried those shots to too many balls. He is fairly acknowledged as a tail-ender, facts show that in 453 innings he only lined up in the top 6 on 55 instances but in the last 3 slots 299 times.

Like all batsmen he recalls his fine achievements and his first hundred partnership is recorded earlier. Adrian's largest partnership was 123 runs, again for the 9th wicket, but this time was with Malcolm Hull (a team-mate in his first game). The opponents were Heatherdale CC Shield 3rds in Round 2 of the 1984/85 season on the top oval at Lynden Reserve. BDCC was 8/90 chasing a total of 106 (in which Adrian took 5/27). Hully told him *"hang around and then we can have some fun"*. In the match winning knock Adrian made his highest score for the club with 63 whilst Malcolm notched up 77. Malcolm recently took the time to visit for Adrian's 501st game.

The early decade or so of his playing days were not all that successful and only a losing semi-final versus Vermont is recalled. When the club was gradually bolstered by talented

juniors and recruits, the success came. The satisfaction of playing in 8 Grand Finals in the 1990's and 2000's provided the greatest memories. His second flag where he was Captain was a high scoring event featuring a remarkable big ton by Noel Marshall. Six years ago he was near the end with his knees hurting badly but he was enticed back in the fold. His run-up was shorter and there was a shuffle, but the wickets still came.

Perhaps his greatest satisfaction was the people he met in the club and became friends with. Just to name a few, Timmy Mortensen, Chooka Sedgewick, Dougy Paroissien and fellow Melbourne Victory supporter Blunners, have all lit up his life. He remembers laughing when Andrew Crommelin presented him with a dog-bone after snaring a wicket against Koonung Heights. All in the fun of sport and colleagues.



Offices, awards and achievements

- Life Membership awarded in May 1999
- President's Trophy 1994/95 (Outstanding Contribution off-field)
- President (3 Seasons) 2002/03 – 2004/05
- Vice President (6) 1993/94 – 1996/97 & 1998/99 – 1999/2000
- Treasurer (1) 2022/23
- Committeeman (2) 1991/92 – 1992/93
- Captain (15) 2nds – 13 times and 3rds twice
- Junior Team Manager – 4 seasons.
- Premierships (6) – playing (4) and as Team Manager (2)
- Runners-up (5) – playing (4) and Team Manager (1)
- Trophies (10) – 9 bowling & 1 batting
- Fifties (3)
- Bags of 5 wickets on 37 occasions and ten wickets in a match twice.

Breakdown per team

1st XI - 41 games, 155 runs and 41 wickets
2nd XI - 301 games, 2,543 runs and 616 wickets
3rd XI - 112 games, 1,106 runs and 237 wickets
4th XI - 12 games, 92 runs and 22 wickets
5th XI - 6 games, 122 runs and 18 wickets
6th XI - 8 games, 62 runs and 36 wickets
Vets XI - 16 games, 7 runs and 20 wickets
T20 XI - 6 games, 8 runs and 10 wickets

Total – 502 games, 4095 runs and 1,000 wickets

Family and Work

Adrian was born in the Victorian country town of Ararat and moved to Melbourne in late 1968. He has lived in Bayswater or surrounding suburbs for the past 54 years. His parents Lorraine and Adrian (Senior) have been married for 63 years. He has two sisters (Katrina and Amanda) and a brother, James. Adrian's daughter, Samantha has added three grandsons to the family. The oldest is 3 years old but the cricket genes haven't shown through yet.



After starting his working life in the insurance industry, he spent 10 years in office and window cleaning for the prominent Sedgewick Cleaning (yes, run by Vaughan Sedgewick). The bulk of his weekdays has been in the warehousing industry.

BDCC CAREER SUMMARY

<i>Players</i>	<i>Seasons</i>	<i>Games</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Wkts</i>	<i>Catches/Stp</i>
Adrian Reus	1977-2022	502	4,095	1,000	142/1

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