



I.J. (Ian) Spencer - 2009/2010

Besides an illustrious cricket career, Ian played 363 games with East Burwood Football Club and is a Life Member of that club and of the Eastern Football League. He played in the 1967, 1968, 1973 and 1976 Firsts premierships and won the Best and Fairest Award in 1968, 1970, 1972 and 1980. He was also selected (with close friend Bill Stafford) in the East Burwood 'Team of the Century.' In 2011 Ian was inducted into the club's inaugural Hall of Fame and was elevated to Legend status at the same time.

Ian started his cricket career in 1957/58 at age 10 at Forest Hill Cricket Club, which was founded by one of Ian's cousins, in the Under 16's and played there until the 1972/73 season when he was a member of the A Grade premiership team. Whilst at Forest Hill he captained the Under 16 premiership team in 1961/62 and played 48 junior and 130 senior games with the club.

In 1973/74 season, Ian, via a workmate, joined the Croydon Hockeyers Cricket Club, which had been formed in 1968/69 by a group of players from the local hockey club. Ian has since played over 500 games for the club (now known as Croydon Ranges after Croydon Hockeyers merged with Croydon United) and, including his games with Forest Hill, has played somewhere around 700 games of club cricket. He played in the 1977/78 'B' Grade (their first eleven) and the 1995/95 'B2' (second eleven) premierships with Croydon Hockeyers. At Croydon Hockeyers Cricket Club, Ian was Club Champion on 9 occasions and won the First XI batting average 16 times.

He has won 8 batting, bowling and all-rounder awards at Croydon Ranges where he is a Foundation Life Member, 4 RDCA batting average awards and has made around 20 centuries over a period of nearly 40 years, with a highest score of 201 in 1969/70. Veteran premierships in the 1990's and numerous Veterans representative matches have added to his impressive record. Another highlight was being selected to represent Australia in an Over 60's game against England, played at Mentone, Vic in 2008.

Ian has been involved at RDCA Executive level for many years including being President of the Junior competition for 3 years, and Secretary/Administration Manager for the Association for 16 years. Ian was recognised for his valued contribution to the Association by being awarded Life Membership in 2009/10. From the 2010/11 season, Ian has had a then senior competition grade named after him which is currently a premier grade known as the Ian Spencer Shield. Ian has also received a 50 Year Service Award from Cricket Australia.

In March 2021 Ian was inducted into the inaugural RDCA Hall of Fame and, at the same function, was elevated to Legend status.



Hall of Fame Induction and Legend Status 3/2021
Field of View Photography

The following words about Ian were included in the RDCA Centenary and Hall of Fame program for the dinner held on 26th March 2021

“Ian joined the then Croydon Hockeyers C.C. and enjoyed a successful playing career as the club merged and became Croydon Ranges C.C. More than 600 games, over 17,000 runs and 300 wickets together with numerous senior playing awards and premierships led to a strong administrative career at club and Association levels including service as President of the Junior Association and serving on the Senior Committee and Board of Management. Ian has a Premier grade competition named after him. A strong interest in the development of junior cricketers is also a feature of Ian’s career.”

ID 8/2021