



### **D.W. (Don) Smith - 1986/1987**

Don first played competitive cricket at the age of 14 in the senior competition in his hometown of Wangaratta.

After a period of not playing cricket, Don joined St. Andrews Cricket Club and it was a 'home' for Don for many years with Don providing significant service to the club, both on and off the playing field. Don joined the club when it was formed in the 1964/65 season and, off the field, has filled many roles including being Treasurer from 1975/76 to 1982/83 and President from 1985/86 to 1988/89. On the field, Don had what can only be described as an imposing playing record. He played 296 games for St. Andrews across most grades and made 5,865 runs and took 785 wickets - a record he can be justly proud of.

Amongst his personal milestones, Don won 5 First Eleven batting and 4 bowling awards at club level and other averages in the lower grades. Association batting and bowling awards, - B Grade (1965/66) and Chandler Shield (1971/72) batting awards and 'D' grade (1964/65), Chandler Shield (1976/77), 'E' grade (1988/89) and Chandler 4 (1991/92) bowling averages enhance a career that included RDCA representative matches as both a player and umpire. Don's playing career was spread over a lengthy period - from 1964/65 to retirement after the 1993/94 season.

For many years Don played alongside his close friend John Macmillan, who was also a club and RDCA Life Member (John passed away peacefully in April 2021, a few weeks after Don's passing). Don was acknowledged for his dedicated service to St. Andrews Cricket Club with Life Membership in 1977/78. The club has further acknowledged Don by naming its Club Championship Award after him.

Don's service to cricket, like most of our RDCA Life Members, went beyond club loyalties. He had been involved as one of the original organisers of the RDCA Veterans Competition in the late 1980s and served for many years on the RDCA Umpires Association where he held the positions of President and Vice President. A long umpiring career followed on immediately from his playing days and Don was seen each Saturday for many years 'doing the rounds' as he kept an eye on the umpiring fraternity, particularly the newer members. Service on the Executive spanned many years and included the important Social Secretary role.

Don's contribution to the Association was formally acknowledged in 1986/87 when he was appropriately awarded Life Membership - a fine reward for service over many years.

Life Membership of the RDCA Umpires Association followed in 2011/12 and Don has a senior competition grade named in his honour.

In March 2021 Don was an inaugural inductee into the RDCA Hall of Fame, an honour he was aware of and was presented with, shortly before he passed away later that month.



Field of View Photography

The following words about Don were included in the RDCA Centenary and Hall of Fame program for the dinner held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

“Don was an inaugural member of St. Andrews C.C. in 1964-65 and has enjoyed a long playing, administrative and umpiring involvement at club and Association level. A successful playing career of 30 years led to an involvement in the establishment of the Veterans competition as well as a lengthy umpiring career that included being President of the Umpire’s Association. Don has a senior Association grade competition named after him and is an Association, Umpire’s Association and club Life Member. He has the Club Championship Award carrying his name at St. Andrews.”

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