

Kim Albiston (Doncaster Footballers) – 1966 to current

(Written with the assistance of Peter White & Kim Albiston)

A legend of the Doncaster club, Kim Albiston was also selected as opening batsman of the Box Hill Cricket Club's team of the century and played in VSDCCA representative sides during a five year stint in Sub District cricket.

Kim Albiston began his career with the Doncaster Footballers as a twelve year old in their Under 16 side. In his second season he made 125 against St. Peter's. He then made 550 runs at 87.20 in his final year of Under 16's and won the BHRDCA 'Under 16' batting award. Kim also bowled leg-breaks, before switching to pace. He also made his senior debut in 1966-67. During 1967-68, Kim spent the season with Richmond's fourth XI and played in their Dowling Shield side.

Returning to the Doncaster Footballers in 1968-69, Kim spent the next five seasons with the Footballers and was a member of their 1971-72 'A1 Grade' Premiership side. During this period Kim coached the club's Under 16 side and was a member of the club committee and was awarded the Most Promising Junior in BHRDCA in 1969-70.

In 1974-75 Kim joined Hawthorn East Melbourne, but returned to Doncaster Footballers at Christmas. In 1975-76, Kim was appointed coach at the Footballers, a role he filled for four seasons. During this time, the Footballers would finish in the top two positions on the ladder, but had no luck during the finals. Kim was opening the bowling at this time and took 41 wickets in 1977-78 and 45 wickets in 1978-79

In 1979-80 Kim joined Box Hill sub district club and played there for 5 years. He coached the club in his last season and introduced Under 21 matches against the BHRDCA that played for the Kim Albiston Shield. Kim won two club champion awards at Box Hill along with two batting awards. In 1982-83, Kim made the most runs in the entire VSDCCA competition with 773 runs and made the VSDCCA representative side on four occasions.

Kim returned to Doncaster Footballers in 1985-86 and has been there ever since, attaining Life Membership. Kim coached the Footballers for another two seasons from 1986-87 before finally 'retiring' in 1994. Kim received the Ray McIntosh Memorial Trophy for services to the BHRDCA in 1990-91.

Despite retiring, Kim was unable to stay away from competitive cricket and continued to play lower grade while also being a leading member of the Doncaster / United Eagles Veteran's sides, extending his service to BHRDCA Vets representative games and receiving an honorary Life Membership of the Veterans competition.

With the demise of the Doncaster Vets in 2010, Kim returned to Saturday cricket and has played there for the past three seasons, although he believes the end is nigh!

In all, Kim played 65 games with Box Hill, over 200 Shield games with Doncaster Footballers and countless other lower grade and Veterans matches. Kim has made 21 centuries in his senior career. This includes scores of 168, 145 not out and 110 with Box Hill and three scores of 145 with the Footballers. At the age of 52, Kim belted 120 for the Footballers 'A2 Division' side which included twelve sixes! He has even played first XI cricket for Doncaster as a 60 year old.

Kim won eleven club championship's for Doncaster and the 'Kim Albiston Medal' is now presented to the Doncaster club champion.