

# ***Lou Barelli (Old Mitcham; Mitcham; Ringwood; Doncaster)***

## ***1902 to 1956***

A well known baker in Mitcham, Lou Barelli was born in 1888 and started playing regular cricket for Old Mitcham in 1902-03. In a career spanning forty years he proved to be one of the greats of the Reporter competition, and is recorded with 5294 runs and 751 wickets with 593 wickets at Mitcham alone. In all he made 3 centuries, 19 fifties, took five wickets in an innings on 41 occasion and ten wickets in an innings on 5 occasions.

Lou was a member of the Old Mitcham 1903-04 premiership side. Although he was only sixteen, Lou was outstanding in 1904-05, making 261 runs and taking 46 wickets. This included 127 against East Burwood and a 9-for against St. Barnabas. Mitcham won the 1905-06 flag and Lou made 113 against East Burwood during the season.

Mitcham moved across to the Boroondara Electorate competition in 1906-07 for one season and on their return in 1907-08 Lou took 49 wickets. Lou took 45 wickets at 5.56 in 1909-10 which included match figures of 11-31 against Mooroolbark and 8-46 in the Grand Final against Canterbury. Lou then took 51 wickets in their following premiership season of 1910-11 with 8-45 against Canterbury his best bowling of the year. Lou had his best season in 1912-13 with 607 runs and 62 wickets with his highest score of 164 not out against Blackburn. After Mitcham folded in 1913-14, Lou joined Paddy Gilchrist at Ringwood in 1914-15 and was a member of their premiership side with 400 runs and 52 wickets, followed with 30 wickets in 1915-16.

After missing 1916-17, Lou played with Doncaster in 1917-18 and in the Semi Final took 7-18 against Templestowe. Going back to Ringwood in 1918-19, Lou took 9-59 against Blackburn in the Semi Final but Ringwood lost to Templestowe in the Grand Final.

Lou returned to Mitcham in 1919-20 as they reentered the Reporter Association after a six season recess, and he made 354 and took 47 wickets with scores of 94 and 91 included. A further 52 wickets followed in 1920-21 with match figures of 13-20 against Canterbury and 53 and 6-90 against Box Hill in the Semi Final. Another 34 wickets followed in 1921-22. In 1923-24, Mitcham again went into recess and Lou joined Doncaster for a second time taking 41 wickets. Although Mitcham reformed in 1926-27, Lou did not return to his 'home' club until 1928-29.

In 1929-30, Lou played in Mitcham's 'B Grade' premiership side. In the Semi Final, Lou made 47 and took 6-20 against Warrandyte, then in the Grand Final Lou took match figures of 11-74 against Box Hill.

During the 1930's, Lou continued on the field and was Mitcham's captain when they won the 'B Grade' flag in 1936-37. His last performance of note was in 1940-41 with 7-47 against Box Hill City.

Lou played his last game in 1945-46 aged 57 and was Mitcham Cricket Club President before passing away in 1956. The Mitcham club champion award was named after Lou on his passing.