

Rob Brown (Blackburn) – 1910 to 1935

Arguably Blackburn's greatest player in that club's first sixty years; Rob Brown played twenty seasons with Blackburn from 1910-11 to 1934-35, missing six seasons during this period. During a career that spanned nearly 225 matches, Brown made 3194 runs and took 811 wickets with five wickets in an innings on 79 occasions and ten wickets in a match on 15 occasions. All Brown's playing records occurred within the 'A Grade' competition.

In his third season with Blackburn in 1912-13, he first came to prominence when he took 61 wickets. This included 9-46 against Templestowe and match figures of 12-80 against East Doncaster. Another 73 wickets followed in 1913-14. Against Croydon, Brown made 108 not out and took match figures of 11-37, also taking match figures of 12-58 and 11-83 during the season.

Brown then missed most of 1914-15 and may have tried to enrol with the armed services at this time. In 1915-16, he returned and took 49 wickets before it is believed he enlisted in WWI.

After WWI, Brown resumed with Blackburn in 1919-20 and took 66 wickets. This included 8-40 against Templestowe and 8-46 against Doncaster, while he made second ton with a neat 100 against Box Hill. Brown started the 1920-21 season with figures of 7-39 against Box Hill and 8-36 against Canterbury before he joined Camberwell in November 1920 and spent most of the next 2 ½ seasons with that club.

After his stint with Camberwell, Brown returned to Blackburn in 1923-24 and he took 55 wickets. During the season he made 103 against Balwyn. In the Semi Final, Brown made 57 and took match figures of 10-90 against Surrey Hills, while in the losing Grand Final to Canterbury he took 7-48. 41 wickets followed in 1924-25 with 8-79 against the Nunawading Diggers. Brown took a further 49 wickets at 9.39 in 1925-26 and won his first BHRDCA 'A Grade' bowling average.

Brown continued to average between 30-40 wickets per season over the next few years. Included were hauls of 8-29, 8-22 and 8-33. Against East Doncaster in 1929-30, Brown took match figures of 15-59. For the twelve seasons from 1923-24 to 1934-35, Brown took 482 wickets for Blackburn.

Nearing the end of his career, Brown finally secured a Premiership with Blackburn in 1932-33 when they easily defeated Mitcham in the 'A Grade' Grand Final. Brown took 42 wickets at 5.88 to again win the BHRDCA 'A Grade' bowling average. He retired in 1934-35, taking 6-29 against Mont Albert in one of his last matches.