

## ***Joe Cain (Box Hill Hibernians) – 1930 to 1950***

Although Joe Cain spent most of his playing career in B and 'C Grade', his achievements with the Box Hill Hibernians is still worthy of profiling and he proved his worth further with his efforts in 'A Grade' during the late 1940's. Cain made 7290 runs at 48.27, with 7074 runs with the Hibernians. He is recorded with 20 centuries and 33 half-centuries and also is credited with winning six BHRDCA batting averages; two of these in 'A Grade'. With the ball, Cain took 253 wickets with ten wickets in a match on 4 occasions

Cain made his debut with the Box Hill Amateurs in 1930-31, who changed their name to the Box Hill Hibernians in 1931-32 (Hibernia was a Latin name given to 'old' Ireland). In his first season, Cain took 33 wickets including match figures of 13-66 against the Surrey Hills Methodists while he took 29 wickets in 1931-32. His batting came to the fore in 1933-34 and he made 690 runs with scores of 111 not out and 119 not out.. In the Semi Final, Cain made 56 and 49 against Box Hill City, while in the Grand Final he made 72 and 75 which was not enough to win the 'C Grade' flag against East Doncaster.

After missing the next three seasons, he returned in 1937-38-and broke Wally Boyle's season record of 1005 runs in 1915-16 by posting 1072 runs at 89.33 in 'C Grade' for the Hibernians. During the season, Cain made 155 not out and took 5-15 against Doncaster and in another match he made 129 and took 10-57 in the match against Canterbury Free Gardeners. Cain made five tons in all, with other scores of 126 not out, 112 not out and 102 not out found. In the final series, Cain made 32 and 48 against Box Hill High School, also taking 7-30, but in the Grand Final he disappointed with the bat and the Box Hill Wattles took the flag, although Cain took 6 wickets in the Grand Final to end the season with 55 wickets.

The Hibernians were promoted to 'B Grade' in 1938-39 and Cain made a further 690 runs and took 40 wickets, with 513 of his runs scored after Christmas. Leading into the finals, Cain posted scores of 82, 103, 103 and 76 and also took match figures of 13-86 against the Box Hill Central. All went well in the Semi Final with Cain making 137 to avenge last year's loss to the Box Hill Wattles, but in the Grand Final he was dismissed for 0 and 3 as the Hibernians suffered a shattering loss to Blackburn.

The Hibernians were relegated to 'C Grade' in 1939-40 due to a restructure of the competition and they finally won their first Premiership against Vermont. Cain dominated with a third BHRDCA batting average and made 723 runs at 55.62. During the season Cain made 175 against Doncaster and other scores of 94, 92 and 75. In 1940-41, Cain made 518 runs.

As the Hibernians went into recess after 1940-41, Cain played with the Canterbury Free Gardeners for the next three seasons. After WWII, Cain showed he'd lost none of his touch with 969 runs at 51.00 in 1946-47, which included his highest score: 202 not out, against Doncaster. In the 'B Grade' Grand Final against Doncaster, the Hibernians were trailing after the first innings, but Cain made 113 to go with his 41 in the first innings and the Hibernians won their second Premiership.

In his first season in 'A Grade' in 1947-48, Cain made scores of 111 and 108 and won the BHRDCA 'A Grade' batting average with 645 runs at 46.07. A second 'A Grade' batting average followed in 1949-50 with 488 runs at 54.22. Against East Doncaster, Cain made 102 and took 8-64 to avenge their Grand Final loss from 1933-34. He made another score of 109 later in the season.

After 1949-50, Cain left the Hibernians and was not found to have played in the BHRDCA with another club. After his departure, the Hibernians were slowly relegated through to the lower Grade's before they folded after the 1954-55 season. The loss of Cain could not be filled by the club.