

# ***Cedric Crouch (Doncaster, Doncaster Heights, East Doncaster)***

## ***1904 to 1946***

A stalwart of the early years of competition, Cedric Crouch's career extended over forty years from 1904-05 to 1945-46. It is estimated that Crouch played 450 games with four different clubs. Records found show he had 6395 runs at 16.82 and a BHRDCA record 1117 wickets at 11.04. Crouch made 2 tons, 21 half-centuries and took five wickets in an innings on 76 occasions and ten wickets in a match on 13 occasions.

Crouch made his debut with Doncaster Heights in 1904-05 and was part of the 1906-07 Premiership side. In his first season he took 7-6 against St. Barnabas and in 1905-06 Crouch took 48 wickets. Crouch moved across to Doncaster in 1909-10 and in the following season, he made his first ton with 106 not out against Blackburn.

In 1912-13, Crouch returned to Doncaster Heights. Against Koonung, Crouch made 73 and took 7-28 while against Templestowe he made 58 not out, 42 and took match figures of 11-56. Crouch ended the season with 42 wickets.

In 1913-14, Crouch made 316 runs and took 82 wickets. Against Warrandyte he made 107 and he took match figures of 13-79 against West Doncaster along with other figures of 7-29 and 7-37 during the year. The following season saw Crouch make 633 runs and take 56 wickets. This included scores of 97 and 82 not, along with figures of 7-22 and 7-48 throughout the season.

After missing the 1915-16 and 1916-17 season, Crouch returned to Doncaster in 1917-18. After a fine season Doncaster made the 'A Grade' Grand Final against favorites Canterbury and secured their first flag with Crouch taking match figures of 12-80 and ending the season with 48 wickets.

On 7 December 1918, Crouch was passenger in a small carriage being driven by Doncaster's President; Charles Sykes. Two horses bolted with their carriage along Elgar Rd and crashed into Sykes' carriage. Crouch was badly shaken, while Sykes died later that night as a result of his injuries.

1920-21 was the last of Crouch's big seasons with 437 runs and 87 wickets at 8.89. During the season, Crouch took match figures of 15-82 against Blackburn and 14-75 against Box Hill. In the Semi Final, Crouch took 5-82 against Templestowe. The Grand Final was against Box Hill and Doncaster trailed after the first innings. Crouch brought them back into the game with 8-44 in the second innings and in a desperate finish, Doncaster won by three wickets to win their second 'A Grade' Premiership. Crouch took 49 wickets in 1921-22.

Doncaster folded after the 1925-26 season as they could not compete with other clubs like Doncaster Heights, East Doncaster and new club, Doncaster Central. Crouch joined Blackburn and took 27 wickets. After the one season at Blackburn, Crouch joined East Doncaster along with a number of ex-Doncaster players such as the Bullen brothers and Jack Plumb. Crouch led East Doncaster into its first 'A Grade' final series with 406 runs and 69 wickets. During the season he took 8-9 against the Box Hill ANA and 7-57, in the Semi Final against Canterbury he made 50 and took 5-50 in a losing cause. After this season, East Doncaster struggled and by the end of 1929-30, the disgruntled Doncaster playing group had left.

Doncaster reformed in 1930-31 and Crouch returned for his third stint at that club, playing there until 1937-38. In 1930-31 he made 326 runs and in 1937-38 he won his only BHRDCA 'A Grade' bowling average with 26 wickets at 7.03. By now, Crouch would have been in his late 40's.

Crouch returned to Doncaster Heights for a third and final time in 1938-39 and played there until he retired after the 1945-46 season. During this eight year period, Crouch took 141 wickets and his highlights included 81 not out and 6-50 against Templestowe in 1939-40 and 7-41 against St. Peters in 1940-41.