

H.J. Hughes (Doncaster Heights) – 1905 to 1910

Although H.J. Hughes only played a short period of time, he dominated the competition from 1906-07 to 1909-10 and can be regarded as one of the all-time greats of the early years of Reporter cricket. In only 35 matches Hughes made 2430 runs and took 225 wickets for Doncaster Heights and recorded scores of 215, 171, 165 not out, 155 and 153 during this time.

Hughes had previously played with St. Kilda before joining Hawksburn (Pahran) prior to the commencement of District or Premier Cricket, as it is now known, in 1906-07. Hughes was then transferred by his employer (ES&A Bank) to the Doncaster area and started with Doncaster Heights in February 1906.

Doncaster Heights won their only 'A Grade' Premiership in 1906-07 and Hughes led the way with 636 runs in six matches played. Hughes then made 625 runs and took 69 wickets in 1907-08, followed by 867 runs and 64 wickets in 1908-09. Hughes won the Reporter 'A Grade' batting average for three successive seasons from 1906-07 to 1908-09.

In February 1910, Hughes was transferred by the bank to North Carlton, ending his time with Doncaster Heights. A dinner, hosted by Doncaster Heights and the Doncaster Tennis Club; which he helped form, was held in his honour. The newspaper reported that while both cricket and tennis clubs wished him the best, they were sad to see him go!