VALE - ROBERT 'BOB' AITKEN

Sydney Grade Cricket has lost one of its finest servants with the passing of Robert “Bob” Aitken. Bob was an outstanding off spinning all-rounder, who played 28 seasons of first grade cricket between 1960 and 1988 for Cumberland, Sydney and Parramatta. In the book, Making the Grade: 100 years of Grade Cricket in Sydney 1893/94 to 1993/94, Bob was described as an “irascible and intensively competitive” cricketer. Bob captured 816 first grade wickets, placing him 8th on the all-time leading wicket takers list, as well as being a strong hitter of a cricket ball, amassing 6362 first grade runs at an average of 19.45. Unfortunately, he just missed out on recording a first grade century, recording a highest score of 98 against Manly. He was dismissed by Australian representative Peter Philpott.

During most of Bob’s career, NSW and Australian representative players competed weekly in the grade competition, with Bob sharing a dressing room with figures such as Richie Benaud and Doug Walters. Bob was a member of the Cumberland premiership winning team of 1964-65.

Anyone that knew Bob understood and appreciated his immense passion for the game of cricket which he shared with all three of his sons, all of whom have competed at first grade level for well over 15 years. Bob played much of his career with his brother, John Aitken a left arm spinner and later opening batsman who had an equally lengthy career with Cumberland and Parramatta cricket clubs.

Bob is survived by his wife Jayne, sons Robert, James and Glenn, daughter Jayne and grandchildren, Jasmine, Hamish, Emily and Abigail.