

## Obituary – David Parker

(By Tom Wood – Club Historian)



The Club was informed today [26/11/2018] of the shock passing of former 1<sup>st</sup> Grade opening batsman **David Parker** from a suspected heart attack – David was only 56 years old. His career with Parramatta District Cricket Club commenced in **1976/77** and continued to **1987/88**, and concluded with a final season in **1992/93**.

Short and muscular of frame, he was once described in a club annual report as a ‘*Pocket Atlas*’, although ‘*small in stature he was big in heart*’ and over the course of his career at Parramatta he developed into a brave and tenacious opening batsman with a competitive spirit and a penchant for hooking and cutting fast bowlers - concentration and determination were the bywords of his batting and he developed the ability to ‘build an innings’. David was a sharp and alert fieldsman, occupying a variety of positions with distinction, and was always a popular team mate and a good contributor to team moral.

In his first season with the club in 1976/77 he played both 4<sup>th</sup> grade and A.W. Green Shield – and his fighting **century** in the **A.W. Green Shield Final** with Parramatta unsuccessfully chasing a massive 376 bore testimony to his temperament and made him a player for club selectors to ‘*keep their eyes on*’.

In **all grades** he amassed **3,967 runs @ 22.93** (H.S. – 134), in **1<sup>st</sup> Grade** he compiled **2,439 runs @ 23.68** with three centuries (**114** v. Manly 1982/83, **134** v. Waverley & **100** v. Fairfield 1985/86) – he also made 100 in A.W.G. and 118 in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – in a time when the covering of wickets was amateurish compared to the today his most prolific 1<sup>st</sup> grade batting seasons were 1984/85 [486 runs], 1985/86 [494 runs] and 1986/87 [425].

David’s brothers Colin and Garry also played for the Parramatta District Cricket Club in the lower grades. His father **Graham Henry Parker** unfortunately only passed away on **28<sup>th</sup> September 2018** at 83 years – Graham was well known in Sydney cricket circles as a former 1<sup>st</sup> grade Umpire, and in the Holroyd district for his long term work with the local Historical Society, and he also played an important role in getting the amenities at Merrylands oval upgraded in the mid -1970s.

**David Parker’s P.D.C.C. Playing Statistics are tabled below:-**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Highest Score</u>	<u>Average</u>
A.W. Green Shield	471	100	42.82
Poidevin-Gray Shield	417	57	18.95
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	496	54	17.71
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	139	38	15.44
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	893	118	27.06
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>23.68</b>
<b>Total Club</b>	<b>3,967</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>22.93</b>

Vale David and Graham Parker.