



MARK CHRISTIE

Born: 1957

First Season: 1971/72

Mark Christie started his junior cricket with JPCC in 1971, when the club had one U14 side and one senior side. Mark played his first season in shorts and always used to go down and watch the seniors play in the afternoon. Mark was fortunate enough to be asked to sub-field for the seniors on numerous occasions after he had finished playing in the seniors in the morning. Mark was selected to play his first game of senior cricket whilst he was still in the U14s. This taste of senior cricket was the start of Mark's 22 years as a player and an active member of JPCC. Mark's junior career includes playing in the RDCA U14 Representative side and in the JPCC U14s where he took 6 wickets in 5 consecutive games. Mark was also a junior coach for two seasons reaching a Semi-Final & Grand Final.

Mark's fantastic JPCC playing record as a right arm fast bowler and lower-order batsman has confirmed his place as one of the club's greatest players. His impressive on-field career included sixteen years as a 1st XI player, three club championships, two seasons as senior coach, three 1st XI bowling awards, one 1st XI Competition bowling award, and three 1st XI premiership sides. Mark's best 1st XI bowling performance was 7/27 v Mooroolbark in the RDCA; his best 1st XI batting performance was 96 and in his first four FTGDCA games he took 6 wickets in each game. Mark also made a lower grade century.

Off the field Mark was an active committee member for 9 seasons and president of the club in 1990/91 & 1991/92. He was awarded JPCC life membership in 1986/87 for his fantastic on-field and off-field contributions to the club.

Mark's JPCC Highlights:

- Playing U16s: David Harrison would always wake me by tapping on my window. It's Saturday, time for cricket and away we went to meet the team. On the way, Freddie (me), Don (David) and Lindsay (Michael) would always do a summary of the big game ahead of us for that day.
- To play at a local cricket club that was within walking distance from home. Most of us grew up only a stones throw from each other on the estate. In my first years of cricket with JPCC I used to invade the Rattles home at 7.00am sharp, always keen and ready to go. Who are we playing, where are we playing and how do we get there, was always the key questions on a Saturday morning, but we always got there in the end.
- I was so privileged to have played with so many great players (that had patience with eager young kids, like myself and many others) in my early years of senior cricket,

LEGENDS

- Having a clubroom built
- Barry Rattle introducing me to cricket
- Arthur Cameron being a great mentor for my game
- Ray Lloyd showing me what foot **not** to put a bowling toe cap on
- Billy Francis & Garry Tunstall would check if my brother Paul and I were agro today
- Seeing Uncle Bill, Mr Francis and Mr Pedler supporting us by having a beer or 10 on a Saturday afternoon
- Playing senior cricket with my brother Paul
- The annual Melbourne Cup day at the Christies
- Ronnie O'Neill: What can I say?
- Three Premierships
- Life Membership
- To have played cricket for JPCC and the continued friendship with my former team mates and friends associated with the club
- Pyke, Mick, Mark, Wilkinson's, Rattles, Cameron's, Tunstall's, B. Francis & family, O'Neill's and all the other past and present people that have made the club what it is today
- Being invited to the JPCC 40th Anniversary is the highlight of my affiliation with JPCC
- Wilko thank the Lord Pike befriended you! For without your efforts, continuous hard work, dedication and love of JPCC, this club would possibly not exist today

Mark has moved to the country but still follows the JPCC performances.

The Johnson Park Cricket Club inducts Mark Christie as a Legend



GRAHAM FRANCIS

Born: 1959

First Season: 1971/72

As is the case with most kids Graham 'Pike' Francis came down to JPCC to play juniors with friends. Graham started filling in with a higher age group in the U15s before starting in the U13s the following year. Graham's junior career with JPCC and various competition representative sides developed his skills and passion to play senior cricket. He started playing senior cricket with 'F troop' and the 2nd XI whilst still playing U14s. Graham started playing in the JPCC 1st XI as a 15 year old and was 12th man in the 1976/77 1st XI Premiership side. During this period he also coached junior sides for 3 seasons after he finished playing in the U16s.

Graham has had a long and successful playing record with JPCC. As a right arm fast bowler he opened the bowling in the JPCC 1st XI from the age of 15 for 14 seasons. His best bowling figures were 7/1 in the U16s. In the 1st XI he took 8/15 twice, 8/32 and 7/33, and he also completed a hat-trick in his 4/15 in the B1 side in 1999/2000. He has won numerous club bowling awards including the 1st XI bowling award in 1978/79 and 1979/80. Graham was a handy-lower order batsman as shown by his 115 in the 2nd XI and 87 in a 2nd XI semi final. He was a fantastic leader and was captain/coach of the club for two seasons in 1982/83 and 1983/84, but also captained the 1st XI, 2nd XI, 3rd XI, 4th XI, 5th XI and Veterans side during his playing career. Graham played in four premierships sides including the 2nd XI flag in 1988/89. Graham is credited with bringing another club legend in Craig Wilkinson to JPCC.

Off the field Graham was an active committee member for 20 seasons and was president in 1988/89 and 1989/90. He was awarded JPCC life membership in 1986/87 for his outstanding on-field and off-field contribution to the club.

Graham's JPCC Highlights:

- Playing in 4 Club Premierships
- Many lasting friendships made throughout the years
- Watching JPCC prosper and develop young talent.

Graham is still playing veterans cricket and he continues to provide off-field support to this great club at all times. Graham has enormous passion for the future of JPCC and with people like Graham behind the club, JPCC has a great future ahead of it.

The Johnson Park Cricket Club inducts Graham Francis as a Legend



MALCOLM FRANCIS

Born: 1962

First Season: 1972/73

Malcolm 'Mal' Francis came down to JPCC to play junior cricket in 1972/73. Mals junior career with JPCC and various competition representative sides (Ringwood CC in Dowling Shield & Mountain District U16 Schoolboys who won the Victorian Championship) was a great platform to play senior cricket. He started playing senior cricket as a 12 year old 'fill-in' player. Mal progressed through the senior grades and started playing in the JPCC 1st XI as a 15 year old. Mal has coached junior players over the last 30+ years and is coaching the U11s this season.

Mals outstanding playing record with JPCC is best summarised by Mal being mentioned as a 'popular' leading player in the History of the Ferntree Gully & District Cricket Association. As a right hand top-order batsman he has made thousands of runs against the best bowlers in the RDCA and FTGDCA over 30+ years. His glittering on-field career has included seven seasons as captain/coach, five club championships, eight 1st XI batting awards, three 1st XI Competition batting awards, one 1st XI bowling award, one 1st XI Competition bowling award, fourteen 1st XI centuries including a magnificent 135 in a losing semi-final side in 2006/07, two 1st XI premiership sides, playing in numerous FTGDCA representative sides including a Country Week Premiership in 1999 and the 1st XI Club Record Opening Partnership of 223 set in 2007.

Off the field Mal was an active committee member for 20 seasons including 12 seasons as treasurer. He was awarded JPCC life membership in 1987/88 for his fantastic on-field and off-field contributions to the club.

Mal's JPCC Highlights:

- Playing in two 1st XI Club Premierships (1984/85 Captain/Coach & 2002/03 Vice Captain)
- Meeting all the people you play with and against over the years
- Watching JPCC evolve into a huge club with 6 Senior sides, 3 Veterans sides & 6 Junior sides
- Starting JPCC Milo junior clinic 3 years ago with 35 children which now has over 80 children in 2008

Mal has a great passion for the JPCC and this has been displayed by his fantastic contributions over 35 years at this club. He continues to give his all to the club on and off the field and his new crop of junior players (he is looking after) are in good hands.

The Johnson Park Cricket Club inducts Malcolm Francis as a Legend



CRAIG WILKINSON

Born: 1960

First Season: 1977/78

Craig 'Wilko' Wilkinson came down to JPCC in 1976/77. After playing junior cricket for Wantirna, Craig was playing in an off-season indoor cricket game at Bayswater when he was talked into playing a game with JPCC by Graham 'Pike' Francis. Craig dropped 7 catches in slips in his first game with the 2nd XI, but took 1 wicket and made 18 in a winning side. Craig started his long-term commitment to JPCC by going on to the committee in his first year with the club. The Club was in financial trouble during this period, so the club had BBQs once a month for the rest of the season to raise money.

Craig's playing record with JPCC as a right hand batsman and as a wicket-keeper later in his career has provided many highlights. His on-field career included eight seasons as a 1st XI player, two seasons as club coach in 1997/98 and 1998/99, Club Champion in 1987/88, four seasons as 2nd XI captain, one 2nd XI batting award and one 2nd XI Premiership. Craig has a highest 1st XI score of 75 vs Ringwood, 7 keeping dismissals in a 1st XI game vs UFTG, best bowling of 6/49 vs Scoresby (including a mankad), a highest 2nd XI score of 97 vs Rowville and has made four centuries in the lower grades (including 175 vs UFTG). Craig has also been a great leader and coach of JPCC and FTGDCA junior and senior sides. He was a JPCC junior coach for six seasons making the finals five times, recording one Premiership. He has been a FTGDCA junior coach for 10 seasons and is currently the U18s coach. He has been a FTGDCA Country Week manager for 10 seasons and a leading FTGDCA umpire for the last four seasons.

Off the field Craig has been an active JPCC committee member for 28 seasons including a club record 16 seasons as president and 2 seasons as secretary. He has been on the FTGDCA Executive Committee for the last 10 seasons. He was awarded JPCC life membership in 1992/93 for his fantastic on-field and off-field contributions to the club. Craig's passion and impact on JPCC over the last 30 years has had many club members crediting Craig with the current strength of the club in 2008. Other FTGDCA clubs have tried to copy Craig's innovations and results with junior teams, recruiting, sponsorships and the club theme song but there is only one Craig Wilkinson and he is the heart and soul of JPCC.

Craig's JPCC Highlights:

- Number of great friends made and still have today
- Decoite Shield & B1 Premiership
- Paul Wilkinson's 112no vs Monbulk, where he was the youngest player to make a 1st XI century at 15yo

LEGENDS

- The sheer number of great senior players that have played. Ron O'Neill, Mal Francis, Mark Christie, Graham Francis, Garry Tunstall, Joe D'antini, Cameron Clausen, Bryn Gaunt, Paul Barber, Craig Wenham and Dulip Samaraweera
- A number of great characters of the club, Ron O'Neill, Mick Cree, Bruce 'Flipper' Rodgers, Brian 'Soup' Allister.
- The number of junior cricketers (6) that have gone on to play District cricket when I was president
- Greatest player I have seen would be Mal Francis for his weight of runs and years at JPCC
- Dulip's FTGDCA competition batting record of 235 n.o. and two Feaver medals
- Best junior players Sam Monahan, Damian Senn, Ben Stallworthy, Paul Wilkinson and Stephen Bowen

Best moves for the club:

- To go to the FTGDCA 1987/88
- To bring Bryn Gaunt from District cricket to play at JPCC. That has changed the culture at JPCC
- The introduction of our club theme song
- Recruiting Paul Barber and Dulip Samaraweera

Craig believes the club is now set up for long term success with the ongoing strength of our juniors and the return of our District players in the coming years.

The Johnson Park Cricket Club inducts Craig Wilkinson as a Legend