



HOPKINS, Albert John Young (Bert)
1874-1931
At Shore (for 1 term only) 1889 (Reg. No. 17)

Did not play cricket at school.

NSW 1897-1915; Australia 1902-1909

Slow-medium bowler, forceful batsman, brilliant fielder.

First-class career. 162 matches: 5,563 runs (25.40), 8 centuries; 271 wickets (24.39); 87 catches.

Test career: 20 matches: 509 runs (16.41); 26 wickets (26.76); 11 catches.

Bert Hopkins toured England in 1902, 1905, and 1909, and went to South Africa in 1902/3. His first two Test wickets, in the 2nd Test at Lord's in 1902, were those of C.B. Fry and K.S. Ranjitsinhji, two of the greatest batsmen ever to play for England; England were 2 down for 0, but finished the day at 2-102; the match was abandoned at that point due to rain. On that tour Hopkins scored 1192 runs and took 38 wickets. Another notable performance was against Cambridge University, when he took 7 wickets for 10, the University being dismissed for 46 in their second innings. In 1905 he again scored over 1000 runs, with a top score of 154 against Northamptonshire (newly promoted to first-class status), and took 27 wickets. Hopkins played in 3 of the 5 Tests without much success except as a fine fielder. In 1902/3 he played for NSW against Lord Hawke's English team (not a representative side) and in the second innings put on 236 for the eighth wicket with Reggie Duff after NSW had been only 37 ahead. Rain ended the match with Hawke's team needing 293 to win. Other notable performances included a hat-trick for NSW against South Australia in 1903/4, and a score of 218 (opening the innings), also against South Australia, in 1908/9: he put on 283 with M.A. Noble in 2 hours 50 minutes. NSW won the match by an innings and 527 runs!

It is worth remembering that this very fine all-rounder had as his playing contemporaries some of the greatest players ever to play for Australia. A roll-call includes Warwick Armstrong, Monty Noble, Hugh Trumble, Clem Hill, Reg Duff, Joe Darling, the great Victor Trumper, Ernie Jones, and others. To have held his own in this company is sufficient comment in itself. To have played 20 Tests for Australia during the so-called "Golden Age" of cricket is a wonderful achievement, and even though Bert Hopkins was only briefly at Shore, he **was** here, and we are proud of him.