



WHITE Edward Clive Stewart (Ted) 1913-1999 At Shore 1924-1932 (Register No. 3694)

1st XI 1929-1932, GPS 1st XI 1929-1932

NSW 1934-38, Australian Touring Team to England 1938.

Left-arm slow-medium bowler, useful right-hand batsman.

First-class career. 56 matches: 1316 runs (22.30), 1 century; 115 wickets (26.71); 37 catches.

Ted White, son of A.B.S.White – who played for NSW himself – was a very accurate orthodox left-handed bowler, who relied on flight and variations of pace, rather than on fierce spin, for his wickets. At school his figures were phenomenal. In the First XI for four years, and selected in the Combined GPS team in each of those years, he took wickets extremely economically. In 1929 he took 5/23 in his first match, against Scots; in the same season he took 7/46 against Newington, 6/15 against High, and 6-5 against St. Joseph's (Joeys were all out for 56, and Shore, presumably feeling pretty pleased with themselves, were in turn dismissed for 19!). 39 wickets in his first season (at 6.10) was just the beginning; in 1930-31 he took 37 wickets at 12.27, and went on in the same vein in the next two seasons. On leaving Shore he played for North Sydney as an all-rounder with enough success to get him into the NSW selectors' purview, and in 1934 he was chosen for the southern tour. In 1936-37 he scored his only century, 108 not out against South Australia. The previous season he had achieved what turned out to be his best bowling figures, also against South Australia – 8/31, including a spell of 4/0. His performances in the 1937-38 season were good enough to gain him selection for the Australian side which went to England to defend the Ashes in 1938.

It so happened that the 1938 side, even with the great Bill O'Reilly as the main strike bowler, was probably weaker in bowling than most; this at a time when English batting was as strong as it has ever been (Hammond, Hutton, Compton, Ames, Leyland, Paynter, Edrich (who failed), and Barnett, to name but a few). Pitches were perfect, and the scores in some of the Tests were very high, although not in the Leeds Test, won by Australia in what was the best of the four tests which were actually played (Manchester was rained off without a ball being bowled). Ted White, even though he turned in some good figures in the county matches in which he played, was not selected for a single Test. 39% of his overs in first-class matches were maidens, and he conceded less than 2 runs per over. Admittedly his "strike rate", as we now call it, was not impressive (1 wicket every 12 overs), but his accuracy was never in doubt. In early July, against Yorkshire in a match which the Australians nearly lost, he bowled a total of 42.3 overs and took 3 wickets for 40 runs. Admittedly the pitch was difficult, but those figures are remarkable. Shortly before the fifth Test, White took 3-35 against Kent, but this was not enough to warrant selection, which, ironically, was probably just as well for him. Australia opened the bowling with the gentle medium pace of Waite and McCabe, with O'Reilly and Fleetwood-Smith providing the spin. O'Reilly took

3-178 off 85 overs; Fleetwood-Smith 1-298 off 87. England scored 7 (declared) for 903 (Hutton 364); then, with Bradman and Fingleton both injured and unable to bat, Australia was dismissed for 201 and 123, and lost by an innings and 579 runs. A good game to miss, one might think!

Ted White played in Club cricket with I Zingari after the war, and indeed up until 1967, doing much to help the younger players develop and enjoy their cricket, as well as topping both bowling and batting averages on several occasions. In his later years he was often seen at Northbridge on match days, watching the First XI and, no doubt, remembering his own great days on 'A' Ground.