



**UNSW
CRICKET CLUB**

University of NSW Cricket Club Life Member Profiles.

Professor John Barford



Player 1973



2022

Roles and Honours

Honorary Secretary	1972-75
UNSW Sports Association Delegate	1972-75
Team Captain	4th Grade 1976-77
Captain John Morris Fielding Trophy	1978-79

Individual Profile

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Luton, Bedfordshire in U.K. My family emigrated to Australia when I was 7 (1958) and then returned to U.K. when I was 9 (1960). We returned to Australia (Sydney) when I was 11 (1962). I lived in Sydney until 1998.

Where did you play your junior/local cricket or become interested in cricket?

I initially played cricket at school and then at Moore Park before playing for UNSWCC when I started to study at UNSW in 1970. I played for UNSWCC for about 15 years.

When and why did you become involved with UNSWCC?

I started to study at UNSW in 1970 and it seemed natural to join UNSWCC to try to play cricket at a higher level.

I played at the club from 1970 to 1985. As I became more involved with the Club, I decided, in 1972 to involve myself in the Club's administration as Honorary Secretary and UNSW Sports Association Delegate. (1972-1975). This was a particularly important period leading to our admission to District Grade Cricket in 1973-74. I served as a Vice-President from 1976/77 to 1978/1979.

What did you like about UNSW Cricket?

Our family was rather insular, so UNSWCC introduced me a range of interesting people as well as allowing me to get to know Sydney better by travelling to the various suburban cricket clubs.

My lasting memory was how friendly and collegiate all the players were. The first-grade side always mixed with the lower grade players. There were also some "interesting characters".

What is your Club nickname (Explain who gave it to you and why – if not obvious

JB (Jay Bee) was my most common nickname. Not sure who gave it to me, but it seemed to be widely accepted. Dr Paddy Grattan-Smith tried to give me the nickname "Blow Fly" but it never took off!

The Table above outlines some of your Club achievements, roles, and honours. Can you give us an insight into how you saw your contribution to UNSW Cricket, which do you consider the most important?

My period as Honorary Secretary (1972-1975) was my major achievement as it helped to make UNSWCC a professionally managed club prior to, and during, our admission to Grade cricket in 1973-74. The club management contributed to our winning the 1st Grade premiership and Poidevin Gray Shield (both in 1976-77) which was an exceptional achievement so soon after our admission.

As a player, I loved wicket keeping and was 1st in Club dismissals from 1984/85 until about 1991/92. I was 3rd by 1998/99 and am currently 5th. My 1978/79 season was a highlight, culminating in winning the Captain John Morris Fielding trophy.

What did it mean to you to be awarded life membership?

I was very honoured to receive the life membership. I had worked very hard for the club but did not expect this recognition.

What is your greatest memory or memories of UNSW Cricket?

Watching the 1st grade final at Petersham Oval in 1976/77 still remains a great memory. It had everything from the disappointment of John Roger's dismissal for 0 to the exciting partnership between a young Greg Livingstone and a mature Jim O'Brien and ending with a great short and fast innings from Geoff Lawson. Watching Chris Chapman taking the match winning catch still remains a great memory. It couldn't have gone to more safe hands. The sportsmanship of Brian Riley (Petersham's captain) coming to join us at the Sam Cracknell is also a lasting memory. Of course, the evening of the first grade premiership was a great memory - so much so that Dr McKendry and I received phone calls the next day to come and clean up which took quite some time!

The gatherings at the Sam Cracknell after matches, where players from all grades would seamlessly mix and socialise, were also memorable. I made many friends during my time at UNSWCC and this also is a great memory.

In what profession or area of work are/were you mainly involved? What are your main interests outside cricket?

I worked as an academic from 1979 until my retirement in 2016. I worked in Chemical Engineering at Sydney University from 1979 to 1998 and at H.K.U.S.T. in Hong Kong from 1998-2016. I also worked at Suntory in Japan, N.U.S. in Singapore, University of Malaya in Malaysia and Surabaya University in Indonesia. My speciality was biochemical engineering. I have also consulted (through my company - Biotech Global Limited) in Japan, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, France, Australia and Malaysia

Outside cricket, my hobbies are cooking, brewing (beer and wine) and travelling.

Where are you now?

I live in a sea side Duplex with roof garden in Hong Kong which I bought in 2005. It is very peaceful with beautiful sea views and is my primary residence. I still have residences in Sydney and Thailand. I regularly travel to Thailand, Australia and Europe (prior to Covid!)

Anything else you would like to add

Only that UNSWCC was very important part of my life and I am very grateful for all of the experiences I had during those years.

Playing Record

John Barford										
Years Played			Grade		1973-1986					
			Shires		1970-1973					
BATTING										
Grade	Games	Inn.	NO	Total	Ave.	Highest	Caught	Stumpings	50's	100's
2	1	1	0	4	4.0	4	2	0		
3	7	8	1	57	8.1	35	10	0		
4	90	92	17	873	11.6	56	98	20	1	
5	51	47	9	681	17.9	91	66	10	3	
6	9	9	2	72	10.3	14	11	2		
CS	1	1	0	15	15.0	15				
Shires	37	41	9	490	15.3	75	32	5	1	
Totals	196	199	38	2192	13.6	91	219	37	5	
BOWLING										
Grade	Games	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Average	5WI	Best		
4	90	1		0	4					
5	51	3	1	1	5	5.0		1 for 5		
CS	1	1	0	1	5	5.0		1 for 5		
Shires	37	1	0	0	8					
Totals		6	1	2	22	11.0				

Intervarsity Champions 1973



Back Row: P James, J Barford, S Wiblin, ?, G Kirkwood, J Robson, S Tait, M Ray, C Brown

Front Row: R March, D Barbour, J Martel (c), C Chapman, P Gratten-Smith

