



**UNSW
CRICKET CLUB**

University of NSW Cricket Club Life Member Profiles.

Captain John (Skip) Morris

Skip died on December 10, 1975, aged 87.

The information on Skip is limited as this was written 45 years after his passing. The information given is mainly from UNSWCC Annual Reports, an obituary that appeared in a SUCC Annual Report and recollections from some who served on the UNSWCC Committee during his involvement.

Individual Profile

Compiled by Greig Robinson

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

Skip was born in Dunedin New Zealand in 1888 and grew up there until 1909.

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

Skip arrived in Australia in 1909 and watched Sydney University cricket in the 1909/10 season. After enlisting in the 1st A.I.F. (landing in Egypt in Nov 1914) he later received a commission in the Indian Army. From 1923-26 Skip was in real estate in London. He continued to work in real estate in Sydney from his return in 1926 until 1974. During this time he again was involved with Sydney University Cricket Club and from 1956-62 was President of the SUCC.

When and why did you become involved with UNSWCC?

Skip's first involvement with UNSWCC was in the mid/late 1950's. This involvement seems to have been due to his love of university sport despite it being uncertain if he ever attended a university as a student. A theory is he enjoyed mixing with young people with lively minds and felt his experience would be most valuable where many positions of responsibility off the field fell to young people with little experience of how to organise and run a club.

What did you like about UNSW Cricket.

Skip seems to have really enjoyed the atmosphere (and vagaries) of university sport in the days when the teams consisted of undergraduates and university staff plus a few graduates as captains. Skip's involvement is unique as he had no personal or family ties to UNSW or the UNSWCC before becoming involved in the Club when already in his late 60's.

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

Skip - who started this and why he was called Skip is lost in the mists of time but it is probably linked to his army rank.

What role/s have you had in UNSWCC; playing, administration, support. Please indicate: Seasons played? Roles fulfilled and when? Other involvement?

Skip was a Vice-President of UNSWCC from 1958/9-1968/9. He was awarded Life Membership in 1969/70. During all but the final season before Skip died (1975), he was an 'active' Vice President and Life Member who was a regular attendee at Committee Meetings. He was a generous benefactor to the Club sharing not only his expertise and experience but also offering financial support. His most lasting legacy was his establishment of a fielding award for which he donated an impressive perpetual trophy. It was named in his honour, "The Captain John Morris Fielding Trophy". A fitting tribute as fielding was special to Skip as he firmly believed, and would tell any cricketer who would listen, that, "catches win matches". His Fielding Trophy was first awarded for the 1958/9 season.

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

From those who knew Skip the answer is he was humbled but "chuffed".

What is your greatest memory or memories of UNSW Cricket?

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

Real estate was his area of expertise and his interests were university sport especially cricket and rugby.

Where are you now?

Skip died on December 10, 1975, aged 87.