

T J (Tommy) Andrews

1890-1970

- Born in Newtown in 1890
- Played for Petersham Cricket Club from age 19 until he was 54
- Powerful right-hand batsman and brilliant fieldsman (like Ponting)
- Played 16 Tests for Australia and baseball for NSW

Thomas James Edwin Andrews was born at Newtown on 26 August 1890 and played his first game for Petersham Cricket Club in 1909 aged 19 and his last in 1944 aged 54.

He retired in 1936 but made a comeback in 1941 at the request of the club. He was a powerful right hand batsman and leg break bowler who excelled as a close-to-the wicket fieldsman.

Tommy Andrews first played for NSW in 1912-13 and made his Test Match debut for Australia on the 1921 Ashes tour of England. He toured South Africa in 1922 and England again in 1926.

He played in 16 Test Matches scoring 592 runs with a highest score of 94. In his first class cricket career he scored 8,095 runs in 151 matches at an average of 39.49 with 18 centuries and a highest score of 247 against Victoria. He also took 95 wickets at an average of 32.10. His first class career spanned 17 years between 1912 and 1929.

He was such a fieldsman that cricket books which refer to his playing career always make mention of how good a fielder he was. It seems he was in the Ricky Ponting mould in terms of his ability to throw down the wicket achieving many run-outs in the process. It is said that even English legends Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe thought twice about running if the ball was speeding towards Andrews. No doubt his ability as an interstate baseballer was of value to him as a cricket fieldsman.

Tommy Andrews scored 11,699 runs in 1st Grade with 28 centuries. With his leg breaks, he took 504 wickets at an average of 20.76 with 8-72 his best. Three times (1913-14; 1915-16; 1918-19) he scored 400 runs and took 40 wickets in a season—a rare occurrence.

His finest all-round effort was against Sydney University in 1923-24 when he hit 271 with 42 fours and just one six in 230 minutes (which was and remained a club record) and took 5-33. The Referee newspaper commenting on his batting said “His hits through the covers spun smartly to the fence and the pull was made with charming ease. No stroke was omitted.”

In the 1925-26 season he hit 102 and 110 in the same match against Cumberland at Parramatta Oval, a feat only achieved by one other—Victor Trumper in 1909-10. In 1929-30 at age 40, he created a Sydney Grade Cricket record when he scored 1,150 runs at an average of 88.46 which included six centuries, which is now the equal second highest (with Sid Barnes) in 1st Grade cricket history. Geoff Boycott hit seven in 1976-77. Tommy's centuries were against ND's (102); Gordon (148*); St George (123); Waverley (119); Glebe (121) and North Sydney (118).

The T J E Andrews Memorial Scoreboard will ensure that Tommy Andrews who passed away at Croydon on 28 January 1970 aged 79 will not be forgotten.

