

Hall of Fame

J.D. (Duncan) STEEL

Haxby – 1945 – 1961

Civil Service – 1962 – 1983



Duncan Steel began his cricket career with Haxby Cricket Club in 1945 and, in fact, still lives in the village. He spent 17 years with his local village club whose ground was on the Ethel Ward Playing Field before moving to Civil Service for the 1962 season

With the league programme resuming in 1946, almost a third of Duncan's career is not catalogued since the first league handbook was not produced until 1958 thus depriving Duncan's statistics of 12 years input.

Nevertheless, the available figures produce a total of 1011 league wickets in the 24 years between 1957 and 1980 which equates to 42 wickets per season so it is reasonable to suppose that Duncan took around 1350 to 1400 wickets in his career. The recorded years show that his wickets came at a cost of just 12.38 runs apiece whilst his run rate equates to 2.62 runs per over. He claimed 50 or more wickets in a season six times and, remarkably had seasonal bowling averages of below 10 in four seasons.

The records also indicate that he qualified for the batting averages in 14 seasons with 463 runs in 1971 as his best aggregate and an average in his qualifying years of 24.90. He made two centuries with an unbeaten 114 in 1963 showing as his best.

Duncan is remembered by his contemporaries as being an extremely fine bowler who formed an extremely useful attack with fellow recipient Alan Barker.

However it is his record of having claimed eight wickets in an innings on ten occasions which identifies him as a 'record breaker' and makes him one of the first choices for inclusion in the Hall of Fame.

Duncan, who captained Civil Service for ten years, recalls once hitting 54 runs in just four overs and remembers taking four hat-tricks.

AVP

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YORK SENIOR LEAGUE RECORDS HELD

- Most times taking eight or more wickets in a match (10) *shares record with Steve Whitaker*

