

SUMMER 2023 | No. 052

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# **OUTRIGHT**

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



## **THE BLACK CLASH DELIVERS ONCE AGAIN**

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# OPENING THOUGHTS



Tēnā Koutou, welcome to the summer edition of Outright magazine.

The summer of Cricket has been another challenging one for all involved in the sport. In the last couple of years our members faced a myriad of challenges through the pandemic but this year our Auckland based players faced a new challenge – with the region being hit with an onslaught of rain throughout the season and a couple of weather bombs through January that rendered Eden Park's Outer Oval and Colin Maiden Park unplayable as they bore more of a resemblance to a lake than a cricket oval.

On the park the White Ferns were recently in action in South Africa at the ICC T20 Women's World Cup, and the Blackcaps have just completed a test series against England. The later shortly due to host Sri Lanka in all three formats before heading back to Pakistan for a five match T20 and ODI series. On the domestic scene we witnessed the strength of Canterbury

Cricket with both the Magicians and the Kings in the Super Smash Finals held at Hagley Oval. The Magicians proving too strong for defending champions the Wellington Blaze (who were without their White Ferns players), to collect their sixth Super Smash trophy – just one title behind their counterparts from the capital. The men's final was a replay of last year as the Kings hosted the Northern Brave. The Kings have made the last three Super Smash finals and fallen at the final hurdle in each case. In fact the last time the Kings captured the Super Smash crown was the inaugural contest in 2006, a team that coach Peter Fulton and Brendon McCullum were playing in. The Kings will have to wait another season to shake that monkey off their back as the Brave went back-to-back with a seven-wicket victory, joining the Aces and Firebirds with four men's T20 titles. Congratulations to all our members for making it such a memorable summer across all formats and best of luck for the remainder of the season.

In this edition of Outright we explore the connection so many cricketers have with the game of golf, and Canterbury leg spinner Sarah Asmusen shares her story of how cricket and her study in human nutrition have come together like magic. Keeping with food science former bio engineer at Fonterra Ma'ara Ave reflects on his first professional contract for Central Districts and captaining the Cook Islands. With the new Women's Premier League underway in India we delve into the exponential growth in the women's game, and staying in India former player Jason Spice shares a yarn about the Road Safety World Series Legends tournament, before he returned back home for the 2023 edition of the Black Clash.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Outright and wish all our members the best over the remainder of summer.

Ngā mihi nui

NZCPA

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Players better together

# FORMER VOLT SCORES A PERFECT ACE



JOSH TASMAN-JONES |

Ask anyone at your local golf club about cricketers playing golf and they will likely respond in the same way – they can hit it a long way but often all over the place (there is even an online video entitled “3 Simple Ways to Fix Your Cricket Slice”). But for many, if not most cricketers, the fairways provide a great outlet and place to channel their competitive instincts.

Josh Tasman-Jones stole the golfing headlines during the NZ Men’s Amateur Championship at Otago Golf Club in November when he nailed his first ever hole-in-one when he nailed his first ever hole-in-one on the 12th hole in his opening round of this premier NZ Golf event.

Tasman-Jones knew the hole well as Otago is his home course and in the lead up to the tournament had planned this very shot. But even with best laid plans he could not have imagined what ultimately played out in front of playing partners Tyler Wood and Ben Patston.

“I committed to hitting the shot I practised and straight away thought it was heading for the flag and I might be able to get a birdie. Then I heard it hit the pin and we all lost sight of it. The scorer standing up at the green let out a scream which sparked an amazing moment of celebration.”

“This was the first time Mum had ever seen me play golf and she managed to get a video me hitting the shot and the celebration afterwards, which was pretty cool”.

Playing in the NZ Amateur was more a collision of opportunity rather than anything planned out for Tasman-Jones, who until last summer was still playing cricket with the Otago Volts in the Super Smash. Having stopped playing for Otago and becoming an Otago team selector this year, Tasman-Jones now has more time to put into his golf game and with added flexibility from employer Dynasty sports and proximity to the golf course, has been able to lower his handicap pretty quickly over the past year.

Tasman-Jones remains realistic about his golf abilities acknowledging “the NZ Open was being played at my home course and my handicap was low enough to sneak just inside the qualification level, so I thought why not. I have a long way to go and am realistic, but I am keen to get stuck into golf and see where it takes me”.

Tasman-Jones may take inspiration from another successful cricket-golf convert in former Central Stags player Stuart Duff. The Napier local has been involved with golf virtually his whole life and as any of his teammates

would recall, ‘Duffy’ often had golf clubs alongside cricket kit through the summer schedule. Like cricket contemporary Mitchell Santner (who currently boasts a handicap of +2.7) Duff possess a rare natural talent that makes golf look easier than it actually is.

The reality is that golf at this level requires time, energy and skill, which is something that seems to resonate with both Tasman-Jones and Duff. Each seeing their cricketing background as an advantage to the commitment required to practice often and well, just as they used to toil away in the nets.

The similarity of preparation between the both cricket and golf may be part of the reason why it has such strong appeal for cricketers. The competitive side of golf ensures the body receives the hit of endorphins and adrenalin that it craves, but it is also the ability to deal with adversity and resilience that surely helps cricketers through the trials and tribulations of golf – and that infamous slice!

Stu Duff hits more good shots than that bad which has seen him selected to the NZ Senior representative team since 2018 and is a regular pick in the Hawkes Bay representative team dating back to 1997 (soon after his retirement from cricket).



STUART DUFF |

Duff won the NZ Senior Championship in 2018 for the first time which was the catalyst to his selection to the NZ Seniors team that competes with Australia on a biennial basis. That NZ Senior championship victory was repeated in 2019 at home course Hastings, before taking that form onto the international stage and winning the individual and team divisions at the Asia Pacific Senior tournament at Sungai Long Golf and Country Club in Kuala Lumpur.

“That was pretty cool fun,” reflected Duff, who plays as much for the competition as the connection it gives with other people.

“While I really enjoy competing and there is always something to improve upon, I do love the connection with different people within clubs and the various teams I have been part of. I just love playing the game”.

“I once played alongside Sir Bob Charles and it was amazing to see someone who was 85 years shoot a score of 75,” said Duff.

The NZ Senior Championship which was hosted at Christchurch Golf Club from 9th to 11th February saw Duff feature again, but ultimately pipped for the title as he finished 2nd behind Brent Paterson (claiming his fourth title in a row). Through the weekend



DAVID LEONARD |

Duff was able to have some cricket chat as former first-class players Paul McEwan, Warren Wisneski, Rod Latham, Stu Gillespie, Bryan Andrews and David Stead were also on the start sheet.

Fellow Central Stags alumni David Leonard has also found the golfing bug and this year has represented Nelson Senior’s at the national tournament. He may find a sympathetic ear when Central Stags are in Nelson with CD High Performance manager and former Stag David Meiring himself a more than handy golfer, having been part of the NZ Golf Academy as a youngster before cricket took priority.

Current White Ferns representative Bernadine Bezuidenhout was another with a strong connection to golf in South

Africa, where in her youth she played extensively and could have been her professional sporting path had a move to New Zealand and cricket not eventuated.

There are too many women and men cricketers with a golfing story to name in this article, but one thing is sure that there is something about golf that connects with cricketers. Just look at the list of cricketers competing at the NZ Golf Open in Queenstown this year!

That mystery of why is for another day, but one thing is for sure, whether its Duff, Tasman-Jones or Leonard in the competitive mire of golf, or just a weekend hit at the local trying to win a beverage and bragging rights from your mates, you can probably find a cricketer on the green somewhere nearby.



# WOMEN'S CRICKET CONTINUES TO EVOLVE

In the 17 years since Sophie Devine's debut in 2006, the women's game has changed dramatically, as confirmed via the recently released FICA Women's Global Employment Report. Devine's quote when the Master Agreement was signed last year probably sums up the scale of change when she said, "I remember back when I first started and you got a \$30 food allowance, and I thought that was an absolute ripper."

Devine went as far as to say the new agreement was "a game changer and a massive step forward and will be a huge drawcard for young women and girls."

Not only are all women's players now contracted via a single Master Agreement here in NZ, there is a significant amount of attention on the rest of the world's international players who just featured at the latest edition of the ICC T20 Women's World Cup. With the inaugural Indian Women's Premier League (WPL) taking place in March and alongside the UK's Hundred, Australian Big Bash and our own Super Smash, the playing opportunities and prospects for women cricketers is unrecognisable from those early days of Devine's career.

FICA (Federation of International Player Associations) have long advocated for players at a global level and their recently released Women's Global Employment Report confirms the growth in the women's game. It confirms the increase in professional employment opportunities for women players with those holding central contracts rising to 207, a 75% uplift from the last report period (2020).

Add 492 major domestic or T20 league contract opportunities that were projected in 2023 and the opportunities in front of the next generation of women cricketers is very exciting.

FICA's report is available online in the news section of our website [www.nzcpa.co.nz](http://www.nzcpa.co.nz), with expansion on the 9 key findings stated below:

The 7th stated finding (in the FICA report) that the Indian WPL is set to change the women's game is one that raised eyebrows across the sporting world. The deep pockets required to secure team ownership rights, along with a broadcast agreement that sets this competition alongside the leading women's sporting events is truly remarkable for a startup competition. What this extraordinary level of

investment in the women's game in India indicates is that there is an expectation the league and women's sport in India is set to explode.

There is no doubt the WPL itself will have a flow on effect for those players involved. Individually the game's leading players may receive contract values that place them among the elite women athletes in the world. On an international scale the implications of this will be felt by all national bodies and while everyone is watching to see how the league evolves, one thing is for sure, it is a great thing for women cricketers.

The potential for players to prioritise their time toward these domestic leagues was also highlighted in FICA's employment report. Like the men's game, the pressure on players to support a global schedule that enables international cricket and domestic leagues to co-exist is significant. With FICA registering a number of players already indicating they may need to consider their options should they be forced to choose between international and domestic commitments. FICA has long advocated for global leadership to ensure clarity in the game's scheduling structure to avoid an otherwise inevitable 'flight of talent', which is already prominent in the men's game.

While players' desire to represent their country remains high, they need to be able to co-exist easily between domestic and international cricket. The ICC events and international tours are currently the pinnacle of the sport, but the impact of domestic leagues on players is likely going to be more hastily experienced than has been the case in the men's game.

Already players are presented with choices, with Auckland all-rounder Arlene Kelly being a prime example of the lure of an international cap and the prospect a World Cup has on a player. At the conclusion of her 10th season for her beloved Auckland Hearts in 2022, Kelly had a conversation with her Northern Districts opponent and Ireland international Eimear Richardson, about the prospect of going over to play the off-season in the Emerald Isle. Within

a month of touching down Kelly (who holds an Irish passport) was selected to represent Ireland and has since gone on to play for the Green and Whites on over twenty occasions, including hitting the winning runs against Australia in a warm-up match prior to her appearance at the recent ICC T20 World Cup.

Kelly is excited about the future of the game, "the investment and opportunities for women in cricket now are fantastic, even in Ireland they have tripled their investment in the women's game with 20 contracts for the national players and increased coaching resource. The future not only for Ireland but for women's cricket is bright."

Despite some of the challenges and triumphs the FICA report identified for the women's game, overall the future for women's cricket and women's sport in general is promising.

Young girls seeing women's cricket on their devices will inspire the next generation of girls, fuelling their desire to become a cricketer, and that can only be a good thing for the game.

The outcome of all this is that our current generation of women's players are going to be in for a ride and the legacy of opportunity they leave for future players is fantastic to see. One only wonders what reflections the next Sophie Devine will have in another 17 odd years.

## FICA WOMEN'S GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT REPORT KEY FINDINGS

### 1. THE PACE OF CHANGE IS ACCELERATING BUT FURTHER INVESTMENT IS NEEDED

The majority of cricket nations have made positive progress since FICA's 2020 report.

### 2. ABILITY GAP – HAVES AND HAVE NOTS

The gap between the 'haves' and 'have nots' highlighted previously has remained during the report period.

### 3. DISPROPORTIONATE COVID IMPACT

The game had incredible momentum after the ground breaking 2020 Women's T20 World Cup, which unfortunately was brought to an abrupt halt by the pandemic.

### 4. NOW IS THE TIME TO OPTIMISE THE GLOBAL STRUCTURE

Players continue to support a global schedule that enables international cricket and domestic leagues to co-exist, with a significant number indicating they would consider rejecting national

contracts if paid more to compete in domestic leagues if required to choose.

### 5. NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

At international level the report period saw the introduction of cricket into multi-sport games such as the Commonwealth Games, the significant development of an Under 19 World Cup, along with a number of other new development and growth opportunities.

### 6. EMPLOYMENT TERMS ARE KEY TO ATTRACTING THE BEST TALENT

Cricket remains a short term and precarious career path with most players on contracts of less than a year, and the majority favouring contract and job security over playing in different competitions.

### 7. WPL SET TO CHANGE THE GAME

The recently announced financial investment into the Women's Premier League, through broadcast (reported to

be in excess of USD 100M over 5 years), and the sale of franchises in particular (reported to be in excess of USD 550M in aggregate) look set to dramatically change the playing and employment landscapes from 2023 onwards.

### 8. FEMALE VOICES NEED TO BE HEARD

Whilst there has been some progress there remains an under-representation of women on decisionmaking boards around the globe, whilst many women cricketers still do not have access to the benefits of a formal players' association.

### 9. TRUST IS KEY

For women's cricket to grow sustainably, it is crucial that positive relationships are forged between the players, their associations and governing bodies around the globe.



# MA'ARA AVE A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

**IT CAN BE HARD TO KEEP UP WITH CENTRAL DISTRICTS KEEPER-BATSMAN MA'ARA AVE WHO TENDS TO BE AS FAST-MOVING OFF THE FIELD AS HE IS ON IT.**

The contracted Stag and bright spark is a Massey University engineering graduate with first-class honours who took up a post-grad offer from Fonterra straight out of Uni last year to work as a researcher, through Fonterra's Technical Graduate Programme.

His fascinating Fonterra role allowed him to keep on studying as well, for a high-tech Master in Dairy Science and Technology, while he got hands-on with helping to solve problems and drive innovation and more sustainable ways to do things in the key industry.

So last year, 2021, couldn't have been much more of a whirlwind for the 24-year-old. He spent the first four months of his Fonterra role visiting manufacturing sites and getting insights into processing milk and their products like cheeses, butter, protein

products and milk powder, as well as squeezing in his ongoing lectures.

Then in July, he was offered a CD contract which in itself tells you a lot about his ability not to drop the ball.

A talented all-round sportsman, Ave first played for CD at the end of 2018. He was barely out of his teens when the Stags needed a keeper to come in for an injured Dane Cleaver in The Ford Trophy. He played eight games that summer, but didn't get picked for the top side again until last season when he notably achieved both his Dream11 Super Smash and Plunket Shield debuts.

He was then loaned to the Volts when they were short of a specialist keeper, meaning Ave wound up with a unique distinction as the only player in New Zealand cricket history to have represented two Plunket Shield teams in the same season.

Ave's mellifluous full name is often remarked upon by cricket nuffies — Mea Tangi Me Ma'ara Ave. It's a significant moniker: both himself and his father are named after Ave's pioneering grandfather.

Mangaia is the southernmost island in the huge and scattered Cooks archipelago, and the place his grandfather came from. You can only imagine the culture shock, let alone temperature shock, of leaving



**"I WAS VERY PROUD TO BE ABLE TO PUT ON COOK ISLANDS' COLOURS AND REPRESENT MY FAMILY."**

its wavering palms and sleepy coral beaches to take up seasonal work in Tokoroa in the 1950s, without being able to speak English.

But Ave's grandfather as a young man was driven to set himself up to help his family, and raise one of his own. He worked hard and adapted so well on regular working trips to New Zealand through his 20s that he would ultimately settle in Invercargill for work in the freezing works, on power lines and in the aluminium smelter. A work ethic and adaptability like that does not go amiss in the cricketing world, and Ave treasures his memories of his remarkable grandfather who was such a positive influence.

The family later settled in Blenheim where Ave attended high school and played his early rep cricket, before he migrated to Manawatu when it was time to head off to Uni and carve out a future of his own.

CD is a region bursting with talented keeper-batsmen. No fewer than four are on the CD men's contract list (Ave, Bayley Wiggins, Dane Cleaver and Curtis Heaphy) for this season. But not only did Ave earn a CD contract last year, he got an international debut for the Cook Islands.

The Cooks played a handful of warm-up T20s in Auckland before heading to Vanuatu for their big 2021/22 ICC

T20 World Cup regional qualifiers against other leading Pasifika teams. Representing, let alone captaining, Kuki Airani was magic for Ave whose New Zealand-based whanau maintains a strong connection to their home island of Mangaia.

"It was a big moment for me, something I will look back on for a long time," he says. "I was very proud to be able to put on Cook Islands' colours and represent my family. To do quite well and help put Cook islands on the map a little bit more as well was pretty cool."

The Cooks played six games at the ICC qualifiers and won three of them, despite having been one of the less fancied sides. Ave contributed three T20 half centuries, including a 92 not out against Fiji, and 76 against Samoa. He had also been invited to captain the side, starting out as co-captain with the veteran Hori Miller.

"I'd met up with a few of the coaches in New Zealand prior to the tournament and they were looking for someone who had that cricket brain and experience with T20 gameplans when it comes to setting fields and talking to bowlers, to add value to the team.

"I didn't know their players, but we gelled as a team as we got to know each other. We had a pretty cool team culture which was one of the best parts about it.

"We had six Cook Islands-based boys who are used to rolling out a piece of

astroturf on a mown grass strip to play their matches, with the ocean on one side and Rarotonga's ring road on the other and a bumpy outfield backing on to village houses with pigs and chickens and dogs. They play with a free spirit, trying to hit sixes and take wickets.

"Others were younger lads from Auckland and Counties Manukau who had grown up in New Zealand and brought a different mix of cricket experiences. It was a cool blend of skills and approaches in the one team. It's an enjoyable brand of cricket that they play and it was certainly a great way personally to start the season, a big reminder of how important it is to enjoy how you play your cricket."

Although the Cooks just missed out on qualifying, their success at the tournament had a big impact and Ave hopes it will make it easier for them to get more sponsorship and funding to compete on more tours, which is the only way the side can grow.

"The wins we got meant so much to them back in the Islands. I think it's stimulated the game there, and they are keen to play some more fixtures in New Zealand which I hope we can do, with the new opportunities popping up now with Māori and Pasifika tournaments. The hurdle is always the funding."

Ave has since got a solitary T20 start for the Stags, but has been using his downtime wisely.

"Our CPA PD Manager Jo Murray helped me decide to take some summer school business papers extramurally through Massey, which adds another string to my bow for the future. I really enjoyed my time at Fonterra, it was a good fit and fed my brain, and I think business skills will give me more options in future.

"It was a bit tough to leave them when I got my contract, but they were really supportive and wanted me to keep following my cricket dreams that I've had since I was a kid. You'd be silly not to go for it. I still get texts from the Fonterra team about my cricket, they're following along."

Whatever Ave chooses to do in the future, it's a future that looks bright. And gloves on or gloves off, he'll be ready for every chance.





### TEAM RUGBY

- Kieran Read - C
- Kaylum Boshier
- Neil Broom (wildcard)
- Israel Dagg
- Andrew Ellis (wildcard)
- Jono Hickey
- Richie McCaw
- Jock McKenzie
- Jason Spice
- Kaylum Boshier
- Jordie Barrett
- Ofisa Tonu'u
- Joe Wheeler

### TEAM CRICKET

- Daniel Vettori - C
- Todd Astle
- Anton Devcich
- Peter Fulton
- Nathan McCullum
- Andrew McDonald (import)
- Hamish Marshall
- Chris Martin
- Kyle Mills
- Adam Parore
- Nick 'Honey Badger' Cummins

# CRICKET REGAIN THE ASCENDANCY BLACK CLASH SERIES

## HAGLEY OVAL WAS BUZZING WITH NON-STOP ENTERTAINMENT THROUGHOUT AN EPIC BLACK CLASH MATCH THAT SAW TEAM CRICKET REVERSE LAST YEARS SHOCK LOSS AT BAY OVAL.

This was the third edition of Black Clash at Hagley Oval (fifth overall) which saw another sold-out venue and a massive TV audience both on TVNZ One and in Australia. The in-ground experience is high octane throughout and with an amazing list of event sponsor activations and Duco Events innovative approach to 'sportainment' ensured the capacity crowd of just over 8,500 left with a massive smile on their collective faces.

Duco Events presentation of Black Clash is purposefully different and fans of all ages love being part of the unique atmosphere and witnessing the skills on show from many of New Zealand's most iconic athletes. Players on both sides were excited by the chance to go head-to-head and interact in this legendary cross-

code success story. The cricket purist probably finds a few too many innovations to whet their cricketing palette, but even the modern day T20 fans delight in the excitement the Ford Double Play over brings - once again adding a real spark to the Team Rugby run chase.

What Black Clash does spectacularly is attract a wide range of new people to cricket, even if it is just to watch the rugby players in action in the hope

of a massive upset against the former professional cricketers.

Witnessing All Black stars like Jordie Barrett mixing it with cricketing legends, and Kieran Read starring again with bat and ball is what makes this fixture so enthralling. And that's what people seem to enjoy most - a contest which showcases the range of talents some of our best rugby players possess pitted against some cricketing greats.

As a contest it was another nail biter! Graham 'Ted' Henry was as determined as ever to lead Team Rugby to victory again this year, and with Kieran Read sparking a scintillating run chase it looked like Team Rugby might just sneak to another famous victory. Read was in impressive form with 73 runs from 45 deliveries (proving last year's 84 runs was no fluke) and further hinting that he may well have had a great career in cricket, if not for his hall of fame rugby exploits.

Henry's wildcard this year was recently retired Otago and Blackcaps player Neil Broom, and with a masterstroke in deception Ted also secured the selection of Andrew Ellis (the Canterbury cricketing legend, not his rugby namesake) to Team Rugby! Kaylum Boshier returned this year to again remind of his NZ U19 cricket pedigree and Jock McKenzie showed his undoubted cricketing all-round talent. Former first-class cricketers Jono Hickey and Jason Spice were valuable additions to Team

Rugby, with the latter a late scratching and not able to take the field.

Dan Vettori led Team Cricket expertly in the absence of Stephen Fleming who was a notable omission behind the scenes due to commitments overseas. Vettori is one of many players coaching around the globe these days and his inducement of Australian head coach Andrew McDonald to our fairways with his assured cricketing abilities paid dividends as Team Cricket finished off their impressive first innings to set a formidable target of 199.

Anton Devcich and Hamish Marshall set up the innings for Team Cricket with a stand of 103 in lightning quick time before a middle order slump, before Chris Martin set the crowd alight with a masterful single in the final over. Martin was a new recruit to Team Cricket this year and it was fantastic to see both he and Kyle Mills swing the new ball with such control in the opening overs.

Read's innings set up an enthralling final few overs of the run chase with Team Cricket looking down the barrel in the last over as Team Rugby sniffed an opportunity. Especially with Andrew Ellis at the crease and Jordie Barrett still to bat. But when Todd Astle was thrown the ball for the last over it was obvious the advantage being a current player can have. Astle expertly navigated the last over and left Team Rugby wondering what happened as Team Cricket exhaled a big sigh of relief to secure the Lomu trophy.

Special thanks go to the entire team at Duco Events and all the many valued event sponsors, and to Carlena Limmer and David Higgins for the wonderful support they provide to NZCPA and NZRPA through this event.

Team Cricket most certainly look forward to defending the Lomu Trophy again next year!



# NIB ELEVATED AS NZCPA PRINCIPAL PARTNER



**NIB HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS SUPPORTER OF THE NZCPA AND THE HOLISTIC SUPPORT WE PROVIDE TO OUR MEMBERS SINCE THEIR LAUNCH IN NEW ZEALAND IN 2013.**

This long-standing partnership has recently been reconfirmed, with nib elevated to become the NZCPA Principal Partner through the next two years.

nib and NZCPA share many common values and at the centre of both organisations is an alignment of the work we each do for the health and wellbeing of our people and the encouragement of equal opportunities. nib has been the health insurance provider for players through the past

decade and it is exciting to see that important insurance service is aligned with a much broader partnership with the NZCPA and our members.

NZCPA CEO Heath Mills said, "it is important to recognise the positive impact that nib has for our membership, both in terms of providing leading health insurance products, but also their generosity and support which contributes directly to the success of our Personal Development Programme and

the important outcomes this programme facilitates for our members."

"We are certainly grateful for the support and look forward to working with nib as our newly appointed Principal Partner".



## PAST PLAYERS CONNECT IN NELSON AND WELLINGTON

You couldn't have asked for a better day! Saturday, 21 January and the sun was shining down on Nelson and Saxton Oval for the Super Smash double header – Central Districts v Otago.

The NZCPA was approached before Christmas about co-hosting a Past Player CD Alumni event in Nelson to engage members who lived in Nelson and Blenheim and surrounding areas.

Although not many live local these days, ten players were lured along for a catchup over a couple of drinks and lots of delicious home-made food. Despite a number of apologies for those still enjoying their summer holidays, the day was a great reconnection for those who made the effort. Those travelling over from Blenheim were grateful the road had reopened between the two centres making the trip less arduous.

Talking about effort, the commitment from former Stag Greg Logan who drove all the way from Lyttleton that morning to ensure he would be able to catch up with some old mates from the top of the south. That is what these past player events are all about!

And just to prove the old boys still possess some of their old cricket skills,

when Andrew Schwass was wandering around the boundary he heard the smack of willow and looked up to casually pouch a catch among the crowd. Still just as sharp in the field!

Thanks to everyone who came and thanks to Nelson Cricket who were perfect hosts and of course to Lance, Dani, Margot and their CD team for organising logistics around the day.

Two days later, Wellington Anniversary Day and this time it was the Basin Reserve in sunshine and just a little bit of wind. Thanks to the weather gods.

In anticipation of the England Test at the Basin, Wellington Cricket put up a platform next to the RA Vance Stand which provided around 30 past player men and women the perfect spot to watch another Super Smash double header between hometown Wellington against Canterbury. The female past players spanned many generations of play. A number of legends of the women's game including Maureen Peters, Trish McKelvey and Penny Kinsella were among the group. On the men's side, Wellington Cricket were particularly targeting players in the 90s and thanks to their generosity, Heath Davis was able to attend all the way from Queensland.

Another shout out to Geoff Baker who travelled up from Christchurch to be there. Paddy O'Rourke also made the trip down from Auckland but he had skin in the game with his son Will tearing into the wicket in Kings colours.

The stories and laughter were great as were the insights into the game. As always, there's never a shortage of experts in the stands!

Thanks to Cam, Bridget, Sarah and the team from Wellington Cricket for taking care of the hosting and hospo.

As always, the aim of the NZCPA is to keep past players connected. Both occasions provided us with opportunities to remind members of the work of the CPA and in particular, The Cricketers' Trust which helps those past players who are going through hard times. Each year the Trust helps about 20 past players who are experiencing tough times whether it be medical, mental health, physical health, financial, personal or family problems. If you know of other past players or maybe you are having some problems, feel free to contact Paul Hobbs at the CPA. [paul.hobbs@nzcpa.co.nz](mailto:paul.hobbs@nzcpa.co.nz). It's always in the strictest confidence.

Bottom Left: Heath Davis chats with Geoff Baker | Bottom Right: (Left to Right) Lance Hamilton, Mark Douglas and Paul Hobbs



# A STEADY DIET OF STUDY AND CRICKET FOR SARAH ASMUSSEN

BY AIDEN McLAUGHLIN



**THE LAST FEW YEARS FOR SARAH ASMUSSEN HAVE BEEN A STEADY DIET OF STUDY AND CRICKET, BUT FROM TIME TO TIME, THOSE WORLDS HAVE COME TOGETHER LIKE MAGIC FOR THE 22-YEAR-OLD LEG SPINNER FROM CANTERBURY.**

Throw in a shoulder injury, rehab in the off-season and there's barely been time to relax, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

After her time at Christchurch Girls High School, Asmusen studied at the University of Otago, where she majored in Food Science; it was her minor in Human Nutrition however, that would end up being the focus of future endeavours.

"I definitely wanted a career outside of [playing for] the Magicians because when I was younger there wasn't a lot of professional athletes so I didn't see a straight cricketering option. I definitely wanted to go into the food industry. I've always been interested in nutrition. I'm quite an avid foodie," says Asmusen.



With her Bachelor of Science achieved, Asmusen found herself looking to plan her next steps. Enter Personal Development Manager Jo Murray. The pair worked together to understand and pursue distance learning options that suited Rasmussen and her goal of obtaining a master's in Advanced Nutrition. Beyond that, there was the added bonus of a Prime Minister's Scholarship through High Performance Sport New Zealand.

The Prime Minister's Scholarship is available to support eligible recipients to achieve professional development outcomes relevant to work and experience within their designated sport or area of expertise within high performance sport, and, with Murray's help, Asmusen was awarded one of these coveted spots.

"Jo was really vital in getting everything through for that," says Asmusen.

"She rang me after we'd played a game at the Mount, to tell me I'd got in, which was really exciting. It's been a massive help; they've paid for my fees and given me some other support around that. It's been a great opportunity and I'm glad Jo was able to help me secure that. She helped me when I was deciding whether to study via distance for my master's. I wanted to stay in Otago, which can be quite difficult given I wouldn't be in my home province, hence I've done my master's via distance which has been awesome."

Away from study, another challenge was in store for Rasmussen, in the form

of a shoulder injury. Her labrum, the thick piece of tissue attached to the rim of the shoulder socket, was torn.

"We were managing it [the injury] towards the end of the [2021-2022] season and found out that I needed surgery. We were to-ing and fro-ing because as a spin bowler, I bowl quite untraditionally and need quite a bit of shoulder rotation and it took a while to see if surgery was the best option. I had that at the end of May 2022 and then my first game of domestic cricket was six months and one day after surgery, so I was really counting down those days."

The workload across all areas has definitely been a challenge. Study, rehabilitation and cricket have meant there's plenty to juggle, but Asmusen has been disciplined around it. She is into her last six months of her master's and is currently on a placement with the Mainland Tactix netball team in Christchurch.

**"THERE'S A MASSIVE NEED FOR NUTRITIONIST KNOWLEDGE AROUND THE COUNTRY SO IT'S A REALLY EXCITING INDUSTRY TO BE A PART OF."**

Cricket and nutrition have also aligned via High Performance Nutritionist for New Zealand Cricket, Jonny Rea.

"I knew him through New Zealand Cricket and I approached him to do some stuff," she says.

"I observed on the New Zealand A Programme. I was around the group for a couple of days, observing them around their hydration and training. It was really awesome to see the men's side of cricket as well to see how they go about their business. To learn from him has been really vital."

She has been able to take those observations away and not only use them for her study, but also look at how improvements can be made in her own playing environment.

"At the Magicians it's something that we probably needed to hop on. Obviously, we're semi-professionals and we train a lot at night. The information that we get around [nutrition] is really vital and we know it's a growing industry. There's a lot of need for sports nutritionists as well as general nutritionists with an aging population in New Zealand as well. There's a massive need for nutritionist knowledge around the country so it's a really exciting industry to be a part of."

Asmusen has been back in the wickets for the Magicians since her return from injury and is enjoying her cricket, but what's in store for her when this season finishes and she enters the closing stages of her master's?

"I try and get a bit of a balance, with a reasonable period away from the game, doing things outside the game that we can't quite enjoy during the summer and I'll be fully emersed in my master's and trying to finish that off and go around to my placements."







# ADDING SOME SPICE TO THE ROAD SAFETY WORLD SERIES

**YOU'D BE FORGIVEN IF THE ROAD SAFETY WORLD SERIES DIDN'T SPRING TO THE TOP OF YOUR MIND WHEN IT COMES TO CRICKET COMPETITIONS. BUT BLACK CLASH REGULAR, FORMER RUGBY INTERNATIONAL AND FORMER FIRST-CLASS CRICKETER JASON SPICE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE TOURNAMENT HELD IN INDIA WHERE HE REPRESENTED THE NEW ZEALAND LEGENDS TEAM.**

To give you of background The Road Safety World Series is a T20 cricket tournament played between legends of eight countries India, Australia, South

Africa, West Indies, England, New Zealand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to create awareness for road safety in India and around the world. You may be wondering why India? And why name the event the Road Safety World Series? Every year India kills a decent size nation on its roads. Around 1.5 million people are killed and more than 4.5 million are critically injured in road accidents every year. The aim is to drive social change in terms of people's outlook towards road safety through India's national sport, cricket.

So just how did the former All Black squad and Super Rugby player end up rubbing shoulders with the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Brett Lee, Brian Lara,

Tillakaratne Dilshan and Jonty Rhodes to name a few of the legends on display? Funnily enough it was his Black Clash colleague Anton Devcich who got on the phone to encourage Spice to play in the event. "Apparently it turned out that every team was supposed to have a cross-code player," recalls Spice, "so Anton (Devcich) gave me a call and said, "What do you think?" And I went, "Oh, yeah ok, I'll give it a go." It didn't really hit me until the trip got a lot closer that this was real cricket so I had a few net sessions before I went, just in case I had to bowl."

As one could imagine for a nation that loves cricket as much as India, the event was well received with crowds in excess of 40,000 for the matches despite rain interrupting many of the games - including the New Zealand India match. "I've played in front of some decent crowds in rugby, and the noise just ebbs and flows depending on what happens in the game. Over there the noise was just loud and constant, I kept looking around thinking, "What am I missing?" Explained Spice.

The match against India only lasted five overs with the field deemed unplayable due to a downpour. However the fans didn't leave as they were in for the long haul, happy waiting for the players to return to the field. Spice joked, "We waited until midnight for things to quieten down, but it just didn't happen. We had 50 motorbikes chasing the bus



**THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE WAS AN EYE OPENER AND I LOVED IT, SO IF I GOT THE CHANCE I WOULD DEFINITELY GO AND DO IT AGAIN.**

— JASON SPICE

I reckon. Their enthusiasm was like nothing I've seen before. I was thinking sure we've got some old superstars (bit unfair on Ross Taylor there) but do they even know any of us on the bus?"

When reflecting upon the road toll numbers to the former ND representative said, "I was surprised just how few accidents we saw in the three weeks we were there. The simple task of just driving on the road was an experience. There doesn't seem to be too many actual road rules. It's kind of some sort of morse code with the tooting of a horn and they seem to respond to each other. But every time I got in a taxi or tuk tuk, I would just pray and hold on."

One of Spice's favourite tour stories was the eight-point turn the bus driver attempted on the motorway when he missed the turnoff to the airport. "If successful he would have been going against the traffic to get to the required on-ramp. The irony was not lost on me

with the tournament being called the Road Safety World Series. If you could imagine the hallway scene from Austin Powers, back and forth for a full ten minutes with police escorts stopping traffic. Eventually another police car turned up (the boss) and we did a seven point turn back in the original direction You couldn't make it up." Laughed the former Hurricanes halfback.

Thankfully for Spice and the Kiwi legends team they arrived safe and sound at all their respective venues,

and faced the likes of South Africa, India and Bangladesh. Rain prevented their other matches from going ahead. Spice describes the standard of cricket as "pretty competitive for a bunch of old guys, I was surprised how good the standard was, and the size of the event. India and Sri Lanka were taking it a bit more serious than the other sides and they ended up playing the final. But the whole experience was an eye opener and I loved it, so if I got the chance I would definitely go and do it again."



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### HOOKED ON CRICKET

1 March - Hamilton, Napier

2 March - Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin

10 March - Wellington

### SEDDON CRICKET CLUB v NZCPA MASTERS

2 April - Seddon Park, Hamilton

### NZCPA PLAYERS' CONFERENCE

19-20 April - Auckland

## SEDDON CRICKET CLUB v NZCPA MASTERS

On behalf of the Seddon Cricket Club and the Northern Districts past players, A festival weekend for the 1st and 2nd of April, 2023 has been planned, including a round of golf at the stunning Tieke Golf Estate for keen golfers followed by a mix and mingle alumni event held at the Super Rugby match between the Blues vs Chiefs at FMG Stadium in Hamilton on Saturday. Alumni will be hosted in a corporate lounge and will have access to the Brian Perry stand to watch the rugby. The following day there will be a cricket match staged for those who have confirmed they are still keen to run out on Seddon Park.

This is for the ND past players (alumni) who will take on the NZCPA selection. Nearly 50 alumni have confirmed for the weekend, some travelling from all around the country and abroad.

For more information please don't hesitate to contact either:

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josephy@sportnorth.co.nz  
Phone: 021 274 1976, or

**Matthew Hart**  
matthew.hart@nw.co.nz  
Phone: 027 497 7030



**SEDDON**  
— CRICKET CLUB —

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## THE INSIDER

# GETTING THE RIGHT DATA RIGHTS

BY PAUL FORD

In the land of cold pies and warm beer the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) has just joined forces with Project Red Card, an initiative kicked off by a former football manager with the stated aim of allowing sportspeople to "retain control of their data".

Former Leyton Orient football manager Russell Slade is leading the foray into this new frontier. The co-founder of the Cardiff-based sports data/technology company GSDT describes data as "the new oil of the world" and his agency is dedicated to helping athletes protect and manage the data being collected about them and their performances.

I am only a bush lawyer these days but I understand data protection law in the UK is similar to New Zealand. This means personal data belongs to an individual, and on the face of it not by the companies paid to collect it, not by leagues and governing bodies, and not by clubs and franchises.

"Professional cricketers' data is being processed and sent all over the world, currently without the knowledge and understanding of the players," GSDT said. "It is being processed by companies outside of cricket for commercial purposes with little or no funding being returned to the players."

Last September Project Red Card acted on behalf of 1,400 professional footballers targeting action from

companies who use the data, mainly gambling and gaming – and seeking redress for the profits they have made. The lawsuit sought a whopping headline-grabbing NZ\$950m in damages and compensation, based on the claim that the data was "being collected, in many instances unlawfully, and people are making a lot of money out of it".

As well as the financial redress, there was also a desire to clean everything up around player data in the UK, so individuals are comfortable with the data that's being collected, how it is being used, and that it is "a fair reflection".

Alongside usage around scouting, one initial concern zeroes in on the tentacles of the gambling industry, where player data is collected to underpin algorithms bookies use to help formulate their book offering.

This gives rise to a particularly curly element around player consent and their ability to authorise use on a case-by-case basis. Part of what GSDT says it is trying to achieve is establishing safeguards to control if and how bookmakers can access and use sportspeople's personal data. "If they don't want their data to be used within betting because of their religion or other reasons, then that is something we should respect."

Statistics have a particular charm for cricket aficionados and some have

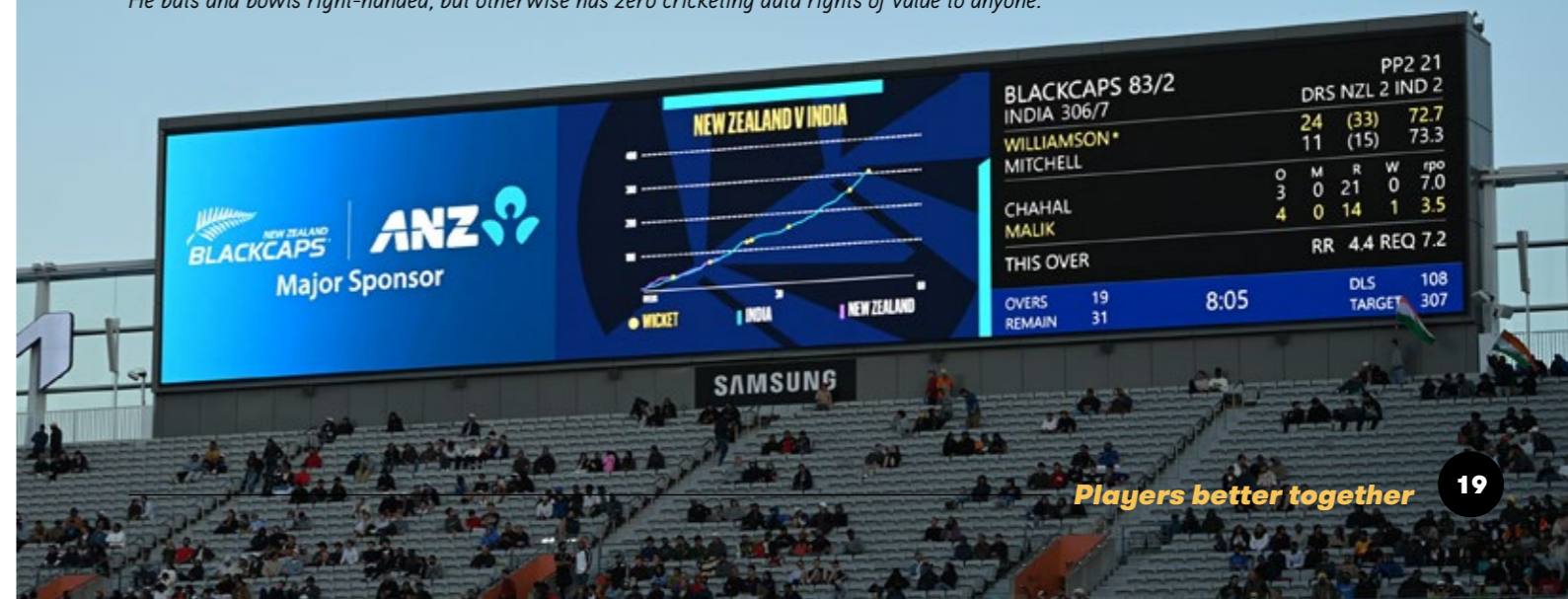
immediately leapt to the conclusion that Project Red Card finding success could spell the end of days for cricket nerd fetish machines like Cricinfo's Statsguru platform. (By the way IMHO cricket needs its own word for its plethora of niche statistics, like baseball's 'sabermetrics' made famous by Michael Lewis's *Moneyball*.)

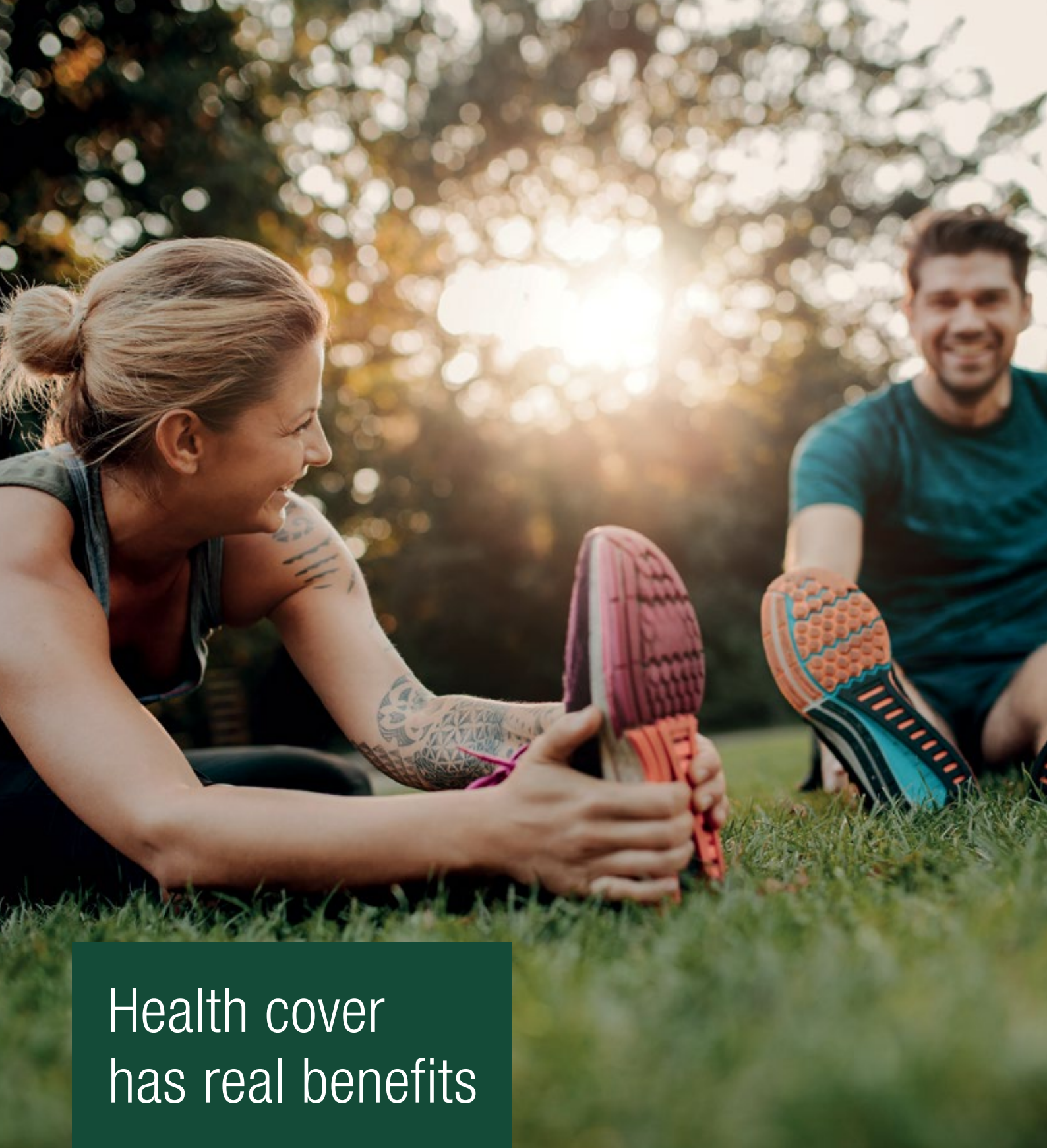
The PCA's Richard Hudson told *The Guardian* this was unlikely as the current ire is not directed at journalism-based, consumer-facing data providers that many cricket fans regularly use. "There's lots of talk around litigation, but that's not a strategy we're really pursuing. It's more than the value of lawsuits, it's the ability to say: 'That's mine and I can say yes or no to people using it.' That's the fundamental principle...we're [initially] looking for players to be able to say they're happy for one organisation to use their data but potentially not another."

The rise of fantasy leagues, online advertising and coverage via smartphones (plus digital banking) has driven an explosive demand for cricket-related data. That burgeoning appetite is increasingly being fed by technology-based companies of various hues and credibility levels seeking to commercialise the interaction between cricket and its fans.

There is plenty of water to flow under the harbour bridge on this one, but is already on the radar of the NZCPA, who have themselves been connected with Sports Data Labs who were presented on the topic at the World Players hosted *Commercialisation and Innovation Exchange* in New York in late 2022.

*Paul Ford is the co-founder of the Beige Brigade and one-seventh of The Alternative Commentary Collective. He bats and bowls right-handed, but otherwise has zero cricketing data rights of value to anyone.*





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