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Cricket Players Association

OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



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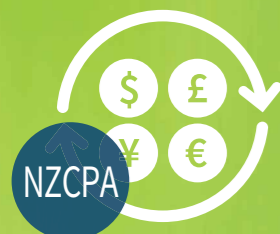
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OPENING UP

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Outright.

Our international players in the Blackcaps and White ferns may not start the winter tours until later in the year, but it's pleasing to see that we already have a significant number of members plying their trade off shore this winter.

A number of players have been contracted to teams in the Indian Premier League and a record number of New Zealand players are contracted to an English county this year. It is also great to see that we have four women playing in the inaugural English Women's T20 competition and of course a number of members are participating in league cricket in the UK. The fact that so many of our players are in demand for overseas teams reflects extremely well on the standard of the game in New Zealand at the moment, but also on the positive contribution to any team environment our players are renowned for making.

Whilst we have many members playing off shore, a number have remained in New Zealand to continue study, complete work experience or begin their first job. In recent months we have had a record number of members engage in the Personal Development Programme and work

towards developing a second career, which is fantastic.

There are few, if any, players who will finish a professional cricket career without having to start a new career or business, and it's critical that planning for this transition begins early in a players' career. Even for the most prepared, it is extremely difficult to transition into a new post cricket career. It is a situation made much worse if there has been little planning or work completed to do so whilst still playing.

We continue to produce a range of articles in Outright on players working in the Personal Development Programme and past players who have successfully transitioned into a new career. We hope you enjoy reading about the positive experiences of fellow players as they work towards or complete a second career, and find their stories encouraging or even inspiring.

Best Wishes,
Heath Mills



White Ferns Past Player Function



Left to Right - Rachel Harris, Henry Moore, Penny Kinsella, Justine Dunge, Julie Harris, Maureen Peters, Jackie Clark, Trish McKelvey, Cheryl Henshilwood, Linda Lindsay, Kirsty Bond, Catherine Campbell, Heath Mills.

Cover Photo

Domestic Player of the Year, **Bharat Popli**. Courtesy of Photosport

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PREMIUM PARTNERS



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Past Player Feature – *Ian Smith* By Margot Butcher



"I can't deny that it is one of the great jobs. If you love sport, and love the sports you work in, you cannot get a better job. From the press box at Lord's to the MCG when it's fever pitch for a World Cup final and you're still looking down the pitch, with the best view of anybody - you pinch yourself."

But while many have tried, Ian Smith has succeeded. Having started with SKY back when Cricket Max was still a thing, 'Smithy' is now well into his second decade as a man for all seasons behind the mic — and we're not even going to attempt to total up how many Test matches that entails. Cricket was the relatively easy one, though not quite as easy as you might think, after playing 63 Tests and 98 ODIs culminating in the 1992 Cricket

World Cup. But the oval ball, as opposed to The Oval? "Yeah, it took me a long time to feel confident — because I'm sure most of the country thought, 'what's a wicketkeeper doing talking about rugby?'"

A surprising "four or five years", in fact. His thing was to make sure he gained the respect of the coaches and the captain first, because they were the guys with whom he was mostly dealing with on camera. "That takes a while because you're working not just in your own New Zealand environment, but overseas. I eventually got to a stage where people like Sir Clive Woodward would come and say, 'How are you, mate?' — and it's just the little comments like that that make you feel as if you can be in this environment."

There's got to be a metaphor in that. Certainly when Smithy picks back through his memories of how he got to be New Zealand's indispensable Test raconteur, time and again it's the same language as that of any young player looking to

establish himself in a team. Fitting in, acceptance, respect — all the biggies on the way to unlocking your confidence.

The commentary box was just the new team. He was in his late 30s, and he says he was very lucky to learn alongside Richie Benaud. "Channel Four in England had just won the cricket rights off the BBC for the first time in 36 years and it just so happened that New Zealand was touring that year. That season worked well for them so they decided to retain the same commentary team — so I went back six years in a row, and to spend six English summers with Richie Benaud on pretty much a daily basis..."

...Marvellous.

Last year was a freakish one for Smithy, with both the cricket and rugby world cups, another tour of England, Bledisloe Cups and plenty more travelling in domestic cricket and rugby. "I travelled more commentating in 2015 than I ever

did playing. I came home from the Rugby World Cup, was in New Zealand for 22 hours and then went straight to the 'Gabba! I think I had something like a third of the year out of the country."

This year is calmer in both sports, but it begs the question — isn't there a point where he just gets sick of the travelling? Yep, and it's nowhere near as much fun when you're winging it alone, sans team. But he also never gets sick of the view looking straight down the pitch from the media centre at Lord's, and even after all this time in sport he still calls being on the ground at all "an absolute privilege".

Smith played junior rugby, so it's not as if he was an alien to the other game, besides which he's been a keen, lifelong watcher. Watchers and analysers — that's keepers in a nutshell. "As a wicketkeeper I often found it difficult to find someone to talk to about my keeping," he notes. "Batsmen have other batsmen to talk to, as do allrounders, bowlers — but keepers have to self-analyse themselves in the game. Maybe that helped, ultimately."

It doesn't wholly explain his rarefied spot in what can often be a harsh, short-lived — and immensely competitive — workplace. A bit like top sport, plenty think they could do it; few actually can. Secrets? Well he tries to remember that being sensitive to public opinion is human nature, and even the greats have their knockers; and he doesn't do social media even though a radio boss set him up with a Twitter handle ("I'm happy living vicariously through Douilly and Styris in Twitter — I'd be a bit dangerous with my kneejerk comments.")

But if there's any secret, it's mostly that he still just genuinely enjoys his sport. Test matches in cricket are still his ultimate "because the pace of the game lends itself to being more descriptive and more narrative; to telling the game as a story. Both rugby and T20 are more finite — you get one chance to make a point before the moment is gone." Commentators work in shifts of course, but even over the five days of the most lumbering of cricket matches, "I find I'm not far away from watching every ball of a day's play. It would be very rare for me to miss more than 20 minutes of cricket throughout the day. Even if I'm talking to someone, I'm watching the game over their shoulder."

Maybe that's another old wicketkeeping trick. Next season, Smithy's got another busy five months on the cards with international cricket, in an industry where

your performance is monitored as closely as it is on the field. It takes him to places that bring back memories from his own playing days, and for the veteran of the 1992 World Cup semi-final — his last game for New Zealand, he was never more emotional than at Eden Park for the 2015 edition.

"There are so many fantastic cricket grounds around the world and yet I don't think I've had a bigger high, of all the commentary I've done in my life, than Grant Elliott hitting that six. And when I say high, I think it took me longer to get over that moment, and come back down to earth as a commentator, than any other moment I've commentated — and that includes the All Blacks winning 8-7 against France in the RWC final. My heart was racing, and I looked out the window, and everyone at Eden Park was embracing and high-fiving and to sit up there and try to describe it — that was unique." ■



Photos Courtesy of Photosport

Players Tee Off For Charity



Pakuranga Golf Club once again played host to the annual Players' Golf Day on what was a spectacular summer's day. A record number of twenty four teams participated in this fun packed day that is renowned for its relaxed environment, which boasts unparalleled access to some of New Zealand's most popular sports stars.

The popular golf day was sandwiched between the conclusion to the ANZ international series and prior to the Blackcaps departure for the ICC World Twenty20 in March. The Players' Golf Day is a great way for players to relax - and

is a great way for them to interact with CPA partners and to contribute toward the principle fundraising initiative for The Cricketers Hardship Trust.

The timing of the international and domestic schedules meant all Blackcaps contracted players were in attendance, providing our corporate guests with a truly unique experience.

The golf is always competitive and this year Colin Munro took the Cricketers Golf Cup for the first time, and ANZ (sponsorship team) take out the coveted team trophy.

Omnipresent was the underlying cause behind the day – The Cricketers Hardship Trust – and once again it was great for our cricketers to shrug off their busy schedule and get directly involved with cricket's charity to help raise much needed funds. This year we are pleased to announce another record donation in excess of \$15,000 was made to the Trust – a special thanks to all who helped us to achieve this result.

We are grateful to all who donated prizes on the day, along with New Zealand Cricket, DB and Pakuranga Golf Club GM Des Topp, and Sam Thomas and his staff in the Pro Shop.

The Cricketers Hardship Trust

Unfortunately, cricketers do not always enjoy the financial rewards available to some of today's cricketers, and many sacrificed an enormous amount in playing for the province and country. It is also a reality that ill health or unfortunate circumstances affect many past players and it is during these times of need that the Trust wants to do what it can to ease some of the stress and hardship that these former players and their families experience.

WHAT IS THE HARDSHIP TRUST?
A charitable trust established by the current professional players and NZCPA with a view to assisting past cricketers who have fallen on hard times.

THE TRUST'S PRIMARY PURPOSE:
To provide relief and support to past cricketers and their families in times of hardship.

Please visit www.thecricketershardshiptrust.co.nz for more information, or if you know someone who may be in need. ■



Photos Courtesy of NZCPA

From One Stellar Career To Another

By Margot Butcher

Confession time for recently retired BLACKCAP Nathan McCullum. Working fulltime since April for international agency Stellar Recruitment — where he helps other people get jobs, and prepare to get them, particularly in the construction and engineering industries — it turns out he himself didn't walk in with a CV.

So we're sitting talking about how you go about teaching players the basics of identifying and then conveying their skills, understanding behavioural questions and working out best career fits, transitioning and all the rest of it and all of a sudden there's that big, honest grin. "Yeah... there are a lot of people my age in professional sport who find writing a CV pretty daunting!" [a service offered through the CPA's Personal Development programme].

But Stellar's company bosses already knew Nathan's attributes, since they all went to school together in Dunedin some 20 years ago. Connecting with people matters too — and learning to make the most of those relationships by working out which way you want to head. Look at Nathan's own transition and it seems seamless. But (CV or not!) a lot of prep and thought had gone into it long before the day he got back from the recent ICC World Twenty20 ready for a new phase in his life.

Stellar was born eight years ago, originally in Perth where one of his mates had been recruited to work in the mining industry. The other was the recruitment consultant in Brisbane. Cut a long story short and they recognised an opportunity to build an agency that now has offices in Brisbane, Perth, Christchurch, Auckland, Hong Kong and Denver. Nathan had started working for them part-time well before retirement from international cricket, and is already responsible for placing a least one other cricketer in direct employment: Volts Roald Badenhorst now works for Stellar as a logistics and supply chain consultant.

It's not all about hard-hat miners, builders and engineers, Nathan explains. "The infrastructure industry needs everything from skilled professions like electricians to strategic thinkers, project managers and CEOs, employees with business skills, so we work with quite a wide array of people."

Stellar is also closely tied with Brisbane-based company Global Elite, where founding director Richard Stenhouse's rugby background helped him build a solid sports recruitment and consultancy business. Put those two constellations together and it's a powerful portal to meaningful, interesting careers beyond cricket.

"It's going to be good helping people," says Nathan, who will be working with the CPA's National PDP Manager, Sanj Silva, to assist in career development opportunities for members. And he's thoroughly enjoying his own transition. "I'm working day to day with companies on the residential building front, with existing clients plus finding new ones. It's very people-focused. Very much about meeting people and listening, with elements of business development and promotional skills as well — promotional skills having been an area I developed as a professional cricketer."

Stability is going to be the big change. "Getting used to being a real family. Spending more time at home with my partner Vanessa and our three boys [an energetic young tribe between two and six], and doing dad-stuff like drop-offs and pick-ups, watching sports and going to kid's birthday parties that in the past have been real novelties for me. That was a major factor in timing my retirement — and being able to transition into a corporate world that allows me to be there for them now is really exciting. It makes me genuinely passionate about doing that for other people, which is the Stellar brand — helping good people get good jobs!" ■



Photos Courtesy of Photosport

A Quintessential Weekend In Queenstown



The master's weekend remains the pinnacle event for CPA past playing members and the feedback and success of this year's tournament, and the entire weekend, provides a platform for ongoing growth in the future.

Of course, the Masters Weekend is not just about cricket – as much as the T20 tournament is central to the weekend - it is the supporting activities and functions that brings generations of cricketers together and rekindles friendships from the past, and forms new connections for the future.

The weekend started with the normal activities and the welcome function on Friday. Graham Burnett, Barry Cooper, Martin Pringle (and Bill Fowler) were acknowledged for keeping their 100% masters attendance record intact for

another year – although a nasty fishing injury confined Coops to the hospital/hotel for the majority of the weekend.

On the field, it was Auckland who swatted away a spirited Wellington in the final, on their way to notching up a third successive Masters Championship in Queenstown over the weekend.

Wellington qualified for the final by beating Canterbury in the opening match and then easily accounting for last year's finalists Northern in the afternoon match. Buoyed by a convincing win in both matches the capital side had reason to be optimistic of securing their first Masters title, especially when 2015 tournament MVP, Guy Coleman, succumbed to a calf injury in the opening match of the weekend.

Morning rain threatened to deny Wellington their chance for success, but when the weather cleared a full match took place in brilliant afternoon sun. Auckland skipper Richard Jones won the toss and elected to bat as they had done so effectively in the previous two matches.

The defending champs were purposeful from the outset and with Jones (36*), Darrin Crooks (46*) and Craig Pryor (37*) all surpassing the compulsory retirement score of 35 they had gained control of the final. Martin Pringle scored a brisk 36 in an commanding opening stand with Jones, and with the Wellington attack unable to contain the flow of runs an ominous total loomed – the Aucks powering on to post a weekend high score of 182 for 2.

Wellington needed their key players to fire. Scott McHardy had made good contributions in the first two matches, but was clean bowled with the second ball of the innings. When Scott Davies bowled Chris Nevin the 3rd over and captured his third with the next ball the Wellingtonians were under real pressure. Much of the hope lay with Mayu Pasupati and Paul Hitchcock who combined in a partnership that brought Wellington right back into the match – but when Pasupati was dismissed just shy of the retirement mark, it was like an anchor had been applied to the scoring rate. Hitchcock retired on 36* but did not get the chance to return for one final flourish as the final wicket partnership between Ewen Chatfield and John Murtagh could not be broken. The innings ending with

Wellington stranded at 115 for 8.

Day one of the tournament produced some closely fought matches, including an epic battle between last year's finalists – Auckland and Northern. After smashing their way to 174 Auckland looked in full control with an over remaining and Northern requiring 28 for victory. Grant Robinson strode back to the crease following the fall of the 9th wicket, after retiring earlier on 35*. He then plundered 4, 6, 6, 4, 4, 6, as he took full toll of the short square boundary on ground number 3 – agonisingly close to snatching victory, but ultimately falling 2 runs short. Robinson's knock of 65 *was the best all weekend, and this match one of the highlights.

The bowling performance of the weekend came from Central's local 'fill-in' Kevin Laggenberg, who picked up a hat-trick with the last three balls of the innings against Otago – all of which were bowled. Then in the next match Central skipper Mark Greatbatch threw the ball to the young colt and he proceeded to snare another with his first ball – making it four in a row – all of which were bowled. Laggenberg performed well enough in CD's two matches to secure the tournament's CricHQ MVP award.

During the morning game on Saturday Mayu Pasupati did the unthinkable, remarkable even – a full length diving catch over his left shoulder, after sprinting for almost 25 metres (as it was described by those witnesses). This is the type of stuff legends are made of, and this effort is bound to go down in folklore as it is debated and recalled in future tournaments.

The weekend would not be as successful, or in fact possible, this year without the support of the Grassroots Trust, Pub Charity and the six Major Associations. ■

SUMMARY OF NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Batting

(retirement at end of over after scoring 35)

Grant Robinson (ND), 65*;
Glen Sulzberger (CD), 50*;
Brent Findlay (CAN), 47*;
Darrin Crook (AKL), 46*;
Martin Pringle (AKL), 40 & 36;
Richard Jones (AKL), 40 & 36*;
Craig Spearman (CD), 39;
Kelvin Scott (CAN), 37*;
Paul Hitchcock (WTN), 36*;
Craig Pryor (AKL), 37*;
Simon Forde (OTG), 37*;
Glynn Howell (WTN), 36*;
Mayu Pasupati (WTN), 36;
Paul Henry (OTG), 36;
Steve Brown (AKL), 35*;
Kevin Laggenberg (CD), 35*.

Bowling

Kevin Laggenberg (CD), 4-10 (4);
Kelvin Scott (CAN), 4-15 (4);
Mark Greatbatch (CD), 3-7 (2);
Scott McHardy (WTN), 3-8 (3) & 2-8 (2);
Scott Davies (AKL), 3-20 (3);
John Cushen (OTG), 3-20 (4);
Grant Thorpe (AKL), 3-24 (4) & 2-11 (4);
Mayu Pasupati, 3-25 (4) & 2-9 (2);
Kevin Morey (ND), 3-29 (4);
Dean Askew (CD), 2-15 (3);
Wayne Enoke (AKL), 2-25 (4);
Glen Sulzberger (CD), 2-25 (4);
Darrin Crook (AKL), 2-28 (4);
Nick Horsley (ND), 2-29 (4);
Simon Forde (OTG), 2-30 (3);

NZCPA MASTERS TOURNAMENT TEAM 2016

Darrin Crook	Auckland
Simon Forde	Otago
Scott McHardy	Wellington
Paul Hitchcock	Wellington
Richard Jones	Auckland
Mayu Pasupati	Wellington
Martin Pringle	Auckland
Craig Pryor	Auckland
Grant Robinson	Northern
Kelvin Scott	Canterbury
Craig Spearman	Central
Glen Sulzberger	Central



Photos Courtesy of NZCPA

Cricket Without Boundaries By Margot Butcher



of the impact fully-fledged professionals can have on the future of our game. The realities of international sport still mean, however, that many Kiwi kids won't get to experience the full bore excitement of a live international match in their formative years unless their families can take them to the big smoke, or afford SKY. Not everyone can.

NZCPA's Hooked on Cricket programme, established in 2005, began a tradition in which we proactively play our part in attempting to share the joy of the game with a wider sweep of next-generation Kiwis — taking the game to low-decile schools in identified areas like Rotorua. Places teeming with active young kids who, through a mix of geographic and demographic parameters, just don't get a lot of exposure to the game.

The programme has proved immensely rewarding to all those involved over the past decade and it's great to see players like Melanie McGaw — a Hooked on Cricket graduate from Waitara — now coming through to Central Districts Under-21 level and pushing for a place in the Hinds.

Key to growing the game in a multicultural society is making sure it speaks to all

backgrounds. New Zealand Cricket this season introduced a Maori Cricket Scholarship initiative to help break down old perceptions that cricket is not a game for Maori. History says otherwise — for instance, New Zealand's first women's Test captain was Maori.

The NZCPA has been delighted to support the award, which provides promising young cricketers with a targeted toolkit of support to help them find their potential. Inaugural recipient Zak Gibson hails from Te Awamutu, where he attended Te Awamutu College and caught the eye of the Chiefs development programme. But a switch from a rugby to cricket high performance focus saw Zak make the NZ Under-19s team that travelled to Dubai and the U19s World Cup in Bangladesh this season. He rounded out the summer with his Knights debut, making a good impression in his first two first-class appearances as a young seamer.

The NZCPA congratulates Zak on a season that ultimately saw him named ND's Young Cricketer of the Year and we're looking forward to furthering his preparation for a promising career on and off the park in the Personal Development programme. ■

A legacy of the 2015 ICC Cricket World Cup in New Zealand was the influx of inspired kids signing up for the game. Associations saw their numbers grow in 2015/16 — Auckland, for instance, reported clubs experiencing a 20 to 30 per cent rise in registrations, significantly at the junior level. It's a wonderful reminder

Melanie McGaw Is Hooked On Cricket

A decade of Hooked on Cricket has benefited over 10,000 kids throughout New Zealand — mostly from areas where cricket does not have any presence. The injection Hooked on Cricket delivered has been a catalyst for long term participation and growth within South Auckland cluster schools like Bairds Mainfreight and Yendarra.

As well as schools, many individuals have developed a love of the game of cricket, spawning from the Hooked on Cricket tournaments. Recently we caught up with a Melanie McGaw who took part in one of the earlier Taranaki tournaments.

- 1. You took part in Hooked on Cricket when you were younger, which school was that with?**
Waitara East Primary school. Hooked on cricket was a huge part of how I got into cricket. I have always enjoyed playing sport, but it wasn't until I heard of this tournament that I really gave cricket a go. It wasn't really a sport I had got much exposure to in a town keen on netball, rugby and league.
- 2. What do you remember about participating in the Hooked on Cricket tournament?**
Playing my first games of cricket at Pukekura Park and really enjoying it.

- 3. Since that time you have done really well, tell us a bit about your best achievements in cricket.**
I have played U21 and women's cricket for Central Districts and last year I made the U21's tournament team at the New Zealand tournament. I was also lucky enough to travel to India to develop my cricket a few years ago, a place I might not have visited without cricket.
- 4. Who is your favourite player?**
Brendon McCullum



- 5. What are your future plans with cricket — any lofty goals?**
To keep enjoying it and with the massive growth in women's cricket at the moment, I think it would be amazing to play in a massive tournament like the Women's Big Bash League or the New Zealand team in the World Cup. But I'd still just be happy playing domestic cricket here in NZ or maybe even playing in another country.
We wish Melanie all the best with her cricket. ■

Williamson Repeats Players' Award

A summer that saw Kane Williamson scale to the top of the ICC World Test Batsman rankings was concluded with the ultimate accolade - acknowledgement from his cricketing peers as the 2016 The Players' Cap recipient.

The stellar 12 months for Kane Williamson was punctuated by consistency across all three formats and saw him become the first player to be awarded the player's award for a second time - a feat made more remarkable by the fact it was achieved across consecutive seasons.



Photo Courtesy of NZCPA

Williamson was typically bashful about being acknowledged as the players' Player of the Year after CPA Life Member Scott Styris presented him with The Players' Cap in front of delighted team mates, management and guests.

The standing ovation that Williamson received following his acceptance of the award was a special moment he shared with his mates. "It's such an honour to receive this award for a second time" "This is special team to be part of and this award is a reflection of the efforts everyone puts in throughout the year. This really is an award that is special to the players

and one that I am fortunate to receive again this year" said a humbled Williamson.

Williamson received this ultimate recognition from his mates a day after being selected for a swag of awards at the New Zealand Cricket Awards - including the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal as the Cricketer of the Year, Test Player of the Year, and the Redpath Cup for Batting.

Williamson scored five Test centuries this season while also setting a New Zealand record for the number of Test runs scored in a calendar year, all of which enabled Williamson to become the first New Zealander to top the ICC's Test batsman ratings in December 2015. ■

PLAYERS' CAP RECIPIENTS	
2016	Kane Williamson
2015	Kane Williamson
2014	Ross Taylor
2013	Tim Southee
2012	Brendon McCullum

Suzie Bates Receives First Women's Award



The inaugural presentation for the CPA Players' Award was completed at Pukekura Park, New Plymouth following the final Twenty20 international against Australia. The players have been a driving force in establishing the player voted award following the success of the same award in the men's team.

There was a high level anticipation as to who would win the coveted award, before

former White Ferns captain Aimee Watkins presented the first ever CPA Players' Award to Suzie Bates.

Bates was humbled by the occasion, which was made more special by the intimate and private setting for the presentation. "To be recognised by the team, and in particular my team mates is simply amazing. I am pretty pleased right now" said an excited Bates after the presentation.



Photos Courtesy of NZCPA

Bates further acknowledged that "I am thankful to the other girls. To be part of a group of players who want the team to be successful is the most important thing, and it is pretty special to be acknowledged in this way." ■

Ellis Earns Back-To-Back Domestic MVP Award

Last year Andrew Ellis proved his worth in domestic cricket by earning the MVP award for the first time. This year, he becomes the first player to retain the MVP award.

The Most Valuable Player system received a major overhaul this season and the new CricHQ MVP formula has simplified, clarified and enhanced the way these points are awarded. All-rounders have historically migrated to the top of the MVP leader boards, but this season the same cannot be said. The MVP for the Plunket Shield and Ford Trophy were both specialist batsmen – Bharat Popli and Jesse Ryder respectively – and the Super Smash saw T20 specialist Nathan McCullum take out the honour.

Throughout the season Andrew Ellis demonstrated his value to Canterbury across all three formats. The experienced Cantabrian adds to a long list of career achievements and confirms his status as a leading domestic player by doubling-up on the coveted domestic MVP title.

Ellis' best MVP showing was in the Ford Trophy where his 359 runs, 12 wickets and 6 catches saw him ascend to 2nd in the competitions MVP table – marginally behind the impressive Jesse Ryder. Ellis marginally missed the treble of top ten placing by ending up 11th on the Super Smash MVP table, and rounding out the season finishing 5th in Plunket Shield MVP list.

After not being included in either short form competition, Northern Knights' batsman Bharat Popli stamped his mark on the first class scene with an astonishing series of performances this summer. Surpassing a century on three occasions and with a top score of 172 the talented right hander also became the fifth player to score more than 1000 domestic first class runs in a season.

With the highest per match MVP average Popli's breakthrough Plunket Shield season catapulted him to the top of the Plunket Shield MVP table and 31st in the overall standings. ■



CRIC HQ

DOMESTIC CRIC HQ MVP OVERALL STANDINGS

	MVP Points
1 Andrew Ellis – Canterbury	234.23
2 Brad Cachopa – Auckland	210.92
3 Todd Astle – Canterbury	209.77
4 Donovan Grobbelaar – Auckland	206.53
5 Anton Devcich – Northern	192.38
6 Can Fletcher – Canterbury	184.24
7 Jeetan Patel – Wellington	183.26
8 Neil Broom – Otago	181.29
9 Tom Bruce – Central	178.61
10 Peter Fulton – Canterbury	177.77

PLUNKET SHIELD MVP

The leading CricHQ MVP standings in the Plunket Shield were

	MVP Points
1 Bharat Popli – Knights	126.40
2 Todd Astle – Canterbury	124.74
3 Scott Kuggeleijn – Knights	122.48

Batting Bharat Popli – Knights
Bowling Jeetan Patel – Firebirds

FORD TROPY MVP

The leading CricHQ MVP standings in the Ford Trophy were

	MVP Points
1 Jesse Ryder – Stags	78.81
2 Andrew Ellis – Canterbury	70.47
3 Seth Rance – Stags	68.05

Batting Jesse Ryder – Stags
Bowling Seth Rance – Stags

GEORGIE PIE SUPER SMASH MVP

The leading CricHQ MVP standings in the Georgie Pie Super Smash were

	MVP Points
1 Nathan McCullum – Volts	61.72
2 Anton Devcich – Knights	56.09
3 Peter Fulton – Kings	54.82

Batting Colin Munro – Aces
Bowling Warren Barnes – Volts

Women's Domestic MVP

Frances MacKay has been one of the pillars in the Canterbury Magicians team throughout the season and her consistency in taking wickets and scoring runs, has ultimately meant she is recognised as the 2016 Women's Domestic CricHQ MVP.

MacKay finished at the top of the Twenty20 MVP table, and was third on the one-day table, for a combined total of 148.11 CricHQ MVP points. Amy Satterthwaite was second with 144.49 points and Suzie Bates rounded out the top 3 with 141.96. ■



Photo Courtesy of Photosport

ONE-DAY MVP

The leading CricHQ MVP standings in the One Day competition were

	MVP Points
1 Suzie Bates – Sparks	112.96
2 Amy Satterthwaite – Magicians	108.79
3 Frances MacKay – Magicians	100.85

Batting Suzie Bates – Sparks
Bowling Frances MacKay – Magicians

T20 MVP

The leading CricHQ MVP standings in the T20 competition were

	MVP Points
1 Frances MacKay – Magicians	47.26
2 Sophie Devine – Blaze	35.91
3 Amy Satterthwaite – Magicians	35.70

Batting Sophie Devine – Blaze
Bowling Deanna Doughty – Blaze



Photos Courtesy of Photosport

Winter Work With

Real estate in Dunedin, winemaking in Hawke's Bay. Worlds apart — but Nick Beard (Right Page) and Ben Wheeler (Left) do have something in common besides cricket.

In their mid-20s, each is using their experience with teams to develop a career outside the game.

Ben's connections in his native Marlborough lit the spark for exploring a viticultural vocation, but Nick's need for reinvention was dramatic and sudden.

The Otago Volts spinner, a former NZ Under-19s rep, was "pinged" for his bowling action in 2014. He doesn't mince any words. "To have your career taken away from you like that is daunting. A big shock to be starting all over again. I'd advise anyone — especially domestic cricketers on six-month contracts — to have a balance in life because if things don't go well, it comes crashing down."

The rebuilding process? Highly stressful. "It's like learning how to bowl with the wrong hand," he says. "At the start, I was just standing and rolling my arm over like a six- or seven-year-old when you teach them to bowl — quite demoralising."

He's candid. NZC spin bowling coach Paul Wiseman "saw some pretty bad days" with him. And, he's still a work in progress. "But once I started real estate, I managed to settle down a lot."

Now a licensed agent with Cutler's, with his verbal gifts you'd imagine he was born to it. Certainly he'd already entertained thoughts of a career in sports journalism — he'd made it halfway through a degree in English studies at Otago Uni. "I was aware when I was younger of needing to have something outside the game... but I'd just never really done anything about it."

Wheeler and Beard By Margot Butcher

Motivation became urgent through his change in circumstance. Knowing the Cutler family through school and cricket, and having invested in a couple of rental properties himself, he'd developed an outside interest in the real estate biz. He asked owner John Cutler what he would need to do to take it further: by June 2015, he was working in their office, studying for his licensing papers, on the way to becoming a fully fledged agent. Within a fortnight of that, he was celebrating helping a client successfully win an auction — moreover, it was his own life that felt transformed.

I was aware when I was younger of needing to have something outside the game... but I'd just never really done anything about it.

"I think young players especially can be fixated on their cricket and I was one who didn't have the balance. Now I find if I have a bad day at training or in the park, I can be straight up to the office working it out of my system. And I like having the structure to my life — I'm that kind of person. You can get babied by the manager in a team, so I've learnt a lot about time management and organisation."

He never used to use a diary. Now he plans out every day "and, although at first I struggled with that, once I worked out how to make work fit around cricket, I was enjoying both a hell of a lot more. I've ultimately got more balance in my life, and a career outside of cricket to thank it for."

Cricket helped, too. Agents need to work individually yet as a team and that's very akin to the game.

"In cricket we don't get to choose our teammates and we're all different and operating at various levels of success within the team. What I think comes from that is our strength as cricketers of being able to adapt to people, to other personalities quite quickly. That's something that helps us in a workplace."

No argument from Ben Wheeler. In fact, ask him what he really enjoys about being a cellar hand — doing the general yakka on the winery estate — and it's harvest time out at Gimblett Gravels.

"Working these long shifts, you form a bond with everyone in the team. It's pretty full on for six weeks. Some days it's chaos with the amount of grapes to sort and get into the tank — with cab sav it gets processed through the night and the

winery runs 24/7. But even on the 'normal' days, you're working hard 12 hours a day, seven days a week, finishing at 7.30pm then having dinner with all the rest of the crew. You get through harvest and it's a nice sense of satisfaction."

It's pretty cool. I do those hard six weeks and cricket's not on my mind. It's not a holiday — but it's refreshing.

The Autumn harvest is brilliantly timed for cricket: full swing started the Tuesday after the 2015/16 season was over. "It's pretty cool. I do those hard six weeks and cricket's not on my mind. It's not a holiday — but it's refreshing."

Blenheim-born Ben's been interested in winemaking for as long as he's been a Stag — and that began the summer he left school in Marlborough. He worked that winter at a winery, through family friends in the business; then summer was back to full bore cricket.

"I did that for three or four years but the more I learned about the process of winemaking, the more I enjoyed it."

Introduced to the winemakers — both of whom love their cricket — by the NZCPA, this season was his first harvest with Craggy Range in Hawke's Bay. Ben

went out to meet them last year and did a couple of days' work experience so they could get a good look at each other. They extended to him a chance to get involved when practicable, across the year.

Murphy's law: last winter's call-up to the BLACKCAPS in England had stepped in the way, but this year he's got a solid chance to soak up their knowledge.

"I wanted to study winemaking, but talking to Mark [Stafford, the chief winemaker], he felt that upskilling myself by working part-time in the industry was more beneficial. I can do some qualifications later on — if I wanted to move up to cellarmaster, for instance. But cellarhand is a good spot for me to be at the moment."

Now 24, when his back injury played up in March, "Wheels" also found it good having something else with which to occupy himself — he was able to keep working at Craggy Range for a couple of days each week. It will be his mainstay until around August, when he gets stuck back into hard cricket training.

"The longer you stay on during the year, the more you understand about the transformation from when they come in as grapes into decent wine, so I'm really looking forward to the opportunity ahead."

Full page photo on the left courtesy of Photosport
Photo below courtesy of Nick Beard



Welcome to Appliance Pacific



Appliance Pacific CEO Chris Peau is embarking on a new business venture after more than three decades of experience in the appliance industry – the majority of which was with global heavyweight Panasonic. Chris has an extensive knowledge of electrical products and has relationships throughout the industry that ensure Appliance Pacific is able to source the best brands and to provide a quality service.

Appliance Pacific has relationships with a large number of major worldwide brands and suppliers to give you the widest possible range of product and price choice. Among those brands are Panasonic, Samsung, LG, Fisher & Paykel and Miele, just to name a few.

Having previously helped a number of athletes with their appliance needs, Chris understands that the need for a personalised, trusted, service will be something that resonates with NZCPA members.

We recently caught up with Chris to get a better understanding of this service offered through the CPA Business Club.

What prompted the move to establish your own appliance company?

This was an idea and vision I had five years ago while working in my last year at Panasonic in 2011 before heading overseas on a 3-year Supply chain contract. I wanted to utilise my experience and skills running my own business in the industry I know best – and really want to create a quality customer service experience for our customers. The opportunity to assist NZCPA members is a dream come true and an opportunity that Appliance Pacific won't take for granted to ensure we take care of the small details in our service offering when we deliver.

The appliance market has some major retail chains like Noel Leeming and Harvey Norman among others. What makes Appliance Pacific different?

The Retail Industry is evolving alongside the advances in technology and Appliance Pacific operates with a service driven philosophy and coupled with a low overhead model provides our point of difference within this competitive consumer sales market.

Appliance Pacific provides a personalised service and sources the best products and brands, all at discounted rates that ensure you receive tremendous value. Our nationwide reach ensures that we can service your needs wherever you are within New Zealand.

The big box guys have a great range of electrical appliances, how deep does the range of products you offer go?

Our range of goods is on par with what is currently on offer in the big retail store outlets and this includes new and latest range of Electrical & Home appliances. What you see in store with our competitors is what we can source.

So you can source pretty much any electrical product, phones, computers, Whiteware, TV and more – and as a NZCPA preferred supplier the prices must be great too?

Yes, we source from an extensive product range of established small, medium and large electronic big ticket items, through to major Whiteware brands including Air conditioning. NZCPA members can expect up to 30% off retail, without compromising on service.

It seems that new products are emerging all the time, I guess that's where your industry experience comes in and where you can help guide our members to making the correct purchase to match their needs?

Definitely, decision making before purchasing product is either on brand, price and features of the product which sometimes can be confusing. We know how brands perform in the market from an 'after sales' point of view that can be the difference in deciding what you purchase in the end.



And what about ordering – how do CPA members go about researching, viewing and purchasing products?

That's simple

- » For product enquiries - contact me by mobile, email or through our enquiry webpage.
- » To view products - visit any appliance store nearest you, as they have the same product range Appliance Pacific offer.
- » Purchasing will be processed through Internet banking, once order is confirmed with Invoice.

We can also provide you with product specifications and measurements to help with the planning of major projects – like a new kitchen - or a simple as hanging that new TV on the wall.

And finally, is there any limit to what you can offer?

Not really, we cater for all - whether you are a private consumer or a commercial operation Appliance Pacific can secure the best products for your requirements at the best prices.

For more details visit the CPA members area, or directly to www.appliancepacific.nz

Appliance Pacific

Supplier of Electronic and Home Appliances

2016 Players' Survey

Players are important stakeholders within the professional cricket environment, making their collective insight a valuable tool for the CPA to discuss with the games administrators.

Like in previous years, the 2016 Players' Survey assessed all facets of the professional environment, including the player's insight on the CPA, New Zealand Cricket, Major Associations, domestic competitions, high performance, and the Blackcaps.

Planning is already well underway for the 2016/17 season and the survey provides the CPA with a snapshot view from the players, which can be discussed, challenged and implemented - where possible.



Snapshot Survey Results

NZCPA

100% believe NZCPA communicates well on cricketing matters.

99% believe NZCPA communicates well on general NZCPA matters.

100% believe NZCPA provides good assistance to players in MA environments.

100% believe NZCPA events are enjoyable, well organised and respect players' time.

79% of players were active in NZCPA's Personal Development programme [up from 73%]

100% believe NZCPA communicates well on cricketing matters.

Domestic Competitions

85% would like the GPSS played in a window that attracts the most at-ground attendance rather than the most television coverage.

95% of players believed reverting to the home/away games worked well.

79% of players do not support the concept of a GPSS 'Finals Weekend' at a pre-determined location (to allow for TV coverage).

79% of players would prefer a home-team final concept even if it meant the final wasn't on TV.

91% of players support the scheduling of the Ford Trophy as one continuous competition.

86% of players support the concept of a FT extended Finals Series (top four teams).

86% of players believe more games should be played at the start and middle of the season to reduce the rounds of Plunket Shield games from 7 to 5.

Marketing

52% of players thought the promotions they were involved in did not help create interest in the games in their home regions.

55% of players do not believe their Major Association uses player property effectively to promote and market the team and the three domestic competitions

High Performance

60% of players are aware of and understand how the NZC High Performance Programme works.

64% of players are aware of and understand how their MA's high performance programme works.

37% of players feel their IPP does not help with their cricket development.

60% of players would like to know more about the NZC high performance programme and how it aligns with their MA high performance programme.

HAGLEY OVAL was rated as having the best pitch

Grounds and Facilities

46% of players do not believe their MA provides appropriate outdoor practice facilities at all times throughout the season, including pre-season.

HAGLEY OVAL was rated as having the best pitch.

YARROW STADIUM's pitch was rated as requiring the most improvement.

30% of responses considered University Oval to have inadequate off-field practice facilities.

Helmet Standards

80% of players believe we should follow Australia/England and make prescribed helmet guidelines mandatory.

47% of players believe wicketkeepers and close-in fielders should be subject to the same policy.

47% of players made a change in helmet so that it complied with the new British Standard.

100% of Blackcaps representatives rate The Player's Cap as a valued award.

Blackcaps

100% of Blackcaps representatives rate The Players' Cap as a valued award.

95% of Blackcaps representatives believe the team environment is well organised with good planning and ensures the team and individuals are well prepared.

90% of Blackcaps representatives voted Test Cricket as the most valued international cricket format.

2015 Players' Conference



Fifteen players assembled in Auckland on 7th April for the annual Players' Conference.

The conference provides players with an opportunity to discuss and debate matters within the professional cricketing environment, as well as providing players' collective thoughts on proposals and issues for the upcoming season.

Items on the agenda this year were

- » NZC High Performance programme
- » Grounds and Facilities review
- » Master Agreement snapshot
- » Medical - Concussion and Helmet safety
- » Domestic Cricket review
- » CPA off-field services and event review
- » Agent Accreditation

One of the major topics of discussion was New Zealand Cricket's High Performance

programme and how this links to players in Major Associations. There remains wide variable in quality of HP programme's across the professional environment in New Zealand, and while it is considered beneficial to have independence at a Major Association level, there must be greater alignment of what are limited resources.

Concussion has affected at least two of our members this summer, after they received a blow to the helmet during play. The safety of player's remains paramount at all times and we are keen to promote a robust process that ensures they are as safe as possible in what is their workplace.

The services offered by the NZCPA were discussed to ensure we are proactive in meeting the needs of our members, both in the short and medium term.

The Players' Conference builds on the information gathered from the annual Player Survey. It ascertains key areas where the NZCPA seek improvements to the future professional cricketing environment. ■

Pulling Stumps

Michael Bates has called an end to his cricket career at a relatively young age of 32.

Thirteen years on the first class scene has started to impact on what has been a remarkably reliable career for an opening bowler. Niggles were beginning to build up after hurling 11,715 first class deliveries down 22 yards (193 wickets), plus another 4,380 in the two short formats (171 wickets) – longevity that will be sorely missed in the Aces squad next summer.

Bates earned his way into the Blackcaps team – two ODI and three T20I appearances – recording his best performance of 3/31 in the T20I v Zimbabwe at his home ground – Eden Park.

Bates was a long serving NZCPA Team representative before stepping down from this important position to allow other players to gain vital experience and insight into the professional cricket environment.

The McCullum brothers – Nathan and Brendon – have each called a conclusion to their international career, both having been around the cricket scene for 17 seasons after debuting for Otago in 1999/00. Nathan bows out as one of the world's leading short format players and having been rated the world's third ranking T20 bowler during a remarkably effective career. Family bragging rights may need to transfer to the golf course (where both are equally competitive), but Brendon may have an edge in the cricket chat, as he reflects on an international career that entered uncharted territory with that historic Test triple century, and by adopting style of play that installed confidence, inspiration and aspiration. The McCullum's have individually, and together, forged a crucial impact on the game in New Zealand – and both will surely be missed by fans. ■



The Insider

Round Maple And Rectangular Willow by Paul Ford



Batsman author Ed Smith put it thus: "Like parents and their teenagers, cricket and baseball are very much alike and yet determined to remain a mystery to each other." The Insider takes a look at the angst.

Cricket and baseball seem like they should be related – they're both about whacking a ball with a bat, running around in weird kit, riddled with jargon and attract polymath nuffies – but are the sports' origins aligned?

Well there's a bit of debate about this – "sort of" is probably the best answer. The latest research reckons cricket's origins were Belgian, with a 16th century reference to Flemish weavers who settled in southern and eastern England being described as "kings of cekettes", and used their shepherd's crooks as bats. Baseball on the other hand is thought to have its origins in the 14th century French game, la soule, or in the spiffing English sport of rounders which emerged in the 16th century.

The two greatest bat-and-ball games are often compared, and there is regular talk of cross-pollination of players and fans alike, but has anything meaningful manifested itself in reality from all this excitement?

No.

Who has written the latest chapter in this crazy book of cricket/baseball cross-overs?

The latest is Dallas-born Canadian baseballer Boomer Collins who has tossed in his round maple bat for a rectangular willow one. Collins is training hard (and looks to have mastered the pull shot and the switch hit from the footage) in an attempt to win a contract to play T20 in

India. Collins, who had never heard of the game before this year, is giving cricket his best shot. Last year he was dropped from the MLB Toronto Blue Jays' affiliate AAA team in Lansing, Michigan. Best quote: "With baseball you take your best swing whereas cricket you have to change your swing to the different balls that come in... If I turn this into a career, I turn it into a career. If I don't, I'll go get a job. I'm not going into this as if it's a hobby."

So did this come out of the blue?

Nope. Collins is working with a bloke called Julien Fountain, the founder of SwitchHit20 (switchhit20.com) which seeks to convert minor league baseballers into professional cricketers and has 150 potential candidates on its radar. Specifically: "SwitchHit20 is helping former baseball players use their baseball skills to find a new career playing T20 cricket." Fountain is the former fielding coach for West Indies, Bangladesh, Pakistan and England – and the Stanford Superstars.

Who else has attempted the cross-over, or at least attempted to attract attention by experimenting with it?

Kieran Powell has done a baseball immersion programme with decent reviews and retro cricketers like Neil Harvey, the Chappell brothers and Bill Lawry all dabbled. All the way back in the 1930s baseball legend Babe Ruth hosted none other than Don Bradman in his private box at Yankee Stadium. Marcus Trescothick hosted a benefit baseball match in which his team of professional cricketers were annihilated by the British amateur men's baseball team (21-1). The Guardian reported: "Pretty much every single run of the 21 involved a fielding error of one kind

or another." Then there is the documentary Million Dollar Arm about a couple of young Indian blokes – decent at cricket and very good at javelin – who won a reality TV contest to try out as pitchers in a baseball team – both ended up with pro contracts (but not for long).

So who hits it further: round maple or rectangular willow?

Generally the distance from the batsman to the boundary in cricket is shorter than that from the batter to the outfield wall in baseball – it's roughly 85 metres vs 120 metres respectively.

In terms of the "biggest hit ever" records, both sports have stats mired in controversy but I'll punt up Walter Fellows who thumped a ball 160 metres during practice at Oxford in the 1850s. (Slightly surprised it wasn't that day Mark Waugh walloped a Daniel Vettori delivery from the WACA to Fremantle.) In baseball it might be Mick Mantle's legendary but hard-to-measure 565-foot (172-metre) effort for the Yankees at Griffith Stadium back in 1953.

And who delivers the ball faster?

Despite the differences in delivery action, the delivery speeds are similar for both sports: the fastest recorded cricket delivery is 161.3 km/h (Shoaib Akhtar for Pakistan vs England in 2003) and baseball's record is 169.1 km/h (Aroldis Chapman for the Cincinnati Reds vs San Diego Padres at San Diego in 2010.)

Paul Ford (@beigebrigade) is a co-founder of the Beige Brigade and one-seventh of The Alternative Commentary Collective. ■

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