

SUMMER 2018 | No. 036

nzcpa **Players
better
together**
Cricket Players Association

OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



ANTON DEVCICH
CRICHOQ MVP

PLUS:
A PINK BALL TEST

BE READY FOR THE CHANGING WORLD WITH A BACHELOR OF ARTS



CRICKET 360

Cricket 360 is a coaching programme that provides young cricketers with a unique cricket experience and to provide employment opportunities to our network of members.

Cricket 360 should not only inspire young New Zealanders to become great cricketers, but equally to become great in themselves and in life – the same messages that we promote among our membership.

The inaugural sessions were held in Auckland and Wellington during October and January.

Jacob Oram leads the sessions and it was fantastic to have Daniel Vettori, Kyle Mills, Luke Ronchi and Chris Martin involved in the delivery of the programme. 🏏

Photos Courtesy of NZCPA



NZCPA | CONTACT US

NZCPA Office
 Cricket Avenue
 Eden Park
 Mount Eden
 Auckland 1024

Postal Address
 PO BOX 9915,
 Newmarket,
 Auckland 1149

P +64 9 630 3075
E nzcpa@nzcpa.co.nz
W www.nzcpa.co.nz

www.facebook.com/nzcpassn
www.twitter.com/nzcpa

Please see website for staff contact details

Players better together

PAST PLAYER FEATURE

JOHN AIKEN

By Margot Butcher



Margot Butcher recently caught up with John.

Instantly recognisable to anyone watching the Australian TV show “Married At First Sight”, psychologist John Aiken was an accomplished opening batsman who earned 46 first-class caps in a decade-long career on this side of the Tasman — 28 of them for Wellington for whom he scored four centuries. To this day, John also holds a share in Wellington’s List A all-time record opening stand, scoring his only one-day century in an unbroken partnership of 205 at the Basin with Mark Douglas in 1994/95. How did he manage to succeed in two very different spheres?

SO JOHN I SEE YOU WERE BORN IN SYDNEY — HOW DID YOU END UP IN NEW ZEALAND AS A 12-YEAR-OLD LAD?

“I moved from Australia in 1982 with my family, settling in Wellington. My father was a Professor in Accounting and taught at Victoria University.”

WHAT EVENTUALLY TOOK YOU BACK TO AUSTRALIA?

“I decided to move back in 2008 with my wife Kelly to take a chance in a bigger market and do more TV. Both of us had done a good deal of media in NZ, and at that stage we didn’t have kids. I had pretty much exhausted the NZ market having hosted reality shows, documentaries, and done the rounds on Breakfast and Good Morning. If we were going to jump, it was going to be before we started a family. I didn’t want to run a quiet private practice in Ponsonby for the rest of my life, so we took a deep breath and we jumped. Scariest but best decision we made as a couple!”

DO MANY PEOPLE MAKE THE CONNECTION THAT YOU WERE A FIRST-CLASS CRICKETER IN A FORMER LIFE?

“Nobody really knows about my cricket background here in Australia, although it’s started to change this year, with Channel 9 broadcasting cricket and Married At First Sight being such a big show. I’ve been asked to a couple of one-dayers recently in the Ch 9 suite, and my background in cricket has come up. I went into the commentary box the other day and met up with Michael Slater who I played against back in the NZ Academy days and we reminisced a bit!”

WITH AUSTRALIA’S LOVE OF THE GAME, DOES THIS KNOCK PEOPLE OUT WHEN THEY FIND OUT?

“It does surprise people as I’m generally known as “That guy off Married” and they don’t see me in a cricket context at all. It’s good being able to sit down and talk to people about cricket as it’s the number one sport here, and everyone seems to have an opinion on the national side!”

HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO TRAIN AS A PSYCHOLOGIST, WRITE A THESIS AND PLAY CRICKET AT A COMMITTED LEVEL ALL AT THE SAME TIME? WHAT WERE THE DISCIPLINES, ATTITUDES, TRADE-OFFS OR MOTIVATIONS THAT GOT YOU THROUGH?

“I’m a very organised person, so I would really discipline myself to manage all my academic and cricket commitments. It also helped that all my

lecturers were mad cricket fans who gave me plenty of support during this time!! I basically did all my fitness early in the mornings before University and did team practices at night. I treated University as a job Monday to Friday, whether or not I had lectures or tutorials. I wasn’t a big party guy, all my mates were playing cricket at the same level, so we encouraged each other and maintained our focus. Over summer, it was all about first-class cricket and taking time off the study. It took seven years, but at the end of it all I was playing high level cricket and I was qualified as a Clinical Psychologist.”

WAS THERE EVER ANY CROSSOVER BETWEEN YOUR CRICKET AND PSYCHOLOGY?

“Yes! I initially went into the discipline because of cricket. I thought I’d ultimately become a sports psychologist. Throughout my career, I used a lot of my psychology learnings and techniques to improve me as a cricketer. There’s a real role for it at the highest levels of sport and I loved trying out different strategies. In the end, though, I found the world of relationships more interesting and challenging, and specialised in this field.”

WERE THOSE DAYS FINANCIALLY CHALLENGING?

“It certainly wasn’t a big money-earner back when I played between 1989 and 2001. It would get you by during the summer and you didn’t have a lot of expenses, but most people I played with had full-time jobs that worked around their cricket schedule. In terms of my decision to retire, I was 30 and had just been dropped from the Auckland side. Throughout my career I tended to be a little inconsistent with the bat which saw me in and out of teams along the way.

I loved it but that was I time when I realised I probably wasn’t going to make a career out of this, and I was hungry to try out other new opportunities.”

DID YOU GO STRAIGHT INTO PRACTICE AFTER GRADUATING?

“I worked in forensic services, hospitals, and private practice during the winter, and then played first-class cricket during summer for Wellington and Auckland. I certainly had ambitions to go all the way, and was really pleased to get as far as New Zealand A. It was an amazing 10 years of my life and I have some great friends that I still keep in contact with today.”

WHAT DID CRICKET GIVE YOU IN TERMS OF SKILLS OR INSIGHT FOR FUTURE LIFE?

“I think cricket played a major role in terms of giving me practical life skills and setting me up for the future. It takes a great deal of discipline and focus to play first-class cricket. You have to push yourself and organise your life to get to the top, so it gave me an understanding of how important it is to be self-motivated, goal-driven and determined. It’s also a sport that requires you to get along with all sorts of different individuals, work as a team, develop leadership skills, be resilient when faced with setbacks, and be confident and trust in your skills. Even now, when I arrive on the set of ‘Married’ before a big dinner party, it reminds me of arriving in the afternoon before playing a one-day game. You have to go through all your pre-game routines, have a game plan, be confident in your skills, lead from the front, and be prepared to adjust to uncontrollables. For me, cricket has been a fantastic sport to prepare me for the life challenges ahead!”

DO YOU STILL KEEP AN EYE ON THE NZ DOMESTIC GAME / KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OLD TEAMMATES HERE?

“Absolutely! I often channel surf and check in with the NZ cricket scene. There are a few faces still that I know, but there are a lot of new exciting names that are pretty dynamic to watch. I love NZ’s aggressive style of play, the opening attack can knock anyone over, and there are some great strikers of the ball in the top order! I also keep in touch with several old teammates — Jason Wells, Stephen Hotter were best men at my wedding, and it’s always fun to catch up with my old NZ U20 mate Mark Richardson whenever we cross paths in the media!”

YOUR MEDIA CAREER BEGAN WHEN YOU WERE DISCOVERED IN A SUPERMARKET...

“Yes I had no real interest in doing media as a psychologist. It was 2002, I’d finished playing cricket and had a private practice in Ponsonby. One Sunday morning I was hung over and wandering around the supermarket trying to just get through the process of selecting food for the trolley. Then out jumped a film crew and a chef yelled “surprise”. It was a reality show called Surprise Chef, where they take the items in your trolley and go to your house and cook a dinner for you and your friends/partner. I smiled and politely declined but gave them my card in the process and I went on my way. About six months later the same production house rang me and asked if I’d be prepared to co-host a new reality show called ‘House Dates’ with Julie White. I initially said no, but after some strong perseverance from the producers I nervously jumped on board. Now I find myself on the biggest show of my life trying to cope with where that decision has taken me. I’m so glad I said ‘yes.’”



A PINK BALL TEST

27 NOVEMBER 2015 WAS THE DAY THE ICE WAS OFFICIALLY BROKEN ON DAY/NIGHT TEST CRICKET.



Cricket Australia were driving the latest adjustment to cricket's most respected format despite the obvious and very public concern of players worldwide. Ultimately, the desire to introduce day/night cricket was too great and Adelaide played host to the first ever 'pink ball' test – between Australia and the Blackcaps.

The game was deemed a success, largely on the back of decent crowd numbers and global interest from television audiences. The scorecard highlighted that this was just a stepping stone rather than the full solution. For the record Australia won by 3 wickets. The highest innings total was 224 (Australia) and no team batted longer than 73 overs.

The Test at Eden Park on 22 March 2018 will be the 9th day/night Test and the first in New Zealand. The match will be the first time the Blackcaps play with the pink ball since the inaugural match at Adelaide, but England have had two games – Birmingham October 2017 and Adelaide December 2017.

Given that the concept is so green, the recent experience that England boast could prove to be an advantage come March at Eden Park.

England are always and eagerly anticipated tour to these shores. They kick off their tour with the T20i Tri-Series at Westpac Stadium on 13 February. Those superstitious folk – of which cricket boasts a few over the years – will note the quirks of that fixture date coupled with the fact that it is a return to the venue where the Blackcaps steamrolled to victory in pool play the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015. At least it is not Friday the 13th!

The story is a little different with the Trans-Tasman battle at Eden Park. Last time round the Australians reversed the memory of that tumultuous game during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.

Following the Tri-Series final at Eden Park, the Blackcaps lock horns with Joe Root and his team in a five match ODI series. The English will be battle hardened after a challenging tour of Australia where they failed to fire during the Ashes series

loss, before finding their feet in coloured clothing to take out the series 4-1.

But the true test will be during the Test series. England boast a host of some of the game's modern greats – Alistair Cook, James Anderson and Stuart Broad – added to the class of Joe Root, who alongside Kane Williamson is acknowledged as one of the four world class batsmen in international cricket.

The Blackcaps have their own star performers too in Trent Boult, Tim Southee and Ross Taylor.

The stage is set, and for the first time, well lit. Let's hope the hype will be matched by an even competition where the influence of 'new' does not override what will be a great contest between the 4th (Blackcaps) and 5th ranked Test nations.

Tradition returns for the second Test at Hagley Oval in what will round out what has been a long busy summer for the Blackcaps. 🍷

Photos Courtesy of Photosport

IT'S WORK, JIM BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT

BY PROFESSOR RICHARD SHAW

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT INTO A BANK, SPOKE WITH A CHECKOUT OPERATOR IN A SUPERMARKET, OR HAD MILK (OR A NEWSPAPER) DELIVERED TO YOUR HOUSE?

Stop and think for a moment, and you'll see examples all around you of ways in which technological innovation is reshaping the kinds of work people do.

Google 'future of work' and you'll generate over a million hits, all of which portray a future world of work which is very different to the one most of us are currently in. Here are just a few of the factoids you're likely to bump into. The World Economic Forum

estimates that nearly 50% of all jobs will be significantly transformed or rendered obsolete by automation within the next two decades. And the impact will be spread around: a 2015 study by Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand predicted that 75% of labouring jobs, 20% of management positions, and 12% of professional positions in New Zealand may no longer exist in 2035. Finally, the idea of a single career is on the way out: in future most people will hold somewhere between 5-8 different (and in some estimates more) jobs over a working life - and most of those jobs do not yet exist.

Clearly, it's not all doom and gloom, because as artificial intelligence, smart algorithms and the rest displace some jobs they will also create new ones. The crucial thing that almost all of the 'future of work' research shows, however, is that

in this new world specific technical skills are not going to be enough. Along with mastery of specific 'hard' skills people are going to have to have 'soft' (also known as transferable) skills.

In other words, the ideal future employee will have excellent inter-personal skills and the abilities to size up situations rapidly, look at things from a fresh angle, and suggest new options. They will be creative thinkers, smart communicators, and capable of engaging with people from other cultures. Being able to problem-solve, think independently, and work in teams are also attributes that are going to be highly valued by employers in this changing labour market.

The evidence for this comes from both home and away. For instance, the July-August 2017 issue of the Harvard Business Review of August 2017 noted that liberal arts (i.e. BA) degree graduates are increasingly in demand, especially in the IT sector, because of their abilities to use, interpret, and critically engage with vast amounts of information. The author of the piece pointed out that 'From Silicon Valley to the Pentagon, people are beginning to realize that to effectively tackle today's biggest social and technological challenges, we need to think critically about their human context, something humanities graduates happen to be well trained to do.'

Closer to home, the same thinking applies. In the New Zealand Herald

(30/3/17) Mark Averill, CEO of PwC, said that 'These days it's all about people who can solve problems and are able to change and adapt quickly, so it's increasingly important for graduates to have broader, softer skills as well as a technical background.' And in a Radio New Zealand interview last year Kim Campbell, the CEO of the Employers and Manufacturers Association, had this to say: 'Soft skills are really important. Do you get along well with other people? Are you comfortable with other cultures? Are you able to learn new skills and are you willing to change as things change? Are you flexible in your attitudes to things? These things are hard to measure, but boy, are they important in building a career.'

It turns out that professional cricketers often possess just these sorts of skills. You work in teams, you're committed, and you're focused. You're self sufficient, can self-analyse, can work under pressure, and have developed communication skills. In short, you look like the kinds of people Averill, Campbell and co are talking about. But you're also likely to need a tertiary qualification that will signal this to a future employer.

If you are thinking of study, keep an open mind. You don't have to do a degree that sounds like a job (and having a degree that sounds like a job that is about to become obsolete is certainly not what you need!). Of course, you might know exactly what you want to study, which is a great place to be in. But you might simply want to study something you've long been interested in. That, too, is a good place to start from, because in my experience having an intrinsic interest in what you're studying is critical to getting through the study. Whatever you choose, bear in mind that the pathway to work (a bit like that to professional sport) can be a surprisingly windy one, and that it is those soft skills you pick up, from both cricket and studying, that are going to position you for the future.

Professor Richard Shaw is Massey University's Director BA (External Connections). With Jacob Oram, ex-international cricketer and Massey's Sport Advancement Coordinator, he is part of Massey's Athletes in Education programme, which has a partnership with the NZCPA's professional development programme.

Contact Richard on 06 951 6656 or at R.H.Shaw@massey.ac.nz, and Jacob on 06 356 9099 (83887) or J.Oram@massey.ac.nz.



Photos Courtesy of Massey University

STUMPED ON A CAREER

BY MARGOT BUTCHER



GRANT ROBINSON'S SHORT DOMESTIC T20 CAREER CAN BE SUMMARISED IN ONE SENTENCE:

"GOLDEN DUCK ON DEBUT IN THE 2008 DOMESTIC ONE-DAY FINAL."

His Hawke Cup record, on the other hand, includes a phenomenal knock of 268 for Hamilton that remains the second highest individual score in a competition contested for more than a century. Right there, the two extremes of life and cricket — and those extremes would follow the former ND cricketer hard into the world of work.

Batsman Robinson played 21 first-class matches for Northern Districts (his ND career best an unbeaten 125) and 18 List A's between 2001 and 2008 alongside the likes of the Marshall twins, Daniel Vettori, Scott Styris and Joey Yovich. But there was always a nagging torsion for him between his sport and the rest of his life.

"Player contracts were just coming in when I started, but cricket in my mind always remained a hobby, purely sport for me, rather than a career option. I had put education first. But I also had a really good season when I was 23, 24, and made a contribution when ND played South Africa in a warm-up game that encouraged me and at that point I thought, 'Hmmm, maybe I should actually concentrate more on this...'"

Looking to future-proof himself, Robinson had undertaken a five-year double major

and double degree — which he bravely put on hold.

"But over the next couple of years, it really gnawed away at me personally that a lot of my friends were moving on into good corporate jobs, and were on good money already. Cricket wasn't really moving forward for me, meanwhile and by the time I was 26, 27, I felt I was at a turning point where I had to choose my path. I went back to Uni and pretty much stopped knocking around the first-class scene when I was 28 — it just took me a few years to work it out."

He cleared his head by backpacking in Africa for a couple of months and got engaged in Tanzania, but when he returned to Hamilton he faced the harsh realities of trying to find a job at 28.

"The NZCPA put me in touch with a career coach and through the PD Programme I was introduced to a number of businesses related to the finance sector. But it happened to be a time when banks were cutting staff, rather than taking them on.

"I then went on a tough little journey of 125 job applications in five months, with not one interview!

"After that, with no job and no income at 28, I was really starting to hit rock-bottom in my confidence. Then through coincidence I caught up with [his former ND captain] Robbie Hart when we played a charity T20 in Mount Maunganui. We were chatting afterwards and it so happened Robbie worked in the Westpac commercial building in Hamilton, and said he'd organise a coffee with some of the guys he knew there — including the regional manager for Waikato/Bay of Plenty. By Tuesday I had a job."

Robinson has now been in the banking game nine years, and has thrived in seven roles within that time, readily taking promotions and opportunities in order to catch up on his peers. He wears multiple hats in Westpac's commercial banking arm as Area Manager for Auckland (looking after a team of 35) as well as managing a national, industry-based unit and a growth grants campaign that the bank runs with small businesses nationally.

But he hasn't forgotten. His challenging first-hand with transition out of cricket has made him passionate about the value of the NZCPA's PD programme in easing the jump from cricket to workplace. And despite a full-on career, he makes his time

available to get involved with players with an interest in a finance career — as well as raising the awareness for players as to what happens next in their life.

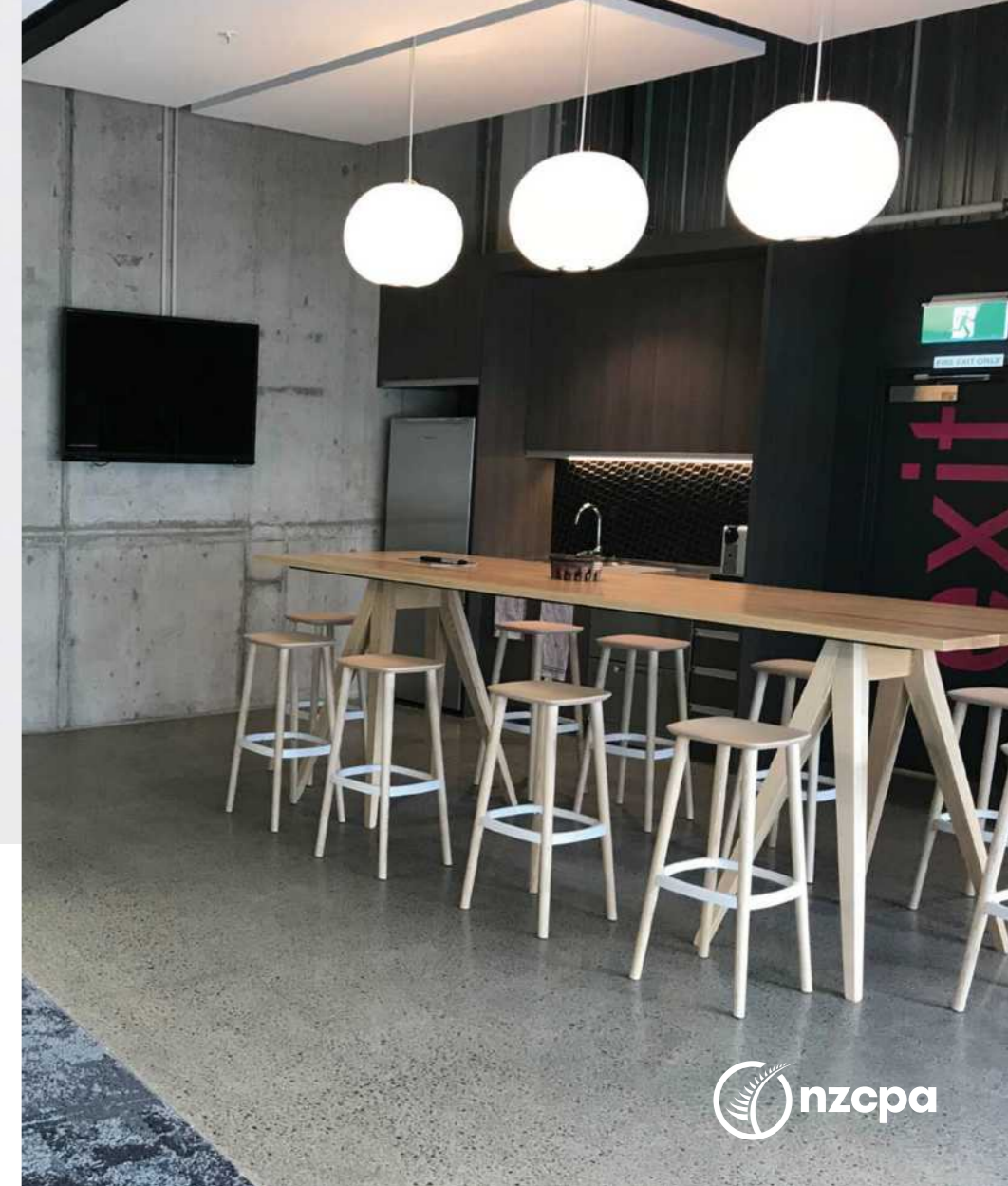
"Despite my difficulties getting a foot in the door, the transition was ultimately easy for me because especially in banking at that time it was quite male-dominated. There were packs and teams — it wasn't too dissimilar to the sporting environment I had come from! Now social norms have changed a lot since over the last 10 years, society has dragged us all forward and it's not all The Wolves of Wall Street in the commercial world. It's far more balanced and so you need to be very well prepared, you need to be switched on and realise you need the good all-round life skills to fit in.

"I think the NZCPA plays a key role in promoting transitional awareness to players, but as players it's important that you still need to respond to it. If you do, hopefully you can avoid the worst of that 'rude awakening experience' when you do finish playing.

"How do you future proof yourself? What's most important to you?"

Those are the questions to be asking yourself as soon as you can."

Grant had major struggles transitioning from the game and while he has a good job and career now, that was not easy to achieve. Great guy who is now working closely with sanj to help players via the pd programme. ●



NEW NZCPA OFFICE

After a year in temporary digs we are pleased to have secured a new office space at Eden Park.

The modest new office is located on Cricket Avenue (under the East stand) and we continue to share space with the Player Associations for rugby, netball and hockey — under the banner of the NZ Athletes Federation.

It is anticipated that the proximity to Eden Park will make it easier for us to catch up with players and hopefully to foster a welcoming base for our members to enjoy while they are in Auckland. ●

THE BIG BASH THEORY

PHAR LAP, PAVLOVA, CROWDED HOUSE, RUSSELL CROWE... AND ... AMY SATTERTHWAITE?

Put nothing past the Aussies when it comes to claiming New Zealand icons – and our very own Amy Satterthwaite is fast becoming one of the those at risk of being snapped up by our ANZAC buddies.

Recently, our modest kiwi superstar has lit up the cricket ovals in Australia to be acknowledged as the WBBL player of the tournament. Playing for the Melbourne Renegades (fittingly a red and black team), Satterthwaite powered her way to 368 runs at a healthy average of 33.45, chiming in with 11 wickets as well.

Last summer Satterthwaite was the second ranked player of the WBBL while turning out for the Hobart Hurricanes. Thankfully her form continued throughout 2016/17 summer with the White Ferns and we can all recall that World record three ODI centuries in a row, that resulted in

being awarded the CPA Players' Award (players' player of the year), along with a swag of others at the ANZ sponsored NZC award dinner.

The Renegades were a little off the pace in the race to the finals, but former White Fern Sara McGlashan did feature for the WBBL Champion Sydney Sixers. McGlashan and her Sixers team spoiled the party for Suzie Bates and Sophie Devine who were both playing for the Adelaide Strikers.

Playing high quality matches alongside and against the world's best players is a fantastic opportunity for our women's cricketers and it was great to see Katey Martin (Melbourne Stars), Lea Tahuu and Satterthwaite (Melbourne Renegades), Bates and Devine (Adelaide Strikers), Thamsyn Newton (Perth Scorchers), McGlashan (Sydney Sixers) and Rachel Priest (Sydney Thunder) all so heavily involved with their teams this summer.

With the glitzy show all done across the ditch, attention turns to the White Ferns home series against the West Indies. With 3 ODI's and 5 T20i's there is plenty at stake as the team looks to continue the hot form they showed against Pakistan before Christmas where they were victorious in 6 of the 7 matches.



AMY SATTERTHWAITE



STEFANIE TAYLOR

The West Indies pose a much bigger threat and boast a few world class players that the White Ferns will need to tame. Stefanie Taylor is currently ranked as the world number one T20i batter and along with third ranked Deandra Dottin there is sure to be some fireworks from the Caribbean team.

Much will hinge on the form of Suzie Bates who is ranked between this pair and the swashbuckling Sophie Devine who is also in the top ten, in ninth place. The powerful duo will have to contend with Hayley Mathews who rounds out a West Indies quinella as the world's best T20i bowler.

In a unique quirk, Taylor, Dottin and Mathews are also the top three ranked T20i allrounders.

With plenty of talent on offer it is going to be great to see the White Ferns defend their home turf, as Satterthwaite reconnects with the class of Bates, Devine and Tahuu and co. 🏏



WORLD PLAYERS DECLARATION OF PLAYER RIGHTS

STEPH BOND, EXECUTIVE MANAGER OF THE NETBALL PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION AND LEGAL COUNSEL AT THE RUGBY PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION, ATTENDED THE WORLD PLAYERS' CONFERENCE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NZ ATHLETES' FEDERATION.



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION of PLAYER RIGHTS



On 14th December 2017, in Washington DC, the World Players' Association launched the Universal Declaration of Player Rights.

The Declaration is the first comprehensive articulation of athletes' rights in the world. It sets a benchmark for international sporting organisations to meet their obligations to protect, respect and guarantee the fundamental rights of players.

It is expected that the principles in the Declaration will assist in reforming sports law internationally so that it recognises the human rights of athlete. Some examples include:

- » Every player has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- » Every player has the right to share fairly in the economic activity and wealth of his or her sport which players have helped generate, underpinned by fair and just pay and working conditions.
- » Every player is entitled to have his or her name, image and performance protected. A player's name, image and performance may only be commercially utilised with his or her consent, voluntarily given.
- » Every player must be able to access an effective remedy when his or her human rights are not respected and upheld.

While it may be assumed that the above rights of athletes in New Zealand are protected through the various player associations, it is important to understand that all players are bound to various systems and regimes of international sporting organisations and not all of these organisations currently comply with the principles of the Declaration. The mission for the Association is to embed these fundamental human rights in all organisations within world sport.

The World Players' Association was established three years ago as the global association of player associations and athletes across all of professional sport. It represents over 85,000 professional athletes, organised primarily through more than 100 player associations.

FICA (Federation of Cricketers Associations) and the Athletes Federation (NZ) are members of the World Players Association which provides the NZCPA an opportunity to work alongside other leading international associations such as IRPA (rugby), NFLPA (NFL), NBAPA (NBA) and FifPro (Football).



FICA WORLD MARKET REVIEW

PLAYERS

The game and player employment landscapes continue to shift globally and players are moving more around the world than ever before. For example, in 2016 there were 431 overseas player opportunities across the top flight domestic T20 leagues in the men's and women's game. This represents a significant proportion of the entire global player employment market.

In 2018 FICA will be releasing its first Men's and Women's Employment Market Reports. These reports will be based on a combination of player insights, survey data, and statistical analysis of the game and its structures.

Players guide FICA's views and positions and accurately representing player views and ensuring their voice is heard and contributes to the development of the game globally remains the core focus for FICA.

We thank players around the world, including those in New Zealand, for their ongoing engagement and contributions. This will be increasingly important moving forward.

OUR PEOPLE

With the game and player landscapes evolving, ensuring collaboration between players' associations around the world continues to be an important function of FICA, including at operational level. This is critical to ensuring the associations can continue to effectively service their members and players.

In 2017 the heads of Player Welfare from each players' associations met in London to discuss the shifting landscape. Some clear direction and actions were taken out of that meeting that directly relate to investment in global player welfare and support for players around the world. These outcomes are currently being actioned.

In 2018 FICA will be commencing its Secondment Program, facilitating an opportunity for an existing players' association staff member to spend time in another players' association. FICA is committed to investing in the people that make the players' associations function so effectively and who do the outstanding work they do for players and the game.

RECENT AND UPCOMING

After supporting the ACA MOU negotiation in 2017, FICA has since provided direct assistance to the newly established Scottish Cricketers' Association in delivering the first collective agreement between the players and the Board in their country. The agreement is a comprehensive agreement covering player arrangements. Along with its ongoing work for players across the game, FICA looks forward to providing support in several other countries as they enter collective negotiations in 2018, including in New Zealand.



DEVICICH

ROMPS TO CRICHQ MVP HONOUR

ANTON DEVCICH SHOWED HIS ALL-ROUND SKILLS DURING THE HOT HOLIDAY PERIOD, IN WHAT WAS A THRILLING BURGER KING SUPER SMASH COMPETITION, TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE CRICHQ MVP.

Knights captain Dean Brownlie had the luxury of flicking Devcich the white Kookaburra at any stage of the innings knowing that he could stem the run flow as well as chime in with some handy wickets. When the Knights stride to the crease it is Devcich who commands the opposition bowlers be on their game, otherwise the stylish left hander can unleash a barrage of boundaries.

The fast-paced flamboyant youngest child that is the Twenty20 format is supposed to be the domain of the millennials, but Devcich who debuted in the format during the 2005/06 season has made it abundantly clear there is plenty of life in the old(er) dogs as well.

In fact, it is probably truer that while the young stars make the headlines with reverse slog sweeps, whoppers and the odd unusual delivery, it is those with a bit more experience under their belt who tend to shape their team's fortunes with a greater understanding of when to unleash their latest skill innovations.

So, experience pays and in a format where there is nowhere to hide, so does consistent quality play. Devcich scored the most runs in the competition with 343 at a strike rate of 168.13. Averaging 42.87 along the way with a top score of 88 not out. With the ball the left arm orthodox captured the second most wickets with 15, at a very respectable economy rate

of 6.39. Throw in a few catches and the architect of the odd run out and it is quite clear as to why Anton Devcich was this seasons CricHQ MVP for the Burger King Super Smash.

The Knights were victorious at home in the Super Smash final and while Devcich delivered a finals MVP performance of his own (3-16 and 51*), his opening partner Tim Seifert was not to be left in the shadow of his opening partner scoring a quick fire 23.

Seifert finished in second spot on the CricHQ MVP table, making a statement when he lit up his home town Bay Oval with a record setting century to mark the grounds inaugural day night fixture.

Mark Chapman was at the core of the Auckland Aces efforts as was Will Young for the Stags, these two also surpassing the benchmark 300 run mark, along with Devcich and Seifert.

Blair Tickner was a revelation this year for Stags snaring 21 vital wickets as the Stags marched their way to a second successive Burger King Super Smash final. That man Devcich featured in second spot with 15 wickets, ahead of a bunch of players with 13.

However, pursuit of the Burger King Super Smash title is what drives the players and the Stags will be rueing the fact that their key MVP performers from throughout the competition were kept quiet during the Super Smash final by the experienced Knights side.

ANTON DEVCICH



BLAIR TICKNER

BURGER KING SUPER SMASH

CricHQ MVP leaders

ANTON DEVCICH	1
Total MVP Points: 77.98; Batting 40.38 (2 nd), Bowling 33.8 (2 nd)	
TIM SEIFERT	2
Total MVP Points: 55.08; Batting 36.18 (3 rd), Fielding 18.92 (2 nd)	
MARK CHAPMAN	3
Total MVP Points: 52.42; Batting 40.85 (1 st)	
DANE CLEAVER	4
Total MVP Points: 46.38; Batting 21.54 (15 th), Fielding 24.84 (1 st)	
ANDREW ELLIS	5
Total MVP Points: 46.04; Batting 12.51 (33 rd); Bowling 23.45 (8 th)	

Ranking place shown in brackets

BOWLING

BLAIR TICKNER	1
Stags 36.47	
ANTON DEVCICH	2
Knights 33.80	
AJAZ PATEL	3
Stags 33.02	

BATTING

MARK CHAPMAN	1
Aces 40.85	
ANTON DEVCICH	2
Knights 40.38	
TIM SEIFERT	3
Knights 36.18	

UPCOMING EVENTS



CHARITY GOLF DAY

We hope that many of our members will be able to make this event that is intended to substitute for the Masters Weekend. The timing is coordinated with the 2nd Test v England at Hagley Oval, with Charity golf and dinner on the eve of the Test.

We are able to provide a limited number of tickets to the Test match (for those without an international past player pass), and are pleased to confirm that we are now hosting in a hospitality area on day one of the Test.

- » Thursday 29 March **QSCC-CPA Charity Golf Day, Christchurch Golf Club**
Individual spots are available to CPA members.
- » Friday 30 March **Members Hospitality, Hagley Oval, Christchurch**
Yes, this is Good Friday! But a great chance to take a weekend away and catch up with mates or just take in part or all of the Test at Hagley.

A small fee will apply for the hospitality as we are unable to cover all costs associated with the day.

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- » Friday 9 March **Derby night, Alexandra Park, Auckland**
All members welcome.
- » Sunday 11 March **Women's Past Player Function**
hosted in the Hadlee pavilion, Hagley Oval, during the White Ferns v West Indies match
- » Wednesday 21 March **Dinner with Bumble (David Lloyd) at the Northern Club, Auckland**
SOLD OUT
- » Friday 16 March **Northland Luncheon, Cobham Oval, Whangarei**
All members welcome.

PREMIUM PARTNERS



Photos courtesy of **photosport**

Designed and printed by **presentations design & print ltd**

BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS



THE INSIDER

THE FIRST XI OF CRICKET FILMS AND TELEVISION

by Paul Ford

Paul Ford goes through his DVD, VHS, Netflix and My Sky collections to unearth the 11 greatest pieces of cricket you can watch.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE: LANCE CAIRNS (NZ, 1999) <<<11

Presented by the late Paul Holmes, Lance thinks he is presenting a cheque to Kidney Kids, before being blindsided to sit on some awkward wooden furniture as chapters of his life come out on stage: there's Beefy Botham, Chris Cairns, Lees, Hadlee, Coney, Smith, Snedden, Martin Crowe, Boock and Chatfield plus family and old mates from county cricket. Some of the montages are amazing – and there is lots of reminiscing about family too.

I KNOW HOW MANY RUNS YOU SCORED LAST SUMMER (AUSTRALIA, 2008) <<<10

This is a bizarre Australian slasher-comedy Ozploitation horror, made by oddballs Doug Turner and Stacey Edmond. It is about a bullied cricketer who goes rogue and stalks his former team mates taking them out in a number of vindictive ways, including via cricket stumps. Its tagline: "Mass murder, it's not cricket" is hard to beat.

FROM THE ASHES (UK, 2011) <<<9

This documentary on 'Botham's Ashes' zeroes in on England's 1981 fightback in a nation that was in the doldrums in the political, economic and sporting senses. The sacked captain's unbeaten 149 (against Lillee, Alderman and Lawson) and Bob Willis's 8-43 at Headingley are the star of the show. Glory days for England and a great insight into the cockiness of the Australians.

HADLEE ON CRICKET (NZ, 1988) <<<8

An incredible watch as Sir Richard goes through his warm-up routine at Cornwall Park in a resplendent Canterbury tracksuit, then into his bowling processes, before roping in Mark Burgess on batting and Ian David Stockley Smith on wicketkeeping. The discussion about the first aid kit is hard to forget too – tinea cream, matches and a lot of sprig tighteners.

DEATH OF A GENTLEMAN (UK, 2015) <<<7

It's hard to believe a film about cricket administration could be anything other than mind-numbingly boring, but in the hands of razor-sharp cricket aficionados and journalists Jarrod Kimber and Sam Collins, this doco is anything but. It identifies concerns around the way cricket is administered by the ICC, zeroing in on whether the best interests of Test cricket are being served. Spoiler alert: the gentleman who dies is Test cricket.

HOWZAT! KERRY PACKER'S WAR (AUSTRALIA, 2012) <<<6

Set in the 1970s, this gem of a miniseries is based on the famous World Series Cricket initiated by media tycoon Kerry Packer, and the birth of the pyjama game. It is based on Gideon Haigh's book 'The Cricket War' and dramatises the establishment's war with Packer, but the backroom politics were trumped by the magnificent open-neck shirts and facial hair of the players. Lachy Hulme – as Packer – is frightening, searing, unforgettable and brilliant.

CRICKET IN THE 80s (AUSTRALIA, 2014) <<<5

Subtitled "Rookies, Rebels And Renaissance", this two-parter documents the tumultuous 1980s era of Australian cricket. As well as the haircuts, it is a fascinating examination of the fallout from the World Series, the dominance of the Windies and the complicated relationships surrounding legends Chappell, Lillee and Marsh. The apartheid tour segment is compelling.

BODYLINE (AUSTRALIA, 1984) <<<4

This 436-minute miniseries is seared into my memory from when it was on TV1 in the mid-1980s. It is the all about the notorious 1932-33 Ashes with Hugo Weaving as posh old Douglas Jardine deploying his 'leg theory' to stifle the miraculous talent of Don Bradman – and of course unforgettable controversy and endless banter is the result. Plus of course a 4-1 series victory to the demonic men from the MCC.

LAGAAN (INDIA, 2001) <<<3

Probably the only cricket film to be nominated for an Oscar (for Best foreign language film), Lagaan tells a musical story from 1890s British colonial rule. The peasants in the remote Champaner village challenge the Empire to a game of cricket to cancel their crippling taxes for three years – and if they lose they will pay triple taxes. It sounds cheesy – and it is – but it's a bloody great watch. Don't take my word for it, Time has included it in the best sports films of all time.

FIRE IN BABYLON (UK, 2010) <<<2

Despite conveniently overlooking the 1980s West Indian team's failure in NZ, this is a magnificent documentary on the patriotism and passion that fuelled the rise of Clive Lloyd's fearsome side. The music, the anecdotes, the archive footage ("I intend to make them grovel") will mean you can never forget Holding, Roberts, Garner, Richards and Marshall.

OUT OF THE ASHES (UK, 2010) <<<1

You're not human if you don't love the Afghanistan cricket team after watching this warts-and-all documentary from Tim Albone, Leslie Knott and Lucy Martens. It traces the team's astonishing rise from war-torn Pakistani refugee camps to the T20 Cricket World Cup in the West Indies. If you haven't seen it, you must find 88 minutes for it soon. It is heart-warming and heartbreaking, and at times very funny. It also contains the best references to donkey meat and bisexuality in cricket's much storied history.



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

IT'S GOOD TO BE
HUMAN

IT'S GOOD TO BE COVERED
nib.co.nz

nib
it's worth it