

WINTER 2022 | No. 050

# **OUTRIGHT**

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



**LUCY DOOLAN**  
**TRADES HER BAT**  
**FOR A TROWEL**

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# OPENING THOUGHTS



Tēnā Koutou, and welcome to the Winter edition of Outright magazine, after what has been an incredibly busy time for the NZCPA and our members.

The newly minted Master Agreement between NZC, NZCPA and the Major Associations is a landmark agreement that lifts the professional game for all our members, but notably with significant advances in the women's domestic and international game. The strength of relationship between the parties is a key asset to the game in this country, and while negotiations were robust and challenging, the adoption of Yolanda Beattie's gender equity principles made those challenges somewhat easier to navigate. Underpinning the agreement is growth in NZC's commercial programme that allows for sustainable investment into the men's and women's high-performance environments over the term.

The agreed 29.75% share of revenue will see \$103 million applied to the Player Payment Pool over the five years. This provided the foundation for equal match payments for men and women, as well as uplifts in total payments across all playing groups. Significantly the investment into the Personal Development Programme was

enhanced to a level which will result in an expanded level of support for current and past players.

Things have been busy on the field over winter as well, with the Blackcaps in action in the UK, Europe, West Indies and shortly bound for Australia for the Chappell Hadlee series. Following this there is a home T20 tri-series against Bangladesh and Pakistan ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup across the ditch in October and November.

Meanwhile, congratulations go to the White Ferns for their victory over England to earn a bronze medal at the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The White Ferns dominated the bronze medal match in front of 20,000, predominately home fans, at Edgbaston to secure an 8-wicket win, and thus matching the bronze medal the Blackcaps secured at the Games in Kuala Lumpur back in 1998. The White Ferns are about to depart for a tour to the West Indies in what will be an exciting experience and series for the team.

In this edition we reflect on the recent passing of our Patron and cricket legend Barry Sinclair (MNZM). Barry was

a much-respected cricketer, former New Zealand captain and passionate supporter of the NZCPA and his passing in July, just weeks after his friend, team-mate, and New Zealand selector Don Neely (MNZM MBE), was sadly felt by many of our members and those who knew Barry well. Bill Francis, who wrote his biography 'In Pursuit of Excellence – The Barry Sinclair Story' pays tribute to Barry in this edition.

Our cover story focuses on former White Fern and Wellington all-rounder Lucy Doolan who has found a new passion in the building trade as a tiler. You will also learn about former ND, now CD, pace bowler Brett Randell who shares his story about his battle with a form of inflammatory arthritis - ankylosing spondylitis. Jeet Raval chats to us about his career outside of cricket and the NZCPA's own Lesley Elvidge shares her learning from her recent trip to Europe for the World Players' Personal Development conference.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of Outright.

Ngā mihi nui

NZCPA

## NZCPA | CONTACT US

NZCPA Office  
11 Cricket Avenue,  
Eden Park, Mount Eden  
Auckland 1024

Postal Address  
PO BOX 9915,  
Newmarket,  
Auckland 1149

+64 9 630 3075  
nzcpa@nzcpa.co.nz  
www.nzcpa.co.nz  
facebook.com/nzcpassn

twitter.com/nzcpa  
instagram.com/nzcpa  
linkedin.com/company/new-zealand-cricket-players-association-nzcpa

Please see website for staff contact details

Players better together

# BRETT RANDELL'S LONG BATTLE WITH ARTHRITIS

BY AIDEN MCLAUGHLIN

WHEN BRETT RANDELL HEADS OUT ONTO THE KIWIFRUIT ORCHARD DURING THIS OFF-SEASON, HE'S HOPING FOR WARM CONDITIONS. NOT ONLY DOES IT HELP THE FRUIT TO GROW, BUT IT ALSO HUGELY ASSISTS HIS OWN PHYSICAL HEALTH.



Randell, 27, lives with ankylosing spondylitis, a form of inflammatory arthritis that affects the spine and hips. Cold weather can be brutal for him so if the temperature does drop, wrapping up is essential.

"I know it now as a flare up. If I have one, it'll last for three to five days depending on factors such as what I'm eating, how much sleep I'm getting, how warm or cold it is etc, but the very first time that I got it, the flare up lasted three or four months."

It took time for Randell to learn of the original diagnosis and since then it's been a journey to understand the best way he can manage his body while still pursuing his passion of being a pace bowler.

"I was 17 and playing club cricket in Auckland. I bowled slightly upwards of about 20 overs in a day. I was coming around the wicket, bowling bouncers at various batters because I was the young pace bowler with lots of energy.

I remember bowling and I felt a little bit of pain in my pelvis towards the end of the day. I didn't really think anything of it, I thought it was just general pain from bowling which is what we get as fast bowlers. There's always a niggle, or some sort of pain floating around" says Randell.

"We had club training the following evening and I started to warm up and I didn't feel quite right. The right side of my pelvis felt painful. I decided to run in and bowl to see if it would make things better, but it didn't and it just kept getting worse. The next morning I woke up and it was painful to walk so I ended up going to see the physio and it just deteriorated from there."

Randell was about to embark on his three year sport science degree at AUT and vividly remembers the physical issues he suddenly found himself confronted with.

"I started university about a month after the pain started and I remember not

being able to walk around the campus. I wasn't able to lie on my back in bed because it meant my weight was on my pelvis and that caused pain. I couldn't lie on my front because of the arching of my back into the mattress. I just felt helpless. I couldn't walk, I couldn't run, I could barely move without any pain whatsoever and I had never experienced anything like it ever before and I had no idea what was going on."

Randell's physio initially thought he'd torn one of his hamstring muscles off the bone and was treating him for that. Coincidentally, that's also a symptom of ankylosing spondylitis. He was treated for five or six months and it wasn't getting any better so eventually Randell had x-rays and an MRI and was referred to a rheumatologist who confirmed the diagnosis.

After completing his sports science degree, Randell was involved with the Auckland Aces squad before making his debut for Northern Districts in 2016/17.

"IT'S GIVEN ME SOMETHING OUTSIDE CRICKET WHICH I'M REALLY ENJOYING. I FEEL LIKE IT'S GOING TO ALLOW ME TO ENJOY MY CRICKET A LOT MORE AND NOT ACTUALLY WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE IN LIFE IF CRICKET DOESN'T GO HOW I WANT IT TO."

Since then, Randell has taken 52 first-class, 47 one-day and 19 T20 wickets and he is grateful for the support within the ND team environment.

"Things have been really good over the past couple of years with the help of the guys at ND putting time and effort into me and into my training. They were great in helping support me with my journey of my body and helping me discover ways of training that can still be effective and be beneficial for me so that I can still be effective on the park. I've been seeing a chiropractor for the past year and he's really helped as well."

Ankylosing spondylitis is a condition Randell has worked hard to get on top of, but it's also something that he has to live with every single day.

"My body's in a really good spot. I make sure that I'm doing something every day, but if for any reason I don't get the chance to, then I'm making sure I'm getting good sleep and staying warm. One thing I've found in the past few years is that the cold is really, really bad for it. Staying away from the cold has been massive for me."

The opportunity to work in the kiwifruit industry during the off season wasn't an obvious one, but now he's landed in that space, he's grateful for the opportunity and experience that he's accumulating.



"Outside cricket I had no idea what I wanted to do. I'd lost interest in sports science. Thankfully we had friends who worked in the kiwifruit industry and I asked if there were any jobs available. I started at the end of May this year and it's been awesome. I never thought I'd do anything like this but I'm loving it. I've spoken to Jo Murray (Player Development Manager) and

we're working through some options in regards to relevant study over the summer months."

The development of a career away from cricket is something which Randell realises will help his mental health, as well as his game.

"It's given me something outside cricket which I'm really enjoying. I feel like it's going to allow me to enjoy my cricket a lot more and not actually worry about anything else in life if cricket doesn't go how I want it to."

Randell will be moving to the Central Stags for the upcoming season. His wife Breanna and their two young boys will remain at their home in Te Puke. While travelling with the team, he will use the opportunity of time outside cricket to learn more about his other profession.

With things falling into place away from cricket, his move to the Stags is on the back of a great 2021-22. With a new playing challenge ahead, a young family at home and a career outside cricket taking shape, Randell will be hoping the sun continues to shine on him on and off the field. ●





Not only did the off-season see a new Master Agreement signed between the NZCPA, NZC, and the six Major Associations it also saw the inclusion of six new faces to the White Ferns contract list for 2022-23.

Receiving contract offers for the first time were Auckland trio Fran Jonas, Izzy Gaze, and Molly Penfold, ND's Nensi Patel, Otago's Eden Carson, and Wellington's Georgia Plimmer. As you would expect the group was very excited to receive the call from outgoing coach Bob Carter and to hear they were being offered a White Ferns contract.

Molly Penfold recalls where she was when the phone rang, "I was actually at Botany Town Centre with mum doing some shopping when Bob called. I was trying to keep it cool because I didn't know whether Bob was going to offer me a contract or not and I was in a public place, then Bob told me about the process and revealed the news and I was shocked. I shed a couple of tears when mum and I got to the car."

Nensi Patel on the other hand was at home knee deep in an assignment for university when she received the good news. "I just stopped working on the assignment, I ran downstairs and told mum. I was bawling my eyes out and then she was bawling her eyes out. Dad was just so happy he's been pushing me to be the best I can be with my cricket, so he was overjoyed."

Unlike previous years where the pandemic prevented in person meetings, the players gathered for a White Ferns camp in Mt Maunganui during June, allowing the NZCPA to introduce the new players to the environment with a condensed version of the Player Induction Forum.

The new players were introduced to many aspects in place to support them, including the role of the NZCPA, their role in promotions, the allocation of the Player Payment Pool toward player payments, and how they can benefit from the Personal Development programme.

Having recently returned from the Commonwealth Games young wicket keeper Izzy Gaze explained how she found the forum. "I had a bit of an understanding of the NZCPA and PD Programme as a domestic player, but now after sitting down and going through everything with Lesley and Glen, it gave me a really good understanding of the wide range of support that is available and who you can contact if you need some help, it was really informative."

Nensi Patel described the induction session as a real eye opener, "For me having things outside of cricket for some balance in life and the support of the NZCPA was really cool. I was impressed at the support that is on offer and they are there for your entire life."

However, with each new international career that is spawned, it means other members have come toward the end. Long serving White Ferns and Otago Sparks wicket keeper Katey Martin announced her retirement from all forms of the game and White Ferns Vice-Captain and NZCPA Board Member Amy Satterthwaite is retiring from International Cricket.

One of the true characters of our game Katey Martin called time on a career that spanned 21 years since making her debut for her beloved Otago in 2001. Martin made over 169 appearances in domestic One-Day cricket alone, a New Zealand record for men or women, taking 171 wicket keeper dismissals (another record for domestic women's cricket) and in doing so established herself as one of the most dependable keepers in the country. Her 19-year international career makes her the longest serving modern day New Zealand cricketer, finishing just shy of 200 international appearances with 199 caps to her name including 103 ODIs, 95 T20Is and a solitary Test.

Martin reflected fondly on her career and said she is looking forward to life after cricket.

"Cricket really has given me my life - from leaving Dunedin as a youngster to attend the NZC Academy in Christchurch, to travelling the world as a White Fern and representing my country - it's been a dream come true."



Debutant Izzy Gaze with her parents. White Ferns v South Africa T20 Women's Cricket. Edgbaston, Birmingham. 2022 Commonwealth Games.

"I also want to thank New Zealand Cricket, the NZCPA and Otago Cricket for their support over my entire career."

"Having the support of the NZCPA gave me a smoother transition out of cricket and a sense of comfort as you move onto the next phase of life."

Sophie Devine perhaps summed up Katey Martin's dedication to cricket and her vocal range perfectly at the conclusion of the White Ferns bronze medal victory at the Commonwealth Games when she said, "it was really special to have Katey Martin screaming from the crowd, yelling louder than twenty odd thousand people. You could still hear her bloody voice no matter where you are in the world."

Another stalwart of the game over the past 15 years has been Canterbury

Magician batter and former White Ferns Captain Amy Satterthwaite who announced her retirement from the international arena in May. While Amy will continue to play domestic cricket for Magicians this summer, the White Ferns changing room will feel different without the presence of one of the most widely respected players in the women's game.

The 35-year-old is New Zealand's most capped ODI player and captained the White Ferns in 2018 and 2019 having made her debut in 2007. Overall Satterthwaite amassed 145 ODI matches and 111 T20Is. Her ODI record is particularly impressive with 4639 runs - making her the White Ferns second-highest scorer behind Suzie Bates - including seven centuries, four of which came in consecutive innings during

2016-17 which equalled the World record, alongside Kumar Sangakkara. Her handy off-spin claimed 50 ODI wickets, while in T20Is she had a best of 6 for 17 against England, which remains New Zealand's best return in the format.

Catching her on a quick call before training with the Manchester Originals in The Hundred competition in England, Amy was thankful to those who had helped in her international career. "To all my teammates past and present, coaches and support staff, I appreciate everything you have done to help me as a cricketer and make my time with the White Ferns special. I'm immensely proud of my journey with the White Ferns and especially taking the time away to give birth to our daughter, Grace, before returning to play international cricket."

Satterthwaite was also appreciative of the work of the NZCPA. "I want to acknowledge everyone at the NZCPA, in particular Heath Mills and Lesley Elvidge for their guidance and support in recent times and over the years. To see how the women's game has grown throughout my career makes me incredibly proud. It's exciting to think where it will continue to go in the years ahead."

We bid farewell to Katey and Amy two greats of the game who have contributed in so many ways on and off the pitch. We wish them all the very best as they transition into the next phase of their lives. 🍷





# BARRY SINCLAIR

## 1936-2022

BY BILL FRANCIS

I had known Barry Sinclair personally for a good many years before I took on the task of writing his biography which eventually emerged as 'In Pursuit of Excellence' – The Barry Sinclair Story, published in 2016.

A biographer gets a chance to get closer and if they're doing their job, much deeper into what makes the subject tick.

In the case of Barry what emerged from his backstory was an only child - a bit of a loner - who believed to succeed he needed to do twice as much as anybody else to make it to the top. He was relentless – first playing 'apple-box' cricket with his Miramar – fellow street urchin, Don Neely.

As Sinclair and Neely progressed through Rongotai College and the Kilbirnie Cricket club – Barry stood out. Bruce Edgar remembers his dad (Arthur) saying, 'you need to watch this guy - he's special'.

He was always the smallest player on the field – a factor that made him even

more determined to succeed – the catalyst to be driven- as he described it- 'internally like crazy'. Being eternally described in newspaper coverage as 'little' Barry Sinclair frustrated but steered him to overcome what he regarded as a slight.

Barry was never content with a couple of net sessions a week which tended to be the norm for others. Everyday there would be throwdowns with a variety of friends inveigled into fulfilling the role. He ran the streets religiously keeping himself fit. And after a two - hour net session he would set out on running circuits to hone his fitness and quickness. Some of his teammates at that point would be having a beer in the clubhouse. There were no trainers in sight – let alone strength and conditioning coaches or physios.

Of course, we all know the dedication paid off – plucked out of a Brabin Shield trial to play for Wellington as an 18-year-old after just two senior club games. 15 seasons later he'd never been dropped from a Wellington side.

His progress into the New Zealand team was more tentative but in a breakthrough season in 1963/64 he scored a magnificent century against South Africa at Eden Park. Another New Zealand captain Mark Burgess watched this innings as a spectator and years later said it left a huge impression.

Further Test centuries came against Pakistan (where he batted for six hours) and against England.

Barry started his first-class career carrying one important mantra- survive, stay in and don't get out. But he blossomed into an attacking player and at the time of John Reid's retirement in 1965 he graduated to become our leading batsman. He was also courageous – in the days before helmets he handled the quicks with fine technique. He became just the third New Zealander to reach 1000 test runs, behind the two greats Sutcliffe and Reid.

Combined with the elegance of his batting was his brilliant fielding – what other top-class cricketer practiced



Above: Barry Sinclair, after his investiture as MNZM, for services to cricket, by the governor-general, Dame Patsy Reddy, on 6 October 2016

throwing with his left arm as well as his natural right?

John Reid's departure saw his accession to the captaincy – taking New Zealand to Australia but leading at this level never sat comfortably – his propensity to worry returned and he relinquished the captaincy job.

Post his playing career Barry coached and mentored players, organised the famous North Shore Cricket lunches (like Kilbirnie, he loved the North Shore club) but of all the many contributions he made none was as important or meant more to him than his time as Patron of the New Zealand Cricket Players Association.

He initially regarded the CPA with deep suspicion, thinking it had a trade union connotation that he might not be able to live with. But not content to be left wondering he contacted CEO Heath Mills and the two got together where Heath was able to explain the inner workings and aims of the association including the mechanisms of the collective agreement for current players.

Like many players of his amateur era, Barry knew all too well that the love of the game could only take you so far. The struggles of holding down employment while playing top sport and managing families meant making career sacrifices that could leave

players a bit bereft post cricket.

Working with Heath and others, Barry took on the task of contacting many of the players from his era – the 50s, 60s and 70s – encouraging them to become part of the CPA. The result is all too plain to see. The CPA now has a very healthy membership of over 350 past players where this group can be attached to a vital, supportive and caring organisation for life. Spilling

out from this is The Cricketers Trust which is a virtual life-line for those suffering hardships.

Barry's time as Patron was never a sinecure or that of a figure-head. He attended Board meetings where he was always totally researched, prepared and methodical in working through the issues while adding invaluable input.

There was a big turnout for Barry's Memorial Service – where his exploits and idiosyncrasies were widely canvassed. Barry always strived for the highest of standards and he expected it of others. He could be grumpy when he saw anything less.

I wrote in his biography – 'it would be wrong to conclude that Barry allowed his intensity to overshadow his cricket and his life even though it may have been a close-run thing. But what it did was constantly feed his determination to pursue excellence, certainly in a way that was above the norm, in the game he loved. And the 'worried Barry' was always leavened by a rather wicked, droll sense of humour'.

Below: Barry Sinclair and author Bill Francis. Bill Francis is a former Director of New Zealand Cricket. He's the Author of 17 books, including eight on cricket.





# LUCY DOOLAN TRADES HER BAT FOR A TROWEL

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

In a parallel universe, Lucy Doolan would be a mechanic. Or even a builder, if she was a wee bit bigger. She'd have taken it up straight out of school. She'd be a zen mechanic, not too hard on herself, happy as Larry tinkering around fixing things and problem-solving with engines. Bliss.

But who among us steps straight out of school into a dream job — or even knows what that might look like?

In the real world, fresh out of school Doolan trained to be a nurse, and later studied viticulture, and then became a certified horticulturalist who ended up driving a desk at a council in between endless stakeholder meetings. A zig-zag of a career path, and in the midst of all this she of course squeezed in a flourishing cricket career with the Wellington Blaze and the White Ferns, playing 73 matches & taking 60 wickets for her country — as well as a few overseas gigs playing seasons in South Australia and England.

So, you'll never guess what Doolan's doing now (unless you, too, happen to have developed an obsession with ceramic tiling on social media). That was how her latest career started: by innocently tapping some posts and pages about making ceramic tiles. Nek minnit, more and more tiling posts and reels in her feed...

"It's so millennial!" she laughs. "I'd also seen on the ol' social media some posts about women in trades; the push to get more women into apprenticeships. Having done horticulture, I already had a practical background — and was interested."

"Seeing people out there making these beautiful tiles and what that does for a

space: to learn how to make something like that, I realised you have to know how people will eventually work with it so the idea of a tiling apprenticeship started to intrigue me. I was also realising, at the time, that being in an office environment wasn't really me — I found I just had too much energy to burn and would get up, wander around and annoy people!"

Having worked at Hamilton Garden while she studied horticulture through Wintec, Doolan had returned to the capital to work as a gardener, initially, for Wellington City Council, then moved into the management of sports fields stakeholders — combining twin interests.

"But it had become a life of constant meetings, and I had that gnawing feeling of wanting to get back on the tools again. So, all of that slowly gelled together, and I decided I would really like to give the tiling apprenticeship a shot."

And here she is, having just downed her trowel for the day. She started her apprenticeship with Wellington's Chris Black Tiling on 8 March — just a week after she had bought and moved into a new house with her sister. But then, female cricketers are used to being busy people juggling a whole lot of balls.

A tiling apprenticeship typically takes two to three years, or until you get up to scratch with all the skills and get the paperwork done which includes logging and photographing work. Already she can farm herself out on weekends to do a cheeky little splashback.

"I wouldn't tackle floors or bathroom walls on my own yet, but I'm loving learning all about it from Chris, and I get really excited when we have a client who wants a bit more than subway tiles, something really creative and different, bold — those are fun jobs that challenge you a bit more. Shows like The Block are helping inspire people beyond charcoal floor tiles or white subways on the walls and you get that real sense of accomplishment, from walking into a blank space to leaving the client with a completely finished, good-looking job. I think it's a really cool trade in that respect because often tradies are only involved in part of a bigger job."

Practical. Attention to detail. Courage to give new things a go and learn new things. Take all that as read with Doolan — but she did need a gentle push, after having spent a full two years thinking about tiling every day without making the final jump into an apprenticeship.

"Obviously it was going to be a big change for me going from a secure employer and pretty comfortable earnings — I was at Wellington City Council for six years — to chucking that in and jumping into tiling on an apprenticeship wage, and I wasn't quite sure what was involved. So through the CPA, Jo Murray set up a coffee with Paddy Kymbrekos, a local business strategy manager with the BCITO Sport initiative which helps connect sports people with apprenticeships.

"Paddy was really great in helping me understand what an apprenticeship

**"I WAS ASKED IF I COULD COME BACK AND PROVIDE SOME HELP TO THE YOUNGER ONES COMING THROUGH IN THE BLAZE, SO I CAME BACK - AND REALLY ENJOYED IT."**

looks like, and how they help — and, there no pressure at all. He said, 'When you are ready, sent your CV through to me and we'll match you to someone.'

"It was actually a whole year later when I felt ready. I needed that space to make the move mentally, so it was almost out of the blue when I contacted Paddy again, and yet he picked it up like it was just yesterday. That was how I was connected to Chris to start my apprenticeship, and I am absolutely loving it. I'm enjoying being out and about again and doing something practical again."

The pot-pourri of past métiers have all come in handy, proving the old adage that skills — even cricket skills — are transferable into other jobs. "If you have put your energy into learning something, you're never starting at zero," says Doolan, "even if on the surface they seem totally different worlds or skills."

"From my horticultural gardening to the relationships role at council, some of those skills were transferable to the way I now approach tiling and talking to clients. Plus, tiling is pretty finicky, you have definitely got to have an eye for detail to avoid things going south quickly! You've also got a saw in your hands buzzing away trying to shave a mere millimetre off a tile so you've

got to have good concentration and precision — and I think most cricketers would relate to those skills as part of your mental skillset."

An opening batter and off-spinner, Doolan had debuted for Wellington Blaze straight out of Hutt Valley High School in 2004, at 18. She retired from cricket in March 2019 — the second time she had stepped back from the game. "I had had two or three years off a few years before that, then the WBBL started up and the Blaze's senior players were heading over there to play.

"I was asked if I could come back and provide some help to the younger ones coming through in the Blaze, so I came back — and really enjoyed it."

"There was no longer that weight of expectation I felt when I was younger — pressure that mainly came from myself — to make teams, make selections for the White Ferns. It was a nice space to be in. Being a bit older and not so hard on yourself, that's strength that comes with age, eh? Once upon a time if I got out cheaply, I used to take it so personally and I laugh now when I think about it — we all know half the game is down to luck!"

Doolan found that trying to do it all when she was younger was difficult — no contracts existed when she was starting out. Her nursing studies eventually gave

way to cricket ambitions, and she took off to play a domestic season in South Australia, which is where a trip to the Barossa Valley inspired her to try a viticulture course. Later she played for Nottinghamshire and Essex, in between 98 one-dayers and 62 T20s for the Blaze.

She represented the White Ferns at the 2009 and 2013 one-day World Cups, and three T20 World Cups, "but finding a balance to do everything was always really hard. On the other hand, we played at Lord's a few times, and the experiences, long-lasting friendships and development that you can get through cricket as a younger person, those are the things you would not trade for the world."

Since hanging up the boots, she's been enjoying popping back into the Basin to watch her old team. "It's nice to see a few good little spinners coming through in the Blazies. And it's nice to sit up on the bank in the sunshine and just watch!"

At home, Doolan does the gardening and DIY around the house. Her sister is the one with the design eye who's in charge of choosing the fab curtains. Looking back, a trade always made sense, and being paid as you learn is a bonus for young cricketers considering an apprenticeship, she reflects.

"I think it's cool that there has been more highlighting of the option for women to get into the trades, as well. You are learning skills that you have for life. And maybe down the track I'll get myself a kiln and be that little old lady on Instagram who makes tiles!"



# A WHIRLWIND TRIP TO NYON

## NATIONAL PDM LESLEY ELVIDGE RECENTLY TRAVELLED TO EUROPE AND WE CAPTURE HER EXPERIENCES AND LEARNINGS IN THIS ARTICLE

### FICA PD CONFERENCE

With my last trip out of New Zealand being in July 2019, the invitation to the World Players' Personal Development Conference in Nyon, Switzerland was extremely enticing for many reasons. The news that the heads of the FICA Player Associations' Personal Development (PD) programmes were also meeting in Nyon for two days prior and the fact Heath was encouraging me to attend, was incredibly exciting for me.

After much planning, and the timely news that pre-departure testing to return home had just been scrapped, I began the long trip to Nyon. Thirty-eight hours, several Ubers, four plane rides and a train trip later, I arrived in beautiful Nyon. Heath had warned me Nyon was one of the most boring places he had ever visited. I was delighted to discover he was possibly right about Nyon in the winter? But in the summer, with 33-degree temperatures. The beautiful setting by Lake Geneva, ancient buildings (even castles), al fresco dining and people everywhere, the place buzzes. I enjoyed the opportunity to use my (admittedly very poor) 7th form (year 13 for those much younger than me) French to navigate my way around Switzerland.

We got right into business the next day, with PD representatives from England (PCA), Australia (ACA), South Africa (SACA), West Indies (WI) and Ireland (IPCA) in attendance – each sharing highlights of their programme and their areas of focus for the next year. I shared an overview of our programme, including our plan to expand the PD programme to provide a full service for both men and women cricketers, a Transition programme supporting cricketers 1-5 years post retirement, our Instep programme of counselling support and the critical work we undertake through the Cricketers' Trust.

The knowledge shared between Players' Associations was huge, with all associations in attendance at different stages of their PD programme journeys and with vastly different resources at their disposal. The ability to assess the progress of our PD programme against the rest of the cricket world was invaluable.

I took away many ideas but also the confidence that we are on the right track and in fact I believe leading the way in terms of our player/PD Manager

case management approach. For me, however, the absolute highlight of the five days in Switzerland was the connections I made with FICA Players' Associations representatives from around the world, relationships that have already led to ongoing collaboration that will no doubt help our programme back at home.

### WORLD PLAYERS' CONFERENCE

Days 3, 4 and 5 in Nyon were spent at the World Players' Conference with over 100 PD managers from sports and countries all around the world meeting to focus on "Developing the Players of Tomorrow". We were treated to some thought-

*Daryl Mitchell's family watching the Blackcaps v England in Leeds*



*The representatives at the World Players' PD Conference*

provoking presentations from world class speakers on topics including:

- Unlearning the Future: Using Future Thinking to Shape PDM Programmes Today
- Shaping the Personal Development Programme to reflect Generational Differences
- The Female Athlete and Social Media
- Beyond our Biases – equity, diversity and inclusion approaches to communication

The conference was interactive and focused on sharing experience and research. Again, the connections made with people in similar roles around the world and the opportunity to discuss and share ideas really made the conference.

Following the conference and with the UK close by, I decided to make the most of my travel opportunities by joining the end of the Blackcaps tour of England in Leeds. A 3-hour flight

away, what could go wrong? A lot it turns out. Twelve hours later, missing my suitcase and rather strung out, I arrived in Leeds, and after a quick trip to Marks and Spencer for some emergency clothes I enjoyed spending time in the Blackcaps environment. This provided a great opportunity for me to think more practically about our PD offering for our international teams. The key for the PD programme is to meet the needs of our players and an important part of doing this is understanding the environment our players and their families operate in. This was a valuable and enjoyable chance to do so.

All too soon, despite the best attempts of the cancelled train to London to keep me in the UK, I was on my way back to NZ full of new ideas and inspiration to bring to the PD programme. My family was very happy to see me home and it was strangely comforting to know that the house runs more smoothly when I am there!

### MY REFLECTIONS

- How great to be able to travel again!
- Zoom is good, but nothing beats real life interaction and connections to build strong relationships.
- We can be proud of our PD programme, but there are so many areas where we can be doing more and we can use the experiences and resources of other Players' Associations to assist.
- Our one-to-one interactions with players are the most important part of our PDM role, but it is critical we understand the environments in which our players operate in order to best shape our programme.

*Representatives at the FICA PD Conference*



*Representatives at the World Players' PD Conference*



# JEET RAVAL JUGGLING CAREER, FAMILY & CRICKET

BY MARGOT BUTCHER



Having a career plan early doors in a solid profession like accountancy is quite possibly the smartest thing a top order batter could do.

We all know the vicissitudes of fortune that accompany the job of facing the new ball. The percentages you're up against. The self-torture of watching your dismissal on the video analysis 'Pooch' 31 times. The deeply satisfying knocks that come along every so often, and the first-baller to vicious late in-swing two days later.

At nearly 34, Jeet Raval can take cricketing vicissitudes in his stride. Away from cricket, he's always been a man with a plan, and works full-time for accountancy and auditing leader BDO Tauranga. Having an off-field career was something he prioritised early in life and he's certain it's helped him keep an even keel through all the ups and downs of the game, and to maintain his enjoyment — even when he succumbs to that late swing.

"Having balance in life was something that was engrained in me for years," says Raval who even as an 17-year-old knocking around at Suburbs New Lynn came across as eminently sensible. "I wanted to progress in all areas of life,

not just cricket. That is something I really tried to focus on. Yes, there are some hard days along the way, but you ask yourself why do you do it, and you know the answers are there. It's because you want to grow yourself, and be a family one day..."

He was already at Uni on the longish path to becoming a Chartered Accountant when he started playing professional cricket as a rookie back in 2008/09. After polishing off his Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Commercial Law in 2010, Raval enjoyed a couple of winter stints in England in his early 20s before an injury thwarted his plans to go back: "I was glad then that I had that safety net of being able to work as a graduate accountant."

Now that he and wife Surabhi are parents to their beautiful first-born son Kiaan, all that historic juggling practice, the discipline of divvying up his time and focus, is really coming in handy.

Kiaan was born at the tail of last summer — just days before Raval strode out onto Cobham Oval and hit a first-class double ton in a new Northern Districts all wickets partnership record of 334 with Bharat Popli. Coincidence? We think not.

"Having a newborn is awesome and if I ever needed to worry less about all the small things in cricket, becoming a father definitely helps you do that! There are just bigger, important things to think about like looking after a little human so, from a cricket perspective, you learn to let things go a bit more. You don't dwell on it so much when you get home after a training session because your attention is required elsewhere. I feel it keeps me fresh for the next training session — I'm not consumed by thinking about the game all the time anymore. It's a good thing."

When Raval moved from Auckland to Northern Districts ahead of last season, he and Surabhi settled at the Mount — a lifestyle they are loving with the bonus of quality year-round training facilities, interspersed with trips to see family in Auckland and plenty of face-timing with extended family in India, where Raval lived for the first 16 years of his life.

Years ago, his father's chance conversation at a service station with Sri Lankan-born cricket coach and entrepreneurial chef Kit Perera provided both an invitation to train at Suburbs and a personal mentor. Perera helped Raval find his feet as a young immigrant from India trying to adapt to Kiwi life.

Perera has remained a close friend, and it was Perera who introduced Raval to Rob Foster, a senior partner at BDO Tauranga.

"Rob invited me to come in during the winter to work and I jumped at the opportunity — those months are typically a busy time for accountancy firms as most companies have their end of financial year on 31 March.

"My work hours are flexible as long as I get the work done, and over the summer months I go on unpaid leave, but with the ability to come back in and work anytime. With the baby and cricket as well, I'm really grateful to BDO for giving me that awesome opportunity. I think the freedom of flexitime is a big aspect of people's wellbeing at the moment too, and the pandemic has shown that when you have that freedom, productivity goes up — for me anyway."

Being good at juggling balls has also allowed Raval to pursue his burgeoning interest in governance. Sitting on a board is like having a bird's eye view of an organisation, he says.

"Cricket is my passion and I want to stay involved in cricket, but if I can combine my accounting and business background, and merge that with the cricket side of things, then that's even better — making sure the game is in a healthy state, making sure we make decisions for the right reasons, that's what drives me. And I am pretty handy with a balance sheet."

After expressing his interest, he was invited onto the NZCPA Board as an Associate Director late last year. He's also now sitting on the Bay of Plenty Cricket Board as an Independent Director.

"I'm incredibly proud of the CPA as an organisation and what they do for players in this country, so I really wanted to be involved," says Raval. "With the Master Agreement negotiations going on at the same time, it was an awesome opportunity to learn and observe the legal side of things, commercial, the Personal Development space and so on.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to have an overview, and it's something I want to be involved in going forward. I think as players, we have to realise that 20 years ago certain players made sacrifices for us to get to where we are now, so it's important that we preserve that legacy and try to look after our next generation of cricketers, including the women who are going to be playing a crucial part in the game the next 10 to 15 years. I was incredibly proud to be involved even in a small way in the Master Agreement process. It is a huge step forward."

Back at home, Kiaan is starting to recognise Dad and bursts into a smile when he comes home from training or work. "It makes all the challenges worthwhile!"

And while he still might be a process-driven top order man who watches the odd dismissal 31 times, and has long

**CRICKET IS MY PASSION. IF I CAN COMBINE MY ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS BACKGROUND, AND MERGE THAT WITH THE CRICKET SIDE OF THINGS, THEN THAT'S EVEN BETTER**

since come to accept he will never be a Colin de Grandhomme, see-the-ball, hit-the-ball player with the exquisite simplicity that he can only dream of, he's keen as mustard for another trip around the traps as Northern Brave looks to defend their Super Smash crown — Raval lifting the trophy as first-time captain.

"I like to break things down and analyse. That's my style of working, so I enjoyed the planning that came with captaincy, the analysis that came from talking to the coaches and players and then giving guys the platform to go out and play the way they want to play. That fire in my own belly is still there too. I still aspire to be involved with the Blackcaps and I keep looking at my game and trying to convert that into solid contributions for ND. Hopefully it will be another good summer!"





# CONWAY AND KERR EARN TOP HONOURS FOR 2022

DEVON CONWAY AND AMELIA KERR WERE ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE RECIPIENTS OF THE PLAYERS' CAP AND CPA PLAYERS' AWARD RESPECTIVELY, WITH KERR HONOURED BY TEAM-MATES IN MOUNT MAUNGANUI AND CONWAY IN LEEDS ON THE RECENT TOUR OF ENGLAND.

At 21 years of age this makes Kerr the youngest recipient of the CPA Players' Award since its inception, joining an exclusive club alongside superstars Amy Satterthwaite, Sophie Devine and Suzie Bates.

At the presentation function in Mt Maunganui, a reflective Kerr said "it is a huge honour to win the CPA Players' Award as it is voted by your peers and your team-mates. To win this award... I'm very humbled... and every time I go out there, I want to perform well and put the hard work in and to receive this recognition from your team-mates is a huge honour."

The skilful all-rounder was steady with the bat and ball over the summer both in the ICC Cricket World Cup and the series versus India, where she scored 353 runs and took 7 wickets including a fabulous 119 runs in the 2nd ODI to be named ICC Player of the Month for February.

Former White Fern and Tauranga local Morna Neilsen was on hand to present the player's most cherished award.



Neilsen recognised "It's the highest award you can get as a player, being able to have that recognition from your peer group that over the course of the season you have contributed massively to the team is an honour. Amelia will be stoked with it, and it's only the beginning for her. She is so young, has improved so much and this is the first of many more to come."

Devon Conway has made a statement on the international stage since his international debut in the summer

of 2020/21, with a range of stellar performances for the Blackcaps. None more emphatic that his Test debut double century at Lords last June – incidentally the tour that kicked off the recent Players' Cap voting period.

The flurry at the end of the NZ home summer clashed with the IPL this year, which meant the traditional post season *The Players' Cap* presentation was delayed until the team reunited in Leeds.

## THE CPA PLAYERS' AWARD LEADING VOTE RECIPIENTS PER FORMAT

ODI	Amelia Kerr
T20i	Sophie Devine / Jess Kerr

## THE PLAYERS' CAP LEADING VOTE RECIPIENTS PER FORMAT

Test	Devon Conway
ODI	Will Young
T20i	Martin Guptill

The aggregate points voting format was once again tightly contested this year, with a host of players in line to receive this highly regarded honour. Conway's impact across the Test format in particular saw him edge out Tom Latham, Tim Southee and international newbie Will Young to become the recipient of 11th edition of *The Players' Cap*.

Blackcaps assistant coach and NZCPA life member Luke Ronchi had the honour of presenting *The Players' Cap* to his fellow wicket-keeper and batsman.

Ronchi noted, "This is such a special award to receive as your team-mates have recognised your contribution for the greater good of the group, even down to the small things you do that go to win games."

"Devon has contributed outstandingly over the past year, he has been one of those guys who, since being named in the Blackcaps, has come in and taken

his chances from day one. I think he would have just missed out to Kyle (Jamieson) last year, so it's great to see him pick up *The Players' Cap* this time around."

Having recently recovered from a bout of covid at the time of the presentation, the left-handed batsman was left humbled by the award stating, "It's been a really special time since getting the call up to the team. This is such a great group to belong to and I just want to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and such a sense of belonging."

"To be recognised by your team-mates, your peers, your friends with *The Players' Cap* is truly an honour and a privilege. There have been some incredible men who have won this before me and be in such esteemed company is incredible."

## RECIPIENTS

### THE PLAYERS' CAP

2022	Devon Conway
2021	Kyle Jamieson
2020	Tim Southee
2019	Ross Taylor
2018	Trent Boult
2017	Kane Williamson
2016	Kane Williamson
2015	Kane Williamson
2014	Ross Taylor
2013	Tim Southee
2012	Brendon McCullum

### CPA PLAYERS' AWARD

2022	Amelia Kerr
2021	Amy Satterthwaite
2020	Sophie Devine
2019	Sophie Devine
2018	Sophie Devine
2017	Amy Satterthwaite
2016	Suzie Bates



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PLAYER INDUCTION FORUM

14 & 15 September - Auckland

### PAST PLAYER EVENT

7 October - University Oval-Dunedin  
(in conjunction with Otago Cricket)

### THE PLAYERS' GOLF DAY

20 September - Windross Farm Golf Course

### QSCC GOLF DAY AUCKLAND

20 October - Muriwai Golf Links

## MEN'S CONTRACT CHANGES 2022-23

The men's contracting process saw a total of thirteen new domestic contracts awarded for the 2022/23 contract period. Canterbury named the most newly contracted players with five fresh faces added to their squad - Matt Boyle, Blake Coburn, Zak Foulkes and Mitch Hay earned their first professional contracts, and Angus McKenzie moves up state highway one from Otago to join the red and black. Boyle was absolutely delighted to get the call up and noting "it was a real shock to start with, because I didn't know where I stood in the team makeup, so when I was offered a contract, it was a really great feeling. My dad, brother and uncle have all played for Canterbury, so to be part of that family legacy is just awesome."

Southern neighbours, the Otago Volts offered three new players their first contract - Jacob Cumming, Llew Johnson, and Ben Lockrose, and Andrew Hazeldine heading the opposite way down state highway one from Canterbury. Cumming is a name synonymous

in Otago cricket, with Jacob following in the footsteps of Otago Volts stalwart and father, Craig Cumming. Jacob explained, "it was a shock getting the contract, I played those last couple of games last summer so didn't think an offer was coming. To be honest I was just happy to be there, so when a contract was presented I was over the moon."

Up country, Wellington rewarded young top-order batter Tim Robinson for his strong performances last summer, and welcome seasoned players Nick Kelly and Adam Milne to bolster the Firebirds squad for the summer. The Central Stags sixteen-man roster included new contracts to Manawatu's Ma'ara Ave and Hawke's Bay's Liam Dudding who adds to the bowling stocks alongside transferring Brett Randall. Ave was thrilled to receive the contract news from Rob Walter, a moment he described as, "very cool. I had been trying to perform consistently through the season and was working hard towards receiving a contract so was stoked to get the offer."

Northern Districts awarded another player with family ties a debut contract - following

in the footsteps of his father Chris, is Tim Pringle who receives his first domestic contract after an impressive introduction last summer with the Brave in what is otherwise a settled contract list. The Auckland Aces contract two new players in North Shore all-rounder Simon Keene and Takapuna's Quinn Sunde. Keene was exuberant when reflecting his contract offer. "I went on a little run of form last summer, so I just rolled with it trying to back it up each week. Then Dan Archer had a cup of coffee with me and advised they would like to offer me a contract, I was extremely excited and of course I said yes."

On the international scene the Blackcaps contract list saw two changes, with Ross Taylor and Jimmy Neesham coming off the contract list. Wellington Firebirds all-rounder Michael Bracewell and Central Stags' Ajaz Patel were elevated to the Blackcaps contract list the 2022-23 contract year.

A full list of contracted players is listed on [nzcpa.co.nz](http://nzcpa.co.nz) and each Major Association's website. 🌐

# THE INSIDER HEATH DAVIS CULT HERO

BY PAUL FORD

How good was the outpouring of anecdotes and appreciation from the cricket community and beyond that accompanied the release of The Spinoff's 'Finding Heath Davis' documentary, the latest chapter in the brilliant 'Scratched' series?

It was a poignant piece of storytelling, full of memorable anecdotes from the likes of raconteur Stephen Mather, Black Cap legend Gavin Larsen and Heath himself - with his guard dropped down as far as we have ever seen in public. It was a piece that you didn't need to be a cricket fan to enjoy either: it was as much an insight into New Zealand society and its inherent conservatism as it was a story about a fast bowler who has been off the radar for 30 years.

I say poignant because as well as being entertaining with its headline-grabbing revelations about 'the first gay Black Cap' and playing serious cricket under the influence of psychedelics, the documentary evoked his loneliness and was tinged with a sadness of what could have been for a player of Davis's talents and idiosyncrasies.

The response to the documentary (and two terrific accompanying pieces from director Madeleine Chapman and indie journalist Dylan Cleaver) was overwhelmingly positive. Mather confirmed that he'd been caught in the friendly cross-fire of a deluge of reminiscences in the wake of its release, and Davis apparently spent much of the post-release days responding to messages of support.

It was only fair that Davis had some work to do in the aftermath of the documentary too, given the efforts the producers put into tracking him down. Chapman said at one point the team endeavoured to phone every single 'Davis' in the Brisbane phone directory.



Photo courtesy of The Spinoff

Heath Te-Ihi-O-Te-Rangi Davis is one of the characters of New Zealand cricket, a player who captured many cricket fans' imaginations when he was clattering helmets, groin protectors and batsmen's stumps in the 1990s.

We had all heard stories about this madman from Wellington who was into heavy metal and lived in a garage over the hill from Lower Hutt. There were

a plethora of tales about this firebrand who bowled meat pies in first-class cricket games, sent opponents home in ambulances, screamed and sung at batsmen, and wreaked havoc with his blistering pace.

While my dad was probably crapping on about the flaws in his technique and his frequent no-ball problem to other dads over a Rheineck at the pub in Hamilton, I didn't care. To me a bloke bowling 150km/hr-plus with a curly lid dyed blond, a fearsome hostility, and a back story featuring Wainuiomata made him a sensation that I wanted to watch.

He was a cult hero in the New Zealand game, alongside players like Jesse Ryder (blazing away on and off the field), Chris Martin (batting prowess), Lance Cairns (MCG), Rodney Redmond (100 and benched), Brian McKechnie (forward defensive and bat hurl), Ewen Chatfield (metronomic length and a moustache) and even Mark Richardson (3 shots against the world's best bowlers).

Cult heroes are not born but created out of cricket fans' romanticism and sentimentality. They are never the absolute best players, nor the most reliable. They are probably the player with unfulfilled promise, a master of the awkward shot or unconventional bowling action, a trouble magnet, a loyal but unspectacular performer, or a firebrand wearing passion on the outside.

These cricketers often demonstrate a major weakness but succeed despite it, and we love them for it.

Paul Ford is the co-founder of the Beige Brigade and one-seventh of The Alternative Commentary Collective. He would love to hear some of Daniel Vettori's stories of rooming with Heath Davis on cricket tours in the late 1990s.

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