

SPRING 2021 | No. 047

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Cricket Players Association

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THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



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# OPENING THOUGHTS



Tēnā Koutou, and welcome to the spring edition of Outright.

Daylight savings, the change of weather and spring in the air means that all over the country people will be heading to the garage and rummaging around for their cricket gear. You know the story, the place you carefully put the gear away at the end of last season, with that all too important mental note we tell ourselves, "Yeah I'll remember where I put that." After checking everywhere and eventually finding it, you inspect it to make sure it's still decent and fits (if it's for the kids) all in preparation for the cricket season ahead. Along with what will hopefully be a long summer reminiscing with friends and family and the odd backyard cricket match that escalates to the competitiveness of a full international, comes a comprehensive calendar for all our elite men and

women. The challenging times we have endured recently continue for our game and our communities with another wave of Covid-19 sending the country into different levels of restrictions, the hardest hit city being Auckland. Face masks, social distancing and hand hygiene continue to be the norm, as are protocols implemented last season to protect the health and safety of everyone in our game, such as COVID-replacement players, bans on use of saliva on the ball, and venue access protocols. These are among the many challenges everyone faces as we begin what will be another unprecedented summer of cricket.

In this edition of Outright we catch up with former White Ferns Captain Aimee Watkins (nee Mason) and find out what she has been up to since retiring, and her reflections on the historic White

Fern's World Cup triumph in 2000, as we look forward to the upcoming Women's Cricket World Cup 2022. Samoan International and current Auckland Aces player, Sean Solia, reveals his passion outside of cricket and growing the game in Pacific communities. Margot Butcher interviews Junior Black Stick and Otago Spark Polly Inglis who gives us an insight into her work, life and cricket balance, and we also catch up with Jamie Brown who has had a change of path. Finally, we meet newly contracted players Will O'Rourke and Angus McKenzie.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Outright and wish you all a safe and happy summer.

Ngā mihi nui

NZCPA 

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Players better together



# SEAN SOLIA BALANCING DESIGN AND CRICKET

## A FLAIR FOR ART AND DESIGN HAS BEEN IN AUCKLAND ACES SEAN SOLIA'S DNA FROM A YOUNG AGE.

The all-rounder studied fine arts while attending St Peter's College turning his attention to a Bachelor of Architecture in 2012 which he completed three years later at Auckland University.

"My Parents always encouraged my sister and me to do a lot of extra-curricular activities as well as focusing on our academic studies, so I did all sorts of stuff growing up, sports like cricket, rugby and basketball, the theatre, and even ball room dancing," laughed Solia. "I was exposed to a lot of different things and along the way I found this passion for architecture."

The 28-year-old traced his first encounter with architecture back to a lottery ticket his parents purchased when he was a kid. "My parents used to

buy these lottery tickets where you could win a luxury home in Australia. You'd be sent an A3 poster with images of the house and the floorplans, and I was always interested in looking at those."

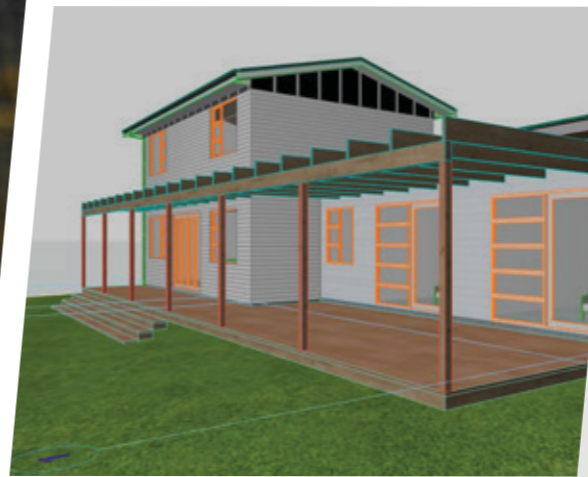
However, Solia didn't leap straight into University, opting to take a gap year instead, travelling to Darwin to play club cricket for Tracy Village in the local competition. It was following this that he pursued the path of academia and focussed on his studies as well as cricket with a firm goal in mind. "My commitment to university prior to becoming a professional cricketer was to set myself up for the future so I have something to fall back on that I'm really passionate about. I'm lucky there is some space besides cricket to pursue other goals and ambitions that I want to achieve."

After completing his study Solia had a couple of stints in England including playing at the historic MCC based at the home of cricket, Lords. At the end of the northern summer Solia secured his first

contract with Auckland for the upcoming season, making an immediate impact on his debut in the Ford Trophy scoring 152 runs from 127 balls.

His career has gone from strength to strength since then with an International debut for Samoa in 2018, followed by a call up to represent New Zealand A against the West Indies last summer, two of his proudest moments." My dad is from Samoa, and I align a lot with my Samoan heritage, hence representing Samoa means a lot to me. Stepping out for NZ A last summer to face international opposition is another special moment. The goal for me is to play at the highest level, ultimately to be the best player I can be, if that means playing for the Blackcaps that would be awesome."

People from Pacific and Māori communities are largely under-represented within cricket playing systems and Solia relishes being a role model and inspiration for other young Pacific cricketers of the future. "Having represented Samoa, growing the game in the Pacific communities is definitely



something I want to be a part of. Guys like Murphy Sua and Ross Taylor helped pave the way for me, so if myself and players like Regina Lili (who plays for Auckland Hearts) can inspire others to take up the game it's great, we have some talented athletes that could go far in the sport."

With his cricket taking priority over the last few years, it wasn't until this winter when Solia could put his architecture degree into practice. "I was talking with our Personal Development Manager Paul Hobbs about wanting to get into some architectural work over the winter, and he introduced me to Paul Edmond from Woods & Partners Consultants

who took me on as an intern in the Urban Design and Architecture team so I'm very thankful to the CPA for their support," he said.

Woods & Partners specialise in creating and delivering solutions for green, grey and brown field development, through to multi-unit residential and commercial developments, exposing Solia to a range of projects in the business.

"It was awesome working with a small team, as I got a lot of site experience, and worked on building consent drawings and urban design scheme planning. I particularly enjoyed the urban design aspect as I felt you have

a greater impact on the community, providing positive solutions to keep people together and connected."

Working towards his architectural registration is the long term career goal, however the focus for the summer is to enjoy his cricket and hopefully collect some silverware with his Auckland team-mates, a prospect Solia is eager to bring to fruition. "We've got an exciting young group, I'm fizzing to get out there with the guys to win some trophies for Auckland, we've spent a few years together now and have something to prove going forward and register some success as a group." ●



Sean Solia in action for the Auckland Aces at the Dream11 Super Smash T20 competition.



# POLLY INGLIS DOING IT ALL

Polly Inglis (Left) with Katey Martin (Right)

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

**IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TIME MANAGEMENT, TALK TO A FEMALE CRICKETER. BETTER STILL, EMPLOY HER. KPMG DID, WHICH IS WHY OTAGO SPARKS KEEPER-BATTER POLLY INGLIS WILL BE DIVIDING THIS SUMMER WITH A GRAD ROLE IN THE KPMG CONSULTING TEAM IN WELLINGTON.**

Juggling different roles, goals, cities and travel is nothing new to the Dunedin-raised dual sportswoman who has also played rep hockey for Southern. Busy is good. Even during lockdown, when she was staring wistfully up at the mountains in Queenstown without being able to ski, instead of zoning out, she started a sewing project: a cool bucket hat made from a retro blanket. You might have seen

it picked up in the media. Never a dull moment when you use your minutes.

At just 25, the summer will be Inglis' ninth trot for the Sparks (she skipped one season, but more on that later). She's chalked up 116 matches across the two formats, as well as a UK summer for Nottinghamshire last year. And, like most of the close-knit 'Sparkies', she's loyal to the core, so commuting half the length of New Zealand is but a small price to pay so she can wear the blue and gold.

It's something Inglis is well used to. She did Uni in Auckland en route to an honours degree in economics, whilst continuing to play cricket and hockey throughout. Elder brothers Hugo — the Black Sticks striker — and Henry were both competitive cricketers and hockey players in formative years, so the journey for them all began in a Roslyn backyard with Dad bowling and Polly fighting for a turn to bat.

When her brothers both joined Kaikorai Cricket Club, she would tag along. "I ended up playing for Kaikorai as the only girl in boys' teams, for years. Michael Rae was in my team. He used to

bowl very quickly. I'd be standing down the other end keeping, with nerves on edge! But it was good for my cricket. It toughened me up."

Then came St Hilda's Collegiate — perennially one of the strongest girls' cricket schools in the South Island. "Neil Rosenberg teaches at St Hilda's, he's cricket-mad and has got so many girls excited about the game. At one point we had nine St Hilda's girls playing for the Sparks."

So far, so much serendipity. But as any sportsperson knows, the higher you go, luck has less to do with success than self-organisation and putting in the hard yards, the hours. So how does she do it all?

Her job with KMPG fortunately allows some flexibility around working hours, although the workload is full-time. "At the moment, in preseason, I've been running down to SKY Stadium from work, and I train twice a week in my lunch hour. As the season progresses, obviously I will need to travel on Fridays, so the plan is that I will work longer days Monday to Thursday, and then pick up



a couple of hours in between travelling and training and preparing for games on the weekend..."

Although Hugo chose hockey over cricket, Polly was never able to pick a favourite — switching happily between her summer and winter aspirations. She squeezed in a season of club hockey in the capital this year, but it was the first time hockey had started to take a slight back seat. What gave?

"I think I've got pretty good at managing my time, through sport, but it was getting harder over winter with work, and I was also starting to really appreciate the support we have around women's Domestic cricket here in New Zealand — after coming back from London last year where I had been playing hockey for Wimbledon and cricket for Nottingham."

She had gone over to London on a programme called Cricket For Girls: you could coach in schools and set up with a County team as long as you had a UK passport or ancestry visa.

"Fortunately, I had a Scottish grandma. It was cool. I coached at a private school that probably had more grass wickets than we have in all of

Dunedin, three bowling machines and everything you could think of! And yet at Nottinghamshire women, I think we got one hoodie in terms of kit. I was based in Loughborough where all the England girls trained so it was interesting to see the set-up they had."

Then she landed a dream job in London, working in Soho for a sports agency "so I decided I wasn't quite ready to come home! I travelled for that summer [2019/20] and did a classic Kiwi in London OE — until six months of being locked in a flat with 11 others [with UK locking down against COVID], and the prospect of another winter wasn't quite so appealing."

Inglis was able to get home and launch straight into another Sparks season, and had her best Super Smash yet. "I was also very grateful to the NZCPA and particularly Jo Murray for their support in helping me with the job hunt. It really helped me click things into place."

And now, cricket's finally taking the fore. Having played for the Sparks since she was 15 as a Year 11 schoolgirl, she's seen dramatic change. As we speak, she's sitting in an airport after a preseason

training camp in Alexandra — "the first time we've ever done that in the Sparks, and it was really invigorating. I was also the longest-serving Spark at camp because Suzie Bates and Katey Martin weren't there," she chuckles.

As a keeper, she's necessarily played second fiddle to the immortal Martin throughout her career — a lifelong Spark and their most-capped player. "But I'm hoping I can keep learning off Katey, plus get a few more games under my belt in the keeping role this summer."

The key, she believes, to all this juggling is attitude. "I think I've learnt to be pretty relaxed, chilled out. I'm a pretty unorthodox player — there's probably a little bit of hockey in that, so I try to just make the most of every opportunity and training that I get. I haven't managed to hit as many preseason balls as I would like, with hockey and being busy, so I consciously try not to get too stressed out about it. I remember just to control what I can control, do my best to enjoy whatever I'm doing." ●



# JAMIE BROWN'S HALTED CRICKET CAREER

**"I WAS THREE DAYS INTO MY NEW JOB THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN MY HANDS AND MY FEET STARTED FAILING ME."**

"I couldn't walk properly, couldn't hold a screwdriver. A couple of days later I rang Emma the Auckland Aces physio and told her what was happening, she said to me you have to go straight to hospital."

That was the situation Auckland Aces pace bowler Jamie Brown was facing shortly after securing some winter work for agriculture start-up Halter – the tech business specialising in solar-powered GPS enabled smart collars fitted to the

necks of dairy cows. The Halter product allows farmers to remotely shift, virtually fence and monitor their cow's health, feed and behaviour from an app on their phone.

After a short stay in hospital Brown, who was just 28 years of age at the time, was diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder called Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) in which your body's immune system attacks your nerves. "I had no grip strength and couldn't walk or run properly for three to four months." Explained Brown. "Luckily Halter, who I had worked for less than a week at that stage, said there was heaps of other

stuff I could do so why don't I try do some site modelling."

The St Kent's graduate took up the challenge, starting with learning how to do the modelling to determine the best place to position the various components around the farm to ensure there is full radio frequency coverage. From there he passes that information through to another former Auckland Aces cricketer Michael Barry, who is the pre-build manager and Brown's neighbour in the Halter office. Since April the company has grown from 30 odd staff to well over 100.

Brown holds a Bachelor of Construction, providing him with all the tools required to manage a number of projects on the go at any one time.

"I was really lucky to get offered a full-time job with Halter around the same time as I got offered another contract with the Aces, which made it an incredibly difficult decision to navigate through. The CPA staff, particularly Henry and Paul, were fantastic and made sure I was all ok health wise and were in my corner."

**"THE DOCTORS WERE SAYING I COULD COME RIGHT IN THREE MONTHS OR THREE YEARS."**

"I was thinking, do I take this great opportunity with a company that is growing quickly or keep the cricket dream alive." Brown was faced with a dilemma and while on one hand it was great that Auckland backed his potential and medical analysis that he would come right, equally Brown was conscious not to let others down and did not want to recommit to cricket when things were so uncertain. "I might not be able to walk in six months, or alternatively I could be completely fine in two months-time," he reflected.

Brown chose to pursue the pathway with Halter, taking the opportunity to learn and grow with the organisation. Using his initiative to seize an opportunity is nothing new for the Howick Pakuranga stalwart, as a young club cricketer he would attend training at the Aces and bowl in the nets making sure that

then coach Mark O'Donnell would see him. Eventually he was rewarded with a contract and debut for the Aces at Colin Maiden Park in 2018. "My debut was pretty cool, we played Central Districts who had guys like George Worker and Jesse Ryder playing. I had a bit of imposter syndrome, and we got annihilated but it was heaps of fun."

He hasn't completely ruled out a future in cricket, but Brown tries not to get too far ahead of himself and pile on any undue pressure. Going forward his goals are simple, "last season I was out with a stress fracture followed by the GBS, so I haven't played for 18 months. My first goal is to bowl 10 overs in the nets and not break my back again, then

the next step is to play a game of club cricket for Howick Pakuranga, then reassess. Certainly, in terms of the elite stuff I don't want to shut the door and say I'm retired and never playing again, but I don't want to be unrealistic and acknowledge it's a fair way off, but thankfully I have this other job I'm putting my time into. I'll still see where cricket takes me and I would love to return to the Aces if I can, but I am definitely not hanging my hat on it."

Hopefully in the not too distant future we will be able to see Brown unlocking opposition teams with his 'nasty fasties' alongside unlocking the connection between humans and animals in his role with Halter. ●





Aimee Watkins and daughter last summer (with Kate Baxter - far left)



The Watkins Family at the beach.



how much better they are now. It's made it tougher for New Zealand."

Several of Watkins' contemporaries — Amy Satterthwaite, Sophie Devine, Suzie Bates, the youngster with whom she used to open the batting — will at least get another shot.

"We always knew Suzie would go on to be a significant player. Even as a 16-year-old coming through from Otago, she was a standout. For her to have maintained the drive and the intensity throughout what's become a lengthy career, I think, 'good on her' and I wish her and the White Ferns all the best."

In the meantime, there's plenty else to be getting on with. For the past eight years she's been teaching at New Plymouth's Francis Douglas College — an all-boys' Catholic school that's best known as the alma mater that nurtured All Blacks Conrad Smith and the Barrett brothers. Full-time for the last three years, now that daughters Olivia and Izzy are both in school. The family is living the dream on a lifestyle block just outside town, with chickens and sheep, lambs, cats, guinea pigs and actual pigs.

"I grew up similar and it was awesome, so it was an experience I wanted my kids to have as well. We had it good during lockdown. Always something to do. Plenty of space to run around. It's a lot of work, but it's good fun for us all. We worked really hard to make it happen." ●

PAST PLAYER FEATURE

# AIMEE WATKINS

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

**WHEN THE ICC WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP PLAYS OUT IN NEW ZEALAND THIS SUMMER, FOR A GENERATION OF WOMEN THERE WILL BE A CIRCUITOUS, REFLECTIVE FEELING. THE MEMORY OF A LIFE MARKER BEING PLACED IN THE MIND.**

Twenty-one years ago New Zealand hosted the 2000 Women's Cricket World Cup — and won it. The first time that had happened. Aimee Mason (as she was then) was watching the Final live on TV. Oath, we all were. It was the most exhilarating finish of the year — the White Ferns defending 184 against usual suspects Australia in a nail-biting, last-over, four-run win. If you haven't seen the scenes, look it up on YouTube.

"I was right at the end of my last year of high school," recalls Aimee, "and I was

going to Lincoln University to take up an NZC Academy scholarship in the coming year, so that World Cup Final in Lincoln was doubly of interest to me. I looked up to Debbie Hockley, Emily Drumm, Rebecca Rolls, Catherine Campbell — all those people. I knew that being in the White Ferns was where I wanted to be."

Watkins didn't have to wait long. After a wave of retirements, she made the team the very next season — initially selected for a tour to India that was then cancelled due to 9/11, before debuting in Adelaide at the end of the summer, alongside Nic Browne and Anna Corbin in a largely new-look team. The start of a significant career of a future New Zealand captain. She would play 141 matches, including a century of ODI caps and two Tests, and crafting two ODI centuries among her 1189 ODI runs.

Domestically the allrounder also led the Central Hinds to a ground-breaking double in 2009/10 and today she is a life member of Central Districts Cricket Association.

"The whole story of the Hinds — I was 16 when I started, to 14 years later when I finished up — was one of massive change," she recalls.

"When I started, we would have just the leftovers of the men's clothes, polos that were XXL and warm-up T-shirts that were like tents, it was just ridiculous. And, the Hinds always got a hiding. I finished in my time with us being consistently in finals, and winning both titles in one season. So that was pretty cool, but the friendships you have within the team are still the most enduring things you treasure."

She was just 28 when she retired. "Not over the hill — but it was a pretty strong feeling of being done, of not wanting to do it anymore. It had been brewing for 18 months. I knew it was time to move on into the next part of my life which was having a family and getting my teaching career going, having done Teacher's College and then managing to piece together two years' worth of classroom experience whilst I was playing, in order to become fully registered.

I was able to step into a full-time job which helped make the transition to life after sport easy. [Her husband] Jamie and I also had a goal of wanting to build a house, so other things just took over the space and time that cricket used to consume."

Jamie Watkins was playing for Taranaki while Aimee was a White Fern. Today he's the one immersed in Central Districts cricket — coaching his wife's old team and developing women's cricket across the whole region in a full-time role for CDCA.

"Cricket is his passion. He'd always also be down on a Saturday watching his club team, and he'll probably still be doing that when he's 80. Once we had kids, we just had to figure out how to juggle all that and I'll generally pop along to Pukekura Park with the girls when he's there with the Hinds on game day."

They had known each other pre-cricket, then Jamie went on his crickering OE to Scotland for some six northern summers in a row. "Once he came back full-time, he was at Taranaki Cricket, and I was coaching and doing some pieces there through the summer. We got married in 2009."

With Aimee still playing, Jamie developed a strong appreciation for the challenges facing female cricketers — even at the international level. "He's very passionate about it, and I'm sure that comes across in his coaching."

Meanwhile, Aimee was ready to step away from cricket entirely. "I didn't follow it at all. It was a complete break and, in some ways, I still feel like I'm going through that 'detox' — which is weird, after 10 years, but I think I was just so immersed in it during my career that now it was time for everything else. I do follow domestic cricket a bit through the Hinds now — but Jamie's the one who'll turn on the TV to watch the cricket or White Ferns."

But she's sure she will be tuning in to the home World Cup, one of the box office events of the national sporting summer.

"It's been 21 years, so it will be pretty special if the White Ferns can pull that one out of the hat. And, it will be a major event, this time. The profile is much higher. The domestic doubleheaders have been good for shining a light on the women's game. The chit-chat in the staffroom these days is what happened in the women's game, and then, what happened in the men's. That just never happened 20 years ago."

Aimee played in two ODI World Cups and two T20 World Cups — captaining in the latter. In her last, the 2010 Final in Bridgetown, Australia won by just three runs.

"With World Cups, we had a pretty good run. We didn't win during my time, but were making finals, and runners-up just about every blimmin' tournament. It was always heart-breaking at the time, but I look back and think it was quite an achievement by a small country with a very small pool of female players. Frankly, we were very amateur then compared to England, Australia and India, so we were punching well above our weight.

"Now the landscape has changed so much — West Indies, South Africa, all the other countries have poured resources into women's cricket and it's obvious



# TRUSTED HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED



Bruce Taylor was supported by the Trust, here with Ewen Chatfield

The Cricketers' Trust is a charitable trust established by current professional players and the New Zealand Cricket Players' Association with a view to assisting past cricketers who have fallen on hard times.

It is during these times of need that the trust aims to do what it can to ease the hardship that former players and their families may be experiencing.

As the work of the Trust has become more known there have been more applications for support from past players who for whatever reason have suffered a crisis in their lives and are struggling financially or with their health and well-being.

The Trust has helped more than 20 Past Players in the past two years and distributed more than \$50,000.

If you feel you would like to contribute to the trust fund, donations can be placed into the Trust account below

ANZ  
Cricketers Trust Account  
01-1839-00268808-000

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# ONE MIGHTY CLASH

**COMBINE TEAM RUGBY WITH ALL ITS SPORTING SUPERSTARS, AND TEAM CRICKET PACKED FULL OF LEGENDS, TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE AND YOU GET NEW ZEALAND'S FAVOURITE SUMMER EVENT INSPIRED AND DELIVERED BY DUCO EVENTS – THE HOT SPRING SPAS T20 BLACK CLASH IN ASSOCIATION WITH HEARTLAND.**

T20 Black Clash has established itself as a quintessential annual event on the summer calendar which truly captures the imagination of the public and this, the fourth edition, sees a return to the North Island and a debut at Tauranga's

magnificent Bay Oval, where these two hugely popular codes will battle for bragging rights and the impressive Lomu Trophy.

After another disrupted Covid-19 year, the Black Clash will provide some much-anticipated entertainment for fans who have been starved of attending sports events through 2021, and with Tauranga bulging with holiday makers over January, the prospect of a bumper crowd is looking inevitable.

Stephen Fleming and NZCPA life member Sir Graham Henry will face off, with the wily former Otago wicket keeper (and Rugby World Cup winning coach) looking to square the ledger which tipped in favour of Team Cricket last year at Hagley Oval, following a nail biting final over which saw former Black Caps star Dan Vettori take three wickets.

Former youth cricket stars Will Jordan and Jordie Barret return for team rugby

alongside former ND age grade rep Kieran Reid. Sir 'Ted' and Richie McCaw don't take to losing so it will be fascinating to see who makes the cut for Team Rugby, especially as Fleming has called up his old Blackcaps mate Shane Bond – who still floats around the cricket scene as a coach and might just be able to whistle the odd one through to Adam Parore like the old days.

T20 Black Clash is once again live on TVNZ with the Alternative Commentary Collective calling all the action, but to get the true experience, getting along to Bay Oval is a must.

### **HOT SPRING SPAS T20 TAURANGA BLACK CLASH**

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Grant McKenzie (left), and sons; Gus McKenzie (middle) and Jock McKenzie (right)



Will O'Rourke (middle) with mum and dad.

# CRICKET ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

**WITH EVERY GENERATION OF DOMESTIC CRICKETERS COMES A RAFT OF FAMILY TIES, SO NO SURPRISES THAT TWO OF THIS SEASON'S NEW CONTRACTEES ARE "SON-OF'S".**

Otago Volts recruit **Angus McKenzie** is a third-generation representative cricketer, following father Grant McKenzie (34 first-class and 11 List A games for Northern Districts from 1984 to 1991) and his late grandfather Bill McKenzie who played Hawke Cup 1946 to 1960. Grant offered a bit of left-arm spin, Bill was a handy right-arm allrounder so the pace gene has skipped a generation.

Angus's all-round ability stood out in the 2015/16 Gillette Cup in a Westlake Boys' side captained by Will O'Donnell. "We had Ross ter Braak too, the best school side I'd ever played in. Hutt International had Ben Sears, Rachin Ravindra and Troy Johnson, we finished equal on points but they won the title on NRR. A bit of a bugger!"

Sears was the only player who bagged more wickets than McKenzie that year.

At the time McKenzie was opening the batting, but has since moved down to the middle order and classifies himself as a bowling allrounder for the Volts at the moment, "but all through school I was a batsman. It will be interesting to see how it goes this summer."

He made a first-class 34\* late last season with his mates on the bank sinking a few and getting in behind him. After five Ford Trophy games over two summers McKenzie made his first-class debut last summer after Volts regular Nathan Smith was ruled out with a broken thumb. McKenzie made a solid start with 34 not out, with his mates on the bank sinking a few and getting in behind him.

"Dad missed my one-day debut because I got called in late, but he flew down for my first-class debut in Invercargill, got a taxi to the ground and arrived as I was bowling my first over! We went out and had a good seafood chowder that night."

"Growing up, it was Dad who ignited the spark for cricket in me. I was always all right at it, I was never amazing, but the one thing I had was I always enjoyed it. Later on a lot of my

**"GROWING UP, IT WAS DAD WHO IGNITED THE SPARK FOR CRICKET IN ME." ANGUS MCKENZIE**

mates dropped off and stopped playing, as they do, but for me, it was always good fun, so I kept playing."

"Mum played hockey and we'd been pretty fortunate growing up to have enough grass out the back for a pretty decent game of backyard cricket with me, Dad and my younger brother [Auckland Blues first-five] Jock. Dad was working in rugby for Auckland so we'd always have three or four weeks off at Christmas, and often we'd go down to the Mount to my granddad's, playing cricket there too."

The McKenzie name has multiple affiliations with Grant an ND player who'd played his age-group cricket for CD in Hawke's Bay; Grandad Bill also having represented Bay of Plenty and Angus born in Wellington, growing up in Auckland before heading to Otago for Uni.

"I came down as a student, with an eye on playing cricket but not thinking 'I'm going to be a cricketer'. Then two seasons ago they invited me in for preseason stuff. I was a classic student, not in the best of nick, but they were so accommodating and I thought, 'This is a very good environment to be in...'"

McKenzie's name had already surfaced somewhat randomly in a NZXI game against the West Indies in Whangarei, long before his Domestic debut. He was busy working in the Mighty Ape warehouse when Gavin Larsen rang

him, and you could have knocked him over with a feather. "I was just on the fringe of Auckland A at that time, so it was a hell of an experience."

Now he's looking forward to building his experience for Otago, while still studying part-time through Massey University for a property valuation degree and working "very part-time" at Axia Property. All going well, Dad and Jock, who played two summers of cricket alongside him at North Shore, will be able to watch him again sometime this summer in Auckland.

"Dad and I talk cricket quite a bit and as I'm slowly maturing, I'm realising what a really great knowledge he's got, and I enjoy listening. It helps sort me out."

Further up State Highway One, 20 year old paceman **Will O'Rourke** is looking forward to his first summer as a professional player with Canterbury.

Yet to debut, the big right-arm rookie picked up the 16th contract for Canterbury but his name should be familiar not only from his pedigree — he's the son of 1990s Wellington right-arter Paddy O'Rourke, but from the 2020 New Zealand Under 19 World Cup team that impressed in South Africa.

Uncle Matthew O'Rourke also played for NZU19 (New Zealand Youth, as it was called at the time) as well as CD age-group and a sole first-class match for Auckland, while their little brother James O'Rourke played for Wellington A

**"I'M AROUND SO MANY QUALITY PLAYERS WHOM I CAN LEARN OFF, WHO ARE VERY GENEROUS WITH THAT AND WHO I CAN JUST TALK BOWLING WITH, LIKE I DO WITH MY DAD." WILL O'ROURKE**

## NEWLY CONTRACTED PLAYERS 2021/22

<b>AUCKLAND</b>	Adithya Ashok, Cole Briggs, Matthew Gibson, Ryan Harrison
<b>CANTERBURY</b>	Harry Chamberlain, William O'Rourke
<b>CENTRAL DISTRICT</b>	Joey Field
<b>NORTHERN DISTRICT</b>	Kristian Clarke, Freddy Walker
<b>OTAGO</b>	Jake Gibson, Angus McKenzie, Todd Muller
<b>WELLINGTON</b>	Luke Georgeson, Callum McLachlan

and Wairarapa where the trio of bowling brothers hailed from.

No shock, then, that the latest O'Rourke's a wicket-taker, too. "Growing up, my old man was really the main guy coaching me and talking with me after every game. These days he's in Auckland and I still call him up for a chat about it."

Will himself escalated through the Auckland Under 17s and Under 19s, then moved down to Christchurch last year to start studying towards a Bachelor of

Sport Coaching majoring in performance analysis and sports science.

"I think it's going to be quite interesting to me comparing what I'm learning at Uni here with what it's actually like being in a professional set-up," he says. "I'm very interested in sports psychology and things like that, but I'm also flattered with four other boys so I have a good social life as well, for some balance."

O'Rourke put in a good stint in senior club cricket locally and then, in a matter of months, there was Canterbury coach Peter Fulton ringing to confirm he was being offered a maiden contract.

Fulton and O'Rourke have something else in common besides the red and black kit they share this summer, they both stand almost two meters tall (six foot six in old money).

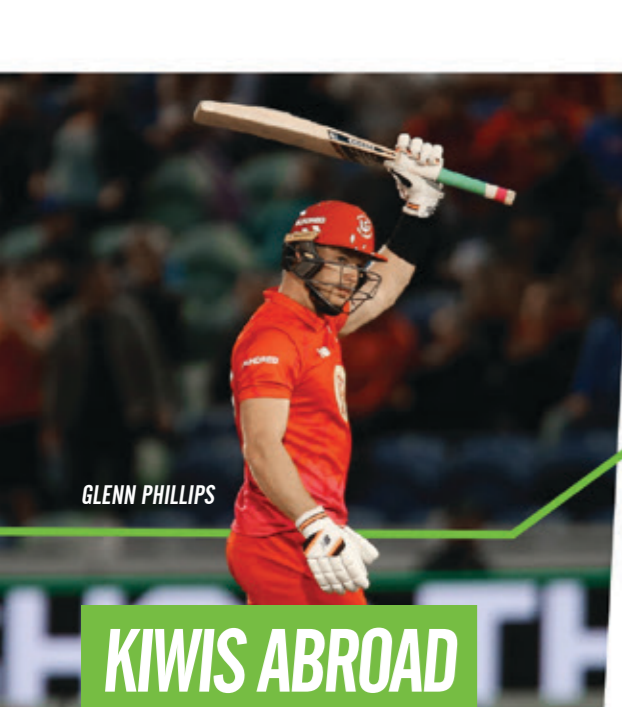
"A lot of my game is based around my height. It gives me an advantage in my bowling, but I think how I bowl has improved a lot over the last year — and

especially with the set-up I'm in now, with so many quality players around whom I can learn off, who are very generous with that and who I can just talk bowling with, like I do with my Dad."

"I feel the consistency is getting better for me and I've been working with our bowling coach Brendon Donkers on bowling plans that hopefully lead to a few more wickets over the summer."

"Now I'm just hoping I'll get an opportunity." ●





GLENN PHILLIPS



STEPHEN FLEMING



EMILY CUNNINGHAM



LOCKIE FERGUSON

## KIWIS ABROAD

# THE SHOW MUST GO ON...

**DESPITE THE OBVIOUS CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH COVID RESTRICTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, A NUMBER OF OUR MEMBERS, BOTH PLAYERS AND COACHING STAFF, JETTED OFF TO PLY THEIR TRADE IN VARIOUS COMPETITION AND INTERNATIONAL FIXTURES OVER THE WINTER. SO, WE THOUGHT WE'D TAKE A LITTLE LOOK AROUND THE TRAPS AND SEE WHAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN UP TO.**

On the international front, Northern District's **Eimear Richardson** represented her home country Ireland in the ICC T20 Euro Regional Qualifier in Spain earning the distinction of being named player of the tournament and ICC player of the month for August.

"It was such a special time to be able to travel globally in the current circumstances and be part of a great

group of teammates and staff, all with the pride of representing your country. We were disappointed with missing out on automatic entry to the next phase of T20 qualifiers and now wait on the wildcard possibility. Still, it was a proud moment to receive those accolades from the tournament and ICC and hopefully as a group the team can take some learnings and momentum forward into the next series," described Richardson.

After picking up back-to-back T20 titles, the Wellington Firebirds' **Logan van Beek** donned the orange of the Netherlands - playing a 2-match ODI series against Scotland which was drawn and a 3-match ODI series against Ireland in which the Dutch won 2-1 and van Beek was named player of the series.

"I left NZ at the end of April and headed to the Netherlands to work for a company called Fairtree Capital and play club cricket with an eye on strengthening my chances of making the Dutch side for the T20 World Cup, which I managed to do. While in Europe I also got a run with Derbyshire in the T20 Vitality Blast. This whole trip has provided me with some great opportunities," said van Beek.

CPA Life Member **Stephen Fleming** was one of many coaches in action offshore, heading to the UAE for the continuation of the IPL. With Fleming at the helm the Chennai Super Kings were able to secure another IPL trophy, before Fleming stayed on to work with the Blackcaps during the T20 World Cup. Fleming's coaching skills and sharp eye will be in tune as he prepares for the one event in the calendar that he cherishes - the chance to take on Sir 'Ted' Henry and Team Rugby in the Black Clash at Bay Oval on 22 January.

There were several other New Zealand players and coaching staff involved in England's 'The Hundred' and leading the wicket taking stats for the competition was none other than New Zealand and Stags pace bowler **Adam Milne**, who took 12 wickets from 8 matches for the Birmingham Phoenix. Perhaps it was the mentoring of his kiwi coaching staff **Daniel Vettori** (Head Coach) and **James Franklin** (Assistant) that helped Milne achieve this milestone. The Palmerston North native also played for Kent in the T20 Vitality Blast and the Mumbai Indians in the IPL alongside **Trent Boult** and **Jimmy Neesham**, where the kiwi trio regularly starred for the Mahela Jayawardene coached outfit.

"It was really exciting to be involved in a new competition like 'The Hundred', doing well with my bowling and having a few kiwis like Dan (Vettori), James (Franklin) and **Finn Allen** in the environment, made it a really enjoyable month," stated Milne.



DANIEL VETTORI



LOGAN VAN BEEK



EIMEAR RICHARDSON

a regular feature for the Trent Rockets. Priest's 76 against the London Spirit was the third highest total in the competition.

Despite spending long periods of the New Zealand summer recovering from injury **Lockie Ferguson** made up for lost time in the winter as he hit some form for the Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. His lead into competition was in the UK in a place better known for its Blue and Red Football sides City and United, making his mark for the Manchester Originals in The Hundred before moving to Yorkshire for The Vitality Blast. Ferguson was given the ball for the last over against Lancashire in a regular season fixture, making a statement with a hat-trick with his last three deliveries to win his side the match.

The County Cricket Championship regularly features New Zealander's these days. James Franklin is the head coach for Durham where

**Will Young** joined for a short spell. **Colin de Grandhomme** became the first Gloucestershire player to register a score of 150 and take four wickets in an innings in his second match of his County campaign. Also featuring in the local record books was **Ish Sodhi** who became the sixth Worcestershire player to take six wickets on debut for the County. Central Districts Hinds player **Emily Cunningham** has just returned from the UK after representing Berkshire which is where she originally hails from. Cunningham has been doing a combination of playing and coaching junior players during her stint in the UK, and was impressive on the field herself, dominating with the bat with an impressive strike rate of 150.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and disruption many of our events are being rescheduled or planning is being deferred until we have more certainty.

### PAST PLAYER EVENT

Details still to come

### HOOKE ON CRICKET

Term One 2022

### QSCC CHARITY GOLF DAY

Auckland. Postponed – new date to be confirmed

### THE PLAYERS' GOLF DAY

Date to be confirmed

## NZCPA WEBSITE AND APP

We are delighted to confirm our website [nzcpa.co.nz](http://nzcpa.co.nz) is currently being refreshed and will include an expanded members area with all sorts of information and resources about the NZCPA – plus access to our expanding range of Member preferential rates.

Also launching in the final quarter of 2021 is a brand new NZCPA app. In a fresh move to enhance our

connectivity and engagement we are launching the app with an initial focus on enhancing our engagement with our 200 odd current playing members, with resources for our past player network being incorporated in future updates.

The app is free to download but does require member's registration. Details will be forwarded to you once we launch the app live.



### PREMIUM PARTNERS



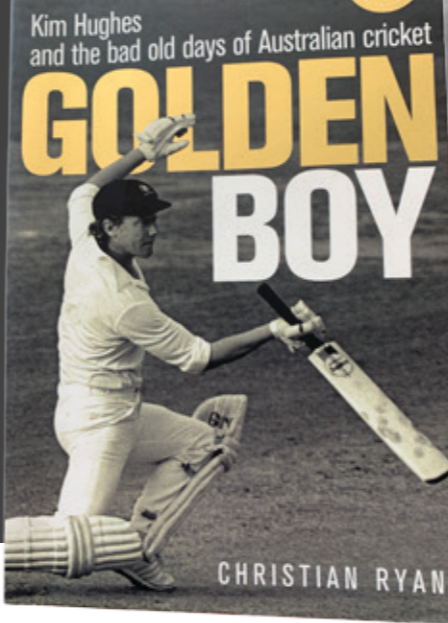
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### BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS



## THE INSIDER



## BOOK REVIEW – 'GOLDEN BOY'

by Paul Ford

On a family holiday to Australia we caught a train from the centre of Sydney and an incredibly steamed cricket fan from Wagga Wagga sat beside us on his way home after a day in the scorching sun of the SCG.

We got talking - and he got slurring - and in a parting shot of kindness he produced a red leather cricket ball signed by none other than Kimberley John Hughes and handed it over to me. Ever since then I have had the former Australian cricket captain and eighties icon on my radar - a player often remembered only for breaking down as he resigned as Australian captain at a press conference at the Gabba in 1984.

My Kim Hughes radar was triggered again recently when a mate at work said he'd picked up a great book entitled 'Golden Boy: Kim Hughes and the bad old days of Australian cricket', penned by Christian Ryan. It was named by Wisden as probably the greatest cricket book ever written.

I hunted it down in a Wellington CBD secondhand bookshop (a mere \$20) and this biography is one hell of a read: enthralling, booze-laden, and a searing "unairbrushed" insight into the savage macho culture of cricket in an era punctuated by the Packer revolution and fallout from rebel tours to South Africa.

Hughes famously did not contribute to the book, but instead left Ryan to his own devices to unearth the back story independently, unconstrained by the protagonist's memory. And Ryan does

this meticulously, interviewing more than 70 people who knew Hughes - childhood friends, coaches, international and provincial team mates, selectors and coaches.

At its heart it is a profoundly sad book as we see Hughes' carefree talent and love for the game relentlessly attacked and ultimately dismantled by the three alpha male rock stars of Australian cricket of the time: Dennis Lillee, Rod Marsh and Greg Chappell. Hughes regarded the trio as absolute legends of the game but this reverence was never reciprocated: instead they saw him as out of his depth, over-confident and not sufficiently focused on winning.

They were outwardly hostile to him as their unwanted national captain. "I honestly would prefer to play under several other players, who I think would do a better job than Kim," Marsh said in one interview. One of those other players, of course, was none other than himself.

Lillee was brutal to Hughes too - even when they were on the same team, in the nets preparing to play Test matches for Australia. Left-arm spinner Murray Bennett regales a story of Lillee meandering in and "unloading off a few yards" until Hughes arrived for his net session. Now Lillee switched gears, extending his run-up and steaming in to unleash bouncer after bouncer in succession aimed at Hughes' golden locks.

Paceman Geoff Lawson tells a similar yarn in a pre-Ashes net session: "He nearly broke Kim's arm. Just ran

in and bowled lightning and Kim had to go off for an X-ray...the day before the Ashes started." Extraordinarily, Hughes never complained or became embittered: he just got on with the job at hand as best he could, outwardly displaying confidence and ploughing on regardless.

Ryan makes it clear Hughes was a polarising character: endearing to some, but a cocky prodigy to others. One writer put it neatly: "Insecure but arrogant, abrasive but charming - in Hughes' character were the seeds of his own destruction."

Kim knew he was good. He was a terrific, aesthetically pleasing, attacking, risk-taking entertainer of a batsman who only partially fulfilled his promise. More annoyingly, he'd loudly predict at team meetings that today was the day he would be scoring 200 before lunch. And he apparently loved to drive fast bowlers, dropping down on one knee then yelling out: "Shot! That's four on any ground in the world."

It's a cricket book that will make you question the dressing room cultures you have been a part of over the years. It will make you realise how brutal grown men can be to grown men. And it will remind you that sometimes talent is a curse because of what it triggers in others. 'Golden Boy' is a poignant book, magnificently written. Highly recommended.

Paul Ford is the co-founder of the Beige Brigade and one-seventh of The Alternative Commentary Collective. He still has the Wagga Wagga ball in his cricket memorabilia collection. 🏏



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