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Cricket Players Association

OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



**ROSS TAYLOR
IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
STEPHEN MATHER
BACK INTO THE GAME**

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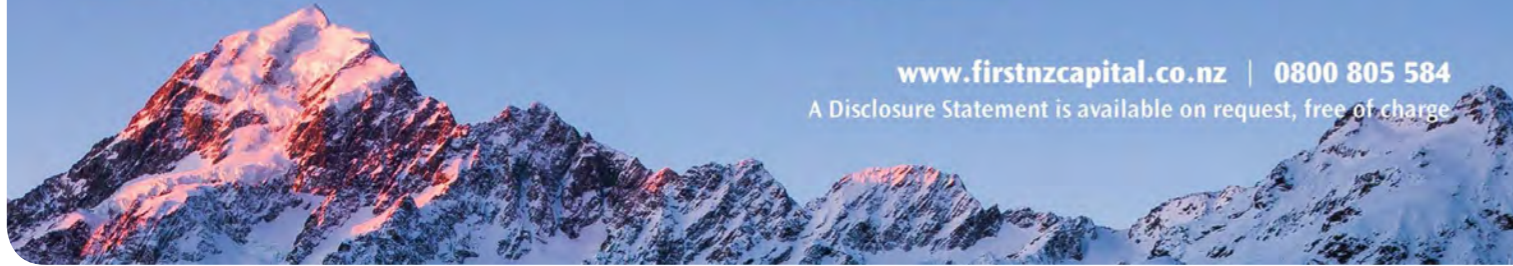


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Congratulations Wellington Champs, Taita District CC!

Reigning champions, Petone-Eastbourne CC faced Taita District CC in the final of the CricHQ T20 KnockOut Cup at the Basin Reserve, on 22 February 2017.

Pictured top-right; T20 KnockOut Cup Champions Taita District CC, captained by Mark Houghton.

Pictured bottom, T20 KnockOut Cup MVP winner Kishen Velani, Petone-Eastbourne CC.

Making Cricket Even Better | cricq.com



HOOKED ON CRICKET

Special thanks to **Queen Street Cricket Club** for their ongoing support of the CPA's Hooked on Cricket programme, and our goal of promoting cricket to kids from all walks of life.

Photos Courtesy of NZCPA: Jacob Oram and the players in action at Hooked on Cricket Tauranga, Hutt Valley and Dunedin.

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Players better together

TAYLOR TAKES TIME OUT TO GIVE BACK

By Margot Butcher



YOU MAY HAVE SEEN SNIPPETS OF ROSS TAYLOR IN ACTION IN DUBAI RECENTLY – NOT PLAYING FOR THE BLACKCAPS, BUT PASSING ON EXPERTISE TO THE ICC'S NEWEST ODI SIDE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

Taylor had been working with National Personal Development Manager Sanj Silva about his interest in helping promote cricket to Pacific Islanders. As a result Taylor was introduced to Kieran McMillan from ICC East Asia Pacific who was only too thrilled for Taylor to share his cricketing mana and enthusiasm to help teams within the region.

Cricket PNG — aka the Barramundis — were in the UAE to play Middlesex and Yorkshire, before three ODIs and T20I's against the more experienced UAE team. Fitting in as coaching consultant for a week with a team he had never seen before turned out to be an inspirational experience Taylor will “never forget”. And, Taylor says, “hopefully this is just the start”.

Taylor was beaming about the experience and noted that “cricket PNG does have one grass facility now, but where the majority of these guys came from, their main wicket in their village is the road. They've painted lines into it! It's fascinating seeing where they've come from and understanding that a lot of these guys don't get to play on grass until they go to these overseas tournaments.”

Rugby league is PNG's national sport; but cricket was introduced in the 1890s by missionaries. Quirky fact: PNG holds the world record for the highest score in a one-day match, 572/7 against New Caledonia in 2007. They're by far the strongest side in the EAP division, ranked at one, and Taylor says you quickly see some influences of league — the agility, the athleticism — in their stunning fielding.

“They are very fast across the ground, they throw naturally and they're natural strikers of the ball. The athleticism of these guys — you don't have to teach that; they've got it in spades. Playing Twenty20 comes naturally to them. But the one-day and the four-day is definitely not as “natural” as the Twenty20 and that's where they are keen for more exposure to the game to get better. They love the game, have a real thirst for getting better, so they asked me a lot of questions and I tried to give them as much help and insight as I could.”

Taylor teamed up with former international Dipak Patel, an early hero Taylor used to



watch on TV when he was a boy. Patel had been the CD coach the year before Taylor first made the Stags, but this was the first time they had really got to know each other — Patel is the PNG team head coach.

“Two days is the longest that PNG plays at home and Dipak's trying to get them three-day cricket to play amongst themselves to develop their game awareness. The more they play, the better they will get.”

At 33, Taylor's retirement is in the viewfinder, even if not sharply in focus just yet. Working with Pacific Islanders cricketers is something he'd like to pursue in more depth once he has more time. In the meantime, PNG has a camp in Brisbane later this year and he's keen to link back up if the timing works.

“It's still in its infancy, but hopefully some of the players can come over and experience what we do, rub shoulders with some of our domestic sides and hopefully the Blackcaps too - just to see how our team operates. Even if they pick up one or two key things, it's worth it. They just need that exposure to the game.”

Taylor's own heritage, Samoan on his mother's side, means he instantly picked up and appreciated a lot of cultural similarities with PNG. “They're very family-orientated people and they welcomed me in with open arms. Very religious people, too. They spend so much time away with cricket, they do get homesick a lot, but it's even more reason to band together as a team and get through those tough periods for family and friends.”

Taylor would love to see more Samoan's playing cricket, too — both in the islands and in our diverse New Zealand. As a boy in Masterton, it was often assumed he was

Maori, and it wasn't until his emergence as a young Blackcap that media began to ask and find out about his Samoan middle names and roots. “I'm very proud to represent Pacific Islanders and who's to say more won't follow? Look at what Sean Solia's achieved in the last season.

“I would love to see more Polynesians playing cricket. Murphy Su'a, Ili Tugaga and myself show that cricket is a game for Polynesian athletes, and I think many who do end up playing rugby or league would be pretty talented if they were exposed to cricket.”

Taylor hasn't been back to Samoa since he was five, but he's hoping that's about to change, too.

“There's a 25th anniversary on in September that I'm hoping to go to — I'm just working through it with Murphy at the moment. I've helped many Samoan players out with gear for a while now, and helped out where I can, but it's exciting to think I can do that in a different capacity again now, as I get more time. This is something I always wanted to do: to achieve and then be able to give back.”

He'll be keeping a close eye on the Barramundi's fortunes in the meantime from afar. “I'm good friends with a lot of them now, I'm still on their Messenger and WhatsApp group, and the banter that's flying from that! So it's a start, and something I want to do over the next few years. Then when I finally do retire, obviously I can give a bit more time to not only PNG and Samoan cricket, but Pacific Island cricket in New Zealand and helping out the other island nations.”

Photos Courtesy of ICC/Getty.



THE PLAYERS' CAP

THE ULTIMATE TEAM MAN HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN RECOGNISED AS THE ULTIMATE TEAM PERFORMER

Kane Williamson is a tremendous cricketer and his team mates have rubber stamped this fact with a third successful Players' Cap award. Williamson broke new ground last year as the first repeat winner of **The Players' Cap** but during 2016/17 he trumped that feat with a hat-trick of players' player awards that is sure to set a benchmark of performance consistency for the future.

"This award is special to the players and its good to reflect on the contribution made to the team across a long season.

I am fortunate to receive the cap again this year and I am really pleased to be recognised in such a way by my mates" said a typically coy Williamson after receiving the award from CPA Life Member Craig McMillan.

Williamson knows more than anyone, that great teams are built on more than individuals alone and that winning on big occasions is driven by the best inspiring those around them to great performances – the Jordan led Bulls, Steve Waugh's Aussie team, and the

All Blacks throughout the years.

Earning the right to receive **The Players' Cap** is a difficult challenge – it requires consistency of form, fitness, perseverance and above all else, meaningful contributions to the team on a regular basis, whatever the format.

Williamson led the voting in Tests, closely followed by Neil Wagner and Ross Taylor. Trent Boult shone brightest in the ODI's but only one point separated the top four players – Boult, Williamson, Tim Southee and Mitchell Santner. Ish Sodhi was a revelation in T20 cricket this summer for the Blackcaps and accumulated the most votes, ahead of Colin Munro and Williamson who rounded out the summer in the top three of each format.

Kane Williamson deserved the right to **The Players' Cap** in 2017, no question. But hot on his heels are a host of well performed players who will be looking to stand in front of their peers and receive the ultimate accolade, come April 2018.

PLAYERS' CAP RECIPIENTS

- 2017 Kane Williamson
- 2016 Kane Williamson
- 2015 Kane Williamson
- 2014 Ross Taylor
- 2013 Tim Southee
- 2012 Brendon McCullum

WORKING NINE TO FIVE TRAINING 5 TO 9

By Margot Butcher

When it comes to the complexities of balancing a sporting and working life, Liz Perry's got game. The dual New Zealand hockey and cricket international practises what she preaches, lives what she preaches – has even studied what she preaches.

In her day job away from cricket as a Global Elite sports consultant, Perry specialises in sourcing elite talent within the sporting sectors for businesses and external career development. Global Elite has also been working with the NZCPA Personal Development programme to assist with the growing need for professional cricketers to better equip themselves for a career and life after sport.

"It's really crucial to start on that transitional path well before the day you retire," Perry stresses.

I'm fortunate to work with Nathan McCullum and we both know you can bring some of those attributes from your sporting career into your next career – and there are a lot of businesses out there who are interested because they know professional athletes bring attributes that are priceless. But, if you haven't had exposure to the working environment players can be in for quite a shock".

So I'm really passionate about ensuring athletes have the best support to make that step, and that those valuable skills end up being utilised in the workforce – where we are all going to spend the majority of our life."

Perry herself works full-time, as do the majority of the White Ferns, despite an emergence of women's domestic Twenty20 leagues in Australia and England. Players are encouraged to work or study while holding a New Zealand Cricket contract and Perry has flourished with this balance in her life – touring Australia with the White Ferns this past summer as well as playing in the two home series and stepping up to captain Wellington Blaze in between.

"It meant longer hours, and more time figuring out where I have to be and when. But I think there are always opportunities to develop as a person and a player, and it

drove me to be better because I was more aware of what I was trying to achieve, on both fronts. That balance between sport and 'outside world' was actually crucial for me – I became a better cricketer and person because of it."

For Perry, balance includes making adequate time for family and friends – her secret to keeping mentally fresh to charge on. Perry also knows what it's like to walk away from the game and, after fighting her way back into the White Ferns this year after realising she wasn't ready to just give up on long-held dreams.

"I've had a couple of times in my career where I have thought it was over – shoulder injuries, and some decisions along the way..."

Like studying. There was never going to be some near-eternal, part-time Bachelor's degree for someone as sensible as Perry. Hockey dreams took her to Canterbury as a youngster so she did a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and anthropology. Then injuries steered the young Black Stick further toward the cricket path. She made her White Ferns debut in 2010 at the ICC World T20 in the West Indies, just 22.

"From there I ended up in England. I just thought, 'This is a real opportunity to do a Masters' degree. No female athletes I knew had conducted studies themselves in the field of Anthropology of Sport so there was a window of opportunity to do something in that space and I grabbed it."

Perry's thesis was on "the travelling female athlete: cricket, migration and globalisation." Which might be paraphrased as 'how the heck to survive in England playing cricket as a woman from New Zealand' – which she did, for three years, whilst completing it. The women's game is changing. The new agreement the NZCPA have negotiated with NZC for White Ferns players, plus T20 leagues in England and Australia have created better opportunities for players to commit more to the game.

Perry is frank that, at 29, she's all but missed the boat to live that dream. "But

it's an exciting time to be a female athlete in many sports now. I look at hockey – those girls work very hard and commit a great deal of time for very little money. For us as cricketers, we're very fortunate to have a game that is growing globally and that women's cricket is finally getting more attention and investment. Suzie Bates [one of the world's best players] is now able to be a full-time cricketer, and that creates something for girls to aspire to. Amelia Kerr, at 16, could be in the game for years and could potentially earn enough to play, full time, as long as she chooses."

The flip side is that it remains an obvious challenge for a number of our women's players, like Perry, to live solely on what are only part-time retainers. "It means we have to think carefully about what we do outside of our cricketing commitments, and how we still stay fresh and ready for cricket. Even those playing in those other leagues really need to work out the balance between touring life and life outside cricket."

For Perry, that means being part of the solution rather than the problem.

"Awareness of this issue is better now thanks to the programmes that have been implemented by the NZCPA for the men's game, but have also been made available to White Fern players, such as having a Rachel [NZCPA Personal Development Manager] looking after the WF's."

Now, most players are thinking about life after cricket much earlier, not just waiting until retirement. It's a crucial aspect of our cricket career and just like the emphasis on fitness, nutrition, and skills, there should much more emphasis on what cricketers do outside of cricket."

For Perry herself, long term she would like that to be utilising and integrating her degrees back into cricket and sporting environments. "Using what I've learnt to help other athletes and employers."

NZCPA PLAYERS' AWARD

Amy Satterthwaite was nothing short of sensational during the 2016/17 season for the White Ferns, punctuated when she became the first women in the world to score four ODI centuries in a row, after her match winning effort against the old foes (Australia) at Eden Park's outer oval.

Contributions to the team performance – you bet! After a quiet start to the year at the ICC World Twenty20, Satterthwaite settled into the form of her life, accumulating the most **NZCPA Player's Award** votes in each of the White Ferns series against South Africa, Pakistan and Australia.

Satterthwaite was presented with the second **NZCPA Players' Award** by NZC President and CPA Life Member Debbie Hockley at the Bay Oval following an enthralling battle with the Australian's for the Rose Bowl trophy.

Emotions were certainly mixed when recognising Satterthwaite's achievements after the team came so close to securing the trophy that has eluded them since 1999.

However, that obvious disappointment was replaced by joy and admiration as Satterthwaite received the cap that signifies not only what a great season she had, but how far this team is progressing.

Satterthwaite was both elated and gutted, honoured and humbled. Her words were softly spoken and few when simply saying "thanks, this means a lot".

There is much more to come from this White Ferns team, who are clearly hungry for success (especially against their better resources contemporaries) and if there is anything to be taken from the intimacy and feeling during this presentation in the fading light of the Bay Oval, then keep an eye on Satterthwaite and co. during the World Cup in England this June.

NZCPA PLAYERS' AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2017 Amy Satterthwaite
- 2016 Suzie Bates



BACK INTO THE GAME

PAST PLAYER FEATURE:

STEPHEN MATHER

By Margot Butcher



You can't take cricket out of the boy, as they say.

At 43, with a busy corporate life as Z Energy's Commercial Sales Manager and four energetic children at home, Stephen Mather might not pay as much attention to domestic cricket as he once did as a Wellington (and, briefly, Otago) top order batsman — but there are exceptions. Like the day of this year's McDonald's Super Smash final when he got wind that the Firebirds were in with a chance. Leaping on his bike, he rode up a hill in Mahia to get mobile coverage, just to get the score. He was at Campbell Furlong's holiday place and the opportunity for an ex-Wellington player being able to relay such news to his ex-CD mate was too good to miss.

Mather and Furlong's respective fathers used to play rugby together for Hawke's Bay. Mather's family moved to Wellington where he went to Wellington College, playing most of his 41 first-class and 68 limited overs matches for the capital between 1993 and 2001. He stopped at 27 despite feeling he'd finally started to figure out his cricket and get somewhere in his last couple of seasons. "But I also couldn't see too many players who had exited the game in their early to mid 30s and found meaningful work. Most were doing things

they weren't particularly happy with, trying to make a buck. I was reluctant to become that grumpy, semi-retired first-class cricketer."

The professional wave was yet to hit domestic cricket. Mather recounts a Peter Pan existence playing league cricket in England in his off seasons — until he was offered a real job, an entry level marketing role at Telecom, through one of his own contacts, in what proved to be his last season. "It was the first time I had earned regular, decent income and could make some choices. And that changes your life!"

It put him on a corporate path, one that would take him to Sydney where he scored an appealing job in sales. "The first week I was there, I looked out of my apartment down onto the Manly cricket club. They were doing preseason training three months before the season started, 50 players doing fitness in 33 degrees. That was the point I got affirmation I'd made the right decision. I could go surfing."

The family headed home a few years later when his eldest son was born, Mather establishing himself for American recruitment company Hudson, then building a sales team from scratch for TradeMe for three years which in turn led to Wellington-based Z Energy — a company of some 500

employees. He's been there four years now and "it's a good place to work."

Did cricket play any part in this? Not really — it reads more like something of a minor miracle after five carefree English summers, the first three in the Yorkshire leagues fresh out of school; and a Bachelor of Arts in literature in between — he's always been interested in writing. Meanwhile, non-cricketing friends were all lawyers, accountants, business people on their second or third jobs, starting to earn good money in an era when the workforce had got more picky about qualifications. Even though Mather had set to some extra-mural post-grad studies in marketing, he got lucky.

The game did impart something useful, even if it's hard to quantify. Communication is core to his work "and being in a team is certainly fun. Cricket definitely gave me a sense of the importance of fun and culture to successful teams. I've enjoyed building successful teams in the workplace that work well together. I have a team of people who have relationships with our big commercial customers like big line haul transport companies and corporates."

But you can't take cricket out of the boy. Mather really loved going to all but one of the Blackcaps' home games in the 2015 World Cup, travelling around New Zealand with old

mates. "I'd never felt more connected to an event in any sport than at those matches. I felt very proud to be a cricket person, and to be a New Zealand supporter."

He can still sit down and digest a Test, too, having always enjoyed the thinking and strategy of the game moreso than the playing of it. Last summer he coached his 13-year-old's team for the first time (he also has two daughters and a lad all under six), venturing back into a game that's a new world.

"This notion that you can just 'express yourself' now — I think it's wonderful. You're not going to be judged for having a go, and the game is so much better to watch. It wouldn't have gone down well in my time. We were taught that whatever you do, just don't get out. Play in the 'V' for the first hour of your innings, don't throw your wicket away and all that sort of stuff.

Not having permission to make a mistake — whereas we know now that encouraging a lack of fear of errors is the faster path to learning. So, I'm interested watching guys like Corey Anderson and David Warner taking the game to the opposition and how they get out. If I had got caught on the square leg boundary for 20, I wouldn't have been selected for the next game!"

Photos above: Mather's cricket enthusiasm has led him to many a trip and yarn with the Beige Brigade faithful.

Photos Courtesy of Stephen Mather

Below: Mather does a wonderful stage performance of ACDC's greatest hits.



NORTHERN CLUB FUNCTION



During March we were pleased to join Northern Club members for a special dinner with the intent in raising money to support the NZCPA's personal development programme.

Jeremy Wells expertly commandeered the discussion among CPA members

Dan Vettori, Kane Williamson, Tim Southee and Tom Latham. The conversation was wide ranging, and brilliantly entertaining, as the dinner guests were treated to the players' personal perspective on a number of the game's hot topics.

Special thanks to Nikki de Villiers, Sarah Little and the Northern Club members for supporting this inaugural function.

YOUR KINGDOM

By Jamie Gibson

I recently met with Rachel (Personal Development Manager at NZCPA) for a catch up and I was excited to show her what I've been up to at work. Following our chat she asked me to write in Outright. Thanks, Rachel!

To give you a bit of background... I was contracted with the Firebirds for the 2015/16 season. I lost my contract while playing club cricket in Surrey last year. On return I started at Redvespa and our CEO, Sarah gave me the opportunity to lead the charge for our social purpose. It got me thinking about what I didn't have during school and university.

In my teenage years, right into my twenties I found myself consistently anxious with no idea how to deal with it. I concerned myself with made up story lines that wouldn't leave my mind. I just couldn't understand why I was having thoughts I hated so consistently. I didn't realise they're all the same, that thoughts aren't 'me'. Growing up, one of my parents' sporting passions was cricket, a wonderful game and so it became mine. As you know, it can wreak havoc in the mind. Failure is consistent, comparison with others is consistent, time with your own thoughts is consistent. The perfect foil for my anxiety. It can be a lonely game. I'd spend so much time thinking about cricket I began to define myself and my self-worth through it.

From about 18 I started to pursue cricket and developed a strong work ethic with it. I don't know what kept me going, but I think anxiety had something to do with it. I'd make myself feel bad if I missed a training or I was lazy so I rarely did anything that wasn't true to Jamie the cricketer with work ethic. I was hard to be around for my family at times, lazing on the couch not wanting to talk. This isn't like me.

I didn't have any knowledge on how to deal with my thoughts. I was beating myself up internally and believing every negative thought. I had anxiety. I've seen psychologists on and off since I was 15, but took myself off medication at the end of 2016. Now, with losing my contract I had the opportunity to ensure other people might not have the same struggles I did. So bit by bit I researched and with time Your Kingdom developed. A book encompassing tools and the why's and

how's to meditation, self-talk, power poses, yoga, nutrition, goal-setting, gratitude and more. For me, I aim to meditate each day, exercise and play sport consistently, write in my journal and I love communicating with people. Throughout this journey I've realised this feels good.

I'm proud of the book and I've gained a fresh sense of purpose, I no longer define myself through cricket. I still play but I'm not giving it the same focus I once did. Who knows I might want to come back to it, but for now my purpose lies in helping people in this space.

We launched Your Kingdom on May the 22nd and are doing Buy One Give One. You can go to our website www.redvespa.com or find our Facebook page Redvespa Consultants Ltd if you'd like to have a book of your own and support a great cause. Each 'Give' goes to a charity or group Redvespa has chosen which is in need of support. You will be updated on who they are on our Facebook page :)

Let's start a movement!



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PLAYERS TEE OFF FOR CHARITY



Pakuranga Golf Club once again played host to the annual Players' Golf Day on what was a spectacular summer's day. The fun packed day is famous for its relaxed environment, which boasts unparalleled access to some of New Zealand's most popular athletes.

The congested modern cricket schedule forced the absence a number of Blackcaps players, with those not participating in the South African Test series turning out for their domestic team in the Plunket Shield. The Players' Golf Day is a chance for the players to relax after a long summer

of cricket and is a great way for NZCPA commercial partners to interact with the players.

Of course, the whole day is about supporting The Cricketers Trust.

The golf is always competitive and this year James Neesham took the Cricketers Golf Cup for the first time, Sophie Devine the inaugural Women's cricketer title, and Spark (#1) take out the coveted team trophy.

Omnipresent was the underlying cause behind the day – The Cricketers Trust – and once again it was great for our cricketers to shrug off their busy schedule and get directly involved with cricket's charity to help raise much needed funds. This year we are pleased to announce another record donation in excess of \$10,000 was made to the Trust – a special thanks to all who helped us to achieve this result.

We are grateful to Laithwaites wines, CCC and others who donated prizes on the day, along with New Zealand Cricket, DB and Pakuranga Golf Club GM Sam Thomas and his staff for their support. 🍷

PULLING STUMPS

Peter Fulton called stumps on a sixteen-year career that saw him finish as the most capped, and highest run scorer, for the province he grew up in. Fulton's contribution to the game within Canterbury, and his beloved Canterbury Country, cannot be summed up easily, but will be referred to many times in the future.

Fulton has seemingly done it all. He was Canterbury captain for much of his career, playing 23 Tests, 49 ODIs and 12 T20Is for the Blackcaps and a total of 162 first class, 180 list-A and 95 domestic T20 games. Fulton has been part of winning sides including this summer when he got to hoist the Plunket Shield aloft, and fittingly the Ford Trophy after a match winning century at Rangiora (his home ground).

Fulton said following his retirement "From making my debut, I never would have thought I would play this many times and achieve these records for Canterbury. I didn't think I was going to do it. I am very proud to have played that many games and experienced so much success with different Canterbury teams throughout my career."

Those who know Fulton well, have a great appreciation for his balanced view that has seen the long serving NZCPA Board member

contribute greatly to the future of the game that has given him so much. Fulton has also established the Fulton Cricket Scholarship in 2015 that aims to assist young cricketers from Canterbury Country.

"Canterbury Country has played a big part in my cricketing development over the years and I wish to ensure that young cricketers from the region have the same opportunities that I did as they chase their goals.

The demands on a young cricketer's time are far greater than when I began my career in terms of playing and training so hopefully this scholarship will help both on and off the field" said Fulton when launching the Scholarship.

It's probably just as well that the early part of Fulton's career – around the same time the Players Association was established – that 'balls faced' was not a common statistic. His 20,049 career runs at international and domestic level probably means he faced around 40,000 deliveries. An extraordinary effort that encompassed the memorable century in each innings against England and a first-class score of 301* against Auckland (Canterbury's highest score, and only triple century)

Sam Wells has decided the time is right for him to change from suiting up in Volts kit, to a suit and tie as a Solicitor with Galloway Cook Allan in his home town Dunedin. After being admitted to the bar in 2014, Wells joined the Galloway Cook Allan in 2015 in between his cricket commitments over the summer months.

Wells has further mixed his two interests of sport and law as a current Board member of the NZCPA. Wells ends his ten-year cricket career at the relatively young age of 32, but with plenty of time on his side to make his mark in the legal profession.

His early career exploits attracted the attention of the national selectors as replacement cover for injuries in the Blackcaps Test side. Wells was not required when the Test rolled around and despite appearances for NZA he was never to earn another call up to the national team. But the likable and determined Wells managed to forge an excellent first class career that saw him score four centuries and capture 115 wickets. Wells accumulated close to 4000 runs and 273 wickets across a career that amassed 143 matches.

The natural all-rounder was a key contributor to the Otago team in all formats throughout his career and his presence in the Volts dressing room and contribution on the field will be missed as the 2017/18 season rolls around. 🏏



THE CRICKETERS' TRUST

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

WHAT IS THE CRICKETERS TRUST

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

THE TRUST'S PRIMARY PURPOSE IS

To provide relief and support to past cricketers and their families in times of hardship.

Please visit www.thecricketerstrust.co.nz for more information.



MEN'S DOMESTIC



TODD ASTLE USED EVERY DAY OF THE DOMESTIC SUMMER TO EARN HIS SPOT AT THE TOP OF THE CRICHQ MVP TABLE

When the leg spinner captured the wicket of Fraser Colson in the last session of the season it edged him past Scott Kuggeleijn by a mere 1.30 MVP points.

The experienced Cantabrian was outstanding in all formats during the summer, taking 56 wickets across all competitions at an average of 26.41. He also racked up his second first class century with a career best 195, on his way to accumulating 823 runs at an average of 37.41. Astle's performances throughout the Plunket Shield punctuated a season that saw him regain selection to the Blackcaps Test and Twenty20 squad against Pakistan.

CRICHQ MVP OVERALL DOMESTIC TABLE

	MVP Points
1 Todd Astle – Canterbury	247.99
2 Scott Kuggeleijn – Northern	246.67
3 George Worker – Central	224.88
4 Andrew Ellis – Canterbury	197.47
5 Daryl Mitchell – Northern	197.01
6 Anaru Kitchen – Otago	181.44
7 Tarun Nethula – Auckland	179.79
8 Tim Seifert – Northern	177.16
9 Tom Blundell – Wellington	168.34
10 Luke Woodcock – Wellington	167.26

BATTING George Worker – Central
BOWLING Ish Sodhi – Northern
FIELDING Dane Cleaver – Central



Astle's best MVP showing was in the Plunket Shield where his 522 runs, 31 wickets and 8 catches saw him finish well clear of Auckland's Tarun Nethula – another leg spin bowler – on the competitions MVP table. Astle marginally missed the treble of top ten placing by ending up 12th on the Super Smash MVP table, and rounding out the season finishing 5th on the Ford Trophy MVP table.

George Worker continued his excellent form of recent season's with a runaway MVP performance in the Ford Trophy. The elbow injury that hampered the early part of Worker's season was soon a faint memory as he racked up runs and wickets across all competitions. Worker finished the summer as the leading batsman on the Overall and Ford Trophy CricHQ MVP table. Ish Sodhi completed a dominant year for the leg-spin bowlers as he ended the season as the bowling MVP.

The CricHQ MVP top ten is full of experienced performers, including Andrew Ellis who narrowly missed a hat-trick of titles in finishing 4th this year. Younger players are also poking through the MVP table with Tim Seifert and Tom Blundell in the mix on the overall table, and Glenn Phillips making a statement in shortest format by taking out the MVP for the Super Smash.

PLUNKET SHIELD MVP

CricHQ MVP Leaders	MVP Points
1 Todd Astle – Canterbury	142.58
2 Tarun Nethula – Auckland	122.94
3 Andrew Ellis – Canterbury	119.20

BATTING Brad Wilson – Otago
BOWLING Tarun Nethula – Auckland

FORD TROPHY MVP

CricHQ MVP Leaders	MVP Points
1 George Worker – Central	116.19
2 Scott Kuggeleijn – Northern	87.12
3 Anaru Kitchen – Otago	74.39

BATTING George Worker – Central
BOWLING Scott Kuggeleijn – Northern

McDONALD'S SUPER SMASH MVP

CricHQ MVP Leaders	MVP Points
1 Glenn Phillips – Aces	65.06
2 Henry Nicholls – Kings	52.04
3 Mahala Jayawardene – Stags	119.20

BATTING Mahala Jayawardene – Stags
BOWLING Brent Arnel – Firebirds

WOMEN'S DOMESTIC



FRANCES MACKAY HAS BEEN ONE OF THE PILLARS IN THE CANTERBURY MAGICIANS TEAM THROUGHOUT THE SEASON AND HER CONSISTENCY IN TAKING WICKETS AND SCORING RUNS, HAS ULTIMATELY MEANT SHE IS RECOGNISED AS THE 2017 WOMEN'S DOMESTIC CRICHQ MVP

Mackay finished at the top of both the Twenty20 and One Day MVP tables, for a combined total of 123.88 CricHQ MVP points. Amy Satterthwaite was second with 110.44 points and Katey Martin rounded out the top 3 with 99.77.

ONE-DAY MVP

CricHQ MVP Leaders	MVP Points
1 Frances MacKay – Canterbury	80.87
2 Amy Satterthwaite – Canterbury	78.93
3 Katey Martin – Otago	68.73

BATTING Katey Martin – Otago
BOWLING Beth Langston – Otago

T20 MVP

CricHQ MVP Leaders	MVP Points
1 Frances MacKay – Canterbury	43.01
2 Suzie Bates – Otago	36.29
3 Amy Satterthwaite – Canterbury	31.51

BATTING Frances MacKay – Canterbury
BOWLING Kate Heffernan – Otago



CURTAIN DRAWN ON QUEENSTOWN



The Masters tournament took place over the weekend of 7-9 April 2017.

The weekend has been the premier past player event, and for 10 years the tournament has been based in Queenstown. There has been a core of attendees who really have made this event what it is, but with another decade in the age column, there needs to be a consistent injection of new players. While that has happened sporadically, it has not been sustained.

So this year was to be the last hurrah, a fitting farewell to what has been a wonderful decade of cricketers catching up for laughs, stories and shared memories. Those past players who attended had a great time and there is genuine enthusiasm and interest to keep some sort of Masters event going, but it was accepted that the tournament in Queenstown has run its course.

There are plenty of ideas floating around as to what might be suitable, but the overarching theme was - having an event which brings everyone together - is something that should be continued. The concept of the Masters weekend will

remain, but just in a different form. We will be working hard with our members to put together an event (or events) with wide appeal and that is supported by as many members as possible.

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

The weather was absolutely perfect over the entire weekend (although those at Jack's Point on Friday suffered in the wind and cold late on Friday) for cricket and the facilities, as usual, wonderful. With the main oval at the Events Centre being redeveloped the matches took place on the outer fields.

On the field, it was Auckland who once again prevailed when that denied Otago the chance to recapture the title that has eluded them for the past eight year. The victory, provided Auckland with a fourth successive Masters Championship.

Auckland had shown form with the bat all weekend, so when Otago restricted them to 137 in Sunday's final, they rightly felt the title was within their grasp. The Otago bowlers were able to keep control of the powerful batting line up with wickets falling regularly. Andrew Hore the pick of the bowlers with 1-6 from two overs.

In reply, the Shane Robinson led line up were circumspect against the guile of Ewen Chatfield who was appearing for the Aucks in absence of a Wellington team this year. Chatfield and Bill 'Chook' Fowler were at there best, with Fowler's floating type inverted spin seemingly impossible to hit. Full of confidence after he started the weekend with a hat-trick (all bowled -with his first three deliveries) the wily veteran again captured 3 wickets, this time for 19 over four overs, but the damage was done.

Otago kept in the hunt throughout but like the Auckland innings, never got anything going, and ultimately fell 30 short of the target.

SUMMARY OF NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Batting

(retirement at end of over after scoring 35)

David Kelly, 60
Craig Findlay, 41
Martin Pringle, 36*
Darren Crook, 36*
Richard Jones, 35*

Bowling

Bill Fowler, 3-19 & 3-38
Darren Crook, 3-12
Martin Pringle, 2-9
Hamish Wright, 2-10
Craig Findlay, 2-14
Ewen Chatfield, 2-20
Andrew Hore, 2-26
Ronnie Kotkamp, 2-27
Craig Pryor, 2-37



PREMIUM PARTNERS



2017 PLAYERS' CONFERENCE

Twenty players, NZCPA staff and available Board members, assembled for the annual players' conference in Auckland on the 12th and 13th April.

The conference is a vital juncture in the calendar when players can review, discuss and debate matters within the professional cricketing environment, as well as providing players' collective thoughts on matters for the upcoming season.

The major focus of the conference this year was to consolidate what has been an

extensive player consultation process in preparation for the upcoming collective negotiations with New Zealand Cricket and the Major Associations. The negotiations enable all stakeholders to sit down and discuss all aspects of the professional cricket environment and how best to utilise the resources that are available.

Players have day to day experiences within the global and domestic cricket environment and their contribution to the future of the game is vitally important. The

level of engagement has been excellent throughout the summer and the Player's Conference was a continuation of this fact.

The workshop style of this year's Players Conference enabled players to interact and discuss topics in much more detail, before presenting back to the group for further discussion. NZCPA staff were acting as facilitators to this process which ensured that players could contribute fully during the two days.



ORBITUARIES

The NZCPA would like to acknowledge the recent passing of two past player members Sean Roberts and Roger Bradley. And on behalf of all members offer our thoughts and condolences to their respective families and friends.

ROGER BRADLEY 1962 - 2017

Roger passed away in Tauranga on 24th March after a long struggle with illness.

Roger attended Otumoetai College in Tauranga and was school boy star representing New Zealand schools in 1980. He was a strong middle order batsman and a very useful right arm medium pace bowler. He played 48 games for Bay of Plenty and a solitary game for Northern Districts in the 1990/91 season. It was in Holland where Roger played a large amount of his cricket representing his adopted country over a number of years from 1995-2002 playing in the English domestic One Day tournament as well as international List A fixtures including the 2000 ICC Emerging Nations Tournament and the 2002 ICC 6 Nations Challenge.

SEAN ROBERTS 1968-2017

Sean sadly lost his long battle with kidney disease on 28th March this year.

Sean was a very talented young cricketer whose career was significantly affected by his ongoing health issues. After two very good seasons playing for the New Zealand U19 team and the Auckland A provincial side as a middle order batsman, Sean underwent a kidney transplant at age 21 and was expected to never play cricket again. After a couple of years of recuperation, Sean came back to play senior club cricket for Howick-Pakuranga and continued to show his undoubted ability in spite of his health challenges. He was selected to play first class cricket for Auckland in 1995 and in doing so was the first player in New Zealand to play first class cricket following a kidney transplant.

PREMIUM PARTNERS



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BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS



THE INSIDER



by Paul Ford

Inspired by John Wright's recent official foray onto the music scene, Paul Ford has pulled together his picks in and around the weird and wonderful world of cricket tunes.

Late last year 'Shake' Wright released his 11-song debut album, a rhythm and blues number entitled Red Skies that was two years in the making. Apparently it covers the tedium of touring, the Pike River Mine disaster and the Canterbury earthquakes. Plenty of blues in there, for sure.

It got me thinking, there are bugger all great rugby songs, but for one reason or another cricket has inspired a radio station of music that is worth paying attention to. The Phoenix Foundation's Sam F Scott is probably New Zealand's number one cricket musician - a sonorous equivalent of Kane Williamson.

Scott has described the Phoenix Foundation's 2013 album Fandango as "Test match music": suggesting that it is ridiculously long but a highly rewarding experience for those who can spend some time with it.

The band is also responsible for the wonderful 2015 World Cup song, Big Mac (Run Rate), written in 10 minutes and recorded in four hours after their plane to was delayed on the eve of the tournament beginning. It's a blend of Bob Dylan and Dire Straits and is the only recorded song to include reference to the "hairy javelin" (aka Grant Elliott).

It has to be on the list so let's get it out of the way early: 10cc's Dreadlock Holiday is a faux reggae cricketing cliché that made it to #1 back in 1978 when none

other than J.G. Wright was opening the batting for New Zealand, with Robert Anderson at the other end.

At the other end of the spectrum is Australian folk hero Paul Kelly's glorious 440-second biographical ballad to The Don, Bradman. It's an extraordinary thing. Anyone who can come up with a couplet like this must be admired for their dedication: "And at the age of 19 he was playing for the state / From Adelaide to Brisbane the runs did not abate...He was more than just a batsman, he was something like a tide/ More than just one man, he could take on any side..."

Another one that will tug at your heartstrings (and eat into 7 minutes of your precious day) is Roy Harper's When An Old Cricketer Leaves The Crease released in 1975 and featuring his 12-string acoustic guitar. The elegiac ballad doubles as an homage to John Snow and Geoff Boycott.

Channel 9 cameraman Joe Previtara and Australian bowler Scott Muller (but definitely not Shane Warne) combined to inspire an atrocious song from Shane and Brett Lee's atrocious band Six and Out - Can't Bowl, Can't Throw. It referred to an incident where a Test match sledge was overheard during a dicey throw from the outfield by Muller: "He can't bowl, and he can't throw." Cameraman Joe "confessed" to saying it, but only after the finger was pointed at Warne.

Australia is also to blame for Howzat by the diabolically haircutted Sherbet: "You messed about I caught you out so howzat?" the sparkly-shirted lead singer

asks. It reached number one and was the band's greatest hit, and they named their most successful album after it in 1976.

Back in Aotearoa, it'd be rude not to mention Tim Finn's Runs in the Family, a song rustled up in 1995 for the 100th anniversary of the New Zealand Cricket Council and a one-day tournament between Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa. It includes an incredible reggae quasi-rap sequence: "100 years run in the family/ Watch me now, don't play Mr Hadlee/Rutherford, Greatbatch, Morrison, Crowe/ Coney, Wright, Patel and Jones/ broad to the bat is the stylee/ wickets and cricket and feeling irie." It's a real WTF moment.

Even more recent that John Wright's blues, is Sachin Tendulkar's ear-punishing Cricket Wali Beat, which was played during the 9th series of Indian Idol. "I was very surprised to see the way he was pitching right. That's why I believe that when God blesses someone with genius, it spills into other faculties too."

And finally, no cricket musical column would be complete without mention of Irish pop cricket maestros, The Duckworth Lewis Method. The only band ever to produce "a cricket concept album", their best is probably Jiggery Pokery all about "that ball" from Warne to Gattling. As NME put it so wonderfully: "It is, of course, amazing that Neil Hannon of The Divine Comedy has formed a band named after an obscure cricket rule. It's even more amazing that their self-titled album is actually about cricket." Find it now! 🎵

Paul Ford is a co-founder of the Beige Brigade, and co-owner of the ball from the underarm game. It's on his mantelpiece in Karori.

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