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## NZ CRICKET PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### Welcome...

It has been a good start to 2012 for cricket with the BLACKCAPS finishing last year in style with a rare test victory against Australia at Hobart. This performance provided a great boost to the summer of cricket which the team has backed up with strong performances against Zimbabwe in the National Bank Series. The stage is now set for an exciting series against South Africa on home soil to conclude the international summer. Congratulations to Ross Taylor and the team on the excellent performances to date and we are confident we will see the team step up against South Africa.

On the domestic front the HRV Cup produced some outstanding matches and congratulations to the Auckland Aces on winning their second title in a row after dominating the competition throughout. Unfortunately, rain interfered with this competition more often than we would all like in what was a very wet Christmas period across the country. There is no doubt that this impacted on the momentum of the HRV Cup which was a real shame. The Ford Trophy final was taken out by the Central Stags in what was probably the most exciting match of the summer in domestic cricket – the Auckland Aces continued their strong form in the short formats and looked like they had the match in the bag until Michael Mason stepped up to hit 41 and take the game for the Central Stags with a ball to spare. This was a fantastic finish to a great career for the Stags and New Zealand, we wish

Michael all the best in his retirement.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) appointed a new Chief Executive late last year to replace the outgoing Justin Vaughan and we were delighted to see NZCPA Board member David White appointed to this role. Whilst this is certainly a loss to our board we are excited about working with David in the years ahead as we look to grow cricket in this country and develop much stronger high performance programmes within the game. There is no doubt David's appointment will strengthen the partnership between the governing body and the players given his excellent understanding of the Master Agreement and strong support of players contributing to, and taking responsibility for, the growth and development of the sport.

We were very pleased to welcome Fujitsu Heat Pumps as partner to the NZCPA late last year with their sponsorship of the MVP programme and supporter of our business partner CricHQ. The MVP is the 'players statistic' and is becoming well established as a more accurate yardstick of a player's contribution to the team performance. Congratulations to Martin Guptill for taking out the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP for the HRV Cup and Jimmy Neesham for being MVP of the Ford Trophy.

We look forward to continuing the NZCPA Masters Series with a match at Molyneux Park against Otago Country on the 19th February – this match will provide a good opportunity to showcase cricket at a venue that is working on gaining a Warrant of Fitness

for professional cricket. The NZCPA Masters team provides a great opportunity to take the game and its leading players to areas that don't get to see too much top flight cricket action.

The next few weeks will be busy for the NZCPA as we complete the Masters Series, get prepared for the Masters Tournament at Queenstown (our principal event for Past Player members), continue to work with NZC in the development of their high performance programme, commence negotiations with NZC for a new Memorandum of Understanding governing the White Ferns environment and work to finalise upcoming international schedules which will include pre-tour checks of the West Indies and India. We also look forward to an exciting finish to the international summer confident that the White Ferns will perform strongly against England and the BLACKCAPS will test South Africa.

Finally, no doubt some players are starting to think about what they will be doing off the field during the winter period in 2012. Hopefully you are looking to access one of the many offers of support and guidance in the NZCPA Career and Personal Development programme or if you are looking at taking up an overseas playing opportunity do not hesitate to contact one of the staff to assist you in working through contract negotiations.

Regards  
Heath Mills  
Chief Executive

# Aces work their own magic

The kings of Twenty20 in New Zealand, the Auckland Aces, are again perched on the throne after a dominant 2011/12 campaign to defend their HRV Cup crown.

The Aces stormed through the round robin stages with a seven-win, two-loss record to top the table and earn the right to host the final for the second year running.

And history repeated itself again, running out comfortable winners in the showpiece event at Colin Maiden Park by outclassing the Canterbury Wizards by 44 runs.

It was their third domestic Twenty20 title in seven seasons since its inception in 2005/06, with two further losing finals to add to that.

It was again a collective effort from a squad of multi-talented cricketers but in particular from an established Black Caps star, an astute overseas signing and a pair of bowlers who are about to taste international cricket for the first time.

Their next challenge comes later in the year when they attempt to improve on last year's Champions League qualifying effort. They came so close in both matches but the records will forever show a pair of losses sent them straight back on the plane home.

Beginning in mid December, a window in New Zealand's international schedule meant the six provinces had all their big names available.

There was a fair chunk of rain that fell through that window and disrupted a number of games, but the punters who did brave the weather got more than their money's worth.

Auckland weren't the most stacked in terms of Black Caps but no one got more value than they did out of Guptill.

Guptill found the form of his life to score 504 runs at an average of 72 and a strike rate of 151. Included in that were three 50s and an imperious knock of 120 not out to beat Canterbury almost on his own, with the sort of clean hitting to match any of the finest strikers around the world.

He made 70 off 41 balls in the final, helping Auckland to 196-5 which the Wizards never got near.

The signing of Azhar Mahmood, the HRV Cup's third highest scorer on 331, behind Brendon McCullum's 372, was also of vital importance.

The Pakistani all-rounder brought quick runs at the top, bowled handy overs and, vitally for an overseas pro, brought a willingness to make those around him better by passing on his experience.

Along with Guptill, the Aces also had the top wicket-takers in Roneel Hira and Michael Bates. Both took 14 scalps, Hira's at the cost of only 14.85 and an incredible economy rate of 5.85 while Bates' average of 20.85 made his slightly leaky RPO of 8.98 look a lot more acceptable.

The pair's performances over a long period of time in coloured clothing led to call-ups to New Zealand's limited-overs squads to face Zimbabwe. Bates made both the one-day and Twenty20 line-ups while Hira was selected in the shortest form of the game.

Hira was joined by team-mate Colin de Grandhomme as the other new face in the Twenty20 squad. There are few sweeter hitters of a cricket ball in the country and de Grandhomme exhibited that with 156 runs at a strikerate of 160, including a timely 24 off 11 in the final.

The Wizards should be well pleased with their season's effort, which ultimately fell a hurdle short but showcased up-and-coming talent along with their more established contributors.

Rob Nicol enjoyed another fruitful campaign with 292 runs at 36.50, including 101 not out against Auckland in the final round robin game and added 13 wickets at 19.46 just for good measure.

Fellow opener George Worker put himself in Black Caps consideration with 251 runs at 35.85, while Andrew Ellis' power hitting – at a strike rate of 186 – contributed to an ODI call-up.

The Northern Knights, with the likes of Daniel Vettori, Tim Southee, Kane Williamson, Scott Styris, Trent Boult and BJ Watling to call on, finished third.

The Otago Volts had fine service from McCullum but runs were harder to come by elsewhere and finished fourth, ahead of the Central Stags in fifth and another disappointing campaign by the Wellington Firebirds in sixth and last.



Overall		Batting		Bowling	
Martin Guptill	144.76	Martin Guptill	128.56	Roneel Hira	76.06
Rob Nicol	138.51	Brendon McCullum	99.65	Rob Nicol	54.27
Azhar Mahmood	112.21	Azhar Mahmood	87.15	Andy McKay	50.98
Brendon McCullum	105.65	James Franklin	72.57	Andre Adams	48.53
Roneel Hira	93.23	Rob Nicol	69.28	Michael Bates	48.01
Doug Bracewell	89.49	Hamish Marshall	58.78	Tarun Nethula	47.33
Brendon Taylor	82.29	Brad Wilson	58.57	Kyle Mills	46.15
James Franklin	80.69	Brendon Taylor	57.29	Mitchell Claydon	44.61
Scott Styris	74.23	Michael Pollard	54.67	Doug Bracewell	43.57
Andrew Ellis	68.28	Jamie How	53.39	Muttiah Muralitharan	40.90

## Leading Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP performances per team

### Wellington Firebirds

1. Brendon Taylor	82.29	7th overall
2. James Franklin	80.69	8th overall
3. Michael Pollard	59.67	17th overall
Batting: James Franklin	72.57	
Bowling: Andy McKay	50.98	

### Otago Volts

1. Brendon McCullum	105.65	4th overall
2. Neil Broom	57.69	22nd overall
3. Dimitri Mascarenhas	45.95	40th overall
Batting: Brendon McCullum	99.65	
Bowling: Nick Beard	23.60	

### Northern Knights

1. Scott Styris	74.23	9th overall
2. Hamish Marshall	66.78	11th overall
3. Daniel Vettori	66.70	12th overall
Batting: Hamish Marshall	58.78	
Bowling: Daniel Vettori	40.73	

### Central Stags

1. Doug Bracewell	89.49	6th overall
2. Jamie How	61.39	16th overall
3. Tarun Nethula	57.60	23rd overall
Batting: Jamie How	53.39	
Bowling: Tarun Nethula	47.53	

### Canterbury Wizards

1. Rob Nicol	138.51	2nd overall
2. Andrew Ellis	68.28	10th overall
3. Brendon Diamante	61.96	15th overall
Batting: Rob Nicol	69.27	
Bowling: Rob Nicol	54.27	

### Auckland Aces

1. Martin Guptill	144.76	1st overall
2. Azhar Mahmood	112.24	3rd overall
3. Roneel Hira	93.23	5th overall
Batting: Martin Guptill	128.56	
Bowling: Roneel Hira	76.06	

View the latest Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP rankings at [www.procricket.co.nz](http://www.procricket.co.nz)



Roneel Hira's outstanding form in the HRV Cup resulted in his promotion to the BLACKCAPS T20 side.

# NZCPA MASTERS SERIES

As the summer of cricket continues, so does the NZCPA Masters Series. We are very much looking forward to the match in Alexandra on the 19th of February which will see Mark Greatbatch, Geoff Allott, Roger Twose and Ewen Chatfield, among other former first class players, take the field and compete with an Otago Country XI headed by Shayne O'Conner.

Then later in the summer on March 25th, it's off to Rotorua to take on a Northern Maori XI. Taking the field in this one will be the likes of Dion Nash, Adam Parore, Richard Jones and Shane Thomson. At both events the players attending will work with many of the local junior and youth cricketers with coaching clinics scheduled to be run. This is a great opportunity to have the game's former players offer their knowledge and experience to the cricketers of the future in these smaller towns.

The Masters Series kicked off on the 20th of November at Saxton Oval, Nelson. Despite many years of Masters matches, this was the first time the NZCPA side has appeared in the

Central Districts region for a much anticipated match against the Nelson Hawke Cup team. To commemorate this fact the Masters team was thrilled to call upon many players who appeared for the Stags during their playing days.

The NZCPA Masters Team comprised of: Hamish Marshall (c), Geoff Barnett, Mark Douglas, Bevan Griggs, Greg Hay, Brent Hefford, Llorne Howell, Craig Ingham, David Leonard, Andrew Schwass, Glen Sulzberger.

This match doubled as a celebration of the completion of the Saxton Oval pavilion, which now completes an amazing cricket facility. The Saxton Oval venue places Nelson as a leading region for the future of cricket in New Zealand. A significant aspect of playing this match at Saxton Oval was for the NZCPA to acknowledge the work and commitment of Nelson Cricket in establishing this wonderful modern cricket facility.

Nelson won the toss and elected to bat, accumulating a modest total of 111 off the allotted 20 overs. The Nelson batting lineup failed to get momentum, with suffocating bowling from

former Stags and Canada representative Geoff Barnett (4 overs, 1 for 6). Local identity Andrew Schwass was the pick of the NZCPA Masters bowlers with 3 for 24 from his 4 overs.

Nomadic first class cricketer, Llorne Howell and fellow opening batsman Geoff Barnett got the Masters off to a solid start before Howell was out for 11 in the 5th over. Masters captain Hamish Marshall then combined with Barnett in a match-winning partnership of 48 runs before Barnett was out 1 run short of his half century. Marshall remained not out as the Masters eased past the Nelson total in the 14th over.

Geoff Barnett's impressive performances with bat and ball ensured he was named as the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP for the match.

Leading MVP Points:

Geoff Barnett - 26.09

Andrew Schwass - 16.40

Glen Sulzberger - 8.55

Hamish Marshall - 6.15

## Scorecard for NZCPA XI vs Nelson XI

Batting: Nelson		R	B	4's	6's	SR
D Cooper	c L Howell b G Barnett	10	15	1	0	66.67
C Neynens	c C Ingham b A Schwass	3	5	0	0	60.00
M Macquet	c A Schwass b G Sulzberger	21	21	2	1	100.00
M Thelin	lbw b D Leonard	2	14	0	0	14.29
B Barnett*	b A Schwass	17	22	0	0	77.27
R Edwards	not out	23	28	0	0	82.14
J Routhan	b A Schwass	18	10	3	0	180.00
S McGowan	not out	4	4	0	0	100.00
Extras	(w 8, lb 5)	13				
<b>Total</b>	(6 wickets; 20.0 overs)	<b>111</b>				5.55 RPO
<b>Did Not Bat: Unsure, M King, D Wightman, D Skeaping, Unsure</b>						
<b>Fall of Wicket:</b> 9-1 (C Neynens 2.1 ov), 22-2 (D Cooper 4.3 ov), 29-3 (M Thelin 7.3 ov), 53-4 (M Macquet 11.3 ov), 77-5 (B Barnett* 16.1 ov), 101-6 (J Routhan 18.3 ov)						

Bowling: NZCPA	O	M	R	W	EC	AV	EX
A Schwass	4.0	0	24	3	6.00	8.00	(w 4)
B Hefford	4.0	0	28	0	7.00	-	(w 1)
G Barnett	4.0	0	6	1	1.50	6.00	
G Sulzberger	4.0	0	18	1	4.50	18.00	(w 2)
D Leonard	4.0	0	30	1	7.50	30.00	(w 1)

Batting: NZCPA		R	B	4's	6's	SR
G Barnett	c C Neynens b D Wightman	49	31	9	0	158.07
L Howell	b C Neynens	11	14	0	0	78.57
H Marshall*	not out	22	19	1	1	115.79
M Douglas	c D Cooper b D Wightman	9	10	0	1	90.00
G Hay	not out	12	6	3	0	200.00
Extras	(w 4, b 1, lb 5)	10				
<b>Total</b>	(3 wickets; 13.2 overs)	<b>113</b>				8.48 RPO
<b>Did Not Bat: A Schwass, B Griggs, C Ingham, G Sulzberger, D Leonard, B Hefford</b>						
<b>Fall of Wicket:</b> 37-1 (L Howell 4.4 ov), 85-2 (G Barnett 9.2 ov), 99-3 (M Douglas 11.5 ov)						

Bowling: Nelson	O	M	R	W	EC	AV	EX
J Routhan	2.0	0	16	0	8.00	-	(w 1)
M King	3.0	0	21	0	7.00	-	
C Neynens	3.0	0	20	1	6.67	20.00	(w 2)
D Skeaping	2.0	0	23	0	11.50	-	
D Wightman	3.2	0	27	2	8.10	13.00	

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## Looking Forward: 2012 Forecast

It looks like this year will be the busiest we have had for the Career and Personal Development Programme. Pre-season meetings saw 85 players request services, numbering around 300 activities. This builds well from last year and should be well supported from our business mentors who, once again can deliver around 1500 hours of advice and 1-1 meeting time. The requested activities and services range from the standard advice around tax and financial planning, through to leadership, legal advice and career planning.

In regards to tertiary education we are also pleased to offer up to 20 CPA Education Scholarships alongside six Massey University programmes in the College of Business.

A key goal is for these 1-1 activities to be complemented by team workshops for the first time. Each of the Major Associations teams nominated a set of workshops and from these suggestions we are pleased to offer through 2012 sessions on financial planning, investment, tax, insurance, problem gambling, mental health and career planning. We are grateful to the experts who will be delivering this work for the teams: Spicers (Murray Harris), Craigs Investment (Mark Somerville-Ryan), Deloitte (Trevor Deed), Tower (Sarah Bishop), The Problem Gambling Foundation (Cynthia Orme), clinical psych with Karen Nimmo (On the Couch), and career planning with Lee Brodie (Career Dynamic).

And finally, the CPA will also be supporting around 10 player business start-ups. Again we are grateful for the support offered by those mentors who will work with players through the year in this area.

Given all this we hope to see some good progress through 2012. The CPA continues to welcome any request from players or past players who would like to access this network and make some plans for the year. Please contact Aidan for a summary of what services are available.

**Aidan Curzon-Hobson**

Career and Personal Development Manager

# NZCPA MASTERS 2012



Last year's finalists.... Otago suffered a heavy loss to the two time winners, Canterbury.

The NZCPA Masters Weekend is the premium event for our Past Player Members. Once again we will be heading to Queenstown to enjoy a long weekend of golf, wineries, cricket and catching up. On the back of record numbers last year (90 attendees) we look to keep growing and improving on what is already a must-attend event for our former first class players.

Through fantastic support from the North and South Trusts and Grassroots Trust we are able to assist greatly in funding the event as it is now a true National Provincial Masters Tournament. This

year the event runs from Friday the 30th of March to the night of Sunday April the 1st.

We encourage all past player members to attend. The weekend is as much about reuniting with former team mates and foes as the cricket, in fact more so. We can assist you in participating in many activities outside of the cricket.

The cricket is played on some great wickets at the Queenstown Event Centre and there has been some quality cricket in the past few years. The Cantabs have won back to back titles and are looking to three-peat.

A reminder of the first ever tournament team named last year, all deserved their place through great play on the back of some long nights!!

**Andrew Hore** - Otago (capt)  
**Scott Golder** - Wellington  
**Paul McEwan** - Canterbury  
**Shane Thomson** - ND  
**Gary Stead** - Canterbury  
**Adrian Dale** - Auckland  
**Craig Pryor** - Auckland  
**Brett Hood** - ND (wicketkeeper)  
**Andrew Nuttal** - Canterbury  
**Michael Sharpe** - Canterbury  
**John Cushen** - Otago  
**Lance Dry** - Wellington

## The draft programme is below:

### Friday 30th

#### Your choice of

1. Golf @ Jacks Point Golf Resort teeing off from 12.30pm (at your own cost circa \$70) [www.jackspoint.com/#/golf\\_club\\_info](http://www.jackspoint.com/#/golf_club_info)

#### Or

2. Wine Tour of local vineyards from 12pm (at no cost....outside of personal purchases)

#### then

3. Weekend launch party @ Mercure Resort (drinks and canapés supplied)

### Saturday 31st

#### Your choice of

1. Cricket T20- 2 x matches at Queenstown Events Centre morning and afternoon
2. Golf @ Arrowtown (circa \$40) [www.arrowtowngolf.co.nz/course/index.shtml](http://www.arrowtowngolf.co.nz/course/index.shtml)
3. Gondola trip [www.skyline.co.nz/queenstown](http://www.skyline.co.nz/queenstown) Shotover Jet (circa \$110) [www.shotoverjet.com](http://www.shotoverjet.com) and Arrowtown visit (at your own cost) price TBC

#### then

4. Dinner at Mercure Resort (likely to be covered by your previous Major Association)

### Sunday 1st

#### Your choice of

1. Cricket T20- 2 x matches at Queenstown Events Centre morning and afternoon
2. Golf @ Kelvin Heights (circa \$50 or Millbrook circa \$90) [www.queenstowngolf.co.nz/the\\_course.html](http://www.queenstowngolf.co.nz/the_course.html) or [www.millbrook.co.nz/resort/about-millbrook](http://www.millbrook.co.nz/resort/about-millbrook)
3. Wine tour of the Gibbston Valley (at no cost....outside of personal purchases)

#### then

4. Optional dinner at Anup Nathu's Tandoori Palace

# The Cricketers' Hardship Trust

The Cricketers' Hardship Trust was established at the request of current professional players who recognised a need to assist those players who had gone before them and had fallen on hard times. The primary purpose of the Trust is to relieve poverty through providing financial relief and assistance to cricketers and their families in times of financial hardship or other extraordinary circumstances.

Unfortunately, cricketers of the past did not enjoy the financial rewards that today's cricketers do and many sacrificed an enormous amount in playing for their province and country. It is also a reality that ill health or unfortunate circumstances affect some 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.

The annual Players' Golf Day is the principal fundraising vehicle for the Trust and provides an opportunity for the current players to engage with the cause and contribute to the raising of funds. Funds are also raised through donations, bequests and other player activities. Many current players have donated directly to the fund and are very generous in providing auction items and memorabilia to the Trust.

The Trust is administered by four Trustees and applies funds to a number of causes, including medical bills and treatments, medical equipment and related costs, funeral expenses and other costs that arise when our past players and their families fall on hard times. In addition, the Trust has a social role whereby it provides support to those past players and their families. Often, having old team mates and rivals from their cricket career rally around a player in times of need can be just as uplifting as any financial contribution the Trust can make.

For more information or to make a donation to The Cricketers' Hardship Trust, please contact the Trust via the NZCPA.

## Overseas Contracts

At this time of the season many players will be contemplating overseas contracts to play in the UK or Holland. It is important that players ensure their contractual arrangements are clear and certain before embarking on their 'off-season' at a UK or Dutch club. Players should make sure that:

- Their obligations and responsibilities are clearly set out in the contract (including playing and coaching responsibilities);
- Their payments (in terms of quantum and timing) are set out in the contract;

- Their accommodation is of a suitable standard and is approved by the player;
- They have a vehicle provided by the club;
- They are clear on which party is responsible for obtaining a visa (and for any associated costs);
- They have a release clause in the event of selection for BLACKCAPS or winter squads (Emerging Players and NZ 'A').

The NZCPA can check contracts for you if you have any concerns. Players using agents should also ensure that they are clear on what fees (if any) are to be paid by the player for the agent's services.

Visas for entering the UK can be difficult to obtain and the process time consuming. We recommend that you commence this process as soon as possible. The NZCPA can assist with immigration issues should you require.



NZCPA Patron, Barry Sinclair enjoys a drink with other members at the Auckland past players event in December last year.

# THE WOMEN'S SCENE

The White Ferns are gearing up for a tough series against the English Women's team. The series is a crucial one for a White Ferns team on the back of the recent retirement of some key players.

However the team is confident of growing from the disappointing results in Australia to gain some much needed confidence heading into the T20 World Cup later in the year. The rain affected tour to Australia saw some promising individual

performances but collectively the team appears a wee way off consistently competing with their trans-Tasman rivals in the short term. Some of the new faces to the team have come on the back of steady performances in the domestic competitions. The Canterbury Magicians and Auckland Hearts played each other in both the T20 and One Day finals this season. The Hearts beat the Magicians in a close fought One Day competition but then the Magicians avenged the loss in the 50 over final with a brilliant fight back to be crowned Action Cricket Twenty20 champions.



## White Ferns tour to Australia:

**20/01/2012**, Twenty-20 Match, North Sydney Oval, Sydney – Result: Australia won by 4 wickets

**21/01/2012**, Twenty-20 Match, North Sydney Oval, Sydney – Result: Australia won by 59 runs

**22/01/2012**, Twenty-20 Match, North Sydney Oval, Sydney – Result: Australia won by 7 wickets

**25/01/2012**, ODI, Sydney Cricket Ground (Rose Bowl) – Result: Match abandoned

**27/01/2012**, ODI, Blacktown International Sportsspark, Sydney (Rose Bowl) Result: Match abandoned

**29/01/2012**, ODI, Blacktown International Sportsspark, Sydney (Rose Bowl) Result: Australia won by 9 wickets

**01/02/2012**, Twenty-20 Match, Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney Result: White Ferns won by 6 wickets

**03/02/2012**, Twenty-20 Match, Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) Result: Australia won by 20 runs

## White Ferns Hosting England

- **17/02/2012**  
White Ferns vs England Women -  
Womens Twenty-20 Match Live on SKY  
Westpac Stadium, Wellington - 2.45pm
- **19/02/2012**  
White Ferns vs England Women -  
Womens Twenty-20 Match Live on SKY  
Seddon Park, Hamilton - 2.45pm
- **22/02/2012**  
White Ferns vs England Women -  
Womens Twenty-20 Match Live on SKY  
Eden Park, Auckland - 2.45pm
- **25/02/2012**  
White Ferns vs England Women -  
Womens Twenty-20 Match  
Queens Park, Invercargill - 2.00pm
- **26/02/2012**  
White Ferns vs England Women -  
Womens Twenty-20 Match  
Queens Park, Invercargill - 2.00pm
- **1/03/2012**  
White Ferns vs England Women -  
Womens One-Day Match  
Bert Sutcliffe Oval, Lincoln University - 10.30am
- **3/03/2012**  
White Ferns vs England Women -  
Womens One-Day Match  
Bert Sutcliffe Oval, Lincoln University - 10.30am
- **5/03/2012**  
White Ferns vs England Women -  
Womens One-Day Match  
Bert Sutcliffe Oval, Lincoln University - 10.30am

# Rain, Runs and Rampant Stags

In its first season under the new moniker, the Ford Trophy has been tight with the first placed Central Stags having won only one more match than the cellar-dwelling Northern Knights through eight round robin matches.

The fickle New Zealand weather played its part in that, with the Stags having two no-results and two further abandonments.

But they lost only one other of their matches and deservedly moved into the business end of the competition in top spot.

The absence of the Black Caps involved in the ODI series against Zimbabwe put the onus on the next tier of provincial talent to step up.

The Stags were without the injured Ross Taylor along with Doug Bracewell, Tarun Nethula and Jacob Oram, although the likes of captain Jamie How, Mathew Sinclair, Adam Milne and Michael Mason are all former internationals capable of providing a weight of runs and wickets.

The Aces couldn't call on the services of HRV Cup star Martin Gupthill, Michael Bates and Kyle Mills and looked to the likes of Andre Adams, Gareth Hopkins along with newly selected Twenty20 internationals Ronnie Hira and Colin de Grandhomme to guide them towards yet another finals tilt in coloured clothing.

Otago's McCullum brothers would have been a handy asset but they are a fixture in black these days while Canterbury were proud of, if not slightly sad to lose, a trio of ODI debutants in Dean Brownlie, Andrew Ellis and Tom Latham along with the ever-consistent all-round contributions of Rob Nicol.

Interestingly, the highest run-scorer and wicket-taker through the round robin section were both Wellington Firebirds players.

The Firebirds finished fifth of the six teams,

although could consider themselves slightly unlucky given they won three matches, the same as each of the top four sides apart from the Aces.

Newly-signed opening batsman Michael Papps notched 337 runs at 42.12, including half-centuries in half of his eight innings, while Andy McKay took 18 wickets at 18.05.

The latter could consider himself unlucky to miss out on the ODI squad, given he was an incumbent from the Zimbabwe tour late in 2011 and averages 26.48 from his 17 appearances in 50-over international cricket.

A scintillating three-match burst by fellow left-armer Mitchell McClenaghan, with a five-for and six-for in his return from a long injury lay-off, saw him second on the bowling list with 12 wickets at 10.00 while a Wellingtonian also took third, James Franklin with 11 at 15.81.

Latham's 332 runs at 55.33 left a hole in Canterbury's order, one that opener George Worker can look to fill and increase on his 298 at 42.57.

Veteran Craig Cumming, was third on the run-scoring charts with 310 at the very healthy average of 77.50, was a vital cog in the Otago wheel as they looked to advance past their must-win encounter.

As for the final...what can you say? As far as sporting fairytales go, the one involving retiring stalwart Michael Mason and the Ford Trophy-winning Central Stags is right up there with the best of them.

It won't make it to the big screen in Hollywood, but whatever size TV Mason houses in his living room, it may get a few screenings of the Sunday afternoon where he signed off from an illustrious domestic career as a hero.

After taking 3-52 in Auckland's innings of 282-8, Mason strode to the middle of his beloved Pukekura Park with his side dead and buried at 225-8 with four overs and four balls to go. 58 required off 28, a career average of around 10 and a highest score of 20 in 133 previous List A matches.

Few believed, except Mason. He pounded an unbeaten 41 off only 19 balls to get his side home with a ball to spare and ensure a night to remember was in store at a local favourite, the Devon Hotel in New Plymouth.

It was a fitting send-off for the 37-year-old veteran, a favourite son of the Wairarapa who served not only his province with distinction, but also managed 26 ODIs, three Twenty20s and a Test for his country.

Often in defeat there is a tale of undeserved agony and in the defending champion Aces' case, that belonged to Neal Parlane.

Parlane's 106, his second one-day ton in four days after scoring 117 the previous Wednesday against Otago, could have – and in the eyes of his bowlers, should have – been a match-winning one but will forever play second fiddle to Mason's magnificence.

A typically hard-hit unbeaten 68 to Auckland all-rounder Colin Munro along with similar scores to Stag's Dean Robinson (63) and captain Kruger van Wyk (66) were also note-worthy on a Pukekura Park wicket that, coupled with the beauty and natural amphitheatre of the ground, made for an ideal final setting.

The Stags were deserved winners of the Ford Trophy, given they were round robin leaders as well, repeating Auckland's efforts in the HRV Cup which they couldn't repeat in the 50-over format and hold on to their complete limited-overs dominance.

Offering some comfort from the loss was the fact





that young batsman Brad Cachopa, in his first full season with the Aces, topped the run-scoring charts with 373 at 37.30, including a high score of 114.

Second was Otago veteran Craig Cumming on 368, Wellington's Michael Papps on 337 and another Aces talent, Anaru Kitchen on 333.

Parlane was only selected for two Ford Trophy matches and became the first Auckland batsman to score back-to-back List A centuries.

It was the spinners who dominated the HRV Cup bowling hierarchy but it was a completely opposite story when both innings became extended by 30 overs.

A pair of left-armers, Andy McKay and Mitchell McClenaghan, were one and two respectively in

terms of wickets taken with 18 and 16.

For McClenaghan, it represented a very promising return from a frustrating injury layoff. He will want to forget the latter part of the final but coupled with the natural skills he has, the learning experience may well be looked back on one day as a vital one.

Amazingly, you have to look down as far as 14th, to Aces offie Bhupinder Singh's nine wickets, to find a slow bowler in the list.

Mason was fifth with 12 scalps at 22.25, with an outstanding economy rate of 4.21, an over that was only bettered by Andre Adams' 3.27 amongst those near the summit of the bowlers' list.

The efforts of Otago all-rounder Jimmy Neesham are also worthy of being highlighted. In his first

season since shifting south from Auckland, the 21-year-old scored 209 runs at 51.25 and was third on the wicket-taking chart with 14 at 23.

He, along with the other up-and-coming domestic talent, will have now seen the likes of Tom Latham, Ronnie Hira, Colin de Grandhomme and others given a punt at international level and realise they are never as far as away as they think given a run of form.

**Written by: Dean Wedlake**



## Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP top 10 for the Ford Trophy

Overall		Bowling		Batting	
Jimmy Neesham	110.57	Mitchell McClenaghan	74.64	Anaru Kitchen	73.38
Anaru Kitchen	97.83	Andy McKay	64.22	Brad Cachopa	68.30
James Franklin	83.36	Jimmy Neesham	63.58	Matthew Sinclair	64.22
Gareth Hopkins	82.14	Matt Henry	56.22	Craig Cumming	63.19
Mitchell McClenaghan	80.53	Michael Mason	50.08	Colin Munro	62.02
Anton Devcich	79.88	Ian Butler	49.20	Michael Papps	58.31
Colin Munro	79.13	Andre Adams	43.52	Tom Latham	58.03
Brad Cachopa	78.30	Ryan McCone	43.00	Anton Devcich	56.34
Matt Henry	77.45	Bevan Small	42.05	Neal Parlane	52.53
Matthew Sinclair	77.22	James Franklin	41.65	George Worker	52.33

## Leading Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP performances per team

### Central Stags

1. Matthew Sinclair	77.22	10th overall
2. Michael Mason	63.92	19th overall
3. Dean Robinson	56.30	24th overall
Batting: Matthew Sinclair	64.22	
Bowling: Michael Mason	50.08	

### Auckland Aces

1. Anaru Kitchen	97.83	2nd overall
2. Gareth Hopkins	82.14	4th overall
3. Mitchell McClenaghan	80.53	5th overall
Batting: Anaru Kitchen	73.38	
Bowling: Mitchell McClenaghan	74.64	

### Otago Volts

1. Jimmy Neesham	110.57	1st overall
2. Nathan McCullum	74.95	11th overall
3. Craig Cumming	71.71	12th overall
Batting: Craig Cumming	63.19	
Bowling: Jimmy Neesham	63.58	

### Canterbury Wizards

1. Matt Henry	77.45	9th overall
2. Tom Latham	69.03	15th overall
3. Andrew Ellis	62.79	21st overall
Batting: Tom Latham	58.03	
Bowling: Matt Henry	56.22	

### Wellington Firebirds

1. James Franklin	83.36	3rd overall
2. Andy McKay	69.11	14th overall
3. Harry Boam	68.73	16th overall
Batting: Michael Papps	58.31	
Bowling: Andy McKay	64.22	

### Northern Knights

1. Anton Devcich	79.88	6th overall
2. James Marshall	56.47	23rd overall
3. Hamish Marshall	54.65	27th overall
Batting: Anton Devcich	56.34	
Bowling: Graeme Aldridge	40.31	

# BLACKCAPS Season Kicks into Gear

Courtesy of Photosport

Are New Zealand standing on the precipice of another golden Test era?

A little premature, certainly. But with three victories in their last four tests, the Black Caps are riding high and of the belief they can match it with any side put in front of them.

The innings and 301-run one-off test over Zimbabwe in Napier wouldn't have sent shockwaves through the cricket world given the quality of the opposition.

But what it has done is strengthen the resolve in the New Zealand camp and believe they are individually and collectively capable of taking on the might of South Africa later in the summer.

It was a polished performance with both bat and ball at McLean Park, firstly with the bat in knocking up 495-7 declared.

There wasn't much more coach John Wright could have asked for in a batting performance that featured a watchful century opening stand to set the foundation, a pair of centuries in the middle order and a powerful cameo from the lower order.

Martin Guptill and Brendon McCullum, the two highest run-scorers in the HRV Cup, made a successful switch to the longest form of the game as they put on 124 for the first wicket.

Both reined in their attacking penchant to score at a strikerate of around 50, keeping Zimbabwe at bay after captain Brendon Taylor won the toss and gave his bowlers first use of a pitch that had more grass cover than usual.

Guptill made his seventh Test half-century, eventually falling on 51, while McCullum's patient four-hour stay came to an end on 83.

There was disappointment in the fact that Kane Williamson (4) was run out with a golden opportunity to bat himself into form while the star of the Australian tour, Dean Brownlie, was uncharacteristically dismissed for a duck to a rash stroke.

Daniel Vettori also contributed 38 in the midst of a pair of fine centuries.

Ross Taylor scored his first as New Zealand captain and sixth overall, a classy knock of 122 until he strained a calf muscle. Due to new ICC regulations, he was unable to use a runner and had to retire hurt.

BJ Watling, in his first test as wicketkeeper, took his opportunity with aplomb. The diminutive Northern Districts player notched his

maiden century, 102 not out off 149 balls and thus secured his place at No.7 with the keeping gloves in his kit bag as well.

There was also time for a quickly slapped 44 off 39 balls to Tim Southee on the ground where almost four years previously, on debut, he had made his country's fastest ever Test 50 and taken 5-55 just for good measure.

The merit in New Zealand's make-up of four seamers along with Vettori's left-arm spin was borne out on day three as five pairs of relatively fresh legs rock and rolled Zimbabwe twice.

Zimbabwe's first innings of 51 was their lowest in history, and also represented the same in terms of New Zealand's bowling effort against any country.

Only Malcolm Waller, with 23, made it out of double figures.

No bowler took more than two wickets, while Brownlie atoned for his shortcomings with the bat in taking four catches amongst a rock-solid slip cordon. There was no hesitation for McCullum, deputising in place of Taylor, to send the tourists in again and by the close of Saturday's play, the cork was being popped on the victory champagne.

It was the evergreen Chris Martin who fired up, no doubt revelling in

having to shoulder less of the burden in terms of overs. His best ever test figures of 6-26, giving him a match total of 8-31, rolled Zimbabwe a second time for 143.

At 12-5, it looked even more dire until Regis Chakabva showed the fight required in making 63 and had handy contributions down the order.

Even a late fightback by Zimbabwe couldn't take away the all-round brilliance of the home side with bat, ball and another polished performance in the field.

The only real sour point was the injury to Taylor, which ruled him out for the limited-overs part of Zimbabwe's tour but should see him return to take on the Proteas later in the summer.

It is there where New Zealand will receive their litmus test in terms of where their five-day form is truly at.

South Africa are second in the ICC Test rankings while the Black Caps are eighth.

Household names like Kallis, de Villiers, Smith, Amla, Steyn and Morkel are set to be unleashed.

It is a heady task but one New Zealand is welcoming as an opportunity to show the recent results are no fluke.

**Written by:**  
**Dean Wedlake**



Kyle Jarvis suggests to Martin Guptill that he'll get the first round after the game.

Courtesy of Photosport



## Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP – the Players Statistic

The NZCPA and Fujitsu Heat Pumps are pleased to announce a three-year partnership that will see the MVP rankings named as the 'Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP'.

Fujitsu Heat Pumps are a leading NZ manufacturer with a strong history of supporting sport in New Zealand. Thanks to the support of Fujitsu Heat Pumps this summer will see the expansion of the MVP rankings to include cricketers at all levels of the sport. This will allow clubs, schools and players throughout the country to not only compare their performances to their peers, but also to compare themselves to their favourite International and First Class players.

Fujitsu General New Zealand Limited's Managing Director Kim Naylor is excited about the new partnership with MVP, stating "this is a wonderful way for Fujitsu Heat Pumps to recognise New Zealand's best performing cricketers at all levels of the game".

"Our company prides itself as a leading NZ manufacturer and that's why it is great to be associated with such an innovative product as MVP and the CricHQ application".

MVP – the Players Statistic has been established by Cricket Player Associations throughout the world and in conjunction with the players, has ensured MVP is a respected measure of modern cricket performance. Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP will be calculated for both professional cricket and recreational cricket throughout the summer.

NZCPA Chief Executive Heath Mills said "we are delighted with our new partnership with Fujitsu Heat Pumps and look forward to expanding on the success of MVP by making it available to the recreational game this summer".

"Thanks to the world-leading technology provided by CricHQ, it is possible to easily and independently determine who the Most Valuable Player is for your own competitions, club or team" said Mills.

Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP points tables, the latest updates, comments and player interviews will be available on [www.procricket.co.nz](http://www.procricket.co.nz).



### Martin Guptill wins domestic T20 Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP.

Martin Guptill produced another superb innings of 70 (off 41 balls) during the HRV Cup final to finish the competition on top of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP rankings for 2012.

Guptill thrilled the home crowd with an intelligent innings that was punctuated by four boundaries and four huge sixes, ultimately laying the platform for the Auckland Aces victory.

Aces captain Gareth Hopkins acknowledged Guptill's contribution throughout the tournament by stating "Martin has been in devastating form and his combination with Azhar at the top of the innings ensured we got off to a great start in most games. While it's hard to single out any one player Gup certainly deserves this recognition as the MVP this year".

Not only did Guptill win the overall MVP, but he also finished at the top of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP batting table as well. Guptill made 504 runs throughout the HRV Cup at an average of 72, scoring one of the six centuries in the competition to complement three further half centuries.

The MVP formula accounts for all areas in which a player contributes to the team and although Guptill's athleticism in the field accounted for some valuable fielding points, he was not completely invincible, finishing with a negative MVP bowling points tally.

Guptill himself said "I am thrilled to win the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP award this year. We had a great campaign and it is great to think that my efforts have helped the Aces to be the first team to defend the HRV Cup title".

Canterbury Wizards all-rounder Rob Nicol completed another outstanding season of T20 cricket to finish the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP rankings in 2nd place. Nicol was the only player to feature inside the top 10 of both the overall MVP batting (5th) and bowling (2nd) tables and had the

distinction of being the highest-placed player in both MVP categories for the Wizards.

The T20 format is not considered a favourite pastime for bowlers, least of all for spinners with batsmen in an aggressive mindset. However, this year the two leading MVP bowlers were both spinners and a total of six of the top 11 players were also spinners, reinforcing the trend for the slower bowlers playing a big role in T20 cricket.



### Roneel Hira was the winner of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP bowling rankings and was the joint leading wicket taker in the competition.

Hira's 76.06 MVP bowling points placed him well clear of Rob Nicol who was second with 54.27. The Auckland Aces team had four players (Andre Adams, Michael Bates and Kyle Mills) inside the top 10 MVP bowling rankings who all combined to suppress their oppositions scoring momentum during much of the HRV Cup.

The winner of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP fielding rankings for the T20 was Central Stags wicket keeper Kruger van Wyk.

## Member Benefits

### Membership

The NZCPA encourages all past first class players to join what is 'your' association as annual or life members. We are constantly looking for methods to support and assist our past playing members through our events, activities and services. The best way we can do that is for you to stay involved and engage with the fellow members and NZCPA staff.

Registering for membership is simple, you only need to fill out the Members Registration form on the NZCPA website [www.procricket.co.nz](http://www.procricket.co.nz).

Already a member? Why not introduce one of your playing mates to the NZCPA. Simply contact us through the website or email Kerry Walmsley directly on [kerry.walmsley@nzcpa.co.nz](mailto:kerry.walmsley@nzcpa.co.nz).

# Jimmy Neesham holds on to Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP honour

Despite not participating in the final of the Ford Trophy, Otago Volts all-rounder Jimmy Neesham has finished at the top of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP rankings for the 50 over format. Neesham has prospered for the southern side this season following his move to the Volts, which has paid the ultimate reward as Neesham can now claim to be the Fujitsu Heat Pumps Most Valuable Player for the Ford Trophy.

It was Neesham's efforts with both bat and ball that saw him take out the MVP honour, finishing the competition with 14 wickets and 205 runs (at an average of 51.25).

Neesham can be particularly proud of his MVP winning performance as he played in only seven matches compared to the ten in which second-placed Anaru Kitchen had the chance to play. With the expanded finals series and a number of rain-affected matches the MVP tables have an unusual mix of matches played by various players. However, no one can deny the Otago all rounder the honour to the MVP title as he was also the highest placed player in the average points per match (minimum of 5 games).

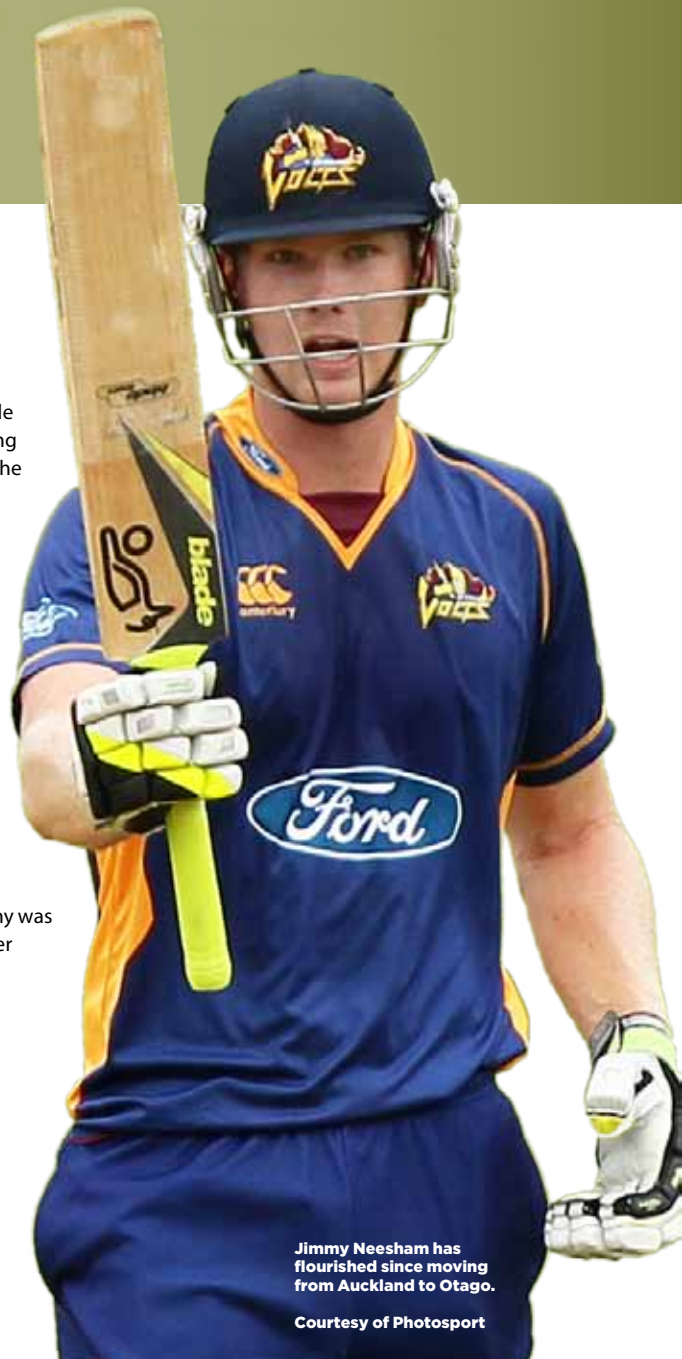
Auckland Aces batsman Anaru Kitchen performed consistently for his side to not only finish second on the overall MVP rankings, but he was also the winner of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP award for Batting. Kitchen and fellow Aces team mate, Gareth Hopkins led the Auckland batting effort and along with Colin Munro

occupied three of the top five MVP batting positions.

Canterbury Wizards all-rounder Rob Nicol completed another outstanding season of T20 cricket to finish the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP rankings in 2nd place. Nicol was the only player to feature inside the top 10 of both the overall MVP batting (5th) and bowling (2nd) tables and had the distinction of being the highest placed player in both MVP categories for the Wizards.

Mid way through the Ford Trophy the Auckland Aces welcomed back Mitchell McClenaghan from a long injury and he made an immediate impact capturing consecutive impressive hauls of five and six wickets. McClenaghan continued to take wickets for the Aces and ended up overtaking Wellington's Andy McKay to win the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP award for bowling.

The winner of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP fielding rankings for the Ford Trophy was Auckland Aces captain and wicket keeper Gareth Hopkins.



Jimmy Neesham has flourished since moving from Auckland to Otago.

Courtesy of Photosport

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