

AUTUMN 2022 | No. 049

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Cricket Players Association

OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



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OPENING THOUGHTS



Tēnā Koutou, welcome to the latest edition of Outright magazine.

It barely warrants explanation now that we are in the third year of it, but the global pandemic has once again provided us with one of the more challenging summers to date for our members and stakeholders of the game. Despite the disappointment of The White Ferns missing the semi-finals of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup and the red light COVID-19 restrictions, the tournament set the bar high for the Rugby and Football World Cups to follow with a sell-out crowd at Hagley Oval to witness Australia defeat England in the final.

Amidst the backdrop of this disruption the international and domestic schedules were continually modified and adapted to provide largely uninterrupted seasons, albeit with no

crowds for the bulk of fixtures. This is a great testament to the immense work everyone has put in to make this possible, particularly the staff at NZC.

We are working diligently with NZC as we look forward to a busy winter touring programme for our Blackcaps who are heading to the United Kingdom to play England in three tests, followed by a number of ODIs and T20s against Ireland, Scotland, The Netherlands and West Indies, before returning to Australia for the ICC T20 World Cup.

Dane Cleaver is among the Blackcaps tour of Europe and features in this edition of Outright with a snapshot of how he has changed paths from psychology to finance. Former Wellington and Auckland all-rounder Mayu Pasupati is our past player feature this month as we get an insight into his world of medical devices. Canterbury Magician

Kristy Havill shares her busy life as a journalist, commentator, and clay target shooting silver medallist.

Kirsty Bond reflects upon the success of a secondary schools selection taking on a 1st XI of former Internationals in a day where these past internationals could give back to the next generation of female cricketers.

We caught up with new NZCPA staff member Greg Dawson, who is welcomed to our team following the internal promotion of Lesley Elvidge to National Personal Development Manager. Greg is the new PDM for the Canterbury and Otago Men's teams.

Please enjoy this latest edition of Outright.

Ngā mihi nui

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Players better together

KRISTY HAVILL REDEFINING BUSY

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

PREPARE TO LEARN THE SECRETS OF A BUSY PERSON. LOOK AROUND OUR CRICKET TRAPS AND IT WOULD BE HARD TO FIND TOO MANY PEOPLE WITH FINGERS IN MORE PIES THIS PAST KIWI SUMMER THAN KRISTY HAVILL.

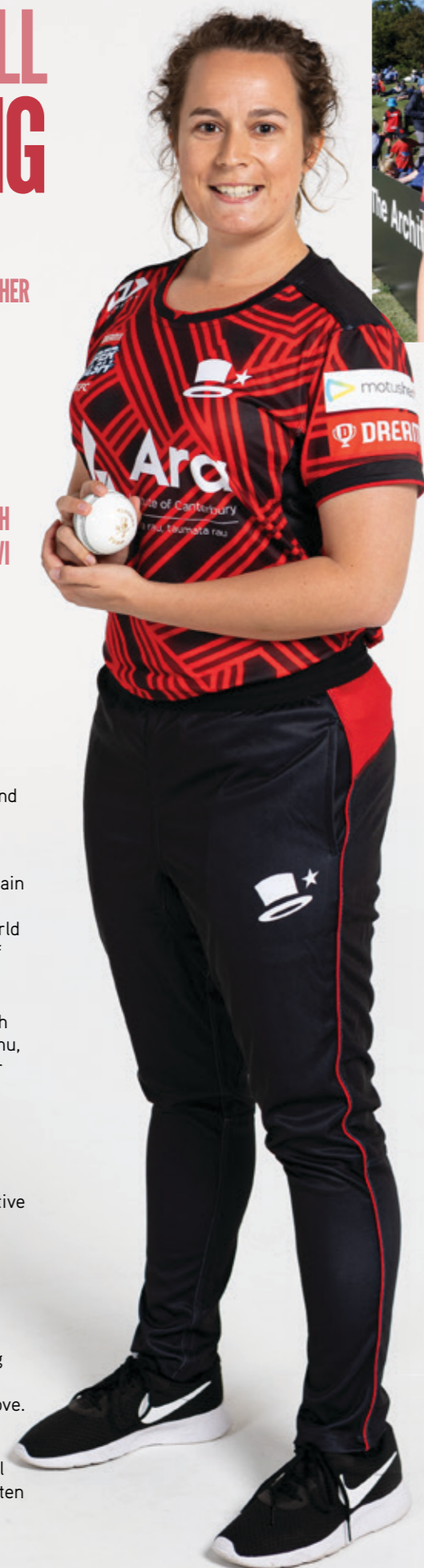
Throw a dart at the calendar and the cricketing whirlwind could be ops-managing a Hagley Oval ODI or Plunket Shield match, playing for the Canterbury Magicians, commentating for the BBC at a World Cup game or writing/broadcasting about cricket or women athletes for Sky Sport, Stuff and LockerRoom (NewsRoom's dedicated women's sports portal).

At 25, Havill's already packed a mountain of other achievements into her Venn diagram of a CV — from winning a World Championships silver medal as part of the New Zealand clay target shooting team to spending a year as Chief Executive of Squash Canterbury which covers a huge sweep of Te Waipounamu, including Nelson/Marlborough and her native West Coast.

Study-wise, she's a Lincoln Bachelor of Sport and Recreation Management graduate, then spring boarded into governance as Lincoln Student Executive President — an agent for her entire generation of students at Uni.

Now she's off to start work at Lord's on a six-month contract as the ECB's accreditation executive, as part of a planned two-year OE. If you're reading along thinking 'wow', 'high achiever', 'energy ball' and 'driven', all of the above.

Candid and frank in her self-analysis, she says there have also been stressful times when she's wondered if she's bitten



off more than she can chew by juggling weighty roles, stretching herself too thinly — or why on earth she ever said yes to jumping into the deep end of another unfamiliar job or taking a left turn.

"I do shake my head sometimes and wonder how do I find myself in these positions! It's definitely a balancing act when there are so many plates spinning in the air. I'm a terrible person for always saying yes. I'm working on trying to say no, but I love getting involved and also, I think it's that I've always had an underlying fear of failure.

"I'm too scared to say no because then I will, in my mind, construe that as a failure. Then once I'm in a situation, I'll give it hell for leather because I want to make a success of it. So there's a pattern of that willingness to put my neck on the line, try something new, and not be afraid of being made a fool of at times — as long as I come out the other side as a better human."

Show us a cricketer who doesn't get that.

Cricket was a game in which Havill was a late starter — Greymouth-born and growing up on a West Coast dairy farm where the spirit of mucking in and working hard was ubiquitous, but opportunities to play organised summer sport were scarce.

Clay target shooting had meanwhile started at 10, in the blood, Havill following in the footsteps of her grandfather and great-uncle (both New Zealand representatives), father and two elder brothers.

Shooting requires long stints of repetitive, pinpoint individual practice, and doesn't share much in common with a team sport like cricket, "but the top two inches, the mental resilience and not getting

too wound up if it's not going my way, crosses over, and I think that contributed to me playing cricket for Canterbury. I always felt calm and able to focus."

It wasn't until Year 12 as a Rangī Ruru boarder that she signed up for the school cricket team and when she did, guess who was her coach? Frankie Mackay.

"We went to Nationals twice, then I had a gap year and it was when I returned to Lincoln that Frankie got back in touch and invited me to play for Lancaster Park, so I started playing properly at 19.

"I made Canterbury U21 and then the Magicians — but perhaps I didn't take it as seriously as I would have if I had started younger, and had those brightly burning desires that you have at school to achieve certain things..."

Her BBDs instead hovered around wanting to be a commentator/sports journalist/broadcaster — even though she didn't follow that path in tertiary study.

"I went into the sports admin side instead, so now with the opportunities I've had this season, it feels like coming back full circle to my original passions."

Just as Mackay was an influential cricketing mentor, former Canterbury

Cricket operations manager Trudy Anderson — who stepped up to a similar ICC Women's World Cup role this summer, was a brilliant mentor when it came to learning the ropes of making sure cricket matches and venues have everything in place for the game.

Having formally interned with the Community Cricket team at Canterbury, Havill wound up cutting her teeth handling ICC Men's U19 World Cup warm-up fixtures in 2018, and made her ops Test debut this summer when the Blackcaps played South Africa at Hagley.

Veteran sports writer Suzanne McFadden, the driving force behind LockerRoom, meanwhile became her media mentor this summer, and that's something Havill is keen to continue from abroad over the next couple of years, whether as LockerRoom's UK correspondent or picking up more commentary with the likes of the BBC.

"I love everything from cricket to rugby to Formula One to American sport, and I've really discovered what I enjoy doing," she says. "Now it's about taking on all the opportunities I can to learn from different people, to improve."

With a two-year working visa and a British-based partner, Havill is aiming

also to play some more club cricket in England in her spare time, whilst grappling already with the thought that she won't be back to rep the Magicians in red and black next summer.

"I've always said I'm better doing things off the field than on it, but life is a bit mucky, and the brain and perception is a funny thing.

"I'm grappling with it because that's how my brain works — always striving to go above and beyond. Sometimes I wake up and think I've failed, I've only played a handful of games for the Magicians and should have taken more wickets or scored more runs. Others will remind me that representing Canterbury is not 'failing'. Plenty of people try and don't. I'm trying to learn to keep it in perspective."

Her new work schedule will be typically hectic, revolving around England's home summer and The Hundred.

"It will be a surreal first morning working into Lord's to work! Life still seems like a blank canvas right now, and I'm really looking forward to getting over there, meeting new people, taking on new challenges — and seeing where it takes me." ●



A NEW CAREER PATH FOR DANE CLEAVER

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

From getting married to his longtime love Kelsey, to the birth of bonny son George, to vice-captaincy of the Stags and a maiden Blackcaps call-up, it's been a huge 18 months for wicketkeeper-batsman Dane Cleaver. But with one eye on his eventual future off the park, he hasn't stopped there.

During this winter, Cleaver is starting work with MacDonald Wealth — a Hawke's Bay company helping people with financial literacy, planning and all things investment.

He first met director Brad MacDonald via an introduction from NZCPA PDM Jo Murray, when MacDonald was invited to come in to talk to the Stags players about financial planning and insurances.

MacDonald himself loves playing cricket and golf so there was instant common ground, but Cleaver was also interested at the time in exploring finance as a career path - and the pair also discovered they shared a perspective that financial services isn't just all about making money, but an avenue to genuinely help other people with their lives.

Both came at the industry from other angles. MacDonald is an ex-Navy serviceman. Cleaver initially set out to be a practising psychologist. He has a conjoint degree from Massey as a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Business Studies in Economics that he embarked upon straight out of school, then started a Masters in Psychology which resulted in a post-grad diploma.

Initially, psychology seemed like the 'how'. But as he got talking to MacDonald and realised MacDonald's own driver was making meaningful connections with people through finance, something clicked.

"He wasn't just trying to sell products. He genuinely cares about clients and wants to help them towards their goals, which I resonated with."

MacDonald meanwhile saw a player with a passion for investing, Cleaver's dressing-room chat likely to range from crypto to real estate on any given day.

"Sanj Silva as my previous PDM had a big influence on me getting into investing, as a practical avenue for planning for life after cricket," says Cleaver.

"I started in property - the traditional, tangible kiwi way of investing! It was a good place to start as a younger person and cricketer though because a mortgage is a form of forced saving, and of course as an insecure cricketer contractually only paid to work for half a year, it's really important you don't just burn through what you earn. I got really into that, used to listen to investment podcasts every day.

"I was also always interested in the sharemarket because my Dad is really into that, and so I had some basic exposure growing up to that world of investing in equities companies."

Dad is Mark Cleaver, CEO of Massey Ventures Ltd — Massey University's commercialisation arm which, in a nutshell, helps turn academics' ideas and

research into financially viable companies and industry. He also was one of the people who started up Aero Sports.

"He sits on the boards of dozens of companies and helps runs them as one of the most experienced people in commercialisation in New Zealand. So I got lucky in that I got that businessy, investing side and passion from him, and initially I enjoyed investing more or less as a hobby in my spare time. But the more I thought about it, the more I thought that turning into a job would be awesome."

Thoughts are powerful things, and meeting MacDonald at that juncture was the piece of serendipity that turned it thought into reality — and, with total flexibility to continue chasing being the best cricketer he can be.

Eleven years ago, Cleaver was a fluffy-haired youngster keeping in a NZU19 World Cup in a match alongside Jos Buttler, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Tom Latham, Corey Anderson, Doug Bracewell, Tom Blundell and more. Quite a few keepers in that generational mix, and it's translated into a tough battle to crack the Blackcaps in the specialist role.

Now with a T20 century and first-class double hundred in the books to underline his batting ability, he turned 30 at the start of this year and came agonisingly close to making his Blackcaps debut, earning a maiden call-up to the T20i squad in the solitary T20 International against The Netherlands.

"MY DRIVER HAD BEEN TO HAVE SOMETHING AFTER CRICKET THAT COULD BE MEANINGFUL, AND 'MEANINGFUL' TO ME IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO OTHERS AND HELPING PEOPLE. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT, AND I WAS REALLY CLEAR THAT I WANTED TO DO THAT WITH MY LIFE."

If only it hadn't poured down with rain all day.

That's cricket: a unique, weird game that sweeps the rug from under you in an instant. "I don't think we'll ever understand fully why we play it, but it does help figure yourself out," he laughs.

Now he's keen to get started on trying to figure other people out, professionally. "Even just finding out what happiness is for people is an important start in financial planning. What is the person or family's goal? Not everyone wants to be a multi-millionaire. Some people want security and safety. Financial freedom means something different for everyone, so there's a bit of psychology in it still.

"Meeting Brad has convinced me this is a good long-term option for me, so now I'm excited and I just want to learn as much as I can by immersing myself in this role over the coming months." ●





SPAWNING GROWTH IN THE WILLOWS

Giving back to the game has always been the mantra for many former elite cricketers, and this is the case for Former White Ferns player and selector Kirsty Bond. When the opportunity came up for her to assemble a schoolgirls side to compete against a team of former first class and international players to celebrate women's cricket, she took it.

Bond is the newly appointed women's co-ordinator for the Willows Cricket Club (WCC), based in Christchurch, creating a first for the organisation with Friday March 25, 2022, marking the inaugural match between a secondary school girls team under the Willows name versus a team of former first class and international players. The once preserve

of male only school teams, the WCC now actively encourages girls' cricket.

The occasion brought together a wide array of former White Ferns whose careers spanned a collective 34 years. The earliest internationals were Bond and Catherine Campbell who made their debuts in 1988 and with the World Cup being contested in New Zealand. Bond also invited a few players from the 2000 World Cup winning squad to join Campbell (a World Cup winner herself) - Rebecca Rolls, Emily Drumm and Paula Winsor (nee Flannery).

With the opposition boasting an over-supply of youth and exuberance (players from eight different secondary schools from Dunedin to Wellington) she

thought it prudent to include a couple of ring-ins, Kate Ebrahim who last played for the White Ferns in 2021, and Canterbury Magicians Missy Banks and Abigail Gerken.

"I don't know who was more excited about the game, them or us, I know we were excited to get back together, the mind is willing, but the body is a way off the pace," joked Bond.

It was a really special occasion and a special story, I've always been passionate about the development of the game, in particular at that youth level and giving back at that level. There is an awful lot of satisfaction of what you can pass onto players at that age."

Bond reflected on how different the game was in her day (the late eighties and early nineties) with no clear female pathways and very little support for the women's game. In fact, the women's game was completely separate from the men's and run by the New Zealand Women's Cricket Council until it merged with NZC in 1992.

"I remember that first year that I was selected in 1988, I went to a World Cup in Australia and the resourcing was pretty limited. In fact, at one point after the

"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PASSIONATE ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAME, THE YOUTH IN PARTICULAR. THERE IS AN AWFUL LOT OF SATISFACTION OF WHAT YOU CAN PASS ONTO PLAYERS AT THAT AGE."

team was named, those of us that were new to the team were told we weren't going to receive a blazer before the tour started and we'd have to go ask a former player if we could borrow theirs," reflected Bond.

Bond welcomes every step in the development and growth of the women's game. From successful introduction of the first women's Master Agreement between NZCPA and NZC in 2010, and the recent inclusion of present and past domestic women being added as NZCPA members. Bond recognised the NZCPA's Personal Development programme and resource that is markedly different and great that it is available to women's players today.

However, Bond still believes that there is a lot of work to do in the game below the top tier. "We need to have highly



skilled players coming into the game. That's why I come back to youth cricket and what we are doing at that level of the game and how we resource it. I'm a firm believer that as a player you have to perform consistently well at each grade before moving up to the next and eventually onto international cricket.

Back on the park and despite many of the senior players having long been retired, the competitive spirit hadn't waned in the side, and some wouldn't

look out of place in an international series today. "Rebecca Rolls looks like she could still be keeping for the White Ferns," commented John Wright with Bond adding "Rebecca looks like she never left the game, she was standing up to Kate Ebrahim and Missy Banks taking the ball beautifully, and then she came out and smashed 70 runs all over the park and hit the ball with the same power as she always did, put the rest of us to shame really."

One of the most notable features of the match was the banter- largely amongst the senior members on the park. The best quote for the game belonged to Catherine Campbell who had this to say to a team-mate after they were run out for a duck, "You would have made that single twenty years ago!"

The game was a tightly contested affair and went down to the wire, some may even argue that the schoolgirls team had an unfair advantage. New Zealand Cricket President Debbie Hockley didn't play in the match but came out onto the wicket, stood next to the umpire and offered advice to each of the young players which seems to be of paid off. The schoolgirls batting first won a nailbiter by three runs, "couldn't have scripted it any better!" said Bond. After the success of this match more fixtures are being considered in the not too distant future. 🍀



Photos Courtesy of Dave Molony and Rex Howard

PAST PLAYER FEATURE

MAYU PASUPATI



It was February 2, 2002 when Wellington defeated Canterbury in the Domestic One Day Final by 53 runs to end an 11 year drought when it came to List A titles. Few cricketing moments transcend time, however in that final Mayu Pasupati wrote himself into cricket folklore with one of the most spectacular catches ever witnessed on a cricket field.

It barely registers that twenty years have passed since that moment and the former Wellington and Auckland all-rounder has continued to fly-high post his playing days. Pasupati is now based in Sydney working in the dynamic world of the medical devices industry – supplying stents, heart valves, pacemakers and the like, for global company Medtronic. Part of a company that boasts over 100,000 staff, Pasupati occupies the role of Vice President of

the Structural Heart & Aortic Japan and Greater Asia Pacific Division, which is every bit as impressive as it sounds.

Funnily enough it was cricket that introduced Pasupati to Medtronic after initially securing a territory manager role in 2007 - "As I was talking with the lady who was interviewing me, she mentioned that she had dated a cricketer many years before. So, when we started talking cricket, she said to me you seem like you know your stuff and hired me," explained Pasupati.

Since then, it's been a steady progression through the organisation from Product Manager to Regional Sales Manager to Senior Director to his current role. However, it was the first promotion that was the most challenging for him. "The first one was the hardest because it involved leaving New Zealand. As a territory manager, I was in the role for two years, and it was suggested that as New Zealand is a smaller subsidiary of the Australia/New Zealand organisation, if I truly wanted to challenge myself then I needed to come across the Tasman."



THE WINS AND LOSSES THAT YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH REALLY GIVE YOU PERSPECTIVE IN A WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

That decision to leave the land of the long white cloud was as hard as sitting through an Open Heart Cardiac bypass operation. Witnessing a patient's blood being removed from their heart into a heart-lung machine to keep the brain, organs and vessels alive while a Cardiac Surgeon did the necessary repairs was a far cry from the tranquillity of a cricket oval, but this was all just part of the necessary training. Pasupati equates the discussions with surgeons at the product level to playing a match - "We were in the hospital environment day in day out visiting surgeons, you need to know the pros/cons of using a specific product within the surgery. That's what gives you some credibility in front of these highly trained and specialised physicians. It's like sport, they will try to find a weak link and knowing our products allows us to find a way through these discussions. We don't have all the answers, and in some cases neither do they, but that and the complexity of the human body is what makes it really interesting."

Pasupati also credits the managers he's had along the way who have helped him in his growth through Medtronic, as well as the sports science and psychology degree he holds, and playing team sports. "The wins and losses that

you have to deal with really give you perspective in a working environment. A lot of that gave me a good grounding for working through an organisation the size of Medtronic," he said.

Pasupati remains incredibly humble, grounded, and with a down to earth nature despite the pressures of raising a young family alongside managing a busy and successful career where he is responsible for over 200 staff. "I am incredibly lucky to have a wife who gave up her career to be the primary carer for our children and our home, which allows me to be able to focus 100% on my work commitments" he says.

Covid border restrictions have unfortunately prevented him from getting back home as often as he would like over the past couple of years, but luckily Pasupati and his family managed to get across the Tasman (while borders were open) to visit family and friends before the major lockdown in August 2021. The world-wide pandemic did have a silver lining though. He was supposed to move with his wife and two children to Japan which would have also meant he was required to travel extensively with his work. There is no comparison when he considers lockdown in Tokyo in a small apartment

with a young family versus lockdown in Sydney in a house with a backyard. His new normal over the past three years has allowed him to work from home, go for bike rides with the kids and coach his son's touch rugby and daughter's cricket teams. However, coaching his daughter has provided him with a fresh set of challenges, possibly even more of a challenge than his professional life.

"Another dad and I shared the coaching duties and the interesting thing we learned was that it was a waste trying to coach our own child. They just wouldn't listen to us, whereas the other girls would," He said with a smile on his face. "It's great to be able to give something back to the kids, and as time goes on, I would like to do more of that if I can."

And when it comes to that spectacular catch some twenty years ago Pasupati is as modest and humble as he has always been, "I didn't think too much of it at the time. We used to practice crazy catches at training all the time in the hope of taking one in a match. Very rarely does it happen in a game, and it's even more rare in a final. When I think about it, we had a team who had made significant contributions and performances during the season, mine was to take a catch in that final. I can tell you that night in Wellington was one I will never forget!"



PULLING STUMPS



Long serving Otago Volts duo **Neil Broom** and **Anaru Kitchen**, along with Wellington Firebirds pace bowler **Hamish Bennett** have announced their retirement from professional cricket following the end of the 2021/22 domestic season. Also Blackcap and NZCPA Board Member **Ross Taylor** retired from the International arena at the conclusion of the Netherlands series, but is likely to continue to play domestic cricket over next summer.

One of the true characters of our game is Wellington, Canterbury and

“IT’S BEEN AN HONOUR TO REPRESENT MY FAMILY AND MY COUNTRY, THOSE MEMORIES AND EXPERIENCES WILL BE ONES THAT I WILL CHERISH AND TELL STORIES ABOUT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.”

Blackcaps pace bowler Hamish Bennett who called time on a career that has spanned 17 years since making his first-class debut for Canterbury in 2005. Bennett made 265 domestic appearances amassing 489 wickets and establishing himself as one of the most reliable pace bowlers in the country. The 35-year-old, who played for New Zealand as recently as September last year in two T20s against Bangladesh, featured on 31 occasions for the Blackcaps with his best figures 4/16 v Kenya in Chennai 2011.

Bennett reflected fondly on his career. “When I started out as a young kid bowling in the nets in Timaru, I never dreamed I would have gone on to enjoy the career that I’ve had.

“It’s been an honour to represent my family and my country, those memories and experiences will be ones that I will cherish and tell stories about for the rest of my life.” Bennett said.

Bennett has always been a popular member of teams he has been selected for and has developed into a great leader during his time in Wellington. Taking the captains arm band was something that inspired the big quick to take on the big moments in a game – leading from the front in old money.

But his contribution to the game is much wider than that, having a genuine interest in the daily ongoings within the sport was something Bennett was always prepared to do, and he was a highly effective NZCPA player representative through much of his playing career. This approach has been recognised by many in the game, and the ability to identify and act upon areas that need improvement is sure to serve Bennett well in the future.

“My time as a player rep was good fun. We would all meet up at the conferences and talk about the game and share ideas. On the field we were rivals, but off the park at the end of the day we were all trying to work together to make the game the best quality and to the highest standard we could. You just want to leave the game in a better place than you found it. You just try to give back and try to look after the future of our great game.”

Neil Broom began his career in a star-studded Canterbury side in 2002. But with regular opportunities eluding him, he shifted south to Otago in 2005. Since his move he quickly established himself in the first XI and is the all-time leading scorer in List A (4157 at 41.05) and T20 cricket (2926 at 27.09) for Otago. He sits second for first-class runs behind Craig Cumming for Otago (6085 at 40.56) including 15 hundreds and 23 half-centuries in 101 games and was first selected for the Blackcaps one-day and T20 sides in 2009. He went on to play 39 ODIs and 11 T20is and, late in his career, he earned his Test cap highlighted by a magnificent century (109*) against Bangladesh in Nelson.

The announcement of Broom’s retirement on the Otago website carries quotes of respect from a plethora of those connected with Otago Cricket. Broom, now a father of five, credited his parents, his partner Mel, as well as teammates & coaches for his success.

“My parents obviously played a massive role and that has been reinforced now I’m a father of 5 and can understand what they did for me when I was growing up.”

“I want to make special mention to my wife, Mel. She has been my biggest

supporter during my career, and I owe her so much for everything she has done for not only me but our five beautiful kids,” explained Broom.

Team-mate Anaru Kitchen is another who realised his dream to play for the Blackcaps with his debut in 2017. Kitchen started his career in Auckland in 2008 before moving to Otago in 2015. He leaves the game having scored more than 10,000 runs across the three formats, including 10 first-class and five List-A hundreds and having accumulated over 130 wickets. The 38-year-old went out in style this summer, smashing seven sixes and two fours in an unbeaten 106 from 95 balls in his final Ford Trophy match versus the Auckland Aces.

Retiring from international cricket is Luteru Ross Poutoa Lote Taylor, who has stated that he would have been happy to play one game for New Zealand let alone become our nations most capped player.

Over the past sixteen years Taylor has played 450 international games, amassed over 18,000 runs across all formats and become the first cricketer to play over 100 internationals in each of those formats. Achieving all this and much more whilst balancing family and sitting on the Board of the NZCPA for the past seven years. We look forward to seeing Ross represent CD in the summer to come.

This year we bid farewell to four stalwarts of the game who have contributed to the game in so many ways on and off the pitch. We wish them all the very best as they transition into the next phase of their lives. ●

MEET THE NEW PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER GREG DAWSON



WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO GREG DAWSON WHO RECENTLY JOINED US IN THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER. GREG BRINGS A FANTASTIC SKILLSET AND APPROACH THAT WILL ENSURE HE ALSO MAKES A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE PLAYERS AND THE NZCPA.

WE MANAGED TO STEAL A QUICK MOMENT WITH GREG AND TO SEE HOW HE IS SETTLING IN AND WHAT HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE COMING WEEKS.

WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT GETTING STARTED WITH THE NZCPA AS OUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR CANTERBURY AND OTAGO MEN'S DOMESTIC PLAYERS?

I think what I'm most looking forward to is getting to know the players on a personal level and exploring different areas where I can help facilitate their plans for the future and their personal development. It all starts with a few chats over a good coffee, and that is always fun and interesting.

WE KNOW THAT YOU RECENTLY MOVED BACK TO DUNEDIN AFTER 23 YEARS IN DUBAI, WHAT WERE YOU UP TO IN THE UAE AND WHAT PROMOTED THE MOVE HOME?

What started as a six-week trip to visit my uncle in Dubai, turned out to be the beginning of a whole new life! My first five years in Dubai were spent teaching Physical Education (PE) at a large International School consisting of over 85 nationalities. For the next 18 years, I worked at the Dubai Rulers Office School teaching PE, amongst other various roles which included International Expedition Coordinator.

This role involved taking Emirati students into challenging outdoor environments, while also raising money for children's charities in Africa and Nepal.

The move home was prompted by my school closing for two years for refurbishment, but also after 23 years away it was time to come home and immerse ourselves into New Zealand and be closer to family.

THE RASHID SCHOOL FOR BOYS WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE SHEIKH FOR MEMBERS OF THE RULING FAMILY TO BE THE ETON OF THE MIDDLE EAST, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE SCHOOL COMPARED TO A TYPICAL KIWI HIGH SCHOOL?

I think the daily satisfaction and challenges that come with teaching teenagers are pretty universal. The most notable difference would probably be the resources that we had available to us and the amazing experiences that we were able to offer the students. School trips comprised of diving in the Maldives, skiing in France, and trekking in Nepal. It was sometimes hard to believe I

was getting paid to ski! Local sports also included camel racing, falconry competitions, and traditional Yola dancing. Another major difference would be the canteen food, it was more like a 5-star hotel buffet, although the boys would have probably preferred nuggets and chips.

YOU CLEARLY HAVE A PASSION FOR WORKING WITH PEOPLE, APART FROM WORKING IN EDUCATION, WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU DONE, IS IT OR HOW DIFFERENT IS THAT EXPERIENCE?

The most rewarding roles I have had all involved working with people from varied backgrounds and cultures. I really enjoy working in great collaborative teams with inspiring people, and I have been lucky to find this again here at the NZCPA.

I have also worked with various groups and teams on team-dynamics and team-building development which further ignited my interest in team culture and human performance. These experiences lead me to completing my masters degree in Human Performance at Waikato University before moving back to New Zealand.



WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL GREATEST MOMENT, OR DEFINING PERSONAL EXPERIENCE?

Looking back I realise I have been incredibly lucky to have had amazing opportunities throughout my career, but the standout moments would have to be helping groups of young Emirati men face physical, social and psychological challenges, while achieving goals they had never dreamed of. Taking them into environments like Everest base-camp, or up mountains in Borneo, pushing them far beyond their comfort zones and witnessing their personal development has to be a highlight for me. This sits alongside seeing what the money we raised was doing for the children in both Nepal and Kenya. It was life changing for all concerned.

WHAT WOULD YOUR BEST FRIEND SAY IF SOMEONE WERE TO ASK THEM ABOUT YOU?

I guess it depends on which friend you asked! I think they would say calm, positive and approachable, but you never know!

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE LED A PRETTY BUSY LIFE TO DATE, WHAT ARE YOUR PASSIONS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I am passionate about coaching and helping kids experience the joy and life lessons that can be gained through sport. This passion for coaching resulted in me running a basketball coaching clinic for 20 years in Dubai, as well as a rugby skills academy. I've just started coaching basketball again at my son's school here in Dunedin.

I love spending family time with my wife and son, in fact this is one of the reasons for our return to New Zealand. Living a more relaxed kiwi lifestyle, while enjoying the great outdoors were a huge draw for making the move back home to New Zealand.

YOU'VE JUST STARTED IN THE PDM ROLE HOW HAVE YOU SETTLED IN, HAVE ANY ASPECT OF IT SURPRISED YOU?

I have been amazed by how genuinely nice and down-to-earth everyone from the cricket community has been. The players were so welcoming and open, it has made my transition into the role incredibly smooth and enjoyable.



I HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY LUCKY TO HAVE HAD AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT MY CAREER

I've never been a coffee drinker and I'm truly surprised how quickly that has changed since starting this role!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BRING TO THE ROLE OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER?

I aim to build trusting, honest relationships with all the players, and I hope to use my experience of having worked with people in various situations to help guide and support players in their own personal development. I'm a big believer in lifelong learning, so I'll continue to learn from my outstanding colleagues and endeavour to add value to the role at every opportunity. 🍷



ANDREW HAZELDINE BACK ON THE PARK

BY MARGOT BUTCHER



Andrew Hazeldine's shock Hodgkin's lymphoma diagnosis in September 2020 and harrowing treatment has been well documented. Corridors of uncertainty? Those words might have taken on a whole new meaning as the left-arm fast bowler began his medical journey and spent the 2020/21 summer pushing himself through a chemotherapy protocol at St George's Hospital Cancer Care Centre in Christchurch in order to stay alive. He's now metabolically clear and in March — almost exactly two years after his previous first-class appearance, the 27-year-old Cantabrian stepped back onto the cricket field again in the Plunket Shield. He spoke to Margot Butcher about life and plans after cancer.

LET'S START ON THE BOUNDARY OF EDEN PARK OUTER OVAL WHERE YOU'RE ABOUT TO STEP BACK ON THE PLAYING FIELD AGAIN, AFTER CANCER. HOW DO YOU FEEL?

I was more nervous playing this game than I was on my debut. When I got the call from Fults, it was like going back to when I got that first call four years ago from Steady to say I was going to make my debut for Canterbury — it was that feeling all over again. The pure excitement of being able to do what you love doing again. It was a dream. I'd been injured for the first half of the season, and was coming back a game early for a four-dayer, still getting my loads up. But we'd had a few injuries and COVID was disrupting squads...

Perhaps the desperation, the 'wanting to play' for so long — and now, being so excited and so happy to be going away. It was quite an overwhelming feeling. Then to actually get to play in the XI, I was excited all over again. I didn't bowl as much as I normally would have, but that adrenaline was kicking in and I was giving it everything. By the time we got

to the end of that game, I was drained — from the mental excitement, more than physically playing. We got absolutely thumped, but I loved every second of it.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EARLY CRICKET. HOW DID YOU DISCOVER YOU COULD BOWL QUICK?

Growing up I would open the bowling and bat middle order. Thinking back, I've got photos of me bowling pace when I was five or six years old. I've always loved bowling fast — that's where I get my kicks. As I got older and wasn't as big and strong as others, I dropped down the order, but bowling was always my strong point.

I came to New Zealand from England when I was 12, in 2006. Ten years later, I was a net bowler to Australia who were touring, bowling reasonably quickly. I managed to pin a couple of them. Rod Marsh came up and asked if I was playing rep for Canterbury, but I'd never made any of the age-group sides. I'd been the reserve or thereabouts. Marsh had dinner with Dayle Hadlee that night and the story goes he was telling him about this left-armer who was bowling well. Dayle talked to [then Canterbury coach] Gary Stead and Doncs, and I ended up getting a run for Canterbury A the following season.

IN BETWEEN, YOU WENT BACK TO THE ENGLAND AS AN MCC YOUNG CRICKETER, WHICH YOU DID FOR TWO SUMMERS. HOW DID THAT LEAD INTO YOUR STEP UP FOR CANTEBRURY?

I got injured that second summer at Lord's, but got fit just before heading back to NZ. I was playing club and A cricket when I got the call to make my T20 debut in December 2017 at Saxton

Oval where I got pumped by Jesse Ryder. That was when Ben Stokes was here with us which was amazing. Around then is when it started to really click for me as a pace bowler.

THAT'S TURNED OUT TO BE YOUR ONLY SUPER SMASH GAME TO DATE, BUT YOU'VE PLAYED A LOT OF FORD TROPHY AND PLUNKET SHIELD AND OF COURSE BEEN CONTRACTED. HOW WERE YOU TRACKING, BEFORE YOUR DIAGNOSIS, COMPARED TO NOW?

I've spent the last five years in the gym trying to get my body to a point where it can sustain bowling quickly for longer periods, but my weight before cancer was mid-60s. I probably rocked in around 66 or 67kg; now I'm 73, 74kg. I feel a hell of a lot stronger. I've just been able to keep my weight on. Of course, no one knows how long I had had cancer. I could have had the disease the entire season before; it could have been a reason I never put weight on. Either way, my main goal post-treatment was to put weight on and maintain it.

Gymning, I'm able to lift a hell of a lot more now, and there's more weight behind the ball in terms of pace and momentum through the crease — all part of striving to bowl a bit quicker. The real work-on is how to be more skilful? How do I swing the ball more consistently? Everyone knows what I can do bowling short, and I like that, but I want to bring more skills into my game.

YOU'RE BACK OVER IN THE UK THIS WINTER TO PLAY: A CHANCE TO KEEP BUILDING ON THAT?

Yes, game time is the whole reason my fiancée Kate and I have gone over, basically. Time on my feet. Continue



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I WANT TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING I HAVE BEEN THROUGH IN LIFE, GOOD AND BAD, BECAUSE IT'S MADE ME WHO I AM TODAY.

getting fitter and stronger, but also, spend time bowling. I'm at Cuckney Cricket Club in the Notts Premier League and one of my mates from MCC Young Cricketers is playing for the same club — he's from Bournemouth but contracted to Notts. So it couldn't be better.

We have a one-year-old German Shepherd I've been very nervous about leaving behind for the first time, but at the same time I'm excited to see my English family and excited to take Kate to the UK, as it's her first visit. Hopefully, we can do some travel as well.

WITH COVID ARRIVING, DID THAT MAKE YOU NERVOUS? HOW HAVE YOU BEEN NAVIGATING THINGS?

Yes, I was concerned about getting it. It was nervewracking. I used to fully trust my immune system, never really got sick at all, thought my immune system was great! And then I got the fright of my life with cancer, so apparently my immune system wasn't so invulnerable after all.

With COVID, no one knows whether you will be absolutely fine, or be smoked by it, so I spent pretty much the whole of this summer at home trying to avoid getting it. And it was hard. My first real trip away was to a Ford Trophy match in Palmerston North and we were so vigilant as a team to avoid unnecessary interactions.

We were in the hotel the whole time that we weren't at the ground. We got Uber Eats delivered to the foyer, picked up the food contactlessly — did not have contact with anybody, did not shake hands; wore masks. Travelling and being with the training group is unavoidable

for cricketers, but you can control unnecessary risks. I tried to follow the protocols to the best of my ability, to avoid putting the playing group or myself in danger.

TRACKING BACK TO THE PREVIOUS SUMMER, 11 FEBRUARY 2021 WAS THE SUPER SMASH ELIMINATION FINAL BETWEEN THE STAGS AND KINGS AT OUTER OVAL. YOU ZOOMED INTO THE CANTERBURY DRESSING ROOM BEFORE THE GAME TO TELL THE BOYS YOU WERE OFFICIALLY IN REMISSION. HOW LONG HAD YOU KNOWN?

I'd found out on the 9th. I messaged Fults and said, 'I'd like to tell the guys', asking him when the appropriate time would be. Obviously they were preparing for a big game and I didn't want to distract them. To be able to tell them before the game that I was cancer free is a feeling hard to describe. There were not many dry eyes — there certainly wasn't on my part.

I don't know how I kept it together. I wasn't meaning to use it as motivation for that game because they already had that. But afterwards, to get a message from Daryl Mitchell that his and Cam's record partnership was for me — that was powerful. I can't put into words the emotion of what I felt in that moment.

DOES IS STILL FEEL SURREAL AT TIMES, TO HAVE STARED CANCER IN THE FACE — AND BE BACK?

Yes. And every check-up, I'm still having a wee panic. But the more I talk about it and express the feelings I have had, the better it is for me. Before, when I knew my check-up was coming, I'd be nervous

a month before the appointment, whereas the lastest one I had — just a few weeks ago, it wasn't until I went to get the routine blood test done on the day before that I started thinking about it. So those kind of things slowly get easier. On the day, it's still pretty nerve-wracking.

I GUESS THAT'S HUMAN NATURE. YOU HAD A BIG SUPPORT TEAM AROUND YOU. HOW DID THAT ASSIST?

I will be forever grateful to everyone who supported me and Kate through that time — my family, my mates, my Lancaster Park teammates whom I've known for a decade or longer, Canterbury Cricket, the CPA: I literally I can't thank everyone enough for what they did.

Lesley Elvidge was our CPA rep and she went above and beyond to support me, my family and Kate. She would come visit, check everything is all right. Lesley and Henry Moore were onto it in terms of trauma payouts and those kinds of things — and if something was taking too long to come through, they would go in and chase it. It saved me so much stress. I was grateful for my insurances — my journey would have been so different without them; it would have been a huge financial burden on me and my family. I was also lucky that I had [Canterbury Cricket performance skills lead] John Quinn that I could go and talk to, so I didn't need to use the Instep counselling support, but it was obviously also there if I had needed.

Now, I want to remember everything I have been through in life, good and bad, because it's made me who I am today. I may well have ended up as the same person, but it might have taken me longer to find it. I still do silly stuff — hey, I'm a 27-year-old guy! I'm still me. But I've had to grow up a lot quicker than I potentially needed to, and that's been a massive help in the rest of my life — to have the ability to rationalise, and stop and think. I just feel very grateful. 🌟



ANNUAL PLAYERS' CONFERENCE

It was exciting to get a bunch of our members together for the annual Players' Conference over 28th and 29th April. With 24 men and women players gathered in the room it was a great chance to review the season just gone, but also to dig deeper into areas that can be enhanced in future across the professional cricket environment.

The major focus of this year's conference was to discuss and review the domestic competitions and wider high-performance environment, how the NZCPA best support our members, and to consolidate collective thought around the Master Agreement beyond the expiry of the current Men's and Women's version in July.

The two days were a tremendous success and provided them everyone with a greater understanding of our areas relevant to players within the professional cricket environment. 🎯

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THE STILL UNILLUSTRIOUS "BYC PODCAST" 2022 AWARDS

by Paul Ford



The second annual BYC Podcast Awards were a 45-minute alopecia-free aural recap on a season of cricket that has been one of the weirdest and most frustrating in the history of the game thanks to the repercussions and complications of all things Covid-related.

Our intrepid podcasting trio - Xena Warrior Princess star Jason Hoyte, subscription media mogul Dylan Cleaver and myself - donned our bow-ties momentarily to rise above the pandemic pessimism for the smorgasbord of gongs from the heart, the head and the tongue-in-cheek.

THE GOLDEN BOX for the most runs in the Plunket Shield is off to the nether regions of Te Kuiti's Thomas Charles Bruce, representing Central Districts. He plundered 858 runs at a mind-blowing average of 143 and sent cricket nerds frothing when he became the batsman in first-class cricket to score double centuries in consecutive innings.

There was mild controversy as **THE SILVER SWEATBANDS** for most Plunket Shield wickets were both awarded to ND's Brett Graham Randell (31 at 14.8) on countback, rather than being shared with Nathan Gregory Smith (31 at 18.4).

The coveted **FETISH PLAYER OF THE YEAR** went to Michael Gordon Bracewell, the Wellington captain, recent Black Cap, and former Otago stalwart who has had a mostly fantastic season. Slightly less ferocious than some others in the family dynasty, Michael tends to let his left-handed batsmanship and offspin do the talking and his blistering 141* (65 balls) was the innings of the season.

There were a multitude of nominees for **THE SH*THOUSERY ACT OF THE YEAR**

including serial pitch invader Jarvo's shoulder barge of Jonny Bairstow at The Oval, Yorkshire CCC, the misguided criticism of Quinton de Kock's approach to kneeling, a Cameroonian cricketer who Mankaded four batters in one game and Ollie Robinson's tweets about Stuart Broad in 2010. In the end Australian captain Tim Paine took this one home off the back of the Tasmanian text saga.

THE EPIC FAIL AWARD stayed in New Zealand and with maestro Devon Conway following his self-inflicted broken 5th metacarpal after a destructive post-dismissal bat punch that knocked him out of the T20 World Cup final. The power of the Gunn and Moore blade has to shoulder some of the blame here methinks.

Singaporean cricketer Tim David collected **THE OVERSEAS PLAYER OF THE YEAR** for his slogging, spinning and his proclivity to play T20 for every team of the planet, but never play a first-class match. When his services were acquired in the recent IPL auction for over a million dollars his Western Australia and club cricket team-mate Nick Hobson said: "He's already acted like a millionaire his whole life, so nothing much will change."

THE KODAK AWARD FOR SEXIEST CRICKET SHOT OF THE YEAR was hotly contested with nominations from Laura Wolvaardt and Babar Azam's respective cover drives, Devon Conway's flamingo and Trent Boult's blazing first-ball, last-ball six to win a match at the Mount. However they were all eclipsed by Ross Taylor's emotional, poignant flick over square leg to win the World Test Championship at Southampton. The etching of a historic, unforgettable Kiwi cricketing moment.

THE BEST SNARE went the way of William Alexander Young for his specky, one-handed outfield catch to dismiss the rampaging Marco Jansen at Hagley Oval. Young lay on his back in amazement, saluted the sadly empty Hagley Oval bank and put the ball in his pocket like his unrelated namesake Bryan Young used to do in the nineties.

THE 'HOLY MOLY I NEVER EXPECTED THAT TO HAPPEN' AWARD could only be won by Ajaz Patel after he took all 10 wickets in a Test innings, an extraordinary virtuoso performance against India in the city where he was born. It also remains an outrage that he was not awarded man of the match.

The pre-eminent award for **MOST PUNISHING INTERNATIONAL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR** was picked up by Australia for their post-match celebrations after the T20 World Cup final. I know it is petulant, undignified and sour grapes to issue this award in their direction but it had to be done after the combination of beating New Zealand, wearing goggles for the champagne celebrations, enduring shoeys and selfies, and singing Freed from Desire.

And finally a huge accolade for the team behind the award-winning 'Appleby Cricket Club All-Time XI: Where are they now' podcast for winning the **BEST CRICKET PODCAST OF THE YEAR** ahead of the other nominees: 'Steve Smith Sings the Blues', 'Historical Grounds of the Sub-Continent' and 'The BYC Podcast'. Terrific recognition of some great aural work in the deep south.

Congrats to all the winners. And see you on the beige carpet again next year.

Paul Ford is the co-founder of the Beige Brigade and one-seventh of The Alternative Commentary Collective. He has still never won an award worth winning in cricket. 🎯



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