

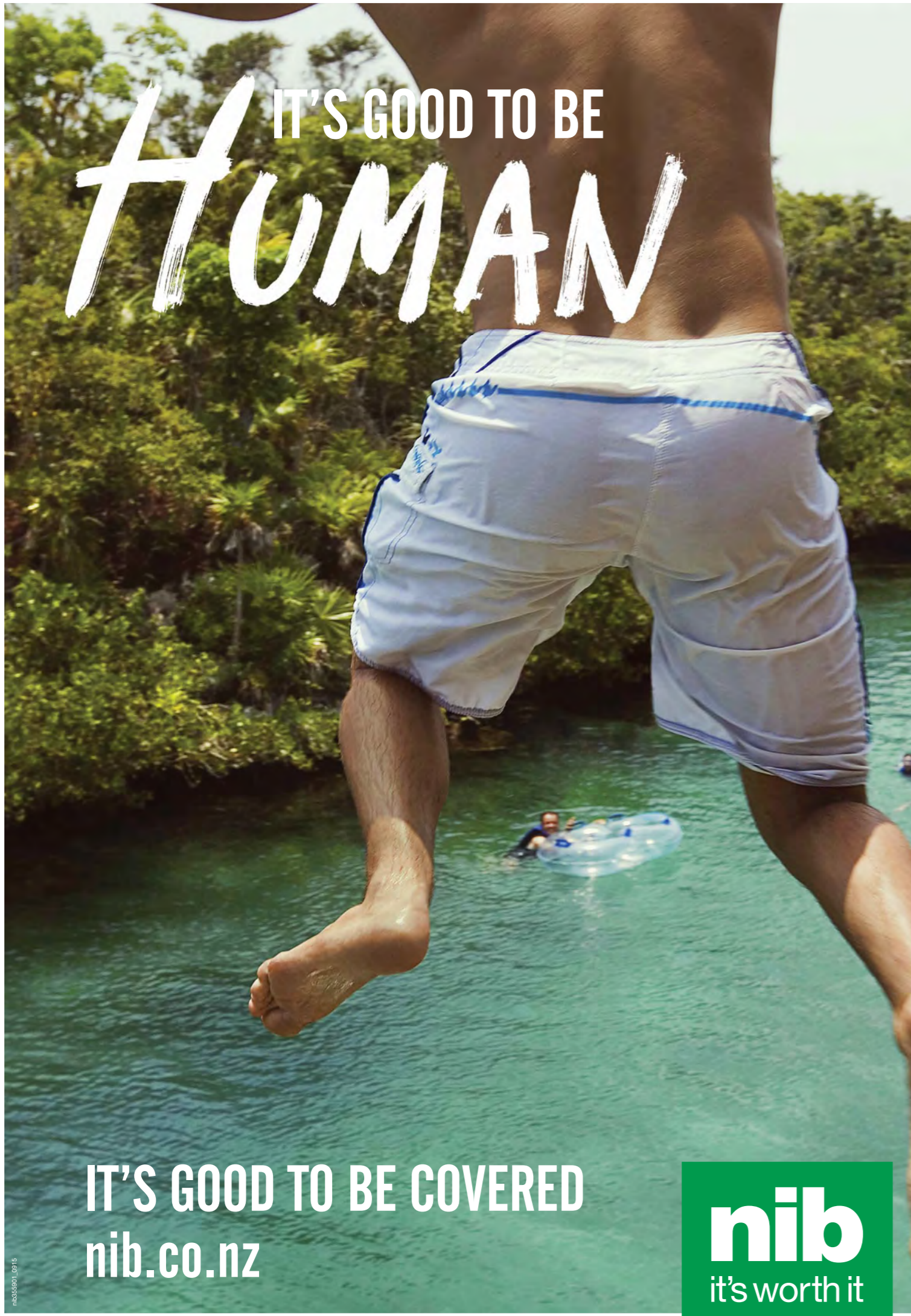
SUMMER 2017 | No. 033

OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



**HOOKED ON CRICKET
FROM THE DUGOUT
DAN VETTORI**



IT'S GOOD TO BE
HUMAN

IT'S GOOD TO BE COVERED
nib.co.nz



**HOOKED
ON CRICKET**

Remaining Hooked on Cricket tournaments to be run by Jacob Oram:
Tauranga – 3rd March
Hutt Valley – 10th March
Dunedin – 27th March

Photos Courtesy of NZCPA:
Action from Hooked on Cricket Papatoetoe

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Players better together



PLAYER INSIGHT: MARK CHAPMAN

By Margot Butcher

Photo Courtesy of Photosport

Dual nationality — great options, tough choices! Tell us what the toughest part about the decisions have been?

Since I was young I have always followed the BLACKCAPS. I've been very fortunate to have been able to play for Hong Kong but it has always been a dream of mine to one day play for NZ.

How did you father end up expatting in Hong Kong?

My dad studied law at Otago University and, a few years after he graduated, an overseas employment opportunity in Hong

Kong came up. He took the job and worked there for over 25 years. He's back in NZ now and happily retired.

You made your List A debut at 16 which seems crazy young — but was that all that unusual for Hong Kong / world division teams?

Associate nations are usually limited with smaller player numbers, so it's not uncommon to see players making their debuts as young as 16. I guess I was lucky I managed to score some runs and hold my position in the team!

How do you think playing world division cricket as a youngster helped you develop your game — or was there something about it that you felt was holding you back?

Associate cricket has been extremely helpful to my growth as a cricketer and as a person. Through playing for HK I have been fortunate to have played cricket all around the world in places such as Bangladesh, Korea, Northern Ireland and Nepal. I have no doubt that my exposure to different conditions and experience of different cultures has helped my all-round development.

CricHQ welcome new chair, Kevin Roberts.

In December 2016, CricHQ announced the appointment of Kevin Roberts as Chair of its board.

The internationally experienced business leader, with prior leadership roles at Saatchi & Saatchi Worldwide, Lion Nathan, Pepsi-Co, and Procter & Gamble takes the reins from outgoing Executive Chair Mike Loftus who will stay on as Executive Director.

As a board member of the New Zealand Rugby Union, Kevin played a key role in the professionalism and commercialisation of the sport globally, and negotiated the All Blacks' sponsorship with Adidas, a partnership that remains in operation 18 years later. He was Chairman of USA Rugby and trustee of the New Zealand America's Cup Challenge.

CricHQ founder and CEO Simon Baker

said that "Kevin brings global expertise in sports business, media and brand strategy, agreements, governance, and equity value creation.

"CricHQ is moving into several phases of growth. We've mapped significant global expansion that features data, mobility, content, media, commerce, and community. Kevin is a brilliant business analyst, strategist and tactician, and his skills and leadership experience will be a major asset as the company accelerates," said Simon Baker.

Kevin is excited to be part of the fast growing sportstech company.

"CricHQ is on the cusp of something very special," said Mr Roberts. "Simon and his team have built a platform that will provide huge value for participants in the world's second most popular sport. Baseball has the same DNA as cricket, and the monetisation of data and content in

baseball is huge and serves as a model for cricket, the difference being that cricket is an order of magnitude bigger than baseball. CricHQ has revolutionary technology and design that is making this sport better for all participants, and offers significant ways for other sports to organise globally."

Kevin Roberts, front and centre, captained his Lancaster school cricket team, below.



Making Cricket Even Better | about.crichq.com/news



How did the conditions for cricket generally compare to playing domestically in NZ?

It's slightly different to playing domestic cricket in NZ. Associate tournaments or series are often months apart and in a highly compact schedule. Each and every game has context to it, as teams are vying for extra funding, promotion and World Cup qualification. It's a cut-throat system, driven on performance, but can be extremely rewarding.

What has playing in NZ done for your cricket?

Regular high standard cricket has been great. Exposure to playing alongside and against past and present international players has been extremely beneficial for my game.

Tell us how you tore your Anterior Cruciate Ligament.

I played rugby throughout secondary school in Auckland. I specifically stayed in weight grades to avoid any unnecessary harm! I ended up rupturing my left ACL in my last year of school, surprisingly it was a non-contact injury — a bit of a freak accident. I was 17 at the time and it was a major setback in terms of my sport, but it allowed me to focus on my University studies and start the next phase of my life post school. Unfortunately I now have patellar tendonitis

in both of my knees, which is not ideal, but there are ways of working around it.

How does study work with cricket — the shoulders of the season must be pretty busy times for you?

I have just finished studying for my Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Auckland. I was unsure about what I was going to pursue post University, and the Aces contract has definitely made my decision easier! It was a tough four years studying full-time but Auckland Cricket was extremely helpful in assisting me in any way they could to accommodate. I will be graduating in May and am looking forward to it!

What is it about engineers and cricket? (Anurag Verma, Mitch Santner, Bharat Popli...)

There's definitely a few of us around! It's good to see, the world always needs more Engineers!

What do you like about playing in the Aces?

There is a great environment, through injury and call ups to the BLACKCAPS our team has been extremely youthful this year. We are looking forward to the remaining Plunket Shield fixtures and looking to climb up to the top of the standings. 🏏



Photo Courtesy of Photosport



OUTRIGHT

PREMIUM PARTNERS



Players better together

BASHING AROUND IN AUSSIE

By Margot Butcher



Photo Courtesy of Photosport

You know you're a real cricketer when you're spending Christmas away from home. For Lea Tahuu, that was a first this summer — the corollary of her debut season playing in the Women's Big Bash as part of the Melbourne Renegades.

The WHITE FERNS' quickest pace bowler was one of two kiwis in the team, Rachel Priest captaining in her second season. But for Tahuu, it was an all-new experience and another big step in developing her game as a professional cricketer.

"I'd heard a lot of good things from other players about the first year of the WBBL — that it had a good set-up and standard of support, full-time coaches, access to great training facilities," says Tahuu.

"So I was expecting it to be all good on that front, but the media side of it was the area that exceeded my expectations. The way it was strongly promoted. They are very committed to making cricket a number one choice for girls and women in Australia and they really push the women's game as being just as good and exciting as the men's game, which is great to see. We got a good crowd into most of the games."

Tahuu was one of five current WHITE FERNS performing impressively in the second edition of the league, alongside Priest, Suzie Bates (who led the Perth Scorchers to the 2017 Final), Sophie Devine (who smashed the comp's fastest century for the Adelaide Strikers), Amy Satterthwaite (Hobart Hurricanes) and believes it helped her game leading into a big



Photo Courtesy of Photosport

year for the WHITE FERNS with the current Series against Australia followed by the ICC World Cup. Legend Sara McGlashan was also back for the Sydney Sixers.

"When you're playing against the world's top players more continuously, it challenges you. You have to raise your game to a new standard to be able to consistently compete. I enjoyed that challenge, it was exciting. I had come into the WBBL as an international and so there was that pressure on me as well to perform from that point of view as well, to live up to expectations. Every team is allowed only three internationals."

The downside was knowing her Canterbury Magicians would have to truck through most of their 2016/17 campaign without her, although she was back for the national One-Day Final which the Magicians won at Hagley Oval in February. "I was lucky to have been able to have been one of the players who stayed in Melbourne over the Christmas-New Year period rather than

travelling back and forth, and New Zealand Cricket was really support of it. Obviously it's a new track for all of us, for players, NZC and our domestic boards.

"It seems that is the way we are moving: we will have players who won't be available to come home to play in the New Zealand domestic competitions, but I do think it would be really good if Cricket Australia and New Zealand Cricket could work something out around their schedules so that the choices don't have to be made — that would be perfect, to have the best of both."

After two seasons with the Renegades, Rachel Priest says Melbourne has a special place in her heart but getting so much cricket against the arch-rival Australians has its pros and cons. "We're getting a good look at their players plus those from other overseas teams. Of course, they also get a good look at us! But we've just got to have our plans in place to counter theirs, that's all it comes down to. It's been a nice

📍 Rachel Priest in action for the Renegades.

experience to get to know those people outside of the playing field — we've had on-field rivalries then discover the person is completely different off the field. One of the Renegades girls made the Southern Stars this season and I'm really proud of her, but once we get over that line for the WHITE FERNS, we won't be mates anymore! Well, not until after the game."

Tahuu's advice for future WBBL or even BBL rookies from this side of the Tassie?

"It sounds so clichéd, but one of the biggest things is you've gotta enjoy it. You're playing on some of the biggest grounds in Australia. You have massive crowds. You've got to enjoy it all while you've got it, but at the same time you've got to work really hard and put your best foot forward, because there are a lot of players champing at the bit to be involved." 🍌

PHILLIPS' DEBUT SEASON YIELDS CRICHQ MVP HONOUR



GLENN PHILLIPS STARTED HIS TWENTY20 CAREER BY FULFILLING HIS MUCH TOUTED TALENT WHEN TAKING OUT THE CRICHQ MVP FOR THE MCDONALDS SUPER SMASH, IN WHAT WAS HIS DEBUT SEASON FOR THE ACES.

MCDONALDS SUPER SMASH

CricHQ MVP Leaders

- Glenn Phillips – Aces**
Total MVP Points: 64.94
Batting 43.22 (2nd), Fielding 21.72 (2nd)
- Henry Nicolls – Kings**
Total MVP Points: 52.04
Batting 41.77 (3rd), Fielding 10.26 (8th)
- Mahela Jayawardene – Stags**
Total MVP Points: 48.61
Batting 47.78 (1st)
- George Worker – Stags**
Total MVP Points: 48.09
Batting 17.14 (26th), Bowling 24.45 (5th)
- Hamish Rutherford – Volts**
Total MVP Points: 47.74
Batting 36.67 (5th); Fielding (7th)

Ranking place shown in brackets

Bowling

- Brent Arnel – Firebirds** 28.74
- Seth Rance – Stags** 27.93
- Blair Tickner – Stags** 26.76

Batting

- Mahela Jayawardene – Stags** 47.78
- Glenn Phillips – Aces** 43.22
- Henry Nicolls – Kings** 41.77

The expressive right hand opening bat is typical of the millennial player who have grown up when reverse sweeps, switch hits and cover drives for six are about 'execution' – not a brain fade.

Phillips is pretty handy behind the stumps as well – another one of the crop of young multi-skilled cricketers starting to stamp their mark in the New Zealand domestic scene.

Tasked with opening the innings Phillips was in scintillating form to lead the run scoring stats with 369 runs – slightly ahead of the legendary Mahela Jayawardene who was second with 367. Phillips tally included a breakthrough century (116*) in the last round robin match, as the Aces chased a playoff spot, and also another three half centuries – all of this at a strike rate of 143.02. Not bad for a rookie.

Jayawardene and Phillips traded placed atop the CricHQ MVP batting table, but it is the additional contribution that Phillips provides to his team in the field that saw him accumulate a total of 64.94 MVP points (43.22 batting, 21.72 fielding).

The new CricHQ MVP formula provides a clear insight into the key performers throughout the competition and as expected there is an increased bias toward batsmen shining through in the format most suited to positive expression with the willow.

However, pursuit of the McDonalds Super Smash title is what drives the players and the Stags will be rueing the fact that their key MVP performers from throughout the competition were kept quiet during the Super Smash final by the experienced Firebirds side.

Photo Courtesy of Photosport

WORKER DOMINATES MVP TABLE



George Worker dominated the Ford Trophy to such an extent that the CricHQ MVP honour was a mere formality. Rarely does an athlete stake such a strong claim for the MVP title, but Worker did exactly that.

The left hand opening bat almost earned enough MVP points to win the title with his batting points alone, but add his left arm orthodox spin, fielding contributions enabled Worker to run-away as the MVP winner.

Worker amassed two centuries (high score 181*), four half centuries for a total of 659 runs (82.38 ave) at a strike rate of 91.02. Even without his bowling, these numbers are sure to see the Blackcaps contracted player back in contention for a recall following his injury that kept him out in the early part of the season. That bowling was effective too, 12 wickets (27.25) with an economy of 5.79 and a best of 4-22.

With 116.19 CricHQ MVP points, Worker was several furlongs' clear of Scott Kuggeleijn and Anaru Kitchen who occupied the next two spots on the MVP table.



Photo Courtesy of Photosport

FORD TROPHY

CricHQ MVP Leaders

- George Worker – Stags**
Total MVP Points: 116.19
Batting 76.65 (1st), Bowling 27.69 (7th)
- Scott Kuggeleijn – Knights**
Total MVP Points: 87.12
Bowling 47.56 (1st)
- Anaru Kitchen – Volts**
Total MVP Points: 74.39
Batting 37.12 (7th), Bowling 31.15 (6th)
- Daryl Mitchell – Knights**
Total MVP Points: 71.02
Batting 41.24 (5th)
- Todd Astle – Volts**
Total MVP Points: 66.17
Bowling 31.86 (5th)

Ranking place shown in brackets

Bowling

- Scott Kuggeleijn – Knights** 47.56
- Ish Sodhi – Knights** 39.89
- Anurag Verma – Firebirds** 37.76

Batting

- George Worker – Stags** 76.65
- Sean Solia – Aces** 56.13
- Henry Nicolls – Kings** 46.46



Photo Courtesy of Photosport

CRICHQ MVP OVERALL DOMESTIC TABLE

1	Scott Kuggeleijn – Knights	200.37	5	Andrew Ellis – Canterbury	135.72	9	Tim Seifert – Knights	124.26
2	Todd Astle – Canterbury	171.86	6	Luke Woodcock – Firebirds	134.26	10	Dane Cleaver – Stags	124.02
3	George Worker – Stags	164.28	7	Tarun Nethula – Auckland	129.68			
4	Daryl Mitchell – Knights	146.26	8	Tom Bruce – Stags	127.97			

Table is correct following Ford Trophy final on 18 February 2017

PERFORMING UNDER PRESSURE BUSINESS SUMMIT

It is often talked about how athletes have a range of skills that are applicable, sought after, within business. In October this year the NZ Athletes Federation took a historic step in making a meaningful and practical contribution to the business world, based on learning from athletes.

The *Performing under Pressure Business Summit* is a groundbreaking and exciting take on the developed skill of managing pressure situations. Headlining the Summit were four leading athletes, each with their own unique story about performing under pressure – they were

- » Valerie Adams
- » Hamish Carter
- » Mahe Drysdale
- » Richie McCaw

Hosted by the New Zealand Athletes' Federation in conjunction with partners The Auckland Regional Chamber of Commerce, the inaugural *Performing Under Pressure Business Summit* attracted a sellout audience of professionals from a wide range of business industries.

The Summit was not the atypical stories about sport, but was focused on the keys to sustained success. The intention and purpose of the Summit was to demonstrate, analyse and educate attendees about performing under pressure in the context of their own roles and career.

Orchestrating the delivery of the summit's key learnings was Gilbert Enoka, who over the past three decades has built his reputation as New Zealand's leading mental skills coach. Gilbert currently works as the mental skills coach for the All Blacks, and formerly for the Canterbury Crusaders, Silver Ferns and the Blackcaps and strongly believes that players who are mentally prepared will perform better on the day.

It's not just in sport that Enoka applies his philosophy. Gilbert is a highly skilled practitioner who has worked on

performance enhancement for over 20 years with many of our top CEO's, and business and sporting elite.

Supporting Enoka was forensic psychiatrist Ceri Evans who provided a wonderful opening address that laid a platform for the Summit and ensured everyone was open to extracting key learnings that can be used to drive success in business.

The athletes - Richie McCaw, Mahe Drysdale, Valerie Adams and Hamish Carter – each shared their personal stories of dealing with pressure, facing challenges or defeat and what they learnt along the way, and ultimately about what it takes to rise above the inevitable challenges and pressures of performing at an elite level.

The audience discovered how pressure can become an asset, not a liability, for business and how individuals can equip

themselves with the skills to get ahead of the competition.

Enoka and Evans used their vast experience and expertise to delve into the core of each athlete's sporting career, unpacking how they prepared themselves to succeed against the highest levels of competition on the international stage. These lessons were then translated into how businesses can adopt the same methods, assisting them to deliver better results for their business not just in New Zealand but also internationally.

The Summit is an ongoing initiative of the NZ Athletes Federation with the intention of engaging with the business community in a meaningful way on matters of mutual importance. Similar events are already being planned for 2017 and will focus on 'recruiting the right people' and 'keeping them on task'.

ABOUT ATHLETES FEDERATION

The New Zealand Athletes Federation was established in 2010 by the NZ Rugby Players' Association, the NZ Cricket Players' Association, the NZ Professional Footballers' Association, the NZ Netball Players' Association, and the NZ Hockey Players' Association.

The absence of a peak athlete representative body left a significant gap in New Zealand high performance athletes collective representation. The Athletes Federation was therefore set up with a view that it would become the recognised representative body of the country's high performance athletes on issues of collective importance to elite athletes and their sports.

Photo Courtesy of Athletes Federation



FROM THE DUGOUT WITH DAN

Recently back from Aussie where he coached the Brisbane Heat to the Semi-Finals of the BBL, Outright caught up with Dan Vettori for a few quick fire questions.

What was the thing that struck you most about this year's Big Bash?

I think the continual growth in the popularity of the competition continues to surprise me. The fact that the competition continues to grow despite the fact the almost no Australian players play during the season and there aren't a lot of marquee international players playing. Brendon and Pietersen were huge drawcards even in retirement. Probably the biggest surprise is how well Brendon, Shane and myself are treated as NZ'ers!! They have really embraced us and it is a lot of fun to be involved.

How is it coaching a team full of Australian's, many of whom you probably played against at some point?

I actually played with more of them than against them due to my time playing at the Heat. Most of the guys haven't played a lot of international cricket and really want to learn from guys who have experienced it before. Ultimately, they are all really good players just trying to find a way to get better, just like in NZ.

The rivalries between teams looks like something the fans really get into, why is that?

I think the rivalries between the Sydney teams and the Melbourne teams are growing every year. We probably don't have a rival as of yet but every trip to the Furnace to play the Scorchers is a tough game and they enjoy reminding you, you aren't from around here!

Speaking of fans, what's it like for you sitting and watching these days without the chance to perform in the middle yourself?

I don't miss playing at all. It looks way too hard and I am way too scared of fast bowling to have any desire to get out there. I enjoy watching the game from the sideline, but I do get nervous for the guys out there performing, hoping they do well.

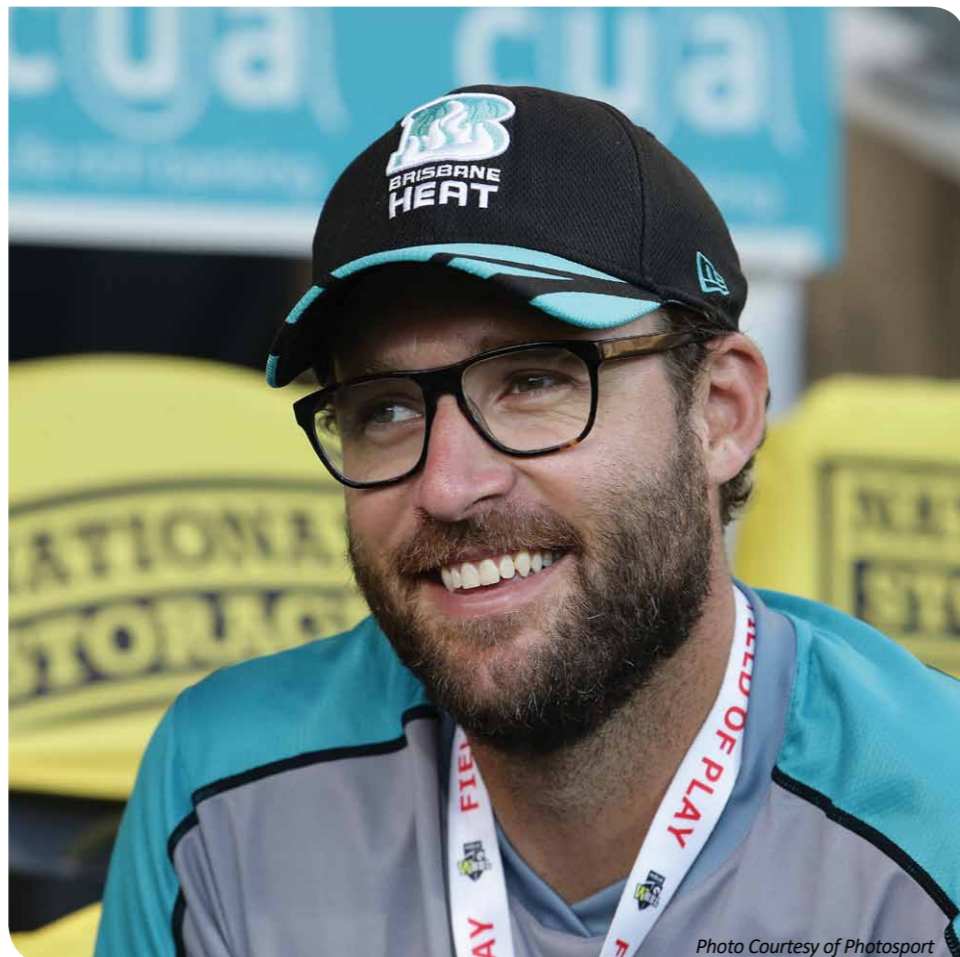


Photo Courtesy of Photosport



Photo Courtesy of Photosport

In April you change stripes and head back to the IPL with RCB, how are things shaping up for this season?

The auction is coming up soon and that will determine a lot for teams this season. The team played well last year and finished second so there is a strong desire to go one better. I am very fortunate that we have so many good players to work with.

And finally, what do you find most exciting about coaching?

I never envisaged wanting to get into coaching when I finished cricket but with the current landscape of cricket, we are all very lucky to get these short term opportunities whilst still getting time to spend at home. The main thrill, like playing, is winning and contributing and I feel I can contribute most when talking to spinners and that is the bit I find most exciting. ●



Photo Courtesy of NZCPA

150 years is a long time for a cricket club to exist in this comparably young country. In fact, the 150th Jubilee of the Greytown Cricket Club over Waitangi weekend is believed to make them the second oldest club in New Zealand.

The tranquility of the boutique cricket ground in the picturesque town of Greytown was blessed with what must have been the best day of summer, in scorching heat the setting was an absolute picture, with a crowd described as the 'largest we have seen at the ground' by club President Jason Osbourne.

The CPA Legends won the toss and elected to bat on a wicket that was greenish in nature, but not expected to change much throughout the day.

Former Blackcaps and Stags legend, Michael Mason took the new ball for the Greytown Presidents side – a club he played for in his youth, before moving up the road to Mangatanoka – and immediately put the Legends openers under pressure with accuracy and movement.

Mason's final figures of 2 for 3 included two maidens.

Current Stags representative Mitchell Renwick top scored for the CPA side with 28 in what was a modest total of 93 for 9 after the allotted 20 overs.

Mark Greatbatch was making a guest appearance for the local Presidents side but was dismissed early when he swatted a swinging delivery from Sanj Silva to short fine leg. Greytown surpassed 50 runs only

two down after 9 overs and were coasting to what looked like an emphatic victory.

However, when Sanj Silva dismissed the swashbuckling Josh Doherty for 24 the Legends side started to exert some pressure. Leigh Kelly, David Fulton and Glen Sulzberger chipped away with regular wickets and that pushed the run rate up – ultimately leaving the match evenly poised, if not in favour of the Legends as the last over started.

The equation = 11 runs, 2 wickets, 1 over.

Early destroyer Sanj Silva returned for his final over with the game on the line. Michael Mason chipped the first ball just

short of extra cover to hustle a single. Hawkes Bay representative Casey Rangi swung through the line (with a bat that makes David Warner's look like a twig) for a much needed boundary. The next delivery also went to the boundary, a hastily run deuce, and the game was over with two balls to spare.

Greytown Presidents the victors, but cricket was certainly the winner on the day.

The close encounter was great entertainment for the large crowd that had assembled to support the Greytown 150th Jubilee and the result provided the perfect platform ahead of the festive dinner later in the evening. ●



Photo Courtesy of NZCPA

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

NZCPA LEGENDS

26 March v NZ Croatia at Cornwall Park
2 April v QSCC. Venue TBC

PAST PLAYER MEMBERS LUNCH

24 March Wellington

PLAYERS' GOLF DAY

31 March 2017 Pakuranga Golf Club

HOOKED ON CRICKET

3 March Tauranga
10 March Hutt Valley
27 March Dunedin

MASTERS WEEKEND

7 April – 9 April 2017 Queenstown

2017 PLAYERS CONFERENCE

12- 13 April Auckland

PREMIUM PARTNERS



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BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS



THE INSIDER



MEETING TREVOR

by Paul Ford

It might seem counter-intuitive and frankly un-Kiwi to select Trevor Chappell as the cricketer who we hate to love at Beige Brigade headquarters. But it's true.

It might seem counter-intuitive and frankly un-Kiwi to select Trevor Chappell as the cricketer who we hate to love at Beige Brigade headquarters. But it's true.

You know how it went: the Chappells conspiring to do the evil deed, umpires Cronin and Weser reluctantly agreeing it was within the laws, Rod Marsh saying "no mate" through his walrus 'tache, the immaculately straight delivery itself, burly Brian McKechnie huffing his bat in disgust, centurion Bootsie Edgar unleashing the fingers, Geoff Howarth raging onto the MCG in his socks, and mild-mannered Richie Benaud delivering the greatest cold-blooded post-match analysis of all time.

Nobody came close to the Chappell's in terms of their impact on our country's sporting psyche – together they demonstrated a mercilessness and ruthlessness that undermined the much admired New Zealand trait of giving someone a fair go. Inadvertently, the two youngest Chappell brothers combining forces probably did more for the game of cricket in New Zealand than anyone else.

I was conditioned to regard Trevor Chappell as an infamous villain after a quarter century of media baying and cultural

reinforcement everywhere from the family dinner table to TV ads.

But the reality was that TC, the man, in the flesh, was a cracking bloke – self-effacing, humble, honest and armed with a disarmingly brilliant sense of humour. He tolerated our requests for annoying photos graciously. Trevor invited us to look him up when we were next across the ditch. I think he was coaching a First XI in Parramatta in another chapter of a life devoted to cricket.

In *Fierce Focus*, Greg Chappell wrote of his fraternal relationships: "I was going to be every bit the tyrant to Trevor that Ian had been to me: but TC was his own man. Trevor was quiet and unassuming, but if you pushed him too far, he'd explode. That's TC through and through: very passive most of the time, easy going, but push him too far and there's an explosion coming."

On that famous MCG day in 1981 there was no family explosion. Greg walked up to Trevor and asked how he was at bowling underarms. Trevor replied: "I don't know." And Greg said: "Well, you're just about to find out." Trevor's eyes rolled to the back of his head.

Not not only did Greg's struggle tarnish his reputation, he brought his brother along for the ride.

I wondered if the aftermath of the underarm saga was a millstone around Trevor's neck, and whether it had affected his perspective of the game, as 35 years later we still bang on about it at least once a year. But he's philosophical about it.

"I don't think all that has gone on since the 1st of February 1981 has changed my attitude towards the game," he told me.

"After all I am still involved in the game to this day and I still love cricket as much as when I was a kid playing in the backyard in Adelaide."

Trevor Chappell was probably a journeyman cricketer, who batted stoically rather than flamboyantly (79 Test match runs from 70 overs' worth of deliveries), bowled niggly medium pace, and was a stonkingly good fielder in the covers.

He played Sheffield Shield for South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales. He scored 110 from 131 balls in Australia's annihilation of India in the 1983 World Cup, his only time past 27 in international cricket. And he was in the 1981 team that won The Ashes.

He reckons being selected for this Australian squad was his proudest moment, following in the footsteps of his two older brothers and his grandfather, Aussie sports legend Vic Richardson. "I played the first three tests and then never played Test cricket again. I'd never really expected to play test cricket – three family members had already played, what were the chances of a fourth? Then I was involved in World Series Cricket, throw in the underarm and the odds were getting longer. So when it did happen it was a great thrill."

I asked him what his greatest achievement outside cricket has been. In typical style, he makes a blunt, bald, honest assessment. "There is not a lot non-cricketing that I have done really," he says. "I'm not married and don't have any kids, so that is a very short story. I was married, shortly after the underarm actually in March 1981 and then divorced before the 1980s had finished." ●


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



TRAIN FOR YOUR GAME

ROGER TUIVASA-SHECK

#CommittedToTheGame

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