

SUMMER 2024 | No. 055

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Cricket Players Association

OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



PETER YOUNGHUSBAND
FINDING HIS FEET OUTSIDE CRICKET

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OPENING THOUGHTS



As the sun graces New Zealand with its warm embrace, cricket fever sweeps across the country, we welcome you to an edition of Outright that encapsulates the essence of both summer and the spirit of the game we all love. The unmistakable sound of leather on willow, the smell of freshly cut grass, and the anticipation of thrilling matches under hopefully clear skies – this is the magic of summer cricket.

In the cricketing arena, the Blackcaps are in the thick of an action-packed summer as they face off against Bangladesh, Pakistan, South Africa, and Australia. Fans have just witnessed a mouth-watering 5-match T20 series against Pakistan, with 2 Tests against South Africa, and a riveting 3-match T20 series followed by 2 intense Test matches against Australia to wrap up the summer.

Meanwhile, the White Ferns will be put to the test as they host England

in a 5-match T20 series and engage in a series of 3 captivating One Day Internationals to wrap up the kiwi summer of cricket in early April.

Beyond the boundaries, this edition of Outright unveils some superb stories about our members. Join us as we reconnect with past player Josh Brodie, as we gain insights into his pursuits that have kept him engaged and inspired since his playing days.

Former NZCPA Chair and new NZC CEO Scott Weenink shares some of his fondest memories of the game and we get a snippet of how he is bedding into the new role.

We canvas two current players who are developing their own businesses alongside their cricket careers. Josie Penfold gives us an insight into her latest venture, where along with study and cricket she has opened a café in the

bustling Clevedon village, and we hear how her quest for the perfect cup of coffee has become an art form. Peter Younghusband's entrepreneurial journey takes a leap as we explore the thriving success of his sock business.

Our opening article is with Gabby Sullivan, shedding light on the incredible work she is doing with at-risk youth through her work at Comcol. Empowering success in our youth through education, training and wrap-around support.

So whether you're at the cricket, relaxing at the beach, or in your favourite armchair, we hope you enjoy this edition of Outright and wish you all a safe and happy 2024.

Ngā mihi nui

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Players better together



GABBY GIVES IT ALL

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

CANTERBURY MAGICIANS WICKET-TAKER GABBY SULLIVAN DOESN'T NEED TO LOOK FAR TO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF MENTORING. CRICKET'S GIVEN HER ACCESS TO KEY MENTORS IN LIFE, WORK AND SPORT – AND AT 25, SHE'S ALREADY PAYING THAT POSITIVITY FORWARD AS A PROFESSIONAL MENTOR HERSELF.

Ever since leaving school, Sullivan knew she wanted to be in social work – hailing from a big family and instinctively driven to help other people.

"I always felt it was something I would really enjoy. But it's a big realm, and initially I wasn't quite sure where I'd fit in. I thought about policing for a bit, then chose a degree in social work at University of Canterbury. Later, I cross-credited into a Bachelor of Human Services."

Human Services focuses on issues such as child protection, health, violence, and rehabilitation. Not for the faint-hearted, and all about making positive impacts in the community – using professional skills to help people create their own healthy life. UC says it's one of the fastest-growing employment fields in the world.

A chunk of Sullivan's undergraduate years coincided with Covid lockdowns and, as a dedicated cricketer keen to

maximise her training hours as well, flexible, online courses proved a boon. She sped through to graduation, and, was fortunate to get a job straight off the bat after Uni with Emerge Aotearoa.

"They run a youth, mental health and wellbeing programme called Tiakina, based in Christchurch," Sullivan explains. "That provides a structured daytime programme for 14- to 19-year-olds who have complex mental health needs, to help them get back into school or study or work."

"That was a very rewarding job. The only problem for me was it was 0.4 shift work – quite hard to fit around cricket, and being the best I can possibly be in cricket, trying to make the White Ferns, has always been a non-negotiable, right from the beginning."

'Sully' started playing as just a six-year-old poppet in Sumner, mad keen to follow in the footsteps of her three older brothers.

"They all played, Dad coached, Mum helped out and coached as well, and I was the tomboy who just really, really wanted to join in."

It was only her twin sister who didn't inherit the cricket gene.

"We're very much opposite in our interests and for a long time she was happy not to know anything about cricket. But when I started to play for the Magicians [in 2015/16], she made an awesome effort and now she's the Magicians' biggest supporter. If one of my friends comes to a game for the first time, and they don't know too much about what's happening, she's the one who'll say, 'Hey, come sit with me, I'll explain it all in an easy way to follow!'"



A few years ago, Sullivan scored an NZC Development contract that spurred her to keep working hard towards sending them down for the White Ferns. As a strong pace right-arter with almost 130 Domestic wickets, she couldn't have had a better mentor in her own team. Lea Tahuu is not only her Canterbury Magicians teammate, but from the same St Albans club in Christchurch.

"I always looked up to Lea. Who wouldn't? She's one of the best in the world. It meant a lot to me when I got my first call-up to the Mags and she was the first to give me a handshake. Now, she's one of my best mates, and it's pretty cool to look up to someone like that. I learn so much off Lea because she has so much to give. She's like a buffet of information and answers for me."

Spare time, the little of it that exists, is important to Sullivan, too – and with her siblings starting to have families, she loves nothing better than getting around family.

One of Sullivan's key work-ons has been getting physically stronger, hard yakka over the off season bringing rewards this season.

"I feel like a lot more power is coming through, especially in my T20 game. It's been a massive focus for all the Mags, actually, but the hardest part is sustaining that through the heat of the playing season. Just trying to fit in those quality gym sessions. Fingers crossed I'm doing the right things because I absolutely love playing for the red and black and I absolutely want to put myself on the radar for the next level as well."

It says plenty about Sullivan's work ethic that she thought switching from juggling part-time shifts to a full-time job might be the best way to achieve that. Now she works regular week hours for a brilliant Canterbury-based charitable organisation that started 40 years ago in Rangiora, Comcol NZ. They also provide free youth life coaching and mentoring to young people needing assistance and structure to get back on track, as an accredited MSD service provider.

Sullivan and her colleagues each get allocated up to 20 clients aged between 16 and 20 who are either on a Youth Payment or Young Parent benefit, which is usually linked to a family breakdown.

"We work in a small team, so we're buddied up and if I'm away, my colleague will take my phone so if there's something that needs to be addressed promptly,

they'll address it. We work with clients to help get them back into school if they're not already, work towards NCEA levels – or, it could be getting their licence, or helping them to budget to buy their own groceries or manage their anxiety in the everyday community.

"It's hugely rewarding work but working in mental health, it can be hard to switch your focus to cricket – especially if something big's going on for one of your clients, and you've built that rapport with them. But I'm learning how to do that now. I need to know when and how to switch my brain from work to training and cricket and back. I need to leave work at work. And I'm getting accustomed to that."

Sullivan says she's been incredibly grateful to have been able to draw on her PDM's, initially Lesley Elvidge and now Jo Murray, when she's been the one looking for advice.

"Just having someone experienced with your back is massive. When I applied for this role, Jo immediately connected me to someone to help me nail my CV and prep me for the job interview – and I got the job straight away. It's a godsend."

Who knows, maybe one day it will be Sullivan giving back to young cricketers, as a player mentor? For now though, the sights are set on gaining the fern.

"I've been really encouraged by the development opportunities I've had [playing against Pakistan this season and Bangladesh last summer for the NZ XI], and playing in the North v South series. I definitely want to give it my best shot and tick off that lifelong goal."





PETER YOUNGHUSBAND FINDING HIS FEET OUTSIDE OF CRICKET

BY AIDEN McLAUGHLIN

CUTTING YOUR TEETH IN ANY NEW BUSINESS VENTURE IS TOUGH. LUCKILY PETER YOUNGHUSBAND HAS BEEN ABLE TO CALL ON FAMILY, FRIENDS AND TEAMMATES TO GET A GRIP ON THINGS AND FIND HIS FEET.

Younghusband grew up in Zimbabwe where his father was a successful businessman. At one point, the family had seven or eight businesses running at the same time. The entrepreneurial gene has certainly made its way to the next generation; one of Younghusband's brothers owns an engineering firm in Nelson and his oldest brother runs his own jewellery company. Now, PYRANHA, an ever-expanding performance sock range, is the latest family business to emerge.

"The idea just came. I was buying these socks from China and then I had a lightbulb moment. So I put my brain on it and it was a simple as that; how easy would it be to change what it looked like and could I have my own brand on it," says Younghusband.

"I came up with the brand name PYRANHA; it's initial based, with mine at the start and my wife's at the end. Harriet's maiden name is Anderson, so the name fits both our names. I came up with a logo based on the piranha fish and I put an order through to get these

socks during Covid lockdown times and it was as simple as that. But the product was terrible, it was a terrible sock, so that was the hardest bit; how can I make a product that people want to buy it because it looks cool and it's a good product," he says.

Younghusband put a lot of research into materials and quite a few samples later he landed on some socks he was happy with and it went from there. He's previously referred to them as 'trampoline socks on steroids.'

"The first order came and it was one order and only two sizes, and your friends bought some and that allowed you to make a slightly bigger order the next time. One turned into three, three into five and suddenly I had five different colours and it organically grew. Three or four years down the line and it's something that could actually generate me an income and I could slot into after cricket has finished, or even alongside it."

As the variety of PYRANHA socks for sale has increased, Younghusband

"IT'S BECOME A LOT BIGGER THAN I EXPECTED IT TO BE."

has collaborated with his Wellington teammates, many of whom now have their own socks. A quick visit to the website brings up ranges from Devon Conway, Amelia Kerr, Tom Blundell and Rachin Ravindra. Away from cricket, Silver Fern and Pulse netballer Maddy Gordon also has her own PYRANHA grip sock.

Another line that the business has developed, is licensed products. Younghusband's wife, Harriet, is a licensing manager for NZ Rugby, which has opened up a new set of ideas for the company.

"Harriet's expertise really came in. She's really well connected in that space. I got in touch with managers from various organisations. We started off with Football Australia, buying the licence to produce some socks. Then New Zealand Football came knocking after they saw that product. That was amazing and got me into Rebel Sport stores for the first time, which was so exciting. The Football Australia sock is a really cool product as well, based on the jerseys that the women played in during the Football World Cup. New Zealand Cricket has flowed on from there which is a deal I'm

excited about as it's so close to home," says Younghusband.

PYRANHA has also produced golf polo shirts recently (as pictured on the cover). Younghusband's teammates at Wellington play a lot of golf and it's something he discussed with a few of them. He put some designs together and got some samples in from various factories, picked the one he wanted and 'just went for it' on an initial small order. He's hoping it's a market he can keep tapping into.

Younghusband studied a degree in Commerce where he was able to learn about business, but soon discovered there are so many things that you just can't get taught in a lecture theatre. To aid his development, he has also been able to take advantage of business mentorship opportunities through the NZCPA.

"I used it a couple of times and I chatted to someone who had knowledge in the retail space and he gave me a few really good pointers. I've used an accountant as well to ask some questions. Jo (Murray) has been an amazing supporter of the company and whenever I need answers, Jo's the first person I go to. The players association just have someone you can go to every time. There's never any questions that go unanswered which has been a great help," he says.

Away from playing and PYRANHA, Younghusband enjoys coaching and has

been involved with Scots College over the winter.

"I have one eye on it post-cricket at the moment. The fielding part is something I've always been passionate about and it's got me to amazing places, fielding for the Blackcaps many times. It's certainly an option going forward. I'll tick all the boxes I have with playing over the next few years and see how far I can go and how long I can go," he says.

The Younghusband's now have a son, Luca, and with so much going on with cricket, business and work, it presents ongoing challenges.

"It's become a lot bigger than I expected it to be. The challenge is time pressure around little Luca and cricket and home and Harriet trying to do her job and then I'm asking her to help. It's going really well," he says.

"It's certainly a juggling act. You're effectively away for six days at a time [when playing cricket] and the business has got so busy that I've had to lean on Harriet to do some of the work when I'm away, but it's been nice; it's been a good break away from cricket. I've got something to go to and focus on and because it's been going quite well, it's exciting, it's not like I'm trudging off to something I don't want to do. I can't wait to get home and get into whatever I'm doing."





QUESTION TIME WITH SCOTT WEENINK

Scott Weenink was thrust into the consciousness of New Zealand sports fans as soon as he was appointed to the role of CEO at NZC. Scott is a former Wellington player, cutting his teeth in the sport through the 1990s before earning the distinction of being one of only two New Zealanders to be honoured with two prestigious Oxford Blue Awards - for Cricket and Rugby.

But it was away from sport where Scott has forged a legal career that has seen him working behind desk in some of New Zealand's iconic companies and ultimately through to various Director positions, including that with the NZCPA Board where he served from 2017-2023, the last four years as Chair.

SCOTT, FIRSTLY, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS THE NEW CEO OF NZC. HOW ARE YOU FINDING THE NEW ROLE?

I am regularly asked how the job is going and my usual response is, 'It does not really feel like a job at the moment!'

I recognise that I'm in a honeymoon period of course. The role combines my love of cricket with an incredibly interesting and challenging executive role in a very complex but exciting international industry. I am of course well aware that there will be plenty of road bumps, issues and very challenging periods for both myself and NZC in the years ahead.

YOU HAVE SPENT A BIT OF TIME WORKING AND TRAVELLING AROUND THE WORLD OVER THE YEARS. WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING PLACE YOU HAVE VISITED?

I lived in Tanzania as a child, so I have always had a fascination with Africa. However, I have also lived in some other random places like Qatar, Indonesia and Myanmar. I'd probably go with Lebanon as the most interesting place I have visited. I went skiing there in a resort just outside of Beirut and skiing is certainly not something you normally associate with the Middle East.

YOU HOLD AN OXFORD UNIVERSITY BLUE IN BOTH CRICKET AND RUGBY, WHICH ONE SITS HIGHER ON YOUR LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS?

That's a hard one! We won the Varsity Rugby Match in front of 65,000 people at Twickenham, and although I came off the bench to play, that was a very special memory. We lost our 50 Over Varsity Match on The Parks on the last ball so that was not quite such a special memory! We drew the First-class Varsity Match at Lords as it rained on the last day, so again that was a bit of a disappointment. However, cricket has always been my favourite sport, and the game at Lords was my last competitive game of cricket, so the Cricket Blue rates higher for me.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST ENDURING MEMORY FROM YOUR SPORTING EXPLOITS WITH OXFORD?

Aside from the Cricket and Rugby Varsity Matches versus Cambridge, which were special events, I toured Pakistan with the cricket team. That was an incredible experience and we played some very good sides. I was also grateful for having the opportunity to play First-class matches versus various English County

sides and faced some of the quickest bowlers going around at the time, such as Allan Donald and Simon Jones. Allan Donald bowled a very quick spell one evening session and the hilarious headline in The Times the next morning was "Allan Goes on Donald Duck Hunt at The Parks", after he took 3 wickets for no runs off five overs. During his spell I was essentially leaning on my bat at the other end turning down singles!

YOU STUDIED LAW AT OXFORD WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN. WHAT DREW YOU TO TAKING THAT PATH AND WHAT HAS THAT EXPERIENCE GIVEN YOU IN YOUR LEGAL CAREER?

I really only studied law because I did not know what else to do. Both my brothers are lawyers, one brother-in-law is a lawyer, two of my sisters-in-law's are lawyers, My father-in-law was a lawyer, and I'm even married to a lawyer! This can make for very dull dinner conversations I can tell you! I studied undergraduate law at Victoria University and postgraduate law at Oxford University. My tutor at Oxford University was The Hon Michael Beloff QC, who was is one of the most highly regarded lawyers globally. A very small man but one with a massive intellect, and one-on-one sessions with him to discuss legal arguments in my thesis were very humbling experiences. I have not practised law for a few years now, but it gave me a very good grounding for my executive and governance careers.

YOUR LEGAL CAREER HAS TAKEN PRECEDENCE OVER SPORT, BUT WHAT WOULD A YOUNG SCOTT WEENINK THINK ABOUT IN THE MODERN WORLD?

My parents, rightly or wrongly, encouraged my siblings and I to prioritise our education and commercial careers over sport. There wasn't the same opportunities to make a living in sport in the 1990's as there is now, so I may have been more tempted to chase a sporting career over a corporate career if I was coming through now. However, even now I'd encourage athletes to always continue to educate and upskill themselves during their playing careers, with their post-sport career in mind.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE SPORT IN NEW ZEALAND?



Size and location continue to be some of the biggest challenges facing sport in New Zealand. Our time zone is not helpful to selling broadcast rights to New Zealand sports events and therefore we are always going to struggle to compete with big money events and leagues in more time friendly zones with larger population bases, and therefore being able to pay our athletes the sort of money they might be able to command off-shore. That said, New Zealand continues to produce formidable athletes and we have a natural competitiveness that few countries can match. It means we will continue to produce world-class athletes, and world-class teams, off a small athlete base.

YOU ARE A FATHER OF FOUR GIRLS, COACHED ONE OF YOUR DAUGHTER'S CRICKET SIDES ALONG THE WAY. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU GIVE YOUR DAUGHTERS WITH THEIR LIFE AMBITIONS?

Work hard and don't expect anything to be given to you on a plate! My daughters tend to 'roll their eyes' when I try to give them advice about anything, but when it comes to their sport I try and emphasise that they should not worry about the results but rather just enjoy competing, and also playing with their teammates.

RUMOUR HAS IT YOU PLAY SOME LAST MAN STANDS CRICKET IN AUCKLAND, AND WITH THE WANDERERS IN WELLINGTON. MORE THAN OTHER SPORTS, CRICKET HAS THIS INCREDIBLE SUPPORT NETWORK AND COMRADERY. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

Yes, and I'm in the best batting form of my life! I certainly wish it was this easy to bat when I was actually playing

competitively. The addition of Last Man Stands to the cricket landscape in New Zealand has been fantastic for cricket here. The growth of "jazz cricket", and the clubs that play it such as the Wanderers, has also been great for cricket in New Zealand. Not only has it kept people engaged in the sport but these clubs also give a great deal back to youth cricket in the form of grants, coaching and playing opportunities. The "Kindred Cup" which is played each year between clubs such as Wanderers, is a special weekend of cricket where a bunch of middle-aged blokes try and recreate their glory days- there are plenty of pulled hamstrings and "tall tales" told! With the time commitments of the new job, I'm not sure I'll get to play much going forward but it has been great to reconnect with people I played with many years ago.

IS THERE A PARTICULAR STAND OUT CRICKETING MOMENT FOR YOU OVER THE YEARS?

I'm probably best known in cricketing circles for "allegedly" dropping a catch when a reserve fielder for New Zealand in a One Day International against Pakistan in the early 90s. I still maintain it bounced in front, but the incident has provided much mirth for my friends over the years! The cricketing moment that stands out most for me personally, is scoring a One Day century for Wellington versus Central Districts at the Basin Reserve on New Years Day, in front of a full house. It also happened to be my birthday and I was coming off two ducks in the first two 50 over games I had played.



FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE FOR BLACK CLASH 2024



THE SELL-OUT CROWD AT PICTURESQUE BAY OVAL, MT MAUNGANUI, WERE TREATED TO ANOTHER SPECTACULAR EVENT WITH NON-STOP ACTION THROUGHOUT, IN WHAT HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST EAGERLY ANTICIPATED ANNUAL SPORTING EVENTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

Black Clash's return to Bay Oval attracted a sell-out crowd which packed the grassy embankments, hospitality tents and terraces to witness Team Rugby challenging Team Cricket for the Lomu Trophy. The crowd queued at the gates early to ensure a great vantage point for the wildcard matchup that saw West Indies cricket legend Brain Lara suiting up for Team Rugby, and League icon Johnathan Thurston stepping out for Team Cricket. The entire venue was buzzing throughout the match, which saw Team Cricket follow up last year's close fought victory at Hagley Oval to take the overall series ledger to 4 -2, in Team Cricket's favour.

With a bumper TV audience on TVNZ One the players from both teams were increasingly nervy in the lead up the first ball. Anton Devcich and Hamish Marshall got Team Cricket off to a rollicking start with the bat, which set the perfect platform for Thurston to stride to the wicket to a rapturous welcome. The crowd erupted when Thurston dispatched an early delivery to the long on boundary – and the famous laugh and smile beaming from the centre of the wicket.

One of the innovations for this match is the Ford Double Play over, which once again added some much-needed momentum to the Team Rugby run chase, with Rueben Love and Leon MacDonald showing their cricket pedigree with some spectacular hitting. Fans and viewers will remember Love's earlier catch (that was not quite a catch) – snaring a spectacularly athletic grab only to tumble over the boundary rope.

The in-ground experience is high octane throughout and with an amazing list of event sponsor activations and Duco Events innovative approach that ensured the capacity crowd was left with a massive smile on their collective faces.

Fans of all ages love being part of the unique atmosphere and witnessing the skills on show from many of New Zealand's most iconic athletes - even the overall vibe is to encourage the wildcards and rugby players to create memorable moments. The crowd atmosphere willed Team Rugby toward a massive upset against the group of former cricketers.

As a contest it was Team Cricket who took control early, however the boost from Love during the Ford Double Play over and late hitting from MacDonald and

Andrew Ellis gave Team Rugby a sniff of victory. But Team Cricket's total of 221 proved too much for Team Rugby in the end who fell marginally short with 215 at the end of their overs.

Even an amazing last over flourish by Andrew Ellis (replacing his cricketing namesake who was a Team Rugby Wildcard last year), that included 3 consecutive sixes to start the final over

(30 required for victory) was not quite enough for Team Rugby to snatch a shocking victory.

Kaylum Boshier returned this year to again remind of his NZ U19 cricket pedigree, while former first-class cricketer Jason Spice led the bowling effort for Team Rugby after missing last year's match. On Black Clash debut this year for Team Cricket was Colin de

Grandhomme and Gareth Hopkins while Grant Eloit and Jacob Oram returned after missing last year.

Special thanks go to the entire team at Duco Events and all the many valued event sponsors, and to Carlena Limmer and David Higgins for the wonderful support they provide to NZCPA and NZRPA through this event.

Team Cricket most certainly look forward to defending the Lomu Trophy again next year!

TEAM RUGBY

Kieran Read - C
Kaylum Boshier
Andrew Ellis
Will Jordan
Brian Lara (wildcard)
Ruben Love
Leon MacDonald
Colin Slade
Jason Spice
Ofisa Tonu'u
Ali Williams.
Scott Robertson (manager)

215-9 AFTER 20 OVERS

R Love 47 (17)
K Read 42 (25)
L MacDonald 40 (18)
R McCullum 3-21 (3)
D Vettori 2-23 (3)
J Thurston 2-58 (4)

TEAM CRICKET

Daniel Vettori - C
Anton Devcich
Colin de Grandhomme
Grant Elliott
Gareth Hopkins
Riley McCullum
Nathan McCullum
Hamish Marshall
Kyle Mills
Jacob Oram
Johnathan Thurston (wildcard)

221-7 AFTER 20 OVERS

A Devcich 53 (30)
G Elliott 45 (23)
H Marshall 39 (21)
A Williams 1-7 (1)
R Love 1-18 (1)
A Ellis 1-18 (3)

UMPIRES

Todd Astle
Chris Harris
Evan Gray (3rd)

COFFEE AND CRICKET

A PERFECT BREW FOR PENFOLD

BY MARGOT BUTCHER



JOSIE PENFOLD WON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY IF YOU MISTAKE HER FOR HER YOUNGER SISTER, WHITE FERN MOLLY. SHE MIGHT EVEN BE CHUFFED.

"Molly was always tall with muscles," she says. "I was always tall and super lanky. Life is not fair in that respect!"

Said with love, the hint is there of a friendly lifelong competition between the two gun sportswomen who, together, form a potent pace attack for the Auckland Hearts. So just to clarify, Molly is just in the White Ferns because she has muscles?

"That's basically it. It's my lankiness that's holding me back.. haha! She was born with them. She's so powerful. I need to get in the gym more, if I'm honest. I'm well off her pace at the moment."

This sibling rivalry, even on the most excellent of terms, is nothing new in the Penfold household. There are two younger siblings as well, both tall and born sportspeople.

"When we were younger, me and Molly were in a secret competition to see how many sports we could each try. Cricket was one neither of us had tried by the time we were about eight or nine, but Dad had played when he was younger and Mum had played in school, and there was this cricket club up the road — Howick Pakuranga, a big family club in Auckland.

"So we fronted up to trial one Saturday morning, and we were stuck. We couldn't get away from. It was too much fun!"

Thank you, Howick Pakuranga, for giving us the dynamic Penfold pace duo. One of whom, if you sneak onto Cricinfo, is technically an England cricketer, while the other is a Kiwi. An explanation is in order. Both were born in England: Molly (22) in Kingston-Upon-Thames in Surrey, Josie (24) in London.

Josie still speaks with a beautiful southern English lilt, even after having lived in Auckland since she was a little girl and just hasn't got around to getting her New Zealand citizenship yet. She promises she's working on it — but it did make it easy for her to go over and play a summer for Kent in 2019, making her

T20 and List A debuts there before she got picked up for the Hearts in 2021/22.

Penfold had been a Hearts' wider training group member towards the end of school, and playing for Auckland had always been a dream.

"When I came home from the UK, I got invited back into the wider squad, trained hard and got my contract the next year, while I was at Uni."

And so a tongue-in-cheek sibling rivalry with accordant banter was reignited all over again — Molly having made her own Hearts debut the previous summer.

"It's always a competition between us in the nets, to be honest," says Josie.

"I know when she's bowling to me, she bowls just that little bit faster and scarier! I feel like she practises her bouncers on me the most, so fortunately we don't get to play against each other much. The nets are the place we try to get each other out, or smack each other round the boundary. It's good fun! Brings out the best!"

Bowling is, of course, an awkward art at the best of times, so super lankiness has not always been a blessing in disguise. Penfold had to be pretty patient through her growing years before it clicked.

"I remember playing netball as well, and just not feeling like I had the coordination I needed. I think that's true for many taller kids. With cricket, it took me ages to

find my rhythm and coordination. It's such an awkward sport to do while growing, especially bowling!"

But she was never going to give up. Sport is in her bones, to the point where she's just finished a Bachelor of Health, Sport and Physical Education degree, while having worked part-time as a pool lifeguard as well. Now it's onto a one-year post-grad in secondary school teaching later this year.

Coaching cricket is a passion: she loves coaching the Glendowie College Girls 1st XI. Playing cricket for a living remains her ultimate, and teaching is good qualification to have in one's back pocket that seems to fit well in the midst of all that.

"It's good to have plenty of options," she says as we move on to the other big development in her jam-packed young life, featuring a cute little café in Clevedon called Little Lane.

The space was previously her best pal Marcella's design and homeware store, but a few customers used to mistake it for a coffee shop. It planted an idea in Marcella's head, and that was the beginning of three amigos — Marcella, Josie and their mutual friend Amber — transforming the premises into a genuine café, part-owned by the three of them with Marcella's homewares biz moving mainly online. Find them on the Gram at littlelane.nz.

"IT JUST GIVES ME SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO THINK ABOUT, AND I FIND THAT BETTER FOR ME MENTALLY THAN HANGING AROUND AT HOME ALL DAY THINKING ABOUT THE GAME COMING UP."

"Amazingly it took little more than a month to go from store to coffee shop, it was little bit overwhelming as we had to build the counter top, sink, and so on to standard which was all new to us all.

"But we worked every day for a month in June last winter to get it customer ready, painting and waterblasting. Being my off season, I had time to spare in between Uni luckily, and we got it done!

"Now it's going really well and I've found I actually love putting in a shift on a morning before I play Super Smash, for example. Or dropping off the bread on a Tuesday morning. It just gives me something completely different to think about, and I find that better for me mentally than hanging around at home all day thinking about the game coming up..."

It is, of course, down a little lane. Following in the great New Zealand tradition of North Island, South Island, West Coast, etc. Check them out next time you're at Clevedon Farmers' Market. You might even spot a super lanky sporty barista smiling over the counter.



BELONGING — WHANAUNGATANGA



WILSON AND PRYOR AWARDED INAUGURAL UMPIRE SCHOLARSHIP

Former players Craig Pryor and Brad Wilson have been jointly awarded the newly created NZCPA Umpire Scholarship, a new initiative aimed at supporting former players who aspire to become first class panel umpires. Established by the NZCPA in collaboration with NZC, the scholarship was created following a recognition that players have unique perspectives, skills and experience that may enable them to become high performing umpires.

Casual observers of the game will note that many of those elite umpires in the international arena have indeed been former players, many of whom are also former international players. Srinivas Venkataraghavan, Richard Illingworth, Paul Reiffel, Kumar Dharmasena, Ian Gould, Peter Willey, Marais Erasmus, Aleem Dar, Nigel Llong are some of the many who have graduated from the popping crease to square leg.

Chris's, Gaffaney and Brown, are each currently paving the way for modern umpires. Gaffaney currently one of 12 selected onto the ICC Eilte panel, and Brown a step away on the ICC International panel (which also boasts former Otago rep Sean Haig). Both Brown and Gaffaney were attracted into umpiring by a similar approach back in the early 2000's.

The modern cricket world is awash with opportunities for players and coaches, but what is less prominent is the need and opportunity for those

with an interest in umpiring. Often an overlooked component of the game, but one that is critically important and can provide a viable avenue for an increasing number of former players to stay connected with professional cricket.

NZCPA past player PDM, Paul Hobbs is delighted for scholarship recipients Pryor and Wilson. "Past players have an inherent skill set that assists them to become high performing umpires. Both Craig and Brad are passionate about umpiring and had a genuine desire to remain connected with professional cricket following their playing careers. Given NZC's desire to strengthen the depth of umpiring in both domestic and international cricket, the scholarship is a win-win for everyone," said Hobbs.

Brad Wilson said following the announcement, "I am very excited to have received the scholarship alongside Craig. It's something I'd thought about doing towards the end of my career and then recently had a work injury which prompted me to think more seriously about cricket again. It's been a bit strange over the other side of the fence and walking out to umpire, but I'm enjoying it and there is more to it than people think. I'm just so grateful to the NZCPA and NZC for the opportunity."

The selection for the NZCPA Umpire Scholarship not only recognises their potential as high performing umpires, but also highlights the commitment of

the cricketing community to nurture and support players beyond the playing field. This initiative is also a significant step towards enhancing the quality of support for former players transitioning into cricket officiating.

KEY SCHOLARSHIP FEATURES

Purpose:
To support former players in their journey towards becoming professional cricket umpires.

Duration:
A two-year scholarship for successful applicants.

Training Support:
Regular one-on-one training from the NZC Umpire Technical Skills Coach, mentorship during NZC fixtures, and personal development support via the NZCPA's past player support program.

At the conclusion of the current scholarship period, NZC will conduct a selection process to determine if the individuals have met the standards for consideration for a 'National Umpire Panel' contract. This step emphasises the commitment of both the NZCPA and NZC to elevate the opportunities for umpiring in domestic and international cricket.

As part of the NZCPA's commitment to supporting diversity and inclusion in cricket, in association with NZC, the NZCPA Personal Development team held "Belonging – Whanaungatanga" sessions for each of our domestic teams this season. This initiative was the first stage of the implementation of the ongoing education recommendations from the review conducted by Andrew Scott-Howman and Shelley Kopu in 2022.

The concept of whanaungatanga is about forming and maintaining relationships and strengthening ties between families and communities. It is described as the glue that binds people together, providing the foundation for a sense of unity, cohesion and ultimately, belonging across our cricketing environments. The workshops, expertly facilitated by Ainsley Benefield of Hive Consulting, brought the MA domestic teams together to explore what belonging and inclusion looked like in each environment with a future forward focus.

Each domestic team had its own session (involving players and support staff) and was participant led. Questions were posed to each group around the concept of whakapapa or identity at both an individual and team level and what supports or acts as a barrier to belonging in that team environment. The answers led to valuable discussions as to what belonging and inclusion looks like in each team. Whilst all sessions

were confidential, the feedback received was incredibly positive, with participants learning from the lived experience of others. Each team has made commitments to each other as to what they will do individually and collectively to build a sense of belonging in their team environment.

"The belonging session was a great way to connect as a team. It is easy to get comfortable with your teammates accepting the norm and the way we perceive and treat each other. The belonging session meant we were able to understand each other in a way we potentially hadn't done before and allowed us to see each others' perspectives to hopefully be more considerate and make sure everyone feels connected within the team."
Polly Inglis, Sparks

"The sessions were of immense value to players, coaches and support staff. In summary, the sharing of personal details and stories in the workshop has had numerous positive effects on team dynamics, communication, trust-building and individual acceptance. It has gone a long way to creating a supportive environment where individuals can be themselves and feel valued as part of the team."
Bruce Edgar, Firebirds

"The belonging session was a very productive exercise for us as a team. The session provided a safe space for everyone to share who they are, what they believe in and whether there are any obstacles that restrict them from being themselves around our team environment. It allowed us to connect with each other on a personal level which as cricketers we don't often get to do. There is greater awareness around what "banter" is acceptable and ultimately we are far more connected as a team."
Jeet Raval, Brave

In terms of the international teams, the Blackcaps have participated in their own Belonging session and the White Ferns will do when they assemble again in March.

We realise that ongoing work is required to embed the values of Belonging – Whanaungatanga in the cricket family and we will continue to build suitable learning opportunities in the Personal Development programme moving forward. The outcomes of the recent sessions will guide future work in this space.



In your corner

Empowering pro Kiwi athletes with nib Business Health Insurance



nib are delighted to be the Principal Partner to the NZCPA, knowing their partnership helps to empower New Zealand's best cricketers to perform at their peak, just like how nib partner with many businesses throughout the country to help ensure their employees are well looked after.

nib have recently released a new video as part of their 'In Your Corner' series which highlights the benefits of looking after your people through nib Business Health Insurance. The video features current players Kyle Jamieson and Lauren Down, along with NZCPA CEO Heath Mills.

Mills acknowledges that the partnership with nib supports the NZCPA programmes and services offered to current and past members, as well as to ensure there is comprehensive private health insurance in place for its professional players.

"nib's focus on wellbeing of people and care for people really marries up with what we're about as an organisation, so from my perspective it's a perfect fit. If we have cricket players and people who are well, they're thriving in life, physically, mentally, then they're going to put together better performances on the cricket field," says Mills.

Kyle Jamieson emphasised the significance of being covered by health insurance in the life of an athlete. "Having private health insurance through nib is just hugely important. To know you've got that backing and that your organisation cares about you as a person, I think is hugely beneficial," he says.

When it came to his own injury, Kyle's claim with nib was approved on the same day and within a week he was having surgery.

"The fact that it was done so quickly enabled me to start that rehab process sooner than I would have," he adds.

Lauren Down acknowledges, "To know now that everyone throughout the women's playing space is covered and their health insurance is taken care of - having that kind of peace of mind is something that I value really highly."

nib is the chosen health insurance provider of many of Aotearoa's top sporting organisations such as the New Zealand Cricket Players Association, the New Zealand Rugby Players Association, Netball New Zealand, Hockey New Zealand and High Performance Sport New Zealand. These organisations have chosen nib to provide their athletes with health cover through their

respective employment agreements and the recommendation of their financial adviser, InsureYou Workplace.

Gema Hill of InsureYou Workplace, says that, "nib's willingness to understand and adapt policies to reflect the needs of the sports environment is a key driver for us as financial advisers."

If nib Business Health Insurance could benefit your sports team or organisation, visit health.nib.co.nz/business.

Check out the latest 'In Your Corner' video featuring the NZCPA by using the following QR Code.



**This testimonial reflects the individual experience of these nib members. Any opinions expressed are those of the individual. Testimonial videos, and excerpts included in this article, have been edited in length to enable them to be used on certain media platforms. Exclusions, waiting periods, benefit limits, excess payable, and full policy terms and conditions apply to all cover under nib's Business Health Insurance policies.*



JOSH BRODIE'S INSPIRING JOURNEY FROM CRICKET TO HOSPITALITY TO IRONMAN

Professional cricketer turned hospitality professional turned recently appointed Club Manager at Les Mills, Josh Brodie, is gearing up for an extraordinary challenge—an Ironman in Taupo this March. This challenge is not just about personal accomplishment for Josh and defying the odds to inspire others, it's also a fundraiser to support the Asthma Foundation, a cause close to Josh's heart.

Josh's journey began with severe asthma in childhood, an obstacle that seemed insurmountable. Reflecting on those challenging times, Josh shared, "I had really bad asthma or severe asthma growing up, basically from probably age five onwards...for example, when I was nine years old, I had three times the adult dose of Prednisone just to keep my lungs open, let alone playing sport or cricket."

Despite the health setbacks, Josh displayed remarkable resilience. Determined to pursue his dream of becoming a professional cricketer, he faced scepticism from doctors who doubted his ability due to his asthma. Josh's response was simple yet powerful, "I wasn't gifted with a great set of lungs when I was younger, but there's no reason why I couldn't be the hardest worker at training or the hardest worker in the room."

His perseverance paid off, making the Wellington under-19 team. "I was always close at 15s and 17s and stuff, and then the under-19 team was announced. It was nine days before the tournament started and I said, right, I'm just going to get possessed here and I just hit

balls for hours and hours. We're talking probably six to eight hours of just batting every day, I turned up for the first game, got a big hundred and I think I was top run scorer," he recalled. That dogged determination and drive earned him a spot in the Wellington Firebirds. Josh's mindset was clear: "I'm going to be first there, last to leave every training."

However, his cricket career took an unexpected turn when he chose to retire to pursue a career in hospitality. "The NZCPA were great, I was 27 years old and not once did anyone say you're a bit young, never this never that. In fact, they helped facilitate my first meet with Choice Hotels who were involved with cricket at the time. My PDM and the hotels I was chatting to were wonderful, very flexible, very reliable...it was great, super supportive," shared Josh.

Working with Choice Hotels, he found his footing in the hospitality industry. Josh's journey continued across New Zealand and Australia, managing hotels juggling a variety of stakeholders and facing challenges ranging from guest injuries to bizarre incidents like hotel lobbies catching fire.

Despite the unpredictable nature of his career, Josh maintained a competitive edge derived from his cricket days, stating, "I might not be the most skilful player, but I would outwork anyone." This competitiveness and leadership skills acquired in cricket seamlessly translated into the business world.

Now, Josh is not just facing any new challenge but an Ironman challenge. "My

goal is to do the New Zealand Ironman on March 2nd in Taupo...a big day with a 4K swim, 180K bike, and a 42.2K marathon run."

The motivation behind this Ironman endeavour is to raise \$50,000 for the Asthma Foundation to support children and young families with asthma around education and medication support. Josh's connection with asthma fuels his desire to inspire young kids: "It doesn't need to hold you back. If you want to achieve what you want to achieve, you just have to work hard for it."

As he prepares for this gruelling Ironman, Josh emphasises the importance of balance, acknowledging family as a top priority. Despite the demanding training schedule, he ensures to be present for his wife and young daughter.

Looking ahead, Josh sees this Ironman as just the beginning of his journey to inspire and motivate others. His message is clear: face challenges head-on, make tough decisions, and pursue your goals relentlessly.

Josh's story isn't just about overcoming asthma or excelling in cricket and hospitality; it's about embracing change, inspiring others, and proving that resilience knows no bounds.

If you would like to support his cause and make a donation, Josh is actively engaging on Instagram [@josh.brodie](https://www.instagram.com/josh.brodie) and through his campaign website joshvsasthma.co.nz, where he shares training videos and raises awareness about asthma.

UPCOMING EVENTS

QSCC GOLF DAY

7 March - Christchurch
Christchurch Golf Club

HOOKED ON CRICKET

12 March - Napier

13 March - Christchurch, Dunedin, Porirua

22 March - Hamilton

TBC - Papatoetoe

PLAYERS' GOLF DAY

28 March - Auckland
Windross Farm Golf Course

PAST PLAYER EVENTS

23 February - Auckland NZCPA Offices
NZ v Australia T20

3 March - Wellington Basin Reserve
Day 4 NZ v Australia Test (men) *

7 March - Christchurch Bealey Quarter
Day before 2nd Test NZ v Australia

18 March - Dunedin Luna Bar and Restaurant
Eve of White Ferns v England T20

1 April - Wellington Basin Reserve
ODI White Ferns v England (women) *

*Wellington events are held in conjunction with the Wanderers Cricket Club and due to venue constraints, one is for past male players and other is for past female players.

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THE INSIDER ACHTUNG: UNSAFE PITCHES WREAKING HAVOC

BY PAUL FORD



The Laws of Cricket contemplate the suspension of play when the umpires decide it would be "either dangerous or unreasonable" to continue. The jacketed duo are charged with monitoring the conditions and must agree on the state of play with no consultation, interference or accompaniment from players or officials.

The danger law was invoked recently in the Big Bash League after water seeped under the covers at Kardinia Park at Geelong, creating the ultimate 'wet patch' at one end for seamers to aim at. Despite pre-match player concerns, the umpires made the bold call to crack on to the bewilderment of most. And of course 35 balls later, following a series of 'oh my gods' from the Perth batsmen, divots exploding out of the deck, deliveries detonating past grilles off good lengths, and bemused body language from the Renegades, it was all over.

The ensuing furore has given people yet another reason never to visit Geelong, but did remind me of several memorably dicey pitches over the years.

There was a beauty in October 2015 as the Black Caps were sent off to the multicultural wonderland that is the Blacktown Sports Park, a niggly 30 kilometres out into western Sydney to 'warm up' for a Test match in Brisbane. Four sessions in the Cricket Australia XI was 503/1 and the two teams shook hands in the three-day tour match as "large chunks of turf were dislodged across the wicket, most notably in the popping crease and bowlers' follow-throughs".

Kiwi skipper Brendon McCullum refused to operate his express bowlers, instead bowling Jimmy Neesham, spinner Mark Craig and a platoon of part-timers including Ross Taylor, Tom Latham (1 for 7!) and Martin Guptill. Coach Mike Hesson described the surface as "a jigsaw with half the pieces missing".

On the Test cricket front there are two decks from the late 1990s that are notorious in the annals of international cricket health and safety.

The first was at Sabina Park, Jamaica in 1998 when Michael Atherton famously elected to bat first 'to get the best of the conditions'. A farcical situation developed over the ensuing 10.1 overs as the West Indies' petrifying opening bowlers Courtney Walsh (2/10) and Curtly Ambrose (1/3) were all but unplayable, triggering six visits to the middle from physio Wayne Morton to tend to five English batsmen. "On a new clay surface that bore an uncanny resemblance to a strip of corrugated iron, the ball flew, from a length, towards the throat, or scuttled along the ground," Paul Weaver wrote.

Despite it being the first Test match in history to be called off for an unsafe pitch, Ambrose continues to say it wasn't that bad. "It was a little bit up and down," he admitted recently. "But what they should have done is get the groundsman to get the heavy roller and roll it a bit."

The other was at the WACA in Perth in February 1998 as the West Indies romped to a 10-wicket win in a tempestuous match on a pitch that Wisden said was "so thoroughly cut and compacted that it sported large, longitudinal cracks." This game featured a Brian Lara century (132) that doubled as a masterclass, a sublime innings that belied the treacherous conditions as he staved off McGrath, Warne, Reiffel, Bichel, the cavernous cracks and 45-degree heat.

The only ODI to ever be called off in the history of the game was a 'dead rubber' match between India and Sri Lanka at the Firoz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi in 2009. It was abandoned 24 overs into the first innings as both teams walked off in protest. The Sri Lanka batters had

bleeding fingers and multiple bruises, and Sunil Gavaskar told viewers the under-prepared pitch "looked like it had been the victim of a hair transplant". When an innocuous-looking 117km delivery from Sudeep Tyagi blasted over wicketkeeper MS Dhoni's gloves stretched above his head the caper was up, and the players left the field.

Things got decidedly unsafe off the pitch too, as the abandonment triggered chaos in the crowd: angry spectators tore down match signage, flung broken chairs at each other, and threw bottles onto the field. The stadium was banned from hosting international matches for a year and the curator was sacked.

Closer to home, a 2018 Plunket Shield match at Canterbury's Mainpower Oval was called off at the beginning of the third day after the umpires deemed the pitch unplayable and erratic. At the time Auckland was 66-6 chasing a thousand and Matt McEwan had been struck on the helmet by a delivery from Will Williams. Shots were fired by Canterbury assistant coach Brendon Donkers: "I think their mindset was perhaps somewhat negative and they were just waiting for the game to be abandoned." It is important to note that no signs, chairs or bottles were thrown.

The other that sticks in my head is the incredible pitch at quaint Queens Park in Masterton. It was arguably the safest and least dangerous pitch of all time in November 2021 when it was incorrectly marked out 23 metres long, instead of 22 yards.

Two balls into the game, Wairarapa's strike bowler realised something was amiss, struggling for rhythm and length. Wairarapa coach Neil Perry said he had never seen anything like it in 40 years of cricket. "Absolutely unbelievable that it happened, unbelievable that the umpires didn't pick it up, and unbelievable that nothing happened sooner."

Paul Ford is one-third of The BYC Podcast, co-founder of the Beige Brigade. His favourite cricket pitch is at the Basin Reserve, observed from behind the glorious white pickets and never in front.



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