

SUMMER 2015 | No. 027

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together**
Cricket Players Association

OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



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OPENING UP

Welcome to the Summer edition of Outright.

It's been another exciting and busy season of cricket activity both on and off field to date and the biggest event of the summer, the World Cup, is yet to begin!

We hope the international and domestic cricket on show has been as exciting for the fans as it has been for our members, and that everyone is looking forward to the world's biggest cricket tournament being played on our shores in February and March. It's a great opportunity for the Blackcaps to continue their good form into this pinnacle event and a chance for fans to see first-hand the best players in the world competing for the most important trophy in the game. We hope as many people as possible can get along and catch some of the action, as we may not get an opportunity to host such an important cricket event for many years to come given the global event focus we now see on the sub-continent.

We also look forward to an exciting conclusion to the Plunket Shield and

also supporting the White Ferns as they play England at home in important ICC Women's Championship one-day international matches.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Outright.

Best Wishes
Heath Mills



Daniel Vettori becomes NZ's most capped Test player.

Cover Photo

Kane Williamson.

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NZCPA CONTACT US

NZCPA Office
Unit 107, 23 Edwin Street,
Mt Eden, Auckland 1024

Postal Address
PO BOX 9915, Newmarket,
Auckland 1149

P +64 9 630 3075
F +64 9 630 3071
E nzcpa@nzcpa.co.nz

W www.nzcpa.co.nz
F www.facebook.com/nzcpassn
T www.twitter.com/nzcpa

Please see website for staff contact details

Players better together

Catching up with **Debbie Hockley** *By Margot Butcher*

Lately, Debbie Hockley has taken to calling up Radio Sport about cricket. 'I just thought, stuff it, why shouldn't I?'

Anyone who knows Deb knows that nattering about cricket is not something the icon of New Zealand woman's cricket struggles with. In fact, nattering about anything. She has always had the gift of the gab, which has come in handy as an authoritative commentator on the women's game.

There was Sky TV first, then she was asked to join ESPN Star Sports' international microphone team for the 2009 ICC Women's World Cup in Sydney, with the likes of Belinda Clark and Melanie Jones, Danny Morrison, and Wasim Akram. She'd been a White Ferns selector leading up to the previous World Cup and, one way or another, has never drifted too far from the game in all the 14 years since she stopped playing.

In her home city of Christchurch she was catching up with her old teammate Sarah Illingworth not so long ago and musing about why that might be. "I'm not entirely convinced I've ever got over stopping playing, to be honest," Deb says with typical candour. "It's interesting reflecting on how much direction cricket gave me. I was so obsessed with it for over two decades, so in terms of replacing it with something that carries as much purpose, it's hard to find anything like that intensity. I was certainly ready to stop, but it was quite a while adjusting to not having that same focus in my life. It was quite challenging. And I'm grateful I had my physio career all along, because that certainly gave me some stability."

Working in hospital-based physiotherapy was her other passion — she cared for patients for 21 years at Christchurch's Princess Margaret Hospital. She was there the day the big quake struck, "and it really shook. The building didn't even sustain a broken window, it was sound; but it was like an Amazing Race journey getting back home to Sumner."

She still finds it mind-blowing, nearly four years after. "I live and work in the east, and travelling through the area where 7000 houses have been demolished — it takes a fair bit of getting used to. I'm a Cantabrian and even now, driving through the city, sometimes I don't know where I am."

Recently Debbie was invited to take part in *Resume Play*, a documentary about



the recovery of cricket in Christchurch. "They interviewed me standing in the desolation of Lancaster Park. It looks like an overgrown sandpit. Around the base of the stands that are left — the Hadlee stand is gone — there are all these tall weeds, even trees growing. I still find the whole thing extraordinary."

The quake was perhaps the trigger for an upheaval in her own comfortable existence. "I felt like I needed to challenge myself a bit more, so I resigned from Princess Margaret a couple of years ago and the first thing I did was go milk cows for 10 days. True! When we were kids, right through until I started playing for Canterbury at 15, every Christmas holidays we would go out to a farm in

North Canterbury and as we got older we used to help out with the milking. I just had a hankering, found a farm north of Whangarei and it was magic."

While Woofing, she got news she'd been successful in a locum application to Royal Adelaide Hospital, for three months. "Then I came back at the start of 2013 and took a physio job at the Artificial Limb Centre in Christchurch, which is what I do now, working with people who have amputations."

The outstanding cricket career that saw Debbie reach world firsts and break almost every New Zealand women's batting record that there is between 1979 and 2000, scoring over 4000 ODI runs at

41.89 and averaging over 50 in her Test career, continues to be acknowledged. Clearing out her junk mail folder one day last year, she came across a letter from the ICC notifying her that she was going to be the first New Zealand woman — and only the fourth worldwide — to be inducted into its Hall of Fame. The email had sat there for ages, unnoticed. "It's the best piece of junk mail I've ever had! I look carefully every time now before I delete it in case I've won a car or something."

Sport Canterbury inducted her into its Canterbury Hall of Fame at the Canterbury Sports Awards soon after, and when William and Kate made their Royal Visit last year, Debbie and the only other New Zealander to occupy a spot in the

ICC Hall of Fame, Sir Richard Hadlee, were chosen to play a spot of cricket with the stellar couple as a 2015 Cricket World Cup promotion.

"And you know me, I'm not necessarily tongue-tied — so it was really cool. It was as if your brother and sister had come along for a game. They were so down to earth and fun."

She has never stopped following the White Ferns since she put down her bat. "I tend to skulk around training a bit," she laughs. Leading into the 2000 Cricket World Cup — New Zealand's only World Cup title, she broke new ground as the first female cricketer in the world to be contracted, a deal with New Zealand Cricket that supported her to take some

time off work to train. As an NZCPA member, she was pleased to see the NZCPA and NZC sign a Memorandum of Understanding all these years later that recognised the need to work towards funding and contracting more women. It's only becoming more urgent, she says, as the fully professional likes of Australia and England race ahead not only in the scale of investment being ploughed into their women's game, but the results they're getting on the international scene.

In New Zealand, 10 top White Ferns received landmark annual contracts for this season, although New Zealand still has much catching up to do to achieve any sort of parity. Says Debbie, "It's a step in the right direction. But I have a question — and I don't know the specifics, so this is very much a question for administrators, rather than a judgement — as to how much resource is being invested in women's cricket through all levels of development and playing

"I've watched the women's Under-21 tournament, for example, for the last few years and I have been absolutely staggered at the number of wide's that have been bowled, and the poor standard of catching. In women's club cricket in Christchurch now, the standard is inferior to when I played — and I hate saying that. A few years ago, they had to make a composite fourth team to make up the competition, too, and that concerns me.

"I'm just thinking that what happens in those teenage years is vitally important. If you don't have that basic skill base at that development level, it only gets harder at the high level. The way the White Ferns have been playing in the last three or four years has been quite frankly very disappointing: we have slipped against the other top nations of the world. I worry that there is an underlying problem. Perhaps there needs to be an urgent review of how Major Associations are funding women's cricket development."

She apologises, quite needlessly, that she can't help being passionate about it. Cricket will always be a major frame for her life. New Zealand Cricket have invited her along to watch the Blackcaps play Australia in the World Cup, and she's excited as a little kid about that. But she'll also be out on the barren sidelines of Bert Sutcliffe Oval when the White Ferns take on England this February. Her name is on the trophy. She'll be studying every ball. Some habits just never leave you.

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Courtesy of NIB

A message from nib CEO Rob Hennin

New Zealanders will be glued to cricket this season like never before.

The 2015 Cricket World Cup provides the ultimate platform to showcase the best the game has to offer and will be inspirational for the next generation of young cricket players. The fans will be fixated by the many thrilling moments.

nib is proud to be part of the action as

the platinum sponsor of the New Zealand Cricket Players' Association. Since nib launched in New Zealand just over a year ago, we've made health insurance more affordable and easier for kiwis to get access to private medical treatment.

If you're not already covered by nib you can get a great deal through the NZCPA. As a NZCPA member you have access to a special group scheme providing you

and your family with private hospital treatment. One great benefit of the contracted player group scheme is that both you and your family can be covered for pre-existing conditions.

Being part of the nib NZCPA health insurance scheme relieves the stress for you, your family and your team mates. We were recently able to advance treatment for someone in the public hospital waiting list the moment they signed up to the NZCPA's scheme.

If you have any questions about health insurance please contact Ketaki at nib on 09 971 0720.

Thank you to Neil Wagner, Colin Munro, Nathan McCullum and Hamish Rutherford who made smoothies for our employees last year. This was one of the major highlights for our employees, especially the "sour underarm" recipe, which went down better than expected.

Thank you to the NZCPA CEO Heath Mills and his team for their support of the players and we look forward to working with them in 2015.

All the best for the season ahead.

Rob Hennin
CEO nib Health Cover

Upcoming Events



The Players' Golf Day

The Cricketers' Hardship Trust will take centre stage as the Blackcaps players host the annual Players' Golf Day.

Once again Pakuranga Golf Club is the chosen venue for this event which is regarded as one of the best corporate golf days going around. With a relaxed atmosphere (albeit with a natural competitive streak) this year's event has high expectations of a full field and maximising

the profile cricket will enjoy this summer and converting this opportunity into much needed funds for the Trust.

The Trust has experienced an increasing number of enquires and applications in recent times and through this event – the Trust's principle fundraising activity - we hope to ensure that those who are most in need have somewhere to turn in times of need.

For more about The Cricketers Hardship Trust please visit www.thecricketershardshiptrust.co.nz

Date: Thursday 2 April

Venue: Pakuranga Golf Club

Booking Details:

please contact glen.sulzberger@nzcpc.co.nz or 021 762787

The Players' Cap Awards Ceremony

The only player voted award in cricket is The Players' Cap, and this award therefore is arguably the most prestigious in the game.

The 2015 (4th edition) of The Players' Cap will take place at the conclusion of The Players' Golf Day this year and we will be inviting all members of the NZCPA to join us for the award presentation.

The 2015 Players' Cap encapsulates matches from the West Indies tour and concludes with the Cricket World Cup. After each Blackcaps match, the players, team management and match officials are eligible to vote for the players who they think has contributed most to the team's performance. Points are awarded to the top 3 players and weighted according to the format (Test, ODI and T20I) and aggregated over the season.

Previous Recipients: 2014 - Ross Taylor; 2013 - Tim Southee; 2012 - Brendon McCullum

Date: Thursday 2 April

Venue: Pakuranga Golf Club

Masters Weekend

All members are invited to attend the Masters Weekend in Queenstown where the Central Districts team will aim for their third consecutive Masters Tournament title.

Date: Friday 10th April – Sunday 12th April

Venue: Queenstown

National Player Conference

Date: During week 14th-17th April

Venue: Auckland

Updated website is LIVE

Last month the new NZCPA website went live as part of a number of initiatives to improve the way we communicate with our members and stakeholders. One of the main differences is that we have a new URL (web address) – www.nzcpc.co.nz.

What you will find on the new site

- » Simplified layout
- » Enhanced mobile compatibility
- » Secure Members Area (where members will be able to see all the offers and benefits available to them)
- » Information about Members events
- » Easier access to resources, and
- » Improved News Blog

The old website (procricket.co.nz) is currently still live as we complete the migration of information to the new website, but in the coming weeks this site will be decommissioned.



For you smoothie enthusiasts, give the sour underarm a go: 1/2 cup skim milk, 1 cup orange juice, 1 apple, 1 banana, 1 cup yogurt and 1 tablespoon flaxseeds.

From the Backyard to the World Stage *By Margot Butcher*



Previously Rod was sponsorship manager for Canterbury and Crusaders rugby — he also played 33 games at fullback for Canterbury in the 1980s so it's no surprise he's still knee-deep in sport. It's in his red and black blood and he's been excited as the Cricket World Cup clock countdowns have ticked down to kick-off.

Rod retired from cricket in 1995 after four Tests and 33 ODIs for New Zealand and a 15-season domestic career, all for Canterbury. In many ways, his son inhabits a different world. "The pitches here have changed dramatically, no question. I would suggest our pitches are a lot better than those we typically played on in 1992. The bats are bigger and lighter and certainly they can hit the ball a lot further than we used to; and the boundaries are smaller — so even without going into the rules that have changed, those are significant and very fundamental developments from 1992.

The game looks so orthodox, now, in the replays — classic cricket shots and structured innings, targets of 100 by 25. "The ramp shot hadn't been invented, let alone the reverse sweep! I don't think anyone would have been willing enough to even try that back then. Just imagine if we'd pulled that out in 1992..."

they're pretty much playing at the same grounds as we did in 1992, which is going to make the memories stand out even more," says Rod Latham, father of 2015 BLACKCAP Tom.

Even if it does remind him that he's 53, the vintage opener's been loving all the nostalgia and attention that's been revisited on the players of the 1992 squad. "I know there have been other New Zealand teams who have made semi's since, but it's been really nice of the ICC to get us involved as part of this World Cup. It's been good to catch up with the guys, too — we don't see a lot of each other."

Normally Rod is kept busy as general manager of Harewood Golf Club, near Christchurch airport. Despite an oversupply of golf clubs in Canterbury and in New Zealand in general — with over 400 courses, we've got the highest number of golf courses per capita in the world; it's going all right. "We're fortunate to be one of the few to have a few bob in the bank (after selling off some land to the airport). It keeps me out of trouble, and I don't have to wear a tie to work every day."

But it's not just the Dilscoops, relay throws and power plays that have turned the One-Day game into a racy beast. This season's Ford Trophy saw new ground records set at Molyneux Park and Pukekura Park (which were never big), Eden Park outer oval, Harry Barker Reserve and a near-thing at Aorangi Oval. Two openers, George Worker and Henry Nicholls, joined the short list of 12 players to have scored more than 500 runs in a domestic limited overs season — and there were only eight rounds. Playing Georgie Pie Super Smash in the lead-in saw confident players hitting the ground running, ready to play outrageous cricket shots. Or at least, they would have been in 1992. When T20 hadn't been invented. Nor was there a players' association, while team managers were just the good soul who hauled the coffins at the airport.

"It's a different set-up to our day: big management teams where everyone does a specific role. The coach is the conductor of the orchestra. No question they will all be working their utmost and I think Mike Hesson is covering every base. Geez, he's been very thorough — nothing will be left to chance. And there will be some sleepless nights for sure.

"New Zealand is not the dark horse this time though, and that's one of the dangers, the concern for me. They are one of the favoured teams and while they won't consciously be thinking along those lines, you can still get tied up by the whole hype of it all around you. I'd be wary of that. I didn't mind if they lost a couple of games to Sri Lanka beforehand to be honest, because it just keeps their feet on the deck and they don't get too far ahead of themselves."

Rod will take in some of the World Cup live, other games on telly. "Then I'm taking a tour group to the Semis and Final, hosting 40 people in Auckland, Sydney and Melbourne. It will be nice to get to a Final after all these years, irrespective of who will be in it — but it would certainly be fantastic if it involves the BLACKCAPS."

He and wife Sally are proud of their son's work ethic and the way he's worked from being a "bits and pieces player" at the start to getting his teeth into a specific role. But even for a proud Dad, the World Cup is about much more than following Tom. "I'm looking forward to seeing the likes of Chris Gayle and South African boys all at once. New Zealand is being

treated to watching the best players in the world, live. You can watch them as much as you like on TV, but there's nothing like being at a game watching them play live. They're not here that often. And a World Cup — I probably thought that I was going to experience one of these things here once in a lifetime, but to get another 23 years on is pretty cool. This will be bigger and better, because we've done it a few times now as a country with the Rugby World Cups having been here before as well. We've learnt how to host such a big event.

"I'm not convinced about having 14 teams in the format — 49 games in 42 days is quite a few. But from a team's point of view, it's actually pretty similar to the number of games we played in 1992, over six weeks — the same time frame. You just don't play everyone anymore and whoever is in that top eight has a chance of winning this thing — that's as much as you can predict."

One thing — person, rather — hasn't changed a bit, though. "Harry's still playing — can you believe that?"



The biggest cricket show on earth is back in New Zealand and as usual there's a Latham in the line-up. So what else is new?

It's 23 years between drinks, the ICC Cricket World Cup is finally back in New Zealand and one of the original 'Young Guns' admits it's making him feel just a wee bit older these days. You can't avoid it when your son's grown up and representing the Blackcaps himself. Nor when there's a rain delay and SKY starts showing those glorious technicolour replays from 1992, when the team of Rod Latham's generation thrilled the country until the semifinal at Eden Park — when captain Martin Crowe did his hammy and the dream unravelled against eventual champions Pakistan.

Did we really play One-Day Internationals with children spilling over the boundary rope on the sidelines? When security amounted to one bloke hopelessly waving his arms somewhere near the sheds while the players made a mad dash for it at the end of the game?

But some things never change. Like having a Latham in the batting order. "And

A World of Opportunity By Margot Butcher

County contracts for Craig Cachopa and Kieran Noema-Barnett

Have passport, will travel. And if your passport has a red cover? Thank your parents. Craig Cachopa and Kieran Noema-Barnett are both heading to the UK shortly to take up their maiden County contracts — but that's not all the hard-hitters have in common. Dunedin-born Kieran's father Neil was born and raised in England until he was 10. South African-born Craig's paternal grandparents were born and raised in Portugal. That qualified them for a European Union passport, therefore their Counties were able to sign them up not as overseas pros, but locals.

Talented players plying their trade around the globe, from the IPL to BBL to the Caribbean, is a growing trend and adds to New Zealand's reputation for producing adaptable, respected cricketers. But effectively signing over your cricket citizenship adds a whole new level to the decision-making process for the player — so was it an easy one to make?

Craig, youngest of Auckland's Cachopa trio, inked his two-year deal with Sussex in July after a two-month trial for the county's second XI — and a bonus couple of T20s for the firsts after they'd been hit by a clump of batting injuries. The 23-year-old former New Zealand Under-19 captain oozes the hallmarks of becoming a fine player and had made a quick impression with a century and two fifties for the seconds. He can thank not only his Portuguese-South African family for making it easier for the County, but England pros Chris Nash and Luke Wright who had suggested he give the Sussex seconds a crack while they were over here playing for the Aces last summer.

"That gave me the chance to get to know the club and I'm absolutely thrilled to be offered a contract," says Craig.

But, as with 27-year-old Kieran (who departs March to take up his three-year Gloucestershire contract), it meant his summer programme in New Zealand would now be in his new employers' hands: the irony of now being on loan, to the Aces and Stags respectively, as "overseas players" without a domestic contract.

Noema-Barnett follows a path beaten by Hamish Marshall, whose Irish passport allowed him to sign with Gloucestershire as a local. Marshall has become a leading fixture at the County — trading in his

BLACKCAPS career for what proved a more secure job. But the familiar New Zealand connection has since weakened with December's news that John Bracewell was ending his run as head coach.

"So there will be a new Director of Cricket and I will have to see if he shares the willingness John expressed to let me play as much cricket as I can by coming back to play in New Zealand," says Kieran. "Hopefully I'll be able to — I don't want to be lost to New Zealand, but it's up in the air at the moment."

Like Craig, Kieran headed over in the 2014 season to undergo a formal trial with their seconds in Bristol "which is certainly a different experience for us, but they have a lot of keen cricketers to choose from I guess. I treated it as just another

game of cricket so that it wasn't too nervewracking."

So was it a tough dilemma, deciding on his path not just for the imminent summer, but for the next few seasons?

"I'd be lying if I said it was an easy decision to make straight away. But it didn't take me long to recognise it was an opportunity too good to turn down and any other issues I had behind it just drifted off into the background. It appealed because it's stimulating at this time in my career, playing with good players on new grounds. When I went for the trial, I knew I was looking at signing as an English player, thanks to the 'red book', and I'm keen to play a lot of cricket and see how good I can get by doing that. That's always been the driving factor."



Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP

International MVP

There are no surprises about the two players atop the international Most Valuable Player rankings this year, although it may trip up many a punter to select Kane Williamson ahead of Brendon McCullum. But that is exactly how it stands.

McCullum has been remarkable with a well-documented record breaking double century against Pakistan and an agonisingly close 195 in Test cricket's return to Christchurch during this year's MVP period (starting with the tour to the West Indies). While Williamson has been less potent at the crease, he has been no less effective with four centuries (113, 161 against West Indies, 192 alongside McCullum against Pakistan, and a maiden double of 242 not out against Sri Lanka at the Basin).

In fact, in the Test match season McCullum only finished 6th on the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP table, which the captain will gladly accept as this Blackcaps team is

about exactly that — the team. A number of players have performed well, in fact most are contributing regularly, but the three bowlers in the top 5 Test MVP rankings — Mark Craig (31 wickets), Tim Southee (24) and Trent Boult (28) — have been integral to the team's Test success.

MVP TOP 5 - TEST MATCHES

1	Kane Williamson	203.68
2	Mark Craig	177.36
3	Tim Southee	143.79
4	Tom Latham	135.42
5	Trent Boult	135.19

But back to the overall MVP rankings, Williamson is leading the way — by quite a margin — after McCullum was afforded time to rest during the Pakistan ODI series. The weight of games helps Williamson, but even though he has spent time on the side line himself due to injury, he leads McCullum in the average MVP



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points per game category so his position at the summit of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP is more than justified.

With the Cricket World Cup on the horizon we can 'dream big' of one of the greatest team prizes in the game, but also acknowledge that the Most Valuable Player race will unwittingly recognise those individuals who have contributed the most often. Let's hope the collective individual efforts are enough!



Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP

Domestic MVP

Ronnie Hira was in scintillating form for the Canterbury Kings during the Twenty20 campaign and was the deserved winner of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP award for the competition.

Tasked with opening the innings, Hira showed he has more to his game than his miserly left arm orthodox skills, finishing the Georgie Pie Super Smash 6th highest run scorer with 273 at 30.33 and the impressive strike rate of 151.67.

Hira's canny approach to bowling provided Canterbury Kings skipper, Peter Fulton, with the confidence to introduce Hira at any stage of the innings. Despite bowling during periods with the harshest fielding restrictions, Hira was able to limit the scoring off his bowling to 6.5 per over, while also picking up 10 wickets.

However, the pursuit of the Super Smash title is what drives the players and the Kings campaign was looking strong for a long period of time only to fall just short of qualification for the finals series.

"We were gutted to miss the chance to contest the finals this year, but I am sure as time passes it will be nice to reflect on this achievement" said Hira.

"It gives me great pleasure to make a \$100 donation to The Cricketers Hardship Trust as a result of securing the MVP award"

The trend for all-rounders to congregate at the top of the MVP leader board is reinforced with this season's final Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP standings.

MVP POINTS

1	Ronnie Hira – Kings	136.68
2	Rob Nicol – Aces	121.05
3	Daniel Flynn - Knights	111.16
4	Andrew Ellis - Kings	107.00
5	Grant Elliott - Firebirds	100.03

The different formats give a range of players a chance to shine and with the Ford Trophy currently in full swing Central Stags opener George Worker is capturing all the headlines and leads the MVP table in this competition. Worker has cranked out three centuries thus far, including a personal best 194, and an impressive haul of 500 runs form 6 matches.

Miles clear of the chasing pack, the Stags will be looking for Worker's hot form to continue as the Ford Trophy heads toward the final on 1 February.

Overall, Worker sits second on the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP table behind ex-Canterbury team mate Andrew Ellis who leads with 256.87 MVP points. With plenty of cricket to go this summer the domestic Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP title could fall to anyone inside the top 10-15 spots.

*Visit the nzcpa.co.nz/mvp to stay up to date and follow the progress of your favourite player.

Recreational MVP

The November winner of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP Performance of the Month was Alan Burton from Grafton United



Cricket Club Premier Men's team. Burton produced a match double that would get attention at any level, scoring 110 in the first innings and 100* in the second innings for a total of 70.26 MVP points.

December's winner of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP Performance of the Month was Carl Brungar from North Shore Cricket Club's Premier Men's team. Brungar completely dominated with the ball over the two innings match with a bag of wickets in each, snaring 6 for 19 in 10.2 devastating overs of the first innings, but remarkably followed that up with an astonishing 9 for 65 from 18.5 overs in the second innings. The match haul of 15 for 84 earned Brungar a total of 73.25 Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP points.

*Fujitsu Heat Pumps have kindly donated prizes that include Kookaburra cricket gear and grips from 2mm sports and are awarded to the 12 leading performances by players each month this summer.



Happenings

Hamish Marshall awarded Testimonial

Gloucestershire County CC have honoured former Blackcap and Knights representative Hamish Marshall with a Testimonial season. It is fantastic to see one of our members recognised for his service to club and team and we know Hamish and his family will enjoy the experience throughout his 2015 benefit year.



Stay up to date with all Hamish's benefit season activities at:

Website: www.hamishmarshallbenefit.co.uk
Facebook: facebook.com/hamishmarshallbenefit
Twitter: twitter.com/marshysbenefit



Introducing Rachel Harris

Rachel Harris grew up in Wellington where she represented age group teams in hockey and cricket. With a love of sport is will come as no surprise for those close to Rachel that she finds herself in a role not only within cricket, but primarily with a focus on helping people – perfect for the newly created Personal Development Manager position with the CPA.

A lifelong girl guide and volunteer the Victoria University Accounting and Commercial Law graduate also inspires others via her own boutique women's only fitness and personal training business.

Reporting to National Personal Development Manager, Sanj Silva, Rachel is responsible for the Personal Development Programme for members within Otago, Canterbury and Wellington and will be based in Christchurch. A fondness for travel - Tour de France, Bathurst, Rugby and Cricket World Cups have all been crossed off the to do list – and ambition to boot, we are excited to have Rachel as part of the team.

10 quick questions

1. What's your sporting highlight?

Going to the third State of Origin game in 2013 and watching the Maroons win for the eighth consecutive time.

2. Best place you've ever been?

I very much enjoy travel and have been to a number of places so it is hard to pinpoint one, but a more memorable trip was travelling around France with my parents and staying in small French villages living like a local. A highlight was also watching a number of stages of the Tour de France.

3. OK, put it out there - what's your own sporting high point?

Going to Argentina and South Africa to play cricket with a group of other school girls from Wellington. I learnt so much from our amazing coach Bruce Edgar and made many life-long friends. It was a wonderful experience to live the culture of both countries.

4. Goals away from work?

To complete a half iron man, to do as much travel as possible and renovate my house.

5. What makes you feel alive?

Friends and Family, summer and returning back to NZ after a trip overseas.

6. Are you an evening or a morning person?

Morning person, I love getting up and starting a new day, but I am more likely to be at work at 7 pm as I often get carried away with doing a task. I like to spend

my mornings doing things for me such as walking the dogs.

7. Anywhere in the world you'd love to go?

Canada – to see the Northern Lights, bears in the wild, and polar bears at Churchill.

8. Favourite cricket moment?

Sitting on the bank at Lincoln Oval watching White Ferns win the Cricket World Cup.

9. You've been in the role since November, what has been the highlight so far?

The highlight so far would be working with such a great team of people both within NZCPA and with the players and service providers.

10. Where was your last holiday destination?

My last holiday destination was Hawaii, I was lucky enough to spend New Year's 2015 in Auckland and then travel back in time on 1 January 2015 and have New Year's all over again in Hawaii – best of all it is my birthday on 31 December!! Longest birthday ever.

New Life Members

We are pleased to acknowledge the following members who have recently confirmed Life Membership:

Shanan Stewart	Campbell Furlong
Richard Irving	Gareth Hopkins
Janice Stead	Chris Nevin
Arch Taylor	David Blake

We apologise to the following members whose Life Membership was not acknowledged in the 2014 Annual Report:

Dean Askew	Marcel McKenzie	Robbie Frew
Matthew Bell	Craig Presland	Bruce Taylor
Craig Findlay	Paul Rugg	Ewen Thompson
Greg Loveridge	Sanj Silva	



New Kind of Drive: Jamie How joins Toyota

By Margot Butcher



When Stags run machine Jamie How recognised his desire to play cricket all summer was waning, there were two key things on his mind as he began to think about looking for a life after cricket.

First, he wanted to find work in Palmerston North — with two little girls and both his and wife Tammy’s family living locally, it made sense. Secondly, he says, “I didn’t want to work for values I didn’t believe in — because, playing cricket, you are very passionate about what you’re doing, and to lose that passion in what I do every day, by taking any old job — I think that would make the transition hard.”

Fortunately the 33-year-old’s forward planning had effectively begun when he was still at school, doing his first papers towards a marketing degree. “Then I was fortunate enough to get it out of the way before cricket took over. I did a couple of fulltime study years at Massey before I went down to the old NZC Academy in Lincoln, polishing off a couple more papers (extramurally) while I was there so that I only had a couple left to finish off while I was chipping away at the cricket.”

Jamie’s talent as a hard-hitting opener meant cricket soon took over, of course. Besides fast becoming a card-carrying Stags icon after his 2000/01 debut, he played 19 Tests, 41 ODIs and a handful of T20is for the BLACKCAPS, including a blistering ODI century in Napier in a tied game with England. He was one of the few players about with a T20 hundred

and latter years have seen him rewrite the Ford Trophy batting records as the only New Zealand player with a List A double century. In fact, until his opening partner George Worker’s 194 this season, he owned the top three scores in New Zealand List A history, and the 222 in Hamilton was also the second equal highest List A innings in the world — not bad stat chat, that.

When runs are flowing like that, few batsmen think about alternative careers. But, again, Jamie thought ahead to a day that he wouldn’t be wielding willow as his trade. “I’d had a lot of BLACKCAPS tours and A tours amongst those winters and there have been a few trips to England with the family as well of late, but over the years I did put in a couple of winters for EziBuy in Palmerston North, doing some marketing for them; and then a couple of years ago I did a winter doing some marketing in group sales for House of Travel in Palmerston North. That was helpful to include in my CV — I could show that, together with leadership and other skills you learn on the sports field, ‘here are practical examples of my experience’. And it was clear I’d made an effort to get some sort of relevant experience.”

More recently, the NZCPA was able to assist Jamie with the nitty gritty of crafting his CV and interview technique, and liaising with recruitment agencies as he got serious about thoughts of retirement. “And through [the PDP programme],

I had met with people like Don Brash, who talked to the likes of myself, “Tommy” Martin and James Marshall about the value they saw in employing sportspeople, the crossover between the things you learn in sport and cricket and building successful people in the business world. That was a good confidence boost, to hear it from people of that ilk, and to know that they were available to be mentors — because we tend to think we’re just cricket jocks, sometimes. What we learn as a cricketer puts us in good stead — discipline and hard work, setting and achieving targets and all those attributes that cross over into the real world.”

And of course, the ability to work with a diverse group of people under pressure. Jamie began his new life in the “real world” for Toyota on the same day as this season’s Ford Trophy “second chance” Semi-Final — for which he had made himself unavailable, should the Stags have been taking the long route; and he knew he would be due back at work in Palmy the morning after the Final, should the Stags make it through. Tough decisions? Not anymore.

“The timing was right. In fact, it was really good timing. I knew I wanted to work for a brand where I could develop and learn, and large companies are often a good environment for development — and there are not too many locally in Palmerston North. Toyota was a good place to start and, by coincidence, our neighbour worked there. So I sat down with him to discuss what they were like to work for — a company that looks after its employees, with a good reputation of standing by its values and doing business the right way. That was important to me, and then just at that time a couple of vacancies came up. I got an interview for a marketing position and realised it was too good an opportunity to miss — it couldn’t wait until the end of the season.

“I definitely feel ready, though. It’s the right time for me and it’s nice to have something lined up, now that I’m at that point where I have to respect the game and move on. That desire had started to wane a little bit and this game’s too hard not to put 100 per cent into it every day. I’m thankful to have gone out on my own terms and to have enjoyed my cricket right up until the end.”

Life's all white for this Fern

Nothing seems to get in the way of Sam Curtis in her pursuit of goals on and off the field. The twenty nine year old Auckland all-rounder debuted for the White Ferns in 2014 against the West Indies and is determined to enjoy her time in the international spot light while she can.

A lawyer by day with Auckland firm Smith and Partners, Curtis seemingly has things pretty sorted. But driving for success in her employment and on the cricket field does not come without its challenges and we caught up with Sam to hear how things have been going so far in 2015.

1. Describe the experience of your first overseas tour with the White Ferns?

My first tour overseas was to Bangladesh and it was an eye opener. I’d never been to that part of the world before so on the recommendation of the other girls in the team, I packed about 15kgs worth of food! One thing I wasn’t prepared for was the heat (and the huge moths during the night games). It was so hot that after every game or training session, your clothes would just be soaking wet. And even though our security was very tight (armed police escorts wherever the team bus went), I still had an amazing time and relished every moment, taking in all of the local sights, culture and experiences that were available to us.

2. Where in the world would you most like to visit with cricket?

I’d love to get to tour in England. I was lucky enough to be able to see the 2009 T20 World Cup finals at Lords (there travelling on my OE) and the atmosphere was like nothing I’ve ever witnessed. Playing at Lords, the Home of Cricket, would be the ultimate!

3. What is your favourite cricketing moment?

It would have to be making my debut for New Zealand. I can’t even describe the feeling of putting the black shirt on for the first time, being presented with my cap and then stepping out onto the field with the team. It was awesome!

4. How regularly do you train for cricket?

I usually train or play 6 days a week all year round — the trainings are a mixture of conditioning sessions, gym sessions and skills sessions. I always try to have 1 complete rest day each week and I get pretty regular sports massages to help keep my old legs fresh!

5. Tell us about your day job?

I’m a lawyer at the firm of Smith and Partners in West Auckland. I work



mainly in the commercial and property teams so it’s pretty exciting stuff! Haha. Things like buying and selling businesses, negotiating commercial leases and buying and selling residential property as well. It’s a very full on job, it can be really stressful at times, it’s always mentally challenging and I’ve been doing it for about 5 and a half years now so it’s great to have cricket to keep me balanced. Cricket is something else I can focus on fully when I’m playing or training and it’s great for letting go of any work stress!

6. They must be very understanding and supportive of your cricket career?

Yeah, they’ve been great. The partners love sport in general and especially love their cricket so they’re happy to help me further my cricket career. They’ve allowed me to drop down to part time hours and they’ve also given me an extra 4 weeks paid leave — which came in handy during the 3 month long tours last year. When you have a mortgage to pay, it’s always a bit daunting to think you won’t be at work for a month! But they’re really doing everything they can to help me.

7. What do you see as the biggest challenge for women’s cricket at the moment?

At the moment is just the lack of exposure. I know here in NZ we’re working really hard to try to raise our profile but it’s a tough slog. I think we need to get out in the public’s eye more to change the perception that women’s cricket isn’t exciting. I don’t know how —TV coverage of our international games would be great but even some of the domestic games would be good viewing. For example, this season in our T20 game against Canterbury, they needed a 4 off

the last ball to tie and they got it meaning we went to a super over. I wouldn’t be surprised if no one in the general public would have even heard about it. It’s going to be a hard problem to solve but hopefully we’ll get there eventually.

8. What is one tip you would give to young aspiring women cricketers?

Train hard and train smart - try to be really specific about what you’re working on in any given training session to make sure you get the most out of it. And don’t give up! If you really want it and are willing to work hard, you will always continue to improve!

9. Where do you see NZ’s women’s cricket in 10 years’ time?

I see the strength of NZ’s women’s cricket continuing to grow and improve due to improved investment into marketing and media coverage creating a larger player (from the grass roots up) and fan base. I would hope to see the full White Ferns squad on contracts allowing them to play and train full time which means they can commit 100% to their cricket and be one of the best if not the best side in the world.

10. What other interests do you have?

I play hockey in the winter and golf when I can around my cricket. I’m a bit of a movie buff but I’m also a musical theatre geek. I absolutely love musicals! I’ve dragged my poor husband along to several but my all-time favourite is the musical - Wicked!

The Stage is Set: The Brand New Hagley Oval



Hagley Oval will host the opening match of the 2015 Cricket World Cup when the Blackcaps and Sri Lanka meet.

The first Boxing Day Test for New Zealand since 2006 was held recently in Christchurch at the city's new Hagley Oval. Fans flocked to the Oval early to get the best seats in the house with plans for a big day of cricket watching and they weren't disappointed. In a New Zealand test cricket rarity, a ticket sell-out was declared three days before the five-day test against Sri Lanka started. Another bumper crowd turned out for the ODI. Canterbrians have been starved of international cricket and a whole generation has missed out on test cricket in their backyard.

This venue has been years in the making. Discussions have been underway amongst the cricket fraternity in Christchurch since 2007. It hasn't been smooth sailing getting to this outcome. There was a drawn out and expensive legal battle to get an environment court ruling to construct a pavilion and embankment in Hagley Park.

Christchurch lost its test ground at Lancaster Park due to the extension of the rugby season into summer. Domestic cricket moved to QEII. In February 2011 Christchurch's world changed forever.

The earthquakes damaged both first class facilities leaving the city without a ground for any form of the game. In consultation with Christchurch City Council, Canterbury Cricket Association resolved to endeavour to establish Hagley Oval as that venue. A plan for a boutique ground was drawn up by Athfield & Associates Architects.

In July 2013 Christchurch was named the venue for not only the opening match of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 but warm up, pool games and the opening ceremony. A brave, inspired decision with resource consent decision pending and no first class facility. The pressure was on. The Canterbury Cricket Trust started the fundraising. Approval of the resource consent was announced a few weeks later.

Sufficient funding was found and the sod was turned in December 2013. Work had to be completed by September 2014 for ICC accreditation. Even with two 1 in 100 year floods and challenging conditions the construction team did a brilliant job. John Key opened the Hadlee Pavilion in September 2014 – the first anchor project in the Canterbury rebuild. A remarkable team effort only made possible by the collegial approach of the

cricket fraternity in the region.

The pitch block comprises eleven strips. Six are made with Waikari soil from North Canterbury; five with Kakanui, from south of Oamaru producing more pace and bounce. The players' and official facilities have been foremost in the design.

New Zealand's eighth test venue, within walking distance of the city, provides retain cricket's much-loved village green atmosphere. The grass embankments provide room for 10,000 people – expanding to 20,000 with temporary seating.

Having the ground accessible to all levels is an important aspect of the new facility for Lee Germon, CEO Canterbury Cricket, "Here we have a ground that will enable aspiring and young cricketers to rub shoulders with their heroes, and that's important for youngsters and for the growth of the game."

"As well as the international fixtures, Hagley Oval will host representative, club and school cricket – it really covers the whole realm of the game."



On the Rise – Mitchell Santner

By Margot Butcher



Keeping it simple is all very well but it takes a while to learn how to put it into practice. That's what Mitchell Santner worked out before he started delivering results for the SKYCITY Northern Knights over the last two summers. This season in particular, he's put his consistent form with both bat and ball down to "having a clear plan and keeping a simple routine."

"What used to happen is I'd bowl a bad ball and get real angry with myself and a bit down," he says candidly. "But that's just cricket. You've got to move on quickly, start again. With the bat, too, it's now simpler — I'm thinking about where the gaps are and not much else. The rest is 'see the ball, hit the ball.'"

It's a big change for the young mechanical engineer who says he pretty much used to over-think every ball. "I used to over-analyse my technique while I was out there playing the game, which is probably not great. I used to doubt myself a bit as well. Confidence is a big thing and spin is obviously quite a big confidence game."

Part of the problem was the breakneck speed with which he'd jumped from being a small, gangly schoolboy left-arm pace bowler — he only started turning the ball midway through high school — to a 19-year-old left-arm orthodox spinner with a growth spurt suddenly making his first-class debut for the Knights. He'd got the unexpected phone call while he was studying in the Waikato University library for his exams.

Santner initially got on the field as 12th man, but it didn't ease the nerves much. Still, on debut next game in Dunedin he got two good wickets in Michael Bracewell, clipping the top of his off-stump, and Nathan McCullum. Previously, he'd played a bit for Hamilton in the Fergus Hickey and Hawke Cup, and had a couple of good performances in his first season with ND'A. "But I think I was a bit young and rushed. Plunket Shield was a massive step up, and it's hard to accept that you're just there to learn or whatever, because you want to perform for yourself, and you don't want to get dropped. You end up putting even more pressure on yourself than you need to."

"I was trying to keep a simple mindset, but I was quite hard on myself, thinking I hadn't performed. Every game, I got a bit caught up in all of it. That said, I look back now and think it was a benefit to me because after that, I knew what I had to do to help the team perform — if I was to get back."

Last season, under a fresh team management, long-legged Santner became a more regular face in the squad and scored his maiden first-class century, at 21. "And once I started scoring some runs at this level, it got a lot easier, knowing I had done it before."

His recent star turns with both bat and ball have become so regular that Northern Districts have been talking him as a BLACKCAPS prospect — and he has

a remarkable claim to fame as probably one of the very few, if not only, players to have made their Twenty20 debut at the Champions League, after having been flown over as a last-minute swap for Daniel Vettori, who had withdrawn.

"It happened so fast. I had never expected to make the 15, let alone be playing over there! Once I got the opportunity, I was very nervous because I hadn't really had any time to prepare — I kinda just went in with all guns blazing, and hadn't had a lot of sleep the night before as all the possible outcomes went through my mind, which I think is pretty normal."

"Having never played [a domestic Twenty20 match], I'd never experienced playing in a T20 atmosphere, so to do it in India — I had had no idea what it would be like. The crowd was so noisy that I couldn't hear what was going on. I really had to pay attention and look at Flynn all the time because even if he yelled at me, I couldn't hear him. It was another level altogether, and awesome to play a couple of those games. When we came back, it actually felt a bit weird to be playing our 'normal New Zealand cricket.'"

He enjoys being part of a squad strong on spin. "And we're all different bowlers. Ish is obviously out there as a leggie, but even with me and Devvy — same style, but we approach bowling very differently. Dan is a legend, and Jono (Boult) thrives on battle, gets involved."

This season Santner got close to putting a maiden List A ton on the board, at Pukekura Park. "Me and Jono Hickey were just trying to get us to a decent score, taking it two or three overs at a time. Then I got a few to the boundary, looked up and saw I was on 80. I was out in the last over when I still needed 14 runs — but I wasn't trying to hit bombs to get to a hundred, I was trying to get runs for the team."

Santner, whose younger brother Elliott bowls right-arm leg-spin, enjoys the close team spirit in the young Knights squad "where most of us are the same age, everyone gets along, everyone's got your back and you know that they back you 100 per cent, no matter what kind of day you have. That's another confidence thing — good for your confidence when you go out to bat. The coach says this could be a real good team in a few years' time."

The Insider *The Tale of the Pink Ball* By Paul Ford

What is all this talk about pink balls in Test cricket?

It is an idea that has been floating around for years, as some administrators see day/night Test cricket as the Holy Grail for the longer form of the game, primarily as a way to attract fans back with Test cricket on during non-work hours.

There was earlier talk of using a version of a white ball, but feedback was that it couldn't withstand 80 overs of wear and tear. Orange balls were also in the mix for a while. The first pink balls were tested back in the 1990s.

So is it the Holy Grail in terms of marketing and promoting Test cricket?

Hmm, it'd be good to get the Test cricket structure right first, such as the mothballed idea of a Test Championship. It's hard to argue with the state of Test crowds, even in little ol' New Zealand. It looks like the traditional timeslot has plenty of air left in the balloon.

So is it happening?

Hmm. In 2012, the ICC officially allowed Test nations to play day and night tests if there was mutual agreement on the hours of play and type and colour of the ball. Sri Lanka rejected Pakistan's request to play pink ball Test cricket a year or two back. There is plenty of talk reverberating around that New Zealand will play Australia in a 'pink ball Test' later this year, but there is a stormy cloud of uncertainty over this as questions continue to be raised on both sides of the Tasman.

Have pink balls been used anywhere else before?

Yes, in domestic and club cricket in a bunch of places, and in first-class cricket in the West Indies, England and Australia – with mixed feedback from players in each of these regions.

Where did the idea come from?

Kookaburra's Rob Elliot said that the development of their pink ball began after he took a call from Carl 'Mocca' Rackemann who was after a pink ball



for a breast cancer awareness game in Queensland in early 2008. The balls were made and eventually shown to the MCC's John Stephenson, and then trialled in matches in the UAE.

What does the current cutting edge version of the ball look like?

Pink with a dark green stitched seam. It has extra lacquer to help with longevity and swing. The ball nerds reckon Kookaburra tested 16 different shades of pink for their ball. Of course, the pink ball is used against a black sightscreen.

Is ginger Aussie opener Chris Rogers excited about the prospect of pink ball Tests?

No, he is not, but he is not in a club of one - as more than half of Australia's players said that day/night Test matches were not a good idea! Rogers is particularly put out as he is colour blind and has had some bad experiences with the pink ball in English county cricket. "I would never play with a pink ball again. I played one game and didn't see the ball at all, so it was a bit pointless," he said. Australian wicketkeeper Matthew Wade is also colour blind, although he scored a fifty with one last year.

Cricket Australia is unfazed though, and said that it had talked to optometrists who advised that "there isn't any reason why a

player with normal colour blindness would have any more difficulty seeing a pink ball compared to a red ball given its lighter colour and higher luminosity."

What are the other sticking points?

There has been feedback from players and umpires about the ball discolouring and being hard for batsmen to see, especially around twilight. Batsmen also mentioned that working out which is the shiny side of the ball is tricky. Most recently, after the November trial over the ditch, the ACA told Cricinfo: "The general feedback was that the ball went soft very quickly, it didn't swing, it didn't seam, it didn't reverse swing." So, if they can't get the ball right what will happen then: change the playing conditions to allow for a ball change after 60 overs?

So has anyone scored serious runs with a pink ball?

Yes, but it is generally regarded as being a pro-bowler option. The West Indies' Lendl Simmons whacked the inaugural first-class 'pink ball' century back in January 2010, scoring a trailblazing 107 for Trinidad and Tobago in a four-day match against Guyana. "It is just like any other ball, really, but mentally you just needed a few overs to get accustomed," Simmons stated at the time. That first pink ball, a Duke one, lasted 118 overs of the Trinidad innings.

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Amazing **Bat Grip** Innovation Starts Strongly

2mm Sports (2 millimeter) is a sporting company that believes that it is just 2mm that separates good from great.

NZCPA life member and ex Black Cap and Northern Districts captain Rob Hart and cricket coaches Dave and Bones Richardson have together developed the new PURE (adult) and ROCK (youth) cricket bat grips. Daniel Vettori has boldly backed the grip and is the face of the brand.

From years of coaching Dave and Bones found that the correct positioning of the hands when batting was one of the hardest things to teach to be consistent. Hence the innovation occurred that now enables this to be effortless and provides amazing results.

Rob believes that the top and bottom hand contours are the most exciting aspect and a real gem for elite cricketers to consider. The top hand area bulges slightly at the top of the handle which encourages the batsman to stay on the ball longer and hit straight balls powerfully down the ground and through mid-on rather than square of the wicket. The bottom hand area has some elevations which have a similar effect to the squash ball in the batting glove that Adam Glichrist used in the 2007 World



2mm Sports - creators of the PURE and ROCK batting grips (from left) Rob Hart, Dave Richardson and David Richardson (Bones).

Cup Final to get better or "sweeter" contact on the bat and ultimately more power. Coaches are also excited at the use of the grip as a coaching aid.

The latest news for the PURE and ROCK grip is that it has recently been found to comply with the laws of cricket. This means that this revolutionary innovation can be used at all levels of cricket. Age group right through to international cricketers can benefit from the tool and achieve improvements in their game.

2mm Sports released this new product in late November and has since had great success selling grips not only throughout New Zealand but also overseas. It has also featured on the Cricket Show and Dilmah Tea Break. Feedback from players who are training and playing with PURE and ROCK has been resoundingly positive. PURE and ROCK has quite simply improved their gripping of the bat. Joey Yovich recently scored a century using the grip and found it to be outstanding. "I loved that it helped me play straight and hit the ball cleanly early in the innings" reported Joey.

Given Rob's involvement and support of NZCPA since its inception over a decade ago 2mm Sports is providing a donation to NZCPA in recognition of the role it plays for the cricketing family. The 2mm Sports team is passionate about giving back to the game, pushing the boundaries and taking the sport to the next level.

Be part of the revolution! PURE and ROCK is currently sold online only at www.2mmsports.com and there is a **10% discount for NZCPA members and their friends and families using the code "NZCPA"**. Check out the website so that you too can have the 2mm difference!



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- Daniel Vettori.

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