

SUMMER 2020 | No. 042

 **nzcpa** | Players  
Cricket Players Association | better  
together

# **OUTRIGHT**

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



EMERGING TALENT  
**NATASHA  
VAN TILBURG**



## YOUR EXPERTS IN FINANCIAL ADVICE

Money Empire is a financial advisory firm with over 20 years of combined experience. We specialise in & know property better than anyone else & provide strategic advice tailored to your needs, goals and objectives.

We work closely with other like-minded professionals to forge our client's paths and utilise their skill set to complete the overall solution.

**WEALTH CREATION - PROPERTY FINANCE**  
**WEALTH PROTECTION - INSURANCE**  
**CLEAR STRATEGY & STRUCTURE**

The strong relationships we forge with our clientele is the key to creating successful financial strategies and is built on **TRUST, INTEGRITY & TRANSPARENCY.**



# OPENING THOUGHTS



### Tēnā Koutou

Through the last two weeks of February we have had a taste of what 2021 will bring to our shores, with the White Ferns quest for an historic win at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Australia.

The Sophie Devine led White Ferns faced pool matches against Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and Australia. The top two teams from the pool qualifying for the semi-finals before the final at the MCG on 8th March. But this time our White Ferns were unable to reach that stage following two agonisingly close losses against India and hosts Australia.

The White Ferns were ranked third heading into the tournament, but this format is fast becoming highly competitive with India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh all dangerous opponents,

and will add to the intrigue at next years tournament.

The event itself has been a wonderful prelude to the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup (50 overs) in New Zealand next summer, where Devine and the rest of the White Ferns team will be gunning to emulate their maiden title in 2000.

Inside this issue we profile one of the stars of the White Ferns Katie Perkins, who alongside her cricket career is involved in several initiatives assisting communities and youth in South Auckland. We also get an insight into fellow Auckland cricketer Craig Cachopa's career outside cricket as a builder.

We get to know a bit more about NZC Development squad member Natasha van Tilburg, as she provides a unique

insight into her life from her temporary home in Leeds, where she is presently completing her study.

Paul Ford's regular The Insider column wades through some of the more humorous incidents that have happened to cricketers over the years.

We also acknowledge the massive contribution that Ross Verry has made now that he has stepped down as Chair of the NZCPA.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Outright and wish all our members the best over the remainder of summer.

Ngā mihi nui

**NZCPA**

### NZCPA | CONTACT US

**NZCPA Office**  
 11 Cricket Avenue,  
 Eden Park, Mount Eden  
 Auckland 1024

**Postal Address**  
 PO BOX 9915,  
 Newmarket,  
 Auckland 1149

**P** +64 9 630 3075  
**E** nzcpa@nzcpa.co.nz  
**W** www.nzcpa.co.nz

www.facebook.com/nzcpassn  
 www.twitter.com/nzcpa





Katie Perkins in Uganda with her sponsor child Ekel Solome

# A HELPING HAND

BY MARGOT BUTCHER



**ANYONE WHO KNOWS KATIE PERKINS WILL NOT BE SURPRISED. THE MINUTE SHE HEARD ABOUT HUMANS OF SOUTH AUCKLAND — INITIALLY AN INSPIRATIONAL FACEBOOK PAGE BASED ON HUMANS OF NEW YORK, NOW ALSO A WEBSITE TELLING “SOUTH AUCKLAND STORIES WHICH PROMOTE HOPE AND PRIDE” — SHE REALLY WANTED TO GET INVOLVED.**

“I messaged the people in charge and asked, ‘Is there anything I could do to support you guys?’ Turns out they were looking for some new trustees, so I met

up for coffee and became a trustee! Then a year or so in, they needed a volunteer to help take on some of the admin role which had got quite busy. I said I could take some of that off their hands.”

After years of juggling top cricket and training with full-time Policing as a Counties-Manukau community constable, Perkins certainly knows how to stay busy. Downtime is just not in her DNA — and, if she can find a way to make a difference, count her in.

Perkins graduated from the Royal New Zealand Police College in Papakowhai in 2013, the year after she first made the WHITE FERNS. Ironically the recent introduction of central contracts created a dilemma for the 31-year-old around her Police career, but her employers proactively created a new role — Youth Engagement Officer — to keep her on their team.

“I’m very fortunate to have two careers I’m passionate about. The new role is 20 hours a week, and instead of being out arresting people, I have a chance to stop people getting arrested in the first place.

“It’s a perfect fit, a role that means a lot to me because I’ve seen and met so many young people through policing who haven’t had the opportunities that I had growing up on the North Shore. Often their family situations mean their

choices are fairly limited, and they don’t know what can be achieved. I am hoping to be a mentor and show kids what’s possible out there.”

Perkins started working in South Auckland straight out of college in 2013, and has been living in Manurewa since 2017. Her house is the one with the pātaka kai — free community pantry — outside. If you popped into a Super Smash game this summer at Eden Park Outer Oval, you will have seen the donation box at the gate collecting non-perishable groceries — to stock the larder across the year, allowing people in the community to help themselves in times of need. It’s a growing movement, but Perkins’s unique sphere of influence and sporting celebrity has helped capture a new audience, inspiring others to take the idea home.

“It’s been really cool how the home game collection drives have been really well supported. People gave a lot and I would like to thank them for their support! I keep stocking up the pātaka kai daily.”

The way she sees it, she’s just paying it back to a community that has helped her. “It’s just cool to realise how connected I have become to the South Auckland Community, and that you can create networks in your community really quickly, if you put the effort in. The South Auckland community is what

draws me here. Growing up on the North Shore just doesn’t have the same feel.”

A veteran of more than 125 internationals for New Zealand, Perkins even used her solo downtime on the WHITE FERNS’ World T20 Cup tour of Australia to set up some Humans of South Auckland profiles.

“I don’t do the interviews myself, but after someone nominates a person with a story, I organise the interviewer and photography and introduce the people. The goal is to help change the negative perception of South Auckland through the everyday, inspiring and uplifting stories of real people.

“There was one guy, Tony Lulu, not so long ago who spoke at an event that I had happened to attend through work. He was talking about his passion — he had a lightbulb moment when he realised he was addicted to his phone and putting it before his kids; now he runs an organisation, Digital Discipline, to help people get the balance back and gets out there as a speaker. So I got in touch with him and he was keen as. And — ironically given we put out all our HOSA stuff digitally — his story just went off the scale. It really spoke to the community — it got so much response, but obviously it’s something many people are wrestling with.”



# A VERRY PROUD LEGACY

ALTHOUGH HE REMAINS ON THE BOARD AS A DIRECTOR, ROSS VERRY CONCLUDED THE LONGEST AND ARGUABLY MOST SUCCESSFUL TENURE AS THE NZCPA CHAIR AT THE FINAL BOARD MEETING OF THE DECADE – 10 DECEMBER 2019.

AND WHAT A DECADE IT HAS BEEN!

Verry was elected to the Board at the start of 2009 and before long, his professional experience, calm and considered approach saw him elevated to the role of Chair in 2010. This was a time of great change in the game with the emergence of franchise T20 cricket and specifically the Indian Cricket League which was targeting our best New Zealand talent, and later the Indian Premier League. There was much uncertainty in cricket globally and significant tension between national and domestic interests around the world - it was a challenging start to his new role!

Since this time, the NZCPA has navigated many milestones, many of which have been world leading such as welcoming women members and completing the first collective agreement in the women's game for the White Ferns. In addition, the establishment of the Cricketers Retirement Fund and the formation of The Cricketers Trust Charity supporting past players in times of need are part of a proud legacy Verry can reflect upon.

One of Verrys' greatest contributions has been the passion and drive he has shown toward establishing player service initiatives and advocating for the welfare of our cricketers both past and present – he has ensured these have been a key focus for the NZCPA. There is no doubt the Personal Development Programme is now a critical part of the professional cricketing environment, comprehensive and widely respected.

Notably, Verry has been an advocate for the CPA's ambition to "be the players' club for life" and he has worked extensively with Heath Mills and the staff to ensure that the NZCPA provides significant value to its members and the game.

Verry steps down from the role of Chair with the association in a position of financial strength and stability, governed by a diverse and skilful Board and with a clear strategic plan in place. The organisation has developed considerably during his tenure and is in a stronger position for the years ahead.

Verry remains on the NZCPA Board and will provide valuable support to Scott Weenink who has been elected as the new Chair.

## MAJOR MILESTONES DURING VERRY'S TIME AS CHAIR

- 2010 – 2018 Master agreement (ICL and IPL formation)
- 2018 – 2022 Master Agreement
- 2012 inaugural (world first) Women's agreement for White Ferns
- 2019 – 2022 Women's master agreement (incorporating domestic women)
- Establishment of cricketers' retirement fund
- Formation of The Cricketers' Trust
- Education fund
- New constitution and ushered in new Board structure – 2018
- Formation of CPA's first strategic plan – 2015

Outside of the NZCPA and cricket Ross has forged a fantastic career in the finance industry and more recently has become more involved with governance.

The former Wellington representative played 15 first class matches with a highest score of 132, is currently the Chief Executive of Syndex, having previously led Corporate and Agri banking units within the ANZ.

Our members wish to acknowledge the tremendous contribution Ross has made to the organisation and although still involved, wish him and his family the very best in the future. ●

IT'S BEEN GREAT TO BE INVOLVED AT A TIME OF GREAT CHANGE FOR OUR SPORT AND WORK WITH A TEAM SO COMMITTED TO LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE. HEATH AND THE TEAM ARE WORLD LEADING CRICKETER ADVOCATES AND IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE AND A PLEASURE LEADING NZCPA.

ROSS VERRY

NZCPA Board member Ross Taylor was quick to acknowledge Verry's contribution stating "Ross is someone I have a huge amount of respect for and his guidance as Chairman has been a great example of his leadership skills.

"As a player we have a lot to be thankful for and we are really grateful for the contribution Ross has made to the NZCPA and cricket in general".



# KEEPING ON TRACK



## NATASHA VAN TILBURG

Natasha van Tilburg is used to forging her own path in life. The 22-year old wicketkeeper is not only close to breaking into the White Ferns team (currently a NZC development squad member), she is also close to finishing her Bachelor degree of Commerce, majoring in Management and Economics, conjointly with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Psychology.

Not content to coast through the final semester of study in Auckland, van Tilburg has packed up and headed to the University of Leeds to complete the final stage of her degree.

"This just seemed like a really cool thing to do" said van Tilburg from her new base in England.

"I didn't know anyone when I was moving over, but being in the halls has allowed me to meet so many new people from all over the world and I have already loved attending the lectures and being exposed to the different style of learning".

The west Auckland local grew up with a love of being active and giving everything a go and where the street outside her west Auckland home was her playground.

van Tilburg says "sport has been a huge part of my life. From when I was a child playing on the street, throughout school maxing at Glen Eden intermediate with 15-17 different sports", where she was nominated as Year 8 Sports girl of the year.

Cricket was one of her main sports though. Chosen to represent Auckland U18 when she was still only 14 and ultimately debuting for Auckland Hearts in 2015, the talented sportswomen has ended up channelling her efforts towards cricket.

Nothing seems to happen by chance for van Tilburg and she is willing to give anything a go. You only need to talk to her to get a sense of her enthusiasm for everything in life and her quest to uncover as many experiences as possible. Natasha has not stashed her cricket gear in a cupboard for the winter back home, in fact it's all part of the plan to go to the UK and be exposed to a different cricket experience alongside her life experiences at the University of Leeds.

"Fortunately, I will have access to the Pro Coach Yorkshire Cricket Academy facility and coaches while here at Leeds.

"This is a once in a life time experience that I really didn't want to miss out on and that's why it is so awesome NZC have been so supportive, because I genuinely felt like I would never get an opportunity to do something like this again. It has allowed me to study and travel but also to remain part of the NZC development programme".

Getting her studies completed is an important achievement for van Tilburg. It comes at a time when investment into women's cricket is increasing in New Zealand alongside opportunities for international players to get

experiences within the big three domestic leagues around the world (WBBL, Kia League and WIPL).

"Post studies, I would love to be able to give some real focus to my cricket and really give myself the chance to be able to train and perform without the pressure of full-time study".

van Tilburg knows through experience that getting the balance wrong can have disastrous consequences. "I had a period last year where I had fully over-committed working two-jobs, full-time study, training for development squad, Hearts and NZ indoor team and club indoor teams. My brain couldn't handle the stress and essentially shut down".



The Psychology student knows a bit about how external factors can impinge on her mental health and while her drive and commitment to give everything her best, it ultimately led her to a situation that was on the precipice of getting out of control.

Remarkably van Tilburg identified what was happening to her and set about getting herself sorted. A brave move for someone so young to pull back and make a life adjustment ahead of the Trans-Tasman indoor tournament she had been working so hard to get ready for. But you get the sense that van Tilburg knows that getting herself right is the most important thing, in the long run it will pay dividends and you get the sense that the trip to the UK is all part of the overall picture – not to get defined by doing

things one way. To ensure she has an authentic balance in her life.

van Tilburg gives an insight into that period reflecting "that next month, I genuinely did not believe I was going to make it to the end of the year, but I was lucky to have access to her [a Psychologist arranged by Auckland Cricket] and amazing friends that stepped up and heard the cries".

"That experience really opened my eyes into understanding the importance of balance within my own life".

"I think cricket is game that is so mental with a lot of traps to be circling in your thoughts and the importance of mental health and well-being is so important here. I am so lucky to have the opportunity that I have, to be overseas, training and studying. I have a lot to learn yet about balancing both the demands of cricket and the rest of life but I am grateful for my support system that is building and holding me up".

"I am excited for the future I have ahead".

There is much to learn from this young New Zealanders approach, and you really do get the sense that she will have a heap of fun as she continues to pursue her dreams. ●



# CHIP OFF THE OL' BLOCK

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

**"IT'S FUNNY HOW LIFE GOES IN CIRCLES," MUSES CRAIG CACHOPA. "MY GRANDFATHER WAS A CARPENTER AND NOW, WHEN I LOOK BACK ON SPENDING TIME WITH HIM WHEN I WAS FIVE TO 10 YEARS OLD, EVERY DAY I SAW HIM, I WOULD BE IN THE GARAGE WITH HIM HAPPILY BUILDING THINGS AND SMASHING THINGS — THAT'S ALL WE DID! YET NEVER ONCE, GROWING UP, DID I THINK I WOULD BECOME A BUILDER."**

Now, at 28, the Auckland Aces white-ball captain is about to qualify as just that: a long journey to a vocation that started when he summoned up the courage to sign on as a carpentry apprentice four years ago. A significant change of tack — that turned into one of the best decisions he's ever made.

At the time, Cachopa was already 20 papers into a business degree — breezing through the Massey extramural papers, but also, not exactly inspired by what that might lead to. He'd thought it was the right thing to do, for his future, "but I couldn't even tell you what was in those papers — because the enjoyment factor wasn't ever there."

Backtrack now to the young County batsman (qualifying to play for Sussex

as a Kolpak player through Portuguese heritage) in 2016, but not enjoying his cricket much at the time, either.

"I came back to New Zealand and took a year out of the game and began to really reflect on what I was doing with my life. And I thought, well, I did a few office jobs when I left school and I didn't enjoy them, didn't enjoy being behind a desk — so why I am doing this degree?"

He put pen and paper down, swapped it for a toolbelt and began labouring for a small company in North Auckland. Starting at the bottom, after three months they offered him an apprenticeship to become a builder — which has taken care of his winters ever since.

Qualification as a builder requires working on site for roughly three to four years — depending on how quickly you learn and how good you are — to become what's called 'commercially viable' across a range of compulsory skill sets.

"Commercially viable means you can perform all those different skills to a high enough standard, and fast enough that you will make money as a tradesperson. I've now finished 54 of the 57 compulsory skill units. I'll line up appropriate work at the end of this season to complete the units in the remaining fields, then I'll be a qualified builder.

"I really like it because it's hands-on and practical; it's given me good life skills and income as I learn; I'm out in the fresh air; and working with a team of all different people from different trades.

"Whether you're building a new house or renovating an old one, everyone has to come together to make it all happen and you're organising people from different trades with plumbers and electricians and so on. It also keeps the mind ticking because there's a lot of problem solving — every house or renovation has something different. There will be a different problem that you might not have encountered before and you obviously have to find a solution, so that's quite enjoyable — you're never braindead."

There's an obvious comparison with building cricket teams and Cachopa realised he had underrated his own skill of finding a way to get along with a wide variety of characters living in each other's pockets for six months. "As sportspeople we can become bloody valuable members of the staff — from skills that we don't even know we have that are very transferable."

None of this happened, however, without being prepared to accept a new challenge.

"At the start, it was hard. You don't know what you're doing and you're working with fairly dangerous equipment and tools where you have to keep your wits about you. I think the first six months, I was pretty useless. I don't think your boss makes much money off you, he probably breaks even if he's lucky in that time! But from six to 18 months, everything starts getting pieced together — you're connecting the dots in your training."

And of course, Cachopa had to have that conversation! The one where you tell a

would-be employer that you barely know that you're probably going to need to take six months off every year to play cricket.

"I didn't know at that stage whether I would be contracted or not the next summer, but I was upfront and gave him a three months' heads-up that I may need some leave. By the time I did get a domestic contract, I'd already developed a relationship with my employer and I must have been half decent because he was happy for me to come back at the end of cricket season for the following winter. Ever since, I've been six-months-cricket and six-months-building."

So now there's a new bedroom and bathroom added to Cachopa's house, handy skills in an Auckland market where many people start out with a chunky mortgage on an older house that needs a refurb. Moreover, learning a trade has given him a genuine sense of personal and financial surety.

"It's actually taken a lot of pressure in cricket off me — because I'm in a place now that I feel when, one day, I step out of cricket, I'm not going to have this huge pay cut in the real world. That's important when you have a mortgage and family. You don't need that nightmare of having to find a job all of a sudden, that pays more than a starting wage."

With carpentry apprenticeship studies costing just \$800 a year (not even in the same ballpark as university fees) and the ability to earn an hourly wage as an apprentice, Cachopa says learning a trade is a good way for cricketers to get ahead without sacrificing their sporting careers. He's not the only tradie around the traps — the Volts' Anaru Kitchen is a qualified electrician while Central Stag Ben Wheeler has started a plumbing apprenticeship.

"It might be something some people haven't considered," says Cachopa. "New Zealand is such a great country that is growing fast, so there's plenty of work — for me there have been many positives." ●







# BLACK CLASH SHOWCASES THE GAME. AGAIN!



Cricket historians and the game's traditional followers were probably off doing other things instead of tuning in to the 'free to air' broadcast of the Hot Springs Spas Black Clash at Napier's McLean Park. But they might have missed a trick. Certainly, they missed a great few hours of entertainment.

And that's the point. It is fun, energetic and vibrant... It is entertaining!

This, the second edition of Duco events Black Clash was attended by over 6800 people looking for a great evening out and a massive TV audience to boot. And they were treated to a great occasion that showcased the talents of many of New Zealand's greatest athletes.

Team Rugby were off to a blistering start with Jordie Barrett displaying his

heralded cricketing talents to remove Team Cricket captain Stephen Fleming in the first over. The sluggish McLean Park pitch limited scoring opportunities and at 30 odd for 5, a repeat Team Rugby victory seemed a high probability. But Team Cricket had more experience than that and quickly summed up the conditions and set about posting a defensible total.

Team Rugby's international wildcards, cricketing legends Mahela Jayawardene and Muttiah Muralitharan, are All Blacks fans and were in their element rubbing shoulders with the likes of McCaw, Dagg, Aaron Smith and the Barrett brothers. Both were reliably brilliant in the match which surely vindicated Graham Henry's move to call in the duo to bolster Team Rugby's defence of the Lomu-Crowe trophy. Henry knows

what it takes to populate a team and the former Canterbury and Otago right-handed wicket keeper batsman assembled another competitive run-on team this year.

Close finishes are a thing in cricket at the moment and the Black Clash served up its own version with a last ball thriller – with Andy Lee (from Hamish and Andy fame in Australia) swallowed a Jaywardene skier at deep long on the final delivery to save Team Cricket from an embarrassing consecutive defeat to Team Rugby.

Take a bow Stephen Fleming and Team Cricket, thanks Graham Henry and Team Rugby – history will say that this was another wonderfully entertaining event.

Cricket once again proving the winner! 🏏







# PATEL'S CAREER TURN

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

**WALKING OFF THE BASIN RESERVE AS A PLAYER FOR YOUR LAST TIME WITH YOUR LITTLE SON AND DAUGHTER RUNNING OUT TO HOLD DADDY'S HANDS — WHO WOULDN'T HAVE A LUMP IN THEIR THROAT. JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS IT WAS THE LAST OF JEETAN PATEL'S 309 MATCHES FOR THE WELLINGTON FIREBIRDS IN A SIGNPOSTED FAREWELL GAME BEFORE HE JOINED THE ENGLAND CRICKET TEAM MANAGEMENT AS A SPIN BOWLING COACH, AN OPPORTUNITY THAT SPRUNG UP QUICKLY AFTER INITIALLY HAVING CONSULTED ON A SHORT-TERM CONTRACT ON ENGLAND'S TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND. HOW'S HE BEEN TRAVELLING? MARGOT BUTCHER CAUGHT UP WITH PATEL AFTER A QUICK HOME BREAK BETWEEN TOURS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND SRI LANKA.**

**JEETS, THANKS FOR A CHAT DURING PRECIOUS TIME AT HOME. HOW'S IT GOING BALANCING FAMILY LIFE WITH LIFE ON THE ROAD AS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET TEAM AGAIN — AND, FULL TIME?**

Well I'm loving the role with England, but home is home and just to chill round the house and potter for 10 days — it's lovely, and, it's 10 days without having to do any training! I haven't had a break like this in the last 10 years.

My wife and kids have stayed in Wellington though — we had chosen not to go as a family to South Africa on tour this year to keep the kids in school as long as we could. So that has been hard. Nia is just turned six and Ari, my boy, was three in December. They're grappling with Dad not being around. The last four or five years I've generally been away for a week at most, so they were so excited when I came home. They are resilient though, and understanding although I'm bemused that they have gone from being BLACKCAPS supporters to England supporters.

**TWO DECADES AS A CRICKETER, YOUR FAMILY MUST BE THE UNSUNG HEROES IN THIS STORY.**

Absolutely. My wife and family are honestly amazing and play such a role in my own career and success. Also, once Nia was born, I think that was when my game went to the next level in my growth as a cricketer. To have that distraction at home was really cool. To be honest, before I probably lived and breathed it too much. And then Ari, and it happened again. When you've been absorbed by your cricket for seven years, you do start to believe it is

your be-all and end-all — but it wasn't it, and that was when it clicked.

**HOW IS THE ABRUPT TRANSITION FROM PLAYING TO MANAGEMENT WORKING FOR YOU?**

Yeah, it's a very different experience trying to work out how you can win the game as a player to sitting on the other side of the fence and letting it all go — trusting that you have provided the guys with as much help and information that you could. Then, it's up to them to go and have some fun with it.

The hours are longer, the work is different, but the satisfaction and emotion is still the same when it comes to winning and losing games. It's not the individual satisfaction of achieving something yourself, but the pleasure and privilege of helping others.

**YOU HAD UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH THE FIREBIRDS WHEN THIS OPPORTUNITY CAME UP. WHEN DID YOU REALISE YOU WANTED TO TAKE THIS PATH?**

You know to be honest, I still don't know, and that's quite a cool place to be. I've got an opportunity to explore and test where I go, learn, and grow as a person — and, give back to the game. Sure, not in New Zealand, but I don't think it matters too much that it's for another team right now. It's the game itself that has given me a lot.

Day by day I'm enjoying it more, and I have one more playing opportunity left with Warwickshire this year so it will be interesting to see how I deal with playing cricket after being on the management bench. I may have a different outlook on it. It feels like I'm 100 per cent giving back to the game now and so when I go back on the park, what's my driver? Is it winning games, or is it giving back to those around me.

**WHAT'S STUCK WITH YOU FROM THE TRIBUTES ON THAT LAST DAY AT THE BASIN?**

It's been a long time and I was always going to get emotional for me at some point. The two Guards of Honour from the boys were really moving for me. When it really hit was actually in the Long Room afterwards where there was a reception and an opportunity to



speak to everyone. I was pretty stoked that the Stags boys were there as well, a really nice gesture from them. Then in the changing room with the boys, I didn't actually stick around that long because I was a little bit concerned about getting my kids home and in bed for the night.

**HOW DID IT GO HAVING PLAYED THE LAST GAME FOR THE FIREBIRDS AND THEN WATCHING THEM GO ON TO WIN THE TITLE?**

I felt so proud. To have been part of a province that had worked so hard to get that title in Wellington and to see them enjoy the success they had, and the whole of Wellington able to share it with them. Well, except me!

I was so excited for the guys to know that they were hosting the home Grand Final, but then I did have a moment of jealousy. I was envious of the guys playing the Final there after years of trying: we hadn't had a home Final at the Basin for years and years. And then, to see the crowds that were there. It was such a great day — to have the Blaze win in the first game and then the guys go on for the men's title as well for the perfect day and evening.

This one was huge for us — I'm a proud Wellingtonian so to see Wellington win any sport is a pretty big moment in my mind.

**NEXT STOP SRI LANKA — THEN IS IT STRAIGHT INTO YOUR FAREWELL SEASON IN ENGLAND?**

Yeah, it will be two big Test matches over there, and then straight back into the County season so it gets very busy. But I'm so grateful to have this chance to grow. Obviously I knew the England guys really well from having played against them, and knew some of the staff well enough so it was nice to be able to meet them one-on-one and actually work with them.

I think when I play, it's pretty obvious I get in the fight, get in the battle and enjoy, I suppose, the finer things of the games and the success that comes round — and, all the failures you learn from as well. So I hope one day there's an opportunity to come back in years to come and help out and give back in another way. Right now, it's exploring where I go.

I have had and will have many more people to thank, but I would like to acknowledge my support network as a cricketer. Especially when I made a few silly mistakes as a youngster, the support from NZC and NZCPA has been fantastic throughout my career. I've had a lot of ups and downs and CPA have been a constant and I hope, as I say, that I can now continue giving that back to our game. ●



# TO AUSTRALIA AND BACK AGAIN

Tim Lythe has recently returned to New Zealand where he will continue his role as Chief Operating Officer for the Rugby League Players Association. Lythe is a former first-class cricketer and was instrumental in the development of Player Associations in New Zealand, providing legal support across all the sports, but most significantly establishing the NZ Netball Players' Associations.

Having left to begin a legal role with the Australian Cricketers' Association before moving on to the RLPA, Lythe is now back to New Zealand to advance the environment for League players within New Zealand as well as those in the NRL.

We sat down with Tim upon his return to the Athletes Federation office.

## WELCOME HOME, IT MUST BE PLEASING TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR THE RLPA FROM BACK HOME IN AUCKLAND?

Yeah, great to be home and very fortunate that the RLPA has supported me to continue working for the organisation from New Zealand. We have developed a strong team over the last few years and built the respect for the organisation and our role in the industry, but there is still a lot of work to be done. I am keen to continue to be part of that growth as

well as strengthen our relationships and work within New Zealand, as I am very passionate about the game in this country.

## YOU HAVE DEEP FAMILY CONNECTION IN LEAGUE, DESCRIBE WHAT THAT MEANS TO YOU AND YOUR PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING THE GAME?

Like anything you are passionate about, you want it to be the best it can be. I have been connected to the game all my life, and therefore a lot of great memories are attached to my involvement in rugby league, particularly at local level. Rugby League is a great game for a lot of reasons and there are fantastic people involved in it. But it also has its challenges and I want to try and contribute to improving the sport, particularly the environment for the players who get exposed into the professional side of the game.

## SPORT IS A DYNAMIC INDUSTRY, AND YOU HAVE BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF SOME HIGH-PROFILE MOMENTS IN AUSTRALIAN SPORT. WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT FROM THOSE EXPERIENCES?

Yeah, I have seen some really positive things but also some less positive during my time. In the line of work we are in (but it is probably trues of most industries), it is important to align interests and objectives as much as possible. Get on the same page in regards to what the ultimate objectives are and the principles that are important to the organisations. Then work hard in a collaborative manner to set about achieving those objectives and approach it with a problem-solving attitude. It is also really important to not take a proprietary approach, be open to new and alternative ideas and also have a decent dose of humility. As the saying goes, if no one cares who gets the credit, it is amazing what

can be achieved. It also rings true that blocking out the 'noise' and external pressures is really important. In order to do that, you need to be clear on your personal and organisational values and remain true to them.

## AND WORKING IN AUSTRALIAN COMPARED TO NEW ZEALAND, ARE WE LIKE OUR CROSS-TASMAN NEIGHBOURS IN HOW WE GO ABOUT OUR WORK?

With respect to the established player associations and their relationships with governing bodies and other stakeholders, I think we do things pretty well in New Zealand. The ability to work together in a collaborative manner is critical, with trust in the process and the people involved. And strong stakeholder engagement where we bring everyone along on that same journey. In my experience that leads to good outcomes.

It is also the most effective and efficient use of resources, which is important in New Zealand where we often have limited resources compared with the rest of the world. Australia has significant resource and with that comes the ability to implement some great initiatives which is fantastic. However, success of any organisation comes back to the people involved and the authenticity of what you are doing. I think New Zealand shouldn't undervalue the importance of protecting player rights and welfare, and genuinely empowering the athletes. I think that is at the heart of many of our greatest sporting successes and forms an important part of our sporting identity.

## WHAT ARE THE MAJOR ISSUES FACING ATHLETES IN AUSTRALIA, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR NRL AND INTERNATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS?

There are a number of matters affecting the sport, which obviously have an impact on the players. The future of broadcasting rights, concussion and health and safety generally, participation numbers, the challenges in attracting sponsorship, attracting and retaining quality personnel, off-field integrity issues are all matters that need to be grappled with.

From a players' association perspective, the ongoing protection of players' rights and welfare is a high priority and comes under constant threat.

In addition, the prioritisation of personal and professional development for players is an important issue for us and our members. The ability for players' to understand and develop themselves before, during and after their careers is crucial. It is difficult to manage as the demands of the professional athlete increase but many of the clubs that do it well understand that by prioritising the person, they will also develop a better player. That performance connection is key to getting the clubs to invest in personal and professional development. ●



Napier Past Player Event  
8th November

# PAST PLAYER EVENTS

NZCPA past player events provide our members with an opportunity to stay connected with each other and rekindle the camaraderie from their playing days.

We are grateful to all the past and current players who managed to get along and help us to continue our engagement across all levels of our membership.

### 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, NAPIER

This function was held at Mexi Mama ahead of the Blackcaps T20i against England

### 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, HAMILTON

This function was held at Joe's Garage ahead of the Blackcaps T20i against India

### 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, WELLINGTON

This function was held at Backbencher ahead of the Blackcaps T20i against India

Wellington Past Player Event  
31st January





## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	Northern Club Dinner CPA fundraising dinner
<b>30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	The Players' Cap Blackcaps presentation  CPA Players' Award White Ferns presentation
<b>15<sup>TH</sup>/16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b>	Annual Current Player Conference
<b>16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b>	QSCC Charity Golf Day, Hosted by CPA Muriwai Golf Club, Team and individual spots

### DOMESTIC MEN/WOMEN TEAM MEETINGS

<b>9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	Otago
<b>16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	Auckland
<b>17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	Central Districts
<b>23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH</b>	Canterbury
<b>25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	Northern Districts and Wellington

## Strong investment decisions built on trust

Jarden is one of New Zealand's leading finance houses offering share broking, portfolio management, investment banking, financial and economic research services.

We have been a trusted provider of wealth management and investment advice to individuals, companies, institutions and governments for over 50 years.

Our strong local expertise is backed by our strategic alliance with Credit Suisse Group, a relationship that has existed for more than 20 years.

Jarden connects insights, people and capital to deliver exceptional outcomes.

Contact Brian Moss (09) 307 5712 or Chris White (09) 302 5596  
jarden.co.nz/about-jarden/regional-offices/union-street

Disclosure Statement available on request, free of charge.



**JARDEN**

### PREMIUM PARTNERS



Photos courtesy of  
**PHOTOSPORT**  
NEW ZEALAND'S AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHIC AGENCY

Designed and printed by  
**presentations**  
design & print ltd

### BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS



## THE INSIDER

# THAT'S OUT - FOR A WHILE

by Paul Ford

This column was inspired by the mighty deeds of **Tim Southee** at Eden Park in February against India. His discrete exit to hurl was commendable, and accompanied by a memorable, gastro-laden, gutsy 10-over tour of duty.

It reminded me of the day the one and only Naenae Express **Ewen Chatfield** had a suspected code brown incident in Bangalore. This was the famous Test match in November 1988 when so many New Zealand players were floored by a stomach bug that retired spectator Jeremy Coney, journalist Ken Nicholson and broadcaster Bryan Waddle were drafted in as substitute fielders.

Chats was bowling and headed to the top of his mark, fanged in on his run-up past the umpire, past the non-striker, down the pitch, past the on-strike batsman, past wicketkeeper **Ian Smith** and directly into the pavilion. He re-emerged onto the field 15 minutes in a fresh pair of cream strides.

Away from the gastronomic incidents, many unforgettable moments have befallen cricketers over the years - things that are more common than the classic hamstring strain, back aches and rolled ankles anyway.

The cold sweat-inducing injury to **Ross Taylor's** nether regions is worthy of a mention, as testicular things got tangled up when he was facing some Ish Sodhi leg-spin in the nets in Zimbabwe. "Feel free to laugh, because everyone else has," Taylor said. "I went to sweep and just missed, and it hit me in the sore area."

Another bloke I felt for was Northamptonshire bowler **Olly Stone** when he had the bearded wonder Moeen Ali out caught behind back in 2016 - and got pretty excited about it. He leapt and landed and soon collapsed

with a "compact knee injury with anterior cruciate ligament and cartilage involvement". Yikes.

New Zealand's most famous cricketing injury is the infamous **Trevor Franklin** baggage trolley incident at Gatwick Airport in 1986, which resulted in multiple leg fractures and an 18-month stint behind the boundary rope. Inspector Franklin made it back though - and has his name on the Honours Board at Lord's to prove it. Here's how Vic Marks remembers it: "A beanpole blocker, who made Chris Tavaré look like Kevin Pietersen, Franklin's 101 occupied 435 minutes and 310 balls and in this innings he was scoring considerably faster than normal..."



Over the ditch the most famous injury of all time allegedly cost the Australians the 2005 Ashes. Their relentless paceman **Glenn McGrath** blew his ankle ligaments out chasing down a rogue touch rugby pass in the warm-up for the second Test at Edgbaston. "The boys told me I went white. I knew I was injured straight away..." he said.

Fellow Aussie paceman **Terry Alderman** had a shocker too - he was hit on the back of the head by a pitch invader during an Ashes test in Perth in the eighties and made the interesting decision to chase the perpetrator down. He made a great tackle, but monstered his bowling shoulder in the process - forcing him into a one-year hiatus from international cricket.

Alderman's Ashes foe **Chris Old** was also in the wars a year earlier in 1981 when he suffered the most self-inflicted of all injuries - cracking a rib while unleashing a violent sneeze. Old was a notorious magnet for injury, and thrived on tales of his health. Writer Frank Keating said once: "Ask that engaging hypochondriac how he is keeping and the answer, as ever, takes a full half-hour."

The best sub-continental injury aside from Shoaib Akhtar's 2009 incident with "genital viral warts" was Pakistan's inaugural Test centurion, **Nazar Mohammad**, father of Mudassar Nazar. Not long after his famous ton he was sidelined with a badly broken arm having been caught "conducting an affair" with an actress, and jumping out of the first-floor window when her husband arrived home unexpectedly.

But nothing can beat the diabolical 'triple threat' endured by English wicketkeeper **Bruce French**. During a net session in Pakistan, a spectator threw a ball back and it cracked French on the head. He headed to hospital for a check-up and was hit by a car.

Paul Ford is the co-founder of the Beige Brigade and one-seventh of The Alternative Commentary Collective. He has never stayed in long enough to sustain a cricketing injury.





# Health cover has real benefits

nib offers a range of cover that's flexible, easy to understand and easy to claim on. We have a range of options we can tailor to best suit you and your business. Get covered today.

Speak to the nib Group team to find out more, **0800 287 642** or email [grouphealth@nib.co.nz](mailto:grouphealth@nib.co.nz)

