

AUTUMN 2023 | No. 053



OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



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OPENING THOUGHTS



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

The 2022-23 season of cricket has come to an end and what a refreshing summer it has been. After three years of the global pandemic providing extraordinary challenges for our members and stakeholders, we managed to enjoy a relatively interruption free summer of cricket bar the terrible weather events such as the floods and Cyclone Gabrielle.

The Blackcaps have just completed their second tour of Pakistan in 3 months with the T20 series drawn and the one-day international series won by the Pakistan side. The squad will get a chance to return to New Zealand shores for a short period before heading to the United Arab Emirates in August for 3 T20 matches and then onto to England for a four match T20 series and four one day internationals.

Closer to home we saw the return of the women's North v South T20 series

at Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln with the North Island side taking this year's honours. More than a decade since the competition was last delivered, the series was reintroduced to provide greater playing opportunities for promising female players and will be delivered annually in line with the commitment made in last year's Master Agreement.

In this edition of Outright we catch up with Saachi Shahri who is an Engineer Planning Analyst with Air New Zealand when she's not opening the batting for the Auckland Hearts. We speak with Todd Astle who is amongst 6 players who retired at the end of the summer. Todd is now turning his attention to Innerspin a company he founded in 2016 to provide mental skills coaching, mentoring and positive psychology, working with athletes and teams across a wide array of sports.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has provided a pathway for many young kiwis, and this too is the

case for former Otago Volts wicket keeper and batter Derek de Boorder who shares his story on becoming a Specialist Recruiter for the NZDF. We feature our Hooked On Cricket programme which celebrated it's 18th year thanks to the support of the Queen Street Cricket Club, as well as the NZCPA Player Conference which took place last month in Auckland.

The Cricketers' Trust recently supported some past players who were adversely affected by the floods and Cyclone Gabrielle and we reflect on Seddon Cricket Club's inaugural alumni weekend which culminated in a thrilling match as Northern Districts Past Players XI faced an NZCPA XI at Seddon Park.

Please enjoy this latest edition of Outright.

Ngā mihi nui

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Players better together



SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR SAACHI SHAHRI

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

If you think you're a busy person, you haven't met Saachi Shahri.

At 25, the Auckland Hearts opening batter isn't just holding down a cricket career — she's a Mechatronics Engineering graduate who works full-time, year-round for Air New Zealand as an Engineering Planning Analyst.

Mecha-what? Yeah, we had to Google that too. Google says it's like mechanical engineering and electronics combined, focusing on the design, intelligence, control and programming of smart devices, robots, and intelligent systems. It's a four-year professional degree at Auckland Uni, and Shahri joins Mitch

Santner, Bharat Popli, Mark Chapman and Anurag Verma as cricketers who are also qualified engineers.

A mechatronics degree is not very specific to aviation, she explains, but as part of the engineering degree, she needed to do summer internships to get work experience — a requisite to graduate.

"I had always thought planes are quite fascinating — but I'm not a geek, a plane-spotter, or a nerd! I thought it would be cool to work at Air New Zealand. I managed to get a three-month placement with them in my third year, and really enjoyed it. So then I applied

for their graduate programme at the end of my degree, got in — and that was the step into my full-time role now."

Shahri works with a small team of about 11 people on Air New Zealand's Auckland airport campus to make sure Air New Zealand's extensive jet fleet is maintained, always compliant and that maintenance requirements are optimally planned and scheduled — often looking five years in advance.

"My team is Engineering Forward Planning, so we're about making sure there is a time slot and enough time for a plane to be on the ground so that we can do required work on them. Making



“PLAYING CRICKET IS SOMETHING I’VE ALWAYS KEPT UP BECAUSE I GENUINELY ENJOY IT, AND WORK IS LIKE THAT AS WELL.”

sure the plane is legal and safe to fly, by understanding and meeting all the regulations and requirements. It's a lot of problem-solving, with busy flight schedules, but it does make for a very interesting day job."

Shahri enjoys her work just as much as she enjoys her cricket, and that means being super-good at time management and planning ahead to balance two demanding occupations. Motorway traffic is the biggest curve ball: getting into Eden Park from Māngere for 5pm trainings is a tall order (sometimes an hour in rush-hour traffic), but Auckland Cricket — whose youngish Hearts are mainly students, or working part-time — actively accommodate her need to bowl in a bit later.

"I leave home at 7am and I often don't get home until 8.30pm, so it's very long days. But I actually think combining Uni was harder physically and mentally, because with work, I go to work, but I switch off in the evenings or I can go train and manage my own time. With Uni, you've got lectures, but you've also got tests coming up, you've got study... so how I managed it was always on my mind."

Mumbai born and Auckland-raised since she was a three-year-old, Shahri is a Community Cricket success story in that her first forays into the game came as a result of a have-a-go flyer that she brought home from primary school.

"The very first sport I played was badminton when I was in primary school and I really enjoyed that, but I've got asthma so I really struggled to run around continuously, without any breaks.

"We never had cricket at PE at my school, we weren't exposed to the game

there, but my Dad's Indian and has always been passionate about cricket so we would always watch it at home. So when this flyer came out, I brought it home to my parents, and was keen to give it a go. I went along to the day at Lloyd Elsmore Park — home of Howick-Pakuranga which is my home club in Auckland. I've played ever since and Dad was a huge part of it too, helping me with time in the nets when I was getting started and making sure I got into some good habits early, technique-wise."

The keen girl from Botany Downs has now played 51 one-dayers and 43 T20s since her Auckland Hearts since her 2016/17 debut, and has an important role to play for a team that's lost a suite of senior players — Anna Peterson, Katie Perkins and Holly Huddleston to retirement, and Arlene Kelly to Ireland where she is now based full-time — over the last two years.

"We're quite a young, fresh-look squad all of a sudden. Having been around the Hearts for five or six years, I'm now considered as a kind of senior member which is kind of scary! But the Hearts are a really cool group, there's good energy and we're fortunate in that we are so localised. All my memories of summer, it's that group of people because you see them so often. You enjoy it. Some days, days at work are not so good, but I've got cricket or training with my teammates to go and take my mind off things. And sometimes cricket is not so great, so I've got my work to take my mind off it!"

Summertimes are busy times which means she doesn't get to see as much of her partner as she does in winter. "I know every player is different, but personally

I don't like training much in winter. I like taking that time off, and I normally take three to four months where I don't even touch a cricket bat. I just focus on just keeping fit and my gym work.

"I'm usually an evening gym person. My partner also gyms, so we go together and that's quite a good way for us to spend some time together. It's about helping me switch off mentally from my job as much as anything, and I find it means when I come back into summer, I'm not tired out or fatigued, and fully ready to go again."

But it's not all work-work-work — working for an airline has some pretty cool perks, too.

"I'm trying to make the most of the travel benefits when I can, so I've just come back from a few weeks off in Japan — my first time in a long time travelling like that, so that was really cool. I've got another trip planned to New York in July, while things are a little bit quieter! Even with cricket domestically, I really enjoy the travelling around side of things.

"Playing cricket is something I've always kept up because I genuinely enjoy it, and work is like that as well. Air New Zealand as a company and an employer, is a great place to work. I love the people, I love the context of the work we're doing, and fortunately, I like staying busy — so although it doesn't come without its sacrifices, having both my job and my cricket gives me fulfilment in my life right now. I feel like I'm in a really good place, and very grateful to be able to do all the things I love!"



KATE EBRAHIM PAYING IT FORWARD

"I've always loved my rugby. I started playing when I was a little tacker in Taranaki, barefoot as a six-year-old with boys. I played for New Plymouth Old Boys' until I went to New Plymouth Girls' High and played for school. In 2013 I represented Taranaki in the Farah Palmer Cup [FPC] and was also named vice-captain.

"I was very passionate about all my sports, and so passionate about Taranaki that when I went to Massey Uni to do my sports science degree, I turned down an invitation to play for Manawatū and would instead commute all the way back to New Plymouth every week for Taranaki training!

"Later on I'd get to play FPC for Canterbury, and that is the most special experience I've had in team sport. They had Black Ferns great and fellow Naki local, Kendra Cocksedge in the No.9 jersey and were looking for someone to back up that role when she was away.

"Kenj and I follow each other around. She was at New Plymouth Girls' High with me,

Continued next page...

FULL THROTTLE AHEAD FOR MCLACHLAN AND EBRAHIM

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

When the sound of leather on willow fades out at summer's end, things don't go quiet for Otago Spark Kate Ebrahim and Wellington Firebird Callum McLachlan. Referees' whistles provide the winter soundtrack as they each morph into fulltime winter work mode. With both players making a meaningful difference to their wider sporting communities and we uncover some of the ins and outs of a sports nut's dream work/life balance!

Ebrahim is known as a seasoned allrounders in domestic cricket, but she's also forged an extensive domestic rugby record too. She was a Farah Palmer Cup winner with Canterbury rugby, and before that a Taranaki rep not only in rugby and cricket, but also hockey! Last year in Dunedin, she swapped playing footy for off-field mentoring when invited to become Culture and Leadership Manager for Otago Spirit, the Otago women's rugby team.

Fresh off his maiden Plunket Shield century in the last game of 2022/23, 24-year-old keeper-batter McLachlan swiftly changes into footy (of the round-ball variety) as he gets stuck into his regular year-round job as Capital Football Competitions Manager.

A CHAT WITH CALLUM MCLACHLAN

"When my cricket started getting more serious a couple of years ago, I was actively looking for a job to take my mind away from cricket-cricket-cricket. I've always been a sporty person and, with Capital Football being predominantly a winter sport, it was a perfect fit. I work about 20 hours a week for them over summer, then it's full steam in winter.

"About 15 of us work at Capital Football and the culture here means I just love coming to work. [Former Wellington, Auckland and Blackcaps ODI cricketer] Richard Reid is my boss and obviously understands what I am looking to do in summer. He takes an interest in how my cricket's going which is nice.

"The more time in an environment, the more you're comfortable and that's certainly been true in my cricket as well as my work. Wicket-keeping was my strongest asset through the age groups and my batting would let me down, but I always thought I was a batsman. I've tried to keep a growth mindset and learn from every experience, so it feels like that's starting to pay off now. I felt I made

good strides in that space this year. I had a pretty rough start to my first-class career, three ducks in a row! To be able to bounce back in the last game this season and score a maiden hundred was great for my confidence.

"I played rugby at school and never watched a lot of football then, but getting deep into the community space and giving back through football is something I have really loved. Getting down to the grounds on festival weekends and seeing all the kids and parents enjoying it makes all the busy Friday evenings and long nights worth it. Football's thriving here. This year we've got seven extra Junior teams, so it's clearly a sport that people want to be part of, which is awesome to see.

"We cover a lot of ground, literally. We manage quite a big area, all the way across to Wairarapa and up to Levin, so Friday afternoons and nights are particularly busy because we'll get ground closures or restrictions from the various councils that means moving all our scheduled games! On a festival weekend, I can schedule anything from 600 to 1000 games for that weekend.

"I was always interested in a career in sport. I started a Sport and Exercise and PE teaching degree in 2019, but it's stalled in the last couple of years as I've got busier. It's something I would like to finish off down the track. I was studying part-time and extramurally through Massey while I was also trying to push my envelope with cricket. I've got a five-year-old's attention span — a lot of my teammates will attest to that! — so it was tough at times, online. But Massey are great, they set it up to work for people exactly like me who need a lot of flexibility to study.

"Getting my first Firebirds contract in 2021 was an interesting one — I didn't see it coming. It felt like a mix of relief, reward, and a reset. Starting on a new ladder.

"It was awesome to see the pleasure it gave my family, after their sacrifices for me. We're from Lower Hutt, and I moved up to St Pat's Silverstream for college which was the start of the journey for me. Moved from there to Upper Hutt United Cricket Club. Ollie Newton is there too and we're very passionate about the club. The club did huge amounts for me and I wouldn't be where I am without them. I still sit on their committee once a month and captain the club side when I'm available.

"Upper Hutt isn't as big as others around Wellington, but we're big on

making an impact on the community we sit within. We've run a massive community programme which I was a part of for a number of years, sessions in schools and winter programmes, and I still get a real buzz when we're playing at the Basin and there's a lot of the Junior club down there watching the Firebirds. It motivates me to play."





KATE EBRAHIM



a few years ahead. We'd both played cricket and rugby and we both played for the Hinds, playing the same position in rugby as well — that was what probably influenced me in pursuing my cricket.

"With Canterbury rugby, we won the championship but what I loved most was the amazing team culture where every single player felt valued and respected. The coaches and leadership group had the changing rooms sorted and that's where the championship was won. Everyone loved the team, and we would play the full 80 minutes for each other.

"When the White Ferns started to tour more over the winters, it took me out of rugby until Dion [Ebrahim – himself having played cricket for Zimbabwe] and I moved to Dunedin and I was approached by Otago Spirit's Head Coach to play for them. We met up for a beer, and I sat on it for about a month — but I felt, with my ambitions still in cricket, it wasn't the time for me to go back out on the rugby field at Farah Palmer Cup level.

"Then, they asked would I be interested in joining the management group? That was more manageable for me timewise, with cricket and being a mother to our little girl, Sophia. I wasn't required to attend their night trainings, gyms or morning sessions. I'm now in my second season with them in a player mentoring and cultural leadership role. I'm a sounding board for both players and management, using the skillset and experiences from my own sporting career. I'm really enjoying the opportunity to pass on what I know.

"I find the hardest thing can be explaining to 19-year-olds that while success can happen young, you need to learn how to sustain success over your career — and that won't happen overnight. You've got to learn how to get that consistency,

what you need to do, and that learning process in high performance sport is long and complex. But once you know what it takes, you have the physical and mental resilience to cash in. That's what motivates me now in my cricket. I put the hard yakka in for years, and I think the best part of your game comes when you're mature, around the ages of 28 to 34. I'm still ambitious — I'm still learning, too — and I don't want to miss out on these years.

"Rugby and cricket environments are very different. The sports themselves have little in common. The team dynamics differ considerably because in rugby you're with the team for such a short, focused period of time — then an hour after a game, you've dispersed. And, every single player in the team has to be 'on' the whole time. Whereas cricketers, we're immersed and engaged from 8am to 5pm or longer. So rugby is more action-stations, and also, more compartmentalised in your life.

"The backroom work ethic at this level never changes and I've got huge respect for our Spirit ladies who are in the gym at 6am and playing at 6pm. I get what that's like, having played a lot of my own HP sport with little financial help. Part of my rugby role is to understand what support each player needs in order to be able to perform at her best. We have a lot of players at university and the odd one in Year 13 at school, and players from Balclutha who have to travel up to Dunedin to train. There's pastoral care around helping manage their balance and training load, and being the voice for them to the head coach in that area. If a lady is feeling extremely under the pump, that's not conducive to training or playing at her best.

"In the past, what hurt Otago Spirit was that gun players tended to move on

to bigger franchises like Canterbury, Auckland, Waikato because they saw that as the pathway to the Black Ferns. Being a Uni town, players move away again after Uni, too, so there is a constant cycle of needing to rebuild. But last year was outstanding for the team. We got tipped up in the national final by Hawke's Bay, but what our group had achieved — from where they had started — was huge. Now, players from other areas want to play for us, and we have retained virtually our whole squad.

"I took Sophia (3) to the Chiefs the other night in Dunedin. Hopefully we can get a rugby ball in her hands! After Massey, I did my teaching degree at Victoria and I'm now Director of Sport as well as teaching in the classroom at Balmacewan Intermediate. It's awesome to be providing opportunities for 11-13-year-old girls (and boys) with cricket, football, rugby programmes — you name it.

"Sport's given me and Dion some great opportunities. Coaching is something I do have an interest in — but I don't want to be fast-tracked on that path. I think it's beneficial to learn more about who you are as a coach, first: your own art and craft. I've been volunteering my spare time to St Hilda's Collegiate in cricket. They approached me to help their First XI when they were going through a lull and had just missed out on nationals. Twelve months later they are undefeated, off to nationals in December, and we've just taken the first and second XIs on a Willows trip which was huge. So that's been a pleasure.

"I just go about it in my own fashion, like the rugby role, tailoring my own experiences to different levels, to help the players see what it takes."



HOOKED ON CRICKET

“ OUR STUDENTS HAD THE MOST FANTASTIC TIME AND REALLY LOVED PLAYING CRICKET. THE DAY WAS RUN EXCEEDINGLY WELL AND THE DIFFERENT LEVEL OF ALL OUR PLAYERS WAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION SO THAT THEY ALL GOT THE MOST OUT OF THE EXPERIENCE.

WHEN WE GOT BACK TO SCHOOL THE PRINCIPAL ASKED ONE OF OUR GIRLS WHO STRUGGLES WITH SPEECH AND COMMUNICATING HOW THE CRICKET WAS AND SHE REPLIED — ‘IT WAS THE MOST FUN’ WITH THE BIGGEST SMILE ON HER FACE. ”

Hooked-on-Cricket was created by our members to give New Zealand tamariki from any walk of life a chance to express themselves through cricket and a chance to interact with current professional cricketers from their local teams. The Hooked-on-Cricket programme has been in place since 2005 and continues the legacy of current players contributing to the diverse future of the game, while remaining one of the most important activities for the NZCPA and our members.

After the last couple of years of disruption within schools and congestion in the playing programme it was truly rewarding to experience the enthusiasm and joy the kids had through each of the six tournaments during Term one this year.

Our domestic players play a key role in the delivery of Hooked on Cricket and the way they promoted the game across each of the eight teams at each tournament was great to see. Player time is valuable during a busy playing programme, but to be able to pass on a few cricketing tips and to promote cricket and all its positive aspects made the day for the kids in attendance.

While we love seeing tamariki displaying their amazing cricket skills and hope it may spark a longer-term interest in the sport, that is not what the day is about - its primary objective is to showcase the amazing sporting talent and skills that kids throughout New Zealand have.

Hooked-on-Cricket is made possible by the very generous support of the Queen Street Cricket Club and North and South Trust, as well as the amazing support and contribution from our domestic members.



“ I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICULARLY THANK OUR 2 COACHES WHO WERE ENTHUSIASTIC, SUPPORTIVE AND GENEROUS TO OUR TEAMS. THEY HAD THE PERFECT BALANCE OF FUN, SKILLS TEACHING AND CHEERLEADING. ”





DE BOORDER SETS SAIL ON A NEW CAREER

BY MARGOT BUTCHER

WHAT DO PROFESSIONAL CRICKET AND THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE HAVE IN COMMON? A LOT MORE THAN YOU'D THINK, SAYS THE PERSON BEST PLACED TO ADVISE YOU.

Derek de Boorder won't need an introduction to most of our members after a solid Domestic career that spanned 103 first-class, 101 List A and 99 T20 games, chiefly with the Otago Volts, after early doors with Auckland. But after having upped sticks to Wellington in 2018 to take up a managerial role with ANZ, you might be surprised to find out what he's doing five years on.

As a Massey finance graduate, de Boorder had worked part-time for the bank in Dunedin during most of his cricket career so his initial post-Volts segue from customer services into a full-time job in the capital as a commercial and agribusiness relationships manager seemed a perfectly natural and logical fit.

But by the end of that year, he realised he was really missing the tight teamwork of his old life — and things in the credit management world were just a little too static. His thoughts kept turning back to another career option he had seriously contemplated: joining the Navy.

His father-in-law always spoke positively about what it had done for him, having joined mid-career as an experienced manager. So with wife Natalie's support, de Boorder took the plunge: he took six months' leave without pay from ANZ to move up to Auckland (home of the Devonport Naval Base) and be a stay-at-home dad for their two preschool sons, Ethan and Harry, for six months while he went through the assessment and selection process.

By July 2019 he was straight into five months' intensive training on the base, in the Junior Officer intake. Camps, activities, fitness, exercises, being outdoors, learning set-piece military exercises and leadership, with a great bunch of people. Right back in his element.

"I found it really fun, it was like a big preseason!" says de Boorder. "I was also personally quite conscious of seeking out leadership opportunities, and the Navy really invests in growing your leadership capability at each step along the way."

"I guess as someone in my 30s — a little bit older than most of the group, I was well aware that my peers outside cricket and the Navy were all by now in management positions. So, I really enjoyed that I was put in positions to lead teams quite early on, and given a lot of responsibility where I was involved in strategic change."

His new life as a sub-lieutenant would also bring an ocean of variety. His core duty is as a logistics officer, but each project is typically completely different to the last.

One of his first assignments after graduation was in the Navy's strategic personnel planning cell, focusing on an engineer training reform project. He was also deployed aboard HMNZS Otago, then HMNZS Wellington — which included a three-week voyage to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to Tokelau and the Cook Islands. As an assistant supply officer, his job included making sure all the vital stores were on board and tracking the mission-critical items. He had another big, pandemic-related role on dry land, when the Government commissioned the NZDF to provide personnel to support the Managed Isolation and Quarantine operations.

"I worked for that task unit, running logistics over the last couple of months of lockdown and looking after personnel for 18 MIQ hotels. We had around 400 NZDF people in Auckland at the time, and my responsibility was getting them to and from Auckland on a six-week rotation, flying them in from around the country, housing them, getting them to their place of work each day."

De Boorder found the disciplines and tempo of his erstwhile professional

I WAS SEEKING OUT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE NAVY REALLY INVESTS IN GROWING YOUR LEADERSHIP CAPABILITY AT EACH STEP ALONG THE WAY.

— DEREK DE BOORDER

cricket career had prepared him well mentally for his new lifestyle.

"There are some high tempo periods, for instance your time on ship, or when you're deployed on a specific project. You're busy, fully focused and need to put in extra effort. But like cricket, there's a flipside of downtime at other points to recover. That ebb and flow was very familiar for me, and I was also finding the Navy provided quite similar things to the things I had most enjoyed about cricket."

The big difference was that structured approach to leadership training.

"The Navy has a leadership framework right from the gate through to the top of the organisation. Each time you get a promotion, you go through a new leadership training module for that level, in order to give you the best chance of succeeding: orientate, build and advance. They don't expect you to know everything before you gain the experience, and they don't expect you to work it all out for yourself, either. There's the acknowledgement that you are learning at each step, so they provide the support and safety net to learn without drowning."

As a former captain, it's made him ponder whether active players might benefit from formal opportunities for leadership training, too. "I'd certainly encourage younger players to explore those options. Joining the reserves could be one way to access those opportunities, and provide some work-life/cricket-life balance as well."

After having journeyed off to Wellington and then Auckland, the de Boorders are now back in sunny Dunedin, after Natalie got an appealing job offer. "I had always said to Natalie that after cricket I would support any move she would like to make — because she made a lot of sacrifices for me and my cricket career."

The broad scope of the NZDF enables de Boorder to continue to work from Dunedin, out of its recruitment office. Part of his current job is specialist recruiting: flying around the country to university towns and careers expos with a view to recruiting engineers, doctors, lawyers, dentists, chaplains —

anyone with a professional qualification who might find a good fit with the NZDF, just as he was. "It's easy for me to relate my own career-change story to them."

Cricket, that lifelong love affair, hasn't entirely disappeared from view. The NZDF has its own longstanding culture of service teams of course, and he's twice been called up for the Navy's cricket team — only for Cyclone Gabrielle to get in the way of an actual debut. That tournament is postponed until later this year.

He also got stuck in assisting at North Shore Cricket Club while in Auckland, and now at North East Valley in Dunedin, to give back as a volunteer — particularly, passing on his knowledge to young wicketkeepers. Specialist keeping coaches always having been few and far between at club level. "That's been really rewarding. It's the kind of input I would have really loved as a young keeper myself."

De Boorder was marooned on 99 first-class caps for Otago, one milestone left hanging — but there are zero regrets. He can take solace that his Otago record of eight first-class catches in an innings will take some beating (sorry Max Chu). It was simply the right time to

make tracks, and his door is open if any current players want to hear more about what's turned out to be a stimulating new career and chapter of life.

"A lot of the things you deal with in defence are relatable to cricket. Even in my current job selecting people to join the NZDF, the same principles applied to selecting a cricket team, and thinking about how people interact with a team and achieve a goal. It's not a new thing, either — that correlation between team sport and the Navy."

"Buck Shelford was in the Navy. We have other people within the defence forces who are professional sportspeople, women rugby players, cricketers. Each service has their own cricket, rugby, netball, volleyball team and so on so you also get to travel internationally through those to play as part of your job. That's a pretty cool fringe benefit!"

It does take some courage to start thinking seriously about life after cricket, de Boorder adds.

"I'd definitely encourage players to start exploring those post-cricket options sooner, rather than later. It means you have a plan. And if you have plans in place, it just means you're in a better position to act when the day comes."



TRUST HELPS FLOOD AND CYCLONE GABRIELLE VICTIMS



The NZCPA's past player Personal Development Manager, Paul Hobbs recently presented former White Fern, Carol Marett with a copy of "The Warm Sun on My Face". Her cherished copy of the book was lost in flood waters that ripped through her Auckland home in January of this year.

Her nephew Craig contacted the NZCPA to see if they could replace the book which chronicles the history of NZ women's cricket and features his beloved aunt who played for NZ between 1972 and 1982.

Thanks to the generosity of author, Trevor Auger, a fresh copy was obtained and the NZCPA gathered a number of White Fern signatures before giving it to Carol. 79 year old Carol has been living with her niece while repairs are continuing on her home of more than 20 years. She hopes to be back in her home in time for summer.

Not only was Carol displaced from her home this summer, a number of our wider cricketing family were affected by Cyclone Gabrielle in February this year. One of the hardest hit was former White Fern, Sarah Wynands (nee Burke).

Sarah played for the White Ferns between 2000 and 2009.

Sarah, her husband Josh and their three young sons Jack, Archer and Toby live in Puketapu in Hawkes Bay. They had a dream to develop their rural home and property but the fury of Gabrielle snatched that from them. Floodwaters ravaged their house and property, sweeping away possessions rendering their home uninhabitable. They were heartbroken and left with one big silty headache.

Paul and Dennis from the NZCPA visited Sarah at her home to witness first-hand the devastation. The Cricketers' Trust was able to donate new cricket equipment to Sarah and Josh's 3 boys who lost all their sporting gear in the cyclone.

You can see a video of the visit on the NZCPA website or on this vimeo link:

www.vimeo.com/816734370

Sarah also participated in a video around the Cyclone Relief cricket match between the Black

Caps and Sri Lanka in March that raised more than a \$1million.

Sarah and her family have found rental accommodation in nearby Taradale while they contemplate the future of the Puketapu property along with their insurance company. The boys are back at school and some normality has returned. But the hard slog is far from over. Weekends are devoted to the ongoing task of clearing silt from their land and re-imagining their dream - rebuilding.

How, where and when remains unknown.



PAST PLAYERS REUNITE IN HAMILTON

The Seddon Cricket Club Alumni Weekend held on April 1st and 2nd was a resounding success. It saw nearly 50 (mostly ND) alumni from all over the country and abroad come together with past players, friends, and family to reconnect and reminisce over old times. The weekend was organised by Seddon Cricket Club, in partnership with Northern Districts Past Players, and was supported by the New Zealand Cricket Players Association (NZCPA), creating a new bunch of memories that will last a lifetime.

The festivities began on Saturday with a round of golf at the beautiful Tieke Golf Estate, with all those golfers having a lot of fun, despite the occasional downpour. This was followed by a mix and mingle event at the Super Rugby match between the Blues and the Chiefs at FMG Stadium in Hamilton. The alumni were generously hosted by Seddon CC which provided a great atmosphere to reunite and take in some of the rugby.

The following day, the alumni took to the field for a cricket match on the hallowed turf of Seddon Park. The match provided a spectacle for those who were still willing, keen and able to play. Officially, it was the ND past

players XI captained by Joey Yovich who took on the NZCPA XI, (which was made up of several ND past players as well) captained by Anton Devcich.

The match was played in great spirits and was summed up perfectly by former ND Spinner Matt Hart who said, "we might not move like we once could, we might not see the ball like we once could, and we might not bowl like we used to, but it's just so cool being out here and having that connection with the lads once again." So it was only fitting that the game ended with shared bragging rights - the last ball being dispatched for six by Mark Orchard to tie the scores up.

Organisations such as The Seddon Cricket Club along with the NZCPA are committed to supporting cricketers for life, not just during their playing careers. NZCPA's Glen Sulzberger believes the weekend provided a perfect platform to highlight this commitment. "Engaging with past players is difficult, everyone has busy lives, and they get on with other things. Having an organisation that is really passionate about reconnecting with their past players is in the core and the ethos of the NZCPA. It's great to be able to align and support an event like

this and we hope it may continue for many years to come."

Along with Kent Currie the main driver behind putting the weekend together was former ND stalwart Joey Yovich (who incidental looks like he could still get out there and compete at the elite level). A modest Yovich credits those players who came from all over the country and abroad for the events' success. "As much as you say these people or Seddon were the driving force behind the event, it takes the players to make the effort to be here. As you can see a lot of guys have really made an effort to be here, and you can't forget about that. It re-enforces the importance of putting on events like this, and it's just great to see so many people reconnecting and catching up," said Yovich.

The success of the event is a testament to the strong bonds that have been formed within the cricketing community, and the importance of maintaining these bonds even after players have retired from the game. Past Players can look forward to future events and initiatives, and the opportunity to continue building on the great network we have within our game.





TODD ASTLE |

PULLING STUMPS

AS IT OFTEN THE CASE THE END OF ANY CRICKET SEASON IS MARKED WITH SOME MIXED EMOTION AS WE BID FAREWELL TO THOSE PLAYERS WHO ARE RETIRING FROM THE GAME.

Long time Hearts servants Holly Huddleston and Katie Perkins were amongst those who have announced their retirement from professional cricket. Joining them is one the Aces favourite sons and true characters of our game Will Somerville, whilst Josh Finnie from Otago has hung up his boots.

We also note two other Canterbury legends of the the modern era, with Amy Satterthwaite and Todd Astle staggering their domestic retirement with a memorable summer and closing of their careers in Canterbury's Red and Black.

Astle stepped away from red ball cricket in 2020, his final hurrah the New Year's test against Australia in Sydney, a time he recalls fondly. "I remember just before that test, thinking, 'Yep, this is going to be my last shot and I've got a chance to have a red-hot crack at the Australians.' It was always a boyhood dream to be playing Australia in Australia. My idols that I had grown up watching like the late Shane Warne and Ricky Ponting were commentating the match. Having the chance to showcase what I could do was really, really special."

The 36-year-old finished his career having played all three formats for the Blackcaps, he played five Tests for New Zealand between 2012 and 2020 relishing each of them. His best test figures 3-39 came against England at Eden Park, and the leg spinner made nine ODI appearances and five T20 appearances from 2016 to 2021.

However, it's his domestic career for Canterbury that was his most prolific. The stalwart played 310 games for Canterbury across all formats, for a combined total of 6,619 runs and 510 wickets for the red and black. In addition to this he is the first Canterbury player to have taken 300 first-class wickets, finishing with 334 victims, surpassing spinner Mark Priest (290) and the majestic Sir Richard Hadlee (285).

For Astle the timing was right. "To go again would be such a huge commitment, especially on my family with a seven and a four-year-old, my wife having been with me from the start of the whole professional journey," said Astle. "This year, again, we made it to a final and for me, all the stars aligned. We got a home final, having all my friends and family watching on was incredibly special. Sure, we didn't win it, but for me, it was a moment of then going, yep, I can sign off head held high, and on my own terms."

Astle is now focusing on his company Innerspin, which he founded in 2016. Innerspin specialises in mentoring, positive psychology, and mental skills training for athletes, and teams. Astle has always been interested in helping others and giving back, and his company allows him to do just that. "I quite like that I get called the "Todd-father" as a bit of a nickname," Astle said. "And you know, Will Somerville gets called dad - I think that's the cool thing with your senior players - they are the ones that want to be the guardians and instil that into the next ones coming through, you take on that caring empathy and wanting to help others and give back."

Astle is grateful for the support he received from the NZCPA throughout his career. He credits the Professional Development Managers (PDMs) Leslie Elvidge and Sanj Siva for helping him with his own development.

"Leslie and Sanj were amazing, they often say I'm a bit of a boy scout for the program. And I guess I am because

FOR ME, ALL THE STARS ALIGNED. WE GOT A HOME FINAL, HAVING ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY WATCHING ON WAS INCREDIBLY SPECIAL.

TODD ASTLE



WILL SOMERVILLE |

I always wanted to engage in it and learn more about who I was and where I wanted to go. And yeah, that bit of trial and error around some of the things that we discussed. I've always been fortunate to have such amazing PDs to work with."

From the Todd-father we turn our attention to Dad a.k.a Will Somerville who received his nickname at the Aces as (at the time) he was the only player in the team with children. Not only do Somerville and Astle share a role as father figures and spin bowlers at their respective teams, but Dad's first international cap in 2018 at the tender age of 34 co-incidentally came because of Astle being injured. It was a match against Pakistan played in the United Arab Emirates, and Somerville excelled with match figures of 7/127 in a 123-run win to seal the Series.

Born in Wellington and heading to Australia when he was nine years old, Somerville returned to New Zealand to study at the University of Otago. He played a limited amount of Plunket Shield matches for Otago before returning to Australia to work as a chartered accountant. He reignited his first-class cricket career six years later making his NSW first-class debut in the Sheffield Shield in October 2014, and his white-ball debuts in both formats across the ditch, playing just a solitary List A one day match for NSW, and seven T20s for the Sydney Sixers. With such an irregular career path, it was impossible for anyone to predict what

I'VE ACHIEVED MORE THAN WHAT I THOUGHT I COULD ACHIEVE AFTER BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL CRICKETER AT 30-YEARS OLD. I'VE PLAYED NINE SEASONS PROFESSIONALLY AND LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

WILL SOMERVILLE

would happen next when he returned to New Zealand and joined forces with the Auckland Aces for the 2018/19 season. Despite only participating in a couple of Plunket Shield matches for the Aces, he was quickly called up to the Blackcaps Series in Pakistan.

Overall, Somerville has played 51 first-class games for Auckland, his 156 first-class wickets have come at an average of 29.57. In five seasons for Auckland, he has taken 86 wickets at an average of 27.24. In List-A cricket, he's grabbed 39 wickets at 35.1, while his T20 returns of 40 wickets at 27.8 are coupled with an economy rate of eight.

"I've achieved more than what I thought I could achieve after becoming a professional cricketer at 30-years old. I've played nine seasons professionally and loved every minute of it," Somerville said. "I'd like to thank Auckland Cricket for the opportunity to represent the Aces



AMY SATTERTHWAITE |

over the last five years, my wife Ellie and my parents for their support during my cricketing career."

Auckland head coach Doug Watson praised Somerville's contribution to the team.

"Will is an all-round wonderful human being and is certainly the 'Dad' of the changing room. His calmness and humility as well as his skilful bowling will be greatly missed by the team."

Somerville was excited to move into a new venture upon retirement. "I've got a career to move into as a financial advisor for Jarden. I've been working on that for the last three years, so I'm really excited about that."

White Ferns legend Amy Satterthwaite celebrated her sixth and final Super Smash title after the Canterbury Magicians extinguished the Wellington Blaze at her home ground, Hagley Oval with a record 105th Magicians T20 cap to boot. Not only did Satterthwaite enjoy a fairytale finish to her domestic T20 career, the veteran of more than 300 List A matches scored an unbeaten century in the last over of her last one-day innings at her home ground. Renamed Satterthwaite Oval for the weekend in her honour, the left-hand legend went clear of Frankie McKay as her team's all-time top run-scorer (5,147 runs) and, Satterthwaite collected her 10,000th List A run in the process.

Continued next page...

HOLLY HUDDLESTON |

| KATIE PERKINS



The Auckland Hearts farewelled retiring legends and White Ferns Katie Perkins and Holly Huddleston at the end of this summer. Perkins was the Hearts most capped player in history finishing with 131 one-day caps and Huddleston wasn't far behind, with 108.

Incredibly quick in the field and between the wickets, Perkins retires as the Auckland Hearts' second highest all-time run-scorer (5,557) as well as playing 73 One-Day Internationals for the Whites Ferns, and 55 T20 Internationals.

Allrounder Huddleston retires as one of the team's top one-day

wicket-takers with 122, equal in second spot with Paula Gruber. Only Natalie Scripps (158) took more for the Hearts in one-day cricket. In the T20 format, Huddleston retires as the Hearts' top all-time wicket-taker with 73 victims.

Huddleston represented the White Ferns from 2013-2021, playing 36 ODIs and 16 T20is, with three ODI five-wicket bags in her international career and a best of 5/25 against South Africa in 2016/17.

Former New Zealand Under 19 captain and Otago Volts allrounder Josh Finnie announced his retirement from representative Domestic cricket at the end of the season.

The agile 27-year-old right-hander ends his career with 18 first-class Plunket Shield caps, 49 Ford Trophy and 65 Super Smash appearances for the Otago Volts, encapsulated in an eight-season career.

Off the field, Finnie is a talented videographer, having made a name for himself with his drone photography of landscapes and seascapes which he sells professionally.

Finnie said he would always be grateful for his experience in cricket with the Otago Volts. "I have had a fantastic time, and been very lucky to pursue my love of cricket to the professional level. I leave satisfied that I gave it my all. I'll retain wonderful memories of my time in cricket, and of the many coaches and players that I have had the pleasure of playing with over these last eight seasons."

Finnie is joining his partner Hannah in their plans to now travel and experience life outside of New Zealand.

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



| JOSH FINNIE

I HAVE HAD A FANTASTIC TIME, AND BEEN VERY LUCKY TO PURSUE MY LOVE OF CRICKET TO THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL. I LEAVE SATISFIED THAT I GAVE IT MY ALL.

JOSH FINNIE



PLAYERS' CONFERENCE 2023

The 2023 Players' Conference is an essential tool for the NZCPA as it provides players with the opportunity to review, discuss and debate matters within the cricketing landscape, as well as developing greater depth of understanding of the wider cricket environment which encourages a collective mindset for those matters important to players.

Held April 19 and 20 in Auckland, the two-day workshop style of this year's conference enabled the 25 attending players to interact and discuss topics in detail, before presenting back to the group for further discussion. Our entire NZCPA staff were on hand to facilitate and lead this process which ensured that all players were able to contribute fully over the course of the two days.

Players experience a range of differing cricketing environments and their contribution to the future of the game is vitally important. The level of engagement has been excellent throughout the summer and the Player's

Conference was a continuation of this solidarity across our membership.

THE MAJOR FOCUS OF THE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR

- » Review and discuss annual Player survey results
- » Master Agreement implementation and review
- » Review of domestic competitions and NZC's high performance environments
- » Update and identify key priorities for the Personal Development Programme
- » Review of promotional activity and the Cricketers Property Trust
- » Future needs for NZCPA Services

One of the major topics of discussion was high performance environments

and domestic competitions and what areas require continued refinement to enhance the development of players for international cricket. Another key area of discussion centred around communication, clarity and feedback as well as competition structure and match management.

The NZCPA service offering and how we best communicate with members was discussed to ensure we continue to meet the changing needs of our members, both in the short and medium term. We also updated our members on new elements in our PD programme - with expanded transiting player support and the new coaching development programme.

Bringing our members together in the same room was a tremendous success and provided them all with a greater understanding of the complete professional cricket environment in New Zealand.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CPA PLAYERS' AWARD

19 June - Christchurch

THE PLAYERS' CAP

TBC



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THE INSIDER WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS BY PAUL FORD

On Wednesday afternoons the dulcet tones of Jason Hoyte, educated thoughts of Dylan Cleaver, and some nonsense from me collide on The BYC Podcast. It is always encouraging to get correspondence from Kiwi cricket fans around the globe and recently that included this hawk-eyed piece of cricket nerdery from a guy called Matt: "Mark Chapman was signing autographs with his right hand, but obviously bowls and bats left-handed. Intriguingly he is a mirror image of Kane Williamson, and a bloke called Tendulkar - who both write left-handed and bat right. Quite some company to be in!"

Our correspondent reckoned the theory was that being ambidextrous was an advantage for a batter, all to do with balancing the eyes and similar reaction times in both brain halves or something like that.

I thought I'd dig into this ambidexterity a bit, and what a rich little vein of obscurity it proved to be. For starters if you bat and bowl with the same hand like Kane and Sachin and Mark, are you actually an ambidextrous cricketer? Not really: you're basically entry level if all you do with the other hand is sign autographs and play table tennis.

The next level up is where you bat right-handed but bowl left-handed. There is a veritable galaxy of cricketers with this penchant, including our very own Sir Richard Hadlee, Jimmy Neesham, Ben Stokes and Jacob Oram (bat left/bowl right) and then vice versa like Ashley Giles, Michael Clarke and Trent Boult (bat right/bowl left).

The late Phillip Hughes batted, bowled, and fielded left-handed until he

succumbed to a shoulder injury which saw him field and bowl with his right side, and current Australian selector George Bailey did the opposite.

But what about those players who are truly ambidextrous and bat both right-handed and left-handed? This precocious talent is sighted increasingly often as batters become accustomed to taking on the risk to pierce orthodox fields with switch-hits.

Kevin Pietersen famously dabbled in double-handing as he brought some of his childhood BYC experience to the international stage: "If you were out for a golden duck you had to face six balls left-handed and, if you got out again, you were out for good. So I needed to become good at this."

The Aussies love a two-handed fairytale too. Michael Hussey is right-hand dominant but learned to bat left-handed to emulate his childhood idol, the 'Grit King' Allan Border, a decision Mr Cricket made watching the Boxing Day Test when he was about six.

And at the apex of ambidexterity are the most advanced cricketers in the universe - those freaks who can bowl right-handed and left-handed with aplomb. As Tim Wigmore put it: "Ambidextrous bowling is an extraordinary challenge. It is far more demanding than switch-hitting because it involves rewiring the entire body."

The most recent party trick along these lines that I have seen was Australian Jemma Barsby who bowled right-arm and then left-arm spin in the WBBL to Elyse Villani and Meg Lanning in the same over. She explained that her

dexterity was also born in the backyard as she got tired of "getting smashed" by her brother with her right arm.

Other exponents included Hashan Tillakaratne who bowled left and right-handed spin for Sri Lanka, Graham Gooch in meandering fixtures, and double-laser arm Ian 'Freak' Harvey. Keep an eye out for Tasmanian 21-year-old, Nivethan Radhakrishnan too - he bowls finger spin with both hands and has had a taste of first-class cricket and net bowling in the IPL.

But what of correspondent Matt's vague theory about the science behind any or all of this? Well at least one study found that batters can unearth a significant advantage if they bat with the "wrong" hand.

The academics found that using a reversed stance with the dominant hand at the top rather than the bottom of their batting grip provided a clear technical advantage. The top hand has the greatest dexterity and provides more control over guiding the willow into the ball's path.

The research also found that players have a preference to rely more on the visual input from one eye over the other. Using the reversed stance increases the likelihood that the dominant eye is the 'front' eye when batting, and this means an improved view of the ball.

I'd tell you all about the bowling science too, but I couldn't find anything official. But there was confirmation everywhere I looked that it was incredibly difficult - just like most of cricket for normal people.

Paul Ford is one-third of The BYC Podcast and a co-founder of the Beige Brigade. He describes his cricket as ambisinistrous - the opposite of ambidextrous - and meaning 'no good with either hand'.



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