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Cricket Players Association

OUTRIGHT

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



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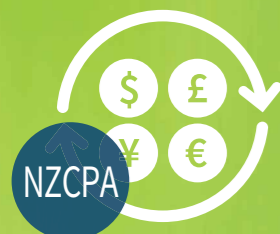
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OPENING UP

Welcome to the Summer edition of Outright, It's been a fantastic summer of cricket at both domestic and international level for cricketers and supporters alike.

There has been absorbing series for the Blackcaps against Australia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the home test series against Australia currently in progress. This has been matched by a quality domestic programme which continues to produce cricketers' ready for the international game and this year has included the added incentive of prize money for the winners of our three competitions.

We have also seen a competitive series for the White Ferns at home against Sri Lanka with the big Australian tour to come. It will also be great to watch the Blackcaps and White Ferns then head off in March to the ICC T20 World Cup in India, with both teams in with a chance of bringing the silverware home.

At the NZCPA, we have been delighted to launch the new NZCPA Education Fund and hope to create a sustainable fund that can support our members in furthering their education and developing careers outside the game.

It has been also been great to see Hooked on Cricket continuing its success and making real difference in introducing children from new communities to our game for the first time. We thank the Queen Street Cricket Club for their

continual support of this programme and the game itself. We now look forward to an additional Hooked on Cricket day in February where we have invited Te Kura Kaupapa Maori schools in Auckland to their first tournament and hope this may be the forerunner event to a programme which takes cricket to young children in these schools, who often don't get the chance to participate in cricket at any level.

On the event front, we look forward to the annual Players Golf Day – benefiting the Cricketers Hardship Trust. We also look forward to the announcement of the winner of The Players Cap for 2016 and the inaugural winner of the Players' Player of the Year for the White Ferns.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Outright and importantly look forward to final phase of a great summer of cricket and the ICC World Twenty 20 tournament, and look forward to catching up with our past playing members in Queenstown for the 2016 Masters Weekend in April.

Best Wishes,
Heath Mills



Adelaide.

Cover Photo

Ross Taylor, 290 at WACA, highest Test score in Australia by an opposition player. Courtesy of Photosport

PREMIUM PARTNERS



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Players better together

Past Player Feature – David Blake *By Margot Butcher*

David Blake went cold turkey. Went from ‘David Blake who plays for CD’ to ‘David Blake the Mercedes Benz guy’.

And that doesn’t sound too bad at all, does it? But looking back, the man who played 19 Plunket Shield matches and 46 one-dayers until his 1999/2000 retirement reckons he should have put “a bit more thought” into preparing himself for the emotional transition into life after cricket.

Blake can these days be found in Auckland, where he is Executive General Manager for the New Zealand wing of Mercedes Benz. True story: he started in the distributor’s warehouse for them, sorting out spare parts.

He wasn’t a car nut. It was meant to be a part-time job while he was studying, having moved up from Hawke’s Bay after finishing up his cricket and embarking on a business degree at Auckland University — something he’d thought about back when he was at school. But then he started playing first-class cricket, and thoughts of anything else went on the backburner.

“I spent so much time cricketing, I never had time to get into anything else,” explains Blake.

“But I didn’t realise, until I finished, how important it was to market myself and prepare for life after cricket. In business today, times have changed. Old Jim won’t give you a job just because you’re a good bugger, and he’s known you for years and you played a bit of cricket. No one owes you anything in life. You need to come in with skills.”

Mercedes Benz liked Blake so much that they offered him a full time position — and he’s loved being there, leading a small, tight team, pretty much ever since. He had a brief sojourn for a couple of years when he went to work for the Automobile Association, before he returned to his present role leading the team.

It would be easy to write that off as landing on your feet. But it’s too easy to truncate such a transition when you look back through the telescope of time.

“I wouldn’t say I fell on my feet, because you work hard at it.

“I was concerned about it for a while. I’m not a salesman, I never thought I’d be in the car industry.

“But the interesting thing, something that I found quite early on, was that you soon learn that you can transfer the skills you learn in sport to business. I’d been in a

team environment so long that a business team environment felt familiar.”

So Blake went from picking nuts and bolts to working with the people who made the business hum — passionate car nuts, most of them, and he loves their passion and helping them to succeed.

“I feel fortunate. I’ve had the ability to go through and learn different parts of the organisation and business ever since, but the team — it all starts with people. In an organisation of this size — which locally has six staff and indirectly another 25 working with us — very quickly, people look to see if you’re a team player. I enjoy working with a close group of people.”

Cricket has not gone entirely on the backburner but, as we said, he did go cold turkey to begin with.

“For a long time, once I started working, studying, got married, had children, I did nothing in sport. Just stopped. And it was hard, because it’s who you are. The minute you stop, you’re not that person anymore.”

Now he’s a cricket dad. He’s got two boys, seven and 10, playing for AUCC. The youngest wants to be like Brendon

McCullum; the eldest Trent Boult. This season, he enjoyed taking his sons down to watch the Stags play the Aces at the Outer Oval in the Ford Trophy.

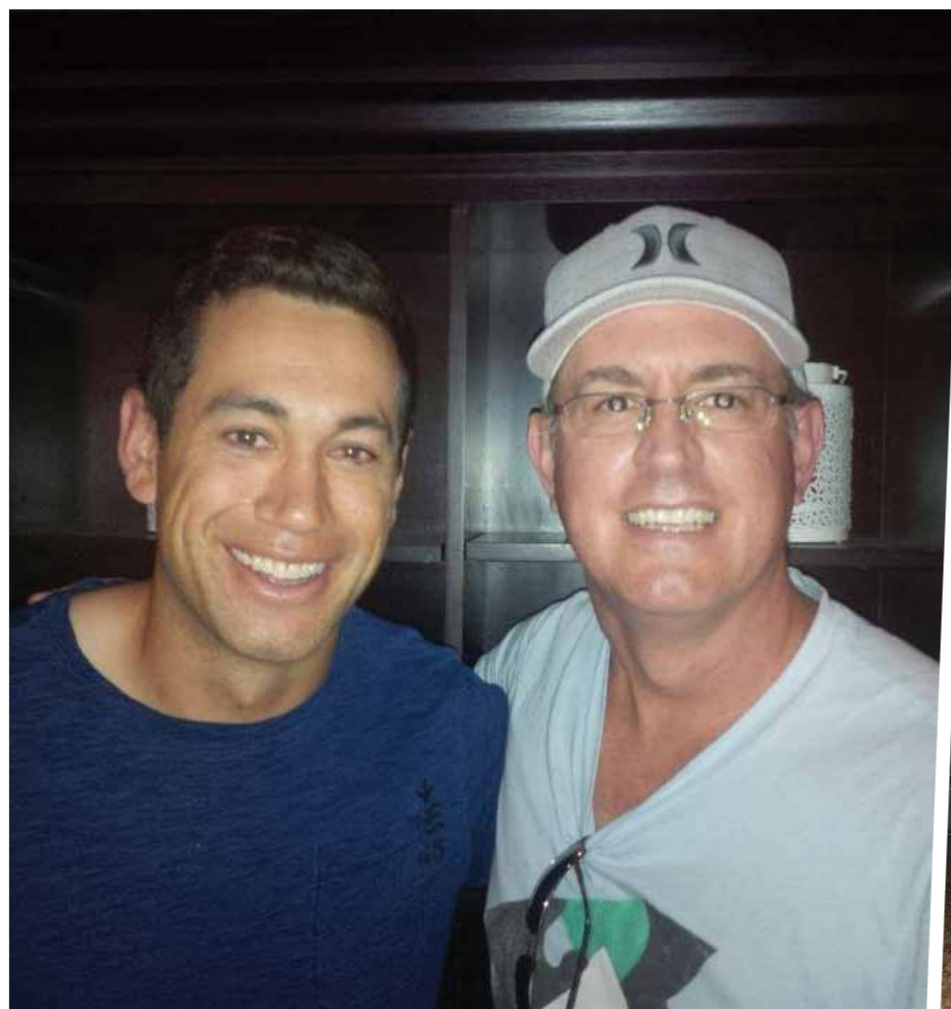
“It’s lit the flame in them. I’m coaching their teams and I still enjoy the game, it’s good fun. I love their energy — and the break revitalised me.”

Blake himself re-emerged from his neo-professional cocoon to play with old coppers at NZCPA’s annual Masters Tournament in Queenstown over the past few years. He did always maintain those friendships — CD boys are tight.

“A few of us went over together to the Cricket World Cup Final in Melbourne last year. Half a dozen of us see each other regularly, or keep in touch regularly. We always will.” ■

Bottom
Ross Taylor and David Blake in Adelaide.

Right
David Blake, GM Mercedes Benz NZ.



Bashing About In Aussie *By Suzie Bates*

The inaugural Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) has come to an end with the Sydney Thunder beating the Sydney Sixers in a final at the MCG, which featured our very own Sara McGlashan.

There were six White Ferns players who were part of this historic WBBL tournament. I joined the Perth Scorchers, Sophie Devine the Adelaide Strikers, Amy Satterthwaite the Hobart Hurricanes, Rachel Priest the Melbourne Renegades and Morna Nielsen the Melbourne Stars, and of course Sara with the Sydney Sixers.

It was a fantastic experience and opportunity to play alongside other internationals from England, West Indies, South Africa and Australia and there is no doubt that we will all return to our provincial teams and the White Ferns with a lot more knowledge and experience. National allegiances were put aside for a couple of months with everyone desperate to get their team into the finals and it was as truly rewarding feeling to be playing in tournament that featured so many of the world's leading players.

Having access to some of Australia's world class facilities and coaches during the Big Bash season made the experience all the more

worthwhile. It would be fair to say training alongside some of the up and coming Australian youngsters and international players, made trainings rather more competitive and often at an intensity that matched international training.

The standard of cricket and the depth of each side made for a very compelling final weekend of games with 7 out of the 8 teams still in with a shot at the final. Ultimately it was the two Sydney based teams that made it through and the Thunder who took out the inaugural WBBL title. While none of us kiwis were part of the team that won the trophy there is no doubt that the whole tournament had a massive effect on our cricket.

The coverage for the event was truly inspirational and ground breaking for women's cricket, with several games televised live in Australia and back home in New Zealand. The chance to play as part of the main BBL games, in the same stadiums, and in front of a growing number of fans was something that was both surprising, but at the same time really exciting. The viewing numbers and support received worldwide were more than anyone expected and showed that there is plenty of interest in women's cricket if it is available and accessible to the public.

Seeing young girls and boys coming along to the cricket for the day where they could watch both their favourite female and male players shows how far the women's game has come and

that the sky is the limit for the women's game globally. The BBL/WBBL model and the way they have included women into the sport is something that was really exciting to be part of and it certainly gave the whole experience a lift for all the players in the WBBL.

The ECB have recently announced that 2016 will feature a Women's Super League T20 competition. This will feature six teams made up of England and International players and provide further playing opportunities for women cricketers. The growth and investment into the women's game is growing momentum worldwide and creates some really cool opportunities for players in the future.

It is a very exciting time for women's cricket. I am sure that I speak for all the players who were involved in the Women's Big Bash when I say that it was a very positive and enjoyable experience.

We are now all focused on representing the White Ferns at the ICC T20 World Cup in India with the added benefits of having played in a high pressure competition and having gained further knowledge of some of our greatest rivals on and off the field. ■



Suzie Bates
Melbourne Rebels



Sara McGlashan
Sydney Sixers

Photos Courtesy of Photosport

NZCPA Education Fund Launched

We plan to grow the Education Fund over time, which will ensure we can continue to build on the effectiveness and success of our Personal Development programme.



As the cricket season has progressed with many memorable moments on the field, the NZCPA has been busy establishing a new initiative off the field for its members.

We are pleased to be in a position to launch an education fund that will assist current and past members to start, continue, or complete, education and training courses that will better prepare them for a successful career beyond their playing days.

The NZCPA Education Fund has been successfully established due to \$30,000 of seed funding. Our focus is to ensure the long term viability of the fund and we will now be looking to grow the fund in the years ahead with the support of third parties and individual donors, who have similar goals in wanting to assist professional cricketers' to develop secondary careers through further education and training.

NZCPA Chairman Ross Verry said "we have long had the goal of providing more

support for our members in education and training and it's great to finally establish this fund to enable us to achieve this goal.

"We plan to grow the Education Fund over time, which will ensure we can continue to build on the effectiveness and success of our Personal Development programme.

"Off field personal development is an important focus for the NZCPA and we anticipate this new initiative will help our members to prepare for a successful career - in an industry that matches their interests and skills - once their playing days are over" said Verry.

National Personal Development Manager Sanj Silva will be responsible for implementing and managing the Education Fund and he will report to a newly established sub-committee of the NZCPA Board.

The individual support available to members via the NZCPA Education Fund will be given in the form of annual

scholarships to assist with fees and associated learning costs. The ultimate aim is to assist players toward a successful transition into a new career when their playing days end – in effect investing in a better future for players.

Sanj Silva stated "we are absolutely delighted to be in a position to launch this fund as it will have a direct impact on the career planning we complete alongside our members.

"The education fund will enhance the personal development work we currently do with members and will encourage players to invest in their own education or training, and thereby to develop their skills, knowledge and experience within certain industries.

"We expect to be in a position to invite scholarship applications to the fund this coming winter." ■

Across The Ditch

AAA & NZAF Conference in Adelaide

Australia and New Zealand's leading athlete representatives converged on the Adelaide Festival Centre in November to attend the annual Australian Athletes' Alliance (AAA) Conference.

This was a great opportunity for representatives from each of New Zealand's Player Associations (rugby, cricket, netball, football and hockey) to spend invaluable face to face time with our Australian counterparts. The chance to share ideas with representatives from the AAA (rugby, cricket, AFL, football, netball, basketball, NRL, and hockey) is always hugely advantageous and helps each organisation to ensure we are offering best practice services to our members, and continuing to push to enhance the environment for athletes.

From a cricketing perspective the interaction was invaluable and it reinforced the strong working relationship between our two organisations.

The full day conference was facilitated by AAA General Secretary Ian Prendergast, who during the conference was announced as the new CEO of the NRL Player Association (formally AFLPA,

General Manager of Player Relations). The conference covered a number of topics but had a key focus around the challenges of managing off-field issues and crisis situations in professional sport today, and the importance of reactive and proactive support for the people involved, particularly athletes.

The conference also looked in-depth at the importance of holistic athlete development and wellbeing support, the psychological toll of dealing with adversity, as well as the key role that Player Associations play in protecting the integrity of sport.

The day began with Andrew Fagan, CEO Adelaide Crows, who provided a detailed recount how of his club dealt with the unprecedented circumstances that they faced following the murder of their senior coach Phil Walsh. He spoke on everything from player and family welfare to their communications strategy.

On a similar note, Australian cricket coach, Darren Lehman, and CEO of the Australian Cricketers' Association, Alastair Clarkson spoke about the methodical processes they put in place to assist all players

through the passing of their teammate Phil Hughes.

AFLPA General Counsel, Brett Murphy, then provided an outline of the legal and player support procedures that have been in place for the past three years during the Essendon Football Club anti-doping saga.

To kick off the afternoon session, attendees took part in an interactive panel discussion with Rugby Union Players' Association CEO, Ross Xenos, NZ Cricket Players' Association CEO, Heath Mills, and Professional Footballers Association CEO, Adam Vivian. The trio provided their perspectives on how to best manage off-field issues while balancing the interests of sporting bodies and athletes.

The conference then moved into the psychological toll adversity can have on athletes. During this segment, attendees were treated to a refreshingly honest speech from Adelaide United Football Club player Bruce Djite about off-field player development being key to assisting athletes overcome adversity. Dr Kate Hall, Clinical Psychologist in the AFLPA Psychology Network, added to Bruce's points by discussing the medical

approach taken when athletes are in need of assistance.

To round out the day, AFLPA General Manager of Player Development, Brett Johnson and NZ Rugby Players' Association Player Services Manager, David Gibson opened the floor to all attendees and discussed the positive impact holistic athlete development and wellbeing support can have on performance.

AAA General Secretary Ian Prendergast says it's important for leading sports administrators and athlete representatives to come together and share knowledge and key learnings from experiences in their respective sporting codes.

"From the tragic loss of champions such as Phil Walsh and Phillip Hughes, to dealing with off-field conduct around alcohol and illicit drug use and anti-doping matters, the nature of crisis and issues management in sport has never been more complex," he said.

"It's crucial for all sporting codes to remain proactive in further developing the processes and systems around athlete wellbeing and development, as well as the integrity and good governance of sport."

The following day involved a collaborative meeting among the respective Players

Associations from New Zealand and Australia. This was a really effective and constructive day where each Player Association provided an update of key challenges faced by its members, and allowed for input, support and guidance from the others in the room.

The benefit of enhancing our already strong relationships across organisations is something that everyone agreed was vitally

important to the service we each provide to our members. We anticipate the New Zealand Athletes Federation will be able to reciprocate by hosting a similar event on our shores toward the end of 2016. ■

Top
Australian Cricket Coach Darren Lehman.

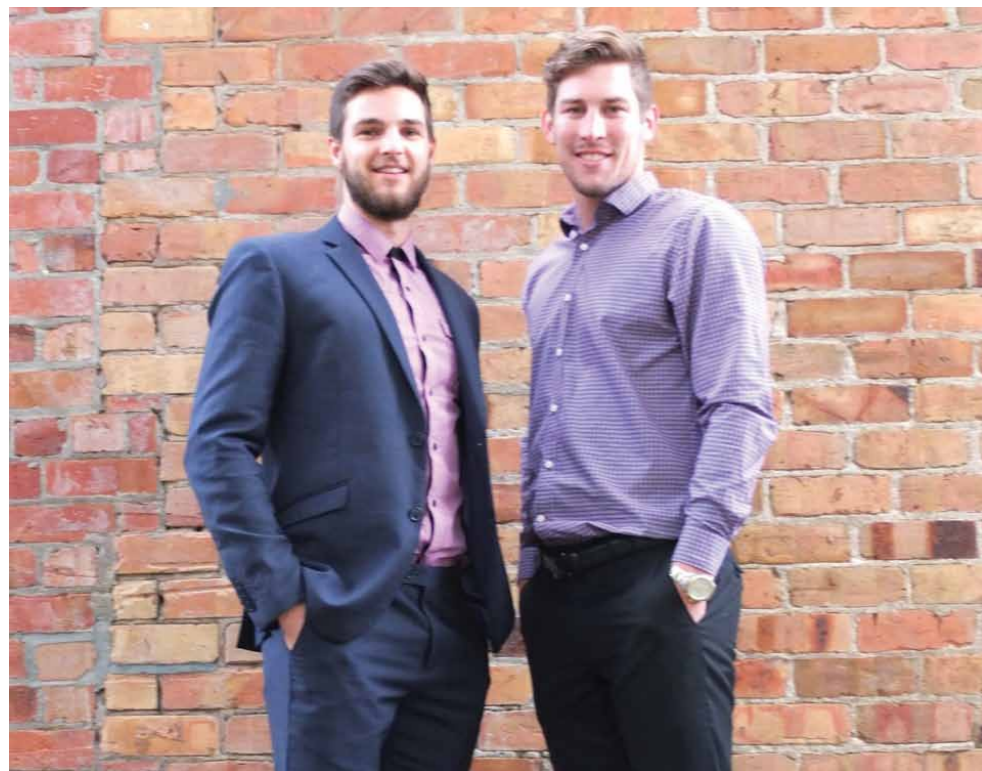
Bottom
Attendees of the AAA Conference.



It's crucial for all sporting codes to remain proactive in further developing the processes and systems around athlete wellbeing and development, as well as the integrity and good governance of sport.

Photos Courtesy of NZCPA

Waggle – Starting From Scratch By Ryan McCone



The following article is a first person insight from Ryan McCone, how he and George Worker set up their new technology start up business - Waggle - as an online marketplace.

I am writing this article after just having an MRI on my lower back to ascertain whether I have a season ending injury. It is times like this I realise how fickle and unpredictable a career as a professional cricketer can be. There are just so many variables that contribute to the changeable nature of our vocation.

The CPA have helped me to understand that having something else going on in my life outside of cricket is really important, and it's times like this that I am grateful for that advice. Understanding that the choices I make now as a player will directly affect my career after my playing days, has been crucial for my professional development. It has also had the added benefit of providing balance in my life and a healthy mental break from cricket, which can become all-encompassing at times.

In February 2015 George Worker and I established Waggle.

George's cricket career has taken off of late and his success on the park has seen him debut for the Blackcaps in both ODI and T20I formats during the recent tour to Zimbabwe and South Africa. George returned to the Central Stags at the beginning of last season after spending a large proportion of his playing career

with Canterbury. It was during his time in Christchurch that we both started thinking about what we wanted to do after cricket.

George had been working towards a property evaluation degree through Massey University, and I have completed an LLB (Hons) and BCom through the University of Canterbury. Both of us have a keen interest in business and after spending a winter working as an economist in Auckland – we decided the time was right to have a crack at something ourselves – that's when my attention turned to starting up Waggle.

The idea for Waggle was born when George and I were flatting together while he was playing for Canterbury. When it came time to move out of our flat in St Albans, we had a chat about how much easier it would be if mowing the lawns, tidying the garden, cleaning the flat and moving items could be outsourced. Completing the work was not the problem, but having the time to do it was!

Both of us saw an opportunity - to free up more time for New Zealanders - by outsourcing all sorts of jobs they needed to be done, whether that is at home or at the office.

From here the idea for www.waggle.co.nz was created as an online marketplace. The vision was for Waggle to become a place for New Zealanders to list any job they wanted done, to receive and compare quotes from skilled service

providers – with ease. We wanted to provide a simple platform for busy Kiwis to get jobs done, as well as to provide businesses and individuals a chance to earn supplementary income.

Having an idea is one thing, but implementing it to become something tangible is a whole different beast!

Our first step was to conduct some market research. The results showed that the business model had been successful overseas and also confirmed that there was not anything currently in the New Zealand market. The next step was deciding upon a name for the business, and then to create a business plan.

We settled on the name Waggle - we were now ready to take our online marketplace from concept to reality.

Thanks to a friend of ours who works for a prominent legal practice specialising in intellectual property and trademark protection, we were able to protect the Waggle brand.

One of the biggest obstacle to implementing our vision was finding a suitably skilled and enthusiastic web developer. In March 2015, I met with Ryan O'Hara Director at Voyage, a company that specialises in the creation of bespoke websites. A two day think tank session was planned in early May in the creative Ministry of Awesome, where Voyage is based. It was a real thrill coming up with ideas on how Waggle could look, and how we would present our innovative service to all Kiwis.

By September waggle.co.nz was complete. We were about to go live!

Since early September George and I set about refining our business model and were quickly in a position to start pushing out our business packages to market. Recently, we brought in fellow Canterbury cricketer Tim Johnston, as a key sales representative. Tim has a legendary reputation in sales that was built up during his years working at Noel Leeming. We are pleased to have an office to run to company, after securing access to the shared creative space that is the Ministry of Awesome, located in the Christchurch CBD.

With our business model sorted, the website build and a focus on great service in place, we are already thinking about the next phase of our business growth. With this in mind we felt confident enough to apply for the Vodafone Xone scholarship in Christchurch. These scholarships will see 10 startups given access to Vodafone's shared workspace,



technological and communication resources, and up to \$150,000 worth of funding. Our fingers are crossed that our application is successful.

Waggle is now in a position to scale and develop quickly, and 2016 will be an exciting year. We continue to concentrate on our growth strategies, of which investment and strategic business partnerships are avenues we are currently exploring.

Over winter George will spend the off-season playing cricket in England as he looks to secure his place in the Blackcaps. Conversely, I will once again be up in Auckland as we seek to expand Waggle into the Auckland market which will sit alongside our aim of growth throughout the rest of New Zealand.

We are both very hopeful yet quietly confident that Waggle is set to grow exponentially over the next 18 months

and as with any technology start up - the sky is the limit. The experiences and lessons learnt from starting and operating a business – in a volatile and fast moving sector - will leave us in superb shape and gives us the confidence to remain in business when our playing days are over.

We hope to be of service to you soon via NZ's premier online community – Waggle.co.nz ■

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Crossing Codes

with Jono Hickey By Margot Butcher



This time of year is the hardest, because all the other cricketers are talking about what countries they're going to for the off season, all the travelling they're going to do.

Jono Hickey knows what he's missing out on because in the 2011 winter, when he was just 20, he went to a club in Dublin. Pembroke. "It was awesome. I was still pretty young, but it was a great way to grow up. So I start to get real jealous now, when the boys are talking about where

they're going. I think, 'Argh, it would be so good to get back over there and go travelling! While we're stuck back here in the winter...'"

But as most of us know by now, Hickey has been putting his winters to good use — as the first first-class cricketer to play rugby for Auckland since Nat Uluiviti, who played once for Auckland in rugby in 1956, and cricket the season before.

Coming up to the tender age of 25, most of us also know Jono's the older brother

of Blues first five-eighths Simon Hickey. Jono's sorting path was all Simon's fault.

Jono recalls: "I played a season of club rugby once I got back from Ireland — my brother was going quite well and I'd been just watching, thinking that would be quite fun. I played a year of Under-21s at Grammar Carlton, but then the next year I thought it wasn't worth risking getting injured for cricket."

The 2010 New Zealand Under-19s cricketer had made good tracks with Northern Districts by then, overcoming a few injuries to make his Ford Trophy debut and almost immediately pulled out a string of important fifties or thereabouts, down the order when the side was under pressure. He was contracted to the Knights for the first time for 2013/14.

When he made his Plunket Shield debut at Seddon Park at the start of that season, never in his wildest dreams did he imagine he'd end playing first-class rugby for Auckland a couple of years later. But a few halfbacks went down at his club, and they asked if he could come sit on the bench for them.

"So I said yes — hoping I didn't get on the field. But I got on. And went OK."

Last winter was his first full season of Prem Rugby; the season before he played about half a season. He has had a knack of being on the bench at the right time. "Last year, one guy got injured at Auckland, that's how I got a run with them. I've been in the right place at the right time, but I still look back and think, 'How did that happen?!'"

The mantra has been that no one can do both to the highest level these days, that we won't see a Jeff Wilson again. But Hickey proved it's quite possible to enjoy playing both codes at a competitive level, and women's cricket is practically littered with dual sporting internationals. Rebecca Rolls has the distinction of going to World Cups in both cricket and football — albeit 15 years apart.

Yes, the seasons do run into each other — it takes concessions and blessings from both administrations. While Canterbury was playing Auckland in cricket on Eden Park Outer Oval at the start of this season,

Hickey was running round with the big boys in blue and white stripes on the number one ground, a last practice for the ITM Cup finals.

"It did feel a little bit strange. I went over and had a little look at the cricket. If I'm in the middle of rugby, I always think the idea of cricket sounds unbelievably hard, and vice versa. I was thinking jeepers, these boys look like they're bowling quick! Now I'm in the cricket season looking at sevens on TV thinking, 'Jeepers, they're big units!'"

ITM Cup kept him busy from August through October, and the club season starts much earlier than that "so I go streamlining from one to the next. As soon as cricket finishes, I'll be straight back into footy."

He's always been upfront with both sports. Knights coach James Pamment was pretty good at the other kind of footy himself — Pamment was on the books of Bradford City and Sheffield Wednesday in youth football. Doubtless he understood better than most what it meant to segue between summer and winter codes.

"JP was really good about it," says Hickey. "He didn't require me to hit thousands of balls. He said, 'We know you're fit. We're keen that whenever you finish, you're straight back into it' — he kept reassuring me that I would be all right."

"With rugby, they are the same. Before I signed with my contract with Auckland, I had to ask them whether they were all good with me playing cricket through to the start of April, and they had absolutely no issue."

Only problem is, batting stocks at the Knights have made it hard to get a game, even though he's a contracted player. He's been rolling out for the A's and Counties, and Last Man Stands on Thursday nights, for fun. The bowlers aren't quite so testing, and the pitches can be up and down.

"But I've honestly loved my cricket this season. I've already signed with Auckland Rugby for the next season, and I think it's taken pressure off me in terms of trying to make a living. I've stripped it right back to enjoyment and, because I had no preseason in cricket, I had no time to overthink it. And the simpler I keep things, the better I go."

Hickey thinks "loads more" players have the skill to play at ITM Cup and

domestic cricket level. Maybe it doesn't work at the very top level anymore. "The likes of your Dan Carters and Kieran Reads would be good cricketers, while the better cricketers give rugby away because they don't want to risk the injuries."

"But I don't think you have to be that 'awesome' to achieve it. I'm at the level where it's semi-professional, not completely full time."

He's just picked up a job with Grammar TEC as a part-time Rugby Development Officer. It fits in perfectly with his ITM contract, so now he'll be doing a bit of rugby coaching, too. And, he's off to play cricket for Counties at Cobham Oval the same week. Like any good halfback, he's organised.

"But I still pinch myself. And I'm just taking it season by season." ■



Photos Courtesy of Photosport

New MVP Formula

CricHQ have developed and launched a revolutionary Most Valuable Player (MVP) product that was launched to kick off 2016.

The new CricHQ MVP formula has been developed from analysis of statistics from the full history of international cricket and over 100,000 matches across all levels of recreational cricket, and the input from CricHQ customers around the world. CricHQ MVP provides a dynamic, statistically driven assessment of the contribution made by individuals to their team's performance during each match.

CricHQ CEO Simon Baker says "we are really excited to launch CricHQ MVP and we are confident that our customers will enjoy a greater understanding of how MVP points are awarded."



The CricHQ MVP formula replaces the previous formula that was launched in New Zealand by the NZCPA after it was developed in the UK by the Professional Cricketers Association. The original formula was developed with professional cricket in mind and although relevant as an assessment mechanism at that level, it is not easily transferred into multiple levels of the game.

Commercial and Events Manager Glen Sulzberger commented that "we were starting to think about a need for a more dynamic way of measuring player contributions during a match. CricHQ have been able to come up with a completely new approach that we are confident will be an excellent measurement of performances within each match".

"We are proud to be supporting the launch of CricHQ MVP". ■



Men's Domestic MVP

Brad Cachopa's sterling season sees him sitting atop the CricHQ MVP leader board in domestic cricket (at the time of writing). Cachopa has been a consistent performer with bat and gloves for the Auckland Aces across all three formats, which has him featuring near the summit of the Ford Trophy (2nd) and Plunket Shield (4th) MVP tables.

Andrew Ellis' century in the Ford Trophy final saw him jump 18 places on the

CricHQ MVP leader board to end the competition in second place. Seth Rance moved 8 spots up the table to finish in 3rd place, but the MVP top spot went to a resurgent Jesse Ryder.

Jesse Ryder's return from injury has been timely for the Stags progress toward the final of the Ford Trophy. The experienced left hander has been in great form with the bat which saw him well clear on the CricHQ MVP rankings prior to the final.

Potential match winners Todd Astle and Andrew Ellis had a chance to haul Ryder's MVP lead in, however the gap proved too far in the end.

Nathan McCullum proved why he is one of the world's best Twenty20 players to lead all-comers in the MVP rankings for the Georgie Pie Super Smash competition. Anton Devcich, Peter Fulton, Rob Nicol and Colin Munro rounded out the top 5 spots. ■

Details Of The New MVP Formula

The basis of the CricHQ MVP point's allocation is that 25 runs have the same value as 1 wicket, therefore;

- » 1 wicket = 2.5 MVP points
- » 25 runs = 2.5 MVP points
(10 runs = 1 MVP point)

BOWLING POINT RULES

- Unassisted wicket:** 1 wicket = 2.5 MVP points. When the bowler takes the wicket without the assistance of a fielder
- Assisted wicket:** 1 assisted wicket = 1.25 points to each participant, calculated on a 50/50 share of total MVP points available between bowler and fielder
- Multiple wicket bonus:** If the bowler gets more than one bowling wicket then they get a 10% bonus for every additional wicket. This is added on top of the bowler MVP points they already have.
- Economy rate bonus:** Bowlers are rewarded/penalised if their economy rates are lower/higher than their team's economy rate.
- Par score bonus:** If a batsman is dismissed for less than their "Par Score", the negative points earned are converted to positive and shared among the wicket taker/s.

FIELDING POINT RULES

- Unassisted wicket:** 1 wicket = 2.5 MVP points to the person effecting the run out without assistance from any other fielder
- (run out)**
- Assisted wicket:** 1 assisted wicket = 1.25 points to each participant, calculated on a 50/50 share of total MVP points available between the first 2 people (limit 2 participants)
- (includes run out)**
- Multiple wicket bonus:** If the fielder gets more than one fielding wicket then they get a 10% bonus for every additional wicket. This is added to any fielding MVP points they already have.
- Par score bonus:** If a batsman is dismissed for less than their required "Par Score", the negative points earned are converted to positive and shared among the wicket taker/s.

BATTING POINT RULES

- Runs base:** 25 runs = 2.5 MVP Points
- Strike rate bonus:** Batsmen are rewarded/penalised if their strike rates are higher/lower than their team's strike rate.
- Par score bonus:** If a batsman scores higher than their batting positions "Par Score", they attract a bonus on all runs scored thereafter.



BATSMAN STRIKE RATE AND PAR SCORE BONUS

The formula balances the importance of strike rates and advancing the game within shorter matches, with batting time and achieving above "Par Scores" in longer matches.

In a 50 over match both aspects are equally valuable with both attracting a 6% bonus, whilst a T20 match the SR bonus is 10% compared with a 2% bonus for par score.

PAR SCORE BONUS

This table provides indicative weightings to what each batting position contributes on average to the amount of total runs scored in an innings.

These averages vary slightly depending upon the match type being played.

An example would be if a team scores 300 runs the batsman at number 4 would normally has the opportunity to score 12% of the team's runs (36). ■

BATTER POSITION	PAR SCORE
1	14%
2	13%
3	13%
4	12%
5	11%
6	9%
7	7%
8	6%
9	4%
10	3%
11	2%

White Ferns Player Award Launched



Our current women's members have seen how important The Players' Cap is to the Blackcaps players and when asked whether they thought a similar award would be of interest to them - the answer was a resounding YES!

The current White Ferns players wanted to establish a pinnacle award that will be valued as the premier peer rated award for White Ferns performances over the course of a year, and to create a legacy award that connects players across generations.

White Ferns rep Suzie Bates said, "We are so excited with the introduction of this player award and it is sure it will be a respected award that all players will aspire to receiving."

The inaugural **CPA Players Award** will be awarded to the most outstanding White Ferns player and will be presented to the winner following the Australian series in March. It is anticipated that just like the Players' Cap, the **CPA Players Award** will become the ultimate symbol of achievement for the recipient and signifies the respect and honour players have toward their team mate's contribution to the team.

There is no greater opportunity for players to acknowledge the performances than immediately following each match, when there is a real understanding of the plans and corresponding role each player has within the team. The most significant

performances are not always the highest scorers or leading wicket takers, often it is a performance that is lost if not recognised at the time.

Players will do this by identifying the three best performers after each match through a regulated voting system. Points are then aggregated and the player with the most votes at the end of the voting period will be awarded the **CPA Players Award**.

The naming of the **CPA Players Award** is one of the most important considerations in this process. The aim is to differentiate this award as being unique to the White Ferns, different to the NZC awards, different to the Blackcaps version - The Players' Cap.

NZCPA player representative Amy Satterthwaite commented "the CPA have been proactive in helping us to launch this award, and it is really exciting that we will be able to recognise the first winner at the end of the Australian series, and to acknowledge the CPA's commitment toward women cricketers".

VOTING

At the completion of each White Ferns match, a nominated person from the team management will distribute and collect voting cards. The votes will be awarded and collated from these eligible voters:

- White Ferns Players in attendance during an International match

- White Ferns Coaching Staff in attendance during an International match

Each eligible voter will cast one voting card, identifying the three players they consider contributed the greatest amount to the team's performance.

The player who tallies the most votes will be awarded 3 points towards the CPA Players Award for that match. The players tallying the second most and third most votes will be awarded 2 points and 1 point respectively.

In the unique event of players tallying an equal number of votes, the MVP rankings from that match will be used to split the players' tallies and determine the final placing and overall vote for the match.

The final **CPA Players Award** winner shall be the sum of all the votes cast over the course of the voting year and include weighted adjustment for each format of the game. The voting year will generally finish at the conclusion of the White Ferns domestic series of matches.

If in the unique event that the votes for **CPA Players Award** result in a tie, the award shall be shared. The votes are kept confidentially by the NZCPA until the award presentation. ■

Player Retirement Fund Established

Professional cricketers are only just starting to learn, understand and benefit from the benefits of the NZCPA Personal Development Programme. A key part of this programme is encouraging and assisting our members to understand, manage and take control of the process of transitioning from a life as a cricketer - to a life in the workforce.

Transitioning from playing cricket is one thing, but for cricketers the transition to full time retirement at the age of 65 (or later) is equally daunting. This is one of the reasons why the NZCPA is proud to confirm the establishment of the Blackcaps Service Fund.

The establishment of the Blackcaps Service Fund was a key part of the 2010 Master Agreement negotiations. The fund was introduced as part of the contracting model in the 2010-18 Agreement and was to be established post the CWC 2015 with players earning credits for the fund from 2010. Importantly, the parties to the Master Agreement have also agreed to include Domestic contracted players from the 2014/15 season onwards.

The fund was designed to meet the needs of a professional sporting environment

and is structured differently to standard superannuation funds.

Following a thorough and robust tender process the NZCPA and NZC selected SuperLife as the contracted provider of the Blackcaps Service Fund. SuperLife Ltd is a member of the NZX group of companies which manages the SuperLife Master Trust and the associated SuperLife KiwiSaver scheme. SuperLife is a major New Zealand superannuation provider. It is a subsidiary of NZX Limited the operator of the New Zealand stock exchange. SuperLife manages more than \$1.3 billion of investments for over 40,000 New Zealanders.

The fund has been set up with a deed of participation to the Superlife Master Trust. This deed of participation formalises the relationship between Superlife, New Zealand Cricket and NZCPA and provides for the rights and obligations for all parties involved in the running of the fund.

The NZCPA is the entity responsible for the establishment and ongoing oversight of the fund. The NZCPA, with NZC, will determine the BLACKCAPS player allocations through the Master Agreement between the parties for the remainder of its term and into the future.

ADVISORY BOARD

The NZCPA will be responsible for the implementation of an Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will consist of one current player Ross Taylor, one NZCPA representative Heath Mills, one NZC representative David White and one independent advisers who is an institutional specialist Bruce Edgar) and its primary role is to act on behalf of the NZCPA in all matters related to the fund and its delivery.

BENEFITS

All players that hold money in their individual Superannuation Fund accounts will only be able to withdraw these funds in the following way:

- Retirement from cricket (restricted to 50% of fund);
- 65 years of age;
- Death;
- Totally and Permanently Disability;
- First home - an amount up to the maximum amount set by the Advisory Board;
- Financial Hardship - Financial hardship as determined by the Advisory Board;
- Kiwisaver - each player has the ability to transfer funds to their Kiwisaver. ■

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A Disclosure Statement is available on request, free of charge

News & Upcoming Events

THE PLAYERS' GOLF DAY

The Cricketers Hardship Trust will take centre stage as the Blackcaps players host the annual Players' Golf Day on the 26th February.

Once again Pakuranga Golf Club is the chosen venue for this event which is regarded as one of the best corporate golf days going around. With a relaxed atmosphere (albeit with a natural competitive streak) this year's event has high expectations of a full field and maximising the profile cricket will enjoy this summer and converting this opportunity into much needed funds for the Trust.



THE PLAYERS' CAP PRESENTATION

The premier player voted award is The Players' Cap, and this award therefore is arguably the most prestigious in the game. The 2016 (5th edition) of The Players' Cap will take place at the conclusion of The Players' Golf Day.

The 2016 Players' Cap encapsulates matches from the England tour and concludes with the home Australian series. After each Blackcaps match, the players, team management and match officials are eligible to vote for the players who they think has contributed most to the team's performance. Points are awarded to the top 3 players and weighted according to the format (Test,



ODI and T20I) and aggregated over the season.

Previous Recipients:

- 2015 – Kane Williamson
- 2014 – Ross Taylor
- 2013 – Tim Southee
- 2012 – Brendon McCullum

MASTERS WEEKEND

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

Date: Friday 1st – 3rd April
Venue: Queenstown

New Commercial Partners

We are very pleased to announce that **Barfoot & Thompson**, in association with **James Marshall**, are now Premier Partners of the NZCPA. We look forward to a positive relationship that ensures our members are able to access relevant information and services

within the commercial and domestic real estate sector.

We are also pleased to welcome **First NZ Capital** to our partner network and look forward to working with Brian and Chris, who will provide education and advise to members on capital markets.



BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS



The Insider The Death Of A Gentleman by Paul Ford



It's hard to believe that a film about cricket administration could be anything other than mind-numbingly boring, but Paul Ford reckons that in the hands of razor-sharp film-makers and cricket aficionados and journalists Jarrod Kimber and Sam Collins, the documentary *Death of a Gentleman* is anything but.

What is the film about?

It is about the concerns around Test cricket and the way cricket is administered by the ICC, zeroing in on whether the best interests of cricket – and Test cricket in particular – are being served. It's a must-watch for anyone with a vague interest in the game, or how sport operates at a global level. It's compulsive viewing for anyone who loves cricket.

Andy Bull summed it up like this in The Guardian: "Too little coverage on terrestrial TV. Too few amateur players. Too many amateur administrators. Too many flat pitches. Too much T20. Too much ODI cricket. Too many meaningless Test matches. Too little state school cricket. Too many overworked players. Too many overpaid players. Too many counties. Too many empty stands. Too many exploited fans. Too much self-interest. Too much temptation. Too much money. Too much corruption."

Who are the guys who made the film?

Australian Jarrod Kimber is a spectacular cricket writer for Cricinfo and beyond, and is also the brains and wit behind the Cricketwithballs blog. If you don't follow him on Twitter (@jarrodkimber) you

should. His well-spoken English sidekick Sam Collins is the other bloke involved, an Old Etonian and cricket journalist.

They get around too – in the film we see them at the MCG, in the streets of India, at the Home of Cricket, Lord's, and into the UAE where the ICC is headquartered.

Was it always going to be about cricket administration?

Sort of. Sam and Jarrod started work on it back in 2011, when they covered Australia's home Test series against India. The film was initially going to be about the state of Test cricket, based on Ed Cowan's selection into the test team. But as they got deeper into the film-making, the clandestine machinations around the control of world cricket came to the fore and they switched focus to the governance of the game – and the motivations behind some of the sport's most powerful administrators.

In the title, who's the gentleman who dies?

He is Test cricket.

You mention Ed Cowan, but who else pops up in the documentary?

There really is a who's who of cricket present in DOAG's 100 minutes of screentime including the well-coiffed Mark Nicholas, the late Tony Greig, the double bass of Michael Holding and the articulate Gideon Haigh. There are crucial interviews with former ICC chief Haroon Lorgat, governance guru Lord Woolf, cricket supernova Lalit Modi and the men in charge of the ECB and the BCCI respectively: Giles Clarke and Narayanaswami Srinivasan.

THE INTERVIEWEES

Are there any baddies?

Clarke and Srinivasan won't be sending the film makers any Christmas cards. Clarke is combative and dismissive. Srinivasan is unyielding and imperious – and implicated in everything.

What was the most memorable line?

It's hard to go past cricket historian Gideon Haigh's question: "Does cricket make money to exist? Or does it exist to make money?"

What did critics think of the film?

It has had lots of good press – not only about the craft of the film and its heart, but also the central themes it pushes. The hard-to-please Mike Atherton said the film "is on the right side of the debate" and Wisden editor Lawrence Booth said it would "trouble all lovers of cricket".

Did everyone love it?

No. One critic said it would "blow the minds of hardcore cricket enthusiasts but numb the bums of the uninitiated."

Is New Zealand mentioned in it?

Yes, as a potential victim of the restructure of world cricket's power in favour of India, Australia and England.

When does it get to New Zealand?

It was released in Australia this month, having emerged in the UK last year. I have it on good authority that it will land here in the next few weeks so keep an eye out. The DVD won't be too far away either. Do not miss it.

Paul Ford (@beigebrigade) is a co-founder of the Beige Brigade and one-seventh of The Alternative Commentary Collective. ■



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