

SUMMER 2019 | No. 039

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

# **OUTRIGHT**

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



**CRICKET vs RUGBY LEGENDS AT  
BLACK CLASH**



# Creative Thinking for a Changing World

Bachelor of Arts



*"If you want to pursue professional sport – getting an education is so important to have that life balance. You can do it at the same time and it gives you something to build on for the future."*  
**Apirana Pēwhairangi – NRL Player, Warriors Bachelor of Arts (Māori studies)**



## PAST PLAYER EVENTS



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

The new Master Agreement confirmed the expansion of personal development services available to past players and these events are a key way to enhance the connection with our members.

### **NAPIER** 23rd January

On the eve of the Blackcaps v India ODI, 14 former players residing in the Hawkes Bay region came together for a yarn and a few drinks. There was a great spread of generations present, with players from the 1960's, through to players who have recently retired. Stags players Ross Taylor, Ben Wheeler, Blair Tickner and Ben Smith

also popped in to assist the NZCPA's desire to promote connectivity between current and past players.

### **CHRISTCHURCH** 15th February

This function was held at No4 Bar in Merivale, again on the evening prior to the Blackcaps ODI, against Bangladesh. We were delighted to build upon the previous few years' events in Christchurch with 22 men and women members enjoying a casual chat over a few Friday night drinks.

We are grateful to Tom Latham and Matt Henry who took time out of their busy schedules to pop in for an hour or so. ●

*Photos courtesy of NZCPA.*



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# A TURNING PATH

By Margot Butcher

**Campbell Furlong took 92 first-class and 70 List A wickets for CD in the 1990s and 2000s, and represented NZU19. He used to think Accountants were boring — until he found out what they could do. Through my interaction with Campbell I uncovered how he went from a directionless young cricketer to a Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers who truly loves his work.**



**So Campbell, it turns out your Careers Advisor at Napier Boys' was right all along?**

"Funnily enough, yes he was. He had said to me I should be an Accountant, but I thought, 'Nup — ridiculous. That just sounds really dull.' I wanted to play cricket when I left school, other than that I didn't know what I wanted to do. I did a two-year sports course at Waikato Polytech that was great fun, great people, but didn't set me up for anything. After that, I went to Otago and did a B.Com. A mate had told me, 'Do Management and Marketing, it's real easy!' I graduated, even with a year of that based at Lincoln as part of the NZC Academy, which was just about cricket."

**How did you get into the workforce [outside cricket]?**

"I went over to England with a two-year working visa, in between playing for CD back home. The first year I played club cricket, but I was always conscious I didn't want to do the back-and-forth-to-England thing all through my 20s — and end up 30 and still looking for my first job. So when I went back to London the second winter, I got a job in banking — and I absolutely loved it. Loved the routine, using my brain. I met my wife Jan, who was on her OE from the Naki. Fantastic time."

**Meeting Jan and imagining a future together sounds like it really changed your outlook.**

"Yeah, Jan made me think about planning for the future — we were both keen on having a family. So when my visa ran out, I had to think about finding another job. In London, there were a lot of Accountants that I had knocked around with, and they were doing really interesting jobs. Not your stereotypical Accountancy in an office. They were travelling, doing interesting projects, and they seemed like fun guys. It made me think it might be more interesting that I had thought."

**So that marketing and management degree turned out to be useful after all?**

"I thought I would just have to do a post-grad diploma in Accountancy — sorted. Then I investigated, and discovered I would have to do 17 more papers to get Chartered, as I hadn't done any Accountancy papers. I was still playing cricket for CD at the time, but I was 27, and starting to be 12th man a few times, so I took the plunge and did the first one over that summer — a Level I Introduction to Accountancy. Jan is a school teacher and it helped that she had secured a job in Hawkes Bay."

Meanwhile I wrote a letter to about a dozen Accountancy firms in Napier explaining what I was doing and wanted to do. One guy got back to me. So I met with him. I said I was really keen to get my career going and he said he'd give me six months over winter and, if I enjoyed it, then I could stay on — if it turned out it wasn't for me, we'd shake hands and I'd head back to another cricket season. Just what I was looking for! At the end of six months, I was really enjoying it."

Mark Greatbatch was the CD coach at that stage and he was trying to persuade me to play the one-dayers which, back then, was Boxing Day till the end of January. Accountants are shut down for most of that time anyway, and it meant I could make it work with another two weeks' unpaid leave. That was my cricket fix and from then on I was working as well as playing, but the white-ball only."



**Life became very full on — how did you adapt to that?**

"It was real hard yakka. Every night I'd get home, go into the spare room, and study. I was doing two papers extramurally per semester, plus training for One-Dayers, and continuing with my day job. But I got there in the end, and became a Chartered Accountant. It's the best thing I've ever done."

**Was it financially challenging?**

"It was hard. We were pretty broke for a time, back in the days of having to pay interest straight away on student loans. Sometimes you've just got to take a deep breath and invest in yourself by putting that work in. With cricket, I didn't do as well as I had hoped. I was a spin bowler who never going to beat Daniel Vettori out of a spot, then Paul Wiseman and Jeetan Patel were ahead of me. I was just plodding on. My last year was my best year for CD. I understood my game by then. Got runs, got wickets, and might have got better still, but I was doing all that study for the kids Jan and I planned to have, I was heading in a different direction by that stage. There was a bigger picture. So yeah, fast forward a little bit and I had a massive student loan, twins, cloth nappies, veggie gardens, studying — all that! It was tough! But it was worth it. The twins are 11 now and our daughter is seven. Work has gone really well and looking back to where I started, it's surreal to think I'm now a Partner at PWC. Very satisfying."

**Tell us about what rings your bells there.**

"When I was very young, our grandmother had lived with us and looked after us kids while our parents worked. She had been born to two fluent-speaking Māori who didn't teach her or her sister Te Reo because they believed they had to survive in a Pākehā world. When I was in London, I saw what the Irish and Welsh were doing with their language, and it really got me thinking about that. I always wanted to know more about it. When my twins were born, I had a real

desire to learn Māori and bring it into our home. So I went to night classes. I loved it — it really opened my eyes. When I joined PWC in 2008, and I found out they had a Māori business team, I couldn't wait to get involved. That has been my passion — working with Hapū, Iwi and Trusts to achieve their aspirations. Amazing projects, and people working holistically to set things up for future generations. I find it really rewarding. I also work with sheep and beef farmers in the agribusiness space and some private business owners helping with accounting, tax and advisory services."

**So not a dull moment.**

"The further up you advance in Accountancy, the more it is about looking for opportunities for businesses to grow: strategy, tactics. It's fascinating looking into these worlds and looking at a wide range of businesses in the community, and that's what our clients really appreciate. This industry is not what I thought it would be — just much, much better. And what I've found is in sport and in business there are lot of complementary skills — leadership, discipline, work ethic, relationship building, EQ, and CQ (Cultural Quotient) — which are much harder things to pick up than the technical skills in business. Athletes don't want to lose, so you work hard to achieve a goal and do the hard yakka to be successful." ●







# HOOKED ON = CRICKET =



## THE HOOKED ON CRICKET PROGRAMME ENTERED ITS 14TH YEAR IN 2018 AND CONTINUES THE LEGACY OF CURRENT PLAYERS CONTRIBUTING TO FUTURE OF THE GAME.

Hooked-on-Cricket's objective is to introduce cricket to kids from non-traditional schools and communities and remains one of the most important activities for the NZCPA.

NZCPA Board member and Hooked on Cricket Ambassador, Ross Taylor, acknowledges "targeting those schools that usually miss out on cricket is very rewarding and helps to encourage participation in cricket".

"The skill and enthusiasm shown by the kids is amazing and the key is to give them a chance" says Taylor.

The most exciting aspect of the tournament is that the professional players are actively involved with their adopted team for the day. The teams play three matches during the day with the main focus on participation, enjoyment and skill enhancement in a competitive environment - and of course to find the winners.



The programme is extremely popular with participants and the schools continue to provide a glowing endorsement about the programme and the effect the tournaments have on their students.

*The children from St Bernadette's school had so much fun and learned many new skills. They were all hyped and excited right until the bell rung at the end of the day.*

**PAIGE HOLLAND**  
ST BERNADETTE'S SCHOOL,  
HAMILTON

*Thank you for a great day, I met the kids when they came back and they were buzzing with excitement. They were all trying to tell me at once what they had done.*

*You are helping us to make a difference and to follow our whakatauki motto – Strive for the Highest Whaia ki te Taumata. Strive with Respect Whaia ki te Mana.*

**DIANNE POLLARD-WILLIAMS**  
PRINCIPAL, MELVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In the first term of 2019 we are initiating a coaching phase of Hooked on Cricket which will have our Hooked-on-Cricket coaches taking sessions in targeted intermediate and secondary schools that have school teams, or a group of kids playing regular cricket.



### SUPPORTED BY QUEEN STREET CRICKET CLUB

Hooked-on-Cricket is made possible by the very generous support of the Queen Street Cricket Club – a charitable organisation that shares our vision to create opportunity for all New Zealanders to be able to get involved and play cricket.

*The Queen Street Cricket Club is a gathering of Cricketing ECCENTRICS, LADIES, GENTLEMEN & PLAYERS who provide a MENTOR and GUIDE in all matters relating to cricket.*

*Principally, whenever a New Zealand Test Player fails to record a run, each MEMBER is fined the princely sum of FIVE TAX DEDUCTABLE DOLLARS. The objective is for these FUNDS to be used to assist Disadvantaged Children of New Zealand.*

*Even as unspeakably tragic and heart-rendering though it may be to lose a player in a TEST MATCH for a DUCK, it gives pleasure to know when it does happen, a child, somewhere, will have their spirits lifted.*

Membership is by annual donation. To find out more and join, please visit [www.qscc.org.nz/](http://www.qscc.org.nz/)





# CURTAIN CLOSES ON CHATS' CAREER

By Margot Butcher

Ewen Chatfield's cricket-playing career finished at the same place it had started in 1968: Naenae Park. Now heading towards his 69th birthday, the news, in January, that the 1980s Test legend was going to quit running in for his Naenae club side came as a shock to many. The end of a 50-year knock, which is quite long enough even for many batsmen, let alone a pace bowler.

So far, so good. "I haven't missed it," says Chats, "because I still work six days a week. Saturday is my only day off so I'd found it difficult to try and do all the things I wanted to do in the morning, rushing off to play cricket in the afternoon. Now I've got all day to do those things, at a more leisurely pace! I have also been able to watch the grandkids play their games."

For a cricketer who grew up in the days of coffins (you guys with wheelie bags don't know how easy you've got it), rest days, and no Sunday trading, it is very different to modern life. Young grandson Ollie plays for Petone — Chats's son also played for the rival club, and his granddaughter Paige plays for its only woman's team, having taken up the game at the age of 20. "So I go and watch them now. It doesn't matter to me where they play, as long as they play."

But the Naenae Express — aka Chats or The Mer — always played for Naenae. The club will turn 75 years old in a few years' time "and I'll no doubt be involved in the committee for that, seeing I've been there 58 of the 75!"

He and Sir Richard Hadlee were a perfect pairing with the ball at Test level. They share a birthday and still ring each other up at Christmas, too. When he's not driving his Corporate Cab about Wellington, or watching his grandchildren, you might find Chats tapping on his computer, too — the internet another of those modern marvels that weren't around in his day. "I look up Cricinfo every day and for all games, no matter what country. If New Zealand guys are playing

in England over winter, I look up all their results. And I go along to the Basin to watch the BLACKCAPS play. I don't have SKY at home, so it's the only way I can keep up with it, really. It would be nice to see more in the print media, which you don't now."

Those are little clues, perhaps, that cricket will forever be in his blood. Just not on the field, anymore. How did he keep it up for so long? Fitness is part of it. He was as fit as a distance runner in his prime.

"But that's something that I've got to sort out now. I can't run very far these days, I dunno what's wrong. But I did used to run a lot. After I stopped playing for NZ, to be able to play at the standard that I wanted to play, I always did some fitness, and practice as well. That's been enough to keep me going. I'm well underweight from my playing days for some reason, so I've been a bit lucky, but I need to do something — whether it's cycling or gym work, I don't know what, but I'll have to sort that out in the next month or so."

Besides playing for Naenae, Chats has been an icon of NZ Under-60s teams that have crossed the Tasman to compete annually in the well organised Australian Seniors' Cricket State Championships. "I always supported the NZCPA Masters

Tournaments too and played there, and go along to the annual luncheons which I'm very grateful for.

"I do wish we had had something like the NZCPA in our day, in certain areas — but I'm glad that players have got it now. We used to have to work as well as play, and we didn't play as much. I started off working for a pharmaceutical company in the 80s, but I was starting to be away with international cricket a lot, so they put the acid on me to make a decision which way I wanted to go — whether I wanted to retire from [Wellington and international] cricket and keep working. I had another three or four years' cricket left in me at that stage, so I made the decision to play cricket. It was a good decision, because the factory closed down about two years after that so I wouldn't have had a job anyway!"

After that he used to do odd jobs. Delivered papers for School Cert and U.E. (the University Entrance examination, for anyone under 40). Ran an indoor cricket centre for a few months during winter and also worked for New Zealand Couriers as a relief driver.

"When I was not selected for the 1989 one-day series against Pakistan, they rang me up and asked me if I'd like to take up a full-time

contract, which I did — and that lasted me for 10 years. I've always liked driving."

And just playing the game. "I think the Masters Tournaments, they were a goal that I had to focus on. I couldn't go along and play these games without any training or anything: I always had a standard that I want to play at, even as I got older. So, the easiest way to train was to play. And then I got started in the Over-60s, and that was another catalyst to play up to the standard I wanted."

He went over to the last one in November, but that's it, now. He's pulled the plug.

"I wasn't a big goal-setter when I was playing for New Zealand, but as I got older — I think because I was an international player I just needed to play well to enjoy it, so I had to meet certain standards. In the last over-60s tournament in Australia, that didn't quite happen. We won the Division Two grade, and got promoted up to Division one for this year, but there's a bigger difference in skills between 60 and 69-year-olds than, say, 20 and 29-year-olds.

"I came home, had a little operation on a lump on my hand, was out for three weeks and I must admit I didn't miss it at all. I thought 'Well, it must be the time.'"



## CAREER STATISTICS

	WICKETS	BEST	AVERAGE	RUNS	HS
43 TEST MATCHES	123	6/73	32.7	180	21*
157 FIRST CLASS	587	8/24	22.87	582	24*
	WICKETS	BEST	AVERAGE	ECON	HS
114 ODI MATCHES	140	5/34	25.84	3.57	19*



# SMASH, BASH THE ULTIMATE CLASH

BY LIZ PERRY – TEAM CRICKET

ME?  
A MEMBER  
OF TEAM  
CRICKET?  
REALLY?

That was what I kept asking myself after I received the phone call that I was going to be part of the inaugural Blackclash match. I'm pretty sure they meant to call Ellyse Perry but I will take it. I found it difficult to contain my excitement as I was reading through the team lists.. Stephen Fleming, Nathan Astle, Chris Harris, all of whom have been on my wall as a kid growing up; these were my cricketing heroes while growing up and all of a sudden, I was going to be playing cricket with them? It just didn't feel real and that is how I felt the entire two days that I was part of the event as it was an absolute once in a lifetime, surreal experience.

Duco and the NZCPA were fantastic organisers, I didn't have to worry about a thing, and they definitely made me feel welcomed and valued, and yes, I

was feeling the nerves! That being said, my nerves were quickly eroded in a matter of seconds when I met everyone, and they all made me feel like part of the group. On arrival, I wasn't expecting a hug from Sir Graham Henry, but that only added to my excitement levels that were building when I was standing in a room with some of the greatest NZ sporting legends; I was just trying to play it cool and failing miserably!

We all had the opportunity to come together as a team before the event as we were generously hosted at the Moonlight Lodge in Christchurch, which included an incredible lunch, pitch and putt, and even an opportunity to scope each other out before the big game via a freshly prepared wicket; fair to say the rugby team were not offering anything to be concerned about! We then ventured off to a cocktail evening where it really did feel like we were treated like rock stars.

The first ball came around very quickly on match day, it all feels like a bit of a blur looking back. I remember arriving at Hagley Oval and you could feel the buzz starting to build with fans filtering into the ground. I have never experienced playing in front of 8,500 people before and I wanted to soak up every minute.

The highlight for me was experiencing the changing room and rubbing shoulders with true greats of the game. I remember taking a photo of the batting order and realising how lucky I was to be part of such a fantastic event. I even hit a 6, and those that know me well, know that I never hit 6's, although the four miss fielded through my legs was definitely the lowlight, however it was a potential highlight for the crowd behind me who certainly enjoyed that moment!

The after-match function was another opportunity to mix and mingle with

everyone, and it really sunk in how normal and down to earth all these sporting icons were; I didn't want the day to end as I bounced from conversations with Nathan McCullum to Israel Dagg etc. I still have to pinch myself saying that!

The event will remain a highlight for me for many years to come. I cherished every moment from batting with Chris Harris (despite him running me out!), to the post-match celebrations with everyone. It was a special day to be part of and it has hopefully created new fans of cricket.

I hope more events like this happen in the future.... Watch this space! ●





# DOWN TIME



## A CRICKETER'S SECRET OPPORTUNITY

By Margot Butcher

**TWENTY-SEVEN MIGHT SOUND A LITTLE BIT LATE TO BE STARTING UNI. GARETH HOPKINS IS PROOF THAT IT ISN'T. STILL, IT TOOK A KICK IN THE BUTT TO GET HIM IN THROUGH THE CAMPUS GATES.**

"Hoppy", now 42, says it was a conversation with his wife that made him realise he'd be silly not to take up the opportunity. He'd been offered a Prime Minister's Scholarship — covering thousands of dollars of tertiary tuition fees and costs, yet he was vacillating. "I didn't want to start because I still had no idea what I wanted to do outside cricket," he recalls. "I had always just wanted to be a professional cricketer, so that was as far as I looked. I thought I might just leave it."

He had focused on the latter very successfully: a playing career that ultimately spanned 19 years for ND,

Canterbury, Otago and Auckland where he became a title-winning captain of the Aces. Four Test caps, 25 ODIs and 10 T20is in the career mix too, when the wicketkeeper-batsman could get a look in behind Brendon McCullum. But he was about to get his butt kicked.

"My wife Bernadette was a student in Otago and she said, 'If you don't do something with this, you're just taking the piss. I work two jobs just to pay for my Uni fees, and you've been offered it on a platter.' So I thought I had better do something. It was the best thing I did."

"It" was a business degree majoring in Finance and Economics, which he had discovered he really enjoyed during the initial broad-base papers. And then came the other revelation. That it really helped his cricket.

"I could be stuck in a Bangladeshi hotel after having had a bad game — and I was on the fringe, the sort of player who only got one chance every six months when Brendon had a sore back, so I put so much pressure on myself in that one game to nail it. If I had a bad game, I'd be stewing on it, and you take that into training next day and it becomes all consuming. But with study you have to park the cricket because you've got an assignment due — and I was coming back into training feeling fresher."

The moral of the story, and the most important message he tries to convey to players now as the Knights' T20 coach, is there's a lot of downtime in cricket, so use it or lose it.

"When you're sitting round in hotel rooms watching movies — resting your body from training or playing, you could be using that time for study. Make a start, then just chip away, chip away, over time."

Hopkins ended up chipping away for nine years, finishing at 36. "It was a big push to the finish line, especially once you've got kids at home but, having invested six years, it would have been a waste not to see it through. The other thing is I had to get my AFA — Authorised Financial Advisor status — and that was another whole three years of study. It is hard

work, but cricketers are used to hard work. We train our arses off every day. This is a different way of applying that skill, to focus."

After his marathon career behind the stumps came to a close in at the tail of March 2014, it helped set him up for a successful transition to post-cricket life. "I had a fairly good experience. There was a little bit of luck involved and initially I had also used the CPA to get contacts — went out, met a lot of people in different areas to get a feel for what I liked. That was helpful.

"Then, because we had moved to Tauranga, I went and picked Neil Craig's brains, too. Neil was on the board of New Zealand Cricket, he runs an investment firm, Craigs Investment Partners which is in Tauranga. He invited me to come in and have a chat about the business, and that's where I found my future path."

Hopkins is a full-time Investment Advisor, primarily managing client wealth — constructing portfolios for them and investing in appropriate assets, after understanding their risk profile and what sort of portfolio balance will best suits their needs. "I can do it remotely so when I'm coaching, again, there is a lot of downtime and if I'm in a hotel room, four hours before training, I can get

through all my emails, place orders, catch up. You don't have the same support as you do back in the office, but you can get the job done, and Craig's have been very supportive. The Knights role falls across a sort of quiet time of year, when clients are often at the beach and not thinking about their portfolios, and the sharemarket is very quiet. There's not the same volume going through, but I still log in every day and check portfolios."

Hoppy doesn't identify as a career coach — more an accidental one — and is grateful to the NDCA board for taking a risk on him, and for electing to go with a specialist T20 role. It was a first-year fairytale. The Knights won last year's Burger King Super Smash in style, then top-qualified again this summer for a second consecutive Grand Final at Seddon Park — only this time they would be taken out by the Central Stags.

Hopkins draws largely on his leadership experience with the Aces and tries to apply a common sense approach that always boils down to the same question: "What's best for the team?". And, he might remind one or two players to use their downtime wisely. "Just chip away. To find out what you want to do, the key is just make a start." ●





# WILL TO FLY

BY WILL WILLIAMS, CANTERBURY CRICKETER AND PILOT

## "VICTOR CHARLIE DELTA, CLEARED TO TAKE OFF o2 GRASS WITH RIGHT TURN ONCE AIRBORNE"

As soon as those wheels left the ground for the first time there was an airy feeling. I'm actually flying this plane! Of course on the first flight there was an instructor sitting beside me, leading me to believe I was doing most of the flying but over the proceeding 6 years I have learnt exactly how these metal creatures of the sky actually work.

In order to become a "Commercial Pilot" there is a number of steps one must take. Now firstly I must state that a Commercial Pilot is one that operates for hire or reward, in other words anyone that actually makes money off flying a plane.

Starting out one must first gain their Private Pilots Licence (PPL), this involves passing 6 papers on various aspects relating to flying a fixed wing plane whilst also passing a practical test proving you can fly a plane and deal with an emergency adequately. After this a pilot is able to take

passengers on a flight with them, however most pilots graduate their private licence with only about 55-75 hours under the belt so there is still a lot of learning to be done.

However, after gaining your PPL the world is your oyster, a lot more solo flying and less time with an instructor sitting next to you! Up next is the X-Country phase, learning how to fly across the country, visiting a new aerodrome on a daily basis, learning all the different procedures for the different areas and most importantly extending your knowledge on the emergency procedures should something go wrong.

The next skill is night flying, aside from being very picturesque flying over cities at night it has some small differences when navigating and doing take offs and landings – hence a separate phase for it.

After that is where some people vary, those on a fast track to working for an airline will do their Multi Engine rating and Instrument rating, meaning they learn how to fly planes with more than one engine and how to fly in clouds. Personally as I didn't see the point spending all this money on something I would just have fork out for again (currency is everything in aviation) when I wanted to fly for an

airline, so I decided to take a different path. I did my aerobatics rating, and can certainly say this was the best thing that I ever did while training. Apart from the sheer adrenaline it gives you when you're flipping the plane upside down, it teaches you handling skills that you otherwise don't get from the regular training regime. After this it was just a simple matter of passing 6 more papers relating to aspects of fixed wing aircraft and passing a competency flight test.

My training wasn't without its moments. I recall one rather turbulent Saturday I was flying a plane from Christchurch to Rangiora at 1500ft when all of a sudden we got hit by a big gust of wind and the plane wingdrop stalled (where one wing loses lift) and suddenly lost 300ft. At the time I only had about 30 hours flying under my belt so was rather anxious about this. However my instructor, who was sitting next to me at the time, was sitting there laughing turned to me calmly and asked okay so how do you stop that from happening again? This was the first time I had experienced the plane not doing what I wanted it to do however it taught me an invaluable lesson about staying prepared.

Another weird experience was when I was flying around Mt Cook with my instructor

one cold day in winter. We'd been sitting at 12000ft for about 10/15 mins and my instructor suddenly simulated an engine failure. On the way down I carried out the emergency procedures and landed the plane on an agriculture strip. However the weird part came when I was watching the video recording of the procedures I went through along with the answering of some basic math questions. Seeing it was like watching a 5 year old try and do math. Everything was slowed down 10 fold and I only started doing things at normal speed as the ground approached. My instructor explained this to me this is an example of the early stages of hypoxia which occurs from the lower quantities of oxygen available at the higher altitudes. A valuable lesson!

Last winter I decided to do an instructors rating, which allowed me to teach people to fly out at the Canterbury Aero Club. This has been both rewarding and challenging, seeing people improve from start to finish is the rewarding part whilst making sure the students don't do anything too dangerous is certainly the challenging part. Teaching take offs and landings are the most challenging, as you are in close proximity to the ground the whole time the potential for something to go wrong increases. However as instructors we do get taught what to look for as potentially hazardous situations. I've only had one student stall the plane (at 100ft off the ground) so far so I'm classing that as a win.

Overall, the whole experience is a lot of fun and I thoroughly recommend it to anyone who is interested in aviation! The scenic sights you get to experience are amazing and along with the thrill and freedom you feel when you're in control of one of these birds of the sky. ●





# THE BEST VIEW IN THE STADIUM



**Outright recently caught up with international umpire and CPA life member Chris 'Charlie' Brown.**

## TELL US ABOUT WHAT IT WAS THAT SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN UMPIRING, AND WHEN THAT BEGAN.

Umpiring never crossed my mind as another avenue to go down when I was playing cricket. I became more interested in this facet of the game when I retired from playing, but never actually gave umpiring any serious thought until one night when watching the Ashes on TV with my wife. There were a couple of appeals, I told Julie what I thought of them, (out

or not out), don't remember if they were correct or not, when Julie turned to me and said, "Why don't you look at umpiring? You obviously still have a strong passion for the game."

I dismissed the idea pretty quickly until she said something along the lines of, "Now you're not playing cricket, you spend most of your weekends watching it on TV and getting in the way around home, why not give it a go? It might be your calling!"

That really planted the seed for me and I thought about it for a couple of days. I then rang the NZCPA and asked them about umpiring and how to get started.

## WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE WHEN GETTING STARTED?

I didn't have to worry so much about umpiring guys I had played with or against, as it had been a few years since I stopped playing. There was some thought that because I was an ex first class player I would be fast tracked in the system which some people didn't agree with. I don't know that there was such a thing as fast tracking, but I certainly worked hard to prove myself as an umpire.

I always said that just because I played first class cricket, that wasn't going to make me a good umpire. While many think you have a better feel for the game having played it, if you're not getting your decisions right, controlling the match well and dealing with players and situations well, umpiring is going to be pretty hard.

The other challenge was learning the laws of cricket and playing conditions. Like almost players, I never read the laws of cricket and had no idea of playing conditions. I believe that coming from a Police background certainly helped me get my head around these challenges, including getting through the umpiring exams.

## NOW YOU ARE ON THE ICC INTERNATIONAL PANEL, YOU MUST FEEL PLEASED TO HAVE MADE THAT DECISION YEARS AGO.

June 2016, I was fortunate to be added to the ICC International panel and later that same year made my ODI international debut. I'm certainly pleased that I made the decision to pursue umpiring, my only regret was that I didn't do it sooner.

If anyone out there was thinking about umpiring, all I would say to them is, "give it a shot". Like me, you will not know if you like it until you've given it a go. I knew the first time I walked out onto the field this was for me.

## BORN IN THE COOK ISLANDS, HAVE YOU EVER HAD THE CHANCE TO UMPIRE A MATCH THE COOK ISLANDS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN?

Unfortunately, that opportunity has not arisen as yet to umpire a match in the Cooks. I would love to do this, it would be a real honour.

## WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN UMPIRING IN THE FUTURE?

My goal is to become one of the best and most respected umpires around and would be great to make a living from it. Umpiring is a great way to see the world, while getting to watch a game that you love up close and being part of the action.

## UMPIRES SPEND A HEAP OF TIME AWAY FROM HOME. HOW DO YOU MANAGE THAT CHALLENGE?

I'm very fortunate, Julie and my daughters support me 100% with my umpiring. It is very hard to leave the family for long periods of time where Julie is left with the stress of looking after the home, working full time, getting the girls to school and their after school activities, etc. I'm sure she has moments where she wishes she had kept her mouth shut that night she planted the seed.

Having Skype, FaceTime etc. are great ways to stay in contact with the family. To actually see them and ask how things are going really helps, but of course that is only a substitute for actually being there.

One thing I've learnt coming back from a long trip is don't think you can just come back into the family life and change things around to suit you. Best advice, ask, "What would like me to do?" and just do it.

The whole family has had to learn how to adjust to my career and we find each season gets easier. Plus, the girls are getting older and more self-sufficient which is taking the pressure off Jules.

## TECHNOLOGY IS A VITAL PART OF THE TELEVISED GAME. WHAT IMPACT DOES THAT HAVE ON YOUR JOB OUT IN THE MIDDLE?

Whilst we know technology isn't perfect, I think it is great to have. Yes, when you have to reverse a decision, it is a bitter pill to swallow. In my experiences to date, the players are pretty good at just getting on with the game once a wrong decision has been made right. This seems to take out any frustration that players may have, and they tend to get on with the game.

Of course, nothing is perfect and technology can also have the opposite effect, but I'd rather have it than not. It did take a lot of getting use to, coming from club cricket and first class cricket where there is nothing, or not much apart from pooch [video analysis system] at the first class level, to having all the bells and whistles.

There is still a lot of learning to be had around technology for me, but I'm certainly glad that it's there.

## YOU GET TO EXPERIENCE SOME AMAZING ACTION UP CLOSE. WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN STANDING IN?

There have been so many memorable moments in the last few years, from games to players, you get to see up close and some of the grounds you get to umpire at are incredible.

Last year I remember umpiring NZ vs Aust T20 game under lights at the SCG and standing out at square leg looking over the members stand and seeing the sun set behind the members stand and the red colour of the sky. I've seen that a few times on the TV, but to experience it was something else. I stood at square leg just taking a moment to take in this amazing experience and wondering how the hell did I get here.

I also remember when Ross Taylor got a 100 against South Africa at Hagley Oval in an ODI a year or so ago off the last ball of the NZ innings. I remember being very nervous as the last over was bowled at my end and then the noise of the crowd when he hit the last ball for a boundary 4. 🎯



# NZAF Engaged with High Performance Blueprint

High Performance Sport New Zealand has embarked upon a 2030 High Performance System Strategy Blueprint that will provide the plan and the approach for High Performance Sport New Zealand and the high performance sport system to ensure that the successes achieved by New Zealand on a world stage are systemic, deliberate and can be sustained long into the future.

The Blueprint covers off 12 key working streams, with the NZAF being involved with the following 5 key areas that affect professional sportsmen and women:

- » High Performance Strategy and Investment
- » Athlete Well Being
- » Athlete Performance Support
- » Coaching
- » Athlete Development

The NZAF will be working closely with the NZCPA on the developments within these working groups and what outcomes may occur. 🎯

[www.athletesfederation.co.nz](http://www.athletesfederation.co.nz)



## FICA DEVELOPS GLOBAL PLAYER WELFARE AND EDUCATION PLATFORM

Working closely with its member players' associations, FICA is in the process of developing a global welfare & education platform. The platform will help to ensure that existing world class programmes run by players' associations continue to cater for the shifting global player landscape. It will also help to support players where there is limited support for them around the world.

The online platform, which is set to be rolled out during 2019, will give players access to gold standard content including in areas of:

- » Player welfare
- » Personal development
- » Education on critical issues

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH** Past Player function, Wellington
- 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH** The Players' Cap presentation (Blackcaps)  
CPA Players' Award presentation (White Ferns)
- 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** QSCC Charity Golf Day, Hosted by CPA  
Muriwai Golf Club, Team and individual spots
- 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** NZCPA Players Conference
- 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** Northern Club Dinner  
CPA fundraising dinner

#### PREMIUM PARTNERS



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## MUNRO AND BATES BEST NZ PERFORMERS IN T20 PLAYER INDEX

2018 saw the launch of the men's and women's FICA T20 Player Index's. The Index's are an internationally recognised global ranking system provides the only unified player performance index across every T20 game – international and domestic.

### THE CURRENT TOP 3\* IN THE T20 PLAYER INDEX'S ARE

	MEN'S	WOMEN'S
1	GLENN MAXWELL	ELLYSE PERRY
2	SUNIL NARINE	SUZIE BATES
3	RASHID KHAN	SOPHIE DEVINE

\*AS AT 14 FEBRUARY.

### THE HIGHEST RANKED NEW ZEALANDERS IN THE T20 PLAYER INDEX'S ARE

	MEN'S	WOMEN'S
	COLIN MUNRO (8)	SUZIE BATES (2)
	KANE WILLIAMSON (30)	SOPHIE DEVINE (3)
	COREY ANDERSON (39)	AMY SATTERTHWAITE (19)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT [T20PLAYERINDEX.COM](http://T20PLAYERINDEX.COM)  
[WWW.THEFICA.COM](http://WWW.THEFICA.COM)

## THE INSIDER

# MIST, MATHS AT THE MCG

by Paul Ford

As a massive Test cricket fan I reckon it's unfortunate that between 15 November 2017 and 20 November 2018, NZ only played two Test matches against each of England and the Windies, plus one against Pakistan.

Five matches played for four wins and a draw is mighty impressive, but a frustratingly small set of results. Crimson mist rolls in when you realise NZ's five compares unfavourably with England (16), India (14), Sri Lanka (12) and Australia (11). The only teams to play fewer Tests than the Black Caps in that period were Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Ireland!

I know we're often an entree or an afterthought for the cricket Goliaths. But that doesn't mean it's fair. The anaemic schedule makes a mockery of serious rankings and fun fantasy teams alike.

It's brutal on Test specialists like Jeet Raval, Neil Wagner and BJ Watling who routinely endure 100-plus days between international assignments. Bring on the World Test Championship!

The mist of frustration is also thickened by the talent present in the current team. They have done some extraordinary things with a sequence of four Test series wins against the West Indies, England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - an unprecedented achievement in our 89-year history of Test cricket.

This team's ability to adapt is a huge strength. As Craig McMillan put it: "We've been challenged in a lot of different areas and a lot of different conditions and the side

has always found a way. They're just finding a way to win."

Since the Mike Hesson (and recently Gary Stead) coaching era launched in August 2012, New Zealand have played 59 tests, with 24 wins (41%), 14 draws (24%) and 21 losses (35%). And by comparison, New Zealand also played 59 tests in the 1980s for 17 wins (29%), 27 draws (46%) and 15 losses (25%).

World-class personnel obviously helps too, but one wonderful sign is that the environment coaxes spectacular performances from players across the board with the likes of Tom Latham, Neil Wagner, Henry Nicholls, BJ Watling and Ajaz Patel all playing starring roles of late.

\*\*\*

Stats and stars are one thing, but it is humility and class that resonates with the New Zealand public. This team has repeatedly delivered sequences of fine performances, and behaved with dignity and integrity regardless of results.

The groundwork for this Black Caps' culture was laid in the McCullum era, with coach Mike Hesson, manager Mike Sandle and the players getting heads together. The 'no dickhead' philosophy was invoked and the team agreed on 'a New Zealand way to play, with its hallmarks including a commitment to being hard to beat, attacking fields, entertaining cricket and a genuine appreciation for the opposition. And don't forget the hari-kari approach to fielding.

Paul Ford is the co-founder of the Beige Brigade and one-seventh of the Alternative Commentary collective.

Others noticed the approach too, with former Australian coach Darren Lehmann citing it in the wake of the sandpaper scandal: "The thing for me would be if we should take a leaf out of someone like, say New Zealand's book, in the way they play and respect the opposition."

That 'New Zealand way' underpinned some brilliant results, but only time would tell whether the approach was sustainable or some unique alchemy between coach Mike Hesson and skipper Brendon McCullum.

Thankfully it has proven to be the former. The transition from Hesson/McCullum to Hesson/Williamson and Stead/Williamson appears to have been relatively seamless, and mercifully uncomplicated.

\*\*\*

Later this year, the Black Caps look set to have a memorable opportunity to capitalise on their 2018 Test cricket success. It is in Melbourne on 26 December when they play the Boxing Day Test for the first time in a generation.

This epic MCG fixture will capture Kiwi imaginations beyond hardcore cricket fans, and many of us will dare to dream. I've booked.







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