

AUTUMN 2014 | No. 025

nzcpa
the cricket players' association

PLAYERS
BETTER
TOGETHER

OUTRIGHT

NZ CRICKET PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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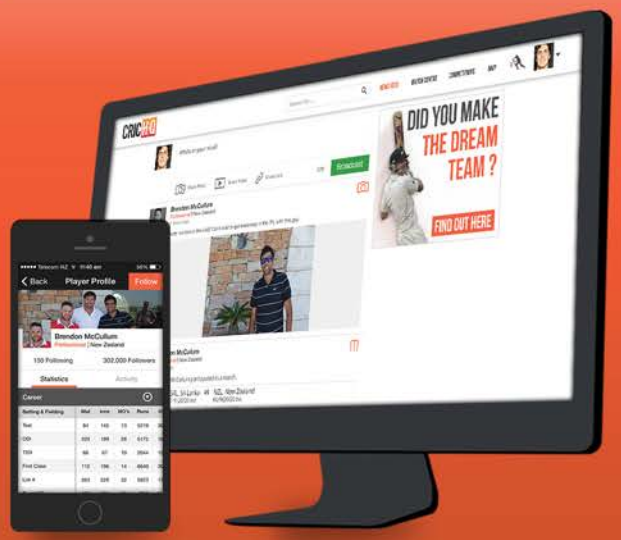


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OPENING UP

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Outright. Ironically, as the cricket season has drawn to a close we are in the middle of what is traditionally the busiest time of the year for the NZCPA.

Amongst the day to day operational requirements we are involved in a number of reviews of the previous season with NZC and the six Major Associations, conduct the annual Players Survey and Conference, work with players to facilitate off field career development opportunities, complete pre tour security checks with NZC for upcoming tours, commence the player contracting process for next season and consider any significant variations that may need to be made to the Master Agreement.

However, the cricket programme never stays quiet for long as we look forward to the upcoming winter tours for the Blackcaps and NZ A, as well as follow and assist where required, the participation of members in other professional cricket competitions around the world.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Outright and finding out what is going on at the NZCPA, including insight into what some of our members are up to and topical issues in the game.

Best Wishes
Heath Mills



Brendon McCullum fishing for golf balls during The Players' Golf Day.

Cover Photo

Jeetan Patel reflects on a decision during the Ford Trophy Preliminary Final. Photo courtesy of Photosport.

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Photos courtesy of *photosport*

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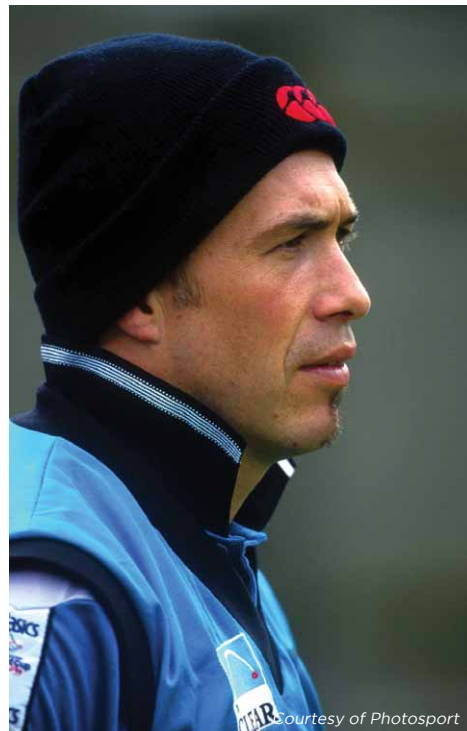
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Catching up with Roger Twose By Margot Butcher



in corporate finance with The National Bank while still playing internationally, turning full-time upon full retirement. From there, he transitioned into the multifaceted world of property, his first task for Wills Bond delivering the residential component of the Chews Lane development — a partnership with Wellington City Council that transformed a dilapidated area of Taranaki Wharf into thriving retail, offices and 97 luxury apartments with an end value of \$175 million.

“Then I worked on delivering and managing resource consent for Wellington’s international passenger terminal — a very old wharf, dilapidated and again council-owned, in need of a

“I didn’t want professional sport to define who I was”

good solution. It took a couple of years to go through that consent process with the environment court because of its waterfront significance, and that’s one of Wills Bond’s specialties — thoughtful, large scale, high quality, mixed-use waterfront developments.

Which is why he moved to Auckland in 2010, with partner Michelle and his two daughters, to lead the company’s interest in developing major new spaces that have opened up with the blooming council-driven expansion of Auckland’s inner city waterfront. And, he’s totally passionate about it. “We are not developers doing things on the cheap. We are about creating buildings and communities that stand the test of time, that’s our ethos, and I really enjoy the challenges of realising that. There’s something special and tangible about property that all New Zealanders will appreciate and it’s hard not to get excited every morning about creating that space.”

So, how did cricket help him prepare for this challenging business where he has to be across a myriad of detail and take on bold propositions? To be fair, he has to reflect on this one — but he wasn’t stumped. “Yes, I think there were transferable skills,” he decides. “To ‘survive’ as a batsman you have to be resilient and philosophical, so for example you have to find a way of accepting that a bad trot is in some ways out of your control, that you can’t control the

variables - like Parore running you out from the other end. You’ve got to have a thick skin to absorb those moments, especially in big games when the moment does not go well. You have to believe in the process: that you will eventually have good days. So perhaps I was able to transfer that skill to the business world, where you don’t always get the results you want and not every day is a good day.

“In cricket you also have to break challenges down. In considering how to score a hundred, you’ve got to break it down to each decision on each ball. In business, the ‘hundred’ is trying to secure a \$50 million dollar development and you have to methodically plan a way to get there, break it down bit by bit mentally. Am I making the right phone calls? Am I thinking about this strategically?”

The occasions that lured him to dust off his cricket bat? “Two were for the CPA in Alexandra, to give some cricket to the region while some issues with Molyneux Park meant it had temporarily lost its ground warrant. So a good cause — with great fishing and good mates like Geoff Allott and Shayne O’Connor. And I played in Stephen Fleming’s Fill The Basin fundraiser for the Christchurch Earthquake recovery. You do worry about looking like a complete turkey. You’ve got these young 22-year-olds trying to knock you over and your eyes aren’t quite what they used to be! But eventually your pride takes over, and in Twenty20 you can get away with slicing one over the in-field, so fortunately I managed to get a few.

“To ‘survive’ as a batsman you have to be resilient and philosophical”

“I guess I never missed playing that much because I stayed in contact with those people whose company I really enjoyed — I have some great mates from cricket. But I’d be lying if I said I didn’t miss the camaraderie. Business is a different life to playing with your mates in professional sport, experiencing euphoric highs and harsh lows together. Running around after winning in Nairobi hugging John Anderson and Chris Doig, the emotion of that dressing room — that can never be replicated in business. People would probably look at you a bit odd if you tried, so yes, it was very special.”

When Roger Twose put down his cricket bat in 2001, he may as well have chopped it up and chucked it in the fireplace. Batting used to be his life — but the emphasis is on “used to be”. As a shrewd left-hander who played 16 Tests and 87 ODIs for the Blackcaps and County cricket as well as domestically here in New Zealand, he made over 22,000 runs in the top level game, but since retirement, he has picked up the willow exactly three times.

Three! How life changes. But for Twose, that was precisely the plan. “I didn’t want professional sport to define who I was,” he says. “I didn’t want to be ‘that cricketer’ forever after. I wanted more to my life and to prove to myself that I could be successful in the business world.”

You’ll find him in Auckland project-managing large scale, multi-million dollar developments for Willis Bond & Co, which is a blue chip property and investment company headquartered in Wellington. Twose started with Wills Bond there in 2006, after several years in a stepping-stone career in corporate banking.

One of the first players to limit his availability with a view to playing limited overs only (for which he copped plenty of media flak, so new was the concept at that time), his ‘phased retirement’ had meant he had been able to start a career

De Grandhomme Earns Domestic MVP Honour



the season tied as 4th highest wicket taker with 46.

After a season of delivering on his undoubted talent the 27 year old can reflect on being acknowledged as Domestic’s Most Valuable Player.

“It’s pretty cool to get this MVP award. I saw the impact Hoppy [Gareth Hopkins] had on the Aces performances a couple of years ago when he was named MVP and I hope that this year I have been able to do the same”.

“We were gutted to end the season without any trophies which dulls this award a little, but it is still nice to be recognised in this way.

“All the players appreciate the support Fujitsu Heat Pumps have for the players by supporting MVP and to receive this award is a great honour.” said de Grandhomme.

Surprisingly the format where De Grandhomme dominated the most was in the Plunket Shield and he rightly was the competitions MVP after averaging 21.13 with the ball (30 wickets) and 48.38 with the bat (629 runs). Although he has often been thought of as a short form specialist, this summer he was nothing of the sort — dominating the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP tables in each format:

- Plunket Shield 1st
- HRV T20 2nd
- Ford Trophy 7th

Colin de Grandhomme’s flamboyant career took a positive turn this summer when he confirmed his status as a leading domestic player by winning the domestic Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP rankings.

De Grandhomme has long been recognised as one of the most destructive batsmen in domestic cricket and this season he combined power with consistency as one of eleven players to score over 1000 runs across all competitions. The 9th most prolific scorer with 1124 runs it was his performances with the ball that catapulted de Grandhomme to the summit of the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP table, as the only player to feature in the top 10 aggregate runs and wickets tables - the Aces star ended



NEW ZEALAND’S FAVOURITE AIR™

No other player managed to play their way into the top 10 in all formats, although had Andrew Ellis managed a higher place than 12th in the T20 he would have matched de Grandhomme’s feat. Ellis completed the season second on the overall Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP table and the move back to ND worked for Knights allrounder Scott Kuggeleijn who edged his ND skipper Daniel Flynn out of third place.

Daniel Flynn and Michael Papps were first and second respectively as the most valuable domestic batsmen, with Scott Kuggeleijn and Mark Gillespie atop the MVP bowling rankings.

MVP Leaders Per Competition	
Plunket Shield	Colin de Grandhomme
HRVT20	Anton Devcich
Ford Trophy	Scott Kuggeleijn

Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP – Domestic Overall Top 10

Rank	Domestic-Overall	MVP Points
1	Colin De Grandhomme – Aces	452.7
2	Andrew Ellis – Wizards	353.08
3	Scott Kuggeleijn – Knights	347.07
4	Daniel Flynn – Knights	343.76
5	James Franklin – Firebirds	336.49
6	Michael Papps – Firebirds	322.14
7	Jesse Ryder – Volts	317.40
8	Tom Latham – Wizards	300.54
9	Mark Gillespie - Firebirds	294.02
10	Dean Brownlie – Wizards	278.35

*for all the MVP tables in all domestic competitions, please refer to www.procricket.co.nz

It's A Jungle Out There By Scott Yeoman

Two Kiwi businessmen and a recruiting agent have teamed together to help New Zealand's professional cricketers prepare for a life after cricket.

It is one thing, as a professional athlete, to accept that you do in fact have a 'shelf life' – that there will be a time when you will have to transition out of your code and into a chosen career. But as many sportspeople have found in the past, actually doing that is not so easy.

But industry insiders say it doesn't have to be hard either.

General Manager of Agriculture and Business Strategy for ANZ Bank, Ross Verry, believes the first step is a simple one – construct a clear and effective CV. He says because the CV is a prospective employer's very first impression of an applicant, it needs to stand out from the rest.

"A professional CV is very important from the perspective of articulating key strengths, skills and points of difference. This should be backed up by evidence in the form of a brief, punchy, outline of experience and achievements," said Verry.

Manager of Whitcoulls Auckland branch, Amita Weerakoon, says managers spend as little as 15 seconds looking over an applicant's CV.

"We don't have the time to ponder every sentence. We want the information presented so that we don't have to search

for it. Countless studies have shown that professionally written CV's get more interviews."

Both Verry and Weerakoon say they look for research and genuine interest in a CV – evidence that the applicant has looked deeply into the position they are applying for, as well as the company itself. They also look for a willingness to learn new things, a proven ability to commit to and complete goals, and a record of teamwork and leadership.

Verry says he thinks cricketers naturally tick many of these boxes, and it is just a matter of communicating this clearly in their CV.

"Being competitive, focused and driven are great characteristics"

"Being competitive, focused and driven are great characteristics, as are an ability to think strategically and adapt to changing circumstances.

"These, along with the fact that cricketers spend a lot of time with teammates and learn to build effective relationships, are all valuable."

The next step after the CV is the interview, an obstacle many struggle with. But recruitment consultant for Bright Human Capital, Tracy Myer, says it is the little things that employers notice.

She says some of the most common faults of interviewees are easily avoidable. These include: Coming across as arrogant, interrupting the interviewer, not listening, not shaking the interviewer's hand confidently, maintaining good eye contact, arriving smelling like last night's garlic, ginger or chilli, and living in the past – not coming across as ready to start afresh in a new job or career.

Myer says she highly recommends interview preparation and practice with someone that can point out faults like these.

Weerakoon says as well as researching the company further before going for the first interview, applicants should ask questions, not say too little or too much in their answers, pick up on cues from the interviewer, and ultimately be themselves.

Myer says for both the CV and interview the key is to be prepared and know exactly what role you are going for so you can tailor your application accordingly.

Professional cricketers have a lot going for them when it comes to the kinds of employees businesses are looking for. But it is about being aware of what needs to be done before they retire from the game and start looking for work.

It is about being prepared and having a solid CV and a confident interviewing technique.

Return of the Matamata Express By Margot Butcher



Courtesy of Margot Butcher

Coming out of retirement has been nothing but a success story for White Ferns allrounder Nicola Browne. Now their all-time most-capped player, Browne had felt she had no dignified option other than to retire when she hung up her black cap in 2011. At 27, she was feeling as if she was pushing the proverbial uphill – energy lagging, training a battle – and assumed it was just a signal from the god of cricket that her dash in international cricket was done.

But after being diagnosed as a coeliac sufferer (in which a genetic intolerance to gluten plays hell with the gut, energy, and

the ability to absorb nutrients), Browne changed her diet, felt like a new person and made herself available for selection once more.

At Northern Districts' 2014 annual awards in April, Browne, now 30, was named Women's Cricketer of the Year for a phenomenal ninth time – easily the Northern Spirit's top run-scorer with 540 runs, averaging 68 in their one-dayers, while her 12 wickets in the short women's season was bettered only by Felicity Leydon-Davis (14), who followed Browne into the Ferns this year.

Helping emerging players like Leydon-Davis step up and achieve goals is a major motivation for Browne, who keenly remembers how intense it all felt when she was first spirited into the White Ferns aged 18 and fresh out of Matamata College – where she had been discovered by NDCA operations manager Pat Malcon. Her own development as a sports "professional" in the largely amateur New Zealand game is certainly inspirational. Check out her classy website www.nicolabrowne.co.nz and www.worldclasswaikato.co.nz initiative which she co-founded to pair local, in particular amateur, high performance sportspeople with the business world.

Hamilton-based Browne is also involved backstage in the organisation of the 2015 men's Cricket World Cup and FIFA (football) Under-20 World Cup in an events role for Hamilton City Council – leaving just enough time and energy to train for the White Ferns' next mission, the details of which were close to being confirmed by NZC as we went to press.



Courtesy of Photosport

2014 Players Golf Day – Stephen Fleming and Mitchell McClenaghan

ALWAYS OUT OF POWER?

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Taylor voted best by Peers



Daniel Vettori presents The Players' Cap to Ross Taylor.

What a season 2013/14 was for Ross Taylor – his status as the Blackcaps premier batsman was reinforced with consistent performances across all three formats and he was ultimately rewarded with the prestigious 2014 PLAYERS' Cap.

Essentially the players' Player of the Year Award, the Blackcaps right-hander was presented with The PLAYERS' Cap by NZCPA Board Member Daniel Vettori, in front of delighted team-mates following the Players' Golf Day in Auckland in March.

The PLAYERS' Cap was the icing on the cake for Taylor after sweeping the major titles at the New Zealand Cricketer of the Year Awards. "The last few days have been incredibly humbling, but this award, The Players' Cap means a lot" said Taylor.

"To be recognised by the team, and in particular my team mates is simply amazing. I am pretty pleased right now" said an excited Taylor after the presentation.

Taylor's record over the 12-month qualification period was compelling.

In 14 Test innings he harvested 816 runs at an average of 81.60, including three centuries in succession against the West Indies. In ODIs, he scored 770 runs at 51.33, and added another three hundreds. His T20 average was 34.66 – at a strike-rate of 113.

A total of 32 players registered votes through the year that spanned from the Blackcaps tour to the UK and concluded following the Indian home series. Taylor's closest rivals for the award were New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum, and

fellow batsman, Kane Williamson. Point leaders from the Test matches through the year were Taylor, Tim Southee and Trent Boult and Taylor featured again in the ODI's along with Kane Williamson and Corey Anderson. The T20 arena was led by Nathan and Brendon McCullum and Luke Ronchi.

The annual PLAYERS' Cap award was first introduced in 2012. New Zealand players, coaching staff; one match official and one member of the media are each requested to rank the three best performers from each match played by the BLACKCAPS, and the points are collated at the end of the year.

The PLAYERS' Cap Recipients

- 2014** Ross Taylor
- 2013** Brendon McCullum
- 2012** Tim Southee

The Art Of Resilience

Resilience is our ability to 'bounce back' during times of unexpected or high physical and emotional demand. It's displayed by those who boldly take up a challenge when presented with a tough situation; those who can move forward after taking responsibility for their mistakes; and those that have a large capacity to persevere and adapt when the odds seem stacked against them.

Thankfully it's not a miraculous ability reserved only for the invincible. Instead, resilience is a versatile skill that anyone can learn and develop.

Fitness for Work company and Instep affiliate, BSSNZ, identifies Seven Critical Factors in Resilience:

1. The ability to stay calm under pressure (Emotion Regulation). Despite their emotions, resilient people are able to stay focused on developing a solution to their problem. This concentrated approach to problem solving is helpful at work, in relationships and in maintaining physical health.
2. The ability to show self-discipline under pressure and not respond emotionally (Impulse Control). It is maintaining the ability to 'think first'

and is closely linked with staying calm under pressure.

3. The ability to accurately identify the cause of problems (Causal Analysis). Once the cause identified, it is easier to work out how to avoid it again in future. Effective problem solving is one of the key factors of resilience.

"That which does not destroy me, makes me stronger"

- Nietzsche

4. The belief in our own ability to cope with issues and solve problems (Self Efficacy). Your level of self-efficacy tends to be higher in areas you feel confident in, for example, some people may adapt better to unexpected events at home rather than social situations.

5. The belief that things can change for the better, that there is hope for the future and that you can control the direction of your life, balanced with a healthy sense of reality which accepts that life goes 'down' from time to time (Realistic Optimism). Unrealistic

confidence and optimism often leads to poor risk assessment and bad decisions.

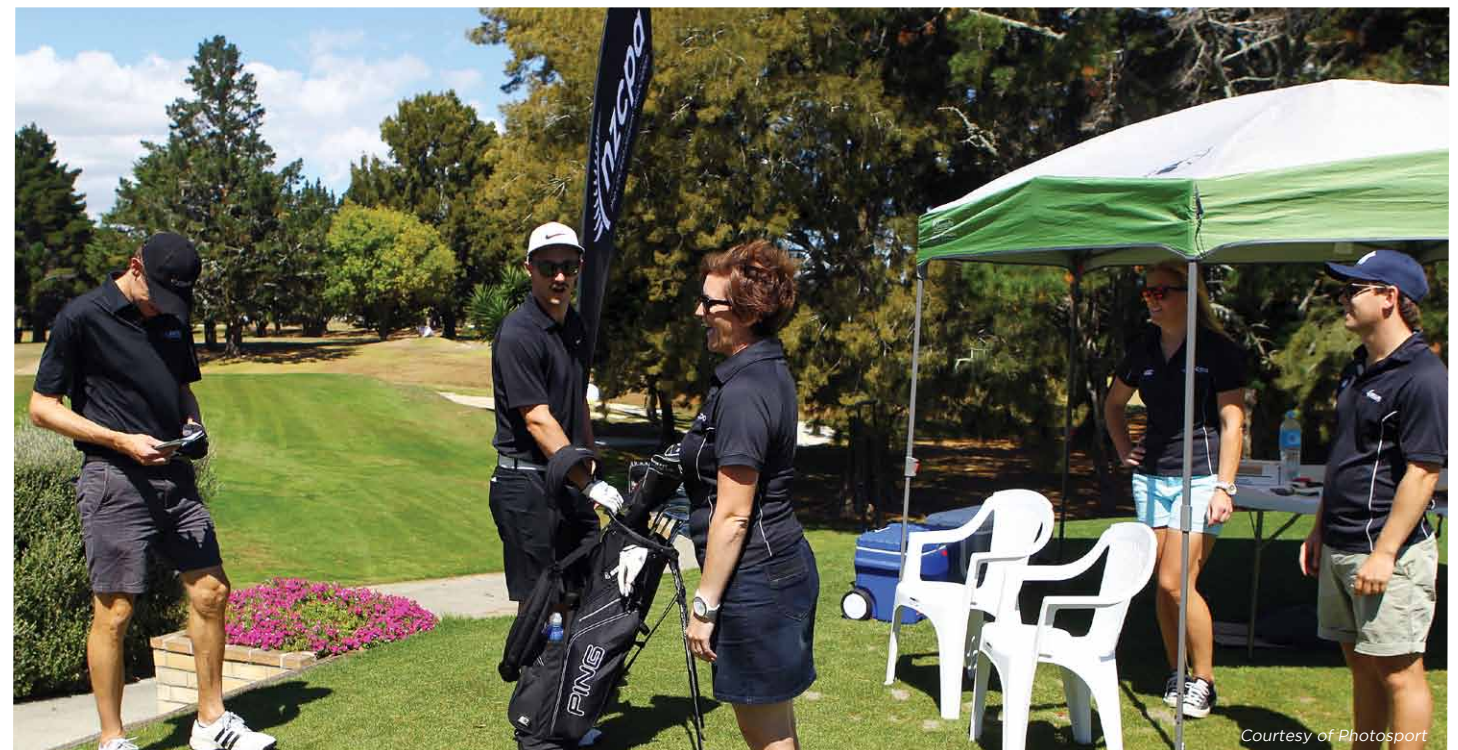
6. The ability to understand another's perspective and read other people's psychological and emotional states (Empathy). Those that empathise with others tend to have excellent 'people skills', are effective leaders, team members, friends, spouses and parents

7. The confidence to seek out new opportunities, challenges and relationships (Reaching Out). Is it to 'reach out' to new experiences and 'push the envelope' in all areas of your life for greater satisfaction and achievement.

"Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference."

- Neibuhr

If you would like one-on-one guidance with building resiliency, contact Instep Limited, your Member Assistance Provider, on 0800 284 678 to arrange an appointment.



The Players Golf Day - raising money for The Cricketers Hardship Trust



Review Into The Structure Of Domestic Cricket

By Heath Mills



Courtesy of Photosport

New Zealand Cricket is in the final stages of completing a review into the structure of Domestic Cricket. This piece of work had its genesis about three years ago when an initial review was undertaken including significant consultation with all stakeholders. Unfortunately, that review was never really completed, although the need for a restructure and attempt to change what we are currently doing has often been discussed, and at times tabled, in the years since.

We are delighted that NZC is now completing this process. The Players Association has been involved throughout the review and we look forward to working with NZC and the Major Associations (MA's) in shaping an environment for our Domestic Competitions which enables them to thrive.

In many respects, the Players' Association was borne from the frustrations our members experienced whilst plying their trade in our Domestic Competitions. We have seen significant change since

2002, in particular the implementation of the Master Agreement, the Grounds Warrant of Fitness and increased high performance resource around the six MA teams. However, there is no question that the Domestic Competitions fall a long way short of maximising their potential in regards to player development, promotion, marketing and commercialisation.

The current structure effectively positions the current Domestic Competitions at a development level for NZC. As a result, every decision about the competitions is secondary to the needs of NZC and/or the Blackcaps. As a consequence, decisions regarding Domestic playing schedules, commercial relationships, promotional activity or grounds and practice facilities are often compromised.

There is no doubt that International cricket is the financial engine of NZC and should always remain the pinnacle of the sport from a playing perspective. However, we hope that giving a degree of independent focus to those governing

Domestic Cricket, we will see decisions made that are in the best interests of these competitions, which will promote growth, opportunity and development.

Any new structure should rightly include a Participation Agreement between NZC and the competing teams. It is staggering that there is currently no agreement in place governing the participation of teams in these competitions (and never has been). This is certainly unique when compared with professional sporting competitions around the world, which have some form of Licensing or Participation Agreement between the central body and the participants. These agreements are absolutely critical in establishing the right to field a team in the competition(s), outlining who owns what commercial properties, and setting out the obligations on the parties involved and high performance standards and facilities required to take your place in the competition. They are also important in defining a term during which a team has a right to participate in the competition – without which the participating

teams leave themselves vulnerable to unforeseen change and the desires of the central body.

The fact that we do not have Participation Agreements or a decision making structure that works to promote the success of Domestic Competitions is probably reflective of a system and structure designed for a different environment, some 100 odd years ago. The sport has moved a long way since that time with the advent of a full commercial and professional sport here in New Zealand with its vastly different needs, opportunities and obligations. For this reason alone, a review of the structure of Domestic Competitions is absolutely necessary.

It is also important that any review into the Domestic Cricket Competitions provisions for third party investment in the participating teams. There has been much written about this aspect of the current review, which has resulted in a disproportionate focus on this recommendation compared to other recommendations. However, it is pleasing to note that most of it has been positive and progressive. There are many examples of private investment occurring in sport around the world – it is nothing new and unquestionably adds to the sporting landscape. In fact the vast majority of professional sport is privately owned and operated whether that is through individual ownership, company ownership, membership clubs, regional territories, cities or ground authorities.

Interestingly, there is nothing preventing a MA restructuring itself to sell down shareholding today. Perhaps the biggest obstacle to this happening would be a savvy investor who would likely note there is no Participation Agreement in place and they would therefore in effect own nothing! Therefore, it is critical NZC ensures Participation Agreements are in place to ensure sufficient protections are present so that, in the event a MA chooses to sell down shareholding, it is required to do so under set rules and structures that include an appropriate independent vetting system that ensures any third party involved is appropriate for our Domestic Cricket environment.

It has also been interesting to note a few doubters who question why a third party would invest in a Domestic Cricket team. The inference is that there is nothing in it for them. However, that is precisely why people may invest as they will likely see an opportunity that is under-developed with plenty of potential. Importantly, professional, competitive investors will bring people with them who will add to our team environments, particularly from a strategic, financial, marketing and promotional point of view. We can also expect they will bring with them other companies and organisations they are associated with as is evidenced elsewhere.

It is important that any change must ensure the Amateur game is not impacted and if anything has a better focus through a new structure. If we can grow the

Domestic game and achieve a better financial outcome, then resource that is currently allocated to the Domestic game by NZC could well be directed to the development end of the sport. The professional and amateur games require a different focus and skill sets in governance and management as they have different needs and responsibilities. The changes that potentially result from the review may also be a catalyst for MA's to review the structures within their environments, particularly how the professional and amateur ends of the game are serviced and supported, which inherently conflict when it comes to decision making under our current structures.

We are now awaiting the completion of the review and then look forward to working through the implementation of the various recommendations that are agreed. It is important to note that any changes that occur to the professional cricketing environment can only be made by variation to the Master Agreement which, from the NZCPA perspective, will require agreement from our Current Playing Members.

If any member has any questions about the NZC Review of the Structure of Domestic Cricket don't hesitate to give us a call to discuss or call into the office for a chat.



Courtesy of Photosport

Players' Survey



Courtesy of NZCPA

We have recently completed our annual Players' Survey of all international and domestic players in New Zealand. The Players' Survey is a very effective means for the CPA to assess all areas of New Zealand's professional cricketing environment – New Zealand Cricket (NZC),

Major Associations (MAs), domestic programming, high performance, and the CPA.

The survey is useful for two reasons.

1. It provides the platform for the CPA to

communicate with stakeholders what has worked well in the environment to ensure we reinforce what we are getting right.

2. The results clearly outline areas that need to be improved to ensure that all parties, whether individually or collectively, address these areas and respond proactively.

Whilst we all appreciate that the players are just one stakeholder in the environment and that there may be some constraints, financial or otherwise, that impact on the environment, these survey results clearly warrant some discussion and are an important means for the CPA, NZC and the MAs to bring about positive change.

Below are some outtakes from this year's survey.

New Zealand Cricket

- 74% of Players believe NZC is doing a good job running the game.
- 94% of players believe NZC promotes and markets the International game effectively.
- 80% of Players do NOT believe NZC promotes and markets the domestic game effectively enough.
- 60% of players are NOT aware of, and do NOT understand, how the NZC high performance programme works.

MA's and Domestic Cricket

- 72% of players believe their MA (including team management) communicates well with players at all times.
- 45% of players do NOT believe their MA provides appropriate OUTDOOR practice facilities at all times throughout the season.
- 78% of players believe their MA has an effective review and development programme for each player.
- 64% of players do NOT believe their MA uses their profile effectively to promote the team and the three domestic competitions.
- 66% of domestic players voted the Plunket Shield as the most valued domestic cricket format.
- 30% of domestic players voted the HRV T20 as the most valued domestic cricket format.

Domestic Programme

- 79% of players agree that the scheduling of the HRV Cup this year to include Friday/Saturday night televised matches was a positive change to the domestic cricket.
- 46% of players did NOT believe the concept of an HRV T20 Finals Weekend at a pre-determined location worked well.

General High Performance

- Basin Reserve was voted as having the best wicket, followed by the Eden Park Outer Oval.
- University Oval was voted as having the worst wicket, followed by Harry Barker Reserve.
- 53% of players believe that Eden Park produces the best off-field practice nets in NZ.
- 54% of players believe that University Oval produces the worst off-field practice nets in NZ.

Umpiring

- 50% of players think umpiring in New Zealand is of a standard acceptable for first class cricket.
- 87% of players believe players have a good relationship with umpires.
- 65% of players believe the addition of full-time match referees had a positive influence on match management.

BLACKCAPS

- 92% of Blackcaps representatives believe the team environment is well organised with good planning and ensures the team and individuals are well prepared.
- 92% of Blackcaps representatives understood their role and this message had been conveyed consistently and clearly by the team management.
- 88% of Blackcaps representatives voted Test Cricket as the most valued international cricket format.

NZCPA

- 94% of players believe the NZCPA communicates well to members about general NZCPA matters.
- 99% of players believe the NZCPA provides good assistance to players in the MA cricketing environment.
- 82% of players understand why the NZCPA needs its own commercial and events programme.
- 67% of players are active in the NZCPA Career and Personal Development programme.
- 59% of players believe that having a personal development manager based in each province would help grow the career and personal development programme further.
- 51% of players do NOT believe their administrators are interested in their personal development in addition to their cricket development.

Auckland Takes Home Masters Title



NZCPA Masters Tournament Team

The premier past player event is the Masters Weekend and this year it was pleasing to have members from all Major Associations in Queenstown for the first time in three years.

Our members want this to be the major event for all past players, offering a range of activities and this is where Queenstown comes into its own – whether it be food, wine, golf, mountain biking, relaxation, playing or watching cricket, this is the perfect location.

This year we were particularly pleased that Robert Anderson was present over the weekend and hope that a greater number of non-playing members are able to attend in the future

The annual pilgrimage began when Queenstown airport became abuzz with players arriving on Friday morning. Those arriving settled into two groups for the afternoon's activities – Bannockburn was the location of choice for those on the wine trail and Jacks Point again played host to the 28 participating in the annual masters Golf Tournament. After a day of slices and spittoons, putts and platters the day concluded at the hotel and the official Masters Weekend cocktail function.

The stage was set for the tournament to begin although the autumnal weather did not lay favour with the first round on Saturday morning cancelled due to heavy overnight rain. The afternoon matches were able to proceed when Central Districts' quest for an historical three-peat was thwarted by a resurgent Canterbury side. Otago and Auckland were the other victors in the afternoon round which left Otago atop Pool A and traditional rivals Auckland and Canterbury vying for top spot in Pool B - with the top placed side from each pool to contest the Sunday afternoon final.

The Auckland verses Canterbury match was a cliff-hanger throughout before the super city dwellers inched past the Cantab's total with two deliveries to spare. Otago had little trouble getting past Northern Districts and were through to the final on home soil.

Auckland won the toss and elected to bat in the final but they were on the back foot as they lost the early wickets of Richard Jones and Wayne Enoke. Player of the tournament Guy Coleman combined with Craig Pryor in a partnership that changed the course of the match, and it was Pryor who was particularly dominant taking 19

from his final over before retiring with his score on 50. Martyn Pringle hit out freely at the end of the innings as Auckland posted a weekend high score of 165 for 6.

The adrenalin was still running high as Pryor opened the bowling and proceeded to rip through the Otago top order with three quick wickets. With the trio of Karl O'Dowda, Shane Robinson and Simon Roberts back in the shed the task looked ominous for the southerners and they fought hard to stay with the required run rate but it proved a challenge too far.

Pryor's dominance in the final saw him recognised as the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP for the tournament with 59.20 points, and the satisfaction of knowing he provided a valued piece of silverware for Auckland Cricket's trophy cabinet.

The weekend would not be as successful, or in fact possible, without the support of the Grassroots Trust and Infinity Trust. The NZCPA would also like to acknowledge the support of the Major Association Cricket Associations for supporting their Masters team.

Pulling Stumps By Margot Butcher

Not everyone subscribes to Neil Young's mantra about burning out in a blaze of glory. Calling time on a long, enjoyable cricket career is usually a long, tough decision — or rather, deciding just when that time should be. But at least two players have made that call at 2013/14's close.

Gareth Hopkins has bowed out at 37 as one of the most respected and longest-serving cricketers on the domestic scene. Originally from Northern Districts, he also represented Canterbury and Otago before settling into a successful leadership role behind the stumps for the Aces — helping steer them to back-to-back HRV Cup titles in 2011 and 2012 and breaking through to the main section of the 2012 Champions League. It was a golden period in which he was also awarded New Zealand Cricket's 2011/12 domestic player of the year trophy and became the first wicketkeeper to be named Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP of the season.

"Hoppy" earned a four-test whirl for the Blackcaps in 2008 (plus 25 ODIs and 10 T20s during several years as a centrally-contracted player) when incumbent Brendon McCullum was on paternity leave. All up, he scored 7,550 runs in 158 first-class matches, including 17 centuries and 34 half-centuries, as well as 4,013 runs at 27.01 in Ford Trophy/List A games



Gareth Hopkins

and 1279 Twenty20 runs from 83 games. As a keeper he bagged 435 first-class catches and 26 stumpings, which broke Ian Smith's 22-year-old national dismissals record this past summer. Hopkins, wife Bernadette and preschooler sons George and Henry have moved to Papamoa in the Bay of Plenty — back in ND country where it all began, where he is now looking to utilise his degree in finance and economics.

Canterbury Wizards batsman Shanan Stewart also took his cricket career to the

highest peak when he played four ODIs in 2010. The hard-hitting right-hander retires after a prolific 13-year career for the red and blacks, having played 244 matches across all formats for the Wizards — second most-capped after the Peter Pan-like Chris Harris.

At just 31, Stewart admits the decision was a difficult one, but was soothed by the fact he was keen to spend more time with his young family. He made 5,693 runs in the Plunket Shield at 36.72, including seven centuries and 35 half-centuries. Add to that 3,521 List A runs, including four centuries and 17 fifties and 679 T20 runs at a handy strike rate of 124.35.

His form hit a crescendo between 2009 and 2011 when he produced his career-best unbeaten 277 in the Plunket Shield, having made 161 in the previous week's game — yet he counts the Wizards' 2010/11 title win, while the region was still dusting itself off from the shock of a major earthquake, as his single most resonant domestic career highlight.

At least two other long-serving, competitive players CPA has spoken to are not likely to be spotted again next summer. But spitting out the 'R' word is not everyone's style. As one says, "I'm never retiring. I just won't be around."



2014 Players' Conference

This year's Players' Conference provided a forum for 15 representatives from all six Major Associations and Blackcaps to group together and discuss current proposals and issues in the professional cricket environment in New Zealand.

Like the Players' Survey, the Players' Conference allowed the NZCPA to ascertain those areas that require addressing within the collective cricketing environment, within regions and on a personal level too.

This annual conference encourages the attendees to provide their thoughts on the following areas within the environment

- the proposed domestic cricket restructure,
- potential master agreement variations,
- review domestic grounds and facilities,
- domestic scheduling,
- an overview of Major Association environments,

- New Zealand Cricket's High Performance Programme, and
- NZCPA services, events and activities.

The views and ideas of the players are invaluable when attempting to improve New Zealand's professional cricketing environment and the CPA will look to table these views and ideas with other stakeholders in the coming weeks.

The Outsider West Indies



Courtesy of The Outsider

In late May, the NZ team heads to the archipelago of the West Indies for Test matches and T20s. Last time New Zealand toured the Windies, a handful of passionate Kiwi cricket fans went along. This wasn't some middle-aged, high-end luxury tour with all the bells and whistles and no soul, it was a few chaps on an epic adventure in the Caribbean — fueled by rum and fried chicken. The Outsider caught up with Timaru lad Brett Wooffindin for the inside word.

How long did it take to get there?

Ages! From Wellington to St Kitts took about 40 hours. A strange sight greeted us on arrival as all the land around the airport had been burnt by farmers protesting about the Government's closure of the sugar industry.

Did you catch up with the teams while you were over there?

Yep there was a bit of banter. One night at St Kitts, the Windies turned up at the hotel in their match kit before busting out some dance moves and singing songs in the hotel lobby.

Did you try any of the notorious party zones?

Yes — and they're extraordinary. For a lazy US\$40 we got tickets to a lounge with all the usual refreshments. They fed us chicken with rice and fish, and a pretty unpalatable afternoon snack of goats water. One afternoon threatened to turn pear-shaped after Wadsy did a belly flop into the pool and splashed the locals so we quickly retreated back to our leather couches.

Was it one of your crew spotted high-fiving Chris Gayle on the boundary?

Yes, my mate Channel from Winton dished that one out after Ross Taylor smoked a four out toward our platoon on the boundary. A little known fact was that it was Channel's second Gayle high-five on tour: the first was at the karaoke session at the hotel in St Kitts.

I heard you met the Minister for Tourism: is that true?

Yes at the Test match the Minister had been watching us have fun all day and invited us up to his corporate box. West Indies legend and manager Richie

Richardson was also there to greet us. That evening we popped along to the Kings Casino to watch Curtly Ambrose and his band jam. Curtly was a legend and is an absolute monster of a man!

Any signs of the infamous "Sir" Allen Stanford?

Yeah and it's a pretty sad state of affairs. In Antigua the first thing our taxi driver pointed out to us was the old Stanford bank, the Stanford Cricket Ground, and the Sticky Wicket restaurant which are all right beside the airport. They're all pretty new — but not being used at all.

What were the local supporters like?

They were pretty tough on their team. Neil Wagner got Devon Thomas out at one point, having given the batsman a serve the ball before. As he trudged back to the dressing room a local lady shouted: "Thomas, don't you ever let a Kiwi intimidate you like that again."

What was the highlight of your visit to St Maartens?

Our visit to the beach near Princess Juliana International Airport wasn't really a highlight, but it was memorable. When I say "near", I mean adjacent. Watching planes land and take-off from here was one of the most stupid things I have ever done. We got sand burns and singed hair.

Would you recommend Kiwi cricket fans make the effort to get to the Windies for a cricket tour?

Absolutely yes — it should be on every cricket fan's bucket list! The Caribbean is the best place I have watched Test cricket. The weather is hot, the beaches are good, the drinks are cheap and surprisingly good, the food is unique, but most of all the locals are brilliant. Whether it be the security guard who guessed our flag was from Canada, players dishing out high-fives, or local politicians inviting backpackers into a corporate box — they're just wonderful people.

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