

AUTUMN 2026 | No. 061

# **OUTRIGHT**

THE PLAYERS' MAGAZINE



**SMILES A PLENTY AT  
HOOKED ON CRICKET**

**A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP:  
HEATH MILLS STEPS DOWN**

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## OPENING THOUGHTS

Heath Mills with Sophie Devine.

While there has been plenty happening on the field since the last edition, a major announcement has been made and headlines this edition of Outright. After 26 years of service to players through his work in forming and leading the NZCPA, Heath Mills has announced he will step down as Chief Executive in June.

It is difficult to express in words the impact Heath has had on the organisation, our members, as well as the game in New Zealand. His leadership, commitment and care for players have helped shape the environment we see today, and his contribution will be remembered for many years to come. We look forward to recognising that contribution and what's next for him inside the magazine.

There is something about the tail of summer that gives you a moment to pause and reflect on another full season of cricket. The long days have already begun to shorten, the trophies are celebrated and with myriad award evenings, recognising performances of note in what has been a memorable season for cricket. This summer has certainly delivered with outstanding efforts at home and abroad.

The Blackcaps schedule was once again a full commitment, having begun by hosting Australia and England in October, followed by the West Indies and then rounding out in March against South Africa.

Straddling the ICC T20 World Cup, the home summer provided fans with a constant stream of international cricket and, importantly, to see an emerging group of young talent on show against South Africa following the heartbreaking loss in the final of the ICC T20 World Cup to hosts India. Making another ICC final is no small achievement and a reflection of the consistency and resilience that has become a hallmark of this side, and although frustrating to fall agonisingly close again, the fans back home had plenty to cheer about.

The White Ferns have also provided plenty to celebrate, most recently hosting Zimbabwe and South Africa across the summer. They not only entertained but continued to push the boundaries of what is possible in the women's game. A standout moment came in Wellington where, under newly appointed captain Amelia Kerr, the side chased down 347 against South Africa at the Basin Reserve, the highest successful run chase in women's ODI history. Kerr's unbeaten 179 was an innings of real quality and composure, and a reminder of the talent that exists within this group.

The domestic competitions once again showcased the depth of talent across the country and provided plenty of memorable moments. Congratulations to Northern Brave who claimed the men's Super

Smash title, while Wellington Blaze took out the women's competition. Northern Brave women added to that success by winning the Hallyburton Johnstone Shield, while the Central Stags secured the Ford Trophy. In the longer format, Canterbury were crowned Plunket Shield winners in a special season that celebrated 100 years of the competition.

Inside the magazine, there are a number of stories that highlight the people and pathways that continue to strengthen our game. We meet Bevan Small, the third recipient of the NZCPA and NZC Umpires Scholarship, who is balancing his officiating journey alongside teaching at Iona College. We acknowledge Auckland Cricket President Lynda Prichard, née Powell, on her induction into the Auckland Cricket Hall of Fame, a well-deserved honour. We also catch up with Claudia Green, who is making a significant impact in the youth space, and introduce Adine Wilson, who joins the CPA in a legal counsel and player services role, bringing valuable experience to the team.

As always, this edition is a snapshot of the people, performances and moments that continue to shape our game.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Outright.

Ngā mihi nui,

**NZCPA**

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Players better together

# CROSSING THE GENERATIONS WITH A TRAILBLAZER

BY TREVOR AUGER

**L** Lynda Prichard is used to being a trailblazer. In 1972 she was part of the New Zealand women's team which won their first ever Test match, against Australia in Melbourne. Her second innings 66 was instrumental in the victory, after New Zealand had been rolled for 89 in their first turn at the crease.

A few weeks later she featured in another Test win, this time in South Africa. These have been the New Zealand women's only Test victories, and Lynda played in both.

A year later, the first women's World Cup was held in England. There, Lynda played in New Zealand's inaugural One Day International, and top-scored with 70 in her side's victory over Trinidad and Tobago.

More than 50 years later, she is still breaking new ground. In October 2025 she was elected President of Auckland Cricket, the first woman to fill the role. Then in early December, together with her mentor, the late Rona McKenzie, she became the first woman inducted into Auckland Cricket's freshly-minted Hall of Fame.

All this and Lynda didn't even start playing cricket until she was 14, and then only after replying to a newspaper advertisement seeking players to join the Akarana Women's Cricket Club.

The club had been established during the 1940's in large part through the efforts of Rona McKenzie, who took the youngster under her wing when she turned up there in 1964.

By the time Lynda was 16 she was playing for Auckland under McKenzie's leadership and her potential quickly caught the eye. She was only 21 when she flew to Australia with the New Zealand team, her memorable Test debut just weeks away.

About the same time, she also joined the Auckland Women's Cricket Association Executive, chaired by McKenzie. The role of Honorary Treasurer was the first of a number of positions Lynda held, as her involvement in the game's governance grew. Some twenty years later she was still in the thick of things, overseeing the integration of the women's game with the Auckland Cricket Association.

Since then, Lynda has remained a staunch advocate for women's cricket and a dedicated follower of the Auckland Hearts and the White Ferns.

Appropriately then, the function to honour Lynda and Rona coincided with the Hearts' first home game of the summer, against the Northern Brave, and Lynda presided over the toss to get the day under way. Before play began, she also presented debutante Eve Meachen with her Auckland cap.

At lunch in the historic Bert Sutcliffe Lounge a large group of former teammates, cricketing friends and family joined together to celebrate Lynda's contribution to the game.

Sue Morris and Kathryn Ramel, White Ferns of different eras, spoke of the impact Lynda had on their careers and on the game, and their comments highlighted to many of the guests just what a champion of women's cricket Lynda has been, on and off the field.

Morris couldn't be at the event as she was on duty as Match Referee at a Plunket

Shield clash in Christchurch, so she had pre-recorded a video, while Ramel spoke eloquently for the generation in the midst of the changing structure of women's cricket in the 1990s.

Lynda was presented with a bat signed by all the attendees and then she was handed the framed certificate marking her inclusion, alongside John Sparling and Rona McKenzie, amongst the first three members of the Auckland Cricket Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was inaugurated in 2025 as a means of recognising and honouring those who have made an outstanding contribution to cricket in Auckland. It is intended that an additional two men and two women will be inducted each season as the Hall of Fame grows to encompass the history of the game in our largest city.

At the close of play, both the Auckland Hearts and the Northern Brave joined the guests. With many of the Brave players involved with club cricket in Auckland, this was the perfect opportunity for both teams to meet the cricketer most knew only from the name of the Prichard Cup, for which their clubs compete each summer.

They relished the opportunity to ask questions and compare notes on just how much the game has changed since Lynda had answered that advertisement all those years ago.



The 1972 New Zealand touring team to Australia and South Africa. Back row from left: Pat Carrick, Elaine White, Liz Allan, Jenny Olson, Judi Doull, Carol Early, Jill Saubrey, Lynda Powell, Glenys Page; Seated from left: Janice Stead, Trish McKelvey (captain), Joy Lamason (manager), Bev Brentnal (vice-captain), Shirley Cowles; In front: Jackie Lord (left) and Ethna Rouse.

It was a very special day, and proudly watching was Lynda's husband and greatest supporter, Roy. The two had met when Roy had been the driver of the New Zealand team's coach at the 1973 World Cup in England. Suffice to say that he followed the team back across the world

and the pair married a matter of months later.

Also looking on was Lynda and Roy's granddaughter McKenzie – and yes, inevitably she was named with Rona McKenzie in mind...



Lynda Prichard with Auckland Cricket Board Member Katie Perkins.



Lynda with her Family. Left to Right: son-in-law Pete, daughter Donna, granddaughter McKenzie, and husband Roy.



# STILL IN THE GAME

## BEVAN SMALL'S JOURNEY BEYOND PLAYING

BY AIDEN MCLAUGHLIN

Bevan Coaching at Iona College.

**SPORT HAS ALWAYS BEEN BEVAN SMALL'S PASSION AND EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOW RETIRED FROM PLAYING, THE FORMER CENTRAL STAG IS NOW EMBRACING TWO EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES THAT KEEP HIM INVOLVED DAY IN, DAY OUT – ONE ON THE FIELD, AND ONE OFF.**

Small is now combining his full-time role of Director of Sport at Iona College in Havelock North with a new adventure, having been named as the newest recipient of the NZCPA Umpiring Scholarship.

Following in the successful footsteps of the first two recipients of the scholarship, Auckland's Craig Pryor and Otago and Northern Districts' Brad Wilson, Small is keen to expand on his umpiring experience and expertise.

"I'd always had an interest in umpiring," says Small.

"I'd spent a bit of time in my earlier playing days with injuries and time off umpiring Gillette Cup qualifiers, a lot of schoolboy age cricket, and anything that CD needed, so I managed to tick a lot of that off over the years. It was always a carrot being dangled I suppose."

The scholarship is spread over a two-year period and provides a huge opportunity to learn more about all aspects of the professional umpiring world.

"It's a very well supported role," says Small.

"There's a lot of people involved at New Zealand Cricket overseeing things and a lot of experienced people to learn from. I'm looking forward to getting stuck in and seeing what it's all about and seeing how good I can be in amongst full-time employment. It's a cool way to get back into a cricket role again."

Small first showed an interest in the scholarship a few years ago after it was announced. He was still playing at that stage, so he decided to put a formal application on hold, but when the next cycle came round, he put his name in the hat, went through the interview process and the rest is history.

"It's been quite common feedback from playing groups that it would be great to have some past players involved in that space, people who have been out in the middle, who know how it all works and have seen it from that angle."

Small attended a pre-season workshop weekend in Lincoln where he got to meet the other umpires. The summer holidays provided a natural break from his Director of Sport role and during term time, there's plenty of cricket at the weekend he gets his teeth into.

"I captained Manawatu for a full season but in my professional days I just turned up and played, so I was never involved in any post-match debriefs that the captains are involved in, so having all the playing conditions, the law books sent my way has been a bit of an eye-opener and that's before you get into the other roles like the third and fourth umpire, the calculations you need to do and all those things."

Born in Feilding, the allrounder was part of what would turn out to be a star-studded New Zealand squad that competed at the 2010 U19 World Cup.

As well as fellow Central Districts teammates Doug Bracewell, Dane Cleaver



Bevan with his wife, Grace, and their dog.



Bevan with his No 1 Supporters - Mum and Dad.

and Ben Wheeler, Small would line up alongside future Blackcaps Tom Latham, Jimmy Neesham, Michael Bracewell, Tom Blundell and Corey Anderson.

"I finished the U19 World Cup and went home to play for Manawatu and I still remember the exact delivery where I broke down and had this horrendous pain in my left side. I had three or four years of ongoing rib issues and different people diagnosing it with different injuries. No-one could really put their finger on it for a long time and I ended up taking a bit of a risk with the surgery where they took about six centimetres off my bottom floating rib."

Sadly, injuries would play a significant part in Small's playing career, but his sheer determination to play the sport he loves saw him come back time after time, even when the odds were against him.

"I was never going to let a niggle keep me off the paddock and I potentially pushed things too far at times and I might have paid the price now that I sit here after three knee surgeries and a shoulder reconstruction and a double hernia repair and everything else."

"Eventually, the knee surgeries forced my hand. I was pretty aware early on that I was going to be spending a long

time away from playing. I always had the ambitions of getting back which I did eventually, but as the initial stages of rehab started, things weren't going as well as I expected and I had to go back on the operating table so I took up the role at Iona, which was perfect timing."

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Iona College is a boarding and day school for girls between Years 7-13. Alongside traditional sports such as netball and hockey, Small oversees everything from water polo to shooting, equestrian to rowing – and of course cricket. Central

Hinds and White Ferns all-rounder Flora Devonshire is an old girl and has also helped out the girls when available.

"I started in an assistant role which was part-time and allowed me to carry on with all my rehab and training and then it all rolled on from there really. It's a pretty cool place to have started life outside of cricket and it's built from there into the co-ordinator role and now the Director of Sport position."

"The NZCPA were always supportive and always there. I had a number of conversations with PDM Jo Murray and if there were any questions or if I needed support it was great. Jo still checks in all the time which is pretty cool. There are some great people involved which is so good for players."

As he moves into the next stage of his cricket journey, Small reflects fondly on his time playing, memories aplenty and friendships made that will last a lifetime.

"I wouldn't have changed anything in my career as I had the best time and I had a number of best mates that have come out of the Stags group and even going back to play for Manawatu, I never had any regrets. I loved every minute I took the field with both of those teams. It was a bit of a rollercoaster but I feel really lucky to have gone through that Stags group when I did. It was an awesome time to be donning the colours."

# CLAUDIA GREEN

# RESET, REBUILD, RETURN

BY MARGOT BUTCHER



**IT COULD MAKE A GOOD BRAINTEASER ON THE BACK OF A BEER CAP. NAME THE KIWI CRICKETER PICKED TWICE TO TOUR ENGLAND, WITHOUT MAKING AN INTERNATIONAL DEBUT?**

**SWING BOWLER CLAUDIA GREEN WAS TOP OF HER GAME IN 2021 AND 2022 WHEN SHE MADE THOSE TWO WHITE FERNS TOURS – THE LATTER FOR THE BIRMINGHAM COMMONWEALTH GAMES, BUT THIS SEASON WAS THE FLIP SIDE OF THE COIN.**

After having been a Central Hinds regular since the 2018/19 season with a serious ability to hoop the ball, Green got the yips and got dropped partway through the latest Super Smash.

Any bowler who's been through it knows how frustrating it is. And, how difficult it is to describe, diagnose, work through. "That's the thing when you're a bit yippy: the more you overthink it, the worse it gets," says Claudia.

It had started earlier, in the first HBJ game where she just felt like something was off. "Then the more I thought about it, the worse it got, pretty much. So then I was trying to fix the problem on the fly during the Super Smash.

"I'd be running in and feeling like things were fine, normal — but as soon as I let the ball go, there'd be this split second where you realise there is no control, and that affects your trust in what you're doing. And probably, you're then dealing with some nervous energy as well."

It sucked at the time but taking that pressure off and returning her to CD's swanky training nets in Hastings turned out to be the best decision.

"CD has got Aldin Smith there as a performance coach and he's amazing to work with not just skill-wise, but as someone who is so calming. He has a knack for removing all the pressure that you're creating in your own head, and I found that really helped me."

After a pocket of time to reflect, Claudia thinks perhaps the root problem was burning the candle at both ends.

She's always been a busy person, let alone sportsperson — from juggling her PE degree studies at Otago with playing Indoor for New Zealand U22 in places like Dubai, to working as a teacher while playing for the Hinds when she headed home to Nelson — Claudia had started her cricket journey there when she was just 12, filling in for her cousin's team.

Last year she moved to Hawke's Bay to focus more on her cricket, while still teaching four days a week — and picking up a handy, one-day-a-week role as a coach with Ignite Ākonga which is a local 10-week, secondary school-based programme that supports rangatahi to reconnect with learning, and develop the skills they need to thrive.

Now 28, she has since transitioned away from the classroom and, after the yips gave her more time on her hands, that in turn led to picking up a meatier contract with the non-profit Maca Sports Leadership Charitable Trust, as a leadership coach.

That sees Claudia now delivering practical programmes and events with pastoral care to give a cohort of 15- to 24-year-



**THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY, AT A GOOD TIME, TO START AFRESH. I CERTAINLY WANT TO COME BACK NEXT SEASON; I DON'T WANT TO FINISH ON THE NOTE THAT I DID.**

olds help to build their confidence, direction, and life skills.

It's genuinely rewarding, meaningful work, set in eight-week blocks — and it's come with a chance to take a chunky few months' break in between, allowing Claudia to reset her own zest.

So this winter, it's a proper OE. She's off to go WWOOFing in Canada.

A WWOOFer is someone who provides volunteer labour in return for board and so on, through the organisation World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. There are similar organisations she's registered with as well to take her on an adventure through British Columbia "with absolutely no cricket involved."

Then it might be a trip to Madrid. And maybe Morocco.

"I haven't really had a winter before where I haven't trained right through, or been away playing cricket, for whatever reason.

"And I've done that because I've loved it, but I've realised that maybe I didn't freshen up — maybe training too much can be worse.

"So this is a great opportunity, at a good time, to start afresh. I certainly want to come back next season; I don't want to finish on the note that I did."

Life also has a funny way of putting things in perspective. For Claudia, there was a tougher mental challenge than the yips when she was unexpectedly diagnosed with melanoma when she was just 21.

that it was probably nothing, that I was really too young to be getting melanomas. But I am pretty freckly and pale, so the risk was there.

"Then there was quite a nervous wait to get the results back. It turned out to be a wait of several weeks even though, in the meantime, they had confirmed melanoma and referred me for surgery. There was just a mix-up and a delay with getting that information passed on to me.

"So once I understood that it was melanoma, that was scary — because melanoma can spread pretty quickly. Fortunately, because of the administrative delay, I was then pushed through quickly for the follow-up surgery and specialist care.

"After that, I got three-monthly checks for a while, and thankfully I'm now fine, so now it's once a year. I use the MoleMap service with the CPA MoleMapping benefit that we get as members, and obviously I can't recommend that enough.

"I was always someone who was pretty sunsmart, too, but getting my skin checked is something I take far more seriously now.

"And if I see anyone with something, I'll say to them, 'You know, you should go get that checked.'

"It can happen to anyone, and the peace of mind is worth that hour of your time."

It was an incredibly serendipitous diagnosis. "My Dad had been booked in for his own skin check, but they had accidentally booked him in for two appointments."

Dad suggested Claudia could use the second skin-check slot herself, and that was how a small spot on the back of her leg was picked up.

"They took a biopsy. They reassured me that it was just to be on the safe side —



Claudia with her Students.



**“WHAT IS A PLAYERS ASSOCIATION?” THAT’S THE QUESTION HEATH MILLS ASKED SOME 25 OR SO YEARS AGO.**

The person who had just told him that New Zealand’s cricketers needed a Players Association wasn’t too sure himself, but he knew that Australia had one and it was headed up by Tim May, the former Test player.

That was all Heath needed to hear. He quickly tracked down a phone number and an hour and a half later he wrapped up what he calls today “an empowering conversation” with May.

That discussion was pivotal in the establishment of the New Zealand Cricket Players Association in 2001, with Heath leading the new organisation into what was then very much uncharted territory.

A quarter of a century, and many adventures later, Heath announced in March that he would be stepping down from his role as Chief Executive Officer and leaving the organisation on 3 June.

The good news is that he certainly will not be lost to the game or the Player Association movement. He remains Executive Chair of the World Cricketers Association (now an independent role)

and he will continue to work with the New Zealand Cricket Players Association in a project management capacity, primarily in the negotiation of the next Master Agreement.

Heath’s involvement in the Cricket Players Association began by accident. Having graduated from Otago University with a degree in Physical Education, followed up with a teaching qualification, he had ended up as Head of Sport at Mt Albert Grammar, overseeing the school’s highly regarded sports academies.

He was working there when younger brother Kyle and his friends Brooke Walker and Chris Drum asked him to help them secure a contract and some financial recognition from Auckland Cricket, who expected them to be available to train with the squad through the winter rather than seeking cricketing employment in England.

What began as a favour for his brother led to more players asking for his help, and it was a conversation about some of the inequities he was seeing in the game which led to his question about what a Players Association was.

Even when the new body had been constituted in 2001 with Heath volunteering his time, he continued with his role at Mt Albert Grammar, before moving to a position with Auckland Rugby.



Heath with our members at the Players Conference.

His early work for the newly fledged Association was part-time, and unpaid.

It was only after the first men’s Collective Agreement had been signed in 2002 that there was an income stream from member fees which enabled a Manager to be paid, and it was another four years before the position became full-time.

From those early beginnings, the Association now has a staff of 12, with a player pool in the many millions of dollars. More importantly, it has become a respected part of the fabric of cricket in New Zealand and its scope has continued to expand as the players have guided its growth and direction in new areas. It is a long way since those embryonic days, when the legal bills were growing rapidly and there was no surety about exactly what the final outcome might look like.

Heath had three principal goals in working to establish the organisation:

- A transparent Collective Agreement that rewarded the players commensurate with the income they were generating for the game.
- A more effective High Performance Programme supported with training facilities to match.
- A Past Player membership category to support those who had gone before.

Today the Association has delivered on all three, and then some. The Personal Development Programme has grown from strength to strength, player’s personal property and image rights have been protected through the Cricket Players’ Property Trust, and the Cricketers’ Retirement Fund has offered long-term financial security for those playing the game.

And when Heath talks about the achievements which have given him the most satisfaction, The Cricketers’ Trust stands out. The often life-changing support it has been able to provide to cricketers who have faced challenges after their playing days, epitomises the Association’s vision to be the ‘Cricketers’ Club for Life’.

Also a highlight has been the success in transforming the women’s game by introducing collective agreements covering



Left to Right: Brendon McCullum, Tim Southee, Heath Mills, Kane Williamson

**“THE CRICKET PLAYERS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN A PART OF MY LIFE FOR SO LONG, AND I’VE LOVED REPRESENTING PLAYERS. I’VE BEEN FORTUNATE THAT THEY HAVE WANTED ME TO LOOK AFTER THEM.”**

both the domestic and international game. This has transformed the sport by helping our female cricketers dedicate the time necessary to prepare and compete in an increasingly professional and competitive environment, and be rewarded accordingly.

Through his 25-year tenure at the helm Heath has earned global respect, as evidenced by his current role with the World Cricketers’ Association. In 2022 New Zealand Cricket recognised his contribution to the game in awarding him the prestigious Bert Sutcliffe Medal for service to the sport. The standing ovation he received as he accepted the presentation from then NZC Chair Martin Snedden spoke for itself.

Cricket Players Association Chair Ross Verry commented that “Heath has been one of the most knowledgeable, progressive and influential leaders in New Zealand sport over the past two decades, and his impact has been felt across the global game.

“More importantly, he has always been absolutely committed to the members of the NZCPA. Heath has consistently had the players’ backs – past and present – and has represented them with loyalty, integrity and a deep sense of purpose.”

Rob Nichol, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Rugby Players Association, has known Heath since the pair played rugby together at Otago University, and

Rob worked alongside Heath through the early days of bringing together the Cricket Players Association

Rob emphasises that “Heath is highly respected and valued throughout global sport, and especially amongst our collective of New Zealand Player Associations. Inspirational, strong in character and trustworthy – a fantastic person to work alongside.

“With the support of Jules and the kids, he has always dedicated himself to doing what is right by the players and the game. Heath can be incredibly proud of all he and the NZCPA have achieved under his leadership. An absolute legend, and a great friend to many.”

As for Heath himself, he says that although it was time to make a change it was still a very difficult decision.

“This has never really been a job for me. I’m passionate about the Association and the players.” He explains that even on the tougher days it has been the players who have provided him with the motivation to keep going. “I’ve rarely had a conversation with a player that hasn’t left me energised.”

“The Cricket Players Association has been a part of my life for so long, and I’ve loved representing players. I’ve been fortunate that they have wanted me to look after them.

“I’ve been very blessed and humbled to have been able to do the job.”



## HOOKED ON CRICKET CELEBRATES NEW MILESTONE

There were no speeches, embarrassing anecdotes, or touching tributes to mark the 21st for Hooked-on-Cricket. Instead, the programme, which connects with 400+ kids from 50+ schools throughout New Zealand built further upon its reputation in the series of tournaments during March.

The programme, which was designed to provide current players the ability to give back to the game in their own unique way, has excelled over the past 21 years due to its simple and clear purpose.

*To provide kids from any walk of life a chance to express themselves through cricket and their natural love of sport, while providing a platform to showcase the amazing sporting talent and skills that kids throughout New Zealand have.*

Players play a key role in the Hooked-on-Cricket programme. Their presence is inspirational and the way they promote the game across each of the eight teams at each tournament is great to see. Hooked-on-Cricket seeks to inspire the next generation of Kiwi kids to be successful in what they do and to encourage them toward success in sport and life.

Were it not for Hooked-on-Cricket these children would not even think about playing cricket, let alone playing it.

**OUR KIDS DON'T GET TO PLAY CRICKET VERY OFTEN, IN THE PAST CRICKET WASN'T A CHOSEN SPORT AT SCHOOL BUT NOW IT'S SLOWLY BECOMING IT. THEY ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE DAY AND THAT'S DOWN TO THE FANTASTIC COACHES AND THE EXPERIENCE HOOKED-ON-CRICKET PROVIDES.**

JASON HELLIER - TEACHER  
MAREWA SCHOOL



**A LOT OF OUR KIDS HADN'T PLAYED CRICKET BEFORE, SO SEEING THEM INTERACT WITH THE PLAYERS WAS FANTASTIC. WATCHING THEIR IMPROVEMENT FROM GAME TO GAME WAS REALLY INSPIRING. THE DAY WAS RUN EXCEPTIONALLY WELL, WITH EVERY CHILD'S DIFFERENT ABILITIES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT SO THEY COULD ALL GET THE MOST OUT OF IT.**

GUY MORRIS  
TE AWA SCHOOL

We are thankful for the tremendous support of the Queen Street Cricket Club – a cricketing charity with a shared purpose and values to the programme. QSCC provides grants and scholarships to schools, clubs and students throughout New Zealand, with the objective to encourage youth from non-traditional regions to play cricket and develop the attributes of sportsmanship, fair play and good character.

We are also thankful to the North and South Trust for their funding support and the amazing support and contribution from our domestic members.



## BAY OVAL REVELS IN BLACK CLASH ATMOSPHERE

A packed Bay Oval full of fans was treated to a night of action that saw Team Rugby take the game to the final ball and Kieran Read poised to lift the Lomu Trophy and record a popular win for Team Rugby, only for Kyle Mills and Grant Elliott to spoil the party and ensure Team Cricket walked away with the trophy again.

With everything to play for in the last two overs and Tim Southee and Jordie Barrett at the crease, Kyle Mills sent the jitters through the Team Rugby dressing room with a miserly over, conceding only 4 runs, to leave 12 required for victory in the final over. Nathan McCullum threw the ball to Grant Elliott and having dismissed Southee with the second delivery, it came down to the bat of Barrett with 8 needed from 3 balls. The match was poised for the taking for Team Rugby.

A dot ball followed by a deuce left six required from the final delivery. The

excitement in the crowd was palpable as they channelled all their energy toward Barrett, willing him to connect for one last time during his blockbuster innings of 46. Barrett swung hard, the ball right where he would have wanted it, but the swoosh of air left Barrett grimacing and the crowd groaning in angst.

Black Clash once again delivering a fantastic spectacle at the ground, and backed by another record-breaking audience on TVNZ, with close to 1 million viewers making it the most watched sporting event on free-to-air in the past year.

Earlier Jesse Ryder turned back the clock to thrill the crowd with a masterful innings of 86. A blend of finesse and power in a classic Ryder-style innings that ensured Team Cricket were able to post another formidable total of 196 at the end of the 20th over.

Lou Vincent didn't trouble the scorers this year, but he showed he's lost nothing in the field by snaring a diving, one-handed screamer at cover to dismiss David Hill.

The strategic use of the Ford Double Play with former cricket prodigies Kaylum Boshier and Jordie Barrett at the crease, set up a resurgence for Team Rugby as they narrowed in on what would have been a popular victory. Despite the result falling the way of Team Cricket, it was another spectacular event that was enjoyable throughout.

The overall experience at Bay Oval was high octane and with an amazing list of event sponsor activations and Duco Events' innovative approach that ensured the capacity crowd was left with a massive smile on their faces as they left for the evening.

### TEAM CRICKET

Nathan McCullum *Captain*  
William Wairua (wildcard)  
Lou Vincent  
Grant Elliott  
Kyle Mills  
Adam Parore  
Hamish Marshall  
Neil Broom  
Neil Wagner  
Jesse Ryder  
Hadleigh Parkes (guest player)

### 196-9 AFTER 20 OVERS

J Ryder 86 (off 48)  
H Marshall 29 (off 15)  
J Barrett 3-56  
K Read 2-18  
T Southee 2-26

### TEAM RUGBY

Kieran Read *Captain*  
Mike Hussey (wildcard)  
Colin Slade  
Ofisa Tonu'u  
Andy Ellis  
Jason Spice  
Kaylum Boshier  
Joey Wheeler  
David Hill  
Jordie Barrett  
Tim Southee (guest player)  
Ngani Laumape

### 191-7 AFTER 20 OVERS

K Read 50 (off 40)  
J Barrett 46\* (off 20)  
N McCullum 3-26  
Grant Elliott 2-25

# RACHIN RAVINDRA HONoured WITH PLAYERS' CAP



Matt Henry presenting Rachin with The Players Cap.



## THE PLAYERS' CAP RECIPIENTS

- 2025 Rachin Ravindra
- 2024 Glenn Phillips
- 2023 Daryl Mitchell
- 2022 Devon Conway
- 2021 Kyle Jamieson
- 2020 Tim Southee
- 2019 Ross Taylor
- 2018 Trent Boult
- 2017 Kane Williamson
- 2016 Kane Williamson
- 2015 Kane Williamson
- 2014 Ross Taylor
- 2013 Tim Southee
- 2012 Brendon McCullum

Rachin Ravindra has capped off a standout year for the Blackcaps, being named the 14th recipient of *The Players' Cap*. From commanding performances in India to dominating on the world stage at the ICC Champions Trophy, Ravindra's consistency, versatility, and match-winning ability have earned him the recognition of his teammates.

"It feels like he's been around forever — but he's only just getting started." That was the sentiment among the Blackcaps when Ravindra was named the 14th recipient of *The Players' Cap*, presented by teammate Matt Henry during a team gathering at Hanmer Springs recently.

The award caps off a stellar year for Ravindra, one that saw him mature from promising youngster to one of New Zealand's most influential all-format performers.

Fresh from a landmark Test series in India where he was the leading run-scorer with 256 runs at an average over fifty — including a classy 134 in Bengaluru — Ravindra proved he could excel in the toughest conditions. His poise against spin, coupled with a calm match temperament, drew admiration both at home and abroad, as the Blackcaps celebrated their first Test series win — a 3-0 whitewash on Indian soil.

If his red-ball feats hinted at a player ready to lead from the front, his white-ball campaign removed any doubt. At the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, Ravindra was nothing short of sensational. Batting

at number four, he struck consecutive centuries against Bangladesh and South Africa to propel New Zealand into the final, finishing the tournament as top run-scorer and being named Player of the Tournament. It was another major milestone in a year that underlined his all-round class and composure on the global stage.

Ravindra's consistency, versatility and quiet competitiveness stood out to his peers, earning their recognition through the team's internal voting system.

An emotional Ravindra reflected on receiving the award: "I think it's truly an honour to be recognised as someone who upholds the team values and that to me is more important than anything else. Accolades are great and all, we know we don't necessarily play for them, but I mean this one would be right up there.

"The validation from your teammates to know you're bleeding for them and you're going out to play every game for them and to receive that recognition is amazing.

"I had Matt Henry, our NZCPA Player Rep, hand *The Players' Cap* to me and add some special words and I think when you hear stuff like that from a close friend, and obviously a world-class bowler, it invokes a few emotions. It was extremely special to receive this award from Matt and my peers."

The voting was again fiercely contested, with several players featuring prominently across formats. Ultimately,

it was Ravindra's balance of impact and consistency that saw him edge out other strong performers in what was another demanding international schedule.

The 2025 edition marks the 14th Players' Cap since its inception, continuing to celebrate the cricketer whose influence and contributions have resonated most with teammates over the season.

### ABOUT THE PLAYERS' CAP

Players and coaches vote for the players who they deem to have contributed the most to the team performance over the course of each match. Recognising that players and coaches have a unique insight into the tactics, role and impact of each player's performance and how they each contributed to the overall team effort, this award is one that holds the highest of accolades.

### WEIGHTING OF VOTES

In order to compensate for the uneven number and length of Test, ODI and T20i matches, and to ensure that players from all three formats of the game have a fair chance of winning the award, a weighting system applies to all votes.

- Test match votes have a 'weighting factor' of 6,
- ODI match votes have a 'weighting factor' of 3
- T20i match votes have a 'weighting factor' of 2

To find out more about The Players' Cap go to [www.nzcpa.co.nz/awards](http://www.nzcpa.co.nz/awards)



Neil Wagner with Team Spark.

# THE CRICKETERS' TRUST BENEFIT FROM PLAYERS' GOLF DAY

Always an enjoyable day out, the Players' Golf Day facilitated a full field and perfect environment to relax and enjoy an action-packed day hosted by the Blackcaps and White Ferns. Windross Farm was once again the host venue which was presented in magnificent condition, with the day enhanced by the hot and calm early autumn weather.

Raising funds for The Cricketers' Trust is the purpose of the day and we were delighted to have an excellent turnout with 21 teams participating in the golf and activities for the charity that gives back so much to former players in need. The Cricketers' Trust was introduced by Paul Hobbs who gave a snapshot of the support the Trust has provided to former players over the course of the past year and encouraged everyone to participate in the day's fundraising activities.

It was a delight to have many current and past Blackcaps players in attendance this year, but it was especially exciting to have a group of current White Ferns players participating in the day for the first time.

The Ambrose format facilitates a great energy between the players and their guests, with the chance to share stories, experiences and laughs throughout the day. The format allows the chance for good

golf to shine, but equally to ensure that everyone can enter the clubhouse with a sense of satisfaction of a great overall team score.

As is always the case with this format, there can be a few sideways glances as the results and winners are announced. But this year it was Team Spark taking out the overall team prize, proudly hosted by Neil Wagner.

It was fantastic to welcome our fantastic NZCPA partners along to this marquee event and the return of many long-term supporters of the Players' Golf Day. We are delighted to have raised well over our targeted \$15,000 for the Cricketers' Trust, and thank the Blackcaps and White



Devon Conway in action off the tee.



Mitchell Santner with Team Vero.



Amelia Kerr with a birdie putt.

Ferns players for their commitment to this event and this charity which is so important to our playing group.

We are grateful to our golf day event partners — especially to new event sponsor Vero, as well as Boundary Road Brewery, NZC for their ongoing support and Windross Farm for the use of their amazing course.

We look forward to having everyone back again next year.



THE CRICKETERS' TRUST



**MEET**

**ADINE WILSON**

**LEGAL COUNSEL / PLAYER SERVICES**

**WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ADINE WILSON, WHO RECENTLY JOINED THE NZCPA IN THE KEY ROLE OF LEGAL COUNSEL / PLAYER SERVICES. ADINE (NEE HARPER) WILL BE A FAMILIAR NAME TO MANY OF OUR MEMBERS.**

**A FORMER CAPTAIN OF THE SILVER FERNS, SHE LED NEW ZEALAND TO A GOLD MEDAL AT THE 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES AND HAS LONG BEEN A RESPECTED VOICE IN ATHLETE ADVOCACY. SHE WAS ALSO A FOUNDING MEMBER AND FORMER CHAIR OF THE NEW ZEALAND NETBALL PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION.**

**A QUALIFIED LAWYER AND MOTHER OF TWO TEENAGERS, ADINE SOMEHOW STILL FINDS TIME TO GIVE BACK EXTENSIVELY TO THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING HER WORK WITH THE TANIA DALTON FOUNDATION AND MELANOMA NEW ZEALAND. ADINE BRINGS AN EXCEPTIONAL SKILLSET, DEEP EMPATHY FOR ATHLETES, AND A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH THAT WILL MAKE A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PLAYERS AND THE WIDER NZCPA TEAM.**

**WE MANAGED TO STEAL A FEW MOMENTS WITH ADINE TO SEE HOW SHE'S SETTling IN – AND WHAT SHE'S MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.**

**ADINE, WELCOME TO THE NZCPA. WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT GETTING STARTED IN YOUR ROLE AS LEGAL COUNSEL / PLAYER SERVICES?**

"Being back working directly with athletes and helping them navigate various matters."

**AS A FORMER INTERNATIONAL ATHLETE AND EXPERIENCED SPORTS GOVERNANCE LEADER, DO YOU FEEL YOU BRING A UNIQUE UNDERSTANDING TO OUR MEMBERS, HAVING WALKED A SIMILAR PATH?**

"Having been a professional athlete definitely helps in understanding the unique situations and pressures athletes deal with, and means the advice given is grounded in real experience."

**WHAT HAS YOUR CAREER JOURNEY LOOKED LIKE UP TO THIS POINT, AND WHAT INTERESTS YOU MOST ABOUT YOUR LEGAL COUNSEL/ PLAYER SERVICES ROLE?**

"I returned to practising law after having our two boys. Since then, I've mainly worked in law firms, along with some maternity cover roles with the Netball Players Association. I'm really enjoying not having to record time in six-minute units like you do in a law firm."

**YOU'VE CLEARLY BUILT A CAREER AROUND COLLABORATION AND ADVOCACY. WHAT FIRST DREW YOU INTO THIS SPACE?**

"I love working with and helping people and being able to make a difference at an individual level. Sport is a passion, so being able to combine the two is pretty special."

**YOU'VE ACHIEVED SO MUCH – BUT IS THERE ONE PERSONAL MOMENT OR DEFINING EXPERIENCE THAT STANDS OUT TO YOU?**

"I loved being part of the Southern Sting (now Steel) netball team. The community support was phenomenal, and it was such an awesome group of women to be part of."

**WHAT WOULD YOUR BEST FRIEND SAY IF SOMEONE ASKED THEM TO DESCRIBE YOU?**

"She loves a Hazy and chips after work, and has a crazy sweet tooth (caramel slice the frontrunner)."

**A WHILE BACK, THERE WAS AN ARTICLE MENTIONING YOU HAD MISPLACED YOUR COMMONWEALTH GAMES GOLD MEDAL. HAVE YOU HAD ANY SUCCESS IN TRACKING IT DOWN SINCE THEN?**

"After 19 years, I found it!! We were cleaning out an old filing cabinet, and it was sitting at the bottom under old paper."

**WITH SUCH A FULL PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE, HOW DO YOU SWITCH OFF? WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING OUTSIDE OF WORK?**

"Golf is a new passion, love the walk even if I am having an average game."

**YOU'VE WORKED ACROSS LEGAL, BROADCASTING, GOVERNANCE AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE SPORT. IS THERE A ROLE THAT'S BROUGHT YOU THE MOST FULFILMENT – OR DO THEY EACH OFFER SOMETHING DIFFERENT?**

"I enjoy the variety, every day and role is different, no two days are the same. Keeping the calendar up to date is key!"

**WE'VE SEEN YOU AS A COMMENTATOR AND PRESENTER, AND EVEN MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION IN THE "GAME ON" SERIES - COULD WE PERHAPS SEE YOU ON SOMETHING LIKE DANCING WITH THE STARS OR CELEBRITY TREASURE ISLAND?**

"'Hangry Adine' would not be a pleasant watch."

**FINALLY, WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO BRING TO THE ROLE OF LEGAL COUNSEL / PLAYER SERVICES**

"A safe pair of hands who players feel comfortable reaching out to."



Adine Receiving the NZ Order of Merit 2024.



Adine with husband, Jeff, and sons, Harper and Lincoln.



Adine with husband, Jeff Wilson.



# CENTRAL DISTRICTS 75 YEAR JUBILEE

Above: Stags Alumni

Top Right: Bryan Yuille with  
Ian Leggat

Bottom Left: Vic Pollard  
Duel International Cricket  
and Football

Bottom Right:  
Central Hinds Alumni



# PAST PLAYER EVENT WELLINGTON

Left to Right: Jo Butler, Diane Bray, Donna O'Sullivan,  
Sandra Bednarek, Penny Kinsella



Left to Right: Liz Green, Ginny Fail, Julie Harris,  
Rebecca Burns, Todd Bryant

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



PREMIER PARTNERS



Photos courtesy of



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# THE INSIDER THE CORRIDOR OF PAIN BY PAUL FORD

Yes we know the trope about the cricket box theoretically being 'officially' invented in 1874, a whopping 104 years before the official introduction of the batting helmet as humanity had its priorities a bit mixed up, but finally worked out the skull was also worth protecting.

But where did the box actually come from? The origins are murky: shrouded in ropery documentation, and a smorgasbord of half-myths. One certainty is that when the roundarm bowling (1830s) and overarm bowling (1860s) was legalised by the Bacon and Egg Brigade at the MCC and came off the long run-up, men's players' plum preservation went top-of-mind quite quickly.

But surely improvisation preceded the official invention. It is impossible to believe batters waited until 1874 before doing anything to protect themselves from a hard cork and leather ball arriving at one's abdomen at pace. We can assume early 'abdominal guards' were rudimentary leather, wood, books, socks, handkerchiefs and padding.

This ground zero for groin protection coincided with the epic career of 'The Doctor', W.G. Grace. The cricket colossus did succumb to wearing pads in a moment of weakness, but famously refused a box, despite bringing it to games in his cricket coffin. Apparently, this refusal was grounded in trusting his own outstanding hand-eye coordination and an "incredible confidence".

In a seminal piece of scrotal trauma, The Guardian's Simon Burnton regales a classic yarn about Dr Grace strongly advising his fellow opener Arthur Croome to find something - anything - for his nether regions ahead of a county match sporting a fearsome pace attack. Croome donned a metal cage contraption and as the leather seared past the bat multiple times it emitted a loud ding. "I told you

to get a cricket box, not a musical box," mocked the (boxless) Doctor.

The name "box" is about as literal as cricket gets. There is no poetry here, unlike the Americans' slightly more obtuse use of "cup". Cricket stuck with "box," grounded in stoic pragmatism and grim realism. The formal manufactured version consolidated around the 1870s, shaped roughly like a hollow half-pear, hard acrylonitrile butadiene styrene plastic, and padded at the edges.

Contemporary medical specialists advise that the abdomen is important to protect as it "houses vital organs such as the liver, spleen, and kidneys, all of which are susceptible to serious injury upon impact." The importance is not contested but the science of groin protection remains an information battleground, complete with aptly named ballistic testing.

A 2019 University of Melbourne study presented to the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand found that there were no survivors when six different boxes were tested with a gas gun firing a cricket ball at realistic speeds. The researchers called for change: "We have Australian standards for bubble bath and for blowing up balloons, but none for these protectors."

But last year another study saw cricket balls propelled at genital protectors via a bowling machine at different speeds (up to 160km/hr) in an effort to replicate real-world match conditions.

The results were much better. Three of the seven boxes sustained no damage, three had minor damage to their silicone padding, and one showed moderate damage. None catastrophically failed and the researchers suggested the actual injury burden in cricket is lower than the earlier research implied.

South Africa's Faf Du Plessis was hit so often in the crotch that he eventually designed his own solution — a supersized, triple-strength protector he named The Beast. This started life as a dual-layer box, but after further development Faf added a third layer "that just tucks nicely underneath".

This little piece of innovation feels like it belongs in the Homemade Hall of Fame alongside the Bruce Oxenford umpire shield and Bruce Edgar's chest armour to take on the West Indies, crafted by his mum from the innards of the family couch.

A decade later here in Aotearoa there are a couple of New Zealand twists to the evolution of the humble box.

TruGuard was co-founded by Ruben Clinton and Elliot Santner in 2018, over a dinner table after a club cricket match together for Star-Varsity. At last report the Aero TruGuard was absorbing pain and "managing impact" for 7 international players, 22 domestic players and a host of U19 players.

And of course, you will have been hard-pressed to miss the PR extravaganza around Cover, a newly-launched premium alloy box inspired by Kane Williamson's box succumbing to a Dale Steyn delivery at the Basin Reserve in 2012. Grant Elliott is involved on the commercial side, alongside founder Jason Low.

And what next for the future of the cricket cup? Perhaps a 'smart box' that syncs with fitness trackers and sends push notifications to your next of kin? We hear there is demand for a climate-control version too, cooler for the climes of Antigua, Ahmedabad and Perth, but with thermostat up high for Dunedin, Leeds and Cardiff.

Paul Ford is the co-founder of the Beige Brigade and part of The Alternative Commentary Collective. He owns and wears a deep scooping box that has been the mirth of many teammates in low level social cricket over the years.



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