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OUTRIGHT

NZ CRICKET PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NZCT Hooked on Cricket

With the first class season starting earlier this summer, as well as New Zealand A matches and the Champions League, it meant that a number of players had unavoidable commitments during the traditional period for the Hooked on Cricket tournaments. However, rather than change the Hooked on Cricket schedule it inspired more flexibility than has been required over the past seven years.

Hooked on Cricket is remarkable in that it reaches over 1400 children throughout New Zealand. It continues to be popular with participants and the schools give us feedback that without the programme they simply would not have kids thinking about cricket, let alone playing it. So, as we entered the eighth year it is evident that we are having a positive effect on these kids and their aspiration to play cricket.

Heading the programme this year was former Blackcaps and Central Stags player Ewen Thompson, who is responsible for maintaining and enhancing the programme that Kerry Walmsley has so successfully established on behalf of the players. Ewen is a skilled coach who has not only brought a new range of skills to Hooked on Cricket but has also been able to glean some of its success into his other coaching work in Horowhenua-Kapiti and beyond.

Hooked on Cricket's objective is to assist kids from non-traditional schools and communities to learn about cricket and to help remove some of the barriers to participation. This is where the Hooked on Cricket scholarship system is so important. Hooked on Cricket scholarships vary in type, scale and size but all have the ultimate objective of assisting children to play cricket as part of a regular team or regular competition. Without the scholarships most of these skilled young cricketers, through no fault of their own, would not be able to play cricket.

Coaching Sessions

Eight schools within the six regions participating in Hooked on Cricket 2013 each receive an initial skills coaching session with Ewen Thompson. The coaching sessions focus on the core cricket skills such as catching, throwing, bowling and batting and include at least thirty (30) children from each school. The coaching sessions are a vital component in the programme as they provide each student with the chance to learn new skills and to provide them with the aspiration of participating for their school in the NZCT Hooked on Cricket tournament.

“Hooked on Cricket has a fantastic impact on a different group of children from your ‘normal’ cricket families”.

Tournament Days

The NZCT Hooked on Cricket tournament is made up of teams of eight players from each of the eight schools taking part in the tournament. The teams each play three matches during the day with the main focus on participation, enjoyment and skill enhancement in a competitive environment.

Players are actively involved in the tournament day, normally with each school assigned a player to coach and assist them throughout the day. However, this year due to the earlier tournament dates for some tournaments this was not always possible and in the case of Auckland, the bulk of

Story continued overleaf



Tournament Results

Waitara	
NZCT Championship Winners	- Marfell Community School (Carl Cachopa)
NZCT Plate Winners	- Puketapu School (Ben Smith)
Rotorua	
NZCT Championship Winners	- Selwyn School (James Baker)
NZCT Plate Winners	- Sunset Primary School (Anton Devcich)
Porirua	
NZCT Championship Winners	- Russell School (Scott Kuggeleijn)
NZCT Plate Winners	- Maraeroa School (Harry Boam)
South Auckland	
NZCT Championship Winners	- Holy Cross School (Reece Young)
NZCT Plate Winners	- Bairds Mainfreight (Dean Bartlett)
Christchurch	
NZCT Championship Winners	- Bromley School (Matt McEwan)
NZCT Plate Winners	- Aranui Primary School (Ryan McCone)
South Dunedin	
NZCT Championship Winners	- Port Chalmers Primary
NZCT Plate Winners	- Concord Primary

Welcome

It's been an exciting month so far with the Domestic season getting underway with the Plunket Shield and HRV Cup. The players have kick started the summer well with some excellent performances and exciting matches with a number of centuries and five wicket bags highlighting some excellent performances.

This time has also seen the NZCPA complete our annual pre-season team meetings which have included preparation for the AGM, an update on current issues and completion of the Anti-Corruption education programme that we are delivering to all teams.

It has been great catching up with the teams and experiencing the genuine excitement as everyone is getting ready for the start of the season. However, it has also been a reminder to us of the work that still needs to be done to raise the standard of our high performance environment so it can actually be called just that. In the general sense players and coaches are continually being frustrated by not having the appropriate tools to prepare for the season including a lack of quality practice facilities, equipment, coaching resource and an accompanying inability to give a full time commitment prior to the 1st October.

Whilst there are always challenges in our sport we need to decide whether we want a high performance programme or otherwise – whilst we have made gains over recent years with the professional contract system, the Grounds Warrant of Fitness and full time coaches, we must do more and quickly. As our competitors continue to place more resource in this area around the world we will fall behind in performance if we don't do more to enhance our high performance environment, and no one wants to see that. If our problems are financial (and they undoubtedly are) then we must find innovative ways to attract third party investment to overcome this problem. It is not a bad step, it is a progressive step, and one in keeping with the vast majority of sport around the world. We will continue to raise this issue with New Zealand Cricket, but following our team meetings we now realise we must do so more strongly than we have to date.



Courtesy of photosport

The Blackcaps have endured a pretty wet time in Sri Lanka and it has been a frustrating tour for everyone. A number of players are into their 4th month on the road and when the last stretch is being hampered so badly by weather, with little opportunity to practice let alone play, you can understand their frustration.

A number of people are questioning why Sri Lanka has scheduled this tour for this time of the year given it is the monsoon season. To which the answer is very obvious – we now play so much international cricket every month of the year is required! Of course Sri Lanka did have a large part of August free of international commitments but they prioritised their private Franchise T20 competition during that time which is another indicator of the changing landscape of cricket.

Volume of cricket is a significant issue in the sport, and as we move to more commercial domestic competitions the balance between those and the amount of international cricket needs to be thought through and managed carefully – if anything to protect the International game. We hope the ICC and its members can act in the best interests of the game and put in a place an International programme that has a sensible volume of cricket and importantly a competition like a Test Championship that will add to its significant history and status within the sport, lest as the landscape continues to change, players are put in situations where they need to pick and choose and prioritise different formats.

The last few months have been a busy time for Ewen Thompson, our Events Coordinator, as he and our members have delivered the NZCT Hooked on Cricket community programme throughout the country. Ewen is to be congratulated for the excellent job he has done in delivering this programme and ensuring many young kids from a low socio-economic background have

an opportunity to experience our great game through the active support and encouragement of the players. Hooked on Cricket easily remains our most important event programme.

We congratulate Gary Stead on being appointed as Canterbury coach and Shane Bond as Blackcaps Bowling Coach and wish them all the best in their new roles in cricket. We also wish past player member Craig Ross all the best in his new High Performance Manager role with Central Districts – an exciting new position that will hopefully advance the high performance programme in that region. With Gary's departure from the White Ferns Suzie Bates represented the players on the appointments panel for the new coach of our national women's team – a very important appointment as the team looks to prepare for the One Day World Cup later this season.

It is also important for me to acknowledge the tremendous support we receive from our commercial partners who are noted later in Outright. We are particularly pleased to welcome MoleMap to the NZCPA and greatly look forward to working with them during the Choice Hotels Masters Series to help raise awareness of early detection of Melanoma's. It was also great to see both CCC and Choice Hotels renew their strong association and relationships with the NZCPA and the games players – thank you.

Finally, all the best to our current playing members as they get stuck into the domestic season and our endless International programme. We look forward to seeing our past player members at matches throughout the summer and our respective past player events.

All the best

Heath Mills
Chief Executive



NZCPA

Story continued from front page

the squad was in South Africa participating in the Champions League. The players enjoy interacting with their team and the other kids and helping them with tactics, tips and inspiration throughout the day.

There are many people and organisations to recognise for helping with Hooked on Cricket, but in particular we thank the Players, which if it not for their commitment and support the programme would not exist.

We are also grateful to the support and

funding we have received from NZCT.

Quite simply without it, 1400 kids throughout the country would miss this opportunity to spark and maintain a passion for cricket.

Then there are the schools, whose enthusiasm and feedback drives us to improve the programme each year. Lastly, we must mention the Major Association coaches and management who continue to see the value of the programme for the players and work with the NZCPA to fit into their pre-season schedules.



MCCULLUM EMERGES ON TOP IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

By Dean Wedlake

The agony was Auckland's and the ecstasy belonged to Nathan McCullum as they experienced opposite ends of the emotional spectrum at the Champions League Twenty20.

For McCullum, it was another notch on his belt that made him the second New Zealander to taste success at the CLT20 after James Franklin took out last year's title with the Mumbai Indians. Stephen Fleming also coached the Chennai Super Kings to the title in 2010.

On the other hand, the Aces returned with their heads held high but with an overriding feeling that dropping out in the group stages of the tournament was less than they were capable of.

The ever-changing landscape of Twenty20 meant it was Sydney's pink hue, rather than the southern blue of his beloved Otago that McCullum wore to claim the biggest piece of silverware of his life.

It also represented the burgeoning reputation of the 32-year-old off-spinning all-rounder.

Younger brother Brendon might grab more headlines as the highest run-scorer in Twenty20 international history but Nathan has comparable value with batting, bowling and fielding strings to his bow.

He played three matches for the Sixers in last summer's Big Bash League, including the semi-final win over the Hobart Hurricanes.

Four more were to follow in the Champions League and as any cricketer with visions of greatness, he saved his best for last.

Opening the bowling in the final, as he is accustomed to doing for New Zealand these days, McCullum set the tone with 3-24 and pounced a catch at slip for good measure.

He was able to kick his feet up and watch his openers chase down the Highveld Lions' meagre total of 121 without losing a wicket, content in the knowledge he had more than done his part.

The experience obviously only sees McCullum's personal star burn even brighter. Not that it should ever have flickered in the background, considering statistics such as the fact he has never gone at more than seven an over in any calendar year in Twenty20 internationals – a number that demands a spot amongst the world's slow bowling elite.

The flow-on effect of his triumph with Sydney will also no doubt be beneficial to New Zealand and Otago as they look to forge Twenty20 reputations of their own.

The same can be said for Auckland and their future prospects, although the pain of an early exit will linger for a while.

The general consensus was that of respect gained for New Zealand, given our domestic sides had never won a game previously at the Champions League and as a result the Aces were forced to go through a qualifying stage last year and in 2012.

But with a vigorous fortnight of pre-tournament routine in South Africa, the Aces came, saw and conquered in their qualifying campaign and took a head of steam into the competition proper.

They saw off Pakistan champions Siakot and English champions Hampshire with relative ease, and the momentum was akin to a runaway freight train when picking off the best of the Indian Premier League, the Kolkata Knight Riders featuring a certain B. McCullum.

But that was to be the last taste of success at the tournament due to a mixture of indifferent form and frustrating weather.

They saved their worst performance of the past two seasons for a heavy loss to the Titans, had their

match with the Delhi Daredevils washed out and their tournament was officially over when the Perth Scorchers conjured up enough heart to claim a consolation victory.

The feeling amongst the Aces camp was that a major opportunity had slipped by, with no guarantees it would come around again. They were at least the equal of the runner-up Lions, who had less star quality but played David to the Goliath's of the Twenty20 world by standing up as a team.

It was the only non-Kiwi in their squad, Pakistan legend Azhar Mahmood who led the way with powerful performances with both bat and ball. He scored a team-high 160 runs at 53.33, at a strike rate of 127, and led the way with the ball as well in taking 10 wickets at 11.60 and an economy rate of 6.44.

But in the end, with no other batsman passing 50, there was not enough to get them over the line against the Titans and Scorchers.

The 'what ifs' may hang around well into the domestic summer but the lessons learned from playing against the world's elite will have a similarly lingering effect as the Aces seek a hat-trick of HRV Cup titles in 2012-13.



Courtesy of photosport

FROM CRICKET TO BUSINESS

By Margot Butcher



A few weeks back you may have seen that I was blogging about Dion Nash's Triumph & Disaster men's skincare start-up - and, before that, about Maori in the history of New Zealand cricket.

While I was in the process of researching those pieces, Dion had mentioned to me that his and Adam Parore's ND cricketing connections go way back. Dion and Adam of course played together for New Zealand through many campaigns, and turned out for both Northern Districts and Auckland across their careers - but there was a historical connection, too, in that, 100 seasons ago, Dion's grandfather and Adam's great-grandfather were playing alongside each other in the same Dargaville team.

Dion was just 30 when he stepped back from cricket 10 years ago and, like most professional sportspeople in New Zealand, went through that difficult 'what now?' adjustment when his days were suddenly no longer consumed by the intensity of relentless training and playing.

He'd completed a Bachelor of Arts at Otago in his youth, and did a good job as a national selector for a time in the wake of his retirement from playing, but neither of those things was going to fill the vacuum that needed addressing.

It's almost become a cliché to say that a life in team sport can prepare you for a life in business - all that focus, goal setting, teamwork, discipline, communication/presentation/media skills, yada yada yada. But a lot of the All Blacks and Blackcaps that I've got to know over the years have also had a nagging feeling that they've popped out of the end of their sports careers with a 10-year handicap

in terms of practical experience - while their peers and contemporaries in the workforce have meanwhile worked their way up to management.

Dion landed on his feet pretty quickly, as it turned out, when he landed an opportunity to work on commission, initially, as a sales agent for 42Below. That led to four years as general manager driving bottled spring water offshoot 420, before stepping up to become 42Below's overall marketing manager for three years. He then spent some time with the juice barons at Charlie's as their marketing manager before he gathered up the courage to start his own business, the Triumph & Disaster brand.

The story of how Dion became sold on men's skincare is worth retelling. Back in his cricket playing days, he came across a magazine article in which the immaculately scruffy singer Rod Stewart revealed he used Oil of Olay - the sort of thing grandmothers keep on their dressers - to keep his skin in good nick. Dion thought that sounded just the ticket for his own stressed skin - she's a long time standing in a sunny outfield, some days - and got his hands on a bottle. The only problem? How to hide it from his

It did teach me about what I wanted in a product - and that as guys, it wasn't about being vain or unmanly. We should feel good about looking after ourselves well.

team-mates, lest he open himself up to what he imagined would be endless ribbing in the changing sheds.

"I had quite a routine! It would be buried right down in the bottom of my kit bag, and then wrapped up in something so that it looked like I was just taking out just another sunscreen!"

Going into men's grooming as a business idea was also something it took him a wee while to get his head around, Dion admits. "But I just remember realising how much better I felt about discovering moisturiser - having had enough of those days when you're standing out there in a howling nor'wester, or when you're washing off your sunscreen with soap and then your face just feels dry and beaten up. It did teach me about what I wanted in a product - and that as guys, it wasn't about being vain or unmanly. We should feel good about looking after ourselves well."

There is a distinct possibility he wasn't the only one hiding 'product' down the bottom of his kit

bag, of course. Maybe they all were. But now that men's grooming is out in the open, there's a growing market that Dion's range - good stuff, based on well-chosen natural ingredients - is poised to tap into.

Recently he presented to a trade show in Las Vegas, meaning that he had to sell his product to an important throng of 25,000 people - none of whom knew him from Adam, as it were. He didn't eat lunch for three days (such is the life of anyone putting their heart and soul into a start-up) and ended up scoring Fred Segal as an outlet - one of the hippest retailers in Los Angeles. A big achievement for a little Kiwi business.

"Not everyone gets into Fred Segal - so it's a great flagship for us to have in the USA, like being in Smith & Caughey or The Department Store here," Dion explains. "And God bless Karen Walker - she was on the board of 42Below and I went and showed her my range when I was just starting, and she liked what I was doing. People like that who encourage you and endorse you - you feel like hugging them, because you do put your heart and soul into it."

Getting back to where I started, which was talking about those old clichés about business and sport, I was interested in Dion's take on whether he could really put his finger on tangible, useful correlations between his sporting career and the business career that's followed?

"There's definitely some parallels," he says, "but I also think that sport can set you up for failure, as well. When you're a successful sportsman, everything comes to you, whereas the real key to business is being able to sell - to put yourself out there and sell, be proactive.

"That's something that as a sportsman you tend not to be very good at, because you've never had to do it. In fact, what you're good at is the exact opposite: you become very good at putting up walls to protect yourself, because you just get so many people coming at you. I found that was the hardest thing to break down, within myself. It was uncomfortable to begin with, but it became a really good learning curve. In fact, working on commission in corporate sales for 42Below for the first four months was probably the best thing that ever happened to me."

Dion counts himself as very lucky to have effectively got a B.Com on the run with the high-achieving company (a globally-successful Kiwi start-up eventually sold to Bacardi). "That was the wonderful thing about 42Below - it was obvious I had a lot to learn, but they had a habit of taking in young achievers, if you like, and allowing us to learn as we went. It wasn't just me: there was a bunch of us young ones, guys and girls selling all over the world because the company thought internationally. There was pressure to get it right, but if you didn't, you felt you had a safe pair of hands behind you in guys like (founder) Geoff Ross

and the senior team who were there to guide you if you needed and were prepared for you to learn."

Talking to Dion it's clear that he's really excited about building his own brand now and is very passionate about intelligent marketing - he's good at it. I like what he's doing, taking another good little Kiwi company to the world. And yes, he can always call on Adam Parore for a financial ear - they remain great mates and live in the same swathe of Auckland's city fringe.

"I'm really proud of what Adam's achieved," says Dion. "He's a smart guy and I think also we were a little bit driven to not be defined for all time by who we were in cricket. It's that sense of always living your life forward."

"Cricket was something I did with my life, and I'm very proud of it - but I don't really think of myself as a cricketer anymore. And I think Adam has a similar mentality. You want to believe there is always something you can do even better."

Thanks to Margot Butcher and the Northern Knights for granting use of this article. For more from Margot please visit;

- NDTV YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/ThePinkReport>
- The Pink Report cricket blog, <http://www.ndcricket.co.nz/blogs/the-pink-report>



Canterbury of New Zealand has recently renewed their agreement with New Zealand Cricket to maintain their position as the official apparel provider. The NZCPA are similarly thrilled to announce that we have also entered a new agreement with CCC that will enable us to better deliver the various events and activities.

The Hooked on Cricket programme, Players Golf Day, Masters Weekend and MoleMap Masters team would not be as effective if it were not for the partnership with Canterbury of New Zealand. We are really looking forward to the new MoleMap Masters uniform which will be displayed during the first Choice Hotels Masters Series match in Nelson on Sunday 9th December.

Members are able to access the complete Canterbury of NZ range at special rates through the NZCPA Business Club. For more info, log into the Members only section of the NZCPA website.

ANTI-CORRUPTION EDUCATION

Here is a brief reminder of some of the important points to remember about Anti-Corruption.

Corruption in sport is a significant issue worldwide, no more so than in cricket. Unfortunately, there is a history of corrupt practices in cricket and it is blight on our game that needs to be eradicated. The ICC has introduced an Anti-Corruption Code which all member nations are required to adopt and implement, including New Zealand.

Accordingly, **all players** are subject to the requirements of the NZC Anti-Corruption Code (and the ICC Code). The NZCPA applaud this move as it is vital that the integrity of cricket and that of its participants (players and officials) is protected.

Corruption is not a simple issue to address, but a crucial element in the fight against corruption in cricket is to educate the players, officials and administrators in regards to their obligations and about the practices of those corruptors, so that they can demonstrate vigilance in remaining alert to, and rejecting, corrupt practices.

Player Education

While we all have a general feel for what is right and wrong, it is difficult to define what

exactly is corrupt and what isn't in sports betting. Therefore, the NZCPA has introduced an Anti-corruption Education programme to raise awareness amongst players and officials and to educate them on their responsibilities under the NZC Anti-Corruption Code. We consider this to be an important service to provide our members in order to protect them and the game.

The education consists of annual team based presentations and online based learning where the players will be required to complete a test on their knowledge of the Code. The online learning component is currently broken into three modules;

- Module 1 - Getting to Know the Rules
- Module 2 - Risks and Approaches
- Module 3 - Reporting Obligations

There are some important general principles which players need to know - however, the more you think about how to apply these simple principles, the more complicated things can become. Therefore, our aim with each module is to cut through this complexity to keep things simple, clear, and as easy to remember as possible.

In addition to the presentations and online learning, regular information will be sent to players regarding anti-corruption as well as on-going discussions with teams and individuals.



Courtesy of photosport

CAREER AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

"The world of professional sport is not a particularly healthy one. [In cricket] you play, train, travel. You are focused almost to the point of obsession. You get your personal identity from your sport. When things are going well it's ok, when they are not it's challenging to your personal identity..."

- Steve Bull, 12 years as England Cricket Psychologist



Courtesy of photosport

Does this sound like you or someone you know? If you felt this way what would you do? How would this impact your personal life, your partner, kids, friends, team mates?

If this was a team mate, do you have the right tools to support them?

This year the NZCPA have decided to proactively educate players about their psychological health, including how to recognise problems, identify warning signs and how to cope with the tough times. Workshops are currently being held with all first class teams: Central, Northern and Wellington have already participated with Auckland, Canterbury and Otago scheduled in the coming weeks.

The workshops are conducted by Wellington-based clinical psychologist Karen Nimmo, who is a respected author and media commentator. Nimmo works closely with elite athletes in a variety of sporting codes and over the past five years has been part of the NZCPA Career and Personal Development Programme and has successfully assisted members through a variety of issues and situations.

Nimmo makes the observation that "cricket is one of the toughest sports psychologically. It's highly accountable and waiting for failure becomes almost a way of life. Players often struggle with the need to look after their own statistics while contributing to the team".

"A lot of down-time and heavy travel demands, often for months at a time, puts huge pressures on players, their relationships and families"

"They need to have ways of coping with these things – and to know when to put their hands up for help" says Nimmo.

Increasingly cricketers are experiencing a

number of mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, lack of confidence and self-esteem, addiction and relationship difficulties. Raising awareness of these issues can assist players to manage stress and anxiety, anger, or other emotions. It can also help a player make sense of poor form, the impact of injury, or assisting with decisions about their futures. Some players also benefit from assistance with managing issues within their team environment, such as conflicts with players, coaching staff or team management.

The idea behind educating players in mental health is to increase the likelihood that problems are identified early and can be dealt with prior to them affecting performance or general wellbeing. We aim to arm players with skills where they can recognise warning signs in themselves, or a teammate, more efficiently. Acting early will lead to much better outcomes both for the players' health and their cricket.

Too often, problems can simmer, unrecognised, for months or even years and by the time they are identified it can be a long, slow path back to full health – and to performing at their best.

Nimmo says "talking to and assessment by a qualified, neutral person can provide support, perspective and a treatment plan. Professional input can give [players] some mental 'tools' to suit [their] personality and way of thinking, which can have a powerful impact on performance. It can also improve [their] life".

"The players I've seen are very open. It takes courage to come and see a psychologist but when they come they find it's not mysterious or weird. It's just professional help for whatever they're struggling with".

"The idea is that if you've got a physical problem like a muscle strain you go and sort it out with a physio or masseuse. Why not do the same for your mind and the way you think?" states Nimmo.

How do I know if this service is for me?

Good mental health is vital for peak athletic performance. A healthy mind doesn't guarantee optimal performance but it certainly helps – and it will protect you when things are tough.

Traditionally, talking about mental health has been treated with trepidation and often seen as being 'uncool'. But with more and more celebrated athletes talking publicly about their experiences this issue is becoming more widely acknowledged among high performance environments. Some recent examples of cricketers who have struggled with depression include; England's Marcus Trescothick and Andrew Flintoff, Australian cricketer Shaun Tait and swimmer Ian Thorpe.

The NZCPA is leading the way in its acknowledgment of mental health issues in New Zealand professional sport. We are one of the few organisations in New Zealand to have contracted a clinical psychologist to support our membership group.

The service offered through the NZCPA's Career and Personal Development Programme is a free and confidential service for current playing members.

If you require assistance or if you know one of a player who may need support, please contact CPDP Manager, Sanj Silva or Karen Nimmo directly - karen@onthecouch.co.nz; (027) 332 1955; www.onthecouch.co.nz.

FUJITSU HEAT PUMPS MVP

By Dean Wedlake



Team silverware will always be the pinnacle but the Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP ensure there is an extra edge whenever New Zealand's finest at international and domestic level step over the white line.

Since its inception four years ago, the MVP system has identified the strongest contributors across the board in terms of batting, bowling, fielding, captaincy and match-winning efforts.

Cricketers are a competitive bunch and nothing stirs the loins more than statistics.

The ability to compare themselves not only with their peers but also against team-mates in an overall sense and in all three forms of the game is the hallmark of the MVP system.

The fact that 2011-12 MVP in domestic cricket, Gareth Hopkins, captained Auckland to back-to-back HRV Cup honours and the Ford Trophy final shows the system works.

Brendon McCullum was the big winner internationally, taking out the ODI and Twenty20 honours and unsurprisingly adding the overall MVP prize to his haul.

So who are the front-runners for 2012-13? History shows that it is the experienced campaigners who put their hands up time and time again.

The top five domestically last season was made up of Hopkins, recent Test debutant Neil Wagner along with a trio of domestic stalwarts in Mathew Sinclair, Andrew Ellis and Mathew Sinclair.

Sinclair is no spring chicken at 37 but his ability to hang on to the hunger to churn out runs means he is an ever-present in the MVP list.

Wagner will be up there again as Otago's linchpin

with the ball and a handy hitter down the order, while Franklin and Ellis' commitment to the national side may give others the edge.

Expect Jesse Ryder to be right in the mix, whether or not he is called back into the New Zealand team during the summer. He started with a hiss and a roar with twin tons in Wellington's Plunket Shield opener, will contribute with the ball as well and has a fine pair of hands anywhere in the field.

Carl Cachopa is less of an all-rounder but his batting credentials are already as impressive. The oldest of three Cachopa brothers on the domestic scene is scoring runs for fun in his new home in CD, churning out five hundreds in the last five Plunket Shield matches he has batted in – including a career high 179* against former side Auckland.

Aaron Redmond, with two, Corey Anderson, Dean Brownlie, Jimmy Neesham and Daniel Flynn are already out of the blocks with centuries as well. Flynn will miss part of ND's campaign on New Zealand duty but the rest are expected to play a near full campaign at their respective major associations.

Neesham, still a fresh face at 22, is one to watch as last year's Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP for the Ford Trophy in his debut season with Otago.

His Volts team-mates Wagner and Ian Butler are also good bets given their contributions with the ball in particular but also in Otago's batting stocks.

Other all-rounders to look out for are the likes of Luke Woodcock, Kieran Noema-Barnett, Colin Munro, Sam Wells and Test call-up Todd Astle.

Vying for the bowling honours are experienced campaigners Andy McKay, Mark Gillespie, Brent Arnel, Tarun Nethula and Michael Bates.

Interest will also surround who of the HRV Cup imports provide the most value. Will it be ND's English connection, James Foster and Steven Croft, CD's Peter Trego, key Otago signing Ryan ten Doeschate, any of Wellington's signings in Shaun Tait, Cameron Borgas, Tamim Iqbal and Chris Woakes or do Auckland and Canterbury have something up their sleeve?

On the international stage, the usual suspects of McCullum, captain Ross Taylor, Martin Guptill, Doug Bracewell and company hold the advantage as regulars in all forms of the game.

Guptill, last year's T20 Fujitsu Heat Pumps MVP, thanks to a blistering campaign with the bat, was recently named as the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal winner as New Zealand Cricket's finest over the past year and wouldn't mind another piece of silverware to sit alongside an ever-growing collection.



MOLE MAP

NZCPA are excited to announce a new sponsorship agreement with MoleMap that will see them sponsor the NZCPA Masters Team. MoleMap have been associated with the NZCPA for a number of years through the Business Club and we look forward to enhancing this relationship in the coming years.

MoleMap General Manager Andrew Maslin said "we are really excited to be working alongside the NZCPA and to spread the message to cricketers that regular screening for skin cancer is an important part of any family health plan.

"We were attracted by the opportunity to be involved with the Masters team due to the good they do for cricket in regions that are also important to us as a business. We look forward to having a positive effect on many people and their families at Masters games this summer".

Members are invited to visit the FREE MoleMap mobile screening tent when the MoleMap Masters play this summer (schedule is below).

What is a MoleMap? "MoleMap is a world leading melanoma detection programme and has been designed to help identify melanoma skin cancer at an early stage. MoleMap combines innovative technology with the skills of expert dermatologists to provide a thorough and accurate procedure", from MoleMap.co.nz.

For more information and clinic locations, please visit the website www.molemap.co.nz

For bookings please call 0800 MOLEMAP (0800 665 3627) or contact the NZCPA office.

Events

Choice Hotels Masters Series

Sunday 9th December

MoleMap Masters v Nelson
Saxton Oval, Nelson

Sunday 27th January

MoleMap Masters v Otago Country
Molyneux Park, Alexandra

Sunday 10th February (TBC)

MoleMap Masters v Poverty Bay
Harry Barker Reserve, Gisborne

Sunday 24th February

MoleMap Masters v Counties Manukau
Mountford Park, Manurewa

Sunday 17th March

MoleMap Masters v Northern Maori
Smallbone Park, Rotorua

Interested in playing in one of our Masters matches? Please contact Glen Sulzberger or Ewen Thompson.

NZCPA Masters Weekend

5th April to 7th April 2013
Queenstown

27th March 2013
'The Players' Golf Day



CHOICE HOTELS
AUSTRALASIA™

Choice Hotels are a valued partner of the NZCPA and we are thrilled to announce that they have extended their agreement for a further two years. The partnership with Choice Hotels is important to all the NZCPA's activities and events and it's particularly exciting that the Masters Series will now be known as the 'Choice Hotels Masters Series'.

The concept behind the Choice Hotels Masters Series is to promote cricket in regions where first class cricket is infrequently played. Historically a number of cricketers have emerged from provincial New Zealand and it is the goal of the players and the NZCPA to continue to promote the game to young people within these communities. Choice Hotels are similarly focussed on regional New Zealand with most of their

franchisees across their various brands based in New Zealand's regional cities.

Members are invited to check out the upgraded range of Choice Hotel properties in New Zealand at their website (www.choicehotels.co.nz).

To book, simply call 0800 803 524 or visit the website for reservations (remember to mention you are a NZCPA member to ensure you receive the special discount offer available).

WANT THE CHANCE TO SAVE UP TO 20% THIS SUMMER WITH CHOICE HOTELS?

The team at Choice Hotels want to offer all NZCPA members the chance to save up to 20% off accommodation this summer.

Simply book and prepay your accommodation more than 21 days prior to check-in and save up to 20%.

Choice Privilege members are also eligible to earn loyalty points during their stay.

Visit www.choicehotels.co.nz or call 0800 443 067 to book now and save!

CHOICE HOTELS
AUSTRALASIA™



MASTERS SERIES

PLATINUM SPONSORS



BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS



NZCPA FUNDING PARTNERS



NZCPA BUSINESS PARTNERS



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