

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015/16

INTRODUCTION

Once again another season has come and gone. As usual there are certain challenges put in front of us that need to be resolved and hopefully that was done in an efficient manner.

With a new Chairman and Club Manager it takes time for both parties to settle into their respective roles and for the rest of the committee and membership as well to get use to a different approach on running the club. One of the major task seen by the new Chairman was to reduce to executive committee from a size of 13 members to a more workable and practical number. For this to happen the current constitution needed to be reviewed and modernised so a sub-committee was appointed to look into it. It was a matter of coincidence that Auckland Cricket was doing exactly the same and so we were able to use their expertise and knowledge to come up with a new constitution which aligns us with not only Auckland Cricket but New Zealand Cricket. This has been well publicised to the membership and later in the meeting we will voting on whether we adopt it or not.

The club was involved in an Auckland cricket initiative this season in regards to website upgrades. This resulted in us having a brand new website which was based off the new Auckland Cricket website. It had a number of new features, one of which is the linking of our Facebook page to the site. This has given the club a great way to communicate with our membership which is a constant battle these days as communication is live and happening right now.

I believe that the Club continues to make progress overall and there have been some successes that are worth celebrating. But at the same time I believe we do need to refocus on some of our priorities in the upcoming seasons.

On a sad note the club would like to acknowledge the passing of two of our club stalwarts, Murray Johnson and John Berry. They both contributed to the club greatly weather they were helping in coaching or their contribution through the executive committee. Their presence at the club will be missed.

AUCKLAND CRICKET ASSOCIATION

The Auckland Cricket Association once again ran this season's competitions well and I would like to thank the team there for all their efforts.

There has been a noticeable increase in Junior cricket playing numbers throughout Auckland compared to previous seasons as a result, of the successful World Cup Tournament had by the New Zealand Men`s cricket team plus the ACA has introduced weekday evening school cricket competition for the season just gone. This "Cricket Blitz" tournament was played by school teams in a 16 over's format on Tuesday & Wednesday evenings.

Generally this competition was run by the ACA with the club involved with assisting school teams in our area with coaching, etc.

The Crichq system was replaced by Results Vault and this has had a number of issues especially at the front end i.e what the public see and use. The clubs have communicated the dislikes and issues to Auckland Cricket and they have had a number of meetings plus other forms of communication with Results Vault to sort the problems. While the back end is great for the looking after data bases and information gathering the front end is a yet to be resolved problem. At the time of writing this report Auckland Cricket have announced that we will be returning back to Crichq next season.

The club continued to comply with the planning and management procedures required under our "Club is the Hub" obligations and we continued to maintain our status as a Principal Club in accordance with the Auckland Cricket Associations bylaws. This is great work by all those involved in running the club as it directly affects our funding from Auckland Cricket.

We have now been through two years of the "Service Level Agreements" between the club and the ACA. Effectively this document is the Clubs business plan for the year and becomes a "best practice" model which allows both the club and the ACA to monitor and continually improve our performance.

I look forward to the club continuing to achieve the standards required.

GROUNDS

Our grounds were once again used for schoolgirl tournaments and as a backup for the Districts school boys' tournament.

City Parks continued the contract for the ground maintenance at Keith Hay Park this season and generally the level of service was good.

Once again our groundsman Oliver continued with the same level of hard work and commitment to getting things right for us and with some assistance from others and including input from Auckland Cricket, we now have a major improvement in our showcase wicket block.

The number one and the number two blocks have been re-laid over the off season.

The northern end of Keith Hay Park will be out of action this season as Auckland Council revamps the ground as part of a major redevelopment programme for winter and summer sport. The upgrade process has been well communicated to the major users of the grounds mainly been ourselves and the local soccer club.

JUDICIAL

This season the club was involved in two ACA Judicial Committee hearings both of which were initiated by complaints to the ACA by us.

The teams involved were in the one day grade unfortunately when there are player umpires involved and they are played by people who have an dying love for the game these situations will continue to arise all we can do is police them as best as possible.

While some of these incidents will go to judicial hearings I think that Auckland Cricket also need to look at the makeup of the judicial panel in that they need to get a feel for the diversity of the cultures involved.

We need to continue with our strong message to all players and supporters to follow the Clubs Rules and the Spirit of Cricket in the upcoming season so we continue improving in this area.

COACHING

This season we employed two new coaches, one for the women`s Premier team and a Coaching Development Officer to help junior coaches and to work in the schools area especially the area of Blitz cricket which is part of our commitment to Auckland Cricket and one of our responsibilities under the SLA.

We were required to juggle our coaching resources at the men`s senior level as our Premier coach Azhar Abbas was co-opted by Auckland Cricket to help with the Aces T20 and One day competition.

We were able to hire the services of Barrington Rowland to help out.

Under the guidance of Azhar our Premier team had a mixed season and ended up finishing in the bottom half of the Tom Hellaby competition. Major improvements need to be seen in this area.

Dave de Bruyn returned to coach the Major Reserve team. At times they competed well and looked to be heading for a top two finish however they lacked the ability to finish off teams when they had the foot on the throat. In the end they had to fight from being relegated which they did successfully. The Minor Reserve team competed well without much support and they finished mid table in their competition which was a great effort.

The club continues to battle to get a balance between the Major and Minor teams which can be seen in their performances.

Next season the aim will be to further lift these young team's performances up to where they deserve to be which is considerably higher up the table.

The women`s Premier team was a real battle to see if we were actually going to have one but after a lot of meetings and the appointment of a coach in the form of Reggie Fox we were able to field a team. While we struggled to get 11 players on the field at times the girls competed with passion. With Reggie`s help they were able to build camaraderie which got them through the season and by the end of the season with the addition of some girls from the forces we were able to field 11 girls on the park.

Girls cricket is an area for huge potential growth as witnessed over in Australia with the Women`s BBL but this is not something that the clubs can do alone and needs a major push from New Zealand and Auckland Cricket.

The club continued its support for the coaching of the Samoan cricket team through Murphy Sua. This link has been developed through the affiliation two local Samoan clubs with ERDCC.

Most of the junior teams were all assisted by a coach/s and our aim for all these volunteers is to ensure that they have attended the appropriate coaching courses being run by the ACA. We will be continuing to coerce our junior

coaches into these programs which all result in better coaches and coaching. We also had our Coaching development officer (Andrew Myer) working in helping to upskill coaches.

Andrew also ran our Friday night midget cricket programme with the help of senior players and with those increased numbers Friday night was a success not only on the field but also in the clubrooms with the parents enjoying the club hospitality while their children learnt cricket skills on the park.

MEN'S CRICKET

This year saw our Men's Premier team continuing to play in the Auckland Premier Grade competition.

The Premier team once again made the plate final of the T20 competition but once again failed to get the win, this time losing to Parnell.

This season we only won two 50 over games and ended up third from the bottom in the blue section of the competition.

It was a similar situation in the two day competition where even though we won three matches one more than the team above us but we still ended up second to last on the table at the end of the season due to points being deducted for a slow over rate through the season.

In addition the team once again made the plate final of the T20 competition but once again failed to get the win, this time losing narrowly to University.

Again there were many close matches and as always injuries and player unavailability contributed to the final results. We did continue to develop promising younger players in this team and we are looking forward to better results coming for the club once they gain a little more experience at that level.

The club management continues its commitment to improving the performances of this team in the upcoming season and this task will once again be a priority of the incoming committee.

Both Premier Reserve teams had up and downs through the season, with at various times injuries and unavailability's being crucial in the strengths of the teams that we were able to field.

However, once again these generally very young teams did gain great experience and again lead to one young player stepping up to gain experience in playing for the Premier team.

The men's B1 team struggled through the season and ended finishing bottom.

The men's B3 and C2 teams competed well without ever threatening the championship leaders. Better luck next season guys.

In addition we had a total of 12 T20 and one day teams including our Presidents side.

Congratulations to all involved.

WOMEN'S CRICKET

As mentioned above this season we had continued development in Women's/girls cricket and we were able to field a Women's Premier grade team and two junior girl's teams.

The Women's Premier team battled in the top grade but did manage some wins and finished one from the bottom of the competition tables. However, the team contributed one to the Auckland Hearts team, one to the Auckland Under 21 team and three to the Auckland U18 team.

There are definite signs of improvement with these players each season as they gain more experience.

Once again the junior girl's teams were helped by the continued support of a few and once again a big thankyou to Reggie Fox, Calvin Rainey, Paul Tudor, and all the others who have dedicated a great deal of time and resources to women's/girls cricket.

JUNIORS

The club entered a total of 18 teams in the Western Districts, Greater Auckland and the Auckland Cricket organised competitions which was down two on the previous season.

Unfortunately for the first time in a long time we were not able to have an under 18 team which has been a strength of the club.

As mentioned earlier Andrew Meyer ran the Have-a-Go program this year with the regular assistance of other coaches. Once again this was very successful and we look forward to continuing this system in upcoming seasons and to develop the basic skills of our youth at this early stage.

We do need to encourage greater numbers at this level though.

COMPETITION SUCCESSES

The following is a summary of the clubs performance over the last season.

(a) Competitions:

We managed to win only 1 pennant in the Auckland Cricket competitions this season which was:

Year 8 Premier team

Congratulations for carrying the club.

(b) Players:

The overall playing membership increased from last season mainly as a result of an increase in the midget and junior numbers while the seniors remained steady.

REPRESENTATIVES

Representation of significant numbers of players at Auckland junior level continues to be limited but progress is being made. Junior coaching and development programs must be continued for these numbers to continue increasing.

There has been continued progress in the area of girls representing the club with the following Auckland Reps-:

Auckland U18 Girls:	Madison Curran, Samantha Brake – Howard, Mele Afu.
Auckland U21 Women:	Shriya Naidu.
Auckland Hearts Women:	Holly Huddleston.
Auckland A:	Brett Randell, Shaneil Sharma.
Auckland Aces:	Brett Randell.

It is particularly pleasing to see Brett Randell receiving a contract for the Auckland Aces. Unfortunately he spent most of the season as 12th man. He has played Auckland A and has been part of the Auckland Aces team a number of times as 12th man this season.

It continues to show that provided you have talent and are prepared to work very hard at your game, you can reach the highest levels of the game from Eden Roskill. We look forward to Brett's continued development and his future representative exploits when they occur.

The clubs Service Level Agreements plan will continue to focus on initiatives to improve our player's development.



The club juniors continue to make pleasing progress in District representation teams. This season a total of 38 boys & girls made the Western Districts age group tournament teams. This number is up by a further 5 from last season. Overall these numbers are pleasing and indicate the continued development of our youth players.

INDO KIWI TOURNAMENT

This year the Club was very excited to be involved in hosting the Indo Kiwi cricket Tournament at Keith Hay Park.

This competition involved 16 men's teams playing a round robin tournament during January and February. It was once again very successful with some great games and the final being won by Wills XI over Falcons XI. Congratulations.

Thankyou also to the sponsors -:Cricket Express and Freedom2Play.

I would also like to thank all the club members involved on the tournament committee and for all their work in making this event the success it was.



BUILDING

We have continued to make small improvements in the club house facilities with painting and maintenance.

A major change is occurring at present on the outside of the northern end of the Building with a Cricket Mural being painted on the walls by local artist Adrian Jackman. This work is possible through funding provided by the local Puketapa Community Board. I would like to thank the Board for this generous improvement to the visual aspects of the Building. It is also hoped that it will have an effect on reducing the graffiti that this end of the building regularly suffers.

There is further work planned to continue to improve the players changing rooms and passageway and additional work on security issues are also planned.

We have now completed our repayments of our building loan with the Auckland City Council and can look forward to the nets providing the club with some positive income.

At present, I believe that the building facilities are in good shape but we do need to undertake minor maintenance.

LOUNGE

The hire of the lounge facilities has been very quiet again this year. The new executive should look at ways to make sure they are more widely used during the off peak hours.

The facility continues to attract some interest from the community and we must continue to market its availability during the off season.

INDOOR NETS

The indoor nets continued to be utilized well during last winter. Despite continued heavier emphasis on club members using the facilities and the competition of other indoor facilities in Auckland, the income from the hire of the Nets has remained steady.

The indoor nets are currently being upgraded so that should make them more user friendly.

COMPUTING/WEBSITE

This year saw Lyn Curran continue in the treasurer role and once again has done a great job of maintaining our financial records. The computerised accounting system continues to be of great benefit to the club management.



As mentioned before with the changeover to Results Vault the website was also upgraded with the help of Auckland Cricket and the website is a lot crisper and clearer and should serve the club well into the future.

The club, Women's Premier & the Senior two day players all maintained facebook groups that were very useful in disseminating information to those members.

COMMITTEES

The club has once again been well served with volunteers this year. Our Management Committee was made up of a total of twelve members including delegates from the other committees and the junior committee nine.

These committees have had regular monthly meetings with sound leadership and positive outcomes developed on many issues.

As Club Chairman, on behalf of the club I would like to thank all our committee members for all their work this year and personally for the assistance I have received from them. In particular our Treasurer Lyn and our Junior Chairman Prakash for all their work throughout the year.

I would also like to thank Hament Kasanji in his efforts over the past year as Club Manager. Unfortunately due to ill health he will be stepping down in August we wish him all the best for the future.

I would also like to thank our secretary Sunny Bhatti who is also stepping down for his contribution over the past season not only in his role as secretary but also as convener of selectors for the senior teams.

CONCLUSION

Finally I wish to thank all our members and to everybody who has helped in any way, during the past year.

This past season has been a mixture of highs and lows but overall it has been satisfying.

Finally, a big thankyou to our major sponsors, without who we would struggle to function.

Thankyou.

Arun Ranchhod
ERDCC Chairman

Our Thanks to Our major Sponsors



R & L Furniture Ltd

