



# Cricket Wellington

<b>Minutes of Meeting</b> <b>6.00pm 21 April 2010</b> <b>Wellington School of Cricket</b>		<b>Club Chairmen's Meeting</b>	
Meeting called by		Peter Clinton	Meeting Start
Note Taker		Clinton Butler	Meeting Finished
Attendees		R Moore (North City); E Watkin (CWUSI); G Sugden (Wellington College); M Matuszewski (Onslow); S Maynard (Northern Park); D Boldt (Wellington Collegians); S Joseph (Eastern Suburbs); L Edwards (Karori); A Hadley (Hutt District); D Edgecombe (Johnsonville); M Heissenbuttel (Taita); B Jenkins (Naenae Old Boys); P Chandler (Upper Hutt); B Wood (Stokes Valley) B Nightingale (Cricket Wellington Board); S Morrison (Cricket Wellington Board); C Butler (Cricket Wellington); P Clinton (Cricket Wellington).	
Apologies		C Owens (Victoria University); S Girvan (Eastbourne); C Gerrard (Thorndon); A Hewson (Petone Riverside); G Hooper (Hutt District); A Prangnell (Brooklyn); J Williams (Brooklyn); I Smith (Cricket Wellington); G Larsen (Cricket Wellington)	
<b>AGENDA</b>			
P Clinton opened the meeting by thanking Chairmen for their efforts throughout the season. He also pointed out the objective of the meeting was to review the season.			
<b>1. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting (21 September 2009)</b>		<b>G Sugden/D Boldt</b>	
<b>2. Grounds</b>			
P Clinton provided an overview around grounds outlining the following:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grounds had performed reasonably this summer and got better as the season went on due to better weather. Feedback suggests grounds are improving</li> <li>• Cricket Wellington is still in the process of renovating premier wickets to patamahoe soil. Nairnville Park will receive a spring renovation next season and plans are to be discussed with the WCC around the possibility of Anderson Park receiving an autumn renovation at the end of next season.</li> <li>• No premier grade games will be played on Anderson Park next season</li> <li>• The Hutt Rec will be out for part of next summer due to the Rugby World Cup</li> <li>• Kilbirnie Park is back on board next season after receiving a renovation</li> <li>• A new grounds database was introduced this season and worked well, although Cricket Wellington needs to be more reactive to the feedback coming in.</li> <li>• Cricket Wellington plan to meet with councils shortly</li> </ul>			
E Watkin asked why Nairnville Park had been out this season. P Clinton outlined that Onslow had decided it was not up to premier standard resulting in them playing their home fixtures at Petone Rec.			

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CW agreed.

S Maynard asked if random inspections are carried out on club wickets. P Clinton said no routine or random inspections were done on council grounds but negative feedback received through pitch and ground reports were passed onto councils. Depending upon reports, site inspections are undertaken on problem wickets, such as Fraser Park and Naenae Park in recent seasons. Cricket Wellington had tried to access the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute but, being based in Palmerston North, it was felt they were not likely to be responsive enough to address immediate issues. Cricket Wellington is considering approaching the Stadium Trust to set out an agreement that may see the Basin ground staff fulfil obligations around assessing club wickets.

D Boldt asked if lower grade teams were sending in pitch and ground reports. C Butler stated that the odd one was received but nothing was submitted after Christmas.

D Boldt mentioned that Macalister Park played well this season and it was obvious that the work had gone into it.

P Clinton informed that group that Petone 2 was renovated to patamahoe clay this season and HCC had plans to renovate numbers 3 and 4 to patamahoe over time. M Heissenbuttel asked if this was a Cricket Wellington strategy and in future would other grounds like the Hutt Rec and Fraser Park experience something similar. P Clinton stated that Cricket Wellington hadn't formally been informed by HCC of an upgrade to numbers 3 and 4 but had heard through the grounds man that it was in the pipeline.

S Maynard expressed disappointment that the blocks at Petone Rec had not been fully utilised and some games were played on old strips. CW will take this up with Hutt City Council in the upcoming season review.

R Moore made the following points:

- Patamahoe clay needed to be managed carefully to achieve the best results, it is important that ground staff are bought up to speed on how to manage it properly.
- Linden Park should have been renovated in autumn
- How does the cost reflect affiliation fees

P Clinton informed the group that HCC had signalled that ground fees would be increased by 20% next season and there would likely be an increase in affiliation fees. He said currently affiliation fees don't equate to charges by councils. He pointed out that affiliation fees haven't been increased since amalgamation barring a small increase around intercity teams 2 seasons ago. He also said that Cricket Wellington would raise autumn renovations with the councils

S Morrison gave a brief overview of the financial impact of New Zealand Cricket, and outlined that it was her goal to have the club game sustainable. She indicated that the Board were currently looking into a 5 year plan moving forward. She encouraged clubs to think outside the square and come up with ideas that may assist with the financial health of clubs. She indicated that winter workshops maybe implemented to bounce about ideas.

R Moore stated that Chairmen need to budget for next season and it was important to know if fees were going to rise. He also said one angle to approach the councils with around fees is the benefit cricket provides to the community. P Clinton said that Cricket Wellington generally budget a 5% increase on ground fees although HCC fees will increase by 20%. He indicated affiliation fees may rise by 5% next season.

B Nightingale informed delegates that it's a fact that gaming trust funding is reducing and Cricket Wellington expect New Zealand Cricket's grant to reduce next season.

G Sugden said College grounds should not be forgotten noting that the state of some grounds is appalling. P Clinton informed that group that a College cricket review was currently taking place and

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that grounds would be a point of focus.

D Boldt asked the floor what would happen to participation in their clubs if affiliation fees went up. R Moore said students make up the majority of clubs these days and they struggle to pay fees. S Morrison commented that it has to change because the current system is not working from what she's hearing.

M Heissenbuttel commented that this was not a new discussion stating other things like rent etc were going up. He stated that the currently club model is not working and more urgent attention was needed to come up with options, he felt there needed to be a collective effort by Cricket Wellington. He outlined the Sportsville project that Taita are currently undertaking stating that they can't afford their clubrooms so are joining forces with 8 other sporting codes that run out of Fraser Park to address some of the financial impacts moving forward.

R Moore raised the Cricket Wellington Strategic Plan asking if it was on target and are we achieving what we set out too. He asked if it is reviewed regularly. B Nightingale stated that quarterly reviews of the Plan were presented to the Board by the CEO. P Clinton said Cricket Wellington were looking into the next Strategic Plan over the winter, although no process was in place for this at this stage.

M Heissenbuttel asked if the group would get a chance to chat about a funding model. P Clinton believed this was beneficial and would advance discussions in the early off-season.

#### **4. Season Review**

##### First Innings Points

P Clinton outlined that first innings points had been introduced this season. Feedback to date had been positive from the majority of clubs.

D Boldt ask if there is an argument for the winning team to receive maximum points no matter what the outcome was on first innings points. P Clinton said the priority was first innings points stating this was discussed when the points system was introduced.

M Heissenbuttel asked how long it was planned to have the points system in before it is reviewed. P Clinton said it was always intended to review it after the first season as it was a new concept. Feedback suggests it worked well although North City has indicated they are against it.

P Chandler asked if the captains had requested bonus points to be removed. He felt bonus points should stay as removing them would create too much dead cricket.

R Moore asked about the process of the advisory forums. P Clinton said the forums were introduced to take the pressure off Chairmen; feedback from the forums would feed back into the Chairman's meetings and would assist with decision making.

R Moore had read the Player's Committee minutes, where it was suggested that games which had no likelihood of a result could be called off early on day two. He pointed out that if games finish at tea on day 2, then this could have a negative impact upon the bar operations. He also pointed out that bonus points should stay.

G Sugden didn't think the group should override captain's decisions if that's what they wanted.

P Clinton pointed out that some results this season was down to players not understanding the first innings model. He felt games would get better, in terms of results and less "dead" cricket, as players understood the format better.

L Edwards said he was against bonus points as they dictated the way they played the game at the end of the season based on the state of the points table. He also stated that Karori had a comprehensive win in one game but lost ground on the points table due to the bonus points accrued for winning by a

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big margin, by another team.

P Clinton said Cricket Wellington will come back to clubs with recommendations around bonus points

M Heissenbuttel pointed out it was important not to tinker with the points system too much or it would be impossible to gauge its success year to year.

#### Twenty20

P Clinton said the introduction of Twenty20 to the intercity grades was successful with positive feedback received to date. At the lower grade level, Twenty20 had proved very popular in Wellington but had struggled to get off the ground in the Hutt. He asked Hutt Valley clubs why it was struggling to gain traction.

B Wood said players at Stokes Valley loved Twenty20, he felt it needed more attention from Cricket Wellington and clubs to make it happen. B Jenkins agreed stating clubs need to collectively promote the format through the Valley, especially through the Hutt News.

P Chandler said clubs were under pressure from the mid week "Last Man Standing" Twenty20 competition that has proved to be very popular.

#### Hutt Valley Promotion

P Clinton said Cricket Wellington changed its policy this season by introducing Pro45 as the promotion grade in the Hutt Valley. It was set up with the best intentions but didn't take off as expected. He outlined that this would be an area of discussion at the lower grade meeting where he expected there to be some considerable debate on where promotion should lie.

S Maynard questioned the defaults process asking if teams were fined for repeat offences. P Clinton said teams defaulting without notification were fined.

### **5. Player Behaviour**

P Clinton expressed his disappointment with player behaviour results this season with 17 citings taking place. He did point out though that feedback received suggested behaviour was good. He asked what can be done to overcome the number of citings that took place pointing out the following:

- Swifter justice
- Harsher penalties
- There is a process in place
- A law of cricket is for the captains to control their players, do we need to put more emphasis on the captains
- An option maybe for teams to lose points or gain points at the end of the season based on their teams behaviour throughout the season.

A Hadley asked how many citings resulted in penalties. P Clinton didn't have the exact data available. A Hadley felt the system needed to be black and white pointing out that reprimands are pointless.

G Sugden suggested there should be a name and shame system, or communication around clubs when penalties are handed out. P Clinton outlined that every decision is released to the local media and placed on the Cricket Wellington website.

R Moore said they tackled player behaviour at a college level two ways.

1. Captains didn't understand their responsibilities, if there were problems during a game umpires were encouraged to communicate with the captain
2. A compulsory meeting was set up with coaches and captains before the season outlining their responsibilities

P Clinton pointed out that a captains meeting did take place prior to the season where player behaviour was communicated.

P Chandler felt there was a problem with the process pointing out that there shouldn't be a coding if the umpire didn't make the citing. P Clinton said the umpires don't always see everything and there are games that don't have official umpires. He said it was available for captains to cite and there were a few occasions in the past where captains have done so on aspects that felt deserved a hearing.

D Boldt said that player umpires is an issue in lower grades stating the abuse is unbelievable. He suggested that Cricket Wellington look into what happens in England where teams take along their own umpire, if the opposing team doesn't have an umpire then they lose the toss.

P Clinton asked Chairmen what they were doing to their players to lift the standard.

M Heissenbittel believed a suspension was sufficient rather than a loss of points. He suggested Cricket Wellington come up with some ideas and get back to clubs for feedback.

A Hadley felt communication to clubs was important so they are aware of the standards.

M Matuszewski suggested a points system where clubs who are involved in three or four citings get points deducted.

B Jenkins made the following points:

- There is inconsistency in citing commissioners
- Penalties – if guilty there should be a suspension
- The process should take place the week following no matter if the players are available or not

P Clinton suggested an escalating penalty. B Jenkins agreed.

P Clinton stated that commissioners are not prepared to hear a case unless all parties are present. B Nightingale suggested that players should not be allowed to play until the case is heard. Delegates agreed with this.

P Clinton said from what he was hearing clubs were after a stronger environment and consistency.

B Nightingale asked whether an abandoned game counted towards a suspension. P Clinton advised that the strong majority of feedback received from clubs on the issue supported an abandoned day not counting towards a suspension, and CW would include reference to this in the rules ahead of next season.

## **6. Covers**

P Clinton thought the current rules around covers were sufficient and reminded clubs of the expectations around covers. He encouraged clubs to talk to Cricket Wellington if they were considering purchasing covers.

## **7. Ball Purchases**

P Clinton bought delegates up to speed on the central procurement of balls stating that Gavin Larsen had discussed the idea with Trusts over the summer and they won't fund a regional supply of balls. This does not therefore appear to be an option as previously hoped.

P Clinton said Cricket Wellington currently operates a contract with Kookaburra which is due to finish in August. Kookaburra is keen to negotiate a new contract and Cricket Wellington is keen to negotiate something that provides benefits to clubs. Dukes and Platypus are on the market but feedback received from Christchurch and Auckland was that nobody uses them; Kookaburra's are widely regarded as the best ball on the market. Cricket Wellington will be seeking something in the contract that is a benefit to club cricket.

D Boldt asked if Cricket Wellington could purchase balls off Kookaburra and clubs could come to Cricket Wellington to purchase the balls. P Clinton didn't think this was an option but could find out.

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## **8. Nomination of Directors**

P Clinton informed delegates that two directors were retiring by rotation in October, and an Appointments Panel needs to be in place by 1 July. One member of the appointments panel needs to be a nomination from the Board that is approved by Club Chairmen. During Ervin McSweeney's time three clubs were given the responsibility of appointing a nomination for 1 year. Last year Cricket Wellington used Colin Owens (University Cricket Club) to liaise with Chairmen to agree on an appointment.

P Clinton asked how clubs would like to go about it this year. Delegates agreed last year's method work well and should be continued.

## 9. Participation

### Presidents Grade (Twenty20)

P Clinton informed the group that there was scope to introduce a Presidents Twenty20 grade next season. This will be aired at the lower grade forum for feedback.

### 6 Aside Tournament

A 6 aside tournament did not take place this season as it clashed with other events in the calendar. Cricket Wellington will look to implement this into next season's calendar.

### Numbers Breakdown Based on Formats

P Clinton outlined the following:

<b>PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
Intercity teams	32	32	32
Two Day Lower Grade	49	47	39
One Day Lower Grade	42	34	36
Twenty 20	N/A	10	25
Women's teams	18	17	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>146</b>

<b>PEARCE CUP</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
Average runs per wicket	21.39	tba	23.67
Centuries	18	13	24
Fifties	93	tba	99
Five-wicket bags	41	tba	20
Average pitch report score	6.39	5.97	6.34

<b>HAZLETT TROPHY</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
Average runs per wicket	17.98	tba	19.43
Centuries	10	7	13
Fifties	56	tba	84
Five-wicket bags	49	tba	31
Average pitch report score	5.92	5.70	5.93

<b>BEHAVIOUR</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
Code of Conduct breaches	2	3	17

<b>UMPIRES</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
Average umpires per day	14.2	14.3	14.8
Active umpires	23	27	22

P Clinton encouraged clubs to sit down with Cricket Wellington to review the season and look ahead. The offer of a review meeting involving Gavin Larsen was extended to all Chairmen, and others whom might be interested in attending.

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## 10. Finals

P Clinton asked if finals were supported and what are their objectives. He was sensing that there is no need for a final but pointed out that:

- They give other teams in the grade a chance
- They test players under pressure
- There had been chat about a possible promotion/relegation game instead of a Hazlett final

A Hadley felt that the competition is played over the course of a season stating the top team should win.

L Edwards agreed with the captains meeting minutes that the final needed to be on the Basin Reserve. He asked why it should be a three day final when teams don't play three day games during the season.

M Heissenbittel said the final had appeal to the Taita club and thinks it has merit.

B Nightingale said the general comment he'd heard from players was they enjoyed it. He said the objective of the finals when they were introduced were:

- To test whether club players could play three day cricket
- Keep interest in the competition until the end of the season.

## 11. Season Calendar

P Clinton said there was an opportunity to play next season into April due to Easter taking place in late April. He said that certain grounds would be unavailable due to winter codes starting in early April but felt settled weather in April would be more pleasant than playing in early October. Cricket Wellington plan to start next season at Labour weekend. A calendar will be out shortly for feedback.

Delegates generally seemed happy with the opportunity to play into April.

L Edwards had concerns around the following:

- Trainings would be difficult due to daylight saving
- Clashes with winter codes may disrupt some teams
- It will clash with the Club Nationals
- Players going to England for the off season would pose a problem considering their season starts in April.

## 12. General Business

P Clinton informed the group that the Stakeholder survey preliminary results were back. He said the results reflected what was expected and outlined the following:

The positive feedback included CW's integrity and honesty, and the grades structure and management of cricket competitions.

The principal negatives included poor communication, although it was not known if this was directed towards any particular staff or business unit, or a more organisation-wide problem. Either way it is very disappointing to receive and will be addressed. Women's Cricket was also highlighted as being in need of attention, and CW's management of it was criticised.

P Clinton opened an invitation to clubs for a one on one meeting with Cricket Wellington over the winter.

P Clinton touched on the College cricket review that is currently taking place and encouraged clubs to make submissions to it if they feel necessary.

S Joseph made the following points:

- He had an issue with a Wellington selector who attended an Eastern Suburbs pre-season

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training and informed the squad not to bother about making the Twenty20 domestic team as the team had already been pick. He felt this was unacceptable.

- He pointed out that his son was the Wellington under 19 captain a few seasons ago and had got a glowing review but had not heard anything from Cricket Wellington since. He felt more communication was needed.
- He felt Hutt Valley v Wellington matches should not be classed as a Firebirds trial as the best 24 players were not on show. P Clinton replied that whether the best players were playing was very much a subjective assessment, and it was perhaps up to the selectors themselves as to whether they classed the match as a first-class trial game.
- He asked why club cricket was scheduled on Saturday and Sunday when the Test was on at the Basin Reserve in December. P Clinton said the club calendar was set before the International schedule was released, and at the time the Basin test was scheduled for mid-December. This was unilaterally changed by NZC after the club cricket playing calendar was released. He also pointed out that the Sunday was scheduled as a Reserve Day, which was only to be activated if an earlier round was abandoned. Unfortunately this was the case. Finally, he noted that club cricket was not scheduled when the ODI was on a Saturday, nor was the Sunday of the Australian test match used for club cricket.

R Moore outlined that P Clinton had indicated Cricket Wellington were undertaking an internal review of their High Performance area. He wanted to know if clubs could have an input into the review. P Clinton said clubs could submit feedback to Gavin Larsen if they wish.

R Moore outlined the following:

- Sunday play is an issue when it comes to team selection due to people working
- World vintage cricket tournament is taking place in Wellington in 2012 and there was opportunities for clubs to host teams
- He encouraged Cricket Wellington to welcome club input into the governance structure and management of CW

S Maynard asked if artificial wickets could be utilised more during wet weather days.

L Edwards wanted to know why players cannot question umpires about decisions. E Watkin said this was New Zealand Cricket policy but will discuss this with Cricket Wellington and go back to New Zealand Cricket.

S Morrison thanked Chairmen for their efforts this season.