



## **Hamilton Old Boys Cricket Club**

### **Chairman's Report 2019-20 Season.**

I am pleased to submit my report for the season.

#### **Senior**

This season our club reduced by one to a 6-team membership – one Premier, two Senior A, two Senior B and one Senior C. Our Friends B grade side disbanded and the few remaining elected to play elsewhere. More importantly the club is continuing to attract new membership, particularly in the A and B grades and I am pleased to report that the calibre is high.

The Premier season got off to a near perfect start in winning the R.M. Dodunski Cup. We started the competition with a loss to HBHS but never looked back from there putting us into the final against HBHS. With good batting performances from B Hatwell and J Brown we were able to defend a modest total of 122. J Singh 3-26 and M Lanting 2-11 were the pick of the bowlers.

The team's performances during the Spark/Hec Holland Plate competition was outstanding, without a loss in their pool (six from six); unfortunately, losing out to HSUCC in the final. Requiring 274 to win we fell short by 14 runs and were 8 down. B Hatwell batted very well obtaining 68\* in only 48 deliveries and C Rowell the standout bowler with 3 for 23.

Our campaign for the most prestigious trophy (Howden Cup) was also played at a frenetic pace with the team battling out as front runners with HSUCC when the season was prematurely called to an early halt. Four of the five two-day rounds had been completed with only HBHS to play and the team marginally behind HSUCC, with victories over HSUCC and MSCC (first innings) an outright over Fraser Tech and a close first innings loss to MCC.

Both the Senior Reserve teams had a mixed season's; however, it would be fair to say that our Red team had the better of the Black team in overall performances. The upside was that there were some good enough performances throughout the season by both teams; enough to inspire confidence in the coming years.

Both teams struggled in the non-descript T20 competition with both team's winning two and losing three.

The Red team competed well for the Jim Bailey Cup winning five and losing two, not far off from being in the final, however the Black team struggled with one tie and six losses.



It was good to see the Black team perform much better in the longer game with first innings/outrights over both HBHS and Fraser Tech with a first innings loss to Melville and outright loss to Marist.

It is unlucky that the season ended in the manner it did with our Red team excelling in the big game with first innings wins over Melville; Fraser Tech and St Peter's. They also beat HBHS in first innings/outright. They were well placed for a finals berth for the Sigley Cup.

The Second-grade sides also had a mixed season with the Brothers team probably under performing with the Black team showing some signs of development.

In the T20 the Black side had 5 losses and 1 victory with the Brothers winning 6 games including beating Star who ended up beating the Brothers in the final.

The Limited Over's competition did not see much improvement with the B side losing 4 games; winning 1 with another rained off whilst the Brothers lost 3 and won 2 with a rained off.

In the Hampton two-day competition saw a marked improvement in the Black team with first innings losses to Melville HKR and Brothers, however whilst losing to Eastlink on the first innings performed creditably to win outright. They also beat Star on a first innings and beat the second Eastlink team first innings and outright, giving confidence for things to come.

The Brothers must have been extremely unlucky not to have won the Hampton Cup with first innings wins against Melville HKS and HKR and Old Boys as well as Beating Marist first innings/outright and being awarded maximum points against Eastlink for a default.

The Presidents grade won the Claude Hamilton Trophy again this season. In doing so they completed the first round with only two losses and finished first. The second round was more difficult playing teams from the top section, but again finished top of the table with Fraser Tech to play in the final (had previously lost to them in the round robin). Fraser Tech batted first and score a creditable 242. Old Boys bowling honours fell to Matt Libby 4-39; Jamie Blackburn 2-39 and Josh Wright 2-41. Old Boys got off to a poor start being 56 for 3 before Scott Robertson and Matt Libby came to the rescue; Scott Robertson 108\* off 82 deliveries and Matt Libby 60 off 40 deliveries, winning by 5 wickets.

Notable seasonal performances were Scott Robertson 793 aggregate including 3 centuries and thirty sixes, Josh Wright 25 wickets and Greg New 15 wicket keeping dismissals.

It is timely that we record our concerns with the performance of NDCA regarding match management of our grass roots competitions, there has been a total lack of performance including regular upkeep of points tables and the total lack of communication has been noted. It does leave me wondering whether the final points analysis for the Second grade Hampton cup needs readdressing as their attempts to provide accurate table for the Premier grade was found wanting.



Congratulations to all members who achieved higher honours.

Hamilton B – Jake Harvey, James Gifford, Michael Lanting, Cooper Rowell

Hamilton A – Brook Hatwell, Cooper Rowell, Anurag Verma, Matt Whitley and Josh Brown

Northern Premier League – Charlotte Sarsfield, Janice Fraser, Georgina Harris and Emma Walton

ND U19 – Michael Lanting

ND U21 Women's – Emma Walton and Georgina Brown

ND A – Josh Brown

Northern Spirit – Charlotte Sarsfield

Northern Districts – Daryl Mitchell, Mitchell Santner and BJ Watling

New Zealand A – Daryl Mitchell

New Zealand – Mitchell Santner, Daryl Mitchell and BJ Watling

It is also a good time to take a moment and recognise the incredible season Brook and the Hamilton team had. Winning the Fergus Hickey Rose bowl again as well as the Basil McBurney and holding the Hawke Cup for two challenges before losing the third to a strong Canterbury Country team who went on to hold the trophy for the season. Congratulations to all the Old Boys members involved in these teams/squads.

With the country in a lockdown the only course of action was to cancel our prize giving. Establishing some awards was difficult in that apart from Senior C who must be congratulated for winning the Senior C final the other grades were cut short by a round of two-day cricket and the finals. In addition, NDCA has taken over match management of the clubs' competitions and in that respect have performed poorly. As late as April we are still not aware of either the points tables or whether teams will be awarded trophies based on the standings at conclusion.

The Board have however determined our trophy winners based on performances to the premature close of the season

DH Gillies Trophy (most valuable C player) – Scott Robertson

HD Tait Trophy (most valuable B player) – Rohal Pandit

RLC Hodgson Trophy (most valuable A player) – Sid Bhattia

GSC Hodgson Trophy (most valuable Premier Player) – Josh Brown

WJ Burton Trophy (most outstanding club contribution) – Scott Robertson

Carter Cup (best clubman) – Phil Rice

AF Hope Cup (most outstanding club fielder) – Matt Whitley

AV Giles Trophy (most valuable club player) – Scott Robertson

GW Pattenden Trophy (most club wickets) – Vermal Singh

MG Harding Plate (most club runs) – Scott Robertson

David Icke Trophy (most 6's hit) – Scott Robertson

I Mills trophy (HBHS vs. Old Boys derby) – Old Boys

## **Coach Report**

Heading into this season with predominately the same squad as the previous season expectations were high and a strong commitment to perform with distinction in all three formats of the game. Preseason trainings were well attended.



The goal was to focus on the basics with the members striving to improve with every game. The bowling was stand out with the highest score obtained against us in the 6 games leading up to the limited over final being 183. Unfortunately, we fell short in the final, however it was a close game and we played to a high standard throughout.

Having performed below par in the 20/20 competition in previous years the team was determined to make this season one to remember. With a first-round loss to HBHS the team compiles 3 wins and an exciting tie with HSUCC. The final was against HBHS and on an old pitch batting first we achieved 122. Again, the bowling was excellent providing a win by 19 runs. Great to see the club etched onto the trophy finally.

We acknowledged that our goal to defend the Howden Cup would be restricted by our Representative programme which was a congested one this season (Hawke Cup defences). With our Limited Over's performances against the local teams (counting for the Howden Cup) and dominating our closest rivals in a two day fixture and then an exceptional comeback against Fraser Tech when we were down on the first innings and won outright we were in the box seat. We followed with a tight fought first innings loss to MCC which we set them 292 in the first innings and what proved to be the penultimate round with MSCC beating them by 9 runs on the first innings we were well placed to qualify for the Howden Cup final with only HBHS to play.

I am immensely proud of every single player who competed for the team this season, their hard work; attitude and commitment to the team and club is a testament to them.

Thanks also to the Board for the work behind the scenes that keeps our club ticking over so successfully.

### **Junior**

After many years' service as the club junior co-ordinator I Perenise stood down in his role and was replaced by R Hodgson and J Fraser.

Numbers were strong for both terms (term four had 18 teams and term one 17 teams), in addition there was an emphasis placed on securing outstanding subscriptions which has benefitted the club this financial year.

With the growth in numbers the club needs to ensure that we have maintain ample stocks of polos, caps, and balls for the teams.

Thanks very much to the volunteer parents who took on either role as coach or manager of each of the teams, a rewarding role but a role that requires much patience and demand on weekends.

### **Friday Night Cricket:**

Mavericks coached by Hayden Tuffery

Tigers coached by Josh Steward and managed by Rochelle Steward

Jaguars coached by Josh Brown and managed by Tracey Mulligan

Bears managed by Steffen Grimm

### **Saturday Hardball Cricket:**

Stars year 5 coached by Noel Lake and managed by Nerrolly Hay

Eagles year 5 coached by Nico van Rensburg and managed by Vivek Sharma

Panthers year 5 coached by Chris Cummings and Jeff Clarke and managed by Candice Simpson

Lions year 6 coached by Geoff Booth and managed by Rachel Johnson

Falcons year 6 coached by Kent Pryor and managed by Abby Smith

Knights year 6 coached by Garrick Challis and managed by Amie and Blair Kiely

Aces year 7 and 8 coached by Conrad Jonas and managed by Sandra Jonas

Blackhawks year 7 and 8 coached by John McKeever and managed by Vaughan Jones

Cavaliers year 7 and 8 coached by Richard Clarke and managed by Aaron Coombes

Rebels year 7 and 8 coached by Simon O'Rourke and managed by Suzanne O'Rourke

Sharks year 7 and 8 coached by James Gurnick and managed by Wendy Binnie

Leopards year 7 and 8 coached by Matt Hay

Division One coached by Amit Taneja and managed by Rama Gulla

### **Social Events**

The social committee arranged an exciting calendar for the season.

The Golf day was held at Whatawhata and continues to be well received, as was a pre-season friendly against HBHS.

In December, a dinner was held at Little India with the usual supporters in attendance.

The junior prize giving was held at Claudelands Rovers clubrooms (a popular venue) with most Board members in attendance. Jake Harvey hosted the event with the support of Janice Fraser.

Unfortunately, the games function planned at the Cosmopolitan club did not eventuate do to lack of support, but is a worthwhile event to persevere with.

The Senior prize giving was planned again for the Workingmen's club but due to the Corona-virus pandemic could not be held.

### **Appreciations**

Many thanks to the Board members for your contributions this season. The Board members are as follows:

President	Jake Harvey
Club Captain	Matt Whitley
Secretary	Charlotte Sarsfield
Treasurer	Ben Anderson
Patron	Susan Hassall
Members	J Fraser, R Hodgson, K Curtis and C Gallagher



I would like to thank our Club Captain; Club Coach and Janice Fraser for taking time to organise practices and provide coaching to our teams. The many hours organising teams is a big responsibility with either a feast or famine regarding player availability and the club members are grateful to these people for their perseverance in this regard.

We have had difficulty retaining our junior ranks at HBHS for weekday practices, this was not helped by the school removing the back nets without consultation or plans for alternative arrangements.

Fortunately, some staff at the school have taken on a project to install a five-lane indoor practice centre which will meet both senior and junior members going forward. This has recently been held back with the global health issues closing the gaming funding required to get the project underway.

#### Obituaries

Sam Beaton Baird (10<sup>th</sup> March 1927 – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019)

Sam Baird was not an Old Boys Cricket member; however, he was an outstanding contributor to both the Old Technicals Cricket Club and Hamilton Cricket during a period when there was a close relationship between our clubs. Sam was the President of Hamilton Cricket for well over 20 years and a Life member, he excelled in voluntary work with our youth cricket and formed a formidable pairing with the late Claud Hamilton.

Bryan Drummond Batten (22<sup>nd</sup> April 1934 – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019)

Bryan was an art teacher at HBHS and was also their 1<sup>st</sup> X1 cricket coach when they were admitted to the senior competition, initially he was a player/coach. When the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 was withdrawn from the Senior competition Bryan joined the Old Boys ranks at Premier level and finally at Senior Reserves. He was a tall medium pacer who bowled off cutters with a high action, however, did not excel at batting. A good club man for many years. Later transferred to Hillcrest High School before retiring and moving to the Bay area.

Colin James Stevens (17<sup>th</sup> October 1943 - 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019)

Colin moved to Hamilton from Christchurch in the late 1970's and joined the Teachers Varsity Cricket club until it folded 10 years later. He then moved to the Old Boys club and played in the "Oldies" Senior Reserve team, at that time Old Boys was very strong and fielded two very good Senior Reserve sides. His son Ritchie Stevens competed against Colin in the other Senior Reserve side when first leaving school. When the "Oldies" team disbanded Colin continued to play Senior Reserve cricket into his 50's as a prolific run scorer, astute slow bowler and inspiring skipper.

It is unfortunate that most of our scorebooks during his time are not in club possession as his statistics would be hard to compete with.

However, he did win the following awards:

1987-88 GW Pattenden Most Club Wickets

1988-89 AV Giles Trophy Club Cricketer of the Year

1990-91; 1991-1992 and 1993-94 RLC Hodgson Senior A Best Player.

With his playing days over Colin remained very active in administration of cricket with the Hamilton Cricket Association.

Initially (early 1990's) Colin became involved with junior coaching and this progressed to senior coaching and co-ordination and this quickly progressed to membership on the Board whilst also serving as a senior representative selector. In 1996 Colin ceased coaching as the HCA obtained the services of a full time coach but continued as a selector and also in 2000 as the HCA Chairman, it was this same year that Colin was awarded life membership of Hamilton Cricket. He continued in the Chair and as a selector until 2011.

Colin also contributed to Northern Districts as an ND panel Selector for at least 10 years.

Colin shared his cricket knowledge with all he became involved with, he had a softly spoken manner and an ability to converse with all ages and personalities; it is incalculable to estimate how many players he has influenced.

An extraordinary contribution to the game and impossible to calculate the time and effort involved with all this. A very special cricket CV of a great club man and cricket supporter.

I would like to thank the following organisations that have provided funding to our club this season:

Lion Foundation, New Zealand Community Trust, Grassroots Trust, One Foundation and New Zealand Racing Board.

Lastly, I would like to thank the sponsors of our club:

Direct Group  
Eastside Tavern  
JP Livestock  
Café 91



**Jake Harvey**  
**Chairman**