



Hamilton Old Boys Cricket Club

Chairpersons Report — 2021-22 Season.

It is with pleasure that I submit my report for the 2021-22 season.

Senior Club

This season the club had fielded 6 senior teams – one Premier, two Senior A, one Senior B and two Senior C. We also fielded 24 junior teams in term 4 2021 and 17 in term 1 2022.

This season our Premier side retained last season's squad with the inclusion of Jacob Parker from High School but soon after lost Jake Harvey through work relocation. The team was competitive in closely contested Hec Holland Plate, Spark Trophy and Howden Cup finals but were runners up on all three occasions to Marist-Suburbs. The T20 competition was cancelled due to the pandemic. Our team was a strong one and in consequence missed players throughout a very congested representative season. Fortunately, we did have a strong senior reserve side to bolster the ranks when required. The grass pitches this season were a disgrace and impeded good cricket and climaxed in blocks at Galloway Park being withdrawn from service. The HCC need to address this issue and not see their service of our sports parks as a means for cost savings.

We entered two teams into the reserve grade competition again this season. Our Black team started their campaign very poorly and struggled to recover as the season progressed primarily through 3-4 players on a regular basis being promoted to Premier duties. It is very rewarding to see these players striving to better their game and I am proud to report that our club is one of the few in the region that have teams that play for the club and grab opportunities to play at a higher level. We did recruit some very good players throughout the season, and I am confident that this team will be back to their very best next season. Luckily, we have a good development programme in our B squad and players from this grade gained numerous opportunities to test their abilities at a higher level.

Our Red team played very well throughout the season, even with the injuries they suffered throughout. This team met Marist-Suburbs in the Bailey Cup Limited Over's final and were unlucky to lose, however they did make up for this with a convincing win in the Sigley Cup final against Melville Spark. Congratulations to Rajvir Singh and his team for a great season.

Best wishes to Gurvinder Singh who has been a stalwart of the team for many seasons and hope his move to Melbourne is a happy one.

I was ably supported by Curtis Kenny who performed a stella job with our young recruits in the B grade. The B's commenced the season with an abundance of numbers giving rise to a consideration that the club may enter an additional C grade team. The proposal was not met favourably and as the season wore on pandemic and player representative commitments convinced us that our conservative approach was justified.

This season the club reduced our C grade entries to two teams, there were several new recruits but was outweighed by an overall reduction in committed players. Runty Jackson with right hand man Josh Wright looked after the appointments with their usual aplomb and was agreed that due to the reaction from other clubs in the competition we revert to a squad for each team as opposed to a balanced team selection each week. This of course was necessary with three teams we entered last season which at the time was supported by the HCA. The Red team was the stronger team with the Black team a combination of senior and youth players. The Red team almost led the competition from start to finish, beating the Lions in the semi-final and comprehensively beating Marist-Suburbs in the final. Congratulations to Runty and the team for retaining the Hamilton Cup three seasons in succession.

The Black team had a tougher time of it, but this should be seen as a year developing a team spirit, I am confident there will be better outcomes next season.

I would like to thank our Club Captain Matt Whitley, Club Coach Brook Hatwell and Janice Fraser for taking time to organise practices and provide coaching to our teams as well as ensuring that our teams were selected and prepared for their weekend play.

Congratulations to all members who achieved higher honours.

Hamilton- Matt Whitley, Josh Brown, Anurag Verma and Jacob Parker

ND U19- Jacob Parker

NZ Development -Jacob Parker and Josh Brown

Northern Districts A – Josh Brown, Jacob Parker, and Anurag Verma

Northern Districts – Mitchell Santner, Anurag Verma and Josh Brown

The prize giving was again a success, and with many turning up earlier in the day for the bowls matches held at the HWMC. The following were recipients of awards at our prize giving:

DH Gillies Trophy (most valuable C player) – Josh Wright
HD Tait Trophy (most valuable B player) – Chris Plank
RLC Hodgson Trophy (most valuable A player) – Sansar Gulia
GSC Hodgson Trophy (most valuable Premier Player) – Satvir Singh
WJ Burton Trophy (most outstanding club contribution) – Luke Kleuskens
Carter Cup (best clubman) – Matt Whitley and Brook Hatwell
AF Hope Cup (most outstanding club fielder) – Joshua Weerasinghe
AV Giles Trophy (most valuable club player) – Satvir Singh
GW Pattenden Trophy (most club wickets) – Satvir Singh
MG Harding Plate (most club runs) – PJ Monga
David Icke Trophy (most 6's hit) – Josh Wright
I Mills trophy (HBHS vs. HOBCC derby) – Old Boys

I would like to acknowledge those individuals who have achieved significant performances for the club throughout the season.

Bowling

Jed Pirrit 5 for 64 against Cambridge
Satvir Singh 5 for 42 against Marist
Luke Kleuskens 5 for 25 against Melville
Luke Kleuskens 5 for 18 against Melville
Josh Brown 5 for 17 against Marist-Suburbs
Nathan Pillai 5 for 16 against HBHS
Jamie Blackburn 5 for 14 against Melville
Virmal Singh 5 for 6 against Star University
Ravi Manhara 6 for 38 against Fraser Tech

Jarred Barron 6 for 23 against HKS
Sukjit Singh 6 for 13 against Star University

Batting

Jayden Park 80* against Marist-Suburbs
Jacob Parker 82* against HBHS
Liam Calnon 83 against Cambridge
Barry Rhodes 87 against Melville
Chris Plank 89 against Star University
Bryce Taylor 90 against Old Boys Black
Shannon Mackey 96 against Melville
PJ Monga 97 against St John's
Jacob Parker 105* against Fraser Tech
Gagandeep Singh 107 against Fraser Tech
PJ Monga 133 against Marist-Suburbs

Junior Club

Term 4 the club had its largest membership since the conception of junior cricket with 23 teams an expected drop off occurred with 4 teams constituting the newly formed North Waikato junior club, this added with the loss of 2 teams that were year 8 left the club with 17 teams for term 1 2022. Our junior programme commenced with a well-attended and organised forum run by our chairperson, unfortunately as the forum was being presented the news arrived regarding an imminent lockdown. Fortunately, it did not affect the entire term and at least five rounds were played prior to Christmas.

60 hoodies were purchased and by term 1 end 5 had been purchased, not a great return for our efforts however there will likely be greater interest in term 4 during the spring period. Throughout both terms there was only one parent who chose not to register their child on CricHQ. With some goading we did manage in most instances to register both coach and manager of each team for police vetting.

We did have issues with appointments for the voluntary roles mainly in the coaching area which I suspect was down to parents feeling that they were not qualified to take on the role.

In some instances, we operated with two managers and that seemed to work.

On that count I believe that the online coaching option does not work as we lose the human touch with the parents that need coaching assistance.

In fact, in term 1 messages had to be sent to the parents on three counts before we could register various teams. The first was appointment of two volunteers per team and the second was volunteers completing the police vetting and the third the most troublesome (thankfully only affecting a few teams) was the parent dropping off their child to the match and leaving them for other parents to manage.

For most part we managed, however the parents that simply drop their children to the game and disappear for the duration is not acceptable.

Two teams which had two managers and no coach were provided with senior coaching at their trainings, thanks to Zac Corban and Ravi Pathirana for their assistance.

Medallions for MVP and MIP were provided to each team and certificates for every player, these were distributed prior to the final round before Christmas as we could not hold a prize giving due to the pandemic.

We are holding good stocks of uniforms, cricket balls and equipment and apart from more spring back stumps we should be comfortably placed to get term 4 gets off to a good start.

Term 1 we were lucky in that the teams trained Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and the pavilion nets and 2 front field artificial wickets met junior's needs.

I would like to express my gratitude firstly to the Board for their support and genuine interest in the junior affairs and my sincere thanks to the junior volunteers who went about their roles in such a positive and friendly manner.

Heading into term 4 I would like the Board to consider the advantages of the new indoor nets being used for junior programmes during the off-season months. This is an opportunity for the club not only to provide a service for our junior members but attract further junior participation. The parents believe that this would be a good way for the club to organise teams for the very popular Riverbend and Cambridge tournaments. It is also an opportunity for the club to select the year 8 teams in the future as at this age it is required. The gap between advanced year 8's and learner year 8's is wide.

We can employ Old Boys senior coaches to run holiday programmes for the children as this is a chance for parents to unload their children for the day without hindering their employment obligations and an opportunity for the club to capitalise on that.

The Board and our future.

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

Chairman	Jacob Harvey/Janice Fraser
Club Captain	Matt Whitley
Secretary	Janice Fraser/Rupert Hodgson
Treasurer	Ben Anderson
Patron	Susan Hassall
Members	C Gallagher, B Hatwell and C Kenny.

I am hopeful that our current Board members are available for at least another term, it is such a good group to work with, the comradery and loyalty to the club is outstanding, however we do have a position to fill and would love to see some interest.

As a Board we do have challenges to meet which are both internal and external.

The HCA has been suffering heavy financial losses for the last three seasons, the gaming funding has been a disaster under their management, heavy reductions in income from this important avenue have taken place and this needs to be addressed by their incoming Board.

As well the on-ground cricket management service has been non-existent, and our HCC ground management has simply disappeared. The HCC need to be taken to task over this.

To achieve this, we need an HCA that listens to its members and has the gumption to address these shortcomings. The HCA Board has been too compliant to date so one must wonder whether an HCA Board shake up is required.

We must begin to shape our Clyde Park interests, it is important the HBHS understand that the club has absolutely no interest in shifting their base from the school, the impetus with this project is to provide a match base which we do not have at the school. Building quality changing rooms and a small viewing area should be the priority with the prospect of developing a grass practice block at the northern end of the ground a further plus for our club for trainings.

Long term there is the potential for Old Boys as a club to manage the block on a contract basis, a good option given the current HCC performances at our parks.

The indoor school at HBHS is progressing at a good rate with latest estimated completion being June. The club has already donated to the project and a further donation has been promised. We have been guaranteed that a MOU will be put in place so that the club has guaranteed access.

Our members have had the benefits of a club coach for many years and given its success should consider how best we can take this to a higher level. Brook Hatwell has been required to focus predominately on our Premier and Senior reserve sides, with the appointment of an assistant coach we can extend that service to our B side so that all members are provided this expertise. All senior trainings would be fully structured in my opinion guaranteeing value and good attendance providing our members the platform to perform to the best of their abilities.

The club is financially sound, we make the most of our opportunities with gaming funding and through local charitable trusts. In addition, we have some businesses who have supported various teams with respect to upgrading uniforms. This is an area that we could place more focus on as we have many business people throughout our senior and junior ranks.

We have successfully collected all senior and junior subscriptions for the season.

Consideration is being given to acquiring a further two club trophies and will be seeking BJ Watlings approval to introduce a club wicket keeping award, we also need to identify the use of a further trophy to recognise our latest life member AJ Aitken.

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

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

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

High Tech Home Solutions
Sandeep Rehill Real Estate
The Lookout Bar
Wright Civil
Direct Group
Eastside Tavern
Domino's Pizza
Café 91



Janice Fraser
Chairperson