

# **CJCA Presidents Report**



**May 2019**

Firstly, a warm welcome to the 2019 AGM for Christchurch Junior Cricket Association.

We have again had a very busy season with a number of changes brought in by New Zealand Cricket to develop junior cricket through the 'Age and Stage' program launched in September 2018.

CJCA has been fortunate that changes have only been a few as a number of the 'Age and Stage' formats were already in place in Christchurch junior cricket programs.

Whilst it has certainly presented some challenges, and plenty of feedback we continue to work towards the key cornerstones of the program to provide opportunities for our kids to play cricket, to love the game, to participate and develop a passion for cricket now and into the future.

New Zealand Cricket has conducted a survey of the Age & Stage program which has shown mostly positive feedback. We are happy to share this with you as constructive feedback and communication are always welcome.

## **Our Stakeholders**

Our thanks go to all of the Junior Club Convenors for their tireless work in delivering junior cricket at a club level. Without this volunteer support, it would be impossible to deliver a positive experience for the cricketing kids of Christchurch. It is recognised across the region and New Zealand that we are very fortunate to continue to have the support of an 'army' of volunteers.

Also, a thank you to all involved in the CricHQ registration process. As part of the goals set by New Zealand Cricket, we have far exceeded the national KPI which is an excellent outcome and testament again to the tireless work of our convenors and junior support staff.

## **A Year in Review**

As President, I would like to extend my thanks to the Executive of the CJCA and our partners. Without their support, we would not be able to deliver the CJCA programs and activities. This season this has included;

- Redevelopment of the CJCA website
- Upgrade of IT hardware (capital expenditure)
- Summer Interschool/Club Competitions
- CJCA Spring Tournament
- SIPST Boys participation
- SI Invitational Girls Tournament Hosting
- Quadrangular Girls Tournament (Auckland)
- Year 7 Festival (replaced Mandeville Year 6 event)
- Mandeville Year 8 Participation
- Schools Friday Superstar Cricket Competition (39 Boys teams and 17 girls' teams)
- Superstar Cricket Festival Days to complete Competitions
- CJCA Summer Tournament
- Skills-Based Training (Keepers)
- Winter Training
- Club Funding for Awareness Program in Schools
- Awareness Delivery by University of Canterbury intern for other clubs
- Outfield Grass Mowing, Pitch Remarking and Safety Auditing
- Involvement in Facilities Working Group - report due shortly
- Assistance for development of new pitch at Opawa School
- Assistance with CricHQ player registration process
- Coach Registration and Development Program
- Funding applications
- Executive Governance Training
- Volunteer Recognition Function

The organisation of these events takes a great deal of time and without our General Manager, Rob Wilkinson we would not be able to meet the growing demands of our game. Rob a grateful thanks from myself and the Executive.

## **Finance**

This year we have made some changes to our funding model to meet the needs of our stakeholder clubs. Primarily this was around the 'Awareness Program' where clubs were invited to apply for funding to deliver an in-school programs. Originally oversubscribed we extended our budget choosing to meet most of the cost and still require some investment in time and money by clubs.

Our goal was to create a direct link between clubs and schools and then to build on this each year. We have had positive feedback from clubs and schools on how this was managed and delivered and have budgeted to repeat this program in the coming season.

Financially this season we have posted a healthy surplus. This is in part due to improved funding, prudent financial management by the Executive, and some non-cash benefits.

A big thank you to our Treasurer, Abhi, who works tirelessly to provide management reporting, budgets and financial advice to the Executive when making decisions. We continue to have a healthy reserve invested for the benefit of junior cricket. The interest earned flows back into the delivery of a number of programs and helps us maintain low-cost opportunities for our members.

For our stakeholders, we understand the pressures of managing a lot with very little. When talking to other community sports organisations it is clear that we offer a premium experience for very little financial return. We always talk about low barriers for entry into our sport, but we ask that you consider what the true cost is for what you deliver in a user pays society.

### **Our Executive**

This year we will farewell a number of Executive members. Tim May, Steve Shaw, and Jason Weller are our departing Executive members. We thank you for your help over the years. Junior Cricket is better through your input, time and passion for cricket.

To our new Executive, we welcome you and hope you get as much from your role as we have.

### **The Future**

So, what does the future hold?

This is an ongoing conversation with our partners (Canterbury Cricket and Christchurch Metropolitan Cricket) and our own Executive. The 'How cricket is delivered in Christchurch' at a junior, youth and senior level is important for the future of our game.

What we know for certain is that there is no more funding for the community game from New Zealand Cricket at this stage and the continuing challenge around community funding will always be difficult to source.

All of this leads us to look at better use of our combined resources; working closely together with our partners will be a necessity for the future. How this is structured will need to be decided in conjunction with our partners, stakeholders, and most importantly our members.

As stakeholders, I ask you that when reviewing any proposals in the future that you keep an open mind. In our community, we compete for membership with so many other opportunities in sport. We need to be open to change, allow ourselves to step out of our own comfort zone, be constructive in our comments and look to the future of our game.

As society changes, we need to adapt to retain and recruit players. In junior cricket, we are at the starting point for members. Making sure that we deliver an exceptional experience is paramount as is working with our partners to carry this through to youth cricket and then onto senior cricket.

## **What's on our agenda for 2019/20?**

There are a number of ongoing discussions, research and review underway at present. To give you some insight we have outlined a few of the things underway;

Training Centre Partnership with Canterbury Cricket Trust  
Player Development Resource  
School Holiday Programs  
Club/School access to coaching resource  
Scholarship/Hardship Player Fund

## **Conclusion**

Personally, I would like to extend a thank you to you all for your support and feedback over the past year. I have taken on board the advice and have learned from it. Where possible I have used the feedback and comments to help guide the decisions we make as an Executive.

It is not an easy job, but it is rewarding in so many ways. I look forward to seeing junior cricket grow in the future, not just in numbers but in how our game is delivered to members and the wider community of Christchurch.

Mike Dunlop

**President**

**Christchurch Junior Cricket Association**

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