



CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION

CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION REPORT

30 October 2023

The Christchurch Junior Cricket Association continued its role in deliver junior cricket to more than 2000 members via its 22 Clubs and Schools. Notably this includes two Country clubs whose involvement in the Girls competitions has swelled the numbers in these competitions to numbers not seen for many years.

The season just completed resulted in significant financial pressures with a number of contributing factors leading to a deficit that has meant the hard-earned reserves of the Association have had to be called upon. The last few years which included Covid have been the "rainy days" that these funds were specifically created to guard against as the Association aims to keep the general costs for participating in our sport as low as possible but still seek to provide a quality experience. The realities of the current financial environment mean that costs will need to be passed onto its participants but our membership should be aware that any increases are carefully considered before being implemented as we seek to operate as close to a break even budget as we can.

The Executive continues to be the grassroots sounding board through which we drive our strategic plan and we thank all the members of the Executive who have served. Special mention should be made of Mike Dunlop's contribution, despite his children being well past Junior Cricket, Mike's passion to ensure that the CJCA remit was continued led to an extended stint in the Executive as Chair since 2017 ending in October 2022. The role has been assumed by Lynette Ellis who leads an Executive which features an even balance of genders and a range of our Clubs represented.

Once again the Association had few issues to deal with in Clubland with the various clubs committees and volunteers providing our children with a positive playing environment to enjoy our game. The Association specifically wishes to thank the Clubs and Schools for their positive adoption of a new participation platform - PlayHQ - its is hoped that the off season leading into the 2023/24 season will provide an opportunity to iron our some of the issues that made this a challenging adoption in 2022/23 for many in our cricketing family.

The Association wishes to acknowledge all its funding partners including Canterbury and New Zealand Cricket, Rata Foundation, New Zealand Community Trust, Aotearoa Gaming Trust and the Kiwi Gaming Foundation. We also greatly value the sponsorship of Cricket Express and Kookaburra as these all contribute to trying to keep our participation costs as low as possible. We would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution of ANZ through both their grants schemes for Clubs and Hardship grants which assist those for whom basic Club fees remain a challenge in the current economic environment.

Operational Summary

The CJCA Saturday competitions started the 2022/23 season with 222 teams which was a slight decline from the previous year.

As already mentioned the Girls competitions continue to rise after significant work in schools over the past 5-6 years. At the end of the season there were 25 teams in Girls only competitions which allowed for sectioning of grades to provide as many like-vs-like games to be scheduled. Outside this there was a rise in the number of Girls only teams in mixed grades below Year 5 and a significant number of girls in mixed teams. There is a planned expansion of the Girls only grades to hopefully start the Girls only playing pathway earlier than year 5 in 2023/24.

CJCA Spring and Summer Festivals continue to be a vital part of our Player Development Pathway as do our January Festivals which give opportunities for players to play in different formats in different teams growing both their cricketing and social skills as we seek to build not only resilient players but also good people.

Interschool Cricket continues to be a challenge as pressures on schools mean the timetabling of events or the compliance requirements placed on schools make this a challenging area to co-ordinate. Conventional festivals in the Intermediate space continue to be well supported but in younger age groups the structure of any offerings of the CJCA continues to be reviewed as there are also offerings in this space co-ordinated by Primary School Sport Canterbury.

The opening of the Sir Richard Hadlee Sports Centre in May 2022 has also meant the CJCA can access this for part of its Pre-season Training Programme which continues to provide a quality pre-season development opportunity for Boys and Girls from Year 6. We thank the skilled coaches who make this an important activity of our Association. It's now positive that our players have access to a quality Centre year round at a cost that is affordable for most. The Association acknowledges and congratulates the Canterbury Cricket Trust for their work to complete this project.

The Association was able to assist the delivery of Awareness sessions by either Club personnel or other contractors. Special mention should be made of the Parklands Club who made a concerted effort to attract new players to the club from local schools which resulted in not only a popular Smash Play pre-competition programme but also six teams in the Kiwi grade which made the Parklands Domain a vibrant cricketing hub on a Saturday morning during the summer.

In addition to the new PlayHQ platform Clubs and Schools were also introduced to the new Smash Play Programme which provides a mechanism for the development of cricketing skills through a variety of game-based activities that can be used to introduce Cricketing Skills to those wishing to play the game. The CICA thanks all the Clubs and Schools who proactively looked to use the available resources and coaching approaches and hopes that this programme continues to be developed by New Zealand Cricket and there continues to be support of more and better resources to make this an attractive nationally recognised and marketed programme that resonates with those new to the game.

The CICA relationship with Christchurch Metro continues to flourish as we seek to service the whole of Christchurch Cricket between the two organisations. Operationally the relationship with especially Tim Murdoch in terms of Saturday Cricket administration was a seamless transition after Mike Fisher's retirement.

Our relationship with the Christchurch City Council is vital and we thank John Furlong for his input in the maintenance and hopefully development of facilities for the use of our membership, not only in the short term but also in the mid to long term as we seek to be considered as the city grows in new directions. The 2022/23 season saw the utilisation of Lancaster Park as a Community Cricket venue for the first time since the Earthquakes and until morning grade cricket returns to the park the CICA intends on utilising the huge space at the park for multiple Junior Outfield Cricket games each Saturday morning - the drawcard of saying you've played on Lancaster Park may well be more of a thrill for the parents and grandparents than for those playing as many were not born when the park as we previously knew it. We also acknowledge Keryn Ambler in terms of his work with our Coaches in Clubland and Mike Harvey for his overarching support of the CICA objectives.

Canterbury Cricket continues to be a supporter of the Association and we thank Simon Hill and notably Rebecca Gillett for her work in the participation space where she led the new Girls Smash programme which is an important potential lead into bringing girls closer to playing our game in addition to supporting Clubs and Schools to bring the Smash Play Programme to life.

In closing we thank the Clubs and Schools for coping with the changes they have to make in the season just gone and wish to continue them through any additional changes to our operations in the years ahead.

Rob Wilkinson

General Manager

30th October 2023