



Northland Cricket Association

Annual Report

2014 - 2015



Northland Cricket Association gratefully acknowledge and sincerely thank our financial supporters



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Office Bearers

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Scott, Grant Wilson, Karl Treiber

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Northern Wairoa James Nyssen, Roger Kidd

Chairman's Report 2014- 2015 Season

The 2014 / 2015 season has been a great success for the Association, tinged by the tragic loss of our much loved and respected Administrator, Rachel Metzler.

On the field we enjoyed a high level of success, including victory in Northern Districts primary schools competition and secondary girl's tournament, as well as the Fergus Hickey and Brian Dunning senior men's competition. The Kamo Intermediate School and Whangarei Girls High School teams won their Northern Districts competitions and earned the right to represent Northern Districts in the National Schools tournaments. The junior secondary representative team finished runner up in their Northern Districts tournament.

These victories are the result of excellent preparation by our coaching staff, hard work by our Representative cricketers and a winning ethos engendered by the Selectors, Team leaderships, Managers and Staff at the Northland Cricket Association (NCA).

Success for each season must be judged primarily by the progress made by our players towards the winning of their respective competition. It is obvious that we are achieving our goals, again becoming the dominant force in Northern Districts Cricket, which is our history and expectation.

Off the field NCA continues to strengthen in both administration and coaching / development. The financial bottom line of an operating profit of over \$30,000.00 is below expectation due to a number of factors, but the lessons learned from this year are on board and the budget prediction for the 2015 – 2016 season when averaged with this financial year will meet our long term goal of achieving an operating surplus of \$50,000.00 per year.

NCA has sound, common sense governance structure and system as well as a motivated, skilled and hardworking administrative staff headed by Warren Marr who is now in his third year as General Manager of the Association. Warren brings all round talent, an excellent attitude to the role and has over the past few years grown more confident and more commercially savvy. He has grown a very competent team which will continue to advance the commercial activities of the NCA and look after our many loyal and valued sponsors and supporters.

The Association is very fortunate to have such a large group of funders and other commercial partners enabling the Association to provide the depth of coaching and development, high performance training and playing facilities that are the envy of all other District Associations. Our many supporters are listed in this report but special mention must be made of the Oxford Sports Trust which is a generous and vital funder of many Northland Sports organisations, of which cricket is fortunate to be one.

The NCA has other key partners including Bella Homes, Educare and recently PLUS CA which replaced our long standing pavilion sponsor Spire Accountants whose support over many years is greatly appreciated.

NCA is also recognised by Sport Northland as a strategic ally in delivering quality sports programs to Northland Youth and this year has seen a further strengthening of the NCA / Sports Northland working relationships. Similarly NCA has a growing reputation in New Zealand and Northern Districts cricket, as a leader in the delivery of cricket services. The work at grass roots through to the elite level continues

to attract glowing reports from the cricket hierarchy and brings great credit to our organisation. Without question Stephen Cunis and his team especially, Karl Treiber, Neal Parlane and Sam Walker are unmatched in domestic amateur cricket and they are recognised as such, by their peers in Hamilton and Auckland.

Whangarei District Council (WDC) continues to be a great supporter of our game. WDC investment in our facilities on behalf of the rate payers of the district should never be under estimated or taken for granted. NCA is extremely fortunate to have a sports focused and success driven Council who have invested heavily in our game and which should expect the high ongoing return we currently deliver.

I would like to acknowledge the many volunteers who provide their time and resources to our game throughout the province. Success breeds success and consequently our game attracts many high quality and hardworking volunteers. The professionalisation of sport often leads to a decline in the status and consequent retention of volunteers. In Northland we believe in the absolute worth of volunteers and every effort is made to engage as many people as possible in volunteer roles. The results speak for themselves.

Finally, a huge note of thanks to our Board Members and Finance Committee Members. A harmonious gifted and hard working group of good people. I have enjoyed working for the good of our game over the past 5 years.

General Managers Report

Having now been on board for 2 years, it finally feels like I have a true understanding of Northland Cricket, and I am delighted with our achievements and very excited about some new initiatives moving forward.

Our refocus last season on grassroots and growing the game has proved beneficial: the number of cricketers and volunteers are slowly growing, the standard of our competitions is improving, as are the performances and results of all our representative teams, and we have more players being selected for higher honours and Northern Districts training squads. These continue to be strong drivers for success moving forward under our new strategic plan.

I was delighted to see the enthusiasm generated for re-introducing the Dargaville Shield and the new Greg Guy Shield Competitions for both Premier and Reserve Grade players. Although bad weather at times affected this early season competition, it was great to see the higher playing standard and the energy the players put into the concept. This cross-club style of competition is also a great way of breaking down some of the traditional club v club barriers. It is envisaged that these competitions will continue to in the 2015-16 season.

The other initiative that was a success was inviting some young amateur players over from Gloucestershire CCC. These young men came to Northland to get a bit of life experience and to improve their games as they are all looking to become professionals. They certainly had some “life experiences” and a good time, whilst their contributions to both the club scene and at times to the Northland Men’s 2ndXI helped raised the game of others around them, and proved to increase the standard of play overall. Once again this will be an initiative that we will be looking to move forward with into the 2015-16 season.

We should all be very proud of the Northland Men’s achievements this season. Although it’s easy to quickly judge the side on a disappointing Hawke Cup Challenge against Manawatu and focus solely on this, it would be unfair to do so in isolation. This is a quality side, well lead and coached by Neal Parlane and Stephen Cunis respectively. This is the first time in some years since the side has managed to obtain the challenge, and along with winning the Brian Dunning Trophy and the Fergus Hickey Rosebowl, Northland is undoubtedly the top side in The Northern Districts region. Congratulations to all the squad members, and to also the guys in the B team, who continually put pressure on the guys for places in the side, and for all your hard work, determination and commitment to the cause. Fantastic effort!

This season has also seen improved results with our junior representative and school teams. Winning is not always the measurement for success at junior level, but it is of course always nice to win! The Senior Secondary Girls, and Primary Boys both winning their respective Northern Districts Tournaments whilst the Junior Secondary Boys finished runners-up in a very close run final. Both Whangarei Girls High School and Kamo Intermediate won the right to represent Northern Districts at their respective National Tournaments, both finishing a creditable 5th. These successes are a direct result of the quality work that is being done in our high performance coaching programmes. These programmes are also held in high regard by the staff at Northern Districts who have noted the vast improvement of our already talented players. I would personally like to thank Stephen Cunis, Neal Parlane, Karl Treiber and Sam Walker for their huge commitment to these players.

For the first time a Northland Secondary School's Development team went on a tour of a life time to Sri Lanka. Managed by myself and coached by Neal Parlane, this was an amazing experience for 14 young men, and some of their families. Out of the 7 games, 2 were won, there was 1 washout and 4

losses. Given the standard of our opposition and the very testing hot and humid conditions this was a fair result. The main goal of the tour was to not only give these young men a fantastic cricketing experience, but for them to improve as players and as people, and upon reflection I believe we ticked all these boxes. Special thanks must be given to those parents who helped with the 8 months of fundraising and in particular Nira Kingi, Craig Ross and Roger Kidd. We are all set to do it all again at Easter 2017.

Through our review process, we have had some excellent feedback from schools and clubs on the quality and delivery of our programmes. The Educare Coaching Team is very visible in schools and is leading the way in the delivery of sports school coaching programmes in Northland.

The Operations Team here at NCA, led by Stephen Cunis have had a very busy year. Kevin Forde came on board in a part time role this year, to get Rodney district cricket up and running again. There has been great success here with more junior and senior teams playing in well run and sustainable competitions. There are new initiatives moving forward for this season and Kevin is going to be pivotal to the success of Rodney Cricket moving forward. Sam Walker's enthusiasm and commitment is having a positive effect on junior cricket. Sam has "a way" with the young ones which really endears them to the game. Not only this, but Sam has helped with the re-introduction of Indoor Cricket, Holiday Programmes and Business House cricket which is starting to generate momentum. There is more work to be done here but we are well on the way. Peter Barnett continues to introduce cricket to new people, and run competitions in the Far North. This area has real challenges, but with Peter and support from Lesley Wallace of Sport Northland, cricket will continue to run in its own unique way. A huge thank you to both of these two who continue their commitment to the Far North. Congratulations must be given to Karl Treiber on his nomination and acceptance of his Life Membership. Not only does he have a wealth of knowledge in the coaching field, but his contribution to Northland as a player as well as a coach has been deservedly recognised by the Association. Neal Parlane continues to be challenged with CricHQ as competitions manager. His experience as a player and now his development as a coach is proving to be very valuable to the Association.

Operations Manager, Stephen Cunis is the man responsible for organising all that is cricket. His role is very diverse; schools, clubs, juniors, seniors, rep teams, coaches, managers, parents and more, have all been involved with cricket organisation and performance for which Stephen has taken the leadership role. He continues to work at higher levels within ND and NZ Cricket and the knowledge, passion and drive that he brings to NCA is the catalyst for all our success. I would personally like to congratulate him for all the work he has done during the year, and prior, and the successes which have come as a result, are reflected in his leadership. We are now seen as the leading District in NZ and the benchmark for others.

Helen Smith has now been on board as our Administrator for 8 months and is doing a stellar job. It has not been easy for her, coming in after the tragic death of Rachel Metzler, but she has proved to be a pivotal member of the team and has fit seamlessly into the position. She is now the glue that holds us all together and the office is even tidy!

The major financial focus is to deliver surpluses whilst delivering a quality cricket product. Therefore most of what we earn, we spend on cricket. It is however very important that we maintain surpluses so we can continue to maintain the significant asset base.

It is important that we acknowledge all our supporters and sponsors. Their support is gratefully appreciated and success on the field could not happen without it. We continue to have fantastic relationships with Whangarei District Council. Aubrey Gifford, Technical Manager of Parks and Reserves, and Ross Hart and Nathan Bunting of Recreational Services are the key people behind our quality facilities, and I certainly thank them for their willingness to communicate and do what is best for cricket.

We have so many businesses to thank. All of them have been mentioned in this booklet, but I would like to thank and acknowledge our main sponsors: The Oxford Sports Trust, Bellahomes, Spire Chartered Accountants, Educare, Hill Construction, Team Tait Real Estate, Distinction Hotels and Reyrburn and Bryant. Spire have recently finished their sponsorship of the pavilion and I would like to thank Bryce Moffat and the team for the support over the past few years. Thankfully, Brent Martin of Plus Chartered Accountants (a true cricket tragic also) has taken on board the sponsorship of the pavilion which is now called "The Plus Pavilion."

I would like to acknowledge the contribution that Rachel Metzler has made to Northland Cricket. Her tragic death on the 23rd of December 2014 hit us all hard and I was delighted that the Board made a contribution to the Rachel Metzler Trust to help ensure the welfare of her children, as her husband Shane, and the family come to terms with life without her. We miss her and remember her fondly for all that she was to us here.

I would like to thank the Junior Cricket Board. Chaired by David Lobb, who is a tireless worker for junior cricket. Dave was quite rightly awarded the Alan McBride Trophy for services to junior cricket at the Northern Districts Awards evening; acknowledgment from our Major Association for all the work he does in this space. Other members of the Junior Board are Roger Turner, Russell Smith, Richard Pooley, Tony (Tank) Edwards, Dean Potter, Roger Kidd and Mark Oldridge, all of whom are committed cricket people – thank you.

Finally I would like to thank the Board of Northland Cricket. Greg Guy, Russell Smith, Murray Child, Mike O'Sullivan and Paul Tomich. Their governance of the game is superb; they challenge us and are passionate about the success of cricket in Northland and are always looking at the big and long-term pictures. Special mention must be made of Greg, who after this season will be taking off his pads for the last time as Chairman. His leadership, drive, passion and commitment to Northland Cricket has been monumental, and under his governance Northland Cricket has positioned themselves as the leading District Association in the country. On a personal note I would like to thank him for his mentoring and guidance as I came into this role in 2013. Looking forward to another successful season 2015/16.

Warren Marr
General Manager

NCA Secondary School's Development Tour to Sri Lanka 2015

Rationale

On the 2nd of April 2015, 14 young cricketers, 9 parents and family members, and two NCA staff took off on the long journey to Sri Lanka to play cricket. This was the first of such trips of which NCA would like to continue to run bi-annually. The goals for the trip were as follows:

- to encourage young people to stay in the game during secondary school years by giving them a major tour to look forward to
- to thank the players and their parents for the years of service that they have given to cricket – many weekends during the summer and winter coaching
- to find more volunteers through fundraising activities
- to improve the skill levels of players and coaches (mentally and physically)
- to give young northlanders an opportunity to develop as people by experiencing the third world
- to create more interest in Northland Cricket through the media and social media
- to have a good time

I'm pleased to say that I believe all our goals have been achieved.

The Tour Itself

After a long flight and bus trip we arrived at the Thilanka Hotel, Kandy at 4am, completely knackered and looking forward to getting horizontal. Day 2 was spent relaxing by the pool and exploring the sights and sounds the picturesque Hill Capital of Kandy. A real culture shock and hot!

Day 3, 4th April – Match 1 vs Maliyadeva College, 50 over game, at the fantastic setting of Asgiriya Stadium about an hour's drive from Kandy. What a great start to the tour! In very hot and humid conditions, and fielding first the boys did a great job in restricting the opposition to 240. Hamish Kidd, our left arm spinner was immaculate in line and length and fully deserved his 6 wickets for 31. The seamers soon realised why there are a lot of spinners in Sri Lanka!!! We then chased it down in 47 overs, 8 down with Chamodh (Mushy) Peiris opening the batting with a fine 87. Although the severe cramp he suffered along the way was reminiscent of one Mark Richardson.

One match down and one victory. The tour was about to get a lot more difficult.

Day4, 5th April 2 vs St Ann's College, 50 Over game.

This was an embarrassment. Batting first on a square turner we were rolled for 65 and promptly beaten by 7 wickets. This gave us an opportunity to play an unscheduled T20 match for which we were much more competitive. Mathew Lobb led the way with 80 as we scored a respectable 165, only to lose it in the final over. A game which we could have won, but at least we showed much more Northland fight and pride. The boys now realised that not only were the conditions going to be very challenging, but the opposition were going to be very good! And so it proved.

Kandy is a beautiful city and the next day the boys spent a lot of time bartering in the markets, riding tuk-tuks, visiting sacred Buddhist sites and relaxing (playing) in the pool of the hotel.

Day 6 we transferred to Hikkaduwa on the coast. Along the way stopping to white water raft on the Kelaniya River. This was great fun, and the boys are better cricket players than paddlers that is for sure. We had lots of laughs and this was great respite from the heat and humidity.

Cricket Match number 3 was played against St Thomas College on a wicket that had suffered badly from heavy rain, which caused abandonment of the match the day previous. The game was reduced to 46 overs, and although it was a damp wicket it did not stop our opposition getting 232 for 5 (some pretty classy batsmen amongst them too). The chase was always in doubt with the top and middle orders struggling with the spinners. Shaun Beamish came in at number 10 and got onto the front foot and attacked the spinners to get some respectability into the score with 59 off 29 balls (4 sixes and 6 fours). The large crowd that had ventured into the ground by this stage were highly entertained!

The next day was spent surfing and relaxing on the beach. Shannon broke a surf board which caused a little conflict with the local operator. Thankfully after some sweet negotiating through our guide Amjad, the manager and me, we didn't end up beaten up in the gutter or in jail (long story, but happy to tell you about it sometime).

Off to Hambantota for 2 games at the new, but already run down International Stadium. We were playing a local District side for 2 days in a row, who were to prove to be our strongest opposition. Batting first we managed to scrape through to 200 all out off 45 overs, on a good deck but in very, very hot conditions. Mathew Lobb (63) and Liam Jones (62) playing very well but beaten by exhaustion in the end. The Sri Lankan boys came out and pumped it reaching the total 3 down in 25 overs. Well there is always tomorrow as we will be playing many of the same lads.

Feeling the effects of back to back games, we didn't manage to do any better with the bat. Shane Burton's 29 was the best knock as we were bowled out for 151 in 47 overs. Thankfully we put them under pressure more with the ball in hand and the boys shared in the wickets as they achieved the score 7 down. Time for a cold shower.

A few days off now which included trips to the beach, a safari and visiting the re-built town destroyed by the tsunami. Very fascinating and moving.

The last match was in Colombo against one of the best boys schools, The Royal College; we played their development team, which was a mixture of first and second teamers. This proved to be a little niggly, and we were disappointed with the amount of sledging and abuse that guys received (up until now there had been none). These were the rich kids so they certainly knew which English adjectives and verbs to use!! And even better that we gave them a good hiding to finish the tour on a positive note.

With our best bowling performance on tour, and on a wicket that was difficult to say the least, we bowled Royal College out for 91. Beamish took great delight in the wicket, hitting a couple of their guys on the head and softening them up for Connor Wilson and Matt Kingi who both bowled beautifully.

For once we had the advantage. Like all teams before them, they had a heap of spinners on what was a seamer friendly wicket, so a solid 50 run middle order partnership from Matt Lobb and Liam Jones was enough to see us home 5 down.

That was the end of the cricket, 2 wins from 6 was a pretty fair reflection of the tour and the difficulties we faced with the heat, conditions and illness. All in all a fantastic experience for the boys and a great success. We achieved our goals and now we start planning for the next one. Thanks to all the parents and the especially the fundraising group, and of course CJ and Amjad our fantastic guides.

Warren Marr – General Manager

Operations Report – 2014-15 Season

The 2014/15 season was a successful one, in various areas. Specifically:

1. *Facilitating significant school coaching programmes at Primary and Secondary Schools.*

The Educare NCA Coaching Team worked in various High Schools, Intermediates and Primary Schools throughout the season and the coaching programmes were well received and respected by schools. The Educare NCA Coaching Team would like to thank those schools for their support of cricket in Northland. It was fantastic to see the amount of improvement in the students that the coaching team worked with during the season and equally fantastic to have such great support from numerous schools.

2. *Development of cricket specific skills for junior and youth players, within schools and clubs.*

The skill level of students playing in Cricket Field Days, Primary and Secondary Tournaments and within club competitions has improved markedly. This improvement is due to the hard work of volunteer coaches/managers working in clubs and/or schools. And, also those coaches working for the NCA, within school and representative coaching programmes.

3. *Sustaining junior playing numbers in Northland-wide competitions.*

Playing numbers in Junior Cricket Competitions in Northland were sustained. Overall, there were 22 junior teams playing regular weekend cricket in Northland and this was pleasing to see. It was great to, once again, have Rodney playing in our junior competitions. There were also local competitions in Kerikeri and the Far North and the work done by volunteers in all of the aforementioned regions was terrific.

4. *Facilitating meaningful and worthwhile junior and senior club/school competitions.*

Various club and school cricket competitions were played throughout Northland and they were well structured and worthwhile. Junior and senior players experienced cricket in a variety of formats, suiting a diverse level of skill and ability. Many of the clubs and schools demonstrated a good level of communication and commitment towards their teams and the NCA is extremely appreciative of their effort.

Northland-wide School Cricket Tournament winners:

- NZ Shield (Intermediate Girls) – Kamo Intermediate.
- Doug Thorpe (Intermediate Boys) – Kamo Intermediate.
- John Bruce Trophy (JSS Girls) – WGHS.
- Armstrong Shield (JSS Boys) – WBHS.
- Leaf Cup (Senior Secondary Girls) – WGHS.
- Bruce Scott (Senior Secondary Boys T20) – Mahurangi College.
- Robertson Shield (SSS Boys Challenge Shield) – WBHS.

Northern Districts School Cricket Tournament results:

- ND 'NZ Post' Zone Finals (Intermediate Boys) – KIS (7th).
- ND 'NZ Shield' Zone Finals (Intermediate Girls) – KIS (playing in the final in Term 4).
- ND 'JSS NZ Community Trust' Zone Finals (JSS Boys) – WBHS (beaten semi-finalists).
- ND 'Gillette Cup' Zone Finals (Secondary Boys) – WBHS (4th).
- ND 'NZ Community Trust' Zone Finals (Secondary Girls) – WGHS (1st – qualified for National Finals in Term 4).

5. Northland's representative teams had various levels of success throughout the season.

It was excellent to see Northland Representative teams, both at the junior and senior levels, have varying levels of success. With four competition wins, a second, two thirds and a fifth (out of eight competitions), results-wise, it was a fantastic season. Below are the placings that each age group had:

- Primary Boys – 1st
- Junior Secondary School Boys – 2nd
- SSS Boys – 5th
- JSS Girls – 3rd
- SSS Girls – 1st
- 2nd XI Men – 3rd
- 1st XI Men – Winners of the Brian Dunning Trophy and Fergus Hickey Rosebowl

Junior Representative:

The Northland Junior Secondary School Girls side competed in their tournament at Kaipara Flats. It was excellent to see progress made by all of the girls that attended. These tournaments are a good way to give girls participating in cricket a chance to play in more formal matches. Thanks to Karl Treiber for his efforts with this team and organizing the tournament, he did an outstanding job with these new players.

The Northland Senior Secondary Girls team took part in the ND regional tournament in Tauranga. The side won this tournament. This was an outstanding achievement and a big thank you must go to Dave Lobb for his efforts in coaching and managing the girls and to Karl Treiber for his assistance.

The Primary Boys team, coached by Karl Treiber, developed a lot as the year progressed and they had some very worthwhile performances as individuals and as a team. There were some very talented boys in this squad and the Winter Training Academy (WTA) most certainly aided in their development. It was fantastic to see them win their tournament. Thank you to Karl Treiber, Roger Turner, Dean Potter and Craig Cooper for their assistance with the coaching, selecting and managing of the Primary Boys teams. Also, thank you to the large group of supportive parents associated within this age group, their commitment is second to none and is much appreciated.

The Junior Secondary School Boys team, coached by Karl Treiber, played some outstanding cricket and there is a core of talented players coming through. Many players certainly stood up throughout the season and it was pleasing to see various individuals contributing in matches. Again, the WTA most certainly helped in the development of this group of players. Roger Kidd and Richard Pooley were the managers of this team and their efforts were greatly appreciated, as was Karl Treiber's pride and passion in the team's performances. Although losing the final at the tournament, coming second was a very good achievement and lots of learning was apparent. Again, thank you to the enthusiastic group of parents associated within this age group, their support is greatly appreciated.

The Senior Secondary Schools Boys team had, to be frank, a relatively average tournament in Gisborne. The team had some skillful and capable players that unfortunately didn't play to their potential. Although the results didn't always go the team's way, those that attended the tournament learnt a lot and will be better for it. Neal Parlane and Dave Lobb were the coaching/management team and worked tirelessly and the NCA thanks them for this.

Senior Representative:

The Northland Men's 1st XI had a very good year, doing the double and winning the Fergus Hickey Rosebowl and Brian Dunning Trophy. This was great reward for the hard work and application from the players and management. The 2nd XI team played seven matches throughout the season and various younger players were introduced into the Northland environment. The side finished 3rd in the Basil McBurney Trophy. Barry Cooper and Murray Child were again selectors and their commitment to the squad certainly supported the 1st and 2nd XI's success. Mike O'Sullivan, Sam Walker, Darron Goodwin, Sally Leftley and Jono Leftley's assistance was also greatly appreciated during the season.

6. A Northland SSS Development Team tour to Sri Lanka.

Warren Marr, the Northland Cricket Association's General Manager, was the driving force behind a Northland Secondary School Development side's tour to Sri Lanka. The side had a very successful tour and the experiences, both on and off the park, were second to none. The NCA wishes to thank the many parents and supporters that assisted in the tour and it truly was, a once in a life time opportunity for many on the tour.

7. Adult Club Cricket in Northland was stronger than recent years.

Adult Club Cricket was strong in the 2014-15 season. This was reflected by the way in which three different clubs won Premier grade competitions. Competition winners were:

- Third Grade – **WBHS Colts**
- Reserve Grade One Day – **Kamo CC**
- Reserve Grade T20 – **Kamo CC**
- Reserve Grade 50/40 Competition – **Kamo CC**
- Reserve Grade Sub Association Competition (Greg Guy Shield) – **Mid-Western**
- Premier T20 – **OCCC**
- Premier One Day – **Kamo CC**
- Premier Two Day – **Maungakaramea CC**
- Northland Premier Cricket Challenge Shield (Karl Treiber Shield) – **Maungakaramea CC**
- Premier Sub Association Competition (Dargaville Shield) – **Mid-Western**

It was particularly pleasing to see the Dargaville Shield and Greg Guy Shield Competitions (Sub Association Cricket for Premier and Reserve grade) reintroduced into Northland Club Cricket. Equally, it was fantastic to see the Rodney Cricket Association enter into both of these competitions.

For the first time, there was a Whangarei Reserve Grade Representative side that played in a T20 tournament at Cobham Oval, against a Far North Representative side and a Counties-Manukau Representative Reserve Grade team. This was a great tournament and we hope to continue this in the future. Well done to Sam Walker for his efforts in getting this tournament up and running.

8. *International and Domestic cricket played at Cobham Oval.*

Although Cobham Oval did not host a Cricket World Cup match, there were still numerous matches of note played at Cobham Oval. These games included:

- NZ White Ferns (NZ Women's Team) v England
- Northern Knights v Auckland and CD in the Plunket Shield
- NZ Blind XI v Australian Blind XI
- NZ Croatia v Cobham Club

9. *The support of sponsors.*

Without our sponsors, we would not function as we do. Their assistance is hugely appreciated and the relationship we have with them is one of mutual respect and therefore worthwhile to the overall well-being of cricket in Northland. From junior cricket to adult cricket, we have a great bunch of sponsors that are committed to promoting and developing cricket in Northland.

10. *The efforts and commitment of the many volunteers that support cricket in Northland and the expertise of the NCA personnel.*

Warren Marr, the Northland Cricket Association's General Manager, has been extremely supportive in all operational areas. His expertise, enthusiasm and passion towards cricket in Northland is not only invaluable to the NCA but also to Northern Districts and New Zealand Cricket. Warren's drive and vision has most certainly continued the momentum that others have set up before his arrival and I believe that the new ideas that he has introduced will be very beneficial for cricket in Northland, moving forward. Northland Cricket is extremely lucky to have such a person leading the association and there is little doubt that cricket in Northland will continue to positively evolve in the future.

Helen Smith, who is the new NCA Office Manager, has made an excellent start to her role at the NCA. She has been helpful, supportive, efficient and very professional in assisting with operational matters. Her proficiency and guidance has been greatly appreciated.

Karl Treiber was again terrific in terms of coaching experience and expertise. He has designed worthwhile coaching and playing programmes for various junior players/teams in Northland and his coaching skill and manner has been well received by all concerned. His knowledge and understanding of junior cricket in Northland is excellent and he is a hugely valuable asset to the NCA.

Neal Parlane was very good in his role within Northland Cricket and like Karl Treiber, deserves mention for his passion and commitment to cricket in Northland. His efforts have certainly been well received by the schools that he and his coaching team have worked at. The job of managing competitions; adjusting draws, monitoring grounds and the many other areas that he manages, is a tough one and he did a great job in trying to accommodate teams and clubs alike, where possible.

Sam Walker's efforts in his role at the NCA has been excellent. He is a very capable administrator and coach and his services have been appreciated by all of whom he has worked with. He has also been able to resurrect Indoor Cricket and more than 16 sides have entered into social and competitive competitions during the off season. This, along with his well-organized and professional Holiday Programmes, has seen the indoor facility being used more often.

The NCA's school coaching team; Neal Parlane, Sam Walker, Kevin Forde, Kara Cunis, Tyler Lortan, Pete Barnett, Chamodh Peiris, Tom Smith, Brandon Gilmour, Marc Lezar, Kurtley Watson, Nick Stobart and Chris Acheson were very good in their commitment and coaching expertise. They set high standards in terms of punctuality, organization and all-inclusive activities and this was recognized by many of whom they coached.

Kara Cunis, who facilitated the GoGirls Programme designed by New Zealand Cricket, was fantastic in developing and facilitating school coaching programmes for junior girls.

Geoff Ogle and Ross Kneebone were instrumental to the successful organization of the umpires and their commitment was greatly appreciated by the NCA.

The club and regional Junior Coordinators; Dean Potter, Shelly Nissen, Lynley Turner, Richard Pooley, Lisa Litchfield, Kevin Forde, Pete Barnett, Simon Hart and James Nyssen did a fantastic job and their dedication has been admirable. There were, similarly, various coaches and managers that worked with these Junior Coordinators and they did an outstanding job.

Tony Edwards has been influential in the success of Junior Cricket in Northland. The countless hours that 'Tank' has put into A, B and C Grade is outstanding and he is an integral part of our organization. He, along with Wok Jones and Chuck Norris, are true cricket lovers and the work that they do greatly benefits cricket in Northland.

A special mention to Russell Smith and Mark Oldridge must also be made for their commitment to WBHS cricket; their dedication is second to none and the NCA is extremely lucky to have such passionate and enthusiastic administrators/managers within the organization.

The Code of Conduct commission, in particular Graham Mathias, had a relatively quiet year but the NCA is still grateful for their presence as, and when, needed.

Recognition of those that are members of the Cobham Club and Northland Cricket Trust is important as their dedication and expertise in numerous areas of cricket and its administration are welcomed by all at the NCA. Thank you to all of those members that worked with and for the NCA at various times throughout the season.

As in any organization like ours, Boards are vital to the smooth running of such organizations. The NCA Senior and Junior Boards are no exception and their services are thoroughly appreciated. The NCA also has a governing body in the Northern Districts Cricket Association. Peter Roach (CEO) was extremely supportive of our association and James Pamment (Knights Coach), Pat Malcon (Director of Cricket), Pete Zanzottera (Junior High Performance Coordinator), Cliff Dickeson (School Tournament Coordinator) and Julie Blake (Marketing Manager) were all committed to, and enthusiastic in, developing cricket in Northland. Their efforts were great appreciated by the NCA.

I'd like to make mention of Sport Northland and the Whangarei District Council; they have been a pleasure to work with throughout the season and their support of cricket Northland is very good.

The hard work and extra effort shown by Ross Hart, Nathan Bunting and the team at Recreational Services has been great. Ross and Nathan have always been approachable and open to discussion in terms of practice and playing surfaces around Whangarei and this was respected by players and NCA staff, alike.

Keith Bond, from the Kaipara Flats Cricket Club, worked hard throughout the season with Rec Services and their accommodating attitude was noteworthy for all visiting teams. Mike O'Sullivan worked vigorously on the Maungakaramea wicket, as did Russell Smith on the WBHS wicket, and their efforts and dedication was fantastic. Also, a thank you must go out to ground staff in the Northern Wairoa, Bream Bay and Kerikeri clubs.

Most importantly, the NCA acknowledges the services provided by the huge numbers of suppliers, volunteers, parents, officials and club administrators who provided match, administrative or simply parental support to the players in our association. Without you all, cricket would simply not function as effectively as it does.

Overall, the 2014/15 season was a very successful one and there is a strong foundation to build on for the 2015/16 season. More emphasis is going to be put into the administering of adult club cricket, building up junior club teams, assisting schools to enter more teams in school tournaments and the need to look into the possibility of mid-week competitions, is a must. The NCA will endeavor to, again, get international men's cricket at Cobham Oval and the Northland Men's team will do all they can to keep winning silverware. The NCA coaching staff will be working hard with our junior representative players in our Winter Training Academy to ensure that we keep developing the next crop of Northland, ND and NZ players. It is planned that cricket in Northland continues to grow stronger and that the Northland Cricket Association grows with it.

Finally, it was extremely sad to find out, and cope with, the sudden passing of Rachel Metzler, just before Christmas last year. Rachel was the NCA's Office Manager for over two years and during that time, she was a great colleague and friend to all that worked with her at the NCA. Her expertise and personality is sorely missed but will not be forgotten.

Stephen Cunis
Operations Manager

Plus Pavilion Report

Spire Chartered Accountants finished their sponsorship with us at the end of April, thank you to the team at Spire for all of their support and help they provided us.

We welcomed 'Plus Chartered Accountants' as our new pavilion sponsor in May 2015. Brent Martin is a cricketing fanatic and we look forward to building what has already become a very strong relationship with Brent and his team at Plus.

We have hosted meetings, trade shows, wine tastings, birthday celebrations, and a surprise wedding to name just a few. The Plus Pavilion has once again been well utilized over the past 12 months. We have seen a lot of our regular clients continue to use the Plus Pavilion and in turn continue to support Northland Cricket Association. These clients include RD1, Education Answers, Whangarei Primary Principles Association, Public Services Association, Open Polytechnic, Pieroth Wines, Wild Poppy, I Car and NZ Collision Repairs.

New clients who have shown their support during the year making regular use of the Plus Pavilion include Harcourt's, EPMU, Victim Support Northland and Auckland Uni-services.

Cobham Cricket Club held their luncheon here in July. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon that saw many of our sponsors and cricketing dignitaries in attendance. We were fortunate to have Ken Rutherford as the guest speaker, who entertained everyone with tales of his career, on and off the field!

We welcomed The Vikings RFC to the Pavilion in September who are held their annual luncheon here. It was a great success and they returned to us again this year before heading next door to Toll Stadium for the Northland vs Taranaki game.

The team at NCA pride themselves on being able to offer a personalised service to every customer that enquires and uses our facilities. The personal touch of tailoring and coordinating each event to our client's specific needs, at what continues to be a competitive price within the market, are qualities we are praised for.

Looking ahead, the calendar is continuing to fill up with bookings for the upcoming season. If you are looking for the ideal venue, from an intimate gathering to a larger corporate event, Plus Pavilion is the place! Secure your booking early to avoid disappointment.

Helen Smith
Administrator

Johnston Crawford Indoor Cricket Centre Report

We have seen a rise in the level of activity in the Johnston Crawford Indoor Centre over the past 12 months. While cricket training and indoor leagues still reigns supreme in this outstanding facility we have also enjoying hosting various events. NZ Blood continues to utilize the facility for its collections 4 times a year and look likely to return in 2016. We have also hosted the Persian Rug sale and Canterbury clothing sale over the past 12 months.

2014 saw the re-introduction of indoor cricket with 12 teams competing in 2015 saw the amount of teams increase to 13 adult teams and 4 junior teams. The competitive league saw 7 teams compete every Monday to see who would be named champions after a 14 match group stage followed by semi-finals and the final.

Teams who competed for the Competitive Trophy: Snatch, Kamo, Lobb Mob, Mavericks, NZ Refinery (new 2015), City (New 2015) Rockets (New 2015).

To pick up 3 new sides for 2015 was fantastic and it was one of the new sides that collected the crown at the end of the season. NZ Refinery won the final against Snatch who finished second for the second year running.

The final was a competitive game which flowed both ways. Snatch batted first and posted 67. Refinery would have been the slightly happier team at the half way stage and the first two partnerships put them into a fantastic position being only 2 runs behind Snatches total after 2 pairs. Snatch fought back well over the last two partnerships but the damage had been done with the Refinery finishing on 82 and taking out the Cobham Division Trophy!

The Oval Division saw 6 teams compete for the title again with 3 new teams from the previous year.

Teams who competed for the Oval Social Division Trophy: Ninjas, Laser Electrical, Smash it Up, No fear of Beer (New 2015), Sticky Wickey (New 2015), and Ball Beaters (New 2015).

To pick up 3 new sides for the social division was an excellent effort meaning that we had 6 new teams from the previous year. The reigning champions Ninjas again set the early pace. After playing the group stages the division was split into two groups the main Cup and the Plate competition. The main draw saw Ninjas come up against No Fear of Beer. This was an extremely competitive game with both teams keen to win and have the bragging rights. No Fear of Beer were too strong for the reigning champions. Ninjas struggled to post any sort of score mustering 32. After a strong start from No Fear of Beer there was no looking back with them finishing on 92 and a deserved victory.

The Plate Competition saw two new sides in Ball Beaters and Sticky Wickey challenge it out for the title. Sticky Wickey batting first posted a challenging total of 79 with both sides still feeling in contention for the title at half way. A strong start from Ball Beaters put them in with a great chance of bringing home the trophy. With all results still possible with a ball to go this was one of the most exciting games of the competition, Ball Beaters striking a 2 of the final ball to finish on 84 and win the Plate Competition.

Congratulations to everyone who took part. We hope see too you next winter for another exciting season of indoor cricket.

The indoor centre also hosted the School Holiday Multi sport programmes which proved successful with over 100 different kids attending throughout the various school holidays.

We welcome your enquiry for your next function and hope you visit us soon and in doing so supporting Northland Cricket.

Sam Walker
Cricket Development Officer

Umpires Report

Once again many thanks to the men in white coats who stood for hours on end to ensure that club cricket was able to function in the appropriate manner. Officiating is often a thankless task so this is NCA's opportunity to formally thank all the umpires over the 2014/15 season.

Kevin Salmon, Graham Dennie, Phil Agent, Tony Edwards, Mike Elliot, Ross Kneebone and Geoff Ogle all stood in games this seasons. Having seven umpires available is by far the best numbers we've had. With four of these guys having been on or are on the ND panels.

Player umpires are not ideal for a number of reasons and the players are extremely grateful for the long hours that all the umpires do during the season. I hope they continue to enjoy their umpiring and provide Northland cricket with many more hours in the middle.

This season Tony Edwards joined Ross Kneebone and Geoff Ogle as the stalwarts of the umpires in Northland. His first full season umpiring and commitment every Saturday has been much appreciated. They commit to every Saturday, and other days as well, and their passion, enjoyment and commitment to the game are there for all to see.

Sadly next season we are losing the 'secret agent', Phil, as he is moving away from the District. Phil's experience as a first class umpire was invaluable to the umpires he stood with. He will be missed and the umpires and NCA would like to thank him for his commitment to Northland Cricket over the last few season.

Northland Cricket is always keen to encourage former players or parents of junior cricketers to become involved in umpiring so don't be shy and get in touch with NCA to see how to proceed further.

On behalf of all the umpires a special thank you must go out to all the players who played the game competitively and in the spirit for which this great game deserves. Noticeably this season there was a greater respect for umpires.

Special thanks to NCA for their support and encouragement, and we look forward to the exciting new initiatives for the up-coming season.

Geoff Ogle

Northland Junior Cricket Report

2014/15 was an outstanding season for Northland Junior Cricket. Our Senior Secondary Girls and Primary Boys were winners of their respective ND tournaments, Junior Secondary boys were runners-up as well as Whangarei Girls High School and Kamo Intermediate boys both winning their ND sections of the NZCT Cup and attending national finals. Senior Secondary boys finished in the middle of the field, as did Whangarei Boys High School in the Gillette Cup qualifiers.

These results are attributable to the comprehensive school visits and coaching programme undertaken by the NCA coaching team. Hopefully this momentum can be maintained and improved upon. Coaching is continuous in one-on-one, small groups and larger squads. The efforts of Stephen Cunis, Karl Treiber, Neal Parlane, Sam Walker and occasionally even Warren Marr must be acknowledged.

Karl once again managed a very successful 2 day tournament for girls (up to year 9) at Kaipara Flats. All of our girls were playing their first cricket, against teams with some experience.

Numbers participating in Saturday morning junior cricket have been fairly constant from the season before, and we had an increase in junior secondary players in 3rd grade. Particularly in the Rodney area, which should be a strong demographic region for us, there has been a concentrated effort to increase numbers. Kevin Forde has been tasked with achieving this and it is ongoing. The very difficult task of organising draws and venues to balance home and away fixtures has been an issue for some. This is somewhat complicated by the need to balance travel distances e.g. when Keri Keri play Rodney, both teams need to travel to Whangarei. Neal has been as fair as possible in distributing travel between clubs.

The NCA team has some exciting initiatives planned for grassroots cricket in the approaching season.

One major challenge I see is in keeping Kensington Park full of cricket most Saturdays, whilst also getting club cricket onto club grounds, which is excellent for club spirit and enjoyment. Kensington Park is a very visible advertisement of how well the sport is doing.

Grant and trust money for running representative teams is always keenly sought, but we have been well looked after and have been able to keep cost recovery from parents at a very reasonable level. However, changes in the hotel industry and trust money rules mean this is going to be difficult to maintain.

My Thanks to Tony (Tank) Edwards (secretary), Richard Pooley, Roger Kidd, Roger Turner, Russell Smith, Dean Potter, Mark Oldridge, Warren Marr, Stephen Cunis, Neal Parlane and Karl Treiber for their participation at our meetings through the year.

In some respects, it was a challenging season for the Junior board, with some contentious issues arising. Occasionally decisions were made which may not have been universally popular, but were solely aimed at benefitting junior cricket as a whole.

Honours achieved:

ND U19 - Nick Stobart

ND U 17 – Chamodh Peiris, Lewis Miller

ND PB training squad – Luke Trigg, Sam Webb, Kian Bird

ND U21 girls, Olivia Lobb (vc), Paige Golightly

U18 Girls – Olivia Lobb (cpt), Tia Saunders, Jade Litchfield

ND Junior Secondary Girls – Jessica Pilmer

David Lobb

Northland Junior Cricket Chairman

Club Cricket Review 2014/15

This was the 2nd season in a row where the Cricket Working Group changed a few things around. The Oxford Trust 2 day competition was changed to a round robin and no final. Dargaville Shield was changed to a more traditional form where every team plays each other. The Greg Guy Shield was introduced as the Reserve Grade version of the Dargaville Shield. The Karl Treiber Shield was established as the "Ranfurly Shield" of Northland club cricket. This can only be won when a team beats the holder at their home ground.

The season started with 4 weeks of Dargaville Shield and Greg Guy Shield. Mid Western came out on top in both competitions.

Maungakaramea continued their 2 day dominance in the Oxford Trust competition. Kamo came out victorious (due to qualifying top) over Kaipara Flats Cricket Club in a washed out Lion Red Cup 1 day final and Kaipara were again unlucky in being beaten by Onerahi Central in the season ending T20 final at Cobham Oval.

The leading wicket taker in premier cricket this season was Matthew Taylor from Kaipara Flats and Rodney with 45 and was also awarded Premier Club player of the year.

Neal Parlane was the top runscore in premier cricket with 690.

The 2014/15 Premier Cub Team of the Season

Bert Horner (MGK)
Joseph Yovich (CITY)
Atif Qureshi(KAMO)
Neal Parlane(MGK)
Ian Page(CITY)
Curtis Cherrington (KAMO)
Matt Lobb (WBHS)
Matt Taylor(KFCC)
Jeremy Guy(CITY)
Josh Lee (MGK)
Nick Stobart (MGK)

In Reserve grade, Kamo CC proved to be far and away the strongest team in all forms. With a comfortable win in the declaration league and easy wins over Maungakaramea in both the T20 final and the 40 over final.

Richard Cates from Kamo CC was the batsman of the year and Logan Choat was bowler and player of the year in Reserve grade.

Third grade saw a strong and very promising Whangarei Boys High School colts team come out on top.

Junior Club Cricket again thrived this season. It was great to see Rodney enter teams in both A and B grade this season. Kerikeri and Dargaville again entered teams which gave the competitions a true Northland wide feel. Kamo and City again led the way numbers wise but OCCC are hot on their heels.

Junior Competition Winners this season were

A Grade Pre Christmas – Kamo

Post Christmas – City

B Grade Pre Christmas – Kamo Gold

Post Christmas – Northern Wairoa/Ruawai

C Grade Pre Christmas – Kamo Red

Post Christmas – Kamo Magpies

A successful season with a lot of positives moving forward. Thank you to the many volunteers in the clubs for their tireless work, it is greatly appreciated by the NCA.

Neal Parlane

Competition Manager

Northland Senior Secondary Girls 2014-15

Team Olivia Lobb, Jade Litchfield, Hayley Green, Maria Wright, Brooke Golightly, Paige Golightly, Tia Saunders, Caitlin Phillips, Charley Green, Shannon Bucknell, Sam Hardy
Manager David Lobb

The Northland Secondary Girls XI won the Northern Districts tournament in Tauranga against Bay of Plenty, Hamilton, Waikato, Poverty Bay and Counties. Northland captain Olivia Lobb was the player of the tournament and leading runscorer by some distance with 252 runs from 4 innings (only once dismissed). Our best bowlers were Caitlin Phillips (9 wkts), Tia Saunders (6wkts) and the Golightly twins, Brooke and Paige (4 wkts each).

Also in December, the Whangarei Girls High School 1st XI participated in the NZCT Cup finals in Palmerston North. The tournament was decimated by rain, but we achieved a good win over Rangī Ruru Girls College from Canterbury, and finished 5th on countback. WGHS have again qualified by defeating all other Northland Schools and with good wins over Hillcrest HS, Tauranga Girls College and Waikato Diocesan, and are aiming to go higher in this coming season.

Team : Olivia Lobb (c), Jade Litchfield, Paige Golightly, Brooke Golightly, Tia Saunders, Maria Wright, Hayley Green, Caitlin Phillips, Jessica Pilmer, Eva Pearson, Shannon Bucknell, Sam Hardy
Coach : Warren Marr Manager : Dave Lobb Assist Manager : Delwyn Houlihan

Girls cricket has gone ahead in massive leaps in recent years, and our thanks go to Karl Treiber and Warren Marr for their dedicated coaching of these teams. The successes have resulted in increased representation in Northern Districts selections.

Northern Districts team selections :

ND U21 - Olivia Lobb (v.cpt), Paige Golightly
ND U18 - Olivia Lobb (capt), Tia Saunders, Jade Litchfield
ND U15 - Jess Pilmer

Northland Junior Secondary Girls 2014-15

Once again Northland hosted a Girls Junior Secondary tournament at Bourne Dean Oval on 16th and 17th November.

We had entries from Bay of Plenty, Counties Manukau and Hamilton and played a round robin of three games.

The Northland side was entirely made up of girls that were new to cricket, so it was a real challenge to take on the other Associations that had plenty of regular cricket players in their ranks.

Consequently the girls did struggle to score enough runs to be competitive but it was an enjoyable experience in a low key environment and a great way to ease them into the sport.

Hamilton ended up as eventual winners, but all teams loved the experience and the concept so it was very worthwhile all round.

The Northland player of the tournament was Jess Pilmer with others showing good potential as well.

The trick now is to keep a core of girls playing in some form of short sharp competition. It would be great to get a couple of extra games between local high schools in before our regular mini tournament to give everyone a bit more experience before heading to Kaipara Flats.

Northland Primary Boys 2014/2015 Review

The warm up games went well with solid victories over Counties Manukau, North Harbour and Western Districts. The Auckland teams are proving to be a bit of a challenge in that they operate separate teams in each year group, so we are trying to play our tournament team and they want separate Y7s and Y8s.

Pre-tournament the boys played a Hamilton Invitation team in Auckland, which they bowled out for just 32 and knocked off the total without loss. We then played a T20 game which they also won although the opposition played a lot better.

At the tournament proper, they played Hamilton first and won a very close game with two runs to spare.

BOP Coastlands proved to be another tough challenge. Thanks to 65 from Sam Webb and 76* from Kian Bird we posted 184/4. A sloppy bowling display saw BOP chase down the target four down.

The final game against Lakelands saw the boys roll them for 68 thanks to Bunny Hutchinson 4/6 and we knocked them off quickly 4 wickets down, the net run rate saw the team finish top of the rankings.

Our top order performed very well all year with good contributions from Luke Trigg, Sam Webb and Kian Bird. They rotated the strike well with good running between the wickets, but lacked power and conviction in hitting boundaries. We tended to miss out on scoring off bad balls.

Nathan Parkes broke a wrist in the first game of the year and was missed initially and then never quite hit his straps on his return. All the bowlers went off the boil a bit under pressure and there was a lack of rhythm and consistency which had not been apparent earlier. Tournament nerves perhaps.

His fielding was generally pretty good but we missed several run out opportunities and the boys need to stay more focused and hungry in the circle.

Overall the team progressed well from where they were last year with all but two gone to JSS. We have developed three good top order batsmen that seem to want to bat for a long time and have sound techniques. Luke Trigg kept really well and it is great to have someone filling this specialist position for the foreseeable future through the ranks.

The revamped fielding restrictions worked better, but I still believe it is too easy for batsmen to score with only 4 fielders in the ring at all times. One more as a close catcher at short cover would be the way to go.

The selectors worked well together with no major issues and the development teams were well looked after by Dean Potter.

Tournament accommodation was good and as usual, the parents around the team were excellent in their assistance and attitude.

Northland Junior Secondary Schools Annual Report

The Northland Junior Secondary team and players had an extremely busy and successful season, with the undoubted highlight being winning the ND Junior Secondary Schools Tournament in Manurewa. A feature was no one individual carried the team and all made useful contributions throughout the year. They also had an excellent team spirit. Part of the success was due to the excellent work done in the winter training academy by coaches Karl Treiber, Stephen Cunis and Neal Parlane.

A great result considering half the team were Year 9's.

Tournament Team

Quinn Pooley (c), Dante Mitchell, Lewis Miller, Chamodh Peiris, Finn Trimble, Hamish Kidd, Caleb Boswell-Smith, Sean West, Matt Kingi, Jarod Ross, Aaron Ranara, Van Grooby.

Others to play during the season:

Cullen Lowe, Connor Dyke, Owen Arthur

Pre-Tournament

The traditional Labour Weekend double-header against a strong Counties team provided the team with stiff competition and an indication of the standard required to be successful. Although two losses, the team fought back well in the second match and most of the team showed some good early form.

Sunday

Counties 254/7 M Kingi 4/41, H Kidd 2/32

Northland 167 C Peiris 75, H Kidd 19

Monday

Counties 208/8 S West 2/19, Q Pooley 2/29

Northland 190 F Trimble 67, C Boswell-Smith 37, H Kidd 21, L Miller 19

Western Districts

Northland were out-classed by a very vocal WD team, but showed their bowling would be hard to dominate, which proved the case in most matches to follow.

Western Districts 155 S West 2/17, C Boswell-Smith 4/29

Northland 85 F Trimble 14

North Harbour

A fantastic all-round team effort saw an easy win in a perfect warm up for the tournament.

North Harbour 136 C Boswell-Smith 3/23, Q Pooley 3/21

Northland 136/5 C Peiris 52, V Grooby 17, L Miller 18

ND Tournament

Day one saw T20's against Counties Invitation and Poverty Bay. Although going to the wire, both were won comfortably. Wicket keeper Jarod Ross was outstanding in both, with some sharp stumping's. Aaron Ranara with his accurate off-spinners, positive tail end batting and a never ending supply of encouragement for his team mates showed how valuable they would become to the team.

Game 1-T 20- Counties Invitation 90 C Boswell-Smith 3/5, A Ranara 2/2, H Kidd 2/11
Northland 91/7 V Grooby 21, C Peiris 16

Game 2-T 20- Poverty Bay 99 C Boswell-Smith 3/12
Northland 100/8 C Peiris 18, F Trimble 18, C Boswell-Smith 16

Day two was to decide the winner of the pool and Bay of Plenty Coastlands struggled through to 152 in their 50 overs. Sean West and Caleb Boswell-Smith began well with the new ball but a vital 20 overs of spin from Ranara and left arm spinner, Hamish Kidd, saw only 48 runs come from the bat and pressure mount. Matt Kingi and Dante Mitchell mopped up the tail, leaving Northland very upbeat at lunch. Mitchell and Chamodh Peiris then batted superbly to guide Northland home in their most convincing win of the season.

BOP Coastlands 152 S West 2/27, M Kingi 3/34, A Ranara 2/14
Northland 154/4 D Mitchell 52, C Peiris 36 no, L Miller 15

Two days of rain saw Northland take on also unbeaten Hamilton, in a shortened 40 over final. This match ended in dramatic fashion with a direct hit throw by Sean West giving Northland a two run win. Batting first Northland made 126 all out with only Chamodh Peiris 28 getting going in difficult conditions. Hamilton, despite losing two early wickets, rallied to be 65/2 at drinks before an inspired spell of leg spin by Quinn Pooley and Chamodh Peiris saw six wickets fall for 20 runs. A late fight back by Hamilton came up short, crowning Northland as ND champions.

Northland 126 C Peiris 28, V Grooby 11 no, H Kidd 10, A Ranara 10, L Miller 10 Extras 30 incl 22 wides

Hamilton 124 Q Pooley 3/14, A Ranara 2/24, C Peiris 2/17

Captain, Quinn Pooley, did a fine job leading the team, not easy when you are the youngest member and bowled some unplayable overs of leg spin, notably against North Harbour and Hamilton in the final.

The teams great strength was the spinning options of Ranara, Kidd, Peiris ,who also bowled leg spin, and Pooley. The pace attack was lead superbly by Caleb Boswell-Smith, who had a fantastic season, Sean West who improved remarkably and the reliable left armer Matt Kingi.

Scoring enough runs was the team's greatest challenge and one Chamodh Peiris took upon his shoulders. Excellent innings against Counties, North Harbour, BOP Coastland and Hamilton showed off his talents. Dante Mitchell and Finn Trimble both hit 50's. Young batsmen Hamish Kidd and Lewis Miller got numerous starts without nailing a big score, but looked fine prospects. Van Grooby, Caleb Boswell-Smith and Aaron Ranara all had their moments.

Lewis Miller, unrivalled by anyone we played, led a useful fielding outfit and it was fitting that an accurate throw won us the tournament as this was an area coach Karl Treiber had worked hard on. Aaron Ranara was named in the ND Under 16's after the tournament and Caleb Boswell-Smith and Chamodh Peiris as non-travelling reserves. All three were crucial to our success and deserve congratulations.

North Harbour (March)

A solid performance in the field gave Northland a chance of back to back wins against North Harbour. Sean West bowled with good aggression and a useful 55 run partnership between Chamodh Peiris and Hamish Kidd had Northland looking comfortable at 130/3. But both fell after drinks along with the rest of team to be all out for 146.

North Harbour 208 S West 4/42 , C Boswell- Smith 2/38
Northland 146 C Peiris 51 , H Kidd 18

NCA Awards

Player of the Year Chamodh Peiris
Batsman of the Year Chamodh Peiris
Bowler of the Year Caleb Boswell-Smith
Fieldsman of the Year Jarod Ross

Other highlights

Finn Trimble, Lewis Miller, Chamodh Peiris, Caleb Boswell-Smith represented Whangarei Boys High School 1st XI in the Gillette Cup finals at Lincoln. A huge step up for year 9 and 10s, but all performed well.

Hamish Kidd and Sean West played for Auckland Grammar at the National Year 9 and 10 Finals in Palmerston North finishing 3rd. Both bowled exceptionally well with Hamish Kidd being the tournament's top wicket taker.

I would like to thank Karl Treiber and Richard Pooley for their excellent work with the team on and off the field during the year. Karl had a great rapport with the boys and his advice and tactics were invaluable. His sprint to the middle to celebrate with the boys upon winning the tournament showed his huge passion for Northland cricket.

I would also like to thank Trevor Osbaldiston and Aaron Foster for their positive contribution with the development team.

Overall, an action packed season, with Northland proudly reflecting on a great tournament win and with many back for another year Northland cricket can look forward with confidence.

Roger Kidd
Manager

Northland Junior Secondary Boys 2014/2015

The season started with away games against Counties Manukau in Auckland on Labour Weekend.

The first game was 50 overs and the side started well by chasing down 196 with 6 wickets in hand thanks to a really positive 81 from Quinn Pooley and with some good support from Lewis Miller.

The next day they played two T20s with Counties winning the first one by 25 runs due to a lack lustre chase. The side redeemed themselves with a more urgent batting display lead by Van Grooby with middle order contributions of 23 and 27 by Caleb Boswell Smith and Sean West, which left Counties chasing 127. Solid bowling from all the bowlers saw CM dismissed for 118.

We played Western Districts in a 50 over game in Whangarei on 9th November. After a shaky start with the ball, Quinn Pooley and Hamish Kidd put the brakes on with spin and restricted WD to 191/8. A really positive start by Van and Quinn was continued by Hamish Kidd in the middle order, which saw Northland reach 192/7 and a win by 3 wickets.

North Harbour came next and we posted 174/9 in 50 overs. Owen Arthur and Caleb both picked up 3 wickets as North Harbour was dismissed for 152.

The tournament started with two T20s with the first game against BOP Lakelands. Owen, Caleb and Cullen Lowe proved to be too good with the ball and restricted Lakelands to 73/8. We chased that down with the loss of 2 wickets with Quinn and Van batting positively at the top on a rather green wicket.

Game two was against the Invitation side. Northland scored 129/9 with Hamish leading the way with 44. Great bowling from Sean, who picked up 3 for 12, and good support from the others saw the Invitation side restricted to 108.

The T20 format to start the tournament is OK, but care is needed to prepare good wickets, as our pitch was extremely green and a golden spell from one of the opposition bowlers could see results that don't necessarily reflect the relative strength of the teams. One 'against the odds' result can have a major bearing in the placings further into the tournament. Next to our pitch was a wicket that had been used the previous weekend and would have been much more suitable for our T20s.

Counties Manukau was next in a 50 over game. They scored 225 with Caleb picking up 3/37 and was well supported by Quinn and Hamish in particular. Quinn and Van set the tone with another positive start scoring 38 and 59 respectively. Lewis chipped in with 45 as did Hamish with 22. The wheels started to fall off a bit at that point but a steady 13 not out from Austin Ryburn saw us home by 2 wickets.

The semi-final was against Hamilton and the game started in dramatic fashion with Sean West cutting a swathe with Hamilton reeling with figures of 10 overs 5 for 11. To their credit the Hamilton lower order dug in and the last wicket contributed the best part of 100 runs to see us chasing 155. A great middle order partnership between Caleb (56*) and Austin (35*) saw us win by 6 wickets.

So we played Waikato Valley in the two day final. It was a great arm wrestle on day one with WV batting. The Northland bowlers all toiled away and kept picking up wickets, but WV managed to establish a little partnership every time we got a breakthrough. They got through to 240 and Northland had 30 minutes to bat at the end of the day. We quickly found ourselves 3 for 0!

Lewis Miller and Austin Ryburn steadied the ship the next day with a good partnership and Lewis batted particularly well to reach 76. We wobbled again through the lower middle order and were really up against it when Cullen Lowe went to the crease. He kept battling away and was supported by Sean West and then Bryn Williamson. The target kept creeping closer as they chipped away, but unfortunately with 10 runs required, Cullen was bowled for 58. It was a great effort, but ultimately the 30 minutes the night before was the telling factor.

So overall it was a really good season and there was excellent development and progress made by all the players. Quinn Pooley and Van Grooby got us away to some great positive starts. Lewis Miller started to show some of his undoubted talent. Caleb and Hamish are both making good progress in becoming solid all-rounders. Austin Ryburn was a revelation with the bat with some great batting contributions under pressure. Cullen made great progress with his bowling and his valiant effort with the bat in the final should fill him with the confidence to become a genuine all-rounder. Sean West produced some devastating spells and Owen Arthur picked up a few 3 wicket bags.

All the others had their moments and as a group played really well as a team although they tended to be a little subdued on the field. They made up for this once they got off the park! It is a nice feeling to think that these boys are moving through into Senior Secondary level as real contenders at Year 11 and I would expect great things by Y12.

Senior Secondary Schools 2014 report

Unlike last season, when we probably deserved to come 7th in the ND tournament, the team performed pretty well in a tough pool and only run rate was the difference between playing for 1st or 5th. We were 6th with 2 wins / 4 matches, 5th had 2/4, 4th had 1/5, 3rd had 3/5 and we were the only team to beat the eventual winners, Counties. After losing badly in the first match, coach Parlane read the riot act very severely, and our team performed pretty well in the 3 remaining matches.

Our main problem is still finding batsmen with the powers of concentration to go on from 25 - 35 to big scores, although a close second is bowlers who are very happy to bowl 4 great balls per over. I think that we are doing as much as possible to instil a culture of excellence and hatred of losing into our boys, but it is not quite getting through. Our fielding and catching has generally been much better this season.

For those interested the season stats are in attached spreadsheet.

Regards

Dave Lobb

Pre- tournament matches

vs Counties

1st match - out for 54, thrashed.

2nd match T20 - we chased down a good total of 155 with 16 balls to spare (a 100run partnership in 9 overs being decisive)

3rd match - We leaked 150 off the middle 20 overs, leaving 265 too many to chase.

A great achievement was skipper Ryan West scoring 94 and 52 for the B team vs CtiesB, and the B team performed well for a win and loss.

Northland trial match (after WesternD pulled out at 8.30 on Sat night) - a good competitive match, but once again several batting starts needed someone to go on and turn 160 into 260.

ND Tournament

v Waik Valley (T20) - Valley 39-4 after 13.3ov we let them make 109, which was too many for us.

v Counties (T20) - after posting 90-7, we bowled and fielded extremely well to bowl them out for 64 in 18ov.

v Invitation XI (50ov) - 7 players got starts but didn't convert 159 into 259, but once again we bowled very well in dismissing them for 115. Interestingly, Invitation XI would go on and beat Poverty Bay into 8th place, but both of these teams then got more players into ND rep Teams than we did.

v Coastlands (2day) - had Coast 18-4 but their middle order batted very well to get them to 301-8. Again 9 of our batters got starts, we needed 1 or 2 to go on, but our tail batted very tenaciously and we got to a competitive 267.

Northland Men's B Team 2014-15

Northland 2nd XI v Auckland Development XI

The first Northland 2nd XI game of the year was played against an Auckland Development XI who travelled north to Kensington Park on a stunning day. On a wicket that both sides were keen to bowl first on, the Auckland XI skipper won the toss and asked Northland to bat.

Openers Joey O Sullivan and Findlay Buchanan survived until the 4th over when Buchanan was clean bowled for 10. Northland kept the board ticking over slowly against some tidy seam bowling. The main partnership of the innings became apparent in the 23rd over when Sam Walker and Michael O'Flaherty came together. The two remained together until the 45th over, putting on 99 for the 4th wicket. O' Flaherty, playing a captains knock, top scored with 68 before being undone trying to force the pace.

Kevin Ford played a useful cameo, scoring 17 off 10 balls, before Nick Stobart joined Walker for the last 2 overs and the pair added 22. Walker finished unbeaten on 48 and Northland were eventually able to post a competitive 205, after their 50 overs.

Auckland got their innings off to a wonderful start with a 100 run partnership for the first wicket. The Northland seam attack comprising of Nick Stobart, Tom Herman, Kevin Forde and Marc Lezar bowled well, but without luck. Herman bowled with good pace and was particularly unlucky not to be rewarded with a wicket.

The turning point in the match was the introduction of spin. With Auckland cruising along at 101 for no wicket, Michael O'Flaherty made the key breakthrough. Then the Northland spinners strangled the Auckland batsmen and picked up seven wickets between them, through the middle overs.

The Northland side were then able to put a relatively young and inexperienced side under pressure in the final overs and they were eventually bowled out in the 48th over, for 184. The Northland 2nd XI manager, Mike O'Sullivan, said that it was great to host an Auckland Development XI and he was happy that the Northland side had made a solid start their season.

Northland 2nd XI v Counties-Manukau 2nd XI

The Northland 2nd XI started their Basil McBurney campaign against a strong Counties-Manukau 2nd XI side at Cobham oval. Four players made their Northland 2nd XI debut; Jarrod Ross, Fletcher Coutts, Dylan Clark and Josh Lees.

On a used wicket, Northland lost the toss and were asked to field first. The Northland pace quartet of Tom Herman, Matt Taylor, Nick Stobart and Jason Morgan struggled for line and length on a flat wicket and along with some good batting from the Counties-Manukau top 3, Counties-Manukau took charge.

Although the Northland spinners slowed the run rate down; the Counties-Manukau batsmen played well and the Northland bowlers were constantly under pressure. Sam Walker got the initial breakthrough, trapping O'Callaghan LBW for 65. Another 50 run partnership followed as all the Counties-Manukau top 3 batters made half centuries. Captain Michael O'Flaherty was the only bowler to complete 10 overs for the home side, finishing with figures of 3 for 50.

Northland, needing 286 to win were in trouble from the outset and soon found themselves 19-3 with three of the top four batters back in pavilion. The Counties-Manukau opening bowlers bowled with discipline and control and reaped the rewards, leaving Northland in disarray. Eventually the home side was bundled out for 145. The only batsman who dug in and played well for Northland was Sam Walker, who top scored with 72.

Northland 2nd XI v Hamilton 2nd XI

Northland lost the toss and were asked to bowl first on what looked like a good wicket. Tom Herman (10 overs, 1 for 45) and Matthew Taylor (4 overs, 0 for 12) bowled with good pace and control up front. As the innings unfolded, Northland kept picking up wickets at vital times and they never allowed the Hamilton side to form significant partnerships.

Spinners Dave Armitt (8 overs, 1 for 29), Sam Walker (9 overs, 2 for 44) and Michael O'Flaherty (6 overs, 1 for 15) both bowled tidily through the middle periods and strangled the Hamilton batsmen. Armitt was also exceptional in the field and picked up two key run outs. After their 50 overs, Hamilton finished with 226 for 8.

Northland were confident of chasing down the total but new that there would need to be some smart batting apparent and partnerships needed to be formed. After the loss of an early wicket, Marc Lezar joined Dylan Clark and the pair added 81 before Clark was dismissed for a nicely paced 28. Lezar batting in a positive manner, continued to keep the scoreboard ticking over but he was eventually out for 76. Ian Page (27), O'Flaherty (46no) and Armitt (16no) then played well to get the Northland side home with 8 balls to spare.

Northland 2nd XI V Auckland Development

Northland lost the toss and were asked to bowl on a flat Cobham Oval wicket. From early on, it became apparent that containing the Auckland batsmen was going to be difficult. Cam Johnson (10 overs for 36 runs), Henry Cooper (10 overs, 2 for 44) and Sam Walker (4 overs, 1 for 13) were the pick of the bowlers and while the other bowlers toiled away, the Northland side unfortunately weren't able to break partnerships and in turn, slow the run rate in any significant manner.

With Auckland scoring 279 for 6, in their 50 overs, Northland knew that they required some calculated risk-taking along with smart, sensible batting in order to chase Auckland's score down. Unfortunately, the home side lost two early wickets but Henry Cooper (48) and Tom Smith (41) added 71 for the 3rd wicket, before Cooper was dismissed. After that solid partnership, things never really got going for the remainder of the innings and the Northland side were eventually bowled out for 169 in the 43rd over.

Northland 2nd XI V Auckland Development

Northland played their third and final match against the Auckland Development side on January 25 at Cobham Oval. With the score currently 1-1, each side was desperate to win. On a perfect Northland day with clear blue skies, the Northland captain Sam Walker won the toss and batted on a used wicket.

Joe O'Sullivan (59) opened with Tyler Lorton (31) and the pair took the Northland score through to 48 before the more aggressive Lorton, was dismissed. Northland lost a couple more wickets in quick succession before Tom Smith (43) and O'Sullivan added 63 for the 4th wicket. Smith played very well on a slow wicket; using both power and creativity to keep the scoreboard ticking over, until he was eventually undone by a fantastic catch at short fine leg.

O'Sullivan played nicely and anchored the innings; and with some useful cameos from Walker, Mathew Taylor and Jason Morgan the Northland side got through to 219 before they were all out in the last over.

Northland opened the bowling with Morgan and Taylor and pace on the ball helped the opening batsman settle in and the score rocketed to 44 from 6 overs. The introduction of spin, however, put the brakes on and Walker (2 for 30 off 10), O'Sullivan (2 for 29 off 10) and Lorton (1 for 46 off 10) all bowled tidily. Auckland were, nevertheless, smart in their approach to scoring the runs and although Northland took it to the last over, Auckland came home with five balls to spare, seven down and took the three match series, 2-1.

Northland 2nd XI V Bay of Plenty 2nd XI

Northland lost the toss and were asked to bowl on a used wicket at Tauranga Domain. Kieran Nelson (7 overs, 2 for 22) and Cam Johnson (8 overs, 1 for 42) opened the bowling and were put to the test. BOP scored freely in the first 15 overs and they eventually lost their first wicket when the score was 90. The next 15 overs saw four wickets fall for just 27 runs. Curtis Cherrington (10 overs, 2 for 27) and Sam Walker (9 overs, 3 for 22) saw Northland regain control and at the second drinks break, BOP were 125 for 5. BOP finished relatively well but Northland restricted them to 195 and were confident at the lunch break, of chasing down the required runs.

Northland set about the chase in a conservative manner and lost Bert Horner when the score was 36, in the 12th over. Horner's opening partner, Dylan Clark (35), played smartly and was dismissed when the score was 48. Tom Smith (4) and Chamodh Peiris (0) both got out in quick succession and Northland were in a spot of bother, at 64 for 4. That, however, brought about the arrival of Sam Walker and Curtis Cherrington to the crease. The pair added 81 for the 6th wicket and got the innings back on track. Both players batted in an aggressive manor and they took the score to 146 before Walker was dismissed LBW for a well-comprised 32. Cherrington stayed solid at the wicket and saw Northland home, finishing 95 not out, when the winning runs were hit in the 47th over. This good win for the Northland side keeps alive their chances of winning the Basil McBurney Trophy with the final game coming against Waikato Valley.

Northland 2nd XI V Waikato Valley 2nd XI

Waikato Valley 174 beat Northland 173

In the last 2nd XI game of the year, Northland knew that they had to win to have a chance of winning the Basil McBurney Trophy. Having lost the toss and being asked to bowl, the Northland side got off to a great start with Matthew Taylor (10 overs, 4 for 22) bowling with great pace and control. Jason Morgan, who also opened the bowling, was the perfect partner for Taylor and bowled with accuracy.

Kieran Nelson (6 overs, 3 for 30) and Curtis Cherrington (7 overs, 1 for 17) both bowled well throughout the innings and picked up key wickets. At 90 for 9, Waikato Valley were in dire-straits but a mixture of poor fielding standards, average bowling and good batting saw the home side get through to 174.

In reply, Northland got off to a terrible start with only two of the top seven making double figures. Dylan Clark again played nicely, scoring 32 and Mike O'Flaherty got 21, batting at number five. Needing 97 to win with only 3 wickets left, Nick Stobart (36) and Matthew Taylor (32) decided to take the attack to the bowlers and very quickly added 70 runs for the 8th wicket. With Taylor's dismissal, Jason Morgan (20) joined Stobart and the pair got the side to within 10 runs of the target, before Stobart was out, caught behind.

Kieran Nelson then paired with Morgan. Morgan controlled the strike nicely and played a couple of excellent drives through the covers and the Northland side got to within two runs of the target. Nelson, who then had the strike, unfortunately turned a leg side delivery straight into the hands of mid-wicket and was dismissed for 0 with the score at 173. Although a disappointing end to the season, there was a lot of progress made by the extended Northland squad and it certainly steers the Northland side in good stead for the future.

Northland 1st XI 2014/15

The Northland 1st XI started the season with a game against Auckland and the side was looking to defend the Bob Cunis Cup. The match was played at Kaipara Flats CC and Neal Parlane decided to bat on what was a great wicket.

Northland posted a competitive 208 for 7 off their 50 overs. Ben Hyde (66), Ian Page (55), Tyler Lortan (33) and Rory Christopherson 21 were the pick of the Northland batsmen. In reply, Auckland reached the total, 5 wickets down in the 48th over. Kyran Dill and Kurtley Watson both bowled well but Auckland's innings was anchored by Robbie O'Donnell and they got home with 10 balls to spare.

The first round of the Fergus Hickey was against Bay of Plenty and Bay Oval. On a used wicket, Northland chose to bat and compiled a very competitive 337. Brad Kneebone (71), Neal Parlane (59), Kurtley Watson (45 not out) and Ian Page (30) all played nicely and there were some very good partnerships throughout the innings. It is also important to mention Rory Christopherson, who was the main stay of the latter part of the Northland innings and he battled extremely well with the tail.

Bay Of Plenty started well and put on over a hundred for the first wicket. At 117 for none, Kurtley Watson made the initial breakthrough and ND's Joe Carter was quickly dismissed after that, by Cody Andrews. Bay of Plenty then rallied, batted well and were 251 for 3 at tea. After some strong words at the break, the Northland side fared much better after the tea break and dismissed the Bay side for 287.

The way in which the Northland side picked up the last seven wickets for 37 runs was a good reflection of the attitude and skill shown in the final session. Kurtley Watson picked up his first five wicket haul for Northland and Henry Cooper captured four valuable wickets, as well. The four points secured in the victory were vitally important to the Northland team's chances of pushing for the Hawk Cup challenge and Fergus Hickey Trophy.

The first home game of the season saw Hamilton come north. The Northland side was a strong one and after winning the toss on a sporting wicket, the Northland skipper Neal Parlane, asked Hamilton to bat. The Northland side bowled well and dismissed Hamilton for 185 with Henry Cooper (5 for 20) bowling particularly well in conjunction with Cody Andrews, Joseph Yovich, Kurtley Watson and Kyran Dill. Unfortunately the Northland dropped six catches behind the wicket and this cost the team a substantial amount of runs.

In reply, Northland started poorly and ended the day's play at 75 for six. A mixture of poor decision making and anxiety was apparent and the Hamilton side capitalized. At the start of day two, the home side needed a further 111 runs with four wickets in hand. Ian Page and Tyler Lortan started well but when Page was dismissed LBW, it took momentum away from Northland. Lortan then combined with Christopherson to again get some momentum but just as the Northland side started to dictate, Christopherson was dismissed.

Lortan followed shortly after that and it was left to Kurtley Watson and Kyran Dill to try and score the 60 runs needed for first innings points. The pair batted well but fell short by 20 runs, Watson being the last batsman to be dismissed. Although the Northland side were disappointed by the result; the team's debriefing session saw the team address what needed to be better and the team left the Oval eager and desperate to improve heading forward.

The first game of the Brian Dunning Tournament in Taupo was against a strong BOP side and after winning the toss, Neal Parlane chose to bat first. Ben Hyde (45) and Brad Kneebone (99) were outstanding up top and got the side through to 126 before the first wicket fell. The dismissal of Hyde brought Henry Cooper to the crease and he played a smart innings, scoring a well-paced 62 off 56 balls. He and Kneebone added 67 for the 2nd wicket and when he was joined by Tyler Lortan (35 off 17), the pair added 70 in 27 balls. Northland eventually ending up on a very competitive 278 for 4.

In reply, Northland struggled to find consistent lines and lengths and the strong BOP top order went about their business in a calculated manner. The Northland team fought hard but a few errors crept in, in the field and with the ball and BOP finished the stronger of the two teams and won in the final over, five wickets down. Cody Andrews was the stand out bowler and was unlucky not to have picked up more wickets.

The second game was against Waikato Valley, who had beaten Poverty Bay in their first match. The Northland side knew that they needed to win well and push for a bonus point to stay in touch with BOP (5 points in front). Parlane once more won the toss and batted first. Kneebone was again at his disciplined best, scoring a gritty 96 not out. After the early loss of Hyde, he and Cooper (18) added 56 for the second wicket and then when Parlane joined Kneebone, the pair added 99 for the 3rd wicket. Parlane was brilliant, scoring a well compiled 66 of 69 balls on a challenging wicket. Northland finished their innings with some handy contributions from Ian Page and Tyler Lortan and ended on 245 for 5.

Waikato Valley were never really in the hunt after Cody Andrews snared two wickets in the first over and they were dismissed for 187 in the 47th over, securing the bonus point. Cody Andrews was again outstanding with the ball and picked up 4 wickets for 27. Kurtley Watson, carrying a hamstring injury, bowled well and his 4 for 43 was instrumental, along with a miserly spell from Kyran Dill, in the team picking up a well-earned bonus point. Consequently, Hamilton won their match against BOP and heading into the last round, the Northland side was tied with BOP for the right to challenge for the Hawk Cup.

The final game was played against Poverty Bay and after losing the toss, the Northland side was asked to bat on a damp wicket. Hyde (43) and Kneebone batted smartly up front but with the loss of 3 wickets for 13 runs, the Northland side was in a spot of bother at 62 for 3. Hyde was joined by Page (41) and the pair batted sensibly before Hyde was run out. Page and Lortan (35) then built some momentum before Rory Christopherson finished the innings well with an intelligent 43 not out. In the allotted 46 overs, the Northlanders ended with 231 for 8.

Poverty Bay were never in it and were dismissed for 150 in the 42nd over. Cody Andrews (4 for 21), Tyler Lortan (2 for 30) and Tom Herman (1 for 23) all bowled extremely well and Kyran Dill once again went for less than 3 and over. With the bonus point win, it meant that Northland earned the right to challenge for the Hawke Cup in February.

The first game back after the Christmas Break was against Hamilton, in Hamilton. Hamilton won the toss and decided to bat first on a relatively average wicket. The Northland bowlers were on song and the home side was dismissed for 126 in the 37th over. Kurtley Watson picked up 4 for 25 off 7 overs and Mikey O'Flaherty 3 for 23 off his 10. They were ably supported by Tyler Lortan, Cody Andrews and Kyran Dill, who each picked up a wicket. Rory Christopherson was again outstanding behind the wicket and showed his class throughout the innings.

Northland then went about chasing the score with relative ease. Ben Hyde (51) and Brad Kneebone (23) put on 53 for the first wicket and the winning target was achieved in the 28th over, by way of a six from Joey Yovich. The bonus point win sees Northland leading the Brian Dunning Trophy points table with one round to go.

The final game of the Brian Dunning One Day Competition was against Counties Manukau. The wicket at Cobham Oval was unfortunately low and slow but the Northland side had prepared well and were up for the contest. The home side dominated right from the start after Counties Manukau won the toss and elected to bat.

Kyran Dill was demanding with 3 cheap wickets off 10 consecutive overs up front and he was ably supported by Cody Andrews (1 for 20), Kurtley Watson (2 for 29) and Ben Hyde (3 for 13). The Counties Manukau side were eventually dismissed for 120 and Northland had 20 overs to bat prior to the lunch break.

Brad Kneebone and Ben Hyde combated the new ball with skill and got the side through to 33 before Kneebone was dismissed. Hyde then lifted the tempo with Ian Page and the two added 36 off 5 overs before Hyde was dismissed for a stylish 38. Page was then joined by Neal Parlane and the pair saw the side home in the 27th over. Parlane was 22 not out and Page 36 not out when the winning runs were scored.

The win saw the Northland side win the Brian Dunning Trophy for the first time in many years so the side celebrated a great win in true 'Dunno' style. Northland now leads the Fergus Hickey points table with two rounds on Two Day cricket to play.

The next game of the season was the Hawke Cup challenge. The Northland side prepared well and had a very good side that travelled to Manawatu. Unfortunately the side's batting was poor and six of the top seven scored 30 runs in 12 bats. The Hawke Cup would obviously never be won if this occurred and this was the case in this match. Kyran Dill and Cody Andrews picked up five wicket bags in either innings but this wasn't enough to bring home the Hawke Cup.

The side needed to bounce back in the next Fergus Hickey game and runs were paramount, especially with playing on a flat wicket at Cobham Oval. Northland's Neal Parlane won the toss and asked the Waikato Valley side to bowl. The Northland side started disastrously with Ben Hyde being dismissed off the first ball of the match.

Brad Wilson then joined Brad Kneebone and the pair added 58 for the second wicket. Wilson was in great touch and played magnificently in scoring 168. He faced 224 balls, hitting 29 boundaries in his 280 minute stay at the crease. He was ably supported by Neal Parlane (46), Henry Cooper (37), Ian Page (48) and Joseph Yovich (30) and the home side scored 375 for 7.

The Waikato Valley side batted with application but the Northland bowlers were too much for them. Henry Cooper bowled supremely well and picked up 4 for 46 off 22 miserly overs. He was supported by Cody Andrews (2 for 59) and Kyran Dill (2 for 49) and the Northland side bowled the WV side out for 223 in the 70th over. The win saw the Northland side six points clear of its nearest rival heading into the final round of the Fergus Hickey.

The final game was against Counties- Manukau and after the CM side won the toss, they asked Northland to bat on a Mountfort Park wicket with a good, green tinge to it. Tyler Lortan (46), in Brad Kneebone's absence, opened the batting with Ben Hyde (23) and the pair added 75 for the first wicket. Neal Parlane (50), Ian Page (63) and Joseph Yovich (60) all played well throughout the innings but Brad Wilson was the standout batsman with a fantastic score of 131.

Having amassed 405 for 7, Northland had effectively secured the Fergus Hickey for the 2014-15 season and decided to declare. After Nick Stobart, on debut, picked up two early wickets, the Northland side were well on top however, CM rallied on what had turned out to be a flat wicket and got the required score. Although a disappointing end to the season, in terms of the result, the season was an outstanding one for Northland by way of winning the two ND competitions. The side is now keen to build on this and improve for next season.

Finally, I'd like to thank Murray Child and Barry Cooper for their support, expertise and assistance, both as selectors and Northland stalwarts, throughout the season. Sally Leftley and Darron Goodwin, the Northland Managers, again did a great job for the team and their work is greatly appreciated, as was Jono Leftley's efforts in regards to scoring and statistical information. Mike O'Sullivan did a stellar job with the Northland 2nd XI and his help in managing this side was invaluable, as was Sam Walker's. Also, I'd like to make special mention of Warren Marr and the NCA Board for their support and encouragement of the Northland 1st and 2nd XI's.

Stephen Cunis
Operations Manager

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