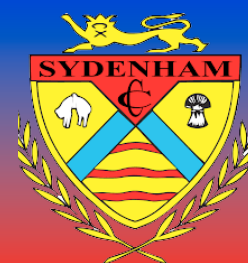


BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

Sydenham Cricket Club September 2025 issue



Established in 1896

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Graham Harris, President

To all our players and supporters, a warm welcome back to another cricket season. Once again, we will have a staggered start, with Morning grade men's and Prem women's games starting on October 4th, and youth cricket, as well as men's and women's lower grades, beginning a week later.



Our youth 1st XL travel away to Napier at the end of September for a tournament, and we wish them well. They fundraised well over the winter months, a huge credit to Allen and the boys (and their parents) in achieving their fundraising goal and making this trip possible.

Our team entries are strong again this year and we are delighted to welcome two new teams to the club. The Gujarat Kings will play in the T20 grade, and the Royal Challengers will play in the Div 4 comp—best wishes to both teams for a successful season ahead. We also now have a second Division 1 women's team all of which now gives the club 20 sides across its adult and youth sections which we think may be a club record

It has been a wet winter, as we all know, and that has been challenging for Andy to repair and resow our blocks. They look okay, but some spring reseeding has been necessary to provide a good grass cover, especially around the popping creases. Fingers crossed for a kind spring to get this growth away.....so far so good.

Again, it has been pleasing to see the Indoor Centre very busy over the winter months with patronage growing each year. The hirers are not just club members, but also participants in Matt Bell's Cricket Academy programmes, which is run in conjunction with the Willows Cricket Club, as well as other cricket clubs that use the centre on a weekly basis. It is also especially pleasing to see that other community groups, such as Skillwise and Kelly Sports, are using the centre, as well as other sporting codes like junior football, softball, and baseball groups, all of which are enjoying winter training in a warm and dry environment. The indoor centre committee has deliberately kept the

hireage fees at reasonable levels to encourage as many user groups as possible to use the centre, and this has proved to be the case.



During the winter, your committee also wrapped up our AGM (Thanks to AC for preparing yet another annual report). The club finances remain in a healthy state, but I must yet again advise that securing funds from our community funders continues to be challenging.

Having said that, we are hugely appreciative of the funding we do receive, which enables us to maintain and improve our facilities and provide the high level of coaching we wish to deliver to our members. Your committee has elected to hold the player subscriptions at the same level as last season. It is tough out there with cost-of-living pressures, and we did not believe we should compound those pressures by increasing cricket playing costs while possible.

During the winter, we also received our new enlarged covers, which will now be transported to the blocks when needed using our trailer and quad bike. They are now too heavy to drag out there and will require good organisation and player discipline to get them out and back each week. The new soil silo is in full use, meaning that we have tidied up that area by the covers sheds, as soil is now contained off the playing areas in a dry, secure concrete enclosure.

On the first day of play at Sydenham, we will unveil our new scoreboard. The new electronic scoreboard was donated by the O'Sullivan family as a memorial to John O'Sullivan, who was a Sydenham stalwart and past President who sadly passed away last year. We plan to have an unveiling on opening day before the start of play, and representatives from John's family will be in attendance for the occasion. The old electronic

scoreboard has been donated to Southern Districts Cricket Club, who will hopefully enjoy it for a few more seasons at least.



As we approach a new season, I would like to take a moment to mention the work our committee does. I especially want to acknowledge the convenors: Youth Paul Durdin, Afternoon Grades Jon Bennett, Women Linda Pettigrew and Morning grades Matt Bell, plus the huge contribution made by Kevin on Finance and Linda on club Admin and all of the rest of the committee who give their time generously to ensure our club ticks over smoothly.

I would also like to mention that we have two new committee members who were voted on at the last AGM: Dave Fleming and John Emmanuel. A warm welcome to you both, and thank you for volunteering your services to make our club bigger and better.

We are busy finalising all the action plans to get our season under way smoothly.

My best wishes to you all for a successful and enjoyable season ahead.

AROUND THE CLUB

Andrew Chisnall, Club Captain



The season is almost here, and pre-season is wrapping up both on and off the field.

The Indoor Centre has been busy with early-season training, and pitch preparation is well underway. Spirits are high, and the club is looking strong as we head into another exciting summer of cricket.

This year we welcome two new teams – the **Sydenham Royal Challengers** and **Sydenham Gujarat Kings** – along with a second **Division 1 Women's side**. A big welcome to all our new players, and a warm welcome back to our returning members. With at least **20 teams (including five youth sides)**, Sydenham continues to be one of the South Island's largest clubs.

Our social hub will again be at the **Bealey Quarter on Bealey Ave**. Under new ownership, they've launched a loyalty app that replaces the old cards. Every purchase you make using the app with our club code helps strengthen our sponsorship support – so please get on board! More details are available on our website and Facebook page.

Social events are an important part of our club life. Bert's always-popular **Quiz Night** will return in November, and our **Christmas Party** will again be held on the last playing day before the break. These events – and the bar – are key fundraisers for the club, so your support really matters (plus they're great fun!).

We also encourage all players, families, and visitors to head back to the clubrooms after games. It adds so much to the atmosphere – and of course, there'll be the usual yarns, drinks, and our famous sausages!

A reminder for captains: please try to have your matches **scored live on PlayHQ**. This helps supporters follow games in real time and saves captains extra work later. Metro Cricket requires to be submitted and done so by **3pm Sunday** – but the club asks for them by **midday** so they can be included in our Sunday evening match reports. Missing reports are usually down to late or incomplete entries – and that's not acceptable.

Also note: Metro now requires **full scorecards**, meaning only registered players can be entered. If you haven't registered yet, please do so immediately – unregistered players cannot take the field.



BUYING OR SELLING A HOUSE?
Please consider contacting Matt who directly sponsors our scholarship program:
027 452-3116
Matt.hew.Loose@harcourts.co.nz

Matthew Loose
Sydenham Cricket
Club Sponsor



Finally, keep up to date with everything happening at the club via our **website, Facebook, and Instagram**.

Good luck to everyone for the season ahead – play hard, enjoy your cricket, and make the most of being part of this great club!

MORNING GRADES REPORT

Matthew Bell, Director of Cricket



Following a mixed set of results last season, there is a growing sense of optimism ahead of the new campaign. The squad is beginning to show both depth and balance, with a mix of emerging talent and proven performers who can drive the team forward.

Rising young talent

Outstanding contributions from the next generation have been a highlight. **Dylan McArdle** and **Cullen Crowe** are showcasing their all-round skills, while the opening pair of **Jacob Cotter** and **Akshan Gulati** are providing a solid and aggressive start at the top of the order. The “spin twins” **Benji Bell** and **MaKenzie Thomson** continue to develop as an exciting pairing, while the raw pace of **Archie Goodrick** and **Josh Wedlake** adds real bite to the bowling attack.



Core experience and batting class

Blending in with the youthful energy is a core of batting quality: **Ryan Wallace**, **Aarush Bhagwat**, and **Srirag Harish** bring stability and match-winning ability through the middle order. With the captain **Mitchell Gardner**, plus **Tom Agnew** and **Matt Rowe** adding reliable pace options, the team has multiple pathways to build pressure and take wickets.

New international addition

The club is also thrilled to welcome **Matt Tromp** from the USA and the **LA Knight Riders** setup. Tromp’s aggressive top-order batting will be a valuable addition, especially in white-ball campaigns.

Keys to success

The coming season’s success will rest on one simple but powerful factor: **keeping this talented group training and playing together week in, week out**. If the squad can build consistency and cohesion, the potential is enormous — and the club is excited to see just how far this group can go.



Looking ahead

Across all our teams, the common thread to future success is the **consistency in keeping squads together, training and playing over a full season**. We’ve already seen glimpses of brilliance in every grade, and with continued commitment, we believe all of our teams can be a real force in 2025/26.

Building for the season

We’ve been working hard in preseason at the **Sydenham Indoor Centre** to sharpen up skills and build the momentum needed for a strong start. Off the field, we’re proud to be unveiling our **new scoreboard**, and grateful for the generosity of our supporters. Special thanks go to **Graham Harris and the committee** for their tireless work over the winter to provide **brand new covers for our three blocks**, ensuring we have the **best facilities in Christchurch**.

Here’s to an exciting season ahead — and to a future filled with growth, connection, and success both on and off the field.

Up the Sydenham Rangers!

NEW SCOREBOARD

With spring underway, we're excited to unveil our brand-new, modern scoreboard, replacing the faithful old one that served the Club for more than a decade.

This upgrade has been made possible through a generous bequest from the estate of **John O'Sullivan** — a true Sydenham man. John was Club Captain in 1978-79, President from 1985 to 1989, and then became a life member in 1990. John was probably best known to many as a long-serving senior scorer who went on to score for Canterbury and New Zealand, and later, after moving to Australia, continued his passion by scoring for his new country.

We are deeply grateful for his donation and to his brother **Brian**, who travelled from the UK to make the arrangements.



Our old scoreboard has been donated to our neighbours at **Southern Districts Cricket Club**, where we hope it will continue to see plenty of action in the seasons ahead.

The new scoreboard brings exciting possibilities — from more detailed match analysis to graphics and video displays, such as worms and Manhattans, and gives us the chance to better showcase our valued sponsors in new and engaging ways.

A special thanks to **Perennial Sport & Turf** for their expertise in designing the graphics and assisting with the installation.



THE BIRDWOOD WOMEN'S REPORT

Linda Pettigrew,
Women's Convenor



Our women's section welcomes back Felicity Robertson who once again takes on the role of head coach for the season. This is Felicity's 4th year in the role, during which time she has overseen the trophy cabinet filled with the premier T20 trophy in the 2023-24 season and the prestigious one-day trophy for the past two seasons. Felicity's coaching and commitment to our club and players is special and can be seen in every training session where players with experience, ranging from first-year cricketers to domestic and past and present White Ferns, support each other to develop their craft. There is a real feeling of everyone working together.



Felicity Robertson

I want to extend a very warm welcome to our new players. We're very excited to be part of your cricket journey. Amongst this group are two teams which move through from the junior club. I thank the junior club for their work growing this group, and I'm excited to see where the season takes us. The large cohort of school-aged players joining opens up new opportunities to build a women's cricket committee at the club and enhance the experience of all our players, especially this younger group. Anyone interested in joining this group should reach out to me. It'll only be an hour of your time every month, and I know we'll make a difference to cricket at Sydenham.

There was exciting news over the winter with the release of the domestic contracts. This saw Darcy Rose Prasad awarded her maiden domestic contract for Canterbury. Darcy came through the Sydenham program since she first started

playing cricket and has worked hard to build her skills as a wicketkeeper and batter. Molly Loe joins Darcy at Canterbury, while Felicity continues with Otago, and Emma McLeod continues with Central Districts. A huge congratulations to Molly, Felicity, Emma and Darcy. It requires a significant amount of effort to secure these contracts. I look forward to supporting you all from the sidelines.



A massive thank you to The Birdwood for their continued sponsorship. We are lucky to have such a community-minded business supporting our women's cricket. Please support your local cafe.

Another huge thank you to the club committee, players, and parents for their support over the very busy winter and pre-season. We're just starting the season, and it's full of possibilities. I know with your support, we can create magic where each player feels valued and alive in their cricket.

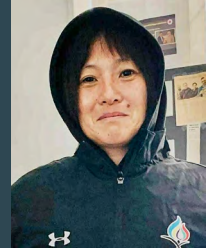
The Birdwood Sponsors of Sydenham Women's cricket



76 Malcom Avenue, Beckenham



PLAYER PROFILE – SHIZUKA MAIYAJI



Best ground played at:	Dubai International Cricket Stadium
Favourite tourist attraction:	Thaproban Beach (Sri Lanka)
When did you start playing cricket?	When I was in Uni in Kyoto.
Nickname:	Zu
Playing role:	Bowler (Left arm spin)
How long playing cricket:	23 years
Teams played for:	Japan for 17years, Sydney Uni CC, Spirit (FairBreak), Hampstead CC (UK, London) and Sydenham!!
Other sports played:	Baseball, Athletics – 100m
Occupation:	Master's student in Sports Science
Hobbies/interests:	Finding a cafe with great coffee
Favourite cricketer:	Sophie Eccleston (England), Alex Blackwell (ex Aus captain)
Favourite other sport player:	Ichiro Suzuki (baseball)
Best personal performance:	Awarded Player of the Match – FairBreak Tournament (4for17off4overs)
Biggest character or funniest teammate:	ummmmm, hard to answer.... I will find out who is the biggest and funniest through the season. Hopefully not me lol
Dream job:	Professor or National team coach for Japan
Toughest opponent	Serious answer: PNG – they always play really high-quality cricket. Funny answer: I'm not a big fan of teams with too many batsmen swinging their bats.
Favourite holiday destination:	Hong Kong

WELCOME TO SYDENHAM CRICKET

We're delighted to announce the addition of two new teams to the club this season. The Royal Challengers will join the Goats playing in Division 4, and the Gujarat Kings will join us in the T20 competition.

Both teams are in the process of getting kitted out, and with their new strips reflecting their new club and culture.



T20 Gujarat Kings

A warm welcome to all the new players and supporters joining us — we're excited to see you out on the park in our colours. We wish you every success on the field, and just as importantly, many enjoyable moments off it as part of our club family. Here's to a great season ahead together.

THE NEXT GENERATION

Paul Durdin, Youth Convenor

We are looking forward to the resumption of the youth cricket season.



The club continues to field six youth teams and provides playing opportunities for 80 boys. Pre-season training has been underway for all teams since the start of September and our 1st & 2nd XI teams have been training since August.

In a first for the club, the 1st XI is heading up to Napier next week for a pre-season tournament that has attracted 20 teams from around the country. The purpose of the trip is to get our boys match ready for Championship grade cricket

which gets underway on 11 October. Trips like this do not come together without a lot of effort behind the scenes. So a big shout out to Allen Hill and Daniel Herd in particular for organising the trip and the multiple fundraising activities over the past months. If you're interested in following the boys progress, you can do so via PlayHQ <https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/org/hawkes-bay-cricket-association/summer-202526/october-year-11-13-boys/7d9a3e90> or keep track of things on the Sydenham Youth Cricket Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SydenhamCricket>



The 11 October is the starting week for all of our youth cricket teams, with cricket continuing through to 6 December for most teams.



Willows Cricket Club

Another event that we are looking forward to as a club is a fixture for the 1st XI at The Willows. Over the past 12 months or so, the club has actively developed a relationship with The Willows Cricket Club and that has resulted in an invitation to play on Sunday 19 October. Like the pre-season tournament to Napier, we hope for this to be an annual fixture on the youth club calendar so that as many of our boys get the opportunity to experience this.

Lastly, in acknowledgement that our 1st XI boys do get a lot of opportunities – the boys in that team will be giving up their own time to assist Matt Bell with the coaching of the Year 9 & 10 teams each Wednesday. We hope this initiative helps to foster better links throughout the youth club between those boys new to youth cricket and those that playing at the highest level.

PLAYER PROFILE – JACOB COTTER



Nickname:	Cotter
Playing role:	Batter
How long playing cricket:	13 years
Teams played for:	Central Districts under 19 Hawkes Bay Under 19 Napier Boys High School 1st xi
Other sports played:	Rugby Golf
Occupation or studies:	University of Canterbury, Bachelor of Commerce
Hobbies/interests:	Golf
Favourite cricketer:	AB de Villiers
Favourite other sport player:	Richie Mo'unga
Best personal performance:	117* not out
Biggest character or funniest teammate:	Tom Agnew
Dream job:	All Black
Favourite tv series:	Prison Break, Peaky Blinders
Dream golf group:	Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan, Steph Curry
Favourite food:	Sushi

CRICKET CENTRAL

NZ Cricket has recently launched a new mobile app designed to connect and support our cricket community across New Zealand



Key features:

- Live scoring from community matches across the country
- Follow your favourite players, teams, or competitions
- Team management tools for coaches and managers
- Real-time notifications for game changes and club updates
- Access to player and grade statistics

Now live on both the App Store and Google Play, Cricket Central is your go-to hub for players, coaches, team managers, supporters and fans.

Cricket Central integrates seamlessly with PlayHQ, allowing users to log in with their existing PlayHQ account or browse as a guest.

Download links:

- App Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/cricket-central/id6748288491>
- Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.playhq.cricketnz>

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