

CITY CRICKET CLUB AGM – 7 AUGUST 2015

Club Captain Report

A warm welcome to all our club members (past, present and new), our supportive loyal sponsors, family and friends ... A special mention to our patron Des Thomsen and our distinguished life members Norman Wilson, Mack Fairley, Martin Kimber, Mark Wilson, Brett Robinson and Gary Morgan who are present this evening, always a great pleasure to see you all.

On behalf of the City Cricket Club executive and as club captain, I have great pleasure and it is an honour in reporting and reviewing the progress of the City Cricket Club for the 2014/15 season.

As we are well aware the club sport environment has become challenging and it is fair to say the sporting environment has had many changes for many reasons in recent times. Club members and playing numbers are not as easy to come by in comparison to the overflowing and special times the club has had throughout the early years of establishment, especially during the 80s and 90s where clubs environments and friendships were part of everyday life and extremely popular to be part of.

We are fortunate to be well known with a strong administration and we have never faulted on our commitments, we are professional on and off the field and I would like to thank everyone involved for continuing to set the benchmark for clubs in Northland to strive toward.

Although it wasn't a season that saw team silverware in the cabinet there certainly were significant individual performances that went towards winning games throughout the season for both our premier and reserve grades. City was one of the only clubs that did not default a single match in either grade throughout the season, this was highlighted and most probably due to the great comradery and club spirit that we can be proud of.

As we rebuild on the field, our Premier team finished third in the two day competition toppling the top sides along the way and growing in confidence, this I believe will only hold them in good stead as we head into the coming season. The same could be said about the Reserves who were there or thereabouts when it came to finals, they will be disappointed that they haven't

come away with at least a championship title but I believe this is only around the corner!

A highlight would have to be around the initiative to have 20/20 matches played on Thursday evenings – for those that were fortunate enough to join us for the City vs Kamo premier match played at Cobham Oval on a beautiful summers evening towards the end of the season saw City club members come together with our juniors enjoying a BBQ and refreshments and it certainly promoted a great family club day.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thankyou to Ian Page for his leadership across the board with the premier side along with Ravi Maan, Adrienne Smith-Hodgson and Tim King who through their leadership, time and effort have done a great job both on and off the field in building the depth of our all-important reserve grade side. Tim King has also lead a popular initiative that sees a 3 match reserve grade one day series between Whangarei and The Far North. The majority of the Whg side was made up of City players which saw them take out the series 2-1. It must be mentioned that our reserve grade men have played a huge part over recent years in support and stepping up to the premier grade team when players have been unavailable or away on rep duties - we have a lot to thank those men for!

To cap this off I would like to congratulate the City players who made representative sides this season both seniors and juniors and a special mention to the four players Ian Page, Kieran Nelson, Jeremy Guy and Joey Yovich who were selected in the Northland Club Cricket Team of the Year. Brilliant to see a quarter of the team selected being City players!

I would also like to congratulate Norm Wilson for receiving the Lotto Sport Volunteer of the month award for services to sport in clubs – thoroughly deserved and something the club was proud to see highlighted through the various media pathways.

In mentioning these highlights it cannot go without saying the outstanding work of our well respected City club coaches Karl Treiber and Richard Pooley who we have been able to call on their services over the past few years along with support from our own pros and club players.

It can be said that through Karl's coaching influence along with the leadership has played a huge part in the progressive improvement of both our senior teams with new training initiatives, one on one sessions and all important structure. I know it won't be long before either team repays that work with championship titles – no pressure lads!

Richard Pooley along with Karl continues to set the bench mark for all clubs and is a tower of strength around supporting our junior numbers, parents and the programmes that we deliver. Though Richard at times through his passion and drive feels that he hasn't quite the numbers from back in the halcyon days – however we witnessed another successful and well attended junior prize giving and having a clubhouse full of junior members, parents, managers and coaches speaks for itself. Keep up the great work Richard!

The connection between City and WBHS is about to bare its fruit and we must thank Russell Smith for the ongoing relationship that he continues to grow between us and the school. This season we look forward to having David Armit, Max Trimble and David Lobb in the not too distant future. A huge thank you to the Frank Yovich Memorial Trust and their trustees which umbrellas and supports the City Cricket club junior programme and WBHS territory students that have come through our junior programmes.

This year sees our 25th anniversary of our annual telephone book fundraiser (time certainly flies) and this is always a great day for the club - we are well aware of the financial support that we receive through this positive relationship and initiative as a club is greatly appreciated but could not be achieved without the support and involvement of our members and friends over the many years. I would personally like to thank Alan McKenzie for his continued work behind the scenes along with Brett Robinson for his attention to detail and organisations in making this all come together once again last season.

From a social side - Last season we ran a very successful sport trivia & auction evening here in the clubhouse which was in conjunction with hosting a Suburbs New Lynn side from Auckland in a preseason exchange. This initiative was driven by our Senior Premiers and Reserves grade players with the proceeds going towards some on field playing vests that are now kept as a club asset for our City playing members to use on match days. Thank you to our sub-

committee of Steve Morris, Ian Page, Brad Lang (our auctioneer), Jake Serotsky, Karl Treiber (our MC) Russell Smith (our quiz master for the evening) and Joey Yovich for putting it altogether. I would like to acknowledge everyone who provided great spot prizes and give aways – with a special mention to Tim King, Brett Robinson and for providing quality. A huge thank you to Joey Yovich who provided some popular auction memorabilia items – there is a strong thought and planning going into the possibility of running another one again this season so we look forward to that.

Moving into the coming season there is a sense of excitement with a number of new faces from outside the area looking at joining the club along with an injection of WBHS players and possibly a young English pro could see some good competition for places and with that the club putting out two very competitive senior sides.

I would like to thank our executive committee who have all been supporting me throughout the season – your level of commitment and proactive approach has been second to none.

Joe Darkins has been a valuable member of our executive has decided to stand down after many years of being involved with the club, thank you for all your efforts during your time from being a committee member, then moving into the secretary role before taking up the very important role from Brett Robinson as our treasurer for our club for the last year. Joe has informed me that he will still be involved with the club and is looking forward to being a supporter and helping out where he can.

I would to thank our committee members Norm Wilson, Richard Pooley, Russell Smith, Ian Page, and Ravi Maan for their continued commitment. We have also been extremely fortunate to gain the services and administrative skills of Nicky Stroebel which you have all no doubt probably received correspondence from. Nicky has certainly been a breath of fresh in her short time of involvement with us - her attention to detail and efficiency around many of our new initiatives including the upskilling from Norm Wilson around the all-important funding grants that we receive. It's fair to say she has certainly kept us on our toes.

In his humble way he probably wouldn't like me to be mentioned but the added bonus and leadership for the clubs administrative group has been the

involvement of Joey Yovich who not only has a thorough understanding of the history behind the club along with its relationships and agreements, but he has brought his own administrative and leadership qualities with encouraging the vibrant group of people who join and support the Executive Committee of the club. Joey's 'can do' and 'just do it now' attitude has meant that nothing is a problem as we continue to be proactive in implementing new initiatives.

Last and certainly not least we would like to thank and mention our loyal sponsors - Gay and Kerry Revel at the SteakOut Bar & Grill, Ross Kneebone, Ian Dunn & Gavin Benny at the Judge Ale House, Oxford Sports Trust, Pub Charity, AllKars Whangarei, Darren Pierce & family from Pierces Flooring Xtra, Stirling Sports, The Community Trust Foundation and Super Liquor Okara. The support we receive from these important sponsors is invaluable and we would not be able to run the programmes we do, without them. Thank you once again.

In closing the club continues to be in a very strong position heading into its 70 Jubilee off the field this year and I'm really looking forward to the season ahead with some all-important success and positive results from all our teams on the field.