




# ROUND THE WICKET

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March 2011**



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(Suburbs New Lynn)*



*Chris Fenner and Aaron Jeavons  
(Waitakere City)*



*Cam Rope (Parnell)*

# Club Round Up

It's been a nailbiting end to the Hedley Howarth Trophy two-day competition throughout February and March, with all teams in the top four having a chance of coming away with the title.

But as time has worn on, Takapuna have pushed their nose ahead of the chasing pack.

In Round 7 Greg Johnson scored an unbeaten century for the competition leaders in their total of 355-6 against Cornwall. While Cornwall's major contributors with the bat this season, English import Daryl Mitchell (108) and Michael Guptill-Bunce (64), both picked up decent scores, they could only manage 249 giving Takapuna first innings points.

Then in a rain-reduced top four clash,

Takapuna again came away with first innings points against Cornwall in a much tighter battle. Cornwall posted 150 after day one was washed out, while Takapuna only just snuck past them scoring 154-9.

The weather also did Howick Pakuranga no favours in their top four clash against Suburbs New Lynn as the third placed team tried to make up ground.

Howick posted a competitive 196, with Aces allrounder Colin Munro nailing 69. Despite three wickets from PJ Cairns, Howick were left two wickets short of first innings points, leaving Suburbs as the team with the best chance of catching Takapuna.

In the bottom four North Shore and East Coast Bays appear safe from



*Howick Pakuranga*

relegation, while Eden Roskill seem set to automatically drop down to the Tom Hellaby Trophy.

Papatoetoe are likely to face off against University-Ellerslie in a promotion relegation game, while Parnell are assured automatic promotion following a dominant performance in the Tom Hellaby Trophy this season.

Mark Turner's 201no against Ellerslie is a highlight, while Bruce Martin's wicket-taking ability saw him called up to the Auckland Aces.

Auckland University stumbled in the last round against Grafton United but with a 15 point lead over their closest rivals heading into the last round they look assured of their playoff position.

The remaining four teams in the Tom Hellaby Trophy are just jostling for

finishing positions with Birkenhead the big movers in the last round thanks to a one man demolition job from Darrin Crook as he hit 47 and then picked up 7/41 to skittle Ellerslie.

Meanwhile in the Jeff Crowe Cup one-day final Parnell were taught a lesson by Howick Pakuranga at Kings College.

Parnell managed just 102 after dominating the competition all year, with Howick knocking off the runs for the loss of just three wickets.

And in the Twenty20 competition, Suburbs New Lynn triumphed against North Shore to successfully defend their title. After defeating Howick in the semifinal that morning, 34 from Jonathon Bassett-Graham helped his side to 130-9 and an 11 run win in the afternoon final at Lloyd Elsmore Park.



*Grafton United*

# Club Profile - North Shore

There's no keeping Richard Jones away from the North Shore cricket club.

The former Aces captain retired from all forms of cricket last year. But the call to come back as player-coach wasn't far away when regular coach Pat Cole was appointed Aces manager earlier this season.

"If it'd been any other club I wouldn't have been interested, but I'm more than happy to help out. With the coaching side of things, I enjoy it - I don't know a lot about it, but hopefully I can just add a bit of my experience and it rubs off I guess."

He says picking up the role of player-coach has allowed him to stay involved with cricket, while spending more time with his family and developing business interests.

"I suppose it was a touch unexpected, but once you get back into the swing of things it's good fun. Because you're not on the road like you are with the Aces it's not quite as tough. It's a hell of a lot more family friendly but still busy."

Jones says he's relatively pleased with the way his team have performed so far this season.

"We're one of those teams that don't have many rock stars, but we've got some good players that play good solid cricket. We're always a competitive side."

Players like Alex MacDuff, Ben Stewart and Dan Burney have been key to keeping North Shore mid-table in the Hedley Howarth two-day competition this year, with respectable



performances in the one-day and Twenty20 competitions.

He says Auckland spinner Ronnie Hira has also turned out for the side on occasion this season.

“It’s nice to have guys who have played at a higher level around. It gives the guys a little bit of a taste of how to go about things.

“They show the 18 and 19-year-old guys how hard cricket can be. You’ve got to do a lot of work. It’s not just a 15 minute battle on a Tuesday.”

But he’s hoping North Shore’s youngsters aren’t looking to his own form this season for inspiration.

“There’s been a few comments about once you’re retired, you should stay retired. It’s a matter of do as I say, not as I do.”



The former Blackcap is unsure whether he’ll be back in his current role next season, but will always be around if younger players from the club that’s given him so much need any advice.

“If the guys want a mentor, I’m always happy for that.”



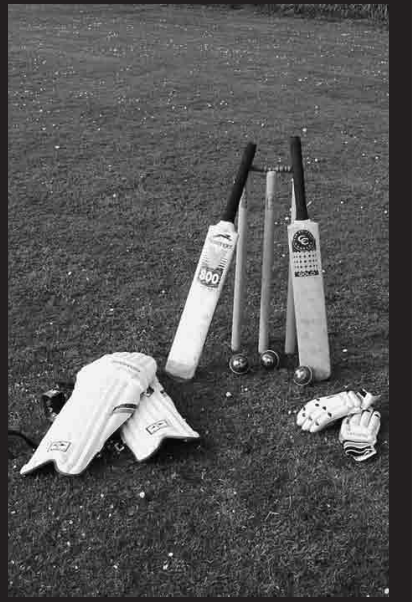
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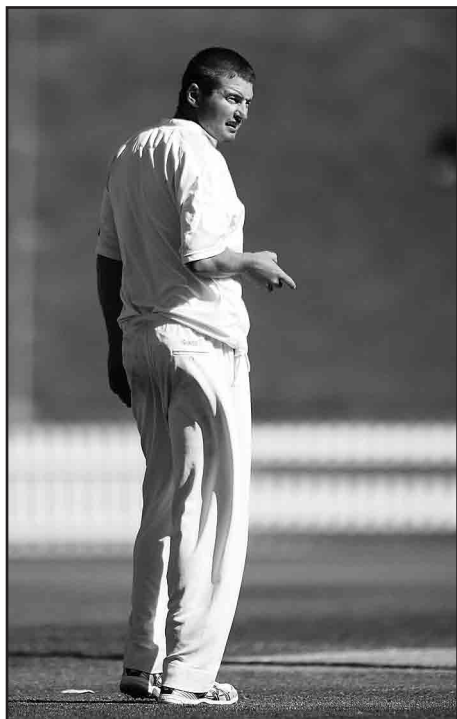
# Aces Profile - Bruce Martin

Auckland club cricket has helped reinvent Bruce Martin's first class career this season.

The former Northern Districts left arm spinner moved to Auckland this season after missing out on a contract at home and has had plenty of success for Parnell.

"To be honest the change has been bloody good getting back to club cricket and playing for the enjoyment of the game again. It's not so much of a grind. I needed to get back to basics and almost learn how to bowl again."

Martin finally got a chance to prove himself against his old team in the



Plunket Shield first class competition after regular offie Bhupinder Singh broke his hand earlier this month.

And he didn't disappoint taking seven wickets in his first innings at the bowling crease.

"I've been chomping at the bit to get some first class cricket under my belt."

He says playing club cricket for Parnell has allowed him to try different things.

"I got into a monotonous routine at Northern. It was nice to be able to try things without getting punished so much."

Martin says it was easy to fit into the Parnell set up after talking with several Auckland clubs.

"They're a great bunch of lads. [Coach] Ian Trott runs a good ship and would do anything for you. A lot of supporters come up and watch."

As for the future, Martin sees his next few years playing in the Aces' blue and white uniform if he can secure a contract next season.

"I'm only 30 and spinners only really mature when they turn 30. I feel like I've got a hell of a lot more cricket in me."

Being a spinner, Martin says it's been fantastic to have former Blackcaps keeper and current Auckland skipper Gareth Hopkins behind the stumps.

"He snaffles everything. I love the

confidence he's had in me and said 'Get into it'."

Martin is also keen to play in the shorter form of the game at domestic level again.

"It's tough not playing in the Twenty20s and one-dayers. I'll be ready when I get the call up. I really enjoy the one-day game - it's good fun. I love bowling through the middle - it's just long enough and short enough.

"Twenty20 can be hit and miss. You can be a hero in the first over and then go for 40 or 50 in the last three."

After the Aces finish their Plunket Shield campaign, Martin hopes to pick up a contract in the Lancashire leagues in England before returning to Parnell and Auckland next season.

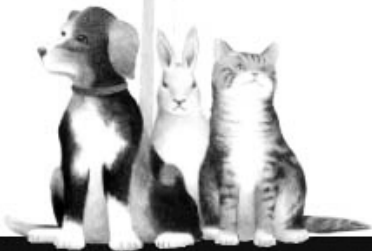


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# Player Profile - Brad Cates

The last thing Auckland University's Brad Cates expected was to be near the top of the premier club cricket wicket takers list when he returned to the top level this season.

Cates spent the last couple of seasons playing premier reserve cricket for University-Ellerslie, but that all changed when new coach Barrington Rowland joined the club this year after the three-year merger folded at the end of last season.

"He asked me if I was interested in playing premier cricket again. It's been my best season by far - I've bowled 300-odd overs. I'm thriving on doing well."

The left-arm spinner says Rowland hasn't been afraid to throw him the

ball in difficult situations.

"I've been chucked the ball first change. He's been more than willing to chuck me the ball in pressure situations."

And that ploy has worked, with Cates taking more than 45 wickets so far. The secret to the 29-year-old's success is simple.

"I've decided to be a bit more attacking. I'm using more attacking fields and am more willing to go for six. You've got to entice the batsman to have a go."

He says a core of experienced players including himself, Rowland, former West Indian paceman Franklyn Rose and Simon Andrews have led an otherwise young side to success



in the Tom Hellaby Trophy Minor Championship, with promotion to the Hedley Howarth Trophy next year a strong possibility.

"Those senior core of players are helping the young guys and encouraging them to ask questions. Those kids have been performing in recent weeks and are starting to play with confidence rather than just relying on the senior players."

Starting to train in July has also allowed for more team bonding and given the players a chance to hone their skills.

Despite stints at Eden Roskill and Cornwall in previous seasons, Cates stuck it out through tough times during the University-Ellerslie

merger because of the positive atmosphere at University.

"The support we've had from the club this season has been fantastic. We've gone from strength to strength."

But Cates wasn't so sure about the future after their first match.

"In the first one-day game we got bowled out for 57 and I thought 'It's going to be a long season'. We're one of the most improved sides from October through to now."

As for personal goals, Cates' aim is to finish top of the wicket-taking table at the end of the season.

"Two or three seasons ago I wasn't sure whether I should play premier cricket. Now I feel I could play for another four or five years."



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# Womens Cricket

## Scripps bows out with confidence

Hearts bowler Natalee Scripps may be calling time on her cricketing career, but she's confident the next tier of young cricketers coming through have what it takes to pick up the slack.

She says a number of the girls in her Central West team have made huge progress since the beginning of the season, with the side winning the Pearl Dawson one-day competition recently.

"During the [one-day] final, one of the players that's come on board this season took a ripper of a catch on the drive. A few of the youngsters pulled some fabulous catches out of the air.

"I've been the bowling coach for the women's development side for the last three years and the secondary school girls for the two years before that. Now they're playing in the same club team as me. To have the youth there makes the older players younger."

She says one of her major accomplishments was coming back from a serious knee injury three years ago.

"That's not how I wanted to end my career."

Now Scripps is leaving for a number of reasons, including to spend more time with her family.

"I've been playing cricket for 18 years - more than half my life. Naturally I'll miss it but I won't miss



*Natalee Scripps*

the pain that goes along with being a pace bowler."

But it might not be the last we see of her.

"Who knows, in the future maybe I can help Auckland Cricket from a coaching point of view."

Along with representing her province, Scripps says it's been a pleasure representing Central West, which is a combined club featuring players from Grafton United and Waitakere City.

"We all have different levels of ability, but we all want the same end result. Being a mixed team we have internal competition, but in the end we want Central West to be the best team."

Scripps says overall the future of women's cricket in Auckland is looking good.

"To be fair Auckland Cricket has done a good job of developing the player base. We still have to work out what that magic key is to keep them playing at premier level."

# **HEDLEY HOWARTH TROPHY MENS PREMIER TWO DAY MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Round 8 - 5 & 12 March**

## **Top 4**

### **Cornwall v Takapuna - Cornwall Park 1**

Cornwall 150 (S Marra 77, J Cowell 4-33, G Johnson 3-32, S Mehta 3-46) & 51/4 dec (S Anderson 37, J Cowell 3-24) lost to Takapuna 154/9 dec (J Sole 32, B Douglas 30, H Keast 4-47) on first innings.

### **Howick Pakuranga v Fox's Ale-House Suburbs New Lynn - Lloyd Elsmore Park 1**

Howick Pakuranga 196 (C Munro 69, J Newth 30, A Patel 4-47) drew with Suburbs New Lynn 141/8 (M Barry 55, G Hay 39, P Cairns 3-28) on first innings.

## **Bottom 4**

### **Eden Roskill v North Shore - Keith Hay Park 1**

Eden Roskill 146 (B Mailata 54, J Castelino 32, R Hira 3-38) lost to North Shore 150/2 dec (R Jones 90, J Tasman-Jones 50) on first innings.

### **HRV Papatoetoe v ILG East Coast Bays - Papatoetoe Rec Grd 1**

Papatoetoe 160 (S Singe 35, J Singh 33, B Schmulian 3-14, S Lipshaw 3-63) drew with East Coast Bays 121/8 (R Lane 45, G Shaw 4-12, I Sodhi 3-47) on first innings.

# **Michael Fearon**

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# **TOM HELLABY TROPHY MEN'S PREMIER TWO-DAY MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

## **Round 8 - 5 & 12 March**

### **New World Victoria Park Grafton United v Top Catch Auckland University - Victoria Park 1**

Auckland University 170 (B Cates 45, T Dineen 43, S Wood 34, G Coleman 6-60) lost to Grafton United 174/5 (C Fletcher 47\*, G Thorpe 47, T Manning 42\*, F Rose 3-44) on first innings.

### **Birkenhead City v Ellerslie - Birkenhead War Memorial 1**

Birkenhead City 132 (D Crook 47, M Selby 3-12) defeated Ellerslie 98 (D Crook 7-41) on first innings.

### **Parnell v Waitakere City - Shore Road 1**

Waitakere City 197 (C Fenner 60, D Morton 41, B Winger 3-46) lost to Parnell 201/9 (T MacIntosh 64, W Shearman 59, K Bunting 34\*, P Hira 5-45, S Cutis 3-50) on first innings.

## **Points tables after round 6**

### **Hedley Howarth Trophy - Men's**

#### **Premier Two-Day Major Championship**

Takapuna .....	91.95
Suburbs New Lynn .....	86.99
Howick Pakuranga.....	82.43
Cornwall .....	74.07
North Shore .....	79.45
East Coast Bays.....	65.78
Papatoetoe.....	53.49
Eden Roskill.....	39.16

### **Tom Hellaby Trophy - Men's Premier**

#### **Two-Day Minor Championship**

Parnell .....	102.71
Auckland University.....	79.87
Grafton United .....	64.08
Birkenhead City .....	61.40
Waitakere City .....	56.64
Ellerslie.....	45.26

# **JEFF CROWE CUP MEN'S PREMIER GRADE LIMITED OVERS COMPETITION**

## **Final - 27 Feb -11**

### **Parnell v Howick Pakuranga - Kings College 1**

Parnell 102 (C Munro 3-10, J Newth 3-23) lost to Howick Pakuranga 103/3 (W Mackenzie 33, C Munro 31) by seven wickets.

# STATISTICS

Top five batsmen	Club	Runs	Average
Craig Cachopa	Takapuna	1096	78.30
Daryl Mitchell	Cornwall	920	70.80
Doug Winger	Parnell	740	46.30
Greg Hay	Suburbs New Lynn	641	33.70
Aaron Jeavons	Waitakere City	628	33.10

Top five bowlers	Club	Wickets	Average
Brad Cates	Auckland University	46	18.50
Azhar Abbas	Eden Roskill	46	21.00
James Nolen	Suburbs New Lynn	42	16.90
Ajaz Patel	Suburbs New Lynn	38	17.20
Darrin Crook	Birkenhead City	37	17.50

Club Cricketer of the Year Top Ten						
	Club	Points	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average
Craig Cachopa	Takapuna	1506	1096	78.30	0	-
Daryl Mitchell	Cornwall	1440	920	70.80	18	15.80
Azhar Abbas	Eden Roskill	1429	369	19.40	46	21.00
Brad Schmulian	East Coast Bays	1292	532	31.30	31	18.40
Brad Cates	Auckland University	1244	194	16.20	46	18.50
Darrin Crook	Birkenhead City	1231	341	22.70	37	17.50
Aaron Jeavons	Waitakere City	1218	628	33.10	24	23.50
Donovan Grobbelaar	Howick Pakuranga	1196	416	37.80	31	15.10
Chris Dineen	Auckland University	1176	466	31.10	30	20.60
Gareth Shaw	Papatoetoe	1164	534	33.40	28	20.10

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