



New Plymouth High School Old Boys' Cricket Club Newsletter



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Letters to the Editor

If you have any feedback on this edition, or previous editions of the NPOB Newsletter, please contact me at cleavermatt@hotmail.com, or by phone 753 8033. I am particularly interested to get feedback on what you would like to see in future editions. Brian Beer is also seeking feedback on his exerts on "A Summer Been and Gone". Any feedback can be forwarded to the same contact details above.

NPOB Prize giving 2012/2013

UDC 2nd Grade:

Brian Bellinger Batting Trophy: Nick Taylor – 522 runs @ 43.5 and a highest score of 165.

Jed Boyce Bowling Trophy: Kurt Ward – 25 wickets @ 8.16 and best bowling of 5 – 25.

Most improved player: Kurt Ward

Corsons Senior Grade:

Ross Whitmore Batting Trophy: Brad Purcell – 300 runs @ 50.

Gary Robertson Bowling Trophy: Scott Fletcher -13 wickets @ 24.46.

Altum Premier Grade:

Ralph West Batting: Dean Stewart – 525 runs @ 45.3 and a highest score of 117*

Alistair Jordan Bowling: Jamie Watkins – 26 wickets @ 13.5 and best bowling of 6 – 25.

Ted Meuli Partnership Trophy:

Dean Stewart and Wesley Momick vs Stratford of 197 runs.

Neil Phillips Trophy Outstanding Feat:

Dean Stewart – 117* vs BHS after coming to the crease at 45-5 chasing 255 to win.

Ivan Jordan Club Person of the Year:

Ali Jordan



2011/2012 Award Winners



Premier Grade Season Review

The 2012/13 season for the ALTUM New Plymouth Old Boys' Premier side did not match the hype that surrounded the side at the beginning of the season. Disappointingly, the side failed to make the semi-finals in both the one day, and two day competitions, and bowed out of the T20 competition against Woodleigh in the semi- final stage.

The season began in unusual circumstances with the one-day competition being badly effected by rain, resulting in a multitude of games being washed out or shortened due to conditions. However, through this there still managed to be signs of life for NPOB, most notably, a 150 run stand between the Dickson brothers (Matt and John), rescuing the side from 20 for 4, to chase down a total in excess of 200.

As we left the one day competition behind us, we started the two day competition in much better vein - a resounding victory over Stratford by an innings. A game in which we managed to post 200 runs on the second morning in 90 minutes, with Dean Stewart making a commanding 95. The second game was again a resounding result against Inglewood. The Christmas break probably came at the worst possible time for us as we had just begun to build momentum. The highlight of the two day competition came in the fourth round against New Plymouth Boys' High School, after being 50 for 5 (a common theme during the NPOB season), and declaring 99 runs behind on the first innings, we managed to win the game outright, thanks firstly to a 7 wicket bag for Warwick Millar, and then a brilliant unbeaten 120 by Dean Stewart. The other innings of note for the two day competition was from John Dickson, a dogged and determined, maiden Premier century against Hawera to save the game in the second innings.

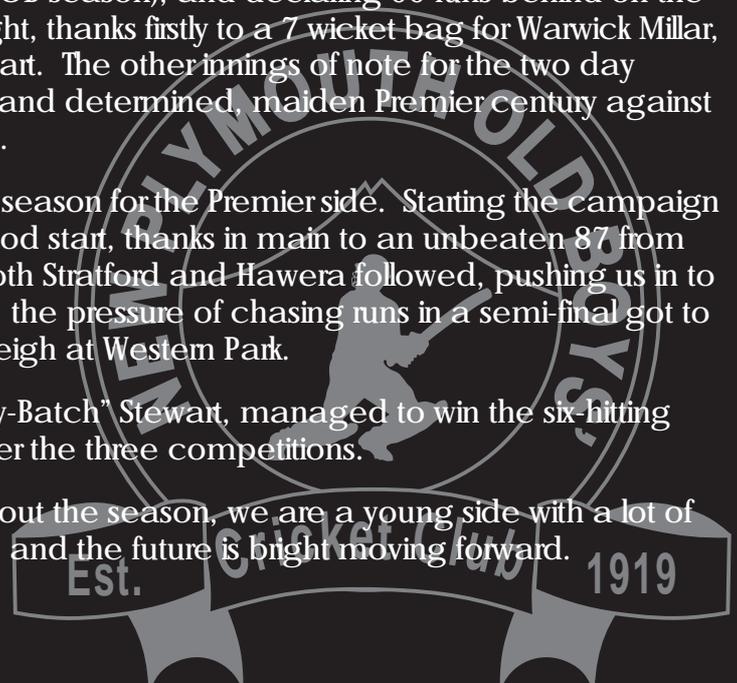
The T20 competition was the brightest light of the season for the Premier side. Starting the campaign chasing down over 200 against FDMC was a good start, thanks in main to an unbeaten 87 from John Dickson. Then two resounding wins over both Stratford and Hawera followed, pushing us in to the semi-final against Woodleigh. Unfortunately, the pressure of chasing runs in a semi-final got to the team and we were unable to defeat Woodleigh at Western Park.

On a side note, during the season, Dean "Paddy-Batch" Stewart, managed to win the six-hitting competition, hitting an unbelievable 45 sixes over the three competitions.

I would like to thank the boys for fighting throughout the season, we are a young side with a lot of potential. We have learnt a lot from this season, and the future is bright moving forward.

Riley McGregor

Captain



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The club would like to extend a big thanks to Paul Phillips at WR Phillips for the sponsorship of a nice Mitsubishi car. Club professional Wesley Monick, was the lucky recipient of this car, and we are sincerely grateful for the support Paul and WR Phillips gives the NPOB Cricket Club.

For any matters regarding cars; servicing, sales, or simply advice, please feel free to contact Paul at

WR Phillips
069685679 Ext 702
0274384669
paulp@wrphillips.co.nz

Young's Maiden Century

Last year's New Zealand Under-19 captain was playing his eighth first-class match against Wellington.

Arriving at 58-3 when Mathew Sinclair stalked off, clearly unhappy with umpire Derek Walker's caught behind decision, Young hit 121 off 151 balls, including 16 fours and a six, before he was last out. One seasoned observer likened him to a young Ross Taylor, and he certainly showed composure and had plenty of time against a handy pace attack of Mark Gillespie, Chris Woakes and Scott Kugeleijn.

"He's a quality player and we could tell that when we first saw him," Stags coach Alan Hunt said.

"I don't compare him to anybody but I think he's a real player for the future. Those who saw him play today will remember that name."

Young said there was minimal seam movement but early swing for the pacemen and Ryder's onslaught late in the day put things in context.

"I scratched around and got mine off about 60 overs and he blasted his off about 30," Young said. "It's a pretty flat wicket once you get in. I just tried to be patient and wait for the bad balls."

Young's innings eclipsed his previous best score of 50 not out.

Article sourced from Stuff.co.nz

James McDougall

Central Districts Under 19 Representative James McDougall was the leading runs scorer at the 2013 NZ Under 19 Tournament. His 550 runs included a sensational 200* vs Wellington in a three day fixture. The game was played at Kaori Park, which was incidently the same venue that Will Young made his maiden first class century. This ground seems to be a happy hunting ground for NPOB players!



Will Young

Senior Grade Season Review

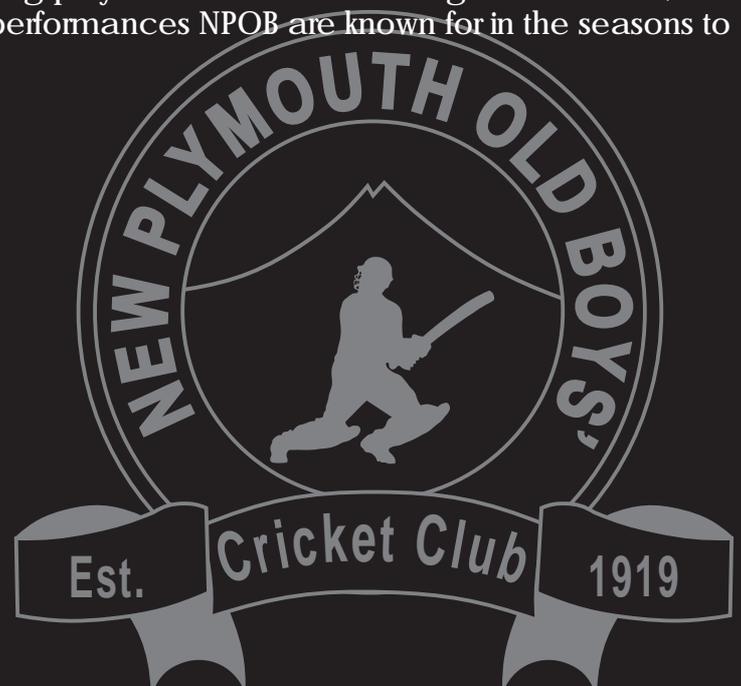
NPOB Seniors' 2012/13 season was a bit of a roller coaster ride - from putting 180 on the board in a T-20, to being rolled for scores well below 100 in the 45 overs format. Often it was difficult to field the same playing eleven two weeks in a row, meaning performances from Brad Purcell (leading run scorer), Chad Quinney, Warwick Millar – were few and far between. Lack of runs was probably the key theme throughout the season, with the team often feeling twenty odd more runs would've given them the points from the game. In saying that, there were a few performances of note, including Chad Quinney and Warwick Millar both notching up tons in the season, and many contributions over 50 from Brad Purcell. The second to last game of the season saw NPOB notch up their biggest partnership, where Warwick Millar and Kyle Pillay ripped apart the Hawera attack putting on 114 runs, before a dubious LBW decision from a fill in saw the partnership being cut short. Warwick's hundred coming off just 28 balls, gave plenty of entertainment to the lads, who needed some much needed relief after a sluggish day in the field. The season also saw the likes of Binash Nambiar blasting a quick fire 40 odd in half an hour, all because he was in a hurry to get to work (2 hours later). His antics of asking for the time every second ball were only matched by his cryptic calling between the wickets.

NPOB performances with the ball were much better, with tight bowling and probing lines a key feature. Bowling options were generally a plenty, with captain Viranchi Upadhyay often having 8 or 9 bowling options available. Performances of note with the ball came from Kyle Pillay, Viranchi Upadhyay, and Scott "dumies" Fletcher, who all managed to pick up 4 wickets in an innings, but all, fell short of that elusive 5th wicket. Scott Fletcher ended up being the seasons leading wicket taker, but he did show that even an out and out quick with the ability to swing the ball either way could get taken to, going for a whopping 35 runs in an over. The season also saw some great line and length bowling from the likes of Sam Mitchell and Matt Lee. Binash Nambiar showed what raw pace can do in this grade, often ripping through batsman before they could even decide what shot to play. On the flip side he also showed the difficulty in controlling a brand new two piece kookabura ball, having possibly bowled one of the longest overs in the season. In the field, NPOB were at times great with the likes of Kane "Mr Gully" Robertson taking screamers, to balls going through legs and countless misfields.

The Seniors team this season was one with a lot of potential and definite ability to push for a semi-finals spot, but often found ourselves falling short of the mark. It was pleasing to see that no matter how good or bad a performance was put on, the boys were able to shrug it off and head back to the club rooms for a bevy (or 10 some cases). Big thanks to Scotty Fletcher for helping manage the team, and running around trying to find willing players to fill in. It was a tough season lads, but hopefully we can learn from it and put on the performances NPOB are known for in the seasons to come!

Cheers,

Viranchi Upadhyay



Lower Grade Season Review

Champions from the previous season, the NPOB 2nd grade team were expected to yet again dominate this division. Alas this didn't happen with the team bowing out in the semi-final against Woodleigh.

Changes to the team this year, were not really in personnel, but more of the individuals role in the team. Such changes included Nick Taylor (Speegal) now opening the batting instead of the bowling (although that didn't mean that he shouldn't ever bowl!!!). Mark Stewart (Nuggetino) doing anything for the team (as long as it suited him). Cam Twigley (Cecil) as the closer of innings and Michael Carr (Nice Jim) now being an off spinner instead of a medium pacer. There was one addition to the team with Andrew Gibson (Gibbo, Rocco, Cody 8%) bringing his ink along for the season. Through it all Dean Magon (Dave, Daryl, dog, dirty rat, dengue fever Maggooooon) was his inspirational best in his thorough and selfless approach to the thankless task of captaining duties.

There were far too many highlights to mention them all, but the following is a few moments that stood out.

Statistic Highlights:

- Three centuries (Tony Earl, Mark Stewart and Nick Taylor)
- Two 5 wicket bags (Kurt Ward and Andrew Gibson)
- Leading run scorer - Nick Taylor with 522 runs.
- Leading wicket taker - Kurt Ward with 25 wickets.

Other Highlights:

- Both Swifty and Thomo being snipered in the outfield.
- The introduction of the bag of fun for the player of the game.
- Friday lunchtime salads.
- Nice Jim's eyebrow raise.
- Boris' car boot after the game.
- New additions to the existing dice games (especially C2).
- Cecil's family in attendance at the court session.
- The endless discussion and feedback session during a wicket break.
- A4 pieces of paper in Wardy's pockets.
- Hordes of kids running around totally unsupervised for hours on end.
- The setting up of a players' association fronted by Crab Fisherman, Hadyn Jones.
- Christmas parties.

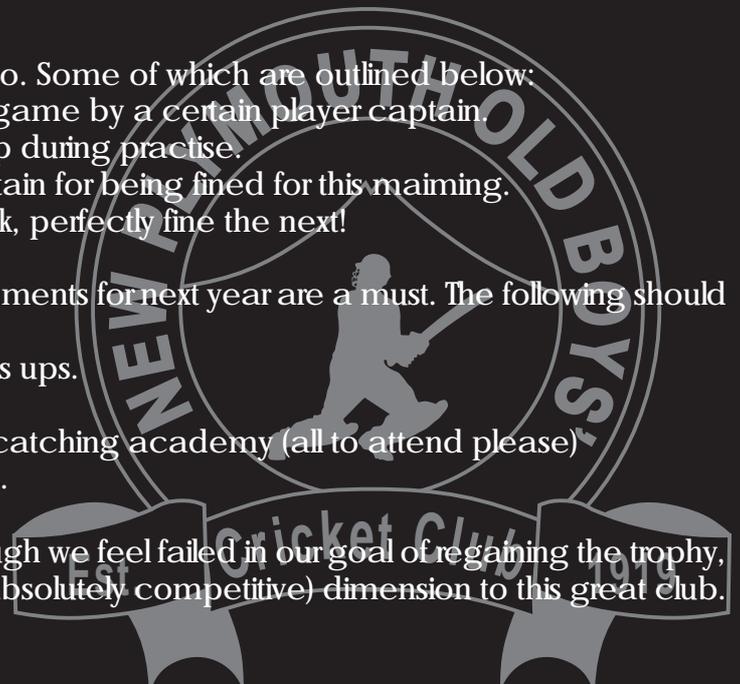
Obviously there was the odd disappointment too. Some of which are outlined below:

- Mascara being applied after the game by a certain player captain.
- The maiming of a U14 Taranaki rep during practise.
- The subsequent sulk from our captain for being fined for this maiming.
- Achilles heels playing up one week, perfectly fine the next!

After a long and arduous season, some improvements for next year are a must. The following should be worked on during the off-season.

- Nuggets being able to do 50 press ups.
- Wardy's sledging ability.
- The Mitchell brothers setting up a catching academy (all to attend please)
- Non-discriminate fielding positions.

In summing up, it was a great season and although we feel failed in our goal of regaining the trophy, we'll all be back next year to add a social (yet absolutely competitive) dimension to this great club.



Senior Grade Player Profile

Name: Scott Fletcher
Nick Name: Noodles
Years at NPOB Cricket Club: 7 or 8
Personal Cricketing Highlight: Playing the Second Grade Final where I got an LBW

If you could be a certain cricketer for the day, who would it be and why?

Chris Gayle, because he is the man when he is on fire.

Worst lie you have heard and believed it?

Anything from Brett Cursons.

Secret Skill? Pool and Snooker

Biggest Regret? I don't have any regrets

Sedge Says

"I haven't got time to do this Cleaver, some of us are too busy". This was in response to a request to complete a player profile.

(Note: Sedge is current premier Grade player Dean Stewart).

Boris's Bullshit

*"F**K Cricket, F**K the world, Can't believe we lost. Time for the room of mirrors to ask ourselves some hard questions. !!*

(Note: Boris is current 2nd Grade player Phil Mitchell).

Whoppa's word of wisdom

"Never trust a South African"

(Note: Whoppa is current Premier Grade player Jamie Watkins).



UDC 2nd Grade



2nd Grade Player Profile



Name:

Hadyn Jones

Nick Name:

Crab, Crab stick, The Deadliest catch, take your pick. I run like a crab. I don't have crabs

Years at NPOB Cricket Club:

Two. I used to play for Woodleigh ten years ago. I never thought I would play for Old Boys. I was wrong. It's a great club.

Personal Cricketing Highlight:

About 20 years ago I had a season where I couldn't get out no matter how hard I tried. Ended up with four hundreds and playing for my province. Have scored about eight runs since and still waiting for another golden summer. What a crazy game.

If you could be a certain cricketer for the day, who would it be and why?

Viv Richards would be nice. Hooking Lilly and Thompson off my nose. The swagger, the chewing gum and the drive on the up through cover. Would be nice to have Holding, roberts, Gamer and Marshall to chuck the ball to..

Worst sledge?

I recall Roger Stachurski questioning my sexuality repeatedly during the usual "friendlies" with Marist. I had a girlfriend at the time, she's now my wife and we have children. Perhaps I wasn't as gay as he thought.

Worst lie you have heard and believed it?

Nicky Taylor keeps telling me he's an opener, although he plays like a free flowing tail ender. I love to see the whites in his eyes when I call him through for a quick single.

Your secret skill?

I have very little.

Biggest regret you have?

Not having played a shot in the 20 years since I last scored some runs.

Someone you like and you really shouldn't - why??

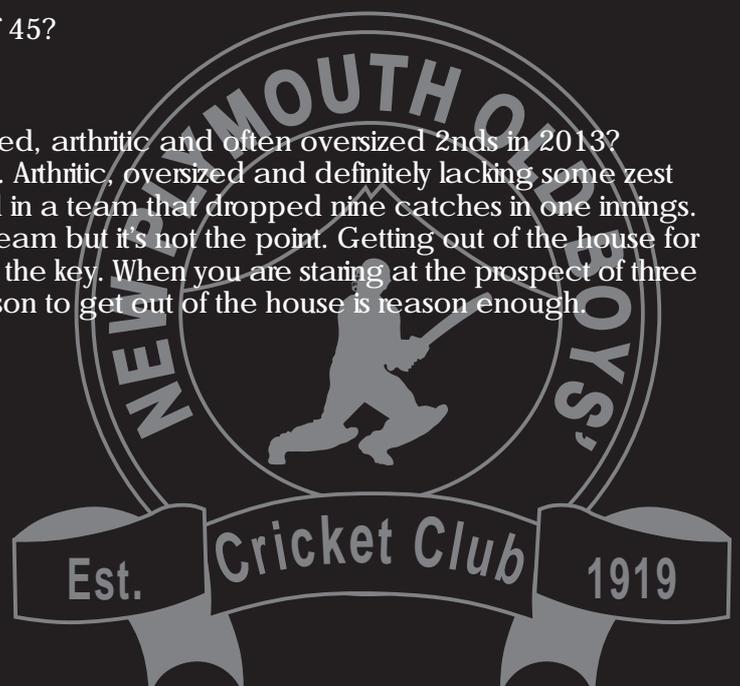
Well I do think Lyndsay Davenport has a certain thing about her. Everyone tells me she's unattractive. I think she's dreamy.

Words of advice for cricketers beyond the age of 45?

Keep playing.

What went wrong with the mighty, powerful talented, arthritic and often oversized 2nds in 2013?

The answer is in the question. Arthritic, oversized and definitely lacking some zest in the field. I've never played in a team that dropped nine catches in one innings. We got beaten by a better team but it's not the point. Getting out of the house for an afternoon once a week is the key. When you are staring at the prospect of three children under four, any reason to get out of the house is reason enough.



Premier Grade Player Profile



Name: Jamie Watkins
Nick Name: Whoppa, Rufus
Years at NPOB Cricket Club: 27 since donning the white stubbys and one pad for Bill Camerons NPOB Tigers in 1986 (with a break for 5 years while at NPBHS)
Personal Cricketing Highlight: Winning the Hawke cup with Taranaki in 2007 and a run of 7 in a row Taranaki Championships with NPOB 2002-2009

If you could be a certain cricketer for the day, who would it be and why?

Kent Jordan when he got a surprise trip to Brazil a few years ago!

Worst sledge?

Anything and everything from the mouth of Hayden Biss or Mark Cleaver (Matthews Cousin)

Worst lie you have heard and believed it?

Most things from the mouth of Ruan or Wes - "I was speared through the neck by a zulu", "I will sort out those parking tickets before I leave"..... Must be a South African thing.....

Secret Skill?

Flippa Floppa

Biggest Regret?

Letting Dean Stewart sleep in the spare room on my Wedding night.

Someone you like and you really shouldn't - why?

Michael Carr as he is the only grown man I've ever seen who can do the full splits (from a jump to boot). I can't help but be intrigued!

Is Rod Latham a role model of yours, if so why/why not?

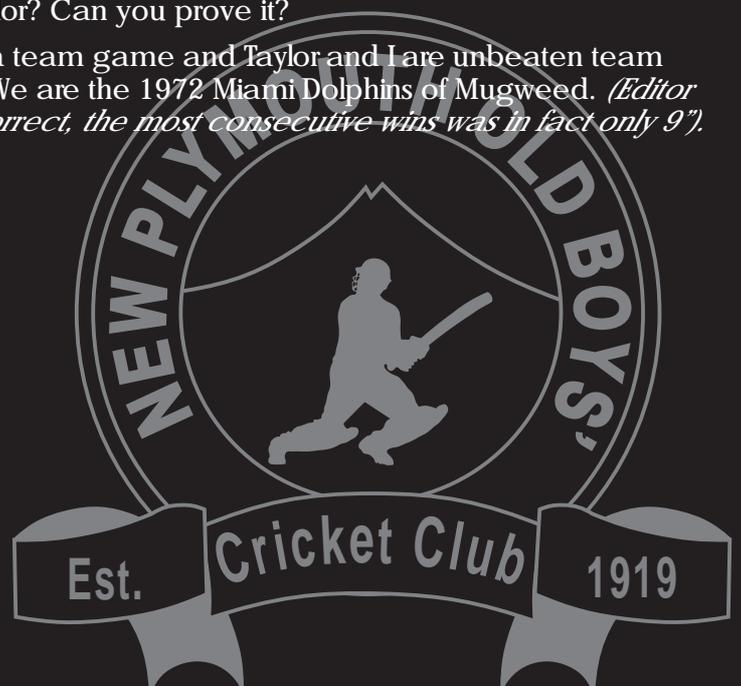
I'm pretty sure I am a role model of Rod Lathams. As hard as he tried, even he couldn't bowl that slow with such control and penetration!

Who is better mugweed player - you or Nicky Taylor? Can you prove it?

Poor question. Mugweed is a team game and Taylor and I are unbeaten team mates through 119 fixtures. We are the 1972 Miami Dolphins of Mugweed. *(Editor replies- "this is factually incorrect, the most consecutive wins was in fact only 9")*.



UDC 2nd Grade



A Summer Been and Gone

For this edition of 'A Summer Been and Gone' we will look closely at two of the many great honours board achievements on the field in the history of the club and what makes them so special.

The club's honours board, hanging on the south wall of the upstairs pavilion, was made and put in place in the mid-1980s. It records any performances by batsmen who have scored 100 or more runs in an innings and bowlers who have taken 7 or more wickets in an innings. The criteria for this honours board was hotly debated by committee members at the time of its introduction. Among several contentious issues some believed it should only record performances in the senior grade, which was soon to be re-named the premier grade. They argued there were far too many variables in lower grade cricket and recording player's records in those grades would diminish the senior player's achievements. As we know the debate was resolved with the decision to record all club performances that met the board's criteria, regardless of grade.

That the board only starts from 1980, even though the club has been around since 1919, is not because of any undue influence by the person first named on it either. Although, come to think of it, after the most sober of consideration, all would surely agree the 1980-1981 season to be a terrific time in the club's history to start recording such events. Match scorebooks in the club's possession were scarce before 1980 and it was simply convenient to start at the date they were to hand. The alternative, going to the library and searching old newspapers, which some committee members bravely attempted for a while at the time before quickly coming to their senses, is best avoided at all costs.

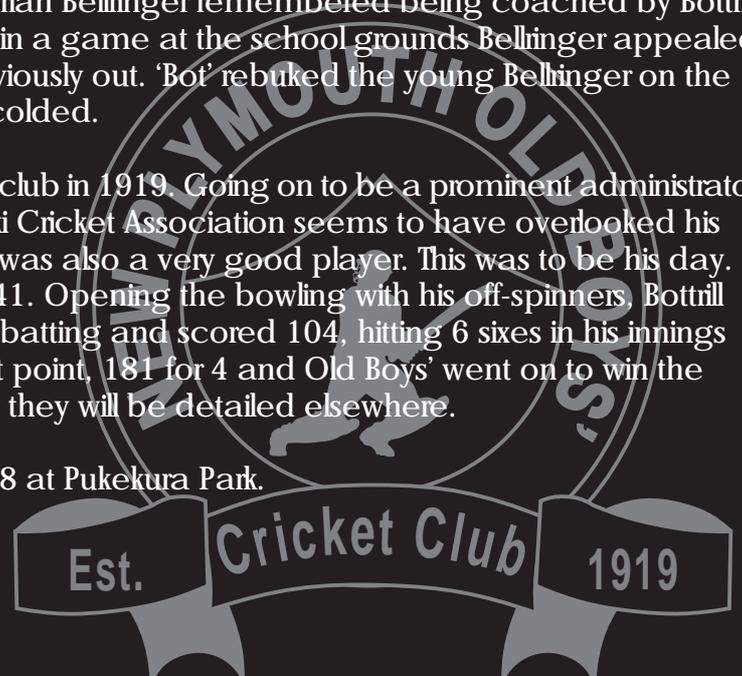
There have been lots of honours board performances over the ninety-plus years the club has been in existence. All of them, from 1919 until today, are now being recorded in a book about the club's history. The Old Boys' club has always attracted a lot of very good cricketers to its ranks. But two players in the history of the club's first XI are in a select group.

On Saturday November 18th 1922, Old Boys' played Inglewood at Inglewood. The exact location is lost to history, probably Jubilee Park but perhaps the ground immediately beside, known as Camival Park. The Inglewood club only moved from there to Karo Park in the early 1990s.

Old Boys' foundation member Chris Botttrill was playing. Nicknamed 'Bot', tall and angular, he was a Boys' High School teacher and cricket coach serious in appearance and formal in his approach to the game. Many years later club life member Brian Bellingner remembered being coached by Botttrill when he was a student at the school. One day in a game at the school grounds Bellingner appealed for a dismissal where the batsman was very obviously out. 'Bot' rebuked the young Bellingner on the pitch. "We do not appeal for the obvious" he scolded.

Botttrill had played a leading role in setting up the club in 1919. Going on to be a prominent administrator of the game in Taranaki – although the Taranaki Cricket Association seems to have overlooked his efforts on the history page of their website – he was also a very good player. This was to be his day. Inglewood batted first and was bowled out for 41. Opening the bowling with his off-spinners, Botttrill took 7 for 24 with the ball. He then opened the batting and scored 104, hitting 6 sixes in his innings before retiring. The innings was declared at that point, 181 for 4 and Old Boys' went on to win the game. There were a few 'firsts' in this day's play; they will be detailed elsewhere.

Jump forward in time now, to January 29th 1938 at Pukekura Park.



Old Boys' was playing Tarurutangi. They were a prominent club of the times, but normally competed in the North Taranaki County Division. The club will be forever linked with the Giddy family who lived in the area and seemingly all played cricket at some level or another. One time in the early 1930s there were so many Giddys playing cricket that a match was organised between a Giddy Family XI and a New Plymouth XI. Those Giddys had a long influence in the game too. Old Boys' patron and life member Ralph West remembers, as a young man, being coached and encouraged by Stan Giddy, a player good enough to play for Taranaki against a touring Australian team. Family member Laurie Giddy played for Old Boys' from the 1950s to the 1980s and it's him the club's honours board is named after.

Performing well in recent seasons, the Tarurutangi club had decided to enter the Northern Division senior competition, which included all the 'town' clubs like Old Boys' and was demonstrably a better level of cricket.

Alan McKoy, known to his Old Boys' team-mates as 'Bill', started this particular January 29th, the second day of the game, on 111 not out. The previous week he had shared an opening partnership of 140 with Martin Donnelly. Now, he batted on to a score of 124 before being dismissed. Old Boys' eventually totalled 319 all out in their first innings, a lead of 157 runs. He then opened the bowling and took 7 for 65 with his spinners – Stan Giddy was his first victim – to help bowl Tarurutangi out for 130 in their second innings and win outright.

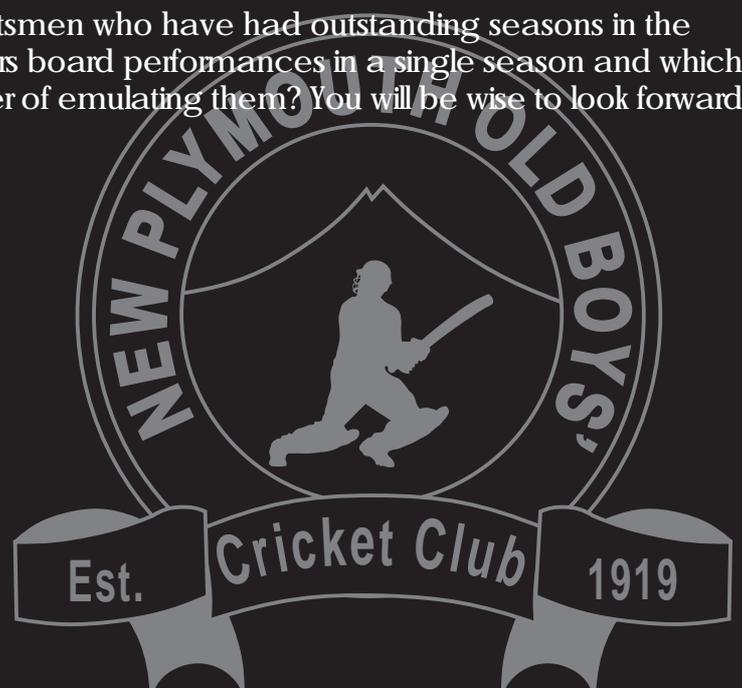
McKoy had taken 10 wickets in the match and, along with the century, the newspaper sports writer thought his performance constituted "one of the finest double performances ever recorded in New Plymouth club cricket." Writers began referring to the game as 'McKoy's match'.

We know of one man at least who saw both Botttrill's and McKoy's performances. Against Inglewood in 1922 only one other bowler was used in the innings, being Frank Eggleton who took the other three wickets. In 1938 Eggleton, by then a recently elected life member of the Old Boys' club stood in 'McKoy's match' as an umpire.

To this day, Botttrill and McKoy remain the only two Old Boys' players to have done the 'double' of scoring a century and taking seven wickets or more in the same game. In each case the performances were no fluke in the player's career either, as both are among the best to play for the club. They are deserving of consideration for inclusion in the Old Boys' 'Team of the Century', to be named when the history of the club is published in full. However be wamed, there will be more to that team selection than just playing ability.

In the next article, we will look at some of the batsmen who have had outstanding seasons in the club's history and learn who had the most honours board performances in a single season and which batsman, who we all know, came within a whisker of emulating them? You will be wise to look forward to the next edition.

Researched and compiled by Brian Beer 2013



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