



# New Plymouth High School Old Boys' Cricket Club Newsletter



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# Welcome to our Newsletter.

Welcome to Issue #2 of the New Plymouth Old Boys' Cricket Club Newsletter. It was nice to get some positive feedback regarding the last letter, please feel free to make comment to cleavermatt@hotmail.com.

This issue highlights the performances of the clubs teams in the 2011/2012 season, and provides some more insight into the history of this very proud club.

The committee are interested in obtaining any former members contact details. Please forward these to cleavermatt@hotmail.com.

## A few dates to be aware of.

Friday 23rd March – Sunday 25th March

Premier Two Day Final vs New Plymouth Marist United – Pukekura Park

Friday 30th March

Club Prize giving held at Western Park Clubrooms - 7pm. All past and present members welcome. Supper is provided.

## Committee Ramblings.

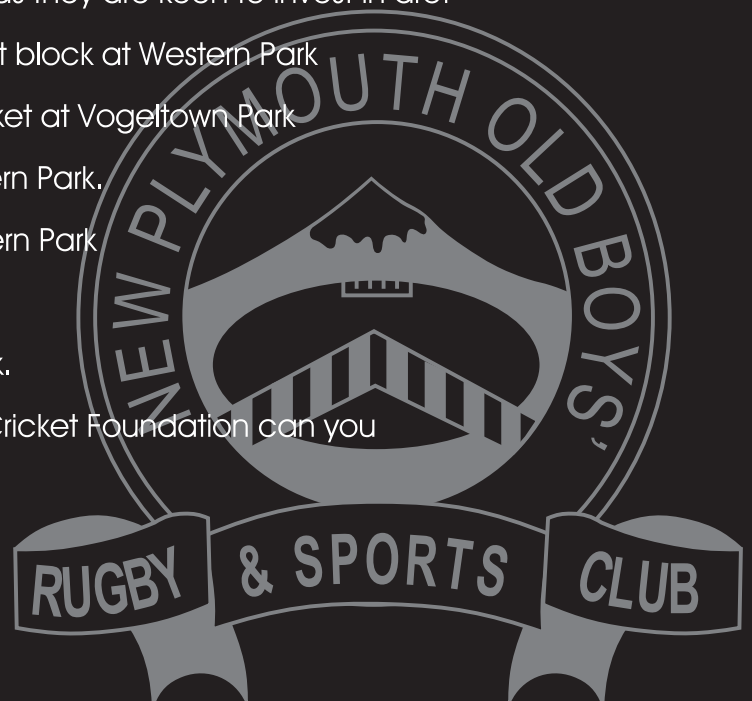
Current committee member Brian Beer has been researching the history of the club, and putting this into a book which will hold a lot of significance. It is envisaged the book will be published within 12 months and will provide an accurate account of the history that has shaped our club. We thank Brian for the hours of work he has put into this book, and we wait with much excitement for the final copy. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book, keep reading the newsletters as information will be available closer to the time.

The committee has also been floating the idea of establishing a NPOB Cricket Foundation, where money raised will go directly towards improving the assets of the club. They are currently in the planning phase of this venture, and some areas they are keen to invest in are:

- New pitch covers to service the entire wicket block at Western Park
- New Pitch covers to service the artificial wicket at Vogeltown Park
- New Tractor and roller to be based at Western Park.
- Laying of a new grass cricket block at Western Park
- Possible Sight Screens at Western Park.
- Development of the Pavilion at Western Park.

If you are interested in donating to the NPOB Cricket Foundation can you please contact the Treasurer:

**Anthony Vincent**  
Everest Vincent Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
anthony@everestvincent.co.nz  
Ph (06) 7591591  
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New Plymouth, PO Box 394



# Life Member Focus.



Every so often the NPOB newsletter will feature a focus on a life member of the Club. In this Issue we highlight Jed Boyce.

In 2000 Jed Boyce was awarded life membership of the NPOB Cricket Club. Receiving this accolade was based on his long term commitment and dedication to not only the playing side of the club but also his administrative role. Jed was a very active member of the committee for 10 years (since amalgamation between NPOB and Vogeltown in 1990 and many years with Vogeltown committee before that). In that time he really turned a club that was struggling into what is now arguably the most successful club in the history of Taranaki Cricket. Jed came back and played for the Premier team (after many years in 4th grade) from 1995 to 2000, being involved in 5 titles along the way. A right arm spin bowler, Jed was a fierce competitor, feared by many as a relentless and consistently accurate bowler. Jed claimed many scalps over his playing years. Not only was he an accurate bowler, he was a staunch and stubborn batter who hated being dismissed.

NPOB Chairman, and current Premier player Jamie Watkins played many years with Jed as a young fella and credits Jed as one of the guys for putting the club in a position it is currently in now. Jamie recalls Jed coming back to play Premier cricket to get the young boys back on track. He installed an attitude amongst all of them that was focused on hard work and a desire to win. He changed the attitudes at trainings, he changed the attitudes on match day, and ultimately he changed the attitudes of those around him to winning ones. This change in attitude has had a whitewash effect on all members, and we still see the same values in our current players today. Since this important moment in the clubs history, NPOB has won 16 Premier titles in 13 years; certainly a good portion of credit can be given to Jed and the others that helped him.

*It must be noted that another former club member that can be credited for the club's turn around in fortunes, appears in our 'back chat' story. Stephen Robertson was a good friend of Jed's and together they worked enormously hard to achieve success amongst the club. We catch up with Stephen in the 'back chat' story.*

Jed currently lives in Hawera where he is the manager of the new Bunning's Warehouse. We caught up with Jed recently and below is the dialogue of some of this conversation.

"Jed, your involvement with NPOB was obviously extensive over a number of years, how did you find yourself becoming involved with the club in the first place?"

My involvement with NPOB cricket began after the amalgamation of NPOB and Vogeltown with whom I had played for a number of years, being on the committee with them and then transferred over to the new club. Both clubs were struggling with player numbers at the time and this was the main reason for the amalgamation. I Continued playing for NPOB Premiers for a year or two and then had 2/3 years with a 4th grade side that was more than handy. We had the likes of Woody, Waddles, the late P.R.Stewart, Sawty, Marty Drav, Boppa and Twigs as the nucleus of the side. I must say we had some very enjoyable times on the paddock and one or two good times off!

"Who in your mind did you look up as a young guy coming through the club?"

In the Vogeltown days I had a lot of time for a couple of guys on the committee who did a huge amount of work on and off the field. Merv Lucas was an icon in those days, but I thought that Max Cross and Bob Hall did a lot for the club in those days and I had a huge amount of respect for both of them, they were great guys.

"What motivated you to want to go back and 'sort the young fellas out'?"

After a couple of tough years for them things fell apart, and as a committee member along



with a few others we were not going to let this happen. So, we managed to get a team on the paddock with the help of some old 4<sup>th</sup> graders in that first year. I remember Waddles, Sawty, and Woody (did not get any runs, but thought he should bowl) helping the premiers out on a few occasions until we got ourselves sorted with some new players.

**“For you, what is the highlight of your career with NPOB, both on the field and off?”**

I very much enjoyed the old 4th graders side, great guys who loved to win on the paddock. But for me the highlights were winning the Taranaki title with the Premiers two years after all our problems. Some exciting young talent had arrived and we played I thought some very attractive cricket with the likes of Broady, Westy, Speegls, Butsie and Whoppa, to name a few. This side was very well led by Steve Robbo. It was a great buzz to be part of this team and I loved every minute of it.

Also, It is great to see them in the final this weekend and I wish Whoppa all the best. Old Boys Forever

## Back Chat with Stephen Robertson.



**Where are you these days and what are you doing?**

I am living in Sydney with my wife and two kids – grown up now! We moved to Sydney originally in 1992, returned to New Plymouth in 1996 and then back to Sydney in 1998. I continue to work in the Metals Industry; working here for Crane Group which is now owned by Fletcher Building. I get back to Auckland on a regular basis as I have responsibility for Mico Metals in NZ.

**You still playing cricket, if so who for?**

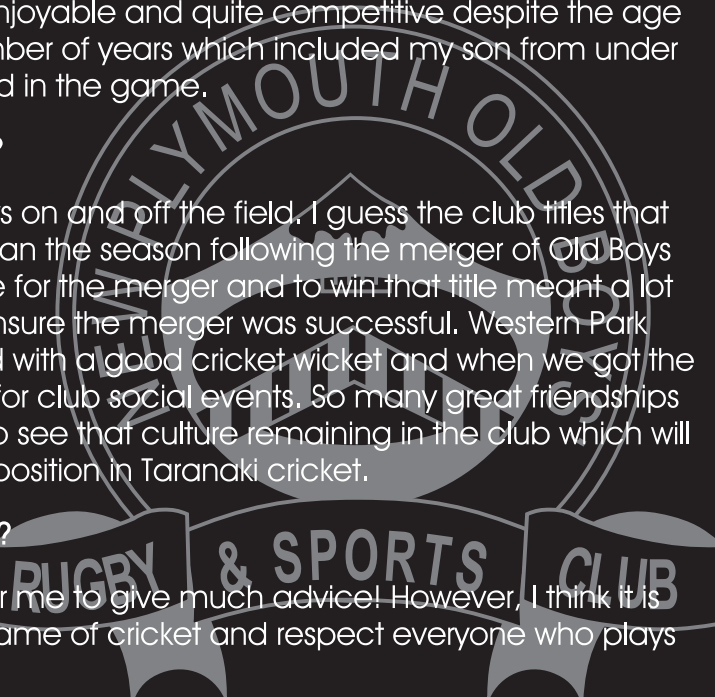
I stopped playing two years ago. I played Sydney masters cricket (Over 35s) for a country club called Kenthurst for 10 or so years which was enjoyable and quite competitive despite the age requirement! I also coached a team for a number of years which included my son from under 7s through to under 16s which kept me involved in the game.

**What is your fondest memory of NPOB cricket?**

I have some tremendous memories of Old Boys on and off the field. I guess the club titles that we won were always special - none more so than the season following the merger of Old Boys and Vogeltown clubs. I was a strong advocate for the merger and to win that title meant a lot to so many people who worked very hard to ensure the merger was successful. Western Park provides many fond memories, a great ground with a good cricket wicket and when we got the clubrooms that provided a great atmosphere for club social events. So many great friendships were formed at Old Boys – it is really pleasing to see that culture remaining in the club which will continue to give Old Boys its rightful dominant position in Taranaki cricket.

**Any words of wisdom for fellow club members?**

I think times have changed a little too much for me to give much advice! However, I think it is important to remember the greatness of the game of cricket and respect everyone who plays it no matter their ability.



# Premier Grade Season Report.

At the time of printing this newsletter the Premier Team was still involved in their current season. They are playing in the Two-Day final against New Plymouth Marist United starting Friday 23rd March. This game is held over three days and is being played at Pukekura Park.

The season has seen the team make all three finals, Twenty20, One-Day and Two Day. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful in two of them; let's hope it is third time lucky! We wish them luck for this weekend.

The review of the 2011/2012 Season will be printed in Issue #3.

# Senior Grade Season Report.

2011 – 2012 was a season of ups and downs throughout for the Seniors, having some good wins, close wins and close loses.

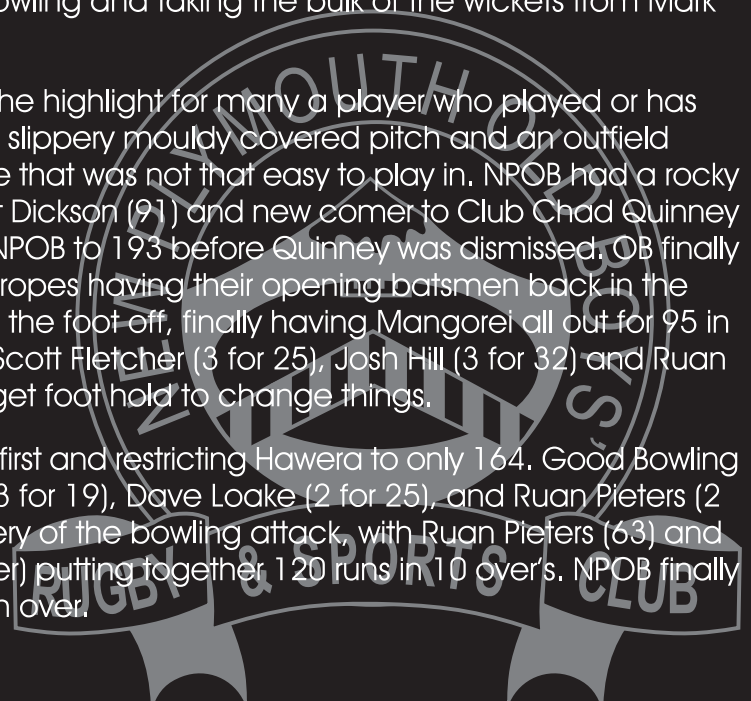
2nd Round Game against Pihama NPOB fielded first and showed with good lines and lengths they could restrict many a team, with Mark Leuthard taking 3 for 18 & Josh Hill taking 2 for 24. Starting off shaky with the bat when only chasing 164, the seniors fell to 17 for 5 before Kenny Roycroft and Josh Hill steadied the boat by putting on a 149 run partnership (Roycroft 118\* & Hill 36\*) to take NPOB past the Pihama total and to score their first win for the season.

A Loss to Woodleigh in the following round spurred the boys on for one of their big victories against Inglewood. Fielding first again and once again showing good effort with the ball Sam Mitchell and Harshal Upadhyay both took 3 wickets for 27. After Inglewood posted 188 in their 45 over's, NPOB chased the total down in the 32nd over only 3 wickets down (Roycroft 93, Ruan Pieters 41, and H Upadhyay 35). 121 run opening partnership between Roycroft (80) & H Upadhyay (35).

The biggest win of the season came in the 7th round against Fitzroy. Batting first things started well with a 136 opening partnership between Kenny Roycroft (100) and Matt Dickson (26), followed by 120 3rd wicket partnership between Ruan Pieters (58) and Matt Henderson (61). NPOB finally scoring 340 for 6 in 45 over's. Top run scorers were Roycroft (100), Pieters (96), Henderson (61), Dickson (26) and H Upadhyay (21). NP OB then went into field and fielded and bowled with passion, finally having Fitzroy all out for 208 in the 38th Over. Good bowling and taking the bulk of the wickets from Mark Casey (4 for 48) and Ruan Pieters (3 for 40).

Round 11 against Mangorei must have been the highlight for many a player who played or has played against Mangorei. Batting first on a wet slippery mouldy covered pitch and an outfield resembling a sheep paddock, this was a game that was not that easy to play in. NPOB had a rocky start being 74 for 5 in the 13th over, before Matt Dickson (91) and new comer to Club Chad Quinney (36) put together a 119 run partnership to take NPOB to 193 before Quinney was dismissed. OB finally scoring 214. NPOB soon had Mangorei on the ropes having their opening batsmen back in the pavilion in the first 2 overs, and they didn't take the foot off, finally having Mangorei all out for 95 in the over. Good tight aggressive bowling from Scott Fletcher (3 for 25), Josh Hill (3 for 32) and Ruan Pieters (2 for 19) making sure mangorei didn't get foot hold to change things.

Round 13 saw OB play Hawera Barries. Fielding first and restricting Hawera to only 164. Good Bowling from stand in player Phil Terunoth from FDMC (3 for 19), Dave Loake (2 for 25), and Ruan Pieters (2 for 20). OB then went into bat making a mockery of the bowling attack, with Ruan Pieters (63) and Viranchi Upadhyay (50 not out) (Harshal's Brother) putting together 120 runs in 10 over's. NPOB finally chasing down and scoring 166 for 2 in the 16th over.



The highlight for me this season was the outstanding fielding performances we had against quite a few of the teams. Just comes to show catches do win matches boys.

Thanks go out to Jamie Watkins and Ruan Pieters for their tiring and ongoing, constant search for players to fill gaps week by week. Thanks to friends and friends of friends that helped out the team. Many thanks to Sam Fahy, Phil Terunoth, Craig Sole, Joel Scott, Joe Brophy, Cameron Hurley and Scott Anderson from FDMC for helping the team out for the last two rounds. Hopefully these boys remain with the club beyond their years at FDMC.

Fielding was outstanding; bowling was tight with good lines and length. Batting was the area that let us down this season.

Recap for the season, we came close to making semi's just couldn't convert the final game into a win.

*Your right there!*

*"I've slept with a couple of people and made some poor choices and put things in jeopardy with... what I was happy with, and that's my own fault. I've got no one else to blame about that stuff". (Shane Warne)*

**Boris's Bullshit**

*"Nice to see nothing has changed in the 2nds – the lower order was still not required for the final. The old buggers, broken, fixed, broken again, relived the glory days at Puke Park!"*

**Whoppa's word of wisdom**

*"Don't go back foot to rockin rods!"*

**Are you serious?**

*"I was tricked into bowling no balls".  
(Mohammad Amir - 2012)*



# Lower Grade Season Report.

The 2012 season welcomed aboard a few new players to the club, and also got back a few senior citizens back that had taken a rest from Cricket for a while.

Hadyn Jones & Braydon Fryer were the new recruits during the off season, and really showed their worth in the batting/bowling stakes. And some solid off field comradeship to fit into the 2nd grade team culture very easily. Also there was the return of long time NPOB stalwarts Nicky Taylor, Nathan Butler, Matthew Broadmore, Scott Ireland, Richard Kelly to make themselves available for the 2nds throughout the season. This was outstanding as their knowledge & experience was invaluable for the team, and it is great to hear most of the players are also considering playing more cricket for the 2nds in 2012/2013.

Also like to thank the seniors whom also helped out with a late practice game just after Christmas to give both teams a good hit out after Inglewood defaulted.

Our Main focus of the 2nds was also to include a lot of the families, wives and children. Throughout the season we held numerous BBQs and activities for the children. And hopefully the infamous Bouncy Castle for next year (Jonesy). Big Thanks to Jimmy Carr for organising the fines, rolling of the dice, to create Home Baking, Sausages & Beers for the functions.

To our main sponsors through out the season. UDC Finance, and Fosters, with providing the shirts, hats and the important after match beverages were most appreciated.

Overall the season was an outstanding success. With the Team picking up the Taranaki 2nd Grade title. This was the first time NPOB has won this title in 30 years. For the boys involved in the Final to play back on the hallow turf of Pukekura park this was a very special moment. And for a lot of us, this was our first cricket title. And the team certainly enjoyed the after match celebrations.

Over the season there was also some special moments on and off the field.

Batting, Boris was in ominous batting form for the whole season. With a high Score of 96 vs Fitzroy. Scott Ireland also made a solid contribution at the business end with a smashing 91 against Merrilands. Nicky Taylor with a hard hitting 81 in a 20/20 games against NPMU White.

Overall the top 6 batsman performed very well throughout the season creating a very good foundation for the bowlers.

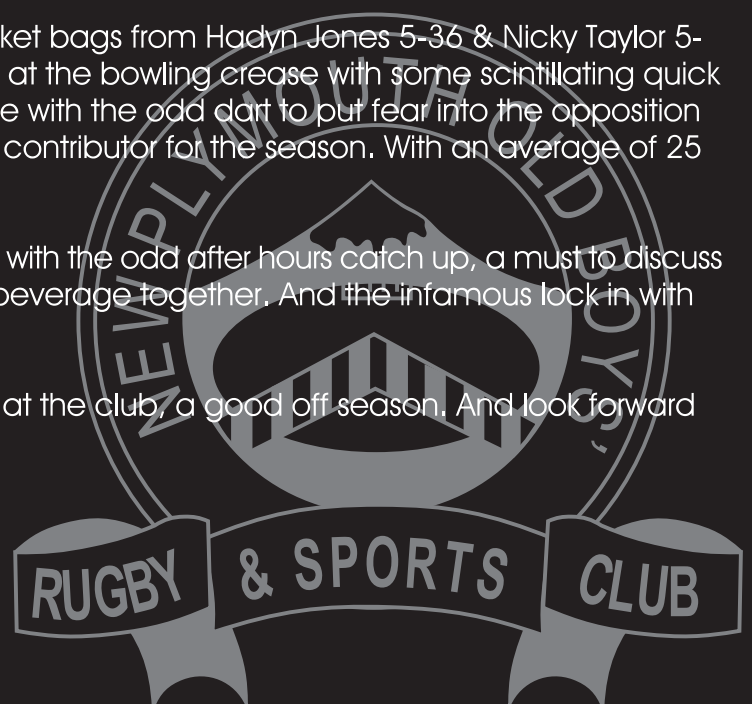
## Bowling

Also on the bowling front there were a few 5 wicket bags from Hadyn Jones 5-36 & Nicky Taylor 5-12. Andrew Thompson was also a power house at the bowling crease with some scintillating quick spells. Michael Carr also bowled with flight & gyle with the odd dart to put fear into the opposition batsman. Wides were also up there as a main contributor for the season. With an average of 25 wides per game being recorded.

The comradeship within the group was excellent, with the odd after hours catch up, a must to discuss the days play, and also to enjoy the odd quiet beverage together. And the infamous lock in with a Keg of pure blonde.

As Part of the team, would like to wish everyone at the club, a good off season. And look forward to being part of the 2nds again next year.

Regards,  
Dean Magon



## Lower Grade Player Profile.



**Name:** Michael Paul Bennison Rupert III Carr  
**Nick Name:** Jimi  
**Years at NPOB Cricket Club:** Not many! On and off, mainly off, over the past 20 years.  
**Personal Cricketing Highlight:** Still being able to throw the ball and playing for NPBHS 1st XI many moons ago.

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

Shane Warne, mostly because I would love to turn the ball.

**Worst sledge?**

Are those your eyebrows or two very hungry, dark and hairy caterpillars on your forehead?

**Worst lie you have heard and believed it?**

That Dean Magon was under a 100kg

**Secret Skill?**

The ability to sleep any where

**Biggest Regret?**

Not being 6 ft tall but I still have it as a goal!

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

Maybe Spock off Star Trek, I don't like the series but he and I have very similar shaped ears so we probably need to stick together!



Will Young





## Senior Player Profile.



**Name:** Ruan Pieters  
**Nick Name:** Hu-Ha, Bok & Yarpie  
**Years at NPOB Cricket Club:** 7 Years  
**Personal Cricketing Highlight:** First century for the Club against United (125) & Playing at Puke Park

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

Jacques Kallis, probably the best all-rounder in cricket today, who wouldn't want to him for a day

**Worst sledge?**

Hmmm, i have heard a few but taking the cake would be as the batsman is taking guard "Hey Andy, are you still taking your cricket mates up the ar\*e before and after the game" needless to say I didn't realise Andy was indeed gay.

**Worst lie you have heard and believed it?**

Don't know if you could call it a lie, but Whoppa and Sedge prank calling me. Hi this is Jack Johnson from Sky City Casino, and I fell hook line and sinker for it.

**Secret Skill?**

Qualified Scuba Dive Instructor

**Biggest Regret?**

There is a couple but biggest one would be not living up to my word and letting a lot of people down.

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

This is trick question i reckon, because I know the answer some people are looking for. But someone I like and shouldn't would be Anthea, reason being is she is spoken for and married.

## Premier Grade Player Profile.



**Name:** Kent Jordan  
**Nick Name:** Widdler, Wids  
**Years at NPOB Cricket Club:** 12  
**Personal Cricketing Highlight:** Winning 7 titles in a row for the Premiers and the Three in one year. I will never forget those.

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

Michael Clarke, because he's just so good and makes decisions based on what's best for the team, he also pulls hot women.

**Worst sledge?**

Probably when Roger Stachurski asked if the 50 I made for Taranaki was against the Wanganui women's team..... I then scored a hundred that day.

**Worst lie you have heard and believed it?**

When I told myself I could play basketball, I was wrong.

**Secret Skill?**

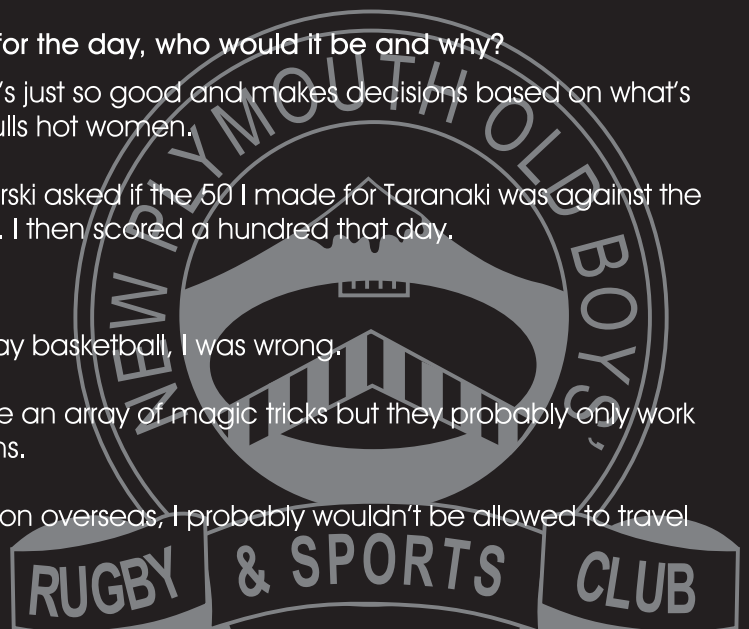
People don't know that I have an array of magic tricks but they probably only work on my kids and Jamie Watkins.

**Biggest Regret?**

Probably never doing a season overseas, I probably wouldn't be allowed to travel overseas now if I had.

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

My Old man, working and playing cricket with him for all these years you would think I would be sick of his temper tantrums etc. but we still get along pretty well.





2nd Grade Champions



Riley McGregor



# A Summer Been and Gone.

The story of the 1933-1934 club season in New Plymouth is one of several controversies and a death on the field. New Plymouth Old Boys' were mixed up in all of the controversies in one way or another.

First up that season there was the former Old Boys' player who ordered his new team off the field in a club match against Old Boys'. Then there was the Old Boys' and Taranaki captain who was dropped from the Taranaki side for a Hawke Cup challenge match. And a bit later there was an Old Boys' bowler accused of persistent short-pitched and dangerous bowling, likened to bodyline, in various matches during the season.

But it was also a season that saw one of the great bowling spells in the history of the club, the first Old Boys' player to take ten wickets in an innings.

E. L. Christensen, Teddy to his team mates, a talented cricketer and musician not too long out of school, was a member of the Old Boys' side who played the then very strong New Plymouth club, forerunner of today's United club. The date was Saturday February 3, 1934 and the venue was Western Park, back then not a ground in regular cricket use. Old Boys' were still many years away from making it the club's home ground. The previous Saturday's play had been lost to rain so the match was reduced to a one innings affair with first innings points available to the winner. Old Boys' batted first on a grass pitch covered by a mat.

Christensen opened the batting, a rare event but an attacking ploy by Old Boys' as he was capable of quick runs. He managed only 4 on this occasion. It was the young wicketkeeper John Birch with 72 who held the innings together as Old Boys' made their way to 172 for 8 when captain Cyril Lash declared, in a little over two and a quarter hours play. So New Plymouth had two hours to score the runs and take the points, or play out the day for a draw.

Early on it became apparent they would not score the runs. Christensen's new ball partner was big left arm fast bowler Jack Kirwin. Kirwin was the archetypal 'good club man' and a bowler good enough to play for Taranaki. They formed a skilful opening attack throughout the 1930s that was probably the best new ball pairing Old Boys' had seen since the club's founding in 1919. They were bowling well this day and four of the first five overs were maidens. Then Christensen struck, removing Kinsella and the highly regarded Ossie Naismith in quick succession. Purcell and Ferry followed, both to Christensen's bowling and New Plymouth were 19 for 4. Some resistance in the middle order saw New Plymouth get to 65 and eat up the available playing time before the fifth wicket fell, Davison for 22. Laurence, dropped by Birch on 1, managed 22 when Christensen got him.

Christensen had changed ends by this time and set to work on the remaining batsmen, with Kirwin doing much of the bowling at the other end. Wickets fell but time was an enemy too. At the beginning of his fifteenth over New Plymouth were 100 for 9. The over would be the last of the day. To draw the game, Hawkins and the perhaps aptly named Crapper had to see the over out. They did so until the last ball of the over and the day, when Christensen clean bowled Crapper for 4 and Old Boys' had the victory.

Teddy Christensen bowled 15 overs that day, clean bowling seven batsmen and finishing with the figures of 10 for 21. The Taranaki Herald cricket writer described him keeping "a good length and ...nipping off the matting wicket with great pace".

His performance was thought it was the first ten wicket haul in New Plymouth Senior grade cricket, in those days the top level of club cricket in Taranaki. The club inscribed the ball, mounted it and presented it to him at the end of the season. It wasn't to be the last time Christensen would cause havoc to opposition batsmen.

Ted Christensen's ten wicket haul that day in 1934 did nothing to dampen local anticipation that the 18 year old might one day play for New Zealand.

(You will be able to find out what did happen to him, and all about those other controversies, in a book currently being written about your club. We'll advise you here once a release date is known and how to purchase a copy)

*Research and compiled by Brian Beer 2012.*

The Club would like to Acknowledge the following

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