



New Plymouth High School Old Boys' Cricket Club Newsletter



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ALTUM Sponsorship Deal

In July 2012 a new relationship between New Plymouth Old Boys' Cricket Club and New Zealand's fastest growing fertiliser and animal nutrition company ALTUM Nutrition was formed. This relationship saw a sponsorship deal signed which will significantly help the club build its resources and financially survive for the season ahead.

Mike Miners, sales manager for the Taranaki region was impressed with the committee's desire to be the leading and most focal cricket club in Taranaki. "Old Boys' have a reputation as a convincing and professional outfit, successful in what they do and recognised as such. This relationship is a natural philosophical fit for us at Altum where we believe in working closely with our clients to achieve our mutual goals."

He believes the ALTUM Brand fits nicely with the cricket club, and is pleased to see the club taking proactive measures to ensure exposure for ALTUM is at a maximum. On the building at Western Park a 4m2 sign has been erected, displaying ALTUM's branding and its link with NPOB. All playing gear and after match attire has been branded with ALTUM, and the results look fantastic.

The committee are very hopeful for a long term agreement with ALTUM and want to encourage all patrons to promote and support ALTUM where possible.

Below is some information on ALTUM Nutrition for Growth.

Altum is driven by a desire to change the way New Zealand farmers think about fertiliser and animal nutrition. We believe that fertiliser should provide both optimum production and environmental protection, and we work actively to develop products that meet these goals.

Our research and development team investigates overseas trends in fertiliser and animal nutrition, assessing the feasibility of new products and new approaches to see if they are appropriate in the New Zealand farming environment. They also work closely with New Zealand's leading agricultural scientists to develop and test new products that are designed to meet some of the unique challenges encountered on-farm today.



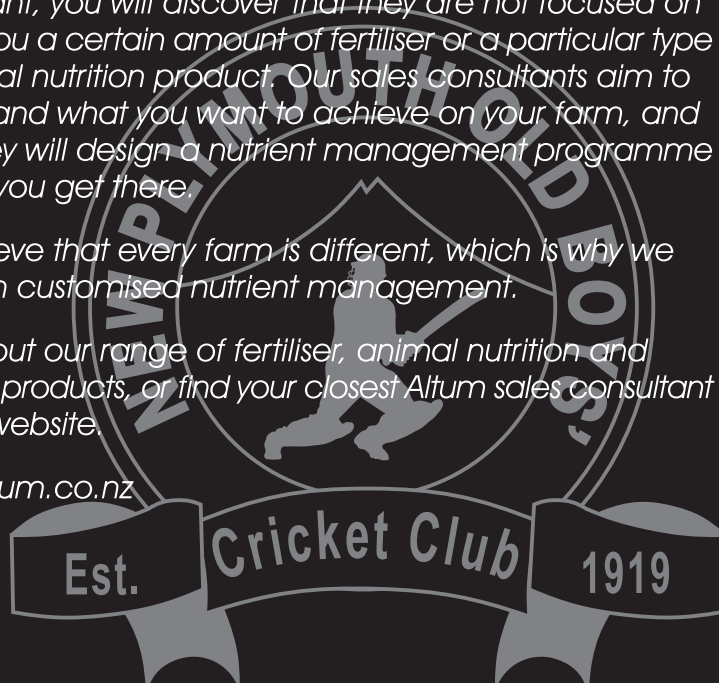
Jamie Watkins & Mike Miners

We have a team of fully trained sales consultants, who operate from the Far North to the Deep South. Many of our sales consultants are farmers themselves; all have farming in the blood. When you meet an Altum sales consultant, you will discover that they are not focused on selling you a certain amount of fertiliser or a particular type of animal nutrition product. Our sales consultants aim to understand what you want to achieve on your farm, and then they will design a nutrient management programme to help you get there.

We believe that every farm is different, which is why we focus on customised nutrient management.

Check out our range of fertiliser, animal nutrition and organic products, or find your closest Altum sales consultant on our website.

www.altum.co.nz





Premier Grade Season Preview

The Altum New Plymouth Old Boys' Premier side has gone through a transition stage over the last few years. There have been many great stalwarts of the club hang up the boots to move into new and exciting phases in their lives.

However there is always a silver lining, and this year the Premier side is happy to welcome to the club Jackson Braddock-Pajo, John Dickson, and James McDougall who have joined us from playing for the NPBHS 1st XI. These three are all talented cricketers who have represented Central Districts at the U18 age group. James was this year selected as a reserve for the NZ under 19 World Cup team (Team captained by our own Will Young) and is certainly one who should be in the runs this season.

As well as these three, we also have Binash Nambiar who has arrived in New Plymouth after playing Premier cricket in Hamilton. Binash is a right arm opening bowler and attacking, lower order batsmen. We also welcome Brad Purcell who has come to us from Sydney. Brad is an attacking right handed batsman who also bowls right arm medium pace. Brad's biggest attribute to the club however might be the fact he is an avid South Sydney Rabbitohs fan – finally Jamie Watkins has somebody who truly understands how it feels to support a team that has not won a premiership since 1971.

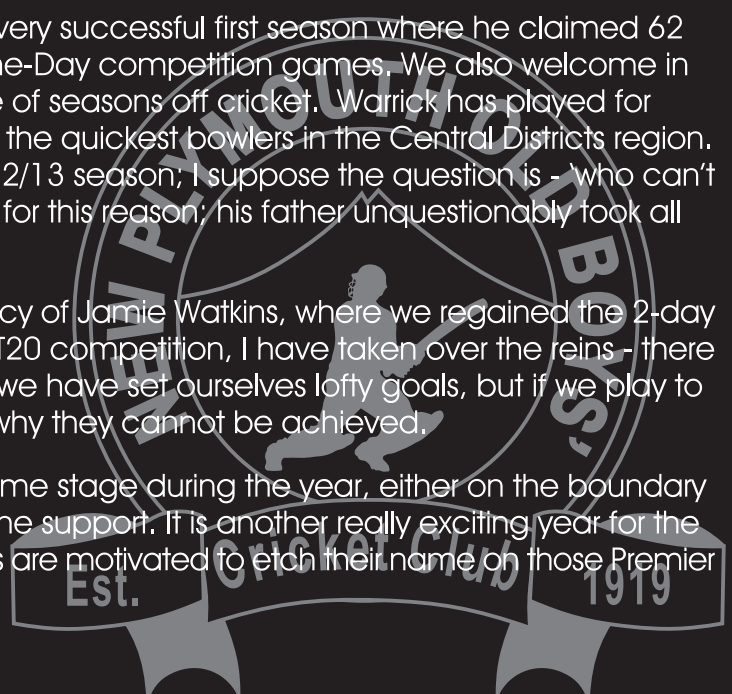
Wesley Morricks has signed to play again after a very successful first season where he claimed 62 wickets. Wesley will however miss the first few One-Day competition games. We also welcome in to the fold Warrick Millar who has taken a couple of seasons off cricket. Warrick has played for Taranaki in the past and when fit, can be one of the quickest bowlers in the Central Districts region. The bowling ranks certainly look strong in the 2012/13 season; I suppose the question is - 'who can't bowl?' Glad we still have Kent Jordan in the side for this reason; his father unquestionably took all the bowling talent.

After a very successful season under the captaincy of Jamie Watkins, where we regained the 2-day title and were finalist's in both the One-Day and T20 competition, I have taken over the reins - there is a bit of pressure on this squad and as always, we have set ourselves lofty goals, but if we play to the best of our abilities, there is no reason as to why they cannot be achieved.

The team looks forward to seeing all of you at some stage during the year, either on the boundary or upstairs at Western Park, and appreciates all the support. It is another really exciting year for the Premier team, and there is no doubt that the boys are motivated to earn their name on those Premier trophies once again.

Riley McGregor

Captain



2012/13 Revital Premier Draw 2 Day Competition

Round 1: Nov 24th & Dec 1
Stratford v NPOB

Round 2: Dec 8th & Dec 15th
NPOB v Inglewood

Round 3: Jan 5th & Jan 12th
FDMC v NPOB

Round 4: Jan 19th & Jan 26th
NPOB v NPBHS

Round 5: Feb 2nd & Feb 9th
NPOB v Hawera

Round 6: Feb 16th & Feb 23rd
Woodleigh v NPOB

Round 7: Mar 2nd & Mar 9th
NPM United v NPOB

Semi Finals: 23rd and 24th March 2012
1st v 4th and 2nd v 3rd

Final: 29th, 30th, 3rd March at Pukekura Park

2012/13 Representative Players

New Zealand Under 19 World Cup Team

Will Young (Captain)

James McDougall (Non-Travelling Reserve)

Central Districts Stags

Will Young (Contracted)

Taranaki Mens' Squad

Jackson Pajo-Braddock *

Jamie Watkins *

Will Young *

Warrick Millar

Simon Clinton-Baker

John Dickson

James McDougall *

*Played at the Chappell Cup



Will Young - U19 World Cup

Senior Grade Season Report

A new look Altum New Plymouth Old Boys' Senior Team will hit the ground running this season with plenty of new blood and a few familiar faces. The team are looking to build on a great start to the season after a comprehensive victory first up against Mangorei.

With long standing leaders Mark Leuthart (broken) and Ruan Peiters (smokin) moving on this season, the captaincy roles will be shared by Viranchi Upadhyay and Josh Hill.

A big injection of new and exciting talent has arrived with Jeremy Thomas (Ginge), Matt Lee, Aussie Brad Purcell, and the Indian invasion of Binoj, Ligo, Binash, Arun and Tej making up the new look squad. Add regular performers from last season's side, Harshal Upadhyay, Sam Mitchell, Scotty Fletcher and Mark Casey and the side has a very competitive look about it. With Glen Hooper and Braydon Fryer stepping up from the lower grades, an exciting season beckons, as the seniors look to join the Premiers and 2nd Grade teams as Taranaki champions.

With the new upgraded nets at Western Park up and running with 4 lanes, the Senior and Premier squads will be training as an extended squad together this season, allowing for a great club atmosphere and better chance for senior players to step up to premiers with good training habits and solid match performances.

With the team boasting at least 7 players born in the sub-continent, it will hoping for dry, turning, and dusty wickets.....something seldom seen in the rainforest metropolis of New Plymouth. We can always dream however.

2012/13 Senior Grade Draw

Round 2 – 24 November 2012

Hawera v NPOB

Round 3 – 1 December 2012

NPOB v Fitzroy

Round 4 – 8 December 2012

NPOB v Auroa

Round 5 – 15 December 2012

Inglewood v NPOB

Round 6 – 12 January 2013

NPOB v Hawera

Round 7 – 19 January 2013

NPOB v Pihama

Round 8 – 26 January 2013

NPOB v Mangorei

Round 9 – 2 February 2013

NPOB v Hawera

Round 10 – 9 February 2013

NPOB v Inglewood

Round 11 – 16 February 2013

Auroa v NPOB

Round 12 – 23 February 2013

Fitzroy v NPOB

Round 13 – 2 March 2013

Hawera v NPOB

Round 14 – 9 March 2013

Pihama v NPOB



Lower Grade Season Report

Confidence and optimism are the oxygen with which cricketer's survive and thrive. There is plenty of both in the Old Boys Second Grade squad this spring. A fine example of this is the fact number 11 batsman Andrew Thompson who's gone out and bought a tennis racquet.

Thompson was granted domestic funding to buy a cricket bat or a tennis racquet but not both. With Thompson only batting once last season, many consider this a shrewd purchase. Thompson was left without an average last year when Hadyn Jones selfishly turned three's into twos to hog the strike, then preceded to get himself out. Jones is in for a batting order demotion.

The team has become a beacon for veteran players looking for an excuse to get out of the house for a few hours on a Saturday and rediscover their love of cricket and beer. This has meant the squad is bulging and new eligibility criteria are being enforced. All players must have at least experienced one of the following ... The birth of two children, a vasectomy or a midlife crisis. Some in the team have gone through all three so need some Saturday afternoon communion.

The batting again looks strong with the prolific Phil Mitchell returning along with Laine Hopkinson, Scott Ireland, Dean Magon and Tony Earl. Nicky Taylor has also been lobbying hard for a batting promotion but will have strong competition from new recruit Kane Rowson.

The bowling has an experienced look about it. Andrew Thompson will take the new ball with Hamish Mitchell while Jimmy Carr will provide ample turn on the numerous artificial wickets he's forced to bowl on around New Plymouth. Nicky Taylor has spent the winter studying the aerodynamics of a two piece cricket ball and assures management he will manage to get it on the pitch this summer.

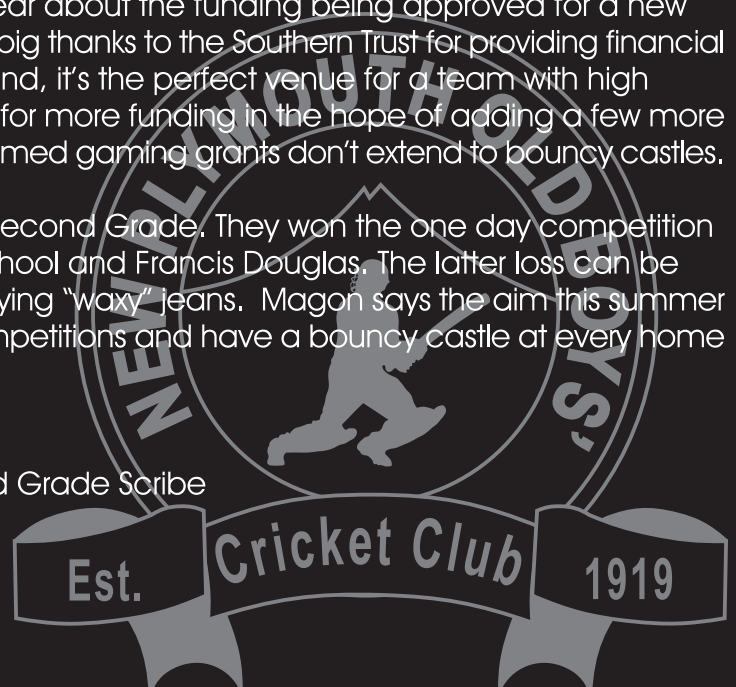
The team will be lead again by Dean Magon, the Barack Obama of lower grade cricket. Magon's biggest diplomatic coup last season was convincing Ratapiko to not only change the start time of a match but also the format just so he could make his wife's Christmas function. The team are wondering what other format changes they will endure this season to fit Dean's social calendar.

Jimmy Carr, the Fidel Castro of Taranaki cricket, has reelected himself social dictator. His contribution is an elaborate fine system only he knows how to operate. His reelection is bad news for Hamish Mitchell who finished one bowling stint with none for 20 from five overs ... Only problem being 19 of those 20 were wides. He was fined six beers and six to ten sausages.

The Old Boys Seconds team are delighted to hear about the funding being approved for a new wicket on the lower ground at Vogeltown Park. A big thanks to the Southern Trust for providing financial assistance. With its proximity to a large playground, it's the perfect venue for a team with high reproduction rates. There was also talk of asking for more funding in the hope of adding a few more items to the kit bag. However we have been informed gaming grants don't extend to bouncy castles.

Last season was a successful one for Old Boys Second Grade. They won the one day competition but lost matches along the way to Boys High School and Francis Douglas. The latter loss can be blamed on Dean Magon who was in Sydney buying "waxy" jeans. Magon says the aim this summer is three fold ... win both 20/20 and One Day competitions and have a bouncy castle at every home match. The first two certainly seem attainable.

Hadyn Jones – TVNZ Good Sorts , and NPOB 2nd Grade Scribe



2012/13 Lower Grade Draw

Round 3 – 24 November 2012
NPOB v NPBHS

Round 9 – 26 January 2013
NPOB v Inglewood

Round 4 – 1 December 2012
NPOB v Merrilands

Round 10 – 2 February 2013
NPBHS v NPOB

Round 5 – 8 December 2012
NPOB v NPMU Brown

Round 11 – 9 February 2013
Merrilands v NPOB

Round 6 – 15 December 2012
NPOB v FDMC

Round 12 – 16 February 2013
NPMU Brown v NPOB

Round 7 – 12 January 2013
NPOB v Woodleigh

Round 13 – 23 February 2013
FDMC v NPOB

Round 8 – 19 January 2013
NPOB v NPMU Blue

Round 14 – 2 March 2013
NPOB v Bye

'Multi' Grade Player Profile



Name:
Nick Name:
Years at NPOB Cricket Club:
Personal Cricketing Highlight:

Nick Taylor
Speegal/Speegs
19 years
Personal highlight was 10 - 30 in the premier final against Opunake in 2000-01 , NPOB highlight was victory against Woodleigh in the 2-dayer semi-final at Western Park in 2007. This was probably the most intense game I have been involved in. Also, winning the Hawke Cup for Taranaki vs Hamilton was very special.

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

Curtly Ambrose - big (in every facet), fast, dominant and living in the West Indies, drinking rum and red stripe all day.

Worst lie you have heard and believed it?

1. When Dean Magon came back from holiday last year and said that he was still under 100Kg.
2. Kent Jordan once applied for the role of the Milky Bar Kid.

Secret Skill?

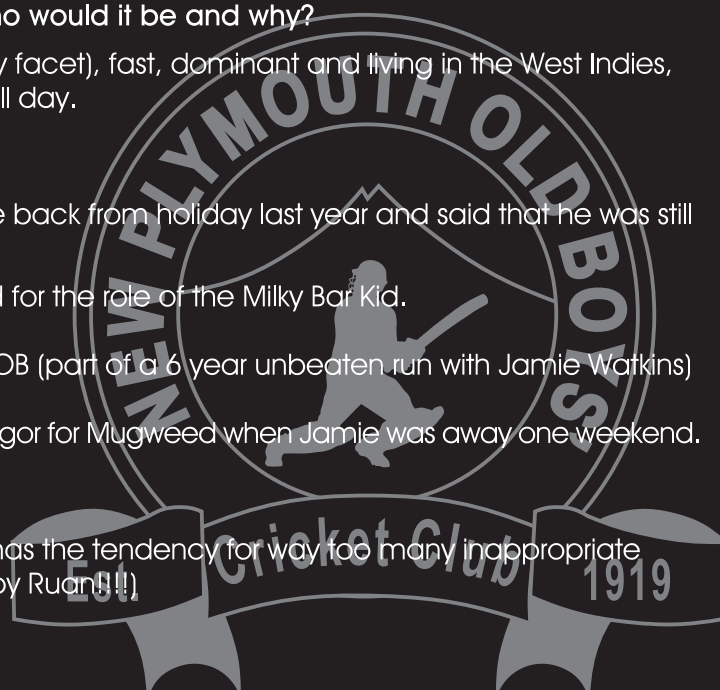
Best Mugweed player for NPOB (part of a 6 year unbeaten run with Jamie Watkins)

Biggest Regret?

Teaming up with Riley McGregor for Mugweed when Jamie was away one weekend.

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

No comment, this question has the tendency for way too many inappropriate comments (see last edition by Ruan!!!)



2nd Grade Player Profile



Name: Hamish Robert Mitchell
Nick Name: Behar
Years at NPOB Cricket Club: As long as I can remember
Personal Cricketing Highlight: Bowling 162 wide's in one season bloody two piece balls.

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

Chris Gayle - because he and I are very similar ball strikers.

Worst sledge?

All of them as I am that mentally strong nothing effects when me I play.....also I find that telling the sledger if he doesn't shut up I will whack him with the bat usually stops all arguments.

Have you ever retired from all cricket, but come back again?

Yes I have retired from all forms of cricket only to be wooed back by our inspirational leader Dean Richard Magon, and also the thought of facing up to the ABC's of cricket was such a draw card.

Have you ever eaten a whole packet of sausage rolls in one sitting?

I have consumed a whole pack of sausage rolls in one sitting; I find if you chop them into smaller portions then this makes it an easier task. (Sauce is a must)

Sedge Says

"Do we have to do these circus, krypton factor, warm ups - what have they got to do with cricket?"

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

Boris's Bullshit

"Break out the tiger balm and new zimmer frame, time to attack another 2nd Grade Title with the mighty 3 try hero at the helm, onwards men!!

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

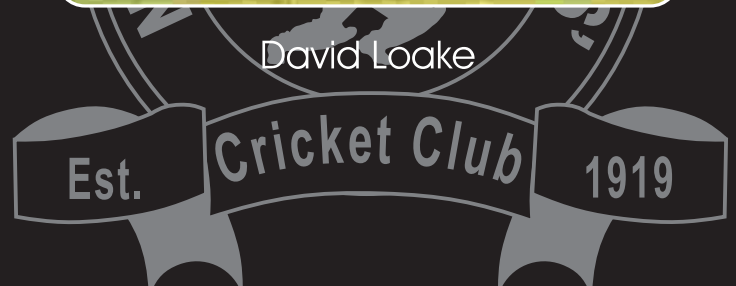
Whoppa's word of wisdom

"If there is grass on the wicket, lets play some cricket"

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



David Loake



Senior Grade Player Profile



Name: Mark Casey
Nick Name: Softy
Years at NPOB Cricket Club: 8 Years
Personal Cricketing Highlight: Making the senior final at Pukekura 2010/2011 season! Hitting 2 hundreds 3 weeks apart- never got close or looked like getting there again.

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

Anybody cause at least for the day I would be good.

Worst sledge?

Telling someone he is a fat! His reply was take a look in the mirror.

Worst lie you have heard and believed it?

Someone telling everyone he had angina while puffing on a smoke and saying the doctor said smoking was ok! It was then I stopped believing him.

Secret Skill?

Can't say otherwise it won't be a secret.

Premier Grade Player Profile



Name: Simon Clinton-Baker
Nick Name: Pup/Bakes
Years at NPOB Cricket Club: 2010 - present
Personal Cricketing Highlight: 1st hundred V Stratford, Jan 11

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

Wesley Morrisk because he's a CHAMPION

Best sledge?

Rod Marsh to Ian Botham when he took guard, "So, how's your wife and my kids?"

Worst lie you have heard and believed it?

Sedge lied to me about life for 4 hours in the back of a van and I believed them all.

Secret Skill?

Juggling.

Biggest Regret?

Going in the betting syndicate at Icons every Thursday night!.

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

No comment.



A Summer Been and Gone

For this edition of 'A Summer Long Ago' let's take a look at just one aspect of Western Park's history.

The story of Western Park is not one that has seen cricket being played there each and every summer. In fact until Old Boys' adopted the ground as its own in the 1950's, cricket was perhaps more often absent from the playing field. In the early days, the committee that managed the ground for much of the 20th century knew they could earn more money leasing it to farmers to graze animals or produce hay, than they could leasing it to cricketers to play cricket. Other public events often took priority, often with damaging results. And when any cricket was played there it was almost always lower grade games because the quality of the pitch was not great. Certainly any competition game the equivalent of today's premier grade was played on matting to provide a better pitch.

After the Second World War, with the city's burgeoning population and consequent pressure on sporting facilities, Western Park began to be used more often. The quality of the pitch and outfield was still an issue however ... it wasn't any better. In truth, there was very little equipment available to prepare it with and a water supply like we have today was still years away. As a result, there have been numerous instances throughout the venue's history where players have been upset about the state of the ground and much criticism has resulted.

In 1949 for instance, Stratford and New Plymouth were scheduled to play there. The start was delayed for 45 minutes as the players and umpires stood around arguing over the state of the pitch and the long grass in the outfield. Eventually matting was found and put down over the pitch to get the game underway. The ground was the subject of criticism in the local newspaper a few days later and again further on in the season.

A few years later the Taranaki Herald newspaper bemoaned the state of the pitch and ground after one particular season, telling readers Western Park could be seen by many cricketers as having the potential to be the main ground for club cricket in New Plymouth, but not by those administrators on the cricket association.

The Old Boys' club members' efforts to improve the pitch, starting in the mid-1950s when they moved to the ground, paid off but in the years that were to follow there was still much criticism at times. Occasionally the newspapers carried critical articles or, worse, anonymous 'Letters to the Editor', which named club members and complained about their work, or supposed lack of it, on the pitch.

One of the most prominent examples, in living memory, of a controversy over the pitch was to occur in a game between Old Boys' and a visiting Waitara team, scheduled to be played on December 11 and 18, 1976. The Waitara captain was Denis Yardley, well respected for his many years in club cricket and his captaincy of the Taranaki team, including during the Hawke Cup tenure of the early 1970's.

On the first day Waitara batted first and was bowled out for 66, Ali Jordan taking 5 wickets. Old Boys' then batted, passing Waitara's meagre total and then attacking the bowling, eventually to be all out for 120. Waitara started their second innings in the later afternoon and promptly began losing wickets again. At the scheduled end of play, Yardley claimed the extra half an hour's time available, was granted it by the umpires, and his team was duly bowled out. Jordan took another 5 wickets, it being his second 10-wicket haul in club cricket that season. The match was all over in a day. When asked why he had claimed an extra half an hour's play, Yardley said "no one wants to come back to Western Park next week." How had it come to this?

The following Wednesday's edition of the Daily News explained all. Across the top of page 10 they carried a big headline that read "Yardley: Worst pitch in 26 years."

"It was a shocking thing" the paper reported him as saying. He believed it was under-prepared and the worst in his 26 years of playing. He thought the pitch had a depression in it and "if the ball struck on the downslope it shot through and if it struck on the upslope it reared."

Throughout the match, this was the end Jordan bowled to as he hammered away at the Waitara batsmen.

But the article also quoted others involved in the game too. Old Boys' captain Ralph West viewed things very differently. He refuted the complaints and defended his team's score, saying his team's tactics were to pass Waitara's score, then attack for quick runs. Ali Jordan would not be available the following week so they wanted him back in the game on this day, bowling again as soon as possible.

Umpire Stan Copelin was also quoted. Copelin was Taranaki's number one umpire ... well officially at least. His view was supportive of Old Boys'. He said the pitch was "not so bad. I thought the Waitara batsmen played poor shots." He didn't consider the batsmen to be in any danger.

Publicly, the controversy died quickly. There was nothing more mentioned in the Daily News. But, in the history of Western Park it was by no means the first or last time that cricketers would complain about, or the press would criticize, the pitch or the outfield.

(You can read more about the history of Western Park, from when it was first developed long before the NPOB cricket club existed, to today, in the up-coming book about the history of the club and the ground)

A few dates to be aware of

Christmas Function - Western Park

15 December

HRV CUP Twenty20 - BBQ Schedule

29 December Vs Northern Knights @ 4pm

09 January Vs Auckland Aces @ 4pm

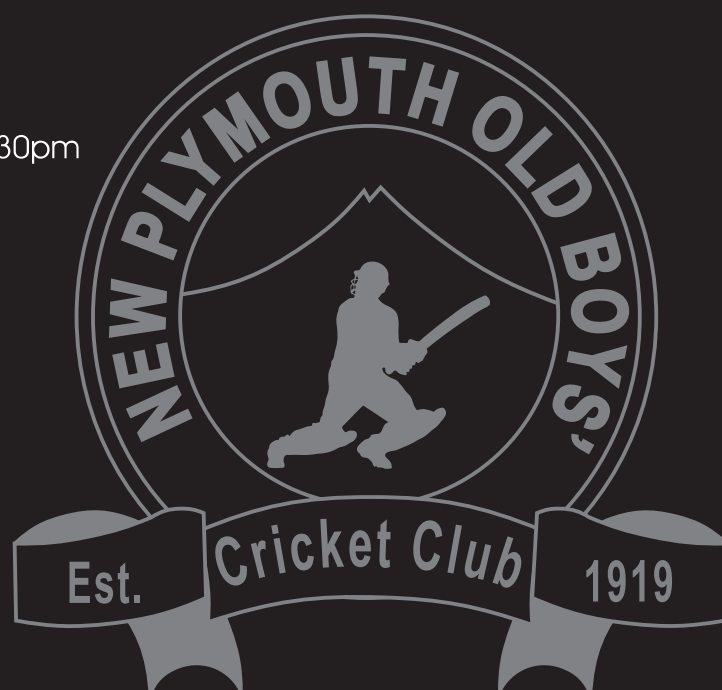
13 January Vs Otago Volts @ 4pm

Old Timers and Supporters Day - Afternoon Tea

08 December Vs Inglewood @ Western Park - 3.30pm



Premier Two Day Champions 2011/2012



The Club would like to Acknowledge the following

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