



Wellington Wanderers Cricket Club Inc.

Spring Newsletter 2020

The 2020-21 season, one in which the club will celebrate its 75th Anniversary is just around the corner. The Global Covid-19 Pandemic has meant there are challenges in putting together a fixture list as well as a programme which reflects such a significant milestone in the club's history.

Schedule of Matches: Matches will commence in mid-October with our traditional fixture away to Whanganui Collegiate School. NZCEA Exams then take over and we will not take the field again until early December. From then on the club will be involved in up to twenty six days of cricket as well as a Test Match Breakfasts and 75th Anniversary Celebrations. This year we are planning on introducing a Secondary School Girls 6 a Side tournament as part of our commitment to fostering the growth of Women's cricket. The full schedule of matches and events will be published on the Club's website (www.wandererscricketclub.org.nz) as well as being distributed to members.

Golf Day: Immediately prior to our first match our annual golf day will take place when thirty four teams take to the fairways of Shandon Golf Club to play for The White Rose Trophy and possibly for one lucky golfer the opportunity to win \$20,000 cash for scoring a hole in one on the 18th. In addition there are some significant prizes and auction items up for grabs. Thanks to Nicki Cruickshank for her donation of two nights' accommodation for 4 at her 305 In the Vines Luxury Villas in Havelock North (www.305inthevines.co.nz). That prize will also include a round for 4 at both Bridge Pa and Cape Kidnappers Golf Courses. Duncan Priest is providing the Bridge Pa prize and Darryn Hartley is also providing some other golf escape packages. James Porteous has donated a cricket book on the 1949 New Zealand tour so thanks to all those for their generosity.

Test Match Breakfast and Matches on the Basin Reserve: The Global Covid-19 Pandemic has meant that New Zealand Cricket is still not able to release its full programme for the coming season. The Ford Trophy and Plunket Shield Competitions are set in stone though not yet released. The Super Smash T20 (men's and women's) and the Hallyburton Johnstone Shield are still to be finalised in conjunction with the International Programme. There are scheduled to be tours by West Indies, Pakistan and Bangladesh. These will include Tests, ODI's and T20s and we expect to have a Test Match in Wellington though this has yet to be confirmed. Obviously until the full programme comes out we are unable to plan our Test Match Breakfast. This also means that we are not able to confirm the dates for our Governor General's Secondary Schools Boys and Girls XI matches on the Basin as well as The Hunt Trophy T20 Finals day.

75th Anniversary Celebrations: The uncertainty created by the Covid-19 Pandemic and New Zealand Cricket being unable to confirm the season's calendar has meant we cannot finalise our programme for the Club's 75th Celebrations.

We invited British actor, writer, comedian and cricket tragic Stephen Fry to take part in our celebrations. He replied that he is keen on the idea of returning to New Zealand and loves what the

Wanderers is about, but at this stage is unable to commit to a date or time. He hoped circumstances might be more conducive in a year or so. More of this is included in the Annual Report.

As soon as we are able to confirm our celebration programme it will be published on the website and members notified.

Obituaries: Since last season we have lost a number of club members. These include Dulcie McMahon, wife of our Patron Trevor, Derek Alabaster and Drew Marshall, father of William, Hamish, James and Susannah and much loved wife of Kate. All are acknowledged in our Annual Report.

Wellington Cricket also lost two outstanding cricketers in Jack Tynan and Graham Newdick during the lockdown. Our thoughts go out to their families and loved ones.

NZ Army Fixture: The club has met with Brigadier Hugh McAslan to see whether we can reintroduce this historic match. Wanderers have traditionally played the NZ Army and sadly this fixture has not been played recently. We have agreed that we will play in March at Barton Oval followed by either a BBQ or Formal Dinner. In an interesting quirk of fate the NZ Army celebrate 175 years this year and they have suggested we may be able to do something together to mark both occasions.

In the words of Imran Khan, "Compromise for your Dream but never Compromise on your Dream".

Evan Gray