



ON THE BALL : EDITION 7

OCTOBER 2011

A PRODUCTION OF THE
HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI & HILLS DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Kooindah Ad

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE

From Nathan Tilbury on behalf of the 2011/12 HK&HDCA Executive

It's great to finally have the season proper underway at all levels (apart from In2Cricket). Our Juniors have already completed a few rounds, our seniors were greeted on the first day of round 1 with mixed weather however this did not overly hinder some big scores being achieved.

NEW GROUNDS

With the season now in full swing this has further highlighted the biggest issue our Association currently faces, lack of grounds. We were forced to play several junior games on Saturday afternoons and two full senior grades on Sundays just to be able to complete our normal competitions. This situation is unacceptable to your Executive and we are working hard behind the scenes to try to address this problem. We have had some small wins in securing Hayes Park (next to Galston Pool) for several senior one day Saturday competition games during the Xmas holidays as well as Mills Park for a couple of Saturday senior rounds including round 2. Added to this are Cheltenham Oval, which comes online in late October, and Carrington Park in Wahroonga (Juniors only) which are both for full HK&HDCA use from this season.

These new grounds help alleviate the situation but we still have a long way to go. We are also working on Council to bring several possible new ground sites onto the agenda and will keep the pressure on through negotiations to ensure our Association growth is kept up with by Councils and new grounds.

ANY PROBLEMS WITH GROUNDS

With Hornsby Shire Council deciding to enforce considerably higher hire fees on us for both turf and synthetic wicket grounds I would like to ensure all three of our Councils are providing us with the best possible facilities. I have already had several reports come in including;

- bad rabbit holes in the outfield at Arcadia Park
- pitch not trimmed of over growing grass at Cowan
- burn mark in pitch at Montview West
- burn mark in pitch at Holland Reserve

I encourage both junior and senior competition people to report any problems at all with the grounds, facilities and or pitches. I can be emailed at president@hkhdca.com.au

KEYS FOR GROUNDS

The HK&HDCA Executive are currently working on providing clubs with keys and the responsibility for unlocking ground amenities at the start of our junior games and locking them at the end of the playing day. Lack of access to toilets at grounds has been a problem for as long as I remember but be assured the Association Executive are working on a plan to fully address this once and for all.

NEW HK&HDCA SPONSOR – HORNSBY RSL

I am very pleased to announce HK&HDCA's newest sponsor for the 2011/12 season in Hornsby RSL.

We encourage all HK&HDCA club delegates to become members of Hornsby RSL as it is intended that the RSL will become the informal "home base" for the HK&HDCA.

I would like to thank our Executive Officer, Ben Gussey, for the hard work he put into making this new relationship with Hornsby RSL work.

In addition to their sponsorship we are talking to the RSL about have a number of our wonderful and important HK&HDCA trophies on display in the RSL club rather than locked up in a shed for most of the year.

Hornsby RSL join Triforce, Kookaburra and Kooindah Waters as our sponsors for 2011/12. We strongly encourage you to support those you support us.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

HK&HDCA GOLF DAY AT KOOINDAH WATERS (from Geoff Hasler)

We are very happy to announce our upcoming HK&HDCA Golf Day at Kooindah Waters.

DATE: Friday 11th November

TIME: Be at Kooindah (for more information, please visit <http://www.koindahwaters.com.au>) by 8.45 for shotgun start at 9.15.

FORMAT: 4 ball Ambrose event (Teams of four players - everyone hits off the tee, the best shot is selected, then everyone plays their next shot from the selected spot - everyone is therefore involved in every shot - all the way into the hole).

All players, both regular golfers and social golfers are very welcome. Enter a team of 4 for your club or cricket team - if you have more than four, we will organise teams for you.

Nearest the pins prizes, Overall Winning Team - trophy and great prizes from Kooindah Waters Resort.

COST: \$55.00 per player (includes sausage sizzle BBQ at the end of the day)

NOTE: We require a minimum of 40 players – maximum of 72 players. Register with Geoff Hasler at gjh1946@hotmail.com first in first served!

HK&HDCA WELCOMES EPPING CC

Epping CC usually only has teams in the Sydney Shires competition but for this season the HK&HDCA have accepted their affiliation and we welcome their 5th grade team into our B2 competition. This is the third new club in the HK&HDCA for season 2011/12. Epping join North Shore and Ku-ring-gai District as new HK&HDCA affiliated clubs. We hope this is the start of a long affiliation between HK&HDCA and all three new clubs.

COACHES ASSOCIATION NEXT CLINIC (from Bruce Wood)

The HKHDCCA (Coaches' Association) is taking late bookings for its cricket clinic in partnership with ND's at Mark Taylor Oval, Waitara– Wed. 5th, Thurs. 6th & Fri. 7th October 2011 (9.00am to 12.30pm each day). This will be another fantastic coaching clinic for the youngsters so I encourage all clubs to actively support this initiative.

See Registration Form: www.hkhdca.com.au/files/2921/files/coaching/HK_ND_Coaching_Clinic_Oct-2011.pdf

As an added incentive for junior players to attend this cricket clinic, HK&HDCA sponsor, Triforce Sports, will provide each child with a voucher to collect a free size 4 or 5 Slazenger willow cricket bat when they next visit the Bella Vista store. Thanks are extended to Abbas Aly for this generous offer.

Enquiries – contact Bruce Wood, bruce.wood@hkhdca.com.au Ph. 0412 688 629.

KOOKABURRA CUP

I am extremely pleased to confirm that Kookaburra have come to the party with agreeing to further sponsorship of the HK&HDCA in the form of the naming rights of our A2 competition. In return we will receive \$1,500.00 & items to be raffled/auction or balls for further value of at least a further \$500. We will have exact details in writing from Kookaburra later this week.

This is a terrific get for the Association & I would like to thank Abbas Aly for his work in negotiating this deal on behalf of the HK&HDCA. This gives us something to build on for the future.

As agreed at the Executive meeting last Monday the Kookaburra Cup is the name of the competition & it should be awarded to the Minor Premiers of the A2 grade. The Premiers of the competition will be awarded the traditional Baulkham Hills Shire trophy.

GROUNDS

THE HORNSBY TURF PITCH SITUATION

During the latter part of winter, HK&HDCA has been fighting a battle with Hornsby Shire Council employees and most of its councillors to preserve some of the turf pitches in the Shire.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful. It became increasingly obvious that Council officers were unwilling to listen to any compromise, or to give us reasonable time to work through alternatives. Mr Robert Stephens, the Executive Manager, Environment, and Mr Peter Kemp, the Manager Parks and Landscapes, were determined to remove facilities that had been in use by the local cricket community for nearly half a century.

On 31 August 2011, a Report prepared by Hornsby Council's Deputy Mayor was presented to the Council meeting, recommending the destruction of turf pitches at Somerville Park, Epping and at West Epping Oval. Cr Bruce Mills (Ward B) and Cr Robert Browne (Ward C) spoke strongly against the proposal, moving a workable compromise motion to close only West Epping as a turf facility, but giving cricketers an extended option before a decision on Somerville Park was made.

It should be noted that these two councillors were the only ones to support the cricketers in any way. The Mayor, Cr Berman, abstained, giving as his reason that he was Patron of our Association and a Committee Member of the Northern District Cricket Club. Councillor Chopra was absent from the meeting.

The following Councillors voted for the removal of the turf pitches: Cr Mick Smart (Ward A), who moved that the pitches be destroyed. Cr Steve Russell (Ward A) who seconded the motion. Cr Steve Evans (Ward B), Cr Michael Hutchence (Ward C), Cr Wendy McMurdo (Ward A) and Cr Andrew Martin (Ward B) supported digging the pitches up.

With a burst of enthusiasm not always evident in Council operations, Council staff were contacted immediately after the meeting and by 8am the following day, Somerville Park no longer had a turf pitch.

In case you may be wondering how this affects HK&HDCA, as we don't use Somerville or West Epping Ovals, we have now lost half use of Storey Park for the season. This is a turf ground which HK&HDCA has enjoyed using for more than 50 years. Somerville Park was previously used by Northern District 5th Grade and therefore they have to be relocated (to Storey Park). This has caused additional problems as Hornsby DCC's In2Cricket centre has to relocate for a number of sessions when ND's 5th Grade have one-day games that start at 10am.

GROUNDS

However this is sadly only part of the story. The Shire has lost two turf grounds and local cricket clubs and Associations have had massive fee increases imposed by Hornsby Council on the hire of turf grounds (30% increase) and astro wicket grounds (15%) in 2011/12.

Some HK&HDCA club delegates may remember that our Association hosted the same two Hornsby Council senior staff members who recommended the loss of two turf pitches at a HK&HDCA Council meeting in late February 2011. At that Council meeting, Kemp & Stephens appealed to the Hornsby Shire based cricket clubs to support the proposed rate increase (infrastructure levy). Then in a move that has left us feeling betrayed, the same week the HSC rate increase was approved, Mr Kemp announced to local cricket representatives Hornsby Council's plans to remove the two turf wickets!

The Councillors who have supported this measure did not discuss the matter in any way with any local clubs or Associations. They made no attempt to understand the impact – they were just determined to make a saving regardless of the detrimental impact on local cricket in the district. They could have easily sat down with the local cricket representatives and worked out some other logical solutions, many of which were suggested by the Northern Metropolitan Cricket Council, however they refused. Local cricket clubs have not been treated with this simple courtesy, when years of tradition are being overthrown by bureaucracy, so we strongly suggest that clubs and their members write to their local Councillors and make their views crystal clear. This may only be the beginning of an ongoing plan by Hornsby Council to progressively remove cricket facilities in the Shire. Local cricketers will need to make sure that this terrible decision by Council has ramifications in September 2012 at the next Council elections. HK&HDCA will be lobbying Council candidates to understand who will be supporting local cricket and who does not commit to support local cricket.

Senior representatives on the Northern Metropolitan Cricket Council, which comprises HK&HDCA, ND's, NDCA & the local Shires clubs, have been working hard to retain as many cricket ovals in the district as possible, however it's also important for our affiliated clubs, especially in the Hornsby district, to make sure their voices are heard. This can be done by submitting supportive comments on the Hornsby Advocate newspaper website <http://hornsby-advocate.whereilive.com.au/news/story/16-days-out-from-the-start-of-the-cricket-season-council-has/> or by maintaining pressure on the Hornsby Shire Councillors, via the Mayor nberman@hornsby.nsw.gov.au in the lead up to next year's Local Government elections. Local Hornsby Councillor contact details can be found on <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/about-council/councillors>.

Nathan Tilbury
HK&HDCA – President
0403 227 560
president@hkhdca.com.au
16 September 2011

FROM TOM'S DESK

OUR TURF COMPETITION

It was a poignant moment for old-timers such as I to note that the season started without an A Grade game on Storey Park. The ground was being used by the Northern District Fifth Grade side, including the Hornsby Mayor, Nick Berman.

It is not the aim of this article to comment on the justice of this situation. That is for the whole cricket community to judge. Rather, as a person who was an office-bearer of the Association in the 1960s, I would like to revisit the original planning and decision-making that set up our A Grade competition.

We had been using Storey Park since 1953, but in 1966, the Glade became available, followed quickly in 1969 by Parklands and Berowra. In the case of Parklands and Berowra, the decision by the Council to provide top class grounds in the northern suburbs of the Shire was deliberate, to balance the five turf pitches in the Epping-Pennant Hills district.

There was a great deal of discussion in the 1960s as to how the new pitches should be used. Some favoured entry into the Shires competition, but this would have meant travel, perhaps to distant parts of Sydney, and a standard that would not challenge our better players.

Instead, we looked closely at our situation. We were on the outskirts of Sydney, which made travel difficult for some who may otherwise have sought to play grade cricket. Our district was changing in demography and we had a growing number of people who had ambitions in the trades, the business world, the professions and the academic sphere. Many of these people were very capable cricketers who may have given the game away if they had to travel or train heavily.

So, our Association took the position, best articulated by the Late Jack McCormick, that we could provide a top class competition that suited the needs and aspirations of our local area. It was a competition that could be enjoyed by young players in the course of their development and by older players, sometimes returning from successful years in grade cricket.

Comparison with other parts of Sydney is totally invalid. At no stage did we form a "third tier" of cricket competitions. From the outset, we drew on players with very high levels of ability. Over the years, we have had a test player, several State players and numerous grade players taking part in the A Grade competition. Not only have we produced cricketers, we have also helped develop politicians, judges, barristers, doctors, several headmasters, accountants, ministers of religion and the occasional criminal.

We have a unique competition and we should give due credit to people such as Jack McCormick for their vision and understanding of the cricket needs of the district.

Tom Richmond, OAM
Life Member and Patron

HKHDCCA & REPS

HK&HDCA U/10 Development Program and Foster Shield selection trials

At the request of the HK&HDCA Rep. Committee, the Coaches' Association conducted an innovative U/10 development program at James Park, Hornsby, during the 2011 off-season.

It was decided that it would be beneficial for our youngest representative age group to have some properly structured coaching in order to learn the fundamentals of the game and the correct techniques, particularly in their transition from soft to hard ball cricket. This was an exciting new direction for the entry point into HK&HDCA representative cricket, which enhanced the youngsters' skills and confidence, whilst also increasing the awareness of our representative program.

Five coaching sessions were held on Sundays 29 May, 19 June, 31 July, 14 August & 4 September 2011, with a total attendance of 252 boys (average over 50 per session). 77 boys attended at least two sessions of the U/10 development program. I wish to thank all the players for their enthusiasm at the sessions; the parents for their support and co-operation; and the accredited coaches for their commitment to the program and their genuine interest in the development of the players.

HKHDCCA supplied between 7 – 9 accredited coaches at each session, comprising Bruce Wood (Co ordinator), Andrew Lowe, Nick Cheadle, Justin Ephthorp, Josh Miller, Peter Watts, Daniel Wood, Tim Matson, Jamie Matson, James Madden, Marius Levitt, Tom Green, Nathan Tanner, Irfan Baig & Lewis Halliday.

It was evident that all the players significantly improved their batting, bowling and fielding skills in a positive and enjoyable environment. Marisa Levitt, HK&HDCA U/10 Rep. Convenor, introduced an online booking system and co-ordinated the attendances very well for each session. Due to the success of this inaugural off season coaching program designed specifically for the youngest representative age group, it is intended that this will become an annual event, as it provides a solid foundation for the future.

One of the objectives of the U/10 development program was to identify and develop young talented players in preparation for the Foster Shield representative competition in 2011/12. The U/10 rep. trials were held on 11 & 18 September 2011 and two strong teams were selected – refer to:

www.hkhdca.com.au/files/2921/files/representatives/2011-12/HKHDCA_Foster-Shield_selected-teams_2011-12.pdf

Bruce Wood
HKHDCCA President



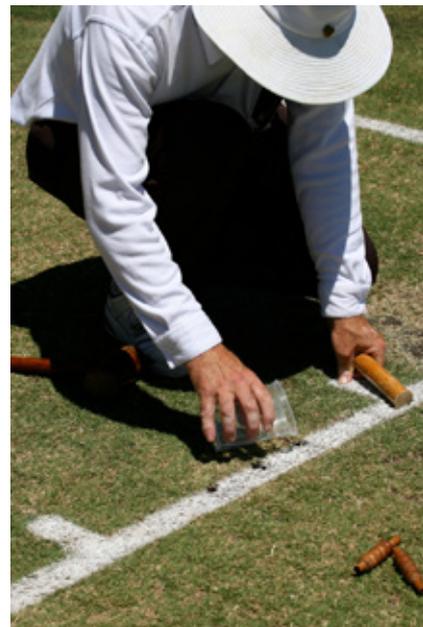
Photo

(Above) HK&HDCA U/10 Development Program at James Park – Session 3 – Sunday, 31 July 2011

Captain's Ticket Course

As announced at the last Council meeting, the customary Captains Ticket Course will be held on Mondays 10th and 17th October at West Pennant Hills Sports Club commencing at 7.30pm. The first night will consist of a discussion forum of the MCC Laws of Cricket and Local Playing Rules, whilst the open book exam with multiple choice questions will take place on the second night. Clubs were asked to advise Steve Wilson, the Umpire Secretary, of the details of attendees.

The Association recently decided that registered players holding a Captains Ticket must re-sit a refresher exam after each 5 years. Therefore, anyone who gained their ticket PRIOR TO SEASON 2006-07 must complete the exam paper which is about to be set up on the Association's website – please see below for details. The list of those granted a ticket year by year can be found at the HKHDCA(Umpires Association) in the drop down main menu – then to Library – then to HKHDCA Captains Ticket training courses – then to HKHDCA Captains Ticket graduates 2000-09 and to Results 2010. From these lists, please advise those in your club who fall into this category of the necessity to complete the exam. Captains not appearing on the list may have gained their ticket prior to 2000 and are therefore obviously eligible for a re-sit.



The method of completing the online refresher exam is as follows:

1. The exam paper, titled CAP TICKET RE-EXAM 2011-12, is on line in the drop down menu in the same section as the list of former graduates shown above.
2. A separate Answer Sheet, titled ANSWER SHEET 2011-2012, is similarly online in the same section.
3. Candidates should download and print the one page Answer Sheet. Then, scrolling through the exam paper on the screen, the chosen answer to each question should be written on the Answer Sheet against the Question Number shown thereon. When completed the Sheet should be passed to the Club's representative to hand into the next Association meeting on Monday 24th October. Thereafter, the test will be deleted from the website, so action MUST be taken in the next 2 weeks. Results will be circulated by the end of October.

This refresher test as outlined is NOT for those intending to acquire a captains ticket for the FIRST time. That involves attendance at the Ticket Course on Monday 10th October and a separate exam on Monday 17th.

MCC Laws of Cricket and Senior Comp. Rules can be accessed through the drop down menu – Rules & Policies- then to Rules, Laws & Judiciary.

Please also be aware that the updated 2011-12 Senior Competition Rules are now available from the website. Please find it under Competitions --> Senior Cricket --> Senior Competition Rules 2011-12.

Please folks, make my life simpler, not harder.

Barry McDonald
Umpires Training Officer

NSGCA

The NSGCA season has kicked off early this year, with West Pennant Hills and West Ryde Rovers victors of the first and second rounds of the Shield Competition. The first match was played at adjacent fields at Carlingford High School and it was wonderful to see all the girls together for the (very cold) start of the season.

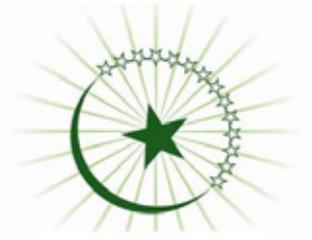
It was wonderful to see the girls encouraging each other out in the field and welcoming new players into their team. At the end of the day, playing sport is about having fun, so we were really pleased to see everyone have a bat, bowl and field with a smile on their face.

We are having a Come N Try Day from 2pm at Meadowbank Park No. 2 to kick off the Cup Competition on Saturday 22nd October. It is a chance for any girls interested in playing cricket to come along and have a go, as we are running skill development sessions. More information is on our website. We would appreciate it if clubs could put some information about the day on their websites, so we get as many girls as possible to come along.

The annual U13 & U15 girls representative carnival will be held again in January, 2012 and it looks like we will be sending two teams this season. If any girls from HK&HDCA clubs are interested in participating, please send me an email at nsgcacricket@gmail.com, as we are opening up the trials this year to any girls in Northern Sydney who are playing in a NSWDCA association.



BEROWRA CRICKET CLUB



IHCC-ANNANGROVE



BEECROFT Cricket Club

