32nd
ANNUAL
REPORT
SEASON
2025/2026

The Willows
CRICKET CLUB

Loburn, North Canterbury, New Zealand

FOUNDED
1st MAY, 1994

Our motto

"Floreant Salices"
("May the Willows flourish")

Our objectives

- To encourage players in secondary school first elevens to play with and against experienced players, many of whom are present or past first-class cricketers.
- To offer quality cricket to cricket lovers in a country atmosphere, where families may come to watch and picnic.

Why was The Willows formed?

To act as a catalyst, whereby cricketers, and cricket supporters, past and present, who appreciate the traditions and ethos of the game, are able to contribute and impart their experience and talents to the development of youth involved in secondary schools cricket.



The Willows Cricket Club

Loburn, North Canterbury, New Zealand

www.thewillows.nz

Patron in Perpetuity
W.A. Hadlee, *CBE, OBE* (1915–2006)

The Willows Cricketer
The Rt Hon. Sir Anand Satyanand, *GNZM, QSO*

The Willows Opening Bowler
Lt-Gen. The Rt Hon. Sir Jerry Mateparae, *GNZM, QSO, KStJ*

President
R.M. Deans (2025–)

Past Presidents
W.J. Mitchell (1994–2003)
Hon. Sir John Hansen, *KNZM* (2003–2019)
Hon. N.R.W. Davidson, *KC* (2019–2024)
P.D. Rutledge (2024–2025)

Management Board
P.D. Rutledge *(Chair)*
J.A.T. Benton
K.E. Bond
B.L. Dormer *(Family rep)*
D.W. Dormer *(Co-opted)*
P.D. Harris
R.D. McGuire
M.D. Peacock
J.M. Richards
A.J. Sheard

Club Captain
E.J. Nuttall

Youth Scholarships
M.D. Peacock

Match Co-ordinator
P.D. Rutledge

Hon. Secretary
J.M. Richards

Hon. Treasurer
A.J. Sheard

Membership
I. McRae
J.A. McRae
R.D. McGuire
J.M. Richards

Hon. Statisticians
P.D. Harris
W.J. Mitchell

Annual Report
R.J. Cowles
W.J. Mitchell

Contributing Photographer
E.J. Breitmeyer

Hon. Chaplain
Rev M.J. Hawke

Groundsman
A. Gilmour

Post
PO Box 575,
Rangiora 7440
New Zealand

Enquiries
info@thewillows.org.nz

Membership

The members roll at the end of the 2025/26 season stood as follows:

Members	464
Life Members	12
Honorary Members	73
Total Membership	**549**

● = Playing List ● = Overseas Year of entry precedes name

Members (464)

- 03 Abbott, Mr R.E.
- 06 Abbott, Mr R.T.
- 94 Aberhart, Mr D.C.
- 18 Aitken, Mr B.
- 02 Aitken, Mr R.J., *AM*
- 97 Allott, Mr G.I.
- 03 Ambler, Mr K.R.
- 23 Andrews, Mr B.
- 20 Andrews, Mr E.
- 08 Archer, Mr M.
- 94 Baker, Mr C.K.
- 09 Ballantyne, Mr R.M., *CNZM*
- 05 Barrat, Mr R.
- 07 Barry, Mr J.V.
- 05 Barry, Mr V.E.
- 19 Barton, Mr P.R.M.
- 94 Bateman, Mr S.N.
- 05 Bayliss, Mr R.T.
- 17 Bayliss-Smith, Mr L.
- 13 Bayly, Mr R.
- 94 Bennett, Mr J.
- 13 Benton, Mr J.A.T.
- 20 Bettridge, Mr R.P.
- 25 Biddick, Mr J.
- 25 Bird, Mr T.
- 94 Bisman, Mr J.C.
- 11 Blackett, Mr H.
- 21 Blackstock, Mr A.
- 03 Blaikie, Dr D.J.O.
- 13 Blair, Mr B.A.
- 94 Blair, Mr K.R.
- 16 Blake, Mr G.
- 98 Bond, Mr D.W.
- 21 Bond, Ms K.E.
- 02 Bond, Mr S.E.
- 08 Boock, Mr J.W.E.
- 00 Boock, Mr S.L., *ONZM*
- 17 Boorer, Mr G.
- 12 Boyle, Mr D.J.
- 13 Boyle, Mr J.C.T.
- 19 Boyle, Mr M.
- 12 Boyte, Mr M.R.
- 24 Breitmeyer, Mr R.E.
- 97 Bremner, Mr M.C.
- 24 Bretherton, Mr B.
- 21 Bretherton, Mrs F.
- 21 Bretherton, Mr S.
- 19 Bridgman, Mr J.
- 23 Bristowe, Mrs I.
- 23 Bristowe, Mr P.
- 94 Brooke, Mr H.D.E., *QSM*
- 19 Brotherton, Mr J.
- 18 Brown, Mr H.
- 94 Bull, Mr C.L., *MNZM*
- 94 Bull, Mr J.C.
- 18 Bungard, Mr R.
- 15 Burley, Mr D.
- 00 Burrows, Mr D.L.
- 99 Calder, Mr B.L.
- 95 Campbell, Mr A.I.
- 04 Carter, Mr R.
- 15 Cavalier, Mr R.
- 01 Chandler, Mr J.
- 00 Chisholm, Hon Justice L.
- 17 Chu, Mr M.W.
- 16 Clarke, Mr C.
- 20 Clarke, Mr R.
- 12 Close, Mr E.M.
- 99 Coll, Mr J.P.
- 17 Collis, Mr A.D.
- 98 Compton, Mr M.R., *QSM*
- 08 Conyngham, Mr J.
- 94 Coop, Mr T.A.
- 04 Cosgrove, Hon C.J.
- 17 Cotton, Ms K.D.
- 06 Cowlishaw, Mr A.J.
- 25 Cox, Mr M.W.
- 24 Croft, Mr Z.
- 98 Cumbes, Mr J.
- 22 Cumming, Mr C.D.
- 22 Cumming, Mr J.M.
- 22 Cumming, Mr Z.
- 94 Cusack, Mr D.R.
- 17 Cushen, Mr S.
- 24 Cuthbertson, Mr A.
- 11 Cutts, Mr R.E.
- 22 Dagg, Mr I.J.A.
- 12 Dalmia, Mr A.
- 98 Darke, Mr M.
- 23 Darling, Mr J.A.D.
- 98 Davidson, Mr J.A.F.
- 94 Davis, Mr S.J.
- 16 Davison, Mr H.
- 13 Day, Mr H.W.
- 22 de Silva, Mr S.
- 99 Deans, Mr R.M.
- 05 Deans, Mr S.J.M.
- 13 Dickson, Mr G.J.
- 01 Dickson, Mr I.B.
- 15 Dickson, Mr P.N.
- 25 Dobson, Mr J.P.J.
- 13 Doherty, Mr B.P.
- 94 Dolan, Mr P.J.
- 95 Doody, Mr B.J.K.
- 94 Dormer, Mr B.L.
- 94 Dormer, Mr P.E.
- 94 Douglass, Mr W.B., *ASM*
- 97 Dunne, Mr R.M.
- 98 Durning, Mr J.W.
- 05 Eaton, Hon Justice J.H.M., *KC*
- 01 Eddington, Mr W.L.
- 05 Eddington, Sir Rod
- 12 Egyed, Mr V.E.
- 94 Eldershaw, Mr J.M.
- 22 Elliotte, Mr H.
- 22 Elliotte, Mr T.
- 99 Ellis, Mr A.M.
- 01 Ellis, Mr A.M.
- 97 Ellis, Mr M.J.
- 16 Entwistle, Mr D.R.
- 10 Evans, Mr K.W.
- 19 Evans, Mr M.L.
- 21 Everest, Mr M.

94 Fairbairn, Mr W.R.T.
21 Falls-Anderson, Mr H.A.R.
06 Farrant, Mr M.D.
08 Fearnley, Mr C.D.
98 Fenton, Mr W.R.
97 Fenwick, Mr C.R.
09 Fernando, Mr D.
09 Fernando, Mr M.
14 Findlay, Mr B.
14 Finnie, Mr G.
06 Fisher, Mr H.M.L.
99 Fisher, Mr T.D.L.
21 Fitzgibbon, Mrs R.
94 Flanagan, Mr S.P.
21 Flavell, Mr T.
17 Fleming, Mr B.D.
12 Fleming, Mr C.W.
18 Fletcher, Mr N.
20 Fletcher, Mr R.
24 Fookes, Ms A.J.
18 Foulkes, Mr L.R.B.
06 Fowler, Mr H.M.
15 Frew, Mr R.M.
00 Fulton, Mr D.H.
98 Fulton, Mr G.H.
95 Fulton, Mr P.G.
26 Gaffaney, Mr T.
98 Gallaway, Mr G.N.
94 Gardner, Mr J.
06 Gargiulo, Mr F.J.
06 Garry, Mr J.R.
24 Garry Mr L.
09 Gatting, Mr M.W.
23 Georgieff, Mr N.
18 Gibb, Mr C.J.
21 Gibb, Mr N.C.
18 Gillman, Mrs E.
10 Gould, Mr G.C.
06 Goulding, Mr M.J.
11 Gray, Mr A.H.
06 Gray, Mr E.J.
16 Grigg, Mr P.
96 Grocott, Mr D.J.
09 Grocott, Mr T.M.
20 Gungadurdoss, Mr W.
94 Hadlee, Mr B.G.
94 Hadlee, Mr D.R.
94 Hadlee, Mr M.J., *MNZM*
20 Hall, Mr G.
19 Hall, Mr R.
16 Hambleton, Mr C.
95 Hamilton, Mr B.G.
08 Hammond, D.P.W.
09 Hampton-Matehe, Mr T.
23 Hanafin, Mr J.
99 Hantz, Mr J.L.H.
11 Harper, Mr R.G.F.
94 Harris, Mr B.Z.
94 Harris, Mr P.D.
15 Harris, Mr R.J.
22 Hart, Mr G.G.
03 Hart, Mr R.
19 Hastie, Mr K.J.
00 Hastilow, Mr A.J.
94 Hastilow, Mr J.W.
95 Hastings, Mr M.B.
06 Havercroft, Mr G.
16 Hay, Mr M.J.
02 Hayward, Mr R.E.
24 Hazlett, Mr J.E.H.
08 Henry, Mr M.J.
22 Heron, Mr M., *KC*
22 Hiatt, Mr D.C.
22 Hiatt, Mr H.A.R.
22 Hiatt, Mr L.
94 Hight, Mr C.M.
14 Hill, Mr C.
14 Hill, Mr F.
13 Hill, Mr N.H.
09 Hinton, Mr C.R.
15 Hodge, Mr M.E.A.
17 Hodge, Mr S.F.F.
24 Hodgkinson, Mr J.
06 Hodgson, Mr T.L.P.
94 Holderness, His Honour Judge D.J.R., *QSO*
02 Holt, Mr D.W.
08 Horner, Mr M.
22 Horsley, Mr N.K.W.
95 Hudson, Mr H.J.
95 Hudson, Mr M.G.
95 Hughes-Johnson, Mr A.C., *KC*
94 Hutton, Mr B.
94 Hutton, Mr O.
94 Hutton, Mr R. A.
24 Iggo, Mr J.
94 Ikram, Professor H., *ONZM*
94 Inglis, Mr G.D.
11 Inglis, Mr S.B.
21 Innes, Mr A.
94 Innes, Mr J.T.
94 Innes, Mr R.T.J.
01 Johnston, Mr M.T.
20 Johnston, Mr N.
22 Johnstone, Mr N.
06 Jones, Dr R.D.M.
16 Jordan, Mr W.
08 Kader, Mr M.A.
12 Katter, Dr D.H., *ADC (Hon)(Q), RANR*
09 Keir, Mr J.
11 Kelly, Mr D.P.
20 Kelly, Mr J.G.
11 Kelly, Mr M.J.
11 Kennedy, Mr C.P.
99 Kerr, Mr L.H., *QSM*
10 Khan, Mr M.
12 Kheraj, Mr N.
11 Kheraj, Mr S.
23 Kindley, Mr H.
16 Kissock, Ms C.
12 Knight, Mr P.
08 Kos, Hon Justice J.S.
23 Laing, Mr B.
15 Lamplough, Mr G.D.
94 Lancaster, Mr T.E.
17 Larsson, Mr L.
08 Latham, Mr T.W.M.
21 Leete, Mr A.
01 Leggat, Mr J.E.
07 Leicester, Mr J.
19 Leighton, Mrs C.M.
18 Lieschke, Mr J.
17 Lockrose, Mr B.N.J.
01 Loe, Mr H.F.
21 Loe, Miss M.
98 Lorimer, Mr A.A.
24 Lott, Mr T.
01 Lucas, Mr B.J.
15 Lyons, Mr W.G.J.
94 MacDonald, Mrs D.
18 MacDonald, Mr K.R.
19 Macfarlane, Mr T.O.B.
16 Macfarlane, Mr W.M.L.
12 Mackenzie, Mr D.C.C.
19 Macpherson, Mr I.
07 Malbari, Mr F.A.
01 Malloch, Mr B.E.
19 Mariu, Mr R.
94 Marsden, Mr W.
22 Marshall, Mr W.A.H.
00 Martin, Mr S.G.D.
94 Masefield, Mr R.V.
11 Mauger, Mr A.J.D.
98 Maw, Mr P.A.C.
94 McCallum, Dr A.B.
02 McCarthy, Mr G.P.
99 McCarthy, Mr H.R.
16 McCaw, Mr R.H., *ONZ*
03 McClean, Mr L.R.
19 McClean, Mr T.E.
94 McCourtie, Mrs R.
10 McCracken, Mr A.J.
25 McCracken, Mr K.P.
08 McEwan, Mr M.B.
09 McEwan, Mr R.P.
95 McFedries, Mr A.G.
14 McGuire, Mr J.A.
98 McGuire, Mr R.D.
16 McGuire, Mr S.P.
95 McHarg, Mr R.L.
25 McIntyre, Mr C.J.
98 McKinlay, Mr S.
02 McQueen, Mr D.
95 McRae, Mr A.R.
00 Miles, Mr R.J.
14 Miller, Mr P.
22 Mirfin, Mr R.
17 Mockford, Mr J.
18 Mohammady, Mr N.
06 Mollitt, Mr R.
12 Monk, Mr G.B., *ONZM*
17 Moore, Mr A.W.R.
06 Morgan, Mr R.

Continued

- 14 Mugford, Mr C.B.
- 22 Mulvaney, Mr P.
- 21 Murphy, Mr M.B.J.
- 23 Murray, Mr B.A.
- 09 Murray, Mr D.N.
- 09 Murray, Mr F.D.J.
- 15 Mušič, Mr T.
- 25 Nash, Mr S.
- 00 Nathu, Mr A.
- 01 Neaves, Mr T.C.
- 16 Newton-Vesty, Mr M.C.
- 10 Neynens, Mr C.
- 08 Nicholls, Mr H.M.
- 20 Nicolson, Mr C.
- 98 Nielsen, Mr T.S.
- 94 Nuttall, Mr A.J.
- 09 Nuttall, Mr E.J.
- 05 Nuttall, Mr H.A.
- 10 Nuttall, Mr J.S.
- 06 O'Gorman, Mr J.P.D.
- 17 O'Leary, Mr C.I.H.
- 94 Openshaw, Mr C.F.
- 12 O'Sullivan, Mr B.
- 94 Parker, Mr N.M.
- 98 Parr, Mr M.J.
- 94 Paton, Mr G.C.J.
- 94 Pawson, Mr J.D.
- 02 Peacock, Mr M.D.
- 26 Petersen, Mr C.
- 18 Petrie, Mr R.
- 16 Pope, Mr E.J.
- 19 Preece, Mr R.
- 21 Price, Mrs A.L.
- 19 Price, Mr M.
- 09 Pulley, Mr D.F.
- 20 Rajah, Mr T.
- 99 Raphael, Mr S.H.E.
- 11 Ratnayake, Mr R.J.
- 15 Read, Mr K.J., *ONZM*
- 25 Redfern, Mr H.
- 09 Reed, Mr G.I.
- 08 Reese, Mr A.
- 04 Reid, Mr D.W.
- 06 Reid, Mr H.
- 09 Richards, Mr J.M.
- 01 Richards, Mr S.
- 96 Rixon, Mr S.J.
- 21 Robbins, Mr W.
- 10 Robertson, Mr H.S.
- 15 Robinson, Mr J.R.
- 98 Robinson, Mr L.M.C., *MNZM*
- 20 Robinson, Mr M.
- 16 Roddens, Mr C.R.
- 18 Rohland, Mr M.
- 01 Rose, Mr G.L.
- 18 Rose, Mr J.
- 03 Rowberry, Mr J.M.
- 21 Rowe, Mr A.
- 09 Rowe, Mr C.A.
- 23 Rufey, Mr J.
- 21 Russell, Mr P.
- 01 Rust, Mr K.N.
- 24 Rutledge, Mrs M.
- 15 Ryan, Mr H.M.H.
- 15 Ryan, Mr L.P.
- 06 Ryan, Mr P.D.
- 03 Salmon, Mr K.
- 99 Satterthwaite, Mr M.F.
- 94 Savill, Mr C.M.
- 06 Sawrey-Cookson, Mr N.
- 97 Scott, Mr A.D.L.
- 22 Scott, Mr B.
- 14 Scott, Mr K.B.
- 15 Scott, Mr P.
- 95 Sharp, Mr D.C.
- 14 Sheat, Mr F.W.
- 00 Shipley, Mr A.J.B.
- 13 Shipley, Mr H.
- 98 Silver, Mr M.J., *OAM*
- 21 Sim, Mr A.
- 21 Sim, Mr J.
- 24 Simpson, Mr D.
- 06 Sims, Mr G.
- 09 Singleton, Mr M.J.
- 95 Skipper, Mr H.L.
- 23 Slade, Mr C.R.
- 06 Smail, Mr D.J.R., *OBE, TD, DL*
- 17 Smart, Mr W.A.
- 95 Smith, Mr G.B.
- 13 Smith, Mr G.J.
- 94 Smith, Mr M.J.
- 95 Smith, Mr R.
- 19 Stayt, Mr P.D.
- 94 Stead, Mr G.R.
- 98 Stearns, Mr N.
- 19 Stevenson, Mr R.D.
- 95 Strack, Mr D.J.
- 01 Stretch, Mr G.B.
- 13 Stretch, Mr M.G.
- 18 Stuthridge, Mr D.
- 15 Styles, Mr K.A.
- 25 Sullivan-Roberts, Mr F.
- 12 Sundarjee, Mr M.
- 12 Sundarjee, Mr P.
- 17 Tandon, Mr D.
- 09 Tapper, Mr J.H.
- 21 Tavendale, Mr M.J.
- 07 Teale, Mr M.D.
- 94 Thiele, Mr C.H.
- 00 Thornton, Mr T.F.
- 99 Townrow, Mr W.B.
- 25 Tudehope, Mr D.B.T.
- 21 Turner, Mr G.
- 04 Turner, Mr T.J.H.
- 06 Vallance, Mr J.A.F.
- 09 van Woerkom, Mr T.F.
- 11 Vann, Mr D.B.
- 07 Veale, Mr J.H.
- 15 Vedder, Mr D.W.
- 25 Vincent, Mr A.
- 12 Wakefield, Mr D.J.
- 17 Wakefield, Mr S.
- 24 Walker, B.G.
- 03 Walker, Mr R.L.
- 06 Walls, Mr K.A.
- 10 Walsh, Mr P.M.J.
- 06 Walsh, Mr W.P.J.
- 10 Ward, Mr B.R.
- 21 Ward, Mr C.
- 15 Watkins, Mr P.J.
- 20 Webb, Mr C.
- 94 Weeds, Mr M.G.
- 95 Wells, Mr G.R.
- 05 Wheeler, Mr N.
- 20 White, Mr C.
- 14 Whiteside, Mr P.F., *KC*
- 94 Wiles, Mr E.G.
- 14 Williams, Mr B.J.
- 94 Williams, Mr P.R.
- 10 Williams, Mr W.S.A.
- 17 Wilson, Mr A.D.
- 25 Wilson, Mr J.
- 10 Wilson, Mr R.T.
- 16 Wilson, Mr S.W.J.
- 95 Winnicott, Mr A.G.
- 01 Wolt, Mr J.R.K.
- 25 Woodgate, Mr C.W.
- 13 Woodward, Mrs D.
- 11 Woolcott, Mr E.B.
- 16 Woolliscroft, Mr S.P.
- 13 Wright, Mr E.T.Q.
- 99 Wright, Mr H.G.
- 08 Wright, Mr H.H.A.
- 05 Wright, Mr N.H.
- 19 Wynne, Mr G.E.
- 24 Yardley, Mr D.
- 24 Yardley, Mrs J.
- 94 Yardley, Mr K.J.
- 02 Zavos, Mr S.B.

Life Members (12)

- 94 Cowles, Mr R.J.
- 94 Devlin, Mr P.C.
- 94 Hansen, Hon Justice Sir John, *KNZM*
- 04 Hayward, Mr R.D.
- 94 McEwan, Mrs J.
- 94 McEwan, Mr P.E., *MNZM*
- 02 McRae, Mrs I.J.
- 02 McRae, Mr J.A.
- 94 Mitchell, Mr W.J.
- 95 Rutledge, Mr P.D.
- 05 Sheard, Mr A.J.
- 10 Stringleman, Mr J.G.

Honorary Members (73)

- 17 Allison, Mr M.
- 15 Barber, Mr M.
- 14 Barber, Mr R.H.T.
- 07 Becroft, His Honour Judge A.J., *QSO*
- 18 Benton, Mrs A-M.
- 03 Blackett, Sir Hugh
- 94 Boyle, Mr J.G.
- 94 Burdon, Hon P.R.
- 98 The Rt Hon The Lord Butler of Brockwell, *KG, GCB, CVO, PC*
- 06 Chatfield, Mr E.J., *MBE*
- 15 Clarke, Mr C.E.
- 13 The Rt Hon The Viscount Cobham
- 99 Coney, Mr J.V., *MBE*
- 13 Cooke, Hon Justice F.M.R., *KC*
- 24 Cottrell, Mr S.
- 06 Coward, M.J., *AM*
- 17 Crick, Mr D.J.
- 17 De Maine, Captain N. (Salv Army)
- 15 Donaldson, Comm R.W. (Salv Army)
- 94 Dormer, Mrs D.W., *OM (Poland)*
- 15 Eales, Mr J., *AM*
- 04 Farr-Jones, Mr N.C., *AM*
- 03 Fry, Mr C.A.
- 09 Glenn, Sir Owen
- 14 Griffith, Mr D.
- 94 Hadlee, Sir Richard, *MBE*
- 96 Hawke, The Very Rev Dean M.J.
- 11 Healy, Mr I.A.
- 95 Henderson, Mrs E.M.
- 13 Henry, Sir Graham
- 21 Hockley, Ms D.A.
- 18 Howard, Mr P.
- 04 Johnson, Professor B.F.S.
- 20 Joshi, Mr A.
- 14 King, Mr D.J.
- 03 Knight, Mr R.D.V., *OBE*
- 10 Laidlaw, Mr C.R.
- 03 Larsen, Mr G.R.
- 19 Macfarlane, Mrs N.
- 17 Marshall, Mr H.J.H.
- 17 Marshall, Mr J.A.H.
- 16 Martin, Mr J.
- 18 Martin, Archbishop P.G., *SM*
- 15 Mateparae, Lt-Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry, *GNZM, QSO, KStJ*
- 94 McDonnell, Mr K.M., *JP*
- 17 McSweeney, Mr E.B.
- 15 Mills, Mr H.M.
- 20 Morkane, Mr C.C.
- 04 Moses, Mr R.J., *CNZM*
- 06 Murray, Rev Canon W.R.C.
- 02 O'Neill, Mr J.A., *AO*
- 23 Palmer, Mr C.D.
- 24 Peck Mr I.G.
- 17 Prinsep, Mr G.
- 24 Ramsey, Mr J.M.F.
- 17 Ramsden, Mr H.
- 14 Reddiex, Mr D.
- 03 Rice, Sir Tim
- 03 Roberts, Major A.C., *OF, CNZM* (Salv Army)
- 24 Robinson, Mr M.
- 07 Satyanand, The Rt Hon Sir Anand, *GNZM, QSO, KStJ*
- 08 Scott, Mr N.A.
- 14 Seal, Mr B.D., *MNZM*
- 18 Smith, Mr G.
- 02 Snedden, M.C., *CNZM*
- 17 Stedman, Mr W.S.
- 12 Stewart, Mr J.H.
- 03 Stoop, Dr G.C.
- 17 Thorne, Mr R.
- 12 Waddle, Mr B.A., *MNZM*
- 07 Watt, Mr M.H., *ONZM*
- 10 Woutersz, Mr J.F.
- 97 Wright, Mr J.G., *MBE*



▲ *Nick Horsley in fine form for The Willows against the Crusaders XI in December.*



President's Report

Robbie Deans

"Willowers All,"

It is with a sense of honour and duty that I accepted the role of President of the Willows Cricket Club. The passing of Nick Davidson was a big loss to the New Zealand community, quite apart from his contribution to this community and Club, and he left enormous shoes to fill.

It was a privilege to attend the Ocean Beach fixture and be able to spend some time with Paul Rutledge to learn more about the full extent of The Willows programme. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the significant and pivotal role that Paul has taken on and continues to evolve in fulfilling the aspirations of Mike and the Dormer family. What has already been achieved is remarkable and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to find new ways of maintaining and ultimately enhancing the legacy of The Willows Cricket Club.

The 2025/26 season was another successful one and I enjoyed the opportunity to gain greater insight into what makes this special club tick. It's undoubtedly a team effort but I'd like to kick off by acknowledging the contributions of a few key people. First and foremost the Dormer family where it all started. Winsome has admirably picked up the mantle and added her own touch to maintaining the spirit of the Club. The next generation of Ben and Pete have ensured that the Club not only remains a priority but is also well resourced.

The Chairman Paul Rutledge has contributed endless hours of passion and competence, driving the club forward with a focus on but not limited to coaching. Alan Gilmour has applied his extensive experience and expertise to producing a Willows pitch that is of international standard. Darcy Palmer has donated endless hours of service, mowing and maintaining the surroundings of the ground. Jarrod Ward has gifted his carpentry skills to the club ensuring the pavilion is well maintained. Richard Cowles and John Mitchell have once again overseen the

production of an annual report of the highest standard. Alistair Sheard for his expertise in making the books balance. Kirsty Bond for her inspiration within the Women's programme. Tamai Sports for their service to the next generation and community.

The 2025/26 season had many highlights. The match reports will follow but I thought it worthwhile to mention a few achievements that stood out: Andrew Nuttall reached a personal milestone of 150 games for The Willows while Michael Singleton and Stan Woolliscroft reached 50 games. A number of loyal senior Willowers led the list for most appearances during the season: Tom Mušić (11), Carl Petersen (8) and Michael Singleton (7). Some travelled large distances for the privilege eg Joey Yovich from Whangarei and Mason Robinson who drove from Nelson to play on consecutive weekends.

In all, 26 games were played with another 4 rained off. Results: Won 14, lost 10, no result 2.

The Willows were beaten by: Wellington College, St Thomas of Canterbury, St Kevin's College, North West Schools, Nelson College, St Andrew's College, Waitaki BHS, Hutt International BS and two clubs: Crusaders XI and Hawkswood Wanderers.



▲ *King's High School opener Jack Proctor blasted a quick 50 off 25 balls.*

◀ *Opposite: Toby Munt, Arundel exchange scholar, in full flight against Blackbridge CC (Victoria).*



Individual Honours: Centuries to Stephen Murdoch, Dan Vann, Flynn Brookland, James Jacques and Paul Russell. Matched by 5 centuries from the opposition. 1,000 runs aggregate: achieved by Michael Singleton.

One 5 wicket bag by Willower Hugo Davison (5/45) compared to three by opponents including 5/40 by Andrew Nuttall playing for Hawkswood.

Key awards went to:

Shadbolt Trophy (Junior Willower)
James Jacques 103*
v Marlborough Boys' College

Winsome Dormer Cup (Women)
Ciara Hartland 61* & 3-for
v St Margaret's College

49ers Cup
North West Schools XI

Kindred Cup
The Willows Cricket Club

Our international relations were reinforced with the hosting of I Zingari and Blackbridge CC (Australia).

Another two Arundel scholars, Alistair Derry and Felix Nielsen, have been selected and links maintained with Matfen courtesy of an Ian Pilkington visit in February. All four visiting UK lads (from Matfen and Arundel) have represented The Willows together on occasions. These exchanges are the most powerful way of accelerating the personal and career development of the individuals lucky enough to

receive them as many current Black Caps would attest to.

Long story short: the Willows Cricket Club is well placed and delivering exactly the outcomes it was designed for whilst simultaneously considering new initiatives, such as the reinstatement of the Emu and Kiwi fixtures for both men and women.

One of the challenges confronting the club is ensuring that we can continue to fund the future without compromising what makes The Willows experience unique and special. We are very reliant on a few capable, invested people, in particular our Board and need to ensure that any initiatives are quality oriented as opposed to quantity. Put another way, maximum impact with minimum resource.

Thank you to you all for your contribution to the legacy of this great club.

Floreant Salices

Robbie Deans
President



▲ *President Robbie Deans with Winsome Dormer.*





▼ *After-match. Time to reflect on another titanic match between The Willows and Christchurch Boys' High School.*



Match Reports 2025/26



Lovely cover drive by Cam Walker, on debut at The Willows

v King's High School 1st XI

12th October 2025

We had a dream start to the season. Runs galore – indeed 534 of them from 96 overs. The Willows batted first and relished the perfect conditions. All our top order got starts; three reached 50, with elder statesman Tom Mušić falling just short of his maiden club century. This was a shame, given how well he batted and that it was his first bat of the season. The Willows recorded 286/6.

King's, an impressive unit, weren't in any way daunted by the target and went full-on in reply. Opener Jack Proctor sailed into it immediately and scored an aggressive 50 runs off only 25 balls. When he fell the scoreboard was 56/1 from five overs. After this, two promising all-rounders in Ushi Caldera and captain Rhys Milmine carried on the momentum. Rhys scored 63* to go with his three wickets with the ball. However, he wasn't quite able to lead his side to victory but they gave it a damn good go. Rector Nick McIvor, international Bradley Scott and Director of Sport Rod Bannister were present and should be rightfully proud of both the presentation and the play of their team.

The Willows won by 38 runs

The Willows 286/6
T. Mušić 94, C. Walker 56, L. Singer 55, J. Garry 37, R. Milmine 3/53

King's High School 248
R. Milmine 63*, J. Proctor 50, U. Caldera 45

Umpires: D. McIlraith and M. Wood

v Sydenham Youth XI

19th October 2025

The Sydenham Youth XI will have great memories of their debut game at The Willows in what proved to be a real cracker. Skip Kelvin Scott won the toss, batted first and he himself provided the backbone of the innings with a typical powerful display. When he was out with the score at 149/7 it looked like Sydenham could wrap up our innings for 200 or less but with 18 overs left Patrick Ross and Archie Huston combined in an unbeaten 109 run partnership to get The Willows through to a very respectable 258/8. Patrick finishing with a hard hit 85* and Archie with a more circumspect 31*. For Sydenham both Quinn Helms and Henry Hood bowled tidily, although the lads may have rued a couple of dropped catches in the field.

Initially, The Willows had the upper hand taking early wickets. However, two excellent partnerships, firstly 59 from Conway Andrews and Archie Neilson and then 111 between Conway and Al Derry saw their team get to 246 after 49 overs. It looked more than probable that Sydenham could win the game if they could score 13 off the last over. Liam Singer was given the task of bowling it and he held his nerve to bowl full and straight, conceding just the five singles off his first 4 balls. Then drama: the set batsman Al Derry was run out on the 5th ball trying to come back for a second run. While that effectively sealed the win for The Willows, Henry Hood added a final flourish hitting a six off the final ball of the match. A thriller, enjoyed by all involved and appreciated by a sizeable crowd of family and supporters.

The Willows won by 1 run

The Willows 258/8
P. Ross 85*, K. Scott 83, A. Huston 31*, H. Hood 3/40

Sydenham Youth XI 257/7
C. Andrews 91, A. Derry 64, A. Neilson 32, M. Harris 3/40

Umpires: L. Watkin and K. Padmanaban
Scorer: A. McLeod



▲ *Tall Christ's College spin bowler Archie Huston playing for The Willows.*



▲ *Cadell Durdin – a promising young opening bowler for the Sydenham Youth XI.*



▲ *Steve Murdoch and Lucas Henderson – The Willows and Wellington College captains respectively*



▲ *The Willows prepare for a tough session in the field.*

v Wellington College 1st XI

26th October 2025

It was a delight to welcome Wellington College to The Willows after the past two fixtures had been abandoned due to weather. Wellington won the toss and with the ground in superb condition had no hesitation in electing to bat. The Willows bowling attack was strong, but the Wellington openers skilfully negotiated the new ball, and put on an opening stand of 40 runs before the arrival of their leading batsman, Charlie Jackson. What followed was a fine innings combining aggression, patience, and sound technique. Built around his commanding knock of 112, Wellington accelerated towards the end as Bruno Brown unleashed a powerful display of hitting. He brought up his first century for the College 1st XI, reaching the milestone with the final ball of the innings. Wellington finished with an imposing total of 309/6 with the pick of the bowlers being Sam Doig.

The Willows' reply began cautiously against a rapid opening spell. After a steady 30-run opening stand, captain Steve Murdoch – a former first-class representative – arrived at the crease. His innings of 134 runs was a masterclass in timing and stroke play, and even the more impressive given that he has not batted much recently. While he remained, the chase was very much alive, but ultimately The Willows fell short. It was a well-deserved win for Wellington College in what was a high-quality and entertaining contest.

The Willows lost by 25 runs

Wellington College 309/6
C. Jackson 112, B. Brown 100*, S. Pelser 3/66

The Willows 284
S. Murdoch 134, J. Kane 31, L. Bridgman 4/45

Umpires: J. Farrell and K. Jaganathan



v Ocean Beach County CC

31st October 2025

Any game which comes down to the last ball to determine bragging rights is a great occasion. Such was the case with the second visit by the Ocean Beach County CC XI to Loburn. A classic scenario eventuated – the final over and The Willows required 6 runs with the last pair at the crease. How did we get to this point?

Sometimes in limited-over cricket, the team batting first is at a disadvantage when they retire batsmen going full tilt to enable others to have a hit. OBCCC got off to a rollicking start, relishing perfect batting conditions. Their top-order fired with strong half centuries to Duncan Smith and Nick Dawson, both of whom retired soon after, and Colin Schaw led the way to a good score of 262 for 4 after 40 overs.

The Willows continued the plundering of runs with Jonathon Davidson, Mike Singleton and Hugo Davison all in commanding form as they led the chase. It came down to the final ball of the match, one run required with 9 down. A gentle nudge to backward point from Hamish Redfern and The Willows snuck home. A great day, played in fantastic spirit! OBCCC handed over the Challenge Cup to the Southern Barbarians and promptly invited us back to their home track just south of Cape Kidnappers for next year's clash – 31 October 2026, mark the date for another keenly fought rematch!

The Willows won by 1 wicket

Ocean Beach County CC XI 262/4
D. Smith 54 retired, N. Dawson 51 retired, C. Schaw 43

The Willows 263/9
H. Davison 76*, J. Davidson 56, M. Singleton 32

Umpires: A. Shipley and S. Kalyanaraman
Scorer: A. McLeod







v Mid Canterbury Youth XI

2nd November 2025

The Willows got off to a cracking start courtesy of Fraser Hill and Carl Petersen, seeing off the new ball and getting the score to 61 off the first ten overs. Carl was especially aggressive sending a number of balls into the adjacent field. Mid Canterbury were pumped to see the back of him for 76 but unfortunately that just brought Nigel Collins to the wicket. He sent the ball to all parts in a blazing 89 off 45 balls. Brennan Matla and Riley Wilson batted extremely well putting on 76 in the last 10 overs to get The Willows to an imposing 371. Young Jamie Orr was the pick of the MC bowlers taking 3/38.

In reply, the MC openers showed maturity and skill to survive the initial Willows bowling. Captain Mitchell Lye led the way with a gritty 38. Mark Murphy and Brennan Matla spun a web through the middle overs to put a handbrake on the MC chase. Toby Grant top-scored with a fine 39 to get the visitors to a respectable 177. Plenty of entertainment for the spectators with a total of 13 sixes hit out of the field of dreams.

The Willows won by 194 runs

The Willows 371/8
N. Collins 89, C. Petersen 76, G. Shasawar 41, B. Matla 38*, R. Wilson 35*, F. Hill 29, J. Orr 3/38

Mid Canterbury Youth XI 177
T. Grant 39, M. Lye 38, M. Murphy 3/36, B. Matla 3/37

Umpires: M. Hill and R. Hill

> "Of all the sports I have attempted to play—tennis, golf, rugby, soccer, and many others—the greatest challenge of all, I believe, is that of batting in cricket, where one ball can be enough to end the contest. One lousy ball."
>
> *— Martin Crowe*

v Peninsula Craz XI

7th November 2025

After playing the Peninsula team at Tai Tapu last season it was our pleasure to again host them at home.

After enjoying a typically excellent lunch, the Peninsula Skip Richard Breitmeyer won the toss and elected to bat first. After a slowish start, the arrival of Richard and Tom Johnston saw a dramatic increase in the scoring rate as they put on 54 runs in five overs. While Richard was more textbook in approach, Tom was brutal on all bowlers, hitting four huge sixes and as many fours. Matt Hammans batted aggressively for his 34 runs and with Richard saw the Craz through to 230 in 39 overs. For The Willows bowlers, after a tidy opening spell from Brent Findlay, it was Vik Vij and Bodie Hawkins who were the main wicket takers.

The Willows chase, while not fast out of the blocks, provided an excellent platform. Half centuries to Tom Mušić and Brent Fleming (both retired) plus runs from Graeme Inglis and Cormack Hedley-Hobson (37) kept us in touch but we still needed to go at 8 an over in the final ten overs. It was left to some power hitting by wiseheads in Brent Findlay (28*) and Dan Vann (27*) to see us home in the 39th over.

The Willows won by 8 wickets

Peninsula Craz 230
R. Breitmeyer 60, T. Johnston 46, M. Hammans 34, V. Vij 3/35, B. Hawkins 3/43

The Willows 232/2
B. Fleming 52 retired, T. Mušić 51 retired, C. Hedley-Hobson 37

Umpires: D. Miller and G. Cutts
Scorer: A. McLeod

v Christchurch Boys' High School 1st XI

9th November 2025

Big Blue, a belter of a pitch, and two proud cricketing sides made for a cracking Sunday at The Willows. The home side batted first with the Canterbury Country duo of Cameron Paul and Robbie Foulkes getting us off to a great start. Cameron anchored things superbly with a brilliant 96, falling just shy of a deserved ton. Black Cap Todd Astle added a classy half century, guiding the middle overs. Finally, Lachie Harper lit the place up, hitting 30 not out off 14 balls to take us to 276 for 6. CBHS were well served by Hanroux Wessels and Corbyn McClurg who were largely responsible for keeping The Willows about 50 short of a par score.

The chase started with intent. Harry O'Loughlin and Todd Williams launched into the new ball, racing out of the gates and threatening a repeat of O'Loughlin's famous double-ton in 2023. But Edward Nuttall produced an absolute peach to remove O'Loughlin (25) and swing momentum back The Willows' way. From there, wickets came steadily. Astle chimed in with two key poles, and Tim Johnston bowled a tidy, controlled spell through the middle. A great experience for CBHS players to face two outstanding spinners with 633 professional wickets between them. As well as Harry and Todd, all the CBHS batters showed great aggression with Isaac Daly, Luke Mitchell, Gus Quirk and Cam Jones all getting starts but none were there long enough to win. It was another quality Sunday at The Willows – what cricket's all about.

The Willows won by 45 runs

The Willows 276/6
C. Paul 96, T. Astle 59, R. Foulkes 41, L. Harper 30*

Christchurch Boys' High School 231
I. Daly 34*, T. Williams 28

Umpires: D. Stuthridge and A. Askari
Scorers: R. Seabourn and A. McLeod



▲ *Tons of experience here with Todd Astle, Tim Johnston and Edward Nuttall with our younger men.*



▲ *Willowers relax after a hard fought victory.*

v St Thomas of Canterbury College 1st XI

16th November 2025

The Willows XI, which contained seven old boys of the school, won the toss and elected to bat on a typically true wicket. After an early loss, Thomas Bird and Finn Sullivan-Roberts consolidated the innings and were both in the runs. Ethan Burns batted brilliantly for his 69 off 70 balls – he is a player of real promise. STC wrist spinner Jayden Scott stood out with a 4-fer as The Willows finished on 227 all out.

The St Thomas's reply started well with Archie Steel, Barnaby Phillips and James Jacques all making solid contributions. The star of the innings, however, was Patrick Ross with a well struck 84 not out, and it was his innings that guided STC home to a two wicket win with six overs to spare. It was their third win in a row against The Willows. They are a side brim full of talent, and much credit should go to their coach, Andrew Cavill, who over the past two years has bought the best out of these young cricketers.

The Willows lost by 2 wickets

The Willows 227
E. Burns 69, T. Bird 57, F. Sullivan-Roberts 32, J. Scott 4/31

St Thomas of Canterbury College 228/8
P. Ross 84*, A. Steel 37, J. Jacques 34, B. Phillips 31, E. Burns 3/32, K. Charlton 3/24

Umpires: D. Henderson and D. Reid
Scorer: J. Murphy



▲ *Patrick Ross led the run chase with an unbeaten 84.*

v St Kevin's College 1st XI

23rd November 2025

Despite the ground being in excellent condition, The Willows found themselves second best to a highly disciplined and polished St Kevin's College side. St Kevin's bowled with impressive composure and maturity. The Willows, meanwhile, put themselves under pressure with questionable shot selection, losing wickets in clusters and making the task of compiling a solid score increasingly challenging. Five batsmen failed to trouble the scorers, leaving the innings on the back foot and searching for stability. Carter Woodgate fought admirably for his 60, showing patience and grit while others fell around him. But once he departed, The Willows were soon dismissed in the 41st over. The disciplined St Kevin's attack was well led by an outstanding five-wicket haul from Flynn Sanford.

Chasing a modest 167, St Kevin's came out firing. The standout batting performance of the day belonged to late CBHS ring-in Todd Williams, who produced an authoritative 87. The visitors remained well ahead of the required rate throughout, and although there were a few late flutters, they completed their win in the 29th over. Despite being one-sided, the match was played in excellent spirit. SKC were superb on and off the field. A tough day at the office for the hosts, but the jubilant visitors deservedly headed home early with the Bob Wills Trophy.

The Willows lost by 5 wickets

The Willows 167
C. Woodgate 60, R. Wilson 31, F. Sanford 5/43, T. McLean 3/40

St Kevin's College 168/5
T. Williams 87

Umpires: B. Littmoden and R. Dalley

v United Country & Vineyard CC

5th December 2025

The Vineyards started cautiously on a pitch which played well but was two paced. From there a strong platform was laid by former NZ A and CD representative Jarrod Englefield (80) and Matt Stretch (67). They shared a 128 run partnership for the 4th wicket. The Willows spin attack led by Hugo Davison (5/45) chipped away at the wickets and toiled in the heat. The visitors posted a competitive 247/7 off their 40 overs.

The Willows opened with AJ Morris, a young UK tourist playing for Weedons, and Carl Petersen in his unofficial Kindred audition. Answering an SOS late on Thursday, Carl joined the cause and destroyed the opening attack. On his departure Dan Vann continued on and scored one of the most brutal hundreds you will see at The Willows. His 100 includes 10 fours and 7 sixes and came off less than 55 balls. One memorable over went for 30 runs.

In the end, both teams happily retreated from the heat and wind and grabbed some beverages. A big thanks to Dave Clouston and UCVC boys for making the journey and being strong supporters of The Willows and the Kindred cricket ethos.

The Willows won by 8 wickets

UCVC 247/7
J. Englefield 80, M. Stretch 67, K. Nicholas 25, H. Davison 5/45

The Willows 248/2
D. Vann 100*, A. Morris 62, C. Petersen 55

> "Part of the art of bowling spin is to make the batsman think something special is happening when it isn't."
>
> *— Shane Warne*

v Shirley Boys' High School 1st XI

7th December 2025

The Willows team included seven Shirley old boys including former Head Boy and Canterbury player Ryan Burson, current teachers and a Willows debut for Myran Moore and Benji Irvine.

The home team got off to a decent start with Tom Mušić, Tim Hampton-Matehe and Myran Moore all in the runs. Jack Mockford also batted very well and as the heat and the wind picked up, Benji Irvine took a toll on the bowling to top score with 71. Liam Stocker was the pick of the Shirley Boys' bowlers as The Willows ended up on 267/8.

SBHS started well with opener Jake Wilson looking good. However at 50 for 1 and with the introduction of Jason Pawson things changed. Jason bowled seven overs and took 3/9 which put Shirley Boys' on the back foot at 101 for 6. The introduction of spinners Michael Peacock and Jack Mockford made scoring harder and the pressure grew. Liam Stocker played positively, keeping the good balls out and hitting cleanly those for runs including a towering 6 that clattered onto the pavilion roof. Unfortunately he ran out of partners, as the boys came up short.

It was an excellent game and full praise to Shirley Boys' High School 1st XI for their conduct, dress and respect for the values of The Willows.

The Willows won by 107 runs

The Willows 267/8
B. Irvine 71, J. Mockford 67, T. Mušić 42, M. Moore 37, L. Stocker 3/33

Shirley Boys' High School 160
L. Stocker 41*, J. Wilson 36, J. Pawson 3/9

Umpires: D. Thomason and D. Stuthridge
Scorer: A. McLeod



▲ *Solomon Nash lets one rip.*



▲ *Joshua Tromp made a superb century on debut at The Willows.*

v Crusaders XI

14th December 2025

The Crusaders XI, led by the cool head of Aaron Mauger, thoroughly deserved a first-up win against The Willows. The Christmas match did not disappoint and had plenty of pizzazz – 500+ runs, two centuries, a last ball thriller and Santa stopped play. Plus the match had a serious tone in a lovely gesture to honour a great man, past-President Nick Davidson KC, by having his wife Rosie and sons in attendance.

The Willows batted first and there were two sparkling innings by Flynn Brookland and Nick Horsley. Flynn scored the ton and was expansive and stylish while Nick showed he had lost none of his elegance and ability to pierce the field. The pair shared a 112 run fifth wicket stand which saw us through to 259 off 40 overs. Canterbury U-19 quick Hamish Caird can be very proud of his return in capturing the wicket of Nick and two other former first-class players in Joey Yovich and Lorne Howell.

In the chase the rugby boys lost wickets at one end, but late call-up opener USA Under-19 rep and pro player Josh Tromp with Stephen Fleming's Texas Super Kings side was brutal, as he powered his way to a century on debut (11 fours and 6 sixes). Aaron Mauger is a canny player with a flair for punishing anything loose. For The Willows Craig Smith from Oamaru was our best bowler. Experienced Andy Ellis was there at the end. When four was needed from the final ball and Hamish Caird nonchalantly snicked it over slips to the boundary. The Crusaders had won to much delight and hooplah. It can't get much better than that – the skill level and competitive nature of play made it a day to remember.

The Willows lost by 2 wickets

The Willows 259/8
F. Brookland 100 retired, N. Horsley 64, H. Caird 3/51

Crusaders XI 260/8
J. Tromp 104 retired, A. Mauger 59, A. Ellis 30*, C. Smith 3/46

Umpire: D. Stuthridge and J. Stringleman
Scorer: Z. Dalton

v North West Schools XI

21st December 2025

This was always going to be a challenging affair for the North West boys as they were missing eight from their 1st XI squad. It proved a chance to test the depth of playing stocks as none had played at Loburn before. The visitors started tidily in the field. Six bowlers were used in the first 15 overs, and they were backed up by some sharp catching. Most Willows batsmen got starts with Englishman AJ Morris providing the stability with a good half-century. In the end, The Willows were guilty of not batting their full entitlement of overs as they stumbled to 200 all out.

Even with an enforced reshuffle of their batting line-up, North West felt they could chase down the target. Makeshift opener Zaak Hassanussaman batted sensibly as he found the gaps well and ran hard for singles. In Olly Upjohn he had a reliable partner as they steered their team into a better position.

With the speed of Micah Walther and spin from Paul Croft (both picked up 3-fers) things got tight. At eight down and in the penultimate over, the best athlete on the park spilled a regulation catch at deep midwicket and that snuffed out the home team's chances. A North West team, under coach Alastair Sim for the final time, and with new skipper Alex Guillemot, had achieved the impossible – a good win. Another last over thriller.

The Willows lost by 2 wickets

The Willows 200
A. Morris 77, C. Petersen 29, O. Colhoun 3/27

North West XI 201/8
Z. Hassanussaman 55, O. Upjohn 36,
P. Croft 3/28, M. Walther 3/46

Umpires: D. McIlraith and J. Davies
Scorer: A. Sim







v Christ's College 1st XI

11th January 2026

The teams arrived to find the ground in its full splendour, although the blue sky and beating sun were somewhat nullified by what felt like hurricane force winds! However, not to be deterred, the game got cracking, minus bails and sightscreens, with The Willows batting. Opener John Garry, fresh from a century the previous day, took to the bowling and played beautifully. He was joined by James O'Gorman who also batted nicely before opening his shoulders later on. Liam Singer bowled an impressive second spell, as College dismissed the home team in the final over for 311 runs.

With dark and threatening clouds on the horizon Jack Fletcher and Zac Croft opened up for College. Just as the run rate was increasing nicely it was a disappointment when rain caused play to stop after 21 overs with the score on 79 for 1. There were plenty of positives for the College team as they headed across to Sydney, the following week, for a trans-Tasman series of interschool matches.

No result

The Willows 311
J. O'Gorman 93, J. Garry 90, T. Munt 39, L. Singer 3/53

Christ's College 79/1
J. Fletcher 45*

Umpires: D. Boyle and B. Littmoden











▲ *13 year old Gus Bayliss – on international debut for IZs.*



▲ *IZ tour party in relaxed mode at the after-match.*



▲ *Sam Davis in action with bat ... and doing what he does best – taking wickets!*

v I Zingari Australia

24th January 2026

By some stroke of meteorological luck and hard work by our grounds staff, a full day's play was enjoyed. Under threatening skies, the visitors were invited to bat first. The Willows were keen for a fast start. Chris Nicolson struck first, removing one of 2024's century makers Phil Booth courtesy of an athletic catch by keeper Mike Singleton. Chris went on to remove both openers and set the tone for the day with some exceptional bowling. Further wickets fell to a Sam Davis 'wobble ball', a quality AJ Morris catch and an Andrew Nuttall arm ball removed the other century maker from 2024, Ben van der Merwe. Richard McGuire picked up four wickets from a busy shift into the southerly breeze, to restrict IZ to a score of 157/8.

The Willows reply was anchored by Michael Singleton who continued on as he had started the day in assertive form. He was ably supported by the middle order of Lancaster, Murray and Breitmeyer. One feature of the day was the IZ debut of 13 year old Gus Bayliss who showed enough to suggest we will be seeing a lot more of him in the future. We thank both teams for their resilience in playing through difficult conditions. Post-match we enjoyed each other's company hosted by Winsome at the cottage.

The Willows won by 5 wickets

I Zingari 157/8
B. van der Merwe 42, S. Gerber 41,
R. McGuire 4/40, C. Nicolson 3/22

The Willows 160/5
M. Singleton 71*, J. Murray 28, R. Breitmeyer 25,
T. Lancaster 22

Umpires: D. Lewis (Australia) and J. Stringleman

v Marlborough Boys' College 1st XI

1st February 2026

With ten first-time players Marlborough Boys' College 1st XI faced the ultimate challenge against a high-quality Willows side, packed with strong ex MBC connections. Match highlights included a classy unbeaten 103 by St Thomas's student James Jacques, as well as solid contributions from NZ Over-50s opener John Garry, Colin Ward and a quick fire 40 from Matt Stretch to get The Willows through to 295 off 50 overs. For the MBC, Dane Winstanley bowled with control taking 3/53, while MBC captain Josh Harris and Tom Heagney both attacked hard and claimed two wickets each.

Batting proved difficult for the young MBC team against a strong bowling lineup. This was spearheaded by young UK bowler Ollie Moore, who has played County 2nd XI cricket and bowled at around 130kph and with lovely control including both swing and seam. At the other end, NZ Over-50s bowler Kelvin Scott was the total opposite, with less speed but plenty of inwards swing and variation. Then the lads had to cope with some quality spin bowling from Tobias Delahunty, Matt Stretch and James Jacques. Fion Heagney showed courage with the bat as the team was all out for 77.

Although it was a tough encounter for the MBC team, with former CD bowler Greg Logan as coach, the boys held their heads high throughout, fought hard and will be the better for the experience.

The Willows won by 218 runs

The Willows 295
J. Jacques 103*, J. Garry 49, C. Ward 43, M. Stretch 40, D. Winstanley 3/53

Marlborough Boys' College 77
F. Heagney 28, J. Jacques 3/2, M. Stretch 3/19

Umpires: D. Boyle and M. Dexter
Scorer: M. Mason



▲ *Men at the heart of Marlborough cricket, all ex-MBC boys (L to R): Mason Robinson (match captain), Greg Logan (current 1st XI coach), Greg Stretch, Matt Stretch and Colin Ward.*



▲ *Marlborough boys enjoying the Canterbury sunshine.*



v Southland Boys' High School 1st XI

8th February 2026

The Willows produced a solid all-round performance to defeat Southland BHS after posting a formidable first innings total and then dismantling the chase with some disciplined bowling. A big partnership between Paul Russell who went on to score a fine 100 and Mason Robinson who flicked off his legs beautifully, kept the scoreboard moving and ensured there were no major collapses. Old boy Andrew Leckie who made a very sensible and well played 66 also enjoyed a nice partnership with Paul.

Chasing 297 runs was a demanding target for the southerners. They struggled to gain early traction against a strong Willows bowling unit.

Opening the bowling was UK Arundel Scholar Ollie Moore who bowled tight lines with pace and the other Englishman, Olly Birkett from Matfen CC, bowling accurate swinging seamers. It meant the Southland batters had to work hard for their runs. Pressure, regular wickets and a compounding run rate tilted the match in The Willows' favour.

Although Southland fell short it was good to see them bat out 45 overs and value their wickets.

The Willows won by 147 runs

The Willows 296/7
P. Russell 100 retired, A. Leckie 66, M. Robinson 52

Southland Boys' High School 149
T. Rutledge 31, O. Birkett 3/31

Umpires: D. Stuthridge and D. Palmer



▲ *The Willows outfield looking immaculate in February.*









v Blackbridge CC (Victoria)

11th February 2026

Fifteen years after MED had founded The Willows, another cricket tragic had a similar yearning in rural Victoria. Paul Bridges-Black, with roots steeped in backyard cricket, in 2008 founded a touring club, called the Blackbridge CC (so named after a compounding of his parents' surnames) and kitted them out with orange and black striped blazers and hooped 'baggies'. So it was a pleasure to welcome Paul and his team to The Willows for a trans-Tasman show-down.

The visitors, bolstered by a couple of Willows "imports", batted first. The Willows struck an early blow dismissing the centurion from the previous tour match, Joshua Bethune, cheaply. Then Willower John Garry combined with Greg Interlandi in a strong stand, before a contestable LBW, by a player umpire, dented progress.

Several of the remaining Aussie batsmen got starts but added nothing substantial, until local hired gun Dan Vann, in at number 10, batted well and took the team through to a sub-par total of 194 runs. Stan Woolliscroft belied his 70+ years of age and was rewarded with a 3-fer.

The score proved not enough. The home team started strongly with some tidy batting from Mike Singleton and Carl Petersen, before Arundel scholar Toby Munt stepped up with the bat. He top-scored with 73 runs – a dominant man-of-the-match innings. The last word however to Paul: "We had an amazing time and what a way to finish our tour".

The Willows won by 5 wickets

Blackbridge CC 194
J. Garry 42, G. Interlandi 36, D. Vann 33, S. Woolliscroft 3/32

The Willows 199/5
T. Munt 73, C. Petersen 42, M. Singleton 39

Scorer: B. O'Sullivan

v Nelson College 1st XI

15th February 2026

The Nelson College fixture is always a much anticipated match, not least as it is the former school of The Willows Founder Mike Dormer. The Willows won the toss and elected to bat, on a typically well-paced wicket. We were fortunate to have Matt Rowe a contracted Canterbury player in our side and he contributed a well-compiled 82. He was well supported by Carter Woodgate who impressed with a well struck 68. The Willows were bowled out for 225, with Nelson impressing in the field and with good accurate bowling. Ryder Gestro led the bowling effort with 3/40, with support from Hogan Ward and Charlie Booker who each picked up two wickets.

The Nelson College batting effort was impressive, led by Kurt Ward, who in his last innings for the XI scored an impressive 125 not out. It was truly a great innings by a very promising young cricketer, and his innings assured Nelson College of their victory. Through Kurt and captain Oran Sim with 41, they cruised to a well-earned win in 34 overs. During the post-match speeches, Michael Hayes from Nelson College read an excerpt from the School magazine The Nelsonian, which acknowledged the contribution and abilities as a cricketer of one Michael Dormer. It was a fitting end to a true Willows day, and one Mike would have enjoyed and been proud of.

The Willows lost by 6 wickets

The Willows 225
M. Rowe 82, C. Woodgate 68, R. Gestro 3/40

Nelson College 227/4
K. Ward 125*, O. Sim 41, A. Guillemot 3/50

Umpires: R. Notley and G. Cutts
Scorer: W. Ward



▲ *The Nelson College 1st XI.*



▲ *Kurt Ward scored a superb unbeaten century.*

v St Andrew's College 1st XI

22nd February 2026

A new star emerged from this one-sided encounter. His name – the St Andrew's captain, wicketkeeper and opening batsman – is Spencer Hair. From the moment he took a first over catch (and he picked up another four, either stumpings or catches) until his innings of 71 runs, which effectively shut The Willows out, he ruled supreme.

StAC were a snappy outfit in every department. After a disastrous start The Willows' recovery was led by the experience of Brent Findlay and Nick Horsley who added an 85 run stand and then John Costello stepped up through the middle to see us through to a sub-standard 188 total. All the College lads bowled impressively with Jake Farrelly the stand-out. Then it only took them 32.3 overs to knock off the runs and in doing so make all our bowlers somewhat innocuous. Man-of-the-match Hair relished the conditions and put on a 124 run partnership with another future star, 15 year old Angus Schmack. All The Willows bowlers went for plenty as we were well and truly put to the sword.

The Willows lost by 7 wickets

The Willows 188
N. Horsley 44, J. Costello 41, B. Findlay 34, J. Farrelly 4/28, H. Horsley 3/37

St Andrew's College 189/3
S. Hair 71, A. Schmack 39, S. Gaffaney 32

Umpires: L. Watkin and N. Capaldi

v St Bede's College 1st XI

1st March 2026

It started out hot and sunny ... but rain was on the way. The intel was SBC had a good squad and the deck had some life in it given mid-week rain. The Willows made a group decision to bowl first. The brothers Haines (Jack and Max) opened the attack and bowled extremely well. SBC was reeling at 3 for 21. Enter Max Boyle and Jack Hislop and they put on a fine partnership of 174. They batted brilliantly. Max was very patient and scored in his areas and turned over the strike. Jack's innings was superb with some fine stroke play mixed in with aggression. One lofted cover drive from in to out was the shot of the day. A hundred at The Willows is something Jack won't forget. It was also very enjoyable to play with Olly Birkett and Toby Pilkington from Matfen CC in the UK. Both fine men and bowled well. Safe travels home lads.

So SBC ended up on 268 for 6 off 50. A very challenging but gettable target for a youthful and talented Willows team...and then the rain ... it poured and that was that. The Willows only faced one over. It probably summed up this summer.

No result

St Bede's College 268/6
J. Hislop 111, M. Boyle 81, M. Haines 3/14

The Willows 4/0

Umpires: M. Hill and R. Hill
Scorer: A. Boyle





▲ *Alex Wilson (right), pictured with his brother Henry, anchored the run chase with an unbeaten 89.*



▲ *Leg-spinner Archie Haywood (WBHS) – best figures of the season with his 6/33.*

v Waitaki Boys' High School 1st XI

8th March 2026

A glorious day at Loburn saw a positive and close encounter between The Willows and Waitaki Boys' High School. The Willows won the toss and batted first on an excellent deck. The top order batted well with all making starts, and CBHS 2nd XI batsman James Irwin top scored with 81. He was well supported by Rhys Petrie, Toby Munt and Ollie Moore. The top order, however, was not supported by those who followed, with The Willows collapsing from 191/4 to 198 all out! Leg spinner Archie Haywood took 6/33 to be the chief contributor to our sudden demise.

In the field, The Willows started strongly restricting Waitaki to 33/3 at the 17-over drinks break. Off spinner Jimmy Hill, also from the CBHS 2nd XI taking 3/24 off his 10. Despite some real pace from Ollie Moore and accuracy from Tim Grocott, The Willows were unable to finish the job, and Waitaki recovered and started scoring boundaries to achieve the winning total 7 down with two overs to spare. Alex Wilson scored a superbly paced 89 and hit the winning runs with a 6, and he was supported by useful knocks from skipper Harry Mavor, Archie Rooney and Cash Paterson. A day of what might have been for The Willows. Waitaki were great visitors and took away the Rolie Eveleigh Trophy. *Floreat Waitaki.*

The Willows lost by 3 wickets

The Willows 198
J. Irwin 81, T. Munt 33, R. Petrie 29,
A. Haywood 6/33

Waitaki Boys' High School 201/7
A. Wilson 89*, C. Paterson 30, J. Hill 3/24

Umpires: D. Stuthridge and M. Wood

v Country Schools XI

15th March 2026

Another beautiful day at NZ's Home of Cricket. The Willows inserted the Canterbury Country Secondary Schools XI to bat. Harrison Cox opened the bowling, his first time bowling in over a year and it showed, with a spate of wides. When he finally decided to come off the long run, he figured out he could bowl again. It was a beautiful sight. He finished with three wickets as did Mason McLachlan and Toby Delahunty.

The visitors managed a total of 138 with the pick of the batsmen being Xavier Nortman, who batted aggressively and Harrison Rooney, a talented Rolleston College up-and-comer. Extras had the second top score of 31.

To make a game of it The Willows put 175 on the board. Country Schools had some very good bowlers who tested the batting line up. As he has been all season Carl Petersen was lethal through the covers and scored a run a ball 52. Other good contributions from Ollie Allen and Jonty Dalzell saw The Willows home. Jonty summed it up at the end when he said "we should have chased 200, I was robbed of a 50". Another great day, with great people.

The Willows won by 5 wickets

Country Schools XI 138
H. Rooney 35, T. Delahunty 3/32,
M. McLachlan 3/37, H. Cox 3/39

The Willows 175/5
C. Petersen 52, J. Dalzell 39*, L. McLeod 3/29

Umpires: D. Stuthridge and B. Littmoden

v Hawkswood Wanderers

20th March 2026

This was one that got away. After being in the driving seat most of the way The Willows faltered at the end. Batting first, most of our men got starts with Craig Gibb and Toby Munt the stand-outs, both scoring good half centuries. Spin was the order of the day and it all went belly-up once hired gun Andrew Nuttall came on. He bemused all in a great spell which saw him record his umpteenth Honours Board entry with a stunning 5/40.

In reply, Hawkswood struggled initially and at 7 for 131 it was cruise mode and downhill for the home team. Not so. Skipper Phil Dickson and clever Rupert Davison had other ideas. They shared a crucial 54 run stand before that Nuttall man came out again and whacked the winning runs. Rupert's fine half century proved the difference and The Willows had lost again, for the 20th time in our history to the Wanderers. Little wonder at the end you could hear MED loudly humphing in heaven's pavilion.

The Willows lost by 1 wicket

The Willows 217
T. Munt 57, C. Gibb 52, A. Nuttall 5/40

Hawkswood Wanderers 220/9
R. Davison 52*, T. Mauger 37,
H. Falls-Anderson 3/47

Umpire: J. Stringleman





▲ *The death rattle – captured beautifully by photographer Emma Breitmeyer.*

v Hutt International Boys' School 1st XI

22nd March 2026

We welcomed a very well prepared Hutt International Boys' School for the third time to The Willows.

It was the home team who batted first and this seemed a very sound decision as the total raced past 80 without loss at the drinks break. Carl Petersen continued his rich vein of runs and with Jake Wilson (28) set a wonderful platform before the HIBS spin attack stemmed the flow of runs. Slender partnerships thereafter saw The Willows battle through to be all out in the penultimate over for 178, with Henry Rumball and Toby Pilkington being the only other scorers of note.

Ishaan Patel with 4/27 and Will Ashton 3/17 were the pick of a bowling attack which maintained good consistent pressure on the opposition.

The Willows XI bowling was led by Callum Temple-Doig and William Bretherton who both bowled with exceptional control of line and length. The introduction of spinners, Mason McLachlan and Brennan Matla continued the pressure. Jack Gerrie and Harry Dando provided the base for the chase. As things tightened Ishaan Patel played an excellent strategic captain's knock to take HIBS to victory 9 down with seven balls remaining. A great day at The Willows despite the result. It was good to see some HIBS old boys, who have now seen the light and attend Uni in Canterbury, coming out to support the boys along with some parents.

The Willows lost by 1 wicket

The Willows 178
C. Petersen 62, J. Wilson 28, I. Patel 4/27, W. Ashton 3/17

Hutt International Boys' School 179/9
J. Gerrie 34, I. Patel 28*

Umpires: D. Miller and A. Achanta
Scorer: B. O'Sullivan

v Waimea College 1st XI

29th March 2026

Heartbreak for Waimea College Principal, Fraser Hill, who fell just one run short of completing a fairytale century against his own 1st XI. Anguish when he clipped a loose one straight to backward point to end a dominant innings and deny him emulating the ton scored by his son Callum in last season's match. The Willows started with a 68-run opening stand from Om Alva and Yats Sharma which set the stage for Fraser's fine knock. To their credit the Waimea bowling attack was impressive as they kept the lid on the scoring rate throughout and restricted The Willows to 223 runs.

The signs were ominous for The Willows when the visitors got off to a strong start and were in the box seat, at one stage on 99/1. Opener Neco Perrott led the charge with an excellent half century. However, things took a dramatic twist with the introduction of spin. First Englishman AJ Morris struck with three caught-and-bowleds and then medium-pacer Floyd Yock ripped through the remainder. The pair, collectively with figures of 12-3-24-7, finished Waimea's hopes and ensured a comfortable Willows victory in the end. It was a great final day enjoyed by a goodly number of parents who made the trip south to support their team.

The Willows won by 71 runs

The Willows 223/8
F. Hill 99, O. Alva 36, Y. Sharma 31, J. Mollett 3/61

Waimea College 152
N. Perrott 51, F. Yock 4/14, A. Morris 3/10

Umpires: D. McIlraith and S. Kalyanaraman
Scorer: R. Seabourn

Cancellations due to weather

5 Oct	v Otago Boys' High School 1st XI
15 Jan	v Seddon CC
18 Jan	v Riccarton High School 1st XI
25 Jan	v Timaru Boys' High School 1st XI



Children's Christmas Party 2025

Held on 15 December – in support of the Canterbury Down Syndrome Association

The annual Christmas party was an absolute blast for children who have disabilities and their whānau. Once again, there was so much to enjoy including pony rides, a pirate-themed bouncy castle, balloon sculptures, drinks, sausages, face painting and of course, the man himself … Santa! Every child who attended received a lovely gift from Santa. Some were very happy to sit on Santa's knee, others not so much, but everyone had fun. Festivities concluded with a crazy lolly scramble when he left in his very cool vehicle, to tend to his reindeer.













Around the Ground



▲ *Canterbury coach Peter Fulton has a word with the next generation of players at a pre-season match.*



▲ *Willows legend Phil Harris makes the presentations at the Sydenham Youth XI match.*



Around the Ground











Sam Noster: from tradition to turbulence

21 hours after receiving the invitation to write this season's Commentary Corner, Sam had delivered. Not surprising, given his success in business as the founder of The Move Concept in Vancouver, Canada. Check it out at themoveconcept.com. Before heading offshore, Sam was a talented young all-rounder who played for the New Zealand Under-19 team and has notched up three centuries at The Willows. We hope there are more to come when back home and we value his words here.

After over a decade of playing premier cricket in Christchurch and Wellington, a message came through about the opportunity to play a season in Vancouver, Canada. I took a leap of faith. I knew this would likely be my last chance to play abroad while I was still young enough, so I treated it as a final hurrah before life pulled me in other directions.

Cricket has a funny way of shaping lives, no matter what stage of your career you're in. What I thought would be just one overseas summer for five months has instead become a life here, filled with experiences I never could have foreseen. I now live in an apartment in Vancouver with my fiancée, two dogs, and a child on the way. That one decision to play abroad has opened doors I never imagined, yet it only took stepping onto a Canadian cricket field for the first time to realise how different the game is here compared to NZ, and how much we, as Kiwis, take for granted.

Picture playing in the top league of the province, alongside and against current and former first-class and even international cricketers. Yet before a ball is bowled, players are setting cones for boundaries, spray-painting lines on an artificial wicket, and marking out the 30-yard circle themselves. The toss happens ten minutes before the first ball, on an outfield the council last mowed a week ago, with grass brushing your ankles. Most Canadians have little knowledge of cricket. With ice hockey, football, and baseball dominating their sporting culture, council workers don't realise the importance of a short and fast outfield needed to suit our game. In New Zealand, we never give that a thought. Councils, curators, and volunteers quietly get it right every week, and as players, we walk out assuming those conditions are simply part of the sport.

The cultural differences struck me just as strongly. Cricket here is heavily expat-dominated. My club, Meraloma, has a large base of South Africans, Australians, English, and New Zealanders, while almost every opposition I've faced has been made up almost entirely of Indian, Pakistani, or West Indian players. As a result, the contrasts on and off the field are vast. Their passion is unquestionable, but the atmosphere is fiery. Teammates bicker and argue, captains shout at bowlers, and batsmen abuse fielders. Appeals come thick and fast, and sometimes you're given out LBW to a ball you've clearly hit, simply because the opposition has screamed "howzat" ten times while charging in towards the umpire. Under that pressure, the umpire caves, and players now use this tactic deliberately. Unsporting? Absolutely. But it has become ingrained in the cricketing culture here.

Back home, it's the opposite. Yes, we play hard, but there's structure, sportsmanship, camaraderie, and a sense of respect everywhere you go.

Some of my Canadian cricketing highlights have had very little to do with the scorebook. One day, I hit a six clean over the boundary into the lawn of someone's backyard, only for the property owner to storm out holding the ball. Instead of tossing it back, he walked onto the pitch, looked me in the eye, and said: "Do that again and I'll come back out with a shotgun." We decided it was safer to keep the ball on the ground from then on. Another time, partly out of curiosity, I strapped a GoPro to my head to capture the chaos. The very first match I filmed ended with the opposition captain waving his bat at my teammate, threatening to kill him for getting in his way during a run out. That clip went online and drew thousands of viewers, and now Canadian club cricket's quirks are watched around the world via my YouTube channel. What started as a bit of fun has become a small platform, but beneath the humour is a serious point. Without proper organisation, facilities, and values, the game teeters constantly between passion and chaos.

And yet, the bigger picture is changing. Cricket in North America is on the rise. In the United States, Major League Cricket has begun to attract global stars and serious investment, while Canada recently regained ICC ODI status, a milestone that cannot be overstated for the future of the game. These are massive steps for a country where cricket has long existed on the margins. For us expats who have grown up with the standards of places like New Zealand, it creates a sense of obligation. If cricket here is to thrive, it cannot rely on passion alone. It needs to be played and taught with the same values we were fortunate enough to experience back home, ensuring the next generation in Canada learns the game in the right way.

As a result, living and playing in Canada has made me reflect on what makes New Zealand cricket so strong. It's not just the players or the competition, it's the infrastructure and the people behind it. Councils cutting outfields to the right length. Groundsmen rolling and preparing grass wickets week after week. Volunteers behind the bar, scoring, umpiring, and opening clubrooms. Those things don't sound glamorous, but they shape the way the game is played. They allow youngsters to learn on the right surfaces, they give cricketers pride in their clubs, and they create a structure where cricket isn't fighting for survival, it's thriving.

That reflection brings me full circle to when I first played at the Willows. I was 15, nervously facing former New Zealand opening bowler Geoff Allott, shouldering arms and walking back for a duck. At the time it felt like failure, but over the years I've come to see it differently. Clubs in New Zealand, such as The Willows, give cricketers the chance to play in an environment that elevates the game and instills lessons and values I would love to see here in Canada. From the tie and jacket, the pavilion, the shared lunches, to the post-match presentations, none of these are necessary to play cricket, but together they made it an occasion. You felt proud to play there. That's what Mike Dormer understood when he founded The Willows. He knew cricket needed more than just players and a ball – it needed a home that honoured the game.

Like so many of us, I didn't fully appreciate that until I played in a country where those things don't exist. In Canada, cricket survives because of passion alone. But in New Zealand, we're blessed with passion, infrastructure, and people to match it. That combination is rare, and it's why our cricketing culture continues to produce opportunities for players of all levels.

Cricket has shown me that passion alone can keep the game alive, but it's the structure and support around it that make the experience special. In New Zealand, and especially at The Willows, those things are quietly in place: the wickets, the clubrooms, the people who care. Growing up with such standards makes them feel normal, yet the reality is that even across most cricketing nations, they are far from guaranteed. From where I now stand, they are extraordinary. So value your clubs and the people who make them possible, especially clubs like The Willows. Cherish them, because they are rare, and they hold the foundations of cricket and of everything we love about the game.



▲ *Academy clinic with Matthew and Ellie Bell.*

Thrive In: Supporting young cricketers on and off the field

The Willows were delighted to partner with ***Matthew and Ellie Bell*** *in the winter of 2025 to run a 12-week programme for secondary age cricketers. The aim of the academy was to blend technical cricket development with real-life mental skills and personal growth strategies.*

Matthew played 18 Test matches for New Zealand and was a prolific run-scorer for his province of Wellington. He is the holder of many provincial records including most centuries by a player for Wellington (20) and most centuries in a season (five in 2000/01). So to have him, along with Ellie, involved was a real coup and just reinforced how fortunate Sydenham CC are to have such a talented pair to coordinate and deliver coaching programmes across all grades.

Our vision: Cricket + Life = Whole Player Development

At Thrive In Cricket Academy, our mission is simple: to support young cricketers not just to play better, but to *become better equipped for life*. Our approach is based on the belief that great cricketers are built from the inside out. While technical skill is crucial, long-term success and enjoyment of the game come from confidence, adaptability, self-awareness, and emotional resilience, qualities that also serve young people well in school, work, and life.

What we delivered

Cricket Coaching – 12 sessions

Delivered by former Black Cap and high-performance coach Matt Bell, our weekly cricket sessions focused on foundational skills and player-specific development. Every session balanced core technical drills with tailored work to meet individual needs, covering batting, bowling, fielding, and tactical awareness.

Matt also incorporated real-time performance feedback and strategic planning into the sessions, helping players move beyond "drills" and into decision-making, self-assessment, and reading the game. Several players commented that they learned aspects of cricket they had never been taught before.

Performance Life Coaching – 6 sessions

Led by performance life coach Ellie Bell, these fortnightly workshops focused on the "off-the-field" game, helping players build the mindset, mental skills and self-leadership to thrive in sport and beyond. Sessions covered:

- Self-belief & identity (moving beyond confidence to inner trust)
- Managing pressure & nerves (including pre-performance routines and body language work)
- Goal setting & personal performance plans
- Dealing with mistakes & setbacks
- Self Awareness & Healthy comparison
- Leadership & communication

Each session offered a safe, interactive space where players explored real challenges, reflected on their habits, and applied new strategies.

Having Matt involved in the Performance Life sessions was a real strength of the programme. His ability to share personal stories from his playing and coaching career helped ground the mindset work in real-world cricket experiences.

Whether it was a story about bouncing back after a tough innings, managing nerves before a big game, or the importance of clear communication under pressure, Matt offered tangible, relatable examples of how the tools we were teaching, like self-belief, focus, and emotional regulation, directly impact performance. His presence reinforced the message that this work matters at every level of the game, and gave the players confidence that these strategies aren't just theory, they're part of what it takes to succeed.

A mixed group, a shared culture

We were proud to work with a diverse group of young cricketers, both girls and boys, ranging in age and playing experience. From the start, we focused on creating an environment built on our CARE values:

- **Courage** to speak up and stretch
- **All-In** commitment to growth
- **Respect** for each other and the game
- **Enjoyment** as a foundation for sustainable development

Players showed remarkable openness and maturity, leaning into new ideas and bravely sharing their experiences, especially during the Performance Life sessions where vulnerability often led to real growth.

Transferable skills beyond sport

Our goal wasn't just to create better cricketers, it was to equip young people with tools they can use for life. Throughout the academy, players built:

- **Resilience** – learning to respond instead of react
- **Self-awareness** – noticing thoughts, emotions, and body language
- **Goal-setting and follow-through** – including written performance plans
- **Leadership** – learning how to bring their team with them
- **Communication** – asking questions, giving feedback, speaking up

Final reflections

The Thrive In Cricket Academy model is unique in its whole-person approach, combining technical skill development with performance life coaching, mentorship, and mindset work. It's a programme built not just for better players, but for more confident, thoughtful, and empowered young people.





Co-curricular involvement matters more than ever

Fraser Hill *is currently the Principal of Waimea College in Richmond, Nelson, a role he has held since 2023 following two previous principal appointments. Over more than 30 years in education, Fraser has lived and worked in both the North and South Islands, developing a strong belief in the role schools and communities play in shaping well-rounded young people. A passionate cricketer since the age of 12, Fraser played most of his competitive cricket in the Waikato during his younger years. He has been a member of The Willows Cricket Club since 2012, and his son Callum – now living in Christchurch and playing his cricket there – is also a proud Willows member.*

One of the great privileges of working with young people is watching them grow not just academically, but socially, emotionally and in character. As a school principal, I am often asked what makes the biggest difference in helping teenagers thrive. My answer is consistently the same: meaningful involvement both in and beyond the classroom.

Co-curricular activities – sport, the arts, cultural groups, leadership opportunities and academic extensions like debating – are not add-ons to school life. They are central to it. These experiences teach lessons that simply cannot be replicated in a classroom alone, and they provide young people with a sense of belonging, identity and purpose at an incredibly formative stage of life. For many clubs – including cricket clubs like The Willows – co-curricular involvement is part of a long tradition of developing not just skills, but people. While sport sits naturally at the heart of that tradition, it is important to recognise that the benefits flow just as powerfully through drama rehearsals, debating competitions, kapa haka practices, music ensembles and student leadership groups.

Across all of these pursuits, young people learn the same essential disciplines: commitment, resilience, time management, teamwork, humility and perseverance. They learn what it means to turn up when motivation dips, to handle disappointment with grace, to celebrate others' success and to keep improving even when they are not the standout performer. These are life lessons, not just teenage ones.

Former All Blacks coach Sir Graham Henry captured this idea perfectly when he said, "Better people make better All Blacks." The sentiment applies far beyond rugby. In schools, better people make better teammates, leaders, citizens and adults. Co-curricular involvement helps shape those "better people" by requiring young people to engage with others, take responsibility, and be part of something bigger than themselves.

Perhaps the most underrated benefit of co-curricular participation is the quality of relationships it nurtures. Teenagers often form their strongest and most enduring friendships through shared pursuits. Standing side-by-side in a team huddle, working late into the evening on a

school production, or travelling away to tournaments and competitions builds bonds that go far deeper than convenience-based friendships. These relationships provide belonging and protection during an age where social pressures are significant and identity is still being shaped. Being “known” within a group gives young people confidence, perspective and a safe place to land when life feels challenging.

As parents, we have had the privilege of watching this play out in our own family. Our son’s involvement in cricket and hockey at Christchurch Boys’ High School was about far more than results or representative honours. It was about learning to train regularly, juggling commitments, supporting teammates, and discovering that success comes from sustained effort rather than instant reward. The same has been true for our daughters through their involvement in basketball and hockey. Like many families, we've spent countless hours on sidelines – often on bitter Christchurch evenings beside hockey turfs – watching, talking, laughing and sometimes simply keeping warm. There is a quiet joy in those moments. Time stretches, conversations deepen, and relationships with other parents grow organically while our kids are off being part of something they love.

We’ve also put our hands up to help – as managers, helpers and, at times, coaches – even when the sport itself was completely new to us. Neither basketball nor hockey featured in our own school days, but that didn't matter. What mattered was showing up, giving it a go and modelling engagement.

The commitment and contribution of adults (not just parents and caregivers) is profoundly valued by schools and clubs. It adds real value to programmes and, more importantly, to young people. When teenagers see adults investing time and energy into their activities, they feel affirmed and supported. That sense of being worth someone’s time is incredibly powerful. There are also benefits for parents that shouldn’t be underestimated. Co-curricular involvement creates community. Supporting teams and groups introduces us to new people we might never otherwise meet, often forming friendships



▲ *Waimea College Girls 1st XI at The Willows for their match against Craighead Diocesan in March 2026.*

grounded in shared purpose rather than convenience. School gyms, clubrooms and sideline chairs can become some of the most unexpectedly relational spaces in our lives.

New Zealand golfer Lydia Ko has spoken often about the importance of balance and perspective during her schooling years, noting that having interests and support beyond performance helped her stay grounded. That message feels particularly relevant in a time when pressure on young people can feel relentless.

Clubs like The Willows Cricket Club play a vital role in this ecosystem. They are more than sporting organisations; they are community anchors. By providing a sense of tradition in a structured, values-driven environment where young people can belong, strive, be challenged and be supported, they contribute directly to the development of confident, connected and resilient young adults.

As schools and clubs continue to work together, the goal remains the same: helping young people discover who they are, what they value, and how they contribute. Whether that happens with a bat in hand, on a stage, behind a lectern, or wearing a leadership badge, the outcome is the same – young people better equipped for life.

And that, surely, is the win we are all playing for.

New President Robbie Deans to lead the Club into its next chapter



Rob needs no introduction being one of Canterbury's favourite sons. We are honoured to have him at the helm to ensure The Willows keeps its objective of providing schoolboy and schoolgirl cricketers with the best possible opportunities in playing, touring and coaching.

An accomplished cricketer in his earlier years, Robbie once scored 154 against a David Boon-captained Tasmanian Secondary Schools side in the Australasian Secondary Schools tournament held in Christchurch in 1978. More recently Robbie has tormented us with a century (109*) for Hawkswood Wanderers in 1996, has represented NZ Over-60s, and is a member of our sister Club I Zingari Australia. Robbie has been a member of The Willows Cricket Club since 1999.

At a Willows "Faith Through Sport" service at St Barnabas Church on 24 October 1999 Robbie said in his address: "when the smell of liniment fades, what will remain is the depth of character developed, the friendships, the experiences, the lessons learnt and they are forever". This message is as pertinent as ever today and we welcome him warmly as our new President where he will want all our young women and men to develop their lives through a healthy participation in sport.

Sports initiative in Northland

Over the winter it was great to hear loyal Willower **Joey Yovich** interviewed by Corin Dann on Radio New Zealand's Morning Report. Joey, along with JP Dignon, set up an initiative called ReSport Northland to recycle sports equipment to young people in the region who otherwise would not have access to such gear. So far, donated sports gear to a value of over a staggering million dollars has gone out. The Trust has been blown away by the generosity of people and by feedback on the tangible impact it is having. As Joey said it is an example of "community spirit at its best".

Amidst all the global unrest and heartbreak, especially in places like Gaza, it is more important than ever to shine a light on the good. Small but powerful examples like this remind us of what is possible when people come together for the right reasons.

Congratulations – an MNZM, Middlesex next head coach and Club honours



Warm congratulations to founder member **Martin Hadlee** on the award of an MNZM in the 2026 Honours list for ongoing lengthy service to his community. Not surprisingly with the pedigree, Martin was also a handy cricketer in his day with his name on the Club's honours board for a century in 1998 against keen rivals back then, Woodbank Wanderers CC.

Towards the end of the season the cricket public of this country learned of the appointment of **Peter Fulton** as 2026 head coach of the Middlesex county side. This will be a fantastic career move for him and Middlesex CC acknowledge that they have gained "an ambitious, exciting and hugely talented coach with a proven track record" from his time with both NZ and Canterbury cricket. And as a bonus, after he had departed, his Canterbury team went on to win the Plunket Shield for the season; a special trophy for the CCA cabinet and part of his legacy. "Fults" will be sadly missed at Loburn as he has always been close to the heartbeat of the ethos of The Willows. A loyal friend of the Club.

Three club members are to be congratulated on achieving special milestones this season. Veterans **Andrew Nuttall** and **Stan Woolliscroft** played their 150th and 50th Willows match respectively. **Mike Singleton** not only joined Stan with his 50th match but it coincided with his 1000th run for The Willows. These men are the pillars of our club and are each an absolute pleasure to play alongside. Well done Andrew, Stan and Mike.

The Willows delighted to partner with the Sydenham Youth Academy

Over the winter, 16 talented young cricketers—boys and girls from across the region—attended an intensive 12-week cricket academy at the Sydenham Indoor Centre. The lucky students were selected through an application process and represented a range of local schools including Lincoln High School, Ellesmere College, Middleton Grange, Rolleston College, St Martins School, and Cashmere High School.

The programme, hosted by the Sydenham Cricket Club, was led by former Black Cap **Matthew Bell**, now the club's Director of Cricket, alongside his wife Ellie and two of the club's Premier coaches. We at The Willows were proud to fund the academy as part of our commitment to develop youth cricket in secondary schools. We hope it becomes a regular fixture in the region's cricketing calendar.



Dormer Melluish Aldridge scholars

Scholars **Will Davis** (SBHS) and **Brennan Matla** (CBHS) were straight into it on arrival in the UK April 2025. This after a great job by Mike Peacock to bring it all to fruition. First, the two lads went to the Arundel Castle Cricket ground for an introduction to their Foundation and staff. Next, to their respective Sussex clubs – Will with Chippingdale CC (Worthing) and Brennan at Aldwick CC (Bognor Regis). After warm welcomes it was straight into training. Once settled into their clubs and accommodation it was time to work out how to catch the train to work.

Arundel Foundation work involved: taking children on tours of the castle and Arundel town, and of course, coaching cricket. Groups varied from visually impaired students, a special needs school from East London, to local primary schools. While the experience was both humbling and incredibly rewarding they acknowledge that through it they have grown as people plus their cricket coaching skills and confidence have improved.

Throughout the summer they had a busy club schedule. For Brennan this involved a group of 5-12 year olds on Friday. Plus playing a lot of cricket with midweek friendlies, Sunday games, and of course league games on Saturdays. For both, the initial challenge was to adjust to the English pitches. An early highlight for Will and Brennan was playing in a T10 tournament at the Arundel Castle Cricket Ground and winning it. Outside of cricket the lads had a day in London which coincided with VE Day celebrations, watched a Sussex county game at Hove and Will went to a football game, Liverpool v Brighton.

In June Will was lucky enough to have the privilege to be a net bowler with the South African and Zimbabwe cricket teams while on tour. The experience helped him to see first-hand the professional environment and how much time and effort top players put in to perfect their craft. He also got to meet some of his favourite



▲ *Will Davis (R) with South African star Kagiso Rabada.*



▲ *Ben Dormer (centre) with reciprocal Arundel scholars Toby Munt and Ollie Moore, about to return to the UK.*

players such as Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen and Wiaan Mulder who just scored 367 not out. Even Jofra Archer came in one day during a rain delay.

Both were fine ambassadors while away. This was best summed up on the Aldwick CC Facebook page where Brennan's contribution over the summer was acknowledged thus: "Thank you Brennan for everything – from all of us at Aldwick CC, where you will always have a second home and a cricket family".

More on our overseas links – new and old

In 2026, The Willows proudly sent two outstanding young cricketers abroad as recipients of the Dormer-Melluish-Aldridge Scholarship: **Alistair Derry**, a talented wicketkeeper-batsman from Cashmere High School, and **Felix Nielsen**, a leg-spinning allrounder from Burnside High School.

Both players have shown exceptional promise on and off the field and departed in April for Sussex, where they competed in the local league and contributed as coaches for the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation. This marks the third year of the scholarship programme, and continues to strengthen the long-term and mutually beneficial partnership between The Willows, the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation, and BACA.

In January, we welcomed our reciprocal scholars to Christchurch for the second half of the Kiwi summer. **Toby Munt** and **Ollie Moore**, both highly regarded bowling allrounders, joined East-Shirley CC in the new year. We were delighted to see them in action, especially with word that both players may have County contracts awaiting them on their return to the UK—an impressive indication of their potential. Ollie took a wicket – clean bowled – with his first bowl on NZ turf and then later in the season had a six wicket bag (figures of 16-4-58-6) which certainly added some firepower to his premier grade side.

On another note, the long-standing Matfen Scholarship has come to an end—at least for the time being. For over two decades, The Willows sent 40+ scholars to represent Matfen CC, in a village situated thirty minutes from Newcastle. One of Matfen's great club men, Ian Pilkington, who played alongside nearly all our scholars over that period, visited New Zealand at the end of January. He travelled to see his son, Toby, who toured Australia before joining Burnside-West CC through a connection with former Willower Will O'Brien. Toby and his friend Ollie Birkett (also with Matfen connections) joined the Arundel pair in the February match versus Southland BHS 1st XI. Unfortunately we were unable to get Pilki senior out in his whites to play but he would have been proud to see the four UK lads perform so well at The Willows in that match. A special moment, and a wonderful reminder of the enduring friendships, memories, and cricketing connections these scholarships have created.

IZ's Bill Douglass completes a ton



Winsome Dormer with President Robbie Deans and Bill Douglass for the I Zingari Australia luncheon held in October at the Royal Sydney Golf Course.

There was a great turnout for the occasion which was also a chance to congratulate Bill who is now 100 years of age and going strong.

Runs galore testament to our ground staff

Alan Gilmour and **Ben Dormer** again excelled in having the block and outfield absolutely pristine for the October opening. The first match against King's High School 1st XI saw a total of 534 runs amassed. This followed 583 runs first game last year (v Otago BHS 1st XI) – totals nowhere near achieved before in our history. It didn't end there: in the next match the Sydenham Youth XI in a cliffhanger nearly tipped the home side on their first visit to Loburn. The match produced another 515 runs all up. These first two matches for the 2025/26 season set the bar really high for the remainder of the season. All further evidence of the collective skill and hard work expended by both Alan and Ben in the months prior to opening day.

Interestingly, in the opening match, and for the second time in three seasons, we lost a batsman in the dreaded nineties. On this occasion Tom Mušić (94) followed Hunter Kindley (98 v Otago



▲ *Tom Mušić hooks gracefully on his way to 94.*



▲ *Patrick Ross (85*) drives against Sydenham Youth XI.*

BHS in 2023) in falling just short of an honours board entry. Hunter did come back the following season and gained the elusive century (100* v Otago BHS in 2024), a feat we hope Tom will replicate. This was somewhat the theme throughout the summer – even until the very final fixture when school principal Fraser Hill was caught for 99 runs against his very own boys from Waimea College 1st XI.

And not to forget the bowlers. In the first game of the 2022 season Will Bretherton picked up the tenth best ever 10 overs figures of 6/36 v Otago BHS 1st XI. The best return for this season came from the Waitaki Boys' High School leg spinner Archie Haywood with 6/33 and for The Willows by our Kindred rep, Hugo Davison with 5/45 against the Vineyards team from Marlborough. So good things happen given the superb ground conditions we enjoy.

...but wait, there's more: three centuries in one match

History repeated. The golden start to the season extended to the third match, this time versus Wellington College 1st XI. Seven runs short of 600 aggregate for the two innings in this match with three centuries – two by visiting lads and one by former Wellington and Canterbury player Steven Murdoch. This equalled the three centuries which were scored in the January 2024 game against I Zingari. Such feats further reinforce the sterling work of Alan and Ben.

And after all that plunder came the big wet early 2026

The lot of a cricket ground curator is not without challenge and toil. The Willows did not escape the heavy rains that sweep the country in January. An unprecedented three school games in that month had to be cancelled, and only after a monumental effort by Alan and Darcy did a fourth, against I Zingari Australia, get started at all. This was the 13th NZ tour by the IZA club, but the poor weather meant that only half their planned four fixtures could actually be played – both at The Willows.

The last words on this from stalwart IZer Mark Hodge: “We did manage to play CBHS on the Monday, thanks to the hard work of Ben, Darcy and Alan at the ground on Monday morning. IZA and CBHS were very appreciative of their efforts, and also for being allowed to play there. The school grounds were saturated, so without your willingness to make the ground available, the CBHS match would have been a washout as well as our VOP and STAC matches”.

[Editor’s note: I Zingari – ‘the Gypsies’ in Italian – is an amateur wandering cricket club formed in 1845 in England and in 1888 in Sydney. The I Zingari colours of black, red and gold symbolise their motto ‘out of darkness, through fire, into light’ and are thought to be influential in the colours adopted by the MCC in 1860, except on the tie the stripes go in the opposite direction!]





From our youngest

We are in awe at what **Dan Vann** and his team at Evolution Sports have done over many years for primary and intermediate cricket in our area. Loburn was the venue for their junior development match between Evolution Sky and Evolution Navy. The two teams of great players went head to head and for many it was their first game on a grass pitch. This was the purpose of the game as well as for them to learn and feel the values, traditions and history of the game.

There was a mix of ages between 9 and 12 and it was great to see the older boys supporting and including the younger boys in the game in which everyone was able to bat and bowl. It was an epic way to end the year for everyone. We had a great group of supporters and the boys loved it. There were no individual scores posted – that wasn't what it was about as all who played were winners at this annual event. Thanks Dan.

On another occasion a group of even younger cricketers from Loburn and North Loburn Schools joined Ben and Angus Dormer for a friendly knock at the ground. Later, several wrote nice thank-you notes. Watch for talent from Loburn and of course our own Angus Dormer in years to come.



▲ *St Hilda's Collegiate from Dunedin arrive at the ground.*

Girls' teams show their skills

The November day dawned fine and perfect for the afternoon double-header – or so everyone thought! The first 30-over match between Otago Girls' High School and St Margaret's College got completed but sadly not so the second match. It was great to have former NZC President Lesley Murdoch, Kirsty Bond and Amanda Hardy in attendance; three who have done so much to foster the women's game over many decades. We also welcomed Australian umpire Steve Eccles to officiate with Graham Cutts.

In game one between Otago Girls' High School and St Margaret's College, Canterbury Under-19 rep Ciara Hartland produced a strong all-round performance. OGHS managed 77 runs from their 30 overs with Rowan Wilson (25) and Ava Couling (24) leading the way. Ciara and Lexia Boon took three wickets apiece. St Margaret's made short work of the chase, lost only 3 wickets and it was Ciara who dominated, with an excellent unbeaten 61.

After lunch and a welcome by Kirsty Bond, a past CGHS pupil, Christchurch Girls' High School batted first. They made a sizeable 212/6, with age reps Elise Dill-Russell making 52* and Isla Elstob 36. Lyla Hemminsen impressed with the ball for the southerners. The young St Hilda's team, which is rebuilding with seven Year 9s in their squad, then began the chase. But at 40/2 in the 10th over the rain struck and unfortunately play was eventually abandoned.

Later in February Waimea College edged out a hard-fought victory against a strong Craighead Diocesan XI. Batting first Waimea set a competitive target of 130/8 from their 30 overs. The innings was anchored by a stellar 48 from opener Summa Pratt, with Biddy Thomas adding a crucial 26. Craighead's bowling attack remained disciplined throughout, led by Leah Geary's standout figures of 3/9. She was well-supported by Camryn Linton and Ruby Brown, who claimed two wickets apiece.



▲ *St Hilda's celebrate the fall of a wicket.*



▲ *Craighead Diocesan School 1st XI.*

The chase saw Craighead make steady inroads, headlined by a superb 52 from Sophie Kelly. She acted as the backbone of the innings, but her dismissal as the sixth wicket proved to be the turning point. Despite a spirited effort from the tailenders, Craighead fell just short, with Waimea securing a 13-run win. Petra Cederman, Brooke Robinson and Caitlin Whiting all took 2 wickets each.

Congratulations to Players of the Day: Summa Pratt (Waimea College) and Sophie Kelly (Craighead Diocesan).

And finally, at the back end of the season The Willows were able to support the QBE Insurance Cup festival which involved T20 games for 18 girls' teams over a five week duration. In the end six teams vied in March for the final section with another six in the plate event.

Congratulations to St Margaret's College 1st XI and Christchurch Girls' High School 1st XI who have to play off for the Cup and the right to represent Canterbury at the nationals in December. It proved an excellent new venture enjoyed by all.



▲ *St Hilda's players watch the first match of the double header, between Otago and Christchurch Girls' High Schools.*



▲ *A youthful pair – Kaushik Padmanaban (Metro Premier umpire) and Lucas Watkin (Country umpire) officiate the Willows v Sydenham Youth XI match in October.*



▲ *The 16 teams gather at the Kindred tournament at Nelson Park, Napier. The Willows won the 2026 edition.*



Kindred boys score gold again

By Chris Mugford

After a successful 2025 campaign, The Willows assembled a formidable squad for the 2026 Kindred tournament played during the popular Art Deco festival in Napier. Clifton County hosted the tournament at Nelson Park where both the weather and pitches were of exceptional quality. The format was to be The Hundred in a straight knockout basis, which suited our aging bowling roster. Despite a rather aggressive pre-tournament team-building session the side arrived on Friday morning in good spirits.

Game One was against a composite team made up of spare members from other teams due to a late withdrawal of a travelling Australian side. The 'Fingletoads' as they were to be known put our bowlers under pressure and posted a competitive 147 off their 100 balls. The chase was controlled even after a couple of early wickets. Jimad Khan 72* and Dan Vann 53 picked up from the last tournament and chased the total down with 20 balls spare.

Game Two saw us play the quarter final vs the hosts Clifton. They had a strong first up win and their best batter had a strong outing against us as a Fingletoad. The Willows batted first and dominated from the outset posting a huge 171 with big scores from Jimad Khan, Robert Dunne and Adam Hastilow. The bowling started strong with Hiini and Mugford tying them down and the momentum never came for Clifton, falling 40 short. The Spitfires at the Art Deco festival performed overhead but were no match for the aerobatic display of our big hitters.

The next day saw the Semi-Final vs the heavily fancied Royal Torpedo CC (formerly North Shore). Carrying a squad of 35 they were well rested and had the benefit of the only 100 scored in the tournament. The Willows bowled first and immediately removed their talisman James Marshall *(c M Davidson b B Hiini)* in a scorecard resembling a late 2000s Cricinfo update. The Torpedos never recovered and were squeezed by the bowlers only getting to 107. The Willows chased it down in 70 balls to hit the final.

The Final saw a fired-up Wellington Wanderers team who had dismantled all before them in the tournament, including a much fancied Todd Astle led Betterman squad. The Wanderers batted first scoring 137. They threatened to pull away numerous times but wily bowling from Adam Hastilow 4/11, Paul Miller and Michael Davidson ensured a chase which was gettable. The Wanderers started well having The Willows two down early but again a calm captain's knock from Robert Dunne and some more brutal hitting from Jimad Khan and Adam Hastilow saw The Willows home with 19 balls to spare.

The team want to extend a big thanks to Shea Parnell and Phil Chandler from Clifton County Cricket Club for organising a great event and to the touring squad for making the event so enjoyable. The full squad was: Robert Dunne (c), Chris Mugford, Paul Miller, Michael Davidson, Jonathon Davidson, Adam Hastilow, Tim McConnell, Dan Vann, Sam Davis, Chris Nicholson, Hugo Davison, Brandon Hiini and Jimad Khan.



Our dedicated umpires and scorers

During the 2025/26 season the local cricket umpire fraternity lost three very experienced umpires: **John Elley** who umpired 66 matches at The Willows between 1996 and 2013 (the statistic he was most proud about was that he stood for eight of those games when over 80 years of age); **Jim Henderson** was also long-serving from 1998 to 2015 and thereafter as a scorer – his last match on the book was in 2023; and **Angus McLeod** who was a more recent umpire with 5 matches between 2023 and 2025 and of course the late husband of experienced scorer Ann.

We are hugely appreciative of the thirty umpires and ten scorers who have officiated during another busy season. Not surprisingly, heading the list for most appearances as an umpire is our co-ordinator David Stuthridge with six matches while Ann McLeod has kept an immaculate book for six matches in total. Other umpires with multiple games are: G. Cutts, D. McIlraith, B. Littmoden, and David's trusty back-up Jim Stringleman, all with three matches. Along with Ann, others to score on multiple occasions during the season were Rob Seabourn and Brian O'Sullivan.

As well, three international umpires have done a game each: John Farrell from the UK, Steve Eccles here to umpire the Australia Over 65 State Championship, and a welcome back to Davern Lewis with the IZ Australia touring team of 2026. John is the Regional Officiating Development Officer for England cricket based at Lord's cricket ground, and it was a thrill to have him stand with a first-class umpire from Otago in Kannan Jaganathan, for the Wellington College match.

While covering off key milestones, we must acknowledge that Mark Wood, a Willows regular, chalked up his 100th Premier match during the current season. Plus it was special to have a father and son combo, Matthew and Robert Hill umpire together on a couple of occasions.



▲ *Young scorer James Murphy with his grandfather and match manager Keith Yardley at the St Thomas match.*

We note that these days it gets harder and harder for David to provide scorers. We are therefore grateful to those prepared to help, often at short notice, and with some being first-timers at The Willows. They traverse a wide spectrum of backgrounds eg a mother (Wendy Ward), schoolmaster (Mark Mason), grandson of a member (James Murphy), an overseas member (Brian O'Sullivan), even a local coach (Alastair Sim). And as a last resort players must step up as well. Brian scored twice while back on a five week visit to family in Christchurch. An old boy of St Bede's College, he is the brother of the late John (Matey) O'Sullivan, esteemed past scorer with the Sydenham CC, South Brisbane CC and the 1983 national men's cricket team. With a long career in newspaper journalism in Birmingham UK, Brian has written many publications. One of his latest is a cricket book on Norman O'Neill, a 42-test Australian star batsman of the 1960s. It was great to catch up with Brian again during his brief trip home; more so to have his skill in taking tidy scorecards.

A big thank you to all our meticulous and dedicated officials and to the photographers, especially: Emma J Breitmeyer, Ash Hart of Hartland Images, and Brendan J Biggs and others for capturing so many exquisite action pictures throughout 2025/26.

Recognition for our great helper



Darcy Palmer has been recognised for his decades of service to the Cantabrian Rugby Football Club by being made a Life Member. The club, founded in the 1950s, was established in large part to promote youth rugby and the positive values and principles of the game in Canterbury.

Darcy is one of the great servants of Canterbury Rugby. He has been a player, a coach, an administrator, a liaison officer and, most prominently in recent years, as one of the Cantabrians who have successfully run the annual Tiny Hill Live-In camp at Burnham. The focus of these camps has been to develop young rugby players. As a player himself he played club rugby in both the Country and Metro competitions, as well as for Canterbury Colts, Canterbury B and one game for Canterbury A in 1975 (against Mid Canterbury, although he was a reserve against Scotland).

Outside of sport Darcy in 2005 established Farmers for Farm Safety (FFS), a company that continues to thrive. Darcy pays tribute to his wife Anna and adult children Georgie and Henry for their support over the years. Along with his son-in-law Ben Dormer, he has also put countless hours into making our cricket ground and the facilities at Loburn world-class.

The Cantabrian award is great recognition for all his hard work. Darcy is a fun guy to be about with his endless stories about sport. These stories are filled with humour and passion, and never fail to entertain.

Above and beyond from our Nelsonians

Just when we thought we had seen it all with the dedication of current NZ Over-50 rep Mason Robinson, another Nelson family has excelled as well.

First, Mason: Over the space of a fortnight, he made the long drive from Nelson to Loburn twice on consecutive Sundays to play for The Willows in his quest to get truly match-fit for later international fixtures. A drive of hundreds of kilometres to play the game he loves.

Then came the story of the Ward family who in the space of a couple of days drove *thousands* of kilometres for cricket and to ready their sons, Kurt and Hogan, for university. Their trek goes like so: after the family drove down from Nelson to play an inter-school match against St Andrew's College on the Friday, they travelled to Dunedin on the Saturday to set the boys up in "digs" for university at Otago, and then they all drove back to play The Willows fixture on the Sunday, and thereafter back home. It is such commitment that sets them apart. Not only were the boys star acts in their victory at Loburn, we know that the Ward family have, over many years, made a huge contribution to youth cricket in Nelson. Parents Merv and Wendy have filled various roles for the Nelson College 1st XI – this time with Merv as manager and Wendy as scorer.

A **Splash** of **Dash**

Cricket blazers – a preppy fashion statement and ever popular off the pitch. Some of the colours on display this past season.



▲ *Ocean Beach County Cricket Club*



▲ *Canterbury Over-50 XI on their UK tour*



▲ *Blackbridge Cricket Club (Victoria)*



▲ *Shirley Boys' High School 1st XI*



▲ *I Zingari Australia Cricket Club and The Willows*



Q&A with **Ash Hart**

This year something a little different. We focus on a man who after a successful first-class cricket career has in recent years pursued his on-going passion for photography. Ash played 31 matches for Canterbury, between 1982 and 1986, and as a wicket-keeper gained 83 dismissals (72 catches, 11 stumpings) and featured in some memorable match-winning late order batting partnerships. He was the consummate team man who relished the challenge in the middle. Ash played all his club cricket for the Sydenham CC, and was a key member of the side that won the senior competition in 1985/86.

In recent years he has branched out, set up Hartland Images, and excelled as a photographer where his analytical eye to capture that ace shot has prevailed. As well as cricket he has excelled taking action shots in water polo, ice hockey, rugby, taekwondo and when time permits wildlife and nature pictures. We are pleased to have Ash in the spotlight now.

Q1. From your playing days, what are some of your most satisfying personal cricket memories?

When I got my break I wanted to make the most of it and prove to myself I could play at that level. I was lucky to play in an era when 1st class cricket was strong, so I have many good memories; the obvious, keeping to Richard Hadlee at his peak. Also my two last wicket partnerships with Craig Thiele against Wellington where we went oh so close to setting a new Canterbury 10th wicket partnership.

Q2. Where and how did your interest/ talent for sports photography happen?

I had two cameras but didn't know how to use them (all those buttons must do something). I joined the Christchurch Photography Group when I retired. Everyone was so helpful and as I got more confidence I started to produce better photographs. It's just like sport you need to practise or you fall behind. Then Kevin Congdon asked me to help him photographing the lower grade Sydenham teams and it went from there. I knew I had to find a winter sport to keep my eye in so sent an email to Canterbury Ice Hockey and as their photographer had gone to Nelson, this became my winter sport. Ice hockey is really fast plus the low inside light tests you. It took me a couple of seasons to get it right but I eventually got there with help from the Photography Group.



▲ *A shot Ash was proud of during the season. Taken at the National U-19 tournament at Lincoln Green.*

Q3. You once said "like cricket, you can have your off days" as a photographer. Explain.

Well like cricket, you need to work at your game. Photography is no different; you make mistakes and you learn from them. You might have a wrong camera setting and your photos turn out crappy. You find out what was wrong and hopefully don't do it again. The photographers who take great photos work at their craft, try different things, and see things that the average Joe just doesn't see. It is definitely a skill/art.

Q4. Capturing the moment. Can you prepare for that or is it a chance thing?

Cricket is probably one of the harder sports to photograph and yes there is an element of chance and luck. Fortunately because I played and know the game I can pick up players' strengths. After four years of cricket photography I still don't believe I have captured that elusive one off photo – ie. the play that changes a game, or the player who produces a play that turns a game and to capture the emotion of that moment. It is about being in the right place at the right time, with the correct light and settings - you can't prepare for that! It will happen when I least expect it. I believe it's some way off for me yet. It may never happen but it could happen twice in a week, who knows.

Q5. Favourites. Which photos do you rate up there as your best shots with camera?

I like photographs with the batsmen's feet, head and hands in the right place, with the ball in the photo, the bat maker's label shown and a face preferably with a good expression. Bowlers again with full face showing, ball, stumps and umpire in the photo. But my favourites are those elusive catches in the slips or outfield, the run-outs and the quirky different plays. They are so hard – to get your camera lens from the batsmen or bowler to fielder and then to get the fielder in focus. Tricky.

Q6. A technical one – type of camera and lens(es) used for sports photography?

I shoot cricket with a Sony A9ii with a Tamron 150-500 Lens. I've always had Sony cameras and the A9 is one Sony specially designed with sports in mind. But there are a number of good cameras out there, so if anyone is thinking of having a go at sports photography, do your homework, find a good camera shop to get good advice (a plug for Greg at Photo & Video International and his team. They also have good second hand gear so you don't have to spend mega bucks – it's not a cheap hobby if you go new) and ask other photographers questions. I haven't met a photographer who wouldn't help a newbie.

Q7. Back to cricket. How do you see the state of the modern game?

I think the game is in good shape, but the pressure is on the longer form of the game. Test cricket may be for the purist but it is the short formats that bring in the money. The young ones who are passionate about the game and who possess talent have some great opportunities. With the introduction of professional coaches, the advancement and technology of new gear, the way the game is run, the young men and women of today have a really good chance (if they work hard enough) to make a living from the game and set themselves up for life.

Past Highlights

Sunday 12th November 2023 saw probably the best game ever played at The Willows, against Christchurch Boys' High School 1st XI — and the most memorable day in the history of the Club: the first ever double hundred at the ground, a 200-run eighth wicket partnership, and a chase that went to the last over, four runs short.

15 year old Harry O'Loughlin produced one of the most incredible school boy performances ever seen. The classy left-hander raised the bat for his hundred, where compulsory retirement was abandoned; from there the blitzkrieg continued, 22 boundaries and 7 maximums bringing a history-making 208 not out from only 144 balls. With Jack Dry he put on an unbeaten 203; CBHS finished at 317/7. At lunch Harry was presented with a Club cap by Sir Richard Hadlee and signed up as a junior Willower.

On a good wicket and a lightning outfield there was a chance if The Willows batted well. And bat well they did! Magnificent batting from Aaron Mauger, Colin Slade, Jeremy Benton and Chris Nicolson took us to the brink of the biggest successful run chase in our history. Nick Smith, the best of the CBHS bowlers, closed out the final over beautifully, taking 3/33.

The final words go to our captain Matt Parr – "an incredible day of cricket which epitomised everything The Willows is about; competitive and hard fought with both sides up to get the result. To have 630 runs scored in a day highlights the incredible work the grounds team have put in. To those Willowers who may not have been out to play recently, I strongly suggest you get out there – it is hard to beat". Hear, hear Matt.

Christchurch BHS 1st XI

H O'Loughlin	not out	208
C Samson	lbw Benton	30
T Robinson	c Parr b Nicolson	1
C Ellison	run out	2
S McCulloch	c Parr b Nicolson	13
R Samson	c Benton b Nicolson	0
J Lough	c Slade b Scott	3
H Rumball	lbw Scott	0
J Dry	not out	39
A Kirkland		
N Smith		
Extras (5b, 2lb, 14w)		21
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)		**317**

	O	M	R	W
HJ Cox	7	0	42	0
MD Farrant	7	1	36	0
JTA Benton	10	1	49	1
H Wessels	5	0	25	0
C Nicolson	7	1	40	3
KB Scott	7	0	48	2
CR Slade	2	0	26	0
MJ Parr	5	0	44	0

The Willows

KB Scott	c Ellison b Kirkland	5
HJ Cox	c McCulloch b Smith	15
B Fleming	lbw Smith	5
AJD Mauger	c Smith b Ellison	91
CR Slade	lbw Ellison	42
JTA Benton	c R Samson b Smith	64
MJ Singleton	run out	6
C Nicolson	c Robinson b C Samson	65
MJ Parr	not out	0
MD Farrant	not out	6
M Reid		
Extras (1b, 2lb, 11w)		14
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)		**313**

	O	M	R	W
A Kirkland	6	1	38	1
N Smith	9	1	33	3
C Samson	7	0	60	1
J Dry	3	0	17	0
C Ellison	10	1	56	2
T Robinson	5	0	35	0
C McClurg	8	0	51	0
R Samson	2	0	20	0

Umpires: B Littmoden and S Kalyanaraman **Scorer:** S Steere **Result:** The Willows lost by 4 runs

Like father like son

The attention to detail and effort put in to ensure we enjoy the best possible conditions to play our game; rolling the wicket between innings. MED, from 2004, the only assistant groundsman in New Zealand to wear a tie and son Ben, in 2026, appropriately attired in his Cambridge Blue cricket sweater. The hand roller is still going strong after heavy use over 32 seasons.

Photos courtesy of Rex Hayward and Emma Breitmeyer





> "A captain can look at the sky, he can look at the clouds, he can look at his players. But ultimately, he has to look at the groundsman."
>
> — *Ravi Shastri*



Presidential top order has set a solid foundation

By John Mitchell

To date, four Willows Presidents, each in their own way, have worked to further the Club's ideals. It is appropriate to reflect on the impact each President has had on the development of the Club.



WJ (John) Mitchell
1994–2003

"Promise little ... deliver a lot" was drilled into me by Mike as we drove down Lineside Road to cricket. We often reiterated something Darin Cusack said back then, imploring that "The Willows must always remain fresh".

Such mantras steered the direction taken in those formative days. We wanted every cricketer after the day's play to say I've had a good day as they drove back to town. We also didn't want soft cricket. Fast bowlers who were fit and able must come off their long runs and there was no dispensation for looseners or golden ducks. Standards were high: the senior players to be the role models and to act the part on and off the pitch. We wanted 1st XIs to experience match pressure and to feel the heat when applied.

So the traditions of The Willows were laid down. The inaugural Club Dinner was held at the Showgate, Riccarton in 1995, with guest speaker Iain Gallaway and opera sung by Christopher Doig, Suzanne Prain and Teddy Tahu Rhodes to an audience of 170 members and captains of our secondary school XIs. The standard was set; students introduced guest speakers, gave the toast to cricket and more. Four more Club Dinners followed in my time and then in 2002 one at the Christchurch Casino with the key-note speech by John O'Neill, CEO of the Australian Rugby Union. This later function showcased Mike's amazing event management skills in raising $60,000 for the Salvation Army Youth Awareness Programme. There were others too; ie when overseas teams like MCC played or the one in 1998 to commemorate the opening of the Hadlee Gates when we honoured five members of the great 1949 New Zealand Cricket Team (Bert Sutcliffe, Martin Donnelly, Geoff Rabone, John Hayes and of course our Patron Mr Walter Hadlee).

Mike championed these formal occasions. Dinners, hosted at St Bede's, followed for secondary school cricketers; the first had Sir John Graham as guest speaker. Mike's own Christian upbringing meant he had already, pre-Willows, organised the Pakistan great Imran Khan to preach at St Barnabas Church in the first of what became Church Services to Celebrate Faith Through Sport. Others followed with Robbie Deans and Bruce Murray as preachers. Mike was warming to the task; within one week in October 1999 we had: on Sunday a Church Service (with Robbie) and a match; on Tuesday a 1st XI Dinner (with John Graham) and then on Friday a Club Dinner (with Jeremy Coney). These were certainly heady days.

Also at this time we were gravely concerned about the plight of secondary school cricket, specifically the lack of coaching, the lack of

support for coaches and indeed the dwindling number of cricket masters and coaches. Meetings involving key secondary people led to a coaching strategy being presented to NZC. Traction was hard work. But goodwill and support came from predictable quarters. Men like John Wright stepped up and he ran a first coaching clinic at Rangiora High School. Willows cricket scholarships were introduced; the earliest two recipients being Stephen Gibson to Sydney and Andy Ellis (rugby) to Surrey. Mike was now eying a Youth XI tour with Sri Lanka in mind. This came to fruition during the next presidency. In 2003 there was an important change in the batting order with Sir John Hansen taking over the reins.





Hon Sir John Hansen
2003–2019

Sir John has been our longest serving president. He gave 15 years of his life to The Willows. In his presidency he worked tirelessly to strengthen the traditions and values of the club, to foster ties with NZC and to expand the focus on youth.

Justice Hansen, as he was known then, brought a global perspective to The Willows. A man who carved an illustrious legal career both here and in Hong Kong was also on the Board of NZC and conduct commissioner for the ICC. His contacts were extensive and so we enjoyed a burgeoning in both domestic and overseas membership numbers. Many influential key cricket people offered support to our growing club.

Club and 1st XI dinners continued unabated and were well attended. With strengthened ties with NZC they sponsored some of these dinners. Sir John extended the range of guest speakers to include people like Sir Tim Rice, Nick Farr-Jones, Frank Tyson, John Eales and more local national sporting heroes like his personal friend Glenn Turner. But it went further. Sir John was able to access vice-regal involvement which meant three New Zealand Governors-General (His Excellencies Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae and Her Excellency Hon Dame Patsy Reddy) actively supported Governor-General matches, team dinners and other formalities. Sir Anand even went on one of the Willows Youth tours to Sri Lanka with the team.

From his days as captain of the Kowloon CC requests for new fixtures flocked in and we hosted both the Craigengower CC and Hong Kong CC to games and even staged an Under-19 World Cup match between Hong Kong and USA at Loburn. Australian teams including Mike's old club I Zingari, the inimitable Swan Richards' Crusaders and more followed. Two Wellingtonians, Ervin McSweeney and Evan Gray, helped bring more former internationals to play than ever before. Through Evan and the Wanderers Club the tradition of home and away youth games saw our youngsters grace the turf of the Basin Reserve on alternate years.

When Mike and Sir John introduced Merrill Fernando of Dilmah Tea to The Willows so began a special relationship there. From these roots, Willows Youth Tours to Sri Lanka and Asia, under the expert management of Paul and Julie McEwan commenced. Nine tours have been undertaken since 2008 with a high percentage of those players going on to play first-class cricket. One of the original tourists, Alexander Reese was so moved by the whole experience he thereafter founded several cricket / life skills academies in Sri Lanka. Again with Dilmah funding these have expanded, so that hundreds of poorer children from that society have benefitted from the programme. As a positive

adjunct of the Youth tours and Cricket Live we have been able to reward a number of Willowers and local hard-working cricket coaches to go across to Sri Lanka to share their expertise.

Just as Merrill's contribution has been considerable, so was the relationship between Sir Hugh Blackett and The Willows. The marvellous Matfen Scholarship blossomed in Sir John's time. From 2003–2023 we have been sending pairs of Year 13 lads across to Northumberland to play cricket and to experience independence away from the security of home. This amazing life-skills opportunity only came to an end when Sir Hugh sold Matfen Hall.

At grass roots level Sir John moved to streamline internal club structures. After ten years of being run by a relaxed band of Founders, he brought in a more business-like Management Committee. Meeting procedures were tighter and we needed to as our horizons broadened.



Hon NRW (Nick) Davidson KC 2019–2024

Nick came in at No. 3 at a critical time to oversee the Club in a period of transition. He was just the man for what was ahead; first with ensuring that Covid-19 protocols were in place and then in managing the serious news that our skipper MED was gravely unwell. Although now resident in the Far North at Matakana, Nick managed to have a high profile and lead us through difficult times.

He accepted the role on the condition he brought change. It was vital to have women members involved at all levels within the Club. Almost immediately we had the first women's Willows game, followed by an inter-school match between St Hilda's Collegiate 1st XI and Christchurch Girls' High School 1st XI. Currently, a further six girls' 1st XIs plus a Wellington composite side have graced the ground. We have benefitted from Kirsty Bond's input in this and her fine work on the Board.

Like Sir John before him, Nick excelled in formal occasions. First there was the Club's 25th Anniversary Dinner at St Bede's, followed in 2021 by Mike's funeral service and later a special Club Memorial Day to celebrate the legacy that Mike had created. Nick was also a huge support for both Winsome and Ben Dormer throughout these challenging months.

True to the assurances given to Mike, Nick worked assiduously to make sure that key values of the Club continued. These included coaching in schools and the return of tours and scholarships post-Covid. To facilitate this Nick, along with Paul Rutledge and others, raised $25,000 at the 2023 Golf Day for youth coaching. This enabled initiatives like Year 7/8 coaching clinics and games run by Dan Vann and his coaching team, home and away youth games v Seddon / Cobham Clubs, Arundel exchange, and success for the over 35 years Kindred team, under Sam Davis, who won the first three national tournaments ever held.

Nick's time saw important internal Club changes. Match days ran better with the introduction of Match Managers to assume responsibility for selection and management of their teams. He also set up one class of membership (no longer segregated into playing / non playing members); changed the Management Committee into a Board with each member responsible for a specific portfolio; introduced match day sponsors as part of his work with John McRae for The Willows to attain charitable status to put the Club on a better financial footing; and was a great support and sounding-board to Ben

Dormer throughout both the major pavilion extension and ground upgrade undertaken. We now have a world-class facility with Nick a key man in the transformation.

Sadly, when Nick died suddenly in 2025, we lost a wonderful friend, leader and source of inspiration to all in The Willows and our wider membership.



PD (Paul) Rutledge
2024–2025

The Willows was fortunate that Paul graciously accepted to be our next President. Here was a man who has been very active in the Club since the start. As far back as 1997 he bore the brunt of match day selections, a demanding and vexing task, and even donned the Santa Claus costume for the annual Christmas Party. With great support from wife Megan, and daughters, Paul has ensured the children have enjoyed the day ever since.

Paul is a man of principle. As President he was very focused on growing the women's profile in cricket and in backing girls' inter-school games. We have a trophy now for the best female Willows performance of the season to sit alongside the boys' one. So grass-roots cricket for all youngsters was at the heart of Paul's ethos. He did not want children to miss out on playing cricket because of cost barriers and looked for ways to help with coaching in struggling schools. Specifically, what Tamai Sports have done for underprivileged children in earthquake hit eastern Christchurch is something very dear to him as are youth coaching clinics and various support for coaches.

He brought in the *PLAY IN THE V* lapel badges for first-time secondary players and worked hard with Mike Peacock to get the Dormer-Melluish-Aldridge Scholarship bedded in. Paul's philosophy on youth sport is very much aligned to that of Joey Yovich at the Cobham Club in Whangarei and links between the clubs have been fostered.

Paul is the kind of individual every club needs: one who labours so that others can shine, who sees what needs doing and works out how to do it. We were blessed to have him at the helm after the sudden loss of Nick and he has been tireless in his quest to maintain MED's high expectations.



Matfen: The phone call that saved our dying cricket club

By Hugh Blackett

Back in our English winter of 2002/03, our local village cricket team in the North of England was in dire straits. We were losing too many matches, recruitment was very difficult and the players were getting older with no one coming forward to replace them. Looking after the ground was always difficult and relied on one stalwart to do most of the work. We badly needed momentum and a youth policy.

I came up with the idea of recruiting a couple of young ringers. I could also give them a job in my hotel so that might be attractive as well. It couldn't be Brits. West Indian fast bowlers could be risky because I didn't want to kill any of the local opposition! South Africans, Australians? I don't think so! Of course the answer had to be Kiwis. I had worked in North Canterbury aged 18 on a farm where I had the most wonderful year of my life. I met the locals and got to know what a great attitude they have. They would be perfect but how was I to find a source of these young players?

I rang up a friend of mine in England who I knew had a lot of cricket contacts. Helpfully, his nickname was Kiwi! He put me onto Derek Smail who had family in New Zealand and might know someone. Shortly after that I was put on to Mike Dormer. What followed was the most refreshing conversation of positivity and hope for our little club in the northern hemisphere. The phone call didn't last long because after a short while Mike said "how many do you want and when do you want them" and put the phone down! So, not long after this conversation in April 2003 we had the first two Kiwis in a long line lasting 20 years.



▲ *Mike Dormer with Anna Blackett.*

These first two Kiwis, Josh Coll and Fraser Hawes, were absolutely fantastic for our little club and became an instant success.

The team started winning and people started to want to play for us. The two boys did a great job at the hotel and we put them up in a house in the local village with other young staff. They had a great attitude and learned to put up with the occasional sledging but at the end of the season we had won the West Tyne league for the first time in a century! It couldn't have worked better but we had a long way to go before we could match the standards of the Willows. My wife and I came out to New Zealand and met Mike, Winsome, Ben and Pete as well as many of their supporters. We saw what an amazing job they had done with the ground and the ethos of the whole Willows family. We could at least aspire to try to match some of their achievements!

Mike came out to England one winter and we got to know him much better. On one memorable occasion he and I joined the local hunt meet where Anna, my wife, was taking part. I remember he wore a red beret for the occasion! The more I got to know him, the more I realised I was privileged to have met one of the most remarkable of men. He seemed to devote his entire life to helping other people especially the

young. Nothing was too much trouble and the contacts and networks he made were largely to the benefit of his good causes. I never had much to do with the Salvation Army but I knew that was very close to his heart. The large framed motto over his breakfast table summed him up completely:

Commitment plus Application combined with Grunt plus Rest = Success

Over the following 20 seasons, many more Willows Scholars (as they became known) came over to the UK to play for us. Too many names to remember following Josh and Fraser but Mike Peacock, James O'Gorman, Callum Curnow, Will Williams and Lachlan Stove stand out but each one contributed enormously to the success of the project. Will Williams has upgraded from village cricket to county cricket and represents Gloucestershire this season.

All good things have to come to an end and my wife and I sold the hotel in 2020. However, by this stage our cricket club had become so successful that we no longer needed the ringers from down under. The club started a ground share with a Newcastle club. That has been a great success as the two teams play in different Northumberland leagues and are able to swap players between the two sides so that there is cricket for all standards of men. There is also a very strong ladies team and juniors as well. All in all, there has been the most fantastic transformation of the club compared to those dark days of the early 2000s when we really were on the path to closure. Last year, on our very small ground and thanks to the hard work and dedication of the grounds team, we hosted over 100 games on the square. The weather last summer was on our side for once but to host 3 to 4 games a week throughout the season is remarkable.

I look back with great pride as to what has been achieved at the club but a lot of it is due to a remarkable man who did so much for other people. Mike Dormer was one of those people that you meet in life who is never to be forgotten. I was privileged enough to have got to know him and count him as a friend. His legacy will live on for many years to come at the Willows.

Tea pioneer honoured



Two commemorative postage stamps were issued in 2025 in Sri Lanka to honour the Dilmah Tea Founder and dear friend of The Willows **Merrill J Fernando**. The first day covers were issued on the birth anniversary of the late Fernando, on what would have been his 95th birthday.

One stamp pays homage to Fernando himself and the other honours his life's work: one of kindness, ethical purpose, and devotion to people and the planet. Together, they are a celebration of 40 years of Dilmah as the company was established in 1985.

Fernando dedicated his life to serving humanity. His legacy continues to live on through the humanitarian projects of the MJF Charitable Foundation and the environmental initiatives under Dilmah Conservation. As well, since 2008 The Willows has benefited directly from the Dilmah family support for nine youth cricket tours to Sri Lanka and Asia as well as backing for the Cricket Live Foundation, founded by Alex Reese, to deliver a life skills programme through cricket for hundreds of youngsters in that country.

Remarkable catch captured

This sequence of photographs is taken of an over the boundary, save-a-six catch, made by the St Thomas of Canterbury College 1st XI captain, Henry Hiatt, in front of the pavilion crowd. The action was caught on camera by Brendan J Biggs, Deputy Principal at the College, known to all and sundry as Biggsy.

Sequence:

1. Catch made by Henry with his back half toward the ball striker

2. With only centimetres to spare from the rope, and toppling, he lobs the ball back into the field of play

3. A dive to retake the ball above the turf

4. And finally, the realisation that a fantastic catch has been effected – no DRS required

Talk about leading by example in the field Henry – and well done, Mr Biggs. Legend!









"Umpires make all the key decisions. Even when they are wrong, the Spirit of Cricket says that they are right!"

"Scorers are the epitome of precision."

— Richard H Thomas
'Cricketing Lives' (Reaktion 2021)

A **Shot** from the **Past**



1956/57 New Zealand Brabin XI

Standing (left to right): M.E. Dormer (Wellington), B. Meale (Wellington), C.W. Barclay (Wellington), G.K. Austin (Canterbury), P.P.W. Morris (Auckland), L.R. Thompson (Otago), J.R. Veitch (Otago)

Seated: J.T. Sparling (Auckland), R.H. Prouting (Canterbury), G.C. Isaacs (Wellington), K. Thomson (Canterbury), J.D. Capstick (Canterbury)

This team photograph is of the New Zealand Brabin Shield (Under 20 years) team of the 1956/57 season, chosen at the end of the tournament held over New Year at Logan Park, Dunedin.

The side did not play an actual match but was in effect the best performing players at that time on display at the tournament. Of the chosen team, two went on to represent New Zealand in Test cricket, namely John Sparling and Keith Thomson.

The 1956/57 tournament also featured two other Canterbury players who did not make their mark at Logan Park but went on to play Test cricket: Graham Dowling and John Ward.

Interestingly it was another member, Gerald Austin, who assisted MED in the design of the pavilion at The Willows in 1993/94. Gerald, by then a prominent architect, drew up the plans and was Mike's go-to man in those formative years.



Brian Adams, QSM
1940–2025

Few in cricket administration can rival the contribution of Brian Adams. Initially, at club level (with Burnside West Christchurch University CC) and then at major association level, he worked tirelessly, in a host of different roles, for the betterment of the game. This was duly acknowledged in 2013, with the award of a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for services to cricket.

The final time Brian was at The Willows was in October 2024. On that occasion he was thrilled to ring the bell to denote the start of play for a match involving the Canterbury Plunket Shield squad bolstered by some of the better schoolboys from the region. Brian stood tall on the balcony, just as he had done precisely thirty years earlier, when he captained the third ever match played at the ground against the daunting Hawkswood Wanderers men. The result that day was a comfortable win for the hosts – something that hasn't happened often since. So Brian heads a short list of skippers to achieve the feat.

Cricket featured strongly in his youth. He attended St Andrew's College and scored a century in his first match for their 1st XI. As a gritty batsman/keeper Brian played his premier cricket with BWUCC from 1961 to 1973, interspersed with studying dentistry at Otago University and later in the UK, where he crossed swords with Mike Dormer, playing for London New Zealand CC.

The crowning glory from his playing days came as a member of the 1970 Ambassadors Tour – a 14 week world tour which saw the Kiwis play in exotic places like Santiago, Sao Paulo, Bermuda, Lisbon, Honolulu and more. As well as Brian, the tourists included Willowers Cran Bull, Barry Hadlee and Roddy Fulton. This once-in-a-lifetime experience was doubly special for Brian for it was on tour that he met Anita, his future wife of over fifty years.

It was in cricket administration that he also excelled. His list of positions, achievements and responsibilities far exceeds allocated space in this publication. Please excuse if we cherry-pick, pay tribute, and list a few highlights: Canterbury Cricket Association (Life Member, President), BWUCC (Life Member, President), Lancaster Victory Park Board (Chairman) and member of the New Zealand Cricket Council (1988-1996). Plus somehow amidst all this, with a busy family life, a successful dental practice, Brian, the author, wrote a comprehensive centenary book in 2005 on the history of his beloved BWUCC.

So throughout his life, this remarkable gentleman gave dedicated service to the game he loved and left an imposing legacy which will be hard to emulate. Rest in peace now Brian.

** Source information from 2021 YouTube interview between Brian and his friend and Willower Mike Fisher*

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to record the death of the following members during the past year. The year in brackets denotes entry to the club.

D.B. (Brent) Bruce / 1937-2025
Member (1995), Hon Treasurer (2002-2010)

R.M. (Roy) Gearry / 1946-2025
Member (2020)

J.G. (Jim) Henderson / 1956-2026
Member (2020)

M.K. (Mike) Phillips / 1935-2025
Member (1994)

L.C. (Lyn) Sparks / 1944-2025
Member (1994-2017)

E.P. (Peter) Wait / 1930-2025
Member (1994)

Cumulative Statistics

Minimum of 300 runs / 15 wickets

	M	Inn	NO	Runs	Ave	100	O	M	R	W	Ave	5W
Abbott, R.E.	15	12	2	199	19.9	-	129	22	518	18	28.8	1
Agnew, T.W.	20	19	6	247	19.0	-	163	21	616	33	18.7	1
Allott, G.I.	15	13	4	109	12.1	-	131	30	427	30	14.2	1
Ambler, K.R.	12	12	2	664	66.4	1	15	1	72	2	36.0	-
Bennett, J.	56	32	13	331	17.4	-	12	1	85	3	28.3	-
Benton, J.A.T.	11	9	3	327	54.5	-	94	9	253	14	18.1	-
Bisman, C.W.	10	8	2	318	53.0	1	81	12	246	19	12.9	-
Bond, D.W.	42	42	7	1359	38.8	2	35	2	256	3	85.3	-
Bretherton, W.B.	23	15	2	124	9.5	-	129	22	459	23	20.0	1
Bridgman, J.	14	13	2	347	31.5	-	3	1	11	1	11.0	-
Brooks, G.N.	21	21	2	592	31.2	-	34	3	147	4	36.8	-
Burson, R.D.	19	17	5	320	26.7	-	140	17	481	34	14.1	1
Campbell, M	9	8	5	89	29.7	-	61	10	235	23	10.2	1
Clark, C.R.	6	6	1	65	13.0	-	48	8	180	15	12.0	-
Coffey, S.T.	14	14	3	529	48.1	2	14	2	67	2	33.5	-
Coll, J.P.	19	19	4	564	37.6	-	244	23	630	31	20.3	1
Cornelius, W.A.	30	20	4	187	11.7	-	185	36	544	37	14.7	2
Courtney, L.	31	28	15	174	13.4	-	211	19	940	31	30.3	-
Cowley, S.C.	15	14	2	258	21.5	-	98	10	367	31	11.8	2
Curnow, C.C.	19	14	4	184	18.4	-	102	9	440	31	14.2	2
Cusack, D.R.	46	41	7	1244	36.6	1	10	1	45	1	45.0	-
Davidson, J.A.F.	47	47	6	1183	28.9	-	9	1	40	1	40.0	-
Davis, S.J.	57	44	16	415	14.8	-	340	51	1270	75	16.9	2
Davison, H.	25	21	6	421	28.1	-	134	10	607	38	16.0	1
Day, H.W.	11	11	1	199	19.9	-	68	8	279	20	14.0	1
De Maine, N.	21	18	7	331	30.1	-	69	4	255	15	17.0	-
Devlin, P.C.	25	25	6	621	32.7	1	32	3	140	7	20.0	-
Dickson, G.J.	32	30	9	522	24.9	-	111	2	475	20	23.8	-
Doody, B.J.K.	37	37	4	1059	32.1	2	30	1	148	12	12.3	-
Doody, T.J.	16	11	5	32	5.3	-	144	7	605	24	25.2	1
Dormer, B.L.	27	23	2	456	21.7	-	10	0	53	2	26.5	-
Dowds, D.P.	31	31	4	975	36.1	1	95	4	495	14	35.4	-
Dunne, R.M.	24	24	9	826	55.1	-	92	12	348	15	23.2	-
Eddington, W.L.		8	1	148	21.1	-	96	13	366	21	17.4	2
Ellis, A.M. (Ex Burnside)	17	17	5	518	43.2	-	88	11	332	19	17.5	-
Ellis, A.M. (Ex SBHS)	14	13	4	424	47.1	-	60	20	168	8	21.0	-
Fisher, T.D.L.	6	6	4	431	215.5	1	16	2	77	4	19.3	-
Flanagan, S.P.	16	16	2	435	31.1	-	120	15	421	19	22.2	-
Fleming, B.D.	25	25	6	700	36.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fulton, P.G.	9	9	0	362	40.2	-	34	2	163	3	54.3	-
Garry, J. (John)	20	20	1	723	38.1	-	37	0	188	8	23.5	-

	M	Inn	NO	Runs	Ave	100	O	M	R	W	Ave	5W
Gray, A.H.	16	11	4	20	2.9	-	175	37	523	30	17.4	1
Grocott, D.J.	23	16	9	178	25.4	-	147	35	361	24	15.0	-
Grocott, T.M.	25	11	5	54	9.0	-	156	7	566	25	22.6	-
Hampton-Matehe, T.M.	22	22	1	725	34.5	1	16	2	60	6	10.0	-
Hantz, J.L.	14	14	0	354	25.3	-	19	1	88	7	12.6	-
Harris, P.D.	89	87	21	2049	31.0	3	288	36	1175	52	22.6	-
Harrison, T.	21	21	4	655	38.5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hastilow, A.J.	54	46	8	1269	33.4	1	258	26	1054	61	17.3	1
Hastings, M.B.	33	28	4	242	10.1	-	278	44	1100	57	19.3	-
Hawke, M.J.	32	30	10	803	40.2	-	165	20	666	26	25.6	-
Hight, C.M.	23	16	7	242	26.9	-	117	24	350	23	15.2	-
Hiini, B.C.	12	12	2	295	29.5	-	75	16	249	15	16.6	-
Hill, F.	17	17	2	581	38.7	1	71	10	330	18	18.3	-
Horsley, N.K.W.	10	10	0	327	32.7	-	28	1	152	3	50.7	-
Hudson, M.G.	18	18	2	369	23.1	-	123	8	557	24	23.2	-
Inglis, G.D.	79	71	11	1452	24.2	1	209	25	869	39	22.3	-
Innes, J.T.	15	15	2	475	36.5	-	71	11	246	15	16.4	1
Johnstone, A.F.	25	25	4	351	16.7	-	30	3	113	6	18.8	-
Kelly, D.P.	51	49	21	2179	77.8	7	189	22	624	50	12.5	2
Kelly, M.J.	24	23	2	431	20.5	-	31	1	156	7	22.3	1
Latham, T.W.M.	9	9	2	483	69.0	1	15	3	56	1	56.0	-
Lonsdale, W.M.	13	12	2	97	9.7	-	115	23	375	25	15.0	-
Macgregor, A.J.	17	17	0	145	8.5	-	141	32	420	23	18.3	1
Marsh, N.E.	24	15	12	57	19.0	-	140	27	463	30	15.4	-
Masefield, R.V.	21	15	7	165	20.6	-	112	12	433	25	17.3	1
Masefield, T.J.	16	15	6	308	34.2	-	37	10	79	13	6.1	-
McCarthy, G.P.	39	37	2	447	12.8	-	71	1	362	18	20.1	-
McCarthy, J.	7	7	2	342	68.4	1	44	3	217	8	27.1	-
McCarthy, P.B.	19	19	2	670	39.4	1	49	5	196	11	17.8	-
McConnell, T.P.	78	77	9	1756	25.8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
McEwan, P.E.	71	65	7	1458	25.1	2	293	27	1261	60	21.0	-
McEwan, R.P.	54	40	9	213	6.9	-	208	20	903	26	34.7	-
McFedries, A.G.	59	54	10	1085	24.7	-	382	40	1595	54	29.5	1
McGuire, R.D.	73	51	24	756	28.0	-	468	43	1860	97	19.2	2
McMillan, D.H.A.	15	12	4	211	26.4	-	126	30	419	22	19.0	-
McRae, A.R.	39	30	7	728	31.7	-	85	9	343	12	28.6	-
Miller, G.A.	27	27	5	566	25.7	1	1	0	14	1	14.0	-
Miller, P.	42	40	2	953	25.1	1	138	11	557	32	17.4	-
Mitchell, W.J.	29	25	3	439	20.0	-	50	8	156	9	17.3	-
Mohammedy, N.	24	14	4	84	8.4	-	131	17	527	19	27.7	-
Mugford,C.	39	37	7	1095	36.5	1	155	17	648	29	22.3	-
Murray, F.D.J.	19	19	0	379	19.9	-	13	0	76	2	38.0	-
Music, T.	46	41	3	753	19.8	-	12	1	64	0	-	-
Nathu, A.	20	19	1	484	26.9	-	14	0	87	1	87.0	-
Nielsen, T.N.	18	17	4	225	17.3	-	145	24	521	32	16.3	1

	M	Inn	NO	Runs	Ave	100	O	M	R	W	Ave	5W
Nuttall, A.J.	150	90	42	1090	22.7	-	1116	252	3185	264	12.1	4
Nuttall, E.J.	7	7	3	42	10.5	-	65	12	210	17	12.4	-
O'Connell, C.P.	14	14	5	210	23.3	-	86	7	383	21	18.2	-
O'Gorman, J.P.D.	16	15	3	507	42.3	2	62	0	263	6	43.8	-
Paltridge, M.	13	13	3	331	33.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parr, M.J.	33	30	4	465	17.9	-	238	36	878	45	19.5	-
Passenger, H.	11	10	3	278	39.7	-	63	10	222	18	12.3	-
Patel, M.	15	13	2	447	40.6	1	83	15	300	14	21.4	-
Pawson, J.D.	32	29	6	685	29.8	1	215	38	640	38	16.8	-
Peacock, M.D.	32	29	9	528	26.4	-	280	71	816	59	13.8	3
Peterson, C.	8	8	0	329	41.1	-	6	0	37	1	37.0	-
Reed, G.I.	29	28	7	387	18.4	-	12	0	59	3	19.7	-
Reese, A.	21	20	5	210	14.0	-	174	11	673	27	24.9	1
Reid, M.	19	9	1	447	55.9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richards, J.M.	29	28	4	738	30.8	-	72	10	296	9	32.9	-
Robertson, I.A.	12	11	3	498	62.3	2	91	17	273	8	34.1	-
Rutledge, P.D.	80	50	11	388	9.9	-	13	0	104	1	104.0	-
Satterthwaite, M.F.	19	19	0	364	19.2	-	5	0	30	0	-	-
Savill, C.M.	35	33	8	412	16.5	-	34	0	216	10	21.6	-
Scott, K.B.	46	42	4	1476	38.8	3	167	18	699	28	25.0	1
Singh, A.	11	10	3	176	25.1	-	74	14	304	22	13.8	1
Singleton, M.J.	50	44	4	1002	25.1	-	3	0	21	0	-	-
Stewart, G.J.	39	30	6	413	17.2	-	217	30	756	55	13.7	2
Stretch, G.B.	12	11	4	504	72.0	2	47	1	229	11	20.8	-
Tapper, J.H.	25	17	3	345	24.6	-	135	33	468	32	14.6	2
Teale, H.W.	16	16	4	542	45.2	1	78	6	414	16	25.9	-
Turner, T.J.H.	11	11	3	63	7.9	-	118	17	438	16	27.4	-
Vann, D.B.	34	28	5	662	28.8	2	116	12	527	19	27.7	-
Vedder, D.W.	15	13	5	25	3.1	-	95	12	374	17	22.0	-
Wakefield, D.J.	23	22	3	545	28.7	-	128	17	464	24	19.3	1
Ward, B.R.	9	9	2	395	56.4	2	2	0	12	1	12.0	-
Ward, J.	16	16	4	369	30.8	-	54	3	280	11	25.5	-
Weeds, M.G.	24	23	5	566	31.4	-	9	0	36	1	36.0	-
Williams, M.L.	24	23	3	383	19.2	-	73	2	298	14	21.3	-
Wilson, J.M.	54	42	5	618	16.7	-	54	1	309	11	28.1	-
Wilson, R.T.	40	40	11	619	21.3	1	152	7	750	26	28.8	-
Wolt, J.R.K.	58	26	12	62	4.4	-	342	38	1461	54	27.1	-
Woolliscroft, S.P.	51	13	2	14	1.3	-	307	35	1115	58	19.2	1
Wright, H.G.	39	26	5	249	11.9	-	150	19	657	21	31.3	-
Yardley, K.J.	27	13	8	21	4.2	-	183	21	742	34	21.8	-

Records

Summary of Results

	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No Result
1994/95	13	12	1	-	-
1995/96	17	12	4	-	1
1996/97	17	10	6	-	1
1997/98	21	14	6	1	-
1998/99	18	10	7	-	1
1999/00	19	9	10	-	-
2000/01	23	17	6	-	-
2001/02	21	15	4	2	-
2002/03	21	16	5	-	-
2003/04	22	15	7	-	-
2004/05	22	13	8	-	1
2005/06	26	14	12	-	-
2006/07	26	13	13	-	-
2007/08	27	19	7	-	1
2008/09	25	21	4	-	-
2009/10	26	19	6	-	1
2010/11	24	18	4	-	2
2011/12	26	15	11	-	-
2012/13	28	19	8	-	1
2013/14	26	12	10	-	4
2014/15	26	15	10	-	1
2015/16	26	14	11	-	1
2016/17	24	13	11	-	-
2017/18	25	15	9	-	-
2018/19	20	11	8	-	1
2019/20	23	16	7	-	-
2020/21	24	17	7	-	-
2021/22	20	15	5	-	-
2022/23	21	14	5	-	2
2023/24	28	18	8	-	2
2024/25	23	18	5	-	-
2025/26	26	14	10	-	2
Total	**734**	**473**	**235**	**3**	**22**

(For home games by Willows teams)

Aggregate Innings Totals

	Inns	Runs	Avg Total	Wkts	Avg/Wkt
1994/95	13	2,702	207	105	25.7
1995/96	15	2,930	195	100	29.3
1996/97	16	3,007	187	106	28.3
1997/98	19	4,306	226	128	33.6
1998/99	17	3,584	210	134	26.7
1999/00	18	3,128	173	145	21.5
2000/01	22	5,149	234	162	31.8
2001/02	21	4,053	193	152	26.7
2002/03	21	4,304	204	134	32.1
2003/04	22	4,757	216	170	28.0
2004/05	22	4,525	206	162	27.9
2005/06	26	5,506	211	210	26.2
2006/07	25	4,410	176	210	21.0
2007/08	28	6,218	222	207	30.0
2008/09	25	5,688	228	180	31.6
2009/10	26	5,654	217	208	27.1
2010/11	24	5,309	221	176	30.1
2011/12	26	5,133	197	208	24.6
2012/13	26	5,780	222	196	29.5
2013/14	26	5,090	195	194	26.2
2014/15	26	5,654	217	197	28.7
2015/16	26	5,040	194	214	23.5
2016/17	24	4,238	176	166	25.5
2017/18	24	4,652	193	197	23.6
2018/19	20	3,578	178	160	22.3
2019/20	23	4,494	195	156	28.8
2020/21	24	4,998	208	184	27.1
2021/22	20	3,862	193	164	23.5
2022/23	21	4,480	213	150	29.8
2023/24	24	5,905	246	185	31.9
2024/25	23	5,110	222	180	28.7
2025/26	26	6,007	231	197	30.5
Total	**719**	**149,251**	**207**	**5,437**	**27.4**

Honours – Batting

(All retired)

K.A.Ambler	100	v Shirley BHS	27.02.05
C.J.Anderson	100	v Marlborough Boys' College	20.10.02
C.G.Bartholomeusz	101	v St Bede's College	29.01.06
L.D.Bartholomeusz	101	v Timaru BHS	03.02.08
C.W.Bisman	100	v Nth Canty Sec Schools	21.02.99
D.W.Bond	102	v Crusaders XI	17.03.01
D.W.Bond	100	v Nelson College	16.02.03
F.P.G.Brookland	**100**	**v Crusaders XI**	**14.12.25**
T.J.Bruce	100	v St Thomas of C'bury	04.12.22
C.J.B.Burnett	101	v Gore High School	30.09.12
A.E.Burrell	100	v St Andrew's College	18.02.96
D.C.Burrell	102	v Ohoka Swamphens	28.01.96
D.C.Burrell	100	v Dunedin Cavaliers	02.02.97
D.C.Burrell	100	v Mt Hutt College	14.01.01
W.M.Burrell	100	v Nth Canty Sec Schools	05.03.00
S.T.Coffey	100	v King's College	24.01.07
S.T.Coffey	100	v Combined Sec Schools	30.11.08
D.R.Cusack	100	v Burnside HS	30.11.03
P.C.Devlin	102	v Nth Canty Sec Schools	11.03.01
B.J.Diamanti	100	v Marlborough Boys' College	20.10.02
L.T.Direen	100	v St Kevin's College	19.11.23
B.J.K.Doody	100	v Christ's College	14.10.01
B.J.K.Doody	103	v Country Sec Schools	01.03.15
D.P.Dowds	101	v Burnside High School	07.12.08
P.M.Duncan	101	v Christ's College	16.01.11
R.M.Dunne	100	v Dunedin Cavaliers	01.02.98
B.Entwistle	100	v Shirley BHS	21.02.21
T.D.L.Fisher	102	v Christ's College	08.01.06
B.D.Fleming	100	v Wellington Wanderers	10.11.23
A.D.Fullerton-Smith	104	v Medbury HM's XI	20.03.05
A.D.Fullerton-Smith	101	v Combined Sec Schools	25.11.07
N.C.Gibb	101	v Christ's College	17.12.23
D.R.Hadlee	100	v Clarrie Anderson's XI	30.11.97
M.J.Hadlee	100	v Woodbank Wanderers	26.03.98
T.M.Hampton-Matehe	101	v Waitaki/St Kevin's XI	14.03.10
P.D.Harris	100	v Woodbank Wanderers	26.03.95
P.D.Harris	102	v Millbrook XI	25.01.98
P.D.Harris	104	v Woodbank Wanderers	25.03.01
A.J.Hastilow	101	v Waimea College	26.03.23
T.Harrison	105	v Mid-Canterbury Youth XI	10.11.13
C.A.S.Hill	101	v St Bede's College	20.01.19
C.A.S.Hill	100	v Waimea College	23.03.25
F.Hill	100	v Shirley BHS	15.03.15
M.L.Hocquard	101	v Peninsula Craz	21.03.24
F.J.Huston	100	v Christ's College	22.12.24
O.R.Hutton	100	v Southland BHS	06.03.05
T.Huyser	101	v Nelson College	13.02.11
G.D.Inglis	100	v Timaru BHS	25.01.04
J.A.Jacques	**103**	**v Marlborough Boys' College**	**01.02.26**
L.H.Johnston	100	v Otago BHS	28.10.07
R.Jones	100	v Waimea College	24.11.13
D.P.Kelly	101	v King's High School	11.12.11
D.P.Kelly	101	v Bradley Nuttall XI	20.02.13
D.P.Kelly	102	v Waitaki/St Kevin's XI	10.03.13
D.P.Kelly	100	v Country Sec Schools	02.03.14
D.P.Kelly	104	v Marlborough Boys' College	13.10.14
D.P.Kelly	100	v Southwest Schools XI	08.01.17
D.P.Kelly	100	v King's High School	29.01.17
H.R.W.Kindley	100	v Otago BHC	06.10.24
A.P.Knight	100	v Mid-Canterbury Youth XI	29.10.23
S.L.Langrope	100	v Timaru BHS	03.02.08
R.T.Latham	100	v St Andrew's College	26.02.95
T.W.M.Latham	101	v Burnside HS	02.12.07
B.L.Laughton	105	v St Thomas of C'bury	12.02.14
R.Love	101	v Riccarton HS	16.02.25
H.R.M.McCarthy	100	v Waimea College	27.11.11
P.B.McCarthy	102	v St Bede's College	09.02.97
J.R.McCarthy	102	v St Bede's College	19.01.25
T.P.McConnell	104	v Country Sec Schools	02.03.14
P.E.McEwan	104	v Flaxton Wanderers	20.11.94
P.E.McEwan	109	v Montana Wine XI	23.01.00
M.N.M.McKenzie	100	v Millbrook XI	25.01.98
G.A.Miller	100	v Clarrie Anderson's XI	01.12.10
P.Miller	101	v Marlborough Boys' College	24.03.19
C.B.Mugford	100	v I Zingari	27.01.23
S.J.Murdoch	**134**	**v Wellington College**	**26.10.25**
M.Newton-Vesty	102	v Southwest Schools XI	10.01.16
C.Neynens	101	v Waitaki/St Kevin's XI	11.03.12
S.N.Noster	102	v Country Sec Schools	16.03.08
S.N.Noster	101	v Christchurch BHS	12.09.08
S.N.Noster	101	v Southland BHS	20.02.11
J.P.D.O'Gorman	101	v Christ's College	18.01.09
J.P.D.O'Gorman	102	v Christ's College	12.01.14
B.R.Orton	102	v Otago BHS	29.10.06
B.R.Orton	100	v Nelson College	10.02.08
B.R.Orton	100	v Combined Sec Schools	30.11.08
M.Patel	103	v Timaru BHS	07.02.10
J.D.Pawson	100	v Peninsula Craz	10.11.02
M.Reid	100	v King's High School	10.12.17
I.A.Robertson	100	v Wellington College	27.10.02
I.A.Robertson	100	v South Canterbury XI	03.10.04
P.Russell	101	v Southland BHS	07.02.21
P.Russell	**100**	**v Southland BHS**	**08.02.26**
K.B.Scott	100	v St Thomas of C'bury	03.11.19
K.B.Scott	100	v Marlborough Boys' College	06.12.20
K.B.Scott	103	v St Andrew's College	19.02.23
F.W.Sheat	101	v Marlborough Boys' College	13.10.14
G.B.Stretch	103	v Marlborough Boys' College	26.11.23
M.G.Stretch	103	v Marlborough Boys' College	05.12.21
H.W.Teale	100	v St Bede's College	30.01.11
G.L.Thomson	100	v Medbury HM's XI	16.03.97
G.L.Thomson	100	v Christchurch BHS	05.12.99
G.L.Thomson	100	v Shirley BHS	04.03.01
L.van Beek	101	v London NZ CC	25.03.07
D.B.Vann	102	v Northwest Schools XI	30.11.14
D.B.Vann	**100**	**v United CVC**	**05.12.25**
W.P.J.Walsh	100	v Northwest Schools XI	05.12.10
B.R.Ward	100	v St Andrew's College	23.02.14
B.R.Ward	104	v Christchurch BHS	19.11.17
W.S.A.Williams	101	v Shirley BHS	18.03.12
O.C.Wilson	100	v St Andrew's College	14.02.21
R.T.Wilson	101	v Waitaki BHS	05.03.17
M.J.W.Wright	100	v Woodbank Wanderers	24.03.02
M.J.W.Wright	102	v Woodbank Wanderers	23.03.03
B.A.Yock	106	v Woodbank Wanderers	26.11.00
B.A.Yock	102	v London NZ CC	23.11.08
W.Young	103	v Gore High School	02.10.11
A.Yugaraja	104	v Christ's College	15.01.12

1,000 runs

Season achieved	
2004/05	P.D.Harris
2005/06	D.W.Bond
2005/06	D.R.Cusack
2006/07	P.E.McEwan
2008/09	G.D.Inglis
2015/16	D.P.Kelly
2016/17	B.J.K.Doody
2016/17	T.P.McConnell
2020/21	A.J.Nuttall
2021/22	J.A.F.Davidson
2021/22	A.G.McFedries
2022/23	A.J.Hastilow
2023/24	K.B.Scott
2024/25	C.B.Mugford
2025/26	**M.J.Singleton**

2,000 runs

Season achieved	
2020/21	P.D.Harris
2020/21	D.P.Kelly

Most hundreds

7	D.P.Kelly
3	D.C.Burrell
3	G.L.Thomson
3	P.D.Harris
3	B.R.Orton
3	S.N.Noster
3	K.B.Scott

Honours – Bowling

(Maximum 10 overs)

C.K.Curnow	8-21	v St Bede's College	08.02.16
S.Borthwick	6-14	v Dunedin Cavaliers XI	24.01.10
M.A.J.Walther	6-15	v Ashburton College	03.11.24
D.P.Kelly	6-16	v King's High School	09.12.12
M.D.Fielding	6-20	v Whanganui Collegiate	21.10.07
G.I.Allott	6-23	v Christchurch BHS	01.12.02
J.H.Tapper	6-30	v Waitaki/St Kevin's XI	14.03.10
R.D.McGuire	6-31	v Nelson College	13.02.11
J.P.Coll	6-32	v Peninsula Craz	10.11.02
A.H.Gray	6-32	v Sri Lanka Tour XI	18.11.12
D.P.Kelly	6-36	v Glimmer XI	23.03.14
W.B.Bretherton	6-36	v Otago BHS	16.10.22
A.J.Nuttall	6-38	v Glimmer XI	25.03.12
A.J.Nuttall	6-45	v Christchurch BHS	14.11.21
M.Newton-Vesty	6-46	v Christ's College	15.01.17
C.Higgs	6-49	v St Andrew's College	18.02.24
A.J.Gourdie	6-50	v St Andrew's College	24.02.02
R.V.Masefield	5-5	v North Canty Sec Schools	07.03.04
A.J.Nuttall	5-8	v St Andrew's College	15.02.98
M.Shaw	5-8	v Shirley BHS	05.03.06
T.D.Astle	5-10	v St Thomas of C'bury	09.02.05
G.J.Stewart	5-10	v St Thomas of C'bury	10.03.10
J.S.Nuttall	5-10	v Northwest Schools XI	04.12.11
J.T.Innes	5-13	v Mobil Oil XI	14.11.99
A.Singh	5-13	v Waitaki BHS	04.03.18
S.P.Woolliscroft	5-14	v Riccarton High School	16.01.22
F.C.Hawes	5-15	v Combined Sec Schools	23.11.03
W.L.Eddington	5-15	v Timaru BHS	08.02.09
F.W.Sheat	5-16	v Timaru BHS	01.02.15
A.C.Maw	5-17	v North Canty Sec Schools	07.03.04
T.J.Doody	5-17	v Country Sec Schools	11.03.07
A.J.Macgregor	5-18	v Gore High School	28.09.14
N.Wingham	5-18	v Emu CC (Australia)	15.01.16
C.J.Bellis	5-18	v Waimea College	26.11.17
L.C.Sparks	5-19	v Ben Harris XI	19.02.95
A.D.D.Reese	5-19	v Whanganui Collegiate	23.10.11
S.J.Davis	5-20	v London NZCC	03.12.17
S.J.Davis	5-20	v Hawkswood Wanderers	15.12.19
J.H.Tapper	5-21	v King's High School	14.12.08
S.C.Cowley	5-21	v Northwest Schools	13.11.22
S.Clarke	5-22	v Country Sec Schools	07.03.21
J.D.Marsh	5-23	v St Thomas of C'bury	02.02.11
W.H.Wright	5-23	v Suburban XI	09.01.11
T.W.Agnew	5-23	v St Andrew's College	23.02.14
R.D.McGuire	5-23	v Christ's College	12.01.20
T.G.Johnston	5-26	v St Andrew's College	25.02.07
M.D.Peacock	5-25	v Whanganui Collegiate	23.10.05
T.E.Lancaster	5-26	v London NZ CC	26.11.95
W.A.Cornelius	5-27	v London NZ CC	19.12.99
H.W.Day	5-27	v Southwest Schools XI	10.01.16
G.J.Stewart	5-27	v Umpires XI	16.03.18
K.B.Scott	5-27	v St Thomas of C'bury	31.10.21
P.F.Younghusband	5-28	v London NZ CC	22.11.09
A.G.McFedries	5-29	v Flaxton Wanderers	26.02.97
M.B.S.McIntyre	5-30	v Otago BHS	02.11.03
R.D.Burson	5-30	v London NZ CC	14.12.14
B.W.J.Cameron	5-32	v South Canterbury XI	30.09.07
W.A.Cornelius	5-32	v Medbury HM's XI	12.03.00
R.E.Abbott	5-32	v Nelson College	16.02.03
F.M.Fairbairn	5-32	v North Canty Sec Schools	13.03.22
I.Huston	5-33	v Whanganui Collegiate	26.10.97
M.D.Peacock	5-33	v Shirley BHS	21.03.10
M.D.Peacock	5-33	v Otago BHS	20.10.19
M.Campbell	5-35	v King's High School	11.10.20
D.H.A.McMillan	5-36	v Hawkswood Wanderers	16.12.01
A.J.Nuttall	5-36	v Wellington College	23.10.22
P.E.McEwan	5-37	v Christchurch BHS	06.12.98
T.N.Nielsen	5-38	v Peninsula Craz	09.11.03
D.J.Wakefield	5-38	v Ashburton College	13.11.11
C.K.Curnow	5-38	v St Bede's College	21.01.18
A.J.Hastilow	5-39	v Christ's College	18.01.15
J.Ward	5-43	v Ohoka Swamphens	18.01.98
H.T.H.Davidson	**5-45**	**v United CVC**	**05.12.25**
B.J.K.Doody	5-46	v Mobil Oil XI	16.11.97
S.C.Cowley	5-46	v Riccarton High School	15.01.23
W.L.Eddington	5-49	v Timaru BHS	25.01.04
M.B.Stone	5-50	v Dunedin Cavaliers	18.01.04
M.J.Kelly	5-50	v Country Sec Schools	01.03.15

200 wickets

Season achieved

2017/18 A.J.Nuttall

100 wickets

2005/06 A.J.Nuttall

Most 5-wicket bags

4	A.J.Nuttall	2	C.K.Curnow
3	M.D.Peacock	2	G.J.Stewart
2	W.A.Cornelius	2	S.J.Davis
2	W.L.Eddington	2	R.D.McGuire
2	J.H.Tapper	2	S.C.Cowley
2	D.P.Kelly		

Highest Team Scores (50 overs)

For	380/6	v Otago Boys' High School	06.10.24
	371/5	v Timaru Boys' High School	03.02.08
	371/8	v Mid Canterbury Youth XI	02.11.25
Against	324/4	by Clarrie Anderson's XI	04.11.13
	317/7	by Christchurch Boys' High School	12.11.23
	312/9	by Christ's College	17.12.23

Lowest Team Scores

For	54	v Otago Boys' High School	01.11.09
	62	v Sri Lanka Under-21	14.11.09
	63	v Ashburton College	13.11.11
Against	40	by Combined Secondary Schools XI	25.11.07
	46	by St Thomas of Canterbury College	10.03.10
	51	by Christ's College	14.10.01

Shadbolt Trophy

Awarded each year for Best Performance by a Junior Willower.

1994/95	S.J.Davis	3-19	v Ben Harris XI
1995/96	N.Perkins	68	v Motueka Wekas
1996/97	P.B.McCarthy	102	v St Bede's College
1997/98	R.M.Miller	100	v Dunedin Cavaliers
1998/99	C.W.Bisman	100	v Country Schools XI
1999/00	J.P.Coll	4-30	v Hawkswood Wanderers
2000/01	A.F.Johnstone	93*	v The Willows
2001/02	A.J.Gourdie	6-50	v St Andrew's College
2002/03	R.E.Abbott	5-32	v Nelson College
2003/04	M.D.Fielding	86	v Combined Schools XI
2004/05	K.A.Ambler	100	v Shirley BHS
2005/06	C.G.Bartholomeusz	101	v Whanganui Collegiate
2006/07	S.T.Coffey	100	v King's College
2007/08	S.N.Noster	102	v Country Schools XI
2008/09	T.W.M.Latham	76	v Burnside HS
2009/10	T.A.Rutherford	7-20	v The Willows
2010/11	H.W.Teale	100	v St Bede's College
2011/12	D.P.Dowds	96	v Suburban XI
2012/13	Not awarded		
2013/14	R.Jones	100	v Waimea College
2014/15	F.W.Sheat	5-16	v Timaru BHS
2015/16	C.K.Curnow	8-21	v St Bede's College
2016/17	B.Dickie	97	v The Willows
2017/18	B.R.Ward	104	v Christchurch BHS
2018/19	A.Redfern	115*	v The Willows
2019/20	L.Andrews	110	v The Willows
2020/21	B.Entwistle	100	v Shirley BHS
2021/22	H.W.M.Witt	6-8	v The Willows
2022/23	W.B.Bretherton	6-36	v Otago BHS
2023/24	H.O'Loughlin	208*	v The Willows
2024/25	F.P.G.Brookland	98	v The Willows
2025/26	**J.A.Jacques**	**103***	**v Marlborough Boys'**

'49ers Cup

Awarded each year for Most Meritorious Performance by a Secondary School XI.

1998/99	North Canterbury Schools XI
1999/00	St Bede's College
2000/01	Marlborough Boys' College
2001/02	Whanganui Collegiate School
2002/03	Shirley Boys' High School
2003/04	Timaru Boys' High School
2004/05	Wellington College
2005/06	Nelson College
2006/07	Christchurch Boys' High School
2007/08	St Thomas of Canterbury College
2008/09	Shirley Boys' High School
2009/10	Otago Boys' High School
2010/11	Christ's College
2011/12	Ashburton College
2012/13	Nelson College
2013/14	Waimea College
2014/15	Christ's College
2015/16	Waitaki Boys' High School
2016/17	St Andrew's College
2017/18	King's High School (Dunedin)
2018/19	Southland Boys' High School
2019/20	Christchurch Boys' High School
2020/21	St Andrew's College
2021/22	Timaru Boys' High School
2022/23	Wellington College
2023/24	Christ's College
2024/25	Shirley Boys' High School
2025/26	**Northwest Schools XI**

Winsome Dormer Cup

Awarded each year for Best Performance by a female Willower.

2023/24	A.J.Fookes	101	for Wakatipu HS v Waimea HS
2024/25	Not awarded		
2025/26	**C.E.Hartland**	**61* & 3-for**	**for St Margaret's College**

Most Capped Players

Minimum 50 matches.

150	A.J.Nuttall
89	P.D.Harris
81	P.D.Rutledge
79	G.D.Inglis
78	T.P.McConnell
73	R.D.McGuire
71	P.E.McEwan
59	A.G.McFedries
58	J.R.K.Wolt
57	S.J.Davis
56	J.Bennett
54	A.J.Hastilow
54	R.P.McEwan
52	J.M.Wilson
51	D.P.Kelly
51	**S.P.Woolliscroft**
50	**M.J.Singleton**

Visitor Honours 2025/26

C.Jackson	112	for Wellington College
B.P.W.Brown	100*	for Wellington College
F.Sanford	5-43	for St Kevin's College
J.Tromp	104 ret	for Crusaders XI
K.Ward	125*	for Nelson College
J.Hislop	111	for St Bede's College
A.Haywood	6-33	for Waitaki Boys' High School
A.J.Nuttall	5-40	for Hawkswood Wanderers

Results

P = played W = won L = lost T = tied NR = no result

Home Games

	P	W	L	T	NR	25/26
Albion CC	1	-	1	-	-	-
Arthur Pitcher's XI	7	4	3	-	-	-
Auckland Glimmer XI	4	2	2	-	-	-
Ben Harris XI	1	1	-	-	-	-
Blackbridge CC (Aust)	1	1	-	-	-	W
Bradley Nuttall XI	5	3	2	-	-	-
Bradman Foundation (Aust)	1	-	1	-	-	-
Canterbury Emerging XI	1	-	1	-	-	-
Canterbury U-17 XI	2	1	1	-	-	-
Christ's College	27	21	5	-	1	NR
Christchurch BHS	28	15	11	-	2	W
Christchurch BHS Colts	1	1	-	-	-	-
Clarrie Anderson's XI	15	8	7	-	-	-
Combined Schools XI	13	9	4	-	-	-
Craigengower CC (HK)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Crusaders (Aust)	7	4	3	-	-	-
Crusaders Rugby XI	1	-	1	-	-	L
Dunedin Cavaliers	12	8	4	-	-	-
Emu Cricket Club (Aust)	2	-	2	-	-	-
Flaxton Wanderers	8	4	4	-	-	-
Gore High School	4	4	-	-	-	-
Gunnedah Youth XI (Aust)	2	-	1	1	-	-
Hawkswood Wanderers	29	8	19	-	2	L
Honest Trundlers XI (Aust)	2	2	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong CC	2	1	1	-	-	-
Hutt International School	3	1	2	-	-	L
I Zingari Australia	6	5	1	-	-	W
King's College	3	2	1	-	-	-
King's High School	19	12	6	-	1	W
Kristin School	1	1	-	-	-	-
London NZ CC	24	13	9	-	2	-
Marlborough Boys' College	23	18	3	-	2	W
Marylebone CC (UK)	1	-	-	1	-	-
Medbury Headmaster's XI	10	5	5	-	-	-
Mid Canterbury Schools XI	19	15	3	-	1	W
Millbrook XI	1	1	-	-	-	-
Mobil Oil XI	6	5	1	-	-	-
Montana Wine XI	1	1	-	-	-	-
Motueka Wekas	4	2	2	-	-	-
Mt Hutt College	1	1	-	-	-	-
Nelson College	23	16	7	-	-	L
North Canty Schools XI	26	24	-	-	2	W
Northwest Schools XI	21	16	4	-	1	L
NSW Veterans XI	1	1	-	-	-	-
NZ Police XI	1	1	-	-	-	-
Ocean Beach County CC	2	1	1	-	-	W
Ohoka Swamphens	6	4	2	-	-	-
Old Tablelands XI	1	1	-	-	-	-
Otago BHS	23	11	12	-	-	-
Peninsula Craz	28	16	11	-	1	W
Primary Club (Aust)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Queen Street CC	1	1	-	-	-	-
Riccarton High School	2	2	-	-	-	-
Sacred Heart College	3	2	1	-	-	-
Seddon CC	2	1	1	-	-	-
Shirley BHS	23	22	1	-	-	W
South Canterbury XI	7	6	1	-	-	-
Southland BHS	18	11	7	-	-	W
Southwest Schools XI	9	8	1	-	-	-
Sri Lanka Under-21 XI (SL)	1	-	1	-	-	-
St Andrew's College	30	22	8	-	-	L
St Bede's College	29	20	7	-	2	NR
St Kevin's College	6	3	3	-	-	L
St Thomas of C'bury College	21	12	8	-	1	L
Suburban XI/Metro XI	18	6	12	-	-	-
Sydenham Youth XI	1	1	-	-	-	W
Te Awamutu College	1	1	-	-	-	-
The Forty Club (UK)	2	2	-	-	-	-
Timaru BHS	23	17	6	-	-	-
Umpires XI	4	3	1	-	-	-
United Country & Vineyard	2	2	-	-	-	W
Waimea College	12	11	1	-	-	W
Waitaki BHS	20	14	6	-	1	L
Wellington College	15	6	9	-	-	L
Wellington President's XI	1	1	-	-	-	-
Wellington Wanderers XI	4	1	2	-	1	-
Whanganui Collegiate	14	10	4	-	-	-
Willows Sri Lanka Tour XI	3	-	3	-	-	-
Woodbank Wanderers	9	7	2	-	-	-

Away Games

	P	W	L	T	NR	25/26
Bradman XI (Bowral)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Flaxton Wanderers	7	1	4	1	1	-
Hawkswood Wanderers	1	-	1	-	-	-
I Zingari (Camden)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Peninsula Craz	1	1	-	-	-	-
Primary Club (Birchgrove)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Seddon CC (Hamilton)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Valley of Peace	2	1	1	-	-	-

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Back cover: Blackbridge CC's leading player Joshua Bethune in his bowling stride with intense focus from non-striker Tom Mušić and umpire Hugo Davison.