



# GRAFTON UNITED CRICKET CLUB

CLUB NEWSLETTER ~ MARCH 2019 ~ ISSUE 6#



## *Premier and Reserve update*

### **Premier**

The Premier team took on Birkenhead on Day 1 of the final two-day clash of the season. After electing to bat first on a slow wicket, our boys got off to a shaky start, losing a few early wickets. Solid efforts through the middle from Nikheil Bhana (44) and Sachin Variath (39) got the team through to a competitive 181/9 declared, needing a big performance with the ball in the final session. Birkenhead looked on track at 70/2, however the tables turned when Carl De Beer dismissed both set batsmen. De Beer finished the day with figures of 4-22, with Birkenhead struggling on 97/7. The Prem's will hope to finish off 1st innings, and push for an outright later on Day 2.

### **Reserves**

Our Reserves took on Takapuna at Victoria Park, hoping to finish the season on a positive note. Debutant George Field impressed with 3 wickets as Takapuna were dismissed for an under-par 130. Unfortunately, as has been the case through the majority of the season, our batting fell short, and Takapuna were able to claim first innings points, and close the day out with a healthy 2nd innings lead. Our boys have a big job ahead of them if they are to send off clubman Garth Sullivan on a positive note on Day 2!

## *Our decade - Celebrating the 70's*

The 70's marked Grafton's most successful decade ever, winning the Auckland title on five occasions and becoming the benchmark for commitment to club and team. The success also extended off the field during this time, with Grafton securing a lease for its clubrooms and finally earning respect as an inner-city club. Thanks to strong leadership, direction and the dedication of real 'club people', the 70's will be remembered fondly and with a great sense of pride and accomplishment.

This Saturday sees a reunion of these Grafton stalwarts at Victoria Park with past players sharing their reflections of the era.



(Above) Our Premier team sharply dressed in a nod to tradition and the 'Spirit of Cricket'

## **Victoria Park Accessway Renewal**

Maintenance of the access route into Victoria Park will start on Monday 1st April and is due for completion by mid-May. The Club carpark will be unavailable for the duration and the adjacent council carpark will be unavailable for 2 weeks. Please take care when walking nearby.

## *Top senior performances*

Luke Howlett  
5-13

GUCC Fourths v  
Suburbs

Nathan Harlow  
5-19

GUCC Reserves v  
Eden Roskill

Ben Handy  
4-4

GUCC Presidents v  
Eilerslie

John Lehal  
5-45

GUCC Rampage v  
AUCC

Rahul Bisht  
101\*

GUCC Thirds v  
Suburbs





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## *Prizegiving*

Grafton's junior members celebrated the end of the season with it's annual prizegiving ceremony last Sunday. Attended by players, parents, and our junior committee, teams awarded medals for best batsman, best bowler and either MVP or most improved. A special mention must go to the following:

- Y5 Player of the Year - Johnny Hindman
- Y6 Player of the Year - Sam Openshaw
- Junior Afternoon Player of the Year - Luis Kerrigan
- Coach of the Year - Rene Pasche (Y4 Lions)

Senior prizegiving will be on Saturday 6th April in the Clubrooms.



### *Did you know?*



Prize winner Luis Kerrigan scored over 900 runs this season across 3 formats. He was also the top run scorer in the Premier Grade across the whole of Auckland post-xmas. Well done Luis!

## *Twilight Cricket*

Last week saw the conclusion of Grafton's Twilight Cricket competition and saw SMAK Breweries crowned as our 2019 champions. The final standings were as follows:

- 1st: SMAK Breweries
- 2nd: Sultans of Swing
- 3rd: Auckland Transport
- 4th: Ducks and Other Waterfowl
- 5th: Hays That
- 6th: Crick-It

## *Super 6's*

Sunday 10th March marked Grafton's event of the year, our Junior Super 6's. Whilst our juniors competed in a 6-a-side tournament, delicious food tents a silent auction and of course Mr Whippy were there for everyone to enjoy. Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved including volunteers, our junior committee and club sponsors, our Junior Super 6's event raised over \$8000 for it's youngest members.

Following on from our Junior fundraiser, last Sunday it was our Senior Club's turn to compete against one another in our Super 6's event. A total of 8 teams played in a round robin "country themed" tournament, with the winners of each group taking part in the final. The final saw Ireland, captained by Alex Edwards, taking on Tom Drumm's Australia. Ireland ran out eventual winners, with Club Captain Mark Bird voted the Player of the Tournament. A massive thank you to all who turned out on the day to support our club. Special mention to Brothers' Beer for providing the prize for our winning team, and a further mention to Danny Doolans for rewarding our best dressed team on the day.



### *Grafton wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support of our Junior Super 6's event:*

- Jeremy Sutton NZ family lawyer
- Property & Business Accounting Ltd
- Madison Park Homes Ltd
- Carters
- Constantia Foods
- The Eco-Store
- Cricket Express
- Kookaburra
- 3 Wise Men
- Grasshopper wines
- Auckland Cricket