



NORTHERN DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

P.O. Box 154, Hornsby, NSW 2077

Founded 26th May 1925



2023/24

Blackmail

23rd Jun 2023 No.2



How good is Test Cricket lately! This first Ashes Test had everything. The new bazball attitude of the Poms fired up the Press, fired up the traditionalists and fired up the “pub talk”.

I woke during the night and slipped the earplug in to listen to the SEN broadcast. This is what I heard from an English commentator (referring to Ben Stokes)... “His field placings are akin to a homeless man’s vomit!” It prompted me to get out of bed and have a squiz at that regurgitation ... & there I sat, riveted, until the very end.

The first email after the game came from an old friend, Charlie Puckett (an official at Brentham CC in Ealing UK) ... Titled “Brain-dead Disaster” ... *“If we had scored 700-8 with half an hour to play on Day 1, I still would not have declared! The excuse given by the England 'Captain' was that opening batsmen don't like facing a few overs at the end of the day! I don't much think they like facing the first few overs of any innings. Somebody needs to buy him a Ladybird Book on cricket and open it to the page where Wally Hammond would only declare when it was confirmed Don Bradman would not be able to bat - England were the small matter of 903-7 at the time!*

Personally, I liked the declaration. It was different ... like the field placings! Can't wait to watch England bat again. Those words have not passed my lips for a long time! Congrats Nathan & Pat!



How is that Ump?



Patty and the Goat! A story for the grandkids

SAUNDERS-MARKS TROPHY



Far Left: Warren Saunders
Left: Neil Marks

St George have been in contact with President Jerry Hook to discuss commemorating the contribution to our two clubs of Warren Saunders and Neil Marks by the naming of a trophy for our 1st Grade annual fixture ...

The Saunders-Marks Trophy.

NDs committee was unanimous in support of the idea from St George President Kevin Greene. Warren passed away in February this year. Neil and Warren were great friends and work colleagues. They forged strong ties between our clubs. It serves the purpose of acknowledging their huge contributions to their clubs and the game.

ND RETIREMENT - STEVE JONES



Long-serving committee volunteer, Steve Jones, has announced his retirement! Steve has been an absolute godsend to Northern District Cricket Club. He has developed what was a poor website into a “go-to” site for all things NDs. His expertise and no-fuss attitude has been an invaluable asset to the Club.

Many thanks Steve (and Di & Claire) for everything that you have done to promote the professionalism of this great Club. We will miss you greatly. I hope to see you on the sidelines for years to come.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Name: Steve Jones

Nickname: None than can be printed

Family: Diana (wife) and Claire (daughter)

Sportspeople Admired: Ken Catchpole, Mark Taylor and Victor Trumper

Interests and Hobbies: Blues, Celtic and Rock music, bush walking

Favourite Football Team: Randwick Rugby Club

Least Favourite Cricket Team: England

Favourite Actors: WC Fields and Groucho Marx

Favourite TV Show/Movie: Citizen Kane and 2001, A Space Odyssey (movies) and Unforgotten (TV)

Pet Hates: Manly-Warringah Sea-Eagles NRL team.

Favourite Food: Sweet corn and chicken soup

Favourite Drink: Baileys Irish Cream

Best Holiday Place: Sussex Inlet

If you could have any 3 people in the world over for dinner, who would they be?: Joseph Campbell (great story teller); Orson Welles (fabulator par excellence) and Muddy Waters (living the Blues)

If you were playing for the Blues, what song would you want blaring out of the loud speakers as you went out to bat? Statesboro Blues by The Allman Brothers

Finally, what is your motto in life?: A couple of lines from a BB King song:

*You better not look down if you want to keep on flyin',
Put the hammer down, keep it full speed ahead*



SOME HISTORY:

- Grew up in Randwick adjacent to Centennial Park and played laneway cricket where the old "six and out" rule encouraged shots along the ground if you wanted to keep on batting.
- This was a fantastic location to be with trams and buses nearby by to ride to either Clovelly or Coogee beaches, the SCG for the two rugby codes and the Showground for Saturday night's summer speedway.
- Attended Randwick Public School and played both cricket and rugby league.
- In 1961 started at Randwick Boys High and matriculated in 1965. Only focused on two sports, rugby union and water polo.
- Enjoyed several high school holiday jobs: an offsider on a Grace Bros delivery truck; swimming instructor in Cooma (summer of course) and a cook's assistant at the Prince of Wales Hospital.
- After high school in 1965, I joined the Commonwealth Bank and entered the workforce on 5 January 1966.

- Working Career

- First branch was Bondi Junction, before decimal currency and was part of the early banking conversions to computer processing,
- Next up was a 3-year stint on the Bank's Relieving Staff, working in over 110 branches, both metropolitan and country.
- Back to branches for two years then become an auditor with the Savings Bank Inspection teams. A two- and half-year stint here remains fondly remembered, spending considerable time investigating staff frauds, in between branch inspections.
- Next sojourn was 12 years in the CBA's various International and Overseas accounting sections, where I became a Data Analyst in computer development, specialising reconciliation of overseas transactions interfacing with the SWIFT (still used today) system.
- Using those Data Analyst skills, I moved to the Bank's EDP Department to work in Data and Repository Administration for another 9 years, learning a couple of programming languages.
- In October 1997, the CBA decided to out-source the EDP Department to an American firm, EDS. The first 2 years at EDS were great but conditions collapsed to a miserable time - no unions, social clubs closed, cafeterias shut, no morning teas, no overtime and worst of all - dry. Truly Dickensian.
- During the "dot com" crash of 2001, EDS' share price plunged from \$73 to \$8, and they invested poorly the workers superannuation contributions. I took early retirement to retrieve my funds in 2003 and put the hammer down and keep it full speed ahead - straight out the door.

- Football career

- Started off in 1958 playing juniors with the Coogee Rugby Club and notched up over hundred games by 1963. The biggest thrill of those halcyon rugby days was playing in the curtain raiser before the Waratahs versus the All Blacks in 1962 at the old Sports Ground.
- Continued onto to under 20s level for Randwick and was graded into thirds for 1969. At the same time I was transferred to the CBA's NSW Relieving Staff and my grade rugby career ended. But there was always the Subbies, and I continued playing for Coogee till 1976.
- Whilst on the relieving staff, I sneakily played several country group Rugby League games under a non-de plume, Peter Brady.

- How you became involved with NDs

- My daughter Claire's grandfather played first grade with the Gordon and Balmain Clubs in the 1930s, and his best friend at Balmain was Archie Jackson. That is where her cricket ability stemmed.
- At age six Claire joined the local Peninsula Cricket Club and played there until she was fourteen. There, Diana, and I did the usual parent's coaching, managing, and scoring roles, which continued well on into senior cricket days at NDs.

- Claire wanted to further her cricket career and approached a women's club from Chatswood Oval who advised "you don't approach Gordon, we approach you!" Next up was the Mosman Club but they had no room, and said to try North Sydney, who were most accommodating.
- The enjoyable North Sydney stint only lasted one season, due to a merger with the Mosman Club. So after two seasons, Mosman folded and an opportunity came with the new "alphabet" club, HKHDCA to play first grade in the Sydney Women's Competition for 2003/04.
- At HKHDCA, I covered more roles including registrar, webmaster whilst Diana scored. HKHDCA did well in their first season. When ND's approached HKHDCA to transition their three women's teams for 2005/06, we all jumped at the chance.
- Wearing my webmaster hat, I found that NDs did have a hardly maintained and primitive player run website. We adopted Cricket Australia's ISport's website template to give ND's better internet coverage. In 2013 MyCricket updated the ISport templates to the one currently in operation. Alas with all good things, MyCricket will be closing their websites nationwide in August 2023.
- **Hobbies/interests or real "likes" that you have**
 - Followed rugby union for decades, but find today's game, a boring spectacle and stoppage riddled. Watch all the Warringah Rats home games and monitor Randwick's fortunes.
 - The South Sydney "Rabbitohs" have been followed for the same length of time and was one of those lucky 78,000 attendees at the SCG in 1965 for the Souths/Saints grand final.
 - Cricket, has been part of my life, although not playing much since I handed the ABC Cricket Annual for the 1958/59 Ashes series.
 - Films of yesteryear still get a regular look in since my film society days from the 1970s.
 - Still listen and maintain a keen music interest in Blues, Celtic, Rock and the Psychedelic from the 1960s.
 - The bushwalking days have waned a bit, but still do the easy walks.
- **Years on committee**
 - In 2005/06 I joined the NDs main committee in the Webmaster role and continued until season 2022/23.
 - Also in 2005/06, Claire, Diana and I joined the Women's NSW sub-committee until 2010/11.
 - While involved with the women, we all three served in various roles as registrars, clothing managers, scorers, net captain and match managers. Claire also served for many years as the ND's delegate to the Sydney Cricket Association Women's Committee.

NDCC AGM – Thurs 27th July 2023

**NDCC
AGM**

Dear NDs Players (Past and Present), Supporters and Friends:

You are hereby cordially invited to attend the 98th Annual General Meeting of the Northern District Cricket Club Inc., to be held in the Acacia Room at Hornsby RSL, (4 High St) on Thursday, 27th July 2023 commencing 6.30pm.

Highlight: New Life Member announced! ... Come and celebrate at the Hornsby RSL 27th July.



PREMIER CRICKET PLAYER OF THE YEAR FOR WOMENS 1ST & 2ND GRADE



Grace Dignam at Premiers Dinner Emma-Jayne Howe with Chris Elder

SCA Grade Player of the Season awards were announced at the McDonald's NSW Premier Premiers' Dinner at Dockside in May.

Congratulations to **Grace Dignam** (1st Grade) and **Emma-Jayne Howe** (2nd Grade) for winning these awards.

In 15 innings for Northern District, Grace scored 617 runs at 56.09, finishing at the top of the women's 1st grade competition by a margin of 79 runs. Her efforts would see NDs qualify for the grand final.

**Where has all the wicket soil gone? ... long time passing
Where has all the wicket soil gone? ... long time ago**

Thank you Peter, Paul & Mary



All stakeholders are working overtime to make this a reality.

This sign hangs at MTO ...

CRICKET WICKETS

Why is there no cricket wicket?
NSW is currently experiencing a state-wide shortage of cricket wicket soil due to the ongoing La Nina wet weather event. This has resulted in the oval being completed and opened for use without a central cricket wicket.

When will the cricket wickets be constructed?
When cricket wicket soil is available (currently anticipated mid 2023), the practice wickets will be constructed. The central oval wicket will be constructed at the conclusion of the 2023 Rugby season (late August).

Will this impact use of the oval?
To construct both wickets, part of the oval will need to be closed for a short period of time due to movement of machinery.
Oval hirers will be advised when the works are scheduled, and signage will be installed on-site advising of any temporary oval closures.

Aerial image of Mark Taylor Oval

If you require any further information, please contact Council's Landscape Architect / Project Manager, Meredith Paterson, on 9847 6666 or visit Council's website at <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/waitarapark>

HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL

What a great Year for The Bolgers ...

Well done Bolgers. Look forward to next year!



Dad Ryan



Son Ayden



Daughter Elyssa

Ryan (1st grade no.345) was NDs 5th Grade Premiership winning Captain last season. “Bolg” debuted with NDs in Green Shield in 1992! He has played 23 seasons, a keeper/batsman who has scored well over 5000 runs and taken 262 catches for the Club. Ryan was awarded Life membership in 2022.

Ayden was a player in the NSW Youth Championships U/14 Moore Shield Premiership HKHDCA,

Elyssa was a member of the School Sport Australia U/12 Champions – NSW PSSA.

Funny that all involved wore the Baggy Blue!



Rangers Alumni

Before Old Boy David Ball (1st Grade No.360) met an English rose and left Australia for the Old Dart in 2006, he gathered a very impressive **Chapter 1** in his cricketing resume performing for NDs:

NAME	START	YR	M	INN	NO	HS	AGG	AVGE	WKT	RUN	AVGE	CT	ST
Ball, David Gareth	1999-00	18	253	245	39	146	6871	33.35	245	6040	24.65	104	



A very talented allrounder who also captained the 1st grade side on many occasions.

Dave has now added an outstanding **Chapter 2** in his cricketing life with Dorridge CC, hitting 2 impressive landmarks recently. He has now hit over 12,000 runs and taken over 700 wickets in league cricket for Dorridge.

Dave left Australia in 2006 to join Dorridge as their overseas pro. He has enjoyed an unbroken 17 year career in the 1st X1, captaining the side from 2013-2018, winning the Birmingham District Premier Cricket League in 2016.

In his 2nd year with the club, Dave recorded his highest score of 178* and averages an impressive 38.4 with the bat. His bowling stats are equally impressive. A best of 7/26 and an average of 17.6 with 22 “5 wicket” hauls! A class allrounder, legend of the game and a top bloke.

Looking forward to **Chapter 3**! Why does he still look 25!

HORNSBY RSL: [Book Online - The Attic \(theattichornsby.com.au\)](http://theattichornsby.com.au)

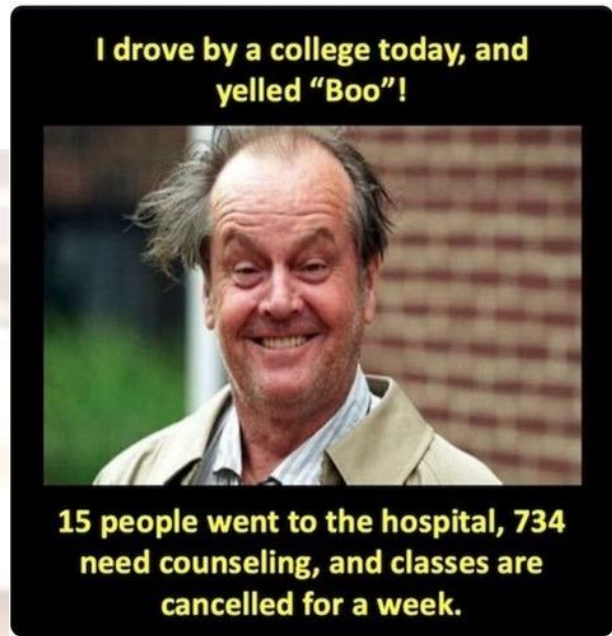


TEN PIN BOWLING

[BOOK NOW](#)

Get ready to be bowled over at The Attic with our four 45 foot ten pin bowling lanes which feature Australia's first augmented reality bowling experience - Spark. Bowling has never been so exciting - get ready to be taken to a whole new level of ten pin experiences. Bookings are encouraged although not essential.

ATTEMPTED HUMOUR:



Nobody told me
that when you
get a husband
the ears are sold
separately.

