

MARLIN STRIKE

SEASON PREVIEW SPECIAL!

We Preview the club's
upcoming summer in depth

2022/23 UNIFORM REVEAL

Get the first glimpse of the
new green and gold armor

JUNIOR CRICKET FUN SKILLS SESSION

View photos and more from the
exciting skills session the
seniors ran for the juniors



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2022-23 SEASON PREVIEW

At the Mount Maunganui Cricket Club, the new season of club cricket brings hopes of trophies being added to the cabinet and names being etched onto the honors board. A brand new temporary pavilion adds the exciting element of being able to share stories and make some new memories together as a club. It's fantastic to see a few early examples of how the new pavilion can bring club members together. It's going to be outstanding to see the dividends it brings going forward. A special thanks to our committee members and life members for getting this off the ground, and in particular a special thanks to Jason Dovey for his massive efforts to get the project underway and see it through.

Over the winter, the committee has been hard at work trying to make the club as great a place as it can possibly be. A conscious effort has been made to provide a product and cricket experience our members can be happy with and be proud of. It is exciting to be able to begin steps in creating a pathway our club can be proud to offer.

The build into the season has been outstanding to date, having had a number of weekend training sessions and five preseason matches.

For the first time in the history of our club we are placing 5 senior teams onto the park. The number of quality youth cricketers coming through warrant the addition of an extra side and with a slight restructure in how the Western Bay Of Plenty B Grade is laid out, it will be a good opportunity for our emerging cricketers to get some quality cricket.

From a junior perspective, we will have 2 all girls teams this year, one at Div 2 (softball level) and the other at Intermediate (hardball level), which is awesome as we had two full all girls teams last season too.

Our Junior numbers have held steady, and we're currently looking at at least 13-14 teams, ranging from Div 3 right through to College Premier - in all grades and ages, with registrations closing soon. The Div 3 team is made up of brand new players to both cricket and the club.

We sat down with the captains of all 5 senior teams to preview the season on a team by team basis. Read all about it on page 2 and beyond!

PREMIERS

After two pre-season matches over the past 3 weeks, the 8th of October marks the beginning of the new season as the Premier squad begin their T20 campaign against Te Puke and Papamoa at Blake Park.

The Premier team over the Winter period have undergone significant change with Matt Golding taking hold of the captaincy reins from Ben Musgrave, who has opted for an early retirement.. for now. The Premier side will be making room for some younger and emerging players as the club says goodbye to Niven Dovey, Dave Hancock, Brett Randell, Oli White and as previously mentioned, Ben Musgrave.

A warmly welcomed replacement will be Northern Districts and New Zealand 'A' representative, Matt Fisher. Fisher's addition this winter will mean some added depth to our seam bowling ranks, when he may not be playing higher honors. He will be a very welcome addition to a growing and talented young squad.

Matt Golding makes comment on the changes that have transpired over the off season. "It is no secret we have lost a lot of experience and talent in the last few seasons, particularly last year. Arguably our biggest loss was our club coach, Russ Williams. Russ was an excellent coach, mentor and club man and he will leave a massive hole. We will now lean more heavily on the experience we have left in the squad but also we need some of those guys that have been at the club for a few seasons now to really step up on and off the field. It's going to be a season full of challenges and opportunities, which is very exciting."

Top of mind will be trying to retain the much prized Baywide Cup in the 60/50 competition, as well as going one better in both the T20 and 50 over Williams cup competitions. Last season was full of challenges after the Christmas break,



with the COVID-19 outbreak through the community. The club's depth was tested with many players being unavailable between representative duty and coming in contact of COVID-19.

"Last season was another strange year with COVID and Bay clashes. What we learnt was that you can never have enough depth at the club and to not take winning for granted. At times last year we had an embarrassment of riches, however even with the most talented side, we still found ourselves on the wrong side of the ledger at times. In saying that, this season is a new season with completely different personnel and a whole new set of challenges." says Matt Golding.

Golding comes into his 2nd stint as Premier Skipper for the MMCC, and he says that the club's young depth bodes well for the future of the club. He is excited to continue playing his part in creating a prospering pathway for emerging cricketers at the Mount Maunganui Cricket Club. When asked about a couple of young club members to keep an eye out for, Golding was quick to point out two names that he expects have a breakthrough season for their club.

"Personally I am excited to watch the development of Josh Parsons (Year 11 at Mount Maunganui College). Josh is a very humble young man with a fantastic work ethic. He applies himself at the crease and knows how to build an innings. I am excited to see what he can do regardless of the grade. Another player to keep an eye for is Jonty Burggraaf (Year 12 at Mount Maunganui College). Jonty has worked hard on his cricket over the winter, has incredible touch with football and has the frame to develop into a very good seamer."

2ND XI

Nathan Walker will be inheriting the Mount Maunganui CC 2nd XI from Nick Smith, who opted to focus on his Over 40 representative ambitions this summer. Nathan will be leading a great age mix of youth and experience in who are all hungry to develop and make the next step up and support each other in the quest to win their first Reserve Grade league title since 2012/13.

Like many skippers at the Mount Maunganui Cricket Club have found out over the years, when the Premier side loses players, it tests the depth of the whole club. Last year's COVID-19 adversity, along with losing players to the Bay Of Plenty side, meant the MMCC 2nd XI was feeding the Premier side a bulk of their senior players most weekends after Christmas.

It's safe to say that a lot of the current 2nd XI squad would have had great benefits to getting some extra exposure to the next level of club cricket.

Nathan's excitement for the season to start is very evident

"I just can't wait for the season to get started!. We have a club bursting with talent and I'm really looking forward to seeing which up and coming players are going to move up to the premier side this year. Just as exciting will be giving others opportunities in the team to express their skills on the field."

The clubs 2nd XI have a proud history of success, having won 9 McNaughton trophies (8 of those since 2001) and 6 league championships since 2005/06. Walker and his squad have made discussions around which kind of team they would like to be this summer, and it's not too dissimilar to how a mount team is expected to go about their business.

"I'm hoping our team culture this year is going to be strong. We are a team of lads that love playing cricket with mates but also having lots of fun on the field if we win or lose. This year off the field with the new club house, I'm hoping everyone in our side would go back for an after match get together and to be social with the other teams in the club."

Another challenging summer on the horizon but the lads will be looking to keep striving forward.



THE MMCC 2ND XI BROUGHT HOME THE RESERVE GRADE TWENTY20 CUP IN 2021/22

LOGAN CARR, A 2ND GENERATION MOUNITE AND MOUNT 2ND XI WICKET KEEPER.



3RD XI

The 3rd XI have often been described as ‘the heart of the club’. This year's squad of enthusiastic and experienced cricketers is most definitely no different. Second year skipper, Brad Fox, is very enthusiastic about this season and getting stuck into the newly shaped Division 1 of B grade.

Brad believes the new structure will ensure that every game is a “dog fight” week to week. The Grade will now have 3 divisions with promotion/relegation. Following Round 1, the top team in Divisions Two and Three will be promoted to the higher division, whilst

The bottom team in Divisions One and Two will be relegated to the lower division. This will be compulsory. The same promotion/relegation will take place at the end of Round 2 with a view to the 2023/24 season.

The 3rd XI are coming off the back of a season where they stayed competitive despite losing the bulk of their squad to the 2nd XI and COVID-19. Fox says there were some really positive learnings taken out of last season.

“Always believing you're in the fight is so important. For us, we believe that in Cricket it only takes a few small moments to turn a game around, which then turns them into big moments.”

The Squad will be relying on experience throughout the season. They have many seasoned vets who have mastered their craft in B grade and will be looking to hit the ground running come the 16th of October. Brad does share that there are two players who he thinks are ready to have breakout seasons, and that is Tobey Wies and Alex MacMillan.

“Tobey was just beginning to find form at the end of last year, and signs so far are that he is going to come out of the blocks hot this season as well. His ability to hit the ball hard and take games away from opposing teams is something our team is really going to benefit from.”

“Alex MacMillan has come off a fantastic 2021/22 season. His consistency is much improved as he gains more experience at the B Grade level and he's going to be a massive weapon for us this year as one of our strike bowlers.”

The Third XI have a fantastic mix of youth and experience which could be the recipe for them to go all the way and win the Div 1 championship this season. The last time they won the B grade championship was in 2014, so the club is hungry to return to B Grade glory. The club's 4 previous B grade titles have come since 2007.



ALEX MACMILLAN

4TH XI

The MMCC 4th XI has undergone a slight re-brand in the off season. Formally known as 'Inanga', the team made of mostly Emerging youth cricketers, will be looking to hit the ground running in their 2nd season of senior mens Cricket. Bevan Warnsbrough, the 4th XI player mentor, admits there were some good lessons learnt throughout the course of last year's campaign. "Last season our young squad took some fantastic learnings from their inaugural season of mens Cricket. 40 overs is a lot of Cricket and you can't win a game in 10 overs but you can go a long way towards losing it. We know how important it is to take the time you need to get set with the bat and respect your wicket. With the ball, its all about "catches win matches" and bowling in partnerships."

Taking last season's learnings will be vital if the team is to have some success this summer. Bevan says there will be some challenges they look forward to meeting "on the front foot".

"The challenge for us tends to be making sure we have runs on the board. I feel we can compete with any side with the ball but with the bat we still have some learning to do around game awareness and self belief.

A great challenge for cricket as a whole seems to be keeping youth cricketers in the game. The MMCC 4th XI will be returning this summer as a near fully intact team, which will bode well for their team cohesion and enjoyment of their cricket. Bevan is adamant around what the definition of success is for his side this season.



MMCC 4TH XI, PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS "INANGA".



DANIEL WHYTE (6-17) IS EXPECTED TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE FOR THE 4TH XI THIS SEASON.

"For me It's all about the lads enjoying Cricket! Don't get me wrong, winning is fun, but every player needs to [feel] included and have a role in the game. It looks like we have all [except] one of the lads back from last season. [Sam Vague] is still playing Cricket and with teenagers for me that is what success looks like, keeping them in the game.

The club is filled with promising talent, and the 4th XI squad is most definitely no exception. Bevan says that the beauty about this team in his eyes is that they don't necessarily have many match winners necessarily, but will be relying on "hunting as a pack".

"We have had a few lads step up the grades last year and all do well. I hope this is something the others can see is possible for them, because I don't believe we have any one or two stars in the side but we play for each other and always give our best on the park so watch this space!"

5TH XI

The 5TH XI, led by Matt Tustin, with the assistance of Nigel Tutt, will be looking forward to getting stuck into Senior Cricket for what will be most of their first times. The young side have previously been cutting their teeth in the College Premier grade and have found themselves ready for the next step up. The step up to Senior Cricket will provide a few challenges that they will most definitely embrace, says Skipper, Matt Tustin.

“The cricketing challenges will be around playing men with much more power and strength. So the boys will take some time getting used to seeing how hard the ball is hit, and on occasions facing some bowling that might be a bit quicker than they have faced previously. I think that they will be able to cope with that.. Then there are the less obvious challenges, things like dealing with player umpires, and some crafty tactics by older seasoned cricketers. We will have some strategies to work through these challenges.”

Some of the club's current premier squad members have emerged from versions of sides similar to this, that the club has provided aid to in the past, such as Kade Smit, Gus Tustin and Harry Burns.



THE MMCC COLLEGE PREMIER TEAM IN 2021/22

The Pathway the MMCC provides for emerging cricketers is an important one both for the club and also for players to be guided into senior cricket.

“Our club has a proud history of producing not just premier players, but also Bay of Plenty Representatives and beyond, that have come from College” Club Captain Kyle Dovey adds.

“I think back to the likes of Tony Goodin, Graeme Aldridge, Andrew Hoogstraten just to name a couple.”

Matt Tustin can see the value in it for the players coming through also.

“Adding a fifth team to the senior club is really exciting and we are grateful for this opportunity. Our registered squad has 10 student players and 3 adult players. Our student players are young but all very promising cricketers. We want to help these young guys transition into men’s cricket and see them develop their games over the summer. Ultimately we want to help them reach their cricketing potential and in doing so build depth at the club”

The players of the 5th XI have been spending the past couple of weeks discussing goals and ways to go about their business as they approach the upcoming season.

“We want to compete well and provide a decent contest in each game. We want our boys to fight hard, value their wickets and take games deep. We have some team goals like being the best fielding team in the competition, and putting pressure on the opposition with our running between the wickets. We have talked about a team first ethos. If we can nail those goals we should put together a decent season and hopefully pick up some wins along the way!”

Their season will be getting under way on the 16TH of October with Twenty20s.

FUN SKILLS SESSION ENJOYED BY ALL

On Sunday the 23rd of September, we held a Junior Cricket 'fun skills session'. The seniors helped run some really fun drills for the young boys and girls to help them get back into cricket mode as the summer fast approaches. The one hour long skills session was followed by a sausage sizzle and some spot prizes. A massively fun and engaging morning for the Mounties and we are excited to see them donning the green and gold this summer once again. Below are some action shots taken on the day!



A big thanks to the following people for making the fun skills session happen!: Matt Golding, Jacinda Keyte, Harry Burns, Gus Tustin, Anna Tweedie, Jason Luke, Glenn Pedersen, Brad Fox, and all Parents and caregivers for bringing their children down!

FIRST LOOK AT NEW UNIFORMS FOR 2022/23



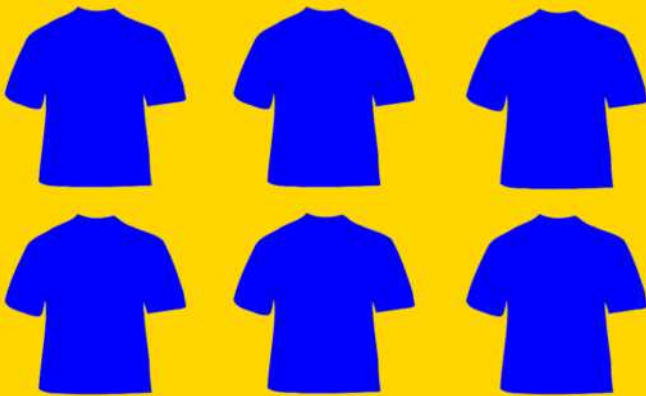
STRIKE ZONE

WORD SEARCH

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**BLACKCAPS BOWLING CATCHING
 JUNIOR PRACTICE SKILLS WHITEFERNS**

BRAINTEASER



FOURTEEN OF THE KIDS IN THE CLASS ARE GIRLS. EIGHT OF THE KIDS WEAR BLUE SHIRTS. TWO OF THE KIDS ARE NEITHER GIRLS OR WEAR A BLUE SHIRT. IF FIVE OF THE KIDS ARE GIRLS WHO WEAR BLUE SHIRTS, HOW MANY KIDS ARE IN THE CLASS?

ANSWER

NINETEEN KIDS.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I CAN'T REALLY SAY I'M BATTING BADLY. I'M NOT BATTING LONG ENOUGH TO BE BATTING BADLY"
 - GREG CHAPPELL

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