



**Player & Volunteer  
Handbook**

**Season 2021-22**

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## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Member,

Welcome and thank you for joining Wests Cricket Club.

I trust you will enjoy your time as a player both on and off the field. The club provides the opportunity for men, women, boys and girls to enjoy playing Cricket making use of quality facilities and improving their skills in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

We are a family club with mums, dads, partners, relatives and friends of players encouraged to attend matches and be part of the many social events we promote through the season.

The Player Handbook is your reference guide to contacts, playing and general information about the club.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or a Committee Member at any time.

Enjoy the season ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Brichta', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Brichta  
President



## A BRIEF HISTORY

The club was formed as Lambton-New Lambton District Cricket Club in 1926-27 from the amalgamation of Lambton and New Lambton Cricket Clubs. During the next 78 seasons the club wins 3 Club Championships, 22 Grade Premierships, 17 Age Championships and numerous Runners-Up Trophies. Numerous players were recognised through representative honours or individual performance awards.

The Club's colours of bottle green and gold with red have been worn by many fine cricketers including Jim DeCourcy, selected from Newcastle for the 1953 Ashes tour to England, Rick McCosker, a former NSW Captain and Australian opening batsman who played 27 Tests and World Series Cricket but is probably best known for his heroics in the 1977 Centenary Test batting with a broken jaw in front of 100,000 at the MCG and Kerry O'Keefe, a leg-spinner for NSW & Australia.

Other First-Class cricketers the club developed include fast bowler Mark Cameron (NSW, WA and Australia A), NSW wicket-keeper Ossie Lambert and NSW all-rounder Michael Hill in addition to several Newcastle Senior and Junior Age team representatives.

In 2004-05 the membership voted to change the club name to Western Suburbs District Cricket Club. Given the rich history of the club, the decision wasn't taken lightly but with an eye to the future. The area is synonymous with the Wests name in football, netball and the junior cricket club. While the western suburbs of Newcastle stretches out to the M1 today, the name embraces greater opportunities than two adjoining suburbs with the common thread, the mighty Rosella.

So what are the benefits?

- Alignment or pathway for junior boys and girls to a senior cricket club
- Improvements to facilities and infrastructure
- Increased revenue opportunities through sponsorship
- Marketing to a wider audience

Cricket is such a statistically based game and it was agreed that the club's rich history should carryover with the new name and act as a benchmark for contemporary player achievements.

Some lean years followed the brand change with the shining light a few trophies in Under-Age Competitions. One of the endearing features of the club through its history has been the strength of the Management Committee and the volunteers who have served on it.

Through blend of talent, mateship and determination, the tide turned for Wests as it claimed its first First Grade Final win for 50 years in 2017/18 defeating Merewether.

After the COVID pandemic ruined a crack at the 2019/20 final series, more silverware followed last season where the club won the First Grade Premiership and Final, the Locker Cup Limited Overs competition, the Semi-Finals of the T20 Summer Smash and were Finalists in the U15 T20 Age Competition.



## WESTS 2021-22

### **PURPOSE**

Our vision is to be the greatest Cricket Club in the Newcastle and Greater Hunter Area providing an environment where all players can realize their potential.

### **GOALS**

- To win the Club Championship. Finishing high on the Club Championship table suggests that teams in all competitions have had a successful season. While First Grade points are valuable, we need strong results in other Grades, Age Competitions and Women's T20 to amass enough points to finish on top.
- To have Grade, Age and Women's teams participating in NDCA and Suburban Districts Finals Series.
- To maintain consistently high levels of performance from season to season with players recognized by selection in Newcastle representative squads.

### **OUR TEAMS**

Wests will field four Grade teams, a Development League, U16 Competition, Masters, Women's T20 and other competitions such as the T20 Summer Smash. This season we welcome new additions to the Wests family with club teams competing in the Suburban Districts 1-day competition. They include the Wests Journeymen and Wests Waterboard CC.

### **HOME GROUNDS & PRACTICE FACILITIES**

Home grounds are Alfred Harker Memorial Oval and the adjacent Ford Oval. Kentish No.1, Wallarah, Blackley and Jesmond ovals will also be used by Wests teams. Our Harker Oval centre wickets and training pitches curated by Neil Evans are considered the best in Newcastle. They are supported by quality infrastructure featuring grandstand and new female-friendly changerooms making Harker one of the best venues in Greater Hunter.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Our club receives tremendous support from parent and associate volunteers in a range of roles from scoring and coaching to coordinating raffles, social functions and sponsorship. Without these people donating their time, players would have to contribute significantly more to support the day-to-day running of the club. With this in mind, please take the time to thank a volunteer for their efforts.

### **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

The club conducts a number of social activities during the season that we encourage members, friends and parents to join in on pending Government restrictions. They include:-

Back to Harker BBQ's – The committee is working on ways to have all teams come back to Harker Oval after Saturday's play to enjoy a BBQ and beverage. Recognising the number of young members in the club, we believe the open spaces of Harker Oval together with some entertainment (music, sport equipment) will appeal to players and families.

Trivia Night – Our annual trivia night is always well-attended so look out for information regarding this event as the season gets underway.

Old Boys Day – a celebration of past Rosellas, Life Members and the history of the club.

Annual Presentation Night – Always a great night to draw a close to the season with 100+ attending is usually held in May.





## WESTS 2021-22

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Role	Contact	Role	Contact
President	Alan Brichta	Secretary	Stephen Petherbridge
Vice President	Mark McLachlan	Cricket Operations	Neil McDonald
Vice President	Greg Jones	Business Manager	Russell Mills
Treasurer	Ian Harborne	Training support	John Conaghan
Asst Treasurer	Jason Borrow	Social/Old Boys	Paul Williams
Patron	John McLaughlin	Facility Manager	Mick McEntyre
Club Coach	Lyle McGuigan		



Website: [www.wsdcc.com.au](http://www.wsdcc.com.au) - news, contacts, results, history & more  
Facebook: wests cricket club  
Twitter: wests\_cricket

### CHAMPIONS ROOM

Take time after training or during the season to view photos of teams and individuals who have made their mark with Lambton-New Lambton – Wests Cricket Club over the years. Located at the southern end of the grandstand there's also copies of scorebooks and other memorabilia to view.

### SPONSORS

The club has received tremendous support from sponsors over the years and is mindful that financial support is a two-way street. Our Principal Sponsor Partner Wests (Wests Group) have been a significant contributor for more than forty years and we are grateful for this support and the advocacy of Life Member, Patron and Wests Board Member John McLaughlin. This season we have a vast array of sponsors from food and wine to service businesses who have been through some tough times so the Management Committee asks all members and supporters to “support our sponsors” whenever possible.

### CHILD SAFE POLICY

Wests Cricket Club endorses Australian Cricket's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy. With a number of members under 16 or female the policy includes child safe framework, Code of Behaviour and Working with Children Checks. The documents can be found on the club website [www.wsdcc.com.au](http://www.wsdcc.com.au)

### COVID – RETURN TO TRAINING & PLAY

The opening up of NSW in October will mean that Cricket will be one of the first sports to adopt Government Guidelines with respect to training and playing and providing safe environments for members. The guidelines cover certain conditions the club needs to have in place for training and match-days and vaccination eligibility for members. More details are available on the website [www.wsdcc.com.au](http://www.wsdcc.com.au)

## SPONSOR PARTNERS SEASON 2021-22



## FINANCE

The club's operating expenses are approx. \$70,000 each season. Expenditure includes curation, ground hire, umpire fees, clothing, equipment infrastructure improvements and awards. Any profit made from sponsorships and fundraising activities goes towards improving the quality of facilities and equipment for members.

Bringing in sponsorship enables the club to keep player fees at a low level. Fees for Wests Members for season 2021/22 are:-

Category	Paid before 31 October	Paid after 31 October
Senior	352.00	440.00
University	264.00	330.00
Junior-Schoolboy	180.00	225.00
Women's & Masters		15.00/game

Junior players (U18) are encouraged to use the NSW Government Active Kids Voucher (AKV) where possible. To do this, get a parent to go to the Service NSW website and apply, then use the number when completing the registration process.

There is also a performance-based incentive scheme for players. Any player achieving 500 runs or taking 30 wickets in Grade matches is entitled to a free season the following year.

The player judged the 'Player of the Year' is also entitled to a free season the following year.

To recognize First Grade squad's accomplishment in winning the 2020/21 Premiership, the 12 players who participated in the First Grade Final shall receive 20% discount on their fees.

The committee wants all players to play and enjoy their cricket. Any member experiencing financial difficulty should contact the Secretary or Treasurer so that alternative arrangements can be made. All discussions shall remain confidential.

The fee structure includes apparel such as training polo, training shorts, playing shirt and baseball cap.

### **FUN FACT**

Under the former guise of Lambton-New Lambton, the Rosellas had three players whose First Grade records stack up with the best in the history of Newcastle District Cricket Assoc.

Jim DeCourcy (1941-66)	Newcastle, NSW & Australia 9424 runs (24 Centuries, 1 Double Century)
Ken Hill (1947-65)	Newcastle, NSW 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI 505 wickets & 5485 runs
Ossie Lambert (1944-65)	Newcastle & NSW 226 Appearances, 338 dismissals (170ct/168st)



## SELECTION

### **POLICY & PROCESS**

Selection is based on consistent individual performance, team balance and commitment to training with an emphasis on opportunities for player development.

Where possible, players will be allowed a reasonable number of opportunities to perform at a higher grade once they are promoted on form. Historical performance, particularly at a higher level are also taken into account.

Work and social commitments can cause teams to change and a player may be rewarded with selection in a higher grade however generally, a consistent run of high scores or solid bowling spells will put you into contention.

Being selected to play in any grade for our club is a privilege not a right and you must respect the selection panel's decision and acknowledge that the opportunity to improve and be promoted is always the objective at any level of the game.

Fitness issues need to be communicated to captains and coaches - you must be honest and up front if you are not fully fit to be selected. It is unfair for those next in line for selection if you deny them the chance to play - the club and your team mates always come first.

### **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The Selection Committee consists of Captains of the respective Grade teams, Development League and the Selection Coordinator. The Club Coach is also invited to attend selection meetings to provide advice and comment on players.

All teams will be selected on Tuesday evening before a scheduled fixture(s), not including changes dictated by injury and/or late withdrawals. Players are encouraged to manage their personal life throughout the season properly.

If you cannot be available for selection or become injured, you are expected to inform your captain or the selection coordinator as soon as possible.

## **BATTING**

*The most important thing about batting is the rotation of the strike. Rotation of the strike keeps both batsmen totally involved and increases concentration.*

*The quickest way to score runs and build a big score is to constantly rotate the strike!!!*



## TRAINING SESSIONS

This season the club has engaged the services of Lyle McGuigan as Club Coach. Lyle's an experienced high-level cricketer and coach working with elite level squads and will add value to both group and individual training activity.

Practice is traditionally conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30pm at the Harker Oval practice facility with all players encouraged to attend to participate in fielding drills and work on batting, bowling and/or wicket-keeping skills. There's plenty of equipment provided and we encourage players to drive fielding activities.

2021/22 will bring it's own set of unique challenges due to COVID-19 return-to-play guidelines and there are a couple of options the coaching staff are looking at to provide maximum involvement in a short amount of time. These include:-

- Setting a 'core' and 'optional' training day depending on the Grade you are playing. For example, if you are playing in Second Grade, the core training day may be Tuesday with an option to attend on Thursday. On Tuesday you will have full access to competitive and throwdown nets, fielding and bowling. You are also encouraged to attend on Thursday however preference for nets and specialist activity will be given to those expected to train on that day.
- We encourage players to practice away from training. Fitness, repetitive work on technique and fielding can be done in small groups with a variety of equipment, anywhere, anytime.
- The club will implement a buddy system to bring players closer together. The idea being that all players should know each other, their skills and take an interest in their performance during the season – more to come on this one!
- We encourage all members to go out of their way to show support for juniors or new members to give them encouragement to enhance a feeling of belonging, and most importantly to enjoy the sessions.

Cricket is very casual about training attendance and times which makes it hard for coaching staff to provide quality sessions not knowing the number of players in each grade turning up and at what time. Please try to attend your training day(s) from beginning to end.

West's is committed to developing and supporting our players, both on the field, but equally off the field. In addition to our coaching staff, there are numerous initiatives to support and provide development opportunities for players away from training:

- Above the shoulders mental support
- HSC advice and guidance
- Coach Accreditation Courses
- Leadership program for current and prospective Captains
- Mentoring Programmes

***Train to improve – push yourself to be one step ahead of your competition.  
Have pride in your performance – never let yourself down***

Steve Waugh (NSW & Australia)





**J.C.C.**  
SINCE '84



### **MEN'S & WOMEN'S TEAMS**

Grade Cricket Competition  
Development League  
Suburban Districts 1-day & T20  
Age & Masters T20 Competitions  
Women's T20 & Sixers Women's Social



### **ENDORSED AUSTRALIAN CRICKET PATHWAY**

Junior Cricket 1 – U11  
Junior Cricket 2 – U12-13  
Junior Cricket 3 – U14-U17  
Sixers Girls Cricket League U13 & U15



### **MASTER BLASTERS**

A fun games-based format for 7-9yo boys and girls learning the game.

### **JUNIOR BLASTERS**

A fun development format for 5-7yo boys and girls learning the skills

## GAME DAY

### ARRIVAL TIME

Players are asked to arrive at their ground between 45 mins to 1 hour prior depending on the Grade. This allows for captains to be organized and to carry out warm-ups etc.

Players involved in Saturday morning junior games or work commitments on Saturday or mid-week twilight games are asked to keep their Captain informed of their likely arrival time.

### CLOTHING

All players are expected to arrive at their match venue dressed in their club polo or training shirt. All players are expected to wear Wests playing shirts, Cricket or baseball caps and hats when taking the field for any match representing the club. "Nike" baseball caps etc. are not acceptable. Wests Juniors may wear their Wests JCC cap.

### PITCH COVERS

It is the responsibility of players in home teams to cover and uncover pitches for matches at Harker and Ford Ovals working in partnership with Curator Neil Evans.

### DRESSING ROOMS

Don't leave any valuables in the changeroom and please leave them clean and tidy after use.

### CLUB SONG

*We are the Wests boys we come from near and far,*

*We play out on the field, we play out in the park,*

*We hit 'em to the fence, all over the park*

*And when we're finished, we have a laugh.*

*So bring on the (insert opposition) boys we'll put them to the test,*

*'cause we are the West boys and we're the best.*

### ***The Wests Way***

**Being a player at our club involves giving 100% effort,  
having fun and treating the game, umpires,  
our opposition, team-mates and volunteers with respect**

