

Foreword

Ed Cowan

I still remember my first SUCC training session. The nerves of turning up like a the kid at school alleviated only by the presence of my big brother Tom who had just come back from the SUCC tour of the British Isles and loved every second. He promised me that this club felt right and more loving than his previous experience at Waverley. I followed him from Waverley, where I too had been a 'junior', because I wanted to play cricket with him, like we had done growing up in the backyard and in our shared attic bedroom. For a club that was not particularly used to dealing with slightly precocious 15 year olds (there had not been an A.W Green Shield team until that year), I immediately felt welcome. I still remember Luke Hartman's beaming smile as he dragged me away to do some catching practice and the bouncer barrage I got from Adair Durie in fading light. Evidently Ian Fisher had put me in that net knowing what was going to ensue to see if 'I could play'. God bless you Fish.

It seems to be my default story but when asked of my lower grade experience, I remember James Rodgers giving me an English lesson of the definition of some of the graffiti words on the wall at Fairfield Oval. It summed up how I felt in those younger years – out of my comfort zone but loved and guided.

SUCC for much of my teenage and formative cricket years was a family to me. This only heightened when I moved into St Paul's College and could spend the hours at the club that I wanted to without having to go home. Having now played cricket all around the world, I realize what a special place it is. You can take it for granted when it is all you have experienced. The club has never had any problem attracting great people, but we are now in the blessed situation that those same people are excellent cricketers. On the field, Shane Stanton and Greg Mail have driven club culture and excellence. Off it, the club is reaping the seeds sown by too many good people to name personally.

In the Club's sesquicentenary year it is a time to reflect on where we have been and where we want to go. Thankfully we 'own' two great cricket historians in the form of Rodgers and Bonnell so that this can happen. Personally, I look forward to reading some great stories to enhance my love of a club that has been so good to me for over a decade now and reading no doubt about how I beat Kevin Pietersen in a six hitting contest... sounds highly fictitious I know.

Let's celebrate our anniversary in style.

Ed