



# KINGSGROVE CRICKET CLUB

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## President's Report Season 2024/25

Well, what a fantastic season 24/25 turned out to be, with success for the club both on and off the field. This season marked the 31st junior and 46th senior season for this illustrious club. Being my first season as Club President, it would be amiss of me not to thank Morris Iemma, who held this position for many years prior to myself. Morris has been made a Co-Patron of the club to recognise his contributions. Morris left the club in a strong financial position and grew player numbers in the junior and senior competitions, making us one of the larger clubs in the association. As with many things, COVID has had an impact, but I endeavour to return the club to its 'glory days'.

Although small in number, the success we had on-field this season needs to be recognised. Our U/11B team celebrated a Premiership, with many players also receiving association awards. Richard (recognised as Club Person of the Year), his team, and the parents and helpers need to be congratulated on such a strong season. As well as this, our 2nd Grade team also became Premiers. This team has progressed through lower divisions with success and, with some new blood in the squad, culminated in their first and the club's third premiership in this division.

Success is not just measured in silverware. We had girls return and participate in Stage 1 and 2 competitions, growing our female participation in the game. We hope for the day when their friends and new girls become involved, and we can have a stand-alone Kingsgrove Girls team in a competition. We also had many Blast skills and competition participants. I wish all of these young boys and girls return to the club to further progress their skills or join competition cricket as they develop. On this, I would like to thank Michael Venn for his continued involvement in the Blast program, and those who assisted him and Cricket NSW in the implementation of these programs.

The club also had an 11s non-comp, 13s, and 1st Grade team. I would like to thank the players, managers, and parents involved with these teams. We can only get kids on the park with the assistance of volunteers. Your contribution to your child's team and club does not go unnoticed, and on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you wholeheartedly.

As previously mentioned, the club had one of its biggest off-field seasons in many years. Young Sam Konstas, who commenced and played most of his junior cricket at KCC, became Australian Test player number 468 at the tender age of 19! Less than 10 years ago, Sam was like many of our current juniors—batting in the nets at Beverly Hills Park and playing in the local Saturday competitions. Yes, there is no denying he is a talented young man, but his rise from humble beginnings at KCC shines light and gives hope to current players that the Baggy Green can be a realisation of their own. Sam's swashbuckling knock-on debut against the world's best Test bowler was a breath of fresh air and invigorated the Australian team to win the series. An article featuring KCC was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* detailing Sam's early years and the role of KCC. A link to this can be found on the club's website.

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Speaking of the digital age, I would like to highlight the role Sasha Scott played this season. Sasha, new to the club, took on the responsibilities of enhancing the club's website and the news on it, as well as other social media posts. Her role in bringing the club forward in the digital age saw her recognised with the Spirit of Cricket Award. Moving forward into next season, I would love to increase KCC's presence on Instagram and Facebook, as well as have readily available information on the club's website to keep the broader community involved with Kingsgrove.

I would like to thank the club's sponsors. Club Central and Lantern Club have continued their substantial sponsorship, for which we are incredibly grateful. Real Play continues to supply us with some financial assistance as our apparel supplier, and our new sponsor for season 24/25, Enzo's Cucina, provided us with Player of the Match vouchers. Having these groups on board allows KCC to provide reduced registration fees, hold presentations free of charge where all junior players are acknowledged, and provide up-to-date apparel and equipment where required. We hope to move forward in season 25/26 and use sponsors' funding to hold clinics and galas in schools, as well as provide a greater coaching and community feel within the club next season.

I would like to close by thanking the committee for season 24/25. As volunteers, this work comes from the generosity of your hearts, and I cannot thank you enough for this. This thanks also extends to all volunteers in the club for this season. Coaches, managers, scorers—this club simply does not run without your assistance. Special mention to Manisha Shirodkar, the club's Secretary. Manisha has held this role for many seasons without having children involved with the club. Her role as Secretary involves countless admin hours and time at the association outside of just the club. Manisha, thank you for the hard work you put in—we are all very appreciative.

I'm excited for what season 25/26 may hold. I have communicated with Cricket NSW, renewed our relationship with sponsors, and would like to think the club has strong footing moving forward. If we can run school programs, engage through social media, as well as increase player and community involvement—particularly on a social level—I envisage this club having a stellar season. I would love to invite new parents to join the committee and have an impact on how this club progresses. There are committee and executive positions available for you to have a lasting impact on how the club is run, what is implemented, and ultimately, what the cricket experience can be for your child. As mentioned, the club cannot run without the help of volunteers—please step forward and be part of the team.

Kingsgrove has always prided itself on being a 'Family Club'. Let season 25/26 see the family grow.

Many thanks,

**Andrew Starks**  
KCC President