



# KINGSGROVE CRICKET CLUB

KINGSGROVECRICKETCLUB.COM.AU

KINGSGROVECRICKETCLUB@GMAIL.COM

## President's Report Season 2025/26

Season 2025/2026 was marked by valuable learning experiences and meaningful development across Kingsgrove Cricket Club. The club also grew as we navigated a successful year on and off the field. "Success" isn't always about winning. I found myself reflecting upon this regularly as we navigated through our 32<sup>nd</sup> junior and 47<sup>th</sup> senior season.

Our season started with the induction of the Clubs newest Life Member, club secretary Manisha Shirodkar. Manisha has been involved with our club for well over a decade. Starting as a humble club parent and wife to team coach Subodh. Regular Saturday mornings saw Manisha develop into a team manager then into broader club and committee roles. She has now become one of the clubs longest standing Secretary's and has regularly held roles on the Association committees. It was fitting to nominate Manisha as a Life Member as she has devoted countless hours both at the grounds and behind the scenes, all as a volunteer. Since COVID, these seasons have been without any child involvement at the club. She does so because it holds a special place in her heart. Manisha, KCC thanks you for your work and continued support.

Even though we only had one team in each competitive age group, the large proportion of numbers the club had in both Skills and Competition Blast provide evidence that the club is growing and on the right track. Thanks must go to Michael, Dylan, Kiran, and Grant for being actively involved with our blast programmes. Nurturing this pathway is of increasing importance to ensure our clubs growth.

Our U/11 team were Grand finalists. Vivek grew this group into a family, and this was evident from the amount of support and participation displayed by both players and parents. The time and effort Vivek put into this team saw him recognised as Club Person of the Year in 2025/2026.

Some fresh faces allowed the club to play with two senior teams (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade). With strong senior numbers, we managed to go back-to-back as 2<sup>nd</sup> grade premiers! Special thanks to Michael Starks who integrated the new players well. His deeds and actions on and off the field saw him awarded with the Subodh Shirodkar Spirit of Cricket Award for 2025/2026.

KCC continues a strong involvement in the girl's cricket space. Again, we had participants in stage 1 and 2 competitions. As a committee, we will continue to prioritise their involvement in the hope we can have standalone KCC girl's teams in the future. As a result of this strong female participation, we decided to also acknowledge the best female player of the year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all players and parents at the club. From Blast to U/15s, male and female. A special mention goes to those actively volunteering their time, from coaching, scoring, and managerial duties. We can only get kids on the park with the assistance of volunteers,

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your contribution to your child's teams and club does not go unnoticed, and on behalf of the committee we would like to thank you wholeheartedly.

Away from Saturday cricket the committee worked hard behind the scenes to hold some off-field events. Early in the season the club had a pop-up at the Sixers Blast Day at Gannons Park. This was followed up with our presence at Hurstville Oval in late March for schools' cricket. With the assistance of CNSW we facilitated a "in-school" training morning at Bexley Public School. Having a presence in local schools is important in helping grow our club and more importantly the game of cricket in our association. It is something we plan to continue.

We were very excited to be able to hold an afternoon with Sam Konstas (Test Player 468). We ran an abridged training session at Hurstville Oval with Sam and offered light refreshments for those in attendance. At its conclusion Sam generously offered a "Q and A" alongside signing autographs and posing for photos. Thank you to Sam and his management team for making this possible. Maybe again in 2026/27? As a result of Grass Roots funding, the club was also able to hold a community event to close out the playing season. Highlights included face painting and a cricket gear give away. It was great to see kids and parents supporting the club and promoting our community spirit.

I would like to express my thanks for the continued support from Club Central and the Lantern Club. Through Club Sporting Grants they have offered both generous support and access to many of their facilities. KCC is grateful for this assistance, allowing players and families an enjoyable summer cricket experience. Having these groups on board allow KCC to provide reduced registration fees and hold presentations free of charge so that players efforts can be acknowledged.

I would like to close by thanking the committee for season 25/26. As volunteers I appreciate the time and energy comes from the generosity of your own heart. A particular mention must go Sasha Scott for her IT prowess. Thank you for updating and maintaining the website and the club's e-pathways. Hopefully with some of the frameworks in place we can utilise our time to better connect with our players and parent's next season. A second special mention is for Stephen Starks, who was the recipient of a Cricket NSW Distinguished Community Service Award in 2025/2026. This acknowledged his 30-year commitment as a volunteer to cricket in the association and his support of KCC. Steve has been a coach, treasurer, VP and President of the club over the last 3 decades and is currently the gear steward. He has also been active at an association level and has officiated in 250 SCA matches as an umpire. Thanks once more to Manisha and Michael, fellow executive members. Your support to me as President and all your efforts within the club is something I am immensely grateful for.

What can we expect for season 26/27? The club is in a sound financial position, so it is part of our plan as a committee to look at designing and offering new apparel. From an events point of view, it would also be fantastic to hold a Pink Stumps Day as a club. We will also pursue school-based cricket clinics. Using social media pathways, we hope to continue to engage with our playing and wider cricket community to increase volunteer engagement and player numbers. I would love to invite new parents to join the committee and have an impact on how this club moves forward. There are currently committee and executive positions available which will allow you to have a voice regarding club implementation of programs and how to better the cricket experience for

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children like your own. As you can see, the club cannot run without the help of volunteers, and I would welcome having you as part of the KCC committee family.

I would consider the 2025/2026 season a great success for Kingsgrove Cricket Club. We have always prided itself on being a 'family club', and this is always evident when we come together as a community. The club is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead in the 26/27 season.

With thanks and a straight bat,

Andrew Starks  
KCC President