



THE SPECTATOR

Your Wellington Indian Sports Club Newsletter



WISC Executive 2025

President – Dipak Bhana
president@wisc.org.nz

Vice President, Finance – Shivum Patel
financevp@wisc.org.nz

Vice President, Sports – Hemant Lala
sportsvp@wisc.org.nz

Vice President, Admin – Shivum Patel
adminvp@wisc.org.nz

Secretaries – Neesha Patel, Retesh Kanji, and Roshni Parbhu
secretary@wisc.org.nz

Events Co-ordinators – Devandand Bhikha and Kailin Dayal
events@wisc.org.nz

Treasurer – Shayam Bhana
accounts@wisc.org.nz

Club Captain – Bhovan Lala
clubcaptain@wisc.org.nz

Mens Hockey Rep – Sajan Patel
menshockey@wisc.org.nz

Womens Hockey Reps – Darshna Govind
womenshockey@wisc.org.nz

Junior Hockey Rep – Shiv Patel
juniorhockey@wisc.org.nz

Cricket Rep – Parimal Patel
seniorcricket@wisc.org.nz



OUR SUPPORTERS



Air Rescue
and Community
Services



If you are interested in sponsoring the club please contact:
financevp@wisc.org.nz

President's Report

Kia Ora and Namaste,

As a club, I just want to say—we are awesome! It's been an incredible few weeks out on the turf, and nothing makes me happier than seeing our teams play with passion and camaraderie. The friendships forming on the pitch are truly something special.

Last week was a standout moment for me—Tommy from the Randwick team scored a phenomenal goal that had us all cheering! Tulsi dazzled with a smooth dribble through multiple defenders before making a perfect pass, and Sajan lit up the field with an impressive run that ended in a powerful shot on goal. These moments of brilliance make me pause and think... Wow. We're not just playing games—we're building something extraordinary together.

Important Notice – Immediate Payment Required! Your hockey fees were due at the end of June. We still have some fees unpaid, your Hokeys Reps will let you if your fees are still outstanding. Please get these paid ASAP. The club has financial commitments that rely on timely member payments. We expect fees to be paid immediately so we can continue to operate effectively.

The 90th Commemorations are officially locked in for Friday, 4th October—a milestone truly worth celebrating! I love that our team has been making great progress, and there's a real sense of excitement building. As we work to create a memorable event, we'd welcome a few generous sponsors to come on board and support this special occasion. Let's take pride in our shared legacy and make this a celebration to remember!

Please reach out to our events team to register your interest—whether you'd like to sponsor, volunteer, or simply be part of the journey.

We've completed a first sweep of the new Incorporated Societies Register to align with the updated requirements. A second review is planned to ensure we're fully satisfied with all changes and everything is in order. This is an important step in keeping our records current and compliant.

There's something truly special about watching your child out on the field, court, or turf—focused, determined, and giving it their all. No matter how old they are, or how old you are, showing up to support your child playing sport is one of the most meaningful things you can do as a parent. As our children grow older and become more independent, it can be easy to take a step back. But the truth is, they still look for us in the crowd. A quick glance to the sideline, a smile, a thumbs-up, or even just knowing you're there—it all makes a difference. Your presence tells them they matter, that their efforts are seen, and that win or lose, they have your support. We often hear people say, "They're older now, they don't need me there." But trust us—you're never too old to be a proud parent, and they're never too old to need you. Whether they're 8, 18, or 28, the support of family is a quiet strength behind every athlete.



“
These
moments of
brilliance
make me
pause and
think... Wow.
We're not just
playing games
—we're
building
something
extraordinary
together.

”

And it's not just about them—it's also about you. Being part of their sporting journey creates memories that last a lifetime. It's a chance to connect, to share in their highs and lows, and to be part of something bigger than just the game. So grab your coffee, wrap up warm, and head to the sideline this weekend. Cheer a little louder. Be proud a little more. Because moments like these are fleeting—but they're the ones you'll treasure forever.



Database Update – New Admin VP Appointed

As many of you are aware, we've been experiencing ongoing issues with our database system. To help resolve this, I've asked Shivum Patel to take on an additional role as Admin Vice President. Shivum will be leading the work to sort out the database challenges and ensure we have a reliable system in place moving forward. We appreciate your patience and support as we work through these issues.

Weekly Senior Walks – July & August 2026

Our weekly senior walks have begun! Join us every Sunday at 10:00 AM under the dome at Bharat Bhavan. We'll take a gentle 45-minute walk along Cobham Drive—perfect for fresh air, light exercise, and good company. These walks will continue throughout July and August 2025, so come along and be part of the movement!

A Big Thank You to Our Walking Group!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone from the walking group who recently headed out to Bearing Head to help with the planting efforts. Your contribution to the environment and community is truly appreciated. Be sure to check out the full article in this month's newsletter!

Calling All Golfers – NZISA Tournament Time

Our much-anticipated golf tournament is fast approaching, taking place on a stunning 18-hole course in Christchurch. Don't miss out on what promises to be a fantastic day of golf, camaraderie, and competition.

If you're keen to attend, please register early to secure your spot. See the attached flyer for full details.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our committees and subcommittees for their tireless work and dedication in keeping the club running smoothly. None of what we achieve would be possible without their support and commitment. If you see any of our committee members out and about, please take a moment to thank them in person — a kind word goes a long way in recognising the time and effort they generously give. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch — your feedback is always welcome.

Kindest Regards

Dipak Bhana

President@wisc.org.nz

0273410765

Women's Hockey Report

Hi everyone,

Our Women's A team have received their new uniforms and are looking sharp out on the turf – thanks to everyone involved in getting these sorted.

At the U18 tournament in North Harbour, we had two players representing Wellington:

- Tirzah Thuraishingham played in the U18 Black team, finishing 4th.
- Jayna Parag played in the U18 Gold team, who placed 16th.
- Well done to both of them!

We're now heading into the final stretch of the season with three matches to go before playoffs.

- P2 Women are sitting in 5th place on the table. It'll be a tight race to secure a spot in the semi-finals, but anything is possible with a strong finish!
- P3 and P4 have had some challenging games but continue to show good fight.

Looking forward to a strong finish to the season - come down and support the girls as we push for playoffs!

Darshna



“
Looking
forward to a
strong finish to
the season -
come down
and support
the girls as we
push for
playoffs!

”

Junior Hockey Report

We're now halfway through the junior hockey season! It's been fantastic to see everyone's skills improving and to welcome new faces to the teams. Despite the winter weather, everyone has shown great commitment and teamwork on and off the turf.

We hope everyone had a relaxing school holiday and is ready for Term 3 hockey! The second half of the season promises lots more fun and learning.

Junior hockey has been a little quieter over the holidays, but it's been awesome to see so many of our past WISC juniors representing their schools, playing college hockey, or taking part in tournaments—from Under 16s right up to Under 18s. If your child (who previously played WISC junior hockey) competed over the break—whether in school teams, college hockey, or representative tournaments—we'd love to hear about it! Feel free to email any updates or photos to juniorhockey@wisc.org.nz so we can celebrate their achievements.

We're really proud of the great start to the season and are looking forward to more hockey action in the weeks ahead!

Friendly Reminders

Please pay your fees! Reminders will be sent soon if any balances remain unpaid. Thank you for helping us keep the club running smoothly.

Term 3 - Kwik Sticks Rules Update (Years 7 & 8)

As we return for Term 3, Kwik Sticks will go back to the standard Penalty Corner rules. Please note these important safety rules:

- The ball must not be raised above shin pad height at any time during a Penalty Corner—this includes pushes or flicks.
- No more than five defending players (including the goalie) are allowed behind the backline in the goal during a Penalty Corner. We highly recommend all defenders wear protective equipment such as facemasks.
- The remaining two defending field players will start from the opposite circle when a penalty corner is awarded.
- A goal cannot be scored until the ball has travelled outside the circle.

These Penalty Corner rules will replace the Power Play format used in Term 2. If you have any questions about the rules or safety gear, please reach out!

Looking forward to an exciting second half of the season! Go WISC Juniors!

Ngā mihi,
Shiv Patel

Events Committee Report

Kemcho all,

Hope everyone is keeping well!

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone that came along to the WISC Friends + Family Drinks and Nibbles a few weeks back. It was awesome to have such a great turnout! We thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone mix and mingle and share some yarns over a drink or two.

Ourselves and the Social Committee are delighted to have announced the save the date for the 90th Jubilee celebrations! Saturday 4th October at the Rydges Hotel, it finally feels real! The 90th Jubilee Ball will be combined with Prizegiving to create an awesome night filled with celebrations of our clubs long standing history as well as recognising the efforts and successes of all our teams over this season, we simply cannot wait!



“
The second half
of the season
promises lots
more fun and
learning.

”

Tickets will be released in the next few weeks, make sure you get in quick, this is an event you won't want to miss!

We are also seeking sponsorship for the 90th celebrations, if this is something you or your business could be interested in, flick us an email at events@wisc.org.nz, to discuss what we can offer you/your business for your generous sponsorship.

Cheers,

Devanand and Kailin



“
...an awesome
night filled with
celebrations of
our clubs long
standing history
as well as
recognising the
efforts and
successes of all
our teams over
this season, we
simply cannot
wait!

”

Walking Group Report

Tree Planting at Baring Head, Sun 13 July 2025

Eleven members of the WISC Walking Group took part in a volunteer native tree planting exercise at Baring Head, Wainuiomata. This area is one of our favourite walks once per year, so this was a chance for the group to give something back to show our appreciation of the walks Wgtn Regional Council maintain. Its also the tail end of Matariki celebrations, which they say is a time for renewal and growth.

At 7am on Sunday it was raining heavily in Lower Hutt, but a call to the Ranger confirmed the planting was still on as Baring Head has a micro climate of its own. Some of our group were hoping it was cancelled as they don't like getting wet, but they were pleasantly surprised how well the weather behaved during the 4hrs we were there, from still and mild to pockets of sunshine.

Jo the Ranger gave us a quick brief on how to plant the trees, how wide a space to clear (its called scrubbing the ground), how deep a hole to dig, how to wrap a woollen mat around the plant (like weedmat), and how to pin the mat down to give the new plant the best chance to survive the wind and to spread its roots underground. We planted Tenax (Harakiki flax), Griselinia's, Cabbage trees, and one other plant who's name we forgot. We split into small groups with each person 'choosing their job', and it worked really well.

Thanks to Jo and Zane (the GWRC Rangers) who supervised us, provided morning tea (can't beat choc wheaten biks with instant coffee) and lunch. Jo was amazed 32 volunteers showed up considering the weather forecast. Her target was 300 plants, but we were so efficient and quick, she gave us another 200 plants to complete. We look forward to seeing the plant growth when we next visit in about 6 months time.

Follow up info about the event from GWRC is here: [Tickets will be released in the next few weeks, make sure you get in quick, this is an event you won't want to miss!](#)

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/news/planting-day-at-orua-pouanuibaring-head-restores-the-mauri-of-the-land-and-people/>

Pravin



40 Year Reunion for 1985 WISC Mens A Team – First WISC team to Win the Club Prem 1 Championship

Dear Club Supporters,

Let's go back a bit!!.... a flashback to a moment in time the club will always remember.

“
It's been 40
years this year
since the WISC
Mens A team
won their first
club
championship.”

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

SENIOR HOCKEY CHAMPIONS AT LAST!!

After struggling to establish themselves firmly in the Senior Grade throughout the 1970's, the 'A' team in the eighties proved themselves to be a strong and capable senior club side and began to achieve better and better results. Instead of finishing towards the bottom of the points table, the team over recent years has, through hard work and expert guidance, finished as high as 3rd place in 1983 and 1984.

And now finally in 1985...50 years of dreams and visions were in part realised by our community when our A team won the Senior Men's Hockey Championship for the first time in our 50 year history. A tremendous achievement!

Icing on cake for Indians hockey side Seven-up

"Post" correspondent

Indians put the icing on their Jubilee year by clinching the Wellington senior men's hockey championship with a 3-0 win over Karori on Sunday.

There was pressure on Indians coach Phil Bygrave three minutes before start time when Manoj Parbhu strained a knee and was forced out of the lineup.

Hus Bhikha moved into centre half and Has Dulabh into inside right for the game.

Karori took advantage of the disruption and for the first ten minutes put pressure on the Indians defence.

Chris Johnson and Malcolm McFadgen both had opportunities to score and Karori lost chances inside the circle.

Bygrave then brought Suresh Govind into the right wing with Chuni Bhikha inside him, the Indians improved their pattern and moved more onto attack.

A long through pass and mistrapped by fullback Jim Nesbit and goalkeeper Ian Freebairn stopped the ball with his pads and then miss kicked it. Mukesh Dayal following up slipped the ball home.

Early in the second half Bharat Khandu brilliantly saved a Jeff Gibson penalty corner and then Dayal scored number two after Hus Bhikha had split the defence.

Dilip Lala picked up a Chuni Bhikha reverse stick pass on the edge of the circle and crashed home the third goal.

Coach Phil Bygrave in his third season with Indians was full of praise for his side.

"They're a team that sticks to their task, dedicated, and have a good attitude. It was a hard game today but they adapted well to the early setback," Bygrave said.

Bygrave has now relinquished the reins the Indians side that has always played to a distinctive pattern based on their right side strengths.

Where he masterminded the win against Karori was in the tight hold that was put on McFadgen and McJorow.

Hus Bhikha had a vigorous confrontation with McFadgen and was uncompromising in halting the skilful player's progress.

Byron Patel also did a comprehensive job on McJorow which kept the flying out of attacking situations.

Indians' performance this season has been excellent losing just one game to Northern 2-3, and drawing 2-2 with Hutt on two occasions.

Courtesy E. Post 17 Sept. 1985

INDIANS increased their winning points margin in the final Wellington club hockey championship match of the season.

The Indian side had a 1-0 win over second-placed Karori and ended the season with a clear seven-point lead.

Karori had chances in the first half to embarrass the Indian side.

Craig Galloway at centre-half produced a superb flick at goal which Bharat Khandu saved and Jeff Gibson had a stinging penalty corner shot stopped on the line by Anup Nathu.

Just before halftime Chris Johnstone mis-hit an easy opportunity in front of the goal.

In the second half Karori again had a chance to take the initiative dramatically.

After receiving a green card for breaking from a penalty corner Hus Bhikha offended again and a penalty stroke was awarded.

Galloway put the shot low to Khandu's right. He stopped the shot, lying prostrate on the ground.

Dilip Lala broke the deadlock late in the second half after Chuni Bhikha pierced the Karori defence and crossed in front of goal. Lala deflected the shot into the net and clinched the win.

The Indian side in their 50th Jubilee year have had an impressive season with a solitary loss to Northern United and two draws against Hutt.

Lala has an uncanny way of scoring the vital goal and the defence of Ranchod, Naphu, Bhikha, Dayle and Patel is safe but not showy.

Chuni Bhikha gave an inspired performance yesterday at inside right and Jitu Parag was hard working.

Courtesy Sunday News 22 Sept 1985

Wow, how time flies.... It's been 40 years this year since the WISC Mens A team won their first club championship. We thought we would share a couple of newspaper clippings and a photo to show you who was in this legendary team. We were going to insert a before and after photo but you would never believe our looks haven't changed one bit – not !! - lol.



Our team had an amazing blend of experience and youth and a huge desire to win the grade after a great pre-season, winning the summer league competition. We had great leadership on an off the field which was part of our winning formulae. Our boys relished the new turf style of hockey which was only 6 months old and the first artificial turf to be installed in NZ.

The team photo says it all including the playing stats:



Believe or not, we still have the kookaburra match ball that was used throughout our winning season - now on a plaque as proof !!

And yes, a couple of the guys are still playing (or shuffling around the field) in our ripe old age playing international age group masters along with winning national masters tournaments – as the saying goes "use it or lose it"!!

Best of all, a few of our 1985 players have their sons playing in the current mens A team.

Reunion celebrations:

The team are planning a reunion to celebrate this momentous achievement for the team and the club. Most are still in Welly and able to participate, which is great, and a few are flying in which is much appreciated.

Our plan is to make a weekend of the occasion on the 15th of August with a team dinner together, followed by going to the Turf on Saturday (with our flash new blue jackets and club logo) to watch the current A boys playing in the finals weekend. If you are free to support the A boys and meet some legends (watch out for more WISC details prior to the weekend) then we would love to catch up and reminisce.



Sadly we have lost our Coach Phil Bygrave and Manager Thakorbhai Vallabh but their memories live on with all of us.

We also owe this success to the past players and supporters who braved the wintry conditions from grass (remember the Karori park mud !!) to turf hockey. We are so proud of the clubs record of championships won since 1985 - in particular the boys who have carried on to win multiple times. The A team is looking very promising this year too. Good luck lads and we hope to chat with you in that weekend.

Manoj Parbhu and Hus Bhikha

**If your business is interested
in sponsoring the club for our
90th Birthday Celebrations,
please email
events@wisc.org.nz
to discuss what we can offer
you/ your business for your
generous sponsorship.**

Thank you for your support

SAVE THE DATE

WISC 90TH JUBILEE
Ball + Prizegiving



4 OCTOBER 2025

The Rydges Hotel,
75 Featherston St

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON

contact events@wisc.org.nz to sponsor or donate

19TH
OCTOBER

RUSSLEY GOLF CLUB
428 MEMORIAL AVENUE,
CHRISTCHURCH.



THECHRISTCHURCHINDIANSSPORTSCLUB

SHAPING UP TO BE A GREAT DAY

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE ENDING SOON

SINGLE PLAYER

\$89

INCLUDES YOUR ROUND & BUFFET DINNER

TEAM OF 4 (AMBROSE)

\$356

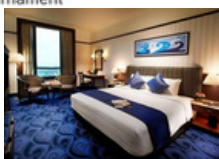
INCLUDES YOUR ROUND & BUFFET
DINNER

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO REGISTER:](#)

Yet to sort - Accommodation

We've secured a special group rate at the [Commodore Hotel](#), located just across from the golf course.

- **Group Name:** NZ Indian Sports Association Golf Tournament
- **Dates:** 17–20 October 2025 (arrive 17th or 18th)
- **Room Type:** Premium Level
- **Rate:** \$297.50 per night
- **Booking Ref:** 2271795

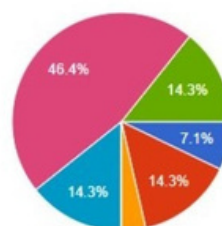


Reminder - Need a Golf Cart

Please book directly with [Russley Golf Club](#) to secure yours early.

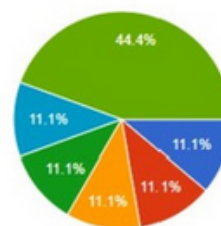
CURRENTLY 42 PLAYERS REGISTERED

DIVISION ONE - Affiliated Players



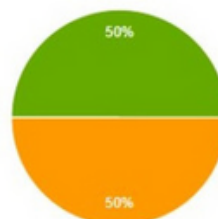
● North Harbour
● Auckland
● Pukekohe
● Waikato
● Bay of Plenty
● Central Districts
● Wellington
● Christchurch

DIVISION 2 - Social Players



● North Harbour
● Auckland
● Pukekohe
● Waikato
● Bay of Plenty
● Central Districts
● Wellington
● Christchurch

DIVISION 3 - Ambrose



● North Harbour
● Auckland
● Pukekohe
● Waikato
● Bay of Plenty
● Central Districts
● Wellington
● Christchurch



\$45 SUPPORTERS PACKS

Let our local ladies showcase Christchurch best places to shop, dine, wine and have fun.
Invite your wives, partner, friends or/and family to join the fun.

Supporter Pack includes

- BBQ down at the course
- Ticket to the evening event – Prizegiving & Buffet Dinner