



THE SPECTATOR

Your Wellington Indian Sports Club Newsletter



WISC Executive 2025

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Vice President, Admin – Vacant



OUR SUPPORTERS



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

President's Report

Kia Ora and Namaste,

I want to extend my deepest thanks to all the players, managers, and supporters who took part in the Indian Hockey Championship in Hamilton. The Wellington Indian Sports Club teams played with passion, heart, and true sportsmanship. Every game was closely contested, and you all represented our club with pride and dignity.

Thank you for being such outstanding ambassadors for Wellington. Watching you all come together—on and off the field—made me incredibly proud to be part of the Wellington Indian Sports Club family.

I absolutely loved hearing about all the personal wins happening on the field – from accurate passing and sharp penalty corners to those lightning-fast runs! It's great to see everyone lifting their game and striving for constant improvement. Keep up the amazing work – your progress is something to be proud of.

Just a few friendly reminders to help keep things running smoothly for everyone:

- All turfs are smoke-free zones – please avoid smoking anywhere on or around the turf.
- The venue is licensed premises, which means alcohol cannot be brought from home and consumed on turf property.
- However, alcohol can be purchased and consumed upstairs in the bar area only

And just a gentle reminder:

Let's keep things positive, respectful, and fun for everyone. There's no place for name-calling or unkind behavior – we're all here to enjoy the game and support each other. Let's keep lifting each other up both, on and off the field!

The external fire doors are currently in the process of being replaced. We have sourced some second-hand doors that are of higher quality and meet fire resistance standards. We aim to have the installation completed within the next few months. Regarding the downpipe issue that causes problems during heavy rain, there have been no new developments. A proposed solution has been identified, but it will require further assessment by roofing engineers to confirm its viability. We anticipate providing a more detailed update within the next few months.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday 4 October 2025 as we celebrate a milestone – the 90th Birthday of the Wellington Indian Sports Club! We're planning something truly special this year, with a new and exciting format for the celebrations, including prizegiving on the night.



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It promises to be a memorable evening, reflecting the spirit, history, and future of our club. We truly hope you can join us for this significant occasion. More details to follow – but for now, save the date!

Join the Supporters Club – Back the A Team!

The A Team gives so much to our club – from running coaching sessions for new goalies to training our juniors with dedication and passion. They are the backbone of our future talent. To continue this momentum, we want to ensure they have the resources to grow, retain talent, and compete at the highest level – especially when they’re up against the best in Wellington. We invite all members to consider joining our Friends of WISC Club. It’s a great way to give back – and as a bonus, you’ll get access to exclusive events where you can hang out with the A Team! Check out the poster for more details. Let’s back the team that backs our future.

The NZISA Golf Tournament is not far off, and it’s shaping up to be a fantastic weekend away. If you haven’t booked your travel yet, now is a great time – flights and accommodation are currently very affordable, but they won’t stay that way for long. We encourage everyone to get in early and secure your spot to make the most of this exciting getaway. See the poster for details – don’t miss out!

As we wrap up, we’re proud to be part of the 90-year journey of the Wellington Indian Sports Club—a club built on good people, great memories, and a shared love of sport. We’re all about creating a fun, inclusive space where everyone feels at home. Here’s to many more years of laughs, goals, and good times together!

Take care, stay safe, and we’ll see you out on the turf soon!

Kindest regards,
Dipak Bhana



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Sport’s VP Report

The season is now in full swing, and it’s been a strong showing across the club. Our teams are hitting their stride, with some standout performances already in the bank. Our annual highlight was our representation at NZIHC, where WISC teams did the club proud on a big stage.

In a historic achievement, our Men’s Premier team claimed back-to-back Intercity titles—an incredible milestone that speaks to the consistency and commitment of the players and coaching group.

It's also been fantastic to see the next generation out in force, with a sea of cornflour blue jerseys lighting up the turf on Saturday morning. From Minis to youth grades, their energy and enthusiasm are infectious and a reminder of why we do what we do.

With the second half of the season now underway, the focus turns toward qualifying for finals. Every game counts from here, and we know our teams will give it everything to earn their spots on the big stage.

Just a couple of gentle reminders from me. Hockey fees are now past due. Please square these away. I'll be following this up with all teams so let's avoid any stand downs.

Lastly, congrats to FINN WARD on making his Blacksticks debut and scoring crucial brace in his 2nd test to lead us to victory over Malaysia. All the best at the FIH Nations Cup.

Up the WISC!



P1 Supporters Group

Would you like to be part of a P1 Hockey Supporters Group to raise funds for a P1 Coaching Fund? Many of you enjoy watching P1 Mens hockey, and this is a way for individuals to channel their enthusiasm in a way that directly assists the team. With limited funds, WISC is not always able to pay for a coach, and while we can seek grants for coaching costs, this is not always successful. This is where you can be part of the solution.

How does it work? we aim to raise a \$5,000 coaching fund each year from keen supporters of our P1 mens hockey team to contribute to current and future payment costs for a coach. Our target is to reach 50 or more keen contributors at \$100 each this season. We already have 15 members on board, and are now inviting the wider membership if they would like to support this goal.

And in return ... the P1 players are very enthusiastic about this target and to recognise your support, they would like to have 2 or 3 events this season where contributors can be thanked. One event would be where the team invites you to a session where they discuss their team strategies, how they build up to games and their goals for the season. Another event towards the end of the season is a gathering of the contributors involving food and refreshments hosted by the team.

Interested?: Contact Dipak Bhana (027 3410765), Hemant Lala (021 827697) or Pravin Laloo (021 797728) to confirm your interest or to ask any questions. All funds will be held by WISC and tagged specifically for P1 Coaching costs.

“ CONGRATS TO FINN WARD on making his Blacksticks debut ”

Men's Hockey Report

Kia ora

The mid point of the year is upon us and everyone is full noise into their respective seasons. Again, it's fantastic to see teams doing so well in their competitions, and at the mid point we're hoping this success continues into the business end of the competition's.

The 2025 season has picked up pace, and our men's teams are right in the thick of the action. From hard-fought battles in the local leagues to our club's strong showing at the annual NZIHC tournament, there's a real sense of momentum building.

KBT was for the most part a success for our men's sides. Despite not coming away with titles as hoped, there was plenty of great foundation laid for our younger players to step up to the plate.

Our Men's A side finished second, losing to PISC 2-0 in the final which was a disappointing showing. After gathering themselves to be in a position in the final the expectation was that we would go out and put a strong showing. Unfortunately we fell below par on that performance, however despite falling just short of our goal, the team can be proud of how they stuck together right till the final whistle and the amount of effort everyone put in. It was pretty cool to see how everyone gelled together off the field and we created some awesome memories to look back on!

Our B Team also came away with a solid second-place finish, a great effort from a young group that's really starting to click. With a mix of fresh faces and familiar ones, they built quite nicely throughout the weekend to make a charge for the title. However some unlucky results (and some dodgy umpiring) meant they finished in second place. Their energy and hustle was awesome to watch, and we're super proud of their efforts over Kings Birthday Weekend.

Massive thank you to Will Zhou, Arun Patel and Arnie Lowe and Dino Sukha - for coaching and managing the A and B Team's respectively - this weekend wouldn't have been possible without your help so a big thank you to you.

To wrap up, our MVPs and those named in Tournament Team's were:

Men's A:

MVP: Hamish Sukha

Tournament Team: Shay Lala, Sajan Patel, Alex Sumenko-Bucknell

Men's B:

MVP: Akaash Morar

Tournament Team: Raj Chauhan, Akaash Morar, Sailesh Parbhu, Desh Sukha



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Following KBT, a major highlight came from our Premier Men, who etched their names into the history books with back-to-back Intercity titles. It's a huge achievement and testament to the hard work, discipline, and cohesion shown by both the players and our coaching team. A special moment for the club and a proud reflection of our standards on and off the field. Attention now turning to finishing off the year and taking out the local competition.

Back in our Wellington Comp our WISC teams have been having great success - with wins aplenty. Current rankings are as follows:

P1: 2nd
P2: 5th
P3: Randwick: 2nd
P3: Rambo's XI: 3rd
P4: MoneyTeam: 1st
P4: 40J: 2nd

Off the turf, a quick reminder to tidy up any outstanding fees to avoid disruption to team selections. And a huge thank you to those who have contributed to our coaching fund- it's a vital investment in the future of our club, allowing us to support quality coaching without burdening our players or reserves.

Finally, a massive shoutout to Finn Ward on making his Black Sticks debut! What a way to announce yourself on the world stage. We'll be backing you all the way and can't wait to see what's to come!

Ka kite
Sajan



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Women's Hockey Report

Hi everyone,

June has been a busy month, starting with our annual NZIHC tournament in Hamilton. The girls put in a solid effort across the weekend—with some tough matches. Our women's team took Auckland to shootouts in a close battle, but unfortunately fell short and ended up finishing 5th. While the results didn't go our way, many of the games were much closer than the final scores suggested. Despite the outcome, it was a great weekend of hockey. A big thank you to everyone involved in organising, the coaches and managers, and to all the supporters who travelled up—it really made a difference having familiar faces and voices on the sideline.

Back in Wellington, we've officially hit the second half of the season. From here, every game counts as teams push for playoff spots. P2 are currently sitting in 5th place and are working hard to break into the top four. Our P3 and P4 teams are continuing to build momentum, with some strong performances and promising hockey on display.

Thanks again to all our players, coaches, and supporters for your continued commitment. Looking forward to a strong finish to the season

Darshna Govind
Womens Hockey Rep



NEW - Social Media Agent!

We're excited to introduce Chhaya Govind as WISC's new Social Media Marketing Agent! Chhaya has been part of the WISC whānau for as long as she can remember, growing up in the club and playing for many of our teams over the years. She brings with her a strong background in communications, marketing, and film & media studies, having studied at the University of Otago. After spending the past couple of years overseas, she's back—and keen to get stuck into sharing the stories, successes, and spirit of our club.

We're thrilled to have her on board to help grow our online presence and celebrate everything that makes WISC so special. Keep an eye out on our socials! Welcome, Chhaya!

Junior Hockey Report

Kia ora koutou,

As we reach the halfway mark in the season, we want to celebrate the progress and spirit shown across all our junior teams. It's been incredible to watch our tamariki growing in skill and confidence each week — win, lose, or draw, the commitment and teamwork on display is something to be proud of. Everyone has been showing great grit getting out there on those cold winter Saturday mornings, having a hit around with their teammates and, most importantly, having fun!

Minis Programme Now Underway

We're excited to have our Minis programme up and running! A big thank you to Jamin Bhikha and all the coaches involved for making it happen each Saturday morning. It's been so special to see our youngest players getting stuck in and learning the basics of the game. We're also really grateful to the parents who turn up each week to support, encourage, and help out — it makes a huge difference and helps create a welcoming, fun environment for our tamariki.

Fees

A friendly reminder to please pay your fees as soon as possible. For our Minis families, invoices will be sent out by the end of the month. For Year 3-8 teams, if you haven't received your invoice yet, please get in touch with me so we can get that sorted.

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A big thank you
to Jamin Bhikha
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morning

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Quick Reminder – Player Safety

Coaches, managers, and parents — please make sure to stay until all players have been picked up after games or training. It's important we all help keep our kids safe by ensuring no one is left waiting alone. Thanks for looking out for each other!

School Holiday Break

We've got one more round of hockey left before we break for the school holidays. Let's make the most of them!

Looking Ahead

We're planning to take team photos sometime over the next couple of months — more info will be shared soon.

Senior Club Success

It's also been awesome to see the success of our senior club members this season — what fantastic role models they are for our juniors. Their commitment, skill, and sportsmanship help inspire the next generation of WISC players.

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to have a kōrero about anything to do with the junior programme, feel free to get in touch with me at juniorhockey@wisc.org.nz — always happy to chat.

Thanks again for being part of our hockey whānau — your support keeps our community strong and thriving.

Ngā mihi,
Shiv Patel
Junior Hockey Representative
Wellington Indian Sports Club



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WISC FRIENDS AND FAMILY DRINKS

Join us for a relaxed evening with the WISC family.

We're getting together for a casual evening of drinks, yarns, and good company — and everyone's invited.

Bring your teammates, your mates, your family, or anyone who's part of the wider WISC community.

Whether you're playing, coaching, cheering from the sidelines or just love the blue and white – this night's for you.

Where: Strathmore Local

**When: Saturday 28th June
5pm to 7.30pm**

See you there – up the WISC!



FRIENDS OF WISC



Introducing the P1 Men's Coaching Fund – a grassroots effort to grow our game and support our team.

Chip in, catch up, and be part of the journey.

All funds raised go straight to the Premier 1 Men's coaching programme for 2026.

We've got two opportunities upcoming to mix, mingle, and connect with the team – grab a drink, hear the vision, and be part of the next chapter for WISC P1 Men.

- Saturday 7th June 2025
- Saturday 19 July 2025

02-0568-0305296-000

(USE REFERENCE: "COACHING FUND" + YOUR NAME)

\$100

For more information, contact: sportsvp@wisc.org.nz