

The History of HAWKESBURY CRICKET CLUB

Cricket has been played in the Hawkesbury District since the early 1800's. In fact, the first cricket match played in western Sydney was in the Hawkesbury. So popular was cricket in the Hawkesbury, that in 1882 an English team visited Windsor for a match. In 1897 the Hawkesbury District Cricket Association (HDCA) was formed by local clubs from the towns of Richmond, Windsor, Pitt Town, Castlereagh and Kurrajong.

From 1948 until 1978, representative teams from the Hawkesbury played against teams representing Nepean, Camden and Southern Districts in what was known as the Hawkesbury Cricket Council. Matches were played between the districts in Under 13, Under 15, Under 18 and Open teams (which competed for the Gibson Cup) until 1979.

In the 1960's and 70's, each year a team of NSW representative players, selected by cricket patron Jack Chegwyn, travelled around the State's country areas playing exhibition matches against District teams. The Chegwyn matches were a regular feature each year in the Hawkesbury, creating much interest. When the Nepean District was invited into the Sydney Grade competition in 1973, the new Nepean club, (which became Penrith District CC) also played an annual match against a Hawkesbury Open side, up until 1984. These matches were always interesting, as the Penrith side often included several Hawkesbury products.

In 1979, HDCA joined the NSW Junior Cricket Union (which later became the NSW Districts Cricket Association) with Hawkesbury representative sides entering the Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Under 19, Under 23 and Open competitions. Later, at times, Under 11, 13 and 15 teams were also fielded. The Open competition was played for the Martin Shield, which the Hawkesbury side won 3 years in succession from 1981/82-1983/84. HDCA representative teams still compete in the NSWDCA competitions.

In 1984, looking to expand the Sydney Grade cricket competition, the NSW Cricket Association offered Blacktown a position, which they declined. NSWCA then seconded former State player and Riverstone resident, John Wilson to canvas Hawkesbury cricket and report back to them on the viability of Hawkesbury being invited into the Sydney Grade competition. Wilson inspected Richmond Oval, McQuade Park in Windsor and other local grounds as well as speaking to HDCA representatives. He reported back that he felt the Hawkesbury could sustain a Grade club. From this and other similar investigations in other districts, the NSWCA invited Hawkesbury, Campbelltown-Camden and Fairfield-Liverpool to form Grade clubs. Thus, all the old Gibson Cup districts were now in the Sydney Grade Competition. These four Grade clubs (including Penrith) still play for the Gibson Cup each season, using results from the Grade competition from that season.

In the Hawkesbury, a steering committee was formed and, after lengthy consultation with NSWCA and HDCA, decided to adopt the new Bensons Lane complex on the lowlands of Richmond as its home, rather than attempt to 'take over' some of the local grounds. The new complex was seen as having greater opportunity for development in the future, with the potential for 3 grounds next to each other. Local cricket legend Beau Strachan led the steering Committee and was the inaugural President of the Club for the first 4 seasons. The inaugural Committee was - Beau Strachan (President), Barry Smith (Deputy President), Adrian Lindo (Secretary), Phil Tuckerman (Treasurer), Frank Garay, Ron Hall, Russ Mitchell, Les Madden, Reg Sligar, Hugh McKay, Owen Earle, Barry Quinton (HDCA Representative).

In 1985, the first Hawkesbury Cricket Club sides played Campbelltown-Camden with 1st, 3rd and 5th grades at Bensons Lane. 2nd and 4th grade played at Campbelltown-Camden's also-new, and very similar, Raby complex. Hawkesbury and Campbelltown-Camden are still the only clubs in the Sydney Premier (Grade) Cricket competition with the facilities for 3 grades to play next to each other on adjoining fields.

The newly formed Hawks had great difficulty attracting experienced 1st Grade players in the first season. A player brave enough was Hawkesbury product Malcolm Cobcroft (Cobby), who had played in the Penrith 1st Grade Premiership-winning side in 1982-83. 'Cobby' was made captain of a 1st Grade side that was largely made up of HDCA Martin Shield players from the previous seasons, plus a few players from other clubs.

The Hawks teams for that inaugural round were as follows:

1st Grade: Mal Cobcroft©, Ian Alchin(wk), Barry Coad, Steve Cross, Gary Donlan, Charles Doyle, Mal Frost, Ken Gunderson, Steve Maraga, Mick Puzny, Ron Sanday.

2nd Grade: Steve Tuckerman©, Graham Barlow, Robert (Sam) Demattia, Rod Evans, Ron Hall, Warren Kirby, Keith Maskey, Hugh McKay, Steve Richardson(wk), Warwick Tuckerman, Robert Watkins.

3rd Grade: Scott Strachan©, Paul Airey, Brian Carver, Ron Evans, Todd Duffy, Bruce Earle, Danny McVey, Glen Rothwell, Ken Stockbridge(wk), Craig Tuckerman, Peter Watkins.

4th Grade: Adrian Lindo©, Greg Denmeade, Michael Goddard, Shane Lindo(wk), Gordon Lowe, Steve Rourke, Pat Sleeman, Barry Smith, Andrew Sparkes, Michael Weaver, George Wilbow.

5th Grade: Kevin Buik©, Dave Bennett, Shannon Elias, Anthony Ekert (wk), Peter Garay, Carl Gregg, Dean Laing, Gilbert Lee Mat, Doug McIntyre, Alan Mitchell, Ian Raffin.

Despite not winning a game during the season, 1st grade finished the inaugural season on a high note in the final round, when they played out a miraculous tie with a star-studded Western Suburbs side, chasing 312 at Bensons Lane. On the same day, the 2nd grade side won their only game for the season at Pratten Park. Third and Fourth grades went winless for the season despite showing promise, whilst a very young Fifth grade was the most successful side, winning almost half of their games.

In the following season, many more experienced Grade players came to the club and strengthened all sides, particularly lower grades. In a wonderful performance, with Ron Hall as captain, the 3rd Grade side won their way through to the Final, where they went down to a standout Sutherland outfit.

In season 1987/88 Sydney Grade cricket legend and local product Ken Hall came to the Club having captained Penrith successfully for several seasons. Hall took over from Cobcroft as the Hawks 1st Grade skipper for the next 2 seasons, taking out the coveted Bill O'Reilly Medal for Sydney Grade 1st Grade Player of the Year in 1988/89. However, Hall became frustrated with the difficulties of leading a struggling side at a new club, and left to finish his career at Bankstown.

In 1992, Bensons Lane No.1 ground was renamed Owen Earle Oval, to honour the long-serving, hardworking and humble servant of the Club, Owen Earle. Also in that season, Anthony Kershler joined the Hawks, eventually becoming the Club's first State representative in 1994/95, as well as becoming the second Hawk to take out the O'Reilly Medal in 1995/96.

In the first 9 seasons, the Hawks produced 3 Finalists, but no Premiers. However in the 10th season, the amazing season of 1994/95, the Club won competitions in 2nd Grade, 5th Grade and Green Shield as well as being 4th Grade Minor Premiers. This outstanding season should have been the 'springboard' for continued and increasing success. However, a massive player exodus over the next few years almost brought the Hawks back to where they had started.

In the next 10 seasons, the Hawks could not produce any further Premiers despite having two more Finalists and several other Semi-Finalists. This changed with the all-conquering Poidevin-Gray Shield side of 2005/06 which cut a swathe through opposition teams to win that competition undefeated. Not surprisingly, three members of that side, Stephen O'Keefe, Peter Forrest and John Hastings went on to gain State contracts whilst playing with the Hawks. Forrest also represented Australia A whilst still with the Club, whilst all three players progressed to full Australian representation after leaving the Hawks. Another member of that side, Shane Mott represented NSW 2nd XI in 2010/11.

The Hawks have also had numerous players selected in other representative sides, including NSW Under 19's and Under 17's squads.

In 2008, the Club held a celebration night at the Club's long-term original sponsor, The Richmond Club, to retrospectively present special medallions to all players who had represented the Hawks in 1st Grade, with their 1st Grade number engraved on their medallion. This is now a tradition at the Club, with a current or former 1st Grade player presenting each 1st Grade debutante with their numbered medallion on the morning of their debut match in 1st Grade.

In another first for the Hawks, first grade scorer Merilyn Fowler (nee Earle) was chosen to be one of the official scorers for the Test Match between Australia and England at Lords in England in 2009.

In March 2010, another special function was held at The Richmond Club, to celebrate and acknowledge the Hawkesbury Cricket Club Team of the Quarter Century. To celebrate the Hawks' first 25 years in the Sydney Grade cricket competition, a "best of" team was selected from the 124 players who had played 1st Grade for the Club up to that point by a specially convened selection panel. The panel consisted of long-term players and administrators who, after several meetings of lively discussion, selected the following side (in batting order): Greg Mail, Shannon Lane, Peter Forrest, Stephen O'Keefe, Jason Swift, Ken Hall, Anthony Kershler, Ian Alchin (wk), Shane Mott, Paul Sullivan, Michael Shields, Stephen Simons (12th man).

Each player was presented with a large framed photo collage of the Team, with their individual photo and statistics for the Club displayed in the centre. A team copy is on display in the Bensons Lane Clubhouse. The calibre of the side is reflected by the 5 players who have represented at first class level, with two Australian representatives, as well as the 2 O'Reilly medallists for the Club. Also reflecting the strength of the selected side is those players who were left out, one of whom went on to represent Australia.

During the pre-season of 2010/11, the NSW Blues squad came to Benson Lane, to play a young Hawks side led by Kershler, in a Twenty20 exhibition match to celebrate the opening of the long-awaited new white picket fence around Owen Earle Oval. Around 500 spectators, players and officials attended in what was another great day for the Club.

In season 2010/11, the Club's PGs side again reached the Final undefeated, before going down to a talented Sydney University outfit.

At the conclusion of season 2010/11, Anthony Kershler retired from 1st Grade cricket having played 19 consecutive seasons of 1st Grade with the Hawks, and several other seasons prior with other clubs. He set 1st Grade records for the Hawks for games played, games captained,

wickets taken and catches held, that may never be broken. “Kersh” was honoured at the Presentation night for that season, as the first inductee into the Hawks Hall of Fame, the inaugural “Legend of the Lane”. As well, the Club’s award for the Player of the Year was renamed the Anthony Kershler Trophy in 2008. After 2 seasons away from the game Kersh returned to play 3rd grade for the next 3 seasons, then made a brief return to 1st grade before retiring again in 2015.

In season 2012/13 the Hawks PGs side again won their way through to the Final, losing to Parramatta at Owen Earle Oval.

Also in 2013, Malcolm Cobcroft retired from cricket due to a chronic knee injury. At the Annual Presentation Night, Cobby was inducted as the 2nd ‘Legend of the Lane’ after 28 consecutive seasons playing for his beloved Hawks. Also on that night the Club’s Batting Average Trophy was renamed in honour of him. Cobby was the only original player to have played in each of the first 28 seasons for the Club. At the time of his retirement, he had played the 2nd most games and scored the 2nd most runs for the Club.

In season 2015/16 the Green Shield side reached the final before going down to Mosman, whilst the inaugural Academy side, which included most of the Green Shield team, also made the Final of the local HDCA 2nd Grade competition.

In season 2015/16, 18 year old Arjun Nair was selected as the Club’s 4th NSW representative after playing for NSW Under 19s, Australian Under 19s and NSW 2nd XI. Arjun was subsequently offered a fulltime contract with NSW for season 2016/17.

In 2016/17, the Hawkesbury 1st Grade side, captained by Jay Dyball, created club history when they won their way to the Final of the Limited Overs competition at Howell Oval against Penrith. In what could arguably be called the Club’s greatest achievement to this point, in one of the most exciting finishes possible to a game of cricket and viewed by a bumper crowd of both Hawkesbury and Penrith supporters, , the Hawk’s last batsman was run out on the final ball of the day for Hawkesbury to lose by just one run.

The full list of successful teams and their captain, as well as most of the highlights mentioned in this History, can be found in each season’s Annual Report. Photos of major events, successful teams and players are hanging in the appropriately named Beau Strachan Pavilion at Bensons Lane.

The full list of Office Bearers for the Club is shown below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Honorary Secretary</u>	<u>Honorary Treasurer</u>
1985-86	FB Strachan	AG Lindo	PJ Tuckerman
1986-87	FB Strachan	RC Evans	KW Gunderson
1987-88	FB Strachan	DF McVey	OF Earle
1988-89	FB Strachan	DF McVey	OF Earle
1989-90	OF Earle	DF McVey	IL Alchin
1990-91	OF Earle	AG Lindo	AG Lindo
1991-92	JW Wilson	AG Lindo	OF Earle
1992-93	JW Wilson	JJ Stringer	OF Earle
1993-94	JW Wilson	JJ Stringer	RD Timbs
1994-95	JW Wilson	JJ Stringer	RD Timbs
1995-96	JW Wilson	JJ Stringer	SP Zalunardo
1996-97	JW Wilson	JJ Stringer	SP Zalunardo
1997-98	SP Zalunardo	JJ Stringer	S Philipson
1998-99	P Philipson	JJ Stringer	SP Zalunardo, JC Cook
1999-00	P Philipson, SP Zalunardo	EF Fletcher	SP Zalunardo
2000-01	MC Cobcroft	EF Fletcher	R Morphett
2001-02	MC Cobcroft	HJF Griffith	JW Hopper
2002-03	TD Jacobs	HJF Griffith	JW Hopper
2003-04	TD Jacobs	HJF Griffith	JW Hopper

2004-05	TD Jacobs	J Forrest	JW Hopper
2005-06	TD Jacobs	J Forrest	JW Hopper
2006-07	TD Jacobs	J Forrest	JW Hopper
2007-08	TD Jacobs	PR Brown	JW Hopper
2008-09	TD Jacobs	PR Brown	JW Hopper
2009-10	TD Jacobs	PR Brown	JW Hopper
2010-11	PR Brown	M Whybrow	JW Hopper
2011-12	PR Brown	M Wilson	JW Hopper
2012-13	TD Jacobs	M Wilson	JW Hopper
2013-14	TD Jacobs	M Wilson	JW Hopper
2014-15	H McKay	M Wilson	JW Hopper
2015-16	RD Timbs	M Wilson	JW Hopper
2016-17	RD Timbs	M Wilson	J.W.Hopper
2017-18	RD Timbs	K Kwok	R Sharma

Life Members

Owen Earle (1994)

John Wilson (1997)

Merilyn Fowler (nee Earle) (2000)

Margaret Mitchell (nee Cobcroft) (2000)

Malcolm Cobcroft (2006)

John Hopper (2008)

Ian Alchin (2008)

Terry Jacobs (2008)

John Stringer (2009)

Beau Strachan (2010)

Anthony Kershler (2012)

Hugh McKay (2013)

Dean Laing (2014)

Steve Simons (2015)

Craig Bayldon (2015)

Joan Lalor (2015)

Paul Wayling (2015)

Hawkesbury Cricket Club Perpetual Trophy History

When Hawkesbury Cricket Club was inaugurated in 1985, the original Committee consisted largely of players and administrators from Hawkesbury District Cricket Association. Understandably, they selected players and cricketing identities from the history of the HDCA, to adorn the Club's Perpetual Trophies. With the Premier Grade Club continuing to develop and compete well into the new millennium, several trophies have been renamed to reflect the history of the Club. The original names have been retained on the trophies, and their history is included in the following descriptions of each award.

The Marilyn Fowler Trophy (AW Green Shield Player of the Year)

This award is based on a 3-2-1 points system allocated by the coaches for each match including the finals series.

Marilyn Fowler (nee Earle) is the daughter of the late Owen Earle, after whom the No.1 ground at the Bensons Lane cricket complex is named. In the Hawks inaugural season in 1985/86, the original 1st Grade scorer Fred Qested sadly passed away during the season. 14 year old Marilyn had tagged along with her father to the final 1st Grade game of the season, where she volunteered to act as scorer. She eventually retired from being the Hawks First Grade scorer in 2010, after 25 continuous seasons, to mother her 2 small children. During this time she also scored regularly at First Class and International level, culminating in her being one of the official scorers for the Test Match between Australia and England at Lords in England in 2009. She was awarded the Club Member of the Year twice, in 1996/97 (as Marilyn Slark) and in 2009/10 upon her retirement.

Marilyn was always a strong supporter of the Club developing young players. To support this, in 1993 she donated a perpetual trophy to the Club for the Player of the Year in the prestigious AW Green Shield competition. She remains a strong supporter of the Hawks and her efforts were recognised with a Club Life Membership in the year 2000.

The Eric Tuckerman Memorial Trophy (Poidevin-Gray Shield Player of the Year)

This award is based on a 3-2-1 points system allocated by the coaches for each match including the finals series.

The name Tuckerman has been embedded in Hawkesbury cricket since the 1800's. Eric Tuckerman was a fine pace bowler in the Hawkesbury District Cricket Association during the 1940's and 50's. He took wickets prolifically in the local 1st Grade competition, as well as for

the Hawkesbury District in the Gibson Cup representative competition, and each year against visiting Jack Chegwyn teams which contained numerous State players. He also represented Combined Country against Metropolitan at the SCG during this time. In his later cricketing years he concentrated on batting becoming the District's premier batsman in the 1960's and early 70's, scoring 219 in one innings in his final season at the age of 50.

In 1985, the Club's inaugural Treasurer was Eric's son Phillip, who donated a perpetual trophy to be awarded to the Club's Under 21 bowler with the most wickets for the season. In 1993, with the family's permission, the Club's committee decided to alter the award to the Poidevin-Gray Shield Player of the Year. This perpetual trophy is one of only a few, which has retained the original name, due to the fact that Tuckermans have been involved with the Club at regular intervals since its inception.

The Ian Alchin Wicket-keeping Trophy

This award is presented to the wicket-keeper with the most dismissals in all grades 1-5 during the regular season.

Ian Alchin was the Hawk's inaugural 1st Grade wicketkeeper, who went on to play 65 games in 1st Grade and over 200 games for the Club over a 20 year period. He was the recipient of this award in season 1990/91. Ian also captained all lower grades at various times with great success. He also co-coached Green Shield for several seasons in the mid 2000's, as well as coaching and mentoring many young players during his time with the Club. In 2008 Ian was bestowed a Life Membership of the Club. Originally donated by a former local business Sportstuff, the Club's Committee decided to rename this award after Ian in 2008, in recognition of his prowess with the gloves and his substantial contribution to the Club over an extended period.

The Alan Mitchell Highest Score Trophy (Formerly The Bob Mitchell Trophy)

This award is presented to the player with the highest individual score in regular matches across Grades 1-5.

This award was originally named after local cricketer Bob Mitchell, who was a fine all-rounder who played with distinction for the Tennyson, North Richmond and Richmond clubs. He represented the Hawkesbury District in the Gibson Cup and was a member of the 1952/53 Premiership team in this competition. At various times he was a committeeman of HDCA and Richmond Cricket Club. This trophy was presented in 1986 in his memory by his

wife Gladys and grandson Barry Smith, who was a member of the Hawkesbury Cricket Club Steering Committee and the Club's inaugural Deputy President in the 1985/86 season.

In 1985, in the first ever game for the Club, Hawkesbury played fellow newcomers Campbelltown. In 5th Grade, 16 year old right-handed local product Alan Mitchell peeled off 172. The following season, he smashed 174 not out in a 4th Grade game. The next season, he scored 140 against Balmain in 3rd Grade. With these innings, Mitchell took out this award for the Club in the first 3 seasons. In 1990/91, he again took out this award with a marathon club record innings of 179 in 1st Grade. Hence, at one point Alan held the Club record highest score for 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. His records for 1st and 5th grades still stand. Alan went on to play 177 games for the Club during the first 12 years scoring over 5000 runs, which upon his retirement from Grade cricket was the most runs scored for the Club. Alan is the only player thus far who has won this award 4 times. In 2011, the Club Committee decided to rename this award after him, in recognition of his high-scoring feats.

The Shane Mott Most Wickets Trophy (Formerly The Gerry Hall Trophy)

This award is presented to the player who takes the most wickets for the season in regular matches across Grades 1-5.

The name Hall is synonymous with cricket in the Hawkesbury. This award was originally named after Gerry Hall who was a prolific wicket-taker in local cricket from after World War 2 until the 1970's. He was also a "Rat of Tobruk" and served in Borneo with the 2nd AIF in WW2. Gerry was the uncle of Ron Hall who was an inaugural Committee member and player.

Shane Mott is a local product who played a pivotal role in several successful Hawkesbury sides since his debut for the Club in Green Shield in 1999. He was a key member of the AW Green Shield Finalists in 2000/01, and the all-conquering Poidevin-Gray Shield Premiership side of 2005/06. He has taken out this award 6 times to date (the only player to have achieved this thus far), including taking a competition-best 57 wickets in 1st Grade in the 2010/11 season, and 55 wickets in 2006/07. This award was renamed after him in 2010 in recognition of his outstanding efforts and service to the Club.

The Michael Shields Bowling Average Trophy (Formerly The Richmond Club Trophy)

This award is presented to the player with the lowest average runs per wicket taken during the regular season's matches across Grades 1-5, with a minimum 15 wickets.

In 1985, when Hawkesbury Cricket Club began, the then Richmond Ex-Servicemen's Club came on board as the Club's major sponsor. The Ex-Servicemen's Club became the Richmond Club around the turn of the century, and continued to support the Hawks each season as one of their major sponsors. This award carried the name of the Richmond Ex-Servicemen's Club, then the Richmond Club, from 1985 until 2015 when the sponsorship ceased.

In 2016, the Club's Management Committee decided to rename this award for Michael Shields. Michael came to the Club in 1988 for Green Shield as a raw-boned, 15 year old pace bowler from the local competition. Over the next 15 years Mick developed into one of the best pace bowlers the Club has produced, playing over 250 games and taking over 400 wickets. In 2014, after some years away, he returned to the Club as our major sponsor with his car dealership. He then joined the Committee and volunteered to be the Junior Development Co-ordinator in 2015. He and Peter Brett co-coached the Green Shield Side to the 2015/16 Final and Mick captained the Academy side to the local 2nd Grade Final in that same season.

The John Wilson Batting Aggregate Trophy

This award is presented to the player who scores the most runs in Grades 1-5 during the regular season.

Having been seconded by NSWCA in 1984, to explore the potential for the Hawkesbury district to form a Grade club, former State representative John Wilson came to the Club after some years out of cricket, and played 6 games in 5th Grade in season 1988/89. He captained 4th Grade the following season before retiring from playing and joining the Committee. He was elected President of the Club in 1991/92 and held this position for 6 seasons. During this time John became a NSW selector and was instrumental in bringing Anthony Kershler to the Club, who became our first State representative in 1994/95. He guided the Club through a period of huge success, particularly season 1994/95 which produced Premierships in 2nd Grade, 5th Grade and AW Green Shield and a Minor Premiership in 4th Grade. Upon his retirement from the Presidency in 1997, this award was named for him. John was also awarded a Life Membership in 1997 in recognition of his considerable contribution to the Club over a 10 year period.

The Malcolm Cobcroft Batting Average Trophy (Formerly The James J Walsh Trophy)

This award is presented to the player with the highest batting average across Grades 1-5 during the regular season, with a minimum aggregate of 150 runs.

This trophy was originally named after the long-serving proprietor of the Royal Hotel, Richmond which has been a regular and valuable sponsor of Hawkesbury Cricket Club for many years. James Walsh was a capable sportsman in his younger years. In later years he was a strong supporter of sport, and cricket in particular in the Hawkesbury. He used his position at the Royal to assist many teams financially, and provided his hotel to be used as a facility for team and club gatherings and functions. Many local and visiting cricketers enjoyed their time at Jimmy Walsh's Royal Hotel over several decades. The Royal Hotel, through Richmond's current proprietors Mal and Debbie Russell, have continued to support the Club as one of our sponsors until recently.

In 2013, the Club's Committee decided to acknowledge, upon his retirement, the contribution to the Club of Malcolm Cobcroft, by renaming this trophy for him. Affectionately known as 'Cobby', Mal was appointed Captain of the inaugural Hawks 1st Grade team in 1985. He filled this role in the Club's early seasons, before playing on in 1st grade under several other captains. Over the next 28 seasons, Cobby continued to play, coach, mentor and captain all other grades at some point, before a chronic knee injury forced him to retire in 2013, when captain of 5th Grade. Mal also held Committee positions in most seasons, including Assistant Secretary from 1994 to 1998, President from 2000 to 2002, and Club Coach from 2004-6. Cobby was also awarded Clubman of the Year twice in 2000/01 and 2004/5. He was ultimately and deservedly awarded Life Membership in 2006. Mal played 359 games (2nd overall at the time of his retirement), scored 8783 runs (2nd), took 137 wickets and held 140 catches (3rd) for the Hawks. No other player played in each of the first 28 seasons for Hawkesbury Cricket Club.

At the Annual Club Presentation Night in 2013, in recognition and with thanks and appreciation from all those connected with the Club since the beginning, Cobby was presented with his framed playing photo with Hawks career statistics, and inducted into the Hawks Hall of Fame as the Club's second 'Legend of the Lane'.

Trainer of the Year

In 2013, the Club Committee decided to inaugurate this award to recognise the player who not only attended the most official training sessions during both the pre-season and regular season, but also consistently demonstrated the desired attitude to training and playing. This award has now become sought after, producing healthy competition between those players within the club who pursue excellence.

The Owen Earle Memorial Fielding Award

This award is presented to the player with the most Fielding Award points for Grades 1-5 during the regular season, based on a point allocation per match by the captain and team.

Owen Earle was involved in the inaugural season of Hawkesbury Cricket Club as a parent of a player (son Bruce), supporter, helper and Committee member. He was Treasurer from 1987 until 1989, before taking on the role of President of the Club for seasons 1989/90 and 1990/91. In 1991, in keeping with Owen's quietly spoken, unselfish approach, he stepped aside from the Presidency to allow John Wilson to lead the Club, as he believed the Club would benefit from John's leadership, which it did. Owen again filled the role of Treasurer from 1991 to 1993 in the absence of any other volunteers, before retiring from Committee roles. He continued to work behind the scenes for many years, including cleaning the change rooms and clubhouse each week, until ill health put a halt to these activities.

Owen was always a strong advocate of the importance of fielding. He felt that fielding was often the difference between winning and losing a cricket match. In 1994, in recognition of this and his contribution to the Club, the Fielding Award was named for him. Also in 1994, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Club, Owen was elected as the first Life Member of Hawkesbury Cricket Club. In 1999, to further acknowledge his contribution to the Club, the No.1 ground at the Bensons Lane cricket complex was officially renamed Owen Earle Oval. Owen continued to support the Club in any way he could despite failing health, before passing away in 2004. A memorial garden for Owen stands near the gate to the ground named after him at Bensons Lane. It is fair to say that Owen Earle was the first 'great man' of Hawkesbury Cricket Club.

The Stan Moses Spirit of Cricket Award

This award is presented to a player drawn from grades 1-5. Nominations are forwarded by each captain at season's end and voted on by the Management Committee.

Stan Moses was a local identity and community leader in the Hawkesbury district for decades. He was also an avid sportsman and sport watcher with a special interest in cricket. Stan was also a strong advocate of fair play and sportsmanship. His daughter Tricia married former Hawkesbury 1st Grade player and Club Coach, Wayne Holt, and after Stan's passing, Wayne and Tricia donated this trophy to the Club in memory of Stan. It was awarded in 2005 and 2006 for single examples of sportsmanship, but in 2012, the Club's Committee decided to present the award each year to the player who most strongly demonstrated the Spirit of Cricket both on and off the field, during the previous season.

The Terry Jacobs Award for Clubman of the Year

This award is voted on by the Management Committee to award to the Club member who demonstrates the most commitment to the Club during each season. Prior to 2012 this award was simply called Clubman of the Year and there was no perpetual trophy. In 2012, a nomination was accepted by the Club Committee to name this award after Terry Jacobs, and a perpetual trophy was struck and engraved with all previous winners.

Terry Jacobs came to the Club in its second season 1986/87 age 23, as a strong, right arm pace bowler. He took 40 wickets in Third Grade in season 1986/87 and was instrumental in that side reaching the Final. This wicket tally remained the Club record for 3rd Grade until 2015. He went on to play several seasons of 1st Grade before captaining 2nd Grade and then 3rd Grade up until 1995. Terry then retired from playing and devoted himself to Committee work, being awarded Clubman of the Year in 2002. A few weeks later he was then elected President of the Club and held this position for a record 8 consecutive years, during which time he was also usually Chairman of Selectors. In 2008 Terry was awarded a Life Membership for his outstanding service and contribution to the Club over more than 20 consecutive years. In 2010 he stepped down to devote more time to his family, although he continued to work behind the scenes as Vice-President and Chairman of Selectors for the next 2 seasons. In 2012, he was once again elected President of the Club. Terry continued to be pivotal to the off-field running of the Club, up until season 2013/14, when he again stepped down. Arguably, no one did more for Hawkesbury Cricket Club in the first 30 years.

The Ian Forrest Memorial Pointscore Trophy (Formerly the B & R Hall Perpetual Trophy)

This award is presented to the player who accumulates the most points through the scoring of runs, and taking of wickets, catches and run outs during the regular season in Grades 1-5.

B and R Hall were Broughton (Sam) and Ron Hall, who were father and son and two of the Hawkesbury's finest cricketing products. Broughton (Gerry's brother) was a fine all-round cricketer in local 1st Grade from after World War 2 until the 1970's, when his son Ron began to emerge. Ron went on to play 1st Grade for the new Penrith club in the Sydney Grade competition and was selected to play for NSW Colts. When Hawkesbury Cricket Club formed, Ron was involved from the beginning. As well as being on the inaugural Committee, he played 2nd Grade in the inaugural 1985/86 season before dropping back to captain 3rd Grade to the Final in 1986/87. He again captained 3rd Grade the following season, before declaring he was not retiring, just not playing for the time being. Ron re-appeared at the 2012 Presentation Night to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 3rd Grade Finalists.

Ian Forrest came to the Club in the year 2000 as the father of Peter who played AW Green Shield in that year for the first time, with that side reaching the Final. Peter went on to become a fine 1st Grade batsman who represented NSW and Australia A whilst with the Club, before going on to play for Australia in One Day Internationals after leaving the Club. As Peter worked his way up the grades, Ian became more involved in the Club. Firstly he joined the Committee in 2001, then co-managed the Poidevin-Gray Shield for several seasons, including the all-conquering side of 2005/06. Ian also managed 1st Grade for 3 seasons up until 2008, when he passed away suddenly and prematurely. Ian was a strong supporter of the Club in his time with the Hawks and assisted in the development of many young players. His sister, Janine was also the Secretary of the Club for 3 seasons from 2004-2007. This award is in recognition of Ian and his family's support of the Club over nearly 10 years. Each year at the Club's Presentation night, a member/friend of the Forrest family is invited to attend and present this award in memory of Ian.

The Anthony Kershler Medal for Players' Player of the Year

This award is presented to the player with the most player points allocated on a 3-2-1 basis by the Captain and team for each match in grades 1-5 for regular season matches.

This award was originally known as the Erichson Motors Award, named after one of the Club's inaugural major sponsors. In 2007, in recognition of Anthony's outstanding service to the Club, the Committee changed the name of this award to The Anthony Kershler Medal for Player's Player of the Year.

Anthony Kershler first came to the club in 1992, already an established 1st grader at the age of 23. He went on to become the first Hawk to represent NSW in the Sheffield Shield competition in 1994/95 and 1995/96, as well as becoming the Club's second winner of the Bill O'Reilly Medal for the most outstanding player in the first grade competition, in 1995/96. He went on to captain the Hawks 1st Grade for a record number of games, as well as set first grade club records for wickets taken and catches held that may never be broken. 'Kersh' played 348 games in 1st Grade, between 1992 and 2015. He was 1st Grade Captain 1999-2002, 2004-2006 and 2008-2011. He scored 5173 runs, took 598 wickets and took 215 catches in 1st Grade. Upon his initial retirement from 1st grade in 2011, Kersh was named the Club's inaugural 'Legend of the Lane.' The following year Anthony's contributions to the Club were further recognised with a Life Membership. Kersh subsequently returned to the club in season 2012/13 to play 3rd grade and assist in the development of our young Hawks, before briefly returning to 1st Grade then retiring again in 2015.

Footnote

This history of the Hawkesbury Cricket Club and the descriptions of the existing Club awards were put together using my memory and knowledge of the people and events of the Club from its inaugural season 1985/86 up until now. This document is designed to be updated and added to as time passes. (Hugh McKay 2017)