

National Club Championships 2011

After nine years of trying, the East Christchurch Shirley Cricket Club won the New Zealand 2011 Cricket National Club Championship.

The creme of New Zealand's club cricketers descended on Cornwall Park from April 5th - 10th to battle it out for the title of National Club Champion 2011.

A tournament hosted and run by the Cornwall Cricket Club, it includes the one day champions from each major Association and the line up this year incorporates the following teams:

Auckland: Howick Pakuranga
Canterbury: East Christchurch Shirley
Central Districts: New Plymouth Marist United
Northern Districts: Mount Manganui
Otago: University Grange
Wellington: Karori

Captain Tim Papps comments that early in April the East Shirley Premier Men's team travelled to Auckland to compete in the National Club Cricket Championships. This tournament comprises the best club side from each province in a full round robin tournament. This is the 9th time at the competition and we were yet to win it outright. Due to the early finish to the season the boys had little cricket under their belts but were able to perform exceptionally well. Having beaten University Grange (Otago), Marist United (CD) Mt Maunganui (ND) and Karori (Wellington) in round robin play, we came up against Howick Pakuranga (Auckland) in the final, the only team we lost to during the round robin. After Howick posted 228 batting first, we chased it down with 6 wickets to spare. A great result for East Shirley and Christchurch after a tough few months. A special thanks to all supporters, for their support this season and also to the cricketers who turned out for the Canterbury Selection to give us some practice matches due to the early finish to the season.

Coach Nev Lyons said an awesome performance by all players in the squad and with the bowlers setting up gettable scores or defending totals that were set by the batters who always showed patience and intent while at the wicket and enhanced by some excellent East's fielding. This tournament performance was set up with 3 very good warm up games against the Canterbury A / U20 sides as the earthquake had disrupted all club cricket during March and a 2 hour fielding session on the Monday afternoon at Cornwall. I felt that the team was tracking well in the 2 day competition leading up to the tournament till the EQ struck and the team were showing a very positive attitude and were quietly confident in terms of winning the 2 day competition. This team was well lead by Tim Papps and he has shown great improvement over the 2010/11 season and with the backing of the senior team leadership group most of the team outcomes were achieved with the icing on the cake, winning this very prestige NZ club tournament.

NZC Championship Awards 2011:

Batsman of the Tournament:
Runs Scored: 302 Average: 50.83
Bowler of the Tournament:
Wickets Taken: 13 Average: 13.54
All Rounder of the Tournament:
Runs Scored: 238 Average: 47.6
Player of the Tournament:
Runs Scored: 238 Average: 47.6

Jesse Simpson (University Grange)
Highest Score: 109 Strike Rate: 100.99
Brandon Hiini (East Christchurch Shirley)
Best Bowling: 7-24 Average runs/over: 4.69
Lee Edwards (Karori)
Wickets Taken: 9 Average: 16.89
Tim Papps (East Christchurch Shirley)
Highest Score: 129* Strike Rate: 91.8

Final Standings:

1st: East Christchurch Shirley (Canterbury)

2nd: Howick Pakuranga (Auckland)

3rd: Marist United (Central Districts) 4th: University Grange (Otago)

5th: Karori (Wellington)

6th: Mt Maunganui (Northern Districts)

Results Final:

Day six Final: Howick Pakuranga (Auckland) 228 (C de Grandhomme 62, W Mackenzie 39, D Grobbelaar 35, C Munro 30) lost to East Christchurch Shirley (Canterbury) 229/4 (M Papps 68, D Lyons 48, S Pawson 39) by six wickets.

A great team performance with the bat has lead Canterbury's East Christchurch Shirley to a comfortable six wicket win over Auckland's Howick Pakuranga and with it the 2011 National Club Cricket Championship title.

Howick Pakuranga, who won the toss and chose to bat, got off to a wobbly start as Brandon Hiini bagged two early wickets for the Canterbury side. Wayne Mackenzie (39) and Colin de Grandhomme (62) steadied the innings and useful knocks from Donovan Grobbelaar (35) and Colin Munro (30) helped the Auckland side post a defendable 228 all out. In reply East Christchurch Shirley got off to a great start with openers Scott Pawson (39) and Tim Papps (27) leading the way. A well played 68 from number 3 batsman Michael Papps with support from Daniel Lyons (48) helped the Canterbury side keep the score ticking over but in the end it was left to Brandon Hiini and Ryan Burson to knock off the final runs as East Christchurch cruised to 229/4 in the 49th over.

