



MILNERTON CRICKET CLUB

Theo Marais Park, Koeberg Rd, Milnerton

2 July 2026

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2025/26 SEASON

INTRODUCTION

Dear Milnerton Cricket Club life members, committee members, members, social members, sponsors and supporters,

Welcome, and thank you for being here at the 2026 Annual General Meeting of Milnerton Cricket Club.

The past season has been another busy one for the club, and as always, it's gone by quickly. It's been a year of solid on-field performances, steady growth, and some meaningful progress off the field.

We once again fielded six senior men's teams and a women's team in the WPCA competitions, which says a lot about the depth and commitment across the club. Our Veterans side also continues to be an important part of the club setup and adds to the strong sense of camaraderie we value.

One of the biggest positives this season has been the return of junior cricket to Milnerton after 15 years. This is a big step for the club and something we've been working towards for some time. It gives us a proper pipeline for young players and helps secure the future of the club.

None of this happens without the effort put in by our players, coaches, committee members and volunteers, as well as the ongoing support from our members and sponsors. It's this collective effort that keeps the club moving in the right direction.

Overall, it's been a good season, with plenty to build on as we look ahead.

REVIEW OF THE PAST SEASON (ON THE FIELD)

1st Team

- The 2025/26 season proved to be a successful one for the 1st XI, achieving the primary goal set at the previous AGM — a return to the Premier League. After a slow start to the campaign, where the team struggled to find early momentum, the group responded well and built strong form heading into the mid-season break.
- From there, the side showed consistency and composure, putting together a solid run of performances in the second half of the season to secure a top-two finish in First Division A and with it, well-deserved promotion back to the top tier.
- Beyond the league campaign, the team also enjoyed an excellent run in the AMA20 competition. After navigating a tightly contested group stage — including a nail-biting fixture against Primrose — the team carried that momentum into the knockouts.
- A particularly tense semi-final against Edgemoor tested the squad's character, but they held their nerve to secure a place in the final at Newlands. In what was another closely fought encounter, the 1st XI delivered when it mattered most, claiming their second AMA20 title — a fantastic achievement for the club.
- Credit must go to the players and management (Malcolm Cloete, Robin van Harte, Dean van Blerk, Craig Phillips and Bianca Akerman) for staying aligned with the season's objective. The challenge now will be to build on this success and ensure the team not only competes in the Premier League but establishes itself as a consistent and competitive force at that level.

2nd Team

- After dominating Reserve B in the previous season, the 2nd XI went into the 2025/26 campaign fully aware of the step up in quality in Reserve A. It proved to be a challenging start, with the team winning only three matches in the first half of the season.
- At the midway point, the side found itself in a difficult position and firmly in a relegation battle. However, the response after the Christmas break was excellent and showed real character.
- The team regrouped and produced a much-improved second half of the season, winning six of their remaining eleven fixtures. This strong run of form allowed them to climb the table and ultimately secure a 9th-place finish, comfortably clear of the relegation zone.

- A big thank you must go to coach Cameron Viret for the structure and guidance he has brought to the side. His influence has played an important role in steadying the team, particularly during the tougher periods of the season.
- Credit must also go to captain Shaun Wessels for his leadership throughout the campaign. Shaun will be stepping down at the end of the season as he prepares for an exciting new chapter off the field, and we thank him for his commitment and contribution to the team.
- While the season presented its challenges, the way the team responded speaks volumes about the resilience and determination within the squad. Having now experienced the demands of Reserve A, the 2nd XI will be better equipped going into the next campaign.

3rd Team

- Following a historic promotion the previous season — the first time the club's 3rd XI moved up from Reserve C to Reserve B — the team entered the 2025/26 campaign with confidence and momentum.
- They made an excellent start in the higher division, winning half of their matches in the first half of the season and quickly showing that they could compete at this level.
- Unfortunately, the second half of the season proved far more challenging. After the mid-season break, results became difficult to come by, with the team winning just two of their final twelve fixtures, including a tough run of nine consecutive losses.
- Despite this downturn, the strong start to the season ultimately proved crucial. The points accumulated early on ensured that the team finished in 9th position, safely clear of the relegation zone.
- Last season also saw a few changes in captaincy, and improving consistency in leadership will be an important focus going forward to help maintain stability and performance in Reserve B.
- While the drop in form is something to reflect on, there are clear positives to take from the season. The team has shown that it can compete at this level, and with greater consistency and stability, there is every chance they can continue to establish themselves in the division.

4th Team

- As has become the norm in recent seasons, the 4th XI once again delivered a solid campaign, finishing comfortably within the top five of the league.
- The team showed strong consistency throughout the season, losing just six of their 21 matches — a good reflection of both the quality and competitiveness within the side.
- One of the most encouraging aspects of this season was the willingness of players to step up and support the 3rd XI when required. This kind of contribution across teams is vital for the overall success of the club.
- Special mention must go to captain Dewald Myburgh, who will be heading into his 10th year in the role — a remarkable milestone and a testament to his commitment and leadership within the club.
- Moving forward, the focus will be on maintaining this consistency while pushing to convert strong seasons into a genuine title challenge

5th Team

- At the start of the season, a clear goal was set for the 5th XI — to push for promotion to 3A. After a difficult first half of the campaign, where the team lost five of their opening nine matches, that target looked increasingly out of reach
- However, the response after the mid-season break was outstanding. Much like some of the club's other sides, the 5th XI showed real character and determination, turning their season around in impressive fashion
- The team lost just one match in the second half of the season, putting together a strong run of results that propelled them up the table.
- This late surge saw them finish 4th in the league, securing a well-earned potential promotion spot and achieving the objective set at the beginning of the season.
- Credit must go to Peter Hillman and his team for not losing sight of their goal and for the way they responded under pressure.

6th Team

- The 6th XI, or the "Masters" side as they are known, delivered exactly what we've come to expect — competitive cricket, good enjoyment, and a strong sense of camaraderie.
- True to form, the team won around 50% of their fixtures, which once again saw them finish comfortably in mid-table.
- While results are always important, this side continues to play a key role in the culture of the club, bringing experience, spirit, and a genuine love for the game.
- It's also fantastic to see the group continuing their pre-season tours, now two years in a row. Initiatives like this go a long way in strengthening team spirit, and we wish them all the best for the next tour.

Women's Team

- The Women's XI enjoyed another positive season, continuing to build on the strong foundation that has been established over the past few years.
- A significant milestone this season, as highlighted by coach Michael van der Merwe, was that for the first time the team had to manage selections due to the increased number of players wanting to be involved. This is a fantastic sign of growth in the women's game at the club.
- On the field, the team delivered a solid campaign, winning around half of their fixtures and finishing mid-table — a good reflection of their consistency and competitiveness
- The season did present an early challenge, with captain Nicole Chapman unfortunately sidelined through injury. Credit must go to Nicci Cairns, who stepped in and took over the role.
- With growing numbers and continued development, this side is in a strong position to keep improving and pushing higher up the table in seasons to come.

Veterans Team

- The Veterans side continued to build on a strong foundation in just their second season in the WPVCA league
- The team performed excellently during the group stages, finishing top of the table and once again putting themselves in a strong position heading into the knockout rounds.
- Unfortunately, their campaign came to an end in the semi-finals with a loss to Green Point. While disappointing, it should not take away from what was another very good season overall.
- Notably, this marks back-to-back seasons where the Veterans side has reached the semi-finals — a clear indication of the quality and consistency within the group.
- With two strong seasons now under their belt, there is every reason to believe this side is not far off going one step further soon.

Juniors Teams

- This season marked a highly successful return and continued growth of junior cricket at Milnerton, with over 130 young players participating across various age groups. The programme has shown excellent engagement, with strong attendance at weekly training sessions and increasing demand now requiring team selections.
- With a committed group of coaches and managers, improved facilities, and valuable support from sponsors and the broader community, the junior section is building a solid foundation. Beyond results, the focus on development, enjoyment, and opportunity has been clear, and the future of cricket at Milnerton looks very promising
- See attached report from the Junior Chairman.

REVIEW OF THE PAST SEASON (OFF THE FIELD)

Beyond the strong results on the field, the 2025/26 season was defined by significant progress off the pitch- where the strength of any successful club truly resides.

Club Administration

- A special thanks to our committee and sub-committee members who give their time selflessly to keep the club moving forward.
- Thank you to Anthony Akerman, Leon Russouw, David Longo, Dean van Blerk, Lynn Gillespie, Gail van Schalkwyk, Garth West, Dewald Myburgh, Joshua van Oudtshoorn, Mike van der Merwe, Caryn Hardenberg.

Facilities & Projects

- Behind the scenes at Milnerton Cricket Club, the Facilities Sub-Committee continues to play a vital role. Their dedication and often unseen efforts ensure that our facilities are maintained to a high standard
- This marked our second year of turf nets, and there was a noticeable improvement as the surfaces had time to establish. Considerable effort was invested by Josh van Oudtshoorn and Cameron Viret, who worked diligently to ensure the nets were prepared each week. Looking ahead to the coming season, we anticipate additional support from our contractors to assist with turf net maintenance, although this is only expected to come into effect from around January.
- During the season, we identified growing wear and damage to the netting within the practice facilities, which has the potential to become a safety concern if left unaddressed. This has been formally flagged, and plans are in place to repair or replace the affected netting ahead of the upcoming season to ensure a safe training environment for all players.
- On a positive note, progress has been made during the season, with one of the artificial strips successfully replaced. In addition, we have begun planning a phased replacement of the artificial turf nets to ensure that, over time, all surfaces are brought up to a consistently high standard. The landing areas have also been identified for upgrade, with improvements aimed at enhancing durability, safety, and overall training quality

- With the support of Garth West and Darren McKinley, we successfully installed a camera system on the A field, enabling live streaming of matches and opening up additional sponsorship opportunities. Looking ahead, we are exploring the implementation of a portable streaming solution for the B field to further expand this capability.
- We also introduced sponsorship signboards during the season, successfully securing 10 boards in our first year. Building on this strong start, we aim to expand the initiative further by increasing the number of boards in the next season
- Another project under consideration in the near term is the development of a scorer's facility and player dugouts on the B field. Initial concepts and draft plans have already been prepared to support this initiative.
- Upgrading and repairing our sightcreens has also been identified as a key priority, and is an area we will focus on improving soon to ensure optimal playing conditions.
- As highlighted in last year's report, the inconsistent water supply from the city continues to present a significant challenge. This has again impacted our ability to properly maintain both the outfield and pitches. We remain optimistic, however, that the completion of the Potsdam Wastewater Treatment Plant will provide a reliable and sustainable water source. Access to consistent, clean water would be transformational for our groundskeeping efforts and remains a key priority for the club.
- Similarly, the issue of severe thatch build-up on our outfields—also raised previously—has persisted and continues to affect playing conditions by slowing the surface. Addressing this will require the implementation of a comprehensive maintenance programme, including dethatching, scarifying, top dressing, and levelling. While this represents considerable financial commitment, we are actively pursuing support options through both the city and private sector partners to help us tackle this essential work.
- We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Josh van Oudtshoorn for his contribution this past season in his role as Facilities Coordinator. Josh has taken an exciting step in his personal life, having met the love of his life and relocated to the United Kingdom. As a result, he will be unable to continue in this role in the upcoming season. We wish him all the very best for this next chapter.

Finances

- While Gail van Schalkwyk will provide a more detailed breakdown of the club's financials, I would like to highlight a few key points from the 2025/26 season.
- As highlighted in the Junior report, we had significant contributions from sponsors to our Juniors setup which helped us meet early-season expenses and invest in key projects.
- Each season, we continue to make incremental improvements to the club's financial position—slowly but surely
- With continued support from our sponsors, members, and community, and a clear financial strategy, I am confident that we will strengthen our position and move closer to long-term sustainability.

Events

- The 2025/26 season was another vibrant and memorable one off the field, thanks to the tireless efforts of our events team and the growing support from our club community.
- The support provided by the sub-committee on Friday evenings to assist with junior kitchen activities was exceptional. Their commitment and hands-on involvement ensured smooth operations and created a positive, well-organised environment for junior members.
- We successfully hosted our 3rd Annual Golf Day, which was a resounding success. The event continues to serve as an important source of income, contributing meaningfully to the ongoing growth and development of the club.
- Club Nights were introduced during the season, providing an additional opportunity for engagement and participation. While well received, there is a clear intention to improve consistency in scheduling and delivery in the coming season.
- The annual 6-a-side tournament was once again successfully hosted. Notably, this year saw the crowning of a tournament winner, adding to the competitive spirit and enjoyment of the event.
- The season concluded with our Awards Evening, which was well attended and proved to be an enjoyable and fitting celebration of the club's achievements and contributions over the year.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2026/27 SEASON

As we close the chapter on a memorable 2025/26 season, our focus now shifts to the future. The 2026/27 season presents new opportunities, and with that, we are setting clear internal goals and initiatives to guide our progress both on and off the field.

Goals & Initiatives

- With our 1st Team competing in the Premier division and both our 2nd and 3rd teams playing in the highest reserve leagues, the club has reached a level achieved by only a select number of clubs. This step up brings increased expectations and responsibility. As such, a clear and structured management approach will be essential to ensure we provide a professional, organised, and a high-quality experience for our players. Our ambition is to continue

positioning the club as a destination of choice—one that attracts players and fosters long-term commitment, rather than one they choose to leave.

- With both our 4th and 5th teams possibly competing in Third Division A, we have reached a position not seen for some time. This also introduces the added excitement of a local derby fixture within the club structure. More importantly, it provides a strong and competitive pool of players aspiring to progress to Reserve B and A levels. This depth places the club in a very positive position, enabling us to promote internal development while maintaining competitiveness across all teams. We are awaiting final ratification of the logs from WPCA on Third Division B.
- We developed a structured sponsorship and partnership offering built around three key initiatives. These include larger-scale project opportunities requiring significant investment, pitch-side sponsor boards providing strong visibility through consistent foot traffic, and enhanced online exposure via our social media platforms and streaming channels through tiered and customisable packages. The successful implementation of this model will be critical to supporting the club's long-term growth, financial sustainability, and ability to invest in future development.
- The Junior Sub-Committee will convene to establish a clear plan for the continued growth and development of the junior section, including identifying the resources and support required to achieve these objectives. The success of this initiative will rely on broader club involvement, and we encourage any members interested in contributing to come forward and engage with the Junior Chairman.
- Continued attention to both on-field and clubhouse facilities will be required to maintain and enhance the overall club environment. The Facilities Sub-Committee plays a key role in this area but requires additional support to deliver on its objectives. Members who may be unsure of what involvement entails are encouraged to reach out to the Chairman for further information, and we would greatly welcome more volunteers to assist in supporting and developing our facilities.

We encourage all members to remain actively involved and contribute where possible as we continue building a stronger and more sustainable club

"One Club. One Spirit. One Goal."

Emphasizes unity across all teams and a shared vision.

Thank you for being part of the Milnerton Cricket Club family. Let's continue to build on our legacy and strive for excellence both on and off the field.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.A.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gavin Armstrong
Club Chairman

Milnerton Cricket Club - Juniors Overview

1. Progress

- The junior division continues to grow, with **135 registered players** across Mini's u10, u11, u12 & u13 age groups. There is 1x u14 and 1x u16 for the Super Smash teams.
- Weekly training sessions are held every Monday and Friday's from 17:30 to 19:00.
- Attendance has been consistent, averaging **90% participation** across all squads.
- 5x u16 players were selected to attend Western Province Regional trials. Unfortunately none were selected for the team.
- Our Mini's were invited to be 'lead-out' kids for the Ladies Proteas match against Ireland at Newlands.
- Our Juniors were invited to be Ball kids for the **Betway SA20** Mi Cape Town vs Pretoria Capitals match at Newlands.
- Table View Primary School, made their school field available to us as the home ground for our cricket matches.
- Both under 14 and 16 teams qualified for the Super Smash Semi Finals. we successfully hosted the finals day
- Our u11s made the quarter finals of the AWQAF tournament
- Our u12's finished the season with a 80% win rate
- Notable mentions of junior players that made their senior debuts:
 - Jordyn-Leigh Els
 - Ryan Trollip
 - Bradley Barnes
 - Dylan Barnes
 - Luke Wilson
 - Connor de Villiers
- Looking forward to the 2026/2027 season, we are looking at introducing a girls u13 team.

2. Development & Coaching

- We have **16 coaches** and managers running training sessions and managing teams on Saturday mornings.
- Weekly **development plans** are drafted and communicated with the coaches.
- There is a **Winter Development** programme running. Lights have been installed around the nets.

3. Sponsorship

Extremely grateful to the following sponsors who have joined Milnerton CC – Juniors:

- **DealersOnline R30k, Hidden Halos R15k & Quest Capital R15k** have made financial contributions and will be partnering with us for the next 2 years. Their logos are on our match shirts.
- Conveyor & Automation Services sponsored a Flixc pitch.

4. Events & Engagement

- The Friday evening food evenings have been a great success.
- All age groups had the privilege of playing Day/Night matches on the A field.

5. Facilities & Equipment

- We created a Junior Facilities team (Adrian, Bruce, Darren, Debbie, Gavin, Josh, Riaan) who ensured the fields were ready to play on.
- Thanks to the **Rugby** and **Baseball** clubs for allowing us to use their fields on Saturday mornings.
- **Kenridge Primary** loaned us a mat that we use on the rugby B field.
- The sponsored **Flixc pitch** is used on the Baseball field.
- Parents have donated equipment, where applicable, we “Pay it Forward” to members who require kit but don’t have the financial means.
- Langa only had 2 sets of equipment, we donated a full bag of equipment. Part of our ‘Pay it Forward’ contributions.