

COACHES' ASSOCIATION (HKHDCCA)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

ROSS TURNER



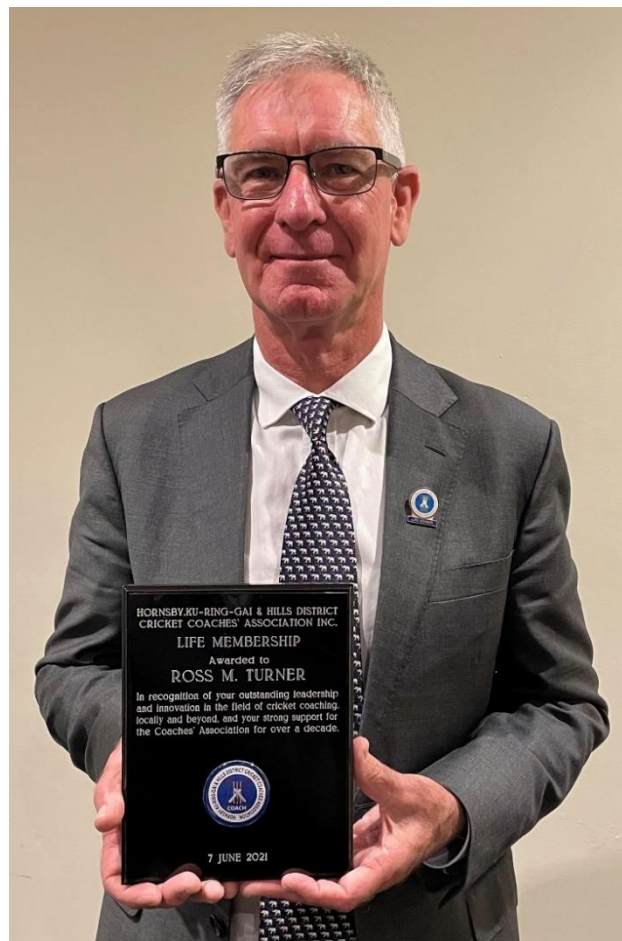
In accordance with the Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA) Constitution (2b), members of the association may approve, in exceptional circumstances, that an individual be admitted for **Life Membership**, subject to meeting at least two of the following criteria:

- Performed creditably as an active cricket coach for HKHDCCA (Coaches' Association) and/or in HK&HDCA club or representative competitions for a period of at least 10 years;
- Served with distinction as an office bearer on the HKHDCCA Executive Committee for at least 5 years; &
- Made an outstanding, long-term contribution to cricket coaching within the Association &/or the local cricket community.

The Coaches' Association was delighted to induct **Ross Turner** as our **sixth Life Member** at the AGM at Hornsby RSL Club on 7 June 2021. Ross thoroughly deserves this honour through his unique services to cricket coaching within HK&HDCA, as well as NSW, Australia and internationally, as highlighted in the following extracts from his nomination.

Relevant coaching / committee positions (past and present) held by individual being nominated

- September 1989: Development Manager (inaugural appointment), NSW Cricket Association, which included a successful pilot of the Kanga Cricket program in HK&HDCA, which spread nationally.
- 1991: Cricket Australia (Level 3) Coach Accreditation.
- December 1993: Founder of the Northern Metropolitan Cricket Council (NMCC) in north-western Sydney, which included HK&HDCA and surrounding cricket associations, NDCC and schools; pioneered grassroots cricket coaching for hundreds of children; coordinated pre-season coaching for the Association.
- July 1994: Inducted as 27th Life Member of Northern District CC.
- 1998: Global Development Manager (inaugural appointment), International Cricket Council (ICC), based at Lords; facilitated the development of cricket in nations such as Bangladesh, Nepal, China, Malaysia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Afghanistan, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands & Ireland.
- 1998-99: HK&HDCA inaugurated annual Under 15 Ross Turner Cup 'showcase' representative match.
- 2000-05: General Manager, Game Development, Cricket Australia, which included initiatives to promote cricket for males & females in clubs and schools, coach development, access to cricket for first nations peoples, and establishment of the National Cricket Centre in Brisbane.
- 2005-10: International Development Manager, Cricket Australia, which included the delivery of administrative, coaching, umpiring and facility-related services to Test and non-Test nations such as India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).
- 2010-11 – current: Patron of HK&HDCA and Patron of the Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA).
- 2011: Director of National Cricket Academy, Bangladesh; including setting up and delivery of the inaugural academy program at Mirpur Stadium, Dhaka.
- 2015: Consultant to the Bangladesh Cricket Board; formulated strategic plan for Bangladesh cricket and implementation of national high performance and coaching programs.
- 2013 – current: Director of Cricket, Teacher and Mentor at Newington College, Stanmore; also, AAGPS Cricket Convenor.



Significant coaching / cricket community achievements of individual being nominated

- Most successful Captain in Northern District CC history with two first grade premierships in 1985-86 & 1986-87. Voted as Captain of the Year by the Sydney Cricket Association on three occasions. In all grades, Ross scored 9,008 runs and took 153 wickets. His first-grade career spanned from 1976 to 1993, scoring 5,302 runs at an average of 29.45 including 3 centuries and 29 half centuries.
- Ross was profiled in an informative *Stump to Stump* Q&A in January 2021 – bit.ly/Ross-Turner-Jan-21
- Founder of Kanga Cricket in Australia, with the initial pilot program run in HK&HDCA. Alf James OAM wrote the following:

In 1984 Peter Spence was appointed Development Manager by the ACB with the responsibility to introduce 'Kanga Cricket' throughout Australia. It took some time for the concept to 'get off the ground' in NSW until 1992 when Ross Turner, the newly appointed (and first) Development Manager for the NSWCA, encouraged the HKCA. (Later expanded to HK&HDCA) to run a "pilot" program. Ross trained 30 volunteers who successfully completed the level "O" course designed for the purpose. The program was launched at five centres in the district and attracted 280 boys and girls aged 5 to 8. The Association was used as a model for the whole of the State and 50 of our players put on an exhibition on the SCG in January 1993 during the Test Match between Australia and Pakistan. In 1993-94, there were 700 Kanga players trained by an army of coaches under Jim Barrett (later N.D.C.C. President) as Kanga Coordinator and nine Kanga Ground Coordinators.

Ross Turner advised that he did not 'reinvent the wheel' with the initial coaching concepts adopted for Kanga Cricket (later known as Milo In2Cricket, Master Blasters, or other names). He had studied the junior coaching manuals produced by South African Test player; Eddie Barlow, & adapted the best coaching drills suitable for 5–8 year old cricket beginners in Australia. This foundation work led to the accredited coaching scheme Cricket Australia has today.

- Founder of the Northern Metropolitan Cricket Council (NMCC) in north-western Sydney. Alf James OAM wrote:

The formation of the Northern Metropolitan Cricket Council on 20 December 1993, on the initiative of Ross Turner and under the Chairmanship of Tom Richmond, gave a great boost to coaching in the district. The foundation members were Pennant Hills and Epping Shires, NDCC, Northern Districts CA, the HKCA (HK&HDCA) and representatives of secondary and primary schools. HK&HDCA's own John McQuillan represented the last group.

Numerous coaching schemes were conducted under its banner over the next decade including: the provision by N.D.C.C. of coaches for our representative teams; pre-season coaching clinics for all players under John Whelan of NDCC pre-season training by Ross Turner, Matthew Phelps and John Hopkins for representative players; and "Winter Spin" and "Emerging Blue Gum" projects conducted by the ubiquitous Tom Richmond.

- During the 1990s, Ross pioneered Cricket NSW's development programs, after which he joined the ICC to head up global Cricket development as part of a strategy to expand the game to new markets. Ross played a key role in cricket development activities in Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Afghanistan & India.
- Ross was privileged to have worked in cricket with international, national and state organisations for 25 years. In his role as the ICC Global Development Manager, he witnessed cricket evolve from cottage industry to mainstream entity [driven principally by India]. During this time, he was involved in senior management positions principally in the realm of cricket and business development, now referred to as new markets. The scope of work was varied and fascinating, including a start-up of cricket in China; involvement in the formative stages of cricket's anti-corruption strategy; development of cricket in sub-Saharan Africa; plus, advocacy and development of women's cricket. The clear vision was to make the game accessible to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- Ross has maintained an involvement in coaching and coach education overseas with occasional forays to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. In the early 2000s, Cricket Australia established a compact with the Asian Cricket Council, which resulted in a coach accreditation scheme for all Asian cricket nations. Coach accreditation programs were delivered Asia-wide to improve the quality of coaching, and in turn, playing standards in Test and non-Test nations.
- Ross visited Bangladesh in 2000 as the ICC Global Development Manager and did some important work for the Bangladesh Cricket Board. In 2011, Ross was engaged to set up the National Cricket Academy in Mirpur, Bangladesh and lead the inaugural coaching and development program. In January 2015, Ross was appointed as a Consultant to the Bangladesh Cricket Board in Dhaka to formulate a strategic plan for 2015 to 2018. Ross developed strategies to make the Bangladesh national team improve their Test rankings, as well as overall game development in the country from the grassroots level.
- In a national context, Ross was able to draw on the sharp minds and considerable experience of a range of colleagues to implement cricket initiatives for first peoples, create structures and promote women's cricket, revise coaching programs, and establish a national club cricket insurance scheme.

- Among his achievements (over a decade) with Cricket Australia, Ross was responsible for setting up the *Cricket Centre of Excellence* in Brisbane and coordinated the national talent program.
- In his previous role as General Manager of Game Development at Cricket Australia, Ross acknowledged that cricket in Australia needed to broaden its reach by attracting participants from all sectors of the community. Ross introduced strategies to broaden the reach of cricket to make it more accessible and appealing to all Australians. Ross worked with key industry groups to increase the participation of women, and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the sport, as well as providing access to non-cricketing communities. This was done with grassroots programs promoting cricket as a healthy activity, a way of making friends, and an opportunity to explore the history, traditions and culture of Australia. Ross understood that the key was understanding the culture of each group and adapting cricket programs to suit it. This important foundational work undertaken by Ross continues today.
- In HK&HDCA junior cricket, Ross scored 2,045 runs and took 268 wickets.

- The HK&HDCA U/15 Ross Turner Cup annual event was named in his honour in 1998-99 (*RTC 2007 photo – right*), as Ross is one of HK&HDCA's most famous products. As a young player, Ross was a brilliant all-rounder who bowled leg-spin, batted beautifully (left-handed) and was without peer in the field. He played for Pennant Hills CC, HK&HDCA representative teams, and later became a specialist batsman with Northern District CC. The Coaches' Association took over the organisation of the annual RTC & GHC fixtures in 2010-11, continuing the wonderful pioneer work of Tom Richmond OAM. Ross has been a terrific inspiration for this event – refer to the RTC Program for 2020-21: bit.ly/RTC-7-Feb-21



- Ross has attended and coached at some of the Coaches' Association's school holiday junior cricket clinics – see photos from a clinic at MTO in January 2011 (*right and below*). He is a fine ambassador for HKHDCCA and an inspiration for our expanding group of accredited coaches.



- The Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA) has been in partnership with Northern District CC since its inception in 2010, which has resulted in 60 successful school holiday junior cricket clinics, the majority of which have been held at MTO, Waitara. The HKHDCCA / NDCC partnership has also conducted three outstanding overseas tours to Sri Lanka, Barbados & India. Ross played an early role in forging this partnership, together with Bruce Wood, Mike Langford & Mark Rushton.



- Ross obtained the Cricket Australia High Performance (Level 3) Coach Accreditation in 1991. He later acquired accreditation as a trainer and assessor [Certificate IV Training & Assessment].
In 2007, then 2010, Ross delivered Level 3 Coach Accreditation Courses for and on behalf of the Asian Cricket Council, in addition to a host of Level 1 & 2 Coach Certificate Courses [from 2003 – 2015].
From 2005 – 2019, Ross oversaw the delivery of Level 3 and Level Coach 4 Certificates for and on behalf of the Pakistan Cricket Board.
- As Director of Cricket at Newington College (2013 onwards), Ross ensures that coaches and students understand that cricket is just a game, providing an opportunity for the boys to not only have fun, but to lead, to show integrity, to demonstrate good sportsmanship, and to win and lose with dignity. Newington's cricket program provides tremendous opportunities for students to build values and skills through regular inter-school fixtures, tours and specialist training programs.

Bruce Wood

President

Coaches' Association (HKHDCCA)

7 June 2021

Acceptance Speech

Ross Turner made the following comments at the AGM after accepting his Life Membership plaque and badge.

Ross thanked Bruce Wood and Alf James OAM for their kind words and recognising his contributions to the game. Ross noted his excellent relationship with Alf James, a great mentor and someone with whom he shares a great love of the game. He thanked Alf for being one of his biggest inspirations and a fantastic proponent for what the game is and why we love it.

Ross went on to comment that the terrific opportunities for young players and coaches that are now provided by the Coaches' Association weren't around when he played, noting that you played cricket for good friendship and the often-misguided ambition and dream to play at a high level.

Ross continued to say that he was exceedingly lucky to have great role models and mentors at school and club cricket from a young age. Ross ran into a young Tom Richmond, who was a big inspiration for not just the game but also how to carry yourself as an individual. He thanked Northern District Cricket Club for being a great place to play and noted that he was grateful to have played at a single club throughout his career. Ross commented that Austen Hughes (former NDCC President) was one of his biggest mentors.

Ross added that to have a lifelong involvement in cricket is a gift, one that he has thoroughly enjoyed. Ross hopes that he has passed on information to others that has allowed them to also love the game. He touched on a comment from Jeremy Hook and agreed that cricket is not necessarily about being at the top or winning all the time, but also being a great part of the community.

Ross finished by saying that he will cherish this Life Membership and is delighted to be a Patron of the Coaches' Association. He is proud of all that the Coaches' Association does to help cricketers of all ages, genders and abilities.



Life Members – Bruce Wood, Ross Turner, Mark Rushton, Rod Hokin & Josh Miller

Plaque

**HORNSBY, KU-RING-GAI & HILLS DISTRICT
CRICKET COACHES' ASSOCIATION INC.**

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded to

ROSS M. TURNER

In recognition of your outstanding leadership
and innovation in the field of cricket coaching,
locally and beyond, and your strong support for
the Coaches' Association for over a decade.



7 JUNE 2021