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## A Tribute To Hookey

It just wouldn't be cricket if David Hookes' courageous decision to be an organ donor was forgotten by the game which made him an Aussie great.

In the spirit of Hookey, the Australian Transplant Cricket Club (ATCC) is hosting the David Hookes Tribute Series from October 25 to November 1, 2009. The series is backed by Transplant Australia and includes four, one day matches against teams in Sydney and the NSW region such as the North West Sydney Hurricanes, Tigers and Kings Langley clubs.

Cricket player and double lung transplant recipient Jamie Stewart is travelling from Western Australia for the series, and says he is personally honoured to be playing for the ATCC in David's memory.

"Hookey was a great cricketer but he was also a gracious man. He helped give life to people like me who didn't have any other chance," said Jamie.

"I can't say how much of an honour it is to play in tribute to David and I hope that by hitting a few sixes and showing what I can do, more people will understand why donation is really important."

Robyn Hookes, wife to the late David Hookes and founder of the David Hookes Foundation for organ and tissue donation says it is an honour to uphold David's legacy.

"I'm always extremely both proud and humbled to support the Australian Transplant Cricket Team and David's legacy is honoured by the David Hookes Tribute Series," explains Robyn

"These cricket games represent and highlight the wonders of Organ and Tissue Donation as none of the members of the Australian Transplant Cricket Team would be participating without the incredible gift of life from the deceased donors and their families.

"The spirit in which this cricket series will be played will continue the ongoing campaign to make aware the need for Organ and Tissue Donation and the miracle of life that is shared by the giving and the receiving of organs."

The team comprises of players with kidney, pancreas, double lung, heart and bone marrow transplants.

Cricket Australia is also supporting the series by releasing Commonwealth Bank Southern Stars Test players Lisa Sthalekar and Alex Blackwell for a match at Bruce Purser Oval, Rouse Hill on Friday, October 30.

The ATCC will play matches against the Bradman Foundation XI in Bowral, October 25; a combined Kings Langley and 14 Degrees team at Old Kings Oval, Parramatta, October 28; North West Sydney Hurricanes and Tigers at Bruce Purser Reserve, Rouse Hill, October 30; and the North Ryde RSL at the North Ryde RSL oval, November 1.

The Club was named Australian Cricket Club of the Year in 2005 after winning ABC Radio Grandstand's annual competition. Australia's previous test match cricketing captain Mark Taylor and wife Judi are also ambassadors to Transplant Australia.

The tribute series has been traditionally played against Great Britain's Transplant Cricket Club for the David Hookes Memorial Shield, contested every two years since 2004. Last year the ATCC expanded the tribute series to cricket clubs in Sydney, and hopes to expand the tribute again with a world tour.

Cricket organisation, 14 Degrees is coordinating the Sydney matches as part of its Cricket Carnival program that supports good causes and community and corporate initiatives.

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