



CARLTON CRICKET CLUB JUNIOR SECTION 2017

Welcome to Carlton Cricket Club

Carlton is a thriving friendly community club in the city. We take great pride in how our club has grown and developed over recent years and, in particular, the close way that the junior and senior sections of the club work together. We encourage engagement and involvement from players, parents and local residents to continue to improve everyone's experience at Carlton.

The junior section is an important part of the club and it continues to grow from strength to strength. This year we have over 200 junior members, and a substantial waiting list. We have teams playing at U8, U9, U10, U11, U13 and U15 levels, as well as girls' hardball and kwik cricket teams and the Carlton Primary School team. We have several players in representative and national squads.

We have four main aims for our junior section:

- To help youngsters fall in love with cricket.
- To help all keen young players improve their game.
- To support talented young players to progress and play at as high a level as they want/can.
- For parents and their children to feel welcome around Grange Loan and as part of the wider cricket club.

Many of our juniors progress to play senior cricket. During 2016 more than 40 under 18s played for one of the club's 5 senior XIs in the National or East leagues. Our current club captain Fraser Watts became the first Carlton junior to graduate from the Carlton Under 11s through to the full Scotland team in 1998, before going on to become his country's most capped player ever. Our girl junior members are a key part of our growing women's section who were Scottish Cup and League winners in 2014.

Training Sessions

All training sessions are at Grange Loan. They run from after the Easter Holidays to the last week in August – **including throughout the summer holidays.**

Training Session	Day	Time
Primary School Training - P2, P3, P4 Softball	Wednesday (occasionally Monday)	5:45 - 7:00 pm
Primary School Training - P5 Softball - Girls Softball - P6, P7 Hardball Transition	Wednesday (occasionally Monday)	7:00 - 8:30 pm
U11 Hardball Training	Wednesday	5:30 – 7:00 pm
U13 Hardball Training	Thursday	5:00 – 6:30 pm
U15 Hardball Training	Tuesday	5:00 – 6:30 pm
Women's Hardball Training	Friday	6:30 – 8:30 pm

The **Primary School Sessions** occasionally switch from Wednesday to Monday to allow the U15 team to play some home games at Grange Loan. See the [junior section of the website](#) for details – they may be subject to change throughout the season.

You will be advised which training session your child should attend before the beginning of the season, and they may be transferred between groups during the season if it is deemed appropriate to best meeting their cricket development needs. The age when a child is ready to progress from softball to hardball cricket varies greatly between the ages of 9 and 13 as individuals develop at different ages, and this is always a question of judgement for the Head Coach.

Junior Matches

The first introduction to cricket matches is in softball pairs games (“Kwik Cricket”) that are usually played in Kwik Cricket festivals hosted by Lothian clubs on Sunday mornings. Games are occasionally arranged midweek. Read Martin’s entertaining [Beginners' Guide to Kwik Cricket](#) to be fully enlightened.

Carlton age-group teams play hardball cricket matches in the Lothian Junior Leagues, which have weekly games from the end of April until the end of August, with a 4 week break in July. This season we are running an U15 team, two U13 teams in the A league and two U11 teams in the A league. The cricketing calendar runs from September to August and this determines a player’s age group. For example, to be U11 for the 2017 season a child must have been under 11 on 31st August 2016.

The different league match days are as follows:

Description	Day	Time	Format
Kwik Cricket Festivals	Usually Sundays	9:30am - circa 12:30 pm	Softball Pairs
U11 Lothian Leagues	Fridays	6:00 pm - circa 8:30pm	Hardball Pairs
U13 Lothian Leagues	Mondays	6:00 pm - circa 8:30pm	Hardball 20 over
U15 Lothian League	Wednesdays	6:00 pm - circa 8:30pm	Hardball 20 over
Carlton Primary Team	Saturday mornings & midweek afternoons	9:30 am - circa 12:00 pm usually 2:00pm	Hardball 20 over

We also enter teams in the U13 and U15 Scottish Cups and the U13 and U15 ECB qualifying cups (which feed into the English national competition). In addition to the age-group league teams, we run the Carlton Primary Team. This team provides Carlton primary age children at state schools with the opportunity to play competitive hardball cricket games against Edinburgh’s independent schools.

Junior fixtures and match reports can be found on the [Fixtures](#) page on the Carlton website.

Each team has a parent manager and a parent administrator, who are members of the junior committee. They are usually supported by one of the club’s coaches.

Team selection for each match is dependent on a range of factors including player availability, ability, attitude, attendance at training, strength of opposition and team balance. Selection is made by the team coach and manager, with input as needed from the Head Coach and Junior Cricket Manager.

Players are asked to arrive 30 minutes before the match start time. Due to the number of teams at Carlton, it is not possible for all home games to be played at Grange Loan. We tend to use Peffermill as our alternative home ground.

As well as taking part in junior matches, our older and more capable youngsters are encouraged to make themselves available to play weekend cricket for one of our six league sides (five men’s teams and a women’s team).

Guidance for Junior Members

Helmets

All Juniors (up to age 18) MUST wear a helmet when batting with a hardball. This applies in matches, in warm up practice and in the nets.

All Juniors (up to age 18) MUST wear a helmet when wicket-keeping when standing within 5m of the stumps. This applies in warm up practice as well as in matches. (Depending on the experience level of the wicketkeeper. Junior Team Managers may vary this rule so that wicketkeepers wear helmets at all times.)

Carlton Kit

All primary school age Carlton juniors receive a free junior sponsor branded polo shirt as part of their membership. These are personalised with the player's initials or nickname.

For older juniors, junior sponsor branded playing shirts are purchased through the club. All juniors should wear a junior sponsor branded top when playing in a competitive junior game for Carlton. If older juniors are playing in senior games, they can wear their junior playing top, or they may wish to purchase senior playing kit.

A full range of junior and senior Carlton Cricket Club Playing Kit and Leisurewear can be purchased via our club suppliers. Please see the [Carlton Playing and Leisurewear](#) website page for more information.

Using Grange Loan

Juniors and their parents are encouraged to make full use of Grange Loan. Those with a family membership are entitled to purchase a gate key for £5, which allows access to the ground at any time. The nets at the bottom of the ground are also available for use outside formal training session times and juniors are encouraged to play here as much as possible to develop their game. This is at your own risk so please ensure that all children know how to keep themselves safe and are supervised where necessary. The pavilion and bar are open on match days – every Saturday and most Sundays during the season – and all members are very welcome to come along. There are usually juniors playing in the nets.

Parents - Getting Involved

All parents are encouraged to contribute in some way to the running of the junior section – we always need help, which can range from coaching and scoring to lifts and hospitality. We ask a parent or guardian of each junior member to contribute 5 hours' assistance over the season.

Many of the jobs that need to be done don't require any detailed knowledge of cricket. But we do provide training in coaching, scoring and umpiring for those who are interested. Details of courses will be on the club website.

As well as completing the "Volunteering Section" in the junior membership form, to volunteer you can contact any member of the junior committee at any time.

For any parents who wish to play cricket themselves, Carlton provides opportunity for players of all levels. In particular, the Carlton 5th team is keen to attract parents for occasional games and the Women's team is always open to new players.

Social Events and Fundraising

There are a series of social events for parents, players and friends throughout the season organised by the junior social committee, including BBQs on Friday evenings and events during the summer.

We invite parents to join us in the pavilion at Grange Loan for coffee/tea during the Primary School practice sessions. This is a great opportunity to meet and chat with other parents and also to meet the Junior Social Committee. Donations of cakes and biscuits for sale are always very welcome and these events raise vital funds for the junior section.

Parents of junior members are welcome at the various social events run by the senior part of the club. These range from the popular quiz nights run by the famed blogger (and Carlton 4th XI captain) Fantasy Bob, to wine tastings and Burns Suppers. These events are advertised on the website.

[Easyfundraising](#) is an easy way for the club to raise funds from your online purchases of goods and services from well-known websites – at no cost to you. There are over 2000 affiliated websites. Please register on the website and remember to click through when shopping online.

The [Carlton Lottery](#) aims to provide much needed funds for the operation of the club and in particular to ensure that our extensive junior program is fully funded. Please consider signing up.

Carlton also runs its own Fantasy League, which is a great way for juniors and parents to get more involved in the Senior Section of the club and to follow the fortunes of the 6 senior teams and players throughout the season. Look out for information on the Carlton website.

Communications

Junior team and training communication takes the form of email, [Twitter](#) and [web site updates](#).

For more general information about the club and to keep up to date with all the club news, keep an eye on the club website (www.carltoncc.co.uk). As well as general news it has all the club [fixtures](#), scores, match reports and photos, as well as information about junior and club social events.

You can also follow us on twitter (twitter.com/CarltonCricket). This is a useful way to keep up to date with the progress of matches if you can't be there. We also use it to keep everyone informed when the weather threatens to interfere with practice sessions or matches. You can find the twitter feed on the club website homepage even if you're not a tweeter yourself.

A committee of volunteers led by Kerry Simpson runs the Carlton Junior section. For a full listing and contact details of all the committee members, please go to the [Junior Section](#) of the club website.

If you'd like to get in touch with us, you can always contact Kerry Simpson (juniors@carltoncc.co.uk and 07724 171830), or any member of the junior committee.

Junior Section Sponsors

Carlton Juniors are grateful to our sponsors, the leading Edinburgh residential letting specialist Littlejohns.

