

Frequently-Asked Questions Carlton Cricket Club 2016



This document provides answers to questions you may have about membership of Carlton Cricket Club. If anything isn't covered, please contact the Membership Secretary – details at the end of the document.

Why should I join ?

Carlton Cricket Club has been a feature of the Grange area for almost 150 years. It is one of the premier cricket clubs in Scotland, providing top-quality club cricket alongside a large junior section providing a healthy sporting pursuit for boys and girls from across the capital.

Carlton's members can also enjoy the club's private, pleasant, normally quiet, tree-lined surroundings. Club members may also exercise their dogs (responsibly!) on the ground and can also use the club's private bar and entertain guests on match-days.

How do I Join ?

Membership forms can be downloaded from the club's website www.carltoncc.co.uk/membership. Separate pages cover non-playing members as well as senior cricketers (both men and women).

We have a waiting-list for junior membership, so prospective Junior and Family members should contact the Junior Convenor. Details are shown in the "Juniors" section of the club's website.

What's the cost of Non-Playing membership?

The cost of the different categories of membership is shown on the Membership Forms.

When are membership payments due ?

As a cricket club, our membership "year" starts at the beginning of the cricket season in April. Membership Forms are sent to existing members in March/April each year. We give our members until the end of May to return their membership form and payment. At that point, any gate fobs held by lapsed members will be deactivated. We'd be obliged if these could be returned – you can just pop them in the post-box by the gate.

Members are welcome to join throughout the year by contacting the Membership Secretary.

Where does the money go ?

The funds raised by the club are used to support its cricketing operations and to maintain the ground and pavilion. The ground is a significant asset, but also a considerable, and expensive, responsibility.

The club employs a cricket coach to support our junior section, some professional assistance for our largely volunteer ground-staff, bar-staff and cleaning. Otherwise, the club is run on an entirely volunteer basis by a combination of cricketing and local members.

As a limited company, accounts are presented for approval at the club's AGM each year.

Why is the gate locked ?

As a private club, access to the ground has to be restricted to members-only.

Why is there a charge for gate-access ?

The club has charged its members an additional amount for gate-access for many years. Many of our members visit during matches when the gate is unlocked. Fob-holders are those that use the ground most frequently, particularly our dog-walking members. We trust this justifies the additional charge.

How is this administered ?

Numbered fobs are issued to club members on payment of the appropriate annual charge and can be used to open the gate. Members should ensure the gates are closed behind them. A computer database controls access to the ground. If membership laps or is rescinded, fobs are deactivated and should be returned to the club.

What if my key-fob doesn't work ?

We have had a handful of fobs which have failed. If your membership is up-to-date and your fob doesn't open the gate, please contact the Membership Secretary who will supply you with a new fob (without charge).

Can members walk anywhere ?

Pretty much - but members should keep off the "square" in the middle of the ground (actually, it's a rectangle, but that's being pedantic). This is the carefully-tended area - the most important for the club's cricketing activities – so we appreciate our members and their dogs keeping off this area at all times (even during the off-season when the wickets are softer and even more susceptible to damage).

Are other games allowed on the ground?

Cricket yes; other ball games – no thanks. There are various activities introduced by coaches as warm-up exercises, but otherwise, we discourage other sporting pursuits. Footballs kicked into the nets will damage the netting, excessive wear and tear on the turf would be inevitable and our neighbours would be subjected to avoidable, unacceptable noise levels if football was permitted. Historically, we have had problems with non-members trespassing in order to play football. If members were seen to play football on the ground, this would be more difficult to discourage.

Why is there a higher charge for dog-walking ?

Our dog-walking members are our most frequent users of the ground and, apart from the cricket members who pay significantly more, gain most from their membership and thus pay a higher annual subscription.

Do I pay more if I have two dogs ?

We have a few members who have more than one dog but we don't charge a higher amount. If a dog-walking member was to turn-up with Grange Loan's version of 101 dalmations, we might have to reconsider.....

Why do you allow dog-walking on a sports ground ?

We rely on the diligence of our dog-walking members clearing-up after their dogs. A bin is provided for disposal of dog-waste (next to the gate). Please do not leave evidence anywhere on the ground, either on the playing field or its surroundings. Do not dispose in any other bin or bucket, or throw into the hedges or into our neighbours' gardens - Disgusting! Dog-walking members not adhering to these rules will have their membership withdrawn.

Dogs should be kept under reasonable control whilst on the ground. At no time of the year should dogs be allowed on the "square" – see the answer to the "***Can members walk anywhere ?***" question

When is the ground available for members to use ?

The ground is open to all members, almost all of the time. During the cricket season - from mid-April until early September - the club's cricketing activities involve :

Cricket Matches :-

Senior matches :

- Saturday and Sunday afternoons. These normally start at 12 noon at the earliest, with some at 1pm. An hour's warm-up is considered normal.
- there are a handful of matches on week-day evenings starting at 6 pm.

Junior matches :

- normally scheduled on Mondays and Fridays
- occasional Saturday / Sunday morning matches throughout the cricket season

Senior matches, and some of our older junior matches (Under 18 / Under 15) use the whole ground, but there is always room to walk around the boundary (marked by a white line). Other junior matches use a smaller area of the ground, so there is plenty of room to walk around outside the boundary.

The bar is usually open when senior matches are in progress. As a member, you would be very welcome to drop into the pavilion for a refreshment.

Walking a dog on a lead when matches are in progress is perfectly acceptable. This should ensure that our cricketers and dog-walkers can use the ground in safety – and avoid dogs chewing cricket balls, which isn't welcomed by the players.

Cricket Practice:-

Practice sessions are held from 5 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings during the season. These are mostly confined to the nets in the south-east corner, so most of the ground is still free, although larger parts will be used for fielding practice at times. Wednesday's Under 11 sessions (from 5 pm) are a little different - with up to 100 of our Under 11's covering every blade of grass. Dogs and dog-walkers might find these sessions a little noisy too !

All matches and practices are, unfortunately for our cricketing members, weather-dependent !

On rare occasions, the ground is sprayed for weeds so the ground is closed for a day for health reasons. These instances are posted on the club's notice board well in advance.

Who runs the club ?

The club is run on behalf of its members by a committee (known as "Council") - 11 members elected at the club's AGM in February. Council members are drawn from the club's local and cricketing membership. Aspects of the club's activities are delegated to sub-committees overseeing the club's Cricket and Junior Committees and our Health & Safety policies.

Is the club a charity ?

The club does not qualify for charitable status. However, it does qualify as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) as it is run by volunteers in support of a healthy sporting pursuit, reinvesting revenue in the club and its activities. CASC status allows the club to claim Gift Aid (an additional 25%) on any donations (but not subscriptions) from UK tax-paying club members who indicate a preference to do so – see the notes on the Membership Forms or contact the Membership Secretary for further information on Gift Aid.

When is the bar open and can I buy a drink ?

The club's bar is open when senior matches are in progress from the times published by the club. As a stipulation of the club's bar licence, only members and invited guests are allowed to buy alcohol from the bar. Players and officials of opposition sides are designated as members for the day. Members may introduce visitors who should be signed-in by a club member before consuming alcohol.

What social events are organised by the club ?

The club organises various social events through the year. Events are publicised on the club's website and on notice-boards.

How many members does the club have ?

The club has over 400 members, a mix of local supporters, current and former cricketers and our many junior and family members – one of the largest and most successful in Scottish cricket.

Who occupies the pavilion during the week ?

The club rents the premises to Carlton Clinic and Fitness Studio (CCAFS). CCAFS runs exercise classes and physiotherapy sessions and can be contacted on 0131 235 2072.

What about Playing Membership?

The club has an extensive playing membership, senior and junior, male and female. Enquiries regarding the Playing Membership should be directed to the Membership Secretary (for senior players) and Junior Convenor (for players Under-18).

The club does not pay cricketers. The leagues we compete in have strict rules covering professional players and it is not the club's ethos to pay players.

If you have any additional questions, please contact :

Brian Forrester
Membership Secretary
Carlton Cricket Club
17 Alnwickhill Road
Edinburgh EH16 6LJ
Brian.forrester@sky.com
0131 664 4855