

Season Update

Due to the monsoon conditions of August 2008, competitive cricket came early to Grange Loan this year as Carlton took on Dunfermline in the rearranged Murgitroyd National Twenty20 Final on 18th April.

With coloured clothing, white balls and black sightscreens only the chill East wind reminded spectators that this was early season cricket in Scotland.

Dunfermline decided to bat on winning the toss and the visitors might have been beginning to regret their decision when Cedric English clean bowled three of the top order in his four over spell. A couple of wickets for Mo Afzal left things looking bleak for Dunfermline at 24 for 5. However, Barnes and Yasir Arfat combined well and Carlton were relieved when Tom Clarke trapped Barnes lbw as he attempted a sweep. A couple of stumpings from skipper Jamie Kerr saw the Dunfermline innings close on 92 for 9.

The combination of the new white ball and early season conditions – allied to a fine spell from the Dunfermline opening bowlers - saw three early wickets fall in the Carlton reply. However, Carlton's man for a crisis Bryn Lockie played an excellent anchor role, dispatching anything overpitched with immaculate timing. His partner for the fourth wicket was Stevie Gilmour and Gilly looked to be in great touch. He peppered the boundary with a range of fine shots, the pick of which was a straight one-bounce four to tie the scores, before he hit the winning run to make Carlton Scotland's 20:20 champions.



Welcome to Ayr CC

This afternoon we welcome Ayr to Grange Loan. Ayr CC was founded in 1858 and their most famous ex-player is undoubtedly batsman Mike Denness, who was brought up in a house overlooking the square at Old Cambusdoon. He made his Ayr debut at the tender age of 14, was Scotland captain by age 18 and went on to captain England in the inaugural World Cup of 1975.

The visitors have competed in the Premier League for all but one year of its existence. Initially, they regularly ended up in the top half of the table, although their highest finish of 3rd in 2004 immediately preceded their relegation. Ayr bounced back straight away, winning Division 1 at the first time of asking. A strong start to last season helped the New Cambusdoon club finish 5th in their second year back in the top flight.

This year has not begun so well for the visitors, losing both of their opening games against Scotland U19 & Heriot's. They will be hoping to get their season back on track today, although they may still be without the services of new professional Michael Papps due to continuing visa problems. The former New Zealand test player replaces his fellow countryman Matt Horne who had five successful years at the club (scoring over 3,500 runs, averaging 56, and taking 102 wickets at 17.5).

In the corresponding fixture last year Cedric English (110) & Bryn Lockie (80) put on 170 for the third wicket to provide the mainstay of the home side's total of 255 for 6. Matt Horne (67) was one of only four Ayr batsmen to make it into double figures as English's men ran out comfortable winners by 96 runs (which was curiously exactly the same winning margin for Carlton in last year's away match).



Lloyds TSB Scotland Premier League

Carlton v Ayr CC May 9th 2009

Carlton CC

1. Cedric English*
2. Fraser Watts
3. Bryn Lockie
4. Steve Gilmour
5. Peter Deakin
6. Gordon Drummond
7. Jamie Kerr #
8. Ross Lyons
9. Nathan Pietsch
10. Tom Clarke
11. Mo Afzal

Carlton CC are
sponsored by:



Carlton Juniors are
sponsored by:



Ayr CC

1. Phil Wilson *
2. Andi McElnea
3. Niall McCrossin
4. Mark Renny
5. Fraser MacDonald
6. Dougie Johnstone
7. Calum McLaughlin
8. Scott McElnea
9. Neil Smith #
10. Andy Baird
11. Callum Leck

Next home match: v Watsonians, Lloyds TSB Scotland League Saturday 16th May