



# The Carlton Lockdown Newsletter

Till the gates of Grange Loan are open again

ISSUE 5

## Run Out Controversy

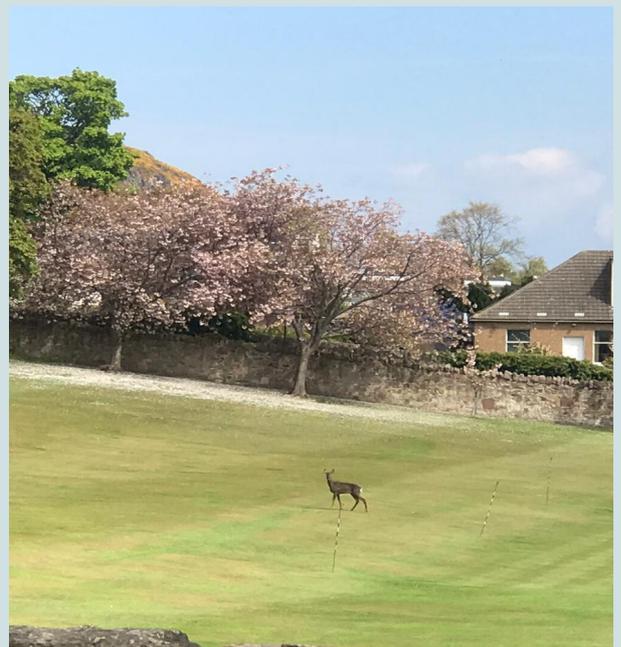
A young umpire found himself in the hot seat as some of the Carlton women's squad got down to a bit of practice in the garden - see all the action below.



## Oh Deer! Still no Cricket

The lockdown has seen nature returning to city locations - goats roaming in Llandudno and swans paddling in Venice.

And Grange Loan's new role as a nature reserve was confirmed this week - as a grazing deer was seen inspecting the wicket.



### In this issue:

The mist welcomes Brad to Carlton  
Drummo's favourite match  
Helen sends greetings



## A Misty Start for Brad

*It is hard to imagine that there was a time when Brad McKay was not counting the pennies at Grange Loan. Brad remembers his arrival at the club.*

**I** joined Carlton in 2004, not long after I'd arrived from Australia on my two year working holiday visa (note I'm still here!).

Sitting in my flat on Marchmont Road one evening, I looked at a map to familiarise myself with my new home. I saw 'cricket club' just up the road and thought I'd go for a walk. I wasn't even planning on playing. I actually hated cricket after a particularly unsuccessful season in Oz. But maybe it'd be a good way of meeting people.

I looked over the wooden gate that was there then and saw the 'interesting' outfield, a big hole in the ground where the pavilion used to be and a number of portacabins. Brian Forrester's number was on the gate, so I went home and called it. I told him I was a gun player, which he ignored and invited me to nets. I duly went on the Thursday and was picked to play 3's on Saturday.

Saturday came. I had no kit so I went to Aitken and Niven and bought some whites but nothing else (exchange rate was a killer) and then to Grange Loan where I met my new teammates and skipper Alan Murray.

Heriots 3's were the visitors and I recall them all being old and fat, the Carlton team a mixture of teenagers and men. We batted first and racked up 260 odd. Despite being listed to bat 7 (good times!), I wasn't required.

I did open the bowling (the inevitable uphill into a hurricane) and couldn't get used to the softer, slower pitch. A mixture of half trackers and full tosses finally reaped rewards with my first Carlton wicket - a catch off a full toss. We were well on top and an easy win looked likely.

However, the haar came down late afternoon and Heriot's used it as an opportunity to try to get the game called off. To my surprise, it worked; so with no pavilion to retire to, we repaired to the portacabin for some beers out of a box and I got to know my team-mates a bit better.

An enjoyable day out, so much so that I came back the next week for more. The rest is history.

---

*Last week's pads belonged to Stevie Gilmour*



# Carlton's First Lady

*Before Helen Blair started her career as a zippy PR professional in London, she was Carlton's first women's skipper, leading them to the Scottish Cup in 2013 and a league and cup double in 2014.*

*She shares some memories of the social side of her time at Grange Loan.*



Having joined Carlton in 2012 and with the backing of a supportive and progressive committee, we set out to start up a women's team at the club. We soon got into the rhythm of things with recruitment, training and matches, but one of my favourite rituals was our famous Friday night teas at the club, which became an essential part of every training session. Whilst we were there for the cricket (of course...) it was always nice to grab some food together and play a few games. On one occasion I even recall cricket ball pinatas in the clubhouse....

Another great memory I have of Carlton is the Burns' Night. I can't pretend I still fully understand the full formalities of a Burn's Supper, but I fondly remember John Boyd's toast to the Lassies and having to deliver the Lassie's response on behalf of the women's team!

A slightly less successful social was an Aussie night we hosted to welcome new players. Buying far too much Fosters for the bar and having a severely delayed BBQ because it wouldn't light due to rain wasn't my finest hour!

The women's team, under Ruth's leadership, has come such a long way in the past 5 and a half years and I'm tremendously proud to see how it has grown to be more successful, more competitive and more diverse than ever before, welcoming a range of players and ages from internationals to complete beginners.

It's the people that make Carlton such a special club to be involved with. It takes a special type of person to travel half-way across the country for a game to be rained off in the first 10 overs and still want to do it all again the next week. The teams, particularly the women, always played in such good spirit, helping each other improve and learn while having a lot of fun in the process.

While it's been a while since I've put my whites on, I still keep an eye from afar and look forward to coming up and walking laps of the GL boundary again soon.

# **Drummo recalls a highlight of his Scotland career**

**Lancashire, Old Trafford, May 2008**

<http://archive.cricketscotland.com/Scorecards/132/132027.html>

**They had a strong team - Flintoff, du Plessis, Croft, Anderson. The pitch was very green, they put us in. Flintoff was bowling rockets and Ed Cowan and Fraggie couldn't lay a bat on it. We managed to scrap to 155 (including a quality hook shot for 1 and drive for 4 down the ground off Flintoff by yours truly) which we thought was way short considering their batting line up.**

**We started the second half well in which Nella and Blainy probably bowled the best opening spells I have seen by Scotland bowlers. They had the ball moving all over the place and there was that great feeling in the field when you are top of the batters. We had them 44 -7, but in typical fashion they fought back. I dropped a catch and tore my hamstring but we had no reserves so I stayed on and continued to bowl. Clearly my action an bowling intensity didn't require 2 fully functioning hamstrings.**

**I had to bowl the last over. One hamstringing down, in a match we should never be close to winning at half time but now a match that was going to be a typical Scottish loss. Luckily for me I was bowling to Jimmy Anderson and managed to execute enough yorkers to win the game. We were applauded off by the Lancs support and enjoyed a beer (or 2) in the changing room after the game.**



**A great win and a great game to be part of. Made even better by the fact that after we won my late mother got her own back on a Lancs fan who had been slagging me off for dropping the catch!!!!**

---

## **Junior Update**

**With the continued uncertainty over when cricket will resume, it has been a frustrating time for our new Junior Convenor Siobhan Fontenla**

**She had been planning a record breaking year. The junior membership continues to grow and Carlton entered four teams in the U12 leagues, two teams in the U14 leagues and one team in the U16 league. A number of kwik cricket festivals planned. Both the girls softball and hardball group also continue to grow.**

**All plans on hold - watch out for further updates**