



The Carlton Lockdown Newsletter

Till the gates of Grange Loan are open again

ISSUE 10

Living History? Dead Right

Readers may remember Chris Paterson who played for Carlton a few seasons back. Chris e-mailed this week:

'At Stocksfield CC, we are currently in our centenary year and are composing a history of the club.

We have come across an unfortunate event where one of our previous captains died on the pitch in a friendly match played at the grange against Crustaceans in 1933? We think this may have been a friendly team out of Carlton but are struggling to find any more information. If you can help in any way that would be great.'

The ever knowledgeable Brian Forrester was immediately able to identify this incident - and not because he was there at the time.

The Crustaceans were indeed a team based at Carlton which played friendly matches on behalf of charities and benefits with the general objective of spreading the gospel of cricket.

In 'Play', his history of Carlton, published in 1946, Dr NL Stevenson (right) describes this dramatic incident in a very matter-of-fact manner:

'It was on August 7, at Grange Loan, that the Crustaceans met Stockport-on-Tyne, and what had promised to be a most enjoyable game ended on a note of tragedy. A wicket had just fallen, and Stockport's last batsman, their captain, came in. At the bowler's end was A.L. Smith, the English soccer internationalist, and he said to me-

"Our captain is an awfully good fellow, Doctor, but he can't bat a bit. Please give him an easy one."
And with that kindly thought, he dropped at my feet dead!'

There may be worse ways to go.

In this issue

**News from Chris Paterson
A match to remember
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Angus Beattie was the youngest member of Carlton's Cup Final Team in 2017. What was the day like for him?

The 2017 Scottish Cup Final was undoubtedly the greatest game of cricket I have played in my life. Just watching the highlights to write this report gave me chills and I was instantly taken back to that scorching August day.

I only found out I was playing during the warm-up when we decided to play a third spinner, but from then on, I was concentrated on the match. Batting first, each over felt like an eternity as we slowly struggled in our innings.

Despite batting eight I was in after 30 overs with a small total on the board. I was out for nothing much, but in the middle I was struck by Ali Shah's calmness and composure. It was he and then Evo and Cheeky's partnership that gave us something to defend in the second half, the highlight being Evo hitting their international bowler for three consecutive sixes.

Sitting at the boundary edge during our innings had been nerve-wracking enough, but being in the field was a different level of intensity.

We were immediately under pressure when the Watsonian openers got off to a strong start, and when their partnership passed fifty the game threatened to slip away.

Fielding at deep square-leg when Evo decided to bounce out the batters was terrifying as I might be in the game at any moment. When the ball was nailed to me in the deep, I was as relieved as the Carlton supporters sitting behind me that I held on to the catch.

It was much easier when I was bowling*, as I could focus on my plan, not worrying about the overall game. However, until Carson and Munsey were out it seemed very likely that they could chase our target. I got Carson out with a quicker ball, cueing some very strong celebrations.

After he and Munsey were gone, we were ruthless and so pumped up - when it mattered, we were mentally stronger and fought harder. The run out to win the game was an incredible moment, as was walking off the pitch and lifting the cup.

However, the best part was sitting in the changing room, still slightly in disbelief, as a team. The celebration was great (including drinking out of the trophy) and lasted until I collapsed onto my bed in the wee small hours, for the first day of school the next day.

****AEC Beattie 8-1-38-3***

Chris Paterson tells how he enjoyed his time at Carlton



I joined Carlton having moved to Edinburgh for University - I walked past the ground every day. What a great decision!

Favourite Match: As a batsmen, scoring runs always make the games memorable and therefore I struggle to recall too many! However, a home game against Leith FAB where I got my first Carlton 50 must get a mention.

Favourite away ground: I can't quite remember where the ground was but I'm pretty certain we headed north over quite a big bridge?! Anyway, it was surrounded by trees and had a McDonald's on route, what could be better!

Longest day: A second team fixture away at RH Corstorphine was by far the longest day I spent in a Carlton shirt. We toiled away for 50 overs as the hosts made 239-2 before I was clean bowled second ball of the innings. Not the best afternoon I've ever had.

Embarrassing moment: Getting hit in the head by Drummo in the nets was a particular low point, especially as he only came in off 5 steps! To make it worse it was during a "live net" and I was adjudged out. Cricket can be so unfair at times.

Best thing about Carlton: I loved my time at Carlton and was made to feel welcome immediately by all. The level of cricket on offer is fantastic and the training and coaching was second to none. It was also great to get the chance to play at Grange Loan, although judging any catch up that hill is something I still can't figure out!

What about now: I've now settled back into life in Newcastle with my wife and we are expecting our first child in September. I play for Stocksfield CC in division 1 of the NTCL.

I remember my time in Edinburgh fondly and still wear the kit with pride - you can't get rid of good stash!

Great to hear from you Chris - good luck with the baby.

Get ready!

Cricket's coming back!

See Fraggie's statement on the Club website

A SCORER IN LOCKDOWN



From his fastness in the West, Carlton scorer Ken Nisbet sends a message to the outside world.

So, what do scorers do in lockdown, with no cricket to keep us amused? When the empire biscuits don't taste the same out of the supermarket as they do at cricket tea – even if we do have time to eat them.

There are rumours that Carlton's member of the scoring cadre is listening to a lot of Mahler (Oh no, not another one you may think!) to cheer him up (Hard to believe?). But not one work after the other. (At least that's something...) Other more artisan activities include taking the stranded stock of beer off an adjacent premises' hands. I believe that it was my civic duty. Ultimately, it was rude not to. Ruder still not to drink it.

Do we Zoom in for a Team session to discuss our ten favourite DLS outcomes? I am glad to hear no report of such outrageously erudite behaviour, even after the recent sad decease of L.

Do we Webex into a discussion about our ten favourite matches? Well, not yet, but it might come to that.

The reader may accurately guess my favourite Carlton match. Not an empire biscuit to be seen that day, I recall, just warm beer in a large receptacle. Well worth waiting for.

In such times, devising projects to keep amused is an essential. Prompted by a pal of ours, who has experience in publishing sporting almanacs, a task force has been set up to compile a tome about cricket grounds of Scotland. I have been browbeaten into covering the fields of Fife (can't think why...), Clackmannanshire and Stirlingshire and have made a tentative start between outbreaks of Mahler.

If any reader can recall any obscure grounds in these parts, then please let me know.

QUIZ NEWS

The natural order was restored on Friday night when Carlton regained the quizzing honours from Grange's Simon Smith.

A close run event saw Keith Murray inch past Brian Kaczynski with a characteristic nudge round the corner.

Stay tuned to What'sApp for news of further events.