



# THE ARROW

*The Newsletter of Carlton Cricket Club*

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Issue 41

# MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE





# Ali Evans shares some thoughts from Scotland's recent World Cup campaign



Qualifying for the Super 12 was super-memorable - reaching a stage in the competition no Scotland team has done before. But it was not just the qualifying. The manner in which we did it - winning all 3 games - was a fantastic feeling. We made a huge statement and the wave of support that followed was superb.

This was the third World Cup I've been involved in and this one was different because of COVID. Seven weeks in the bubble was strict - there were only limited opportunities outside it - one round of golf for example. But what was memorable was how the team hung together all through that period - you might expect a little narking now and then in such confined circumstances, but there was none of that. We were all for each other throughout.

It was awesome not only to play against the best but also to speak to them - Indians, Pakistanis, Kiwis. What was hugely gratifying was to find that they share the same approaches and thoughts and vision of the game as



we do in the Scotland set-up. More proof that we belong and deserve to be at that level. We need to execute when the opportunity comes under that pressure. Sadly, I was unable to persuade Risbah Pant or Mohammed Rizwan to come to Grange Loan this summer!

But seeing how the Indians play was special. The margin for error in bowling to them is non-existent. We didn't do a lot wrong, but the quality of batting was just at a different level.

I took real pleasure in the way that Leasky found himself a role with bat and ball - we've known his ability to take the game away but to see him confirm this on this stage was something else. He absolutely stood up in difficult circumstances. Totally expected and great to see!

I can't wait for the next encounters! Let's hope for lots more opportunities to show what Scotland can do.

## COMING SOON

## WINTER NETS

## FULL DETAILS

## SHORTLY ON PITCHERO

## STAY TUNED

# Wintering Down Under

**A letter home from Tom Simpson who is wintering in Melbourne**



Having graduated from Uni this summer, I decided to make use of my Australian passport and head down under to play a bit of cricket, get some work experience and more generally enjoy the Aussie summer! While a very last minute decision, with the help of Fraggle, I was able to get in contact with a few clubs in Melbourne. Though completely unplanned, it was our namesakes in Melbourne that were first to get in touch and, given the sentimental ties, it always felt like the right choice of club.

Despite playing in navy rather than sky blue, not having a hill on the ground and sadly no £2.80 pints, there are many similarities between the two Carlton Cricket Clubs.

Most notably how friendly the club is, the important role club volunteers have in helping things tick over during the season and how there is a genuine interest in how everyone is getting on across the grades, with training similarly integrated to back home.

I am currently staying with a mate in South Yarra, which is on the south-east side of Central Melbourne, whereas Carlton is a suburb just north of the Centre. It's fairly easy to get to training as I usually just hop on a couple of trams, which takes me right outside the ground. Think of it as travelling from Morningside to Goldenacre or Stockbridge for training (God forbid!). Saying that, a lot of the blokes will travel from much further, a few up to 90 minutes just to come and train, which I guess is a reflection on the standard of the club and also how seriously a lot of Aussies take their cricket.

The training has a really good intensity, with a culture that assumes everyone will train week in week out regardless of what team they are in/seniority within the club. Similarly, we train Tuesday-Thursday at a slightly earlier time of 5.30-7.30, however, most people (especially batters) will likely be down for hits early and often stay on after training.



*Tom faces up with the Melbourne cityscape as a backdrop*

Con'td/

People will often stay behind after training to grab some food put on by the club, especially on Thursdays when teams for the weekend are read out.

Carlton are one of the strongest clubs in Melbourne across the grades, with the first-grade side made up of a lot of players that have played/still play state cricket, Big Bash or in one case the USA (I note, having dug around Cricinfo, on a couple of occasions against Scotland and indeed Evo!). I am currently keeping in the 2s, which has been really good fun and again a very good standard. It's been particularly enjoyable playing at completely new grounds and surprisingly I haven't copped too much stick from the oppo for being a Scot!

As a bit of a badger, it's also been good being able to watch the Ashes live rather than staying up well into the night to follow the action. I have got tickets for the first couple days of the Boxing Day Test as well so I am hoping it will be pretty much a sell-out for that.

Overall, it has been a great experience so far and I would definitely recommend for people to get a taste of some different cricket should they get the chance. You can travel to the other side of the world and cricket clubs remain in many ways very similar – or maybe that's just if you play for Carlton!

# Congratulations

**To all the Carlton players selected for regional and national training squads:**

## **Girls Scotland**

### **u19**

*Maisie Maceira*

*Gabriella Fontenla*

### **Emerging**

*Zaara Dancu*

*Imogen Campbell*

*Zoe Campbell*

### **Eastern Knights u18**

*The above plus Saskia Aldridge*

## **Boys Scotland**

### **u17**

*Ru McIntyre*

*Shaun Smith*

*Gavin Murray*

### **u15**

*Max D'Ulisse*

*Ben Stronach*

### **Eastern Knights u17**

*The above plus Charlie Kentish, Euan Keatinge, Mark Mackay, Rory Ledingham, Rudy Adair*

### **u15**

*The above plus Harry Charman, Fergus Foley, Hamish Foley, Lewis King, Oli Stones, James Stronach*

## IS THIS THE SEASON'S HIGHLIGHT?



[Cricket provides endless enjoyment on social media. Here is a recent highlight - a novel signal of a wide ball from this umpire in the Purandar Premier League. Click to see the full performance.](#)

[Can we look forward to similar innovation in the East League next season?](#)

# CARLTON - A CLUB FOR EVERYONE



With the news that SportScotland has appointed consultants Plan4Sport to carry out an independent [review of racism in Scottish cricket](#), the Management Committee at Carlton encourages all members to remind themselves of the club's [Culture and Values Statement](#) (below and on link) and its key principle that all members of Carlton share and support the same values and objectives. This is key to club's current and continuing success. We are committed to ensuring that we fully respect differences and view diversity as a key element to our long term success. We welcome any suggestions as to how we can improve in these key areas.



## Carlton Cricket Club Culture and Values Statement

Carlton aspires to be an outstanding cricket club. We want to compete at the highest levels of the club game, while also participating at all levels of local cricket, thus helping to sustain the game of cricket in Scotland.

While Carlton has many teams, both on and off the field of play, we are **one club** with a shared set of values that defines all that we do and strive to do. This means that we all share and respect the same principles, values and objectives.

Carlton is a club run by volunteers for volunteers. The club's success has been built on a willingness by all members to 'step forward' and help the club in any way they can. This mind-set will remain key to our future health and success.

Our key values of *inclusivity*, *respect* and *development* underpin all that we do and give us an ethical framework that guides our interactions within cricket and the community.

### Inclusivity

Carlton is a club for everyone. We are at the heart of our community and welcome new members and visitors regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, language, race, socio-economic status, religious belief or sexual orientation. We not only respect differences, but view diversity as a key element for our long-term success

We are a family club; a club that welcomes families and a club that is one big family. We strive to create a fully welcoming environment that makes Carlton a great place to be – for members, visitors, opposing players, spectators and neighbours.

### Respect

We respect our fellow club members, our team-mates and the Carlton ground and facilities. We also respect our opposition and our umpires. While winning is important to us we recognise that this is only part of why we play cricket.

All we do must be based on openness, respect, trust and fairness. We believe in fair play on the field and we value the work of our volunteers off the field. We recognise that the club only survives and thrives because of the efforts of our volunteers.

### Development

Carlton aims to provide the best cricketing development possible for members of all ages. This approach is crucial to the long-term health of the club and has, for many years, underpinned our success and growth.

We all share the responsibility for helping to develop others. While striving to win, we will always look to balance this with our responsibility to develop our team-mates and other club members.



# Carlton in Europe



There are only 64 days until Monday 21 February when Carlton take the field in their first match in the European Cricket Championship. It's an early start at the Cartama Oval in Southern Spain with a 9.00am (local time) match against Brescia CC from Italy followed by a 1pm fixture against Swiss team Olten.

Preparations are gathering pace with the appointment of **Stevie Gilmour** as coach and **John Beattie** as team manager. The full squad will be announced shortly.

In the meantime Stevie reports, 'After our first squad meeting on Zoom, everyone is excited to start training their T10 skills in the new year. We have assembled a strong squad with some big hitters in Southwell and Shah and plenty of variation in the attack with a mixture of pace and spin; including the return of Adeel Raza who is currently getting match practice in Pakistan'

Keep up with all the news about the competition through this link:

[Complete Coverage of the European Cricket League](#)

January's Newsletter will feature information on each of Carlton's opponents.

*Carlton is grateful for the support of the following sponsors for their participation in the ECL.*





## Living the Spirit of Cricket

**PAVEL FLORIN**  
ROMANIA AND CLUJ CC

[@PavelFlorin13](https://www.instagram.com/PavelFlorin13)

Amongst the opposition Carlton will face in Spain no one is likely to be as well known to cricket followers as Romanian club Cluj's Pavel Florin.

Florin, who only took up cricket 10 years ago at the age of 32, became an internet celebrity in 2019 when a video showing his bowling action went viral on social media. He bowled his club's final over in the ECL match against French club Dreux and conceded 13 runs (previous bowlers had averaged 17 rpo).

There was some initial mockery of Florin's laboured bowling action, but others were more generous with Shane Warne even offering to help Florin in future and England bowler Jofra Archer offering his respect to him. In a subsequent interview Florin, said "Maybe someone says my bowling is not beautiful or not effective, but I don't care, because I love cricket.

"My bowling is strange. It is not regular. I bowl slow because if I bowl faster, everybody hits me. I'm not stupid. Everybody says that I drop grenades, but it's my style. I was never coached. I don't want to change.

'Everybody says: 'Come and I will teach you bowling.' Why teach me? This is my style. Maybe with being accurate I have a problem, but I improve."

Soon afterwards, he was invited to play cricket in Australia to the Lord's President's box during the Ashes Test, where he rang the Lord's bell.

Not so long ago, Pavel knew little about the sport of cricket. It was a chance encounter with some foreign players in his local park, that first sparked his interest in the game. But he was rapidly hooked. With no training facilities in his local area, Pavel would make the 500 kilometre journey across Romania, to Cluj Cricket Club and attend training sessions to practise his batting and bowling. His enthusiasm for the sport was obvious for all to see, but the learning curve was steep, 'For six years, I couldn't bat or bowl in our games, just field," he says.

Pavel has been the only Romanian born player in the national team and has played 16 T20I matches taking 15 wkt at 12.3.

# THE CARLTON LOTTERY

[lottery@carltoncc.co.uk](mailto:lottery@carltoncc.co.uk)

## RECENT WINNERS

Congratulations to these lucky recent winners who each receive £60.

December  
Harriet Robertson

November  
Dave Carter

October  
Preston Mommsen

The Carlton Lottery is now being run by Susan Dunlop. Susan succeeds Jo Beech-Brandt. Many thanks to Jo for all her hard work over the past few years.



With a monthly prize worth between £20 and £100 it's worth getting a ticket for the Carlton Lottery. You'll also have a chance of a bigger prize in the biannual draw.

Just £5 per month or £60 for the year.

The Lottery provides additional funds for the club's activities particularly those of the junior section.

The more members, the bigger the prizes and the more funds for the club

[Full details can be found on the club website](#)

Tempted? You should be.

Just fill in [the application form](#) and wait for the prizes to roll!



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Carlton Cricket  
Club whenever  
you shop online**

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# Grange Loan is never far from the thoughts of two of Carlton's finest.



**Leigh Kasperek** had only one answer when asked for her favourite cricket ground. Amazingly enough when asked to nominate her sporting hero she opted for Serena Williams rather than Fantasy Bob or Fraggie Watts.

## [Rob Thornton](#) [talks about his cricket career in this extended interview.](#)

Among the many references to Carlton are:

*What was your favourite ground to play at?*

The Carlton home ground in Scotland, Grange Loan, is stunning, it is surrounded by a stone fence, with a view of Arthur's Seat and has a ridiculous hill on one side of the ground, if the pitch is on the other side of the square there are no boundaries to the hill side in a whole day. The pitch is the best in Scotland.

*What's the best win you've been involved with?*

It was actually as coach of the Carlton U15s and there were two incredible wins in one week. We had won the Scottish T20 Cup, which meant we were entered in the English Cup, and the first two rounds were against the champions of Durham and then Northumberland, very strong areas. The Durham team, South Shields, only needed 20 something with 9 wickets in hand but the lads didn't give up and went through them with great skill and composure, winning by one run. The game against the Northumberland team, Hexham, was even closer, again defending an average total and winning on countback after the match was tied. These really were significant achievements for a Scottish side and it led to travelling to York to play the champions of Yorkshire and Lancashire.

[Rob's articles in NL 3&4 relived the cup run at greater length.](#)

# THE CHALK FACE

Two well known Carlton personalities have made major career switches and are now working towards teaching qualifications.

**Eric Edwards** resigned from the thrills and spills of the actuarial profession to train as a Maths teacher.

Can there be any truth in the rumour that his conversion was prompted by the poor standard of scoring encountered during his stellar career in Carlton's 4th XI?

Meanwhile **Sam Haggo** is fulfilling a long held ambition and training as a primary teacher. She says that the 6 week summer break during the cricket season is an added bonus.

The P1 class from Sam's first placement seem to have appreciated her efforts to ensure that the youngest in the community have the earliest possible understanding of line and length.

Best wishes to both on their new careers!



# HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS

Take the first letter of each  
surname of the celebs below and  
rearrange to form a seasonal  
message.



# A Christmas Carol for Cricketers

*Not by Charles Dickens*



**M**arley was out: to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that.

Old Marley was out - dead as a door-nail. Scrooge knew he was out. Of course he did. Call him for a quick single? Bah! Scrooge had stayed firmly in his ground. 'Quick singles are humbug!' he said to himself. 'Marley just wanted to keep strike. Humbug!'

Marley stomped angrily to the pavilion. He was on 49 and looking good. He had pushed the ball wide of cover's left hand. He had called clearly and was at the bowler's end before he realised that his partner, his skipper, Ebenezer Scrooge had not moved. The throw came in - even the wicket-keeper's fumble could not avert the inevitable.

Marley glared at his skipper as he passed. 'Some skipper you are,' he muttered, 'that's the third time this season you've run me out. That's the last time I play for this club.'

Scrooge had once been a talented batter, a fine timer of the ball. But that was many, many summers ago. As his career lengthened his obsession with his average grew year by year. He lay awake at night dreaming no longer of the ball speeding to the boundary, but of the red ink against his name in the scorebook.

It was the greatest phrase in the English language. E Scrooge\* not out..... It was worth any sacrifice. And if his teammates couldn't see that, well, 'Bah, humbug to them.'

Bob Cratchit spoke to his skipper as they packed their kit. 'Skip, I thought you might give me a bat next week.' Scrooge looked at him sternly. 'And why would I do that Cratchit?' 'Well skip, I come to every practice, I feel in good nick but I've only faced 2 balls all season.' 'And what happened then?' Scrooge turned his piercing gaze on his gentle seamer. 'Well, you ran me out.' Even though the whole team had seen Scrooge ignore his call, Cratchit immediately regretted his words.

'Ran you out? Humbug! You didn't wait for my call. You'll bat 11 as usual and field fine leg - both ends.'

Cratchit sighed. It was always the same - each year it got worse. But he steeled himself - he had something important to ask, 'Skip, you know my boy Tim?' Scrooge's gaze turned even icier. 'Well, he took 6 wickets in the juniors last week - do you think you could give him a turn in the firsts?'

Scrooge paused, 'A junior? In the first team? Humbug! A junior? Of all things! Hell will freeze over first before I play with a ....JUNIOR!'

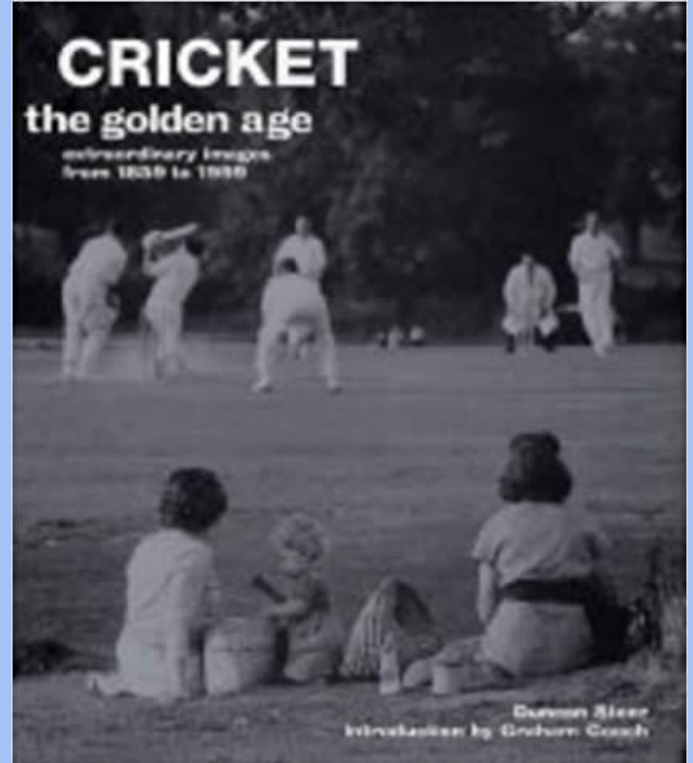
As Scrooge made his way home from the match his mood was dark. The team may have won, but he had been LBW'd in the final over. 'Bah. Only 2 more balls and I would have had another red inker.' He slammed the pavilion door. 'Everyone saw it pitched outside leg. Why did I let that idiot Marley umpire? Humbug!'



As he passed the nets, he saw some of the junior members energetically practising in the fading evening light. He spotted young Cratchit flicking the ball dexterously from hand to hand before whipping it down the track and with the perfect googly giving his opponent no chance. He scowled. 'You juniors,' he bellowed, 'get out of there. Seniors only in the nets.' 'But coach said..' 'I don't care what coach said - I'm skipper - BE OFF WITH YOU.'



Scrooge tossed and turned in his bed that night: his dismissal, the impertinence of the juniors, there was too much on his mind. Suddenly he heard a sound. He sat up. He was not alone. Standing by his bed was a white figure in full batting gear. Scrooge was terrified. 'Fear not, Ebenezer, I am the ghost of cricket past - come with me.' Still fearful, Scrooge rose and followed the stranger. They came to the cricket ground - familiar in the sunshine. 'See the young Ebenezer .....



Scrooge followed the stranger's crooked finger as it pointed to a youngster excitedly strapping on his pads. A kindly voice was heard, 'Ebenezer you're next in - your first innings for the firsts - just play straight and you'll be fine.' Together Scrooge and the ghost watched as the youngster made his way to the middle and after a careful start begin to stroke the ball with more confidence. 'Do you remember?' said the ghost. 'Yes, yes,' said Scrooge, 'my first match - I was just 14 and I got 48 batting with the skipper before I got a shooter. What a day!' They watched on as the team cheered the youngster and to a man heartily shook his hand.



The sun dappled image faded and Scrooge was alone again, tossing and turning in his bed. The clock ticked on: suddenly he felt again a presence - another white clad figure at the foot of the bed, tossing a ball from hand to hand. Before he could scream in terror, the figure spoke, 'Ebenezer Scrooge, I am the ghost of cricket present - come with me.' The figure moved and Scrooge followed. Past the cricket ground this time and on to some houses beyond. The ghost pointed at a lighted window. 'Watch,' he said. Scrooge looked in and there he saw Cratchit and his family including Tim.

'Listen,' said the ghost. The youngster was animatedly talking '.....but Dad it's not fair.....why can't we practice in the evening. No one else was in the nets. It's just Scrooge he hates us junior members. He never comes to junior matches. He never gives us hints. He wishes we weren't there. I'm fed up of cricket - and so are my pals. We're not going to play any more.....' The tearful boy threw his bat into the blazing fire.



Scrooge fell restlessly asleep again. A third time he woke with a start to find another white clad figure beside his bed. This time the figure was old and bent, his eye rheumy, his hair and beard dishevelled, his white clothes stained and tattered. He spoke in a cracked whisper, 'I am the ghost of cricket yet to come. Follow me, Ebenezer, follow me.' Scrooge obeyed and followed the stranger's lead. They came to a place that was familiar, but it had changed. An old derelict building lay in one corner of an overgrown wasteland. A rusty tractor stood in another. The cold wind blew litter in an untidy swirl.



'Surely this is the cricket ground?' Scrooge asked his guide.

In a sombre voice, the ghost intoned, 'It was the cricket ground, but no cricket has been played for many a year.' 'What happened, the cricket club was such a happy place?' 'Once it was but little by little it died - one by one the players had enough of the skipper and moved to other clubs. The junior section dwindled, neglected and rejected. Relegation followed relegation. Matches were scratched. No one tended the wicket that was once the best in the area and it became a minefield. The club played its last match a year ago. Next year this will be a brand new car park.'

'No,' said Scrooge, 'No, it cannot be!' The ghost replied, 'This is what will happen, unless.....' The voice began to fade. 'Unless what, cried Scrooge desperately. But the figure had vanished and only a whisper came through the air '.....unless.....'

Scrooge woke with a start. The morning was bright and clear. The wicket would be firm. A fine day for batting. As Scrooge thought of the red ink against his name, he heard the last ghost's voice again....'unless.' He stopped himself.

He reached for his phone and quickly pressed the numbers in. 'Cratchit,' a voice answered. 'Bob,' said Scrooge, 'can you open the batting today?' 'No problem, skip,' came the reply. 'And your boy, Tim, we could give him a chance - wicket looks like it'll take some spin.' 'Yes - he'll be ready.' 'Tell him to come down early - he can bowl a few at me in the nets.....a fiver if he gets me out!'

And as Tim left the field after taking 3 wickets for 25 in his first bowl for the firsts, Scrooge smiled kindly, shook the boy's hand warmly and looked around the ground, the ground he loved and would go on loving.

Tim looked at his skipper, turned to his pals and shouted out, 'God bless the skip, God bless cricket and God bless us everyone.....'

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**