



FOLLOW CARLTON



THE ARROW

The Newsletter of Carlton Cricket Club

January 2024

Issue 64

LET'S PLAY CRICKET!



Carlton Boys u10 team ready for action at Broughton High School.

While Carlton's seniors ache and groan at winter nets, a swathe of junior cricketers have been enjoying indoor competitive cricket at a range of venues across the area. Boys u10, u12 and u14 and girls u12 and u15 teams have been locked in a series of tightly fought tussles with local rivals. Noise levels may have exceeded safety levels, but skill levels have been equally high. Lots of wins and a few losses - great games, lots of good bowling, fielding, catching, batting and some hair-raising running!!



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GROUNDWORK AT GL - A NEW APPROACH

Carlton is pleased to welcome **Regan Sinclair** to the role of **Part-Time Consultant Head Groundskeeper**.

Regan, who hails from New Zealand, brings a huge amount of experience at top level facilities, including the Queenstown Events Centre and Saxton Oval (see below), both of which have hosted international matches, and Radlett CC in England (where Middlesex CC train and play Second XI cricket).

Regan said, 'I am looking forward to working with Carlton to build on Grange Loan's reputation as one of Scotland's best grounds.'

Regan will provide detailed planning, scheduling and oversight of pitch preparation as well as a few hours a week on site at Grange Loan. The bulk of the work, under Regan's guidance, will be undertaken on a paid basis by some of our playing members.

Director of Cricket Stevie Gilmour noted, 'This will be a new approach. A significant change will be on match days where playing members of teams will be expected to help out more pre- and post-match. I hope that playing members will support this approach as we believe this new model will be an efficient and economically sustainable platform for the maintenance and continued improvement of the ground.'



Saxton Oval, Nelson, NZ where Scotland lost narrowly to Bangladesh in CWC 2015

NEW TO THE CARLTON FAMILY



Many congratulations to Jane and Fraser on the arrival of Grace Elizabeth Watts on 18 December, a sister to Rory.



Many congratulations to Nadia and Omar on the arrival of Elyza Ahmad on 16 November, a sister to Elaya.



Best Wishes to **Mo Neuman** who underwent major knee surgery shortly before Christmas.

Mo is recuperating in Pakistan, where he had his operation, and faces several months rehabilitation before his hitting power becomes available again.

Pre-Season

QUIZ

NIGHT

**Saturday 13 April
Grange Loan**

Details to follow on Pitchero



Player Feedback Survey 2023

Many thanks to all those players who responded to the player survey. There were 42 responses spread across all sections of the club. Here is a summary of the responses. A couple of actions in response are identified and the Management and Cricket Committees will continue to consider further responses as the season approaches.

Training (average rating 3.98 out of 5)

While generally positive, a common theme was the desire for more grass wicket practice. More work on fielding was also mentioned several times as well as some suggestions to have a greater link between training and matches. The challenges from inconsistent attendance at senior training was also a feature – a more structured approach to training might improve this.

Matches

The comments were again generally positive. Several pleas for more matches for respondents in the Women's teams. In the senior teams most of the negative comments around selection concerned the lack of consistency, but availability was acknowledged as a major factor here.

Socials

These were very well received in the main and the idea of different teams organising events went down well. Still a challenge to get more people from across the club to come down more regularly however.

Communication (average rating 4.02)

Again generally good and acknowledgement that a multi-channel approach is required for a club of our size. However we could be clearer about the overall strategy and which channel is used for that purpose. Also potential to work on process for communicating when weather impacts on training or games.

Other Comments

This included some very positive feedback which is encouraging. There were concerns raised about the relatively small number of volunteers and also the lack of information about who does what around the club, particularly on the website.

Proposed actions in response to the survey:

- Commit to organise more centre wicket practice for all teams, but particularly the 1st & 2nd XI squads.
- Review communication policy (including the various channels) and publish updated policy on the website.



**Many congratulations to
all the Carlton Players
involved with Regional
and National Training
Squads**

**Gabriella Fontenla
Maisie Maceira
Imogen Campbell
Zoe Campbell**

**Ruaridh MacIntyre
Rudy Adair
Ben Stronach
Max D'Ulisse
Hector Murray
Oli Stones
James Stronach
John Gill
Finlay Thomson
Tom Hathorn
Hamish Foley
Aadi Khadse**



**JUNIOR SOCIAL
EVENTS**

**ARE THE
HIGHLIGHTS OF
EVERY CARLTON
SEASON**



**CAN YOU HELP
ORGANISE AND RUN
EVENTS IN 2024?**

**PLEASE CONTACT
[SIOBHAN](#)**





SCOTLAND VS IRELAND

2nd T20I

24.10 // 13:00 BST

Priyanaz Chatterjee made her 100th appearance for Scotland against Ireland in October.

Now a valuable member of Carlton's squad, she describes how the opportunities for women have changed since she first took up the game.

A lot has changed in the women's game over the last few years, making it unrecognisable from when I was growing up. It never occurred to me that cricket could be anything other than a hobby, and for many years it was just that. Throughout my time as a junior cricketer I was the only girl at my club (Forfarshire CC). I know it was the same for all of the (now) women I grew up playing with across Scotland. I remember the excitement of my first Angus girls event, learning that there were in fact other girls who also played the sport!

Contrasting these memories with the numbers now seen on a Friday night at Carlton, it is exciting to see the positive change that has taken place in recent years in the women's game. In this regard, Carlton has much to be proud of. It feels like there is a genuine care around the women's game and desire to provide a proper club system, structure and support for its players. No wonder then that the club has attracted players from across age ranges and playing histories (from newbies through to current internationals).

Positive changes too have been made at higher levels, albeit with some countries well ahead of others. I've had the privilege of playing club and representative cricket in Scotland, England, Australia and New Zealand, so have had exposure to a few different set-ups and systems. Australia has been leading the way for some time with its domestic set-up fully professional for a number of years, with England in recent years looking to close the gap. In my experience, the challenges facing the women's game at a high performance level usually boil down to similar themes, regardless of

location – access to regular high quality fixtures, coaching, and infrastructure; and financial remuneration to enable athletes to commit the required time to make the most of the above resources when they are available.

Whilst there has undoubtedly been progress on the global and local scale, there is still much work to be done and we must continue to build on progress made to-date at all levels of the game. I am hopeful that Carlton will continue to be a leader in women's club cricket in Scotland.

Winter in New Zealand

Priyanaz has been wintering in New Zealand playing for Central Districts Hinds in the Women's Super Smash.

There was Carlton-present-on-Carlton-past action on 12 January when Priyanaz came up against Leigh Kasperek playing for Wellington. While the match was tied, Leigh got the better of Priyanaz snaffling her caught behind off the first ball she faced.

Priyanaz came back strongly in Central District's next match - she took 2-13 which gained her the Player of the Match award in the victory over Auckland. She also bagged 2 scalps in the following match although in a losing cause. She followed up with 3-17 in victory over Northern Braves. which took her team to the final on 28 January and another show down with Leigh.

Sadly for Priyanaz, it was Leigh who came out on top as Wellington won a tense rain restricted match by the narrowest possible margin of 1 run.



Carlton v Clydesdale

Some moments in the history of the long relationship between the clubs



Clydesdale Cricket Club came into being in 1848 growing out of the merger of two smaller clubs, Thistle and Wallacegrove. It is the oldest surviving sports team in Glasgow.

It is one of the founding members of the Western League in 1893, sharing the first championship with Greenock. Clydesdale won outright in 1895 and has since won the succeeding WDCU 13 times. Clydesdale have won the Scottish Cup 7 times in all, second only to Grange's 9 victories.

The club first played at a ground in Kinning Park, which became the first home of Rangers FC in 1874. Rangers moved to Ibrox in 1899 and the former ground is now covered by the motorway.

In 1851 the XXII of Scotland (including 13 Clydesdale players) played the All England XI at Kinning Park. The match, pictured below, attracted a crowd of several thousand.

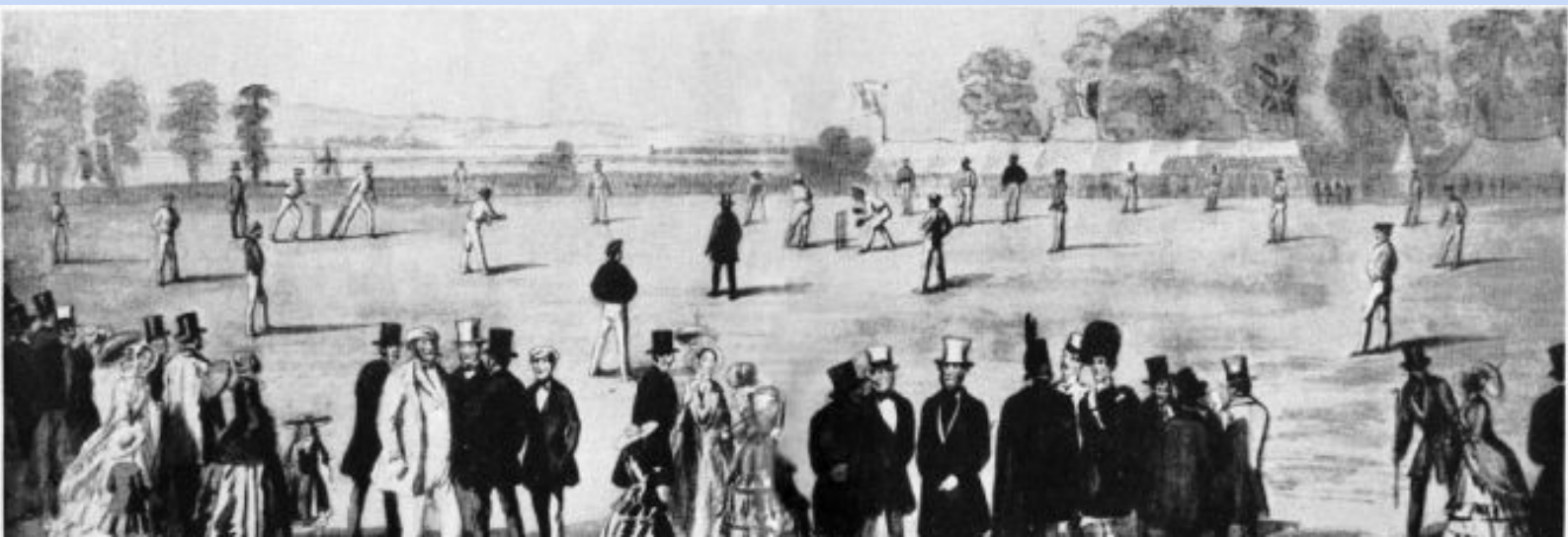
John Wisden who went on to found the famous publication shortly after took 21 wickets for 52 in the match.

Similar fixtures were regular at Kinning Park for most of the 1850s and 60s.

Having relinquished Kinning Park, Clydesdale CC then moved to the Titwood area. Their present ground is the second in that area and has been their home since 1904 when a pavilion was first constructed at a cost of £2000.

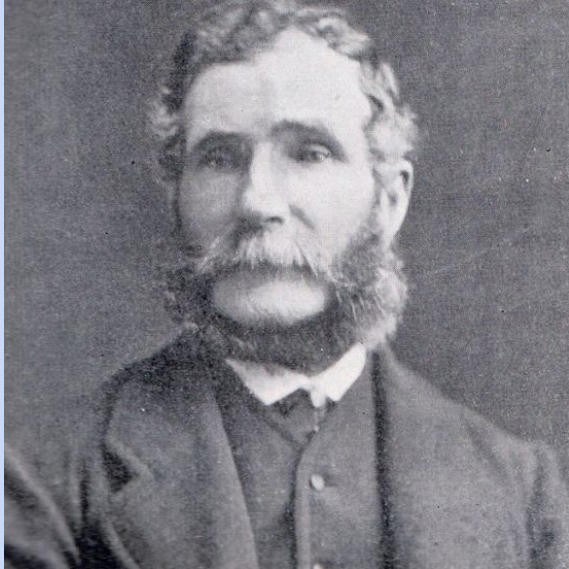
Originally leased from the Pollock estate, the ground was purchased by the club in 1987 and is now owned outright by the Titwood Sports Ground Trust.

Titwood is also home to Clydesdale and Glasgow Western Ladies Hockey Clubs.



ARCHIE CAMPBELL

MR CLYDESDALE



Archie Campbell was the key figure in Clydesdale's early history and was one of the most significant figures in the development of sport in Scotland during the 19th Century.

While his name became synonymous with Clydesdale and sport in Glasgow, he was born in Hawick in 1824, moving West as a young man and pursuing a career as a leather merchant.

As a player Campbell took 6 wickets in Clydesdale's match against the All England XI in 1862.

In 1872 Campbell helped to form Clydesdale FC in an attempt to maintain the cricketers' fitness levels during the off-season. The club boasted several international players and for a short period were a significant force in the game - among its achievements was a victory over Notts County.

Clydesdale FC was one of the founder members of the Scottish Football Association in 1873, and Campbell became its first President.

During his tenure, the Scottish Football Association Challenge Cup (Scottish Cup) was inaugurated. Clydesdale lost to Queens Park in the first final of this trophy. However by the end of the century the football club went out of existence.

Campbell died in 1904, shortly before Clydesdale CC played their first match at their present Titwood ground against Greenock (photo below).





Titwood Home to Clydesdale CC since 1904

There is a long history of international cricket at Titwood. Scotland played there most recently in 2022 in the ICC World Cup League against Nepal and Namibia.

But long before, in September 1880, two days after playing the first ever Test match in England at The Oval, the touring Australians came to Clydesdale's first home in the Titwood area to play a Clydesdale Invitation XVIII which also included players from West of Scotland and Drumpelieer CC.

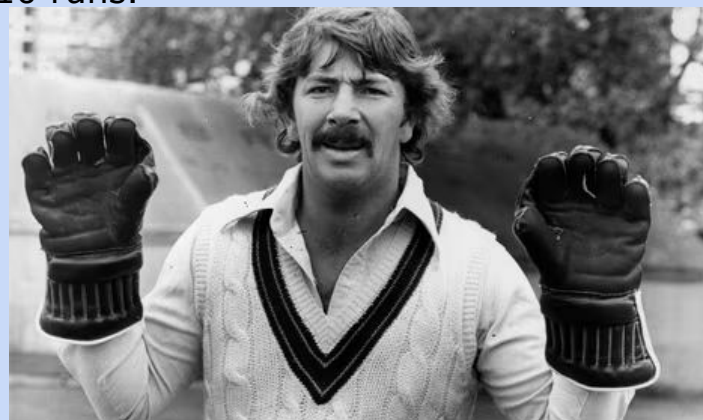
In front of a crowd of 7,000, the Clydesdale team scored 224 - Glasgow born James Walker scoring 85. (Walker played for Oxford University and Middlesex but was also affiliated to Lasswade CC - he was also capped for Scotland at rugby).

The Australians could manage only 111 (Drumpellier's Alex Watson taking 5-38 in 38 overs) and 47-1: in the tradition of the time, the first innings score in an uncompleted two-innings match meant that the Clydesdale XVIII were deemed victorious.

Five days later the Australians played Scotland at Raeburn Place and secured a 6 wicket victory.

The more recent visit of the Australians to Titwood took place in July 1981, a week after Botham's Test at Headingley.

Rod Marsh (below) skippered a star studded line up on the day which included Alan Border, Graeme Wood and Graeme Yallop. The Aussies were more successful than a century previously. In a match reduced to 30 overs they beat Scotland, skippered by Carlton's Richard Swan, by 10 runs.



Although Rodney Hogg bowled him in that match for 10, Richard Swan (above) twice scored half centuries for Scotland at Titwood, both against Nottinghamshire in the B&H Cup in 1982 and 1990. Hamish Gardiner scored 52 v Netherlands in 2014.

Carlton v Clydesdale

A tricky start to the long running fixture

Unfortunately there is no complete record of matches between Carlton and Clydesdale, although they have played each other since 1872. The historian is not helped by the fact that a fire at Titwood in 1924 destroyed many records and Carlton has no surviving records prior to 1950.

The first match between the clubs in 1872 ended in some acrimony with indignant letters written to the Scotsman. The incident is described in *As Centuries Blend, a History of Clydesdale CC*, written by Sam Courtney and published in 1954.

Soon afterwards Archie Campbell (one of the founders of the club) found himself engaged in controversy again, in the Scotsman this time, on behalf of his own club after an Edinburgh match in which Carlton had scored 221. Campbell read the Scotsman's report as suggesting that Clydesdale were to blame for the abrupt end to the match by refusing to bat.

For the first time in 22 years', he wrote to the newspaper, 'an Edinburgh club had failed to provide food'. Carlton had not even a sandwich on the ground. Some of Clydesdale had come from the west coast, had breakfast at seven a.m. and were exhausted.

The reply from Carlton's captain, D. Macdonald (see opposite), offered an apology for the breakdown in the catering, but insisted that food had arrived. He understood, in any case, that most of the Clydesdale team had not come from the west that day. That Mr. Campbell had cleverly succeeded in avoiding defeat he did not think that anyone could doubt.

The correspondence closed with Campbell's reply. A boy had arrived with a basket of sweetbread as Clydesdale were coming out at the gate. He adhered to what he knew, not to what Mr. Macdonald understood. He admitted that Clydesdale would have been beaten.

THE CARLTON v. CLYDESDALE MATCH.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCOTSMAN.
Edinburgh, July 18, 1872.

Sir,—I think that your report of the Carlton and Clydesdale match was more correct than Mr Campbell would lead your readers to believe. And there are one or two inaccuracies in Mr Campbell's letter I should like to correct.

It is true that in the early part of the afternoon there were no refreshments on the ground, at least in the shape of eatables. But it was not until I reached the ground that I learned that those who usually look after the refreshments for the Carlton Club were unable to do so that day—too late to make arrangements with any other party. No one could regret this more than I did, or apologise more sincerely. What I could do in the circumstances I did. Messages were sent to four different places before any one could be found to undertake in so short a time to supply us with food, but it did arrive at last, and in plenty, before the Clydesdale left the ground.

I understood that, with the exception of one gentleman, who came from the west, and the two of our own men who fielded for the Clydesdale, the rest of the eleven were in Edinburgh from the Saturday, and could not be in such an extreme state of exhaustion as Mr Campbell seems to indicate.

There were not wanting those amongst visitors and strangers who thought and said that in a match commencing at one o'clock, had the Carlton team been a weaker one, and the Clydesdale a stronger one, play would not have ceased so suddenly. I myself am of opinion that Mr Campbell's twenty-two years' experience might have taught him to make a little more allowance for what I may term an accident. His plea of exhaustion would have carried more weight had he played an hour and a-half longer; and that he cleverly succeeded in avoiding a defeat, I don't think any one can doubt.—I am, &c.

D. MACDONALD, Captain Carlton C.C.



D Macdonald - Carlton skipper 1870-71

It may be thought that after such a frosty start to relations between the clubs, further matches might be unlikely, however there were regular fixtures up until World War I.

The fixture in 1912 might well have led to further correspondence in the Scotsman. Carlton's victory at Grange Loan owed much to the contribution of John Plowright. Brought in at the last moment, Plowright, who was cricket coach at Edinburgh Academy and a pro at Grange, scored 84 and took 3 wickets.

Carlton v Clydesdale

In the post 1950 period, there have been 39 meetings between the clubs, Clydesdale winning a significant majority with 24 victories.

During the 1970s and 80s the clubs met regularly in the Scottish Cup - always to Clydesdale's advantage. Besides the 77 final (see further below) Carlton were on the losing side in 74, 76, 78, 85 (semi-final), 86 (semi-final) and 88.

Clydesdale were also dominant in fixtures between the clubs during the SNCL years, during which Carlton only could muster 2 wins.

It was not until 2013 that Carlton won a Cup tie against Clydesdale. Helped by 70 from Gordon Drummond and 5-52 from Rob Thornton - seen below capturing Bashir LBW - they triumphed in a tightly fought semi-final. Disappointingly Carlton would come unstuck against Grange in the final.



More recently however Carlton has dominated encounters and is unbeaten since 2010. Its most notable victory being in the 2016 Championship decider (see further below). That victory also saw Carlton's highest total against Clydesdale 282-6. The lowest total is 73 a/o in the 1978 cup tie at Titwood which Clydesdale passed without loss. Carlton dismissed Clydesdale for 43 in a Friendly in 1992 and for 56 in 2012 in the Cup.

It took until 2010 for a Carlton player to notch a century against Clydesdale. Like proverbial London buses, 2 came at once when Preston Mommsen 119* and Jamie Kerr 109* helped Carlton to 273-2 at Titwood. Unfortunately 105 for Clydesdale's Greig Williamson helped the home side pass Carlton's total.



Fraser Watts - seen above acknowledging his ton - is the only other Carlton player to score three figures - with 113 at Titwood in 2017 in another Scottish Cup tie. That was Watt's 15th, and final, century for Carlton.

The only other Clydesdale player to top 100, and the first to do so in fixtures between the clubs, is Yasir Arafat with 109* and Titwood and 121 at GL in 2004 (see further below).

Carlton's best bowling against Clydesdale is by Sean Olivier (right) who took 7-30 in the 2012 cup tie at Titwood as Carlton dismissed the home side for 56. Others who have taken 5 wickets are Alan Macleod who took 5-8 in a friendly at GL in 1992 and 5-20 at GL



in 1997 in a Scottish Cup defeat, Cedric English, 5-51 at Titwood in 2000, Peter Wooden, 5-20 at Titwood in 2008 and, as already mentioned, Rob Thornton 5-52 at GL in 2013.

Carlton v Clydesdale - Players

Ross Lyons (Rt, top) is the most notable player to have played for both Carlton and Clydesdale. He came through Clydesdale's junior set up and played at Titwood between 2000 and 2008 before moving to Grange Loan. He played for Carlton in 2009 and 2010 when he moved on to East Kilbride. More recently he played a significant part in Uddingston's run to last season's Scottish Cup Final. He played 63 cap matches for Scotland.

In the 2008 cup tie between Carlton and Clydesdale, Ross helped Clydesdale to victory with 4-67.

In 25 matches for Carlton he took 40 wickets, with a best of 4-15, and scored 268 runs, highest score 80.

Ross recalls, *'Both clubs are very similar in terms of junior development having large junior sections and the willingness to give youth a shot in 1st/2nd XI cricket. Clydesdale in my days there always seemed to manage to pull out victories against Carlton and that continued when I switched cities and recall having a couple of good game in 09/10 when I was there. Our team in 2010 was a fantastic team which won the national T20 title, once of the best teams I've played in. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Carlton which was unfortunately brought to an end sooner than I'd have liked.'*

Scottish Cricket Hall of Famer **Terry Racoinzer** (Rt - middle) scored over 11000 runs and took over 220 wickets for Clydesdale between 1960 and 1990. He also played for Sussex between 1967 and 1969, scoring over 1500 runs. He played in 65 cap matches for Scotland.

Racoinzer had a liking for Carlton's bowling. In addition to his significant 73 in the 1977 Cup Final, he scored 86 in the 1976 cup tie, and an undefeated 47 in 1978. He had 2 more half centuries in later cup ties against Carlton.

Clydesdale's most capped player is **Greig Williamson** (Rt - bottom) who played 153 times for Scotland between 1994 and 2005. He was also a regular thorn in Carlton's flesh scoring 50+ on 5 occasions and top scoring with 105 at Titwood in 2010.



Carlton v Clydesdale - Pro Players



Yasir Arafat, who subsequently played 3 Tests for Pakistan, was at Titwood between 2001 and 2005 and took a liking to Carlton's bowlers and batters. In 4 SNCL matches with Carlton Arafat scored 109*, 121, 65 and 25 and took 3-24, 3-36, 3-17 and 4-17. With Arafat's help Clydesdale, who had only gained promotion that year, won the SNCL Premier Division in 2004 and the following year. Arafat played 29 times for Scotland.

Arafat is currently High Performance Coach with the Pakistan international team.



Brian Edmeades 75* was a major factor in Clydesdale's 1977 Scottish Cup Final victory over Carlton. Before coming to Clydesdale he had a long First Class career at Essex (playing alongside Keith Fletcher, John Lever and Keith Boyce) for whom he scored over 15000 runs and took over 500 wickets.

Scotland Women at Titwood

While Scotland's men have played regularly at Titwood, it was not until 2023 that Scotland's women cricketers had a similar opportunity. In April Scotland Women A played had victories over Cumbria and Lancashire.

In August they played 2 T20s and 2 50 over matches against Ireland U19. Each team won one match in each format.

Scotland were skippered in the Irish series by Carlton's Priyanaz Chatterjee, who hit her maiden international half-century in Scotland's victory in the 50 over match.

Maisie Maceira and Sam Haggo were also involved in these fixtures.



Carlton v Clydesdale - the Final Countdown

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL 1977

Easy for Clydesdale

By BOB SPALDING

Clydesdale, the current Western Union leaders, completely out-gunned Carlton to coast to an eight-wicket victory in the Shish Mahal Trophy final at Hamilton Crescent, Glasgow, yesterday, scoring 172.2, with 4.1 overs to spare, in reply to Carlton's 168.5. Frankly, Clydesdale were in another class.

Admittedly Carlton lost the valuable services of Alun Davies in their attack when he retired with a back injury while batting, and they were also without key batsman Nick Ross, a victim of the Heathrow chaos.

But Clydesdale lacked Sid-dique and, after three overs, the bowling services of Brian Edmeades.

However, such was the class of the opening partnership of Edmeades, the Clydesdale professional, formerly of Essex, and internationalist Terry Racoizer - who left at 132 in the 26th over, having scored 73 with nine 4s - that only 37 runs were then required.

In the event they lost Douglas Howe at 153, Edmeades carrying his bat for a fine, forceful 75 with 12 4s.

It was not that Carlton bowled badly. It was just that they met Edmeades and Racoizer in full flow. After an early check of four maidens, two each from George Innes and John Baine, they simply took control, the 50 coming in 12.7 overs and the hundred in 20.2. And that basically was it.

Clydesdale, runs were there. In contrast Edmeades and Racoizer were always looking for them.

Carlton, in the event, owed much to the sound innings by Swan, whose 71, off 133 balls in 140 minutes, included seven 4s. Martin Rees, too, contributed a well-played, undefeated 45 with three 4s, but Carlton

really were too late in using the long handle.

For Clydesdale, Kenny Macara took 2-34, Edmeades 1-6 and Bernie Kerntiff 1-34; David Raistrick (1-22) and John Bain (1-37) being the Carlton wicket-takers.

Carlton 168.5 (B. G. Swan 71, M. Rees 45, P. M. F. Dell 28, J. Macara 24, B. E. A. Edmeades 14, B. Kerntiff 13, J. Bain 12, B. Raistrick 11, S. Bannock 10, J. Bain 1-37).

Saturday scoreboards

WESTERN UNION

Rain upset Saturday's Western Union programme and with the match between Ayr and Stranraer in Glasgow being abandoned without a ball being bowled, Clydesdale took the opportunity to take 50 overs from 1.45pm at Hamilton Crescent to settle their eyes on the top of the table by the summer season of 2000.

The first Clydesdale professional, Brian Edmeades, took three wickets in 12.7 overs and Douglas Howe was out for 153.

Edmeades and Racoizer were always looking for them. Carlton, in the event, owed much to the sound innings by Swan, whose 71, off 133 balls in 140 minutes, included seven 4s. Martin Rees, too, contributed a well-played, undefeated 45 with three 4s, but Carlton

MIRRE TROPHY

Matchweek 122-4 (C. Innes 43, M. T. W. 37, J. Bain 2-10, J. V. 18, B. E. A. Edmeades 1-6, B. Kerntiff 1-34, D. Raistrick 1-22, J. Bain 1-37, S. Bannock 10, J. Bain 1-37).

OTHER MATCHES

Striving, County 127 (M. T. W. 37, J. V. 18, B. E. A. Edmeades 1-6, B. Kerntiff 1-34, D. Raistrick 1-22, J. Bain 1-37, S. Bannock 10, J. Bain 1-37).

Something to bowl at perhaps, but sadly not enough. The loss of Alun Davies front eh bowling attack further hampered Carlton but even he might have struggled against the dominance of Clydesdale's batting. Edmeades had recovered enough to open the batting for Clydesdale, and in partnership with Scottish international Terry Racoizer took the score to 132 before the first wicket fell - Racoizer caught and bowled by John Bain for 73.

Only one more wicket was to fall as Clydesdale passed Carlton's total of the final ball of the 30th over (recorded by the scorer as a 7 ball over) to win by 8 wickets. Edmeades was undefeated on 75.

MURGATROYD FINAL 2011

Carlton's first appearance in the Scottish Cup Final was against Clydesdale in 1977 at Hamilton Crescent.

Rained off in the appointed week, continuing poor weather restricted the rearranged fixture to 35 overs per side. Carlton batted first. It was a difficult start - Neil Swan (skipping on the day in the unfortunate absence of Nick Ross who was delayed by travel disruption Heathrow) was caught behind off Brian Edmeades in the first over. After 3 overs Edmeades left the field injured and did not bowl further. There were then stands of 63 between Richard Swan and Fraser Dall for the second wicket and 53 for the fourth wicket between Swan (71) and Malcolm Rees (45*). In the run chase in the final overs Alun Davies injured his back and took no further part in the match. Carlton finished their innings on 168-4.

Carlton and Clydesdale crossed swords again in the National T20 Final at Shawholm in 2011.

Another rainy afternoon saw the final reduced to 18 overs a side. Carlton, who had easily overcome Dumfries in the semi final, were asked to bowl. A big six off by Majid Haq from the first ball looked ominous but he was bowled by Jason Tremblatt's next ball and the innings never really recovered. Clydesdale could only muster 69. Some big hits from Ross Burns put Carlton well in the driving seat and when he holed out, Cedric English and Preston Mommsen were able calmly to secure Carlton's victory by 8 wickets. A reciprocal result to the disappointment of 1977.

Had there been a press report, it might well have been headlined 'Easy For Carlton!'



**Carlton v Clydesdale
Scottish Championship Decider
Grange Loan
3 September 2016**

***Carlton's Sultan of Swing
Omar Ahmad recalls a special day and a special
performance***

The season up to this point had been almost perfect. It reminded me of the 2011 winning side, but this team was stronger, more experienced, mentally a lot tougher. Only having lost 2 games this season and being on top form (when I needed to be) had me in a confident mindset.

But prior to the final we had played our last league game against Stoneywood Dyce when I had my worst bowling performance of the season. At that point the league was won and I hadn't been to training to keep my rhythm going. That performance gave me the kick up the backside I needed. In the week leading up to the final 6 of us had additional training sessions to help continue this unbelievable form. So I felt in top form and knew I was back to winning ways.

We didn't look too much into Clydesdale: they had 3 dangerous players, and some club players who were good, but we knew if we did our basics right we would beat anyone in the country.

The day of the final we went about our business as normal. Everyone arriving on time, everyone in good spirits, everyone ready for the fight.

We won the toss and batted first. Hugo and Fraggie continued their great form, both hitting 50+ scores, which set us bowlers something to defend.

But we knew Majid, Berrington, and the late de Lange were great players who could chase the total down.



Photo David Potter

Ali Evans and Mario opened the bowling. Evo got 2 wickets in the opening 10 overs which brought in form Berrington to the crease.

I then replaced Evo first change, which was usually the point I would come on. The ball in the perfect condition for some late swing bowling. I felt confident, ready to bowl the best spell of the year. I personally always play better in bigger games.

My first ball pitched perfectly moved away and beat Berrington. I just felt right, everything felt right. From running up, wrist position, all the way to release, this all felt like I was gonna do something special.

Almost immediately the inevitable happened. I bowled the perfect ball, pitched on middle and leg, then seamed away hitting the outside edge of the bat, going straight to Drummo for an easy catch. I remember the spectators cheering loudly - the inform Berrington had caught out to the clever bowling of Omar. That was half the job done. Just de Lange and Majid left to get out before we could somewhat relax. I remember Fraggie saying to me in the huddle after getting Berrington out, 'Just do that again, please.' (So polite - he used to say that to me a lot).

de Lange came out. I was at the top of my mark to a 7-2 offside field as I would normally have especially when I felt good. I then bowled an even better ball with a bit more zip and bounce causing de Lange to edge straight to Drummo again. 2 balls 2 wickets!

This time the crowd were even louder, all the players were up in arms running around jumping on each other. 'Omar's done it again, big game player' is what Fraggie was thinking (I'm sure). Drummo saying to me, 'I wasn't 100% confident in that catch as he wasn't expecting it.' I then told him, 'When I bowl, always expect it!' Everyone happy, everyone ready to continue this form and squeeze to finish the game earlier.



Photo David Potter

But the grey clouds were looking ominous and we needed to get 20 overs bowled for us to constitute a game, I was told to run through my overs. Majid comes out, I was hoping for a hat trick. Majid being left handed brought a bit more doubt for me. Never like bowling to left handers but I felt like I could do it. So top of my mark I was ready to bowl to Majid. This time not to try and bowl him with in-swing as he would be expecting but to keep the line and get him to edge it to Fraser Boyd. The field was still 7-2 to the offside.



C Drummond b Ahmad



Majid Haq keeps Omar out

I got the top of my run up, angled the ball and wrist to where I wanted the ball to go, I could see Majid nervous and really not wanting to be the victim of a hat trick in a final. I bowl and everything came out exactly how I wanted it, only this time Majid kept his bat with his pad and the ball missed his outside edge. My hands in my face annoyed not to get the hat trick but happy that we now had them 29-4.

20 overs had passed so it was now considered a game. The group was now more relaxed. I came off to try speed the game up with spin. I don't like to come off half way through a spell as for me 'rhythm is a dancer' and I like to carry on. But cheeky and Arun came into the attack and plugged away. The game at this point was pretty much over, 30 overs had gone and I said 'let me finish it off'. Majid still at the crease, I knew I could get him out with a bit of persistent bowling. I come on and in the first over back I get him trapped lbw which was always a strong possibility due to his technique against me.

At that point the game was over and it was fitting to see Mario get a run out to seal the game. The feeling was unbelievable, we deserved the victory and the national title. The celebrations continued into the wee hours of the morning. Hugo beat me for the man of the match award, his 85 was deemed more significant than my 3 key wickets (I'll let others decide if that was right 😊).

The season was one of my best times, not only because of the level of great cricket but the team with its mixture of youth and experience.

Carlton 282-6

Hugo Southwell 85, Fraser Watts 73, Rory McCann 65

Clydesdale 168 a/o

Arun Pillai 4 for 23, Omar Ahmad 3 for 33



*Unlike in 1872
there would be no
letters to the
Scotsman about
the lack of
sustenance.*

Carlton v Clydesdale

Juniors

Clydesdale were for a number of years the dominant force in junior cricket. Carlton and Clydesdale juniors have had many tussles in various Cup competitions. In 2008 Carlton u13s (below) were disappointed only to post 91-4 on a very wet afternoon at Glenalmond, a total Clydesdale passed with the loss of only 2 wickets.



Two years later Carlton's u15s overcame Clydesdale in the semi-final but lost out to Grange in the final. Carlton u15s lost out to Clydesdale at the semi-final stage in 2015 and 2017.

Matters have reversed more recently - in 2021 Carlton u13s dismissed Clydesdale for 50 giving the Carlton youngsters (below) a straightforward victory.





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