



The Carlton Lockdown Newsletter

Till the gates of Grange Loan are open again

22 March 2021

ISSUE 32

One Year On

On 16 March last year, Fraggie messaged Carlton members at about 5pm to say that the evening's planned net session for 3,4,5s was cancelled in the light of advice from the Scottish Government and CricketScotland. For many of us this was the first real impact of the gathering storm. The gates of Grange Loan slammed shut.

This Newsletter issued for the first time in April. Maybe there would be a few editions, 3 or 4 perhaps, and then things would be back to normal. The gates of Grange Loan would be thrown open again. Sadly, it did not quite happen like this.

Early hopes that only a minor incursion into the coming cricket season would take place proved hopelessly optimistic as conditions worsened. It would be several months before cricketing activity was permitted again when highly regulated outdoor practice began in June and matches in August.

But things look more optimistic for the 2021 season, and Grange Loan has been in use for a number of weeks. Squad sessions began this weekend - see photos below. News about fixtures is expected soon.



Keep in touch with Carlton's plans for the new season through Pitchero, [the club website](#) and [Twitter](#).

Keep in touch with CricketScotland's planning through their [Newsletter](#).



Annette Aitken-Drummond

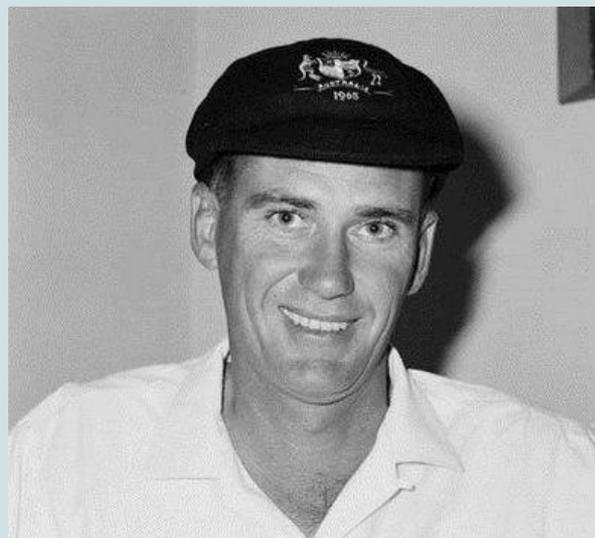
Lead for Women & Girls Cricket at ESCA

I'm really excited to be taking on the role. Anything I can do to help grow, promote & develop women's cricket in the East of Scotland and beyond. It's a huge passion of mine and something I can't wait to get stuck into.

Despite playing cricket since I could hold a bat, it wasn't until joining Carlton in 2014 that I had the chance to play for a women's club. Up until then, every experience I had of playing club cricket was of being the only female there, and getting changed in the women's toilet! (If there was such a thing!) I've loved every moment of being part of the club, so much so that I'm now involved in the Women's Committee and alongside Sam & Georgia, working hard to build on what is already a thriving women's section.

I want as many female cricketers in Scotland to have this positive experience too, and I'll do everything I can to play my part in making this happen.

Peter Allan Australia and Carlton (?)



Carlton's memory banks were put under strain recently. An enquiry came from [Once Upon a Time At The Ashes](#) Did we remember Peter Allan? Did we remember John Allan?

Peter played a single test for Australia in the 1960s. His father John played for Carlton during the 1920s before emigrating.

So it seemed natural for Peter when he was visiting the UK to turn up at Grange Loan and look for a game. He wasn't a bad bowler after all - he still holds the 3rd best bowling average in Sheffield Shield cricket - taking all 10 for 61 in Victoria's first innings against Queensland 1965. Perhaps he fitted in for a Sunday friendly?

Sadly we could find no record of this - and records of the 1920s have not survived.

Peter is interviewed on the linked [podcast](#) and tells the story himself alongside some memories from his career. Worth a listen.

Neil Leitch was Scotland's scorer for many years between the 1980s and 2000s.

As scorer for Royal High and SMRH he sat in Grange Loan's score-hut on many occasions. He shares some memories.

Fantasy Bob asked me to contribute something of my memories of Carlton.

Actually, before I start on that bit, I should mention FB and I go back a long way. I remember him as a regular 2nd XI bowler for my then club, Royal High, between 1983 & 1994. It might surprise you (it might even surprise FB) that he holds two 2nd XI batting records for Royal High, namely contributing to a sixth wicket partnership record of 131* against Stenhousemuir 3rd XI in 1990 and a ninth wicket partnership record of 119* against Kirkcaldy 2nd XI in 1992. Royal High merged with Stew/Mel five years later, so these records can never be beaten!

Now, where was I? Yes, memories of Carlton. My first visit to Grange Loan was on 15th June 1974. I was very impressed, this 20 year old statto was far more used to taking his scorebook to school playing fields. Even better, Royal High batted first and scored 206-3 declared, with one of our players scoring a century – the first time I had experienced the joy of scoring a team total of 200 or an individual century.

When asked during the tea interval, this happy scorer advised his team-mates he was very happy with all of the runs. At this point a Carlton player advised "there are lots more to come boyo". I had never met Alun Davies before, but came to learn over the years that this was as near he would get to fraternal greetings. He was half right, in that Carlton achieved half the Royal High total.



Click the photo to hear Neil talk about Scottish cricket to Indian TV last summer.

Another first meeting with a Carlton player happened a few years later. I arrived at Jock's Lodge, the Royal High home ground, to find a West Indian player wandering around the outfield. It was Steve Alleyne, a charming man who was taken from us all too soon. He was the only other person present at the ground – we had a lovely laid-back chat.

I was actually a member at Carlton from 1988 to 1997. My home in Oswald Court was close by and my wife bought me membership as a birthday present.

Over the years, most of my conversations have been with the Carlton scorer of the day. Back in the 1970s, it was Chris Paul. The neatest scorer I ever witnessed and a man who did a mountain of work for Carlton. I remember feeling guilty when I was made Scotland scorer in 1982 that the honour should have gone to him.

In more recent years it has been Lynne Forrester and Ken Nisbet. Ken also became my drinking partner during the 11 years I lived and worked in Glasgow. Many fascinating chats over the intricacies of cricket scoring fueled by real ale, with no-one else in the pub having the foggiest what we were talking about. I could go on about adventures on Scotland trips with Carlton players, like the time Richard Swan had his trousers removed at midday on Johannesburg's main shopping street. But that will have to wait until another day. I've exceeded my word allowance, and FB does not pay overtime.

From Carlton to CricketScotland (And Back) Part 2

Bruce Dixon recalls the highs and lows

Being President of Cricket Scotland meant being a Director of both CS and Cricket Scotland Holdings which gave me an insight into the administration of the Companies and just how difficult it was for the Board to manage the finances in a climate of severe financial restraint. So much of our funding came from outside sources over which we had little or no control.

One of the areas affected was the women's team, who played almost all competitive games in England. To keep costs down this mostly entailed a long journey early on Sunday morning and a late return home at night. That they were so successful is a credit to them. One of our happiest memories was in the Netherlands in 2018 for the Women's World T20 Qualifiers where the Scotland supporters formed a huddle before each game and sang Flower of Scotland, to the amazement of the locals and opponents. Sadly it did not help us to qualify!

There were many other highs but a few lows as well. The low occurred in March 2018 in Harare, Zimbabwe, where we lost on DLS to West Indies. The game hinged on a shocking LBW decision by the Australian umpire when we were ahead on DLS chasing a modest total.



The decision moved West Indies ahead and minutes later heavy rain fell and the game was abandoned. Our qualification for the 2019 World Cup in England turned on that decision which even commentator Mark Butcher, the former England test player, found unbelievable!

The high was later the same year (by which time I was Past President) when we had a truly memorable win over England at the Grange. The entire team were brilliant on the day but Callum McLeod's 140 not out was a joy to watch. Towards the end of the game CS officials were warning the crowd to stay off the playing area after the game, but President Willie Donald and I were among the first on when the final wicket fell!!

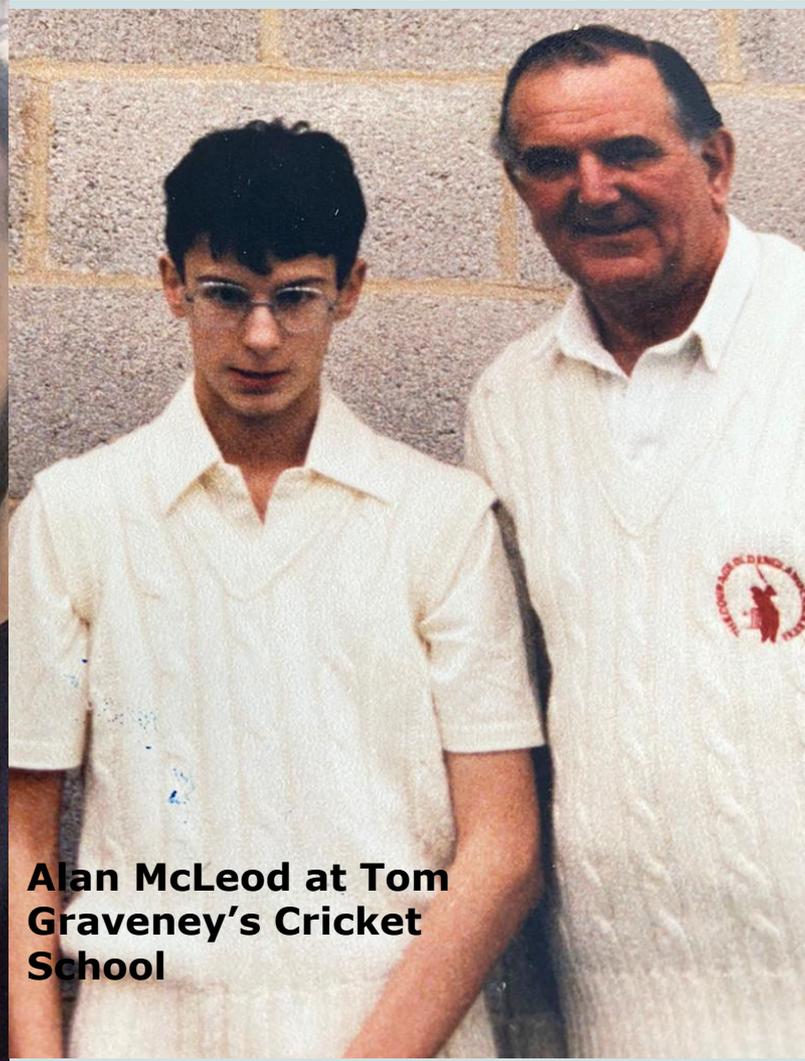


Having missed so much cricket in 2020, I hope that we can all get back to Grange Loan in 2021 although, for me, Grange Loan will never be quite the same without Alun Davies and George Innes, my friends and teammates from the 70s.

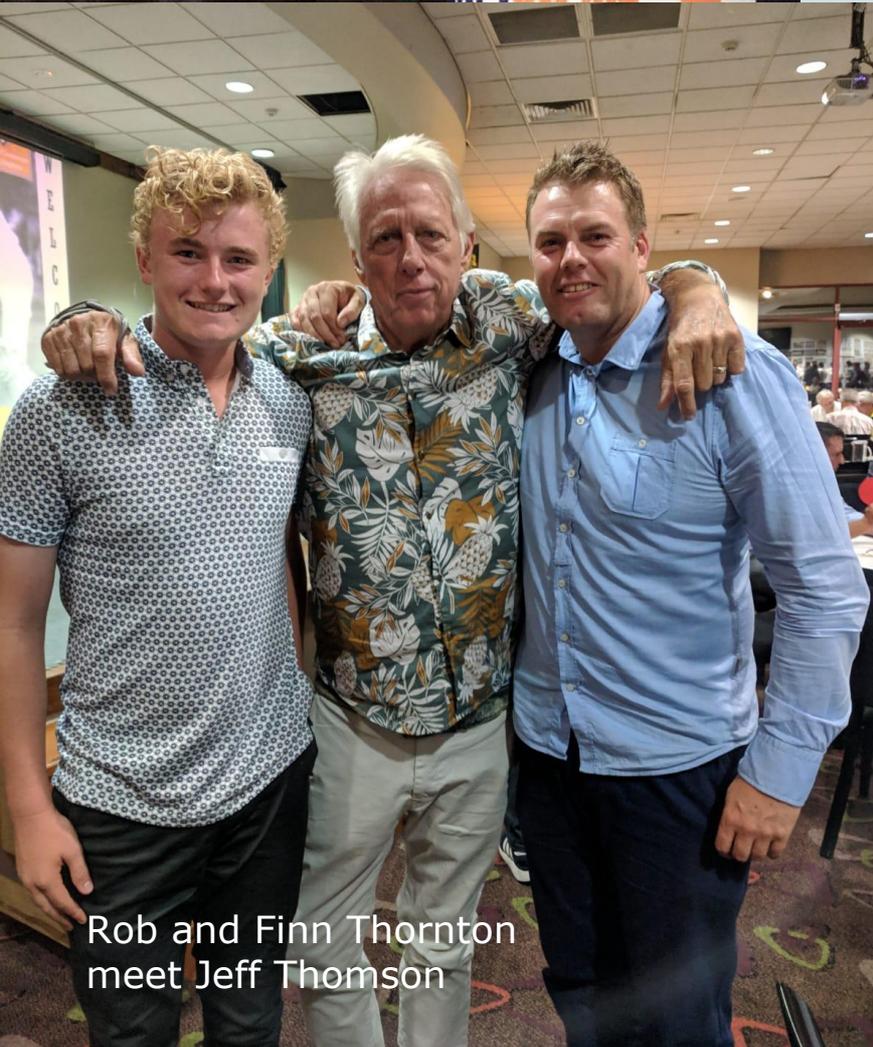
MEETING THE STARS



Babar Azam admires Adeel's Carlton top



Alan McLeod at Tom Graveney's Cricket School



Rob and Finn Thornton meet Jeff Thomson



Tom Simpson persuading Warnie of the merits of Tennant's Lager

QUIZ NEWS

A select group joined the latest Lockdown quiz.

After a gripping contest, Al Murray and Brian Kaczinsky couldn't be separated and an honourable tie was declared.

Test yourself on the quiz round below - can you find the Carlton 3s?

Answers next month.

STATS CORNER

Big thanks go to **Brian Forrester** and **Arun Pillai** for the comprehensive stats now available on the [club website](#). (Click Players tab).

Next month's newsletter will have more on putting them together. But, bearing in mind that the Six Nations finished this weekend, Brian mentions these golden facts:

Carlton 2nd XI once faced a Heriots team with Scotland's full front row in it - Iain, Kenny and David Milne.

Brian himself relishes the time he was bowled by Gavin Hastings, playing for Watsonians 2.



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<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/carltoncc/>

