



# The Forty Club Newsletter

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

XL Golf Society Spring Meeting; 9th April at the Berkshire.  
 XL Spring Lunch; 13th April.  
 Northern Schools vs Southern Schools; 27th Apr at Oakham.  
 Triangular Tourney; 22/25 July in Denmark.  
 XL vs MCC: 14th August at Papplewick CC, Nottingham.  
 Annual Dinner ; 17th October.

## WELCOME TO THE 2ND NEWSLETTER

### Welcome to the latest Newsletter.

My name is Colin Neill, I am part of the media group and I have volunteered to pull together the Newsletters going forward. Our aim is to have a proactive communication vehicle, looking forward as well as back, to keep members and districts, and a wider cricketing community informed of the achievements and business of the club. This is primarily your Club newsletter. I will be looking for input from all sources, covering all the activities of the Club whether it be about cricket—scores, results, special achievements, the tours, the annual tournaments, milestones, and humour; or about golf: or about the annual dinner: or perhaps about important Committee decisions. I always will be looking for good photos, and we want to hear from members wherever they are.

This Newsletter will be an information and entertainment tool as well as a marketing tool. I want to make the newsletter interesting, attractive and vibrant, but I need your help. Please keep your letters, articles and photos coming in. You will find contact details on the back page.

### THE 2008 SPRING TOUR

Sadly, but for very understandable reasons, the 2008 Spring Tour to Kenya has very recently been cancelled. However after some very fast footwork by Ron Hart and friends abroad, an alternative tour to South Africa over the same dates has been organised. The touring party will fly to Cape Town on the 18th February for 3 weeks with matches planned against Somerset West, Fish Hoek, Durbanville, The Wombats, Groot Drakenstein, The Scorpions and others. Subject to confirmation there may even be a chance to the ODI at Newlands in March. We shall miss the opportunity of playing in Kenya but the alternative looks very attractive.

### SCOTLAND IN THE SPRING

The annual spring luncheon will be hosted by the Scotland District this year. The lunch will be held at Cardross Golf Club on the outskirts of Glasgow on Sunday 13th April and there will be an opportunity to play golf at the Cardross club on Monday 14th. Go to the Club website for a ticket application form.



### TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT 2008



The 2008 Triangular Tournament will be held in Nykobing Mors, Denmark. It's a wonderful location by the sea, with a nearby nudist camp, and the ground is a first class facility. Being a popular Danish holiday resort accommodation gets reserved very quickly. Rooms have already been reserved at the Pakhuset Hotel Nykobing for the 5 nights 20th-25th July 08. The Hotel is located within 5 mins walk to the Nykobing Cricket Club and the cost will be 700 DM Kroner (£70 per room per night inc breakfast). At this point if you want to come can we ask you to let Ron Hart know asap. He will require a £50 deposit per person (cheque made payable to The Forty Club). Pre Tournament friendly matches will be arranged on the Sunday and Monday 20th/21st July 08. The Tournament proper starts on the Tuesday 22nd July 08.

## Grieve Carson, Secretary of The Farmers Club.



Losing XL skipper Ron Hart presents the Trophy to winning Dutch SGS skipper Amin Kasam.

By the time most of you will be reading this, Grieve Carson will be getting ready to leave his job as Secretary of the Farmers Club and retiring. Grieve has been a real friend to the Forty Club for many years, as all our members who have come into contact with him will testify. He was instrumental in naming our meeting room The Forty Room and has always had the interests of the Club at his heart. The Forty Club is proud to have been associated with Grieve during his appointment and wishes him all the very best of good fortune in his retirement.

## POINTS FROM THE SECRETARY.

We are all looking forward to another cracking good season which we hope will be dryer than 2007! There's another full fixtures card, the second Northern Schools vs Southern Schools, the Triangular Tournament in Denmark, we've introduced an improved arrangement for the Inter District Tournament.

In addition to the cricket, there's the Spring Lunch on the 13th April 2008 near Glasgow and the Annual Dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London on the 17th October 2008 to look forward to.

On top of all that, the Golf Society also has a full fixtures card and a couple of tours, plus four great Meetings.

By now, much of the hard organizational work is done and so we can give you, the Member, what I hope you will agree is a year full of excellent opportunity – so now its up to you! I hope you enjoy a really fantastic XL year and in doing so please spare a moment to bear these few thoughts in mind:

- Schools and Youth XL matches are the bedrock of the Forty Club cricket season. They are where we set an example and define our reputation. Let us always determine to field the strongest side and set the highest standards that we can.
- We always need more cricketing members, and we particularly need them in the 38 – 45 age group.
- And when we have recruited them, let's make it a point of accompanying them to their first match and introducing them to our XL friends and colleagues.
- Wear the XL tie with pride at our fixtures.

If you're happy with the Forty Club, tell me, or tell your DC, and tell us why. If you're not happy, or want to suggest, comment, change or help also tell us. In these instances, we really want to know why.

## SWEET REVENGE

THIS WAS PROBABLY THE BEST NORTH EAST DISTRICT WIN LAST YEAR AND ALSO THE ONE MOST WANTED. ITS NOT AGAINST A SCHOOL BUT WE WERE ALL LIKE SCHOOL BOYS WHEN WE WON!

Last season XL North East finally got revenge for some heavy defeats by Yorkshire Over 50s in recent years, but they nearly snatched defeat from the jaws of victory!

Winning the toss and batting skipper Nick Johnson carefully selected the best order from his limited strength. Tony Wilson was soon out caught in the slips and Geoff Barker joined Steve Dalbey to face tight Over 50s bowling for more than 20 overs. However their speed at running quick singles to fielders and playing off the front foot enabled them to add 69 for the 2nd wicket. Geoff carried on with Tony Holmes who by some big hitting got to 50 himself after Geoff had run himself out calling for one run too many!

XL finished at 204 for 6 from 45 overs on a small ground with many hedges to hide boundary balls. Could they defend their score?

In the field the North East's opening bowlers were tight but after Shaw had bowled 3 successive maidens there were too many 4 balls. The openers put on 60 without loss until the two Tony's - Wilson [9-2-30-2] and Sheppard [9-1-23-3] - delivered spin from both ends. Wickets fell and runs dried up until the Yorkshire over 50s were 140 for 6 with only 10 overs left.

Tony Holmes bowled fast downhill and Sam Miller [from Ballarat, Australia!] got 2 wickets to tighten North East's grip on the match. Victory seemed certain until 45 came from the last 2 overs!

Miller dropped 2 catches, which went for 4 and 6, but Johnson settled the nerves with a last over wicket. Revenge had been a long time coming but was sweet. Yorkshire had played their part in a competitive, keenly fought and very enjoyable match staged on a beautiful and picturesque ground.

## Change to Match Result Reporting

The Club has changed its results reporting procedure and from this 2008 season onwards will use email. Whilst the physical scoring of the match on the day will be completed in the time-honoured way on a score sheet, the reporting of the result to the Club will be done via a templated form and transmitted via email. District Chairmen can distribute the templated form to their match managers, or it can be downloaded from the Club website and saved on the match manager's computer. It is a simple document which, when completed, is to be emailed to the appropriate District Chairman, and Neil Brindle ([neilbrindle@btinternet.com](mailto:neilbrindle@btinternet.com)) who chairs the Cricket Committee. There is also a changed system for match fees being introduced. Match managers MUST ensure that they speak to their District Chairman and fully understand the new systems.



Peter Robinson in full flow

## ALEX HOULGATE: AN APPRECIATION BY GRAHAM MCLAREN

Alex Houlgate, stalwart member of the Forty Club passed away this winter.

“Hi, wintering ones. Sad to hear about Old Alex. He was an amazing man – did he not play into his 80s? I thought he was immortal. The Aberdeen lads remember him fondly and it’s from my Aberdeen days that I knew him. He was a member of Equity.

I remember touring to London in the 80s. I think he was nearly 70 then. I remember him objecting when he was offered only 3 of the 5 games and rightly got his 4-game quota. We thought it was in his interests to give him 2 days off but he would have played all 5 if he could. He used to field mid-on and his hallmark was backing-up the bowler’s end on EVERY delivery.

I remember him too navigating by the stars when we were lost in the London traffic.

He moved to Yorkshire over 15 years ago and played for the North East v Scotland at York about then. Scotland chased down a big total when we were struggling.

I felt sorry for Alex that day because despite being a septuagenarian, he was trusted by the NE boys to bowl the last over (to the short boundary) when we needed 10 or so to win. He didn’t shirk the challenge. An amazing man. I’m sad to hear he’s gone.”

## GOLF MATCH

A golf match has been organised between the Forty Club cricketers and the Forty Club Golf Society. It will take place at St George’s Hill GC on the 31st March teeing off at 9.00am and with lunch to follow. If you would like to play in the cricketers 8 man team, contact Barry Aitken on 01980 610836 or via [email@barryaitken.co.uk](mailto:email@barryaitken.co.uk)

## NORTH WEST DISTRICT CULTIVATES A NEW FIXTURE

Northwest District has harvested a new fixture for this season which they hope will grow into one of their most popular, and which will enthuse another crop of youngsters to our wonderful game. In May they take on Myerscough College in what is probably a unique XL fixture. Myerscough is an Agricultural College specialising in offering land based Higher Education and Further Education Vocational Courses.

Cricket was introduced in 2006 and the College began playing fixtures last summer. The Cricket pitch is still under construction so the XL game will be played at nearby Garstang CC. The College has employed a respected local coach and XL member Jim Kenyon to teach the cricket module and as Jim explained he is keen to get competitive matches for his students and XL was part of his plans. Jim has organised fixtures with some of XL Northwest’s other school opponents namely Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School, Blackburn and Bolton School, but as he said, **“Being a member of Forty Club it was an obvious choice to play a game between the Club and the College so that his students would be exposed to playing against seasoned league players”**. For this new fixture NW District has appointed a new match manager in Nigel Barrow. Nigel is a former Northern League player and knows the area well. If there are any members from outside the North West area wanting to take part in this new fixture he is the person to contact; his number will be in the handbook. XL Northwest is looking forward to meeting Myerscough on the pad-dock next summer, let’s hope the batting is of the highest cultivation and not the agricultural variety!



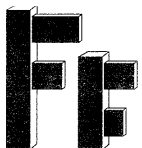
North West go  
Agricultural!

## West District Dinner on the move

Mick Gorman, chairman of the West District informs us that the District spring dinner has been moved this year to the autumn. Mick hopes that this will not inconvenience members too much and looks forward to an excellent event in the Autumn.

## Calling All Match Managers.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2008 Barry Aitken, the General Secretary of the Club, received a match result from a school match which had been played on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007. As a result he decided to give the 2008 match managers (and their District Chairmen) a New Year’s Resolution – will you please make a point of reporting the result of your match[es], at the very latest, on the day following your match. The results reporting procedure is laid out elsewhere in this newsletter; it is simple, uncomplicated and requires little effort or ingenuity. Please use it, use it promptly, and demonstrate to one and all that this Club is not only proud of its status and its fixtures card, but it is also proud to report and record its achievements whether we win draw or lose



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### Special Occasions

Have you any members approaching a milestone - number of appearances, wickets taken, runs scored? Why not celebrate the achievement here in the Newsletter.

If you would like to contribute an article or a letter then please email it to:  
niloclien@hotmail.co.uk

### TO TUCK OR NOT TO TUCK?

As we mature gracefully or perhaps not so gracefully there seem to be fewer opportunities to elegantly raise our bat and acknowledge a century or half century.

On the other hand we are often out, so there are plenty of opportunities to demonstrate our breeding and good manners.

When we are out—and there are many opportunities, - perhaps one should perfect the art of the tuck – tucking the bat under the arm. It can be done DI Gower style, bat tossed elegantly under the arm, the head held high and gloves removed with a grace that could only imply that the bowler was exceptionally lucky to get your wicket. Or perhaps one could employ the Nasser Hussain method, bat rammed under arm pit, gloves ripped from the hands and a gait more in common with someone who has lost a pound and found a penny.

And then perhaps one shouldn't tuck at all and just wander off staring quizzically at one's bat as if to suggest that the blame lies more with the bat than the batter.

Whatever - the important thing to do is to retire from the field with dignity and the tuck enables one to do this whatever your age.

## LETTER FROM AMERICA (ANTHONY VERITY MAILED THIS FROM THE USA LAST NOVEMBER)

Dear Mr Aitken,

My congratulations on the inaugural issue of the Newsletter. I especially enjoyed the report on the North v. South Schools game. This is an excellent idea and I hope will gather momentum over the coming years.

As an Overseas member, I miss the camaraderie of earlier days when I was more active with the Club. Having schooled at Denstone College in the 1945-50 era, I was sorry to note that the Denstone v. Club fixture disappeared from the schedule about 20 years ago. This was a disappointment to me as I remember my games against the Club in '49 and '50. That was the era of Jim Brear, John Adamson and Jim Fisher, all useful cricketers and mentors in the classroom and on the field for many years.

My years in South California have been heavily engaged in Cricket Administration at the local and national level especially in the development of Youth cricket. The current state of the USA Cricket Assoc. is in a sorry state, due in no small part to mismanagement and a complete lack of trust in the current administration. Hopefully, this will change in the very near future.

With time, perhaps an "Overseas" section may develop in the Newsletter. There are few 40 Club members in S. California, including James Reid, Anil Lashkari and others.

Our season finished last weekend with the on field banquet and Carnival. This was a new venture, but some "distance" from the formal evening that you had at the Savoy.

Please accept apologies from the far flung group in S. California for the upcoming AGM, but present our best wishes and thanks for carrying on the noble tradition.

Anthony Verity MD



(Right) Dawid Lotz does it with a smile (above) whilst Douglas Smith just shouldn't have bought that bat!

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