



The Forty Club Newsletter

FRONT PAGE	1	Colin Neill, the editor of the Newsletters is a busy man and responsibility for preparing this August edition was delegated to the Club Secretary, Barry Aitken! Already well into August and with only a few weeks left of the 2010 season, there has been much activity across the Club. The saddest news of all concerns the 2010 dinner, highlighted in the article below. Perhaps the 'heady days' of huge dinners with hundreds attending are a thing of the past. Cost of travel, accommodation, the meal itself all have a part to play in the arguments for and against. The reducing numbers attending XL dinners over the past 5 or 8 years give rise for arguments for change, and when smaller dinners lead to net loss something has to be done. These factors were being debated before the decision to cancel the 2010 dinner, but were not the main reason for doing so. Perhaps, for a national cricket club, central London dinners are no longer feasible. If they are, perhaps we have to cut our cloth according to our means, and to the means of our members. The debate continues and is open to all.
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Meanwhile in the Club at large, cricket activities continue unabated and the golf is active too. Since you read your last Newsletter the Triangular Tournament has been contested and lost in Holland, and we warmly congratulate the Dutch team for winning the competition. The Inter District Tournament has been in full swing and we are fast approaching the 7th / 8th of September when the semi finals and final will be played at Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club in Warwickshire between West Midlands, East Midlands, North West and Kent/E Sussex. There will be a dinner at the Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club on the 7th September and club members are invited to attend. We plan to present the Forty Club Trophy to the winning school at this dinner, and Peter Baxter of TMS fame will be saying a few words to entertain us. In fact it is through his connections that we are trying to secure a lunchtime slot on TMS during a Test match in 2011, to highlight our 75th anniversary. Also, by the time this is published, we shall have played our annual match against the MCC: some of us will be preparing our kit for the September tour to Italy; a number of XL players—where XL stands for excellence—will be celebrating their centuries and wicket hauls; we shall be putting the finishing touches to plans for the 75th anniversary events to take place across the country in 2011; and I hope we shall be measuring and appreciating the success of the President's Appeal. More of all this elsewhere in the Newsletter, but in the meantime, happy reading!

THE CANCELLATION OF THE 2010 CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

Despite expectations to the contrary, the Savoy Hotel announced that it would not be opening its doors following a 3 year refurbishment programme until the 10th October 2010, just 2 days after the scheduled date of the 2010 Forty Club Annual Dinner.

This was clearly a major blow to the Club. Club members had only just received a flier about staging the dinner at the Savoy, and so many were looking forward to returning to the Savoy which has been the 'home' of the XL Dinner for so many years. The Club President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and chairman of the Dinner Committee were in consultation since the Savoy news was made known and it was agreed that any announcements about the intention of the Club must be made sooner rather than later: it was acknowledged that in the past 3 years of staging the dinner at alternative venues, attendance numbers had fallen quite dramatically: there was agreement that another poor performance might jeopardize efforts to stage a really first class event in 2011 for the 75th Anniversary: and there was agreement that a 2010 dinner at another [untested] alternative venue would carry more risks than benefits.

The Forty Club Annual Dinner has been staged year on year for a long time, and the event has enjoyed and continues to enjoy a huge reputation amongst the cricketing community. The 'run' of events has never been broken. But the Club's Executive Committee was equally alive to the dwindling attendance numbers, the financial losses, the criticisms levelled at the last 2 dinners in particular, and the economic conditions in the country at large.

It was therefore decided to cancel the 2010 Dinner. This sad news was broadcast to all district chairmen some weeks ago with the request that it be forwarded to as many Club members in their districts as possible. A notice was also posted on the website notice board. All our efforts will now be focused on organising a first class dinner for the 75th Anniversary. The Patron of the Club has been invited and we hope that as many members as possible will attend.

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Salford Schools Twenty/20 Competition 2010

In Match 1 Harper Green High School played St Georges RC High School. Harper Green scored 157 for 3. Dean Morris, Josh Rohannon and Macauley Farrington all reached the retirement score of 40. St Georges were all out for 25. Farrington also took 3 wickets and was named man of the match. Harper Green won by 132 runs.

In the second match, Walkden High School played Moorside High School. Walkden scored 136 for 7 in their 20 overs. Skipper Jack Evans scored 36 and Jack Tatton 27. For Moorside George Higham took 3 for 9. Moorside were all out for 127, just 9 runs behind. Higham also scored 36 and Hayden Ward 33. Man of the match was awarded to Walkden's keeper Harry Morgan who scored 18 valuable runs off 10 balls and took a stunning one handed diving catch to dismiss Higham.

The Final was between Harper Green HS and Walkden HS. Walkden scored 121 for 9 in their 20 overs. Tom Wareing top scored with 24, skipper Jack Evans again did well with 20, and Tom Gaskell also scored 21 not out. In reply Harper Green set off a great pace but lost early wickets doing so. Their number 3 Josh Bohannon [the Lancashire U13's player] batted calmly and kept his innings together whilst his colleagues succumbed. They were 89 for 9 in the 15th over. Bohannon batted and farmed the strike with skill and maturity beyond his years to protect his number 11 partner. He got them to the situation where 18 were required off the last two overs. A couple of singles, a six and a four got it down to 6 off the last over. However they only managed a 2 in the first five balls leaving 4 off the last.

The ball was hit to the boundary but fielded just inside the rope! They ran two to finish 120 for 9, 1 short of a tie, 2 short of victory. Walkden's Dean Rothwell took 4 for 19, and Bohannon was named Man of the Match for his unbeaten 43. All the Walkden fielders sportingly recognised Bohannon's efforts at the end of the game.

The Club is very grateful to Tony Fare and his team in North West District who organised this superb day.



On the left, Tony Fare presents the Cup to Jack Evans captain of the victorious Walkden High School. The centre picture shows action in the Walkden vs Moorside match, and on the right Tony Fare presents the Man of the Match award to Josh Bohannon of Walkden.

A Note of Appreciation (to Tony Fare, Chairman of NW District). Dear Tony, It was an absolute pleasure to take part in this years Salford XL T/20 tournament. The welcome and every aspect of the day was wonderful. Every youngster who participated from Harper Green had a wonderful day and for me it was an exciting day. It presented a great opportunity for some of the less enthused cricket amongst them. I hope they will now follow it up and go on to represent local cricket clubs. The two boys who won the MOM trophies were delighted and especially liked the recognition when I presented the trophies to them in the year 8 assembly. Once again thank you for the opportunity and lets hope that a XL T/20 can be held in Farnworth next year. Regards, Paul Fletcher, Harper Green School.

THE AUGUST 2010 TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT

This year the tournament was played in Deventer in Holland and the XL UK XI, managed by Dick Ellis and skippered by Phil Deakin, were defending champions. After 2 warm up games, they played the President's XI and won by 46 runs. XL club 226 for 7 (Meads 70, Deakin 69), President's XI 184 for 5. The next day they played the Dansk XI beating the target of 128 for 7 (Deakin 3 for 12) with 7 wickets to spare (Canham 51). The final match was then played against SGS Holland with XL batting first and reaching 183 for 6 (Meads 60, Deakin 69). However Muis for SGS was on top form scoring 133 not out and steered SGS to victory.

Congratulations to SGS for an excellent tournament and as worthy winners of the Axel Morild Trophy, and to the Dansk XI for winning the President's Cup. Special congratulations to all those XL members who made the trip to Holland to represent their Club.

THE PRESIDENT'S APPEAL TO LIFE MEMBERS

The Forty Club has some 1130 Life Members out of a total membership of some 2650. Those who took advantage of the Life Membership offer when they did secured a real deal and they should congratulate themselves for their acumen! However, whilst the Club can operate day-to-day on the income from annual subscriptions, there is no ability to save money, to establish any reserve funds for that special occasion or to achieve the many more things the Club could do to further the objectives set out by our founding fathers. Hence Club President Charles Fry initiating an appeal to the Life Members to make a donation, suggested at £50, to help the Club establish such a reserve. The appeal letter went out in early July and to date the response from Life Members has been magnificent, raising over £9000. It is our hope that this figure will grow in the coming weeks and months and that our Life Members will all want to make a contribution. So, if you are a Life Member and you have not responded to the appeal letter yet, please don't forget to do so!

Who's Doing What?

There's Them that Bats and Them that Bowls.

And by all accounts many XL members do one or the other or both very well. Up to the 13th July there had been 12 centuries scored, and 13 occasions when a bowler took 5 or more wickets. Top of the batting pile is Tony Pridmore with a magnificent and unbeaten 150 in the East Midlands vs North East district match. In the same match, Carl Tyler, batting for EM, scored and unbeaten 125! Willie Boone hit an unbeaten 100 against Sussex Over 50s: Peter Rebera (WE) scored 108 in the King Edward's School match, and that was after his 111* against Prior Park School a week earlier: Neil Canham (CP) scored 123* against Langley Park School. Richard Donald scored 110 not out against the Dollar Academy and Gareth Owen 107 against the Vale of Glamorgan Colts. These—and Paul Keneally, Paul Spencer, Steve Matthews—all deserve warm praise for a job well done.

The XL bowlers cannot be denied either. Keith Roscoe's 9 for 41 against Cumbria U17s stands out from the list of achievements like a beacon. No less worthy is Sam Raza with his 7 for 81 against Tettenhall College, or Richard Young's 7 for 18 (can you believe it?) in the Loretto School match. Congratulations too to Andrew Short, Chris Page, Ian Shiels, Peter Harland, Steve Hebditch and Terry Brown for their marvellous achievements with the ball. There is more to follow, of that there is no doubt and we salute them all!

STRATHALLAN TAKE THE HONOURS

The annual fixture with Strathallan on the 3rd June saw Scotland's newest and youngest international captaining the school team. Freddie Coleman, who had made his Scotland debut a couple of weeks earlier, was making a rare appearance for Strathallan but he certainly made the most of it against the Forty Club. Featuring in an opening stand of 156, Coleman was first out after completing a fine century. His opening partner also scored a hundred and this allowed Strathallan to declare just short of tea on 266-2. The Forty Club would have around three and a half hours, fifty overs to chase down the total or survive the draw. A good opening stand of 50 set up the platform but a clatter of wickets after tea left the club floundering at 130-6 with an hour to go. Douglas Smith and Iain Redmond supported Dinesh Bailwal in a vain effort to bat out time. Bailwal was the Forty Club top scorer, last out for 49. XL Scotland was all out for 197



Scotland DC Colin Neill shaking hands with Freddie Coleman

KENT & EAST SUSSEX SECURE A DRAW WITH LANGLEY PARK SCHOOL

Having elected to bat first on the 1st July, the XL CP opening pair of Neil Canham and Tom Carmichael got the innings off to a sound start, putting on 68 before the first wicket went down. The next wicket fell quickly but another good partnership between Neil Canham and Glynn Gunning (26) followed, taking the score to 161 for 3. With the declaration looming Ian Robinson came in and hit a quick fire 21 but the outstanding innings of the day came from Neil Canham who ended on 123 not out off 150 balls. His perfectly paced innings provided the backbone of the XL team's total of 232 for 5. Then, a little later in the game, after bowling a few overs and taking a wicket, Neil had to deputise behind the stumps after Tom Carmichael got hit on the head!

In reply Langley Park School started well and reached 171 for 3 without undue alarm. The top four batsmen for the school all hit the ball hard and made a good start – T Hickey (35), Lockwood (30), A Shafique (58) and Wright (42) – and the game needed one of them to stay in and manage the run chase. In the event the pressure for runs caused wickets to fall with both Alan Luff (3 for 20) and Duncan Innes (3 for 46) bowling tightly at the end of the innings to keep the pressure on. The school finished on 220 for 8 and deserve great credit for continuing to chase right up until the last over. Overall a thoroughly enjoyable game played in exactly the right spirit with both teams evenly matched so that at the beginning of the last over any one of four results was possible. The final result was a draw but a hard fought, competitive one.

ANOTHER DRAW—THIS TIME AGAINST BEECHEN CLIFF SCHOOL IN BATH

As always at Beechen Cliff a lovely day and a high-scoring draw of almost 500 runs. The school lost an early wicket (even before the hospital helicopter arrived), but then MacKenzie and Canning, who nobly walked on 93 when he would have been adjudged not out, took on the West attack with graceful and lusty blows. A spell of XL superiority was again broken as Clubbe and Wootton pushed the score on to 248 when the School declared for 5 declared in 32 overs. XL newcomer Akil Chokra deserved 3 for 48 with his leg spin and keeper Rick Hutchinson claimed 4 victims. Against the hostility of opener Price, who took 5 for 51, several XL batsmen were beaten for pace, but Charlie Samler (66) dug in and then Tim Smith (78) lambasted the school attack before the return of Price. Akil Chokra (17) and Roger Perkins (12 no) both played their part in ensuring that we reached at least 200, and in the event a few more overs might have seen an XL win, but in reality the school were the better side and we were grateful to avoid defeat after some good XL performances.

The Forty Club website is

www.thefortyclub.co.uk

COLIN NEILL
XL NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Southcourt,
28 West Montrose Street
Helensburgh
G84 9NG

Phone: 01436 672688

Email: niloclien@hotmail.co.uk



A WIN IN WALES AGAINST BRONWYDD COLTS

The poor spell of weather relented to bless the Bronwydd CC ground which looked a real picture, enhanced somewhat by a steam train making regular trips up and down the line behind the ground.

Batting first the Colts got off to a positive start with L Davies and T Wilson setting about the Wales bowling. Then Phil Godwin took the first of his 4 catches with a full length goalkeeping catch on the boundary to see Wilson junior depart much to the delight of the bowler Wilson senior!

The Colts lost wickets steadily to some fine bowling from John James 3-30, Robert Leachman 3-32, and Andrew Wilson 2-2, all well supported by Phil Godwin's efforts in the field.

XL Wales got off to a steady start through Mike Lloyd(7), Phil Haines (22) and Bronwydd guest Steve Phillips (17) before John James 17no and Byron Jones 33no saw Wales home by 7 wickets.

NEW CLUB COLOURS

Secretary Barry Aitken has procured new cricket shirts and caps for the Club. The Surreidge shirt, with XL shield and scroll on the left breast, and the new 'proper' cap with XL embroidered above the peak, are available direct from Barry (email@barryaitken.co.uk). Sweaters are still being sourced and should be available for next season. Details are on the website.

Inter-District Trophy: The Northern Festival. 14th July The Final between North West and North East was won by North West District

The weather on the second day of the Festival was better but with heavy showers forecast for the afternoon it was agreed that the final would be a 40 over game. North East elected to bat first but despite an early burst by Karl Tyler (13) struggled against accurate bowling from North West's Brendon Miskella and Paul Mather. Miskella removed both openers and bowled his 8 overs straight through to finish with 2 for 18. Howard Illingworth and Ling for the NE batted sensibly but with no real urgency against the NW's trio of slow left armers Keith Roscoe, Phil Deakin and Bautik Shukla. This threesome continued to make run scoring difficult and only Tony Wilson towards the end of the innings gave it any impetus as he hit 30 not out. NE finished on 115 for 7. In reply Danny Welbourne (42) and Richard Hope (28) put on 78 for the first wicket in just 16 overs before Hope was caught by Tyler. The NE bowlers had no answer to the North West's aggressive approach apart from Tony Sheppard who bowled 8 accurate overs, took the wicket of Welbourne and finished with 1 for 19. Chis Dearden came in second wicket down and set about NE's attack hitting 26 not out in quick time. NW won by 8 wickets with 13 overs to spare and skipper Keith Roscoe held up the RE Ruebans Trophy for the first time since 2007 just as the rain started to fall. All credit must go to Peter Mason and the East Midlands district and especially Cuckney CC for arranging a hugely enjoyable festival at an excellent venue.

Spring Tour to Australia

HONG KONG / AUSTRALIA (Sydney & Brisbane)

3 Weeks Tour starting 14th FEB 2011

The Forty Club cricketers are heading to Australia in the Club's 75th Anniversary Year

The party flies to Hong Kong on the 14th Feb 2011, staying at the Langham Hotel for 3 nights. The plan is to play 2 matches in HK and then fly to Sydney on the 18th Feb for an 11 night stay at the Manly Pacific Hotel, and playing 5 or 6 matches. Then its north to Brisbane on the 28th Feb to be based at Mooloolaba for 7 or 8 nights, and to play another 3 or 4 matches.

Already 50 tourists have signed up, and so the 'book' is now closed.



REQUIESCAT IN PACE

We have just heard of the death of David Spyer, XL umpire and popular tourist. David passed away peacefully on the 9th August. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Janice.

CLAYESMORE SURRENDER THE FORTY CLUB TROPHY

The Chairman of the Club Barrie Hunter was on hand at the Clayesmore match in July to receive the Forty Club Trophy back from the School. The School skipper wanted one last photo call with the Cup in his hands! This year the School gave an equally excellent account of themselves and their cricket and were comfortable winners.

