

2015 SEASON

Forth Valley Dog Walk

The Cricket Club has chosen to support the Strathcarron Hospice as our partner charity with the aim of involving the community with the Club. All proceeds from any events we hold will be paid to the Hospice, however, individuals can also gain sponsorship for their chosen charities if preferred.

This may sound a slightly odd idea but the inspiration comes from the Great North Dog Walk:

www.greatnorthdogwalk.co.uk

This is truly inspirational; it didn't happen overnight but they now attract over 24,000 dogs to the event, raising an amazing amount of money for charities.

It is our intention to trial run this on 4th October this year and are appealing to our membership, families and friends to help with some organisation and attendance.

Please contact Margo McKay at margo@mackayfive.co.uk for details and to volunteer services.

ICC World T20 Qualifiers

The club would like to express a massive thanks to all those who gave up their time to help with the recent ICC World t20 Qualifiers that took place at New Williamfield.

The efforts of Alan Simpson and his ground staff each and every day for the fortnight was exceptional in trying circumstances, and the in-house work of Catherine Morton, Joan Anderson and Jon Taylor was without fault.

We received glowing praise from the competition and event organisers for our work throughout the two week period, and that is all down to our volunteers.

To all the helpers, thank you once more for all your efforts!

July Performances

Given the nature of July's weather and the withdrawal of the Fourth XI from ESCA Division 9, matches were at a premium during the month. There was only one match for the East XI, while the West XI could only go one better with two matches.

Of the games played, the one stand-out performance came in the First XI's Forth Valley Derby. Anton Ehlers produced a match-winning knock in a fiery local derby win over Stenhousemuir in mid-July. The South African overseas player compiled an explosive yet gritty 78* to steer County over the line by 1 wicket in a low-scoring thriller.

Fourth XI

Given the rate of concessions that other teams in ESCA Division 9 and the amount of games that our own Fourth XI have had to concede due to lack of player availability, the decision has been made by the Committee to withdraw from the league.

Fantasy Football League

With the return of the Premier League football season comes the return of the fantasy football. For the last three years, we have run a fantasy football league and this year's competition starts on Saturday 8th August. It is free to play and couldn't be easier to enter.

Just head to:

fantasypremierleague.com and register your team. Once registered, click on the 'Leagues' tab, then on 'Join a League' and enter the code **1172193-282631**.

Best of luck to all entrants!

Scottish Cup Final 2015

New Williamfield has been picked as the venue for the showpiece of Scottish cricket once more.

Following two previous successful days, we will host the Scottish Cup final on Sunday 23rd August which, this year, will be contested by Grange and Arbroath. This will likely be a close contest, as both of these sides are competing at the top of the Eastern Premier Division this season.

We will, of course, need all hands on deck to make sure that the day goes to plan. If you are able to lend a hand, please see Jon Taylor.

The Committee has agonised over the ability for the Club to run four league teams for the last couple of years due to the difficulty of finding enough players available at weekends. Overall, we have enough playing members but the problem has been the lack of a consistent number for the weekends. All sides are suffering a similar problem which has a marked impact upon our week to week performances, not to mention a great deal of work for the captains to do prior to match days.

The fourth team was put in place to provide an entry level competition for those players who want to enjoy their cricket without trying to compete at too high a level and also as an introduction for juniors and ladies to get a first taste of playing senior competitive cricket. It was a tribute to the late Stuart McGann who galvanised the early stages of this team so we are very sad at having to pull the team from the league after his and others efforts.

Let's hope that next year we see a marked improvement in the availability of players throughout the season. This will only work if everyone connected with the Club makes a conscious effort to organise their summer activities with cricket in mind. We're not suggesting no summer holiday but we would suggest that weekend arrangements try and work around league matches.

Warming up for a T20 International, New Williamfield

