

FREE ADMISSION TO MCC MUSEUM

Welcome to the summer edition of the regular community newsletter produced by MCC - the owner of Lord's.

I hope that it helps to keep you fully informed about developments at 'the home of cricket'.

The next three pages contain articles about Tours of Lord's, MCC's local initiatives (including a fund-raising concert for St John's Hospice) and details of how you can contact our various different departments.

On this page, we are delighted to bring you news of a series of special offers, including free entry to Lord's, complimentary admission to the world-renowned MCC Museum and a sizeable discount at the Lord's Tavern Bar & Brasserie.

Free admission to Lord's for three matches

MCC is offering everybody free admission to three of this season's remaining matches at Lord's. First, there will be free entry to the England v India one-day international, in the NatWest Women's Series, on Monday 14th August. (Play is scheduled to begin at 10.45am.)

Secondly, everyone can come into Lord's, free of charge, for the MCC v Ireland match on the following day - Tuesday 15th August. (The game is due to start at 11.00am.)

Finally, there will be free entry, for everyone, to the National Village Final, sponsored by npower, on Monday 4th September. (Play is scheduled to commence at 11.00am.)

I do hope to see you at one or more of these matches.

MCC Museum: free entry on Monday 14th August

During the England v India match, MCC is also giving local residents the opportunity to visit, free of charge, the MCC Museum. Not only is it the world's oldest sporting museum, but it contains an unrivalled collection of cricket art and artefacts, such as the Wisden trophy and the world-famous Ashes urn. Indeed, this free admission day will give members of the local community a great chance to see the urn before it is exhibited in Australia for several months over the winter.

To gain free admission to the Museum - which is located behind the Pavilion - on Monday 14th August, simply bring this newsletter with you. (The Museum will be open between 10am and 5pm.) Up to three guests may accompany you - also free of charge.

Lord's Tavern: discount for local residents

We are also introducing a special offer for local residents who would like to have an evening meal in the Lord's Tavern Bar & Brasserie, off St John's Wood Road. Between 4th and 24th August, MCC will reduce your total bill by 15 per cent; all you have to do, to qualify for this discount, is to show this newsletter to our staff before placing your order. (Please note that this offer may not be used in conjunction with any other Tavern promotion.)



We hope this discount will encourage you to try the Tavern, which has been attracting many favourable comments from its existing customers - both for the quality of its food and for its 'no smoking' policy - over recent months.

Finally, this is the last local newsletter that I will be sending to you as I shall be retiring, after thirteen very happy years at Lord's, at the end of September.

I will always have extremely fond memories of living and working in St John's Wood, and I know that my successor - Keith Bradshaw - is already looking forward to strengthening, even further, the excellent links that now exist between Lord's and the local community.

Secretary & Chief Executive, Marylebone Cricket Club

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Museum at Lord's
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Unveiling of local
plaque by England star
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TOURS OF LORD'S

Nik Stewart's "Tour of Duty" at Lord's

Nik Stewart, the creator of the tremendously successful Tours of Lord's, which now attract tens of thousands of tourists to St John's Wood each year, has left 'the home of cricket' after sixteen years of distinguished service.

Nik joined MCC in 1990 to launch the Tours, which were designed to give members of the public the opportunity, for the first time, to see behind-the-scenes at cricket's 'headquarters' - including areas such as the Long Room and the players' dressing rooms.

It was Nik's first job and, under his direction, the Tours grew steadily in popularity - year after year. Indeed, they attracted a record number of visitors (38,594) to Lord's in 2005.

With the Tours now firmly established as an integral part of MCC's year-round activities, and after building up an excellent team of Tour guides, Nik decided to seek a fresh professional challenge - much closer to his Berkshire home - in a new role which involves introducing disadvantaged youngsters to sport.

Roger Knight said: "Nik played the key role in turning the Tours from a good idea into a great success story. He will not miss four hours of commuting every day, but we will certainly miss him. Everyone at MCC wishes Nik every success in his new role."

Nik commented: "I enjoyed every one of my sixteen years in St John's Wood, and will always have very happy memories of Lord's. It's a real privilege to have been based at 'the home of cricket', as well as a great pleasure to have worked with such an excellent team. I know they'll ensure that the Tours go from strength to strength in the years ahead."

A number of complimentary Tours are arranged each year for local schools and other good causes. If you represent a local community group and would like to register your interest in such Tours, please telephone the Tours Office on 020 7616 8595 or e-mail tours@mcc.org.uk



Top rating for MCC Museum from 'Time Out' magazine

'Time Out' has praised the MCC Museum (see above), at Lord's, as one of the best small museums in London.

It was the top-ranked sports museum in the magazine's review and, overall, it was rated fourth out of the 50 museums covered in the magazine's special feature - published in June.

Readers of the magazine, the capital's leading leisure and entertainment guide, were encouraged to visit the Museum to see its extraordinary collection of cricket art and artefacts - including the Ashes urn and the famous 'stuffed sparrow' from 1936. Other exhibits include one of the knecaps of Denis Compton, the great Middlesex and England batsman, and clothing and equipment used by many of the game's greatest players - from WG Grace to Shane Warne.

The displays in the MCC Museum - the oldest sporting museum in the world - benefit from the fact that the Club has been collecting cricket memorabilia for almost 150 years. It is still enhancing its Collection, with recent additions including the bats and balls used by England's Andrew Flintoff, Australia's Bob Massie and South Africa's Makhaya Ntini as they earned their places on the famous 'honours boards' at Lord's.

Roger Knight commented: "I am delighted that Lord's has earned this accolade from 'Time Out'. The recent improvements to the Museum have been really impressive, so I am particularly pleased that it is now receiving the recognition it deserves."

On matchdays, admission to the MCC Museum costs £3 for adults and £1 for concessions. However, as indicated on the front page, local residents can visit it free of charge on Monday 14th August.

On non-matchdays, the Museum can be visited during the Tours of Lord's - which also cover areas such as the Pavilion, the players' dressing rooms and the NatWest Media Centre. Each Tour lasts around 1 hour 40 minutes and costs £8 for adults, £6 for senior citizens and £5 for children.

The other small museums praised by 'Time Out' included the Theatre Museum, the Museum of London and the Design Museum.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

New plaque marks previous site of Lord's

A new plaque has been installed, just off Park Road, to commemorate the previous site of Lord's.

The ground was used by MCC during the summers of 1811, 1812 and 1813 before being abandoned due to the construction, through its outfield, of the Regent's Canal. This led to MCC moving around 250 yards north-west, to its current home, in 1814.

The idea of marking the previous site of Lord's was first put forward, in September 2004, by Murad Qureshi - a local resident, cricket-lover and member of the London Assembly - when he saw an old map, in the MCC Museum, which referred to this ground.

Its history has since been researched by David Rayvern Allen - the distinguished cricket writer and historian. Once he had established the site's exact location, MCC commissioned the special plaque which was unveiled by Andrew Strauss (see below), the England and Middlesex batsman, in early May.

David has also written an illustrated booklet on the history of the previous Lord's ground. Local residents can obtain copies for £4.00 each - a saving of 25 per cent on the usual price - by cutting out this article and sending it, together with a cheque (made payable to 'MCC'), to: Curator's Office, MCC, Lord's Ground, St John's Wood, London NW8 8QN.



300 free tickets for local residents

Hundreds of local residents attended a recent Twenty20 match at Lord's after receiving complimentary tickets from MCC.

The Club's original offer of 125 pairs of free tickets - publicised in the previous edition of this newsletter - generated a tremendous response. Indeed, MCC increased the total number of complimentary tickets, from 250 to 300, to help meet the demand from the local community.

The tickets, worth £6,000, enabled MCC's neighbours to watch the match between Middlesex and Kent, played on 30th June. As in previous years, the volume of the amplified musical 'sound-bites' was carefully restricted and the speakers were located as sensitively as possible, to minimise the amount of sound which could 'leak' out of Lord's.



Long Room carol concert: ticket availability

Although the cricket season is still in full swing, MCC is already arranging another 'Evening of Carols' at Lord's, to raise funds for St John's Hospice (in Grove End Road).

Since MCC held its first carol concert, in 2000 (see above), the evening has become one of the most popular pre-Christmas events in St John's Wood. Over the same period, almost £10,000 has been raised for good causes through end-of-evening collections.

In 2006, as in previous years, the singing will be led by The London Chorus, under the expert musical direction of Ronald Corp.

To apply for tickets to this year's 'Evening of Carols', which will be held on Thursday 14th December, please contact MCC's Communications Department by post or e-mail (communications@mcc.org.uk) between 1st and 14th November only. Please apply for no more than three tickets and remember to provide us with your full postal address.

A ticket ballot is likely to be needed, as the number of applications usually exceeds the number of spaces that are available. If you are successful in the ballot, your tickets - which are free - will be sent out before the end of November. (MCC will endeavour to contact all unsuccessful applicants, too, but we regret that we cannot guarantee to do so.)

Lord's tournament raises £20,000 for local charity

A cricket tournament staged in June, in MCC's Indoor School, raised £20,000 for the local branch of a mental health charity.

The money will help Westminster MIND as it supports residents in the borough who have been experiencing mental illness.

The charity was chosen as the tournament's beneficiary by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Alexander Nicoll, whose year-long term of office began in May.

It was the sixth time that the cricket competition, the Westminster Cricket Challenge Cup (a joint venture between MCC and Westminster City Council), has been staged at Lord's. In total, it has now raised around £95,000 for local good causes.

KEY CONTACTS

COACHING & NETS

indoorschool@mcc.org.uk

020 7616 8612

MEETINGS & EVENTS

events@lords.org

020 7616 8501

LORD'S SHOP

lordsshop@mcc.org.uk

020 76168570

PERSONAL FITNESS

www.lordsgym.co.uk

020 7616 8615

LORD'S TAVERN

lordsbrasserie@mcc.org.uk

020 7616 8687

TICKET OFFICE

ticketing@mcc.org.uk

020 7432 1000

MATCHDAY HOSPITALITY

hospitality@mcc.org.uk

020 7616 8565

TOURS OF LORD'S

tours@mcc.org.uk

020 7616 8595

www.lords.org

Andrew Strauss, photographed by Sarah Williams, at Lord's