

FREE ENTRY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Welcome to the summer edition of the regular community newsletter from Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). The next three pages contain articles about some recent events at Lord's, plus a series of updates on the Club's plans for the future. I hope they keep you fully up-to-date with developments at The Home of Cricket.

On this page, I'm pleased to bring you news of several free entry days, when you can come to watch the cricket at Lord's - with MCC's compliments.

Middlesex v Surrey, Tuesday 3rd July

First, MCC is offering 125 pairs of free tickets to readers of this newsletter who would like to watch this early evening Twenty20 'London derby' at the start of July.

To apply for your tickets to this very popular annual match, please complete the form on the final page of this newsletter and post it to Lord's by 30th May.

Middlesex v Essex, Friday 6th July

Secondly, MCC has reserved another 125 pairs of free tickets for local residents who would prefer to attend the Twenty20 match between Middlesex and Essex, which will take place 72 hours later. As it will be Essex's first Twenty20 appearance at The Home of Cricket, another large crowd can be expected.

Again, to apply for your free tickets, simply complete the form on page four and then return it to Lord's.

Varsity matches, Saturday 7th July

Thirdly, MCC is delighted to offer everyone free entry to the Varsity matches - Oxford University v Cambridge University - which will be played at Lord's on the first Saturday in July. As usual, the men's match will be played on the main ground, while the women's fixture will be staged on the Nursery Ground (at the eastern end of Lord's).

No tickets are necessary; simply come to the ground any time after 10 o'clock, when the gates will open. Play is scheduled to start an hour later.

National Village Final, Sunday 9th September

There will also be free admission, for everyone, to the National Village Final (sponsored by npower) in early September.

This is always one of the most atmospheric matches of the season at Lord's, with each team being supported by a large proportion of the village's entire population! Again, no tickets are required. Just arrive at Lord's any time after 10 o'clock; the match is due to begin an hour later.



Finally, MCC is offering free entry to the three matches that its own teams will be playing at Lord's between now and the end of the season.

The first of these fixtures - MCC v Europe - will take place on Thursday 7th June. The remaining games will both be staged on Thursday 9th August, when a men's match will be played on the main ground, while a women's match takes place on the Nursery Ground. (In each case, play is due to begin at 11 o'clock.)

I do hope you will take one of these opportunities to watch the cricket and see the ground for yourself.

Whenever you choose to visit us, I look forward to seeing you at Lord's.

Keith Bradshaw
MCC Secretary & Chief Executive

Brian Johnston
honoured by MCC
see page 2

Lord's set for
'Romeo and Juliet'
see page 3

Free tickets:
application form
see page 4

MCC: keeping
Lord's world-class
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MCC IN THE COMMUNITY



New willow tree for Regent's Park

MCC has planted a new willow tree in Regent's Park to help it recover from the severe gale, in mid-January, which also damaged Lord's.

Regent's Park lost eleven trees in the storm, which also resulted in part of the Tavern Stand's roof being ripped off. Local residents were then inconvenienced while the adjacent street - St John's Wood Road - was closed for several hours by the emergency services.

MCC's funding of the tree reflects its commitment to Regent's Park, and its recovery, as well as its desire to give something back to the local community in response to this road closure.

The new tree was planted by the cricket pitches in Regent's Park, in early April, in a ceremony (see above) involving Keith Bradshaw, representing MCC, and Sara Lom from The Royal Parks Foundation.

Keith Bradshaw said: "We wanted to help Regent's Park recover from the storm damage it suffered earlier this year. As it provides the wood for cricket bats, we thought a willow tree would be the perfect present to the Park from MCC."

Sara Lom, Chief Executive of The Royal Parks Foundation, said: "As well as destroying eleven of our trees, the storm did some serious damage to Lord's. The repair work there has already been completed. The recovery of Regent's Park will take far longer. But the planting of this new willow tree is an important part of that process."

VIP treatment for local club from MCC

A local cricket club received VIP treatment at Lord's earlier this year, courtesy of MCC.

In March, around 100 players, parents and officials from Primrose Hill Cricket Club - a colts club, for boys and girls aged seven to thirteen - held their Annual General Meeting at The Home of Cricket as MCC's guests.

Primrose Hill's players were then invited back to Lord's for some coaching sessions and to watch, free of charge, a Middlesex match in The Friends Provident Trophy.

MCC's Head of Cricket, John Stephenson, an ex-England player, said: "Primrose Hill CC does a huge amount to get local children interested in cricket, so we're always happy to give the club as much help as we possibly can."

MCC's double honours for 'Johnners'

There were twin honours for 'Johnners' in April, when MCC celebrated the memory of Brian Johnston - perhaps the best-loved cricket commentator in the game's history.

The celebration took place close to Lord's, at the headquarters of the Westminster Society for People with Learning Disabilities - which 'Johnners', formerly a St John's Wood resident, strongly supported.

After his death in 1994, Brian Johnston's life and career - plus his support for the Westminster Society - were commemorated through the planting of a tree and the installation of a plaque, in his honour, at the Society's base in Croxley Road.

Last year, however, MCC became aware that the tree had died and the plaque failed to mention both of the main honours - a CBE and the Military Cross - that 'Johnners' received during his long and distinguished life. Accordingly, the Club arranged for a replacement tree to be planted and a new plaque to be installed.

The official planting and unveiling ceremonies involved Pauline Johnston (Brian's widow), Keith Bradshaw and David Gestetner (President, Westminster Society for People with Learning Disabilities).

Keith commented: "I'm delighted that MCC has honoured 'Johnners' with a new plaque and a young cherry tree that will grow and blossom over the years ahead."

Pauline, a Vice-President of the Westminster Society, said: "It's great to know that Brian's memory lives on."



Bringing local businesses on board

MCC is seeking further recruits for its "Local to Lord's" stakeholders' group, which provides the Club with invaluable advice and ideas on community issues.

With the recent recruitment of Coleen Regan (Hanover House), the group now has an excellent mix of local residents from the area around Lord's. For the first time, it also includes representatives of both Wellington Hospital (Keith Hague) and St John's Hospice (Helen Marsh). However, the local business community is currently under-represented on "Local to Lord's" - a situation which MCC is keen to address.

If you run a locally-based business and would like to join the group - which meets quarterly - please contact MCC Communications by post or e-mail (localtolords@mcc.org.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

FUTURE EVENTS AT LORD'S



© Andrew Baker / London 2012

Archery on the agenda at Lord's

MCC has given a major boost to British archers in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympic Games, when the archery competition will be staged at Lord's.

A new, five-year partnership between MCC and the sport's national governing body - The Grand National Archery Society (GNAS) - is designed to help British archers excel when they compete for Olympic glory in St John's Wood, in five years' time.

The key elements of the new partnership include: training camps for the British archery team at The Home of Cricket each year from January 2008 onwards; GNAS coaches using MCC's newly installed 'Hawk-Eye' technology as a training aid for its elite competitors; and Britain's archers having free use of the gymnasium at Lord's, for the next five years, to help them improve their long-term strength and conditioning.

In addition, active consideration is being given to staging occasional archery events at the ground to provide elite British archers with invaluable competitive experience at Lord's in advance of 2012. (The first of these small-scale events could take place in early August, after the end of a major international archery tournament in Dover.)

The Chairman of London 2012, Lord Coe, said: "This is a great package, which I'm delighted to welcome. It's a real boost for our archers' medal prospects in five years' time. I'd like to congratulate everyone at MCC and GNAS for developing such a strong, long-term partnership which will help our competitors all the way through to 2012."

MCC to pursue ice-skating proposal

MCC is looking into the possibility of staging ice-skating at Lord's. The proposal, put forward by its staff, would involve a rink being installed on a small proportion of the Nursery Ground for five weeks in mid-winter.

The Club is currently discussing the idea with a company - run by Robin Cousins, the ex-Olympic ice skating champion - which has extensive experience of installing temporary rinks in iconic locations (including, for instance, the grounds of Winchester Cathedral).

MCC believes that such a rink would prove particularly popular with children, and their parents, who live locally. However, the Club would, of course, require Council approval before it could put this proposal into practice and, in the meantime, it would welcome your views.

A late summer night's dream ...

A Shakespeare production is set to be staged at Lord's - for the first time in its 220-year history - on Sunday 2nd September. The open-air performance would take place in front of the Pavilion at The Home of Cricket, with 500 spectators being accommodated on the outfield and in the Pavilion's concourse.

The production would involve a troupe of actors from Shakespeare's Globe performing 'Romeo and Juliet', under Edward Dick's direction.

After positive discussions with local stakeholders, MCC is applying for an entertainment licence from Westminster City Council to enable this production to go ahead.

Keith Bradshaw (below) said: "This is a great partnership between MCC and Shakespeare's Globe. It's a tremendous opportunity for us to stage a world-class Shakespeare production here at Lord's, in the heart of St John's Wood."

Edward Dick said: "Everyone at Shakespeare's Globe is really excited about the prospect of performing at Lord's. It's always a great setting; I'm sure it would provide our first-ever tour with a fantastic finale."

As just one performance could take place at the ground, tickets would initially be sold only to MCC Members and local residents.

To register your interest in these tickets (costing either £20 or £35), please send your name and contact details to MCC's Ticket Office by post or e-mail (ticketing@lords.org.uk).



© MCC / Andrew Weales

A date for your diary ...

For the seventh successive year, MCC will be staging a pre-Christmas carol concert, for the enjoyment of local residents and Club members, at Lord's.

2007's concert will take place, in the world-famous Long Room, on Thursday 13th December. As in previous years, the singing will be led by The London Chorus and there will be an end-of-evening collection on behalf of St John's Hospice, in Grove End Road.

Information about the availability of tickets (which will be free) will appear in the next edition of this newsletter.

Since MCC staged its first carol concert, in 2001, this annual event has now raised almost £7,500 for good causes.

OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

Keeping Lord's world-class

Recent improvements at Lord's have included the installation of a state-of-the-art, 'Hawk-Eye'-equipped video analysis suite in MCC's Indoor Cricket School . . . thousands of new, more comfortable seats have been installed in the Tavern Stand . . . around 1,600 of its old seats have been donated to Bradford (Park Avenue) Football Club and installed at its Horsfall Stadium . . . a million-pound project to improve The Tavern Banqueting Suite, since re-named The Thomas Lord Suite, is virtually complete . . . a new sponsorship agreement means that the main media facility at Lord's is now known as the Investec Media Centre . . . MCC has formed a Masterplan Working Party, chaired by Sir Michael Jenkins (a Club Trustee), to help develop a long-term estates strategy for Lord's . . . priorities will include a higher capacity to help Lord's retain its current share of major matches at a time of intensifying competition from other, fast-growing grounds . . . MCC has selected its preferred contractor for installing three combined scoreboards and replay screens (costing £2.7 million) in time for the 2008 season.

MCC: promoting young talent

There were record attendances at this year's Easter Coaching Courses at Lord's, for eight to eighteen year-olds . . . Jessica Homer (28), from County Down, has been appointed MCC Young Cricket Photographer 2007 . . . no fewer than seven former MCC Young Cricketers took part in the recent ICC Cricket World Cup, in the Caribbean . . . England's new head coach, Peter Moores, is another ex-MCC Young Cricketer . . . the Lord's Taverners Table Cricket Finals, for young people with disabilities, will be hosted by MCC on Wednesday 20th June . . . MCC's support for university cricket will exceed £500,000 for the first time in 2007 . . . the MCC Universities Challenge Final will be played at Lord's on Thursday 5th July . . . the Inner-City World Cup, organised by the London Community Cricket Association, will be played at Lord's on Monday 6th August . . . other youth organisations supported by MCC include Capital Kids Cricket and the London Schools Cricket Association . . . the value of such groups' free or discounted use of MCC's Indoor Cricket School exceeds £125,00 each year.

TWENTY20 MATCHES

Complimentary tickets for local residents

Please send me, subject to availability, two tickets to:

- Middlesex v Surrey Tuesday 3rd July (5.30 - 8.15pm)
 Middlesex v Essex Friday 6th July (5.30 - 8.15pm)

(Please tick one of these boxes only; thank you.)

Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

Address 3: St John's Wood, London, NW8 _____

Telephone: _____

I have read and agree to abide by MCC's General Ground Regulations (published around Lord's and on www.lords.org).

Signed: _____

Please post this form, by Wednesday 30th May, to:

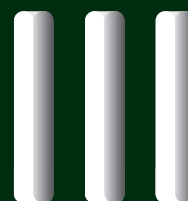
MCC Ticket Office (Local residents' ticket offer)
Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood, London NW8 8QN

If you would like to bring any additional people to the fixture you have chosen, please complete the following order form:

Please send me ___ extra adult tickets to this match (at £20 each)
and / or ___ children's tickets (at £5 each).

I enclose a cheque for the relevant amount, made payable to
'Marylebone Cricket Club'.

**LORD'S
TAVERN
BAR & BRASSERIE**



**NEWLY IMPROVED
&
NOW RE-OPENED**

Enjoy a complimentary
glass of wine with lunch or dinner,
between 22nd May & 22nd June 2007.
Just bring this newsletter with you.

St John's Wood Road 020 7616 8687