



NORTHERN DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

P.O. Box 154, Hornsby, NSW 2077

Founded 26th May 1925



2023/24

Blackmail Newsletter

24 Jul 2023 No.4

NDCC ANNUAL GOLF DAY – FRI 8TH SEPT 2023, 11am AT ASQUITH GOLF CLUB



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"You have fits of rage, followed by temporary spells of euphoria, all within several hours. Are you, by chance, a golfer?"



NDCC AGM – Thurs 27th July 2023

NDCC AGM

Dear NDs Players (Past and Present), Supporters and Friends:

You are hereby cordially invited to attend the 98th Annual General Meeting of the Northern District Cricket Club Inc., to be held in the Acacia Room at Hornsby RSL, (4 High St) on Thursday, 27th July 2023 commencing 6.30pm.

Highlight: New Life Member announced! ... Come and celebrate at the Hornsby RSL 27th July.

On at **6.30pm** this year so we can toast the new Life Member and catch the start of the 5th Test!

BE THERE



BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES & BAR MITZVAHS



BIRTH: Old Boy (1st grade opening bowler), James Kerr and wife Jamie welcomed Hudson James Kerr into the world at 9.44am on 1st July at the San hospital. Hudson weighs in at 3.2kg and 50.5cm in length.

CONGRATULATIONS
ON MAKING A
TINY HUMAN



ENGAGEMENT: Kirsten O'Sullivan welcomed 1st grade opening bowler, Ross Pawson, into her world. Ross weighs in at 90kgs and measures 193cms in length.



Ross has had a great start to the year ... He secured a full contract for the NSW Blues and has now topped it off with an even fuller contract by placing a rock on the finger of Kirsty!

Well bowled Pawso!

NDCC WOMENS CRICKET

**Come and Try
NDCC Womens
Cricket!**

**Saturday 29th July @ Mark
Taylor Oval 12pm - 3pm**

Open to current, former and new players!

The advertisement features a photograph of a cricket match in progress. A batsman in a blue uniform is in the middle of a swing, while a wicketkeeper in a blue uniform is crouching in front of the stumps. The background shows a green field and a fence. The Northern Districts Cricket Club logo is in the top right corner.

Come and Try NDCC Women's Cricket! Our Women's squads will be commencing pre-season on Saturday the 29th of July at Mark Taylor Oval. This session is open to all current, former and new players!

WOMENS CRICKET – When it all started!



Nellie Gregory organised the first women's cricket match in Australia in March 1886.

Nellie Gregory was the sister of Syd and Charles Gregory. Syd was to captain Australia and played 58 tests and Charles, at one stage, held the record for the highest first class score on Australia of 383. They were outstanding cricketers and prolific run scorers for the Eastern Suburbs (Waverley) Cricket Club.

Father Ned Gregory played test cricket and was the first curator of the Sydney Cricket Ground. The family lived on the SCG so Nellie and her three sisters, who were also cricket pioneers, had the perfect backyard in which to hone their cricket skills. Not surprisingly that's where the game in 1886 was played.

Nellie, despite being a talented cricketer, had to withstand a great deal of criticism, bordering on ridicule, to get women's cricket established in the colony. A lesser person would have given up, but she stuck to her guns and continued her involvement with cricket for decades.

The photo of Nellie attached shows a very determined young woman, certainly not one to be messed with. Those steely eyes must have sent shivers through even her harshest critic.





Rangers Alumni

Old Boy and Life Member, Ross Webb, seems to end up around the world where Australia is playing Test cricket ... Amazing coincidence.

The photos below came from Ross's trip to Hambledon in Hampshire which is regarded as the cradle of English cricket, established there in the early and mid 1700's. Later the epicentre moved in the late 1700's to London with the establishment of MCC and Lords.

The Bat & Ball Inn is an historic 18th century pub near Clanfield, Hampshire, England. The earliest widely accepted written rules for the game of cricket were drafted at the pub. Perhaps Johnny Bairstow might like to read them!

Photo of a curved bat - very useful when balls rolled along the ground (mmm). A delightful pub says Ross, and some deep thinking about the meaning of life .



Ross outside the Bat & Ball



The pub is situated opposite the Broadhalfpenny Down cricket ground, the original home of the Hambledon Club.

Richard Nyren, a landlord of the inn from 1762 to 1772, was the Hambledon Club's team captain.

Nyren was succeeded as landlord by William Barber, another well-known Hambledon cricketer, who held the licence until 1784.

'I've just blown my calf to bits': Lyon sheds light on injury

Nathan Lyon knew right away that his calf injury was Ashes ending but isn't sure when he'll be able to return to the field

Andrew Ramsey in Manchester
18 July 2023, 06:00 AM AEST



Nathan Lyon has revealed he knew his Ashes campaign was over the moment his right calf tore at Lord's accompanied by a sickening sound he likened to a "little gunshot".

Lyon, who returned to Australia after the second Test and is hopeful he will be fit for the start of the Australia domestic summer in late September, has also shed light on his decision to bat in his team's second innings at Lord's against the advice of skipper Pat Cummins and medical staff.

The 35-year-old was playing his 100th consecutive Test when he ripped his right calf late on day two and was subsequently ruled out of the remainder of the Ashes series.

He admits he has found the experience of dealing with the first injury setback of his 12-year international career "pretty shattering" and claims his teammates are now good-naturedly querying if he can rightly claim to have played 100 consecutive Tests given he was sidelined before game's end.

Speaking on ['The Willow Talk Podcast'](#) today, Lyon revisited the dramatic moment that preceded a couple of incendiary days of the second Test that included his brave 26-minute stint at the batting crease when he was targeted by England's fast bowlers despite being essentially immobile.

"I actually tried to get the spider-cam moved just before that ball and tried to get Chris Gaffaney the umpire to move it," Lyon said of the lead-up to his injury.

"Then I went back and (England opener Ben) Duckett played the pull shot, got a top edge and I went to take off and I just heard this little gun shot and just felt it go straight away.

"I knew straight away my series was done there and then.

"I felt it straight in the calf.

"I was confident I would have caught that catch if I was able to push off my right foot.

"I remember Uzzie (Usman Khawaja) running over saying 'what's up ... you got a cramp?' and I said 'nup, I've just blown my calf to bits'.



"The emotions set in, then I sat in the changerooms for the next three and a half days."

While laid up in the pavilion, Lyon found it difficult to watch events unfold and barricaded himself in the umpires' room where he watched the British Formula One grand prix on television as England skipper Ben Stokes launched a brutal day-five assault on Australia's bowlers.

But he did haul himself into the shared lunch room on crutches shortly after the controversial stumping of England batter Jonny Bairstow who he claimed "had a few words here and there" during the break, shortly after the Lord's members had unleashed on Australia's players.

While he wasn't in the line of fire for the invective unleashed by the blazered Marylebone Cricket Club members, Lyon noted the atmosphere in the Australia dressing room as the players entered for lunch on day five was "quite remarkable"

"Everyone was gobsmacked but found it hilarious because you walk through that Long Room and you're more chance of getting sued than punched," Lyon said, reflecting on the social standing of most MCC members.

"It was actually quite interesting.

"Jamie Cox, who used to be part of South Australian cricket and a (Australia) selector and obviously Tasmanian Cricket, he's now over at the MCC (as assistant secretary) and I was out the back at Lord's talking to him.

"And I actually had an older lady come up to me in tears, and English lady ... from the main Members' area, and she said 'I've got to go home, I just want to apologise to you Australian cricketers for the way everyone has acted inside Lord's'.

"I just told her 'don't worry about it, we're all okay we're not worried about getting sledged'.

"But it hit home for me that Ashes cricket can affect so many people in different ways and just the actions of people can hit so many different people as well.

"It was a nice moment but an awkward moment with the lady in genuine tears about it all."

Lyon acknowledged that the severity of the tear to his calf was instrumental in his decision to bat in Australia's second innings at Lord's, where he added a crucial 15 runs for the final wicket with his close mate Mitchell Starc.

The eventual winning margin of 43 runs underscored the value of that partnership but getting out to the middle was no easy task given he could not place weight on his right leg and he knew it would take him several minutes to hobble down the two flights of stairs from the dressing room to the middle.

On his previous visits to and from the rooms after his injury, Lyon had used the service lift located within the pavilion, but it was notoriously slow and he couldn't risk relying on it when Australia's ninth wicket fell on Saturday afternoon.

But having spent 10 minutes practice batting outside Australia's medical room to convince staff he was not at risk of being struck if he went to the middle, Lyon felt prepared for the short-ball barrage that awaited.

What did take him by surprise was the vehement opposition voiced by all except men's team coach Andrew McDonald when he signalled his preparedness to bat if needed in Australia's second innings.

"Em (Lyon's wife, Emma) was over there with me and I said that morning 'just so you know, I'm going to bat if required' and she just looked at me and said 'you are an absolute idiot - I'm helping you in the shower and everything like that, you're an idiot,'" he revealed.

"I went to the ground, spoke to the medical team in the morning, they said 'nah, you're not batting', so I went to Pat (Cummins) and Pat said 'you're not batting, Gaz, get it out of your head.

"I went to Ron (McDonald) and said 'I am batting' and he goes 'good, I'm thinking the same thing.'

"So Andrew McDonald was the one who said yep, and I said 'I need you to talk to the medical team', so he went to talk to the medical team.

"I knew the risks, I couldn't (injure) it any worse.

"If it was a minor tear, I probably wouldn't have gone out to bat understanding we had a decent break and may have missed the third Test and be right for the fourth and fifth Tests.

"But I knew I was out for the next 10-12 weeks, so I took a couple of tablets, got strapped from my knee down, couldn't move my foot at all and hobbled out, stood in the Long Room and waited to bat."

Having not suffered a soft-tissue injury since making his Test debut in Sri Lanka in 2011, Lyon can't be definitive about the recovery time from his calf tear.

However, he is mindful that – at his age and knowing how calf injuries have a habit of becoming chronic in senior players – he won't be pushing himself to get back and playing even though New South Wales' first Marsh One Day Cup commitment is barely 10 weeks away.

The Blues' first Marsh Sheffield Shield fixture is October 4-7 against Queensland, and they are scheduled to play six first-class matches prior to the opening NRMA Insurance Men's Test at Perth Stadium from December 14.

"The positive thing about all this is I've got a lot of time," said Lyon, who remains on 496 Test wickets following his truncated Ashes campaign.

"The next Test match that Australia will be at home is mid-December against Pakistan.

"I've got plenty of time... to make sure we do the rehab and we do it properly so it's not a recurring thing.

"I'll definitely get some (Sheffield) Shield in (but) I'm not going to say I'll be right for game one.

"Ideally I'd like to play that, but I'm not going to push it."

A report from an English writer in their Newsletter called "The Club Cricket Charity". It was sent to me by a pommy mate:

Since 2014, the Club Cricket Charity has developed its main charter of Funding Amateur



Cricket, with support of projects both within the UK. Its purpose is to promote community participation in healthy recreation by the playing of cricket and other sports capable of improving health.



Well, Dear Reader, in a month where I attended an exhibition dedicated to Jewish Cricket at Lord's; saw the extent of the ICEC report on Equity in Cricket; became agitated at the antics of Australian enthusiasm; seen three exciting Test Matches, and have written an article in the last Newsletter which has provoked admiration and criticism in equal measure, I feel that I should clarify the basis of my comments.



The report has done something untried and untested in establishment cricket. It has highlighted that which we all knew of, and did precious little about. Racism,

Welcome to the 6th Newsletter of 2023

Discrimination and Bigotry are an abomination in our society in general, and are reflected, sadly, in cricket. The question is not one of relevance, but rather one of practical necessity. How can we begin to put things right?

If we do not endeavour potentially effective measures now, we will lose the opportunity to ameliorate conditions in the future. It won't be words but deeds which will provide the answers.

There is no Authority in Government or in the governance of Cricket which can solve society's ills by diktat or legal proceedings. No ECB or County Board or League resolution is going to change attitudes. The solution must be from the bottom up and begin with the grassroots if it is to be effective in its practice – and that has already proved difficult enough where it has been tried. As I wrote in the last Newsletter, the report only mentions the word “Club” once in 44 recommendations – that must be wrong in every way. Ask anyone at the most diverse cricket club in London – Shepherd's Bush – to understand how to tackle the beginnings of the problem.

To put the onus of responsibility on County Boards to right the wrongs of attitudes in cricket is worse than sending out King Canute ties and blazers! At least Canute was trying to prove that he could not stop the tide. He wasn't pretending to have a solution at his level of authority. In his case he was telling all and sundry that some things are impossible. What the report ignores is the easiest response is to inculcate the best practices at the right levels of society in general and Cricket Clubs in particular.

Most of you have read my articles on antisemitism experienced in my own lifetime. I now have



enough years under my substantial belt to be able to ward off these expressions of hate and cowardice, but there are others who are vulnerable to this repulsive trait. I can only try to do this in my own locality, and through my contacts such as this Newsletter. I cannot appeal to a higher authority to legislate other people's views. I can try to influence attitudes at my own level. So it is with Cricket. Start at the bottom and reach for the stars!

I've read a lot and I saw it all in real time. I've read some pretty unflattering comments about Australians, Bairstow, cheating culture and sloppy batting. England

lost a Test Match at Lords in the Ashes and that is high on the list of things not to do.

However the result was not necessarily anything to do with the Bairstow incident although it may well have contributed. 5-day-Cricket depends on pivotal moments, and controversy allows us to express our views most easily.

But let's not lose sight of the effect of such matters on the future of the game.

So I turned to my mentor of all matters Cricket - my 12-year-old grandson Joshua, who was at Lord's on the day having a day off from his playing for Kent Juniors.


“So, what did you think Josh?”

“I think that Bairstow shouldn't have walked out of his crease, but I think the fact that he marked his crease should say, I think, it's a dead ball, and that when it was given out, Australia should have taken back the review. It was not in the spirit of the game. Also when they say Bairstow does it, it's different, as the recent one on Labuschagne. That was him getting an advantage being out of his crease looking for one, but Bairstow would have gained no advantage. So there you go that's my point of view”.

“From the mouths of babes”, they say. Importantly it shows that the spirit of cricket (whatever that means) continues to the next generation and I for one am very proud. There will be no change in the result, and the battle continues. I really hope that the current competitions give us as much enjoyment and anguish as we deserve!

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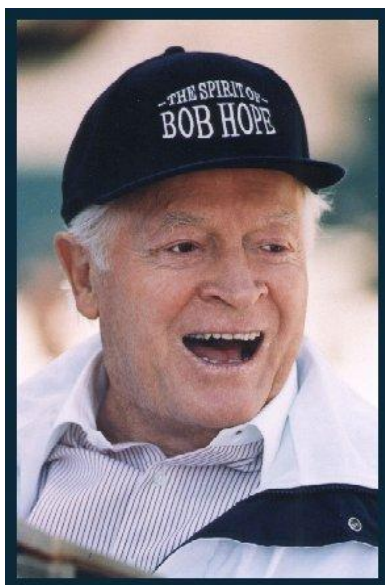
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ATTEMPTED HUMOUR:



On his death bed they asked him where he wanted to be buried. His answer was ... "Surprise me!" Bob Hope lived to be 100 and it's now 20 years since he died. He touched a lot of lives during

his life. He made a difference with his TV shows, his movies and his live performances, especially to troops in war-torn countries. Here Are a couple of "lines" ...

ON TURNING 70: "I still chase women ... but only downhill."

ON TURNING 80: "That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

ON TURNING 90: "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

ON TURNING 100: "I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

ON GIVING UP HIS EARLY CAREER, BOXING: "I ruined my hands in the ring ... The referee kept stepping on them."

ON NEVER WINNING AN OSCAR: "Welcome to the Academy Awards, or as it's called at my home ... 'The Passover'."

ON GOLF: "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

ON PRESIDENTS: "I have performed for 12 Presidents but entertained only 6."

ON WHY HE CHOSE SHOWBIZ FOR HIS CAREER: "When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, 'Congratulations, you have an 8 pound ham'."

ON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL: "I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it."

ON HIS FAMILY'S EARLY POVERTY: "Four of us slept in the one bed. When it got cold, mother threw on another brother."

ON HIS SIX BROTHERS: "That's how I learned to dance, waiting for the bathroom."

ON HIS EARLY FAILURES: "I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me."

ON GOING TO HEAVEN: "I've done benefits for all religions. I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality."

