

# CRICKET CLUB

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IN THIS  
ISSUE  
**RENEWABLE  
ENERGY  
IN SPORT P18**

## **North London**

Actively encouraging participation

## **Woodford Wells**

A key pillar of the local community and  
a strong emphasis on youth cricket

## **Sunbury**

A superb looking ground that can  
host multiple games

**PLUS**  
**GLENROTHES**  
**CRICKET NORTH  
OF THE BORDER**

**FIFE'S FINEST IN PROFILE**





# GLENROTHES

**F**ife's Glenrothes Cricket Club's origins lie partly in the unlikely setting of the Caribbean. The organised game came to the town with the help of one Edwin Headley. Of West Indian extraction, he was a teacher at Leslie Primary School and later Auchmuty High School with a passion for the thwack of willow on leather.

The modern day club is a fully inclusive establishment and all ages are welcome. Positively, younger players benefit from some quality coaching and are involved in the senior nets when their skills have developed.

Impressively the clubs 1st XI and 2nd XI teams have also just completed a hugely successful season, with both winning their respective leagues. Cricket Club Magazine caught up with Communications Officer Brian Corr recently to find out more.

## FACILITY

"Our existing facility is council owned and set in the town's beautiful Riverside Park. It's generally well received from visiting teams. We recently held the Scottish Universities cricket final and those involved were very complimentary about the ground and facilities provided. We are currently in the negotiations with the local council about moving ground to another area of town, which will allow for improved social and playing facilities.

Our proposed ground move will certainly give us more scope and opportunity to do this. Being the leaseholders of

Images Courtesy  
of Brian Corr

"Our current club captain Ian Dale has previously been signed up to play cricket in South Africa during the Scottish off-season."



the ground, we would be looking to bring in revenue by hiring the ground and facilities to youth football clubs during the winter months."

## YOUTH AND COMMUNITY

"Youth cricket is a very important aspect at Glenrothes Cricket Club. It represents the lifeblood and future of the club. A few years ago we were a club with an ageing playing pool, with little or no junior or youth players in the set up. We have actively been trying to address this over the past few years via coaching sessions in local primary and secondary

schools. In many cases, being from Scotland, this is the first introduction that many kids have had to the sport.

Club Coach Steve Rowley recently qualified to Level 2. Next year the club coach will be taking several local primary schools for four week cricket sessions culminating in a school cricket festival at the club mid- April. Glenrothes is a relatively new town, as such it probably not regarded as a traditional cricketing area. Although Glenrothes CC are the oldest sporting club in the town (founded 1957). The dropping of cricket from the secondary education syllabus a few years ago definitely did



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not help the promotion of the game or the club. But thankfully it has been recently reintroduced. We have attempted to engage with the local community with various promotions, but response was disappointing. However we are slowly making progress on this front, having been involved heavily with both Fife Council and local Glenrothes events. It is our aim to actively involve the local community with the club wherever we can, and it is hoped our proposed ground move will help us achieve this."

## THE FUTURE

"Next term we are looking to have our 1st XI in the National League set up, with our 2nd XI pushing up the East of Scotland Cricket Assoc. leagues. We are also hopeful of the addition of

a 3rd XI to the league set up. There shall also be continuation of Sunday and Mid-Week cricket available to our members."

## TALENT

"Ryan Watson who made 194 appearances for Scotland, a national record he shares with former teammate Craig Wright; retired from the game at the end of the 2011 season to focus on business interests with his new recruitment company. During the close season, through mutual business interests, Watson struck up a friendship with Glenrothes Cricket Club Chairman Edward Gibbs; and as one thing lead to another Watson agreed to delay his retirement and play several matches as a guest for Glenrothes in ESCA Division 1 during the 2012 season.

Over the years we have had players selected at representa-





tive level at various age groups. Of the current squad, Kenny Crichton and Jordan Davidson have played at youth level with Scotland, while Chris Greaves was involved with Durham's CCC Academy a couple years ago. Our current club captain Ian Dale has previously been signed up to play cricket in South Africa during the Scottish off-season."

### CHALLENGES AND MOVING FORWARD

"The next step is to move grounds and we hope to have two ovals (1 artificial), a custom built clubhouse with bar facilities, permanent nets etc. We obviously need to raise a considerable amount of money to achieve this and we hope to do so via grant funding, existing club funds and sponsorship. Our current club chairman Edward Gibbs has a solid

business background and he has been instrumental in driving us towards this.

We need to gain a bigger foothold with the local community, promoting cricket and our facilities as something for everyone to enjoy. We also need to make the step up to having our 1st XI in the National League set up and for consolidation in that system and our 2nd XI need to close the gap in cricketering terms between themselves and the 1st XI. We plan to introduce a 3rd XI into our current league set up.

Within 5 years we would hope to have several junior teams - U17 - U15 - U13 as well as younger players participating in Kwik Cricket competitively on a regular basis. Glenrothes CC hope to establish our new ground as a place where we can involve all aspects of the community and make cricket a must see sport in Glenrothes."