



Carnegie Cricket Club

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Where We Are Today

This is Carnegie Cricket Club's first attempt at providing a newsletter for the membership. It also happens to be the appropriate time to communicate with playing and non-playing members of the club as we slowly slip into the winter months. The off-season is the time to reflect on the recently finished cricket season and plan for future seasons.

PLAYERS

Carnegie Cricket Club does not attract good club cricketers as it did in the recent past. Some of the players that gravitate toward the club want to be treated as cricket superstars but lack the talent and commitment to succeed.

The club's decent players, the cricketers that should be supported and encouraged are unlike the talentless 'superstars'. The club has to make an urgent decision to replace those vastly overrated talentless players with individuals that want to be a part of our once great club. We owe it to those who have contributed so much in the past to Carnegie Cricket Club not to allow the 'rabble' players to take the club into the abyss.

CLUB FINANCE

Carnegie Cricket Club has continued to operate as a wandering side although since 2014 it has played more than half of its matches at a designated 'home' ground. As we are all aware, the 'home' ground has a financial cost.

Inevitably the cricket club has been meeting the financial cost of the 'home' ground without additional income from the membership. The continuance of the club spending more money than it is receiving would eventually lead to its bankruptcy unless halted. A sizeable increase in the membership's annual subscription would stop the club spending more than it is receiving. However, being realistic, a sizeable increase in the annual subscription could lead to a loss of some of our much-needed playing members.

Therefore I would like a meeting of all the club's members to discuss the future of the organization to include but not limited to an increase in annual subscription, fundraising activities and the recruitment of players. **We** cannot afford to luxuriate in the nostalgia of glories past or wring our hands as we bemoan the current decline' but must act decisively to save our beloved cricket club from extinction.

Author - Lonsdale E Skinner



History

What's in a name

Carnegie Cricket Club recently celebrated its (sixty first) 61st anniversary. At the conclusion of the Second World War there was a shortage of labour in the British Isles whilst in the Caribbean Islands there was large scale unemployment. However, the unemployed in those islands preferred to immigrate to the United States for employment.

The 1950s and 1960s saw periods of strong economic expansion with employment opportunities in textile, metal manufacture, healthcare and transport, these jobs were low paid and long hours.

The jobs generally involved shift work which did not attract or appeal to British

workers. In 1952 the McCarren-Walter Immigration Act temporarily halted Caribbean immigration to the United States. With the United States closing its doors for the employment of Caribbean workers Britain with its shortage of labour became a popular choice for employment purpose. The National Health Service and London Transport recruited workers in large numbers directly from the Caribbean islands while other industries gladly provide employment for those emigrants on arrival on the shores of Britain.

Amongst those immigrants were a number of talented young cricketers who had learned and loved the game of cricket from birth. The game of cricket was the 'religion' in the British Caribbean islands. Inevitably the young men would want to continue to be involved in their 'religion'.

During the 1950s the British politicians and policymakers were 'hesitant and ambiguous and little positive was done to assist in their (British Caribbean immigrants) settlement, integration and acceptance'.

The politicians and policymakers were aware at the beginning of British Caribbean immigration that the new workers would face hostile racial prejudice from the majority of the host population.

These talented young cricketers had to contend with hideous racial prejudice at work and on the cricket field to name a few places. The local cricket clubs generally did not welcome them as members. Consequently they were forced to establish their own cricket clubs hence the arrival of Carnegie Cricket Club in 1955 at Ruskin Park, near the primary settlement of Caribbean islands nationals in Brixton.

The cricket club took its name from the nearby **Carnegie Library** in Herne Hill Road.

Since 1955 Carnegie Cricket Club has played continuously as a 'wandering team' during the summer months until 2013 when they found a '**home**' at Sinjuns

Grammarians Cricket Club ground situated between Trinity Road and Beechcroft Road in Tooting, south-west

London. Last year, 2015, Carnegie celebrated 60 years as a cricket club.

The club played on the following County Cricket Club grounds: Mote Park, Maidstone (Kent), Cheriton Road Folkestone (Kent), Midland Bank Sport Ground, Beckenham (Kent), the Saffrons, Eastbourne (Sussex), Arundel Castle Cricket Ground (Sussex), the Cricket Field Road Ground, Horsham (Sussex), Kenton Court Meadows. Sunbury-on-Thames (Surrey), Decca Sports Ground, Tolworth (Surrey), Imber Court, East Molesley (Surrey), British Aerospace Company Ground, Byfleet, (Surrey), County Ground Leyton (Essex), Southchurch Park, Southend-on-Sea (Essex), Chalkwell Park, Westcliff-on-Sea (Essex), to name a few venues.

The history of Carnegie Cricket Club cannot be completed without including the club's first and iconic administrator Robert 'Bob' Milne, a British national, who served unstintingly from 1955 to 1983. He was the 'rock' of the cricket club and can be safely said that during his reign (yes, he was reigning) he was 'King Bob' of Carnegie CC.

With 'King Bob' at the helm of the cricket club and his administrative skills Carnegie Cricket Club moved from playing in local parks to competing on County Cricket Club grounds against the best cricket club teams in south east England.

During those years the cricket club has had some wonderfully talented cricketers.

The club has produced, from its humble beginning, four professional cricketers during the aforementioned years to include the late Dennis Marriott (Surrey

County Cricket Club and Middlesex County Cricket Club), Lonsdale Skinner



(Surrey County Cricket Club and Guyana), Leroy Parris (MCC Young Professionals) and Dillon Leivus (MCC Young Professional). Club members Joe Fortune turned out for Essex County Cricket Club Second Eleven, while Wendell McCall played for Middlesex County Cricket Club Second Eleven.

Other outstanding cricketers that must be mentioned are Cedric Gobin (Guyana), Cardo Brown (Jamaica), Winston 'Buss' Reid (Jamaica), Bertie Brown (Barbados), Calstone Bascombe (Barbados), Ashton Sherwood (Jamaica) and Henderson Phillips (Barbados).

Cedric Gobin represented the Club Cricket Conference on a number of occasions; receiving his 'cap' (#131) in 1981.

Most of these cricketers had played high standard club cricket in their native

countries with West Indies Test players and their island's first class cricketers. The club cricket these players were associated with before venturing to England was of a much higher standard than English club cricket.

At that time on those Caribbean islands all first class cricketers, including West Indies Test players, played regular high standard club cricket. So to be included in those cricket teams all players had to be of the highest standard. In 2015 Carnegie Cricket Club is celebrated its 60th anniversary and its evolution from multiple Caribbean island immigrant cricket club to reputable sporting organisation that is worthy of recognition by the cricket authorities in England.

The club's growth has seen it moved from playing on the open common fields in south east and south west London to numerous County Club grounds in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Essex. Despite its early handicap of playing in substandard conditions the club miraculously produced four professional cricketers, a number of County Cricket Club Second Eleven players and at least one Club Cricket Conference representative.

Finally credit must be showered on the late Robert 'Bob' Milne for his pioneering work in getting Carnegie Cricket Club as equal by the once racially prejudiced cricket clubs in south-east England.

Author - Lonsdale E Skinner

Robert James William Milne 1929 - 2002



Bob as he was known to all his friends and associates was born in Oval, South London on 27th February 1929 and grew up in Brixton with his father, younger brother Graeme and his step mother Kitty.

He attended Westminster City Grammar School where he excelled academically and went on to obtain a BSc(Hons) degree in Chemistry at King's College London, during those years he was also called up to do his service in the RAF.

The majority of his professional life was at the Institute of Structural Engineers as editor of their journal where he worked for over 40 years which enabled him to travel to various countries throughout the Commonwealth that also had branches of the Institution.

His passion was cricket which he played for a short time before starting up and becoming fixture secretary for Carnegie Cricket Club (CCC) in 1955.

He met his wife Elta at a cricket social, where she famously spotted him sitting down and asked him if he would like to dance with her, a romance blossomed and they were soon married at Hackney Town Hall. They went on to have four children, Robert, Ian, Grace and Julia, and eleven grandchildren Seth, Daniel, Luke, Laila, Evan, Zach, Jacob, Maria-Sophia, Tabitha, Nathaniel and Raphael. Bob was a literary man and owned a large library of books ranging from classic fiction to left wing politics and of course cricket.

He was known for being able to turn any conversation he was having into talking

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about cricket by the end. He was a kind, thoughtful and accepting man who welcomed everyone he met, often making sure they had a drink in their hand. He had two rules for maintaining friendships never talk about religion or politics which is why he got on with so many people.

His eldest son Bob Jr. continues to play cricket at county level still today and was selected to play in the first ever over 50's England Cricket Team this year with their first tests matches in Sri Lanka. Bob Senior would have been very proud.

Author - Ian B Milne