



# KYPROS CRICKET

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Before



After

## Tochni goes live!

After over two years of hard work, a farmer's field in Tochni has been converted into a cricket ground and the first games were played on 29th April. The conversion involved moving of trees, rolling, cementing, seeding, bore hole drilling and mass stone removal and weeding sessions.

The ground is still far from complete - as CCA Chairman Muhammad Husain said, "It's not Lord's, but one day it will be!". The outfield is largely clear of stones and weeds, but also of grass. The square is grassed and the CCA plan to expand the grassed area to cover the whole ground as money allows. Although the ground is essentially brand new, there

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*Amdocs vs Mustangs - the second game played at Tochni*



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are some touches that are much appreciated; there are seats - some in the shade! - a water dispenser and toilets on the ground. Tochni village itself has a taverna which provides an excellent lunch.

Games had been scheduled for Tochni earlier in the season, but the ground was not judged to be ready. By chance, the first game was, appropriately, between two of the oldest clubs in Cyprus<sup>1</sup>; Moufflons versus Fellows.

Moufflons' captain, Muhammad, had arranged for the Moufflons team to arrive early so the final preparations of the ground could be completed.

Fellows won the toss and, to the surprise of many given the complete unknown of the wicket, elected to bat.



*Balbir Singh struggled with the hostile opening spell by Sharma and Singh (below)*



1 When we say the "oldest clubs in Cyprus", we mean the *longest established*, not that the clubs' players are particularly old; that's just a coincidence.

A hostile opening spell by Singh and Sharma had Fellows struggling. The odd ball rose unexpectedly which, combined with early wickets - Moufflons caught well - seemed to put doubt in the batsmen's minds and made for a slow scoring rate.

In a serendipitous turn of events, the first wicket to fall at Tochni was Singh, ct Singh bld Singh!

Of Fellows' batters, Tim Katsapas top-scored with an attacking 22 as Fellows reached 107 for 8 off their 20 overs. That score felt low, but as it was first innings at Tochni, no-one was certain. However, after 4 overs of the Moufflons' innings, it was clear that 107 was *way* too low - Moufflons were 48/2 with Rafiqul going well. Perhaps learning from Katsapas' attacking approach, Moufflons knocked off the runs in 12 overs and won by 7 wickets.

After the game, the players were honoured by a visit by Father Pavlos Antoniou from the Cypriot Orthodox church who blessed the ground.

The second game was between Amdocs and Mustangs. This was a much closer game.

Mustangs batted first started well with Bimal and Jeewan approaching their 50 partnership before Bimal's dismissal started a collapse. Kasam and Ranjit steadied the innings and got Mustangs to 140 in the 20th over.

Amdocs started slowly; Gupta Ankit took a long, careful look at the bowling - understandably as 3 quick wickets fell at the other end. After 10 overs, Amdocs were 50/3 - needing 91 off 10 overs to win the game.

After the drink break, Ankit and Kajawala attacked the bowling, knocking the bowlers off their line - Mustangs conceded 18 wides - and Amdocs reached their target in the 19th over.



*Gupta Ankit (left) and Riyaz Kajawala after steering Amdocs to an unlikely win*

## Junior Schools Championship

Foleys A won the girls' trophy and Akrotiri A the boys' trophy on a hot, but enjoyable day.



*2018 Winners and Runners Up*

The fifth annual junior schools championship was held at Heritage School on 25th May 2018 and was, as ever, a great day for the children and an exhausting day for the teachers and stewards!

Five schools took part: Akrotiri, Aspire, Episkopi, Foleys and Heritage. The format was simple; basic cricket rules for wickets and runs applied, but with six over innings and a maximum of two overs per bowler. Batters were in for two overs - wickets cost 5 runs and a change of ends. The format ensures that everyone has a bat and bowl and the games are fast moving.

There were 27 teams competing; 15 boys and 12 girls. The girls' teams split nicely into four groups of three, with the winners of each group going through to semi-final. The arrangement for the boys' teams was a little more complicated as they were split into 5 groups and there was a playoff for the semi-final places.

As some of the children hadn't played - or even seen

- cricket before, the umpires had to be a little generous about wides and underarm bowling was allowed.

What was evident was the enthusiasm of the players and there were some excellent fielding moments with good catches and run-outs. Some players had clearly benefitted

from coaching and I saw some good bowling actions - I was quite jealous!

Despite the short format - designed to last around 30 minutes - there were some tense games with some coming down to the last ball.

Play started at 9:15 and with 35 games to get through, play was quite intense

with five matches taking place simultaneously.

In the finals, Foleys A beat Akrotiri A in the Girls' Final and Akrotiri A beat Episkopi A in the Boys' Final.

Thanks, as ever, to Heritage School for providing such excellent facilities and to the teachers and stewards who run the games and, particularly, to CCA secretary Richard Boxall who organised the event.



*Foleys' school celebrate their team's victory in the girls' tournament*

## The 2017 Seasons in Review

It's really traditional now (it's happened three times). **Richard Boxall** looks back Cyprus Cricket's Spring and Autumn seasons from last year.

2017 saw two T20 league competitions, as availability of grounds and dates did not allow time for a 40-over competition this year.

In both Spring and Autumn competitions the teams were split into two groups, with the best teams meeting in the final to decide the championship.

### Spring League

In the Spring league the eastern group was the stronger one, featuring the previous year's winners of T20, Mustangs, and 40-over champions, Sri Lankans, together with Nicosia Tigers, PWRR Dhekelia, and new team Nicosia Thunder, formed partly from previous Kazepis and Fellows players.



*Nicosia Thunder - Spring T20 Winners*

An innovation this year was an umpiring rota requiring all teams to provide neutral umpires for other teams' matches. This helped to overcome the lack of regular umpires, though it did also highlight a need for training which CCA will be addressing.

A new rule was introduced requiring the wearing of helmets by batsmen and keepers standing up, though it must be said that this was not universally complied with. Admittedly the warm weather in Cyprus does make a helmet rather uncomfortable at times!

Slow play, late starts, inaccurate scoring and score-sheets, and occasional poor discipline were also issues during the year, and need to be improved on in future.

The western group comprised Limassol Gladiators, a strong-looking combination of several ex-Kazepis players with some handy additions; a new Limassol-based team, Sri Lanka Lions; the improving RAF Akrotiri; and Moufflons and another new team, Pafos Tigers.

In the eastern group a significant early result saw Nicosia Tigers beat Mustangs by 41 runs. On the same day Nicosia Thunder demolished Sri Lankans by 9 wickets, but Sri Lankans came back well to win their remaining games and qualify for the semi-finals along with Thunder. The Tigers faded after their good start to finish bottom, and left the league under a cloud.



*Finals day! Umair Gujjar is bowled - but in a winning cause*

The western group saw a good debut season by Sri Lanka Lions, who topped the group with a 100% record, with Gladiators second.

The semi-finals were played on 7 May at Happy Valley, where two keenly contested games eventually produced two clear winners.

The all-Sri Lankan affair in the morning was won by the Nicosia team, who followed up their useful total of 152 for 4 by bowling out the Limassol-based Sri Lanka Lions for 98, to win by 54 runs.

Sri Lankans' captain Amila had no hesitation in batting first when he won the toss, and proceeded to lead from the front with a fine 36 before sacrificing himself in a run-out mix-up with Mangala, who batted on to the end for 31 not out. There were also useful contributions from Wallage and Ajith, but the batting never totally dominated the bowling, and a final score of 152 for 4 still gave the Lions hope.

In reply, useful innings were played by Sameera, Buddika and Tharanga, but they all got out before they could really threaten the target. For Sri Lankans, all bowlers performed well. Sujantha dismissed both opening batsmen, but the pick of the bowlers was Suresh with 3 for 12 from his 4 overs.

Unusually, eight of the batsmen were bowled, as the Lions were all out in the 18th over. Lions can however feel pleased with their results in their first

attempt in the T20 league.

The afternoon game pitted Nicosia Thunder against Limassol Gladiators.

Thunder batted first and after losing an early wicket, soon dominated the game through an excellent century partnership between captain for the day Sandy (82) and Umair (77), eventually reaching 207 for 4 from their 20 overs. Gladiators had the misfortune to lose Babar from their bowling attack due to injury in his second over.

Facing a daunting total, Gladiators set off at a good run rate. After losing both openers, they were put into a potentially winning position by a rapid partnership between Shahid (43) and Baig who hit an excellent 56, before both fell looking for more big shots.

As so often, after the attempts by the quick bowlers, it was the more gentle medium pace of Manan that did the damage with three crucial wickets. Umair's legspin also brought two wickets, and with a couple of run-outs the innings subsided to 160 all out.

Thunder's superior fielding, as well as their confident top-order batting, made the difference, but Gladiators could be proud of their efforts to win the match.

The final took place a week later. On a warm day Thunder captain Shoaib won the toss and chose to bat first, and was rewarded with a fine opening

partnership between Sandy and Umair. Sri Lankans did not help themselves by dropping several catches, but the quality of the batting was impressive.

After Sandy fell for 34, Shoaib continued the good work with 29, but after he was out there was a collapse as the fifth and sixth bowlers, Dilan and Nalin, took 7 quick wickets between them. Nalin's off-spin (4 for 22) was the outstanding spell for Sri Lankans, but Umair's classy 62 ensured that Thunder had a defendable total of 154 all out from 18.4 overs.

Cricket Without Boundaries in recognition of his valued contribution to cricket coaching over the past few days.

## Autumn League

There were several changes for the autumn league. Nicosia Tigers, Dhekelia, Pafos Tigers and Gladiators dropped out, and were replaced by the return of Epi Lions and Fellows, and the addition of a welcome new team from Paralimni, Eastern Cyprus CC.

The groups were arranged on the basis of positions in



*Chandana is bowled during the Autumn T20 Final*

Sri Lanka's reply got off to the worst possible start with a wicket falling from the first ball. The opening bowling of Shah and Shoaib was fast and threatening, and wickets fell regularly despite Susantha's efforts to hold the innings together with his 25.

Umair continued his golden day with a wicket from his first ball, and three in total, as the batting struggled. A late flourish from Akash (20) and Dilan, continuing his fine game with 25, gave the score some respectability, but the final total of 120 all out left Thunder as clear winners on the day.

Trophies and medals were presented to the winners and runners-up. There were also individual awards for batting, which was won by Umair of Thunder who scored heavily throughout the tournament, and for bowling, which went to Dilan of Sri Lankans whose 3 wickets in the final gave him 10 for the season.

A presentation was also made to Lee Booth from

the previous competition rather than geographically, in order to make the competition as fair as possible. Unfortunately the arrival of unseasonal rain disrupted the programme and restricted some teams' chances of progressing.

In group 1 Sri Lankans won both the matches they played, including a crucial 22-run victory over Mustangs. Nicosia Thunder, despite a 15-point penalty for a late start in one game, comfortably topped group 2 by winning the three matches they played. The other four teams in the group were closely bunched together, as each of them managed one win. Mike Kyriakou hit the only century of the year as Fellows overcame Eastern Cyprus.

In perfect conditions at Happy Valley on Sunday 19 November, the top two teams, Sri Lankans and Nicosia Thunder, met in a repeat of the Spring final. An exciting match was in prospect, as Amila won the toss and decided to bat first.



*Autumn T20 Winners (and 2 fans!) - Nicosia Thunder*

However, the Thunder bowlers proved to be too strong on the day. The quicker bowlers – Shah, Changaiz and Shoaib – soon took the first four wickets for 22 runs. Then it was the turn of medium-paced Manan and spinner Shaby to take three wickets each, to restrict Sri Lankans to just 95 all out, with three and a half overs unused.

Only Sujantha (13) and Prasad, who topscored with 23 at number 10, made double figures. The total would have been far worse without a last-wicket stand of 27 by Prasad and Indika. Ayaaz Khan took three catches behind the wicket before handing over the gloves to Umar, who also caught one.

Sri Lankans' woes continued when they missed a chance off the first ball of Thunder's reply, then watched Sandy and Umair put on 54 for the first wicket. Shoaib then added a rapid 27 before he was well caught by Mangala, giving Nalin his second wicket.

Thunder reached their target for the loss of just two wickets, with seven overs to spare. Umair played the innings of the match with a class 52 not out, including 2 sixes and 6 fours.

The match was well umpired by Tom Smith and

Roger Fear, and in a nice gesture at the presentations Shoaib allowed his vice-captain Sandy to come forward to collect the trophy. The individual awards went to Sandy for batting, Manan for bowling, and Raj of Eastern Cyprus (Player of the Season).

### **Tour matches**

In addition to the regular programme of league matches, we were pleased to receive visits from a number of touring teams, who provided different opposition for our teams as well as a friendly approach to the game.

In April, matches were played against Bedworth, Beehive and Infantry Training Centre from UK and Baerum from Norway. The 21 Engineer Regiment from UK came in September, and in early October there were very sociable visits by two more English teams – Journeymen and London Fields. Another military team, HMS Neptune, came from Scotland at the end of October.

All these teams added to the enjoyment and variety of cricket in Cyprus. We are looking forward to another visit by Bedworth in 2018, as well as Worcester Police, and a few other as yet unconfirmed tours.

## Play Cricket and Eat Well

Alfréd Rényi defined a mathematician as “a device for converting coffee into theorems”. In a similar way, a cricketer could be defined as “a device for converting curry into runs”.

If you think you’ve a little *too* much weight behind your shots, author, chef and owner of Ann’s Smart School of Cookery, Ann Hood has some suggestions for eating more healthily.



### Ingredients to lose weight

If you want to lose weight then keep carbohydrates such as sugar, bread and potatoes to a minimum and eat as much protein as you wish. It is important that you don’t cut out carbohydrates completely, as they normally comprise your body’s main source of energy - carbohydrates break down quickly and easily into glucose and pass into cells, supplying them with the energy they need.

You may have tried low-carbohydrate diets before; when you follow a low-carb diet, your body doesn’t ingest enough carbohydrate to fuel all your cells. So your body begins to break down stored fat as an energy source. During this process, your body creates incompletely burnt by-products called *ketones*. Ketones pass from your body in urine and through exhalation. Ketones produce an acetone-like smell, which causes the distinctive breath of ketosis. When you start eating them again you have unbalanced your hard work, so do it right from the start - change to a balanced diet and it just won’t feel like you’re dieting. No dramatic peaks and troughs with your weight.

You will never lose weight if you don’t eat foods to move your gut.

### Ingredients to taste great

If you’re thinking that we want to get rid of all flavour, think again! You have to make sure you have the key ingredients in your food to maximise flavour.

Curries are a great healthy food if cooked properly. The best curries are cooked in just 20 minutes to retain the taste of every ingredient and keeping nutrients. Cook good quality meat, veg or fish separately so you taste it separately. Don’t overcook, this loses the goodness, and overcooked food promotes a lazy gut. Retaining texture promotes a healthy gut.

Below is a simple to make curry that you can prepare in 20 minutes

### Goan Chicken Curry and Mango Rice

#### *Ingredients for 2 people*

##### *For the curry paste*

- 1 teaspoon garlic paste.
- 1 teaspoon grated ginger.
- 200 ml coconut milk.
- 1 teaspoon each of ground chilli, cumin, coriander.
- 1/2 chopped onion.
- 1-2 teaspoon (approximately) tamarind paste (depending on its strength).
- 4 chicken thighs, skinned and chopped into bite sized pieces (replace with Quorn chunks for a veggie version).
- Lime juice (approximately half a lime per person).

##### *For the mango rice*

- 2 cups of basmati rice.
- 1/2 diced onion and 1 diced mango.

#### *Method - Mango Rice*

1. Sweat half the onion in a casserole pot, or saucepan with metal handle and lid without rubber, add rice to warm then add 3 cups boiling water but don’t stir. Season, place lid on top and cook in the oven at 200°C (180°C for fan ovens) for 15-20 minutes or until all the water has gone. At the same time as the rice goes into the oven, prepare the mango:
2. Place the diced mango on a baking tray and dust with icing sugar and cook in oven for 20 minutes. Stir the mango into the rice on service.

#### *Curry*

1. Make a paste with the cumin, coriander, garlic paste, ginger, turmeric and chilli (to taste) mixed with a little water.
2. Then sweat the other half of the onion, add the paste until sticky and slowly add the coconut



Goan Chicken Curry with Mango Rice

3. Separately, sear the chicken then add to curry mixture.
4. Taste to adjust and serve with the rice. Squeeze lime juice in on service.

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### Tips

- Freeze your chilli, ginger, limes and lemons and the whole thing can be grated into the curries just before service for vibrancy.
- Always use full fat coconut milk. Natural fats are a preservative to keep your system working naturally. Half fat will split at the boiling point along with having lots of additives and sugars which slow the metabolism and promote obesity.
- Try and exercise, it makes you feel good and gets the metabolism moving, don't worry if you can't; I know it just isn't possible for some people.
- Eating 3 times per day is most important. Focus on carbs to be part of breakfast and lunch to energise you through the day.
- Afternoons are the time of day when your energy levels naturally dip. Eating some chocolate with a minimum of 70% cacao will energise you.

## On the Tourist Trail

As Richard Boxall mentioned earlier, Bedworth Cricket Club paid a return visit to Cyprus in March. Andrew Pepper caught up with **Heath Parnell** of Bedworth CC who decided on Cyprus for their “pre-season” tour.



*All the games were played at the Happy Valley ground; resplendent in the Spring*

**AP: This is your second visit; what made you start coming to Cyprus?**

*HP: Yes, this was our second visit to Cyprus. The decision to come to Cyprus was based on a few things:*

*Weather during Easter – unless you go to exotic locations such as South Africa, the Caribbean or Sri Lanka. you are not going to be able to play cricket in March. Travelling to those destinations might push the budget for the club cricketer.*

*I looked at other destinations within our budget; for example, Spain or Malta but the weather is not so good there at that time of year.*

*Travelling during Easter gives us a chance to have 4 games as a pre-season warm up in decent temperatures in Cyprus.*

*The combination of good weather, a fantastic value 4 star hotel (Elias beach hotel) and being within everyone’s budget brought us to Cyprus.*

**How did you find out who to contact?**

*I emailed the Cyprus Cricket Association. Richard Boxall replied immediately and has been absolutely fantastic*

*in arranging four games within our 10 day stay.*

**Your itinerary has some “rest days” in between games – are these beach days or do you get a chance to see more of the island?**

*We are a mixture of players and their families, Mums and Dads and so on, so all have different ways of enjoying the rest days. Most just enjoy the beach or pool and the entertainment offered by Elias Beach hotel although four of us went bike riding and explored the villages and hills.*

**How are things organised on game days? – I was impressed that you arrived on time at the games – a lot of local teams struggle with that!**

*Richard Boxall gave me a very good contact for trans-*



*Although the games were “friendlies” they were played competitively*



*Bedworth CC with the Cyprus XI after their final game of the 2018 tour*

*port; Demetris Nikolaou – AIONAS Travel. Again, Demetris was excellent and very professional.*

*He organised a 20-seater coach to pick us up and then arranged a pick-up time. If we finished early we just called him and generally he was there within 30 minutes.*

**Where did you visit? – apart from the cricket grounds.**



*Does it get any better? Matthew Plant was scoring; sitting in the sun, watching the cricket and an ice cream van arrives!*

*We played all our cricket at Happy Valley, which is wonderful.*

*There is so much entertainment going on at Elias beach hotel that no one felt they wanted to travel anywhere else other than the keen cyclists!*

**The CCA try and “match” the teams to the opposition so we have good, close games – how well did that work for you?**

*The teams were well-matched. We have a team containing a mixture of first and second team cricketers but also 3 x u14s. All of the games were played in a very competitive manner but allowed for all to get a bat or bowl.*

**Finally, do you hope to come again?**

*Yes, we would love to come again but unfortunately, Easter is late next year and means our season back home will start during the Easter break. So, we will have to wait until 2020.*

**If you're tempted by the idea of playing cricket in March (or December!) contact the CCA on [info@cypruscricket.com](mailto:info@cypruscricket.com).**

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## Doğanköy Dollies win Ladies League

In Northern Cyprus, the Creditwest Ladies Cricket League reached finals day on 9th December 2017 with all three teams still in contention. **Ian Fell** tells the story of the day.



*Celebrating the win! Doğanköy Dollies. Left to right: Nigel Holman, Tom Shirley, Rannveig Ystaas, Lynn Holman, Ann McLoughlin, Kevin Mapp, Sarah Sandford, Julie Birch, Gina Mapp, Steph Routledge*

After 90 minutes' play at the Pia Bella Stadium, the cream had risen to the top, as the pre-match favourites Doğanköy Dollies dominated proceedings.

Batting first, Steph Routledge and Rannveig Ystaas opened for the Dollies and despite Ystaas edging behind to Lynn Holman off the bowling of Gina Mapp in the first over, they never looked in further difficulty, completing their 6 overs with 60 runs. Next in were Captain Sarah Sandford and Ann McLoughlin who maintained the rapid scoring, adding another 49 to bring the final innings total to 109 runs.

During the interval, umpires Tom Shirley and Phil Sandford, along with Coach Nigel Holman, told us they felt the score was beyond the Girne Girlies.

Scorer Kevin Mapp added that once the Dollies had gone passed 80 runs, the batting bonus points they had got meant whatever happened the Lapta Lassess were mathematically out of the running to be champions, but they were guaranteed the runners up spot. It was then only a simple question of whoever won the current match, would hold up the cup.

110 runs was a big ask in anyone's language. Captain Holman decided attack was the only way to go, so she opened with herself and forceful batsman Gina Mapp. Risk was the name of the game as they set about their first pair target of 70 runs, thereby leaving a more manageable 40 runs for the second pairing of Gloria Garcia and Julie Birch. The best laid plans

sometimes do go awry. Second ball Mapp looked for a quick single and ran Holman out. However, the Dollies weren't about to surrender; they fought back scoring 48 runs, even with Holman going for a mighty swing off Sandford's bowling and hitting her own stumps.

With 62 still needed, the last pair never looked likely to reach the target. Birch played some attractive shots and took every opportunity to keep the scoring going, but Garcia was pinned down against some very accurate bowling leaving the Lassess 25 runs short.

Typical of all good scorers, Kevin Mapp was delighted with the symmetry of all the teams having won the same number of league games, but Doğanköy's superior batting throughout landed them the Creditwest Ladies Cricket League title.



*Sarah Sandford keeping as Gina Mapp attacks the bowling*

### Northern Cyprus Ladies Cricket League

Team	Played	Win pts	Batting pts	Total
Doğanköy Dollies	4	10	32	42
Lapta Lassess	4	10	28	38
Girne Girlies	4	10	24	34

## Neroshan Pelawatta

Neroshan Pelawatta (Nero to his friends - which seems to be anyone who's met him) has been a mainstay of Cyprus cricket as a medium pace bowler and middle-order batsman for as long as **Andrew Pepper** can remember. Andrew caught up with Nero to find out about his cricket life.

**AP: I first met you on the bus during the Cyprus tour to Belgium in 2011, but you were obviously an established player to get selected for the national team. When did you start playing here?**

*NP: I started playing in 2005. Originally, I played for the Sri Lanka Cricket Club in Nicosia before moving to Fellows.*

**AP: Tell me about your early cricket life - was that in Sri Lanka?**

*NP: Yes, I started out with schoolboy cricket when I was 12. After school I started work in a hotel but continued playing in the hotel team.*

**AP: I hope you don't mind me mentioning that you're not the youngest player in Fellows, but watching you play, you're incredibly fit and still bowling and batting**



*A Cyprus Cricket regular for 13 years and still going strong*



*Still got it - Nero Bowling at Tochni in 2018*

**well. How do you keep in such good shape?**

*NP: It's simple; a healthy diet and exercise. I used to work out in the gym, but nowadays it's jogging and yoga.*

**AP: Do you have a cricketing highlight?**

*NP: I have a few; obviously playing for Cyprus on the tours to Belgium and Corfu in the European*

*championship competitions. I was also Man of the Match in the final of the 30-over competition in 2015 played at the UN ground.*

Editor's notes - Nero's highlight game was Fellows versus Kazespis on 5th April 2015 and I was lucky enough to get the photo opposite.

Nero is modest about his appearances for Cyprus; he consistently chipped in with wickets including 3/22 vs a strong Swedish side in Corfu in 2012.

### *"Loving that, Penguin"*

Cricketing nicknames are often a little unimaginative, but I was intrigued to hear a couple of Nero's teammates calling him "Penguin" when he was in the nets.

It took a little while to work it out; it started out with Nero being called "Emperor" - after "Emperor Nero", it's a fairly short step from "Emperor" to "Emperor Penguin" and then to "Penguin".



*The photo's appeared before but, as it's from Nero's highlight game; time standing still during the Fellows vs Kazepis game at the UN ground in 2015. Nero taking a catch off his own bowling*

## Cyprus on Tour

In their first overseas tour for 6 years, Cyprus are travelling to the Netherlands to compete in the ICC World T20 Europe Qualifiers.

Cyprus are travelling to the Netherlands in August 2018 for the Europe T20 Qualifiers.

18 teams from the European region are entering the qualifiers which run from 29 August to 3rd September.

Three groups of six will compete in round robins. The top two of each group will advance to the ICC World T20 Europe Final in 2019.

Cyprus is in Group A, along with Denmark, Germany, France, Austria and Portugal.

The qualification system has been simplified to allow more opportunities for ICC members to compete internationally and to reduce the number of steps needed to compete in a global event.

In a related development. The ICC announced that

**Did you know Cyprus Cricket has its own Youtube channel that has video highlights of some of the game?**

[www.youtube.com/user/CyprusCricketTV](http://www.youtube.com/user/CyprusCricketTV)



*Cyprus celebrating victory over Malta during their last Euro Championships in 2012*

all men's Twenty20 games played between member sides after January 1st 2019 will be classified as full internationals.

The Netherlands has excellent facilities and the tournament should be a great opportunity for those lucky enough to be selected. The CCA has planned several training days leading up to the tournament - taking advantage of the availability of Tochni ground.

The Cyprus squad is due to be announced on 22nd July.

## Changes to the Laws

**New MCC laws have come into effect that limit bat size, protect batsman from “bouncing bat” run-outs and allow umpires to send off players.**

**Andrew Pepper tries to make sense of the changes.**

The MCC doesn't change the laws of cricket all that often; in the first new Code of Laws since 2000, specific limitations have been introduced on the size of the bat and batsman are now protected from “bouncing-bat” run outs.

After 1st October 2017, the maximum dimensions of a cricket bat will be 108mm wide, 67mm depth with 40mm edges.

The change will affect current bats; plenty of batsmen use bats that are bigger than that: David Warner's bat is 85mm deep and he'll need to change it when the new laws come into force. For amateur players, a “moratorium period” is allowed so that players can continue to use their existing bats, but it may well be worth getting your tape measures out.

Another major change is the “bouncing-bat” run-out. Currently, the bat has to be grounded when the bails are broken to prevent a run out. The new law allows the bat to bounce; if the bat has been grounded within the crease then the bails are broken, if the batsman's “forward momentum towards the stumps” results in the bat leaving the ground, the batsman will not be run-out.

### Players can be sent off

The new laws give the umpires new powers to send off players or award penalty runs in a bid to prevent poor behaviour. Four different severity of offences have been laid out to guide on-field officials with excessive appealing and dissent at the lower level rising

to physical violence at the highest end.

The umpires will be able to award five penalty runs for less serious offences. For the more serious offences, players could be sent off temporarily or permanently. The MCC's head of cricket, John Stephenson, said in a statement that “We felt the time had come to introduce sanctions for poor player

behaviour and research told us that a growing number of umpires at grass roots level were leaving the game because of it.”

“Hopefully these sanctions will give them more confidence to handle disciplinary issues efficiently, whilst providing a deterrent to the players.”

Of major interest to cricket “geeks” (ie people like me!) the number of modes of dismissal has been reduced from 10 to nine. “handled the ball” will no longer be a specific mode of dismissal. Batters still won't be able to handle the ball, but the dismissal will be listed as “obstructing the field”.

The MCC has also made changes to the Code to make them more gender neutral - although the term “batsman” will still be used. John Stephenson summed up the changes:

“We felt the time was right for a new Code to tidy up many of the piecemeal changes made since 2000. The process has taken nearly three years and has involved significant consultation. We are very pleased with the outcome, which we believe reflects the continuing evolution of cricket.”



*Shahid may need to change his bat.  
(editor's note; it's joke!)*



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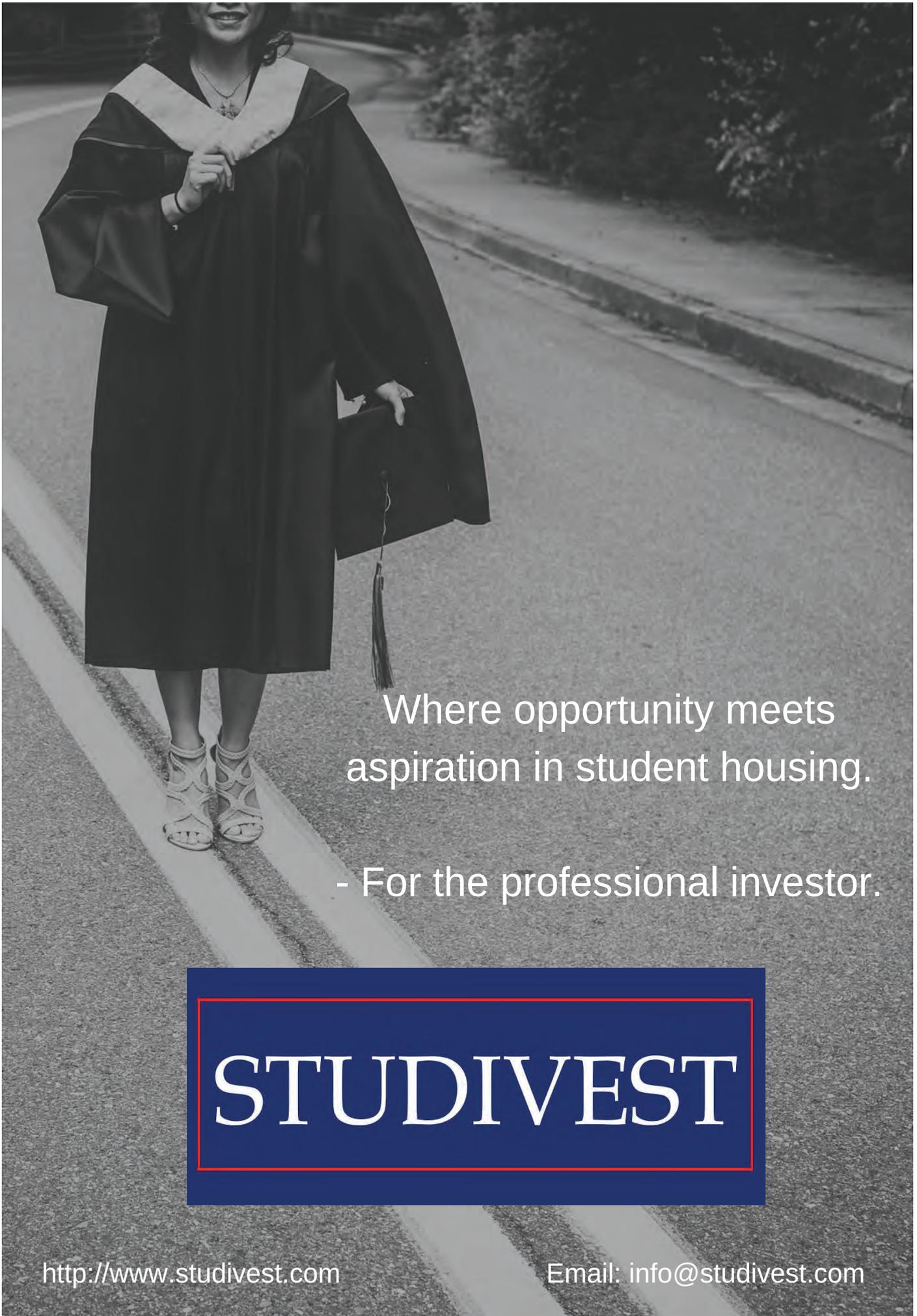
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