



KYPROS CRICKET

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The Newsletter of the Cyprus Cricket Federation

Into the Future with the CyCF



CyCF President, Muhammad Hussain with Mary Charalambous-Papamiltiades (Director General of KOA) and Paris Avraamidis of the Department of Competitive Sports

After years of work by the Cyprus Cricket Association committee and in particular its

changed its name to the Cyprus Cricket Federation - or CyCF for short and we

chairman, Muhammad Husain, cricket is now an officially recognised sport in Cyprus.

On 4th July 2023, the Cyprus Sports Organisation (Κυπριακός Οργανισμός Αθλητισμού, KOA) made the decision to recognise cricket as a sport in Cyprus and that the Cyprus Cricket Association was the official body representing cricket on the island.

As you can imagine, the process of recognition required changes in the CCA - not least, changing its name. The KOA prefer to deal with "federations" rather than "associations" and so the CCA has

also have a new logo to go with the name - see the top of this edition for the new one. I'm saving my old CCA cap as I'm assuming it will leap in value as CyCF headgear comes in.

So, what does the change mean? For the CyCF committee, we have more members - which is very welcome news. For most cricketers in Cyprus, there will be some "admin" changes; apart from the new name and logo, a new website is being planned.

More excitingly, there will be new competitions organised by the CyCF as part of KOA activities. On 24th September, a 6 a side tournament took place as CyCF's contribution to KOA's

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BeActive week.

KOA recognition means that teams can choose to be registered with KOA. As I write, three Teams are registered; Moufflons, Sri Lankan Lions and Limassol Moufflons Cricket Club. If you're in a team that isn't registered don't panic, your team is *affiliated* - you can continue to play in the same tournaments. The main difference is that CyCF is organising a National Championship for which only Registered Teams can compete (technically, Affiliated teams can compete but only after going through most of the process of registering).

Another, potential, benefit of being registered is the potential opportunity to play in the Olympic games. More about cricket in the Olympics later.

So, what's the procedure for becoming registered? Inevitably, as the clubs have to deal with two government departments, it's quite bureaucratic. But remember that three clubs (so far) have registered and the CyCF now know the steps that a

The CyCF want to make access to cricket in Cyprus as easy as possible

club must go through. On the next page, you'll see a flow chart for clubs to see the process.

The CyCF want to make access to cricket in Cyprus as easy as possible, so registering a club with the CyCF as an affiliate team is much as it was when registering a team with the CCA; a club has to have a captain and a qualified squad of players. They contact the CyCF to register their team and players, pay their season fees and turn up and play.

Although most cricketers will continue much as before - playing in CyCF competitions and, perhaps, hoping for international tournaments, KOA rules about sports teams means that, for some competitions, the



The reigning Olympic Cricket Champions from 1900, seen here with the French moustache growing team

teams have to be registered with KOA. With this in mind, the CyCF is planning a national championship for registered teams.

The Olympics

The Olympics, really? Yes, really! A year ago, it would have been impossible for three different reasons for Cypriots to play cricket in the Olympics; firstly, cricket wasn't recognised as a sport in Cyprus, secondly, cricket wasn't an Olympic sport and finally, because of these first two reasons the Cyprus Cricket Federation wasn't a member of the Cyprus National Olympic Committee (CNOC). In what seems no time, all these impossibilities have been swept away; cricket is now a KOA recognised sport which is administered by the CyCF and the International Olympic Committee has announced that cricket will be introduced as an official sport

The other benefit is the potential opportunity to play in the Olympic games

in the LA Olympic Summer games in 2028. Finally, CyCF hope that it is possible that they will be eligible to become a voting member of the CyNOC after the 2024 summer Olympic games.

Technically, cricket is being *re*-introduced; cricket was once part

of the Olympics, with the emphasis on the "once" - one game was played during the 1900 Paris Olympics. Only France and Britain took part, the British team was largely made up of players from the Devon and Somerset Wanderers; a touring club side who happened to be in France. They beat a team made up from members of Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sports Athlétiques, and most of the team were British ex-pats.

Nevertheless, I think it should be recorded that Britain is the reigning Olympic champion.

How does a player qualify for the Olympics?

There are two "administrative" requirements - players have to be registered; ie playing for a team that is recognised by KOA and they have to be Cypriot citizens - that's an IOC requirement.

Before any Cypriot cricketers get too excited, the format of the Olympic Games cricket is yet to be announced, but it's thought that there will only be 6 nations that will qualify for the Olympic games. Another thing to recall is that Cyprus is a small island, in the last summer Olympics Cyprus sent 15 athletes in total.

Nevertheless, after nearly 150 years of cricket in Cyprus this must be one of the most important changes - into the future with CyCF!

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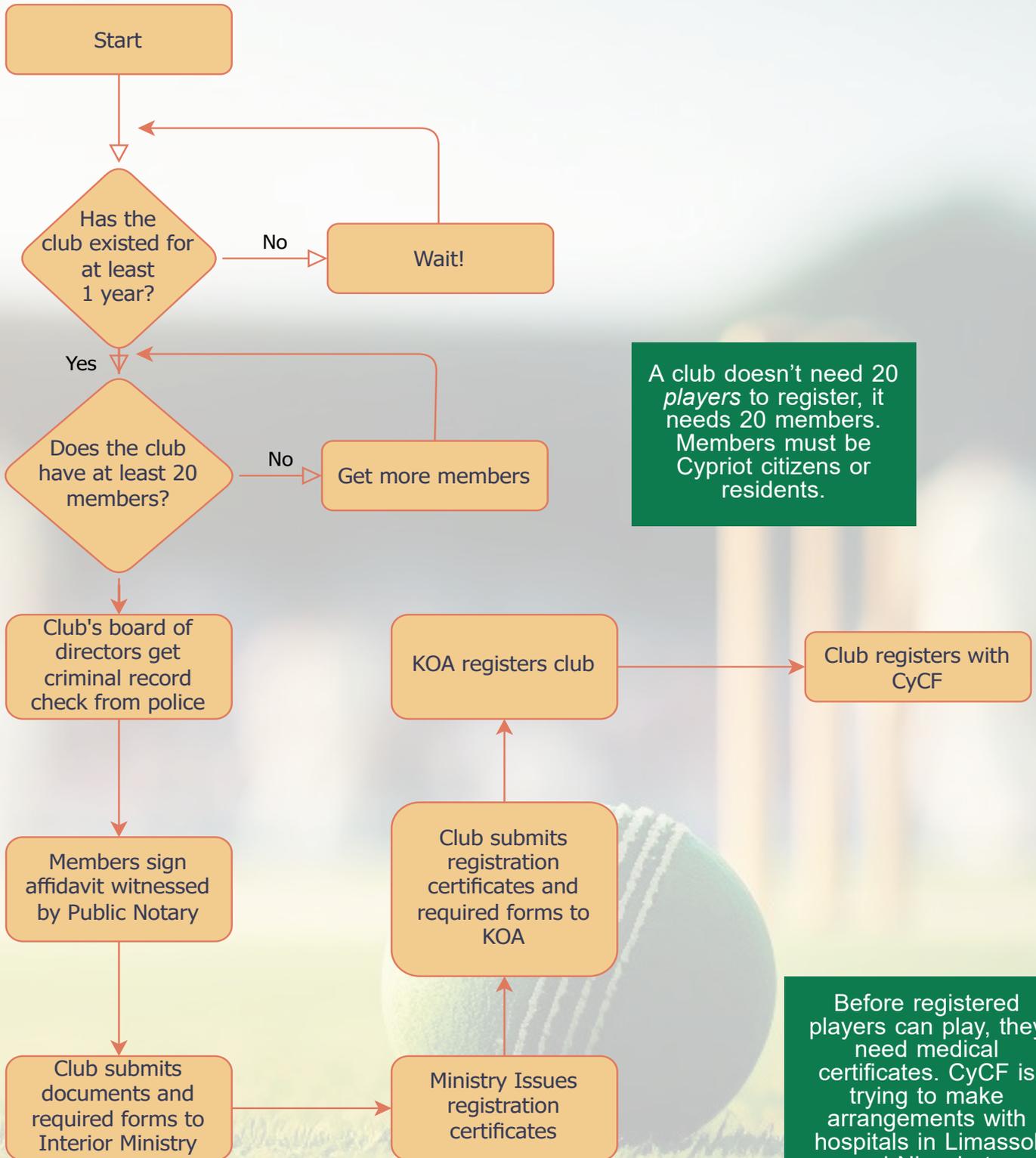
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Want to be a registered club? Here's the procedure - it's not as bad as it looks! CyCF will help you every step of the way. The whole process takes around 7 months.



A club doesn't need 20 *players* to register, it needs 20 *members*. Members must be Cypriot citizens or residents.

Before registered players can play, they need medical certificates. CyCF is trying to make arrangements with hospitals in Limassol and Nicosia to simplify the procedure of obtaining the certificates.

Honours shared in action-packed 2023 for Men's cricket

Richard Boxall squeezes almost 12 months of cricket into 2 pages in his look back at 2023 in Cyprus



Five different teams contested the three finals of men's competitions held during a bumper year of cricket in Cyprus. The two T20 leagues were both contested by no fewer than 20 teams, while 7 took part in the more time-consuming 40 over format.

The increased level of competition points to a levelling up of standards, with several teams now able to compete for honours, and even the smaller teams able to put up a fight.

With important international matches looming in 2024, players had plenty of opportunity to put forward a case for selection, and there were many individual highlights, along with the delight of teams winning trophies for the first time.

In the spring the T20 and 40 over leagues were played alongside each other, starting in May and finishing in early August. The spring T20 has become in some ways the main competition, as the winners qualify to play in the European Cricket League against other national champions from the continent.

There were some massive scores in the group stage. Zalmi amassed 262-2 thanks to Jawad Shah's 162* in a partnership of 219 with Noman Zeb. Punjab Lions hit 287-7 and then 291-4, with Mangala Gunasekara making 112.

Black Caps and Punjab Lions both went out in the quarter finals despite having dominated their

groups with 100% records. The Lions lost by 47 runs to Moufflons, who had lost half of their dominant team from the past couple of years but managed to recruit some good players to fill the gaps. It was the long-serving Gurdeep Sharma and Waqar Ali who bowled them to victory in this game.

Markhor thrashed Sri Lanka Lions by 9 wickets in their quarter final but then lost by 20 runs to Moufflons in the semi final. Meanwhile Sri Lankans from Nicosia were showing signs of a revival by reaching the semi final, with the bowling of Buddika Ranasinghe often causing problems, before losing to Nicosia Tigers, who had also



Mixed emotions during a tour game between a Reme XI and a Cyprus XI in March 2023, Muhammad Ikram is the resigned looking batter

won all their group matches.

In the final Tigers made 153-8, with Waqas Akhtar 56, but Atta Ullah's unbeaten 106 saw Moufflons to a comfortable 7-wicket victory. The season's individual honours went to Jawad Shah with 325 runs and Waqar Ali who took 15 wickets.

Meanwhile runs galore were being scored in the 40 over league, where no fewer than 9 centuries were recorded. Even in the first match of the season Black Caps scored 394 and in reply Markhor made 311 in a match containing three centuries. Moufflons hit a record 463-9, with Roman Mazumder making 167, and Cyprus Super Kings replied spiritedly with 366-8.

At the start of July Limassol Zalmi's 344-9 was amazingly chased down by Markhor with 345-4, and on the same day on a different ground Royal amassed 414-9. Pity the poor bowlers!

Every team won and lost at least one match, but



True Grit from the military tourist!

the top two, with identical records, were Sri Lanka Lions and Royal, who met in the final.

After so much high scoring, the Lions' batting was destroyed on the day by Royal's Umar Farooq who took 6-21 as they were dismissed for 137. Royal stuttered towards their target which they reached with three wickets to spare after Harwinder Singh Gill's crucial 36.

So Royal secured their first trophy, while the best individual performances belonged to their players - Waqas Akhtar with 317 runs and 14 wickets, and Umar Farooq with 15 wickets.

After a brief summer break the Autumn T20 was contested from September to December. Markhor, Limassol Qalandars and Nicosia Tigers all won all their group matches, but the once-invincible Punjab Lions had to rely on a superior net run rate to progress to the knockout



Ouch. One of the worst things about being clean bowled is the sight of a grinning photographer who's got the shot

stage where they were soundly beaten by the Tigers.

Also in the quarter finals Black Caps were humbled by Sri Lanka Lions as Ravindu Asanka's 4-18 reduced them to 60 all out, though the Lions lost 5 wickets in reply and won with

just 3 balls to spare. Royal successfully chased down Qalandars' 213-6, winning by 7 wickets thanks to Umar Shah and Sarpreet Singh.

The same two batters, aided by the batting and spin bowling of Karan Singh, helped Royal ease past Sri Lanka Lions in the semis. Markhor overcame spring champions Moufflons by 6 runs in their quarter final and then beat Nicosia Tigers by 4 wickets in the semi final, to set up an intriguing final.

The final had a twist to it, as Markhor won the toss and elected to bat, even though their opening batsman was not at the ground. Instead Abu Baqar Saddique found himself promoted to bat first, and duly obliged with a match-winning innings of 91 as Markhor reached 231-6. Awais Ahmad's 4-34 helped restrict Royal to 214 all out, leaving Markhor to celebrate their first triumph.

Royal's Umar Shah had the consolation of being the competition's leading batsman with 291 runs, while the next three were all Markhor players, indicating the batting strength that lay behind their win.

All in all a good year for men's cricket in Cyprus, with the hope of more to come in 2024.



Awais Ahmed of Markhor CC bowling at Ypsonas against Sri Lankan Lions in June 2023



Coaching is Brilliant!

Cricket isn't just playing the game; umpiring, scoring, administration and, of course, coaching are ways people have found to enjoy the game. Andrew Pepper chatted with Andy Crawford, Sophie Irving and Ema Constantinou about how they ended up coaching cricketers in Cyprus



Another great coaching session over; women at Ypsonas with coach Andy Crawford

Cricket coaching is one of the most fulfilling aspects of the game; for former players, it allows them to pass on knowledge and watch players develop. From the start of civilian cricket in Cyprus (around 1989 for any historians reading this), there has been coaching for younger players. At first, the children of military staff were coached at Happy Valley but now qualified coaches are working with adults and in schools.

That was brought home to me when I started visiting the women's coaching sessions in Ypsonas; the first couple of weeks

showed there was a huge range of ability; one had played national representative cricket as a teenager, others had never played before and some of the bowling actions was (how shall I phrase it?) slightly questionable.

A few weeks later I returned and all the bowling I saw was legal and fairly rapid. A lot of credit must go to Andy Crawford; I asked Andy how he'd ended up coaching cricket in Cyprus:

"My Dad and Grandad were in the RAF and based in Akrotiri (a sovereign base area in southern

Cyprus), I used to visit them in summer holidays from primary school and that set Cyprus in my heart as the place I wanted to be.

I enjoyed playing cricket since I was around 7. However, I excelled in other sports - particularly rugby and athletics and was encouraged by my secondary school to pursue these. I did play a few 2nd XI cricket matches for my school - as well as many informal games with school chums.

I had to stop playing rugby because of injury, but started playing for a local club while at



Living the best life - Andy Crawford

awareness of the sport. I don't play, but of the skills I prefer bowling to batting.

The coaching course was long but fun, I met a bunch of great people and enjoyed the different types of coaching. I would definitely like to continue and pursue the next level as I am interested not only in developing my own skills but also learn more creative ways to teach the sport. As Ypsonas has a women's team now, if we can get a team in Pagia I would definitely be interested in participating as a member of the team rather than a coach."

I asked about switching from soft to hard ball; "Switching from soft ball to hard ball is definitely intimidating for our students. Despite being enthusiastic about using the wooden bat, the fear of the ball remains. Not to mention the fact that they need to be wearing protective equipment - putting that on is time consuming for a PE lesson."

One thing I love about watching kids playing cricket is their enthusiasm, Ema recalled one game where the children became extra competitive and as the wicket keeper dived towards the stumps he hit the batter's legs and managed to flip him upside down; Ema's described it as being like 10-pin bowling with the wicket keeper as the ball and the batter as the pin!

Luckily, no-one was hurt - when the batter stood up his first words were "That was the first flip of my life!"

Another newly qualified

coach is Sophie Irving, I asked how she got into cricket and coaching:

"My dad is a huge cricket fan and it was something I was interested in as child. When I was asked if I'd like to do the cricket coaching course, I was really keen to learn more about the sport and how to teach it to younger children.

I don't play but to choose a preference, I prefer batting!

I'm not coaching at present as I've had a job role change but it started when I was offered the chance to do the course through my current employer.

The coaching course was a really fun day! The coaches were really supportive and I felt like I learnt so much about different techniques and skills needed for the sport.

Even though I've changed roles, I still LOVE sport so I would always be open to learning more about cricket coaching."

I mentioned the successful women's coaching at Ypsonas the plans to start coaching in Pagia.

Sophie replied "That's great to hear! Its something I would definitely put myself forward for."

As I write, cricket coaching has started in state schools with several PE teachers being coached in cricket coaching. The future looks very exciting!



Ema Constantinou coaching at TLC

university. In 2008 I moved to Scotland and started playing cricket for Dunbar; by now, cricket was my main sport."

On the very memorable date of 10/10/2020, Andy fulfilled his childhood dream and moved to Cyprus. Andy has been very active coaching here since his arrival; he runs after school cricket sessions at TLC school and he's also run several 6 week courses at Happy Valley for forces kids.

Emanuella Constantinou (known as Ema) was introduced to cricket in South Africa. She moved with her family to Cyprus at age 10 and cricket practise ended as it wasn't an option in schools (then!).

Ema continued, "My next encounter was when I was doing my postgraduate certificate in education in the UK.

Since then, I've been teaching cricket at TLC school and I've completed the level 1 coaching course and I'm trying to raise

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Umpiring umpires and coaching coaches

CyCF runs regular coaching courses and recently held the first ever ICC level 1 umpiring on the island and were lucky enough to have Jasmine Naeem visit to assist. Jasmine has umpired in women's ODIs, T20i and Tests and tells the story of her visit

When we think about Cyprus, we think of its beautiful beaches, the endless delicious food and most all the charming people. But hang on do we ever think of cricket when it comes to Cyprus? If you did not then you will now.

I recently had the wonderful opportunity to visit Cyprus to promote not only cricket but



Prospective umpires; Jasmine is front centre; on Jasmine's right is Tracey (see the next article!) Muhammad is back, rightmost

assist Muhammad to deliver the island's first ever ICC level 1 umpiring course. Nine candidates interacted, participated and elevated their knowledge of cricket and umpiring.

I know this was the island's first ever ICC level 1 umpiring course but I am praying it is not the last. I loved promoting cricket and umpiring whilst I was visiting the island as cricket is such a wonderful game which should be enjoyed by all, but specifically I just want a reason to return to Cyprus; what can I say? Its a fabulous place!

In addition to the ICC level 1 umpiring course, I was invited to attend St Mary's Primary School

to help deliver an introduction to cricket to its pupils. What a lovely experience; the teacher and pupils were welcoming and so energetic to learn more about cricket. The session only lasted an hour but the children could not get enough of it. They learned how to warm up and cool down in cricket, how to bat and bowl and, specifically, how to catch the ball.

Cricket is contagious sport, once you play you can never let go. I hope after this session more schools in Cyprus will include cricket in their physical education programme.

On my final days on the island, I had the wonderful opportunity to meet the Cyprus

Sports Organisation. At the sports hall there where 20 Physical Education teachers willing and eager to learn the A, B and C of Cricket. With a 3-hour session, the teachers enjoyed learning close and high catches, fielding positions, bowling, batting, wicket-keeping and the several methods of dismissals including run-out, bowled, stumping and catching. No LBW's yet as I am holding out for the call back to Cyprus for a second session (I'm ready when you are, Muhammad!)

The teachers learned the vital rule in cricket is to have FUN. Believe me this was evident in the end when we engaged them into a team cricket game. The

competition really got heated, a lot of fun and excitement was achieved but most all the learning of what cricket is and its value to the next generation was achieved.

The journey on the island was an inspirational and loving one but most of all the hope of delivering and giving everyone the opportunity to play cricket in Cyprus has taken a step forward with CyCF's dream of elevating cricket to all in Cyprus is not going to end soon. So, I hope to be back soon to assist in making this dream a reality.

Tempted to join a course? A few quotes from students:

"This was a very first step in gaining knowledge on how to train others for cricket and creating good cricketers.

A very useful, well delivered course. It was the correct pace and the content was very relevant for us to apply to our work practices.

There was a good mix of practical and theory with support explaining situation handling techniques" -Pankaj Pravesh

"The ICC Level 1 Coaching Course has been a transformative journey for us young coaches, providing a solid foundation in the fundamental principles of coaching. Under expert guidance, we delved deep into the world of implicit coaching, unlocking its immense benefits for both coaches and players." -Preetaj Deol

Tracey's story...



It only seems fair to give a students' impression of the first on-island ICC level 1 umpiring course and Tracey Pasquill describes her journey from armchair to cricket field umpire



Taking her place with the other umpires for the January(!) ECN tournament (photo Diana Oros)

Howzat! Howzat possible? A female cricket umpire? Yes, we do exist. There's not many of us, particularly in Cyprus. My umpiring journey is quite unique in the fact that I have never played the game. How can somebody that's never played the game understand enough to make difficult decisions every match? The answer is getting on the field, dedication, determination, and the support of your local cricket federation.

I have always enjoyed watching the game, I can remember as a young girl my father took me to watch Lancashire v Derbyshire. I loved it, but 35 years ago I

never considered a girl playing cricket. For many years I was content watching on the TV. Then the 2019 men's World Cup happened and quite possibly changed my life.

I watched every single match, bit my nails to the quick whilst watching the final, and the rest is history, I was hooked.

I researched cricket in Cyprus and found the Cyprus Cricket Federation. With my husband Lee, we went down to the Ypsonas ground every Sunday and watched the T20 games. Then COVID struck, everything came to a stop, and I was back

to watching on TV and giving my umpiring decisions from the sofa. Every time I got one right, Lee would talk to me about becoming an umpire, which I laughed off. Men's cricket wouldn't accept a newbie, female umpire – would they? I spoke to a friend, Joe Oldfield, who is an umpire in England, and he too recommended that I give it a try.

With female umpires increasing, the likes of Sue Redfern, Jasmine Naeem, Claire Polosak and many more, it seemed that it might be possible for me.

To test my knowledge, I did the ECB "It's your call stage one

online” course, and I passed. I surprised myself as to how much I knew, and searched out more education. I found the ICC Umpire Foundation course, and once again passed. I enquired to the CyCF about umpiring and was told by Richard Boxall that I would be more than welcome to give it a go. Then the self doubt started; was I good enough? Would the men accept a female? Did I really know enough to make the right decisions? Was I strong enough to be able to control the game and deal with any problems that might happen? After a pep talk from my husband, I contacted the CyCF president, Muhammad

coming to Cyprus for a series and wanted local umpires. I immediately put my name down, knowing that this would be an increased challenge, with YouTube cameras and commentators watching and discussing every decision I would make. It was a fantastic experience and I learnt so much from all of the crew and fellow umpires. I am hoping to have more opportunities in the future with them.

The ICC then released the Level 1 Umpire Course, which I have recently completed. It was held in Limassol with Muhammad as our tutor and the ICC Master

challenge, of hearing the bowler running up behind me, my heart beating fast as I focus and get ready to make a decision which could decide the result of the match. It's not an easy role, we are always open to being blamed, but I have broad shoulders and I will continue to shine the beacon for umpires, especially female ones.

I have now set big goals for myself - national, international, Olympics – the sky's the limit! Dream big and shine bright! I have already had discussions about officiating some matches in Spain and Switzerland, so why not?



Tracey and fellow umpire, Sachithra Tharanga stand for Black Caps vs Royal CC - ECS Cyprus on January 24 2024 (photo Diana Oros)

Husain, and was asked to umpire a six-a-side tournament with him standing behind me for support and I really enjoyed it.

This led to regularly umpiring the T20 league matches and I was delighted to be asked to umpire the final on Boxing Day, 2023. I was then informed that the European Cricket Network was

Educator, Jasmine Naeem was also in attendance. It was a thoroughly enjoyable two days, with 9 umpires laughing and learning together, gaining more confidence to take out on to the field.

Some people ask me why I umpire, some people even laugh, “for the love of the game” is the answer. I love the

When I consider how far I've come – I only started umpiring in October 2023 – anything is possible. If anyone is interested in getting involved, whatever the role, feel free to contact myself (umpiretracey@gmail.com) or the Cyprus Cricket Federation. I intend to keep following my motto for life – never stop believing!

The question shouldn't be "Why?"



Does cricket attract eccentrics? When I think about the cricketers I've met over the years, I think there's only one answer. But, being kind, when a game can last 5 days, it also means that the players are people with time on their hands. Andrew Pepper looks at some unusual versions of the game...

This article is a tribute to cricketers who ask "why not?" instead of "why?"

On the 29th April 1794, the following announcement appeared in the Kentish Gazette "A Very singular game of cricket will be played on Tuesday, the 6th of May, in Linsted Park, between the Gentlemen of the Hill and the Gentlemen of the Dale, for one guinea a man. The whole to be performed on horseback"

Alas, there's no reports of the game; we don't know how, or even if, it was played, who won and who was daft enough to pay the modern equivalent of €2100 to take part.

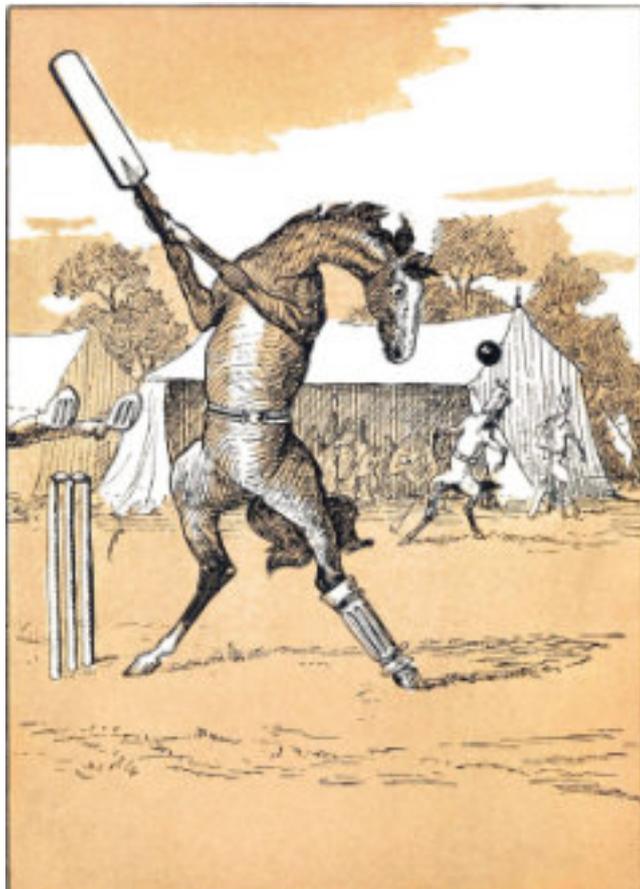
One less romantic thought is the organiser had heard a garbled description of polo and interpreted the result as "horse cricket", but, as historians say, that's pure speculation.

One game that definitely took place was Britain against a Rest of the

World team who played the first official game at the South Pole in January 2012. When explorer Neil Laughton completed his expedition to ski to the pole to commemorate Captain Scott's arrival in Antarctica, he (obviously) decided to play some cricket. Britain won by two wickets. The rule against fielders wearing gloves had to be waived owing to the temperature of -35°C. Mr Laughton described conditions as "difficult". It's not recorded if much sledging took place.

An odd custom has arisen off the coast of southern England; twice a year, Bramble Sand Bank surfaces for around an hour and a hasty game of cricket is played between two teams drawn from local yacht clubs. The madness tradition is thought to have started in the 1950s as an idea by well-known boat maker Uffa Fox. As the conditions are so challenging (players have to wear wellies) the result is pre-determined and the two teams simply take it in turns to win.

In Cyprus we're lucky with the weather and it's very unusual for rain to stop play, but in Kochi in November 2017 that

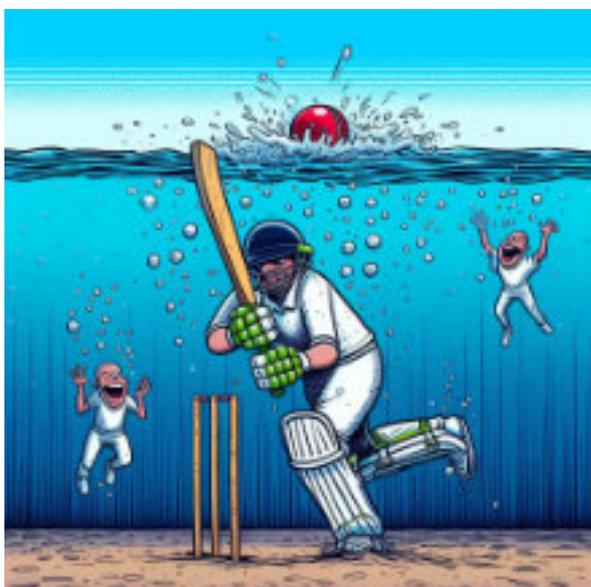


Do horses and cricket mix? Old Book Illustrations, London, 1891

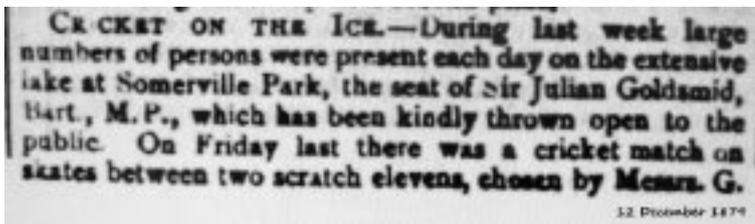
problem was avoided completely by two teams of 4 playing a "T3" game under water.

The game was arranged to encourage the Indian cricket team. Organised by Jackson Peter from an underwater safari company, around ten players took part and the teams were captained by diving instructors, Subin Kallarickal and Shibin Sebastian. I'm quite pleased that a scuba diver instructor is called "Sub" - and the plan worked; India won their next game against New Zealand.

The records keep coming! In December 2013, teams from Caldbeck and Threlkeld in the Lake District of the UK played the



Could it catch on? Like most questions asked in captions, the answer is "no"



Moritz lake every winter (excluding pandemics). Impromptu matches were played on the lake as far back

as 1896, but in 1988 the club started a tournament which attracts teams from all over Europe. Now the game has spread to Estonia where an “Ice cricket Ashes” was held in May last year between the Kelletino Warriors and a Cambridge University team. Play was held up for two minutes when the Kelletino’s electrician streaked across the pitch, presumably reminding any photographers present that it was a very cold day.

iconic ground made him think it would be ideal for hosting a cricket match. Personally, I question the use of the word “ideal”. Whilst drinking beer with some friends (actually, I suspect it was *because* of drinking beer) he and some friends decided to undertake an expedition to play a match on Mount Everest.

Fifty people went to Everest and a T20 game of cricket was played on the Gorak Shep plateau at a world record altitude of 5,165 metres. In a close game, Team Hillary beat Team Tenzing by 36 runs with 6 balls remaining.

In a one up for cricket, footballers aren’t even allowed to play at half that altitude, so 3-mile high cricket

An early example of the almost sensible sport of cricket on ice

first underground cricket match. The game was played 600m inside Honiston Slate Mine in Keswick. The game was played to raise funds for Threlkeld’s flood damaged ground. Caldbeck were the winners.

Cricket on ice has become such a widespread and regular occurrence that one could almost argue it’s a sport in its own right. It must be very tempting if you see a nice, flat frozen lake to pull out the cricket bag, but what started as a bit of a lark has developed into a more serious sport, with rule and equipment changes to suit the conditions.

The earliest reference of cricket on ice (COI) is from a game in Sheffield in 1826. To make things a bit more interesting, the game was played on skates.

In February 1838, the Kentish Times (of “cricket on horseback” fame) reported on a game played on a frozen lake in Erridge Park. Again, played on skates, the game produced many minor accidents “much to the amusement of the numerous spectators”.

However, with some changes (the game is no longer played on skates and a plastic ball is used), COI is no longer such a novelty sport. Special mention must go to the St Moritz Cricket Club in Switzerland who organise an ice cricket tournament played on the frozen St

as 1896, but in 1988 the club started a tournament which attracts teams from all over Europe. Now the game has spread to Estonia where an “Ice cricket Ashes” was held in May last year between the Kelletino Warriors and a Cambridge University team. Play was held up for two minutes when the Kelletino’s electrician streaked across the pitch, presumably reminding any photographers present that it was a very cold day.



St Moritz Cricket Club offers a spectacular playing field (photo Alex Mackay, St Moritz Cricket Club)

If playing on a frozen lake feels like it makes things too easy, perhaps you should contact Richard Kirtley. Richard was trekking on Garak Shep plateau, close to Everest base camp, and the plateau reminded him of the Oval cricket ground (altitude sickness can have side effects). The similarity with the

is not for the fainthearted. The expedition raised over £250,000 for Lord’s Taverners and the Himalayan Trust.

So, if anyone says “Why play cricket on Everest?” The obvious answer is “Why not?”



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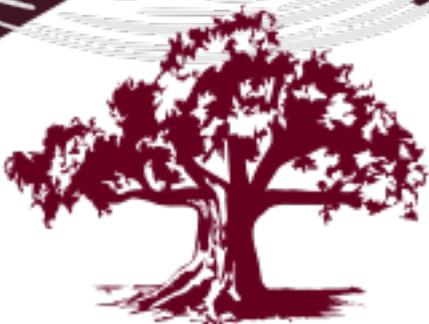
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