

### **Who are we?**

Inverclyde Cricket Club is a small but enthusiastic club that was first formed in 1954 as Scotts' Cricket Club, with most of their players coming from Scotts' Shipbuilding and Engineering Company at Cartsburn Shipyard, Greenock. Over the years the club became more open and with the demise of the company in the early 1980s the club changed its name to Inverclyde Cricket Club to reflect the broad range of membership from all parts of the Inverclyde area. For many years the club competed successfully in the Greenock & District Cricket league competition then the Glasgow & District Cricket League (winning that league's 3rd Division in 1993) and, since the reorganisation of the cricket league structure in Scotland in the late 1990s, the Western District Cricket Union. We currently play in the 4th Division of the Western Union and are Cricket Scotland TopClub accredited.

The club badge shows the Cross of Lorraine which stands at the top of the Lyle Hill in Greenock and which overlooks the club's first ground at the Battery Park. In the 1990s the club relocated to Gourock Park and is now firmly rooted within the Gourock community, with indoor and outdoor facilities within walking distance of each other.

In the last few years the club has made significant improvements to its playing and training facilities within the community. With the help of generous grant funding it has been instrumental in obtaining a state of the art ECB compliant indoor facility at St Columba's High School in Gourock and is now also one of the few clubs to have an up to date portable artificial wicket for outdoor use.

### **A warm welcome**

We pride ourselves in being a social cricket team and enjoy our cricket as well as a hard earned drink after the game. New and prospective members are warmly welcomed and are encouraged to participate fully from the outset. We have unequal opportunities and open to all policy.

Social events include an annual fundraiser evening, the annual dinner with invited guests, a junior fun day and (the highlight of the year) the annual Scotts' v Inverclyde match – a keenly contested but fun event when the players of yesteryear (the old codgers) take on the current incumbents (the whippersnappers).

### **What do we do?**

During the season, as well as competitive matches each week, there is a weekly club night when junior and senior players have the opportunity to participate together. In addition, from February until April there are weekly indoor practices. These are held at our indoor cricket facility at St Columba's High School in Gourrock, close to our home ground.

We are an Inverclyde Council accredited Safe Club for children and have an enthusiastic junior section which offers children the opportunity to enjoy cricket in a fun and safe environment under the tutelage of our Junior Convener and coaching team, who also work in bringing cricket into the local schools. The juniors meet every Saturday morning (10 till 12) in St Columba's High School, Gourrock from January through to April/May when they move outdoors at Gourrock Park. The juniors participate in Sunday morning summer cricket festivals organised by the Western District Junior Cricket Association as well as that body's age group league structure.

As well as the playing side there are always opportunities to get involved in other ways, be it umpiring, coaching, scoring or helping out behind the scenes. Currently the club has one ECB qualified umpire and three ECB qualified cricket coaches for teaching cricket to children.

The club captain is Dave Thomson, ably assisted by vice-captain Gareth James.

All this for an annual subscription in 2019 of just £60 (senior), £30 (student / concession) and £10 (country member). The junior subscription is £20 per child or £30 for families who have more than one junior member.

### **And finally**

You are more than welcome to come along and join our club which we all believe is just a bit special. We find that once someone joins they are very likely to stay for a long time.

You can become a member by getting in touch with one of our office bearers – contact information is on our website – or simply come along to one of our matches or practices – again, details are on our website.

Our website ([www.inverclydecricquet.co.uk](http://www.inverclydecricquet.co.uk)) gives a plethora of information, while our facebook and twitter pages allow members to keep their finger on the pulse.

Again welcome, we hope our association will be a long and entertaining one.

**Tom Boag***President*

