

REPORT FOR 'SPORTS SECTION' OF 'FIFE HERALD' OF 12TH FEBRUARY 2010

Falkland Cricket Club's 150th Anniversary

2010 marks the 150th Anniversary of Falkland Cricket Club and excitement is starting to build amongst Falkland cricket club players, officials and supporters as this milestone year gets under way.

Indoor practices began in early January and continue every Friday evening until April at Kirkcaldy High School from 8.00p.m. until 9.30p.m. Attendances at training so far have been excellent, and the club would also welcome new members of any age or ability who wish to come along. The club will once again be running 3 senior Saturday teams this summer and a Sunday XI, while there will also be junior teams playing at 3 age levels. Following a highly successful season in 2009, when the 1st XI won the Scottish National League 2nd Division, the club will have a new professional this summer. The Sri Lankan Harsha Cooray, who is a top order batsman, useful bowler and a well qualified coach, has signed for the club.

The club will be celebrating the anniversary with a wide range of special events. Club historians Charlie McGarrie and David Grant have been working painstakingly for 2 years on a special Falkland C.C. book, which will be published in the early spring. In early April 30 club members will be undertaking a tour to Cyprus which features 3 matches at the British Forces base near Limassol.

A mid season Anniversary Ball is booked for Friday 2nd July at Balbirnie House Hotel, Markinch, and then the centrepiece of the year's celebrations is the 'Festival of the 3 Falklands' cricket week starting on 19th July. The Falkland Islands cricket team, along with the strong village team from Falkland in Berkshire, will compete in a triangular tournament which is sure to be a memorable occasion and attract great media interest. The Falkland Islands side, consisting of civilian and military players based on the UK territory in the south Atlantic, played its first full international against Chile in 2004. The team was granted affiliate membership of the International Cricket Council 3 years ago although Argentina, which claims sovereignty of the islands, abstained from the vote. It is safe to assume that Diego Maradona will not be invited to present the trophy to the winner of the '3 Falklands' competition!

Other planned events include a game against the Scottish Presidents' XI on Friday 23rd July, a Players Reunion on Saturday 14th August and a Sportsman's Dinner on Saturday 30th October.

A packed programme of events is in prospect and the club officials want to involve current players, former players, supporters and all members of the local community in celebrating the club's long and eventful history. With promotion to the Scottish National League 1st Division, the club will be competing this year at its highest level ever. Expect a fascinating season and roll on April!