

Golden Oldies World Cricket Festival, 8-15th August, 2010

Information and check list for host grounds

Information:

Each participating ground will be asked to host three fixtures during the festival week. These will take place on Monday 9th, Wednesday 11th and Friday 13th August, 2010. All the teams are staying in Harrogate for the whole week, and the action kicks off with a Grand Parade of the Nations, and a Welcome Party at Theakston's Brewery in Masham on Sunday 8th August to which every team is invited. The matches will be 35 over friendly matches, commencing at 11.00. Lunch will be taken between innings and will be provided by the club: it is suggested that it comprises a variety of sandwiches, cake, fruit, water / soft drinks and tea or coffee – in fact, not dissimilar to your usual teas. Taylors will be supplying each host club with Yorkshire Tea to use on match days. 24 lunches must be supplied to the 22 players, the umpire and the scorer within the festival package, but you may be able to sell additional lunches to wives, spectators who turn up. After the match is over the club can organize hospitality for the teams: ie BBQ, drinks etc, on a cash basis – this is a chance for the club to earn some additional revenue. The teams must be allowed to get back to Harrogate in reasonable time to shower, change and go out for a meal so the coach departure time (to be decided) must be strictly adhered to.

Host clubs will receive the following payment:

Preparation of pitches: 3 @ £85	£255
Umpires: 3 @ £28	£84
Scorers: 3 @ £10	£30
Lunches: 3 X 24 x £5	£360
Total	£729

We are hoping to be able to pay this sum to each participating club in the form of one cheque prior to the start of the festival: clubs will then arrange to pay the umpires and scorers as above. The league will provide umpires, but clubs should endeavour to find a scorer for each game..

The fixture list for the festival will be drawn up nearer the time, once we have the final list of registered teams: you will be told which teams are playing at your ground as soon as the fixture list is finalized. You may be hosting two overseas sides, one overseas side and one from the UK. We would like every player in every team to leave your ground impressed by the warm welcome, the friendliness and the hospitality that they have received. You will be acting as ambassadors for your club and for Yorkshire and England: we want every guest to leave convinced that this beautiful part of the world is the loveliest, friendliest place they have ever visited, and encourage them to return with their friends and family – and their cricket team on another tour.

It is vital that each pitch is well prepared: We don't want these players going back to their hotels complaining about your club, pitch or hospitality. Many of these players are flying 8-12,000 miles and spending a lot of their hard earned money just to play cricket on your ground, so please make them glad that they made the effort!

All the match balls are being supplied free of charge by Lords International: you will be given a supply before the festival starts. We will be using traditional red ball with a festival stamp on them.

The standard of cricket will vary: it is quite likely that a few former first class cricketers and one or two test players will be appearing. Several ex professionals will be playing, and some teams will be very useful. Others will be enthusiastic but not very good. Teams are asked to give an honest assessment of their ability before the tournament so that we can pair teams of matching abilities against each other in the fixture list. The whole ethos of the festival is that everyone who participates enjoys themselves, irrespective of their ability. While there will be an element of competition between the sides, every match should be played in the spirit of friendship and sport. The post match social is a very important part of the day: that is when each team awards its 'personality of the match' award, provided by Air New Zealand, to the member of the opposing team who has given them the most enjoyment.

The final event of the festival week will be the Grand Finale Dinner, held in Harrogate at 7.00m on Saturday evening, 15th August. The dinner will have a distinguished speaker and awards will be handed out during the evening to those teams and individuals who have made notable social contributions to the week. Tickets will be available to anyone who wants to attend, and in order to enable everyone who has participated in or helped organize the week to go the league management committee is considering that rare event: a weekend off for all league teams that day. The season will be extended for one week in September to compensate. It will also give your grounds a week to recover from the three festival games.

This is a chance for your club to meet teams from different parts of the UK and the world, swap anecdotes, discuss touring options and make friends. The next Golden Oldies Festival will take place somewhere, probably in the Southern Hemisphere, in 2012: having seen how much fun it is, you may decide that you want to take part! Play your part well and let's get this part of the world established as a fantastic destination on the international cricket map. This festival is likely to bring approx £750k into the local economy at a time of economic recession. If we all play our parts well, it won't be the last event of this type to come to the area.

Raise your own Team:

Local teams are encouraged to enter and you will find the local team package on the league website. You can come as your own club or form an amalgamation with other nearby clubs to raise a team. Pit your side against the Aussies, Kiwis and South Africans, play against some of England's best know friendly touring sides. Take part, have fun and make cricketing friends all over the world!

Check List:

Club:

Contact for all Golden Oldies arrangements (name, address, phone numbers, email):

Brief directions to ground (coming from Harrogate: start at nearest main road)

Post Code for the Ground:

Coach Drop off and Parking: teams will be travelling to each match by coach.
Where is the nearest coach drop off point?

How far is that from the ground?

Where is the nearest place for a coach to park up while it is waiting to pick up the teams?

Hosting:

Your club will need to ensure that one or more people are there on all three match days to host the match on behalf of the club, provide the lunch, prepare the ground and wickets and generally sort out any problems. Can you do that?

Kit Loan Scheme:

Would your club willing to help those overseas teams who are traveling to the UK – and help save the planet – by providing a kit bag for their use containing say 6 bats, 6 sets of pads and 2 or 3 helmets? This would cut down enormously on the amount of baggage that they need to travel with and save a huge amount of carbon. It will also spare our guests from lengthy delays at airport security – Chris Lewis and his partner in crime have done traveling sports teams no favours: sports kit bags are likely to be targeted from now on.

All the items provided would need to be clearly marked. It will be made clear to all the visiting teams that these items need to be checked at the start and end of every match, and if anything goes missing, they will be responsible for replacing it. They will bring their own clothing, gloves and protectors. If we can achieve total coverage, this will be a first for the festival and we will set the benchmark for all future festivals. We appreciate that this is a big ask, but it really would help all the international teams who are making the effort to come here. These are experienced cricketers who love the game and these matches will not be knockabouts: I can guarantee that all the kit provided will be very well looked after by our guests. We would be grateful for your help with this.
Will your club help us by loaning some kit for the week?

Security;

Many of the players will, being reluctant to leave valuables in the hotel, be bringing their passports, money and other valuables with them. Given fifteen months notice, how can you best ensure the security of these items. Tell us how you plan to ensure the security of these items during the game so that any sneak thieves go away empty-handed and we avoid the embarrassment of our guests being robbed while enjoying our hospitality. Possible solutions could include: the provision of a small safe, firmly affixed to a wall or floor, for use by both teams, or the provision of a strong lockable cupboard in the scorer's box, which itself needs to be lockable during the lunch interval. There have been sporadic thefts from cricket grounds in recent years but this festival carries greater risk: if we are doing our job properly it will attract considerable publicity, thieves will be aware that overseas players are likely to carry more valuables with them, and there are likely to be more spectators milling around the ground and using the WC's and other facilities in the pavilion. Whatever solution your clubs comes up with will help reassure your own players, and those of visiting clubs, that their valuables are safe when they are playing at your ground in years to come, and I know of at least one club that has decided to install a small, inexpensive safe for its players and guests.

Your solution is:

First Aid:

There will be two St John's ambulance units on standby to cover the festival but these are having to cover a large area and 30-40 grounds. Every participating ground must have adequate first aid in the pavilion: plasters, lint for bandages, antiseptic cream, Savlon, Ralgex (or similar), ice packs (or similar). These players are coming by coach: if someone needs to be rushed to a doctor / physio/ hospital in an emergency, can you arrange for a driver to be at the ground or available at short notice on call?

Where / who is your nearest:

Doctor

Physio

Hospital

Defibrillator.

Hospitality

Can you be able to provide adequate shelter, seating, WC's and refreshments for wives / partners / spectators?

Post match hospitality can be at the clubhouse or at the nearest pub. Because Theakstons are sponsoring the festival and are being unbelievably supportive, will you ensure that you only serve their product at the club house and if possible, use a pub that serves Theakston's.? Theakstons would be happy to arrange delivery of supplies for the week to a nominated address.

Please outline your post match hospitality plans: ie:type of food available, drinks and approx cost of each. The match will finish at around 4.30 and coaches will leave for Harrogate at around 6.30/ 7.00, depending on your club's distance from Harrogate.

If you are going to take them to the pub, can a coach park there or is there somewhere nearby where the coach can park by arrangement?

Sale of Kit and festival memorabilia

Lords International will be offering a range of festival clothing and mementoes for sale during the festival. Would your club be happy to sell these items from the pavilion in return for commission on a sale or return basis? It's a chance to earn some extra money for the club.

Sponsors

Bettys / Taylors Tea and Theakstons, Welcome to Yorkshire and destination Harrogate are the main sponsors. We would welcome your help placing banners, posters etc at the ground. Air New Zealand, the organizers of the festival, will be supplying Golden oldies banners and flags for each ground: we will arrange for these to be distributed before the festival starts if you can ensure that they are put in place on match days. The sponsors will be touring the ground during the week: please ensure that they are made very welcome at your ground., and suitably fed and watered!

Festival Ambassador

Ray Illingworth, a cricketing legend who won back to back Ashes series and played first class cricket when he was 50, is the Festival Ambassador and will be saying a few words at the Welcome party. He will also be driven around some of the grounds by a member of the committee to chat to the host clubs and our guests. Please ensure that he is warmly welcomed, and offered a chair and refreshment if he turns up at your ground. We will publish a copy of his detailed itinerary so that you can be prepared.

Reserves:

If you aren't in a team or can't play in all three games, you can still participate (if you are over 40). Overseas teams will suffer from the usual last minute withdrawals and injuries, and will require local players to stand in. If you fancy a game, please complete the form that will appear on the league website a few weeks before the festival starts. At very short notice Sir Thomas played for an Australian side in New Zealand, wearing 100% borrowed kit - and had one of the most enjoyable days of his cricketing life, meeting some great characters. The side that he played for, the Brookfield Brumbies, are coming to our festival next year.

Apologies for asking all these questions now, but the next 15 months will fly by and if we can get properly organized now, it will save yourselves and the organizing committee a lot of rushing about nearer the time. We want to make this the best Golden Oldies Cricket Festival ever!

We ask you to answer as many of the questions as you can by the end of the season, adding any comments that you think will help us to better understand the facilities / services that you either already have, or hope to offer. When you have completed the form, please return it to Sir Thomas Ingilby, sirthomas@ripleycastle.co.uk, Fax 01423 771745, or by mail Ripley Castle, Ripley, Harrogate, HG3 3AY.