Season Update

On Saturday, a rain-shortened Premier League match saw Carlton and high-flying West of Scotland slug it out in a 30 overs a side tussle. West, batting first, were probably satisfied with their total of 177 for 5, while Carlton will have seen Ross Lyons' bowling – 2 for 23 off 6 overs - as crucial to their chances of success.

In reply, the home side shrugged off the early run-out of youngster Tom Barrett with a tremendous second wicket partnership between Fraser Watts and Cedric English. However, two quick wickets saw skipper English and Gordon Drummond depart as the run rate rose. A cameo from Stevie Gilmour saw Carlton keep in touch and although he departed to a stunning catch, two crucial fours from Jamie Kerr sent Carlton into the final over for the second home match in succession with 8 runs needed for victory.

Once again Ross Lyons was at the crease, just as he was two weeks ago against Clydesdale. This time he was on strike for the first ball and smacked West pro Ellis for a big six, before hitting the remaining two runs off the next ball to see Carlton home.

There was more big hitting at Grange Loan on Tuesday as Gordon Drummond thrashed a brilliant 78 not out against Watsonians in the semi-final of the Murgitroyd Masterton Trophy. Well supported by Peter Deakin (48 not out), Gordon's knock saw Carlton to an imposing 169 for 3 off their 20 overs. The Watsonians' reply was strangled by quality spin bowling from Deakin and Ross Lyons and Carlton won comfortably to move through to the final, where they will face RH Corstorphine at Grange Loan.

	P	W	T	L	BP	Pts	%age
Aberdeenshire	9	8	0	1	8	72	80
Grange	8	5	1	2	8	53	66
West of Scotland	8	5	0	3	12	52	65
Scot Under 19s	9	5	0	4	8	48	53
Clydesdale	8	5	0	3	2	42	52
Uddingston	9	5	0	4	6	46	51
Carlton	8	4	1	3	2	39	49
Watsonians	8	4	0	5	8	40	44
Heriot's	9	4	0	5	4	36	40
Greenock	8	1	0	7	4	12	15
Ayr	9	0	0	9	6	6	7

Welcome to Greenock

Greenock visited Grange Loan in 2008 lying in second place in the table just behind leaders Grange and saw off Carlton comfortably, hitting 223 for 7 with New Zealander Tim McIntosh top scoring with a fine 84.

While the fortunes of McIntosh have gone from strength to strength – he's since made his Test Match debut and is now a centrally contracted player for the Kiwis – the same cannot be said for his old club. With only one win from eight games, the Glenpark side currently sit second bottom of the SNCL Premier League.

There is no doubt that injuries to key performers such as Dewald Nel, Sean Weeraratna and Craig Wright have hit Greenock hard, together with Scotland call-ups for the likes of rising stars Richie Berrington and Moneeb Iqbal. However, new pro Cameron Borgas is a class act for the Renfrewshire club. He's already featured for the Saltires in the Friends Provident Trophy this year and is currently averaging 58 with the bat in the league, having hit 54 not out in Greenock's narrow defeat at Heriot's last weekend.

Recent history suggests that Carlton should be under no illusions about the task in front of them today. As well as doing the double in the league last season, Greenock also had the last laugh when the two sides met in the Scottish Cup final of 2006 at Ferguslie.

All things being equal, Carlton can't expect anything other than a hard battle today and with the likes of ex-Scotland skipper Craig Wright in the visitors' ranks Greenock should push the home side all the way.

Lloyds TSB Scotland Premier League

Carlton v Greenock
July 4th 2009
Match sponsored by: Colin Campbell

Carlton

1. Cedric English*
2. Bryn Lockie
3. Tom Barrett
4. Steve Gilmour
5. Jamie Kerr #
6. Ross Lyons
7. Rob Thornton
8. Jamie Davies
9. Charles Legget
10. Ali Evans
11. Mo Afzal

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Carlton Juniors are
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Greenock

1. Chris Hempsey
2. Keenan Bowers #
3. Cameron Borgas
4. Craig Wright *
5. A Lockhart-Krause
6. Willie Rowan
7. Ryan Begley
8. Dougie Wyllie
9. John Hempsey
10. Sam Sangera
11. Ben Peterson

Next home match: v Arbroath United, Scottish Cup Second Round Sunday 12th July