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THE GROWL

THE OFFICIAL NIGHTCLIFF CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

4th Edition 2010 - Thursday, 3rd June 2010



“SPEEECIAL!”

MORE TESTIMONIALS!

“Delicious!”

Bruce McAvaney/Jamie Oliver

“A whole new kind of truth”

Tony Abbott

“Slick!”

British Petroleum

“A winning formula”

Messrs Duckworth & Lewis

“Girls go crazy, for a salad-dressed meal!”

Leon de Marinis

THE PREZ SAYS...

Well hand me a crayon and colour me happy! Hot on the heels of the Tigers' Twenty-20 Final win, the Tigers have again made it to a 2010 final, this time the **One Day Final** at Mararra to be played on the Queen's Birthday Weekend – **Sunday, 13 June 2010!**

The boys will need to avenge themselves after copping a bit of a public beating, but I do believe that after the Clubs brains trust reviews of the game against the Palm Pilots, the lads will be able to bounce back and have a red-hot go at winning another Final in 2010.

And after a false alarm, the **Dry Season has been officially re-opened** amidst a majestic wonderwall of dragonflies at Nightcliff Oval last Sunday! I have already got out those woolen jocks and socks out as the Mercury has dropped once again and the rising unseasonal humidity seems a thing of the recent past.

Nightcliff is currently leading the Senior Club Champs, which is a fantastic achievement to date. All five teams are contributing to this overall success and this reflects the many positive improvements at Tigerland both off and on the field. Keep up the good work as we head into the two-dayers (for the Saturday grades), as like the boy pushing the barrow, the job remains in front of us. Occupation of the crease, bat in partnerships, each ball on its merits, you know the drill(s)! Work hard at your games though my pretties – and the competition for spots in teams is still fairly keen at the minute.

Don't forget *In2Cricket* each **Friday at 5.30pm at Nightcliff Oval**, a wonderful chance for you to come and get involved with the upcoming kids of Nightcliff cricket, share a drink with mates and a sausage at the Donga and catch up with others around the Club.

Onwards and upwards Tigers and remember to floss. Your teeth are very important - most of the leading international cricketers around the Globe have reasonably good teeth!

Alex Krepapas
NCC President



Former Melbourne Storm CEO **Brian Waldron** – ***“I AM NOT A CRIMINAL! Oh, no wait...wait a second...hmm, oh yeah...sorry, yes I am actually (damn!).”***

UPCOMING DRAW & DATES – JUNE/JULY 2010

A GRADE:

Sat 5 & 12 June 2010 vs **TAH-TAHS** at GARDENS (NORM YEEND CUP)
Sunday, 13 June 2010.....ONE DAY FINAL – TIGERS VS PALM PILOTS (MCG #1)
 Sat 19 & 26 June 2010 vs **CHARLES DARWIN** at KAHLIN
 Sat 3 & 10 July 2010 vs **SOUTHERN COMFORTS** at FREDERICK'S PASS
 Sat 17 & 24 July 2010 vs **TV DINNERS** at THE DEN

B GRADE:

Sat 5 & 12 June 2010 vs **TAH-TAHS** at THE DEN (NORM YEEND CUP)
 Sat 19 & 26 June 2010 vs **CHARLES DARWIN** at THE DEN
 Sat 3 & 10 July 2010 vs **SOUTHERN COMFORTS** at THE DEN
 Sat 17 & 24 July 2010 vs **TV DINNERS** at THE DEATH STAR (TAMBLING TCE)

C GRADE:

Sat 5 & 12 June 2010 vs **PINTS VB GOLD** at the windswept plains of WANGURI
 Sat 19 & 26 June 2010 vs **PINTS GREEN CAN** at M2
 Sat 3 & 10 July 2010 vs **UNICYCLES** at the Institute of higher learning (UNIVERSITY)
 Sat 17 & 24 July 2010 vs **TV DINNERS** at BENNY MITCH ARENA (KORMILDA)

D GRADE:

Sunday, 6 June 2010: vs **PALMERSTON (BARRY) WHITE** at THE DEN
 Sunday, 27 June 2010: vs **TAH-TAHS (CAMERON) WHITE** at THE DEN
 Sunday, 4 July 2010: vs **TAH-TAHS RED BARONS** at GARDENS
 Sunday, 11 July 2010: vs **PINTS OF LEMONADE** at THE DEN
 Sunday, 18 July 2010: vs **THE BIG BIRDS (JABIRU)** at THE DEN

E GRADE:

Sunday, 6 June 2010: vs (CHARLES) **DARWIN** at KAHLIN OVAL
 Sunday, 27 June 2010: vs **UNICYCLES** at the Institute of higher learning (UNIVERSITY)
 Sunday, 4 July 2010: vs **PINTS OF LEMONADE** at THE DEN
 Sunday, 11 July 2010: vs **PINTS CRUSTY DEMONS** at M1 – THE HOME OF CRICKET!
 Sunday, 18 July 2010: vs **TV DINNERS** at THE DEATH STAR (TAMBLING TCE)



- SATURDAY, 24 JULY 2010** from 7.00pm – **NCC ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT!** at the **NIGHTCLIFFSPORTS CLUB**. Teams of six, further details to be announced but there will be truck loads of prizes and a staggeringly obscene amount of fun to be had by all!

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9

7

SECONDS WITH MARK HATTON...

Hey there my good man, so how many wickets have you taken for Nightcliff? *I have a reasonable idea. Maybe five off (the 400th) mate? Yeah.*

Ha ha, its 397 buddy, we were just messin' with ya! So tell us about your first ever cricket played with Nightcliff? *1st game was in 1983 playing at the Essington School grounds in U12's. Didn't bat and bowled 2 overs. Fielded fine leg and mid on/off and took 2 catches. My brother Jason was captain. I remember **Phillip Karlhuber** fielding at mid on/off with me and we mirrored each others movements to keep ourselves entertained, I was 9. Played my 1st senior match in 1985 I think. Gets a bit hazy these days. My brothers and I used to always go down and watch the D grade. Jason got a game here and there when really young and I followed seeking opportunities. Got a few games when the team was short and I would have been 11 at the time.*

*My first senior season was in 1987 aged 13yrs whilst still in juniors and I played half the season in the C's under the captaincy of **Bobby Mitchell**. Managed to win the bowling trophy for that year. Played the rest of the season in the B's when I learnt a lot about when to bowl different deliveries from a navy officer who left after that season and got 1 game in the A's. The team declared before I got to bat and I bowled only a couple of overs.*

The Nightcliff A-Grade Flag in 1996 is an obvious (Darwin) highlight for you....any other stand outs? *Quite a while ago now but I thought we had a real sniff at the flag and so I video taped the lead up, match and after party. The great thing about that win was the whole team had spent considerable time together and got along with each other very well (except **Jason, Brad and I** had some tendency to argue between us!). We batted first and were slow going to start but just the one down at lunch. We still had wickets in the shed as the **Saunderson** brothers committed themselves in a difficult period of **Moody** and **Connors** bowling in tandem. I went in just after tea and batted with **Scott Saunderson** for a decent partnership then wickets fell and we managed 222 for the 80 overs. Jason and I both top scored with 48 runs each. We bowled well with decent pressure and had the game in the bag by tea time day 2. I remember **Greg Connors** at the non strikers end saying 'enjoy this' when they were 9 down. I managed 4 wkts and Brad got 3. **Matt Miller** picked up the final wicket.*

*One other game that stands out the most to me was the Major semi final against **TV Dinners** also in 1996. We hadn't beaten TV in many many years and they had fought back to needing 2 runs with 1 wkt in hand. I was bowling to **Richard Laidler** who was on 30 odd and first ball of the over he nicked it, the ball deflected off **Scott Saunderson's** gloves and lobbed to **Greg Aldam** at first slip. Our B's were sitting on the hill behind play at MCG #1 watching and they all went up with the catch, it was a great feeling and it was then that I felt we would win the GF that year.*





Marky-Mark Hatton – a dead-set ornament of Nightcliff cricket!

Left – Mark bowling his way to 6-70 in the Tigers' 2008 Semi Final loss to PINTS of beer.

Middle – Yep, we reckon he is pretty Speeeecial!

Right – The Brothers three...Tigers' Marky-Mark, Jason & Brad Hatton. More A-Grade scalps than an Apache Indian, more runs than a homebrand stocking...and more arguments than an Italian Parliament between them!

Backyard cricket – who won that usually? How did the Krepapas fare on that particular battlefield? Naturally we played a massive amount of cricket in our backyard and given **Jason** is 2.5yrs older than me and 4yrs older than Brad, he dominated with bat, ball... and the rules! Heaps of other lads would play at our house with **Anthony Hazeldine** being a difficult bowler but couldn't keep the ball down, actually busted our bathroom piping one day smashing a lofted cover drive. **Anthony Snell** had real passion but I didn't get him so well, he kept calling himself **Timmy Watson** when everyone else was **Lillee, Border, Thompson** etc? Alex was a regular player often on Jason's team with Brad and I playing together. Felt I always had the wood on Krepap however!

Looking ahead towards your 400th victim, who would you enjoy taking your 400th against? Would you enjoy taking your 400th against the same team as Brad? Who was Brad's 400th wicket? I had to phone a friend for this answer! But I believe it was **Page** who Brad bowled early in the game (2nd wkt). Brad was on fire that day and that night also! I've always found **TV Diners** the team I love to beat the most, mainly due to the beatings suffered throughout the 90's. If it happens against Tahs then so be it. Brad perhaps had more of a fairytale occasion with milestones and particularly because he was the first to achieve it. It's a coincidence though.

Which batsman/batsmen do you reckon you've dismissed the most? Who have you enjoyed bowling against? Who have you found the most challenging? Difficult to recall all players I've played against and I'll stick to Darwin cricket here, **Damien Kulmar** sticks out as a bit of a bunny of mine. Seemed to get him out early quite a bit. I always enjoyed bowling to players who take you on and a couple of players proved challenging to bowl to. **Shaun Williams** from Darwin used his feet well and possibly the best (left handed) player of spin. **Martin Brown** from PINT uses his feet well and is quick going down the track and also playing back. Most recently **Todd McCann** seems to play spin the best I have seen so far, won't use his feet but still has a decent game plan.

Geez, we haven't even got to ask you about playing Shield for Tassie or for the Canberra Comets...so one more question...when are you gonna start playing D-Grade man? Hmm, keep a seat warm on that bus trip to Jabiru in a few years time, but I've still got some unfinished business in A-Grade first!

'WHAT'S COOKING' AT THE DEN

Whilst our tremendous athletes (and **Nathan Jury**) are smoking them on the fields of battle in 2010 so far, we thought we'd take a different tack at the *Growl* and also take a 'Captain Hook' at what is sizzling off the field, apart from those warm meaty parcels of snaggy awesomeness on a **Friday afternoon from 5.30pm** at Nightcliff Oval down at *In2Cricket*.

Not only is cooking at home a tremendous tool of self-expression but it makes great economic sense too when saving for that overseas trip or glistening new car or cricket bat. This week we will be starting off our culinary journey in 2010 with a fantastic recipe from Nightcliff's very own '*Sultan of Spice*', **Manish Bhatnagar**, who is as keenly passionate about his cooking as he is about...well pretty much everything else he does!

TOP-5 REASONS WHY COOKING AT HOME IS THE WAY TO GO!

1. Cooking at home is a fantastic ability to express yourself – it's like finger painting with food, you are the artist and the dinner plate is your blank canvass.
2. It makes great economic sense – and any leftovers can be properly stored away, including frozen in portions so you can relive that majestic culinary masterpiece once again.
3. Cooking is quite therapeutic and relaxing – from the aromas of those natural ingredients wafting through your house to the sensual pleasure of creating a meal, whether it is a gourmet five-course meal or a BBQ spread that you have nailed, it will give you a tremendously fulfilling sense of pleasure and pride.
4. If you cop food poisoning, there's not too far to go before you can lie down in the sanctuary of your own bed. Or toilet floor.
5. If you get lucky on a dinner-date....well hey, **see 4/ above**. Except for maybe the toilet part...well, up to you really, we're not here to tell you how to live your life.

ORANGE CHICKEN

By Manish Bhatnagar

Ingredients + Method

500 gms chicken legs (love legs!) for two and a half people.

Remove the skin from the legs.

Marinate Chicken with Lime and Garlic. Love the smell. Then further marinate chicken with **half a cup of beaten natural yogurt** beautifully white.

2 tea spoons of cumin. 2 spoons of coriander powder (same color as me after a few drinks).
a pinch of saffron my favorite color,

2 spoon of turmeric good for the skin and a natural antibiotic.

2 spoons of chilli or 1 depends upon how hot you think your other half is ..

Leave overnight preferably (or even 1/2 hour) – if you have time, the longer the better.

MANISH'S ORANGE CHICKEN (CONTINUED)

Go to Coles Supermarket and buy **a can of Pataks Butter chicken or Pataks moglai Chicken or Chicken in coriander** While you are there pick yourself up a Taylor's red. Then get the wine glass and have a few when you get home.

Cut two onions very fine and start to fry them in **olive oil**, after 3 minutes add **1 stick of cinnamon, 2 bay leaves** two cloves and 2 cloves with a **few black peppers**, keep frying the onion until they get to my colour (brown) , approx 15 minutes on medium to high heat.

(Tip: Already have all your other ingredients ready before you start frying)

Your eyes maybe crying after cutting those onions, so I recommend you top your glass up with red. *(Tip: Wash your peeled onions under the cold tap before dicing)*

Then **add two fine cut tomatoes** to the onions, fry till soft (as my heart) for about 5- 7 minutes add a quarter of a cup of water. Add **cubed potato pieces** at this stage if you want.

Add marinated chicken, fry till slightly gold outside approx 14 minute smell the lovely aroma. Then **add the Pataks can**, the magic has started.

OK chicken cooks in 10 minute about 2 minutes before 10 minutes put the Indian magic spell called the **garam masala, 2 spoons**.

Add **4 spoons of sour cream or thick cream** whatever turns you on, *I like thick cream*, marinate/garnish with coriander leaves.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Get yourself some **basmati rice** wash 2 cups of rice, 'basmati' means *nice smell* put in a microwave dish add 4 and a half cups of water ,cook in the microwave for 14 minutes. Put some peas in the rice when cooking one clove and cardoman.

ENJOY!



“THEY SAID IT” - QUOTABLE QUOTES

<p><i>“Playing the West Indies in the 1980s was like being Stevie Wonder on a road trip – you didn’t really get much of a chance to drive!”</i></p>	<p>An observer of Test cricket way back in the 1980s, when the West Indies were an all-powerful cricketing unit dominating the Globe and terrorising sides with speed merchants like Michael Holding, Andy Roberts, Malcolm Marshall, Colin Croft, Joel Garner and co. More bounce than a kangaroo on Red Bull!</p>
<p><i>“Prosecutors amended the charge when it was admitted it could have been an octopus in the picture.”</i></p>	<p>This Paspaley pearler of a quote from a Welsh news article about 49-year-old Andrew Dymond, who was charged with possessing a photo of a man having sex with a (dead) squid as well as a plethora of other porn on his computer.</p> <p>We are presuming that Dymond’s Bail conditions <i>at least</i> prohibit him from attending upon a veterinarian clinic or any Zoos without a Police escort and contains a blanket ban upon him frequenting any seafood restaurants!</p> <div data-bbox="1018 824 1203 1079" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Andrew Dymond...his family possibly should have seen the signs when he kept bugging them to go to Sea World.</p>
<p><i>“Cancel the ambulance, I’ll sleep in the change rooms!”</i></p>	<p>Amidst some tall tales told on an adventurous D-Grade bus trip to Jabiru during R1, one chart topper featured former NCC warrior Wayne Saunderson from a bygone era, who collapsed several times upon leaving the Nightcliff Sports Club after a long day in the sun (<i>Editor’s note – kids, wear sunscreen!</i>) before finally coming to and unearthing this gem of a quote!</p>
<p><i>“Well the only way is up from here!”</i></p>	<p>Hawks fan and prophet Alexandros Krepapas uttered this upon hearing that the Hawks had narrowly avoided a fate worse than relocation to outer Space...a loss to Richmond! The Hawks’ 2008 Premiership hangover had been looking more like a tumor (“<i>it’s not a tumor!</i>”) but they have since won 3 on end, the latest being another Steve McQueen great escape against Sydney.</p>
<p><i>“Everybody’s got a comment about Gary Ablett, but to be honest our players just want to concentrate on this year when Gary’s here”</i></p>	<p>What (Geelong Coach) Mark ‘Bomber’ Thompson, you weren’t being honest with us before? This thinly veiled comment from Thompson amidst media speculation that, as Gary Ablett Jr had not yet signed up for Geelong Football Club, he might actually be considering the \$87,000,000,000,000,000,000 per year offer to play for the new Gold Coast AFL side next season.</p>

AROUND TIGERLAND

GRADE REPORTS

A-GRADE

The boys sit second on the DDCA Ladder, with a 4-2 record after 6 games, as well as with tickets in their hot little hands to the One Day Final on **Sunday, 13 June 2010** at Mararra!

They slashed up PINTS of lager into tiny little pieces, before the Palm Pilots came out last week and brutally brought them back to Earth like a home-brand space shuttle, downing them by 8 wickets. **Doug Bracewell** showed his class with the bat to etch out a half-century but with little assistance with the bat (**Calkin 19** and **Marky-Mark Hatton 15no**) and little success with the ball (with **Robbie Wheatley & Sean Kenny** bowling tightly), the Tigers were tamed this time out. But they will take a deal from this game and will be more than ready to plot their revenge in the One Day Final in a fortnight's time.

This week it is the **A-Team** and the **B-Majors** square up against their respective Tah-Tah Lizards opponents to contest the **Norm Yeend Cup** for 2010. Skipper **Sam Gibson** will have his charges fired up this week as the Tigers try to wrest the Cup back, after it was heisted from Tigerland in a well-organised Tah-Tahs hit in 2009.



B-GRADE

The B-52s enter the two day stuff in reasonable Nicholas (nick) after a few solid wins over Southern Comforts & PINTS of lager before a tsunami of rain frequented Woodroffe and prematurely ended their game, just after they'd set the Mrs Palmers a tricky 162 (**K.MacKenzie 46, Pawan Isher 31no**) to run down.

Unlucky? Fortuitous? The B-52s would have been confident, but like a PhD it is all academic now and a two-day game against Tahs now beckons. Tah-Tahs will be looking to bounce back like a 20-foot wide squash ball after going missing last game but they will be tested by a Tigers' outfit who will bring a dash of confidence and form into this one. Hilarious game cricket though at times, so the Tigers will know to bring their best game to the park in this epic quest to regain **the "Norm"**.

C-GRADE

Cricket is but a kaleidoscope in Fate's hands at times, as **Alexander's Avengers** discovered last game, as a meteorologically-challenged day robbed them the chance to defend the 360 (**M.Neave 82, S.Singh 58**) they'd belted against **Tah-Tahs** the week before. But then the C-Shantys were actually awarded full points as a forfeit after Tah-Tahs Bs had gone missing like Mafia trial witnesses.

The game before however saw the C-Sections carve out an emphatic **Outright victory** the old-fashioned way against those wily Dravidians, with **Matty Neave's** game breaking 81 (including a fantastic partnership with **Andrew Ward** with about 28) and **Brion Foley's** mesmerising 5-for in the second dig the standout performances.



Matty Neave...he's coming back like vinyl!
 'Artistry' by Alexander the Tate

D-GRADE

Well they're still winning (sitting atop of the ladder with a **6-0** record...with **Palmerston Maroon** last week escaping with a draw after half their side was taken into a Witness Protection Scheme for a few weeks)...and they're *still* singing! Life is one big Karaoke party for these cats.

These kids now have every chance to rest up for a serious assault at the Flag in 2010, with no game last weekend after Woodroffe's wet'n'wild weekend and no games scheduled between their 6 June 2010 and 27 June 2010 games – with the Queen's Birthday weekend and the Festival of the Fume in between!



E-GRADE

The E-Streeters now have a few wins under their safety belts, but went down last weekend against Southern Comforts by 6 wickets after falling short in their defence of their innings of 115. Newest NCC all-rounder **Aaron Griffin** led a charmed life to anchor the innings with an otherwise very positive 44 and was supported by **Rick Vaughan** (24) and **Haydn "Justin Langer" Whitty** with 21 runs in a solid early partnership.

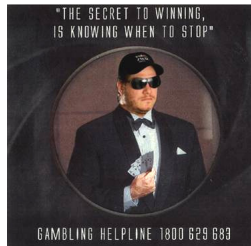
The bowlers toiled manfully, with the new Daddys **Kurt Edwards** and **Geordie Ferguson** each snaring one, along with the Griff-man. But the highlight of the fielding innings by some margin was an outstanding **Ricky Ponting**-esque direct-hit run out effected by **Steve McAleer** in a moment of brilliance that momentarily breathed life back into the game. For **Haydn Whitty** fans, he finished with the figures of 0-0 off 0 overs.

ODD SOCKS**THE NCC COMMITTEE FINANCIAL TIP OF THE WEEK**

Avoid buying second hand clothing or goods with blood stains on them.

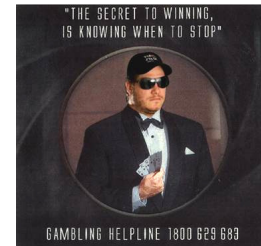
THE NCC COMMITTEE HEALTH TIP OF THE WEEK

*If it does not have your name printed on it, then it's most likely **not** your medication, dude!*

**ON THE REX HUNT**

"I Punt therefore I Am"*

(*Conditions apply and **GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY** kids! If you have to sell other people's stuff to place a bet, then find another hobby!)



\$50 on Argentina (\$1.48), England (\$1.34) & Spain (\$1.28) to win their Groups (at \$2.54) = \$127.00

GROWL 2010 BALANCE TO DATE: +\$255.50

The *Growl's* Midas touch continued last month with a scorching +\$165.00 return from the winning double of the mince **Pies** downing the Purple People Eaters from the West and the Bulldogs unleashing the fury against the Swans over at Manuka. So now, with the **Soccer World Cup only minutes away** (okay, about 20,000 minutes away...but counting!) we have decided to cast our crystal ball over the Indian Ocean to sunny South Africa for some spherical ball soothsaying in the Soccer World Cup.

Firstly, we are loving **Spain (\$5.50)** to take out the whole thing. They will be well suited in the climate, supremely confident off the back of their Euro 2008 breakthrough win and are just obscenely littered with talent. **Brazil (\$6.00)** just don't know how to play a bad World Cup and our best "roughie" for the Cup is **Portugal** (at \$26.00), who have wonder kid **Christiano Ronaldo** amidst other serious talent of their own.

But basically we are scouting for a few low-hanging pieces of punting fruit for now – *who* will simply win their Groups before the serious stuff begins? **Spain** will (Chile, the Swiss cheeses & Honduras) and we reckon **the Argies** will barge past Nigeria, Greece (is the word) & South Korea. And the media has dubbed **the Poms'** Group the '**Group of Life**' after drawing the Yanks, Slovenia & Algeria. At **\$2.54**, this trio will do us nicely thanks and hopefully also give our on-the-spot journo a little more spending money for his troubles!



Cheque's in the mail... Portsmouth's **Kevin-Prince Boateng** (yep, that's a real name) signalling to several dancing Aussies in the crowd after downing Chelsea & German uber-star **Michael Ballack** in a tackle during the FA Cup and putting him OUT of the World Cup! Oh, did we mention the 'Prince' also plays for **Ghana**?

JOKES – “PEACOCK”

I took my Dad to the mall the other day to buy some new shoes (**he is 75 years old**).

We decided to grab a bite at the food court. I noticed he was watching a teenager sitting next to him. The teenager had spiked hair in all different colours - **green, red, orange, and blue**.

My Dad kept staring at her. The teenager kept looking and would find my Dad staring every time.

When the teenager had had enough, she sarcastically asked: *“What's the matter old man, never done anything wild in your life?”*

Knowing my Dad, I quickly swallowed my food so that I would not choke on his response; I knew he would have a good one!

In classic style he responded without batting an eyelid...*“Got stoned once and screwed a peacock. I was just wondering if you were my daughter.”*

“TONGUE TWISTER”

On a beautiful summer's day, two tourists were driving through Wales.

At the village of **Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllylantysiliogogoch**, they stopped for lunch, and one of the tourists asked the waitress, *“Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us!. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?”*

The girl leaned over and said, *“Burr-Gurr-King”*



Footnote: *Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllylantysiliogogoch (lan-vire-pool-guin-gith-go-ger-u-queern-drob-ooth-clandus-ilio-gogo-goch)* is a Welsh word which translates roughly as *"St Mary's Church in the Hollow of the White Hazel near a Rapid Whirlpool and the Church of St. Tysilio near the Red Cave"*.

Locals refer to the village as *Llanfair*, or as *Llanfair PG* (pronounced roughly "Hlan-var Pee Gee") to distinguish it from other places in Wales called *"Llanfair(something)"*. Although typed as 58 characters, it is technically only 50 letters, because in Welsh *ll ng* and *ch* are treated as single letters.

COOL HAND (BY) LUKE!

It is an unseasonably balmy mid-week evening. Expectant father **Luke Bayetto** is half-watching *Desperate Housewives* re-runs, with an ear out for his beautiful partner, who is resting in bed...nine months pregnant!

The phone rings.

Not expecting a call and cursing his own luck that the caller could not have had the sense of timing to wait for the Ads (*ah Eva Longoria, you saucy minx!*) Bayetto stumbles to the phone, tripping over his cricket bag. Is that useless pizza delivery guy *still* looking for our address? No, it is E-Grade skipper '**G-Train**' **Tribe**. Uncomfortable silence ensues. Bayetto waits impatiently for further sound with half an eye on Longoria reaching down to the bottom shelf of the fridge to retrieve that last champagne bottle.

"Um, er, look, Luke...er, how are you going mate...look, I reckon you might have to sit out this Sunday's game, um, we've got a few blokes to get through for a game and..." Bayetto processes this for a nanosecond. "Am I being dropped, mate?" [note: actual conversation text edited...this is a family magazine!] Bayetto sits stunned on the couch after parting with his Skipper (well, by then former skipper) in the telecommunicative sense. He dares not tell his partner, who knows *how* she will react to this news now! Was this the end of his cricketing career?

Fast forward to Thursday's training and in a swift twist of fate, fellow warrior **Kurt Edwards'** partner has just had a baby boy **Anthony 'Goose' Edwards** (due at the same time) and as Bayetto has not yet entered the realm of fatherhood, he is slotted straight back into the E-Grade starting side v Palmerston (Smoking Gunn). **Lady luck** had smiled upon Bayetto and his cricketing destiny was now back in his own hands.

And it was armed with this knowledge that our boy Luke strode out to the middle of Palmerston High Oval, with a wicket having fallen cheaply and a tricky total of 137 to chase down by a Tigers' E-Grade side still mastering the art of winning. Beginning his innings with a steady sense of purpose, Bayetto's natural attacking instincts kicked in and Luke was very soon off and running. Two hours later he had smashed a match-winning 55 runs and gallantly led the E-Bays to a priceless 3-wicket win, their second on the trot!

Funny game, life and cricket is but a microcosm of life that brings us all together...and taking one's chances when they arise is equally as important in both. As a footnote to this tale, Luke's partner has now had their beautiful daughter **Elaina Louise Bayetto** and the family is reportedly all happy and healthy.



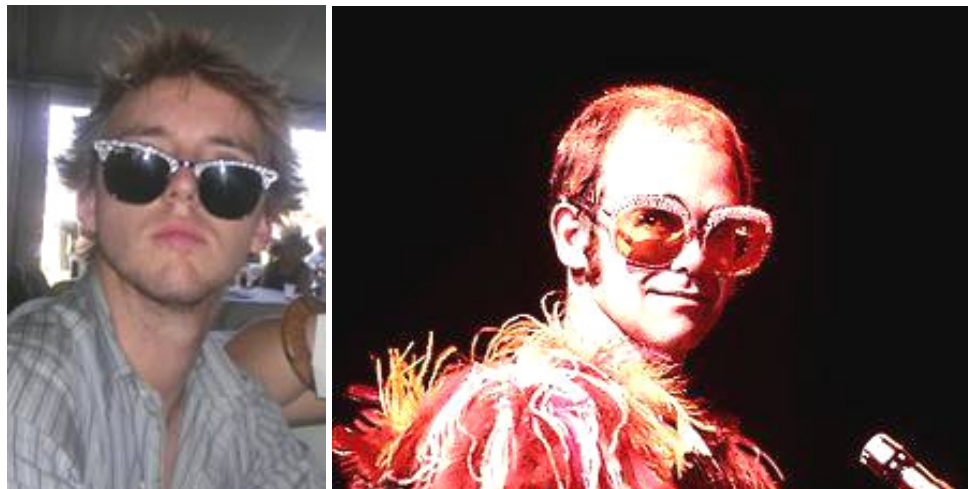
Eva Longoria. Nothing to do with the story... we just didn't have a picture of Luke on file so we thought we'd run hers instead.

LOOK-ALIKES

Can you spot the difference?



AFL CEO and spin doctor **Andrew Demetriou** and a character from the 80s film “Weird Science”



A pair of fashionable crocodile rockers – NCC talented all-rounder **Mike Cranmer** and **Elton John!**



Marc “*Incredible Calk*” Calkin and ‘**Evil Russell**’ (no, not a card-carrying TV Dinners player) from Survivor.

By Alexander the Tate

THE END. SIX LEGITIMATE DELIVERIES (OVER!).