



WELL DONE CHAPS! 12 STARS FIRST TEAM CELEBRATING THEIR HISTORIC PROMOTION

# UP STUMPS!

## 2013 Season Division Two Championship Edition

### IN THIS ISSUE

## From the chairman's desk

by ANTONY BRAND

I believe that history will prove that 2013 will be one of the most important years in recent 12Stars history. Firstly this is the first year that we've entered a second team in division 3 of the BCF 45 over league competition. This has proved to be a resounding success. The team finished mid table with 3 wins from 10 matches including an exciting victory over Ostend Exiles and Gent Arcadians-2. Despite winning only 3 of its fixtures the team was competitive in all matches but most importantly the 2nd team gave ample opportunity to more players to play really competitive one day cricket. We've been bolstered by new members and look forward to entering a second team in the league in 2014. Again I think that we will adopt a policy of ensuring that the maximum number of members get a chance to play cricket whilst doing our best to be competitive in the league. The league format may change next year but whatever format promises to be a lot of fun!!

The first team did remarkably well to win division 2, and achieve promotion to division 1. But I'll let Amit say more about that. I will however mention my great delight at the performance of Mahesh. His performance in 2013 really did justice to his awesome talent which we've all known about for many years.

Mahesh has had a really great year with the bat, not only for 12Stars, but the Belgium national team as well.

Apart from the old stagers such as myself (very old), we've had some newcomers who have made an impact. Prashant, Anshul, Midhun, Ashish and Tom Garland have all copped man of the match awards in their first year with the club. I would personally like to see longtime members like John Parker, Rob Goodchild, Duncan Lumsden and Paul Harris come back. They are all known to be in Belgium and most still pay their annual fees but are not playing. But its good to have younger guys like Sean Fortune, Prabhu and Sarav help reduce the average age of our team. **Contd. Page 2**



### A Wag's Tale



### Blue Danube

Our special travel correspondent Judson reports on 12 Stars' foreign cricket tour to Budapest. Along with saunas, beer and goulash, he shares his insights on some great games with our hosts Phoenix Cricket Club.

Also we have a great guest article from a special friend of 12 Stars. Along with captain reports from Amit and Jerome, a quiz, golden moments from 2013 as voted by you the members and various bits of other cricketing fun.

Whilst things have been good on the field they have been as equally busy off it. We are at a crossroads as a club and face some challenges. A big challenge is the potential unavailability next year of the BSB for weekend league matches. The school intends to close by 17.30 on weekends which will make it difficult for our league matches. The loss of an additional cricket ground will not only be bad for us, but for Belgium cricket in general. So we are working hard to find a solution which could involve a new ground at Wavre, for weekend matches at least. By all means necessary we will have resolved our situation in time for the start of 2014 season. Thankfully we are in a position financially to give ourselves some options. We hope to sign the contract for this new ground soon.

But we wish to maintain and improve our connection with the BSB. Raj wrote an advertisement for the club which was published in the BSB club activity guide book. Also on Sept 8 a 12Stars team including Jérôme, Fazil, Vijay, Chris and myself attended the BSB newcomers open day. We used this event as an opportunity to introduce ourselves to new students at BSB. The new students could potentially be members of our junior club, which we intend to launch in 2014. It will be very important to have a junior section as from 2014 each team in the first division will be expected to field a junior team. We are thankful for the use of the school facilities over the years and so to give thanks to the BSB we held a junior tennis ball tournament on Sept 22. This was a wonderful tournament involving 4 teams, Antwerp Indians (AICC), Antwerp C.C. (ACC) and 2 from the BSB. The final was fitting of any international tournament with

AICC just hanging on to defeat ACC by only 1 run off the last ball of the final over!

I would like to give much thanks to the tournament organising committee including Shashi who formulated the tournament rules, and all the other members who came out to help on the day - Ganesh R., Judson (and Annie), Peter, Ajay and Manoj. The tournament was quite a success and we foresee that it will become an annual event. Finally from Dec 2013 we plan to visit schools around the Tervuren/Zaventem area to do coaching sessions and get local Flemish kids involved in cricket. Hopefully these youngsters will form the basis of our youth section starting in 2014.

One of my biggest sources of pride as chairman comes from our contribution to cricket in Belgium. For years the lack of umpires has hurt league cricket here. Earlier this year the BCF held an umpires training course for 12 members. Half of these participants were from 12Stars, and they all passed the exam. In fact I believe that Jerome came first in the examinations. This can be seen as a positive boost to Belgium cricket. One ironic sign of the high esteem with which 12Stars is held is by the fact that our matches often don't have umpires assigned - because the BCF knows that they can trust us to manage our matches in a professional manner. Still this is not ideal situation. Ideal situation is for each league match to be officiated by 2 qualified umpires. 12stars can do its part by sending more members to become certified



and then making the commitment to be available to umpire 3-4 BCF league matches each season. I plan to go for my umpires qualifications next season.

Finally I would like to say thanks to our many supporters and well wishers. Chief among these are Eva Juchtmans, Christina DS, Cathy, Charu and Annie. Special thanks to Priya who together with Ganesh continues to work magic on our website.

Our 2013 season ended on a high putting us in great stead for a momentous 2014 which will mark our 25th anniversary as a club. I have proposed a committee in place to plan the celebration activities. Already we have invited an SOB team (Stars of Brussels) of ex-12Stars members to play in a 4 team tournament on the weekend of May 23-25!!

Viva 12Stars C.C.!!

# The Captain's Corner

By AMIT KUMAR RAGHAV

"Little things make the big things happen" – John Wooden

Since the time of its inception, when some cricket enthusiasts decided to form a club aptly named 12Stars, there have been numerous achievements. But none whatsoever can come close to the starry heights achieved in 2013.

From the days when a captain had to use every means to get 11 players on field and a miracle to get a scorer, to the momentous day our club introduced a second team, what a journey it has been! 12Stars fielded two teams one in Div 2 and the other in Div 3. Apart from the 45 over league, 12Stars also participated in T20 league, BCF league, Bob Parker league and numerous weekend and midweek friendly games. This was the year of cricket. Some would say too much, others would predict it to be an appetizer for the coming years especially with the new home ground there is scope for many possibilities. With an increased number of registered members,

as well as an increase in the numbers in the 12stars family, at this rate it might soon be called a galaxy.

To say that we have been struggling to reach Div 1 since 1992 would be an understatement. We missed the boat sometimes to PCCB and to Arcadians.

Out of 8 league games, 12Stars won an outstanding 7 of them, making us Division 2 champions. It would be nice to go down memory lane and feel a bit nostalgic about the great moments, some outstanding performances, some back to the wall performances, and last but not the least, the great camaraderie which makes us very different from any other club in Belgium.

2013 made us learn fast and gave opportunities to all and sundry courtesy the advent of second team. It was a pleasure playing and watching 12Stars perform on and off the ground. There is a special camaraderie among us Stars which should be lauded and something we should be proud of. We even had high attendance rates of our WAGs and family;



something which surely boosts our confidence (but what we won't say out loud or acknowledge in case it all goes 'tits up')

We are at the crossroads of turning big into huge, with possibilities of a new ground and maintaining two teams along with a junior's team. All this would not be possible without the support and encouragement from each other.

Let's bring ourselves together and strengthen the existing spirit of camaraderie, where all nationalities can thrive and all abilities are equally welcomed. Where people are respected not only because of cricketing skills but also for what they bring to the team and our community. We are all contributors and are winners.

We are entering a new galaxy, we will shine more, but not at the cost of dimming others.

Cheers  
Amit

I tend to think that cricket is the greatest thing that God ever created on earth - certainly greater than sex, although sex isn't too bad either.

Harold Pinter English playwright

# 12 Stars and the mid week equation

by JEROME BEL

The essence of cricket (for cricket players only)

When cricket players are asked about why they play cricket, the answers always vary. They play for fun, they play for the beauty of the game, they play because cricket is the best sport in the world, they play to win, they play to improve their skills, they play to be the best and they play to be an example for youth. Amongst those answers you will probably find the one that suits you best.

However, from a different perspective, none of those answers really give an answer. The question is: Why do you play cricket? Not how you should play cricket. Or what do you play cricket for.

If you play just for the fun, for your personal improvement, or for the improvement of others, or for the win etc. You are simply considering the end result not your purpose, your cause or belief\*. One could ask: is cricket always fun, do you really improve year after year or do you win every time? Not so.

Nobody plays cricket for what it displays but for what it is. And when we ask players about cricket, we invariably get the same sentences punctuated by the same words:

passion, beauty, binding, leadership, tradition, team, different way of thinking, philosophy of life. Some people often smile when they say that it is their "religion".

To a certain extent yes, it is a gathering of people thinking alike, a pathway, a religion, a philosophy of life. We play cricket because we believe it is the right thing to do. This is why we do it, this is why we want cricket to grow and this is why we want to be part of it and become leaders in our sport. We want to grow as a club because we want cricket to grow as a whole. Our concept of cricket is not just a philosophy of life it is our philosophy of life.

We love cricket because we love the idea that it will make us grow as a man. Cricket questions what kind of man you want to be. This is precisely why cricket discussions will invariably unleash passions just like political, religious or philosophical discussions will invariably end up in heated arguments. These arguments originate from the fact that most of us have never really asked ourselves why they play cricket and that the misunderstandings between cricket lovers come from the incomprehension between those



who are talking about what they play cricket for, those who explain how they play cricket and those who are questioning why they play the game. Having the honor of captaining most of Bob Parker or mid-week games this season, I was given the wonderful task of having the 12Stars tribe play the most interesting competition in Belgium. I see some of you smiling and, in a way I understand that some of you may have not answered the question as to why they play cricket.

The Bob Parker Cup in Belgium is probably the closest to what the essence of cricket is all about. We will play hard, we will play to win and we will play fair but we won't play for the result only. We will play to share a moment together on and off the field, to discuss, to re-do the world. We will play to be part of the cricket tribe, to be part of humanity. And it is during those special moments that we are cricket!

\*Simon Sinek – Start with Why

**If the French nobles had been capable of playing cricket with their peasants, their chateaux would never have been burnt. (In reference to the French Revolution)**

**G. M. Trevelyan English historian**

# You are the umpire quiz



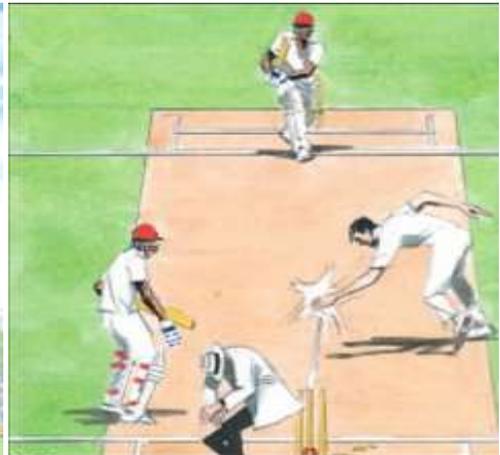
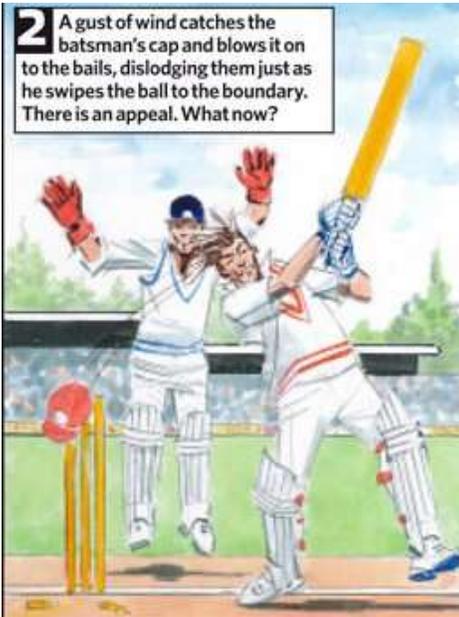
Credit Guardian Newspaper

For all you members who have complained about an wrong umpiring decision which went against you, try your cricketing skills on the below example, are you as knowledgeable as Dickie Bird or a lemon like Darell Hair? Answers on the last page

**1** A fielder leaps and gets his hand to the ball but fumbles it. The ball drops straight down and sticks inside his shirt – so he calmly takes it out and claims the catch. Is the batsman out?

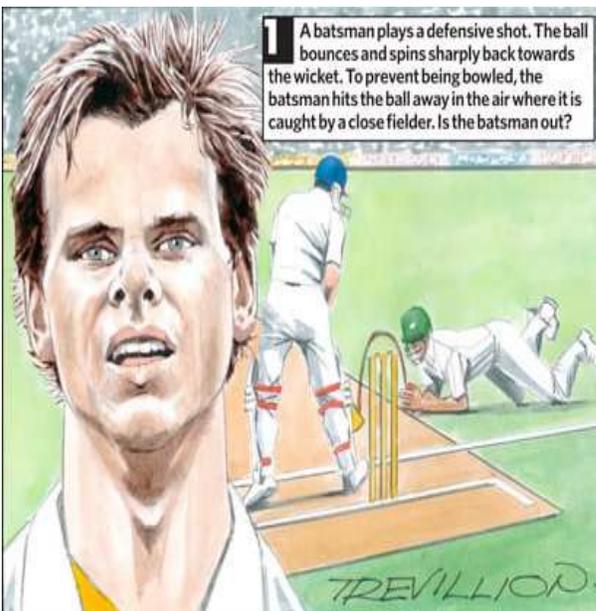


**2** A gust of wind catches the batsman's cap and blows it on to the bails, dislodging them just as he swipes the ball to the boundary. There is an appeal. What now?



**3** As you duck to avoid a shot your coat accidentally dislodges the bails. At the same instant the bowler gets a hand to the ball, which then rolls on to the stumps with the non-striker outside the crease. There is an appeal – but the batsman insists there was not enough speed in the ball to have removed the bails. Out or not out?

**1** A batsman plays a defensive shot. The ball bounces and spins sharply back towards the wicket. To prevent being bowled, the batsman hits the ball away in the air where it is caught by a close fielder. Is the batsman out?



**2** A patch of outfield proved tricky to mow and so the grass is longer than the rest of the field. A player takes a low catch with blades of grass clearly protruding between his hands and therefore making contact with the ball. There is no evidence that the ball has hit the 'ground'. Out?



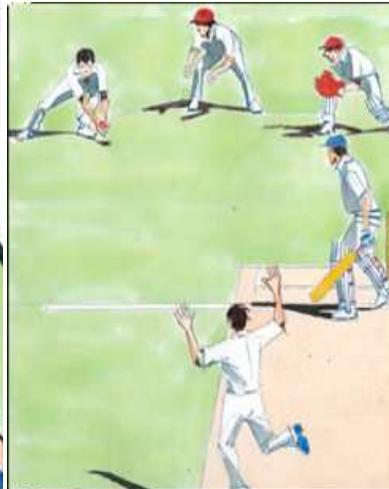
**3** The batsman drives the ball hard into the wicket at the bowler's end, with the non-striker standing in his crease. The ball hits the base of the middle ...

... stump and rebounds back towards the batsman's stumps. No one touches the ball, which dislodges the bails at the batsman's end. The fielders claim he is out bowled (played on). What is your decision?

# You are the umpire quiz contd.



**1** To make sure his players remember which side to polish, an innovative captain has written the word "shiny" on the new ball. The batsmen are furious, accusing him of ball tampering. They threaten to walk off. What do you do?



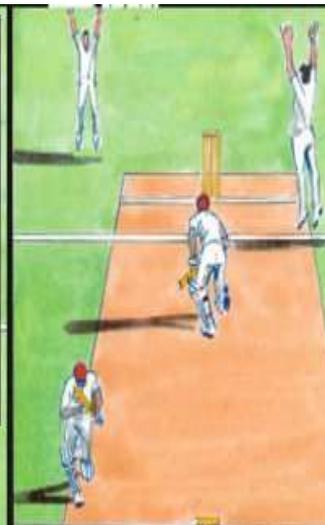
**2** A batsman edges a delivery to first slip. Thinking he has been caught, he sets off for the pavilion - not spotting the slip fumble and drop the ball. By the time he realises, and before he can regain his ground, the slip recovers the ball and runs him out. What now?



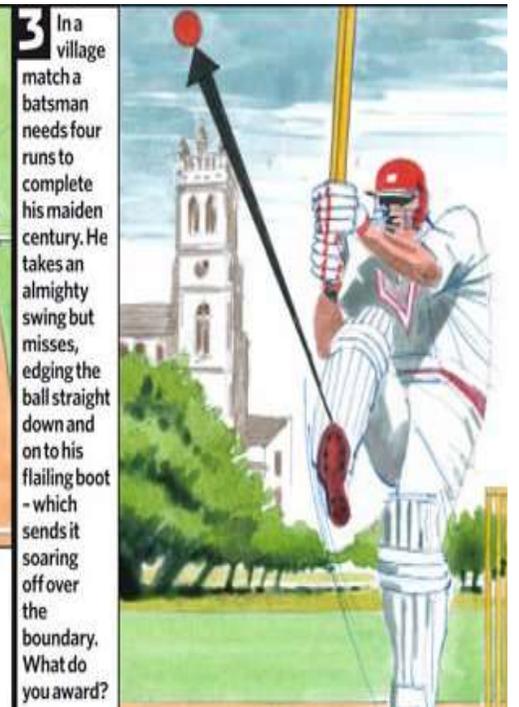
**3** After scrambling around for his pads and equipment an under-prepared batsman makes it to the middle just inside two minutes. Once at the crease he sits down and finishes getting ready. The rival captain says he should be timed out. What action do you take?



**1** A batsman has second thoughts about running after playing a defensive shot, so turns and dives back to reach his crease. But, in doing so, his bat hits the ball on the ground, knocking it away from the stumps and from the fielders. They appeal. What now?



**2** The home team need three runs to win. The Nos 10 and 11 batsmen go for a quick single - and the No10 runs right down the middle of the pitch. You warn him - but on the next ball, he does it again. What do you do?



**3** In a village match a batsman needs four runs to complete his maiden century. He takes an almighty swing but misses, edging the ball straight down and on to his flailing boot - which sends it soaring off over the boundary. What do you award?

# Thoughts of a cricket WAG

By Christina Dziewanska-Stringer

I cast my eyes back to a recent Facebook post I wrote (probably more out of frustration than comedy) when the IPL had just started, "Talking to the walls in my house will yield better results than with my husband."

A few months later this statement still stand however this time it's all about hash tag the Ashes ( or if you're an England fan: hash tag risefortheAshes)

Except this summer time I also ignored our four walls and instead I find myself glued to the live and legal broadcasting of the Ashes series. Insert note on how grateful we all are for this and the ECB.

Back in 2007 when meeting my now-husband, I didn't know much about cricket: it was something about hitting a ball and running up and down between some weird looking wooden sticks. What a waste of perfect sunbathing grass I thought to myself.

But, 6 years later, here I am following with 100% dedication the victories, the losses, the

Celebrations and the obligatory drowning of sorrows, of 12 Stars cricket club. It has genuinely become part of my weekend routine. Without it I feel a bit odd, slightly empty (maybe I'm missing those lunch time curries, or I just need to get out more) which leads me to the main point of my article.

Being a wife of a 'cricketer' is something special. Throughout the summer season in Belgium, at least one day a week is dedicated to cricket; be it washing of the dirty whites, preparing the lunch, getting the Pimms picnic basket ready , or

simply watching a 45-over game in the sun ( or rain ). Regardless of the weather, there is always plenty of friendly banter, interesting conversations and pretty unique food tasting opportunities. I guess the happiest moment is actually realizing how important cricket is to your husband, and how passionate they can be for a single sport.

Once you realize this, there is no other viable option than to 'get on board' or 'get involved'; I promise you won't regret it.

So what do we say to the god of cricket wives? Yes please, today! Follow 12 stars on Twitter: 12starsCC



# Know a star!

Twenty 20 interview by Ganesh V.

**1. How did you come to know of 12stars (any other answer besides 'FATE')** In Krishna restaurant, met Ramesh, who was the owner of the restaurant as well as captain of 12stars; he gave me food for thought (pun intended!) in joining 12stars!

**2. Why cricket & Why 12stars? (Can't give reasons like physically challenged/mentally challenged)** Why cricket?! My elders told me cricket is the only sport which has tea, lunch & drinks break during the game! Why 12stars? As I considered myself a cricket star! Do you still want to continue the interview?!

**3. Who is your favourite cricket player? (besides you!)** Dwayne Leverock, for people who don't know who he is <http://www.espncricinfo.com/bermuda/content/image/360366.html?object=23742>

It's not a photo of 12stars match and neither it's me; there is one big difference between him and me, I still have some hair on my head!

**4. Which is your favourite cricket team?** Bermuda! (The great country which could 'fit' Dwayne Leverock in their team)

**5. Who's your favourite cricket player in 12stars?** The one who takes up teas duty!

**6. How do you rate yourself as a bowler, batsman, fielder/wicketkeeper and if you can't come up with any good words, how do you rate yourself as a human being?** As a batsman many a match my batting is the match decider (As I am 10th batsman!) As a bowler best hiding place for a fielder like me! As a fielder, I will sue you and take you to court for asking me such blasphemous things. (This also answers the human being part of the question)

**7. What is the biggest contribution to 12stars? (not talking about money here)** Humour!

**8. What's your favourite food?** South Indian

**9. What's your favourite eat-out/restaurant in Belgium?** Aahar, Antwerp



**10. What's your favourite drink?** Coconut water

**11. What's your favourite holiday (hope it's not 12stars cricket match!)** Visit to any South Indian restaurant

**12. When do you plan to retire from cricket? (Finally something for the readers to be happy about!)** When the players think that I am the umpire.

**13. When will Paul Farrar retire? (Usually you retire when you get old but when you start your career when you are old, when will you retire, logic say when you get young!)** When drug testing comes into Belgium league (Is there are doubts about the power that he packs in to some of his shots! I mean the cricket shots and not the drug shots!)

**14. Is there a bowler in international cricket that you would like to face or batsman that you would like to bowl?** The bowler I would like to face is Shane Warne. The batsman I would like to bowl is Sanjay Manjrekar (so that I can use my beamer skills to threaten him never to go into commentary) a fact for the readers and Sanjay Manjrekar. I am the only bowler in Belgium to be banned from bowling in cricket match for bowling three consecutive lethal beamers!

**15. Which is harder in life, being a supporter of 12stars or being a player of 12stars or doing this interview?** Hardest thing in life is being an umpire when 12stars is having a bad (or is it good?) day in the field dropping catches, as it is difficult to see if it's match-fixing or are we dropping catches naturally (!!)

**16. Does your family like cricket(not the cricket you play but cricket in general)** My mom loves cricket as she once used the stumps I brought home from a cricket match to unblock the drainage blockage in our drainage system; (readers please do run your imagination wild and you can't be far away from what actually happened!)

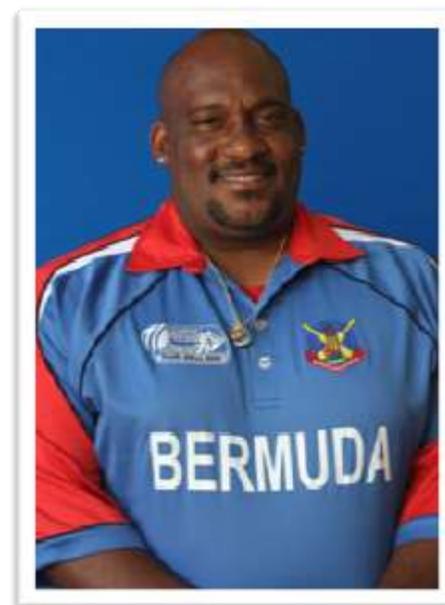
**17. If you could change one thing in Belgium cricket, what would it be?** Pension scheme for league players (sorry but I have my own reason/concern)

**18. Any sports you aren't very good at? (Don't hesitate to mention cricket if need be!)** Sumo wrestling! I fall short of the physical standards needed.

**19. Twenty20 or 45overs?**  
45 overs when we are batting and Twenty20 when we are bowling ( I mean in the same game)

**20. BSB or Lords?** BSB as I still haven't found my shoes which disappeared during a match!

**The legend that is Dwayne Leverlock**



To celebrate older members like Ganesh V. below are a list of oldest test cricketers on their final appearance

Name	Country	Date of birth	Test Debut	Last match	Age at last Test
Wilfred Rhodes	England	29 October 1877	1 June 1899	12 April 1930	52 years, 165 days
Bert Ironmonger	Australia	7 April 1882	30 November 1928	28 February 1933	50 years, 327 days
WG Grace	England	18 July 1848	6 September 1880	3 June 1899	50 years, 320 days
George Gunn	England	13 June 1879	13 December 1907	12 April 1930	50 years, 303 days
James Southerton	England	16 November 1827	15 March 1877	4 April 1877	49 years, 139 days
Miran Bakhsh	Pakistan	20 April 1907	29 January 1955	16 February 1955	47 years, 302 days
Sir Jack Hobbs	England	16 December 1882	1 January 1908	22 August 1930	47 years, 249 days
Frank Woolley	England	27 May 1887	9 August 1909	22 August 1934	47 years, 87 days

**Judging by the below there maybe hope for some us to play for Belgium. Oldest Test cricketers on their debut by country**  
**Australia** – Don Blackie (46 years, 253 days), **Bangladesh** – Enamul Haque (35 years, 58 days), **England** – James Southerton (49 years, 119 days), **India** – Rustomji Jamshedji (41 years, 27 days), **New Zealand** – Herb McGirr (38 years, 101 days), **Pakistan** – Miran Bakhsh (47 years, 284 days), **South Africa** – Omar Henry (40 years, 295 days), **Sri Lanka** – Somachandra de Silva (39 years, 251 days), **West Indies** – Nelson Betancourt (42 years, 242 days), **Zimbabwe** – Andy Waller (37 years, 84 days)

## So long but not goodbye!

A good friend of 12 Stars, and former editor of Stumps Up!  
Amit Bhalerao reflects on his time playing for our club

764 kilometers and more than 12 months since my last game at RBCC – and a year older, with more grey hairs in my hair and a couple of inches more on my waist, I am now an official SOB .. which I was re-educated last year stood for 'Stars Old Boys' and not the other common long-forms of this, very famous abbreviation.

There are folks who spend quite a lot of time in nostalgia or being or becoming nostalgic at the slightest provocation and then there are those who take life in their stride. I used to consider myself in the second category – having changed 7 residences and 4 countries in last 8 years! I thought of myself as a guy who says "this too shall pass," but a wonderfully 'India'-style summer later. I think not, I am sure I'm a hopeless romantic SOB who yearns those wonderful moments at Tervuren and also at the bar served by Hudson's girlfriend!

It's been a diffident affair I share with 12 Stars, a courting period of 4 months before packing my bags for (till then) the best 5 months in Europe in Galway and then returning like you do to the one who you crave for, back in whites at Tervuren the year later, for

another 2 seasons of what has been a time of collecting memorable moments and also getting involved in the work of spreading the cricket by trying to revive "Stumps Up!" Last year 12Stars, like a diligent lover it held my interest by its constant involvement in me!

Like any good affair, I have had my moments with the Stars, some of pride, some of utter disgust, some of shameless mediocrity and then to cap it all, moments of friendships, stories told over the lager and a smoke and having a hearty laugh about it all. Case in point being the historic chase of 336 when I had perhaps the most laugh-riot of a lunch with the Stars followed by a truly memorable chase!

In the course of my time, I have met some terrific gents. Men, who by being themselves, reinforced in me every time that this wonderful game has to be enjoyed first and foremost, competitiveness is important, winning means a lot, but cannot mean at all costs! Camaraderie through, spending a good time having fun should and does mean a lot more than just winning at all costs. The joy generated and shared by playing hard-fought matches played to the best of abilities and importantly, inclusion of all abilities - without any discrimination - should



be the only way this game should be played.

12Stars showed me just how a cricket club should be run. It should be 'inclusive' with is no place for exclusion in the pantheon of joy that is cricket. And so, we had Fazil helped by the Stars in his coaching of school students, Frenchmen being eased into cricket and a wonderful mixture of 'propah' English cricket with Indian accents and flamboyance to form what has been the best of cricket teams I have had the privilege of playing with in my life so far. 12Stars and its men - the Anthonys, the Amits, the Ganeshs, the Anirudhs, the Soms and the Jeromes and everyone who makes such a great effort outside of their work and private lives to make this club such a vibrant example of humanity at its best. It has really given me, I believe, some wonderful friends for life and probably another home outside of my home in India where I can show up and will feel confident of being welcomed with open arms and friendly smiles..

To me, it doesn't matter how good you are. Sport is all about playing and competing. Whatever you do in cricket and in sport, enjoy it, be positive and try to win.  
Sir Ian Botham

Every player has some quirky club stories and I have some of mine. Just ask Shashi how many times he has been asked about being my brother (though we both hail from diametrically opposite sides of India!). Another story is umpiring or being the runner when Peter Whitten is batting at the other end. The grit and determination you learn watching Peter Whitten bat is something.

Till I met Amit K and Aniruddha, I had not actually played an Indian 'fast swing' bowler' mind you, I first

played against them in Dusseldorf as an adversary and was quite taken aback by the pace of these very Indian bowlers having never before faced someone quite as quick in Mumbai's dustbowls. Especially memorable are discussions with Amit the captain on one of the many detours we took en route to and from the games (more because Amit lost his way on the impossibly labyrinthine roads of Belgium!) 12Stars like any good gathering of people is full of characters. And it is the freedom of expression of these characters that lies at the heart of its success - not only as a cricket club or a team, but rather as an institution in the making. I have watched with unabashed admiration the exploits of the club this year - the successful introduction of the second team (something that

was only talked about and felt impossible till a year ago) and the winning of the 2nd division title. I have believed for some time and with each passing day more so, that this is perhaps the best cricket club in the true spirit of the game in entire Europe and certainly the best of Belgium!

The memories are so many that I can write the entire Stumps Up! and some more but suffice to say that like a long lost love, I will always retain a very very special place in my heart for the Stars and their way of life .. for their friendships, for their truly fun-filled cricketing tours to some very sober places like the Amsterdam, for their inclusion of French and Flemish an above all, for their gentlemanliness. Here is a SOB doffing his hat and saying "so long ..."!



## Key Matches in 2013

Below are a selection of key matches that reflect the season for 12 Stars first, one could describe them as the good, the bad and judging by how we played sometimes the ugly.

### Buzz, Fuzz, Hey it's Buzz again (26<sup>th</sup> May):

The first div 2 league game was played in late May which is a bit odd but this meant that everyone had good number of games under their belt. Hasselt won the toss and elected to bat first. This game marked the debut of three Stars: Ashish, the compact bat, Rohan, the star express and a diminutive guy named Prashant.

Manoj at his home ground was not able to collect his usual quota of 5 wickets and had to settle for 4-32 in 9

overs. Ganesh V and Ashish J took the major chunk of the rest of the wickets with 3 and 2 wickets to them respectively. Hasselt CC was bundled for a very achievable 150 runs in the 45 allocated overs.

Hasselt CC arguably has the best bowling attack and they did not disappoint. With 12Stars reeling at 47 for 7 wickets, the fearless debutant Prashant joined ageless Ganesh at the crease. The constant chitter chatter from Ganesh did not allow Prashant to relax at

any moment. Prashant created mayhem on the field with a flurry of boundaries and sixes.

With every hit, one could feel Hasselt dissolving in mind and bodies.

This diminutive strong character, ably supported by Ganesh R, took 12Stars home with a 3 wickets win. It is hard to give an adjective to the game. Prashant took many-a- breaths away with



his brilliant stroke play but so did the top 7 batsman who gave him the chance to shine. The team was finding its missing chinks.

**Man of the Match: Prashant Bhure for the most exciting debut in 12 Stats history**

### The Picture Perfect: (8th June)

MCCB captain put 12Stars to bat first. Demons from the last game were dancing in the heads of most of the bowlers who bat in the top 7. Ajay looked good from the outset. His innings of 41 laid the way for the whole year ahead. Though it was not a big score, it was played with a batsman mindset (quote about a batsman mindset).

style to give the middle order a good platform to ave a blast in the last 10 overs.

And blast they had, this time Prashant combined with Mahesh K to propel the score to a healthy and very defendable 250.

Among these 250 runs were 47 runs scored by Ashish in a very attractive fashion. The team suddenly looked different and matured in the

space of 3 weeks.

Though the score was 250, 12Stars were not

to the opposition. Rohan and Ganesh V opened the bowling and had the opposition in trouble early but old horse Manoj was just waiting for his turn to shine once again. Manoj came along and took his usual 5 wickets, again. It is a tribute to Manoj, the way he has bowled in the past few years and the sheer amount of wickets he has taken on all the grounds. He finished the game with an astonishing figure of 32-5 in only 6 overs. Last wicket had its own drama in this game as the BSB caretaker was standing in the middle of the ground,

2000 hrs with 12Stars needing 1 wicket to win the game. The clock showed 13 minutes to finish and clear the ground. And finish we did.

The way the game was finished and the ground was cleared in less than 5 minutes, this must be a club record for winding up the game. Even the crowd (read: WAGs ) couldn't believe our efficiency at cleaning. I imagine this may have created some false expectations of efficient leaning back home, but that's another story.

If Boycott played cricket the way he talked, he would have had people queuing up to get into the ground instead of queuing up to leave.

Fred Trueman

At this moment our common goal came to apparition: getting the maximum points out of any game.

This marked the last Div 2 game for Prashant as he would return back to India before the next Div 2 league game was played. He played

a huge role in both games he played and made his name in 12Stars history books. Well played Prashant.

**Man of the match: Manoj Nag for a 5-32. Last wicket taken under pressure was the notable highlight.**

### **Avalanche of self-destruction (14th July):**

Full of confidence, 12Stars reached Ghent to face their old rivals Arcadians. Arcadians won the toss and, as expected, elected to bat first. This game marked the return of multiple captains in 12Stars, so many voices and suggestions floated (shouted) around that no one could get the hang of what was transpiring, apart from the opposition captain, Andre. He came hard at

12Stars, taking calculated risks. 12Stars kept losing the plot and Arcadians kept gaining it. It was not the innings of Andre but the 170 runs scored (after he got out for a well-deserved century) which will come back to haunt 12 stars for a long time to come. The anarchy at the ground reached its Pinnacle... 12Stars chase was dented by none other than ageless Wasantha who took 4 top order wickets. While he may be outstanding, it was a

careless performance from the top order. Rohan and Ramesh, late in the order, came into their own with 50 and 44, respectively, but this solid performance couldn't keep the 12stars ship from sinking today. 12Stars bundled for 247 all out chasing 309. Silence and a lot to ponder, all the Stars went back thinking

what went wrong ; and the WAGs somewhat disappointed their sunbathing and gossip session was cut short. A silent night across all homes was almost guaranteed.

**Man of the Match: None was appointed**

**"Sunny. Don't get out first ball. It's a long way back to the pavilion."**

**Farokh Engineer to Sunil Gavaskar**

### **Return of the Mavericks (20th July)**

RBCC II was an extremely important game on all accounts. This game would prove our resilience after the shocking day against Arcadians. Aniruddha opened the bowling with JD and set the

things rolling with his two early wickets. These two wickets made RBCC play with caution. RBCC had batsmen who can achieve a good enough total. In enters Manoj and again takes a five wicket haul. Good death bowling from Aniruddha and Ajay, combined with the spin web of Manoj and Ganesh V, had RBCC capitulating at 222 a.o. RBCC had enough to defend on their home ground, at least so they thought. 12Stars knew that opposition did nothing special to reach this total. Ajay and Ashish got out after

settling in. This opened a crack, a ray of light for RBCC, into our middle order. Mahesh has been the most exciting batsman with inextricably the lowest of averages. As was evident in the game against MCCB, Mahesh was warming up for the big occasion. It was the most assured innings Mahesh has played for 12Stars since prehistoric era. Mahesh needed a calm head at the other end and Manoj played that part perfectly. With more than 140 runs partnership between them, the match was all but sealed. 12Stars lost 2 extra wickets in the pursuit which could

have been avoided. In the end, the most satisfying win against a really good opponent had 12Stars feeling good as a batting unit. This was a good sign of things to come. All this while, our catching improved drastically. This game really turned 12Stars into a more confident team. The partnership between Mahesh and Manoj has to be a highlight of the year.

**Man of the match: Manoj Nag(9-43-5 and 55 runs) and Mahesh K (82 runs)**



**Sweet and Sour (chicken or veg): (3rd August)**

Crescent 2 turned out with 8 players during the month of Ramadan. This match had turned into a one sided affair before it even started.

12Stars were in no mood to give any levy. Crescent won the toss and elected to bat first. Rohan had been bowling well for some time now but the wickets' column was not justifying how good he was at the start of the

innings. This match turned all the previous matches' hard lucks into a tally of 4-37 for him. Manoj along with Ganesh R got the rest of the wickets as soon as a given chance presented itself.

Ashish and Ajay, by now settling down as the openers this season came on to their own as they finished the match in the 13th over. Ashish showed his batting skills with an extremely pleasant 58 no. Ajay kept his

senses and to his credit

did not

compete with Ashish's scoring rate and finished with 33 no. This partnership showed how important their contribution was in this year's wins and again showed us all how dazzling we can be as a team. A fighting team with one common goal in mind. Rest



of the guys left the ground feeling a bit undercooked, but happy nevertheless.

**Man of the match: Rohan Raviandaran (6-37-4)**

**The PUNCH (10th August)**

Optimists were always going to be tough at their own ground. The drive of 2.5 hrs is not ideal on the morning of the match. More importantly, what was not ideal was the absence of Manoj Nag(our maximum wicket taker), Ashish (our inform opening bat) and Aniruddha (our opening bowler). To add salt to injury, the lack of cricket played in the previous few weeks leading to the game had its own vagaries. Imran was made the sacrificial lamb for opening in absence of Ashish. To

Imran's credit, there was not a question asked when the opportunity presented itself. If we wanted to be sentimental, one could say it was written in the stars... Imran did not disappoint with his attractive and patient 34 runs. At the other end, it was as if Ajay had matured into something more serene. Ajay played the most responsible innings when required. Mahesh, Ganesh and Amit all batted around Ajay. Ajay got out in the last five overs trying to up the ante. He got out in the nervous nineties (93) without getting nervous as the dressing room did not transmit the nervousness to him. In the end, Ramesh and Rohan provided a perfect finish with quick 50 runs in the last

5 overs to take 12Stars to 341.

Defending 341 can be tricky as the opposition has more clarity of thoughts than in a small total chase. Tom and Rohan started the defense and everything seemed to going according to plan, with their first two wickets falling cheaply. Optimists captain Joost and James got together for a good partnership. The highlights of our bowling were the close to immaculate six leg spin overs from Anshul. In fact, he was instrumental in creating the pressure and getting the captain, batting at 80, to step out and miss a perfect leg spin to be stumped by ever alert Mahesh. It is fair, at this point, to compare Mahesh the wicketkeeper to Jack in the box.

From there on, victory was merely a matter of time, but the main goal was to

get the full bowling points. Optimists were 8 down with 4 overs remaining with one of their batsman injured. So effectively, we had to get one more wicket to get them all out. Somehow, this was made possible on 5th ball of last over, with Tom fielding at point, returning the bullet throw after a diving save, to Mahesh who took the bails to spark a wild celebration to get the full points. It happened at the second last ball which meant that opposition has to concede that the injured player could not bat.

Overall, the night was spent with a few left over players discussing whiskeys and rums of the world and finally jumping back to cricket in the frozen tent till 4am. What a day-night it was!!!

**Man of the match: Ajay for a chanceless 91.**

"Leaving out Dennis Lillee against England would be as unthinkable as the Huns dropping Attila"

Australian TV

## The Big Clash or is it??? (8th Sept)

Anticipation was in the air since the game got rescheduled from August. Eagles always looked like a strong team on paper and they also had lost only one game till then, that too against Arcadians (Same as 12Stars). So this was the high pressure fixture eagerly awaited by all. The result of this game would decide the fate of top two teams in the division. As Scotty's logic, Eagles had lost the toss without tossing as they were not at the ground in time. We were the home team for the game but no one complained and Amit chose to field first. By this time of the year, there were two things fixed in the team, the opening batsmen and the opening bowlers.

Aniruddha and Rohan combined together to give regular breaks in

nonstop 9 over spell. The other bowlers from the other end shared the spoils

total for the loss of 4 wickets in 20 overs. There were some ripples but it was natural considering the importance of the game and the opponent. In the end, the ease with which 12Stars humbled Eagles was unbelievable. The effort needed to bring the kit onto the ground seemed more tiring than the fatigue from playing the game. Overall, the best possible day in terms of team spirit as 12Stars started partying at 4pm and continued till late in the evening with Stars imitating each other's actions and general habits while on field. Surreal... and not to be documented, but rather remain in each one of our memories!



previous games. This game was no exception. Aniruddha started the Eagles fall with his now customary inswing banana deliveries. Rohan was coming into form in the last few games but one could sense this was going to be his day. And his day it was indeed. Rohan took 4 wickets for 32 runs in his

with 2 wickets a piece to Aniruddha, Amit and Ganesh. Such was the state of affairs that Manoj Nag was not even needed. Eagles were bundled out for paltry 76 all out in 12.3 overs. Special mention is needed here to all the fielders who took all those difficult chances in the air. 12Stars chased down the

### Interesting facts about the history of cricket

1. The game of cricket is the second most popular game in the world, second only to soccer. Cricket in its early days in England was considered a child's game, not to be played by serious adults.
2. The longest cricket match in history occurred in 1939 between England and South Africa. The match lasted for 14 days and finally ended in a tie.
3. Finally in the year 1788 the "Laws of Cricket" were born. The Laws were written by the Marylebone Cricket Club.
4. The ICC was formed in 1909. The Imperial Cricket Conference was formed to govern the laws of cricket. The ICC is known today as the International Cricket Conference.
5. The only law of Cricket that has not had any changes or modifications is the length of the pitch.
6. In the first ever Test in 1877, Australia beat England by 45 runs. 100 yrs later, in the Centenary Test, the result was exactly the same.!!
7. The 6 balls over were first introduced in 1900.
8. Hassan Raza is the youngest player to play an International Test match as he was 14 years 227 days at that time!
9. Cricket has appeared in the Olympics only twice. The first time was in 1896 in Athens, however, when it came down to it there were not enough teams to compete so the competition did not occur. Then, in 1900 at the Paris Olympics, only two teams were able to compete: Great Britain and France. The winner, Great Britain, received the gold medal, while the French team was made up of mostly British diplomats.

### The final frontier: 21st Sept

Heerlen was the last league game and 12Stars entered the fixture as firm favorites to win. Not used to this status, 12Stars can create circumstances which defy all logic. So it was always going to be an exciting game. Heerlen won the toss and elected to field first. Last year's memories of highest individual and team total for Ajay and

12Stars respectively was fresh in most of our star's mind. Ajay's score of 155 and team's score of 399 broke most Belgian league records last year. Ajay, as if continuing from the last game, played sensibly at the top. Ashish's failure was rare but at team score of 130 odd for 3, 12Stars looked stable before the nerves started to tingle in. The last 7 wickets fell for less than 50 runs to take 12Stars to defendable but below

expected 201 all out in 38.1 overs. Ajay's score of 71 stood miles (or kilometres if you have integrated well in Europe) ahead of the second highest 23 from Ganesh R.

2013 had been good for both our bowling and batting performances bar one game against Arcadians. But one man could create such a havoc was rarely seen. Aniruddha took it upon himself to decimate Heerlen with his accurate swing bowling.

Whatever he tried worked like a dream on this day. Aniruddha finished with an astounding figure of 8-24-7 to finish the season for 12Stars on a high. The two catches taken by Ramesh off Aniruddha were of high quality which just added to the confidence and proved the maturity of our team.



## Blue Danube

Judson our very own 12 Stars travel correspondent reports on the club's tour to Phoenix Cricket Club in Budapest.

An Overseas Cricket tour to Budapest looked like an absolutely well planned trip [of course, a trip without your wife is always well planned]. With a few of the married players flying out, appropriately on Indian Independence day, the remaining members joined them a day later. Needless to say, Budapest made an immediate impact on the otherwise Sun-deprived Brusselians. Ajay, Anthony and myself, were the last to arrive and it was no surprise when Vijay informed us that they were already in the SPA and that we would meet later in the night.

Benji, the "not so Big" Ben, the captain of Phoenix CC and pioneer of cricket in Budapest, was also our host. He offered to meet us that evening, since we were scheduled to play his team the next morning. On the 31<sup>st</sup> minute [after the first 30 minutes were spent on talking about Benji, Ben and himself] he wanted to know the opponent's strength. Which he didn't know was alcohol and only alcohol. He asked us whether would like to barrow two bowlers or two batsmen. With only 9 Stars in Budapest and most of them comfortable with the ball, we requested two batsmen. Ajay's Hercules like 155 was discussed and Benji was so impressed that he kept referring to him as the Superstar. However he requested us not to

play the two borrowed batsmen in the top order, from fear that those guys would win the game for 12 Stars. He also requested that Phoenix bat first irrespective of the toss so that we could make a match out of it. Ben was too worried that we'd be skittled out for a paltry score if we batted first. He would understand a bit more about cricket, the next day.

That night, 12Stars got finally go together and after a few drinks close to the Stephen's Basilica, were on their way to a dance bar. The Brusselians would learn another thing about Budapest that night. Every girl in Budapest was prettier than the other. While Amit was struggling with a bad cold and fever, Anthony was struggling with a strange loss of memory which left him banging someone else's door and sleeping on their corridor till early morning. A story which we were made to believe by Tony, for the reason he was missing late in the



previous night. I am sure there will be a book released in the coming years about the "Conquests of the Caribbean Prince."

Next morning, a few our members volunteered as our GPSs, but we went wayward, and missed two trains were missed. Fortunately 12 Stars still managed to arrive at the ground 30 minutes ahead of the match. Thanks to the help of two lovely gentlemen from Phoenix cc. A 45 minute journey took us to the venue. The sun was scorching at 39 degree Celsius, something strange even for most of us Indians in the tour. Andy, the oldest young man made us comfortable and showed us to the d(ist)ressing rooms. The story was that, the whole ground was flooded up to six feet under water for many weeks, and so no wonder everyone opted to change in the open. The effort that was put into refurbishing the ground was quite obvious. All credit going to Andy and his team. The location of the ground was beautiful and it was worthy of its name, the "GB oval". Erno and Balaji were welcomed into the 12 Stars to complete the

team. The toss was taken and was worthily won by Benji and as expected and as promised, he elected to bat first. The King of Pace bowling, the Terrific Trinidadian, Anthony opened the bowling with 9 slips just to break the ice, though normal service did return in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ball. But it was Ajay who got the better of the absolutely defensive Benji. The ball hit the gloves on its way to Vijay, and everyone heard it but for Benji. Of course, I have to mention that Benji wears a hearing aid, but no excuse when it touched "his" glove. Vijay gifted Tushar his life by dropping the first ball delivered by me. Tushar went on to score 78. With the ball losing its shine, in the 6<sup>th</sup> over and the pitch being absolutely lifeless, wearing bowlers out. Everyone but Amit chipped in to bowl purely to give some kind of a breather to the rest. In fact, Amit stayed out most part of the innings fighting the flu. Jay our newest star bowled beautifully while training. But proved that warm up has no relevance to the match, when he bowled 3 beamers in 3 overs to be taken out of the attack. Apart from Ramesh, who took 3 wickets, the bowlers lacked venom and Phoenix managed to score 250 with a composed innings by Sidd and some gutsy hitting towards the end by the national coach of Hungary.

Prawn sandwiches were a highlight out of a quite normal tea. Ajay and Maddy opened the innings with myself and Tony as umpires. There was one specific instruction to the umpires, "unless and otherwise it's dead plumb, then there's no LBW". Maddy played



some lovely straight drives before being unfortunately bowled. The "Angry Bird", aka Ramesh [christened at Budapest] walked out in the middle to join the fluent Ajay. With a mix of good and lucky shots Ramesh made a nice score before he was out trying to pull a good length delivery. Ajay followed his Brussels form to Budapest and maintained his Superstar status with a nice 58 before The Penguin, also known as Vijay, joined Ajay and scored a beautiful boundary to start proceedings. Then the drama began. There was a huge appeal on the third ball against Vijay. Though it was 99% plumb, I decided not to raise my finger. The last ball of the over, there was yet another convincing appeal which was 100% plumb. Just before making my decision, I remembered the night before where Vijay told me that I could not borrow his camera on the upcoming Monday. This sudden flash of memory made my decision very easy and I raised my finger only to leave Vijay totally bemused. Vijay went verbally wild with me and what it did leave with? A GRUMPIER "GRUMPIRE".....

The match was interrupted for a few minutes when a sleeping Tony was mistaken for a snoring Lion. Then, it was time for the old friends to bat, as Som joined the skipper in the middle. For the next hour and half, the Phoenix CC witnessed the "AMIT"yville horror show. The skipper demonstrated that, form is temporary but class is permanent, as he dispatched bowlers to all corners of the ground. The sign of fatigue if anywhere, was on the fielders, as Amit's trademark straight drive six upped the tempo of the chase, well supported by the "steady ship" Som. After a well made 25 Som was out and replaced by Balaji, one of the borrowed Phoenix players. However



a personal and 12 Stars record innings of 102 from Amit, which was finished off by trademark straight drive six, ensured that we did not have to rely on the borrowed players for 12 Stars to achieve victory.

It was smiles and handshakes all round and Tony presented Benji with a nice little trophy as a symbol of gratitude. Later Benji revealed that 12 Stars had cheated him by saying that they were a bowling unit. He also confessed that, he assumed that our batting would be exactly the way we bowled. Poor Benji, as I said, he learnt a lot about cricket and the attitude of 12 Stars that day.

We took the train back and it was beers and cheers till we reached Budapest. Tushar, (as a gratitude for being dropped by Vijay) had suggested a very good Indian restaurant Salaam Bombay in the heart of Budapest and so we decided to dine there for that evening. I'm sure no one would deny this fact that the dinner was the most "awesome" Indian food any one of us had for a long long time. Tushar and Benji joined us later for the dinner and Tushar's presence helped us get a discount on the bill too. The partying mood was rising, and our new friend Tushar, guided us to Margaret Island. Where we were enjoyed partying. Margaret Island was



exquisite, bubbling with vibrant, young, gorgeous, beautiful and sexy girls. The only thing on everyone's mind was "what the hell am I doing in Brussels?" The night ended and the next day we were supposed to play another team, arranged by Benji.

It was a good 40 minutes journey to this Sports complex. It looked more like a football ground, but missing one thing, the cricket pitch. Andy was quickly into his routine, removing the goalposts, tidying up the ground and was ably helped by few 12 Stars players, which was gratefully acknowledged by Andy latter on in the day. A brand new slippery half-mat was laid and we were told that, that was the pitch we were about to play on. Tony won the toss and elected to bat and opted to open with himself and Maddy. The first ball to Maddy told everything about the pitch. The ball did not rise that much, skidded a bit too fast and Maddy was beaten all ends up. There was a momentary discussion whether to reinstate Maddy, but it was decided that, the ball was not unplayable and that Maddy had to go. Jay spent sometime in the middle before he was out caught at long on. Then I joined Anthony and took good advantage of the new bowler and speeded to 16 in 4 balls, by hitting boundaries. However, the next over saw an in-swinging delivery crash onto my stumps. With the ball landing full I couldn't blame the pitch but only myself. Anthony and Vijay had a great partnership. Playing a captain innings, Anthony scored a good 34 before he was out and Ramesh came in. Vijay started playing some fluent shots and one particular shot that stood out was a beautiful flick for six. He had another huge appeal for LBW and this time, the umpire shied away from the batsman and started looking at the

scorers, thereby resisting any temptation to raise the finger. You guessed it the umpire was me! Unfortunately Vijay did not capitalize on my let off and soon succumbed, followed by a collapse from 12 Stars. Who struggled to reach the century mark. Maddy returned to play his second innings but couldn't make much out of it. It was a reverse batting order and so Ajay came in at No 10 and Amit at No 11. Amit's caught and bowled wicket meant that 12 Stars ended up with 112 in 20 overs.

Tea was taken and Gulaash was served. The authentic Hungarian meal/soup was served. The ever courageous Benji opened again and was looking comfortable when a rocket from Amit scattered his stumps much to his dismay. Of course, he didn't see Amit bowl the day before and it was all quite a surprise to him. Vijay, the makeshift bowler impressed everyone by taking 2 wickets, Anthony took a lovely running catch and Ramesh did wonderfully well in his new job, wicket keeping. However, a nice partnership of 60 runs helped the opponents run past the 12 Stars total in a well played and competitive game. After some pictures and restoring the ground to the original setting, it was time for the Caribbean Prince, to take out his prized treasure. Hold on before you imagine anything. It was two special rum bottles that he had brought back from Trinidad. It was quite an evening with everyone enjoying the rum and of course, the beautiful

Budapest weather. After bidding goodbye to the ground, the team went back to the apartment and after a quick shower headed to the "Iguana" to have some nice Mexican delicacies. With the Rum tiring everyone out, partying was decided against.

Tushar joined us there too, I think he liked our group very much. A nice walk in the night summed up the time we had at Budapest and since most of us had to leave to Brussels early in the morning we decided to go to bed early.

The next morning, everyone except Ajay and myself, left to return back to Brussels. Ajay and I spent an extra day shopping, "chit chatting" and visiting places. We ended up having dinner in an authentic Hungarian restaurant. A flight at 6.10 AM meant that we had to wake up at 3AM to take the Airport shuttle.

What a wonderful four days it had been for the Stars. We knew the cricket tour would be great but we never imagined it would be F\*\*\*ing fantastic. Budapest turned out to be the perfect city for us with nice cricket coupled with amazing guys and in the city known for its summer attractions!



# Good bye little master

In tribute to arguably the best batsman since Bradman, not with standing Brian Lara, below are some funny tributes



"This little prick's going to get more runs than you, AB". Merv Hughes to Allan Border after the 18 year scored a 100 at Perth.

"When you bowl at him you are not just trying to get him out, you are trying to impress him. "I want him to walk off thinking 'that Flintoff, he's all right isn't he? I feel privileged to have played against him". Andrew Flintoff.



"There are two kind of batsmen in the world. One, Sachin Tendulkar and two, all the others." Andy Flower.

"He has been in form longer than some of our guys have been alive". Dan Vetorri.



"I dont know what to bowl at him. I bowled an inswinger and he drove me through covers of the front foot. Then I bowled an outswinger and he again punched through covers of the back foot. He is the toughest batsmen I've bowled to. He should live long and score lots of runs, but not against Pakistan." Wasim Akram

# Cricket Quiz

Given we are now in the close season here are some questions to keep your mind on the great game. Answers on the last page

**1. The first official international cricket match was held in 1844. Which were the participating countries?**

A) Afghanistan and India, B) Australia and England, C) Canada and the United States, D) Ireland and Scotland

**2. In 1997, the first in a series of two cricket games between India and Sri Lanka included the highest total ever reached by one side in one innings of a test match. How many runs did the top-scoring Sri Lankans accumulate? A) 352, B) 552, C) 752, D) 952**

**3 What is meant by the cricketing term "sticky wicket"?**

A) A cricket pitch on which the ball bounces unpredictably, B) A field where long grass makes run-scoring difficult C) A game in which conditions favor the batsmen over the bowlers, D) A severe breach of normal cricket etiquette

**4) Cricket has a richer store of peculiar jargon than perhaps any other sport, and the names given to the fielding positions provide some notable examples. Which of the following is not the name of a standard cricket fielding position? A) Backward square leg, B) Deep extra cover, C) Forward third man, D) Silly mid on**

**5) Australia and England are traditional cricket rivals. Indeed the first Australian cricket team to tour England did so in 1868. What was unusual about this first tour?**

A) The team was smuggled out of Australia as they did not have permission to travel, B) One of the players died on the tour C) None of the tourists scored centuries, D) All of these

**6) The great Australian Donald Bradman, scored his amazing 334 against England in the third test of Australia's 1930 tour of England. The record stood for many years and was finally passed by several players, including the West Indies' Brian Lara, who scored 375 in 1993/94 against England. In a memorable innings, Bradman's 334 was equalled by Australia's Mark Taylor in 1998. What was so remarkable about his score?**

A) He declared Australia's innings and did not play on past 334, B) He failed to score more than 334 because he ran out of partners C) He batted injured, D) He played his innings while ill with a chest infection

**7) Bert Ironmonger played with Bradman in the famous Bodyline series against England in 1932/33. He was a left handed spin bowler, but there was what was unusual about this player?**

A) He had half of two fingers missing on his bowling hand, B) He miraculously survived at the crease to allow Bradman to make a century, C) He was nicknamed "Dainty" because he was extraordinarily clumsy, D) All of these

8) In Brisbane in 1960, an amazing cricketing event unfolded. Australia and the West Indies were involved in cricket's first ever tied test match. Australia were batting and needed six runs to win in the last over of the match. The final eight ball over saw three dismissals and five runs. Who was the last Australian dismissed - resulting in the tie? A) Wally Grout, B) Ian Meckiff, C) Lindsay Kline, D) Richie Benaud

9) In the 1977 Centenary Test in Melbourne, Australia's Rick McCosker batted in the second innings in quite extraordinary circumstances. What were they?

A) His wife was in labour, B) He played with a cracked bat, C) He batted with a broken jaw D) He should have been in hospital for treatment for pneumonia

10) Cricket players are quite capable of setting records off the field as well as on. Australia's David Boon has always been the consummate cricketer during the game. A right hand batsman who turned his arm over a few times - bowling right arm off breaks - he was a tenacious close in-fielder as well. His off field antics include the dubious distinction of holding the record for the most number of beers consumed on a flight to London. What appropriate nickname did this earn him?

A) The Tinny King, B) The Keg on Legs, C) Top Dog, D) Boon the Man

11) Which Indian bowler continued to play with a fractured jaw during the 4th test match in India's tour of West Indies in 2002?

A) Javagal Srinath, B) Ashish Nehra, C) Zaheer Khan, D) Anil Kumble

12) Which Indian batsman was the first player to be declared out by the third umpire in international cricket? A) Virendra Sehwag, B) Robin Singh, C) Ajay Jadeja, D) Sachin Tendulkar

13) Racism has been an ugly word in the world of cricket. The South African government which practiced apartheid was allowed to play international cricket till the early 1970s when they were finally isolated. What event triggered this isolation?

A) South Africa refused entry into their country to an English coloured cricketer, B) This was based on a directive from the United Nations, C) South Africa refused to play against some England county teams, D) This was based on the decision of the ICC

14) In 1981, in a one day match between Australia and New Zealand, New Zealand needed a six off the last ball to tie the match. Australian skipper Greg Chappell asked the bowler to bowl an underarm delivery (along the ground) for the last ball of the match, creating a furore. Who was the bowler who bowled the infamous underarm delivery?

A) Jeff Thompson, B) Ian Chappell, C) Trevor Chappell, D) Dennis Lillee

15) The biggest and most shameful controversy to affect cricket has been the match-fixing controversy. In late 2000 the captains of three nations were found guilty and banned. Which was the country whose captain was NOT affected by this scandal? A) Australia, B) Pakistan, C) India, D) South Africa

## Golden moments

Following a great season where 12 Stars achieved a historic championship of division two and promotion to division one, members share their highlights from the summer of 2013. By Rajnish Singh, Up Stumps editor

Yorkshire men are known for their devotion to cricket. In fact, one day, an avid Yorkshire fan was asked, 'If your wife and Geoff Boycott were in a house that was falling over a cliff, who would you save?' 'Are you kidding?' was the reply. 'My wife's a lousy bat.' I never felt my wife Janice was less important than cricket, but there were times during the summer when I really couldn't wait to till Saturday or Sunday to play some cricket during our 2013 season.

Nothing quite beats playing on a lovely cricket ground on a sunny day, and hearing the sound of willow whacking leather. That is of course, if it is not off your bowling, and that red cherry is racing to the boundary. Then that beautiful deep wooden knock, sounds more like the death bell on a sinking ship, as your spirits plunge knowing all the hard work and effort you put in the five previous balls, had been un-done by bowling one fractionally short ball. But off course there is always the next over to get that batsman out.

For me the promotion of 12 Stars was the cherry on top of an exciting and eventful packed season with many "Golden Moments." This season we saw a number of new players play debut for our club. However one player in particular made a big impact. Both Judson and Ganesh stressed the impact

Prashant Bhure made in the games he played, in particular a notable victory over Hasselt.



Other "Golden Moments" that Judson highlighted included the performance of other fellow players including Amit's last over trademark straight drive 6 against RBCC in the Bob Parker Cup that turned the match to our favour. A last wicket stand of 10 runs between Jerome and Ganga, with Jerome scoring the winning runs against Metz in a low scoring thriller. A Division 3 game against Brugge where Anthony, "by mistake", opted for a runner but unfortunately in the heat of the game he forgot his runner altogether and ran faster than him. The funniest bit seeing all 3 bats men running. Though 6 runs were run between them, only 1 run was added to the team's score. Another Anthony inspired moment, was his mastermind bowling change during a Division 3 game against Oostend Exiles, which led 12 Stars to a victory. Even off the field Antony made a big impression, for Ganesh



Mr Beard becoming a father was a Golden Moment. Congratulations not only to Antony but to the other members of our club who become fathers during 2013. I am sure Som is looking forward to their future subs. Mahesh also made our Golden Moments, in a particularly outstanding blinder of a catch he took in a T-20 game against Mechelen Eagles, where he caught the ball running backwards. Congratulations should also be given to Mahesh for his contribution to the Belgian national side. In fact Mahesh's talent is effervescent and enthusiastic that Ganesh V would like to give him the nick name "Random shot selector."

In 2103 12 Stars also received notable Brussels media coverage, along with my interview in the Flemish newspaper BDW, a Belgian TV crew filmed 12 Stars play against RBCC. In particular Dave Anslett was impressed how they followed Antony like a minor celebrity. With a typical sense of drama 12 Stars won the match on the last ball in front of the TV cameras! Another player



whose contribution was mentioned in our Golden Moments was Tom Harris for his 45 odd runs against DHL in the Bob Parker Cup, in particular the last 20 runs he gained in one over. Other off the field performances which were highlighted included

Ganesh V's and Fazil's running commentary. As Peter Whitten states "I think a new ground should include a commentary box as I'd tune in especially to hear Ganesh and Fazil comment live on a game!" Could we be seeing 12 Stars producing their very own Navjot Sidhu and Michael Holding!

My personal Golden Moments were playing in two very close games, one against Ostende Exiles where we won by a mere 6 runs and the other against Gent Arcadians where we won by 15 runs. Both of which reflected a big team determination of not giving up the fight to win the match. Another was watching Mahesh during a friendly opening season game against RBCC who in his competitive enthusiasm attempted to take a diving catch. His swan dive would have easily got 10's for style and grace in gymnastics. But he missed

the ball by a few feet and popped his shoulder. You've got a respect a man for trying. I won't mention Som's injury to his little finger in the same game, which meant he missed most of the season apart from the tour to Budapest. Of course we could add many more but instead let's look forward towards the 2014 season. Not only do we have our champions first team playing in Division 1, a regular second team, the establishment of a junior team, more cricket tours including one possibly to Morocco, and of course big celebrations to mark our 25 anniversary! As Antony stated in the AGM "I really hope 2014 will be a better year than 2013 which has been phenomenal!"





# Quiz Answers

## You are the umpire

If you're interested in more questions like these a book is available at the Guardian book store <http://www.guardianbookshop.co.uk/BerteShopWeb/viewProduct.do?ISBN=9780852650776>

### Example One

- 1) Not out. The ball has been played on to the ground from the first strike so the batsman cannot be caught. Had the ball not made contact with the ground, he would have been out caught after the second strike, had the ball gone to hand and been held.
- 2) Not out. The game is played on top of the grass, so the grass is the ground. The fact that some blades of grass were longer than the others makes no difference.
- 3) Not out. He must play the ball directly on to his wicket or it comes off his person or in running, he kicks the ball on to his wicket, to be out bowled. Additionally, if the ball, which was driven on to the bowler's end wicket had been deflected off a member of the fielding side and on to the striker's wicket with him out of his ground, he would have been run out on appeal. John Oxley wins the book and says: "This actually happened in a match I played in."

### Example Two

- 1) Out caught. Only when the ball lodges in the clothing of a batsman or umpire is it immediately dead. If the fielder had used his clothing deliberately that would have been illegal fielding – but that is not the case here. In the mid 80s in a county match at Trent Bridge I saw a similar incident when Surrey's Roger Knight hammered a juicy full pitch into the midriff of Basharat Hassan at short leg. The ball never touched the ground and Basharat instinctively bent over double as the ball lodged in his shirt. Knight couldn't believe his bad luck.
- 2) As soon as the cap blows off you should call dead ball, then confer with your colleague to determine what happened. It would be grossly unfair for the batsman to be given out as he didn't make an error, neither did the bowler force him into making one. This is comparable to a player being injured during play, when either umpire would immediately call and signal dead ball to prevent any further development.
- 3) Not out. You turned away to avoid being hit and did not see what happened – so even if you suspect the non-striker is out, you can only say not out. In the late 80s Allan Jones and I stood in a John Player League match at Lord's between Middlesex and Gloucestershire. With Allan standing at the Pavilion End, a ball was driven fiercely to the fielder at mid-off who quickly picked it up and threw it breaking the wicket at the bowler's end. Allan raced across to the off side, desperately trying to get into position for the run out, but with his back to the pitch and hands shielding the side of his head in case the ball was thrown to the keeper. The striker was clearly out of his ground when the wicket was broken but Allan could not give the run out because his back was to the pitch, so he could not see what had happened. Thanks to Peter Sinclair.

### Example Three

- 1) Instruct the captain to wipe the writing off, or replace the ball with a new one. It is illegal to put any artificial substance on the ball, and ink, other than the manufacturer's mark, is artificial (unlike perspiration and saliva). You do need to be alert for any form of ball tampering, as there have been many unsubstantiated allegations over the years that certain players have used artificial agents such as Vaseline and sweets to get the ball to shine. The only person in recent years who was actually caught was Rahul Dravid in 2004, who was suspended. Thanks to Vinai Solanki.
- 2) Not out. The batsman left his ground under a misapprehension, thinking that he had been caught, meaning he cannot then be run out. This is a testing scenario and shows how well umpires need to know the laws. Paul Norris wins the book.
- 3) The incoming batsman's innings starts from the moment he steps on to the field of play so, as he was well within time, he cannot be timed out. If anything, he may be accused of time wasting. However where is the captain's regard for the spirit of cricket? Many a batsman has been caught out like this, especially when wickets are falling fast. A little bit of common sense should prevail.

#### Example 4

- 1) Not out. To give a player out for obstruction, the act must have been deliberate. There is no way that you can say with any certainty that the striker deliberately struck the ball. He was desperately trying to return to his ground. Had the ball broken the wicket, though, he would have been out bowled.
- 2) At no stage of the game must a batsman cause avoidable damage to the pitch, and he should never run on the protected area. The first warning you issued was also the final warning, and it applies to the entire team for the duration of that innings. So when he repeats the transgression, cancel the run and award five penalty runs to the fielding side. That means the batting side are now seven runs short of a victory. Players believe that the team batting last can run wherever they like. That's totally incorrect.
- 3) Six runs to the striker. The ball came off his bat, then hit his boot, which was only raised as a result of him taking such a huge swing at the ball. It wasn't an intentional kick, and that's what matters.

### Answers to Cricket Quiz

Question 1: The first recognized international match was held on September 24 and 25 at the St. George's Club in New York, for a prize of \$1000. Somewhere between five and twenty thousand spectators were on hand, and thousands of dollars worth of side bets were made. The Canadians won the game by 145 runs to 122. An opening batsman for the USA was absent for the second innings, not arriving until the game was over, arousing suspicions that he may have bet against his own team.

Question 2: Answer 952 but Sri Lanka though achieving a record did not achieve victory.

Question 3: Answer A – A wicket that is nightmarish for batsmen, is the infamous "sticky wicket". However in modern cricket, covers are brought out to protect the pitch when play is stopped by rain, so classic sticky wickets are no longer seen at the international level.

Question 4: Answer C - "Forward third man" is a meaningless juxtaposition of terms: the position is inherently "backward"

Question 5: Answer B - All of these. The first ever Australian cricket tour of England was made by a group of Australian Aborigines. They had been refused permission to travel by the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines, and were smuggled aboard "The Parramatta", for the trip to England. One of the players - King Cole - contracted tuberculosis and died during the tour. Other players also fell ill. The team played well during their exhausting tour, and while no centuries were scored, Mullagh, Cuzens and Lawrence dominated the batting and the bowling. Sadly the team disbanded on their return to Australia, many of the players dying at a young age. Cuzens and Mullagh were the only players to continue their cricketing careers.

Question 6: Answer A: He declared Australia's innings and did not play on past 334. Mark Taylor equalled Bradman's 334 for the highest score by an Australian batsman in test cricket. The runs came in a test match against Pakistan in 1998. Remarkably, there was opportunity for Taylor to play on and break Bradman's Australian high score, but he declared Australia's innings - leaving himself on 334 not out. Many saw it as a tribute to the great Bradman. Australia's Matthew Hayden had no such thoughts when he scored 380 against Zimbabwe in 2003.

Question 7: The correct answer was All of these. Bert Ironmonger lost his fingers in an accident with a buzz saw. He was so awful as a batsman, that when he came in, the grounds men would begin to attach the pitch roller to the waiting horses. In the second Bodyline test in Melbourne, Bradman was on 98 when Ironmonger came to the crease. He survived 2 deliveries and then Bradman was able to reach his century. Bradman scored 103 before Bert Ironmonger was run out for his most famous duck of all. He redeemed himself in the bowling stakes and went on to take 4/26 in England's second innings. Australia won the second test, and levelled the Bodyline series at 1-1.

Question 8: The correct answer was Ian Meckiff. As the last wicket fell, confusion reigned. Meckiff thought the West Indies had won by a run. Wes Hall, the huge West Indian paceman was totally exhausted. The hero was Joe Solomon, who had managed two direct hits from mid-wicket in the last overs of the game. The first tie in cricket history was a memorable event.

Question 9: The correct answer was He batted with a broken jaw. McCosker was king hit by Bob Willis in the first innings, resulting in a broken jaw. No-one expected him to return but he did, and batted - swathed in bandages - to score 25 in his second innings. Australia won the test by 45 runs - the exact margin recorded in the first ever test match.

**Question 10:** Answer: The Keg on Legs. David Boon's incredibly successful career will be remembered by many. He was Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1994 and scored 7422 test runs in his career. The flight to London will forever be enshrined. 52 cans of beer were consumed. The record is likely to stand as airlines have now sensibly limited the amount of alcohol that can be served inflight.

**Question 11:** Answer: Anil Kumble was hit on the jaw by a delivery from West Indian fast bowler, Mervyn Dillon during the first innings of the test match. Once it was discovered that he had fractured his jaw, he was scheduled to return home to India and undergo surgery. Before leaving, however, he was allowed to bowl in the final session of West Indies' second innings and ended up with a spell of 1-29 in the 14 overs that he bowled taking the prized wicket of Brian Lara.

**Question 12:** Answer: Sachin Tendulkar was dismissed on a run out after the field umpires referred the decision to the third umpire.

**Question 13:** The correct answer was South Africa refused entry into their country to an English coloured cricketer. The South African policy of apartheid resulted in most countries cutting off diplomatic ties. But South Africa continued to play international cricket till 1968. When England was scheduled to tour South Africa, the English team selected a coloured player named Basil D'Oliveira. The South African government refused to allow Basil to enter, resulting in the tour being called off. Subsequently South Africa was isolated in the cricketing world and none of the cricketing teams toured South Africa. This ban was in place for 22 years. Following Nelson Mandela's release, South Africa was readmitted to cricket in 1991 with a tour to India.

**Question 14:** Answer: Trevor Chappell. Brian McKechnie was the New Zealand batsman at the crease when six runs were required by New Zealand to tie the match. Greg Chappell asked his brother Trevor to bowl underarm and roll the delivery along the ground, thereby preventing the batsman from hitting a six. This incident invited widespread condemnation. This was a legal delivery because the laws of cricket at that time allowed underarm bowling, though it was considered unfair. Consequently, the laws of the game were revised and underarm bowling was banned.

**Question 15:** Answer: Australia

The match-fixing scandal shook the world of cricket, when it was revealed that South African captain Hansie Cronje took money from bookies to fix matches. The subsequent investigations resulted in the captains of India, Pakistan and South Africa namely Mohammed Azharuddin, Salim Malik and Hansie Cronje, being banned for life. The match fixing scam led to the ICC setting up an anti-corruption cell to monitor matches to ensure that there is no fixing.

## **Congratulations 12 Stars Division 2 Winners**

