

# Portcullis Cricket Club FAQ

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This document attempts to answer some of the more frequent questions asked by newcomers to Portcullis Cricket Club. If you have any further questions that are not covered below, please do not hesitate to ask get in touch via [secretary@portculliscc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@portculliscc.co.uk).

Portcullis CC is an amateur club that started several years ago as the "works team" for H.M. Customs and Excise in Aberdeen. The name was changed to Portcullis (inspired by the ensign of HMCE) after we gained sponsorship from a local pub, and there is now no longer any formal connection with HMCE. We are now primarily a group of social cricketers who play mainly for enjoyment.

Our home ground is in Duthie Park, and we play in the [Aberdeenshire Cricket Association](#) Grades on Saturday afternoons and some Sundays throughout the summer, and also in occasional friendly games on weekday evenings.

Although we don't officially enter a team in the [Evening League](#), many of our players also play for Macaulay in AECL games.

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## Can I join Portcullis?

Yes. There is no formal "membership" of Portcullis as such. The members are simply those people who play. The easiest way to get started is to come along and chat to us at one of our training sessions in Duthie Park, or to one of our home games.

## What does it cost?

There are some costs associated with running a team in the Aberdeenshire Cricket Association Grades. The main cost is the ACA Fees, but we also have to pay pitch fees, plus the cost of providing club equipment, running the web site, etc. Since we have many members who, for whatever reason, cannot play regularly and often play only 1 or 2 games per season, we decided some years ago not to charge a membership fee. Instead, we charge a simple match fee, so those who play more cricket pay proportionally more. Currently the match fee is £7.50 per game, for which you get several hours of cricket and a cup of tea and some sandwiches and cakes at the end of the first innings.

## How do I join?

The best way to join is to come along to one of our training sessions and introduce yourself, and then log in to our website at [www.portculliscc.co.uk](http://www.portculliscc.co.uk) and register your details in the Members Area.

Where possible, we do most of the match organisation via email and text messages, so ideally we like to have a contact email address and mobile number.

## Do I need any equipment?

Portcullis has a plentiful selection of bats, pads, gloves etc, so you do not need to provide any of your own kit, although if you have your own then by all means bring it along.

We do advise you to provide your own box, however. These are not expensive, and you can get them from Thistle Sports (29-31 Rose Street).

If you have spiked footwear you will need to have an alternative to wear when we play on artificial wickets.

## Do you play in whites?

If you are going to be playing for us regularly then you should probably get your own whites. They are not expensive. Most of our regular players have at least some form of whites, although this is not mandatory unless you are bowling. For the first few games just wear something that is comfortable for running about on grass, and preferably light coloured.

The [Aberdeenshire Cricket Association rules](#) state that "*No bowler shall be allowed to bowl in dark clothes in any of the competitions without the consent of the Captain of the opposing team*", so if you're hoping to bowl a bit then it would help if you wore or had available a light coloured clothing.

## When do you play?

We play grade matches every Saturday from 1 p.m. to around 6 p.m. from the end of April until the end of August. There are also up to cup matches during this time as well, and these take place on Sundays. In addition we have occasional and irregular pre and post season friendly matches and the occasional evening game during the week.

Although we do not have a team in the [Aberdeen Evening Cricket League](#), many of our players also turn out for Macaulay CC in the AECL on Tuesday evenings.

## Where do you play?

Our home pitch is in Duthie Park. We play on pitch number three, which is the one next to the plastic wicket between the band stand and the obelisk.

## When do you train?

We have a training session on the plastic wicket in Duthie Park on a Wednesday evening from 6pm onwards. The first training session is the Wednesday after the clocks go forward, and they run until the end of the season. Times and dates of training sessions are also posted on [the web site](#).

## How often will I play?

We are primarily a social team, and team selection is rarely based on ability. We try to let people play as much as they want, but sometimes that is not possible. Unfortunately, we cannot always give everyone a game every week and it is inevitable that some will be left on the reserves bench every now and then. In order for us to give everyone a fair go, you may occasionally be asked to stand down for a weekend, but if that happens then you will be the first to be selected when you are next available to play. We do our best to make sure that nobody is asked to be a reserve more than one or two times per season, and when it is your turn to take a weekend off we expect you to take the decision with good grace.

It is a great help to the selectors if you let us know your availability as far in advance as possible, preferably via the members area of our website ([www.portculliscc.co.uk](http://www.portculliscc.co.uk)). This means we can arrange the team lists so that everyone gets as many games as possible.

The best way to get selected is to make it easy for the selectors to pick you. If there are 13 people marked on the web site as "available" for a game then the team will be picked from those players and if you are not on that list then you won't be playing. The selectors have better things to do than phone/text/email everyone every week, so if you want to be picked, make sure the selectors know you are available by coming to the training sessions and keeping your web site availability information up to date.

## How do I know if I've been picked?

Teams for weekend games are normally picked on Thursday morning, based on the information on the Availability List on the web site members' area ([www.portculliscc.co.uk/members](http://www.portculliscc.co.uk/members)). Notification is automatically sent to the clubs' YahooGroups mailing list, and in addition any team member who has given a mobile phone number in their contact details will receive a text message. Team selections are also shown in the members' area.

## Can I get transport to away games?

Yes. Just let the match secretary ([secretary@portculliscc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@portculliscc.co.uk)) know as soon as you can that you need a lift and we can work something out.

## What happens if the game is cancelled?

The decision to cancel a game is the sole responsibility of the two captains. Bear in mind that some of our games are played a long way from Aberdeen, and the weather in Fraserburgh can be very different to the weather in Aberdeen. Wind and rain in Aberdeen could easily be bright summer sun in Fraserburgh or Turriff (although experience suggests the opposite is more likely to be the case).

If the game is cancelled, you'll be informed as soon as possible, and if you don't hear anything *you should assume the game is going ahead and turn up as usual*. There is no need to keep phoning/texting/emailing the Captain and/or Secretary "just to check" – if it's off, we will let you know.

## I've forgotten my members' area login. What should I do?

Your login name and password are both case sensitive, so make sure you enter both correctly. If you cannot log in, contact the web site admin ([web@portculliscc.co.uk](mailto:web@portculliscc.co.uk)) and ask for your password to be reset.

It is important that each member has only one login on the system so we can keep meaningful statistics about who has played in which games, so if you forget your account details **PLEASE DO NOT JUST CREATE A NEW LOGIN** as this makes extra work for the web site admin, who will have to merge your multiple accounts together.

## Contact

Web Site: [www.portculliscc.co.uk](http://www.portculliscc.co.uk)

Captain: [captain@portculliscc.co.uk](mailto:captain@portculliscc.co.uk)

Secretary: [secretary@portculliscc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@portculliscc.co.uk)

Treasurer: [treasurer@portculliscc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@portculliscc.co.uk)

Club Mailing List: [portculliscc@yahogroups.co.uk](mailto:portculliscc@yahogroups.co.uk) (you need to subscribe to the list first)