



## **MOUNT CRICKET CLUB EST. 1976**

**News Release – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

### **VATICAN'S 4<sup>TH</sup> LIGHT OF FAITH TOUR - UNITY THROUGH CRICKET & PEACE AT THE CREASE**

Mount Cricket Club is honoured to have taken part in some of the fixtures and events as part of the St. Peter's Cricket Team from the Pontifical Council of Culture & Sport, the Vatican during the 4<sup>th</sup> Light of Faith Tour between the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July. The Tour gathered faith leaders, players, spectators and journalists in friendship, energy, good competition, in faith and a desire to win hearts. The Club's involvement consisted of:

- On the 6<sup>th</sup> July attending Friday prayers at the world famous Regents Park Mosque then watching a unique T20 match at Lords Cricket Ground where a combined Vatican & Anglican side played a Multi Faith Team comprising of 5 faiths and captained by Lord Kamlesh Patel in his capacity as a Director on the Board of the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The Club was delighted that its very own Abdul A Ravat was selected to play at the spiritual home of cricket in this match and watched by so many from the Club who had made the long journey that day from Yorkshire.
- This was then followed up on the 10<sup>th</sup> July by the team playing and winning the three way cricket tournament at Woodford Cricket Ground, Walthamstow with the East London Faith Team (associated with the Essex Cricket Board) and retaining the Sir John Major Friendship Cup with the team from the Vatican. This was followed up by the Vatican's official trip to the London Central Mosque & Islamic Cultural Centre as part of the 'Muslim Day of Engagement'.
- On the 12<sup>th</sup> July Tracy Brabin MP for Batley & Spen organised a special tour of the Palace of Westminster and secured for the Vatican Party the opportunity to perform mass at the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft and then a tour of Westminster Abbey.

The Club is delighted that its experience had been called upon again by all the partners as these events were truly inspirational and clearly demonstrates what major gains can be made in breaking down barriers and demystifying certain misbeliefs and misconceptions about each other. The political world can learn some key lessons from these experiences.

Tracy Brabin, Batley & Spen MP & Shadow Minister for Early Years commented that:

“What Mount Cricket Club have done here is a truly astounding achievement and their determination to bridge gaps between different faiths offers a fantastic example of what can be achieved in the name of unity. To see so many different faiths groups and organisations use their shared love of cricket as a means of gaining better understanding of one another and forming friendships shows just how powerful sport can be in crossing divides.

It was an honour and a privilege to be part of what was an inspirational Light of Faith Tour and I hope that the Peace at the Crease initiative grows further still”.

Jehangir Malik (OBE), Chief Executive Officer for Muslim Aid who supported the Tour at large and Mount, said:

“The Muslim community in the UK, and across the world, is currently facing many challenges and so it's more important than ever to promote true inter-faith dialogue and respect for others. If you look back in history sport has played an enormous role in changing society and bringing communities together. We are therefore delighted that Muslim Aid has worked with Abdul A Ravat of the Mount Cricket Club and took part in the Light of Faith Tour; an important and symbolic cricket event”.

Peter Bennetts, Interfaith & Visits Coordinator at London Central Mosque & Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC) said:

“We were approached by Abdul A Ravat from Mount Cricket Club and invited to take part in the Light of Faith Tour. As a world renowned interfaith centre, the ICC offered its full support to the tour and in particular during the 'Muslim Day of Engagement' by hosting an interfaith dinner and bringing to the occasion speakers like Simon



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Cooper, Head of Sport for the Mayor of London, Mr Ahmed Alabdooli, Head of Political Department at the UAE Embassy, David Hampshire from the Interfaith Network and Dr Shamender Talwar co-founder of the Unity of Faith Foundation.

The ICC is grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in cricket as a way of bringing people of different faiths together and congratulate Mount Cricket Club for its work and endeavours”.

Barrington Billings, Chair of Manningham Housing Association (MHA), Bradford who attended the event on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July reflected on the experience as follows:

“I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mount Cricket Club for inviting me to Lords Cricket Ground. At first I was not sure what to expect but having attended, I have to say that it was truly enlightening to see how multi faith groups and organisations can come together in unity bounded by the common love of cricket.

It was a pleasure and an honour to share the day with and meeting cricketing royalty like Sir Clive Lloyd, Mike Gatting, Lord Kamlesh Patel of Bradford, Baroness Patricia Janet Scotland Secretary General of The Commonwealth and of course the team from the Vatican. Listening to all the speeches and Q&A sessions, it was quite clear to me that the love of sport like cricket can play a pivotal role in our collective desire to achieve tolerance and understanding between different cultures and faiths.

I am sure that the legacy of events like this will help to forge a better understanding between different cultures, faith groups, countries leading to a world where we can all live in peace and harmony. I was most humbled to have been there as a representative of MHA and pledge our continued support for positive and inspirational events like this”.

Mark Griffin, Director of iPerception Limited & Batley Smile CIC, who also attended on the 6<sup>th</sup> July comments as follows:

“Yet again Mount Cricket Club has shown that their talent, energy and vision can change lives through cricket. You have changed mine! Thank you for a wonderful visit to the Central Mosque at Regents Park and to Lords to witness the coming together of the world’s greatest faiths at the home of cricket”.

Hanif Mayet who is the Chairman of the Club and Co-Founder and on behalf of everyone connected with the Mount Family thanked the supporters, contributors (including: Manningham HA, Muslim Aid, PUMA, Regents Park Mosque, Eddisons, Hunters, IQ Balti, Ganador Sports and many, many more individuals and local organisations and businesses), volunteers, players as well as the ECB, MCC, Essex Cricket Board, Yorkshire Cricket and Halifax Cricket League – the past days and events have been truly memorable and exceeded all our collective objectives on and off the pitch.

Abdul A Ravat, Mount’s Development Officer was delighted and stated:

“We wanted to show the world that religion can unite people and that this type of authentic interaction is a true source of hope for better inter and intra faith relationships. We thank everyone involved in making this tour an incredible success and grateful for the role we have played which was recognised by Lord Kamlesh Patel both at Lords and at other key events during the tour. This is a huge honour and a legacy that the Club has created”.

**Notes to the Editor:**

Mount Cricket Club was established in 1975/6 by two enthusiastic cricketers Mr Hanif Mayet – who remains its Chairman – and the late Farid Karolia from the Asian community in Batley, West Yorkshire. Since then, it has progressed through various Yorkshire leagues and now plays its senior cricket with the Halifax Cricket League, winning many friends and supporters along the way.



**For all enquiries at Mount Cricket Club please contact:**

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**Picture taken with prior permission**

**Picture 1: Tracy Brabin MP Batley & Spen & St Peter's Cricket Team at the Palace of Westminster (12<sup>th</sup> July).**





**Picture 2:** A group picture of the combined Vatican / Anglican vs. The Inter Faith Team at Lords with Lord Kamlesh Patel & Baroness Patricia Scotland at Lords Cricket Ground (6<sup>th</sup> July).



**Picture 3:** A group picture of the 'Mount Family' with Lord Kamlesh Patel & Fr Emaonn O'Higgins at the Nursery Strip, Lords (6<sup>th</sup> July).





**Picture 4:** Abdul A Ravat with Oliver Dudfield, Head of Sport for Development & Peace, The Commonwealth and Barrington Billings, Chair of Manningham Housing Association at the evening seminar at Lords (6<sup>th</sup> July).





**Picture 5:** A group picture of the teams at Walthamstow (10<sup>th</sup> July).



**Picture 6:** Fr Eamonn O'Higgins presenting the 'Sir John Major Friendship' to Abdul A Ravat of Mount Cricket Club (10<sup>th</sup> July).





**Picture 7: Peter Bennetts of Regents Park Mosque giving a talk to the Vatican Party (10<sup>th</sup> July)**





**Picture 8:** A group picture in the courtyard at the Regents Park Masque (10<sup>th</sup> July).

