

Sport

'It is our intention to start competitions from July'

L'Anresse Golf Club captain Alan Mahy - Page 35



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Media rights executives approach GCB to show more Guernsey cricket from the KGV



Getting in the swing: Ollie Newey hooks the ball towards the KGV boundary as the season got under way with the Covid-19 Appeal test game on Saturday.
(Picture by Martin Gray, www.guernseysportphotography.com, 28319879)

GCB could sell media 'EL' rights

EVENING LEAGUE cricket could be shown across the world, with digital broadcasters making representations after the success of Saturday's T20 game.

But while legitimate broadcast outlets sniff around Guernsey as an avenue to show cricket, more ominously the seedier side of the international game – bookmakers and those after making a financial killing – are also showing a keen interest in what is developing in the light of Guernsey's success in tackling coronavirus.

GCB chief executive Mark Latter yesterday joked he had never been so popular.

'The worldwide dearth of live sporting action has meant that once Guernsey Cricket announced an intention to start playing again, we were contacted by all manner of people looking to use our live action feeds on their own plat-

CRICKET
by Rob Batiste

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forms. This has come from digital broadcasters to fantasy game providers across Europe and Asia,' he said yesterday after appearing

'We realise we have a one off opportunity here and a limited window of interest before other countries come on board with live cricket ...'

Mark Latter

on a Wisden podcast. Radio Melbourne has also been in touch.

'As we saw with our cricket friends in Vanuatu, the interest is real and they have secured both a game sponsor and media rights partner. Where the interest is with fantasy game providers, then there is a need to fully understand the exact nature of how your content might be used and to ensure the integrity of your organisation and that of the players. Sport has a great offering for many enthusiasts but offers other values to some that might not always meet your own.

'That all said, who would have thought that we would get a call to discuss media rights for Evening League cricket? Yet we have and discussions are ongoing and who knows what offers might finally come in and where they can lead.

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NatWest International to end Island Games backing

AFTER 22 years and 12 events staged across Europe, NatWest International will end its sponsoring of the Island Games after next summer's event in Guernsey, writes Rob Batiste. NatWest International took on

sponsorship of the Games in 1998, working closely with the organisers to provide financial assistance to support the host islands. Steve Camm, managing director of NatWest International, said: 'It is fitting

that our last event as sponsor is in the Channel Islands and we feel honoured to be able to pass the baton on to the new partner to take the Games into a new era in such good shape. We have offered our support to the IIGA as they

seek to secure a new sponsorship agreement.' Jorgen Pettersson, chairman of the IIGA, said his body had 'learnt a lot from the professionalism demonstrated by NatWest International'.

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Footballer turned cyclist springs a virtual surprise

MANZUR footballer Simon Baker opened a few eyes and secured a surprise victory in the latest chapter of Guernsey's promising virtual 'Southern's'.

The versatile Englishman, who has only recently joined the Velo Club, pinched top honours over the fast 33km London Classique course as dependable teammate Jack English placed third.

Baker is clearly at home racing virtually and clocked 41min. 30sec. to pip English by just 1sec. in round four of the 12-part Local Interclub Zwift Races series.

The general flatness of the

CYCLING
by Jamie Ingrouille

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course kept riders in close proximity, though the first of five Whitehall hill climbs helped split the field into three distinct groups. From there, the top two Guernsey riders remained in the front pack and alongside their colleague Matt Osborn featured in a 16-man sprint.

Several connection issues further afield blunted GVC's hopes but despite this, they are clinging on to a three-horse race with top clubs Bristol and Por-

tishead, holding nearly twice as many points as fourth.

GVC president Mark Smith hopes to maintain this promising start even following the club's return to outdoor action, becoming the first outfit in the British Isles to do so.

'It will be interesting to see what happens in the next few races. Hopefully we can keep the momentum up and close the gap back on BRC and PCC,' he said.

In last Tuesday's round, teenagers Kylie Vaudin and Finlay Mechem won the women's race and Category C respectively to give GVC welcome points.



The previously England-based Simon Baker racing in London prior to lockdown. (28317900)



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"That the Company be and is hereby wound-up by means of voluntary liquidation pursuant to section 391(1) (b) of the Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008 as amended and a liquidator appointed."

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L'Ancrese and Royal Guernsey Golf Clubs: Four-balls back in play

L'Ancrese Golf Club president Geoff Meagher, left, and captain Alan Mahy are the first customers as the clubhouse opens for the first time since the coronavirus lockdown restrictions were put in place. (Pictures by Gareth Le Prevost, 28322732)



**Competitions likely
to start next month**

GOLF
by Gareth Le Prevost
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COMPETITIVE golf is set to return to L'Ancrese next month. Both clubs have been liaising with the Sports Commission's relationship manager Steve Sharman throughout the coronavirus lockdown as to when and how they could return to action. Social two-balls were able to recommence on 4 May and, in line with phase four of the Exit from Lockdown guidelines, four-balls returns to the links yesterday.

The clubs also have the green light to take the next step. 'It is our intention to start competitions from July,' said L'Ancrese Golf Club captain Alan Mahy yesterday, when LGC's clubhouse opened for the first time since lockdown. 'What those competitions will be has yet to be decided. 'As I've said previously, it would be my hope that we can get the L'Ancrese Open played this year - maybe not the team event, though - but a lot will depend on when we can do presentations. We will have to wait for guidance on that. 'Everything is moving quickly so we cannot plan too far ahead,



Yesterday saw four-balls allowed to play at L'Ancrese once again. (28322738)

but from what we have heard in the last couple of weeks, everyone wants competitive golf again. 'The executive committees of both clubs have spoken regularly during lockdown to make sure there's a continuity for golf at L'Ancrese and I believe the Royal Guernsey GC are looking to start competitions from the start of July.' Inter-insular matches have been called off this year and clubs have cancelled inter-club matches, while the L'Ancrese GC will not hold their match-

play tournaments either. However, Mahy added that there may be the scope to extend their competitive season into October to give members the chance to play other formats of competition. As for the reopening of the clubhouse, the captain happily admitted that it had come sooner than he had expected only a couple of weeks ago. 'We have kept strictly to the guidelines during every step of lockdown and in the clubhouse we are doing the correct social distancing, with people directed

to a table and the necessary details taken from everyone coming in,' Mahy said. 'It is very important to be open again, as much for the membership to get back together as anything. 'There has been a loss of income like any other business, but thanks to the lead of Gavin St Pier, Heidi Soulsby and Dr Nicola Brink and the way the Guernsey community has behaved in these times, it has allowed us to be in this position to open again earlier than we had thought.'

CRICKET

Truncated season could raise significant money

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'We realise we have a one-off opportunity here and a limited window of interest before other countries come on board with live cricket [and

sport] but if we can gain a benefit for local cricket meantime... why wouldn't we?' Player information requests were received by Guernsey Press Sport three hours before the start.

Arvind from India wrote: 'Can you tell me 10 best players' names from Team Oly Tapp's XI v. Andy Cornford's XI. 'Kindly try to reply fast as soon as possible, because match will start in only three hours.

'I'm waiting...' A suspicious Guernsey Press did not reply to the request and nor did any players who were recipients of similar requests via Twitter or Facebook. Saturday's game, whilst

being an exhibition, still raised £1,500 for the local Covid Appeal through a streaming rights sale and other contributions. 'Who knows what a season, albeit truncated, might raise,' questioned Latter.