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EDITORIAL

WELCOME !

Welcome to the new-look "Irish Cricket" for 1985. We have tripled our print-run (and attracted a whole new readership), we've increased the magazine by 8 pages, and we've put up the price by 30p. (though we're sure you'll agree it's still a bargain). The main change is that we have recruited correspondents from outside Dublin to cover the competitions in the North, North-West and Munster.

SALES OUTLETS

"Irish Cricket" is now on sale in every cricketing town in the North. Readers should place a regular order with their local newsagent to be sure of getting their copy each month.

Unfortunately the story in the rest of the country is a bit more complicated. Several readers have complained that they have been unable to buy "Irish Cricket" in their local newsagent. We have tried to rectify this, but sadly the two companies that distribute magazines in the South do not consider the cricket market in the Republic to be worth their while. We will endeavour to get copies into as many outlets as we can, a full list of which will appear in the next issue. Perhaps if every cricketer and cricket-lover asked his or her newsagent to stock the magazine the situation might change.

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Peter Thursfield, courtesy "The Irish Times"*

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OPENING SHOTS

MONTEITH IMPROVING

Ireland and Lisburn captain Dermott Monteith was the victim of a "hit and run" accident when walking home from the Bangor Rugby Club on Saturday 10th February. Immediately admitted to intensive care at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald. He has numerous serious injuries, especially to his legs and pelvis, but in his own words, there is "nothing that can't be cured".



Dermott Monteith

Dermott has been inundated with greetings from his friends and admirers from all over Ireland and beyond. One youthful member of the Irish squad sent his captain a Get Well card addressed to "The Greatest Slow Left-Armer in Ireland, c/o the Ulster Hospital, Northern Ireland." It arrived, obviously.

RITA & GAYBO

Congratulations are due to Mrs. Rita Kenny, President of the L.W.C.U., who shot to fame recently by identifying the 'Mystery Sound' on the 'Gay Byrne Hour' as the Kookaburra bird. Rita is now thirteen quid better off!

NEW CLUB (LEINSTER)

A 27th club has joined the Leinster Cricket Union, the men of Sandyford C.C. For their first season they will play at the Marlay Park ground used occasionally by C.Y.M. The club formed last year to play 'Taverners' matches, and having experienced some degree of success, decided to apply for membership of the LCU. Only two of their players have experience of League cricket, the McConville brothers Tiernan and Brendan being former members of Civil Service. Pioneering types in the Dundrum/Sandyford area might like to join this side in Junior B. Secretary Cliff Kennedy can be contacted at 981113 (H) or 763465 (W).

NEW CLUBS (NORTH WEST)

The North West Cricket Union has admitted two new clubs for the 1985 season. Both THORNHILL and KILLYCLOONEY lie within the Derry/Strabane/Donemana triangle and will play in Division 4.

North Fermanagh C.C., who keep the flag flying in South-West Ulster, have entered a 2nd XI from their Kesh headquarters - a very healthy sign indeed. They will play in the new Division 7.

FREE GIFT!

IRISH CRICKET will be giving away a WHO'S WHO IN IRISH CRICKET wallch with Issue 2. This will contain names of the Captains of each XI and office bearers of every club in the land. Sure to be a sell-out, order your copy of Issue 2 now!

JUNIOR BRANCH CHANGES IN LEINSTER

The Junior Branch of the L.C.U. have announced several changes to the regulations for the new season. The details are available in full in the L.C.U. Handbook. The following is an outline of the changes:

LEAGUE STARRINGS (eight players on each team. Of the 3 unstarred who are eligible for a lower team, only any 2 may play in any one match for the lower team.

GUINNESS CUP PLAYERS: A player making regular appearances in this competition will only be eligible for his club's first XI.

RESULT CARDS: The LCU has decided to crackdown on late cards; last season saw several teams (and clubs) waiting almost two months to submit cards. Besides this making Secretary Michael Sharp's job much harder, and being against the regulations, it made the Junior League coverage in "Irish Cricket" irritatingly out-of-date as regards some teams and players. The com-

mittee has decided that there will be a mandatory 5 points penalty for every late card not received within ten days of completion of the fixture. The committee has also decided that this regulation will be stringently enforced.

There are also minor alterations in the rules as regards TWO-EVENING MATCHES and REFIXTURES.

The Junior Branch have also announced sponsors for the various Cup Finals this year: Senior 2 Cup Final (Carlisle, August 3rd) - WINDMILL SPORTS & LEISURE. Middle Cup Final (Rathmines, July 20th) - TROCAL PVC WINDOWS. Intermediate Cup Final (Rush, Aug. 10th) - ARMSTRONG MOTORS, RUSH. Junior Cup Final (Civil Service, Aug. 5th) - COLET PRODUCTS, HAIRDRESSERS SUPPLIERS.

There is no sponsor as yet for the Whelan Cup Final, although the Junior Branch are open to offers. Interested firms should contact Michael Sharp at Dublin 698953.



LISBURN REFUSE AZHARUDDIN

Lisburn C.C. attracted a fair bit of press coverage recently over their decision to decline the opportunity to have the Indian test starlet Mohammed Azharuddin after he scored three centuries in his first three Tests.

Lisburn Secretary Cecil Walker points out that they were looking for a coaching professional, and 'Azha' did not have the qualifications. Seem-

ingly the young Indian's name was just one of twenty-odd circulated by an agent. Lisburn have instead signed the former Warwickshire and Worcestershire player Steve Perryman (not the Spurs footballer !)

Incidentally, Cecil Walker has been elected President of the N.C.U. to replace Ferguson Grainger, who died just two months into office.

EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES



You can't pull the wool over the eyes of a Maths teacher ! Pictured above is Brendan Guildea of Ring Commons, who, according to our ANNUAL, finished second in the Intermediate B batting averages last season. Due to a computational error we undervalued his average by 12 runs, which means that he now tops the tables. The corrected average is as follows:

	inn	no	most	runs	average
B.Guildea	11	4	71	378	54.00
R.Greene	12	6	81*	302	50.33

We apologise to Brendan for our mistake, and congratulate him on his achievement.

In an Official Correction to the Senior Statistics published by the LCU in October, and printed in our Annual, a wicket previously credited to Rossa Bunworth of Clontarf has now been corrected as a run-out. This increases Bunworth's average from 16.9 to 17.75.

MUNSTER TONS

A Munster reader writes to tell us that the statement that Ken Devine's U-19 century last season was only the second scored by a Munster player at a representative level, which was printed in the "Munster '84" article in our Winter Annual, is not strictly true.

We apologise to all our readers in the South, and contritely record Noel Cantwell's century against Leinster, and Pat Dineen's 102 v. Ulster Town in 1970 and 124 v. Ulster Country in 1971, both at the Mardyke. Peter Murphy has also scored a hundred at schools level against Leinster. Here's to a few more this year !

COMING & GOING

N.W.C.U. Division 2 side Burndennett have had a good winter in the signings department, with former Strabane batsman Sean McDermott as captain for 1985. Burndennett have attracted Oliver 'Banty' McDaid and Paul O'Neill from 3rd Division Berryburn. They have also persuaded former international Brendan Donaghey (3 caps) and his son Peter.

Derry club YMCA are confident that they will entice former Donemana & North-West all-rounder Jay Curry out of retirement to help out. Jay's last club was Berryburn.

WATERFORD C.C 1984

	inn	no	runs	most	average
R.J. Leslie	5	2	144	60	48.00
J. Matthews	11	4	303	74*	43.28
S. Leslie	4	2	70	28	35.00
M. Ashmore	9	4	159	58*	31.80
D. Kirby	9	1	243	88	30.47
W. Leslie	8	3	111	37*	22.20
P. Thomas	6	1	53	18*	10.00

	overs	mdn	runs	wks	average
P. Thomas	115.4	37	261	27	9.66
R.J. Leslie	80	17	177	17	10.40
D. Kirby	117.4	31	254	22	11.54
J. Halley	54.2	14	119	6	19.83

Printed right are the averages for Waterford C.C. for last season, which arrived too late for inclusion in our ANNUAL. Waterford C.C. won the Bank of Ireland Munster Senior Cup and Shield in 1984.

CORK 800

As part of their contribution to the Cork 800 celebrations, CORK COUNTY have arranged an interesting programme of matches, which this year are being sponsored by Murphy's Brewery (Ireland) Ltd., The visitors include Downpatrick, Old Belvedere, Leinster, Bangor, Pembrokeshire (Wales), Law Society of London, YMCA, (Dublin), Lansdowne (Bath) and Cowbridge (Wales).

PREVIEW OF THE NEW SEASON

On the next four pages, "Irish Cricket Magazine's" provincial correspondents preview the Senior Leagues in their respective Unions. Peter Wood (North), Andrew Deacon (Leinster), Ian Devine (Munster) and Joe Doherty (North West) set the scene for the 1985 season

NORTH



Peter Wood

BENSON & HEDGES LEAGUE First Division, Section One.

Waringstown will once again be defending their title, and must be everybody's favourites to win yet again. The probable loss of Alvin Spence to Queen's University will be compensated by the return of former Queen's captain and Ulster Town bowler Philip Hepburn and apart from that the same squad will go into action. A good stream of quality youngsters into the First XI is the result of members' coaching, Waringstown never having employed a professional. 1985 may see the debut of outstanding 15 year-old prospect Shane Harrison, son of Jim, who last year scored well at representative level in U-15 and U-19 cricket. This included a 58 for Ulster Country U-19s.

If any team can beat Waringstown to the title, the best bet must be **Downpatrick**, winners of the John Player Cup last year. Captained again by Derek Mc Cann, the same squad go into action this year. As in previous years, they will rely heavily on the services of professional Kemal Merchant and recent Irish cap Jim Patterson.

And what of the other contenders? **Lisburn** will surely miss the services of Dermott Montieth, unlikely to play this season, following his serious accident. New captain Ian Thompson will bring youth to the job, while the club have also employed a new professional in Steve Perryman (ex-Warwicks. & Worcestershire).

Bangor will miss the services of several younger players now departed to University, but hope to have Michael Rea once his studies at Trinity end for the summer. Despite these losses, I am sure the production line of young players will keep turning them out, and adding to club's already impressive strength in depth. Outsiders for the title could be Schwepes Cup holders **Lurgan** who will be once again benefitting from the talents of Rahul Mankad.

Relatively poor league performances were experienced in 1984 by **Ballymena**, **North Down** and **North of Ireland**, when they all finished in the bottom half of the table. N.I.C.C. did reach the Cup final however, and will hope for a successful year in this, the 125th Anniversary year.

Finally, what of **Woodvale**, narrowly saved from relegation after a play-off with Donacloney, and **Holywood**, newcomers to Section 1? The former, now captained by ex-Ireland batsman Graham Crothers are desperately in need of new bowling talent to back up an impressive batting line-up with four internationals present. Irish schools and Youths player Simon Redpath has rejoined from Section 3 club Academy, but will have school commitments until June. Holywood's rise into Section 1 surprised many observers and realistically they will need to play extremely well to retain Senior status. Inspired leadership from Billy McCorm-

ick may pull them through, but the key man could be John Kerstens with his top section experience.

First Division, Section 2

Prime candidates for this title must be **Donacloney**, relegated in '84, or **Donaghadee**, who chased Holywood all the way last year, the 3rd consecutive season they have been there or thereabouts. Both employ pro's, as do **Armagh**, whose youth policy now appears to be paying off.

Two possible outsiders could be **Saintfield**, who narrowly avoided the slide from Sections One to Three in successive seasons, but who must do better this year; or **Queens University** who have recruited well following the loss of six players from last year.

Instonians, who won Section 3 last year after an exciting play-off with Dundrum, keep their habit of playing in a different league every year! They will be pressed to survive, with so many players approaching the twilight of their careers.

First Division, Section 3

Dundrum, so close to the title in both 1983 and 1984, must start as favourites. **C.I.Y.M.S.**, relegated last year, are rumoured to have lost several first team players, and it may take them a year or two to rebuild a challenge. **Academy**, third in '84, will miss the services of Simon Redpath, but should finish in the Top four. **Cooke** surprised everyone by finishing in the first four last year, qualifying for the John Player Cup, but they will do well to do a repeat in '85. **Cregagh**, now amalgamated with Section 4 club Loopvale, should do better, as should **Victoria**. Possible surprise package could be last year's Section Four Winners **Ards**, who expect to have the services of match-winning professional Javed Mohammed again.

First Division, Section 4

This league appears to be wide open this year. **Drumaness**, down from Section 3, should do well. **Carrickfergus** had their best season yet by finishing runners-up to Ards in '84. Possible challengers include **Civil Service** and **Collegians**, both of whom are rumoured to have signed several new players. Both of these clubs, incidentally, will be hosting Guinness Cup fixtures this year.

Outsiders with a chance include **Portadown** and **Derriaghy**, whose strength in depth will be tested in a league which now has 16 matches per team. up four from 1984.

LEINSTER



Andrew Deacon

A is for **AUSTRALIANS**, who play in Downpatrick on August 8th - a rare chance to see the Aussies in Ireland; and for **AMATEURISM** - some say success can no longer be bought, but the end of playing professionals will hit the strugglers more than the strong.

B is for **BELVEDERE COLLEGE**, who have dominated schools' cricket like Blackrock have schools' rugby. They must be favourites to win again this year. Dark Horse: Sandford Park

C is for **CARLISLE, CLONTARF** and **C.Y.M.**, all of whom may find things more difficult this season than last. The backbone of the Clontarf side was beginning to creak a little last year. Carlisle and C.Y.M. will not have welcomed the changes in regard to professionals, but will still be difficult to beat on their own turf (or mat).

D is for **DEPARTURES**: goodbye to (among others) Jack Short, David Tucker, Seamus O'Gorman and Eddie Lewis - lost to the Dublin game for a variety of reasons; all will be missed at their respective clubs.

E is for **EQUIPMENT** - a bigger selection than ever now available from more shops than ever. See kit special in this issue.

F is for **FINGAL LEAGUE**; Man O'War to win again this year

G is for **GUINNESS CUP**: a fine win for South Leinster last year, but may go back North in '85; also for **GILMORE** - an in-form Brian Gilmore could challenge Alan Lewis as leading batsman, and attain higher representative honours.

H is for **HUNDREDS** - a record number of senior centuries in Leinster last year. Fewer in '85 - few pro's and surely the weather can't be that good again. **THE HILLS** will find it difficult to win away from home.

I is for **IRELAND**. Fixtures for 1985: v.Scotland (June 16,17 and 18) v. Sussex (Hove, July 3), v.Australia (Downpatrick, August 8), tour of Wales and England (August 20- 30). Still no NatWest win?

J is for **JACK SHORT** - off to Paris, and a big loss to Leinster CC, South Leinster and Ireland.

K is for **KEARTLAND**, moved to YM to strengthen their bowling; also **K** is for **KNOCKHARLEY**, new to the Leagues last season and setting a new standard for hospitality among Junior Clubs.

L is for **LEINSTER**, they have lost Jack Short, but gained Peter Dineen. Must win at least one trophy again this time; and for Lewis who has the technique and talent to top the batting averages again, and consolidate his place on the Irish team.

M is for **MALAHIDE** and for **MERRION**. Malahide to improve on last year's disappointing showing; Merrion to find things even harder after losing several players in the close season. **M** is for Masood, aiming to top the averages again, and interviewed in this issue.

N is for **NEWCOMERS**. Welcome to Sandford C.C., only debutantes of 1985.

O is for **OLD BELVEDERE**. A young and improving side who could do very well, particularly in the latter part of the season; they will benefit from the pace bowling of Peter **O'REILLY**.

P is for **PHOENIX** and **PEMBROKE** top teams of two seasons ago, less successful last term. Pembroke will find Chris Kuggeleijn very hard to replace; Phoenix are a vastly experienced side who must again be in the running for every competition, but may not win any. **P** is also for **PRIOR** - John is captain of Old Belvedere this year, and will help their cause greatly if he treats every game like an international.

Q is for **QUICK-BOWLERS** - no imports this year, but there is more home-grown fast bowling potential around than in recent years.

R is for **RAILWAY UNION**, another club with plenty of young talent, but somewhat lacking in penetration with the ball. Will aspire to no more than a mid-table position.

S is for **SCHWEPPE**s - time a Leinster club won this trophy. Southern sides have been unlucky in the past to play well but lose to northern pro's.

T is for **TRINITY**, celebrating their sesquicentenary (150 years). The team looks stronger, too, with Michael Rea, top of the Guinness Cup batting averages, a valuable addition.

U is for **ULSTER**. Waringstown should win the B&H League again this season, with fewer international calls and less dependence on overseas players than some of their rivals.

V is for **VETERAN**. David R. Pigot, senior batsman since the 'forties, is opening bat for Phoenix, President of Trinity Cricket Club, and Chairman of the Mid-Ulster Cricket Group. The senior player in senior cricket.

W is for **WOMEN'S CRICKET**, the major success story of the last few years. Dublin has the highest concentration of women cricketers in the world; standards are improving all the time and the level of commitment often puts men to shame. Also **W** is for **WICKETS**: Excellent - Clontarf, Malahide, Carlisle, Leinster. Good and still improving - Phoenix, YM, Trinity and Merrion. Room for improvement: The Hills, Railway, Belvedere, C.Y.M. and Pembroke.

X is for **XENOPHOBIA** - no need to worry about that South African quickie or Antiguan slogger this year; fewer unknown quantities in the Leinster League.

Y is for **YMCA** and for **YOUTH**, a commodity of which they made full use of last season, winning the Sports gear Cup. An improved side again this year, and will win at least one trophy.

Z finally, is for **ZAHEER ABBAS**, who will have nothing whatsoever to do with Leinster cricket this year, but is the only cricketer with a Z.

MUNSTER



Ian Devine

The three Senior Competitions in Munster, the League, Cup and Shield are being sponsored again this year by Bank of Ireland.

One interesting point is that the League is played on a time basis, which reflects the growing disenchantment with the constant diet of overs cricket. Both the Cup and Shield are knock-out 50 over competitions, the Cup having a restriction on bowlers, which forces the use of 5 bowlers.

Unfortunately, Harlequins have had to drop to Junior Club status. It is likely that most of their Senior players will join Bohemians. Thankfully, Harlequins will continue to play Junior and Taverner cricket, and this keeps a valuable ground in use. With the increased numbers taking up the game, we hope it will be possible for them to revert to Senior status soon.

Waterford are installing an artificial pitch in the grounds of the Newtown School. In this, they are following the line taken by C.of I. and Limerick. Now, only Bohemians and Wanderers, whose home is the Mardyke, play on grass. The general reason for this increase in the use of artificial wickets is the impossibility of producing good quality grass pitches on grounds which are put to other use during the remainder of the year, particularly when five or six games a week are being played on it.

BOHEMIANS

With the addition of a number of players from Harlequins, Bohemians could be a competitive side this season. It is doubtful if the overall strength is there to win a competition, but they may well inflict defeats on some of the more fancied sides. The availability of Dave Short or Bob Wilson could add significantly to the potential of the side. Frank Creedon, Eddie Sang and Olan Kelleher are useful bowlers, and Roger Long, Jack Russell, Paul Traynor, Victor Hurley and Dave O'Loughlin are capable of getting useful runs.

WATERFORD

Waterford have a solid batting line-up, consisting of Johnny Matthews, Dave Kirby Mike Ashmore, Bob & Billy Leslie and Peter Thomas. Their bowling is carried by Thomas and Kirby, and while this may seem a bit limited, it was more than adequate to deal with the feeble opposition offered by most of their opponents last year.

With their new pitch providing a good surface for home games, their batting may well be even more formidable in the coming season. However, if the opposition improve their attitude, Waterford will have to work harder to take wickets.

On balance, they will start favourites to win the various competitions.

WANDERERS

Wanderers have enough cricketing talent to be a good side, but seldom fulfill their potential. The main thing they require is some application and organisation, so that every member of the side knows what he is expected to do. The addition of Bryan O'Donnell to the side will give both edge and steadiness to the bowling, and will thus allow the others to operate under less pressure. The slow bowlers Ronnie McDowell and Ray Wong could have a useful impact if properly handled and supported.

The batting has a number of useful stroke makers in D.Ryan, P.D.Dineen, P.Tynan and J.Walsh, but it is impossible to play strokes successfully if the innings is disintegrating. Somebody has got to concentrate on giving the innings some stability.

CHURCH OF IRELAND

At full strength, C.I. have a nicely balanced side, which are well a capable of winning a competition. Unfortunately, some of the essential players have commitments to other activities, which interfere with their cricket, and adequate replacements are not available.

For many years, George Treacey and Jonathan Anderson have been the backbone of the bowling. The availability of these players will have a large bearing on the performance of the side. On the plus side, it is hoped Ian Hastie may develop sufficiently to make a significant impact.

Runs are expected from Ken Devine, Gerald Burns (when free from Irish Hockey squad commitments), John Wolfe, Jack Hanna, John Whittaker and Robert Bamber.

LIMERICK

Limerick have the best all-round bowling attack, headed by John McDevitt & Kevin O'Herlihy, supported by K O'Brien and M.Sheehan. They also perform tidily and actively in the field. Their batting depends on D.O'Brien, O'Herlihy, McDevitt and J.Cheately, but the bottom half of the order is brittle under pressure.

They will be challenging for all the competitions, but may find themselves short of runs in some vital matches.

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NORTH WEST



Joe Doherty

When **St. JOHNSTON** won the North West Senior League in 1984, it was the climax of a remarkable story of a club which had been defunct in the late '60s and early '70s. Since their rebirth they have won three Senior Cups and now their first ever League title. During the resurgence of the Co. Donegal side, the club depended very heavily on the contributions of the Rankin brothers, Davy and Ian; I say this without underplaying the efforts of Ivan Lapsley and Alan McClure.

Last year, however, the Rankins were, by their own standards, nothing special, and that is where the strength of the title-winning team lay. The opening attack of the super-fit Paul Wallace and Ivan Lapsley fired on all cylinders and the formidable back-up of the Rev. John Davey (slow left arm) and newcomer David Dunn (Medium pace) were rarely needed.

Runs came from all quarters, with skipper William McKean, Keith Lapsley, Ian Anthony and wicketkeeper McClure all playing their part in a fine team effort. St. Johnston should be at least as strong this year, and must therefore be fancied to go close.

The biggest threat to any side with Senior League aspirations has come to be from **DONEMANA** and this year should prove no exception. The Tyrone villagers' record over the past six years reads: Champions 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982; Runners-Up: 1983 (after a play-off with Brigade), 1984. With youngsters like Desmond "Decker" Curry (5 centuries last season) and the McB-rine twins not even having reached their peak, Donemana are sure to a force to be reckoned with for many more years.

STRABANE will have professional Bobby Rao back for his sixth season, and each year his pupils blossom more and more. The first XI will probably contain 7 youngsters who have learned their cricket under Rao's guidance and, although they may be temporarily denied the services, of batsman Keith Finlay (son of Aubrey) and opening bowler John Callaghan, who are strongly tipped for selection for the Bermuda tour in July, Strabane may have a big say in the destination of the Northern Bank league.



*M.V. Narasimha 'Bobby' Rao
(Strabane, Hyderabad & India)*

Judging by last year's showings, the other main contenders will probably be the mature **BRIGADE** side who reached three Cup finals last year, but who this year will be without Clarke Nicholl who

has retired. Neither may Brigade have the full services of Roy Torrens, if we are to believe even half of what we hear.

In recent years, **SION MILLS** have tasted success in Cup competitions only and the fact that they will be without a pro this year means they cannot be recommended as a good bet for the title.

LIMAVADY and **EGLINTON** would seem to be in need of consolidation of existing resources and an injection of new talent before being in a position to challenge for honours again. The return of opening bowler Lionel Semple will strengthen Limavady, while Eglinton will be glad to welcome back West Indian fast bowler Hendy Wallace (Barbados), although there is some talk that international 'keeper Shaun Bradley is a doubtful starter this year.

COLEPAINE and **NORTH FER MANAGH** both finished at the wrong end of the table in '84, even with professional assistance and it would be a surprise if they fared any better this time around. Newly promoted **FOX LODGE**, whose ground at Ballymagorry on the Strabane/Derry road must be one of the smallest senior grounds *anywhere*, have done tremendously well to achieve Division One status and will no doubt be well pleased if they don't go straight back down again. In Raymond Miller they have one of the finest swing bowlers in the country never to have gained representative honours.



*William Wilson and Dean Simpson (Brigade)
fielding in the Schweppes Cup Final.*

ALFRED THE GREAT !

Colm Magee talks to ALF MASOOD

It was one of those curious, paradoxical situations which arise from time to time - sitting in O'Byrne's pub in Rathmines talking to Alf Masood about cricket in tropical temperatures in Pakistan, with the sun and sleet lashing down outside and the wind howling to announce the return of as severe a winter as Alf has seen. But we of course were comfortably warm inside, and not just because of the hot whiskies, but also the amiable and unstoppable flow of Alf Masood letting off steam on just about every cricketing topic imaginable. He is just as passionate and articulate about the game off the field as he is polished and determined on it - like many a good Senior League seamer from Malahide to Merrion, I simply sat back and admired. . . .

When you listen to Masood for a while, consider what he has achieved and the standards which he sets for himself, you begin to wonder - can this guy really be playing cricket in Ireland? Is he not the best bat we have EVER seen in this country? How can he be content at this level and how come he ran into a sticky patch last year? How, above all else, can the politics and administrative niceties of Irish cricket be allowed to deprive our national team of the services of such a player? Masood becomes awesome if you reflect too much on the man and his career. Better to listen and enjoy.

Like the story about the Young England team which toured Pakistan in 1968-69, when Masood was still at University in Lahore, his home town. He was selected to play for Pakistan U-19 against the tourists, who included a fledgling fast bowler called Bob Willis and also the Hampshire player Jon Rice, among others. Masood scored three consecutive centuries against this England side (about 500 runs in six innings) and was voted best young player in Pakistan. There was a major profile in the country's equivalent of "Irish Cricket", drawing favourable comparison with a young Australian in the same age group who had been producing similar performances back home. Have you got him? Answer: Greg Chappell. Small wonder - with those three tons Alf broke the record for international runs held by an idol of so many players, young and old, Hanif Mohammed. The

following year, he faced up to the full England side, touring under captain Colin Cowdrey. Playing for his home state Punjab, Masood was greeted by that mild-mannered gentleman John Snow with a snorter which had struck him on the shoulder before he knew where he was. But he went on to get 50. But Snow got him in the 2nd innings! Caught Cowdrey at first slip - he's hardly likely to forget that calibre of dismissal.

Snow is about the fastest he has faced and the best spinner is Bishen Bedi, who only bowled to him in net practice at Northampton. "He was regarded as easy to get away, but every six balls were different." Masood is uneasy and a shade disinterested when you ask him to name the best bowlers he has faced. It's not because he is arrogant or over-aggressive, but simply that he is so convinced of his own ability and, more

importantly, so determined that he will use that ability to the best advantage, that he regards it as slightly defensive and negative to dwell on the ability of others. "Eyesight and timing are everything - you cannot allow yourself a fraction either way with eyesight or timing. You must be right there every time - I am not happy unless I know, and I usually do, where the ball is going to pitch before the bowler does. If you don't know that, you are too late. You must read it before it is bowled as much as reading it after it leaves the bowler. And certainly if you are waiting for it to pitch, you are way too late."

Is that not arrogant? Maybe - but there is little point in setting false standards when you have stacks of talent, just to satisfy other people's views of what is modest and proper behaviour. If Alf Masood is anything, he is honest, brutally so at times. I can't tell you WHAT he said about some, supposedly front-line Irish players - he plays with and against them too often to allow that sort of embarrassment. And embarrassment it would be because I CAN tell you that he doesn't think too much of their cricket ability, and more importantly, of their dedication and willingness to practice and train to develop their skills. This is the other side to his view on how best to bat - you don't pick the shot before the ball is bowled, but you concentrate on dominating the bowler and watching all the way, and all day, until you know what he is going to do with it better than he does himself. Two well known players in particular he attacks in this context for insufficient discipline - one is playing the wrong shot to most deliveries but getting away sometimes because of his physical power, while another has nothing like the sort of control which a good spinner needs. "The ball never turns on the bat" says Alf, and as usual, he's dead right.

Some would call him lackadaisical - but not any more. He trains as hard as anyone up at Phoenix, in the hills and glens behind the ground. Neil Taylor brought Lansdowne and Ulster full-back Philip Rainey up to improve the fitness workouts, and Alf was event-



Mohammed Afzal Masood

ually keeping up with him. He's lost two stone since he first came to Ireland from England, in 1980. "Mentally and physically I have got to be right - I have various little things I am always thinking and doing before a big match and I always try to have the head and shoulders clear before I go out to the middle. You cannot bat if you are thinking about records or a large number of runs or a distant target - you must concentrate on the next ball, is it a drive or a defensive shot? That is how to score, not in twenties or fifties, but in ones, twos and fours." It annoys him when the Phoenix barflies in their inimitably tactful and encouraging way, advise him to "win this Cup again for us Alf" or "come on, we'd like to see another 130 today". He prefers his team mates' support - "just don't get out". Incidentally, Phoenix as a club he adores.

The Ireland thing last year left him bitter - the only touring team he never faced in Pakistan was the West Indies and he missed out on the Rathmines game. But does it not point up his lack of motivation for the ordinary games? Was that not why he missed the late season international games in 1983? "No - I do not try to humiliate the weaker sides, I merely try to enjoy myself in those games. For the big matches I am always 'up' and certainly I regard next season as a challenge, for club and country". He hopes to captain Phoenix some day and feels that with Stan Mitchell at the helm this year, they will start winning trophies again. For Alf to feel truly challenged, there must be some silverware at stake. But not records - when he got 196* in the Guinness Cup at Rathmines two summers ago, the first he knew about the record for that competition was when Clive Davis came up to him in the middle and told him he had bettered it.

Someone else came up to him in the middle that season during a game and told him something. The someone in question was Imran Khan and the message, during the NatWest game against Sussex, was "you haven't lost it at all, I can see no change." The two grew up together and toured abroad, sharing the same room. Wasim Raja and Zaheer were contemporaries of his too - he recalls with some regret that the young six year old brother whom Wasim told to stay away from the Punjab state side net practice in case he got hurt, Rameez, is now the toast of his country for caning the Windies quicks in that World Championship romp last month. What might have been for

Masood's record in Irish cricket

LEINSTER SENIOR LEAGUE

	mts.	inn	n.o.	most	runs	average	wks-runs	average	cts.
1980	12	12	1	47	181	18.10	7 - 98	14.00	3
1981	19	19	4	97*	544	36.26	3 - 48	16.00	10
1982	18	18	2	124	1010	63.12	1 - 17	17.00	10
1983	20	19	3	204*	1218	76.12	9 - 208	23.11	5
1984	19	19	3	138*	795	49.68	23 - 269	11.69	6
Total	88	86	13	204*	3748	51.34	33 - 640	19.39	34

INTERNATIONALS

Total	7	10	3	109	347	49.57	0 - 16	-----	2
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GUINNESS CUP

Total	7	7	3	196*	563	140.75	-----	-----	-----
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Notes:

- (1) Won Marchant Cup for Batting in 1982 and 1983, breaking the run aggregate record for amateurs in 1982 and the overall record in 1983. Was runner-up in the Samuels Cup for All-Rounders 1984.
- (2) Holds the record for most runs in a season in the Guinness Cup with 281 in 1982. His 196* v. South Leinster in 1983 is the highest score recorded in that competition. His current average is 98 runs ahead of his nearest challenger.
- (3) First Irishman to win Man-of-the-Match Award in a NatWest game.
- (4) His 204* v. The Hills in 1983 was the first double-century in Leinster cricket for 28 years (G.A. Duffy 200* v. Phoenix 1955). 168m.
- (5) Alf has scored 3 centuries and one fifty in 7 Guinness Cup innings. One hundred and two fifties in 10 international innings, and six hundreds and 20 fifties in 86 Leinster senior innings

Alf? "If you come back now you will play for us" Imran assured him, and for someone now plying his trade at such comparative backwaters as Milverton and Coleraine, that was a wonderful ego booster. But he's not going back, unless to see his family. He is set up here now with his three shops and his Castleknock home, and while that first elusive Test cap has probably now gone for good, he is well content.

"Look up *Wisden* for 1972 or 1973" he says, "and you'll see me there on top of the Sunday League averages for Northants." He didn't get a full fling there really because with Sarfraz and Bishen Bedi, they already had their complement of overseas players. Mushtaq was there also. After a spell as a pro with the M&B brewery team in Birmingham, he didn't hold a bat for about four years. In 1980 he was man-of-the-match in the Park against Somerset and after that, well you know the rest. Just one statistic - he lost eight balls in that big Guinness Cup knock against South Leinster.

So on and on it goes. My enduring memory is of Alf describing how, as a young boy, he would cycle off with two others, all on the one bicycle, to the outskirts of Lahore, to net practice with his father and a group of budding openers, leggies and what not. It was so hot (over 100⁰) that the stumps at either end were located under a tree, so that the bowler and the batsman could shelter from the searing sun. The boundary was a line of stones a few yards away, again under trees. On the way home, they could dry their soaking towels simply by wrapping them around their heads as they cycled along. Matches began at 6am, adjourned at nine, and recommenced at 3pm to escape the fiercest heat. And from that, back out into the driving blizzard of a March evening in Dublin. Maybe football is the world game, but cricket certainly covers a wide range of peoples and places. Alf Masood has seen most of the various locations, climates and personalities in between. I for one am grateful that he decided to stop here for a while.



FINGAL FOCUS

RUSH

March 18th saw the annual St.Patrick's Weekend cricket match at Rush C.C. This year Dick Forrest brought up a selected XI from Clontarf and Phoenix including Enda McDermott, Paddy Neville and Leonard Dexter. A fierce blustery wind caused many problems, not least to valiant umpire Alan Tuffery. It is debatable whether this was the first match of the summer - I think it is fairer to call it a 'Winter Tour'. The Forrest XI made 111-8, the eponymous legendary after-hours drinker making an impressive duck. Michael Marsh took 3-21. The game was in the balance at 70 odd for 7, with the visitors poised to kill when 15 year-old John Scanlon came in and hit three huge sixes, and Rush coasted to a **two** wicket victory. Gerry Monks, unbeaten on 33 won the Man of the Match award. In his tea-time speech Dick Forrest congratulated Rush on their fine second pavilion, and suggested they open a Rugby club in the ground "so you can have a row and take one each." A most enjoyable day made especially so by the hospitality of Rush CC



The first ball of the 1985 season
Mike Marsh of Rush sends it down.



RUSH C.C. 1985

BACK: Alan Caren, Michael Connolly, Alan Beggs,
Matt Sheridan, Tom Armstrong, Cyril McGee.
FRONT: Gerry Monks, Robert Murray,
Mike Marsh, John Scanlon.



Left to right - Enda McDermott, John Scanlon,
Dick Forrest, Paddy Neville.



John Keane of Rush finds his leg
stump knocked back.

North County Gossip

With a couple of weeks still before the season gets under way, rumours are flying as to various 'transfers' and changes in personnel in the Fingal clubs. Brendan Guildea of Ring Commons has joined Balbriggan as has Thomas Morgan. Paul Hickey of Balrothery has also joined Balbriggan who look like improving their status in Intermediate B. Rumours also of Noel Harper leaving Balrothery for the Hills.

TOM PRYAL writes about the day When Sandymount scored 524

On July 20th 1864, Sandymount C.C. hit up the huge total of 524 against Co.Wicklow, at Sandymount. It was the highest score made in Irish cricket up to that time. Sandymount were keener on batting records that day, than on winning the match. They batted from 12 noon until 5.30, leaving Wicklow just half-an-hour to bat !

James Gilligan hammered the bowling for 200 and was the first man to reach that mark in Irish cricket. R.Snow went in at No.7 and hit 103. J.Doran, R.St.Leger, L.Flanagan and F.McKenna also piled on the runs, and the Extras chipped in 47, with 32 wides.

Charles Stewart Parnell was playing for Wicklow, and he took three wickets. The bowling figures were not given in the "Irish Times" report, and that could have been some slight relief for the Wicklow bowlers. Many stories have been told about Parnell's captaincy of Co. Wicklow. These stories, which may have gained in the telling, suggest he was an autocrat. Certainly, after playing in that match at Sandymount he was never likely to give much to opponents !

Wicklow, in their 30 minutes batting scored five runs and lost 3 wickets, all to Gilligan. So after all the fireworks and records, they were not beaten.

SANDYMOUNT

G.Irwin	c.Sub b.Fetherston	0
W.Atkinson	b.Fetherston	14
J.Doran	l.b.w. b.Galbraith	65
J.Gilligan	c.Sub b.Fetherston	200
F.McKenna	c.Parnell b.Oliver	20
R.St Leger	b.Parnell	48
R.Snow	run out	103
W.Hore	c.Fetherston b.Parnell	0
L.Flanagan	not out	26
Capt.McCallum	c.Gaffney b.Parnell	1
W.Cross	b. Oliver	0
EXTRAS (9b, 5 lb, 32w, 1nb)		47
TOTAL.....		524

Fall: 5, 38, 143, 189, 314, 427. 427, 516, 519, 524

CO.WICKLOW

C.Galbraith	not out	2
W.Oliver	b. Gilligan	2
H.Gaffney	b. Gilligan	0
W.Barnes	b. Gilligan	1
TOTAL (for 3 wkts.).....		5

MATCH DRAWN

Notes:

- (1) Later that season Sandymount were beaten by Leinster, by an innings & 115 runs !
- (2) Sandymount C.C. were founded in 1859, and lasted until about 1930.
- (3) Readers wishing to learn more about the cricketing career of Parnell should consult Tom Pryal's article "Charles Stewart Parnell and Wicklow Cricket" which was published in the Irish Cricket Union Yearbook 1984 and the Journal of the Cricket Society, Volume Ten, No.1.



Parnell reading the scorecard ?

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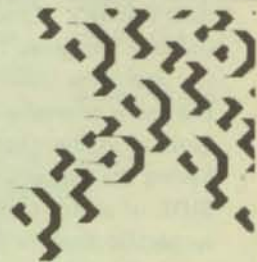
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PRIORITIES

The bases for dealing with the two most important things in life, Cricket and girls, are strikingly similar.

The correct attire is of paramount importance. There is something about the traditional cricket dress that embodies the spirit of the game. It is an intangible quality that attracts the attention, admiration and wonderment especially of the non-cricketing people who have any eye for beauty at all. When you



John Prior in his whites.....

view Packer's "Candy Tots", you immediately recognize the lack of that quality and view their horrible outfits with the scorn generally reserved for the 'poseur' at the disco who insists on having the maker's name on the OUTSIDE of all his clothes. Of course these respective flowers do attract the attention of the vulgar public, but even they tire of the transient nature of such

flashiness. The people worth impressing are not fooled by any such posturing and, at the risk of being dubbed boring and old-fashioned, they have the strength of will and presence of mind to stand by what they know, in their heart of hearts to be a cornerstone in their appreciation of what is good in this world. For me at anyrate, white embodies that spirit of the clean struggle, where results are second to performance, where the best man wins and where both money and cheating have no place. It's almost as if Mr.Packer realises that to wear white for his version of cricket would be akin to sending his pregnant daughter down the aisle similarly attired! In every sphere of life, clothes create the image, give first impressions that are never erased and give some small inkling of the nature of someone's outlook and ideas. Girls, are no fools either.

As a corollary to the above, behaviour and rules of conduct also serve to augment the quality of one's life, games and relationships. To perform according to a code of conduct is again of paramount importance for it gives rise to that most treasured of human feelings - trust. If either party reneges on the code then suspicion and worse will follow. It is then one can understand Cliff Thorburn's disgust at Alex Higgins in a recent snooker tournament. It is the argument in favour of 'walking' and why I have been known to throw tantrums when some players have refused to do same. To this end the Umpire is always right and it reflects only on the player who did not walk. Knowing from experience, trusting another human being completely is one of the joys of life. However in order for this to happen one must obey the code - and everyone knows what this is even if they won't admit it to themselves. This is especially true in relation to - yes you've guessed it - girls!

Set your sights high - no girl is too imposing, no bowler too quick. Obviously one has to operate within certain given parameters but never perform below that given optimal solution. The

thrill of the struggle is my *raison d'être* and more exciting than any drug. To believe in oneself and to compete, pulling no punches, whether facing the quickest bowler in the land, or attempting to impress a girl way out of your class affords a 'buzz' not experienced very often. The imminent prospect of failure makes the challenge all the more fraught. I think this is the closest we can come to the picture painted by Arthur Ashe after his Wimbledon Triumph, of the "Inner Game"



....and Jeff Crowe in his pyjamas.

It is possible to do, (or say) things on the spur of the moment and without any conscious thought that you never believed you were capable of. Being uninhibited is a lynchpin to this neutrality where one believes Attack to be the best Defence and where percentage players have no place. Never be afraid to fail for such an attitude leads to underachievement and frustration.

Life is a serious matter - cricket and girls are two of the main aspects of my life and I take both very seriously. I know the respected cricket world doesn't like Mr.Packer and I wonder how his wife could feel any differently!

John Prior



WESLEY FERRIS

The Mid-Ulster Cricket Group, which was founded in 1963, organised an amazing 30 competitions in 1984, and promises even more in 1985. Most of the Group's competitions are confined to Schools, Schoolboys and Youths cricket, although the Senior Trophies, the Mid-Ulster Cup (Holders: Donemana), the William Jeffrey Memorial Cup (Holders: Ardmore), the Sperrin Cup and the Beckett Cup (Holders of both: Donemana) are much sought after and keenly contested.

The man behind the Mid-Ulster Cricket Group is Wesley Ferris, who played three times for Ireland in the 1956 season (19 runs, top score 9* / 6 wickets at 25.33) and who played senior cricket in three Unions, for Eglinton, Waringstown and Malahide. Wesley has been MUCG Secretary since its inception, and was elected President for the 21st Anniversary Year. He has organised MUCG tours to Canada, U.S.A., Israel, Cyprus, Wales, England and Scotland.

Besides his cricketing activities, Wesley is an international at Volleyball and at Aviculture, being a breeder of Border canaries. He is currently Chairman of the Ulster Schools' Athletic Association, Battalion President of the Boy's Brigade, Secretary of the Mid-Ulster Schools' Hockey Association, President of Lurgan Cage Bird Society, an Elder of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the new President of the Leprechauns.

Wesley is part of a laudable 'swop' this season with his Presidency of the Leps, as David Pigot has been elected President of the Mid-Ulster Cricket Group. It is a notable gesture in cross-border relations, already a part of the MUCG Calendar with the Beckett Cup. The final of this competition, which is a challenge match between the winners of the Sperrin Cup and the Alan Murray Cup in Leinster, takes place at the C.Y.M. grounds in Terenure between CYM and Donemana on Saturday April 21st.

"I have always endeavoured to bridge the divide, foster reconciliation and bring about good community relations in Youth Work and through Schools." Wesley publicly exchanged plaques on behalf of the Boy's Brigade with the Roman Catholic Boy Scouts in the Craigavon Civic Centre. He counts the standing ovation he received among his proudest moments.

Last season saw a record number of entries for the MUCG competitions, and there is no reason why this year shouldn't see the numbers rise once more. With a man of such energy and commitment as Wesley Ferris, the Mid-Ulster Cricket Group is in safe hands.

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"They take their cricket seriously in Old Belvedere". So I was told by my batting partner as we drove out to the wicket in my first match at the Cabra Oval. I say 'drove' as we were playing on the far square, and to walk to the wicket would have been a hike of some distance, probably requiring backpacks, compasses and tents. As we left the Pavilion, I noticed John Prior, new to the first XI, enter the nets to bat. I thought no more of my partner's comment until our return to the pavilion for tea some two hours later (no, I hadn't batted that long). As we passed the nets it was noticed that John Prior was still batting. I was amazed, but not at Prior. From all accounts he goes to bed padded up. I was amazed that the same bowlers were still bowling. This commitment to practice and willingness to help fellow players with intelligent and proper use of the nets is one of the reasons for Old Belvedere's traditional position of strength in Leinster cricket. It is also the basis of a strong club feeling which is evident from the interest shown throughout the Club in each team's progress. For Old Belvedere is something of a rarity in Leinster cricket circles; a club free of major internal squabbles; a club devoted to the playing of a particular sport, and a club comfortable in its

spacious surroundings at Cabra. Perhaps this loyalty is partly a continuation of loyalty to the alma mater; or as likely as not is due in part to family ties, for Old Belvedere is not unlike those clubs north of Malahide in its family atmosphere and membership.

The 1984 season was a mixed one for Old Belvedere. For the First XI, a place in the final of the Wiggins Teape was offset by their low position in the Belvedere Bond league; similarly the 2nd and 3rd XI's were both beaten in the finals of their respective cups and finished low in the league. The U-18 side were also defeated in the final of their competition.

The various teams' progress to the respective finals is a good illustration of the depth of talent currently to be seen in Cabra; the lack of success in their leagues would seem to indicate that the club is, perhaps, short of committed players who are available week in, week out. This is indeed a view confirmed by captain John Prior, who feels that the younger talent is often not as enthusiastic as the older guard. A distinguished 'Old Guard' at that. The First XI could well take the field this year with four players who have played for Ireland in Alec O'Riordan, John Prior, Robin Waters and Peter



K.O'Riordan, P.O'Reilly, B.O'Gorman, A.J.O'F.Synott, S.O'Gorman,

OLD BEL

O'Reilly. The club will be hit hard by the loss of Seamus O'Gorman and David Tucker (retiring), John McGrath (to Trinity) and Hugh Prior (to Trinity and thence the U.S.)

CLUB RECORDS

- Highest Innings: 178 A.J.O'Riordan (v.Leinster, Cup, 1969)
- Best Bowling: 8-15 D.Williams (v.Carlisle, 1971)
- Most runs in a career: 10,578 A.J.O'Riordan
- Most wkts in a career: 849 A.J.O'Riordan
- Most wkts in a season: A.J.O'Riordan 72 (1964) 70 (1965)
- Most runs in a season: A.J.O'Riordan 678 (1965) 638 (1975)
- Most dismissals in an innings : 6 - P.J.Tynan (6 ct.) v. DU, 1965
6 - S.O'Gorman (5 ct, 1 st.) v.Phoenix, 1984
- Most 100s in a career: 9 A.J.O'Riordan



Robin Waters

Internationals:

- A.J.O'Riordan (1958),
- R.H.C.Waters (1968),
- J.A.Prior (1981)
- P.M. O'Reilly (1982)

- PRESIDENT: Kevin O'Riordan
- TREASURER: Michael Schofield
- TEAM SECRETARY: Declan Healy
- CLUB CAPTAIN: John Prior

Address: Cabra Oval, Navan Road, Dublin 7.
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Secretary: D.Healy, 25 Thorncliffe Park, Dublin 14
(Home: 967024 Office: 719851)



Peter O'Reilly

The four internationals are themselves a neat illustration of the contribution that O.B. has made to Irish cricket.



Riordan, D.Tucker, J.McGrath, C.A.McGrath, J.A.Prior, H.Prior, N.Prior.

BELVEDERE

It is also a vindication of the cricketing set-up that exists between Belvedere College and the club. No other clubs, with the possible exceptions of Leinster and Clontarf, have such a well-developed youth policy. With the school cricket scene in the ascendancy, the club is guaranteed a constant stream of talented and accomplished cricketers. In fact most of the 1984 school side will have become almost veterans of cricketing cup finals, and this experience can only be of immense value in the future.

Another side-effect of the College influence is the proliferation of families playing in the club. Cabra has now become something of a stamping-ground for the various O'Gorman's, Prior's, McGrath's and, of course, O'Riordan's.

What of the future for the club? The first XI seemed, last year, to be turning into a real force in Leinster cricket. Under John Prior, several young players got a chance and performed creditably. What with the current ban on pro's, and the return of O'Reilly, it looked as if Belvedere could be among the trophies in '85. The losses mentioned above, however, could well set the club back a couple of years. And after that. . .

CLUB INDIVIDUAL HONOURS	
MARCHANT CUP FOR BATTING	
Alec O'Riordan - 1965, 1969, 1975, 1977	
O'GRADY CUP FOR BOWLING	
Alec O'Riordan - 1959-1960-1961-1962-1964-1965-1966-1967-1970-1975-1977	
Fintan Synott - 1973	
HOPKINS CUP FOR WICKETKEEPING	
Fred Daly - 1961	P.J.Tynan - 1966 Seamus O'Gorman - 1984
SAMUELS CUP FOR ALL-ROUNDER	
Alec O'Riordan - 1961-1962-1964-1965-1966-1967-1969-1974-1975-1977-1978	
Fintan Synott - 1973 - 1982	

SCHOOLS FOCUS

BELVEDERE



BELVEDERE COLLEGE SENIOR CUP SQUAD 1985

Back: D.Doyle, T.O'Mahony, D.O'Riordan B.McGirr, K.Maverley, S.Boylan, M.Lacey
Front!: J.Fitzpatrick, C.Heneghan, K.Kennedy, C.Doyle, C.Mullarkey, J.Grogan, J.Dunn



BELVEDERE COLLEGE JUNIOR CUP SQUAD 1985

Back: J.Fitzpatrick, J.Dunn, S.Boylan, R.Hewson, F.Rafferty, R.Byrne.
Front: M.Barry, C.Lacy, J.Doyle, M.Traynor, E.Linehan, D.Linehan.

A Bibliography of Irish cricket

PART 1 : CLUB BROCHURES

ARMAGH - "125 Years of Cricket in the Primatial City" 36pp. (Armagh 1984) edited by S.S.Duffy. A5

BANGOR CRICKET CLUB

50th

ANNIVERSARY

1933 - 1983

OCTOBER 1983

BANGOR - "Souvenir Brochure" 56pp. edited by J.W.G.Elder (Bangor 1977) "50th Anniversary, 1933-1983" 48pp. edited by J.W.G.Elder (1983) A5

CARLOW - "150 Years of Cricket & Sport in Co.Carlow" 60pp. A4 (Carlow 1983) edited by N.D.McMillan and D.Foot.

CLONTARF - "Souvenir Brochure" incl. brief history, 88pp. (1958) "Brochure" (1976) "Match Programme" Published each season 1981-1984, with insert for each home game. A5 c. 40pp.

CORK COUNTY - "Centenary 1974" 112pp. edited by J.Cluskey.

C.Y.M. - "Brochure" (Dublin 1982)

GLENDERMOTT CRICKET CLUB

Official
Opening
of the New
Sports
Pavilion

By W.A. CALDWELL
Vice-Chairman of the Sports Council for NI.

Monday, 30th May
1983

Match commences at 12 noon



GLENDERMOTT - "Official Opening of New Sports Pavilion" (Coleraine 1983) 20pp, Octavo.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY - "A Pictorial History" by M.Halliday, N.P.Perry & M.H.A.Milne. Limited edition of 350. 203pp Hardback. (Dublin 1982)

DRUMMOND - "Official Opening of New Pavilion" (Limavady 1983) 64pp.A5

HOLYWOOD - "1881-1981" edited by D.W.McCall (1981) 68pp.

INSTONIANS - "50 Years of Fun & Games : 1919-1969" ed. W.B.White (Belfast 1969) 58pp. "Instonians 1919-1975" by Des McKibbin. (Rugby & Cricket) 32pp.

KILKENNY - "A short account of the origins of the Kilkenny C.C. and of its proceedings, in the years 1830-31." by the Marquis of Ormonde (1832)

LEINSTER - "Brochure for the 5th Rose & White Ball" 2opp (1967) "Brochure" (1976)

LEPRECHAUNS - "Membership & Fixtures" (Bray 1949-) 6pp. "Handbook" Annual, 1970-1983 "Leprechauns v. Essex" (Dublin 1971) Programme, 44pp. Incl.brief history.y.

LIMAVADY - "Limavady Cricket & Rugby Clubs Match Programme" (April 1972) "Brochure" (1968)

MALAHIDE - "Brochure" (1981)

MUCKAMORE - "Muckamore Cricket and Tennis Club 1874-1974" edited by Peter Campbell. 96pp.

NORTH OF IRELAND - "N.I.C. & F.C. 1859-1959" by P.P.Fry (Belfast 1959) 176pp.

OLD BELVEDERE - "Brochure" (1967) "Silver Jubilee 1950-1975" - 48pp)



PEMBROKE CRICKET CLUB 1984 YEARBOOK

PEMBROKE - "Centenary Handbook" (Dublin 1968) 116pp. "Yearbook" edited by Aidan Dempsey (Dublin 1984) 40pp. A5

PHOENIX - "Festival Week 1943" 16pp. incl. brief history. (Dublin 1943) "1830-1980" sesquicentennial brochure. 100pp. Club history by Tom Pryal, early ICU history by Derek Scott. (Dublin 1980) A4

PORTADOWN - "Match Programme" (June 1979) 20pp.

PORTLAOISE - (formerly Maryborough) "Rules" (1895) 24pp.

RAILWAY UNION - "75th Anniversary Brochure" Several pages on cricket in general sports club brochure. (1979)

STRABANE - "Brochure" (1983)

WARINGSTOWN - "1851-1974" by Michael Maltsaid. (1974) 38pp.

Any additions to this catalogue would be welcomed by the Editor. NEXT MONTH: I.C.U. Publications & Regional Unions.



MOUNT JULIET - "Centenary Brochure 1884-1984". (Kilkenny 1984) edited by Peter Holohan. 40pp. A4. Full Colour.

BOOKS

"125 YEARS OF CRICKET IN THE PRIMATIAL CITY" edited by Seamus Duffy, ARMAGH C.C.

An excellent and informative little book published last year to celebrate the 125th birthday of Armagh C.C. Unlike many club brochures, this publication has just two pages of advertisements, and is thus excellent value at a pound. There are interesting forewords by four Test stars, Norman Yardley, Colin Cowdrey, Len Hutton and David Sheppard and a dozen team photos from over the years, the earliest of a rough looking bunch in 1861. Besides a useful history of the club, there are several other features to recommend this book, including a set of biographies of Irish internationals born in Armagh: Ivan Anderson, Lloyd Armstrong, Jackie Barnes, Robert Barnes, Wilfred McDonagh and Tom Ward. Available from S.S.Duffy, 22 Rosemount Avenue, Armagh.

GLENDERMOTT C.C. : Official Opening of the New Sports Pavilion, May 1983. Glendermott v. Downpatk match programme. Price £ 1.

A slender fund-raising booklet, this was produced to commemorate the opening of a fine new Pavilion at the Co.Derry club. It is mainly composed of adverts, but there are some nostalgic photographs and an interesting article by Joe McCarter.

Available from: R.Montgomery, 63 Braehead Road, Londonderry.

DRUMMOND CRICKET CLUB : Official Opening of New Pavilion, Souvenir Programme, Price £ 1.

An attractive 60 page brochure, edited by Ian Heaslett, this was published in August 1983. It features plenty of photographs of Drummond sides, past and present, and a short history of the club by Archie McSparran.

Available from: I.H.D.Heaslett, Drumsurn Road, Limavady, Co.Derry.

BANGOR CRICKET CLUB 50th ANNIVERSARY, 1933-1983. edited by Jim Elder.

Well produced booklet, strong on statistics and photographs, although the earliest picture dates from just 1952. The club from Upritchard Park only attained Senior Status in 1968, but have come along well since then. Their records are dominated by the batting of Chris Harte (the only man to score a hundred for the club in Senior cricket - three times) and the bowling of Jim Elder, who fills 9 of the Top 12 bowling slots, and has taken well over twice as many wickets as any one else for the club. Available from: S.Beckett, 30 Stranmillis Street, Belfast 9.

G.P.Siggins

ARLOTT ON CRICKET, edited by David Rayvern Allen. (Collins Willow, £ 10.95 sterling)

Since his retirement from the commentary box three seasons ago, John Arlott has been missed. That voice, as gravelly as the driveway of a Hampshire country home, as fruity and rich as an English orchard, brought to life countless games that deserved worse. Three cheers then, for this Arlott anthology, a collection of over a hundred pieces that span his years as a cricket writer, the doyen of the deck chair set.

John Arlott is a master man watcher. His observations of the human frailties, and of the battles of character that are as much a part of cricket as bat & ball are fascinating. Often he speaks from personal knowledge, as a friend of the great players of the post-war period. Stars are taken off their inaccessible pedestals and dusted down, revealing them to be normal, fallible sorts, often likeable. The Boycott enigma is partly explained - no-one will probably succeed fully - and Arlott displays a fascination with the Brearley/Botham partnership that was at one moment father/son, another brother to brother, and another psychoanalyst/patient.

For many years the Guardian's wine correspondent, Arlott shares that newspaper's pleasing humanity and, dare I say, old style liberalism.

For him the game is important, but less so the winning of it. Decency, fair play and kindness, these are the virtues consistently praised in Arlott's vivid pen portraits. At the same time, he does not shirk the issues of the day, the Packer affair, the D'Oliveira business Bodyline bowling and the limited overs game. With a splendid contempt for petty politicking and foolish committee decisions, Arlott stands his ground, an accomplished hooker of the short-pitched half wit.

There is much in this glorious book, much to please the armchair nostalgic, to grip the committed activist, and to refresh the careworn county cricket supporter. For those too young to remember Hammond, Hobbs and Hutton, days of such legends are recreated to a cricket match tea, down to the sweat of the changing rooms, and to the scrape of studs over the pavilion steps.

With the shadows growing longer, and the twenty overs running away, John Arlott voices a sadness at the passing of the years, and of certain standards of behaviour and of play. Pick up this lovely volume, though, and you can catch the last of the sun.

Q.R.Letts

HEY LORD'S, DON'T ASK ME QUESTIONS !

"The Lord's Taverners Cricket Quiz Book" (David & Charles, £ 3.95 stg.)

...Who said "Bowling on a slow wicket is rather like going out with a thick bird. It's hard going for a while, but you get through in the end ? No marks for guessing he was an Australian.

...Who was the West Indian fast bowler hanged in 1955 for the murder of his wife ?

...Who was banned from playing for his county ever again after coming on to the field drunk and relieving himself in front of the captain ?

...How much do you know about cricket ?

The Lord's Taverners Cricket Quiz Book contains 600 or so questions guaranteed to test the mental reflexes of the sharpest cricket fan. It is ideal to browse through and see how many runs you can score. Ideal diversionary tactic in the bar, especially when it's your round.

A.Griffin

THE SLOW MEN by David Frith.
(George Allen & Unwin)

"Haste thee Nymph, and bring with thee

Jest, and youthful jollity,
Quips & cracks and wanton wiles,
Nods & becks and wreathed smiles.

John Milton, despite going blind, was evidently a man of great foresight, for even as he wrote these lines in "L'Allegro", poring over dim candlelight, he must have had visions of the summer game, visions of the cricket artists, visions of the slow bowlers wrapped in mystical illusion; Lumpy Stevens, "Old Clarke" lurching on cigars and soda water; Kendall who won the First Test for Australia; Trumble, Briggs & Peel, Bosanquet, the South African attack of four wrist-spinners; Wilfred Rhodes; Mailey, Freeman, Grimmett, O'Reilly; Verity, Johnson, the Surrey Twins, those Friends of Mine, Benaud, Mankad, Illingworth, Underwood, Gleeson, Gibbs, Bedi, Chandrasekhar, Emburey Qadir and Sivaramakrishnan.

The list is long and reads like a Hall of Fame (but no Jimmy Boucher!). Throughout we get a feeling of joy, of men possessed by their art, not always playing fair, trickery and cunning being essential to a slow man. Not the fury and crash of the labourer's game of a fast bowler, but the gentle savagery and subtlety of shade to be found in an artist.

David Frith's companion to his history of "The Fast Men" is a pleasant read. He traces the roots of slow bowling, but doesn't delve too deeply into the individuals, merely the trends. The best chapter is undoubtedly that on Arthur Mailey whose cricket wisdom is a joy. "With very few exceptions" says Mailey "the great spin bowlers of cricket were personalities and men of character - not always pleasant, but invariably interesting".

This is a History book and not a sociological work, so the author merely skims over the current issues concerning the apparent death of slow bowling. But as a history it is a good read, with enough anecdotal information to whet your appetite for further knowledge of Stevens, Cobbett and Clarke of long ago.

B.Fowler

THE YOUNG CRICKETERS YEARBOOK edited by Gordon Ross
(Queen Anne Press : £ 4.95 stg.)

A book designed primarily for the young cricket enthusiast, it is unique in that it shows Trevor Bailey playing an attacking stroke!

Seriously though, this is a well-balanced and varied book. There are articles on the greats of the past (Sobers, Bradman & Compton) and a fascinating piece on the origins of the game. There are also pieces on some great matches, viz. the Tied Test and the Gillette semi-final of 1971. Trevor Bailey contributes a piece on the dos and don'ts of captaincy, while the Editor selects his Five Young Cricketers of the Year. For the Youths Cricket fan, there are highlights from the Schools season of 1984 and the Wrigley Softball Cricket Finals.

D.Finley

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS 1877-1984. Published by the Association of Cricket Statisticians. Edited by Roger Page. Price £ 2.50 sterling.

The final volume in the A.C.S. series covering Australian first-class cricket. It contains a biographical register and career figures of all players who represented S.A. in 1st class matches between 1877-78 and 1983-4. Vital and indispensable to the serious collector or statistician, interesting nonetheless to the casual reader. 64 pages, Available from: A.C.S., 36 Campion Street, Derby, England.

CRICKET TIES by Vic. Lewis
(Ebury Press, 112pp., £ 5.95 stg.)

Vic Lewis has been collecting cricket ties for many years, and his collection now contains around 3,000 items. The ties depicted in this colourful book represent the pick of his collection.

A total of 300 ties are arranged according to the status of the side represented, i.e. Test, County, Club, University and Charity all appear, as do ties of administrative bodies such as the I.C.C. and the I.C.U. Each tie has a caption giving information on the clubs or body represented.

Only 4 Irish ties are pictured in the book, the Irish Internationals tie, the Trinity 'pink', and the club ties of Leprechauns and Phoenix.

A further four (Clontarf, Woodvale, Cork County and Leinster) are described in the appendix.

The stereotypical conservatism of cricketers would appear to be borne out by their taste in club ties. One exception is the tie of Bertie Joel's XI. This is a unique tie in this book in that it features vertical, rather than diagonal, stripes. The colour scheme is no less unusual, alternate stripes of shocking pink, orange, green and yellow. One wonders how often members dare wear it!

This is a very entertaining, attractive eye-catching book. It is informative and is destined to adorn many cricketers' library or coffee table.

B.S.Jackson

THE CRICKET DIARY 1985

Produced independently in Bath by John Dixon, "The Cricket Diary" is much more than a simple volume with space to record appointments or games. It is packed with genuinely useful information, like the 'phone numbers of the hotels nearest Test match venues, dates of a 1985 Australian tour, and addresses for everyone from the M.C.C. to the Board of Control for Papua New Guinea. Besides the information, and plenty of space for notes and addresses, the diary is full of interesting, amusing and historical observations on the game. There is one page per week, complete with cricketer's birthdays, and one facing page containing a compendium or gems such as "I don't care what money I get

man, it's the buzz of playing for Australia that's got me. I'd do it for nothing just to wear that green cap" (Greg Matthews 1983) and "A loving wife is better than making 50 at cricket, or even 99. Beyond that I will not go." (Sir James Barrie). The Diary is also notable for the excellent 19th Century photographs and sketches that brighten the pages.

All in all, Mr. Dixon has produced a valuable diary that is still, in April, worth purchasing. It can be had for 3.35 (inc.P&P) sterling from John Dixon, 18 Ashley Ave., Lower Weston, Bath BA1 3DS, Avon.
G.P.Siggins

All the books reviewed in these pages, unless stated otherwise, can be bought at Fred Hanna's of Nassau Street, Dublin 2.

FIXTURES

April 13 to May 9

Saturday APRIL 13th

LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB

FR. Dublin Univ. v. CYM
FR. Phoenix v. Waringstown
FR. Leinster v. The Hills

LEINSTER SENIOR 3

FR. Clontarf III v. YMCA II

FINGAL 'A' LEAGUE

L.G. Man O'War v. Balrothery

Sunday APRIL 14th

LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB

FR. Clontarf v. Old Belvedere
FR. Malahide v. Waringstown
FR. Carlisle v. Railway Union

LEINSTER SENIOR 2

FR. The Hills II v. Leinster II

LEINSTER MIDDLE "A"

L.G. Rush II v. Man O'War

Wednesday APRIL 17th

LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB

FR. Dublin Univ. v. Leprechauns

Saturday APRIL 20th

LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB

FR. Dublin Univ. v. Phoenix
FR. Pembroke v. Ballymena
FR. Merrion v. Instonians

NORTHERN SENIOR CLUB

FR. Lisburn v. Dublin YMCA

MUNSTER SENIOR CLUB

FR. * Cork Co. v. Downpatrick
FR. Limerick v. Railway Union

LEINSTER SENIOR 2

L.G. Man O'War v. Carlisle 2

LEINSTER SENIOR 3

FR. CYM II v. Dublin Univ. II

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE B

L.G. Carlisle IV v. The Hills III

FINGAL 'B' LEAGUE

L.G. Rush II v. The Hills II

Sunday APRIL 21st

LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB

FR. Dublin Univ. v. Old Belvedere
FR. Leinster v. Strabane
FR. The Hills v. CYM
FR. Malahide v. Instonians
FR. Merrion v. Ballymena

LEINSTER SENIOR 2

FR. Railway Un. II v. Phoenix II

LEINSTER SENIOR 3

FR. Rush v. Civil Service

LEINSTER MIDDLE "A"

L.G. Man O'War v. CYM III

LEINSTER JUNIOR "A"

L.G. Knockbrack II v. Clontarf VI

MUNSTER SENIOR CLUB

FR. * Cork Co. v. Downpatrick

Wednesday APRIL 24th

LEINSTER WOMEN'S Div. 2

L.G. Dublin Univ. v. CYM II

Friday APRIL 26th

LEINSTER WOMEN'S Div. 2

L.G. Dublin Univ. v. Malahide

Saturday APRIL 27th

NORTHERN SENIOR CLUB

L.G. Bangor v. Downpatrick
L.G. Lisburn v. Ballymena
L.G. Lurgan v. Holywood

L.G. North Down v. N.I.C.C.
L.G. Woodvale v. Waringstown

LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB

BB. Carlisle v. Clontarf
BB. Merrion v. YMCA
FR. CYM v. Pembroke

NORTH-WEST SENIOR CLUB

L.G. Fox Lodge v. N.Fermanagh
L.G. Brigade v. Strabane
L.G. Coleraine v. Donemana
L.G. Sion Mills v. Eglinton
L.G. St. Johnston v. Limavady

MUNSTER SENIOR CLUB

FR. * Cork Co. v. Old Belvedere

LEINSTER SENIOR 2

L.G. The Hills II v. Man O'War
L.G. Leinster II v. Merrion II
FR. Railway Union II v. Rush

LEINSTER SENIOR 3

FR. Dublin Univ. II v. Railway III

LEINSTER MIDDLE "A"

L.G. Pembroke III v. Carlisle III

LEINSTER MIDDLE "B"

L.G. YMCA III v. Mullingar

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE A

L.G. Rush III v. Balbriggan

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE B

L.G. Clontarf V v. Civil Service II

LEINSTER JUNIOR "A"

L.G. Knockbrack II v. Aer Lingus

LEINSTER JUNIOR "B"

L.G. Man O'War III v. Railway VI

NORTH: DIV. 1, SECTION 2

L.G. Donacloy v. Armagh
L.G. R.U.C. v. Cliftonville
L.G. Donaghadee v. Queens Univ.
L.G. Instonians v. Muckamore
L.G. Laurelvale v. Saintsfield

NORTH: Division 1 Section 3

L.G. Ards v. Academy
L.G. CIYMS v. Victoria
L.G. Cooke v. Shorts
L.G. Dunmurry v. Cregagh
L.G. Dundrum v. YMCA

NORTH: DIV. 1, SECTION 4

L.G. Carrickfergus v. Larne
L.G. Civil Service v. Templepatrick
L.G. Dungannon v. Derriagh
L.G. Drumaness v. Ballynahinch
L.G. Overton v. Collegians
L.G. Portadown v. Millpark

NORTH-WEST DIVISION 2

L.G. Glend'tt v. Creeved'n'l
L.G. Ballyspallen v. Bready
L.G. Drummond v. Ardmore
L.G. Killym'tt v. Burndennett
L.G. Crindle v. Waterside

NORTH WEST DIVISION 3

L.G. Berryburn v. Dullerton
L.G. The Nedd v. YMCA
L.G. Cumber Claudy v. Rouskey
L.G. Bond's Glen v. Ballymoney

NORTH WEST DIVISION 4

L.G. Dullerton II v. Berryburn II
L.G. YMCA II v. The Nedd II

L.G. Thornhill v. Raphoe
L.G. Milltown v. Killyclooney

NORTH WEST DIVISION 5

L.G. Bready II v. Fox Lodge II
L.G. Strabane II v. Brigade II
L.G. Donemana II v. Coleraine II
L.G. Eglinton II v. Sion Mills II
L.G. Limavady II v. St. Johnston II

NORTH WEST DIVISION 6

L.G. Ardmore II v. Glend'm't II
L.G. Burnd'n't II v. Killymalla't II
L.G. Waterside II v. Crinkle II

NORTH WEST DIVISION 7

L.G. N.Ferm'gh II v. Sion Mills III

L.G. Creeved'll II v. Brigade III
L.G. Drummon III v. Coler'ne III
L.G. Strabane III v. Bready III

LEINSTER WOMEN'S Div. 2

L.G. Mullingar v. Dublin Univ.

Sunday APRIL 28th

LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB

BB. Dublin Univ. v. Leinster
BB. Malahide v. Railway Union
BB. Phoenix v. The Hills

MUNSTER SENIOR CLUB

FR. * Cork Co. v. Old Belvedere

LEINSTER SENIOR 2

L.G. Carlisle II v. Balrothery

LEINSTER SENIOR 3

L.G. Clontarf III v. CYM II

L.G. Rush v. Pembroke II

LEINSTER MIDDLE "A"

L.G. Man O'War II v. Clontarf IV

LEINSTER MIDDLE "B"

L.G. Merrion III v. Knockbrack

L.G. Leinster V v. C.Y.M. IV

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE A

L.G. Pembroke IV v. Addinstown

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE B

L.G. The Hills III v. Ring Comms.

L.G. Railway Un. V v. Carlisle IV

Monday APRIL 29th

LEINSTER WOMEN'S Division 2

L.G. Clontarf II v. Dublin Univ.

Tuesday APRIL 30th

LEINSTER WOMEN'S Division 2

L.G. Dublin Univ. v. Rush

Wednesday MAY 1st

LEINSTER SENIOR 3

L.G. Dublin Univ. II v. YMCA II

LEINSTER SCHOOLS (Sect. A)

L.G. High School v. St. Paul's

L.G. St. Andrew's v. Wesley Coll.

Friday MAY 3rd

LEINSTER WOMEN'S Div. 2

L.G. Dublin Univ. v. Leinster

Saturday MAY 4th

LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB

BB. Malahide v. Pembroke
BB. The Hills v. Carlisle
BB. Railway Union v. Dublin U.
BB. Clontarf v. Y.M.C.A.

NORTHERN SENIOR CLUB

L.G. Ballymena v. Downpatrick
L.G. Bangor v. Lurgan
L.G. Holywood v. North Down
L.G. NICC v. Woodvale
L.G. Waringstown v. Lisburn

NORTH WEST SENIOR CLUB

L.G. Eglinton v. Fox Lodge
L.G. N.Fermanagh v. Brigade
L.G. Strabane v. Coleraine
L.G. Donemana v. St. Johnston
L.G. Limavady v. Sion Mill:

LEINSTER SENIOR 2

L.G. Phoenix II v. Man O'War

L.G. Leinster II v. Railway Un. II

L.G. Balrothery v. Merrion II

LEINSTER SENIOR 3

L.G. CYM II v. YMCA II

L.G. Dublin Univ. II v. Clontarf

LEINSTER MIDDLE "A"

L.G. Carlisle III v. Leinster IV

L.G. Rush II v. Pembroke III

LEINSTER MIDDLE "B"

L.G. YMCA III v. Leinster V

L.G. Knockbrack v. Civil Service

L.G. CYM IV v. Halverstown

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE A

L.G. Balbriggan v. Railway Un. IV

L.G. Merrion IV v. Malahide IV

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE B

L.G. Pembroke V v. The Hills III

LEINSTER JUNIOR A

L.G. N.Kildare III v. Balrothery II

NORTH WEST DIVISION 2

L.G. Bready v. Glendermott

L.G. Burndennett v. Ballyspallen

L.G. Waterside v. Drummond

L.G. Creeved'n'l v. Killymallaht

L.G. Ardmore v. Crindle

NORTH WEST DIVISION 3

L.G. Dullerton v. The Nedd

L.G. YMCA v. Berryburn

L.G. Rouskey v. Bond's Glen

L.G. Ballymoney v. Cumber Cl'y

NORTH WEST DIVISION 4

L.G. The Nedd II v. Dullerton II

L.G. Berryburn II v. YMCA II

L.G. Killyel'ny v. Thornhill

L.G. Raphoe v. Milltown

NORTH WEST DIVISION 5

L.G. Fox Lodge v. Eglinton II

L.G. Brigade II v. Bready II

L.G. Coleraine II v. Strabane II

NORTH WEST DIVISION 6

L.G. Ballyspallen v. Burndennett

L.G. Drummond v. Waterside

L.G. Killymallaht v. Glenderm't

L.G. Crindle v. Ardmore

NORTH WEST DIVISION 7

L.G. Sion III v. Creevedonnell II

L.G. Brigade III v. N.Fermanagh II

L.G. Coleraine III v. Strabane III

L.G. Bready III v. Drummond III

NORTH: Division 1 SECTION 2

L.G. Cliftonville v. Armagh

L.G. Muckamore v. Laurelvale

L.G. Queens Univ. v. Instonians

L.G. RUC v. Donaghadee

L.G. Saintsfield v. Donacloy

NORTH: Division 1, SECTION 3

L.G. Academy v. CIYMS

L.G. Dunmurry v. Dundrum

L.G. Shorts v. Cregagh

L.G. Victoria v. Cooke

L.G. YMCA v. Ards

NORTH: Division 1, SECTION 4

L.G. Ballynahinch v. Millpark

L.G. Collegians v. Civil Service

L.G. Derriagh v. Portadown

L.G. Dungannon v. Drumaness

L.G. Overton v. Carrickfergus

L.G. Larne v. Templepatrick

FIXTURES courtesy the
L.C.U., M.C.U., N.W.C.U.,
N.C.U., Mid-Ulster Cricket
Group, L.W.C.U. and Lein-
sters Schools.

L.G. = LEAGUE
FR. = FRIENDLY
BB. = BELVEDERE BOND
WC. = WARING CUP
FR* = 2-DAY FRIENDLY

CONTINUED ON P. 28

GEORGE BERKELEY

The Irish bowler who changed the world.

Edward Liddle tells the story.

George FitzHardinge Berkeley - the famous philosopher Bishop of Cloyne was an ancestor - was born in Dublin on January 29th 1870. Soldier, writer, successful barrister and high class bowler, he could claim, not only to have helped change the Laws of Cricket, but also to have altered the History of these Islands.

Almost six feet tall, he used his height and a beautiful action to become a very good slow left arm bowler, who varied his pace to medium. He had a deceptive curve in flight and could make the ball break either way. A natural right hander, "his sinister delivery" (to quote the periodical CRICKET in 1892) was forced upon him by an enthusiastic but fanatical preparatory school master in Sussex. The fanatic was farsighted because George was in the Wellington College, Berkshire, XI for each of his 4 years there (1886-89), capturing 168 wickets in all. Master-in-charge was St.Columba's educated Henry Brougham ("the best amateur wicket-keeper I ever saw", wrote Berkeley later), who had toured America with Nat Hone's Irish XI in 1879.

Up at Oxford in 1890, he gained an immediate place in the XI with a sensational first-class debut against W.L.Murdoch's Australians, when, as CRICKET reported, "The Colonials found his deliveries little to their liking." He took 8-70, but the Australians - all out for 234 - still won by an innings. A good performance in the next match v. Gentlemen of England gained George his 'blue'. He had then to miss several games, but match figures of 5-58 v. Cambridge saw him astride the University averages, 29 at 5.17.

In 1891 he reserved his best performance for the University Match - then a highlight of the Cricketing Calendar. Needing only 90 to win, Cambridge were 43-2, when George joined the attack from the Pavilion End. In 63 balls he took 5-20, but Cambridge scraped home by two wickets.

Most of George's Irish cricket was limited to holiday matches, he often toured with Na Shuler sides in the pre-War years had also played for Cork County. However he appeared twice for Ireland - vs. I Zingari in 1890 and 1891. On the first occasion he took a first innings 7-20 in 18 overs, his match figures of 11-75, helping to bring Ireland victory on the Phoenix ground. He had 3-57 in the match, in a drawn encounter at the same venue the following year. He never played again, but his career figures of 78-36-132-14 (average 9.42) show how valuable his regular presence in the Irish side would have been.

Back with Oxford again in 1892 - as vice-captain and Secretary - he took 48-877. His performances gained him a place for Gentlemen v. Players at the Oval, but with 0-57 he must be accounted a failure in a match dominated by the greatest professional of the day, Arthur Shrewsbury. George had match figures of 6-146 to help in a 5 wicket win over

Cambridge, when he also made his career highest score, a hard hit 38 at No.3 in a second innings run chase. He had a moderate season in 1893, though bowling well to take 9-136 v. Cambridge when he figured in an incident which helped to change the Laws. The follow-on was then compulsory, the deficit being only 80. In this match Cambridge began badly, collapsing to Berkeley (5-36), but Oxford did worse. Towards the end of their innings the wicket eased, so that it was to their advantage to get themselves out and bat again. Berkeley managed to get caught at cover without being obvious, but the last pair's efforts to be stumped were so transparent that Cambridge all-rounder C.M.Wells bowled a wide and a no-ball, thus his side batted again. The following year the deficit was increased to 120, while in 1900, the incident still in mind, compulsion was abolished.

This was Berkeley's last major match. He made only three more first class appearances, the last being for H.G.D. Leveson Gower's XI in 1906. He did play some minor county cricket for Oxfordshire from 1904.

A British Army officer in both the Boer and First World Wars, his major contribution to History came in the mid summer of 1914. Somewhat strangely for a public school educated Anglo-Irishman, he was a convinced Home Ruler, thus becoming a friend of Erskine Childers and Professor Eoin MacNeill, founder of the Irish Volunteers. Though never an advocate of separation or physical force, Berkeley became convinced that the Volunteers should be armed. He thus provided most of the £ 1,500 required to finance the Howth Gun-Running. Subsequently, mounted somewhat ludicrously upon a horse, he supervised the distribution of some of the guns in West Belfast. It is probable that had Berkeley not been available, the Volunteers' well-wishers would have found another backer, but it is tempting to assert that had there been no Berkeley, there would have been no "Howth Guns", and so no Easter Rising. How different then would the future of these islands, and possibly the British Empire, have been?

From 1919 Berkeley, as a lawyer, served on the Reparations Commission, which determined the amount of war damages Germany should pay. The astronomical sum fixed, to which George must have been a party, is generally said to have aided the rise of the Nazis who violently objected to it, but, having credited Berkeley with allowing the Easter Rising to take place, we can hardly blame him for causing the rule of Hitler!

Berkeley died at Hanwell Castle, near Banbury on the 14th November 1955. In his own cricketing days, when sides of barely first-class strength took on South Africa in matches later designated Tests, it is certainly true to say that worse players have bowled for England. In all first-class matches he took 131 wickets at 20.75, holding 17 catches, and scored 324 runs at 10.12

HOLYWOOD OR BUST!

Hollywood Cricket Club are the newest recruits to Section 1 of the Benson & Hedges NCU Senior League, having won Section 2 in 1984 with 13 wins from 18 games. It is a well-deserved promotion for a historic club that celebrated their centenary 4 years ago.

Hollywood have won the Senior Cup twice, in 1899 and 1905, and the Senior League on six occasions, in 1901, 1909, 1912, 1914, 1956 and 1958. They benefitted greatly from cricketing soldiers based at the Palace Barracks in the '50s, notably John Deighton (Lancashire), Colin Atkinson (Somerset) and David Mordaunt (Suss-

ex). Interestingly, between the 1956 and 1958 league wins, Hollywood finished last in 1957!

Con McCall brought a degree of success to the club in the '60s and '70s (remember his two hundreds in a match v. Munster, 1963?), winning international honours.

Hollywood were relegated to Section 3 in 1976, but bounced straight back up the following year. Promotion to Section 1 was well won last year, and they should not be overwhelmed by Section 1 cricket with players of the calibre of newly-capped off-spinner Michael Shannon.



Michael Shannon (Hollywood, Ulster Town and Ireland)

IRISH INTERNATIONALS WHO HAVE PLAYED FOR HOLYWOOD.

W. Pollock (1909)
C.S. Anderson (1926)
J. Armstrong (1930)
D.M. Kyle (1930)
H.C. McCall (1968)
M. Shannon (1984)

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Colin Kerr talks to COLLIE DALY of Clontarf

Five years ago Clontarf wicket-keeper Collie Daly was on the crest of a wave. At the end of the 1980 season he had scored over 500 runs and was fifth in the Leinster League batting averages. Three years earlier in 1977 he had played for Ireland under-19s alongside Paul Jackson, Stephen Warke, Jim Patterson, John Prior and Mark Cohen. However, while that quintet have since gone on to represent the full Ireland team, Daly has been left behind to some extent, and his form over the last five seasons has not been of the quality that wins players international selection.

Just turned 24, he still has plenty of time to stake his claim in a team which is increasingly turning to young players as its mainstay, but he realises that he has a lot of work to do if he's to become a contender for that elusive first cap.

Born in Dublin on 26th March 1961, Collie Daly began playing cricket almost as soon as he had learned to walk. His home in Clontarf overlooks the cricket club in Castle Avenue and like many of the youngsters in the area, he automatically gravitated to the ground during the summer months.

"Clontarf is a melting pot of all traditions. It's a community more than anything else," he explains. He points out that they have the highest schoolboy membership in Leinster, but that very few of their schoolboys come from traditional cricket-playing schools.

"We have a tradition of fostering young players," he says. "The youngsters in Clontarf are always well looked after at schoolboy level."

He first played competitive cricket for Clontarf under-12s and made his senior debut for the club at the age of 15 in 1976 against Railway Union at Castle Avenue. He was playing wicket-keeper that day, and although he failed to get into double-figures when batting, he remembers catching Ginger O'Brien off Podge Hughes' bowling. He went to school at St. Paul's College, Raheny, and won a 2nds Championship medal with them in 1974.

In 1977 he played for the Irish schools against Wales in Bangor, and soon followed this up with three caps for the Irish under-19s. In 1980 he had his most successful season to date with Clontarf, winning a Wiggins Teape



medal and scoring his career best of 68 (not out) against Leinster. Further representative honours came with his selection for North Leinster, and he admits that even though an Irish cap might be a bit of a long shot at the moment, following the decision of Old Belvedere's gifted young wicket-keeper Seamus O'Gorman to enter the priesthood, the battle for that position on the North Leinster team this season should rest between him and Malahide's Trevor Tully.

He would like to add to the three Wiggins Teape medals he has won to date with Clontarf and he points out that although they have failed to pick up any of the major trophies in Leinster over the last few seasons, the continued dominance of their second XI in their division highlights the strength-in-depth in the club.

"A strong club always has a good 2nds, and if ours had a professional playing with them last year they would have given most first teams a good run for their money."

On the subject of professionals he has nothing but praise for Clontarf's pro John Lyon.

"John Lyon is committed to the club and puts a lot into the game. Most of his time is spent coaching and he's there full-time for the kids. A good pro who coaches and helps the game over here should be encouraged. But I'm not in favour of "hired guns" who play a few games and then disappear. I'm all for pros if they're used in the right spirit of the game. If a club had a professional on call five days a week to help kids who were interested in the game it would be a very good development for cricket in Ireland.

He names Brian Bunworth and Noel Mahony as formative influences in his career and feels that Mahony has made an enormous contribution to Irish cricket. He welcomes the increasing emphasis on young players in the clubs, but feels that a lot of work needs to be done in the whole area of schools cricket.

"The Irish schools team should be picked on merit and not just on the basis that you go to a cricketing school. The system in the schools is very antiquated."

He also finds it hard to understand why Man O'War's Michael Murphy has not played for North Leinster yet, and suggests that more attention might be paid to some of the promising youngsters playing junior cricket in the province.

Working in the Bank of Ireland Head Office in Baggot Street leaves him little time for his other sporting interests but when he gets the time he enjoys the odd game of golf or tennis. His grandfather Willie was the club professional in Limerick for close on 50 years while his father Dominic was also a scratch cup golfer with Limerick. As a youngster Collie Daly was a promising tennis player, getting to the All-Ireland U-14 championships, but nowadays his main sporting interest outside cricket is football, playing in the Leinster Senior League with Bank of Ireland. His brother Bernard plays cricket with CYM, and his younger brother John played his first senior game for Clontarf against Pembroke last August.

This season, he says, he hopes to get his batting back together and to play to his full potential. And if he does manage to get his act together then 1985 could be a very good year both for Collie Daly and for Clontarf.

Obituaries

J.A.O'DONNELL (Merrion & Ireland)

Jack O'Donnell died in Co.Wicklow on September 29th, 17 days after his 89th birthday. He had been Ireland's oldest living international for 89 days following the death of E.L.Kidd (see Vol.1, No.3).

As a Merrion player he got two caps as a batsman in 1928-30. He made 4 and 0 v. the Catamarans, and 2 v. the M.C.C. Neither fixture was First-Class. He held one catch in those matches.

He was captain of Merrion in 1926, 1928-1930, 1934-1936, 1938, 1940-1942. He led the Merrion batting averages for four seasons 1926-1929, and led the club to the "double" in 1940. It was the first time the club had won either trophy.

CAREER RECORD IN LEINSTER SENIOR CRICKET
m-222 ins-197 no-20 hs-86 r-2868 av.- 16.20
3 wickets at 34.66. 70 catches, 3 stumpings.

FERGUSON GRAINGER (President, the Northern Cricket Union of Ireland)

Ferguson Grainger died of a heart attack on Tuesday January 22nd. Not only was he prominent in cricket circles, having been elected as President of the N.C.U. only last November, but he was active in a wide range of community organisations.

A well-known local businessman, he was the driving force behind Muckamore Cricket and Lawn Tennis club and was President for 11 years. He was the first Muckamore to be elected President of the Northern Union. In his all too brief Presidency he had been prominent on several N.C.U. committees and was already making detailed plans for the N.C.U. Centenary in 1986.

To his wife, Joy and son, Richard, the sympathy of all those connected with Ulster and Irish cricket is extended.

Mr. Grainger has been succeeded as President of the Northern Cricket Union by Cecil Walker of Lisburn C.C.

Dr. Dermot RYAN (Belvedere College)

The Most Reverend Dr. Dermot Ryan, former Archbishop of Dublin, died in Rome in February. He was Patron of Old Belvedere Cricket Club. Dr. Ryan represented the School on the Junior XI in 1940, and on the Senior XI in 1941.

Lt.Col. J.F.LAWRENCE (Dublin University, Pembroke and Phoenix)

John Fortune "Jack" Lawrence died at his home in Sussex in August. He played one First-Class Match for D.U. in 1926, scoring 6 and 1 v. a Northants XI. He was the grandson of J.F.Lawrence, who published "Lawrence's Handbook of Cricket in Ireland" between 1865 and 1881.

Lawrence first played Senior cricket with Pembroke in 1921, playing a total of 11 games with the club up to 1925. He represented Trinity from 1924 to 1926, playing 15 times, and returned to play twice for Phoenix in 1932.

CAREER RECORD IN LEINSTER SENIOR CRICKET
mts-28 ins-29 no-5 h'st-58 runs-315 av-13.13 cts-6



Brian Stronach
in 1951.



Jack Lawrence
in 1926.

B.W.H.STRONACH (Dublin University, Pembroke and Ireland)

Brian Stronach, who died on April 8th last year, was capped once by Ireland in 1951. He was born in 1928 and entered Dublin University in 1948. He played twice for Pembroke earlier that year. He scored almost 800 runs for Trinity, topping the batting averages in 1950 and 1951. It was on the strength of his two centuries at Railway Union that the Irish selectors picked him for the game with the 1951 South Africans at College Park. Opening the innings with Stanley Bergin, Stronach was bowled first ball by Cuan McCarthy, the pacey Springbok with the doubtful action. He made one in the 2nd innings and that was the end of his international career. He won a Cup Winners medal with Trinity in 1952. He was captain of the club in 1951.

CAREER RECORD in LEINSTER SENIOR CRICKET
m-32 inr-32 n.o.-6 h.s.-104 r-796 av-30.61
highest score : 104 v. Railway, CUP, 1951 (Away)
Held 11 catches in the field.



2 Carnsore,
Pilot View,
Dalkey, Co.Dublin.

Letters to the Editor

42 St.Stephen's Gn.,
Dublin 2.

Dublin University C.C., the oldest University cricket club in the world and one of the oldest clubs in Ireland celebrates its 150th birthday this year. To mark the Anniversary, the club are producing a souvenir brochure and a special tie, and are organising a Sesquicentennial Dinner and Festival Week of cricket in College Park in late June. The highlight of the celebrations will be a two-day match between selected sides of past and present members of D.U.C.C. on June 25th and 26th, with the Dinner on the evening of the 25th. All former members are requested to attend. Any former members interested in making themselves available for the Match or who would like to know more details of the Celebrations are requested to write to the Secretary Leslie Deacon at 5 Montpelier Terrace, Monkstown, Co.Dublin, or to ring him at Dublin 801681.

David R. Pigot sen.
President, D.U.C.C.

I have been connected with the Leinster Cricket Union for over fifty years and have watched with great pleasure the tremendous strides that have been made in its administration and organisation. It therefore came as a bitter blow to see the retrograde step taken by the Union to bar professionals. Are we going back to the days when anything new in the way of a proposal was howled down by the Establishment? The standard of debate at the A.G.M. was unworthy of the members. No real, and I would underline 'real' reason was given for the objection to professionals.

The word professional is a misnomer. What does it mean, how does one define it? Surely it is about time we realised that there is no such thing nowadays as 'professionals' and 'amateurs'. Are we not all players and participants in a particular sport? How does one define a player who joins another club for social or pecuniary gain? My club's last 'professional' Graham Hurlbatt, was 21 years old. He was a keen cricketer and his assistance and inspiration to our youngsters was outstanding. In time to come we will reap the benefit of his coaching. I believe that players from overseas have brought a new dimension to the game. They have created an extra interest and helped and shall continue to help to improve the standard of Irish cricket. I sincerely hope that, in the not too distant future, the rule "no professionals" will be deleted.

Yours sincerely,
Alf Solomons.

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MARK DONALDSON (Sion Mills)

19 year-old Donaldson, son of well-known footballer Winston, is already the holder of a N.W. Senior Cup medal, won last season at the expense of Brigade. Coming in at 8 or 9 in the strong Sion batting line-up, he impressed many with his immaculate style, particularly when attacking the off side on the front foot. Although a bit short, he generates a fair pace from a smooth action. Opened the bowling in the N.W. Cup Final.

ANGUS DUNLOP (Y.M.C.A.)

Son of a former Irish selector, Angus has played Senior cricket since he was 14. A methodical bat, Dunlop could be a good outside bet for international honours in two or three years.

WILLIE DWYER (The Hills)

Twenty senior wickets and promotion to the Irish Youths panel topped off a good 1984 season for Dwyer. A speedy, if a bit raw bowler, Willie could play for North Leinster this year if the selectors overcome their reluctance to look past Malahide.



Michael Gillespie

MICHAEL GILLESPIE (Strabane)

Michael, just 16, is the 2nd of Paddy Gillespie's three sons who have played their way on to the Strabane 1st XI, and in a remarkable season when he accumulated 1248 runs in all grades of cricket, he came second only to professional Bobby Rao in the senior averages with 194 runs at 32.33. Not bad for an extremely modest lad who started the '83 season in his club's 4th team. His methodical and unflappable style has attracted the nickname 'Tavare'! Impressively unhurried catching style in the outfield.

12 to WATCH

The provincial correspondents of "IRISH CRICKET" nominate a dozen young players who, we believe, will be names to watch out for in 1985.

IAN HASTIE (Church of Ireland)

Ian is a big strong boy, who is developing into a useful fast-medium bowler. At the moment, he is a little wild, but very quick. A good season from Ian would make a large contribution to C.I., Munster U-19 and Ireland Youths efforts.

BILLY LESLIE (Waterford)

Billy is a batsman of undoubted potential. The new artificial pitch at Waterford will give him a better chance of developing his technique. The only other thing needed is plenty of opportunity of playing against good bowling, particularly at No.3 or No.4 in the order. Given the chance, he should play several major innings this season.

BRIAN MILLAR (Bangor)

Aged 18, Brian is a right-hand bat and wicket-keeper, now recognised as being first reserve to Paul Jackson for Ulster Town. Ulster Schools 1984, Ulster Town U-19 since 1982. Bangor First XI regular since late 1983.

Intends to study at Manchester next winter. Irish Youths Squad member.

MARK McCALL (Bangor)

Son of former international Con, and younger brother of Peter, capped at Schools level in '84, Mark is a talented right-hand batsman. Senior debut 1984, Ulster Town U-19 1984. Captain Ulster Schools U-16 team 1982. Aged 17, Mark is a certainty for Ulster and Irish Schools this year, and is on the Youths short-list for Bermuda. If selected, he will be one of the few boys to have represented Ireland at schools level in cricket and rugby.

MARK NULTY (Dublin Univ. & YMCA)

Mark should benefit from playing for Trinity in the early season, particularly through the coaching of Noel Mahony. He made his Senior debut last August, scoring two fifties in 5 innings, average 40.75.

SIMON REDPATH (Woodvale)

Aged 18, Simon is a right-arm fast-medium bowler and right hand bat. Currently a student at Belfast Royal Academy, he will rejoin Woodvale this year after several seasons with Section 3 club Academy. Ulster Schools since 1982, Irish schools cap in 1984. Irish U-19 Squad for Youths Tournament in Bermuda. Key figure for Woodvale's hopes of success in 1985.



John Hoey

JOHN HOEY (C.Y.M.)

Hoey had a magnificent season in 1984, scoring 569 runs, including 4 fifties, well clear of any of the locals in CYM. He should benefit from the extra responsibility he will shoulder with the temporary ban on pro's. John is also a useful bowler to call on.

RAY WONG (Wanderers)

Ray is a very promising off-spinner, who at the moment is still looking for a better action. Last season, in the closing U-19 games against Ulster Town and North West, he bowled to a tight field setting and in both games took 2 for 20 in ten overs. This should be his usual method of attack. An excellent fielder, Ray is also a useful batsman to have going in at 8 or 9.

FIXTURES Continued

Sunday MAY 5th

LEINSTER SENIOR CLUB
 BB. Merrion -v- Old Belvedere
 BB. Carlisle -v- Leinster
 BB. Railway Union -v- CYM
 BB. Phoenix -v- Dublin Univ.

LEINSTER SENIOR 2
 LG. Clontarf II -v- The Hills II

LEINSTER SENIOR 3
 LG. Leinster III v. Malahide II
 LG. Dublin Univ v. Pembroke
 LG. Rush v. Railway Union III

LEINSTER MIDDLE "A"
 LG. Man O'War II v. P'nix III
 FR. Mullingar v. North Kildare

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE A
 LG. Pembroke IV -v- Rush III

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE B
 LG. Civil Service II -v- Carlisle IV
 LG. Ring Com'ns -v- Railway V

LEINSTER JUNIOR A
 LG. Aer Lingus -v- Knockharley
 LG. Kn'brack II -v- Balroth'y II
 LG. CYM V -v- Balbriggan II

LEINSTER JUNIOR B
 LG. The Hills IV -v- Sandyford
 LG. Addinstown II -v- Rush IV

Monday MAY 6th

NORTHERN SENIOR CLUB
 LG. Lisburn -v- Downpatrick
 LG. Lurgan -v- Ballvmena
 LG. North Down -v- Bangor
 LG. NICC -v- Waringstown
 LG. Woodvale -v- Holywood

NORTH: 1st Division, SECT.2
 LG. Cliftonville -v- Donacloney
 LG. Donaghadee -v- Armagh
 LG. Instonians -v- RUC
 LG. Laurelvale -v- Queens Univ
 LG. Muckamore -v- Saintfield

NORTH: 1st Div., SECTION 3
 LG. CIYMS -v- Ards
 LG. Cooke -v- Academy
 LG. Victoria -v- Cregagh
 LG. Dundrum -v- Shorts
 LG. Dunmurry -v- YMCA

Tuesday MAY 7th

MID-ULSTER MINOR LEAGUE
 WC. Portadown -v- Armagh
 WC. Laurelvale -v- Dungannon

Wednesday MAY 8th

LEINSTER SENIOR LEAGUE
 BB. YMCA -v- Dublin Univ.
LEINSTER SCHOOLS LEAGUE
 A. King's Hosp. -v- High School
 A. St.Paul's -v- St.Andrew's
 B. St.Mary's -v- Sandford Pk.
 B. Belvedere -v- St.Columba's

Thursday MAY 9th

MID-ULSTER CUP
 Rd.1 Creevedonnell -v- Ardmore
 Rd.1 Bready -v- Drummond
 Rd.1 Waterside -v- Killymall'ht
 Rd.1 Strabane -v- Glendermott
 Rd.1 Eglinton -v- Crindle
 Rd.1 Brigade -v- Ballyspallen

IRISH CRICKETERS' BIRTHDAYS

Apr.1 Ray Daly is 43
 Apr.2 J.M.McKelvey is 52
 Apr.3 W.R.Hunter is 47
 Apr.4 Alan Hughes is 34
 Apr.5 Gerry F. Murphy is 40
 Apr.8 Graham Crothers is 36
 Apr.10 Podge Hughes is 42
 Apr.11 Eddie Bushe is 34
 Apr.12 Jack Short is 34
 Apr.13 Samuel Beckett is 79
 Apr.20 Alfie Linehan is 45
 Apr.22 The Editor is 23
 Apr.25 David Ensor is 37
 May 2 Alf Masood is 33
 Wesley Ferris is 58
 Dougie Goodwin is 47
 Michael Reith is 37
 May 3 Ken Hope is 46
 Jim Harrison is 44
 May 6 Larry Warke is 58

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KIT SPECIAL

Spring is in the air again, and with it the familiar smell of mouldy pads and disintegrating batting gloves. Club equipment officers open the kit locker before the first net and find one pad with its straps broken and a damp thigh pad. No need for despair, however, because the quantity and variety of cricket equipment available in Dublin this year is better than ever before. The other good news is that prices do not seem much higher than last year, though admittedly still steep by British standards.

The market for cricket gear in Ireland is, of course, relatively small. The major, long-established sports shops like *Elvery's* and *Fitzgibbon's* admit that cricket accounts for a small percentage of their total business, and their stocks are consequently limited. Although the sports goods market has expanded over the last few years, the focus has been on newer, more individual activities. For the general, wide-ranging sports shops, cricket now comes well behind sports like snooker, martial arts and weight-training in terms of sales volume.

In a minority sport like cricket, however, where contacts are easily maintained, the players themselves tend to fill up the gaps in the market. The bulk of the Dublin cricket equipment market is in the hands of cricketers and members of well-known cricketing families. This applies particularly to the wholesale end, with people like Tony Leon, Ian Keartland and Colin Meeke holding the Irish agencies for the major English manufacturers.

In the retail sector, *Sportsgear* is the dominant name. Their Blessington Street shop is largely given over to cricket during the summer months, and the Capel Street outlet also carries stocks and takes orders. Owned by Pembroke stalwart Ronnie Byrne, *Sportsgear* is the only shop in Dublin which aims to stock a complete range of gear, including all the major makes. They carry the sweaters of all the senior clubs, and all are currently in stock.

Duncan Fearnley are perhaps the most popular bats at the moment, with the heavy, top-of-the-market MAGNUM increasingly prevalent in senior cricket. *Sportsgear* retail it at £92.90. For those who prefer a lighter bat, the Magnum MICRO-LITE is an attractive alternative. Fearnley's major 'endorsers' now have their own bats named after them: the Viv Richards 5-



The Viv Richards 5-Star £71.30

star sells for £71.30 and the Ian Botham 'Attack' is £50.95. These bats are made of less-seasoned wood than the more expensive Magnums - for the less-seasoned player perhaps? The well-known GRAY NICOLLS and STUART SURRIDGE brands are also in stock, with GN's top-of-the-range GN100 Extra Special (scoop) priced at £98.95 and Surridge's Jumbo Executive at £97.00. Interesting newcomers are the Newbery range, as used by several West Indians, including the shoulderless EXCALIBUR at £76.70.

Sportsgear also sell the complete range of cricket accessories and clothing; from bat oil at 95p. to outdoor Truturf wickets at £540.

Match balls are a major item of expense, and *Sportsgear* have introduced a cheaper, English made ball this year which they expect to appeal to hard-pressed club treasurers. Details, and a full catalogue of cricket equipment, clothing and accessories from *Sportsgear*, 22 Blessington St., Dublin 1.

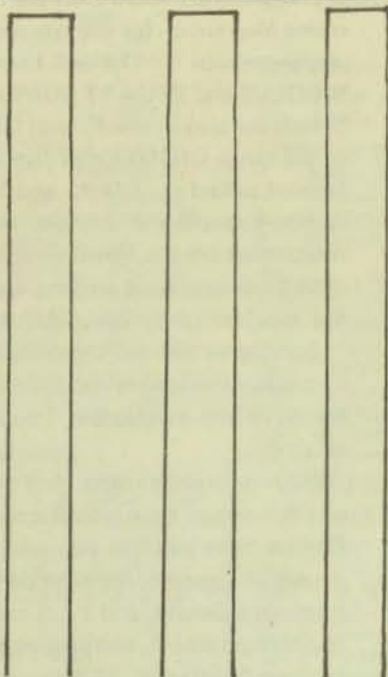
Particularly attractive in the area of cricket clothing this year is the new GUNN & MOORE range - a comeback for an old name. Their bat, the MAESTRO, is the most expensive in the shops at just 5p short of £100. G&M importer Ian Keartland (Bluebell Avenue, Dublin) assures me that his cream cricket trousers (£21.95) can be worn to church on Sundays - so that's why he joined YMCA! The GRAHAM DILLEY BOOT and the DEREK RANDALL BATTING SHOE are equally stylish. *Fitzgibbon's* of South Anne Street are carrying the GUNN & Moore range as their main cricket lines, though other 5 brands can be ordered on request. They also stress that they can supply RECTICEL sports matting at short notice and competitive prices.

Elvery's will have a small stock of bats, pads etc, but they too will cater for orders rather than keeping large stocks in the shops.

MacGowan's in Terenure have C.Y.M. sweaters as well as a small selection of bats. Basically, these shops cater for the individual player requiring one or two items. For larger orders, or for more esoteric items (from spare pad straps to batting helmet visors), *Sportsgear* are the best bet.

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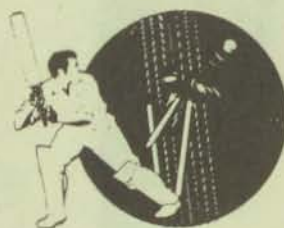
OPENING HOURS:

Monday to Friday	9 am to 6 pm
Wednesday - late	up to 8 pm
Saturday	10 am to 1 pm

Sportsgear (I) Ltd.

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