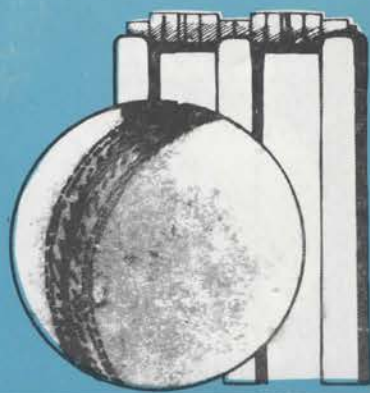


IRISH CRICKET



Vol 5 Issue 1

£1



Jonathan Garth Interview

Majestic Mahony

Conor Hoey spinning yarns

A Funny Old Michael Dalton

market- ability

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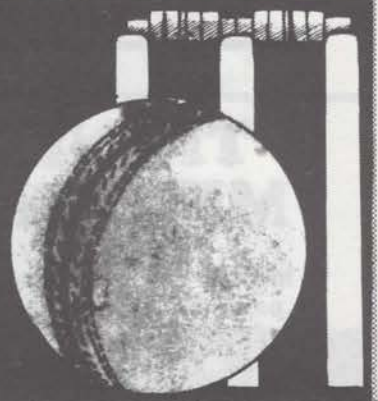
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The Line-Up

	Page
1. Editorial	3
2. Opening Shots	4
3. Interview: Jonathan Garth	6
4. All Time Irish XI	9
5. Interview: Conor Hoey	13
6. Cricket in Limerick 1987	17
7. A Funny Game ?	18
8. Interview: Noel Mahony	19
9. Statistical Round-up	20

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IRISH CRICKET

5, Merrion Row, Dublin 2.

Letter from the Publisher

Since the first records of Irish cricket dawning, not all that much has changed in the game, which sticks stoically to its rituals and traditions, much as a certain type of gentleman who, having been brought up on braces and pre-knotted ties, refuses to change his ways, and consequently has his children spending two weeks of each year in search of the desired Christmas present. Irish Cricket Magazine, though not as old as the sport it represents, adheres to the same principles of ritual and tradition - I.C.M is standard magazine size, black ink printed on white paper, and reads from page 1 to the end.

For four years now, I.C.M has become synonymous with the generous figure of Gerard Siggins, its founder, editor and staff. A man whose knowledge of cricket is second only to his sense of fashion, Ger has been regaling us all in the intervening time with amusing anecdotes, piercing interviews, and a great interest, bordering on obsession, for the game's statistics (Only last week, Ger informed me that there were 3592 no-balls bowled in Leinster cricket during the 1987 season, 11 of them due to their being more than two men behind square on the leg-side).

Ger has helped put cricket on the Irish map, and has built up a sense of identity and unity amongst Ireland's cricketers through I.C.M.

A gentle breeze of change, however, is blowing in from the Pavilion end. Now engaged in full-time (renumerative) journalism, Ger has decided to take himself off, put on two sweaters (size 52), and place his faith in a new attack. As you will see from

reading this magazine, certain changes have been made, a greater degree of organisation and neatness has crept in (a better line and length), and we hope that it is to your liking. The action remains the same however, with our broad mix of news, reports, interviews and features being the backbone of the magazine. The statistical section at the back will strive for the usual accuracy, and will be enlarged for our next issue (out on July 22nd), as the wheels start to become well-oiled once again.

Needless to say, we welcome all your comments on I.C.M, which can be sent to the address on this page, as well as articles, information of any import to the game of cricket. The magazine will come out at the end of July and August, accompanied by the traditional annual in November, at a time when people will not have to query which season it is concerned with.

In the meantime, Mr. Ger Siggins will field at first slip, keeping his hand in the proceedings, letting out the occasional bark of encouragement, and lest anyone should care, he can be seen bringing a cavalier disregard to the game's finer points with the Sunday Tribune XI of an evening in College Park. His presence will linger on in I.C.M for as long as he can be persuaded to do so, and who knows, maybe the magazine will come full circle some day, and find Ger at the helm as in the early days.

Did I not notice that, after all these years, braces are back in fashion ?

Michael *T. O'Doherty*

TRINITY CRICKETING MILLENIA

Michael Rea and Mark Nulty both passed the 1000 runs for Trinity milestone in the same game recently. They are the 16th and 17th respectively to reach the four figures for the club.

Rea passed the 1000 in his 33rd innings (the quickest for 51 years and the 4th fastest in all) on his way to an 83 v Old Belvedere, while Nulty, who scored 71 in that match, took 41 innings.

The most recent scorer of the 1000 was Gerry Murphy, who did it in two spells, as a student and a coach, but the last undergraduate to accomplish the feat was Joes Foster in 1961.

Twenty-seven years without a single student passing the thousand - then two in less than an hour !!



Mark Nulty

LADIES' CRICKET

Shauna Walsh won the Trinity Ladies player of the year award presented at the end of a season which saw the club win 4 of their 6 games.

Shauna, captain of a side that includes two members of the Irish junior squad in Jenny Thompson and Jackie Sheridan, was the third winner of their annual award, that has been previously won by Rachel Pasley (1986) and Jenny Thompson (1987)

The season ended for the Trinity girls with their first tour to England, where they took on both Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and the Cambridge Club. Both of the latter two games were lost, but they ladies scored a notable 3 wicket victory over Oxford University. Susan Thames bowled well in both the Cambridge games, taking 3 wickets in each.

Oxford University were confined to just 68 for 8 off 25 overs, thanks to tight bowling by Susan Hood (3-9) and Jenny Thompson (4-14). It was a difficult wicket and Trinity lost 7 wickets on the way to their historic victory. An innings of 36 by Naomi Lappin was the main factor in the win.

QUEEN'S REGAIN TITLE

The students of Queen's University won the Irish Universities cricket championship at Mallusk last month, regaining a title they last won in 1986, when the competition was held in Belfast.

QUB's success extends further a remarkable sequence that stretches to 1978, whereby Trinity have won the event when it is held in Dublin, and Queen's when it is held up North. This year's competition was marked by the non-participation of Trinity due to their backlog of league fixtures.

Queen's saw off opposition from two University of Ulster selections, and the College of Surgeons side, who have replaced UCD as the second Southern side.

RESULTS

University of Ulster: 70 (D. Gibson 26, M. McNeill 5-22, P. Stafford 2-17, M. McIvor 2-18)

Queen's 74-5 (M. McCall 42, J. Hughes 4-42)

College of Surgeons 90 (R. Samarjii 24, C. Glover 3-24, P. Carson 2-27)

University of Ulster B 91-1 (M. Gough 47n.o, P. Carson 36n.o)

Queen's 222-9 (P. McCall 77, K. Ogle 34, M. Paruk 3-81)

College of Surgeons 157 (S. Naidoo 42, P. Stafford 5-57)

University of Ulster 207 (D. Gibson 51, K. Smyth 37, K. Quinn 30, C. Glover 3-46)

University of Ulster B 134 (P. Carson 45, M. Kilgore 3-20)

HOCKEY HOCKEY

HOCKEY, OI OI OI !!

Former Irish cricket international Jimmy Kirkwood has been selected by the Great Britain hockey squad for the Seoul Olympics. Kirkwood won three caps for Ireland in 1983, and plays club cricket for Lisburn.

Opening Shots

SPORTSGEAR CUP REPORT

The quarter-finals of the Sportsgear Senior Cup were marked by fine weather and some magnificent batting performances, and next week's semi-finals will see Railway Union play Trinity at Park Avenue, and YMCA take on Old Belvedere in Claremont Road.

Railway had a facile win over a Leinster side that never got over losing Philip Narthey and Gerry Delaney for 0. Railway's bowlers all performed well, ensuring Leinster were all out for 140 in the 56th over. Hugh Delaney's 30 n.o, and Peter Di-noon's 24 were the only innings of note.

An opening partnership of 92 between Brendan (45) and Dermot O'Brien (39) ensured victory for Railway.

Trinity, having lost three league games in the previous week - were in the mood for a win. Pembroke came into the tie in better form: three league wins and two cup wins already this season. A partnership of 135 between Duncan Patar (58) and Gordon Mellon (70) hoisted Pembroke to 233-6 off their 60 overs, with Conor Hoey's 12-3-26-2 the best bowling figures.

Trinity batted steadily, with Michael Rea forging useful partnerships with Charlie Butler (24), Peter O'Reilly (16) and, crucially, Mark Nulty (53). Rea finished with 112* as Trinity won with two overs to spare. Rea's innings must have boosted his confidence, considerably shaken by having to read about his dropping from the Irish team in the newspapers that week.

Another man aggrieved at the ICU selectors reacted in similar fashion. Jonathan Garth crashed 82 in YM's huge 307-5 against Carlisle. Ian Burns (76) and Alan Lewis (95) were also in excellent form. Only Rodney Molins (24), Keith Davies (19), Angus Fraser (18) and Leon Ellison (16) make

it to double figures as Carlisle plummeted to a 203-run defeat. Garth (4-35) and Colin Haine (4-24) did the damage.

The fourth quarter-final at Milverton saw a gripping finish with Old Belvedere edging home by one wicket after a tenth wicket stand of 37. Patrick Hoare's 62 was the highlight of The Hills' total of 199, which also contained twenties by Gerry Harper, Matt Dwyer, Alan Courell and Paddy Byrne.

Belvedere's John Prior provided a firm backbone for the innings, his 74 (2 sixes and 8 fours) taking the club to 140-7. It was a magnificent innings of just 23 n.o by 2nd XI player Tom McKeon that saw Belvo home. He dominated the vital last wicket stand that eventually saw the 200 target reached in the 57th over. The stuff that Sportsgear Cup matches are made of !!

Photo by Billy Stickland



John Prior

KEEPING THE WOLVES FROM THE CREASE

Robbie Dennison, the former Waringstown and Ulster Town player, looks unlikely to return to cricket at the Lawn this season, and with his soccer career taking off, it may be a few years before he can resume for club and province.

Dennison, brother of current international Davy (whose soccer commitments with Glenavon have forced him to declare himself for Ireland this year) signed for West Bromwich Albion three years ago after trials at Chelsea, Brighton and Oxford. He joined Wolves after a year and helped the Molineux club to promotion from Division Four this year.

He also tasted some of the rare delights of top soccer when scoring the winner for Wolves in the Sherpa Van Trophy final at Wembley. The goal was a 20-yard cracker that clinched a 2-1 victory over Burnley before a crowd of 80,000.

Dennison's international career also got under way this season with caps at Windsor Park against France, Poland and Malta. The last game, a World Cup Group 6 game, saw Dennison open his international scoring account. The Republic of Ireland meet Northern Ireland on September 14th at Windsor Park when Robbie will in opposition to an excellent club cricketer in Kevin Sheedy, and former Cornwall Schools player Chris Morris !!

Should Robbie resume his cricket career and possibly add an Irish cap to those already won at Schools and U-19 level, he will be the first to play soc-

cer for Northern Ireland and cricket for Ireland since Billy McCleery in the 1930s. Former Irish cricket international Noel Cantwell won 36 caps for the Republic of Ireland between 1954 and 1967 while playing with West Ham and Manchester United, to add to the five cricket caps won in the late '50s. The late Archie McQuilken played amateur soccer for Northern Ireland as well as winning 9 caps at cricket.

But with the demands of professional football such as they are, his chances of winning a cricket cap must be rated highly unlikely, for the time being anyway. Which is a great shame, as the evidence of his hundred at phoenix in the 1983 Schweppes Cup quarter-final pointed to an inevitable Irish cap within a year or two. Let us hope that soccer commitments do not rob us of Davy's talents either !

GREAT GARTH ALMIGHTY



Photo by Billy Stickland

Anthony Morrissey in conversation with Jonathan Garth

I met Jonathan Garth long after the 1987 Cricket Season was a distant memory. Jonathan is a very talented young man who is quite obviously fanatical about cricket, no matter what level it is played at. Throughout the interview, he peppered me with questions about developments in the Junior game. Garth is not one of those senior Cricketers who has forgotten that he himself started playing at Junior level, and it was good to see that Jonathan simply isn't locked into the sometimes confined circle of the Senior game.

He agreed with me when I put it to him that 1987 was the year his full potential began to be realised. "If I improved this year, I'd put it down to three factors - the first was Tim Sullivan, the Australian who opened our bowling in 1986. He gave me a lot of encouragement on and off the field. The second factor was my few months spent playing Grade Cricket in Johannesburg with Balfour Guild last winter. We played two day stuff, and I had to learn how to cut out the rash shots in my batting. I also had to bowl a tight

line, it's very difficult to get much out of the pitches over there, so I really had to keep it on the spot. The third reason why I enjoyed 1987 so much was the captaincy of Ian Burns.

The mention of Ian Burns led us around to the fantastic success enjoyed by YM over the last couple of years. Garth obviously loves playing cricket with YMCA. "You see, its very well organised in YM: we were the only Leinster club to officially appoint a manger and a coach. Ian Lewis as manager took care of things off the field, which took a lot of pressure off Burnsie. Frank Sowman was a superb coach, and he ensured that the practice side of things was taken very seriously. But Burns himself was a great captain, before very match he'd tell us to keep things simple and concentrate, and to remember that "The only team that can beat YMCA are YMCA". I can't speak highly enough of him".

Garth was very proud of the club's achievements in 1987. "You must remember that we were the only club in Leinster to go through the season without losing a single limited

overs match - Wiggins Teape, Alan Murray and Senior Cup - that's some achievement". What happened in the Senior Cup final? "We batted really well that day, right down the order. It was a good back to bowl on, the ball moved off the seam quite a bit for me, and I got Enda McDermott with one which I think would have done him at any stage of his career. The thing that really impressed me about us that day was that we didn't ease up, we just kept on going even when they were well beaten". It was a bad day for Clontarf especially the older players, but they were very gracious in defeat".

It was interesting to hear Garth talking about his own "bowling method". I bowl off thirteen paces, I have a good shoulder action so I never needed much of a run up. I don't swing it much, though I swung it a bit when I was using the Kookaburra ball in South Africa. I try to put it on the stumps and hope it'll move off the seam. If there's one ball I do bowl well it's the blockhole ball, the Yorker". Would he say he was an especially quick bowler? "No, not the quickest in the world..." In Dublin? "Yeah, I suppose so..."

He took 62 wickets during 1987; no-one else even reached fifty, so I imagine he'd have a good idea just who the good batsman are. "Vincent's a good player and so is John Prior though I'm very surprised he never made more runs at Senior Level. I also admire the Clarke brothers, Seam and Ciaran. Sean's fine opener, he's CY's best batsman, but Ciaran has bags of talent; I can't see how playing on the mat is going to do Ciaran's cricket any good. I really admire Brendan O'Brien too, he worked out a good technique for himself, he's very difficult to dislodge, and has a good cricket head". How would Jonathan bowl Ginger? "I'd try and get one to move away off a length just outside off stump - though that type of ball would get anyone out!" He doesn't mind batsmen getting after him - "You have a chance when a batsman's taking a risk" and he enjoys bowling at scratchers - "it's more a challenge to get a good defensive player out".

One player and personality whom Garth obviously admires is his team-mate Alan Lewis. "Lewy's a great bloke; when I was with Leinster he used to ask me to come along to YM. I was happy at Rathmines and I still have a lot of friends there, but I

didn't have any friends of my own age in Leinster. Anyway, I settled in very well with YM and Lewy and I always got on very well". There's a bit of needle - friendly rivalry, if you like, between us and we're always trying to out-do each other. He's a class batsman too, that innings he played against Malahide in the Wiggins Teape Semi was the best he's played for YM. The bowlers Garth admired were Conor Hoey - "he's useful, but he'll have to develop a wrong-un, I'm surprised batsmen don't use their feet to him", and Leon Ellison - "he's a great future ahead of him, he has a really nice action and he hits the deck pretty hard, though he's lucky to play cricket on Carlisle's wickets. They're the best in Dublin; they're firm, there's a bit of movement off the seam and the ball comes on to the bat". The other wickets he liked playing on were Lein-



ster's and Clontarf's, though he didn't have much time for the Malahide printers. "They were very slow and low this year, I tried banging one in and it rose to just below hip height. Earlier on that day, Brian Gilmore had been turning the ball square, so I started bowling off-breaks. I took 6 for 18!".

In the last couple of years, Jonathan has been carving out a regular niche for himself on the Ireland side. "I love the limited over stuff, having to bowl 12 tight overs. Last year I had to bowl at Leicestershire's Peter Willey and David Gower - it was easy bowling at Gower, he's so clinical. You al-

ways knew where he was going to put the ball. Willey's open stance on the other hand made it difficult to bowl at him. I was told to aim for middle and leg but as I was running up the three stumps were completely covered, I didn't know where to put the ball". Garth bowled 11 overs for 28 runs this year when Ireland played Northants. The London Times called him a "quality all-rounder" and he was pleased with his performance that day. "We did well - a couple of matches before, Kevin Curran of Gloucestershire told me that when I came on for the last ten overs "smash" I should try to vary my pace, even though batsmen were trying to get after me. It worked well that day, but we really should have won, Alf was unlucky, if he could have stayed we would have beaten them. I'm a bit disappointed with my bowling in three day matches, I'm used as a stock bowler but I'd like to take more wickets". Garth had a lot of time for Neil Radford, whom he faced in Johannesburg. "He's the most underestimated bowler in England, he doesn't do much with it, but he's very tight and he bowls a really mean bouncer, it skids into you".

Talk about the county scene and professional cricketers in general led around to the big question in Leinster cricket - the ban on pros. Garth is in favour of them, but with reservations. "They do raise your game, you have to concentrate when playing against the pros, but I'm not so sure about their benefits in the long term. You just have to look at Steve McCarthy in Pembroke. When he came on to the firsts, Stimpson more of less took one end, and Steve just didn't get a bowl. It couldn't have done him any good. Clontarf did well to engage John Lyon. He'll never set the world alight as a cricketer, but he's a tough coach who won't take any nonsense. He has done Clontarf's cricket a world of good". I would have thought that Garth was thinking of going full-time himself. At the moment he's one of about three players in Leinster who look as if they could make a career in the first class game, but he wasn't so sure about the pro game. "Jack Van Geloven said I should go over next summer, and while I'd like to, I do have a very good full-time job, I mean, what would be the point of throwing all that in? However, I would like to see how I'd fare in Australia". A thoughtful cricketer, I'm sure Garth will be accepted as a player wherever he goes. Ireland and YMCA are lucky to have him.

BOOKS

FIRST-CLASS CRICKET 1895

(compiled by the ACS, available from
4, Croft End, Little Eaton,
Derby DEZ 5OP
Price £5.95 Sterling)

The prolific Association of Cricket Statisticians have been solving the Great Dilemma for many of their members - the dearth of early Wisdens and 19th Century scorecards - by publishing yearbooks from the early days of First Class cricket. Their latest offering covers 1895 and contains over 200 full scorecards of all matches rated First Class: from Auckland v Fiji to MCC v Dublin University.

Those early Trinity cricketers had four of their fixtures considered First Class, and that MCC scorecard features an acid postscript from the magazine "Cricket": "Have the sporting dailies been poking fun at us in the announcement that the committee of the Marylebone Club have decided the match between MCC and Dublin University to be a first class? If they have, then all I can say is that it is a sorry jest. A union of hearts is not likely to be expedited by such jibes. But what do you say? Well I never. But no matter".

They won that game v MCC, A.P Gwynn scoring 80 and Ernest Ensor taking 9-118, but went down by 186 runs at Grace Road v Leicestershire, despite Lucius Gwynn scoring 153*. In two fixtures with Cambridge University, Trinity lost by an innings and 2 runs at Fenners (L.H Gwynn 106, 63, and 4/94) and played a draw at College Park. This final game saw Cambridge knock up 474 and Trinity follow-on 210 behind (A.P Gwynn 130, Dan Comyn 54), just holding on for a draw at 25-6. The visitor's Horace Grey had excellent 2nd innings figures of 14-11-7-4.

Besides the Irish interest, there is much to commend this volume. 1895 was the year that Archie McLaren scored 424, the highest F-C innings ever recorded in England. The book is, however, simply a 224 page volume full of scorecards, and is thus of limited appeal. There are no match reports and only the very briefest of comments appended. But for a tiny percentage of what an 1895 Wisden would cost you, it is a bargain.

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ALL-TIME IRISH XI

Every cricket fanatic has his fantasies. Mostly, they take the shape of a quite exceptional team - the kind of unit which, in boring reality, can never exist. If a dozen, or even a hundred, cricketers sat down with pen and paper to make their personal choice of an all time XI, there would be little duplication. The choice is wide, opinions too diverse, there would in fact be little agreement. In attempting the following selection, the sole criterion is that all members of the team had to be Irish-born.

The majority of the team played their cricket in that twenty year period, prior to the Great War, which the romanticists label cricket's 'Golden Age'. It is worth pondering with what ease such figures as T.P O'Brien, F.L Fane and R.M Poore rose to the fore in this era. These three were just some of the Irish-born cricketers who rose to the first class game and even to the higher pinnacle of the Test status as the nineteenth century came to a close, and the twentieth century was still in its infancy. A period when the game in Ireland was still flourishing throughout the length and breadth of the island.

The chosen XI are as follows,
in batting order:

1. **T.C O'Brien** (Middlesex)
2. **F.L Fane** (Essex)*
3. **R.M Moore** (Hampshire)
4. **T.P Horan** (Victoria)
5. **T.J.D Kelly** (Victoria)
6. **T.O Jameson** (Hampshire)
7. **E.O Sheridan** (New South Wales)
8. **G.W Gaukrodger** (Worcs) +
9. **C.L Johnson** (Transvaal)
10. **A.G Paul** (Lancashire)
11. **R.St.L. Fowler** (Hampshire)
- 12th Men: **L. Hone** (Mcc)
- A.M Byng** (Hamps & Jamaica)



Leland Hone



Sir Timothy O'Brien

Sir Timothy Carew O'Brien was born in Dublin in 1861. He was a right-handed batsman and a left arm bowler. After schooling at Downside, he played for Middlesex from 1891 until 1898. It is said that he went down to Oxford only to obtain a Blue for cricket, which he immediately acquired. He also represented Ireland from 1902 until 1907. He notched up a thousand runs in a season on three separate occasions, the 1,150 in 1884 being the highest. He toured Australia in 1887/88 and South Africa under Lord Hawke in 1895/6, but with little success.

He is credited with 11,397 runs in the first class game at an average of 27.01, with 15 centuries and 172 catches. In his five Test appearances, he hit a meagre 59 runs, average 7.37, taking four catches.

Frederick Luther Fane was born in 1875 at the Curragh. An opening right-handed batsman, his front-foot style graced Essex grounds for two decades. After Charterhouse he went onto play for Essex, captaining the county from 1904 to 1906. He was also a Blue at Oxford and played for London county in 1901. He hit a thou-

sand runs on five occasions, the 1906 tally of 1,552 being the highest.

The 14 Test appearances between 1905 and 1910 included the captaincy on five occasions. But he did not relish being captain, and his form suffered. Besides these tours to South Africa, twice, and Australia, Fane also went on lesser tours to the West Indies (1901/2), New Zealand and Australia (1902/3) and Rhodesia (1909/10). In all, Fane notched up 18,548 runs at an average of 27.39, including 25 centuries and 179 catches. In his 14 test appearances, there were 682 runs, average 26.23, and 6 catches.

Robert Montague Poore's career reads something similar to a comic book adventure. He was a self-taught cricketer. His huge frame width ensured a drive which is regarded as among the most powerful ever known. Born at Carysfort in 1866, his army career took him initially to India. There he was befriended by Lord Harris, then Governor of Bombay. From India, Poore was sent to South Africa. Playing for Natal, he proved such a talent that he was selected for the South Africans against the visiting English tourists in the 1895/6 series. He so impressed Lord Hawke that Poore's arrival in England in 1888 was eagerly anticipated. The following year, he hit 1,399 runs for Hampshire between June 12 and August 12th. This broke the previous best average for a season, and indeed his 91.23 would survive until 1931. Against Somerset, there was a triple century; with Captain Wynyard, Poore established an English record for the sixth wicket of 411.

Unfortunately, Poore played rather badly in the two Gentlemen v Players matches in August. Had he fared better, he could well have been chosen to play against the Australians. Army commitments recalled him to South Africa later that month. He did play for Hampshire until 1906. He hit 3,441 runs in his career at an average of 38.66, with 11 centuries. His three Test appearances yielded 76 runs at an average of 12.66.

Thomas Patrick Horan had the distinction of playing in the first ever Test match. Six years later he would play at the Oval, the game which would subsequently be the cause of the Ashes memorandum. Born in Middleton in 1854, Horan was for more than a decade the crack batsman in Victoria. His defence was strong and he excelled against fast bowling, he was also a round arm, medium pace change bowler. Horan toured England twice; in the 1882 series he was second to W.L. Murtagh in the batting figures, with 1,997 runs at an average of 25.0. In the first Test at Melbourne in 1881, he made 124, adding 124 for the fifth

wicket with George Giffen, the first century stand against Australia. A good judge of the game and an excellent journalist, he wrote for many years on the game in the 'Australian' under the pseudonym 'Felix'.

Horan made 4,027 runs in his career, average of 23.27, with 8 centuries, in addition to 35 wickets. In Tests, there were 471 runs, average 18.84, with 11 wickets at an average of 13. His best bowling figures came from a Test innings - 6/40.

Thomas Joseph Dart Kelly, from Waterford, learned his cricket with the Graces near Bristol. In all, there were 16 appearances for Victoria. In the second Test of the 1876/77 series, Kelly made eight successive scoring shots for four, which endeared him to the partisan crowd. He later won more fame as being the first Australian player to wear the distinctive green blazer. His first class career was from 1863 till 1882, with 543 runs at an average of 20.11: there were two Test appearances with 64 runs, average of 21.33, and the one catch.

Thomas Ormsby Jameson was born in Clonsilla in 1892. A right-handed batsman, leg break and googly bowler, he proved to be an exceptional slip fielder. Between 1919 and 1932, Jameson played 53 times for Hampshire, as

well as playing for Ireland from 1926 to 1928. He travelled frequently overseas with MCC combinations - to South Africa (1824/5), the West Indies (1925/6), to South Africa (1926/7) and to India (1937/8).

Edward Orwell Sheridan was a right-handed batsman who



Tom Horan

played for New South Wales. He was selected to travel with the first party of Australians to tour England in 1878/9, but declined to go on personal grounds. Playing all his first class matches with New South Wales, he subsequently fostered the game in Queensland, when he coached there.

George Warrington Gaukrodger was born in Belfast in

1877. A middle/lower order right-handed batsman, he was also a very competent wicket-keeper. He played 114 times for his county, Worcester, between 1900 and 1910. With a top score of 91, he caught 169 players and stumped a further 62.

Clement Lecky Johnson was a well-known cricketer in Ireland towards the end of the last century. Born in County Kildare in 1871, he was a good right-handed batsman and fast bowler. He played for Dublin University for five years and toured America with the gentlemen of Ireland. Ill health forced him to emigrate to South Africa. In 1894 he was on the South African team that toured England and Ireland. He hit 508 runs and took 50 wickets; there was a 79 against the Gentlemen of Ireland! His sole Test was the second at Johannesburg against England in 1896, a Test which fellow-born Irishmen R.M Poore and T.P O'Brien also played in. His first class cricket was with the Transvaal; but ill-health dogged him and he died

at the youthful age of 37 at Maraisburg, Transvaal.

Arthur George Paul was a Belfastman, born in 1864. A right-handed batsman and slow bowler, he kept wicket on occasion. He played 95 times for Lancashire between 1889 and 1890. After retiring from the first class game due to ill health, he coached cricket at Old Trafford. He also toured Australia with the English rugby team in 1888, and played for Blackburn Rovers in the goalkeeping position. A true all rounder!

Robert St Leger Fowler, like Robert Motague Poore, had his cricket career disrupted by his military commitments. Born in Enfield, County Meath, in 1891, he proved to be a reliable middle/lower order right-handed batsman, and off break bowler. At the Eton/Harrow match of 1910, "Fowler's match", he gained fame by initially saving Eton from an innings defeat with a 64, and subsequently won the game by taking 8 wickets when Harrow needed just 55 to win. He played only

a handful of times with Hampshire in the mid twenties. He was appointed captain of the MCC team to tour the West Indies in 1924/5, but the tour was postponed for a year. Fowler died in June 1925 and so never took up that appointment.

Leland Home was a Dubliner, born in 1853. A middle order right-handed batsman, he also kept wicket. He toured Australia under Lord Harris in 1878/9. With the latter neglecting to bring a recognised wicket-keeper, Hone was pressed into service for the sole Test of that tour.

Arthur Maitland Byng was another cricketer whose army career took precedence over a cricketing one. He was regarded as among the finest batsman in the decade preceding the First World War. He played but a handful of games with Hampshire, but rather unusually also represented Jamaica in 1896/7. He was killed at Vailly, France, in September 1914.

Colm Hinneburg-Murphy

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CRICKET MERCENARIES

Overseas Players in English
Cricket by David Lemmon
(published by Pavilion Books
Ltd, London)
£10.95 stg hardback.

The growing influence of overseas players in English cricket is one of the game's most controversial issues. David Lemmon in this the first detailed study of the whole question of "cricket mercenaries" from overseas shows that it is by no means a new phenomenon. As early as 1907, a past president of MCC - C.E Green, warned that the resort to importation by league and county teams was "a threat to the very fabric of the game". On the other hand, Plum Warner welcomed the benefits the engagement of foreign players could bring. "We are a great Empire" he said, and argued a man's birthplace is "an accident". Accident or not, the nationality of foreign cricketers has been and remains the root cause of the rumpus.

David Lemmon in this authoritative and at times amusing commentary, traces the development of the "mercenary" phenomenon down through the history of the game in England, and examines the careers of the individuals from overseas who have influenced it. The impact of players like W.E Midwinter - who caused controversy in the 1870s, when he played for Australia (the nation of his residence) against England (the nation of his birth) and then later against Australia for England. Others like the great E.A McDonald who joined Lancashire in the 1920s, as well as the superstars of the modern game, are all discussed. The author weighs up the "pros and cons" of their role in English cricket and shows how they have transformed it. He argues that many have added "spice and entertainment", particularly to one day cricket.

The talents of players like Clive Lloyd, Imran Khan, Richard Hadlee and Gordon Greenidge, have often changed the fortunes of their teams for the better, drawing crowds in their droves to watch exciting cricket. Lemmon remains "eternally grateful" to have witnessed the dynamism of McEwan, Procter, Rice and Lamb, although he has never visited their country, and he stresses that this would never have been possible had it not been for the relaxation of the rules concerning overseas players in the 1960s. He gives special attention to Barry Richards (probably the greatest batsman since Bradman), who after only one Test series for his country found South Africa "excommunicated" from international cricket.

To Whom It May Concern

By Michael Dalton

*So once again I take my pen
to set before you gentlemen
a thought or two
for those of you
who sit upon the L.C.U
and just can't wait to legislate
or is it now to registrate
re players whom some estimate
should not be playing in this state
(or province) that you regulate.*

*Among your numbers there are those
who can't abide the thought of pros
and get into a fearful state
that other clubs might contemplate
to try and raise their cricket standard
in exchange for money tendered
You feel they're seeking cheap advantage*

*from your narrow point of vantage
where such protests so hollow ring
if indeed the game's the thing.*

*The pros are banned
Some say unjust
Some take a stand
that it's a must*

*but there were those who surely pandered
to what some might call a double-
standard*

*by using those from overseas
as good as pros, who disagrees?
while constantly rejecting pros
with mental strain, sustain that pose.*

*Having given in to those
who fulminate against the pros
and now the group that disagrees
to players here from overseas?
Will now Alf no more be seen*

*or the likes of Van Vureen?
Sampath's kindly visitation
banished like his occupation?
if "no visitors" is our mode
no Wonder from Down Under down
in Claremont Road.*

*So now you are to legislate
or is it now to registrate
and why? I ask, 'tis surely wicked
preventing people playing cricket
defining ordinarily resident
think first! Be hesitant!
before you try to draft an order
legislating for the border
excluding players from the North
is making history of a sort.*

*The one directive you should pass
relates to those out of their class
like Hadlee opening with John Wills
or Botham guesting for The Hills
All this needs is strict control
an encouraging advising role
from you, not harsher regulations
adding further complications
with narrow minds not duly pandered
perhaps we can raise our standard.*

*You won't have heard the last of those
who want to reinstate the pros
Why should it really matter though
if a man be ranked a pro
or expertise from overseas
So long as he is one of these
who does the job, performs the task
better cricket is what we ask
So when your regulations pass
make sure at least this law's no ass.*

LOST AND FOUND - THE ART OF THE LEGGIE

Gerard Siggins talks to
Conor Hoey

The marvellous entertainment provided by Abdul Qadir over the last few years has brought the art of the leg-spinner back into the centre stage of world cricket. Qadir, by winning several Tests and one-day internationals for Pakistan, has shown how attacking spin-bowling can assume a vital role in a balanced side, even encouraging Australians to experiment with the likes of Bob Holland and Peter Sleep. The sheer novelty of the legbreak has caused problems for Test batsmen totally unused to dealing with the problem: while several Senior cricketers in Dublin have also been struggling with this mysterious art.

The bowler causing so much grief in Conor Hoey of CYM, South Leinster, Irish Universities and captain of both the Leinster and under-19 sides this summer. Conor first began bowling from the back of the hand at under-13 level, when he realised his medium pace was getting nowhere. He experimented with the style and discovered he was having a fair amount of success. As he progressed up the ranks in CYM, he received plenty of encouragement from the captains he played under, and is grateful for the coaching he received from Vinnie Savino and Noel Mahony. The utilisation of a leggie by a captain is a very skilled art, and Conor is full of praise for Ginger O'Brien, who threw him the ball for South Leinster when he was able to bowl at junctures where he would be most effective.

He came into the South Leinster side for the first time last season, joining brother John for four games, wherein he took 9 wickets. His representative season went beyond that side however, and he was asked to captain the U-19 sides of Ireland (in the Belfast Youths tournament) and Leinster (in Oxford). The Irish side were very unlucky in



the event, losing on a bowl-out to Bermuda and missing the final by a whisker. "They were a great side to captain - the Northerners and Southerners gelled very well. The two introductory games (v Kevin O'Riordan's XI at Rathmines and Michael Rea's XI at Ormeau) were very useful, and helped the team to get to know each other".

He is critical, however, of some aspects of the Irish U-19 set up. "I think the Captain should be given an input on selection: it is very difficult for a captain to lead a side when there are players on the sidelines he would prefer to have on the field. I was just presented with eleven names as we went out to field". The Leinster U-19 side were not quite as successful as the Irish team, losing four of their five games in the Oxford tournament, but Conor is in no doubt as to the value of their par-

ticipation in the event: "It is an excellent competition, but I think we need to make a few changes for next year in our preparation. We should try and have a few practice games early in the season, with a squad assembled at the start of the season. The captain should be selected first and he should have an input on the make up of the team. I was in on selection in Oxford with Robin (Waters) and Michael (Marsh)". He is also a bit critical of some of his players lack of fitness - "We played for five days on the trot and some of the boys were not up to it physically. While I think it is fair to pick players of any age - if they're good enough, they're old enough - it is unfair to pick players who are too raw for that level of cricket".

After a year at UCD, Conor makes the trip into town these days, having transferred into 2nd year ESS at Trinity. He is exceptionally keen to

Conor Hoey Interview (contd)

play in Michael Rea's team of talents, and is confident as to the side's chances of success. "If we don't win something we should be shot!". His participation in College Park cricket means he will have to forego playing in the Belvedere Bond with CY, his only club to date.

"If we (Trinity) don't win something, we should be shot!"

"CYM will have to go through a tough 2 or 3 years before the side comes together again and has a bit of experience. We will be a phenomenal side then though". He is fulsome in his praise of John McClean, CYM's surprise choice as skipper last year, but an undeniably successful one. "John was marvellous, a super captain, and he worked very hard to get the club going again after a couple of very bad years". McClean did much to bring on even more good youngsters, and Conor pinpoints three especial talents in CY's junior sides:

"Mark Raftery-Skehan is a marvellous batsman, goes in No. 3. Colm Morgan (brother of Ian and Ken) is an excellent wicketkeeper, and a very good opening bat, while Mark Whitney has the talent to be absolutely brilliant if he gets his act together. He could go very far". Whitney is also a leg-spinner and Conor speaks enviously of his ability to bowl the googly, an art that has thus far evaded Conor.

His only cavil about CY is the ground, of which he is critical. "We need a completely new ground - Terenure just isn't suitable. While the rugby and soccer are played during the winter, the outfield will al-

ways be poor". He doesn't believe Marley Park to be the solution. "There aren't enough people willing to put the work in there - the drainage is a problem and we would have to totally build a pavilion from nothing. It is not the most accessible place, and I don't see the commitment to it from the club".



Colm Morgan

"We need a completely new ground - Terenure just isn't suitable".

The famous 'mat' is also a cause of concern. "It definitely does nothing for your batting. A lot of people in the club don't seem to re-

alise that we hadn't won a match on grass for over two years until August this year. It is a problem but some people don't seem to recognise it as such". His own future with the club may depend on the wicket, as he admits freely. "The only way to be successful at this type of bowling is by bowling on grass wickets". His three years at Trinity removes the need for him to make a difficult decision, but he knows he will have to address it again in 1990 if he wishes to attain further honours. "I'd much prefer to come back to CY on grass wickets, and I hope that will be the case".

His performance for the Irish Universities side against the Irish U-23s in July attracted the attention of the Irish selectors. His spell after tea on the first evening removed Alan Waite, Alan Lewis and Dekker Curry in returning figures of 12-5-16-3, and prompted Sean Pender to speculate as to Conor's proximity to the full Irish side. Conor is naturally enough flattered by the attention and extremely keen to play for his country. Some commentators reckon his batting to be a hindering factor, but he can point to senior fifties. He is undoubtedly the best young spinner in the country, and a bit more polishing of his talents will propel him rapidly into the international orbit.

It is a long time since a leggie played for Ireland: Godfrey Graham in the late 50s, and the late Archie McQuilken in 1962 were the last. Even Dublin cricket has been devoid of the ilk: Michael Moriarty and Joe Byrne senior at the top level, and CYM's Michael Dalton being among the very few recent practitioners. Conor's breakthrough to the national side will bring a splendidly attacking option to our bowling, and one hopes that day is sooner rather than later.

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Dear Gerry,

I hope this letter finds you well and all at ICM in top form. Keith Lewis wrote to me last week and enclosed the latest issue, which I enjoyed tremendously. I particularly enjoy your progressive tallies of wicket-takers, averages, century scorers and competition tables. They provide so much information on why teams are performing as they are. I am of course delighted to see YMM are continuing in great style, and I am thrilled that they have done a double in Leinster Senior Cup finals. Without any doubt at all, last year's final was the highlight of my cricket life, not just because we won it, but because Alan Lewis spoke so inspiringly of it in Sydney and of his ambitions for our side to win it, that it was like reaching the golden fleece when we did win it. We learnt a lot about playing the game of cricket that season and Alan and Ian "Tiger" Burns have done marvellously to carry on with it. I do miss all the blokes and our supporters at YMM very badly. They were great friends as well as team-mates.

I can remember being in Wanderers holding the base of the cup like I was going to nick it. Lewie gave it to me at the presentation and I didn't let it go until about 4 o'clock the next morning! What a magnificent and overwhelming day (and night!).

I was very greatly honoured to win the O'Grady Cup and to be included in your team of 1986. Wouldn't it be great to actually get that side onto the field to play a game! You know where to send the cheque for the airline ticket should you decide to do it! Your request for a contribution for your magazine was not forgotten. I began one as soon as I arrived home, but it just had no end - it was becoming a novel. There were so many funny and exciting and challenging things to recall, I didn't know where to stop, and by then my own season had started and was taking up so much time. I'd think of something and it reminded me of ten others all at once, and although I shouldn't, if I had to pick just one thing I saw on the field that I've not been able to forget, it was the eighty Deryck Vincent scored against us in the Wiggins Teape semi-final. It was a sparkling piece of batting -

clearly hit and so beautifully timed. The way he moved his front foot so far down the pitch to make a driving length was superb to watch. The image of him off-driving that day is still as bright today. I hope he comes to Australia one season. And I suppose another was John Prior's innings at Phoenix Park for North Ber when he clobbered 66 in a twinkling of an eye, and his 108 against Phoenix in the Wiggins Teape (and Belvo lost!).

And I could talk of Alf Masood, MF Cohen, the courage of Stephen Warke and Dixie Dennison, Jacko, talking to Simon Corlett and coming away better for the chat every time and in every way a better bowler, Jonathan Garth and his back-foot straight drive, Archie Noone and those hypnotic things he bowls (he didn't even change facial expression parking the cars at Railway Union on Cup day - does it ever change?), Ernie Jones' appeals, the Hills team where they all look so alike you'd swear the next bloke coming in was the last one out, both Pigots, the whole Phoenix side, watching Gordon Black bursting as Eamon Masterson and Keith Bailey set about getting the runs in the Cup final, trying to guess who captains Carlisle - it's probably the quietest bloke.

Neither Mark Waugh nor I will ever forget the party at Railway Union when the 4 women's teams were there, and one particularly generous Danish lady interested in closer scrutiny of Mark's abilities! Of course that was the day he scored 239 no and followed it with 101 on the second day. He is awe-inspiring when he plays like that. You see! It's just impossible to stop - already I've thought of a hundred other things and events and the wonderful characters who play in Dublin - Angus Dunlop's arm, John McGrath's determination, Michael Rea's accent (and batting at Strabane). It's endless. One story I love to tell, and is typical of the entertaining, well-informed banker that typifies the people who play cricket in Dublin was one I overheard between Michael Halliday and John Prior at Clontarf during the Alan Murray Cup semi-final between Phoenix and Clontarf. There had been a TV programme during the week on the music of the 1960s, spotlighting 1967. Michael Halliday queried "Wasn't that the year Gagarin was killed?" To which JP replied, "Where was he? Short leg?"

Well cheers for now then Gerry. I hope my piece is suitable for you and Icm.

Good luck,

Tim Sullivan

LIMERICK 1987

A report by Frank Lynch

Limerick played twelve senior matches in 1987, winning eight, drawing one and losing three. They also lost to Sion Mills in a bowl out in the Schwepes All-Ireland Cup.

Limerick's hopes of retaining the Munster Senior Cup came unstuck, when they were beaten by Cork County "A", who went on to win the trophy. Cork County batted first, making 170/7 in their 50 overs. Limerick seemed to have bowled themselves into a strong position when the fifth wicket fell in the thirtieth over with the score at 68, but forceful batting from Leo Durity (35), Chris Jermyn (28) and Brian O'Donnell (34 no) saw the home team add 102 in the last 20 overs. Kevin O'Herlihy was Limerick's most successful bowler, finishing with 4 wickets for 27 runs off his 10 overs, having at one stage taken 4 for 3.

O'Herlihy and Declan O'Brien put on 40 for Limerick's first wicket before O'Brien was given out to a controversial catch. Limerick collapsed dramatically after this, with only O'Herlihy (41) and Ken O'Brien (28) offering any serious resistance as Limerick slumped to 124 all out.

The batting performance in that match was to be typical of most of Limerick's batting throughout the season. Although they won seven out of ten Munster Senior League matches, they made very hard work out of several of these. They only twice topped 150 in the season, batting first on each occasion. The first of these matches, against Cork County "B", produced a number of club records. Declan O'Brien and Hugh Elliot share a partnership of 191 to comfortably beat the

previous highest stand for the club - O'Brien also set a new record for the highest individual score, making 135, to pip the previous best of 133 n.o by his partner of the day, Hugh Elliot! He also became the first Limerick player to score a century of boundaries, hitting 11 sixes and 9 fours. Impressive though the O'Brien/Elliot partnership may have been, it could not match the sixth wicket stand between John McDevitt and Jeff Edwards against Waterford. They came together in the thirteenth over, when Limerick were 21 for 5, and were separated 29 overs later having added 131. McDevitt (80) and Edwards (52) both made personal best scores for Limerick in Senior competition in that match.

Limerick failed to win three of their league matches. In each case, they unsuccessfully chased a modest total. They drew with Cork County "A", finishing at 119 for 8, 7 runs short of victory. Their worst batting performances were against Harlequins and Waterford. Harlequins were all out for 94 and then dismissed Limerick for a miserly 53. Waterford scored 110 and Limerick, having reached 53 for 1, lost their remaining nine wickets for only 29 more runs! Waterford's Dave Kirby at one stage took 6 wickets for 2 runs in 2.1 overs to tear the heart out of Limerick's batting, finally finishing with 9 for 39 off 19 overs.

If Limerick's batting was a major disappointment, their bowlers can hold their heads high. John McDevitt

took 42 wickets at an average of 9.52, and Ken O'Brien took 30 at an average of 10.9. McDevitt took 7 wickets in an innings four times, and 5 wickets once. His best return was against Cork County "A", when he took 7 for 16. O'Brien's best bowling was against Waterford, when he took 6 for 29, while he took 5 wickets in two other matches.

Limerick ended the season on a successful note, regaining the Guinness Cup by beating Galway by 53 runs. Limerick made 128 for 6 with Jeff Edwards (34) and Declan O'Brien (24) being top scorers. Ken O'Brien with 5 for 31 and John McDevitt, 4

for 38, mopped up the Galway wickets.

Limerick were in strong contention for the Munster Junior League until they lost to Bohemians late in the season. Highlights at this level included some fine batting by Chris McGinnis, who made 73 against Harlequins, Neville Wilkinson, 52 n.o also against Harlequins, and Jeff Edwards' 51 against Galway, and 39 against Church of Ireland. Ronnie Lawlor and Chris McGinnis were the best bowlers, with the latter taking 6 for 108 against Harlequins, while Lawlor twice took four wickets, as well as taking 7 for 24 in a junior friendly match with Galway.

PROFESSIONAL ROLL-CALL

Professionals up North for the 1988 season

North Section 1 (Senior)

North Down: Raman Lamba - back for his fourth year, now a fully-fledged test player for India.

Downpatrick: Kamal Merchant - the all-rounder's fifth year at Downpatrick, Merchant is back after a one year absence while Ramesh Rafriyake played at Stragford Road.

Lurgan: Subash Kshirasagar: 2nd season for Indian all-rounder. Akram Raza: 2nd season for Pakistan off-spinner who played in a one-day international over the winter.

Lisburn: Vadam Harihan: Indian seamer, 1st season.

Section 2,3 & 4 (Junior)

Donal: Anil Walhekar - 24 years of age, slow left-arm. First season as pro.

Armagh: Yashpal Sharma - Several Indian caps as a middle order batsman, his first season in Ireland. Sharma holds test record with six catches in an innings v England.

Ards: Javed Mohammed - Pakistan opening bat who has made lots of runs in the last three years.

Instonians: Bob Blair - former NZ test bowler, now aged 52.

Cliftonville: John Solanky - ex-Glamorgan, Lisburn and Clontarf. Still a good all-rounder.

Carrickfergus: Snehal Parrikh - fourth year at Carrick, after a year with Armagh.

Derriaghy: Miland Gunjal - pro in Coleraine last year, displaced by "Alf". Indian all-rounder.

Coleraine: Alf Masood: 36 Irish caps - 1800 runs. Smashed all Dublin records, but forced North by archaic LCU regulations forbidding paid cricketers.

Sion Mills: Bobby Rao - his return was a major shock. Twice capped as a leg-spinner by India, Rao played eight summers with Strabane up to 1986.

Strabane: Jerry Kiston - Barbadian who dominated 1987 cup final. 2nd year at Strabane.

North Fermanagh: Andrew Glasgow - first season in Ireland, a West Indian bowler who bats.

Eglinton: Henderson Wallace: Very quick Bajan bowler. 3rd year in North West cricket with Eglinton.

Donaghadee: Andrew Wilson - New Zealander, 33 years of age, first visit.

Burndennett: Steve Liston - first cricketing appointment in Ireland for 22-year-old Barbadian.

A Funny Game?

Michael Dalton takes his Singles and hits the Bad Ball for Four: the Strange World of Cricketing Cliches

Myles Na Gopaleen, once of the Irish Times, was wont to wax wordily and wittily on the use of the cliché or hackneyed phrase in the spoken and written word, making much play of its usage by public figures in particular. One rich vein of cliché, unmined by the said Myles, lies in the realms of the cricket chat and comment so often liberally littered with copious clagues of clichés, many of them coined, as Myles would have put it, at a time when it was neither profitable nor popular. A closer examination of this particular genre is, or should be, much in demand, so here goes.

The first category of cricket's clichés is the least recognisable, absorbed as it is in normal sensible language and conversation. These are the phrases of cricketing extraction which have infiltrated day-to-day talk and writings on subjects far removed from cricket. A concentrated example; a man who expires at 93 might well be said to have had "a good innings" and if, in his career in commerce say, he was sometimes caught "on a sticky wicket" he was rarely, if ever, "stumped" being adept at "playing a straight bat" or indeed "keeping his end up", having at times confounded his rivals and fairly "hit them for six". All of this, and the old codger might have had difficulty in distinguishing between a cricket bat and a shillelagh which, as everyone knows, is the American word for a blackthorn stick.

Category two on our programme is for those who aspire to sounding knowledgeable and informed in cricketing company. This consists of those glib phrases which us homely cricketing folk intersperse our comment and conversation with, as we attempt to sound wise and informed in the face of a game whose attraction so often lies in its inexplicable fluctuations of fortune. Much of what pass for truisms in this category refer to the gentle art of fielding, with the following being a small sample of the veritable plethora that abounds: (1) *Never run to a mis-field*, (2) *There's no single to cover*, (3) *There's always a single to Danny Parkinson*, (4) *Every ball is your ball*, (5) *It's the bad ball that gets the*

wickets, (6) *Never play back to Gerry Kirwan*, and (7) the classic, "Hold your catches, win your matches", which sounds like a slogan for a Maguire and Patterson sponsored angling competition.

The third category should really be entitled "Master Class" as it encompasses the super-cliches or axioms of the genre. To my mind, these number three and a most unholy Trinity. Detailed examples of useage are provided in order that, for the serious student, a fuller appreciation of the subject may be gleaned. As a health warning, students should bear in mind that usage of the phrases exemplified below to Junior League cricketers of a certain vintage could lead to the user being grasped warmly by the throat. On then to the examples.

The time, 3.30. The place, Milverton. The toss, lost. The weather, murky but holding. The Hills, 123-1. The opposing captain, you. In addition; your opening bowler is at a pop concert in Slane. His deputy, you suspect, has been bowling with the wrong arm. His partner, with runs conceded comfortably exceeding balls bowled, has retired sulkily to the outfield with

symptoms sounding suspiciously like a torn fetlock. Your wicket-keeper's contribution would better be described as passive rather than active. At one end, your stock bowler is now bowling with this knees in the block-hole, while at the other, your wheeled up off-breaks (which refuse to turn on the magic carpet) have been hit for a mere 15 runs off two overs. The field is ablaze with apathy, with an aged alickadoo alternating his time as an immobile fine-leg cum mid-on with loudly criticising the wicket-keeper from one spot and slyly altering your precision placed field from the other. In the knowledge that the batting could be described as ropey (your personal estimate is that the tail starts at no. 4) the long term forecast is bleak.

Hitching up your flannels in what you deem a professional manner, you microscopically re-arrange your field. Glancing about you, with a strangled prayer to the Deity, your steel yourself to the alien crutch yet again as you saunter back to what is laughably described as your run-up. Your vice-captain hovers into view. Some piece of tactical brilliance, an inspired bowling change perhaps? You look at



"Never play back to Gerry Duffy", or was it "There's always a single to Michael Dalton"?

A Funny Game? (contd)

him with an expression reflecting despair. The wretch winks at you. "Cheer up Skip. It's a funny game y'know". Truly the stuff of which homicides are made.

The second of these super cliches, on the other hand, deserves more serious consideration, it being proof that cricket is really a funny game. I refer to the by now infamous "it's not cricket", surely the most celebrated of all cricket's cliches, and one which first appeared in print as far back as 1851. Perhaps its premise would be rather nice, viz. to believe in cricket as a sainted game in which nothing mean is done by players, spectators or enthusiasts with all cricketers being decent chaps, admirable fellows etc. It is not hard to see either how the latter-day Victorians might grasp such a concept to its collective heart, but in the cold light of logic, it must be seen as pure nonsense. Cricket is, after all, played by people with all their follies and their foibles, and in consequence never could be the type of immaculate game some have liked to pretend. Its history in fact is filled with examples of less than perfect behaviour ranging from the sly to the shoddy, its so-called morality applied with the hard edge of a double standard depending on the establishment view at all times; all the more obvious prior to the abolition of the distinction between amateurs and professionals in 1963. For example:

(1) It's not cricket to indulge in intimidatory bowling, yet Sir Pelham Warner, who for half a century wrote lovingly on "the spirit of cricket" was joint manager of Jardine's infamous "Bodyline" tour.

(2) It's not cricket to exclude a player on the grounds of colour, yet the England selectors cravenly surrendered to South African pressure to drop the Indian Prince Duleepsinji from the 1929 Test side. The handling of the Basil d'Oliveira affair forty years later suggests that little had changed.

(3) It's not cricket to throw, i.e. to bowl illegally, yet the English establishment turned a diplomatic eye away from the South African Cuan McCarthy, and a convenient eye away from the success of Tony Lock. A trashing of Benaud's Australians, a side which included three "doubtful" actions, and the threat of throwing becoming acceptable all over Australia finally made them see sense.

(4) Finally, before shifting to calmer matters, let us briefly cast a jaundiced eye at the marvellous mercenary machinations of the truly amazing Grace (Dr. W.G.). Now in addition to his proficiency at all forms of gamesmanship, for which he was legendary, Grace managed to accumulate from playing cricket a sum roughly equal to modern values of a million pounds. This included a staggering sum made to him as a personal payment for tak-

ing a side to Australia in 1873 of £1800 plus expenses.

His unique playing ability and his consequent position in the world of cricket meant that the establishment of the day not only tolerated his gamesmanship, but saw no dichotomy in his playing as, and with the privileges of, and amateur. Like Kevin O'Riordan, they perhaps had no difficulty in defining a professional.

Putting away the soap-box, let us move on to illustrate a final super-cliche. The grade, Intermediate. The year, 1972. The venue, Terenure. The participants, Tom McGrane of Knockbrack (sans Ring Commons), a certain Joe Codyre of CYM, and your humble scribe. Joe Codyre was then, and is now, as slim as a whippet. A dogged defensive bat, a quickish Intermediate bowler of movement and accuracy, Joe was an awesomely quick and opportunistic fielder capable of patrolling, panther-like, either side of the wicket, and a practitioner to boot of the now so common 'slide', long before it was featured in First-Class cricket. All of which makes Joe not only a splendid cricketer but also the complete cricketing and physical opposite of the writer, a point to bear in mind.

1972 then, and the said Mr. Codyre bowling fast medium to great effect (5/11) aided by some high tossed homespun leg-breaks from a certain M. Dalton (4/27), reducing Knockbrack (T. McGrane b. Dalton 0) to 57 all out, in reply to CYM's paltry 88. The scene shifts to the office of the late Rory Yates-Hale. It is late 1972 and a fixture meeting is about to commence. Enter T. McGrane and self, instant recognition. "Hello, Joe", says Tommy, "we want an early fixture against CYM this year". "Right, Tom", I say, ignoring the Joe bit. "Aye", says Tom, "you fairly trashed us up above and Gawd Joe, you bowled well". Allowing a smile of the 'Aw shucks' variety to creep across my face, I thank him with due modesty (of course). "Yes", says Tom, glaring slightly, "you and that other bugger who throws the ball up in t'air; he should be hit out of the ground every ball".

Well, what could you say? It certainly wasn't cricket to reply. Perhaps it does prove it's a funny game, but it's certainly, wait for it, a great leveller. There's no doubt about that.

Michael Dalton

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MAJESTIC MAHONY

Andrew Deacon talks to Noel Mahony

As their playing careers end, many sportsmen make vague promises about "putting something back into the game". One man who has made an enormous contribution in "retirement" is Noel Mahony, Ireland's leading cricket coach for many years.

Noel is currently advising a bewildering variety of teams - Trinity, Merrion, Phoenix ladies, Ireland ladies, to name but a few. He intends to retire from coaching after accompanying the Ladies to Australia for the World Cup, and he spared a couple of hours from his busy schedule to talk to ICM about his career and share some of his views on the game.

How does he rate the girls' chances down under? "The Australians are by far the best team in the world. I would rate us fifth or sixth of the competing teams, and we would be very pleased to come in the first four and improve that rating".

There are no worries about team spirit in the Irish camp, the fielding is equal to the task, and Noel mentions Mary Pat Moore and Susan Bray as "among the best ladies' bowlers in the world", and possible aces in the Irish pack. He looks forward to re-visiting Australia - "a city like Perth has everything: great climate, great cricket, great horse racing". (Noel is as good a judge of a horse as of a cricketer, and is rumoured not to have missed a day's betting on Irish racing for 40 years).

The attention to detail, which is so important to good coaching, is one of Noel's constant themes. He looks forward to continued improvements in Trinity's fortunes, with the arrival of Peter O'Reilly and Conor Hoey. With John McGrath and Lennie Sheehan, they should comprise a well-balanced attack this season.

How have standards improved in Irish cricket as a whole? "There have been improvements, but it would be wrong to think that we have many players of county standard". This is a familiar theme - the vast difference in standard between our best players and the professionals who turn out six or seven days a week. "In my memory Ireland has only had five players who could have had careers at county level - Boucher and Ingram in the thirties, Alec O'Riordan, Dermot Monteith and Alf Masood. Others might have lasted a season, but only those five had the technique to play many years at that level".

He feels nostalgic for the days when Dublin's big club matches were the

highlights of the season. In his Clontarf days, a clash against Stanley Bergin's Pembroke or Simon Curley's Merrion was as competitive and committed a form of cricket as he could wish to see. One senses that he feels little sympathy for some modern players who seem to feel that Senior club matches are in some way beneath their dignity. "That's also why I'm against professionals. Players were brought in who were well above Dublin standards and made very little contribution as coaches. They gave their clubs an unfair advantage and some of them did nothing to bring on young players".

What about the international arena? Who were the really great players he

has seen over the years? "The best quick bowlers were Lindwall and Trueman, and more recently Lilee and Holding". Among spinners, he names Tony Lock as the best left armer and Abdul Quadir as the finest leg-spinner.

He sees improvements in fielding as the greatest advance in technique, something which is a result of changed attitudes to run saving: "Joe Caprani, for instance, was a brilliant fielder, but he seldom dived to stop the ball. He reckoned that any ball within his reach could be fielded standing up. Noel cites the standard of throwing at the wickets during the recent World Cup as evidence of the phenomenal improvement in fielding.

Coaching in Ireland has come a long way since Noel first tried to bring about a more organised approach twenty years ago. Progress, however, has not always been adequately funded: "My counterparts in Scotland, Wales and the English regions had salaries and free cars. I was always honorary Director of Coaching".

As a former schoolmaster, Noel has seen the sheer amount of underage cricket bring a certain distortion to the schools game: "We used to be worried if one of the opposition had played a senior club match. Now schools like High School should win the League every year, their boys play so much cricket during the summer. It's very hard on the boarding schools".

Few men in Ireland have such a broad knowledge of cricket as Noel Mahony. His perfectionism will be a major boost to our girls' efforts in the World Cup, and his abilities as a coach will be acknowledged by them and by every other cricketer lucky enough to have received his advice.



STATISTICS ROUND-UP

(Senior League up to June 22nd, other Leagues to June 19th)

SENIOR LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	PTS
RAILWAY	8	4	3	1	133
CARLISLE	6	4	0	2	98
D.U	9	2	2	5	96
PEMBROKE	6	3	2	1	90
PHOENIX	7	2	3	2	88
Y.M.C.A	4	2	2	0	67
OLD BELV.	5	2	1	3	65
MALAHIDE	5	2	2	1	64
LEINSTER	6	2	2	2	63
CLONTARF	4	2	0	2	55
THE HILLS	6	1	2	3	44
MERRION	4	1	0	3	28
C.Y.M	3	0	1	2	15



Eddie Dwyer - Pembroke's resurgence



Mark Cohen - 3 centuries so far



Mick Dwyer - out injured



Clontarf's Brian McNeice establishing himself in Senior Cricket

(photo: Robbie Jones)

STATISTICS ROUND-UP

SENIOR 2

	P	W	T	D	L	%
MERRION 2	5	4	0	0	1	82.0
RAILWAY UNION 2	7	5	0	1	1	78.6
CONTARF 2	3	2	0	0	1	68.9
NORTH COUNTY	3	1	0	2	0	65.6
PHOENIX 2	4	2	0	0	2	50.0
THE HILLS 2	7	2	0	3	2	41.1
BELVEDERE 2	6	2	0	2	2	41.1
RUSH	7	2	0	2	3	40.5
CYM 2	4	1	0	1	2	39.2
LEINSTER 2	6	1	0	3	2	37.2
CARLISLE 2	6	0	0	0	6	5.0

BATTING

	IN	NO	HS	RNS	AVE
T. DAGG (RU)	3	2	59*	127	127.00
J. DALY (CLON)	3	1	93	185	92.50
S. PARKINSON (MER)	4	1	143*	265	88.33
D. TIPPING (RU)	6	3	97*	188	62.66
B. GREHAN (RU)	4	2	53*	112	56.00
C. STERLING (RU)	3	0	71	161	53.66
K. DAVIES (CAR)	4	0	108	206	51.50
P. PRENDERGAST (CF)	4	1	79*	143	47.66
A. COURELL (HILLS)	3	0	75	138	46.00
D.R. PIGOT JNR (PX)	4	0	65	148	37.00
A. BYRNE (HILLS)	5	1	40*	136	34.00
D. MCKENNA (MR)	5	1	56*	132	33.00
A. NIXON (MER)	6	2	40	131	32.75
T. O'BRIEN (OB)	6	1	68	159	31.80

BOWLING

	WK	RNS	AVE
M. WHELAN (RU)	14	132	9.43
R. O'SULLIVAN (OB)	15	145	9.66
R. STANTON (MER)	18	188	10.44
M. DELANEY (CF)	13	158	12.15
B. HIGGINS (HILLS)	15	185	12.33
D. MCKENNA (MER)	14	176	12.57
A. NOONE (RU)	22	301	13.71
P. CARTHY (RUSH)	16	271	16.92

SENIOR 3

	P	W	T	D	L	%
BALBRIGGAN	7	5	0	2	0	77.1
YMCA 2	5	3	0	1	1	70.0
RAILWAY UNION 3	3	2	0	0	1	64.4
CONTARF 3	5	2	0	3	0	64.0
PEMBROKE 2	5	2	0	2	1	58.7
LEINSTER 3	5	2	0	0	3	44.7
MALAHIDE 2	3	1	0	1	1	40.0
OLD BELVEDERE 3	4	1	0	1	2	28.3
TRINITY 2	8	1	0	2	5	12.2
PHOENIX 3	5	0	0	0	5	7.3

BATTING

	IN	NO	HS	RNS	AVE
G. RALSTON (RU)	4	1	86*	194	64.66
V. KEELEY (RU)	3	1	83*	115	57.50
J. GILL (PEM)	4	1	108*	167	55.66
D. SPENCE (CF)	4	1	64	138	46.00
C. REILLY (BALB)	6	2	77*	174	43.50
R. MOULTON (PEM)	7	1	69	244	40.66
C. COLLERAN (LEIN)	4	0	47	115	28.75
D. VARIAN (DU)	5	0	43	101	20.20

BOWLING

	WK	RNS	AVE
E. MASTERTON (YM)	10	46	4.60
A. HARPER (BALB)	19	164	8.72
V. SAVINO (CF)	10	133	13.30
M. McLEMAN (LEIN)	16	224	14.00
P. HICKEY (BALB)	14	201	14.36
M. LITTLE (DU)	11	172	15.63
S. McCARTHY (PEM)	14	243	17.34

MIDDLE A

	P	W	T	D	L	%
NORTH KILDARE	6	5	0	1	0	88.3
NORTH COUNTY 2	8	5	0	0	3	72.5
CIVIL SERVICE	2	1	0	1	0	58.3
YMCA 3	3	1	0	1	1	50.0
MERRION 3	5	1	0	2	2	36.7
KBRC.	4	1	0	1	2	35.8
PEMBROKE 3	6	1	0	3	2	35.0
CONTARF 3	4	1	0	0	3	34.2
CYM 3	3	0	0	0	3	8.9
LEINSTER 4	3	0	0	0	3	5.6

BATTING

	IN	NO	HS	RNS	AVE
N. MARKS (CS)	3	2	72*	104	104.00
S. ENNIS (NK)	6	3	48*	178	59.33
T. GARRY (NCo)	4	1	62*	172	57.33
M. GALVIN (KBRC)	3	1	55	103	51.50
N. RUSSELL (CYM)	4	1	64*	124	41.33
G. SATCHWELL (NK)	6	2	51*	137	34.25
T. MOONEY (NCo)	8	2	64	177	29.50

BOWLING

	WK	RNS	AVE
J. KEOGH (NK)	21	120	5.71
T. MOONEY (NCo)	18	153	8.50
S. MOORE (KBRC)	13	120	9.24
P. BUTLER (PEM)	12	133	11.08
D. MURPHY (NCo)	18	214	11.89
D. CLARKE (MER)	10	128	12.80
J. STEVENSON (NK)	14	201	14.36



Dickie Spence (Clontarf)



R. Stanton (Merrion)

STATISTICS ROUND-UP

MIDDLE B

	P	W	T	D	L	%
HALVERSTOWN	5	5	0	0	0	96.0
CLONTARF 5	4	2	0	1	1	65.0
RUSH 2	6	3	0	1	2	60.6
KNOCKHARLEY	5	3	0	1	1	59.3
MALAHIDE 3	5	2	0	1	2	50.0
MERRION 4	4	1	0	0	3	34.2
MULLINGAR	2	0	0	1	1	33.3
PHOENIX 4	4	0	0	3	1	26.7
CARLISLE 3	5	0	0	0	5	8.7

INTER A

	P	W	T	D	L	%
PEMBROKE 4	5	4	0	1	0	81.3
NORTH COUNTY	5	3	0	0	2	64.0
MERRION 5	5	2	0	2	1	54.0
CYM 4	5	2	0	1	2	50.0
YMCA 4	5	2	0	0	3	48.7
CIVIL SERVICE 2	7	3	0	1	3	44.3
RAILWAY UNION 4	5	1	0	2	2	38.7
RUSH 3	6	2	0	0	4	32.9
OLD BELV. 4	3	1	0	0	2	32.2

INTER B

	P	W	T	D	L	%
NRTH KILDARE 2	4	3	0	1	0	81.7
BALBRIGGAN 2	3	2	0	0	1	71.1
KBRC 2	5	2	0	2	1	54.7
MALAHIDE 4	4	1	0	1	2	43.3
SANDYFORD	4	1	0	2	1	40.8
THE HILLS 3	3	0	0	1	2	27.8
PEMBROKE 5	3	0	0	1	2	15.6
YMCA 5	0	0	0	0	0	0.0

BATTING

	IN	NO	HS	RNS	AVE
T. RONALDSON (HLV)	4	3	58*	103	103.00
A. CAREN (RUSH)	6	2	54	168	42.00
M. FARRELL (KNHRY)	5	1	59*	149	37.25

BATTING

	IN	NO	HS	RNS	AVE
G. CHISHOLM (RU)	4	2	46*	133	66.50

BATTING

	IN	NO	HS	RNS	AVE
M. GALVIN (KBRC)	4	0	52	111	27.75

BOWLING

	WK	RNS	AVE
P. COLE (HLV)	24	126	5.25
P.J. CARROLL (KNHY)	14	100	7.14
D. GRAY (HALV)	21	174	8.28
W. GRAY (HALV)	11	133	11.09
T. O'NEILL (CF)	14	158	11.28
B. McGOVERN (KNHY)	11	215	19.54
J. CLARKE (KNHY)	11	272	24.72

BOWLING

	WK	RNS	AVE
K. MURPHY (NCo)	13	46	3.56
D. BRENNAN (CYM)	23	135	5.87
G. KELLY (CS)	13	119	9.16
P. COLLINS (CS)	13	120	9.24
M. McCANN (RUSH)	11	105	9.54

BOWLING

	WK	RNS	AVE
M. KEOGH SEN. (NI)	10	65	6.50
J. COLE (KBRC)	19	170	8.96
M. MOORE (HILLS)	14	153	10.93

JUNIOR A

	P	W	T	D	L	%
KNOCKHARLEY 2	3	3	0	0	0	100.0
AER LINGUS	3	2	0	0	1	66.7
CONTARF 6	3	2	0	0	1	66.7
LEINSTER 5	2	1	0	0	1	50.0
NORTH KILDARE 3	5	2	0	0	3	40.0
CYM 5	3	1	0	0	2	33.3
RAILWAY UNION 5	3	1	0	0	2	33.3
MERRION 6	4	1	0	0	3	25.0

BATTING

	IN	NO	HS	RNS	AVE
J. TEELING (CLON)	3	1	77*	158	79.00

BOWLING

	WK	RNS	AVE
S. HILL (AER)	9	23	2.55
I. HANNEY (RU)	10	56	5.60
J. CONNOLLY (AER)	17	105	6.18
P. MUSGRAVE (KNHY)	13	104	8.00
D. DREW (KNHY)	12	124	8.26
N. WILLIAMS (CF)	10	98	9.80

JUNIOR B

	P	W	T	D	L	%
BALBRIGGAN 3	8	7	0	0	1	87.5
THE HILLS 3	6	4	0	0	2	66.7
CIVIL SERVICE 3	3	2	0	0	1	66.7
PEMBROKE 6	5	3	0	0	2	60.0
SANDYFORD 2	8	4	0	0	4	50.0
NORTH COUNTY 4	6	3	0	0	3	50.0
GARDA	7	3	0	0	4	42.9
RUSH 4	7	3	0	0	4	42.9

BATTING

	IN	NO	HS	RNS	AVE
N. CARPENTER (HILLS)	2	0	70	119	59.50
A. BUTTERLY (RUSH)	4	0	52	102	25.50
P. KETTLE (RUSH)	7	0	32	122	17.42

BOWLING

	WK	RNS	AVE
P. POWER (BALB)	9	29	3.22
P. ROONEY (BALB)	13	75	5.77
T. BARKER (NCo)	11	67	6.09
S. CONCANNON (CS)	8	51	6.37
P. REDMOND (Std)	10	71	7.10
D. POWELL (NCo)	10	86	8.60
D. DEVLIN (GARDA)	12	107	8.92
P. MARTIN (NCo)	11	107	9.72
S. DELANHUNTY (GRD)	12	145	12.08
A. McCANN (RUSH)	13	161	12.38
A. VANDERLEE (Std)	11	143	13.00
B. NOONE (GARDA)	11	148	13.45

THE UMPIRE STRIKES BACK

HOW UMPIRES CAN HELP PLAYERS by Alan Tuffrey

It is not generally appreciated how much umpires can contribute to players' and spectators' enjoyment of the game. I offer these notes to inspire them to adopt a more creative approach to umpiring.

Don't answer appeals immediately. This is the moment when all eyes will be on you, so make the most of it. Always pause for at least ten seconds - this will convey the impression of deep thought and sagacity. Considerable amusement can be caused by raising the index finger to scratch your eyebrow or push the glasses on before saying "not out".

Don't be afraid to impose your authority by giving a batsman out quickly and then reversing the decision. This will demonstrate your humility and probity. Besides, it provides a little excitement for the batsman and gives the fielders something to talk about. Only experienced umpires who have attended a course in advanced resuscitation techniques should attempt this.



Alan Tuffrey

THE FLIGHT

Ireland's chronic emigration problem is taking its toll on the game of cricket, as one club after another loses established or up-and-coming players, forced to leave the country to pursue a career abroad.

Old Belvedere have already lost two Prior brothers - Hugh and Nick - to the London job market, and will say goodbye to John in November, as he heads to Australia.



Paul Nielsen, retired at 20

YMCA have been without opening bat Angus Dunlop - he as well is in Australia - though he is due back for the Wiggins Teape trophy in August.

Merrion have lost two young stars in Paul Meehan, gone to work in London, and Paul Nielsen, who decided to quit the game at the tender age of 20. They are also without the services of Ken MacDonald, who will probably not get much cricket practice in New York.

Pembroke, currently riding high in the League, have had to do without their promising bowlers Tim Bailey and Kevin Mockler. The list goes on, with many clubs telling the same story of school leavers, junior members of the club for several years, and who would have become first team players within a few years, emigrating in search of work. The Hills have lost five such members in the last couple of years, including three Byrne brothers.

Do take every opportunity to chat to the players. It will help to allay any excessive nervousness in the bowlers and the batsmen, and all the players will be grateful for your expert opinions on the state of the game and the skill of other players.

Don't be in too much of a hurry to cross over for left-handed and right-handed batsmen. Always wait until everyone is settled. The fielding captain will probably be grateful for the chance to make an adjustment on the field placing.

Don't be in a hurry to explain why you have called "no ball" from square leg. The players will enjoy working out whether it was for wicket keeper in front or three behind on the leg side. The bowler will have the added frisson of wondering whether you have called him for throwing, and it would be a pity to spoil that too soon.

Do in all other circumstances take every chance to explain your decisions. This will help to educate the players who are ignorant about the Laws and will impress them with your own deep knowledge of the Laws and acuity of judgement.

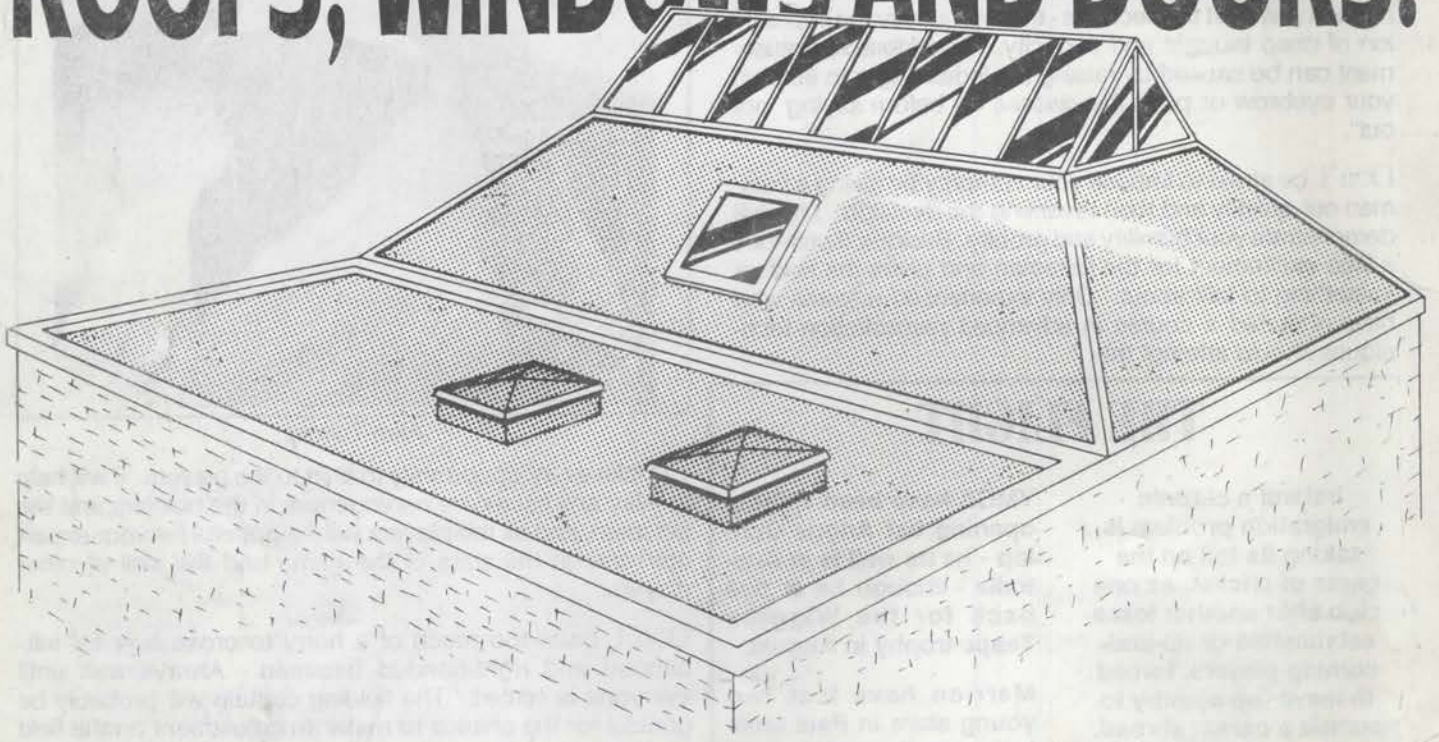
Don't feel obliged to call wides. You might startle the non-striker by the sudden loud noise. In any case, he will notice your signal as he turns for the second run, or on his way back to the pavilion, should he be unluckily run out.

Do always pause before signalling - it keeps the scorers on their toes. A dramatic pause before signalling a six heightens the excitement for players and spectators.

Do call to the scorers at frequent intervals to show that you are on top of the game and that you are counting runs and overs.

Do consult your partner as often as possible. This will reassure the players that you will not endanger their safety by staying out if the light is less than perfect. It will also give them a few moments to reflect on such sins as bad language, excessive noise and short-pitched bowling.

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