

THE ULSTER CRICKETER

AUTUMN 1988

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THE ULSTER CRICKETER

VOL.4 NO.2

AUTUMN 1988

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FRONT COVER: Long serving, popular NCU umpire Billy Taylor pointing the finger in his own inimitable style

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EDITORS VIEW



Sport needs publicity. Supporters, patrons, sponsors, all need the stimulus provided by media focus. It enhances the ethos of competition, promotes it, and gives it status. In many cases it is the life-blood of a particular sport.

Cricket is no exception. In the past we took publicity for granted, but how times have changed. Gone are the days when the onus was placed on the industrious journalist to ferret out his editorial. The modern reporter now approaches his desk, armed with an abundance of sporting material, freely available from a wide range of technological sources, and lurking in the background is a Sports Editor, keen to exercise his seniority in the area of preference. Competition for newspaper space has never been so rife. Fast growing sports like hockey and bowls, rival the hardy annuals of soccer and rugby for top billing. Cricketers Beware! Complacency will breed apathy, unless checked, it will inevitably mean less coverage. All Club PR's must petition for more cricketing focus - it's a simple case of 'sink or swim'.

Even allowing for some well meaning criticism, cricket journalists have done well for us in 1988. 'No publicity is bad publicity' the advertising experts tell us. Indeed, for those who faithfully keep scrap-books, the volume of material has never been so heavy, despite the competition for newspaper space. My personal collection is amongst my most treasured possessions and it brightens even the most miserable winter night, just to browse over pages of years gone by, some good, some not so good. My biggest regret however, is lending three of my special Touring scrap-books to someone who has yet to return them three years later. If you've got them and taken the trouble to read this, please, please, please return them to their owner.

Winter well and enjoy your 'Ulster Cricketer'

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OPPOSITE PAGE: Lurgan professional Subash Kshirasagar drives John Gilliland through the covers as wicket-keeper Ivan Connolly looks on

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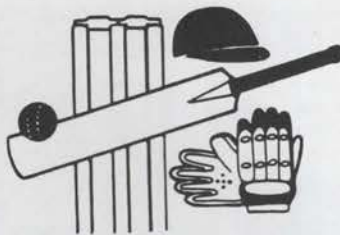
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Schweppes

Irish Senior Cricket Cup



LURGAN "SCHWEPPE" UP IN STYLE ...

Lurgan became the first club to win the Schweppes Cup twice and they did it in style emphatically defeating a disappointing North Down side by 96 runs at Rathmines in early September. Paul McCrum's team had already three victories over the Comber men prior to the final, and that psychological advantage must have weighed heavily in their favour. Certainly it must have played havoc with North Downs thinking, because they amazingly opted to play in Dublin, rather than risk any other northern venue outside Comber. Somewhat arrogantly the North Down camp elected to play at either Comber or Dublin, claiming only the best wickets should host this prestigious match. Lurgan stayed clear of the controversy, willing to play at any neutral venue or even toss for home advantage. In the absence of agreement they were also prepared to travel to Dublin! However, the die was cast by North Down and Rathmines and Schweppes, the sponsors, were obviously delighted as the mayhem north of the border presented them with another Dublin showpiece. Eleventh hour second thoughts by the North Down committee failed to rescind the earlier blunder, so the final took place at a venue over 100 miles from either home club, and many local enthusiasts were denied the opportunity of seeing it, by the insular arrogance of a few Comber players. Indeed the Irish Cricket Union could not be absolved of blame either. The competition rules clearly state the match should have been hosted in the same area



Man-of-the-Match Graham Hunter

as the two participants!

It was against this background that the final was eventually staged. Lurgan's low-key involvement in the venue saga, and their thorough preparation, combined with those three morale-boosting wins earlier in the season, fired them with confidence. They travelled to Dublin the day before and appeared much more relaxed when the two teams took the field under a cloudy overcast sky. In sharp contrast North Down travelled by mini-bus the morning of the game, and their players had barely rolled off the bus when their skipper ordered them into the field rather than risk batting. It was another foolhardy decision which had disastrous repercussions. North Down bowled poorly, fielded laxadaisically and suffered the consequences. The early dismissal of Charlie McCrum was the only item of Comber comfort as Indian professional Subash Kshirasgar and talented Graham Hunter set upon the North Down attack with consummate ease. Hunter battled through a sticky early patch but once settled, looked a class apart. He was to prove the match-winner with an innings of true class and immense maturity. Even the departure of Kshirasgar for an attractive 61 runs, did not deter the youngster and when he lifted the tempo the North Down bowlers visibly crumbled. Ross McCollum strode into the arena like a colossus, struck some mighty blows, including two prodigious sixes in his quickfire 38, but the stage belonged to Hunter and loudest cheer of the



VICTORIOUS LURGAN

Back row: Paul Dickson, Alan Hunter Paul Lyness, Graham Hunter, Alan Woods, Subash Kshirasgar, Gary McCollum, Neil Sloan (Scorer) Front Row: Richard Burton, Alan Johnson, Paul McCrum (Capt), Charlie McCrum, Ross McCollum

day came when he reached his deserved century. That he got out a short time later, was more to do with a lapse in concentration than anything else, but like most people in the ground, including one suspects the North Down team, he knew the match was effectively won. Lurgan eventually finished at 249 for 6 wickets in their 50 overs and the North Down heads were decidedly low at the tea interval.

LAMBA'S DISMISSAL SPELT DOOM

Any realistic chance of North Down challenging this mammoth target hinged on a huge effort from the prolific bat of Indian test opener Raman Lamba. That outside hope vanished early, when makeshift wicket-keeper Richard Burton held a fine leg-side juggling catch off the bowling of Paul McCrum.

It was the beginning of the end, and although Ian Shields, Robin Haire and John Gilliland put up some spirited resistance, their departure heralded an amazing collapse. Lurgan's well balanced attack had the measure of a weak North Down middle order, and the regular fall of wickets became an embarrassing procession to and from the batting crease. The end came with the total on 154 and the Lurgan celebrations deservedly began. They had outwitted and outplayed North Down in every facet of the match to prove worthy winners. Schweppes supremo Jim Bradley presented a delighted Paul McCrum with the impressive Schweppes trophy and legendary former Irish all-rounder Alec O'Riordan completed the formalities by naming Graham Hunter Man-of-the-Match. Certainly none rivalled his quality performance.

RAIN AGAIN PLAYS HAVOC

Predictably the first round of the competition was ravaged by rain, and half of the early exchanges had to be settled by bowl-outs. Almost every year since 1982, when the Schweppes Cup was established, the dreaded rain has played havoc with fixtures. Most of the "matches" followed the form-book, although Downpatrick might have hoped for a better reward after travelling to defending champions St Johnston. The much-fancied Donemana fell to North in preliminary round and they subsequently fell to Lurgan in a ten over "thrash". Brigade failed at Comber in the second round and once again Lurgan "cheated" the rain by beating Sion Mills on a faster scoring rate, chasing an ominously high target of 207 for victory. The "big guns" of Waringstown, YMCA and Phoenix all strode confidently into the quarter-finals as the tempo of the competition gathered momentum. Graham Hunter's undefeated 79 saw off Bangor, while at North Down, John Gilliland's undefeated 60 saw off Merriem. In the battle of the Dublin giants, YMCA edged out Phoenix in a high scoring thriller. However, the biggest shock of the round was St Johnston's whitewash of high-flying Waringstown, dismissed for a lowly 68 runs with only two batsmen reaching double figures.

The semi-finals saw Lurgan once again beat the weather and on the field YMCA, the favourites. In another ten over "thrash", big blustering Ross McCollum bludgeoned 59 runs to end the Dublin interest and set up another all NCU final because North Down eclipsed St Johnston at Comber. Defending 182, the Donegal-based 1987 winners thwarted the rain and travelled back to Comber two days later to finish their match, but got an object lesson in batting skills from the mighty Lamba. His exciting century tilted the game totally in North Down's favour, although St Johnston might rue some appalling catching lapses which did little for their cause.

The prospect of another all NCU final stirred the imagination of local enthusiasts, but North Down's intransigence off the field and their inept performance on it, were met by a well-oiled Lurgan machine. If dignity has a place in local cricket, then Lurgan proved worthy winners.

THE ULSTER CRICKETER



A proud moment for Lurgan skipper Paul McCrum as he receives the Schweppes Cup Trophy from Jim Bradley.

LURGAN

S Kshirasgar b Gilliland	61
C McCrum c Connolly b Fergie	6
G Hunter st Connolly b Haire	100
R McCollum c Gilliland b Lamba	38
P McCrum not out	21
R Burton run out	0
A Hunter c Connolly b Gilliland	6
P Dickson not out	1
Extras	16
Total (for six wickets)	249

Did not bat: G McCollum, A Johnston, P Lyness.

Fall: 1-15, 2-110, 3-210, 4-232, 5-235, 6-247

Bowling: A Fergie 7-0-44-1; R Lamba 10-1-53-1; I Carter 10-1-30-0; J Galway 7-2-21-0; R Haire 9-0-56-1; J Gilliland 7-1-31-2.

NORTH

I Shields c Lyness b Johnston	22
R Lamba c Burton b P McCrum	1
J Gilliland c Dickson b Kshirasgar	47
R Haire c Dickson b Lyness	31
N Quinn lbw b Kshirasgar	2
D Shields b Lyness	16
I Carter run out	12
G Benson c G McCollum b C McCrum	7
A Fergie c Burton b C McCrum	5
I Connolly c Burton b P McCrum	0
J Galway not out	0
Extras	11
Total	154

Fall: 1-13; 2-37; 3-106; 4-110; 5-114; 6-139; 7-139; 8-153; 9-153.

Bowling: A Johnston 10-3-18-1; P McCrum 7.5-0-23-2; C McCrum 10-1-47-2; S Kshirasgar 10-2-28-2; P Lyness 10-0-30-2.



The face of despondancy! St. Johnston batsman Aidan Devine sees his hopes dashed at Comber.



Lurgan fast bowler Charlie McCrum in full flight.



Staunch resistance from North Down batsman John Gilliland but to no avail.

NEWS DIGEST

Grana world tour

Ambitious Grasshoppers will set off in the Spring of 1989 on the most enterprising tour yet of a cricket team leaving Ireland.

Superbly organised by John Elder, the trip of a life-time for the squad of 16 players and 12 associates, will see action in California, Singapore, Bali and New Zealand.

Grasshoppers have previously toured South Africa, Zimbabwe & England.

NB "SONNY" HOOL

Sonny Hool died in early October, after a long and painful illness, borne with great courage and resolution. He was a fighter to the end, a characteristic which symbolised his distinguished life. A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, he was the leading player in Leinster cricket during the late forties, before taking up practice in Belfast and joining North of Ireland. His brilliance at club level won him 14 caps at a time when Irish cricket was blessed with top quality spin bowlers. Sonny was from the top drawer of the elite group and played a leading role in many successes at Ormeau. A popular doctor in East Belfast, he was for many years associated with Glentoran Football Club.

FRED McMURRAY

Although not in the best of health for some time, Fred McMurray's untimely death came as a big shock to local cricketers. He was a warm-hearted friendly individual, extremely popular with both his colleagues, and the players who held him in high esteem. Fred partnered his close friend Sam McCormick on numerous occasions and their quiet, friendly style of umpiring enhanced many a game of cricket.

A former International, Fred was a stalwart of the old CPA Club and loved to reminisce of days gone by. Sadly now this fine old gentleman has also passed on and our game is once again the loser.

ERNIE McLAUGHLIN

Veteran Umpire Ernie McLaughlin put up a brave fight against illness and even close to his death donned the white coat in defiance of physical deficiency. He suffered a stroke several years ago and although impaired by it, he cajoled his fellow Umpires into allowing him back

to the fray. Both players and Officials showed compassion and understanding in the circumstances, such was his popularity. In particular several of his colleagues kept a close contact with him, so his sudden passing was a sad shock to the cricketing fraternity.

BOBBY TORRENS

Bobby Torrens was a Committee member and Past President of the Derry & Midweek League of which he served tirelessly for the past 30 years. He also served on the North West Committee and various sub committees. He was a life long member of Brigade Cricket Club and when his playing days finished he served on the General Committee. In later years he became Chairman and in more recent years President.

His love for cricket became evident upon retiring to Portrush. He was largely responsible for the re-introduction of Cricket in that area and was an active President of the Portrush Cricket Club. He was a well known and respected figure in the North West cricketing circle and was a popular visitor to many grounds throughout Ireland. Father of a cricketing family, his four sons all played for Brigade first eleven and indeed Roy represented Ireland on many occasions and Ross and Ian both played for the North West and his two daughters Audrey and Carol were well known in the Ladies Cricket scene.

THE LATE MR JOE McCARTER

The entire cricketing community in the North-West were deeply shocked to learn of the death of Joe McCarter after a short illness. As Secretary/Treasurer of the Derry mid-week league, Joe worked unstintingly for over 30 years in this dual capacity. However it was in the field of charity work that Joe excelled, raising thousands of pounds for various charities in the North-West district.

Joe was a supreme groundsman at Brigade CC and Londonderry YMCA CC. Everything from arranging the seasons fixtures to sponsorship was arranged by Joe. He was the mid-week league. The fact that Joe McCarter will never again be travelling the highways and byways of the North West, working for the game he loved so much, merely means that the game of cricket is today a sorry loser.

Joe was buried in Altnagelvin cemetery, Londonderry and the vast attendance was testimony in itself to the esteem and respect in which Joe was held. The cricketing fraternity turned out in force despite the atrocious weather conditions.

TOM GREENWOOD

A master of the English language, Tom Greenwood was an eloquent and



Tom Greenwood.

distinguished conversationalist on most topics. A charming and intellectual individual, he was a true gentleman of cricket and rugby, the two sports to which he devoted so much of his time and effort. A witty and highly respected Official of the Ballymena club, he served the Northern Cricket Union with distinction for many years. He was honoured both as President and to life membership by the members, such was the high esteem in which he was held. Tom departed this world suddenly, when taken ill in a fund-raising walk for the rugby club. One of local sports finest ambassadors had gone from our midst.

PAT ON THE BACK!

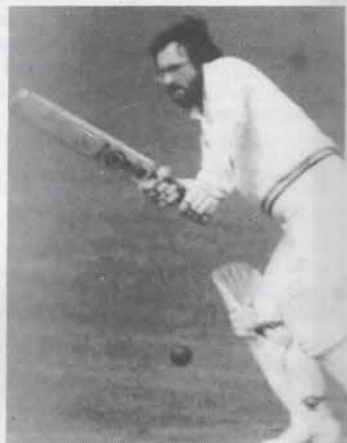
On the day when Celtic scored seven at St Mirren, and the "oul enemy" Rangers went down to Aberdeen, perhaps it was fitting that North of Ireland should honour their inimitable scorer, Pat Rogan. Ulster's most fervent Celtic supporter, has now completed 21 years service, and the North members marked the occasion with a presentation of Tyrone crystal. It was a fitting tribute to one of local cricketers true characters, and most popular ambassadors. Pat's company, whether in the aftermath of defeat, or the euphoria of victory, has enhanced many a clubhouse "session", and cricket followers throughout the Province will join the North members in their tribute to this fine gentleman. A "pat on the back" truly deserved!

ANOTHER NAT WEST JOURNEY

Ireland will travel again in the Nat West Cup in 1989. This time Derbyshire will provide the opposition. It was hoped, that following five years of travelling a "home" draw might have been possible, but it was not to be. Contrary to popular opinion, the draw is not fixed!

COLLIE'S NEARLY CLUB!

Instonians opening batsman Colin Barkley must be the unluckiest cricketer of the season. Still groping at the crease for his maiden century, the bearded Bangor Estate Agent must have felt lady luck had passed him by when Lurgan's Indian Professional Subash Kshirasgar ran him out for 98 in the Senior Cup, earlier in the season. Colin's philosophical dismissal of the incident turned to anguish, when fate dealt him a similar blow in a league encounter with Donacloney late in season. The good news on this occasion was that he got to within one run of that magical milestone, but having hit an uncharacteristic six off the previous ball, his counting metabolism must have



Unlucky Colin Barkley of Instonians. back-fired. Certainly if he forms a "nearly club" he has every right to be its patron!



Hollywood bound?

GOING BACK TO HOLYWOOD?

Rumours are rife in the Bangor area that long serving cricket stalwart Conn McCall is about to launch himself into the movie business. A loyal fan of the "spaghetti westerns", the Clint Eastwood look-alike was rarely spotted on the Upritchard Park boundary during the season but sightings of him on his faithful stallion were hotly denied. "Conn McCall on a horse?" they said. "Seeing is believing!!!"

THE ULSTER CRICKETER

FOUR TIMER FOR "BJ"

Cricketaholic Brian "BJ" Johnston of the BBC Sports Department in Belfast, pulled off another major coup in the National Sixes Tournament held annually at BBC Pebble Mill in Birmingham. The dapper reporter once again captained his motley proteges to success, for a record fourth successive season. Since assuming the mantle of captaincy, "BJ" has transformed this annual pilgrimage into a week-end of revelry, festivity, conviviality and cricket, leading from the front on most occasions! His colourful leadership, coupled with David "Brucie" Cartmell's moments of divine inspiration, continue to fox even the most astute cricketing talents of the "Beeb" national network. For the record Michael Kirkwood, Phillip Pollock, Michael Ross and Clarence Hiles score the runs and take the wickets!!!



Brian "BJ" Johnston's successful sixes entourage — Front: Michael Ross and Michael Kirkwood. Back Row: Clarence Hills, Dave Cartmill, "BJ" and Philip Pollock.

PAUL'S PERFECTION

Laurelvale Thirds' bowler Paul McBarritt, achieved a memorable milestone during the season, and sent statisticians racing to their archives to check if it was a "first-timer". Paul took all ten wickets in the division Four NCU league game against YMCA thirds but the fantastic aspect of this performance was the fact that all ten were clean bowled! Just for the record he bowled 9.2 overs and took 10 wickets for 14 runs. Is it a local record?

HOW IT HAPPENED

YMCA III -V- LAURELVALE III

1. C Johnston b McBarritt	12
2. D Rice b McBarritt	7
3. A Babbington b McBarritt	3
4. I Kerr b McBarritt	4
5. A Hillis b McBarritt	6
6. T McHale not out	4
7. J Hunter b McBarritt	1
8. W J Harris b McBarritt	0
9. K Morton b McBarritt	0
10. G McVeigh b McBarritt	0
11. A Henderson b McBarritt	0

Extras	7
Total	44

Fall of wickets
1.20.24.27.27.38.38.38.39.44.

THE ULSTER CRICKETER



North of Ireland won the prestigious Ballymena Sixes once again after a convincing victory over old rivals North Down in the final. Popular skipper Herbie Parkhill collected the trophy and £200 from Sun Life's local manager Jim Boyce. Also included are the other members of the team David Napier, Mark Napier, David Heaney, Laurence Norwood and Dean Simpson.



International honour?

Ulster Cricket's star female player, Donna Armstrong, is just about to embark on the trip of a life-time which would shame many of her male contemporaries. Donna has been selected for Ireland to go to Australia for the World Cup Series starting in late November and finishing just before Christmas. Their hectic programme includes twelve matches and some long distance trekking from Perth to Sydney to Melbourne. It is a fitting honour for a sports lady who has sacrificed much to get to the top in Irish cricket. Although ladies cricket is growing in Ulster, Donna's practice usually involves the long trek to and from Dublin, where practice sessions are supervised by Noel Mahoney. These trips are self-financed and the honour of representing Ireland at the world cup will cost a staggering £1360 to each player! Donna's "isolation" has made fund-raising virtually impossible, so perhaps some well-meaning enthusiast reading this article might consider her worthy of support?

Incidentally there are now over 100 ladies/girls playing cricket locally. Ballymena Academy defeated Victoria College/Richmond Lodge in the final of the schoolgirls cup, so well done teachers for getting it off the ground! Gillian McCall, Ann Linehan, Fiona Gray, Judith Harbison and Julie Logan from the North West, are the players to watch for in the future.

WELL SERVED!

In a Section Four league game against Templepatrick, Civil Service used five bowlers in the first four overs! The amazing sequence of events began with veteran Ronnie Spence pulling a ham-string after the first ball to be replaced by Skipper Tom Harper. At the other end, Andrew Hamilton decided after his over to change ends, so when Richard Dougan finished the third over, Tim Branagh bowled at that end!!



Maurice Wright of ICL (centre) presenting the trophy to Andrew Hamilton left, captain of the N.I. Civil Service Cricket Team, winners of the ICL Six-A-Side Cricket Tournament. Also included are Mark Lunney of the NICSCC and Jack Torrens, captain of Derriagh.

SERVICE WITH ICL SIXES

Civil Service made it a home victory in their annual Six-a-Side competition, once again sponsored by ICL. The popular tournament involves Section Three and Four teams, and runs from 10 am to 8 pm, weather permitting! This year the locals defeated defending champions Derriagh in a keenly-contested final to allow skipper Andrew Hamilton the honour of collecting the beautiful Tyrone Crystal trophy from ICL's Maurice Wright. The other members of the successful team were Tim Branagh, George Burton, Colin Adams, Mike Smyth and Maurice Clegg.



Ian Callender

JACKO'S CHALLENGE CONTINUES

By Ian Callender

In the last edition of *The Ulster Cricketer* Irish captain Paul Jackson described the international season ahead as "A Year of Challenge". By the end of it he realises that 1989 will be even more challenging.

It wasn't entirely surprising that Ireland finished the season without a victory from their six matches but a season that started with a youthful squad which had loads of potential ended it a year older with that potential still unfulfilled.

Perhaps it was asking a bit much for everything to come right in a little over two months, which in effect was the length of the international season. After all, this was the first year since 1973 when Ireland were without the guiding hand of Simon Corlett and his experience was only going to be missed when he was gone.

But while Alan Nelson, and even Nigel Thompson, shouldered the burden of trying to fill his shoes, with admirable doggedness and more than a little ability, the most worrying aspect of the season just finished was the batting.

Only Mark Cohen got past 300 runs and only Garfield Harrison got anywhere near it despite the top five in the order all having at least seven innings. Yet, the top of the batting order was picking itself, even at the end of the season when Alf Masood had begun his year and a bit suspension.

Deryck Vincent was automatically promoted to number three for the Scottish match, because he had scored his first half century for

Ireland in the previous game, with the international selectors conveniently ignoring the fact that Deryck has yet to score more than 20 when batting in the top three.

His sorry sequence continued in the debacle at Dumfries and the batting frailties, which had been ignored all season because "we were playing top class bowlers and we had almost beaten Wales", were fully exposed by a more accomplished amateur side.

The innings defeat was no more than we deserved and it happened, I believe, because we got the better of the Welsh in Dublin.

The Welsh, at least on the cricket field, cannot cope with pressure. Two years ago at Coleraine Ireland successfully chased 241 in just over two hours, a total they had no right to get anywhere near. But, they let Stephen Warke take control and after his quickfire century, Junior McBrine finished them off.

This year, Wales were set the very gettable target of 282 in 170 minutes plus 20 overs, but they panicked in mid-innings, let Garfield Harrison and McBrine get on top and ended up having to play out the last two overs with their last pair at the wicket. After an opening partnership of 88 in just 21 overs, Ireland, again, had no right to get within a sniff of nine wickets let alone 10.

I would suggest if the situations in both matches had have been reversed Ireland would have successfully defended the runs at Coleraine and reached the target at Clontarf with overs to spare!

But, as long as there is no competition for places, Ireland must persevere with what they've got and that means Warke, Cohen, Vincent, Harrison and Alan Lewis.

On their day they are, man for man, the best in the country Ireland's only problem is getting them at their best on the same day.

The captain prophetically forecast in his article in the spring that "we do not do ourselves justice (batting) in the longer game" and for the second successive year we batted poorly in the match that mattered, against Scotland.

At Coleraine Ireland escaped with a draw but this year there was no Corlett or McBrine, the latter pulling out because of work commitments,

so at least his absence cannot be blamed on the selectors.

They cannot escape blame for the final 11 though. When Jon Garth, usually thought of as an all-rounder, also withdrew, his replacement was Michael Rea who has not bowled a ball for Ireland.

The obvious place to include Rea was as a specialist number three where he has achieved what success he has had in his infrequent Irish career but no, he was sent in at number six and left Vincent to flounder at first wicket down.

However, nearly eight months before Ireland go back into international action I'll wager a small bet that the top five against the Scots will be unchanged at the beginning of next season and there will be no complaints, least of all from me.

The bowling, however, if anything, looks likely to be even weaker than 1988. Hugh Milling has said he will be unavailable and the search will have to begin early for Alan Nelson's opening partner.

Nigel Thompson and Jon Garth are not international opening bowlers and Paul Wallace, after his debut against the Scots has still much to prove but he is number one contender, if only for the unsatisfactory reason that there is no competition.



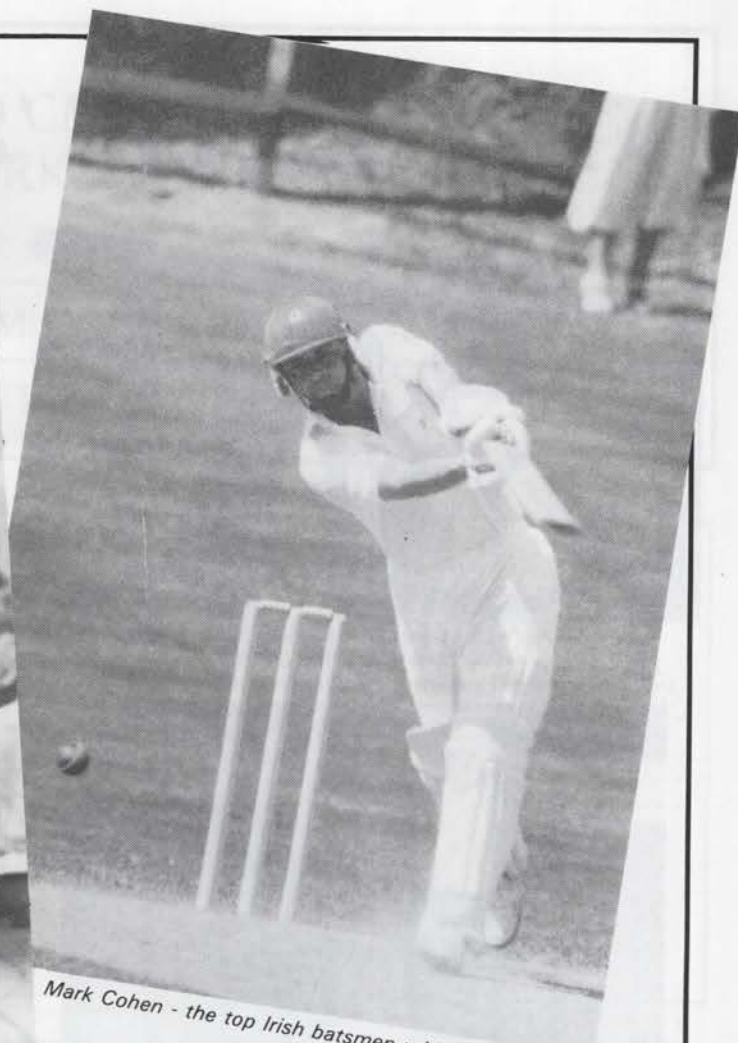
Paul Wallace - still top contender for opening bowler position



Pressure on the Welsh 'tail'...but alas it held firm at Clontarf



Solid if unspectacular debut for Eglinton's Nigel Thompson



Mark Cohen - the top Irish batsmen with over 300 runs

Even in the spin bowling department, Garfield Harrison, has not quite made the grade at the highest level although surely that will be attained sooner rather than later but it looks as if Michael Halliday will still be Mr Dependable 19 years after his debut.

I have concentrated on the games against the amateur opposition because, despite what Jacko said in the last issue, we have no chance of even "stealing" a win in the NatWest, especially when we continue to be faced with away fixtures on hard, fast tracks to which we are totally unaccustomed.

Once Jack Simmons and Gehan Mendis were named in the MCC team the best we could hope for was a draw while the county opposition, even on our own pitches, still know too much for us in limited over matches.

But we'll all be back again for more next year, full of optimism. I just hope that the most inexperienced squad Ireland has ever launched on an unsuspecting public does not find it too challenging.



'Jacko' departing the field at Bristol - another Nat West 'dream' shattered

FACES OF '88



Past and Present- Current Irish International batsman Stephen Warke enjoyed meeting North West Cricket's legendary Scott Huey at the Worcestershire match at Beechgrove.



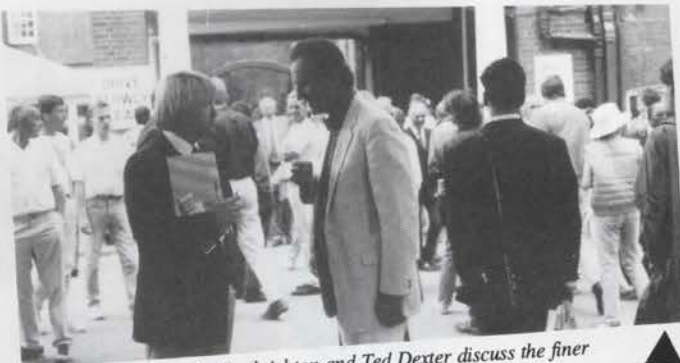
Doyens amongst scribes- Sean Pender and Carl Anderson share their stories.



Ladies day at Malahide- Chairman of Selectors Alfie Linehan and President Cecil Walker chaperone Mary and Sylvia.



'Big Guns' of the Leprechauns batting, Michael Rea and Bernard Burke, weigh up the Bagnalstown attack on the South East tour.



Two cricketing legends- Fred Ashton and Ted Dexter discuss the finer points of the England demise in the Lord's Test.



Irish cricket's greatest!- Jimmy Boucher and Dermott Monteith, over 600 wickets between them.



Irish skipper Paul Jackson invited Colin Barkley and Fred Ashton onto the players balcony during the Nat-West match at Bristol.

Ebbulent Ardmore favourite Connie McAllister at Beechgrove- Poise and pose!





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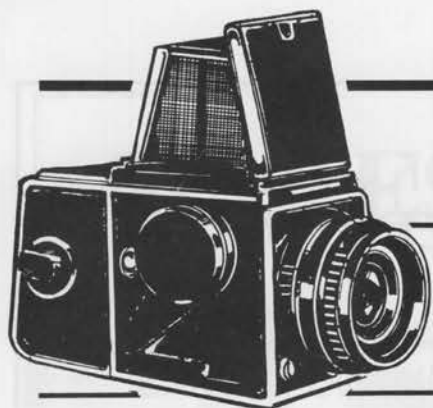
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HOT SHOTS OF LOCAL CRICKET



△ Billy McLeod, Londonderry

It will not have escaped the notice of many players, that the hottest shots in the local game, are invariably those canny photographers who continually capture vital moments of error, madness, exacerbation and even ecstasy, on film! Over the past few years, cameras of every shape and size have become integral parts of the local game, as a bevy of amateurs mix with seasoned professionals.

Two experts however, continue to set themselves apart from their contemporaries, by the sheer quality of their work and their amazing perception of the game, as seen through the shutter of the camera.

Derry man Billy McLeod is an experienced sports photographer who covers a wide range of activities throughout the year. A keen cricketer in his youth, he allowed his interest to decline in adulthood, but returned to the game four years ago with his trusted Canon camera. Billy believes, it is his 'feel' for the game, which has given him a big advantage, when he sets up the tripod on the boundary and prepares for action —

"I really enjoy travelling around the cricket grounds during the summer, and once I get the gear set up, I'm always looking for action shots and North West cricket provides plenty of them. It may surprise a lot of keen amateurs, but I don't shoot

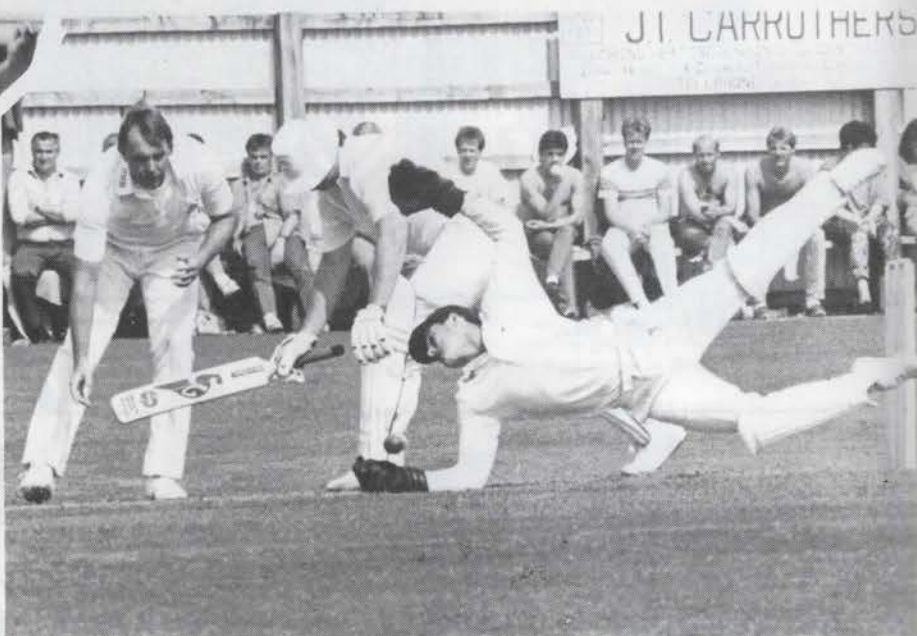
lots and lots of film. For some reason, I seem to have an ability to read the action, especially when something spectacular is about to unfold. My favourite shots are those where the stumps have just been shattered, the bails are flying everywhere, while the bowler and the batsman's faces depict their contrasting fortunes after that particular delivery. Indeed, I'm not really settled until I've a few wickets on film, then I can relax and enjoy the game!"

Laurence Kirk hails from Crossgar, and although a professional by trade, cricket photography provides a welcome diversion from his normal commercial routine.

"I suppose it started out of curiosity, something different from my day to day routine, then it captured my interest. I enjoy the action element, especially where the ball is the focus of the players total concentration. Bowlers tend to provide more action and cram a lot of physical activity into the split second just as they have released the ball. I get a great deal of satisfaction capturing them on film although some tend to be more photogenic than others. I suppose Simon Corlett to me, is perhaps the ideal bowler to photograph. He combines rhythm, poise, and style to his aggressive action, and makes one particular photographer's job, just a little bit more rewarding."



△ Rhythmic Corlett in full flight for Ireland. Photo Laurence Kirk.



△ An acrobatic diving catch for Rhodes of Worcester during the game with Ireland, however the umpire adjudged McCollums pad, and not bat, had made contact with the ball. Photo Billy McLeod.



△ Laurence Kirk

Both Billy and Laurence's work has featured regularly in the 'Ulster Cricketer' over the past few years. The quality has not only enhanced the production but brought immense pleasure to readers. High standard cricket photography in Ulster, is a modern phenomenon, which provides players and their supporters with the opportunity of capturing those special moments for the years to come. Yes, the

hottest shots most Saturday afternoons are invariably Billy McLeod and Laurence Kirk.



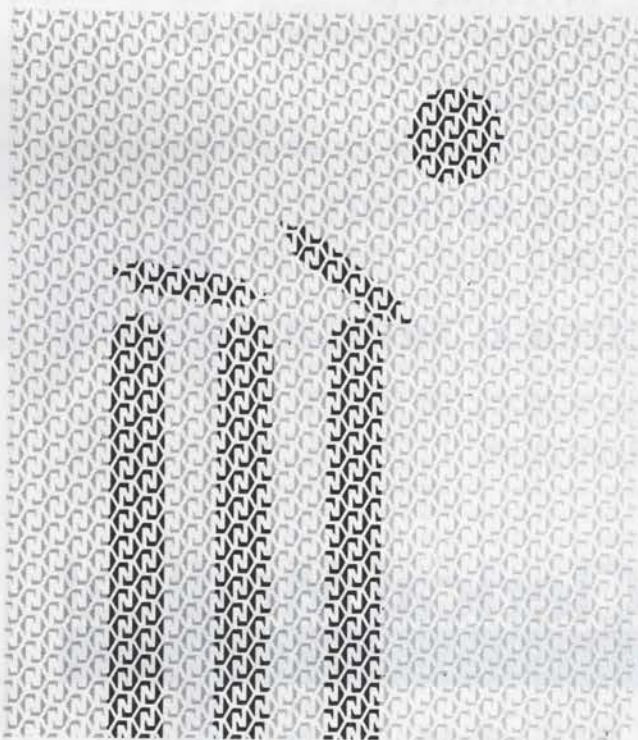
John McMillan, St Johnston, bowled James McBrine, Donemana. Photo Billy McLeod.



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THE ULSTER CRICKETER

NO 'WAIT' FOR ALAN!

Another Waringstown League and Cup double

While many of the contentious promotion and relegation issues dragged well into the September gloom, there was no delay for Waringstown's young Skipper Alan Waite as the villagers comprehensively wrapped up a league and cup double with several weeks of the season to spare. A depleted North of Ireland team lost yet again to the Lamba magic at Comber in early September, and the champagne corks immediately popped at the Lawn, where Woodvale had been emphatically white-washed by 9 wickets. It was the least they deserved, because throughout the NCU season, Waringstown remained head and shoulders above their contemporaries. Not even the much publicised "overseas" imports posed any serious threat to their domination of the local game, which has yielded 20 league championships and six league and cup doubles. For two decades their phenomenal record of success is unparalleled in any contemporary sport. It says much for a village which boasts a modest population of less than 3,000 people! Their secret is simple, a team commitment combined with an inherent belief in their own ability. Other clubs would do well to model themselves on the Waringstown machine, and it is little wonder, that almost to a man, all overseas professionals who have visited the Province, pay wholesome tributes to Ulster cricket's kingpins.

WARINGSTOWN'S AUGUST SURGE

Throughout the season Waringstown's only serious rivals to their league aspirations were defending champions North of Ireland, Downpatrick and a Lamba-inspired North Down. The league itself had all the characteristics of two sections, with the rest of the clubs involved in a relegation dog-fight for most of the season. Waringstown's surge for the title was emphatically mounted on the euphoria which followed their convincing John Player Senior Cup victory over



Lamba and Shields — the most prolific opening partnership in Irish Cricket in 1988.

Downpatrick. During August they won six games including a double over North Down and an embarrassing nine wicket annihilation of Downpatrick after dismissing them for a paltry 39 runs. Hollywood fared little better after being dismissed for only 26, but they mustered some semblance of consolation in mid-September, defeating the newly-crowned champions by 45 runs. Admittedly Waringstown were without seven regulars!

North's campaign got off to a disastrous start with confidence at a low ebb following early exits from both the John Player and Schweppes Cups. However

the Ormeau men eventually got their act together and by mid season had moved to the top of the league table. Their "bogey" team of 1988 was undoubtedly North Down, and in particular the mighty Lamba. The stylish Indian test opener relished the on-field confrontations with North skipper Simon Corlett who had openly criticised the domination of "hired guns" in local cricket. Lamba was the target of much of his criticism, and on this issue the Indian let his bat do the talking. In both games he scored centuries, North Down won each time, and North moved out of the title race! Downpatrick promised much but in the end bowed to Waringstown supremacy. Their confidence was rocked by their cup final demise, and a brittle batting line-up which was all too often exposed. Much was expected of professional Kamal Merchant and once again he performed with distinction, but winning league championships is all about team effort, and in this department the Strangford Road outfit was found wanting.

HOLLYWOOD DOWN AGAIN

The relegation issue haunted the rest of the teams for most of the season. RUC achieved their pre-season aim of a respectable middle-table position without too much fuss, while Bangor and Lisburn lifted themselves clear in August.

Lurgan hovered precariously above Woodvale and Hollywood, but for a side so rich in talent, such a lowly position was an insult to their ability. Admittedly the Schweppes Cup triumph was a huge compensation for indifferent league form, but it was "paled" by the continuing success of bitter rivals and neighbours Waringstown. Woodvale flattered to deceive. Their season began with morale-boosting Cup and League victories over North of Ireland, then slumped into the all too familiar series of league capitulations. A weak attack was widely blamed for their demise, but the entire team has consistently struggled over the past decade, despite the presence of a professional, several experienced former Internationals, and the best batsman in Irish cricket in Stephen Warke.

Hollywood were most pundits favourites for the "drop" and they duly obliged the form-book, but typically not without a fight. Signs that all was not well within their ranks appeared in the removal of Simon Burrows as captain, to be replaced by long-serving batsman John Kerstens.

Hollywood held a moral victory over their relegation rivals Woodvale, having defeated them twice during the season, to add to their excellent record over the past few seasons.

However the vagaries of September cricket once again played havoc with the form-book, as Waringstown and North Down both went down to the relegation candidates with weakened teams. With both teams level and Woodvale due to play Lurgan at Ballygomartin Road on the last Saturday of September, the best Hollywood might have expected was a mid-week play-off. However that slim hope evaporated as ground conditions ruled the league match out, leaving last years positions to decide who stayed up. Since Hollywood had only rejoined the top section, they inevitably returned by the narrowest of margins.

BALLYMENA BACK UP

The usual "up-and-down" see-saw continued, with the return of Ballymena to Section One after only one season out. They lost only two league games throughout their campaign and much of the credit should go to skipper Michael Burton who rejuvenated



The Northern Cricket Union held an N.C.A. coaching course under the supervision of top coaches Ian Johnston and John Solanky. Here national coach Noel Mahoney chats to Pakistani Professional Akram Raza (Woodvale) and Javed Mohammed (Ards).



Former New Zealand test bowler Bob Blair joined Instonians as player/coach with a heavy emphasis on coaching.

sagging morale after their 1987 demise.

Veterans Harry Cook and Neville Neill took vital wickets while the prolific bat of Jimmy Ireland was never more needed than this year. Cliftonville flattered to deceive, but once again fell away badly in the crucial games.

Sad Saintfield never got their act off the ground, so the player drain of the past few years inevitably took its toll. Much work will be needed on and off the field to restore the club to its former glory.

Yashpal Sharma inspired Armagh to finish in second place while Instonians will feel happy to have performed well after several seasons of inconsistency. Bob Blair's excellent coaching work boosted club morale, and it augurs well for the future at Shane Park.

"DEE PIP ARDS

Donaghadee pulled off a sensational coup in the last week of September to pip their neighbours and bitter rivals Ards. Having lost both their league games to Ards they trailed by 8 points going into the last few days of the season but while Ards found it impossible to fulfil their programme, Cooke and Carrick obliged the "Dee. Indeed Carrick travelled to Northfield on the last day of the season and, having already been relegated, faced a team committed to victory. Not surprisingly a home victory was recorded, and with both teams finishing level, Donaghadee returned to Section Two on last year's placings. Each side depended heavily on their professionals, Javed Mohammed and New Zealand newcomer Andrew Wilson, but to their credit a number of promising young players are also breaking through their playing ranks.

DRUMANESS DOUBLE

Drumaness completed their own league and cup double and who could have denied them? They played hard and competed with conviction to win their way up into Section Three. The Junior Cup success boosted team spirit which carried them through those vital end of season league matches.

SEPTEMBER MADNESS REIGNS SUPREME

That old hardy annual, "September Cricket" once again settled the crucial promotion and relegation issues. Sadly, the all too familiar characteristics of weakened teams and general apathy, combined to produce some farcical results. It is well precedented that by September only those keen to play take the field, and from the relative safety of a mid-table league position, various clubs go through the motions rather than commit themselves to any real degree of competitiveness. Surely the time has come for this farce



Lurgan batsman Alan Hunter began his season in explosive form with a century and double century for the seconds in May. He scored almost 500 runs in the month before being moved up into the senior team.

to end? The clubs themselves must petition the legislators to come up with some better method of avoiding such inconsistency in team strength and commitment, at this time of the season. Some have suggested a one year trial in the top section, of not rearranging any fixtures in the second half of the league programme, which fall foul of the weather. A simple division of the points would apply. Certainly the system works both in the North West and in Leinster, but perhaps that is too straightforward for NCU officialdom!



Waringstown-Another superb season

Back Row: (L to R) Ivan Anderson, Alan Dundas, Brian Hanna, Craig Irwin, Alan Nelson, Noel Nelson.
Front Row: Barry Harrison, Derek Harrison, Alan Waite (Capt.), Garfield Harrison, David Dennison.
Absent: Shane Harrison.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES - 1988

LOMBARD & ULSTER LEAGUE - SECTION 1

	P	W	T	L	PTS
WARINGSTOWN	17	14	-	3	56
NICC	17	11	-	6	44
DOWNPATRICK	17	11	-	6	44
NORTH DOWN	18	18	-	8	40
BANGOR	18	8	-	10	32
RUC	18	8	-	10	32
LISBURN	17	8	-	9	32
LURGAN	15	6	-	9	24
WOODVALE	17	5	-	12	20
"HOLYWOOD	18	5	-	13	20

LOMBARD & ULSTER LEAGUE - SECTION 2

	P	W	T	L	PTS
+BALLYMENA	18	16	-	2	64
ARMAGH	17	14	-	3	56
MUCKAMORE	17	11	1	5	46
CLIFTONVILLE	16	11	-	5	44
INSTONIAN	18	10	-	8	40
LAURELVALE	17	9	-	8	36
DONACLONEY	18	7	-	11	28
ACADEMY	18	4	-	14	16
QUEEN'S UNIV	17	2	1	14	10
SAINTFIELD	18	2	-	16	8

LOMBARD & ULSTER LEAGUE - SECTION 3

	P	W	T	L	PTS
★★DONAGHADEE	18	14	-	4	56
ARDS	17	14	-	3	56
COLLEGIANS	17	10	-	7	40
CIYMS	18	9	1	8	38
DERRIAGHY	18	8	-	10	32
DUNMURRY	18	7	1	10	30
COOKE	16	7	-	9	28
CREGAGH	18	7	-	11	28
DUNDRUM	17	6	-	11	24
CARRICKFERGUS	17	4	-	13	16

LOMBARD & ULSTER LEAGUE - SECTION 4

	P	W	T	L	PTS
+DRUMANESS	17	16	-	1	64
CIVIL SERVICE	18	13	-	5	52
PORTADOWN	17	12	-	5	48
LARNE	18	12	-	6	48
VICTORIA	18	11	-	7	44
DUNGANNON	18	6	-	12	24
MILLPARK	17	6	-	11	24
SHORTS	18	5	-	13	20
TEMPLEPATRICK	17	4	-	13	16
YMCA	18	3	-	15	12

+Promoted ★★Promoted on 1987 position
"Relegated on 1987 position.

*Downpatrick's
outstanding all rounder
Kamal Merchant who
dominated the NCU
averages once again.*



1988 CRICKET AVERAGES



NCU Section 1 Lombard and Ulster League 1988 Batting (300 runs to qualify)

	I	NO	R	AVG	HS
R LAMBA	19	2	1225	72.06	125★
I ANDERSON	21	8	600	46.14	78
J CAMPBELL	118	2	635	39.69	131
K MERCHANT	18	6	410	34.17	63★
I SHIELDS	18	2	530	33.12	112
SHIRAGASAR	18	-	563	31.28	107
V HARIHARRAN	15	2	392	30.15	64
G HARRISON	16	1	436	29.06	65
J MARTIN	19	3	456	28.50	52
R MONTEITH	16	2	399	28.50	67★
C MCCRUM	16	1	417	27.80	114★
R MCCOLLUM	17	1	433	27.06	84
J PATTERSON	20	4	413	25.81	42★
D NAPIER	16	2	359	25.64	83
U GRAHAM	18	2	404	25.25	68
C MAGOWAN	20	4	383	23.94	66
A SCOTT	14	1	311	23.92	107★
A RAZA	19	1	424	23.55	104★
R HAIRE	18	4	324	23.14	40
J GILLILAND	17	1	357	22.31	66★
C HARTE	18	-	379	21.06	48
I MCCLATCHEY	20	2	365	20.28	64
D MCCANN	23	-	461	20.04	98

BOWLING (20 WICKETS TO QUALIFY)



	O	M	R	W	%	BB
K MERCHANT	231	99	364	60	6.07	5/14
A NELSON	219	71	424	36	11.78	5/23
M SHANNON	224	49	546	45	12.13	5/40
S CORLETT	207	55	502	40	12.55	7/13
I ANDERSON	235	78	467	37	12.62	4/13
P REID	161	37	423	33	12.82	6/43
A RAZA	250	66	568	44	12.91	4/27
P LENNON	184	35	488	37	13.19	6/52
G HARRISON	152	37	332	25	13.19	4/22
A SPENCE	131	30	335	25	13.40	4/23
V HARIHARAN	159	35	420	30	14.00	4/30
B FERRIS	152	27	384	26	14.77	6/24
T ENGLISH	152	43	398	26	15.19	4/37
J GALWAY	98	12	321	21	15.28	4/20
J PATTERSON	151	35	385	25	15.40	6/13
R ADAIR	138	26	451	29	15.55	5/33
C MAGOWAN	238	37	675	43	15.70	6/23
D JOHNSTON	131	25	394	25	15.76	7/10
W GORDON	177	29	446	27	16.52	4/41
N NELSON	148	35	343	20	17.15	5/18
D MCCORMICK	114	18	394	22	17.91	6/28
A SEMPLE	210	31	707	39	18.13	5/18
I CARSER	170	24	546	30	18.20	5/13
P MCCRUM	198	45	507	27	18.78	5/17
P LYNESS	130	21	434	23	18.87	4/35
L SEMPLE	255	48	757	40	18.92	4/18
R LAMBA	190	33	551	29	19.00	6/40
H McAULEY	141	35	432	22	19.63	8/37
A FERGIE	168	26	578	29	19.82	5/52

FIELDING

(DISMISSALS 15+)

	D	ST	TOTAL
D MCCANN (DOWNPATRICK)	19	5	24
B HARRISON (WARINGSTOWN)	18	2	20
R LAMBA (N DOWN)	18	-	18
D SAVAGE (N DOWN)	11	6	17
C DAVIS (WOODVALE)	11	5	16
C HARTE (BANGOR)	9	6	15
B TOPPING (LISBURN)	13	2	15
P JACKSON (NICC)	11	4	15



BANNED IN '88

It will come as no surprise to many that Ireland's 1988 season will probably be best remembered for events off the field, rather than those on it! It was a year teeming with incident and some colourful intrusions of controversy. Crowd trouble at Beechgrove and several embarrassing transport problems, were paled into the background by late season punitive disciplinary action from the selectors, which brought a one match ban for the abrasive Garth, and a one year ban for a somewhat naive Masood. Small wonder several journalists used their tabloids to vent consternation at the current state of Irish cricket!

The crowd trouble at Beechgrove was an isolated yet embarrassing minor incident involving several drunks who brought little credit to Irish cricket in full view of the Worcestershire players. The real tragedy of the fracas was that it tarnished an otherwise impeccable exhibition of organisation by Brigade Officials. However, as a ruling body the Irish Cricket Union hierarchy should review security arrangements at International matches, and the question as to whether large quantities of beer should be allowed to be brought into grounds by spectators.

The transport "hic-ups" should be reviewed with all travel organisation to and from important matches. Arrangements to travel "on the cheap" are invariably fraught with danger and totally unprofessional. Seeing the MCC team arrive in black taxis at Downpatrick was quite simply galling.

Discipline has rarely posed serious problems for Irish cricket legislators, yet 1988 saw two of the best players banned. Garth's indiscretions at Malahide brought little credit to a player so rich in talent, but so often out of step with his contemporaries. He took his one match ban philosophically and hopefully will learn from the experience. Certainly Irish cricket could benefit a lot more if his energies were harnessed in a more responsible manner.

Masood's misguided loyalty when playing for Coleraine on the eve of the Welsh match was naive, but the elaborate tale he invented

Banned for one match! The explosive Jonathan Garth



Butterley Brick Managing Director Michael Rose and local Sales Manager Jim Lockart pictured with the impressive new trophy presented for competition between Ireland and the M.C.C. in the future

to cover his indiscretion was unforgivable. With a previous two match ban in 1983, for a similar offence, his severe punishment was to be expected. The saddest part of this debacle, was the huge class vacuum his absence created.

Against this troubled background, Ireland actually played some good cricket, albeit without a solitary victory to record. However, with so many of the modern fixtures against professional opposition, realistically, victories are going to be limited. Perhaps the saddest note on the playing calendar, was the heavy innings defeat at the hands of Scotland in the final game at Dumfries. It emphasised the transitional nature of the current squad, which has a long way to go to fill the gaps left in the wake of Monteith, Short, O'Brien, Anderson and Reith. To accentuate the dilemma, Corlett, Elder and Dennison were also missing this term. Corlett and Dennison both retired voluntarily, but Elder's absence was the result of a serious eye injury. This left a huge gap in the fast bowling department and for the opening fixture against the MCC, the Selectors opted for Waringstown's Alan Nelson, when most people predicted a debut for Lurgan's Paul McCrum or St. Johnston's Paul Wallace. To their credit, the Selectors got it right as Nelson bowled with fine accuracy and consistency, to finish top wicket-taker. Another new cap Ross McCollum of Lurgan was less fortunate. His prodigious hitting deserted him at the highest level, and if Eglinton's Nigel Thompson was a surprise replacement, he took his opportunity with aplomb to record two useful performances against Wales and Scotland. Paul Wallace finally got his chance against Scotland, but there will be many who felt McCrum should have also been capped during the season. He was fast, consistent and successful. Perhaps his chance is yet to come?

At the other end of the playing scale, long-serving Phoenix spin-bowler Michael Halliday eventually overhauled the legendary Ossie Colhoun's record of 87 caps. He continues to be a great servant of the Irish cause and fully deserved the honour. Although on the

THE ULSTER CRICKETER

brink of forty, there are few better than the big Dublin man at the art of slow bowling.

Of the established players, Mark Cohen and Garfield Harrison had excellent seasons. The Carlisle opener was in prolific form at all levels of cricket, and if his season "tailed off", he can still take immense credit from it. Harrison had now established himself in the team, and it shows in the confident manner he approaches both his batting and his bowling. While he has still much to learn about the latter, he topped the averages with 12 wickets at 21.66 each. His batting has matured, and significantly blossomed, with that innings of 76 against Worcestershire particularly special.

Warke's batting blew "hot and cold", while Masood was too often out forcing the pace when a much more responsible approach was demanded. Alan Lewis remains vulnerable at this level, but his set of half-centuries against Wales was encouraging. In a similar vein, both Michael Rea and Derek Vincent offer hope for the future but the fast bowling remains a serious problem. Without Corlett and Elder, Nelson did a splendid job, but there are question marks over Garth in the attacking role, and Milling's commitment. Yes, the rebuilding process continues, but it is going to take a lot longer than many might otherwise have predicted!

-V- GLOUCESTERSHIRE at Bristol June 22

As expected, Ireland was given an emphatic exhibition of professionalism in the Nat West Cup first round match at Bristol. In competition, the county side looked a much more formidable unit, than that which played at Downpatrick last year. There was some optimism in the early exchanges which saw Cohen and Masood in gusty form against the strong attack of Lawrence and former test bowler Terry Alderman. Cohen's innings was a typical exhibition of concentration, punctuated by several excellent boundaries. Lewis lent some useful middle order support after the departure of the flamboyant Masood, but generally the rest of the batting was inept against the formidable county bowlers. The final total of 186 was disappointing after such a solid start and the players knew they had failed to maximise on Cohen's fine performance.

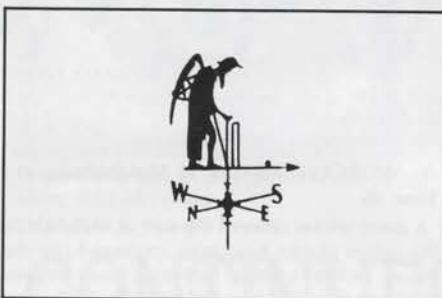
In contrast Gloucestershire raced to their target in under 40 overs with the only issue at stake, Stovold's century. He achieved it in style making the Man-of-the-Match Award a simple formality!

IRELAND	186 (Cohen 66/Masood 35/Lewis 28/Alderman 5 for 34)
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	190 for 1 (Stovold 105 No/Wright 55)
RESULT:	GLOUCESTERSHIRE
WON BY 9 WICKETS	

-V- MCC in Downpatrick June 11/12/13

Jack Simmons captained an MCC team at Downpatrick to open the Irish season. Superbly hosted by the local club, the match was magnificently sponsored by Buttery Brick Ltd., and their superb hospitality for their guests, greatly enhanced the occasion.

The match ended in a draw after Ireland batted poorly on the first day. Only Cohen and Harrison showed any real application against the moderate MCC attack. However good work in the field immunised the effects although a first innings deficit of 79 runs made victory unlikely. Ireland



batted much better second time round with five players making good contributions. Set 267 to win, the MCC batsmen appeared well on the way towards their target but some tight bowling and excellent catching, almost produced an unexpected Irish success.

IRELAND	1st Innings — 138 (Cohen 51/Harrison 32/Maxwell 4 for 15/Donald 3 for 30).
	2nd Innings — 345 for 9 dec. (Warke 64/Masood 57/Cohen 55/Jackson 43/Harrison 42/Simmons 4 for 77)
MCC	1st Innings — 217 (Ducat 53/Lewis 3 for 44)
	2nd Innings — 206 for 7 (Miller 94/Harrison 3 for 22)
RESULT:	MATCH DRAWN



Buttery Brick hospitality for President Cecil Walker and his 'Counsellors' Conn McCall and Alfie Linehan at Downpatrick during the M.C.C. match



Jack Simmons - Lancashire and M.C.C. Captain at Downpatrick

B R E T H A N D IN '88

V- WORCESTERSHIRE at Beechgrove June 25

Graham Hick's visit to Londonderry was the highlight of the North West Centenary celebration, but although he failed to match some of his exhilarating performances in England, he was afforded the sort of welcome one associates with superstars. A turning wicket transformed the Northern Bank sponsored match from early on, but O'Shaunessey revelled in the conditions to hit 68 exciting runs. Ireland felt reasonably satisfied to have bowled out the county side, especially after Jackson went off injured. Indeed, as Warke and Cohen rattled off 56 runs in their opening partnership, the possibility of a major upset loomed, albeit momentarily. Both departed in quick succession as the spin combination of Illingworth and D'Oliveira ripped open the Irish middle order. Only Harrison looked the part, as skipper Phil Neale applied the pressure masterfully.



Garfield Harrison - A series of consistent performances with both bat and ball

WORCESTERSHIRE 200 (O'Shaunessey 68/Halliday 4 for 47/Masood 3 for 30)

IRELAND 152 (Cohen 42/Harrison 41/Illingworth 5 for 40/D'Oliveira 4 for 9)

RESULT: WORCESTERSHIRE
WON BY 48 RUNS



IRELAND AGAINST WORCESTERSHIRE

BACK ROW: (L-R) Alan Nelson, Hugh Milling, Michael Rea. MIDDLE ROW: (Mark Cohen, Michael Halliday, Ross McCollum, Jim Patterson, 'Alf' Mahsood FRONT ROW: Garfield Harrison, Stephen Warke, Paul Jackson (Capt.), Jonathan Garth, Alan Lewis

-V- WORCESTERSHIRE at Malahide June 26

A damp wicket delayed the start at Malahide for this James Martin Associates sponsored one day fixture. Jackson's annual hamstring injury elevated Warke to the captaincy and brought another rare cap for Keith Bailey. Both performed well but not as impressively as the Worcester batsmen. O'Shaunessey, Newport and the great Hick all scored half-centuries, as the county side emphasised the class gap when scoring 286 for 7 wickets off 55 overs. Lewis went for 55 runs off his 5 overs while Halliday had the consolation of three wickets.

The Irish reply got off to a poor start with the first three batsmen out for 33 runs. Cometh the hour, cometh the man, and in Harrison Ireland found their salvation if not their saviour. The

Waringstown all rounder was the backbone of the innings as D'Oliveira picked up another three wickets. He hit a superb 76 but fell victim to a wicket-keeper Rhodes "rogue" over which completed the formalities in frivolity.

WORCESTERSHIRE 286 for 7 (Newport 55/O'Shaunessey 52/Hick 51 Halliday 3 for 50)

IRELAND 171 for 9 (Harrison 76/D'Oliveira 3 for 32)

RESULT: WORCESTERSHIRE
WON BY 115 RUNS

-V- WALES at Clontarf July 17/18/19

The Welsh match was a thrilling exchange between two evenly balanced sides who produced a magnificent finish. A delicately timed declaration by Skipper Jackson set up an enthralling finish. Set 282 to win in 70 overs, the visitors went for them to produce one of the most exciting draws imaginable. Fortunes fluctuated precariously over the final few hours as Jackson attacked, almost to the point of recklessness. His bowlers responded manfully, but the victory surge was finally thwarted by the last two Welsh batsmen. In the end a draw was probably the fairest result.

The match brought a first cap to Nigel Thompson and a recall for McBrine. However, despite the Eglinton all rounder's impressive debut, it was Warke, Masood, Cohen and Lewis who stole the

batting honours. On his recall, Vincent, on home soil, also performed well with a half-century while there were wickets for Milling, Nelson, McBrine and Harrison. To complete the team effort, skipper Jackson had a fine game behind the stumps and displayed some astute captaincy.

IRELAND 1st Innings — 307 for 6 dec. (Warke 83/Cohen 75/Lewis 53 n.o./Thompson 38 n.o.)

2nd Innings — 233 7 dec. (Lewis 54/Vincent 52 n.o./Harrison 34)
WALES 1st Innings — 259 (Francis 85/Puddle 59/Nelson 4 for 64/Milling 4 for 71)
2nd Innings — 233 for 9 (Francis 69/Elward 67/Harrison 4 for 74)

RESULT: MATCH DRAWN

THE ULSTER CRICKETER

Ireland's 'find of the season' - Alan Nelson of Waringstown

INTERNATIONAL AVERAGES 1988 BATTING (100 RUNS TO QUALIFY)

	INNINGS	NOT OUTS	HIGH SCORE	RUNS	AVERAGE
M F COHEN	9	0	75	344	38.22
G D HARRISON	9	0	76	277	30.77
M A MASOOD	7	0	57	178	25.42
S J S WARKE	9	0	83	224	24.88
D A LEWIS	9	1	54	184	23.00

BOWLING (8 WICKETS TO QUALIFY)

	OVERS	MAIDENS	RUNS	WICKETS	AVERAGE
G D HARRISON	71	5	260	12	21.66
A N NELSON	117.3	28	345	14	24.64
M HALLIDAY	84	6	321	11	29.18
H MILLING	88	18	307	8	38.37



Donemana's Junior McBrine against Wales - recalled after being dropped for several games



Disappointing start to International cricket for big hitting Ross McCollum

REBUILDING CONTINUES - another lean season for Ireland

**-V- SCOTLAND at Dunfries
August 20/21/22**

Skipper Paul Jackson's decision to ask Scotland to bat first at Dunfries, became a major talking point as the home team amassed a huge total. Debut opener Wallace got a brace of wickets, but like his colleagues toiled laboriously, as the wicket played better than at first thought by Jackson and his counsellors. Patterson's century highlighted a 396 total, but despite several hours play being lost due to rain, the Irish batsmen inexplicably failed to gain the draw. At 75 for 8 in reply, it took all the guile of the experienced Halliday and a youthful Thompson, to take the total to 168 but unfortunately they could not save the follow-on.

Warke's 42 was the only bright spark, as the Irish batsmen fought desperately to save the match. His departure almost spelt doom, but recalled Bangor batsman Micheal Rea emerged as the stumbling block to Scottish aspirations in this historic centenary match. His pain-staking exhibition of grit and determination lasted 176 minutes, during which

he notched his third International half century. However, he was somewhat controversially spoken to by the Umpires for time-wasting, and this unheralded break in concentration must surely have contributed to his casual dismissal, a short time later. The end inevitably followed with Ireland still 45 runs adrift of the Scottish team's single visit to the crease. It was a disappointing result.

After the match a handsome trophy was presented to the Scottish Skipper to mark the centenary of the fixture. The Trophy was presented by the past presidents of the Irish Cricket Union and will be competed for annually.

SCOTLAND	1st Innings — 396 (Patterson 100/Swan 77/Nelson 4 for 100)
IRELAND	1st Innings — 168 (Thompson 38/Halliday 29 n.o./Harrison 25/Govan 4 for 28)
	2nd Innings 185 (Rea 53/Warke 42/Halliday 26/Govan 5 for 54)
RESULT:	SCOTLAND WON BY AN INNINGS AND 45 RUNS

IRELAND
IN '88



A TIME TO REFLECT The North West Centenary Celebration

By Jim Simpson, Hon Secretary North West
Cricket Union

By the time most people will be reading this article, the final curtain will have fallen on the North West centenary celebrations with the centenary dinner as our swan-song. I must say as Honorary Secretary, it has been a privilege to have been involved in the preparation and the execution of all our plans during this special year, which I hope will be remembered for a long time in the North West. It seems only yesterday that I was discussing our forthcoming celebration with NCU officials during their centenary year in 1986. How time flies! When I think of the many meetings and cups of tea consumed, formulating plans, inviting guests, arranging sponsors, selecting teams and finalising details, I sometimes wonder how we got through it at all! But through it we got, and I feel it was a celebration from which all North West cricketers and clubs can take immense pride. We wanted to involve virtually every club in some way or another, and I hope we did. After all that's what a Union is all about.

TWO DISAPPOINTMENTS

In a year of many highlights there were two major disappointments which took something away from our overall enjoyment, the unfortunate passing of Jack Semple in the Spring and the cancellation of Mashonaland's visit to Ireland. The Zimbabweans were excellent hosts to the Irish team in 1986, and we hoped to return their hospitality in typical North West style and feature them in our celebration.

Big Jack was a close friend of mine and I shared many happy evenings in the company of him and Michael Bannigan setting up the year's events. He was a tireless worker for the Union, and had so many plans for this year. Sadly it was not to be, but I hope we did him proud.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The most important project to get off the ground was the centenary brochure. We were very fortunate in North West cricket to have in Billy Platt, one of the best cricket historians in Ireland, and it was a great honour that he agreed to compile this publication. They say the "proof of the pudding in the eating" well, I think Billy's centenary brochure was an excellent production and not only a credit to him, but to everyone who has been involved in North West cricket over those historic 100 years.

It was also a big year for our Chairman Michael Bannigan and he played the major role in arranging special centenary matches at all levels of North West cricket. This was a formidable task but it was important to get every club represented and I know Michael went to a lot of trouble and effort, to ensure it happened.

At the start of the year, Irish Cricket Union President Cecil Walker promised he would give priority to all North West events. I was delighted he kept true to his word, and I hope the memories of the many occasions he travelled to our area, will live long with him.

VITAL SUPPORT OF SPONSORS

There would be little to celebrate without our sponsors. I know we were extremely fortunate this year to have had the support of Gallahers and our old friends in the Northern Bank. Brian White, the Marketing Manager of Gallahers, went to extremes to ensure the special centenary Benson and Hedges Tournament was a success, and it was most appreciated. The Northern Bank has a long and close association with our Union and they were very involved in the Worcestershire match. Brian Lyle and Bill McAllister spared nothing to ensure its success and it was a memorable occasion for all those present. Radio Foyle marked the occasion by presenting one of the two awards at our centenary dinner, for the Best Senior Player. The other from the Northern Bank was for the Outstanding Young Player. We are also grateful to British Airways for their assistance.

On the cricket field everything went well and the players appeared to have entered into the spirit of the occasion. Perhaps it was fitting that Donemana should win the Benson & Hedges Centenary Cup and the Britannia Team of the Year Award, because this is also their centenary celebration. Indeed the only "Hick-up" was Worcestershire's brilliant batsman Graham, we had hoped to see a lot more of him at the crease at Beechgrove!

At the Inter-denominational service in St Columbs Cathedral in mid-September, we had time to reflect not only on this years events, but on one hundred years of nostalgia, of characters, of incident. We have had it all in North West cricket. None of us will be around to celebrate the bicentennial, but I know the North West Cricket Union will be. We have played our part in history and on behalf of the Union, I would like to thank everyone associated with this special year.



▲
TOP

Henry Moore of The Northern Bank presenting North West Chairman Michael Bannigan with the Jack Semple Memorial Salver for the 'Young Player of the Year'. In the centre is N.W. Hon. Secretary Jim Simpson.

▲
ABOVE

Phil Neale's county champions Worcestershire who visited Beechgrove to play Ireland in the Centenary showpiece.

▶
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CUP FINAL CHAOS — BUT WARINGSTOWN STILL THE "MASTERS"

The 1988 John Player Senior Cup final may well be remembered for events off the field, rather than those on it, such as the eruption caused by an Emergency Committee's decision to postpone proceedings until 2pm the following Friday, after the scheduled two days had produced only 4.5 hours of play.

Waringstown players and officials reacted angrily to the ultimatum, claiming several of their players had availability problems. Stormy scenes prevailed at Strangford Road on the Saturday, after the decision was relayed to the Waringstown camp, and a one hour impromptu crisis meeting in their dressing room failed to resolve the issue. A further request for a compromise of 3pm was turned down, so the club held their own emergency meeting the following Monday with the possibility of a withdrawal on the agenda. Fortunately, wiser counsel prevailed, but the experienced Villagers returned to Downpatrick at the scheduled time for re-start with a sting in their tail, and a point to prove. Ivan Anderson and Derek Harrison did arrive late, but it was the Downpatrick team which felt the full brunt of the Waringstown reply. No quarter was spared, as Irish cricket's most renowned club side marched relentlessly to yet another cup triumph. In the end they made it easy for themselves with some 97 runs to spare.

WARINGSTOWN ASKED TO BAT FIRST

Much of Waringstown's fury was borne out of frustration during the first two days of a final which was badly disrupted by the weather. Play did appear possible prior to the late Friday start, but local skipper Derek McCann delayed and appeared to be orchestrating proceedings to his own personal requirements. The canny veteran then sprang a major shock when he took the unprecedented step of inserting the opposition. Tradition has long determined that the team batting first usually wins, but no sooner had the locals taken the field, than they were excitedly locked in each others' jubilant arms. Dennison, Anderson and Shane Harrison all went quickly to create an ecstatic buzz amongst the home supporters. Garfield Harrison and Spence fought doggedly to repair the damage and did much to crawl Waringstown back to 132 for 9 off their 60 overs, but the confident swagger of Skipper McCann leading his squad off the field to rousing applause, confirmed that first blood had



Downpatrick skipper Derek McCann - at the centre of the action on and off the field in the cup final.



Superb second innings bowling spell from Downpatrick slow bowler Brian Ferris.

supposedly gone to the home team. Downpatrick did get to the wicket for a few overs and reached 18 for 1 before the light was offered and prematurely ended an interesting opening salvo.

When play resumed the following Friday, the tense atmosphere on the field reflected all the controversy which the intervening six days had harboured, but the die was cast and both teams set about the business of playing cricket, totally committed to their cause. Noticeably, when the pressure is on, no team can match Waringstown for grit and determination. Within half an hour Downpatrick were reeling at 26 for 5 with Merchant amazingly run out, following a suicidal call by McCann. The inexperienced middle-order rallied but not sufficiently enough to thwart disaster, and how the local supporters must have wished Alfie Linehan was coming into bat, rather than watching from the sidelines. In the end a total of 75 was salvaged but that first innings deficit of 57 runs was vital. Significantly the swagger had long since disappeared.

On their second visit to the wicket, Waringstown still found the brilliant Merchant almost impossible to play, but cautiously built their score at the other end. Once again Garfield steadied the innings, ably supported by cousin Shane, and a middle order flurry by Skipper Waite. Left arm spinner Brian Ferris then wrote his name indelibly into the record books with six wickets to his credit and twice robbed of a hat-trick. His prize capture was Garfield, but with 148 runs to add to their first innings lead, Waringstown had set Downpatrick a mountain to climb. In the end they reached 111, largely on the back of Merchant's half-century, but still some 97 runs short of victory. Once again the Waringstown machine had dug deep into their resources and produced the goods.

Downpatrick lacked experience and ultimately it showed.

With scores of 32 and 49 to add to his seven wickets, Garfield Harrison was deservedly presented with the Man-of-the-Match award, but it was skipper Alan Waite who had the broadest smile, as he clutched the magnificent Senior Cup trophy for the second successive year.

FAVOURITES REACH FINAL

When the cup draw was made during the close

season, it was widely predicted Waringstown and Downpatrick would contest the final. Muckamore thought they had caused an early upset when dismissing Downpatrick for 89, but their own lowly total of 49 settled that issue. Woodvale's eclipse of North was the only shock of the first round but their aspirations were shelved by Waringstown in the second. This round produced a number of big scores including two centuries from Scott (Bangor) and Kshirsagar (Lurgan). There were also several near misses for Colin Barkley (Instonians) 98, Derek McCann (Downpatrick) 98, and Denis Guy (Laurelvale) 94. Cliftonville upset Holywood in the quarter-finals but eventually went down to Downpatrick, after some appalling catching lapses by their fielders. In the other half of the draw, big hitting Lurgan (277 for 7) dismissed North Down while Waringstown (250 for



Man-of-the-Match Garfield Harrison 'square cuts' to the boundary.

5), had plenty to spare over Bangor. It set up a repeat of the 1987 final, and the prospect of another heated exchange between these bitter rivals. However on this occasion the event proved a major anti-climax. Lurgan crumbled to the pace of Noel Nelson (5 for 15) and their paltry target of 65 proved no match for their neighbours. In the end it was the experienced villagers who went on to the final at Downpatrick and another emphatic Senior Cup success.

JOHN PLAYER SENIOR CUP FINAL

DOWNPATRICK -v- WARINGSTOWN AT
STRANGFORD ROAD, DOWNPATRICK

WARINGSTOWN 1ST INNINGS

D Dennison bowled Merchant	3
S Harrison ct Ferguson b Patterson	3
I Anderson ct McCann b Merchant	3
G Harrison ct McCann b Ferris	32
A Waite ct Merchant b Lennon	19
A Spence ct Lennon b Merchant	25
D Harrison ct McCavery b Lennon	12
N Nelson ct McCavery b Ferguson	13
A Nelson ct McCavery b Ferguson	2
C Irwin not out	6
A Dundas not out	3
Extras	14
Total	135 for 9 wickets

Bowling: Merchant 3 for 15

WARINGSTOWN (SECOND INNINGS)

D Dennison b Merchant	11
S Harrison c Clarke b Ferris	26
I Anderson c & b Lennon	10
G Harrison lbw b Ferris	49
A Spence c Lennon b Ferris	8
A Waite lbw b Merchant	15
D Harrison c Clarke b Ferris	7
N Nelson not out	7
A Nelson c & b Ferris	3
C Irwin b Ferris	0
A Dundas run out	0
Extras	12
Total (59.3 overs)	148

Bowling: Ferris 6 for 24/Merchant 2 for 16



Another senior cup medal for long serving
Derek Harrison.

DOWNPATRICK (FIRST INNINGS)

R Shilliday c Anderson b Spence	7
D McCann b Nelson	12
G Ferguson c N Nelson b G Harrison	3
K Merchant run out	0
J Patterson b G Harrison	1
D Clarke c Dennison b S Harrison	11
R McCavery lbw b S Harrison	11
B Ferris b S Harrison	3
D McIlroy c A Nelson b G Harrison	19
P Lennon not out	4
A Gaw c S Harrison b Anderson	0
Extras	4
Total (52.2 overs)	75

Bowling: G Harrison 3 for 10/S Harrison 3 for 18



Another wicket for the jubilant Downpatrick fielders, but it was their batting which failed to match Waringstown.

DOWNPATRICK (SECOND INNINGS)

R Shilliday run out	16
D McCann c Dennison b Spence	0
K Merchant lbw Dundas	58
G Ferguson c Dennison b Anderson	0
J Patterson st Dennison b G Harrison	19
D Clarke c Anderson b G Harrison	0
R McCavery bowled G Harrison	0
B Ferris c Dundas b G Harrison	13
D McIlroy c Dennison b S Harrison	2
P Lennon c N Nelson b S Harrison	1
A Gaw not out	0
Extras	2
Total	111

Bowling: G Harrison 4 for 22/S Harrison 2 for 22

UMPIRES: ROBIN DIXON
MAURICE MOORE
GEORGE ARCHER



Skipper's role from Alan Waite.





Drumaness stars George Whyte, Freddie Stranney and Hugh Craig.

Drumaness rolled back the years and ended a 36 year famine, when winning the Walker Eurosalt Junior Cup final at the expense of holders Muckamore. In a low scoring game which was characterised by dogged, defensive batting, the match came alive in the closing stages when the fighting qualities of Drumanness proved decisive. Set 141 to win, Muckamore appeared well on the way to victory at 82 for 3, with Stephen Brown and Peter Bates in control, but a fine boundary catch by evergreen veteran Fergie Gordon, transformed the match and gave his colleagues a much-needed boost. George Whyte reacted immediately to take the wickets of Brown, Breet and Rainey and plummet the 1987 champions to 94 for 6. From then on it was the seasoned County Down side which called the tune, exerting carefully controlled pressure on their younger opponents and fielding like dervishes. Big Davy Campbell attempted to stave the impossible, and performed some late-order heroics, but Drumanness kept their cool, isolated his partners and finished the job with a run out, ten runs short of the target. It was a nail-biting enthralling finish which had the supporters of both teams locked in frenzied combat but in the end Drumanness fully deserved their success.



The Muckamore 'Hierarchy' — Club stalwarts Fred Ashton, Pat O'Hara, Billy Ross, Ivor McMeekin and Robert Freeman lend their support to the Junior Cup cause.

FIRST INNINGS LEAD PROVES DECISIVE

Earlier in the match, Drumanness plodded to 123 for 6 in their 50 overs with Freddie Stranney 30 not out. Dropped catches did not help the Muckamore cause and when they started their reply, Tom "Tucker" Hanna tore into their opening batsmen to take three early wickets. Mills and Glenn continued the bowlers dominance to reduce Muckamore to 43 for 6 but they had skipper Breet to thank for reaching 75. However, with a 48 runs deficit, their task was always going

DRUMANESS WIN THRILLER

1988 WALKER EUROSALT JUNIOR CUP FINAL DRUMANESS -V- MUCKAMORE AT ORMEAU

DRUMANESS 1st INNINGS

F Gordon c Bates b Breet	16	D Kane b T Hanna	0
T Hanna c Breet b Campbell	12	M Kane b A Mills	11
A Mills c D Kane b Breet	3	D Rainey b T Hanna	5
W Price b Browne	11	P Bates lbw T Hanna	4
F Stranney not out	30	S Brown run out	16
N Hanna run out	19	R Clement c Stranney b A Mills	1
G White run out	14		
B Gelston c Browne b R Kane	3	D Breet not out	15
H Craig T Deegan and G Glenn did not bat		P Browne c Stranney b A Mills	0
EXTRAS	15	D Campbell c & b Whyte	11
TOTAL (for 6 wks)	123	P Dewes c A Mills b G Glenn	1
Bowling: D Campbell 10-6-7-1,		R Kane c N Hanna b G Glenn	10
P Browne 10-0-23-1; P Dewes		EXTRAS	75
10-0-23-0; d Breet 10-3-23-2		TOTAL	
R Kane 10-1-37-1		Bowling: T Hanna 10-3-20-3;	
		B Gelston 9-1-20-0; A Mills	
		10-4-9-3; G Whyte 5-0-12-1;	
		G Glenn 4-3-1-5-2	

DRUMANESS 2nd INNINGS

F Gordon c Breet b R Kane	13	M Kane lbw B Gelston	1
T Hanna c D Kane b R Kane	8	D Kane c F Stranney b B Gelston	3
A Mills lbw D Campbell	24	R Clement run out	1
W Price c & b P Dewes	6	S Brown c A Mills b G Whyte	41
F Stranney lbw D Rainey	10	P Bates c F Gordon b A Mills	37
N Hanna c Breet b P Browne	0	D Rainey b G Whyte	5
B Gelston run out	19	D Breet lbw G Whyte	2
G Whyte lbw D Campbell	4	D Campbell not out	27
H Craig b D Campbell	0	P Browne b G Glenn	6
T Deegans c M Kane b D Breet	3	P Dewes b W Price	1
G Glenn not out	0	R Kane run out	0
EXTRAS	5		
TOTAL	92	EXTRAS	7
		TOTAL	131
Bowling: P Browne 10-5-23-1		Bowling: T Hanna 10-1-24-0	
D Campbell 8-3-12-3; P Dewes		B Gelston 10-3-25-2; G Whyte	
10-4-13-1; D Breet 4-2-2-5-1;		10-0-22-3; A Mills 10-1-27-1	
R Kane 10-2-20-2; D Rainey		G Glenn 5-1-13-1; W Price	
7-2-14-1.		3-2-0-12-1.	

UMPIRES: Lloyd McKee and Peter White.

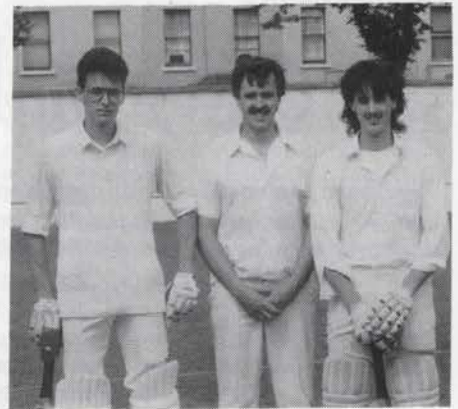
tor and Irish Cricket Union President, Cecil Walker, to launch celebrations which rang loud and long for the County Down villagers.

NORTH ELIMINATION SHOCK

Earlier in the competition, favourites North of Ireland were eliminated, following the inclusion of the ineligible Davy Johnston against North Down. This life-line to the Comber team characterised their cup campaign, which was riddled with good fortune. An early defeat of a depleted RUC team was followed by a 1 run victory over Dunmurry, then that error by North. In the semi-final, they salvaged a tie when seemingly buried but their luck finally ran out in the semi-final replay at Muckamore.

Drumaness comfortably moved to the final following a quarter-final victory over Lurgan and a semi-final crushing of fancied Ballymena.

The highest scoring match of the competition was the second round clash between Collegians and Larne. The Belfast team successfully chased 206 and won, thanks largely to a fine century from stalwart Roger Gordon.



A family affair for Muckamore veteran Raymond Kane and his sons Daryll and Michael.

to be uphill, despite dismissing Drumaness for 92 second time round. With Bates and Brown in harness, they saw a glimmer of hope but Fergie Gordon's great catch ultimately switched the balance in favour of Drumaness.



Friend and Foe — Junior Cup opponents Wille Price (Drumaness) and Philip Dewes (Muckamore) enjoy a break in proceedings.

Once back in control, skipper Brian Gelston never surrendered the initiative, although Muckamore did well to get to within ten runs of their target. It was a proud captain who collected the impressive Junior Cup trophy from Walker Eurosalt Managing Direc-

"INST" SUCCESS

Bad weather ruined the Harris Marrian Minor Cup qualifying final featuring Laurelvale and Instonians. Batting first, the County Armagh team never recovered from a terrible start and struggled to 50. They sportingly took the field in the rain and Instonians wasted little time in achieving the victory target with six wickets to spare.

LAURELVALE	50 (HAMILTON 3 FOR
IV	11/DOLAGHAN 3 FOR 16)
INSTONIANS	53 FOR 3 (CROTHERS 21
IV	n.o./ADAMS 3 FOR 16)

RESULT: INSTONIANS WON BY 6 WICKETS.

JOY FOR HAMILTON

It was an experienced North side which travelled to Wallace Park for the final of the James Anderson Intermediate Cup, and beat the young locals on home soil. In a low scoring match John Hamilton was the star with six wickets and 39 not out.

LISBURN III	64 (DOAK 18/HAMILTON
	6 FOR 15)
NORTH OF	65 FOR 4 (HAMILTON
IRELAND III	39 n.o.)

RESULT: NORTH OF IRELAND WON BY 6 WICKETS.

GREGG SEALS IT

North Down beat the rain and Lurgan to win the Sun Life Assurance Minor Cup final in a match played in excellent spirit despite the inclement conditions. At one stage the Comber side was struggling at 71 for 8 but Stephen Gregg and Keith Graham rallied the cause to take the score to 151. Lurgan struggled throughout their reply against the strong North Down attack and never really challenged the target. Gregg was deservedly named Man-of-the-Match for his fighting half-century.

NORTH DOWN	151 FOR 9 (GREGG 50
III	n.o./GRAHAM 34 n.o.)
LURGAN III	97 (RUSSELL
	23/McBURNIE 3 for 20)

RESULT: NORTH DOWN WON BY 54 RUNS.



North Down's victorious Lindsay Minor Cup winning team.

Back Row: Derek Steen, Trevor McBurney, Wes Campbell, Ken Campbell, (L to R) Peter Wishart, Keith Graham, John Hiles, Kieran McKenna. Front Row: Graham Moreland (Scorer), Stephen Greg, Miller O'Prey, Raymond Moreland (Capt), Colin Montgomery, Norman Beck.

Seconds make it Donemana "Double"

Donemana's Intermediate team made it an historic "double" when they matched the seniors in winning the cup. Little Nedd were on the receiving end of a crushing innings defeat, after having been dismissed for only 28 in their first innings. It was a low scoring final, but Donemana's first innings total of 126 proved the match of Nedd, even at two attempts. Drew Curry had a match analysis of nine wickets for 60 runs but Noel Dunn was the Man of the Match with ten for 38 runs.

NORTH WEST INTERMEDIATE CUP FINAL

DONEMANA (FIRST INNINGS)

K Kerrigan st C Cassidy b D McMichael	32
A Gilfillan ct C Cassidy b T Mailey	0
Jun Nelson ct T O'Hara b T Mailey	9
N Dunn st C Cassidy b D McMichael	27
D Lecky st C Cassidy b D McMichael	31
D Riddles ct T O'Hara b D McMichael	3
B Brolly b T O'Hara	0
L McClintock b T O'Hara	2
R Huey ct T O'Hara b D McMichael	7
J Lecky lbw b T O'Hara	6

D Curry not out	7
Extras	2
Total	126

T Mailey 2-16; T O'Hara 3-37; J Moore 0-26; D McMichael 5-45

THE NEDD (FIRST INNINGS)

J Murray b D Curry	2
S Shields b N Dunn	4
D McMichael run out	1
M Harron lbw b N Dunn	3
P Smyth ct A Gilfillan b N Dunn	0
S Murray ct L McClintock b D Curry	2
T Mailey ct b D Curry	0
T O'Hara lbw b N Dunn	4
D Hart b D Curry	0
J Moore b D Curry	5
C Cassidy not out	3
Extras	4
Total	28

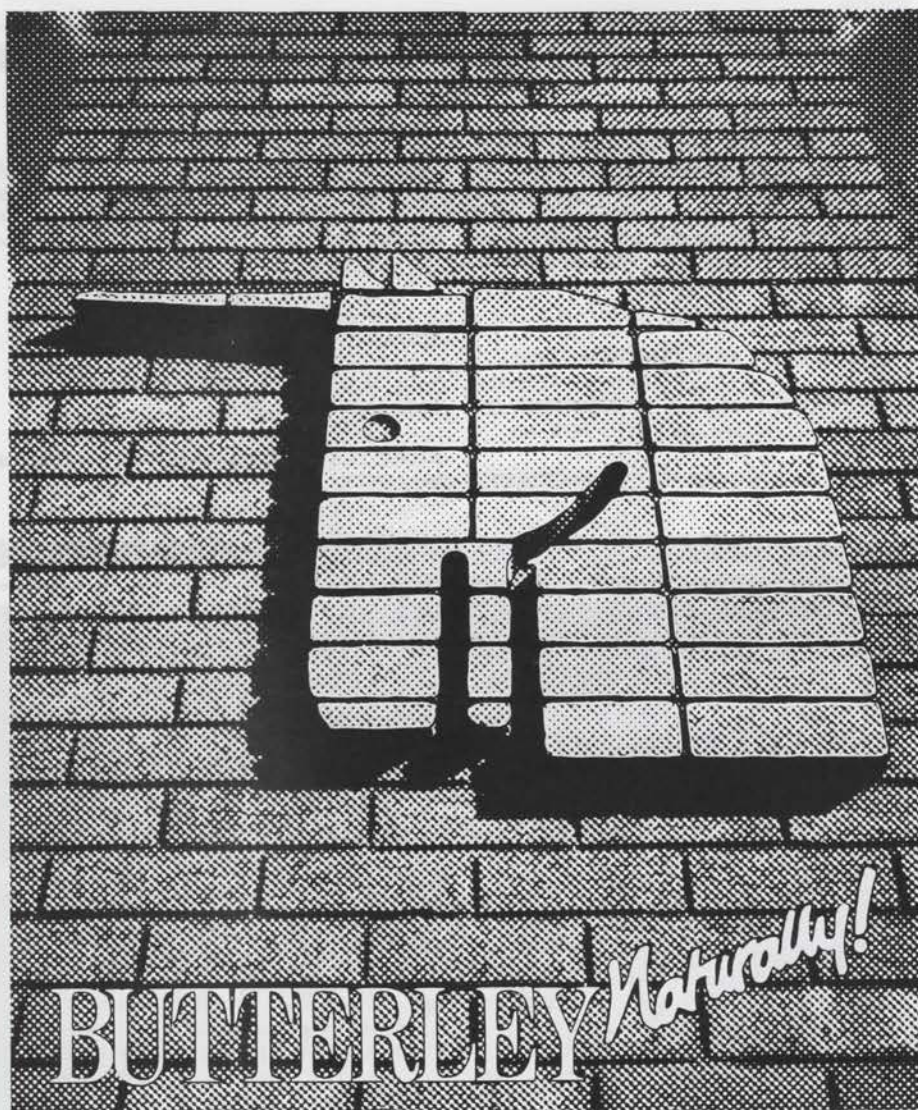
D Curry 5-14; Dunn 4-10.

THE NEDD (SECOND INNINGS)

J Murray ct J Lecky b D Curry	25
S Murray ct L McClintock b N Dunn	5
D McMichael ct D Riddles b D Curry	2
P Smyth lbw b N Dunn	5
S Shields ct A Gilfillan b D Curry	4
T Mailey b D Curry	5
M Harrison ct D Curry b N Dunn	4
T O'Hara not out	6
D Hart b N Dunn	10
C Cassidy b N Dunn	4
J Moore ct K Kerrigan b N Dunn	0
Extras	9
Total	79

D Curry 4-46; N Dunn 6-28

**RESULT: DONEMANA WON BY AN INNINGS
AND 19 RUNS**



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Many hobbies cultivated in one's boyhood are passing phases such as the autumnal addiction to "conkers". However a pastime which began for me in 1946 when I was an eleven year old schoolboy in Canterbury has stood the test of time and remains with me forty-two years on. I refer to autographs and, whilst I collect famous people from all walks of life, including the theatre and most sports, my speciality is first-class cricketers, especially Test players.

The first cricket autographs I obtained were some members of the 1946 Indian touring team when they played Kent at Canterbury in August of that year. Amongst them were Mushtaq Ali, Rusi Modi and the late Vinoo Mankad (father of Ashok and Rahul who are well known in Ulster cricket).

During the next four decades I added steadily to my collection acquiring the signatures of many of the major touring sides in England and players from all seventeen first-class countries. These were obtained personally - generally at one of the Kent grounds and sometimes at Test Matches. However the size of crowds particularly at Test Matches sometimes made the task difficult if not impossible.

I found that calling at the team's hotel either around breakfast time or late in the evening was an effective method of obtaining the desired autographs. For example I acquired the 1961 South Africans and the 1953 Australians at London's Park Lane Hotel, the 1953 Australians at a Nottingham hotel, the 1961 Australians at Harrogate and the 1980 and 1985 Australians at the Waldorf Hotel, London.

In 1980 many old Test cricketers from England and Australia stayed at the Hotel Russell, London as official guests for the Lord's Centenary Test Match. When I walked into the hotel on the Tuesday evening preceding the Test Match, the first person I spotted was the great Harold Larwood (who will always be remembered for his exploits on the Bodyline Tour of 1932-33) in conversation with Australia's Ernie Toshack. It is a sobering thought that many of the guests at that match have since passed on eg E W Clark, "Tom" Dollery, Percy Fender, Eric Hollies, John Ikin and Andy Sandham (England) and "Jack" Badcock, Jack Fingleton and Don Tallon (Australia). What a pleasure to meet all these personalities in the flesh and find them all amenable and only too pleased to oblige an intrepid autograph hunter.

As I write memories come flooding back such as obtaining Sir Donald Bradman's autograph in the press box at Trent Bridge in 1953 when he was reporting the Test services for the Daily Mail; and of Frank Woolley aged over ninety standing on the bank at Canterbury with his back still ramrod-straight signing his name for me with a remarkably firm hand.

Over the years I have called at the homes of several players eg the late Eddie Paynter at Idle near Bradford, Alex Coxon at Roker, Sunderland, Jeffrey Jones in Llanelli, Dick Spooner at Brixham, Devon; Roly Jenkins in Worcester and Alfred ("Sonny") Avery in Wyesham near Monmouth. "Sonny" Avery was unlucky not to gain Test status. I watched him score a splendid 79 in the Canterbury Test trial of 1946 but invariably the opening batsmen barring his way included Len Hutton, Cyril Washbrook and Jack Robertson. I am proud to count Roly Jenkins and Sonny Avery as firm friends of mine, and my wife and I called to see them both (not forgetting their wives Olive and Marjorie) whilst on holiday in August of this year.

Until about ten years ago the idea of augmenting my collection by dint of correspondence had never occurred to me. Since then I have written to Test cricketers and some "Nearly Men" in England, Australia, South Africa, the West Indies, New Zealand, India and Pakistan in attempts to fill gaps in my collection. Something like 85% reply. Failure to do so is disappointing as I always enclose a stamped addressed envelope (within the United Kingdom) and International Reply Coupons (for overseas-based players) to ensure that the recipient of my request will not be out of

THE ULSTER CRICKETER

A LABOUR OF LOVE

by Peter Lunney

pocket. Sometimes there is the bonus of a letter accompanying the signed slips of paper. These letters are amongst my treasured possessions with charming letters from many players including Vijay Merchant (India), Andy Ganteaume (West Indies), Bill O'Reilly (Austria), Percy Maussell (South Africa), Mervyn Wallace (New Zealand), Asif Masood (Pakistan) and Norman Yardley (England) also from many quality county players such as Les Berry (Leicestershire), Laurie Gray (Middlesex) and Jack Parker (Surrey) all three of whom, alas, have passed onto the Elysian fields.



Peter Lunney

During the last decade I have established contacts, some temporary, others more durable, with fellow-enthusiasts in Tasmania, India, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and England. Thereby I have been able to exchange autographs on the basis of friendship rather than on a strict one-to-one method. One of these men, Ken Mills, from Galgate near Lancaster, has shown almost superhuman powers of diligence and pertinacity in the course of which he has built up contacts which put mine in the shade. He now operates as a part time dealer to cover his considerable expenses.

From other dealers such as J W McKenzie, the Ewell bookseller, I have managed to considerably enhance my collection especially in relation to immortal players of an earlier vintage such as Victor Trumper, Clem Hill, Charlie McCartney, Clarrie Grimmer, Stan McCabe, Ted McDonald, Jack Gregory, Sidney Barnes, W G Grace, Colin Blythe, Wilfred Rhodes, George Hirst, K S Ranjitsinhji, K S Duleepsinhji, George Challenor, George Herdley and H B Cameron. The ultimate utopian ambition would be to attain the autograph of every Test cricketer which clearly is unrealistic. I have, however, managed to obtain every post-1918 England player bar three - John Evans, Nigel Howard and Ronald Stonyfort - and every living South African Test cricketer. Apart from a couple of recently-blooded players like Ian Healy I also have all surviving Australian capped players and lack just three living New Zealanders. Former Test Umpire P R Panjabi is helping me with my Indian collection - a contact I established via the good offices of Rahul Mankad. The editor of this publication kindly assisted me by

obtaining some signatures of Edward A V (Foffie) Williams (who came to England with the 1939 West Indies touring team) and Sir Garry Sobers.

The greatest satisfaction does not necessarily come from obtaining the signature of a really famous player but rather when on manages to trace the whereabouts of a hitherto elusive individual by detective work. I derived the utmost pleasure when Bob Crisp (South Africa) replied to me from a remote Greek Island. Early in 1982 I wrote to Halford Hooker of New South Wales who was close to Australian selection in the late 1920's. To my horror I read his obituary in the Cricketer and Wisden Cricket Monthly a few days later. You can, therefore, imagine my surprise, pleasure and gratitude when within a few weeks I received a lovely letter from one of his daughters enclosing some autographs of her late father. Naturally I penned a letter of appreciation by return. Similarly the widow of Hines Johnson (West Indies) sent me some autographs which her late husband had signed for me a few weeks before he died and again a thank you letter was merited.

Don Cleverley of New Zealand whose two Test Matches were fourteen years apart sends me a Christmas Card each year, the last of which contained a photograph of himself. In March 1981 an article appeared in the Bath and West Evening Chronicle about the old Somerset all-rounder Bertie Buse which arose directly from an autograph request I had made to him a few weeks earlier.

Whilst the list is by no means exhaustive, the following players of those I have met in person have been especially obliging and pleasant - Glenn Turner, Asif Iqbal, Derek Underwood, Bob Taylor (who spent a week-end at my home in 1980 and is a real gentleman in every sense of the word), Gil Langley, Keith Miller, Godfrey Evans, Athol Rowan, Alan Revill, Don Shepherd, Barrie Meyer, Brian Crump, Paul Phillipson, Ray East, Maurice Hill, Collis King, Desmond Haynes, Joel Garner, Vic Cannings, Allan Border, Jack Russell, David Lloyd, Jack Simmons, Dennis Amiss and Gus Logie (a super little bloke).

The most difficult player I came across was Larry Gomes who declined all autograph requests after the practice session on the eve of the 1976 Test and even refused when the baggage man, Tony Smith, presented books of mine for him to sign over breakfast on the fourth morning of that match. However, a few years later, when he was professional for Lancashire League club, Oldham, Larry Gomes eventually responded positively to my written request.

Other less than co-operative players in my experience were the late Arthur Fagg, Andy Roberts and Geoff Boycott. The latter is quite unpredictable. Once at the Westmorland Hotel, near Lords, Boycott declined to sign although nobody else was around and, as I hope is always the case, the request was made politely. On another occasion at Bristol I presented an album for him to sign open at pages headed Yorkshire CCC and already bearing the autographs of such stalwarts as the late Tony Nicholson, Arthur Robinson, Chris Old, Geoff Cope and David Bairstow. "Sir Geoffrey" scanned his eyes over the two pages and then said "I'll sign at the top where I belong." At first I thought he was applying the humour of mock pumposity but quickly realised that he was absolutely serious!

My collection of cricketers who have represented Ireland was considerably enhanced by the evergreen David Pigot who was good enough to obtain for me many Dublin-based players. In my experience Ireland cricketers are invariably friendly and co-operative - none more than current skipper Paul Jackson, Stephen Warke and Alan Lewis.

Some people have expressed the view that my collection is unique. However there are at least three other addicts in Northern Ireland with enviable collections - Hampton Ewart (Armagh), Peter Leonard (Lisburn) and Norman Wilson (North of Ireland) who often attends Phillip's auctions of cricket in London.

Finally I would recommend the hobby to any young person. Even now when I receive a reply, especially from an overseas player, the thrill is akin to that of a small boy receiving an electric model railway as a Christmas present.

ALAN "BANKS" HIS POINTS!

South Leinster win Interprovincial Championship

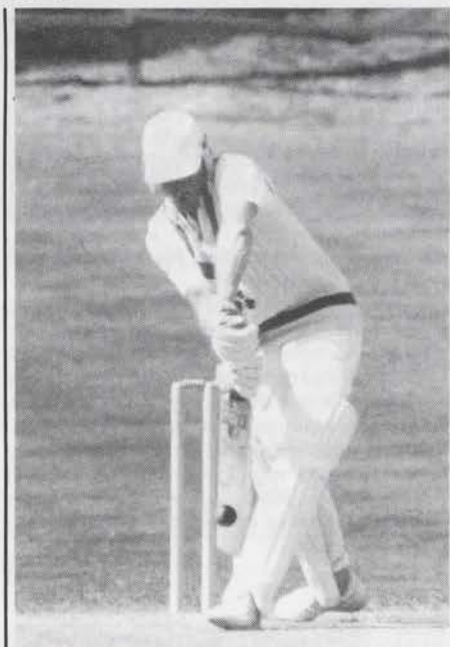
South Leinster deservedly won the Ulster Bank Interprovincial championship, finishing a convincing 24 points in front of Ulster Country. Both teams set themselves apart from the other contenders, but in the end Alan Lewis's entrepreneurial leadership tipped the balance in favour of the Dublin team. Their big confrontation at Comber in mid July lived up to all expectations with South Leinster setting their northern rivals what appeared to be a modest target of 217 to win. This was the gamble on which Lewis mounted his strategy, looking mainly for wickets and those vital bowling points, as he expected the rain to prematurely end proceedings. He could never have expected his enterprise to have been so handsomely rewarded, as the Country middle order inexplicably crumbled to 167 for 8, and the face of defeat loomed large. However, of even greater significance was the fact that 4 vital bowling points had been secured, and although the rain did eventually call a halt 26 balls early, Lewis knew those points would eventually prove crucial. In the end the rain had the final answer, because South Leinster completed their annual rout of Munster by 92 runs and Ulster Country's last game at Deramore was washed out a week later.

ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPTAINCY WELCOMED

The significance of the approach of both captains at Comber, was that they were prepared to gamble to get a positive result. Last year on several occasions, caution ruled the day, but both Alan Lewis and Garfield Harrison proved that entrepreneurial leadership does enhance the game, and boost the entertainment level. Ulster Town's acting skipper that same day, might think otherwise. Stephen Warke deputised for the hamstring-injured Paul Jackson, and set North Leinster a target of 247 to win on Deramore's placid wicket.

Derek Vincent's undefeated 145 set up an emphatic nine wicket defeat for the 1987 champions, and made their much-hallowed spin duo of Stafford and Magowan

Another 'top ten' position for Stephen Warke in the averages but not one of his better interpro series.



Ulster Bank marketing manager Noel Kincaide presenting South Leinster captain Alan Lewis with the Ulster Bank Interprovincial trophy. Also included is the bank's deputy chairman Victor Chambers and Irish cricket union president Cecil Walker.

look very ordinary. Indeed the 'Town bowling was mediocre throughout the 1988 campaign, and significantly none of their bowlers made the top ten in the averages. The loss of the great Corlett through retirement and big John Elder through injury proved costly, while the indifferent form of Hugh Milling was a particular disappointment. Not surprisingly he was dropped for the last game.

In sharp contrast, the bowlers from South Leinster and Ulster Country dominated the averages. With bonus points only available for bowling, this proved significant as the championship reached its final stages. Both teams had also strong batting line-ups, but in 1988 South Leinster performed better in this particular department. The Harrison and Waite "inform" Waringstown duo, was heavily outgunned by the Garth, O'Brien, Hoey, Cohen and Lewis entourage, each of whom scored over 100 runs in the campaign. That all round team strength was enhanced by Lewis' enthusiastic leadership which boosted confidence and "gelled" team spirit.

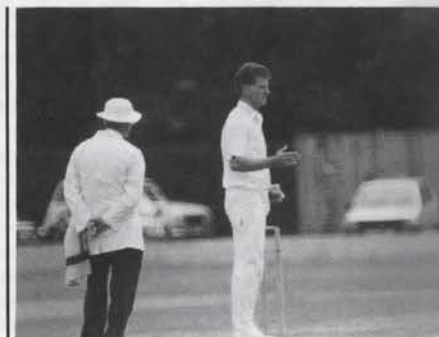
VINCENT IN PROLIFIC FORM

Throughout the championship, Derek Vincent was in fine form and thoroughly deserved his recall to the Irish team. It was on the back of his prolific form for North Leinster, that he again won favour with the national selectors for the match against Wales. That century at Deramore ensured he finished top of the batting averages. However, despite the encouraging batting of Nulty and the bowling of Sheehan, the North Leinster team did not have a strong enough base on which to mount a serious championship challenge.

North West had a disappointing season with only a solitary victory over Munster and the best of a draw against North Leinster to positively record. Four players made the Irish team, Alf Masood, Junior McBrine and new caps Nigel Thompson and Paul Wallace, but not one of them appeared in the top fifteen batsmen or top ten bowlers. However two players did make the top six of the batting averages, Alan Rutherford and Foyle schoolboy Stephen Smyth. It is around these two promising young players that the

much maligned North West Selectors, and hard-working skipper Willie Wilson must build for the future. Rutherford's century against North Leinster was encouraging, but the dropping of Masood for poor form, and the McBrine twins and Alan Jeffrey for disciplinary reasons, highlighted problems in the North West camp and left a sour taste on the centenary celebration of the Union.

Munster played five and lost five. Although they managed to score over a hundred on each visit to the crease, they were always dismissed. Their bowlers also found the going tough, and with only one victory in the last five years to their credit, it calls to question their right to continue to participate at this level. Ironically they reserved their best performance for the last game against South Leinster, but having survived a minor batting scare, the Dubliners went on to a comfortable 92 runs victory, to clinch the Ulster Bank Trophy. The Presentation took place in Jury's Hotel, Dublin in mid September, when the Ulster Bank's retiring Chief Executive Victor Chambers carried out the formalities. The Bank's sponsorship brought a "breath of fresh air" to the 1988 Interprovincial series, which was one of the best for many years. One hopes it is the beginning of a new era in representative cricket.



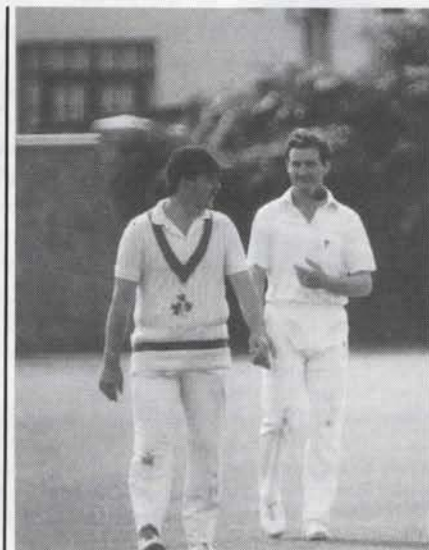
Ulster Country skipper Garfield Harrison who topped the interprovincial averages.

THE ULSTER CRICKETER



1988 Interprovincial champions South Leinster at Comber where they virtually clinched the championship:

Back: (L to R) Keith Bailey, Ian Burns, Tom McDonnell, Brendan O'Brien, Mark Cohen, Sean Clarke
Front Row: Jonathan Garth, Alan Lewis (Capt.), Conor Hoey, Rodney Molins, John Hoey.



North West duo Nigel Thompson and Junior McBride who won International selection against Wales at Clontarf but had average Interprovincial campaigns.

BATTING AVERAGES (QUALIFICATION = 100 RUNS)

	Inns	N.O.	Most	Runs	Aver
D A VINCENT (N LEINSTER)	5	3	145★	267	89.00
J D GARTH (S LEINSTER)	5	3	69★	171	85.50
A RUTHERFORD (N WEST)	2	0	110	131	65.60
G D HARRISON (ULSTER COUNTRY)	4	2	41★	122	61.00
D O'BRIEN (S LEINSTER)	3	0	94	156	52.00
S SMYTH (N WEST)	3	1	72	100	50.00
A SEMPLE (ULSTER TOWN)	4	0	89	195	48.75
S J S WARKE (ULSTER TOWN)	30	0	71	134	44.66
J HOEY (S LEINSTER)	5	2	59★	121	40.33
M A NULTY (N LEINSTER)	5	1	64	141	35.25
A WAITE (ULSTER COUNTRY)	4	0	69	136	34.00
W WILSON (N WEST)	5	0	96	164	32.80
M F COHEN (S LEINSTER)	5	0	43	142	28.40
G ROOS (MUNSTER)	4	0	42	103	25.75
D A LEWIS (S LEINSTER)	5	0	56	116	23.20

BOWLING AVERAGES (QUALIFICATION = 8 WICKETS)

	Wkts	Runs	Average
G D HARRISON (ULSTER COUNTRY)	10	100	10.00
A N NELSON (ULSTER COUNTRY)	8	86	10.75
L SHEAHAN (NORTH LEINSTER)	12	133	11.08
R WONG (MUNSTER)	8	99	12.37
P MCCRUM (ULSTER COUNTRY)	9	122	13.55
C HOEY (SOUTH LEINSTER)	10	160	16.00
T McDONNELL (SOUTH LEINSTER)	10	162	16.20
J D GARTH (SOUTH LEINSTER)	11	189	17.18
B O'DONNELL (MUNSTER)	8	141	17.62
R B MOLINS (SOUTH LEINSTER)	9	177	19.66

WICKET KEEPERS (QUALIFICATION = 5 DISMISSALS)

	CT	ST	TOTAL
I ANTHONY (NORTH WEST)	5	3	8
T TULLY (NORTH LEINSTER)	5	2	7

THE ULSTER CRICKETER

THE ULSTER BANK INTERPROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1988

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Bonus	Total bowling Points	Points
South Leinster	5	4	1	0	24	109
Ulster Country	5	3	2	0	15	85
North Leinster	5	2	1	2	15	60
Ulster Town	5	2	1	2	10	55
North West	5	1	1	3	11	36
Munster	5	0	0	0	15	15



Bready's Alan Rutherford - one of the North West's most promising young players who scored 110 against North Leinster.



Still 'waiting in the wings' despite another fine representative season - Ulster Town's Adrian Semple.



THE ULSTER BANK INTERPROVINCIALS IN 1988

MAY 15

Ulster Country beat North Leinster at Malahide.
North Leinster 122 (Harrison 5 for 22)
Ulster Country 123 for 5 (McCollum 43/Harrison 41 not out)

South Leinster beat Ulster Town at Leinster.
Ulster Town 193 (Semple 89/Warke 48/Lewis 4 for 22)
South Leinster 194 for 5 (J Hoey 59 not out/Garth 51 not out/Cohen 38)

MAY 22

Ulster Country beat Munster at Stormont.
Munster 105 (Roos 39/Harrison 4 for 21/McCrum 3 for 39)
Ulster Country 106 for 2 (C McCrum 28/Graham 27 not out/Harrison 23 not out)

Ulster Town beat North West at Ormeau.
Ulster Town 228 for 5 (Warke 71/Harte 40/Semple 31)
North West 175 (Jeffrey 37/Wilson 33/Semple 3 for 10)

JUNE 5

North Leinster beat Munster at Castle Avenue.
Munster 112 (Roos 42/Halliday 4 for 19/Sheenan 4 for 23)
North Leinster 113 for 2 (Vincent 60 not out/Nulty 31 not out)

South Leinster beat North West at Angelsea Road.
South Leinster 252 for 4 (O'Brien 94/Lewis 56/Cohen 43)
North West 136 (McBrine 38/Molins 3 for 41/Garth 3 for 47)

JUNE 19

Ulster Country beat North West at Coleraire.
North West 144 (A McBrine 33/McCrum 5 for 37/Nelson 4 for 34)
Ulster Country 147 for 5 (Harrison 39/Waite 36)

Ulster Town beat Munster at the Mardyke.
Ulster Town 179 (Rea 42/O'Donnell 7 for 81)
Munster 111 (O'Donnell 27/Semple 3 for 11/Stafford 3 for 27/Milling 3 for 30)

JULY 3

South Leinster beat North Leinster at Cabra.
South Leinster 186 (Lewis 41/Garth 31/Sheehan 5 for 36)
North Leinster 134 (Vincent 37/Garth 4 for 27/Hoey 4 for 59)

JULY 10

Ulster Country and South Leinster drew at Comber.
South Leinster 216 for 4 (Garth 69 not out/Burns 52/J Hoey 32 not out)
Ulster Country 169 for 8 (Waite 69/Garth 3 for 45)

North Leinster beat Ulster Town at Deramore.
Ulster Town 246 (Gilliland 72/Semple 51/O'Neill 4 for 34)
North Leinster 248 for 1 (Vincent 145/Nulty 64)

JULY 23

North West beat Munster at the Mardyke.
North West 203 (Smyth 72/Thompson 43 not out/Wong 4 for 48)
Munster 181 (O'Brien 37/Dineen 30/Martin 5 for 44)

AUGUST 7

South Leinster beat Munster at the Mardyke.
South Leinster 221 for 9 (McDonnell 54/Molins 53/Wong 4 for 51)
Munster 129 (Walsh 41/Hoey 5 for 29)

North West drew with North Leinster at Strabane.
North West 272 for 4 (Rutherford 110/Wilson 96)
North Leinster 141 for 8 (Gillmore 51/Taylor 42/Wallace 5 for 28)

AUGUST 14

Ulster Country -v- Ulster Town at Deramore.
(Abandoned as a draw - rain)

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by Jimmy Boyce

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In a season when once again the vagaries of an Irish summer played havoc with the form-book, one feature of the Interprovincial campaign remained static - Munster finished bottom of the table! It is a sad reflection, that in the premier domestic competition, one team should remain so hopelessly out of its depth. In 23 years of competition, the men from the west have won only a paltry 9 games and significantly only one in the last five years. Ironically that was a low-scoring rain-affected match against Ulster Town and the first defeat by an NCU team at the hands of Munster. During those 23 years five players have gained International recognition for the first time, with Jack Short and Pat Dineen the most distinguished incumbents, but significantly over the past decade few players outside John McDevitt have warranted any serious international selectorial deliberation. In simple terms, the Munster presence in the Interprovincial championship, is a product of philanthropic Irish Cricket Union ideology, grossly outdated and in radical need of a reappraisal. Gone are the lazy halcyon days of the Sixties when visits to Cork were savoured with the pace of life so much slower. The modern Interprovincial player has huge demands on his time and the long journey to Cork for cricket missionary work, is well down his list of priorities. The players openly dislike the situation and see it no further than misguided benevolence which has diluted the competitive edge of the Interprovincial series in recent years. However the mounting dissent is unlikely to win much favour with seemingly intransigent ICU legislators who have repeatedly side-stepped the issue and will continue to religiously "protect" the minnow of the four Provincial Unions. This situation is farcical and surely it must end soon for the betterment of Irish cricket as a whole? Indeed, if the problem was approached with greater conviction by the legislators it might give Munster cricket a massive boost and lay the foundation for a new era of development and promotion in this traditional gaelic stronghold.

CALL FOR MORE TANGIBLE SUPPORT

Supporters of Munster cricket will be up in arms at any threat to their continuing participation in the Interprovincial series. No doubt they will argue that it is a small price to pay to foster and develop the game in the most difficult of circumstances. They will also argue that representative involvement provides the lofty platform to which ambitious young players aspire. Perhaps this is true, but defeats of monotonous regularity must dampen the enthusiasm of even the most

END THIS FARCE!

devoted student of the game, and stifle his aspirations to some extent. Surely Munster cricket deserves more than the "cloaked" protection of these well-meaning but somewhat naive legislators who move in the corridors of power in Irish cricket? To claim to support the Munster cause by continuing to veto their expulsion, is in itself hypocrisy and an insult to the debate. Munster cricket needs support, it is crying out for guidance and benevolence, but of a more tangible and committed form than that laid-back bureaucracy. It needs a progressive and imaginative blue-print for the future, the combination of a detailed appraisal of cricket requirements in the county, with the efforts of both Munster and Irish Cricket Union officials combined to face the issues. Failure to accept the challenge must inevitably swell the lobby to remove Munster from the current championship programme. Is it fair to ask amateur sportsmen to undertake a round trip of some 800 miles and expect them to perform against a second rate team? In the reverse, is it realistic to expect Munster to continually compete against better teams following such an arduous and exhausting journey?

It is well known that many Northern players have opted out of this fixture at the eleventh hour, causing hectic last minute "pseudo selections". Indeed the Ulster Town selectors set an interesting precedent this year, by "resting" Internationals Paul Jackson and Stephen Warke for the match in Cork. It was a move warmly welcomed by the two players, both of whom experience horrific demands on their time in a normal representative season. It is a move likely to be followed by other teams, thus reducing the fixture in status and further diluting the quality of the competition.

The significance of this development should not be lost on the ICU legislators or indeed on the Munster officials. The fixture is already deemed second-class by the players and any further dilution will do little for the championship as a whole. Perhaps the initial move should come from Munster, because it seems highly unlikely the ICU will spark an initiative. However, without certain guarantees, any positive move is likely to be vetoed by Cork officialdom. The solution must therefore lie in the extent and calibre of these guarantees, but if framed in an imaginative, progressive blue-print, surely the response would be encouraging? Munster cricket is going nowhere at present so a radical boost to it must be a healthy step in the right direction. Rather than view Interprovincial withdrawal as a negative factor, it might prove to be more positive than continuing participation as the poor relation of the championship.

Perhaps the most salient issue is the provision of representative cricket. However it appears that current participation in the championship does not really suit this need, so perhaps a programme of carefully appraised fixtures might be more appropriate. Representative fixtures are important to the life-blood of any Union so the ICU may also benefit. The Mardyke could host a game against the Presidents XI, the Under 25 XI the Irish Universities XI, the Irish Schools XI or indeed an interprovincial XI. Teams must be encouraged to travel to Cork but in a relaxed convivial atmosphere, and certainly not like the current hectic rush crammed into a weekend. Similarly the Munster team could travel annually to play representative fixtures north or south of the border against carefully selected representative teams. Such fixtures, if effectively promoted, would surely satisfy the representative argument but Munster's current demise requires further attention. The Mardyke problem must be sorted out completely, and indeed another ground developed to host representative matches. The Munster league programme should be re-structured to suit the needs of Munster cricket as a whole and youth/schools cricket integrated. The Irish Cricket Union has both the resources and the expertise to assist in many areas of development and promotion of cricket, so firm approaches should be made for assistance. The solution will not come easy but in the long-term it might prove the greatest thing to hit Munster cricket. If anyone thinks that continuing to play second fiddle in the Interprovincials is promoting Munster cricket then they are totally misguided. End this farce and tackle the problem legislators!

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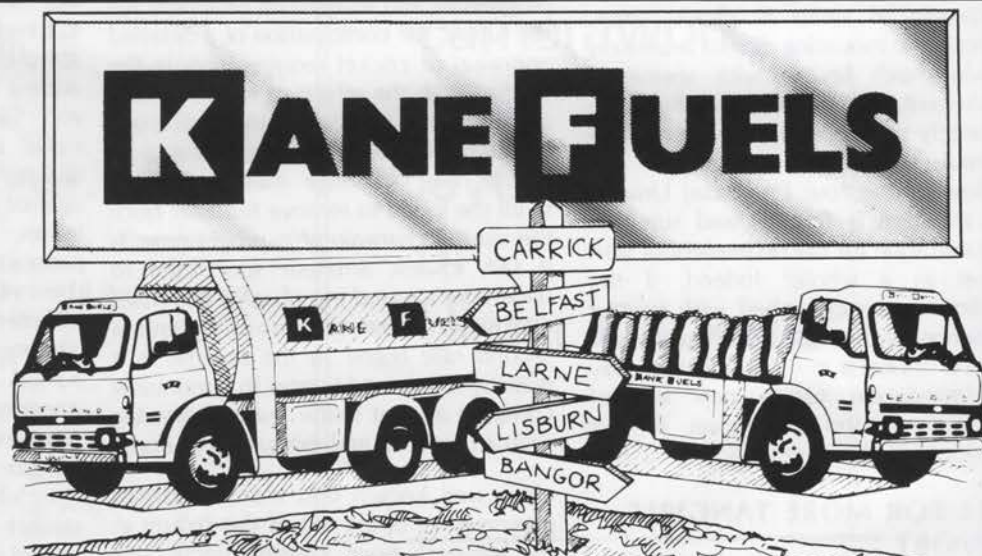
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CARRICK NOMADS SETTLE DOWN



Cricket legend Denis Compton pictured with Club Officials Robin Beggs and Roger Bell after the official opening.

1988 marked an historic chapter in the history of Carrickfergus Cricket Club. After many years of semi-nomadic existence, the club opened its new ground at Middle Road on the outskirts of the town. It was the product of many years of hard work by a dedicated small group of enthusiasts, who lacked nothing in commitment to further the Carrick cause. What a great pity such a memorable milestone should have coincided with a troubled season on the playing field, and the subsequent ignominy of relegation. However, such a setback will not deter the Carrick faithful. Their chequered history is dotted with problems, but equally a resolve to fight back has always been their hallmark. Barely 14 years ago extinction was imminent, and local interest at its lowest ebb, but once again the faithful rallied round, and the crisis passed. Today Carrick boasts 4 Saturday teams, two mid-week teams and three youth sides. Numerically it has never been stronger.

FOUNDER MEMBER OF UNION

Although a minnow in modern cricket terms, the Carrick club dates back to the mid-nineteenth century. When it was formed in 1868, it had an impressive membership of 58 and when the Northern Cricket Union was set up in 1887, Carrick proudly took its place as a founder member. Only six remain in existence today. Times were tough in the old days and victories rare. The Carrickfergus Advertiser quotes in 1906 —

"For the first time this season, Carrick had the unusual experience of winning a match."

Matches were played at Taylor's Avenue, now the home of Carrick Rangers Football Club, but wickets were often of dubious quality. After the Second World War, the club moved to Spittal Park in Victoria Road, then to the factory ground at Courtaulds and then to Victoria Park. Vandalism later drove them to Eden and then to Woodlawn. Amidst all this upheaval, there were sporadic insertions of playing success, with two league titles for the 1st Eleven, one for the second Eleven, and an Intermediate Cup final appearance in 1967. However, the ground situation was like a dark cloud precariously hanging over the club, and fortunes sunk to the depths in 1974 when extinction was contemplated. Fortunately stalwarts of the calibre of Robin Beggs, Roger Bell, and several others, rallied enough support to continue, and Carrick has never looked back. A second eleven was added in 1975, then a third in 1978, and finally the Fourths in 1984. In the NCU centenary year, the First Eleven, perhaps nostalgically, won the Section Four Title. That same year, Carrick served notice of their ambition by appointing Indian all rounder Shehal Parikh as Coach. His immediate impact was

tremendous. Seasoned players were revitalised, but the biggest reward was without doubt the big influx of schoolboy members. Nevertheless, those ground problems still pertained, with Mallusk and Woodlawn also in regular use, but the committee had taken the progressive decision to purchase a 4.5 acre site at Middle Road, so light was beginning to appear at the end of the tunnel. Further help came from the local council, which established a square at Beltoy Road. For the 'nomads' it was a new experience, and the ultimate reward for perseverance and diligence, came with the opening of the Middle Road complex. That occasion was something to savour, and a personal success for hard-working Club Secretary Roger Bell. Sun Life Assurance and Kane Fuels kindly sponsored the biggest day in Carrick's history.

SPECIAL OPENING DAY

Carrick wanted their special day to be remembered and nothing was spared by the Committee, masterminded by the canny Roger. Legendary former England batsman Denis Compton performed the official opening ceremony, while NCU President Jim McMorran brought a President's Eleven along for a celebration match. Included in the Carrick team were Lancashire stalwarts Jack Simmons and David Hughes, so it was hardly surprising that the locals recorded an emphatic victory. That evening Alderman James Brown, Mayor of Carrickfergus, hosted a Grand Opening Dinner in the Town Hall and guest speakers included Irish Cricket Union President Cecil Walker, Jim McMorran and the late Tom Greenwood. It was an evening of enjoyment and nostalgia for the Carrick members and their guests. They could barely hide their satisfaction and why should they? It was their reward for many years of perseverance typified by long serving Club President Robin Beggs. The spritely "youngster" made his Carrick debut in 1949, and is still playing for the First Eleven! Let us all hope his spirit is reflected in the Carrick of the future.



Umpires Beattie Arlow and Peter Lunney pictured with NCU President Jim McMorran, Carrick President Robin Beggs and distinguished Lancashire guests David Hughes and Jack Simmons.



A time for celebrations for club secretary Roger Bell and treasurer Michael Ross.



Hospitality in the Mayor's Chamber - Alderman James Brown with his special guests Club Secretary Roger Bell, NCU President Jim McMor-

ran, Club President Robin Beggs, ICU President Cecil Walker and Club Captain Alan Adams.

DONEMANA CLEAN SWEEP

In their centenary celebration, Donemana captured all the North West honours and put the icing on the cake by winning the Britannia Team of the Year Award in September. It was a fitting tribute to a side which had performed with total commitment throughout the season, and fully deserved its success. In sharp contrast, North Fermanagh struggled and with only one league victory to record, took the inevitable drop back to the second division. Their place in 1989 will be taken by Fox Lodge, unbeaten throughout their league campaign, and unfortunate to meet high-flying Donemana in the cup. The Nedd took Division three, while Waterside's continuing demise was reflected in their lowly league position, and the uncertainty regarding their future.

EIGHTH LEAGUE TITLE IN TEN YEARS

Eglinton, Strabane and Brigade were the main challengers to Donemana, as the County Tyrone men chased their eighth championship title in the past ten years. That phenomenal record, and the confidence it has instilled on their well balanced, talented team, was the factor that set them apart from their rivals. James McBrine had, by any standards, a magnificent season at club level, but he would readily concede that his team-mates all had their moments of triumph, during a season when the pressure was always on the champions. An early defeat by Eglinton was not the platform on which they had hoped to launch their 1988 campaign, but ironically, it spurred them to a greater commitment.

Alf Masood's arrival at Coleraine promised much and with big Roy Torrens also turning out against Donemana, expectations were high at Sandel Lodge. Alf got off to a fine start with a century against Sion Mills, but it was a rare highlight in a season he will gladly wish to forget. Torrens took little part in the rest of the campaign and everything suddenly started to go wrong. Masood's form plummeted, confidence crumbled and the brilliant Pakistani suffered the ignominy of being dropped by the North West and later banned by Ireland for one year.

Masood's century was not the only one in the early season exchanges. Strabane's West Indian all-rounder Jerry Kirton scored 100 and took six wickets against Brigade, while fellow Bajan Steve Linton struck 168 for Burnendennett against Ballyspallen. Not to be outdone, Glenderrymott's Terry McCloskey also hit 126 against the hapless Ballyspallen attack. Bobby Rao's move to Sion Mills boosted morale in this famous cricketing hot-bed, and his undefeated 97 against former club Strabane brought a welcome victory. Despite the setback, Strabane performed consistently throughout 1988 but the cup defeat against Ardmore was particularly disappointing and as



'A taste of your own medicine' for Donemana pace bowler Roger Kerr at the hands of Brigade's Barton Curry.



West Indian Jerry Kirton had another good season at Strabane but alas no trophies this time round!

the championship reached its final stages, defeats at the hands of their closest rivals, effectively killed their title aspirations. Brigade could never get the measure of Donemana, and surprise defeats like Ardmore, highlighted problems for the Beechgrove side. The Willie Wilson/Colin Jeffrey run machine of 1987 was not as prolific, although the latter's century against Coleraine late in the season emphasised his undoubted talent. The continuing promise of Stephen Smyth was much in evidence, so perhaps the best is yet to come for this ambitious set-up.

SPORADIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR BREADY

Ardmore will be well satisfied with their mid-table league position and it was pleasing to see those old "war-horses" Connie McAllister, Cyril Ward and George Broly so much to the fore. They had high hopes in the cup, but Bready emphatically ended those, for a rare highlight in their Jubilee season. The Magheramason team reached the cup final but their league form never recovered after a dismal start. Alan Rutherford and Mark Olphert emphasised their potential, while Geoffrey McConnell continued to be one of the leading wicket-takers in North West cricket. However Rutherford's Interprovincial maiden century, the single wicket celebrity show-piece, and that cup final appearance, balanced a lowly league position and made it a season to remember for this aspiring, ambitious club. St Johnston lost several of their key players before the season got under way, and it showed. Amazingly their Schweppes Cup form was good but their "Jekyll and Hyde" approach came abruptly down to earth with defeat at Comber to North Down.

There was also annihilation at Strabane being dismissed for a paltry 37! Their only highlight in a poor season, was the excellent form of fast bowler Paul Wallace, deservedly rewarded with International selection against Scotland.

EGLINTON BOW TO DONEMANA POWER

In hindsight, perhaps the real danger to Donemana was Eglinton, inspired by the mighty Hendy Wallace, and strengthened by the arrival of the



Donemana's cup winning team of 1988-

Back Row: Lexi Kerrigan (Scorer), Boyd Curry, (L to R) Roger Kerr, Ivor Dougherty, Decker Curry, Robert McGonigle, Noel Dunn.
Front Row: Roy McBrine, Alan Dunn, Junior McBrine, Raymond Mitchell (Capt.), James McBrine, Alfie Dunn.

McMichael brothers, Ivan and Noel. The Derry team had the early season victory over the champions to boost morale, and several of their players came into fine form. In particular Nigel Thompson deserved a lot of credit, which earned him an international call-up against Wales. Wallace however, was the big star, fully illustrated when he destroyed Coleraine with 8 for 37, but Brigade dented their spirit in a narrow six runs defeat before Donemana hit back with a vengeance. The County Tyrone team beat their rivals in the league, the Senior Cup and the Benson & Hedges Cup, to ultimately destroy all Eglinton's aspirations. Indeed the emphatic nature of those defeats emphasised the gap between the two teams, and consequently the difference between champions and runners-up. On their day Donemana have no match in North West Cricket, and despite a couple of early set-backs, they reigned supreme throughout 1988. No better way to celebrate a centenary!

DIVISION 1

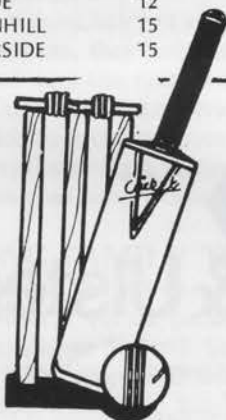
	PLAYED	WON	TIED	LOST	POINTS
DONEMANA	13	11	0	2	22
EGLINTON	13	10	0	3	20
STRABANE	15	10	0	5	20
BRIGADE	14	9	0	5	18
SIONMILLS	14	7	0	7	14
ARDMORE	13	5	0	8	10
COLERAINE	12	5	0	7	10
BREADY	10	3	0	7	6
ST JOHNSTON	13	3	0	10	6
N FERMANAGH	11	1	0	10	2

DIVISION 2

	PLAYED	WON	TIED	LOST	POINTS
FOX LODGE	13	13	0	0	26
BURNDENNETT	11	6	0	5	12
DRUMMOND	13	6	0	7	12
GLENDERMOTT	12	6	0	6	12
LIMAVADY	10	6	0	6	12
YMCA	11	6	0	5	12
CREEVEDONNELL	11	3	0	8	6
CRINDLE	11	3	0	8	6
BALLYSPALLEN	10	2	0	8	4

DIVISION 3

	PLAYED	WON	TIED	LOST	POINTS
THE NEDD	16	14	0	2	28
CUMBER CLAUDY	15	12	0	3	24
BERRYBURN	15	9	1	5	19
BOND'S GLEN	14	7	1	6	15
DULLERTON	14	7	0	7	14
KILLYCLOONEY	14	7	0	7	14
BALLYMONEY	14	5	0	9	10
RAPHOE	12	4	0	8	8
THORNHILL	15	4	0	11	8
WATERSIDE	15	4	0	11	8



North West player of the year during 1988 - James McBrine



A superb diving catch from Coleraine's Ricky Huey to dismiss big hitting Eglinton star 'Hendy' Wallace.



Coleraine skipper Victor McDaid - Out of many victims for Eglinton International all rounder Nigel Thompson. Former international wicket-keeper Sean Bradley stands in awe!



Triumphant appeal for wicket-keeper George Gillen to dismiss Bready's George Curry.

GARY Gibson

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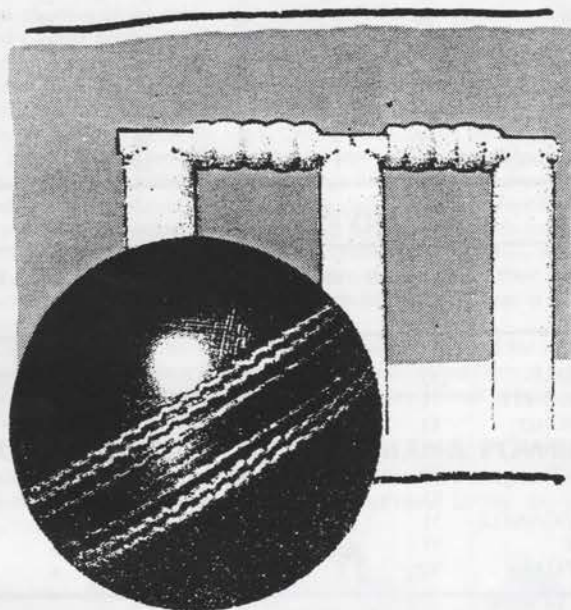
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THE ULSTER CRICKETER

THE GREATEST EVER DONEMANA'S CENTENARY YEAR

They say cricket is not just a game in Donemana, it is more a way of life. Such a fitting tribute is an apt description of a village which owes much to its cricket club. Situated on the outskirts of the village, the cricket ground nestles snugly behind a hill, enclosed by the river Denny and the winding road to Duncastle. It has a special atmosphere, unrivalled anywhere. A steep slope characterises one side of the playing area, but visitors to the Holm are more likely to remember the fiercely partisan supporters who line the road, the tigerish combative cricket of the locals and the warmth of the hospitality off the pitch. Donemana people are very proud of their cricket tradition, so the celebration of their centenary this season was a very special occasion in the history of both club and village. Typically those celebrations featured mainly the locals, the players and the members, who have made the name of Donemana synonymous with North West cricket folklore.

FEATURED IN FIRST CUP FINAL

Cricket must have been played in the Donemana area prior to 1888, because the club first sprang to prominence when the featured in they inaugural Derry Cricket Union challenge cup competition of that year. Having defeated the Garison eleven however, the locals went down to Limavady in the two innings final by 31 runs. Typical of the era, teams came and went, so it is hardly surprising that little is known about Donemana until 1894 when the Derry Senior League was established. It was a tough time for the village team and their playing fortunes fluctuated. Competition was strong but Donemana eventually found their level in the junior ranks. Over the next 40 years they won the Junior League twice, the Intermediate league three times and the Intermediate cup twice. When they re-entered senior cricket in 1944, Donemana did so from a position of strength. They had served their time and significantly, the club has never looked back.

MANY MAJOR SUCCESSES

In 1948 Donemana achieved their first major success when winning the Senior League. It was to be the platform on which many more successes were to follow, and incredibly began a five year league winning sequence. In 1950 the club celebrated its first league and cup "double", under the captaincy of the great Alex McBrine, surely the greatest stalwart over all those 100 years. Alex, in tandem with brothers Bobbie and WJ dominated team performances during this era but those great adversaries Eglinton and Sion Mills took most of the honours during the mid-fifties. The club got back into the winning fame in 1958, with a second Senior Cup victory over Ardmore, but 1960 launched another of those halcyon success series. The Sixties were good for Donemana, they won the league five times, the cup four times, and were also runners up on four occasions. The Faughan Valley Cup was won three years in succession, while the seconds dominated their competitions in tandem with the Seniors. The mid-seventies brought further successes while in the Eighties Donemana has simply been the strongest team in North West cricket.

STRONG FAMILY TRADITIONS

Inevitably all clubs thrive around a small dedicated group of personalities. Over the passage of time some come and some go, but traditions die hard. Several families have indelibly enshrined their names in Donemana history. Foremost must be the incredible McBrine family, who not only produced those three "greats" of the fifties, but over the past decade James, Junior and Roy, all of similar pedigree.



VICTORIOUS DONEMANA AND THEIR 1988 TROPHY HAUL.

Back Row: John Gallagher (Umpire), Lexi Kerrigan (Scorer), (from left) Tom McClintock, Roger Kerr, Ivor Dougherty, Decker Curry, Boyd Curry, John Devine (Umpire).

Front Row: Robert Huey, Junior McBrine, Raymond Mitchell (Capt), James McBrine, Alfie Dunn, Roy McBrine.



JUNE 1948 at BEECHGROVE

Back Row: R. McBrine, J Cochrane, W.J. McGonigle, W.J. McBrine, F. Woodcock, J. Ward.

Front Row: P. McLaughlin, P. Ward, A. McBrine, H. Devine, Rev. Hunter.

There were also the McGonigles, the Wards, the Cochranes, the Devines, and many more, all synonymous with this fine club. In recent years, club stalwarts Ken Kerrigan, Harry Henderson and the inimitable Hon Secretary Bob Logue, have given much in the service of their beloved club behind the scenes. In a similar vein the ladies of Donemana are a special breed, providing a wealth of hospitality to visiting teams and the envy of many clubs.

The hallmarks of Donemana's playing success, has always been a total commitment and exuberant team spirit. Certainly there have been many outstanding players over the years, but quite often it was the unsung heroes who won the day. However some players warrant special recognition. Johnny Cochrane was an all-time great of North West cricket, Junior and James McBrine, both prolific all rounders and similarly recognised at Irish level, and of course, the evergreen Ivor Dougherty. Ivor has been a magnificent servant of the club on and off the field for almost thirty years. To this day he remains an integral part of the First Eleven and symbolise that renowned Donemana fighting spirit.

Although rain spoiled the celebration match it did little to dampen the euphoria of the celebration dinner which followed in early September. Donemana Cricket Club has reached its centenary as a tower of strength. There have been many nostalgic milestones on the way, some outstanding years to savour, few if any will match the clean sweep of 1988. Yes, Donemana's Centenary year, perhaps the greatest ever in the history of this quite unique club.

ANOTHER INDIAN SUMMER

By Raman Lamba

Raman Lamba is arguably the best batsman to grace the Irish cricket scene. His flamboyant stylish approach has thrilled many local cricket enthusiasts while his exploits in India during the winter are followed with keen interest. His cricketing pedigree is from the top drawer. At the tender age of seventeen he made his representative debut for the India Under 25 team which faced a strong West Indies side including Malcolm Marshall and Sylvester Clarke. Lamba scored 48 runs and launched his exciting career which has now seen him win five test caps and 25 one day international appearances. He was the man of the series against Australia in 1987 and has scored centuries against the touring teams of West Indies, Australia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Last year he recorded the highest score in the history of the Duleep trophy when pillaging 320 runs off the West Zone attack. Since he came to Comber in 1984 he has dominated club cricket with a series of prolific scores. His views are refreshingly honest and essentially sincere...

By the time you read this article I will be back in India and Northern Ireland's beautiful green fields will seem along way off. Dehli's hard fast tracks and

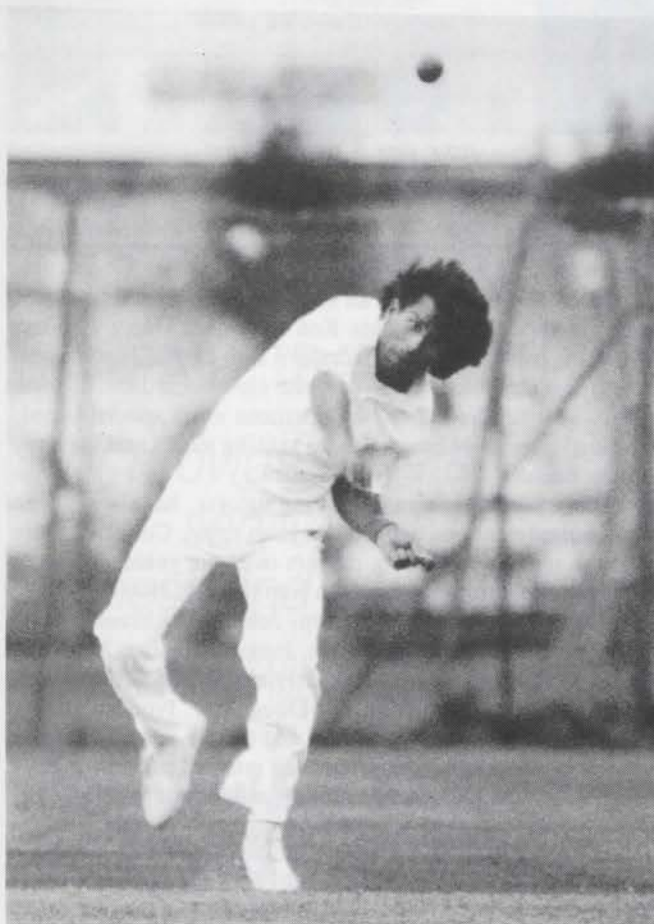
relentless sun will be very different from what I experienced in Ulster this year, but cricket is my life so I will quickly adjust. My immediate priority will be to score plenty of runs and get back into the test squad, because although the English tour is cancelled, we play New Zealand at home then travel to the West Indies. They play cricket the way I do - they love to entertain and they enjoy it so much. However, to get there will not be easy. There are so many great players in India fighting for just a few places. Cricket is the national game and everybody plays it but the rewards for getting to the top are big. You have got to keep scoring the runs and hope the selectors favour you.

We travel a lot in the Duleep trophy and there will be many times when I sit back and reflect on my summer at North Down. I love your country and your people. Everybody is so friendly, so hospitable. It's so different from what I expected when I travelled to Comber for the first time in April 1984. My first impressions were moulded by Abi Satham who played at Ballymena. He told me it was a quiet place with nothing to do and to be careful about the troubles. Well, Abi must be different from me, because I have found it a fantastic place with plenty of entertainment and although the troubles do exist, I've not seen anything. Indeed I've probably more friends in Ireland than in India, because here you get so involved in the community. I found that strange at the start because in India there is very little socialising after a match. You can't say that about Ulster cricket!

PRACTICE IS EVERYTHING

Many people ask me about cricket in Ireland as compared to India, but it is so difficult to make comparisons as the conditions are so different. You might be shocked to learn that the playing facilities would not match any of the top local clubs! North Down's set-up in Comber is excellent and certainly better than most of the top grounds in India. The kids here have much better opportunities than at home, and I'm amazed they don't take more advantage of the facilities. I grew up playing cricket in the streets without proper bats or shoes, but we played for hours every day. Practice is everything if you are to succeed, but in Ireland it is poorly approached and even the senior players do not work hard enough to improve their game. I was very pleased to attend the NCU Coaching course because it is always good to get back to basics, and I hope to pass on my experiences and expertise to young players in the future. There are some very talented players about - I was very impressed by Uel Graham (Lisburn), Brian Miller (Bangor), Billy Doherty (Ards) and perhaps just a little older, John Gilliland at North Down. But my greatest admiration is for the old hands of Ulster cricket! Although well into their forties, Ivan Anderson, Alfie Linehan and Ian Shields win my total admiration for their fitness and enthusiasm. I only hope I'm half as good at their age! Ivan is a terrific player, as is Simon Corlett. They are so correct in all aspects of the game with good attitudes and total commitment. Other players would do well to copy them. I also believe Paul McCrum has great potential and deserves a chance for Ireland. Waringstown are outstanding in every aspect of the game and so far in front of all the other clubs. They have a very positive attitude and play hard, but

THE ULSTER CRICKETER



India professional Raman Lamba in full flight with the ball



Under the scrutiny of Vinny Silvino at the N.C.A. Coaching Course, with Bill Adrain of Dungannon.

always fair. Their fielding is so enthusiastic, just like Holywood and RUC. I play in a very good fielding side at home, but I think these three teams could match us! My club side is Sonnet Cricket Club but bear in mind we have five members of the current test squad!

OPEN MIND ON NAT WEST CUP

Every season in Ireland I'm asked the same two questions - when am I going to get married and would I like to play for Ireland in the Nat West Cup? Well, I think marriage is a big commitment but right now I'm so committed to cricket it would not be the best time to settle down. I've also to meet the right girl, and who knows, the future Mrs Lamba might even come from Ulster! I've also an open mind on the Nat West Cup. I don't really think one player would make all that much difference but anyway it's up to the administrators to do what they think is best. I would be honoured to play if asked, and I know it would please a lot of Comber supporters to see me in the green jersey of Ireland, but that's for another day. After a few months back in India I'll be thinking about returning to Ireland. Strangely I don't get too homesick about India, but I do miss all my friends when I'm out of Ulster. I hope everyone has a peaceful winter and I look forward to renewing those friendships next season.



My team mate at North Down Ian Shields - like Alfie Linehan and Ivan Anderson, a fine example to their fellow cricketers.

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CELEBRITY CELEBRATION AT BREADY



Former England skipper Bob Willis earned his pint after a marathon spell of commentating!



Tyrone Crystal for the great Malcolm Marshall - A memento of a day of celebration at Bready.

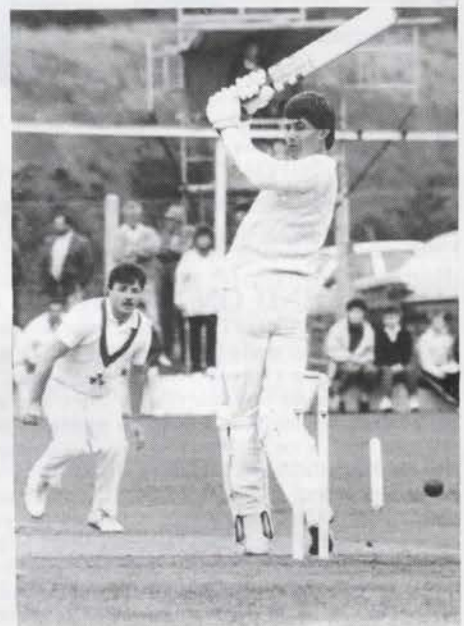


Popular winner Allan Border.

Last year in resplendent glory, little Bready Cricket Club, the pride and joy of Tyrone village Magheramason, celebrated the opening of a magnificent new clubhouse with an Ian Botham and Vivian Richards spectacular. It was an occasion to savour, as the megastars of modern cricket, pillaged runs galore, in an exhibition of power hitting never previously witnessed in North West cricket. Many felt the like of it could never be matched, but the dust had barely settled, when Club Secretary Sam McConnell pulled off another major coup to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary this season. Six of the biggest names in world cricket were to play in a single wicket competition in August!

SHOCKS FOR STARS!

That showpiece took place on Thursday 11 August with typical Bready organisation. Excellent seating and catering arrangements were complemented by efficient, effective stewarding by club officials. Perhaps the only disappointment was the crowd which, although moderate in size, got full value for their support of this unique enterprising competition. It was a celebration with a difference and if Viv Richards and Graham Gooch failed to make the starting post, their absence was more than compensated for by those who did. Malcolm Marshall, Roger Harper, Alan Border, Ravi Shastri, Imran Khan and Neil Foster were from the top drawer of modern cricket and provided the thrill of a life-time for local contestants "Junior" McBride, Nigel Thompson and Bready's own Mark Olphert. A wet run-up curtailed the lethal Marshall and ultimately provided the first major shock of the three section competition, when both he and West Indian team-mate Harper fell to McBride. Another body blow was to follow, as Foster and Shastri went down to Eglinton's Thompson, and the prospect of an all North West final was embarrassingly imminent. Thankfully in some respects, local favourite Mark Olphert did not spoil the party, although his big six off the last ball won that section for popular Australian skipper



Exit Foster! Bowled Thompson.



Interested spectator - former Irish International Tommy Harper now playing with North Fermanagh.



Triumphant Border after the final.



Popular Aussie skipper Allan Border charmed the all - young and old.

Border, and sent the great Imran sulking off to his hotel bed!

The final itself proved to be an anticlimax if only because Border has so much to spare over his less distinguished opponents. He gave a masterful display of batting and proved again that he is a class player in any conditions. Off the field he was the epitome of public relations, showing his great affection for Ireland. To most people he is one of Australian cricket's finest ambassadors.

In the aftermath of the showpiece, Bready Officials took immense pride at the promotion which celebrated their

Jubilee in style. Former England captain Bob Willis gave an excellent performance as tournament commentator and captured the feelings of everyone when he wished the Bready Club much success on the road to their

centenary. Nobody doubts it will be a path covered in glory, with progressive imaginative Club Officials of the calibre of Sam McConnell, Bob Tinney, John Doherty and Co at the helm. We wish them well!



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CHOWDER SOUP AND CALYPSO CRICKET

by Jimmy Boyce

On Friday 16 September, fourteen of our top NCU players, President Jim McMorran, Chairman Alfie Linehan and myself, set off for the cricketing trip of a lifetime to the sunshine island of Bermuda. Although it was my second visit to this beautiful holiday paradise, I was just as thrilled and excited as any other member of the party. I remembered well the friendships and the hospitality so freely offered to us, when I managed the under nineteen team in 1985. I also remembered the fun and camaraderie we shared with Bermuda, when they joined us to celebrate our centenary two years ago, and of course we had their Under 19 squad back with us last year at the International Youth Tournament.

A trouble-free journey saw us arrive in Bermuda to be warmly greeted by Officials of the local association. We were then quickly transferred to the beautiful Palmetto Bay Hotel which was to be our "home" for the next ten days. Three official functions had been arranged, so on Monday evening the Minister of Sport in Bermuda hosted a welcoming party at our hotel. All the fancy cocktails you could imagine were indulged by us all so I was relieved we didn't have to lift the bar bill. It must have been frightening! On Wednesday we were entertained by the acting Governor at Government House, and our President presented him with a Tyrone Crystal decanter on behalf of the Northern Cricket Union. It was the first of two presentations by Jim, because he also had a similar pleasant duty to perform the following Saturday when Mr and Mrs Ed Bailey, the local President and his wife, hosted a barbeque at their home. I must say all the Bermuda people treated us royally, and they really went out of their way to make us welcome. These three functions only highlighted the hospitality we received everywhere we went.

Like any tour there were countless moments of fun and amusement, many of which could never be captured in words. Big Jim was quickly put in his place by one of the locals when strolling leisure-



President Jim McMorran pictured with the Deputy Governor, Ed Bailie and the rest of the Party. (Front left): Paul Jackson, Adrian Semple, Jim Boyce, Ross McCollum, John Gilliland, Garfield Harrison, Paul McCrum, Colin Magowan, Michael Blair, Peter Reid, Alfie Linehan, Alan Waite, Brian Miller and Stephen Warke.



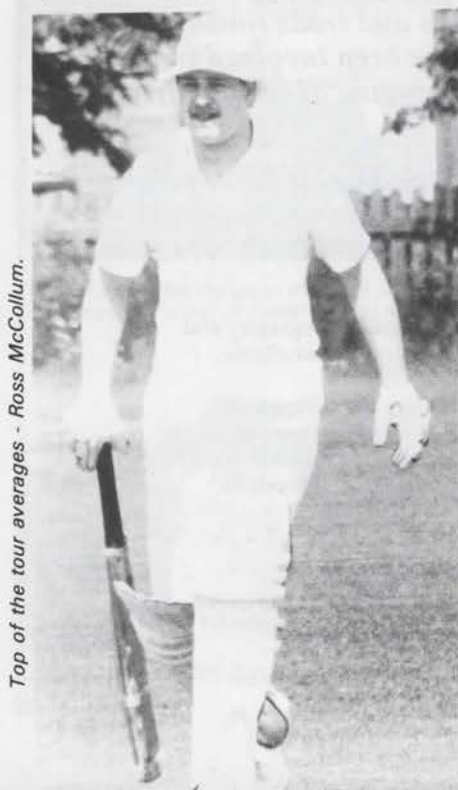
All at sea! - Skipper Paul Jackson (for most of the trip!) Garfield was looking after him on this occasion.

ly along the edge of the ground in one of the early games. A distinctly deep black voice bellowed 'Hey partner, are you playing' Momentarily Jim was flattered but modestly replied "No", to which his erstwhile conversationalist continued - 'Then get off the pitch!' A similar incident happened to Davy Napier one day when he was acting twelfth man but strayed onto the ground. The Umpires stopped the game, counted the players and "Snapper" was subsequently reprimanded for his intrusion! One of my favourite reminiscences concerns a well known member of the party who had tried unsuccessfully to chat up one of the Hotel waitresses for six nights. At 3.00 am on the Saturday morning with a few beers on board, his etiquette vanished and the bar was treated to "cut the crap dear and give me a kiss!" She still refused!

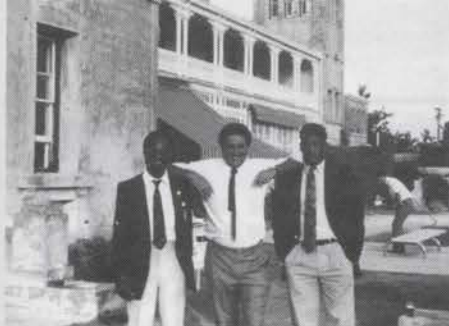
The following evening we all went down to the Elbow Beach Hotel to listen to a local cabaret artist. However I'm told he was upstaged by my rendering of the "Boston Burglar" and a few well-known Tom Jones encores. Certainly I thought nothing of it until the next day when I was walk-



Scooters were the best form of transport - watch out Joey Dunlop!



Top of the tour averages - Ross McCollum.



Our friendly hosts Clayton Buttermore and Ricky Hill.

ing through another hotel and this gentleman asked me for my autograph. He had been in the audience!

One thing which didn't work however, was the President's chowder soup. Jim had hoped it would stimulate his sex life, but from what I saw, it failed to produce the goods!

It would be easy to write about everything except cricket, because there was so much fun and crack with the lads. However, it was still a serious tour and I was delighted at the way the players approached the matches. We knew the best Bermudan players were top class and we would have to be at our best to beat them. We had our chances, and perhaps with a bit of luck here and there, we might have done better, but we were inconsistent at times, especially in the field. Against Somerset we were brilliant yet the following day against Bermuda we were terrible. Overall our spin bowlers did well and Paul McCrum was also very impressive, but our batsmen never really got their act together to get the big scores we might have expected. However, at the end of the day, the tour was not just about cricket and I hope we proved good ambassadors of the Northern Cricket Union in this beautiful Island. Our links with Bermuda were certainly strengthened by the visit and already our hosts are planning a return visit to Ireland in 1990. Indeed, they also want the full Irish team to return in 1992. Now surely, that's what cricket is all about!

FACTS AND FIGURES IN BERMUDA

17 September -v- Eastern Counties at St. David's Club.

Eastern Counties 176 (Hill 41/Harrison 3 for 49) NCU 162 (McCullum 68/Warke 26/Cannon 4 for 31) RESULT: EASTERN COUNTIES WON BY 14 RUNS

18 September -v- St. Georges at St. Georges Club.

St. Georges 160 (Wade 50/Magowan 4 for 39/Harrison 3 for 48)

NCU 148 for 5 (Gilliland 57 n.o./McCullum 45/Adams 4 for 35)

RESULT: RAIN STOPPED PLAY - MATCH ABANDONED AS A DRAW

20 September -v- Bermuda President's XI at Southampton Oval.

NCU 162 (Waite 39 n.o./Warke 31/Magowan 27) Presidents XI 164 for 8 (Amory 68/Semple 3 for 35)

RESULT: PRESIDENTS XI WON BY 2 WICKETS
22 September -v- Western Counties XI at Somerset Club.



'Waitey' didn't look so relaxed after this ride with 'Rosco' McCullum.



The 'Big Two' - President Jim McMorran and chairman Alfie Linehan.

Western Counties 77 (Harrison 3 for 9/Magowan 3 for 21)

NCU 79 for 1 (Warke 36/Harrison 34 not out)

RESULT: NCU WON BY 9 WICKETS

24 September -v- Somerset at Somerset Club

NCU 208 for 8 (Jackson 38 n.o./Gilliland 35/Magowan 28/Warke 21)

Somerset 165 (Edness 40/Magowan 3 for 37)

RESULT: NCU WON BY 43 RUNS

25 September -v- Bermuda at Somerset Club.

Bermuda 224 (Wade 54/Magowan 3 for 61)

NCU 123 (McCullum 24/Warke 23/Wade 3 for 32)

RESULT: BERMUDA WON BY 101 RUNS

AVERAGES

Batting (100 runs to qualify)

	Runs	Ave
R McCullum	155	31.0
J Gilliland	105	26.2
S Warke	139	23.3

Bowling (8 wickets to qualify)

	Wickets	Average
A Semple	8	15.4
G Harrison	12	16.1
P McCrum	9	18.0
C Magowan	12	18.8

BEST BOWLING: - C MAGOWAN 4 FOR 39 -v- ST GEORGES

BEST BATTING: - R MCCOLLUM 68 -v- WESTERN COUNTIES

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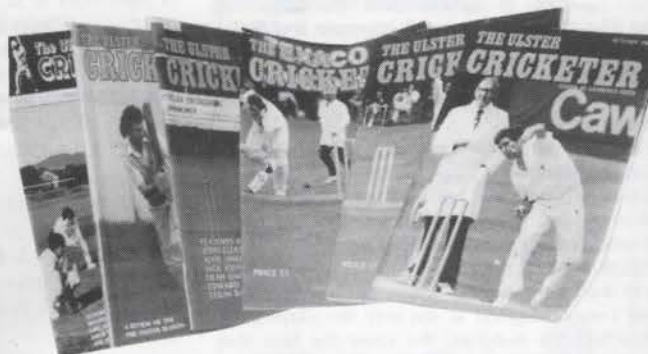
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T.L. Matthews A.R.I.C.S. A.R.V.A.

Irish International Alf Masood, put club before country for the second time in his colourful cricketing career this season, and suffered the wrath of the national selectors for his misguided loyalty. A severe one year ban fully illustrated the depth of feelings within officialdom at the Pakistani's apparent contempt for regulations. Alf's "offence" was to play for his club Coleraine, on the eve of the International match against Wales, in total contravention of the directions given to players at the start of each season. The former Phoenix batsman committed a similar act in 1983 and suffered a two match ban, so the severity of this ban was perhaps not too surprising.

Masood's case once again opens up the well-worn debate on club before country. To some observers his ban was unfair, since he was working and unable to get time off. As a Professional at Coleraine, there must certainly have been indirect pressure on him to play at North Fermanagh, but club officials are adamant they were not party to this lobby. Masood was asked to clear himself for the vital league game, and club officials in their naivety accepted his assurance that such clearance had been granted. The player's role in the whole affair defied logic. He played at Fermanagh and scored 96. During the evening he made several phone calls to Team Manager Michael Reith with a concocted story regarding his non-appearance, but at no stage declared the truth about him playing at Kesh. Inevitably in such a small country, news travels fast and ICU Officials were later informed of the Pakistani's indiscretion. After confrontation he admitted the facts, but his creditability was tarnished by the elaborate lengths he went to hide the truth. Any sympathy within the Selection Committee must have vanished with this revelation.

The issue of players not playing for their clubs on the day prior to an international is a thorny annual in Irish Cricket. The regulation was introduced to avoid last minute injury problems and to enable players to have adequate mental and physical preparation for an international match. In an amateur sport however, it is inevitable that players will come under pressure to play for their clubs, especially if the match has particular importance. The divided loyalties can pose major problems, but several requests to play on the Saturday prior to the Welsh match were turned down. Masood sought no approval and therefore paid the price. Ironically last year, Chairman of Selectors Denzil Tipping "erred", when he allowed Donemana's Junior McBryne to play in the Monday continuation of the North West Cup final, then travel to play against the MCC on the Tuesday. In similar vein,

THE ULSTER CRICKETER

CLUB OR COUNTRY?

MASOOD PAYS FOR PRICE



some of the players felt a sense of double standards, when the same selector and his Downpatrick colleague Alfie Linehan, opted out of their selectorial responsibilities during the MCC match to play for their respective Clubs!

The whole situation of a Sunday start to the Welsh match should be reviewed by the Irish Cricket Union in any case. The arrangement is created by the Welsh refusal to include Saturday play, since many of their players are involved on a semi-professional basis in Wales. How ironic, that Masood, in similar circumstances, should be banned.!

The club before country issue is enshrined in local cricket. In 1983 Brigade captain Roy Torrens asked to be relieved from the Saturday match against Worcestershire, to play for his club in a cup match. He had indicated a willingness to travel to Dublin immediately after the match for the Sunday fixture, but was informed this would not be acceptable. Torrens was then not selected for the next seven matches, and made his only other appearance for Ireland against the MCC in 1984. Many felt he had been

"unofficially" banned. That same year Masood got in on the act at Phoenix, opting to play in a cup match, then join the international squad on tour in England. When the facts were known to the Selectors he was told not to travel, and later banned for two matches.

The issue is not totally confined to the international arena and indeed is perhaps more pronounced at Interprovincial level. Both Michael Shannon (Holywood) and Robin Haire (North Down) declared themselves unavailable for the Ulster Town versus North West match this season. On the same day, the two clubs played a league fixture and both players participated. Significantly neither appeared for Ulster Town in any of the remaining matches.

The North West were also confronted by a similar problem late in the season. John Brown (Sion Mills), the McBryne Brothers, James and Junior of Donemana, and Brigade's Alan Jeffrey, all opted out of an Interprovincial match because it clashed with a club fixture. The North West selectors took the appropriate action but it remains to be seen if their ban will continue into 1989.

In any amateur sport, players will inevitably have strong loyalties to their club. Obviously in an ideal world, the club members should derive immense pleasure at seeing one of their own recognised at a higher level, but over the past decade the pursuit of honours at club level has significantly intensified and in many cases the national interest has been subdued. Masood is just another victim of the issue but will his immense talent now be lost to Irish cricket forever?



Alf Masood in the field against Wales ... Will it be his last appearance for Ireland?

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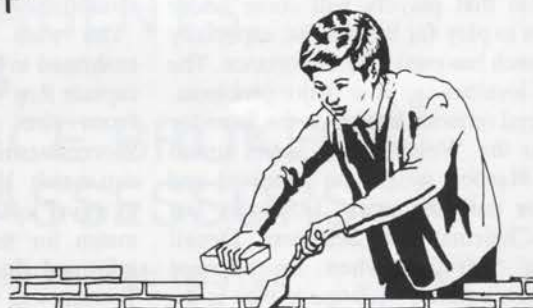
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Jolly Roger flies high...

In their Jubilee year, little Bready reached the Northern Bank North West Senior Cup final, but found a 'Jolly Roger' flying high throughout the Beechgrove final. Donemana's prized "pirate" was their pace bowler Roger Kerr, who followed up his six wicket first innings haul, with a further eight in the second, to make the Man of the Match award a mere formality. In the end it was another emphatic Donemana success, just as wide as the 174 runs margin suggests.

HOLDERS OUT AT ARDMORE

Strabane began their defence of the cup with 303 runs win against a demoralised Drummond, but came down to earth with a bang against Ardmore. Veteran Cyril Ward (73) and young Paul Brolly (61) laid the basis of a 217 total which was twice as much as the holders could muster. The match of the round was the "big two" clash of Donemana and Brigade. However, on "holm" territory the Tyrone men reigned supreme, with James McBrine capturing five wickets. The most emphatic victory was that of Eglinton over Ballyspallen by 9 wickets after dismissing them for a paltry total of 31 in their quarter final eight wicket success. Donemana were similarly

impressive hitting 382 runs against unbeaten Fox Lodge. Five of their players hit over fifty but spare a thought for Fox Lodge's popular Adrian Heywood who finished with one wicket for 132 runs! Bready's path to the final began with a narrow 8 runs success over doughty St Johnston, then comfortable victories over YMCA and Ardmore in the semi-final. That match was upstaged by the Eglinton/Donemana confrontation, but the McBrine brothers closed ranks to eclipse the "pretenders", Hendy Wallace and all. Roy and Junior took the wickets, then James and Junior hit the runs - it was that simple!

KERR IN RAMPANT FORM

Heavy rain preceded the cup final but once again the Brigade ground staff did a marvellous job in getting everything prepared. Although "underdogs", Bready showed few inhibitions in the early exchanges, as Geoffrey McConnell tore into the leading Donemana batsmen. Wickets tumbled freely and the prospect of a major upset loomed large, but an eighth wicket partnership of 46 runs between "old faithful" Robert McGonagle and Boyd Curry proved decisive. The final total of 139 was not match-winning, but



Hendy Wallace was a Northern Bank Man Of The Match Winner in an earlier round. He received his award from local Manager Brian Lyle with Union Secretary Jim Simpson looking on.

it could have been so much less, and Bready knew they had let a vital chance slip.

In reply Bready had their backs continually against the wall as Kerr and McBrine relentlessly pounded their batting. Wickets fell in gay abandon to the pacemen, and only a late flurry from number eleven Robin Burke won respectability. Kerr finished with the impressive figures of 6 for 46.

On their second visit to the crease, there was no Donemana repetition. The experienced trophy winners and 1988 Britannia Team of the Year displayed all those fighting qualities which set them apart from their contemporaries. James McBrine (61) and Dessie Curry (63) were the backbone of a 236 total which included some 27 extras. Set 287 to win, Bready faced a mountain, and almost immediately Kerr was again in the fray. None of the first nine batsmen passed ten, and eight of them fell to "Jolly Roger". The only piece of Bready joy again involved tail-ender Burke, who delighted the crowd with some entertaining and enterprising shots in a last wicket stand of 64 runs. It still left a huge gap, but Bready will have benefitted from the experience and will live to fight another day. Their side is young, talented and enthusiastic, but in Donemana they faced well-drilled experienced, cup campaigners. Raymond Mitchell collected the Senior Cup trophy from Northern Bank Regional Director Bill McAllister then set off for the deserved celebration party. That surprisingly took place in the Bready clubhouse, a nice touch to finish a hard-fought but friendly encounter between two neighbouring clubs who do get along well!



Northern Bank Regional Manager Bill McAllister pictured presenting the Senior Cup to Donemana Captain Raymond Mitchell and the Player of the Match Award to Roger Kerr included is North West Hon. Secretary Jim Simpson.

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1988 NORTHERN BANK NORTH WEST SENIOR CUP FINAL

DONEMANA (FIRST INNINGS)

A Dunn b G McConnell	13
Jun McBrine b G McConnell	16
I Dougherty ct & b G Curry	2
D Curry b G McConnell	3
James McBrine b G McConnell	22
A Dunn ct T Doherty b R Rankin	13
R McBrine lbw b R Rankin	5
R McGonagle ct A Rutherford b R Rankin	40
B Curry run out	12
R Kerr ct D Deans b B Doherty	3
R Mitchell not out	1
Extras	9
Total	139

G McConnell 4-47; G Curry 1-33; R Rankin 3-37;
B Doherty 1-14.

BREADY (FIRST INNINGS)

A Rutherford ct D Curry b R Kerr	2
T Doherty ct D Curry b James McBrine	9
S McConnell lbw b James McBrine	3
Mark Olphert b R Kerr	6
B Doherty b R Kerr	11
G Curry ct Jun McBrine b R Kerr	9
D Deans ct Jun McBrine b R Kerr	3
S Hamilton ct R McGonagle b Jun McBrine	15
G McConnell b James McBrine	5
R Rankin b R Kerr	2
R Burke not out	15
Extras	9
Total	89

R Kerr 6-46; James McBrine 3-38; Jun McBrine 1-1.

DONEMANA (SECOND INNINGS)

R Mitchell b G Curry	6
A Dunn lbw b G McConnell	0
I Dougherty ct R Burke b R Rankin	20
Jun McBrine b G McConnell	20
James McBrine ct A Rutherford b R Burke	61
D Curry b M Olphert	63
A Dunn b R Burke	6
R McBrine b R Burke	12
R McGonagle not out	18
B Curry b R Burke	2
R Kerr run out	1
Extras	27
Total	236

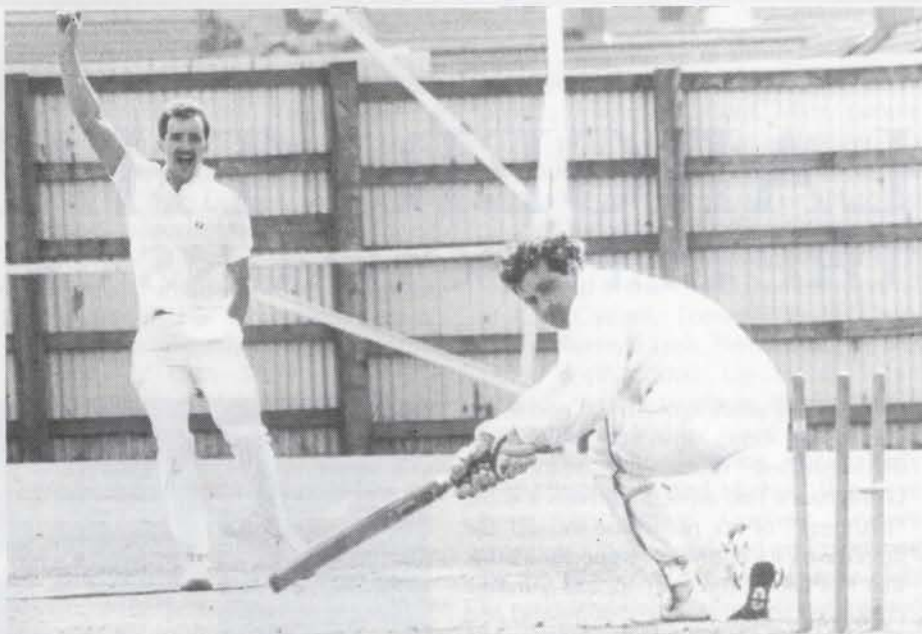
G McConnell 2-63; G Curry 1-15; R Rankin 1-30;
M Olphert 1-20; R Burke 4-56; B Doherty 0-29.

BREADY (SECOND INNINGS)

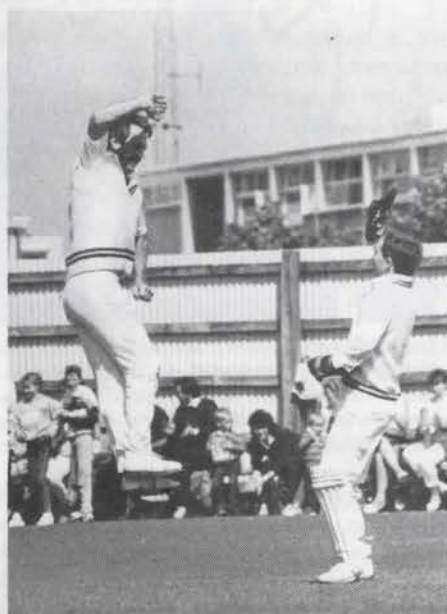
A Rutherford ct D Curry b R Kerr	2
T Doherty lbw b James McBrine	10
B Doherty b R Kerr	7
M Olphert c I Dougherty b R Kerr	4
S McConnell lbw b R Kerr	9
G McConnell ct R McGonagle b R Kerr	5
S Hamilton b R Kerr	0
G Curry b R Kerr	6
D Deans ct D Curry b R Kerr	1
R Rankin b D Curry	27
R Burke not out	37
Extras	4
Total	112

James McBrine 1-19; R Kerr 8-50; D Curry 1-40.

RESULT: DONEMANA WON BY 174 RUNS
THE ULSTER CRICKETER



Exit 'Junior' McBrine in the final to Bready's consistent seamer Geoffrey McConnell



"HIGH FIVES" for Bob Rankin and Alan Rutherford but a rare moment of triumph for Bready in the final.



Cup Final action. S. Hamilton bowled Kerr - Comprehensively



Eglinton's Noel McMichael blasts out in the semi-final but the McBrine 'trio' eventually triumphed.

LARGER THAN LIFE

THE LEPRECHAUNS CRICKET CLUB

Barely forty years ago, a mere nod in the annals of time, Irish cricket's most distinguished club was born. The Leprechauns had arrived. Perhaps it is the "Irishness" of its name, or indeed the novelty of its character since that time, that has seen it fervently spread a unique cricketing gospel throughout Ireland and on occasions, overseas. But the "Leps" is no ordinary club, perish the thought. Boasting over 500 members, it includes within its ranks such well known cricketers as Patrick Moore the astronomer, Henry Kelly of television and journalistic fame, Nicholas Scott the politician, and mere mortals of the ilk of Essex cricket such as Keith Fletcher and Ray East. A nomad in cricketing terms, the club has spurned the modern disease of competition, and continues to passionately promote all that is essentially sporting in this best loved game. Members are drawn from a wide variety of origins, internationals, club cricketers, business men, students, and many domiciled worldwide, but all bounded together in the promotion and development of a rich philosophy of fun and enjoyment. That the medium used to further this loving cause has been largely through schools, is ample evidence of the sincerity of its advocates. The 1988 Fixture list, like many before it, included a healthy selection of schools fixtures and of course those wonderfully rural excursions into Wexford and Kilkenny, to meet old friends and favourites of Bagnalstown and Mount Juliet. To reach its fortieth birthday in such a strong position is a fitting tribute to the membership of this unique and intriguing club.

SOLID ORIGINS

Originally modelled on the English Free Foresters, the Leprechauns Cricket Club was founded in 1948. Although without a permanent home, the essential character of the club was to be able to draw on a wide range of players, and to promote and develop the sporting side of cricket, especially at schools level. That idealistic philosophy has stood the test of time, for despite some concessions to the modern world, the Leprechauns of



The 40th Anniversary match featured North against South and a wealth of cricket personalities included are:— Bernard Burke, Vinny Silvino, Norman Lush, Noel Mahoney, Sam Beckett, Colin Lush, Alfie Linehan, Rooney Molins, Fred Brady, Ken Kirkpatrick, Carl Allen, Gordon Bell, Godfrey Graham, David Pigot, Chris Harte, George Archer, Clarence Hiles, Charles Lysaght, Mark Nulty, Michael Rea, Bill Haughton, Stuart Pollock, Nicholas Scott and Graham Crothers.

today, continue to expound all that is good in Irish cricket. In the formative days, no fewer than 27 Internationals applied for membership including Frank Filgas, George McVeagh and Lisburn's

legendary George Crothers. Sir Stanley Cochrane, who at one time brought Australian touring teams and the cream of English cricket to his private ground at Woodbrook, was elected as the first



Majestic Mount Juliet.



Happy memories recollected for Stuart Pollock, Lewis Jacobrow, Godfrey Graham, Michael Nicholson and Bill Haughton



Special guest Nicholas Scott at the anniversary dinner with President Elect Michael Rea and current President Fred Brady.



Graham 'Doc' Crothers and Hugh Linehan prepare to face the 'South' bowlers in the special celebration match at Malahide.



The straight bat of Fred Brady — a feature of South East Tours!

President, and presided over a committee which included Lord Rugby and Sir George Colthurst, a former Irish Captain. Members were drawn from throughout Ireland, so the fixtures were widely scattered to accommodate the players and opponents. Those early teams south of the border included Noel Mahoney, Stanley Bergin, Lewis Jacobson and Joe Caprani, while up North, James Macdonald, Don Shearer, George Crothers, "Sonny" Hool and Billy Ritchie played leading roles. The foundations had been solidly laid and a unique club joined the realms of Irish cricket.

THE ENCHANTMENT OF THE SOUTH EAST TOUR

Over those forty years the club has endeavoured to move with the times, but continuing to adhere to its basic philosophy.

Tours to England and Scotland in the mid-seventies were sporadic diversions from the established traditional fixtures, which included the much-hallowed South East Tour.

This annual excursion into the depths of rural Ireland may lack something in terms of the modern facilities one associates with the cricket of today, but such trifling considerations are dwarfed by the warmth of hospitality and the charm and charisma of some beautifully idyllic settings.

To have played cricket in Ireland and never visited Mount Juliet, is not to have lived. This enchanting location in a meadow surrounded by trees and a lazy, winding river, is one of the most beautiful settings in Irish cricket. It is hardly surprising the members play only home matches! Bagnalstown is no less endearing and over the years fixtures at Carlow, Enniscorthy and Wexford have proved similarly pleasurable. However, illusions of tranquil onfield exchanges can be misleading. There have been many colourful confrontations with such characters as Morgan Dockrell, Patrick Carey, John Hill, George Biddle, Lingard Goudling, Charles Lysaght, Fred Brady and Godfrey Graham to mention but a few, much to the fore. The locals too had their characters, combining essentially rural techniques to an exuberant commitment. Off the field the hospitality was lavish and the comradeship splendid. Every cricketer should experience the Leprechauns South East Tour, if only for the therapy. It is an endearing cricketing experience.

STERLING SERVICE BY MEMBERS

Despite the troubles in Ulster, the club has gone to great lengths to foster and

preserve its neutral identity, oblivious to politics, religion or status. Many people have played leading roles in its continuing prosperity but it would be impossible and indeed unfair, to isolate all such individuals. However, those early pioneers South of the Border must be mentioned in this context, and the names of Des Cashell, Tommy Doyle, Gerry Duffy, Norman Lush, Bernard Burke, and Colin Wolf added. Up North Stuart Pollock, Jimmy Houston, Wesley Ferris, Carson Rose, and for many years, Dixon Rose, gave sterling service, while latterly Johnathan Hool and Michael Rea have been very active. Godfrey Graham remains a most dedicated and charming PR the essence of the Leprechauns club. In early September current President, and another great servant of the club, Fred Brady, hosted a celebration dinner at Malahide immediately after the annual North/South fixture. It was an enthralling evening of nostalgia, comradeship and fellowship for a club rich in the best traditions of sport. Long may it prosper.



South East Tour action at Bagnalstown — Godfrey Graham at the wicket.



Long serving Northern Leprechauns stalwart Dixon Rose.

UMPIRES CORNER

DOWN MEMORY LANE

This 1951 photograph featured all the leading NCU Umpires of the day and is bound to evoke many nostalgic memories for the elder statesmen of the local game. While most have long since past from our midst, it is worth noting that the three distinguished gentlemen in the middle were the first elected officers of the Umpires Association. Seated in the middle is Charlie Lowings, one of Ulster cricket's finest characters and a true gentleman in every sense. A native of Nottinghamshire, he was an outstanding all rounder at North Down in the early part of the century, before going to coach at both Inst and Campbell College. A delightful raconteur, he had a rich fund of stories, and was an extremely popular member of the Umpiring code. Perhaps the most dashing figure in the photograph is one William "Billy" Taylor. Haven't those good looks stood the test of time.



David Thom, Matt Morrow, W McCathy, W Eccles, Bert House, Robert Gibb, Tom Cinnamond, W Love, W Taylor, Robert McDowell, W Irwin, Chas Lowings, W Finlay, W Scott.

THREE WISE MEN...



Retirement of Bill Whitley

About a year ago Bill Whitley reluctantly accepted specialist advice that an injury to his left knee (caused initially by hurdling in his youth)

was so serious that to continue umpiring beyond the 1988 season would be foolish and have serious consequences.

As there is no keener umpire on the local scene, the news, although not entirely unexpected, came as a great blow to Bill's morale. However he resolved to savour every moment of his last season, which fittingly culminated with the Intermediate Cup Final at his favourite ground, Wallace Park on 13 August when North III defeated Lisburn III. Other highlights in a nostalgic final season for Bill were the School's Cup Final at the lovely, sylvan setting of Muckamore and a Waringstown -v- Lisburn game at The Lawn, another beautiful ground.

Alas Bill's modest ultimate ambition when he joined the umpires panel in 1985 to stand at a Junior Cup Final will not now be realised. Hopefully Bill will retain an administrative role in cricket - he is Vice President of the ambitious Derriaghy club - as the game can ill afford to lose such a great enthusiast.



North West umpiring supremos Robin Glenn, Harry Henderson and John Doherty in action at Bready



Considering every angle! Popular North West international umpire Ernie Harkness

SEEING THE LIGHT?

That vexed problem of two night matches in declining light, has for many years caused bitterness between teams. This year Hollywood featured in two instances against Waringstown and Woodvale, when the match had gone past the stage of acceptable light conditions. Obviously with both teams in with a chance of winning, the light situation tends to be discarded, but immediately the initiative is seized by one team,

the other invariably calls "foul". The Umpires are consequently put into a "no-win" situation and take the brunt of abuse from the side most likely to lose. Perhaps the only answer is to curtail all two night matches to the months of April, May and June? Perhaps even better, abolish them completely! Quite often conditions change so dramatically, the first sessions play bears no resemblance to the second.

UMPIRES '88

*They rule the field with an iron hand.
Or should I say a finger,
For when its pointed to the sky,
The batsmen never linger.
When they don their white coats
They've got power thats of the best,
In fact a man called Murray Power
Has twice more than the rest.*

*They're the umpires of the NCU
Yes, that's the job they choose.
Sometimes loved and sometimes hated
Depends on if you win or lose.
It never seems to worry them
When the home supporters yell.
They seem to take it in their stride
If the truth I was to tell.*

*They tell you when your leg before
Or caught behind the wicket.
They know every rule thats in the book
That concerns the game of cricket.
It's only when the match is o'er
They chuckle or they laugh
For most of them are partial
To a double or a half.*

*I'm told that senior clubs themselves
Recommend these chaps.
So they seldom do their own teams
Which is very good, perhaps
Except if you come from Waringstown
Like Pete Reith and his mate
Who usually watch the finals
From just inside the gate.*

*There's a man called Sam McCormick
A well liked man you know
I watched his brother playing football
In the days of long ago
He was known then as 'the winger'
And very good they say
But I mus'nt dwell too much on that
I've just given my age away*

*Peter Reith and Billy Taylor
They're as steady as a rock
Stanley Long and Geordie Archer
and not forgetting Jock
Joe Vaughan and Pat O'Hara,
and Roger Nixon too.
When they march to the sacred square
They tell you what to do.*

*Dia Jones and Beattie Arlow
Peter Lunney's there as well.
Also Dave and Jack McCullough
Many times have rang the bell.
They're looking forward to the start
Never seem to get their fill
For they love to practice all their art
Experience and skill.*

*Ah! who would be an umpire
Who would take the job
The remarks of the spectators
Would make a normal person sob
But the jibes seem to run off them
Like water off a duck
So it just remains for me to say
Gentlemen, the best o' luck.*

**Donald Savage
April 1988**

BAD LUCK!

The rain-affected John Player Senior Cup final had a cruel twist for leading Umpire Maurice Moore. Standing with his Bangor colleague for the scheduled two days posed enough problems without the added complication of holidays previously booked. The end result was that Maurice missed out on his commemorative medal which went to experienced George Archer who stepped into the breach at the eleventh hour.



Walker Eurosalt Junior Cup Final officials Trevor Whyte and Lloyd McKee



PREMATURE LIFT OFF?

Did Umpires Maurice Moore and Robin Dixon "boob" on the first day's play in the cup final, by bringing in the stumps after Downpatrick had accepted their offer of the light? Certainly a few of the Waringstown supporters felt aggrieved as Downpatrick appeared to be struggling. The light marginally improved for a short time, but with the stumps out of the ground, work was well under way covering the wicket for the following day! Surely the Umpires should have stayed at the crease for at least 10 minutes then made their decision about play being possible or not?

A LAMENT FOR WILLIE?

It was amusing to read a correspondent in the Londonderry Sentinel who obviously felt Brigade skipper Willie Wilson had overdone the theatrics when their last league game was ruled out by the Umpire due to wet ground conditions:-

*Yet again a wrong has been made
Against the great and mighty Brigade
The men from Beechgrove, one and all,
Tend to believe they cannot fall.*

*Again the umpires are on the wrong end
As everyone strives to backward bend,
Why, oh why has it got to be us?
For God's sake Willie, why all the fuss?*

*If on a Saturday they fail to win
The North West umpires must pay for the sin
To keep Brigade happy must be their aim
They should pay Dickie Bird to do their game*

*In years gone by you were held as elite,
With Nicholl and Torrens you were hard to defeat.
The fact that you're great, we will not buy,
For all you do is moan and cry!*

*So please, Brigade, will you give us a break,
And stop your moaning, for cricket's sake?
If it's success you're after, then you've passed the test
To become the John McEnroe of the North West!*

Published by courtesy of the Londonderry Sentinel.



The victorious Donacloney Graham Cup Team pictured with coach David Gilliland

SCHOOL LEAGUES

The Schools Leagues were played during the early part of the season and had the best of the weather. At Under 14 level, all matches were played with BRA, Methody, Bangor Grammar, Foyle and Londonderry College and Ballymena Academy emerging as section winners, the latter on strike rate after a three way tie at the top. Bangor and Ballymena fought through to the final which the former won by 5 wickets.

The Schools Senior League, was also played in sections up to the semi-final stage. An early surprise was the demise of Bangor Grammar — near neighbours Regent House pipped them for Section A. Other section winners were Ballymena Academy, Friend's Schools, Lisburn and Foyle and Londonderry College. Ballymena and Foyle qualified for the final with victories over Friends and Regent respectively.

Foyle's recent dominance of the competition was broken in their fourth consecutive final. They were beaten by Ballymena by 4 wickets.

Foyle & Londonderry	91 - 4 B Smyth 29, Simpson 25, P Rainey 3/12
Ballymena Academy	91 - 4 J GLass 33, J Kennedy 21.

Ballymena Academy won by 6 wickets.

This victory gave Ballymena Academy a unique double as their School girls team won their competition, beating Victoria College in the final.

SCHOOL TOURS

Both Senior and Junior squads found themselves on the mainland during the same week in July. The Juniors played four games in preparation for their International Fixture against Wales whilst the Seniors, once again, took part in the Northern Schools Festival, hosted by the Durham Schools Cricket Association.

The Juniors suffered two heavy defeats in their opening games but thereafter improved considerably and gained an honourable draw in the International. Highlights of the tour was undoubtedly David Cooke's (Faughan Valley Secondary) inning of 131 not out against Cheshire. Only the fourth century scored by an Ulster player at this level, it was the highest individual score recorded in the 14 years of these tours.

TOUR DETAILS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 18 July | Lancashire 170/9 dec (Curry 3/29) beat N.I. Schools 115 (Carson 30, Dyer 26, Cooke 24) by 55 runs. |
| 19 July | Staffordshire 72/2 beat N.I. Schools 71 (Ward 22) by 8 wickets. |
| 20 July | N.I. Schools 186/6 (Cooke 131 no, English 20) beat Cheshire 185/8 Declared (Williams 3/30 Speers 3/47) by 4 wickets. |
| 21 July | Warwickshire 139/9 declared (Harper 4/26, Mairs 3/20) N.I. Schools 139/9 (Wallace 47, Ward 42 no, McElroy 23) Match Tied. |
| 22/23 July | Wales Schools 234/4 declared and 175/6 declared (Ward 2/38) N.I. Schools 180/6 dec. (Wallace 52, Cooke 38, Ward 21) and 162/9 (McElroy 33, Ward 29) Match drawn. |

The Senior Tour coincided with the Irish Schools fixture against Welsh Schools which resulted in the loss of some of the more experienced players. Good performances in recent years has earned Ulster Schools fixtures against the stronger English County Associations so results must be viewed in this context. A record of 2 victories and 2 defeats against the cream of English Counties was a very creditable performance.

Des McCall's Schools

mance. David Erskine (Sullivan Upper) shone with both bat and ball and had useful assistance from batsman David Reid (Strabane HS), bowler Perry Moore (Downpatrick Tech) and all-rounder Mark Simpson (Foyle & Londonderry College).

Their highlight was a resounding victory over Yorkshire School on their own territory. Having scored 187 in 71 overs, Ulster Schools had their opponents reeling at 17/6 with a superb opening burst by Erskine and Moore. They rallied well but lost their last wicket in the penultimate over with the total at 101 to give Ulster 86 runs victory.

TOUR DETAILS

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 18 July | Ulster Schools 187 (D Clarke 44) beat Yorksire Schools 101 (D Erskine 4/22 P Moore 4/24) by 86 runs. |
| 19 July | Ulster Schools 170 (D Reid 48 no M Simpson 32) beat Cumbria Schools 82 (D Erskine 4/25 M Simpson 3/21) by 88 runs. |
| 20 July | Ulster Schools 127 (D Erskine 37) lost to Derbyshire Schools 128/5 (A J Campbell 3/14) by 5 wickets. |
| 21 July | Ulster Schools 127 (D Erskine 37 D Reid 25) lost to Lancashire Schools 131/7 (P Rainey 3/33) by 3 wickets. |

SCHOOLS INTERPROVINCIAL

LEINSTER SCHOOLS -V- ULSTER SCHOOLS AT MALAHIDE
6 7 8 JULY

Ulster Schools had much the better of play in the annual fixture with Leinster as the last wicket pair frustrated the bowlers to gain a draw.

After an even first innings which saw Ulster total 238/9 dec with Michael Blair (Lisburn College of Further Education) hitting a brisk 73, Peter Bates (Antrim GS) 70 and Desmond Neill (Lisburn CFE) 50 to gain a 25 run lead, they tightened their grip and were never in any danger of losing. A second 70 by Bates who received good support from the other front line batsman enabled Ulster to declare on 218/8, setting Leinster 241 to win at a little over 4 per over.

However a devastating opening burst by Alan Dundas (Armagh CFE) had them reeling at 18/4 but they rallied to 135/7 and relative safety. However the loss of 2 further wickets created additional pressure and the last pair had to bat out the final 4 overs to salvage a draw.

MATCH DETAILS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Ulster Schools | 283/9 declared (M Blair 73 P Bates 70 D Neill 50 no) and 218/8 declared (P Bates 71, W Doherty 33) |
| Leinster Schools | 258 (D Neill 3/39 P Moore 3/56) and 141/9 (A Dundas 4/43 P Moore 3/38) |

Match Drawn

SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL

WALES SCHOOLS V IRISH SCHOOLS AT YNYSYGERWN
20 21 22 JULY

The annual 3 day fixture against Wales was badly interrupted by rain during the second day just as the contest was reaching an interesting stage.

Having been put into bat, Wales had scored 253/9 declared in 88 overs and in reply Irish Schools had reached 216/7, when heavy rain ruled out the possibility of any more play. Irish Schools did well, in the end, to restrict the Welsh total to 253 and at 126/6 they had trouble but a 69 run partnership between skipper Michael Blair and Michael Anderson (Wallace 45), son of Ivan rescued a potentially dangerous situation. Blair played a typical belligerent innings, scoring 78 from 78 deliveries, whilst Anderson was content to play a second fiddle to his captain and compiled a well fashioned 22 not out before the rains came.

Youth and Round-up

IRISH SCHOOLS V ENGLISH SCHOOLS AT RATHMINES 2.3. AUGUST 1988

Boosted by a good performance against the Welsh, Irish Schools entertained the English Schools, ten days later. However, they failed to reach the same heights and suffered a comprehensive defeat by 129 runs.

Only 2 players came out of this game with reputations untarnished — Eddie Moore, the opening bowler and opening batsman John Dunn. The English side were much stronger than the Welsh with several players destined for greater things in the cricket world. Their batsmen punished the loose deliveries, their 'quickies' gave nothing away, while their full array of 'spinners' off-break, leg break and left arm - were in a class above anything previously encountered by the home players.

The scoring with consummate ease, at over 5 an over meant they were able to dictate events and leave Irish Schools constantly struggling. Hopefully the Irish players will have learned from the experience.

	1st Innings	2nd Innings
English Schools	235/5 declared	153/3 declared
Irish Schools	153 and	104 (J Dunn 55)
Result: English Schools won by 129 runs		

N.C.U. YOUTH CRICKET

Two clubs - BANGOR and DONACLONEY - dominated the club scene. The former won the Under 13 league and Colts Cup, while the latter completed the 'double' at Under 15 level by winning the Graham Cup and the Pedagogues Trophy for the Under 15 league.

Bangor have had a record second to none in Youth Cricket and this success by their Under 13 team, along with the Bangor Grammar School success at Under 14 Schools level, signals the warning to other clubs that the conveyor belt producing young talent in the area is still rolling along. New young faces have familiar names, Cunningham, and McMullan with Ian Cunningham, son of Larry, leading the way. In the Under 13 league final he scored 25 and then tore the heart out of the Dee batting with 7 for 4 to give his side a 70 run victory.

The Bangor Colts (Under 19) side recaptured the Colts Cup with an exciting one run victory over joint holders Downpatrick. Again their greater strength in depth proved crucial. They had little difficulty progressing through the early rounds with easy wins over Holywood and Lurgan and two byes. Downpatrick defeated Armagh, Donacloney, Waringstown and Lisburn on the way to the final.

Top individual scorer in the Competition was Michael Tongue (Instonians) with 92 against Waringstown in the second round. A number of bowlers captured 4 wickets in an innings with Holywood's Gary Smyth returning figures of 3 for 1 and 4 for 1 against Donaghadee and Larne respectively.

In the final, Bangor scored 96, thanks mainly to a patient 32 runs from Stephen Mann with Downpatrick skipper, Perry Moore taking 4 for 12 in his 8 over spell. Moore also starred with the bat, scoring 30 as Downpatrick just failed to retain the trophy, losing their final wicket on the penultimate ball of the match, just one man short!

Bangor	96 (S Mann 32 P Moore 4/12)
Downpatrick	95 (P Moore 30)

DONACLONEY WIN PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE GRAHAM CUP

Donacloney's success at Under 15 level can be attributed to strength in depth. Once again the sons of club stalwarts are making their presence felt. Neil Carson, Son of David, skippered the side, which included those familiar Donacloney names of Martin, Hanna and Gilliland.

In the Graham Cup victories in the early rounds over neighbours Lurgan, and Waringstown and Derriaghy earned them a semi final place against Instonians. They defeated them by 7 wickets with a fine all round performance by Gavin Speers. His 38 not out and 3 for 9 right-

THE ULSTER CRICKETER



The Senior Irish Schools' party on their English tour with officials Des McCall, Murray Power and Frank Morrison.

ly earned him the Man of the Match award. In other half of the draw, great rivals over recent years, Bangor and Ballymena contested the semi final with Ballymena again coming out on top, thanks to skipper David Kennedy whose 52 no guided his side to a firm wicket victory and a place in the final for the 4th consecutive year.

Unfortunately they then suffered their 4th consecutive defeat, as Donacloney won easily by 7 wickets. Skipper Neil Carson hit 67 not out to lead his side to victory.

Ballymena	99/9 (I Penney 26, G Speers 3/20)
	S Hanna 3/21)
Donacloney	101/3 (N Carson 67 no)
Result	Donacloney won by 7 wickets

The league was also dominated by team who had excelled in the cup. Cup semi-finalists Instonians, Bangor & Donacloney were joined in the league semi-finals by Cliftonville who just pipped Ballymena in their section. Bangor & Donacloney qualified for the final with wins over Instonians & Cliftonville respectively, with Donacloney claiming the title following a comfortable 7 wicket victory over Bangor in a low scoring game.

INTERPROVINCIALS

BANK OF IRELAND UNDER 15 TOURNAMENT

The North West Union, once again, hosted all the Under 15 Festival on 9, 10 and 11 August 1988. Because of the inclement weather nt all the Festival matches were played but in the end NCU regained the title from Leinster after 3 good victories over the other Unions.

This squad was without stars but were probably one of the strongest selected to represent the NCU. There were centuries by Stephen Dyer (CIYMS) 102 against Northwest and Neil Carson (Donacloney) 106 v Leinster. In the bowling Ian Cunningham (Bangor) 7/45 and Peter Maxwell (Lurgan) 6/43 topped the averages.

Having hosted the Festival for the last 4 years the North West have earned a well deserved rest. During these years Ian Starlett has carried the heavy burden of organisation and the success of this festival is largely due to the time and effort he put into it. In 1989 the Festival will be held in Cork.

ULSTER BANK UNDER 18 COMPETITION

To assist with selection and preparation for the 1989 International Youth Tournament, it was decided to reduce the age limit in the All-Ireland competition to Under 18.

South Leinster emulated their Senior colleagues by winning the competition by a narrow margin over North West who were deprived of the trophy by Munster, who had the better of a drawn game. Ulster Country had a mixed season whilst Ulster Town had to use 19 players in their 5 games and suffered accordingly.

An initial squad of 28 players has been selected for next year and these players will undergo practise sessions under the joint managers Michael Marsh (LCU) and Ian Johtnson (NCU).

Final Table	P	Pts
South Leinster	5	44
Ulster Country	5	38
North West	5	38
North Leinster	5	26
Ulster Town	5	22
Munster	5	14

REGAL RANKIN

St. Johnston man's epic 1982 cup final

Founded in 1888, the County Derry Cricket Union celebrated its historic inaugural year with a keenly-contested cup competition which was eventually won by Limavady. The handsome trophy was purchased with the subscriptions donated by local enthusiasts, and the early matches attracted large enthusiastic crowds. In later years the name was changed to the North West Cricket Union to encompass teams from outside the Derry area, but throughout its chequered existence, the cup has always held a special attraction. Since 1888 it has been contested 91 times, produced some marvellous cricket and at all times characteristically highlighted the notorious combative nature of cricket in this area. The exciting sudden-death element of cup competition will always appeal to the competitive cricketer and they come no better in this respect than in the North West. Punctuated with unparalleled controversy, acrimony and at times belligerent intransigence, the North West challenge cup competition has had many many more memorable moments of cricketing brilliance to highlight its notoriety. Inevitably some players have enshrined their names on its colourful history - Shearer, Taylor, J L Rankin, Huey, McFarlane - the greats of North West cricket, but none more so than St Johnston's fine all-rounder Ian Rankin, who carved his own unforgettable niche with a breath-taking exhibition of batsmanship in the 1982 final. This will always be remembered as "Rankin's final", because the stylish St Johnston man majestically scored an undefeated 167 runs, which remains to this day a record in the North West Cup final.

ST JOHNSTON'S SPORADIC FORM

In the past two decades, inconsistency has been a regular feature of St Johnston performances. Only in 1984 did the Donegall-based club get its act together throughout an entire season to win the league championship for the first and only time. On many other occasions, successful cup campaigns have been set amidst dismal league results and 1982 typified this unusual characteristic. In the

three weeks from semi-final to final, St Johnston amazingly lost five times to rivals Sion Mills, Creevedonnell, Donemana, Brigade (10 wickets) and cup final opponents Strabane. Their poor league position of eighth against Strabane's third, did little to enhance cup aspirations. Significantly the Tyrone men moved into the final on the crest of a wave, registering an impressive run of four victories over Eglinton, Creevedonnell, Coleraine and of course St Johnston. To most enthusiasts of North West cricket they were "hot" favourites and an almost certainty to lift the prestigious trophy. Much of their success was harnessed on the back of their brilliant Indian Professional Bobby Rao, a master tactician, brilliant leg-spin bowler and front-line batsman. He spearheaded a well-balanced line-up which featured Irish International batsman Aubrey Finlay, Paddy Gillespie and Cyril Mellon in the batting ranks and skipper Terence Patton and Alan Moorehead in the bowling department.

In sharp contrast St Johnston captain Davy Rankin had a bevy of problems. Poor league results posed doubts about ability and the cup run itself was hoisted in shaky circumstances at unfancied Greysteel. Only a dogged rearguard by the middle-order batsmen saved embarrassing blushes. However, a magnificent semi-final victory over favourites Donemana proved the team had the feel of the big occasion. In this unforgettable runs bonanza, 526 scored in 110 overs, Ian Anthony contributed a brilliant 146 not out, admirably supported by Ian Rankin's 74. St Johnston's 294 for 8 wickets total against the mighty McBrines, proved they could live with the best and indeed fare better. Rankin's supportive role in that match was another milestone in a series of consistently good performances but his form mysteriously slumped in the lead up to the final and added further consternation for brother David. In the four matches prior to the showpiece of North West cricket, paltry scores of 5, 0, 4 and 0 again, played havoc with his confidence and accentuated St Johnston's predicament. Strabane also held a psychological ad-



Ian Rankin in action with the ball

vantage of two league victories earlier that season, tilting the odds heavily in their favour from all directions. But the unpredictable ethos of cricket was about to unfold once again...

MAGNIFICENT INNINGS

When Davy Rankin won the toss and elected to bat first in the Beechgrove final, the Strabane fielders took up their positions amidst bright sunshine and the vociferous encouragement from a large crowd. Experienced umpires Harry Henderson and Ernie Harkness were in control so see first blood go to County Tyrone, as the lively Moorehead despatched Ian Anthony and Willie McKean back to the pavilion within a few minutes. Ironically this early reverse brought the Rankin brothers together much sooner than expected, and their experience saw them through some difficult moments as they clawed back the initiative. Davy departed for 27 with total at 46, but the steadying influence of Ian was already looming ominously. Rao's entry into the attack failed to win immediate success and in a lively little cameo of an innings, Alan McClure hit an entertaining 34 runs before the masterful Indian Rankin stood supremely composed and stylishly moved towards his half century. He assumed the mantle of responsibility for the St Johnston innings

and essentially became its mentor. He varied his dominance as the occasion demanded and shrewdly allowed his less experienced partners to play dominant roles when their confidence rode high. It was an astute form of control of the crease but occasionally the stylish left-hander let fly with a crashing drive through the covers. His almost inevitable century was quickly erased as he regained his composure and moved relentlessly towards a much bigger score. Spirited assistance from Ivan Lapsley (14) and Aidan Devin (35) saw the brilliant St Johnston batsman later pass the 150 mark and into the history annals of North West cricket. Strabane tried all their bowling options but to no avail, and when the 60 overs were eventually completed, Rankin's record-breaking 167 not out had taken his team formidably over the 300 mark. It was a magnificent personal milestone and ominously hung over the Strabane players as they attempted to compose themselves in reply. The records will show they scored 160 runs in their first attempt and a meagre 81 runs when asked to follow on, still some 65 runs adrift. Lapsley and Wallace tore into the early batsmen at will and with a huge cushion behind him, John Davey's delightful control of flight and spin did the rest. It was a just reward for Rankin's mighty effort of batsmanship, surely one of the greatest in the North West Cup. His supreme exertion had once again shown the fickleties of the form-book and saw St Johnston emphatic if unexpected winners.

ILLUSTRIOUS CRICKET CAREER

Rankin's heroic 1982 cup final performance is one of many in his chequered cricket career. His rich talent was first harnessed at Foyle College and nurtured through Ulster and Irish Schools teams. He made sporadic appearances for Queens while at University, preferring to play in Brigade's title-topping team of the early seventies. He featured in the Derry team's dominance of North West cricket winning league honours in 1971 and 1973, and cup honours in 1972 and 1973. His subsequent switch of allegiance to St Johnston in 1976 brought an immediate milestone with another century at Drummond. Rankin has four North West centuries to his credit and significantly in each innings he remained not out. In 1977 he topped the Interprovincial averages and scored a fine 95 against South Leinster, but his refusal to play Sunday cricket inevitably cost him ly in representative cricket. An Irish reserve, he failed to win the ultimate recognition of the Selectors which, for a

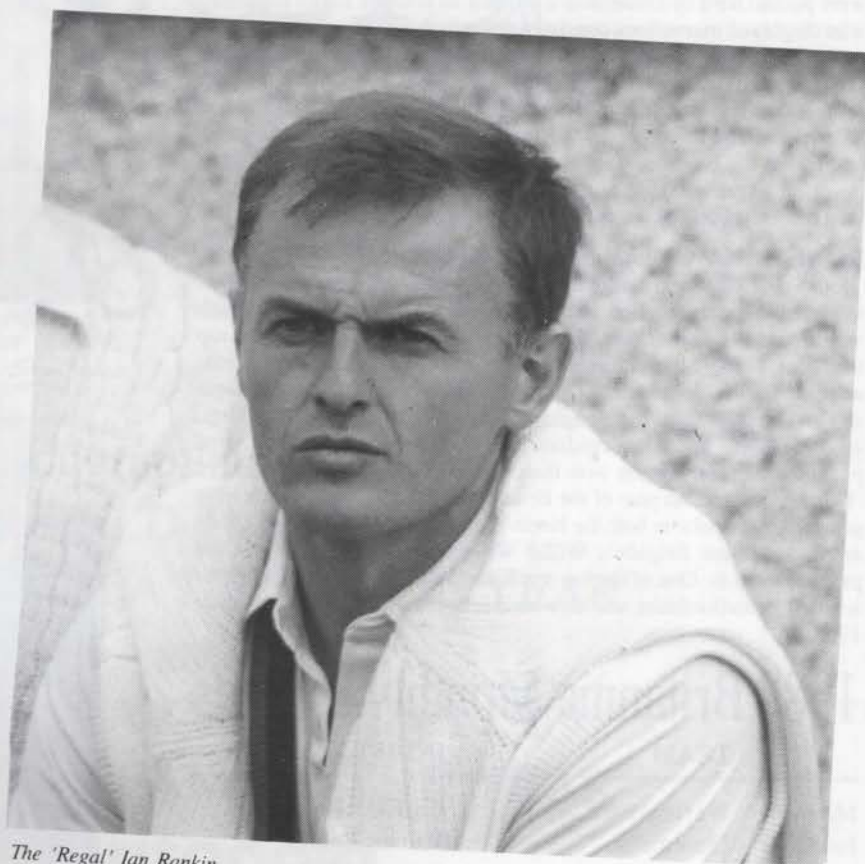
player of such talent, remains a travesty. Irish cricket has been robbed of his immense skill but while he continues to grace the St Johnston ranks with such panache, the North West scene will surely

reap the reward. When, at some later stage, his illustrious career comes to a close, he will have many marvellous moments on which to reflect. Few if any, will match the 1982 cup final epic.



The 'Regal' Ian Rankin

1982 Senior Cup Final					
St Johnston v Strabane					
St. Johnston won by an innings and 65 runs					
ST. JOHNSTON					
1st Innings					
D. Rankin	c D. Porter	b T. Casey	27		
I. Anthony	c B. Rao	b A. Moorhead	0		
W. McKean	c A. Finlay	b A. Moorhead	6		
I. Rankin		not out	167		
A. McClure	c S. McDermott	b B. Rao	34		
I. Lapsley		b B. Rao	14		
A. Devine	c J. Stevenson	b T. Patton	35		
R. Lapsley		not out	3		
		Extras	20		
		Total (60 overs 6 wkts)	306		
Bowling					
B. Rao 2-54; A. Moorhead 2-59; T. Patton 1-57;					
T. Casey 1-60; D. Porter 0-15; J. Stevenson 0-41					
STRABANE					
1st Innings					
C. Mellon		b I. Lapsley	13		
P. Gillespie	c I. Anthony	b P. Wallace	18		
A. Finlay	c I. Rankin	b I. Lapsley	2		
B. Rao	c W. McKean	b P. Wallace	20		
S. McDermott	st A. McClure	b J. Davey	14		
T. Patton		b P. Wallace	0		
A. Moorhead	c I. Rankin	b J. Semple	11		
J. Stevenson	c D. Rankin	b J. Davey	2		
D. Porter		b P. Wallace	49		
J. Gillespie	c W. McKean	b J. Davey	9		
T. Casey		not out	9		
		Extras	13		
		Total	160		
Bowling					
J. Davey 3-32; P. Wallace 4-47;					
I. Lapsley 2-37; J. Semple 1-31					
2nd Innings					
	c A. Devine	b P. Wallace	4		
		lbw I. Lapsley	0		
	c I. Anthony	b J. Davey	21		
		b I. Lapsley	24		
	c P. Wallace	b I. Lapsley	1		
		b I. Lapsley	9		
	c K. Lapsley	b J. Davey	10		
	c I. Anthony	b I. Lapsley	1		
	c & b P. Wallace	b J. Davey	5		
	c A. McClure	b J. Davey	0		
		not out	0		
		Extras	6		
		Total	81		
Bowling					
J. Davey 3-10; I. Lapsley 5-34;					
P. Wallace 2-31					



Garfield and Donemana top it!

BRITANNIA CRICKET AWARD WINNERS

Ireland all rounder Garfield Harrison and North West kingpins Donemana, picked up the coveted annual Britannia Cricket Awards at a presentation held in Belfast at the end of the season.

Once again the monthly awards proved popular with both players and enthusiasts, so the announcement of the overall winners was eagerly awaited. Current Director of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, former hockey International George Glasgow, performed the pleasant duty of making the presentations, but for the Adjudicating Committee of Irish Cricket Union President Cecil Walker, BBC Sports' Brian Johnston, and Britannia's local manager Clarence Hiles, the choice was extremely difficult. Despite so much rain during the season, there were many fine individual performances, while a number of clubs had memorable campaigns in both league and cup competition. Waringstown and Donemana in particular, had featured regularly in the monthly awards, so it was widely expected they would strongly contest the major team award. Not surprisingly, both teams included players who had superb individual seasons and when the adjudicators narrowed their choice to three, they all came from these two fine clubs.

GARFIELD'S THE CHOICE

Harrison and his team-mate Ivan Anderson were the backbone of the Waringstown team during 1988, when their sixth league and cup double was attained. Veteran Anderson's performances in picking up vital wickets at minimal cost, and also scoring consistently, augmented his shrewd tactical contribution to the skipper Alan Waite. Harrison had by any standard, a superb season. Much of his success was at representative level where he captained Ulster Country from the front, and performed with distinction for Ireland. He topped the bowling averages at both levels and figured in the top four in each set of batting averages.

He gave a match-winning performance in the Cup final and scored 76 against a top quality Worcestershire attack at Malahide. Both players were pushed hard by Donemana's brilliant all rounder James McBrine, who displayed marvellous consistency throughout the season and was the main reason Donemana performed so well. He scored over a thousand runs and took 79 wickets in North West matches. Of the overseas professionals, North Down's Raman Lamba with over 1500 runs and 35 wickets, and Downpatrick's Kamal Merchant with his 60 wickets at a frugal 6.07 apiece, were the pick. However, statistics alone can never be a true measure of quality, and in the end the Adjudicators selected Harrison just in front of McBrine and veteran Anderson.

DONEMANA CLEAN SWEEP EDGES IT

Both Fox Lodge and Ballymena had excellent seasons in their fight to return to the top section of their respective Unions. However both would readily concede that Donemana and Waringstown were the top teams of 1988. Both dominated their league and cup competition, achieving notable doubles. Donemana also won the centenary Benson and Hedges Cup, the Faughan Valley Cup, the Mid-Ulster Cup, and the North West Intermediate league and cup. In the end, that phenomenal clean sweep won them the edge over the villagers.

This was the second year of the Britannia Cricket Awards which have proved very popular in both the North West and Northern Cricket Union areas. Last year Brigade's Willie Wilson and Hollywood, won the premier awards. One of the top ten Societies in the UK, the Britannia is based in Staffordshire and have been active in Northern Ireland since 1967.

1988 Britannia Monthly Awards

	TEAM	INDIVIDUAL
May	Waringstown	Garfield Harrison
June	Donemana	Raman Lamba
July	Ballymena	James McBrine
August	Waringstown	Johnny Black



Britannia individual winner Garfield Harrison receiving his award from Sports Council Director George Glasgow



Britannia's Christine Wilson presenting the August individual award to Johnny Black of Instonians



Ballymena skipper Michael Burton receives the July team award from Britannia's local Manager Clarence Hiles



Britannia Building Society



CRICKET AWARDS 1988

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and
DONEMANA CRICKET CLUB
BRITANNIA TEAM OF THE YEAR



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