

WINTER 1990

PRICE £1.50

Edited by Clarence Hiles

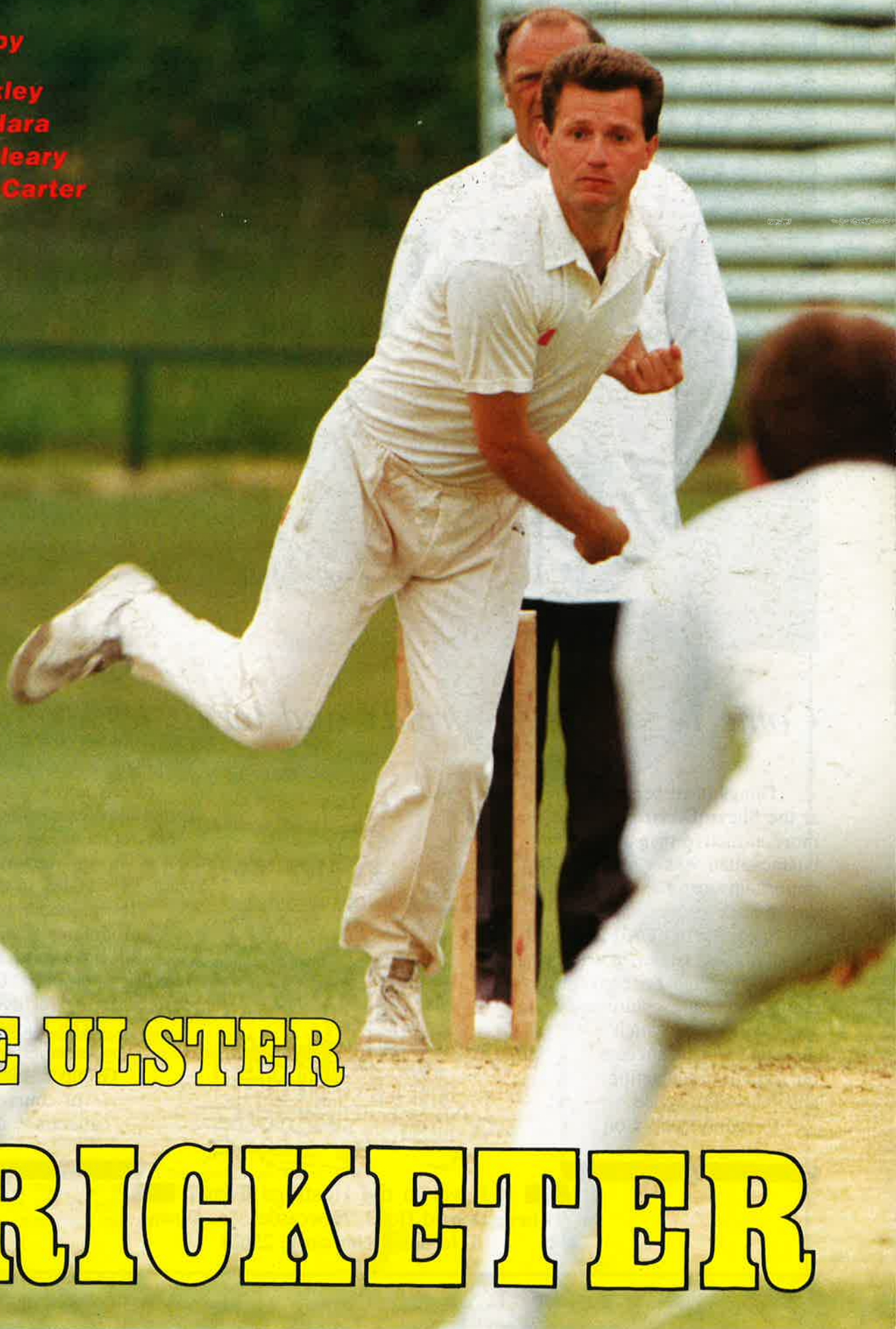
Features by

Colin Barkley

Paddy O'Hara

Ernie McCleary

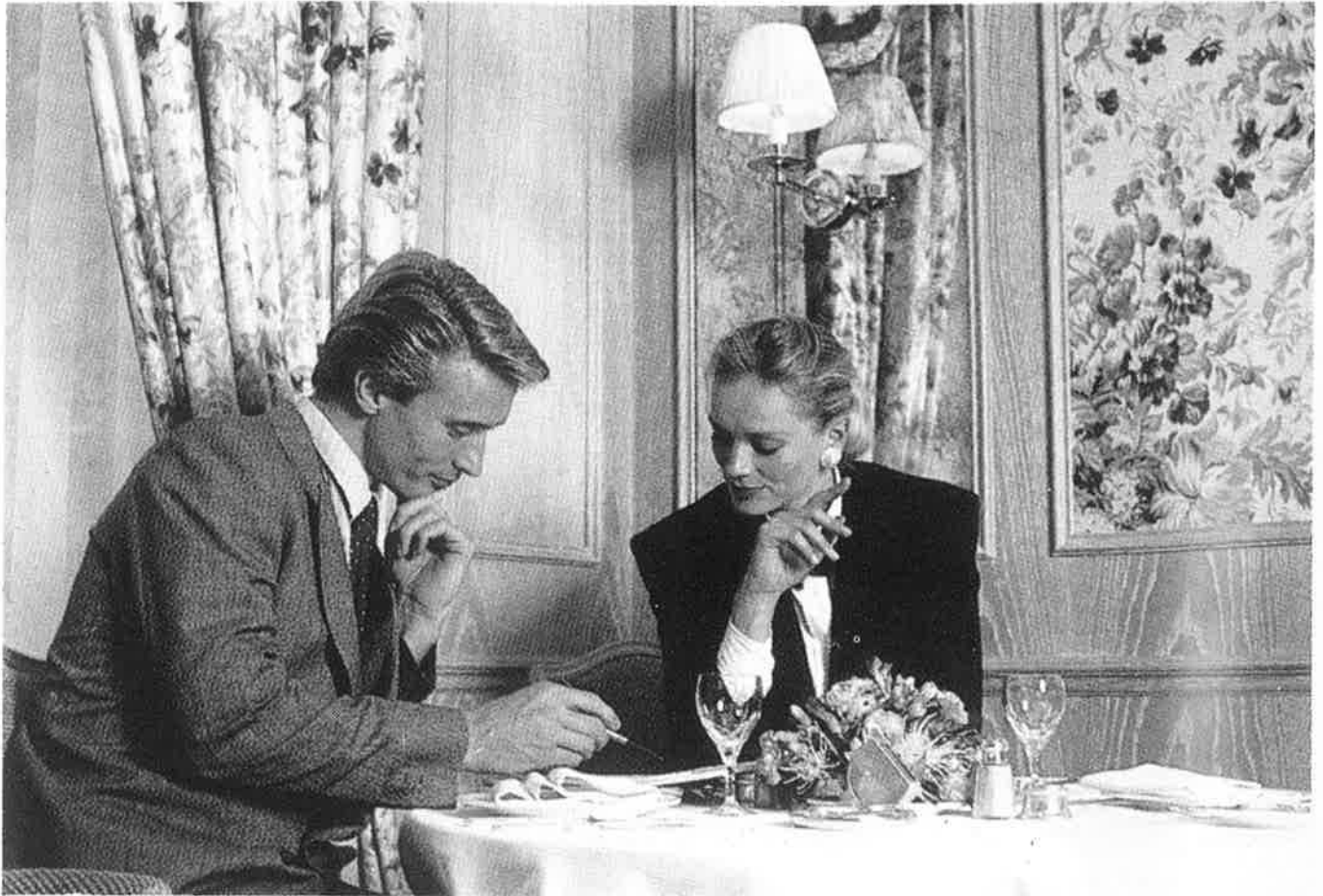
Gerald McCarter



THE ULSTER

CRICKETER

*From one businessman
to another – welcome!*



Come in, have fun, relax and let us look after you.

Things have been happening at the Slieve Donard to make the hotel more attractive than ever to the businessman who welcomes the opportunity to relax when the tough day's work is over.

Specially designed and built for the businessman, it's the perfect venue for seminars, conventions, conferences, presentations and such events which depend for their success on smooth organisation and personal service.

Certainly, that's on



HASTINGS HOTELS GROUP LTD
SLIEVE DONARD



offer...and a great deal more; supreme professionalism, a friendly environment, a cuisine based on variety and quality.

Strikingly situated in the shadow of the grandeur of the Mourne Mountains, the distinguished Slieve Donard Hotel and it's luxurious Country Club provides the perfect setting for every occasion.

The Slieve Donard is a member of the Hastings Group of Hotels and that, of course, is a further guarantee of excellence.

A Jewel in the Hastings Crown
Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down
Telephone: Newcastle 23681



THE ULSTER

CRICKETER

VOL.6 NO.2

WINTER 1990

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Northern Cricket Union's October AGM decision to introduce league play-offs next season will be a welcome boost to traditionalists who have lamented on the way other sports have railroaded the cricket season each September over the past decade.

The decision may not please those who hold their winter sports dearest, or the four Senior One clubs who lose their grounds to rugby, but it will go some way to improving both the quantity and the quality of the final matches with meaningful cricket. Admittedly, the wickets will be slower and the weather unpredictable, but we live in Ireland and not the Caribbean, so we have to accept our prevailing climatic conditions. The final of the all Ireland Schweppes Cup is already a fixture of September cricket and what a major boost to sponsors to have a league decider of cup final magnitude providing the finale to the cricket season.

The North West showed the way this year with a Donemana versus Eglinton decider attended by a huge crowd and considerable media attention. Lurgan and North of Ireland could have attracted similar focus on the excellent Comber strip in mid-September and relegated the meaningless football, rugby and hockey pre-season opening games from the sports pages for another week.

That in itself would have shortened the winter!

JCH CJB

FRONT COVER: Waringstown and Ireland all rounder Garfield Harrison produced the outstanding performance of the 1990 season when taking 9 for 113 against Scotland to top the national 1st class averages. Photo: Laurence Kirk

PHOTOS: Thanks to the following for their excellent photographs and valuable assistance in compiling this publication. Laurence Kirk, Billy McLeod, Joe Vaughan, Roger Scott, Robert Hamilton, Larry Doherty, John McLean, Clarence Hiles, Lurgan Mail, Down Recorder and Ulster Bank Ltd.

ADVERTISING/EDITORIAL: Aurora Publications, 8 Carnesure Heights, Comber, Co. Down BT23 5RN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Sincere thanks to the following for their assistance in compiling the editorial for this publication - Reggie McSparrow, Paddy O'Hara, Gerald McCarter, Ernie McCleary, Des McCall, John McClean, Bill McCarroll, Colin Barkley and Pamela Hiles.

DESIGN, LAYOUT & TYPESETTING: In-House Publications, Carn Industrial Estate, Portadown BT63 5RH

PRINTED BY: The Universities Press (Belfast) Ltd.

COPYRIGHT: All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior permission of Aurora Promotions and Publications.

Touche Ross



DON'T BE CAUGHT OUT!

Thinking about starting a business? Doing it off your own bat involves risks which only an experienced team can help you overcome... the kind of team Touche Ross can deliver.

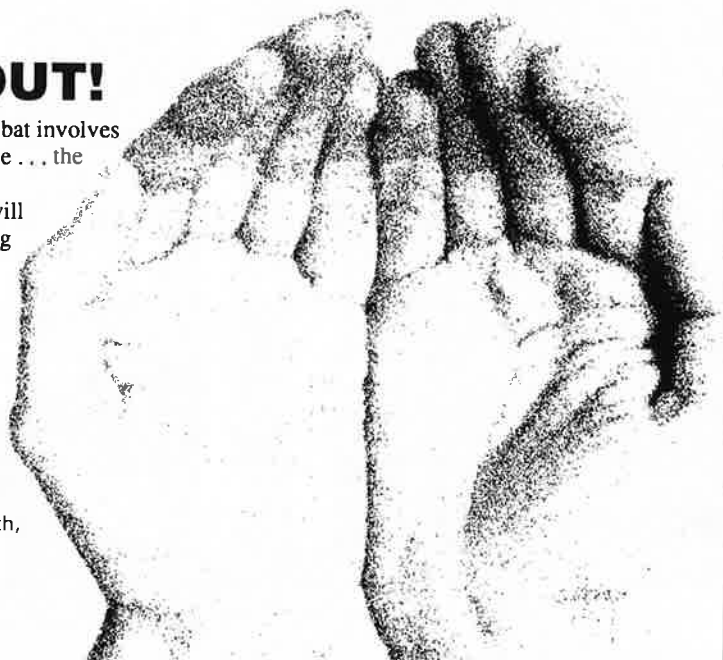
When it comes to developing your existing business you will have to determine the boundaries of your expansion... using fast and accurate expertise from Touche Ross.

With a wide field of specialist skills, Touche Ross is well placed to make sure you are not caught out.

So if you are stumped for answers to difficult business questions - over to Touche Ross.

Chartered Accountants

Touche Ross & Co, Cleaver House, 1 Donegall Square North, Belfast BT1 5JT. Telephone: National 0232 322861
International: +4 232 322861
Telecopier (Gp. 2/3): 0232 234786



From the 1950s to the 1980s

RAFFAELLO



IRELAND TURN THE CORNER

Ireland may not have set the world on fire in 1990 but there were enough encouraging signs to confirm that at long last the corner has been turned for the better.

Although only one victory was recorded out of eight games, Ireland did not lose to comparable opposition but the huge gap between amateurs and professionals was emphatically hammered home by New Zealand, Worcestershire and Sussex.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SELECTIONS

Former skipper Dermott Monteith was Chairman of the Selectors and his entrepreneurial abrasive approach was much in evidence. On the whole the selectors will feel well satisfied with the results of their labours in a difficult season which saw the introduction of an overseas professional in the Irish team, six new caps and the replacement of the skipper mid-way through the international programme. Few people expected Ireland to win against full-time professional opposition but the performances against Wales and Scotland were much improved over previous years and the victory over MCC a long-awaited boost to morale.

In a season of many notable performances two stood out for exceptional quality. Garfield Harrison's nine wickets for 113 runs against Scotland topped the 1st class averages while Alan Lewis's 136 not out against Wales marked a special milestone in a career which is starting to blossom.

LAMBA FLOPS

The most controversial selection was that of Raman Lamba. Traditionalists were abhorred that the ICU should 'cap' a non-national while protagonists vied with each other on the relative merits of Kamal Merchant, Akram Raza and



Cricket megastar Ian Botham proved popular with the autograph hunters at Malahide

Hendy Wallace. In reality it barely mattered as Lamba failed to spark the Irish fuse and although he made 52 against New Zealand he was not at his best in any of his four appearances. The gamble flopped but at least it was tried while the fantasy that one 'domiciled' overseas player could win a Nat West tie for Ireland was cruelly exposed for its naivety.

Another controversial decision was the axing of skipper Paul Jackson in mid-season. The popular North of Ireland wicket-keeper had a horrific record in his four years of captaincy although the limited resources at his disposal emphasised the impossibility of his task. He was often under scrutiny for below par performances behind the stumps so the decision by the selectors was probably justified albeit poorly executed. Jackson's close friend Stephen Warke was promoted to the captaincy but the former skipper accepted the vice-captaincy so harmony and continuity remained in the ranks. Warke got off to a dream start winning against the MCC at Coleraine and handled the responsibility with typical confidence and self assurance in the remaining matches. He led from the front and proved a capable and inspirational general.

Irish Selectors in the past have often been criticised for a lack of imagination and enterprise. The

1990 committee can scarcely be accused of that weakness. In addition to Lamba, five new faces were introduced to international cricket and most repaid the enterprise handsomely. Stephen Smyth was a revelation. His attractive stroke-play was a welcome boost to the Irish scene and if he continues to improve he will be a major asset in the years to come. Angus Dunlop was another to seize the opportunity with both hands. He scored two half-centuries in his debut season and took 5 for 26 against Wales with his well flighted off-breaks. Lurgan veteran Alan Johnston fully deserved his belated international call-up and performed well. Charlie McCrum and Noel Nelson were also capped but given little opportunity to settle into the international scene. However the enterprise of the selectors in 'bleeding' them at the highest level is much to be admired.

Selectorial casualties of the 1990 season included Derek Vincent, Nigel Thompson and Alan Rutherford. Vincent has never asserted himself at Irish level despite being given numerous opportunities while Thompson got himself into an amazing muddle by not travelling for the Worcestershire match. His act of petulance cost him dearly and it remains to be seen if he will be forgiven in the years ahead.

Rutherford appeared to be

challenging Jackson for the wicket-keeping spot last season but has slipped down the ladder allowing Keith Bailey of Dublin YMCA to regain the role he held several seasons ago.

The dearth of fast bowling reopened the door for Peter O'Reilly and although he performed well in his few matches, he is not in the mould of a Corlett, Elder or Torren. Alan Nelson remained the best pace bowler but Harrison was without doubt the bowling sensation. He took 26 wickets (ave 17.7) including two outstanding performances against Scotland and Wales to confirm his status as the best off-spinner in Irish cricket. Sadly his batting declined and he will need to work hard to regain the form expected of one so talented.

Skipper Warke revelled with his responsibility scoring 368 runs including a fine century against Scotland. Alan Lewis was another who came good in 1990 while Jim Patterson, Michael Rea and Mark Cohen all had their moments. Unfortunately business commitments played havoc with Cohen's availability and Ireland can ill-afford to lose the services of one of their finest batsmen.

VICTORY OVER MCC

The season opened with two tough one day fixtures against the popular New Zealanders. Warke batted well in both and debutant Lamba scored a half-century, but there was never any likelihood of an upset.

The visit to Dublin of the much-acclaimed Worcestershire team was billed as a Hick/Botham cricket extravaganza. They did not disappoint with Hick particularly savage on the Irish bowlers. Alan Nelson was the pick of the locals while Stephen Smyth marked a marvellous debut with an undefeated half-century. Both matches brought resounding defeats and it is difficult to see any real

Opposite: Clontarf batsman Michael Rea who returned to the Irish team in 1990



IRELAND IN 1990

cricketing value in one day games against county sides where Ireland are so hopelessly outclassed. However they do promote the sport so perhaps there is some long term mileage.

The victory over MCC at Coleraine was a welcome boost for newly appointed skipper Warke just before the Nat West match. Although the margin was only six runs Ireland made the most of the deteriorating wicket with Harrison and O'Reilly shouldering the bulk of responsibility when it mattered most. Warke and Dunlop batted well in the first innings while Lewis and Rea did likewise in difficult conditions second time round.

The Nat West match was a disaster. Wet conditions delayed the start until late afternoon but Warke's decision to bat was the major talking point. It was a brave decision but not rewarded with the result such enterprise deserved. Despite the efforts of the skipper and young Smyth, it was another batting demise at the hands of Sussex, with Tony Dodemaide cast in the role of destroyer. A nine wicket defeat emphasised the class gap.

HARRISON AND LEWIS EXCEL

The yard-stick to Irish form is performance against Wales and Scotland. In this respect there was a substantial improvement from previous years.

The match against Wales at Kimmage produced an amazing finish with victory poised for either team.

In the end the draw was probably a fair result although Ireland held the initiative at the crucial moment but could not get that vital last wicket. Lewis had an outstanding match scoring 136 not out in the first innings and 46 in the second. This was his best performance to date and will hopefully settle him into the consistency one expects from a front-line batsman. Harrison took 7 for 91 in the last inn-

ings, a marvellous achievement which just failed to secure the victory. Against Scotland he went even better with 9 for 113 to set himself into the record books for all time.

Ireland batted first in Edinburgh and produced the best display of the season. The recalled Patterson led the way with 84 but there were fine half-centuries from Cohen, Dunlop and the unorthodox Jackson. In reply Scotland scored 366 on the excellent Myerside wicket despite the valiant efforts of Harrison. It effectively killed a positive result although Warke's century on the last day was another cause for Irish celebration and a fitting finale to his first campaign as Irish captain.

BATSMEN HAD BETTER SEASON

Overall, the season proved better for the batsmen than the bowlers with newcomers Smyth and Dunlop particularly impressive. Warke and Lewis also prospered but Cohen, Harrison and Rea will want to improve in 1991.

Harrison was in a different league to his fellow bowlers but Ireland's major problem still relates to the opening attack. Johnston, O'Reilly, Alan Nelson and Paul McCrum, all figured but with limited impact and at times costly. Nelson remains the best of his type but the genuine 'quickie' appears to have disappeared from the Irish scene. Dunlop's off breaks added another option to Harrison's spin while Jackson roared back to the wicket-keeping form which was his hall-mark several years ago.

The tour to Zimbabwe in the spring will build on this season's promise and hopefully Ireland can look to the future with some optimism. The quality of the opposition will be formidable but that's the sort of preparation required when you have to face the mighty West Indies at Downpatrick in July!



Alan Lewis hit a brilliant century against Wales in July

IRELAND AVERAGES

BATTING (100 runs to qualify)

	Inns	Runs	H/Score	Average
S Smyth	6	141	59no	47.0
S Warke	11	368	100no	36.8
A Dunlop	6	183	69	36.6
A Lewis	10	311	136no	34.6
J Patterson	5	143	84	28.6
M Rea	7	165	32	23.4
M Cohen	7	145	60	20.7

BOWLING (10 wickets to qualify)

	Inn	Ovrs	Match	Runs	Wkts	Ave
G Harrison	9	143.3	33	460	26	17.7
A Nelson	8	117.4	29	382	13	29.4
P McCrum	10	116.1	23	415	11	37.7

Irish Milestones in 1990

Stephen Warke passed the 2000 runs mark. He now has 2256 runs (ave 30.1) including 3 centuries and 14 half centuries...

Alan Lewis passed the 1000 runs mark. He now totals 1036 runs (ave 24.7) from his 38 appearances...

Michael Rea topped 500 runs from 12 appearances...

Mark Cohen won his 50th cap against Scotland. First capped in 1980 he needs 53 runs to pass the 2000 runs milestone...

Paul Jackson captured his 100th victim against New Zealand. In 67 appearances the popular wicket-keeper has taken 86 catches and made 24 stumpings...

Garfield Harrison's 9 for 113 against Scotland was the second best ever bowling performance. He also topped the first class averages following in the footsteps of Jimmy Boucher, Scott Huey and Irish record holder Frank Fee...

Brothers **Paul and Charlie McCrum** played against MCC at Coleraine while brothers Alan and Noel Nelson played against Wales and Scotland...

Ireland's victory over MCC was the first success since 1987...



Waringstown's Noel Nelson made his debut against Wales



Lurgan pace bowler Alan Johnston shows his batting prowess against New Zealand



Charlie McCrum won his first 'cap' against the MCC at Coleraine

IRELAND IN 1990

Played 8 Won 1 Lost 5 Drew 2

May 9 Downpatrick

Ireland 151/9 (Lamba 52/Warke 23)
New Zealand 152/3 (Wright 49 no)
Result: New Zealand won by 7 wickets

May 10 at Ormeau

New Zealand 203/7 (Wright 44)
Ireland 163/9 (Warke 44)
Result: New Zealand won by 40 runs

June 8 at Castle Avenue, Dublin

Worcestershire 224/4 (Hick 101 no/ Botham 40/A Nelson 3/67)
Ireland 89/8 (Lewis 22)
Result: Worcestershire won by 135 runs

June 9 at Castle Avenue, Dublin

Worcestershire 304 (Leatherdale 76/ Botham 61/ A Nelson 4/81)
Ireland 158/8 (Smyth 59 no/Spence 22)
Result: Worcestershire won by 146 runs

June 16/17/18 at Coleraine

Ireland 1st Innings 275/8 (Warke 81/Dunlop 69)
2nd Innings 99 (Rea 32/Lewis 25)
MCC 1st Innings 243 (Goldsmith 76/P McCrum 3/57/Harrison 3/46)
2nd Innings 125 (Mendis 49/Harrison 3/13/O'Reilly 3/36)
Result: Ireland won by 6 runs

June 27 at Downpatrick

Ireland 75 (Warke 22/Dodemaide 6/9)
Sussex 73/1
Result: Ireland lost by 9 wickets

July 29/30/31 at Kimmage, Dublin

Ireland 1st Innings 299/4 (Lewis 136no/Warke 65)
2nd Innings 170/4 (Lewis 46/Dunlop 42 no)
Wales 1st Innings 202 (Edwards 51/Dunlop 5/26)
2nd Innings 265/9 (Puddle 71/Harrison 7/91)
Result: Match drawn

August 11/12/13 at Myerside, Edinburgh

Ireland 1st Innings 327 (Patterson 84/Cohen 60/Jackson 59/Dunlop 56)
2nd Innings 138/1 (Warke 100 no)
Scotland 1st Innings 366 (Phillip 100/Harrison 9/113)
Result: Match drawn



Skippers Paul Parker and Stephen Warke sorting out a few racing tips prior to the Nat West match at Downpatrick?



Fruit importer Chris Torney sponsored a welcoming reception for the tourists and provided them with some excellent produce from the home land! Richard Hadlee and ICU president Gavin Craig certainly approved

RUC FINALLY COP IT!!!

The RUC Cricket team achieved one of the most memorable victories in the history of their club on 6th September, when winning the national police athletic association cricket competition. It was the first time the local lads had reached the final although they were narrowly ousted by South Wales several times in the early eighties.

Victory over the strong London Metropolitan Police team was thoroughly deserved and the pinnacle of a long crusade to bring the trophy over to Ulster which began back in 1978.

Club with fighting spirit

It was with some apprehension that the party left Aldergrove due to a series of misfortunes to key members of the club. The most heart-breaking was the death some weeks earlier of their popular President Jack Newell, while team skipper Clifford Forsythe was ruled out of action because of a serious hand injury.

As if morale was not low enough, a 'blow out' on the M25 en route to the match added insult to injury. However the Police team is a resilient bunch and the sight of Lionel 'action man' Semple crawling under the coach to supervise repairs epitomised their fighting spirit.

Bowlers stick to their task!

Acting skipper Ian McGregor lost the loss but was quite pleased the Londoners elected to bat despite the presence in their team of danger-man Malcolm Roberts, who earlier in the season had scored a century in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

On this occasion he had to face a volatile opening attack from the Semple brothers Lionel and Adrian, who gave the local openers a torrid early baptism to the final. Adrian picked up one wicket but the bumpy outfield made fielding difficult and runs came freely until 'PJ' Whyte entered the attack. This was possibly his best spell of the season, as he took two wickets and conceded only 18 runs in a tight nine over spell.

Geoffrey Heyburn also bowled well but local batsman Allen proved the thorn in the RUC flesh scoring 84 out of a final total of 198 for

5. Unfortunately the acting skipper suffered a personal mishap and had to watch most of the action from the pavilion balcony having torn rib muscles in the field!

'PJ' proves the hero

RUC Neil Fairbrother 'look-alike' Heyburn, set after the Metropolitan attack like a man in a hurry. Despite the hallowed reputation of the opening bowlers, both of whom have represented the PAA national team, a brisk 44 in fifteen overs saw the locals sitting at 76 for 3 and well placed in quick time. Big hitters supreme Joe Campbell and Michael Blair curtailed their normal attacking tendencies to build on this excellent start, but when both departed in quick succession a crisis occurred at 136 for 6. However, the hero with the ball proved the hero with the bat as 'PJ' Whyte once again stole back the initiative, supported by an excellent 27 from Simon Swaby. Unfortunately on 178 Simon departed so skipper McGregor was forced into action despite his ails and pains. With typical 'never say die' RUC grit, he bravely held his end while 'PJ' valiantly strode for victory. He timed his charge to perfection striking the winning boundary with only two balls to spare then suffered the ignominy of having to steel himself for a jubilant George Wilson embrace which epitomised the tremendous relief and excitement in the RUC camp.

Historic milestone

Surrey and former England batsman Monty Lynch was the Man-of-the-Match adjudicator and without hesitation opted for hero of the hour 'PJ'! It was a fitting accolade to a player and to a team which had done Ulster proud and marked a historic milestone in their club. For stalwarts of thirty years standing, Chairman

Bob Magee, Secretary Wally Shannon and hard working George Wilson, this was a proud moment. What a pity that other great servant of the RUC club John Craig was unable to make the trip and what a tribute to honour the memory of the late Jack Newell.



P.J. Whyte receiving his man-of-the-match award from Surrey and former England batsman Monty Lynch

Details

1st Round: Bye
2nd Round: at Cleveland
Cleveland 205/6
RUC 208/6 (Campbell 87/Blair 77no)

Semi-final: at Manchester
Greater Manchester 214/6
RUC 218/8 (A Semple 64)

Final at London
London Metropolitan 198/5
RUC 202/7 (Heyburn 42/ Whyte 32 no)



Victorious RUC! Back row: S. McNulty, P. Kelly, M. Blair, S. Swaby, J. Campbell, A. Semple. Front row: G. Heyburn, P.J. Whyte, I. McGregor, R. Magee (Chairman), L. Semple, J. Martin

COUNTRY FINALLY MAKE IT

- Interpro' title comes north

ULSTER Country finally achieved what they had threatened to do in the previous two years, and won the Ulster Bank interprovincial championship for the seventh time. Undeclared in 1988 and 1989, they maintained this excellent playing record with two wins and three draws, but their neighbours Ulster Town will feel bitterly disappointed at their somewhat inept performance in the 'big decider' at Comber.

With both teams locked at the top of the table, the meeting was essentially a cup final, but on the day, the Ulster Town batsmen capitulated to allow the 'Country a comfortable six wickets victory and the interprovincial championship.

Centenary Celebration

This was the centenary celebration of the interprovincial championship which has seen many changes since the first matches were played in Dublin, in the summer of 1890. The 1990 series was not solely confined to historical significance because the legislators built the 15 match championship around a nine match festival week-end, hosted by the Northern Cricket Union Clubs in late May.

Excellent hospitality at the Culloden Hotel, fine weather and a superb celebration dinner hosted by the sponsors Ulster Bank, gave the championship a tremendous boost in its new format. The cricket was a motley mixture of enthrallment and rare bursts of entertainment, but with six of the nine matches drawn over the week-end it did little to attract spectators.

Both the North Leinster and Munster batsmen relished the fine batting tracks, but in the context of competitive cricket, somehow lost direction. Admittedly the possibility of a draw will always be attractive to the weaker teams, but as the showpiece of representative cricket, some matches left much to be desired. North Leinster probably bored the most and Alan McClean will not need reminding that in 99 overs he scored a paltry 77 runs on excellent batting wickets.

The major shock of the 1990 championship was the remarkable demise of the 1989 champions North West. Victorious skipper Willie Wilson was surprisingly replaced by Sion Mills veteran Raymond Moan, but despite passing the 2000 runs personal milestone, there was little for him to enthuse about.

North West finished bottom of the table with 'no-hopers' Munster even managing to stay above them. Weak bowling proved their downfall, aided by some unorthodox selectorial variations! They were not alone in this department as North Leinster dropped their captain Con McGrath, and record veteran Irish international Mike Halliday after only one match. One wonders why they were picked in the first place!

Both the Northern Cricket Union teams stayed undefeated until their meeting at Comber in late July. The switch from Lurgan to North Down by the talented McCrum brothers gave Ulster Town a formidable attack, while the return of durable batsman Charlie Beverland boosted the batting.

THE ULSTER CRICKETER, WINTER 1990



Ulster Bank's Comber Branch Manager Cyril Johnston presented Ulster Country skipper Garfield Harrison with the Interprovincial Trophy after their emphatic victory over Ulster Town



North West opening bowler Crawford Martin in action against Derek Vincent the North Leinster captain at Comber



Talented Ulster Country batsman Jim Carson marked his return to the interpro' scene with 68 against South Leinster

Paul McCrum was outstanding. He took a total of 17 wickets to top the averages, including 8 for 48 against North Leinster, and 4 for 31 against the North West, including a hat-trick. With Beverland, Warke and young Paul Linehan in top form, Ulster Town moved confidently to the top of the table, and needed only a draw at Comber to secure the title.

Throughout the season Ulster Country skipper Garfield Harrison led from the front with wickets and runs, ably supported by his War-

ingstown team-mates Noel and Alan Nelson. However, it was two of the more experienced members of their squad who captured the headlines. With Sunday play not essential in the new format, Lurgan bowler Alan Johnston made a welcome return to representative cricket with a sparkling 7 for 60 against North Leinster. Ballymena batsman Alan Neill was not to be outdone, and he followed his 56 in the same match with 127 against Munster.

It set up an intriguing clash at Comber but in-



Interpro' debuts for NCU umpires Jimmy McCall and John Craig at Ormeau

explicitly the 'Town batsmen crumbled and their talented opponents couldn't believe their luck. Jim Patterson in particular made light of a modest target.

Munster answer their critics

South Leinster were disappointing. Admittedly the loss of the unavailable Cohen, Garth and Hoey depleted their squad, but there remained sufficient quality to achieve better results. Alan Lewis finally produced the form he has often threatened, and his 205 runs (ave 68.3) included a fine century against Ulster Country at Waringstown.

Angus Dunlop was another unparalleled success, while the ever-faithful Tom McDonnell continued to pillage the wickets. However, there was little else in terms of worthwhile support and Munster exploited the situation to the full by inflicting a demoralising six runs defeat on the 1988 champions at the Mardyke.

It was Munster's solitary success, but with two draws gained at the interpro' week-end they will feel well placed to answer their critics. The hard-working John McDevitt was their principal wicket-taker while Peter Dineen continues to be their most promising batsman. Only Ulster Town bowled them out for a low total, and their 223 against North West was noteworthy although perhaps a more imaginative declaration might have produced better dividends?

Alan and Charlie capped

Ulster Country may have won the championship in its centenary year of celebration but there were also other winners. As a platform for international recognition, Alan Johnston, Angus Dunlop, Stephen Smyth, Noel Nelson and Charlie McCrum made the most of the 1990 championship and got their deserved reward.

Perhaps the door of opportunity lies open for others next year? Sadly this was the third and final year of Ulster Bank sponsorship. The Bank has been a good friend of Irish and Ulster cricket for many years and marked the centenary series with increased financial support and enthusiastic commitment. They deserve much praise and hopefully will continue to support cricket in other fields, not least under the banner of their parent company the Nat. West.



Irish international Michael Rea presented North West pace bowler Mark Simpson with a solid defence at Comber



Last year's champions but this year's "wooden spoon" for the talented North West team which failed to sparkle: Back Row - Murray Power (Umpire), Michael Gillespie, Crawford Martin, Willie Wilson, Mark Simpson, Alan Rutherford, Stephen Smyth, Stanley Perry (Umpire). Front Row - Marshall Kilgore, Junior McBrine, Raymond Moan (Capt), James McBrine, Johnny Brown



A century for Ulster Town batsman Paul Linehan against South Leinster at Woodvale

RESULTS

Ulster Town (30 pts) beat Munster (no pts) by seven wickets at Ormeau, May 26.

Munster 87 (M McTiernan 20★, C McCrum 4-19, W Adams 3-14)
Ulster Town 91-3 (SJS Warke 32, P Ryan 3-18)

South Leinster (28 pts) beat North West (5 pts) by five wickets at Ballymena, May 26.

North West 285-7 dec (A McBrine 61, R Moan 46, S Smyth 42, J McBrine 40).
South Leinster 286-5 (AR Dunlop 130, DA Lewis 59★).

Ulster Country (15 pts) drew with North Leinster (9 pts) at Lisburn, May 26.

Ulster Country 290-8 dec (GD Harrison 95, A Neill 56, A Waite 40, D Streek 4-65, PM O'Reilly 3-82).
North Leinster 146-9 (A McClean 42★, DA Vincent 36, AD Johnston 7-60).

Ulster Town (9 pts) drew with South Leinster (9 pts) at Woodvale, May 27.

Ulster Town 273-7 dec (P Linehan 118★, C Beverland 76)
South Leinster 157-5 (J Hoey 54★, C Haine 48★).

Ulster Country (14 pts) drew with Munster (5 pts) at Deramore Park, May 27.

Ulster Country 263-4 dec (A Neill 127, G Hunter 79, J McDevitt 4-65).
Munster 178-8 (D Kirby 40, M McTiernan 36★, J MacDevitt 35, A Nelson 3-35, N Nelson 3-49).

North West (12 pts) drew with North Leinster (8 pts) at Comber, May 27.

North Leinster 230 (DA Vincent 59, J Mooney 38★, A McClean 35, M Rea 31).
North West 196-6 (R Moan 50, SG Smyth 39, A McBrine 34, P O'Reilly 3-53).

Ulster Country (30 pts) beat South Leinster (4 pts) by four wickets at Waringstown, May 28.

South Leinster 224 (DA Lewis 112, AG Spence 5-47).
Ulster Country 225-6 (J Carson 68, AG Spence 43★, TJT Patterson 41, DA Lewis 3-54).

Ulster Town (10 pts) drew with North Leinster (6 pts) at Lurgan, May 28.

North Leinster 203 (DA Vincent 65, N Harper 44, DR Pigot 43, P McCrum 8-48).
Ulster Town 128-5 (C McCrum 35★, PM O'Reilly 3-54).

North West (11 pts) drew with Munster (9 pts) at Laurelvale, May 28.

Munster 223 (M Ashmore 60, T Williamson 46, JJ McDevitt 31, M Simpson 7-84, C Martin 3-78).

North West 173-7 (R Moan 46, AT Rutherford 30, JJ McDevitt 4-53).

Ulster Town (30 pts) beat North West (one pt) by five wickets at Newforge, June 3.

North West 161 (R McBrine 60, R Moan 43, P McCrum 4-31).
Ulster Town 164-5 (SJS Warke 75, C McCrum 33).

Munster (25 pts) beat South Leinster (7 pts) by six runs at the Mardyke, July 1.

Munster 182 (PD Dineen 58★, T McDonnell 5-32).
South Leinster 176 (AR Dunlop 48, T McDonnell 35, JJ McDevitt 4-49).

North Leinster (29 pts) beat Munster (one pt) by 86 runs at Phoenix Park, July 8.

North Leinster 249-4 (MP Rea 108, A McClean 68, DA Vincent 45).
Munster 163 (R Wong 25, D Streek 5-33, J Mooney 4-42).

North West (10 pts) drew with Ulster Country (10 pts) at Stabane, July 8.

Ulster Country 191-7 dec (A Waite 43, U Graham 47★, M Gillespie 3-48).
North West 187-9 (J McBrine 89, D Cooke 43, U Graham 3-53).

North Leinster (5 pts) v South Leinster (5 pts) at Castle Avenue, July 15. Abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Ulster Country (30 pts) beat Ulster Town (no pts) by six wickets at Comber, July 22.

Ulster Town 110 (SJS Warke 38, AR Semple 34, GD Harrison 4-10, N Nelson 4-43).
Ulster Country 116-4 (TJT Patterson 33★).

THE ULSTER BANK CUP 1990

	Plyd	Won (20)	Draw (5)	Lost	Batting	Bowling	Total
Ulster Country	5	2	3	-	20	24	99
Ulster Town	5	2	2	1	13	16	79
North Leinster	5	1	4	-	5	12	57
South Leinster	5	1	2	2	10	13	53
Munster	5	1	2	2	2	8	40
North West	5	-	3	2	9	15	39

Unplayed (rain): North Leinster v South Leinster (in table above as a draw).

Batting Averages (Qualification - 100 runs)

	Inns	No	Most	Runs	Aver
DA Lewis (SL)	4	1	112	205	68.33
P Linehan (UT)	3	1	★118	127	63.50
C Beverland (UT)	4	2	76	107	53.50
AR Dunlop (SL)	4	-	130	206	51.50
DA Vincent (NL)	4	-	165	205	51.25
A McClean (NL)	4	1	68	145	48.33
MP Rea (NL)	3	-	108	145	48.33
A Neill (UC)	5	-	127	231	46.20
SJS Warke (UT)	4	-	75	165	41.25
J McBrine (NW)	4	-	89	163	40.75
TJT Patterson (UC)	5	2	41	121	40.33
G Hunter (UC)	3	-	179	113	37.66
R Moan (NW)	5	-	150	187	37.40
GD Harrison (UC)	4	-	195	146	36.50
PD Dineen (M)	5	1	★58	102	25.50
AR Semple (UT)	5	-	34	116	23.20
A Waite (UC)	5	-	43	116	23.20

Bowling Averages (qualification - 8 wickets)

	Wkts	Runs	Aver
P McCrum (UT)	17	142	8.35
A Johnston (UC)	9	111	12.33
D Streek (NL)	9	121	13.44
C McCrum (UT)	8	116	14.50
JJ McDevitt	12	188	15.66
AN Nelson (UC)	8	146	18.25
N Nelson (UC)	9	176	19.55
PM O'Reilly (NL)	9	189	21.00
T McDonnell (SL)	10	221	22.10
M Simpson (NW)	10	228	22.80

Wicket Keepers (Qualification - 5 dismissals)

	CT	ST	Total
PB Jackson (UT)	10	-	10
N Fullerton (UC)	6	-	6
AR Rutherford (NW)	4	2	6
C Kanvanagh (SL)	5	-	5

Catches (Qualification - 4)

A McClean (NL)	4
TJT Patterson (UC)	4

SIX IN A ROW FOR DONEMANA

- But Eglinton the team of the year in the North West

Donemana may have won their sixth successive league championship but for most people, the team of the season in the North West was Eglinton. These two fine teams, steeped in success over many years, set themselves apart from their contemporaries, and provided enthralling and entertaining exchanges. Eglinton struck a decisive blow early in the season by ousting Donemana from the Northern Bank Senior Cup competition by the narrowest of one wicket margins, in an epic match at the Holm. It was the perfect platform on which to mount their cup campaign, although, Donemana's grit held firm as the season progressed, and their ultimate league victory was a fitting tribute to a team with magnificent fighting qualities.

Spearheaded by West Indian all-rounder Henderson Wallace, Eglinton went on to win the cup after a narrow semi-final victory over Brigade, and an emphatic trouncing of surprise finalists Limavady in the Beechgrove showpiece.

Wallace boosts Eglinton

Brigade and Eglinton set the pace in the league championship but Donemana was never far away. As the tempo increased in the final stages Brigade fell in vital matches to their closest rivals, both of whom lost three times prior to the play-off.

For Brigade it was a welcome return to the fore, but despite the presence of their exciting young Irish international batsman Stephen Smyth, their batting remains vulnerable.

The major successes in 1990 were Willie Wilson's impressive bowling, the excellent bowling of Barton Curry who had 63 wickets to finish a healthy third in the North West averages and Marshall Kilgore's batting.

However Wallace's 80 victims (ave 12.35) and his 846 runs (ave 53) gave Eglinton a massive boost and put them on par with the formidable Donemana. Skipper Oliver Thompson also had the benefit of Irish all rounder Nigel Thompson, the talented Ivan McMichael, veteran wicket-keeper Shaun Bradley, pace bowler Crawford Martin, and developing young batsman David Cooke, a player of considerable potential.

In contrast the Donemana strength lay emphatically in the performance of the McBrine twins James and Junior, both of whom again featuring high in both batting and bowling averages. Junior in particular had several outstanding individual performances emphasising his very special talents which, sadly once again, were missing at national level. James was not far behind, and it was an excellent season with the ball for Raymond Mitchell.

Typically there were also useful batting contributions from Angus Scott and 'Decker' Curry. But unlike in other years, Donemana's strength in depth failed to materialise with any degree of consistency, and contributed much to a 1st round Schweppes Cup exit at Phoenix, and



Donemana - Prudential North West League Champions for the sixth successive year
Back Row: A. Dunn, R. McGonigle, R. McBrine, I. Dougherty, T. McClintock, A. Scott, K. Kerrigan
Front Row: D. Curry, Jun. McBrine, R. Mitchell (Capt), A. Gilfillan, Jas. McBrine

those three important domestic league defeats. While most teams would willingly settle for the league championship, high standards are set at Donemana, and Eglinton's claim to the 'top team' mantle will be their spur in 1991.

Vintage 'Coke' at Limavady

As expected the dog-fight at the bottom of the table featured Fox Lodge and Ardmore, with St Johnston, Limavady, Sion Mills and Bready just doing enough to stay out of danger.

Fox Lodge escaped relegation at the end of the 1989 season at the eleventh hour, but there was no reprieve this time round, with only a solitary victory from their league and cup campaign. Adrian Heywood's 325 runs and 38 wickets was almost a sole effort in a team which struggled to match the strength in depth of its rivals. Ardmore fared little better and although George and Gerald Brolly made the bowling averages, none of their top batsmen managed to get into the batting figures. That in itself told their story.

Noel McMichael was vintage 'Coke' at Limavady. He cajoled and inspired a side which could never have expected to reach the cup final and finish in the middle order, following their return to the premier division. Theirs was very much a team effort, although skipper Andrew Christie will gladly acknowledge that McMichael's 434 runs and 37 wickets was a major part of his overall contribution in a team which gave him a season to savour.

Bready, St Johnston, Sion Mills and Strabane all suffered from weak bowling attacks. Bready's consistent Geoffrey McConnell, former international Paul Wallace at St Johnston, Fergal O'Doherty of Sion Mills and long-serving Strabane stalwart Terence Patton, were sole club representatives in the top twenty North West bowlers which obviously blunted



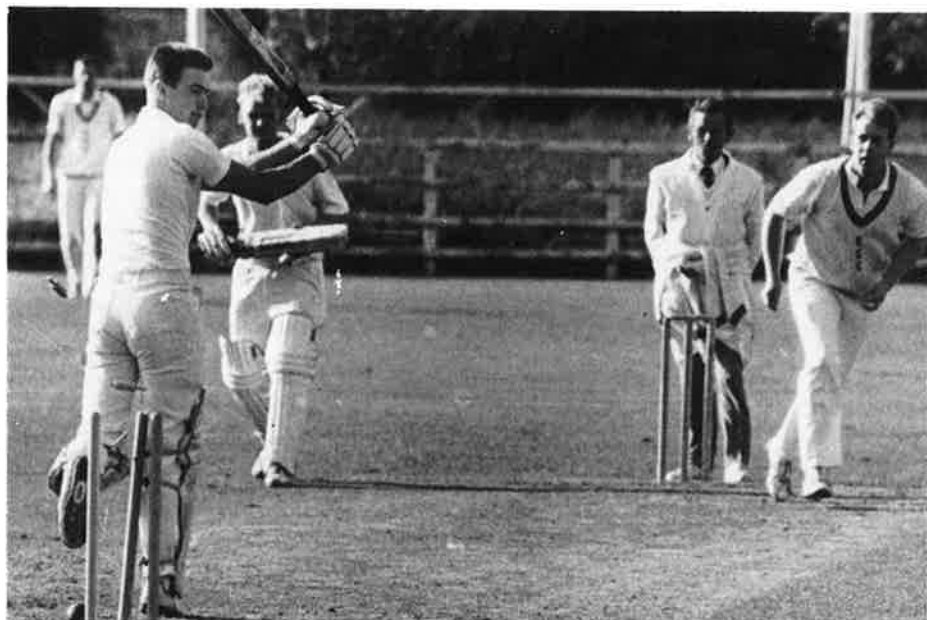
A fine catch in the deep for Brigade's Marshall Kilgore



Brigade's Barton Curry was one of big Henderson Wallace's eighty victims in 1990



Wrecked! Bready batsman Geoffrey McConnell



Eglinton's Robin Martin ends another Decker Curry innings!

1990 NORTH WEST PRUDENTIAL TABLES

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	Pts	N/R
DONEMANA	17	14	0	3	28	1
EGLINTON	16	14	0	2	28	2
BRIGADE	18	13	0	5	26	0
STRABANE	16	9	0	7	18	2
BREADY	17	7	0	10	14	1
LIMAVADY	18	7	0	11	14	0
SION MILLS	17	7	0	10	14	1
ST JOHNSTON	17	7	0	10	14	1
ARDMORE	16	4	0	12	8	2
FOX LODGE	18	3	0	15	6	0

DONEMANA BEAT EGLINTON IN A PLAY-OFF

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	Pts	N/R
COLERAINE	15	15	0	0	30	3
N. FERMANAGH	15	12	1	2	25	3
GLENDERMOTT	17	10	0	7	20	1
BURNDENNETT	17	10	0	7	20	1
DRUMMOND	16	8	1	7	17	2
BALLYSPALLEN	15	8	0	7	16	3
CREEVEDONNELL	15	5	0	10	10	3
KILLYMALLAGHT	16	4	1	12	9	2
CRINDLE	16	3	0	13	6	2
KILLYCLOONEY	16	2	1	13	5	2

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	Pts	N/R
THE NEDD	15	14	0	1	28	1
CUMBER CLAUDY	15	11	0	4	22	1
DULLERTON	15	9	1	5	19	1
BERRYBURN	14	8	0	6	16	2
RAPHOE	14	7	0	7	14	2
BALLYMONEY	15	6	1	8	13	1
BOND'S GLEN	15	6	0	9	12	1
WATERSIDE	14	4	0	10	8	2
THORNHILL	15	0	0	15	0	1

THE ULSTER CRICKETER, WINTER 1990

their team's league aspirations. On the batting front, the evergreen Ian Rankin and consistent wicket-keeper Ian Anthony, kept St Johnston out of the relegation zone, while Strabane's John Gillespie had his best ever season scoring 410 runs (ave 25.62). Sam McConnell, David Cooke, Brian Doherty and David Rainey all topped 300 runs at Bready, but an early cup exit against Brigade meant it was an average season for the Magheramason men.

As expected the fortunes of Sion Mills depended largely on their brilliant Indian all rounder Bobby Rao and local batsmen Raymond Moan and Johnny Brown. All three performed well with the bat, but neither Rao nor fellow slow bowler Ian Scott made much impact with the ball and so with a weak squad, Sion was not the force of yesteryear.

1990 BATTING AVERAGES

(300 RUNS TO QUALIFY)

Player	Club	Runs	Ave	H/Score
Hendy Wallace	Eglinton	846	53.00	115
Junior McBrine	Donemana	676	48.28	108no
Bobby Rao	Sion Mills	698	46.53	103no
James McBrine	Donemana	508	39.07	81
Ian Rankin	St Johnston	659	36.61	63
Marshall Kilgore	Brigade	578	36.12	76
Angus Scott	Donemana	529	33.04	87
Raymond Moan	Sion Mills	530	31.17	74
Stephen Smyth	Brigade	470	29.37	83no
Ivan McMichael	Eglinton	464	29.00	65
Decker Curry	Donemana	359	27.61	93
Ian Anthony	St Johnston	300	27.27	97no
Noel McMichael	Limavady	434	27.12	70
David Cooke	Fox Lodge	478	26.61	70no
Alan Rutherford	Brigade	424	26.50	60
David Cooke	Eglinton	366	26.14	73no
John Gillespie	Strabane	410	25.62	130no
Sam McConnell	Bready	342	24.42	104no
Shaun Bradley	Eglinton	412	22.88	59no
William Wilson	Brigade	308	22.00	73

Coleraine went through their Division Two league programme undefeated, although a second round cup defeat by neighbours Ballyspallen dented their pride.

As expected, North Fermanagh and Glendermott mounted a strong challenge, with the former carrying the Division Two flag into the Northern Bank Senior Cup Semi-finals. However Coleraine appear to be the best equipped team to return to the top section and no doubt that success was one of Irish cricket Union president Gavin Craig's special memories in a busy season.

The Nedd won Division Three and buoyant club spirit in the senior ranks must have spilled into the junior ranks at Donemana, Limavady and Coleraine, who picked up the three other league titles.

Overall it was a fine season at club level for North West cricket with several players outstanding. Brigade's consistent Willie Wilson topped the bowling averages and team-mate Barton Curry was not far behind with 63 victims. Junior and James McBrine vied with Noel McMichael as the top local all rounder, although big Barbadian Henderson Wallace was by far the most prolific performer.

Sadly excellent performances at club level were not transformed into the North West inter-provincial team which finished in a disappointing last position in the 1990 Series. Further up the representative scale, Brigade's Stephen Smyth made a significant impact at national level following his surprise selection against Worcestershire in June, but on the debit side Paul Wallace, Alan Rutherford and Noel Thompson all slipped down the international selectorial ladder. With Junior McBrine continuing to opt out at this grade it is difficult to see anything other than lean times ahead on the international front for North West players. For an area so rich in talent, that is a tragedy.

1990 BOWLING AVERAGES

(30 WICKETS TO QUALIFY)

Player	Club	Wkts	Ave	B/Bwl
William Wilson	Brigade	48	10.14	5/17
Noel McMichael	Limavady	37	11.27	7/32
Barton Curry	Brigade	63	11.74	7/22
Raymond Mitchell	Donemana	35	12.08	7/5
Hendy Wallace	Eglinton	80	12.35	7/39
Nigel Thompson	Eglinton	49	12.97	8/97
Terence Patton	Strabane	47	13.23	7/77
James McBrine	Donemana	52	13.46	7/49
George Broly	Ardmore	39	13.52	7/29
Gareth Love	Limavady	50	13.82	6/10
Junior McBrine	Donemana	45	13.97	6/29
Geoffrey McConnell	Bready	39	14.84	6/55
Paul Wallace	St Johnston	47	16.27	7/37
Crawford Martin	Eglinton	34	17.23	7/42
Brian Martin	Limavady	32	19.00	4/70
Gerald Broly	Ardmore	38	19.89	5/72
Fergal O'Doherty	Sion Mills	31	20.41	8/42
John McKay	Limavady	32	21.21	5/69
Adrian Heywood	Fox Lodge	38	26.60	6/46

REFLECTIONS ON A SEASON PAST

By Paddy O'Hara

Chairman of the Northern Ireland Cricket Umpires Association

The first season of a new decade has come and gone, so now is a good time to reflect on matters cricketing, from the privileged umpires' stance, behind the wicket.

We congratulate those players and teams who have enjoyed success and commiserate with the disappointed.

Decline in standard of local game

What a character forming game is cricket. That wonderful feeling when you are playing well, can so easily be replaced by frustration and despair when things start to go horribly wrong. The umpires are closely involved with the teams, as the twists and turns of six or seven hours of play unfold and we learn an enlightning amount of the character and nature of the players around us.

Well, what about 1990 then? First I have to say that the standard of cricket is certainly not improving and I hope that the newly formed NCU 'think-tank' with the support of all the clubs, will find ways to stop the rot and endeavour to re-establish a higher standard of play, allied to a more interesting format for the league competition.

This is the traditional time of year to air the ritual professional debate - so I will put in my tuppence worth. We certainly have a number of very good professional players and their playing skills are to be admired, but I look, in vain, to see any improvement they have made to our own players, or to local standards.

I was disappointed to learn that one of the first lessons, given by a couple of the newer overseas players was not any technical skill, but was the art of "the orchestrated appeal". Could the NCU not rule that clubs determined to engage professional players must first equip themselves with covers and sight-screens? This, at least, would be a positive step and beneficial not only to the club concerned, but to playing standards in that league.

And also... should Irish caps not be for Irish players?

Too much gamesmanship

Our umpiring contribution to cricket has undoubtedly been made more difficult because of the changing attitude of many players.



Copy-cat behaviour from 1st class and televised cricket is inevitable, and it is the less savoury things that make life difficult for us. We have all experienced the odd bit of bat-throwing and wicket re-arrangement (and I don't mean by the bowlers) but the latest fad is the theatricals surrounding bat/pad (or vice versa) incidents. Concerted appealing with the close fielders sometimes running at the umpire (a la Viv Richards) is simply trying to cheat batsman out.

But remember, fielders are also batsmen in their turn. 'As ye sow...'

There is no place in cricket for 'sledging' or down right rudeness, nor is there any future in defiance of the umpire. No display of disbelief whether feigned or genuine, is going to change a decision and will only irritate the umpire. Players must accept the judgement and get on with the game.

I am appalled that the MCC and TCCB are actually debating the possibility of a soccer-style card system. That would damage the game irrevocably and must be resisted. The laws of cricket are quite explicit in this regard. It is the responsibility of the captains to see that the game is conducted within the spirit as well as within the laws of the game. If all captains faced up to that responsibility, squarely and honestly, this would be sufficient and the game of cricket would be the winner.

Umpiring at the highest level is a demanding job. I would make a plea to those who organise the logistics of Interprovincial and International cricket, to give at least the same consideration to the umpires as is given to the players.

Winter 'nets' for the umpires?

Having got several things off my chest, let me conclude by saying that we all umpire because we love cricket and enjoy the company of the players both during and after the games. As umpires we will be meeting throughout the winter, debating and discussing laws and umpiring techniques, to improve our standards and so make the game more enjoyable for the players. The Umpires Association will always welcome new and aspiring umpires and will also be pleased to discuss any matters concerning umpiring with individuals or clubs.

We all look forward to a sunny and satisfying 1991.

THE ULSTER CRICKETER, WINTER 1990

AMIDST THE TALKS

- Secretary of State still finds time for his favourite passion!

CONTINUITY of political opinion was not the only characteristic which the Rt Hon Peter Brooke brought to the Secretary of State's office when he followed Tom King into the hottest seat in the British Cabinet in 1989. Both have a long and passionate love of cricket. But these two doyens of direct rule are not the only devotees of the greatest of all games at Stormont Castle. Bats or stumps seen lying around the stately domain in recent years might just as easily have belonged to Nick Scott or Richard Needham!

INTEREST DATES BACK TO CHILDHOOD

Peter Brooke's love of cricket dates back to early childhood in the forties, nurtured by his father on the lawn outside the family home. A useful club cricketer, Lord Brooke of Cunnor was born in St John's Wood in the shadow of Lord's, so it was perhaps inevitable that the passion he had inherited himself should have been so lovingly passed to his children.

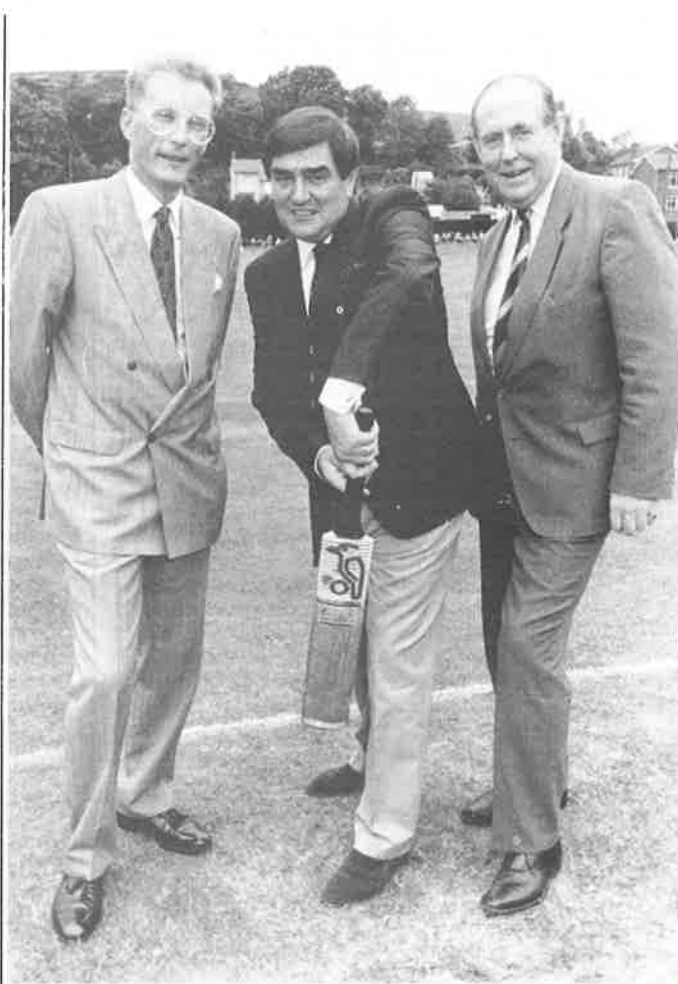
The Secretary of State has warm and affectionate memories of those halcyon days and lazy summers when he joined with brother Henry, now an eminent Judge, in mini test matches on a well groomed lawn. Later at Marlborough College his interest blossomed and, although his standard was the third eleven, there were several memorable performances for the house team including taking four catches in one particular important game and he also carried his bat for a 50 against Goatacre, the current British village champions. There was also the memory of a talented wicket keeper batsman called Tom King playing cricket against them at Lord's. Ironically their paths were not to cross until many years later in the political arena and in the Lords and Commons cricket team.

WARM MEMORIES OF UNIVERSITY CRICKET

At Oxford, Peter Brooke gave an active and enthusiastic commitment to university life. He was elected President of the Oxford Union in 1957 but still found time between his studies and his many responsibilities to satisfy his cricketing desires.

He was secretary of the college team and thoroughly enjoyed the occasional sorties into village cricket. He was invited to join the distinguished I Zingari club and is proud his second son followed a similar path many years later.

At university there were many cricket matches of a motley nature. The Secretary of State warmly recalls leading the Oxford Union Dramatic Society into cricketing conflict with the



Secretary of State Peter Brooke got some useful batting tips from Tony Lewis and Touche Ross Partner Sam Goldblatt at the NCU Cup Final

Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford whose side included the late Harry Andrews.

Post graduate studies led to Harvard where the cricket tradition was kept alive by a Commonwealth side but the sojourn to the States did provide a rare opportunity to mix with cricketing elite. The American Universities got the chance to play Pakistan, who were on the way home from the West Indies after a five match series. On a matting wicket the students dismissed the test stars for 150 before being humbled for 50. Peter Brooke vividly recalls the experience not least because he had to sleep on the floor, having like most of his team-mates, sacrificed his bed to the tourists. The incumbent Wazir Mohammed who was none the worse for the experience, had just scored two centuries in the Caribbean, including 106 at Sabina Park when Garfield Sobers hit his world record 365.

On his return to England in the early sixties, marriage and raising a young

family pushed cricket into the background as Peter Brooke set about establishing himself in a career.

A seat on Camden Borough Council and active participation in the Conservative party opened the door towards politics and in 1977 he took a seat in the House of Commons as the member for the City of London and Westminster, a position still held. But he again returned to village cricket in the 1980's when his sons started playing.

STILL ACTIVELY PLAYING

This summer the New Zealand tourists visited the Province and the Secretary of State was delighted to host a reception at Hillsborough Castle. His knowledge and love of cricket added much to the enjoyment of all who attended and it was obvious he shared a common passion with fellow

cricketers. Unfortunately the security situation in Ulster has prevented his active participation in local games, something he accepts with considerable regret.

However, he still manages the occasional game on his trips home as time and pressure of work permit. Similarly his active participation in the Lords and Commons cricket team has declined because of his huge commitment to the Ulster post. This has been particularly disappointing as he holds so many cherished memories of these matches. On his debut he recalls joining Tom King at the wicket with the score precariously poised at 147 for 7. In a whirlwind 45 minutes the total soared past 200 although somewhat modestly he claims to have played the minor role!

VISITS TO LORDS

Peter Brooke loves to go to Lord's. A member of MCC for many years such visits are welcome deviations in the patient negotiating process of trying to achieve a peaceful solution to the Ulster problem. He also attends several county games during the season and warmly recalls a ten day cricket safari in 1982 when he joined his youngest son in watching every county play. Although his father hailed from Middlesex, the Secretary of State follows the fortunes of Northhamshire in the county championship. Brother Henry adopted Glamorgan in their younger days, the two counties being the worst performers during the forties!

PERSONAL CRICKET LIBRARY

In recent years Peter Brooke has nurtured his cricketing passion by building his collection of cricket books and memorabilia. He lists amongst his prize possessions two autographed bats of the MCC touring team to South America in 1927 and the team which travelled to Australia the following year.

Three years ago the Society of St George marked the Bicentenary with a special dinner at Lord's in honour of cricket. Batting between Hubert Daggart and John Warr the Secretary of State proposed the health of the MCC. It was a far cry from those lazy days on the family lawn, but no less endearing to a man who places a high value on the friendships cricket has provided over many years. Peter Brooke talking about cricket gives a balanced insight to his character which shows a wealth of understanding. It is these qualities which have endeared him to many people and which hopefully will enhance the peace and reconciliation process in troubled Ulster.

AT LAST -

North finally clinch Touch Ross Senior Cup

The 1990 Touche Ross Cup final was a repeat of the previous year with the top two clubs Lurgan and North of Ireland again the participants. However on this occasion it was the Belfast team which emerged victorious after an enthralling if unspectacular final. North had just enough to spare in the closing stages and were quite relieved their victory target was only 125.

TOUGH PATH TO FINAL FOR NORTH

Lurgan's path to the final was blessed with good fortune. Convincing victories over Armagh, Derriagh, Donaghadee and Donacloyne, highlighted the lack of quality opposition, so it was not until the final that the Pollock Park team was evenly matched. In sharp contrast North had to travel to high-flying Section Two team Lisburn then beat Downpatrick, Waringstown and North Down to reach the Strangford Road showpiece. A Beverland century and 83 from Peter Law out of 315 for 5 saw off Lisburn, Downpatrick were squeezed out at Ormeau, Mark Napier's brilliant 82 at the lawn eclipsed Waringstown and an overawed North Down struggled to 93 in 60 overs before being eliminated by a

crushing seven wickets in the semi-finals.

Subash Kshirasagar hit a fine century against Donacloyne in a big opening partnership with veteran batsman Tom Guy (62) who had a splendid domestic season. It was one of five Touche Ross cup centuries, the others coming from Alistair McKee of Ballymena (145 v Collegians), Miland Gunjal of Derriagh (144 v CIYMS), Geoffrey Ferguson of Downpatrick (108 v Bangor) and of course Beverland at Lisburn.

Unlucky man out was Muckamore's Australian professional Jeff Spotswood who was dismissed for 99 against Donacloyne in the quarter-final match at Moylena. Generally the bowlers had a tough time, although Queens 63 (v Cliftonville), Academy 50 (v Waringstown), Instonians 64 (v Muckamore) and Ballymena 75 (v Waringstown) might think otherwise. Kamal Merchant (5 for 16) v Bangor, Noel Nelson (5 for 8 v Academy), Alan Johnston (5 for 27 v Armagh) and Alan Lewis (5 for 44 v CIYMS) of Derriagh, produced the best bowling figures. The final was another splendid Touche Ross promotion with their huge marquee adding much to the splendour of the occasion. Special guest speaker at the Friday luncheon

was BBC cricket personality Tony Lewis, while Touche Ross Marketing partner Sam Goldblatt had amongst his 300 guests Secretary of State, Peter Brooke.

When the cricket got started Lurgan seized an early initiative with an opening stand of 133 between Indian professional Kshirasagar and Guy. It was the perfect platform on which to build a formidable total, but amazingly both departed in quick succession to the left arm spin of Colin Magowan. Neill, Burton and Hunter followed a similar path as Lurgan crumbled to 177 for 6, with 'Aussie' Alan Donnelly the only batsman to show much resilience. His departure after 25 hard-hitting runs signalled the end, and although Lurgan crawled past the psychological 200 barrier it was a total well short of what could have been expected after such a solid opening partnership.

North's reply in declining light started slowly, but three wickets fell in rapid succession before the umpires offered the light. With little prospect of an improvement, stumps were eventually drawn at 7.20 pm leaving 25 overs to be added into the next day's play, light and rain permitting!

The second day's play began at 10.30am to



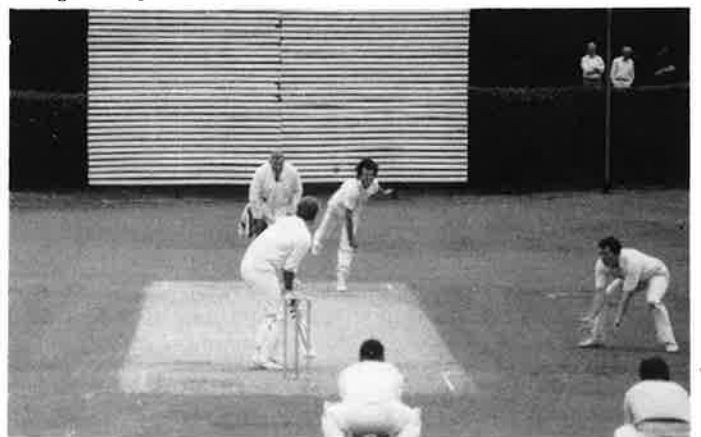
Some useful tips for Secretary of State Peter Brooke from Tony Lewis and Sam Goldblatt



Father and son North of Ireland stalwarts Peter and John Law compare the 1990 final with those of yesteryear



Lurgan off-spinner Dessie Neill in action against North's Dean Simpson



The brilliant Simon Corlett in full flight against Lurgan's Richard Burton

THE ULSTER CRICKETER, WINTER 1990



Man-of-the-match Colin Magowan figured prominently in two solid opening partnerships for his team

facilitate a possible finish. Beverland and Mark Napier were entrusted with the difficult task of steering North back into the driving seat and performed magnificently. Napier in particular was in sparkling form and his innings of 62 runs off 60 balls turned the tables. The hard-working Donnelly eventually had him caught by Lyness then added the dogged Beverland for a personal return of 4 for 42 off 12 lively overs, as North eventually finished on 220 for 6 off their allotted 60 overs.

Second time round Lurgan got off to a disastrous start as veteran Guy went on one. It was a dismissal which set an amazing pattern with wickets falling at regular intervals, including the prize scalp of Kshirasagar, a caught and bowled victim of Davy Johnston. Burton and Alan Hunter temporarily fortified the middle order, but Magowan, Napier and Kirk tore through the innings to leave North a modest target of 125 for victory. At 52 for one they seemed well in control but as so often happens in the later stages of a cup final, the nerves tingled and the unexpected happened.

Three wickets fell in quick succession and suddenly Lurgan sprang back into contention. The doughty Corlett dug in, aided by a benevolent 'caught behind' decision not given. Simpson was not so lucky, given out to one he felt he did not touch, while Jackson was adjudged leg before.

The hype was at its highest and the umpires under the severest pressure as tension mounted with the stakes high. Corlett eventually fell to a fine Woods catch off Lyness at 115 but with only 10 runs required and three wickets left, he had performed a vital role. Skipper Davy Napier added those crucial runs in rapidly deteriorating light, and North's cup final horrors of the eighties were finally laid to rest. NCU president Tom McCloy presented the cup to a beaming skipper Napier, while Touche Ross supreme Sam Goldblatt adjudged Magowan his Man-of-the-Match. The formalities were completed with deserved thanks to the local Downpatrick club for their splendid hospitality and excellent playing facilities. Overall North deserved to win, but who knows what might have happened had that umpiring decision gone the other way?



North of Ireland skipper David Napier receives the Touche Ross Senior Cup from NCU president Tom McCloy and Touche Ross partner Sam Goldblatt

SCOREBOARD

Lurgan (first innings)

S Kshirasagar c Parkhill b Magowan	72
T Guy c Simpson b Magowan	54
D Neill lbw b Magowan	7
R Burton b Magowan	9
R McCollum c Magowan b D Napier	2
A Hunter st Jackson b Magowan	5
A Donnelly b Corlett	25
A Johnston c D Napier b Parkhill	11
G McCollum no.	1
A Woods c Jackson b Parkhill	0
P Lyness b Corlett	3
Extras	15

Total 224

Fall of wickets: 1-133 2-137 3-144 4-146 5-160 6-177 7-195 8-199 9-199

Bowling: S Corlett 11-1-31-2, R Parkhill 11-3-27-2, W Kirk 8-1-21-0, D Johnston 8-0-26-0, C Magowan 12-1-50-5, D Napier 11-1-38-1.

North (first innings)

C Beverland b Donnelly	73
C Magowan lbw b Lyness	33
P Law c Kshirasagar b Donnelly	12
S Corlett lbw b Donnelly	4
M Napier c Lyness b Donnelly	62
D Napier no.	14
P Jackson run out	9
R Parkhill no.	0
Extras	13

Total (for six wickets) 220

Fall of wickets: 1-56 2-76 3-86 4-181 5-196 6-208.

Bowling: A Johnston 10-0-36-0, A Woods 8-2-22-0, P Lyness 9-1-36-1, D Neill 9-0-62-0, A Donnelly 12-1-42-4, S Kshirasagar 12-6-14-0.

Lurgan (second innings)

S Kshirasagar c and b Johnston	18
T Guy c Johnston b Parkhill	0
D Neill c Simpson b Corlett	5
R Burton c Parkhill b Magowan	21
R McCollum c Kirk b Magowan	15
A Donnelly b D Napier	16
A Hunter not out	34
A Johnston c D Napier b Kirk	16
G McCollum lbw b D Napier	0
A Woods b Kirk	0
P Lyness b Kirk	4
Extras	11

Total 140

Fall: 1-1, 2-18, 3-32, 4-54, 5-65, 6-86, 7-126, 8-127, 9-128

Fowling: S Corlett 1-4-17-1, R Parkhill 5-2-13-1, D Johnston 12-0-45-1, C Magowan 9-3-13-2, W Kirk 11-4-23-3, D Napier 10-1-20-2

North (Second Innings)

C Beverland c Hunter b Kshirasagar	23
C Magowan c G McCollum b Kshirasagar	21
P Law c Burton b Neill	5
S Corlett c Woods b Lyness	26
M Napier lbw b Neill	2
D Simpson c Guy b Johnston	13
P Jackson lbw b Johnston	15
D Napier not out	10
R Parkhill not out	0
Extras	10

Total 125

Fall: 1-36, 2-52, 3-52, 4-57, 5-85, 6-107, 7-115

Bowling: A Johnston 12-4-16-2, A Donnelly 12-3-49-0, S Kshirasagar 12-4-14-2, D Neill 12-2-27-2, P Lyness 5-1-7-0, A Woods 2-0-5-0

Umpires: Paddy O'Hara and Peter Lunney

Result: North of Ireland won by 3 wickets



Current Irish skipper Stephen Warke briefs former Irish bowler Frank Fee on the current international scene at Cregagh's Gala Dinner in August



Three generations of McCormick's - David, Sam and Stewart. Who looks the fittest?



Eglinton's promising David Cooke is a tip for the top by West Indian professional Hendy Wallace and former international wicket-keeper Shaun Bradley



A dose of Cambridge Blues as Mark Horner, Sussex skipper Paul Parker and the inimitable Graham Crothers recall happy days on the Rugby Field!



The best looking waiter at the Benson and Hedges cup final at Lords - Conn McCall!



Ivan Anderson's best partnership to date - with wife Marie!



Touche Ross marketing partner Sam Goldblatt parades a trio of sports superstars - Great Britain hockey star Stephen Martin, former England captain and BBC personality Tony Lewis and Jimmy Kirkwood a double Irish international at both cricket and hockey



Two of the most 'active' supporters at Ormeau during the 1990 season - Stephen and Gemma Norwood whose Dad, Laurence, was nowhere in sight!



Former Irish internationals David Pigot and Roy Torrens enjoyed a few reminiscences during the Ireland v. New Zealand match at Downpatrick



Critical assessment from Waringstown greets Deryck Harrison and Ivan Anderson of Ulster Country's performance against South Leinster during the 'Interpro' series in May



Donemana's Alec McBrine surveys the action in the North West cup final

UNITED KINGDOM KARATE-DO WADO KAI

LEARN TRADITIONAL JAPANESE
WADO-RYU KARATE

Benefits include: - Self Defence Skills
- Mental and Physical Co-ordination
- Improved Levels of Fitness
- Poise and Confidence

Men and Women (Adults and Children) All Welcome

For further details of Clubs throughout the Province,
phone the Regional Representative,
Mr. R. Hamilton on 0247 461062

SPORTS COUNCIL APPROVED



NCU president Tom McCloy and leading umpire Arthur Thompson enjoyed the sunshine at Woodvale while watching the Interpro' action between Ulster Town and South Leinster

SUPPORT THE SCHOOLS!!!

Former Cliftonville batsman and soccer star Ernie McCleary thrilled many people with his outstanding feats on the sports field, but far from the glare of publicity he unselfishly gave a lifetime of service to aspiring young players, mainly at Friends Boys School in Lisburn. Recently retired, Ernie now calls for clubs to support schools cricket and recognise the huge contribution they have given to the game...

Schools Cricket in Ulster

It is ironic that, after being involved in coaching cricket in Ulster schools for forty years, I should be asked to write an article, a year after retirement!

School's cricket in Ulster has recently been coming in for some heavy criticism from many people who ought to know better. For years, clubs all round the province have been taking advantage of the work done by the schools without contributing anything to help a very small band of cricket-loving masters.

The grammar school has always been the stronghold of schools cricket. Most of the schools run teams at every level, from First form to Upper sixth and any master in charge of a team automatically assumes that every Saturday of the summer term will be taken up with organising and umpiring matches. Most of the major cricket schools have block fixtures involving all their teams and that demands six masters to ensure that the fixtures are fulfilled. That is a very heavy commitment which does not carry any financial reward. The master is expected to make the sacrifice because 'he likes cricket'. Some cricketers have had to retire from club cricket early because their first eleven is involved in long fixtures. These might be time matches involving a minimum of five hours play or ninety overs. For example, a team travelling from Friends in Lisburn to Londonderry would have to start out at 8.30am and could not guarantee being home before 7.00pm.

The hours spent with a cricket team on Saturdays do not count towards the compulsory Baker hours which every teacher must put in annually. They are virtually ignored by the authorities. What an opportunity the government had to encourage state controlled schools to make more use of facilities provided at enormous expense. If

Mr Baker forces teachers to count the minutes spent with pupils, it seems totally unfair that these hours devoted to cricket, rugby, hockey and every other sport at schools level should not be recognised as an integral part of a school-teacher's contribution to his profession.

Clubs could do more

In addition to umpiring matches on Saturdays and Wednesdays, there is also the coaching of teams. Often the facilities for nets are poor. Some schools are better off than others but most have to stagger their coaching so that every team has an opportunity to get some expert tuition from the master-in-charge. Not all these masters have adequate knowledge to diagnose and correct faulty techniques. Many have played at Senior level and can give excellent advice but others are short of experience and need help. Sometimes a club professional is brought in and that is a great advantage but I feel that the clubs could do more to lighten the burden on the school staff.

There must be a close liaison between school and club. The club must be prepared to offer coaching facilities and expertise to the schools in their area. This coaching needn't be restricted to school hours but could be done for junior teams on evenings when the club nets are available.

The club must be the pupil's second cricketing home!

A schoolboy playing nothing but school cricket will be seriously handicapped. The school term lasts only until the end of June so two full months of cricketing experience could be lost. I can speak from experience for the only cricket I played until I left University was schools cricket and, looking back, I feel deprived and regret the

cricket I didn't have throughout those formative years. The school needs the club but equally, and all we have to do to verify this statement is to look at the number of ex-school cricketers playing for Town sides, the club needs the schools.

Cup competition opens new horizons

In my early years as master in charge of the Annadale teams, one of our big problems was to break into the major schools circuit. The block fixtures were set on a specific day and the same programme was repeated year after year. There were no dates available for the ambitious newcomer! The same problem arose, to a smaller extent, when I moved to Friends so we were delighted to welcome the introduction of Cup cricket. For the first time Friends was able to field teams against the 'big' schools. These cup fixtures were played midweek so as not to infringe upon the block-fixtures programme but had therefore to be curtailed to thirty overs a side. For the first time, we had matches against the major cricketing schools. The Telegraph Cup, the Belfast Telegraph were its first sponsors, opened the door to many schools in a similar predicament. I am happy to record like Friends, some went on to win the trophy.

The somewhat restricted formula for the schools cup has irked many people and there is a move afoot to change the format from the regionalised sections, in which each team played two or three matches, the winners going on to the next round, to a straight knock-out with a Plate competition for the first-round losers. These matches would be over 60 overs with the option of playing week-ends. The longer matches should allow the best teams to go through to the later stages and enable both batsmen and bowlers to demonstrate their ability with the extra time and overs available. It is,



Schoolboy action in club colours during the 1990 Graham Cup Final. On the left Instonians (RBAI) skipper Tim Brown pulls to the boundary while on the right Armagh (Armagh Royal) off spinner Gareth Morrison tries valiantly for a wicket.

however, going to make Wednesday into a very long day for both players and masters! I am also delighted the Northern Bank will be sponsoring the Senior Schools Cup over the next three years.

The last twenty years has seen a great growth in the number of matches played by schools. Cup competition has not only been provided for the first eleven but a trophy was presented for the under fourteen age group. Like the senior competition the junior trophy was organised in sections, matches being played on normal games days. Although it doesn't get the publicity the senior competition enjoys, it has fulfilled a very useful function and will continue in the old format.

Praise for hard working stalwarts

It would be invidious to leave school competitions without paying warm tribute to the work of Wesley Ferris and his Mid Ulster group which has involved schools all over the province in competitions including second elevens and a mixture of age-groups designed for the non-examination Fourth and Lower-Sixth forms. This has involved an enormous expenditure of energy but Wesley was never short of that commodity. In addition to work with their own schools people like Ian Johnston and Ted Cooke have devoted endless hours organising coaching sessions for the more gifted players. A pupil with ability would have to

have been very unlucky not to have been spotted by someone on his way through the schools scene.

The summit for players in local schools is selection for the Ulster Schools side. This can lead to selection for the Irish schools and ultimately the opportunity to impress selectors at senior level.

Value of the trial

I have been involved with the school's committee which has run schools cricket for a number of years and I can testify to the devotion of the selectors. It has not been an easy task. Quite often they have not had the opportunity to see all the players nominated, and figures produced sometimes do not give an accurate measurement of a player's ability.

Sometimes boys are recommended because the master in charge is not clear about the standard required. That prolongs the selection process but eventually and after many long hours spent evaluating figures and opponents, the committee will use their considerable experience to finalise Trial teams.

All boys, including the near certainities, must attend the trial if they wish to be considered for selection. Since these teams are gathered from every corner of the province the trial must be held on a Saturday but that coincides with club league and cup fixtures. Inevitably clubs protest about the loss of

players to what they consider an unimportant game. But, it is not unimportant to the player. It is his first step towards an international cap!

Why do you need the 'certainties' some clubs ask? All I can say to that is how can you assess a bowler if he is not allowed to bowl at the better batsmen. A bowler can only show his ability by bowling against the best. Similarly, lots of average batsmen can look good against poor bowling. The team selected for Ulster schools will be facing top quality cricketers. A few years ago Mike Atherton opened the batting for the Lancashire side against us in the Northern counties Schools Festival and we have all marvelled at his progress since. Quite simply the selectors need to see all our players at the trial to select the best team. Sometimes clubs think their players are better than they really are so the trial gives them an opportunity to demonstrate their ability against equals.

One final word. A good cricketer in embryonic form can only develop his talent in the middle. Many promising boys fail to fulfill their early potential because they spend too long in clubs first elevens watching their elders play. Playing for their schools they get a better chance to practice their art and that way they develop quicker. In the long term the clubs will benefit. I feel they should do all in their power to ensure that schools cricket flourishes.

WE ARE THE 'BEST' TEAM AROUND!

BEST PROPERTY SERVICES

Estate Agents, Valuers, Auctioneers and Loss Assessors

108 HILL STREET, NEWRY, CO. DOWN BT34 1DN PHONE NEWRY 66811 (4 lines)

ALSO

**MATTHEWS
AND BEST**

**89 NEWRY STREET,
BANBRIDGE
Tel: 23644
or 25637**

*Agents for:
Abbey National
Building
Society*



ALSO

INCORPORATING
**DAVID C. SINTON,
SON & CO.**

**40 GREENCASTLE ST.,
KILKEEL
Tel: 64204**

*Specialists in: Life
Assurance, Mortgages,
Investments & Pensions
Agents for Britannia
Building Society*



BAN FOR OVERSEAS PLAYERS IN NCU



Muckamore skipper Ivan McCombe was a driving force in bringing Australian Jeff Spotswood to the County Antrim club. It was a controversial decision to counter rival professionals in Section II

The backlash of Raman Lamba's almost single-handed annihilation of Section Two bowling was an emphatic vote to ban overseas professionals outside Section One, when the Northern Cricket Union members voted at their AGM in October.

It was a sensational reaction to an issue which had been simmering all season. Quite simply the brilliant Indian batsman was streets ahead of any player in this division and his weekly hammering of them hardened attitudes against him.

In later years Lamba will be cast as the villain of the piece, although in fairness to the affable Indian, he was simply doing his job to the best of his ability. Unfortunately his prowess in that role highlighted the huge gap in class between his adversaries, most of whom combined to vote against any further repetition of such dominance.

The continuing presence of overseas professionals in the local game has been a thorny wound in the flesh of Ulster cricket since they were re-introduced at the end of the seventies. Most protagonists highlighted the coaching credentials of their costly imports in a veiled attempt to hide their playing qualities, but in reality it was their thirst for success which sparked recruitment. Solanky, Joshi, Sharma, Skjoldhammer, Mankad, Malhotra, Hope, Bennett, Satham, Harper etc, etc were never going to be judged on their coaching prowess. They were recruited as match-winners and dubbed 'hired-guns' by jealous rivals who stuck rigidly to the amateur ideal. Each year their continuing presence was tested at the AGMs of provincial unions but with a two thirds majority required to ban them, the likelihood was always going to be slim. The fickle voting of Annual General Meetings has often been the death-bed of innovative thinking and equally it has ensured an absence of radicalism.

So why did the Instonians proposal this year receive such overwhelming support?

The answer to this intriguing question lies in the monopolisation of the local game by the best



Cliftonville's Indian professional Raman Lamba who proved much too strong for his opponents in 1990

overseas players in recent years. Lamba was a prolific run getter at North Down but he was expensive and did little to develop the other players in the team. His legacy to the Comber club was a solitary 1989 Schweppes Cup victory and a team of dubious quality and commitment. Ironically Instonians suffered a similar fate in the wake of Partha Sharma while the deficiencies in the current Downpatrick team are painfully obvious. Without Merchant the County Down side is an average team, the legacy of four years of total dependence on the frugal Pakistani bowler.

But despite their dominance in Senior cricket it is unlikely the move to ban overseas players would have gained much momentum without the issue spilling into the lower sections. Carrick's use of New Zealander Andy Hounsell won them promotion out of Section Four and this season another New Zealander, Clarke, took them up into Section Two. A lot of disgruntled opposition lay in their wake, disgruntled at the seemingly unfair use of the overseas player. That bitterness hardened in the past two years and eventually showed itself at the AGM. But the Section Two clubs were still undecided until 1990, that is until they felt the full brunt of facing Mr Raman Lamba.

When Lamba moved from North Down to Cliftonville it was widely recognised that his working brief was to produce the goods on the field.



Miland Gunjal was a popular professional at Derriaghy on and off the field

At a reputed £6000 plus a benefit, the Indian opener was the highest paid local 'professional' and the need to prove himself in Irish Cricket had long since gone. It was a matter of business. Cliftonville wanted the best overseas player and were prepared to meet his terms. North Down after 5 years were not, so Lamba moved.

While most Section One clubs were happy with the prospect of not having to suffer under his prolific bat, the Section Two teams were understandably dismayed. The rest is history. Lamba went on to totally dominate the league losing votes almost by the innings. Cliftonville may have got the best from their pro but his annihilation of the opposition hammered another nail in the professional coffin. Inevitably it all came to roost at the AGM, when overseas players were banned outside Section One. The reality of the decision is that Cliftonville, Derriaghy, Armagh, Carrickfergus and Muckamore will have to re-think their 1991 strategy.

Ironically for many voting against the overseas players, there remains the risk of a professional backlash. Clubs deprived of the services of their costly imports, may now direct their attention to some of the top local players. North Down have already blazed the trail by recruiting the McCrum brothers from Lurgan, while Cregagh lured Stewart McCormick from Holywood as Player/Coach and Davy Gilliland as groundsmen/batsman. Cooke and Civil Service are both looking in a similar direction. There is also the possibility of players moving from one province to another to seek attractive remunerative terms. Indeed just how this intricate issue unfolds is one reason why cricket will continue to be much to the fore during the winter. However, for one Indian batsman sitting back home in Delhi it will all seem strange. After a season when he played four times for Ireland and married a Belfast girl in September, Raman Lamba will want to know why his services are 'persona non grata' in the land of his second birth!

EGLINTON CELEBRATE

Martin and Wallace rout brave Limavady

Brave Limavady shocked North West cricket by reaching the final of the Northern Bank Senior Cup and until the final day's play, gave hot favourites Eglinton a good run for the title.

However their dreams were sensationally dashed in barely an hour's play on the Monday afternoon, as Crawford Martin and Henderson Wallace routed them for a paltry 29 runs. It was Eglinton's seventh cup victory, and the large crowd was treated to some entertaining cricket over the three days.

EGLINTON RECOVER FROM EARLY SET-BACK

Play on the Friday was delayed for one hour due to rain, but Eglinton skipper Oliver Thompson still elected to bat. He may have rued his decision a few minutes later, as veteran wicket-keeper Shaun Bradley was back in the pavilion for a duck. However Allen, McMichael, Wallace and Cooke all combined to take the score steadily towards respectability although none went on to establish the big score required to hold the advantage. Young Cooke was particularly unlucky to be struck in the face following an aggressive spell which yielded two sixes. Fortunately he was able to return to the fray and took his total to 26 before he became the second of Brian Martin's two victims.



Eglinton's Ivan McMichael goes for the sweep!

But the prize wicket was that of West Indian professional Wallace, and there was unashamed glee from Gareth Love when the big man was caught out for 29. The Limavady bowlers stuck manfully to their task, and despite an unbeaten 30 from Sean Hargan, managed to restrict the strong Eglinton batting line-up to 197-8 in their 60 overs. Love's spin produced the best return with figures of 4 for 74.

The late start produced some light problems for Limavady's opening batsmen Noel McMichael and Ivan Lapsley when they went to the wicket to chase the Eglinton total. Wallace and Martin gave them a torrid time, but against his former colleagues, 'Coke' McMichael showed tremendous character. At the end of the final hours play both batsmen were still together, and 67 valuable runs had dramatically reduced the deficit.

LIMAVADY BOUNCE BACK

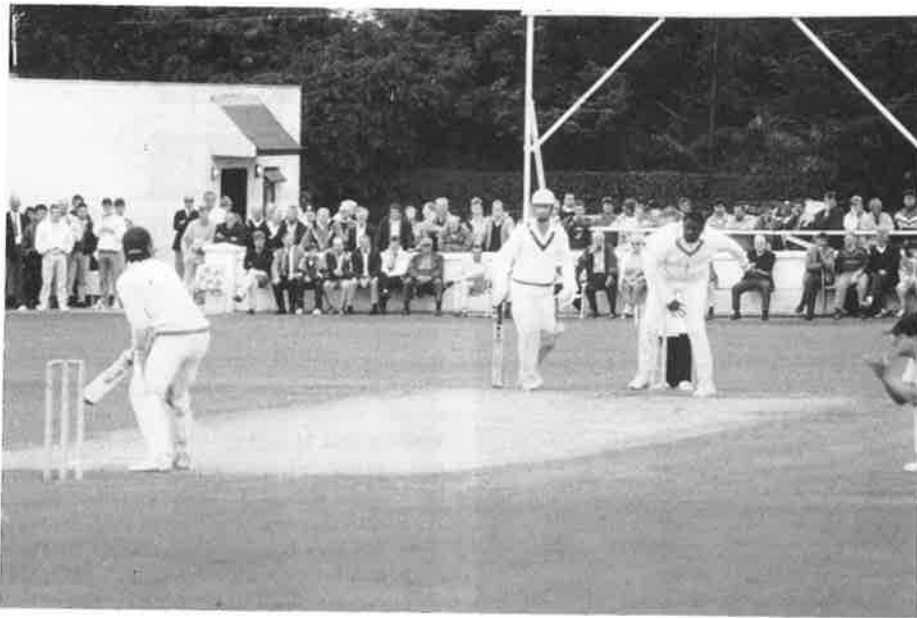
When Saturday's play re-started, it appeared for a short time that the veteran openers were going to continue their doughty partnership. However Irish international Nigel Thompson got one to stay low to dismiss McMichael for a fine 42, and Lapsley fell to Wallace shortly afterwards for an equally fine 37.

Roger Christie went quickly to Martin, but his brother Andrew played a captain's role to steer his team over the 100 milestone in tandem with Gerald McLaughlin. Although runs continued to be added, wickets fell at regular intervals and Limavady was not able to capitalise on their excellent opening partnership. They eventually finished on 178 for 9, which meant the match was still within their grasp if Eglinton could be dismissed cheaply. That aim became reality when Bradley again departed early in the Eglinton



Victorious Eglinton pictured after the Northern Bank North West Cup Final

*Back row: l-r: L. Ritchie, T. Allen (Secretary), A. Magee, S. Bradley, H. Wallace, M. Burley, N. McCorkell, C. Martin, A. Montgomery (Chairman), R. Glenn
Front Row: B. Allen, I. McMichael, N. Thompson, O. Thompson (Captain), D. Cooke, R. Martin*



Eglinton's destroyer Henderson Wallace in full flight in the cup final



No doubts as to who these young supporters felt was going to win the cup!



Victorious skipper Oliver Thompson receives the Northern Bank Senior Cup from Regional Executive Bill McAllister while Gareth Love was presented with the man-of-the-match award by North West Chairman Jim Simpson. Also included is Pat Kelly from the Northern Bank

ton innings to the competitive McMichael. Just to add insult to injury 'Coke' then dismissed younger brother Ivan for 10 and the 'icing on the cake' was provided by team-mate John McKay, who dismissed the dangerous Wallace for a duck! At 15 for 3 Eglinton were on the rails and it took all the guile of Nigel Thompson to hold the innings together. His 44 runs proved invaluable at a crucial time, but on his departure young Cooke battled with cool composure.

At the close of play on the Saturday, he was still undefeated on 24 and had steered his team to 112 for 7 off 41 overs. He also the major feature in Eglinton reaching 153 on the Monday to set Limavady 173 to win. It was a formidable target on a deteriorating wicket, although Gareth Love was not complaining with bowling figures of 5 for 52 off 19.3 overs!

SENSATIONAL LIMAVADY COLLAPSE

A large crowd roared the Eglinton fielders to action when the final session got under way mid-way through the Monday afternoon. Although a few balls made the batsmen jump sharply in the early stages, they got off briskly and appeared to be settling to the task. How things changed in the next few minutes!

Both fell in quick succession to Crawford Martin and off a short run-up, Wallace was proving unplayable at the other end. None of the Limavady batsmen were equal to the task, and there followed an embarrassing succession of wickets to the Eglinton bowlers. The only issue at stake was who took the most, and in this particular contest Martin eclipsed big 'Hendy' 6 to 4. Extras top scored on 8 as Limavady crumbled to 29 all out, and their dreams of an historic victory lay in shambles.

Gareth Love was the popular choice of Man-of-the-Match by North West Union Chairman Jim Simpson and Northern Bank Regional Director Bill McAllister paid tribute to the hosting Brigade club and the vanquished Limavady, before presenting the cup to a beaming Oliver Thompson and his vociferous Eglinton supporters.

Earlier in the competition Eglinton had gone to Donemana and defeated the defending champions by a solitary wicket in an epic exchange which produced over 400 runs. They also had to encounter the formidable Brigade at the semi-final stage, and managed only 125 runs after Willie Wilson had taken 5 for 17. However Willie's batsmen were unable to capitalise on his fine performance and they in turn were on the receiving end of a five wicket haul by the thundering Barbadian Wallace.

Twenty two runs proved the difference but Limavady had 5 wickets to spare in the other semi-final after Noel McMichael (6 for 30) routed North Fermanagh for 57. McMichael enjoyed the Limavady cup run having also scored 70 in the 167 runs victory over Ballyspallen at the quarter-final stage. However the outstanding individual performance of the competition came from Donemana's Junior McBrine who took 6 for 29 against Fox Lodge then carried his bat for 92 out of 165 for 1 in an emphatic 9 wicket success.

**NORTH WEST NORTHERN BANK
SENIOR CUP FINAL**

EGLINTON V LIMAVADY
at Beechgrove 3/4/6 August 1990

Eglinton 1st Innings

S Bradley c Semple b McKay	0
B Allen b Martin	24
I McMichael c Semple b Love	25
H Wallace c M Christie B Love	29
D Cooke c A Christie b Martin	26
N Thompson c McMichael b Love	7
S Hargan B Love	27
C Martin no	12
A Magee run out	0
M Burley no	26
O Thompson did not bat	

Extras 18
Total 197-8

Fall 1-1 2-48 3-74 4-94 5-123 6-138 7-162 8-162
Bowling: N McMichael 11-5 15-0, J McKay 9-0-46-1, G Love 24-4-74-4, B Martin 17-7-46-2.

Eglinton 2nd Innings

S Bradley b McMichael	2
B Allen c Steele b Martin	19
I McMichael LBW b McMichael	10
H Wallace c Semple b McKay	0
N Thompson b Love	44
S Hargan b Love	3
O Thompson c R Christie b Love	0
D Cooke c Steele b Martin	43
C Martin no	11
M Burley b Love	5
A Magee c A Christie b Love	1
Extras	15
Total	153

Fall of wickets: 8-141, 9-149
Bowling: McMichael 6-1-30-2, J McKay 6-3-1-11, G Love 19.3-5-52-5, I Lapsley 5-0 15-0, B Martin 17-2-33-2.



Defeated Finalists Limavady

Back Row: J. Kilgore (Umpire), G. Love, B. Martin, P. Semple, J. Steele, J. McKay, M. Christie, H. Henderson (Umpire) Front Row: G. Harron (12th Man), N. McMichael, A. Christie (Capt), G. McLaughlin, R. Christie, I. Lapsley

Limavady 1st Innings

N McMichael b N Thompson	42
I Lapsley b Wallace	37
R Christie b Martin	3
A Christie st Bradley b N Thompson	19
G McLaughlin b O Thompson	23
J Steele run out	17
G Love b N Thompson	3
M Christie c Bradley b O Thompson	10
B Martin no	0
J McKay run out	5
P Semple no	0
Extras	19
Total	178-9

Fall: 1-75 2-84 3-109 4-130 5-152 6-157 7-164 8-173 9-178

Bowling: H Wallace 22-4-57-1, C Martin 15-2-38-1, N Thompson 15-4-46-3, O Thompson 8-1-26-2

Limavady 2nd Innings

I Lapsley c Bruley b Martin	5
N McMichael c N Thompson	6
A Christie c N Thompson b Wallace	4
G McLaughlin c N Thompson b Wallace	0
R Christie c Cooke b Martin	0
J Steele c McMichael b Wallace	0
B Martin c Bradley b Wallace	1
P Semple no	3
G Love b Martin	2
M Christie b Martin	0
J McKay b Martin	0
Extras	8
Total	29

Fall of wickets: 1-9 2-19 3-19 4-19 5-21 6-26 7-26 8-29 9-29.
Bowling: H Wallace 11-7-13-4, C Martin 10.1-2-15-6.

Result
Eglinton won by 143 runs
Man of the Match - Gareth Love (Limavady)
Umpires Harry Henderson and Jimmy Kilgore

**Don't get caught out
Get it right first time, every time
make the DAVID R. HANNA CONSULTANCY
the only name you need to know for insurance**



THE DAVID R. HANNA CONSULTANCY
87 Hill Street, Newry, Co. Down BT34 1DG
Telephone: (0693) 67531/67816
BRANCH AGENTS FOR THE BRITANNIA BUILDING SOCIETY

Alan's just the tonic

- Lurgan win third Scweppes Cup Title



Schweppes Managing Director Jim Bradley joined the Lurgan celebrations. Back from left: Alan Donnelly, Graham Hunter, Dessie Neill, Alan Hunter, Alan Woods, Subash Kshirasagar, Lloyd McCullough (Chairman), Neil Sloan (Scorer), Sam Rusk. Front row: Tom Guy, Richard Burton, Gary McCollum, Alan Johnston, Ross McCollum, Paul Lyness

LURGAN'S third Schweppes Cup victory over Clontarf at Rathmines, was a fitting finale to Alan Johnston's finest year. No season could have produced more satisfaction, not least in his belated international call-up at the spritely age of 36, a league championship success, another Touche Ross cup final appearance and finally leading his club to a record third all Ireland championship. Everything had a fairy-tale ring to it in 1990 perhaps because so many experts caustically wrote off the Lurgan team at the start of the season, following a winter switch of allegiance by Paul and Charlie McCrum to North Down. Alan inspired a determined Lurgan in 1990 and made his point where it matters - from the front. Few could deny his deserved reward.

Brilliant Belligerent Ross

Johnston's leading role in the final was the result of a personal decision by club skipper Gary McCollum to stand down in the best interests of his team. Gary was fully aware that his role as a lower order batsman would be meaningless in a match where bowling strength was vital. He may well have rued that philosophy shortly after play began when both his openers Subash Kshirasagar and Tom Guy were back in the pavillion without scoring.

This prolific partnership had been the cornerstone of Lurgan's fine season, and the Clontarf fielders could not believe their incredible good fortune. Their delight was to prove a shot-lived initiative, as big Ross McCollum and Dessie Neill confidently repaired the damage. They forged a match winning partnership of 148 runs with McCollum at his belligerent best.

Five sixes and eight fours soared from his aggressive bat in a sparkling innings of 91. In contrast the younger Neill took a responsible role, anchoring the partnership to set Lurgan well en route for a substantial total.

When both departed in quick succession, the Hunter brothers Graham and Alan, carried the total past the 200 mark and beyond the reach of Clontarf. Graham's 47 may not have matched the quality of his brilliant century in the 1988 final, but it was just as important to the Lurgan cause, when they finished on 251 for 9 off 50 overs.

'Skipper on the day' Johnston struck the most decisive blow in the match when Clontarf began their reply, by removing the prolific Vincent for a paltry one run.

With scores of 78, 101 not out, 88 and 84 in the previous rounds, the Irish international opener was the Dublin team's key figure chasing their big target. Fellow international Michael Rea was another player capable of a big score, but with the total on 43 he succumb-

ed to Kshirasagar's gentle off-spin, and another threat had gone.

McClellan, Scholari and McDermott each got well established, but failed to get into top gear against a varied attack which claimed wickets at regular intervals. Kshirasagar, Neill and the ebullient Donnelly picked up a brace apiece, but it was Johnston who produced the best figures with 3 wickets for 23 runs off his 9 overs.

Clontarf's reply eventually reached 178 before Donnelly wrecked veteran spinner Gerry Kirwan's stumps to spark the celebrations.



Dessie Neill's tight bowling and dogged batting was a decisive factor in Lurgan's victory



Lurgan vice-captain Alan Johnston donned the mantle of skipper for the Schweppes Final and led his side to another all-Ireland success

Lurgan professional Subash Kshirasagar had a prolific 1990 season but was out for a 'duck' in the Schweppes final

Ross McCollum was later declared the man of the match, and brother Gary emerged a proud skipper, but modestly in the background Alan Johnston could afford a wry smile at chalking up another personal milestone in his special season. For one of Ulster cricket's most popular players it was richly deserved.

Vincent in prolific batting form

A feature of the 1990 competition was the better weather which avoided the dreaded bowl-out except on two occasions. With such a horrific record to the contrary, this in itself ensured a better tournament and much more entertaining cricket. Vincent was undoubtedly the star batsman of the series, but there were other notable batting performances. Lurgan's Indian professional Kshirasagar hit 110 not out against Eglinton, Ballymena's Allistair McKee 104 against Leinster and team-mate Alan Neill 100 not out against North of Ireland. This match had a bizarre finish with neither side sure of the result after they tied on 212. However, by losing fewer wickets Ballymena went through to the semi-final and another hot favourite had bitten the proverbial dust.

In the bowling stakes North Down's Charlie McCrum (5 for 15 v Railway Union) produced the best figures but for many the outstanding individual performance was that of former international batsman and Irish Cricket Union President, Pat Dineen. At the spritely age of 53 he received a late call up to the Cork County ranks and scored a fine undefeated 78 against CYM. It didn't produce a home win, but it emphasised how good wine matures with age!

Holders North Down succumbed to the mecurial wizardry of Downpatrick professional Kamal Merchant, before Woodvale lowered their colours at Strangford Road.

It was one of several fine results for the Belfast club in July, but sadly their bubble burst in August and poor fielding lapses against Clontarf cost them a place in the final. Clontarf themselves picked up some notable scalps starting with Brigade in the second round, Pheonix in the third and a 10 wicket trouncing of Waringstown in the fourth. Ballymena did well to oust North to reach the last four, but their batsman found it tough going against Alan Johnston and their 154 total was never going to be enough. Perhaps the most significant result was the defeat of the multi-talented Dublin YMCA by Ardmore. After dismissing the North West team for 134, rain washed out further play and the Dubliners suffered the ignomny of losing the bowl-out 2 to 1!

Six NCU teams featured in the last eight, again emphasising where the strength of club cricket lies in Ireland. Since the Schweppes Cup began in 1982, only twice has it failed to return to the NCU area. Lurgan have led the way once again, and with such a buoyant spirit in their team perhaps next season Alan Johnston will have a swan-song to add to his unforgettable 1990 season?

THE ULSTER CRICKETER, WINTER 1990

1990 SCHWEPPE'S CUP FINAL

at Rathmines Dublin
Saturday 1st September

Lurgan

S Kshirasagar run out	0
T Guy c Daly b Barry	0
D Neill run out	52
R McCollum c Rea b Kiroan	91
G Hunter lbw b McNeice	47
A Hunter c McClean b Scolari	24
A Donnelly c Rea b McNeice	3
R Burton b Vincent	4
A Johnston no	11
A Woods c Daly b McNeice	5
T Lyness no	0
Extras	14

Total for 9 wkts 50 overs 251

Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-23 3-150 4-152 5-195 6-206 7-228 8-232 9-242

Bowling: B Mcneice 10-1-56-3, J Barry 5-0-40-1, D Vincent 6-1-26-1, G Kirwin 9.4-0-65-1, F O'Mahony 9.2-4-12-1, P Scholari 10-1-43-1.

Clontarf

D Vincent c Guy b Johnston	1
M Rea c Johnston b Kshirasgar	19
A McClean c A Hunter b Kshirasgar	34
S Scalari lbw b Neill	30
J Daly b Donnelly	7
E McDermott b Johnston	28
B Bergin c Guy b Neill	20
F O'Mahony run out	5
B McNeice no	5
J Barry c Guy b Johnston	3
G Kirwan b Donnelly	6
Extras	20

Total 178

Fall of wickets: 1-2 2-43 3-72 4-100 5-100 6-139 7-162 8-162 9-168.

Bowling: A Johnston 9-2-23-3, A Woods 4-1-15-0, S Kshirasagar 10-1-27-2, P Lyness 6-0-22-0, D Neill 9-0-40-0, A Donnelly 9.1-0-33-2.

Result: Lurgan won by 73 runs

BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR SHANE PARK FAITHFUL?



The Successful Instonians Graham Cup Team of 1990
Back Row: Johnny Black (Manager), Tim Taylor, Rory Kenny, David Nelson, Johnny McBride, Nigel Nowatarski, Bob Blair (Coach) Front Row: Chris Murphy, Michael Agnew, Patrick Brown, Norris Andrews, Paul Arnold, Stephen Benson, Tim Brown (Captain)

Three years ago, officials of Instonians Cricket Club felt compelled to take stock of their situation and already there is cautious optimism within the club that the decisions taken at that time are beginning to point to brighter days ahead.

Between 1978 and 1987, Instonians rode a veritable roller coaster of bitter disappointment and relative success. Three times the club was elevated to Section 2 of the Senior League, only to bounce back at the first attempt. And of course in 1981, due almost entirely to the efforts of Indian professional Partha Sharma, the side found itself promoted to Section One. Alas, once again it was a sojourn which was to last but one season.

The lessons of the early eighties suggested to the committee that while the engagement of a 'hired gun' type professional might bring short term success, it was unlikely to create the sort of solid foundation needed in the longer term.

CLUB TAKES INITIATIVE

As a closed club, Instonians has a very clearly defined problem. Carson Rose, then chairman of the cricket committee explains, 'Instonians only has one source from which to attract players - the school! Quite simply, in the last 20 years players of senior standard have not been coming through in sufficient numbers. We felt that had to change so we addressed the root of the problem and set

as a priority the appointment of a top class coach at the school.'

With the blessing of the club's executive committee, preliminary discussions began with the school's representatives and immediately common ground was established.

The Principal at that time, Tom Garrett, and the convenor of the Board of Governor's Finance Committee, Stanley Rainey, himself a former Instonian captain, were sympathetic to our situation and receptive to our suggestion. It was agreed that, should a suitable applicant be found, the school would contribute to the cost involved and integrate the coach at all levels of school cricket.'

Various avenues were pursued by Rose and his sub-committee colleagues, Brian Walsh and Michael Howard, before it became apparent that Bob Blair, the former New Zealand opening bowler and latterly Director for Coaching for the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, was not only available, but enthusiastic about the post. Negotiations were quickly brought to a satisfactory conclusion and he arrived to take up his duties in April 1988.

Bob Blair made an immediate impact and quickly established a happy working relationship with the cricket masters at the various levels at 'Inst'. He assumed his duties with relish and began coaching two mornings each week at the preparatory school Inchmarlo, every afternoon with the school teams at 'Inst' and two evenings per week at the club nets.

In his three years Bob has extended his coaching programme to include evening nets during July and August with under 13 and under 15 teams, as well as a coaching clinic during the school holidays where intensive week-long courses are arranged for various age groups.

If the 1990 season is a yard-stick then Bob's methods are certainly beginning to bear fruit!

By any standard the school has had a superb season. Blair's work at Inchmarlo and the junior summer school, which involves those boys who are due to start at Inst in September, has also helped vice-principal Tony Phillips to give the youngsters a useful background in cricketing skills. This season it was rewarded with a cup victory for the 1st form team while the Colts (Under 15's) shared the Jubilee Cup, after the final was cancelled due to bad weather. The Colts X1, with the exception of two players already affiliated to clubs, also scored a magnificent success in Instonian colours when winning the prestigious Graham Cup. This was the first time the club's junior wing had won this coveted trophy, although it had been previously secured by an RBAI side in 1947 - in the days of the young Dixon Rose!

UNDEFEATED FIRST ELEVEN

Pride of place, however, must go to the school 1st X1. For the first time since records began in 1950, the team completed the season undefeated, with more wins (12) than any previous side. Brian Anderson, the in-

imitable 'Brandy' is master-in-charge of the 1st X1 and quick to praise Bob Blair's contribution. 'The success of the 1st X1 this particular year is no coincidence. Bob has carefully developed the players over his three years with us and has promoted younger players so that they are not there simply to make up the numbers but have an important part to play in the team.'

Jareth McCready, who has played for the Downpatrick senior team this year and later won selection to the Irish Schools team, was the top batsman with 492 runs at an average of over 40. Indeed, this aggregate is the sixth highest on school records. Jonathan Walsh, one of three fifth formers in the side topped the bowling averages with 24 wickets at 8.08, proof if any were needed of the contribution made by the younger players to the team effort. Graham Russell performed consistently well and was later selected by the

Northern Cricket Union as one of their two young cricketers of the year. As part of this Belfast Telegraph sponsored Award, Graham will be attending a special one week coaching clinic at Lords in the spring. He is a player of considerable potential, combining an excellent batting technique with some useful leg spin.

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR SHANE PARK FAITHFUL?

Blair is also keen to encourage youth at club level and no fewer than four schoolboys represented the Instonians senior team this season while another quartet represented the second X1 with distinction. All of this gives great hope to the Shane Park faithful.

Realistically much will depend on how many of the boys remain in Northern Ireland after leaving school. So often in the past, the most

promising school players have gone to England or Scotland to continue their education and the club has not been able to benefit from their abilities. Undoubtedly this will continue to be a factor, but Blair's influence in their formative years is likely to increase dramatically the number of quality players leaving 'Inst' and if the club can secure the services of at least some of this talent then the future looks brighter than for some time.

After the yo-yo days of the early and mid eighties, the club has consolidated its position in Section Two and has the basis of a competent team.

Perhaps the work of the masters at the school, the support of the new headmaster, (former international batsman Michael Ridley) and the continuing efforts of Bob Blair, will ultimately provide the missing pieces of a complex jigsaw which holds the key to future success at Shane Park.

Quality Sports Photos

Action shots throughout 'Ulster Cricketer'

ORDER FROM:

LAURENCE KIRK
P H O T O G R A P H Y

Telephone Crossgar 831050 or 0860 815300
12 Abbeyview Road, Crossgar, Co. Down BT30 9JD



QUALITY COUNTS!

Consult TOM MATTHEWS at —

MAIRS & Co.



CHARTERED SURVEYORS
AUCTIONEERS,
ESTATE AGENTS,
VALUERS,
INSURANCE BROKERS
& LOSS ASSESSORS

8 Bridge Street, Lisburn. Tel: 663128

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

Elected to the Council

Former North of Ireland fast bowler Stanley Hewitt was one of four new members appointed to the Sports Council for Northern Ireland when the Minister Brian Mawhinney announced the incoming council in early October. The new chairman, Dominic 'Don' Allen confessed to having no cricketing pedigree but did get off on the right foot - his first official duty was to present the 1990 Britannia Cricket Awards.

North Square Restoration

AFTER another season of criticism of the declining quality of the Ormeau wickets, the North of Ireland Committee engaged Portadown firm Haffey to lay four new strips. The restoration work was completed in September and will cost approximately £7,000.

North intend gradually improving the entire square to restore Ormeau to international standard.



NEWS DIGEST



Ballymena Cricket Club paid tribute to retiring Sun Life Regional Manager Tom Swann at their annual Sixes in July. Making the Special Presentation were club officials David Johnston, John Caldwell and Jim Boyce. Sun Life has been synonymous with the Ballymena Sixes.

THEY'RE COMING...

THE biggest cricket match to be staged since the Aussies were here in 1985 will be at Downpatrick on 13th July next year when the West Indians will play Ireland. The brilliant Caribbean world champions have not played in Ulster since their Sion Mills demise although several members of their multi-talented entourage have visited the Province to play in celebrity matches. With television covering the gala occasion it promises to be a cricketing extravaganza. The match will be a major attraction in the Gilbey's Ulster Games.

OBITUARY

Jack Newell

Jack Newell was one of local cricket's finest ambassadors and a pillar of the Northern Cricket Union for many years. A fine opening bowler in his day, he served the RUC club in a wide variety of roles and will always be remembered for his jovial outgoing personality. He was a true gentleman, a wonderful friend and a great credit to his family, his friends and the game he so dearly loved. A former President of the Union, he was made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his outstanding service, an honour he accepted with immense pride. He loved cricket, and with his loyal wife Eve, was a regular visitor to many grounds during the season. We will all miss him dearly. To Eve and the family circle, we share your loss. JCH.

Bertie McClelland

For many years Bertie McClelland was Cumber Claudy club. A popular and devoted Honorary Secretary he kept cricket active in very difficult circumstances and will always be remembered for his loyalty and honest endeavour. A huge attendance at his funeral was a fitting tribute to a modest stalwart of North West cricket.

OBITUARY

Victor Anderson

Victor Anderson captained Eglinton during the club's very successful seasons in the fifties. A solid batsman in his day, he lived close to the Beechgrove Ground until his death during the late summer. He was in his early seventies.

Robert Manning

Brigade Club President Bob Manning collapsed and died at the end of their AGM in November. A devoted and hard-working member, he served the club in many roles and was always available. He was a Brigade man in every sense and very proud of the commitment his sons John and Wilson, and his wife Bella, also gave to that cause.

John Johnston

A quiet and hardworking member of the Downpatrick administration, John Johnston always had a friendly welcome for visitors to Strangford Road. He loved cricket and especially his local club which he served in many roles, not least as club auditor. An accountant by trade, his astute business thinking was highly valued by his fellow members.



It was a special day for Cliftonville when they officially opened their Greenisland ground during the summer. To mark the occasion a number of celebrities took part in a gala match which featured leading overseas professionals, several former players, club members and West Indian test batsman Richie Richardson. However the home team could not match the NCU President's XI total of 291 for 4 which included a brilliant 119 from Armagh professional Jashpal Sharma.

Story of City of Derry C.C. 1907-77

News of an exciting new local cricket publication has just been released. Due for publication next summer is Billy Platt's detailed history of one of the North-West's most famous cricket Clubs, City of Derry. An ex-player and captain of the Club, Billy has put in a massive amount of research to bring together, in novel form, within the context of the 150 page book, details of all 1st XI fixtures played since the club entered the local cricket scene in 1907 until its closure prior to the start of the 1978 season. Foreword to the book is by Donald Shearer, City's outstanding international cricketer of the inter war years. Included in the book at the end of each yearly chapter is each season's final league table. The book also has many team photographs with personnel identified. Copies of the book can be reserved by sending £3.00 (includes post and packaging) to Billy at 56 Ballycairn Road, Coleraine BT51 3HX. Only a limited number of copies will be available.

Wedding Bells

Wedding bells were ringing for two leading cricket personalities just after the season had finished. Cliftonville's Indian professional Raman Lamba tied the knot with lovely Kim Crothers while BBC sports reporter Brian Johnston found his true love in the Dromara Hills when marrying Alison McCalla. Not surprisingly Raman and Kim are honeymooning in India while Brian and Alison opted for a Caribbean cruise.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Lamba and Mr and Mrs Johnston!



An NCU first

Charlie Beverland the North of Ireland opening batsman became the first local player to score 1000 runs in the NCU league and cup season. Although some players in the twenties and thirties scored over 1500 runs a season, none passed 1000 in league and cup games. The prolific scoring earned Charlie the August Britannia Player of the Month Award and the overall Player of the Year Award for 1990.



Muckamore captain Ivan McCombe pictured receiving the Sun Life Ballymena Sixes awards from local branch manager Jim Boyce also included are team members Stephen Lusk, Geoff Spotswood, Peter Bates, Nial Smith and David Rainey. Muckamore defeated the host club Ballymena in the final.



The Northern Cricket Union supported the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association during the 1990 season. Pictured at the Ulster Town versus Ulster Country Interprovincial at Comber are Peter Law, Mark Napier and international wicket-keeper Paul Jackson with Association staff Helena Magowan, Tom Lavery and Dorothy Brown.

THE ULSTER CRICKETER, WINTER 1990

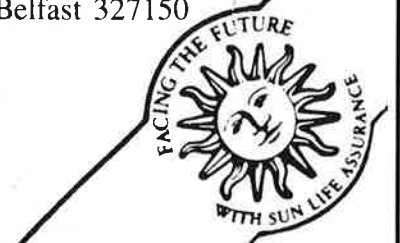
ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY...

**BALLYMENA C.C.
SIX-A-SIDES
COMPETITION
1990 WINNERS
MUCKAMORE C.C.**

Sponsored by

 **sun life assurance**

BEDFORD HOUSE
BEDFORD STREET, BELFAST BT2 7FD
Telephone: Belfast 327150



THE CREGAGH RENAISSANCE

There was no prouder President on 27th August when George Murray confidently strutted to the wicket in the distinguished company of New Zealand Test star Mark Greatbatch to open the innings for his Select XI in Cregagh's Gala day to celebrate the renaissance of the Belfast club.

Such was the dynamic little entrepreneur's confidence that he 'relegated' West Indian megastar Gordon Greenidge to number three in the batting order, and at one stage was handsomely outscoring his hallowed partner! The little cameo was one of many on a day when Cregagh did local cricket proud and served notice that they had finally laid to rest those dark days in the mid eighties when the threat of dissolution loomed large.

CELEBRATION OF HAPPIER DAYS

The Gala day owed much to the dynamism of the club president and was a celebration of happier times at Gibson Park Avenue. The attraction of two of the best batsmen in the world allied to the Essex pair of David East and Alan Lilley, plus a bevy of leading local players, attracted an enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers and former members. The active participation of many Cregagh members was an appreciation of the occasion which was as much a party as a serious match. The cricket was competitive but the warm camaraderie and friendly atmosphere guaranteed a celebration in keeping with the best traditions of a club which owes much to these qualities. Cregagh would simply not have survived had it not been for the loyalty and commitment of a dedicated band of members, many of whom had been wearied at Gibson Park over thirty years.

SUCCESS IN THE FORTIES

Founded in 1905, the Cregagh Club affiliated to the Northern Cricket Union in 1920, but it was not until 1934 that the first trophy was secured when Sirocco was defeated in a low scoring Junior Cup final. Two years later North seconds became the victims of another Junior Cup success but by 1938 the club was in the senior ranks, finishing just above Woodvale and Waringstown in the league. Low league positions characterised the early years in senior cricket but despite the ravages of war Cregagh reached the 1944 Senior Cup final and then won the Senior League championship for the first time in 1945. Two years later the achievement was repeated by a fine side which included Jimmy Woods, Joe Ingham, Alfie Jamison, Russell Cooper, Ronnie Foster, Alec Stewart and current NCU Umpire Stanley Long.

All Belfast clubs enjoyed a wave of prosperity in the fifties and thousands of people flocked to watch the big 'derby' games featuring



Cregagh's Gala Day teams pose for the camera prior to the action

ing Cregagh, Woodvale and North.

Billy Lavery was one of the stars of the era and will warmly recall the 1955 Senior cup quarter final match with North Down. Despite being the fifth bowler to be used, Billy took all ten wickets for only 36 runs then suffered the ignominy of finishing on the losing side! Another to emerge in the same era was the gifted Frank Fee, whose 9 for 26 for Ireland against Scotland in 1957 remains a record unlikely to be bettered. Frank never got the recognition he deserved at national level and should have won more than 13 caps but throughout the dark years at Cregagh he has been a loyal and devoted servant of the club. Still playing for the seconds he is currently chairman of the selection committee.

RELEGATION FOLLOWS PROMOTION

The early sixties saw local youngsters George Robb, Terry Nesbitt, George Murray, Ian Kerr, Don and Ernie Halliday and Richard Woods all make their entry into Cregagh folklore. It is no coincidence that many years later they played the leading role in the club's fight from the brink of extinction. The Senior team of the era included Jimmy Irvine, John Shepherd, 'Bo' McComb, Billy Horner, Alwyn McSparran, Billy Smith, Ernie Halliday, Michael McCormick, Davy Kennedy, Charlie Corry and Harry Blair, so tragically killed in 1975. Charlie Corry was something special. An attacking cavalier opening batsman he won only five international caps between 1959 and 1966 but was widely acknowledged as one of the outstanding players of the period. The pinnacle for this fine team was in 1975 when they won promotion to the top section of NCU cricket. But it was a short-lived success, coming perhaps at a time when some players were past their best. The inevitable



West Indian test star Gordon Greenidge was a big attraction for the autograph hunters



New Zealand test batsman Mark Greatbatch proved popular with the Cregagh youngsters



Essex batsman Alan Lilley and Cregagh skipper Adrian Thompson enjoyed the festivities?



Cregagh President George Murray with his distinguished guests Gordon Greenidge and Mark Greatbatch at the Gala Dinner



Club president Jim Irvine presented Matt Woods with a special award for his service to Cregagh Cricket Club



"Star" batsman George Murray "sacrifices" his wicket in pursuit of quick runs!

relegation after only one year in the top flight, proved to be the start of a major slide which saw Cregagh lose most of its promotion-winning team over a few years, and plummet into section three cricket.

The eighties were characterised by a dour struggle to survive. Declining membership and lack of finance brought crisis after crisis with press reports rampant that the club was about to fold.

There was even talk of the ground being sold to a supermarket chain and the club relocating. At a crisis meeting in 1985, a rallying call was sounded and it produced a determined response from the members which slowly brought signs of revival. The revival was built around the Cregagh Sports Club, the union of the cricket club and Orangefield Old Boys Association which had been founded two years previously through the good offices of dual member George Robb. Although the union had its teething problems in its formative years, it has grown into a strong and effective club which has been to the great benefit of both codes.

The year 1990 was a major landmark in the Cregagh renaissance. Although the First eleven narrowly missed promotion to Section Two, there was a "buzz" around the club throughout the season. A lot of the credit for this should go to the endeavours of new club coach Stewart McCormick, recruited from Holywood at the start of the season, and groundsman/batsman Davy Gilliland recruited from Donaloney. Stewart's excellent work with the Seniors produced results on and off the field, but the sight of over 40 boys at his Friday night coaching sessions has given the committee much hope for the future. Davy put in tremendous work on the ground, and narrowly missed scoring a thousand runs for the club, a remarkable achievement in Section Three. Like the rest of the members, he has benefited from the produce of a thriving clubhouse which signalled the upsurge in the financial position 5 years ago. These funds are also directed towards ground improvements.

To date an artificial wicket has been set, large areas levelled, drains laid and better maintenance equipment purchased. There is still plenty to do, but the Cregagh Committee feel they are on the correct road to progress.

Ebullient first eleven skipper Adrian Thompson has motivated and cajoled the senior players all season, while hard-working Der-

mot Davey, Robert Rankin and Brian Campbell have done their bit with the junior teams. The selection of Brian Robinson for the Ulster Town under 19 team was a welcome boost for the younger players and hopefully others will follow suit in the years to come.

Cregagh's Gala Day was a celebration in every sense and how fitting it should have involved so many members past and present. The celebrity match was the feature but the occasion also marked a major milestone in the Cregagh renaissance. Hard-working stalwarts like George Murray, Don Halliday, Alwyn McSparron, Richard Walker, Ian Kerr, Terry Nesbitt, Phillip Smith, John Gillespie, Freddie Robinson and Ernie Halliday mixed proudly with distinguished guests and fellow members. Those members are a motley crew, some long-serving while others relatively new. In this category, the club gained some welcome recruits like Davy Harris and former North star Maurice Coates, when Loopvale folded a few years ago. There was also the inimitable Billy McCormick! Club scorer, PRO, alickadoo and willing workhorse, Billy is one of the great characters of Cregagh, once met, never forgotten!

The Gala Day concluded with a special dinner in nearby Malone Rugby club which was attended by many former members and friends.

Hugh Logan the Malone past President gave a warm welcome to his neighbours, highlighting the close association of both clubs. As the evening progressed many nostalgic reminiscences were exchanged amidst the major speeches, in a happy gathering of friends of Cregagh. The festivities were enhanced by the presence of many former players. Characters like Billy Lavery, Frank Fee, Ken Douglas, Charlie Corry, Michael McCormick, 'Bo' McComb, Jimmy Irvine mixed freely with the current players.

Doyen of fifty years service, Matt Woods was singled out for special recognition and a splendid presentation was made to honour his contribution to the club.

It rounded off an evening of nostalgia and the sight of President George Murray embracing Gordon Greenidge and Mark Greatbatch late in the evening might herald the dawn of a new beginning at the Belfast club. Indeed, will chapter two of the Cregagh Renaissance see these two great stars back at Gibson Park Avenue next year to face Academy, Dundrum or Drumanness?

**Selling your home?
For an efficient, personal service contact:**



John McQuoid & Sons

16 Donegall Square South, Belfast
432 Ormeau Road, Belfast
Shopping Centre, Carryduff

Tel: (0232) 242442
Tel: (0232) 640018
Tel: (0232) 812422

BANGOR WIN JUNIOR CUP

The Isherwood and Boyd Junior Cup was won by Bangor Seconds after an entertaining sporting final with Portadown. For veteran skipper Ian Houston it was a proud moment, after so many years loyal service to the Bangor cause. Portadown performed well but some fielding lapses in the latter stages of the match proved crucial, after they had put themselves back into contention.

Bangor held a 32 runs advantage on first innings after Alan Miller (50) and former first eleven star Howard Bingham (45) had given them a solid base. For Portadown skipper Gordon Campbell (50) and John Conn (5 for 34) were the stars of the first day's play, while Thornbury (47), Carson (21) and Freburn (22) provided the backbone of a total of 161 in their second innings. Bangor needed 132 to win but Crawford, Campbell and Vennard combined to take 5 early wickets and Portadown were back in the frame. A fifth wicket stand of 86 runs between Jonathan Hewitt and Dave McCusker proved decisive with Portadown unable to take advantage of their excellent fight-back. Hewitt brought up his fifty with the winning hit and earned himself Billy Boyd's nomination as Man-of-the-Match following a fine all round performance.

Scorecard

Portadown 1st Inngs 146 (Campbell 50/Hewitt 3/24)

2nd Inngs 161 (Thornbury 47/McCord 4/34)

Bangor 11 1st Inngs 178/9 (Millar 50/Bingham 47/Conn/34)

2nd Inngs 132/5 (Hewitt 50 no/McCusker 47 no)

Umpires: G Archer/J Wiseman

Result: Bangor 11 won by 5 wickets



NCU President Tom McCloy and Isherwood & Boyd Managing Director Billy Boyd present Bangor Seconds Captain Ian Houston with the Junior Cup much to the delight of his jubilant team-mates



*Derriaghy Seconds pictured after their James Anderson Intermediate Cup win over Collegians II
Back Row: John Beck (Scorer), Nigel Fell, Robert McClean, John Torrains, Johathan McCabe, Tim Hewitt, Rodney Hughes, Thomas Beck
Front Row: Chris Sloan, David Skelton (Capt), John Agnew, Steve Law, Colin Crookshanks*

DERRIAGHY STAR

AT WALLACE PARK

The James Anderson Intermediate Cup final was superbly hosted at Wallace Park and featured neighbours Derriaghy 11 and Collegians 11. On the day Davy Skelton's Derriaghy proved the strongest thanks largely to a fine individual performance from Colin Cruickshanks. He was the backbone of his team's 209 for 7 with a dashing 68 then took three wickets for 25 runs. For Collegians young Michael Humphreys performed well with bat and ball, but it was not enough to deny Derriaghy and Man-of-the-Match Crookshanks.



*Jubilant Woodvale IV after their Lindsay Minor Cup victory
Back Row: D. Jackson, G. Irvine, T. Clarke, N. Linton, M. McKee, D. Godfrey, B. Moody
Front Row: G. Gillespie, I. Docherty, R. McAlpine (Capt), S. Donnelly, L. Irwin, J. Wallace (Scorer)*



Billy Boyd of Isherwood & Boyd presented the man-of-the-match award to Bangor's Jonathan Hewitt

Scorecard

Derriaghy 11 209/7 (Crookshanks 68/Humphreys 2/46)
Collegians 11 149 (Humphreys 28/Crookshanks 3/25)

Umpires: M Power / B Williamson
Result: Derriaghy 11 won by 60 runs

Earlier in the competition there were several outstanding individual performances. Former Lurgan senior player Denis Johnston hit a fine 141 against CIYMS 11 and Instonian Davy Glasgow took 6 for 21 at Dundrum while popular Collegians stalwart Gordon Bell scored two half centuries en route to the final.

BANGOR WIN MINOR CUP

Ballymena 111 were the holders of the Sun Life Lindsay Minor Cup but could not pass the first round stage this season and went down by four wickets to Derriaghy 111. However the giant-killers themselves bowled out in the quarter finals to eventual winners Bangor 111B who hit the highest total of the competition (210/9) in their first round rout of Civil Service.

In the final at Eaton Park the seaiders again scored heavily with McIlroy their star performer. His match winning 94 laid the basis of Bangor's 197 for 8 which proved too much for CIYMS.



NCU Chairman Clarence Hiles presented the Walker Eurosalt Lindsay Minor Cup to victorious Woodvale IV skipper Ronnie McAlpine

Scorecard

Bangor 111 B 197/8 (McIlroy 94/Wright 3/25)
CIYMS 111 134 (Irvine 33/Campbell 4/32)

Umpires: J McCall/A Thompson
Result: Bangor 111 B won by 63 runs.

DOHERTY STARS FOR WOODVALE

The Walker Eurosalt Minor Qualifying Cup final at Stormont was played on a superb wicket and excellent outfield. The Civil Service club gave both teams pride of place in their showpiece and a fine game ensued.

Batting first Woodvale got off to a solid start with the effervescent Denis Godfrey (20) providing a delightful cameo of an innings. On his departure North West all rounder Ian Doherty (70) hit some powerful shots and despite Reid's excellent slow bowling, Woodvale reached a formidable 202. Muckamore's reply got off to a disastrous start as Doherty created havoc with the ball. Their hopes were pinned on the

aggressive John Goodrich but after a swash-buckling 47 he departed and so did the Muckamore innings! Doherty's Man-of-the-Match award proved a simple choice for the NCU chairman!

Scoreboard

Woodvale 1V 202 (Doherty 70/Reid 4/21)
Muckamore 1V 102 (Goodrich 47/ Doherty 4/47)

Umpires: R Morrow and G Wilson
Result: Woodvale 1V won by 100 runs.

Earlier in the competition there were several outstanding bowling performances. Laurelvale' Atkinson (5 for 7 v Holywood V), Lisburn's Tollerton (5 for 8 v Holywood 1V), and Instonians' Skates (4 for 1 v Downpatrick). It was not a happy competition for the two minor Holywood teams who were bowled out for 29 and 26 respectively. Overall scores were low and the bowlers appeared to have held dominance.



Junior Cup umpires Jim Wiseman and George Archer



Lindsay Minor Cup Final man-of-the-match Ian Doherty produced many spectacular aggressive shots



Bangor Seconds batsmen Chris Yeates and Nicky Canning about to resume their innings after lunch in the Walker Eurosalt Junior Cup Final.



IRELAND SO WIDE OF THE MARK

- SUSSEX CONTINUE NAT WEST DEMISE

Ireland's part-times were given a harsh reminder of the huge gap between the local game and the county circuit, as our annual Nat West demise passed its twelfth year. There was a twist of irony to Garfield Harrison's 'wide' which brought Sussex an emphatic 9 wicket victory, because 'wide' was an apt description of the huge class gap between two teams, so hopelessly mismatched. Competitive matches against professionals will always serve as useful experience for our top players, but in reality we are expecting a miracle if we are to progress beyond the first hurdle!

Excellent Ulster Bank hospitality

The match against Sussex was probably Ireland's best opportunity to achieve a positive result since entry to the competition in 1979, when it was the Gillette Cup. A home draw, the additional expertise of Indian test opener Raman Lamba, weak county opposition, and a buoyant mood after an encouraging performance against Derbyshire last season,

It promised much for the optimists although Paul Parker's Sussex team approached the match in a professional and determined manner. The popular Hove skipper has played against Ireland several times, and although fully appreciative of Irish hospitality, was careful enough to control it until after the match! That in itself was quite an achievement, as the Ulster Bank, Nat West's subsidiary company in the province, left no stone unturned to ensure that Ulster hospitality was seen at its shining best. A welcoming dinner at the Slieve Donard Hotel on the evening prior to the game, set the tone for unrivalled hospitality and sporting fellowship. Ulster Bank's Chariman George Quigley also presented the two Presidents with beautiful Tyrone crystal to mark the occasion, and paid tribute to his marketing team headed by Denis Aicken and Elaine McCrory for their meticulous organisation of the dinner, and the special luncheon during the match. It was a compliment richly deserved.

Rain delays start

Heavy overnight rain played havoc with Downpatrick's preparation for their big day, and their groundstaff were fully stretched to get the match played. With widespread rain throughout the Province, the Downpatrick area was fortunate to escape the worst showers although water lying on adjacent wickets meant a delayed start of some five hours.

Umpires Chris Balderstone and Barry Duddlestone were not moved by the grumbings of a number of spectators, who felt the start was delayed much



Australian test star Tony Dodemaide's brilliant bowling left Jeff Pullar with the simple task of nominating him man-of-the-match. Ulster Bank chairman George Quigley and his wife Moyra made the presentation



Clontarf and former Bangor batsman Michael Rea took a positive if unsuccessful approach to the Sussex onslaught



Sir John (Jack) Swinson won the ballot for Sussex beneficiary Ian Gould's autographed bat. Also included Mrs Moyra Quigley, Glen Emmuel (Nat West) and Rose McGrory (Ulster Bank)

too long, although to a great extent their frustration overruled their better judgement. The real problem lay in the covering of the adjacent wickets, an issue which the Irish Cricket Union must address in the future.

The match didn't start until 3.30pm but almost immediately there was a wave of bewilderment as Irish skipper Stephen Warke boldly elected to bat. It was a brave decision and admirable in its intent, albeit with the benefit of hindsight, it proved to be a mistake. Cohen was an unfortunate casualty of the delayed start because he was unavailable the following day, and with five hours play lost, the prospect of the game spilling over was highly likely. In the end it barely mattered as Ireland were tumbled out for only 72 and Sussex rattled them off in 16 overs to finish just 15 minutes behind schedule. Quite simply Ireland got a mauling.

Dodemaide destroys Irish innings

Australian test all rounder Tony Dodemaide did the damage. In four short spells he took six wickets for nine runs off 11 overs, to reduce the Irish innings to a shambles.

Only skipper Warke and 'rookie' Stephen Smyth reached double figures, as wickets tumbled repeatedly. All the Sussex bowlers enjoyed success, and although leg spinner Andy Clarke failed to take a wicket, he bewildered the local batsmen for ten overs with only six runs conceded. Even the mighty Lamba proved fallible, bowled round his legs by the pacey Dodemaide for a disappointing five. It was all too embarrassing, and although Ireland put on a brave face in the field, Neil Lenham and Ian Gould made light of the modest target. Nelson did earn the consolation of Gould's wicket, but with 58 runs in the bag it was academic. The man of the match award was a formality for former Lancashire test batsman Geoff Pullar, and once again Ireland was left to lick its Nat West wounds.

It would be all too easy to criticise the Irish performance as inept and hopelessly out of its depth, but in reality can part-timers expect to lower the colours of seven-days-a-week professional cricketers of proven quality? Sussex skipper Paul Parker was kind in his praise of the excellent wicket and sporting approach by the local players but was in no doubt that the decision to bat by his opposite number was of no significance to the outcome of the game!

However, there is more to Ireland's involvement in this prestigious tournament than cricket. The coffers of the Irish Cricket Union bulge from Nat West cup involvement, and the opportunity to build sporting friendships

Scorecard

Ireland

A Dunlop b Dodemaide	1
R Lamba b Dodemaide	5
M Rea c Moores b Pigott	5
S Warke c Speight b Dodemaide	22
A Lewis b C M Wells	1
S Smyth c Clarke b Lenham	15
G Harrison c Moores b Lenham	3
P McCrum no	4
P Jackson b Dodemaide	0
A Nelson b Dodemaide	3
A Johnston b Dodemaide	0
Extras b.3 lb.3 w.7	13
Total 49 overs	72

Fall of wickets 1-1 2-10 3-18 4-19
5-47 6-50 7-61 8-64 9-72 10-72
Bowling: Pigot 8-1-14-1, Dodemaide
11-7-9-6, C M Wells 9-6-6-1,
Salisbury 5-2-19-0, Clarke 10-7-6-0,
Lenham 6-0-12-2

Sussex

N J Lenhan no	41
I J Gould c Lamba b Nelson	26
PWG Parker no	4
Extras	2
Total 1 wkt (15.1 overs)	73

Did not bat: AP Wells, MP Speight,
CM Wells, AIC Dodemaide, P
Moores, ACS Pigott, IDK Salisbury,
AR Clarke.

Bowling McCrum 3-0-16-0, Johnston
4-0-21-0, Nelson 5-0-21-1, Harrison
3.1-0-9-0

Umpires: B. Duddleston and JC
Balderstone

Result: Sussex won by 9 wickets



Ulster Bank Chairman George Quigley made a special presentation of Tyrone Crystal to Sussex Vice-President David Rice and ICU President Gavin Craig. Also included are both skippers, Stephen Warke and Paul Parker

with county teams is always welcomed. This was the first opportunity for the Northern Cricket Union to host a Nat West game, and in tandem with the Ulster Bank, they sent a Sussex squad home full of admiration for Ulster hospitality. If our sporting prowess was measured in terms of hospitality, we have no fears, and certainly few peers!

Alan Johnston facing the impossible task of defending a 75 total!



Aer Lingus

UNBEATABLE VALUE!

Fantastic Winter Apex Fares

NEW YORK	£309
FLORIDA	£349
CALIFORNIA	£424
and many more	

New York Weekends

Flight, 3 nights hotel and transfers and sight seeing tour.

New Premier Class

- To New York, Boston, Chicago
- A unique business class offering the highest standards in in-flight service

For further details contact Raymond Parker

FEHERTY TRAVEL LTD

111 HIGH STREET, BANGOR, CO. DOWN Telephone: Bangor 270717

FEHERTY TRAVEL AND AER LINGUS - A GREAT COMBINATION



Lurgan and North of Ireland batsman Charlie Beverland won the major prizes when the prestigious Britannia Cricket Awards were announced in early October. The presentations took place at the Culloden Hotel where Dominic Allen, the recently appointed Chairman of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, carried out the formalities. It was his first duty as Chairman of the council having been appointed by the Minister Brian Mawhinney two days previously.

Lurgan almost win 'treble'!

Lurgan pipped North of Ireland and Eglinton as the leading club in Ulster cricket in 1990. It was a deserved honour and recognition for almost clinching a memorable triple of major trophies which few could have predicted at the start of the season. Lurgan shared the Lombard and Ulster league title with North, won the all Ireland Schweppes cup but were narrowly defeated by North in the final of the Touche Ross Senior Cup.

Their dual with the Belfast club for the major NCU honours was the highlight of an intriguing season which held local interest until the very last match. North had a fine season by any standard but Lurgan's all Ireland success obviously tipped the balance in their favour.

Eglinton was the Team of the Year in the North West and had they defeated Donemana in the Prudential League decider it would have produced a remarkable league and cup 'double'. That defeat probably ruined their chances of the Britannia award, although special mention was also made of Donemana's sixth successive league championship title in the North West.

Charlie makes history

Charlie Beverland had a magnificent season for his club. He won the August Britannia Player of the Month award after a series of con-

sistent performances and went on to pass 1000 runs in the domestic NCU season. It is the first time a local player had passed this formidable milestone and he went on to score a total of 1183 runs (ave 40.8) including 107 for Ulster Town in the interprovincial series. Irish captain Stephen Warke was a close second to Beverland, after an outstanding season which saw him total 1263 runs (ave 40.74) including 368 runs for his country and a fine century against Scotland. Not far behind came a trio of top bowlers in the form of former international Simon Corlett, 1990 debut international Alan Johnston and Brigade's Barton Curry. The best of the professionals were Eglinton's Barbadian all rounder Henderson Wallace and Lurgan's consistent Indian opener Subash Kshirasagar.

The peerless Corlett scored over 600 runs and took over 60 wickets to establish himself as the best all rounder in NCU cricket. Both Johnston and Curry also topped 60 wickets but the adjudicators obviously felt the best in the amateur code still had more merit than Wallace's 846 runs and 80 wickets and Kshirasagar's 1403 runs and 53 wickets!

Monthly Winners

Earlier in the season the May Awards were won by Lurgan and Stephen Smyth, the June Awards by Eglinton and Stephen Warke, the July Awards by Woodvale and Barton Curry and the August Awards by North of Ireland and Charlie Beverland. This is the fourth year of the Britannia Cricket Award sponsorship which now totals £3000 per year. The Staffordshire based Building Society has been in Northern Ireland since 1969 and hopes to continue their support of local cricket next year.

Adjudicators during the season were Brian Johnston of the BBC Sports Department in Northern Ireland, Jim Simpson and Clarence Hiles, the Chairmen of the two Provincial Unions.



Britannia Cricket Awards for Charlie and Lurgan



Chairman of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Dominic Allen presented Lurgan skipper Gary McCollum with the team of the year award. Also included are Britannia local manager Clarence Hiles, Lurgan vice-captain Alan Johnston and club chairman Lloyd McCullough



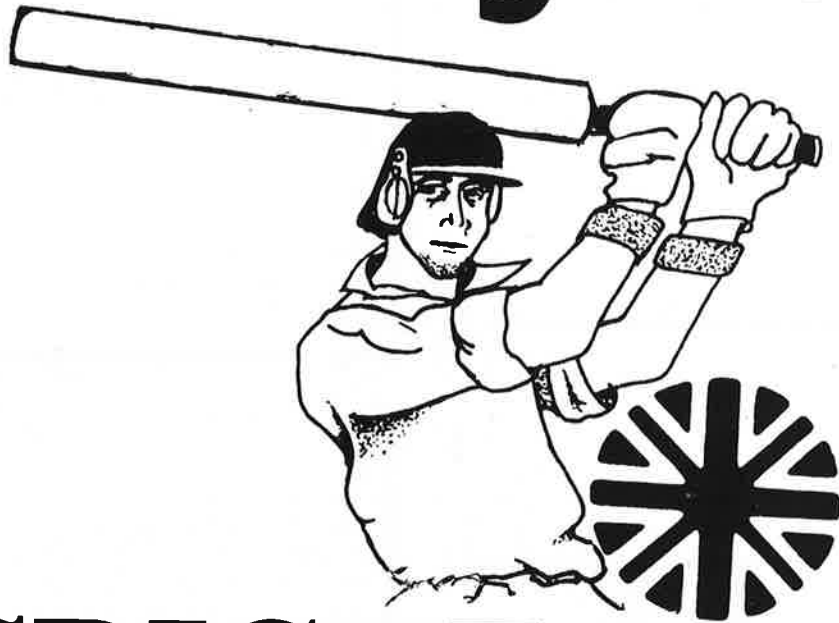
Britannia player-of-the-year Charlie Beverland with runners-up Stephen Warke and Simon Corlett

CRICKET COACH

required for 1991 season by Civil Service (N.I.) Cricket Club.
Applicants should be resident in Northern Ireland and hold an N.C.A. Coaching Certificate
Apply to: Robert Craig, Hon Secretary, Civil Service (N.I.) C.C.
32 Ashmount Park, Belfast BT4 2FJ



Britannia Building Society



CRICKET AWARDS

1990



Congratulations to
Charlie Beverland

BRITANNIA PLAYER OF THE YEAR
and
Lurgan Cricket Club

BRITANNIA TEAM OF THE YEAR



Britannia
Building Society

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sir

We would like to congratulate Carrickfergus Cricket Club who narrowly beat us in the promotion race for Section Two.

Other teams in Section Three have said, 'They're just a one-man team.' We at Academy however, disagree. We believe that if the professional had not scored his 500 runs and taken 50 wickets, then someone from Carrick's 2nds or even 3rds would have stepped in and probably produced even better results.

Well done Carrick!

P Whitten (Academy CC)

Dear Sir

Could I use your magazine to convey our appreciation for those who supported our appeal at the Touche Ross Senior Cup Final. We had very generous support on the day and a cheque from the sponsors Touche Ross shortly afterwards.

We would also like to thank the Northern Cricket Union for allowing us to make the collection and the Downpatrick club for their generous hospitality.

Yours faithfully

Karen Girvan, Hon Secretary
Mike Bull, Chairman
SPARKS

Dear Sir

It was a controversial decision to include an overseas professional in the Irish team to face New Zealand and Sussex. As we all know now it didn't make any significant difference to the overall result but deprived a local player of the opportunity of playing at the highest level.

Was it worth it?

Yours faithfully

A Realist



Indian professional Raman Lamba made his Irish debut against New Zealand with fellow opener, Stephen Warke but his inclusion did not please everyone!

Dear Editor

Once again the NCU season has been decided in September when teams are depleted of many of their players and at least four Section One clubs have had to surrender their grounds to rugby.

Could the legislators not insist on a league finish by the end of August which would allow an opportunity to have a play-off for the Senior League trophy? We could learn a lot from the North West Union in this respect!

Yours sincerely

M Patterson
Belfast

GEDDIS DUNN
BUILDING CONTRACTOR
15 MILL STREET, NEWTOWNARDS

*Where
Quality Counts*



Telephone: 812021 or 811806

CRICKET'S WORTHY CAUSE

STERLING CHARITY WORK BY DERRY MID-WEEK LEAGUE



The Derry Mid-Week Cricket League made their annual disbursement to local charities at a presentation in the Foyle View School, Northland Road, Derry. Chairman Mr Sam McConnell, second from left, is pictured presenting cheques to Rev. Leslie Machonachie, the president, who is receiving the cheque on behalf of the Foyle View Parents and Friends Association and Miss Una Madden, the vice-chairman, is receiving a cheque for the Londonderry M.S. Society. On right Mr Bertie Simpson, Mid-Week Cricket League secretary, is presenting a cheque to Miss Claire Gallagher, the secretary, for the Talking Newspaper. Also in the group are, from left, Mr Leslie Miller, treasurer, Mid-Week Cricket League, Mr John O'Leary, chairman, Foyle View Parents and Friends Association, Miss Anna Gallagher, committee member, Talking Newspaper and Mrs Asabelle Glenn, vice-principal, Foyle View School.

As the hard working Honorary Treasurer Lexie Miller epitomises much of the character of the Derry Mid-Week League. Not that his diligent Honorary Secretary Bertie Simpson not as equally committed to the cause. Simply the cricket administration plays second fiddle to fund raising. Charity is the name of the game for the Derry Mid-Week League and every year a loyal and hard working committee measures its success by the amount of money it hands over to various deserving North West causes.

ACTIVE MID WEEK COMPETITIONS

Founded as long ago as 1927 the Derry Mid-Week leagues were established to provide cricket for players not normally playing senior cricket on a Saturday. It is a feature which has stood the test of time although the Derry Mid-Week committee is also responsible for the organisation of the prestigious Faughan Valley Cup. It was in 1940 that the Faughan Valley trophy made its entry into North West Senior Cricket and it remains just outside the Senior League and Senior Cup as the most coveted award in the area. Last year Donemana retained the trophy for the

fifth successive year when defeating Brigade in an entertaining final.

Inter - county rivalry is the feature of the 40 overs competition with separate Tyrone and Derry sections guaranteeing a split final. All the great players of post war North West cricket made their mark in Faughan Valley Cup competition and those fine traditions are still much in evidence today.

Twenty two teams play in various sections of the Mens League and cup competitions, twenty boys teams contest an Under 16 competition played on Monday evenings, while twelve Under 19 teams contest their Knock-out Cup competition.

LOCAL CHARITIES BENEFIT

The overriding beneficiary of the Derry Mid-Week league is charity. This year £1100 was handed over to seven local charities and £1300 last year. The charities which benefited were the Multiple Sclerosis Societies in Strabane and Londonderry, Foyle Special Care School, Cancer Research, Huntingdons Disease Association and the Talking Newspapers for the Blind in Strabane and Londonderry.

Much of the credit for the Mid-Week

League's charity work deservedly goes to a hard working committee which has followed in the wake of that fine North West administrator the late Joe McCarter. Joe was North West cricket for many years combining his Secretaryship of the North West Union with his devotion to the Derry Mid-Week league and especially its charity work.

Current chairman is the hard-working Bready Umpire Sam McConnell, ably supported by Bertie Simpson and the faithful Lexie Miller. President is Donemana's doughty campaigner Alex McBride. All are efficient and devoted administrators who place a high emphasis on cricket putting something back into the local community. Annual presentations to various charities bear testimony to that worthy cause but the committee is also appreciative to local business for its support of the Mid-Week league and in particular to Ardmore Precast Concrete in Londonderry for kindly sponsoring their Fixture and scorecards.

If giving is the essence of charity then the Derry Mid-Week league committee has got its priorities in the right place. Long may it continue its worthy cause.

The Ulster CRICKETER



SUPPORT YOUR MAGAZINE!

Back Issues from:

Aurora PUBLICATIONS

8 Carnesure Heights
Killinchy Road
Comber
Co. Down BT23 5RH

(£ 2 p&p inc.)



IN-HOUSE publications

CARN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PORTADOWN
COUNTY ARMAGH, N IRELAND BT63 5RH
TEL (0762) 355060/336959

The Complete Publishing Service

**Design, typesetting,
camerawork and layout of
Ulster Cricketer**

- Graphic design
- Newspaper publishers
- Desktop publishing bureau
- Typesetting
- Magazine production
- The free newspaper specialists

You've tried the rest...
now try the best!



Appointed representative of Scottish Amicable,
a member of Lautro and IMRO.

35a IRISH STREET, DUNGANNON,
CO. TYRONE, BT70 1BD
Telephone: 08687 27370

PENSIONS **MORTGAGES**
LIFE ASSURANCE **INVESTMENTS**
FIRE ASSURANCE **CAR INSURANCE**

*A dynamic company providing expert advice
on all financial services*

SURVEY SERVICES

NORTHERN IRELAND

**FRIENDLY INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL ADVICE
FROM FULLY QUALIFIED CHARTERED SURVEYORS
AND LAND AGENTS**

*We offer an extensive range
of Professional Services including:*

- Residential and Commercial Valuations
- R.I.C.S. Homebuyers Reports
- Compulsory Acquisitions
- Probate Valuations
- Specialist Agricultural Advice
- Forestry and Landscaping



**PROVINCE-WIDE SERVICE FROM
OUR CENTRAL BASE
88 MAIN STREET, MOIRA
TELEPHONE: (0846) 612594
FAX NO. (0846) 619624**

ON THE THRESHOLD OF GREATNESS

GERALD McCARTER LOOKS AT FORMER PUPIL STEPHEN SMYTH

Stephen Smyth is one of the brightest young talents to emerge in Irish cricket for many years. His selection against Worcestershire raised a few eye-brows in Belfast and Dublin but his former school-master at Foyle and Londonderry College, Gerald McCarter, never doubted his potential.....

I remember a particular first eleven selection committee meeting back in 1984 when the senior players had to be convinced that my recommendation of a 'wee boy' in fourth form was worthy of serious consideration. Perhaps it was my insistence about his exceptional talent or maybe because I was the master-in-charge that swayed opinion towards my argument because Stephen Smyth eventually got the nod to play against Coleraine Academical Institution. My reward was a sparkling innings of 55 not out and the beginning of an outstanding schools cricket career. By any standard Stephen has been special, perhaps the most prolific schoolboy cricketer of all time.

MANY HONOURS LIE AHEAD

Over the past decade Foyle and Londonderry College has enjoyed a high level of success in schools cricket. As someone who has been involved throughout the era I am often asked to compare the best players of the period. It's an impossible task, largely because techniques vary so much and different players can be so effective in different circumstances. Stephen Smyth, Keith McCrory, Marshall Kilgore and a few years before them, Ian Rankin, will always be regarded as the best batsmen to come out of the school so I will leave it to the record books in years to come to determine which was best. Certainly I'll be very surprised if Stephen Smyth does not achieve many honours in Irish cricket and hopefully beyond.

BRILLIANT SCHOOLS ACHIEVEMENTS

Not surprisingly he formed the backbone of the Ulster Schools team during the same period and also represented Irish Schools for three seasons. Few cricketers have made such a major impact in post-war schools cricket in Ireland and we at Foyle are extremely proud of his achievements.



Stephen Smyth - Foyle and Londonderry College, Ulster Schools, Irish Schools, Brigade C.C., North West and Ireland

It seems barely two years since Stephen left Foyle after his most prolific season in schools cricket. His total aggregate runs was 1026 including five centuries and an average of 57. He scored two centuries before lunch one of which was against Campbell College and achieved in 91 minutes off only 67 balls. His highest score was 165 against Methodist College Belfast and he also played in five schools cup finals, a unique achievement.

EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY AND WILL GO FAR

When summing up Stephen Smyth's debut season for the schools first eleven I recall writing that 'he had exceptional ability and will go far'. Now some six years later I am delighted to see the rewards of his labours and am still of the same opinion of this talented young cricketer. He has already achieved much but there is still a lot of potential to be realised. Unfortunately we may never see the full extent of his ability because the opportunities to play cricket at the highest

level are so restricted in Ireland. I feel Stephen could make it at county level if only he could get the chance. He's that special!

ON THE THRESHOLD OF GREATNESS

On his debut for Ireland Stephen faced the mighty Worcestershire at Malahide with megastars Ian Botham and Graham Hick on show. It was a daunting experience for any young twenty year old from the North West of Ireland but he performed manfully and marked the occasion with 59 not out. It set him apart for his contemporaries and immediately placed him on a pedestal in Irish cricket. He bore that mantle with ease throughout the season and justified the selectors faith with several other fine performances. He stands on the threshold of greatness and I will be a delighted former school master if he goes on to fulfil the faith I showed in him as a 'wee boy' in fourth form way back in 1984.

A THOROUGHbred

If I had any doubts in Stephen achieving international recognition it would have had nothing to do with cricket. Stephen needs motivated and although sometimes appearing distant, he does have a strong belief in his own ability. I sincerely hope that belief remains an integral part of his cricket for many years to come because like all young people in the modern world he is as vulnerable as any to countless distractions. However if his cricketing brilliance can be harnessed, I see a bright future for Irish cricket and for the North West and Brigade teams in which he will undoubtedly figure prominently. For most opposing bowlers he is fast becoming the prize wicket and he himself is adapting well to that status. He has confidence, sometimes interpreted as arrogance but characteristic in the thoroughbred. His timing is precise and I've never seen a better judge of line and length in local cricket. Like all the really good players he finds batting easy and once at the wicket moves comfortably and positively through his wide range of attractive strokes. If he continues to improve I believe he can become one of the finest players in Irish cricket.

SCHOOLS CRICKET

By Des McCall, John McLean, Bill McCarroll

RBAI AND BANGOR SHARE SCHOOLS CUP



Northern Bank personality and NCU vice-president Brian White presents a sponsorship cheque to president Tom McCloy for the Senior Schools Cup over the next three years

Despite poor weather, the Northern Bank Senior Schools Cup was keenly contested in all six sections which produced winners in Bangor Grammar, Dalriada, Lurgan College, Ballymena Academy, Wallace High and RBAI.

Wallace High and Ballymena

departed at the quarter-final stage and Lurgan and Dalriada at the semi-finals, to leave RBAI and Bangor to contest the final. Unfortunately the weather then played a cruel hand, aborting several attempts to play the match so the trophy was eventually shared.

SURPRISE WIN BY BALLYCLARE

Ballyclare High School won the Under 14 league defeating Methody emphatically by 10 wickets in the final at Deramore.

Winners of the five sections were Dungannon Royal, Ballyclare High, Bangor Grammar, Strabane High and Methodist College. Ballyclare then surprisingly defeated a strong Bangor team in the semi-finals before facing their Belfast rivals in the low scoring final.

Methodist College.....48
Ballyclare HS.....49 for 0
Result: Ballyclare HS won by 10 wickets

INTERPRO DRAWN AGAIN

For the third successive year the schools interprovincial with Leinster ended in a draw. For Ulster it was particularly disappointing as they held a solid initiative with a first innings lead of 103 runs but Leinster rallied to save the day.

The Ulster bowlers Francis Ward (Coleraine AI) and Robert Scott (Bangor GS), took 3 wickets each to set Leinster

back on 109 for 7 on the opening day. However Dublin skipper Stuart Taylor (84) proved a doughty obstacle and steered his team to a respectable 254. In reply McCready, Scott and Kennedy captured the limelight as Ulster reached a formidable 357 but second time round Taylor (61) and Donlon (91) ensured there was to be no success for the northerners.

Scorecard

Ulster Schools v Leinster Schools at Malahide on 9-11 July 1990.

Leinster Schools
1st Innings: 254 (Taylor 84/Donlon 69 n.o)
2nd Innings: 287/8 (Donlon 91/Talor 61/McCord 4 for 66)

Ulster Schools
1st Innings: 357 (McCready 71/Scott 52/Kennedy 50)
2nd Innings: 49/2

Result: Match Drawn

ULSTER SCHOOLS TOUR TO ENGLAND

Under the astute generalship of masters-in-charge Roy Briggs and Ernie McCleary, the Ulster Schools squad participated once again in the Northern Counties festival in Northumberland.

Although greatly weakened by the calls of the Irish squad, the boys performed well winning one and drawing one of their five matches against strong county schools teams. Graham

Russell (RBAI) proved to be the find of the tour combining a solid defence with grit and determination. Skipper Alan Martin and vice-captain Hilton Parr were useful batsmen while young Colin Craig is a player of considerable promise.

The bowling proved stronger than the batting with Parr, Gareth Evans, and Jonathan Peak all prominent.

Results

Cumbria Schools at Tyndale on 23 July 1990

Cumbria Schools 252/7 (Speers 3/81)

Ulster Schools 168/9 (Russell 47)

Result: Match drawn

Lancashire Schools at Ashington on 24 July 1990

Ulster Schools 200 (Smyth 51/Russell 44)

Lancashire Schools 201/7 (Speers 3/47)

Result: Lancashire schools won by 3 wickets.

Cheshire Schools at Blyth on 25 July 1990

Ulster Schools 75

Cheshire Schools 79/2

Result: Cheshire Schools won by 8 wickets.

Humberside Schools at Benwell on 26 July 1990
Ulster Schools 191 (Craig 47/Carson 32)

Humberside Schools 188 (Parr 5/57, Evans 3/36)

Result: Ulster Schools won by 3 runs

Wirral Schools at Newcastle on 27th July 1990

Ulster Schools 162 (Martin 35)
Wirral Schools 164/1

Result: Wirral Schools won by 9 wickets

Squad

Alan Martin (MCB Capt)

Hilton Parr (Armagh FE)

Gareth Evans (BRA)

Jason Brown (Londonderry and Foyle)

Brian Smyth (Londonderry and Foyle)

Dermot Parker (Campbell College)

Christopher Caves (Campbell College)

Jonathan Peak (Down High)

John McFarland (Londonderry and Foyle)

Graham Russell (RBAI)

Gavin Speers (MCB)

Colin Craig (Larne GS)

Carl Williams (Ballymena Academy)

Neil Carson (Banbridge Academy)



Richard Lucas and Gordon Cooke at the end of the drawn match with Staffordshire Under 15

UNDER 15 SQUAD SHOW CHARACTER

Although not as formidable as in previous years, the Under 15 squad which toured England and Wales showed considerable character against formidable opposition.

Skipper Clive Allen set a fine example with the bat ably supported by Richard Wiseman, Mark Edwards, Graham Lyness, and Edward Deane.

Overall the bowling disap-

pointed although special mention should be made of Jan Cunningham's excellent 23 overs stint in the international against Wales which yielded the fine figures of 7 for 68, the best ever performance by a bowler against Wales.

Ted Cooke and John McLean were masters-in-charge and as usual the organisation was perfection!

Results:

Staffordshire on 17 July 1990
Staffordshire 227/4

Northern Ireland 130/5 (Allen 57)

Result: Match drawn

Warwickshire on 18 July 1990

Warwickshire 224/5 (Cooke 3/53)

Northern Ireland 188/9 (Ogilby 49 no/Lyness 38)

Result: Match drawn

Cheshire on 19 July 1990

Cheshire 169/9 (Cooke 3/26/Allen 3/30)

Northern Ireland 143/9

(Lyness 39)

Result: Match drawn

Lancashire on 20 July 1990

Northern Ireland 220 (Edwards 57/Wiseman 42/Allen 38)

Lancashire 222/4

Result: Lancashire won by 6 wickets

North Wales on 21 July 1990

Northern Ireland 135 (Allen 58)

North Wales 136/6 (Martin 3/29)

Result: North Wales won by 4 wickets

International v Wales on 22/23 July 1990

Northern Ireland

1st Innings: 144 (Allen 48/Lyness 31)

2nd Innings: 224/7 (Wiseman 71/Deane 35)

Wales

1st Innings 210/9 (Cunningham 7/68)

2nd Innings 115/3

Result: Match drawn



IRISH SCHOOLS ON TOUR

Following the senior inter-provincial the Irish schools squad to tour England and Wales was selected with Walter Hosford (Manager), Ian Johnston (Coach), Des McCall and Gavin Craig (President) all accompanying the party. There was a strong Ulster representation with seven of the party from the north.

The opening fixture against Wales brought a resounding defeat, largely as a result of a remarkable double century performance from Welsh skipper David Kemp. It was his fifth successive century at this level. Facing 367 in the first innings Ireland were rescued by Stuart McCready (76 no) when struggling at 83 for 6. However it proved a short respite as Hemp and Alan Jones (son of the Glamorgan coach), tore the Irish attack apart to set up a Welsh victory. The formality was duely accomplished although for a short time Donlon, Dyer, and Kennedy showed some resistance.

Scorecard

Wales v Ireland Schools at Trysygirwn on 23/24/25 July 1990

Wales

1st Innings 367 (Hemp 120/Ward 3/36/ Taylor 3/87)

2nd Innings 237/1 (Jones 106 no/ Hemp 102 no)

THE ULSTER CRICKETER, WINTER 1990

Ireland

1st Innings 226 (McCready 76 no)

2nd Innings 176 (Kennedy 50/Dyer 38)

Result: Wales won by 202 runs

DRAMATIC DRAW AGAINST ENGLAND

The match against the English schools produced an amazing climax largely confined to the last twenty minutes. Ireland were supposedly fighting for a draw with a precarious advantage of only 21 runs, when last man Ward was bowled having a swing! With eight minutes to go England had to score 22 runs in two overs to win.

O'Sullivan bowled well in the first over but still conceded 10 runs. Ward atoned for his earlier laspe by claiming a wicket first ball and conceding no runs in the next two. However the drama took another run when next ball he was smashed for six leaving the English within sight of victory. But Ward was equal to the challenge and conceded only one run in the last two deliveries to earn a dramatic if undeserved draw.

Ireland's inept batting was cruelly exposed in this match and but for some resolute determination from Taylor and Craig, a heavy defeat would have resulted.

Scorecard

England v Ireland Schools at Winchester College on 26/27 July 1990

England

1st Innings 270/9 (McCord 4/78/Ward 3/48)

2nd Innings 17/1

Ireland

1st Innings 121/9 (Taylor 53/Craig 27)

2nd Innings 170 (Taylor 38/Craig 34)

Result: Match drawn

The Irish squad was:

Stuart Taylor (Sandford Park)

Michael McCord (Bangor GS)

Stephen Dyer (Campbell College)

Colm Donlon (Belvedere College)

Jonathan Kennedy (Ballymena CFE)

Stuart McCready (High School)

Ronan O'Sullivan (Belvedere College)

Francis Ward (Coleraine)

Jonathan Craig (Larne GS)

Jareth McCready (RBAI)

Robert Scott (Bangor GS)

Paul O'Sullivan (Templeogue)

NORTH WEST UNDER 19 INTERPROS

North West won the Under 19 Interprovincial championship being the only team to win more than one match. The new competition rules obviously confused the captains and their advisors, as only five of the fifteen matches produced positive results!

Munster showed a lot of spirit to record three draws, their best performance to date in the competition while Ulster Country and Ulster Town suffered badly when their fixture was washed out.

Results:

North West 101-6 beat Munster 100 by 6 wkts.

Ulster Country 177 drew with North Leinster 169-8

Ulster Town 279-7 drew with South Leinster 187.5.

North Leinster 120 beat North West 41 by 79 runs.

North West 234-8 beat South Leinster 110 by 124 runs.

Ulster Town 234 drew with North West 149-9.

North West 194-7 drew with Ulster Country 191-9.

Ulster Town v Ulster Country - match abandoned - rain.

South Leinster 208-7 drew with Munster 160-9.

North Leinster 209-6 drew with Munster 176-8.

Ulster Town 237-5 drew with North Leinster 168-7.

Ulster Country 172 beat Munster 105 by 67 runs.

South Leinster 247-7 beat Ulster Country 246-8 dec by 3 wkts.

Ulster Town 196-7 drew with Munster 151-9.

North Leinster 105 drew with South Leinster 80-2 - rain.

League Table

	P	W	L	D	Bonus	PTS
North West	5	2	1	2	25	75
South Leinster	5	1	1	3	21	56
North Leinster	5	1	-	4	15	55
Ulster Country	5	1	1	3	14	49
Ulster Town	5	-	-	5	14	39
Munster	5	-	2	3	15	30



Michael Anderson of Waringstown - one of the favourites to go to Canada next year

CANADA BOUND?

At the end of the Under 19 interprovincial series the Selectors held a North versus South trial to select a provisional squad for the 1991 International Youth Tournament in Canada. From the squad of 24 selected the touring party will be named in the spring after winter coaching under the supervision of Michael Marsh (Leinster) and Des McCall (NCU). The squad named was:

- M Anderson (UC)
- D Armstrong (NL)
- K Banks (M)
- A Courrell (NL)
- J Byrne (SL)
- N Carson (UC)
- D Cooke (NW)
- C Sharp (SL)
- J Cunningham (UT)
- C Donlon (NL)
- M Donnelly (NL)
- P Gillespie (NW)
- D Heasley (UC)
- J Magee (UC)
- B Higgins (NL)
- S Taylor (SL)
- P Maxwell (UC)
- J Molins (SL)
- C Morgan (SL)
- S McCready (SL)
- D Reid (NW)
- G Russell (UT)
- R Scott (UT)
- F Ward (NW)

INAUGURAL UNDER 13 INTERPRO'

AT WOODVALE



The victorious N.C.U. Schools U13 Team

Back Row: J.G. McLean (Manager), James Andrews (B.R.A.), Andrew Baron (Regent House), Mark English (Bangor G.S.), Richard Caldwell (Ballymena Acad), Simon Harrison (Waringstown P.S.), Andrew Cairns (Armagh R.S.) Front Row: Peter Hanna (Waringstown P.S.), Michael Agnew (R.B.A.I.), Richie Long (Cabin Hill), (Captain), Gareth Morrison (Armagh R.S.), Alan Abraham (Lurgan J.H.S.), Johathan Bushe (Waringstown P.S.)

Thanks largely to the good offices of John McLean, the inaugural Under 13 interprovincial between the NCU and the North West took place at Woodvale in July. Unfortunately the weather was unkind and contributed much to the low scoring although it did little to dampen the enthusiasm of both the players and the spectators.

NCU AND LEINSTER

SHARE UNDER 15

INTERPRO' TITLE

Fine weather, good pitches and excellent Cork hospitality ensured a successful Under 15 interprovincial championship which was sponsored once again by the Ulster Bank. The title was eventually shared by Leinster and the NCU after both managers agreed to break from the proscribed rules. In hindsight, it was probably the right decision albeit somewhat unorthodox!

Both teams comfortably defeated North West and Munster to set up an exciting finale to the popular tournament. However an over-cautious approach by Leinster delayed

the declaration leaving the NCU with little else but a draw to play for. Skipper Graham Lyness was the NCU hero scoring 95. He narrowly missed his century after being caught on the boundary with two balls remaining.

Final Scorecard:

NCU v Leinster at Garryduff on 9 August 1990

Leinster 234/7 (Cunningham 4/49)

NCU 159/5 (Lyness 95/Wiseman 23)

Result: Match drawn



Skipper Richard Long holds the winners trophy aloft for the cameras

Final Table

	P	W	D	L	PTS
1 NCU	3	2	1	0	45
1 Leinster	3	2	1	0	45
3 Munster	3	1	0	2	20
4 North West	3	0	0	3	5



Jason Molins (Leinster) and Graeme Lyness (NCU) receive the Under 15 Interpro' Trophy from Ulster Bank official Denis Minchin in Cork

Valiant work by the Woodvale groundstaff saved the game which was sponsored by Halifax Property Services. NCU batted first after being inserted and struggled to 56 for 2 off 30 overs but dramatically collapsed to 66 for 9 off 40 overs. Devine and Haywood performed well in the North West attack while Caldwell, Abraham, Andrews and Morrison batted with sound technique. Haywood was equally a star with the bat and appeared to be guiding his team to victory before the NCU switched to spin. The Armagh spin twins of Morrison and Cairns dramatically changed the course of the match taking six wickets for 5 runs as North West collapsed from 47 for 3 to 54 all out. The fielding was excellent,

with Jonathan Bushe (Waringstown PS) a 'chip off the old block'. Two smart stumpings and no byes highlight his potential.

Andrew Cairns received a further boost after the game when he was selected for the NCU under 15 team to contest the inter-teams in Cork.

Scorecard

Under 13 Interprovincial NCU v North West at Woodvale on Monday 2 July 1990.

NCU 66/9 (Andrews 18/Haywood 4/10/Abraham 11/Devine 3/11)

North West 54 (Haywood 27/Boyce 13/ Morrison 3/2/Cairns 3/3)

Result: NCU won by 12 runs.

LISBURN WIN TOM GREENWOOD TROPHY

The NCU Under 13 league sponsored by the Ballymena club in memory of the late Tom Greenwood was again keenly contested. The four league sections were won by Armagh, Lisburn, Ballymena and surprise package Donaghadee. The latter took their giant-killing another step by defeating Ballymena in the semi-finals by 53 runs but found Lisburn too strong in the final and went down by 8 wickets defending 69 runs.

BANGOR TAKE UNDER 15 TITLE

Armagh, Bangor, Cliftonville and CYMS won the four league sections in the Legal and General sponsored under 15 league. Cliftonville and Bangor went through to contest the final but the strong batting of Jan Cunningham (38) and Michael Edwards (34) saw Bangor comfortably home by 52 runs.



The inaugural Britannic Assurance Schools Awards for 1990 were won by Royal School Dungannon and St. Mary's Boy's Primary School in Strabane. Local manager Seamus Moore was assisted in the presentations by cricket personalities Garfield Harrison, Hendy Wallace, John Devine, Jim Simpson and Bobby Rao.

THE ULSTER CRICKETER, WINTER 1990

INSTONIANS IN GRAHAM CUP FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Graham Cup final was superbly hosted by the Holywood Club and the large attendance created a special atmosphere for the Armagh and Instonians teams.

This popular competition was again sponsored by Prudential Assurance. Armagh were playing in their second successive final but were unable to stave off another disappointment as the strong Instonians team emerged eight wicket victors to record their first Graham Cup success. Their captain Tim Brown was a popular Man-of-the-Match.

On their path to the final Instonians defeated Carrickfergus, Muckamore and the strongly-fancied Bangor in the semi-final. Armagh failed to rise to their true potential in the final having previously disposed of Dunmurry, Lisburn, Donacloney and Ballymena, the latter after a replay following an exciting tie.

Scorecard

Graham cup final Armagh v Instonians at Holywood

Armagh 87 (Monaghan 22) Instonians 88/2 (T Brown 32 no/Taylor 30)

Result: Instonians won by 8 wickets.

BANGOR PIP BALLYMENA IN COLTS CUP FINAL

Sponsored by Laurence Kirk Photography the Colts Cup final was hosted by the Armagh club with typical Armagh hospitality.



Local Prudential Assurance manager Sam Hewitt presenting R.B.A.I. skipper Tim Brown with the Graham Cup.

Scorecard

Colts Cup Final Bangor v Ballymena at Armagh

Ballymena 111 (Craig 33/ Humphries 29/ Wade 4/22)

Bangor 114/9 (Hewitt 43/Cunningham 23 no/ Barkley 3/11/ Rainey 3/26)

The entertainment off the field was matched by that on it as both teams served up a pulsating finish.

Batting first, Ballymena lost

wickets at regular intervals with Craig and Humphries their saviours against the guile of Wade. Chasing 111, Bangor struggled against Rainey and Barkley before a belligerent 43 from Hewitt rescued their reply. However his departure brought Ballymena back into the picture but with the last wicket at the crease, Jan Cunningham steered the seashiders home for their seventh Colts Cup success in the last ten years - a remarkable achievement.



Bairdwear

Factory Shops at

ABBEY STREET, BANGOR
Telephone (0247) 465824

ANN STREET, NEWTOWNARDS
Telephone (0247) 270415

Ladies . Men's . Children's . Household

UMPIRES CORNER



Honest Joe

There can be no greater accolade than to be honoured by your own.

Long service official Joe Vaughan has few peers in the umpiring code. A tireless servant of the Association and indeed cricket in general, the popular Armagh man was elected as an Honorary Life member of the Northern Cricket Union at their Annual General Meeting. There are few more worthy of the honour. Well done Joe!

Slow Play - Punish the offenders!

The old sore of slow play reached another dimension in the two night NCU match between North Down and Wangstown in mid-August. North Down were asked to quicken the pace on the second night after the first hour produced only 12 overs. The second hour produced another twelve and the match finished in darkness in almost farcical conditions with the batting team deserved victors. But what can the umpires do when the batsmen are the culprits?

One solution may be a formal report to the Umpires Committee and disciplinary action taken. Another possibility is to refer the matter to the Divisional Committee which can levy a hefty fine. Perhaps the real positive response is to dock the guilty party of hard-earned league points! Or what of the 'free ball' ideal. After a scheduled four minutes has elapsed the umpire can deem the rest of the over 'free' ie, the batsman can only be run out. With such immunity he must be capable of punishing the slow over rate!

Fair play for all!

The interprovincial festival week-end and at least two international matches highlighted anomalies which the administrators should address.

At the interpros, umpires were expected to travel from Dublin to officiate at matches, then travel home immediately after the game. Surely they should have been allowed to stay overnight in the best interests of all parties?

The international match arrangements are also somewhat hazy. While the 'official playing party' are entertained to a pre-match meal the poor old umpire is left to fend for himself. One explanation which has been given is that the umpires' match fee covers such situations. But in the days of substantial match sponsorships and at least one player handsomely paid for his services, surely a meal here and there for the beleaguered officials is not extravagant?



Stanley Long and George Wilson pictured after the exciting NCU Mid-Week Cup Final between Bangor and Academy

Overtime?

Touche Ross cup final Umpires Peter Lunney and Paddy O'Hara had every reason to ask for 'overtime' after the NCU emergency committee decreed an early start on the second day to try and get a scheduled finish after two hours had been lost to rain. The experienced officials started play at 10.30am and carried on to 8.05pm, some nine hours of endurance which saw almost 140 overs bowled!

'Sledging'

Former New Zealand record bowler Richard Hadlee had barely packed the whites away for good when he was back in the headlines with an attack on 'sledging'. Quite simply the knight in shining armour' said, 'It must be stamped out!'



Harry Henderson and Jimmy Kilgore were the officials at the Northern Bank North West Senior Cup Final in August at Beechgrove

Think about it!

The Devil proposed a cricket match between Heaven and Hell. The match was scheduled to take place just outside the Pearly Gates on a particular Wednesday afternoon.

On the morning of the game, St Peter met the Devil while out shopping and caustically commented -

'It hardly seems fair, after all that we have all the cricketers.'

'But Ah,' said the Devil 'We have all the Umpires!'

CELEBRITY TEASER



International umpire Peter Lunney provides our 'Celebrity Teaser'. His answer is on Page 55

"Assume you are the square-leg umpire or for those of us in the trade, the umpire at the strikers end..."

The batsman plays forward to a delivery which is called 'no ball' by your colleague at the bowler's end. The ball is edged along the ground to short square leg who reacts quickly by flicking the ball back onto the stumps. He immediately appeals 'How's that?'

At the instant the bails fall off, the batsman's back foot is on the popping crease, with his front foot stretched down the pitch and his bat aloft.

What is your decision?

On Saturday 22 September, the Mall Armagh was the setting for a nail-biting last-ball finish which saw NICUA lose by three wickets in the White Stick Trophy Challenge match.

Inserted by Leinster skipper Joe Connelly on a damp but easy-paced pitch, the home side made a confident start. Jim McCall and Davy McCullough's opening stand of 22, gave no hint of what was to follow. A disastrous collapse saw the northerners perilously placed at 37-4. Walter Russell, Peter Lunney and Paddy O'Hara having quickly followed the openers back to the pavilion!

Beattie Arlow (43) and Billy Ross (29) led a spirited recovery and carried the total past the century mark. Peter White kept up the momentum with a rapid 14 and an unbeaten 9th wicket stand of 23 between Pete Reith 10 no and Derek Adams 14 no took the NICUA total to 149 for 8.

Leinster began their reply in the face of an excellent opening spell from Adams and Jim Wiseman. The latter claimed both openers, with the aid of a stumping by the "senior pro" Reith and a fine catch by O'Hara. The introduction of last year's five wicket hero Ross, brought immediate success, bowling Bernard Burke and having Dermot Condon caught behind. When Arlow picked up his only wicket, courtesy of an outstanding catch by McCullough in the deep, LCUA were 53 for 5 and struggling.

What followed was a magnificent partnership between John Pryor and wicket keeper Ford, who both made half-centuries, with some powerful hitting and quick running. The somewhat geriatric limbs of the older home team could not cope with the onslaught. The fielding became ragged. Ross was blasted out of the attack, Arlow retired from the fray with a torn leg-muscle and McCullough's medium pacers also received the long-handle. The return of the immaculate Wiseman put the brakes on the scoring rate, but with one over left Leinster were 148 for 5 needing 2 to win and Pryor to face on 64 no.

Skipper O'Hara decided to bowl the final over. His first ball bowled Pryor! Enter LCUA captain Connelly, hero of last years victory. He failed to score from the next three deliveries, and was bowled by the 5th. With the tension high Dave Brennan squeezed the last ball through the slip area and gleefully scampered the two runs which kept the White Stick in Leinster for another 12 months.

NICUA president Jim Barry presented the trophy while his counterpart John Heavey looked on with delight. John Pryor was deservedly nominated Man of the Match and received a bottle of brandy generously donated by Muckamore's Billy Ross. The White Stick went safely back over the border, but Pryor's brandy didn't make it!!

A splendid day's cricket, superb Armagh hospitality orchestrated by Billy Williamson and Joe Vaughan and a lovely social evening was enjoyed by over 30 umpires and their friends.

THE ULSTER CRICKETER, WINTER 1990

LEINSTER UMPIRES RETAIN THE White Stick Trophy



NCUA President Jim Barry presents Leinster CUA skipper Joe Connolly with the winners trophy



Distinguished umpires 'WG' George Wilson and Alan Tuffery



The Vanguished Northern Team

Back row: Alan Tuffery (Umpire), Beattie Arlow, Billy Ross, Jim Wiseman, Peter White, Walter Russell. Front row: Davy McCullough, Pete Reith, Paddy O'Hara, Jim McCall, Denis Adams

SCORECARD

NICUA X1		LCUA X1	
J E McCall, c Tobin b Neville	7	J Neville c O'Hara b Wiseman	8
D McCullough b Neville	13	F Tobin st Reith b Wiseman	1
W C Russell b Connelly	0	B Burke b Ross	10
B Arlow lbw Geraghty	43	J Pryor b O'Hara	64
P Lunney b McCready	7	D Geraghty c McCullough b Arlow	5
P O'Hara b McCready	2	D Condon c Reith b Ross	0
W H Ross b Connelly	29	J Ford no	51
P White st Ford b Geraghty	14	J Connelly b O'Hara	0
P Reith no	10	D Brennan no	2
D Adams no	14	P Thew DNB	-
J Wiseman DNB	-	S McCready DNB	-
Extras	10	Extras	9
Total	149-8	Total	150-7

Umpires - Alan C U Tuffery
"Dr W G" Wilson

RESULT: LCUA won by 3 wickets

LOANS UP TO £30,000
are now available from

WESTGATE FINANCIAL

SPECIAL FEATURES OF OUR SERVICE ARE:

- ★ Self-Employed Welcome-
No accounts required
- ★ Sickness and Redundancy Protection
- ★ Flexible Re-Payment Terms
- ★ Low Start and Deferred Payment Schemes
- ★ SAME DAY DECISIONS
-NO WAITING
- ★ Consultations in your own home

PHONE NOW FOR A QUOTE

(0365) 322320

WESTGATE FINANCIAL

WE HAVE THE EXPERIENCE

Sorry, no tenants -

Your Home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it.

*The Very Best Sporting
& Celebrity Speakers
for all occasions*

Contact:

Mike Newlin

M.B.N. Promotions Ltd.

1st Floor

25 Stamford Street

Altrincham

Cheshire

WA14 1EX

Tel: (061) 926 9569

SPORTING LUNCHEON IN BELFAST IN MARCH 1991
GRAHAM GOOCH on his return from the
Ashes tour - book early by contacting Mike Newlin



WHY NOT ASK FOR DETAILS OF THE "CLENDINNING EXECUTIVE CLUB"?

"TRY THE CLENDINNING STYLE"

For personal attention

For supervised parking

For FREE transport to
and from the terminal

For a full car Valet service



AT BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Best value for money
park at the Airport

BOWL YOURSELF OVER FOR ONLY £9.00 PER WEEK*

With a choice of spin, swing or pace, and variable speeds of 20-95 mph, the fully portable* BOLA bowling machines provide the batsman from school to test level with the perfect way to practise. Delivering over 100 overs per hour with extreme accuracy, it'll literally bowl you over. And out.

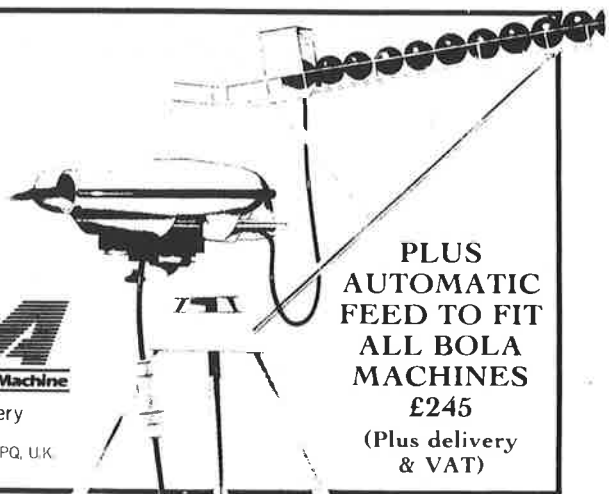
*Lease-Purchase over 3 years. (Outright purchase price from only £825.00 plus delivery and VAT)



BOLA
The Ultimate Bowling Machine

*Mains or 12v battery

Contact: Stuart & Williams on (0272) 243569 or (0850) 733192, or write to 6 Brookfield Road, Cotham, Bristol BS6 5PQ, U.K. (overseas enquiries welcome)

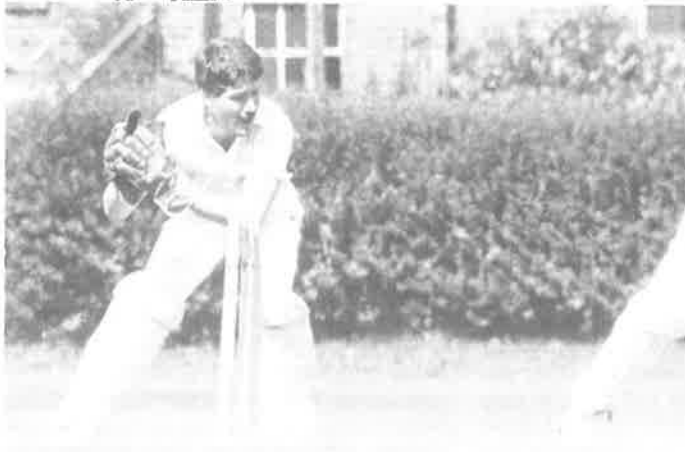


PLUS
AUTOMATIC
FEED TO FIT
ALL BOLA
MACHINES
£245
(Plus delivery
& VAT)

BILLY ZOOMS IN ON THE STUMPERS



North West ace sports photographer Billy McLeod is always in the thick of the action during the cricket season. Billy focused on six wicket-keepers with his faithful camera highlighting their determination and enthusiasm to secure that vital wicket....



North Down's Ivan Connolly shows the style and artistry of the classic leg-side stumping.



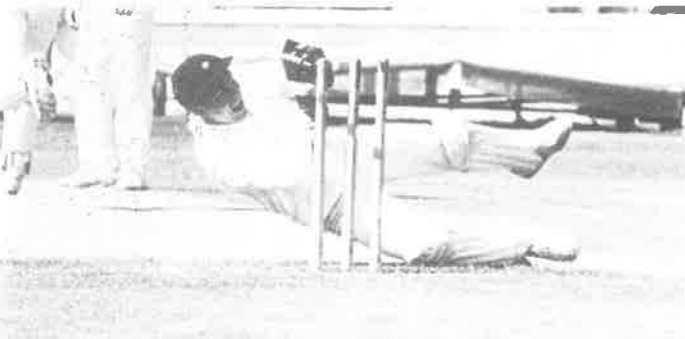
How's that? from St Johnston's Ian Anthony



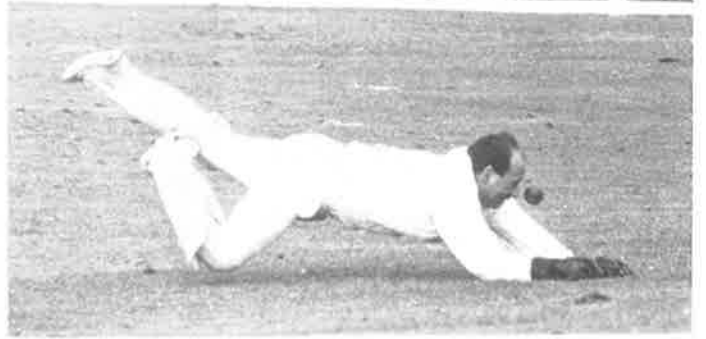
Eglinton's Shaun Bradley gets another victim in the North West cup final



Ardmore's George McKillen sees off Sion's McKay in vociferous style



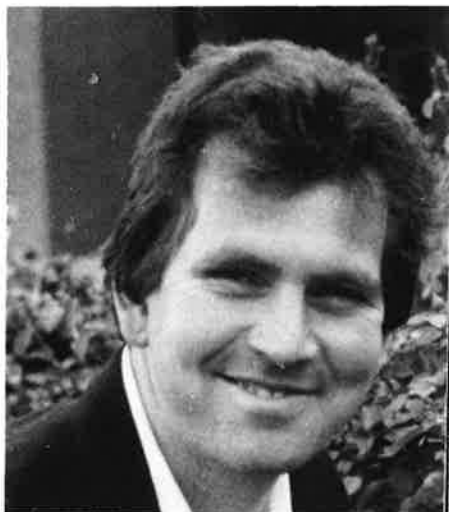
A spectacular effort from Brigade's international stumper Alan Rutherford



Going...Going...Gone! - one that got away from Malachy Porter of St. Johnston

LURGAN AND NORTH SHARE LOMBARD AND ULSTER LEAGUE TITLE

Ballymena provided the biggest shock of the NCU season in the last match, by defeating Downpatrick on home soil to thwart the first ever three way tie at the top of the NCU Lombard and Ulster Senior League. The championship produced one of the most exciting finishes possible with all three leading contenders in with a chance of outright victory but Ballymena's upset left North of Ireland and Lurgan joint winners.



Prolific North batsman Charlie Beverland who topped 1000 runs in NCU cricket this year

BEVERLAND INSPIRES NORTH

Downpatrick blew their chances at the eleventh hour needing home victories in their final two matches to clinch the title outright. Lurgan provided the first set-back but without the frugal bowling of their professional Kamal Merchant for the last match the locals were unable to take advantage of the visiting Ballymena team short of several regulars.

Perhaps it was justice to both North of Ireland and Lurgan since they were acknowledged as the best two teams in the championship although heavy cup commitments played havoc with their league programme.

Now edging towards maturity, North still had the most experienced and the most formidable squad in 1990. Beverland was a revelation with the bat hitting over a thousand runs for his club and sending statisticians madly in search of any similar record by a local player. He scored two centuries and was a model of consistency in a batting line-up where Law and Corlett starred but Mark Napier disappointed.

The abrasive Corlett proved once again to be the master artist and crowned another outstanding season by re-asserting himself as the top local bowler and best all rounder. North scored 4275 runs from their 27 matches at an average of 25.9 per wicket. They suffered only four defeats in a busy programme, one fewer than their great rivals Lurgan whom they defeated

by three wickets in the Touche Ross Senior Cup Final. But Lurgan were the team of the NCU season, winning the Schweppes Cup, joint league winners, cup runners-up and finally the Britannia Team-of-the-Year Award.

SUBASH STARS FOR LURGAN

Few experts would have predicted Lurgan's outstanding season. The much-published switch of allegiance by Paul and Charlie McCrum to North Down as paid professionals obviously fired the Pollock Park players and none more so than veteran pace bowler Alan Johnston. What an amazing season the popular Ulster Bank official had. He was always amongst the wickets and marked his return to the inter-provincial series with a seven wicket haul against North Leinster.

It brought a much belated international selection against Worcestershire and made a lot of local cricket enthusiasts very happy. Johnston was not the only major success. His opening partner Paul Lyness produced several fine performances while veteran opener Tom Guy was magnificent. However the real jewel in their crown was Indian professional Subash Kshirasagar who scored over 1400 runs and took over 50 wickets.

Downpatrick's charge came late in the season and was mounted on the back of Merchant's frugal bowling. Once again the Pakistan professional produced amazing bowling figures of 259 overs at a meagre cost of only 341 runs. (1.3 per over). His 51 wickets averaged only 6.68 each although his batting failed to be as impressive. Skipper Derek McCann led the way with 616 runs (average 29.3) assisted by Geoffrey Ferguson and international Jim Patterson but there was virtually no other support. Ferguson's 40 wickets was his best season with the ball but Lennon, Ferris and Briggs were a long way back. In truth, Downpatrick lacked the quality to win the league and at the final hurdle, the conviction.

LEAGUE OF TWO DIVISIONS

Woodvale, Waringstown, and North Down were the pick of the other teams although always just off the pace in a league of two divisions. The McCrum brothers made a significant contribution to the North Down team but Indian professional Asjit Jayaprakasham had a poor season. Robin Haire was the pick of their batsmen but a groin injury removed his tight bowling although young Billy Adams again



Popular Lurgan opening batsman Tom Guy had a brilliant 1990 season

showed he has the ability to take wickets and will learn from his interprovincial call up. North Down lacked strength in depth and despite reaching the semi-final of the cup could not win the vital matches and more often than not lost to teams they should have beaten.

Chris Davis will be delighted with Woodvale's overall season although after a brilliant burst in July they might have produced more, especially in the Schweppes Cup. The consistent Raza and the prolific Stephen Warke were their principal stars although the underated Peter Lowry had a fine season with the ball.

By their own high standards, Waringstown disappointed. A ten wicket defeat by Clontarf in the Schweppes Cup and a five wicket defeat by North at the lawn in the Touche Ross Cup, meant the league was their only hope of a major trophy. However the quality of yesteryear has gone and the new generation has yet to assert itself as of similar quality. Noel and Alan Nelson combined with Garfield Harrison to front a formidable attack but without Shane Harrison for many matches and Ivan Anderson at the latter part of the season, the quality of the team visibly waned. Only Garfield produced any substantial runs and this must be a major cause for concern at the lawn in years to come.

BANGOR RELEGATED

Relegation was always going to involve Bangor, Hollywood and Ballymena with RUC not completely out of the picture. The police team did just enough to stay out of trouble but were not the 'force' of 1989. Big Joe Campbell was the pick of their batsmen but too many players did not perform at their best. Runs from Adrian Goodridge, Alistair McKee and Alan Neill kept Ballymena in Section 1 next year while Harry Cook and Neville Neill proved the pick

of their bowlers. At Holywood South African professional Russell Adams and Michael Shannon bore the main responsibility for keeping the seaiders up. Their matches against struggling Bangor proved decisive and with Holywood gaining the advantage it was Bangor who eventually got the chop. Only Chris Harte and Lowry Cunningham enhanced their reputations which is puzzling for a club which has produced so many quality school-boy players over the past decade.

LISBURN BACK UP IN TOP FLIGHT

Lisburn were relegated at the end of the 1989 season but set their target for an immediate return to the top division. They achieved it in style combining excellent team spirit with all round ability which was not matched by their rivals. Uel Graham had several outstanding batting performances but the efforts of Topping, O'Hara, Reid, McAuley, professional Hariharan and skipper Hutchinson are also worthy of praise.

As expected Raman Lamba dominated not only Division two but Cliftonville performances. They lacked the strength in depth to seriously threaten Lisburn as did Muckamore and Armagh. Derriaghy will be delighted to retain their league status as will Donaghadee but Donacloney should have done better. Instonians and Laurelvale were solid if unspectacular but Queen's never got their act together and depended too much on skipper Paul Linehan. Their place in Section Two next year will be taken by Carrick who may not have endeared themselves to their rivals in the Division Three league race but won the matches which counted. New Zealand professional Clarke's combative approach separated them from the others and he played the major part in their success. The



Uel Graham of Lisburn who hit a magnificent 142 against Donaghadee last season

renaissance at Cregagh deserved more from a season of effort and endeavour but there were enough signs in 1990 to augur well for 1991 and their day will surely come. Academy also performed well but Cooke struggled throughout and were eventually relegated to Section Four.

Portadown deservedly won the lower section and will be delighted with their 1990 season. Although defeated in the Junior Cup final they had an excellent league campaign pointed on enthusiasm, ability and endeavour.

ALARM BELLS SOUNDING??

Overall the NCU season escaped the full wrath of the elements and if the performances of the clubs in the Schweppes Cup is the yardstick, then club cricket in this province remains the best in Ireland. However, there is a general opinion that the quality of players in the top division is visibly on the decline and combined to a general concern about the standard of schools cricket and the virtual evaporation of practice from July, ominous alarm bells are sounding on the horizon!



North Down's Billy Adams continued to be amongst the wickets and won a deserved interprovincial call up to the Ulster Town team



Woodvale's Stephen Warke won the Larry Warke Memorial Trophy for the highest placed local batsman in the NCU averages



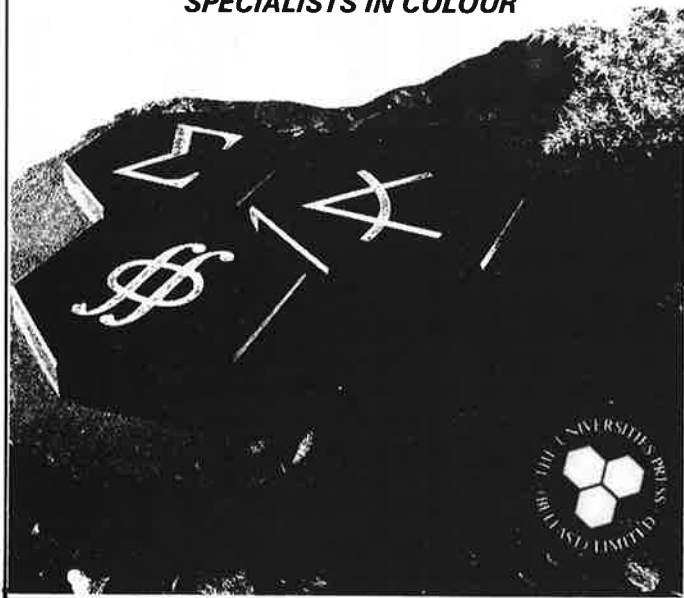
Downpatrick professional Kamal Merchant - another outstanding individual season

DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE

THE UNIVERSITIES PRESS (Belfast) LIMITED

Alanbrooke Road, Belfast BT6 9HF
Telephone: (0232) 704464

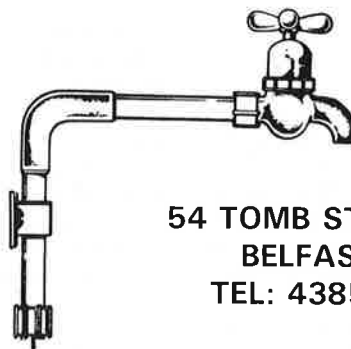
Northern Ireland's leading Commercial and
Book Printers
SPECIALISTS IN COLOUR



JACK PATTERSON

BUILDING & PLUMBING CONTRACTOR

V.A.T. Reg. No. 255 8340 49



54 TOMB STREET,
BELFAST
TEL: 438532



NATIONWIDE CRICKET SPECIALISTS

Our huge range of cricket gear is unsurpassed in the UK.

Call at our well-equipped showroom — you'll be amazed at the choice — or use our speedy and efficient Mail Order Service.

Whatever your needs we are confident that we can supply you quickly and at the best possible price.

Our reputation is founded on our ability to offer expert advice to our customers based on years of playing and coaching experience, coupled with a sound knowledge of the latest developments in equipment, footwear and clothing.

Send for our fully comprehensive price list.

For all your cricketing requirements you should consult Dick Spruce at
SPORTSCRAFT
OF PENRITH

33 MIDDLEGATE
PENRITH
CUMBRIA
CA11 7SY
Telephone (0768) 65833

Walker Eurosalt Ltd.

**SALT & CHEMICAL
DISTRIBUTORS,**

**6 NORTHERN ROAD,
BELFAST BT3 9AL**

We can be contacted at:

**BELFAST (0232) 748551,
749176,
746311-2.**

Telex: 747153.



FACTS AND FIGURES FACTS AND FIGURES FACTS AND FIGURES FACTS AND

NEW LEAGUE TABLES - 1990

LOMBARD & ULSTER LEAGUE - Section 1

	P	W	T	L	Points
Lurgan	18	14	-	4	56
NICC	18	14	-	4	56
Downpatrick	18	13	-	5	52
North Down	18	11	-	7	44
Waringstown	18	11	-	7	44
Woodvale	18	10	-	8	40
RUC	18	6	1	11	26
Ballymena	18	5	1	13	20
Hollywood	18	3	1	14	14
Bangor	18	1	2	15	8

LOMBARD & ULSTER LEAGUE - Section 3

	P	W	T	L	Points
Carrickfergus	18	15	-	3	60
Academy	18	14	-	4	56
Cregagh	18	14	-	4	56
Ards	18	10	-	8	40
CIYMS	18	8	1	9	34
Drumaness	18	8	-	10	32
Collegians	18	7	1	10	30
Dunmurry	18	5	-	13	20
Dundrum	18	5	-	13	20
Cooke	18	3	-	15	12

LOMBARD & ULSTER LEAGUE - Section 2

	P	W	T	L	Points
Lisburn	17	14	-	3	56
Cliftonville	18	12	-	6	48
Armagh	18	11	1	6	46
Muckamore	18	11	1	6	46
Laurelville	18	11	-	7	44
Instonians	18	10	-	8	40
Donacloney	17	6	-	11	24
Derriaghy	18	6	-	12	24
Donaghadee	18	5	-	13	20
Queen's	18	2	-	16	8

NORTHERN CRICKET UNION OF IRELAND

1990 BATTING AVERAGES

	I.	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Average
S Kshirsagar (Lurgan)	24	3	1119	112	53.28
S Warke (Woodvale)	15	1	626	99*	44.71
C Beverland (NICC)	24	1	1018	109	44.26
A Raza (Woodvale)	17	2	540	79	36.00
T Guy (Lurgan)	17	1	562	82	35.12
S Corlett (NICC)	18	3	523	77*	34.86
A Goodrich (Ballymena)	16	2	445	100*	31.78
S Kshirsagar (Lurgan)	23	4	603	88	31.73
P Haire (North Down)	21	3	569	60	31.61
P Law (NICC)	21	5	504	83	31.50
C McCrum (North Down)	20	1	576	59	30.31
J Campbell (RUC)	18	2	465	72	29.06
D McCann (Downpatrick)	20	1	533	74	28.05
A Hunter (Lurgan)	19	7	331	46*	27.58
A Spence (Waringstown)	17	4	355	70	27.30
G Harrison (Waringstown)	19	2	464	74	27.29
J Patterson (Downpatrick)	18	3	391	71	26.06
K Merchant (Downpatrick)	17	2	378	60	25.20
M Napier (NICC)	20	4	394	82*	24.62
J Gilliland (North Down)	16	2	342	53*	24.43

BOWLING AVERAGES

	O.	M.	R.	W.	B.B.	Average
K Merchant (Downpatrick)	259	110	341	51	6/20	6.68
S Corlett (NICC)	264	90	560	52	6/16	10.77
A Nelson (Waringstown)	167	41	344	31	6/42	11.09
A Johnston (Lurgan)	243	58	539	43	5/21	12.53
P McCrum (North Down)	226	52	534	42	5/39	12.71
G Harrison (Waringstown)	173	37	472	36	7/44	13.11
N Nelson (Waringstown)	159	40	422	30	5/8	14.07
C Magowan (NICC)	216	36	669	47	6/25	14.23
S Kshirsagar (Lurgan)	278	62	663	46	4/24	14.41
L Cunningham (Bangor)	178	52	465	32	5/30	14.53
M Shannon (Holywood)	206	43	538	37	6/40	14.54
P Lowry (Woodvale)	164	18	531	36	6/25	14.75
R Parkhill (NICC)	197	56	447	28	7/41	15.96
A Raza (Woodvale)	231	61	598	37	4/8	16.02
W Kirk (NICC)	170	52	406	25	4/12	16.24
C McCrum (North Down)	216	37	586	35	5/43	16.74
H Cook (Ballymena)	220	45	555	33	4/23	16.82
R Adams (Holywood)	214	43	621	36	5/19	17.25
L Semple (RUC)	259	47	779	45	5/26	17.31
D Johnston (NICC)	216	22	726	40	6/43	18.15

FIELDING

	Catches	Stumpings	Total
T Guy	26	5	31
P Jackson (NICC)	19	12	31
C Davis (Woodvale)	24	4	28
P Moore (Holywood)	19	7	26
S O'Neill (Waringstown)	19	4	23
D McCann (Downpatrick)	14	5	19
B Millar (Bangor)	13	3	16
P Kelly (RUC)	15	1	16
D Shields (North Down)	12	2	14
D Napier (NICC)	13	-	13
D Johnston (NICC)	13	-	13
B Ferris (Downpatrick)	12	-	12
G Hunter (Lurgan)	12	-	12
A Waite (Waringstown)	12	-	12

Answer to Peter's Teaser...

"The batsman is 'Not Out'

Although 'on the line' is normally deemed 'out', the decision in this instance is 'not out' because the striker cannot be 'run out' from a 'no ball' unless he is attempting a run
Did you make the right decision?"

FACTS AND FIGURES FACTS AND FIGURES FACTS AND FIGURES FACTS AND

R.J.M.

CONSTANTLY HITTING RATES FOR SIX!

Commercial mortgages at Base Rates

Farm mortgages from 11%

Special Rates for first time buyers

Difficult cases and CCJ's our speciality



TELEPHONE: 0762 841234

Your home is at risk from loans secured on it.
Licensed Credit Broker

S U P P O R T

Support is the essence of community spirit.
At Bank of Ireland we are building a service dedicated to supporting the community in every way.

Bank of Ireland 



PROPERTY FINANCE

Arranged to suit Developer and Owner's individual requirements

BUSINESS PURCHASE LOANS

●
COMMERCIAL LOANS

●
INVESTMENT PROPERTY LOANS

●
BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

●
CONVERSION & REFURBISHMENT LOANS

●
**BRIDGING LOANS
OPEN OR CLOSED END BASIS**

NORTHERN FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

HOLBORN HALL, PLANTATION ROAD,
LISBURN, CO. ANTRIM BT27 5BW
Telephone Lisburn 0846 601306
Credit Broker Licence No. 180317

For experience, efficiency, and a friendly personal service.

T. A. Abbott & Sons Ltd.

- All types of Insurance transacted
- House Purchase Loans arranged
- Agents for Progressive Building Society

**43 THOMAS STREET,
ARMAGH
BT61 7QD**



INSURANCE BROKERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL
REGULATED FOR INVESTMENT BUSINESS

Telephone:
Armagh (0861) 523163

LOMBARD

ASSET

FINANCE

Lorries

Machinery

Equipment

Plant

- Lease
- Buy
- Flexible Payments
- Balloon Rental
- Fixed & Variable Interest

Cars

- Lease
- Buy
- Contract Hire
- Schemes to meet all your needs
- Nearly any vehicle

Property Development

Housing Development

Property Investments

Hotels

- Project Loans
- Term Loans
- Competitive Charges
- Long repayment periods



Lombard & Ulster
Limited

Head Office: 40 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8DF. Telephone 0232 329261.
Branch Offices At Ballymena, Belfast, Coleraine, Craigavon, Newry, Newtownards and Omagh.



Les Jones and his Ards Under 15 pictured before a league game at Comber last season. Back Row: Jonathan Gourley, Johaghan McDowell, Gary Stewart, Les Jones, Stephen Bell, Mark McBrien. Front Row: Jonathan Rodgers, Ryan Robinson, Brian McMullan, Michael Anderson, Neil Anderson, Andrew Barron.

Les Jones' love affair with Ards Cricket Club began some 27 years ago when the Yorkshire designer was transferred from Morcambe to the Ulster Print Works in County Down. Within a week his name had been added to the local cricket club's first eleven and a story of commitment, devotion and especially loyalty, began to unfold....

By his own admission Les Jones has now passed the sixty years land-mark. In itself this is no mean achievement for a man in the prime of health, but after twenty years as club chairman, countless as team captain of the seconds, thirds and latterly the fourths, guru of the two boys elevens, groundsman, tea-maker, transport manager, selector and top fourth eleven batsmen for the last three years, you get a feeling of the passion he holds dear for his beloved Ards. Times were hard, indeed very hard, but he takes immense pride from the fact that his Ards club can now field four Saturday teams, two mid-week elevens, two boys teams and two Colts teams. It seems a long way from the days when he and fellow club stalwart Rab Dunn struggled to get enough players to field a first eleven!

FIGHT FOR IDENTITY

Les learned his cricket in Bingley with the local Sunday school team, before moving to work in Morcambe are his cricket apprenticeship was given a solid education in the tough Lancashire league. It was to prove decidedly beneficial following his move to Newtownards where cricket was first played in the latter half of the last century but has never fully asserted itself against the stronger contemporary sports of soccer and rugby football. The story of Ards Cricket Club has been one of survival, without a permanent home and the constant struggle to hold its better players against competition from the neighbouring senior club North Down. Les

Jones and his good friend Rab Dunn have been the backbone of that fight for identity.

Indeed Rab himself could have graced any senior team in his hey-day and can still make the best jump when he's in full flight!

Les has every reason to feel proud of his endeavours although with typical Yorkshire grit it rarely shows. His astute and willing chairmanship is just one of the many facets of his devotion to Ards, although it is with the younger members that he gets his greatest enjoyment.

Ards has produced several fine boys teams in recent years and their success owes much to the unselfish endeavours of their modest Guru. Not content to supervise and encourage their development at boys level, Les has also donned the mantle of mentor and his fourth eleven squad is liberally endowed with young prodigees. Several have considerable potential and Les will watch with particular interest the progress of promising young all rounder Neil Anderson, batsman Craig Hopley and thirteen year old Andrew Barron who took 21 wickets for the fourths last season. But Les Jones is still a realist -

'Obviously I'm disappointed when we lose a good player to the senior club but I'm equally pleased to see him develop his true potential in the knowledge that he learned his cricket at Ards. The current North Down first eleven has a number of former Ards players who are following the tradition of many fine players like Jack and Warwick Dalzell, Billy Shaw, Walter Montgomery and Garson Mowat. You can't blame good young players like Billy Adams and Billy Doherty for wanting to play at the highest level.'

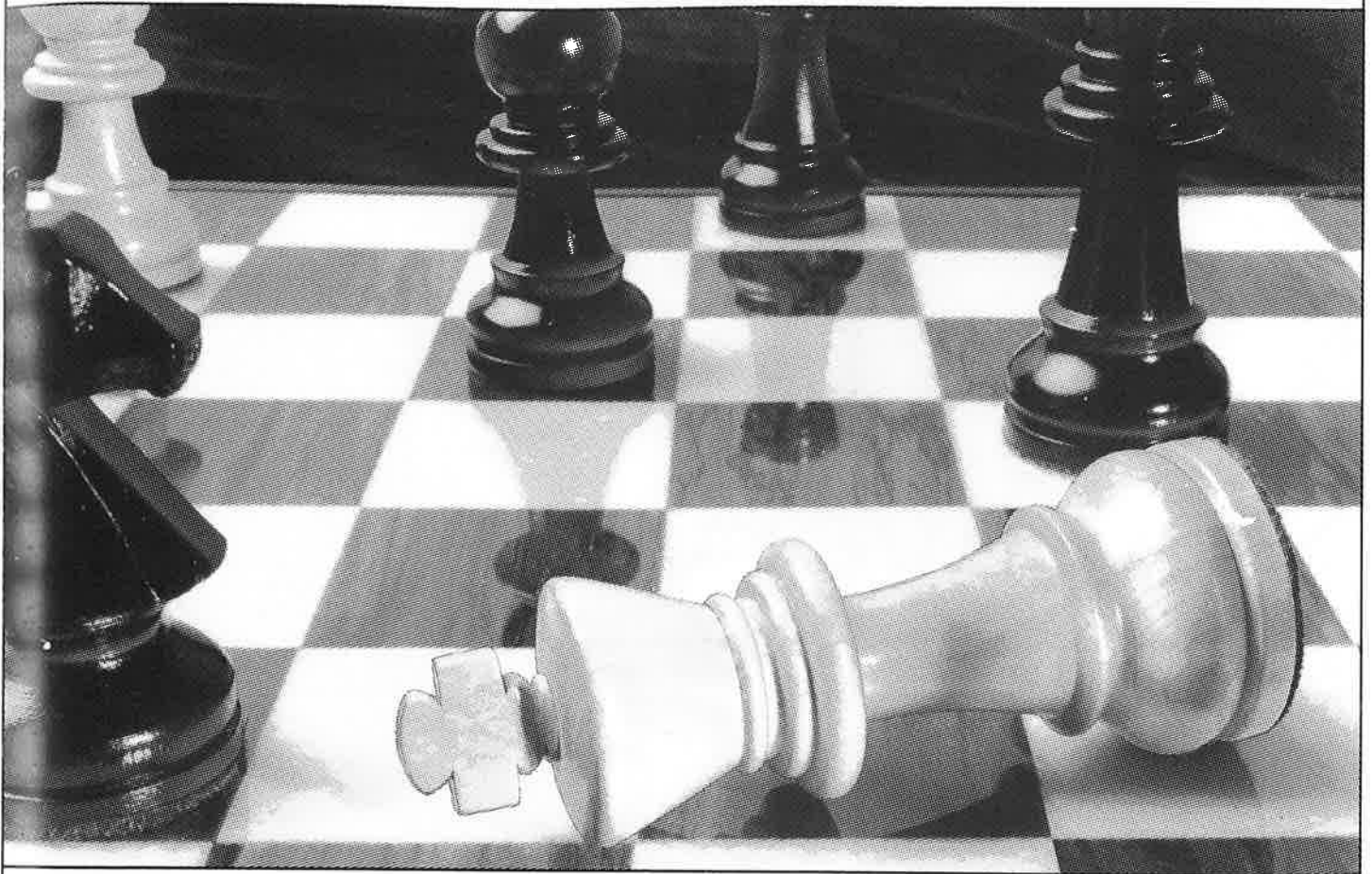
Les is similarly in praise of those who stayed loyal to Ards, often to the detriment of their personal cricketing aspirations. Rab Dunn is probably the best example although there have been many others over the years. Of even greater significance is the evolution

of the younger members in to the administration of the club. Richard Warnock is one of the youngest captains in local cricket while Davy McCullough and Paul Davidson have committed themselves totally to the Ards cause. It is such commitment that will be vital to the prosperity of the Ards Club in the years to come, if the likes of Les Jones and Rab Dunn are ever to be allowed the luxury of a 'rest'. However the immediate priority continues to be directed towards the improvement of the Portaferry Road ground which has been heavily criticised in recent years. As Les says, 'Sometimes I envy clubs with their own grounds. With a public park we are always fighting a constant struggle to maintain an acceptable standard which is a shame for a town as big as Newtownards. We once considered joining forces with the local rugby club but our members wanted their independence and it has had its price. But thankfully we have no debt and can field ten teams which in itself is something of an achievement. We are also concerned about ten teams which in itself is something of an achievement. We are also concerned about the quality of our ground and a lot of hard work took place at the end of last season so hopefully we will reap the benefit next year'.

TRUE STALWART OF LOCAL GAME

Local cricket is endowed with many local stalwarts, most of whom work in a quiet unselfish manner out of the limelight. Les Jones epitomises such character. A tireless servant of the Ards club, he has done much to keep cricket to the forefront in an area where other sports will continue to hold dominance. He won't have the glory of winning numerous trophies every season or seeing several of his players attain lofty representative honours, but he will still get as much satisfaction as those who hold dear, such cosmetic measures of success.

KEEPING YOU ONE MOVE AHEAD.



In life, making the right financial move is all-important. And not just for the big things, but for the everyday situations as well.

That's why more and more people are turning to the Northern. Not just because we're the largest financial group in the province, and part of one of the world's largest banking groups, but because we're part of the community.

And that's why you'll find our wide range of products and services perfectly placed to meet your every financial need.

Like Midas Gold, a savings account for the over-fifties giving you high interest and instant access. Or Saver Plus, with an interest rate that grows as your savings grow.

You'll also find our HomeMaster package offers a wide range of mortgage options and advice or, if

you're already a homeowner, Home Asset Reserve can release the equity on your biggest asset to use whenever, and for whatever, you like.

The unpredictable is natural. That's why we can offer a continuous line of credit with an account called Flexiline, or a Personal Loan at very competitive rates.

And now, as part of our growing range of services, we've introduced Cheque Master . . . the current account which pays you interest. All in all, it's a wide range of services specifically designed to help you with your personal finances.

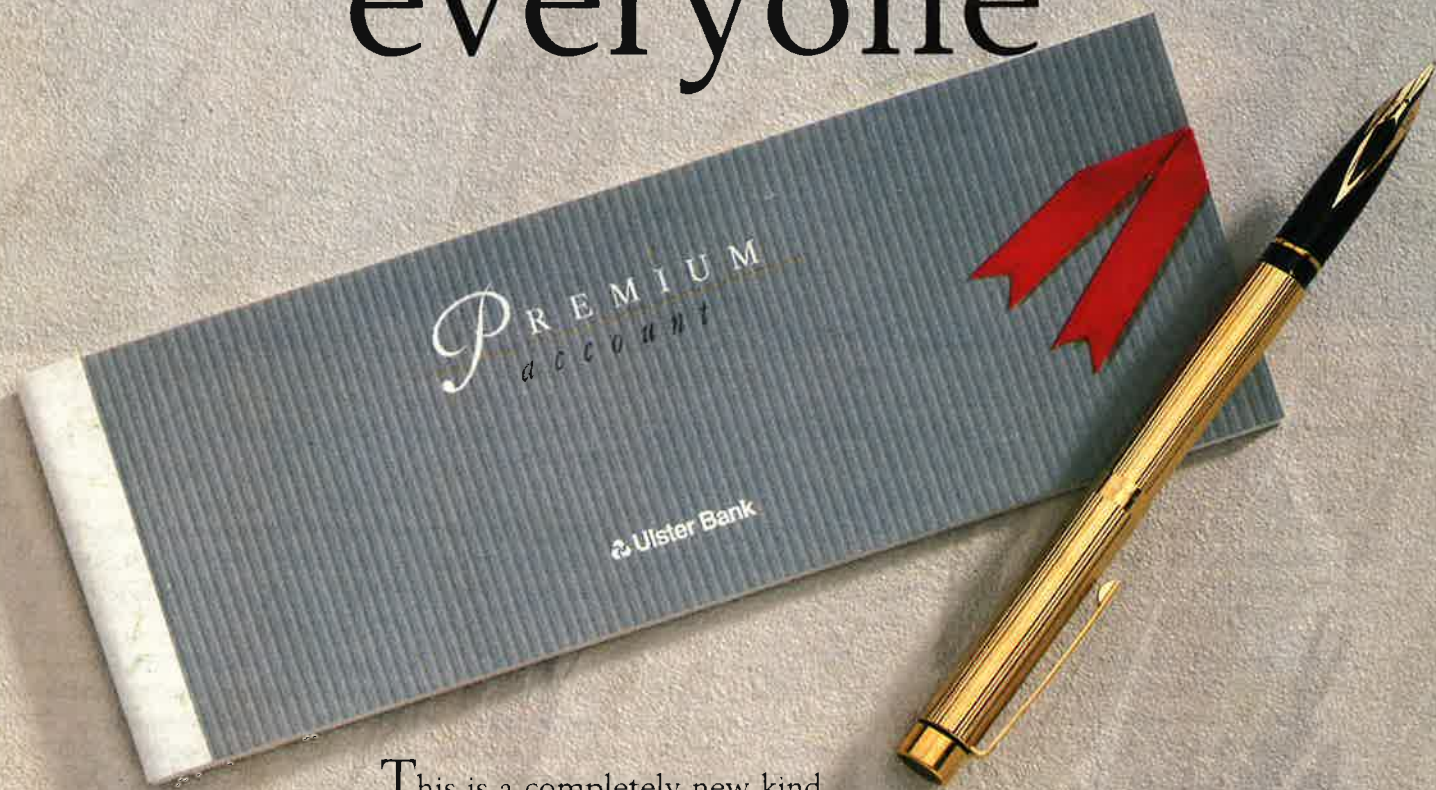
Find out more about Cheque Master and the Northern's range of related services by calling at any Northern Bank branch. As always, we'll be pleased to help.



Northern

Northern Bank credit facilities are subject to status and applicants must normally be over 18 years of age. All mortgages are subject to Northern Bank's mortgage lending criteria and status. Security/insurance may be required. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Full details of Terms and Conditions and written quotations can be obtained from any branch or from Northern Bank Ltd., Marketing Department, P.O. Box 183, Donegall Square West, Belfast BT1 6JS. Telephone: (0232) 245277.

Frankly, this Account is not for everyone



This is a completely new kind
of savings account from Ulster Bank
... called Premium Account.

Premium Account (minimum balance £2,500) pays
high interest rates

... yet removes the inconvenience of personally
visiting the bank to make a withdrawal

... by providing a Premium Account Cheque Book.

Premium Account:- the high interest of a savings account
the convenience of a current account
the security of Ulster Bank.

 **Ulster Bank**

P R E M I U M
a c c o u n t

Higher Interest with a Cheque Book