

**CLONTARF CRICKET
CLUB**

**Match
Programme
1986**

BELVEDERE BOND LEAGUE
Clontarf v Dublin University
Sunday 15 June

**Castle Avenue
Clontarf
Dublin 3**





A Message From Our President

This is the second issue of the Clontarf match programme for 1986 and it coincides with the visit of Dublin University Cricket Club for today's game in the Belvedere Bond League.

It is with pleasure that I welcome them to Castle Avenue. Trinity have always played an important part in Leinster cricket and indeed are the oldest club in Ireland. In the past, many Trinity players joined Clontarf when their university days were over. There is still a present-day connection in that Noel Mahony — one of our great former players — is now involved in coaching at College Park. I have no doubt that this has had much to do with the recent Trinity revival.

There have been many stirring encounters between our two clubs — both in league and cup — over the years and I am sure that today's game will follow that pattern.

J. A. McMANUS
President

15 June 1986

Thanks

We wish to thank all those who have made this programme a success, especially the typesetters, Wellset Ltd, 48 Hardwicke St (tel. 742624) and the printers, J. J. Lalor and Co., 60 Middle Abbey St (tel. 730032).

We are also grateful to Tom Byrne for statistical information and for photographs, and to Eoin McTiernan for photographs of the 1985 club tour. Alan McClean also helped greatly.

Most of all, we thank our advertisers and we earnestly request all our readers to support them.

In Praise of the Draw

Fergal Tobin

The drawn game is the poor relation of cricket.

You hardly ever hear anyone say a good word for it. Batsmen who have to dead bat the ball for the last ten overs on their captain's instructions murmur afterwards that "that's not how we like to play the game". Bowlers, as usual, simply get angry. As for spectators, try to find one who has ever seen an entertaining draw — he will tell you that there's no such thing.

In our club, there is a well-established view among the ruling politburo that the draw is a menace. Their argument is that all Leinster senior cricket should be a preparation for interprovincial cricket, which is played on a winner-take-all basis. The future of Irish representative cricket — both at interprovincial and international levels — obviously lies with the one-day winner-take-all game: therefore that is the game we should master. So runs the argument.

It's all fair enough up to a point, although it's worth enquiring whether Irish cricket should put all its juice into attempting to master a form of cricket in which it seems destined forever to be a back marker. Our record in the Nat West Cup — especially with the bat — is so poor that one wonders if we'll ever manage to bridge the gap between our weekend amateurs and full-time professionals. The recent games against Yorkshire at Malahide merely underline the point. But if we were to scrap the traditional draw altogether in senior cricket in pursuit of this goal, what would we be losing in the process?

A great deal of fun for a start. Let's face it: there are as many good draws as bad ones. The myth of the "boring draw" is usually put about by people who are not true cricket lovers and just want to watch a bit of bang, slap, wallop with all the variety and subtlety filtered out of it. Where's the fun in watching the last thirty overs of a Wiggins Teape game in which the side batting first has made 260 and the side batting second are 35 for 4 after twenty overs? The game is effectively finished as a contest and the last two hours are just an exercise in prolonged boredom, worse than the worst draw. Why? Because it doesn't matter whether the bowling side take wickets or not, they are still going to win. This effectively destroys the whole purpose of the game.

Once the bowler knows that his main job is to contain, not to attack, the game has changed fundamentally. There is a premium placed on negative captaincy and on tedious processions of military medium trundlers. There is no incentive to bowl spinners in either innings, particularly old-fashioned flighty spinners who *attack* the batsman, albeit at a price. Established spinners can adapt very well to the best-score game, but how would we ever develop young spinners if they did not have the traditional game in which to hone their skills? In our own case, would Fergal O'Mahony have come in the way he has over the last two years if his captains did not *need* to use him as an attacking weapon in order to win matches?

The draw is part of the inherent logic of the game. It is up to the bowler to dismiss the batsman. Change that basic imperative and cricket is a poorer thing, robbed of one of its essential ingredients. Sure, there are boring draws, but boredom is possible in any sport. (Have you been watching the World Cup?) Why just remember the boring draws? And why so much criticism of the traditional game, when it alone has the potential to express all of cricket's wonderfully variegated pleasures.

Let's hear it for the draw.



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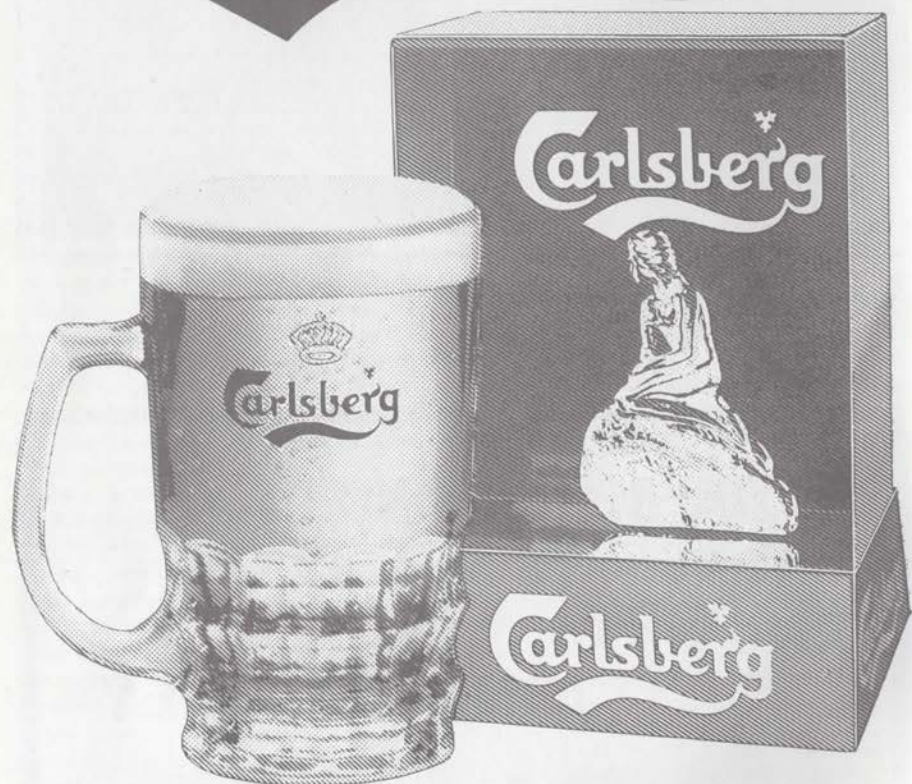
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HARDINGS

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Clontarf International Players

Name	M	I	Not out	H	R	A	Innings bowled in	O	M	R	W	A	Ct
J. G. Aston	6	11	1	53*	91	9.10	6	69	11	114	10	11.40	6
E. H. Bodell	6	10	5	11*	25	5.00	10	175	40	489	11	44.45	1
J. D. Caprani	6	11	—	44	121	11.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
A. W. Cooper	2	4	—	31	66	16.50	3	26	3	108	3	36.00	1
S. H. Crawford	1	1	—	11	11	11.00	2	16	2	60	6	10.00	—
F. M. Filgas	1	2	—	3	3	1.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
W. E. Haughton	5	8	—	25	46	5.75	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
J. W. Hill	14	21	9	27*	138	11.50	23	296	77	709	32	22.15	1
N. B. Hool	13	21	10	27	171	15.54	21	282	60	801	27	29.66	4
L. P. Hughes	13	21	6	35	159	10.60	21	257.3	67	763	15	50.86	11
L. C. Jacobson	12	22	3	101	358	18.84	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
G. A. Kirwan	2	2	1	0*	0	0.00	3	29	11	91	2	45.50	—
G. H. McCormack	1	1	—	6	6	6.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
†E. A. McDermott	10	15	—	80	378	25.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
N. C. Mahony	9	17	1	42	299	18.68	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
G. J. Morgan	1	1	—	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
W. C. Pemberton	4	7	3	31	55	13.75	5	111	26	263	5	52.60	1
E. N. Seymour	3	5	—	3	9	1.08	6	45	9	147	4	36.75	1
M. H. Stevenson	11	20	2	80	467	25.94	1	4	—	27	—	—	4
D. A. Vincent	4	5	—	36	103	20.60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
R. H. C. Waters	11	18	1	70	330	19.41	—	—	—	—	—	—	8

†E. A. McDermott's figures include game against Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI.

*Not out.

Clontarf Interprovincial Players

	M	I	NO	HS	R	A	W	R	A	Ct	St
E. H. Bodell	6	4	2	7*	10	5.00	9	169	18.77	1	—
J. B. Bunworth	27	25	6	103*	390	20.52	—	—	—	9	—
M. R. Bunworth	7	6	2	8	29	7.25	3	159	53.00	—	—
F. J. Carroll	17	9	2	20*	96	13.71	—	—	—	17	1
M. A. Carroll	3	3	—	16	27	9.00	—	—	—	—	—
C. G. Daly	5	5	3	12*	30	15.00	—	—	—	5	—
M. J. Delaney	5	—	—	—	—	—	6	107	17.83	—	—
N. P. Grier	3	20	1	42	201	10.57	7	151	21.57	10	—
L. P. Hughes	25	15	3	47	111	9.25	56	732	13.07	8	—
G. A. Kirwan	25	11	7	6*	22	5.50	40	887	22.17	2	—
E. A. McDermott	59	54	6	108	1321	27.52	—	—	—	18	—
D. A. Vincent	8	8	—	44	133	16.62	—	—	—	1	—
S. B. McMullen	1	1	—	9	9	9.00	—	—	—	—	—
R. H. C. Waters	16	14	1	104	368	28.30	—	—	—	5	1

*Not out.



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Clontarf Batting Averages

Career	Matches	Innings	Not Out	Most	Runs	Average	100s	50s
R. H. C. Waters	46	45	5	120*	1496	37.40	2	9
N. C. Mahony	195	197	21	110*	5904	33.54	4	41
L. C. Jacobson	149	147	11	103*	4023	29.58	4	17
D. A. Vincent	60	58	1	107	1658	29.08	2	5
W. J. Moynan	121	119	20	122	2745	27.72	3	12
E. A. McDermott	383	363	30	130*	8909	26.75	9	45
J. B. Bunworth	292	282	37	128*	6539	26.68	7	31
J. D. Caprani	141	144	23	119*	3027	25.01	1	20
N. P. Grier	354	318	31	103*	6670	23.24	3	33
S. B. McMullen	190	182	14	98	3510	20.89	—	17
M. A. Carroll	209	190	20	124	3342	19.65	2	10
C. G. Daly	103	87	15	62*	1361	18.90	—	4
G. J. Morgan	137	134	8	104*	2360	18.73	2	7
F. J. Carroll	400	316	73	109	4515	18.58	2	7
B. G. Bergin	142	131	26	76	1943	18.50	—	5
E. N. Seymour	79	75	3	80	1303	18.09	—	7
J. M. Nolan	256	223	63	67*	2895	18.09	—	5
E. d'H. Dexter	155	147	15	94	2372	17.96	—	11
A. W. D. Spence	245	216	23	74*	3302	17.10	—	10
V. A. Kelly	88	78	13	82	1073	16.50	—	4
L. P. Hughes	341	270	37	103	3743	16.06	1	9
J. W. Hill	203	187	31	119	2481	15.90	1	3
G. M. Carroll	128	114	13	72*	1518	15.02	—	1
J. G. Aston	77	78	3	61*	1125	15.00	—	3
D. A. Sweeney	108	106	7	77*	1427	14.41	—	4
D. F. Fitzgerald	164	136	32	81*	1466	14.09	—	7
G. A. Tyndall	105	99	9	82	1181	13.12	—	3
J. J. Ledwidge	163	150	20	69	1699	13.06	—	3
P. J. Bourke	194	173	9	91	1954	11.91	—	1
T. J. Dunne	115	108	14	68*	1016	10.80	—	3
V. F. Savino	182	133	28	50*	1127	10.73	—	1
A. R. White	215	197	31	87*	1709	10.29	—	2
E. H. Bodell	350	231	57	49	1720	9.88	—	—
C. P. Stuart	144	127	12	73	1112	9.66	—	1

*Not out.

Qualification: 1000 runs in Senior League and Cup competitions since 1920.

Best Recorded Clontarf Batting Partnerships

Wkt.	Year	Runs Opponents	Batsmen
1st	1972	151 Leinster	J. B. Bunworth — E. A. McDermott
2nd	1985	218* The Hills	D. A. Vincent — N. P. Grier
3rd	1968	137 Leinster	J. B. Bunworth — M. A. Carroll
4th	1977	112 Railway Union	N. P. Grier — M. J. Owens
5th	1982	163* Dublin University	N. P. Grier — J. M. Nolan
6th	1970	89 Pembroke	A. W. D. Spence — F. J. Carroll
7th	1967	106 Merrion	J. B. Bunworth — F. J. Carroll
8th	1970	100 Y.M.C.A.	A. W. D. Spence — F. J. Carroll
9th	1970	80 Y.M.C.A.	F. J. Carroll — E. H. Bodell
10th	1960	88* Pembroke	V. F. Savino — J. A. Bell

*Unfinished.

Centuries Scored by Clontarf Players up to 1985

E. A. McDermott	9
J. B. Bunworth	7
L. C. Jacobson	4
N. C. Mahony	4
N. P. Grier	3
W. J. Moynan	3
F. J. Carroll	2
M. A. Carroll	2
G. J. Morgan	2
R. H. C. Waters	2
D. A. Vincent	2
H. R. Aston	1
J. D. Caprani	1
T. K. Gleeson	1
J. W. Hill	1
L. P. Hughes	1
R. T. Ruddock	1

Clontarf Marchant Cup Winners

Marchant Cup	Average
1930	37
1945	39
1948	70
	(Played also with Dublin University)
1952	59
1959	49
1968	61
1978	56

Clontarf Bowling Averages

	Career	Matches	Wickets	Runs	Average	5 wkts in innings
G. A. Tyndall	1923-34	105	148	1488	10.05	8
E. N. Seymour	1922-31	79	129	1333	10.33	8
S. A. Martin	1932-35	38	108	1224	11.33	6
J. G. Aston	1920-28	77	155	1795	11.58	8
W. C. Pemberton	1925-50	94	264	3190	12.08	21
J. J. Ledwidge	1920-34	163	211	2661	12.61	11
G. A. Kirwan	1961-85	257	699	8927	12.77	42
J. M. Sweeney	1925-31	65	102	1340	13.13	5
J. W. Hill	1935-60	203	609	8624	14.16	48
T. J. Dunne	1931-44	115	191	2706	14.17	15
R. J. Furley	1936-63	86	179	2561	14.30	11
A. R. White	1920-43	215	108	1577	14.60	5
E. H. Bodell	1944-76	350	786	11699	14.88	48
L. P. Hughes	1959-85	341	571	8869	15.53	24
D. C. O'Kelly	1965-79	76	121	1956	16.16	6
M. R. Bunworth	1968-85	207	354	6103	17.24	14
D. F. Fitzgerald	1933-52	164	214	3819	17.84	12
M. J. Delaney	1965-82	202	310	5744	18.52	13
V. F. Savino	1953-69	182	217	4080	18.80	5
N. P. Grier	1966-85	354	304	6012	19.77	13
P. M. Murphy	1968-77	87	100	2101	21.01	3
L. B. McMahon	1931-49	152	130	2948	22.67	4

Qualification: 100 wickets.

Clontarf O'Grady Cup Winners

O'Grady Cup		Wickets	Average
1948	N. B. Hool (Played also with Dublin University)	41	11
1950	J. W. Hill	36	11
1963	L. P. Hughes (Dublin University & Malahide)	49	7
1982	G. A. Kirwan	82	11
1983	G. A. Kirwan	67	8

Wicketkeeping

	Career	Matches	Caught	Stumped	Total
F. J. Carroll	... 1957-85	400	324	97	421
P. J. Bourke	... 1936-52	194	73	82	155
J. A. Bell	... 1953-66	121	68	20	88
C. P. Stuart	... 1921-42	144	51	22	73
L. C. Jacobson	... 1944-60	149	47	11	58

Qualification: 50 victims.

Catches

	Career	Matches	Catches
N. P. Grier	... 1966-85	354	127
E. A. McDermott	... 1963-85	383	113*
J. B. Bunworth	... 1962-82	292	87
J. M. Nolan	... 1968-85	256	84
V. F. Savino	... 1953-69	182	77
M. A. Carroll	... 1953-77	207	72
L. P. Hughes	... 1959-85	341	69
J. D. Caprani	... 1937-51	141	61
J. J. Ledwidge	... 1920-34	163	53
G. J. Morgan	... 1930-42	137	53
L. B. McMahon	... 1931-49	152	53
A. R. White	... 1920-43	215	52
E. H. Bodell	... 1944-76	350	51

Qualification: 50.

*Includes 10 catches as wicketkeeper.

1000 Runs and 100 Wickets by Clontarf Players

	Runs	Wickets
E. H. Bodell	1720	786
T. J. Dunne	1016	191
D. F. Fitzgerald	1466	214
N. P. Grier	6670	304
J. W. Hill	2481	609
L. P. Hughes	3743	571
J. J. Ledwidge	1699	211
V. F. Savino	1127	217
E. N. Seymour	1303	129
J. G. Aston	1125	155
G. A. Tyndall	1181	148
A. R. White	1709	108



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Grub's Up, Folks

Peter Thew

Now that the committee have agreed to provide food in the bar, their eyes have been opened to the potential for fat profits from this source. Properly managed, they believe that the sale of food will generate a great deal of profit in its own right. But they further believe that it will allow the speedier absorption of alcohol which, in turn, should account for increased revenue in the bar.

Recognising the high culinary expectations of the membership, the committee are anxious to offer the widest possible range of food. In order to maximise the choice available it is proposed that the new cricket pavilion be offered on the market for a series of food franchises. Negotiations have commenced with a number of interested parties and the committee are pleased to announce that contracts have already been drawn up in several cases. I can reveal exclusively that:

1. The winter bar ("the home of hockey") has been franchised to McDonald's. This means that instead of lying idle during the summer it will provide a source of continuous income for the club. In addition, McDonald's have agreed to provide teas for all schoolboy fixtures. This will probably require an upward adjustment of the match levy for schoolboys.

2. The two men's dressing rooms will be converted into a Chinese restaurant. This will offer players a more substantial bill of fare after matches. As an additional experiment the restaurant franchise holders will provide teas for the fourth and fifth teams. Teas for the sixths will only be available on a take-away basis. In order to minimise the running costs of the Chinese restaurant, the muckheap at the bottom of the car park will be terraced and turned into a small paddy field. Deryck Vincent (the small Paddy) will be put in charge. This will provide a continuous source of cheap rice for the restaurant and will greatly improve its profitability.

3. Trust House Forte have taken a franchise on the ballroom. Frankie O'Carroll and her team are at present undergoing *cordons bleus* retraining. When this is completed the ballroom will provide a four-star restaurant service six nights a week. (The seventh is sacred to the disco.) The restaurant will also provide lunch and tea for the first XI from 1 August next. In order to accommodate the 2½ hour luncheon interval and the 1 hour tea interval, Clontarf's Wiggins Teape home fixtures will commence at 8.30 a.m.

The executive committee are of the opinion that these developments will put the club onto a firm financial footing, and they are also satisfied that the arrangements as negotiated will receive the wholehearted support of members. An extraordinary general meeting will be held in the pavilion at 8.00 p.m. on 31 June next to ratify the proposals.

Finish The Job

Concrete may not be everyone's favourite surface, but at least it is better than wet mud. To that extent, we all have reason to be thankful that the verandah outside the new cricket pavilion has at last been resurfaced.

The obvious problem that remains, however, is that the rest of the verandah — running in front of the old pavilion and down to the car park — also needs to be resurfaced. The need is not as pressing as was the case with the new area, but it still looks terribly shabby.

The reason that the whole place was not resurfaced in one fell swoop is that, while the new area was the responsibility of the cricket club alone, the old area comes under the aegis of the joint committee of the two clubs. It is the joint committee who will foot the bill for any further resurfacing.

The message, therefore, is clear. It is up to our representatives on the joint committee to press for the work to be done. Of course, the counter-argument can be heard already: "sure, it's not too bad" or "sure, it'll do for the time being". (The latter remark usually envisages the time being as running comfortably into the next century.)

It'll do-ism is one of the most debilitating qualities in Irish life. We should drive it body and bones out of the affairs of Clontarf Cricket Club. All the things in the club of which we are proud are the product of a contrary attitude: the pursuit of excellence. Let us apply *that* principle in all we do — starting with the rest of the verandah. We should do it for our own self-respect as a club, because we hate second-best and not because we feel we have to tart the place up for the visit of the MCC or for any other such reason.

The message to the joint committee is simple: finish the job.

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

On the same general tack, the committee agreed at the start of the season to put some money aside to further improve the appearance of the ground. The idea was that barrels of flowers and bedding plants would be placed at different points around the boundary. The expensive item in all this is the barrels, but fortunately a source of supply was found within the club. The barrels arrive from time to time in twos and threes and it is up to the club to arrange for the filling of them. We started off with three small barrels, which were filled with geraniums and other plants and placed in front of the scoreboard for the Limavady match.

The following week there was a storm and the plants were badly windblown but, happily, they survived. They were on the mend when some swine — some low, sneaky, thieving swine — stole two of the barrels. Just made off with them, like that. By the time this editorial appears, it is hoped that there will be three new barrels of flowers in position on the ground, together with six hanging baskets outside the pavilion. Let's persevere in our efforts to improve the club in every way, despite the depredations of sneak thieves and savages.

One final thing: you, the thief, may now be reading this. In which case you need to be told that you are a loathsome little toad, unfit for the society of decent people. May all the weeds in Ireland hold a convention in your rotten garden.

Clontarf

[as originally selected]

1. D. A. Vincent
2. B. Bergin
3. N. P. Grier
4. E. A. McDermott*
5. P. Prendergast
6. A. McClean
7. F. J. Carroll†
8. L. P. Hughes
9. G. A. Kirwan
10. M. R. Bunworth
11. E. McTiernan

Extras

TOTAL

FALL OF WICKETS

1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/
6/ 7/ 8/ 9/

BOWLING

O M R W

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Extras _____

* Captain † Wicketkeeper

Trinity

[probable selection]

1. M. Rea
2. D. Strong
3. M. Nulty
4. D. O'Neill
5. H. Prior
6. P. Clinch
7. L. Sheahan
8. E. Crawford
9. C. Magee*
10. J. Hourihan†
11. D. Varian

Extras

TOTAL

FALL OF WICKETS

1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/
6/ 7/ 8/ 9/

BOWLING

O M R W

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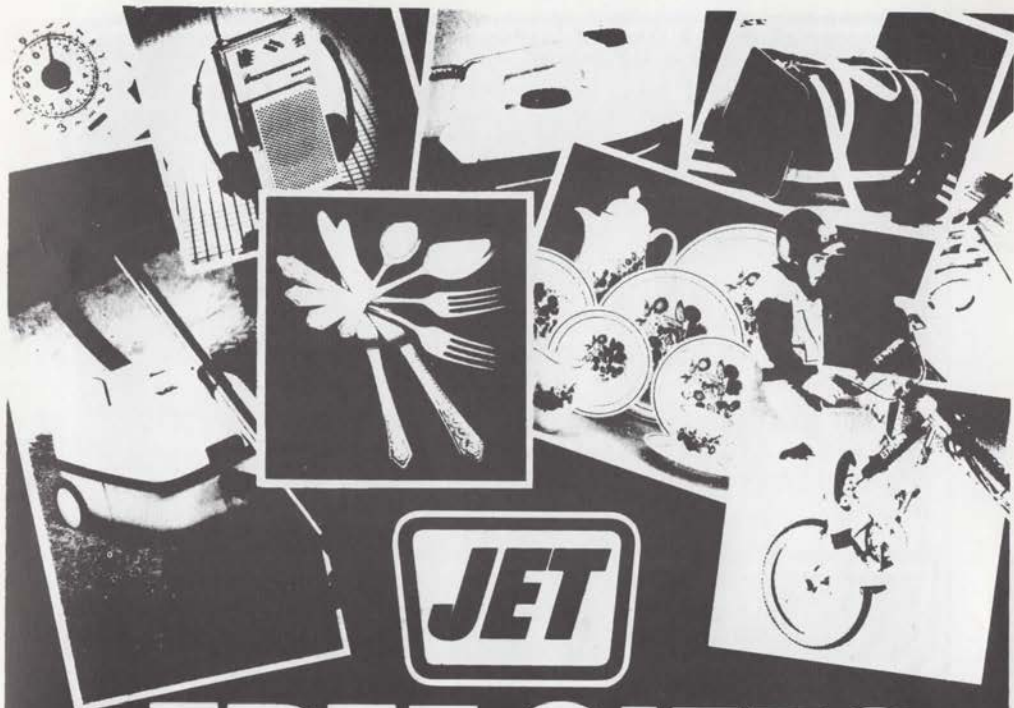
The Sting

All of us in the Chatterbox office are heavily insured. And where do our premiums go? Into the pockets of the lunatic spendthrifts who work in insurance, that's where. Read this. During the recent Senior 3 game at home against Pembroke, **Johnny "I'm Not Leaving" Daly** stung various members of the thirds by taking bets against his making 50. He went on to make 58 not out in fine style. His winnings totalled £22, and who was the chief victim? Step forward **Gerry "Beamer" Ring**, whose pocket was £10 lighter as a result of this foolishness. Moreover, **Cian Murnane** was all set to drop £20, but he fuked the bet at the last minute. The thought that anyone could even *contemplate* such extravagance fills an old gentleman like myself with despair for the future. And what do Ring and Murnane have in common, apart from being barely out of nappies? That's right, they both work in insurance. Clearly, they are ridiculously overpaid. Their companies should slash their salaries by at least 30 per cent and pass on the saving to hard-pressed policy holders.

I was bargain-hunting at a liquidator's sale last week when who should I bump into only my old mate **John "Sack 'em All" Teeling**, who told me that he had just been subbed in to play for the fifths against Belvedere in Cabra. "I haven't played in Cabra since I was a kid", he told me. "I captained the under-12s there one day when we were bowled out for a total of five runs!" Among the batsmen who contributed handsomely to this achievement were **Enda McDermott**, **Brian Bunworth** and **Keith Lewis**. John was always such an inspiring captain.

It's true what they say: there really *is* nothing new under the sun. Take your average old bachelor, marry him off at last, and — hey presto — what do you get? Quite right: a matchmaker. Chatterbox has learned with sadness that poor **J. B. Bunworth** has succumbed to this temptation. Barely back from the honeymoon, he has been nagging **Lennie Dexter** to the effect that he should get himself a nice little girl and settle down. He has even nominated a candidate from among the ladies' section for Lennie's consideration. The question now is: what will Lennie do? Will he invite the young lady in question around the back of the pav to discuss the meaning of life? Or will he follow the example set for so many years by J. B. himself, and let the hare sit? Only time will tell, but rest assured that the Chatterbox staff will be on hand to keep all their readers up to date on this potentially steamy saga.

I see that **Kieran "Er, 'Scuse Me" Gleeson** has been banished from behind the stumps on the second XI. This is an outrageous way to treat one of the great old workhorses of the club. Gleeson is no ordinary wicketkeeper, as we *cognoscenti* realise. For example, when he makes a stumping, he doesn't just flick off the bails like one of these pooftah keepers you see on television: he uproots all three stumps in a great swirl of muck and timber. And despite a heroic performance behind the sticks in the seconds' opening match of the season, not to mention that he is the inaugural president of Wicketkeepers Anonymous, what thanks does he get? None at all. It breaks my heart to see the poor old codger standing there disconsolately at slip. Can nothing be done for this man?



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Clontarf 3rd XI, 1960, under the captaincy of Tom Prior.

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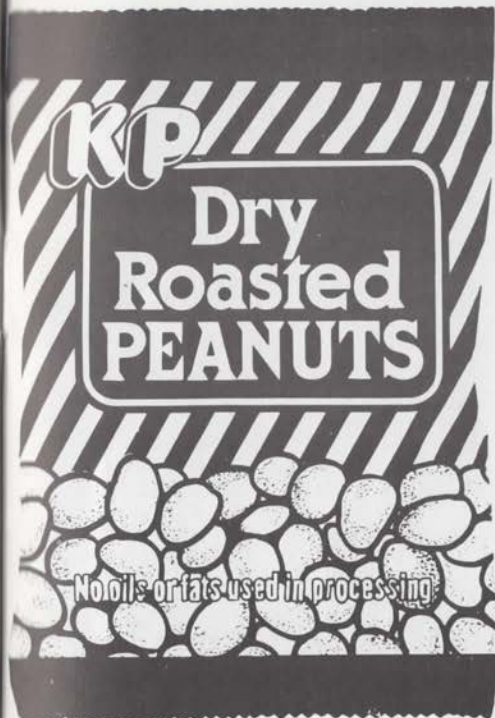
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Clontarf 5th XI, 1960, under the captaincy of Donal O'Sullivan.

1985 - The Year It Rained and Rained

Cricketers talk more than most people about the weather, and most people talk about it a lot. But seldom has there been a summer like 1985 to get cricket lovers moaning. The weather was generally rotten, but it seemed to save its worst assaults for weekends. The result: increased frustration and bad temper among players and pavilion members alike. There was general agreement that 1985 was the worst summer ever. But was it?

An intriguing article by John Kitchin in the 1986 *Wisden* shows that, in England at any rate, last year was far from being the worst summer this century. Based on rainfall measurements taken in London, it calculated that there have been seven wetter summers than 1985. The 1950s, in particular, were disastrous. Rainfall levels in 1954, 1956 and 1958 were all higher than in 1985.

People quickly forget the wet summers. Long ago, according to the oldtimers, the sun always shone. But the weather in these islands is constantly uncertain: remembering the good times and conveniently forgetting the bad is no more than a recipe for sanity. Let's hope, at least, that 1986 — despite its dismal start — will turn out to be a year to remember with pleasure.

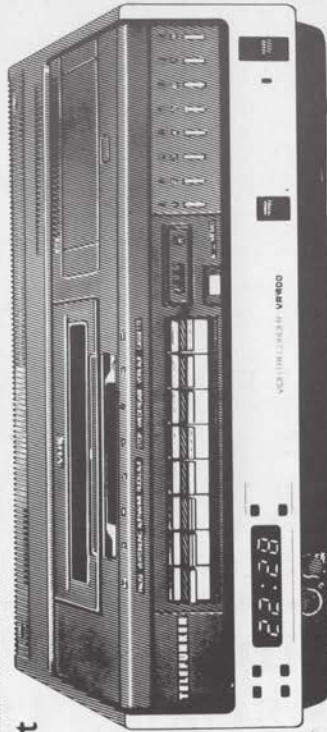
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The Clontarf tour to Bristol in 1985. The photograph above shows that the party contained two Irish internationals and – far more important – a distinguished guest from Phoenix. The photographs below are moody studies of Tom Byrne as a milkman, Mr O as Mr T, and the Mayor as himself (by special permission, Clint Eastwood Enterprises).



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The Price of Fame

Stella Downes

They say that writing articles can change your life and, having written just one, I would have to agree that this is so. All one has to do is choose your victims with discretion, and free drinks together with full membership can be yours for life. If, however, you decide to shun these feeble attempts at bribery, you will then be subjected to veiled threats, especially from the members who fear that they will feature prominently in the next issue. All this is very amusing, but writing these articles has one serious repercussion — people no longer fill me in on all the juicy pieces of scandal, as most people have something to hide and therefore fear the wrath of the pen. Rumours have reached me, despite the communications blackout, of hunched male shadows sporting white loincloths darting furtively up and down the darkened corridors outside the ladies' changing rooms. We can only hope that it is merely hot showers that these lost souls are seeking: if not, please let us know, as co-operation between the two clubs is our aim!

There are some old-fashioned members of the club who believe that a lady's place is certainly not at a men's cricket match and have found some rather condescending names for the female supporters. Surely they must realise that to play a game, one must have an interest in it and therefore enjoy watching it. We don't have such obvious ulterior motives as they imagine. They should know, however, that we make as many comments about their trousers as they do about our short skirts and the sight of flared trousers flapping gently in the balmy Clontarf breeze is a source of amusement to many. We do, of course, feel concern when a player is injured and when the gruesome twosome were both injured in a recent match, sympathy oozed in the bar. This was lapped up by the two brave martyrs — one of whom actually took a needle and thread and dealt effectively with the problem of flared trousers. These very trousers were almost the death of one of the ladies' coaches who, having come on as substitute wearing them, swore after the match that he had run as fast as the trousers allowed him to!

The season is young yet and there have been few matches played. The second and third XIs are both through to the second round of their cup competitions — the latter without having to hit a ball. At the time of going to press the first XI are preparing for their opening defence of the cup. We are very lucky this year to have so many members, both new and experienced, as many clubs seem to be having problems fielding teams.

Travelling to matches has always been a problem but this year there are many cars in the car-park sporting L plates and these new drivers offer lifts to all. Acceptance of these offers can be a hair-raising experience with one particular driver questioning the sanity and parentage of every other driver on the road.

The ladies are currently preparing for the annual 6-a-side competition, to be played while this article is with the printers. We are sure that this afternoon will be as enjoyable as ever and we hope that the weather will not let us down as it did last year. A disco is also to be held preceding this tournament so we trust that heads will have had time to clear between Friday and Sunday. A full report from these events — with all the gossip — will appear in the next programme.

These Young Fellas

God, the firsts are desperate this year. The worst I ever saw, and I'm tellin' you, friend, I seen a lot of rubbish in this place over the years.

There is no doubt that the results have been most disappointing.

Do you know, there's something the matter with these young fellas.

I take it you are referring to ...

Exactly, Prendergast and McClean wrecking themselves in that twenty-over match. Are they fit at all or what?

It was most unfortunate for poor Prendergast. He had to sit an important examination the next day.

Yeah, and it just so happens that the night before he banjoes his writing hand. Isn't it a great excuse to have: "I can't write at all, sir, I burst meself playin' cricket." I mean, if it was parachute jumping or bullfighting he was at, you might believe him, but cricket! Sure it's only a game for owl wans.

Still, he did injure himself severely.

Do you know what they did for him in the exam? Put him in a room by himself *with a secretary* so that he could dictate his answers to her. Begod, there's some very queer people above in the university. I'd hate to think any daughter of mine would be locked up with your man for three hours.

Have you seen the other fellow recently?

Who? McClean? Sure you hear him about a half a mile before you see him. The cut of him after that twenty-over match: he was wearin' odd shoes. I think he wants to be Taoiseach.

He had a nasty ankle injury. That explains the footwear.

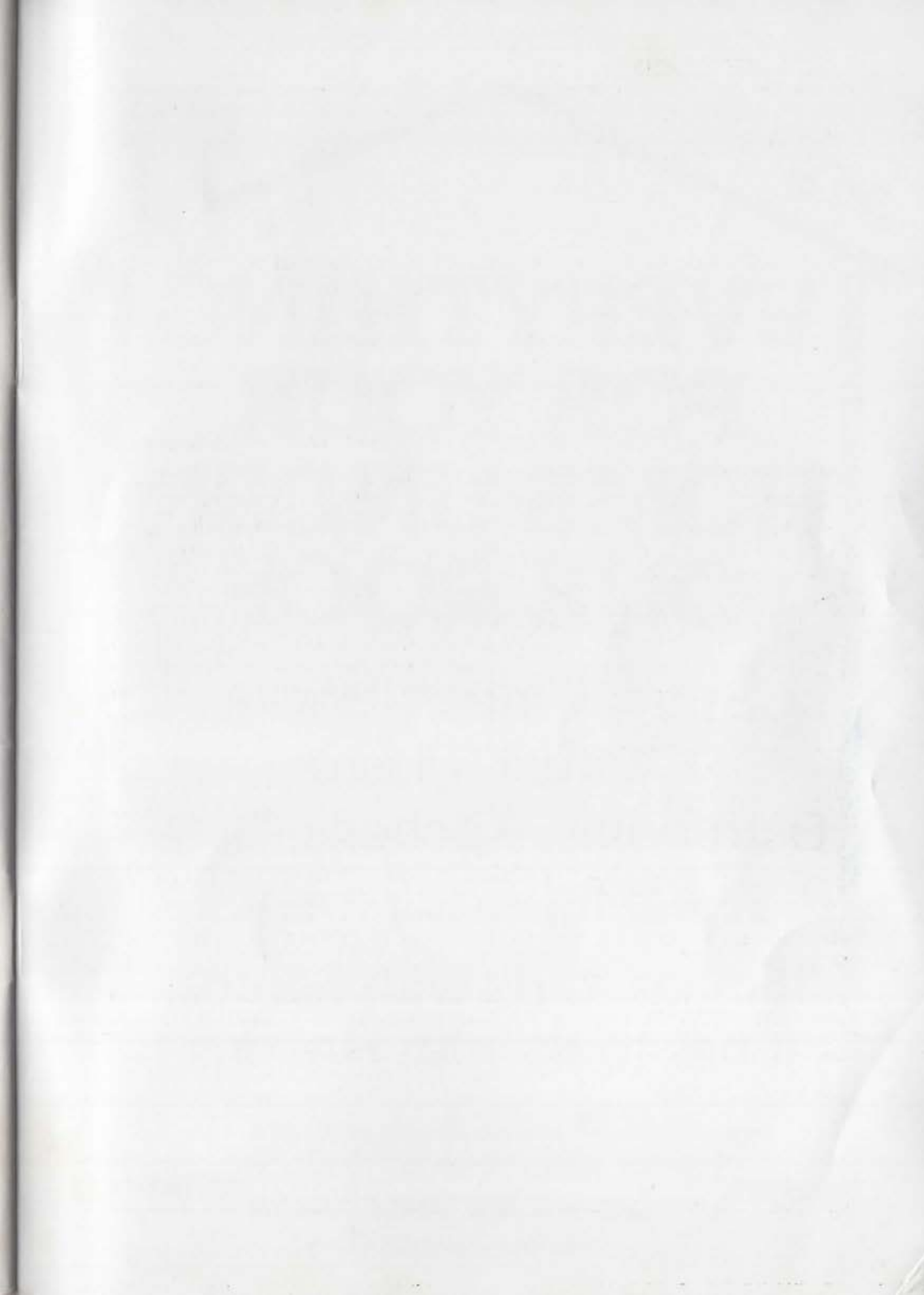
Is that so? Well, anyway, he was a dead ringer for Garret: odd shoes and never stopped talkin'. And he's got his batting average down nearly level with the inflation rate ...

Oh, that really is most unfair. Alan is a player of immense promise. And now he's fit again.

Well I'll tell you this much. If he wants to fulfil the promise, he'd better stay fit, and the same goes for the other fawsthook. 'Cause if they don't, the scene will be all set for ...

Oh, of course, a dramatic moment in the history of the club!

Exactly. The Return of the Nolan.





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