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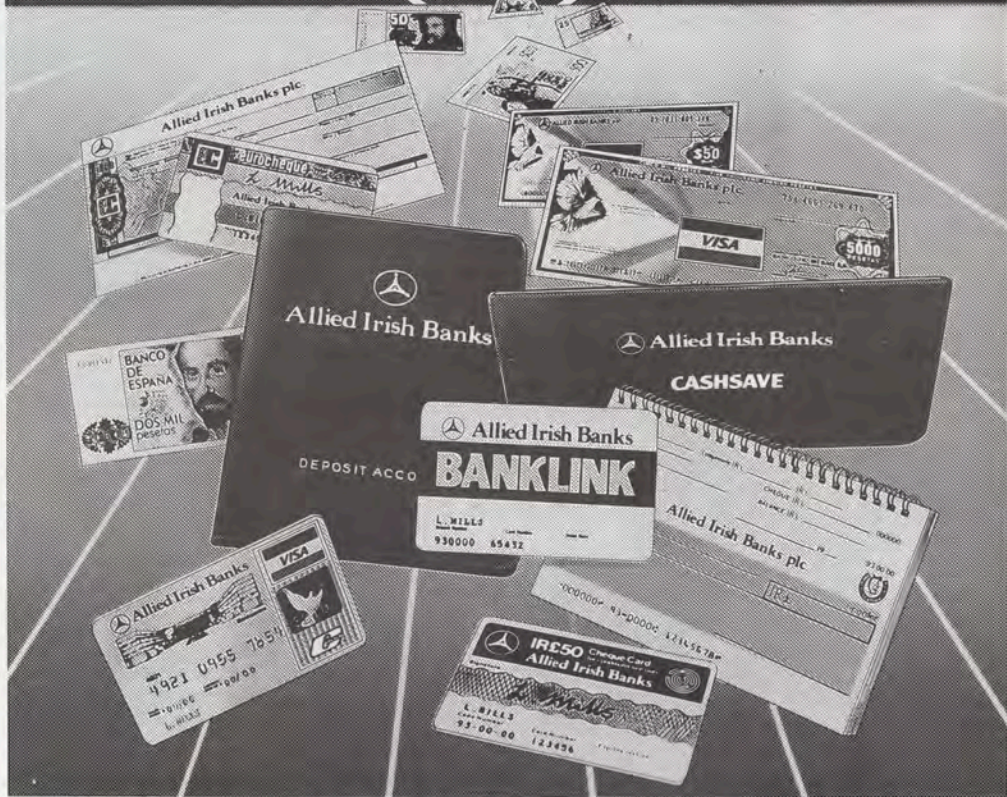
**Match
Programme
1987**

**SPORTSGEAR CUP
Clontarf v Trinity
Saturday 4 July**

**Castle Avenue
Clontarf
Dublin 3**



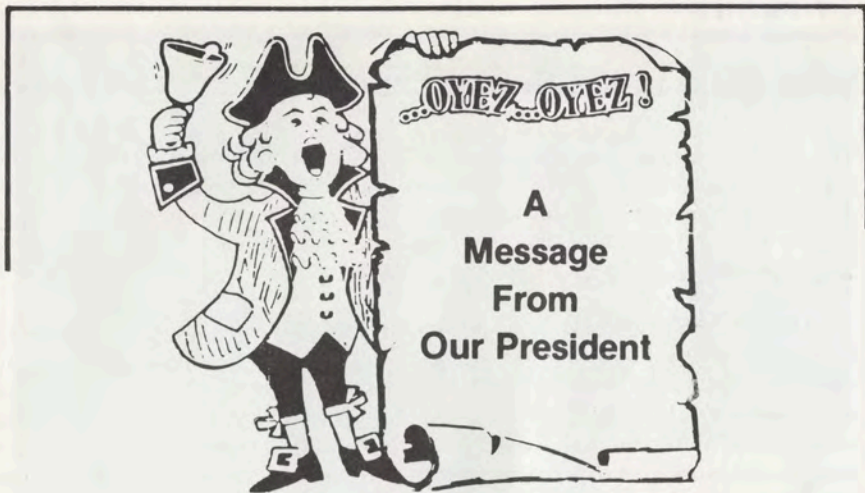
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Once again the excitement of the Cup!

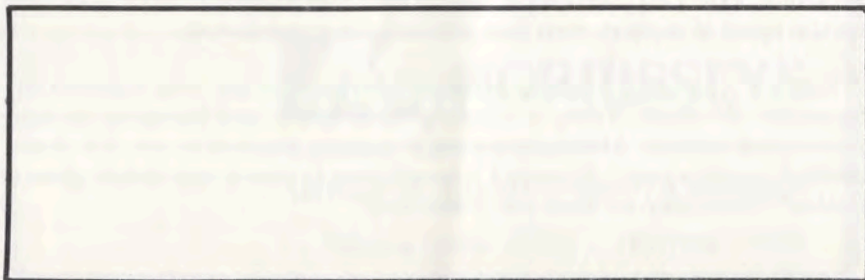
A home draw for Clontarf in the semi-final against Trinity — the present leaders of the Belvedere Bond senior league with 191 points — should make for a great game. The Trinity league points total would have been 195 but for the intervention of the league committee who deducted four penalty points from the College side for slow bowling rate. One hopes that they are not beaten for the title by four points or less in the long run.

It is good to see Trinity doing so well. They showed a marked improvement in 1986 and have sustained this in 1987 by heading the league from an early date. Now they have followed this up by fighting their way to today's semi-final.

As I wrote last season, I feel sure that the credit for a lot of Trinity's improvement is due to Noel Mahony — a Clontarf man of course — who has coaxed the very best out of a well balanced and talented side and motivated them to a large extent to play well together as a team.

Trinity and Noel Mahony: you are very welcome to Castle Avenue. I look forward to a good close game played, I hope, in fine weather.

J. A. McMANUS
4 July 1987.



What Next in the Senior League?

Alan Tuffery

The Senior League competition is in a mess. The regulations have been tinkered with until they are neither sensible nor intelligible. Worse still, they are sometimes changed in mid-season and the changes are not properly passed on to players and officials. This article sets out my personal view of the regulations and how they came to be in their present state.

As I see it, the troubles stem from the unwise decision a couple of years ago to allow play to continue on a Monday evening if a match is affected by the weather. The subsequent changes have all been directed towards avoiding invoking that rule. Thus, last year saw the introduction of increased playing hours and penalties for slow over rates. This year a rule was brought in to allow play to continue after the stipulated finishing time. Let's look at each of these regulations in turn and see where they have led us.

Firstly, the extension of playing hours gave us playing sessions of 3¼ hours, which immediately led to an objection from the umpires' association that that was too long and put an unreasonable demand on umpires. This year's solution of a compulsory five-minute interval after 90 minutes' play is useless and universally disliked. (That the interval has been improperly waived in some matches does not reflect well on the umpires or captains involved, most of whom were present at a pre-season meeting at which the regulations were discussed in detail.)

Secondly, the introduction of a minimum over rate has become laughable. Not only is the regulation unintelligible (space does not allow quotation, but see page 46 of the *LCU Handbook*), but in mid-season it was put about that it will not apply except when a match is drawn. Thus a club with two last-ball 'ties' will be penalised while another, which bowled only 42 overs in almost three hours and lost, will not.

The third new regulation, which allows play to continue beyond the stated finishing time if the match has been affected by weather and if ten or fewer overs remain, caused confusion at the pre-season meeting between captains and umpires. So much so that phone calls were made from the meeting to the Secretary of the LCU. Perhaps it would be simpler to have a couple of umpires on the panel of mystery men that concocts these regulations.

Surely it is time for a return to Saturday afternoon cricket, which finishes on a Saturday afternoon. There is unlikely to be peace and harmony between players and officials when mid-season changes in regulations are not clearly notified to either party. Wouldn't it be pleasant to have a nice simple game of cricket? Please may we have our game back?



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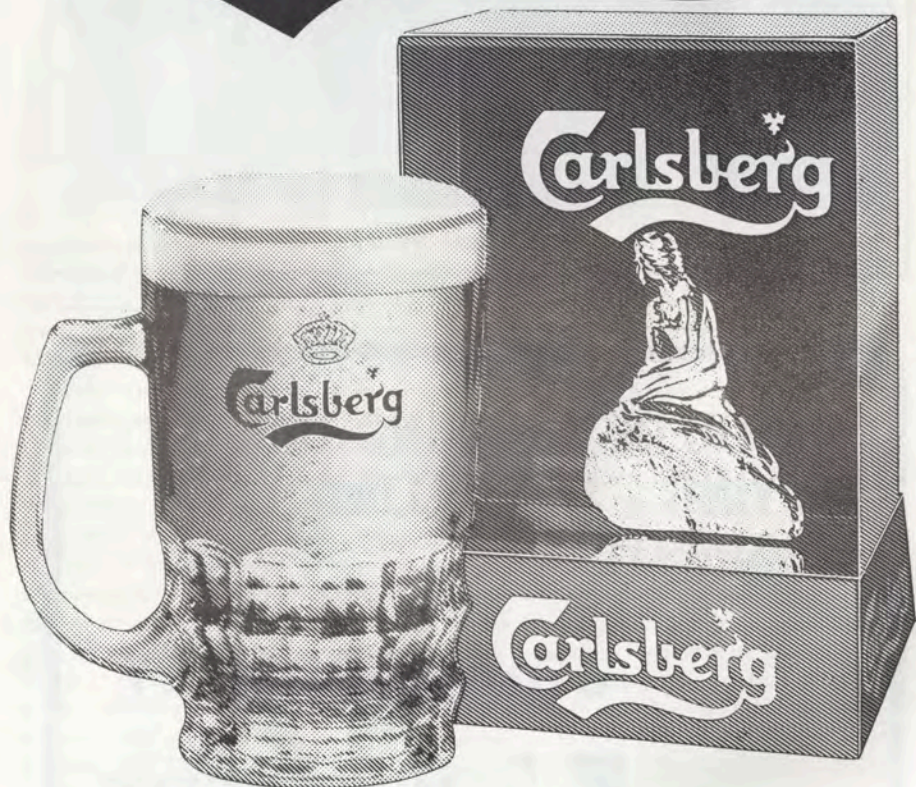
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HARDING CYCLES

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	7	9	1	36	155	19.37	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
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	1966-70	6	4	2	7*	10	5.00	9	169	18.77	1	—
J. B. Bunworth	1968-79	27	25	6	103*	390	20.52	—	—	—	9	—
M. R. Bunworth	1973-84	7	6	2	8	29	7.25	3	159	53.00	—	—
F. J. Carroll	1967-73	17	9	2	20*	96	13.71	—	—	—	17	1
M. A. Carroll	1966-69	3	3	—	16	27	9.00	—	—	—	—	—
C. G. Daly	1981-85	5	5	3	12*	30	15.00	—	—	—	5	—
M. J. Delaney	1968-72	5	—	—	—	—	—	6	107	17.83	—	—
N. P. Grier	1967-85	3	20	1	42	201	10.57	7	151	21.57	10	—
L. P. Hughes	1966-80	25	15	3	47	111	9.25	56	732	13.07	8	—
G. A. Kirwan	1966-85	25	11	7	6*	22	5.50	40	887	22.17	2	—
E. A. McDermott	1970-86	60	55	7	108	1323	27.56	—	—	—	18	—
D. A. Vincent	1983-86	11	11	—	52	253	23.00	—	—	—	4	—
S. B. McMullen	1966	1	1	—	9	9	9.00	—	—	—	—	—
R. H. C. Waters	1967-76	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
D. A. Vincent	77	75	3	107	2280	31.66	2	10
L. C. Jacobson	149	147	11	103*	4023	29.58	4	17
W. J. Moynan	121	119	20	122	2745	27.72	3	12
E. A. McDermott	403	380	33	130*	9342	26.92	9	48
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	371	335	32	103*	6950	22.93	3	34
S. B. McMullen	190	182	14	98	3510	20.89	17	17
M. A. Carroll	209	190	20	124	3342	19.65	2	10
C. G. Daly	103	87	15	62*	1361	18.90	—	4
F. J. Carroll	417	325	76	109	4679	18.79	2	7
G. J. Morgan	137	134	8	104*	2360	18.73	2	7
B. G. Bergin	161	147	28	76	2185	18.36	—	6
E. N. Seymour	79	75	3	80	1303	18.09	—	7
E. d'H. Dexter	155	147	15	94	2372	17.96	—	11
J. M. Nolan	258	225	63	67*	2904	17.92	—	5
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	356	279	39	103	3833	15.96	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. Burke	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: 100 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 1986

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	E. N. Seymour 37
1945	W. J. Moynan 39
1948	W. E. Haughton 70 (Played also with Dublin University)
1952	N. C. Mahony 59
1959	L. C. Jacobson 49
1968	J. B. Bunworth 61
1978	J. B. Bunworth 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	1961-86	277	755	9763	12.94	43
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	1959-86	356	587	9206	15.68	24
D. C. O'Kelly	1965-79	76	121	1956	16.16	6
M. R. Bunworth	1968-86	222	375	6557	17.48	15
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	1966-86	371	326	6493	19.91	14
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	... 1957-86	417	333	106	439
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	... 1966-86	371	136
E. A. McDermott	... 1963-86	403	116*
J. B. Bunworth	... 1962-82	292	87
J. M. Nolan	... 1968-86	258	85
V. F. Savino	... 1953-69	182	77
M. A. Carroll	... 1953-77	207	72
L. P. Hughes	... 1959-86	356	75
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 12 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	6950	326
J. W. Hill	2481	609
L. P. Hughes	3833	587
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



A very old photograph

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The Man who Bowled Bradman

J. B. Bunworth

When all else fails, there comes occasionally out of the recesses of our memories some snatch of conversation or story remembered which rescues a seemingly hopeless social situation. As our train wended its way westward on a broiling Sydney day my fellow umpire told me sadly that this day was the anniversary of his son's death. I must have mumbled appropriately for he continued to talk, telling me that his son had committed suicide some years previously. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, that one can say in such a situation and, as his composure weakened, I could see that he was mortified by his reaction to the story. Not a sound occurred between us for what seemed an age until, miraculously, the name Bradman began to seep out of a casual and long gone conversation. "You bowled Bradman once?" I said awkwardly. He looked at me, face flushed, and began to smile. It was a smile I was to see again, for those who bowled Bradman never forgot it. "I did", he said, "it happened many years ago".

He explained that, unlike other countries, it was not unusual to play against test and state players in local Australian club competitions. During the late 20s and early 30s Bradman had begun to amass an enormous amount of runs in the local grade competition and such was his precocious fame that it was quite common for thousands to attend where he was playing. "He was an extraordinary player, you know — quite beyond the scope of ordinary mortals" he said. With that he stood up and, in the way of many cricketers, began to expound on some of the great man's shots. "While I had played against him previously I had never actually bowled to him until this day" (naming the date, so clearly etched on his mind was the experience). With Bradman approaching yet another hundred, the skipper threw him the ball. "Well", he continued, "I was young, fit and eager and fancied my left arm spinners against anyone. The first three balls he hit for four through the covers so I changed my line and 'yorked' the next two deliveries in on his leg stump. Do you know what he did to those," he asked, and without waiting for a reply, went on — "He hit them both for four over the square leg umpire, wonderful shots of great power and deftness. Now, I had to change my tactics so I went over the wicket and decided to throw in a 'Chinaman'. For once didn't I pitch it perfectly outside the off stump. Bradman, spotting the spin stepped back to cut but was too late to stop the ball jackknifing venomously back onto his leg stump. For some moments, there was a hush, a sense of disbelief — then great whoops of delight from my own team and supporters."

Some hours later after a pleasant day's umpiring and a few cold beers we bade each other farewell. Boarding my train, I looked back and saw him smiling, pointing to his left hand. I made as if to mimic his long treasured 'Chinaman' and he smiled broadly. "Yes", I said to myself, "that is the hand that bowled the ball that bowled Sir Donald Bradman."

Get the Covers On

We in Clontarf are sometimes prone to self-congratulation. We like to remind ourselves that we have the best ground in the country, the best appointed pavilion, and some of the most talented young cricketers around. Not to mention our two bars, our garden and a scoreboard that glows in the dark. Sure, we know that there are still things to be done — like repairing the car park and providing proper seating on the verandah — but there is a widespread assumption that such shortcomings are being seen to (which assumption, in the case of the two items mentioned, is correct). In short, we get a bit pleased with ourselves from time to time.

This is all very well. We *have* a lot to be proud of and there is nothing wrong with legitimate pride in our own club and its achievements. The down side of this is, however, smugness and complacency. So before we succumb to their temptations we might turn our minds to a major deficiency in the club. We may have the best wickets in the country, but we have no effective means to cover them quickly and securely.

What about the four big, green covers, you may ask. Well, for a start, they leak. And even if they didn't, they are so heavy, awkward and cumbersome to manoeuvre that they seldom get used. How many times this season have we seen pitches uncovered on a Friday night, despite the fact that cricket is scheduled for the following day and the weather forecast is unpromising? Of course, failure to cover wickets in advance is due as much to organisational as to material problems: it is hardly beyond the wit of the executive committee to devise a system which places such responsibility firmly on the shoulders of specific people, who will then be called to account for any negligence in the matter. Still, the successful operation of any such system would be easier if getting the covers out required fewer bodies and less expenditure of puff.

Once play has begun and is interrupted by rain, the green covers are a dead loss. They simply cannot be got on in time. Now, this problem was realised when the covers were being made and to compensate the orange tarpaulin was purchased. Apart from the fact that it is a filthy, malodorous brute of a thing to manhandle in wet weather, it does its job quite adequately. When it can be found. One would think that, given the summer we have had so far, it would be placed at the top of the ground almost as a matter of course before each game. Right then, hands up anyone who has even *seen* the orange tarpaulin this year. Hmm, I thought so. . . .

The club will have to buy new, lightweight covers like everyone else is doing. The traditional objection to this course of action has been that the kids will wreck anything that is not built like an ironclad. Really? Are our brats notably more loutish than the brats in Leinster or Merrion? We need proper, non-leak covers that can be got on quickly and easily by a couple of people to each cover. For once, let's do what every other club is doing and when it's done perhaps then there will be some real substance to our claim to be the best.

Clontarf

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

Extras
TOTAL

FALL OF WICKETS

1/ 2/ 3/
6/ 7/ 8/

BOWLING

O M R W

Extras _____

• Captain (Wicketkeeper)

Trinity

1. P. Meehan
2. M. Rea
3. M. Nulty
4. D. O'Neill
5. A. Blair
6. J. McGrath
7. R. Davies
8. H. Prior
9. R. Moulton
10. C. Butler
11. L. Sheahan

Extras
TOTAL

FALL OF WICKETS

1/ 2 3
6 7 8

BOWLING

O M R W

Extras _____

Sunday Morning Apparition Shock Horror

Strong men fainted and women and children ran screaming out the gate last Sunday morning. They had beheld a sight so unnatural and grotesque that it may very well scar them for life. For there, in the nets, at 11 o'clock *ante meridian* on a peaceful Sunday, stood **Noel Grier** with a bat in his hand. **John Lyon** was so overcome that he had to be rushed by ambulance to The Beachcomber where he was transfused with four pints of Heineken. Following his discharge ("gone the time now, please") he was still too shocked to talk. Noel, on the contrary, was full of pep and he told the press afterwards that he couldn't understand what all the fuss was about. "It just means the start of summer time. The winter's over, lads", he quipped.

No one likes to see the elderly being insulted, put upon and generally humiliated, so it is distressing to have to report a particularly painful case. It arose from the famous shoot-out in the Downpatrick game when the captain of the club told **Fergus Carroll** that he would be *last* to bowl. Fergus was cut to the quick, and with good reason. For a start, he was already playing senior cricket before McDermott was potty trained and some deference is due to seniority. But wait, there's more. The same Gus Carroll has taken a hat-trick in senior cricket. As a bowler. Not many people know that. But it's true. I think it happened shortly after the Boer War — or maybe it was just before it; I'm not sure which. One or the other. Now I ask you: what would you do with a captain who did a thing like that? Answers on one side of the paper only, please. So strongly did Gus feel about the business that the poor old crock dragged himself up to the next executive committee meeting to register his protest in person. There was, I needn't tell you, a most unseemly row and some members of the committee were concerned lest word of this should leak out. However, the president, **J. A. ("Champagne Charlie") McManus** told all present not to worry on that score — that the secrecy of the executive was absolute and legendary.

The first club draw of the year took place on the evening of the Midsummer ball and turned out to be an even bigger fix than the Frank Bruno fight. The third prize was drawn by the captain of the club and won by the president of the club; the second prize was drawn by the president of the ladies club and won by the president of the ladies club; the first prize was drawn by the president of the club and won by the president-for-life of the Bar Room Rats. Nice, cosy, old pals act, eh? What about the workin' man (**Brendan Bergin**, for instance)?

Finally, a suggestion from **Dick Forrest** which I pass on free of charge and without comment to **L. Podge Hughes**. One evening recently, the sun shone warmly (you probably remember the evening). Dick surveyed the ground bathed in golden light and remarked: "Begob, Podger would would want to cover that wicket out there. It might get sunburned!"



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1986 Club Awards

OULTON CUPS

1st XI	GERRY KIRWAN	4th XI	JOHN O'DEA
2nd XI	BRIAN McNEICE	5th XI	BRIAN O'SULLIVAN
3rd XI	JOHNNY DALY	6th XI	JOHN CALDWELL
	Schoolboys		PAUL McCREADY

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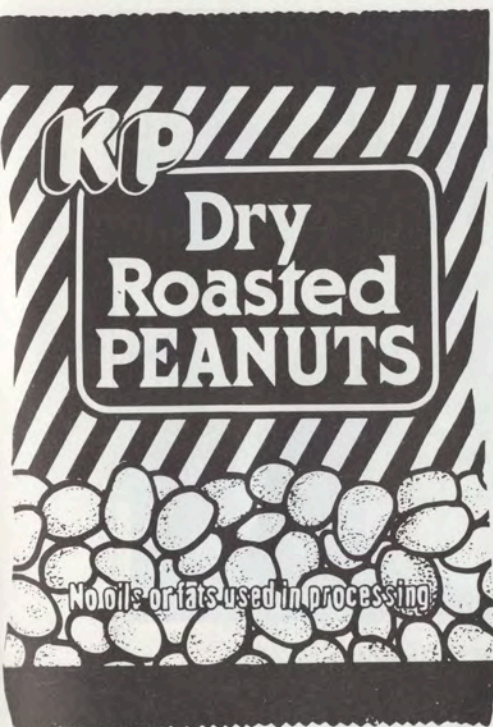
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Ran-Tan-Tan

Stella Downes

Has anyone noticed recently that a very peculiar thing is happening in the club? You could count the days of sunshine we've had recently on the fingers of one hand and yet half the members of Clontarf are sporting healthy tans.

It all began several weeks ago when a very brown-skinned lady was seen patrolling around the bar, sheaf of leaflets in hand. The content of these leaflets was discussed and much laughter was to be heard. They obviously contained an invitation of some kind as many people could be heard saying (rather unconvincingly) "There's no way I'd go there." However, many people sat and smiled thoughtfully at the floor, eyes gleaming, thinking of what it might be like. Rumour has it that many people took up this offer and there has been much furtive activity up around a house in Artane where miracles are being performed. Anxious white faces go in the door to be mysteriously replaced by smiling tanned ones twenty minutes later. We had thought that this was a purely female phenomenon (within the club) but I have been reliably informed that this is not the case.

The larger member of the gruesome twosome was so impressed by the outcome of these nocturnal visits to Artane that he promptly invited one tanned young lady to the Midsummer Ball. We can only wonder if he plans to visit this house of eternal sunshine himself!

This same member is obviously very fond of a tan as he was seen at a 2nd XI cup match molesting a lady, recently returned from Cyprus, while her husband tried frantically to concentrate on his fielding in this vital match.

The recent bad weather has played havoc with matches and has also had a dampening effect on the social scene in the club. Gone are the Sunday evening scandal sessions where we would all sit and discuss who was with whom the night before. Of course Bellybuster's disappearance from the scene has contributed to this as he no longer takes a car full of hopefuls to Leeson Street clubs on a Saturday night. Gone also is Schneider whose famous cry was "There's a fast car leaving for Dollymount soon" while waiting for someone to take him up on his offer.

Many people have either moved away or are officially "in love". Even Smiling Boy, whom we all presumed to be immune to Cupid's arrows, has been seen to smile dreamily at the object of his affections — a young lady from Leinster.

As this article goes to print some of our ladies (who make up almost half of the Irish squad) are in Belfast to play against the Australian ladies. We wish them the best of luck and hope that Stella's back will have recovered sufficiently for her to be included in the side to play in College Park.

Our Lady President had a very embarrassing experience at the Midsummer Ball. She was called up to pull a ticket in the Club Draw and promptly pulled her own. Exit, at full speed, one very red-faced President. Nice one, Joan!

A Guided Tour

Our premises have grown in recent years to the extent that they have now become a tourist attraction. Accordingly, the executive committee – in its insatiable greed for cash – has decided to hire a guide who will take visitors on a planned tour of the entire complex. At £1 a head (50p for O.A.P.s, children, the unwaged and members of the umpires' association) it represents good value for the punters and a solid source of revenue to the club. We now join a typical party of tourists as their bus turns in the gate.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are now entering the grounds of Clontarf Cricket and Football Clubs. We apologise straight away for the extremely bumpy conditions in the car park. This is due to ...

God damn it, Hiram, the bus is shakin' like a dawg passin' peach stones. What the hell is that driver doin'?

... the fact that for many years this car park was used as a building site. Happily, this interesting historical feature has been preserved as it was. The clubs have resisted the temptation to modernise. Notice, for example, the antique concrete mixer and mini-container tastefully located under the hedge ...

What is this dump, a museum? I cain't take any more goddam museums. I thought that dame said we were goin' to some kinda baseball park.

... and the charmingly casual manner in which litter is disposed of. Now, the main activities in this place may be judged from the fact that there are dozens of women, two bars but only one cricket ground ...

Hot dawg, Hiram. This is more like it. Beats that Noogrange place hands down.

... Now, at the moment, there is no cricket in progress ...

I'll bet there aint. Better things to be doin' indoors.

... but you will observe in the distance a lone figure driving a motor mower round in circles. This is the famous Podger, one of Ireland's finest national monuments. His upkeep is sponsored by Smithwicks ...

Hang on, I want to take a picture of that guy. I SAY, SIR, WOULD YOU MIND STAYING STILL FOR A MINUTE. What did he say? Hiram, can you figure out what that guy is saying to me? Why is he shaking his fist? Is he nuts or somethin'?

... as is that of the next figure you see, the statue of the unknown caretaker. You see him standing perfectly still on the members' verandah with one hand resting on a sweeping brush and the other posed delicately on his hip. He is reputed to be one of Ireland's famous moving statues, although doctors have testified that any perceived movement is an optical illusion. Nevertheless, some people firmly believe that this figure does really move from time to time ...

Hiram, that guy is really cool. I had no trouble at all gettin' his picture. He just stood there and looked at me.

... Now, ladies and gentlemen, it is time to go inside, where the first person we meet is this delightfully tanned lady in the snug fitting jeans ...

(To be continued, if you can stand it?)



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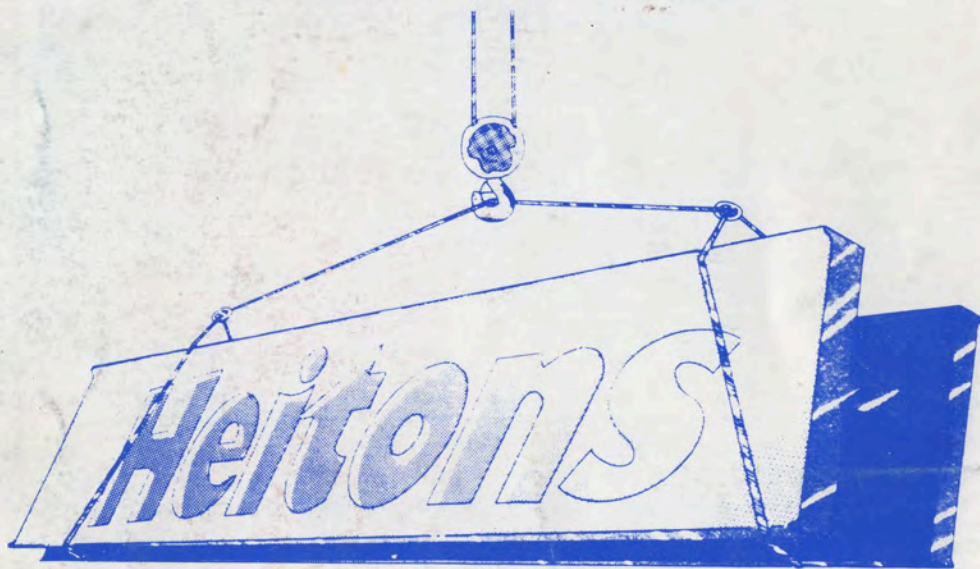
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