

**CLONTARF CRICKET  
CLUB**

**Match  
Programme  
1987**

**Sportsgear  
Leinster Senior  
Cup Final**

**Clontarf v YMCA**

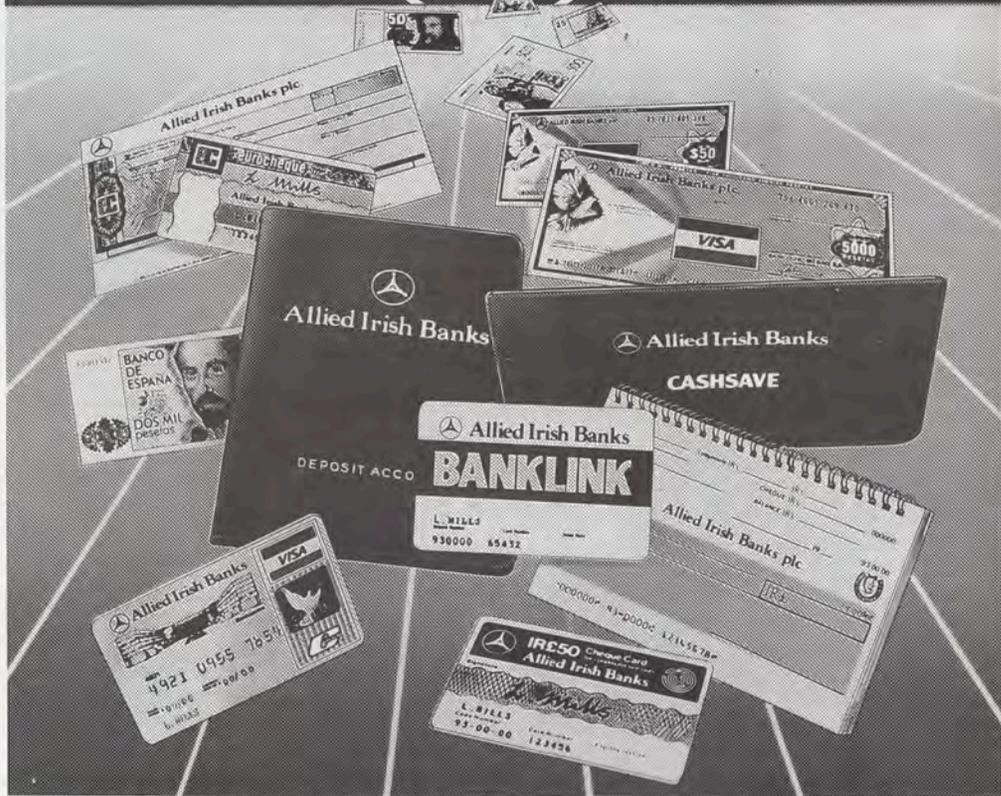
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## A Word From The Presidents

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As President of the host club in today's match, it gives me great pleasure to welcome everybody to Castle Avenue for what will, I hope, prove to be a memorable Senior Cup Final. This welcome extends to the players and supporters of both sides, visitors from other clubs and particularly to members of the public who have come along to see what is the showpiece of the Leinster cricket season. I hope that one and all have an enjoyable day, both in terms of the cricket and of the various other forms of entertainment which are being provided.

The Clontarf match programme has by now become an established feature of all Clontarf home matches. Because of the nature of today's match, however, certain changes have been made to the usual format. The constant elements in the season's programme — the advertisements, the photographs and the statistics — appear unchanged in their usual positions but most of the feature articles reflect the fact that this is no ordinary home match for us. The in-house gossip has been suspended for a week and the programme reflects the wider concerns of Leinster cricket.

Today's match — as well as the entire Senior Cup competition — is sponsored by Sportsgear Ltd. I think I speak for everyone in the game in expressing our gratitude to Sportsgear and their managing director Ronnie Byrne for their generosity.

J. A. McManus  
*President Clontarf C.C.*

History records that the Battle of Clontarf was fought in 1014 but a much more important battle takes place at Clontarf today between Northsiders and Southsiders as Clontarf and YMCA compete for honours in the Sportsgear Leinster Senior Cup Final.

YMCA, led by Ian Burns, will be endeavouring to take this trophy back across the toll bridge to Claremont Road for the second season and no doubt Clontarf, led by Enda McDermott, will be planning to keep it in Clontarf and so add to their last success in 1969.

The battle will be fought in a good spirit of competition and my wish is that a great game between two very competitive sides will give spectators and supporters a bumper day of cricketing talent.

On behalf of YMCA C.C. and their supporters I thank Tony McManus, President Clontarf C.C., and his committee for the excellent organisation and the comprehensive arrangements made in the staging of this event.

The continued good health of the game in Leinster owes much to the interest and enthusiasm of the sponsors of the various competitions. It is therefore a particular pleasure to join with Tony McManus in thanking Sportsgear Ltd. for their support for the Leinster Senior Cup.

Have a good day!

Arthur Beatty  
*President YMCA C.C.*

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## Bigger and Better

The game of cricket is going from strength to strength in Ireland. Although still a minority interest sport, it has never been so popular. More and more people are turning to it and discovering it to be a game of wonderful contrasts, great subtlety and real excitement. As with so many things, we have the influence of television to thank largely for this development. The live broadcast of test matches and other major games in the English season give the Irish public — or at least that majority of them who now live in multi-channel land — the opportunity to see the world's greatest players in action. Nobody who has ever seen the incomparable Ian Botham batting at his best is ever likely to think again that cricket is a dull or boring game.

Nowhere is this growth in cricket's popularity more visible than in the numbers of youngsters who are embarking on careers in the game. There are now over thirty cricket clubs in the Greater Dublin area, some of them fielding as many as six adult sides as well as schoolboys' and ladies' sides. Here in Clontarf, for example, we have a total of thirteen sides from the men's 1st XI down to an under-11 schoolboys' team.

While these developments are all most encouraging, there is naturally still a lot of room for improvement. For a start, cricket standards in Leinster are generally inferior to those in Ulster. When Phoenix — the most consistently successful senior club over the past fifteen years — won the Schweppes All-Ireland cup last year, they were the first Leinster side to do so in the competition's five-year history. And this year, only one Leinster side remains in it at the semi-final stage.

There are many things that go to make a good cricket club and none is more fundamental than the quality of the surface on which the game is played. Bad wickets make for bad cricket. Ironically, it can sometimes be quite exciting cricket: a close, low-scoring game can be extremely tense. But it is bad in the sense that technical excellence, especially among batsmen, will never be developed if they play most of their cricket on treacherous and unpredictable wickets. It has to be said that too much Leinster cricket is still played on poor wickets. Clubs have a major responsibility in this regard. Too often in the past, scarce resources were thrown away on professional players by clubs whose overall fortunes were no better on the departure of the "hired gun" than at his arrival. How much wiser might it have been to spend the same money on ground development or coaching. These are absolute priorities for the future; already it is good to see the advances made in recent years by such clubs as Carlisle and Malahide. Equally, the introduction of artificial wickets is to be applauded as an entirely logical response to the genuine problems which some clubs have in producing grass wickets to a standard they themselves would desire. There has been much foolish moaning about artificial wickets in the past. It would be nice to hear no more on this subject. Artificial wickets — properly laid — are an extremely fair surface on which to play the game.

The prospects for Leinster cricket have seldom been better. It is now up to all the clubs to develop the great resources we have in a rational way.

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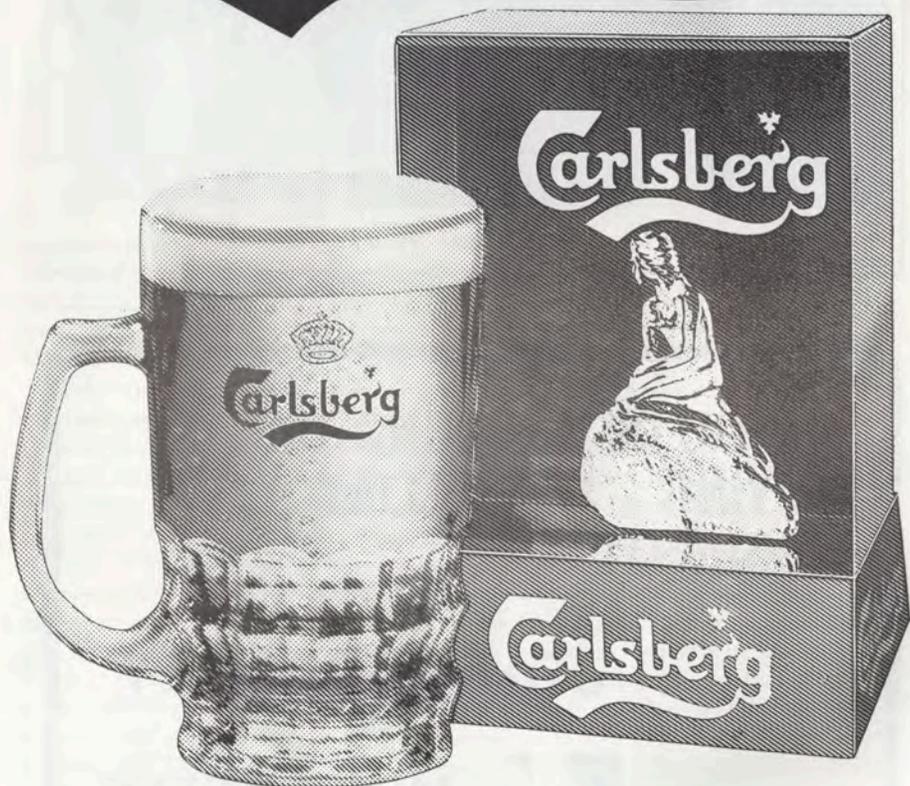
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# HARDING CYCLES

## 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
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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### 111 Not Out

Fergal Tobin

Clontarf Cricket Club was founded 111 years ago, in 1876. Its first ground was at the Fairview end of the Howth Road, and it did not move to Castle Avenue until 1896. For the next sixty-two years, the cricket pitch lay on the site of the present senior rugby pitch. Clontarf's first success came in 1898, when an innings victory over Old St. Mary's won the Junior Cup. This success was repeated in 1905, and three years later the club gained senior status.

In the meantime the original pavilion, which stood where the rugby stand now is, was replaced by the first structure to occupy the position of the present pavilion. This was opened in 1905, was all of 75 by 18 feet and cost £282. By the outbreak of the Great War, Clontarf was firmly established as a senior club and had already produced three Irish internationals. The first of these, S.H. Crawford, gained his sole cap while Clontarf was still a junior club; Ireland's opponents were London Counties, who included one W.G. Grace.

A 2nd XI was formed in 1921 and promptly won the Intermediate Cup three years later. In 1926 the Senior League was won for the first time, and the 1st XI maintained a strong presence in senior cricket for the rest of the '20s, being runners-up in the league in the next two years and coming third in 1929. The 1930s saw a further expansion with the formation of a 3rd XI in 1934 but the 1sts generally had an indifferent decade, although some of the finest players in the history of the club came through in those years, not least Noel Mahony, John Hill and Joe Caprani.

Clontarf won the Leinster Senior Cup for the first time in 1943 under the captaincy of Larry McMahon and the following year saw the arrival on the team of two future internationals, Louis Jacobson and Ernie Bodell. The late '40s were similar to the late '20s in that a very good side narrowly missed winning trophies. They were runners-up in the league in 1946 and in the cup in 1947. The following year was also fruitless, despite the side being able to turn out seven internationals and two interprovincials in the XI. But in 1950 things came right at last, and the senior cup was won under the captaincy of Joe Caprani. However, that was to be the last success for some time, as the fine side of the late '40s began to break up.

In 1947, the cricket and rugby clubs between them bought the grounds they had previously rented from the Vernon Estate. In 1958 an entirely new cricket ground — the one on which today's game takes place — was laid out and has, over the years, come to be regarded as the best in Ireland. The new era also saw the gradual coming together of that generation of players who have, from the late '60s to the present, dominated the 1st XI during its most successful years. Some are playing today, while others no longer playing senior cricket — such as J.B. Bunworth (the only Clontarf man ever to win the Marchant Cup twice), Johnny Nolan and Dickie Spence — are still active at junior level.

Finally, the great fire of 1982 forced the cricket and rugby clubs to put their heads together, sort out the many petty quarrels that had bedevilled them for years and launch us on a course for the 21st century by building the magnificent premises we now occupy.

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### Clontarf

**Deryck Vincent**, 22, left-hand bat. The outstanding Clontarf player of recent years. Seven caps for Ireland. His first 2,000 senior runs for Clontarf were scored in 68 innings, a club record.

**Brian McNeice**, 18, right-hand bat, right-arm seam bowler. Current captain of Irish Schools international XI. Excellent schools rugby scrum-half. One of the many young players who have improved greatly under the tutelage of the Clontarf coach, John Lyon.

**Noel Grier**, 36, left-hand bat, right-arm off-spin bowler. First CBS boy ever capped for Ireland at schools cricket (1969). Outstandingly attractive stroke-maker and the holder of the all-time number of catches for Clontarf.

**Enda McDermott**, 41, captain, left-hand bat. Ten caps for Ireland. The dominant player and personality of his generation in Clontarf. Variously known as "three-second fuse" and "the mighty atom". Has scored most centuries, most fifties and most runs of any player in the history of the club.

**Alan McClean**, 20, vice-captain, right-hand bat. The first holder of an All-Ireland football medal (won with Dublin minors in 1984) to play senior cricket. Nicknamed "Mighty" because of his bulk, he has robbed his captain of this sobriquet. Fine attacking batsman.

**Brendan Bergin**, 33, right-hand bat. Son of the legendary Stanley Bergin and husband of Kay Bergin, recently capped on the Irish women's cricket team. Club captain in 1985. Dogged and resourceful batsman.

**David Fleming**, 23, left-hand bat. Upwardly mobile stylist. Much improved batsman with an attractive repertoire of strokes. Fine outfielder. Good soccer and hockey player.

**Fergus Carrroll**, 46, wicketkeeper, left-hand bat. The doyen of the side and one of the finest wicketkeepers never to have been capped for Ireland: for fifteen years he was in the shadow of Ossie Colhoun. At his best, a tremendous forcing batsman. As a bowler, once took a hat-trick in senior cricket. A very fine cricketer.

**Podge Hughes**, 45, right-arm opening bowler, right-hand bat. Thirteen caps for Ireland. One of the finest pace bowlers ever to play for the club. An extravagant personality, widely loved and admired, he is now in the autumn of a senior playing career that has lasted almost thirty years. Truly a legend in his own lifetime.

**Gerry Kirwan**, 45, left-arm slow bowler. Two caps for Ireland. The most prolific attacking bowler in the club in recent years, he holds the record (82) for the most senior wickets in a season by any amateur player. The only Clontarf bowler ever to win the O'Grady Cup twice.

**Rossa Bunworth**, 35, right-arm opening bowler. Blessed with an outstanding action, on his day capable of bowling any batsman in Ireland with sheer pace. Genuine number 11 batsman.

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## THE PLAYERS

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### YMCA

The YMCA side will be selected from the following panel of twelve.

**Ian Burns**, 32, captain, right-hand bat, left-arm bowler. Has played for South Leinster at senior level, as well as for Ireland at schools level and for Leinster at under-19 level. Irish rugby international.

**Keith Bailey**, 23, vice-captain, wicketkeeper and right-hand batsman. Has played for Leinster under-19s and Irish schools. Gained his first full Irish international cap at Malahide recently against Sussex.

**Neil Bailey**, 20, right-hand bat, right-arm bowler. Has played for Leinster Schools and South Leinster under-19s.

**Angus Dunlop**, 20, right-hand bat, right-arm bowler. A full senior inter-provincial, he has also played for Ireland schools and Ireland under-19s.

**Clive Davis**, 32, right-hand bat, right-arm bowler. One of the most solid performers in Leinster cricket in the last decade, he has been a schools and a senior interprovincial and in his Trinity days played for Irish Universities.

**Jonathan Garth**, 22, right-hand bat, right-arm pace bowler. One of the very finest young cricketers in Ireland, he is an all-rounder of formidable power. Already an international, he has previously represented his country at under-23, under-19 and schoolboy level.

**Colin Haine**, 23, right-hand bat, right-arm bowler.

**Ian Keartland**, 26, right-hand bat, right-arm bowler. One of the more senior members of a very young squad, he is a full interprovincial. He is a former schoolboy international.

**Alan Lewis**, 23, right-hand bat, right-arm seam bowler. Like Garth, a full international and an all-rounder of real ability. With the bat, he announced his arrival in 1984 by scoring over 1,000 runs in the season. A potential match-winner.

**Eamon Masterson**, 24, right-hand bat, right-arm bowler. Another talented all-rounder, already capped at schoolboy level he is now a full interprovincial.

**Martin Ridgeway**, 21, right-hand bat, left-hand bowler. An interprovincial at schools and under-19 levels.

**David Steepe**, 20, reserve wicketkeeper, right-hand bat. Has represented Leinster at schools and under-19 levels.

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### After Famine, Plenty

David Metcalf

YMCA Cricket Club was founded in 1890, but very little is known of the early years when the club used public parks for their games. The earliest photograph still existing dates from 1911, the year when the parent association acquired seven acres to encourage the physical side of the physical, mental and spiritual trinity symbolised in the red triangle emblem of the YMCA.

Up to the early '30s YM performed in the Intermediate League at a time when there were just the three grades — senior, intermediate and junior. However, an influx of members recruited locally through the boys' department of the association encouraged the club to look for senior status. They struggled in the early years and suffered the indignity of relegation (with Civil Service) in 1937. However, in the following two seasons they carried all before them in intermediate and could not be denied a return in 1940 to the senior status they have retained ever since.

The dominant personality of the succeeding era was undoubtedly John Ross who captained YM many times in the early '40s. He will be remembered not alone as an astute skipper and dogged bat, but also for his unique bowling style — the awesome 'Big Bertha', unleashed from two yards behind the line.

In 1936, a young boy called Derry Gill joined the club. He was to become its most accomplished cricketer, having a classical batting style and an economical medium pace with the ball. He was the first Claremont international and frequent captain of both club and province. However, it was the current president, Arthur Beatty, who was at the helm in 1955 when YM first captured the Senior League. In 1965 it was Fred Brady's turn to lead the side to a second title. Another international, Ian Lewis, played his first senior game for YM as far back as 1950. A forceful right-hand bat, he provided a playing link between the first league win and the 1980s, including a spell of club doldrums in the 1970s.

At that time, an aging first XI prompted the management to embark on a vigorous youth policy. From the schoolboy sides of that decade, Eamon Masterson, Alan Lewis and Keith Bailey graduated to join Ian Burns and Clive Davis in displacing the old guard. With two new members, Jonathan Garth and Colin Haine, who both cut their teeth at Leinster, these formed the nucleus of the current first string. More young players from the Claremont Road nursery have now arrived in the form of Neil Bailey, David Steepe, Martin Ridgeway and Angus Dunlop.

While the senior cup final has almost become an annual event recently for the YM squad and supporters, this run of knockout success is a distinctly recent phenomenon. For four decades it was a matter of lugubrious inevitability that they would make an early exit from the Senior Cup. Only in 1980 did they make the breakthrough to the ultimate round, losing in that year to Pembroke. They were back in 1984, when Leinster were vanquished in the decider as YM took their first cup title. Last year, Phoenix were on the receiving end, but the club is still looking for a few more wins to make up for forty-four barren years.

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## 1986 Club Awards

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2nd XI	BRIAN McNEICE	5th XI	BRIAN O'SULLIVAN
3rd XI	JOHNNY DALY	6th XI	JOHN CALDWELL
	Schoolboys		PAUL McCREADY

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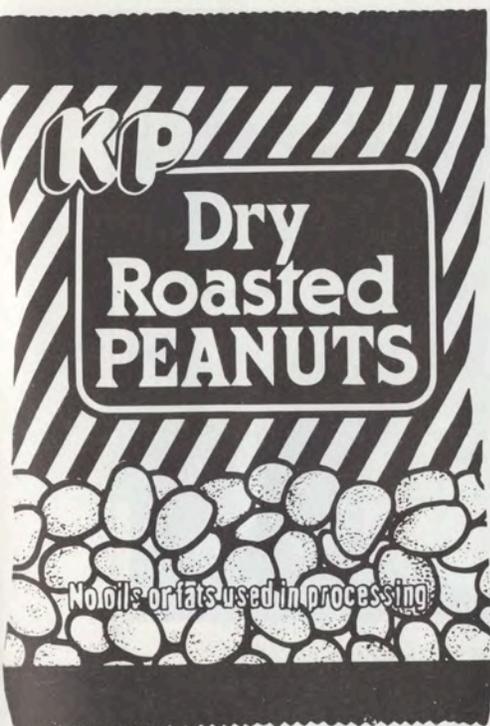
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## No Scandal This Week

Stella Downes

The editor asked me in the bar one night if I would write my usual few words for the cup final programme. I promised to be relatively discreet and keep a certain amount of Clontarf scandal away from the wide audience expected on this great day. He smiled, and as he departed, he turned around: "By the way I want a serious article — ladies cricket in Leinster or something on those lines ok?" Having dropped this bombshell he melted into the crowd while I sat, astounded, wondering what I could write. I protested later that I didn't have the background for that sort of article. He smiled a slow smile, blew a smoke ring and said, "you'll manage". So here goes.

Today's cup final coincides with the ladies senior cup final, which is a pity as each is bound to have an adverse effect, in crowd terms, on the other. It seems a shame that the date of one final could not have been changed when it was noticed that they were planned for the same day. Today's clash of finals is especially unusual as, while YMCA and Clontarf battle it out here in Castle Avenue, the Clontarf ladies face Claremont (the ladies section of YMCA) in College Park.

It is interesting to look at the photos of the first ladies senior cup final held in 1977. Many of the faces there are familiar in cricketing circles but most surprising perhaps is the little girl with the long blonde hair who, ten years later, at the ripe old age of twenty one, still plays for Clontarf and is a current Irish international. It's a great shame that Stella is unable to play in today's cup final due to injury.

Ladies cricket in Leinster is still in its infancy but has come on in leaps and bounds. Our national side has improved dramatically in the past few years although, as with all sports, it has its critics. Recently, the Irish team faced the Australian national side in College Park and performed admirably as the Australian team is the world no. 1 in ladies cricket. It was a totally different story when our ladies travelled to Holland and beat the Dutch team convincingly with Susan Bray — the most successful Irish bowler this season — taking 12 wickets for very few runs. We all hope that the team continues to improve up to and beyond the World Cup to be held in Australia in November 1988.

The improvement in ladies cricket has brought about some interesting developments in men's cricket as well. One member of the Irish squad, Kay Bergin, has followed her husband's game for years, with the kiddies in tow. The boot is now on the other foot and Brendan is often lumbered with the baby-sitting. We can only wonder where the kids are today with both parents involved in cup finals. Perhaps the setting up of a cricket creche would be a good idea?!!

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## Tomorrow's News Today

In a unique sneak preview of tomorrow's newspapers, some of Ireland's best-known writers sum up aspects of today's game.

**Hugh Leonard** When McDermott was given out, he looked around him with an expression that lay half way between that of a parish priest who has just realised that his luncheon guest is a condom salesman and that of a Fianna Fail backbencher who, having been forced to take a lie detection test, discovers that he has passed.

**John Healy** Well, friend, don't say I didn't call it. Back in the middle of the winter (look it up, a ghrá, it's stitched into the record) I said that it would be 'Tarf and YM for the cup final. And now ye'll all want to know who's going to win it, nice young Burns or the cute little northside hoor. Well, as poor Donogh O'Malley used to say (God be good to him) ...

**Eamon Dunphy** It was, of course, the archetypal clash between the two halves of divided Dublin. Clontarf, representing the increasingly impoverished north side, without a win in the competition since 1969, seemed to symbolise the decline of the whole north city in these dreary last twenty years. The YM yuppies, meanwhile, are fat with the success of last year in best Dublin 4 style. Your man Platini can't kick snow off a rope ...

**Con Houlihan** Willie Yeats put it well:  
"The unpurged images of day recede;  
The Emperor's drunken soldiery are abed;  
Night resonance recedes, night-walkers' song  
After great cathedral gong."

In other words, we all had a bit of a scatter after the Leinster Senior Cup final. As to who won, well it's still a bit of a mystery ...

**Edmund van Esbeck** When, in a future time, the annals of the summer game in Ireland are graven on the tablets, this Homeric contest will surely occupy a proud chapter. However, it must be said — and I for one make no apology for saying it, yet again — it is a disgraceful and scandalous oversight, defying all logic and reason, that Tony Ward was not playing for one side or the other. As for the umpires, charity compels me ...

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