



**CRICKET
LEINSTER**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
Spring 2020



Welcome from Cricket Leinster



PHILIP SMITH
General Manager

WELCOME to the Cricket Leinster Annual Report for Spring 2020. As you probably know, we have just completed a very busy and exciting Centenary Year which was rounded off by our Awards Night/Dinner in the Guinness Storehouse at the end of January.

We were delighted that the Awards Night was a sell-out once again this year with almost 320 people in attendance.

From a strategy perspective, we have continued to make strong progress with some key highlights as follows:

- We launched our new website which transforms our digital offering, is fully mobile-optimised and club-centric – this has been our single biggest investment in recent years.
- Isobel Joyce is in-place since last May as our Women's & Girls Development Officer and has made a strong start to her new role.

- Our Open League Programme has been expanded to include a 17th Division for the first time ever with both Athlone CC and Kilkenny CC now established in Cricket Leinster competitions.

- Major progress has been made with South Dublin County Council (SDCC) with SDCC committed to a full cricket facility and pavilion at Airlie Park in the heart of Adamstown.

- New funding streams are now in-place with both Wicklow and Meath and ongoing dialogue with Kildare – this has allowed us to expand our 'development' capacity.

- The Summer Smash was an enormous success (Lightning v Middlesex on 21 June last) with over 1,700 people in attendance and a further 20,000 views achieved via the Live Stream service.

- Our core sponsorship revenue was up by circa 20% year-on-year which has allowed us to continue to expand our services for clubs and schools throughout the province.

- The 'Your Club-Your Province' Grand Prize Raffle raised over €170,000 for the direct benefit of club cricket.

- Our Patrons Club now has over 80 members who are dedicated to supporting the development of club cricket on a philanthropic basis – this will greatly assist our ongoing efforts to expand club services from Cricket Leinster.

Our overriding objective is to put our clubs and their members at the heart of everything we do so I am naturally keen to highlight some key developments as follows:

- In 2019, we ran Coach Education courses (Coaching Kids and Coaching Cricket) in April and October which were fully subscribed with over 70 people participating.

- Diversity & Inclusion Workshops were completed during the year with facilitation from Jim Bennett (on Policy), Meena Baskarasubramanian (on Process) and Naomi Scott-Hayward (on Cricket4All) which were very well received by clubs.

- We placed a major focus on club level safeguarding compliance with 4 Safeguarding One courses completed (64 people), 2 Safeguarding Two courses for Children's Officers (36 people) and 2 Safeguarding Three courses for Designated Liaison Personnel (35 people) – all certified with further



The packed house at Pembroke for the Summer Smash
PHOTO: ROB O'CONNOR/ROCSHOT

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS ON AND OFF THE FIELD OF PLAY

courses being held during Q1 2020.

- Our Child Safeguarding & Inclusion Committee is now well established and meeting regularly. Sample club audits have been favourable and serve to reinforce good practice.
- We also continue to provide clubs with periodic seminars on Fundraising Strategies and Approaches. Our Sports Capital Grant masterclasses which have resulted in a tripling of the value of cricket club applications in the last funding round.

- Our Club Day took place on 10th November last with over 100 people in attendance at which we discussed the main challenges as we move into 2020, future competition structures & playing formats (at all levels), how to increase Women's cricket participation at club level, ideas to address our umpiring needs and our health, safety & safeguarding obligations.

Cricket Leinster was delighted to secure a capital grant of

€56K in 2019 which will be wholly invested for the benefit of our clubs covering the following areas:

- Club Development Starter Kits (a range of coaching equipment that will be distributed to clubs and schools to allow increased participation)

- Club Ground Improvement Kit (a range of grounds equipment that will be made available to clubs and schools to allow them to develop their facilities and attract more players)

- Temporary Dressing Room & Match Support Facilities (a range of facilities to allow clubs to host events and marquee matches in order to raise interest and participation)

- We also operate a Centralised Cricket Ball Procurement Process & Ordering Scheme for clubs which ensures best price, standardised equipment and ease of ordering.

- Also important for clubs to remember that we provide a

range of field equipment to clubs of all levels e.g., Plastic Cricket Sets, Stumps, Boundary Flags etc – this is part of the activation process from our sponsors.

- Cricket Leinster funds and delivers Umpire & Scorer training to all clubs annually. This takes the form of specific courses for those interested in qualifications, but also a bespoke LCU&SA created 'Intro to Umpiring' aimed at new clubs and those that umpire matches as players.

- On the scoring front, we engaged CricClubs to provide a scoring solution for use by all clubs. This facility was rolled-out during the 2019 season and has seen online scoring/promotion of the game at all levels.

- We operate a GDPR compliant, bespoke registration system that makes it easy for players to make themselves available to play. The CL website has been developed with significant back-end functionality to allow clubs to manage their membership and playing databases, co-ordinate their fixtures and to promote their club through the CL Social Media channels.

- We also now employ a dedicated Competition Administrator to act as a focal point for clubs in relation to the submission of fixtures/results across the season. This role offers significant administrative support to the clubs to allow them to focus on developing their clubs.

On the Junior Development side, there were some key highlights as follows:

- The HBL was launched providing a major new and innovative participation opportunity for girls in the 17-21 age category – this innovation has received hugely positive feedback and is being expanded in 2020 including an Indoor Tournament.

- The Give-it-a-Blast programme was expanded across the province aimed at introducing new female players to the game.

- We established a new 4-match series of fixtures with the NCU at Under 11 and Under 13 levels and completed an inaugural Under 13s Boys Tour to Liverpool with Local Authority support.

- As in previous years, we completed Malvern representative tours for Girls at Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 levels despite reduced external funding and expanded new playing formats across club cricket for both Boys & Girls underage levels.

- We have continued to expand our South African Exchange Programme for underage players whilst also continuing to expand our Disability Programme with Lords Taverners supported by a three-year agreement and increased investment in table cricket equipment.

It is a privilege for me and the team at Cricket Leinster to work in support of our 44 clubs throughout the province and our ongoing commitment is to always put our clubs at the heart of everything we do.

2020 promises to be another exciting chapter in our development.

This Annual Report was designed and produced by gersiggins@gmail.com

A GLORIOUS HISTORY OF THE GAME IN LEINSTER LAUNCHED

A hundred is a special landmark, and Cricket Leinster celebrated ours with gusto this summer. We saluted those who were there at the foundation of the Leinster Cricket Union in 1919.

To those founding fathers, phrases like 'give it a blast', 'twenty20' and 'women's cricket' would have been unknown, but they had a central role last summer – we weren't just celebrating our century but redrawing our guard to face the challenges of the next 100 years.

The events kicked off with the launch of the new website and centenary logo and a memorable evening to mark the precise date and location at the Central Hotel in Dublin.

In October we launched "100 NOT OUT" with special receptions in Pembroke and The Hills.

The Milverton event took place on an evening when the umpires would definitely have announced "Rain Stopped Play" but a large attendance were present to celebrate 100 years of the union and its senior league.

The host club also marked their own half-century this year, and in recognition of this the final of the Leinster Senior League Cup was held in the Vineyard, as well as the Irish Senior Cup final and the Ireland Wolves brilliant win over Bangladesh.

The president of Cricket Leinster, Peter Thew, recalled the great on-field events of centenary year, with the highlight being the visit of Middlesex to play Leinster Lightning in front of almost 2,000 people in June. Thew is retired from a lifetime working in publishing and explained that he saw helping to turn the work of the authors into the stunning 504-page hardback was his key project of the year.

The book has several contributors, with Siobhan McBennett and Mary Sharp writing about women's cricket, Alan Tuffery about umpiring, Brian Kelleher the development of coaching, Michael Sharp the club scene and Deryck Vincent the long history of schools and youth cricket.

There are also a trio of chapters on the story of the Leinster interprovincial

side, with Ger Siggins detailing the earliest days from 1890 to 1965 and former Ireland captain Michael Halliday the years from 1966 to 2004. Andrew Blair-White contributes a chapter on the revived interpros from 2013 when Leinster Lightning won 15 of the first 18 titles on offer.

The main section of the book is the history of the game in the province, written by Gerard Siggins, a veteran journalist who previously wrote



Presidents of the Hills (Martin Russell), CL (Peter Thew), CI (David O'Connor) and Rush (Matt Sheridan), join Tom Murphy and authors Eddie Lewis and Ger Siggins at the Fingal launch

'Green Days', the history of cricket in Ireland published in 2005. Siggins writes about the first sightings of the sport in the Phoenix Park in 1730 and the development over the next century which saw cricket become the most popular and widely-played sport in the land.

The history details, decade by decade, the evolution of the union and retells many of the great stories of stirring deeds and exciting matches up to the present day. The book is also jam-packed with statistics compiled by Eddie Lewis, much of them from the life's work of Derek Scott, who collected and collated the scorecards of every senior game from the very first in 1919.

It gives the union a fantastic historical background and modern players can directly compare their deeds to those of the legends of the past.

Siggins thanked all who came out and said that he had greatly honoured to be asked write what became a labour of love and thanked Eddie Lewis, Henry Tighe and Philip Smith for giving him the chance to do so.

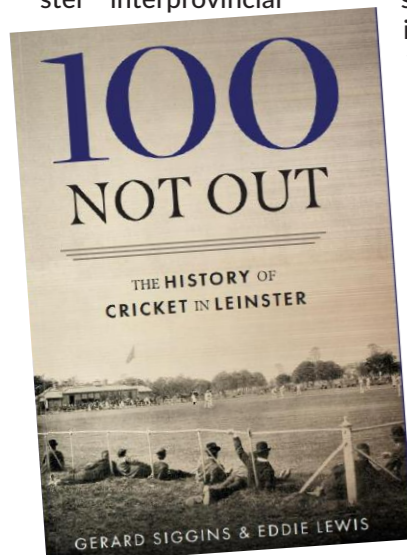
He recalled his 35 years writing about the sport in Leinster and his passion for its history passed down by Derek Scott. He confessed that when he goes to a game he always makes a beeline to the most elderly spectators to hear their memories of great players and days gone by.

The evening was rounded off by a marvellous speech by Tom Murphy, a Fingal legend who played the game for more than fifty years and whose own century is only a single boundary hit away.

Tom remembered his own debut in 1939, and how scores were very low in those times – one side totalled 8 runs, and still won!

The book is now on sale at www.cricketleinster.ie (or bit.ly/38kmqDp) and can be ordered in local bookstores.

It will be read and perused in homes and clubhouses for many years to come.



STELLA DOWNES
Incoming President

I am truly honoured to have been asked to take on the role of President of Cricket Leinster for 2020. I look forward to visiting as many clubs as possible during the season. Having visited most over the past 30+ years in my role as scorer, I have always appreciated the warm welcome extended to me. I am particularly looking forward to travelling to some of the newer clubs I haven't had the opportunity to visit yet.

These are exciting and challenging times for our sport. The increased number of clubs and teams is welcome but poses a challenge for administrators.

Recruitment of umpires and scorers is crucial and I will be highlighting this on my travels. We all get so much from playing and it is important to give something back ... umpiring and scoring provide an

opportunity to do that. Recent initiatives to increase the participation of women and help in the retention of youth players are especially welcome. So many other activities vie for attention that it is important for us to keep developing new ways to encourage people to take up the game and to keep playing. I look forward to attending lots of women's and youths' games while continuing, in a limited capacity, my role as 1st XI scorer.

A wave of exciting young talent from Leinster, male and female, has begun to make its presence felt at interpro and national level. I look forward to watching these young players progress.

In terms of administration, I have always tried to be "gender blind" and treat everyone and everything on merit. However, as the first woman to take on the role of President, I am conscious I have enormous shoes to fill. I'll be trying my best to build on the excellent work done by my predecessors. It's a challenge I'm looking forward to.



PETER THEW
Outgoing President

To be asked to be President of Cricket Leinster is a singular honour: to be asked to fulfil this role in Cricket Leinster's centenary year was beyond my wildest dreams.

The centenary highlight of the year will vary from person to person. For many it was that extraordinary evening on 21 June when Pembroke hosted Leinster Lightning's challenge match against Middlesex in front of a paying crowd in excess of 1,600 people. And what a treat the two teams delivered. For once the rain gods were kind to us and beneath a glorious summer evening sky, the teams scored more than 350 runs with just five runs separating them at the close. A wonderful advert for both T20 cricket and the growing strength of Leinster Lightning to run a full first-class county side so close.

Our centenary celebrations began on 14th April exactly 100 years after the first meeting of what was then the Leinster Cricket Union. We assembled in the same room in the Central Hotel in Exchange Street in Dublin. Ger Siggins and Eddie Lewis recounted the principal cricket events of the previous 100 years, but the star of the evening was Tom Murphy from North County CC, 96 years young, recounting tales of cricket in Fingal from his youth.

The innovative Your Club, Your Province draw was the financial hit of the year. Like most draws it involved selling tickets with the bonus that the club kept whatever funds it raised. Twelve terrific prizes were provided by Cricket Leinster and the net result was more than €170,000 split between the clubs under the Cricket Leinster umbrella.

Finally, like all the best centenaries, we published a centenary history of cricket in Leinster – 100 Not Out. The writing was shared between ten different authors, with the lion's share carried by Ger Siggins and Eddie Lewis. It has been widely acclaimed and made a perfect Christmas gift for many cricket lovers. If it wasn't in your Christmas stocking, copies are still available from the Cricket Leinster office – priced €30 each.

A great end to a wonderful year's celebrations.

CRICKET LEINSTER PATRONS CLUB

Name	Club	Name	Club
Conor Armstrong	Rush	Michelle Maginnis	Phoenix
Dara Armstrong	Rush	Siobhan McBennett	Rush
Tom Armstrong	Rush	Enda McDermott	Clontarf
Pat Banahan	Leinster	Roger McGreal	Clontarf
Clive Beatty	Pembroke	Rory McWade	Banbury
Jim Bennett	The Hills	Seton Menton	Cross Arrows
Brendan Bergin	Clontarf	Niall Mullen	Rush
Roland Bradley	Laois	Gerry Murphy	Clontarf
David Brennan	Terenure	Paddy Murray	Terenure
Ken Brennan	Terenure	Adrian Neville	Merrion
Michael Brown	Phoenix	Anthony Neville	unattached
Barry Collins	unattached	Denis O'Brien	unattached
Bill Cunningham	unattached	David O'Connor	North County
Evans Dexter	Clontarf	David O'Riordan	Pembroke
Bryan Dobson	YMCA	Gerry Ormond	Merrion
Derek Dockrell	YMCA	Donal O'Sullivan	Clontarf
Stella Downes	Clontarf	John Pryor	Malahide
Michael Fanagan	Phoenix	Philly Quinlan	Merrion
Paul Farrell	Terenure	Blathnaid Raftery	Malahide
David Fassbender	unattached	Paul Reynolds	Leinster
Michael Forkin	Merrion	Aideen Rice	YMCA
Phil Furlong	Terenure	Dave Robb	Railway Union
Billy Gallagher	Pembroke	Michael Sharp	Pembroke
Arthur Godsil	unattached	Eoin Sheehan	Rush
Noel Gough	Pembroke	Matt Sheridan	Rush
Evelyn Harmon	Malahide	Gerard Siggins	Dublin University
John Heavey	Merrion	Olag Sivanatham	Adamstown
Gerry Hoey	Terenure	Tony Smurfit	unattached
Michael Hogan	Dublin University	Frank Sowman	YMCA
Jimmy Joyce	Merrion	Heatley Tector	YMCA
Andrew Kay	Merrion	Peter Thew	Cricket Leinster
Brian Kelleher	Terenure	Brian Thornes	Malahide
Ciaran Keohane	Malahide	Henry Tighe	Pembroke
Peter Lacy	Clontarf	Barry Tucker	Pembroke
Alan Lewis	YMCA	Arthur Vincent	YMCA
Eddie Lewis	Merrion	Deryck Vincent	Cricket Leinster
Jerry Liston	Pembroke	Philip Whelan	Terenure Walnuts
Mark Little	Dublin University	David Williams	unattached
Stephen Little	Pembroke	Kevin Woods	Railway Union
Micky Lowe	Clontarf		
Brian MacNeice	Clontarf		
Peter MacNulty	DLR County		
Alan Maginnis	Phoenix		

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George Dockrell congratulates Gareth Delany on catching John Simpson; George, Dawid Malan and the Joyce brothers

Middlesex join Leinster for 100th birthday party

THE old Pagan weather gods shone on Cricket Leinster this June – in the middle of one of the worst summer's on record the skies were bright blue and the sun beamed down on the day of the solstice.

Sydney Parade was at its very best on Midsummer's Day for the visit of Middlesex, the first overseas side to play an Irish province since the Lightning was instituted in 2013.

And what brilliant guests they were – England stars Steven Finn and Dawid Malan, and Ireland's Paul Stirling were the big names, but the rest of their side were all talented players who took Middlesex into the quarter-finals of the Vitality Blast.

The day began with a special toss with the mascots Giorgiou and Sebastian, sons of Ed Joyce who played for both sides with distinction over many years.

Stirling and Malan walked to the middle to loud cheers and applause from a crowd close to 2,000 people, easily the best for the visit of a county to Ireland and numbers beaten only by major international teams.

Some of the crowd may have been there to watch 'Stirlo' bat, but most were only delighted to see the back of a most dangerous batsman in the mood. Soon, Middlesex were rocking on 37-3 with the seam attack of Peter Chase, Josh Little and Tyrone Kane sharing the wickets.

Nick Gubbins steadied the ship however, scoring 75 in partnerships of 45, 62 and 30 with Eskinazi, Robson and Simpson respectively.

Little eventually found the gap and Gubbins went with 16 balls remaining.

But a brilliant closing overs ensured there were no boundaries in those 16 balls, just eight runs and five wickets.

Kane (3-29) and Chase (3-30) were the pick of the bowlers

and the target was just right for an exciting chase.

In reply, Gareth Delany showed the huge attendance just why he's been spoken of so highly for several years. A quite superb attacking innings of 51 off just 38 balls, with three sixes, was confirmation if any was needed to the watching Ireland coach Graham Ford. Gareth was duly picked for his international debut against Zimbabwe just three weeks later.

The top seven Leinster batters got to double figures, but only Delany got past 26. It meant the Lightning got to within a whisker of victory in a gripping finish.

There was still 23 needed to win with two overs left, but George Dockrell and Matt Ford went in successive balls to former England paceman Finn. Kane and Fionn Hand both hit sixes as Lightning gave it a good go, but when balls ran out they were just five runs short.

Mike Selvey, president of Middlesex CCC, said "All of the arrangements were of the highest order and the hospitality and welcome afforded to us were second to none.

"I know how much all the Middlesex players enjoyed the coaching clinic and the match itself, which I'm sure you will agree was hard-fought and competitive to the very final ball. Here's to the next one!!"

Angus Fraser, the county's Director of Cricket, said "I thought the set-up and facilities at Pembroke Cricket Club were outstanding. The match was excellent too and the quality of cricketers Leinster has was commented on by many of our players.

"With everything going on I'd imagine it was, at times, hard to see how much everyone was enjoying the occasion. This is something that everyone at Cricket Leinster should be very proud of and congratulated on."



From top: Steven Finn and Paul Stirling keep in touch; George Dockrell leads out his team; the Sydney Parade ground was thronged with spectators

SMART WATER SUMMER SMASH SCOREBOARD

At Sydney Parade, June 21
Toss: Leinster Lightning
Umpires: Paul Reynolds, Aidan Seaver,
3rd: Azim Ali Baig

MIDDLESEX			
PR Stirling	c Hand	b Little	15
DJ Malan *	c Tucker	b Chase	7
JB Cracknell	c O'Brien	b Kane	6
NRT Gubbins		b Little	75
SS Eskinazi	st Tucker	b Singh	23
SD Robson	c Delany	b Dockrell	22
JA Simpson †	c Delany	b Chase	16
NA Sowter	c Dockrell	b Chase	1
ST Finn	c Little	b Kane	3
TE Barber		b Kane	1
ER Bamber		not out	0
Extras	b4 lb2 nb1 w6		13
TOTAL	all out	19.4 overs	182
Fall: 1-23 (Stirling, 1.5 ov), 2-30 (Cracknell, 3.4 ov), 3-37 (Malan, 4.4 ov), 4-82 (Eskinazi, 9.1 ov), 5-144 (Robson, 15.2 ov), 6-174 (Gubbins, 17.4 ov), 7-177 (Simpson, 18.1 ov), 8-177 (Sowter, 18.2 ov), 9-181 (Barber, 19.2 ov), 10-182 (Finn, 19.4 ov)			
Bowling: Kane 3.4-0-29-3, Little 3-0-33-2, Chase 4-0-30-3, Dockrell 3-0-27-1, Simi Singh 3-0-22-1, Delany 2-0-20-0, Hand 1-0-15-0.			

LEINSTER LIGHTNING			
KJ O'Brien	c Eskinazi	b Robson	21
GJ Delany	c Malan	b Barber	51
A Balbirnie	c Sowter	b Robson	10
Simi Singh	c Robson	b Bamber	24
LJ Tucker †	c Sowter	b Robson	12
GH Dockrell *	c Simpson	b Finn	17
TE Kane	not out		26
M Ford	c Eskinazi	b Finn	0
F Hand	not out		11
Extras	lb3 nb1 w1		5
TOTAL	for 7	20 overs	177
Did not bat: JB Little, PKD Chase			
Fall: 1-66 (O'Brien, 7.1 ov), 2-83 (Balbirnie, 9.5 ov), 3-85 (Delany, 10.4 ov), 4-113 (Singh, 12.6 ov), 5-122 (Tucker, 13.5 ov), 6-160 (Dockrell, 18.1 ov), 7-160 (Ford, 18.2 ov)			
Bowling: Bamber 4-0-38-1, Finn 4-0-39-2, Barber 4-0-30-1, Sowter 4-0-36-0, Robson 4-0-31-3			

* Middlesex won by five runs





Clockwise from top: Middlesex 2nd XI coach Alan Coleman gives a masterclass to some underage Leinster squad talents; It's not just Wembley that has the twin towers; Pembroke president Barry Tucker makes a presentation to Albert van der Merwe, who was stepping down as Leinster coach; former Cricker Leinster president Arthur Vincent presents the Super Smash trophy to Dawid Malan

Leinster Lightning

IP Three-day Championship

June 17-19 (Magheramason): **North West Warriors 135 all out** (SS Singh 3-15) **Leinster Lightning 154-5** (A Balbirnie 50, Singh 34no, GH Dockrell 26no, CA Young 3-45) **MATCH DRAWN**

July 30-Aug 1 (Sydney Parade): **Northern Knights 332 all out** (HT Tector 146, SC Getkate 56, Singh 3-24) and **131 all out** (Singh 5-38) **Leinster Lightning 324-8 dec** (Singh 100no, C McLoughlin-Gavin 86, BJ McCarthy 44, JB Tector 34, D Delany 3-63) **MATCH DRAWN**

Aug 6-8 (Stormont): **Northern Knights 150-4 dec** (JA McCollum 44) **Leinster Lightning 217-7** (A Balbirnie 81, Singh 41, D Delany 3-48) **MATCH DRAWN**

Aug 12-14 (Milverton): **Leinster Lightning 131 all out** (Singh 29, CA Young 4-26) **North West Warriors 168-9** (WTS Porterfield 95no, J McCarthy 5-51) **MATCH DRAWN**



T20 festival squad, back: Fiachra Tucker, Kevin O'Brien, Gareth Delany, Rory Anders, Peter Chase, Josh Little, Andrew Balbirnie, Simi Singh; front: Fionn Hand, Matt Ford, George Dockrell, Tyrone Kane, Lorcan Tucker

CHAMPIONSHIP						50 OVERS						20 OVERS								
	P	W	D	L	B Pts		P	W	NR	LB	Pts		P	W	NR	LB	Pts			
Lightning	4	0	4	0	40	40	Lightning	6	3	2	1	2	18	Knights	6	3	3	0	1	19
Knights	4	0	4	0	35	35	Knights	6	3	0	3	2	14	Lightning	6	1	4	1	0	12
Warriors	4	0	4	0	33	33	Warriors	6	1	2	3	0	8	Warriors	6	0	5	1	0	10
													Reds	6	0	4	2	0	8	

IP 50 overs

April 23 (La Manga): **Leinster Lightning v North West Warriors** **NO PLAY**

April 25 (La Manga): **Northern Knights 290-8** (50; M Ellison 85, HT Tector 57, GH Dockrell 3-42) **Leinster Lightning 294-4** (46.5; A Balbirnie 125, LJ Tucker 81, K O'Brien 49no) **LEINSTER LIGHTNING** won 6 wickets

May 23 (Magheramason): **Leinster Lightning 271-5** (50; JB Tector 110, A Balbirnie 94)

North West Warriors 193 all out (48; DA Rankin 55, Dockrell 4-41, GJ Delany 3-47) **LEINSTER LIGHTNING** won 78 runs

June 27 (Sydney Parade): **Leinster Lightning 114** (35.3; Singh 44, Balbirnie 41) **Northern Knights 115-3** (21.5) **Northern Knights** won 3 wickets

Aug 20 (Stormont): **Northern Knights 176 all out** (42.2; TE Kane 6-42) **Leinster Lightning 179-3** (32.4; A Balbirnie 90, LJ Tucker 57no) **LEINSTER LIGHTNING** won 7 wickets

Aug 22 (Milverton): **Leinster Lightning v North West Warriors** **NO PLAY**

IP Twenty20

June 22 (Sydney Parade): **Munster Reds 181-7** (20; PKD Chase 3-36) **Leinster Lightning 183-7** (20; K O'Brien 56, M Ford 34no, GJ Delany 27)

LEINSTER LIGHTNING won by 3 wickets

June 23 (Sydney Parade): **Leinster Lightning v North West Warriors** **NO PLAY**

July 24 (Sydney Parade): **Northern Knights 138-5** (13; GJ Thompson 65no) **Leinster Lightning 130-9** (13; A Balbirnie 44, GJ Delany 36, TE Kane 26) **NORTHERN KNIGHTS** won by 8 runs

August 16 (Magheramason): **Leinster Lightning v Northern Knights** **NO PLAY**

August 17 (Magheramason): **Leinster Lightning v North West Warriors** **NO PLAY**

August 18 (Magheramason): **Leinster Lightning v Munster Reds** **NO PLAY**



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Freedom to Live

Leinster Lightning

With Albert van der Merwe stepping down in the middle of last season, Cricket Leinster might have had a problem on its hands.

But the changeover proved seamless — Albert stepped away the weekend of the Summer Smash and interpro T20 festival, and in stepped Nigel Jones.

Come September, there were two more trophies in Lightning's cabinet.

So who exactly is Nigel Jones, who celebrates his 38th birthday this month, and how did he fetch up in Ireland.

Nigel spent a season as club pro in Scotland with Regan West before his fellow Kiwi suggested he try Northern Ireland. The result of the move could not have been imaginable, let alone predictable.

Within six years they lined up alongside each other AGAINST New Zealand in a warm-up game for the ICC World Twenty20 in Worsley. It was the first of Jones's 34 caps for Ireland, just four fewer than his pal, and both got to play in ICC tournaments.

"Regan's a good mate — we got to know each other as house and team mates on my first trip to Scotland, were I was also introduced to my wife who was good friends with Regan's girlfriend at the time, who incidentally is now Regan's wife. He was going to play for Instonians in Belfast and I got a post at Cooke Collegians where I went on to enjoy three seasons with them before settling in Northern Ireland."

That was the start of 17 years in the NCU, nine at Civil Service North and the last five at CIYMS. They were years of great success for Nigel and his clubs.

In his trophy cabinet he has two senior league medals, five senior cups, three T20 cups as well as an Ulster Cup winners medal. Last season he was the key man as CIYMS completed a historic treble.

It was a long way from Geraldine — 18,850km — a town half way down New Zealand's south island in the district of Timaru.

That's where Nigel first tasted serious cricket with South Canterbury in the local version of Minor Counties cricket at the age of 16, opening the batting.

He wanted to see how far he could take his game so he moved to Christchurch where he played underage state at 17s, 19s, 23s and 2nd XI.

Nigel arrived in Ireland in 2003 for his first season with Cooke Collegians.

You won't find his name in the Cricket Europe archives though, as he was known then as Nigel Tubb. In 2006 he started using the surname of his stepfather, decided to settle down in the country after getting married and began captaining Civil Service North's top side, with the



Making plans, is Nigel

New Lightning coach Nigel Jones outlines his vision to Gerard Siggins

ambition of playing for Ireland after a three-year wait period.

He got to know Kyle McCallan and Andrew White, and Adi Birrell invited him along to bowl in Ireland nets.

In 2009, on the verge of being eligible for the national team, Jones had a stellar season in the Premier League.

He scored 735 runs at an average of 81.66 and added 20 wickets with his medium-pace bowling to catapult him into the Irish team. He first played for Ireland in that warm-up game for the 2009 World T20 against his native New Zealand and was a fully-fledged international by the time the 2011 World Cup in India came around.

Like his predecessor Albert van der Merwe, he was to spend the whole World Cup carrying gloves and water bottled out to the middle, but was delighted when he did get to represent Ireland in an ICC event, the 2012 World T20 in Sri Lanka. A last over six off Shane Watson was a memorable moment for all who saw it.

He returned to a full-time post as NCU Regional Development Officer, and decided to retire from Ireland.

"I simply now don't have the time to commit to making myself the player that I need to be for international cricket," he

said at the time. He now regrets calling it a day so early — he was just 30 — but has achieved much on and off the field since then.

"It was hard with a young family — in those three and a bit years with Ireland, I was away from home for just over a year in total with matches and tours."

Nigel still lives in Lisburn with Rosalyn and their three kids, driving up and down the M1 to his new role as head coach of Leinster Lightning, Bolts and the newly introduced U21s programme.

He's buzzed about the job, and has been busy all winter identifying the talent and getting to know them and their skills. He's got a list of 46 players he expects to form the core of his panels, and sees the Bolts playing a vital role in making progress.

"24 of them are 21 or under, only Simi and Kev are in their 30s, so we need to get them more games"

He has been working closely with other IP Head Coaches and Cricket Ireland on a plan to have a 2nd XI Interpro series to give these youngsters meaningful competition, subject to budget.

With an excellent team around him and a rich vein of talent to work with, it looks like Cricket Leinster have found a winner in 'Jonesy'.

The Golden Years

	Coach	Captain	3 day	50ov	20ov
2013			●	●	●
2014			●	●	●
2015			●	●	●
2016			●	●	●
2017			●	●	●
2018			●	●	●
2019*			●	●	●

● Champions ● 2nd place ● 3rd place

* Lightning had played 5x50 and 1x3-day when Jones took over



Fionn Hand: capped in all three formats

CAPS FOR LIGHTNING in 2019

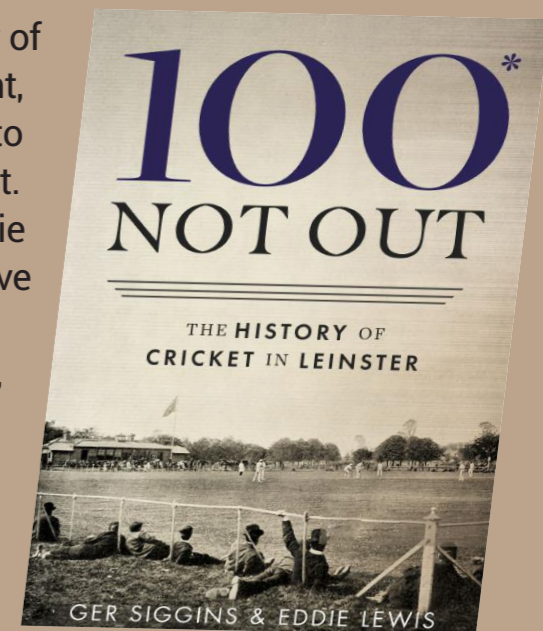
		IPCh			Tot
		3day	50ov	T20	
George DOCKRELL	Leinster	4	4	2	10
Simmi SINGH	Phoenix	4	4	2	10
Peter CHASE	Malahide	4	4	2	10
Tyrone KANE	Merrion	4	4	2	10
Andrew BALBIRNIE	Pembroke	3	4	2	9
Lorcan TUCKER	Dublin U/Pembroke	3	4	2	9
Jack TECTOR	YMCA	4	4	*	8
Kevin O'BRIEN	Railway Union	3	3	2	8
Gareth DELANY	Leinster	1	3	2	6
Stephen DOHENY	Rush	3	3	*	6
Barry McCARTHY	Pembroke	3	3	-	6
Josh LITTLE	Pembroke	2	3	1	6
Fionn HAND	YMCA	1	1	2	4
Cormac McLOUGHLIN-GAVIN	The Hills	4	-	-	4
Matthew FORD	Malahide	-	-	2	2
Patrick TICE	Merrion	1	-	-	1
Rory ANDERS	YMCA	-	-	1	1

* Tector and Doheny played for Munster in IP20

2019 marked the centenary of the foundation of both the Leinster Cricket Union and the Senior League. The occasion was marked with a full programme of events, culminating in October when the centenary history was published.

In '100 Not Out', Gerard Siggins traces the history of the sport in the province from 1731 to the present, bringing to life the great players and characters to tell the colourful and rich story of Leinster cricket. Using material from the Derek Scott archive, Eddie Lewis brings the records to life in a comprehensive statistical section, while a team of contributors highlight Women's Cricket, Umpiring, Coaching, Youth and Schools, and the Interprovincials.

The book can be purchased via the Cricket Leinster office or online at <https://bit.ly/38kmqDp>





Sports Hub supporting CL

Cricket Leinster is delighted to announce Sports Hub as sponsor of the Senior 2 Cup competition for 2020. Sports Hub will now also become a CL approved sports clothing & cricket equipment supplier.

Sports Hub, which is located in Ballycoolin near Blanchardstown, is owned and operated by two prominent and well-liked members of the cricket community –

Arun Kumar and Yogesh Kashyap.

We would encourage the cricket community to support Sports Hub as it looks to grow and develop its customer offerings and product range.



Cricket Leinster very much appreciates this sponsorship support from Sports Hub which will greatly assist our ongoing efforts to deliver enhanced services for our clubs.

CL STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Cricket Leinster has appointed **Simon Dyke** as new Cricket Operations & Administration Manager in succession to Kevin Gallagher.

Simon is well known and respected in the cricket community having previously worked as Cricket Operations Manager with Cricket Ireland.

Simon brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this role from his time at Cricket Ireland and within the county and club cricket system in the UK.

Simon will be responsible for our day-to-day operations including all logistics associated with the Leinster Lightning & Bolts programmes.

In December we also announced the appointment of **Matthew Ford** as our Accounts Assistant. Matt is a part-qualified Management Accountant with significant relevant experience.

Matt has been playing for Malahide since 2018, when he broke several run-scoring records. Last summer he made his debut for Leinster Lightning debut last summer against Middlesex.



Con McGrath

Mustafa Sidiqi

IN MEMORIAM

It is always sad when we lose people from our cricket community and this year was no exception. In 2019 we mourned the passing of **Con McGrath**, former captain of Old Belvedere CC and North Leinster; North Kildare and Munster prospect **Mustafa Sidiqi**; Fingal veteran **Thomas McGrane**, former CYM wicketkeeper **Brian Swanton**; ex-Leinster CC **John Cunningham**; Clontarf legend **Phyllis Vincent**, former LCU treasurer **Brian Merry**, as well as members of the wider cricket community including **Pam Pearce**, **Graham Heather**, **Jim McNally**, **Liam Andrews**, **Con O'Rourke**, **Tony Dwyer**, **Cliona Pryor**, **Robert Lawson**, **Irene O'Brien**, **Mary Dwyer**, **Joe O'Boyle** and **Aileen Hargaden**.



INDIVIDUAL TROPHY WINNERS 2019

Marchant Cup (Premier League Batting) – John Anderson (Merrion, ABOVE LEFT) *
O'Grady Cup (Premier League Bowling) – Naseer Shaukhat (The Hills)
Samuels Cup (Premier League All-Rounder) – Max Sorensen (Merrion)
Hopkins Cup (Premier League Wicketkeeping) – Patrick Tice (Merrion) *
Solomons Cup (Premier League Fielding) – Fiachra Tucker (Pembroke) *

Bruton Cup (Division 2 Batting) – Eoghan Delany (Clontarf)
Clarke Cup (Division 2 Bowling) – Eddie Richardson (North County)
Ellis Cup (Division 2 All-Rounder) – Eddie Richardson (North County)
Satchwell Cup (Division 2 Wicketkeeping) – Mick Cotter (Terenure, ABOVE RIGHT)
Vincent Cup (Division 2 Fielding) – Donal Vaughan (Terenure)

Bookman Cup (Division 3 Batting) – Tom Anders (YMCA)
Oulton Cup (Division 3 Bowling) – Scott Ruttie (Pembroke)
Webster Cup (Division 3 All-Rounder) – Fakhar Zaman (Railway Union)
Cullen Cup (Division 3 Wicketkeeping) – Chirag Poddar (Merrion)

Young Player of the Year – Harry Tector (YMCA)

* also won in 2018

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VOLUNTEERS – THE ONES WHO WILL DRIVE CHANGE



PAUL REYNOLDS
Honorary Secretary

THE year 2019 has been another year in the evolution of the Leinster Cricket Union into Cricket Leinster CLG. Most of the changes that have taken

place over the last three years will have been of little interest to the vast majority of those connected with cricket in the province. But fundamental changes have been made, and you the clubs need to be regularly informed of those changes, how they are progressing and what you might expect to see in the months.

Many of the earliest governance changes have been completed, and we have entered a phase of renewal. The best example of this is the Cricket Leinster Board, which replaced the LCU Ex-

ecutive Committee as the overseer of the organisation over two years ago.

The Board continues to set the agenda for Cricket Leinster, providing expertise, and driving the staff and committees in the required direction. Details of the Board can be found on the website, and clubs should make sure that they keep abreast of Board decisions.

Below the Board sits Cricket Leinster's seven main committees, such as Finance, Cricket, Disciplinary and Child Protection and Inclusion. Terms of Reference of these committees continue to be adjusted to reflect the way Cricket Leinster changes, and to ensure that our members – the clubs – have their interests served, and that the voices of all clubs are heard.

The passion shown by all clubs is clear from the communication that constantly goes back and forth between Cricket Leinster and the clubs.

Hopefully all clubs feel that they are being listened to, and that the now reg-

“The board continues to set the agenda, providing expertise and driving staff and committees in the required direction

ular opportunities for feedback are worthwhile.

As a governing body, Cricket Leinster's problem is in trying to implement changes where there may be 20 different options being proposed by clubs on certain issues – such as with last year's review of league structures for the top divisions of the Open Competitions.

Sometimes proposals may make sense for certain groups of clubs, but at the expense of others, and it is this taut tightrope that needs to be trod by Cricket Leinster. By leaning too far to one side, many clubs can be adversely affected.



Gavin Hoey of Pembroke pushes the covers on as the rain arrives yet again to ruin a major fixture in the soggy summer of 2019

Below the Cricket Committee sit five sub committees that look at specific aspects of the cricketing experience, such as the Open Competitions Committee, the Women's Competition Committee and the Youth and Schools Committee.

At this level, Cricket Leinster is continuing to try and find the best balance between expert volunteers and paid staff. The level of work required by volunteers can be overwhelming at times, and we need to continue looking at the best ways of utilising our resources. Clubs need to remember when communicating with volunteers that they have lives like everybody else and may be trying to squeeze cricket administration into already busy lives. Cricket Leinster is continuing the process of taking on the routine tasks that these committees carry out, leaving those with knowledge and expertise to concentrate on developing and improving that part of their remit.

On a personal level, the role of Hon Secretary has changed more than most. In a short time, it has gone from Mary Sharp effectively running the entire organisation as a full-time volunteer, to an almost redundant role, with most tasks now being carried out by full-time staff in the office.

And that leads to me, as with other volunteers, being able to concentrate on other tasks within the organisation. Cricket Leinster's aim over the coming months is to further take the pressure off volunteers, by making sure that the day to day tasks (such as fixture making, result processing, player registration) are dealt with by staff, leaving volunteers to implement change, if needed.

If you want to help drive that change, you know who to get in touch with.

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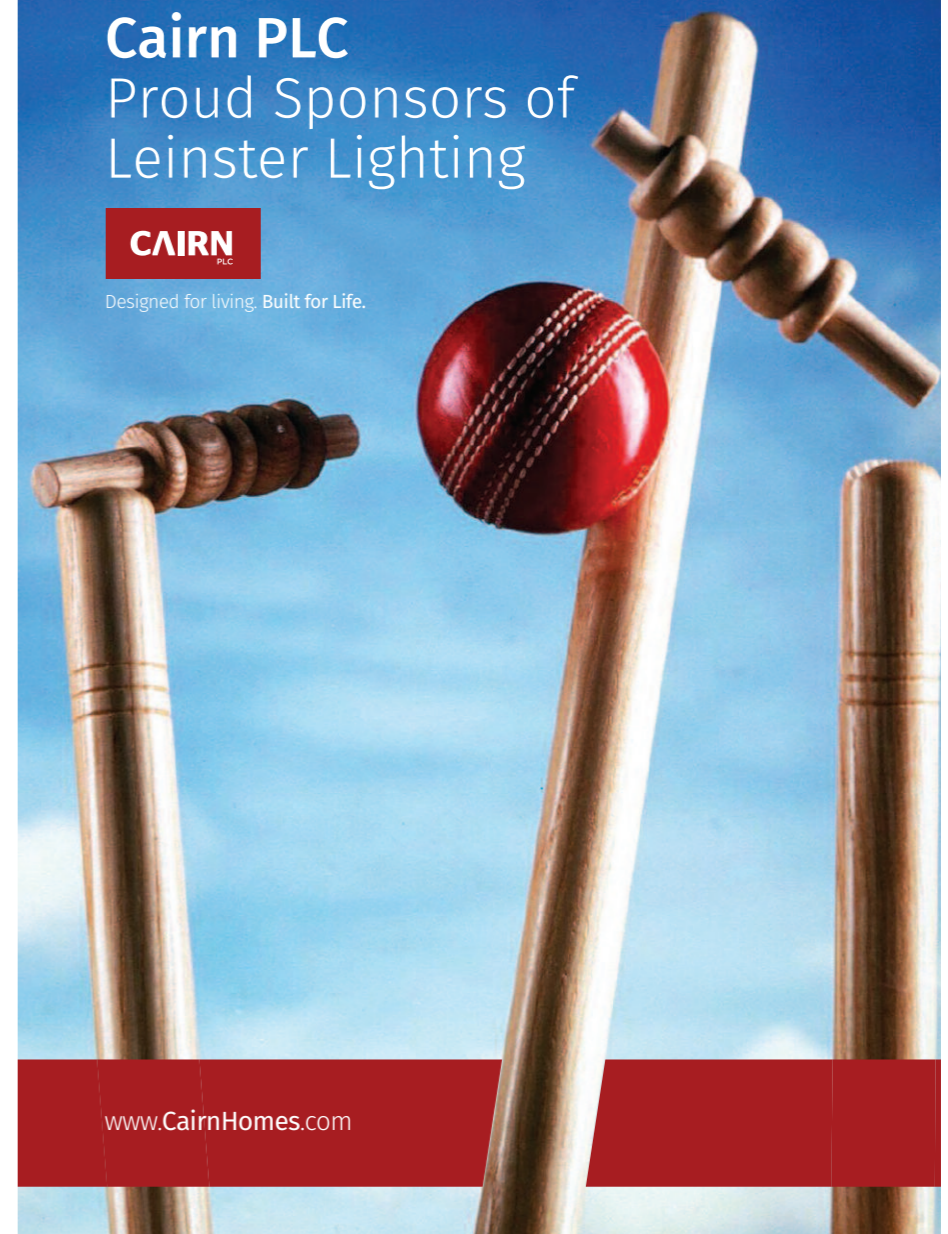
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Enormous task of volunteers running 17 leagues and cups

CRICKET LEINSTER wish to acknowledge the volunteers who served on the Open Competition Committee from November 2018-2019. We had 12 meetings, the Secretary and chair alternating attendance at Cricket Committee meetings where possible.

It is difficult to outline the volume of work necessary from each member to complete the tasks assigned and the outputs expected. For those of you involved in your own club committees think of having 42 starring meetings on the second Wednesday of each month discussing thousands of players in CL before you start the business of the meeting.

We assigned OCC members to clubs as in previous seasons. For the most part this worked well. It is important at this juncture to reiterate that when a person is elected to the OCC, they are working for Cricket Leinster as a whole and not the club to which they are affiliated.

In the beginning this is often difficult for new members to process. Similarly, clubs dealing with an OCC representative need to understand this volunteer is not working for their club of origin.

At each meeting point number two on the agenda is 'Conflict of Interest' and members are obliged to disengage from discussions involving their own club.

In recent times much has changed with the structures and operation of Cricket Leinster. With full-time professional staff, the measure of success and achievement from an administrative perspective will be how well the professionals and elected volunteers work together.

We all must be cognisant of the new structures in-place and the subtleties involved. For instance, there were examples of clubs attempting to circumvent decisions of the OCC by going over its head with the result that everything was referred back to the OCC anyway.

Bearing this in mind we should take time to acknowledge the changes for the better. The website and result reporting mechanisms have improved. Usually those who shout most about league tables not being up to date are the very ones who have failed to submit a score-

card or have submitted it incompletely. The introduction of the team sheet with player photographs is a massive step forward. While photographs need to be policed more carefully and the ability to change a photograph removed, these team sheets are improving immensely the administration of cricket in Leinster for scorers, umpires and opposition captains as well as the OCC.

One very useful change which the OCC recommends is that the age of an underage player on an adult team is automatically populated. At certain levels captains are not aware of the ages of their underage players. Third party checking of teams on a spot check basis could also prove useful.

We would like to make some observa-

“The introduction of a team sheet with player photos is a massive step forward

tions on the season just gone under various headings.

Competitions

There were 17 league Divisions and all the various league cups and T20 competitions. With the weather slightly worse than the previous year it is pleasing to see that those who choose play cricket are rewarded. Most league winners played their full complement of matches with the no result column in most cases fairly sparse. Congratulations to all.

Refixes

In the main, lower league teams managed to make refixes. There is a question if T20 refixes dilute the integrity of longer 40, 45 or 50 over competitions. Where possible a refix should be played in the original format. While there were some complaints about the dates of T20 refixes in the Premiership and Championship in defence of Cricket Leinster these dates were released with the fixtures them-

selves prior to the start of the season. At the top levels refixes are often judged on the availability of representative players.

With more representative cricket an open honest discussion needs to take place on what is actually possible.

Regarding Cork County a decision needs to be made on how midweek refixes should be handled? Is it reasonable to ask two teams to travel to Laois for a midweek T20?

For midweek T20 cup competitions if the home ground is not available on the date set by the OCC and that of the away team is, then home advantage should be automatically reversed for any round.

Clubs need to look at this ground availability issue well in advance and agree with their opposition.

Duckworth Lewis

DL was used down to Division 7 this year. There are arguments from larger clubs with up to four teams in the first seven divisions that it is difficult to have a scorer for all of these matches. Realistically that is two scorers for each day.

We must promote scoring as a body. One of the frustrations in the lower leagues is the standard of scoring which invariably leads to trouble.

We should seriously consider allowing any club who wishes to use DL at any level. The only stipulation would be that they inform the opposition two weeks in advance and have a proficient scorer.

There were many instances during the season where less than suitable scorers were put up to avoid having to play with 10 players or suffer penalty points. There can be nothing worse for a scorer than a partner who does not know the first thing about scoring. Do not confuse this with people learning and willing to score. Most working scorers welcome this.

Disciplinary

The OCC is not a disciplinary body. The relationship with the disciplinary committee needs to be clearly outlined and agreed for all concerned. On occasion there was doubt as to what should be referred or not. The inclination is not to refer everything reported but this may result in the very case that should go to the disciplinary committee falling between

the cracks. Thank you to Mary Sharp and John Bristow for their help and guidance.

Starring

This area probably causes most debate and also provides most feedback from clubs. Sometimes bordering on vitriolic! We have had much debate internally but have yet to come up with a different system which will be as fair or work better.

The basic principles are always the same. No player should play below their level. Players should be available to play to go into a starring list in the first place. With careful and fair monitoring by OCC reps starring should become less of a chore for clubs. Indeed, most of the information about players who should not be playing at a particular level comes from opposition clubs.

The weekly emails are a great help. Firstly, the one telling the clubs that a player will have to be removed if they do not play the following weekend and then the one asking clubs to remove players.

Of course, all of this is dependent on score cards being submitted on time. Nothing can work without the information provided by the score cards.

Regulations

A lot of time in the off season is used to review/change regulations. Most of this work is based on instances which occurred during the previous season and need to be regulated for.

We must recognise the help we get



Attendance at OCC meetings:

- Philip Deacon (chair) 11/12
- Hadley Southall (sec) 12/12
- Ray Shimmins 9/12
- Andy Hirst 12/12
- Abul Shapon 10/12
- Steve Wood 12/12
- Michael Lowe 11/12
- Mick Cotter 8/12
- Olag Sivanatham 10/12

from the LCUSA and Kevin Gallagher.

Many people have different views. Some say there are too many regulations and why can we not use the laws of cricket. In most instances the regulations are there for sound reasons and need to be tweaked rather than scrapped.

Almost everyone was caught out by the change in format of competitions and the knock-on effect on the Senior 2 cup. We acknowledge this debacle and will learn from what happened. There are many different angles but in truth the OCC was obliged to apply the regs.

The OCC would welcome input from clubs with their take on regulations.

Finally, as we list the attendance records of current members, we must point out that all the ills of Cricket Leinster do not lie at the door of the OCC alone. We wish to acknowledge and thank those clubs who contacted us during the season to discuss their issues and suggest how things may be done better. The OCC is there to work with clubs. Cricket is not played with a pen and paper (apart from our valued scorers) and is a game for players and the clubs. We must never lose sight of this.

The reverse is that some of the communication received from clubs is unacceptable and completely unwarranted.

Hadley Southall

Secretary, Open Competitions Committee

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Women's competitions

Changes to the structure of the Women's Committee, together with enhanced competition administration support from central resources allowed the Women's Committee to adopt a more strategic outlook on the 2019 season.

That included a focus on how to support clubs to recruit more members, an initiative to keep teenagers in the game for longer and an increased profile for league and cup competitions. I am very appreciative of the support of Academy Plus in sponsoring the league and cup competitions.

All three leagues were well contested this season. It is notable, laudable and unprecedented achievement for Leinster CC to have won all three leagues. This reflects a sound recruitment and development strategy, in place over a number of years and the club should be congratulated for this commitment.

The Division 1 title was very well contested with each team gaining victories over the others. In the end Leinster had more points, probably down to the large number of players that contributed strongly across the season.

Division 2 was a simpler scenario with Leinster 2 only losing one game. North Kildare chased hard, until the very end of the season, but Leinster were not to be caught.

Division 3 was slightly more fractured than is ideal, with a number of matches not played for various reasons. Leinster 3 firmly deserved their title, with a strong batting cohort setting the foundations week after week.

Each of the three cups were contested strongly, with YMCA, Leinster and North Kildare taking home the silverware. A particular highlight was the Minor and Senior Cups held back-to-back, in front of a large crowd both in the ground and on the live



Division 3 double winners Leinster 3rds

LEINSTER DOMINATE WITH FIRST TREBLE

All three leagues go to Rathmines, a unique feat

stream. This promotion for the women's game is vital and it was great to include the Minor Cup in that outlet.

It would be remiss not to acknowledge the assistance of the LCU&SA for the provision of umpires and the work of Competition Administrator Michael Cotter in administering results, scorecards, player registrations and much more.

The strategic initiatives focussed around participation and player recruitment/retention.

The smash hit of the year was definitely the Hundred Blast League, (HBL). This was the brainchild of Rob and Sue O'Connor who created the concept, got the event off the ground and managed the tournament for the season.

Three sets of matches were held, in three different clubs, and the feedback from those

that took part or came to watch was very strong. Congratulations and thanks are due to Rob and Sue for all their work. The HBL 2020 planning is already underway, with the potential of an Indoor Tournament just one of the highlights to come.

Another successful event that owes its origins to Leinster CC is Give it a Blast. This is an event that is run in that club each alternate year and aims to attract people new to the game to try it out for the first time. This season the template was offered to all clubs and those that staged events reported successful nights with lots of potential members. At least one club that ran an event is likely to enter a team in 2020.

The oversight of GIAB was undertaken by our new Women & Girls Development

Officer, Isobel Joyce. We are indebted to Cricket Ireland for funding this position.

Isobel's impact has been immediate and obvious and the creation of this role has the potential to dramatically impact Women's cricket over the coming years. As well as regularly engaging with the clubs, Isobel keeps the Women's Committee on our toes and moving forward all the time.

I am very appreciative of the meaningful contributions of the committee members and I thank them for their service to Cricket Leinster this year. In particular, we owe huge thanks to our Hon Sec Kevin Gallagher. His enthusiasm and real commitment to this committee was the driving force of all that was achieved.

Siobhán McBennett
Chairperson,
Women's Committee

Hockey link can pay dividends

For 2020, Cricket Leinster's Women's and Girls Development Officer, Isobel Joyce will be looking to tap into the crossover between hockey and cricket for many of the initiatives that will look to encourage greater uptake across women's and girl's cricket in Leinster.

"The cricket/hockey link up will hopefully be a big one for cricket clubs who want girls teams, especially further out from the city. Places like Kilkenny, Laois and Carlow have hockey clubs we can link up with."

Playing cricket with your friends and peers is another key focus for Joyce in 2020 as she looks to make school's cricket "more attractive to girls".

Over the winter of 2019/2020, Joyce was back playing hockey with her peers. It was a successful return too, as Railway Union did the double - winning both the women's and men's All-Ireland indoor finals.



"It's a lot of the same team that are still playing together since we played in the European Indoor Hockey Finals in Bratislava in 2010," said Joyce.

Joyce really enjoyed just playing with those peers and making sport enjoyable. "I didn't want to oversee anyone. I just wanted it to be my downtime, to go to training, go to matches and just play."

When it comes to cricket, Joyce iden-

tifies the difference for herself. "I'm really good friends with all the girls I played cricket with for Ireland, and with the club. But when it comes to cricket there can be huge age gaps, so they are not necessarily your peers."

"Simply Social' is a good initiative for adult beginners, people who haven't played in a long time or if clubs can't get a full side together, you can still join in," says Joyce about getting more women playing with their friends.

An indoor first year blitz for five schools will see them taught the skills with their peers first before playing their first match.

"Normally they play their first game before they've trained, so they don't know the rules," explains Joyce.

Even the most successful Irish internationals would attest that playing with your peers is definitely more enjoyable, no matter the level of competition.

Peter Boyd

SENIOR CUP FINAL

20 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 1 SIDES
At Sydney Parade, 3rd August
Umpires: Joe Connolly and Conor McElhinney

LEINSTER 1		PHOENIX 1	
E Ridgeway+	st G Lewis b Staunton	A Keenan*	run out (R Neuman Jones)
L Delany*	b O'Reilly	S McIntosh	b R Neuman Jones
S MacMahon	st G Lewis b Tomlinson	E Pasley	c Lowry b Douglas
A Kenealy	run out (Shukla)	L Moreton	b Bursey
H Ridgeway	c O'Reilly b Tomlinson	G Dempsey	b Ngai
A Canning	run out (Naughton)	L McDonough†	run out (Ngai)
M Kerrison	not out	H McGuckin	run out (Lipson)
J Sparrow	not out	S McDonough	not out
Extras	b2 w4 nb1	C Morris	not out
TOTAL	for 6, 15 overs	Extras	b1 lb5 w17
DNB: V Kelada, M-K McLoughlin, R Rolfe	104	TOTAL	for 7, 20.0 overs
Fall: 70, 79, 85, 90, 99, 102		DNB: D Syam, S Martin	
Bowling: O'Reilly 3-1-3-1, Naughton 3-0-25-0, Shukla 3-0-29-0, Staunton 3-0-22-1, R Lewis 1-0-10-0, Tomlinson 2-0-13-2		Fall: 1-21, 2-42, 3-66, 4-72, 5-80, 6-89, 7-91	

• **YMCA 1**
G Lewis ** st E Ridgeway b McLoughlin 32
J Gray run out (Kerrison) 11
R Lewis c MacMahon b Kerrison 0
K Tomlinson lbw b MacMahon 18
Zohaib Rana not out 18
L O'Reilly not out 5
Extras b1 lb2 w17 nb1 21
TOTAL for 4, 14.4 overs 105
DNB: V Shukla, K McEvoy, R Staunton, M Naughton, E McEvoy, Z Hoffman
Fall: 41, 42, 69, 93
Bowling: Kenealy 1.4-0-15-0, MacMahon 3-0-11-1, Kelada 3-0-24-0, Kerrison 2-0-18-1, Sparrow 1-0-5-0, McLoughlin 2-0-11-1, Canning 2-0-18-0

• **YMCA 1 won by 6 wickets**

• **North Kildare 1 won by 10 wickets**

DIVISION 1

LEAGUE WINNERS: Leinster
Batting cup: Leah Paul (Merrion)
Bowling cup: Amy Kenealy (Leinster)
Wicketkeeping cup: Sarah Forbes (x)
Howard Cup (All rounder): Rachel Delaney (Merrion)

Team of the Year: K Garth (Pembroke), L Paul (Merrion), U Raymond-Hoey (Clontarf), G Lewis (YMCA), M Waldron (Pembroke), C Joyce (Merrion), B Devchand (Malahide), A Kenealy (Leinster), C Raack (Merrion), Isobel Joyce (Clontarf), A Canning (Leinster)

JUNIOR CUP FINAL

20 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 2 SIDES
At Park Avenue, 23rd August
Toss: North Kildare

LEINSTER 3		NORTH KILDARE W1	
O Bagnall	c Deacon b K Woods	M Scott Hayward*	not out
J Loughran*	c S Woods b K McEvoy	E Douglas	not out
S Woods	c Hoffman b Flanagan	Extras	lb4 w7 nb6
S Nulty	not out	TOTAL	for 0, 14 overs
K Dillon	b Flanagan	DNB: A O'Connor, L Neuman Jones, R Neuman Jones, A O'Meara, M Taylor†, J Lowry, Z Lipson, S Ngai, M Bursey	
R Slevin	b Flanagan		
E McGrath	not out		
Extras	b3 lb2 w23 nb1		
TOTAL	for 5, 20 overs		
	119		

DNB: R Conway, A Melia, C O'Brien, M McCullough, E McHale
Fall: 4, 36, 41, 74, 76
Bowling: K McEvoy 5-1-21-1, E McEvoy 5-0-33-0, Flanagan 5-0-27-3, K Woods 3-0-16-1, Deacon 2-0-17-0

• **Leinster 3 won by 29 runs [DLS]**

YMCA 2
Z Hoffman b Dillon 0
J Priestly b Nulty 0
S Woods + c Nulty b Slevin 9
K McEvoy b Bagnall 1
L Deacon * b Slevin 7
A Collins b Nulty 0
E McEvoy not out 10
K Woods not out 5
Extras b6 lb3 w6 nb1 16
TOTAL for 6, 12.3 overs 49
DNB: M McCutcheon, A Flanagan, M Streek, E Armah-Kwantreng
Fall: 0, 3, 15, 17, 30, 38
Bowling: Dillon 3-1-5-1, Nulty 3-1-12-2, Slevin 3-1-9-2, Bagnall 2-0-8-1, O'Brien 1.3-0-5-0

• **Leinster 3 won by 29 runs [DLS]**

DIVISION 2
LEAGUE WINNERS: Leinster 2
Batting cup: Melissa Scott-Hayward (North Kildare)
Bowling cup: Shan Ngai (North Kildare)
Wicketkeeping cup: Isabel Saeed-Maguire (Leinster)
Farrell/Pilkington Cup (Most Improved Player): Ella Pasley (Phoenix)
Pilkington Cup (Fair Play): Angela Garland (Greystones)

Team of the Year: C O'Reardon (The Hills), M Scott Hayward (North Kildare), L Carthy (Rush), R Rolfe (Leinster), A Brennan (Clontarf), I Saeed-Maguire (Leinster), K Dillon (Leinster), E Doherty (Leinster), MK McLoughlin (Leinster), S Ngai (North Kildare), S Brophy (Malahide)

MINOR CUP FINAL

20 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 3 SIDES
At Sydney Parade, 10 August
Umpires: Joe Connolly and Conor McElhinney

LEINSTER 3		NORTH KILDARE W1	
O Bagnall	c Deacon b K Woods	M Scott Hayward*	not out
J Loughran*	c S Woods b K McEvoy	E Douglas	not out
S Woods	c Hoffman b Flanagan	Extras	lb4 w7 nb6
S Nulty	not out	TOTAL	for 0, 14 overs
K Dillon	b Flanagan	DNB: A O'Connor, L Neuman Jones, R Neuman Jones, A O'Meara, M Taylor†, J Lowry, Z Lipson, S Ngai, M Bursey	
R Slevin	b Flanagan		
E McGrath	not out		
Extras	b3 lb2 w23 nb1		
TOTAL	for 5, 20 overs		
	119		

DNB: R Conway, A Melia, C O'Brien, M McCullough, E McHale
Fall: 4, 36, 41, 74, 76
Bowling: K McEvoy 5-1-21-1, E McEvoy 5-0-33-0, Flanagan 5-0-27-3, K Woods 3-0-16-1, Deacon 2-0-17-0

• **Leinster 3 won by 29 runs [DLS]**

YMCA 2
Z Hoffman b Dillon 0
J Priestly b Nulty 0
S Woods + c Nulty b Slevin 9
K McEvoy b Bagnall 1
L Deacon * b Slevin 7
A Collins b Nulty 0
E McEvoy not out 10
K Woods not out 5
Extras b6 lb3 w6 nb1 16
TOTAL for 6, 12.3 overs 49
DNB: M McCutcheon, A Flanagan, M Streek, E Armah-Kwantreng
Fall: 0, 3, 15, 17, 30, 38
Bowling: Dillon 3-1-5-1, Nulty 3-1-12-2, Slevin 3-1-9-2, Bagnall 2-0-8-1, O'Brien 1.3-0-5-0

• **Leinster 3 won by 29 runs [DLS]**

DIVISION 3
LEAGUE WINNERS: Leinster 3
Batting cup: Ciara O'Brien (Railway Union)
Bowling cup: Kate McEvoy (YMCA)
Wicketkeeping cup: Eileen Foley (Rush)
Team of the Year: J Loughran (Leinster), A Hickey (Greystones), S Woods (Leinster), O Bagnall (Leinster), A Beggs (Rush), E Foley (Rush), K McEvoy (YMCA), C O'Brien (Railway Union), R Gough (Rush), L Martin (Pembroke), K Dillon (Leinster)



cricketleinster.ie

Hundred ways to love your cricket

New tournament was a roaring success

At a sunny Leinster CC, the inaugural Hundred Blast League came to an end, with a trio of high scoring games. It was a fitting end to a tournament that was all about enjoyment and participation. It was the third HBL day, with Knockharley CC and Ringcommons CC hosting the two previous rounds. The Slaney Sharks ended up winning the most games of the tournament but the real winner was the new format, which was a huge success and will become an integral part of the Women's programme in seasons to come.

The competition was first discussed after listening to parents and players concerns after the 2018 season. Leinster CC's Mary Curley raised concerns that there was a gap in the Women's programme for girls aged 17-21, especially players who were not involved with the Super3s or Irish squads. This age group was also the age where we lost most of our players, so it was obvious that something needed to be done.

The ECB's 'Hundred' competition was announced last year and will come into reality next summer. Time will tell if the format takes off and people get behind it at the top level, but the idea of rebranding the game to a new audience is an exciting prospect. With the HBL wanting to achieve similar goals it seemed like a good match. With a few tweaks of the ECB's proposed rules, a catchy name and strong branding, the HBL was invented.

The tournament format was then pitched, on behalf of Leinster CC, to Philip Smith and the planning got started, with Sue O'Connor taking over the administration. The colourful kit and branding was designed and O'Neills and ED Sports produced the playing and training kit.

Three grounds were identified as possible hosts for the game days. As Leinster proposed the idea they offered to host the finals day, which left Knockharley and Ringcommons to host the other two. Hopefully the HBL will encourage both these clubs to develop their girls coaching programme. All clubs were excellent hosts and went out of their way to have the grounds ready and made everyone feel very welcome throughout.

The biggest success of the HBL was the new format. Every team faced and bowled 100 balls. Wides and no-balls did not lead to any extra balls but did count for one extra run. The next ball was a free hit so batters were encouraged to play with more freedom and it gave them opportunities to play shots they might not have tried in league games. Every batter's first ball was also a free hit. Other rules included batters having 30 seconds to get to the wicket, which led to games being quicker but also stopped batters from sulking too much on their way off. The other main rule was that batters had to retire after 20 balls. This meant that more players got to bat, but gave ample to time to players to get a decent score. Music throughout the games added to the atmosphere and players were encouraged to add their songs to the playlist.

It was key to have strong coaches in place, who would make sure everyone was being catered for, while creating a competitive atmosphere also. A massive thanks to Una Raymond Hoey, Rachel Delaney and Sophie MacMahon who excelled in their roles and played a big part in the tournament's success. We also had Cassie Stephens step in for one of the game days so a big thank you to her too.

In the end, 42 players played in



the tournament, representing 8 clubs; Malahide, Rush, Leinster, Pembroke, YMCA, Clontarf, Phoenix and The Hills. It was difficult to get teams out and some of the Irish U19 and U15s had to be asked to play. This highlights the need for this tournament in keeping this age group in the game.

Women and girls who don't make representative sides tend to give up the game, which is a major problem, but hopefully this tournament can re-

duce those numbers and inspire players to keep up the game. The feedback from the players was extremely positive, with 97% of players saying they were very satisfied with the tournament. 100% of players said they would play it again.

The plan is to continue this tournament next year and beyond and also to start using it as a promotional tool to attract new players to the game.

A huge thank you must go to Cricket

Leinster, for making it possible, and investing considerable funds to make it happen. Also to Sue O'Connor for organising everything to do with it.

Special mention must go to the umpires who had to be flexible and open to the new rules and approach. We had some excellent scorers throughout the tournament also who had to learn a whole new system, so thank you to them also.

Rob O'Connor

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Focus on clubs

Pembroke riding the crest of a tidal wave



CLUB PROFILES
Peter Boyd



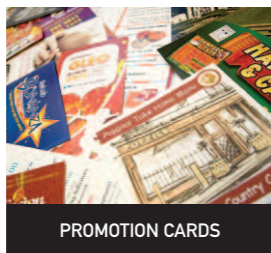
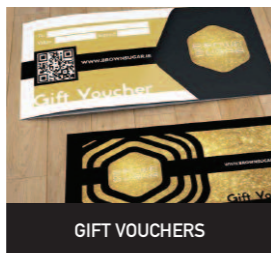
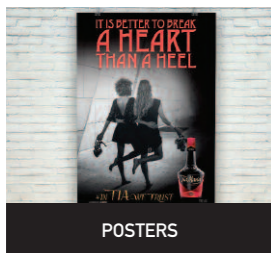
The Pembroke men's first XI that won the Irish Senior Cup for the first time



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Pembroke Cricket Club are 152 years young and it is highly unlikely they have ever been in ruder health. The Sydney Parade based outfit, are surfing the crest of a wave that has taken them close to the peak of their powers.

It is often said that cricket is a sport with clubs built upon families and you would hard pressed to find a more successful example of this than the current Cricket Ireland Club of the Year.

Cricket Leinster Premier League Champions, Irish Senior Cup Champions, four players in the Irish senior men's squad, four players in the Irish senior women's squad that was announced for the ill-fated tour to Thailand.

And several others pushing hard for the opportunity to make their mark at the highest level.

There was a sense of inevitability when Pembroke Cricket Club were announced as Club of the Year for 2019 at the recent Cricket Ireland Awards Night.

Those four players in the men's squad are Andrew Balbirnie, Lorcan Tucker, Barry McCarthy and Josh Little. The first two play with their brothers in the successful men's first team, while the latter two have siblings in the senior women's squad, Louise McCarthy and Louise Little.

Mary Waldron and Shauna Kavanagh complete the quartet of Sydney Parade women in the most recent women's squad and they'll hope to retain their places in the squad for the ICC World Cup Qualifier in Sri Lanka in July.

As for the men, there are home series against Bangladesh, New Zealand and Pakistan throughout the domestic season, Pembroke will be wary of paying a price for their success in 2020.

Two years ago, they lost so many matches the players were so demoralised they "didn't even want to play cricket anymore, never-mind for the club". Now after four league wins and two cup triumphs in 2019, their website proudly welcomes you to the 'Home of the Champions!'

It's been quite the turnaround for North Kildare Cricket Club.

Women's firsts stalwart Naomi Scott-Hayward (below) accounts for positive outlook, "when you go through that transition, the year that we've had has just been fantastic and has revitalised the club. Silverware definitely helps!"

North Kildare always struggle to attract new players to the cricket section of what is a multi-sports club and is predominantly known as a rugby club.

"A lot of people don't know the club



A very happy bunch from the Maws who brought home league pennants for Divisions 4, 8, 12 and 16 from the CL awards night

North Kildare bouncing back with record four league titles

is there, never-mind the cricket club."

However, once they're in the club they can look to attract them to the cricket section.

"We're changing youth training from Tuesday to Wednesday because the rugby training is on Wednesday.

"They can continue from winter with rugby to summer with cricket, on the same day."

For the 2020 season, there will be five open teams and a development team made up mostly of youths, two women's teams and a Taverners team, playing on Friday evenings.

While he may be captain of the Irish senior men's team, when it comes to the Pembroke men's first XI, Andrew Balbirnie is just another one of the lads. Alongside him is his brother Jack, the Tuckers and the Lawsons, men he has grown up playing with since they first put the fox badge on their chests.

Being without their top players for large chunks of the domestic season could potentially be a worry. However, looking back at the 2019 double-winning season it is clear that Pembroke didn't simply rely on their internationals to get by.

At various stages in the Premier League, Jack Balbirnie (16 wickets at 14.63 & averaging 34 with the bat) Theo Lawson (two 50s and a 48), Fiachra Tucker (9 wickets at 19.22) and Shaheen Khan (18 wickets at 14.61) delivered match-winning performances.

Building a club and community spirit is an ongoing theme in North Kildare and it is evident in everything they do.

"While the Taverners are playing, we run 'Cricket for All' programmes, which are a mixture of table cricket and cricket skills with both children and adults," explains Scott-Hayward.

"They see cricket being played while they play and feel part of the club. We've had lots of fantastic young people get involved, creat-

ing an atmosphere of volunteerism within the club and a nice ethos of inclusion.

"The older children and parents run the North Kildare Premier League providing games they wouldn't have previously got at that age level.

"We're able to make it younger and younger as Cricket Leinster organise more formal blitzes. It's really cool."

There's no doubt there's plenty of cool things going on in North Kildare, especially given where they've been in recent years.



Fiachra Tucker will lead this balanced, experienced and close-knit side again in 2020, and with their new-found taste for success they could be a force to be reckoned with.

Coaching this group is yet another exceptional talent. There isn't a cricketer in Leinster, never mind just Pembroke, that hasn't benefitted from the expert guidance of Brian O'Rourke.

Widely acknowledged as one of the best coaches in the country, O'Rourke has overseen the development of legends such as Eoin Morgan, Kevin and Niall O'Brien.

The latest looking to step off the production line for Pembroke is JJ Garth, a member of another family steeped in the club's family values and ethos.

JJ will be looking to cement a spot with first his club, but then seek to push on

for Provincial and International honours having earned a Senior Academy place for 2020.

Sister Kim has long been a star of the women's game, vice-captain of the Ireland women's team and part of two Women's Big Bash League victories with the Perth Scorchers in Australia. Indeed, on the same weekend Pembroke were announced as the Cricket Ireland 2019 Club of the Year, Garth reminded everyone of her talents with the Victorian Premier Cricket performance of the week for her unbeaten 132 and 2 for 25 for Dandenong Cricket Club.

With a top-class team on and off the field, also including one of the country's top curators in Dale McDonough, the hard work that is being now being realised by Pembroke CC is unlikely to slow down anytime soon.

Cubs cup is a very popular innovation

2019 was a busy year for Leinster's youth, but then it is every year. A new committee made the decision to introduce a new competition for the 3rd and 4th primary school class age group known as Cubs and the appetite in the clubs was such that 16 teams, comprising both boys and girls, were entered.

174 teams were entered into leagues by clubs an increase on 2018 and while this is a very welcome development it causes headaches in terms of structures and ground availabilities, headaches which won't go away. Clubs have become innovative in use of grounds for multiple games and timings of fixtures but many clubs are struggling to provide a ground for the number of fixtures which their youth membership desire.

This season saw the expansion of the District Cup, which has been running for a number of years, and 2019 saw the introduction of coloured clothing. The teams represent the various County Councils in the Greater Dublin area and provide another pathway into the Leinster provincial sides. Indeed in another new development, Fingal travelled to England for a mini tour. An interesting and progressive development was the success of the Hundred Ball League for girls not included in International squads. Many thanks to Rob O'Connor for his input and commitment to this project.

There is of course a huge amount of representative cricket played, much taking place in a congested August, aside from the Cricket Ireland Interprovincial games for u15 and u17 boys, Cricket Leinster sent u13 and u15 girls to Malvern and an u17 side to Bromsgrove. In Cricket Ireland competitions, the All Ireland Cups at u13 was won by Pembroke while at u15 Leinster were finalists.

Arrangements surrounding these game and indeed competitions leave much to be desired and it really is time that Cricket Ireland took their responsibility towards these competitions seriously.

Administratively it proved a difficult year. The work done by Brian O'Sullivan became clearer once the season began and the volunteers who run the Section struggled to keep up with the volume and scope of work. However, the committee now has a much greater understanding of the work required and allied to develop-



Lightning coach George Dockrell at a training session for young talent

Interprovincial championships

Under 15 one-day

Leinster 229 (44.5; J O'Sullivan 74, J Birch 50, W de Klerk 25) Munster 73 (41.5; D Forkin 3-22, E Birch 2-8) by 156 runs

Leinster 126 (43.4; SJ de Klerk 22) beat North West 83 (31.4; A Tonge 6-20, D Forkin 3-15) by 43 runs
Leinster 160 (45.5; M Tonge 36) beat NCU 116 (40.3; D Forkin 4-22, M Tonge 2-18) by 44 runs

	P	W	T	NR	L	Pts
LEINSTER	3	3	0	0	0	12
North West	3	2	0	0	1	8
NCU	3	1	0	0	2	4
Munster	3	3	0	0	3	0

Under 15 Twenty20

Leinster 130-7 (20; W de Klerk 30) beat NCU 107-6 (20; D Forkin 3-8) by 23 runs.

Munster 98-7 (20; D Forkin 2-14, P Morris 2-16) lost to Leinster 99-3 (16.3; W de Klerk 56) by 7 wickets
North West 63 (20; B Morris 3-8, P Le Roux 2-9, M Tonge 2-9) lost to Leinster 64-9 (19.5; P Le Roux 26*) by 1 wicket

	P	W	T	NR	L	Pts
LEINSTER	3	3	0	0	0	12
North West	3	2	0	0	1	8
NCU	3	1	0	0	2	4
Munster	3	3	0	0	3	0

Under 17 one-day

North West 177 (44.3; C McDonnell 4-22, S Ruttle 2-40) lost to Leinster 180-1 (33.5; L McDonough 97*, S Lynch 53*) by 9 wickets

Leinster 149 (39.1; S Lynch 35, J McGee 28) lost to NCU 152-9 (39.1; T Dempsey 5-29, P Forkin 2-21, S Ruttle 2-48) by 1 wicket
Munster 61 (23; J McNulty 3-20, C McDonnell 2-7, T Dempsey 2-12) lost to Leinster 62-1 (S Black 36*) by 9 wickets

	P	W	T	NR	L	Pts
NCU	3	3	0	0	0	12
LEINSTER	3	2	0	0	1	8
North West	3	1	0	0	1	4
Munster	3	3	0	0	3	0

Under 17 Twenty20

Leinster 177-6 (20; S Lynch 119*, S Black 26) beat North West 86 (19; T Dempsey 4-17, S Ruttle 2-19, O Graham 2-19) by 91 runs

Leinster 153-3 (20; M O'Reilly 66*, J McGee 34*, S Lynch 25) beat Munster 37 (13.2; C McDonnell 4-5, O Graham 3-4) by 116 runs.

	P	W	T	NR	L	Pts
LEINSTER	3	2	0	1	0	10
North West	3	1	0	1	1	6
Munster	3	0	0	1	2	2
NCU	3	0	0	1	2	2

ing a closer relationship with the Cricket Leinster office who will relieve the stress on volunteers, plans are in hand to ensure that 2020 will be a smoother run.

Primary Schools

Cricket in the Province's primary schools play a large role in the promotion of the

game to a new audience and the CL Development officers, together with the coaches from the clubs, do a great job in showcasing the sport.

The competitive side is dealt with via the Leprechaun cup, which was won by Belgrove NS this year that re-entered after a long period away. A new soft ball

Coaching programme develops future stars

The winter/spring programme of 2018/2019 continued the general format of previous years in offering opportunities for both boys and girls across a wide variety of age groups.

- In coach education, the introduction of two new courses further strengthened the pathway for those wishing to develop their coaching skills.
- Coach developers were afforded an opportunity for an all-Ireland workshop, attended by coach developers (tutors) from all four unions.

Squad Coaching

Coaching of youth age groups took place at a number of different locations during the winter months at both north side and south side venues. Over 120 coaching sessions were run during the programme, and the following age groups were catered for:

- Boys - Under 11s, Under 12s, Under 13s, Under 14s, Under 15s & Under 17s
- Girls - Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s & Under 17s.

A number of specialist wicket keeping clinics for different age groups were also held during the school holiday periods.

The programme consists of a mixture of open sessions where clubs may nominate relevant age group players and reduced squads by invitation only at the various age levels. This mixture ensures that the coach workforce gets an opportunity to assess as many players as possible at each age level, while also allowing more focused coaching of players in smaller groups at the "squad" sessions.

Cricket Leinster is committed to financially supporting this extensive programme in the knowledge that it continues to produce players capable of playing for both Leinster Lightning and the full international sides. Improved communication between coaches at youth interprovincial, Bolts and Lightning levels has further developed the player pathway within the province.

Tours

Tours by youth sides continue to be a key development opportunity for the best provincial players. Despite the financial challenges involved, tours were undertaken by three girls' age groups to Malvern College. In addition to winning its sixth interprovincial title in seven

years the Under 15 boys toured Munster in August. Also in August, a Fingal youth side went to Merseyside, winning both games.

Coach Education

The variety of courses now available to those interested in getting involved in coaching, or further developing their skills, has increased further with the introduction of two new courses during 2019.

The coach education pathway was delivered this year with two courses per stage.

Welcome to Cricket - 3-hour course - 24 attendees in total.

Coaching Kids 5 to 11 - 6-hour course - 29 attendees in total.

Coaching Cricket - 2-day course (with assessment) - 28 attendees in total.

Certificate in Coaching Children / Young People & Adults - 4-day course (with assessment) 26 candidates from all four unions, including eight from Leinster.

Coach Development

Providing opportunities to coaches and supporting them "in the field" remain key challenges for the continuing improvement of the Coach Development Programme in Leinster.

Tutor Development

A Coach Developer day was held in Dundalk Sports Centre in October. Attended by approximately 30 current and trainee tutors from all four provinces, this was an opportunity for tutors to network, to see other tutors deliver elements of the two new courses, and in discussions and review sessions, to clarify and further improve the quality and consistency of the delivery of the courses.

Unlike previous such workshops, this was delivered entirely from within the local resources, being led by Andy McCrea and Brian Kelleher, the two designated ECB Field Based Trainers. The day was also attended by representatives from Hockey, Sport NI and Cricket Scotland.

The feedback from attendees was universally positive and is a great credit to Brett Reid, CI Coach Development Manager who organised the day.

Brian O'Rourke

Annual Dinner

More than 300 people packed into the Guinness Storehouse for a memorable annual end of season dinner in January. These pictures convey a little of the magic with, clockwise from right, the all-conquering Leinster women's teams who won all three leagues and the Minor Cup; guest of honour Tom Murphy; Helen Caird of Phoenix; Amy Kenealy collects her award from president Peter Thew; Andrew Balbirnie presents the Hopkins Cup to Patrick Tice of Merrion; Joyce Richardson enjoys winning the Lightning shirt in the raffle; and Fintan McAllister was a popular winner of the John Dawson Fair Play award



Clockwise from top: Andrew Leonard and Peter Thew on stage; Brian Gilmore gives Matt Ford a batting masterclass; Eoin Sheehan of Rush collects the Division 5 trophy from Nigel Jones; a delighted group from Adamstown and Tyrrellstown; the umpiring fraternity were in fine form in the Storehouse; Matt Dwyer shares his wisdom with Andy Leonard

Cup final scorecards

SENIOR LEAGUE CUP

40 OVER CUP FOR PREMIER and DIVISION 2 SIDES
SPONSORED BY IBI FINANCE
At Milverton, Saturday, 8 June
Umpires: Paul Reynolds and Aidan Seaver
Toss: The Hills

PHOENIX 1			
B Beecroft	c Lamb	b Shoukat	21
LMcDonough†		b Shoukat	12
S Singh	lbw	b Shoukat	0
N Pretorius		b Shoukat	0
A Chester*	lbw	b Shoukat	0
S Black	lbw	b Shoukat	3
Poonish Mehta	lbw	b Carroll	7
Amish Sidhu	c Carroll	b Shoukat	2
B White		not out	24
G Millar	lbw	b Daya Singh	1
M Lunson	c Donegan	b Ranolia	7
Extras	lb5, w2		7
TOTAL	all out 24.4 overs		84

Bowling: Daya Singh 8-0-36-1, Shoukat 10-4-20-7, Carroll 6-1-23-1, Ranolia 0.4-0-0-1
 Fall: 31 31 31 34 35 46 46 54 65 84

THE HILLS 1			
C McLoughlin-Gavin	c McDonough	b Mehta	0
B Lakhotia	c Mehta	b Singh	21
J Carroll	run out (Lunson/Millar)		35
† M Donegan		not out	7
Daya Singh		not out	20
Extras	w3		3
TOTAL	for 3, 19.5 overs		86

DNB: G Lamb, L Clinton, * T Rooney-Murphy, A Kavanagh, N Shoukat, D Ranolia.
 Fall: 2 36 64
 Bowling: Mehta 4-1-15-1, White 3-0-13-0, Sidhu 5-1-15-0, Singh 6-0-29-1, Lunson 1.5-0-14-0

• **The Hills won won by 7 wickets**
Man of the Match: Naseer Shoukat

MIDDLE CUP

40 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 5 and 6 SIDES
At Kenure Park, Monday, 5th August

CIVIL SERVICE 1			
N Joshi	c Varghese	b MS Islam	59
K Webster*	lbw	b Padmaprabhu	1
S Singht	c Tarar	b Mohammad	104
M Siddique		b Nawaz	23
M Safeen	lbw	b Nawaz	0
S Mistry	lbw	b Mohammad	31
M Fayyaz	c Jan	b Padmaprabhu	19
P Shah		b Padmaprabhu	15
S Akbar		b Padmaprabhu	0
H Imtiaz Ali	c Murphy	b Padmaprabhu	1
P Desai		not out	1
Extras	b7 lb1 w2 nb3		13
TOTAL	all out 39.5 overs		267

Fall: 21 83 140 140 230 243 256 256 266 267
 Bowling: Mohmand 0.2-0-4-0, Padmaprabhu 7.5-1-34-5, Shaikh 2.4-0-23-0, Mohammad 8-0-59-2, Varghese 3-0-25-0, Islam 5-0-31-1, Murphy 7-0-43-0, Nawaz 6-0-40-2.

WEXFORD WANDERERS 1			
U Tarar*	c Joshi	b Siddique	7
S Shaikh	c Mistry	b Siddique	6
H Nawaz	c Shah	b Desai	16
N Padmaprabhu	c Safeen	b Imtiaz Ali	91
E Brennan		b Siddique	63
A Varghese	c Shah	b Imtiaz Ali	3
I Jan†		b Joshi	28
A Mohammad	lbw	b Joshi	0
MS Islam		not out	12
A Murphy	st Singh	b Shah	3
Extras	b4 lb3 w6		13
TOTAL	for 9, 40 overs		242

DNB: MJ Mohmand
 Bowling: Siddique 8-0-33-3, Desai 8-0-35-1, Imtiazali 7-0-57-2, Akbar 8-0-31-0, Shah 6-0-44-1, Mistry 1-0-21-0, Joshi 2-0-14-2
 Fall: 14 14 36 168 173 210 210 237 242

* **Civil Service 1 won by 25 runs**

MIDDLE 2 CUP

40 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 7 and 8 SIDES
At Ringcommons, Sunday, 4th August
Umpires: Martin Mackey, Matt Anson

BAGENALSTOWN 1			
SA Taj†	c Singh	b M Kirk	7
N Jasinghe	c Longstaff	b M Kirk	1
M Bruns	lbw	b Singh	9
Z Mumtaz*	c Potts	b Fitzsimons	58
S Charles	c Longstaff	b Singh	0
Y Shah		b Potts	36
ASattar	lbw	b Fitzsimons	4
R O'Neill	c Fitzsimons	b Potts	9
K Mumtaz		b Singh	27
RF Riaz	c Roughan	b Potts	5
Azaz Ahmad		not out	1
Extras	b2 lb1 w5 nb2		10
TOTAL	all out, 37 overs		167

Bowling: Singh 7-2-22-3, M Kirk 6-2-13-2, Drane 7-1-34-0, Newton 5-1-21-0, Potts 7-0-41-3, Fitzsimons 5-0-33-2.
 Fall: 1 11 22 22 104 109 131 136 156 167

GREYSTONES 1			
H Kirk		b Jasinghe	19
M Nawabzai	c Z Mumtaz	b Shah	44
D Drane	c Bruns	b K Mumtaz	41
J Fitzsimons	c O'Neill	b Shah	4
M Kirk		not out	16
M Singh*	c O'Neill	b Shah	3
R Akula		not out	38
Extras	w6		6
TOTAL	for 5, 31 overs		171

DNB: A Longstaff†, T Newton, M Potts, S Roughan
 Bowling: Jasinghe 5-0-26-1, Ahmad 4-0-31-0, Z Mumtaz 4-0-39-0, K Mumtaz 7-0-31-1, Charles 1-0-11-0, Shah 8-1-29-3, Riaz 2-0-4-0
 Fall: 30 103 113 114 119

* **Greystones 1 won by 5 wickets**

INTERMEDIATE CUP

40 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 9 and 10 SIDES
At Sydney Parade, Saturday 1st September

PEMBROKE 4			
S Patel		run out (Kurian/Ravich'n)	0
S Manchanda	lbw	b Shahdeo	0
B Ferres	c George	b Ravichandran	69
P Sharma	c&b	b Shahdeo	17
R Bajaj†	c Ravichandran	b Joseph	18
A Wijesinghe	c Katare	b George	34
KJ Safi	c Kavumkottu	b George	23
N Oryakhil		b Shahdeo	0
R Garland*		not out	6
S Safi	run out (Jacob/Kavum'tu)		13
J Doherty		not out	1
Extras	b3 lb5 w5		13
TOTAL	for 9, 40 overs		194

Fall: 0 2 35 69 135 172 174 176 193
 Bowling: Ravichandran 8-1-37-1, Shahdeo 8-1-32-3, Joseph 4-0-19-1, George 8-0-48-2, Kurian 8-1-28-0, Kavumkottu 4-0-22-0

DLR COUNTY 3			
S Mishra*	c Patel	b Sharma	6
S Shahdeo		b Sharma	11
N Kataret		b Doherty	0
TD Kurian	c&b	b Garland	48
D Joseph	c Wijesinghe	b Sharma	19
V Tamilmani		b Patel	7
V Jacob		b Oryakhil	41
N George		not out	37
SK Kavumkottu		not out	2
Extras	b5 lb6 w13		24
TOTAL	for 7, 38.2 overs		195

DNB: K Ravichandran, S Vaidya
 Fall: 16 16 18 81 94 106 175
 Bowling: Doherty 8-2-28-1, Sharma 8-1-44-3, Oryakhil 7.2-0-52-1, Safi 4-1-17-0, Garland 7-0-36-1, Patel 4-1-7-1

* **DLR County 3 won by 3 wickets**

JUNIOR CUP

40 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 11 and 12 SIDES
At Margaretstown, Sunday 25th August
Umpires: Venkat Yanala, Mthu Periyana

YMCA 4			
Alec Jackson†	c Patel	b Dey	0
J Flanagan	c B Singh	b Imran	20
S Safi	c&b	b Dey	0
S Roshia	c&b	b Dey	1
K Medcalf*		b Imran	15
T Tallat	c B Singh	b Ahmed	1
A Naughton	c P Singh	b Ahmed	7
T Singh	c B Singh	b Mir	3
S Karpe	lbw	b Imran	4
Andrew Jackson		not out	10
D Cooke		b Khatri	2
Extras	b2 lb1 w6 nb4		13
TOTAL	all out, 38.5 overs		76

Fall 0, 0, 3, 39, 40, 50, 52, 62, 72
 Bowling: Dey 4-3-2-3, Patel 6-1-12-0, Khatri 5.5-2-12-1, Mir 7-1-16-1, Ahmed 8-1-13-2, Imran 8-1-18-3

CASTLEKNOCK 2			
Samran Patel		not out	37
Shivendra Jogi	c Alec Jackson	b Safi	16
Shomik Ray		not out	12
Extras	lb1 w6 nb5		12
TOTAL	for 1, 19.1 overs		77

DNB: Shahbaz Ahmed, Sagar Khatri, Pardeep Singh*, Balbir Singht, Sanjeev Kumar, Suman Dey, Zahid Imran, Yasir Mir
 Fall: ??????????
 Bowling: Tallat 3-0-18-0, Naughton 5-1-19-0, Safi 5-0-9-1, Flanagan 3.1-0-13-0, Roshia 3-1-8-0

• **Castleknock 2 won by 9 wickets**

SENIOR 2 CUP

40 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 3 and 4 SIDES
• Awarded to Clontarf 2

MINOR CUP

40 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 13 and 14 SIDES
At Kentstown, Saturday, 17th September

WEXFORD WANDERERS 2			
P Wise		b Hamza Akram	6
S Dunk	c Pollock	b Hasan	112
A Oriakhail		b Angel	27
S Jan	c P Shekleton	b Hasan	49
A Stahlut*		b Hasan	11
H Khan		b Adi	1
J Shirzada		run out (Adi)	0
S Carty†		b Hasan	1
S Faulkner		not out	1
Extras	b3 lb3 w10 nb2		18
TOTAL	for 8, 40 overs		226

DNB: H Safi, A Murphy
 Fall: 1-10, 2-100, 3-194, 4-223, 5-223, 6-224, 7-226, 8-226
 Bowling: Akram 8-0-33-1, Hasan 8-1-30-4, Adi 8-0-40-1, Angel 8-0-49-1, McKeever 6-0-38-0, Prasad 2-0-30-0

KNOCKHARLEY 3			
H Beadle	lbw	b Safi	4
P Shekleton	run out (Hasan Khan)		23
R Shekleton	c Dunk	b Sami Jan	15
H Akram		not out	45
T Mckeever†	c Stahlut	b Faulkner	1
R Adi*		b Faulkner	15
R Pollock	c Wise	b Shirzada	6
Y Goud	c Faulkner	b Dunk	1
M Hasan		b Dunk	0
K Prasad	st Carty	b Dunk	3
G Angel		b Safi	0
Extras	b18 lb2 w19		39
TOTAL	all out, 35.3 overs		152

Fall: 1-21, 2-52 3-69, 4-84, 5-106, 6-128, 7-137, 8-138, 9-149
 Bowling: Oriakhail 6-0-18-0, Safi 5.3-0-11-2, Jan 8-0-28-1, Shirzada 6-0-34-1, Faulkner 4-0-26-2, Khan 4-0-10-0, Dunk 2-0-5-3

• **Wexford Wanderers 2 won by 74 runs**

MINOR 2 CUP

40 OVER CUP FOR DIV 15, 16, 17 & NON-LEAGUE SIDES
At St Finian's College, Sunday 18th August

CIVIL SERVICE 4			
D Gandharva	c R Alam	b Younus	0
S Kurup	run out (S Alam)		0
K Awan	c Zamal	b Younus	1
C Keane		b S Alam	8
Asad Arshad	lbw	b Haq	29
D Nugent†	lbw	b Ismail 2	13
T Byrne		b Zamal	11
M Furqan	c Younus	b Ismail 2	17
Pk Mahadev	c Zamal	b Younus	2
S Ingle	lbw	b Ismail 2	0
AS Khan*		not out	0
Extras	lb1 w21		22
TOTAL	all out, 31.2 overs		104

Bowling: Younus 6.2-2-10-3, Zamal 6-1-21-1, Haq 6-3-17-1, Ismail 2 7-1-31-3, S Alam 3-0-9-1, Khan 3-0-15-0
 Fall: 1-1, 2-4, 3-4, 4-44, 5-53, 6-76, 7-101, 8-101, 9-104

CARLOW 2			
S Mohammed	c Byrne	b Khan	6
R Ismail 2	lbw	b Furqan	6
A Khan	c Arshad	b Furqan	2
Rizoan Alam†		b Awan	1
Sofiat Alam*	c Byrne	b Arshad	23
R Ullah		b Arshad	10
M Lobo		b Khan	4
I Haq	lbw	b Awan	0
M Younus		not out	10
M Zamal	c Ingle	b Khan	2
G Hafeez	lbw	b Awan	2
Extras	b5 lb7 w10		22
TOTAL	all out, 24.3 overs		88

Bowling: Khan 8-1-17-3, Furqan 5-0-17-2, Awan 4.3-0-20-3, Arshad 7-1-22-2
 Fall: 1-16, 2-21, 3-22, 4-38, 5-61, 6-66, 7-67, 8-71, 9-78

• **Civil Service 4 won by 16 Runs**

YMCA SALVER

20 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 5, 6, 7, and 8 SIDES
At Claremont Road, Sunday, 21st July

BALBRIGGAN 2			
A Harper			45
M McGee		not out	41
TOTAL	for 6, 20 overs		143

Fall:
 Bowling: R Alam 40-2, S Nagra 32-1

CARLOW 1			
R Butt			26
TOTAL	for 9, 20 overs		119

Bowling: T Faheem 19-4, S Haris 19-2

* **Balbriggan 2 won by 37 runs**



Albert Harper (Balbriggan)

ALAN MURRAY CUP

20 OVER CUP FOR DIVISION 1 and 2 SIDES
SPONSORED BY LHK INSURANCE
At Sydney Parade, Saturday, 11th August, 2019
Umpires: Matt Anson, Steve Wood

MALAHIDE 1			
A Reynolds	c Wright	b D Delany	0
Arjun Muntha		b Morrissey	15
R Mortimer	c Morrissey	b Prior	14
M Ford	c E Delany	b Kelly	79
A Desai	lbw	b Butler	1
G Ford	run out (Wright)		18
*†F Mc Allister		b D Delany	22
PKD Chase	c Poynter	b Kelly	0
J Newland		not out	4
Extras	(lb2, w5)		7
TOTAL	for 8, 20 overs		160

DNB: K Donnelly, K Reynolds
 Fall: 0 23 69 70 117 139 140 160
 Bowling: D Delany 4-0-35-2, Morrissey 4-0-16-1, Butler 4-0-31-1, Kelly 4-0-31-2, Prior 4-0-45-1

PHOENIX 2			
E Uddin		b Ryan	2
L McDonough†	c Dent	b McCabe	9
S Black*	c Forrest	b Collier	21
N Naik		b Ryan	30
B Chauhan	c Collier	b McCabe	5
E Chester			

Grounds

2019 followed a familiar pattern where clubs at the top, in general using grass wickets, applied significant resources in maintaining standards and making improvements where possible. This year large works were undertaken in Railway Union and Clontarf.

Last year's work on Trinity's square and Rush's outfield are starting to pay dividends.

Communication with these clubs has been excellent and we commend all groundsmen and clubs involved. Just to confirm that Autumn renovations were carried out at all 17 "grass" CL clubs involving some 60 tons of imported loam and extensive use of the machinery from the Trailer Scheme, including the newly-purchased Sisis Top Spreader.

Below this level the picture is somewhat mixed with improvements being made in some clubs while others struggle to resource improvements and maintain existing facilities, for a whole variety of issues.

For example, the addition of a two-bay nets area has been identified as essential in building a strong base and providing a social focus point during the week for clubs. Increasingly outdoor nets are being used in the off season for training. Whether this is a symptom of

global warming or not it is to be welcomed. Indeed, if RU under the guidance of Kenny Carroll and Simon Grehan can produce a fully-lit outdoor facility we could be looking at an entirely new concept in player development at local level.

The following clubs are in the process of building net facilities or have just been awarded a grant to begin this work – RU, Swords, Kilkenny, Laois, Knockharley, Adamstown, Clondalkin. This is great news but we still have 15 of our 43 clubs who have no such facility. That's more than one third.

An area which proved frustrating this year was persistently poor marking of artificial wickets.

Despite written advice and club visits this remained a problem at many locations throughout the season. This will be addressed during the winter by the Grounds Committee with assistance from committees of Cricket Leinster.

As noted above, Adamstown, Clondalkin and Swords are in the process of installing nets. This is a huge step forward for cricket played in public parks. It should also be noted that Swords have been able to install portalos beside their ground in Newbridge Park. A small but significant move on behalf of

Fingal County Council and the club which it is hoped can be replicated in other locations.

It is hoped to meet up with Accreditation, OCC and the Umpires Ass during the off season to iron out some of the points above and the issue of "appropriate standards and facilities" at grounds. This discussion is crucial given the introduction of "minimum Standards at clubs" by CL in 2021.

I would like to pay tribute to Laois, Kilkenny, Slieve Bloom and Dundalk who each had a significant journey this year in terms of new Ground achievements.

I would also like to thank Rob Kenealy, Ralph Condie, Roland Bradley and Kenny MacDonald for their assistance on the Grounds Committee during the year.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the enormous work Henry Tighe and his committee has put into the Accreditation process on behalf of all 43 clubs. CL has been going through a period of rapid expansion and Henry has been a guiding light over a number of years for the growth of cricket in the province of Leinster.

Guy Satchwell
CL Grounds Committee

We would like to thank all clubs and venues who hosted our workshops and the umpire and scorer courses.

Umpire appointments were down for 2019 and this was down to a few reasons:

a) Losing a few of our existing umpires from the previous season who had moved away.

b) Last minute cancellations on a few occasions which meant moving umpires.

c) Injuries also cost us a number of appointments, specifically John Norton who would regularly do 70+ matches per season..

d) Weekend IACUS appointments for our panel umpires, Paul Reynolds, Mary Waldron, Aidan Seaver, Azam Ali Baig and Steve Wood which took away from a number of "Senior" appointments.

At the start of the 2018 season we had 62 active umpires whereas this season we had 64 active umpires but still covered less Cricket Leinster games than we did during 2018.

All Premier League, Senior League Cup and Championship matches had umpires appointed and only one match in Division 3 didn't have umpires.

Throughout the 2019 season we had 33 disciplinary reports made by our umpires, which is slightly down on 2018 and we would like to thank the disciplinary committee for their generally thorough and fair hearings.

As a final plea for additional umpires, I would appreciate if you all go back to your clubs and see who is interested in joining the umpire fraternity. Once you have people interested, ask them to contact myself and we will include them on the circulation list with details on how to register for the umpire courses.

The more umpires we have, and who make themselves available for games, the better the experience of cricket for all.

Steve Wood
Hon Secretary, Leinster Cricket Umpires & Scorer's Association

Premiership

	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Merrion 1	7	6	0	1	20	140
Pembroke 1	7	5	0	2	25	125
The Hills 1	7	5	0	2	16	116
Malahide 1	7	4	0	3	20	100
YMCA 1	7	3	1	3	13	83
Phoenix 1	7	3	0	4	23	83
Leinster 1	7	1	1	5	8	38
Rush 1	7	0	0	7	10	10

Play-offs: Hills bt Malahide on league finish, Pembroke bt Merrion, Merrion bt Hills, Final: Pembroke bt Merrion

Plate play-offs: Phoenix v Leinster RSP, YMCA bt Rush, Final: Phoenix v YMCA

Team of the Year: S Doheny (Rush), J Anderson (Merrion), H Tector, R Gamble, J Tector, JJ Cassidy (YMCA), O Newton (Merrion), BJ McCarthy (Pembroke), N Shoukat (Hills), P Mehta (Phoenix), J Groom (Merrion)

Highlights — Most runs: **546** J Anderson (Merrion) Best average (min 6 inns): **85.00** P Mehta (Phoenix) Highest innings: **147** DI Joyce (Merrion) v Leinster Best bowling: **7-35** O Newton (Merrion) v YMCA Most wickets: **29** O Newton (Merrion) Best average (min 8 wkts): **9.79** O Newton (Merrion) Most dismissals: **14** (12ct 2st) JJ Cassidy (YMCA)

Review: It all came down to a pulsating play-off win over Merrion, as Pembroke lifted the 2019 title on a sunny evening in Anglesea Road. It was a great season for the Sandymount club but after losing two of their first four games (to Malahide and Merrion) that didn't look likely. But they won the last five matches (two v Merrion) to give them a notable double with the Irish Senior Cup. Their Irish internationals Andrew Balbirnie, Lorcan Tucker and Josh Little played in only three of the nine matches. In his first full season for Pembroke since 2014, Barry McCarthy took 16 wickets at 10.56, behind only Merrion's Oliver Newton in terms of strike rate. Once again John Anderson was the leading batsman, but Dom Joyce's 147 drove the club to the highest innings in the modern Premier League, 384-7 v Leinster. Rush struggled, their bowlers taking just 27 wickets.

Championship

	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Clontarf 1	10	8	1	1	36	206
North County 1	10	6	1	3	27	157
Balbriggan 1	10	5	1	4	22	132
Terenure 1	10	3	0	6	19	91.5
Railway Union 1	10	3	0	6	17	89.5
Cork County 1	10	2	1	7	14	64

* RU v Terenure was tied

Team of the Year: EGM Delany (Clontarf), J Webster (Terenure), R Forrest (Clontarf), KED Carroll (Railway), J Grassi (North Co), M Cotter (Terenure), C Laycock (Railway), S Dutt (Clontarf), Y Cook, E Richardson (North Co), C Hinchliffe (Balbriggan)

Highlights — Most runs: **572** J Webster (Terenure) Best average (min 6 inns): **120.00** EGM Delany (Clontarf) Highest innings: **145** J Webster (Terenure) v Railway Union Best bowling: **7-20** O Graham (North County) v Balbriggan Most wickets: **19** E Richardson (North County) Best average (min 8 wkts): **11.67** C Laycock (Railway Union) Most dismissals: **17** (16ct, 1st) M Cotter (Terenure)

Review: Clontarf had a poor start to the season in the League Cup and then lost their first Championship match at home to North County. But they won their last eight matches to top the league with ease, ensuring a return to the Premier League. That run was pretty much entirely down to the amazing form of Eoghan Delany who batted eight times (101*, 15, 90, 16*, 132*, 2, 18*, 106) for an incredible total of 480 runs at 120. Owen Graham was still playing 3rd team cricket for North County towards back end of 2018, started the 2019 season with 6-20 for the 2nds against Malahide, and finished it with an extraordinary 7-20 in the final game of the season against Balbriggan. Clinton Hinchliffe's 308 runs at 44 and 18 wickets at 15.56 for Balbriggan was a good performance and he went on to star in the Big Bash down under. Terenure had their best finish since 2014, with overseas player Jack Webster dominating. His 841 runs in all competitions was the highest we have on record for the club, beating Andre Botha's 759 in 2011. Chad Laycock, a schoolboy from South Africa on Cricket Leinster's exchange program took 12 wickets at 11.67 and 154 runs at 25.67.

Umpiring

BEFORE the start of the 2019 season, we had held three Stage 1 and Stage 2 umpire courses, two before and one after Christmas. Out of this we gained 22 new umpires who had advised that they would be standing on behalf of the LCU&SA.

Unfortunately for one reason or another, only 14 actually umpired and only eight did 10 or more games.

Our workshops were generally well represented and as part of the pre-season the LCU&SA committee commissioned new clothing for our standing umpires. It is part of the requirements that all umpires look the same out on the field of play and this is accepted well by not only the umpires but all players and clubs.

We also held both club scorer and CricClubs workshops for our new and existing scorers and these were well attended with a lot of new scorers on board for the season. We would welcome these scorers to become members of our association.

Senior League Cup

GROUP A

	P	W	T	NR	L	BP	PP	Pts
The Hills	6	6	0	0	0	17	0	137
Phoenix	6	5	0	0	1	22	0	122
Malahide	6	4	0	0	2	13	0	93
YMCA	6	3	0	0	3	15	0	75
Dublin Univ	6	2	0	0	4	17	0	57
North Co	6	1	0	0	5	10	0	30
Railway U	6	0	0	0	6	11	0	11

GROUP B

	P	W	T	NR	L	BP	PP	Pts
Merrion	6	6	0	0	0	25	0	145
Pembroke	6	4	0	1	1	14	0	106.5
Leinster	6	3	0	0	3	15	0	75
Rush	6	3	0	0	3	9	0	69
Balbriggan	6	2	0	1	3	14	0	66.5
Clontarf	6	1	0	0	5	15	0	35
Terenure	6	1	0	0	5	8	0	28

SEMI-FINALS

THE HILLS beat
Pembroke by 3 wickets
PHOENIX beat
Merrion by 37 runs



FINAL
THE HILLS beat
Phoenix by 7 wickets
(Full scorecard on
Page 24)



Nazeer Shoukat with the match ball after his record haul of 7-20 ensured The Hills won the IBI Corporate Finance League Cup against Phoenix at the Vineyard

Divisions 3 to 6

DIVISION 3	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
YMCA 2	14	11	0	3	47	267
Pembroke 2	14	10	1	3	29	239
Merrion 2	14	7	0	7	47	182
Clontarf 2	14	7	0	7	38	178
Malahide 2	14	6	1	7	35	155
North County 2	14	5	1	8	21	131
Leinster 2	14	5	1	8	21	121
Railway Union 2	14	3	0	11	32	92

Deductions: 10 points – Malahide 2, Leinster 2, 5pts – Merrion 2.

Team of the Year: W Azmat (Clontarf), T Anders (YMCA), S Rooney (North Co), A Vincent (Clontarf), Beant Bhathal (Merrion), +C Poddar (Merrion), A Shukla (YMCA), J Bansal (Clontarf), G Hoey (Pembroke), C Mallon (Leinster), A Paul (Malahide).

Highlights — Most runs: **488**, Tom Anders (YMCA2)
Best average (min 6 inns): **48.80**, Tom Anders (YMCA2)
Highest innings: **152***, James Groom (Merrion 2) v NCo2
Best bowling: **7-27**, Finn Conaty (Leinster 2) v Pem 2
Most wickets: **25**, Scott Ruttle (Pem 2)
Best average (min 8 wkts): **5.22**, Jack Balbirnie (Pem 2)
Most dismissals: **21**, Chirag Poddar (Merrion 2)

Review: The arrival of Ian and Tom Anders from Phoenix made a massive contribution to the success of YMCA 2. They lost twice to Pembroke, and it is difficult to get away from the feeling that their neighbours threw the season away rather than YM winning it. Those two losses, along with an early season defeat to Railway were all YMCA did wrong. Pembroke lost to Leinster, Merrion and North County. But YM could only do what they had to, and five wins at the start of the season, coupled with a run in July/August of six more was enough for the title.

DIVISION 5	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Rush 2	16	12	1	3	41	281
DLR County 1	16	11	0	5	42	262
Merrion 4	16	9	0	7	45	225
Civil Service 1	16	9	0	7	33	213
Knockharley 1	16	8	0	8	48	208
Wexford W1	16	7	1	8	42	182
Adamstown 1	16	7	0	9	40	180
Phoenix 3	16	4	0	12	38	118
Mullingar 1	16	4	0	12	26	106

Team of the Year: M Scott (Phoenix), C McGuire (Rush), H Shivmangal (Knockharley), R Parashurama (CS), A Chandrasekar (DLR Co), + A Bellew (Knockharley), S Sethi (Adamstown), D Janjua (Knockharley), D Forkin (Merrion), M Galav (DLR Co), A Mohammad (Wexford)

Highlights — Most runs: **455**, Srikanth Boddu (DLR County)
Best average (min 6 inns): **51.60**, Conor McGuire (Rush)
Highest innings: **152**, Rajath Parashurama (CS) v Phoenix
Best bowling: **6-26**, Aman Yadav (Adamstown) v Wexford W
Most wickets: **31**, Abhilash Sukumaran (DLR Co)
Best average (min 8 wkts): **5.86** Shiv Sethi (Adamstown)
Most dismissals: **17**, Anthony Bellew (Knockharley)

Review: Rush's first title in decades. Of their 15 matches, they batted second in 14, and won 12 and lost 2. With the title on the line, and probably needing to win all five matches, they won five on the bounce, chasing in all. The finale was a cracker. DLR County were 118-8, but rallied to 217. Jack McGee and Conor McGuire took the score to 80, before a couple of wickets saw a wobble at 120-3. The next six wickets fell for 50 runs but skipper Eoin Sheehan (30*) added 31 for the last wicket with Andrew Doheny (2*) to win with 16 balls to spare.

DIVISION 4	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
North Kildare 1	14	11	1	2	40	270
Merrion 3	14	9	1	4	42	232
YMCA 3	14	7	0	7	35	175
The Hills 2	14	6	3	5	20	170
Phoenix 2	14	4	3	6	28	158
Clontarf 3	14	5	0	9	27	127
Laois 1	14	4	0	10	29	109
Longford 1	14	3	2	8	19	104

Deductions: 15 points – Longford

Team of the Year: V Dhiman (Merrion), MM Singh, H Maroof (North Kildare), J Atkinson (Merrion), A Smit; F Moore (Laois); D Singh (YMCA), J Smith (NK), V Sukhrmani (Merrion), V Dalwani (Merrion), W Ali (NK).

Highlights — Most runs: **399**, Daniel Ashton (Clontarf 3)
Best average (min 6 inns): **113**, Vinas Dhiman (Merrion 3)
Highest innings: **124***, Vinas Dhiman (Merrion 3) v The Hills 2
Best bowling: **6-26**, Matthew Auret (Laois) v YMCA 3
Most wickets: **30**, Vidit Sukhrmani (Merrion 3)
Best average (min 8 wkts): **10.00**, Cian Nulty (The Hills 2)
Most dismissals: **15**, Fintan Moore (Laois 1)

Review: The crown on the achievements of North Kildare in 2019. All four teams won their respective leagues, a unique achievement. However, there was a deep sadness to the season with the passing of Mustafa Sidiqi, only weeks after he had taken 3-28 in the historic win over Merrion 1. The league was a cakewalk, with the season being wrapped up in August, but there were a series of "close" matches including a 21 run win when batting first v Clontarf. James Smith joined North Kildare after a season in Railway Union, and was a huge success, taking 17 wickets at 10.94.

DIVISION 6	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Pembroke 3	14	12	0	2	37	272
Balbriggan 2	14	9	1	4	33	213
Railway Union 3	14	7	0	6	37	192
Adamstown 2	14	8	0	6	31	191
Malahide 3	14	6	0	8	33	153
Clontarf 4	14	5	0	9	37	137
Leinster 3	14	5	1	8	35	135
Castleknock 1	14	2	0	12	27	47

Deductions: 20pts – Castleknock (late scorecards), 5pts – Railway (late scorecard), Pembroke (no scorer).

Team of the Year: Adrian Harper (Balbriggan), M Russell (Malahide), P Blackley (Pembroke), F O'Halloran (Clontarf), H Manks (Malahide), +C Kadam (Adamstown); J Prendergast (Pembroke), S Haris (Balbriggan), R Tariq (Clontarf), D Eashwar (Balbriggan), S Yellur (Adamstown)

Highlights — Most runs: **520**, Phil Blackley (Pembroke 3)
Best average (min 6 inns): **58.00**, Martin Russell (Malahide 3)
H'st innings: **158***, Martin Russell (Malahide 3) v Balbriggan 2
Best bowling: **6-19**, Joe Prendergast (Pem 3) v Castleknock
Most wickets: **26**, Syed Haris (Balbriggan 2)
Best average (min 8 wkts): **7.00**, Arshad Safi (Pembroke 3)
Most dismissals: **15**, Chinmay Kadam (Adamstown 2)

Review: After the disappointments of 2018, Pembroke 3 bounced back to dominate the league. Balbriggan and Adamstown both beat the champions over a two week spell in mid-July, but from then on, a five match unbeaten run put paid to any hopes of the chasers. Phil Blackley broke the Division 6 record for most runs in a season, a record held by Railway Union's Khizar Khan since 2014. Blackley scored five 50s in his 13 innings, totalling 520 runs at 57.78.

Divisions 7 to 10

DIVISION 7	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Bagenalstown 1	14	11	1	2	43	258
Sandyford 1	14	9	0	4	37	237
DLR County 2	14	9	1	4	29	209
Greystones 1	14	8	0	6	38	198
Swords 1	14	7	1	6	30	165
Merrion 5	14	4	1	9	24	99
Terenure 2	14	3	3	8	38	98
Laois 2	14	0	1	13	16	16

Deductions: 5pts – Bagenalstown (late scorecard), Swords, Merrion (no scorer).

Team of the Year: H Kirk (Greystones), A Chandrasekar (DLR Co), J Fitzsimons (Greystones), M Bruns, S Charles, SA Taj, A Sattar (Bagenalstown), M Singh (Greystones), Z Mumtaz (Bagenalstown), N Dixit (Sandyford), V Dalwani (Merrion).

Highlights — Most runs: **449**, Zeeshan Mumtaz (Bag'stown 1)
Best average (min 6 inns): **50.25**, Harry Kirk (Greystones)
H'st innings: **127**, Vignesh Ravi Sankar (Sandyford 1) v Laois 2
Best bowling: **6-6**, Manpreet Singh (Greystones 1) v Laois 2
Most wickets: **33**, Manpreet Singh (Greystones 1)
Best av'ge (min 8 wkts): **9.62**, Abdul Sattar (Bagenalstown 1)
Most dismissals: **13**, SA Taj (Bagenalstown 1)

Review: Zeeshan Mumtaz propelled Bagenalstown 1 to the title. The allrounder was only 12th player in the last nine seasons (at all levels) to have taken at least 28 wickets, and scored over 400 runs in a league season, and the only one in 2019. Mumtaz only made his Cricket Leinster debut in June 2018 (scoring a century on debut for Bagenalstown 3), and so in his first full season, scored 449 runs at 37.42 plus 28 wickets at 10.57. Against Laois 2, Bagenalstown ran up 453-5, the highest recorded in a Cricket Leinster match since 2011.

DIVISION 9	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Civil Service 2	14	9	0	5	44	224
The Hills 3	14	8	0	6	37	197
Pembroke 4	14	7	0	6	37	197
Adamstown 3	14	7	2	5	31	171
Tyrrelstown 1	14	6	0	8	30	150
Phoenix 4	14	6	0	8	26	146
North County 3	14	5	1	8	38	138
Slieve Bloom 1	14	5	1	8	22	107

Deductions: 15pts – Slieve Bloom

Team of the Year: R Modi (CS), L Shields (Tyrrelstown), W Sidiqi (Phoenix), J Devane (North Co), R Bajaj (Pembroke); P McGrane (Hills), U Desai (CS), P Sharma (Pembroke), S Sehrawat, H Singh (Adamstown), A Mathew (Tyrrelstown).

Highlights — Most runs: **464**, Levin Shields (Tyrrelstown 1)
Best average (min 6 inns): **63.00**, Travis Stringer (Phoenix)
H'st innings: **140***, Levin Shields (Tyr'town 1) v Slieve Bloom 1
Best bowling: **6-18**, Abhijith Mathew (Tyrrelstown) v North Co 3
Most wickets: **22**, Urvin Desai (Civil Service 2)
Best average (min 8 wkts): **11.05**, Urvin Desai (Civil Service 2)
Most dismissals: **15**, Paul McGrane (Hills 3)

Review: On August 6th, Civil Service 2 had a 3-3 record, hardly that of champions elect. Five wins in the next 18 days set them up for a tilt at the title, before two losses in the last three made for a nervous end of season. There were plenty of opportunities for Service to lose the title, but no-one put their hand up. Urvin Desai took 22 wickets at 11.05, playing in 12 of their 14 matches. A 78-ball 115 from Sk Ahmed Zibran Shovon, which propelled Pembroke to 383-6 and a 217 run win over Tyrrelstown set a new total record for Division 9.

DIVISION 8	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
North Kildare 2	13	8	0	4	27	202
Carlow 1	13	9	0	4	32	197
Wicklow County 113	6	0	6	35	175	
Clondalkin 1	13	7	0	6	31	171
Knockharley 2	13	6	1	6	26	146
Dublin Univ 2	7	3	0	4	14	107.4
Ringcommons 1	13	5	1	7	32	107
Ashbourne 1	13	2	0	11	33	68

Deductions: 30pts – DU; 25pts – Ringcommons; 15pts – Carlow, 5pts – North Kildare, Ashbourne.

Team of the Year: Team of the Year: A Coates (RC), S Nagra (Carlow), D Moore (RC), M Singh (NK), N Fusco, T Koen (Wicklow), J Thomas (Ashbourne), A Moore (RC), N Malipatil (DU), M Khan (Clondalkin), A Malhan (NK)

Highlights — Most runs: **476**, Nicky Fusco (Wicklow County 1)
Best average (min 6 inns): **51.83**, Anthony Coates (RC 1)
Highest innings: **185**, Anthony Coates (RC 1) v Wicklow Co 1
Best bowling: **6-26**, Rohan Raikar (Wicklow) v Ashbourne
Andrew Moore (RC 1) v Knockharley 2
Most wkts: **27**, Munir Khan (Clondalkin1), Andrew Moore (RC 1)
Best average (min 8 wkts): **9.59**, Jobin Thomas (Ashbourne)
Most dismissals: **10**, Trevor Koen (Wicklow County 1)

Review: North Kildare lost their first four matches, before a run of seven wins in eight matches left them with a solid runners-up spot, but with no chance of winning the title. Carlow 1 had a ten point lead at the top of the division so North Kildare had to be happy with second place — until Carlow were unable to raise a team for the last game of the season, and the resulting points penalty took the title to Kildare. Captain Gulab Singh holding the team together, scoring 219 runs at 18.25 and leading the wicket taking with 17 wickets at 16.41.

DIVISION 10	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
DLR County 3	14	12	1	0	41	296
Leinster 4	14	8	0	5	32	212
Malahide 4	14	8	0	6	34	194
Railway Union 4	14	8	0	6	32	192
Clontarf 5	14	6	0	7	45	185
Merrion 6	14	3	2	9	25	80
Dundalk 1	14	2	2	9	13	28
Longford 2	14	1	3	10	18	23

Deductions: Pst – Dundalk, 15pts – Longford, 5pts – DLR (starrings breach), Merrion (starrings breach)

Team of the Year: G Godara, TD Kurian, S Shahdeo (DLR Co) V Gulati, BJ Gilmore (Malahide), K Jawahar (Leinster), R Shokeen (Merrion), N George, VS Kumar (DLR Co), Y Sheriff (RU), M Saleem (Clontarf)

Highlights — Most runs: **481**, Brian Gilmore (Malahide 4)
Best average (min 6 inns): **81.33**, Ghanshyam Godara (DLR Co3)
Highest innings: **119***, Vikas Gulati (Malahide 4) v Merrion 6
Best bowling: **6-17**, Kartik Ravichandran (DLR Co 3) v Railway 4
Most wickets: **21**, Eoghan Keohane (Malahide 4)
Best average (min 8 wkts): **9.68**, Ravi Shokeen (Merrion 6)
Most dismissals: **15**, Karthikeyan Jawahar (Lein 4)

Review: DLR County 3 had the title wrapped up by mid-August and won their last three games by large margins to complete the season unbeaten. Early season they had narrow (ish) victories over Clontarf, Railway Union, Malahide and Longford but from June onwards, no one got close to them. Ghanshyam Godara was the leading allrounder on the team with 244 runs at 81.33 and 10 wickets at 18.8, Dundalk had a tough year but they put all their resources into their new home in Hiney Park in the shadow of Oriel Park.

Divisions 11 to 14

DIVISION 11	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Lucan 1	14	10	0	3	36	256
Castleknock 2	14	10	0	3	35	255
AIB 1	14	9	0	5	36	216
Balbriggan 3	14	8	1	5	29	189
YMCA 4	14	6	3	5	36	141
Bagenalstown 2	14	4	0	10	23	98
Mullingar 2	14	2	1	11	38	73
Rush 3	14	2	1	11	22	62

Deductions: 15pts – YMCA, 5pts – Bagenalstown (late scorecard), Mullingar (starrings breach)

Team of the Year: A Khurana (Lucan), S Nawaz (Balbriggan), F McGee (Rush), V Kashyap (AIB), A Kutty, B Singh (Castleknock), Y Balasubramaniam (YMCA), H Harshit (AIB), L Joy (Bagenalstown), S Ahmed (Castleknock), D Eashwar (Balbriggan)

Highlights — Most runs: **487**, Vipul Kashyap (AIB 1)
 Best average (min 6 inns): **48.86**, Atul Khurana (Lucan 1)
 Highest innings: **131**, Shahruk Nawaz (Balbriggan 3) v Rush 3
 Best bowling: **7-15**, Lilo Joy (Bagenalstown) v Rush 3
 Most wickets: **18**, Jatinder Kumar (Lucan 1), Sana Ullah (AIB), Conor Mount (Mullingar 2)
 Best average (min 8 wkts): **8.59**, Y Balasubramaniam (YMCA)
 Most dismissals: **9**, Balbir Singh (Castleknock 2)

Review: In the last game of the season v Balbriggan, Lucan needed to take maximum points – by 9 or 10 wickets or by 41 runs or more. Lucan struggled at 14-3, but runs from Anudeep Yalamuru (21), Amit Kharb (58*) and Sandip Kumar (48) saw them to 149-5. They had to keep Balbriggan to below 109 to win the league, and after slipping to 7-2 Balbriggan didn't look like getting close – eventually being dismissed for 58. AIB debutant Vipul Kashyap completely dominated, leading the run scorer and wicket taking charts.

DIVISION 13	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Leinster 5	14	12	1	1	42	282
Halverstown 1	14	10	0	3	26	246
Gorey 1	14	9	0	5	43	223
Greystones 2	14	8	0	6	32	192
North County 4	14	4	0	10	46	126
Merrion 7	14	4	0	10	23	98
Pembroke 5	14	4	1	9	22	87
Malahide 5	14	2	0	11	31	76

Deductions: 15 points – Pembroke, Malahide; 5pts – Merrion (starrings breach)

Team of the Year: G Dara (Halverstown), D Drane (Greystones), U Khan (Gorey), S Gul, W Khan (Leinster), +F Mehta, K Qazi (North Co), A Longstaff (Greystones), MF Rahim (Leinster), A Diaz (Gorey), A Reynolds (Greystones)

Highlights — Most runs: **644**, Umar Khan (Gorey 1)
 Best average (min 6 inns): **97.33**, Ghanim Dara (Halverstown 2)
 Highest innings: **138**, Umar Khan (Gorey 1) v Malahide 5
 Best bowling: **6-20**, Andrew Hill (Pembroke 5) v Gorey 1
 Most wickets: **25**, Neville Case (Halverstown 1)
 Best average (min 8 wkts): **9.94**, Kashif Qazi (North County 4)
 Most dismissals: **18**, Foram Mehta (North County 4)

Review: Leinster lost only once, in the dead end of season game against runners-up Halverstown 1. The team's top scorer was Waleed Khan, who scored five 50s and 481 runs at 53.44 in his debut season in Leinster cricket. After losing their first two matches, Halverstown put a ten match unbeaten run to go from the relegation places to promotion. It was a strong squad, but their average age was 44.7. North County's average was almost 20 years lower, greatly helped by Ryan Graham (age 12) who took 16 wickets at 16.75. Gorey's Umar Khan set a new D13 runs record with 644.

DIVISION 12	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Civil Service 2	14	11	1	1	39	279
Tyrrelstown 1	14	9	0	5	33	208
Adamstown 3	14	7	0	7	39	179
DLR County 3	14	6	2	6	40	155
Mullingar 2	14	5	0	9	35	135
Castleknock 2	14	6	0	8	26	131
Balbriggan 3	14	5	1	8	26	126
Lucan 1	14	4	0	10	27	102

Deductions: 10pts – NK (unregistered player, late scorecard); 5pts – Sandyford (late scorecard), Phoenix (unregistered player).

Team of the Year: Ebin Paiva (Swords), Joe Clinton, M Richards (Hills), A Khan (Sandyford), A Khan (Hills), KSV Pappachan (Swords), A Bafanda (CS), M O'Meara, R McWade (NK), J Joseph (Swords), A Dutta (CS).

Highlights — Most runs: **501**, Matthew Richards (The Hills 4)
 Best average (min 6 inns): **45.67**, Joe Clinton (The Hills 4)
 Highest innings: **145***, Nakul Kansara (Sandyford 2) v Phoenix 5
 Best bowling: **6-30**, Athar Farooqi (The Hills 4) v NK 3
 Most wickets: **31**, Amir Bafanda (CS)
 Best average (min 8 wkts): **9.48**, Amir Bafanda (CS)
 Most dismissals: **7**, KSV Pappachan (Swords 2).

Review: September 21 saw the final match of the entire Cricket Leinster season, a shoot-out between North Kildare 3 and Civil Service 3. North Kildare got 183, mainly due to 44 from Usman Khalid, who came in at 102-5. Two early wickets shook Service, before a 55-ball 87 from Rana Muhammad Hasan Ur Rahman took them to 162-4. But the pressure told, and wickets tumbled. Service finished four runs short. Star of the season was undoubtedly Service's Aamir Bafanda who broke John Threadgold's 2018 record for most wickets in a Division 12 season. Bafanda took 31 wickets at 9.48 in his debut season.

DIVISION 14	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Finglas 1	13	11	1	0	33	273
Tyrrelstown 2	13	8	1	3	25	205
Adamstown 5	13	6	1	6	32	152
Terenure 3	13	5	0	7	30	150
Wicklow Co 2	13	5	0	8	36	136
Dublin Univ 3	7	4	0	3	20	125.7
Leinster 6	13	2	1	10	19	54
Railway Union 5	13	2	2	9	15	45

Deductions: 60pts – DU (unregistered players, late scorecards); 10pts – Railway (late scorecards), 5pts – Leinster (late scorecard)

Team of the Year: J Divakar (Finglas), S Manchanda, N Malipatil (DU), A Gundagani (Tyrrelstown), D Lance (Finglas), + A Cutinha (Adamstown), J John (Finglas), T Sreedharan (Wicklow Co), V Datta (DU), P Rodgers (Leinster), J Chavan (Finglas)

Highlights — Most runs: **391**, Jinson John (Finglas 1)
 Best average (min 6 inns): **64.17**, Jayadev Divakar (Finglas 1)
 Highest innings: **137**, Jayadev Divakar (Finglas 1) v Leinster 6
 Best bowling: **7-34**, Shawaiz Chaudhary (Wicklow 2) v Leinster
 Most wickets: **27**, Jinson John (Finglas)
 Best avge (min 8 wkts): **6.36**, Shawaiz Chaudhary (Wicklow Co 2)
 Most dismissals: **6**, Ashok Cutinha (Adamstown 5)

Review: In their second season Finglas 1 won their first title without losing a match. Jayadev Divakar moved to Finglas after five seasons with DLR County and Dundrum, and made 385 runs at 64.17 with consecutive hundreds against Wicklow and Leinster. They also broke Merrion 7's 2013 record for the highest total, scoring 374-4 v Leinster. Trinity were brilliant on the field, winning games by 159 runs, 127 runs, 233 runs and 9 wickets, but their off-field admin cost them a stack of points.

Divisions 15 to 17

DIVISION 15	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
DLR County 4	12	10	0	2	40	230
Clontarf 6	12	8	0	3	33	213
Wexford W 2	12	8	0	4	44	204
Clondalkin 2	12	8	0	4	22	182
Knockharley 3	12	5	0	7	30	130
Ashbourne 2	12	2	0	10	21	61
Laois 3	12	0	0	12	15	10

Deductions: 10pts – DLR County (starrings breach), 5pts – Laois. Ring Commons withdrew from league.

Team of the Year: A Oriakhail, A Varghese, S Dunk (Wexford), R Patel (DLR County), A Nagarajan (Clondalkin), +S Carty (Wexford), SA Khan, N Bachani (Clontarf), R Adi (Knockharley), M Rashid (Clondalkin), S Jan (Wexford)

Highlights — Most runs: **366**, Rajit Patel (DLR Co 4)
 Best average (min 6 inns): **38.17**, Anith Varghese (Wexford W)
 Highest innings: **125***, Ahmad Oriakhail (Wexford W)
 Best bowling: **7-44**, Rajesh Adi (Knockharley) v Wexford
 Most wickets: **28**, Rajesh Adi (Knockharley)
 Best average (min 8 wkts): **3.56**, VS Kumar (DLR County)
 Most dismissals: **7**, Stefan Carty (Wexford)

Review: A first season for DLR County 4, and a title. The season started with an OCC-decided defeat to Clontarf, but there followed a run of 11 wins on the pitch, that meant the season was wrapped up by the time they lost their last game to Clondalkin 2. They also set a new D15 record total of against Laois. Needing to defend 189 to lift the title, DLR were 157-7 and Wexford must have fancied being crowned champions. But fate intervened, DLR scored the last 33 runs with one ball and one wicket to spare, and instead of being champions, Wexford ended third. Knockharley 's Rajesh Adi took a new D15 record 28 wickets at 10.57, beating Mullingar's Conor Mount's 25.

DIVISION 17	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
Athlone 1	14	9	1	1	36	268.5
Tyrrelstown 3	14	10	0	3	47	267
Swords 3	14	10	0	3	47	259.5
Clondalkin 3	14	5	0	8	33	153
The Hills 5	14	5	2	6	21	111
Phoenix 6	14	3	0	10	21	101
Adamstown 7	14	1	0	12	16	46
Leinster 7	14	3	1	10	9	39

Athlone v Swords was tied

Deductions: 30pts – The Hills, Leinster, 10pts – Adamstown (unregistered player)

Team of the Year: R Anand (Swords), V Venugopal, P Paulson (Athlone), S John (Swords), N K Baddam, +SC Govulakonda (Tyrrelstown), V Rao (Athlone), AR Basavaraju, R Karmakonda, AR Katheri (Tyrrelstown), L Woodhouse (The Hills).

Highlights — Most runs: **312**, Ramesh Anand (Swords 3)
 Best average (min 6 inns): **52.00**, Ramesh Anand (Swords 3)
 H'st innings: **112***, Arun Reddy Katheri (Tyrrelstown 3) v Leinster 7
 Best bowling: **6-19**, Lorcan Woodhouse (The Hills) v Adamstown 7
 Most wickets: **24**, AR Basavaraju (Tyrrelstown)
 Best average (min 8 wkts): **4.89**, Sanjay Srmbikal (Swords 3)
 Most dismissals: **13**, SC Govulakonda (Tyrrelstown 3)

Review: 134 teams finished the season - a new record, with the previous best 128 teams in 2015 and 2018. Those extra teams saw a creation of a new 17th division, and Athlone are the first champions in their first year in CL competition. Division 17 was one of the most uncompetitive divisions in the league, with the top three effectively playing a completely different game to the rest. Adamstown are now the joint largest club in the province in terms of players. 115 players played for both Merrion and Adamstown, with Leinster next on the list on 110. In only nine seasons they have gone from 30 players to where they are now.

DIVISION 16	P	W	NR	L	BP	Pts
North Kildare 4	14	10	0	3	36	256
Adamstown 6	14	7	1	6	42	182
Civil Service 4	14	5	2	4	19	179
Greystones 3	14	4	0	8	28	138
Balbriggan 4	14	5	2	6	19	114
Mullingar 3	14	5	3	6	26	101
Bagenalstown 3	14	3	2	9	28	63
Carlow 2	14	4	2	8	12	42

Deductions: 50pts – Carlow (unregistered players, late scorecard), 25pts – Balbriggan (unregistered player, late scoresheet), Mullingar (starrings breach), Bagenalstown (no teamsheet), 10 pts – Greystones (unregistered players).

Team of the Year: : D Rooney (Balbriggan), Abid Ali (NK), RK Malik (Adamstown), SA (Carlow), V Venkatesan (NK); + S Farrell (Bagenalstown); A Arshad (CS), M Younus (Carlow), AS Khan (CS), T Couper (Mullingar), K Islam (NK).

Highlights — Most runs: **346**, Derek Rooney (Balbriggan 4)
 Best average (min 6 inns): **73.50**, Abid Ali (NK 4)
 Highest innings: **193***, Abid Ali (NK 4) v Greystones 3
 Best bowling: **5-17**, Sajeed Malik (Bagenalst'n 3) v Adamst'n 6
 Most wickets: **27**, Kawsar Islam (North Kildare 4)
 Best average (min 8 wkts): **5.90**, A Arshad (Civil Service 4)
 Most dismissals: **6**, Sean Farrell (Bag 3), Cian Rooney (Balb 4).

Review: North Kildare's first three matches were lost but the Carlow result was overturned and the team embarked on an eight-match unbeaten run to seal the title. Two allrounders starred: Kawsar Islam's 221 runs at 27.63 and 27 wickets at 9.22, and 15-year old Vishal Venkatesan, who scored 237 runs at 23.70 and 10 wickets at 22.30. Abid Ali's 294 at 73.50, included the highest score ever recorded in Division 16, 193*. Carlow 2's average age was 22.8 – less than half that of Greystones.

Disciplinary

Report of Appeals Committee of Cricket Leinster

In 2019 the Appeals Committee received a total of four Appeals. There was one appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee and the decision of the DAB was to increase the ban from a level 3 to a level 4 offence and also to increase the penalty imposed from eight matches to 12 matches.

Two clubs appealed against a deduction of points by the OCC for irregularities in starring lists. In the case of one club they were offered a compromise arrangement by the OCC which they did not take up.

The final decision by the

DAB was in favour of the original decision made by the OCC. In the second case, the club subsequently acknowledged that the regulations had been correctly applied by the OCC and withdrew their appeal.

One appeal was deemed to be out of time as the appeal was submitted well after the three-day limit.

In the last case the DAB decided that the appeal did not have the proper grounds for appeal.

Again the hearings were held in Pembroke and thanks go to them for facilitating the meetings.

Mary Sharp, on behalf of chairman Phil Furlong



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