



MERRION CC NEWSLETTER

September 2019



Dear Merrion Cricket Club members,

Welcome to our September newsletter. There have been some exciting matches over the last few weeks, none more so than the final of the Premier League. It was one of the most thrilling and closest matches that I can recall and, although the result didn't go our way (in the end!), our Men's 1st team put in a fantastic effort and did us all proud.

We also had a very enjoyable lunch with our Pavilion and Life Members at the start of August. Our Pavilion and Life Members are an important part of Merrion Cricket Club. These Members have a long-standing association with the Club - having played here, or with children playing here, and continue to have a strong association with Merrion CC. They are great supporters of the Club, continuing to provide important contributions in many ways – financially, socially, and giving their time to support our teams, and also helping with the running of the Club through committees, voting at the AGM, etc. Their ongoing membership allows us to invest in our facilities and coaching for the next generation of Merrion cricketers, some of whom may hopefully go on to have successful representative careers. Thank you for your support!

If you would like to become a Pavilion Member please contact our Senior Membership Secretary, Rohit Pahuja, at rohit.pahuja.db@gmail.com

I hope to see you all at Anglesea Road soon.

Kind regards,

Andrew Kay
President

Women's Cricket

After a tough season, in which we sometimes struggled for numbers, Merrion finished a strong third in the Leinster Division One women's league. The season started on a high note with emphatic wins over Malahide and Leinster in the fifty and twenty over competitions respectively. Highlights from the Malahide match included Leah scoring a classy ton, Rachel getting 92 runs and 4 wickets and Naomi chipping in with 3 wickets. Leah kept this form going by following with a half century in the T20 against Leinster.

Unfortunately, we could not maintain this run, and hit a series of games in which we lost by slim margins. In one match against Clontarf, Cecelia Joyce hit a sublime 112 while Celeste Raack took 4 vital wickets, but we were unlucky to fall 8 runs short of the target.

The cup campaign was successful as we beat a strongly fancied Pembroke team in what was probably our performance of the season. Owing to a badly timed rescheduling of the semi-final, we missed out on a final spot as we lost to Leinster.

There have been a number of positives from this season, and it has been great to see some very promising youth members coming through. To name a few, Annabel Squires, Isabel Light, and Niamh MacNulty all played vital roles at various stages in the season, and we look forward to watching their further development next season. It is important that depth is added to the squad, and we will push hard to promote the women's game over the winter.

A special thanks goes to our scorers' over the season Conor Austin, Ursula Lewis, and Maureen Joyce as well as our coach Nicky Kenny. We happily acknowledge the importance of their help.



Merrion Captain Rachel Delaney

Men's Cricket

Men's 1st XI

We'd like to congratulate John and Nicky on a fantastic season for the men's first team as they reached the Premier League final as well as semi-finals in the Alan Murray Cup and Leinster Senior League Cup. The month started off with a T20 day in North Kildare with many young players on show, such as Jack Atkinson and Richard Bisgood getting a go in 1st team cricket, 1 win from 2 confirmed the team's place in

finals day, where Clontarf were their semi-final opponents, where Clontarf came out the right side of a low scoring affair by 4 wickets. The team's next test was the following day in a qualifying semi-final for the league against Pembroke, at the same ground as the day before, where their all-star bowling attack just got the better of our batsmen, with the main contributors being John Anderson and James Groom. The team were then put into a '2nd chance semi-final' against The Hills, this time at Anglesea Road. At half-time in this game many thought a score of just over 200 may not be enough, but our bowling attack blew this out of the water, bowling The Hills out for under 80, Ollie Newton's 5-fer was the main contribution, showing his class and why he got 43 wickets in his time here. We wish Ollie all the best in his future endeavours and hope to welcome him back to Anglesea Road soon.

The league final came around at last on the 7th of September, with Merrion having home advantage, a patient 64 from John Anderson as well as contributions of 24 each from Sean Stanton and Dom Joyce, got us to a score of 190 all out. A fantastic spell of bowling from James Groom set up an enticing final as Pembroke were reduced to 44-4. An innings of 44 from Shaheen Khan brought Pembroke back into the game but when Ryan Hopkins and JJ Garth got the opposition to 155-7 the game appeared to be slipping away, before David Langford-Smith produced one last bit of pre-retirement magic to blow the game wide open again, running out Garth, with a direct hit from mid-wicket. The wicket of Paul Lawson soon followed thanks to Tom Stanton, and the game was evenly balanced with Merrion needing 1 wicket and Pembroke 24 runs, before Ryan Hopkins of Pembroke became Pembroke's hero, bringing them home by 1 wicket in what was an incredible spectacle for the club game in Ireland. While it is a cruel way to lose, we hope the team take a lot of solace from the fact that they got to, and played so well in a final that will be remembered as one of the best games of club cricket played on this island in recent memory.



Tyrone Kane and David Langford-Smith

Men's 2nd XI

It was a busy finish to the season for the 2s as they secured a 3rd placed finish, with 4 convincing victories over Clontarf, Pembroke, North County and Malahide on the last day of the season. The highlight of the month was a dominant bowling display against Malahide by Nitin Sharma on his 'last day of bowling,' where he set the game up with 3 powerplay wickets, before normal service resumed and the Forkin brothers did the rest. The other highlight was a ton for Captain James Hitchcock against North County at Inch, a much deserved knock from the captain who we'd like to thank for his commitment to the job over the last 5 months, as he created an environment where players young and old could all prosper.

Men's 3rd XI

Merrion 3 have had a successful run in with 2 wins from 2, one in a T20 out in Longford, where the 2 captains let common sense prevail to play a shorter game with rain around and there being no umpires to intervene. Vicky Dalwani and Vishal Singh ripped through the Longford top order before Jack Atkinson got the job done with the bat to chase down a small total, and bring home victory. They also beat Clontarf at Anglesea Road later in the month to confirm a 2nd place finish in Division 4, a great achievement for a 3rd team.

Men's 4th XI

Merrion 4s league challenge came to an end in August with losses to Wexford Wanderers at home, DLR and Civil Service confirmed the best Hari's team can hope for in advance of their last game vs Adamtsown this Saturday is a 2nd place finish, all support is welcome to this game. The month had its good points though with Vicky Dalwani and Conor Austin bowling the team to a 2 run victory in Wexford as they picked up 7 wickets between them, on a bowler friendly pitch. There was also a comprehensive victory win over Mullingar at Merrion where 77 from Zander de Beer and 4 wickets from Hermanus Bester led the team to victory by 149 runs.

Men's 5th XI

The 5s got 1 from 5 in August, that being a win against Laois at Bird Avenue, in a captivating 30 over a side game, where Oisin Bhoja brought it home in the last over after Mark Little set the game up with 2-17 off his 7 and there were 20s and 30s from Robbie Stanton, Killian O'Flynn, Jeffery David, Mark Little again, and John O'Hara. The team travel to Shanganagh Park on Sunday hoping for a win to finish the season on a positive note.

Men's 6th XI

August was also a mixed month for the 6s as their sole victory came in Bird Avenue against Leinster 4, mainly thanks to a superb 101 from Rishabh Sharma, who has been a stalwart of the 6th and 7th team's this season and often makes a big effort that many others wouldn't. These results confirmed a mid-table finish for Venkat's team, in their first year in division 10, onwards and upwards for next season!

Men's 7th XI

The 7ths played and astonishing 7 games in August, with 2 victories over Pembroke and 1 over North County being the highlight. Luca Clinton brought the game home, bowling at the death at home to Pembroke at the start of the month, after Sravanth Reddy's 60 had got Merrion a score of 197 to defend. Later in the month they went to Sydney Parade for the return fixture, where they won by 113 runs, largely thanks to a 5-fer from Rishabh Sharma who picked up 5-13 in 5 overs, as well as 67 from Mark Sandys. Another 50 for captain Sandys and a good all-round display from the bowling unit, ensured victory by a mere 5 runs over North county at Inch later in the month before the team finished the season off down in Gorey on Premier League final day, where the home side ran out comfortable winners.

Youth Cricket

The Junior A Boys have their league final this Saturday in Margaretstown vs The Hills, hoping to secure a league and cup double. We wish them all the best and thank all youth players for their participation throughout the season in games, trainings and our camps, we also thank Celeste, Sorcha and the team of coaches who make it possible along with our youth and cricket committee's led by Mark Sandys and Jim Walsh who provide excellent guidance, we will be in touch with any end of season events in due course.



The Junior Girls finish with a win in the last match of the season

From the Archives

Bowlers today tend to get a harder time of it than batsmen, at least when it comes to cricket statistics. In past times bowlers were not restricted in the number of overs they bowled, did not have to deal with fielding restrictions and had the benefit of uncovered wickets. For this reason when we come to look at career figures the modern day bowler tends not to figure. This explains why this month's news from the Archive is split between the historic career averages – mainly names that most in the club will only have read about and perhaps viewed on the walls of the pavilion – and the modern averages [post 2010].

Seven players feature in the Merrion Senior Career Bowling averages [300 wickets or more], with Angus Fleming the only member of this group to have played most of his career when overs restrictions applied.

| Top Aggregate Wickets [500 / 300 Wickets] | | | | |
|---|-------------|---------|---------|-------|
| Name | Career | Matches | Average | Total |
| Rollie Short | 1926 - 1956 | 272 | 13.69 | 704 |
| Chris Mara | 1935 - 1960 | 313 | 14.66 | 699 |
| Cecil Little | 1926 - 1958 | 260 | 11.75 | 667 |
| | | | | |
| Denis Noble | 1960 - 1977 | 249 | 19.43 | 417 |
| Angus Fleming | 1991 - 2009 | 265 | 19.74 | 360 |
| Simon Curley | 1934 - 1966 | 369 | 18.60 | 356 |
| Robbie Stanton | 1979 - 1994 | 394 | 20.47 | 300 |

The three best bowling performances of all time for Merrion were those of Chris Mara [9/52] against Phoenix in 1940, Matt Petrie [8/15] v Malahide in 2008 and Robbie Stanton [8/16] v Pembroke in 1988.

Five players have achieved hat-tricks in senior matches for Merrion – RF McCartan v Phoenix [1934], Chris Mara v Civil Service [1941], Rodney Bernstein v Trinity [1962], Kevin O'Herlihy v Pembroke [1980] and Matt Petrie in the match in 2008.

Over the last decade [from 2011] four players have taken more than 100 senior wickets for Merrion.

| Name | Mts | Overs | Runs | 5WI | BBI | Average | Econ | Wickets |
|-----------------------|-----|-------|------|-----|------|---------|------|------------|
| <u>John Anderson</u> | 123 | 636 | 2793 | 2 | 5-4 | 20.24 | 4.39 | 138 |
| <u>Tom Stanton</u> | 102 | 755 | 2961 | 2 | 5-37 | 22.26 | 3.92 | 133 |
| <u>Dominick Joyce</u> | 134 | 585.3 | 2703 | 2 | 7-66 | 21.98 | 4.62 | 123 |
| <u>Tyrone Kane</u> | 104 | 641.3 | 2747 | 0 | 4-22 | 25.92 | 4.28 | 106 |

Broadening our figures to include all Open Leagues and Cup since 2011 [excluding T20 Competitions] we find that 15 players have taken 100 wickets or more. The table includes three Walsh's and two Stanton's.

| Name | Mts | Overs | Runs | 5WI | BBI | Average | Econ | Wickets |
|-------------------------|-----|--------|------|-----|------|---------|------|---------|
| <u>Tom Stanton</u> | 154 | 1072.2 | 4111 | 4 | 5-22 | 20.25 | 3.83 | 203 |
| <u>Nitin Sharma</u> | 131 | 860.5 | 3600 | 2 | 5-30 | 20.69 | 4.18 | 174 |
| <u>John Anderson</u> | 123 | 636 | 2793 | 2 | 5-4 | 20.24 | 4.39 | 138 |
| <u>Sean Stanton</u> | 131 | 696.2 | 3275 | 1 | 5-36 | 24.08 | 4.7 | 136 |
| <u>Jim Walsh</u> | 91 | 538.2 | 2373 | 3 | 5-7 | 18.4 | 4.41 | 129 |
| <u>Rex Walsh</u> | 89 | 477.1 | 2630 | 3 | 5-33 | 20.39 | 5.51 | 129 |
| <u>Dominick Joyce</u> | 134 | 585.3 | 2703 | 2 | 7-66 | 21.98 | 4.62 | 123 |
| <u>Ajay Varma</u> | 86 | 518.4 | 2000 | 0 | 4-15 | 17.54 | 3.86 | 114 |
| <u>Vidit Sukhramani</u> | 54 | 406.3 | 1703 | 2 | 5-35 | 15.21 | 4.19 | 112 |
| <u>J.J. Walsh</u> | 69 | 433.1 | 1871 | 1 | 5-26 | 17.01 | 4.32 | 110 |
| <u>Tyrone Kane</u> | 105 | 651.3 | 2773 | 0 | 4-22 | 25.68 | 4.26 | 108 |
| <u>Denny David</u> | 80 | 495.2 | 2369 | 1 | 6-36 | 22.35 | 4.78 | 106 |
| <u>Vamsi Mukollu</u> | 99 | 516.4 | 1961 | 1 | 6-11 | 18.5 | 3.8 | 106 |
| <u>Rishabh Sharma</u> | 82 | 375.1 | 1642 | 1 | 5-13 | 15.64 | 4.38 | 105 |
| <u>Richard Bisgood</u> | 61 | 390.2 | 1817 | 2 | 5-38 | 17.64 | 4.65 | 103 |

VOLUNTEERS

The club are always looking for volunteers, and if you're interested in helping out in any way, e.g. scoring, coaching, fundraising, or joining our new social committee, please contact any of the Management Committee.



Lights, camera, action!

YOUR CLUB, YOUR PROVINCE CRICKET LEINSTER DRAW

As many of you know, Cricket Leinster are running a large raffle competition this year, as part of their centenary celebrations, in which up to €12,000 worth of prizes are available to be won. The draw for this will be made at the annual Cricket Leinster awards dinner in the Guinness Storehouse in November. **Tickets for this draw are available to purchase at the club bar** and we would greatly appreciate it if everyone did their bit for Merrion and attempted to sell 5 tickets at a cost of €10 each; these can be collected from behind the bar if you get in contact with Anne. All money collected by Merrion goes back into the club and our latest project, improving our nets. Further information on this draw, such as prizes, can be found at www.cricketleinster.ie.

To host a function at the Club please contact our Club Manager Anne Fitzsimons at anyafitzsimons@gmail.com. We can arrange catering to your specifications.



A super spread put on for the Pavilion Members Lunch

MAIN CLUB SPONSOR

We are delighted to announce that **Avitor Limited** are our new main club sponsor for 2019. Avitor specialise in the distribution of Audio Visual and Information Technology as well as offering a full install service throughout the whole of Ireland.



Avitor take over the mantle of the club's flagship sponsor from Paddy Power, who we would like to thank for their generous support over the last number of years. We are very excited to begin what will hopefully prove to be a long, happy and mutually beneficial relationship with Avitor.

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Merrion Cricket Club sign sponsors

We would like to thank our all of our Club sponsors who provide valuable financial support to the Club. We encourage you to support these businesses in return.





Personal and corporate sponsorship is a vital part of the Club's funding. If you, a friend or family member work in a company that might be interested, **please contact our Chair of Finance, Philly Quinlan**, for further information at phillyquinlan100@gmail.com or 086 834 1313.