



# Chairmans Report

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## David Williams

It hardly seems possible that twelve months have passed since the editor asked me for my contribution to the 2008 Annual Report. So yet again may I say how privileged I feel to have been again appointed as Chairman of Cricket Ireland.

As every member will know the cricket programme now undertaken is very demanding on players and administrators so my initial comment is to thank all players and volunteers for their efforts which have been rewarded with so much success on the field. Even though so much of our management activity has now been professionalised, there would be no international cricket possible without the selfless efforts of our volunteers throughout our four Unions. As we seek to enhance the standing of Irish cricket on the world stage, we must never lose sight of the need to nurture and appreciate the volunteers who are really the foundation blocks of our game.

I must also pay tribute to all our professional staff, so excellently managed by our Chief Executive Warren Deutrom. On field success cannot be sustained without efficient

management off it and as there are frustrations involved in managing on a restricted budget I would like to thank Warren for complaining so rarely!

Finally, thanks to our most generous sponsors RSA, Mrs Hope Kerr, Kukri, The Irish Sports Council, Sport Northern Ireland and to everyone who has made a financial contribution to Cricket via the various membership categories. I look forward to welcoming your new President Dr Basil McNamee from The Northern Cricket Union whilst at the same time bidding farewell and thanks to Arthur Vincent who has served us so magnificently over the last twelve months.

There are many challenges ahead which must be overcome before our ambitions on the world stage can be achieved. I am convinced that if we continue to act as an efficient, well managed and unified body then there is no reason why our progress cannot be sustained.



# Chief Executive's Report

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## Warren Deutrom

Ever since the men's senior team overcame Pakistan on a green wicket in Sabina Park Jamaica in 2007, and then beat Bangladesh in the ICC Cricket World Cup Super 8's, Irish Cricket's future has taken a different path to that which its past might have suggested.

From that moment, the projections of only incremental upward mobility in performance, participation and income envisaged over its long history were set aside, and instead reforecast in terms of transformation and soaring aspiration.

Just as the men's senior squad has approached every task and challenge with self-belief, so the rest of Irish Cricket, on and off the pitch has been infused with a sense that the only barriers' to breach are those imposed by its own potential narrowness of vision and ambition. Post-World Cup, in all areas of the game, from the grassroots to the international arena, Irish Cricket has taken stock, and asked itself the simple question: can we do this better?

The story of 2009 is one where Irish Cricket did precisely that. Boasting trophies in two World Cup qualifying tournaments, progress through to the Super 8 stage of another World Cup, five out of six European titles and a mere three runs short of overcoming the Ashes-winning England team at Stormont, it is fair to call last year's roll-call of honour truly exceptional.

For me, what was perhaps most impressive was not getting further than Australia in a global event, or falling

nine runs short of felling eventual finalists Sri Lanka, or even of being a boundary short of claiming victory over England, impressive as these are. Rather, I felt it was the ruthless professionalism we demonstrated in qualifying for ICC CWC 2011 as the only team that went there not just to qualify, but to win the trophy and assert definitively our right to be called the best Associate in all forms of the game.

The fact that our victory in the event was less lauded than Afghanistan's fifth place says much about the expectations of the cricket world of our progress. We are now measured differently to before and it is not just our fellow Associates that approach a match with Ireland with trepidation, but those elite nations who sit at the top table.

And make no mistake, the world has sat up and taken notice of Irish Cricket, as evidenced by the fact that our victory against Bangladesh in the T20 World Cup was greeted with little surprise and at once proved that our 2007 World Cup adventures was no lightning strike. These days, however, the ICC will measure a country's worth in more demanding ways than just its win-loss ratio against its peers or against those higher up the rankings.

Instead, the ICC asks that a country operates like a business, that it has structures, plans and budgets, that it has staff to manage its operations, that it can prove it manages its affairs as professionally off the pitch as its teams do on it.

Having asked what we must do to progress to elite status within the world game, the ICC informed us the next logical step was to apply for full membership. And this is where we find ourselves today – putting together our argument as to why we deserve our chance to be considered for a place among the world’s elite countries. And our argument is strong.

In playing terms, we are a point behind 10th-placed Zimbabwe in the senior men’s game, although we outrank them at both senior women and at U19 level, the latter achieved after a memorable run to the Plate Final during the ICC U19 CWC in January this year.

Our vital statistics off the pitch are less headline-grabbing, but equally as important in stating our case in an environment where there is more hesitancy to promote countries to Test status in the light of what some regard as the premature elevation of Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

Cricket Ireland’s finances will be assessed with more detail and expertise by Richard Johnson in his report, but reversing a six-figure deficit from 2008 in the middle of the worst economic recession in generations is a strong performance by any stretch. Much of this is due to our excellent relationship with our key stakeholders, all of whom deserve honourable mention.

With regards to the ICC itself, our qualification for the 2011 World Cup has guaranteed not just ODI status but a financial return of \$1 million per year, undreamt of riches until recently. By the same token, Sport Northern Ireland has pledged to massively increase its funding to cricket as a direct result of our success and the light it shines upon our small country. Similarly, the Irish Sports Council attempted to mitigate any small cuts in our core grant funding by giving us a net increase in the form of high performance funding – thereby becoming the very first non-Olympic Irish team sport to receive this.

It is perhaps our ongoing commercial partnership with our team sponsor RSA that is our headline partner, not by virtue of the quantum of funding, but because to have such a loyal and supportive commercial partner in such troubled economic times sends out all the right signals to the ICC and our other stakeholders about the pulling power of Irish Cricket. Our conspicuous success in this area, achieved without security of fixtures and uncertainty of achieving event qualification, means there



*BKISC presentation, Mrs Hope Kerr and Leinster CC captain*

are just two countries out of 94 in the non-Test world that generate more non-ICC funding than Ireland. Our ability to show that we can stand on our own two feet if we were elevated to the top tier is a valuable plank in our argument.

Needless to say, where we spend our money is as much an indication of our maturity as where we make it. To this end, our longest fixture list in history, together with a recruitment drive that now sees Cricket Ireland with 16 full-time or part-time staff, and a 11-strong group of contracted players means that we are not just adopting best practice in world cricket, but that we are beginning to look the part of a senior nation in the global fraternity.

Of course, looking the part and being given the keys to the kingdom are different things! In this regard, the ICC’s recent decision to review its current governance and membership practices in light of Ireland’s application means that we shall need patience, quite rightly, in this issue. In the meantime, all we can do is continue to support the squads and nurture their future from the playground, to our domestic leagues, through the strongest club system in Associate Cricket, with the guidance, passion and care of our expert management team and our brilliant volunteers.

While we can make no promises, except in our dedication to the cause, we hope that we can look back on 2010 with as much pride in our achievement as we have in previous years. It is a big ask but, there again, we seem to say that every year.



# Report of the Cricket Committee 2009

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**Joe Doherty**, Chair of Cricket

“Another year of exciting progress, both on and off the field.” How often have you heard that platitude? Quite often, I would suggest, especially if you are in the habit of following the AGMs of successful sporting organisations. Well, it just happens to be an accurate description for the work of Cricket Ireland in 2009, and that’s not just corporate babble. As Chair of Cricket, it is my great pleasure to report for the second year on the main activities of the Cricket Ireland Cricket Committee, as we reflect on another year of impressive performance.

This time last year, I was reflecting on the momentous achievements of the men’s senior squad in winning the ICC Intercontinental Cup for the third successive time, retaining the European Championship and qualifying for the 2009 T20 Cricket World Cup in England. The squad was to go on to Trent Bridge, Nottingham and qualify for the second phase in some style by totally outplaying Bangladesh. While India, New Zealand and Pakistan were to prove too strong for us on the day, we came close to delivering the shock of the tournament when we fell short of the star-studded Sri Lanka team by an agonising nine runs before a packed house at Lord’s most of whom were screaming their support for the boys in green. Once again the men of Ireland had done themselves and their country proud and we (Cricket Ireland) had hammered a few more nails into our podium on the world stage.

The value of performances such as those at Trent Bridge and Lord’s is enormous in terms of our repayment of the trust that ICC has placed in us by designating us as a High Performance nation and the ICC President, David Morgan, was generous in his praise of what Ireland had brought to the tournament when he wrote to me afterwards.

The benefits of such recognition and unqualified support for our development efforts are appreciated not only at senior level of course and all our cricketing sectors draw encouragement and inspiration from the deeds of Porty, TJ and the rest in their own way.

The main achievement of the senior team in 2009 was, undoubtedly, the impressive way in which we qualified for the 2011 Cricket World Cup by winning the Qualifying Tournament in Johannesburg, and Phil Simmons’s focus is now clearly on assembling a squad that can compete in the challenging conditions of India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. We are painfully aware that, in our front line squad, transition is the order of the day, but that’s what Phil and his selectors are having to cope with and the retirement of one of our greatest ever servants, Kyle McCallan and the (seemingly regular) enforced absences through injury of key players such as Boyd Rankin, Andre Botha and Regan West have only served to throw that issue into sharp relief in recent times.

In the meantime, the squad continues to display resilience and an insatiable will to win – never was that

quality more graphically demonstrated than in Dubai last month, when, despite losing our first match against Afghanistan, our men successfully negotiated the high wire act of four 'must win' matches to qualify for the T20 Cricket World Cup in the West Indies in April 2010, where we will again lock horns with West Indies and England in a scenario that will evoke memories of the heroic deeds of our 2007 raid on the Caribbean ports.

At times like this, we see the relevance of all that we are doing throughout the family of Irish cricket and we realise the necessity of not only planning for the future, but being ready to address short term exigencies, as is being witnessed at present with the elevation of the prodigious George Dockrell, for instance. The point is that time is not on our side when we are playing 40 or 50 fixtures per annum and injuries will occur, as will loss of form. The supply chain must always be in good working order and thankfully, it appears to be so at the moment, but complacency of any kind is one of our greatest enemies and the Cricket Committee is not slow to point that out on a regular basis.

The Youth and development sub-committee of the Cricket Committee is, of course, led by the indefatigable Jim Bennett. Elsewhere in this Annual, Jim has reported fully on the exploits of our under age teams and representative squads throughout 2009, as well as the outstanding work being carried out by our club, inter-provincial and national coaches and managers. His excellent report should be read in conjunction with this summary in order to gain an understanding and appreciation of all that is being managed by the Cricket Committee.

What Jim hasn't reported on, of course, is the wonderful news that he has been selected for an ICC European Volunteer Award and shortlisted for the Global Award in the same category which, of course, he duly won as well! Well done, Jim – the award could not go to a more deserving home. You truly are the living proof of the old adage – "If you need something done, ask a busy man." This is another welcome indicator of Ireland being seen to be doing things right in the eyes of the world's governing body and we are repeatedly reassured and reinforced in our commitment to our sport by this welcome recognition of one of our most respected and popular volunteers.

The awards for 2009 didn't end there, I am delighted to say. Ryan Eagleson, Cricket Ireland's Talent Development Officer, was recognised by ICC Europe for his outstanding contribution to cricket coaching and Rob O'Connor, our

Under-13 coach, won the 'Cricket Photograph of the Year' competition, an award previously held by our own Barry Chambers. Many congratulations to both Ryan and Rob.

Turning to matters domestic, the Bob Kerr Irish Senior Cup was won for the first time by Leinster Cricket Club, who had actually contested the first final back in 1982, losing to Northern opposition (NICC). Their victims at the splendid Milverton venue, home of The Hills, were Donemana. The Co.Tyrone side had looked in control of the game at 134 for 1, chasing Leinster's 265, but when man of the match Anton Scholtz, who had earlier scored 75, grabbed the ball, he quickly removed two of the Donemana danger men and the initiative swung to the men from Rathmines who proceeded to work their way through the Donemana batting to emerge victorious by 27 runs.

The organisation of the entire competition was handled in his usual unflappable manner by the Tournament Director, John Boomer, and I am again delighted to report that John has agreed to continue as Tournament Director in 2010.

Off the field, there have been two notable events in 2009. Firstly, the arrival of Mark Garaway as our first ever Cricket Operations Director, has breathed professionalism and a businesslike attention to strategy, detail and targets in the realm of coaching, development, physicality and education for our players and officials. What had hitherto been the responsibility of our 'army' of volunteers is now being transformed rapidly into a business area of the organisation and that is totally in line with what is expected from us by ICC under the High Performance Pathways Programme. Mark has made a blistering start to getting to grips with all things Irish in the world of cricket and he has established a set of promising and productive working relationships at all levels in the short number of months he has been with us (since August 2009). Mark, in turn, is aware of the value of our volunteer ethos that has brought us thus far and is engaging sensitively with myself and the other officers and chairs throughout the land to ensure that we move to the professional (or at least semi-professional) approach to our business without unnecessary loss of goodwill or momentum. There will always be a place for the volunteer in Irish cricket and the Cricket Operations Director's task is to maximise that resource in an effective, efficient and value-added way. I have every confidence that Mark is up to that task and I look forward to providing him with every resource and practical assistance as he leads us forward in this important work.

Secondly, in line with (a) the recommendation of the management consultancy team that oversaw the transition from the old ICU to the new Cricket Ireland and (b) best practice as advocated by the High Performance directorate at ICC, we undertook the Review of Domestic Cricket in Ireland. We were fortunate in securing the services of Richard Holdsworth, Director of Regional Development, ICC Europe, to carry out the review and his report was presented to us in September.

The main thrust of Richard's review was that while Irish cricket is fundamentally 'fit for purpose', there is a need for us to differentiate between the two strands or layers of our game and act accordingly. On one hand, the 'supply chain' referred to earlier in this article, implies a concentration on ensuring that 'best plays best' as often as possible in suitably arranged competitive circumstances, so that ambitious players (and clubs) can advance quickly to be of maximum benefit to the Cricket Ireland cause, particularly when measured against our Associate 'rivals' and our Full Member 'targets', as we surely are, every week of the year. Nothing stands still in international cricket these days and with that realisation, the need for continuous measurement and continuous improvement at all levels is abundantly clear.

The present status of the Holdsworth report is that it has gone to the four Provincial Unions for consultation/comment and has been endorsed by the Cricket Ireland Board for onward processing on a working group basis. This will involve tackling five or six selected key issues in some depth and the working groups are being assembled with a view to working through the spring and early summer of 2010, so that implementation of agreed actions could take place in time for the 2011 season. These issues include:

- Establishment of Premier League cricket on a cross-provincial basis
- Consideration of reintroduction of Inter-Provincial competition

- Review of the premier existing Irish competition (the Bob Kerr Irish Senior Cup)
- Deployment of Overseas Players to the benefit of Irish cricket
- The special position of Munster in Irish cricket.

Thirdly, it was great to be present at Stormont when our five ICC Volunteers of the Century were honoured during the Ireland v. England ODI. In John P. Wright, Derek Scott, Cecil Walker, Lexie Miller and Siobhan McBennett, we have had five of the most outstanding volunteers on the planet and the warm reaction with which the news of their awards was met within the cricketing public said it all for me.

Finally, I wish to express my personal thanks to my colleagues on the Cricket Committee for their support in attending all meetings of the Committee and in contributing in a positive way to all discussion topics and action points. The wide spectrum of the sport in Ireland has been discussed at length by many of the most knowledgeable and committed cricket people in the land and I have been privileged to hear them exchange their views at first hand: Catherine Goodman (secretary), Jim Bennett, Barry Keane, Simon Corlett, Phil Simmons, Gavin Craig, Ross McCollum, Warren Deutrom, Mark Garaway and David Williams.

I would like to conclude by expressing a special word of thanks to Siobhán McBennett for her outstanding work as secretary of the cricket Committee in its formative year (2008). Siobhán reluctantly tendered her resignation to the Committee at the end of 2008 in order to devote more time to her position as Chairman of her beloved Rush Cricket Club, a much more important and prestigious job than anything I could ever have offered her! Thanks, Siobhán.





U17 Women's European Champions



# Chairman of Finance's Report

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## Richard Johnson

At the AGM of the Irish Cricket Union Limited held at the Ballymascanlon Hotel on 8th March 2009 the directors presented draft financial statements for the period from 30th January 2008 (date of incorporation) to 31st December 2008 which reported a loss of €160,766 for the first years' trading by the new company. As Chairman of Finance I stated that both the finance committee and the board were committed to clear this deficit and had budgeted for a €200,000 surplus in 2009.

On 9th April 2009 when Wylie McKinty and myself signed the Directors' report on behalf of the board the deficit for 2008 had been reduced to €141,943 and a very important note had been inserted into the Directors' Report under the heading "future developments". It read as follows: "the directors will continue to invest in the development of talented players and in achieving competition success. The board is also committed to building up revenue reserves over the next financial year." I am delighted to report Cricket Ireland managed to achieve both these aims during 2009 and that an abbreviated Profit and Loss account and Balance Sheet are included in the Annual Report for the first time.

In the four year period 2007 to 2011 Ireland will have reached the last eight of both the 2007 World Cup in West Indies and the 2009 World Twenty 20 Cup in England and has already qualified for next month's 2010 World Twenty 20 Cup in West Indies and 2011 World Cup in Asia next Spring. Ireland will be the only Associate Country to participate in all these World Cups and this has been achieved despite the continuing financial imbalance

between the Test playing Countries and Associate Nations.

Cricket Ireland's income exceeded €2,000,000 for the first time in 2009 and is budgeted to exceed €2,500,000 in 2010 which will be an increase of almost 400% on 2005 income. A significant portion is still grant related and Cricket Ireland is grateful for the continued support and encouragement, especially in these recessionary times, from the Irish Sports Council and its' Chief Executive John Treacy and from Sport Northern Ireland and its' Chief Executive Eamonn McCartan.

Income from sponsorship, broadcasting, membership, merchandising, gate receipts and Lords Taverners has also increased dramatically over the past two years.

The partnership that Cricket Ireland has forged with its team sponsor, RSA, has hopefully been mutually beneficial to both parties; RSA also sponsored the Ireland versus England game at Stormont last August when Ireland, in front of a capacity crowd, narrowly failed to beat their opponents in a rain restricted match.

Other important continuing sponsorships are with Hope Kerr for the Bob Kerr Senior Cup and with Kukri for the teams' kit.

Cricket Ireland now has sixteen staff, based north and south, in either administrative or cricket-related roles, on a full time, or part-time basis. On the financial side I would like to thank Edel Moloney who was appointed Financial Controller in April 2009 working three days a



week from the Dublin office and her assistant Sharon Crossan who also works part-time and is based at the cricket office in Belfast. These two appointments have ensured that all the financial aspects of running a medium sized organisation are up to date and that timely information is available for the Chief Executive, the finance committee and the board.

Finally I would like to thank and name all the other members of the finance committee who readily make

themselves available for mid-week evening meetings for their advice, time and support throughout the year – the members are as follows:

Philip Black, Warren Deutrom, Joe Doherty, Gerry Fennell, Jerry Liston, Edel Moloney, Wylie McKinty and David Williams.

### **Profit and loss account** for the year ended 31 December 2009

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	€	€
<b>Income</b>	2,305,277	1,638,212
Direct Expenses	(787,021)	(884,427)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Gross profit</b>	1,518,256	753,785
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Administrative expenses	(1,271,202)	(895,728)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net profit/(loss)</b>	247,054	(141,943)
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### **Balance sheet** for the year ended 31 December 2009

<b>Fixed assets:</b> Tangible assets	5,213	15,859
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stock	18,460	12,448
Debtors	101,998	278,624
Cash at bank	53,351	28,539
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	173,809	319,611
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Creditor:</b> amounts falling due within one year	(72,728)	(465,679)
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<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>	101,081	(146,068)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	106,294	(130,209)
Capital grants	(1,183)	(11,734)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>	105,111	(141,943)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Capital and reserves:</b> Profit and loss account	105,111	(141,943)
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	105,111	(141,943)
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# Women's Cricket Report

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## Catherine Goodman

The 2009 season began with a visit from Pakistan in late May. It was the first series that saw Paul Delany as coach, and the team welcomed Heather Whelan back to the international fold as captain. In preparation for the World Twenty20, Pakistan came to Ireland in search of warm-up matches. The first fixture took place in a very wet Hills ground, but thanks to the diligence of the ground staff, the game eventually took place.

Pakistan batted well, but struggled to hit through the field, only reaching 80 for three wickets before rain stopped play after 18 overs. Ireland's fielding looked very polished, possibly because that's all the players could practice during a very wet May! The rain really seemed to affect the Pakistani bowlers as they struggled to grip the soggy ball, and the Irish girls took advantage. Duckworth Lewis meant that the target was 91 from 16 overs, but the chasers reached the total easily losing only one wicket, Isobel Joyce's 56 not-out the pick of the performances.

Unfortunately that was to be Ireland's only victory over Pakistan. The two sides played a low scoring One-day international in Clontarf the following day. Pakistan batted first and the home side did well to bowl them out for 141. However, Ireland's batting did not live up to their first half performance however, and they collapsed to 114 all out.

After a day's rest, the RSA T20 Cup began with Ireland, Pakistan and Nottinghamshire battling it out. Pakistan won the tournament outright, beating Ireland twice.

The next tournament for the Irish women was the ICC Europe Women's Championship which was held in Dublin in August. The teams played out a one-day tournament over three days, followed by a Twenty20 tournament played entirely in one day.

The opening game saw Ireland take on Scotland. The visitors batted first and struggled to make any head way, reaching only 85 all out. Eimear Richardson again bowled well taking 4 wickets for a miserly 10 from 8 overs, and Amy Kenealy emerged as a prospect for the



future with 2 wickets for 6 runs from her 8 overs. Only the openers were needed as Cecelia Joyce and Eimear Richardson reached the total with ease, the former scoring 41 and the latter 33.

It was all to play for on the last day as the Netherlands and Ireland descended on the Hills once more. It was soon all over as a contest as Eimear Richardson and Ciara Metcalfe did it all themselves with five and four wickets respectively, the Netherlands reaching a meagre 68. Openers Joyce and Richardson again did the chasing work without the loss of their wickets.

A sunny day at Rathmines dawned the next day for the Twenty20 tournament. Ireland beat Scotland by 86 runs. The last game of the day decided the winners of the tournament and the Netherlands thought they were in with a chance when they made 115 from their 20 overs. But Ireland reached the total with ease as Clare Shillington scored 58 and Isobel Joyce made 35 to help Ireland to an emphatic victory with 9 wickets in hand.

Throughout the summer, Ireland women played in the LCU Junior A league. They played 8 fixtures and won all of them which resulted in their promotion to Division 8.

The Ireland A women had a busy summer. They played two friendly matches against Leeds Met Carnegie Women in April, winning one and losing one, and also took on Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon who they beat convincingly by 77 runs.

These matches were played in preparation for Ireland A Women taking part in the ECB County Championships. The Irish side did very well in their first two matches against Suffolk and Cumbria, winning by 4 wickets and 19 runs respectively. However, Northumberland were to be their undoing as Ireland A were knocked out of the running after losing by 2 wickets.

The busy summer of cricket showed the talent coming up through women's junior cricket. The games which were lost were mainly due to a lack of tactical awareness in the longer form of the game. Recognising the changing situation of a game and reacting to it is something that can only be learned on the pitch, and so the losses the team suffered in the 2009 season may yet prove to be invaluable experiences for the players in the future if the same situations occur.

Ireland's under-17 girls team took part in the European Cup in Deventer in Holland at the end of July. Under the management of Janice Walsh and coached by Miriam Grealey the team prepared for the tournament from January with indoor training in North County and eventually, when the weather was kinder, outdoor practice sessions. Ireland took on Holland and Scotland in 40-over matches followed by a round robin Twenty20.

It quickly became clear that Ireland had players who were of a far higher standard than the opposition. In particular our captain Laura Delany, who was awarded player of the tournament, Kim Garth and Emma Ryan stood out. The whole squad performed very well during both competitions and their levels of concentration were impressive.

Ireland are now ranked number 1 in Europe at this level and on the back of her individual success, Laura Delany was selected on to the senior women's squad for the coming season. Six of the other players were also promoted to the Ireland A squad.

The Irish women's cricket team aims to be ranked at 6 in the world by 2015. With this in mind, the coming summer and Autumn of cricket will be very important for the team. Having been invited to England to take on the World champions and New Zealand in July, as well as taking on the sides ranked from 5 to 10 in the Dubai Cricket Classic in October, Ireland women will take on 7 of the top 10 teams in the world in 2010. It is an exciting year for the team, and one that will show them exactly where they stand, and what they need to work on to reach the goal of number 6.



*Senior women celebrate wicket*



U17 Boys European Champions



# Report of Youth and Coaching Committee 2009

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## James Bennett

The endeavours of the Youth section of Cricket Ireland continue to be underpinned by two objectives, promoting excellence and increasing involvement in cricket. Cricket Ireland's programme of winter and spring coaching at the Centres of Excellence in Balrothery, Queen's University and Bready complements the extensive coaching programmes which are in place in the constituent cricket unions. The other constant is our indebtedness to Mrs Hope Kerr for her very generous sponsorship of youth cricket in memory of her husband, the late Bob Kerr.

It is very difficult to place a precise value on the role which the inter-regional series have played in the development of so many of our young cricketers, but from u11 upwards, these games have been the commencement of the great cricketing adventures which have seen Ireland compete with distinction in World Cups at Senior and U19 levels. In 2009, the U11 game between North and South was played on the newly laid square at Balbriggan and won by a very strong Southern X1. The Northern X1 teams were victorious at U12 and U14 levels, while the honours were shared in the two U17 games which were played. The Under 13 Interprovincial tournament was hosted by the LCU and won by LCU, while the Under 15 tournament was played in the NWCU area and won by NCU.

Pride of place in this review must go the Under 19 team who performed so creditably in the World Cup and

achieved our highest ever placing of 10th overall. The U19s had a very full programme which commenced with the Free Foresters' Festival in Oxford in July. The value of match practice was demonstrated by the team's success in winning the ECC tournament, and this was followed by winning the World Cup Qualifying Tournament in Canada. Congratulations and thanks to the management team and the players who have made such a great contribution to youth cricket in Ireland over many years.

Regrettably, there has been no ECC tournament at U13 level for the past 2 seasons, but our U13 boys played two games against Middlesex CC X1s, and won 1 game and lost the other game narrowly. The U15 ECC tournament was played in Jersey, and Ireland finished 3rd out of 6. The U17 ECC tournament which was played in the NCU and NWCU areas was bedevilled by inclement weather, but the Irish team retained the trophy which they had won in 2008.

The amount of representative cricket which has been available over the years at underage levels for girls had been somewhat disappointing, but it is to be hoped that the introduction of an U17 ECC Tournament will provide a much-needed stimulus, and increase participation rates. Three teams, (South Leinster, North Leinster and Ulster) competed in the inter-regional U17 festival which was staged in Dublin, and the winners were South Leinster. The Ireland U17 team competed in the inaugural U17 ECC



*Arthur Vincent presents European Winners trophy to Ireland captain Heather Whelan*

objectives had changed from hoping to compete successfully in the recreational game to being competitive in professional cricket. It was also suggested that the concept of a Team Ireland be re-visited from U13 to the Senior level and that a greater level of emphasis be placed on fitness, diet and specialised coaching to enable our young players to compete on a more level playing field. It is very heartening to report that Mark Garaway, the newly appointed Cricket Operations Director has been instrumental in undertaking many elements of this re-appraisal in consultation with our coaches and development officers. It is opportune therefore to congratulate Mark on what he has achieved up to this point and to wish him well in his very onerous role.

Tournament, and it won the 40 overs per side competition and the 20/20 tournament. Inter-regional games were also played at U13 and U15 levels, and it is aimed to increase the number of games played by these age groups in the coming season.

We are at a cross-roads in terms of our cricket development, and it is very gratifying to report on the vision and action which have been put in place during the past number of years as we seek to fulfil our cricketing ambitions and aspirations.

The All-Ireland Club Youth Tournament Finals have developed into great occasions with visiting teams bringing lots of supporters, and the home clubs going to great lengths to entertain their visitors with very lavish hospitality. Donemana did not manage to repeat last year's feat of winning all three competitions, but in retaining two of the Cups, they continue to lay claim to being the premier club at youth level in Irish cricket. The Under 11 All-Ireland (Alec Dunlop Memorial Cup) was won by a very strong Clontarf beat which beat CSNI in the final at Clontarf. Donemana retained the U13 All-Ireland Cup (David Pigot Memorial Cup) by beating Rush at Burdennett and Donemana was also successful at U15 level (Ian Lewis Memorial Cup) when it defeated Merrion in an enthralling final at Merrion.

Finally, this report gives me the opportunity to thank all the members of the Irish cricket community who have been so generous with their time and who have made such a splendid contribution to the development of youth cricket in Ireland. For all of us, the rallying cry remains the same, "a lot done, a lot to do".

In last year's report, reference was made for the necessity for a total re-appraisal of our structures and coaching at all levels because our



*3 Railway CC players with the World Cup Qualifier Trophy*



# Cricket Ireland (North) 2009 Report

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## Tim Simmonite

2009 was a year of great change for the office based at Stormont. Aside from the changes in staff detailed below, there was the wholesale Governance changeover from the Northern Ireland Cricket Association to Cricket Ireland.

Staff member changes, and their roles, were at the forefront of consideration for the office. Ryan Haire was replaced by Tim Simmonite in June and the role changed from Cricket to Club Development Manager. Ryan Eagleson moved from Cricket Development to Talent Identification Officer and Sharon Crossan became part-time in Finance and Administration. Due to the redirection of central funding, Brian Allen was lost to the role of Cricket Development Officer in the North West, and this opportunity must be taken to thank and congratulate him for his work in this area. Mark Garaway, albeit based in Dublin, joined the Cricket Ireland staff in August as Cricket Operations Director and has developed an excellent working relationship with the staff members in the Stormont office, who report to him.

The redirection of central funding from Sport Northern Ireland was based around the change from 'participation' to 'performance' which, in real terms, meant the change from 'play and programmes' to 'people', thus funding posts to develop the levels of the game and their roles in the cricketing pyramid of Ireland as a whole.

The main thrusts in the work of the office, both in 2009 and continuing into 2010, include Club Accreditation,

Coach Education, developing work with local Council Consortia in the 'Active Communities' programme, Talent Identification and Financial and Administrative Management.

The new role of Club Development Manager undertaken by Tim Simmonite incorporated the need for a Club Accreditation Scheme that was supported and ratified by Sport Northern Ireland. This scheme was written towards the end of the year, involving lengthy consultation work with stakeholders including the NCU, NWCU, Sport NI, Cricket Scotland and Knight, Kavanagh and Page, who were heavily involved in the ECB Clubmark Scheme. Over the course of 2010 the intention is that the Scheme will be officially licensed, piloted and rolled out to all clubs across Northern Ireland.

Coach Education received both a strategic and administrative revamp during the latter part of 2009. A new 'needs-based' approach was devised, focussing on club and geographical requirement for coaches, and this will continue into 2010 and beyond. The structure for a Coach Database, including all coach details and qualification levels, was also introduced late in the year.

Seven Coaching Courses were organised in 2009, encompassing all levels from Mini Cricket to Level 2. These were attended by a total of 122 people. More courses are planned for 2010, and as part of Coach Education Development the tutor and assessor workforce was increased when four individuals attended a week-long training course in Edinburgh in November.

The Sport Northern Ireland funded 'Active Communities' programme also began in 2009, although is yet to be rolled out in all areas at time of writing. Cricket, along with all other sports, were asked to bid for funding to support posts, and was successful in four Consortia areas – Belfast, North Down and Ards, Derry and Strabane and Antrim and Newtownabbey. We wait to see what 2010 will bring for these posts.

Talent Identification in cricket was brought to the fore by the introduction of the new post taken by Ryan Eagleson. As well as working alongside talented youngsters already in the cricket system on a team, group and individual basis, other areas including cross sport links and strategy for Girls' and Women's cricket were devised for development in 2010.

Grass roots development work was continued in schools by the two Cricket Development Officers, and the Finals Day of the annual Kwik Cricket Competition, held on the main ground at Stormont, was attended by 16 schools from all over Northern Ireland and was a great success.

The Financial and Administrative Management of the office was overseen by Sharon Crossan, who worked closely with both Edel Moloney in the Dublin office as well as with Sport Northern Ireland. Her high standards and attention to detail have been invaluable in both the period of changeover of staff and the day-to-day running of this office.

The coaching programme for juniors continued with the Regional Development Squads. Under 11, 13 and 15 age ranges were catered for under the guidance of Ryan Eagleson, working closely with the NCU and NWCU. The

Under 11 and 13 programmes were expanded to focus more on talent identification and future programme development. These new programmes, and the changes made to them, proved an enormous success; so much so that Ryan Eagleson has just received the ICC Europe Outstanding Contribution and Service to Cricket Coaching Award for 2010, recognising his sustained excellence in this area over recent years. He receives my heartiest personal congratulations.

Along similar lines an Academy Under 14 team toured Edinburgh successfully, winning two out of their three games and the tournament overall. Academy plans for 2010 involve an extended programme that includes an Under 16 tour to England.

There is a robust reporting structure in place for staff in the Stormont office and this continued throughout the year with the regular 100 Day Reports written, submitted and discussed with Sport Northern Ireland.

In terms of the organisation of the office, this also received an overhaul in 2009. New equipment was brought in to both raise its profile and update and improve its practice. New computers, printer, telephones and phone lines, answer machine service, window graphics, business cards for staff and re-designed letterheads, amongst other initiatives, were all introduced.

The office continues to be the centre of Cricket Ireland's operation in the North. It plays many roles, including being the centre of organisation during Ireland's One Day International against England in August. This role will no doubt continue in 2010 when New Zealand 'A' and Bangladesh are hosted at Stormont.

*CI President and World Cup Qualifying Squad*







# Leinster Report

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## Brian O'Rourke

The Leinster Cricket Union's Development Department continued to expand in 2009. With many new developments and initiatives, cricket is expanding all the time in many different areas. The Union's team are more involved than ever before now, and the signs from the schools and clubs are extremely encouraging. The band of dedicated volunteers in cricket, both administrative and active, has given development in Leinster the impetus it requires. There remains strong competition for our potential talent and funding, and the ongoing need to upgrade facilities and to invest more in coaching and development. Below is a summary of the activities currently being rolled out within the province.

Six Leinster youth sides travelled to the UK for a variety of cricket tournaments and festivals last summer. These tours remain a major part of our development programme and all tours have been included again in the 2010 calendar.

The schools coaching programme has expanded again with more and more schools being introduced to the game. Several years ago saw the introduction of 'The Leprechaun Cup' a new hardball cricket competition for Dublin Primary Schools. This year will see 30 schools enter, many making the transition from 'school-yard' to 'hard-ball' cricket. To cater for the less-established cricket- playing primary schools, several 'Kwik Cricket' festivals will be held during May and June.

Reinhardt Strydom continues in his role of 'Cricket in the Community' development officer for work at grassroots

level in the Fingal area. He has been assisted recently by coaches Albert Van Der Merwe and Andrew Leonard, who are visiting schools in west and north Dublin on a weekly basis.

The Leinster Cricket Union's coaching programme for the autumn/winter months commenced on October 2nd. A big emphasis is currently being placed on the U'11's age-group with over 40 cricketers being nominated for coaching by the various Leinster clubs.

Courses for coaches currently being run in the Leinster region have been fully endorsed/ratified at 'Intro' and 'Level 1' level by the newly-formed Coaching Ireland. The Leinster Cricket Union has welcomed the addition of both John Wills and Jim Doran as CDPI tutors. Jim is currently arranging to deliver 'Intro' courses in the Munster area. Nineteen experienced Leinster coaches attended 6 x Coach Development Workshops run during March and April.

The coaches (leading club and provincial coaches) learnt a huge amount from attending the workshops and kept them up to date with modern trends in the game along with observing the latest innovative coaching methods currently being used around the world.

A new initiative in Leinster this summer saw the introduction of 'Bowling Clinics' held at various venues around the city during the summer. From these clinics a new campaign called 'Find a Fast Bowler' was launched with much success.



BKISC winners, Leinster CC

The Leinster Cricket Union arranged for Leinster youth cricketers Barry McCarthy, Jordan Coghlan and Hugh McDonnell to attend Muir College, Uitenague, South Africa for a 10-week period commencing on Jan 21st 2009. This venture has been running now for five years with 13 Leinster cricketers taking advantage of the scheme. Current Ireland U'19 squad members Andrew Balbirnie, Jordan Coghlan and George Dockrell have all spent time at Muir College.

Darren Nicol from CYM will attend Muir College, Uitenhage from January to March 2010, while CUS School are sending 6 cricketers to St Alban's College in Pretoria

The Leinster Cricket Union continues to offer overseas coaching trips to our promising youth players. In December 08' the following players departed to Mumbai in India for a 10-day training camp. Robin Russell, Eoghan Delany, Eoghan Conway, Ryan Hopkins, Edward Richardson, Mark Dwyer & George Dockrell along with coach Nigel Pyne. They enjoyed the experience and found the training facilities and coaching very beneficial. The now well-established link with India continued in December '09 where the following promising female cricketers attended the training camp: Laura Cullen (Clonarf), Louise McCarthy (Pembroke), Melissa Scott Hayward (Leinster), Laura Delany (Leinster) and Shauna Kavanagh (Pembroke) were accompanied by coaches Nigel Pyne and Clare Shillington.

Advice continues to be made available to schools in the Leinster area concerning playing/training equipment and also facilities. Gonzaga, Kings Hospital, St Columba's and The High School have recently installed new synthetic playing surfaces in their grounds while St Mary's College have had a new pitch installed at Kennilworth Square. Sandford Park is in the process of installing a new two-lane practice facility. It is hoped pitches can be laid at Corkagh Park and Porterstown very soon to cater for the local interest. ie Adamstown & Clonee Cricket Clubs.

A close working relationship has been established with both Warwickshire CCC and Middlesex CCC in England to offer our young players opportunities to travel over during the summer to play and practice with their English underage counterparts. A two-day coaching trip to Lords was arranged for George Dockrell, Barry McCarthy and Niall Delany last July. It offered the boys an insight into the English professional game and gave

them an opportunity to experience youth cricket as it is played/practised in England. Other trips are being arranged for this winter. Shane Getkate spent most of July and August playing league cricket in Birmingham and also played for several of the Warwickshire underage sides in the County Championship.

Three of Leinster's more promising U'15 cricketers attended a three-day coaching camp held at Warwickshire CCC over the Easter holidays. Darren Nicol (CYM), Cormac McLoughlin (North County) & Tyrone Kane (Merrion) were involved in a two-day bowling clinic run by coaches and members of the playing staff at Edgbaston. The boys stayed on for an extra day to engage in a fielding clinic that proved very beneficial for the boys. Shane Getkate, a member of the Warwickshire academy joined the boys on the trip.

Leinster U'15 squad members Lee Cole and Benn Hoey will attend the ICC Europe cricket Academy at La Manga, Spain from April 6th-12th next. The trip will give the boys the opportunity to train at the excellent facilities in Southern Spain while gaining valuable coaching advice from some of Europe's top coaches.

A large working group have met on several occasions during the winter with a view to establishing Louth Cricket Club. Encouragingly members of both the local County Council and Sports Partnership have been on hand to offer advice. A 'Give Cricket a Try' day was held on Sunday Nov 22nd attended by Brian O'Rourke and Adi Birrell where a large number of interested people attended to gather further information on how to join the new club.

Adamstown Cricket Club has now been established and many games were played during 2009. Following meetings with the Parks Department of South Dublin County Council a playing area has been offered to the club at Corkagh Park (next to the M7). Funding for a pitch remains the only obstacle at this stage.

Clonee Cricket Club has also now been established (20 members) and are very interested in entering the Leinster leagues. Following meetings with Fingal County Council a playing area has been secured at Porterstown (next to Castleknock GAA and soccer clubs). Funding to install an artificial playing strip will hopefully become available from Fingal County Council in the coming weeks.



*Former team mates W. Porterfield and E. Morgan*