



Leinster Cricket Club

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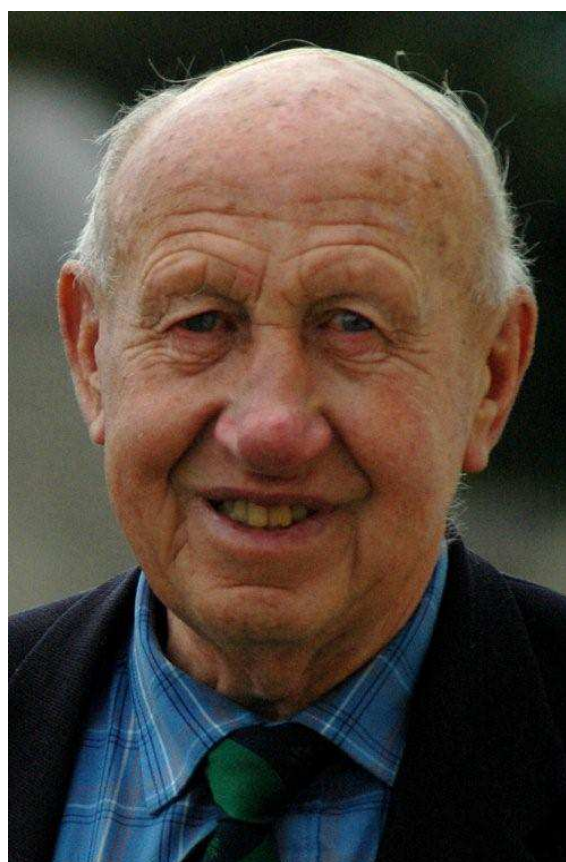
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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

GERRY DUFFY 1930-2015

A Gentleman of Irish Cricket



Club members and cricketers throughout the land and further afield, were shocked and saddened in June at the news of the death of one of cricket's great personalities. Gerard (Gerry) Andrew Anthony Duffy passed away in his 85th year after a short illness.

Gerry was one of the truly great characters of Irish cricket and Leinster CC. In an international career which spanned 21 years, 1953-74, he was capped 55 times for Ireland, scoring 1,123 runs and taking 82 wickets and 39 catches, most of them in the gully where he excelled.

In 1969 he played on the Irish team which recorded that famous 9 wicket victory over the West Indies at Sion Mills, snapping up catches in the gully off Dougie Goodwin (5-6) and Alec O'Riordan (4-18) who ran amuck that day as the visitors were dismissed for 25 runs.

An all-rounder, Duffy's best bowling performance was in 1961 when, against a star-studded Australian team coming straight from a Test series victory over England, he took 6 wickets for 29 at Ormeau, Belfast. He was a modest man and a reluctant international bowler who consistently underestimated his own abilities. He came on when Australia were cruising at 148 for 3 wickets and claimed 6 of the next 7 wickets in a 13 over spell as Australia collapsed to 209 all out. Amongst his victims were Norman O'Neill, one of the world's outstanding batsmen of that time, and Richie Benaud, the Australian captain, who wrote a memorable tribute to Duffy for his surprise 80th birthday party.

His highest international score was 92 against the MCC in 1970.

He batted mostly in the mid-order or further down the list and frequently held the tail together in rear-guard fight-backs, as against India at Clontarf in 1967. Duffy came in at 55 for 5 and, with Ray Hunter, put on 96 for the seventh wicket to enable a declaration, ending up unbeaten on 52 against the formidable Indian spin attack of Bedi, Chandrasekhar and Venkataraghavan (Venkat).

He was a batsman who treasured his wicket – as all good batsmen do – and had the amazing record of being Not Out in one-in-four of his 405 knocks for the club. In a domestic career spanning 43 years from 1948-1990, for LCC he scored over 10,000 runs, took 944 wickets and held an amazing 238 catches, mostly in the gully. He hit 9 centuries, including a magnificent 200 not out against Phoenix, the arch rivals of Leinster CC and enjoyed a wonderful innings

against his great adversary Jimmy Boucher, giving only one chance on 196.

Duffy retired from Senior 1 League cricket in the mid-1980s but continued playing on the Second XI. However he made a return to help out in 1990 when LCC found themselves short of bowlers for a senior league game. In his 60th year, he bowled unchanged for 20 overs and recorded the amazing figures of 4 for 70. He was never one to let the side down!

He served as an Irish selector for many years and was a wonderfully gifted coach not just in LCC but also in Gonzaga College and in Merrion CC where he helped lay the foundations for the great talent and success which that club has enjoyed over the past decade and more.

Throughout his international career, Duffy gave his time tirelessly to his beloved Leinster Cricket Club. The family home at Mount Pleasant Avenue abutted the ground and he was forever tending the wickets, cutting the outfield, coaching the Under 15 schoolboys and the Ladies and anyone who wanted a hand with their game. He acted as Assistant Hon Secretary, served on the Executive and Selection Committees, tended the bar, and helped run the regular Saturday night dances which funded the club in the 1960s and 70s.

He was a table tennis Interpro, unlucky not to have won an International cap, a superb snooker player, and a keen tennis player. He played full-back for years on St Mary's RFC Moran Cup teams, soccer for LCC and even managed to pick up a Dublin Insurances GAA football medal – truly a multi-talented sportsman.

He was also a great supporter of the Dubs - and Shamrock Rovers - and counted amongst his very close friends Jimmy Keaveney, John Drumgoole and Mick Leach with whom he travelled to his beloved Listowel Races for almost 50 years.

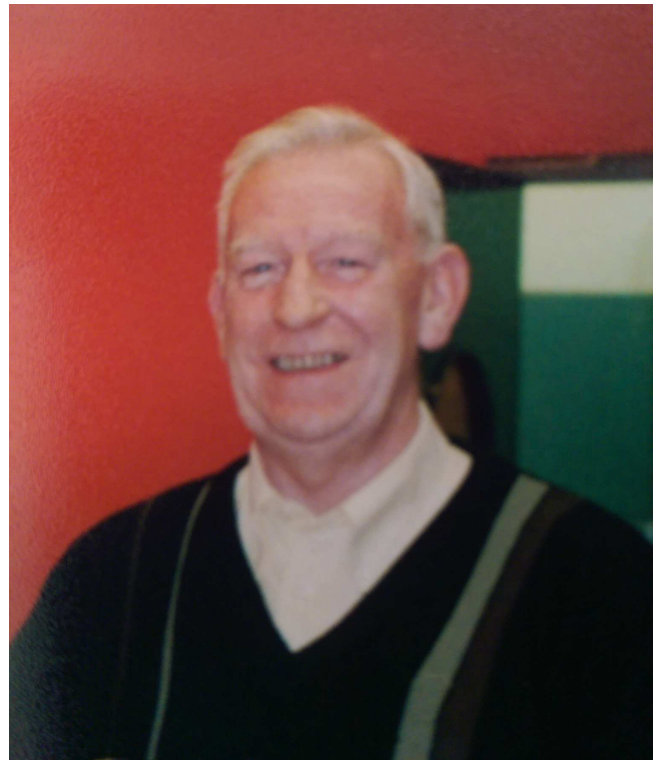
Gerry's passing sadly leaves a vacuum in Irish cricket and particularly in Leinster Cricket Club which will never be filled. He was truly one of the great personalities and characters of the game and a visit to Observatory Lane was incomplete without a hilarious chat with himself. May he rest in peace.

Gerry is survived by his elder brother Patrick (Robbie), nephew Robert, and grandnephews Conor and Robert.

Murrough Mac Devitt

RONNIE O'REILLY

1939-2015



Ronnie O'Reilly

1939-2015

Ronnie O'Reilly died on 27th January last. He joined Leinster Cricket Club in 1952 as a young enthusiastic member and played throughout his school years. He maintained his membership throughout his later teens into senior status in the second and third teams. He was transferred by his company to Cork and there met his future wife Fionnuala O'Donovan.

He was later transferred back to Dublin and rejoined Leinster to return to his great interest in the game. Ronnie continued his enthusiasm and sat on several committees. He was President of Leinster Cricket Club 1980-1981.

Having retired as an active cricket player Ronnie became a successful umpire at a senior level. Ronnie later became a very good bridge player within Leinster and won several trophies.

Dermot Fitzsimmons

LINDA'S RETIREMENT

On Friday 11th September a special evening was held in the clubhouse to honour Linda MacDonnell on her retirement from the position of Administrator and to thank her for her immense contribution to the development of the club during her 15 years in that role. Linda has been a member of the club for over 40 years and was a very active sportswoman in both tennis and cricket. She was also a member of Leinster Ladies cricket team and was captain of the Ladies Cup winning team of 1981. It was at Leinster that Linda met her husband Tom, former captain of the Men's First Eleven team, and a former president of the executive committee of LCC.

A large representative group of members from all sections gathered to applaud Linda and wish her a happy retirement. Linda was accompanied on the evening by her husband Tom and her two sons, Conor and Niall, also sportsmen. Linda was presented with an engraved decanter and glasses and a selection of wine on behalf of the club by Niall Carroll, the President of LCC. We certainly hope to see Linda and her family around the club for many years to come.

NC



BRIDGE

The Bridge Club continues on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. The numbers playing continue to be good, with up to 12 tables per night and we have several new members this season. We have just finished our annual Pairs Tournament and the winners will be announced on our Christmas Night on 16 December.

We have two teams competing in the Fanagan Leagues in South Dublin and we wish them well for the season. The standard of play continues to rise and several members have been successful in external tournaments in other clubs.

Ronnie Creighton

LADIES CRICKET

At the recent AGM, the new Ladies committee was elected as follows; Mary MacMahon - Chair; Kerr Livingston – Secretary; Aoife Livingston - fixtures secretary; Stephanie Woods - fundraising. The committee has already met and are putting plans in place for the upcoming season. We are delighted to report that Rob O'Connor has returned from other pastures as head coach, with Laura Delany remaining as the 1sts Captain.

Finally we want to wish all the best to Laura Delany and Amy Kenealy who are currently playing for Ireland in the World T20 qualifiers in Thailand, ably managed by Sue O'Connor.

Mary MacMahon

NEWSFLASH!

Congratulations to the Irish Women's Cricket team on their qualification for the World Cup Series in India in March 2016 and on their stunning victory over Bangladesh in the final of the qualifier competition, winning by 2 wickets on the last ball of the last over.

Particular congratulations go to LCC members and Irish squad members Laura Delany and Amy Kenealy and to Sue O'Connor as manager of the team.

SQUASH

The squash season is now well under way, and the leagues are nearing the half-way stage. This year we have four men's teams in divisions Premier, 2, 4 and 5, a ladies team in Division 2, a veteran's team in Division 2 and one Saturday League team. The men are battling away but none are better than mid-table so far. The outstanding performers are the women who are top of the table and unbeaten so far, so well done to them.

The outstanding event since the last newsletter has been the performance of the men's team in the All-Ireland and European Club Championships, admittedly with a little help from a couple of guests. On May 23rd we played in the All-Ireland which is a one-day event, meeting Sutton in the semi-final whom we beat comprehensively.

In the final we met Fitzwilliam who have come to see this title as their right, so it was a huge satisfaction to narrowly beat them thanks to wins by Michael Craig and Sean Conroy, not forgetting vital points picked up by Brian Byrne and Sam Olwill. Then it was off to Krakow in September for the Europeans!



Our All-Ireland Club Champions Michael Craig, Sean Conroy, Rory Gilligan, Michael Conroy, Brian Byrne and Sam Olwill

The only problem with this achievement was financing the trip, with entry and accommodation fees coming to over €3000, not even counting airfares. So we held a club-wide raffle and the response from all sections was fantastic and we raised just over €2000 for which we are hugely grateful to all. The Club then made up the difference for which we are equally thankful. We should just warn everyone that we plan to win it again next year...

In Krakow we encountered ferocious competition, with the French team from Mulhouse, for example, fielding a former World No. 1 and the current World No. 8. The team of Brian Byrne, Sean Conroy, Sam Olwill, Rory Gilligan and Michael Conroy played magnificently and finished 8th in Europe. Some highlights:

- Coming second in our opening group, losing only to the mighty French, and so getting to the quarter-finals
- Brian Byrne taking a set off World No. 8 Mathieu Castagnet
- Sean Conroy coming within a point of taking a set off former World No. 1 Thierry Lincou
- Brian Byrne beating former World No. 24 Davide Bianchetti
- Tying in the final playoff match, losing only on points countback



There were highlights off the court also, travelling supporters including Jim Coyne, Mick Bannon, Roger Dowley and Rory Gallagher, but since none of these can actually remember anything about the Krakow nights we have nothing to report. (I got the envelope, thanks lads).



Section membership is struggling somewhat but this is common to most Dublin squash clubs, and comparatively we are holding up well. There is no

doubt that this is helped by the online system for court booking, box league and ladder which has been a great success, and we have had feedback of instances where this has been a deciding factor in joining, or not leaving, the club.

Court walls and floors however remain problematic, requiring at least annual remedial work, which has caused difficulties when hosting matches at the highest level. We have had plans in train for some time to make radical improvements here by means of a major reconstruction. There have been frustrating delays in this but we are working hard towards having a proposal in place early in the new year.

Alan Sheehy-Skeffington

YOUTH CRICKET

How best to describe our season? Busy and successful with lots of our young members playing great games of cricket. We ran a very successful Cricket Camp during the first week of July and finished the season with the annual Youth Prizegiving and Quiz. Over the season LCC was the most successful youth section in Leinster, winning 7 trophies. Among them were the victorious U11 boys who completed a clean sweep of U11 A league, LCU Cup and All Ireland cup – unbeaten in all competitions during the season. We were also runners up in 4 other LCU competitions.



The U17 girls won the U17 League and Cup, winning a fabulous cup match in The Hills at the end of August. The girls also won the U19 league.



In addition the U13 Boys won the U13 plate and were narrowly beaten in the U13 A league losing only 1 match all season in a very competitive league.



The U13 C boys also won their league showing the strength and depth we have in all our youth teams. We are the only cricket club in Leinster to field a team in each of the youth leagues or cups organised by the LCU.

Runners-up medals were also won by the U15 boys in the T20 Gerry Duffy cup on “Final’s Day” which was held in LCC. The U13 B boys team and the U15 boys A team were also runners-up in their respective leagues. A fantastic effort from all teams as we were incredibly consistent in all LCU League competitions, coming 3rd in a number of leagues or reaching the semi-final stages of their respective competitions.

There is a huge amount of work carried out by numerous people, both before and during the season in organising matches, finance, running teams, fundraising, manning the shop, scoring, etc. So thank you to all our volunteers. It is greatly appreciated and we hope to see you again next year. If anyone however would like to get involved and help in any way, please do not hesitate but forward an email to the office for the attention of the Cricket Youth Section.

Youth Committee

BOWLS

Morton Cup: The Ladies beat Kenilworth and won the cup.

The Men's Section got to the Final of the *Open Cup* but lost to St. James Gate.

IBA Senior Fours Arthur McMullen, Robbie Meany, Noel Roche & Paul Smyth got to the Semi-finals playing against Ballymena but lost by 4 shots. It was a great experience for the team.

Kenilworth Rinks



Marie Love, President L.B.L.I., Ronnie Hanlon President Kenilworth B.C. Leinster Winners: Arthur McMullen, Pat MacDonagh, Mary Kenny, & Anto Grey. Joe Tirrell, President B.L.I.

Club Competitions:

Paul Smyth won the Men's Championship and Pat MacDonagh won the Ladies Championship. They will go through to the ***Champion of Champions*** next year.

Touring Teams

- On September 1st Leinster played a mixed team from ***South Africa*** which proved to be a great success. Especially when after dinner, we surprised them with a young Irish dancing troupe to entertain them.
- On the 6th September we had the ***Surrey Ladies*** who thanked us for the great welcome they

received and gave Leinster ladies an open invitation if we ever wanted to play in their club.

- Our Men hosted the ***Norfolk County*** men on the 14th September which proved to be an enjoyable match and social evening.
- Our Vets Team played the Annual Challenge Match with the Vets from NIPBA in Belmont on the 19th June. The occasion was enjoyed by all. The return match will be played in Leinster on Friday June 17th 2016.

In September we hosted the ***Annual Senior Citizens*** party organised by the Gardaí from the Rathmines station and as usual a great time was had by all. Some of the guests enjoyed a short game of bowls.

The Leinster/Crumlin Tournament was a great success this year and we had some winners – Sarah Kelly from Crumlin beat Pat MacDonagh in the final of Ladies Singles: Mary Kenny & Pat MacDonagh won the Ladies Pairs.

The Winter League started at the beginning of October. The social game is played on every Wednesday & Friday. This year we have 43 members and so far the weather has been fairly good. Leinster won the Winter League last year for the second year in a row.

The Indoor Section started back in October and the team is doing well in the 1st Division. Presently it is in 1st place.

Our AGM took place on Friday 27th November in the Bowling Hall Pavilion.

Marie Fitzpatrick

TABLE TENNIS

The table tennis section had an excellent 2015. We have sustained and grown our membership and the vibe in the club is at an all-time high. We have had a few new members like Giovanni, Frank and Yingje who have contributed to the club be it through our new table tennis app on “WhatsApp”, getting club shirts, or simply practicing with the new and beginner members.

Leinster League Table Tennis Competitions

We entered 3 teams in 2015/16 and we hope to add a 4th team in 2016.

Leinster no. 1 team with Yingje, Barney Maloney and Leigh Anderson ran away with Division 2 last year. They were promoted to the top division and are now struggling a little.

Leinster no. 2 team, which is a four man team of Philip McDermott, Frank Scott Lennon, Ken Ellis and myself are comfortably winning the division.

Leinster no.3 team, with Grezegorz, Wojciech, Sebastian and Giovanni are playing in Division 5 and are mid table.

So overall, the 2015/16 year for us as a club and playing leagues is looking good.

Aengus Benson

Leinster Table Tennis Secretary

TENNIS

This summer saw the introduction of The Supper Tournament in the Tennis Section. So far we have had two great afternoons of tennis, followed by supper, catered by Camile and then music by Sully one evening and Jerry Knipper another evening. The bar was swinging and Shirley was a revelation on the dance floor!

The weather may not have been brilliant, but we celebrated Wimbledon with a strawberries and cream evening.

This year's Club Championship ran through July to the 5th of Sept. The entry was down slightly on last year. Matches were played very much to schedule and our At Home Day was a glorious sunny day. Once again the members donated delicious food for the afternoon tea. Matches started a little later than usual, and led straight on to a wonderful dinner, catered by Mary Kenny, attended by over 50. Linda and her husband Tom were our guests at this dinner to mark the occasion of Linda's retirement from LCC. She will be missed.



We have a new Ladies Champion, Marie Lynch and a new Men's Champion, Sukraat Kashyap. The Men's Doubles title went to Charlie O'Brien and Eoin McCarthy, while the Ladies Doubles title went to Dolores and Rose Byrne, a very formidable mother and daughter team!! Mixed Doubles Champions are Rose Byrne, and John Byrne, not related to each other at all!! Worthy winners all.



Eoin McCarthy Mick Smyth and Charlie O'Brien



Sukraat Kashyap and Dave O'Grady

After presentation of all prizes the evening continued with music by Sully and the merriment lasted well into the small hours.



Louie Brady, Moira Bolger, Joan Hennessey and Phyl Herbert

League News

In the Men's section, there was an increase in interest in playing league – driven largely by bigger playing population, much improved website and ease of contact. We were able to enter an additional men's

team in Summer League; so a total of 4 teams, (Class 3, Class 5, and Class 7 x 2)

The 2nd team were narrowly beaten in the final of Class 5 and promoted to Class 4. Playing in the Finals were Singles: Sukraat Kashyap, Pat O'Mahoney, Paul Conroy

Doubles: Liam Nugent / Ghislain Hoffman, Jim Coyne / Ciaran O'Sullivan. Other players during the league included: Mick Smyth, Des Gallagher, Dave Geraghty, Tom Gallery, Tom Corbett, Anton Sander, and Jonathan Duggan.

Congratulations to the 3rd team, who reached the playoffs of Class 7.

We have entered 4 teams in Winter league, Class 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Ladies Senior League saw the first team of Rose Byrne, Dolores Byrne, Marie Lynch, Rosemary Curry, Elena Greene and Merci Horan, ably assisted by super subs Sheila Lynch, Michele Lochrin and Roisin Hayes reach the Semi-finals and promotion to Class 4.

We entered 3 teams in Mixed League this year and the 2nd team made it to the first round of the play-offs (Oonagh Breen, Ger O'Rourke, Pauline Kent, David Ken, Edel O'Dea and Seamus Ryan) in Class 3 and the 3rd team also in Class 3 made it all the way to the quarter finals (Ruth Lunnon, Gerry Collery, Fiona Lynch, Gerry Hand, Anne Byrne and Chris Heaney). Congratulations to all the subs particularly Rita Geraghty, a super sub who played every week!

We have entered 3 Ladies teams in the Winter League. Enthusiasm is high. Ladies doubles coaching clinics commence in November with taskmaster Dave O'Grady in preparation even though matches don't start until the 24th January.

Best of luck to all 7 teams.

Christmas Team Tennis started on Thursday 19th November and will finish on Thursday 17th December with our usual Christmas party. Team Snow White take on Team Grumpy, Team Bashful, Team Doc, Team Sneezy, Team Happy, Team Dopey and Team Sleepy over the intervening 4 weeks. More news in the next newsletter!!

We would like to wish a speedy recovery to one of our long serving senior ladies, Maura Bolger, who has not been on the courts in the last couple of months. Looking forward to seeing you back soon!!

New Tennis Committee

Welcome to the new committee who were elected in October. Mick Smyth stepped down as President and Willie O'Brien took over the role. Paul Conroy did so much work on the website that it took two brave souls to replace him, Jonathan Duggan and Chris Heaney. Dave Kent is also new blood. Several of the old stalwarts remained in place and continue to work hard for our section.

Coaching. Coaching continues with our resident coach Dave O'Grady offering coaching on Mondays for beginners and improvers, Wednesdays for advanced and ladies doubles coaching on Fridays. Enquiries to davidaogrady@gmail.com

Website

On www.lcctennis.com you can find out all you need to know about club activities, booking of courts, ladders, box leagues, DLTC leagues, and the photo archive. Articles on any issue to do with the club, tennis news etc. are always welcome. Keep an eye out and be sure not to miss out on new events.

MENS CRICKET

2015 was a moderate season for the Men's Cricket Section. Two trophies were won. LCC 5 won the Whelan Cup under Ciaran Casserley and LCC 7 won Division 14 under Bob Cramp. Joe Carroll won all three Division 2 Individual trophies; Batting, Bowling and All-Rounder. He has been selected for the Irish Emerging Players squad and also Leinster Lightning for the coming season.

The top five batsmen were:-

Chris Oosthuizen	601 runs
Joe Carroll	565 runs
Vimal Jacob	556 runs
Tom Halliday	515 runs
Danny Coad	502 runs

The top five bowlers were:-

Joe Carroll	36 wickets
Conor O'Gorman	33 wickets
David Lappin	32 wickets
Justin Cramp	28 wickets
Finn Conaty	26 wickets

Top Catcher was Tom Ritchie with 10 catches.
Top Wicket Keeper was Richard Forrest with 30 dismissals.

Nine batsmen scored centuries during the season:-
Hugh MacDonnell scored two centuries.

The following each scored one century: -

Joe Carroll
Imran Rafique
Will Rolfe
Richard Forrest
Tom Ritchie
Eamonn Byrne
Michael Hogan
Ross McMahon

Tom Halliday scored six 50's during the season.
Five wickets were taken by Joe Carroll on three occasions.

Rob Kenealy scored his first 50 for the Club after 20 plus years of trying!

The new men's committee has been elected for 2016:-

Stephen Tonge, Chairman
Brian Godfrey, Secretary
Ordinary members:-
Craig Mallon
Danny Coad
J. P. O'Dwyer

During the last year the Cricket Section of the Club has lost some very dear friends.

Colette Colleran passed away after a long illness. Colette looked after our cricket teas so well for many years. Her cheerful presence will be missed by all. Ronnie O'Reilly, a long standing member of the Club and later an International Umpire also passed away during the year.

We also lost Gerry Duffy. The Club will never be the same without him.

All three will all be sorely missed in the Club for many years to come. R.I.P.

Our first fund raising effort will be the sale of Christmas trees. These will be on sale in the Car Park on the first three weekends in December, Saturdays and Sundays. Please support.

Brian Godfrey
Hon. Secretary

TAVERNERS

This article takes you from the Xmas dinner Dec 14 to the start of season 2015 which started 24th April. A lot of good work has been done by our Fixture Secretary in the meantime.

Match statistics of the season were 15 completed, 7 won (including the Intersquads) 1 tied and 7 lost. However statistics can deceive and the hungry Taverners cry out for more!

We started with Rathgar Ramblers who beat us despite a brilliant opening partnership from Ringrose and Butler. (Who ran who out?) We fared no better with Phoenix at Kenilworth and hoped for better luck with St. Marys, who are always hungry especially on their home ground. Alas no luck, despite great batting by Richardson and Attard with splendid bowling by O'Carroll. Maybe if we travelled northside we'd do better so off we went to Malahide but despite a great knock by captain Godfrey we were foiled again and just enjoyed the supper – up to scratch as usual.

At last, “success” and we tied with Rathgar Stragglers. Didn't happen against B of I slammers where Jim Tierney got his first 20 with 3 other “Linster” men. Great bowling by Frank Murray in this match – breathtaking style. (I mean the hair not the action!) The President's XI beat us, but as the Pres was absent we are going to appeal that one to Lords. Four lovely 20's against Evening Herald in Trinity proved too much for the latter as did some heated exchanges re the calling of wide balls! Fitzwilliam were despatched easily so we were on a roll – into victory in our first intersquad match which was duly won by the Taverners! The poor old Architects, shaken by the property collapse failed badly to chase our below 100 total but as usual scored 100% in their generous contribution to the supper afterwards. This match was the second in the string of 7 consecutive 20's from Dillon- one where he came in to bat No. 9 - a magnificent feat (considering there were always a group of his team-mates seeking revenge for previous run-outs!) RTE without the Monsignor were not able for the fierce wielding of bat and ball by Godfrey, O'Connor Dillon and Swan – a newcomer.

The Cavaliers are just too competitive – Guinness the opposite – maybe they should be both dropped from the list! Malahide beat us convincingly – making it a home and away whitewash this season – despite great efforts by Attard (competitive in front and behind the wicket). So on to our second squad match and another victory for the Tavs.

A mixed season, in which we missed our mentor Hugh Elliott through illness (now happily recovered) but we were sincerely grateful to Brian Godfrey who substituted for Hugh where necessary. Many more Taverners helped out on an ad hoc basis – particularly the captains of the squad matches. We hope to see plenty of Hugh in 2016, for despite the quality of his substitutes, there is no one, and never will be any one like that efficient, kind and above all humorous Limerick man as far as the Taverners are concerned.

PPB 1st Dec

NOTICEBOARD:

Christmas and New Year Opening Times:

BAR

The bar will be closed:

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve
Friday 25th December - Christmas Day
Saturday 26th December - St Stephens Day
Sunday 27th December

Re-opening Monday 28th December 2015

CLUB

The club will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve except for those attending:

New Year's Eve Party



31st January 2015 8pm. Food, music and spot prizes. Tickets on sale NOW from the office or the bar. Please support the club!

SMALL NOTE:

A huge thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into the job in the LCC office and made it such an enjoyable experience.
GMcC