

NORTH BLACKBURN METHODIST CRICKET CLUB

1975/76

'A' GRADE REPORT

Season 1975/76 saw another milestone for N.B.M.C.C. in that they at last had a team competing in 'A' grade.

In retrospect, players unfortunately did not or were not able to capitalise on this great opportunity, and consequently we had only a mediocre season, finishing ninth out of twelve. (Burwood Pres., who came up from B1 grade with us last season, finished top.)

In summary, our batting was brittle, and our bowling lacked penetration. However, our fielding was up to A grade standard; 46 catches, 5 run outs.

Hopefully, the young players in the team will improve to enable N.B.M.C.C. to become a force in future years. The potential is there - adaptation and concentration are now required.

It is interesting to note, that two of our four wins were against the eventual grand finalists.

We were obviously weakened this season by the unavailability of several players, and in particular, Ron Blake.

Congratulations to Trevor Tombs for fine batting and bowling performances; he is obviously a worthy winner of the club champion award.

In closing, may I say thank you for allowing me the honour of being captain, for the support and understanding of the team members, and may I convey my sincere thanks to Trevor Tombs for his support as vice-captain.

Russell Davison (captain)

'C2' GRADE REPORT

Up a grade since last season, the 2nd. XI proved this year that they deserved their place in C2. The record of 7 wins, 4 losses and 1 draw is a fair indication of the teams overall performance.

The season started encouragingly with the bowlers capturing most of the glory. The opening pair of Irons and Coombs was indeed a formidable combination. Ed's 5/25 in the first match and Rob's 5/15 (including a hat-trick) against St. Stephens were particularly memorable.

There were some signs of over indulgence around Christmas time and we lost three in a row, but after that the batsmen took over and produced some fine cricket. Against Trinity we chased 270 in century degree heat and made them comfortably. Thanks largely to Chris Byrne, who stopped thinking about other things long enough to score an enterprising 62.

The following match against Blackburn Baps was easily our most inspiring effort. Set 207, we slumped to 5/74, only to be rescued by Trevor Baxter, Chris Walpole, and the tail-enders, who took the total to a mammoth 329.

Col Hosking's post Christmas comeback culminated in a brilliant century in the last round, where he and Craig Pittard put on 153 for the 4th. wicket.

After all this, the semi-final proved a bit of a let down. However, Robert Coomb's firstinnings analysis of 8/64 struck a bright note in what was otherwise a rather dismal showing.

Perhaps the most striking feature about the seconds this year was the way in which it developed from eleven players held together by a few individuals, to a real team with everyone contributing in the way of either runs or wickets. With age very much on our side, next season should be even better.

Richard Stone (captain)

UNDER 16 GRADE REPORT

The under 16s finished third this season, and only lost two matches, but they rarely looked a formidable combination, for like many junior teams, ours revolved primarily around a couple of players who were called upon to do most of the work. In this case the players were Glen Dugdale and this year's captain, Carey Meadows. The other team members generally lacked the application to succeed consistently, but each of them contributed a valuable performance at some stage during the season.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly Glen Dugdale's unbeaten century (including 5 sixers) against Blackburn North Baps. in the last one day game. Not as spectacular, but equally impressive was Carey's lone hand in the semi-final - first wicket in, last man out.

On the bowling side there were some fine performances. Perhaps the best was against Wattle Park, this year's runners up, when we dismissed them the first time around for 48, and then had them reeling at 5/34 in the second innings. Glen and Carey shared most of the wickets this year, but they didn't go unassisted. Alan Carlson picked up six wickets one day, and Mark Droscher finished with 4/7 against Kerrimuir.

Players like Andrew Yardley, Peter Balassone and Peter Duncan all showed glimpses of talent with the bat, and Murray Smith proved quite a reliable opener. Gary Rutherford, Mark Barrett, Rex Carter and a few part time players also helped the team reach the finals with some good supporting performances.

The semi-final turned out to be a bit of a fizzer, and apart from Carey's batting, there was only Peter Balassone's catch at fine leg to dismiss the legendary George that was worth remembering.

It was bad luck that Macca couldn't make it three premierships in succession, but $2\frac{3}{4}$ is pretty good.

Richard Stone (asst. manager)

UNDER 14 GRADE

1975/76 was another good year for the U/14s. We reached the finals, but were unfortunately beaten in the semi.

Using a system of rotation for the captaincy, helped the side blend together to form one of the closest knit teams in the competition.

Good performances were evenly spread, with each team member contributing to the best of his ability.

Something lacking this year was parental support, and we hope that this side of things picks up next year, because the coming season looks very promising.

Robert Hands (manager)

UNDER 12 GRADE REPORT

From a select band of 15 registered players, we set out to gain yet another flag. Bad weather prevented competition in early October, however, by Christmas we were undefeated.

Several players were invited to play in the inter-zone match on January 10. Robert Burke made a brilliant 69 N.O. in a winning score of 3/247. Four of our players were selected in the ensuing inter-association game - Robert, his twin brother Peter, Greg Clark and Joss (wicket-keeper).

On February 7 we had our first loss in 31 games - by one run! Another defeat on the next Saturday really rocked our confidence. However, a new bowling plan and a reshuffle in fielding positions paid off and we finished the season in second place.

The semi-final win by 21 runs over Kerrimuir was a good team performance. The Grand Final loss to Wyclif will be avenged next year - that's for sure.

Kevin Miller (manager)

TWILIGHT GRADE REPORT

For the first time, a team was entered in the e.s.c.c.a. Twilight competition, played on alternate Wednesday evenings. The team, composed of club players and two imported turf professionals, won six out of nine games, often snatching victory from the grasp of darkness. A different captain for each match proved very successful.

Notable all-round performances came from Steven Smith and Steven McKenzie. (Who can forget Woomuns 38 off three overs against Trinity.)

And who can forget Tony Chanter and Captain Brew hitting 25 runs from the last over in fading light, only to lose by one doubtful run. Likewise, who could ever forget Greg Stone's unerringly accurate throw from the boundary to run out the final batsman attempting the tying run off the final ball; or Brew's abandonment of the keeping gloves to return a Sheahan like performance in the outfield; or the Welsh imports 3/5 from seven balls to clean up Gibbsy's mob.; or even the explosive sixers from Carey (sub) Meadows and the normally sedate, introverted John Tamblyn.

Consistent batting performances came from Richard Stone, John Tamblyn and Ron Blake (the team veteran, being the only player over 21 of the 22 who played.)

The relaxed atmosphere of the Twilight Competition produced some surprisingly competitive cricket, and it is hoped that the competition will continue.

Greg Stone (nothing in particular)

'A' GRADE

Points: 33
Position: 9
Won: 4
Lost: 6
Drawn: 1

BATTING
Average: T. Tombs 45.00
Aggregate: T. Tombs 450
Highest
score: T. Tombs 105

BOWLING

Average: S. McKenzie 15.39
Most wkts.: T. Tombs 22
Most wkts.
innings: S. McKenzie 7/42

'C2' GRADE

Points: 53
Position: 4
Won: 7
Lost: 4
Drawn: 1

BATTING
Average: R. Stone 37.45
Aggregate: R. Stone 412
Highest
score: C. Hosking 104

BOWLING

Average: R. Coombs 11.78
Most wkts.: R. Coombs 41
Most wkts.
innings: R. Coombs 8/64
Hat-trick: R. Coombs
vs. St. Stephens

UNDER 16

Points: 48
Position: 4
Won: 6
Lost: 2
Drawn: 2

BATTING
Average: C. Meadows 36.25
Aggregate: G. Dugdale 314
Highest
score: G. Dugdale 100x

BOWLING

Average: A. Carlson 10.75
Most wkts: G. Dugdale 23
Most wkts.
innings: A. Carlson 6/25

UNDER 14

Points: 43
Position: 3
Won: 5
Lost: 3
Drawn: 2

BATTING
Average: D. Payne 60.50
Aggregate: D. Payne 242
Highest
score: D. Payne 79

BOWLING

Average: D. Hands 10.53
Most wkts.: D. Hands 13
Most wkts.
innings: D. Hands 6/15

UNDER 12

Points: 85
Position: 2

BATTING
Average: R. Burke 40.6
Aggregate: R. Burke 284

BOWLING

Average: G. Clark 4.15
Most wkts.: R. Burke 26

AWARDS: 'A' GRADE: Team champion - T. Tombs.
'C2' GRADE: Batting award - R. Stone, Bowling award - R. Coombs.
U/16 GRADE: Team champion - G. Dugdale, Most consistent -
C. Meadows.
U/14 GRADE: Team champion - D. Payne, Best Team-man - M. Pryn.
U/12 GRADE: Team champion - R. Burke, Bowling award - G. Clark.
This year's winner of the 'Twilight Trophy' is Steven Smith.

INTER-ASSOCIATION MATCHES

This year we contributed again to the U/21 team that represented our association. Greg Stone, Stuart Hall, Steven McKenzie, Steven Smith and Richard Stone played in a series of matches in December and January. David Payne represented us in U/14 matches over Christmas and we provided the U/12 inter-association games with Robert Burke, Peter Burke, Greg Clark, and Jess Miller. Glen Dugdale played in some U/16 matches also.