

NORTH BLACKBURN METHODIST CRICKET CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT

1976/77

FIRST XI REPORT

This season saw another first for our club; a team playing in the 'A' grade finals.

Seven wins, one draw (play washed out), and three losses resulted in our being in second position at the completion of the home and away matches. It is interesting to note that during the season we defeated the other three teams in the final four.

Chasing a modest 171 in the semi-final, we could only manage 169, and really this was the story in most of this season's matches. Boasting a strong batting line-up (on paper) in each match it was generally our bowlers who toiled hard and our batting which let us down.

Eight of our batsmen had at least one score of over 50 during the season, so the ability was there - but not consistency. Players should take a good look at this and try to solve the problem. Perhaps more concentration and dedication would help.

Ron Blake again excelled in the batting department; a left hand opening batsman of Ron's capabilities will be very hard to replace. Good luck in your new appointment in New Guinea, Ron.

Ted Walsh, a newcomer to the club this season, more than acquitted himself. Besides being a valuable allrounder, Ted's manner is an example to all other players.

There generally existed a good atmosphere of team spirit and co-operation during this season, and this helped make my job as captain much easier.

In closing I would like to thank Trevor Tombs for his assistance as vice-captain, the Miller boys for regularly helping us as twelfth men, and to congratulate the second eleven and the Under 14s on winning their respective premierships.

Russell Davison (captain)

SECOND XI REPORT

This season saw NBMCC win its third senior premiership - the first by a second eleven. There is no doubting the fact that it was well deserved.

Undefeated at Christmas, we went on to finish the year with ten victories, two defeats and one draw for a total of 65 points.

Having lost 1975/76's leading wicket taker Rob Coombs, century maker Col Hosking and Trevor Baxter from our lineup before the season got underway, we were left with a few gaps to fill. After the first few matches however, their replacements seemed more than adequate. Michael Walsh rejoined the club, Ian Toogood was dragged from an early retirement, and a rising star in the person of Carey Meadows appeared on the horizon. All looked well.

Ed Irons relished the opportunity to spearhead the attack this season, and after a fine 8 for 25 in his first bowling spell of the season settled down to some destructive bowling which had netted him 56 wickets by the end of March. It is of particular comfort to a captain to have a bowler of such determination and experience on ready call.

In the second game Mike Walsh collected a match winning six wickets against C2s most unpleasant team, and then continued to bowl consistently throughout the season, providing valuable support for Ed. Chris Byrne again filled the role of third seamer and at times worked up a good deal of pace - he bowled one amazing ball to his little brother in the game against the Baps, that Dennis Lillee would have been proud of.

Once again the spinning department had its good days and its bad days, but we were fortunate to have backup bowling talent in the persons of Rob Hands, Craig Pittard and later, Phil Chapman. Ian Toogood could always be depended on to introduce a bit of variety at five to six on the second day.

Our talented batting lineup knocked up some record scores this year, and provided much entertainment. Three times the opening partnership exceeded the hundred mark, and there were also century partnerships for the third and sixth wickets. Seven of our completed innings totalled over 200 - but we saved up our best performances for the finals. Totals of 5/368 and 330 were a good way to finish the season.

Mike Walsh proved in the finals that he has the potential for producing valuable batting performances. Too often this season he was frustrated out by being at the wrong end of the wicket while the ball was being slathered by his strike-hogging opening partner.

Consistent batting efforts were provided by both Mike Hill and Carey Meadows, with Carey also injecting a bit of class into the order. Mike's patience paid dividends this season in the game against the Baps at the High School, when faced by grass a foot long he didn't allow the conditions to daunt him and scored a valuable half century.

The batting surprise of the season was Rob Hands, whose sensible knocks at crucial moments showed great promise. Unfortunately, Byrney couldn't quite recapture his batting form of the previous season - but at least his mind was on the job.

Ian Toogood added the necessary experience to the batting this year, and several times guided us to victory - similarly, Phil Chapman, on his return to the club after Christmas steadied things down and showed us some shots we didn't even know he had. Who can forget the two lofted fours off the last two balls of the day in the final - to bring up his ton.

The lower part of the order didn't get much of a look in this year, but I'm sure they are all capable batsmen.

Our fielding ran hot and cold this season, but even when it was cold it was clearly a notch above most other teams. Ian looked after the off side this season, and although he didn't throw down the stumps as often as usual, he did scoop up some amazing catches. Carey also took a few screamers in the gully, and Ed did a great job in the batsmen's hip pockets. Rod Clarke also proved himself a valuable part of our fielding machine with his safe pair of hands and accurate returns.

Fortunately the wicket keeping department caused few worries this season as Paul Bowden continued to improve behind the stumps.

1976/77 was a very satisfying year for me. My task as captain was made easy, thanks largely to the support of our vice-captain Ed, and everyone else who offered advice. Thanks also to our few, but regular supporters and to everyone else who contributed to a fine season. We are now aiming to have two sides in 'A' grade for the 1980/81 season.

Richard Stone (captain)

#### UNDER 16 GRADE REPORT

The Under 16s this year produced a very similar effort to that of last season. Although loaded with talent, they rarely blended to produce a great team effort indicative of their potential. Although they lost only two matches, statistically the team fared only marginally better than their opponents. However 1976/77 was not without its good points; and most importantly, all the players enjoyed their cricket.

In mid-October we had an unusually long list of players, but by the time the finals came around, the original 16 had settled into a more comfortable dozen. Captained by Glen Dugdale, the team reached the Christmas break with only one loss - but owing to bad weather and a forfeit, we only played one morning of cricket between December and March. Consequently we went into the semi lacking a little in the way of match practice - and duly suffered.

The season couldn't have got off to a more exciting start - we won the first two matches by the smallest possible margin. Against Kerrimuir Glen Dugdale dominated with five wickets and 71 runs out of a total of 110, but Gary Rutherford was the hero of the game's last moments, capturing the final two wickets in successive balls, with Kerrimuirs total on 109.

Some tight bowling allowed us to hold Blackburn South out by one run, but we had our first defeat at the hands of Gibbsy's mob. Although beaten, the game did have its bright spots. Two new batting talents established themselves - Glen Weatherley and wicketkeeper Mark Barrett. Both boys were to become our most consistent run scorers during the season.

A steady half century by Mark, and a fine 37 not out by another promising cricketer, Frank Caldwell enabled us to add almost sixty runs for the eighth wicket in our match against All Saints - a game which also provided Greg Farrell with his best bowling performance for the season, 4 for 17.

Against Blacky Baps, yet another batting talent emerged in Brad Liddle. Brad's 45 held our innings together and helped us on the way to another victory. Opening bowler Ray Lehman wrapped things up when he bowled the last three opposition batsmen in the space of one maiden over.

The game against Ashburton Pres. also had its interest. Although Glen Dugdale's bowling was not always accurate this season, there was nodoubting his effectiveness as a shock bowler - just ask Ashburton's opener. Another bowler who caused a few shocks was Steven Down. Steve's rather innocuous looking deliveries turned into very effective leg-cutters which netted him three wickets.

Our one pre finals/post Christmas match was another thriller; not content merely to beat Trollop's gang by one run in the second match, we thought we'd prove the point and beat them again - by one run.

Batting first, we only managed 71 in our eighteen overs, but some aggressive (almost violent) bowling by our captain and a great effort by Mark Droscher left Blacky South one run short once again. Not content with his two wickets, Mark decided he would hurry things along and tried to run out the rest of the team - and he very nearly did.

It was in the semi final against Trinity down at Frog Hollow that Mark Droscher finally came good with the bat. Sent in to open for the first time he proceeded to play the defiant opener role and hung around for ages scoring ten singles while his captain put together an amazingly disciplined 63. Then he went beserk hitting 18 runs off one over and finishing with 40 valuable runs. A rear guard action by Ross Boucher, Ray Lehman and Tom Honan enabled us to finish the day with a comfortable 221 runs. The next week is best forgotten. Batting three short, Trinity replied with 238. The best excuse I can think of is that the prospects of a long weekend down the beach caused too many minds to wander.

With all the potential in this years team, a third senior eleven next season should be well served.

Thanks to all the players mentioned, plus Mark Pryn, Scott Rutherford and Peter Hiscock for making it an enjoyable season - and thanks also to those who helped with transport and umpiring.

Richard Stone (team manager)

#### UNDER 14 GRADE REPORT

Our club should be proud of this undefeated, champion team who proved yet again that they have qualities greater than any other junior team playing in the ESCCA.

Solid batting partnerships, accurate bowling and excellent fielding exhibitions in all of the ten matches played this season proved the value of regular attendance at practise sessions held twice weekly over a period of six and a half months.

All fourteen registered players who formed this outstanding team provided highlights at some time during the season. Their desire to improve the team's displays and to gain the widest possible experience was clearly shown when they continually invited their friends to participate at training.

Teamwork brought them the premiership and the vital parts were as follows:

- R. Burke - Batting average 86.0! 81 not out in Semi; classic stroke player; superb square leg field.
- P. Burke - New fast bowler; took 4/7 against Blacky Sth.; Little Aths champ.; excellent future.
- G. Clark - Won 'Brownlow' count; LH fast bowler; reliable bat at No.4.
- M. Crist - Brilliant field, best arm ever seen; fast bowler with certainty potential.
- J. Cooper - Excellent No.3 batsman, average 36.2; good swing bowler; specialist point field.
- D. Lugdale - Captain; great leader; express fast bowler; dashing batsman.
- D. Hands - Fast bowler; took 21 wickets at 5.2; champion opening bowler; brilliant slip field.
- A. Koski - A true teammate to all; best attendance at practice; tireless worker in field.
- D. Medwin - Fantastic batsman, H.S. 52; took Rourke apart with new scoop bat; wonderful team man; travelled hundreds of kilometres to play.
- R. Miller - Association opener; solid and steady; good leggy; safe field.
- J. Miller - Wicketkeeper (U12 assoc.) youngest member of team; if you can't see him you'll hear him; batting average 23.5.
- D. Payne - Captain (pre-Christmas) champion opener; 80 in final; gave team good start regularly; av. 50.7; Test material; good accurate bowler.
- S. Powell - Good club man; will show true class ability next season; good allrounder and adds value to team.
- K. Ward - Real class player; good to watch; has many good strokes; fine gully field and off spinner.

Put all the above talents in the good hands of Mr. Bill Burke and senior player Rob Hands and cricket was alive and full of enjoyment.

In closing, thanks are due to all parents and friends who graciously helped with running the team - most of all for their presence amongst these young players.

Kevin Miller (team manager)

## TWILIGHT REPORT

In only our second season in the Twilight competition, the club came through undefeated to gain the premiership. Twenty two players, both junior and senior took part in the series of six matches played between 5.30 and darkness on Wednesday nights.

The opportunity to have a go legitimately, enticed the venerable Steven McKenzie to make a comeback. Against Koonung Heights Macca went swish for 44 retired - and turned in an agile performance behind the stumps. Mike Walsh however, spurred on by racist barracking, hit 28 runs from his final over to finish with an unbeaten 46; just clinching the record from Macca.

The signing of turf professional Andrew Minter saw some batting, bowling and fielding introduced to the normally less-than-copybook style of twilight cricket.

The bowling highlight of the season was the effort by Tony Chanter and veteran Ed Irons to dismiss the Trinity side in four overs for only 27 runs.

Stuart Hall finally cast aside his Wesleyan prodding to top the batting average with 26.5, and Andrew Minter's 9 wickets were taken at a cost of 4.5

The twilight competition once again proved successful and enjoyable.

Greg Stone (secretary)

### A' GRADE

Points: 49  
Position: 3  
Won: 7 Lost: 4  
Drawn: 1

### BATTING

Average: R. Blake 39.7  
Aggregate: R. Blake 397  
Highest score: A. Chanter 80no

### BOWLING

Average: E. Walsh 14.4  
Most wkts: E. Walsh/T. Tombs  
Most wkts 22  
innings: A. Chanter 6/21  
E. Walsh 6/34

### 'C2' GRADE

Points: 65  
Position: 1  
W: 10 L: 2 D: 1

### BATTING

Average: R. Stone 57.76  
Aggregate: R. Stone 751  
HS: R. Stone 140

### BOWLING

Average: E. Irons 11.30  
Most wkts: E. Irons 56  
MWI: E. Irons 8/25

### UNDER 16

Points: 47  
Position: 3  
W: 7 L: 2 D: 1

### BATTING

Average: G. Dugdale 28.55  
Aggregate: G. Dugdale 257  
HS: G. Dugdale 71

### BOWLING

Average: G. Dugdale 9.21  
Most wkts: G. Dugdale 23  
MWI: G. Dugdale 5/22

### UNDER 14

Points: 54  
Position: 1  
W: 8 L: 0 D: 2

### BATTING

Average: R. Burke 86.0  
Aggregate: D. Payne 304  
HS: R. Burke 81

### BOWLING

Average: D. Hands 5.2  
Most wkts: D. Hands 21  
MWI: R. Miller 5/16

### AWARDS

- 1st. XI: Team champion - R. Blake, John Tombs Memorial Trophy-R. Blake  
: Best team man - S. Chapman  
2nd. XI: Batting award - R. Stone, Bowling award - E. Irons  
Best allrounder - M. Walsh  
U/16: Team champion - G. Dugdale, Most improved - M. Barrett  
U/14: Team champion - D. Payne, Most improved - D. Hands

This year's winner of the 'Twilight Trophy' is Anthony Chanter

### INTER -ASSOCIATION MATCHES

This year we again contributed to the U/21 team that represented our association. Stuart Hall (captain), Steven Smith, Tony Chanter, John Tamblyn played in matches before Christmas.

We also provided players for open age and junior matches played on Australia Day; Tony Chanter went to Yea, and Stuart Hall played in Balwyn. Glen Dugdale and Glen Weatherley fronted up for the Under 16s, Bob Miller and Joss Miller played for the Under 14 and Under 12 teams respectively.

### COMMITTEES REPORT

The committee would like to congratulate all teams for their fine performances during the past season. This year we recorded 3 premierships out of 5 teams - next season we want 7 out of 7 (at least).

The Committee (committee NBMCC)

A GRADE SEMI FINAL vs. BURWOOD PRES.Lost by 2 runs

NBMCC 169

Tombs 9	Walsh 49
Blake 10	Davison 28
Tamblyn 8	Smith 9
Stone 8	Hall 13no
Chanter 3	Chapman 4
Baxter 9	Extras 18

BURWOOD PRES. 171

Walsh 3/39
Tombs 3/43
Tamblyn 2/6
Blake 2/42
Smith 0/2
Chanter 0/25

C2 GRADE SEMI FINAL vs. BLACKBURN BAPS.Won by 21 runs

NBMCC 5/368

Stone 140	Chapman 62no
Walsh 50	Toogood 58no
Hill 24	Extras 21
Meadows 10	
Byrne 3	

BLACKBURN BAPS. 347

Irons 4/116
Chapman 2/30
Stone 2/40
Byrne 2/69
Hands 0/16
Walsh 0/59

GRAND FINAL vs. DEEPEENE METHS.Won by 60 runs

NBMCC 330

Stone 4	Byrne 1
Walsh 78	Hands 33
Hill 27	Bowden 0
Meadows 12	Irons 14no
Chapman 101	Clarke 4
Toogood 41	Extras 15

DEEPEENE METHS. 270 and 5/138	
Irons 4/68	Meadows 2/19
Byrne 3/67	Irons 1/18
Walsh 2/60	Walsh 1/24
Meadows 1/3	Hands 1/24
Hands 0/1	Byrne 0/11
Chapman 0/11	Stone 0/25
Stone 0/22	

UNDER 16 SEMI FINAL vs. TRINITY PRES.Lost by 17 runs

NBMCC 221

Dugdale 63	Lehman 25
Droscher 40	Boucher 24
Weatherley 9	Down 5
Barrett 0	Parrell 0
Caldwell 9	Honan 12no
Liddle 9	Extras 25

TRINITY PRES 238

Dugdale 4/60
Liddle 2/39
Caldwell 1/8
Down 0/1
Droscher 0/37
Lehman 0/54

UNDER 14 SEMI FINAL vs. KERRIMUIR UNITEDWon by 155 runs

NBMCC 9/285

Miller R 17	Ward 21
Payne 33	Burke R 81
Cooper 31	Miller J 10
Dugdale 8	Hands 8no
Clark 33	Burke P 1no
Medwin 14	Extras 28

KERRIMUIR UNITED 130

Miller R 5/16
Dugdale 4/36
Hands 1/10
Clark 0/6
Payne 0/14
Cooper 0/17
Burke P 0/17

GRAND FINAL vs. BLACKBURN STH./BENNETTSWOODWon by 138 runs

NBMCC 253 for 7

Miller R 38	Medwin 24
Payne 80	Ward 26
Cooper 28	Burke R 22no
Dugdale 23	Miller J 1no
Clark 1	Extras 10

BLACKBURN STH. 115 and 3/50

Hands 1/24	Cooper 1/2
Dugdale 3/26	Burke R 1/8
Miller R 2/4	Medwin 1/9
Payne 1/23	Burke P 0/4
Clark 0/24	Ward 0/7
	Miller J 0/16