



ANNUAL REPORT

2019 Season

Munster Cricket Union
December 2019

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1. EXECUTIVE BOARD 2019

President Jack Russell

Chairperson David Griffin

Secretary Michael Hickey

Treasurer Bryan O'Donnell

Board Members Robert Duggan

Jack Filan

Joe O Mahony

Matt Reed

Veena O Sullivan

Ted Williamson

2. COMMITTEES AND OFFICIALS 2019

CRICKET COMMITTEE

Richard Rutland	Chairperson
Kevin O'Sullivan	
Gerard O'Sullivan	
Joe O'Mahony	Fixtures Secretary
Kevin Hennessy	
Stephen Hackett	

CHILD WELFARE OFFICER

John Ketch

DISCIPLINARY CONVENOR

Ger O'Sullivan

NOMINEES TO CRICKET IRELAND

Board	David Griffin
Cricket Committee	Michael Hickey
Finance Committee	Bryan O'Donnell

INTERPROVINCIAL/MUNSTER REDS

Head Coach	Ted Williamson
Manager	David Griffin
Team Admin Officer	John Buss / Joe Moynihan
Selectors	Jack Tector
	Jeremy Benton

MCU STAFF

Cricket Manger	Joe Moynihan
Youth Administrator	John Buss

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2019

2019 has been a significant year for Munster Cricket. The early part of the year saw the completion of the Strategic Review led by Maeve Buckley and, following this, an EGM in March approved changes to the Constitution and adopted committee terms of reference which enabled us operate in a more effective way and start on the process of working towards transforming the Union into an incorporated body.

During this period too, Cricket Ireland agreed to make funding available for the appointment of a cricket manager for Munster. Following a detailed recruitment and interview process, Joe Moynihan was appointed to the role and he commenced work in June. From my personal point of view, his appointment has been a major plus, taking much of the pressure in the day to day running of the Union off my shoulders and enabling me to focus on more strategic issues such as the incorporation process. This first six months has been very much a learning period for Joe, but we are already seeing the benefits of his professional approach and, in material terms, the setting up of the indoor facility is a major step forward for Munster Cricket.

I am certain Joe will make a major contribution to the development of Munster Cricket in the coming years and I look forward to working with him again in 2020. The involvement of John Buss in the areas of youth administration and Reds administration has also helped the Union significantly.

For me, the latter part of the year has been dominated by the project to incorporate Munster Cricket as a company limited by guarantee. This has proceeded well with the new company now in place and the transition to operating in this format should be fully complete in the next couple of months. I would like to thank Joe Moynihan, Michael Hickey, Bryan O'Donnell and Veena O'Sullivan for their contributions to this process and acknowledge also the support received from Mark Pery-Knox-Gore in Beauchamps Solicitors in guiding us through the legal processes.

Incorporation should unlock additional funding from Cricket Ireland which will hopefully support putting development resources in place to support cricket in clubs and schools across the Province. As I noted last year, tough financial issues for Cricket Ireland have restricted their efforts to support new initiatives to grow the game. I had hoped that extra funding would flow down to the Unions by 2020 but I feel this may be further delayed as issues with overall funding available to Cricket Ireland continues to be a major issue.

Many people contribute to making Munster Cricket work at Board and Committee level, supported by all those involved in running each of the clubs, coaches, team managers,

parents, etc. I would like to thank them all for their involvement and support which is hugely appreciated.

David Griffin

Chairperson

8 December 2019

4. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

2019 saw an increased number of teams competing in Munster Cricket across four league competitions, three cup competitions and four T20 competitions. Available ground space became a significant problem over the course of the season and going forward into 2020, will require flexibility from clubs to ensure that all scheduled matches are able to be played.

Details of competition winners are included in the following pages, along with league tables.

In general, the season ran smoothly with very few incidents to report, aside from the fixture congestion already referenced. Communication with clubs continues to be positive in most cases which assists in the efficient running of the Cricket Operations Committee. Player grading, monitoring compliance with regulations and the collation and recording of scorecards are the principal functions of the COC and we will continue to try to improve our processes and become more efficient as we move forward into 2020.

The COC presented insights into the 2019 season at the recent MCU Clubs Day, a valuable addition to the calendar and one we would hope remains in situ going forward.

As always, our thanks go to the members of the cricket operations committee for their hard work during 2019. In particular, we express our thank to the fixtures co-ordinator, Joe O'Mahony, who put in a huge amount of work during 2019.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The detailed accounts which will be presented to the Annual General Meeting by the Treasurer, Bryan O'Donnell, will show a manageable deficit for the year. Income mainly currently arises from two sources, club affiliation fees and annual funding of €7,500 from Cricket Ireland, and this constrains significantly what the Union can do. It is fully recognised that it is essential that Munster Cricket starts to generate income itself through sponsorship and other commercial partnerships. A start was made in 2018 with All Rounder Sports coming on board to sponsor Munster Reds and the Cups and Leagues. Thanks go to Kevin Galvin for his work bringing All Rounder on board and we hope to build on this in 2019. We would like to acknowledge the contribution to the Union in 2018 by two commercial partners – Carey Tool Hire and Elite Cuisine.

Club facility grant funding of €8,000 has been received from Cricket Ireland for 2016, 2017 and 2018. Grant allocations were processed by the Union and approved by Cricket Ireland for 2016/2017 and the clubs involved are in the process of drawing down these funds as the related projects proceed. Applications for the 2018 fund have been received from the clubs and will be assessed and approved before the end of this year.

Aside from the annual funding of €7,500 and the grant allocations noted above, Cricket Ireland also provide financial support which covers the following:

- Financing of Munster Reds participation in the T20 Interprovincial tournament;
- Payment of the salary and expense costs for our Development Officer;
- Contribution towards the cost of our Administrative Officer, Kevin Galvin;
- Funding to support the appointment of a Youth and Coaching Coordinator;
- Funding towards the cost of a consultant, Maeve Buckley, who is assisting us with the implementation of our Strategic Plan and review of our governance structures.

The monetary value of Cricket Ireland's support is in excess of €75,000 for which Munster Cricket is very grateful. It is hoped that increased levels of financial support can be sourced through Cricket Ireland as the benefits of full membership flow down to the domestic game but it is acknowledged that this will take some time to materialise.

6. REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

MUNSTER REDS

Unfortunately, the Munster Reds T20 season was reduced to a two-match season due to weather. The first festival weekend was held at Pembroke CC and the Reds and Leinster Lightning got it off to a great start with a thriller which was settled on the last ball of the match. Batting first, Cormac Hassett (49) and Jack Tector (47) got Munster Reds off to a flying start with a start of 94 and this was built on by Stephen Doheny (46) and Max Sorensen (23) enabling the Reds post a competitive total of 181 for 7. Kevin O'Brien (56) and Gareth Delaney got Leinster Lightning off to a good start but good bowling from Jeremy Benton (3 for 23) and Max Sorensen aided by excellent fielding and stunning catches from Cormac Hassett and JJ Garth saw Leinster under pressure at 128 for 6 but excellent batting from George Dockrell (23) and Michael Ford (34 not out) got them back into the hunt and eventually, needing 5 to win, Ford just cleared Max Sorensen at long off to hit a match winning 6 off the last ball of the match.

In the second match of the weekend, a strong Northern Knights side who won the tournament overall overcame the Reds in a good contest. Batting first, the Knights, who were 105-6 at one stage, finished strongly to reach a total of 167 for 6 with Shane Getkate (49), Greg Thompson (37 not out) and Mark Adair (33) being the main contributors. Eddie Richardson with 3 for 38 and Max Sorensen led the way for the Munster Bowlers. While all of the Reds top order got started, only Stephen Doheny (35) got beyond 20 and wickets fell too regularly to allow the side to get enough momentum and the innings finished on 135 all out. Mark Adair (4-22) and Shane Getkate (4-27) did the damage with the ball and both went on to have good seasons with the Irish side in T20 cricket.

A freak thunder shower just before the start wiped out play in the third game against North West Warriors. The second festival weekend was totally wiped out at Bready and not a ball was bowled by any team. The Munster based players who were involved in 2019 were Jeremy Benton (captain) and Cormac Hassett of Cork County, Ru and Senan Jones of Cork Harlequins and Yaqoob Ali of Co Kerry.

MUNSTER HEAT

The Munster Heat side played in the Alan Murray T20 Cup again in 2019. The team was extremely competitive on the field winning all four matches it played. Unfortunately, a registration issue saw two players declared ineligible and the points docked as a result meant that the side did not progress to the knock-out stages. Munster Cricket greatly appreciate Leinster Cricket providing us with this opportunity to enable our home-based players to obtain vital competitive experience in the T20 form of the game.

A very young squad had some very competitive games in the annual matches with MCC narrowly losing the 50 over game and sharing the spoils in the T20 games. The matches were noteworthy for some excellent batting performances by Senan Jones and Kieran O'Reilly.

David Griffin

Chairperson

8 December 2019

7. YOUTH AND SCHOOLS CRICKET

1. SUMMARY & HEADLINES.

- 1.1. The purpose of this document is to give a brief summary of Munster Youth activity for the 2019 season. It comprises details of the various threads of youth activity in the province, the level of success and raises issues for 2020.
- 1.2. The Headlines from the report are the significant growth in numbers of youth players across the province and the return of Munster to the U15 & 17 Interpros.

2. SCHOOLS COMPETITION.

2.1 JUNIOR

This new innovative 'Junior' competition comprised teams of 1st to 3rd year students at various secondary schools in Munster. This was an innovation for 2019, which trialled various participation/fun elements and was universally considered a success. The basic premise was blitz based, multi team day events, with games taking place on hockey artificial pitches to be weather resilient in March/April.

In total three events took place: Bandon Grammar School, Villiers School Limerick, Midleton College. The participating schools were Bandon GS, Christian Brothers Cork, Midleton C, Villiers & Sextons St Limerick. During the events, 70+ players participated of which approximately 30 were new to cricket.

The format of quick-fire fixed overs, 9 aside, short boundaries and indoor cricket balls, produced exciting, inclusive competition, which was resistant to weather related interruption.

Sextons St Limerick won the competition.

2.2 SENIOR SCHOOLS T20 CHAMPIONSHIP

This competition followed the same format as previous years, with teams from Bandon GS, Christian BC, Cork Combined Schools, Midleton College, Presentation BC, Sextons Street Limerick. Cork Combined won the competition, beating Sexton's in the final.

It is universally accepted that there are a lot of issues with the purpose, format and future of this competition;

- There is a short window to play the fixtures (3 weeks) and it is highly weather vulnerable.

- The schools give it a low priority.
- A lack of available grounds.
- The sides are often highly imbalanced, with the majority of the games one sided.

Going forward these issues need to be discussed and if possible/desirable changes considered.

3. MUNSTER YOUTH LEAGUES.

- 3.1. A framework of junior and Colts leagues was suggested to the clubs but no organised league games took place. The main obstacles being that we did not have the critical mass of players to undertake meaningful leagues and clubs did not have enough trained and vetted parents. There was also a difference in approach to youth activity between clubs, with Harlequins for example having a mature predominantly teenage youth section pushing participation in adult competition. This is compared with Cork County who are further back in the cycle and therefore prioritising U13 type activity.
- 3.2. This issue has now been moved over to participation discussion and various league competitions are being formulated for 2020.

4. REPRESENTATIVE.

- 4.1 Representative youth cricket for 2019 comprised the U15/17 Interpros and the MCU/LCU U15/17 series.
- 4.2 2019 marked a return to full interprovincial cricket for Munster and that was a success in terms of expansion for the province. There were many administrative and organisational issues, which overall were surmounted but have highlighted the drawbacks with our continued participation in Interprovincials.
- 4.3 The issues are the provision of training, player selection, loan contingent & qualified staff. Overall across both age groups we were not competitive (lost all games despite use of loan players), subjected to exceptional injuries (U17's finished 2 games with 10 players) and affected by not having state protection (direct provision) regime players available.
- 4.4 On the positive, there were occasions for both teams where we had good periods in games, the players bonded well, and the province gained valuable tournament experience. In addition, we have received overwhelming support from all the other provinces and CI. All of whom have stated they see or inclusion, however uncompetitive as a positive for Irish Cricket.

4.5 For the U15 the best performer was Doheny (LCU Loan) with 7 wickets (4/26) and 99 runs, supported by Gautam 95 runs and 4 wickets. For the U17 we have Egerton 5 wickets (3/37) & 101 runs (54), Buss 57 runs (34*), Kennedy 6 wickets (3/33).

4.6 MCU/LCU U15/17 Series.

- LCU brought down two strong sides for the respective series.
- For the two U17 matches, Munster fielded 3 over age players. The series finished 1 win each. With good batting performances by Brewster, Buss, Kruger, Vosloo, Egerton & Hassan. Notable bowling Kruger 3/30, Brewster 2/24, Zaizai 2/17.
- In the U15 series LCU won all three with Munster being seriously out classed in all departments. Only 1 overage U16 was played in 1 game.

5. SEMI-REPRESENTATIVE

5.1 For the 2019 season MCU fielded development teams in three LCU competitions. U15 Cup, Colts A League and U17 League. This saw an expansion on previous seasons and a significant rise in the number of players involved. Overall there were mixed results and there were issues around travel, LCU clubs lack of engagement and differing interpretation from a Munster perspective of the purpose of these games. There are also clear indications that our 'club' involvement in LCU leagues is not sustainable as we grow youth cricket in the province and face potential challenges from LCU Clubs.

5.2 In the U15 cup we won the first round match and were knocked out in the quarter final. Notable performance Gautam 5 wickets and 47 runs in the win. Gautam 58 & M Sidiqi 38 in the loss.

5.3 The Colts league was a new venture, replacing U15, with a much wider eligible player cohort, so LCU clubs did not have a clear strategy of how strong to pitch their teams. Due to rain and issues with LCU clubs only 4 Colts fixtures took place. Won 1 lost 3. Stand out match was defeating a very strong Malahide side. Buss 47, Gautam 33, R O'Sullivan 4/19.

5.4 The U17 T20 league was also affected by problems with LCU teams as one club dropped out. MCU played 2, won 1 lost 1. Z Hassan 22 & 39, J Gilbert 32, Z Hassan 4/11, L O'Rielly 3/19. The win was against favourites Leinster CC who were soundly beaten by some brutally aggressive bowling.

1. OTHER YOUTH ACTIVITY

- 6.1 Across the province we have seen an expansion of youth players and consequently activity. In Limerick there has been a huge number of predominantly state protect background players coming to the province. This has been manifested in the performances by Sextons St School and Limerick City. Limerick County have also seen a growth in numbers.
- 6.2 On the other side of the province, Waterford have a good youth section and are contemplating building on 2019 by joining with burgeoning numbers in Lismore to provide a Munster East youth team.
- 6.3 In Cork, Harlequins added to their youth numbers and Cork County saw huge growth in younger players, with several friendly matches taking place.
- 6.4 A huge number of youth players now compete in adult competitions, with a check of the stats showing 20%+ of the top 100 registered CricHQ players being under age. The notable performances being the efforts of Cork County Strikers, Harlequins Typhoons, Hurricanes and 4th Team. The Hurricanes to be commended on winning the adult CT20 league.

7. CONCLUSION.

- 7.1 Overall this has been a successful season in terms of growth and developing a base for the future. It has not been without its challenges and we are still a long way behind the other provinces in terms of competitiveness and our own youth competition structure. However, I believe it to be a clear indication of our upward development curve.

John Buss

Munster Youth Co-ordinator

8. CRICKET MANAGER REPORT

2019 has been a very steep learning curve in terms of cricket knowledge for me. After being welcomed into the union by the Chairperson David Griffin, I was put to work into catching up on the history of the MCU and Cricket in Ireland.

A special thanks to everyone that has been so helpful and supporting in my new role with the MCU.

OPERATIONS AND HIGH PERFORMANCE

In my short term with the MCU we have developed a selection criteria for all teams in the MCU . We placed open invitations for the MCU heat squad and put selectors from five separate clubs to pick the squads. Winter training is now in full swing for the Heat and U-17 & u-15 squads in the warehouse facility in Cork. The Youth training was open invitation for 5 weeks with the coaches and selectors picking the players after the initial five-week program for a ten-week winter program starting in the new year and selections for the u-15 and u-17 inter provincial series in 2020.

After Christmas we intend to develop a development squad to support the Reds/Heat going forward with fixtures and training.

WINTER TRAINING FACILITY

With the support of the Executive committee and new Logistic sponsors (Moynihan Couriers) we have been able to develop a weekend warehouse facility for the winter in Munster. This will be used primarily for Munster representative teams with an opportunity for clubs to book times if so, they wish.



CHILD PROTECTION

We have made improvements over the past 6 months to ensure that we are fully compliant in the area of child protection, thanks to Joy O Neill and Declan Lynch from Cricket Ireland

All Coaches are now Garda Vetted for all events that are ran in the Union with children under 18 involved in their team, all captains will be required to attend a Level 1 child safety course as part of their registration for 2020.

We will continue to ensure all voluntary assistants complete the necessary Garda vetting process prior to helping with events.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

With a restructure of the board to be done in early 2020 we are currently recruiting new directors (independent) to be part of the board going forward.

COACHING

MCU had 3 coaches at the tutoring course this year ran by Cricket Ireland

We are now able to run the 5-11 Kids course and the level 1 Coaching course now in Munster because we have 3 registered tutors. This will help in the new year when we run courses throughout the Union.

PRO & COMMUNICATIONS

Secure online document storage has been created for the executive and emails for the key members of the board.

Our website is going to be re organised in early 2020 with the help of Robert Duggan PRO. Special thanks to Robert who has helping me a lot in the role in my first 6 months.

CONCLUSION

Positive times ahead in the MCU and hopefully with input from all the clubs going forward we can grow stronger as a group. I would like to also thank all the clubs for all their help in the last six months.

Joseph Moynihan
Cricket Manager
4/12/19

9. COMPETITIONS 2019

LEAGUE WINNERS

Premier Division	Cork County 1
Division 1	Midleton 1
Division 2	Midleton 2
Division 3	Lismore 2

CUP WINNERS







Senior Cup	Cork County 1
Junior Cup	Midleton 1
Minor Cup	Cork Harlequins 3

T20 COMPETITIONS




Premier	Cork County 1
Division 2	Limerick 2
Division 2	Co Kerry 3
Division 3	Waterford & District

10. LEAGUE TABLES







PREMIER DIVISION

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Abandoned	Byes	Points	Bonus points	Total points	Net run rate
 Cork County, 1st XI	10	8	1	1	0	170.0	32.0	202.0	+1.697
 Cork Harlequins, 1st XI	10	6	3	1	0	130.0	21.0	151.0	+0.255
 Co. Kerry, 1st XI	10	3	5	2	0	80.0	18.0	98.0	-0.874
 Co. Galway, 1st XI	10	4	5	1	0	90.0	5.0	95.0	-0.011
 Limerick, 1st XI	10	4	6	0	0	80.0	15.0	95.0	-0.761
 Limerick City, 1st XI	10	1	6	3	0	50.0	18.0	68.0	-0.574


DIVISION 1

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Tie	Abandoned	Byes	Wickets taken	Wickets lost	Points	Bonus points	Total points	Net run rate
 Midleton, 1st XI	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	100	63	200.0	34.0	234.0	+2.257
 Cork Harlequins, 2nd XI	10	5	4	0	0	1	0	84	60	110.0	29.0	139.0	+0.581
 Cork County, 2nd XI	10	4	4	0	0	2	0	67	68	100.0	21.0	121.0	+0.480
 Limerick Blasters, 1st XI	10	4	6	0	0	0	0	63	84	80.0	16.0	96.0	-0.949
 Co. Kerry, 2nd XI	10	2	6	0	0	2	0	50	72	60.0	17.0	77.0	-0.946
 Limerick, 2nd XI	10	2	7	0	0	1	0	68	85	50.0	16.0	66.0	-1.594

DIVISION 2

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Tie	Abandoned	Byes	Points	Bonus points	Total points	Net run rate
 Cork Harlequins, 3rd XI	10	6	4	0	0	0	0	120.0	38.0	158.0	+0.935
 Midleton, 2nd XI	10	6	3	0	0	1	0	130.0	26.0	156.0	+0.870
 Co. Kerry, 3rd XI	10	5	4	0	0	1	0	110.0	25.0	135.0	+0.127
 Cork County, 3rd XI	10	4	5	0	0	1	0	90.0	15.0	105.0	-0.537
 Limerick, 3rd XI	10	3	5	0	0	2	0	80.0	10.0	90.0	-1.006
 Lismore Cricket Club, 1st XI	10	3	6	0	0	1	0	70.0	16.0	86.0	-0.666

DIVISION 3

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Tie	Abandoned	Byes	Points	Bonus points	Total points	Net run rate
 Lismore Cricket Club, 2nd XI	12	8	3	0	0	1	0	170.0	18.0	188.0	+0.918
 Limerick, 4th XI	12	7	5	0	0	0	0	140.0	33.0	173.0	+0.482
 Waterford & District, 1st XI	12	6	6	0	0	0	0	120.0	29.0	149.0	-0.282
 Co. Kerry, 4th XI	12	4	7	0	0	1	0	90.0	28.0	118.0	-0.325
 Cork Harlequins, 4ths XI	12	3	7	0	0	2	0	80.0	25.0	105.0	-1.023

11. AWARD WINNERS

PREMIER DIVISION

Batting	Ross Durity	Cork County
Bowling	Senan Jones	Cork Harlequins

DIVISION 1

Batting	Majid Khan	Midleton
Bowling	Kashif Khan	Midleton

DIVISION 2

Batting	Manvinder Singh	Cork Harlequins
Bowling	David Conley	Cork Harlequins

DIVISION 3

Batting	Senthil Kumar	Waterford & District
Bowling	Benjamin Martin	Waterford & District

MUNSTER HEAT AWARDS

Batting	Arslan Anwar	Limerick CC
Bowling	Mathew Brewster	Cork Harlequins

MUNSTER REDS AWARD

Player of the Year	Cormac Hassett	Cork County
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PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR SERVICES TO MUNSTER CRICKET

Joe O Mahony	Cork Harlequins
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MUNSTER U17 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jack Buss	Cork Harlequins
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MUNSTER U15 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Sunil Gautan Cork County

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Midleton Cricket Club

SPIRIT OF CRICKET AWARDS

Freddie Froggat CBC – Cork

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Majid Khan Midleton CC