

NEW SOUTH WALES UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY CRICKET CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT
1954-55

Patron: G.L. Macauley
President: A.E. Alexander
Hon. Secretary: B. Frawley
(Acting)
Hon. Treasurer: R. Emerson.

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SEASON 1954-55

Gentlemen,

Your Executive has much pleasure in submitting this, the Fifth Annual Report of the University of Technology Cricket Club.

The record of the two teams participating in the N.S.W.C.A. Municipal and Shires Competition was very disappointing - despite the presence of sufficient experience, talent and enthusiasm among our players. The position is so alarming that there is need for a searching investigation into the reason for the big discrepancy between promise and achievement. The Executive feels that the main reason is fundamental; a failure to appreciate the high seriousness of cricket and the necessity of purpose without which success will always elude us. The University cricketer is apt to explain failure in a different way; he, due to the over-riding importance of his course regards cricket purely as a means of relaxation - pleasant Saturday afternoons spent; whereas the player who has nothing so important to claim his attention can divert all his energies to cricket. The assumption is as outwardly pleasing as it is destructive and can scarcely escape the attribution of snobbery. NO! Municipal and Shires Cricket is not, and never was a simple pastime, and there is no valid reason why the University cricketer cannot concentrate on his cricket as much as anyone else without jeopardising his chances of a successful academic course.

University cricket is at a disadvantage, in one respect; our turn-over of players is large and we can rarely expect to have a strong nucleus of leading players who will either graduate to a higher grade or leave the University.

As in the past National Service Training cost us some of our most promising players for much of the season and again the long vacation forced the withdrawal of country students. But these two factors alone fail to explain the difficulty of filling teams; and it is felt that a truer cricketing zeal and a finer club spirit would at times prevent some players from making themselves unavailable so easily. No team can hope to win matches consistently unless it can be kept substantially unchanged throughout the season.

The lack of enthusiasm to some extent is due to appalling lack of responsibility of some of the executives. It is very discouraging to the young player when a senior member of the club shows no interest or responsibility at a time when both were sadly needed.

All this has been said in an attempt to check what could become a disaster in University cricket. Fortunately the future is not without hope and the coming season could be a bright one: we have the players to bring us success and sustained enthusiasm will ensure it.

GROUNDS

The state of the ground and wicket at times gave us much concern and worry to the batsman but this was remedied at the later portion of the season.

It is hoped that in the near future, possibly in the later portion of the coming season we shall be using our own University Oval.

INTER-VARSITY MATCH v QUEENSLAND

The match was played in Brisbane on 13th - 15th December. Our team was a very strong combination and we are pleased to report that a first innings victory was recorded to us.

We won the toss and batted. We had early misfortunes but fine innings by T. Best, D. Potter and R. Ney managed to bring our total to 288.

The host team batted and due to a very fine knock by R. Peirce managed 217 runs giving us a lead of 71 runs.

In the second innings we total 179 due to the fine batting of B. Wearne and I. Lamb.

Queensland in their second innings were 8-88 at stumps.

Congratulations are extended to the following for excellent performances.

QUEENSLAND R. Peirce - 141, J. Neil - 25.

TECHNOLOGY T. Best 117, B. Wearne 66, I. Lamb 49,
C. Shrivastava 33, D. Potter 30.

M. Reidy 4 - 54 and 4 - 16
I. Lamb 4 - 50.

The trip was a complete success, which was only made possible by the cordial attitude extended by the Queensland University. The Executive and members were so taken up by the trip that every endeavour will be made to ensure that the fixture becomes an annual event.

THANKS:

We desire to express our indebtedness to all who assisted the Club in any way during the past year, in particular to -

Dr. Livingstone who performed a lion-hearted job with the 2nd eleven and also to his wife for her scoring.

Miss J. Marsden for scoring for the A Shire side.

"Stan" for his assistance in arranging the afternoon teas, etc.

Nev. Smith for the use of his house for the send-off party to Chris.

Mr. S. Cracknell for his able administrative assistance.

The Executive feels that it cannot allow this report to close without passing a remark on "Chris" Shrivastava. All Shire cricketers who were acquainted with "Chris" will bear with us and realise what a loss his departure to his homeland India was to the team and to the competition. Therefore, we wish "Chris" a good-bye having played with a fine ambassador for his country.

For the Executive Committee

A.E. Alexander, President

B. Frawley, Hon. Secretary.

REPORT OF THE CAPTAIN N.S.W.U.T. "A" SHIRES TEAM

for

SEASON 1954-55

Gentlemen,

Our position in the competition table for the above season shows a worsening from second last in the previous season. We cannot console ourselves in the fact that we are a weak team and that that is our rightful position in the competition. I say this because it is my firm conviction that we are not the weakest team participating in the Shire A's. There are teams that we could and should have defeated and it becomes apparent that the cause for our degeneration as a team lies in factors other than cricketing ability.

Last season I had occasion to express concern at the lack of individual support from the cricketers of the University as a whole and also from some of the active Club players. The situation did not improve during the season just concluded; indeed it has become more acute.

Unless the team can field 11 players each week we cannot hope to improve our status. Perhaps what is more serious we are being criticised - and rightly - by other teams from whom, almost weekly, we must ask for 2, 3 or 4 substitutes. It is extremely embarrassing for the captain of the team to have to do this regularly. It is even more embarrassing to have to ask opposing teams to delay starts of matches until our players arrive at the ground - often half-an-hour late. These two factors, I feel, can no longer be tolerated.

If we can remedy these serious faults I feel that "all is not lost". For example, in our match against Lindfield we had a partnership between Beris Wearne (106) and Ray Bayfield (65) of about 150 runs in under 2 hours and against Sutherland on an atrociously wet wicket Ian Lamb (35) and Ray Bayfield (20) put on 50 runs together in under half-an-hour.

Such performances are well within our capabilities if we pull together as a team - a full team.

Beyond the batting performances cited, together with some sound knocks by Chris. Shrivastava whose departure for India has weakened our ranks considerably, there were very few noteworthy performances. This was due, among other things, to the fact that often we had to end our innings after 6 or 7 wickets had fallen and also to the fact that the batting performances of some of the players, including particularly myself, and who should be capable of better performances, were poor to the extreme.

On the side of bowling and fielding the situation was not quite so bad - though far from good. With our usual low totals bowlers and fieldsmen realised that nothing could be given away and they stuck well to their tasks. By such tight cricket we were able to avert a number of imminent outright defeats.

Special mention should be made of the bowling of Ray Bayfield on whose shoulders some heavy loads were cast and he performed excellently on most occasions. He was well supported by Ian Lamb and Don Potter but, as Don will agree, he himself can do ever so much better.

In the remaining months prior to the commencement of the 55-56 season we must build up. I would like to see each "regular" bring along one (at least) new player to swell our ranks. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the small band of "old faithfuls" on whose support I can always count. They made the captaining of the team under difficult and embarrassing circumstances a little easier.

L.J. Lawrence,

Captain N.S.W.U.T. 1st XI

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY CRICKET CLUB

"B" SHIRE TEAM REPORT SEASON 1954-5

The team played twelve matches, of which two were won, two were drawn, and eight were lost. The team was captained throughout the season by Stan Livingstone.

The most outstanding player of the season was our fast-medium, opening bowler, Bob Butler, who always tried hard and bowled well. In the match against Bexley, Bob took six wickets for sixty-eight runs against a strong batting side; in one over he took one wicket and had four catches dropped, on that occasion. John Beard also put up an excellent bowling performance in the last match, taking six for forty-four.

In general, the bowling was well up to standard, but, on the whole, the batting was weak and unreliable. However, against Roseville the team scored 6-230 (declared), and at the end of the day the match was drawn with Roseville 9-170. Bow Warner and Jim Irwin had their purple patches with the bat, but it was in this department that the team was most lacking. Ralph Emerson, who also played a number of matches with the "A" team, kept wickets extremely well, making some good stumpings, and playing some handy knocks with the bat.

The team suffered from the fact that only a few players were available for even the majority of matches. Consequently, the personnel of the team was always changing; this must be rectified in the coming season.

We must get players who are willing to play continually throughout the season. The players were handicapped by lack of practice; it would be advantageous if practices could be attended by most of the players regularly.

Our urgent need for the coming season is an opening batsman, a first wicket batsman, and two middle of the list batsmen. If we could acquire these extra players, the team should do well in 1955-6.

Stan Livingstone.

Captain "B" Team 1954-5.