

**The Early History of
Monash University Men's Cricket Club**

(The First Decade (Season 1962/63 – Season 1971/72))

Trevor R. Finlayson

**with a preface by the late Mr. Doug R. Ellis, OAM,
Former Director, Monash University Sports and Recreation Association**

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Foreword

Cricket at Monash University has been an integral part of the University since it opened in 1961. As with other areas of sport, Monash has encouraged elite cricketers as well as those wishing to participate for exercise, recreation and socialising. We believe that sport plays a special role in the broad educational and developmental experience at university and cricket has played a central role in this philosophy.

Monash has been blessed with wonderful facilities at its Clayton Campus and engagement with the community outside Monash University has been facilitated by using these facilities to bring other teams and members of the general community on to the Campus.

There have been many changes to the structure of cricket at Monash. The amalgamation of Monash University with the Chisholm Institute of Technology and with the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education in the 1990s broadened its scope. More recently the merger with the Hawthorn-Waverley Cricket Club has allowed Monash to participate at the highest level of District of the Victorian District competition. The merger was not without controversy.

These and the other components of the rich history of cricket at Monash are covered in this comprehensive publication.

Professor Richard Larkins, AO,
Vice-Chancellor and President,
Monash University.
17 April, 2008

Preface

All clubs, whatever their purpose, owe a debt of gratitude to those who founded their organization, often under adverse circumstances. The Monash University Men's Cricket Club was no exception to this rule and it is important to pay tribute to those pioneers who, in 1962, started playing on a concrete wicket set on an old paddock devoid of other facilities.

Many of those early players sacrificed their own ability to play higher grade cricket for the sake of their new club. They had enterprise and vision and the 1963 Orientation Handbook advertised that "membership of the Men's Cricket Club is open to any person connected with the University (not necessarily male)."

The same article also noted that "the immediate aim is to build up a strong team so that upon getting a turf wicket (probably the 1964/65 season) we will quickly be able to rise to Sub-District and later District Cricket standard." Their optimism was typical of the spirit of the whole university, especially in the first decade.

Many former members can testify to their worthwhile involvement with helping run the Club, but sadly, they often lacked support. For such student cricketers, there was a realization that helping to administer their Club would enhance their range of 'people skills' and provide evidence to a future employer of their potential to organize resources including the motivation of people. In this sense, membership of the Club could become much more than 'just a game'.

I am honoured to have been invited to write a preface to this segment of history of the Monash University Men's Cricket Club. In view of my surname, it is probably appropriate to quote from *Alice in Wonderland*, where Lewis Carroll makes the following perceptive observation –

Alice to Cat: 'Would you tell me please which way I ought to go from here?'
'That depends a great deal on where you want to get to,' said the Cat.
'I don't much care where,' said Alice.
'Then it doesn't matter which way you go,' said the Cat.

For the Monash University Men's Cricket Club and the parent body, the Sports and Recreation Association, it does matter – indeed a great deal – which way the Club goes. It must of course go onwards and upwards – not only for the benefit of present members, but also for the benefit of future students and staff.

May the quality of the catches taken, the stumpings made, the balls bowled and the strokes played, continue to improve in reality as well as in memories!

Mr. Doug R. Ellis, OAM,
 Former Director,
 Monash University Sports and Recreation Association.
 November, 1993.

Acknowledgements

The idea to bring together a history of the Monash University Men's Cricket Club arose within the Club administration in the 1990s, at the time of the planning for the Club's 30th anniversary which comprised a Celebration Dinner held at Monash University on Saturday, 13 November, 1993. The credit for these ideas goes to the Club President of the time, Mr. Glen Florence who encouraged the preparation of the Club's 30-Year history to be divided into three decades. The assignment given to the author of this decade of history was a difficult one in that very few official Club records remained.

I am grateful to those former Club members who responded to my request to provide me with their comments, records and/or photographs of our early history and due reference to all the source materials I have used is given throughout the text. In particular, I acknowledge correspondence from Dr. Bryan Cox, Dr. Roger Dunhill, Mr. Doug Ellis, Mr. David Foskey, Mr. David Horsburgh, Dr. Ron Murtagh and Dr. John Parrott. I am also most grateful for comments and some old scorebooks from Mr. Rob Dickens. I have benefited from discussions with Mr. Ben Baxter, particularly in regards to the early years of development of the Monash University campus and I am particularly grateful for some of his photographs, each of which is given an acknowledgement. My thanks to staff of the Monash University Archives, Ms Jan Getson and Ms Lyn Maloney, for their assistance in researching references to cricket at Monash University from both 'Chaos' and 'Lot's Wife' files and in providing other archival records. Access to and the assistance of staff of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library, specifically in relation the problem of thatching (pp 18/19), is acknowledged. Mr. John Brazier assisted in the identification of two players in the Intervarsity photograph, Figure 6, whose names I had forgotten and Mr. Col Barnes is acknowledged for the photograph and player identification for Figure 12.

In 1993, Mr. Doug Ellis was invited by the Club Committee to prepare a Preface for what was hoped would be the Club's 30-year history. Unfortunately, that history was never completed. So since before his untimely death in 1994 he had already written his Preface and had sent me the original in his own clear hand writing, it is appropriate to include his text here as the Preface to this piece of Monash University history.

The costs involved in printing and distributing this booklet have been borne by Monash Sport (Director, Mr. Martin Doulton) and I am most grateful for this generous support.

Trevor R. Finlayson,
Honorary Principal Fellow,
School of Physics,
The University of Melbourne.
May, 2008

In The Beginning!

Cricket at Monash University had humble, but none-the-less, most spirited beginnings. Both the first Vice-Chancellor, the late Sir Louis Matheson, and a number of the foundation Professors appointed to the University, were keen cricketers and the first records of cricket being played at Monash are for a match between 'The Vice-Chancellor's XI' and 'A Student XI', on 28 November, 1961¹. The venue for this auspicious event in the history of cricket at Monash University was a concrete pitch on a fairly rural field just to the north of where the Student Union now stands. The ground had been flagged out on one of the paddocks which formed part of the farm belonging to the original Talbot Colony for Epileptics from which the campus for the new University was evolving. (See Figure 1.) Some cows still grazed on the property



Figure 1. Batsman, Professor J.A. Louis Matheson (Vice-Chancellor), bowler, Mr. Richard Harcourt (1st PhD student at Monash University) and Umpire, Mr. G. House (Manager, Central Services) engaged in the cricket match, 'The Vice-Chancellor's XI' vs 'A Student XI' on the fields at the new university, 28 November, 1961. (Photograph courtesy Mr. Ben Baxter)



Figure 3. Professor Robert Street (3rd from right) forced to retire hurt after being hit in the eye by a bumper during 'The Vice-Chancellor's XI' vs 'A Student XI' cricket match, 28 November, 1961. (Photograph courtesy Mr. Ben Baxter)

and as the University did not employ any groundstaff with a specific responsibility for sporting fields, in its first year, the grass was either kept short by the cows or mown only when one of the small team of gardeners had time to do so.

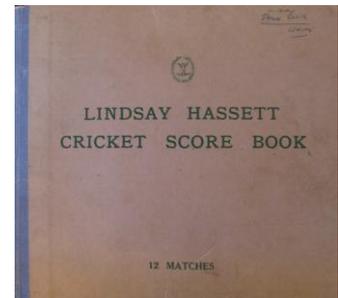


Figure 2. Score Book from the first and only cricket match played between 'The Vice-Chancellor's XI' and 'A Student XI', 28 November, 1961.

Nevertheless, the scorebook (Figure 2) from this first and only match during the period of this history², between 'The Vice-

¹ Original Scorebook donated by Mr. D.R. Ellis, now archived by Monash University Men's Cricket Club, within the Monash University Archives.

² In 1998 there was another cricket match played between a team chosen by the then Vice-Chancellor and one chosen from amongst students. There were no details kept of this match and in any case it had no relevance in the history of the development of cricket at Monash University.

Chancellor's XI' and 'A Student XI' has been preserved, thanks to the resourcefulness of Mr. Doug Ellis (at the time Laboratory Manager, Department of Chemistry). The details of the pages of the scorebook for this match are reproduced below (Table I). Close examination of these details by an astute cricket follower will reveal at least two irregularities - a student bowler (Martin) who was not one of the eleven student batsmen, and a student (K. Bottomley) who seems to have batted twice. (Perhaps student Martin had to attend a lecture by a staff member with no interest in cricket and, in the true "Spirit of Cricket", the opposition captain permitted one student to bat twice on account of this!) In summary, the students showed a lack of respect for the staff, defeating them 108 runs to 102. The Vice-Chancellor made 4, before being stumped, and Professor Robert Street (Physics) who had only recently arrived in Australia from Yorkshire, top scored for the staff making 18 before having to retire hurt, (Figure 3) an incident which clearly remained a vivid memory amongst the many experiences of Monash's pioneer Vice-Chancellor³. Other notable performances were by Professor Ron Brown (Chemistry) with the bat, Dr. Jack McDonell (Physics) with both bat and ball, and Mr. Doug Ellis (Chemistry) with the ball. Each of these three would later make contributions to the Monash University Cricket Club⁴ (MUCC). Top scorer for the students was M. Cashmore with 33. There are no records to suggest that any of the students who participated in this historic match, had any input to the Monash University Men's Cricket Club. However, the opening bowler for 'A Student XI', Mr. Peter Longney, went on to become a Monash University Full Blue for Australian Rules Football in 1963.

Table I. Score book records from the first and only cricket match between 'The Vice Chancellor's XI' and 'A Student XI', played at Monash University¹.

Match Between: VC's XI and Student XI,
 Played at: Monash Date: 28 November, 1961. Toss: Not recorded

1st Innings: VC's XI

Batsman	How Out	Bowler	Total
J. Ford	caught MacCullum	Longney	5
G. Troup	bowled	Craig	4
G. Schofield	bowled	Martin	13
D. Ellis	bowled	Craig	5
L. Matheson	stumped	Harcourt	4
R. Street	retired hurt		18
I. Hiscock	caught Cashmore	Harcourt	3
R. Brown	retired		12
J. McDonell	retired		15

³ Reference to this incident is made by Sir Louis Matheson in his book, 'Still Learning' (MacMillan, Melbourne, 1980) p 171, where we read

One remembers the firsts: the first cricket match when Bob Street got a black eye and I realized that I could no longer see the ball quickly enough to hit it; ...

This is the only reference to Professor Street in Sir Louis Matheson's personal account of the development of Monash University during his sixteen years as its first Vice-Chancellor. Professor Street resigned from the University in 1974, after a most distinguished period of teaching, research and administration, and, after a brief period as Research Director in the School of Physical Sciences at the Australian National University, became Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia.

⁴ Professor Ron Brown was a most active member of the MUCC over a long period of time and some of his contributions to the Club's history will be discussed in a subsequent section of this booklet. (See pp 28 & 29.) Dr. Jack McDonell was a member of the first Staff and Graduate XI to travel interstate to represent Monash University, this being in association with the first intervarsity between Monash and Flinders University during season 1966/67. (See Figure 7, p 17.) Mr. Doug Ellis had a significant influence on the development of the MUCC both as a player and as an administrator, initially in his role as Deputy Warden of the Students' Union and Sports Administrator and then as foundation Director of the Sports Association (later the Sports & Recreation Association).

W. Wheatland	not out	7
I. Fleming	run out (MacCullum/Cashmore)	9
Sundries (2b, 3lb, 2nb)		7
Total		102

FoW: 7 (Ford), 9 (Troup), 29 (Schofield), 29 (Ellis), 44 (Matheson), 58 (Street), 58 (Hiscock), 81 (McDonell), 85 (Brown)

Bowling	overs	mdns	runs	wkts
P. Longney	3	0	13	1
D. Craig	7	0	28	2
Martin	2	0	10	1
R. Harcourt	4	0	14	2
M. Cashmore	3	0	10	0
K. Bottomly	1	0	13	0
A. Cashmore	1	0	7	0

1st Innings: Student XI

Batsman	How Out	Bowler	Total
MacCullum	l.b.w.	Ellis	18
A. Cashmore	caught Troup	Ellis	11
M. Cashmore	caught Brown	Hiscock	33
P. Longney	run out (Ellis/Troup)		8
P. Duras	bowled	McDonell	2
D. Craig	bowled	McDonell	0
R. Harcourt	retired		12
K. Bottomley	caught (sub)	Hiscock	0
A. Suss	caught Brown	McDonell	9
J. Khong	caught McDonell	Ellis	4
K. Bottomley	not out		1
Sundries 6b, 3w, 1nb			10
Total			108

FoW: 28 (MacCullum), 31 (Cashmore), 71 (Duras), 71 (Craig), 82 (Cashmore), 84 (Bottomley), 98 (Khong), 108 (Harcourt)

Bowling	overs	mdns	runs	wkts
J. Ford	2	0	9	0
G. Schofield	3	0	30	0
D. Ellis	3	0	20	3
L. Matheson	1	0	9	0
R. Brown	2	2	0	0
J. McDonell	3	0	12	3
W. Wheatland	2	0	9	0
I. Hiscock	2	0	9	2

Further photographs from this match are reproduced here (Figure 4) and others may be viewed (along with the Scorebook¹) in the Monash University Archives. These, together with Figures 1 and 3 were taken by Mr. Ben Baxter (now retired) but then the Photographic Technician in the Department of Chemistry, who is acknowledged for these unique records.

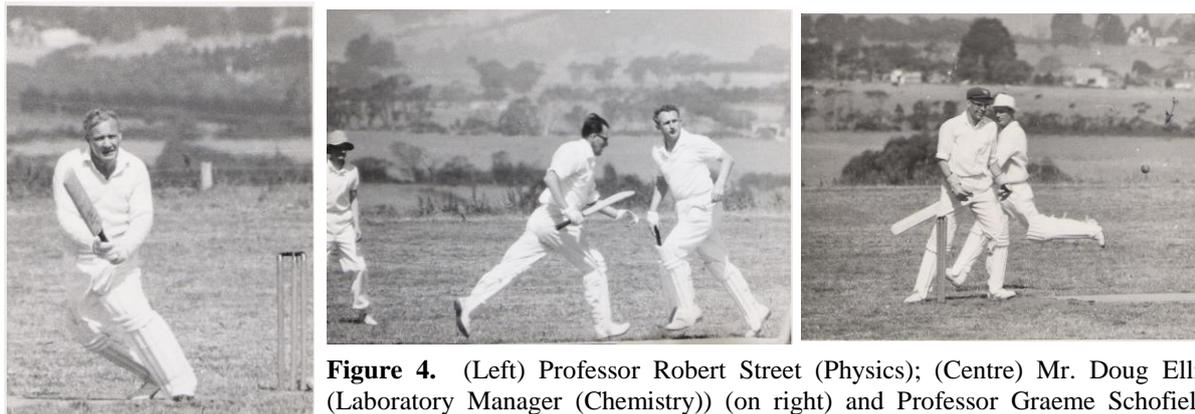


Figure 4. (Left) Professor Robert Street (Physics); (Centre) Mr. Doug Ellis (Laboratory Manager (Chemistry)) (on right) and Professor Graeme Schofield (Dean of Medicine); (Right) Professor Ron Brown (Chemistry) in white hat. (Pictures courtesy Mr. Ben Baxter)

The Formation of the Cricket Club

A short paragraph within the Sports Report in the Saturday, 10 March, 1962 edition of 'Chaos'⁵ (the student newspaper during the early years of Monash University), provides due notice of the formation of the Cricket Club.

Also, in 1962, it is expected that a CRICKET club will be formed. A cricket pitch now exists on the campus and all that is awaited is the arrival of some cricketers.

(It is worth noting that above this paragraph in the same issue of 'Chaos' is another paragraph mentioning a member of 'The Vice-Chancellor's XI', Dr. Gordon Troup, in one of his more noteworthy sporting roles:

For 1962 there is at least one prospective new club - FENCING. Dr. G.J. Troup, former inter-varsity player and now lecturer in Physics, is most interested in hearing from all who are interested in taking up fencing.

Monash University entered competitive cricket in season 1962/63, fielding one team in the Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association (ESCA) B Matting Grade. A further item from 'Chaos' of Wednesday, 3 October, 1962⁶ reported:

Monash has now formed a cricket club which will play in a "B" Grade matting competition with the Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association.

We have entered one team in a competition which plays on Saturday afternoons. At the beginning of the year we did not have a complete set of cricket equipment, but due to the efforts of Mr. Sweeney⁷ and a large donation from Scotch College, we have now a full range of equipment.

⁵ Copy of page from 'Chaos' (10 March, 1962) is held in Monash University Archives.

⁶ Copy of item is on file in Monash University Archives.

⁷ Mr. Graeme Sweeney was the first Warden of the Monash University Student Union.

The first match starts on October 6th and, except for a short break in December, a match is played each Saturday until March. It is necessary, therefore, that we have enough players to field a team throughout the Christmas vacation.

We would like to see anybody, preferably male, who would like to play cricket with us this year. Cricket experience is not essential. Practice, at the moment, is on the University oval at 4 o'clock on Thursdays. Would anybody interested please see Ross Fitzgerald, Ecops. I or Rob Dickens, Ecops. I.

There are no remaining records to suggest the precise donation from Scotch College, or whether or not any females bothered to respond to the invitation to play cricket. Clearly, the problems of 'summer sports' for University clubs which often were deserted by student members for much of the Christmas vacation, were as acute 46 years ago as they have been in the years since. This was not an auspicious beginning, with the team ending the season 10th on the ladder (out of 10 in the grade) and consequently relegated to C Grade Matting the following season. Despite this, the Annual Report of the Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association (ESCA) for season 1962/63⁸, records that,

Monash, being a club established for the first time at the new Monash University, had many difficulties throughout the year. However, one or two keen gentlemen who have founded this club have shown a desire to be a worthwhile asset to the Association and we are sure that as the University grows, so the club will grow in stability and stature.

Despite this poor team showing by the Club in its first season of competitive cricket, one personal performance should be noted⁹.

Season 1962/63

B Grade Matting Batting

R.A. Dickens Inns. 19, N.O. 2, H.S. 89*, Runs 415, Avge. 24.41, 10th in section

A further entry in 'Chaos' of 9 March, 1963¹⁰, showed one characteristic of Monash cricket, which has been instilled in its members since the beginning:

CRICKET

All interested parties are urged to contact those members of the M.C.C. listed below.

Learn what "SPORTSMANSHIP" is really like; join the M.C.C.

Robert Dickens, E.C.O.P.S. II, Presd. John Blakeley, Arts II, Tres.

⁸ Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association 'Annual Report and Balance Sheet' (season 1962-3) p 3. (Copy held in Monash University Archives.)

⁹ Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association 'Annual Report and Balance Sheet' (season 1962-3) p 8.

¹⁰ Copy of item is on file in Monash University Archives.

(The abbreviation for ‘Treasurer’ is copied from the original and is not a misprint here.) It should be noted that the first Secretary of the Club was Mr. (now Professor) Ross Fitzgerald, mentioned above.

The appearance in ‘Chaos’ (10 April, 1963)¹¹ of the name Gus Sinclair is worth noting. In an item entitled ‘Beer and Cricket’, some of the social activities of the Economics and Politics (ECOPS) Faculty are recorded.

Our first function for this year was the Staff-Student Cricket Match - the first time the function has been held.

The Staff were very enthusiastic. Gus Sinclair did a wonderful job leading his team of 14 players (?) on to the field. ECOPS, led by Alan Suss, featured strongly, and both sides hit 107 runs to bring down a draw.

(The name ‘A. Suss’ should be noted in the scorebook records from ‘The Vice-Chancellor’s XI’ vs ‘A Student XI’ (Table I.))

Season 1963/64 was apparently one of reappraisal. Dr. W.A. (Gus) Sinclair’s cricket playing and leadership talents on behalf of his Faculty did not go unnoticed by his enthusiastic students, since for the second season the founding Club President (Rob Dickens) had been replaced by Gus Sinclair.

It is also important to appreciate that the Monash policy to develop as an internationally acclaimed research institution, attracted to the University many post-graduate students. One of these, Ron Murtagh, who had commenced his Ph.D. studies in Chemical Engineering in March, 1963, was encouraged to join the Cricket Club, having been attracted by various inter-Departmental and/or inter-Faculty matches being played on the oval. Ron also became Secretary during season 1963/64 although in a letter many years later¹² Ron suggests that the year he became secretary was 1966. Like many of the post-graduate students attracted to Monash during the 1960s, Ron was not from Melbourne (in his case New Zealand) and in his first season had to learn to bat on matting-covered wickets, not something he had experienced previously, as well as to cope with the Melbourne summer heat and hard fields. Ron recalls¹² that the “Club largely revolved around Rob Dickens in close cohorts with Dave Horsburgh”¹³. Other players whom Ron can remember from the season 1963/64 are Gus Sinclair, Neville Young and Ross Fitzgerald (“occasionally”). Playing conditions “were fairly primitive - no clubroom, matting strips, rough fields”¹². Consistent with some of the photographic evidence from this period concerning the development of Monash as a university campus, (see Figure 5) Ron believes he learned “how to drive/control a car on a wet clay pan, negotiating the wet track out to the cricket



Figure 5. Monash University Campus (circa 1960) in the beginning showing the mud which persisted through the early 1960s. (Courtesy Dr. David Collins, Department of Chemistry.)

¹¹ Copy of item is on file in Monash University Archives.

¹² R. Murtagh, ‘Monash University Cricket Club - Personal Recollections from 1963 - 1966’ June, 1993. Original notes by Ron Murtagh are held in the Monash University Archives.

¹³ While Mr. Dave Horsburgh was a member of the MUCC during this period, he was also a prominent member (with Mr. Rob Dickens) of the University Squash Club, and in later years he served the Sports and Recreation Association as Chairman of The University Blues Committee.

oval many times during/after rain.” Ron’s wife, Mary, was a constant supporter, as she too was new to Australia and “didn’t have better things to do”¹².

Unlike many of the playing records from the first decade of MUCC history, the scorebook from season 1963/64 in which the Club fielded just one team, C Grade Matting, has survived¹⁴. Indeed, it would even appear from the front cover of this scorebook that the team also had an official scorer, Mr. Ron Pascoe, which, in itself must have been a significant development. The records show that this was clearly a most successful season for the Club, with two outright and seven 1st innings wins and two 1st innings losses, as well as a number of excellent individual performances. A semi-final against Ringwood was won outright (Monash 227 and 4/38, Ringwood 64 and 198) but in a high-scoring grand final, Monash lost to Ashburton Youth Club (AYC 356, Monash 267). Within the records of the ESCA,¹⁵ Monash players were 2nd and 4th on the C Grade matting batting averages and 5th on the bowling averages as follows:

Season 1963/64

C Grade Matting Semi-final: Monash University 227 (R. Dickens 78, J. Bessemeres 57) and 4/38 defeated Ringwood 64 (Young 6/15) and 198

C Grade Matting Final: AYC 356 (R. Fitzgerald 2/31, J. Bessemeres 2/39, D. Horsburgh 2/57, R. Dickens 2/61) defeated Monash University 267 (R. Murtagh 47, J. Bessemeres 37, R. Fitzgerald 36)

C Grade Matting Batting

J.F. Bessemeres Inns. 12, N.O. 3, H.S. 74*, Runs 417, Avge. 46.33, 2nd in section
R.A. Dickens Inns. 17, N.O. 2, H.S. 108*, Runs 588, Avge. 32.20, 4th in section

Bowling

J.F. Bessemeres Ovs. 62, Mdns. 7, Wkts. 26, Runs 279, Avge. 10.73, 5th in section

For the records, Ron Murtagh had made a modest start to his Monash cricketing career, having his first game in Round 8 in January, making the top score of 47 in the grand final, for a season aggregate of 137 at an average of 22.83. He would, however, improve on this in the following season. The semi-final and grand-final results were reported in ‘Chaos’¹⁶. Although J.F. Bessemeres had been mentioned in the ESCA season averages, the most wickets had been taken by Horsburgh and Dickens with 35 each. It is also important to record that the highest score of 108 N.O. by Rob Dickens made in Round 6 against Glen Iris, was the first century for the Club. The ‘Chaos’ report¹⁶ continues

Despite the unfortunate conclusion to the season, the club had a successful if meteoric season, and Captain/Coach/Selector/Entertainer Rob Dickens is to be congratulated for his efforts.

The club hopes to move on to turf and start on the climb to District Cricket.

¹⁴ The author acknowledges Mr. Rob Dickens for making available the scorebooks from seasons 1963/64 and 1964/65, from his personal files. These items are now stored in the Archives of Monash University.

¹⁵ Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association ‘Annual Report and Balance Sheet’ (season 1963-64) p 11.

¹⁶ ‘Chaos’, 22 April, 1964 featured a short article on the Sport page entitled ‘Men’s Cricket’. (Copy in Monash University Archives file.)

While these were fine aspirations at the time, neither of them happened for season 1964/65 and the latter remained a fine aspiration but forlorn hope throughout the life of the Monash University Men's Cricket Club¹⁷.

It is also worth recording other names which appear in this 1963/64 Scorebook since some of them went on to play quite significant roles in the subsequent development of this decade of MUCC history. They were (in alphabetical order with games played in this 1963/64 season in brackets): D. Ansell (5), R. Brown (7) (previously mentioned as a member of 'The Vice Chancellor's XI'), B. Coleman (3), Bryan Cox (10), A. de Crespigny (10), P. Francis (7), J. Harvey (2), T. Hegarty (8), Hinneberg (1), D. Lees (2), McWilliam (1), R. Taylor (3), D. Tudehope (5), J. Price (5) and R. Wilson (5). Considering these and the other seven team members already mentioned, it is clear it was taking quite a number of players to be available in order to field one team throughout the season.

Meanwhile, the broader interest in cricket at Monash through the Inter-Faculty and Inter-Departmental matches continued. In 'Chaos' of 4 May, 1964, there appeared a short item¹⁸:

INTERFACULTY CRICKET ENGINEERING v's MEDICINE

Engineering won, a feat that left them so exhausted that they were unable to dispose of their share of the Niner supplied. This was admirably disposed of by the medics.

It has been decided by the Sports Union that future interfaculty contests will be decided on a split points basis; 50 points for the game and 50 for the social activities. On the revised scoring basis, Medicine was the outright winners. The incapacity of the Engineers has prompted the Scientists to challenge the losers.

While the statistics from most of these matches are, as with most of the Cricket Club records from this decade, lost, within the original Scorebook used in 'The Vice-Chancellor's XI' vs 'A Student XI' match¹, one may read results from matches involving the Chemistry Department against the Physics Department (8 February, 1963, 4 February, 1964 and February, 1965), The University of Melbourne Chemistry Department (27 February, 1963, 5 December, 1963, 19 February, 1964, December, 1964 and 2 March, 1965) and CSIRO (Fishermen's Bend), (1963).

The First Flag!

In season 1964/65 developments in cricket in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne saw three ESCA clubs, Box Hill, Ringwood and Waverley, advance into Sub-District. The growth in the staff and student population of Monash University meant that the Club fielded two teams in the matting

¹⁷ On several occasions throughout the early history of the Monash University Men's Cricket Club efforts were made, particularly by Mr. Doug Ellis, Director, Sports Association (later Sports and Recreation Association), to gain entry into a higher level of cricket for the University. On all occasions some excuse would be found by the Victorian Cricket Association (now Cricket Victoria) to reject such proposals, although on various occasions the playing facilities at Monash University were utilised for special matches by the VCA. Ironically, despite all these thwarted efforts in the early years, Monash University was invited to join the Sub-District Cricket Association in 1993. Then in season 2001-2002, the Monash University Cricket Clubs, both Men's and Women's, were merged with Hawthorn-Waverley Premier Cricket Club to form Hawthorn-Monash University Cricket Club.

¹⁸ Copy of item is on file in Monash University Archives.

competitions - renamed for this particular season (at least according to ESCA records¹⁹) from 'letter grades' to 'number grades', with Monash entering 3rd and 4th Grade matting. Other vacancies in the ESCA competition left by the moves to Sub-District were filled by the entry of the Burwood and North Kew Clubs and the entry of additional teams from Kew and North Balwyn. (Ref. 19, p 2.) However, it would appear from the two Monash Scorebooks of season 1964/65¹⁴ that the Club was either unaware of or took little notice of the name change²⁰. It is also to be noted that for Rounds 2, 3, 4 and 5 played by the C Grade Matting team in season 1964/65, the scorebook from season 1963/64 was used, the result for Round 1 having been a "Walk-over" to Monash against Burwood South²¹.

One point to note, as a contrast to what one could observe in more recent times regarding the make-up of MUCC teams, was the relative stability of the two sides, with very little interchange of players between the 1st and 2nd XIs. It appeared that the advent of a 2nd XI motivated the 1st XI players to perform, in order to hold their places¹².

The results for the season show some most notable personal and team performances²². Overall the 1st XI had five outright and three first innings wins, one first innings loss and one walk-over in the 10 rounds played, together with first innings wins in both the semi- and grand finals - the first flag for MUCC. Amongst the team performances with the bat, the best was 4/330 (dec.), with batsmen numbers 4, 5 and 6 (R. Dickens, G. Sinclair and J. Moore) scoring 102, 100 N.O. and 110 N.O., respectively, after numbers 1, 2 and 3 (B. Cox, R. Fitzgerald and A. de Crespigny) had been dismissed for 3, 1 and 11, respectively. This must be some kind of Monash record statistic! There were three other centuries scored during the season, by R. Dickens (123 in Round 2 and 127 in the semi-final) and by R. Murtagh (157 N.O., a match-winning performance in the grand final²³). The 123 has been described as "majestic"¹², and when one notes from the score book that Dickens came in at No. 3 with the score at 1 for 0 and departed at 5 for 171 (Ref. 22), perhaps it was.

The main strike bowlers for the 1st XI were D. Horsburgh (32 Wkts./394 Runs), N. Young (27/353) and R. Dickens (47/446) although the best bowling average went to L. Ward (20/172). Lionel Ward had joined the team at Round 7, presumably having just been recruited to the staff of the Economics and Politics Faculty for the 1965 academic year.

The details of the semi-final against Doncaster were:

Doncaster 118 (Dickens 4/25, Horsburgh 3/23, Young 2/13 and Ward 1/23) and 6/134 (Ward 4/22, Young 1/11 and Horsburgh 1/42) lost to Monash 372 (Dickens 127, Fitzgerald 59, Fischer 33 and Ward 30)

The grand final against Ringwood was a match played over two consecutive Saturdays²⁴. On the first day Monash dismissed Ringwood for 155 (Ward 5/27, Dickens 2/48, Young 1/10 and Fitzgerald 1/22) and by stumps were 1/38, with John Fischer having been dismissed in the gloom just on stumps. On arrival at the ground on the following Saturday, the teams found that the field had been "converted into a footy field, with the pitch under 6ins of soil. After some stuffing around

¹⁹ Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association 'Annual Report and Balance Sheet' (season 1964-65).

²⁰ The scorebooks from season 1964/65 use the names C Grade Matting and D Grade Matting throughout.

²¹ Letter to the author from David Horsburgh (October, 1993) on file in the Monash University Archives.

²² Monash University Men's Cricket Club, 1st XI (C-Grade Matting) Scorebook - Season 1964/65, held in the Monash University (MUCC) Archival Collection.

²³ It should be noted that the scorebook used for this grand-final match was the 2nd XI (D-Grade Matting) book for season 1964/65 (Ref. 24).

the final was restarted on another ground at Essex Heights¹². However, despite this distraction, Monash scored 348 (Murtagh 157 N.O. and Dickens 30). Ron Murtagh who carried his bat, recalls¹²:

I remember during my innings, looking out across the suburbs to the city skyline, and thinking how magnificent the view was. Maybe it was inspiration too, because I carried my bat through the innings. I remember bloody Dave Horsburgh had made some bet about running me out, and nearly succeeded except for a bad fielding error. We celebrated at somebody's house that evening.

The 2nd XI also enjoyed a fairly successful season²⁴, having six outright and one first innings wins, two outright and two first innings losses, to finish fifth on the ladder (Ref. 19, p 6). Leading run scorers were P. Francis (335 at an average of 19.7), L. Vance (261 at 29.0) and R. Wilson (259 at 19.9) while amongst the bowlers, the best were L. Vance (37 Wkts./331 Runs), I. Chubb (subsequently to become a Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Monash University) (39/476) and L. Calder (37/275).

Statistics reported by the ESCA (Ref. 19, pp 11 & 12) from this season were as follows:

Season 1964/65

3rd (C) Grade Matting

Batting

R.A. Dickens	Inns. 11, N.O. 0, H.S. 128 ²⁵ , Runs 678, Avge. 61.64, 1st in section
A. Sinclair	Inns. 10, N.O. 4, H.S. 100*, Runs 224, Avge. 37.33, 3rd in section
J. Moore	Inns. 11, N.O. 2, H.S. 110*, Runs 299, Avge. 33.22, 6th in section
R. Murtagh	Inns. 12, N.O. 2, H.S. 157*, Runs 322, Avge. 32.24, 7th in section

Bowling

L. Ward	Ovs. 52, Mdns. 10, Wkts. 20, Runs 172, Avge. 8.60, 2nd in section
R. Dickens	Ovs. 93, Mdns. 3, Wkts. 44 ²⁶ , Runs 446, Avge. 10.10, 3rd in section
D. Horsburgh	Ovs. 112, Mdns. 15, Wkts. 32, Runs 394, Avge. 12.31, 6th in section
N. Young	Ovs. 99, Mdns. 13, Wkts. 27, Runs 353, Avge. 113.04, 8th in section

4th (D) Grade Matting

Bowling

L. Calder	Ovs. 73.1, Mdns. 16, Wkts. 37, Runs 275, Avge. 7.40, 1st in section
L. Vance	Ovs. 95.5, Mdns. 3, Wkts. 37, Runs 331, Avge. 8.94, 4th in section
I. Chubb	Ovs. 107.3, Mdns. 10, Wkts. 39, Runs 476, Avge. 12.20, 8th in section

For this season Rob Dickens was presented with the ESCA President's Trophy for the Matting Grades. In awarding his trophy, Mr. A.T. Dunstan remarked (Ref. 19, p 5):

²⁴ Monash University Men's Cricket Club, 2nd XI (D-Grade Matting) Scorebook - Season 1964/65, held in the Monash University (MUCC) Archival Collection.

²⁵ Note that this number in the Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association Annual Report for Season 1964-65 is in error. Rob Dickens' highest score, according to score book records (Ref 22), was 127 in the semi-final.

²⁶ This detail is also wrongly recorded in the ESCA Annual Report and should read 47 Wkts. at an average of 9.40 (Ref 22). However, this does not alter the place in the section.

Rob Dickens has had outstanding success as a batsman with the Monash University team, but more importantly he has remained with the University side to assist them become firmly established in the cricket world. After a humble beginning Monash are confidently facing next season with the expectation of playing on Turf, and most of the credit for the progress of the club must belong to Rob Dickens.

Lou (or more correctly E.R.) Vance was another graduate student attracted to Monash University as a result of the policy to build up the research in the University. In Lou's case the discipline was Physics and he had come from the University of Melbourne to undertake a Ph.D. While Lou was quite a skilful cricketer (as evidenced by the appearance of his name in the statistics recorded in ESCA annual reports), he is remembered by a colleague²⁷ who was familiar with the administration of the Club, as being a Club member who accumulated fines for the Club by the Association on account of being a most premature wearer of non-white clothing on the cricket field, predating "World Series Cricket" and the current coloured clothing by more than ten years. The name C. (Chris) Malseed appeared for the 2nd XI in Round 5²⁴. Chris was also a Ph.D. recruit from the University of Melbourne to the Department of Physics and his debut for Monash University Cricket Club was a contribution of 60 out of 6/179 (dec.) in the first innings of a match against Balwyn, which Monash won outright by eight wickets. Indeed, at a slighter later stage in the first decade there was almost a full MUCC team made up of Ph.D. students from the Physics and Chemistry Departments. One might speculate that, given the sporting rivalry between the two Departments which had evolved from the interests in cricket by the two foundation Professors, Robert Street (Physics) and Ron Brown (Chemistry) and which had led to the annual match between the two Departments since 1963²⁸, a recruitment criterion for graduate students into these two departments might have been the cricketing ability of the graduate student.

Two other names to be found in this 2nd XI scorebook from season 1964/65, of players who were playing in their first full seasons for the Club but who would continue to have different, but nonetheless significant, influences on the history of the MUCC are John Parrott and John Price. Both were undergraduate students - Parrott a Chemist and Price a Physicist. Both were to make ongoing and substantial contributions to the development of MUCC and, in the case of John Price, he also made a significant contribution to the University as President of the Student Union. In season 1964/65 the statistics for John Parrott, as an opening bowler read (63 Ovs./5 Mdns./207 Runs/10 Wkts and 69 runs at an average of 8.6). John Price who had already played in five matches in the second season of the Club (1963/64) with the batting statistics of (5 Inns./1 N.O./H.S. 40*/73 Runs/Avg. 18.25) put in a full season for the D Grade Matting team in season 1964/65 scoring 92 runs at an average of 10.2 and bowling in only three matches with the figures of (4 Ovs./2 Mdn./8 Runs/2 Wkts). However, I know from my own interactions with John Price who continued on to a Ph.D. in the Physics Department, that he bowled many more overs for the Club in later seasons in this decade.

Intervarsity Cricket

Season 1964/65 is also significant in that it was the beginnings of intervarsity cricket for the Club. The first of these against the University of Western Australia on 21st and 22nd January, 1965, is

²⁷ Recollections by Dr. John Parrott of his early days as a member of MUCC.

²⁸ For records from the Chemistry vs Physics matches played in 1962, 1963 and 1964, see the original scorebook in Ref. 1.

claimed to have been an “unofficial” I.V.,¹² although this is not mentioned in the scorebook from the match²². Much of the organisation for the match was the responsibility of Club Secretary, Bryan Cox²⁹. Difficulty was encountered in finding an oval (presumably with a turf pitch), and in the end the good relationships between Scotch College and the fledgling University Cricket Club, fostered by Rob Dickens¹², resulted in the game being played on the Scotch College oval. The UWA team included the names of John Inverarity and Jock Irvine. While the former was not at his best in UWA's first innings, being dismissed for only 15, the latter contributed 104 out of a total by UWA of 304. This was an “awe-inspiring innings”, in the opinion of Bryan Cox who, for much of it, was fielding at cover. He recalls²⁹

one ball being hit so hard that I can remember thinking “Thank God I don’t have to stop that,” when it went well over my head.

This proved beyond the Monash team which was dismissed for 198, with an opener, R. Watters, top scoring with 91. However, in the second innings of 1/222 by the visitors, B. Kennedy and Inverarity got some batting practice, finishing on 100 N.O. and 91 N.O., respectively. Five of the Monash team were from the regular E.S.C.A. 1st XI (R. Dickens, R. Fitzgerald, J. Moore, B. Cox and D. Horsburgh) while the remainder, one presumes, were Monash University students who were participating in Sub-District or District Cricket.

A second match was played against the Australian National University in Canberra on 22nd February, 1965²². The ANU won the toss and batted, compiling 229 (with Horsburgh taking 5/46) to which Monash replied with a competitive, but slightly insufficient, total of 206, with Dickens top scoring with 40. As was often the case with I.V.s, those played away were usually more memorable. In the case of this first ‘away I.V.’ for Monash, a “good party organized by A.N.U. in conjunction with nurses from the Canberra hospital”²⁹ created a lasting memory for one Monash player.

I recall further I.V. matches against Newcastle University, A.N.U., Flinders University (Figure 6), The University of Melbourne and a combined New Zealand Universities team (season 1965/66) during my own years as a Ph.D. student (1965-68) but no playing records of these remain. In later years, with the advent of the MUCC “Annual Report and Financial Statement” which commenced following season 1971/72, brief reports and, in some cases, score sheets were printed and a set of these Annual Reports can be perused in the Monash University Archives. From these reports it can also be seen that for a period of time in the 1970s, the I.V. matches against particular universities were replaced by an organized I.V. cricket carnival³⁰ and a team chosen from Monash University players took part.



Figure 6. The official I.V. team which played Flinders University (at Flinders). 14 & 15 February, 1967.

Back Row (L → R): Geoff Johnson, Noel Price, Graeme Sleeth, Trevor Finlayson, Andrew Webster
Front Row (L → R): David Hone, Mick Crowley, John Brazier (Capt.), David Duggan, Adrian Herington, Tom Ryan

²⁹ B. Cox ‘Re: Monash Cricket Club’ - Letter written to the author (2 August, 1993), now filed in MUCC University Archival Collection.

³⁰ In particular, for this period of history, the MUCC ‘Annual Report and Financial Statement’ for season 1971/72 includes a full report on the I.V. Cricket Carnival (pp 23-26) which was hosted by Monash University from 23 – 27

The presence of District and Sub-District players at Monash was always evident when Interschool Matches were organized, particularly those played at home. It was often difficult for the ‘average’ Club member to participate in I.V.s hosted at Monash University, a point which was regularly a topic of debate by Club Administrations¹². Oddly enough, the reverse was true when it came to finding players for I.V.s played interstate, and more often than not, these teams were composed of regular Club members. Thus while I.V.s always created considerable enjoyment for the participants, I am not convinced that they did very much to enhance the prospects of the Cricket Club or to cement ongoing relationships between the Monash University Cricket Club and its equivalent in other Australian Universities.

One possible exception to this would be the I.V.s against Flinders University, which, following the inaugural one in February, 1967, for which we journeyed to Adelaide by overnight train, a match

was exchanged on a regular basis for several years³¹. The ‘official’ I.V. (student) team for this match, shown in Figure 6, comprised a majority who at the time (season 1966/67) were playing in the weekly teams for MUCC. In addition, in association with this first I.V. against Flinders University, a match between two ‘Old Chaps’ (Staff and Postgraduate Students) teams was arranged between the two Sports Associations³². The ‘Official’ I.V. match was won by Monash while the Flinders ‘Old Chaps’ defeated the Monash ‘Old Chaps’ (Figure 7). In subsequent years the exchange of two teams was not repeated although on several occasions, because of a shortage of students on the part of Monash and/or Flinders to field an ‘official’ I.V. team, a game was held between teams which included some staff players. Reports from some of these I.V. matches are to be found in MUCC Annual Reports which were first produced in season 1971/72.



Figure 7. The ‘Old Chaps’ (Staff and Graduate Students) team which accompanied the ‘Official’ I.V. Team to Flinders University to play a match on 14 February, 1967.

Back Row (L→R): Umpire, Gus Sinclair (staff, ECOPS), Peter Jones (PhD student, Physics), Rob Wilson (PhD student, ECOPS), David de Kretser (staff, Medicine), Don Price (PhD student, Physics), John Price (PhD student, Physics), Umpire

Front Row (L→R): Neville Young (staff, ECOPS), John Ashworth (PhD student, Chemistry), Doug Ellis (Capt.) (staff, Director, Sports Association), Leo O’Brien (coach, MUCC (1967/68)), Jack McDonnell (staff, Physics)

The Hallowed Turf

In 1965 the Sports Association (later the Sports and Recreation Association) was re-organised. This meant that it had its own office upstairs in the Union, with two administrative and two ground

January, 1972. Monash played two matches. The first, against Sydney University, was won by Monash who scored 3/150 passing the Sydney score of 10/149. The second was against the University of Western Australia which included the notable names from Western Australian and Australian cricket of Ric Charlesworth and Wally Edwards, and which W.A. won comfortably (9/227 to 10/154). However W.A. lost the final to Adelaide University.

³¹ The last Monash vs Flinders I.V. was held at Flinders University in December, 1991. Details of this and some intervening I.V. exchanges between seasons 1971/72 and 1991/92 are to be found in MUCC Annual Reports.

³² Reference to letters in Sports and Recreation Association files (held in Monash University Archives) in regards to the ‘Old Chaps’ match.

staff³³. Doug Ellis moved from his position of Laboratory Manager, Department of Chemistry, to a dual appointment as Deputy Warden of the Union and Sports Administrator. Miss Beth Leggo joined him as Secretary/Assistant and Mr. Samuel Alexander (Paddy) Armstrong, the original Head Groundsman of the University, transferred from the University Grounds Section to become Sports Grounds Curator, responsible to Doug Ellis for the development of the Sports Fields. He was assisted by three groundsmen (Messrs. Challis, Dalrymple and Ledwidge³⁴). (While there is no record of any of these groundsmen being active cricketers, Bill Challis was quite an accomplished Rugby Union player who played for the Monash Rugby Club during the 1960s.) Along with this staffing development³⁴

at long last there has been built on the University site the first of what it is hoped will be quite extensive sports buildings and facilities.

....

The first turf cricket wickets have now been laid down and will be ready for our entry into the turf cricket ranks.

...

A vigorous programme of grassing and topsoiling has been instituted.



Figure 8. View of the main cricket table and oval with its boundary fence. Note the position of the Australian Rules goal posts, necessitating the repositioning of the fence between the cricket and football seasons, such that the football oval did not cover the cricket table. (Picture courtesy of Monash University Archives.)

By the start of the 1965/66 season the long awaited turf wicket was established on what, until 2002, was “the main oval”. (It should be noted that the first cricket pitch and oval were moved slightly to the south of their original location during 2002.) From the beginning, as the result of an idea agreed upon by both Paddy Armstrong and Doug Ellis, the whole of the turf wicket area was positioned so that it would be off the Australian Rules football field for winter. The main sporting field area, as it was originally, prior to 2002, is illustrated in Figure 8. (A similar concept was applied to the second cricket table at the northern end of the main playing field.) Over the years, this concept, whether good for cricket or not, meant many hours of work for the groundstaff, in moving the wire fence which, prior to the re-organisation of the sporting fields during 2002,

confined the football playing ovals in winter and the cricket ovals in summer to slightly different but overlapping areas. The merits of this idea were to enable the cricket tables to be prepared well before the commencement of each cricket season, when, on many other grounds in the Melbourne area, footballers would still be running through the black mud and transporting the sand from the outfield, to become mixed with the ‘sacred’ Merri Creek soil. The benefits to a cricket square of the ‘plough-up’ (or ‘unplanned scarifying’) which it receives on account of winter football, are in fact beneficial to a cricket table on account of the well documented problem known as ‘thatching’, or the mixing of grass clippings into the surface soil of a turf wicket³⁵. ‘Thatching’ leads to two basic problems in a turf wicket. Firstly, the dead grass leads to poor turf growth and secondly (and more

³³ Reference is made to some notes prepared by Mr. Doug Ellis, (2/8/93) for the period to 1972. These notes are held in the Monash University Archive.

³⁴ ‘Lot’s Wife’, 22 April, 1965.

³⁵ Tony Ware, ‘A Basic Guide to Cricket Wicket Preparation’ (Melbourne Cricket Club Folio Collection) p 7.

importantly) the presence of thatch in the surface soil means that with time, it becomes impossible to roll the wicket into a hard, solid block³⁵. Over the years precisely these problems were encountered with the Monash University wickets and in the late 1980s a refurbishment involving deep harrowing was carried out by the Head Groundsman at that time, Mr. Les Hudson³⁶.

Mr. Paddy Armstrong and his Groundstaff were responsible for the laying of the first turf pitch. However, the second was laid a year or so later by Mr. Bill Watt, the then curator of the Melbourne Cricket Club. The third and smaller turf table (on the eastern side of the ring-road) was installed much later, in 1971, by Mr. Les Hudson and other groundstaff.

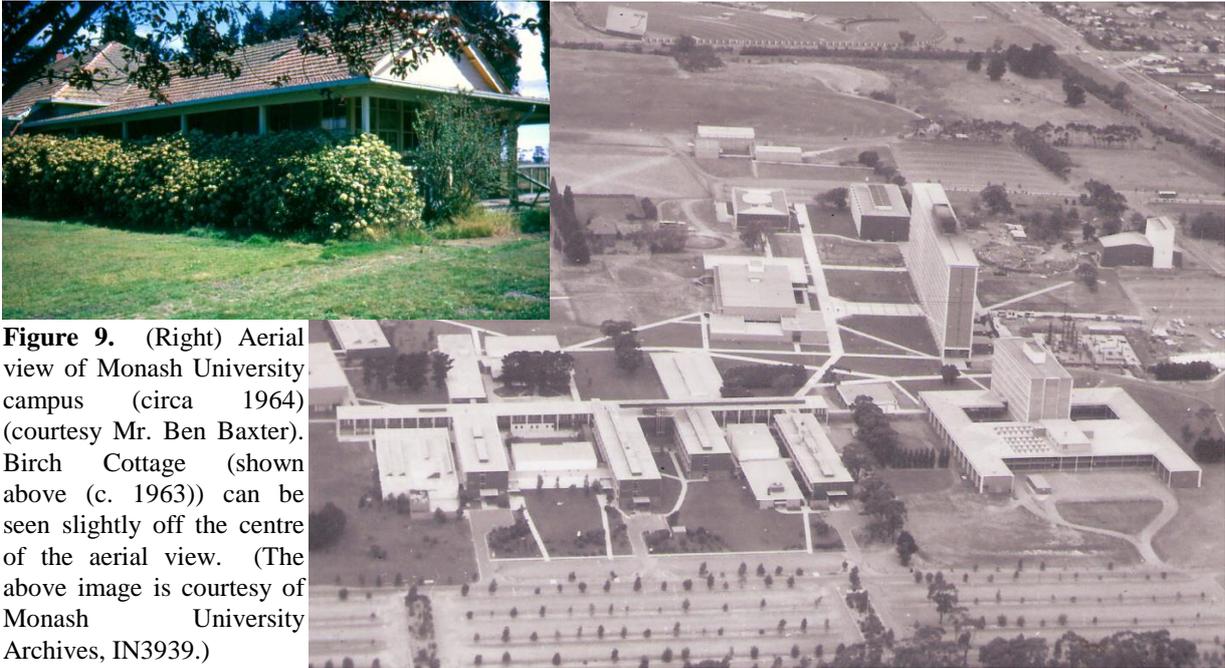


Figure 9. (Right) Aerial view of Monash University campus (circa 1964) (courtesy Mr. Ben Baxter). Birch Cottage (shown above (c. 1963)) can be seen slightly off the centre of the aerial view. (The above image is courtesy of Monash University Archives, IN3939.)

The Club was also able to use ‘Birch Cottage’ (long since demolished³⁷) which stood where the University Club Building is now located (Figure 9). This cottage, one which remained from the Talbot Farming Estate for Epileptics, which was the prior role of the property on which the new Monash University had been established, served the University community in its early years as the sports changing rooms, a venue for sports club dinners, club meeting rooms, the University chapel, a crèche for the children of staff, etc. Although a long way from the wicket, ‘Birch Cottage’ served as a most adequate cricket change rooms and toilet facilities.

Season 1965/66 was significant not only as the establishment of Monash University Club in the Turf Sections of the ESCA, but also it marked a further 100% increase in playing participation, as the Club expanded to two turf (A and C Grades) and two matting sides (B and D Grades). Cricket on ‘The Hallowed Turf’ at Monash University began with the 2nd XI (C Grade) playing at home against Balwyn. ‘Lot’s Wife’ has recorded this event with a memorable photograph (Figure 10) entitled “Sportsmen of the Week” and the following short article:³⁸

³⁶ Mr. Les Hudson (private communication, January, 2008).

³⁷ The retention of a small number of bricks from ‘Birch Cottage’ as a feature wall facing the main ovals and in the garden of the original Sports and Recreation Association building at Monash University should be noted. This wall and the ‘Birch Cottage bricks’ were removed as part of the refurbishment of the Sports and Recreation Buildings in 1994. They can now be found in a memorial to Associate Professor Keith Frearson, at the southern end of the playing fields.

³⁸ ‘Lot’s Wife’, Tuesday, October 19, 1965, p 30.

The Monash University Cricket Club began the season well with impressive wins by all four teams. Competing in the Turf section of the Eastern Suburban Cricket Association for the first time, the club's First Turf Eleven gained an outright win over Surrey Park (on the ground in Elgar Road (ed.)) in the "A" Grade division. The Second Eleven in the "C" Grade competition easily beat Balwyn on the first innings.

In the Matting Section, the First Matting Eleven had an exciting 'last ball of the day' outright win over Wattle Park in "B" Grade. In trying to emulate this effort, the Second Matting Eleven failed by only one wicket to beat Wattle Park outright in "D" Grade. However, they easily gained their six points for a first innings win.

Scores -

1st Turf: 154 (R. Murtagh 46) and 2/89 (T. Mason 40) beat Surrey Park 82 (T. Mason 4/29) and 27 (L. Ward 7/10).

2nd Turf: 144 (D. Ansell 45) and 2/21 beat Balwyn 88 (T. Hegarty 6/36) and 116.

1st Matting: 126 (R. Wilson 50, A. Webster 40) and 2/32 beat Wattle Park 127 and 30.

2nd Matting: 118 (L. Calder 44) and 97 (L. Calder 57 n.o.) beat Wattle Park 85 (L. Calder 4/22) and 9/63 (J. Price 3/15).

This was a most impressive start for a Club which had both been promoted from C Grade Matting to A Grade Turf and at the same time increased its teams from two to four. Clearly, the recruitment officer, if there was one at the time, should have been congratulated. Reference has already been made to the effects of inter-faculty and inter-departmental cricket on the Club's progress and the significant involvement of staff, particularly from the Economics and Politics Faculty, should be noted²⁹. At a later stage in the Club's history the Club Committee spent their time debating the issue of whether or not Staff of the University could be members of the Cricket Club³⁹. However, given the most important contribution that the Staff members would appear to have played in the development of the Club in its formative years and continued to play thereafter, it would seem that most administrative committees of the Club have welcomed staff as playing members. The question under debate³⁹ would have been whether or not a Staff member should be selected ahead of a Student member in a particular team. Personally, I do not believe there is any firm evidence to suggest that any Monash Student who wanted to play cricket at Monash, was deprived of a game, in preference to a Staff player. Indeed, the rules of the Sports and Recreation Association of Monash University (prior to its demise in August, 2000 and the privatization of all service provision through the subsequent formation of Monyx Pty. Ltd.) were such that any Staff Member of the University was



Figure 10. 'Sportsmen of the Week', Monash University Cricket Club members: (L→R) Bryan Cox, Doug Ellis and Frank Rosenfeldt (reproduced from 'Lot's Wife' (Tuesday, October 19, 1965 p 30)).

³⁹ Reference to item in Sports and Recreation files in Monash University Archives concerning Staff Involvement.

automatically a Member of the Sports and Recreation Association and hence, had the same rights to membership of any sporting Club affiliated with the Association, as any Student.

Effective recruitment was also done through personal interactions with other sporting clubs (e.g., baseball, squash²⁹ and rugby⁴⁰) and in these formative years, any Cricket Club social function would invariably be well attended by students from other sporting clubs. In addition, the recruitment of graduate students from the University of Melbourne and from interstate and overseas universities, in order to advance Monash University as a research institution, had continued.

One recent arrival from the University of Queensland, whose immediate past experience had been under a captain named Alderman Clem Jones, playing for the U. of Q. 3rd XI, who found himself keeping wicket for the A Grade Turf side against Surrey Park in the opening A Grade Turf match in October, 1965, was the author⁴¹. Unfortunately, details of the match, other than those reported in 'Lot's Wife' are amongst the many from this decade which have been lost. Very few Monash Clubs were conscious of their contributions to history in these early years and the Cricket Club was no exception. I have a vivid memory of keeping to our captain, Lionel Ward, who was a fine, left-arm, swing bowler, an astute captain and a most competitive cricketer on the field.

The caption to the photograph in Figure 10 reproduced from the relevant issue of 'Lot's Wife', read as follows:

At long last Monash University has a turf cricket pitch. The inaugural match played on the wicket was between Monash and Surrey Park⁴² and resulted in a victory to Monash. Messrs B. Cox, D. Ellis and Dr. F. Rosenfeldt had the dubious distinctions of scoring the first duck, the first run and the first six ever recorded by Monash cricketers on the hallowed turf.

The original caption was not specific but I understand that, had it included the word "respectively" following "the first six", it would have been correct⁴³.

Amongst the many 'recruits' into the playing membership of the MUCC for season 1965/66 was Mr. Doug Ellis. In his recently established role as Deputy Warden of the Union and Sports Administrator he maintained an impartiality in regards to the fostering of any sport which the student body was keen to pursue, but there could be no doubting his own personal love for cricket and his fierce competitiveness on the field of play. He has been described as a "respected performer"¹² and his personal contribution to the club as a player and his administrative contribution to the development of cricket at Monash University, were very significant. Throughout his playing

⁴⁰ R.H. Dunhill 'Personal Letter to the Author' (29 June, 1993), now filed in MUCC Archival Collection.

⁴¹ I well remember being invited to a few practice sessions prior to the start of the 1965/66 season, by a fellow Ph.D. student from the Department of Physics, Lou Vance. I had heard about Lou's ability as a cricketer from other Ph.D. students in the Department. At that time the practice pitches were located just to the south of the main oval and in against the embankment. There was, of course, no pavilion and 'Birch Cottage' served both as a changing and social room for most sporting clubs. It was with some excitement and surprise that I heard my name read out to play in the 1st XI, although I have to admit, in hindsight, that the importance of the occasion as being the first match for the team on Turf, is not something which remains vividly in my memories of my graduate student days at Monash University.

⁴² Both my own personal recollections, and those of Dr. Ron Murtagh (Ref. 12), as well as the article on the same page of 'Lot's Wife' (Ref. 38) indicate that the caption to this photograph is incorrect. The 1st XI played against Surrey Park, on the Surrey Park Ground in Elgar Road, Surrey Hills. The first match played on the new turf pitch at Monash University was between the University 2nd XI (in ESCA C Grade Turf) and Balwyn CC.

⁴³ This point is made both in a letter from Dr. Bryan Cox (Ref. 29) and in original notes made available to me by Mr. Doug Ellis, during my research for the first decade of history of the Club (Ref. 33).

career, his encouragement and leadership of younger players around him were without equal in the Club. Even after his retirement as a player and then again after his retirement as Director, Sports and Recreation Association in December, 1992, he remained a regular supporter of the club as a spectator, both to chide those who bowled bad balls or got themselves dismissed through poor shots and to encourage, particularly those younger players who needed encouragement.

While the scorebooks from the season 1965/66 are among those records which are now lost from the Club, I can recall some and have been reminded of other key players from this season. Ron Murtagh and John Fischer continued to be regular openers for the 1st XI, to be followed by Terry Mason, Rob Dickens, John Moore, Tony de Crespigny, Tim Hegarty, Lionel Ward, myself, John Masters (a leg-break bowler and friend of Lionel Ward who had recently arrived in Melbourne from the University of W.A.) and Neville Young. Bryan Cox generally captained the 2nd XI during this period and he recalls²⁹ players such as Lou Vance, Gus Sinclair, Ian Chubb, Doug Ellis and Ross Fitzgerald, who have already been mentioned in this decade, as well as Ken Firth, Geoff Whittaker, Adrian Brown (possibly a better hockey player than he was a cricketer) and Dave Horsfall.

The 3rd and 4th XIs continued to play in the ESCA Matting competition, in B and D Grades, respectively. David Foskey, who had commenced as an undergraduate in 1965 was initially appointed captain of the B Grade team. The team's season record was fairly poor, finishing 9th out of 10, (Ref. 45, p 7), mainly on account of the turnover and irregular availability of student players at this level. One such tale of availability recalled by David⁴⁴ involved myself and Lou Vance who were regular members of the 1st and 2nd Turf XIs, respectively, but who, for the particular two-day match in question, were only available for the first week, on account of research commitments at the Lucas Heights Research Reactor on the second Saturday. Hence we were picked to play for the one day in the 3rd XI. The match was away from Monash against Doncaster and as recorded in David Foskey's letter⁴⁴

At the time for the scheduled start only Lou Vance, Trevor Finlayson and I were present. The opposing captain was kind enough to suggest that we should bat first. Trevor and Lou opened the innings with instructions not to get out, while I stood at square leg (as umpire), I think in pads borrowed from the opposition and leaning on my bat. As the day passed our missing team mates arrived, so that we eventually had eleven. But it really did not matter because Trevor and Lou just kept batting until after tea. When I reached the crease the bowlers had been psychologically crushed and runs came freely. I think we declared early to let our gun bowlers take some wickets. Now, I hadn't actually seen these fellows practise, but the word was that they were pretty quick. They weren't!

The result of the match doesn't come to mind. However, probably to save this team from my captaincy, I was promoted to the Firsts.

The D Grade matting side of this season contained a large proportion of graduate students and any player shortage tended to be filled by recruiting yet another Ph.D. student from the many available, particularly in the Departments of Chemistry and Physics. It was in this context that Roger Dunhill played cricket for Monash. Roger had just completed a most successful season as the 1st XV Rugby Team Captain but unfortunately had sustained a broken collar bone in a hard-fought grand final against an opposition from the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe. Despite this injury, he

⁴⁴ Letter from Mr. David Foskey to the author of 11 April, 1995, now filed in Monash University Archives.

recalls⁴⁰ one occasion early in the season, when he was obliged to go into bat at No. 11 with a fellow Physics Ph.D. student ('Honest John' Walter) in an effort to stave off defeat.

Overall, the season of Monash's entry into Turf Cricket would seem to have yielded only average successes, with the 1st XI (A Turf) finishing 7th out of 12 teams, the 2nd XI (C Turf) 7th out of 10, the 3rd XI (B Matting) 9th out of 10 and the 4th XI (D Matting) 4th out of eight. Unfortunately, in the D Matting semi-final, Balwyn 98 (J. Parrott 5/30) and 3/94 defeated Monash University 46 (Mooney 4/4) and 145 (Parrott 34) outright⁴⁵.

An incident of some note which occurred during this season,⁴⁶ is worth recording. It should be pointed out that the various articles of protective gear which one now sees on batsmen at various levels of cricket were not commonly worn by Monash University Cricket Club batsmen in the 1960s. On the contrary, one such batsman, Dave Ansell (already mentioned in the score-book records of season 1963/64) who was playing for the 2nd XI during season 1965/66, went into bat with his box of matches in his pocket rather than a thigh pad strapped in the usual place where one is often worn nowadays. The consequences of a ball striking the "box of matches" was a small fire in Dave Ansell's pocket and, so the story goes, many after-match comments about the concern of the batsman for his "vital parts"!

Personal achievements noted from the ESCA records⁴⁵ for this season are as follows:

Season 1965/66

1st XI (A Grade Turf)	Batting
T. Mason	Inns. 14, N.O. 0, H.S. 100, Runs 497, Avge. 35.5, 3rd in section
R. Murtagh	Inns. 12, N.O. 3, H.S. 55, Runs 279, Avge. 31.0, 4th in section

	Bowling
L. Ward	Ovs. 116.5, Wkts. 43, Runs 367, Avge. 8.53, 3rd in section

2nd XI (C Grade Turf)	Bowling
D. Ellis	Ovs. 76, Wkts. 27, Runs 268, Avge. 9.93, 6th in section
A. Webster	Ovs. 81.3, 22, Runs 235, Avge. 10.68, 9th in section

4th XI (D Grade Turf)	Bowling
J. Parrott	Ovs. 74.1, Wkts. 32, Runs 274, Avge. 8.56, 2nd in section
J. Price	Ovs. 85.4, Wkts. 42, Runs 501, Avge. 11.95, 8th in section

As has already been remarked, the second turf pitch was laid by Mr. Bill Watt during 1966. This was also located on the vast playing fields of 'The Farm', in such a way that the centre 'table' would be void of trampling hockey, soccer or Australian Rules football boots during the off season for cricket. As a result, the whole club 'graduated' to ESCA Turf Grades for season 1966/67, with its four teams in A, B, and C Grade Turf (there being two Monash teams (Blues - 3rds and Whites -

⁴⁵ Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association 'Annual Report and Balance Sheet' season: 1965-66.

⁴⁶ Provided via Ref. 27 but I also vividly remember the after-match report on this incident.

4ths) in C Grade as there was no D grade in either the Turf or the Matting sections). The Club never returned to Matting competitions.

The captain of the 1st XI in its second year on turf was Mr. Neville Young, one of several staff members from the Economics and Politics Faculty. Neville was an economical, right-arm, medium-pace bowler, who had established himself as a regular 1st team player during the previous three seasons. While he had a number of players from the previous year, a student recruit, Adrian Herington, (see Figure 6) a dashing left-hand batsman and left-arm orthodox spinner, made a significant impression on the Club.

While the season's result for the 1st XI was marginally better than that from the 1965/66 season (5th out of 12 teams), the Club result as a whole was a little worse. The concept of two teams from one club being in the same grade of the competition, appeared not to work since, while the 3rd XI finished fourth, the 4th XI languished as the 'wooden spooners' in eleventh spot. However, in the semi-final Ashburton 146 (Fernie 6/46) and 246 (M. Crowley 5/28) defeated Monash 102 (Francis 31) and 91, outright. Amongst the personal achievements by Monash players were:⁴⁷

Season 1966/67

1st XI (A Grade Turf)	Batting
A. Herington	Inns. 14, N.O. 2, H.S. 94, Runs 495, Avge. 41.25, 1st in section

	Bowling
N. Young	Ovs. 126.4, Mdns. 37, Wkts. 34, Runs 337, Avge. 9.91, 4th in section
A. Webster	Ovs. 104, Mdns. 30, Wkts. 24, Runs 288, Avge. 12.00, 10th in section

4th XI (C Grade Turf)	Batting
R. Fitzgerald	Inns. 13, N.O. 1, H.S. 130*, Runs 384, Avge. 32.00, 1st in section

	Bowling
R. Fitzgerald	Ovs. 65.5, Mdns. 5, Wkts. 24, Runs 240, Avge. 10.00, 10th in section

The Appointment of a Coach

The next phase in the Club's development in the first decade was the appointment of the first official Coach, Mr. Leo O'Brien, a Victorian and Australian opening bat of some note⁴⁸, in season 1967/68⁴⁹. He had become associated with Monash through being part of the 'Old Chaps' (Staff and Postgraduate Students) team which had toured to Flinders University during the previous season. (See Figure 7.) While Mr. O'Brien's formal playing days were well past by this time, his appointment as Coach, through funding made available by the Sports Association, was the

⁴⁷ Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association 'Annual Report and Balance Sheet' season 1966-67.

⁴⁸ Mr. Leo O'Brien (1907-1997) had a first-class career as a left-hand opening batsman for Victoria from 1929-37 in which he scored 3,303 runs (including 7 centuries) at an average of 36.70. He played 5 test matches for Australia (against England in 1932/33 and 1936/37 and toured South Africa in 1935/36) scoring 211 runs at an average of 26.37.

⁴⁹ It should be noted that the coaches who had been appointed to the Club were first recorded in the 1988/89 'Annual Report and Financial Statement'. This first report was in error in relation to the appointments of the first two coaches, Mr. Leo O'Brien and Mr. Noel Parnell, and in all subsequent reports the error was never properly corrected.

beginning of the regular advertising for and appointment of a remunerated coach for all future seasons. The 1st XI captain for season 1967/68 was an undergraduate student, Mr. John Brazier (see Figure 6) who was a talented left-hand bat and a part-time, left-arm, orthodox spinner. While Leo O'Brien's appointment did not bring an immediate improvement in the Club's overall performance, so often measured by Grand Final wins or even gaining places in Finals, some personal achievements by Club members taken from ESCA Records are worth noting⁵⁰.

Season 1967/68

1st XI (A1 Grade Turf)	Batting
D. Greig	Inns. 10, N.O. 0, H.S. 69, Runs 278, Avge. 27.8, 7th in section
2nd XI (A2 Grade Turf)	Batting
L. Vance	Inns. 12, N.O. 3, H.S. 71, Runs 281, Avge. 31.22, 5th in section
J. Moore	Inns. 13, N.O. 3, H.S. 88*, Runs 293, Avge. 29.30, 7th in section
	Bowling
R. Smith	Ovs. 75, Mdns. 14, Wkts. 19, Runs 227, Avge. 11.95, 3rd in section
K. Firth	Ovs. 101.6, Mdns. 13, Wkts. 25, Runs 350, Avge. 14.0, 10th in section
3rd XI (B Grade Turf)	Bowling
D. Francis	Ovs. 90.5, Mdns. 15, Wkts. 32, Runs 355, Avge. 11.09, 7th in section
G. Fernie	Ovs. 75.4, Mdns. 11, Wkts. 22, Runs 260, Avge. 11.81, 10th in section

Subsequent coaches brought more to the Club on the playing field as can be seen in the ESCA records of the remaining seasons of this first decade when with one exception (season 1971/72) the recruited and paid Club Coach figured in the published playing statistics for the ESCA, along with several other noteworthy achievements by Monash players. These coaches were (in Seasons 1968/69 and 1969/70), Noel Parnell, (for season 1970/71), Duncan Sharp, under whose guidance the 1st XI got to the Grand Final, and in the last season of this brief period of Club history (1971/72), Ken Steele. The statistics for these seasons have been taken from the respective ESCA Annual Reports as appropriately referenced.

Season 1968/69⁵¹

A Grade Turf Semi-final: Mount Waverley 214 (R. Smith 4/10) and 2/62 defeated Monash University 163 (N. Parnell 69)

1st XI (A Grade Turf)	Batting
N. Parnell	Inns. 14, N.O. 2, H.S. 83, Runs 378, Avge. 31.5, 5th in section
	Bowling
R. Horne	Ovs. 82, Mdns. 0, Wkts. 28, Runs 305, Avge. 10.9, 8th in section
2nd XI (B Grade Turf)	Bowling
K. Firth	Ovs. 81, Mdns. 13, Wkts. 23, Runs 267, Avge. 11.6, 4th in section

⁵⁰ Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association 'Annual Report and Balance Sheet' season 1967-68.

⁵¹ Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association 'Annual Report and Balance Sheet' season 1968-69.

of Mr. Doug Ellis who was also a regular member of this XI, enjoyed both the comradere of this team as well as mentoring a few younger student players through their ranks. Murray Wilson left Monash in 1972 to take up a Professorship at the University of Fiji⁵⁵.



Figure 11. Dr. Murray Wilson (on horse) in his capacity as Warden, Farrer Hall, played an important role in the MUCC 4th XI during seasons 1968/69 – 1972/73. The picture shows the residents of Farrer Hall of 1968. The prominent student holding the horse, while not a cricketer, was a most competent Rugby player for the Monash University Rugby Club during the same period, Fijian student, Mr. Konrad Ismeli. (Photograph courtesy Mrs. Margaret Slatter (nee Addis) standing second to the left of Murray’s hat)

The Club Championship

D. (Doug) Snowball should also be mentioned as he joined MUCC during season 1970/71 with a significant reputation, having played representative Under 19 Cricket for Western Australia as a batsman, in association with cricketers such as John Inverarity²⁷. For whatever reason, his abilities as a batsman had deserted him in the few years since his Under-19 W.A. membership. But nevertheless, when the Club Administration for season 1970/71 introduced, for the first time, a Club Championship, Doug Snowball was the first recipient of that ongoing club award.

It is unknown on what basis the Club Championship was awarded during its first year and indeed, in subsequent seasons

different Administrative Committees modified the rules on which Club Championship points were awarded. But nevertheless, it remained a prestigious award throughout the life of the MUCC.

It is worth recording that within this decade of history the Club Champions were as follows:

Season 1970/71	Doug Snowball
Season 1971/72	John Parrott

The Creation of Official Club Annual Reports

Season 1971/72 has a special place in this decade of history in that at the end of this season the Club Administration produced the first of what would then become a continuous sequence of the “Annual Report and Financial Statement.” The President at this time was Mr. John Harvey whose name had appeared in the ESCA Season 1970/71 records above. John had previously served the Club as Secretary and was a “capable advocate for the Club with the ESCA, the District and Sub-District Associations and the Sports and Recreation Association.”⁵⁶ He was a very talented baseballer as well as a cricketer. On my own return to MUCC as a player following my appointment to the Academic Staff in 1972, I became aware of Mr. John Harvey as a most astute captain. For season 1971/72 not only was he Club President but he also captained the 4th XI to only the second Premiership achieved by the Club, this time in D Grade Turf.

⁵⁵ Monash University Cricket Club ‘Annual Report and Financial Statement’ season 1971/72, p 7.

⁵⁶ From original notes by Mr. Doug. Ellis, Item 7, Page 4 under “Comments about Individuals”, now filed in the Monash University MUCC archival collection.

As is documented in this first ‘Annual Report and Financial Statement’⁵⁷, the season was a disappointing one for the higher three XIs despite the promise from the previous season. While the details of the 4th XI Premiership triumph are well documented in this Annual Report, the success of the 4th XI would seem to have been, in part, on account of the relative team stability and dedicated team spirit displayed throughout the season. This spirit was typified in a note sent by the Captain, John Harvey, to all team members on the eve of the Grand Final, which read as follows:⁵⁸

This is your Captain speaking:

As you are aware we are the only team from Monash in the finals and therefore have the entire responsibility of trying to win the club a premiership.

In order to assist in achieving this end you are asked to observe the following matters –

1. *Ensure your boots are well spiked, clean and in good condition.*
2. *Monash caps or white hats only to be worn.*
3. *If under 25 years of age total abstinence from smoking, sex and spirituous liquors between Saturdays. (If over 25 ignore this item.)*
4. *All members to be clean shaved and to have hair cut short back and sides. Toupees are to be trimmed and glued in position.*
5. *If over 25 years of age ensure your false teeth are firmly fastened with Araldite or some other suitable adhesive.*

GOOD LUCK

The 4th XI (D Grade Turf) Scorebook is one record which is available⁵⁹ but, in summary, it can be said that in the Grand Final (only the second to be won by the MUCC) that ‘the ball’ dominated ‘the bat’ with the Captain and Club President, Mr. John Harvey, making a most significant contribution to the result: (Monash University 131 (J. Harvey 40, M. Wilson 24, D. Ellis 16 N.O., R. Brown 14, P. Fraser 10) and 186 (P. Fraser 44, M. Wilson 43, G. Peacock 27, B. Cox 22, D. Ellis 16 N.O., P. Biro 12) defeated Malvern 96 (J. Harvey 4/15, J. Parrott 4/46, B. Cox 1/8, D. Ellis 1/15) and 151 (J. Harvey 5/46, J. Parrott 3/58, D. Ellis 2/23).

One additional person whose name appears in this 4th XI Scorebook and who would have a significant input to the subsequent history of the Club is Mr. Ken Ward. Ken had been



Figure 12. MUCC Annual Dinner and Presentation Night, Bird & Bottle Restaurant, Canterbury Rd., Heathmont, April, 1972. Only players can be identified.

Back Row (L→R): Les Hudson (Head Groundsman), C. Tudor, John Kenez, Geoff Bonsall, Peter Liddell, John Pierce, Ron Brown

Middle Row (L→R): Chris Lynch, Graeme Peacock, Col Barnes, Ken Steele (Coach), Adrian Herington, Doug Ellis, Peter Moore, Peter Biro

Front Row (L→R): David Holst, R. Tudor

⁵⁷ Monash University Cricket Club ‘Annual Report and Financial Statement’ Season 1971-72’.

⁵⁸ From original notes by Mr. Doug Ellis.

⁵⁹ This particular 4th XI (D Grade Turf) Scorebook was preserved by Mr. Doug Ellis and is available in the Monash University Archive.

appointed as Manager, North East Halls of Residence in January, 1969 and became a member of MUCC, playing in seven of the 4th XI matches in season 1971/72. Although Ken's performances recorded in this scorebook were modest (an aggregate of 43 runs at an average of 7.1) his subsequent contributions to the Club both as a mentor and captain in lower XIs and as Club President (for a total of eight seasons from 1974/75-1978/79 and 1981/82-1983/84) are most commendable.

There seems no doubt from the comments recorded above that this closely knit team enjoyed their cricket and thus their celebration, along with other club members, was evident in the photograph taken on the occasion of the Annual Dinner and Presentation Night of April, 1972 (Figure 12).

In addition, the 1st XI (A Grade Turf) Scorebook from season 1971/72 has also survived⁶⁰. The results show a fairly average season for the 1st XI with one win outright, two wins on the first innings, two draws and six losses on the first innings. Amongst the names which appear in this score book, three were to play a most significant role in the development of the Club during subsequent years, namely, Chris Lynch (Club President, Seasons 1980/81 and 1981/82), John Kenez (Secretary, Seasons 1974/74 – 1976/77) and Ray Smith (Treasurer, Seasons 1973/74 – 1986/87 and Seasons 1998/99 – 2001/02). Ray Smith, already noted in ESCA bowling records for season 1967/68 (see p 25), is also the longest serving member of MUCC in terms of games played⁶¹.

Other notable records from the ESCA records⁶² of this season are as follows:

Season 1971/72

D Grade Turf Semi-final: Monash University 218 (R. Elson 64, D. Ellis 40, R. Brown 30) defeated Glen Iris 58 (J. Harvey 4/32) and 123 (J. Harvey 4/29, J. Parrott 4/44)

1st XI (A Grade Turf)	Batting
C. Lynch	Inns. 13, N.O. 1, H.S. 68, Runs 353, Avge. 29.42, 5th in section
A. Herington	Inns. 15, N.O. 3, H.S. 117*, Runs 346, Avge. 28.83, 6th in section

	Bowling
A. Herington	Ovs. 50, Mdns. 8, Wkts. 14, Runs 147, Avge. 10.50, 4th in section
G. Bonsal	Ovs. 104.1, Mdns. 30, Wkts. 30, Runs 388, Avge. 12.93, 10th in section

3rd XI (C Grade Turf)	Batting
J. Pierce	Inns. 18, N.O. 0, H.S. 86, Runs 308, Avge. 17.11, 7th in section

4th XI (D Grade Turf)	Batting
M. Wilson	Inns. 17, N.O. 1, H.S. 109, Runs 471, Avge. 29.44, 1st in section

	Bowling
J. Parrott	Ovs. 166.3, Mdns. 34, Wkts. 52, Runs 496, Avge. 9.54, 4th in section
D. Ellis	Ovs. 120.3, Mdns. 20, Wkts. 36, Runs 368, Avge. 10.22, 8th in section

⁶⁰ 1st XI (A Grade Turf) Scorebook for season 1971/72 is now available in the Monash University Archives.

⁶¹ At the time of the MUCC Annual Report for season 2001/2002 when MUCC was subsequently merged with Hawthorn-Waverley Cricket Club, Ray Smith had played a total of 371 games for the Club, following his initial season as an undergraduate student in Season 1966/67.

⁶² Eastern Suburbs Cricket Association 'Annual Report and Financial Statement' season 1971-72.

Monash University Blues for Cricket

The ultimate “prize” for any University Sportsman must surely be the award of a “University Blue”. While Monash University (through the Sports Association) created a Blues Committee which received applications and made such awards to sportspersons representing the University from its commencement in the 1960s, the award of a Blue for Cricket was always a contentious issue on account of the facts that the Monash University Cricket Club was not participating in the highest level of local competition and that the intervarsities played had generally been of an irregular nature and often involved cricketers who were not regular members of the Monash University Cricket Club. This was often a point of disagreement between administrations of MUCC and the Sports Association (and later the Sports and Recreation Association) as indicated in the following details from notes prepared by Mr. Doug Ellis⁶³.

Relationships between the Sports and Recreation Association and the Club were usually very good. One slight exception occurred in 1969 when there was some tension between the Blues Committee and the Club Committee over the refusal to automatically award University Blues to District and Sub-district players who represented the Club with distinction in Intersarsity matches.

The following extract from John Harvey, the then Club Secretary refers.

*“The Secretary,
Victorian Cricket Association.*

Dear Sir,

I would appreciate a statement from you as follows. The Cricket Club has in past years been in the habit of selecting students who play with District Clubs to represent the University in Intersarsity matches and seeking to reward them for outstanding efforts therein by nominating them for University Blues Awards.

However the recent Blues Committee recommendation opposes against such Awards being given to students who do not play in regular University Club competition.

We believe our Blues Committee recommendation to be highly parochial”

The response from Jack Ledward, Secretary of the V.C.A. was short:

“Dear Sir,

As your problem is purely a domestic one, there is nothing my Association can contribute.

I am quite sure your Blues Committee would not be influenced by the opinions of an outside body.”

In actual fact the Blues Committee took the view with all clubs that unless there were some circumstances absolutely beyond the control of the individual, it was not in the best interests of the development of Monash Clubs for non club members to be automatically chosen in representative matches to the detriment of regular players.

⁶³ Ref. 56, p 5.

If however these “outside” players made some other contribution to the development of the Monash Club then they could be eligible for an Award.

It is to be noted that during this decade of history of the MUCC, the following Blues Awards for Cricket were made although no data are available in regards to applications which were put forward by the Club and rejected by the Blues Committee.

1966	Full Blue	Terry Mason
	Half Blue	Rob Dickens
	Half Blue	Ron Murtagh
1967	Full Blue	Adrian Herington
1968	Full Blue	Jeffrey Chapman
	Full Blue	Alan Seiler
1972	Half Blue	Geoff Bonsall

Just for the record Blues in Cricket were also awarded in later years as follows:

1973	Half Blue	Howard Kirsch
	Half Blue	Peter Sayer
1976	Half Blue	David Paton
1980	Full Blue	Ian Burnett
	Full Blue	Peter Davies

A Representative Team of the Decade

As part of the 30th Anniversary Celebrations held by the Club on 13 November, 1993, I was asked to nominate a ‘Team of the Decade’. In this context, the first decade was defined to be 1963 - 1972⁶⁴ although “The First Decade” of history, as has been presented here, extended from season 1962/63 until season 1971/72. Notwithstanding, it seems appropriate to document the agreed “Team of the First Decade”⁶⁴ within this segment of history and to include the credentials for each selected player, as I put them forward to the selection committee in 1993. The team (in batting order) was as follows:

1. Parnell, Noel Reliable opening bat and captain-coach 1968/69 and 1969/70. (Note the error in Club records contained in MUCC Annual Reports and Financial Statements mentioned in Ref. 49.) 5th in A Turf ESCA batting averages in both seasons 1968/69 and 1969/70. The better was 1969/70: 12 Inns, 0 N.O., H.S. 70, Agg. 415, Av. 34.58.

2. Murtagh, Ron Played mid-sixties while a Ph.D. student in Chemical Engineering. Reliable, RH, opening bat. Best overall performance was 4th in ESCA A turf, season 1965/66: 12 Inns, 3 N.O., H.S. 55, Agg. 279 Av. 31.0. Best individual performance was in season 1964/65

⁶⁴ MUCC ‘Annual Report and Financial Statement Season 1993/94’ p 13.

in the 1st XI Grand Final win over Ringwood in C Grade Matting. Ron scored 157 N.O. in the total of 348. Awarded a Half Blue in 1966.

3. Herington, Adrian Playing career spans two decades, but as an undergraduate in the mid-to-late sixties was a most reliable LH bat and a crafty left-arm orthodox spinner. Best overall seasons (in this decade) were (with the bat): 1966/67 1st in ESCA A Turf, 14 Inns., 2 N.O., H.S. 94, Agg. 495, Av. 41.25; and (with the ball): 1970/71 3rd in A Turf, 104 Ovs., 31 Mdns., 25 Wkts., 259 Rns., Av. 10.36. Awarded a Full Blue in 1967.

4. Mason, Terry Known to his playing colleagues as T-Bird. An aggressive RH bat and more-than-useful medium pace bowler from the mid-sixties. Best overall performance was season 1965/66: 3rd in A-Turf, 14 Inns., 0 N.O., H.S. 100, Agg. 497, Av., 35.5. Awarded a Full Blue in 1966.

5. Porter, Brian (capt.) Captain-coach 1972/73, but generally regarded as a more shrewd captain than motivating coach. Most aggressive RH bat who was known to open when an outright was in the offering, but equally effective down the order. In season 1972/73 was 1st in ESCA A Turf with 12 Inns., 2 N.O., H.S. 121, Agg. 573, Av. 57.3.

6. Jeffrey, Peter Better known to his friends as Peppy. A portly, but never-the-less fit, LH, hard-hitting bat and reliable right-arm, off-spin bowler. Within this decade Peppy recorded a batting aggregate of 387 at an average of 17 and took 24 wickets at an average of 16. He would also have made an ideal team manager.

7. Dickens, Rob A most correct RH, middle-order bat, a more-than-useful spin bowler and a sharp field. For the record of this decade team selection, Rob's best individual performance was season 1964/65 being 1st in ESCA (Batting Averages) C Grade Matting with: 11 Inns., 0 N.O., H.S. 127, Agg. 678, Av. 61.64, and 3rd (Bowling) with: 93 Ovs., 3 Mdns., 44 Wkts., 446 Runs, Avge. 10.10. It should be noted that in the semi-final in which Monash defeated Doncaster Rob scored 127 out of a total of 374. Awarded a Half Blue in 1966.

8. Ward, Lionel Captain of the first Monash 1st XI to play on Turf (A Turf, season 1965/66). Left-arm swing bowler and low-order LH bat who could be relied upon to make a few. Best personal season in terms of numerical averages was 1965/66 when he finished 5th in ESCA A Turf: 117 Ovs., 43 Wkts., 367 Runs, Av. 8.53, although Lionel had also featured in the notable season 1964/5 taking 5/27 in the Grand Final win over Ringwood to finish 2nd in the ESCA C Grade Matting averages at 8.60 runs per wicket.

9. Kirsch, Howard Right-arm fast bowler who twice in this decade, seasons 1969/70 and 70/71, was selected in the ESCA Team of the year, although this was as a member of St. Kevins C.C. As a player for Monash 1st XI in this decade he took 33 wickets at an average of 13. Awarded a Half Blue in 1973.

10. Boulton, Adrian Very little has been written into the records of Monash C.C. concerning the feats of wicket-keepers. Adrian was 'keeper for the 1st XI towards the end of the first decade and a handy RH bat. In this decade, he effected 27 dismissals and averaged 25 with the bat. He was perhaps better known on Monash sporting fields as a Rugby Union player, gaining selection in the Victorian side during the early seventies.

11. Webster, Andy A right-arm, fast-medium bowler whom I remember as a quiet undergraduate who came to Monash in the mid-sixties. He worked his way through the Club and had his best individual season in 1969/70 coming 5th in ESCA A-Turf averages: 88 Ovs., 10 Mdns., 19 Wkts., 219 Runs, Avg. 11.53.

12th Man. Liddell, Peter Reliable RH opening bat and sharp close-in fielder, although one could never have judged this from his off-the-field quietness and polite disposition. While Peter's statistics were beginning to be most favourable in this decade, an aggregate of 478 runs at an average of 18, he went on to be club champion in season 1973/74 with a batting aggregate of 408.

It is worth noting that of the above players, Adrian Herington and Rob Dickens were also named in the “All-time Best” XI for the first 30 years of MUCC with Peter Jeffrey being named as the 12th man⁶⁴.

Club Administrations

Club records and other sources of information show that the Executive positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer throughout this first decade were occupied as follows:

Season	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1962/63	Mr. Rob Dickens	Mr. Ross Fitzgerald	Mr. John Blakeley
1963/64	Dr. W.A. (Gus) Sinclair	Mr. Ron Murtagh	
1964/65	Dr. Lionel Ward	Mr. Bryan Cox	
1965/66	Dr. W.A. (Gus) Sinclair	Mr. John Moore	
1966/67	Mr. Neville Young	Mr. John Brazier	Mr. David Foskey
1967/68	Mr. Neville Young	Mr. John Harvey	Mr. David Foskey
1968/69	Mr. Neville Young	Mr. John Harvey	
1969/70	Mr. D. Lacey	Mr. John Harvey	Mr. Mick Crowley
1970/71	Mr. John Harvey	Dr. Peter Jeffrey	Mr. Russell Horne
1971/72	Mr. John Harvey	Mr. Roger Horne	Mr. Russell Horne

It is noticeable that in these formative years of the history of the University, club executive positions were often filled by undergraduate students, keen to take such roles and to learn the “people and communication skills” which would enhance their subsequent employment. In later decades this was not the case for MUCC administrations which increasingly saw graduates of the university and/or staff fill these important roles, with some most notable exceptions of course.

Concluding Reflections

Particularly since the beginnings of turf cricket at Monash, the University has prided itself with the quality of its turf cricket facilities. On a number of occasions those facilities were utilized by local Associations and the Victorian Cricket Association (now Cricket Victoria) for representative games. Unfortunately, improvements in playing conditions⁶⁵ were not always matched by performances on the field. A major problem facing all sporting clubs in the newer universities was that they were

⁶⁵ Within the ESCA ‘Annual Report and Financial Statement’ season 1969-70 (Ref. 52, p 4), one reads:

We enjoyed the facilities and hospitality of Monash University in staging inter-association and social games on the very fine grounds at the University. Thank you Monash.

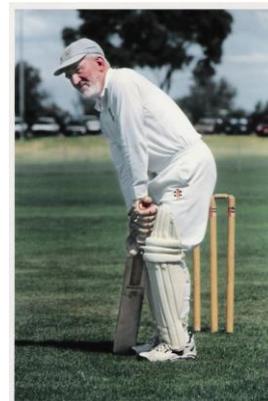
often unable, at least in the early stages, to compete in the highest grade of local competition (Ref. 33, p 2) and consequently, they were prevented from recruiting some of the best players available. Monash University Cricket Club suffered from this problem, since not only were there Sub-District and District players amongst the student community, but in close proximity to Monash University there were also growing clubs within the ESCA (Waverley (Ref. 8, p 3), Ashwood (Ref. 47, p 3) and Mount Waverley (Ref. 50, p 3)), for whom one often observed Monash University students to be playing. There were no 'area codes' applicable to recruitment within the ESCA and, indeed, nor should there have been.

Despite several efforts by MUCC administrative committees of this first decade (and subsequent decades as well) and Mr. Doug Ellis (in his capacity as Director of the Sports Association (and later the Sports and Recreation Association)) to gain entry for Monash University into Sub-District and/or District cricket, records of this correspondence reveal that in every case, some excuse(s) would be advanced to prevent this. Somewhat ironically, Monash University Cricket Club was invited to join the Sub-District Cricket Association in Season 1993/94 as a consequence of the enlargement of the District competition to include the two Sub-District Clubs, Frankston and Geelong, only a few months after the retirement of Mr. Doug Ellis as Director of the Sports and Recreation Association.

The coming of Premier Cricket to the playing fields of Monash University, following the merger of the Hawthorn-Waverley and Monash University Clubs to create the Hawthorn-Monash University Cricket Club in season 2001/02, is the source of further history.

About the Author

Trevor Finlayson was first associated with Monash University Men's Cricket Club during his time as a Ph.D. student in the Department of Physics (1965 – 1968). After a period as a post-doctorial Research Associate in England, he was recruited to the academic staff of Monash University in 1972, reaching the level of Associate Professor in the Department of Physics in 1990. He served on the Administrative Committee for a number of years and was made a Life Member of the Club in 1987. During season 1999/2000 he passed 5000 runs⁶⁶ which, at the time, was the highest run aggregate by any cricketer to have played for the Monash University Cricket Club since the commencement of the official club statistics as reproduced within the Annual Reports from season 1971/72 onwards. He retired as a player at the end of season 2001/02, having played 304 games, with a run aggregate of 5,231 at an average of 22 per wicket and a wicket keeping statistic of 333 dismissals (290 catches and 43 stumpings) although all statistics prior to season 1971/72 have been lost. He also served as the Staff Vice-President and then the President of the Executive of the Monash University Sports and Recreation Association for a period of 15 years, prior to Sports Administration of Monash University being privatised under Monyx Pty. Ltd., in January, 2001 and the Sports and Recreation Association being removed from the Statutes of Monash University via a motion through the University Council in August, 2000.



The author, Assoc. Prof. Trevor Finlayson as an MUCC cricketer (March, 2000). (Photograph courtesy Mr. Steve Morton)

⁶⁶ 'Monash Memo', Issue 8 (22 March, 2000) page 3.



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