



New South Wales Cricket Association
COACHING BULLETIN

"CRICKET HOUSE" 254 George Street, SYDNEY, 2000. Phone 27.4053
All correspondence to P. Spence, Director of Cricket Coaching.

Bulletin No. 6 - May, 1978.

NORTHERN DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB CUP

..... THE MAKING OF A COMPETITION

by HILARY GRIFFITH

(The Northern District Cricket Club deserve commendation for their approach to school cricket. Other Clubs and Associations will achieve a closer liaison with schools if similar steps are taken. A copy of the Competition rules may be obtained from Hilary Griffith (N.D.C.C.) or Peter Spence (N.S.W.C.A.).)

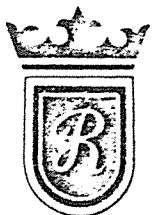
Early in November, 1976, the Schools Sub-Committee of the Northern District Cricket Club toyed with the idea of organising a competition for schools in the area.

Committee Chairman, Neil Marks (former N.S.W. batsman), and Tom Richmond (the Club's Green Shield Manager for ten years) were strongly in favour.

But there were problems to be overcome.

Firstly, that wretched six-week holiday in the middle of the cricket season threatened to thwart attempts. More so because it was reasoned that this six or seven weeks often became eight or nine weeks of non-cricket at school, because of the annual pack-up and start-again process in schools.

Secondly, we had to decide upon a day to play the games. More problems here. Some schools had Wednesday sport, others Thursday. The private schools were still involved with Saturday sport.



The N.S.W.C.A. gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Rothmans National Sport Foundation in the production of this series of Bulletins.

It was here that the brainwave struck. The idea was to play the games in daylight-saving time after school. This meant little or no loss of school time for the boys, and increased the chances of club involvement.

Thus, a viable blueprint was presented to the school sportsmasters.

Eight schools were selected to take part in the original competition, and a representative from each was invited to a meeting. Eight were selected because it was reasoned that if we were unable to run successfully a competition with eight schools whose cricket organisation we knew to be outstanding, then we could hardly expect success with more.

Eight, obviously, is also a perfect number to play in any knockout competition.

Four private schools were invited. Barker College and Knox Grammar from the Combined Associated Schools Competition, and St. Leo's College and Eastwood Marist Brothers from the Combined Catholic Colleges Competition.

Three schools from the strong North West Metropolitan C.H.S. Competition were entered; Asquith Boys, Normanhurst Boys and Epping Boys High Schools.

To them was added Galston High School, a quickly developing high school just outside our Club's borders, in the often neglected "Neutral Zone" in the Sydney Metropolitan Area.

The sportsmasters' attitude was refreshing. Yes they were interested. How soon could they begin?

Competition rules were formulated, and it was agreed that a twenty-over game could be started after school and finished by nightfall.

While it was agreed that this was rather a short over-limit, it was more strongly felt that this was the best available of the alternatives.

Bowlers were to be limited to five overs. One of the faults of the thirty-over Davidson Shield competition is that two bowlers can bowl the entire innings. Not the fairest state of affairs.

Other general rules, useful in knockout competitions, were employed, such as countbacks for tied scores.

The Club would supply first and second graders as umpires. The younger players, often products of the competing schools themselves, were vitally interested.

Hornsby Council, thankfully, assisted with grounds and many games were played on private school ovals. All were played on turf.

Little rivalries, between schools that had never met, were already emerging from that very first meeting. As Green Shield Manager, I found players talking about the competition weeks in advance.

We knew then that we had won ... the boys were interested, excited and would be closer to it.

Barker College proved worthy winners after a somewhat fortunate escape from Normanhurst in round one. They scored at six runs an over to chase and beat St. Leo's in round two, and were too strong for Knox in the Final.

A combined team was selected to play a Northern District Club side. Rain forced off this event, but not the magnificent dinner held.

In the 1977-78 season, the competition was expanded to sixteen teams. The first round was played prior to Christmas, with Year Twelve boys ineligible. Thus each team remained stable throughout the competition.

Few changes were made, as the basic format had been so successful. Teams have once again been drawn against schools not too far distant in the first round and the new invitees were just as enthusiastic.

The 1977-78 competition was won by Normanhurst Boys High School with a score of 1 wkt. for 172 runs from 20 overs against the inaugural premiers, Barker College, who were dismissed for 94 runs.

Schools cricket is now an integral part of the programme of the Northern District Cricket Club and we eagerly await the 1978-79 competition.

-oOo-