

From the ARCHIVES of
The Queen Street Cricket Club
----of New Zealand----

The COMPLETE and FULLY ABRIDGED
Authorised and Official HISTORY
1989-1991

September, 1989, Messers I.D.S Smith, G Halse,

M Dale and R.D. Brittenden met at a well known eating and drinking establishment located above the water's edge, just beyond the long-on boundary, to discuss the sorry plight of the once illustrious fortunes of the virtually unknown Queen Street Cricket Club.

Unable to play a home game since the Auckland City Council tarsealed over our wicket, membership had dwindled and remained in the hands of an absent minded few, it was threatened with extinction.

After much discussion, the meeting broke, and Messers Smith, Halse, Dale and Brittenden, thinking the white line they were following was, in fact, the boundary line, were apprehended by the local constabulary - presumably for blocking the progress of the 5.15 p.m. tram to Mission Bay.

Following this meeting another was called and eighteen people turned up in the hope of free drinks and saveloy to sign a constitution that stated, seeing we couldn't help ourselves, we should help others, i.e. the disadvantaged children of New Zealand.

Sir Ron Brierley agreed, in one of his more astute decisions, to takeover the role of Patron. This led to a number of other notable cricketing eccentrics to accept Membership as Founding Members or, as we prefer to call them, The First Eleven.

Fully expecting the project to be doomed, it was surprising therefore to find a small and odd collection of people who seemed to enjoy the strange form of pleasure a membership with the Queen Street Cricket Club offered, signing up.

By the time the next Test took place membership had approached 100. It must be recorded that the inaugural duck was achieved by Dipak Patel, followed soon after by none other than one of the founders Ian Smith.

An internal tour of New Zealand by India followed and we looked forward with excitement the club's finances to be restored.

However, in the three tests played we were sadly let down by the New Zealand team. As Wisdens records, John Bracewell was the solitary New Zealand batsman unable to score more than 0 in any innings during the series.

The Inaugural Annual Dinner was held to award the very prestigious "Duck of the Year" award. In addition we also awarded, for the first time in New Zealand cricketing history, a "New Zealand Player of the Year" award. The dinner was held on the eve of the New Zealand team's departure to England and the awards were won by John Bracewell and John Wright respectively. As part of his prize, John Wright won a trip for two to Hong Kong.

By the time the tour to England had concluded, our membership was nearly two hundred. Thankfully, the New Zealand team responded and five Ducks were recorded on that tour. Our funds were growing at a healthy rate.

On the eve of the tour to Pakistan in October 1990, a cocktail Party was held for the New Zealand team and this must have had a profound effect on the team for this tour became the jewel in our crown. No less than thirteen ducks were recorded in the three test matches on this tour. There is, and I repeat, no truth in the rumour that the Pakistan umpires were under any apprehension that they were under contract to Q.S.C.C. in the form of a commission payment.

While this tour resulted in a glorious bonanza for the Q.S.C.C., I must inform you, sadly, all negotiations with the N.Z.C.C. to return to Pakistan for another our immediately have, to date, failed.

To celebrate the club held a very successful Christmas party to prepare itself for what was hoped to be a successful internal tour by Sri Lanka.

In anticipation, a lunch was held in a marquee on the number two ground at Eden Park on the first day of the first test.

Unfortunately, New Zealand won the toss and decided to field first so no ducks were recorded that morning for membership to enjoy live.

Again, disappointingly, the number of ducks recorded during the series was only four.

Following the series, however, it was time again to present our "Duck of the Year" and "New Zealand Cricketer of the Year" awards which, in a break with tradition, were presented at "The Cricketer's Ball". If you haven't already heard, Martin Snedden won "The Duck of the Year" for the occasion when he battled in the second test in England for three days without scoring a run. And, in a close contest with Martin Crowe, Andrew Jones won "The New Zealand Player of the Year" for his three consecutive centuries - the first time in New Zealand history this has been achieved.

The Q.S.C.C., by it's strange and eccentric membership, is a very rare and exclusive club. From nil membership we have grown to become an established part of the cricketing scene in New Zealand. None the less, we are guaranteed a steady, if not small, cashflow.