

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
To the members of Northern Cricket Union of Ireland

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2023.

Legal and Administrative Information

Legal and administrative information, including a list of the directors who served during the period covered, are shown on page 2.

Officers

President	Mr R F Bell (resigned 7 th December 2022) Mr B Walsh (appointed 7 th December 2022)
Vice President	Mr B Walsh (resigned 7 th December 2022) Mr B J Milford (appointed 7 th December 2022)
Chairperson	Mr P J E McMorran
Vice-Chairperson	Mr M R Humphreys
Honorary Treasurer	Mr K Chada
Chief Executive	Mr P Grimes
General Secretary	Mr B J Milford (retired 30 th November 2022)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Northern Cricket Union of Ireland is a charitable company limited by guarantee, directed by a board comprising the Trustees.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objective is to promote and improve cricket generally in the North of Ireland among males and females, able-bodied and disabled, through:

- Promoting the playing of cricket and supporting the development of cricket clubs; and
- Running men's, women's, boys' and girls' league and cup competitions for clubs and schools; and
- Organising interprovincial teams in a range of age-groups and providing coaching and fitness training for the associated regional development squads.



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To the members of Northern Cricket Union of Ireland (CONTINUED)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Fortunately, after the last couple of years the impact of Covid 19 had somewhat diminished by the beginning of the 2022 season and thus this season was more reminiscent of those which preceded the pandemic. The return of a full summer schedule was greeted with clement weather conditions for the entire summer.

Congratulations are offered to all who participated, especially those who were fortunate to earn themselves some silverware during the season. Special mention to CIYMS CC men's first team who became the first team ever to win both the Clear Currency Bob Kerr Irish Senior Cup and the Clear Currency All Ireland T20 Cup in the same year. There was also a first in the women's game as Rachael Thomas from CSNI CC, who completed the double in winning both the Women's Premier League and the Gallagher Women's Challenge Cup, scored the first century in the women's Premier League (130*).

At representative level, although the Northern Knights had a somewhat frustrating year on the field, it is pleasing to see most of the players based in the NCU and an increasing number emerging from our pathway structures.

2022 saw the Women's Super Series return to a 3-team competition with the new Dragons team being an increasingly northern based team. During the season fourteen players from the NCU area were selected to play in the tournament with many matches being staged at grounds across the Union. Yet another exciting step in the continuing rapid development of the women's game in a relatively short time.

At under-age level our pathway programme continues to flourish. The NCU boys' and girls' teams were competitive with notable victories against strong opposition coupled with some key learning experiences for all. Special mention to U15 boys Adam Heasley (CIYMS CC) and Adam Leckey (CSNI CC) who won Cricket World's Performance of the Week for an outstanding match-winning partnership during Interprovincial matches.

Stormont was kept busy with three International T20 matches against New Zealand (during which Paul Stirling scored 120*) and a further five Matches against Afghanistan with Ireland winning the series.

Many congratulations to Matthew Humphreys and Jack Dickson representing Ireland at the U19 World Cup, with Simon Johnston part of the coaching staff.

The Union wishes to acknowledge with thanks the support we received from all the Clubs who make their grounds available to host Cup Finals, representative matches, Internationals and practise sessions. Without their support the NCU and Cricket Ireland could not fulfil an ever-expanding fixture list.

With the two previous seasons affected by the pandemic we were delighted to have the continuing support from our commercial partners without whom we could not run our expanding programme of fixtures and activities. This support and that of the local press, and our own growing social media output ensures widespread coverage of NCU cricket and the opportunity to showcase our sport.



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To the members of Northern Cricket Union of Ireland (CONTINUED)

The NCU Strategy for the 2021-2023 period was published towards the end of 2021 with the first year completed and a review presented to the Board. Progress is being achieved in each of the strategy pillars though at differential pace, and where hurdles are appearing these are usually due to a lack of capacity or financial constraints. Identifiable successes include the regional Club Forums, which assisted the Board and staff prioritise future activities in line with club wishes; the introduction of NVPlay for match scoring and live streaming of matches; and the further development of the women's game both on and off the pitch.

This past year has seen us welcome Chris Taylor (Club and Partnerships Development Officer), Harry Lockhart (Community Development Officer) and James Cameron-Dow (Women and Girls Development and Talent Coach) onto our staff, whilst Michael Martin (Marketing Officer) joined us for the summer season. All have made a significant contribution to our business since their arrival.

We would like to thank two Directors who retired from the Board, Andy Clement and Ken Nixon, as well as Roger Bell who has just completed the last two years in office as our President and brings to an end 41 years continued service at NCU Board level. We thank each for their contribution to the NCU which has been significant. Special mention to Bryan Milford who retired in December 2022 after 31 years of service including nearly fifteen years as General Secretary. He has been an outstanding servant and leader within our game and his contribution to the evolution of the NCU cannot be underestimated.

We reflect on a year, probably enjoyed even more than most, following two years greatly impacted by the pandemic. Special thanks go to all who make our game possible, the clubs and their members, the umpires, the volunteers and the staff.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results for the period ended 31 March 2023 are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 8 of the financial statements. A summary of the assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2023 are provided in the Balance Sheet on pages 9 and 10. The financial statements should be read in conjunction with their related notes, which appear on pages 11 to 22.

The results for the year reflect a total deficit of £41,912. The Total Funds being carried forward is £74,400.

The Trustees have reviewed the activities of the Northern Cricket Union and believe that the Union has sufficient resources to allow it to continue to operate and have therefore prepared the accounts on a going concern basis and deem this appropriate. In making this assessment, the Trustees have considered the likely trading conditions for a period of 12 months from the date of our approval of these accounts.



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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Board continue to focus on new and increased income streams to address the financial impact which the pandemic had on the financial position of the Union. It is hoped that new commercial partnerships can be developed with the aim of furthering the Unions strategic objectives.

The 2023/2024 year will also see the development of a new strategy for the game in the NCU. This strategy will look to continue the evolution of the NCU and provide support to our member clubs with their own plans for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McMorran", written over a horizontal line.

Peter McMorran
Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Johnson
Director

Date: 26 October 2023