

Merrion History by the Decade

Merrion tastes success after many years in the doldrums

2000s

The first decade of the new millennium was a period of resurgence for Merrion. From 2004 the club fielded eight Open Competitions League teams the most of any club in Leinster at the time. There was also successful on the field with five senior titles as well as eight leagues, eleven cups and four T20 competitions.

There was also a revival in the womens game - two senior league titles [the first in 20 years], and three wins in the Pilkington 40 Over competition. The Womens 2nd XI manger a brace of cup and league titles.

But for the future of the club perhaps most memorable was the success at youth levels. The schoolboys brought home the Under-11 All-Ireland Cup in 2005; the Under-13 Jeyes Cup in 2001 and 2007; the Under-15 Yates Hale Cup in 2002 and 2009; the Under-15 Robertson Cup in 2001 and 2002; the Under-17 Amoroso Cup in 2003, 2004, 2005; and the Under-19 Sean McGrath Cup in 2002 and 2005. The U19 Girls shared the league in 2002.

Senior League

Year	Captain	P	W	T	D	L	Div/Pos
2000	A.Joyce	12	9	0	1	2	A/2
2001	B.Spanner	12	7	0	2	3	A/1
2002	K.Beasley	12	8	0	2	2	A/2
2003	A.Joyce	12	3	0	0	9	A/6
2004	D.Poder	12	5	0	1	6	B/5
2005	D.Poder	12	4	0	0	8	B/5
2006	D.Poder	12	9	0	0	3	B/2
2007	DI.Joyce	12	4	0	5	3	A/4
2008	DI.Joyce	12	6	0	2	4	A/2
2009	J.Short / DI.Joyce	12	6	0	0	6	A/4

It was a busy time for the club off the field, with the Philip Quinlan Trust Fund set up in 2001 and a successful Invitation Match held between a President's XI and Middlesex, including Ed Joyce, in 2002. An ICC World Cup Qualifying match took place on the ground in 2005. There was a gradual improvement in the facilities of the clubhouse and the practice and playing areas throughout this period, together with new security gates and an electronic scoreboard. A 3-year investment programme was initiated in 2003 to prepare for the club's centenary in 2006. A larger membership and more sponsorship were actively sought and a growing number of functions were held to help finance the growth of the club. The Merrion Cricket Club centenary year passed off with a successful Summer Ball.

Sky cameras invaded the club in 2009 for their 'clublife' series, and there was no end to the showing off. Members of the 1sts were filmed doing physical training, which must have been a new experience for some of them, as well as illustrating how manifestly unfit they really were. The decade ended with the complete replacement of the square and plans for a new pavilion that was better suited to a more active social club and capable of hosting corporate events.

Team of the Decade



With seven full internationals the Merrion side at the end of the decade was hard to beat.

Annual Performances

	Team Performance	Individual Performances
2000	1st XI head sectio of lewis Traub League but fall in SF 2nd XI win Senior II and Tillain [T20] Cups	Brad Spanner scores 204* v Railway Union in Park Avenue Spanner scores 1204 runs in season [85.79]. Highest club score ever
2001	1st XI win the Senior League and Alan Murray-[T20]. 4th XI win Middle B League	
2002	1st XI win T20 again but come second in Senior Cup and League [A] 2nd XI does the Senior II leage and cup double.	Another top season score for Brad Spanner - 171* v Clontarf Spanner tops Leinster All Rounder averages and Kade Beasley the Wicket Keeping.
2003	2nd XI retain the Senior II Cup	
2004	2nd XI win the Senior II League	Kade Beasley wins the Hopkins Cup [WK]
2005	1st XI win the Alan Murray-[T20] 6th XI wins the Intermediate B League and Junior Cup	
2006	1st secure promotion to Senior League [A] 3rd XI win Senior III League and Middle Cup 6th XI win Intermediate Cup	
2007	1st XI win the DGM League and lose in Senior Cup Final 2nd XI does the Senior II leage and cup double again	Matt Petrie heads the Senior Bowling Averages with 36 wickets [9.36]
2008	1st XI are runners up in Senior League [A] 2nd XI retain the Senior II League	Matt Petrie heads the Senior Bowling Averages with 35 wickets [7.03] Petrie takes 8/15 v Malahde - BP of season.
2009	3rd XI win the Middle Cup 5th XI win the Whelan [T20] Cup.	