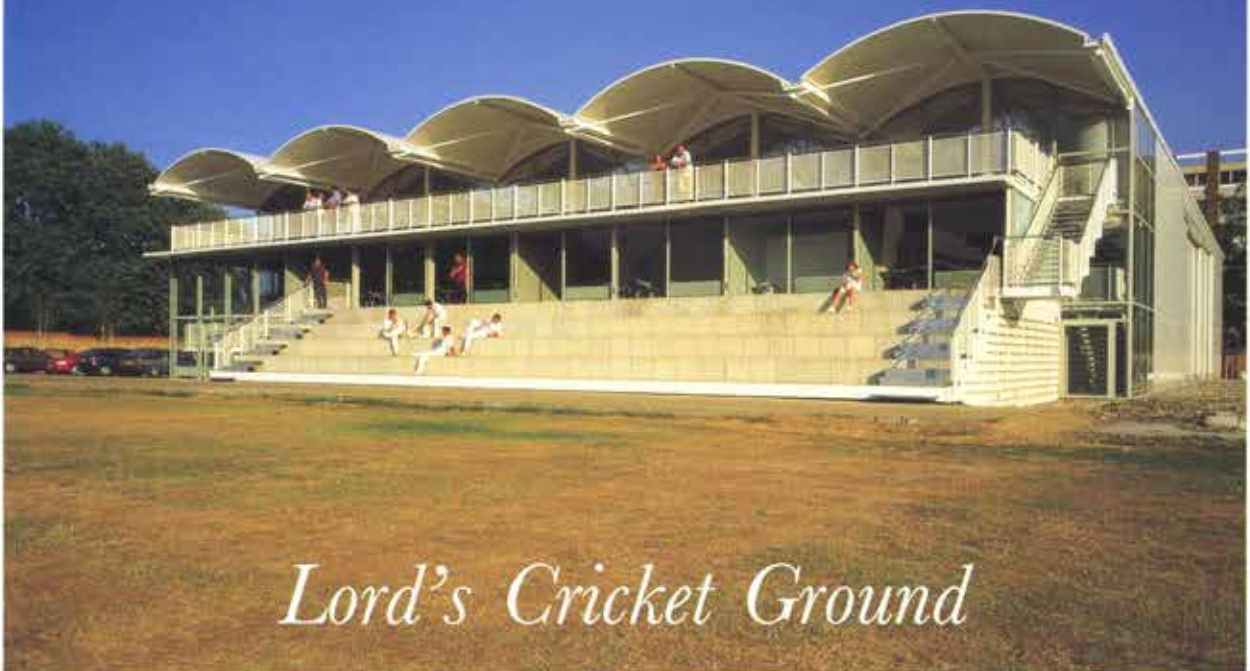


The New INDOOR SCHOOL



Lord's Cricket Ground





PHOTOGRAPH: DENNIS GILBERT



BALMORAL CASTLE

Coaching cricket has been going on at Lord's since the MCC introduced 'Easter Classes' in 1902. The idea of establishing an indoor cricket school was being discussed back in 1974 and the building was opened in 1977. It eventually became a victim of its own very considerable success.

The Committee deserves high praise for its decision to demolish the old school and to build a new, bigger and better one adjacent to the site of the original. I am quite sure that all the Members will be proud of the splendid new Indoor School at Lord's and I am confident that it will help players of all ages and abilities, who are keen to improve their game.

INDOOR SCHOOLS

Old & New

E.W. SWANTON, C.B.E.

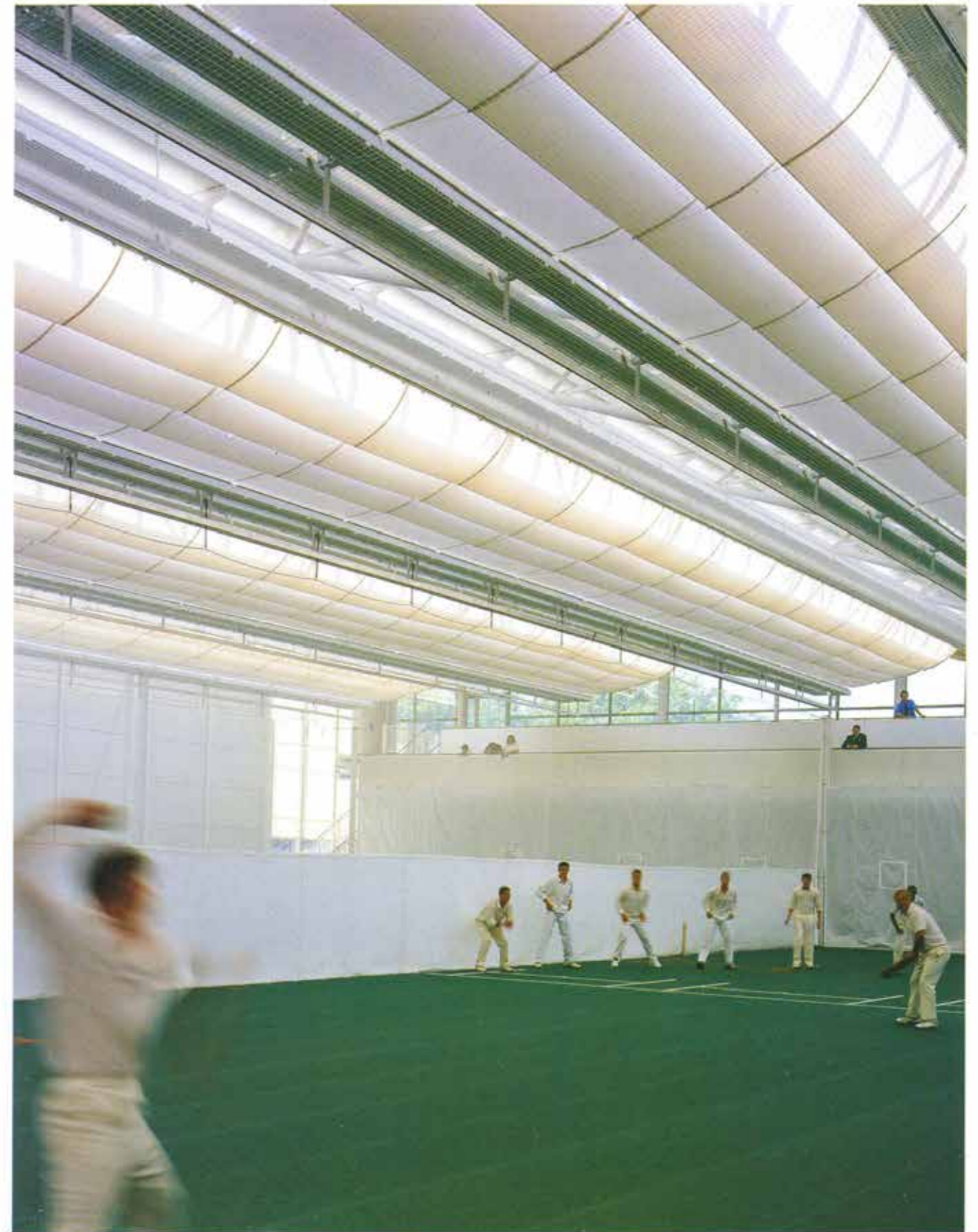
Within the last quarter of a century the countenance of our ancient ground has greatly changed: first it was the Tavern area that was transformed, then the Mound Stand; then the old "free seats" in their new form became the Compton and Edrich Stands. In 1977 on the South side of the Nursery arose the first Indoor School, an erection functional rather than a thing of beauty, now after a full, busy, invaluable life of 18 years replaced by what is surely the last word in buildings of its kind. Its exterior is perhaps more in keeping with its surroundings, and its interior with its eight nets and every corresponding amenity is equipped with the latest in technology.

The object of this brochure is to give all necessary information about the New School: what it looks like, inside and out, and how to use its diverse facilities: and as one closely involved in the Old School it is a pleasure to contribute this introductory article and, by way of background, to say something about the history of cricket under cover at Lord's.

Easter classes for schoolboys actually go back in what today seems a most primitive form to the turn of the century. Nets

were hoisted and mats put down in all available space on the covered walk-ways round the main ground, each net presided over by a member of the ground staff. Much later an open covered area on the Nursery was similarly used while in fine weather nets were put up on turf. I can see now the famous old fast bowler, Walter Brearley coaching on the Nursery in a very tight Lancashire blazer, red rose on the cap reflecting his ruddy cheeks and protecting his bald head against the April wind.

Considering that the first Indoor Cricket School was started by Aubrey Faulkner, the celebrated South African all-rounder and coach, at Hammersmith in the late 1920s, and that numerous similar establishments followed, it is little to MCC's credit that they were so long in following suit. In particular a clear chance was missed when a memorial was being considered in the mid-1960s to H.S. Altham, founder of the MCC Youth Cricket Association, co-editor with G.O. Allen of the MCC Coaching Book, and the widest authority on every aspect of the game.

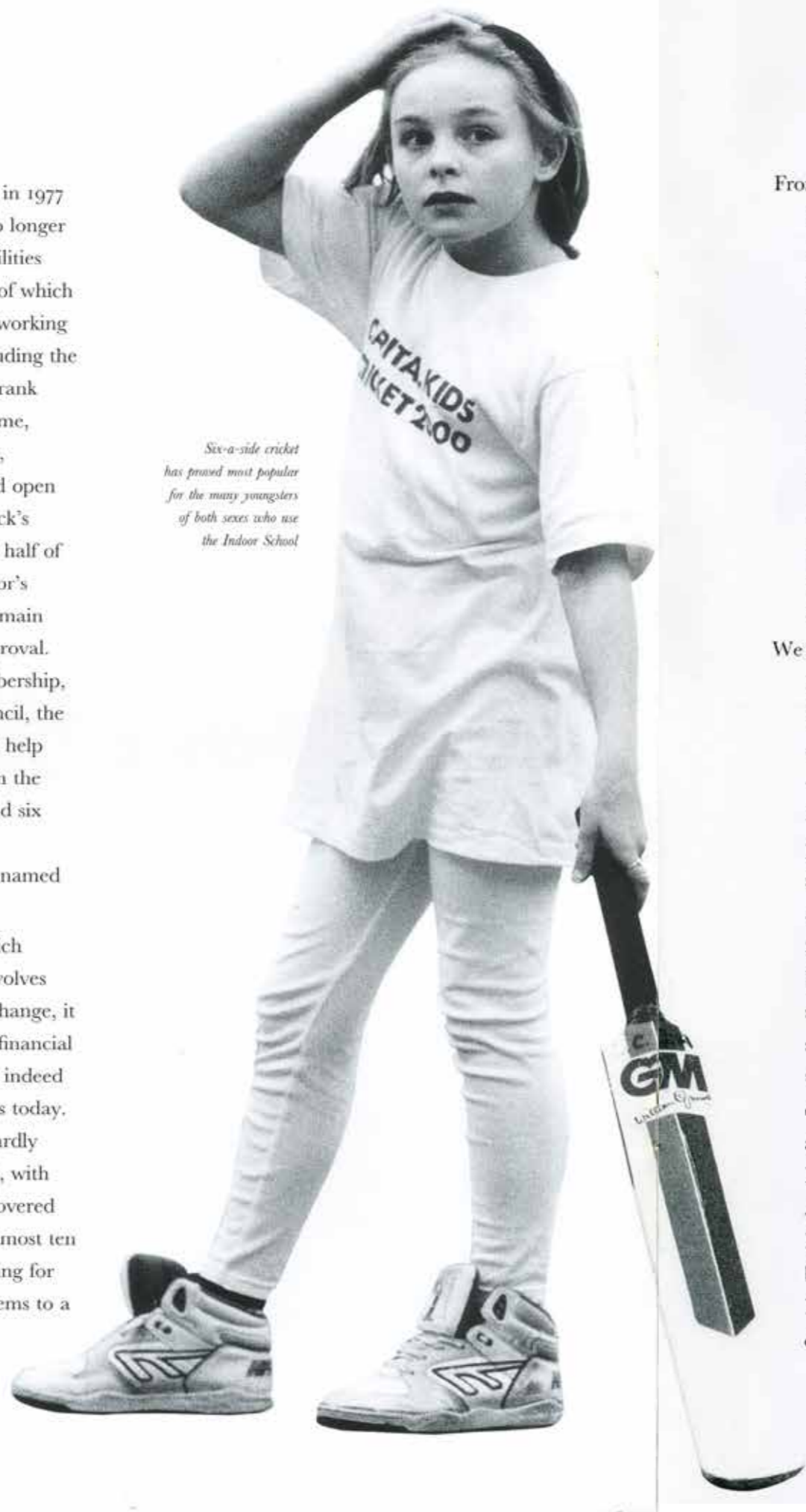


PHOTOGRAPH-DENNIS GILBERT

Clive Radley with a group of MCC Young Cricketers

The birth of the first Indoor School in 1977 was brought about by a body no longer in existence called the Club Facilities Sub-Committee, the Chairman of which was J.S.O. Haslewood. A small working party from that Committee including the Chairman, Sir Jack Hayward, Frank Sanderson, R.V.C. Robins and me, having been allowed to prospect, proposed the site of the aforesaid open covered area. Fortified by Sir Jack's munificent offer of £75,000, just half of Sanderson the building contractor's initial estimate of £150,000, the main Committee gave provisional approval. An appeal went out to the membership, cash came from the Sports Council, the Lord's Taverners at once offered help (maintained through the years) in the way of coaching scholarships, and six institutions subscribed on the arrangement that nets would be named after them.

If the effort to reach the target—which ultimately rose to £200,000—involves what today seems almost small change, it should be mentioned that MCC's financial position in the 1970s was modest indeed compared with the state of affairs today. Were it not so the Club could hardly have embarked on a new School, with eight nets instead of seven and covered with Uniturf as before, costing almost ten times as much as the old. (Allowing for inflation the difference in cost seems to a layman astonishing.)



Six-a-side cricket has proved most popular for the many youngsters of both sexes who use the Indoor School

From the moment of its opening on 28 November, 1977, the School was seen to fill a want long felt. The seven nets became filled with every sort and condition of cricketer, the club man, the schoolboy, the county and Test player. Coaching classes for boys in all three holiday periods attracted all ages. Touring Test sides and lesser ones booked in. The six-a-side game proved popular. All was activity, and pessimists who opined that the School would not pay had to face the fact that it has never shown an annual loss.

We have been lucky in our appointments. It was clearly essential that the Head Coach should be a man of personality, a well-known cricketer and qualified coach. Don Wilson, of Yorkshire and England, fulfilled these qualifications to perfection, inspiring his charges with something of enthusiasm for the game and love of it. A.W.P. Fleming, a retired R.A.F. officer, fulfilled the less glamorous but equally important role of Manager, setting up a new administration from scratch. In the 18 years of its existence there has been only one change in each of these posts. Gordon Jenkins was appointed Manager in 1984 when Tony Fleming took over as Ground Administrator, while in 1991 Clive Radley, the Middlesex and England batsman, already MCC Head Coach on Don's retirement, assumed the School coaching assignment also. They have

fully maintained the tradition of friendliness and efficiency established at the start.

When the Old School closed its doors the books showed a figure of 208,750 "net hours" of use, which on the basis of four occupants per net gives a grand total of 835,000 hours of practice and coaching, exclusive of six-a-side time. With such a legacy it cannot be too long before the 1995 Indoor School tots up the million mark. May it have as happy a life and a longer one.



DON WILSON
Yorkshire & England
Head Coach 1977-1991



CLIVE RADLEY
Head Coach
since 1991



TONY FLEMING
Indoor School Manager
1977-1984



GORDON JENKINS
Indoor School Manager
1984-1995

Tales

IAN BOTHAM, O.B.E.

Looking back, I realise the value of the time I spent on the MCC's Cricket Staff. It was a first class preparation for my career in county cricket, both on and off the field. It's no secret that my talents weren't immediately appreciated when I first attended the school, but I'll never forget the sense of awe I felt when I first arrived at the ground with my Mum. She sat in the Rose Garden while I did my bit to impress the coaches on the Nursery Ground. I remember wondering if I would ever get the chance to play on what is unquestionably the most famous cricket ground in the world.

Not everyone at Lord's was impressed by my ability, but Harry Sharp, who was then Assistant Head Coach, became my mentor. He was a guide, counsellor and friend—sensing my boundless enthusiasm and sharing in it. He was one of the very few in those early days who encouraged me to stick with my natural game, and when I hit my 149 against the Aussies in 1981 at Headingley no-one was more thrilled than Harry Sharp. But, always the sternest of tutors, I remember him giving me an earful when I met him afterwards. "That was a bloody awful shot Botham... but if you keep hitting it son, keep playing it".

My relationship with Lord's and the MCC has often been a stormy one, but there were many more days of fun, laughter and celebration than there were of disappointment and despair. On reflection, I am amazed that the



IAN SALISBURY
Sussex & England
"The Indoor School was where I first learned to bowl leg spin. I hope the players of the future enjoy the benefits of it as much as I did."



JOHN CRAWLEY
Lancashire & England
"It was a great honour to be invited to the Lord's School. The facilities and the people were excellent and I hope that the New School will produce many cricketers for the First-Class and Test arenas."



ANGUS FRASER
Middlesex & England
"The benefits of specialised coaching on the sponsored two- and three-day courses was invaluable."



DERMOT REEVE
Warwickshire & England
"My three years on the Lord's staff is a time I shall always treasure and it was in the Indoor School that I got my first lucky break in cricket. I owe so much to MCC for the opportunity to have had such a wonderful apprenticeship for the First-Class game."



PHIL TUNNELL
Middlesex & England
"A brilliant opportunity to practise cricket on a regular basis at an early age."



PHILLIP DEFREITAS
Derbyshire & England
"I can recommend the School to any youngster who aspires to play cricket at the higher levels."



MARK LATHWELL
Somerset & England
"A head start for anyone lucky enough to attend the school."

out of school

MCC ground staff put up with me for as long as they did, and with some of my wilder escapades, particularly when Rodney Ontong and I got together. I am not at all sure which one of us was the ringleader. At that time we were impoverished pupils, but once the two of us discovered a way of subsidising our meagre incomes through the sale of cut-price soft cushions, we at least began to enjoy a superior lifestyle!

On another occasion, I didn't exactly endear myself to the Curator of the museum when I presented him with my own version of the "Ashes"—the remains of a pair of indescribably sweaty cricket socks.

There is no doubt that life at Lord's became considerably more peaceful when I left the place. But I wouldn't have missed the experience for anything. Nor would I have missed any of my days spent at Lord's throughout a quarter of a century of playing cricket. I count myself very fortunate to have played there so often.

Design for playing

DAVID MORLEY
Architect

The brief for the MCC's New Indoor Cricket School presented an opportunity to create a coaching facility of outstanding quality and national standing. At the same time it offered the challenge to contribute to the architectural heritage of Lord's Ground and to enhance its presence within the urban context of St. John's Wood.

The design evolved from a close examination of both the functional aspects and the context of the building with a view to discovering a set of elements which responded to both the brief and the site with simplicity and elegance.

The first task was to provide a design which fits comfortably within the hierarchy of buildings on the site. It was recognised that the New Indoor Cricket School should not visually compete with the spectator stands on the main ground.

The roof is a key element. Five barrel-vaulted roof lights combine with fabric blinds to provide diffused natural light throughout the playing area. All other

facilities are accommodated in a "double-sided pavilion", which overlooks the indoor playing area on one side, and the Nursery Ground on the other.

The dimensions of the main playing area were determined by the requirements of six-a-side and eight-a-side cricket and space for eight nets with 18-yard run-ups. In addition, generous circulation areas around the playing area provide for improved safety. The most important aspects of the playing area are the quality of light and the playing surface.

The rapid erection of the roof allowed the construction of a high tolerance concrete floor in sheltered conditions. Shock pads are incorporated in special recesses below the bowler's run-up to reduce strain. The floor is covered with "Uniturf" which artificially simulates outdoor playing conditions. The sides of the playing area are constructed from 7m high screens which can be opened up in warm weather and for special functions.





All Cricketers Great & Small



The New Indoor School at Lord's has some of the finest facilities in the World. It is not for the exclusive use of MCC members and top county players, but open to all. The youngest age groups are around 8-10 and at the other end of the scale, there is no age barrier. From top internationals to leading actors, the visitors to the School are many and varied.

Player improvement aids include a variable speed bowling machine, which may be hired in conjunction with the services of a coach. There is also the opportunity to hire a two-way simultaneous video recording—one for the bowlers and one for the batsman. Facilities include showers and changing rooms, and a spacious refreshment area.

There are unrivalled opportunities for the young, and in addition to the traditional school holiday coaching courses over Christmas, Easter and during the summer, the school conducts intensive courses for graded age groups, ranging from 8 years to mature adulthood.

The coaching is directed by the former Middlesex and England player, Clive Radley, assisted by John Wilson and Eric Clark. Other distinguished names regularly involved in coaching at the school are Geoff Arnold (Surrey and England), John Hampshire (Yorkshire and England), Ken Taylor (Yorkshire and England), and Graham Barlow (Middlesex and England). In addition to coaching, the school offers superb facilities for clubs, schools and other groups for participation in six and eight a side matches. Equipment and umpires can be provided.

The *School of Merit* (for cricketers aged between 9 and 17) runs from October to March, and trials are held in late September. The standard is extremely high, and for those cricketers who have reached County Colts' standard it provides a wonderful opportunity for those participating to train with other talented cricketers.

It's not *Just* Cricket

Conference & Banqueting Facilities

The Indoor School, in its unique setting, boasts conference and banqueting facilities in a tranquil environment, overlooking the Nursery Ground. The conference room is ideal for board meetings, presentations and conferences, creating flexible space for up to twenty delegates. Banqueting facilities are available within the bright bar area, and with the adjoining conference room provide spacious dining for up to sixty guests. A high standard of catering is provided by the Club's appointed caterers.

Motivation in Business

A cricket-participation event is a wonderful way to motivate and unite a business team, enabling those playing from all levels within a company, to compete equally, in a relaxed "fun" environment. Business-motivation days are tailor-made by the Club, thus enabling the development of a programme which meets your precise requirements. Motivation days can also be organised in conjunction with a conference or banquet.

Exhibitions & Auctions

The very large playing area, which measures 125 feet by 90 feet (40.2 metres by 28.8 metres) and therefore extends to a surface covering more than 11,000 square feet (1,157 square metres), is rendered even more spacious by the huge sliding doors running along the school on its two longest sides. A beautifully designed roof, sitting approximately 20 feet above the floor, swells the school's overall proportions to create a bright and airy arena which is a spectacular setting for exhibitions and auctions.

Birthday Parties

For those who have to think of new ideas every year when planning a birthday party for a cricket-mad child or friend, Lord's provides for an hour or two's tuition and games in the school, followed by a birthday tea (including cricket-themed birthday cake, balloons and take-home goodie bag).

Location

Lord's Cricket Ground is situated close to the centre of London, and offers the convenience of car parking facilities.

For further information please contact

Miss Emma Brown on 0171-289 1611.

The bar is the ideal place to relax after the rigours of net practice



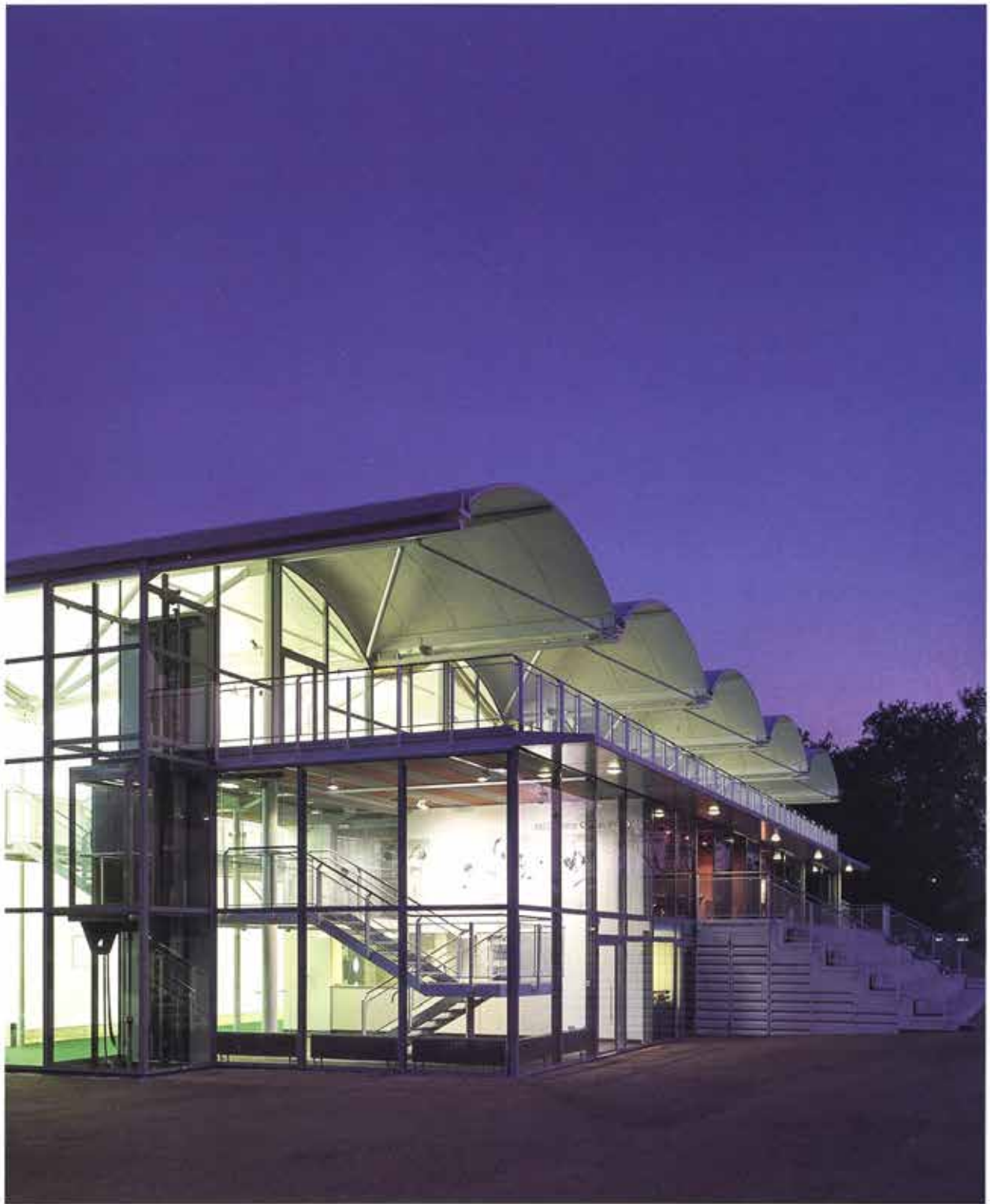
'Back to School' in the Conference Room.

The bar area and Conference Room set for the luncheon interval



A board meeting in the Conference Room, overlooking the Nursery Ground





*The MCC Indoor School
Lord's Cricket Ground
St. John's Wood
London
NW8 8QN*