

PHOENIX 1ST XI 1930S-1960S



There have been 3 DR Pigots to play for Phoenix, spanning the period 1921 to 2003 and that includes every one of those years. All three also played for DUCC. The first was ever present as opening bowler and batsman until his retirement in 1945 and his wife, nicknamed Copper, due to a face “framed by a halo of magnificent Titian hair” was scorer and ruled the roost. DR Senior’s father was John Henry, also a DUCC and Phoenix cricketer in the 1880s and 90s. The family’s legal history goes right back to John’s grandfather who was a judge and had the grand title of Chief Baron of the Exchequer for Ireland. John and his father were also judges. John Pigot had four sons who all played for Phoenix and a daughter Ann who was a prominent lady cricketer. DR Sen was captain 5 times and was skipper when the club won the cup in 1937,38 and 45, treasurer from 1940 to 48 and President from 1955 to 58. He won 30 caps for Ireland. His obituary is in Wisden, 1966. Sadly, he just failed to live to see his son awarded his first cap. DR Junior (later to become Senior and also a lawyer) took great pride in passing his dad’s number of caps (He won 44). He played senior cricket for an incredible 45 years, starting the year after his Dad’s retirement and he scored 14423 runs in Leinster competitions. This is second in the records to “Ginger” O’Brien of Railway who amassed the astonishing total of 21,765. He was an orthodox player whose best attacking shots were cuts and pulls and he was a fine cover fielder well into those 45 years. His obituary is in Wisden 1997. The third DR Pigot captained DUCC and Phoenix, played for North Leinster and has also had a career in the law. He and his Dad played together for Phoenix for twelve years.

In the period from 1935 (when the Leinster Senior Cup began) to 1958, Phoenix played in 12 cup finals, winning 8, including hat tricks in 1937/8/9 and 1947/8/9. Jimmy Boucher and Paddy Quinn played in all 12. The four Quinn brothers, Frank, Gerry, Paddy and Kevin came to Phoenix from a hurling background in Gort, Co. Galway via Belvedere College and all four were capped and had long careers in the dominant Phoenix side of the 30s and 40s. Their cartoons can be seen displayed in the pavilion. Marcus Ruddle and Brendan and Neil Fox added to the quality of these XIs.

Although the cup was won again in 1951 and the league in 1956, under the captaincy of Mick Dargan, who won caps for cricket and rugby, the 50s were relatively unproductive compared to the previous twenty years. The club suffered when Old Belvedere became a senior club and the trail from Great Demark Street dried up. The 60s were devoid of any trophy at senior level but the 2nds won the league in 1965 and the 4ths the cup in 1964 and 68. Donald Pratt, George McVeagh’s nephew, was an Irish international in cricket, tennis and squash. He was an aggressive and competitive left handed bat and fielder, like his uncle, and was Irish captain in 1966. 20/20 cricket would have been right down his street but he did end his Phoenix career with an average of 32, which at that stage had only been bettered by Jack Crawford and Leslie Kidd. He retired in 1966 and later founded the highly successful Avoca Handweavers business.



1. Four generations of Pigots
2. Donald Pratt in 1957
3. Phoenix takes to the field in 1941, after a German bomb struck hit the toilets beside the dog pond; the German embassy wrote a cheque for the damage to the pavillion