

## MCUA visit to Ireland

We left from Liverpool airport on Friday and were picked up at Belfast International and taken to our hotel, The Ramada at Platt's Bridge just outside the City. We were then collected and taken out for a meal at the Police Sports and social club.



Both of us had a wonderful time over an excellent meal, meeting our umpiring colleagues and also presented with our Northern Ireland Cricket Association ties.

After leaving the Sports Club we were then taken back to our hotel where we gate-crashed a wedding reception (Brian's idea!)



Oversleeping the following morning, unfortunately I had the furthest game and was picked up at 10 and taken to Waringstown CC which was in the middle of nowhere. What a great view and such a picturesque ground. I met a lot of V.I.Ps as Waringstown are top of the Carrickfergus.



Brian meanwhile was taken by his colleague to Stormont International ground and after the games we met back at social club for Saturday night meal.

Yet another great night and on getting back to the hotel we gate-crashed a country western night (Brian`s idea!)



On the Sunday morning, having more time to have a great breakfast at a more leisurely pace we were then picked up and taken on a trip around Belfast and finished up with another meal before taken back to the Airport.

What a fantastic time both Brian and I had together, both teams in each game showing us great respect and displaying good behaviour, cricket being the winner all round. Many thanks to all members of MCUA for giving Brian and I the opportunity to umpire and represent our organisation.

**Ray Partington**  
**August 2009**