

# ROSCREA

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# REVIEW

No. 46

Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Summer 1985

## ABBEYS

Fascinating and extraordinary people they must have been, those Cistercians of old whose abbeys and granges you will still find through the length and breadth of Ireland. The first thing that might strike you — assuming an education at Mount St. Joseph — when you come on one of those crumbling piles, is how similar they were to the modern Cistercian Abbey.

That is the generalization, of course. Many of them were small and squat, built as much for defence as anything. But those constructed in relative safety, behind the defensive power of a Norman baron or a local Irish chief, soared skywards with classic Gothic lines, austere and strong. Spend a while at Dunbrody Abbey, in Co. Wexford, or Jerpoint in Kilkenny, or Boyle, and you will be struck by the similarity between their lines and those of Mount St. Joseph, designed by Dom Camillus Beardwood a century ago.

At the height of the order's strength in Ireland, probably the 13th century, there may have been more than a hundred Cistercian Abbeys and granges. The granges were sort of sub-abbeys, usually erected to accommodate monks who were obliged to work

many miles from the mother-house.

The lands and possessions of the Cistercian order were immense. It has been calculated that at one time up to one third of the arable land of Ireland was in the hands of the Cistercians. And the place names reflect that today. Abbeyleix, Monasterevin, Abbeyfeale, Abbeystrewry, Abbodorney, Greyabbey — just a handful of the names, drawn at random from around the country, which owe their origins to the Cistercians. Others are hidden behind a veil of modern usage. Who is conscious that Dublin's Abbey Street is named from St. Mary's Abbey, one of the richest and most powerful of the Cistercian foundations? Who would know that Dublin's "Monkstown" is called from the Cistercians who fortified and controlled the small port of Bulloch near Dalkey?

The history of the medieval Irish Cistercians was one of power, wealth and influence, but with the arrival of the Normans in 1169, there came trouble for the order. Two branches of the order, in effect, came into being. One was Old Irish, its members drawn from the old race, Irish-speaking and loyal to the local Irish chiefs and princes. The

other was Anglo-Norman, French or English speaking and operating under the protection of the new Norman rulers along the East Coast and throughout the Pale. The 13th and 14th centuries are dotted with reports of violence between rival factions, often accompanied by many deaths. Abbots were driven out, killed on occasion, lands were seized and abbeys burned.

The two strands of Cistercianism can be seen today, reflected in the architectural remains of the abbeys and granges. Those of the Anglo-Normans are closer, perhaps, to the ascetic ideal of St. Bernard and Stephen Harding. They are simpler, less-ornate and generally built on a larger scale. Those of the old Irish are usually tempered with Romanesque; the "praying hands" of the Gothic arch are often rounded, there are oddities of design and construction and there are often gargoyles on the pillarheads. These again are generalisations; and as Gael and Norman mingled and inter-married, so too did their architectural tastes and expression.

Today there are perhaps thirty Cistercian abbeys in passable shape. They are all over Ireland and the Stationery Office publishes an excellent monastic map of Ireland which identifies them all clearly. No part of Ireland is more than perhaps 25 or 30 miles from a Cistercian remains. You'll get the map through any good bookshop or stationer for about £3, I think. Most of the abbeys are in the hands of the Office of Public Works and are safe to explore. Why not make a picnic outing during some of the long, warm days of the Summer and take in two or three of them.

My favourites are spread far and wide. Dunbrody, near Wexford, is well-preserved and easily accessible. If you go there you can also take in the charming Tintern Minor a few miles up the road near Ballyculhane. Boyle, just outside the town of that name in Roscommon is well preserved and very beautiful. Mellifont, near Drogheda is a classic, but often busy with tourists. Corcomroe, near Ballyvaughan, in Co. Clare, is an extraordinary achievement, built on the solid rock of the Burren and facing the Atlantic. Jerpoint is probably the richest of them all in detail and fine carving. The list goes on.

And, of course, if you want to see the Cistercian Abbey of medieval times restored you must see Holycross, near Thurles. A most beautiful old abbey, in a most beautiful setting, in a lovely part of Ireland. Graiguenamanagh ("The Grange of the Monks") has also restored its Cistercian Abbey but its location in the centre of the town scarcely allows the visitor to view it on the open scale.



Mrs. Peggy Massey and Mrs. Lucy Dwan (Kenmare 1984)

# Purcell Foods — A Modern Success Story

It may well be, as the song says, a long way to Tipperary, but to take 4 years and cover 25,000 miles on a journey from Roscrea to Thurles seems, on the face of it, to stretch the imagination, if not the credulity of the casual observer.

But that is exactly what John Purcell did since spending those halcyon years from 1976 to 1981 in the hallowed precincts of the College, and if those four years and all those miles seem to have been a circuitous and tortuous route to the modern meat plant of Purcell Foods at Dublin Road, Thurles, then it has been a most enjoyable and rewarding journey.

## The Story

The background to the story is intriguing. The Purcell family has for long been involved in the cattle business and has earned an international reputation for its ability to deliver the right product at the right price to a strict delivery schedule. Purcell Exports Ltd., is in the business of supplying world markets with the best of Irish livestock and it was a logical train of business thought to cater for the burgeoning demand for pre-packed portions of prime boneless beef. However, this is a highly competitive business which demands a high level of productive skills and a keen knowledge of the many advances in meat technology which have been made in recent years. It also needs an awareness of market requirements and the ability to get the product to the point of sale in the same fresh condition in which it leaves the plant. This was the area which would require greatest attention to detail as the Purcell firm contemplated the move into this area of activity.

## The Plant in Reality

What had been a tenuous idea for some time became a practical reality in July 1984 when a premises located close to the family home in Thurles was acquired. Then began the exacting task of fitting it out to the standards demanded by the industry.

The preparation of meat products is an area in which the Government, through the agency of the Department of Agriculture, has always exercised a stringent degree of control. Licence to operate such a plant is only granted after a company can demonstrate in a practical manner its ability to work to the highest hygiene and ethical standards.

## A Hard Apprenticeship

While the idea of such a plant for Thurles was still in the embryonic stage, John Purcell had been serving a hard-grafting apprenticeship in meat plants right across the world. From Smithfield Market in London, through factories in France and Italy, and around to the leading meat producer of all, New Zealand, John was immersing himself in the technology and expertise which was to prove vital in the new venture. He also picked up a working knowledge of the French language which considerably eases communication problems with continental customers. John returned home in August of last year to become involved in the fitting-out of the new plant, which came on-stream in record time in November 1984.

## Facts and Figures

The new plant incorporates all of the features which reflect the latest technology and the very best methods of production. Perhaps some statistics will tell the story, much better than words.

Sixty people are employed in the boning plant and the ancillary cold storage facility. The majority of the staff are under 25 years of age and, with the exception of six experienced people, all of them have been trained in boning techniques on the premises. The high standard of their output is a tribute to their own innate skills and to the technology on which the facility is based. 1,350 cattle are boned each week, and the resultant prime cuts are packed in cryo-vac, gas-packed membrane or in ordinary poly-wrap packs, depending on market requirements. Libya, Algeria,

Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran are the main outlets but the attention of the world industry has been aroused to the extent that considerable expansion is inevitable. The Plant has been rated as the leader of its kind in Europe and stands up to the closest scrutiny.

To throw in a further college connection, a fellow-student of John's from the '77-'80 period, John Quinn, has become involved and with a fleet of tractor units, refrigerated containers and flat trailers, sees to the needs of the critical transport side of the operation.

## What of the Future?

Obviously, the short-term aim is to consolidate the reputation already built up since opening the plant. The need to remain flexible in the face of changing market demands, without deviating from the high quality standards, must also be a priority.

The constantly-growing demand for fast foods and for consumer-ready meats will obviously be a logical adjunct to the present operation and this may well be the next path to be followed by the company.

A long way to Tipperary? Yes, indeed, and Purcell Foods will be the flag-ship for Tipperary and for Ireland on many a long journey in the future.

John M. Purcell, Managing Director of Purcell Foods Ltd., Thurles, Co. Tipperary, was a pupil of the College in 1976-81.

## Union Events 1985

- 26th May — Central Committee Meeting: nominations for President-Elect.
- 2nd June (Sunday) — College Sports Day. Summer holidays begin.
- 8th September — Central Committee Meeting. Prepare for Union Day.
- 6th October (Sunday) — Union Day; Annual Union Mass; A.G.M.; Union Dinner.
- 25th October (Friday) — South Tipperary Dinner Dance.
- 2nd November — "Week-end Away" in Park Hotel, Kenmare . . . a must!
- 8th November (Friday) — Dublin Dinner.
- 23rd November (Saturday) — South Eastern Branch, Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny.

## South Tipp. Disco

The South Tipperary Branch held a disco in Thurles Rugby Club on Friday 28th December.

There was a good attendance of Past Pupils, some from as far away as Dublin and Kilkenny.

Everyone enjoyed a delightful evening's dancing, during which sandwiches and soup were served.

Official bouncers for the evening were Union President Kevin Dwan and Chairman, Ml. Roche. The disco provided a great opportunity for the younger members of the Union to meet.

The Branch treasurer was very busy on the evening? And as a result he was owed a nominal sum by the Union President!

The attendance and spirit of the evening was very encouraging for future reference.



# The Cup — A Recollection

by Matt Hyland

It was on Whit Monday 1927 when we set off from the College in two side cars for Croke Park to defend the College of Science Cup in the All-Ireland Schools' Athletic Championships. We had entered for these Championships for the first time the previous year and had won the Cup with a number of points to spare.

For us it was a one day event travelling up by the early morning train via Ballybrophy, competing and returning, hopefully with the Cup, by the one evening train laid on for the Whit Monday.

The team comprised six of us with our Trainer Brookes, a retired — as he preferred to call himself — British non-commissioned Officer; a man of the most enthusiastically dedicated service to us and to our purpose. The inclusion of Jim (Mustard) Coleman, to challenge in the short distance, pleased me more than somewhat because, despite our fierce determination to win we needed some comic relief and Mustard was sure to provide it. His weekly paper "The Sympathiser" issued almost every Saturday night at two pence per copy was always eagerly awaited. Not given to observing the tight discipline of the study hall it was much to our enjoyment that he was invariably successful in evading Fr. Austin's eagle vigilance as he plied his laborious task of hand-printing copy after copy.

Why he called it "The Sympathiser" was not at all clear to me because sympathy was never extended to the subjects of his fun.

However, to return to my story, being the only member of the previous year's team I was appointed captain and entrusted with a small fund to pay for taxis and to ensure we didn't starve. Our hopes of returning with the Cup were good, we had trained well with raw eggs before breakfast, egg flips at 11 and raw eggs again in the late evening. Fr. Ailbe depended heavily on raw eggs! This adjunct to our diet coupled with a rigorous physical training programme had us all in buoyant mood as we set off in our side-cars. It was a beautiful June day — June 7 to be precise.

The train was in ample time at Kingsbridge to avoid the need for taxis so we travelled to Croke Park by tram stopping off for a light lunch on the way. Appetites were easily satisfied and Brookes more easily than ours.

The first major event for me was the 880 which I won comfortably in record time. Brookes was waiting for me as I came to the tape but he quickly dropped behind and out. When he did make it to the finish, much to the amusement of the other competitors and their coaches, he kissed me on both cheeks. Such things were not done in those days. This enthusiastic expression of pleasure was repeated after the mile in which I also set up a new record. These two wins gave us 6 points and as we had picked up another point for a placing in a short-distance event we now had a total of 7 and were level with Synge Street and well clear of the other schools.

The hop-step and jump in which I was also competing started during the mile race and the first round of jumps was being completed as the race finished. My first effort got me into the second round and by the time my

trun came again I was comfortably rested. My second jump was more than a foot clear of the best recorded but after some hesitation it was disallowed. Finally I was beaten into second place but the two points brought us ½ point ahead of Synge Street and the shot event was still to come.

It was now after 6 p.m. and our train was due to leave at 7. With victory a distinct possibility a risk had to be taken. Brookes was asked to have a taxi ready and waiting immediately the event was over. My best, however, was third place with one point, Synge Street were second which gave them victory by ½ a point.

I left Croke Park in my togs and dressed in the taxi which reached Kingsbridge as the train steamed out. Here was a trebble disaster, we had lost the Cup, we were marooned in Dublin with insufficient funds to cover our overnight stay and more serious still we had to face Fr. Ailbe's anger for missing the train. A hurried conference eased the financial problem and we decided Brookes would send a telegram to the College.

Eugene Boland who had competed in the 440 told me that his two sisters had a flat over Hynes' Pub at 32 Lower Mount Street where he could stay and he offered me accommodation if needed. My immediate decision was to go to relations in Lr. Dorset Street but there was a possibility they would be out of town for Whit. With the assurance of a place to stay Eugene and I decided to give to the other five whatever little cash we could with prudence spare, together with what remained of the travelling fund. Then he and I set off together separating at O'Connell Bridge.

As suspected my relations were out of town for Whit. So as to husband my small reserve of cash I decided to walk to Mount Street. My knowledge of the city was limited and needed to be supplemented by occasional enquiries. My route took me through Gardinar St., Mountjoy Square and into Lower Gardiner Street. It was while passing this area that a woman in a shawl ran shouting Oh! Oh! Oh! from one of the side streets. I being the only other person in sight thought in my country innocence, it would be a neighbourly act to enquire the nature of her trouble and

when I did so this was her response — "T'is Mickey Riley thats gone mad he came in drunk looking for Mary Ann his wife to kill her and when he couldn't find her he cut the cat's throat because he said a life had to go". With that information I bade a hasty farewell and hurried on my way.

It was a relief to reach Lower Mount Street, have a meal and a comfortable rest. I slept soundly on a settee and was out early next morning to pick up the papers. There were some good photographs which I still cherish.

We were impatient to meet the others and get a first hand account from Mustard of the evening's experience. They had stayed in Rosse's Hotel beside Kingsbridge; the team members had as much food as funds would permit while Brookes preferred to seek a Fish and Chip shop to satisfy his now relaxed appetite which excitement had seriously diminished during the previous three days. Mustard described his return to the hotel as "bloated, rubbing his stomach and belching freely. The belch smell was objectionable resembling that from a freshly opened pit of rotten potatoes".

The first available train was our only option and when we arrived at Roscrea Station the same two side-cars were there to meet us. The prospect of a stormy reception had banished any euphoria I might feel at my own personal success, but we did recognise the fact that we had been away without permission and whether or not we had won the Cup wouldn't have altered Fr. Ailbe's attitude.

As we rounded the last sweep of the avenue perched high on our side-cars, there he was at the front door in typical pose with the watch in his left hand and as Burns would say "Nursing his wrath to keep it warm". The tirade started before we dismounted and boys did he lacerate us, no man could do it better, poor old Brookes bore the main brunt of his onslaught. Nevertheless, he had a special meal ready for us which we enjoyed before resuming class.

Being the man he was, God rest his noble soul, he called me aside the following day to know how much each of us — but particularly Brookes — was out of pocket and to praise me for my own personal performance. It was well into the following year when I repeated to him Mustard's description of Brookes' return to Rosse's hotel. He laughed almost through a whole afternoon.

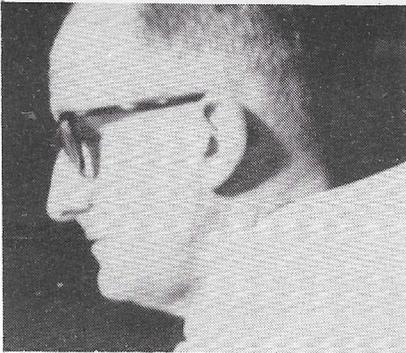


Guess Who! "Font of all Union goings" on and he gets it straight from the horse's mouth

# Obituary Notices

**Fr. Cronan Sherry (Brendan)** came to the College in September 1930 with his brothers Jack, Seamus and Vincent to keep an eye on him. He was one of the youngest boys in the College at the time and he spent the next six years there. From the beginning he was involved in the College orchestra and developed as a fine pianist under the tuition of Herr Paul Botz. At one time there were four Sherry brothers in the orchestra.

In 1934 Vincent Sherry was elected House Captain. The following year the next brother, Brendan, was elected to the office, which he fulfilled to the satisfaction of the students and Fr. Ailbe. He entered Mount Saint Joseph on the 15th August 1936 along with several others from the College and outside. He was just 17 years of age.



*Fr. Cronan Sherry as we often saw him.*

A month after he joined he received the novices habit and took the name of Cronan. For the next seven years he spent in study for the monastic life and preparation for the priesthood. He studied Philosophy and Music under Fr. Eugene Boylan who considered him not only an apt, but brilliant pupil. In later years Fr. Cronan took over these two duties and performed them with skill.

He was ordained to the priesthood on the 25th February, 1944 with three other monks, by Bishop Collier of Ossory.

Shortly after his ordination Fr. Ailbe asked the Abbot to send Fr. Cronan to the College to take charge of the Church Choir. In 1946 he became full time music teacher. That year he produced the Gondoliers for the Christmas opera, and the following year he did Ruddigore. He was made junior dean of discipline in 1947 under Fr. Ailbe and continued in that office after his death.

In 1950 he returned to the monastery as Master of the Brothers and Professor of Philosophy. Four years later he was sent to Tarrawarra as first Superior by Dom Camillus Claffey.

He eventually had twenty monks from Roscrea with him, and they spent the next six years fitting out a new monastery from the sprawling farmhouse they had bought. Living quarters for the monks, a separate novitiate and a Church were all built, and the Community was financially secure. It was time to raise it to the status of an Abbey. In the election that followed Dom Kevin O'Farrell was elected Abbot. Fr. Cronan's work was done

in Australia for the present. He returned to Roscrea in 1960, where he was appointed Father Master of the Brother Novices until Dom Camillus retired. Then Dom Eugene Boylan made him Bursar. Soon after Dom Eugene's death he returned to work as Choir Master in the monastery and did tremendous work at organising the music for the monks when the vernacular liturgy was introduced. During these years he also gave great support to the College Church choir.

In 1973, on the death of Fr. Thomas, he became Guest Master, and was in that position until he went to Tarrawarra for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Foundation. He left for Australia a second time on October 17th 1979. He died there March 7th 1985. May he rest in peace.

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**Noel Kinirons (1942)**, formerly of Roscrea town. He was one of three brothers who passed through C.C.R., and his sons have followed their father's footsteps. Noel had the unique distinction of being House Captain for two years in succession. He was a chemist by profession in Lucan, but lived with his family in Mulhuddard. One of his sons is still in the College. After a long illness he passed away in January of this year. His memory will be cherished by his many friends.

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**Msgr. Charles Hurley (1912)** formerly of St. Kevin's, Harrington St., was a native of Newmarket, Co. Cork. He retired from parochial work a few years ago. He died in St. Joseph's Hospice for the Dying last January. May he rest in peace. He was a nephew of Fr. Alberic Murphy of the monastery.

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**James J. O'Meara (1931)** formerly of Kilruane, Nenagh, died in Dublin, April 2, 1985. He lived in Woodside Grove, Rathfarnham. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. He was a director of the Capital Bottling Co. May he rest in peace.

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**David Flynn (1948)** died some months ago. Originally from near Turloughmore, Co. Galway, he was one of six brothers who came to Roscrea. May he rest in peace.

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**Dr. Paul O'Brien, (1927)**, a native of Fermoy, Co. Cork, died recently. He had been in medical practice in Carrick-on-Suir for many years. His sons Barry, John, Paul and Vincent were students in C.C.R. during the late 60's and early 70's. We offer them and the rest of the family our deepest sympathy.

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**Patrick J. Hoare, (1934)**, of Birr died in April 1985. He was the eldest of three brothers who came to Roscrea — Raymond who has retired from military service, and Gerard who is a dentist in Birr, were the others. May he rest in peace.

**Dr. Jim Norris, (1936)**, came from Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh. Soon after he qualified he went to practice in England. He settled in Huyton, Liverpool. In April of this year he died there peacefully fortified by the Rites of the Church. He was married to the sister of another Roscrea man, Dr. Ailbe O'Meara of San Jose. Jim had three sons and two daughters. We offer the family our deepest sympathy.

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**Stephen Griffin, (1923)**, was from Scatternagh, Swords, Co. Dublin where he was a well known farmer. He died in April 1985. An older brother Thomas also came to Roscrea — he passed away a few years back. May they both rest in peace. Stephen's son Eymard finished in the College in 1961.

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**James McCormick (1924)** was from Kilmanly. A well known farmer whose son Noel (1963) was also a pastman and is presently engaged in auctioneering and farming in the area.

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The Abbot and community of Our Lady of Tarrawarra in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Australia, earnestly ask your prayers and the usual Suffrages of our Order for **Brother Gabriel Curtis** who died on 2nd April 1985 at the age of 66 years. Brother Gabriel died very quietly and peacefully after a long illness. He was from Dublin, Ireland, and became a Cistercian in 1943 at our mother-house, Mount Saint Joseph, Roscrea, where his brother (now Fr. Emmanuel) had preceded him. But most of his monastic life was spent in Tarrawarra: almost exactly 30 years, for he was in one of the first groups of monks to come to the new foundation.

During all that time Gabriel was out truck-driver, motor mechanic and welder, plumber and many other things besides; but his sense of humour, his Dublin accent, end-to-end anecdotes and repertoire of tunes from the 30's and 40's, which you would often hear him singing or whistling — these are the things that will be remembered and talked about in the community for years to come. We will miss him.

Father Abbot said in his homily at the funeral that you understood Gabriel when you remembered that he was a Dubliner through and through, who grew up in that city in the 1920's and through the Depression. That meant plenty of hard work, but it also gave him a liveliness and optimism and the experience of close family life. It also meant a great devotion to the Eucharist, to prayer and to the will of God.

And that, in the end, was what was most characteristic of Gabriel — he was obedient to God's word in whatever way it came to him. This surely explains the peace and resignation with which he accepted his last illness: he remained alert and in good spirits to the end. May he rest in peace.

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**Michael Madden, (1933)**, of Roscrea died on the 14th May. His sudden passing was a great shock to his family and many friends. He was a frequent visitor to the monastery at any of the functions held there and also at the socials of the North Tipperary Branch. He had a newsagency and shop in Roscrea.

# The West's Awake

The Galway-Mayo-Sligo Branch held their Reunion Dinner on March 23rd, 1985 in the exclusive Westwood Restaurant in Galway City following a lapse of about ten years in "involuntary hibernation". This traditional Union stronghold proved they are back again as a serious force, and intend to remain so.

Sixty-five Past Students sat down to a superb meal. Guests of honour were the College President Fr. Kevin; the Union General Secretary, Fr. Dermot; and the Union President, Mr. Kevin Dwan. The importance of this particular Reunion was reflected by the large attendance of distinguished members of other branches including Noel Windle (past President); Frank Cullen (Dublin Chairman); Conor Massey (Dublin); Dr. Bernard Sherry (Past President, Dublin); Michael Roche (Chairman South Tipperary Branch); Liam Hanley (Chairman, Limerick-Clare Branch); Dr. Cathan Bredin (South Western Branch); John Keoghan (Vice Chairman South Eastern Branch); Dr. Gay Murphy (Midland Branch). We had one Non-Past Student in Mr. Frank Coen (Castleknock) and we trust he enjoyed being with us, as much as we enjoyed having him.

In his address to the gathering, the Chairman Dr. Sean Murphy (C.C.R. 55-60) congratulated the Past Men on their fine turn-out, and expressed his deep appreciation at having the Galway-Mayo-Sligo Branch back in action. He introduced the guests and other branch members individually, to loud applause and in particular Mr. Noel Windle, who is aptly called "Mr. Roscrea", with good reason. The presence of a contingent of U.C.G. students was noted as auguring well for the future. He thanked the Secretary Pauric O'Maille, and the committee for their hard work in contacting the Past Men and organising the dinner.

He then proposed the toast to the College, with the unique inclusion of the senior rugby team, for having three days previously won the first ever senior trophy, by taking the Leinster Plate back to Roscrea.

Fr. Kevin replied on behalf of the College and Kevin Dwan on behalf of the Union. The

final official speech was made by Dr. Gerry Meehan, the previous Branch Chairman. There were, of course, many other Orators, who made fine speeches later on in the bar, particularly with the rising blood alcohol level. There were many humorous and nostalgic exchanges, with the renewing of old friendships and the making of new ones.

It was an extraordinary informal and enjoyable night and has been acclaimed then and since as being an exceptional Reunion. It ended in the Westwood at about 3.30 a.m. with the departure of about fifteen to the Ardilaun Hotel for an overnight stay. No one is saying what time they got to bed, but a letter from Frank Cullen stated that he finally made it home at 1 a.m. on March 25th! having stopped at six 'watering holes' between Galway and Dublin on Sunday, in the company of Noel Windle and Barney Sherry.

It is safe to say, this Reunion Dinner will now be an annual affair, and we advise all who missed it this year, for various reasons, to make it their priority next year, as it will be even bigger and better than this years.

## The Abbot's Cup

Will be played in Roscrea Golf Club on Saturday, October 5th 1985. Competition open to all Past Pupils. In addition to the Abbot's Cup there will be numerous prizes. Entry including green fees, £7. Dinner in the club house that evening, £6.50.

Tee-reserved from 12-2 p.m. President will donate a prize also to any of the ladies and friends of past pupils who wish to play on same day. Those attending the dinner should confirm with Mr. Gerry Maher — Phone the College, Roscrea 0505/21072 or Home 0505/47245.



Front row: Fr. Kevin Daly, (College President), Fr. Sean Murphy (Chairman), Mr. Kevin Dwan, Union President, Fr. Dermot (General Secretary). Back row: Dr. Gerry Meehan, Pauric Ó Máille, Michael Keohane, Dr. Hugh Bredin.

# Branch Officers 1985

**Dublin:** Chairman, Michael Coyle, 18 Gilford Park, Sandymount, Dublin 4; Vice Chairman, Conor Massey, Wynberg House, Stradbroke Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin; Secretary, Noel Hayes, 184 Ryevale Lawns, Leixlip, Co. Kildare; Treasurer, Terry Gleeson (address not available) ph. H/961260; O/601033.

**Midlands:** Chairman, John Dolan, Brosna Lodge, Kibeggan, Co. Westmeath; Secretary, Paul Wrafter, Patrick St., Tullamore, Co. Offaly; Treasurer, Eugene Garvey, Harbour St., Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

**Galway/Mayo:** Chairman, Dr. Sean Murphy, Portumna, Co. Galway; Secretary, Padraic O'Maille, 1 Shop Street, Galway; Treasurer, Neil Johnson, 109 Upper Newcastle, Galway. Committee members: Dr. Gerry Mahan, Dr. Hugh Bredin, Mr. Michael Keoghan, Dr. Aidan O Colmain.

**Limerick/Clare:** (New set-up not fully defined yet). Chairman, Liam Hanley, 'Chante Marle', Ennis Road, Limerick; Secretary, Joe O'Connor, 25, Highfield, Ennis Road, Limerick; Treasurer, Michael Carr, Derrynane House, O'Connell St., Ennis, Co. Clare.

**South West:** Chairman, Seamus Gallagher, Loughlee House, Western Road, Cork; Sec./Treasurer, John Kelly, Rathcoursey East, Middleton, Co. Cork.

**South Tipperary:** Chairman, Michael Roche, Urlingford (via Thurles), Co. Kilkenny; Secretary, Conor Moloney, Clobanna, Thurles, Co. Tipperary; Treasurer, John Purcell, St. John's Park, Dublin Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

**North Tipperary:** Chairman, John Cahill, tullaskeagh, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary; Secretary, Brendan Galvin, Brookwatson, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary; Treasurer, Gerard Maher, Milltown, Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly.

**South East:** Chairman, Pat O'Shea, "Goodwood", Ashley Court, College Road, Kilkenny; Secretary, John Comerford, Burrell's Park, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny; Treasurer, Pat Crotty, 14 Oak Road, Dukes Meadow, Kilkenny. (Never sure in the above set up who is who!).

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 8th  
1985

# News of Pastmen

**Ronald McCarthy** of Kenmare (1977) is at present in the U.S.A. doing a post graduate course for a Masters degree in Science. He already has his B.Sc., H.Dip.E. and last year did a H.D.E. in Computer Sc.

**Donal McHale** (1980) who came from Menlough, Co. Galway, who last June graduated with Hons. in Engineering from U.C.G., is now Production Engineer with Verbatim Ltd. in Limerick.

**John Sheehy** of Dingle (1980) is on his last year at Rathmines College of Commerce doing Accountancy.

**Alan Grace** (1969) who came from Freshford, was recently appointed Lecturer in Hotel Management at the Regional College, Athlone. Two years ago he married Cathrine McNulty. They have one child, Sarah.

**Adrian Smith** (1970) of Malahide, has been in London for the past four years. He is employed by a London Tenants Organisation as their development worker.

**Michael Grace** (1978) a native of Ballyraggett, Co. Kilkenny, emigrated to England on completion of his course in Architecture at Bolton Street College. There are five people in the Architects office in which he works — three are Irish!

**Brendan Murphy** (1965) came from Cork. He now lives in Dublin and has been appointed Assistant General Manager of I.C.C. Corporate Finance.

**Frank Greene** (1969) one of the second generation of Greens from Damma House, Kilkenny, married Carol Duffy in Barna Church, Co. Galway. They live in Mullingar, where Frank is assistant manager of the AIB.

**Cormac O'Sullivan** (1976) from Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, has been in Gambia, West Africa since 1983. He is employed in the Government Planning and Design Department.

Two new officers of the 60th cadet class at the Military College who were commissioned recently were **Paul Murphy** of Roscrea and **Seadna Ryan** of Lanesborough.

**Sean McMahon** (1943) Dublin, Senior Executive of the Canada Life Assurance Co. has been appointed a Director to the Board of the Company in Ireland.

**Frank Cullen** (1965) well known to most members of the Union as Chairman of the Dublin Branch, has passed on the office to Michael Coyle at the last a.g.m. of the Branch, but he retains his place on the Committee. Recently he resigned as marketing and sales director of Fiat (Ireland) Ltd. to establish his own marketing consultancy, **Frank M. Cullen & Associates**. He will be offering counselling and project services to

clients in industry, commerce and finance. He began his career as a marketing trainee with Lincoln and Nolan Ltd. He joined Fiat in 1970. Frank has also resigned from the Board of directors of Fiat Auto Finance Ltd., a company jointly owned by Fiat and UDT Ireland. We wish him well in his new undertakings.

After over forty one years of wandering the globe as an Army doctor, and then in General Practice in Germany, **Peter Power** has decided to hang up his boots and stethoscope and retire to his house at Kerry Pike — near Blarney — where he has already made arrangements to join the activities of the South Western Branch of the Union.

We heard recently of another new supporter in the Cork area. **Brendan Lynch**, formerly of Foxrock, Dublin, has also returned from abroad. He has taken a post in Cork where he intends to live when he gets married in the near future. Brendan left C.C.R. in 1977. His father, Frank, was President of the Union a few years ago.

**Fr. Austin O'Neill** was from Grange, Co. Limerick. He was in C.C.R. 1948 to 1954 and was a notable hurler. Ordained for the English Mission, he is now Parish Priest of St. Aelred's — one of the Cistercian Saints of England who was a friend of St. Bernard. Fr. O'Neill now lives at St. Aelred's Presbytery, Fifth Avenue, Tang Hall Estate, York, England.

**Philip Meagher** is a past-man we do not often hear of. A native of Templemore, he finished in C.C.R. in 1944 and is now a Solicitor in Portlaoise. He married a Tipperary girl, Noreen Brady, and they have seven children — four girls and three boys. They live at "Larchgrove", Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

**Jospeh McCarthy** has not moved far from home since he left Roscrea in 1935. He retired from business in 1967, and lives at "Holmcroft", North Circular Road, Limerick. His brother, Fr. Christy, R.I.P. had a much more varied life. He spent from 1921 to 1928 in Roscrea and then joined the Redemptorists. He is best known for his work in Clonard Monastery, Belfast for his work for peace and ecumenism.

**Louis Hogan** was a native of Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare. He was in C.C.R. 1936 to 1940 and he then joined the Army in which he attained the highest rank.

Speaking at his standing down parade, Lt.-Gen. Hogan hit out at what he called "the perilous lack of respect of law, for property and for life".

He said there was an aggressive thrust from a "certain section" of the population to change our way of life. The predominant doctrine was a "mé féin" attitude where a man's neighbour had no place. There was also a danger that the state was vulnerable to subversion, added Lt.-Gen. Hogan.

"The unfortunate Northern Ireland situation, with its attendant subversive influence, continues to have ominous and serious implications" the Army chief said. Another worry was the danger of disillusionment in our young people.



Addressing a gathering which included the Minister for Defence and heads of the Air Corps and Naval Service, Lt.-Gen. Hogan said: "You are the guarantors of our state and this code puts a special onus on you above all others to serve this great land and it's fine people and to give it your total commitment".

He said that his lifetime of service in the Defence Forces had given him a sense of faith in those with whom he served. "These dangers I have outlined will, I trust, find little sustenance or support among you".

The Minister for Defence Mr. Cooney said the role of the Defence Forces had increased enormously in recent years and its importance was recognised by all sections of the community. "I have been impressed by the efficiency of the members of the forces and the disciplined way in which they undertake their duty", he said.

The Minister praised Lt.-Gen. Hogan for the qualities he brought to bear in his important tasks both in his role as Chief of Staff and with the forces of the United Nations.

Lt.-Gen. Hogan was presented with the Distinguished Service Medal 1st Class for "displaying outstanding qualities of leadership, resource, devotion to duty and humanity in guiding the Defence Forces through a most critical time".

A native of Chertigue, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare, he joined the Defence Forces in 1940 and was commissioned into the Infantry Corps in 1941. He served with the United Nations in Lebanon (1958), Congo (1960), Cyprus (1965) and the Middle East (1969-71).

Lt.-Gen. Hogan was appointed Chief of Staff in June 1981. He will be succeeded from midnight tonight by Major-General Gerald O'Sullivan.



*Lieut-General Louis Hogan receiving his award from Baron Gustav Hamilton, Swedish Ambassador.*

# South East Branch Function

The South East Branch under the capable leadership of Pat O'Shea, John Comerford, Pat Crotty and John Keoghan held their annual function on Saturday night, 24th November 1984. It is realistic to report that this function surpassed all previous functions in the detail of organisation, entertainment and the highest possible standard of cuisine as supplied by the Newpark Hotel Kilkenny.

The distinguished guests included Very Rev. Dr. L. Forristal, Bishop of Ossory; Very Rev. Kevin Daly, President of the College; Mr. Kevin Dwan, President of the Union, his charming wife Lucy and immediate Past President Noel Windle.

On this occasion the committee had requested it's local supporters not to organise "pre warm-up" home parties. Instead — to arrive early (8.00 p.m. sharp) to a pre dinner reception at the ballroom foyer at the hotel where everyone were treated to a high quality hot punch or drink of their choice on arrival. Live piano entertainment then continued from the reception through dinner where the 165 guests were treated with Hors D'Oeuvre Varies followed by choice of soup; the pallet then being refreshed with a crisp lemon sorbet before starting an elegantly presented individual fillets of beef wellington-Medeira sauce with stuffed tomato — Broccoli Hollandaise. The main course was then followed with a fresh orange surprise — Petit Fours — cheese board — coffee and liquours.

In his welcoming address to the gathering of Pastmen and their friends from various parts of the country, local Chairman Pat O'Shea had a special welcome for the visiting Branch Chairmen, Frank Cullen, Dublin; John Cahill, Nth. Tipperary, Michael Roche, Sth. Tipperary. Eugene Garvey, Midlands Chairman, had tendered his apologies for inability to attend with Bernadette — he was busily purchasing his wedding gear! A special welcome was also accorded to representatives of the College Staff Mr. and Mrs. Pat Sheedy and Mr. and Mrs. Brendan O'Ruairc. The presence of representatives of the teaching staff added a tremendous spirit of unity to the occasion which was rounded off by the presence also of parents of present and past students. He said the committee are highly appreciative of very loyal grassroot support received every year from Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Tipperary, Laois, Carlow, and Kilkenny and without this support the function would never be the success that it is.

Bishop Laurence Forristal, in his address to the gathering congratulated Fr. Kevin Daly on his recent appointment as President of the

College and assured him of our full support and wished him every success in the future. In response Fr. Kevin expressed his appreciation of the very kind remarks passed by Bishop Forristal and then went on to give an account of his stewardship to date and summarised his hopes and aspirations for the College and the Monastery in the future.

As the wine flowed and the speeches continued, so too did the jovial heckling reach its usual crescendo during President Kevin Dwan's speech. Earlier, Bishop Forristal had remarked that he was at the blessing of a new cemetery recently and that if Rom Massey was interested in receiving further information regarding its location etc. he should apply in writing to his Secretariat!

Dancing continued until 3.15 in a spirit of total conviviality. The Dublin Brigade were led dancing on the floor by immediate Past President Noel Windle, closely followed by the Massey fraternity Rom and Conor and their wives. Frank Cullen, Michael Coyle and Billy Murphy who has now moved to Enniscorthy also made their presence felt not only in the bar but also on the floor (dancing of course). The continued support over the past ten years from John F. Walsh and Tom Ambrose and their party who have been regular attenders with their wives is very much appreciated by the local committee.

The rugby fans will also be interested to hear that Ned Byrne brought along Willie Duggan in order to check out Tom Hastings ability at scrummaging. Other prominent party goers were the McEvoy family and their friends from Wexford plus Sean and Ann McCarthy; Michael Roche and party; the Donal O'Brien party; Jack and Ned Dwan and their wives; Dr. and Mrs. Colum O'Colmain; Joe O'Shea, Neill O'Donoghue, Colin Erwin, Seán Murphy and the Michael O'Brien party from Stradbally. At least 60 guests then remained on to partake in a singing session led by Conor Massey at the piano and ably assisted by Ann McCarthy, Lucy Dwan and a beautiful voice from the Michael O'Brien party whose name escapes us at the moment. Solos were also rendered by Kevin Dwan, Sean McCarthy, Rom Massey and other voices from the McEvoy party and Billy Murphy. Old Gilbert and Sullivan also received a great airing.

The overall function may be deemed an overwhelming success and everyone is assured that the next function to be held at Newpark Hotel on Saturday night, 23rd November 1985, will be equally as enjoyable. Please put this date, now, into your diary.

# North Tipperary Function

The North Tipperary Branch of the Past Pupils Union held its annual function in Roundwood House, Mountrath, Co. Laois. Credit for this inspired choice of venue goes to the Branch Secretary — Brendan Galvin, who had previously partaken in the culinary delights on offer and had emerged suitably impressed.

This Georgian house provided the perfect ambiance for the night and the various reception rooms available for the night's guests assisted greatly in the general socialising and conversation that went on.

The buffet meal served was compared favourably with previous fares presented by the South Tipperary Branch — high praise indeed. The meal and the ample quantities of wine available with it ensured an animated response for the speeches that followed.

The main speakers of the evening were Union President, Mr. Kevin Dwan, Rev. Fr. Kevin, attending his first North Tipperary function as President of the College. Their speeches were followed by a draw for two stand tickets for the Ireland/France Rugby match and a raider from Dublin, Mr. Pat Coman who was the lucky winner.

For the remainder of the night animated dialogue and singing provided the pattern. The occasion was added to considerably by the presence of the Union's two immediate past Presidents — Mr. Noel Windle and Mr. Pat O'Shea, the latter accompanied by his wife Margaret.

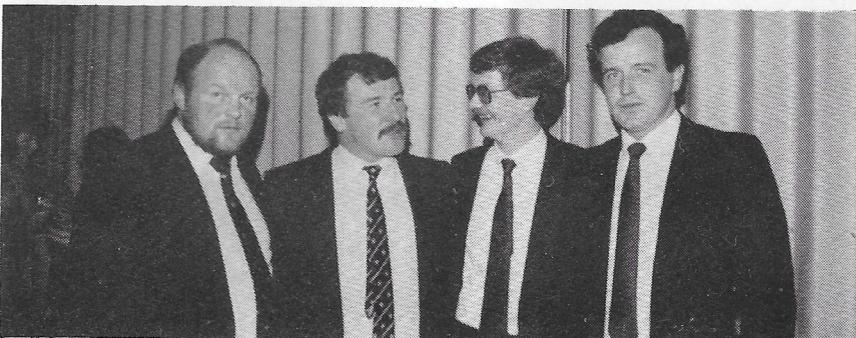
At 3 a.m. soup and rolls were served — mainly to get rid of those who were threatening to stay on for breakfast. All in all a most enjoyable occasion and full congratulations to the families involved in running Roundwood House.

One final note on the proceedings, as I was departing, I happened to ask the Manager if everything had passed off satisfactorily. "A marvellous crowd", he replied, "but some of the singing was some of the worst I have ever heard". *Phelan* brothers please note!

However some problems exist, firstly: a tiny number of North Tipperary past pupils attended — the total attendance was short of 50. Brendan Galvin had written to each listed past pupil encouraging him to attend, and the response could not be described as satisfactory. The small number attending add to the cost of the tickets (£15 each) and many recent past men — particularly those in 3rd level find such prices prohibitive. I would be interested in hearing from other branches how well their annual dinners are being attended.

We in the North Tipperary have already had the suggestion made to us to combine with another area for one function in the year. It is certainly an idea will bear in mind, particularly in light of the small numbers who attended over the past two years.

G. P. Maher



At Abbeyshrule: l. to r.: Frank Canavan, Eugene Garvey, Tommy Lyndon, Gerard Mellott.

The South Tipperary Branch of the Past Pupils Union produced this issue of the Review.

## Limerick/Clare Branch

### Function Report

On Friday the 10th May last the Limerick/Clare Branch of the Union held a most enjoyable function in the Carlton Suite, New Parkway Centre, Limerick. Our Chairman, Lian Hanley acted as host and in his speech welcomed most warmly our guests, Father Kevin, President of the College, Kevin Dwan, President of the Union and all the past men who attended. Father Kevin in his address said how glad he was to be amongst us. He spoke of his appreciation of the help of the Union members in career guidance to students and felt confident that this co-operation would continue in the years ahead. He stated that this guidance and direction was now more essential than ever in these difficult times of employment and placement.

Kevin Dwan, President of the Union then addressed us. He congratulated the Limerick Branch for organising the function and thought that the Past Pupils were great to come in such large numbers on such a nice long evening. He thanked the branch officers and committee for the invitation and said it was a pleasure to be with them.

He spoke of the reason why Past men should be good Past Pupils Union Members and asked that every Union member should give of their best for the continuous success of the Union.

Concluding his speech he spoke of all the values and standards he had received while at college, and felt that he should give back something in return. Many Past Pupils return each year for a career guidance day to help the students and advise them on their futures. The President felt with the present economic

climate that with jobs so scarce, each past pupil who has attained success in their careers, should try and accommodate as many students as possible in a job and give them a start in life, and maybe our recession will have abated after a short period of time.

The attendance was representative of many parts of Limerick and Clare, Kilrush, 50 miles away, was particularly well represented, and of course Co. Limerick and the city were also to the fore.

It was noticeable that each table had its own particular age groups. Our table consisted of the Pre-War students. A sort of 'Dads Army' of a group. Just for the night they were not past students but present students in their behaviour. Each had a story to tell commencing with "Do you remember the day that . . .". One of us recalled that he had to write out thirty times "UT meaning as, when, or how takes the subjunctive". How exciting, its like discovering a new comet! Forty years have gone by and he is still waiting for an opportunity to use 'this intelligence'. In the meantime however, he has forgotten what the subjunctive is. Never mind it won't be on the examination paper on the Day of Judgement.

All in all we had a most enjoyable and friendly evening as we sat around till the early hours to "summon up remembrance of things past".

We all look forward to the next function of the Limerick/Clare Branch in October, which this time will be for past men, their wives and friends.

Joe O'Connor

## Midland Branch

### Annual Dinner

The annual dinner of the Branch was held in the Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule on 8th March. Following an excellent meal, the new Chairman, Mr. John Dolan, welcomed the guests, Mr. Kevin Dwan, Union President and his wife Lucy and Fr. Dermot, Secretary of the Union who was also representing the Abbot and the teaching staff. Following replied by the guests a very pleasant evenings dancing and singing ensued with the Union President to the fore. The attendance was much as last year, with the promised invasion from West of the Shannon not materialising due to Creggs impending cup tie the following day.

### Funds for Review

Midland Branch members are asked not to forget about the Chairman plea for donations to fund printing and posting the Review. Donations of £20.00 are required from each member to ensure its continued existence. Paul Wrafter, William Street, Tullamore (Treasurer) will readily accept cheques and postal orders.

### Nuptials

The wedding took place on 11th January between Secretary of the Branch, Eugene Garvey and Bernadette Lyndon of Birr. Amongst those in attendance at the aftermath festivities were past pupils Shay Garvey, brother of the groom, Jim, Tommy and Sean Lyndon, brothers of the bride. David O'Connell, Sean Loughnane, Denis Finn, Johnny Dolan, Paul Wrafter, Tony Bennett, Eddie Enright and Brendan Hyland.

## Dublin Branch A.G.M.

The Dublin Branch held its a.g.m. in the Cedar Rooms at Jury's Hotel on April 1st. A moderate attendance heard a very satisfactory report of the activities of the year from the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Frank Cullen, the highlight of which was the Review fund draw which had received magnificent support, not least from well wishing pastmen around the country.

Michael Coyle, that ever popular Dick Spring look-alike, was the unanimous choice to take over the reins from Frank, and the committee, which was subsequently elected, reflected the youthfulness of the new Chairman, along with a few more seasoned campaigners, headed by the youngest septuagenarian of them all, whose activities range from chasing the wild deer and following the roe in place as far apart as Arizona and the Black Forest mountains to dispensing commercial guidance to the gentler adherents of the Rule of St. Benedict in the shadow of the Beana Beola, the irregressible Matt Hyland.

It shouldn't be forgotten that Matt was one of the founding fathers of the South Tipp. Branch, and many are of the opinion that it was that apprenticeship, served by the banks of the Suir, which fashioned the urbane credite sophisticate we all know and love.

Tipperary's loss has been Dublin's gain and Matt's reasoned contributions to discussions are highly valued. Mild of manner he may be, but, nevertheless, when aroused, he has a tongue that could clip a hedge, and many a would-be caucus organiser has had reason to feel he had been filleted with a sharp knife.

Rather than adopt the traditional practice of doing nothing over the summer months, Michael has been delegating tasks to the more eager of the committee, the most ambitious project being the compilation of a professional directory of pastmen which can be used as an adjunct to the career guidance scheme of Fr. Andrew's. It is hoped that this will be completed by the Autumn when the decks will be cleared for the social season.

All in all, the vibrancy of recent years, which started under the chairmanship of Dick O'Connor, is being sustained by the present committee and the future is being faced with considerable optimism.

Officers of the Dublin Branch: Chairman, Michael Coyle; Secretary, Noel Hayes; Treasurer, Terry Gleeson; Vice-Chairman, Connor Massey. Committee: Matt Hyland, Noel Windle, Frank Cullen, Aidan McNulty, Eamon Tansey, Peter Collier, and John Kinirons.

## South Western Branch

Dinner Dance and Weekend Away — 1st and 2nd November, 1985 — Following the success of last year's dinner dance and weekend away it has been unanimously decided to return to the Park Hotel, Kenmare in November 1985. We have been fortunate enough to have been able to keep our prices down considerably, in fact the weekend rate has not changed at all. There will also be a golf competition this year and a tennis competition if enough interest is shown.

We also encourage past pupils to bring their friends to share in the enjoyment at the following special Union rates: Dinner Dance, £23; Special over-night bed and breakfast rate, £20 per person sharing; Special weekend rate, two days bed and breakfast and dinner dance on Saturday night, £63 per person sharing; Single room supplement, £8 per person per night.

Bookings can be made with Jim Murphy, Park Hotel, Kenmare, Co. Kerry, 064/41200.

Last year was a great success, even though numbers were disappointing, it is your support that we need to ensure that this year's function is even more enjoyable and guarantee the future of these worthwhile occasions.