

ROSCREA

REVIEW

No. 52

Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Autumn 1988

FROM TOM AMBROSE, THE PRESIDENT

It seems only a very short while since I began the two year spell as President of our Union, yet Fr. Dermot's recent reminder to write a few lines for the Review emphasises that my term of office is at an end. I wish to thank each and every one of you for your support and enthusiasm during the past two years and to say how much I appreciated the honour of being president.

It was a great honour and privilege to be at the heart of Roscrea P.P.U. activities during this time, to again be involved in some of the high points of the College life, to have the honour of meeting with the Community at a few special occasions and most of all delighted to visit the different branches throughout the country and to celebrate with them at their annual function. My wife Masie and I were warmed by the welcome shown to us during these many visits.

Most of the branches of the Union throughout the country are alive and well. I was disappointed that efforts to revive the Limerick one were again in vain — it seems a pity that a district with so many pastmen cannot produce a committee to mount even one function per year. I was sorry not to be able to visit the South East Branch during my term of office but they failed to hold an event this year or last. Otherwise the Union is in a healthy state and we had most enjoyable visits to Sligo, Galway, Cork, Tullamore and Thurles. It is always a great pleasure to meet old and new faces at these gatherings of the past students and their friends, to again be renewed in spirit with the influence and memory of C.C.R. and to be involved once more with so many people with a common background and mutual interest as they celebrate in their own localities. To lighten the load that inevitably falls on the shoulders of the few who organise these functions, I suggest we consider combining the annual outings of two neighbouring branches and/or the holding every two years of the branch function. This would mean that the same group would have to do the work every second year only, the centre chosen could move around so that it would be more accessible to different groups each year and would, if successful, produce a wider cross-section, in terms of age and geography, of past students meeting at these functions.

Of course it is important that any change would not upset functions already running smoothly and very successfully, but in the Branches where we have difficulty getting

reasonable numbers to participate some new format might improve things. Our ultimate must always be to see the Branch participate in an appropriate charitable activity but this involves having an active committee and a coherent group of past men in the locality — a good annual function is the best way to produce these conditions and that must be achieved first.

I would now like to draw your attention to a few activities which involve the pastmen nationwide and to encourage all of you to participate as much as you possibly can. First and foremost is our Union Day in the College. It is the main event in the Past Pupils calendar, an opportunity for all of us to meet, to hear Mass together, and restre the spirit of C.C.R. past — and during the A.G.M. to discuss matters of mutual interest and to ensure the growth and survival of the P.P.U. in all the districts. To encourage as many as possible to come, we have made two changes in the arrangements: (a) moving the weekend to the last in September i.e. Sunday, September 25th, so that the boys would be present in the college and not on the mid term break and (b) making the lunch the Union Day meal, to which all pastmen and their partners are invited, so that after the A.G.M., Union Day is over and people can travel home in daylight.

Associated with the A.G.M. is the golf competition on the previous day for the Lord Abbot's Cup. This is held in Roscrea Golf Club and has been superbly organised by Gerry Maher and Brendan Galvin for the past number of years. There is also a competition for Ladies and the day is rounded off with a meal in the Clubhouse that evening. Recently there have been over fifty pastmen playing and I recommend the occasion strongly to all of you interested in the game, as the perfect prelude to Union Day. The only social event organised by the Central Committee of the Union is the week-end away in the Park Hotel, Kenmare on November 11th and 12th. It has been held now for the past four years and affords us an opportunity to stay at one of Ireland's finest hotels for a very special rate. There is a danger of losing this booking if the numbers participating do not improve so I earnestly ask you to consider making that week-end your long promised "few days away from it all" — the superb hotel, the glorious surroundings, the outdoor activity at golf, tennis, and rambling the beautiful countryside plus the excellent value of the reduced rate, make the long journey involved well worth while.

In conclusion I wish to again express my thanks to all who have made my term of office such a pleasant one. A very special word of gratitude to our General Secretary Fr. Dermot without whose constant help and experienced support the President's lot would be an impossible one. It is his extraordinary work for us that has made our Union the envy of most other schools with vastly bigger numbers than ours. I thank him for his kindness, patience and friendship especially these past two years. It is with a degree of sadness that I come to the end of my period as President. I much appreciated the honour you bestowed on me in giving me this office and I wish all the best to my successor Sean Murphy — I hope he enjoys his two years even half as much as I did.

DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

Golf
Lord Abbot's Cup Championship
Saturday, 24th September
Roscrea Golf Club.

Union Day
Sunday, 25th September

Annual Dublin Dinner
4th November, 1988
United Service Club,
St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.

South Tipperary Dinner Dance,
4th November 1988
Anner Hotel, THurles.

National "Weekend Away"
11th - 12th November,
Park Hotel, Kenmare.
See text.

NEWS ABOUT PAST STUDENTS

MICHAEL CUMMINS (Comdt. retired), 1911. Michael came to C.C.R. from Dublin in 1908 so his memories go back to the dawn of College history. To him it seems like yesterday. He joined the Army at the foundation of the State and remained with it all his working life. On his retirement he settled once again in Dublin, where he says proudly his Parish Priest is also a C.C.R. man — Fr. Denis Foley.

ANDREW McTIERNAN (1982) qualified in Chemical Engineering at U.C.D. 1986. He took an assignment with General Electric Super-abrasives, Columbus, Ohio, where is at present involved in developing a plant size process for a chemical research programme. In one of his previous assignments Andrew was responsible for a vendor qualification programme, which involved liaison with vendors and the introduction of statistical process control of raw materials. Andrew is a native of Kilkenny and one of three brothers who attended C.C.R.

DR. JOHN S. GUINAN (1928), formerly from Cloghan, Co. Offaly, has spent over fifty years working as a doctor in England

ROBERT DOORLY (1986) came from Milltown House, Banagher. He is now with the A.I.B. in Thurles.

PETER HYNES, who was captain of the House 1986/'87 and came from Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon, has joined the Wild Geese and gone to England. At present he is at 8 Welley Avenue, Wraysbury, Nr. Staines, Middx. TW19 5HE.

TONY GARAHY (1976) — another Cloghan man of more recent vintage — is a Training Manager with Macra na Feirme, and a staunch supporter of the Career Guidance seminars in the College.

JAMES BARDON (1962), originally from Abbey-leix was recently appointed director general of the Irish Bankers Federation. Jim is moving over from the Bank of Ireland, where he was senior manager in the Group's Executive's office.

PETER FARRELL (1957) from Ballylinan, Athy, is a frequent visitor to C.C.R. He never misses a Sports Day.

BRIAN FOLEY (1978), from Tralee, is now with the A.I.B., 209/211, Lewisham High St., Lewisham, London SE13 6LY.

JOHN FENNESSY (1961) a native of Dublin, one of the famous 4A who had a very successful class reunion in 1986. At present alternates his activities between Vienna and Beirut. He is the Deputy Director of U.N.R.W.A. It is a responsible and dangerous position. He spent a number of years in Amman, Jordan, with the same organization where he was able to have his family with him. Now they have returned to Dublin, where his two children are at school.

SEAN LYNDON (1973), from Birr has formed a shoe company in Dublin — Import and Wholesale — following the family tradition. He now lives in Dollymount Avenue, Clontarf. We wish him every success in his undertaking.

RAY MOLLOY (1980) who came from Mount Verdant, Kilkenny, is now an Engineer with Digital in Galway.

JAMES TRAYERS (1980) has moved into farming, and lives in Oranmore, Co. Galway. He is married to Mary Cummins.

JAMES KEANE (1976) formerly of Moyvore, Mullingar, is married and has moved to Australia.

JUSTIN PHELAN (1981) is a Quantity Surveyor at present working in London.

DECLAN PHELAN (1984) — a brother of the above — has gone into the home business in Durrow, Co. Tipperary. There were four brothers in C.C.R..

CONOR IRWIN (1980) like his father Colm in Navan, is a Dentist. He is at present practising in Southsea, Portsmouth, England.

PETER GAVIGAN (1980) from Collinstown, Mullingar, is now teaching English somewhere in France.

FRANK FAHEY (1979) from Charleville Road, Tullamore, has taken his Finals in Medicine.

PAT AND DENIS COMAN (1980) from Rathgar, Dublin are both in the family business.

GARARD McGARRY (1958) has his B. Sc. and B.E. He is involved in Rural development and is Chairman of Enterprise Connacht / Donegal. He lives in Ballyhaunis, is married and has five children. Always a keen Irish scholar, he shares his love of the language with his family.

JAMIE STEWART HOULIHAN (1961), formerly Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, has been elected Vice Chairman and chief financial director of the Riordan Group, Harrow, London.

JOHN B. HOULIHAN (1963), brother of the above, was elected Vice President of Booz, Allen and Hamilton International (U.K.) Ltd.

KIERAN FITZGERALD (1979), from Glin, Co. Limerick, is working as a researcher for the Late Late Show on R.T.E. Formerly he was a continuity announcer.

JOHN McHUGH (1979), a native of Mullingar was also engaged in research for the Late Late, but he has recently moved over to the B.B.C. His brother Brendan is a professed member of the Community in Roscrea.

MARK REDMOND (1984), former House Captain, from Enniscorthy. Graduated from Trinity and is now with Craig Gardner, Chartered Accountants, Dub'in.

ANTHONY WHELAN (1985), Scarrif, has also been elected Auditor of the Trinity College Debating Society.

TONY O'GRADY (1985), Killeenale, has graduated from U.C.C. in Law.

DONAL TAFFE (1984), Dublin, has graduated from U.C.D. in Law.

DONAL HARRINGTON, (1985) from Ferbane graduated in Commerce from U.C.G.

JIM GIBBONS (Jnr.) (1971) who came from Dunmore, Co. Kilkenny, has followed in the family tradition and gone into politics. His father Jim (Snr.) was Minister for Defence and Agriculture in former Fianna Fail Governments, and his brother Martin is T.D. for the Progressive Democrats in Carlow / Kilkenny. Jim seeks the nomination of the P.D.s for the Leinster constituency in next year's elections to the European Parliament.

NEIL JOHNSON, (1979), from Ardagh, Limerick, is Director of a group called Combined Action which is being trained in Galway with Government assistance. The Group consists of six young people between the ages of 17 and 24 who have been awarded a FAS teamwork grant to train in addiction prevention and intervention issues. The scheme is the first of its kind in Ireland. On the completion of their training the Group members will be issued with a special VEC certification and will be available to visit schools throughout the city and county during the coming academic year. They are liaising with all the major groups concerned with the welfare of young people in Galway.

JOHN CAHILL (1956), of Tullaskeagh, Roscrea, has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Trustees and of the Committee of Roscrea Heritage Centre (Damer House). He is also involved in the Round Tower Development Project. John was chairman of the North Tipperary Branch of the Union before the present incumbent, Brendan Galvin of Nenagh.

CONOR McCULLAGH, (1979), was from "Valhalla", Sheephouse, Drogheda, and on finishing in C.C.R. he went on a scholarship to an American university — Villa Nova — where he qualified as an occupational therapist. He married in America and has been there since. Athletics have been a way of life for Conor, and he recently returned to the Santry Stadium in Dublin where he threw the hammer 243 feet and qualified for the Seoul Olympics. This was all the more remarkable as he had been the victim of a vicious stabbing attack in Sancta Monica last November.

BRENDAN DOOGUE, (1986) of Hillcrest, Baltinglass, is another sportsman that we will hear more about later on. He recently won the Captain's Prize for the second time at the Baltinglass Golf Club. This time, however, the Captain was his own father Martin Doogue.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations on the Grand Cayman, B.W.I. include a hotly contested Gaelic football match and a "puck fada" competition. The football was played by the Whites — consisting mostly of Dubliners, and the Greens — mostly drawn from the rural areas. Although from Rathkeale, RORY HEALY, (1962) played for the Whites, who won by two points. The "Caymanian Compass" of March, '88, records that Rory maintained his goal a game record. His two sons, David and Roger followed their father's footsteps through C.C.R. The former is in University and the latter has one more year to go.

DR. SEAN MURPHY

Incoming President of the Union is Sean Murphy (1955-'60). A former Chairman of the Galway - Mayo - Sligo Branch. He is a Graduate of University College, Galway, and worked in Nenagh, Mayo and Sligo before finally settling in Portumna in 1978, where he is in General Practice.

He will be remembered in Roscrea for his all-round Athletic prowess, in particular the Pole Vault, in which he won the All-Ireland Senior titles in 1959 and 1960. He also won a place on the Irish Students' Games team in France and Spain in these years winning the Bronze Medal each time. He played Hurling in Roscrea but later won a Connacht Rugby Cup with U.C.G..

His eldest son, Declan has just finished in Roscrea, and his second son Brian is in fifth year. His daughter, Sinead is in second year in Banagher and his youngest son, Shane is a seven year old.

To Sean and his wife, Noreen, we wish every success in his forthcoming term of office.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & UNION DAY

Circumstances in 1988 make some adjustments necessary in our Union Day programme. The date fixed is Sunday 25th September and the timetable for the day is as follows:—

Union Mass in Abbey Church 11 a.m.
Union Lunch (replaces Dinner) 1.00 p.m.
(In Guest House)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2.30 p.m.
(In Guest House)

The main event of this day is the AGM. From this gathering the policy and proceedings of the Central Committee should flow, so it is in the general interest of the Union that a good representative gathering of the members should attend and voice their opinions.

This year we make another fresh start, with Dr. Sean Murphy from the Galway/Mayo Branch as President. He is the second President from this Branch — the other was Gerard Houlihan, R.I.P. It was to his energy and originality we owe the Swimming Pool. The AGM is where we have to rearrange the officers of the Union and review our financial situation. This latter is fairly safe at the moment, but we are living in unstable times and the "Roscrea Review" is always a liability. Did you ever give thought for a moment, as to who, or what, pays for the Union? ... If each one of our 1,800 registered Members gave one pound annually, we would have little to worry about. But that is too much to expect! We hope the early conclusion to the Union Day programme will encourage a better attendance than usual. The meal in the Guest House will not be too elaborate and to facilitate the younger members the price will be £5. The AGM should be finished by 3.30 p.m. That will give you a chance to be home in the daylight.

NATIONAL WEEKEND AWAY 1988

For the past four years we have enjoyed the hospitality of the Park Hotel Kenmare for our weekend away. We must make a special effort this year to keep up our numbers. The Central Committee asked the Officers of each Branch to meet the following quota:—
Dublin — fifteen couples.
Galway/Mayo — seven couples.
South Tipperary — seven couples.
North Tipperary — five couples.
South East — five couples.
South West — five couples.
Limerick/Clare — five couples.

Bookings must be made at least a month in advance, direct to Mr. Francis Brennan at the Park Hotel, Kenmare, and a deposit of £50 per person should be sent with the booking. If you wish you may use the booking form printed in this issue. As well as Past Pupils, others who may avail of the special rates are parents and friends of Past Pupils, and the parents of present students.

There will be golf competitions and tennis for those who attend. The walks and drives within easy distance of the hotel are superb. If you haven't been before, come this time, and you will come again. Come early and enjoy the magnificent scenery on the way. If you come late, take the easy road from Killarney through Kilgarvan . . . We look forward to seeing you in Kenmare.

PARK HOTEL KENMARE

KENMARE, CO. KERRY, IRELAND
TEL: 064-41200/41097/41131
TELEX: 73905

BRANCH OFFICERS

South West (Cork/Kerry)

John Lynch — Chairman
Summerhill House, Mallow, Co. Cork.

Gerard Malone,
Kilcrea, Ovens, Co. Cork.

John Kenny,
Rathcoursey East, Midleton, Co. Cork.

Gerald McCarthy,
Bank of Ireland, Charleville, Co. Cork.

Midlands:

Andrew Galvin — Chairman
"Cillarde", Arden, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Tom Maher,
Firmount House, Clara Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Seán Wrafter,
Harbour Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Dublin:

Matthew Hyland — Chairman
6 Ardlui Park, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Simon Coyle,
1 Leinster Lawn, Clonskea, Dublin 14.

John Irwin,
Flat 14, Sycamore House, 75 Rathgar Road,
Dublin 6.

Galway (Mayo/Sligo)

Dr. Joe Daly — Chairman
Ballygar, Co. Galway.

Dr. Sean Murphy,
Portumna, Co. Galway.

Pádraig O'Máille
Shop Street, Galway.

London (Overseas)

Patrick Moriarty — Chairman
Tre Newydd,
Shirenewton, Chepstown, Gwent, NP6 6RN.
Tel: Shirenewton (029 17) 353.

John Yurky,
35 Buckingham Avenue, London N20 9DG.
01/267 0481

Michael McCormack,
78 Barnet Way, Mill Hill, London NW 7 3AN.
01/959 1898

Dr. Cyril Cassidy,
119 Pollards Hill South, London S.W. 16.

South Tipperary

Very Rev. Denis Curtin — Chairman
P.P. Cappawhite, Tipperary.

James Doyle,
Cooleeney House, Moyne, Thurles.

Kevin Dwan,
Riversdale House, The Mall, Thurles.

North Tipperary

Brendan Galvin — Chairman
Brooklawn, Nenagh.

Gerard Maher,
Clyduff, Roscrea.

Liam Spooner,
Glebe View, Roscrea.

MIDLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE 1988



Front Row: (L. to R.): Kieran Kelly, Andy Galvin (Chairman), Tom Ambrose, (President of the Union), Dom Colmcille O'Toole (Lord Abbot), Tom Maher (Treas.)

Back Row: (L. to R.): Sean Wrafter (Secretary), Rory Culliton, Roger Neville.

SOCIAL SIDE

At the A.G.M. of the Midland Branch this year Andy Galvin was elected Chairman, the other officers are listed elsewhere. All came from within easy reach of Tullamore, which made attendance at Meetings a simple matter.

The first resolution of the new Committee was to organize a function to be held on Saturday 26th March, at the Moorhill House Hotel, Tullamore. A Dinner/Dance was arranged

and a limited number of tickets issued — these were soon snapped up, a most unusual and satisfying situation for any Committee. Next year they may go for a larger premises.

The Lord Abbot and the President of the Union were the Guests of Honour. It was voted a most enjoyable and successful gathering, and a great time was had by all.



Left to Right: Dr. Gabrile Murphy, James Hamill, Eugene Garvey, Sean Murphy, Tom Enright, T.D., Tom Ambrose.

LORD ABBOT'S CUP

In October 1987 Brian Maloney (Nenagh) provided the highest ever winning total in the Lord Abbot's Cup. His remarkable score of 47 Stableford points gave him a two shot victory over Union President Tom Ambrose, whose return of 45 points would have guaranteed him victory in any previous year. Most of our golfers hope that the winning margin will revert to more modest proportions this year.

Due to the change of date of Union Day, the Lord Abbot's Cup will take place this year on Saturday, 24th September. The venue once more will be the Roscrea Golf Club and by kind permission of the Captain and Committee, the first tee will be reserved for our outing from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. This will provide ample time for everyone, provided enough people avail of the early starting times. So if you want a relaxed and speedy 18 holes, why not plan to tee off as early as possible on the day?

There will also be a separate Ladies' Competition for the wives, girlfriends and Mothers of past men and their competition, like the men's will enjoy generous sponsorship. May I take this opportunity to thank all the past men who have generously supported the competition in recent times. The standard and number of prizes that it is now possible to provide is directly as a result of their largesse. We also owe our thanks to those Union Presidents who in recent years, have presented the first prize that accompanies the Lord Abbot's Cup.

In keeping with the tradition of recent years, there will be a dinner in the Golf Club at 7.00 p.m. that evening. We had fifty who attended last year's dinner and the restrictions of space demand a similar total for this year. So, to avoid disappointment book your meal as early as possible, by contacting one or other of those named on at the conclusion of the article.

The following tariffs will apply on the day:

Green Fees (where applicable)	£5.00
Competition — Entry Fee	£5.00
Dinner (for those golfing)	£7.00

We look forward to seeing you on September 24th. If you have any queries, contact one of the following:

Brendan Galvin, Chairman North Tipperary, Kenyon Street, Nenagh (067) 31682.

Gerard P. Maher, Treasurer North Tipperary, c/o The College (0505) 47245.

GALWAY AND N.W. BRANCH

After several abortive attempts to hold a social function in Galway, it was decided that they join forces for this year with the Sligo Group which was organizing a Dinner in Rosses Point. Michael Keohane and Eamonn McGowan booked Reveries Restaurant for the occasion. There were the inevitable last minute cancellations which made the final gathering smaller than anticipated. Tom Ambrose, the President of the Union and his wife Masie came from Dublin and Fr. Kevin, President of the College came the long way from Tipperary. Among those present were the Curley brothers from Ballyhaunis, Drs. Eugene Hardiman and Joe Daly.

SCHOOLS PLATE COMPETITION 1988

The defeat of the Senior Rugby Team by De la Salle, Churchtown in the first round of the Cup revealed two crucial pieces of information:

1. Roscrea had, this season, produced a backline of great potential, as evidenced by the top-class try scored against De la Salle by winger Donnagh Verling.

2. The Roscrea pack, while mobile and technically alert, could not counter a heavier pack dictating that the bulk of play would involve forward exchanges.

It was against this background that the team attempted to become the first school to win the recently instituted Fr. Hampson trophy for the second time. In recent years cup holders Clongowes had won this trophy, as did our old rivals Newbridge. It is also the belief of coach Sean Burke that the Plate Competition provides invaluable experience to the younger members of the senior team.

This year's campaign had a bizarre start when our first round opponents Gerards, Bray had to give us a walk-over. The team then went on to record a highly meritorious away victory over Old Belvedere, followed by a somewhat easier semi-final victory over C.U.S. The other semi-final was contested between Kings' Hospital and De la Salle, the latter having been eliminated in the second round of the Cup proper. The general expectation was that la Salle would win this particular encounter but seasoned Cup campaigners Kings' Hospital had other ideas and qualified to meet us in the final.

The St. Mary's club grounds at Templeville Road was the venue selected and the entire school travelled up for the occasion, and what an occasion it proved to be! The eventual score line of 24 points to 3 in Roscrea's favour is adequate testimony to the team's superiority on the day. What it can't convey, however, is the quality of the

team's play, and the especially high quality of the back's play. They once and for all destroyed the myth that C.C.R. cannot produce back lines of high standard. Some of the tries scored that day, particularly one by the full-back Pierce O'Leary, were of the highest standard. The line was excellently orchestrated by outhalf David Hernan, who himself achieved the high honour of three Irish Schools' Caps during the season. Indeed, if any one player deserves to be singled out for his contribution to the Plate campaign, it must be David, who consistently lived up to the high expectations we had of him.

Captain Eric Barry returned with the Cup to a tumultuous reception in the College. Finally, coach Sean Burke is deserving of the highest praise, not merely for the achievements of this year, but for those of the past 25 plus seasons. He more than anyone deserves the reward of a win in the School's Cup.

TREASURES OF THE PAST

There is in Roscrea a very active Heritage Society. It has done a great deal for the town by restoring Damer House, making ancient records accessible and opening up the Castle to the public. The Chairman, George Cunningham Ph.D., had the happy thought last year of organising occasional weekends on historical themes at the Guesthouse here in Mount St. Joseph. So far we have had two with another planned for next November.

The first, held last November, was on the theme of the medieval Cistercian Abbeys. The second which was held just after Easter, was about medieval Altar vessels and was principally concerned with the Ardagh and Derrynaflan chalices.

In each case, the main speakers were the principal experts on the topic, and they were backed up by other speakers, some of them equally expert, treating of ancillary aspects of the theme. Thus the principal speaker at the November congress was Dr. Roger Stalley from Trinity College. Dr. Stalley has written what looks like being the standard work on the medieval Irish Cistercian Abbeys. It is a splendid production, profusely illustrated, and deals with all the main Cistercian Abbeys founded between 1142 (the first — at Mellifont) and the Dissolution. He has gone around the country, photographing what remains and concentrating mainly on the art and architecture, and has produced a book of great richness and attractiveness*.

In the weekend Dr. Stalley dealt with the origins and growth of Cistercian art and architecture in Ireland, noting its dependency on Burgundian churches in the beginning, and then the gradual "take-over" of the English perpendicular style, which predominated after the primitive period. Then he took Corcomroe Abbey in the Burren (known as Our Lady of the Fertile Rock!) as a case study and in a profusely illustrated talk of great depth and penetration showed how it is now, its importance as a primitive relic of the Cistercian past, and the richness of its decoration.

Dr. Stalley was backed up by other lecturers, among whom were Fr. Ciaran who spoke of the Celtic dimension, and John O'Leary who dealt with the landscape as it must have been when the Cistercians came to Ireland. Interestingly, there would have been few roads and certainly virtually no fields, as these latter date only from about two to three hundred years ago. The main concentration of the Cistercians is east of the Shannon and of course that is also the main concentration of good land. While the Celtic monks looked for solitude first and foremost, and did not apparently care much what sort of land they were living on, the Cistercians got grants of good arable or reclaimable land and hence were able to live well by the standards of the times.

Among the other interesting lectures was one by Raghnaill O'Floinn an archaeologist with the National Museum who has excavated some of the Abbeys, but who points out (as did Stalley also) the enormous amount of work to be done on the medieval Abbeys yet. There has been virtually no excavations done on the Cistercian nunneries, of which there were four. Indeed in most of these there is little to be seen above ground today.

Having examined the medieval Abbeys, we looked in April at the altar vessels. The highlight of this was an account of the Derrynaflan hoard given by Dr. Michael Ryan, Curator of Irish Antiquities in the Museum in Dublin, and in tandem with a couple of lectures on the Ardagh chalice given by Professor Etienne Rynne of UCG, who is the acknowledged expert on this treasure. Both speakers illustrated their lectures with an abundance of slides, and Dr. Ryan even had X-ray photographs of the Derrynaflan chalice, showing the "inners" of its construction and thus illustrating the work of the medieval goldsmiths.

We were introduced to the whole topic by Br. Eoin de Bhaldrath of Bolton Abbey, Moone, who spoke on the kind of liturgy that

would have been celebrated at the time these chalices were created . . . in the 7th and 8th centuries. Indeed an interesting difference of opinion emerged between Br. Eoin and the two antiquaries. The latter hold that neither of these splendid chalices (described as being among the greatest treasures of Europe's past) would have ever been used at Mass, as they would certainly have leaked. They deduce this from the way in which the cup is attached to the stem. Eoin holds that whatever about that, the liturgy would have demanded this sort of large chalice of the faithful and it would have contained wine to be consecrated by having the consecrated bread placed in it. He sees no problem at all about their use, and it seemed to some of us that by his deductions from the history of liturgy, he has presented a case which the antiquaries have not answered. Indeed they have not even addressed it.

The lectures on the two chalices were of the utmost interest and it clearly emerged that we are extraordinarily blessed to have in this country two such splendid metal objects, the like of which has scarcely been found anywhere else.

Among the more interesting of the other lectures (all of them indeed first class in quality and interest) was one, again illustrated with slides, of the excavations at Derrynaflan since the find. A team from the National Museum has excavated the site with some care and has found nothing else in the way of metal objects or other treasures. They did unearth wooden roadways to the site (which is a raised "island" or knoll in a huge stretch of bog) which are of interest, and also the foundations of some medieval buildings. These confirm that the church and monastery of Derrynaflan was in fact large enough to own such a treasure, despite suggestions that his was too small and insignificant to possess such wealth.

Fr. Nivard Kinsella



Park Hotel Kenmare

KENMARE, CO. KERRY, IRELAND.
 TEL: 064-41200/41097/41131 TELEX: 73905

**CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA
 PAST PUPILS UNION**

**NATIONAL WEEKEND AWAY, 1988
 11th and 12th November**

Rates per person sharing:

**SPECIAL WEEKEND RATE:-
 2 NIGHTS B/B
 & DINNER DANCE (SAT.)
 £80.00**

**Special Overnight B/B: £35.00 p.p.
 DINNER DANCE £30.00 p.p.**

**Single Room Supplement:
 £12.00 p.p. per night**

**VERY SPECIAL WEEKEND RATE:—
 DINNER (FRIDAY NIGHT)
 + 2 NIGHTS B/B
 + DINNER DANCE
 (SATURDAY NIGHT):—
 £105.00**

Reservation Form

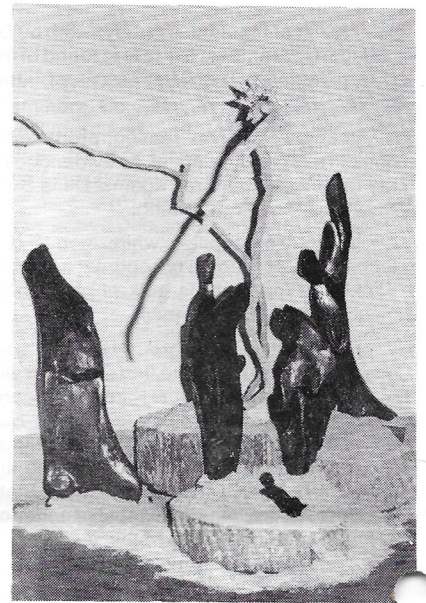
NAME:

ADDRESS:

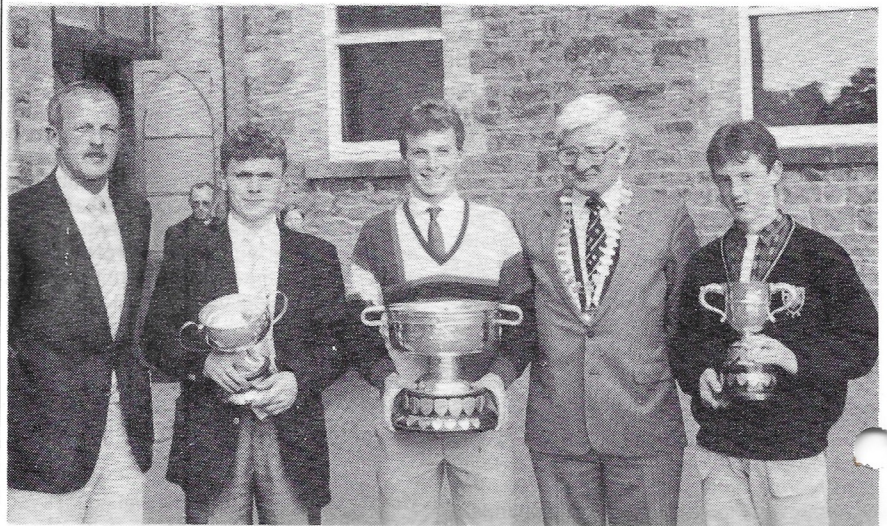
No. of Guests:

Deposit:

Christmas in Roscrea



ALL ROUND SPORTSMEN OF 1988



L. to R.: Jerry Hayes, Games Master and P.E. Teacher; Ronan Cahir, Intermediate, from Ennis, Co. Clare; Eoghan O'Callaghan, Senior, from Bandon, Co. Cork; Tom Ambrose, President of the Past Pupils' Union; Michael Littleton, Junior, from Tulla, Co. Clare.

OBITUARY LIST

PETER McCREERY, 1948.
 "Capdoo", Clane, Co. Kildare.

MICHAEL FRANCIS BYRNE, (1966)
 Ardilawn House, Castlecomer Rd., Kilkenny.

EDWARD O'KELLY (1938)
 Drumcollogher, Co. Limerick.

LIAM BYRNE (Jnr.), (1973)
 Callan, Co. Kilkenny.

DR. CHRISTOPHER CAREY, (1941)
 died in Hull, Yorkshire.
 Formerly Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.

GERRY COMMANE, (1928)
 Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

HENRY SHEEHY, (1934). From Pallaskenry, he was House Captain in his final year at C.C.R. Became a solicitor and practised in Limerick and London. While on holiday with his brother in Co. Limerick he died suddenly. He was laid to rest in the family grave in Askeaton Churchyard. He was married with six children. We offer his family and relations our deep sympathy.