



ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 92 *Newsletter of the Cistercian College Roscrea Union*

Spring 2010



Dom Richard Purcell O.C.S.O after his installation as abbot, 11th July 2009.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Spring 2010 edition of the Roscrea Review. In reality, this edition contains news of pretty well all Union events held during the calendar year 2009. A lot happened in the College and Monastery too.

We extend our warmest good wishes to Dom Richard Purcell on his election and installation as the ninth and youngest ever abbot of Mount St. Joseph. A double dispensation was necessary – because of his youth and the fact that it was less than four years since his ordination! On his shoulders now rests the future of the Monastery, but we know it is in good hands. Pastmen all over the world will be praying for him. In particular, we welcome him as Patron of the Union, and thank him for the huge level of interest he has already shown towards it.

Our thoughts and best wishes also go to retired abbot Dom Kevin Daly. Since his ordination in 1965 as Dean of Discipline, College President and Abbot he has been a central figure in the life of the College and the Union. We wish him well as he, hopefully has a period with less stress and more time for reflection. Last December Union President Gerry O'Meara made a presentation on behalf of the Union of a portrait of Dom Kevin to show our appreciation of his years of service.

2009 also saw the retirement of Dan Smyth. A staff member since 1969, he became College President in 2005 and made an enormous contribution in the few years in that role. We wish him every joy in his retirement.

Diarmaid Ó Murchú took over temporarily from Dan as President, and brought to the role decades of experience and a vision for the future. Very recently, College Principal Marcelline Cody has been appointed College President. We wish her every success in that challenging role but know that with her at the helm and with its dedicated staff CCR is well placed to face the challenges of the new decade.

The Union lost one of its legendary figures last Summer with the death after a very short illness of Noel McCarthy. Elsewhere in this issue we include two tributes to Noel who was always a great supporter of the College and the Union and a bulwark of the North American Branch. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.*

Congratulations are due to the Senior Rugby team who reached the quarter final and with a bit of luck might have beaten a very good St. Marys team. Likewise, the Senior Hurlers had a great run in the Leinster Championship.

Pat Hanratty

College News... College News... College News...

Marcelline Cody appointed College President:

On 25th March it was announced that Marcelline Cody has been appointed College President taking over from Dan Smyth and Diarmaid Ó Murchú who had been acting President during Dan's illness. We wish her every success in her new role, knowing that CCR is in very safe hands.



Carol Service:

Although it is now a few months since we celebrated Christmas the memories of the success of the various features that mark Christmas in the College are still fresh. The expansion of the College music programme was in evidence at the Christmas Carol Service when the students provided the musical accompaniment for the College choir with the invited guests who included large numbers of parents and past pupils. The Carol Service has become the centrepiece of the College's celebration of Christmas and it may happen that we will not be able to accommodate all-comers next year. The large attendance enjoyed refreshments in the refectory with the monks from the Abbey, the Board of Governors, College parents, teachers, present and past students. Congratulations to Mr William Cullagh, Head of Music and his team of teachers who have brought participation levels in music and instrumental classes to new heights of achievement. There are now more than one hundred students learning and playing instruments in the College. The variety of instruments (seventeen different instruments covered) has enriched the programme and enhanced the development of a culture that embraces traditional music, classical music, jazz, blues and the usual popular music of the day.

Rugby:

The two major competitions saw significant progress by the Senior and Junior Cup teams. We are all proud of the progress that they made before being eliminated. The Senior Cup team were narrowly defeated by St. Mary's College in the Leinster quarter-final although they dominated possession for most of the game. The College community is proud of the team's performance which almost brought them to the semi-final of the competition. They did well in the Plate competition before losing in a tight game to Newbridge College. The Junior Cup team put up a similar courageous display before eventually losing to Wesley College.

The attendance of so many pastmen at both games is deeply appreciated by the entire College community. Their presence is always a source of motivation for the players and the college staff.

The Senior III team had a great season in the league before finally losing to Belvedere in the knock out stages.

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Hurling:

Heartiest congratulations to our Senior Hurling team which reached the Leinster "B" Final and acquitted themselves really well even though they lost out to Coláiste Éanna, Ballyboden one of Dublin's strongest Hurling schools, several of whose alumni are involved in the current Dublin renaissance in the sport.

Roscrea team take All Ireland debating title:

Pictured is the senior debating team from the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary (left to right) Mícheál Ó Criomhthainn (team captain), Caoimhín Ó Riain and Eiméad Ó Riain following their win at the All-Ireland Finals of **Comórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh Gael Linn**. The event was held in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, on 25 March 2010. This national competition has been organized by Gael Linn since 1960, and over 150 teams from secondary schools throughout the country took part this year.

Guest chairperson on the night, Fiach Mac Conghail, Director of the Abbey Theatre, conducted the proceedings with great aplomb. A previous winner of the competition himself in 1980 with Coláiste Eoin, Dublin, he told the large gathering present that participating in the competition all those years ago had, in no small measure, helped him in his career to date.

In the senior section of the competition, the young orators spoke knowledgeably on the topical motion *'Tá cúis ghearáin ag oibrithe na hearnála poiblí!'* (Public sector workers have reason to complain!) and many interesting arguments were put forward by each speaker. There were cheers of delight from their supporters when it was announced that the Cistercian College students were the 2010 All-Ireland Champions! They won out over teams from Presentation College, Cork; St. Michael's Loreto, Navan, Co. Meath and Alexandra College, Dublin. Teacher, Nicola Ní Bhraonáin, who has helped and directed the team on the road to success since November last, was justifiably proud of her students. She herself captained a team to victory in the 1999 final of this prestigious competition while a pupil in the Presentation Secondary School, Loughboy, Kilkenny!

The victorious team was presented with the Gael Linn perpetual trophy and a cheque for €1,000, Congratulating the winners on their great achievement, Gael Linn CEO Antoine Ó Coileáin said: *'While we applaud the growth in all-Irish schooling in the past twenty years, Gael Linn believes that a high standard of Irish in mainstream schools is vital to the revival effort. Irish is the common inheritance of all and it is for this reason that Gael Linn seeks to support the use of Irish in the wider community. We are particularly proud of the fact that the Gael Linn Debates this year celebrate their golden jubilee and that they continue to develop students' language skills year after year.'*



The successful CCR debaters with College President Marcelline Cody.

Many well-known personalities have taken part in the Gael Linn debates over the past 50 years – including the recently appointed European Commissioner, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, politicians Alan Dukes, Minister Mary Hanafin, T.D. and Senator Ronan Mullen; broadcasters/journalists Marian Finucane, Mary Kennedy, Evanne Ní Chuilinn and Harry McGee; former GAA president, Seosamh Mac Donncha, Judge Mary Laffoy and funny man, Dara Ó Briain – and there is no doubt that their debating skills helped in many ways to further their respective careers! (And the present Editor of the Roscrea Review, though he froze on the night and we didn't get past the first Round!)

Gold Medal:

The Ignatius Houlihan gold medal for public speaking was won by Emmet Ryan. The event was judged by pastman Conor Brady (no mean speaker himself in his time), and the standard was the highest for many years. The continuing interest in public speaking in the College is a tribute to those who started, built and fostered that tradition.

Sherry Cup:

The Sherry Cup is due to take place this term. It is a key part of the long tradition of musical performance and singing. It is awarded annually to individuals for performing, singing or playing an instruments or instruments. With the expansion of music in the College this award has assumed even greater importance in the annual prize-giving.

History Students:

The Sixth-Year History students have visited a number of sites of historical significance in Ulster as part of their preparation for the Leaving Certificate examination. The visits included tours of the Derry walls, Enniskillen, Omagh and Stormont. The recent history of Northern Ireland is now a significant part of the Leaving Certificate programme and Ms Freda Smyth and Mr Niall McVeigh have gone to great lengths to ensure that the students met some of the people who were involved in the politics of the time. We are deeply grateful to them for this work.

Our thanks to Diarmuid Ó'Murchú and Marcelline Cody for their help in compiling this report.

SOUTH WESTERN BRANCH DINNER

There was a change of timing and venue for the 2009 South West Branch Function. After 2 years in the Naval Base in Haulbowline, we travelled to the Longueville House Hotel in Mallow. There is still a CCR connection as nephew of the proprietor is currently a student in the school.

We had hoped to get the background to Ireland's Grand Slam success which culminated the previous weekend. However, Ronan and Joan O'Gara could not attend as they were in Italy fulfilling a commitment which had long been postponed due to pressing rugby engagements.

Union President Michael Coyle and his wife Jennifer attended, as did College President, Dan Smyth his wife Phyl and College Principal Marcelline Cody and her husband Donncha.

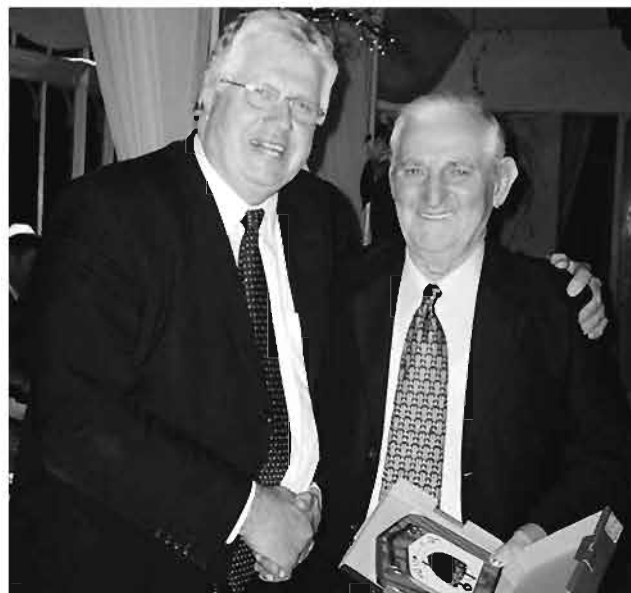
New faces at the South West included John and Barbara McCarthy of Kilmallock Co. Limerick which is only a short distance from Mallow. John is a veterinary inspector with Limerick Co. Council. It was an opportunity to renew acquaintance with Branch Chairman, Gerard O'Meara as they were together in CCR in both classes and hurling teams from '65 to '70.

Despite failing to get any pastman to accept a golfing challenge, John Garahy travelled from Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford where he has his own legal practice.

Fully recovered from his recent illness, Peter Power made a welcome return to the CCR Reunion. Cork native Fearghal O'Dubhghall was down from Dublin for the weekend. John and Marie Lynch made the short journey from Mallow. John and Liz Kenny shared a table with Billy and Mary O'Neill. The class of '69 was represented by Seamus Mulherin. Other supporters of the event were Cuimin and Lena Doyle, Kevin and Frances Morrissey, Gerard and Joan Malone and Cathal and Marie Bredin.

Special guests for the night were long standing family friends of the Branch Chairman, Tony Reddin and his wife Maura. Legendary Tipperary Goalkeeper, Tony was selected for both the, "Hurling Team of the Century" in 1984. and the GAA's "Hurling Team of the Millennium" at which time he had the rather unusual distinction in being one of the few living Irish people featured on a postage stamp. He features prominently in current internet discussions on the "Hurling Team of the first 125 years of the GAA".

A native of Mullagh, Co. Galway, he played his club hurling with the Lorrha club in Tipperary. He had many admirers throughout Tipperary and especially so in Roscrea. It was probably this which prompted CCR teacher and Hurling coach Roddy Ryan to arrange a number of challenge matches between Lorrha and the CCR team from 1952 to 1955.



Dan Smyth presenting a plaque to Tony Reddin

A player on the CCR teams of 1953/54 and captain in 1955 was former Union President, Pat O'Shea. Pat went on to win an All Ireland Minor Hurling medal with Kilkenny as well as 2 Fitzgibbon Cups with UCC.

We were delighted to welcome Pat and his wife Margaret to Longueville. Pat vividly recalled those matches which took place over 50 years ago in what was called the Legion Field. Given Tony Reddin's reputation, the CCR players' only objective was to put a goal on the scoresheet. They were encouraged beforehand to do this by team trainer Roddy Ryan who made a "tangible contribution" in his role as referee for the games. Pat willingly admitted that despite being awarded some close in frees towards the end of the games, Reddin's goal usually remained intact.

Pat and Gerry regaled the attendance with some anecdotes from Tony's long hurling career. Given that Tony holds three All Ireland medals and five Railway Cup medals gained during the era of Christy Ring, Jack Lynch, Nicky Rackard et al. there were plenty of controversial and humorous incidents.

When they left Lorrha in 1960, Tony and Maura settled in Banagher Co. Offaly. Tony was very much involved in training the local St. Rynagh's club and made a significant contribution to the resurgence in Offaly Hurling. One beneficiary of this was CCR Pastman and neighbour of the Reddin family, Shane McGuckin who won an All Ireland medal with Offaly in 1994, the year they back from nowhere to beat Limerick.

At end of the function, Tipperary man and College President Dan Smyth presented Tony Reddin with a plaque displaying the College crest.

SOUTH WESTERN BRANCH DINNER continued...



Maura and Tony Reddin with Fearghal O'Dubhghall and his parents Lena and Cuimín Doyle.



Peter Power , a great athlete of the 1930s in CCR with Tony Reddin.



Tony Reddin and Kevin Morrissey.



Donncha and Marcelline Cody with Tony Reddin.



John McCarthy and Tony Reddin.

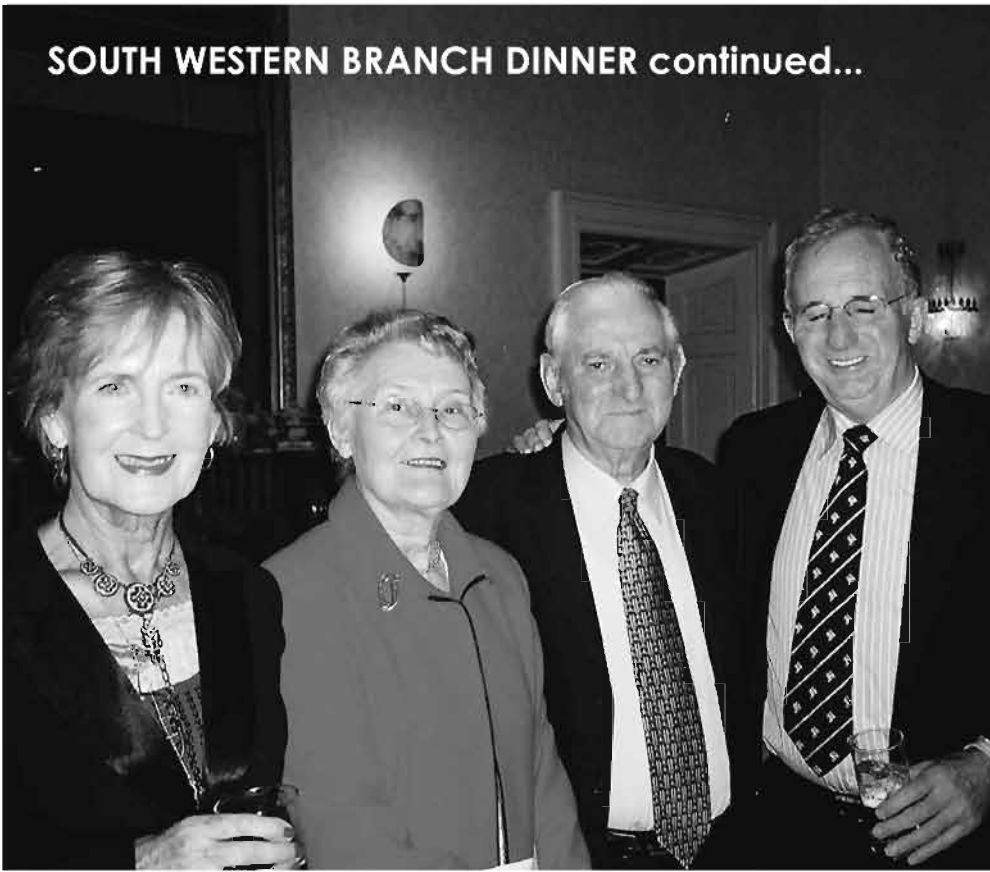


Gerard Malone, Michael Coyle, Tony Reddin, Gerard O'Meara, Billy O'Neill and John Kenny.

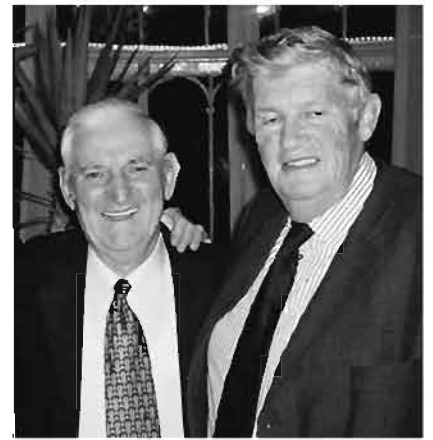


Tony Reddin and Marie Lynch.

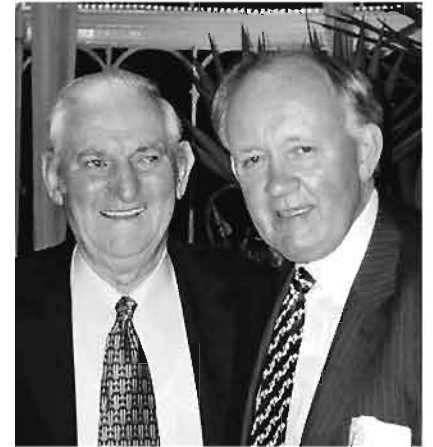
SOUTH WESTERN BRANCH DINNER continued...



Margaret O'Shea, Maura and Tony Reddin and Pat O'Shea.



Tony Reddin and John Lynch



Tony Reddin and Cathal Bredin.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

2009 certainly has been a year of change. Obama took office in the US. The Lisbon Referendum was ratified across the European Union and a new Abbot was elected in Mount Saint Joseph Abbey, Roscrea. It is fitting that in this period of change our new website is launched. Just as Abbot Emeritus Dom Kevin has handed over the mantle of leading Mount Saint Joseph Abbey to his successor Dom Richard, Michael Coyle has handed over the leadership of the CCR Union to his successor Gerard O' Meara. Since the early part of 2009, CCR Union has been in the process of harnessing information technology to afford Pastmen of CCR richer engagement with each other and the institution that has played a major part in their development.

It is appropriate at this time of change to pay tribute to our Patron Dom Richard and to previous generations of the Cistercian Order and CCR Pastmen who set down the foundations of our Union and have made it the vibrant organization it is these past eighty years.

In 2008 at the annual Dublin Dinner, a group was discussing how the website might achieve the objectives outlined above. Arising from that discussion, much work has been done, in the College by Dan Smyth, Marcelline Cody, Katherine Donovan and Catherine Smyth who have laid the foundations to help Jim Keating and Tom Smyth do the technical groundwork to make the new Union website a reality. The latter two along with Roscrea Review Editor Pat Hanratty will share the task of editing and keeping the website up to date.

It is quite fitting that one year later the new website is launched at the same venue where the volunteers formed a team that would implement the task of updating the site.

I would also like to acknowledge the foresight and encouragement of my immediate predecessor as Union President, Michael Coyle.

Gerard O'Meara, November 2009

*The CCR Union Website is currently developed and hosted by **Wireless Connect Ltd.***

*The website security services have been sponsored and provided by **RIIs Group.***

Eddie O'Sullivan – A TRIBUTE

by Mark Coen

The retirement of long-serving housemaster, Eddie O'Sullivan, represents a milestone in the life of the College. For generations of past students, Eddie is synonymous with Roscrea. Throughout our years in school he was a constant; a reassuringly dependable presence, particularly in times of transition and uncertainty.

His career has seen exponential change in Irish society, changes to which Mount St Joseph has not been immune. Taking up his appointment in the Ireland of the Pope's visit, he retired as we reappraised our faith in our political, corporate and religious institutions. Entering a school which had considerable daily involvement by the monks, he left at a time when this is no longer feasible, even to a minimal degree. In thirty years of service, Eddie was repeatedly confronted with all the vicissitudes of school life; successes, disappointments, tensions, challenges and changes, to name but a few. He was a key player as the school community grappled with an ever-changing educational, economic, cultural and social landscape. He had to adapt to the effects of these major changes on college structures, parents and, most critically, the students in his care.

The celebrated American jurist Oliver Wendell Holmes stated: "The life of the law is not logic, but experience." Perhaps the same could be said of a boarding school. Eddie gained a wealth of experience which ensured the smooth running of the residential side of the house. He was tremendously energetic, diligent and just. Of all his qualities, fairness was his hallmark. He did not have favourites, nor did he hold grudges. Anyone reprimanded by Eddie, whatever their outward protestations, usually admitted subsequently that they were guilty as charged. His capacity to resume civil relations and "move on" after confrontations with students earned him widespread admiration and respect. A former colleague recalls him as "the supreme builder of morale and harmonious relationships among staff".

As befits a character in the true sense, Eddie features in many Roscrea anecdotes. A full collection of past student reminiscences about him would run to several volumes, and the present writer offers just a few by way of non-exhaustive sample. A particularly vivid recollection relates to a conspiratorial and colourful conversation after "lights out" in the Double Window dormitory in second year. In the midst of our intrigue, the chief conspirator said nervously: "Lads, I think there's another person in the room." Right on cue, a powerful torch came on and Eddie boomed: "You're dead right! And one would think that butter wouldn't melt in your mouth!" Before a house captains' election we were urged to vote wisely. Eddie concluded his counsel with the immortal



line: "Don't just vote for some – dunderhead!" Needless to say, quite a number voted for an individual of that name, although Eddie's plea for responsible voting carried the day. On another occasion, a lecture after Morning Prayer was prefaced by an acknowledgment: "I know I'm not hip. I'm not hop. I'm not cool..." A housemaster laying claim to such qualities would surely be treated with well-deserved suspicion! Sound bites like these alleviated our adolescent gloom, and made Eddie an icon.

In a boarding school, what happens outside the classroom – in recreation, sport, study, the refectory and the dormitories – is crucial to the establishment's overall success. Increased affluence, growing secularism and much greater competition for university places were probably the developments which impacted most upon these areas during Eddie's tenure. The house staff has not always received the recognition it deserves, but Eddie's contribution places its vital role in sharp relief. It is his stellar achievement that he was both an effective disciplinarian and a human face, a fact reflected by the esteem in which he was held by current and former students alike. He had great loyalty to the institution, but never at the expense of the students. Rarely does one encounter somebody as sincere, and rarely are the praises of a published tribute so richly deserved. Kind, genuine and forgiving, Eddie brought all the attributes of a Christian gentleman to his post. He truly earned the oft-heard refrain – and the highest praise a Roscrea student can bestow – "Eddie is sound".

Mark Coen (CCR 1997-2003) is a PhD candidate in Law at Trinity College Dublin.

WESTERN BRANCH DINNER

On 25th April 2009, the Western Branch of the Union hosted a most enjoyable Dinner in Donnelly's of Barna. As well as affording the opportunity of a most pleasant gathering of pastmen and their wives and / or girl friends, the occasion was used to mark the great contribution to the Union over a long number of years of Dr. Seán Murphy. Union President Michael Coyle presented Seán with a beautiful framed montage commemorating his links with CCR from the 1950s to the present.

A native of Woodlawn near Ballinasloe, Seán was in CCR between 1955 and 1960, during which time he excelled at Hurling at Athletics. One of a series of outstanding pole-vaulters in CCR in the 1950s and 60s he was Leinster and All-Ireland Champion in 1960 and was a medal winner at the International Catholic Student Games in San Sebastian, Spain later that year.

Seán studied medicine in UCC, qualifying in 1967 and is a GP in Portumna. He is married to Noreen and has four grown up children and four grandchildren. Two of his sons, Declan, a consultant urologist in London and Brian, a chartered physiotherapist in Portumna attended CCR in the 1980s.

As the photos suggest the event was most enjoyable with good craic and banter as well as fine speeches honouring a great servant of the CCR Union. A feature of the night was the number of young pastmen present. We look forward to another great night in the West in the near future!



Seán Murphy says a few words of thanks to all



Three former Union Presidents: Seán Murphy (1988-'90), Michael Coyle (2008-'09) and John Sherry (2005-'06).

WESTERN BRANCH DINNER continued...



Dan Smyth presenting Seán with a plaque bearing the college crest.



Tom Garvey, Gerry McInerney, Dr. Gabriel Murphy and John Sherry



David Tarpey (CCR 1974-'79) and Katherine Donovan

Right: Seán Murphy and his wife, with then Union President Michael Coyle.



John O'Meara (CCR 1967-'72) and his wife Kate with Marie and Denis Gunning (CCR 1968-'73)



Above: Mark O'Boyle, Emer White, Tory Irvine, Louise Collins, Barry McCann, Cian Be-gley and Niall Grogan. Barry, Cian and Niall were all in the Leaving Cert class of 2000.



Gavan McNulty (CCR 2001-2007) and Fergal Cox (CCR 1987-'92)



Left: Pat Hanratty with Ann and John Sherry

Dublin Branch Golf Outing

Grange GC, June 19th 2009

The Grange Golf Club Rathfarnham hosted the 2009 Dublin Branch Golf Challenge and the word challenge is very apt to describe the test the players faced that day!

As the preceding week had hosted the Captain's Prize the greens were more akin to the green baize of a snooker table than the standard putting surface. I can hear you saying...'excuses'!!...but putting averages for the most talented of our participants proved hard to maintain as the speed of the greens created a most difficult test.

Conor Irwin did however manage to keep his composure and posted a very respectable score in the high 30s to win the Matt Hyland Trophy. Mai McGrane, with the help of local knowledge stormed to victory in the Ladies Noel Windle Cup. Leanne Hyland and Christina Windle were on hand to present the two trophies and bring their usual touch of style and grace to the occasion.

In all, a grand gathering of nearly 60 golfers and diners enjoyed the day including Union President Gerard O'Meara, Dom Kevin Daly, Dom Peter Garvey and the soon to be Dom Richard Purcell. College Principal Marcelline Cody was again a welcome competitor and guest.

Dom Peter Garvey's lucky streak in the raffle continued winning the Grange Fourball (not before my sister-in-law had mistakingly called bingo with the same number, though the evening light did not help distinguish the faded yellow ticket versus the winning white!) The second prize of a pair of tickets for the Ireland-Italy World Cup qualifier was somewhat embarrassingly won by my mother Joan Hernan.... the ticket was drawn by Leanne Hyland before anyone considers penning a letter to the Union!

The Grange hosted a splendid day both on the course and later in the dining room and bar, and for those who missed playing this challenging city course in 2009 it will be our venue again this year on Thursday June 17th. Please contact myself on 087 410 5446 or the new Dublin Branch Chairman Sinbad Wilmot on 085 715 2565 to ensure your tee time. A big thank you also to our sponsors particularly in the year that was. Your support is greatly appreciated. Finally to my Dublin Branch committee members.... as Elvis Presley sang... "A little less conversation a little more action!"...only joking guys – a big thank you for all the help and commitment.

*David Hernan (CCR 1983-'89)
Chairman (Outgoing).*



Feargal O'Dubhghall (CCR 1977-'80), Robert Hernan (CCR 1979-'84) and Suzanne Hernan.



Ray Hernan (CCR 1979-'82) and Conor Irwin (CCR 1975-'80).



Pat Coady (CCR 1961-'64), Hugh O'Neill (CCR 1964-'69), Graziano Romeri, James Malone and Emilio Cirillo.



Luigi Onofri and Yvonne Malone.



Pat Carroll (CCR 1966-'68) and Michael Coyle (CCR 1963-'68).



Aidan McNulty (CCR 1960-'65), Pat Coady, and Hugh O'Neill.



Dom Kevin (CCR 1947-'53), Pat Hanratty (CCR 1962-'67), Dave Hernan (CCR 1983-'89), Gerry O'Meara (CCR 1965-'70), and College Principal Marcelline Cody.



Gerry O'Meara (CCR 1965-'70), Leanne Hyland and Dave Hernan (CCR 1983-'89).



Ken Creed and Peter Sherry (both CCR 1970-'75), and Brendan Phelan (CCR 1974-'79).

DUBLIN BRANCH GOLF OUTING

June 2009



Dublin Branch Chairman Dave Hernan presents the visitors prizes to Emilio Cirillo and Graziano Romeri.



Union President Gerry O'Meara, her admiring husband Donncha and Chairman David Hernan with 'Windle Ladies' trophy winner, Marcelline Cody.



Leanne Hyland presenting the Matt Hyland trophy to Conor Irwin.



Mae McGrane and David Hernan



Suzanne, Ray and Mick Hernan.

Presentation of portrait to Dom Kevin

18th DECEMBER 2009

On 18th December last on the occasion of the annual Abbot's Dinner, Gerry O'Meara presented a portrait on behalf of the Union to recently retired abbot, Dom Kevin Daly. As in the case of those previously presented to Dom Colmcille and Dom Laurence, the portrait is the work of Thomas Ryan R.H.A.

The Union President paid tribute to Dom Kevin's long association with the college and the Union and wished him well in his retirement. For his part, Dom Kevin thanked the Union for its generosity to him personally and for its continued unfailing support for the college and the monastery.



College bursar John Hanemy and Dom Peter Garvey



Dom Kevin and Union President Gerry O'Meara with Dom Kevin's portrait.



Tom Ambrose (CCR 1948-'51), Marcelline Cody and Larry Branigan (CCR 1946-'51).



Happily retired teachers, Vincent Leahy and Sean Bourke.

LUMEN CHRISTI

The Stained Glass Windows of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey

By Laurence Walsh ocsa - October 2009

(foreword by Nicola Gordon Bowe, produced by Richard Purcell ocsa, photography by Sean Curtin & James Fraher, design by Connie Scanlon)

A masterpiece! A treasure! Inspiring and awesome! These are just some of the comments used to describe Lumen Christi, the book recently published by Mount Saint Joseph Abbey on the extensive array of stained glass windows in the monastery.

This sumptuous large hardback tells the story of each of the thirty-nine stained glass windows. It is packed full of lavish images and the highest quality photography to illustrate the rich text of Dom Laurence Walsh. Between 2004 and 2006 a major restoration of the Church windows was carried out.

The windows were then literally exposed to a fresh light that threw an array of colour into the Church, and once again the magnificence of the windows shone brightly. This provided the inspiration to share this beauty through this volume. Book can be bought on the online store. Priced at €50.00

A Tribute to Pat Sheedy

Pat Sheedy has retired from the staff of Cistercian College after 31 years of dedicated and trojan service to the teaching profession and as many years of warm camaraderie as a colleague. To say that he is missed is an understatement and there are no words that I can use to adequately capture the man. Pat is a man of many interests and talents, but more than these combined, he has enormous generosity of spirit and nothing is entered with less than full commitment and enthusiasm.

I have known Pat for forty years or more, originally through family connections and all the Sheedy family from Clashagad were highly respected friends by our 'tribe' for as long as I can recall. My grand-aunt Susan Cantwell was a regular visitor to the Sheedy home and the Sheedys were among her most treasured friends. Consequently, as a young boy, I knew of Pat Sheedy (and indeed all his family) long before we first met.

Pat's 'grá' for hurling is well known. His first loyalty was, and still is, to the 'Black and Reds' of Moneygall with whom he distinguished himself at different levels on the hurling field.

He also went on to play for St. Flannan's College, Ennis as a schoolboy hurler. His university education was at University College, Galway and his talents were once again to be seen at the highest level, gaining recognition not only at Fitzgibbon Cup level but also on the Combined Universities Team which played in the Railway Cup competition. His playing career did not end there however and Pat continued to play for Moneygall where his achievements included winning back-to-back Tipperary Senior Hurling Championships in 1975 (as captain) and 1976.

1978 saw Pat move to CCR from Carmelite College, Moate and immediately this young man settled in to the joys of a six-day working week and many enjoyable hours of hurling as a coach. Not long afterwards, a young lady from the west of Ireland arrived onto the teaching staff, one Miss Pauline Flaherty. To make a long story short, by the time I joined the College staff in September 1982, Mr. & Mrs Sheedy were happily married, the only couple on the staff of CCR!

Pat Sheedy is well known too as a raconteur. He has wonderful stories for any occasion and delivers them with panache. As a historian too, Pat has few equals, though former colleague Aodh Mac Domhnaill has oft times disputed Pat's interpretation of 'revisionism'. As a Gaeilgeoir, Pat is also in an elite for sweet, flowing and flawless delivery of beautiful Irish. And if all these gifts weren't enough, Pat Sheedy is as sharp of memory for facts, figures and general knowledge as any person I know. Any unresolved issues at staff level on such matters were usually referred to our memory man-Pat Sheedy.



In spite on an aversion to modern technology, (especially computers and photocopiers) Pat Sheedy was a man of significant innovation during his years at CCR. It was Pat, along with Chris O'Donoghue who pioneered and nurtured the Transition Year 'Romania' project which combined forces with two schools in Northern Ireland to fundraise and visit orphanages in a most challenged part of Europe. Great credit is due to Pat in particular for his tireless devotion, both to his students as TY coordinator and to the cause of these forgotten children in frightfully neglected Eastern European conditions. It was also Pat who developed links with St. Mary's School in Belfast which led to many exchange hurling and cultural visits in both directions. It was Pat who promoted Corn an tAth Eanna, an annual hurling blitz competition hosted by the College and it was he who set up the coveted *Afternoon Tea Party* for his Leaving Cert students at St. Flannan's Park (the home of hurling) in Moneygall.

Pat Sheedy trained hurling teams year in, year out, and his enthusiasm never waned whether or not he had championship material. He introduced many of the famous GAA players and personalities to the school as visiting coaches or as guest speakers. What a fitting finale to a long and successful coaching career that in his final competitive outing, his team captured the coveted Fitzgerald (no relation!!) Shield for the college

It is often said that if you want something done well, ask a busy man. Pat Sheedy is a busy man. Outside of his professional life, Pat is currently President of Roscrea Golf Club (and also a dreaded opponent in match play!). He is also on the national Executive of the Irish Hereford Breeders Association. His dedication to his beloved Moneygall Hurling Club has never waned.

In conclusion, Pat Sheedy has vacated the Staffroom of Cistercian College. His absence is only a physical one however - men like 'Sheedy' are not forgotten.

Diarmuid Fitzgerald

Dom Richard's Abbatial Blessing

Despite all appearances to the contrary, Dom Kevin reached the age when abbots must retire last year. On Bloomsday of all days (Gerry Moloney will love this), the community together with the abbots of the daughter houses, met in chapter for an abbatial election. The community chose Fr Richard as its new abbot. As Fr Richard was technically ineligible for election both due to his age and number of years of profession, the community had to vote by a two-thirds majority that he be postulated as abbot. *Canon Law requires that a monk be seven years in Solemn Vows before he can be elected as abbot, while the Constitutions of the Cistercian Order state that a monk must be 35 years of age in order to be eligible for election.*

Following the election the proceedings had to be suspended while the necessary dispensations were sought from the Holy See and the Abbot General. On the morning of Wednesday, 17th June, Cardinal Franc Rodé, Cardinal-Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life issued to Dom Eamon Fitzgerald, the Cistercian Abbot General in Rome, the dispensation in relation to the shortfall in years of profession. On receipt of this dispensation, the Abbot General then dispensed with the minimum age requirement and confirmed the election of Dom Richard as Abbot of Mount St Joseph Abbey.

Having received both dispensations and the confirmation of the election of Dom Richard as abbot,



Dom Richard with his two immediate predecessors as abbot, Dom Kevin and Dom Laurence.

Dom Michael Ahern, superior of Mount Melleray and Father Immediate of Mount St Joseph convened the community and announced the confirmation and then proceeded with the installation of the new abbot, handing him the keys and seal of the monastery, installing him in the Abbot's throne in the Chapter Room and giving him the pectoral cross. The community then processed to the Abbey Church singing the Te Deum.

Almost a month later, on Saturday 11th July, the feast of St. Benedict, Most Rev William Walsh DD, Bishop of Killaloe, blessed Dom Richard during Mass in the Abbey Church. Large crowds packed the Church to be present for this important occasion for the Cistercian community at Mount Saint Joseph.

Abbots and abbesses from numerous other communities in Ireland and further afield came to join with the monastic community of Roscrea in their wonderful celebration. Many musicians and singers were present to enrich the liturgy through the Mass. An air of jubilation was present throughout, heightening this momentous occasion in the life of Mount Saint Joseph. A large number of pastmen were present, as were current and former members of staff. The photos included here give a flavour of what was a very happy occasion.

Naturally we wish Dom Richard well in his role as abbot, which, of course also means he is the new Patron of the Union, the first non-pastman to hold the office since 1964.

Links to Dom Richard's address after the Mass and Bishop Willie Walsh's homily are available on the monastery's website....

http://www.msjroscrea.ie/news_4.html



Dom Richard with Bishop Willie Walsh of Killaloe who has installed the last three abbots of Roscrea.



Dom Richard and Bishop Willie Walsh with members of Dom Richard's family: his father John Purcell, sisters Suzanne and Emma and brother Patrick.



Dom Richard and members of his extended family



Dom Richard with retired CCR Principal Hugh McDonnell.



An animated Monsieur John Shanahan with Dom Kevin and Eddie O'Sullivan.



Jim Keating, Jerry O'Leary and Pat Keane (all CCR 1963-'68).



Ann McIntyre with Union President - elect Johnny Dolan (CCR 1967-'72).

UNION WEEKEND and REUNIONS September 2009

After yet another wet summer, the second weekend of September saw beautiful sunny weather for the Abbot's Cup and the reunions of the classes of 1969 and 1989.

Although the Abbot's Cup was won by recently retired CCR staff member Pat Sheedy, the best score of the day was carded by James Foley, a third year student who was only in his first month in CCR. His father, Cork All-Ireland Hurling winner from 1990, Mark Foley was visiting James and his younger brother Tim. James actually got off to a bad start, not scoring at either the first or second hole, but then proceeded to amass 41 points off a handicap of 15!

That weekend saw the classes of 1969 and 1989 hold very successful reunions, both having dinner in Racket Hall (see photos on next page). The 1969 reunion was organised by John Lawlor, John Quigley and Mick Sherry. Mick did an excellent job as MC, and all had a wonderful time. Two of the academic stars of the year, Tim McTiernan and Michael Teehan made it all the way from Canada for the event. Most of those attending were aware of Michael Griffin's battle with cancer, before the re-union and were delighted that he seemed to be making good progress with his medical treatment at the time. Sadly Michael passed away, a few weeks afterwards.

Whereas the organisers of the 1969 reunion used traditional means (anything from pigeon post to snail mail with occasional use of the telephone and even the very odd email message), the 1989 reunion organised primarily by Alan Landers used Facebook as a means of communicating the message. They even have a Facebook page where photographs from the night as well as a large collection of photographs presumably from their days in CCR are on view. As most of these do not meet the criteria for publication in RR, (basically that the subjects are recognisable and not likely to be too embarrassed by them) we herewith include a selection taken in the bar of Racket Hall on the night where those from 1969 and 1989 and others mingled happily for several hours. *Well done to the organisers of both reunions on a most successful weekend!*



Union President Gerry O'Meara making a special presentation to CCR third year student James Foley who had the best round of the day, 41 points off 16.



Dom Richard presents the Abbot's Cup to Pat Sheedy. Also in the photo, Diarmuid O'Murchu and Gerry O'Meara.



Veterans of many an Abbot's Cup: Conor O'Hara, John Cahill, Pat O'Shea and Donald Flynn.



Katherine Donovan who did Trojan work organising the event with the current Union President Gerry O'Meara and the immediate Past President Michael Coyle.

1989 REUNION



Ollie Byrne (CCR 1981-'86) with Justin Owens.



Karl Deering, James Phelan and Ronan Cahir.



Dave Hernan and Paul Murphy.



David Lucey and Hugh Cormack.



Sinbad Wilmot, Dave Hernan, Pat Sheedy, Eoghan Comerford and Aidan O'Dwyer.



Ronan Cahir, Eoghan Comerford, Rob O'Shea, Alan Landers and Diarmuid Fitzgerald

1969 REUNION



Frank Ryan, Michael Teehan, Tim McTiernan, Hugh O'Neill and Finbar Bennett.



Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Pat Conroy and Brendan Hyland.

Noel McCarthy R.I.P.

(CCR 1948 – 1953)

Noel and I grew up in Ennis – literally next door – same age. Noel's Dad, Dr. G.P. McCarthy also a Roscrea pastman was Union President in 1947/'48 and so we both found ourselves in CCR in September 1948. As we were still in the "emergency" years we had to bring our own ration books, as sugar, butter and tea were still in short supply.

I was no sportsman, but Noel played on the Rugby JCT. We were in CCR for Fr. Ailbe's last year and can vividly remember him demonstrating from the rostrum in the "Ref" how to top a boiled egg!

On one occasion Noel and I hitched back to Roscrea with his brothers taking our luggage on the train. At Roscrea station enquiries were made about us and our misdemeanour was revealed. Fr. Thomas was not impressed by our mode of transport and we were told to go home by train and come back properly. At Roscrea we bought tickets for Cloughjordan, got off there and hitched home. Our parents were not pleased to see us – in fact they were worried we might have been expelled, but on our explaining sent us back to Roscrea the next day. Sadly for us, our nemesis Fr. Thomas had checked with the station and found out about the tickets to Cloughjordan. Our punishment was both public and painful!

Although we were both cast as fairies in *Iolanthe* and as sisters in *HMS Pinafore*, we never made the grade after our voices broke. In those days, achievement was marked by having on your jacket lapel a Pioneer pin, a Child of Mary medal and a Gold Fáinne. Looking back at the 1951 Fiolar, I can see that we were both also in the Legion of Mary and the Middle Debating Society. Our spiritual director in the Legion was Fr. Dermot who in later years was a colossus of the Union and a welcome guest at many Kenmare weekends.

Noel finished up with seven honours in his Leaving Cert. As I recall, most were in the 60-70% bracket which showed fine judgement and economy of effort. How ironic that such a fine surgeon would never have made it to medical school with such a result if the current Points Race were a feature of our times!

We both went to UCC and Noel qualified as a doctor in 1959. We both acted as best man for each other. Noel married UCC classmate Ada Sutton from Cork and like many young graduates of their time went to the USA. Early in his career there he served in the US Army and was part of a field hospital mobilised in Florida at the time of the Cuban missile crisis.

Noel received a Master's degree in Public Health from Yale and went on to have a long and distinguished career as an obstetrician/gynaecologist in New Haven, Connecticut. He maintained that the secret to his good relationship with his patients was, always to talk openly and honestly to them. Side



Owen Fox, Gerald and Noel McCarthy pictured in 2005.

by side with his busy practice he was very involved with the New England Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Society. He was, for many years their Programme Director and organised their biannual professional meetings, and also served a term as their president. His success in organising well attended meetings and attracting top experts from other countries including Ireland helped build the society's membership. He also organised overseas meetings for them including trips to Ireland.

Noel also formed a twenty five year relationship with the Irish Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. With the late Dr. John Stronge and Dr. Dermot McDonald, both former masters of Holles St. they brought groups and guest speakers both ways across the Atlantic to the benefit of their colleagues here and in America. Those meetings were also responsible for forming many lasting friendships. Noel's energy, spirit and leadership qualities were what maintained this enjoyable and educational programme.

Almost incidental to this he was a great ambassador for Irish tourism. He usually arranged that his American colleagues would spend some time in Ireland, and by arranging meetings here he brought much business to Dromoland Castle, Ashford Castle and the Park, Kenmare. In recognition of his work for furthering medical education he received a merit award at the 2008 meeting of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. He was also made an honorary Fellow of the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Despite his busy professional life, Noel found time to be a tireless fundraiser for his Alma Maters in Ireland and the US and was also himself a major contributor. He raised substantial funds in the US for CCR and also for UCC. In the US he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the St. Raphael Foundation which raised funds for the hospital where he had been a consultant. He was the main driving force behind the North American Branch of the CCR Union whose November meetings he always attended. He would also bring a group of friends to the Annual Kenmare weekend of which he and his brother Ger were pillars. Some years ago, the Union

continued on next page

recognised his contribution by making him an Honorary Life Vice President.

Noel's leisure time passion was sailing. His first experience's were with his father-in-law Eric Sutton in Cork. In the US he was a member of the Milford Yacht Club on Long Island Sound, and the Sarasota Sailing Squadron in Florida. He and his three sons Kevin, Paul and Brendan were very competitive sailors and regulars on the prize lists.

His life was struck with tragedy when his wife Ada developed symptoms of Alzheimers shortly after retiring in her mid fifties. He was a devoted husband and nothing could demonstrate this more clearly than his commitment to Ada during the long years of her illness. He was tireless in his efforts to get her the best possible treatment and quality of life. During the final years of her illness in the Alzheimers Resource Center he would prepare the meals he knew she liked and even from Florida he would pack and freeze them to have them for her. He was devastated by her loss and continued to speak fondly of her in the four years since her death. He brought her ashes to be buried in Cork.

Even when he retired in 2004 Noel continued to be very active as a conference organiser, an amateur travel agent for his professional groups and an extensive traveller himself. He continued to enjoy his sailing in Milford and Sarasota. He loved a party, and would happily cook for big groups of friends. In Sarasota he brought together groups including many Irish-American medics who would never have met but for Noel's ability to organise a party often when he had visitors from Ireland. In Dublin and Cork he organised meetings of his extended family and cousins met who would never have done so otherwise.

Noel died on 22nd July 2009 in St. Raphael's hospital where he had worked for so many years. His short illness and death were unexpected as he had been in Ireland in early March for the tragic funeral of his niece Ciara, the daughter of his brother Gerald (CCR 1951-'56).

Noel will be sadly missed by his sons and their families, by Gerald and his family in Cork and by his sister Rosemary in Scotland. To all his nephews and nieces he was a generous uncle. Finally he will be missed by a wide circle of friends in the USA and here in Ireland.

Owen Fox (CCR 1948-'53).

Noel McCarthy (Roscrea 1948 – 1953)

Noel McCarthy, who died on July 22nd 2009 in New Haven, Connecticut after a brief illness was a really good man; kind, generous, funny, an accomplished sailor, a distinguished clinical professor at Yale Medical School, a gifted obstetrician-gynaecologist who was loved and respected by his patients and medical colleagues, a loyal friend and good at everything that matters. There was not an empty seat in the huge Dominican church on Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven where his funeral mass was celebrated. In a eulogy, his oldest and closest friend Owen Fox (Roscrea 1948 – 1953) moved the congregation to laughter and tears as he spoke about Noel's life and their 71 year friendship.

I first met Noel at about 10pm on November 18th, 1967 when he introduced himself in a labour room at the Yale – New Haven Hospital, a few hours before my wife Bidy gave birth to our first son. He and I were both delighted to meet another Roscrea man and we spent the next hour laughing at stories about Gerry Pan, Fr Eanna and other fondly remembered Roscrea characters. Bidy, who was two weeks overdue and writhing uncomfortably and ignored in the bed, was not amused, but quickly forgave us both when Noel began to work his magic. We were friends ever afterwards.

Noel was a great leader and organizer and it was impossible to avoid infection by his enthusiasms. When his son Paul served in Afghanistan as a U.S Army Captain at the Mehtar Lam Forward Operating Base, building infrastructure and roads and introducing programs aimed at improving the lives of people in the villages and hinterlands, Noel emailed his contact list and encouraged them to send clothes and shoes to Paul to tog out the local kids. After a few months, Paul had to get Noel's email list and write, begging people to stop sending supplies, because his unit had run out of storage.

For many years, Noel was the guiding force behind the New England Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society. He did a stint as president, but more importantly, he was its program director for over 20 years and organized its well attended biannual professional meetings, to which he invited top international experts, including a fair share from Ireland. He organized overseas meetings and brought many of his American colleagues to Ireland, the lecture series often timed to coincide with international rugby matches. He was often accompanied by his UCC Medical School classmate, fellow Ob-Gyn and great pal, Bosco Cardozo. In 2008, Noel was honoured by the American College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology for his outstanding contributions to medical education in New England.

Noel loved Roscrea. When his brother Ger was President of the Union, Noel tracked down the American pastmen and founded the North American Branch. He never accepted the Chairmanship, but he was the heart and soul of the branch, a tireless organizer, generous donor and the long term liaison man with the School and the Union. The first Branch Chairman Paddy Boland and his successors through Des O'Brien were all tapped for the job by Noel in a corner of Langan's Bar & Grill in New York and could count on Noel's enthusiastic and selfless support. He never missed a major Roscrea event in Ireland and he was a stalwart at the Kenmare Weekend each year.

Noel was great fun and he loved parties. He took great pleasure in introducing people and in helping to build lasting friendships. Because we did not live close to each other, much of the time I spent with him over the years was in bars, either in the U.S or Ireland. Because of his engaging nature, he invariably attracted a lively discussion group. He reckoned that his innate comfort with the setting was due in part to an incident in his early childhood. When he was about six months

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old, a long-time family friend passing through Ennis, stopped off at the McCarthy house. Noel's father, who was the County Medical Officer was off on his rounds, so the friend, Mrs McCarthy and Noel went for a drive along the coast and stopped for a few drinks at a pub where the craic was good. In high spirits, the adults headed off home to Ennis, realizing only upon arrival that Noel had been left on the bar counter in a bassinot. Upon return, they found Noel in the pub surrounded by admirers. He was confident that the experience was formative.

Noel was a loving family man and he was devastated by the death a few years ago of his adored wife Ada., nee Sutton, of Cork, who was also a physician.. He will be sadly missed by his three sons, Kevin, Paul and Brendan, all of whom he trained to be top-class sailors, his daughters in law and his grandchildren, his brother Gerald, sister Rosemary and their families and by a wide circle of friends inside and outside the Roscrea community.

Peter Kehoe

REVIEW RETURNS...

As highlighted in two previous editions of the Review, dozens of copies of each issue are returned undelivered. In some cases this may be due to incomplete address but in a majority of cases the reason is stated as "gone away" or "not known at this address". Since the last time we did a round up of "return to sender" Reviews in 2007, the following have had theirs sent back.

Seamus Bergin, *Kilsheelan*; Patrick Boyce, *Roscrea*; John Bradley, *Roselawn, Naas*; Peter Brady, *Borris-in-Ossory*; Michael Butler, *Sandyford*; Joseph Byrne, *Ferrybank, Waterford*; Dermot and Peter Comerford, *Urlingford*; John W. Connolly, *Bray*; Niall Connolly, *Old Blackrock, Cork*; John Coughlan, *Vancouver*,

Matthew Duffy, *Hacketstown*; Micheal Dunne, *Virginia, USA*; Patrick Dolan, *Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan*; Peter Drumm, *New York*; Liam Dwan, *South Wimbledon*; Simon Eustace, *Maine, USA*; Stephen Farrell, *Kilquade, Co. Wicklow*; Richard Flynn, *Glasson, Co. Westmeath*; Eugene Hardiman, *Mount Merrion*; Cornelius Hayes, *Limerick*; Julian Jetter, *Germany*;

Enda and Kieran Kelliher, *Longford*; Patrick Kelly, *Hospital, Co. Limerick*; Thomas Kelly, *Drumree, Co. Meath*; Fearghal Kennedy, *Scallagheen, Co. Tipperary*; Oisín Keogh, *Rathgar*; Gearoid Kerin, *Adare*; Dermot Kerins; *Vancouver*; Fr. Joseph Kett, *Baldoyle*; Bill Lawlor, *North Carolina*; Desmond Lee, *Salthill*; Mark Leonard, *Portumna*; Alex Lynch, *Carlow*; Barry Lynch, *Boyle, Co. Roscommon*;

Paul Maher, *San Antonio, Texas*; Barry McCormack, *Newbridge, Co. Kildare*; David and Donal McEvoy, *Enniscorthy*; Michel McInerney, *Longford*; Eoin McManus, *Naas*; Daryl McNamara, *Carlow*; Richard Mulcahy, *Terenure*; Arthur Mullan, *Drogheda*; Keith Murphy, *Rosslare Harbour*; Shay Murphy, *Bishopstown, Cork*;

Liam Nicholl, *Co. Leitrim*; John W. Nolan, *Kilkenny*; Denis, Jerry and Michael O'Donoghue, *Kenmare*; Neil O'Dwyer, *California*; Gearoid O'Flaherty, *Canterbury*; Nicholas O'Keeffe, *Canada*; Fergus O'Meara, *Thurles*; Thomas O'Meara, *Inagh Co. Clare*; Rev. Austin O'Neill, *York*; Cormac O'Riordan, *Rochestown, Co. Cork*;

Paul Prendergast, *Singapore*; Ryan Quigley, *Enniscorthy*, John Quinn, *Goatstown*; Donal Reid, *Germany*; Murray Reid, *Tottenham*; Garvan Roche, *Madrid*; Conall Ryan, *Aughamore, nr. Sligo*; Brendan Sherry, *New York*; Anthony Shorthall, *Rathfarnham*; Sean Silke, *Galway*; David Tarpey, *Oranmore*; Thomas Walsh, *Roebuck, Dublin 14*.

If you know any of the names on this list please ask them to supply the college with their up to date address. In a number of cases it may be that the pastman in question has died – in which case we would be appreciate if you could let us know.

OBITUARIES

Joseph McMahon (CCR 1944-'49) died January 2nd 2009 after a brief illness. Born in Dublin, he moved to Clonmel in 1959 and was the owner of McMahon's Shoes in O'Connell St., Clonmel, as well as having business interests in Limerick, Waterford and Tipperary. A founder member of Clonmel Lions Club, a charter member of Clonmel Chamber of Commerce he was well known for his selfless voluntary work down through the years.

Rev. Austin O'Neill (CCR 1948-1954), 1 Bolton House, Nicholas Gardens, York, England died April 2009.

Jim Mc Carthy (CCR 1943-1946), Midleton, Co. Cork died April 15th 2009. He was a brother of Fr. Gabriel. **Michael Phelan** (CCR 1950-1952), brother-in-law to Fr. Gabriel, from Clonmel died a week later.

Dermot Sheridan (CCR 2001-2003), Blackwater, Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare died following a tragic helicopter crash in April 2009.

Billy Fleming (CCR 1944-1946) died on May 10th 2009. He was formerly from Killarney and Dublin. He spent 45 years at sea as Radio Officer. His brother, Jack, attended CCR from 1948 to 1951.

Patrick Commins (CCR 1935 – 1940) from Bawnmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway died on June 11th 2009. His Grandson, David Shaw, is currently a 5th Year student in the College.

Noel McCarthy (CCR 1948-'53) died on July 22nd 2009 in New Haven, Connecticut, USA. See tributes on preceding pages

John Maher of Camblin, Roscrea died June 2009. His son Tim is also a Roscrea Pastman.

Enda Mc Devitt (CCR 1986-1991) from Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim died September 2009.

Michael S. Madden (CCR 1939-1943), Roscrea, Co. Tipperary died September 11th 2009. Michael was the College Chemist for many years.

Michael Griffin (CCR 1965-'69) late of DIT, Cathal Brugha St., fought a courageous battle with cancer over a two year period. Despite having to use a walking frame, he was in great form when he attended the 40 year reunion of the Class of '69 in September. Alas, some weeks later he passed away peacefully.

NEWS OF PASTMEN

Mayor of Kilkenny, Pat Crotty (CCR 1972-'78) recently officiated at a ceremony in Kilkenny Castle, where the freedom of Kilkenny City was conferred on President Mary Mc Aleese. During the Conference Ceremony Mr Crotty said "the honour of freeman of the city was the greatest tribute of respect the people of Kilkenny could bestow on those who receive it". He described Mrs Mc Aleese as "an extraordinary person who has lived and is living a life of service to others". He said the President had set about her task of building bridges between communities from the very beginning of her time at the Áras.

Niall Glynn (CCR 1984-'87) from Ballinasloe, Co. Galway has been promoted to Tax Partner in Deloitte's Dublin Office. He has been with the firm for five years and has a Law Degree, a Postgrad Diploma in Business Studies and a Diploma in Financial Services Law (UCD). He is a qualified Solicitor and a member of the Law Society, the Irish Taxation Institute and the Society of Trust/Estate Practitioners.

Edmond Hearn (CCR 1997-2002) is operating a dairy and tillage enterprise near Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary.

Carl Kiernan (CCR 1983-'88) recently married Anna Marie Harty from Tipperary. Carl and his four brothers Eddy, William, Ronnie and Bernard attended CCR between 1982 and 1995.



Gerard Lyne (second from left) pictured at his retirement function.

Gerard Lyne (CCR 1958-'63) worked for 36 years at the National Library, Kildare St., Dublin. He retired last year from his position as Keeper of Manuscripts. The Manuscript Department has custody of huge volumes of

material relating to all aspects of Irish history and culture from St. Kilian who was martyred in Germany in 689 A.D. to Joyce and Yeats. Gerard is a cousin of U2 manager, Paul McGuinness who commissioned a portrait of Gerard which was presented on the occasion of Gerard's retirement and now hangs in the Library.

Interestingly, Gerald's predecessor in the post of Keeper of Manuscripts was another Roscrea pastman, Donal O'Lunaigh. (CCR 1956-'58). In the photo, taken at Gerard's retirement function, Donal is in the centre, with Gerard second from left.

On April 25th 2009, Barry McCann (CCR 1994-2000) recent took part in a special one day five-a-side fundraising soccer blitz in Drom in aid of the Galway Simon Community, in a bid to raise €5,000 for the local charity which provides accommodation and support for homeless people in the West of Ireland. Barry, a Community Fundraiser for the Galway Simon Community, says "One of the terrible outcomes of the current economic climate is that as more people lose their jobs, they are struggling to find money for basic things such as rents and food. Last year, our Day Centre provided more than 5,000 meals to men, women and children in Galway who were homeless or at risk of homelessness and this figure is probably going to be a lot higher for 2009". Barry was House Captain and was also an accomplished athlete and All-Ireland Hammer Winner.

Sean McCann (CCR 1963-'68) joined the Army in 1970 and has risen through the ranks to become Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) with the rank of Major General. He served abroad on six tours of duty - in Lebanon (UNIFIL, 1981 & 1987), Israel, Iraq/Kuwait border (UNIKOM, 1991) and in Former Yugoslavia with the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM, 2000). In 2002-'03 he was Chief Operations Officer with UNTSO based in Jerusalem.

Declan McNulty (CCR 1987-'92) and his wife, Tanya have recently become parents of a baby boy, David, thereby making Aidan a Grandad! Congratulations to all!

Micheal O'Connell (CCR 1988-'93) from Valentia Island, Co. Kerry recently got engaged to Emma Mc Aleese, the President's daughter. Michael is currently a practising Barrister and is son of Kerry Footballing legend Mick O'Connell.

continued on next page

NEWS OF PASTMEN

William (Bill) O'Donnell (CCR 1979-'84) is continuing a family tradition at Limerick County Hall where he was elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Council. Bill was chosen as Deputy Chair to new Cathaoirleach David Naughton. Speaking of the accolade, Councillor Bill O'Donnell said "I am absolutely delighted to be elected to the position on my first day at the Council and I am extremely grateful to Fine Gael for bestowing the honour on me. I decided to go into politics age six when my Uncle Tom was appointed Minister for the Gaeltacht. I am the fourth generation in my family to be involved in politics, among them my Great Grandfather "Foxy" Tom O'Donnell, who was Chairman of the Kilmallock Board of Guardians.

Desmond O'Grady (CCR 1950-'54) was honoured recently at the Desmond O'Grady International Poetry Festival. Addressing the gathering, the Event Organiser, Barney Sheehan said that "no man on any island has devoted himself as much to poetry as Desmond O'Grady". Mr O'Grady's new compilation, "My Limerick Town" was launched at the event. **Dermot, Colm & Shane O' Loughlin**, Monasterevin are running a very successful dairy farm at Monasterevin, Co. Kildare. The O'Loughlin brothers attended the College from 1998 to 2006. Shane holds a Bachelors Degree in Agriculture from UCD, where he studied Animal & Crop Production. He won the Macra na Feirme/Irish Farmers Journal Stephen Cullinane Scholarship and travelled to New Zealand, Canada and America. Shane is a member of Kildare Macra na Feirme, Chairman of the Kildare Branch of IFA, Chairman of his local Discussion Group, a Member of a Teagasc-run Grass Budgeting Group and a Member of Kildare IHFA. Off the farm, he is involved with his local GAA Club.

Damien Ryan (CCR 1984-'89) has recently been appointed Managing director and Head of Wealth Management with Jefferies International, a global investment bank. A graduate of DCU and a chartered accountant, Damien had previously spent ten very successful years in Investment Management at Credit Suisse. He currently lives in London with his wife Cristina and their son Dylan.



Eugene O'Loughlin (centre) with his Dad, Joe and Mark Ryan at the recent launch of Eugene's new book.

Recently **Eugene O'Loughlin** (CCR 1972-'77) had a launch for his new book *An Introduction to Business Systems Analysis* a text book primarily aimed at third level students, but also at business people who may find the problem solving techniques described in the book helpful. The book was launched by fellow pastman Mark Ryan, (CCR 1974-'77) Country Manager for Accenture in Ireland. Eugene's Dad, Joe (1944-'47) and two of his brothers, Joe (1973-'76), and Brian (1977-'82), also went to CCR, as did two of his Dad's uncles Tim and Charlie Hurley who were in CCR before World War 1 and had their names listed as boarders on census night 1911.

John McManus (CCR 1983-'88) and his wife Jane recently welcomed new arrival Alex – a brother for Tom, Ross and John.

Sean Feehan (CCR 1962-'65) recently completed a Law degree in UCC. Not bad for one so young! Sean also takes hundreds of people by boat to the Skelligs every year and is, like all of us hoping for a good summer.

Michael Conneely (CCR 1962-'65) is "emigrating" to Arizona at the young age of 61. Michael, a helicopter pilot will, no doubt be able to fly us all over the Grand Canyon and other places. Watch this space!

North American Branch Dinner 2009

This year's Dinner of the North American Branch of the Union was held in Langan's on 47th Street, New York on Friday 20th November – Langan's restaurant being owned and ably managed by Des O'Brien of the class of 1977. We had a very good turnout with pastmen travelling from Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Toronto and Santa Fe for the event.

This was the first CCR event in New York for many years that was not actively organised by Dr. Noel McCarthy who died during the year. Despite being based in Florida in recent years, Noel was the driving force of the North American Branch and its annual get together in New York. Noel was very much missed at the Dinner and there was a huge commitment among the attendance that the Branch be maintained as a tribute to Noel's contribution and loyalty. Indeed, the North American Branch has agreed that the proceeds from the event be used to commemorate Noel's memory. Young and old pastmen from all across the US spoke of the many acts of private support and encouragement they received from Noel when they first arrived in the US.

Union President, Gerry O'Meara and his wife Kay travelled from Ireland. Recently retired from his roles as Abbot and Patron of our Union, Dom Kevin Daly also travelled to the event. We had a quite a few pastmen from the late 1950s / early 1960s at the function including Peter and Kerry Kehoe, Cólín Owens, Eamon Grennan and Paddy Boland.

A feature of the event for the Union President was meeting up again with his Prefect from his First Year in CCR, Ken Forde of the class of 1966 who is originally from Ballina. Ken has made his home in New York since the late 1970s. Gerry had met Ken's brother Noel at the CCR Dublin Dinner only two weeks beforehand. Gerry and Noel were in CCR together for the five years to 1970. After spending many years in the US, Noel is now back in Mayo which enabled that particular reunion.

Walter Keady, also from Mayo and based in New York came along. Dubliner, Liam Fahey travelled over from New Jersey. Charlie Scroope and his wife Maureen travelled down from Toronto, organising a New York weekend around the CCR Reunion. Apart from Des O'Brien and Gerry O'Meara, Tipperary was also represented by Niall Rafferty who was accompanied by his Italian American wife, Jacqueline. Another Mayoman (Castlebar) representing the younger generation was Sean O'Sullivan of the class of 2004.

A highlight of the evening was a speech by Noel's old UCC Medical School colleague, Bosco Cardozo who spoke movingly of their long friendship and Noel's attachment as well as his benevolence to both CCR and UCC. Bosco has often attended CCR Union Dinners in New York and frequently crosses the Atlantic for the Kenmare weekend.

The evening closed with a speech by Dom Kevin at the end of which he presented a copy of Dom Laurence's recently completed book "Lumen Christi" about the stained glass windows of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey to Des O'Brien in appreciation of his hospitality and his work for our Union.

Our thanks to Des as well as to Paddy Boland and Peter Kehoe for all their efforts in ensuring the success of the evening.



Gerry O'Meara, Paddy Boland, Kay O'Meara, Dom Kevin and Charlie Scroope.



Peter Kehoe, Sinéad Kehoe, Sean O'Sullivan and Gavin Daly.



Dom Kevin Daly, Walter Keady, Liam Fahy, Niall and Jacqueline Rafferty, Gerry O'Meara and Paddy Boland.



Niall Rafferty, Paddy Boland, Cólín Owens, Des O'Brien, Gerry O'Meara and Bosco Cardozo



Gerry O'Meara and his one time prefect, Ken Forde



Edward Russell, Kerry Kehoe and Eamon Grennan

Dublin Branch Dinner 2009

Once again the Dublin Branch Dinner was held in the Davenport Hotel owned by pastman Noel O'Callaghan (CCR 1963-'68).

A most enjoyable meal was had by all and the after dinner speaker was Gavin Duffy (CCR 1994-2000), currently playing excellent Rugby for Connacht and on several recent occasions captaining the province. Gavin gave an excellent speech, proving that while many of us remember him especially as being a part of that team which made it to the Leinster Final in 1999, he did not miss out on the great CCR tradition of being able to speak well in public, even if the audience that night could be guaranteed to give him a warm reception!

At the recent Dublin Branch AGM, Sinbad Wilmot (CCR 1984-'89) was elected Chairman taking over from David Hernan who did an excellent job steering the Branch through two challenging and turbulent years.



Brian Rafferty, Liam Williams, Donal Kennedy, John Ball, Ciaran Carthy, Padraig O'Maille and Colum O'Connor - all from the class of 1978.



Kieran Carthy (front) with John Ball and John Coman



Marcelline Cody and her son Aonghus.



Niall O'Donoghue, Liam Spooner and Declan Martin.



Eamon O'Modhrain, Martin Kelly and Brian Rafferty



Brian and Barney Sherry



Brian Sherry and Michael Grace



Alan Ralph and Gavin Duffy



Kieran Walsh (CCR 1972-'77), John Irwin (CCR 1972-'78) and Eugene O'Loughlin (CCR 1972-'77).

DUBLIN BRANCH DINNER continued...



Niall Grennan (2009), Ian Wheatley and Kevin Quinlan (Class of 2008)



Mathew O'Connor, Joe Burke and Sam Quirke (all CCR class of 2008), and Niall Grennan, (2009)



Aonghus Cody (2008), Brian Ennis (2009) and Brian Keegan (2009).



Eunan Carroll and Brian O'Donnell (both 2007) and Dave Walsh (2008),



Emmet Thompson and his Dad, Frank.



John Dolan Junior and Senior



Dom Richard with Aidan McNulty



Dom Peter Garvey and Michael Coyle



Gavin Duffy addressing a captive audience



Dublin Branch Chairman David Hernan making a presentation to Gavin Duffy



Four from the class of 1963-'68 Jim Keating, Michael Coyle (rear) and Frank Thompson and Pat Keane (front) with Conor Brady



Three from the class of 1965-'70, Noel Forde, Union President Gerry O'Meara and Michael McNamara



Joe O'Shea, Feargall O'Dubhghall and Pádraic O'Máille.

Midlands Branch Annual Golf Outing

Esker Hills Golf Club

28th August 2009

The Midlands Branch held their Annual Golf Outing at Esker Hills Golf Club, Tullamore on August 28th last. Despite the inclement weather, we were very pleased with the record turnout of 34, which included pastmen and their friends.

The men's event was won by John Fahey (CCR 1970-'75) and the women's by Rosarie McKenna who unfortunately left early, before the photos were taken!

Though confessing to being totally intimidated by the Esker Hills Course, Pat Hanratty did us proud by turning up yet again to swell the numbers attending! Five other pastmen from Pat's year also attended: Sean Costelloe, Gerry Curran, Donal Hogan, Frank O'Meara and Tom Stokes. Five pastmen from the class of 1963-'68 were also in attendance: Brian Grogan, Pat Keane, Jim Keating, Johnny O'Connor and Frank Thompson.

Union President, Mr. Gerry O'Meara attended as did Dom Kevin and Ms. Marcelline Cody.

My thanks to Frank and Margaret Thompson, and Paul Fitzpatrick for their invaluable help in making sure that everything went as planned on the day. Not forgetting all those pastmen for their continued generosity and support of this annual event; Shaun and Paul Wrafter, John Dolan and John and Paul Fahy, to name but a few.

*Jim Keating (CCR 1963-'68)
(See photos on next page)*

Getting the Right Formula

Two CCR Students have distilled the Junior Certificate Science Syllabus into a new Revision Book and it is selling like hot cakes

Last year, two students from CCR compiled a new Science Revision Book for the Junior Certificate.

The book entitled "**Quick Questions & Accurate Answers**" has continued on an upward spiral and the Revision Guide has become so popular that the boys have launched it nationwide.

"We realised its potential early on", explains Kevin Ryan (Grandson of Rody Ryan). "There was so much interest in our own school that most of the Junior Certificate Class purchased it and then we decided to take a nationwide approach".

That meant getting the word out to as many schools as possible. How is that done? Well you start by getting the attention of the local media outlets and then go from there. "We've had a huge response from schools in the surrounding area and its already in about 50 bookshops explains co-author Emmet Ryan. "In order to do that, we sent letters to other schools, went on some local radio stations and did interviews with newspapers". All in all they have sold over 1,000 copies of the book and at €10 a copy, it does not take a genius to figure out how well they're doing.

It does however, require a lot of smarts to put together a Science Revision Book that can compete with the others already out there but the two boys believe they have an advantage over their competitors. "Nobody can understand better the areas hardest for students to grasp than students themselves," says Emmet. "Teachers, who generally write textbooks, have Degrees and Masters in their fields, so it's sometimes difficult for them to reproduce information in a way that students will be able to understand. Our book is written in a very simple format: short questions and short answers in Biology, Physics and Chemistry".

"Quick Questions & Accurate Answers" is divided into the three main science subject sections, with several subsections in each. Each of these is conveniently equipped with a doodle box and some reminder questions from the previous section, just in case you weren't paying attention.

"Junior Cert Textbooks changed to adapt to the need of the new

Science Syllabus but the format hasn't", says Kevin. "The information has been updated but the bulky layout remains. You will have to plough through loads of text to get the information you need, even though the exam is short questions. I went to a Revision Course in First Year and learned that the best way to study is to constantly test yourself with brief questions and answers".

"There are already a number of Science Revision books out there", adds Kevin "but a lot of them are not that much shorter than the textbook themselves. You could read "Quick Questions & Accurate Answers" in a couple of hours".

The confidence to compete with your teachers doesn't come lightly. The two students have had to make absolutely sure everything that went into the book is factually and grammatically correct. "For our own Junior Certificate Examinations, we had compiled lots of notes in Second & Third Year", says Emmet. "So we started by writing them out together, typing them up and it was imperative we double-check with our Science Teacher that all the information was correct. Then, when we decided to turn it into a book, we got our English Teacher to check for errors also. When you work on a project for so long, you tend to start missing the mistakes".

Not satisfied with just getting the book out there, the two entrepreneurs did some market research in their school amongst Junior Certificate Students and their Teachers. "Students were generally positive about the book, saying they found it easier to study from", says Emmet. "If a student isn't going to study, he won't study no matter how many revision books you give him. But those who would said they had something very straightforward to work from".

The simple format of the book also gives parents the opportunity to help their children revise. "I remember I used to hand my parents my textbook and ask them to quiz me", says Kevin. "But they didn't have any proper knowledge of science so couldn't be much help. With the revision book, parents have actual questions and answers in front of them".

Are there plans for more books after this one? "We have had to self-publish this book and put a lot of our own money and time into it", says Kevin. "We have now set up a Website (www.qqaa.ie) which allows students to order the book and leave comments on it". The boys already have a Business Studies Book written and have plans for a Leaving Certificate Science Revision Book when they've finished the Leaving Certificate Syllabus.

Esker Hills Golf Outing

28th Aug 2009



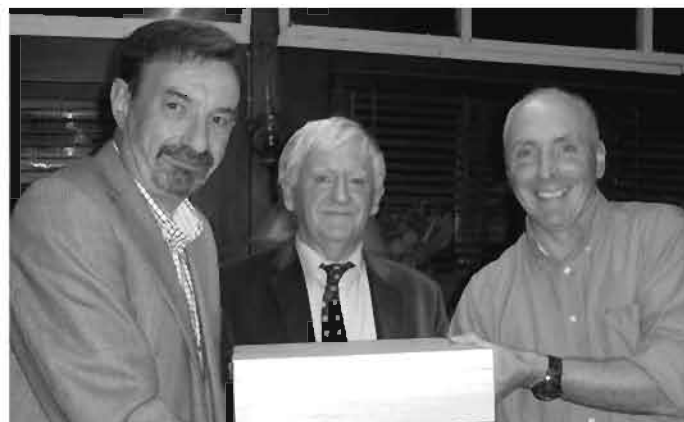
Dom Kevin with the chief organisers, Jim Keating and Paul Fitzpatrick.



Regina O'Regan receiving her ladies' prize.



Aisling Hackett receives her prize.



Kevin O'Regan receives his prize.



Paul Fitzpatrick and Jim Keating presenting the top prize to John Fahey.



Seamus Egan receiving his visitors' prize.



Gerry Curran, Union President Gerry O'Meara and Paul Fitzpatrick.



From the class of 1963-'68: Brian Grogan, Jim Keating, Frank Thompson, Johnny O'Connor and Pat Keane.



From the class of 1962-'67: Tom Stokes, Frank O'Meara, Pat Hanratty, Donal Hogan and Gerry Curran.

LONDON BRANCH DINNER

The night before we were to celebrate yet another famous Twickenham victory, pastmen and their wives and others gathered in the RAF Club in Piccadilly for a Dinner with a difference. Unlike other gatherings, there was musical entertainment at this one with a trio of musicians consisting of a tenor, a soprano and a pianist.

A great night was had by all – we were not told who won the raffle for the tickets for Twickenham!



London Branch Chairman Fergal Keane makes a presentation to Kay O'Meara.



*Back Row: Angie McNamara, Anne Marie and Marion Keane.
Front Row: Kay and Gerry O'Meara, Dom Richard and Jackie O'Shea.*



*Back Row: John O'Shea, Donald Gallivan, Fergal Keane, Dermot Hurley, Brian Flynn and John McNamara.
Front Row: John Yurky, Gerry O'Meara, Dom Richard, Manus Moran and Vincent Sherry.*



*Noel McCarthy, Union President, Michael McNamara North American Branch Chairman
Michael O'Connor and Pater Kehoe at the New York Dinner in Langans 2004.*