



## Iconic images of the CCR year



Pictured at the recent launch of the CCR Transition Year Programme in Dublin's Mansion house were several of the current TY class and among others, the Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr. Naoise Murray, Champion Trainer Willie Mullins (CCR 1969-'74), Archbishop Charles Brown, Papal Nuncio, Minister of State for Justice, Paul Keogh TD, College President Marcelline Cody and Union President Jim Keating.

The unique nine-month experience is an invaluable launch pad for the Leaving Certificate programme and entry to third level with modules in languages, technology and environment forming the three pillars of the year and affords holistic learning to foster independence and growth.

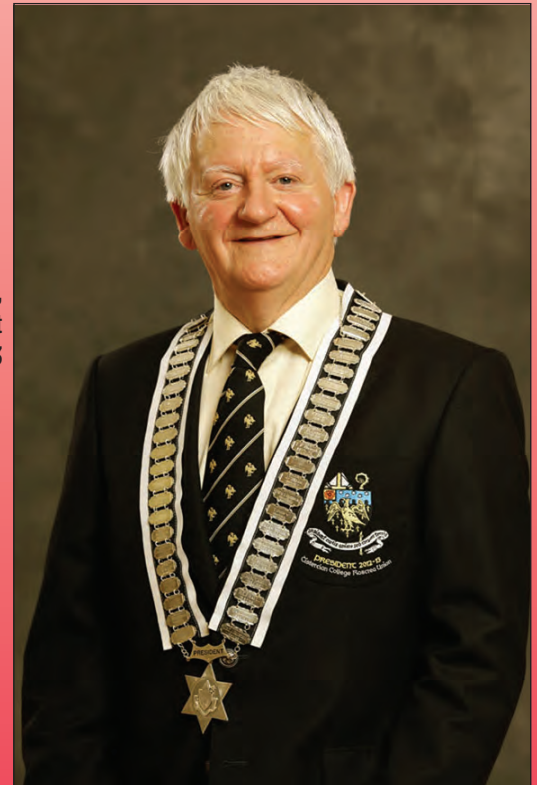
*Photo: Marc O'Sullivan.*



Left: Sean O'Brien scores Roscrea's second try against Blackrock on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013.

*Photo: Alan Landers Photography*

Right: Jim Keating, CCR Union President 2012-2013



Left: Members of the College Orchestra and Choir with Lord Mayor of Limerick Gerry McLoughlin and College President Marcelline Cody at the end of year concert, an evening of music and song at the UL Concert Hall 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

*Photo: Sean Curtin.*

# Jim Keating

## Union President 2012-'13

*Portlaoise native, Jim Keating (CCR 1963-'68) was elected President of the Union at the AGM on 27th May 2012.*

A native of Bridge Street, Portlaoise - his parents (Eamon and Rose) sent eight of their family of nine, to boarding school. Six sisters attended the Brigidine Convent in Mountrath, while Jim and his brother Emmanuel went to Roscrea. The youngest brother Edmund, attended the Christian Brothers Secondary School in Portlaoise.

In Roscrea, Jim played Junior and Senior rugby. A noteworthy athlete, Jim was successful in winning both the Junior and Senior Javelin, in the Leinster Sports. He also set a College Record of 147 feet. In his 6th year, along with fellow students, Sean McCann and Liam Spooner, he was selected to compete in the International Schoolboys' Athletic meeting in Santry, Dublin. When in 6th Year, Jim was elected Second House Captain.

Athletics continued into his post-Roscrea life, which saw him joining Ballyfin Athletic Club and winning the first ever Irish Singlet for the Club in 1970, when he won the Javelin at an International meeting in Dublin.

Upon leaving school he worked for his father's industrial painting business until 1971, whereupon he went to London and started working for International Computers Ltd., as a trainee computer operator. He proceeded quickly through the ranks to become a Computer Programmer/Systems Analyst.

Leaving London in 1974 he continued his career in the budding IT field, by joining a subsidiary of the Ulster Bank Group of Companies in Dublin as Programmer and Production Controller.

He remained there until 1983 when he returned to live in County Laois, and started work as a Project Manager for J.A. Lumley & Son, Tullamore, successfully implementing a computerised point-of-sale and accounts system for their Cash & Carry. This in turn led to the securing of computer consultancy work for clients who also belonged to the Homestead Group of Cash & Carry stores.

In 1987, Jim joined Shaw's Almost Nationwide as I.T. Manager for their Branch Network. He stayed with them until 1991 when he formed his own software company. In 1996 he was employed as I.T Manager by Central Garage in Mountmellick to undertake the computerisation of their expanding network of six branches in the midlands.

In 2005, he changed career, and started work for Dunne & McDonald Motors as a Customer Relations Executive, until being made redundant in 2009 when the Kildare firm of Fitzpatrick's took over the Toyota Dealership.

Outside of work, Jim was a well known karate enthusiast. He studied Karate in Rathmines Kenpo Club in Dublin and achieved his Black Belt in 1983. Two years later he achieved his second Black Belt. He went on to establish Karate clubs in Tullamore, Portlaoise and Rathdowney.

Jim's interests remain diverse. He is Secretary of the Tullamore Trump Bridge Club; a member of Tullamore Folk Choir, Tullamore Golf Club, Tullamore Probus and a Saint Vincent De Paul Volunteer in Tullamore.



*Jim Keating receives the chain of office from his predecessor Pat Hanratty.*

For the past three years, he has been a Volunteer with the Dóchas Offaly Cancer Support Group in Tullamore and, in that time, undertook two years of study with N.U.I. Maynooth, successfully completing their Counselling Skills and Psychology courses.

Recreation wise, these days he likes to play guitar and bridge, reading and doing 'work-outs' in the Aura Leisure Centre in Tullamore with fellow Roscrea classmate - Frank Thompson.

Jim's stated aims for his time at the helm of the Union was to raise a greater awareness of the College and the Union, and to make the President more visible to the legions of past pupils and parents of the College. We think he has succeeded admirably in those!

Jim lives in Rosenallis with his wife Sandra, a native of Portlaoise who works as Librarian in the Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore. They have 4 children - Axel (London), Dylan (U.S.A.), Evan (Auckland, New Zealand) and Shona (Dublin).

**STOP PRESS.....** At the Union AGM on Sunday 12th May, Simon Coyle (CCR 1967-'72) was elected President.



*Jim Keating with classmate from 1963-'68, Frank Thompson who will take over as Union President in May 2014.*

# Message from the Union President

At the AGM of the Past Pupils Union, which was held in the College Boardroom on Sunday 27th May 2012, I was elected 53rd President of the Cistercian College Roscrea, Union. I was proud and honoured to take on the mantle of President from the previous incumbent and Editor of the Roscrea Review, Pat Hanratty. To use the oft heard phrase – I had a hard act to follow.

In my preparations for writing this article, and having perused many of the previous President's reports in my archived Reviews, I noticed that none of them had ever explained exactly how the President was elected or given a detailed list of events that he attended. This was by no means to find fault with what other Presidents had written, but from the vast number of fellow past men whom I have met throughout my year at the helm, constantly asking me such questions as 'Who elects you?' and 'What exactly to you do as president?' I decided to use this opportunity to answer those questions.

What follows is an account from the day I was first elected, to the day I step down next May.

Normally, because of the size and perennial activity of the Dublin Branch every second President is Dublin based. Having said that, many of those are not native Dubliners: indeed most of the current Dublin committee are not Dubliners! I was asked by a number of pastmen to allow my name to go forward for President-Elect in 2011, and was proposed by the South West branch, and seconded by the South East branch. (My own branch in the Midlands had proposed Pat Hanratty the previous year.) I was then elected at the AGM of the Union in May 2011 and took office as President in May 2012. In passing, it is worth pointing out that all pastmen are welcome to attend the AGM, which this year took place on Sunday 12th May. More detailed information on the workings of the Union can be had by checking out the Union Constitution at [www.ccrunion.org](http://www.ccrunion.org).

Upon accepting the Chain of Office (as is the custom), one usually sets out the goals that one wishes to attain during his presidency. In my acceptance speech, I set out the following two objectives for the coming year:

The completion of the College Photography Archive to digital format

To transfer the Roscrea Review on to digital format

After two years in the making, I am happy to report that the College Photographic Archive from 1905 to 1970 has now been completely digitised – a total of sixty five years! These photos are classified by year; starting with Junior and Senior Rugby / Hurling, followed by the different Societies – Drama, Musical and Debating etc.

In passing, I would like to thank and acknowledge the help that I got from former Union President, Gerry O'Meara, whose idea it was in the first place, to undertake such a project. What this means in practice is, that for the first time ever, any past pupil or sons of Past Pupils can come to the College & ask to check on Computer to see if we hold any photographs of them or their relatives.

I am happy to report that two Transition Year Students, David Nagle and David Kelly have already started on continuing this work with photos from the period 1971 to 2010.

Plans to digitise the Review are well advanced and await further discussions and clarification by the Central Committee members. This has the potential to save the Union quite a significant amount of money and postage in the coming years.

*This is how my Presidential Diary unfolded since taking up the position at the end of May:*

**June: 2012**

Graduation Mass in the Monastery Church with students & their parents, followed by lunch in the Refectory and the presentation of Union Ties to 36 Pupils

Two days spent in the college archiving college photographs

**July:**

Hurling Support Group annual Golf Classic in Roscrea Golf Club

Two days spent in the College completing the archiving of the photographic collection

**August:**

Matt Hyland / Noel Windle Golf Classic, Milltown

Midlands Branch annual Golf Classic, Esker Hills, Tullamore

**September:**

Abbot's Cup Golf Classic, Roscrea

First Central Committee Meeting in the College

Class Reunions of 1962, 1972, 1982 and 1992

**November:**

Dublin Branch Annual Dinner, Davenport Hotel

New York Branch Annual Dinner

College Musical, Chess, followed by presentation of Union Gold Medal

Management Advisory Council Meeting in the Guest House

Dublin, for Funeral of Past President, Mr. Padraig Mulcahy

**December:**

Second Central Committee Meeting in the College, followed by annual Carol Service in the Monastery Church

College for Senior Rugby match v Kings Hospital

Donnybrook for League Final v Gonzaga

**January 2013:**

Rugby Support Group Draw in the College

Maynooth for Senior Cup Team match against Wesley

**February:**

RTE Studios with Students for televised Sunday Mass

Clongowes Wood Union Annual Dinner in the Burlington

College for the launch of new Website

Management Advisory Council Meeting in the Guest House

Tallaght Stadium for Senior Cup Team match against Terenure

**March:**

Donnybrook for Senior Cup Semi-Final

Third Central Committee Meeting in the College

Met with TY students David Kelly & David Nagle in the college to discuss their ongoing project of digitising the school photographs from 1971 onwards

**April:**

Mansion House Dublin for launch of Transition Year Programme

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of Sport, St Ann's Church, Dawson St., Dublin

German semi-final Debate in St. Killian's, Dublin

Annual Academic & Sports Awards night in the College

Maryborough House Hotel Cork, South West Branch Annual Reunion Dinner

University of Limerick for the annual night of Music and Song, performed by the Student's Orchestra and guests

CUS Annual Dinner in the Burlington Hotel

**May:**

German Debating Final at Goethe Institute, Dublin where the CCR team won the All-Ireland Final, beating CBC, Cork.

Union AGM

Management Advisory Council Meeting in the Guest House

On behalf of the Union, I would like to applaud the Senior & Junior Cup Teams for their performances this year. I can say on behalf of pastmen everywhere, that the Seniors did the college proud in their superhuman efforts to overcome the eventual Cup Winners, Blackrock. Elsewhere in this issue and on the Union website we cover their exploits – as I meet people from other school Unions I am constantly the recipient of fulsome praise for what has been achieved, and sympathy for what happened in Donnybrook on 3rd March and in Maynooth last year.

I would also like to pay tribute to the u14, u17 & Senior Hurlers for their performances this year.

Throughout the past year, many pastmen have expressed their concerns to me about the dwindling pupil numbers in the College and what they might do to help. My advice is to reiterate what the Abbot and College President have said publicly, – 'Spread the good news about the College – tell about our own experiences, and in short – be Ambassadors for the College'.

I am often asked by my family and friends, just what is it about CCR past men that makes them support the various branch functions, whether it is in Dublin, London, New York. My answer has always been the same – it's about friendship. It is also the camaraderie that I experience whenever I am in the company of CCR past men.

When I mention the word friendship, I am reminded that it is almost fifty years since I walked into the front hall of the college for the first time to meet my classmates, and the most of the friends I made then, are still with me today. I want to thank each and every one of them for their good wishes, encouragement and help to me throughout this past year.

In conclusion, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Simon Coyle (Class of 1972) who will assume the presidency of the Union for the period 2013-'14. Simon, who is a member of the Dublin branch, has been involved in the Union for a great number of years. His brother, Michael (Class of '68) was president in 2008.

Jim Keating (CCR 1963-'68)

# EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Spring 2013 edition of the *Roscrea Review*. This issue effectively covers Jim Keating's wonderful year as Union President, when as well as attending a huge number of College and Union events, he and Gerry O'Meara continued their excellent work in archiving photographs from the eleven decades of CCR's existence. During his year as President Jim has given great leadership to the Union at large.

The year just about to finish has been a remarkable one in the annals of CCR. While it is common knowledge that numbers are falling, especially in Junior House, Dom Richard, the Board of Governors, Marcelline Cody and the College staff have been fighting that head on over the past year. On page 5 we publish an article by outgoing Board of Governors Chairman Diarmuid Ó Murchú which sets out the scenario and highlights the manner in which the Board is facing the challenges.

By any standards it's been a remarkable year in CCR. For so many who have donned the CCR jersey and/or travelled to Donnybrook and other venues cheering on the teams, this year brought unprecedented highs. In the first term as well as having no less than six players gaining interprovincial and three gaining underage international honours, the SCT took home the League trophy before Christmas and showed us glimpses of what lay ahead. A clinical 40-0 thrashing of Wesley College on a horribly cold and wet late January day in NUIM laid whatever ghosts might have lingered in that venue from last year. The victory over favourites Terenure College in Tallaght Stadium will go down as one of CCR's best ever performances: indeed most commentators reckon a bigger margin of victory would not have flattered the team.

Even at two month's remove, it's hard to write about the Semi Final against Blackrock College. Three sublime tries, each utterly different in their execution from Ciaran Gaffney, Sean O'Brien and Rory Moloney had put us in a commanding position, and supporters in the stand at Donnybrook were in the sort of ecstasy they hardly dreamed of. That Blackrock came back and won the game doesn't take from the fact that this was arguably the finest team ever to represent CCR in any code, and we in the Union thank them and their mentors most sincerely for the joy they gave us and the pride we take in their achievements.

Of course there's a great deal more happening in the College on all fronts. As ever the academic attainments are out of the top drawer, and in extra-curricular activities CCR students have had great success in the Young Scientists' Competition and in Debating. The standard of Music in the College is truly remarkable, three events acting as a showcase for the huge talent there: the Musical *CHESS* in November, the Carol Service just before Christmas and the Gala Musical Evening in the University of Limerick Concert Hall in the third term. Pastmen of a particular generation will be interested to

know that the College's Gaelic Football team won the North Leinster Senior Football Final defeating Ó Fiach College Dundalk by 5-11 to 3-8 – if we exclude the Abbot's Cup of happy memory, this is the College's first Gaelic Football title.



After the concert in UL on 30<sup>th</sup> April last, Dom Richard spoke of how six years ago he had been on an interview panel for a new music teacher and one of those interviewed was William Cullagh, who asked the incredulous panel at the end of his interview, if he got the job, would they mind if he started an orchestra. Six years later, the fruits of his work were there for all to hear during a most enjoyable evening. Indeed some of the most accomplished musicians have been there for the six years and are now soon to be pastmen, but there's plenty more talent coming on stream!

Dom Richard went on to praise the commitment of Mrs. Cody, the rest of the staff and the pupils for making CCR the College it is and to spell out the commitment of the Monastery with very ambitious plans for the future. Central to that future will be the new College website [www.ccr.ie](http://www.ccr.ie) launched on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Another notable success for CCR was the victory of the team coached by Ms Niamh O'Rourke in the All-Ireland German Debating Final on 9<sup>th</sup> May – well done to all involved.

All in all, it's been one heck of a year!

*As ever I am extremely grateful to all who wrote articles, submitted photos and details, helped with proof reading or otherwise contributed to the preparation of this overdue issue of the Review. Please send feedback or materials for the next issue to me at [pathanratty@gmail.com](mailto:pathanratty@gmail.com) or 087-2731904.*

*Pat Hanratty*



*The CCR German Debating which won the Siemens GDI All Ireland German Debating Final for the first time. They beat CBC Cork in the final held at the Goethe Institut in Dublin on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Pictured are Ms Niamh O'Rourke, German teacher, Philip Keegan, Matthew Kavanagh, Cian Hanamy and Aaron McDermott (team captain).*

# CCR - The Future

*Diarmuid Ó Murchú,  
Chairman, Board of Governors*

**The Board of Governors of CCR is aware of the current threat to the future of fee-charging schools in Ireland. That threat comes from a number of sources:-**

(i) The economic downturn created a situation where the disposal income of teenagers shrank considerably and consequently compromised their capacity to pay private school fees. The business community also suffered losses and they too found the fees of private schools.

(ii) The Government decision to reduce the number of teachers it was prepared to fund in private second-level schools compared to State schools. This was done by increasing the pupil teacher ratio for private schools in each of the last two budgets. The McCarthy report suggested a ration of 28:1 as opposed to the State ration of 20:1. This increase the cost of tuition in private schools as privately=paid teachers must be recruited to compensate for the loss of state-funded teaching time.

(iii) The economies of scale are reduced as school populations shrink thereby putting further pressure on the finances of schools like CCR.

The Board has been facing these issues over the last three years and it has made a commitment to take on the difficulties in the following ways:-

- Consult with parents and students with regard to their hopes and wishes and expectations so that the College can take all possible to meet their requirements. The board has conducted a number of surveys to help identify key issues to be addressed.
- Continue the programme of refurbishment in dormitories and the infirmary. The final phase of the development of the residential Senior block has been deferred while the debt incurred in earlier developments is run down.
- Develop the curriculum in Transition Year to make it more attractive and a more practical preparation for Senior Cycle.
- Continue to invest in the sports programme through developing closer links with the provincial structures in rugby and in internal coaching structures.
- Emphasise the benefits of a seven day boarding school for teenagers from all over Ireland. Research commissioned by the Board established the demand for such a school.
- Developing a School Plan which addresses all aspects of College life and lays down an ambitious College programme to be promoted and reviewed over the next five years. The Board recruited expertise for this task and

looks forward to the outcomes as they come on stream

- The establishment of a communications protocol that presents the college to the public in the best way possible.

- The Board has formed a Management Advisory Council drawn from all of the partner bodies

associated with the College and chaired by Frank Thompson. This body will advise the Board of its views and recommendations. It is envisaged that this Committee is to be the fore-runner of a Board of Management which is to be introduced into the College management structure soon.

The Department of Education and Skills is currently conducting a Whole School Evaluation — Management, Leadership and Learning of the College and the Board looks forward to hearing its findings.

In conclusion, the board knows that all of this needs the support and energy of all partners to maintain the high standards of education we associate with CCR. All help is welcome. Constructive criticism from critical friends is particularly welcome as this is essential to chart the course of the College into the future.



*Diarmuid Ó Murchú*

## Dublin Branch Business Lunch

*The Dublin Branch of the Union is pleased to announce that it is organising a Business Lunch on Friday 14th June in Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club at 3 p.m. sharp. Dick Spring will be the guest speaker at this inaugural event (heckling will be allowed) and the price per person is €25 which includes a three course meal.*

*Numbers are extremely limited and if you are interested please email [ccrppu.dublin@gmail.com](mailto:ccrppu.dublin@gmail.com) as soon as possible and you will be contacted to arrange payment by Friday 31st May at the latest. The event is on a first come first served basis. Dress code is smart casual (no runners or jeans).*

# London Dinner

## RAF Club, Piccadilly

### 16th March 2012

On the eve of St. Patrick's Day 2012, the London Branch held its customary pre England v Ireland dinner in the RAF Club, Piccadilly. Numbers were swelled by those hoping to see Ireland play England at Twickenham – the less said about that the better.

A dominant theme was the desire of UK based pastmen who are established in their careers to do anything possible to assist young pastmen trying to find their feet in the UK. The London Branch "stalwarts", including Chairman Fergal Keane, Air Vice Marshall Manus Moran, John Yurky, Brian Flynn, John O'Shea and John McNamara meet regularly and are always keen to join them.

From Ireland, the attendees included Union President Pat Hanratty, President-Elect Jim Keating, College President Marcelline Cody and her husband Donncha, Board of Governors Chairman Diarmuid Ó Murchú, and recently elected Honorary Life Vice-President Aidan McNulty.

The meal was excellent as usual and the atmosphere most convivial, although it has to be said that the London Branch don't keep the late hours normally associated with Dublin or Kilkenny events! Most were on their way home well before midnight!

The College President and her husband, the Union President and the London Branch Chairman happily headed for Twickenham the following day, not realizing they were going to witness the St. Patrick's Day Massacre from way up in the South Stand. The latter two avoided the hordes of Chariot Swinging natives by heading for Wimbledon Town Centre and a very nice Italian restaurant, where the proprietor gave them a drink on the house for the day that was in it, and of course in celebration of Italy beating Scotland earlier that day! We were glad he was happy, and somehow managed to go home a good deal less miserable!



*Jim Keating and Donald Gallivan*



*Board of Governors Chairman Diarmaid Ó Murchu, College President Marcelline Cody and Union Hon. Life Vice President Brian Flynn.*



*Manus and Maureen Moran and Barry Bennett*



*Aidan McNulty and his daughter Elizabeth.*

# London Dinner

continued...



*Union President Pat Hanratty addressing the gathering.*



*John McNamara and John Verling*



*Manus Moran, College President Marcelline Cody and Union President Elect Jim Keating.*



*College President Marcelline Cody presents a CCR plaque to London Branch Chairman Fergal Keane.*



*Fergal at Tallaght Stadium  
19th February.*



*Fergal after the traumatic shave!*

**Footnote:** Fergal recently shaved his beard of 21 years in order to raise funds for his local church's restoration fund – it had been hoped that this Review would have been out in time to publicise the great climactic shave off. We can show two pictures, one of him taken at Tallaght Stadium at the match v Terenure in February, and the other with his new visage after the operation. A full sequence of photographs taken during the event, including the gasps of upset onlookers is available from Fergal at [fergal@gfkaccountants.co.uk](mailto:fergal@gfkaccountants.co.uk) on receipt of a substantial donation to the building fund. So far Fergal has raised £4,312, and happily the beard is growing again!

# South East Branch Dinner

**Kilkenny, 21st April 2012**

It was wonderful to have the South East Branch Dinner restored to the Union Calendar this year. It's no secret that Kilkenny was one of the places in Ireland that my late wife Bridget and I loved visiting, and to be the guest of the Branch in the Presidential Suite in the Ormond was a real joy. The Branch is hopeful that from now on there will be a Dinner in Kilkenny once every two years.

The choice of Conor Brady, recently retired from his second (?) career as Garda Ombudsman Commissioner, and now a Crime Novelist as guest speaker was an inspired one – he gave us a most entertaining speech, part of which we reprint. In his speech he spoke of what a privilege and a pleasure it was to be addressing a gathering of pastmen and their friends in Kilkenny, which he suggested was the heart of Cistercian Ireland. He made a number of references to a recent MSJ Conference where a book by Breda Lynch from Slieverue in South Kilkenny entitled *A Monastic Landscape, The Cistercians in Medieval Ireland* was launched. The author reminded those present that before the reformation there were an astonishing 42 Cistercian foundations in Ireland. It has been estimated that at one time the Cistercians controlled more than one third of the arable land of Ireland.

Conor went on: "few people realise the extent to which the Cistercians are remembered in Irish place names. Most of us know the 'high profile' names – Jerpoint, Mellifont, Dunbrody, Boyle and so on but few people realise that any place in Ireland with 'Abbey' in it is likely to be named after a Cistercian house – Abbeyfeale, Abbeydorney, Abbeyshrule, Abbeyleix.

Abbey Street in Dublin is named from St Mary's Abbey, arguably the greatest Cistercian house of all. Its lands stretched from the borders of County Kildare across most of modern South Dublin to the edge of Co Wicklow. The Cistercians built the harbours of Bulloch and Coliomore. Monkstown, where we live, is so called from the fortified settlement and castle that was built there in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century by Cistercian monks of St Mary's Abbey to protect their vast flocks of sheep and their woollen industries.

So it's important to remind ourselves – and occasions like this are part of it – that as members of the Cistercian family we are bound into a great tradition, historically, liturgically, spiritually, going back almost 1,000 years – 1,500 years if you want to go back to St Benedict. By comparison, the Jesuits (400 years) are mere arrivistes. The Holy Ghosts 'Spiritans' are adolescents with just 300 years of history behind them.

We have been fortunate, those of us who were schooled in Roscrea, to be linked to this wonderful tradition. We are doubly fortunate, because of the fact that although there are something in excess of 150 Cistercian houses of the Strict Observance (monks and nuns) across the world,



*Guest Speaker Conor Brady makes a point as his wife Ann and Donncha Cody look on.*

Roscrea is the only one that operates a fully-fledged secondary school."

Conor went to say that he is often asked what kind of place Roscrea is and what makes a typical Roscrea guy.

"Well, he said, I suppose we all know that the Jesuits are tops in modesty. (I always remember Gus Martin, one of CCR's 'greats', looking at a match programme against Clongowes. "Hmmm...Clongowes Wood College...I wonder what kind of a place a 'wood' college is?"). And we know that the Benectines are 'soft Cistercians' – 'Cistercian Lite' as somebody once called them. But more seriously, these actually aren't the easiest questions to answer.

What distinguishes the Cistercians? What are the characteristics of the Roscrea man? Or is it possible to speak meaningfully of such a thing? Of course, it isn't any more than a generalisation and there are many, many exceptions."

Conor quoted Dom Richard at the same MSJ Conference emphasising 'stability' or 'love of place'. He went on to analyse the College motto, 'Insieat Coelis Animo Sed Corpore Terris', best translated as 'Let the mind dwell on higher things but remember that the body dwells on Earth.' But Conor suggested we could express it another way, 'Let your imagination or your spirit loose – but keep your feet on the ground.'

Conor then asked: "So what should one expect in a Roscrea man? I'd like to think you'd find a fairly well rounded individual, a man with a sense of balance in his life, practical but with some sense of the spiritual, a pride in who he is and where he has come from but without airs and graces – I suppose the kind of fellow we'd all like to think we're seen as!

That's the ideal, I suppose. It doesn't always work out that way. I was quoting Gus Martin earlier. Gus had a theory – he always found the Fiolar very boring – filled up with pictures of fellows who had done well. Gus had a theory that a far more interesting Fiolar would be one that featured all the Roscrea fellows who had gone to the dogs; we had one or two, I know convicted of murder; there were embezzlers, tax dodgers, poteen makers, mercenaries. I think there was even one early pastman in the Black and Tans."



## South East Branch Dinner

*continued...*

Cue an outburst of laughter appropriate for a city with a festival for that purpose! Conor finished by telling us about how CCR played a big part in his fledgling journalistic career. He paid tribute to the then College President Fr. Patrick who not only encouraged *The Vexillum*, but even the *Junior Journal*, a short lived periodical which Conor and some enthusiastic wannabee writers (including this scribe) put together circa 1962 – '63. I think the *Junior Journal's* demise came when Conor was old enough to be let into the Vexillum Office where he and others could satirise anybody at will – in his own words: "Once or twice each term, it would carry thinly veiled libel and defamation about virtually everybody in the place – monks, teachers, students. Nicknames were the order of the day, of course. Any oddity of manner, any noticeable physical characteristic, any unusual accent or mannerism would be mercilessly exploited." (They did produce some serious stuff too, but who remembers that?) And there we see the launch of a stellar journalistic career! Never underestimate the value of student journalism and self expression!

Needless to say, Conor received a tumultuous reception befitting one of our own who reached the very top of his profession, but never lost his sense of balance and kept his feet on the ground. *Insidiat coelis animo.....*

Kilkenny is well known as a popular venue for hen-parties. As I was on my way down on the lift to that Dinner, there were two, shall I say, beautiful, *youngish* well dressed ladies, obviously heading for an enjoyable night on the town. They looked at me, and one of them asked me "Is there any chance we could borrow your necklace!"

Needless to say I clung on to the Union President's chain for dear life and minded it with even greater care than usual. It had survived New York, London, Esker Hills and other venues! And of course we had a marvellous night – many thanks to the organisers, the various members of the O'Shea clan and others.



*Aidan McNulty, Rob O'Shea, Union President Pat Hanratty, Jim Keating and Paul O'Shea.*



*Eilis and Rob O'Shea.*



*Gerald and Neans McCarthy.*



*Michael McNamara admires the newly extended Presidential chain.*



*John Phelan and Elizabeth Comerford.*



*Ann Hyland and Jim Keating.*



*Conal O'Neill and Katherine Donovan.*



*Matt Peters and Pat Somers obviously enjoying themselves!*

# South West Branch Dinner

## 18th May 2012

The venue for this year's Reunion was the Maryborough House Hotel and the barbecue format which worked so well in previous years was continued. As the event was held in mid-May we were optimistic as regards the weather. True to form for 2012, all of Cork was threatened with a wash out that day. The hotel's contingency plans kicked in however - when its raining heavily in Cork, the place to be is in a heated marquee in the Maryborough. Later on in the evening, the group transferred to a room in the hotel that was reserved for the occasion.

The most pleasing feature of this year's get together was the number of recent pastmen who supported the event viz. Garrett & John Verling, Mark Delahunty, Killian O'Riordan, Chris Ferriter, John Watchorne, Billy O'Connor and Andrew Lett. We were delighted to have Dom Richard Purcell, Patron of our Union in attendance. We have been particularly fortunate that we've always managed to have a member of the Community at our annual get togethers. It was Dom Richard's first time at the South West event and he was there into the small hours.

College President, Marcelline Cody and her husband Donncha made the trip from Roscrea along with Union Secretary, Katherine Donovan. President Elect, Jim Keating travelled from Rosenallis along with another Member of the Class of '68, Frank Thompson. Brendan Hyland who is based in Roscrea along with his wife Anne also travelled.

John Joyce (Class of 1961) travelled down from Birr and stayed with his old classmate, Peter Sommerfield. John and his twin brother, Arthur are sons of Fred Joyce, our French Teacher in CCR. Pat and Margaret O'Shea and Conor and Carmel O'Hara used the opportunity for a Class Reunion with Gerald & Neans McCarthy and tried to fit in some golf as well. First timer Julian Hennessy accompanied by Peter Sommerfield and Peter's wife Elizabeth also attended.

The Class of '70 was well represented by Branch Chairman, Gerry O'Meara and his Kilmallock, Co. Limerick hurling teammate John McCarthy. John's wife Barbara McCarthy attended, and Kay O'Meara joined the gathering later in the evening.

Regular supporters in attendance included Mick and Billy O'Neill along with their wives Maureen and Mary, Sean and Marie Walsh from Fermoy, Dermot Cronin along with his daughter Nora and her husband Jim Collins.

Before the meal a minute's silence was observed to commemorate the passing of two long serving and stalwart supporters of the Branch, the Union and the College. Tom O'Callaghan who died in June 2011 and Peter Power who died in December 2011.

Before we adjourned from the marquee, Union President Pat Hanratty, attending his very last Union event as President, presented Neans McCarthy with a bouquet of flowers acknowledging the support she has given to the Branch and to the Union over many years.



*Barbara McCarthy, Liz Kenny and Marcelline Cody.*



*John Kenny, Pat Hanratty and Julian Hennessy.*



*Mary O'Neill and Jim Keating.*

## South West Branch Dinner

continued...



*Jim Keating, Pat Hanratty and Brendan Hyland.*



*Billy O'Neill, Gerry O'Meara, Jim Keating, Mary O'Neill, Pat O'Shea and Frank Thompson.*



*Brendan Hyland, Dom Richard Purcell, Pat Hanratty, Jim Keating and Gerry O'Meara.*



*Jim Keating, Chris Ferriter and Brendan Hyland.*



*Dom Richard with Jim Keating.*

## Union Gold Medal 2012

*David Nagle who with eleven As achieved the best result in last year's Junior Cert being presented with the Union Gold Medal by Union President Jim Keating as Dean of Studies Gerry Grealish looks on.*



# Hurling Support Group Golf Classic

Yet again, the Hurling Support Group Golf Classic last July drew a huge entry. Great credit is due to the organising committee, spearheaded by Ann McIntyre and Jim Nash. The very inclement weather didn't deter the hordes and multitudes who yet again took over Roscrea Golf Club with a shotgun start at 3.0 p.m.

The eventual winners were Paddy McKeon's team with The Thompson Family performing strongly on behalf of the Union.

*Pictured above: Ann and Jim marking the cards.*

*Pictured right: Newly elected President Jim Keating with College President Marcelline Cody and Frank Thompson whose family team were runners up.*



## David Hernan Marries

In February 2012 David Hernan, (CCR 1983-'89) former Chairman of the Dublin Branch was married in Fossa Church Killarney to Susan Kelly a native of Ballon, Co. Carlow. The reception was held in The Malton Hotel, Killarney and there gathered, among others, no fewer than 23 CCR pastmen.

David's brother Rob also got married last August to Deborah Weekes from Knockfennell, Co.Limerick at Grange, Co. Limerick. The reception was held in The Dunraven Arms in Adare.

It's fascinating that the other Hernan brothers, Ray and John were married in 1993 – their Mam and Dad only had to wait another 19 years for David and Rob to tie the knot!



*David and Susan.*



*Picture shows David seated along with his brothers Robert ('84), John ('85) and Ray ('82) and John Cleary ('88) who is second from right. Standing are, from left John McManus ('88), Ken Bredin ('89), Barry Murphy ('89), Paul Tarpey ('89), Carl Kiernan ('88), James Phelan ('89), Rob O'Shea ('89), David Lucey ('89), Dom Peter Garvey ('55), Justin Owens ('89), Shane Slattery ('88), Pierce O'Leary ('88), Eoghan Comerford ('89), Eoin Rafferty ('88), Darragh O'Connor ('88), Des Berry ('87). Missing from photo were John Walsh ('87) and Kevin Keegan ('88).*

# Matt Hyland/ Noel Windle Golf

## Milltown Golf Club August 2012

The Dublin Branch golf event was due to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012. Unlike last year when the rain only came after many of the golfers had started, this year it was obvious from early morning that the monsoon like conditions would not allow any play that day. Frantic phone calls were made to make sure everyone got the message, and the process of getting an alternative date began in earnest.

With the Grange unable to give us any Friday for the rest of the "summer", a message came to say that Milltown GC was available on 17<sup>th</sup> August. Most of the would be attendees from June were available in August – a very respectable 51 played golf on a fine day and 59 enjoyed a wonderful dinner.

After knocking on the door on several previous occasions, victory at last was claimed by Fr. Peter Garvey with a score of 39 points, just ahead of Johnny Dolan on 38 to take the coveted Matt Hyland trophy back to the Monastery. For the second year in a row, the formidable team of Fr. Peter, Kay Garvey and Greg Swift won the team award with a score of 81 points, just ahead of Hugh O'Neill, Graziano Romeri and Patrick Coady in second place with 80 points.

In the ladies' competition for the Noel Windle Cup the winner was Angela Cirillo with 32 points just one point ahead of Jacinta Joyce.

The occasion was used to present Aidan McNulty with a framed scroll commemorating the conferring on him of the title of Honorary Life Vice President of the Union. The current Union President Mr. Jim Keating did the Honours, recalling his memories of Aidan's prowess as an athlete, particularly as a Pole Vault, and paying tribute to the decades of sterling service he has given to the Union.

As ever we were very well supported with a selection of sponsors, some stalwarts from previous years, others new and very welcome, and to all of whom I must express the gratitude of the Dublin Branch. Similarly I must thank all who attended and made the day the success it was.

*Sinbad Wilmot, Chairman, Dublin Branch*

*The sponsors were:*

FIRM	LINK
Comans Wholesale Ltd	Tom Coman, Class of '84
Graph Print	Publishers of Roscrea Review
Paddywagon Tours	Cathal O'Connell, Class of '86
Hackett's Bookmakers	John Hackett, Class of '88
Commtech	Justin Owens, Class of '89
County Arms Hotel, Birr	Peter & Conor Loughnane (Classes of '94 and '95)
Brady Family Ham	John O'Brien, Class of '98
Michael J Mc Nulty & Co Accts, Dublin & Sligo	Michael McNulty, Class of '65
Bodega Restaurant, Waterford	Donagh & Cormac Cronin Classes of '83 and '86
BetDaq	Brendan Phelan, Class of '79
Wireless Connect Ltd.	Tom Smyth, Class of '98
Six Financial Information	John McManus, Class of '88

We are also deeply indebted to those who sponsored raffle prizes: Racket Hall Hotel, Roscrea, Tom O'Connell (Class of '72) of O'Connells in Donnybrook, Gowan Group Motors courtesy of Michael Dwan (Class of '81), Graziano Romeri and Nico's Restaurant courtesy of Emilio Cirillo.



*In 2011 Morris Mulvaney left Grange GC having been soaked to the skin, not suspecting his 34 points would win him the Matt Hyland Cup at his first attempt. We took this photo in Milltown for the records!*

## Matt Hyland/Noel Windle Golf

continued...



*Katherine Donovan, Lean Hyland and Conor Massey.*



*Josephine Hickey, Marcelline Cody and Jacinta Joyce.*



*Shane McNerney, John Ryan and Liam Nicholl.*



*Caroline McNulty and her fiancé Cillian Clancy.*



*Fergal Ó Dubhghall and his wife Majella.*



*Liam O'Brien (CCR 1960-'65) and James Malone.*



*Michael and Jennifer Coyle.*



*Martin Collins who won the prize for nearest the pin with Colleen O'Neill and Yoonne Malone.*



*Brian McBreen and Fergal Cox.*

# Matt Hyland/Noel Windle Golf

continued...



Honorary Life Vice President Aidan McNulty and his wife Teresa, with his scroll.



Marcelline Cody presents the Noel Windle Cup to Angela Cirillo.



Team award runners up, Patrick Coady, Hugh O'Neill and Graziano Romeri with Sinbad Wilmot.



Team Prize winners Greg Swift, Kay Garvey and Fr. Peter with Sinbad Wilmot. Their very handsome prizes were donated by Gowan Motors, Merrion Rd.



Chairman Sinbad presents Johnny Dolan with the runner up prize.



Martin Collins accepting his prize for nearest the pin.



Leann Hyland seems not to want to part with the Matt Hyland trophy but does actually present it to Fr. Peter.



Mary Romeri accepting her prize for longest drive (ladies')



Jacinta Joyce accepting the Runner up Ladies' prize from Sinbad.

2011 winner hands over to 2012 winner:  
Morris Mulvaney and Fr. Peter Garvey.



# Midlands Golf

## Esker Hills Golf Club

### August 2012

For the second year running, the Midland Branch were blessed with a fine day for their Annual golf outing at Esker Hills. I must say that while the course is not for the faint hearted, I don't fear it as much as I did the second time I played it – having had a total disaster of a round on my first visit to the course! This time out I played with the Union President and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Jim and I like our golf at a relaxed pace with as little as pressure as possible.

Once again the Club served up an excellent meal in very convivial surroundings. When it came to the prize giving, there was a familiar ring to the names as can be seen from the list. To honour local boy Jim Keating's accession to the Presidency of the Union, he was presented with a very nice Wilson golf bag by the Midlands Branch.

### RESULTS:

#### Mens':

- 1<sup>st</sup> : Johnny Dolan,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> : Seamus Murray,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> : Frank Thompson,
- 4<sup>th</sup> : Kevin O'Regan,
- 5<sup>th</sup> : Gerry Hayes.

#### Ladies':

- 1<sup>st</sup> : Regina O'Regan,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> : Josephine Hickey,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> : Zara Thompson.

**Front nine:** John Thompson

**Back nine:** Paul Wrafter



*College President Marcelline Cody with Kay Wrafter and Josephine Hickey.*



*Andy Hennessy, Ian Fox, Ronan Egan and Michael O'Hanlon.*



*Paul Wrafter, Andy Galvin and Gerry Hayes.*



*Andy Hennessy, Union President Jim Keating and Tom Stokes.*



# Midlands Golf

continued...



*Julian Fagan and Andy Hennessy.*



*Paul Fitzpatrick presenting the winner's prize to Johnny Dolan.*



*Tom Maher, Union President Jim Keating and Fr. Peter Garvey.*



*Frank Thompson happily congratulates his daughter-in-law Zara on coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Ladies' competition.*



*Regina O'Regan accepting a prize from Paul Fitzpatrick as Frank Thompson looks on.*



*Emmet, Zara, John and Margaret Thompson with CCR parent Seamus Murray.*



*Kevin O'Regan accepting his prize from Paul Fitzpatrick.*



*Gerry Hayes, another prize winner with Paul Fitzpatrick and Frank Thompson.*



*Frank Thompson presenting his son John with his prize.*



*The Midland Branch made a special presentation to Jim Keating to mark his recent assuming of the office of Union President. He is seen here smiling happily with Fr. Peter Garvey and Gerry Hayes.*

# Abbot's Cup 2012 - Class of '82 Reunion



*John Lawlor, Katherine Donovan and Michael Sherry.*



*Union President Jim Keating presents the Abbot's Cup to Gerry Hayes as Dom Richard Purcell looks on.*



*Jim Keating and President Elect Simon Coyle.*



*Marcelline Cody presents the College President's prize to Fr. Peter Garvey.*



*Joe Dooley receives third prize from Jim Keating.*

The class of 1982 met for their 30 year reunion on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012. The day started well with about 10 of the class joining in the Abbot's Cup competition. Brian Harnett did well overall and was the winner of the class prize with John O'Sullivan coming second.

A group consisting of Michael McDonagh, Tim Meagher, Des O'Connor, Feargal O'Dubhghaill, Shane Powderly and Peter Geraghty was treated to a tour of the college and a reception in the Millennium Room. All then joined up for a meal in the County Arms Hotel Birr that evening at 8 with photo and dinner at 9 p.m.

We were joined by College President Marcelline Cody, Abbot Dom Richard, Dan Smyth, Hugh McDonnell, Father Peter, John Shanahan, Pat Sheedy and Pauline Sheedy. After the meal, we were joined by Union President Jim Keating and Roscrea Review Editor Pat Hanratty who drove over after the Abbot's Cup dinner finished. We offered to feed them but they said they were full!

Father Peter spoke on behalf of the guests and remarked on the quality of the men from the class of 82. Andrew Cody said it was a night for memories and in particular for the four classmates who had passed away, Paschal Nugent, Mike O'Leary, Paul Kelly and Michael O'Connell. Andrew paid particular tribute to Des O'Connor who had travelled from Pittsburgh specially for the event and said his effort and his presence meant a lot to the rest of the class.

Seadna Ryan said that the *Madame Tussaud's* award for *haven't changed a bit* went to Tim Meagher and the *Harley Clinic* award for *"I didn't recognise you"* went to Pat O'Loughlin. Seadna on behalf of the class of 82 thanked Andrew Cody for organising the event.

On a sad note the class found out the following morning that the mother of John Nolan (who had planned to attend) had passed away on the morning of the reunion.

After a very late night most stayed over and enjoyed a late and leisurely breakfast the following morning.



*Michael McDonagh, Tim Meagher, Des O'Connor, Feargal O'Dubhghaill, Shane Powderly and Peter Geraghty.*

## Class of '82 Reunion *continued...*



**CLASS GROUP - Back Row:** Des O'Connor, Donald Collins, Michael McDonagh, Michael Keane, Ray Hernan, John O'Sullivan, Pat O'Loughlin, Tim Meagher and Conor Moloney. **Middle row:** Michael Tarpey, Seadna Ryan, Brian Hartnett, Joe O'Shea, John Palmer, John Cody, Mattie Kennedy, Justin Lynch, Shane Powderly, Feargal O'Dubhgaill and Peter Geraghty. **Front row** -Dan Smyth, Sean Williams, David O'Connor, Peter Dunne, Pauline Sheedy, Andrew Cody, Hugh McDonnell, John Shanahan, Pat Sheedy.



*Joe O'Shea presents the prizes for the best scores from the Class of '82 to Brian Hartnett (left- 1st) and John O'Sullivan (right - 2nd.)*



*Michael Keane, Hugh McDonnell and Dan Smyth.*



*Andrew Cody and Peter Dunne.*



*John Shanahan and Peter Geraghty.*



*Joe O'Shea and Conor Moloney.*



*John O'Sullivan and Michael McDonagh.*



*Pauline Sheedy, Brian Harnett, John O'Sullivan and Michael McDonagh.*

# Class of '92 Reunion

Hard to believe it but the Editor of the Roscrea Review attended his class's first reunion shortly after a group of bright eyed bushy tailed youngsters left CCR and were set loose on an unsuspecting world. They were a group who had reached a Senior Cup Semi Final only to meet one of the best teams Terenure have ever produced, after accounting for the cup favourites St. Mary's in the second round in a thriller in Portlaoise.

Twenty years on, forty eager revellers turned up to make it a truly memorable occasion. A late decision was made to have the meal in Roscrea Golf Club thereby swelling the crowd at the Abbot's Cup Dinner, indeed might one say, adding greatly to the occasion. As is always the case, the food and drink served by the golf club was

spectacularly good. The guests of the class on the night were Dom Richard Purcell and Brendan O'Rourke.

A few brave souls played in the Abbot's Cup golf competition; alas they had no one in the winners' enclosure on this occasion. Special thanks go out to Marcelline Cody for arranging a wonderful reception in the College followed by a tour of a College unrecognisable from the building they had left in 1992.

The photos suggest a great time was had by all and they stayed long into the night reminiscing of days gone by and simply catching up. Great credit is due to Fergal Cox and Maurice Phelan for organizing the event. There were many highlights, including an impromptu speech by John O'Carroll, but mainly the fact that everyone bonded like they had just left yesterday rather than 20 years ago is what will live in the memory.



*Jonathon Quinn, Dermot Dwan and David Whelan.*



*Geoff Barry and John O'Carroll.*



*Glenn Adams, Brian Hogan and Maurice Phelan.*



*Declan McNulty and James Lee.*



*Breandán Ó Ruairc, Dom Richard and Fergal Cox.*



*Michael Brannigan, Pádraig Kelly, David Ryan, (Declan Hickey in background) and Shane McInerney listen attentively.*



*Eoin McGinnity, Barry McCormack, Sean Duggan, and Patrick Henry.*



*Brian Casserly (background), Patrick Cashman, Ronnie Kiernan and Shane O'Neill.*



*Mark McGrane, Seamus Duggan, Mark O'Byrne and John Ryan.*

# Class of 1967-'72 Reunion

## 22nd September 2012

The Class of 1972 held their Reunion in the Heritage Resort Hotel, having earlier visited the College. One presumes they had a wonderful time – we include the full text of the excellent speech given by Gerry Maher where he looked back on life in CCR as the Swinging 60s turned into the 70s.

In Sept 1967 an event took place in a small rural boarding school. About 45 young boys commenced a journey of five years during which time they moved from childhood to manhood. That grey September day saw the full compliment of 250 students assemble in the Recreation Hall. No fancy induction days, no reams of written material explaining the new vocabulary that would dominate our early years- kids dorm, refectory, small study hall, pave, junior middle and senior houses, four up/ four down. Allied to these challenges was the new experience of different teachers for different subjects- a traumatic shift for those of us who came from one and two teacher national schools. And so many new subjects - Science, Latin, French, Commerce and Spanish for some – a frightening yet paradoxically exciting new world.

With the passage of time many memories have become blurred and may also have been reinvented. I will attempt as honestly as I can to give some accurate recall of those early years. The late Fr. Patrick was College President. We had the

added joy of having him for Latin- *amo, amas, amat, hic, haec, hoc.....* A good teacher and a very fair, upright and dependable President. He didn't like change. Happiness for him - or so it seemed to us at the time - was an horarium that was unchanged for months on end. At times he would address us at the conclusion of night prayer - when we had surrendered our transistors for the night - and at times his words were of profound significance even if we did not always appreciate that. He announced his retirement as President at our sixth year dinner - a new school block needed a new man in charge.

Next up was the late Fr. Emmanuel – Dean of Studies. He presented a front of irascibility. He seemed to love shouting and had an amazing talent to deliver devastating one-liners. And yet, behind the veneer, there was a kind man, a Maths genius, into computers before anyone else in Irish education. For me his role was pivotal - the special library he had in his office. You never knew going in whether you would emerge with a new novel or a verbal tirade, but given the standard of books in there it was worth the risk!! He also loved public speaking for students and, obviously I was very involved in that area over the 5 years.

Next up was the man who introduced us to the joys of the Small Study Hall - the late Fr. Bonaventure. He supervised first study six nights a week. Now bear in mind that the concept of study was totally alien to all of us. We grew up doing our homework and that was it. Bonaventure loved routine and rote activities. He ran the junior library with military efficiency. The only problem was the books!! He took great pride in the weekly marks and supervised the weekly letter home, done religiously on a Sunday morning. He marched us down to the pave for that rarest of experiences - a hot shower - before we went home at the end of each term!! That piece of nostalgia opens up other early memories. The cold: it was always cold! No mere first year could ever aspire



**PHOTO ON THE STEPS OF THE COLLEGE**

**Front Row:** Don Brennan, Dom Kevin Daly, Marcelline Cody President, Jim Keating PPU President, Simon Coyle, John Boyan and Mr. John Shanahan. **Second Row:** Peter Collier, Dermot Duncan, Bernard Molloy, John Garahy, Jim Sherry. **Third Row:** Richard Ryan, Callaghan O'Flynn, Diarmuid O'Loughlin, Jim Kelly, Michael O'Brien, Tom O'Connell, John O'Meara, Paul Moore, Ted Doyle, Ciaran Folan. **Fourth Row:** Tom Kelly, Myles O'Connor, Pdraig Dolan, Shay Garvey, Fergal Keane, Denis Molloy, Vincent Mockler, Michael Slattery, Mr. Hugh McDonnell.

## Class of '67-'72 Reunion

*Continued...*

to get a seat beside a radiator. That privilege went with seniority. And the wonderful ineffectual heaters in the ceilings of the dorms - I doubt if they ever managed to raise the temperature by more than one degree, if that. Then the weekly laundry, the early abandonment of ever holding on to ones toging out gear, the huge teapots that spared you having to decide whether or not you wanted milk and/or sugar. The plastic basins that carried the morning porridge and then returned without batting an eyelid with the midday stew. The arrival of *Blueband* and the wonderful chance now to eat more bread. The "big feeds" when you played a home game and ate with the visiting teams - a wonderful subliminal inducement to succeed at sport!!

Of course there was class everyday also. I welcome especially our teaching guests this evening - John Shanahan and Hugh McDonnell. I was taught by both men and I worked with both men. John, we loved *Monsieur Tibot* and his wonderful family. What a joy to be introduced to French life through simple visits to the *boulangerie* and the *patisserie*. We learned to speak French. Look at how many of our year have built on the foundations laid by you - Pierre Collier, Shay Garvey, Simon Coyle and others. Of course you lulled us into a false sense of security by giving us no written work in first year - you certainly made up for it subsequently!! Hughie arrived in 1970 - flowing locks and an occasionally dishevelled look!! We flew through Leaving Cert Irish and I think the only part of the course you didn't like was *Stair Litriochta na Gaeilge*. You went on to be Principal of the school and to almost single

handedly continue the tradition of hurling. I must state publicly that despite your lack of love for rugby no one accommodated me more in my refereeing life than you did. We ended up having a successful Principal/Deputy Principal working life for a few years. We had, let's say, different areas of strength and worked very well together.

Sunday night was film night, a wonderful escape at times from the tedium of class and study. The entire house filled the Rec Hall and no distinction was made between films that might appeal to Junior house or Senior house. Everyone watched the one film. We had regular viewings of *The Robe*, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, and *EL Cid*. We got to see each of those five times over the five years !!! Our projectionist was Fr. Gabriel, who combined this task with that of College Bursar . I think it was Fr. Eanna who actually selected the films. This was a time of onerous censorship, especially in the area of SEX!! The censor's office had a vigilant guardian of our morals in Fr. Gabriel. He had a special flap in the projection room which allowed him to filter any material he regarded as unsuitable. He made the parish priest in "Cinema Paradiso" look like a liberal influence on his flock. All these interruptions were greeted with howls of derision from Senior house while the Juniors rarely knew what was going on. So when Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway were about to get *up close and personal*, the Rec Hall had sound and no vision!! If the shouting was loud enough Fr. Gabriel would halt the film and a few sacrificial lambs would be ejected and normal service would resume. Yet it was there that many of us developed a life long love of cinema - despite, or maybe because of the interruptions .

We moved up through the house. By 1970 we were ready for Senior house. Everything was changing. Fr. Patrick couldn't really understand a request that we be allowed watch the World Cup from Mexico during the Intermediate Certificate.



**PHOTOGRAPH ON STAIRS OF HERITAGE RESORT HOTEL**

**First Row:** Shay Garvey, Mr. John Shanahan, Mr. Jim Keating, Mr. Hugh McDonnell, Michael O'Brien, Dermot Duncan, Johnny Dolan.  
**Second Row:** Michael Slattery, Ciaran Folan, John O'Meara **Third Row:** John Boyan, Peter Collier, Anthony Duighnan, Tom Kelly.  
**Fourth Row:** Myles O'Connor, Eamon Meade, Jim Kelly, James Sherry. **Fifth Row:** Richard Ryan, John Garahy, Diarmuid O'Loughlin, Emmanuel Keating, Denis Molloy **Sixth Row:** Pdraig Dolan, Tom O'Connell, Fergal Keane, Gerard Maher, Frank Lynam, Denis Molloy, Callaghan O'Flynn. **Back Row:** Simon Coyle, Ted Doyle.

## Class of '67-'72 Reunion

*Continued...*

Bobby Moore was charged with theft, Germany beat England in an epic game, Brazil emerged as champions. At home, issues in Northern Ireland were coming to a head. Civil rights marches, gerrymandering, Bloody Sunday, the British Embassy in Dublin being burned down, would the Irish Army invade the North, would conscription come in? Despite elements of claustrophobia in boarding school life, we were acutely aware of the bigger world, we could buy Sunday newspapers, but only certain ones. To this day it amuses me to recall the Legion of Mary barrow selling religious pamphlets side by side with a local vendor selling all the British tabloids - the *Sunday Mirror* and the much frowned upon *News of the World*. I assume the latter was only bought for its soccer coverage!!

Sport was obviously a huge part of boarding school life. Compulsory togouts, kids' leagues, going on buses to other schools, tennis and soccer in last term and, of course, the one area where we enjoyed success- athletics. Our rugby hopes got a rude awakening in 1971 - a certain Ollie Campbell gave a masterclass for Belvedere College. A lone Johnny Dolan drop goal was the only act of defiance in a 44-3 defeat. But hopes were high for 1972 - a big pack and a genuinely talented back line. I can still feel the numbness that followed in a 9 - 3 defeat by St Columba's college - a school with no real rugby tradition. That was most disappointing and marked a trend of first round defeats that was to last for years.

The College at that time was intellectually liberal. Yes, there was plenty of religious ritual but bear in mind the world of the Monastery was facing its own challenges in how it would adapt to Vatican II. In a sense that allowed us to develop our own philosophies and value systems. I recall great intellectual debates on such weighty topics as freedom, the meaning of life, destiny etc etc.

We were allowed and even encouraged to go on our individual journeys. Indeed, if one word was to describe our year it would be "diverse". We share a history yet retain our individuality. While all products of the one school, there is really no "sameness" that defines us.

As mentioned earlier many of those who helped define us for who we are have passed on. The list is long. just looking at a staff photo from those years, so many have now got to be marked as *lathair* - Roddy Ryan, John Williams, Liam Maher, Fred Joyce - there are possibly others whom I cannot recall this evening.

We retrospectively thank them all for their contribution to the people we are in 2012. As I ask you to join me in a toast to CCR we include them and, finally recall privately, all our parents who made what they hoped was the best choice for us in 1967.

To CCR - its dead and living.

*There are a great many other photos from the night on the Union website ccrunion.org - they can be found under "News/Events March 2013".*

**FOOTNOTE:** *A few of the 1972 pastmen relived one of the 'Long Walks' of the late 1960s when Wexford man John Garahy organised a walk in The Slieve Blooms. The walk was much enjoyed and sensitively took into consideration the age and fitness (or lack of same) of the walkers. Perhaps the most lasting memory, however linked to the walk will be a 'snippet' that emerged a few days later. The walk set out from the gate of Mountrath Mart. When one of walkers returned home after the weekend and was looking into the pastmen from the class who had passed away it emerged that at Jim Ryan's funeral in April 2010) he was honoured by a Guard of Honour from the members of Mountrath Mart. "One cannot help thinking that 'an extra man' walked The Slieve Blooms with us that day". Ar dheis de go raibh a anam.*

## Gerry Maher Retirement

Gerry (G.P.) Maher's retirement breaks a link with the College that dates back over sixty years to 1950 when his father Liam began his illustrious teaching career. Like his father he developed a keen interest in public speaking from an early age, and won All-Ireland Individual Honours in the Muintir na Tíre competition in 1972.



After school, Gerry studied English and History in a Maynooth that was then opening up to lay students. He was elected as the very first lay President of the Students' Union. In 1977 he and his colleague Patrick Hennessy won the Irish Times National Debating Championship.

After an MA and H.Dip.Ed. Gerry returned to Roscrea to join the staff and immersed himself in all aspects of CCR life. As well as teaching English and History, he coached very successful Debating and Public Speaking teams and Junior and Senior Rugby teams. He was a very talented golfer, though persistent back trouble has unfortunately prevented him from enjoying much of that game lately.

Gerry's interest in Rugby expanded into refereeing, and he became one of Leinster's top men in the middle. He took charge of schools', club and provincial matches and even refereed in the Heineken Cup in France. He was in charge of Schools' Senior and Junior Cup Finals in his time and is a well known Referees' Assessor right up to international level. He is one of only 3 IRB accredited match official trainers in the island of Ireland and has served as President of the Leinster Branch Referees' Association. Gerry has worked with trainee rugby referees and delivered referee courses internationally in such diverse places as Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Bosnia Herzegovina.

He is in charge of the committee that selects referees for the Schools' Cup games. As we all know from the divergent CCR experiences against St. Michael's in 2012, and Terenure in 2013, the excellence of referees such as Alain Roland (who refereed the 2007 World Cup Final) can greatly enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of players and spectators alike and can certainly help to do away with the haunting feelings of injustice that can occupy the minds of schools cup players well into their dotage. The sight of Rolland warming up on the touchline in Tallaght Stadium before the Quarter Final was gratifying proof that the Leinster Branch got the message, and made one feel that whatever happened that day, we would have no complaints about the officials.

Gerry was Transition Year Co-ordinator for a number of years and brought his great array of skills to that job. Later, served as Deputy Principal of CCR for 5 years. Extremely popular with colleagues, he was known for his quick wit but had no problem being on the receiving end - it has been said of him that he can take as well as give. That same wit and the public speaking skills first honed in CCR made him a legendary and much sought after-dinner speaker.

Gerry had and has a great relationship and interaction with generations of students ranging from the very successful and notable past men, to those whose attributes may have brought them into conflict with some college authorities which, in turn may have truncated their time at school there!!

His contribution to the Union has been enormous - for several years he edited the Roscrea Review. Along with Liam Spooner, he organised the annual Abbot's Cup Competition every September for nearly two decades. In 2001 he became the first serving teacher in CCR to serve as Union President, to which office he brought not only his usual panache and flair, but also a lot of dedicated hard work. His efforts led to a significant improvement in the financial state of the Union, where the financing of the Roscrea Review had been problematic for decades. His Presidency will always be remembered for his attendance at the North American Branch Dinner in November 2011, just two months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

We wish him all the best in his retirement.

*Pat Hanratty with help from among others Eamon Maher, Donal Taaffe and Diarmuid Fitzgerald.*

# Class of '62 Reunion

29th September 2012

On 29<sup>th</sup> September last, members of the class of 1962 gathered in the Tullamore Court Hotel for a Reunion having earlier visited CCR. For some it was the first time back in 50 years. They kindly included me on their guest list along with the Union President, Abbot Richard, College President Marcelline Cody and her husband Donncha and retired teacher John Shanahan. The atmosphere was most cordial and after a slow start a lot of the guys got up to speak about their days in CCR, their lives since and basically where they were at. Many of them are retired after lengthy careers but several are still actively making a crust.

Attending different reunions over the past few years, it's interesting how different themes emerge. Any tendency to one-upmanship that might linger when meeting after five, ten or even twenty years has long since evaporated. These guys were just delighted to meet up with each other – and they came from many different parts of the world – to share stories, experiences and even talk about their grandchildren!

For Jim and me it was particularly interesting to meet these guys who had just left CCR before we were in first year (Jim in 1963 and myself in 1962). Their names and photos were all over the place – in some cases even on the desks as graffiti!

As ever at such reunions, absent friends were remembered, in particular Vivian Lavan who died just over a year before their reunion. The reunion was a great success, and particular credit is due to Kevin McNiff who did most of the organizing and Kerry Kehoe for making it all happen.

Soon after the event, Kerry circulated some bios of members of the class. If RR has been singling out the epic deeds of the eponymous *Class of '61* over the years, it seems from Kerry's piece that the Class of '62 didn't do too badly either. They also travelled widely in their searches for employment, adventure and fulfilment as can be seen from the following examples.

**Bernard Bruen**, who didn't make the reunion but did make the New York Dinner in November taught at secondary level in Ireland and New York and still lectures in Suffolk County Community College.

**Leslie Faughnan** has worked as a freelance journalist for some time specializing in ICT and business, writing for the Sunday Business Post and a number of technology magazines. He now lives in Enniscrone.

**John Ed Garry** joined the Kiltegan Fathers and worked in Kenya from 1969 to 1983 when he moved to Southern Sudan. Shortly after that the 21 year civil war erupted. For 15 years he endured all the horrors and pain of war, having numerous close encounters with death. Throughout that time he watched people slowly starve to death in camps, while the government refused them relief food. He and his colleagues suffered with the people and became very close to them. They had to flee to a refugee camp in Uganda, where they were welcomed by many of their former parishioners who had demarcated a special compound for them and built them simple houses. He spent 5 happy years there, helping hundreds of children go to secondary school. John returned to Kenya in 2003 and spent 6 years there in a leadership position. With the civil war in Sudan now over, the South having won independence, he is on assignment in England,



*John Shanahan, Union President Jim Keating, Dom Richard Purcell, Tom Garvey (Class of 1961) and Fr. John Ed Garry.*



*Frank Ryan and Donal O'Donovan*

raising money to rebuild the church in South Sudan. He considers himself blessed to have spent such a fulfilling life.

**Sean Griffin** (who was unable to attend at the reunion), studied Hotel Management in Shannon. He then spent two years helping to run his parents' guest house, The Griffin Arms in Borrisokane. From there he went to The Imperial Hotel in Torquay in Devon, where he spent eight years as head waiter. He returned to Ireland in 1973 as manager of Knock Na Moe Castle Hotel in Omagh but The Troubles caused him to end his tenure after two years. He married Bridie Hynes of Laurencetown Co. Galway in 1975 and they worked for three years at The Argentine embassy in Dublin. In 1978 Sean became Print Manager for an EU agency now known as Eurofound but known at the time as The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. He lived, worked and retired from there in 2008 having spent his latter years as Customer Data officer.

**David Hennessy** has had a roller coaster life, much of it spent in Mexico where he worked with a missionary order for some years, before setting up a successful business selling an Irish milk substitute for calves but it was derailed when the government there banned its import, to give the business to cronies. He had subsequent successes in business but they suffered as a result of Hurricane Gilbert in 1988, yet by 1991 he had a new business, importing and distributing U.S. food brands into Mexico, but grave security concerns caused him and his family to leave Mexico last Summer and he is now living in Wexford.

**Rory Healy** worked for a number of banks in Drumshanbo, Cork and Dublin. He married Patsy, had 3 children and emigrated to the Cayman Islands in 1974. His sons David and Roger went to Roscrea in the 1980s so he has stayed in touch with the College. He is the longest resident Irishman in the Caymans, was president of the national GAA there



## Class of '62 Reunion

*Continued...*

and played international rugby, in Dublin no less. He spends most of the year in the Caymans but, during the summer, is apprentice to an antiques dealer (Patsy) in Kenmare.

**John Heffernan** spent just two years in CCR. He worked with the Oblates in Rio de Janeiro for some years. Later he returned to Ireland and worked with *Concern* and *Amnesty International*. He is now a lecturer and tutor in Politics and International Affairs in UCD.

**Denis Hickey** was at CCR from 1960 to 1962, did Pharmacy at UCD, graduated and worked for a time in the pharmaceutical industry, before returning home to take over the family pharmacy. His father, who had started the business in the 1930s, was seriously ill. He married Ita Egan from Sligo, recently graduated as a pharmacist, and they worked on their pharmacy service together. They have three daughters and a son, pursuing their disparate careers. They retired in December 2006 and are happy to have retained contact with many of their school and business friends.

**Arthur Joyce** was a teacher of Economics, History and Business Studies in the UK for a few years before returning to Ireland and teaching in Rochfortbridge and later in Birr. He later took over Griffin's Bakery with his brother John (Class of '61).

**Kerry Kehoe** who like Arthur had a brother (Peter) in the Class of '61 studied engineering at UCD and Cambridge and, having married and moved to USA he obtained an MBA from the University of Tennessee. He worked for E.I. DuPont eventually becoming managing director. He and his family moved round the world living in Tokyo (twice), Mexico City, Hong Kong, Melbourne, London and Amsterdam. In 2002 he quit and moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, becoming an actor and a teacher of Maths and Logic. He and his wife Gillian live in Santa Fe and in a village in the south of France.

**Ray Kelly** worked with Roadstone until a car accident in 1983 ended his career with that company after which he worked with Campill Communities of Ireland, dealing with handicapped adolescents for 26 years until his recent retirement. Like many members of the class of '62, he is now a full time grandad!

**Noel Kerin** graduated in Medicine at UCG, after which he emigrated to Canada. In 1995 he did post graduate work in Toxicology and Occupational Medicine and works in that area. Along the way he has farmed in pedigree cereal crop breeding. He and his wife Kathleen are active in the Canadian/Irish community in Toronto. They come to Ireland each year to visit the family farm in The Burren.

**Pat Lally** actually started to study medicine but soon changed direction and became a very successful accountant working for a number of firms in the UK before joining Youghal Carpets and later KPMG. In 1992 he founded his own Management Consulting company working with many of the largest firms in the country.

**John McGarry** was a classmate of Noel Kerin's at UCG Medical School, graduating in 1968. He moved to St. Louis in 1974 and is a neurologist there.

**Kevin McNiff**, House Captain in 1961-'62 is a semi-retired (i.e. busier than ever?) chartered accountant living on Templeogue Rd., Dublin.



*Noel Kerin and John Heffernan.*



*Rory Healy who came all the way from the Cayman Islands.*



*Ray Kelly with Arthur Joyce.*

**John McMonagle** (who unfortunately could not attend the reunion) ran a betting shop for 43 years before selling out at the Tiger's peak in 2007 – there's a man who could calculate the odds! He has been married to Terry O'Hara from Enniscrone for most of those years. Sadly, last May he took leave of his senses and set out to sail a 30 foot Cape Dory from Bermuda to Faro two handed. His odds making prowess deserted him as he lost wind vanes and wheel steering thanks to tropical storm *Beryl*. He then lost two and a half stone thanks to 3 hour shifts, day and night for 2000 miles, with an emergency tiller.

**Kevin Morrissey** enrolled at UCC to study Dentistry but left College after two years. He took an office position with J. Murphy and Sons and stayed there until 1972, getting regular promotions and getting married, in 1969, to Frances O'Rourke of Mountrath. They had four sons and a daughter. In 1972 he returned to Ireland and, with a partner, bought the Isle of Skye Hotel near Kanturk. For 17 years he enjoyed the ups and downs of life there and hosted the Cork area Roscrea dinner on one occasion. Then he left and opened The Reef, a restaurant overlooking Cork harbour. It was not a success so he sold up and took a job with a meat exporter, working mostly on weekends and enjoying life during the week. He retired in 2011.

**Jim Molloy**, originally from Skibbereen thoroughly enjoyed the reunion. After CCR he had a go at being a vet but gave it up and became a solicitor. All these years later he still regrets not becoming a vet. He reckons he had an extraordinary life and there is little he would change - except perhaps to go back and undo the severe car crash that ended his driving days. He lives in Rathgar.

## Class of '62 Reunion

*Continued...*

**Tom Naughton** spent just two years with us before completing his second level education at St. Joseph's, Garbally. He spent 40 mostly enjoyable years in the National Bank. He spent ten years on the executive committee of The Irish Bank Officials Association furthering the cause of colleagues. At weekends he moonlighted as a bookie's runner. When not running for bookies he did so on the rugby field for Ballinasloe, Ennis, Charleville and Castlebar. He was a member of various organizations including Lions' Clubs, Mental Health Association and Chambers of Commerce. One of the highlights was his involvement in setting up The Greenfield factory in Gort that now employs 150 people. He married Joan Bambrick in 1978. They have two daughters – a barrister and a doctor – and a son who is an engineer. Three of his nephews attended CCR. Peter Tierney won 5 All Irelands in the hammer. Leo had success with the discus. John was also a hammer man.

**Donal O'Donovan** graduated from UCD in 1966 with a B.Sc. in Mathematical Sciences. He got his M.Sc. the following year and was awarded a Travelling Studentship by N.U.I. and went to Berkeley (Univ. of California), getting his doctorate there. He lectured at Stonybrook, New York and Halifax, Nova Scotia, before returning to teach at TCD in 1976. He has been there since, the last four years as head of the School of Mathematics. He retired last year, just after the Reunion.

**Frank Ryan** studied Agriculture at NUI, and in 1967 he joined the Irish Sugar Company as an adviser with The Agricultural Services Dept. in Tuam. He transferred to Thurles in 1968 and to Mallow in 1976. In 1981 he assumed management responsibility for the Agr. Services Dept. In Mallow and continued in that function until the mid 1990s when he assumed the additional responsibility of managing the Agribusiness conducted by Irish Sugar with its growers. In 2006 it was decided to relinquish the EU sugar quota allocated to Ireland and consequently to cease production at the one remaining Irish Sugar facility in Mallow. At that point Frank retired and devoted himself to family interests and to his garden and the golf course.

**Frank Whyte** has worked as a priest in the diocese of Capetown for over 40 years, having arrived in South Africa at the height of the apartheid years. While black political parties were banned the church played a crucial role as the voice of the oppressed and a venue for political meetings. These were turbulent, challenging and exciting years. The Catholic and Anglican churches resisted the pressure from government to have racially segregated churches and schools. This gave priests and Frank himself a great sense of mission, unlike the situation in many other parts of the world where Christianity was being largely ignored. South Africa has now had majority rule for 19 years and has to contend with different challenges, with reconciliation being high on the list.

**John Yurky** unfortunately had already made firm family commitments when the reunion date was announced and could not join us. John was born in Belfast and before coming to Roscrea lived in Sligo, New York, Pennsylvania, Chicago, Dublin and San Francisco. After CCR he studied architecture in London, married Xenia Nicolaou in 1968 and started his own firm in 1978, now known as Yurky Cross. He has two daughters, Despina and Joanna, and a son James. All are married and he has 4 grandchildren. His firm has won design awards for work in Ireland, England and Cyprus. He is a stalwart member of the London Branch of the Union always

attending CCR activities in London, where he practices and is active in property development. Indeed John flew over for the Senior Cup Quarter Final against Terenure College last February.

My thanks to Kerry Kehoe for the detailed account of the activities of his classmates – following this article is an edited version of the material he sent me. He has circulated a fuller account to members of the Class of '62 but is conscious of the fact that there are a number of classmates they have not been able to contact. Anyone with contact details for others who did not make the reunion is asked to forward them to Kerry at [kerrykehoe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kerrykehoe@yahoo.co.uk)



*Kevin Morrissey and Fr. John Ed Garry.*



*Jim Molloy all the way from Rathgar.*



*Dom Richard addressing the gathering as the Union and College Presidents look on.*



*Union President Jim Keating making his address.*



*Kevin McNiff addresses the gathering as Fr. Frank White and Kerry Kehoe look on.*



*John McGarry saying his few words.*



*Jim Keating shares words with Leslie Faughnan.*

# Dublin Branch Dinner

*3rd November 2012*

This year's Dublin Dinner was another brilliant night with pastmen young and less young enjoying themselves thoroughly. Our guests included Fr. Kevin representing the Monastery, College President Marcelline Cody and her husband Donncha, Union President Jim Keating and Union Presidents or their representatives from Clongowes Wood College, Catholic University School, King's Hospital, Presentation College, Bray, St. Mary's College, St. Michael's College and Terenure College,

Our guest speaker was Jim Glennon (CCR 1967-'70) who regaled us with some wonderful stories of his Rugby playing days with CCR, Skerries, Leinster and Ireland and his subsequent career as a coach with Leinster. He spoke particularly fondly of the late Moss Keane who partnered him in the second row on the occasion of Jim's first cap. Jim confessed to being nervous but was reassured when the mighty Moss put his arm around him and said "I'll look after you!"

Jim was even more colourful describing his time coaching the prodigious if erratic talent known as Trevor Brennan, especially the circumstances that required on the one hand serious diplomatic skills and the ability to negotiate with the French authorities, but which ultimately led to Trevor being offered a contract with Stade Toulousain!

As on other occasions he had less fond memories of his time in politics and the party political system in this country. All told he gave a memorable speech which was a joy to listen to.

Diarmuid Ó Murchú, Chairman of the Board of Governors who was recovering from surgery joined us briefly to give us an update on the efforts being made to reverse the fall in numbers in the College. We were also joined on the night by three members of the Rugby Support Group, Martin Crowley along with Pádraic Brennan and Con Moloney whose sons Cormac (House Captain this year) and Rory not only achieved representative honours with Leinster but contributed enormously to the SCT's wonderful campaign.

Once again our numbers were swollen by having three tables of "young" pastmen (i.e. ones from the second century of CCR's existence. In fact there were pastmen from every decade back to the 1940s and all had a wonderful evening.



*Fr. Kevin with Jim Glennon.*



*Jim Glennon addresses the gathering.*



*The three House Captains from 1984-'85: Liam O'Shea, Peter Power and Manus Agnew (See News of Pastmen, P. 36).*



*Padraic Brennan (Rugby Support Group) and Larry Branigan.*



*Conor O'Hara and Pat O'Shea.*

# Dublin Branch Dinner

continued...



*Martin Crowley and Con Moloney, CCR Rugby Support Group.*



*Dublin Branch Chairman Sinbad Wilmot and Union President with guests Laurence Shields (Clongowes Wood College), Alan Doran (St. Michael's College), Peter Mac Giolla Riogh (St. Mary's College), Brian Winckworth (King's Hospital), Jim Glennon, Graham Whelan (Terenure College), Neil Noonan, (Catholic University School) and Brian Delahunty (Presentation College, Bray).*



*Tony O'Grady and David Hernan.*



*Katherine Donovan, Frank Thompson and Fergal Keane.*



*Jim Glennon poses with some of the Class of 1970: Liam Hanley, Gerry O'Meara, Michael McNamara, Tony Collier, Joe Geaney, Noel Forde and Gerard Flood.*



*From the Class of 1965: Back Row; Vincent McIntyre, John Phelan, Eamon Tansey, David O'Shea and Michael McGreal. Front Row; John Sherry, Aidan McNulty, Frank Cullen and Des Purcell.*



*All the President's Men: Union President Jim Keating with ten colleagues from the Class of 1968, Michael Coyle, Dick Spring, Leo Crehan, Frank Thompson, Michael Haugh, Pete Hogan, Jim Ryan, Liam Spooner, Pat Keane and Des Hanrahan.*



*From the Class of 1972, Simon Coyle, Tom O'Connell, Fergal Keane, James Kelly, Johnny Dolan and Gerry Maher.*

## New Dublin Branch Chairman

At the AGM of the Dublin Branch on 27<sup>th</sup> February, Vincent Coyne (CCR 1992-'97) was elected Chairman. He succeeds Sinbad Wilmot who was Chairman for three years – unprecedented in the modern era. Copious tributes and thanks were offered to the outgoing Chairman.

Vincent has immediately set himself and the Committee the task of organizing a Business Lunch which will take place in Fitzwilliam on 14<sup>th</sup> June with Dick Spring as the keynote speaker.



*Outgoing Chairman Sinbad Wilmot presents the chain of office to the new Chairman Vincent Coyne.*



*In the picture are, from left: Oisín Heffernan, Marc Kelly, Cormac Brennan, Ciarán Gavin, Rory Moloney and Dwayne Corcoran. Amazingly, the pitch at Donnybrook is lush and green!*

## RUGBY INTERPROVINCIALS

It seems a long time ago now, but back at the beginning of the first term, the Schools' Interprovincial Championships were played and CCR had a huge representation. Leinster won all their matches clinching the title with a win over Connacht in Donnybrook on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Five CCR men played that day, Oisín Heffernan (Mayard, Co. Galway) and Rory Moloney (Abbeyleix, Co. Laois) lined out for Leinster while Dwayne Corcoran (Westport, Co. Mayo), Ciarán Gavin (Galway) and Marc Kelly (Portumna, Co. Galway) lined out for Connacht.

Unfortunately, injury forced two further players to miss out, Cormac Brennan (Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare) for Leinster and Ciarán Gaffney (Salthill, Galway) for Connacht.



*Lord Mayor of Limerick and Rugby legend Gerry "Ginger" McLoughlin with Bro. John OCSO, Jim Keating and Pat Hanratty in UL before the CCR Musical Evening on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013.*

# The Banned Laois Hurler who played Rugby for Ireland - Michael Gerard (Gerry) Culliton (15/6/1936 - 7/9/2012)

**Gerry Culliton** was a remarkable man who touched everyone who knew him in a special way. He was born in Co Laois 76 years ago, the youngest of 12 children. He was a fantastic athlete - one of the finest in the country in his day. Hurling was his great love and though he went on to gain great honours as a rugby player his own heroes were the hurling greats of that time – The Rackard brothers of Wexford, Christy Ring, the Doyles of Tipperary and so on.

In CCR he excelled at hurling and was selected to play for the Leinster Colleges Hurling team for 2 years in his senior cycle. During this time he represented the College in athletics winning the Leinster Schools' Senior high jump in 1954.

His turn to rugby came in a peculiar turn of events. He had played for the Laois county minor hurling team in '53 & '54 and hoped to be called to the senior county panel the following season. This was the era of the famous GAA Ban which meant GAA players couldn't play rugby or soccer. If caught they were banned from playing any Gaelic games.

He was invited to play rugby in Tullamore during the winter, just to keep fit and he played under an assumed name. He was reported and subsequently banned! ... It didn't help that after 4 games for Tullamore RFC he was selected to play for the Leinster Junior Rugby squad!

Shortly afterwards, on the invitation of a local friend, David Pim, he joined the Wanderers club in Dublin. Wanderers was one of the strongest clubs in the country in those days and its teams were studded with Irish and Lions test players. He played a remarkable 17 seasons with Wanderers in Dublin, commuting weekly from the farm in Laois. He went on to play for Leinster, Ireland & the Barbarians. When he played his last match for Leinster in 1968 he was one of Leinster's most capped players ever. He was inducted into the Leinster Hall of fame in the late 1990s.

He played 19 times for Ireland in 4 different positions – 11 times in the second row, 4 times at wing forward and 4 times at number 8. Some of his great matches for Ireland included;

**v France - Lansdowne Rd 1959.** France arrived in Dublin already crowned tournament champions only for their victory parade to be spoiled by a rampant Irish pack.

**v England Twickenham 1960.** He scored his only try for Ireland that day, but they were pipped at the death by 8 points to 5.



*Gerry Culliton in his playing days for Ireland.*

**v England Twickenham 1964.** He played No 8 in that famous victory which featured the wonderful 'criss-cross' try scored by Paddy Casey – cited by George Hook as one of the all time great Irish tries. Ireland won 18-5, their first win there since '48, in a show of champagne rugby which was led by the great ('sublime' as Hook put it) Mike Gibson who in his first cap for Ireland was the stand-out man of the match!

He toured South Africa with Ireland in 1961 and with the Barbarians on several occasions, playing 2 tests for them – v South Africa in 1961 and New Zealand in 1964.

He himself felt his 'finest hour' came playing for the Barbarians against the all-conquering Springboks in February 1961. Led by his club mate and former Lions Captain Ronnie Dawson, he was one of 5 Irishmen on that team – the all-Irish front row of Gordon Wood, Ronnie Dawson & Syd Millar, himself at wing forward and the great Tony O Reilly on the wing. He was in good company! They won 6- 0 and remain the only side to have defeated the Springboks on their incredible 34-match tour.

In 1965 he took a break from senior rugby only to return the following season playing in the front row for Wanderers and soon after that with Leinster.

Since the Second World War no rugby union player (in top-flight rugby) in the world has ever been selected for his country in all three rows of the scrum. Well, in 1967 the 'banned' hurler from Laois came very very close!! In autumn 1967 he was picked in a Final Irish Trial match in advance of an Ireland match against the touring New Zealanders. In those days most international teams were selected following a final trial match where the

## Gerry Culliton Tribute

continued...

'probables' (those expected to be picked), played the 'possibles'. He was picked on the 'probables' side who had a good win against the 'possibles' side on the day and he felt he had a good game. Disaster struck because due to a 'foot and mouth' outbreak in the UK the Irish Government banned New Zealand from travelling.

A team was never actually selected and the opportunity passed. By the time the 5-Nations came around the following spring, the great Syd Millar had come back out of retirement and was part of the Ulster team that got the better of Leinster in the interpros and was preferred for the front row berth. As forwards nowadays become more and more specialised such a feat may never be achieved!

He was a non drinker all his life – quite a unique feat in the world of international rugby. He was very proud of this and used to get a great kick out of helping some of his international team mates to bed after a long night of post match celebrations, when they really needed help! None of these great sporting achievements ever went to his head and he always remained very humble and loyal to all those things and people who were dear to him. Mick Sherry, a great Garryowen and Ireland player, often recounts his admiration for him. Gerry would show up at his beloved Roscrea College on Past Students' Day and firstly play in the Past v Present hurling match and then proceed to play in the corresponding rugby match, all on the same afternoon.

The GAA ban was lifted in the early 70s and Gerry happily resumed hurling at junior level with the local club in Clonaslee. He was part of the coaching setup in 1975 that helped Clonaslee win their first county hurling final in 65 years. He was also very proud as a 40 year old full back, in winning a Junior B medal for the Clonaslee Hurling Club in 1976. He joked that their fullback line had the perfect blend of 'youth and experience' – (Tom Flynn at left corner back was 41, he was 40 and Seamus Maher, at right corner back was age 17!)

His final season with Wanderers was in 1972/73 when he was part of a team that did the first ever 'Double' in Leinster winning the League and Cup in the same year. After retiring from senior rugby he went on to play for a further 7 seasons at Junior level at Portlaoise RFC and was involved in the coaching set up when Portlaoise won their ever Provincial Towns Cup in 1982.

All this time he farmed away in Laois and was involved in most of the various farming enterprises - but his great passion was for the pig farming. He and his brother Louis under the financial guidance of his great friend, mentor and accountant Ronnie Kavanagh (a great Irish international player himself), developed a strong reputation as pioneers in pig farming and grew the



*Brian and Gerry Culliton arriving at the Monastery Church for the Centenary Mass on 1st October 2005.*

Rearymore pig farm in Laois into a substantial enterprise. His sporting achievements were indeed outstanding and numerous but that aspect of his life is not what defined him. From a very young age it was his humanity, his good humour, his warmth, kindness and sincerity that really defined the man. Kevin Flynn, a fellow Wanderers and Irish international player once said of him "Gerry Culliton represents all that is honest and sincere about rugby". He was always terribly modest and understated. He never needed the limelight and he certainly didn't want the microphone! These qualities left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

He was a devout man and his faith was very important to him. He completed the Lough Derg 3-day pilgrimage something close to 50 times.

In later years he loved following his own children's and grandchildren's sporting endeavors. For himself in these years, his love of golf and bridge met his voracious appetite for sport, competition and sociability. He and his wife Monica made great friends around the country at all these pursuits.

It was at her 21st birthday party in her flat in Dublin that he first met Monica White, herself a Laois woman hailing from Abbeyleix. They married in the summer of 1961, (during the rugby off-season!) and just a few short months ago they celebrated 51 years of love and devotion to each other.

He was loved by all who knew him. He will be sadly missed by his adoring family and all those who were lucky enough to know him.

He is survived by his wife Monica, daughters Orlagh and Zita, sons Brian, Ronnie, Garrett and Neal and sisters Philomena (Feighery), Patricia (Mulville) and Siobhan (Hewison).

*Ar deis Dé go raibh a anam dílis*

*An abridged version of this tribute written by Conor Brady appeared in the Irish Times on 24th November last. My sincere thanks to Brian Culliton who provided most of the information and memories, Editor.*

# OBITUARIES

As I put together this section of the Review, a sense of regret comes back forcefully. Some years ago, after two of us from the class of 1962-'67 had sad bereavements, **John "Chuck" Cahill**, Brian Duncan and I agreed to meet up a few times every year. We also thought of looking up some others including **Fintan Corrigan** whom we knew lived on his own in Dublin.

The three of us did keep up contact, though we hadn't met up as often as we wished. Then one night last July, having just left out the bins for collection and had a joke with his wife Mary, Chuck had a massive heart attack from which he died a few days later. His massive funeral took place in Greystones on one of the few glorious days of Summer 2012 and was attended by many pastmen.

As August drew to a close, the news emerged that Fintan ("Corro" as he was known to all) was found dead in his apartment in Ballinteer to which he had only moved a few months earlier. According to his sister Paddy Jo he had recently been diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes, and according to the notes he had kept had been diligently taking his medication. Alas it seems he suffered a massive anaphylactic attack from which he never recovered. How I wish I had made the phone call I kept putting off!

Late last year, **Philip de Vere Hunt** from Cashel who spent a year or two with us prior to Inter Cert died tragically.

Thus our class's numbers of *known* deceased almost doubled in the past year. Sobering.

Former Union President **Pádraig Mulcahy** (CCR 1935-'37) died last November. He was a son of General Richard Mulcahy and a nephew of Dom Columban Mulcahy, who was Prior of Mount St. Joseph for many years before becoming Abbot of Nunraw from 1947 to 1969.

Pádraig was a Quantity Surveyor who in 1952 established his own practice which subsequently evolved into Mulcahy McDonagh and Partners Ltd. from which he retired in 1985. He was a much respected member of the Society of Chartered Surveyors (SCS) and fulfilled many significant roles, most eminently as Chairman of the RICS Branch (as it then was) for two terms in 1960 and 1961. He was a keen golfer and at one stage held the amateur course record in Milltown GC, of which he was at various times Captain, President and Trustee.

He was heavily involved in the CCR Union for many years. The Union was reorganized in 1958 when several new branches were established and the Central Committee was centered in the College. The first six presidents after the reorganization came from provincial branches and the presidency only returned to Dublin in 1965 when Pádraig, who was then the Chairman of the Dublin Branch, took office.

**Kieran Barry** (CCR 1939-'45) from Tulla, Co. Clare died on 19th April 2012.

**Gerry Culliton** (CCR 1947-'54) died on 7th September 2012 – for an obituary, see page 30.

**Patrick A. Kelly** (CCR 1941-'42) from Ballinahinch, Cashel died on 9th April 2011.

**Noel Kilmartin** (CCR 1968-'73), from Ballinasloe, died suddenly in July 2011.

**Joe Lynch** (CCR 1949-'54) died on 25th July 2012 in Stoke-on-Trent. Originally from Clondalkin in Dublin, he was one of four brothers who attended CCR, the others being Matthew, Ciaran (RIP) and former Union President Frank. Joe worked with Lotus Shoes in England, came back to Ireland where he was Managing Director of the Edenderry Shoe Factory and returned to England in the late 1980s. He is survived by his wife Beryl and their three sons.

**Charlie Lydon** (CCR 1945-'50) died in Westport on 31st August last. He was one of the West of Ireland's best known veterinary surgeons. As a young man he was a most accomplished athlete and captained the SCT in CCR. In an age when "the ban" was in force, it is amazing that he was on the Mayo Minor Football team that lost an All-Ireland Final to Tyrone, played Soccer with Shamrock Rovers, Rugby with UCD, Bective Rangers and Galwegians and went on to become the first Mayo man to play Rugby for Ireland, winning his solitary cap against Scotland as a flanker in 1956. At one stage he held the Leinster Schools' record for the 400 yards hurdles as it then was. As well as building his own veterinary practice, he was also veterinary officer in charge of animals at the zoo attached to Westport House and was veterinary advisor to the film version of John B. Keane's *The Field* which was shot in Leenane and North Connemara.

**Dr. Jack Molony** (CCR 1936-'37) died on 26th July 2012 aged 93. Originally from Thurles he was Retired District Medical Officer, Dun Laoghaire.

**Thomas O'Brien**, (CCR 1983-'86) from Fortwilliam, Toomevara, died tragically in August 2012.

**Michael O'Meara** (CCR 1937-'38) of Convent Hill Roscrea died on 30th November 2012.

**Colm O'Colmain** (CCR 1939-'41) a brother of the late Fr. Dermot and uncle of pastmen Aidan and Tim O'Colmain died on 14th November last aged 89 in Cheshire. He was a doctor who travelled with the British Colonial Service and worked in Singapore, Kenya, Jamaica and Trinidad and finished his career in Washington.

**Frank Redmond** (CCR 1952-'54) died on June 9th last. Originally from Donnybrook he was living in Ballinteer.

**Dermot Rowan** who spent some time in CCR with the Class of 1960-'65 died on 15th February 2013 after a battle with cancer. He worked in the family grocery in Rathfarnham which he took over after his father's death, and it developed under his guidance into one of South Dublin's most popular delicatessens. Dermot retired some years ago to concentrate among other things on his golf.

**Jim Ryan** (CCR 1967-'72) of Newtown House, Castletown, Port Laoise died on 14th April 2010. He ran the family farm and was very involved in Port Laoise Rugby Club.

**Dr. Sean Walsh** (CCR 1948-'54) died on 31st January 2013. Originally from Ballivor Co. Meath, he was a former director of Moorepark, the Teagasc Agricultural Research Centre in Fermoy. He was a great supporter of the South West Branch functions and attended May 2012 dinner in Maryborough House Hotel.

*As always, we extend our sympathies to the families of the deceased. We are grateful too to those who inform us of pastman's passing away and provide us with information about their lives and careers.*



## North American Branch Chairman's Medal

In recognition of the sterling work of the North American Branch, Central Committee voted last year to commission a medal for the Chairman of that Branch similar to the one already struck for the Dublin and London Chairmen. It was presented at the North American Dinner last November. We wish the North American Branch continued success in the coming years – the committee members there have stressed how delighted they always are when young (and not so young) CCR pastmen get in touch.

Contact Niall Rafferty [niall@rafferty.co](mailto:niall@rafferty.co)  
or Des O'Brien [langans@earthlink.net](mailto:langans@earthlink.net)



*Union President Jim Keating presenting the Chairman's Medal to Peter Kehoe who accepted it on behalf of Des O'Brien who due to family commitments was unavoidably absent from the North American Branch Dinner.*

## Reunions 2013



Perhaps it's the spirit of The Gathering, which despite cynicism from certain quarters has been quite a catalyst for all sorts of events, but 2013 looks set to surpass the large numbers of Class Reunions seen in 2011 and 2012.

So far we've been informed of the following: **1953, 1963, 1968, 1983, 1988**, all of whom will be getting together in September or October. Precise dates and contact details are on the Union Calendar which comes as an insert with this Review.

The organisers would be very grateful of help in contacting anyone from those years, especially those abroad or who may have been out of touch – there have been many cases of guys happily renewing contact after 30, 40 even 50 years at Reunions.

## The Presidential Chain

Every Union President leaves a link on the Presidential Chain, but alas when Johnny Dolan's was added the chain, or at least the black and white ribbon holding it together was full with no room for more, or so it seemed. After a period of consultation and the seeking of estimates, Central Committee instructed me to seek a short term solution and get a few more links put on however possible.

To their credit, Alwright and Marshall, of Fade St., Dublin 2 did a superb job – they removed all the links, cleaned the ribbon which had become rather grubby over the years and re-attached the links with more economic use of space with the result that they managed to fit in eight more links so that Presidents up to at least 2020 are looked after. They also polished the chain so that it is now gleaming – sparkling like most of us never saw it. It's heavier too, but Jim and Simon have big broad shoulders!

*Pat Hanratty.*

# Rugby Photo Gallery 2013

## V Terenure - Tallaght Stadium 19th February



Anthony Deignan, Jim Kelly & Joe Daly at the pre-match lunch in Molloy's, Tallaght.



Sean O'Brien leads the CCR team out for the match v Terenure College at Tallaght Stadium.



Celebrating the great victory over Terenure were Shay Garvey, Tom Casserley, (a member of the great Newbridge College cup-winning team of 1970, who regularly attends CCR matches), Michael McNamara, Pat Kelly, Pat Phelan & Johnny Dolan.

## V Blackrock - 3rd March, below, photos from pre-match lunch in O'Connells', Donnybrook



John McManus with his sons, Ross, John Jr & Tom.



Simon Coyle & Maurice Phelan.

There were some who thought that the choice of Tallaght Stadium as a venue for the quarter final would give unfair advantage to Terenure College. As we all know now, that turned out not to be the case! The Editor who has worked in Tallaght for over 40 years had great fun organising a pre-match lunch in Molloy's in Tallaght Village (our thanks to Pat Kelly from the class of 1970 who is financial controller of the Molloy group for all his assistance!) There is a link to some footage of the action from that game on the union website [www.ccrunion.org](http://www.ccrunion.org). Click on "February 2013" and scroll down to watch it.

On Semi Final Day there was a wonderful atmosphere in O'Connells' of Donnybrook where over 80 gathered. Despite having a big lunch party upstairs which was booked ages ago, Tom O'Connell (class of 1972) gave us all his attention and served up a wonderful meal. Many pastmen adjourned to Kieleys' after the match, sad, even shell shocked but immensely proud of what CCR had achieved.



Bill & Patricia O'Brien with Noel O'Callaghan.



Leo Crehan & Des Hanrahan toast the team.



Joe Doherty (centre) with the Ballantyne brothers Gordon (left) & Ray.



Joe Hoban, Gerry Moloney & Frank Ryan.



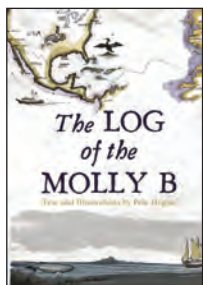
Robert Hernan & Mark Redmond.



Action from the game against Blackrock. (COURTESY ALAN LANDERS PHOTOGRAPHY)

# PASTMEN IN PRINT

*It has been an exceptional year for CCR pastmen writing books.*



Back in October, a good number of pastmen were in attendance at the launch by Conor Brady of Pete Hogan's **The Log of the Molly B**. The book which tells of epic trips that Pete made in a boat he built himself is absolutely fascinating. As the pre-launch blurb says:

*It's Vancouver, Canada in the early 1980s. Greenpeace has just been founded, Bob Geldof has just had his first hit, Ireland is a wasteland. Dubliner Pete Hogan finally gets it together to build his own boat, a Tahiti Ketch, an iconic*

*American sailboat design. His dream is to sail away into the sunset and be like his heroes, the famous singlehanded sailors Knox Johnston and Taberly.*

*It does not quite work out like that, but he does build his boat, the Molly B, and sails it engineless and on a shoestring down the coast of California, through the Panama Canal, and across the Atlantic to Ireland, with numerous adventures along the way.*

*Ten years later he sails it around the world. He meets a girl. The boat sinks in the Mediterranean in a storm. Pete is lucky to survive.*

*In short, this is the story of one boat, the 30 foot long Molly B, from building to shipwreck, and the man who lived to tell the tale.*

Enough said? If you haven't done so already, just buy the book: it should be available in all good bookshops. You won't be disappointed. A bonus is the art-work by Pete himself which accompanies the narrative throughout. *Pete was in the class of 1963-'68.*



**Birthright** by Barry Ahern (CCR 1993-'98)

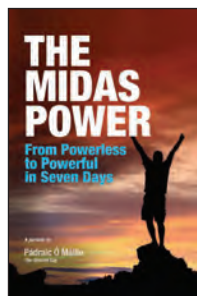
From the halls of CCR to the bookshelves of young adult fiction. Last year, Barry Ahern had the first book of his series published in Oklahoma, USA. *Birthright* is his debut novel which takes the reader to 3 different "perfect" versions of our world. We're told that many Roscrea inspired features appear in this wonderful adventure.

Barry, a native of Ballyhooly, County Cork, currently resides in the eastern part of

Massachusetts, USA. He Barry earned his primary degree in Industrial Engineering and Information Systems at the NUIG. After qualifying he worked in the UK for a number of years where he became a Chartered Engineer with the Institute of Engineering and Technology. During this process he had two papers published in collaboration with the University of Southampton.

In 2008 he moved to New York with his company National Grid. He was involved in the delivery of a 1 billion dollar investment of a pipeline construction across NY state. This was a phenomenal opportunity with lots of challenges. Soon after this project ended he moved to Boston, got married and bought a house on the outskirts of the city. He wrote his first book while living in England but went on to write the next two books in the series during his time in the US. It is as a result of his travels and the very interesting people he has encountered along the way that he decided to write. He wanted to represent the different values and qualities of people through the different worlds he creates in his adventures.

*Birthright* is his fictional debut and the first book in the Birthright series. It is published by Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC and is also available for purchase as an eBook download or from Amazon.com.



Pádraic Ó Máille (CCR 1974-'79) invited his former Irish teacher Breandán Ó Ruairc to launch his book **The Midas Power: From Powerless to Powerful in Seven Days**, acknowledging Breandán's positive influence on him during his days in CCR. (*The irony of such a title being launched the day after the Semi Final defeat to Blackrock was hardly lost on those present!*)

*The Midas Power* is Ó Máille's first book and tells an inspiring story about an Irish businessman, Rory Murray, an overworked, burned out and

deeply in-debt business person. Murray is thrown out by his wife and given an ultimatum to sort himself out. In desperation Murray flees to Inis Óirr. Here he encounters an amazingly wise and kind mentor who guides him to getting his life back together. The book combines some ancient wisdom of Celtic spirituality with all that's best in cutting edge contemporary management practice taught by Ó Máille in his SMACHT **Business Therapy Programme which over the past number of years has helped thousands of Irish business people reach their goals, financially and otherwise. For more information go to [www.themidaspower.com](http://www.themidaspower.com).** The book is available in many bookshops and on Amazon.com and Lulu.com.



*Pictured above (back row l-r): Author Pádraic Ó Máille, Jack Kennedy, John Poole and Kieran Fitzgerald. (Front row l-r): Brendan O'Rourke, David Tarpey and Brendan Phelan.*



Sinbad Wilmot (CCR 1984-'89)

**Hadrian's Wall Walk Map** [Paperback]

Having telephoned him on Dublin Branch business one day last year only to be told "I'm now actually walking on Hadrian's Wall, the Editor was aware of Sinbad's fondness for the area. It was a surprise however, to learn recently that Sinbad has applied his engineering and literary skills to this fine guide to the wall which stretches right across the Border area between Scotland and England.

This booklet maps the Hadrian's Wall Walk, firstly in six overview maps which correspond to a typical daily breakdown of the path, then in 43 detailed maps (each 2 miles long with the exception of the first section which is 1.25 miles). The detailed maps indicate resources (transport / pubs / restaurants etc.) and Hadrian's Wall features (milecastles, turrets, curtail wall line and vallum line). Walking time estimates for each pair of sections are indicated based on Naismith's Rule to allow the walker to plan and track their progress on the walk. At the back of the book there is additional information on accommodation and baggage transfer services.

Price: £6.95

Dispatched from and sold by Amazon.co.uk

# - MORE NEWS OF PASTMEN -

**Brian Murphy** (CCR 1985-'90) runs his own private Chartered Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Clinic in Portumna - sharing a premises with his Dad, former Union President Dr. Sean Murphy (CCR 1955-'60) who supposedly retired two years ago!

**Daragh McDermott** (CCR 2000-'04) was awarded a PhD in Psychology by NUI Galway in 2011 and has since started work as a Lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge (UK).

The three House Captains from the class of 1984-'85 met up at the Dublin Dinner last November (*see photo on page 27*).

- **Manus Agnew** began his career with Jones Lang Wootton and founded Quinn Agnew, Commercial Property Consultants in January 2003 – their signs are now very visible in Dublin and other towns and cities. He is a Fellow of the Society of Chartered Surveyors and Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and specializes in sales/lettings and valuations of commercial properties nationwide. He is married to Gillian and has three children.

- **Liam O'Shea** is Head of Sales for the Clearcircle Environmental, Metals Division (One51 Group) responsible for the combined sales for 4 subsidiary metals companies based in Cork, Galway, Limerick and Mountmellick. Prior to joining the One51 Group in 2006, he was with SFL Krysteline recycling glass and prior to that was working for the Jefferson Smurfit Group European Operations in their recycled paper manufacturing division. He was based in Spain for 12 years and moved to Paris in a Group context for 3 years. He graduated in Dairy Science from UCC before he joined the Smurfit Graduate Training Scheme for two years. He is married to Caitriona and they have 3 children, Bill (5½), Sarah Jane (2½), and Kate (½).

- **Peter Power** has worked for the European Commission since 1989, serving as a key advisor to a series of top Commissioners, including Chris Patten (foreign affairs) and as Commission spokesman for trade under Peter Mandelson. In 2008 when Mandelson became Deputy Prime Minister, Peter headed his press operation in Whitehall. Afterwards he re-joined the Commission as a senior advisor to Neelie Kroes, the Dutch Commissioner responsible for the Digital Economy, whose Department has a staff of 1200 officials and an annual budget of €1.3bn.

**Seamus Hennessy** (CCR 2002-'08) was conferred with an M.Sc. (International Management) last November. An All-Ireland Senior Medal winner with Tipperary in 2010, injury has interrupted his hurling career in recent times – we hope his return to action is not too long away. Interestingly, one of his Professors in NUIG was his fellow Kilruane man and now Tipperary Hurling manager, Eamon O'Shea.



*Picture shows Seamus on his conferring day along with his mentor on the double, Professor / Manager Eamon O'Shea.*

## Three generations of O'Connors in CCR!

Just over a year ago **Joe O'Connor** (CCR 1935-'39) celebrated his 90th birthday with his extended family. He and his late brother Coleman started in Roscrea in 1935. His son Jim and Coleman's son Colum (1973-'78) were also in CCR and now the torch is being carried by Colum's sons David and Andrew currently in 5th and 2nd year respectively. Joe attended the CCR Musical evenings in UL in 2011 and 2012 and enjoyed them thoroughly.



*Andrew, Joe, David and Colum O'Connor.*