



## CCR Senior Cup Team 2011

**Inside this issue...**  
Supplement on Rugby heroics.  
Message from Union President.  
Army Chief of Staff addresses Dublin Dinner.  
Reports on Union Events 2010 and more.....



Back row l to r: John Fitzpatrick, Eamonn Quirke, Matthew Mellotte, Gearóid Fallon, Cormac Brennan, Bill Duggan, Oisín Heffernan, Wesley Carter (Asst. Forwards' Coach)

Middle row l to r: Alan Tynan (Forwards' Coach), Philip O'Dwyer, Ross Enraght Moony, Aidan McGrath, Gareth Gallagher, Kilian Buckley, Sean Moran, Denis O'Dwyer, David Kirwan, Jack O'Driscoll, Peter Swanepoel (Asst. Backs' Coach)

Front Row l to r : John Lillis (Manager and Backs' Coach), Kealan Moran, Craig Farrell, Rory Moloney, Maurice Fitzgerald, Conor Finn, Adam Wheatley, Shane Layden, Alex Henderson, Colin Moloney.

# EDITORIAL

Welcome to this edition of the Roscrea Review. Because, like the last issue it was delayed, it effectively covers most of the Union events which took place in 2010 and more. A further delay was caused by the outstanding progress of the Senior Rugby team who, have given us enormous pleasure by their fantastic performances in their great Cup run.

As is evident from these pages, there was a great deal of Union activity throughout the year with many events very well attended by pastmen of all ages. Current Union President Johnny Dolan and his predecessor Gerry O'Meara were regularly in attendance and I want to thank them for their great work on behalf of the Union and their great support to me personally.

While there was great sadness at the premature death of that extraordinary man Dermot Earley, it was a great source of joy and pride to hear that his successor as Army Chief of Staff would be CCR pastman Sean McCann. Some months after taking office, Sean accepted the Dublin Branch's invitation to be guest speaker at its Annual dinner in November and gave an excellent speech.

It was great to see more involvement of younger pastmen in Dublin and elsewhere. Foremost among these has been Eunan Carroll, but he has also been joined recently on the Dublin Committee by Vincent Coyne and Sean O'Donnell.

We were greatly saddened by two deaths in quick succession – those of Fr. Nivard and Fr. Bonaventure. There was a great turn out of pastmen at both funerals. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-ainmneacha.*

We send our congratulations and best wishes to three pastmen recently elected to the 31<sup>st</sup> Dáil – all of them newcomers: Barry Cowen (CCR 1980-'85) in Laois-Offaly, Arthur Spring (CCR 1989-'95) in Kerry North and Tony McLoughlin (CCR 1962-'66) in Sligo – North Leitrim. They and we face challenging times, but despite the unprecedented economic difficulties we can and must face the

future with confidence. The Irish have come a long way in the last 150 years, and if there were some who in the aftermath of what happened in November wondered if the experiment in nationhood itself was worthwhile, realistically there is no going back. Our parents and grandparents forged the path this nation took in the 20<sup>th</sup> century – we must courageously take up the mantle in the 21<sup>st</sup>. It won't be easy, but it will be worthwhile. There is no alternative.

2010 was a year which brought great joy to Tipperary Hurling supporters, and CCR pastmen everywhere (including Kilkenny) were delighted to see John O'Brien, Seamus Hennessy and Hugh Maloney achieving Hurling's ultimate prize.

As ever pastmen all over the world are encouraged to write for the Review or simply send us information on themselves and other pastmen. With the website up and running, there will be more and more items in the Members Area of the site, so be sure to sign on. The enclosed insert from the Webmaster, Jim Keating gives details on how to make best use of the site, now and in the future. More and more pastmen are using Facebook as a means of communication and the page "Ccr Ppu" is up and running. Many pastmen are using the networking site "Linkedin", some using a specific CCR based group. Many thanks to Jim Keating and Tom Smyth for their hard work on the website project.

My thanks also to many people who helped me with this Review. Apart from those whose names are on articles, I have received help from Dom Richard, Mrs. Marcelline Cody, and Gerry O'Meara in putting together bits of information and, in Gerry's case helping refine a few articles. I am also indebted to Gerry O'Meara, Jim Keating, Alan Landers and Freda Smyth and to professional photographer Sean Curtin for use of some of their excellent photographs, as well as to young photographer, Kilkenny College student James McNerney (a cousin of SCT members Colin and Rory Moloney) who showed considerable skill on match days. As ever articles and news items are very welcome – they can be sent to me at [pathanratty@gmail.com](mailto:pathanratty@gmail.com) or to Pat Somers (CCR 1982-'87), Editor of the Leinster Express, who will edit the next issue at [pat@leinsterexpress.ie](mailto:pat@leinsterexpress.ie).

## New Union President

New Union President Johnny Dolan (CCR1967-72) is a native of Moate Co. Westmeath and has been living and farming at Brosna Lodge, Kilbeggan for many years. During his years at CCR he participated in and enjoyed all sports - particularly Rugby, which he played at Junior and Senior levels, and was also a keen golfer. He was elected 3rd House Captain in 6th year. After leaving CCR he pursued a career in Auctioneering in Aberdeen, Scotland and on his return to Ireland he joined the family's Livestock Auctioneering business - Moate Livestock Sales - established by his father John in 1955, one of the first marts in the country, working alongside his late brother Tom (CCR 1961-'64).

He has maintained his strong links with Rugby over the years. After he left CCR he played with Tullamore RFC and later Athlone RFC where he was Club Captain in 1985. He supports the CCR Rugby campaigns and endeavours to attend as many matches as his schedule will allow during the season. He continues his Livestock Auctioneering at various marts around the country.

Johnny was instrumental along with the late Eugene Garvey (CCR 1964-'69) in reviving the Midlands Branch of the Union in the 1980s.

Married to Ann, they have one daughter, Jessica, and two sons, Gareth (CCR 1998-'04) and John (CCR 2003-'09).



*New Union President Johnny Dolan receives the chain of office from outgoing Gerry O'Meara.*

# Message from Union President

*It was an honour and a privilege to be proposed by the Dublin Branch and to serve as the 51<sup>st</sup> President of the CCR union. It has been a hectic year and I am glad to report that the Union is alive and kicking. We have a hard working Central Committee doing Trojan work at every level. A special thanks is due to my predecessor, Gerard O'Meara (CCR 1965-'70) whose hard work and powers of communication made him a very hard act to follow.*



After the AGM, my first and probably most important engagement was to welcome the Leaving Cert class of 2010 into the Union, and present each of them with a Union tie. I hope the recent past pupils will be pro-active in supporting the Union and fostering strong relationships with the wider CCR family.

*Pictured after the Union AGM last May: Front Row: Michael McNamara, Gerry O'Meara, Marcelline Cody (College President), Johnny Dolan (Union President), Pat Hanratty (Union President-Elect), Katherine Donovan and Diarmuid O Murchú (Chairman, Board of Governors). Back Row: Liam Spooner, Aidan McNulty, Michael Coyle, John Sherry, Ollie Byrne, (Joint Union Treasurer), Jim Keating and Sinbad Wilmot. The photo includes six former Union Presidents.*

During my year as President, now nearing its end, I had the pleasure of attending functions in several locations. The Matt Hyland/Noel Windle Golf outing in Grange GC was held in June on a lovely day. There was a great turn out, with top prizes going to Rob O'Shea and Joan Hickey. It was a wonderful outing followed by a lovely meal and a most enjoyable evening. I particularly enjoyed the Hurling Support Group golf outing in July and great credit is due to Ann McIntyre and Jim Nash and their committee. It was great to meet up with retired Principal Hugh McDonnell there, as ever a passionate supporter of Hurling in the College.

The Midland golf outing in August goes from strength to strength. As well as the usual stalwarts Paul Fitzpatrick, Jim Keating and Frank Thompson they were joined on the committee for last Summer's event by Ronan Egan and Ian Fox (both from the Class of 1991).

The Union Weekend in September started with the Abbot's Cup golf and saw two reunions, the classes of 1970 and 1985. They were followed by the Annual Union Mass and Central Committee meeting. It seems a pity that the traditional Past v Present matches have been lost, but at least this year there was a very interesting event where the Class of '87 took on the Class of '88 with the promise of wider participation next September. (See article on page 21)

November saw the Dublin Dinner in the Davenport Hotel – another wonderful evening organised by Chairman Sinbad Wilmot and his committee. Special Guest was newly appointed Army Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Sean McCann (CCR 1963-'68) whose speech was a joy to listen to. Later that month, my wife and I went to New York for the North American Branch Dinner and I am glad to say that despite the loss of Dr. Noel McCarthy, that Dinner was very well attended, by young and less young pastmen. I was delighted to meet up again with my classmate Maurice (Mossy) Kelliher and his wife Monica who came down from Norfolk, Connecticut where he runs a successful business. This year, Niall Rafferty has taken over the mantle of Chairman of that Branch from Des O'Brien – we wish him well.

Music in the College is going from strength to strength. I can safely say the production of *Les Miserables* last November was the best I ever saw in CCR. That day I had the pleasure of presenting the Union Gold Medal for the best Junior Cert result to Cian

Hannemy (son of bursar John Hannemy) who that same day played the part of the antagonist *Javert* alongside Philip Keegan as *Valjean* and Cian's younger brother Conal as *Fantine* in what was an epic production. *Les Mis* was followed up a few weeks later by a most wonderful and uplifting Christmas Carol Service, which made the difficult journey over treacherous roads so worthwhile for those who made it. Congratulations to Musical Director Mr. William Cullagh and all involved in both events.

Like all pastmen I was thrilled to watch this year's SCT progress to the Leinster Final on St. Patrick's Day. They deserve our heartiest congratulations and gratitude for the pleasure they gave to those who saw them play, and to pastmen all over the world who were keenly following their progress. Hundreds of pastmen attended the matches adding greatly to the atmosphere of the occasions, showing the warmth of feeling for rugby in the College – a reservoir of potential support just waiting to be tapped. I would encourage those who enjoyed the camaraderie at those matches (and the pre-match lunches in O'Connells' and the post match drinks in KIELYS' and elsewhere) to come to Branch outings for more of the same!

I would like to thank my wife Ann who has been a rock of support this year and always, and also my sons Gareth (CCR 1998-'04) and John (CCR 2003-'09) and my daughter Jessica who have been an ever present source of support. In May I will hand over the chain of office to the incoming President Pat Hanratty who has been Editor of the Review for ten years, and I wish him every success during his year as President.

I expect my last outing as President will be at the South West Branch Annual Dinner in the Officer's Mess in Haulbowline on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April next, and I look forward to another very enjoyable evening – this will be the fourth time that event has been held at that venue and the previous ones have been most enjoyable, thanks to the hospitality afforded by my colleague from the class of 1972, Commander Richie Ryan and the good organisation of Gerry O'Meara. See you there!

*Johnny Dolan (CCR 1967-'72).*

# Dublin Dinner

30th October 2010

The 2010 Dublin Dinner was held in the Davenport Hotel on the 30th October. Attendance was in the mid 90s, much like previous years, however this year (thanks to the sterling efforts of Eunan O'Carroll, Andrew Sherry, and Gareth Dolan) there was a significant younger contingent which lent a most enjoyable vibrancy to the evening.

There were representatives from the unions of St. Mary's, St. Michael's, Gonzaga, Clongowes, Pres. Bray, Terenure and Kings Hos, but unfortunately the CUS president had to pull out at the last minute. College President Marcelline Cody had literally just arrived back from her Mid Term holiday, and made excellent time from the airport to also be in attendance!

The speeches went down very well starting with the Abbot Dom Richard Purcell brining us all up to date with

developments in the College followed by Union President Johnny Dolan who extended the welcome of the union to the guests from the other school unions and thanked the Dublin Branch Committee for organising the evening.

This was topped off by our guest speaker, Lt. General Sean McCann who gave a fantastic speech covering how his time in CCR had proven valuable in setting him up for life as a cadet in his early years in the Defence Forces. He went on to expand on his career and the extensive and varied role the Defence Forces play in Ireland and the world today, all liberally sprinkled with excellent anecdotes.

The attendees were very generous when it came to the raffle, the proceeds of which went to the Union Benevolent Fund. Over all I received a great degree of positive feedback on the event, with particular reference to the speakers, so I would like to take the opportunity to once again thank Johnny Dolan, Dom Richard and in particular Lt. Gen. Sean McCann.

*Sinbad Wilmot*

*Chairman, Dublin Branch.*



*Conor Brady, Larry Branigan, Dom Peter Garvey, Michael Coyle and John Sherry*



*Michael McNamara, Fergal Keane, Gerard Flood and Tom O'Connell*



*Liam Spooner, Sinbad Wilmot and Aidan McNulty*

# Dublin Dinner

continued...

*From the class of 1968:  
Jim Ryan, Frank Thompson,  
Michael Coyle, Lt. Gen. Sean  
McCann, Noel O'Callaghan,  
Jim Keating, Des Hanrahan,  
Michael Brody, Ralph Keane, Rory  
Culliton and Pat Keane*



*Declan Martin, Pat Kelly, Gerard Flood and Simon Coyle*



*Michael McNamara, Pat Kelly, Joe Geaney, Gerry O'Meara and Gerard Flood*



*Dublin Branch Chairman Sinbad Wilmot with Lt Gen. Sean McCann*



*Cousins Donncha and Andrew Cody*

# South West Branch Dinner

Haulbowline, 29th April 2010

The South West Branch Annual Dinner returned to Haulbowline this year, this time using a barbecue format. The fare was sumptuous and varied and great credit is due to the staff who looked after us so well. The venue and format is being repeated for 2011, even though Commander Richie Ryan (CCR 1967-'72) has retired from his role in the Navy.

The whole trip to Haulbowline is an adventure in itself, especially for those travelling from Dublin. Whether travelling by car or train, the best option is to head for Cobh and take the ferry to Haulbowline which runs approximately once every half hour up to midnight. The short trip across the Harbour gives one the opportunity to savour the magnificent views of Cobh, Crosshaven and Cork Harbour itself. *You will be well warned at what time the last ferry leaves for Cobh!*

The South West Branch used the occasion to make a presentation to recently retired College President Dan Smyth whom all were glad to see back to full health. In one of his last outings as Union President Gerry O'Meara paid fulsome tribute to Dan's achievements during forty years of dedicated service to CCR as a Science and Biology teacher and since 2005 as President of the College. Dan, for his part spoke of how much he enjoyed his time in CCR, his appreciation of the work of the Union and how much he enjoyed attending Union events. The occasion was very much a Smyth family affair as we were delighted that Dan's wife Phyl and their daughter Anna were there for Dan's last formal outing with the Union. Dan's brother in law, pastman, Frank O'Meara and Dan's sister Kathleen (substituting for Dan's sister Breeda - yes, figure it out) also lent their support, travelling down from Kilsheelan. *(See tribute to Dan on page 8).*

In all there were seven former Union Presidents, two Chairmen of the Board of Governors, two College Presidents and one Abbot, who, of course was himself College President for many years.

The big talking points on the night were the Heineken Cup Semi Finals later that weekend - indeed Fergal O'Gara and Frank O'Meara among others were very abstemious as they had an early morning plane to catch for the Biarritz - Munster Semi Final. Alas, it was a case of *sic transit gloria mundi* as both Irish teams had away defeats against French opposition. Never mind - we'll meet again!



Liz and Richie Ryan



Cuimin and Lena Doyle and Michael McNamara



Peadar Cox, Gerry O'Meara and Pat Rafferty



Sheena and Garvan Lynch

South West Branch Dinner *continued...*



*Marion and Cathal Bredin*



*Gerry O'Meara making a presentation to Dan Smyth*



*Gerry O'Meara presenting a bouquet of flowers to Phyl Smyth*



*Kevin Morrissey, Michael Coyle and Adeleine Branigan*



*Peter & Elizabeth Sommerfield*



*Dom Kevin saying a few words*

# Tribute to Dan Smyth

After four decades of dedicated service Dan Smyth has finally bid adieu to both teaching and to CCR. His career started in 1969, just as a Biology component was added to the Intermediate Certificate Syllabus and the subject Biology was included on the Leaving Certificate programme. *Hard to imagine now, but prior to that, Junior Science only involved Physics and Chemistry: there was a subject Physiology and Hygiene, but only for girls, and there was Botany which was not on offer in CCR!* Now of course, Biology is one of the most popular subjects in the Leaving Cert., in CCR and nationwide.

At a stage in their career when teachers might contemplate retirement, Dan accepted a new challenge – as President of the College. He tackled it with gusto and colleagues, students and parents all acknowledge the huge contribution he has made, particularly in that role. He attended all Central Committee meetings of the Union and kept pastmen very well informed of developments in CCR. In all his dealings he showed how he valued the Union and the contribution it makes to the life and ethos of the College.

Dan taught Maths and Science to Junior Certificate level and Biology and Agricultural Science to Leaving Cert level. His love of both Biology and Agricultural Science was reflected in his keen interest in farming and his love of nature. As a part-time farmer he had a great interest in Stock and Plant Life. In his capacity as teacher and as President he would often make metaphorical references to nature.

During his career, Dan had many strings to his bow, but his but his primary responsibility and success was as a family man. Married for over forty years to Phyl, they have four daughters, Freda, Margaret, Anna and Grace, and two sons, William and Thomas, both CCR pastmen.

He adores and is adored by his family and his paternal instincts were very much in evidence both in his dealings with the student body and with younger teachers, to whom he lent willing guidance and support whenever required. Dan has a great interest in sport, especially hurling, and closely followed the fortunes both of CCR teams and his beloved Tipperary. *No marks for guessing the sporting moment that gave him greatest joy in 2010!* In his playing days, he and his three brothers backedboned Clonakenny to a Tipperary Intermediate Championship win. He also played Minor Football for Tipperary. He once expressed disappointment not to have tried rugby - with his strength and physique he would surely have made an impression (on his opponents anyway).



A sociable member of staff, he was often the instigator of debates in the staff room during break-times. No doubt, politics featured of many of those discussions. Dan always regarded politics as service in the best sense. Indeed, he spent several years as a member of North Tipperary County Council where he attended conscientiously and impartially to all his constituents whatever their political affiliation.

In his many facets as husband, father, teacher, College President, farmer, neighbour, public representative, mentor and guide, the respect, consideration and care he has for his fellow beings is the defining characteristic of the man. This will be part and parcel of Dan as he and Phyl face the opportunities and challenges that the next stage of their busy and fulfilling lives will bring.

We wish both of them very many happy years of retirement. Ad multos!

*Pat Hanratty with help from Gerry O'Meara and Gerry Grealish.*

## OBITUARIES

*The President, Central Committee and members of the Cistercian College Roscrea Union offer their heartfelt condolences to Dom Richard Purcell and to his family on the recent death of his mother, Diane. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.*

**Luke Daly** (CCR 1979-'85) died on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010, after a long illness. He was a brother of pastmen Martin and Peter Daly and a nephew of Dom Kevin Daly.

**Billy Dillon** (CCR 1933-'38) originally from Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny died last year. He was a brilliant scholar and sportsman excelling at Hurling, Rugby and Athletics. He later played Senior Rugby with Bective Rangers on a team that had several CCR men – Seamus Deering, Jack Guiney, Ailbe O'Meara, Jim Norris and Vincent Sherry.

**Fr. Denis Egan** (CCR 1946-'47) died in October 2009. He served in the Archdiocese of Birmingham from his ordination in 1956, and spent 18 years as Parish Priest in Headington near Oxford. He was buried in his native Borris-in-Ossory.

**Roger Gallagher** (CCR 1942-'45), Dugort, Achill, died on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2010. When in CCR he was House Captain and Captain of the Senior Rugby team. Very involved in the Community in Achill, he ran the Valley House Hotel and in the 1970s he opened a knitwear factory, creating employment in the area. Not surprisingly he was very involved in the Achill Sporting Club. His brothers Paddy, who died in 1973 and Joe and sons Edward, Roddy and Pat all attended CCR.

**Kevin Garvey** (CCR 1955-'60) from The Crescent, Roscrea, died last October.

**Tom Haugh** (CCR 1933-'37) died on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011 aged 91. As his son Michael (CCR 1963-'68) told the RR, he had a great innings, and remained physically and mentally well until the very end. Originally from Birr, he won a scholarship to UCG to study engineering and also played rugby for that college and for Connacht.

He joined the ESB in 1947, and retired from there in 1984. He was a Roscrea man through and through, and was very proud of it, and set great store by the two great institutions, CCR and the ESB. He was Union President between 1972 and 1974. Barney Sherry remembers Fr. Ailbe reading a letter from Tom when he was a young engineer concerning the damp college walls!

**Colm Irwin** (CCR 1942-'47) originally from Duleek and later a well known dentist in Navan died on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011. His sons, Paul, John and Conor all attended CCR in the 1970s.

**Fr. Joseph Kett**, P.P., Ballyfermot, Dublin (CCR 1950-'55) died on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

**Richard (Dick) Mellotte** (CCR 1961-'66) died on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 after a short illness. He was proprietor of the well known Mellotte Motors, Claregalway. His younger brother Joe died in 2006.

**Liam Moloney** (CCR 1954-'59) died suddenly on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009. A dentist by profession, he practised in Dublin. He was a wonderful athlete while in CCR.

**Dr. Dick Dwyer** (CCR 1933-'34) died last year.

**Fr. Joseph O'Shea** (CCR 1950-'55) died suddenly on January 28, 2011. Originally from Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, he was parish priest of St John the Evangelist Church, Vancouver, USA. He was a brother of John and former Union President, Pat O'Shea. Dom Peter Garvey was chief celebrant at a Thanksgiving Memorial Months Mind Mass in Kilkenny which was attended by many CCR pastmen who were told of his extraordinary work as a pastor to very large communities in the U.S. who held him in great affection.

**Daniel Ryan** (CCR 1933-'35) of Golden, Co. Tipperary died on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

**Kevin Sherry** (CCR 1935-'41) died on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010. One of six Sherry brothers from Foxford who attended CCR between 1929 and 1941, he was an outstanding sprinter and hurdler, winning a Leinster title. His death means just two of the brothers survive, Vincent who attended last year's London Branch Dinner and Barney who took great pleasure in the recent Cup run. His sons, Michael, Brendan and Paul also attended CCR.

*As ever I am indebted to Barney Sherry and others for information for this page.*



*On 9th October 2010 a celebration was held to mark twenty years of The Board of Governors.*

Pictures show Dom Richard during the Thanksgiving Mass, Larry Branigan planting a commemorative tree, a musical interlude in the quadrangle and an assembled group of present and former members of the Board and College staff.



# New Dean of Studies Appointed

The Board of Governors has appointed Gerard Grealish to the position of Dean of Studies / Deputy Principal of Cistercian College.

This appointment forms part of the realignment of senior roles within the College which is currently being implemented by the Board of Governors. It follows the retirement in December 2009 of Dan Smyth who had been seconded from the position of Deputy Principal in 2005 to the office of President of the College. Marcelline Cody, who has been Principal of the College since 2006, succeeded Dan Smyth as President in June 2010. As President Mrs Cody retains the Department of Education position of Principal and will be assisted in her role as President by the Dean of Studies and the Dean of Residence.

Mr Grealish arrived in CCR in September 1994 as a teacher of Physics, Maths and Applied Maths. As well as these subjects he has also taught Computer Science and Junior Cert Science, and supervised evening study for many years.

Originally from Co Galway, Mr Grealish studied for a Science degree in Physics and Maths from University College Galway,

where he also completed the Higher Diploma in Education. In 2002 he was one of the first group of students to obtain the new Masters degree in Science Education at UCC.

More recently, during 2008 and 2009 Mr Grealish completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership in NUI Maynooth. This was the first year that this course was held. It was co-ordinated and delivered by a team from the LDS (Leadership Development in Schools) in conjunction with the Education Department and NUI Maynooth.

As Dean of Studies, Mr Grealish will have responsibility for education and learning in the College. This entails overseeing the day-to-day class schedule, individual student progress and subject development. It also involves ensuring the successful integration and continuity between the learning in the classroom during the day and the study done in the evenings.



## Now you see him... now you don't!

Cian Hannemy, winner of the medal for the best result in the Junior Cert 2010 with Deputy Principal Mr. Gerry Grealish, College President Mrs. Marcelline Cody and the Abbot, Dom Richard Purcell.

and later that evening.... Cian all set and made up to play Javert in the stunning production of *Les Miserables*, he takes time out to accept the Union Medal from President Johnny Dolan.



# 'Soundings' success

One of the extraordinary publishing stories of 2010 was the successful re-launch of *Soundings*, edited by Gus Martin (CCR 1948-'53). Last Christmas it became the stocking filler of choice and was top of the bestseller lists for seven weeks.

Many commentators have wondered at this surprise success, considering how, as noted by publisher Michael Gill during its press campaign, it was originally put together in great haste, in a very disorganised cutting room, as an *interim* Leaving Certificate poetry anthology! The collection stayed on the English syllabus for several generations of students, often handed down between family members in cherished, annotated copies. It says something for the man himself, his wonderful notes and explanations that accompanied the poems, and the innate love of poetry in this land, that thousands of twenty, thirty, forty and even fifty somethings were fondly reminiscing over their school poetry books at a time of unprecedented national crisis at the close of 2010! Michael Gill reckons that approximately a million students throughout the land used *Soundings* during the twenty six years its material was on the syllabus.



The success of *Soundings* in 2010 also showed the great love we Irish have for the higher values. Gus, whom I had the pleasure to have as a teacher left us far too soon, but decades after his death he continues to inspire us. In these difficult times, we need inspiration. Gus in his many roles - House Captain, teacher, lecturer, specialist, TV personality and Senator - gave us plenty of that and continues to do so.

Pat Hanratty.

## ATTENTION PASTMEN!

Are you receiving the "**Roscrea Review**" twice a year, posted directly to your present address? If not, or if the "Review" is being re-directed to you, please fill in your details below so that we can update our computerised database of pastmen.

The details below will also help us with Mailing Lists and in the organisation of Class Reunions.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Year Entered : \_\_\_\_\_ Year Left : \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address : \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Business Address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile : \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_ Email : \_\_\_\_\_

College Contact Numbers : Phone : (0505) 23237 / 23344 Fax : (0505) 22066

Email : [mtjoseph@iol.ie](mailto:mtjoseph@iol.ie) Website : <http://www.cisterciancollege.com>

# Matt Hyland / Noel Windle Golf

## Grange G.C. June 2010

The 2010 Dublin Branch Golf Outing was a resounding success. Taking place, for the second year, in the Grange Golf Club on 17th June the weather was just right. There were 53 contenders from far and wide around the country (including a decidedly strong contingent from Tullamore and two teams of students thanks to the efforts of Andrew Sherry) with 60 sitting for Dinner. The South East was also well represented with a contingent of the O'Shea family arriving in force, in fact, as it turned out, a force to be reckoned with! Dom Kevin Daly attended as the representative of the Monastery and graced us all by saying grace. Union President Johnny Dolan took part in the competition and spoke masterfully at the dinner. The College was represented by the new President Marcelline Cody who was also kind enough to speak after the excellent dinner.

Nearest the pin went to Joe O'Shea, cutting it fine at 1.13m, and the longest drive went to Cathal O'Connell - no buses were involved.

The team competition was won by the Thompson family Stephen, Emmet and their Dad, Frank with 82 points, while in second place were Tom Ambrose, Michael Hayden, and Pat O'Shea with 75 points.

The Noel Windle cup was won by a very surprised, but pleased, Josephine Hickey with 30 points with College President and last year's winner Marcelline Cody coming second with 27 points.

The Matt Hyland trophy was won, *yet again* by Rob O'Shea, with 36 points with Stephen Thompson in second place with 34 points. The visitors' prize went to Graziano Romeri also with 36 points.

*As ever we are extremely grateful to our sponsors, especially in these difficult times. These are listed below, with the contact or link pastman where appropriate.*

### FIRM

### LINK

Comans Wholesale Ltd Class of '84	Tom Coman
Graph Print, Publishers of Roscrea Review	
Paddywagon Tours Class of '86	Cathal O'Connell
Hackett's Bookmakers Class of '88	John Hackett
Joe Harford & Associates Management Consultants Class of '64	Joe Harford
Matheson Ormsby Prentice Solicitors Class of '85	Tony O'Grady
Commtech Distribution Class of '89	Justin Owens
Marcus Lynch Solicitors Class of '69	Hugh O'Neil
Nico's Restaurant, Dame St. Dublin 2 BMC Motivation Class of '84	Emilio Cirillo Brian McCoy
Ratoath Dental Centre Class of '80	Conor Irwin
Michael J Mc Nulty & Co Accountants, Dublin & Sligo Class of '65	Michael McNulty
Mundi Pharma Class of '90	Donagh O'Leary
BetDaq Class of '74	Brendan Phelan
Class of '92	Fergal Cox



*College President Marcelline Cody presents the Windle Ladies Trophy to CCR parent Joan Hickey.*



*Leanne Hyland presents the Matt Hyland Trophy to Rob O'Shea as Dublin Branch Chairman Sinbad Wilmot looks on.*

# Matt Hyland / Noel Windle Golf *continued...*



*Stephen and Frank Thompson, Gerry Curran and Liam O'Brien*



*Jim Keating, Emmet Thompson and James Kelly*



*Declan McGrath, Andrew Sherry and Brian Kirwan – all from the class of 2006*



*Tom Ambrose and Pat O'Shea*



*Michael Collins and Ollie Byrne*



*Tom Ambrose, Union President Johnny Dolan and Donncha Cody*



*Union President Johnny Dolan addresses the gathering*



*Paul Murphy and Tom Coman*



*Aidan McNulty, Fiona Duffy Coady and Graziano Romeri*



*Yvonne Malone and Teresa McNulty.*

# Lumen Christi *The Stained Glass Windows of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey*

By Laurence Walsh *ocso*

(foreword by Nicola Gordon Bowe, photography by Sean Curtin & James Fraher, design by Connie Scanlon) Hardback, 238 pages, 315mm x 235mm ISBN 978-1-900163-03-3



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

This sumptuous large hardback tells the story of each of the thirty-nine stained glass windows. It is packed full of lavish images and the highest quality photography to illustrate the rich text of Dom Laurence Walsh. Between 2004 and 2006 a major restoration of the Church windows was carried out. The windows were then literally exposed to a fresh light that threw an array of colour into the Church, and once again the magnificence of the windows shone brightly. This provided the inspiration to share this beauty through this volume.

Dom Laurence has spent several years researching the windows. He shares his wide breadth of knowledge, bringing life to the windows' images. While the religious context is the focus of the text, the historical and

artistic background is also explored. This publication is the story of stained glass in Ireland from the late 1800s, of the depth of meaning that can be achieved through this medium, and above all, it is the remarkable story of the treasures given to us all by the Cistercian monks of Roscrea.

Support for this book was received from the Heritage Council, Offaly County Council and The Abbey Stained Glass Studios in Dublin.

Photos show two sections of the stained glass window of St. Joseph in the College Chapel.



## Carol Service

### December 2010

It was seriously questionable whether or not one should drive to Roscrea on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December last. In fact many sensible pastmen stayed at home because of the road conditions. Various phone calls were made on Saturday and on Sunday morning and when assured by Marcelline Cody that things looked good in the Midlands, I headed off, but really intended to leave after the Central Committee meeting and lunch. After lunch, very strong persuasion convinced me to stay and despite the nervy and cautious drive back to Dublin that evening I was so glad I did.

This year's Carol Service surpassed even last year's, and that is saying a lot. We were treated to a wonderful blend of choral and solo singing which involved approximately one third of the school population.

No praise is too high for Musical Director Mr. William Cullagh and Liturgical Director, Mr. Niall McVeigh. Next year's Carol Service should not be missed!



# Midlands Branch Annual Golf Outing

27th August 2010

Upon arrival at Esker Hills Golf Club, Tullamore on August 27th last, we were greeted by the Captain of Esker Hills, our very own Mr. Frank Thompson (1963-'68). Unlike last year, we were blessed with very sunny weather, resulting in a total turnout of 51 people attending on the day. This included pastmen from the 1950s to the 1990s, as well their friends.

We were honoured by the presence of the new College President, Ms. Marcelline Cody, and the current Union President, Mr. Johnny Dolan, from Kilbeggan - who joined us in the Golf Competition – only to come first with a marvellous score of 39 points! Giant Hamburgers and free drinks, courtesy of Frank Thompson, awaited us weary golfers at the 11th. tee box, served by Margaret Thompson and her son Emmet. This gesture was much appreciated by all.

## Results Men:

1st. Johnny Dolan: 39 Points. 2nd D. Donovan: 38 Points.  
Joint 2nd. Frank Thompson: 38 Points.

Front Nine: Rory Culliton

Back Nine: Liam Nicholl

## Results Ladies:

1st Kay Wrafter: 39 Points. 2nd Marcelline Cody: 29 Points.  
3rd A. Donovan: 27 points.



*College President Marcelline Cody with six from the Class of 1968, Rory Culliton, Pat Keane, Jim Keating, Brian Grogan, Frank Thompson and Michael Brody*



*At the top table Jim Keating, Marcelline Cody, Union President Johnny Dolan, Paul Fitzpatrick and Frank Thompson*

This year, there were six pastmen from the class of 1963-'68, Jim Keating, Rory Culliton, Brian Grogan, Pat Keane, Michael Brody & Frank Thompson.

Five pastmen from the class of 1962-'67 also attended - Tom Stokes, Frank O'Meara, Pat Hanratty, Donal Hogan & Gerry Curran.

My thanks to Johnny Dolan who, when he was elected Union President last May, promised to bring 'new blood' into the Union; he kept his word and succeeded in 'recruiting' two new young members into the Midland Branch earlier in the year – Ian Fox and Ronan Egan - who in turn brought two pastmen each, on the day.

Finally, no outing would be successful without the support of people like Paul Fitzpatrick, and Frank and Margaret Thompson who made sure everything went to plan, so to speak, on the day. And last but not least, I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to the pastmen and their friends for making this annual event such a success.

*Jim Keating (CCR 1963-'68)*



*David Hyland, Ronan Egan, Ian Fox, Julian Fagan, Colin Byrne and Michael O'Hanlon – all from the class of 1991*



*Above: Brothers Michael and Jim McNamara*

*Below: John O'Meara and Donal Hogan*



# Abbot's Cup 2010

There was great pride among our senior fellow pastmen when the Abbot's Cup was won by Jim O'Shea of the class of 1956. Accompanied by contemporaries Pat O'Shea and Conor O'Hara he had the best score of the day.

There was an entry of 40 this year with 21 staying for the dinner which was attended by the Abbot himself, as well as College Marcelline Cody and Deputy Principal Gerry Grealish.

Other prize winners included Ollie Byrne and Union President Johnny Dolan.

Our thanks to Katherine Donovan and Marcelline Cody for their sterling work in organising the event.

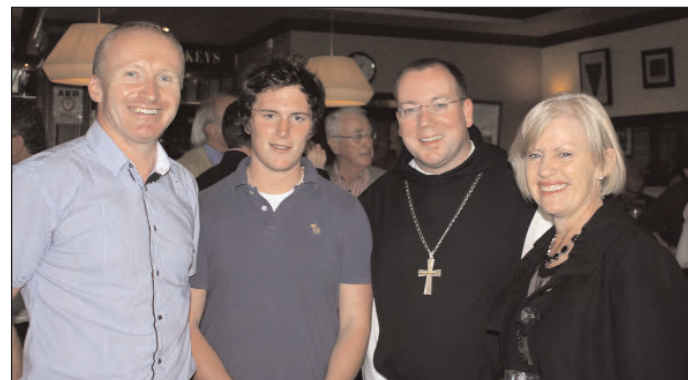
This year's event will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September.



*Andy Galvin (CCR 1955-'59) and Paul Wrafter (CCR 1966-'71)*



*David Lucey and Rob O'Shea both (CCR 1984-'89)*



*Gerry Grealish who was recently appointed Deputy Principal of CCR with John Dolan, Dom Richard and Marcelline Cody*



*Jim O'Shea, Pat O'Shea and Conor O'Hara none of whom denies belonging to the Class of 1956*



*One for the grandchildren! A happy Jim O'Shea with Dom Richard, Johnny Dolan and two of his grandchildren*



*Mary O'Shea, Jim O'Shea, Pat Hanratty, Conor O'Hara, Pat O'Shea and Alan Landers admire the trophies*



*Ollie Byrne (CCR 1981-'86) accepting his prize from College President Marcelline Cody*



*Union President Johnny Dolan accepts the College President's prize from Marcelline Cody*



*Katherine Donovan, Ollie Byrne and Alan Landers*



# Brian Cowen visits the College

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 former Taoiseach, Mr Brian Cowen returned to his Alma Mater on a private visit. Mr. Cowen and the College President, Mrs Cody, joined the Abbot, Dom Richard, and the Community for mid-day prayers in the Abbey Church. Following lunch with the Community Mr. Cowen was presented with a leather bound edition of 'Lumen Christi' by Dom Richard. Mr. Cowen was brought on a guided tour of the Abbey and the Abbey Church and he prayed at the grave of his late uncle, An t-Athair Aindriú.

Mr. Cowen was warmly welcomed to the College and following a tour of the new refurbished dormitories, study halls, medical centre (infirmery) and science laboratories he met with the College staff and students. In her welcome to the Taoiseach, Mrs. Marcelline Cody recalled the Cowen Family connection with Cistercian College which began in 1943 when An t-Athair Aindriú enrolled (1943-'48) and continued when Mr. Cowen's cousins attended Roscrea. These were Vincent Egan (1962-'68), Daniel Egan (1967-'71), Bernard Quigley (1967-'70), Andrew Quigley (1972-'76). Then of course Mr. Cowen himself and his brothers, Christopher (1970-'75) and Barry (1980-'85) continued the connection.

Mrs. Cody added that "Cistercian College follows the progress of its pastmen in whatever walk of life that they choose. The day that students finish their Leaving Certificate completes their formal period of contact with the College, but the influence and benefits of their participation in all the extra curricular activities will, we hope, stay with them into the future. Your rise through the ranks of Fianna Fail is well documented, your integrity, your commitment and your focus to the tasks set before you show your willingness to work and reach the best outcome for all."

In his address Mr. Cowen spoke of the value of the education which he received in Cistercian College "The mark of success for any educational institution is not just about the results achieved in exams, or the achievements of the past pupils, or the rankings in league tables of one kind or another. At the end of the day, I believe success lies in the readiness of its past pupils, as they pass through life to return gratefully,

whether in person or in mind's eye, to savour the memories and the experiences and to give thanks for the foundations laid during their schooldays." Mr. Cowen concluded by paying tribute "to the staff and the monastic community for the witness and service that they give, for the care which they provide for you and the pride which they rightly take in the important tradition which continues in this place."



*Two abbots, three retired abbots and a retired Taoiseach – and all of them look happy!*



*Mr. Cowen signs the Visitors' Book under the watchful eyes of Dom Richard, Mrs. Cody, Dom Kevin and Dean of Residence Seamus Hennessy*

# 40 Year Reunion - CCR Class of 1970

After a lot of "will we, won't we?" Michael McNamara and I agreed to organise the 40 Year Reunion of the Class of 1970. The venue decided on was Racket Hall Hotel, just outside Roscrea which has hosted a lot of successful reunions in recent years. After some uncertainty, it was great to get emails and texts from fellows we hadn't heard from for many a long year. Some classmates made contact almost immediately on receipt of the initial letter, confirming that they would attend – 6 months in advance.

Thanks to Google and other facilities of the modern era we were able to make contact with most of the 74 classmates who were in CCR during 1965-1970. Michael Garvey currently in Kuala Lumpur and John Brody based in Wisconsin were unable to travel. Frank Gleeson did come from Paris and Colm Crowley, who hadn't seen CCR since 1970 travelled from London.

Eventually, 30 of us assembled in Racket Hall on Union Day, Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 6 days after Tipperary winning the All Ireland. Philip Tierney, originally from Thurles and now living in Kilkenny was possibly the happiest pastman at the event.

We were very pleased to welcome our French Teacher, John Shanahan to our Reunion. John gave a very gracious speech and seemed to have enjoyed the doubtful privilege of attempting to convert us to Francophiles – according to Frank Gleeson, he was a major influence on him eventually making his home in France.

After some discussions, we dispensed with the need for nametags. They certainly were not needed for John O'Connor. Despite John having 6 grandchildren, the clean air in Cahir may be the reason why he looks exactly the same as when he exited the gates of CCR all those years ago.

Our House Captain Tony Collier was in his usual good speaking form (yes Tony still keeps it short). Tony kindly presented the organisers with much appreciated mementos of the occasion. He also presented a similar gift to Gerard Flood, organiser of our 21 Year Reunion - which seemed like only yesterday. Another event that evening was the celebration of Jody Spooner's birthday. Still on the right side of 60, it was Jody's biggest ever birthday party.

Later in the evening, we were joined by Dom Richard, College President, Mrs. Marcelline Cody, Dean of Studies, Gerry Grealish and Union Secretary, Katherine Donovan. Dom Richard did mention that he wasn't born when we were taking our leave of CCR – it does look as if tact is no longer a requirement for election to the position of Lord Abbot. We were very pleased to be addressed by Mrs. Cody – many of our classmates whose perception of the occupant of the College President's office at the foot of the stairs as someone bearing a resemblance to the late Fr. Patrick, had to adjust quickly to this new state of affairs.

The winner of the Class Prize at the Abbot's Cup held earlier that day was Matt O'Donovan. During the function, Mrs. Cody presented Matt with his trophy. Union President, John Dolan (Class of 1972) also addressed our Reunion. John did make some reference to having been leaned on a bit by some of the gathering during his time in CCR but didn't seem to harbour any misgivings. Our second House Captain, Paul O'Brien now living in Clare, and his brother Barry, still based in Carrick on Suir were also in attendance.

Most of the Reunion Group managed to get to the Union Mass the following morning in the Abbey Church. Our deceased classmates, John Fitzpatrick, Hugh Bowe, Frank Dunford, Finbarr Twomey, Gerry O'Leary and Jim Joyce were remembered during the Mass. We were very pleased to meet Gerry's widow, Jane and John's brother Paul (also a CCR pastman) after the Mass. Gerry taught in Thurles CBS for many years and was very active in the Thurles Athletic Club. Gerry was originally from Athlone and Jane didn't know that Gerry was a keen hurler during his time in CCR. We were able to give her some photographs from Gerry's time in CCR including one of him as a member of the hurling team of 1969.



*Front Row Left to Right: Con O'Flynn, Colm Crowley, Mr. John Shanahan, Tony Collier, Paul O'Brien, Michael McNamara, Joe Geaney, Philip Tierney, John O'Connor, Liam Hanley*  
*Second Row: Mundy Hayes, John McCarthy, Jim Glennon, Michael Regan, Paul O'Meara, Jim Loughnane, Frank Gleeson, Gerard Flood, Pat Bergin, Noel Forde, Donal Brennan*  
*Third Row: Matt O'Donovan, Pat Kelly, Barry O'Brien, Jody Spooner, Paul Nolan, Frank Fitzpatrick, Liam Nicholl, Gerard O'Meara, Charlie Flattery, Paddy McGovern.*

After the Mass the class were delighted to renew acquaintance with many of their mentors, in particular, Dom Kevin, Fr. Bonaventure, Fr. Ciaran and Fr. Gabriel. Fr. Bonaventure was particularly pleased to see us. He had supervised us in junior study as well as having many of us for Latin. He had prepared a detailed list of Pastmen from our era, and spent a long time making enquiries about each one. We took a number of photographs after the Mass and sent a few of them to Fr. Bonaventure and the other members of the community.

Sadly our next meeting with Fr. Bonaventure was at Fr. Nivard's funeral on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. After Fr. Nivard's burial, I spent some time with Fr. Bonaventure going through the photographs. I undertook to send a copy of our Group Photograph along with other photographs taken in the Abbey that morning to him. His parting words were "I'd love to get them". I managed to get copy photographs run off that weekend and put them in the post on Sunday night.

Unbeknownst to me, Fr. Bonaventure was in Tullamore hospital at the time and he died later that night. His funeral the following Wednesday was attended by very many CCR pastmen from all eras, including many of Fr. Bonaventure's (Mick Melvin's) own classmates.

Many pastmens' recollection of Fr. Bonaventure is of a stern but fair disciplinarian who was able to gain a class's complete

attention by the simple expedient of lowering his voice. In later years he would be remembered for the genuine pleasure he showed and the welcome he gave to CCR pastmen renewing acquaintance with their Alma Mater.

After Fr. Bonaventure's burial, I was conversing with one of my fellow pastmen who has since gone on to significant achievements in Engineering. He did his Leaving Cert in an era when one had to have Latin or Greek or a modern Continental Language to be accepted into University. While he found the sciences and maths very straightforward, he had no facility for languages, in particular Latin. A worried boy as the Leaving Cert. approached, he confided his problem to Fr. Bonaventure. In his own time and for no financial reward, Fr. Bonaventure gave him six intensive private lessons in Latin. Even at that, he managed to get 42% in Latin (40 being the pass Mark). He gives full credit to Fr. Bonaventure for getting him over that massive hurdle and enabling him to go on to the career of his choosing. Indeed, many pastmen can recount similar examples of Fr. Bonaventure's generosity, much of it unseen during our time in CCR.

Fr. Bonaventure, who typified CCR and Mount St. Joseph, will be sadly missed by his family, the monastic community, his classmates and by several generations of CCR pastmen.

*Gerry O'Meara*



*Pat Kelly, Jim Glennon, Union President Johnny Dolan and John O'Connor*



*College President Marcelline Cody presents the Class Golf Prize to Matthew O'Donovan*



*Michael Regan, Gerald Flood, Frank Fitzpatrick and John Shanahan.*



*Gerard O'Meara, Frank Fitzpatrick, Paul O'Meara, Liam Nicholl and Pat Kelly with Fr. Bonaventure*



*Jim Glennon, Charlie Flattery, Tony Collier, Frank Gleeson and Michael McNamara*



*Gerard O'Meara, John O'Connor, Philip Tierney and Matthew O'Donovan with Dom Laurence*

# Fr. Nicholas Cody

**Nicholas Cody of 'Derrylahan House', Clonakenny, Roscrea was born in 1893. His father Patrick was a farmer who set up a sawmill in 1893 and this family business continues to trade successfully to this day.**

In 1905 Nicholas Cody enrolled in Cistercian College, Roscrea – one of the very first cohort of students in the newly opened college. In 1910 he was a member of the first CCR team to reach a Leinster Schools' Final – the team was narrowly defeated by Blackrock College. Nicholas was the first Roscrea student to win a Leinster cap and the cap presented to him is still in 'Derrylahan House' the Cody family home in Clonakenny - in the College picture of the 1909/10 SCT Nicholas and Tom O'Connell are pictured with their Leinster caps. Incidentally Tom O'Connell was the first Roscrea student to win an international cap. After leaving Roscrea, Nicholas worked in his family's sawmill business for 10 years and then in 1921 he entered St. Senan's College, Cahiracon, Co. Clare.

Nicholas was ordained a Columban Priest at the original Dalgan Park near Headford, Co. Galway in December 1925. Living conditions for the novices were harsh and austere and they lived in British army huts which the Columban Fathers had purchased after World War I. The conditions bore no relation to the bright and modern facilities available today at the Columbans' Headquarters in Dalgan Park, Navan, Co. Meath.

Following his ordination in 1925 Nicholas became part of the Columban Fathers promotion team in Ireland; he visited schools, universities and churches in the drive for vocations to the priesthood.

In 1929 he was sent on the missions to China and for the next 19 years was stationed at St. Columban's Procure in Shanghai. Father William McGoldrick, an Australian Priest, was the Director of the Mission in Shanghai and Father Nicholas was the Bursar and assistant Director. Conditions were difficult on the Mission, especially during World War II. Father McGoldrick was interned by the Japanese in Shanghai between 1943 and 1945 and he returned to Australia for good in 1951. Father Nicholas was appointed Bursar to the Columban Missions throughout Asia including Korea, China and the Philippines. He was responsible for the distribution of all money, through their Bankers, the Hong Hong and Shanghai Bank and he oversaw the division of funds for the Columban Missions in Asia.

Father Nicholas is reputed to have been an astute Accountant and his contemporaries in China have recalled that he knew where to get the best exchange rate for the various currencies in Shanghai. He ensured that the 150 Columban Missionaries had sufficient funding for their work – no mean achievement!

Bishop Thomas Quinlan, a native of Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary, a contemporary of Father Nicholas' who also attended CCR, studied for the priesthood in St. Patrick's College in Thurles and was ordained as a Columban priest in Dalgan Park in 1920. Bishop Quinlan was one of the first group of Columbans to go on the Missions to China, where he remained until 1934. He was appointed to Korea where he was interned during World War II and in 1950 was taken prisoner by the North Korean Communist Army and presumed dead until his release in 1953. He died in Korea in New Years' Eve 1970 where he was Chaplain to the Columban Sisters in San Chock. *Editor's note – Bishop Quinlan visited CCR in the mid 1960s and we were greatly impressed by his account of the hardship he had endured in China and North Korea.*

Father Nicholas Cody remained in China until 1948 when he returned home to Ireland for the first time since 1929. He had hoped to return to China but this was not possible due to the Communist regime. Father Nicholas was assigned to

Australia where he promoted the Columban Missionaries until his retirement in 1971. During his time there, he was described as "God's commercial traveller", he stayed at various Columban communities in Melbourne, Bessington, Sydney and Perth. Just four years after his retirement from Australia Father Nicholas died at the age of 82 and he is buried at Dalgan Park, Co. Meath.

When the then Cardinal Montini who later became Pope Paul VI visited Mount St Joseph Abbey in 1969 he was presented with a silk stole. This stole was made in the Monastery from silk harvested from

Father Dermot's silkworms. It was presented to the Cardinal in a handcrafted Irish Elm box made by Andy Cody, Curganeen, Clonmore who was a brother of Father Nicholas Cody.

The Cody link with the College and the Abbey did not end with Fr. Nicholas. His nephew in-law, Michael Russell from Templemore attended CCR between 1944 and 1946 and his nephew Pat McDonnell from Toomevara from 1954 to 1959. His niece Nuala Cody was a member of the College teaching staff between 1981 and 1983 and his nephew Donncha Cody is married to the current College President, Marcelline Cody. Several other Cody family members also attended CCR. Among these were his grandnephews Andrew from Clonmore, (1976-'82), now a solicitor in Newbridge, Aonghus from Roscrea, (2002-'08), Jonathan from Clonakenny (2002-'08), and his great grand nephew Denis Cody, from Clonmore (2002-'06). Another great grand nephew Nicholas Cody, Andrew's son, will take his place in first year in September 2011. He will thereby continue a link with CCR that started the first day that the College opened its doors to students. Indeed Nicholas' uncles on his mother Eva O'Brien's side, brothers Lorcan (1979-'84) and Gearoid O'Brien (1980-'85) also attended CCR.

*Andrew Cody (CCR 1976-'82)*



SENIOR RUGBY CLUB TEAM (1909-10)

Left to right: Paddy ("Peggy") Foley, Cappahost, watching in Dublin; Rudy Spear, Nenagh, doctor, R.I.P.;  
 Names: Tom O'Connell, Templemore, doctor, Manchester; John Ryan, Co. Tipperary, priest, R.I.P.; Frank Griffin, Kerry; James Higgins; Paddy O'Connell, doctor, R.I.P.; Paddy Kinsella, Thurles, priest, R.I.P.; Frank Hogan, Co. Tipperary, priest, Australia; Pat O'Neil, Co. Tipperary, farmer.  
 Standby: Jack Stoney, Templemore, computer director, London; John Kilian, Clare, farmer; Jack O'Meara, Berrisokane, doctor, Thurles; Nick Cody, Roscrea, priest, Australia; James O'Meara, Killybeggs, engineer, London; Charlie Spill, Nenagh, R.I.P.

# Inaugural Past Pupils Weekend Soccer Challenge Cup

## The Mighty 88s triumph over The Fighting 87s!

What started out as a pipe dream for a few aging football stars to relive their soccer glory days on the hallowed turf of the 'Wembley' pitch finally came to fruition on September 12th 2010 during the 'Past Pupils' weekend. An All Stars team from the class of '87 took on the younger pretenders from the class of '88!

The '87 team marshalled by midfield maestro Peter 'Zizou' Hynes, ably supported by team hard man Matt 'the Kilkenny Kid' Peters and John 'Muscle man' Walsh seemed visibly pumped up to meet the challenge of the mighty 88s. The younger team were packed with such luminaries as John 'The Hatchet' Hackett, Pierce 'The Boss' O'Leary and Vinnie 'Twinkletoes' O'Hara.

Overseeing the battle was none other than the famous football pundit Jimmy Hill, aka Diarmuid Fitzgerald suitably equipped with a large whistle and a hurley just in case any trouble broke out.

The match took off at a frightening pace and before long the 88s took a commanding lead as they raced into a 4 goal cushion after a mixture of precision passing and some woeful defending by the 87s!

After a reshuffle of the 87s' back four and the introduction of some fresh legs the men in black clawed there way back into the match to go in at the break just 6 - 3 down.

After a suitable half time rest period and some Lucozade Sport, both sides came out all guns blazing and thanks to some super goal keeping from the hitherto undiscovered talent of Darragh 'I'm Bono' O'Connor the 88s kept their noses in front to enter the last 10 minutes 8-6 ahead. Visibly tiring the older team began dropping like flies with cramp and the fitter 88s pulled away to seal victory by 10 - 6.

Notable moments included some rough sibling tackling as brothers John and Des Berry challenged each other for midfield control; the wonderful theatrical goal celebrations of John Hackett; the equally theatrical diving of all and sundry; most misses of the day John Cleary; most fresh airs David Kruse; highest tackle count (fair and illegal) Frank Keoghan and tightest shorts Conor Kerins.

As the whistle blew the sirens of the arriving St John's ambulance wailed through the evening air as the tired, sore but none the less exhilarated players rushed to bag the oxygen masks, and after a disorderly withdrawal to the pavilion the inaugural soccer blitz trophy was presented in the Big Ref over some tea and biscuits to the winning 88s.

A rematch has been scheduled for next years Past Pupils' Weekend and rumour has it the '87s intend entering the summer transfer market for more able bodied class mates. The invitation now goes out to one all...the call to arms to represent YOUR year and do battle at the Second Annual Soccer Blitz on Past Pupils' Weekend 2011....so start training - well at least stretching, and polish those boots or buy new ones. Tell the wife you're toggging out again, duty demands it and let's make a start at bringing some excitement and cheer back to Wembley this September!!

*Please contact David Hernan on 087 410 5446 or by email to davidcshernan@gmail.com to book your Year's involvement. There will be two competitions...an under 35s and an over 35s and I'm talking to some potential sponsors for more tea, biscuits and Lucozade Sport!*

*David Hernan*



*Back row L-R: Con O'Neill, Frank Keoghan, Peter Hynes, Vinnie O'Hara, Des Berry, John Hackett, Anthony Malone, Matt Peters, Conor Kerins.*

*Front Row L-R: John Berry, Noel McCormack, Darragh O'Connor, Fergal Slevin, Pierce O'Leary, John Cleary, John Walsh, David Hernan, David Kruse.*



# 25 Year Reunion Class of 1980-85

The class of 1980-1985 met for a 25 year reunion in the College on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. The eager ones arrived for the Abbot's Cup in Roscrea Golf Club. The class had two prize winners: Brian Walsh and Brian O'Shea. The second Brian travelled all the way from Oz with his family for the reunion. After the golf, the main group met in the front hall of the college to catch up and had a class photo on the front steps.



*Those at the dinner included Manus Agnew, John Conroy, Adrian Deane, Denis Dwan, Crionan Faughnan, Joe Flynn, Patrick Grealy, Dara Hand, Don Harrington, Paul Hyland, Paul Keoghan, Barry Liffey, Alan McCarthy, Michael McCarthy, Fergal McGovern, Peter Molloy, Peter Murphy, Seamus Murphy, James O'Kelly, Brian O'Shea, Gearoid O'Brien, Tony O'Grady, Liam O'Shea, Jim O'Toole, Donal Taaffe, Ciaran Tobin and Brian Walsh.*

After the photo, we had a tour of the current school facilities starting with the usual look through old photos on the senior ref and then on to look at the new gymnasium, common rooms, the dors – we were trying to find evidence of the "Trunk Room", "Corner Dor", "Farmers Dor" etc – all have been reformatted. Gerry Hayes even appeared, having been recruited out of retirement.

Afterwards, the group headed to Racket Hall (in administration, being run by KPMG and Tony O'Grady has some input as well – didn't seem to help us get a discount on drink). More photographs of the group. Our dinner was attended by a number of College dignitaries including the Lord Abbot Dom Richard Purcell, the President Marcelline Cody, Gerry Grealish (Dean of Studies) and Katherine Donovan .



*Don Harrington, Donal Taaffe, Joe Flynn, Peter Murphy, Crionán Faughnan, Paul Hyland, Alan McCarthy and Dara Hand*

We also had some gate crashers! Ollie Bryne (1986) and David Lucey (1989) joined for pints. Alan Landers (1990) kindly took some photos. We toasted Luke Daly who sadly passed away in April 2010. Don Harrington gave an update to the assembled group on those who were unable to attend – we took advantage of your absence to have a bit of crack at your expense! Barry Cowen was clearly campaigning ahead of the general election and was unable to attend – well done on getting elected.



*Don Harrington Denis Dwan and Crionán Faughnan*



*Ciaran Tobin, Gearoid O'Brien and Donal Taaffe*



*Manus Agnew and Liam O'Shea*



*Paul Keoghan and Paul Hyland*



*Crionán Faughnan, Fergal McGovern and Seamus Murphy*

# KENMARE 2010

*Did you ever read about a frog who dreamed of bein' a king and then became one?*

So sang Neil Diamond 40 years ago! Well I suppose I always felt that Kenmare was for rich (or at least comfortably well off) OLDER pastmen, to put it mildly. Besides, there was never any chance of influencing my good wife (a) to spend the sort of money involved or (b) to travel that distance for a weekend which always tended to be either at the beginning or the end of the Mid Term Break when we either needed the rest, or having rested might negative it all by exhausting ourselves at the end of the week.

With the recession all has changed and the rates being quoted by the Brennan brothers of TV fame are half what they used to be, and, having taken early retirement, I don't have to worry about Monday mornings any more. With that freedom in mind, and knowing Johnny Dolan was unable to travel, I set off for what turned out to be a most enjoyable weekend. When I did decide to go, I didn't realise that as Union President Elect and in the President's absence I would have to wear the chain and give a speech to those afore mentioned older pastmen, but they were very tolerant and didn't misbehave themselves!

All in all there were five former Union Presidents and their wives among the assembled gathering as well as Marcelline Cody and her husband Donncha and two former College Presidents, Dom Kevin and Dan Smyth and his wife Phyl. The occasion gave Pat O'Shea an opportunity to publicly (and graciously) congratulate the Tipperary men on that county's

recent victory in the All-Ireland Hurling Final, thereby thwarting Kilkenny's "Drive for Five". We also had visitors from America including Peter Kehoe (CCR 1956-'61), and the late Noel McCarthy's great friend Bosco Cardozo. Indeed Noel's memory was a constant in people's mins throughout the weekend.

A most enjoyable time was had by all and I can strongly recommend the event to all pastmen – even younger ones. I had almost forgotten just how much beautiful scenery there is in that part of the Kingdom and the first class facilities in the hotel really made us so comfortable it was just a joy to be there! Nice weather did help! As it was the start of the College's Mid Term Break, Marcelline Cody and her husband Donncha were off on a well deserved holiday in Spain early on the Sunday morning – to be back in time for the Dublin Dinner the following Saturday!

This year's event will be on the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October with prices as follows:

- 2 B & B & 2 Dinner @ €315 per person sharing
- Single supplement at €50 per night extra. One night special at €195 per person sharing to include accommodation, full Irish breakfast and gala dinner (Sat night)
- SAMAS Signature treatment at €125 per person once pre booked two weeks in advance.
- Complimentary guided walk on the Kerry Way departing hotel at 10.30am on Saturday morning.

Here's hoping for as nice a weekend next October!



*College President Marcelline Cody presents the Fr. Dermot cup to Pat O'Shea*



*Michael and Jennifer Coyle with Neans McCarthy*



*Dan Smyth and Donncha Cody still smiling nearly two months after Tipperary's All-Ireland victory*



*Pat O'Shea, Larry Branigan, Dom Kevin Daly and Gerald McCarthy*



*Gerry O'Meara and Dan Smyth*



*Adeline Branigan and Bosco Cardozo*

# 30 Year Reunion Class of 1980

Saturday September 25th 2010

How you were supposed to put a round together on that course I'll never know. Trees so tall the crows went under them. I don't think I had ever seen tighter fairways. I'd imagine the greenkeeper had to get a lad to hold back the branches so he could get the mower through some of them. I had two balls robbed by Roscrea hares. ProVs! They didn't bother with Pinnacles. As if things weren't difficult enough try making a swing with three smirking 48 year old adolescents eagerly awaiting your next farcical attempt. "How are you getting on?", I asked Peter Murray as he walked off the ninth green. "Ok" he said. "Nine pars. Couldn't sink a putt." This was our 30 year reunion. It was going to be a long day.

There is surely something magical about the magnetic draw of Cistercian College Roscrea when after some thirty years it can pull over 80% of the class of 1980 from all corners of our country and as far afield as the USA to a one day reunion to celebrate our time in its confines. I can't quite figure whether it was romantic time-softened memories, a strong curiosity, or the compulsion of a fellowship never to be broken that drove so many to make this journey after so long. Whatever the reason few if any were disappointed they had travelled. We had a wonderful day.

It had been an exercise in detective work tracking lads down. But the tentacles of time spent in the College are not easily broken and someone always had an inkling where a man might be found. And so it was that from a class of 52 all but three were accounted for. Sadly two of our classmates had passed away. Our House Captain Brendan McHugh and the ever smiling Paddy Duggan from Tralee. Two great and gentle men. Some others were unable to make the day. One or two

were terribly reluctant. Perhaps it wasn't their scene, or perhaps their time in the College brought back unhappy memories. But this was a day not likely to be repeated, an opportunity to confront as well as celebrate our past. Most who were able to took the chance and were glad they did.

About twenty gathered at 9 a.m. for golf in Roscrea. Kevin Kelly was in charge and soon had matters in hand. The banter was not long in coming. Not all of it was noble and most was unrepeatable but it got us off to a flyer and remarkably one or two even managed to put in a respectable score. Fr. Peter showed the young bucks how to craft a round of golf and came in with an impressive 38 points. Peter Murray who had not much rest after a 20 hour journey and three flights from Anchorage in Alaska shot 36 off a miserly handicap of 4. But then he wasn't playing with Daly, Trayers or Molloy!

At 6 p.m. Mass in the College Chapel was celebrated by Dom Kevin. It was strange being back there but comforting to feel the old ambiance and spirituality of the place. Peter Gavigan had prepared the readings and it was an important part of our celebratory day. As we filed out afterwards Philip Harding was delighted to find his 30 year old graffiti on his old pew. College President, Marcelline Cody made us feel most welcome and gave us a wonderful tour of the College. The changes made to the old place are nothing short of astonishing. It is now warm and comfortable, and even allows a degree of privacy and space for its students. Unheard of in our day! But now I would worry that my boys could turn soft there. Never much fear of that happening the class of 1975-'80!

*(continued on page 25)*



*Don Kenny, Paul Murphy, Pat Coman and Barry Deveraux.*



*Martin, Conor, Ray and Jimmy, Roscrea, September 2010*



*Donal McHale, David Powderly, Diarmuid Mulherin and Peter Gavigan*



*Hugh Mc Donald, Barry Finlay, Denis Coman, Ian Curley*





*Back row L to R Denis Coman, Pat Coman, John Winters, Conor Irwin, Ray Molloy, John Sheehy, David Mc Donagh, David Lawless, David Powderly, Kevin Kelly, Barry Finlay.*

*Middle Row : Hugh Mc Donald, Peter Murray, Martin Daly, Larry Curtin, Brian Kinirons, Jimmy Trayers, Jack Kelly, Pat O'Grady, Sean O'Loughlin, Donal Mc Hale, Barry Deveraux , Paul Murphy, Ian Curley, James Byrne, Pat Meade, John O'Connell.*

*Front Row: Dom Peter Garvey, Eugene Ryan, Don Kenny, Philip Harding, John Quinn, Brendan Ball, Marty Dwan, Diarmuid Mulherin, Michael Keating, Padraig Haran, Peter Gavigan.*

The County Arms in Birr was the venue for the evening and by now we were almost whole again. This was the biggest gathering of our class for thirty years and it began to feel like something special was happening. Old friends reunited and so happy to be together. Lads who hadn't given each other much time as younger men now found that they were very comfortable with each other. Careers or material matters were not remotely important. Each man was glad that the other had made the effort to be there. The photograph taken before we dined captures beautifully the spirit of our great day together.

Our esteemed guests Dom Peter Garvey, Katherine Donovan and Hugh McDonnell thoroughly enjoyed proceedings. The food was first class and every table was busy with chat and stories from old. Martin Daly was our M.C. for the evening and kept things moving nicely. Ray Molloy and Kevin Kelly presented prizes to the winners of the golf. Then Martin made a wonderful speech paying generous tribute to our absent friends Brendan and Paddy. He emphasised how our time in Roscrea presented different challenges for all of us and for some it was anything but a happy place. But for all it played a huge part in the formation of our characters and had produced lasting friendships that were in evidence this evening. Martin wished the College well under its President Marcelline Cody. Peter Murray stood up and paid tribute to Martin. He credited him for encouraging him to make the long

journey across the globe for this day, and to bury the demons he had about his time in the College. He was so glad that he had done so.

Nothing had prepared us for the film presentation that followed. An amazing CCR version of *Reelin' in the Years* with each student of our year individually mentioned against the backdrop of the musical and historical highlights of Ireland and the World from 1975 to 1980. It was absolutely fabulous and no praise is high enough for Padraig Haran who put it all together. We were even more bowled over when Padraig presented a copy of the DVD to everyone present.

Needless to say the evening carried on long into the morning. It was like a good old wedding but without any women to annoy us or send us to bed! Many people came together to make the reunion very special. Some sponsored prizes, the music or the photographer. Others helped with various parts of the day's proceedings. But the biggest contribution made by each and every man who came along was just to be there. I was very happy to be among my old school mates once again.

*Conor Irwin (CCR 1975- '80)*

**MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 35**



*Marty Dwan, Jimmy Trayers, Conor Irwin, Johnny Quinn*



*Peter 'Blair' Murray with John O'Connell*



*Seamus Mc Cutcheon, Fr Peter, Kevin Kelly, Donal McHale*

## Fr. Bonaventure Melvin *a tribute...*

The memories are vivid. 2A in the small study hall under his vigilant eyes. I wouldn't say we were terrified, but you did know to keep your head down and not to argue. But then we were a pretty submissive lot, especially in first year. And this was 1962 – what we didn't realise was that he was only recently ordained and in his mid-twenties ....but then mid-twenties seems old when you are twelve or thirteen.

We had him for Religion (as it was then) as well as supervised study, which included Sunday morning letter writing. Today's mobile phone and internet techies would find it difficult to appreciate the importance of the weekly letter home, especially for those living some distance from CCR. I suppose there was a reason for his insistence on reviewing the letters before they were sent home – with hindsight it smacked of censorship of that most intimate of child to parent communication but now, I realise his intentions were to make sure parents were sent a decently written and punctuated letter. It's unlikely that someone feeling really homesick or lonely would confide that in print in a letter to be shown to others, yet he could probably see signs in some of those letters if a young student had difficulties.

Another feature pastmen remember about Fr. Bonaventure was the inherent decency and fairness with which he treated us as young boys. Yes, he was firm about the laying down and observance of the ground rules, but we quickly came to realise he had our best interests at heart. He never let an opportunity go by to pass on that much appreciated word of encouragement or to lend some support (unobtrusively) when needed.

I know he covered the first eight chapters of St. Luke's Gospel in first year and covered it thoroughly. He prepared us well for "The Bishop's Exam" and the somewhat intimidating oral examination – though if truth were told the experience was less traumatic than made out to be. I remember less about the hard back "Life in Christ" that was also prescribed text, but I will say that his leadership and commitment ensured we got a better grounding in the faith than many who came after us.

He led by example. We could sense that he was a deeply spiritual man – as were all the monks, but he

was among those we knew best. Perhaps it was because he was nearest to us in age and experience although we weren't conscious of it at the time. One of many pastmen in the years immediately after WW2 to join the monastery, we always felt he was very confident in his vocation – meeting him many times over the decades, he was always that happy, avuncular, warm hearted and welcoming man you remembered from your schooldays.



A sportsman through and through, (he was Senior Hurling Captain in 1952-'53), he was also a great lover of other codes. On many occasions this Everton fan would be delighted to hear of a good result on a Saturday afternoon when coming in from the field. Somehow, he always seemed to know before everyone else! So much for a life of silence!

We had hilarious moments too! Who could ever forget his "Open up the windows boys, the air is foul!" when those one of those baddies from 1B let off a stink bomb when supposedly using a break in class to collect books from their desks! I was going to use the word "inimitable" – truth is he was very imitable! For that we loved him all the more. At our 25<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> reunions he showed legendary powers of recall of names and faces, and as recently as last September he got great pleasure in extending a big welcome back to the Class of 1970 celebrating their 40 Year Reunion.

He retired from teaching in 2000, but remained very active and was a regular preacher at Sunday Mass in the Monastery. We will also miss his strong voice in the Monastery Choir. He regularly cycled into Roscrea, and though he loved to keep abreast of current affairs, local, national and international, he loved his monastic life even more. His unexpected passing has left a huge void in the Community, especially as it happened only a few days after Fr. Nivard's passing. Union members too feel pain at his loss, perhaps alleviated by the thought that being so active, alert and independent he would have found a long illness difficult to accept. Fr. Bonaventure, we miss you, but know that you will *smile* down on us from heaven.

## Fr. Nivard Kinsella

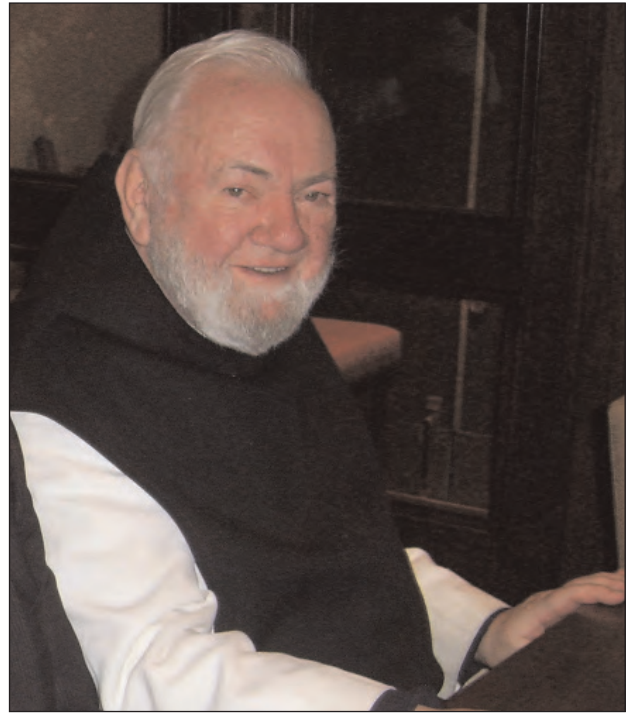
**Father Nivard Kinsella died on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010. Born in 1927 in Dublin, he entered the Monastery in 1944 and made his solemn profession in 1949. He was ordained in 1951.**

My first memory of him dates back to 1962 when he was just back from a few years in Rome and gave the annual retreat to the student body. Later he involved himself in Debating and Public Speaking helping Liam Maher inculcate the finer points to an already argumentative bunch of students. They may be apocryphal but I seem to recall two quotes ascribed to him:

“The finest English in the world is spoken in Dublin” and  
“Boys, you can always improve – I have been speaking for twenty years and I’m not perfect yet”!

The latter quote seems a bit ironic coming from one who spent much of his early (pre-Vatican II) days in the Cistercian Order observing complete silence! Whether he ever made that remark is beside the point, Fr. Nivard always had style – a bit of a swagger. Let’s face it, he was from Dublin, and perhaps even sub-consciously we looked up to someone who was articulate and spoke clearly with an accent that was, well, not a country one.

Over the years Fr. Nivard contributed many thought provoking articles to the Roscrea Review. He sought to read the signs of the times, and if, at times he



seemed a bit defeatist and unduly accepting of e.g. the secularisation of society and the marginalisation of the Church, he was always secure in the knowledge that the Church, monastery and the Cistercian way of life would always be relevant come what may. He was always supportive of the Union and attended various functions over the years.

Father Nivard was 83 years old, had been in monastic vows for 64 years and was a priest for 59 years when the Lord called him. Some record of service!

## HURLING SUPPORT GROUP

The Hurling Support Group held another excellent Golf Classic at Roscrea Golf Club on 2nd July 2010.

Results – team of four Stableford: best two scores on each hole.

- 1st Michael Delahunty’s team from Roscrea with 98 points
- 2nd Johnny McDonnell’s team from Roscrea with 97 points
- 3rd Fintan Phelan’s team from Carlow with 95 points
- 4th Brian Murphy’s team from Portumna with 94 points.

Warmest congratulations to Ann McIntyre and her excellent fellow workers. This year’s event will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July, siren start at 3.0 p.m. sharp.



*Ann McIntyre, Jim Nash and Marcelline Cody at the 2010 event.*

*Ruminations of a Returnee:*

## ROSCREA CLASS OF 1960 GOLDEN JUBILEE REUNION

The bells of Shandon were pealing out for twelve noon as I steered the car north through the Jack Lynch tunnel for the Cork to Roscrea journey on a cold December Saturday in 2010. The journey itself produced some food for thought as places with quirky or ancient Gaelic names like Horse and Jockey, Thurles, Templemore passed by and then to Roscrea town, quiet in the winter fog, out of County Tipperary to cross its multi cornered border with County Offaly. No straight lined 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel around here. How did the administrators under the old British regime work this border out? I should have asked our old geography teacher Rody Ryan that one. And then wondering to myself as I passed through the eagle guarded gates what per cent of the 47 survivors of the 1960 class would turn up (4 having already gone to their reward: Sean Gohery, Declan O'Shea, John Toomey and Johnny Lang), braving the vicissitudes of the severe winter and overseas travel. I was one of the first arrivals but I needn't have worried. That ever punctual man Willy Hanly was ahead of me. Not long after that, this writer's twin Hugh Bredin and cousin Sean Murphy arrived.

Within an hour a varied collection of farmers and businessmen, publicans, and priests, politicians and public servants, bankers, teachers, doctors and dentists, arrived in the chilly December afternoon. Some of the more impressive job titles were Chief Telescope Guide (John Joyce: now retired) and International Corporate Recovery Consultant (Ollie Byrne). The mood was cordial, and the challenge of recognizing classmates from half a century earlier arose. Some like Noel Costigan, Noel Cheevers and John Kenny had hardly changed at all. Had they spent the intervening fifty years with Oisín in Tir na nÓg, drinking the elixir of youth? The atmosphere was not raucous or self-congratulatory. Rather was there a collective sense of tranquillity mixed with surprise, of humility with gratitude.

A very welcoming President, Marcelline Cody, had organised a whirlwind student-led tour of the College. At the top of the stairs I noted the museum of glass cased decommissioned revolvers and other memorabilia of the War of Independence was long gone. Then how the dormitory floor had changed! No longer there were the earthily named Farmers Dor, or the Double Window, or the slightly Dickensian Trunk Room. Instead there were much smaller and more comfortable looking units with the names of Irish and European saints. Credit to the Cistercians with their long ago roots in places like Mellifont and Clairvaux to be mindful of this, going into the second decade of the twenty first century.

Then tea and sandwiches in the old Billiard Room. I have forgiven the College for selling off the billiard tables, allegedly for a song. Anyway my mother said a good billiard player was a sign of a misspent youth. There we met again with our former teachers including the then Dean of Studies (energetic and progressive) Dom Colmcille and the ever youthful John Burke who took over the Physics class from Jack Murphy and trained the rugby team: also Dom Richard, Abbot of Mt. St. Joseph, and Dom Peter who came all the way from Bolton Abbey. Later the group photo took place with the good humoured Norman Jennings, all six and a half feet of him, being banished yet again to the back row. After the chapel readings there was a foggy drive to the County Arms in Birr. Dinner was bookended by grace conducted professionally and with aplomb by (Fr) Tommy Breen and (Fr) Willie Ryan, and John Kenny delivered the after dinner talk, including a letter from Vincent Dooley who is ill. We wish him speedy recovery. Next morning fog still lingered in the old Georgian town of Birr, and there were foggy heads inside the hotel also! Conscious of our own mortality we informally agreed another reunion in 5 years, although the number of centenarians receiving the President's cheque from Aras an Uachtaran is gradually increasing! And then the journey home through the midland Sunday morning into the brightening sun as it peered out over the village spires, some of us mindful perhaps of our parents, who had the foresight to send us to that paradoxically located school with the Munster postal address in a remote corner of Leinster. That was way back then: when Portlaoise railway station still had the sign Maryborough on its platform, and you could get from Roscrea to Birr by train.

*Cathal Bredin (CCR 1955-'60)*



*Front row; Pat Healy, John Lennon, John Kenny, John Casey, Dom Richard, Dom Colmcille, Dom Peter, College President Marcelline Cody, Breandán O'Rourke (ex-teacher), Hugh Bredin, Tom Fletcher, Seán Burke (ex-teacher) .*

*Middle row; Fr. Willie Ryan, Noel Costigan, John Joyce, Sean Murphy, Willie Hanley, Noel Cheevers, Michael Carey, Jim Hamill, Donal Twohig, Jimmy Bergin, Tony Whelan.*

*Back row; Cathal Bredin, John Keoghan, Sean Peyton, Frank O'Toole, Ted O'Donnell, Tony O'Flaherty, Fr. Norman Jennings, Paddy McMahon, Olly Byrne, Jim Ryan, Fr. Tom Breen.*

# Editor's Travels -

notes written on an overnight flight  
from LA to Paris

**I can't sleep and the in-flight movie selection is uninspiring so I pulled out my small lap top and reflected over what has been an amazing year – for many people for all the wrong reasons, though ironically a very good one for me personally.**

Back in the early part of the year I wrestled with the question “to retire from teaching or not to”. I could go on for four more years (where did I hear that phrase before?) but by then I would be getting a smaller pension and perhaps more pain might be added. Anyway, I went away for a short break during Easter Week, with, among other things the intention of putting all the arguments in favour and against retirement through the mental ringer and making a decision. Oh and the last RR had to be finished. Well, suffice to say it was, and I came home with my mind firmly made up to take the plunge into the next phase of life.

Since then, and I almost feel guilty saying it in the present economic climate, everything has worked out brilliantly. Everything that happened since has convinced me I made the right decision and nothing that has happened has made me regret it. Just a few weeks later, I went to the South West Dinner in Haulbowline and got a very pleasant surprise. Aidan McNulty and Michael McNamara (the guys who asked me ten years ago to have a go at editing the Review) and Michael Coyle broke the news that the Midlands Branch were going to propose me as the next President-Elect of the Union. It came as a complete surprise but I was extremely honoured and look forward to taking up office at the next AGM when current President Johnny Dolan's term of office ends.

Spring moved inexorably into Summer – at least we had a reasonably good one this year! Late May and early June saw various gatherings that one associates with parting from work colleagues, some of whom I had soldiered with for over three decades. All seemed envious, especially the ones who were near the stage when they could retire but could not afford to go just yet – their pensions when they do go will be smaller, but then at least they will have pensions! The younger ones won't have the option of retiring at 61 as a result of a piece of stealth by one of our recent Finance Ministers – not a CCR pastman I hasten to add! Early Autumn is best summarised by a sensation felt one beautiful Monday morning, probably the first full day back at school for most students. As I was heading for an 8.30 a.m. “appointment” on the golf course I saw lots of youngsters in school uniforms wending their way towards the local places of learning. Did I feel withdrawal symptoms? Not one bit! That's when I felt – yes I've done 38 years in Tallaght Community School and much as I love it, it can survive (and thrive) without me! The weather in September and October was so good that I did not get any work done on an Autumn Review – the lure of the golf course was so strong!

A long time ago I had decided to visit my son Conor who is doing post grad Theatre Studies in UCLA, and to take in the New York Dinner en route. Then in August an opportunity to spend the first

week of November in the Holy Land presented itself, so between the two trips I will have spent a total of four days out of the entire month in Ireland! As I write this on a plane bound for Paris on the way home I feel glad, privileged and generally elated to have had a wonderful month just as the worst stories leading to the EU/IMF bailout, and the early snow were emerging.

What can I say about Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth etc? The old walled city of Jerusalem is like nothing else I ever saw, with its hucsters and general merchants crowded along narrow little covered streets. The first day I was there, an Armenian salesman had me nearly convinced his olive wood crib with figures were a beautiful present to buy, even if they were €250. He also deeply stressed the unity I should feel with him as a fellow (persecuted) Christian! How sad would he be if he knew I bought two such sets the day before I left from an Arab for €60 each? Maybe I was done there too, but better be done for €60 than €250! Of the many other images I will have as long as I live, the other is of the Sea of Galilee and the surrounding sites such as Cana, Caphernaum, and the Mount of the Beatitudes. A saintly man once recommended meditating on the Gospels by imagining oneself as one more character in the scenes. Well if I ever did that e.g. with the Sermon on the Mount or the miraculous draught of fishes it was always in black and white! In reality on most days of the year and certainly on 4<sup>th</sup> November when we were there the Sea of Galilee is a beautiful blue resplendent in glorious sunshine!

The sunshine was going to be a constant factor in later travels to New York, Los Angeles and even Las Vegas. Driving along the Californian freeways with the Beachboys or Mamas and Papas at full blast made me feel that if I had got there in 1969 I might never have come back! That was only bettered by a two day trip to Las Vegas where I managed to spend an awful lot of money (thankfully none of it on gambling!) with the jewel in the crown being Cirque du Soleil's LOVE featuring the Beatles music. Imagine the sound created by 3,000 speakers – it genuinely felt like I had my own private set in the back of the seat! According to Conor my eyes were out on sticks for the entire performance which of course ended far too quickly! *All you need is love!*

The holiday is over – but I have great memories. Because he was Assistant Director of a production of Hamlet, I saw it twice as they had two different casts. I also saw the UCLA Drama Department's musical *Is There Life After High School?* which (rightly) bombed on Broadway, a dress rehearsal of LA Opera's *Rigoletto* (magnificent), another college production, and visited the Getty Villa and the Getty Center (awesome) and LACMA, Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Oh, and we went to two movies, appropriate behaviour for one visiting LA. Bloody hell as I write this while tuned in to the in flight selection of oldies, what comes on only The Eagles *Hotel California!* My hotel in Santa Monica was two blocks away from THE Hotel California! It's now 7 p.m. in LA but 3 a.m. in Ireland so I really better try and get to sleep!

*Post script – I didn't sleep on that plane, but did get home on 30<sup>th</sup> November to a blanket of snow which effectively lasted till St Stephen's Day: to an economically punch drunk nation and one where most people wanted to see the last of 2010. As for the first three months of 2011, well the Roscrea Review doesn't do politics but if it did.....! That said, what a lift the Senior Rugby team have given us at this time! Who'd have believed it six months ago?*

# Count Arthur Moore

## 1849-1904

*It is unlikely that the Cistercians would have started a foundation in Roscrea and there would certainly be no CCR were it not for Count Arthur Moore. As students, unless particularly interested in history, we probably never gave him a thought. Who was this remarkable gentleman?*

He was born in Liverpool on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1849, the youngest of five children, two sons and three daughters of Charles Moore, M.P. for Clonmel, a wealthy landlord, who left over 10,000 acres of land when he died. He was a decent landlord by the standards of the time.

His older brother, Charles died when young and Arthur became the family heir. He had a great love of Ireland and its people, especially the poor and marginalized. In fact he was said to have a short fuse because he was intolerant of moral and social wrongdoing.

He felt that "the Irish were inclined to dwell too much on the past, whereas by working manfully in the present I would have them try to improve their condition...he valued their kindness of heart, their patience and their morality, but he felt sorrow at seeing their noble character marred by ignorance and want of self reliance, by their thriftlessness, their childish waywardness and apathy which are the evil heirlooms of centuries of strife and oppression....if they would forego their happy-go-lucky and careless ways they might ensure the dawn of a brighter day..."

*Has anything greatly changed?*

At school he was not athletic, but had a love of gardening, music, art in general and debates. He spent a few years studying for the Priesthood. On his father's death he was elected at the age of 25 to represent Clonmel in Parliament. He was a member of the Home Rule League, first under Isaac Butt, and later Parnell. All that time there was a militant physical force element in Ireland, which Moore did not favour. Indeed he did not always agree with Parnell's methods e.g. he did not take part in the obstruction campaign in the House of Commons. He spent ten years in Parliament and worked hard for farmers' rights, for the poor, for the reduction of emigration and for the lot of adults and children in Irish Workhouses. He wanted Industrial Training for those children. At a cost of £10,000 he founded an Industrial Home near Clonmel. He spoke on many other good causes including better conditions for farmers and sailors.

When both Parnell and Dillon were imprisoned, Arthur Moore worked hard for their release. When Clonmel was disenfranchised because he would not take the pledge required by the National Party he did not seek re-election, but continued to work for the betterment of his countrymen and the spiritual rights of his fellow Catholics. In a by-election in



Derry in 1899 he was elected for the Irish Parliamentary Party but was defeated in the General Election the following year.

He was very engaged in Catholic Action. He was a prominent member of the Catholic Truth Society. He tried to start a hospital in Tipperary with nuns of The Little Company of Mary. It proved impossible and instead he helped found St. John's Hospital in Limerick.

In February 1877 he married Lucy Clifford, only daughter of Sir Charles Clifford, a member of one of the oldest Catholic families in England. In that year Pope Pius IX made him a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory and a Count of the Holy Roman Empire. The Moores had three children, Arthur Joseph, Charles Joseph and Edith Mary.

Count Moore had great regard for all monks following the rule of St. Benedict, especially the Cistercians. The ruined Cistercian abbeys throughout the land upset him. He became very friendly with the monks of Mount Melleray and offered to found a second house of the Order. He had hoped to establish one within sight of his home, but this fell through and Roscrea became lucky! A run-down estate, Mount Heaton with a few hundred acres of land and a neglected mansion came on the market. Count Moore purchased it and presented it to Dom Bruno, Abbot of Mount Melleray for the purpose of founding a new monastery. He also wanted a college built.

The price Count Moore paid was £15,000. On top of that he gave a gift of £10,000 and a loan of £5,000 to the monks. *It has been said that he was running low in cash at the time as he was a beneficiary to many causes. He received requests from Ireland, Britain and Europe.* The transfer was on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1878 and the official foundation was fixed for 21<sup>st</sup> March, then the feast of St. Benedict. The name was changed to Mount St. Joseph.

## COUNT ARTHUR MOORE - continued

Thirty two monks (eight priests) came from Mount Mellera y in small batches and took up residence in the dilapidated mansion (now the Guest House) and celebrated Mass for the public in one of the rooms.

There were quarries, sand pits, a lime kiln and plenty of timber on the land. The monks built a saw mill and with lots of help from the neighbours, the Monastery was quickly built. A little more than a year after their arrival the foundation stone was laid on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1879 – this was taken from the catacombs of Rome and was blessed by Pope Leo XIII. The Church was completed within two years and opened for public worship on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1881. All debts were paid and the Bishop of Cork, Dr. O'Callaghan, officiated at the consecration. Formalities for raising the status of the Monastery to an Abbey were begun in 1887. Fr. Camillus Beardwood, Bursar at Mount Mellera y was installed as Abbot in October 1887. He was an architect like his brother who designed the Church and Monastery. Over the next fifty years additions and improvements were carried out, bit by bit by subsequent generations of monks.

The Cistercians are a contemplative rather than a teaching Order. While they were involved in Colleges in France and England, Theology was their main subject. Their involvement

in education in Ireland arose out of particular needs – in Mellera y because of the poor educational level of would be entrants and in Roscrea because of the express wish of Count Arthur Moore. He was very concerned at the few Catholics receiving education in Ireland. Speaking on education he is quoted as saying "...the Catholics of Ireland met with no respect for their religious convictions, while those of Protestants, Atheists and Infidels were fully responded to, and their requirements provided for..." He mourned greatly the untimely death of his son Arthur in 1900 and offered to build a College in the grounds of Mount St. Joseph in his memory, using Arthur's inheritance to pay for it. Dom Camillus and his brother were architects for the College, opened in 1905.

Count Arthur Moore suffered a short terminal illness – he developed a "chill" which turned into pneumonia and he died on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1904. As the founder of the Monastery, he was entitled, with his family to the right of sepulture within the Church, and the Count, the Countess and his son Arthur were buried in a spot close to and in front of St. Joseph's altar. How often as students and pastmen did we pass that spot without a thought for the wonderful Moore family? It is surely time for us as pastmen to see to it that there is a portrait of Count Arthur Moore in the College.

*Barney Sherry*

---

## Noel McCarthy Award for Transition Year Science

Dr. Noel McCarthy (CCR 1948-'53) a leading obstetrician and gynaecologist in New Haven, Connecticut, died after a short illness in July 2009. It was he who in the 1990s set up the North American Branch which has flourished ever since under his guidance and contributed greatly both to the College and as a meeting ground for CCR pastmen in New York and other parts of the North America.

The North American Branch wished to honour his memory in some tangible way, and following consultation with the College, the Union Central Committee under the then President Gerry O'Meara and Noel's family including his brother, former Union President Gerald McCarthy, it was decided to commission a prize for Transition Year Science. This will involve a perpetual trophy and a medal which each winner will be able to keep. The Union is grateful to the North American Branch for its generous funding of this award.



The first recipient of the award was Shane Kelly from Carlow, son of Kevin (CCR 1975-'80) and Eileen Kelly. The award which was for academic year 2009-2010 was presented on 13<sup>th</sup> March last by Gerald McCarthy.

*Shane Kelly with the Noel McCarthy TY Science Trophy alongside his parents Kevin and Eileen, College President Marcelline Cody and former Union President Gerry O'Meara*

# North American Branch Dinner

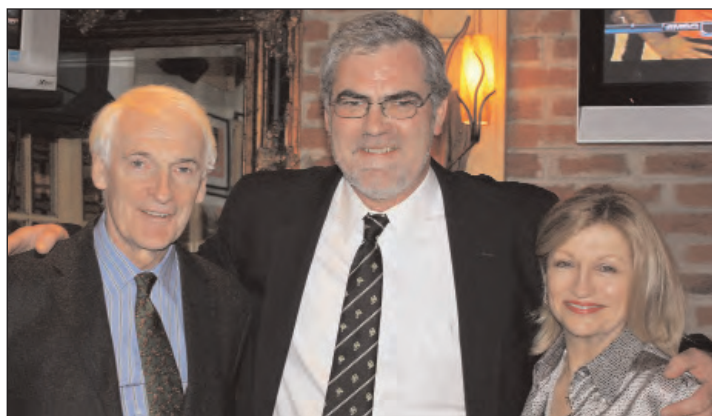
Langans', Manhattan,  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2010

It was my first New York Dinner, but I sincerely hope it won't be my last. Des O'Brien sure knows how to lay on a spread! After a range of appetisers we sat down for the main course – absolutely first class!

Johnny and Ann Dolan were also there as were several regulars, but also some new faces. John Coughlan came all the way from Vancouver and Ken Forde from Upstate New York. It was great to see several younger pastmen some with their wives, others solo.

As Des won't have to fly home for any Autumn Internationals this year, the 2011 New York Dinner reverts to its usual slot of the Friday before Thanksgiving Day i.e. 18<sup>th</sup> November. Des also passed on the baton to Niall Rafferty who will be the point of contact for pastmen in the USA and Canada.

*Pat Hanratty.*



*Paddy Boland, Des O'Brien and Anne Boland*



*Niall Rafferty (CCR 1979-'84), John Coughlan (CCR 1971-'77) and Declan Crowe (CCR 2000-'05)*



*Peter Kehoe and Ronan Ryan*



*Union President Johnny Dolan with Maurice Kelleher (CCR 1967-'72) and his wife Monica*



*Ever faithful Honorary CCR pastman Bosco Cardozo*



*Niall Rafferty addresses the gathering*



*Ann Dolan, Roger Healy (CCR 1984-'89) and his wife, Cathy*



# W.P. Mullins

## by Breandán Ó Ruairc

**On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009, William Mullins (CCR 1969-'74) was appointed National Hunt Ambassador by Horse Racing Ireland. This was the first time that such an appointment was made.**

*"I was honoured to be appointed and it was important to give back and help promote the sport we all love. It meant doing a weekly blog and going on Twitter and Facebook was a new experience".*

*"I was grateful to my parents for having the vision to give us a good education. My brothers George and Tony followed me to Roscrea and we all benefitted from the experience. Looking back on those years spent in C.C.R., I feel that the disciplined life that we led has proved most beneficial to me in later years. The teaching staff was made up of monks and teachers and that combination was healthy. My earliest memories of after-school activities in CCR was my involvement in Athletics. I don't know of any school that had such excellent coaches. We were all encouraged to participate in sport and in my Leaving Certificate year, I had my first venture on a horse at Fairyhouse. Thanks to my involvement in Athletics I was fit. My first winner was "Silver Road" and that was special. Rules were strict in Roscrea. We were allowed home at Halloween so my Showjumping and schooling of horses was done during holiday periods."*

*"I know that nowadays students of the college are allowed home every month and I think that is a better system. It is important to keep in contact with family and friends. There were very few distractions. We looked forward to the few social outings, especially the hops, and that was mentioned when we got together for our re-union a few years ago. The opening of the swimming pool was a great bonus."*

*"I enjoyed my five years in CCR and I feel that it gave me independence. If I had stayed at home I would probably have left school after my Inter-Cert. I now employ about thirty people and some of the many jockeys who come to me have left school without completing their education. Those that have their Leaving Certificate are more mature and are far better at analysing a race. My wife Jackie and I were adamant that our son Patrick should continue his education even after his Leaving Certificate and he is studying at NUI Maynooth. It was wonderful that he became Champion Amateur in 2008 and 2009 but we were still determined that he should complete his studies in Maynooth."*

*"My association with CCR has continued and my nephew Emmet kept me informed with details of my old Alma Mater. During his six years there, he had far more freedom than I had and was allowed to partner some of my horses during school term. Through him I have become involved with the CCR Racing Club and Equestrian Society. My brother George, Emmet's father, is closely involved and is advisor to the Club"*

*"The Club's first venture into ownership was a horse aptly named "Spiritual Society" and he duly obliged before being sold to race in England. Seamus Hennessy has a club of 32 members and he has succeeded in getting two benefactors to give horses to the Racing Club. A horse called The Midnight Club has enjoyed great success and has finished third on two visits to the Cheltenham Festival. He was sold last summer but remains in the stable and he could well be a Grand National horse this year. Alphazar was also a great servant and Emmet enjoyed many successes on him. I was delighted when the club's newest recruit Vesper Bell won on his first attempt recently at Fairyhouse. George buys the horses and Emmet is the pilot. I enjoy meeting the members of the Club*



*Photo shows Willie Mullins, Breandán Ó Ruairc and former Taoiseach, Brian Cowen on the occasion of Willie winning the National Hunt trainer of the year award for 2009.*

*when they come racing and it was great to see them at Cheltenham when The Midnight Club ran so well. Long may it continue!"*

As a trainer Willie Mullins has won just about every major prize in Ireland, most of the big races in England and two Champion Hurdles in France. His horses have won the English Grand National, the King George and an unprecedented five Hennessy Gold Cups at Leopardstown. He has been the leading Irish trainer for the past three years and few would bet against him getting four in a row. In the season 2008/'09, horses trained at his base at Cloutton won in excess of €3,250,000. This was a record for a national hunt trainer in Ireland.

The most prestigious national hunt meeting in Ireland is the Punchestown Festival and two years ago Willie won twelve races – a feat never previously accomplished. It was thought that it couldn't happen again but he repeated the achievement again this year.

He was presented with his Champion Trainers Award at Punchestown by another past pupil, An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen. It was a great day for the illustrious family as his son Patrick broke the post-war record for an amateur rider, surpassing the record previously held by Ted Walsh.

Willie Mullins started with six stables, he now has a hundred. So with his wife Jackie and son Patrick we hope that this season will be as successful as the previous three.

His links with CCR continues and he firmly believes that the education he received in the college has stood him well in what is a precarious profession.

***Our sincere condolences to all the Mullins family on the death of their father, Paddy, on October 28<sup>th</sup> 2010. Paddy trained the famous "Dawn Run" to win the Champion Hurdle AND the Cheltenham Gold Cup, a feat never equalled. May he rest in peace.***

As this edition goes to press we send our further congratulations to Willie Mullins on becoming this year's champion trainer at Cheltenham and become the leading active Irish trainer at the festival, and third on the all-time list behind Tom Dreaper, and Vincent O'Brien.

# Match Day Programme Article

*The following article appeared in the match day programme on St.Patrick's Day. We reproduce it here with kind permission for the benefit of those who could not be present.*

The charge of Cistercian College Roscrea through the Senior Cup comes to its conclusion today in the RDS. This season's cup run for Cistercian College has raised some eyebrows among those in the know in Leinster Schools' rugby circles. However, we in Cistercian College always believed that it was on the cards for 2011. A group of quality, committed players, dedicated management and an occasional 'rub of the green' meant that no team was unbeatable. May this hold true for today!

The Leinster Senior Cup is one of the oldest and proudest competitions in Schools' Rugby. The Dublin schools have traditionally dominated the honours list with a number of notable exceptions. On three occasions Cistercian College made Cup Final appearances; 1910 versus Blackrock College; 1941 versus Newbridge College and in 1999 versus Blackrock. The team of 1999, trained by Kevin West, and inspired by Gavin Duffy almost claimed the ultimate honours only to be beaten by Blackrock College. While the major accolades have eluded Cistercian College teams down through the years many prominent rugby players 'cut their teeth' in service to the cause of rugby in Cistercian College. Such notables include: Dick Spring, Donal Spring, Jim Glennon, Michael Sherry, Ned Byrne, Gavin Duffy, Peter Durcan and Tiarnan O'Halloran.

Today, however, is not about the past. It is a day to applaud and support the panel of players and management who will write the latest chapter in Cistercian College Roscrea's history. So, who are the players who represent Cistercian College today? Team Captain, Conor Finn (Ballinasloe, Co.Galway) and his fellow centre, Shane Layden (Carrick-on-Shannon, Co.Roscommon) are the heart of the team. Wingers Cormac Brennan (Ballyvaughan, Co.Clare) and Matthew Mellotte (Westport Co.Mayo) have been solid in defence and intelligent in attack. The half back pairing consists of lion-hearted Gareth Gallagher (Boyle, Co. Roscommon) and the ice-cool Bill Duggan (Ballacolla, Co.Laois). Galway brothers Philip and Denis O Dwyer (Moycullen Co.Galway) will both achieve the unassailable record of representing the College in three Senior Cup campaigns. The second brother pairing of Colin and Rory Moloney (Abbeyleix, Co. Laois) are physically strong and determined competitors who refuse to lie down. Lock, Aidan McGrath (Ballinasloe, Co. Galway) must have Connaught wondering how he slipped through the net with his athletic performances. Eamonn Quirke from Arklow, Co. Wicklow has the potential to be a provincial flanker. Nenagh's Alex Henderson is the teams 'duracell battery' with performances of boundless energy. Props,

Gearoid Fallon (Turloughmore, Co.Galway) and Craig Farrell (Ballina, Co.Mayo) are two stalwarts in the forward line who have yet to meet their match. Oisín Heffernan (Clifden, Co. Galway) is a tighthead with a sparkling future and plays with great enthusiasm. Sean Moran (Clondalkin, Co.Dublin) has the necessary pace and power to change a game. John Fitzpartick (Luxembourg) and Adam Wheatley (Ballinacorney, Co.Monaghan) are effective ball carriers. Ross Enraght Moony (Doon, Co.Offaly) is a natural leader with a high tackle count. Maurice Fitzgerald (Caslegregory, Co.Kerry) and Jack O'Driscoll (Skibberreen, Co.Cork) have pace to burn and clinical finishing ability. David Kirwan (Shanlis, Co.Wicklow) and Kealan Moran (Lusmagh, Co.Offaly) have the ability to change a game with one attack. Killian Buckley (Nenagh, Co.Tipperary) has a bright future on the College team and is attracting attention from Munster rugby.

Hard work has secured today's Final appearance. In 2007 Gamesmaster, Brendan McKeogh and the CCR Rugby Support Group devised a strategy to develop and progress the cause of Rugby in Cistercian College. This strategy represents the College's aspiration for inclusivity in sport and today's appearance in the Final reflects this vision. Teamwork has been crucial to this success; the commitment, the dedication, the quality training, the attention to detail, the game knowledge and the hours of effort given by coach John Lillis, ably assisted by Alan Tynan, have led to realising the potential of the team. Their back up team of Wesley Carter and Pieter Swanepoel has been a great support to them. The underage coaches of Donal Costelloe and Gerry Hayes provide senior coach, John Lillis with quality players.

There is a very strong support network in the school; the College Dean of Studies, Gerry Grealish; Dean of Residence, Seamus Hennessy; matron, Anne Harrington; catering manager, Bernie Teahan; groundsman, Rody Spillane; receptionist, Aileen Spillane and many others have collectively rallied behind the squad. Abbot of Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Dom Richard Purcell and College President, Marcelline Cody have given their full support to rugby in the College.

Finally and most importantly we would like to extend our thanks to the parents, past pupils and supporters around the country and throughout the world. A successful cup run highlights the spirit that exists among Cistercian College parents, families and pastmen and we look forward to seeing you after the game in the Davenport Hotel, Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Go n-éirí go breá leis an bhfoireann agus bainigí taitneamh as an gcluiche inniu.

# FROM HELL OR FROM CONNACHT

*Some thoughts from proud Connacht man  
Declan Martin (CCR 1966-'71)*

"A great day for Connacht rugby", I told my Leinster supporting colleagues, after CCR had laid waste to yet another fancied Dublin school on their way to a historic Senior Cup Final.

"Explain!", they said.

Normally, I have some difficulty in explaining to these Southsiders and D4 denizens that Roscrea play their rugby in Leinster, because the school is *geographically* in Leinster. "Isn't that somewhere in Tipperary?", I am normally asked. As I bleated on about the nine or ten West of Ireland players on the CCR team, including two from my home town of Ballinasloe, they go "So now you're trying to tell us Roscrea is actually in Connacht?"

*One of a sample of email  
messages received in the College  
after the Leinster Final...*

*'Pride, Passion and Courage are the only words that come to mind as I reflect on last Thursday's game, epitomised by the fact that we scored the last try of the match. Your teamwork and commitment to each other was also very obvious. The CCR support from both Present and Past men never gave up either and what a wonderful and moving gesture, of your acknowledgement of their efforts, through the tears of defeat, when you stood before them in the stand and applauded. That's great sportsmanship.'*

*'Real achievers in life are those who can enjoy victory graciously and defeat with great dignity. The CCR SCT Squad have done both so well and make us all proud to be associated with you.'*

Truth is, there have been strong links between Connacht, Roscrea and the world of rugby for many years. CCR always hosted a good contingent from Ballinasloe – a town which contributed three internationals to the Irish team (Ray McLoughlin, his brother Phelim and Noel Mannion), along with two more who attended the local school (Ciaran Fitzgerald and Johnny O'Connor). Roscrea itself has also yielded its share of Connacht Irish internationals – Mick Sherry from Foxford, who won caps as a flanker in the 1970s and, more recently, Gavin Duffy from Ballina, who was involved in our last Senior Final in 1999, and has gone on to win many caps for both Ireland and Connacht. Throw in Eric Elwood and Sean Cronin, and the contribution from Connacht rises even higher.

And then, there was the great Fergal O'Gara from Sligo. An outstanding rugby player and an even better pole vaulter, it was only a question of how many Irish caps he would pick up. He played in what was then the Final Irish Trial, but fell victim to the Ulster / Leinster power axis in the team selection. But his progeny prevailed, when son Ronan recently surpassed a hundred international caps and a thousand championship points.

Born in the USA to Connacht parents, Rog could easily have trooped out in the Connacht colours. Our loss was Munster's gain.

**MORE PHOTOS FROM CLASS OF 1980...**



*Peter Murray, John O'Connell, David Mc Donagh, Pdraig Haran*



*Sean O'Loughlin with Martin Daly*

# NEWS OF PASTMEN

**Gerard Corcoran** from Westport married Aileen McNamara from Athenry last July.

**John Coughlan** (CCR 1971-'77) came all the way from Vancouver for the New York Dinner in November. He is President and CEO of TransCold Distribution Ltd., and of the Bendick Ice Cream Factory Ltd. in Vancouver.

**Declan Crowe** (CCR 2002-'05) having qualified with an LLB is now studying for an LLM at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

**Eoin Donnellan** (CCR 1993-'99) from Lanesborough married Regina Carroll last June – eleven years to the day from the start of their romance, and they are expecting their first baby next August. Eoin works in the family business, Engine Spares Ltd.

Eoin's brother, **Rory** (CCR 1995-'2000) was one of several CCR pastmen to study in Robert Gordon's University in Aberdeen but is back in Ireland working in Johnstons' Pharmacy, Ballygar. The brothers were members of the Longford team which won last year's Lory Meagher Cup, beating Donegal in the final.

**Don Harrington** (CCR 1980-'85) is a Director of Goodbody Corporate Finance in Dublin.

**Roger Healy** (CCR 1984-'89) also attended the North American Dinner last November and is happily married and living in New York. He was recently awarded an MBA from NYU Stern School of Business and graduated at the top of his class.

Roger's brother **David** (CCR 1981-'86), a former Councillor, was a Green Party candidate in the recent General Election in Dublin North East. He is that party's spokesman on climate change, an issue that will hardly go away just because the Green Party has no representation in the 31<sup>st</sup> Dáil.

Their father **Rory** (CCR 1957-'62) came all the way from the Cayman Islands for the Kenmare weekend last October.

**Conor Kenny** (CCR 1973-'75) is Principal at Conor Kenny & Associates, Management Consultants.

**David O'Kelly** is Vice President of Sales Engineering, Americas at Openet in San Francisco. He is married to Bhavani with 2 children, Maya & Kiran.

**Matt Mellotte** whose intercept led to the sensational second try against Terenure in the Quarter Final of this year's Senior Cup certainly has CCR in the blood!

his father, **Maurice** (CCR 1974-'79);

Maurice's brothers, **Richard** (CCR 1969-'74), **Dermot** (CCR 1970-'75) and **George** (CCR 1972-'78);

his father's cousins **Richard** (CCR 1961-'66) and **Joe** (CCR 1962-'67) both deceased, and **Gerry** (CCR 1969-'74);

his grandfather and grand-uncles who attended CCR in the 1940s.

Some CCR dynasty!

**Dr. George Mellotte** is a Consultant Nephrologist in St. James Hospital, Dublin and Senior Lecturer in TCD. He recently supplied the Editor with information on several doctors who are pastmen of Roscrea from the 1970s.

**Greg Hays** (CCR 1971-'75) is medical director in Novartis Ireland.

**Peter Vaughan** (1969-'74) is a consultant anaesthetist in St. James' Hospital.

**Adrian Brady** (CCR 1972-77) is consultant Radiologist in Cork University Hospital.

**Dr Paul Heslin** CCR 1972-77 is a GP in Marlay Park Medical centre, Rathfarnham & does a lot of media work.

**Dr Mark Greally** (CCR 1971-'77) is a GP in Morecambe, UK.

**David Moore** (CCR 2000-'05) is Sales and Marketing Executive at Steripack, Medical Devices. He obtained a B.Sc. in Marketing at DIT in 2010. He spent the Fall semester 2008 studying international business and marketing modules at the John Molson School of Business, Concordia University, Canada.

Congratulations to **Emmet Mullins** (CCR 2002-'08), on riding *Sir Des Champs* to victory in the Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle, the second last race on the final day of this year's Cheltenham Festival.

**Tom Phelan** (CCR 1989-'94) spent some time at home recently from Papua New Guinea where he works as an accountant for Digicell. He is a son of **Pat Phelan** (CCR 1963-'67), farmer and victualler from Abbeyleix.

**Richie Ryan**, (CCR 1967-'72) is one of several Ryan brothers from Borris Co. Carlow. He served for over three decades in the Irish Navy and as Commander in charge of the Naval Base in Haulbowline arranged for the facilities there to be available for some very enjoyable get togethers of the South West Branch of the Union. Richie has recently retired (or in Navy terms "stood down") from the Navy. Married to Liz (nee Alcock), Richie lives in Cobh along with their three children. He still however, has a life on the "Ocean Wave" as he has set up his own company "Eire Bass", specialising in taking visitors to Cobh out for a session of salt water fly fishing.

*Please keep news items on pastmen coming in, either to the college or directly to [pathanratty@gmail.com](mailto:pathanratty@gmail.com) or to Pat Somers, [pat@leinsterepress.ie](mailto:pat@leinsterepress.ie).*