



## Hugh Mc Donnell Retires

*Pádraig Ó Síoda*

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 Mr Hugh Mc Donnell retired as Principal of Cistercian College, Roscrea. He had been a member of our staff since 1970, having come to the school during the last two years of the late Fr. Patrick's Presidency.

Hugh began his teaching career in Sandymount High School, Dublin in 1963. He later taught in Ballybofey, Co. Donegal and in the Classical School in Moyne, Co. Longford. He moved back to Dublin to teach for four years in Oatlands CBS before coming to Roscrea.

Hugh taught Irish and Geography. He was a gifted teacher, being equally comfortable with differing abilities. All students were treated equally and all enjoyed his fabulous sense of humour and his unorthodox views.

He was a highly successful Debating Mentor and on three occasions his teams brought All-Ireland Gael Linn Debating titles to the school.

Hugh will always be remembered as the most successful Hurling Coach in the history of the College. He trained five Leinster Senior winning teams in 1986, 1987, 1997, 2000 and 2004. The last two teams went on to win All Ireland titles. All teams were trained to play fast, skilful hurling and he was revered by the hurlers. His success is evident from the achievements of so many of his past pupils at Inter-County, University and Club level. In 2004 alone, eleven CCR pastmen featured in one Fitzgibbon Cup Semi-final. The advent of the Hurling Support Group in 1998 finally gave him the extra support that was needed to win All Ireland honours.

Hugh was appointed to succeed Sean Burke as Vice-Principal in 1999. One year later, he was invited to become Principal. Like every other task he undertook, Hugh gave total commitment to the Principalship. He "lived" for the College. He captained his team of teachers with care and humanity. He had a unique ability to bring the best out of even the most difficult student. His students regarded him with a mixture of respect and affection that is rare, if not unheard of, in the experience of most Teachers and Principals.

Hugh's contribution to the life of the College could only have been achieved with the support of his wife, Nora and of his family. Hugh was and is a family man. His love for his children and grandchildren is very obvious to those who know him best.

Duine uasal cúthaileach macánta is ea Aodh. Tá daonnacht aige nach bhfeictear go minic. B'shin é an buntáiste ba mhó a bhí aige agus é ag déiléal le múinteoirí, daltaí agus tuismitheoirí araon. Go raibh saol fada agus togha na sláinte aige agus é ag tosnú an chuid eile dá shaol.



# New Union President

*As the Centenary Year drew to a close, John Sherry handed over the Union President's chain to Kieran FitzGerald (CCR 1974-'79). A native of Glin in West Limerick, Kieran lives in Dublin and is a former Chairman of the Dublin Branch of the Union. He attributes his career choice of communications to the debating and public speaking skills learnt in CCR, largely at the hands of the late Liam Maher and, trí Ghaeilge, ó Bhreandán Ó'Ruairc. Prior to setting up his own consultancy, Kieran worked in RTE for many years, starting on the Late Late Show, where he worked alongside another past-student, Mullingar-man John McHugh. He met many other CCR men in various parts of the country and in various walks of life in his job covering current affairs on Prime Time. He has been actively involved in the life of the Union for over twenty years. We wish him every success for his year as President.*

# Message from the Union President

*It is the fashion that Presidential tenures in most walks of life have a "theme". Mary Robinson's "candle in the window" or GW Bush's "war on terror" being just two examples. Following the tumultuous events that made the centenary year of CCR such a resounding success, were one to choose a theme for Presidency of the Roscrea Union in 2006/07, then perhaps "a period of reflection" would be appropriate, combining a morning-after-the-night-before feel with monastic contemplation. The Centenary Year was an outstanding success marked by one or two real highlights. The launch of "Céad Bliain Faoi Rath" by Brian Cowen T.D. and John Sherry and the memorable performance of the triumvirate led by Dom Kevin on RTE Radio was one such event. Great credit is due to the late Liam Maher for bringing so much archive material together and to Conor Brady for editing the finished product. The entire Centenary Committee must take a bow, not least the "hidden hand" of PR guru Brendan Bracken. But the centenary banquet will be the event which will live on in the memory, preceded as it*



John Sherry hands the chain of office to new Union President Kieran Fitzgerald

# Message from the Union President

## *continued*

*was by the visit of Uachtarán na hÉiream and rounded off with the chanting of the Salve after dinner. The Union was led through the entire year by John Sherry. We could not have had a better President at such a historic time.*

*The Union has always had an identity distinct from the Monastery and the College. As the faces and management structure of the College adapt to reflect the changing circumstances of the Monastery, the Union becomes an even more significant link to the tradition it celebrates. That shared history and a commitment to the old-fashioned notion of "values" is worth recalling. It is partly to that end that the Union has embarked on presenting the College with a series of portraits of the Past Presidents. It is a cliché, on being elected President, to talk of being "humbled". When one receives good wishes and a contribution towards the portraits from a man whose signature is followed by "Class of 1932" then one really appreciates the honour it is to be President of the CCR Union.*

*The President-elect is nominated by a branch other than his own. I extend my gratitude to the South-East branch and to the chairman Rob O'Shea for nominating me. Kilkenny has long been a rallying point for Union activity. Long may that continue. Despite being from West Limerick, it is through the Dublin branch that I have been associated with the Union. The commitment, enthusiasm and enduring good nature of the Dublin Branch is a marvel. Current chairman, Fergal Cox is continuing that tradition.*

*Pivotal events of the Union year include the always-hilarious Galway dinner. No matter what kind of weather, no matter what time of year, the mood can only be described as festive. Similarly the ever-growing numbers attending Cork functions, such as this year's in Ballymaloe. As always the Munster camp knows how to live. Every August the Midland Branch organises an excellent Golf event and dinner, followed in September by North Tipperary taking charge of the Abbot's Cup Golf. With November filled up with dinners in Dublin and New York, the "period of reflection" theme might need to be re-visited. I look forward to an enjoyable year in the hope that I can do justice to your confidence.*

*This edition of the Review will be received by thousands of pastmen, far more than will be able to participate in Union activities during the year. It is consequently one of the primary points of contact for many. The Union owes its thanks to editor, Pat Hanratty, for his continuing work and his commitment to the highest standards.*

*On a personal note, directed particularly at my own class of '79..... loss of hair, girth expansion, even the experience of having tax and insurance checked by Gardaí*

*who, to one's eyes should still be at school does not underline the onset of middle age quite so pointedly as the invitation to become President of the CCR Union. Why it seems like only yesterday.....*

## From the Editor

*What a year! What a splendid sequence of events to celebrate 100 years of CCR. And, as Dan Smyth points out elsewhere in this Review, the staff and students of CCR never ceased to focus on a very important aim of any school – the academic success of the students. We all know that examination results are far from being the only important thing in the life of the school. CCR has always given us a much broader education than one based solely on the hunt for points. It is, nevertheless heartening to pick up the newspapers during the Summer and see the outgoing students of one's alma mater highlighted as achieving one of the best sets of results of any school – despite all the many distractions of the Centenary celebrations. Congratulations to the class of 2006 - you are now part of the honoured tradition and history of CCR! The second century of CCR has indeed begun!*

## Portraits of Presidents

*Instead of the usual banker's order form for the financing of the Roscrea Review, this edition is accompanied by a letter regarding the Portraits of the College Presidents initiative. Thanks to the generosity of pastmen and others who have already contributed, a significant amount of the money needed has been raised, but more is needed before painting starts! If you did not get around to making a contribution, perhaps you could do so now or early in 2007!*

*Every good wish for Christmas and the New Year to all.*

*Pat Hanratty*

# Message from the College President

*Normal College life is restored after a hectic Centenary Year culminating in Leaving Certificate Class results which compare more than favourably with our very best in the past and with many of our "opposition" including grinds schools. Any year when 26% of the Leaving Certificate class scores over 500 points and 50% score better than 450 points has to be very pleasing and my congratulations to all who made this possible. There are many ingredients in this success.*

*Our numbers are back up to 310 students which is very welcome. This healthy situation has resulted in 18 students occupying the top floor of the Guest House while Clairvaux House is undergoing restoration. We hope to occupy Clairvaux shortly after the Mid Term break. This work combined with the improvements leading up to the Centenary has greatly enhanced the college facilities. This is as it should be, as the young students of the 21st century have much greater expectations - understandably so as Ireland is now among the wealthier elite nations of the world.*

*We have new energetic staff to balance our talented and experienced members. It is always good to match the exuberance of youth with a good mix of staff - some close to them in years and outlook on life, with those who have tried and tested the system. All are engaging themselves under the guidance and direction of our new Principal Mrs Marcelline Cody.*

*Right now the College Campus with many beautiful tree specimens is looking spectacularly well in the many autumnal shades. We removed the evergreens between the College Church and the Pavilion, revealing three beautiful copper beeches in the process. The sports pitches are looking splendid and no doubt the rigors of rugby and hurling over the winter months will test them. They are a wonderful asset to the college and visitors and prospective parents comment favourably on them on every occasion.*

*If and when you are passing through the South Midlands please take time out and visit us. You are always most welcome to come back, renew old acquaintances and make contact with a new generation. This coming year we will welcome our first ever fourth generation student to the College, John McInerney from Clarecastle, the eldest son of Pat McInerney who was a student in CCR in the mid 1980s. As I am writing this the music is echoing from the Recreation Hall, continuing the fine operatic tradition of the school - this year's production is "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying". What a way to conclude!*

Dan Smyth

October 2006

# Marcelline Cody

Last Spring, the Board of Governors appointed Marcelline Cody as College Principal to succeed High McDonnell. Hugely talented and a prodigious worker, in just six years in CCR she has gained the esteem (indeed awe) and affection of colleagues, parents and students.

Marcelline Cody (née O'Rourke) is from Booterstown, Co. Dublin, but has lived in Roscrea for 20 years. She met her husband Donncha while doing a post graduate course at UCD. They have two teenage children - Iseult a 2nd year student at NUIG, and Aonghus who is in fifth year at CCR.

Marcelline was educated at Our Lady's Grove Secondary school in Clonskeagh and UCD where she studied Irish and History. At UCD she was actively involved in politics, debating and sport - obviously preparing her well for a career in Roscrea, even if it seemed far away at the time!

The UCD motto *Ad Astra* encapsulates Marcelline's work ethic; indeed, it is well complimented by the CCR motto *Insidiat coelis animo sed corpore terris* which is a development of the same theme.

From Booterstown to Ferbane Vocational School might have seemed an unlikely move, but then romance and the need for employment can take one in surprising directions. She admits that she applied in order to gain interview experience but ended up with the job, and stayed there for 20 years, working with CCR pastman Bernard Quigley who is the school's Principal. She taught Irish, History and Geography there and became involved in extra curricular activities, managing the school representatives to success at Slógadh and in Drama competitions.

In September 2000, Marcelline joined the staff at CCR, teaching Irish and Geography. She is also proud of the fact that while still at school she presented a project at the Young Scientists Exhibition investigating the reasons for the closure of the Harcourt St railway line - it has taken nearly 30 years of campaigning to reverse this decision!!!

She was a member of the Centenary Committee and was a contributor to 'Céad Bliain Faoi Rath'.

Away from school, Marcelline plays golf - she has won the Captain's Prize at Roscrea Golf Club on two occasions and has served as Lady Captain. At golf and tennis, she has been both a team member and manager.

Marcelline is an avid and very knowledgeable sports fan, whether it be participating in Golf, Tennis, or hill walking or as a spectator at Golf, Rugby or Gaelic games. She has also managed the Senior golf and tennis teams at CCR.



On behalf of all pastmen we wish Marcelline every success in her newrole.

# NORMAN DAVEY



Norman Davey arrived on the teaching staff of Cistercian College, Roscrea in December 1975. He was to remain on the teaching staff until he retired in June 2005. From the word go, Norman was secure in his own background and traditions. A native Dubliner, he quickly adapted to life in the country. In a school which has a strong rugby and hurling culture, he remained loyal to his own chosen sport of soccer. For years the student body believed that both he and Pat Kilbane had played professional Soccer at the highest level in England! (Evidence would now suggest that neither man was offered a fulltime contract in the Premiership or Football League!) Norman's subject areas were Geography and French. In his time on the staff he succeeded in making Geography one of the most popular subject options for 5th Year students. His second area, French, was a labour of love. Norman travelled to France every summer and is a genuine lover of the French ambiance. He normally returned to the staff every September sporting a deep tan from happy weeks spent travelling through the south of France. Over the years, he encouraged other staff members to share his love of France with the result that it is now one of the more popular venues for members of the teaching staff.

Norman enjoyed a pleasant and relaxed relationship with the student body. His approach was calm and non-confrontational. At staff meetings, he was more of a listener than a talker but always capable of working out his own position on the various issues that arose over the

years. He was well respected by his teaching colleagues and was viewed as a confident, independent person, professional in his approach, and never seeking confrontation.

In the extra-curricular area of college life, Norman primarily identified himself with Athletics and in particular with Cross-Country Running. He organised these events quietly and unobtrusively. He believed in personal fitness and played Soccer for many years with a variety of local clubs.

Some years ago, Norman opened the Milltown Garden Centre and happily combined his involvement there with a teaching career. In June 2005, he took the decision to commit himself full-time to that project and that led, in turn, to his decision to retire.

Norman has three adult children. His daughter, Lorna is married with one son. She is a BA Graduate with a Diploma in Computers. She lives in Dublin and works with the E.S.B. in Fitzwilliam Square. Norman's older son Paul (CCR 1990-'95) studied Horticulture in Botanic, Glasnevin and joined the family business in 2000 and is married and living in Milltown. His younger son, Norman (CCR 1994-'99) completed his B.Sc. in 2003 and M.Sc. in Bioinformatics in 2004, and is currently doing a PhD in Medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Norman was a professional and loyal colleague, held in high esteem by the staff and management of the school. He was highly respected by the student body and viewed as a caring and efficient member of staff. All here in CCR wish him and his wife Lynsey the very best in a retirement that will embody the work ethic that always defined him

G.P.M.

## School Enrolment 2007/2008

Parents wishing to make an Application for a place in First Year for September 2007, should note that a live-in Assessment Weekend will be held in the College on:

Saturday, March 3rd 2007. Details can be obtained from the Admissions Secretary at (0505) 23344.

# SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY JOHN HERNAN



*I have just finished reading through - more like skipping through - the CCR Centenary book. I must admit it's a genuinely fine opus, almost an encyclopaedia of the College and its history.*

*Dare I say, however, that there is one chapter missing from the book - it's "CCR at the Movies"! Remember all those films we watched crowded together in the Rec Hall? Those Sunday evening films are among my fondest and most cherished memories of Roscrea. A big screen movie every Sunday, every holiday and after the Long Walk.*



*At some later stage, I would love to take the time to delve into the history of the projectionist box, establish an exhaustive and comprehensive list of the films shown in CCR down the years, but for the moment, this is a somewhat personal History of "CCR at the Movies".*

*I'm a student of 1980 to '85. No cable TV then, few enough VCRs and no DVDs. A few Commodore 64s and Ataris sitting in the computer room confidently awaiting the advent of the internet! So there was little by the way of entertainment when the Rugby pitches were swamped and soaking. Sunday was a day of rest, a break from the rule and rhythm; a lie in until 9, Alpen for breakfast with Squeeze concentrated orange juice, letter writing, visits from parents, meals at ESSO, cigarettes at 6, tuck shop after dinner. All of this leading to the big event, the Picture Show, the Nickelodeon, the Movies, the Cinema, the Theatre of Dreams, Hollywood in Tipperary! The Sunday Film*



*For two hours a week, dimmed lights and 24 frames per second worked their magic on an audience of young men aged between 12 and 18. In fact when you think of it, apart from Mass and the occasional visits from dignitaries, the Sunday Film was the closest thing to a communal event in the college. At the time, the entire*

*student body gathered in the hall. We grabbed our chairs from the dining rooms and rushed along the main corridor and battled for good seating. We held seats for best friends, prepared packets of sweets and Coke, squashed bags of peanuts and Tayto crisps together into that unique blend of salty delicious mush. The excitement was unbearable. Then the rumours, the whispers, the dimmed lights, the rattle of chairs, the plastic sweet wrappers - it was time to sit back, strain our necks over the shoulder of our neighbour and wait for the lights to go down, that faint flitter, flop passage of 16mm film through sprockets..Lights! Camera! MOVIES. Splendour!*



*Clint Eastwood, Peter Sellers, Sean Connery, Charles Bronson, 007, Rocky,... it's incredible how much pop culture we went through in 5 years. Remember the wave of excitement when a James Bond main title sequence swept across the screen, Octopussy, main title music accompanying nubile dancers in effervescent bathing suits.*

*The tension and excitement was tangible! Eye of the Tiger blasting out on a NON Dolby, NON Surround, NON SDDS sound system! Cheering on Rocky Balboa thru 1, 2 and 3 (4 and 5 hadn't been completed by then) We weren't allowed see Clint's Harry Callaghan and "Well punk do you feel lucky" but I distinctly remember "Left turn Clyde" from Every which Way but Loose". Pure, unequivocal, innocent (!) pleasure.*



*I have so many fond memories. For instance The Wild Bunch. I can't begin to understand how that one got through the censors, but Peckinpah's overrated, baroque, wonderfully flawed western classic with all the blood and gore of slow-motion mayhem really made an impression on me. Not forgetting Leone's spaghetti masterpieces as the Man With No Name fought through Ennio Morricone's opera. Fantastic! Henry Mancini's Panther theme dancing us through Seller's Clouseau and his own absurd world of personal mayhem.*



*This is not a list of classics and great films. CCR was my Splendor, my Last Picture House. The choice of movies was not always appreciated. I recall Pat Carroll taking an enormous risk by showing Citizen Kane! Can you believe it? A Black and White movie from the 40s! By reel 2 there was no one left in the hall except yours truly and a few others who were most likely asleep. I walked out of one movie in 5 years...something called Nickelodeon with Ryan O'Neal and Burt Reynolds. (Ironic considering the title and the*

subject matter...) Remember Butch Cassidy and Sundance Kid blazing their way to Bolivian oblivion (sorry I couldn't resist that one...). And the shock : JAWS wow! Spielberg and CCR. (Personally I find Sugarland Express a better movie) I distinctly recall the unbridled enthusiasm of hundreds of boys for Kelly's Heroes, a wonderfully awful piece of popcorn nonsense. "Go get him Moriarty!" And let's not forget Stallone's Ariane!!!! and the chop socky Bruce Lee, Enter the Dragon...that hurt! The amount of injuries in the senior dorm after Bruce Lee movies was incredible! And I recall a really terrible feature called Murder at the Rue Morgue. It was dreadful. This was the stuff that made up the conversations and (some of) the dreams in the dorms on Sunday nights.



This is where I learned to love the movies. I was addicted to them. I bugged Pat Carroll for two years and in the end it paid off. I became the projectionist in 5th year. It meant I got to collect the 16mm copies, and

set them up, pull the film through the projector, check the focus, change the reels. I was THE MAN IN THE BOOTH! It was so cool (well for me at least). I was touching the stuff of dreams. Pat would never tell me the titles of the movie beforehand and all day Sunday we would joust verbally through a maze of hints to try and guess the title by 6.30 p.m. Movie buffs that made us good friends....



In 5th year and 6th year it was Gerry Maher's Film Club that changed everything. I remain indebted to him for creating and maintaining the club. Here Gerry confidently proposed European art house movies to a crowd of libidinous

hormone infested teenage boys just waiting for a glimpse of Isabelle Hubert's naked breasts. Here I encountered Alain Tanner, Wim Wenders, Volker Schlöndorff and various other auteur from the continent. Gerry kept a close eye on what was happening in Cannes and Berlin and we got the chance to watch some truly great cinema. I remember heated debate around the Tin Drum and I can still feel a numbed bottom after sitting through three hours of Paris Texas, Wender's desert masterpiece.



A year after, still under the spell of Ry Cooder and Robbie Muller, and much to my parents' dismay I applied and succeeded in going to Communications Studies in Rathmines. Not that Communications interested me, but this was the closest thing to Film



School in Ireland at the time. From there on I started my own personal and professional journey in the film world. I later moved to Paris to study film in the mecca of art movies- I wanted to meet with the Godard's the Truffaut's....then on to Cannes, the glitz, the glam, the bizness, to

Leningrad, to Len Studios, the marvels of Russian movies, then to Hollywood, to Paramount the great studio of the 30.s... and now to Montreal my latest movie stop over, the capital of International Film festivals.

I was smitten by the movies in Roscrea and I still am. I still get such a kick out of going to the cinema: the lights go dim, you snuggle up in a comfortable seat, willingly suspend your disbelief for two hours, you travel into that wonderful otherworld, and if you are lucky, occasionally you will come out a new person, a changed person, a better person, having encountered somewhere in the darkness, beauty, truth or even poetry. The CCR moto is "Let your mind dwell in the heavens, while your feet tread the earth", well that's as good a metaphor for movies as I've ever heard.

To think now that CCR students watch movies on a TV screen from DVD, just breaks my melodramatic nostalgic heart.....

Before I forget, Merci John Shanahan, pour tout. Je ne savais pas pour le CCR Film Society, que c'était vous. Nous devrions en parler.



CCR student Karl Mackey of Lough Derg Yacht Club, Nenagh who is on the Irish Mirror World Team being presented by President McAleese with his uniform for the upcoming Mirror World Championships being held in South Africa next January.

# DUBLIN BRANCH DINNER FEBRUARY 2006

The 2005 Dublin Dinner was postponed from its more usual November date and held in February 2006 in the Stephen's Green Club. A large gathering of pastmen enjoyed a wonderful evening with fine food and drink, and some excellent speeches from among others Dom Kevin, Dan Smyth (at his first Dublin Branch Dinner as College President), Union President John Sherry and our Guest Speaker, artist Thomas Ryan who has already given us the excellent portraits of Dom Colmcille and Dom Laurence and who hopes to start working soon on portraits of all eleven CCR Presidents since 1905.

Thomas Ryan told us about some fascinating subjects whose portraits he has painted, from politicians to princes of the church. He also complimented us on the warmth and good bonhomie of the gathering, suggesting that from his position as an "outsider" we were a good bunch to be a part of!

John Sherry had the very pleasant duty on the night to belatedly present scrolls of office to two Honorary Life Vice Presidents, Conor Massey and Barney Sherry, both outstanding servants of the CCR Union over a long number of years.



Guest Speaker, artist Thomas Ryan.

The 2006/'07 Dublin Dinner was recently held in the Stephen's Green Club, with David Andrews (CCR 1951-'54), Chairman of the Irish Red Cross as Guest Speaker. A report and photographs will appear in the Spring 2007 issue, as will reports and photographs from the very successful reunions of the Classes of 1956 and 1986



Union President John Sherry flanked by Honorary Life Vice Presidents Barney Sherry and Conor Massey.



Chairman of the Board of Governors Conor O'Hara, Jim Glennon, T.D., Abbot Kevin Daly O.C.S.O., College President Dan Smyth, and Céad Bliain Faoi Rath Editor Conor Brady at the February 2006 Dublin Branch Dinner



Pat Somers and Stephen Malone at last February's Dublin Branch Dinner.

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20 Year Reunion - Class of 1987  
Racket Hall Hotel  
October 20th 2007  
Contact : Peter Hynes (087) 2053545  
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# LONDON BRANCH DINNER ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2006

*The London Branch of the Union has a tradition of holding a dinner once every two years, the night before England play Ireland at Twickenham. As the Centenary London dinner was thereby scheduled to take place on St. Patrick's Day it seemed like a good idea for the Editor and his wife to travel, even if the price of flights home dictated that the only reasonably priced return flights were that Saturday evening either during, or within an hour of the end of the match. So, with the hope of being able to watch the match in a departure lounge in Gatwick, we headed for London on the afternoon of St. Patrick's Day, which also happened to be Gold Cup day in Cheltenham.*

*Those who know me well know I am not a serious racing punter, but something about the Cheltenham Festival has always fascinated me. A few years ago, some colleagues started a staff room competition where we pick the winners of the televised races and score 10 for a winner, 8 for a runner up etc. En route to Gatwick I was getting regular text messages as I knew that despite my lack of experience I was near the top of the leader board in our little contest. Arriving into Baggage Reclaim in London I got a message which said that War of Attrition had won the Gold Cup and that had sent the first prize of €440 in my direction. Thank you, Michael O'Leary for once! Little did I know I would soon "need" the money.*

*Moving on several hours and a most enjoyable evening was had by all in the pleasant surroundings of the RAF Club in Piccadilly. Fergal Keane and Manus Moran spoke on behalf of the London Branch with Dom Colmcille O'Toole representing the College and Monastery. Union President John Sherry had the pleasant task of presenting scrolls to recently appointed Union Honorary Life Vice-Presidents Brian Flynn and John O'Shea.*

*Others present included Donald Gallivan, Barry Bennett, Joe Hoban, John McNamara, Denis O'Sullivan, Ray Gibbons,*

*And then came the raffle for tickets for the following day's Triple Crown decider in Twickenham, one of which was won by John O'Shea who happened to be sitting near me. A wonderful way to crown his evening, we all thought. Well, after a while it dawned on John that because of family commitments he really couldn't go to Twickenham so he quietly asked my wife Bridget: "Would Pat like to go to the match?" "Would a duck swim?" as my late father used to say, whenever anything pleasant was offered. Quick as a flash Johnnie Mac offered a bed for Saturday night and flights previously considered too expensive were re-evaluated in the context of this new reality.*

*The match itself was some affair. Seated behind the goal line where England scored after just a few minutes, one had grim forebodings of what can sometimes happen when we play England. An almost immediate riposte from Ireland for a try which really should have been sent to the TMO steadied the ship and Ireland were in contention throughout. A late English penalty, however tilted the balance in their favour and one was coming round to thinking "well it was good to be here, and even if England win it was a great match when suddenly O'Gara, O'Driscoll and finally that man Horgan from my part of the world made a sub zero Twickenham boil over with excitement. And the English supporters near me were sportsmen to the last, fulsome in their praise of the Irish team without a hint of bitterness, despite the fact that for once they could justifiably say they were robbed. Not that the noisy Irish contingent at the South End really cared!*

*So thank you from the bottom of my heart John O'Shea, Johnnie MacNamara (and Andre), the London Branch, the Irish Rugby team and, even once again, even if it galls a little, Michael O'Leary for giving me such a wonderful weekend back in March.*

Pat Hanratty



Barry Bennett (CCR 1964-'69) and Manus Moran (CCR 1941-'45)



Fergal Keane addressing the London Branch Dinner, 17th March 2006.



Donald Gallivan, Joe Hoban and Ray Gibbons (all class of 1961) with London Branch chairman Fergal Keane.



John O'Shea (CCR 1947-'54) and Dom Colmcille O'Toole (CCR 1940-'45.)



John Sherry (CCR 1960-'65), John McNamara (CCR 1962-'67) and Brian Flynn (CCR 1949-'54.)

# MATT HYLAND / NOEL WINDLE GOLF, ST. MARGARET'S 2006

*For this year's instalment of the Dublin Branch golf outing we decided to visit St Margaret's in North Dublin for a change. Northsiders like Aidan McNulty have been requesting a more northern venue for a long time so we felt we had to oblige. With its dangerous blend of broad forgiving fairways and perilous lakes St Margaret's was truly a fascinating course to play. We had just under 50 golfers on the day so the level of competition was high. In the end the scores were truly remarkable.*

*For the Noel Windle Cup we had 6 competing ladies and the Cup was won by a delighted Joan Murphy (mother of past students Paul, Willie and Ken Murphy). Just two points behind Joan in second place was a very unlucky Yvonne Malone. Christina Windle was present on the night to present the Noel Windle Cup.*

*We really had fireworks in the Matt Hyland Trophy, with 37 points only grabbing 3rd place on the day, with Ronan Whitley just finishing outside the top two. In second place was a guest player, Glenn Millar, who amassed a creditable 39 points. Yet the best was yet to come. In first place with 42 points was the Dark Horse from Dromod, Liam Nicholl. I'm not sure who was more surprised to see Liam on the podium him or us, but claims of banditry were quickly put to one side when Liam gave a heartfelt speech on how proud he was to receive the Matt Hyland trophy. Lean Hyland, Matt's daughter, was there to present the trophy.*

*Many thanks to all that helped make the day so special and in particular I would like to thank the sponsors, without whom the event just would not be possible:*

<i>Manus Agnew</i>	<i>Tom Coman</i>	<i>Fintan Cox</i>
<i>Ronnie and Brian Culliton</i>	<i>Graph Print</i>	<i>Don Harrington</i>
<i>Eddy Kiernan</i>	<i>Michael McNamara</i>	<i>Michael McNulty</i>
<i>Liam Nicholl</i>	<i>Noel O'Callaghan</i>	<i>John Ryan</i>
<i>South East Branch</i>	<i>Liam Spooner</i>	<i>Donal Taaffe</i>

*A new departure this year was the awarding of team prizes. The first of these went to Glenn Millar, Robert Comyn, Alan Hartley and Joe Delaney while that golfing legend Micky MacNamara helped carry his team which also included Johnny Dolan, Norman Ginley and Ronan Whitley to second place overall in the team classification.*

*Fergal Cox*



*Dublin branch Chairman, Fergal Cox looks on as Lean Hyland presents the Matt Hyland trophy to Liam Nicholl*



*Ken Murphy, Simon Coyle, Paul Kinirons, Joan Murphy*



*New Union president gets a few tips from the predecessor, Larry Branigan*

# The South East Branch Annual Dinner

The South East Branch hosted their Annual Dinner in the Ormonde Hotel on 13th May last. It was to be the last Branch function attended by John Sherry during his Presidency. There was a fine turn out of pastmen many with wives or girl friends, including a sizeable contingent who made the journey from Dublin.

Abbot Kevin attended and thanked everyone for the enormous contribution made by the Union, the College staff, the boys and everyone associated in any way with the College during the Centenary Year. It had been a marvellous experience and he was hoping that the coming weeks would see students reaping the rewards of hard work, despite all the distractions, as indeed actually happened.

The occasion was marked by the presentation of a scroll to Honorary Life Vice President, Pat O'Shea, in recognition of his sterling work for the Union over many many years.



Dom Kevin speaking at Kilkenny Dinner



Chairman Rob O'Shea addressing the gathering.



Ollie Byrne, Gearóid O'Briain and Liam Spooner



Charlie & Anne Phelan



Fergal O'Dubhghaill, Conor Taaffe & Joe O'Shea



Ida & Willie Murphy



John Sherry presents scroll to Hon Life Vice Pres Pat O'Shea



Paul O'Shea and his wife Sharon



Paul Murphy & Fergal Cox



Catroina & Liam O'Shea

# Tales of a Wandering Monk

## Part 1

*Dom Peter Garvey*

Having helped Conor Brady and the rest of the team to research and publish the centenary book in the Summer of 2005 and celebrated the College centenary on October 1, I embarked on a sabbatical year of study and travel that was to take me on an exciting trip around the world. The year was graciously offered to me by Abbot Kevin and the Roscrea community after the travails of a second term of six years as president of the College between 1999 and 2005, with no little help from a travel voucher presented to me by CCR parents.

It was only when I set out on the journey that I realised fully the heavy toll that those six years had taken on me. I hasten to add that the students of those years and their families were among the finest I have known, and the staff – now including very few monks – took on a responsibility and a personal commitment to the school that was on a higher plane than I had ever previously experienced. But for me the role of President of the College has changed inexorably, and I strove in vain and in frustration to recapture the role and set of relationships that I had enjoyed during my first term as President during 1972-84. It probably bears out the truth of the maxim that one should never take up a post that one had previously held, because it is never the same post and has inevitably changed in the intervening years.



*The Wall 'protecting' Jerusalem*

## JERUSALEM

But when I flew to Jerusalem in October 2005 to begin a four month course in Bible Studies, I had the profound experience of letting the pain of those six years gradually disappear and evaporate into the warm Mediterranean air of Palestine. The group of 25 people drawn from 10 countries lived in a beautiful spacious house called Ecce Homo on the Via Dolorosa in the old walled city of Jerusalem and together followed a course of lectures and visits to

biblical sites. The combination of the group activity and dynamic, together with the course itself were to make a profound impact on my life – perhaps the most profound of my life. For 40 years I had studied the Bible and tried to explain it to others in my ministry as a priest, but during those four months it was as if I was discovering a book that I had never seen before. And what a book it is! Part of the experience is living among people – Jews and Moslems – for whom the book – the Torah and the Koran – is the epicentre of their lives and around which they operate as people. To rise at the Moslem call to prayer each morning and to walk around the walls of the old city as I did regularly, or to walk to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for early morning prayer or to the Wailing Wall for bible meditation are unforgettable memories. Likewise to celebrate the experience of each day with the group at evening Mass had a profound bonding influence and served to copper-fasten the impact of the day's activities. But it is the terrain of the country rather than the city that makes the biggest impact. The mountains and hills, the lakes and skies (always blue) and the sun of Palestine are exactly the same today as they were when Jesus and the biblical prophets walked there and gazed at those scenes. And among these, to sit at the lakeshore of Galilee and watch the sun rise and listen to the waves on the shore, to climb Mount Sinai, the mountain of Moses and the commandments, and look down on the plain where the tribes of Israel were gathered; to stand on the summit of Mt. Carmel and look down on the spot where Elijah challenged the 400 prophets of Baal and then had them slaughtered en masse; these are memories so evocative that they will never dim.

I could go on. Among the best memories was meeting up with a past student, Michael O'Sullivan from Kilrush (1982). He is a White Father who is the director of a pilgrim hostel on the Mount of Olives, and who, with his mastery of Arabic and French languages is a central figure in much of the Christian/Moslem dialogue in the city. His expertise and inside knowledge opened doors that I would never have thought possible, and visits to forbidden and tense areas like Hebron, Nablus and Ramallah, together with attendance at Israel Philharmonic Orchestral concerts only happened because MOS was the guide.

The political situation in Israel is dreadful, and the contemptuous and brutal manner in which the Jewish army and police treat the Arab people is heartbreaking to observe. But for anyone who is

considering going on a trip or pilgrimage to Israel do not be put off by the reports of violence and unrest. Of course you have to be careful and not go to certain places, but it is a very safe place to be and not once during the four months there did I feel afraid.



With Fr. Michael O'Sullivan  
St. Anne's Church, Jerusalem, January 5 2006

#### MINNESOTA, U.S.A.

After completing the course in January, I spent a few days in Ireland visiting the community in Roscrea and my family, and attending a memorable Past Students' function of the Western Branch in Barna in my honour, boring everybody who was willing to listen with tales of Israel, before flying to Minnesota. I had enrolled in a university run by the Benedictine Order in St. Johns, Collegeville, 100 miles west of Minneapolis for the semester January to May. The campus, with 4,000 students and a community of 160 monks is an idyllic place beside two lakes and in the middle of 3,000 acres of woodland. From October to early April it is snow covered and the lake outside my window was frozen over. Temperatures reached as low as  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and 2006 was considered a mild winter as they are usually as low as  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Nevertheless, by wrapping up well, it was possible to get out for a brisk walk every day, and the superb US indoor heating ensures that one is never cold in the house.

The monastic community were my gracious hosts and I was able to be part of their community life and prayer (their monastic liturgy must be one of the finest and most ornate in the world), while attending lectures in monastic theology at the University during the day. I took courses in The Rule of St. Benedict, the Psalms, and the Desert Women Saints – the latter being the most fascinating of the courses taken. It is probably only in the US that one could find a course on the women saints of the early church and that reflects the profound and generally benign influence that the feminist movement has had on life in general and on catholic scholarship in particular. I thoroughly enjoyed the four months there and unlike Jerusalem there was

plenty of time to read and study and internalise both the Israel and Minnesota experiences. One of the highlights was attending the St. Patrick's day parade and celebrations in Minneapolis with two of the Irish-American monks, where the quality and authenticity of the music, dancing and costumery was better than you would ever find in Ireland and where you would be forgiven for thinking that the whole city was Irish – even if only for the day.

While there I visited three Cistercian communities - at New Melleray in Iowa, founded from Mount Melleray in 1850, where some of the monks buried there came out from Roscrea in the early 20th century, Our Lady of Mississippi Convent nearby where the sisters earn their living by running a thriving candy making enterprise, and at Our Lady of Guadalupe Abbey in Oregon. The latter visit was in the gracious company of Fr. Joe O'Shea, my CCR classmate who is a busy pastor in Vancouver, Washington. To spend a weekend with Joe and take a full part in the vibrant and enthusiastic parish life including a strong Mexican influence, was a wonderful experience, and highlighted the fact that despite the difficulties the US church has experienced, it is as exuberant and confident as ever.

I also took a trip down to Mexico to visit the families whose sons had been students in CCR in recent decades. There, graciously hosted by Francisco (1983) and Elsa Corripio and their family, I met Guillermo Andres (1983), and his sisters who had also been in school in Ireland, as well as Alejandro, (1996) Gerardo (1997), and Rodrigo Cardenas (2003), and Mauricio (2003) and Patricio Borbolla (2005). It is fascinating to go into family homes in Mexico and find CCR memorabilia and photographs all over the houses. Time and distances prevented me visiting the other Roscrea pastmen there, but suffice to say the CCR bonds with Mexico are strong and alive.



Abbot Peter and his "new" Community with the Abbot General of the Cistercian Order,  
Dom Bernardo Oliveira

Part 2 of Dom Peter's world wide travel odyssey in which he describes his travels to Australia and Korea and the surprise phone call from Abbot Kevin about his next assignment will appear in the Spring 2007 Review.

# Fr. Peter Garvey installed as new Abbot of Bolton Abbey, Moone



During his travels down under, so eloquently described for us on previous pages, Fr. Peter received a surprise phone call from Abbot Kevin telling him that the monks of Bolton Abbey had elected him to the vacant position of abbot of their community.

As Moone is in the archdiocese of Dublin it fell to Dr. Diarmuid Martin to perform the abbatial blessing at a relatively low key ceremony in the small abbey church. It was one of Dr. Martin's predecessors, Dr. John Charles McQuaid who had invited the monks of Roscrea to start the foundation there in the 1960s.

Dom Peter is the fourth abbot of Moone, following Dom Benedict Kearns, Dom Ambrose Farrington and his immediate predecessor, Dom Eoin de Bhaldraithe. Pastmen everywhere will join with us in wishing God's blessing on Dom Peter in his new role.

## MICHAEL BRODY WINS ABBOT'S CUP

Despite being played the weekend of the All Ireland Football Final, there was a good turn out for the Abbot's Cup last September. Members of the class of 1956 who were enjoying their 50th anniversary reunion that weekend were very prominent among the early trailblazers with Brendan Galvin carding 37 points and John Cahill 36, but when the scores were all compiled, it was that relative youngster from the class of 1968, Michael Brody with 39 points who won the first prize and the coveted cup.

Rarely has a winner of any competition exhibited such unbridled joy at a presentation in any sport as Michael did that evening. Despite heckles from envious colleagues and the free flowing wine, Michael gave a wonderful "thank you" speech which was very warmly received by all present.

Joe Dooley, a Roscrea man and former winner was Runner up on a countback with 37 points. As ever we are indebted to the North Tipperary Branch of the Union and to Roscrea Golf Club who look after us royally every year. Special thanks are due to Liam Spooner and Marcelline Cody for the work they put into organising the event.



### Front Row:

Kathleen Phelan (Lady Capt., Roscrea GC)  
Union President Kieran Fitzgerald,  
Michael Brody, Abbot's Cup winner 2006,  
Stephen Crofton (President Roscrea GC).

### Back Row (Left to right):

Joe Dooley (Runner up),  
CCR President Dan Smyth,  
CCR Principal Marcelline Cody,  
Liam Spooner.

# Cork Branch Dinner – Ballymaloe House

The last event in the celebration of the CCR Centenary Year was the annual get together of the Cork Branch. A cross-section of pastmen across the generations met up in Ballymaloe House on the 25th May

Among the first intake of students to CCR in 1905 was Patrick O'Callaghan of Knocklong, Co. Limerick. Patrick spent two years in CCR and then returned to the family farm in Knocklong. His two sons, Thomas (1943-45) and Patrick L. (1944- 47) also attended CCR. Tom has retired from his medical practice in Mitchelstown, which is now managed by his son, Thomas. Pat has retired from his position as a Bank Manager in Limerick. We were privileged that the two O'Callagan brothers along with Tom's wife, Mary and Pat's wife Kay travelled to Ballymaloe for the occasion. Pastmen are, of course aware of the strong CCR connections with Ballymaloe in that Darina Allen's brothers William, David, Aidan, Tom and Rory O'Connell all attended CCR during the 1960s and 1970s. Indeed, Rory spent a number of years as Head Chef in Ballymaloe. Certainly, the catering staff in CCR faced a big challenge in meeting the same standards that Darina's brothers were used to!



Gerard Malone, Peter Sommerfield, Dom Kevin, Fergal O'Gara and P J Hourican

A pastman with a very interesting history, Peter Power, also attended the Dinner. His father, Jack was one of the upwards of 300,000 Irishmen served in the British army during World War 1 with up to 35,000 paying the supreme sacrifice. He was in the front line on the 1st day (first July 1916) of the Battle of the Somme. Jack was working in the Bank in Dungarvan and volunteered to join up with the "Hull Pals"(Hull Commercials, 10th Battalion, East Yorks). At a later stage, during the Battle of the Somme, Jack was wounded near Neuve Chappelle.

Happily, he survived his wounds. After the war he returned to New Inn, in Co. Tipperary. Peter himself went to CCR in 1933. After leaving CCR, Peter qualified as a doctor in UCC. Some time after qualification he decided to make his career in the British army.

In an ironic twist, given his family background, one of his duties was acting as Medical Officer at the Thiepval Memorial in July 1966. This is the biggest Memorial on the Somme and was the focus of the 50th anniversary commemorations of WW1. The troopers forming the honour guard faced a different

hazard that day, with many of them collapsing with heat stroke. Dr. Power was kept busy with this unexpected development. Indeed, Peter had to request Field Marshal Alexander's permission to allow the troops to stand down. I'm sure Mr. Power Senior would have welcomed him being around 50 years earlier.



Dom Kevin Daly, Peter Power, Dan Smyth, Marcelline Cody and Gerry O'Meara.

On his retirement Peter decided to live in Cork. He reckons he is one of the oldest CCR Pastmen and was certainly the most senior of those in attendance at Ballymaloe. Peter was accompanied by his wife Ita, also a doctor. Ita's daughter, Aileen and her husband, the well-known Eddie Holland (both doctors) also travelled for the occasion.

As well as celebrating 100 years of CCR, many of the attendance were still celebrating Munster's victory in the Heineken Cup, five days earlier. I had thought of booking the cup in advance, but felt that was tempting fate. I rang the O'Gara household on Monday morning but was disappointed it was Fergal who answered. I feel Joan would have managed to bring it along! Fergal and Joan were the first of the guests to get to Ballymaloe – hoping to find some peace and quiet away from their home for a few hours. Another benefit for Fergal meeting fellow CCR pastmen is that he resumes his own identity rather than simply being introduced as Ronan's father. However, he wasn't able to get too far away from that memorable sporting occasion as he was seated at the same table as Jerry Holland's brother.

One past student, who took his entire family along was Philip J. Hourican (1958-63), originally from Moat Farrell in Longford. There has to be a story in how someone from Longford came to be Lord Mayor of the Rebel Capital!

Well known accountant and entrepreneur, Peter Sommerfield and his wife Elizabeth attended as well. Peter is still a stalwart of Cork County Cricket Club. Elizabeth's own sporting connection is that her brother Charlie Nelligan was goalkeeper of the dream Kerry team.

We did manage to reserve a table for a number of pastmen of the same vintage. Gerald & Neans McCarthy, Joe & Margaret Kelly, Cuimin & Lena Doyle and Sean & Marie Walsh. Pat O'Shea and his wife Margaret travelled from Kilkenny for the

occasion. Mark Roche (1987-1989), formerly of Macroom, got the prize for the furthest distance to travel. Mark's French wife, his two children and his fashion business were doing fine in Germany while he was on a short break in Ireland. Dermot Cronin of Cronins' buses and his daughter Nora, also attended. The McCarthy clan from Watergrasshill was there in the persons of Colman and Michael. Engineers in the attendance included Seamus Mulherin, Donal Cantwell and Gerard Malone of Edenderry, who was accompanied by his wife Joan. Apart from Fergal O'Gara, UCC was also represented by Liam Kelly and Siobhan Sheehy. The dental profession was represented by John and Marie Lynch from Mallow while Shay Murphy made the short trip from Killeagh.



Cork Branch Chairman Gerry O'Meara presents a bouquet to new College Principal Marcelline Cody.

One point of note at the Cork dinner was that it was the first event Ms. Marcelline Cody attended in her capacity as the newly appointed Principal of CCR. Ms. Cody was congratulated and wished every success on her appointment. The Branch also acknowledged the contribution and support

Anne Sherry gave to John in what has been a very busy, challenging and indeed, successful period during his term as President of the Union.

Continuing the history as a continuum theme we are all looking forward to Ronan O'Gara playing his part for the Irish Rugby Team on the hallowed ground of Croke Park in 2007.

On what will be a historic sporting occasion for Ireland it won't have quite the same impact in the O'Gara household. Ronan's mother, Joan has already graced Croke Park with distinction when representing UCG in camogie in the Ashbourne Cup!



Gerry O'Meara, Richard Ryan, Donal Cantwell, Gerard Malone, Joe Kelly, John Sherry, Gerald McCarthy and Pat O'Shea

Also looking forward to next year, the 2007 Dinner will be held at the end of May, in the Naval base at Haulbowline. This is by kind courtesy of Commander Richard Ryan and is the perfect venue to follow Ballymaloe. Again, one wonders how an army cadet from Carlow progressed to be a Commander in the Navy!

Until 2007.

Gerry O'Meara, Chairman, Cork Branch.

## Obituaries

Countless tributes have been paid to **Niall Andrews**, former T.D., M.E.P. and civil rights' campaigner who died recently. Niall spent just a year in CCR, 1951-'52.

**Aidan Britton (CCR 1941-'47)** Clonard Court, Balbriggan, originally from Bruff, Co. Limerick died August 2006.

**Thomas E. Byrne (CCR 1931-'36)**, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare died February 28th 2006.

**Michael Condon (CCR 1944-1946)** Hospital, Co. Limerick died October 2005.

**Michael Culhane (CCR 1945-1949)** from Rathkeale, Co. Limerick died April 14th 2006. Michael was formerly a Director of Clery & Co. Ltd., Dublin

**Patrick J. Mc Eligott (CCR 1945-1946)** Kilmallock, Co. Limerick died April 2006.

**Rev. Patrick Moore, CSSp. (CCR 1943-'45)** a native of Killanure, Camross, Co. Laois died on 21st August last. He joined the Holy Ghost Congregation on leaving CCR and was ordained in 1952. He served in Sierra Leone for almost thirty years, for ten of which he was Vicar General of Freetown. After returning to Ireland in 1983 he served in parishes in Co. Antrim until his retirement in 2000.

**Dom Kevin O'Farrell**, retired Abbot of Tarrawarra. Dom

Kevin died at the age of 87 years. He was first Abbot of Tarrawarra and held the position for 30 years. He was Dean of Studies in Cistercian College, Roscrea in the 1950s.

**Joseph O'Donnell (CCR 1972-1974)**, Westport, Co. Mayo died suddenly on May 2nd 2006.

**Thomas O'Donoghue B.E. (CCR 1941-'42)** Monkstown, Cork, originally from Toomevara, died September 2006.

**Rev. Edward Sherry, S.S.C. (CCR 1924-'29)** died in Melbourne on August 18th last, at the age of 96 after a long and eventful life. One of four brothers from Bolton, Lancashire who attended CCR in the 1920s and '30s, he was a Columban priest who worked in China between 1939 and the Communist take over in 1949. He later worked in both England and Australia and was at one stage editor of the Australian edition of The Far East.

**Fr. Donal Taylor S.J. (CCR 1936-'41)** late of Portumna died on 10th October 2006. He had ministered in Dublin, Hong Kong and Sydney.

**Patrick Pearse Walsh M.Sc (CCR 1936-1939)** from Cappamore, Co. Limerick died recently. Patrick worked with the Munster Agricultural Institute, Cork. He was a member of the winning Munster S.H. Cup teams in 1937, 1938 & 1939, captaining the latter. He also played Inter-Varsity S.H. with U.C.D.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of deceased pastmen, and also our thanks to those who supplied us with news, and in some instances newspaper cuttings of their deaths.





## MEMORIES OF THE RYDER CUP

*Hearing that Dick Spring was interviewed at the K Club by RTE's Marian Finucane led to the idea of asking him to pen a few words summing up the experience. He duly obliged, and here are his thoughts on those unforgettable days.*

When the idea of bringing the Ryder Cup to Ireland was first mooted in the early 1990s I was in the camp that firmly believed that it would be a great opportunity to showcase Ireland's Golf treasures, especially our links courses which make Irish Golf stand out above the madding crowd. Our island has an abundance of world famous links courses from Waterville in the South West to Portrush in the North East. No links course had the deep pockets or business acumen of Dr Michael Smurfit and the K Club was past the post before the official announcement. In retrospect and having witnessed the competition on the Saturday and Sunday, and having observed the logistics and preparation at the K Club some weeks before the event, I now readily accept that it would not have been possible to stage the event at a links course. As events unfolded during the week of the competition and the weather deteriorated, any other course in the country would have had to abandon the tournament.

In common with many local residents, I took umbrage at the announcement of the 6 mile sanitation zone around the K Club for the week. Again, given the fact that the only access to the K Club is via narrow country roads, if this hadn't been done access and egress for 65,000 persons on a daily basis would have been impossible. Without the facilities at Johnstown, Weston

and latterly Punchestown spectators wouldn't have been able to get near the facility. Having commuted thro the park and ride facility at Punchestown both days it was a very efficient operation and Dublin Bus provided a great service. (If only they could do the same in the city!) As for Punchestown, it is a great national resource but surely somebody might consider connecting it to the motorway.!

The hoopla and hype for the early part of the week was nauseating in the extreme. All the focus on the WAGS and fashion was far removed from the intent of Sam Ryder as the founding father. It would make for some very interesting situations if wives/spouses always followed their competitors around in the same manner as the WAGS did at the K Club. Unfortunately, as we are now living in about the fifth generation of the consumer society I suppose we have to accept this focus on fashion.



*Darren Clarke giving Paul McGinley a tip or two*

As for the Golf itself, well the Americans needed no introductions! They simply didn't show. Tiger Woods putting his first drive into the lake was indeed a watery omen. When we "two by four" golfers see the 'greatest' make such a fundamental error we have more respect for our own foibles. The Americans just don't seem to get it when it comes to the 'team' game. The Europeans were up for it and the home crowd gave them every support. I think they took a leaf from the great displays of sportsmanship of Jack's army and the Munster followers. Very partisan but with respect for the opponents. The Irish trio got overwhelming support and the manner of Darren Clarke's performance and his personal triumph over very recent tragedy was a joy to behold. My personal thanks go to Monty who got up and down from bunkerside on the 18th, thereby winning me a cool €50! I thought at one stage that we might have to rescue Sergio from the water in front of the 11th as he came very close to slipping in. Paul Casey's hole in one at the 14th will live in Golf folklore for many a year.

Of course the great and the good were there and George Bush Snr was an early visitor. I was very pleased when the former President who has the closest relationship with Ireland made it on Sunday. Even his presence couldn't rescue the US team, however. I was glad to catch up with him for dinner on the following Wednesday, and have an opportunity to discuss the work of the Clinton Foundation which is now the number 1 agency in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Great work which deserves to be supported.

Despite a close encounter with the worst elements of Mother Nature the K Club withstood the test (just about) and Ireland in its splendour beamed across the screens of the world. I hope I'm around for the next one! Meanwhile I look forward to visiting Croker for the Rugby next February, but it's Rugby on the Norside and drinks on the Southside!!

Dick Spring (CCR 1963-'68)

## 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>

**WRITE FOR THE REVIEW!** Send us a piece on your experiences, travel etc. We want to hear from you!

# Class of 1965, Forty year reunion

The class of 1960-'65 which has given us two outstanding recent Union Presidents, John Sherry and Aidan McNulty deferred their 40-year reunion to March 2006 because of the College Centenary celebrations.

They assembled in the College where they attended Mass celebrated by Fr. Nivard, assisted by Fr. Bonaventure, after which a reception was hosted by College President, Dan Smyth.

At the Dinner held in Grants' Hotel in Roscrea, there were speeches from John Sherry, Dan Smyth, Dom Colmcille and Des Purcell. Aidan McNulty was toastmaster.

A late night was had by many – until finally in the early hours the session ended politically and politely. A great time was had by all.



*John Sherry, Frankie Bergin, Dom Kevin Daly and Dan Smyth.*



*Michael McNulty, Vincent Leahy, Aidan McNulty, Phil Sheedy, Paddy Kennedy, David Brickley and Donal Staunton.*



*Back row: Left to right:*

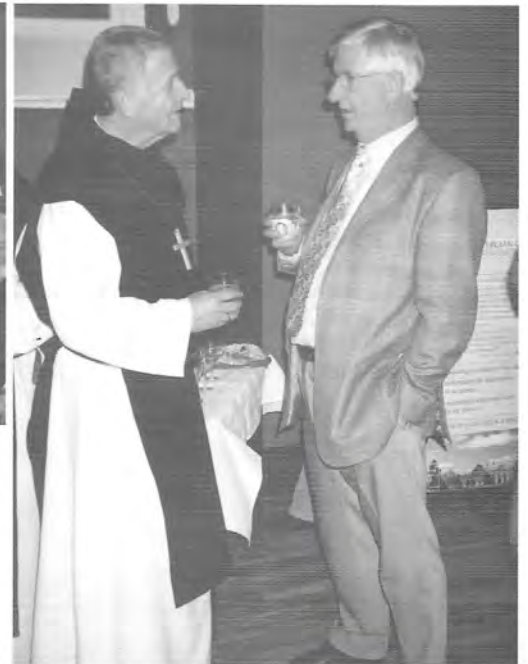
*Rory Flannery, Michael Stapleton, Phil Sheedy, Frank Cullen, Dan Smyth, David Brickley, Donal Staunton, William Dillon, Andrew Lyons, Dermot Rowan.*

*Middle Row:*

*Paddy Kennedy, Niall Wrafter, Michael McCarthy, Michael Murray, John Phelan, Desmond Purcell, Brian Lillis.*

*Front Row:*

*Fr. Bonaventure Melvin, Vincent Leahy, John Shanahan, John Sherry, Dom Colmcille O'Toole, Aidan McNulty, Shaun Wrafter, Fr. Nivard Kinsella.*



*Dom Kevin Daly and Frank Cullen.*

# • NEWS OF PASTMEN •

**Pat Crotty** (CCR 1972-'78) a former Union President is currently Chairman of the Small Firms' Association, Kilkenny Tourism and the South East Region Tourism Authority. The Editor is not sure in which of his many capacities Pat was acting when we met in a Co. Kildare field about to board a double decker bus to travel from Palmerstown House to Straffan Village. Either way, we had to part company as he was heading for the hospitality tents as befits a good tourism supremo while the Editor wanted to see Europe's top golfers prepare for the slaughter. Incidentally, the Editor also met next year's Union President, another Kilkenny man, **Ollie Byrne** (CCR 1981-'86) near the 18th green that same day. He wasn't acting in any capacity – he was just watching the golfers!

Although **Roland Davitt** (CCR 1987-1992) started life as an Accountant he always had a love for music, and when a singing instructor told him that with his bass baritone voice he could make a career of it, he did not hesitate. "I liked accounting but I was really passionate about music and the thoughts of having a career in it persuaded me to give up the steady secure job", he said. Along with his wife, mezzo-soprano Doreen Curran, he featured in The Mozart Sessions, a series of eight half-hour programmes broadcast last July by RTE to mark the great man's 250th anniversary. (For those more familiar with other musical genres, Doreen's is the operatic voice on the song "Eskimo" on Damien Rice's 2002 album "O".)

**Ciarán Herlihy** (CCR 2001-'04) is studying Law in NUI Galway and is currently in third year. This summer he spent a wonderful ten weeks as a teaching assistant in a rural school an hour's train ride from Calcutta as part of the Suas programme. He wishes to thank all those who assisted with sponsorship towards his trip.

Congratulations to **Eddie Kiernan** (CCR 1982-'87) and his wife Rita on the birth of their second girl, Henrietta, a sister for Charlotte. Also to his brother **Willie** (CCR 1986-'88) and his wife Una on the birth of their daughter, Áine.

**Fiachra Liston** (CCR 1991-'96) from Croom, Co. Limerick is currently chairman of his county's branch of Macra ne Feirme. He recently won the Limerick round of the 2006

FBD young Farmer of the Future competition. Actively involved in his local community, he has played leading roles in local musical productions such as "Me and My Girl" and "Calamity Jane." And we were led to believe the poor farmers had no social life!

**Eamon Maher** (CCR 1972-'78) never seems to stop writing. His most recent work, "Irish and Catholic: Towards an understanding of identity" a collaboration with Louise Fuller and John Littleton was launched in ITT Dublin, Tallaght by his former CCR classmate, Finance Minister **Brian Cowen** (CCR 1972-'77') last April.

**Paul Mc Garry** (CCR 1983-'88) is practising at the Bar in Dublin.

**Declan Mc Garry** (CCR 1985-'90) qualified in Computer Applications and is working in New York. He has just got engaged to Amy Landwer, from Kansas.

**Colm Mc Garry** (CCR 1990-'95) also qualified in Computers and specialises in Linguistics. He is currently working in Melbourne.

Congratulations to **John McManus** (CCR 1983-'88) and his wife, Jane on the recent birth of their second son, Ross, a brother for Tom.

**Justin Owens** (CCR 1984-'89) is now manager of CommTech, Ireland's largest IT security company. He was the subject of a lengthy feature in the Irish Examiner on 19th May last.

**Mark Redmond** (CCR 1979-'84) is currently Chief Executive of the Irish Taxation Institute.

**Aaron Spring** (CCR 1994-2000) recently graduated from Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, with a B.Sc. in Estate Management and commenced employment in the Commercial Division of Hamilton Osborne King in Dublin. His father **Dick Spring** (CCR 1963-'68) finds himself meeting up in business with **John McGovern** (CCR 1981-'84) on the Board of Pensco Ltd, a new pensions administration company founded in 2005.