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November 2011 Volume 2, Issue 2

The Cork Constitution

Cork Constitution F.C. V Garryowen F.C.

Templehill Saturday 29th October 2011 2:30

A warm welcome to all our visitors to Temple Hill for our first home Ulster Bank League game with Garryowen FC. We extend a special welcome to Garryowen President, Eoghan Prendergast, his committee, players and supporters for their second visit to Temple Hill this season, and congratulate them on their success in the Munster Senior Cup last weekend.

After just three series of games, this season's Ulster Bank League Division 1A is beginning to take shape. One thing looks certain, that the competition is keener than ever. To prove the point, there have been 12 losing bonus points gained in the 15 games played to date.

Thus far Constitution have won two of their three games. Two away wins over Lansdowne 21-9 at Lansdowne Road, and 17-10 against Dolphin at Musgrave Park two weeks ago. In between there was a 10-14 home defeat by Shannon, leaving Constitution in 4th place on 9 points.

Garryowen lost their opening game 9-13 at home to St Mary's College, but picked up a useful 30-25 away win over champions Old Belvedere; while two weeks ago they lost 6-9 at home to Clontarf. They stand in 6th place with 6 points.

Now that the excitement generated by the World Cup is abating, we hope that the Ulster Bank League can again find its deserved place with our supporters. And with just four games before the Christmas break we need to renew our support for the team and the competition.

Shay Livingstone, General Manager, of our main sponsors Rochestown Park Hotel, is about to take up a new appointment in Galway, and as this will be his last home game with us, we wish to acknowledge his great contribution to the club in recent years. We wish him continued success in his new appointment, and wish Shane and his family well for the future.

**Your team needs your support
Don't let them down
Bheith ann gan teip**

Match Day Parking

Please note that there is restricted parking in Templehill on Match Days. We request that match patrons respect our neighbours by not parking on the double yellow lines outside local housing estates as this causes a traffic hazard.

Garryowen F.C. 29th October

As has been the case with ALL League Match Days in Temple Hill the club have put an emphasis on bringing as much to the day as is possible.

Itinerary for the Day

9:30 am: Training U7's U8's U9's

Please wear Cork Con Jerseys as photos are being taken for the Club Calendar

Halloween treats will be handed out after training.

1pm: Club Blitz U10's U11's U12's

Due to the blitz there will be no training for the U10's , U11's and U12's.

1pm: Match day Lunch with guest speaker Irish International Moss Finn.

2.30pm: Ulster Bank League Match - Cork Constitution v Garryowen

U10's , U11's and U12's will form a Guard Of Honour for the Senior team

4.30pm: U 13 Tournament

The under 13 teams will play a tournament under lights on the three pitches against Kinsale and Killarney

For your added entertainment today there will be some light jazz in the hall after the game and we wish everybody a happy holiday weekend.

Touring with Trevor

Pre Match Lunch

The pre match lunch will celebrate the life and times of a most notable former Cork Constitution player and clubman, the late Trevor Barry. So today, as the teams compete for the Barry Cup, we welcome Trevor's wife Wendy and son James along with Trevor's many friends from far and wide. The reason for the Garryowen connection is that Trevor's proudest moment in club rugby was to lead Cork Constitution to success in the final of the Munster Junior Cup against Garryowen at Thomond Park in 1988. And once again we welcome his old team mates and those of the Garryowen team of that era.

Under age Notice

Dear Parent

We are back into our 2011/12 season and it was great to see the large number of players out in force every Saturday. It is our intention during the coming season at all grades to promote the game of rugby in a safe and enjoyable manner ensuring participation and inclusion. In addition our ethos is and has always been to apply the principle of "players first and then winning".

Cork Con's juvenile teams are not involved in any structured competitions thus allowing coaches to concentrate on teaching our members the skills of rugby football and having fun. The juvenile teams are not selected on ability ensuring that all players get equal opportunity to play in games.

We encourage participation which may include your son playing other sports. Should this coincide with our training times in Cork Con we hope you don't choose one over another. We would prefer your son to play as many sports as they wish but that they always feel they are members of Cork Con regardless. Our focus is to ensure our players enjoy their time in Cork Con and we do not wish your son to feel under pressure or obligation to attend training or games.

We also encourage parents to get involved and participate in the various club activities which will be held during the year. We have initiated a Family Attraction Policy and Community Engagement Initiatives and we are encouraging parents to enjoy the facilities in the club during training on Saturday mornings. We will be providing newspapers in the bar and you wish to enjoy a tea/coffee with a scone while your son trains.

We also encourage you to attend our AIL match days in the club. These days were a huge success in 2010/11 and we look forward to continuing where we left off last May.

Finally, should you have suggestions as to how we could improve anything in our Juvenile section we would be grateful of your feedback.

Thank you.

Peter Good

Director of Rugby, Juvenile Section Cork Con

Euromedic Cork Proud Sponsors of Cork Con Underage Rugby

U13 AWAY TRIPS 2011/2012 SEASON

1. Killarney/Tralee – 12th Nov
2. Dublin – 25th – 27th Nov
3. Galway/Limerick – Early 2012
4. Possible AIL Dublin February
5. Italy – Easter

KILLARNEY/TRALEE TRIP

- November 12th Day trip to Tralee & Killarney
- Depart CCFC...time to be confirmed travelling in cars
- 1 match in Killarney and 2 matches in Tralee
- Outing to Aqua Dome after matches
- Stop off in Mc Donald's on return home

TERENURE SCHOOL ANNUAL HOME AND AWAY FIXTURE

- Friday 29th November we travel to Dublin - €35
- Morning train to Dublin...all available players travel
- Billed by Terenure families or relations in Dublin
- Matches on Friday evening vs. Terenure and Saturday vs. St Mary's/Michaels
- Return Home on 11am train from Dublin Sunday
- Following week we host Terenure

EASTER ITALIAN TOUR (open to all paid up members of the Cork Con U13's)

Tour will be based in Arezzo, Tuscany in Central Italy. Arezzo is 80 km southeast of Florence and two hours from Rome and Pisa.

ITINERARY

- MONDAY 9 April: Arrival in Rome and by bus to your hotel
- TUESDAY 10 April: Visit to Pisa and the Leaning Tower
- WEDNESDAY 11 April: Visit to Siena and match vs. Siena
- THURSDAY 12 April: Adventure Park
- FRIDAY 13 April: Visit of Florence and match vs. Florence
- SATURDAY 14 April: Trekking and/or swimming-pool
- SUNDAY 15 April: Tournament with 3 teams from Con + 3 other teams
- MONDAY 16 April: Back to Rome and Cork.

Rugby training on non match days
Shopping on one of the Pisa/Siena/Florence days
Half Board in hotels and on match days hosted by clubs

FUNDRAISING

- TicketsYour Club Your Country Draw
- Race Night
- On going survey during AIL season
- Bag packs in supermarkets

PROJECTED COSTS

- Total Cost per Player is €450
- Deposit of €100 – October
- Standing order – €50 per month at start of first Friday of November, December, January, February & March.
- Balance end of March €100

Youth Rugby Results

SAT 22nd OCTOBER

U17 LEAGUE V DOLPHIN AWAY; CCFC 69 - 0 DOLPHIN

U15 LEAGUE V YOUGHAL AWAY; CCFC 30 - 0 YOUGHAL

SAT 15TH OCTOBER

U17A FRIENDLY V TRALEE; CCFC 15 - 27 TRALEE

U17B FRIENDLY V TRALEE; CCFC 5 - 25 TRALEE

U14 FRIENDLY V TRALEE; CCFC 18 - 20 TRALEE

SAT 8th OCTOBER

SOUTH MUNSTER UNDER 19 LEAGUE V BALLINCOLLIG RFC HOME; CCFC 21 - 21 BALLINCOLLIG

SOUTH MUNSTER UNDER 17 LEAGUE V YOUGHAL RFC; CCFC 97 - 0 YOUGHAL

U15 FRIENDLY V PBC 'B' AWAY; CCFC 75 - 12 PBC

U15 'B' FRIENDLY V PBC 'C'; CCFC 12 - 25 PBC

U14 FRIENDLY V PBC; CCFC 10 - 14 PBC

Saturday Juvenile Training Times

UNDER 7 'S BORN 2005 9.30AM TO 10.30 AM

UNDER 8 'S BORN 2004 9.30AM TO 10.30AM

UNDER 9 'S BORN 2003 9.30AM TO 11.00 AM

UNDER 10'S BORN 2002 10.30AM TO 12.00 NOON

UNDER 11'S BORN 2001 10.30AM TO 12.00 NOON

UNDER 12'S BORN 2000 10.30AM TO 12.00 NOON

UNDER 13'S BORN 1999 10.00 AM TO 12.00 NOON AND WED AFTERNOONS 5.00 TO 6.30PM

Please note the above times are subject to change

FOGRA

We hope that the underage news section will be a regular feature of future editions of the **Cork Constitution**.

If you have any underage news you would like published please forward to Pat Twomey at PATT@Ireland.com

Getting to know Peter O'Mahony



A son of Cork Con stalwart John O'Mahony, Peter, played his school rugby with Presentation Collage winning a Senior Cup medal in 2007. Although he normally plays in the back row Peter's commanding display on the wing in last season's league Semi Final against Young Munster showcased his many talents. A power house in our double winning team of 2009/10 Peter won the Man of the Match award in the AIB Cup Final that season. Peter is steadily progressing through the Munster ranks and has recently been awarded a full time contract.

Peter captained Munster in their opening RaboDirect Pro12 match against Newport Gwent Dragons in September 2011, and continued to captain Munster whilst the international contingent were away at the Rugby World Cup. Peter has also captained the Irish U18s and led the Irish U20s in the 2009 Six Nations and Junior World Cup in Japan.

Name: Peter O'Mahony

Place of Birth: Cork

Currently Residing: Rochestown, Cork

Education: Presentation College

Occupation: Professional Rugby Player

First started playing Rugby when: Cork Constitution Under 7's

Sportsperson Admire Most: Richie McCaw

Toughest Opponents: Gerry Collins

Career Highlight to date: The Munster victory over Australia last November

Favourite Other Sport: Water sports and golf

Favourite team outside rugby: Manchester United

Hobbies outside rugby: Sailing and Surfing

Best part of being a rugby player: Winning

Worst part of being a rugby player: Loosing

Person you would most like to meet: Muhammad Ali

Person you would avoid at all costs: Scott Deasy in one of his moods.

Favourite Food: Indian

Sporting Event you'd most like to attend: Super bowl

Best place you've visited: West Cork

Three people you would invite to dinner and why; My brothers Mark and Cian with an impartial referee with a sense of humour for the mayhem that ensues.

Carrigtwohill Hurlers win County Final

Ecstasy and Elation for Carrigtwohill GAA Club after the Senior Hurlers achieved the impossible dream and overcame a spirited CIT team on a score-line of 0-15 to 1-11. The team bridged a 93 year gap and joined the greats of 1918 and surpassed the feat of the great 1930s team by bring home the Sean Og Murphy Cup.



The Carrigtwohill hurlers used Cork Con's pitches to warm up before all of their championship matches in Pairc Ui Chaoimh and Pairc Ui Rinn.

Cork Constitution U 19 's



Above is a photograph of some of the Cork Constitution U19 Panel including Head Coach **Aidan McNamara** who recently played in a challenge match against Bandon RFC.

This year's panel will participating in the Under 19 League for the first time in many years and now exceeds 27 players.

Recently team played their first competitive match in the South Munster under 19 league against Ballincollig. This very exciting game ended in a 21-21 draw and Constitution were unlucky not to come away with a well deserved win.

Most of the players started off as under 7's in Con. Their participation in the Under 19 League is a fantastic achievement for the Club and is a great testimony to Aidan and all of the other coaches who participate in the very successful under age programme in the Club.

We wish the under 19's the best of luck for the coming season and we hope that they will continue to enjoy their Rugby with Cork Con for many years.

Mark O'Sullivan



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Rochestown Park Hotel has again kindly agreed to sponsor the **Cork Constitution Christmas Quiz**.

The quiz will be in the December issue of the Cork Constitution with Fantastic Prizes.

The questions will be set by Pat Twomey and all of the questions in the quiz will be taken from this season's Matchzines and Ezine version of the newsletter .

One question has already been picked from the Ireland V Australia Matchzine.

The Matchzine and Ezine can be downloaded from the website.

SENIORS OFF TO A GOOD START

Cork Con are in fourth place in the AIL table after two stirring victories against Lansdowne and Dolphin. Match reports by **Stan Waldron**.

Cork Con FC 1st XV V Lansdowne

Score 21-9

Cork Constitution came through their first Ulster Bank League test of the season at Lansdowne Road with flying colours. It was Constitution's first time playing on the synthetic pitch at the Aviva stadium, and it took some time to adjust to it's condition. Consequently Lansdowne started more assuredly and ran up a nine point lead in the first quarter. However Constitution fought back to be level at the break, and in the second period proved to be the stronger outfit and could have won by more.

Constitution, whose match day squad included eight players who were making their AIL debuts for the club, had the better of the second half exchanges.

Gerry Hurley rewarded their efforts with penalties in the 47th, 58th and 73rd minutes. Simon Zebo and Ivan Dineen made two searing breaks, but neither opportunity yielded a score, as the Lansdowne defence just held out. Darragh Lyons, making a welcome return after a long injury layoff, added a drop goal in the 77th minute to give Constitution a solid opening victory.



Cork Con FC 1st XV V Shannon

Score 10-14

Prior to kick-off the teams observed a minute's silence in memory of former Constitution and Munster player Bela Kos who died during the week.

Cork Constitution had to settle for a losing bonus point as Shannon showed great resolve to stay the distance at Temple Hill. Constitution showed three changes from the previous week's successful trip to Lansdowne, including a return to action of former Munster wing Anthony Horgan. Indeed Horgan showed great determination throughout and should be a very positive asset to the team for the season.

In the early exchanges, Shannon missed a penalty opportunity. Anthony Horgan made a strong break for Constitution in the 17th minute, but the opportunity was lost when the Shannon defence intercepted near the line. Darragh Lyons was wide for Constitution with a drop goal attempt in the 23rd minute, but from the 22 metre drop out, the ball was gathered by Brian Hayes and he evaded the Shannon tacklers to score near the posts. Gerry Hurley kicked the conversion for 7-0.

Gareth Quinn McDonagh kicked a penalty for Shannon in the 27th minute, but missed a similar chance in the 37th minute after Darragh Lyons had been sin-binned for a second offside offence, leaving the half time score at 7-3 to the home side.

Full back Luke O'Dea scored a try in the 44th minute for Shannon as they dominated the third quarter. Veteran Mossy Lawlor kicked a drop goal, and a second penalty by Quinn McDonagh gave Shannon a 14-7 lead in the 58th minute

Shannon No.8 Paddy Bulter was sin-binned in the 62nd minute and Gerry Hurley closed the gap with the resultant penalty. But Constitution were denied after a couple of good attacks on the Shannon line, as the referee changed a try scoring decision after a contentious



touch judge intervention for an alleged knock-on by Niall O'Driscoll as he grounded the ball in the 70th minute.

Subsequently Shannon saw out time as their strong pack controlled possession in the closing minutes.

Cork Con FC 1st XV V Dolphin

Score 17-10

Cork Constitution won the first city derby of the season with neighbours Dolphin at Musgrave Park, but had to endure a second half revival by the host club. Constitution were clinical in the first half as they eased to a 12 point lead, but were shocked in the first 10 minutes of the second period when they conceded 10 points. However, they scored again to gain breathing space and Dolphin were unable to bridge the gap.

Constitution had a number of enforced changes from the Shannon game with injuries ruling out Anthony Horgan, Sean Scanlon, Brian O'Hara and Cathal O'Flaherty. The restructured three-quarter line, however, settled and used their limited possession well. After 5 minutes they ran superbly as Simon Zebo took the ball to the left corner, and from the recycled ball, Brian Hayes was put through to the posts for the opening score. Gerry Hurley knocked over the conversion for 7-0.

Dolphin missed a great chance in the 12th minute when Keeshan opted to run a penalty awarded in front of the posts. The Con defence was light on his left, but Keeshan's pass to his winger was adjudged forward and Con survived. Keeshan missed a penalty in the 23rd minute. Zebo



made a fine break out of defence in the 38th minute, but Dolphin's defence held. From the subsequent play, Scott Deasy put a clever kick to the right corner where Niall O'Driscoll won possession to score. It gave Constitution a 12 point lead at the break, despite Dolphin having the better of the territorial battle.

Dolphin opened the second period with renewed enthusiasm. Keeshan was on target in the 47th minute with a penalty and added the points to Willie Devane's try under the posts in the 50th minute.

Tomas O'Leary, making his return to club football after a long injury lay off, played well, but was unfortunate to be sin-binned for a technical offence in the 54th minute. Gerry Hurley missed the resultant penalty, but Constitution finished a fine move two minutes later when Niall O'Driscoll ran in a try to gain a 17-10 lead.

Joe McSwiney was sin-binned in the 61st minute as Dolphin came back into the game again. Keeshan missed a penalty chance in the 66th minute. Then with time running out, Dolphin had a great try scoring chance, but the ball was knocked on by centre Harry Fleming when a score looked certain. Constitution will be happy to take the four points that restores their momentum after the home defeat to Shannon last week. But Dolphin will feel aggrieved that a losing bonus point was poor reward for a fine team effort.

Stan Waldron

Juniors off to an unbeaten start.

In the Munster Seconds league the Junior 1 team have got off to a flying start and head the table after five consecutive wins.

Cork Con FC JI V Sundays Well

Score: 34 - 8

Constitution secured a bonus-point win in their first match of the Munster Seconds League at Musgrave Park. In windy conditions, they ran in three tries in the first half to lead 21-3 at the break, and followed with two more tries in the second period for a comfortable win.

Pat McSweeney opened the scoring with an early penalty for Sunday's Well. Conor Desmond ran in the first try for Constitution in the 12th minute with a break from mid-field. Then Simon Hanbidge and Brian Vaughan added further tries in the 16th and 20th minutes to leave Con well in command. Peter O'Sullivan converted all three to set the half time score.

Sunday's Well came more into the game in the second half, but not before Eoin O'Donnell finished a fine move with the fourth try in the 48th minute and Hanbidge scored his second try on the hour mark. The Well got their reward when Darren Blower touched down from a 5 metre scrum.

Cork Con FC JI V Highfield

Score: 8 - 6

Constitution followed up their Seconds League win over Sunday's Well with a hard earned win over Highfield at Woodleigh Park. Highfield led 3-0 at the interval and for the most part it was not pretty from either side with a cross-field wind compromising the standard of play.

Having conceded penalties either side of half time, kicked by Highfield No.10 Barry Buckley, Constitution set about their task in the second period with more conviction. The Con pack controlled affairs with No.8 Alan Ross leading the way, and set up a well-taken try by Rory O'Sullivan in the 70th minute. It was unconverted, but then with time running down Constitution won a penalty that was converted by Shane Kelly to register a narrow victory.

Cork Con FC JI V UCC

Score: 30 - 11

Cork Constitution won their third Munster Seconds League tie in succession when they defeated UCC at Temple Hill. The advantage the teams enjoyed on the superbly grassed main pitch was cancelled out by the constant drizzle, in that the players struggled to control the greasy ball.

Peter O'Sullivan opened the scoring for Constitution with a penalty after 6 minutes, and his trusty boot continued to make a significant contribution. He converted a fine try by Conor Desmond in the 15th minute and also added the points to a push-over try scored by Alan Ross in the 37th minute. Daryl Foley kicked a penalty for College in the 30th minute and they scored an opportunist try by right wing Sean Keohane just before the break, to leave the half time score at 17-8 to the home side.

Foley closed the gap for College with a penalty in the 43rd minute, but O'Sullivan added further penalties for Constitution in the 52nd and 70th minutes. Kieran Stokes got in for a try for Constitution in the final minute, and O'Sullivan converted for a faultless, six from six, place kicking performance

Cork Con FC JI V Cashel

Score: 53 - 0

Next off Constitution renewed rivalry with their Munster Junior Cup conquerors of last season at Temple Hill. Of course it was a different contest since last years all conquering Cashel junior team are now playing in this season's All Ireland League, and their second string are elevated to Seconds League status.

In the event, they were no match for a slick Constitution outfit who notched up their fourth win of the campaign. Constitution led 26-0 at the break with four tries and scored a further four tries in the second period for a comprehensive win.

Captain Peter O'Sullivan stormed in for the first try after just 3 minutes and added the conversion. In the 7th minute winger Paudie Sheehan took a try scoring pass from Conor Desmond to score in the left corner. O'Sullivan added the points to two further tries before the break from Niall O'Driscoll, who cut through from half way, and

Simon Hanbidge who had replaced the injured Paul Dooley.

Constitution kept up the pressure on the Cashel defence in the second half when Danny O'Shea slotted a drop goal in the 50th minute. Three minutes later Hanbidge scored his second with a run from 40 metres to dot down at the posts for O'Sullivan to add the extras. On the hour mark out half O'Shea set up a try for winger Eoin O'Donnell with a delicate chip to the corner. Peter O'Sullivan went in for his second try in the 63rd minute and added the points to the eighth try by Dave Clarke in the 72nd minute to complete the scoring.

Cork Con FC JI V Midleton

Score: 25 - 8

Cork Constitution proved too good for Midleton at Temple Hill and gained a four try bonus point. Leading 10-3 at the break with two tries scored, they had to wait until the final 10 minutes to secure the other two tries as a gallant Midleton side battled hard.

Midleton got the first score from a Paul Daly penalty after 6 minutes. Constitution took the lead in the 10th minute when Eoin O'Donnell ran onto a Peter O'Sullivan punt and evaded the defenders to run in from 30 metres. O'Sullivan added the extras for 7-3.

Club captain, Gareth Murray, recovered after an injury layoff, scored the second try with an impressive outside break to the right corner after 20 minutes. Peter O'Sullivan extended Con's lead with a penalty 3 minutes into the second period, and he converted a superb try in the 58th minute after Alan Ross made a 50 metre break and set up Conor Desmond for the try.

Midleton struck back with a fine try, when former county hurler Diarmuid O'Sullivan, playing at full back, broke the home defence after 71 minutes. However Constitution wrapped up the points with a fine try in the last minute when the three quarters ran the ball from the left and Eoin O'Donnell set up Paudie Sheehan for the bonus point try in the right corner.

U 21's show promise



Cork Con FC U21 V Garryowen

Score: 7 - 18

Constitution lost their opening U21 SW Conference match with Garryowen at Doora-doyle. Garryowen scored a try, conversion and penalty before Eoin O'Donnell got Constitution on the score sheet. Sean Murphy converted to leave Garryowen leading 10-7 at half time. In the second period Garryowen got an opportunist try and added a penalty. Despite a strong finish Constitution got no further reward for their efforts.

Cork Con FC U21 V Galwegians

Score: 15 - 10

Last week Constitution defeated Galwegians in a tight encounter at Temple Hill After the disappointment of losing to Garryowen in the opening game of the South West Conference, it was understandable that they approached the game cautiously and regularly sought territorial advantage. However, they found Galwegians up for the game, were well able to defend and counter Con's attacks, and in the end were well worth the losing bonus point.

Sean Murphy kicked a 12th minute penalty for an early lead that held until the 39th minute when Darragh Leader equalised for Galwegians. The game opened up a little in the second period and Cathal Quinn made some probing runs before finishing in the left corner after 56 minutes. Murphy added an excellent conversion for a 10-3 lead. Kieran Stokes replaced Constitution captain, Brian Vaughan who had a fine game, on the hour mark and he scored the decisive try in the right corner in the 74th minute. Then from the kick off Con failed to clear, and Galwegian prop Paul Griffin struck for a try at the posts. Leader converted, but Con saw out the final 10 minutes for the win.

The Long Wait is Over

After 24 years of false dawns and ghastly upsets, there will be no holding back. The All Blacks' nerve-shredding 8-7 win over France meant many things - palpitations from Whangarei to Wanaka, the noisiest party in Auckland's 170-year-old history, countless hung-over headaches across the land - but as you looked around Eden Park late on Sunday night, camera-flashes twinkling among the black-clad thousands in the stands like stars in the night sky, one emotion dominated all others: an enormous, unmistakable sense of relief.

The ending was a happy one. But the plot nearly tore the old theatre apart.

The pre-match script had this as a stroll in the park, a coronation celebration where France's role was simply that of stooges and supplicants. Something must have got lost in translation.

To squeeze home by a single point in the biggest game for quarter of a century, having recently thrashed the same opposition by 20 points, is one thing.

For the winning penalty to be kicked by a man who two weeks ago was spending his spare time fishing for whitebait, watching the odd All Blacks game from his sofa with a beer on the go, is quite another.

Substitutes have won big matches before. But Stephen Donald has taken that to exponential extremes - the replacement for the replacement for the replacement, winning a World Cup with his only place kick of the competition.



Very little of it made sense. For all the talk of dashing young backs and Piri Weepu's calming influence, the solitary try was scored by a grizzled prop who farms sheep in his spare time. While Tony Woodcock has never had a better night, Weepu has seldom had worse - missing three straightforward kicks in the first half before getting the heave-ho as panic spread all around.

Tense? It was excruciating, a rugby rollercoaster that carried everyone watching along with it.

Far from lying down to die, Marc Lievreumont's divided team stepped up to deliver a performance that was a combination of so many Gallic clichés - flair and fight seemingly conjured from nowhere, 'Ils ne passeront pas' mixed with 'Je ne regrette rien', throwing everything they had at the cause and coming very, very close to pulling off the ultimate piece of party pooping.

From the moment they faced down the haka in arrowhead formation it was clear something was in the air.

Thierry Dusautoir led the advance then and continued the same way for the rest of the night, punching holes in the Kiwi defence, bringing down runners and wrapping up the feared All Blacks loose forwards just as he had in Cardiff four years ago.

His old back-row buddy Imanol Harinordoquy was equally immense, a magnet at the line-out and wrecking-ball at the breakdown.

Had Francois Trinh-Duc landed a long-range penalty with 15 minutes left, the unthinkable might have done for the unbeatables. Instead, sport's most illogical interregnum has finally come to an end.

The hiatus between New Zealand's win in the inaugural World Cup of 1987 and this triumph in the same stadium was one of the great gaps in sport, up there with Britain's wait for a male Wimbledon champion or France's for a home-grown winner of the Tour de France.

But British men haven't generally been ranked number one in the world over those 75 years, or French cyclists dominated every year since 1985 without claiming the yellow jersey.

The All Blacks have held the number one ranking for longer than every other nation combined. In World Cups they have scored 610 more points than anyone else and 93 more tries, won 37 matches (five more than the next most successful team) and are the only team to finish first in their pool at every single tournament.

It's been the same story at the 2011 version. They have been the most impressive team in this tournament by a distance, scoring 73 more points and 11 more tries than any other side, surmounting the loss through injury of star men Dan Carter and Mils Muliaina and then the two men called on to fill the fly-half hole.



For Graham Henry the sight of the trophy being paraded round the pitch was especially poignant. During his spell in charge of Wales he was dubbed the 'Great Redeemer', but nothing he did back then comes close to the redemption he has experienced in the past few weeks.

Four years ago he took the hot end of the nation's fury after France put his All Blacks out of the last World Cup, his reappointment as coach as controversial as they come.



There were times on Sunday night when he must have feared history was about to repeat itself in far crueller fashion. Had Trinh-Duc's radar been better calibrated then Henry's extraordinary winning ratio of 85% would again have been lost in the debris of a single defeat; instead he might even wake up on Monday with a small smile on his face.

For the country at large, the much-heralded "stadium of four million" that has had to deal with tragedy too often over the past two years, this World Cup win represents a chance to at last come together in celebration rather than mourning.

Can sport heal the wounds left by the Christchurch earthquake or the Pike River mining disaster? There is a world of difference between rugby and the real world. But when McCaw takes the Webb Ellis trophy down to his home province of Canterbury, as he certainly will this week, those who lost everything in the rubble eight months ago will know that they are not being left to do it on their own.



New Zealand's long wait for Sunday's success often made a nonsense of form and rugby reason. Yet there is perfect sporting symmetry in the All Blacks winning this World Cup in their own backyard.

Early starts and disappointing displays on and off the pitch have meant that the tournament has not made the same impact across the northern hemisphere as it has down south. But here in the heart of it, the talk has been of almost nothing else for the entire seven weeks, every front page and café conversation about tactics, tries and injury updates.

The nation most in love with rugby has claimed the sport's biggest prize in the competition it organised, paid for and obsessed over, after two years when there sometimes seemed little light left in the darkness.

Finally, the party is under way. None of us should complain about the noise.

Donal Lenihan plays key role in All Black Success

Donal Lenihan Cork Con and Irish played a key role in the appointment of Graham Henry as coach to the 2011 World Cup Champions. Donal was the manager of the 2001 British and Ireland Lions who coached by Graham Henry narrowly failed to win the series against Australia and had an in-depth knowledge of Graham's prowess as a rugby coach.



A few days before Christmas in 2003 he received a phone call from a lovely lady from the New Zealand rugby union enquiring whether or not Donal was prepared to take a phone call from the union's CEO Steve Tew.

Apparently Graham Henry had nominated Donal as a reference on his CV when applying for the job as head coach of the All Blacks. Given that it was 1am New Zealand time when she rang, Donal commented how late she was working with the festive holidays approaching. She commented that all the New Zealand people wanted for Christmas was a decent coach and she was doing her best to deliver.

Two days later Donal had a 50 minute griller from Tew as to why Henry should get the job with an in-depth analysis on all the positives and negatives surrounding the 2001 Lions tour when they worked together. Donal stuck by his man and thankfully he got the job.

The rest as they say is history

Letter to the Editor from Brent Pope

Dear Rugby Supporter,



Last year I decided to set up the Brent Pope Rugby Legends Foundation in association with respected Irish home-building charity Habitat for Humanity Ireland.

The reason? Rugby has been my life, and I want to unite rugby people in an effort to give something positive back and change lives for the better.

In June of this year, I visited Zambia with former international rugby player Malcolm O'Kelly. We partnered with families to build homes and coached local kids in the finer art of Irish rugby. Zambia is a beautiful country, where communities are full of friendly faces and extreme humility, yet those same smiling faces and proud communities are experiencing hardships we cannot imagine.

I would absolutely love YOU to join us on this life changing project. Over the weeklong trip next June, some of Ireland's best known rugby legends will captain five teams of volunteers to build five houses in partnership with families in need. Unlike any other trip, the legends and the volunteers will live in the local communities and experience what day to day life is like.

You will also get the opportunity to play a legendary match with our legends and the local community in Zambia and get pointers and tips on how to improve your game!

Irish rugby greats such as Girvan Dempsey, Bernard Jackman, Paddy Johns, Alan Quinlan, Frankie Sheahan, Paul Wallace, Brian Spillane, Jeremy Davidson, Trevor Brennan and many more have already signed up to join members of the rugby loving public in what will be an experience that will change their outlook on life forever.

Will you join the Legends in 2012? Sign up to be part of this incredible journey today!

Yours sincerely,

Brent Pope



Trip dates: 6th -14th June, 2012
Closing date: Friday 9th December 2011

To Apply Visit:

www.habitatireland.ie

Or call: 01 531 0033 for more information



Serge Blanco Man of the Match

The winner of the Serge Blanco Cork Constitution Man of the Match for the Ulster Bank AIL match V Shannon game was

John Ryan

Serge Blanco was arguably one of the best French full backs in the modern game of Rugby. In 1992, he transferred his number 15 and his name to this exclusive range of clothing for men and children.

Serge Blanco Ire 59 St Patrick Street, Cork

You can also buy on line at www.sergeblanco.ie/

This award is kindly sponsored by John Mannix, Serge Blanco Ire



News from afar

In this edition we introduce a new concept where we catch up people who have been associated with Cork Constitution in the past and who are now living far from our shores. Roger Newell recently contacted us from New Zealand to say how he was enjoying watching Ireland play in the World Cup and kindly agreed to become the first contributor. If you know anybody who lives far away and would like to contribute please contact me at PATT@ireland.com Pat Twomey

News from far a field

Roger Newell , Invercargill , New Zealand

Savouring the All Blacks success in the World Cup is New Zealand second row Roger Newell who played alongside Donnacha O'Callaghan and Ronan O'Gara for Cork Constitution during the 1997/1998 season. Roger recently contacted the Cork Constitution to let us know how he got on since returning to New Zealand

After leaving Con I went back to New Zealand and went straight into club footy in Invercargill for my Woodlands club then made the Southland representative team which plays in the national provincial championship. Southland are renowned for producing many quality players despite the small population of the province. They also were the first South Island province to claim the coveted Ranfurly Shield trophy after defeating Wellington 17-6 in 1920.



Southland are one of three regions to make up the Highlanders Super Rugby franchise, the other two are Otago and North Otago

Unfortunately for me both teams didn't perform that well for the next few years. In 2000 I made the highlanders wider training group and was unlucky not to make the final panel. I then took a year off rugby to play basketball and to freshen up the body. In 2002 I went back to rugby for the next two years before injury and old age started to catch up and the body fell apart. I play one social game a year now for Colac Bay, a local seaside town, just to feel young again however it does take me the rest of the year to recover.

I have started coaching under 7's for last two years as my son Josh is in that team. I gave up dairy farming and have driven a milk tanker for Fonterra for the past 10 years.

I still follow Cork Con on the net to see how they going and have really good memories of my time there and am hoping to one day come back for a visit.

Good luck in this years AIL

Roger Newell

Minors off to a winning start



Constitution had a big win against a gallant Muskerry side at Ballynaly in their first Junior 2 League game, although the score line did little justice to the home side.

Constitution led by a mere 8-0 at the break, but piled on the pressure in the second period to run out clear winners.

No.8 Nigel Murphy led the way with a hat trick of tries and back row partner Shane Desmond added two more, while Rory O'Sullivan grabbed a brace also. Pierre Haddi converted five out of ten for a comprehensive win.

Constitution defeated Mallow at Temple Hill to record their second win of the competition. Conditions deteriorated during the game but fortunately the ground stood up well.

Neil O'Connell gave Constitution a dream start with a first minute try from their initial attack and James Sullivan kicked the conversion for 7-0. Mallow hit back with a penalty by Martin O'Connell before Neil O'Connell got in for his second try in the 8th minute. Three minutes later Martin O'Connor kicked a second penalty for Mallow.

The rain intensified as the second half began making continuous phases difficult, but both sides made the best of it. Constitution dominated out of touch through Cormac Fouhy and Rogan Gee, and aided by sound play by half backs, Captain Kevin Minihane and John O'Donovan, kept their team on the front foot. Will Long stretched the lead with a penalty in the 48th minute and Ryan Hassan forced his way over for a try in the 71st minute. James Sullivan kicked the conversion to leave Con winners on a 22-6 score line.

Stan Waldron

Cork Con Concession Scheme.

Cork Constitution Football Club Concession Scheme

| Name | Location | Offer details |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Finn's Corner | Grand Parade | 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) |
| Fitzgerald's Menswear Quill's | Patrick Street All Store's | 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) |
| Jacques Restaurant Island Gate Restaurant | Pheonix Street Glounthaune | 10% discount A la Carte menu – Mon to Fri Excluding Wine 10% discount Lunch & Evening Meal (Excluding Wine) |
| Tracey Shoes The Framemaker | Patrick Street Patrick Street | 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) |
| O'Donovan's Off Licence Kiernan Garden Centre | All Store's Douglas | 5% discount on ALL Wines 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) |
| Diane O'Mahony Jeweller's Paris Ladies Fashion | Winthrop Street Prince's Street | 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) |
| The Temple Inn | Ballintemple | 10% discount on all lunches |
| Welch Sports | Cork | 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) |
| Serge Bianco | Patrick St. | 10% discount on all stock (Excluding sale goods) |
| Rochestown Park Hotel | Rochestown | 15% discount on spend over €50 |

Discount available to members on production of Membership Card

GOLF NEWS

Pres beat Christian's in Portuguese Challenge

After four days of high pressure golf, played in glorious weather, the Portuguese challenge between Pres and Christian's went down to the last hole on the Oceanico Christy O'Connor course in Villamoura. **Michael Barron** needed to hole a birdie putt on the last to halve with **Ralph Keyes** and save the series but to the dismay of his team mates his well struck putt lipped out leaving Pres winners by 5 to 4.



The player of the challenge was **Brian Hickey** who averaged 36 points a round for the four days. Brian had prepared well in advance for the trip with intense video analysis of previous encounters and focused golf lessons from Steve Hayes in Douglas. Brian has continued his good form winning a four-ball in Douglas in the company of Roy O'Hanlon with a score of 47 points. The Pres boys are going around asking what kind of handicap system are Douglas Golf Club using as Brain is still playing off 20.

Congratulations to Michael Barron who made up for his disappointments in Portugal by recently winning the **Gold Medal** in Monkstown Golf Club.

Cork Con Golf Society

A number of outings have been schedule for the coming season:-

- **December 17 2011** Cappella G.C. Christmas Outing 9:30 to 11:30 Hrs
- **April 27 2012** Douglas G.C. Captains Prize 14:00 to 16:00 Hrs
- **June 9 2012** Monkstown G.C. Brian Scannell Trophy 14:00 to 16:00 Hrs
- **September 9 2012** Fota Presidents Prize

There will also be a golfer of the year competition for the Cork Constitution Trophy.

New members are more than welcome, just contact one of the committee. Don O'Riordan, Pat Twomey, Cully Murphy and Noel Walsh **Don O'Riordan**

Cork Constitution FC Shop



The shop stocks Cork Con Club Jerseys, Shorts, Socks, Hoodies, etc supplied by O'Neill's Sportswear. Club Members can avail of 10% discount when purchasing with Membership Card. Gift Vouchers are available for Birthdays & Special Occasions.

Cork Con Shop opening hours.

Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon.

Saturdays with AIL home games 10am to 3pm.

Please contact Clodagh O'Sullivan or Erika O Sullivan for your **Christmas 2011 Order**

We hope you enjoyed this issue of The Cork Constitution.

If you have any news item or article you would like published please forward to **Pat Twomey** at PATT@Ireland.com

All contributions are more than welcome.

Don't Forget to follow Cork Constitution on Facebook and on our website www.corkcon.ie

Many Thanks to Martin O'Brien for providing the photographs for the Cork Constitution.



Pitchside Hoardings

Our Pitchside Hoardings are a valued source of income to the Club and a number of spaces are available for the coming season.

If you are interested in becoming a Hoarding Sponsor please contact Fiona Burke at 021 4291960 or e-mail corkcon@eircom.net

October Achiever Award

This months Achiever award goes to **Ken Fitzgerald and Stan Waldron** for all their hard work in producing this years **Cork Constitution Year Book** which is full of interesting stories and antidotes. Well done to both

CORK CONSTITUTION F.C.
2011/2012

