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December 2011 Volume 2, Issue 5

The Cork Constitution

Christmas Ezine 2011

Presidents Christmas message



To the casual observer, it may seem that the success of Cork Constitution both on and off the field is easily achieved.

It is not accidental – it is through the continuing efforts of so many people that the club grows and develops whilst maintaining the spirit that we all love. Much of this input goes unseen and, as President, I would like to thank all the club’s members for their on-going contribution to the Club.

May you all have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all down at the club in the new year.

Happy Christmas.

Brian Humphries

Club House Development

An information meeting will be held on the **10TH January 2012 at 8:00 PM** in the Clubhouse to update members on the very significant progress made to date on the new Club House Development.



Entrance

Cork Constitution Football Club

edc Horgan Lynch WILSON ARCHITECTURE



West Elevation

Cork Constitution Football Club

edc Horgan Lynch WILSON ARCHITECTURE

St Stephen Day Cork Con V UCC

Cork Con will play UCC in the annual St Stephen’s Day match for the Starry Crowley Cup on Monday 26TH December . Kick off at 2.30 PM.

As this is a shared gate an entrance fee of €10, (OAP & Students €5) is payable. School children free.

Please note members will not be entitled to free admission on presentation of their membership card.

Underage Section News

Euromedic Cork Proud Sponsors of Cork Con Underage Rugby

Santa visits Cork Con

When Santa arrived in Templehill last Saturday he went straight to the Clubhouse to meet all the boys and girls that were waiting for him.



Santa had a word for all of the boys and girls and listened carefully to their Christmas wishes. He told everyone that he had received all of their letters and he would do his best to see that they received all of their chosen toys in time for Christmas Day.



After eating some milk and mince pies Santa and his reindeers took to the sky waved goodbye and promised everybody he would see them Christmas Day.



Notice

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

U13 AWAY TRIPS 2011/2012 SEASON

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

- Tickets Your Club Your Country Draw
- Race Night
- On going survey during ALL 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

Letters to the Editor

The following letter was received from Fr Michael Troy of Terenure College

Dear Pat,

Please convey our warmest thanks and greatest appreciation to all the Cork Con. parents who hosted our pupils last weekend. They had a great time. The hospitality and welcome we got was great. The rugby was also of a good standard.

Greetings to Fred and all the mentors. They do a great job.

Good luck in your travels and we look forward to continuing this great relationship.

Michael Troy

Terenure College Junior School

Cork Constitution 2012 Club Calendar



The 2012 Cork Constitution Calendar is for sale in the Club Shop and Bar.

Featuring photographs of all of the Underage and Youth teams.

Costing €10 or 3 for €20 it would make an ideal Christmas Gift.

Cork Constitution All Ireland League and Cup Appearances

Frank Cogan still holds a commanding lead at the top of the Cork Constitution All Ireland League and Cup appearances table.

Pos	Player	Caps
1	Frank Cogan	133
2	Jerry Murray	123
3	Cronan Healy	118
4	Brian Walsh	111
5	Ultan O'Callaghan	110
6	Daragh Lyons	109
7	Richard Lane	103
8	Brendan Cuttriss	101
9	Merle O'Connell	99

Daragh Lyons is hoping to overtake Ultan O'Callaghan and break into the top five in 2012.

Heineken Cup Appearances List

Player	Club(s)	Games
John Hayes	Munster	101
Ronan O'Gara	Munster	101
Peter Stringer	Munster & Saracens	90
Anthony Foley	Munster	86
Shane Horgan	Leinster	86
David Wallace	Munster	85
Fabien Pelous	Dax, Toulouse	81
Martyn Williams	Cardiff, Cardiff Blues	80
Stephen Jones	Scarlets, Clermont Auvergne	78
Alan Quinlan	Munster	78

Ronan O'Gara and John Hayes share top place in the Heineken Cup appearances list.

Cork Con Carol Singers

Recently in the Clubhouse Noel Walsh and his group of troubadours, **Memory Lane**, entertained the Thursday Night Regulars.



The highlight of the evening was a rousing rendition of that famous Christmas Carol "Adeste Fideles".

A video of the carol singers is doing the rounds of the club however it appears that, contrary to very strong rumours, it will not be posted on U Tube.

RWC 2011 Facebook Dream Team

Fans of the official Rugby World Cup Facebook page recently voted on which players would make their RWC 2011 Dream Team. Based on suggestions from the online community, a shortlist of names per position was created each day and put to the vote, with over 160,000 votes being cast along the way.

The final 15 is below and contains three Irish players including **Cork Constitutions' Ronan O'Gara**.

2011 RUGBY WORLD CUP DREAM TEAM:

15 - Israel Dagg (New Zealand)

14 - Cory Jane (New Zealand)

13 - **Brian O'Driscoll (Ireland)**

12 - Jamie Roberts (Wales)

11 - Richard Kahui (New Zealand)

10 - **Ronan O'Gara (Ireland)**

9 - Mike Phillips (Wales)

1 - Jean-Baptiste Poux (France)

2 - Keven Mealamu (New Zealand)

3 - Owen Franks (New Zealand)

4 - Brad Thorn (New Zealand)

5 - **Paul O'Connell (Ireland)**

6 - Thierry Dusautoir (France)

7 - Richie McCaw (New Zealand)

8 - Imanol Harinordoquy (France)

News from afar

In the November edition of the Cork Constitution we introduced 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.

If are a member living abroad or if you know a member who lives far away and would like to contribute please contact me at PATT@ireland.com

[Pat Twomey](#)

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 then welcome.

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

Alan Lewis Retires

Old Wesley recently made a special presentation to Alan Lewis to mark his recent retirement from refereeing.



Alan Lewis refereed at the highest level and took charge of 47 major international matches, 83 Heineken Cup games and refereed at both the 2003 and 2007 Rugby World Cups.

Amongst Alan's major achievements were to referee the Heineken Cup final in 2007 and a World Cup quarter-final in the same year. He was one of the longest serving referees in international rugby.

Could it happen to you.?

A father and his son, Bobby, arrive at the Munster Rugby match and Dad can't find the tickets.

Dad: "Nip home and see if I left the tickets there."

Bobby: "No probs, Dad."

Half an hour later Bobby returns to his dad who is patiently waiting outside the stadium.

Bobby: "Yep, they're on the kitchen table where you left them."

Holly Bough Article

Continuing the tradition of Cork Constitution members contributing to the Holly Bough, our own **Stan Waldron** has penned a fantastic article on the famous All Black's Original's Tour of 1905 and Basil MacLear's unique distinction of playing four games against them in the space of 25 days.

With the kind permission of **Stan Waldron** the article is reproduced in full in this edition of the **Cork Constitution**.

Basil MacLear & David Gallagher

The 1905 All Blacks toured England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland between September and December 1905 playing two games per week including four tests games. They won all but one, losing 3-0 to Wales at Cardiff, and were dubbed *The Originals* since they were the first rugby tourists from New Zealand to come to these shores. Basil MacLear had the unique distinction to play in four games against them, and for four different sides, in the space of 25 days in November 1905.

Prior to departing New Zealand the All Blacks played seven preparatory games in July. The tour started in Exeter against Devon on 16 September and over the next four months the All Blacks played 32 games, including four tests against the home nations, ending up against Swansea on 31 December. And they were not done then. They crossed to France and played a test winning 38-8 in Paris, and then on their way home played two games against British Columbia in California, one in Berkeley and the other in San Francisco. Their tour record was played 35; won 34; lost 1; 976 points for and 59 points against.

Basil MacLear was a Lieutenant in the British Army based at Fermoy, Co Cork in 1905. He was a playing member with Cork County FC and had represented Munster.

Previous to playing in Cork he had played with Bedford and Blackheath in England, and when they invited him to play against the All Blacks, he could hardly refuse. Blackheath were one of the top sides in England at the time, but lost 32-0 on 4 November 1905 in the 15th game of the tour. The following week MacLear played with Bedford against the tourists again losing 41-0. Despite the defeats he got favourable press reports in both games.

The All Blacks' captain was flanker David Gallaher, who was born in Ramelton, Co Donegal in 1873. The family emigrated to New Zealand in 1878 and settled in Auckland. He played for Ponsonby and represented Auckland. He led the All Blacks in the first test against Scotland in Edinburgh on 18 November, when Scotland put them to a good test. Scotland were leading 6-0 with six minutes left on the clock, but the resilient All Blacks scored two tries to win 13-7.

The tourists then crossed to Ireland and played two games. A test match on 25 November in Dublin, and against Munster in Limerick three days later, before returning to England and to play England at Crystal Palace the following Saturday.

There was huge public interest in the first ever international between Ireland and New Zealand at Lansdowne Road, and 5/- stand tickets sold for £5 before the game. Ireland, led by C.E.Allen of Derry, featured Basil MacLear at centre and Mossy Landers of Cork Constitution at full back. MacLear and Landers had been capped against England, Scotland and Wales earlier in the year.

Unaccustomed to the traditional Haka, the Cork Examiner reporter wrote: *'the New Zealanders just before kick off performed their peculiar Maori war dance, while singing some Maori verses. The Irish team looked most foolish while this was going on, as they appeared to think they ought to do something, but did not know exactly what. In spite of this warlike demonstration, the match was played in a friendly spirit'*.

The All Blacks won 15-0, having led 5-0 at half time, but Ireland had played with 14 men in the second half as Robinson retired injured at the break. However, the All Blacks were as much impressed with Ireland's *'ardency and skill as by their spirit'*. Both MacLear and Landers were deemed to have played well.

On the following Tuesday all roads led to Limerick for the Munster game played at the Market's Field in front of a full house of 3,500 people. After the beautiful surface at Lansdowne, they had to endure a surface that was *'rough and uneven, although the footing was fair'*. Basil MacLear was Munster captain for his fourth game against the tourists, but Landers missed out due to a split finger sustained in the test game. Munster were on the receiving end of the All Black's enthusiasm. Five tries were scored in the first half, including a penalty try to leave them 20-0 ahead. A mere three further tries were scored in the second half, to bring the tally to 33-0. Nevertheless, the All Blacks were cheered to the train station by the Limerick rugby supporters and *'cheered and cheered again in Irish fashion'*.

MacLear was picked out by the Cork Examiner reporter for special comment: *'MacLear stood out by himself amongst the backs, and the way he tackled two, and sometimes three men in succession, over and over again, saved many more scores. None of the others were class enough for their opponents, and nearly certain never to get green caps'*

On the following Saturday the All Blacks defeated England 15-0 to keep their unbeaten record intact. They eventually lost to Wales 3-0, an unconverted try by Welsh winger Teddy Morgan.

However, the All Blacks were none the less pleased that the Scottish referee did not award them an earlier try, but he missed the touchdown as he was well behind the play and there was no fourth official in those days.

MacLear was born in 1881 in Portsmouth, the son of a Doctor. He attended Bedford Grammar School and joined the Army. While in Fermoy, he played with Cork County and also played for Cork Constitution against Cardiff at the Mardyke in 1907. He won his first cap against England at the Mardyke on 11th February 1905. MacLear scored a try and conversion as Ireland won 17-3.

The Cork Examiner reported on MacLear's performance in that game: *'the pronounced hero of all was MacLear. He was again, as he was in the first half everywhere; he again saved at least two scores; he was the man in every gap, and Landers must have felt happy behind him.'*

The following season he was transferred to Dublin and played with Monkstown. He won 11 caps in all; 04/05: E,S,W. 05/06: SA,E,S,W. 06/07: NZ,E,S,W. He scored 4 tries and 3 conversions.

So an Irish international, though born in England, had crossed paths on four occasions during the tour with a New Zealander who was born in Ireland, and their paths were to lead to unfortunate ends in similar circumstances a mere decade later.

Basil MacLear was a rugby idol in Cork and Munster during his playing years, and always attracted crowds to see him play. He went on to be a Captain with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the 1st World War. He was mortally wounded during the 2nd Battle of Ypres in 1915. His body was not recovered and his name is inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium. He was 34 years.

Dave Gallaher also went to the war in Europe as a sergeant with the Auckland Regiment of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was killed on an assault of the Messines Ridge on 4 October 1917, and is buried in Nine Elms Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium. He was 41 years.

In 1928 the officials of the Irish Rugby Union, and the Irish International Players, presented to his mother a 'Maclear' football which had been used in an international trial match, and which bore the signature of all the senders, telling her how the name of Basil Maclear was still remembered with love in Ireland, and asking her *'to do them the honour of accepting it in memory of her illustrious son'*.

Dave Gallaher fought in the Boer War serving as a corporal in the 6th and 10th New Zealand Contingents of Mounted Rifles. Although exempt from conscription due to his age, he also volunteered to fight in World War I, and apparently altered his date of birth to 31 October 1876. He saw action at Ypres, and was killed during the Passchendaele offensive on 4 October 1917.

He is buried at Nine Elms Cemetery, Poperinge, where his gravestone bears the silver fern. Two of his brothers were also killed in France.

In 2005, the Letterkenny Rugby Football Club, the club closest to Gallaher's birthplace in Ramelton, chose to name its home ground the "Dave Gallaher Memorial Park" and unveiled a plaque at his birthplace. Members of the 2005 All Blacks, led by captain Tana Umaga, attended the unveiling.

The article ends with an extract written some eight years later in 1913, in a report on the international match between Ireland and France at the Mardyke, when the Cork Examiner reporter of the day, recalling the game of February 1905 when Ireland defeated England 17-3 at the Mardyke, decried the standard of threequarter play and yearned for that of MacLear, even though Ireland had scored five tries and won 24-0:

'An international match on the Mardyke is bound to call up memories among supporters of the rigger code of the famous Basil MacLear. This great threequarter's performances formed the theme of eulogistic word paintings on the part of the sporting reporters who applied to them such picturesque phrases as 'greased lightning, etc.' Alas how that threequarter line has declined. The remembrance of MacLear on that day of days on the soft, springy turf that abuts on the pleasant waters of the River Lee when Ireland made rings around England might well evoke a sigh of memory and a pang of regret for a vanished hand'

Stan Waldron

Editors Note

I hope that you have enjoyed this excellent article however it is my sincere wish that the **Holly Bough** article does not encourage readers to engage in protracted correspondence as in previous years.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Don't forget to enter the Cork Con Christmas Quiz kindly sponsored by **Rochestown Park Hotel**. Closing dates for entries is the **7Th January 2012**.

Down load the entry form from the website and E-mail to ccfcquiz@gmail.com or leave it in the competition entry box in the Clubhouse.

Christmas Past



Here are some photo's of snow covered Templehill in 2010.

Happy Christmas to all readers of the Cork Constitution

Pat Twomey



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

Cork Con Golf Society

Christmas Outing

The Cork Con Golf Society Christmas Outing was held on 17 December at the Castlemartyr Golf Resort. Winners were



First	Brian Hickey	44 Points
Second	Brian Walsh	42 Points
Third	Pat Moynihan	41 Points

The next Cork Con Golf Society outing is Don O'Riordan's Captains Prize on Friday 27th April 2012. Venue: Douglas Golf Club. Tee time reserved: 2pm to 5pm

Culie Murphy

Presidents & Captains Annual Dinner

President Brian Humphries and Captain Garth Murray Annual Dinner takes place in the Clubhouse on **27 January 2011 at 8:00 PM**

Invited guests include John Hussey President IRFU and Denis Kelleher President Munster Branch

As the President and Captains Dinner is a normally a sell out please contact **John O'Mahony** as soon as possible if you wish to

Christmas Office Hours

The Club office will close on Friday 23rd December 2011 at 1:00 AM and re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 at 9:30 AM

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 now available for **Christmas**

Cork Con Shop December opening hours.

Saturday 24th December 11-00am to 1-00pm

Christmas Achiever Award

The Christmas Achiever award goes to the **Calendar Crew of Brian Mc Managan, Liz Farquer and Carla O Connell** for their fantastic work in devising and producing the **Cork Constitution 2012 Calendar**

Also special thanks to **Martin O'Brien** for taking the pictures and **Rose Dunne** for selling a whole bunch of calendars with some help from **George Good**

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 Sean O'Riordan or Fiona Burke at 021 4291960 or e-mail cork-con@eircom.net