



Events:

- 8Th January St Mary's AIL (Home)
- 29Th January Old Belvedere AIL (Home)
- 12Th February Valentines Night in Club
- 18Th February Presidents & Captain's Dinner

January 2011

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The Cork Constitution

Frank to go top

Club Captain Frank Cogan should take over from Jerry Murray at the top of the Constitution all time AIL league and cup appearances table when, as expected, he leads out his team for next Saturday's league game against St Marys College.

Frank was also Club Captain in 2006 and lead his team to victory in the AIB Cup final beating Mary's on a score line of 37:12 with man of the match Cronan Healy scoring four tries. Frank has enjoyed considerable success with Con winning two AIB League Finals, Two AIB p Finals, One Munster Senior Cup and One Munster Junior Cup.



The knowledgeable spectators on the popular side feel that Frank played the best rugby of his career last season culminating in his man of the match award in the AIB league final after a typical all action display.

Frank's representative honours includes Irish Collages, Ireland U21 and Club International.

Cork Constitution All Ireland League and Cup Appearances

(Before the St Mary's College fixture)

123 Frank Cogan and Jerry Murray

117 Cronan Healy

111 Brian Walsh

110 Ultan O'Callaghan

100 Daragh Lyons

Stan Waldron

Tony O'Connor

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St Mary's College

8Th January 2011

This Saturday 8th January Cork Constitution play St Mary's College in the rescheduled AIL Div. 1A fixture which was due to be played on the 4th of December but was postponed due to the bad weather.

As has been the case with AIL League Match Days in Temple Hill the club have put an emphasis on bringing as much to the day as is possible. On this occasion we have put in place a match day lunch incorporating the presentation of a cheque to Marymount Hospice and presentation of Dennehy Cup Medals to a J2's the first Cup winners of the season in Cork Constitution.

Guest speaker at the lunch is Dave McHugh who made 29 test appearances as a referee and is currently Captain of Douglas Golf Club.

Post match there is a four team blitz under floodlights.

Munster play Glasgow in the Magners league and there will be food in the bar running into match which will be shown live in the Club House

Itinerary for the Day

1pm: Match Day Lunch incorporating presentation of cheque to Marymount Hospice and Dennehy Cup Medals to Cork Constitution J2's.

Shay Livingstone, General Manager of Rochestown Park Hotel will present the prizes to the winners of our Christmas Quiz.

2.30pm: AIL Match Cork Con vs. St. Mary's College

4.30pm: Floodlit Blitz between Cork Constitution, St. Mary's, Corinthians and UL Boh's under 12 teams on main and second pitches.

6.30pm: Bites in the bar

7.30pm: Munster vs. Glasgow live from Musgrave Park on TV in bar.

All of the above are in conjunction with Underage Director of Rugby, Events Committee, Family Committee and Communications Group.

Constitution's First AIL Game

The road to Constitution's famous victory in Dooradoyle was long and arduous and started on the afternoon of October 6th 1990. The opposition at Templehill on that historic day were St Mary's College, never less than stern opponents and with a burning competitive spirit.

The morning in Cork was anything but promising with rain and wind. The rain relented but the wind blew with considerable vigour. Templehill was extremely well patronised when the sides took the field and, playing into the wind in the first half Constitution made a great start when Donal Lenihan rose high at a lineout and dived over for a try.

That came just after 12 minutes and was in fact the first try scored in the first division of the All Ireland League. Although St Mary's cut their deficit with a penalty before the interval it seemed a comfortable position for Constitution as they would have the wind at their backs in the second half.

But while St Mary's had struggled playing with the wind, in the second half Constitution had to endure some anxiety before clinching a 13-9 win. Denis O'Dowd scored a try, converted by Ralph Keyes who also dropped a goal. St Mary's fought back splendidly and at the end had Constitution under considerable pressure in what was a most appealing encounter.

It had got the league off to a fine start and Constitution had two points in the bag. Captain Michael Bradley knew well the significance of that victory and psychological terms "We had to start with a win, especially at home" he said.

The team that represented Constitution on that historic occasion contained five full and three "A" Irish Internationals. K. Murphy; B Smith; C Murphy; B Walsh; D O'Dowd; R Keyes; M Bradley; P Soden; P Derham; P McCarthy; D Lenihan; D Lynch; T Touhy; B Howell; V Donnelly.

Santa's Visit

There were a lot of disappointed boys and girls in Cork when Santa had to cancel his planned visits to Constitution however on the 18th of December the sun shown on the snow covered pitches as the Conettes started arriving in Templehill for Santa's visit.



The night before was the biggest moment of the year at the North Pole. All eight reindeer were hitched up, and Santa's sleigh was flying across the dark sky. All of the elves waved good-bye, cheering for Santa and the reindeers as they began their trip to Templehill.

Santa knew that as he was collecting toys for delivery to St Vincent De Paul the sleigh was lighter than usual and he should be able to make it on time and not upset the Conettes that were waiting for him.



When Santa arrived in Templehill he went straight to the Clubhouse to meet all the boys and girls that were waiting to give him their gifts.



Santa had a word for all of the boys and girls and listened carefully to their Christmas wishes. He told everyone that despite the icy roads 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.



He thanked the boys and girls for their gifts and after loading his sleigh with the 6 sacks of toys and gifts that he had got from the Conettes, Santa and his reindeers took to the sky waved goodbye and promised everybody he would see them Christmas Day.



Letters to the Editor

Cork Con FC 1st XV V UCC Crowley Cup

Score: 32-15

In response to the piece on Noel Walsh's two page article in this years Holly Bough recounting his days as a member of Irelands own Dads Arm , an Forsa Cosanta Aituil , whilst still a school boy in Pres the following letter was received addressed to the Editor , The Cork Constitution.

An Unassuming Hero. An appreciation.

Dear Editor,

I recently had occasion to visit your beautiful country and Cork in particular. During my visit I had the opportunity to read your local periodical "The Cork Holly bough", in which an article by one of your stalwart members caught my eye. This article brought back some sweet memories of my own time in the F.C.A. with this author. This quiet unassuming man took up arms willingly in the service of his country and was prepared to lie down for same. He was the picture of the universal soldier imbued with valour and the courage emanating from each bottle of merlot. He braved storm and tempest in crossing Cork harbour to Spike Island to attend manoeuvres in that island of tears. Waves as high as 12 inches did not deter him, his only concern was to keep the water from entering his official army boots, and keeping his official army greatcoat dry, to be later used as his blanket.

He lay under the stars, wistfully yearning for the welcoming warmth of the arms of the comely maidens left behind in Cobh. He pondered how best to repay his country for the free clothing and the huge remuneration he was to receive at the end of his service. His one regret was that a higher rank than general was not available to him. Free at last, from the responsibilities he bore with fortitude he returned to civilian life, many years later to regale us with his tale of derring do. We stood in awe when reading his account.

Later, dressed to the nines in new clobber, he was to stroll, proudly down Patrick Street, soaking up the admiring glances of his less fortunate companions, not to mention the lustful, and yearning looks of the fairer sex. A man of huge stature, loved by all, quiet, self effacing, modest, a social giant, we salute him.

We owe him a huge debt. How the Queen of England, whom he admires greatly, would be happy to have his likes at her beck and call. No doubt he will receive an invitation to the forthcoming marriage in that family. We end on this note. There is much more to be said, but, another day. We wish you and our dear friend every success in the future.

Many king regards,

Con Threpeller, A.C.F.

Bayswater St.,

London

Ladies Watch found in Clubhouse

A gold ladies watch was recently found in the clubhouse. The watch has an inscription on the back.

If you think this watch is yours please contact Fiona Burke on 021-4291960

The annual St Stephen's Day Crowley Cup game was delayed by 24 hours, as the thaw finally set in, and the grounds at Temple Hill cleared of snow and ice. The teams served up an entertaining game, despite the persistent rain that fell throughout the game.

Both sides fielded strong sides hoping to make up for four weeks of inaction due to the prevailing weather conditions. Gerry Hurley and John Holland exchanged early penalties before Constitution scored in the 13th minute when Martin Gateley drove over from close in, and Hurley added the points.

Constitution had the better of the half but it took them until just before the break when they notched two quick tries. Brian Hayes scored in the left corner in the 38th minute, and Cathal Quinn scored just before the break when he finished off a Sean Scanlon break. Hurley kicked the second conversion to leave Constitution 22-3 at half time.



Gerry Hurley edged Con further ahead in the 42nd minute with a penalty, but College came much more into the game thereafter. UCC No.8 James Ryan scored two fine tries in the 59th and 72nd minutes. John Holland converted the second try to leave the score at 25-15 to the home side. However, Constitution finished strongly when Sean Scanlon scored in the final minute for Hurley to kick the conversion.

John Crowley was on hand to present the Cup to Frank Cogan, as everybody made for the comfort of the clubhouse

Stan Waldron

Frost Damage

As a result of the December deep freeze , despite preventative measures being taken , the Clubhouse experienced significant damage when pipes burst on St Stephen's day due to the thaw. Mick Boland and his team deserve great credit for getting the clubhouse back in ship shape condition for the Crowley Cup. Their efforts were so successful that few of those who visited Templehill for the match were aware of the damage behind the scenes. Next months e-zine will a full report.

Winter Solstice 21 December 2010

The Con Trailers were due to have their annual Winter Solstice Picnic on the 21st December. Unfortunately, adverse arctic weather conditions prevented a return this year to Ciocha Anu, but it is perhaps, worth recounting last year's spectacular event when the "Contrailers" and Guests celebrated the Celtic New Year on top of the Paps.

On that Saturday night, ten hardy souls set out from Cork City at 4am and commenced the walk at 0545am, having enjoyed a warm cup of tea and the wonderful sausage sandwiches, (I can still smell them !!!) prepared out of his mobile catering wagon, by the ever warm hearted Aidan "The Brother Mac" Namara.

The white snow carpet which greeted us in the Clydagh valley was only surpassed by the stunningly clear sky full of glistening stars. There was no need for artificial illumination and the group was soon accustomed to the power of our innate night vision capabilities. As we travelled in a South to North direction over rough, frozen terrain, the emerging light of the new day was rolling in from the East, followed by a most brilliantly crimson fire red sunrise. We gained the Western Pap by 7am and quickly set about lighting a real fire for the celebratory Winter BBQ.



Chef Derham, to the distinct surprise of the fellow travellers, produced racks of Lamb and rib eye beef from his seemingly bottomless rucksack. We then set about a three and a half thousand year old simple feast, to celebrate the closing of the year, the ushering in of the New Year and all its excitement, possibility and potential. This was also

a celebration of our ancestors who have walked this way before us. The feast was finished off with baked camembert and washed down by some fine, albeit well chilled red wine and some half decent brandy.

All I can say is that those who were lucky enough to be there, were moved in their own individual and special way and took away images which warmed the memory bank over this past year. Hopefully, we will all be back to celebrate another Solstice among friends in 2011.

Happy New Year to all Mindful walkers everywhere.

Hugh O'Donvan



SERGE BLANCO Man of the Match

The winner of the Serge Blanco Cork Constitution Man of the Match V Young Munster was Brian Hayes.



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

3 Westbourne Place,

Cobh, County Cork.

[New Shop](#)

59 St Patrick Street,

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

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

More Pictures from Santa's Visit



Many Thanks to Martin O'Brien for taking the pictures of Santa's visit.

Pat Twomey



Farewell to Cronan Healy

Cronan will shortly be leaving Constitution as he is taking up employment in Australia . One of the most consistent finishers in the league, Cronan has been Con's striker supreme on the wing for several seasons , scoring 48 tries AIL League and Cup tries.

An Irish Club International his speed, swerve and eye for the try-line coupled with his all action perpetual motion style of play ensures that he's the most productive winger in Irish club rugby.



Cronan is also a stalwart on the Ballinora GAA team and has played senior football with Muskerry, & was a Cork Senior Football trialist.

We wish Cronan well and hope that he remembers to follow the fortunes of Constitution on Facebook.

Pat Twomey

January Innovation Award

This months innovation award goes to the **Minors** who have set up their own page on Facebook **Cork Con J2** under the heading "WE AREMINORS. Visit the page and keep up to date with all of the J 2 news.



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.

You can also follow us on **Facebook**.

UP COMING EVENTS

Presidents & Captains Annual Dinner

President Der O'Riordan and Captain Frank Cogan's Annual Dinner takes place in the Clubhouse on 18 February 2011 at 8:00 PM

Invited guests include Caleb Powell President IRFU and Cyril Fitzgerald President Munster Branch

Guest speaker Dr. Brian Hickey

Mary Mount Hospice

On Saturday 13th November Cork Constitution played Dolphin in the first Cork AIL Derby of the season. As part of the day a ladies committee from both clubs came together to organise a fundraising event for Marymount Hospice, a Specialist Palliative Care Unit based at St. Patrick's Hospital in Cork.

The event was a great success with 200 ladies enjoying the day which included a champagne reception followed by lunch and a spot prize for every table.

Well done to all the ladies who attended the lunch and the organising committee, Valarie O'Riordan, Dee O'Riordan, Deirdre O'Hanlon, Jan Derham , Lucy Tyrell and Sally O'Riordan who together raised €8,000 for this worthy charity.

President Der Riordan will present the cheque to Marymount on Saturday 8Th Jan 2011 at the St Mary's College pre-match lunch.

Christmas Quiz Winners

Sponsored by Rochestown Park Hotel

First Prize RPH €100 Voucher Winner **Stan Waldron**

Joint Second Prize RPH €50 Voucher **Gordon Good and Ciara Boland**

Special Juvenile Prize CCFC Shop €30 Voucher **James Burke**

As there was a tie for second place, Shay Livingstone , General Manager , of Rochestown Park Hotel , has very generously agreed that both Gordon Good and Ciara Boland should each receive a €50 Euro voucher.

The prizes will be presented to the lucky winners on Saturday 8Th Jan 2011 by Shay Livingston at the pre-match lunch.

CLUB MEMORABILIA

We have received a rugby scrap book from the 1950's from Dixie Whelan and details of a 1913 Minor Cup Medal from Jack Crowley. These will feature in future newsletters.

If you have any Cork Con Memorabilia please contact Stan Waldron or Landy Hill who will arrange for copies to be taken and for the item to be returned to the donor. We are especially interested in old photo's films or video of Con teams in action.