

Le Chêile

Community Magazine



June 2015

No. 336

EDITORIAL

Although it never stops throughout the whole round of the year, the Tidy Towns campaign kicks in seriously coming up to June, when the judging round begins. The National Tidy Towns Competition has been running since 1958. Clane Community Council has been involved since 1973 (42 years ago). Clane's involvement goes back even further to the '60s, when a group, largely involving the I.C.A. and a few men, were active. The present committee is a sub-committee of the Community Council but, in addition it involves several dedicated members who are not directly involved in it.

Going back over 50 years, it is difficult to imagine the degree of dereliction which existed on most of the six approaches to the village. There was a broken down and abandoned horsebox in the middle of the road where the triangle at the entrance to the Millicent Road is now located, with high weeds and grass growing up through it. There were stables in the paved area on the near side of the Stream. It is now of course part of the Stream Park and is surrounded by a low stone wall. A heap of horse manure came out to the road's edge on the near side of the Millicent Road Bridge. The Village Green sloped out to the very edge of the road where the bus to Naas now stops. One of our earliest undertakings was to trim this back to make room for the present footpath and to surround the Green with the present low stone wall at soil level. With the guidance of the Area Engineer, we laid c.70 kerbs and developed the triangle with the help of Mick Maloney. This was then spread with soil and grass and trees were planted.

Over the years the development of lawns and the removal of stretches of old roadside hedging were undertaken in similar abandoned areas on the Ballinagappa Road as far as Oatfield. Also on the right hand side of the College Road, in front of the bungalows, up the hill towards Byrne's garage, where we laid the kerbs as well. Likewise on the Dublin Road opposite and past the Boys'

Old School.

The work has been ongoing with the re-roofing of the old church in 1983, the building of the John Sullivan Memorial Garden in, its yearly planting, the planting of the tubs in the Main Street, the recent development of two new flowerbeds on the by-pass road, to mention just a selected few projects. Do get involved; it makes a huge difference. See the notice board for details.

Le Chéile comes out 10 times a year and takes a break in July and August. Our next issue will be September. The deadline for this will be Monday 24th August; see below.

We take this opportunity to wish all readers and contributors a happy and relaxed Summer break and hopefully we will get the weather to go with it.

CALENDAR

Wednesday 10th June

Annual Mass in the Abbey Cemetery will be celebrated at 7.30 pm.

Wed. & Thurs. 24th / 25th June

Kildare County Community Games in Clongowes Wood, commencing at 6pm.

Monday 29th June

Monthly Meeting of Clane Community Council in the Evergreens' Room of the Abbeey Community Centre at 8pm.

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

The deadline for receipt of material for the **September** issue of Le Chéile is

Monday 24th August

To 142 Loughbolland please.

Tel. 045-868474.

E-mail: margaretmcevoy1@eircom.net

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

CLANE & RATHCOFFEY COMMUNITY GAMES

The field and track athletic competitions were conducted on the Scoil Mhuire Community School grounds on Saturday 9th May. We are grateful to the Principal and Staff for their on-going help and co-operation over many years. The results were as follows:

U/8 60m (BOYS)

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Dara Coughlan | 1. Dara Coughlan |
| 2. Neil Vizzard | 2. Neil Vizzard |
| 3. Rory Óg Maguire | 3. Aidan Maddock |

U/10 100m

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Shane Henry | 1. Tamilora Eko Davis |
| 2. Jamie McCormack | 2. Cillian O'Sullivan |
| 2. Colin Eiffe (D. H.) | 3. Colin Eiffe |
| 3. Ben Felton | |

U/12 100m

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Oisín O'Sullivan | 600m |
| 2. Ronan Murphy | Ronan Murphy |
| 3. Joshua Deane | Oisín O'Sullivan |
| | Andrew Hyland |

U/14 100m

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Eamonn Fitzgerald | 800m |
| 2. Marcus Fenlon | Eamonn Fitzgerald |
| 3. Tabor Fenlon | Ayobami Alarape |
| | Eoghan Connolly |

U/16 100m

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Hugo Travers | 1,500m |
| | Hugo Travers |

U/8 60m (GIRLS)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Dearbhla Healy | 80m |
| 2. Susie O'Neill | Dearbhla Healy |
| 3. Lauren Finnerty | Ciara Shortt |
| | Lauren Finnerty |

U/10 100m

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Maebh Maguire | 200m |
| 2. Beibhinn Hughes | Maebh Maguire |
| 3. Caoimhe Maddock | Beibhinn Hughes |
| | Eabna Moriarty |

U/12 100m

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Aine Maguire | 200m |
| 2. Claire Lynch | Aine Maguire |
| 3. Sinead Lee | Claire Lynch |
| | Sinead Lee |

U/14 100m

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Roisín Jordan | 800m |
| | Sasilia Britton |

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 2. Sasilia Britton | Roisín Jordan |
| 3. Aoibhinn Healy | Aoibhinn Healy |

U/16 1,500m

1. Lucy McCann

Congratulations to all the winners and to all who participated. We wish those who will be representing Clane & Rathcoffey in the County Games in Clongowes on Wednesday and Thursday 24th and 25th June [6pm] the very best of luck.

Presentation of medals:

The winners in the various categories in both Athletics and Swimming were presented with their medals at a special ceremony in the Abbey Community Centre at 7pm on Tuesday 19th May. Anyone wishing to see the listed medal winners in Swimming may do so by looking up the March 2015 edition of Le Chéile on the web at clanecommunity.ie

Boys U/10 Gaelic Football beat Newbridge St. Conleths in the County Final. The match was held in Clane and was very well attended. They are silver medal winners.

The U/11 Hurlers played Naas in Naas in the final and are silver medal winners.

The U/14 Camogie Final was against Maynooth in Maynooth. Clane are silver medal winners.

The U/12 Boys Soccer Final was against Maynooth in Maynooth where Clane won gold after a sudden death finish. They play Marino Fairview in the next round.

MAINHAM CEMETRY COMMITTEE

From October 1938 to August 1987 the An-CO Community Training Project team, under the supervision of Sean Cribbin, cleared hundreds of years of growth of ivy from the 13th century church walls and then painstakingly restored them. Briars and nettles were

cleared away and fallen headstones were erected again. The whole area was seeded with grass seed. It was then that Fr. Bob Thompson, S.J. and Sean Cribbin foresaw that a permanent committee was required to continue and enhance the work of the AnCO team. And so the Cemetary Committee was founded at a meeting in 1986 in Sean and Breda Cribbin's home at which about 9 locals attended. Ted Coonan was appointed Chairman and remained so until his death in 2013. Cllr. Brendan Weld, also at the original meeting, is now Chairman. Sean Cribbin was appointed Secretary/Treasurer and remained Secretary until about two years before his passing in 2010 when Richard Cribbin took over. Denis Dunne was appointed Treasurer in 1993. Jenny Cullen, also at the original meeting, died in 2013 and Cáit Cullen has replaced her on the Committee. Breda Cribbin remains another of the original Committee. Some others at the original meeting have retired and some have moved away. The aim of the Committee is to ensure the maintenance of the Cemetery and to promote an appreciation of the history and heritage of this holy and ancient setting.

The present workers/mowers are Tom Connolly, Mick Fields, Gabriel Dowling, Peter O'Connell, Mick Newman, Christy Dempsey, Richard Cribbin and Denis Dunne. Tony Walsh is synonymous with working in the Cemetery and is now on a well earned rest. The availability of Peter O'Connell's lorry and Tom Connolly's mini digger is a great help in carrying out heavy work. At times as well we have called on Martin Coonan (tractor), Tom McCreery (tractor), Pat Fanning (teleporter), Shay Grace (teleporter) and Bernard Duffy (JCB), who always oblige us.

Our major works over the years are the erection of the Altar, the memorial to the Venerable Fr. John Sullivan, S.J., the re-roofing of the Brown Mausoleum, the erection of the barrier and railing at the entrance to the car park, the removal of about 25 tree stumps, the removal of exceptionally old rotten trees,

the erection of 70 yards of pailing on the north side of the kerbed area, the plastering and dashing of the west wall of the kerbed area, the provision of the pebbled pathway from the Altar to the new gateway to McCreerys' field, the timber fence around the Brown Mausoleum, etc., etc. We mow the entire Cemetery (5 acres approx.) about 22 times annually. Also we take 10 bins to and from the road 26 times annually. We tend to about a dozen old graves whose relatives have died out or moved away.

The highlight of the year is the Annual Mass and the 36th Annual Mass will be celebrated next November. We always thank the Clergy, the Choir, Mongey Communications, the McCreery Family, for the use of the field for parking, and the 30 or so volunteers who help us out on the day and without whom the solemn occasion would not run as smoothly. Without the contributions we receive at the Annual Mass none of the above work would be possible, so we thank everyone who contributes whether large or small. To prolong the lives of our mowing machines, etc. we have them fully serviced every year. Since 1968 every single meeting has been held in Cribbins' home and for that we are grateful.

CLANE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Clane Local History Group will mark Heritage Week 2015 with two major events. On Saturday 22nd August there will be a visit to and a tour of Clongowes Wood College. The visit will start at 3pm at Clongowes and participants will meet at Aldi car park, Prosperous Road, Clane at 2.30pm where lifts will be provided for those who have no transport.

On Tuesday evening 25th August in Clane Library there will be a talk (plus ceoil agus craic) on "The History of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann in Clane". The speaker is Breda Short. The talk starts at 8pm and finishes at 9.30pm. All are welcome to both events and admission is free.

Enquiries to Brendan Cullen 045 861159.

MARIA DUNN AND THE O'NEILLS OF CLANE

[Over its 41 years of publication Le Chéile did a number of interviews with senior members of the community and we plan to re-publish some of these occasionally in order to give an indication of what life was like in Clane in the past.]

The following is an interview with the late Maria Dunne which was published in February 1977. Maria was the daughter of James O'Neill, who at one stage owned most of the village. Their son, the late George Dunn, was the last of the O'Neill line in Clane. He operated a shop and Post Office where the A.I.B. Bank is now located, including the Extra Vision alongside. His sister Mary is a Loreto Nun based in Madrid.]

"Mrs. Maria Dunn, or Ria as she is known to her friends, has a rare store of local knowledge and impressions of life in old Clane, particularly the business sphere and the life of the village. Her father, James O'Neill, was an enterprising and successful merchant and built up a small business empire locally. He was born in 1848 during the famine and died in 1931, aged 83 years. The latter half of the last century was an active and interesting period and Ria is richly imbued with its traditions. It is indeed a pity that she doesn't get out and about nowadays but she likes to chat with visitors whom she receives with gracious hospitality. In talking to her one soon realizes how different it all was. There is sadly not a family left in the village now from the old days, apart from the O'Neills or Dunns themselves.

James O'Neill was from a background of strong farmers and came from Bodinstown. A branch of the family still lives there on the family farm and are the owners of the golf course. In his school days James O'Neill rode his own donkey to the Boys' School in Clane. At twelve he went to

Mullingar to become apprenticed for a business career. When he returned he went to work for Mrs. Fitzpatrick and afterwards bought out the business himself. This was then a general store cum public house and drapery. [Presently the A.I.B./Extra Vision premises. He also bought out Miss Corbally's, where Connollys now live [At the top of the Street where the Ballinagappa and Killocock Roads merge], and thus gained the Post Office. In addition he bought Cribbins', later to become Larkin's butcher shop, a trade which he also practiced there in those days. He was interested in McKittrick's where Manzor's is now, but did not succeed here. There is an old saying that "a yard of counter is worth a farm of ground"; James was averse to neither. In all he acquired over a hundred acres in and around the town.

He married Catherine Duggan of Edenderry, who also came from a large farm. Catherine died in the 1950s, aged 95. They had 12 children: Joe (who died at 18), Alfonsus, Kathleen, Anne, John, Resie, Ernie (a retired vet. in Dundalk) and Joe (who lives in Lucan). Three others died in childhood. Ria, Ernie and Joe are still living.

Most of the shopping in those days was done on Saturdays. The family requirements for the week were loaded into the ass and cart. There was no packaging; everything came loose, with bacon by the side and flour, polard and Indian meal by the bag. James, an affable man of stocky build with drooping mustaches and a hard hat, supplied everything for the house, farm and garden. He kept three shop boys, ran the post, supplied fresh meat and slaked the local thirst. On Fridays Susie Doyle, like Molly Malone, brought fish from Naas, and her cry of "herrings alive with their eyes open" could be heard from the Liffey bridge.

James ran an orderly house and never opened on a Sunday. At 10.00 p.m. each night he called time and, curious as it must seem in our eyes, every last man stood up, lifted his hat and departed with a "Goodnight Sir".

Year in and year out, the work went on, with the first man in at 7.00 a.m. and the Post going out even on Christmas Day. What was it like to be a child growing up in a business house? Ria was taught by Sisters Berchmans, Brigid, Anthony and Bernard. The nuns were addressed as "Miss". A Professor Whitehead from Clongowes called to give private music lessons. He cycled out from the hotel in Sallins. *[The Canal Hotel, which became the site of a meat factory in the 50s. The is now cut off from the road by a long high wall extending from the Canal to a tall red brick boarded-up house]* Music ran in her mother's family and indeed comes down to the present generation. They were avid readers and the house is filled with their books. Sometimes the young Ria would sneak out the back way to buy sweets from Lizzie Whelan whose shop was where Collins' now stands. *[Now the Chipper]* Afterwards she went as a boarder to Sion Hill. In those days young ladies didn't go out to work and so, when her education was complete, she returned to help at home. She made 40 lbs. of butter a week and cooked for the family, with kitchen help. When the Parish ran concerts in Slevins' Mill, *[On the far side of the Liffey Bridge on the right]* she was called upon to play the piano.

James was a great enthusiast for horses, of which he kept thirty in Cribbins' yard. *[The yard where Larkins' house and a hairdresser's is now located]* On one occasion he won both the Galway Hurdle and Plate. The jockey was Paddy Slator on "Reviewer". Hunting was his particular pastime and he often recounted how he rode alongside the Empress of Austria when she rode through the grounds of Maynooth College.

The ladies were very active in charitable matters, particularly with the outbreak of the 'Black Flu'; at the height of the plague people would not enter the houses of the dead and dying. Ria's mother cooked meals for the sick along with Mrs. Sweetman, Mrs. Colgan and Mrs. Dunne of Ballinagappa.

Ria married Billy Dunn, a Dubliner and an accountant with Craigies. They came to live in Clane in 1950 when Mr. Dunn retired. Billy was a great enthusiast for the fishing line and shotgun all his life, and is affectionately remembered by many. They had two children, George, who needs no introduction and Mary, a Loreto Sister whose convent is in Madrid."

CLANE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL 2016

Theme: Health and Fitness

Preparations have already begun for next year!!! Our festival will run from 11th to 18th March with lots of events throughout the week. If you have any ideas or opinions, please do let us have them. If you have a comment to make and would like it published on our website, please email to clanefestival@kildare.ie

Clane Photo Shop has a huge display of photos from this year's Festival on the window. Well worth looking at!! You can order any of the photos from Brian in the shop.

We are looking for volunteers to join the Committee and help organise the Festival events. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out in any way.

Mary Dunne, Chairperson

CLANE GOLF CLUB

During March, April & May, we had away outings to the local golf clubs of Naas, Craddockstown & The Ryder Cup Course of the K Club, which was very kindly sponsored by Seamus Manzor of the Village Inn. The prizes for these three outings were presented at The Village Inn on Sunday 10th May. With the longer daylight hours, summer competitions have started & during June

The Friday 18 can be played on Thursday & Friday each week.

May Results:

1st May- The Friday 18: Winner: Paddy Murray 37 points.

8th May- The Friday 18: Winner: Aidan Donovan 37 points.

9/10th May- 18 Hole Stableford: 1st
Seamus Carew 39 points.
2nd Pat McDonnell 38 points.
Gross- Seamus Carew - 74 strokes.

10th May Away Outing to Craddockstown G.C.:

1st Paul Connolly 38 points.
2nd Aidan Donovan 35 points.
Gross: Robbie Reilly 82 strokes. (last 9)

Class 1 : Winner Tommy Carew 34 points (last 6).
Second Seamus Carew 34 points.

Class 2 : Winner Diarmuid Coonan 30 points.
Second Pat McDonnell 29pts

Class 3 : Winner Daire O'Broin (President) 30 points.
Second Paddy Murray 29 points.

Twos Club: Aidan Donovan – 2nd hole
Tommy Carew – Sixth hole.
Eamonn Howlin – 2nd hole.
Noel Cruise - 15th hole.
Brendan Mahony.- 11th hole

15th May – The Friday 18:
Winner: Anthony Dunne 39 points

16/17th May- 18 Hole V Par:
1st Pat McDonnell 6 up: last 3 on front 9
2nd John Carew 6 up
Gross: John Carew 72 Strokes.

22nd / 23rd May 18 Hole Stableford:
1st Niall Bryan 40 points (last 9).
2nd Pat McNamee 40 points

Interclub Competition between Highfield Golf Club & Clane G.C. 23rd May:

Clane ladies & men's Club had a great win in the Cullen Cup held on Saturday, 23rd May. The Clane team is as follows: Carmel O'Leary & Diarmuid Coonan. Brig and Michael Cuddihy. Margaret Mahony & Dermot Maguire. Kathleen Maguire & Aidan Donovan. Denise Crowley & John McAndrew. Congratulations on a great win.

Forthcoming Events:

Vice Captain's (Michael Connolly) Prize on Sunday 14th June- See time sheet on notice board.

Friday 18 hole competitions will be run on Thursday & Friday of each week on a trial basis. Members can play on Thursday & Friday in this competition, but on Friday rounds must be completed & returned by 2.00 p.m. Friday.

Signed: **Eamonn Howlin, Hon. Secretary.**

CLANE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

CMDS are in celebration mode, having secured FIVE AIMS (Association of Irish Musical Societies) nominations for their production of Godspell last November.

The nominations were:-

Arthur McGauran – Best Director

Sean McMahon – Best Actor for his role as Jesus

Dearbhail Downey – Best Female Singer

The Entire Cast – Best Chorus

The Entire Cast – Best Ensemble piece for their rendition and performance of the song “All Good things”

To cap it all our nomination of Tommie Nolan as our Unsung Hero was successful and Tommie will be one of four people heading to Killarney to hear who wins the award outright.

The nominees and supporters will be

heading to Killarney for the AIMS Awards weekend on the 12th and 13th June next and the Society proudly wishes them and all other recipients the very best of luck.

We congratulate our neighbouring societies in Kilcock, Kill and Leixlip on their nominations and look forward to meeting up with them in Killarney.

The Society confirms that nine **Youth Theatre Workshops** will be held during the summer break from Saturday 4th July until Saturday the 29th August. The workshops will suit young people aged 12 to 18 years and will take place in The Abbey, Clane.

Each Saturday from 10.00am until 2.00pm the world of Theatre will be explored by the participants under the tutelage of qualified professional instructors. The workshops will include music, acting, dance, costumes and make up. The participants will showcase their achievements with a performance in The Abbey at the conclusion of the course.

There are limited places available and the Workshops will cost €120 for the full course. An early booking discount of €20 is available for those who pay €100 by 14th June.

For further information please phone Grainne at 086 0864380 or email clanemusicalsociety@gmail.com

The Society will also hold a multi-faceted workshop for Adults on the 12th September in the Westgrove Hotel. This will be a full day workshop and is bound to be popular not only with members of CMDS but also with anyone with an interest in theatre. Full details will be announced shortly.

The Society would like to thank everybody who baked, donated and supported the annual Cake Sale held on Saturday and Sunday last.

Cole Porter's hilarious **KISS ME KATE** is

the Society's next musical production and will be staged from the 11th to the 16th April 2016. The production team is Arthur McGauran (Director) Michael Fay (Musical Director) and Grainne Jones (Choreographer). Auditions for the Musical will be held in September with full production and musical rehearsals starting in January. Details of audition dates will be announced shortly.

For further information please contact clanemusicalsociety@gmail.com

Sadie O'Reilly PRO

THE EVERGREENS

Well we are into the lovely month of June and hope we enjoy good weather. The month of June, as we all know, is the month of the Sacred Heart and the Novena to Him runs from 4th June-12th, this being the actual Feast Day. In this month of June also it is appropriate that we look at the feast of Pentecost and reflect on the gift of the Holy Spirit as promised by the risen Jesus and how the Spirit empowers us in prayer and reflection in our daily lives.

Wasn't it great to see such good crowds each Monday night at the Novena. The speakers were really interesting and informative. They spoke a little on their lives and how their faith strengthens them. Yes it was an ideal time for a Faith Lift.

We Evergreens are doing well with our projects, activities and outings, etc. Evergreens we may be but we are young at heart and certainly not past the sell-by-date. May 11th saw us in Croke Park and doing a complete tour of it. Now we know all about it and what an enjoyable day we had. Thanks to P.J. Who drove us and to Sally for all her help and care. Now we are planning a big day out on June 23rd to Kilquade, Co. Wicklow. This is one of the most beautiful garden centres in Ireland.

Wicklow, as you know, is one of the most spectacular and diverse counties -a wealth of historic sights and, of course, most awe-inspiring scenery -no wonder Wicklow merits the title "the Garden of Ireland". If anyone would like to join us on this Day-Out you are very welcome.

On behalf of the Evergreens I would like to thank Clongowes Wood College for entertaining us every Tuesday this year. We had dinner and various games and entertainment. We are grateful to the College and also the Boys there who were all kind, helpful and caring.

As this is our last issue before we resume in September, we would also like to thank everybody who has helped us in any way throughout the year and not forgetting lovely Fiona who imparts her great knowledge of art and expertise to budding artists each Tuesday. So enjoy a safe and happy summer with beautiful sunshine of course and hope we shall see many new faces when we are back. Beidh fáilte croíul roimh cách.

So until then beir bua agus beannacht agus rath Dé ar gach éinne. Fé choimirce Mhuire dhíbh.

Maureen Spain (PRO)

ICA

I.C.A activities continue as usual on Thursday evenings (8-10 pm) in KARE Centre, with a variety of crafts to suit every member. There is no pressure. It is not compulsory to be involved in any craft, to enjoy the social aspect, when news and views can be exchanged over a cup of tea. Consider - relaxation for a couple of hours at the end of a busy day, must be beneficial in some way? We congratulate- Prosperous Dramatic Society and Clane Musical Society on their recent excellent productions- 'Alone It Stands' and 'The Cripple of Inishmaan' which we thoroughly enjoyed and look for-

ward to more in the future. There is super talent in both communities. Best of luck to all students who are sitting exams over the coming weeks and hope everyone enjoys a sunny and safe summer, when it really arrives! Until next report- be thankful, be happy! For I.C.A details- please contact Hon. Sec Yvonne Winters- 0860308779. **P.R.O.- M. O'Connor**

CLANE GAA NOTES

Lotto Results

Our Lotto Jackpot was finally won on May 16th and our lucky winner was Cora Mitchell. The jackpot had been climbing for many months and it was inevitable that some lucky person would win it. So well done Cora and we hope you enjoy your winnings. We would like to thank all our supporters for supporting the Lotto and to our recent winners, enjoy your winnings. Tickets €2 and we look forward to your continued support.

16th May 2015. JACKPOT €10,050

Numbers drawn were 5, 12, 15, 24. Jackpot Winner Cora Mitchell C/O Bingo

9th May 2015. JACKPOT €9,900

Numbers drawn were 7, 8, 12, 22. There was no jackpot winner.

€25 winners were John Mc Cormack, Chloe Ryan, J Craughwell and Luke Mc Cormack.

2nd May 2015. JACKPOT €9,750

Numbers drawn were 1, 6, 8, 9. There was no jackpot winner.

€25 winners were Karen Egan, Olivia Langan, Derek Cullen and P J Kelly.

5th April 2015. JACKPOT €9,600

Numbers drawn were 2, 16, 18, 22. There was no jackpot winner.

€25 winners were Dessie Marron, Lucy Weld, Linda Callan, Mick Burke.

18th April 2015, JACKPOT €9,450

Numbers drawn were 25, 9, 17, 20. There was no jackpot winner.

€25 winners were Denise C/O D. O'D, Marty Corbett, George Harrington, Teresa Sullivan.

11th April 2015. JACKPOT €9,300

Numbers drawn were 2, 7, 14, 24. There was no jackpot winner.

€25 winners were Frank Cribbin, Nellie Travers, Kieran O'Flaherty, Maureen O'Connor.

4th April 2015. JACKPOT €9,150

Numbers drawn were 1, 4, 11, 13. There was no jackpot winner.

€25 winners were Aisling O'Donovan, Pauline Logan, Sean Kelleghan, Brendan Nasser.

Michael Hallessy

FIRST EVER ATHLETIC MEETING IN CLANE

The following article was published in the June 1984 issue of Le Chéile. The Athletic meeting referred to was of huge significance in two different ways; out of it came a World Champion athlete! and Clane G.A.A.! Also, while it preceded the Thurles meeting by 6 months, it brought into the picture a key activist - Dr. O'Connor - who was also to was to play a key role in establishing the G.A.A. at a national level at Thurles.

“Advertisement in the ‘Leinster Leader’ Saturday May 31st 1884.

Clane Pony Race and Athletic Sports will be held in Clane on Thursday June 12th 1884. Starting 1 o'clock.

Committee:

President: A.E. McCracken Esq.

Vice President: J.D. Whyte Esq.

Stewards: Dr. O'Connor, C.H. Farrell Esq., J. Geoghegan Esq., T.J. Farrell Esq., J. O'Neill Esq., J. Healy Esq., P. Crosbie Esq.,

D. Healy Esq., Ed. Dunne Esq., S. Whittle Esq., R. Kearney Esq.

Judge and handicapper, under the laws of the Amateur Athletic Association, Mr. John Dunbar, Irish Sportsman, 36 Great George's Street, Dublin.

Tickets to enclosure 2/- shillings

Cars 2/6

General Entry fee for all Athletic events 7/6
Pony Race under 14.3 hands.

1st prize £4.00, 2nd prize £1.00. Entry fee 5/-
Details of athletic events. Slinging 56 lbs without follow. Putting 28 lbs. 100 yds open handicap. Half mile (confined). High Jump (open). 440 yds open handicap. Bicycle Race 3 Miles Open Handicap. 2 Miles Walking Open Handicap. 220 yds Hurdles (confined). 120 yds Hurdles Open Handicap. For boys u/16 220 Open Handicap. Long Jump Open Handicap. 220 yds Club Handicap. 1 Mile Handicap. 220 yds Novices Donkey Race and Pony Race.

Report of Clane Athletic Sports in Leinster Leader Saturday June 14th 1884.:

‘It is a pleasure to welcome to the world of manly sports a new athletic club, and it is with genuine satisfaction that we record the appearance on their own track of the sterling good men, who claim Clane or its vicinity for their present abode

As has been said, this was the first Athletic meeting held in Clane, and we sincerely hope it will not be the last. It was completely successful, we have seldom seen a more animated scene. All sorts of condition of men were there, and as for the ladies -- but we despair of doing them justice. We had clergymen, betting men, business men, in short as we have said, all sorts and conditions of men, from the gentlemen to the tatterdemalion. The usual concomitants of a crowded meeting were all to the fore, the thimblerriggers, card sharpeners, shooting galleries and those inevitable stands of lemonade, ginger beer and biscuits etc. etc. Almost everybody who has any claim to be anybody

was there. No wonder that a remark we overheard, should be made 'Sure its equal to Punchestown'.

The Clane Brass Band and the St. Patrick's Fife and Drum Band, Newbridge, were present and played all the popular airs. From the athletic point the meeting was much more successful than was expected from a first meeting.

The pony race was of its kind the event of the day. The winner as, everybody expected, was Rambling Fanny. This pony would be better described as a race mare, and is certainly not the class that people associate with the word pony. Second was Spring Daisy and third was Mineral Water. The Donkey race caused much amusement, the winner being the redoubtable Mick McQuaid. Before closing, we must mention that a great deal of the success of the meeting is due to the Hon-Sec Mr. T.J. Farrell and the other members of the Committee. Mr. D.J. Dempsey fulfilled his duties as a starter in a most satisfactory manner."

Comments:

The above was the first and last meeting under the Amateur Athletics Association held in Clane, for on November 1st 1884 the meeting to form the G.A.A was held in Thurles. The first Athletic meeting under the G.A.A. rules ever held in Kildare took place in Clane on Thursday, June 4th 1885. At this meeting, Tommy Conneff, then a lad of 17, ran his first race. Tommy won the Half Mile open handicap in 2 minutes 17 seconds, and in the space of two years, became a world champion. It is fitting that the G.A.A. Park in Clane should be called after the man who started his athletic career at the first ever meeting under G.A.A. rules held in Kildare.

The field where both the 1884 meeting, under the Amateur Athletic Association rules, and the 1885 meeting, under G.A.A. rules, were held was popularly known as the ten acre field and was located at the bend of the road opposite the Doctor's House, now the

Wheelchair Centre. It is now of course the site of Oatfield Estate.

Reference to the admission prices and enclosure... It would seem that there was a special enclosure for those who could afford the admission prices of 2/- and 2/6. One must remember that a farm worker's wages were 1/- per day and 1/6 per day for a ploughman. The general entrance fee of 7/6 to compete in the events would suggest that the ordinary locals, or "tatterdemalion" as the Leader reporter described them, could not compete.

THE PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF TOMMY CONNEFF

American and World Records: 3/4 mile, 3 min. 2 4/5 sec., Travers Island, New York, 21st Aug. 1895. One Mile, 4 min. 15 3/5 sec., same venue, 28th Aug. 1895. One and a quarter miles, 5 min. 38 4/5 sec., Bergen Point, New York, 2nd Sept., 1895. One and a half miles, 6 min. 46 2/5 sec., same venue and date. Three and a half miles, 17 min. 42 sec., same venue, 4th Sept. 1893.

Irish Records: One mile, 4 min. 26 1/5 sec., Ballsbridge, Aug., 1887.

Irish Championships 1886: Half mile, 2 min. 0 2/5 sec. One mile, 4 min. 32 3/5 sec.

English Championships 1888: One mile 4 min. 31 3/5 sec.

Canadian Championships 1889: Mile and two miles; 1890, Five miles, 29 min. 34 3/5 sec.

American Championships 1888: One mile, 4 min. 32 3/5 sec.; 1891 4 min. 30 3/5 sec.; 1888, Five miles 26 min. 46 2/5 sec. 1889, 26 min. 42 sec.; 1890, 25 min. 37 4/5 sec.; 1891, 27 min. 38 2/5 sec.; 1890, Ten miles, 55 min. 32 3/5 sec.

IN SUMMARY

- 1886 Half Mile and Mile Championships of Ireland.
- 1887 Four Mile Championship of Ireland, a new record.
- 1888 Irish Mile Championship with the Irish record.
British A.A. Assn. Mile Champion.
American Five Mile Champion.
- 1889 American Five Mile Champion.
- 1890 American Five Mile Champion.
American Ten Mile Champion.
Canadian Two Mile Champion, with Canadian record.
- 1891 American Mile Champion, with American record.
American Five Mile Champion.
Canadian Two Mile Champion, with a new record.
- 1893 American Mile Champion, with World Record.
American 3 1/2 Mile Champion.
- 1895 World Records: 3/4 Mile, Mile, 1 1/4 Mile and 1 1/2 Mile.