

WESTLAND ROW CBS  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update  
(Academic Year 2014-2015)

**SPORTS – FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**Gaelic Games**

The school has a rich sporting history and we are fortunate that we have many photographs and reports featuring successful teams and past pupils. In this section we feature Gaelic Games including, possibly, our oldest photograph dating from 1928. Let us start with our winning All Ireland Senior Football past pupils:-

***CHRIS KANE and GERRY DAVEY***

Gerry and Chris are featured together because the two Row boys played on the 1963 All Ireland winning Dublin football team. Gerry was a member of the Class of 1962 and he went straight into the Dublin Senior Football team on leaving school. Dublin won a very exciting All Ireland in 1963 and Gerry played a key role especially against Down in the semi-final and Galway in the final getting vital scores from his left corner forward position.

Chris was a member of that great Westland Row team that won the Leinster Schools Senior Championship in 1958. The final was played in Doctor Cullen Park, Carlow and we travelled by train to the big event. Our heroes beat Carmelite College Moate in a very closely fought encounter. Chris played at right half back on the 1963 Dublin Team. We have two memorable photos to remind us this great time. Firstly, we have Chris and Gerry with the Sam Maguire in 1963 and secondly, the great 1958 team.



**Chris Kane & Gerry Davey**

## Westland Row Boys Win Leinster Senior Title



### CHAMPIONS

*Chun tosaigh*—T. Ó Calainn, N. Mac Craith, E. Ó Faoláin, S. Ó Broin (Capt.), M. Ó Cathláin, L. Ó Broin, S. Ó Riada, L. Ó Bolguidhir.  
*Ar chúl*—R. Mac Cárthaigh, T. Ó Néill, C. Ó Catháin, P. Mac Craith, P. Ó Saibhéis, S. Ó Donghaile, D. Ó Broin, P. Mac Seáin, M. Ó Cionnfhaola.



We have many other past pupils who featured on school, club and county teams. Among these were Mattie Wallace, John Cullen, Brian Duncan, Denis Kane (brother of Chris) and Jack McGinly. The following photos remind us of these and many other past pupils. We start with the photo from 1928. We have no details of the players' names but they were obviously successful.



The following are some photos from more recent years and many past pupils will recognise themselves and classmates in them.





Sports day (1935)















## SNOOKER

### **KEN DOHERTY**

Surely our greatest sporting hero is World Professional Snooker Champion of 1997 Ken Doherty. The photo and report we found in the archives was of Ken when he won the World Amateur Championship in 1989 and, of course, the iconic photo from 1997.

# Ken's big break



**KEN DOHERTY** has got the big break at last.

Our first ever World Amateur Snooker Champion is on cue for the big time in the professional game after his victory over England's Jonathan Birch in Singapore to claim the title.

The win has put the 20-year-old Ranelagh player's name on the same illustrious title list as Doug Mountjoy and Jimmy White — both now top earners in the snooker world.

But the young champion's road to the top was not all easy, his mother confided today.

"I used to chase him with the wooden spoon. No matter what I did I couldn't keep him away from snooker. Every minute he had he played snooker and now he has done Ireland proud," said mother-of-four Rose Doherty at her Ranelagh home.

**HOMESICK**

"From the time he was 12, he played snooker constantly at Jason's of Ranelagh. We used to play with him as young fellows, but now my brother Anthony and I are only picking up the balls when he shoots," said older brother Seamus (28).

"He has had a few disappointments along the way. About 18 months ago he went to England to bet-



**WELL DONE:** Thomas Kearney and Martin Cosgrave of Jasons snooker hall in Ranelagh wished Ken well today.

ter his game and there he has had to contend with homesickness too. He really deserves to win."

These days Ken plays snooker all day as another person might go out to work, he explained. "He shares a flat at Ilford with two other amateurs, Anthony O'Connor and Damien McKiernan and they spend all day every day working hard at their game. They enter every competition going."

On Wednesday, the entire family, Seamus (28) and his wife, Siobhan, Anthony (25), Rosemary (18) and Mum, Rose will be at Dublin Airport to proudly welcome a youngest son home.

**TOP OF THE WORLD:** World Amateur champion Ken Doherty gets in some practice at his Ranelagh base.

Evening Herald, Monday, November 20, 1989





## **SOCCER**

We have a big number of very successful soccer players amongst the past pupils of the school including ***Johnny Carey, Gerry Mackey, Ray Treacy, Liam O'Brien, Conor Dwyer, Graham Kavanagh, Tommy Eglington, Arthur Fitzsimons, Peter Farrell, Jimmy O'Neill and Ray McCarthy***. If we could have captured them all at the peak of their careers The Row, on its own, could have fielded a full Irish International team of some quality. It is impossible to give a detailed account of all their careers but we feature a few of these below.

### ***JOHNNY CAREY***



One of the greatest footballers ever to play for Manchester United and Ireland, Johnny (or Jackie) Carey was born in Dublin on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1919. Johnny was playing for St. James's Gate when he was signed for a fee of £200 by Manchester United in 1936. He made his debut at Old Trafford in 1937 and helped United to get back to the first division. He won his first international cap when he played at inside left for Ireland against Norway in Dublin in 1937. The game ended in a 3-3 draw and Carey played well.

The war interrupted international competition but, when official competitions were resumed, Johnny was chosen to captain the Rest of Europe against Britain at Hampden Park in 1947. He went on to captain United in the 1948 FA cup final against Blackpool when United fought back from a goal down to win 4-2. Johnny won the League with United in 1952 after being runner up for three seasons in a row.



In his later years, he moved to play in defence and became one of the finest defenders in the game. He played in every position for United including taking over in goal against Chelsea on one occasion. Johnny's international career included captaining an All-Ireland team to beat England 2-0 at Goodison Park in 1949. On one famous weekend, he was on a Northern Ireland team that played England in Belfast on a Saturday and he lined out for the Republic against England again on the Sunday. He was chosen "Footballer of the Year" in Britain in 1949. Johnny ended his football career in Management with clubs Blackburn Rovers, Leyton Orient and Nottingham Forest.

Johnny Carey was elected Row Man of the year in 1987 and we have some great photographs and articles as well as a lovely letter from Johnny to Michael Coady, Secretary of the PPU. These are treasured items in our PPU archive. Johnny died at his home near Manchester in 1995.

## **GERRY MACKEY**

One of the best players ever to play for Ireland, Gerry Mackey was Row Man of the year in 1989. Gerry played Hurling and Gaelic Football for Star of the Sea and The Row as well as Clan Na Gael. He commenced his soccer career with Johnville and captained the Irish Schoolboys and Youth International teams before joining Shamrock Rovers in 1951. Gerry was a member of the famous "Coad's Colts" team of the mid-fifties – early sixties during which time he won every honour in the game as well as captaining the League of Ireland and Irish International teams. He was a member of the first ever Republic of Ireland team to play England at Wembley in 1956. Gerry also had a very successful career in business with Irish Shell and BP Ltd. Gerry lives in Shankill Dublin and still manages a good game of golf at his favourite club, Castle in Rathfarnham. He is a past Captain of The Row Golf Society and a regular supporter of PPU events.



*Gerry in action in F.A.I. Cup Final 1956 vs. Jimmy Delaney of Cork, stopping a hat trick of cup medals for Jimmy, English, Irish and Scottish*



**RAY TREACY**

## *Ray Treacy*



*1946 - 2015*

Row Man of the Year 1996, Ray Treacy, won 42 caps for Ireland and scored 5 goals. Ray was installed in the FAI Hall of Fame but he had a great line in self-deprecation. Where others gloried in their deeds, Ray made little of his ability. He told the story of how then Irish manager, Liam Touhy, said to him "Ray, my missus can run faster than you". Ray would agree with Liam but add "but I could run all day". Ray played in England for West Bromwich Albion, Charlton,



Preston and Swindon and for Shamrock Rovers at home. Ray said that his finest hour in an Irish jersey was the game against the USSR in the European Championship in 1974 in Dalymount Park when he partnered Don Givens up front and Don scored a hat trick in the 3-0 win. Unfortunately, Ray was taken from us at too young an age when he died aged 68 in April 2015.

### ***CONOR DWYER***



Seen here wearing his Ireland jersey when he was capped at under 16 level against England in Tolka Park whilst still at school in “the Row”, Conor hailed from the Shelbourne Road/South Lotts Road area like many a Row lad before and since. Conor had a short but very successful career with Home Farm before he emigrated to England and then on to Australia where he had a very successful career in the Insurance industry. Conor retired in 2006 and lives in a lovely villa on a golf course on the Gold Coast. He is one of the Class of ‘62 boys who are in regular touch.

## **CRICKET, HOCKEY and RUGBY**

A trawl through the history of the Railway Union Sports Club on Park Avenue, Sandymount throws up the names and achievements of many past pupils of The Row.

The club was established in 1904 originally for Cricket and quickly added Hockey, Rugby and many other sports all of which attracted pupils of the school who lived in the area.

The Cricket Club still regards Row Man of the Year 2008, Brendan “Ginger” O’Brien as one of its outstanding players. Ginger scored 21,765 runs in 705 senior appearances, a Leinster record. He won 52 caps for Ireland many of these as Captain. Ginger’s sons, Niall and Kevin are current Irish internationals and played with distinction in recent World cups. His daughter, Ciara has over 150 Irish Hockey caps.

Past Pupil, Dessie Byrne (RIP) is also mentioned with distinction. Described as “Stumper Supreme” Dessie played for 32 years from 1955 to 1987 and had 478 dismissals in 493 appearances. These included an amazing 254 stumpings to go with 224 catches.



***The above is the Railway Union team that won the Leinster Senior Cup in 1960. Ginger O’Brien is second from the left in the back row and Dessie Byrne is the last man on the right in the back row.***



Our Annual Dinner MC, Frank Whelan, also comes in for special mention not only for his ability with bat and ball but as an administrator. Frank served as President of the Leinster Cricket Union in 2005 and 2006 and was the LCU delegate to the Irish Cricket Union in those years also.

The Club history also pays tribute to many other Row boys such as the Donnelly brothers, Des (Row Man of the Year 2010), Brian and John, Jack Phelan, Cyril and Des Stirrat.

Pembroke Wanderers Cricket Club is a near neighbour to Railway Union in Sandymount and it also attracted a number of Row boys to its ranks over many years. The most famous past pupil was Stanley Bergin who won 53 caps for Ireland between 1949 and 1965.

The above are just a few of the many past pupils who enjoyed their sporting days in Railway Union and other sports clubs in the Sandymount area. I'm sure that many other Row Boys played on their teams down the years and benefited from the development and camaraderie it gave them.



***A fine body of men: the Donnelly brothers, Paul, Brian, Des and John seen here at the Annual Dinner 2014. They all feature prominently in the sporting annals of Railway Union.***