



THE
EMMET
REVIEW

— — —
PUBLICATION OF THE
CUSHENDUN HURLING CLUB

— — —
VOL. 1 1971

EDITORS NOTES

This first published annual report of Cushendun Emmets is not meant to be a magazine. It is meant to give information of what has been happening in the Club during the past year with some general information on other matters of interest.

For too long, very few outside an inner circle had any idea of what is entailed in running even a small club like our own. Furthermore, there have been complaints that very few knew about the financial state of the Club, about how much money the Club raised from the few functions it held during the year, or about how much was spent. It is hoped that this report will remedy some of these deficiencies. It will, of necessity, be short this year, but with more time, enthusiasm and effort it would be quite possible to expand and enlarge on this, our first attempt.

No promise will be given on when a further issue will appear. Much will depend on the reception and reaction to this one. At any rate, we would welcome any advice and helpful criticism.

Ideas or articles for publication in a future issue would be very welcome, and these should be sent to the club Secretary, Knocknacarry.

There will be no charge for this issue, in order that as many people as possible will be able to read, and we hope, find interest in it. However, any further issue will carry a nominal charge to cover the costs of production.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM 1st MARCH 1971

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Weekly Draw	£110.68	Hurls & Balls	£108.62
Concert	£46.45	Registration & Entry Fees	£28.49
Home Gates	£11.65	Posters & Ads	£12.30
Dance	£5.00	Minibus	£44.00
Sports	£60.00	Bank Charges	£2.36
	<hr/>	Goal Posts etc	£98.37
	£233.78	Parts for Mower	£11.40
Excess expend. over income	£71.76		<hr/>
	<hr/>		£305.54
	£305.54		
Cash in bank	1/3/1971	£45.30	
Overdraft bank	8/12/71	£26.46	
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		£71.76	

It is worth noting an income of £110.68 from the weekly draw which is now discontinued. An item of expenditure £98.37 is a debt which was owed for the new goal posts, guards for Strand House windows and material for the changing rooms. Attention is also drawn to the fact that we have an overdraft of £26.46 and this is not a very healthy position to be in at the start of a new year.

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REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 7th MARCH 1971

The following officers were elected at the above meeting. How far all, or any of them functioned will not be commented on but at least this publication of their names may prick a few consciences.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Daniel O'Hara
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Turlough McKeegan
<u>Secretary:</u>	Malachy McSparran
<u>Treasurers:</u>	S. McGreer B. McLister
<u>Manager:</u>	Alex McKay
<u>Assistants to Manager:</u>	D. McQuillan D. McKeegan
<u>Groundsman:</u>	Dennis McKillop
<u>Trainer:</u>	John Brogan
<u>Skip Carrier:</u>	P. Hamilton
<u>Team Captain:</u>	Dan McKeegan
<u>Selection Committee:</u>	Alex McKay D. McKeegan
<u>Belfast Sub-Committee:</u>	D. O'Hara H. O'Hara
<u>Entertainments Committee:</u>	F. McCormick S. McGreer D. McKillop P. Hamilton D. McQuillan

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"SCOR 72"

What is Scor 72? Briefly, Scor 72 is the name given to the Talent contest sponsored by the G.A.A. Most of you will remember last year, when the Divisional heats of this competition were held in Cushendall Parochial Hall. The Cushendun team acquitted themselves quite well last year, and indeed two members, Daniel O'Hara and Kieran McHugh, went on to contest the County Finals, where they were highly placed. The following is a list of Competitions for the 1971/72 season.

1. Recitation
2. Solo Song or Ballad Singing
3. Motion Speaking
4. Ceili or Figure Dancing
5. Question Time
6. Instrumental Music
7. Set Dancing
8. Ballad Groups.

The secretary would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to take part in any of these competitions.

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S PLAYING ACTIVITIES

The Club, at Senior level, took part in 3 competitions – Intermediate Championship, Feis Cup 2nd Division and All-County League 2nd Division.

At Juvenile level Emmet Og's took part in the Minor League and Championship and in the under-15 tournament. In addition, several of our young players helped Glenariff in the under-16 competitions.

Undoubtedly, the high point of the year was the winning of the Feis Cup for the first time. It was a victory which came at the right time, for morale was at a very low ebb after elimination from the Intermediate Championship. After a very easy victory over Carey in the semi-final, the Team produced their best form of the year at the Feis and their skill and determination gave them a deserved victory over fancied Armoy.

If the winning of the Feis Cup was the high point of the year, the Club's defeat in the new Intermediate Championship at Loughgiel was the low point. This was a game which should never have been lost. Perhaps the very easy victory over Carey a couple of weeks before gave rise to over confidence, but whatever the reason, Carey turned the tables this time with a narrow victory.

The League programme was an up-and-down affair, with victories over the top teams and defeats by the lower teams. The result meant a struggle to avoid relegation, and although we had a final total of 12 points, it was only 2 points above St Gall's who were 2nd from the bottom.

Many seemed to think that the team's bad run co-incided with the injury to Mick O'Neill and indeed, better results came with his return. Good service was given throughout the year by the McKeegan brothers, while Paddy Kinney was a useful acquisition. Top scorer for the year was "Akkie", while our goalie, Kevin McHenry had many fine games.

This was the worst year in recent times for our Minor Team. The expected help from Carey did not materialise and we were left with fielding a very young side. Not one victory was recorded, but with practically the same side available next year, better results are hoped for.

The under-15 team fared better, and after a big victory over Carey, they accounted for Dunloy in the semi-final. In the final, they went down to a strong Ballycastle side.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The first organised G.A.A. team in Cushendun was formed about the year 1903, although there was a tradition in hurling in the area long before this. Lord Cushendun, in his memoirs, tells that his grandfather was known to be the best hurler in the Glens. We know for certain that Cushendun took part in the Hurling tournament at the first Feis, which was held in 1904. It was at this time that the famous Roger Casement was very active in Gaelic affairs. He took a keen interest in the preparations for the Feis and even acted as an umpire at the hurling matches. The Cushendun team was eliminated in the first round by Carey, who were the eventual winners of the Shield of the Heroes.

As this all happened nearly 70 years ago, it is hard to get much information about the players of those days but the last member of that team, Pat Keenan, only died a couple of years ago. We know that Cushendun were known as the Brian Borus and that the captain was Bob McKay. Other stalwarts that we know of in those days were Archie McKay, Johnny Connor, Mick McHenry and Hugh McCollam who was the goalkeeper.

A few years after 1904, the Cushendun team reached the County final, but were defeated by the famous "Crowleys" in a match which was played at Beechmount in Belfast. In those days, the keenest tussels were with their North Antrim rivals – Carey, who became County Champions in 1906, Glenarm, who were known as the "Shauns", and Ballycastle. The backbone of the team at that time consisted of the Hennon brothers – Tom and Dan, the McNeill brothers – John and Neal Roe, John (now Canon) McSparran and James McNeill (Andy). Tom Hannon, who was born in County Offaly, was reckoned to be one of the finest hurlers ever to be seen in the North.

It was not, however, until 1931 that the first big success came to Cushendun, who were known as the Robert Emmets. This was the year in which the Senior County Championship (the Donnelly Cup) came to Cushendun. The team which did duty in the final and in the replay (for the final was a draw), was James McDonnell, James McAllister, Alex Delargy, Jim McBride, John McLoughlin, John Gore, Hugh McGavock, Jim McHenry, Harry Scally, Archie McSparran, Alex McKay, Neil Delargy, Denis McKeegan, Dan McCormick and Paddy McQuaige.

The results of the replayed final was Emmets 4 goals and 6 points, O'Connells 2 goals and 3 points.

In our next issue we hope to include a description of these games by a reporter of that time, and to bring our own historical notes up to the present day.

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PROFILE

In each of our publications, we hope to include a pen-picture of a member past or present. First choice is our present Captain – Dan McKeegan.

Dan is one of 3 brothers who, although now resident in Cushendall, have served the Emmets since they were schoolboys. Dan was first of all a goalkeeper and then centre-half back for the minors. As an under-21 player, he was picked for Antrim, and his good steady displays for the County team resulted in his selection at right full back for the Senior County side last year. He has been an automatic choice ever since. A county selector paid him a tribute last week when he said that Dan was one of the fittest men on the Antrim team.

He has served his club with no less brilliance, and this year his sterling displays in the defence have meant much to Cushendun. On or off the field, Dan is a quiet individual who has never been cautioned by a referee, and as such, is an inspiring example to his team-mates.

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| 1. They say the Swans of Lir so Royal
Banished to our northern shores,
Settled on the Sea of Moyle
Not far from Liganairgid.
When ere they saw
This fair shore
They flapper their wings
And flew right in
To the field of Liganairgid | 2. When Cushendun possessed a ferry
Which daily plied to Scotland's shore
With Glensmen and their stock galore
They sailed from Liganairgid
See their sails
White as snow
Carry vessels as they go
From the pier at Liganairgid |
| 3. A change of scene takes place again
Instead of ships are hurling men
Upholding the name of their dear glen
In the rigs at Liganairgid
In their black and green
How the play!
And many trophies came to stay
From the rigs at Liganairgid. | 4. On we come to a later date
To be precise 1968
Rigs are now quite out of date
They're bulldozed at Liganairgid.
See, what a change
Where Emmets range
You'd think it Croke
Or Casement Park
This field at Liganairgid |

M.O'H.

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ROUND-UP OF G.A.A. AFFAIRS IN CO. ANTRIM

This year was the first for many years in which all the leagues and championships were completed. This was due to the efforts of the new League Management Committee, which was set up this year. This Committee was responsible for arranging all football and hurling fixtures in the county and strict rules were enforced regarding all matches, which had to be played on the date and at the time specified. Fines were imposed for breach of these rules and it is interesting to note that in this, the first year of operation, over £200 was collected.

Some of the rules which are important to note are:-

1. Entry fee to the County Hurling League shall be £15.
2. All matches must be played, irrespective of County commitments.
3. Any club failing to fulfil arranged fixtures shall be fined £10 per failure.
4. Three such failures shall render a club liable to elimination from the competition.
5. Each Club participating in the Leagues shall provide a referee who is acceptable to the Management Committee, and failure to comply with this regulation shall result in the entry fee being increased by the sum of £10.
6. All matches shall commence at the time arranged. Penalty for infringement:- After 10 minutes....fine of £5;
After 15 minutes....fine of £10 and loss of points.

Results of 1971 competitions

Senior Championship and 1 st Division of the League	Loughgiel
Second Division of the League	Sarsfields
Third Division of the League	Ardoyne
Reserve Division of the League	Loughgiel
Junior Championship	Gael Uladh

North Antrim

Feis Cup Senior.....	Ballycastle
Feis Cup Junior	Cushendun
McMullan Cup and Under-16 League	Ballycastle
Junior Championship	Loughgiel
Minor Championship	Dunloy
Under 15 Championship	Ballycastle