

GAELIC SPORTS CLUB LUXEMBOURG ASBL



# NEWSLETTER

CUMANN BÁIRE GAEIL LUCSAMBÚRG ASBL



The wedding took place on 15 May 2010 at Lough Rynn Castle, county Leitrim, of two of the GSCL's most highly valued members: Lizzy Murphy of Old Leighlin, county Carlow, who has made an enormous contribution to the Club's camogie and ladies' football teams, and Tadhg Dunne of Blarney, county Cork, prominent hurler and footballer with the GSCL. The happy event was attended by many members of the Club. We all wish Lizzy and Tadhg the very best over the decades ahead.



*Front: l. to r. Eoin Mullins; Aisling Martin; Mairéad Doyle; Lizzy Dunne; Jeannie Browne; Brendan O'Callaghan; Louise O'Connor; Áine Coughlan; Arraya Haughney. Fionnuala Meehan.*

*Back row, l. to r. Garret Kelleher; Peter Farnon; Keith Hyland; Tadhg Dunne; Shane Harnedy; John O'Donoghue; Robert Roche; John Haughney.*

KELTISCH SPILLER LËTZEBUERG ASBL



## GENERAL INFORMATION

As laid down in its statutes, the main objectives of the Gaelic Sports Club Luxembourg [GSCL] are the promotion and organization of Gaelic games, the provision of adequate facilities and the promotion of Gaelic and other sporting activities within the Community institutions and elsewhere. The following are the Club members with training and games management functions:

### Camogaíocht (Camogie):

Fiona Byrne  
Sarah Enright  
Síle Moloney

### Iomáint (Hurling):

Damien Higgins  
Eoin Mullins  
Henry Abbott

### Peil Ghaelach (Gaelic Football):

Brendan O'Callaghan  
Dónal Shivnan

### Peil na mBan (Ladies' Football)

Elizabeth Murphy  
Karen O'Mahony  
Norma O'Sullivan

Central contact:  
secretary.luxembourg.europe@gaa.ie

<http://luxembourg.europe.gaa.ie>



## Training

### Football:

Tuesdays and Fridays at 19.30

### Venue:

Stade Boy Konen, 3 rue des Sports, Cessange,  
L-2548 Luxembourg, on city bus routes 2 and 4.

For more on training, please e-mail:  
secretary.luxembourg.europe@gaa.ie

## Membership

To become a GSCL member or to renew your annual subscription, simply:

- (1) e-mail secretary.luxembourg.europe@gaa.ie with your contact details and
- (2) transfer the appropriate sum (€50 ordinary members, €25 students/unwaged) to the following bank account:

BIC BILLULL (Dexia),  
IBAN LU24 0021 1375 5690 0000  
(Gaelic Sports Club Luxembourg)

## Mementos

For those interested in a memento of the Club, a wide range of unique items are available, including: special GSCL mugs made by Carrigaline Pottery; polo tops, track suits and jerseys. Also, the GSCL club history: More than a Sporting Experience is available.

For further information, please e-mail:  
secretary.luxembourg.europe@gaa.ie

Proof copy – not for sale



## “Slán agaibh” ó Ambasadóir na hÉireann, a shoilse Máirtín de Búrca Uasal, do Chumann Báire Gaeil Lucsambúrg ag Mensdorf, 12 Meitheamh 2010

*[His Excellency Ambassador Martin Burke said farewell to the GSCL]*



*Back row, l. to r.:* Eoin MacDomhnaill (OCP); Phil McKenna (Club sponsor); Eoghan Ó hAnnracháin (Stairí); Eoin Mullins; Damien Higgins (Rúnaí); Dónal Shivnan; Brian Devanney; Martin Burke (Ambassador of Ireland); Brian Kelly; Kieran Bacon; Andrew Donnellan; Damien Hegarty; John Keane; Henry Abbott (Club President).

*Front row, l. to r.:* Chris Shepherdson; John O'Donoghue; Cathal Davey; Robbie Carthy; Tadhg Dunne; Brendan O'Callaghan; Micheál O'Connell; Fiachra O'Neill; Daragh Connolly; Morgan Ferriter (Cisteoir); Darren Boland.



### **Liberty Lads/Luxembourg B – Mensdorf 2010**

*Ar cúl, c-d,* Rob Mullen (Baile Átha Cliath), Billy Foley (Trá Lí), Tom O'Doherty (GSCL), Danny Harvey (GSCL/An Clár), Karol Kerrane (Dun na nGall), Steve Bourke (Baile Átha Cliath), Ambassador Martin Burke, Aidan O'Sullivan (GSCL), Peter Sullivan (GSCL), Tom Conachy (An Lú), Ciaran Casey (Baile Átha Cliath)

*Chun tosaigh, c-d,* Peter Gilsenen (St. Judes, Baile Átha Cliath) Mike O'Brien (Trá Lí), Eóin Mac Domhnaill (GSCL), John O'Donoghue, Alan Mullen (Baile Átha Cliath), Ronan Carroll (Cábán tSíle), Baile Átha Cliath, Peter Dore (GSCL), Darren Boland (GSCL)



## Gaelic football tournament at Mensdorf



## Three Laois Men

Pictured are, from left, Laois men Joseph Lalor, Paddy Lalor and Colm O'Neill. They are long-standing friends of the GSCL. For many years, Colm was a pillar of the GSCL teams in both hurling and football, and he was Club trainer and motivator from the early days until he returned to Ireland; he now resides in north county Wicklow. Paddy Lalor played on the great Laois hurling team that reached the 1949 All-Ireland final. Active in politics for most of his life, he was T.D for many years, and Minister, Member of the European Parliament, Quaestor and Vice-President of the European Parliament. From the outset, he was a supporter of the GSCL and attended many Club events. In the great hurling match in Würzburg on 11 July 1993<sup>1</sup>, he played as goalkeeper for our team. On several occasions, Joseph Lalor also played with great flair for our hurlers.

<sup>1</sup> See "More than a Sporting Experience", p.48.







### GSCL Ladies Football team at Maastricht

Front row, l. to r.: Lizzy Dunne; Deirdre Gleeson; Lauren Harris; Fiona Byrne; Marie Murphy.

Back row, l. to r.: Suzie Glynn; Aoife Hayes; Síle Moloney; Joe McGrath; Maura Clifford; Mairéad Craddock.



### GSCL's Men's Football team at Maastricht

Front row, l. to r.: John O'Donoghue; Michael O'Connell; Eoin MacDomhnaill; John Keane; Brendan O'Callaghan; Chris Shepherdson; Morgan Ferriter; Tadhg Dunne.

Back row, l. to r.: Damien Hegarty; Peter Dore; Brendan O'Sullivan; Cathal Davey; Damien Higgins; Brian Kelly; Peter Donnelly; Dónal Shivan; Keiran Bacon; Mossy Crilly.



## Nassogne

The town of Nassogne [which is about half-way between Luxembourg and Brussels] is a place of great historical and cultural importance. The GSCL was represented at the annual manifestations held there on 16 May last. An ancient spa in Celtic times, Nassogne became a place of rest and recuperation in the days of the Roman Empire. The Emperor Flavius Valentinian (321-375 A.D.) was among those who visited it. This last great Roman Emperor of the west fought the German invaders and set up his base for a time at Lutetia – later known as Paris. Nassogne is famous because of an Irishman named Monon who travelled to Rome in the early part of the 7th century. There he met Jean l'Agneau, bishop of Liège, who encouraged Monon to go to the central Ardennes area to bring Christianity. He was successful in his work, but was killed by a gang of bandits from the nearby hamlet of Forrières. But his reputation was so great that the people of Nassogne have kept his memory green until now.



About 130 years after his death, king Pepin the Short (715-768)<sup>1</sup> who constructed a great state between the Rhine and the Atlantic Ocean, was so impressed by the legends about Monon that he handed over his jewelled diadem to help finance a chapter of canons. This chapter of canons – which continued to be financed by Pepin's successors – survived at Nassogne until the time of the French Revolution.

Each year on Saint Monon's day his reliquary is taken in procession around Nassogne in an event known as the remuages, past a commemorative chapel and an ancient well. The local farmers brush green branches against the sarcophagus and these are kept until the following year. When a major outbreak of foot and mouth disease ravaged northern Europe in 1937/8, the people of

Nassogne besought Monon to protect their stock – which escaped the disease. This strengthened Monon's reputation, and a plaque in the village commemorates the phenomenon.

The annual procession is a folk event of great antiquity<sup>2</sup>. The people conserve an iron handbell which they believe was the property of Monon. Such handbells



had special significance in early Christian Ireland; Saint Patrick had a bell maker named Laeban and a bell ringer named Sinell.

Craobh Naomh Fiachra of Comhaltas put on a great display of music, song and dance. His Excellency Mr. Bryan Nason, Irish Ambassador to Belgium, also attended. We were welcomed by the youthful and dynamic sagart who, incidentally, made the pilgrimage from Namur to Compostella, averaging 37 kilometers a day.

<sup>1</sup> Son of Charles Martel, Pepin was of rather short stature, he married the statuesque *Berthe aux Grands Pieds* (Big Bertha); their children – including Charlemagne – were quite tall. Charlemagne was crowned emperor by the pope at Rome on Christmas day 800.

<sup>2</sup> For more on Nassogne and the GSCL link, see the history of the GSCL, *More than a Sporting Experience*, pp. 44/5.

## The Tipperary Hurler, a masterpiece by Séan C eitinn

**B**orn in Limerick city in 1889, S e n C eitinn (Keating) was probably the greatest Irish painter of the 20th century. A good account of his work is contained in  imear O’Connor’s book, *S e n Keating in Focus*, published by the Hunt Museum last year. S e n (d. 1977) was president of the Royal Hibernian Academy. His son, Justin Keating, was a Labour Party minister in the 1970s.

One of S e n’s finest works was *The Tipperary Hurler*. This painting was first exhibited at Amsterdam in 1928 in the context of the Olympic Games and was eventually donated to the Hugh Lane collection by Patric Farrell, an Irish-American who had an art gallery in New York. The author,  imear O’Connor, described the subject in the painting as a “virile, independent sportsman who symbolised the new Irish male in the new Free State”. This painting is, according to Michael Parsons, the only significant work of art with a GAA theme in Irish State ownership.

The Tipperary hurlers won almost all their games between 1922 and 1927. The painting started out as a draft study of John Joe Hayes who was on the Tipperary team in Croke Park for the All-Ireland final of 1925. The model for the completed version was Ben O’Hickey (1899-1965). A native of Bansha and a founder member of the organisation that won a measure of freedom for Ireland, he was arrested in 1919 and jailed in Cork, he was transferred to Derry and later to Mountjoy jail. He escaped and joined Tom Barry’s flying column of the Third Cork Brigade. Wounded and captured, he was sentenced to death. On the morning set for his execution, the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life and he was imprisoned in England. Following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921, O’Hickey studied in the Metropolitan School of Art in



Dublin and modelled for several of C eitinn’s paintings. He was also an artist in his own right.

In an article written for the West Tipperary GAA Convention Handbook, January 18th 1997, Mr. S e mus J. King, author of numerous books<sup>1</sup> on GAA themes, reported that the jersey in the painting may have been that of the Galtee Rovers club of the 1920s<sup>2</sup>; the hurley was made by O’Hickey’s father, Tom.

1 One of his finest works is the beautifully illustrated *The Clash of the Ash in Foreign Fields*.

2 Others consider that the jersey may have been that of the Commercials Hurling Club which was founded in 1886 and was based in the Phoenix Park. That Club had a large Limerick membership.





## Amhrán Náisiúnta Lucsambúrg

### Ons Heemecht

Wou d'Uelzecht duerech d'Wisen zéit,  
duerch d'Fielsen d'Sauer brécht.  
Wou d'Rief laanscht d'Musel dofteg bléit,  
den Himmel Wäin ons mécht.

Dat as onst Land fir dat mer géif  
heinidden alles wo'n, eist Heemechtsland  
dat mir sou déif an onsen Hierzer dro'n,  
onst Heemechtsland, dat mir sou déif an onsen Hierzer dro'n.

[Michel Lentz]

### An Tír seo 'gainne

Cá luíonn Alzette faoi mhóin 's spéir  
Cár bhris an Sauer trínn ngleann.  
Nach aoibhinn Mosel, blas fionchaor  
Áit bhronn Neamh 'rainn ár bhfíon.

Mar sin atá ár dtír chaoín féin  
Ár ndílseacht dí go deo.  
Ár dtírín féin, a thuill ár ngrá  
Ár gcroíthe is ár ndóigh.

[An tUasal Aidan Mulloy, Ambasadóir na hÉireann a d'aistrigh]

### Our Homeland

Where Alzette through the meadow flows  
Where Sauer through the cliff-side breaks  
Where Mosel's wine-scent gently blows  
And Heaven our good wine makes.

There lies the land for which our thanks  
Are due to God above.  
Our own, our native land that ranks  
Foremost in all our love.

