

GAELIC SPORTS CLUB LUXEMBOURG ASBL



NEWSLETTER

CUMANN BÁIRE GAEIL LUCSAMBURG ASBL

Church of Saint Michel



A harsh winter...

Because of the harsh weather over the winter, little outdoor training was done by the GSCL. The photograph of Saint Michel (highest steeple, top of photo) gives a striking image of the snowy conditions that prevailed. Saint Michel, on the east side of the city, reflects the history of the Grand Duchy's capital. First consecrated on 5 November 987, the church was damaged many times over the centuries by fire and bombardment – see also page 8. It has many Irish links: in 1712, the curé there was Michael Corcoran. It is also the church in which Cathal and Julie Davey were married.

KELTISCH SPILLER LËTZEBUERG ASBL

GSCL Committee

The Committee for 2011 as elected on 25 November 2010 is as follows:

Uachtarán: Henry Abbott
Leas-Uachtarán: Brian Killeen
Rúnaí: Chris Shephardson
Cisteoir: Eóin Mac Domhnaill
PRO: Damien Higgins
Club Development Officer: Tadhg Dunne
Webmaster: Dónal Shivnan
Registrar: Eoin Mullins

Baill: Sarah Enright; Karen O'Mahony; Fiona Byrne, Peter Sullivan, Benny O'Callaghan, Aidan O'Sullivan, Micheál O'Connell and Brendan O'Sullivan

Ex-officio Members:

Airchinneach: Phil McKenna
Staráí: Eoghan Ó hAnnracháin

John Molloy was re-appointed **honorary auditor**.

The AGM conferred the following specific managerial roles:

Hurling: Damien Higgins
Camóige: Fiona Byrne
Peil: Tadhg Dunne
Peil na mBan: Karen O'Mahony and Brian Wall

Membership

Membership fees are due for renewal from the 1 January 2011. To renew your subscription or to join GSCL simply e-mail secretary.luxembourg.europe@gaa.ie with your contact details and 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 asbl)

Training

Football:

See website for information.

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

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

<http://www.luxgaa.lu/>

Autumn in Luxembourg



Winter in Luxembourg



Work experience in Luxembourg

GSCL often receive queries from prospective “stagiaires” asking if we know of any companies looking to take students on. Up until now we have dealt with these queries on an *ad hoc* basis emailing CVs and helping out where we can. After all, many of us first came to Luxembourg as Stagiaires. We are tidying up our contact list so that we can better help companies looking for stagiaires and help students who may be looking for student placements.

If you or the company you work with hire students and would like to be added to our contact list, please email on your contact details (or the person that deals with student recruitment) with some information on the job description to secretary.luxembourg.europe@gaa.ie. All prospective CVs will be then be forwarded to the interested employers.

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.

This is a proof copy for comments and not for sale.

A very worthwhile training session



It was an extremely cold morning but rapt concentration shows on the faces of the players

Left to right:
Brendan O'Callaghan, Emmet Healion, Éamonn Fitzmaurice, Kieran Bacon, Tom Walsh, Damien Higgins

As the cover of this Newsletter shows, weather conditions over the winter were unfavourable, so it was decided to start the year with a full fitness and training session guided by a really top class mentor. We selected Éamonn Fitzmaurice from Lixnaw in the north of county Kerry. Éamonn is holder of three All-Ireland senior football medals and six Munster senior medals – as well as many other club honours. Only in Kerry would the winning of national league medals and under-age medals at county level struggle for mention in a career roll of honour. A dual player, he comes from a compact region where there has been a pocket of hurling from time immemorial.

After retiring from inter-county duty at the young age of 29, he was shrewdly recruited by Kerry manager, Jack O'Connor to become

a selector for the senior Kerry county football team. The first season, 2009, brought another All-Ireland to the Kingdom. Following an eventful 2010 campaign, Éamonn announced his intention to take some time



Left to right:
Brendan O'Callaghan, Brian Wall, Éamonn Fitzmaurice, Cathal Davey (hidden), Micheal O'Connell



Éamonn Fitzmaurice, Emmet Healion, Chris Shepherdson (hidden), Eoin MacDomhnaill, Kieran Bacon

out from the inter-county scene and engage at the local level. However, it is probable that he will not be absent from the top for long because Jack O'Connor has tipped him as a future Kerry manager. Therefore, it was a source of great excitement in Luxembourg when this legendary player and coach accepted our invitation to visit the Grand Duchy for a coaching session with the

GSCL Gaelic football squad.

From the moment that we met him at Hahn airport, it was evident that the weekend with Éamonn promised much. He talked fluently and knowledgeably about Gaelic games and was up-to-date on the European competitions in which the GSCL participates. Saturday morning, 19 February, at Cessange was bitterly cold but Éamonn was among the first out on the pitch to set up his training plans. Twenty-three eager players attended what proved to be a memorable and most worthwhile session. He took two sessions of 75 minutes each with a break of thirty minutes between them. The sessions were energetic, well-planned, insightful and interesting for all of us. Éamonn said that he was highly impressed by the fitness and dynamism of our players. At the end, some players benefited from the attention of a sports massage provided by Limerick man, Gareth McKeon.

To conclude his visit, after lunch, Éamonn took a Q. and A. session lasting an hour in which he covered a wide range of issues and gave us insights in the life of being a top county player and all it entails. It was a fascinating presentation by a very fit sportsman – which we very



Eoghan Ó hAnnracháin and Éamonn Fitzmaurice

much appreciated. At the end, Éamonn was presented by mementos on behalf of the Club, whereupon this thoughtful Kerry man showed he had one more trick up his sleeve: out of his kitbag, he took a football which was signed by all the players on the present Kerry county panel. It is an item which we were delighted to receive and which will serve as a fund-raising item. As Eoghan said in the closing well-chosen words, it was a great pleasure and a privilege to make the acquaintance of this affable Kerry man – who is an authority on the fitness and skills required at the top



Left to right: Shane O'Brien, Peter Sullivan, Henry Abbot, Brian Wall, Cathal Davey, Damien Hlggins, Eamonn Fitzmaurice, Morgan Ferriter, Brendan O'Callaghan, Shane O'Donovan, Eamonn Dunne, Tom Walsh

of Gaelic games - and to benefit from the advice and training tips he dispensed.

Indoor training



Left to right (back row): Simon Mulholland, John Molloy, Secil. Hekimoglu, Ivan Matuska, Edison Meqa, Pat Drennan

Left to right (front row) Geoff Bitten, Ed Ribeiro, Patrice Louisar, Jan Planovsky

Dates for the Calendar – 2011: European Championships

Hurling and Camóige

Den Haag, 7 May
Budapest 28 May
Zurich 25 June
Belgium 23 July.

Women's Football

Luxembourg, 9 April
Barcelona, 11 June
Munich, 9 July 2011
Maastricht, 13 August
Belgium, 10 September
Guernsey, 8 October;
Limerick, 5 November – European Finals.

Men's Football

Benelux Rounds

Luxembourg, 9 April
Amsterdam, 14 May
Frankfurt, 11 June;
Den Haag, Fourth Round, 9 July.

Pan-European Rounds

Belgium, 10 September
Guernsey, 8 October;
Limerick, 5 November – European Finals.

On the Road Again

As our games spread all over the continent the European GAA calendar has grown and grown. The club is determined to field teams in all four codes again this year and the 2011 Championships will take us all over Europe discovering new Cities and returning to old favourites before finishing up back in Ireland where the European finals will take place for the first time in Limerick. Tadhg, Karen and Brian will use the opportunity to take to the field in Gaelic Grounds in Limerick for the finals to encourage our footballers as they compete all around Europe. The Limerick Finals are part of the City's year as the European City of Sport and will allow the Club to catch up with former players who are back in Ireland and will hopefully have the opportunity to cheer Luxembourg on in the Finals on the same programme as the Limerick County finals.

The season begins much closer to home. GSCL will return to Stade Renert in Berbourg on the 9 April with the Men's and Women's teams playing in our home football tournament, The Black Stuff 7's. It's the first round of both the Benelux Football Championship and the 7-round women's football competition. Our home tournament is always great day out. Our hosts FC Berdenia Berbourg will be manning the Bar and grill and traditional entertainment has been arranged. It's a great way to start the summer in Luxembourg.

The women will travel to Barcelona in June for what is likely to be a very competitive tournament given the popularity of the game in Iberia. They will travel to Munich in July and to Maastricht in August on the same day of the Men's Maastricht 7's competition. The men and women will travel together for the final three rounds in Belgium, Guernsey and the Finals in Limerick.

The Benelux men's tournament will involve games in Amsterdam and Frankfurt with the final taking place in

Den Haag on the 9 July. Tadhg and his management team are working towards fielding competitive teams in both the Championship and the Shield Pan-European rounds. The competition in Belgium will probably take place in Leuven University which is a great venue in a Beautiful town. The Pan-European round in Guernsey will be something of a novelty. The Channel Island teams are very competitive and have played in British competitions in the recent past. Travelling there will involve a bit of planning and probably some more fund-raising. The final in Limerick will be a great event, let's hope that GSCL are on the field in the Gaelic Grounds and not in the stands.

The Hurling and Camóige competition is sticking to the same 4 round format that was a success last year. Unfortunately there is no space on this Calendar for a Luxembourg tournament but this year will see the involvement of more teams than ever before and one new venue. The competition opens in Den Haag in May. The second round will be in Budapest at the end of the month. This is the furthest east the Hurling competition has been. The Zurich tournament is always a favourite trip of the Luxembourg Hurlers. This year the competition is tucked between the *Nationalfeierdag* - Grand Duke's Birthday and the Rock-a-field festival. Some careful planning and easing back on the Cremant could be the making of a great week! The finals will take place in Belgium in July.

Travelling to Tournaments around Europe is part of the charm of Gaelic Games on the continent. Put the dates in your calendar now, with some forward planning the costs can be kept low. Supporters are always welcome at the Tournaments, particularly supporters with Driving Licences!

Recent social events



GSCL Christmas Party

Brian Wall, Christelle Bon, Shane Mullaly, Nicola McEvoy, Shane Harnedy



GSCL Christmas Party

Fiona Byrne, Damien Higgins, Eóin MacDomhnaill, Micheál O'Connell



GSCL Christmas Party

Morgan Ferriter, Cathal Davey, Chris Shephardson



St. Patrick's Day reception

Aidan O'Sullivan, Micheál O'Connell, Peter Sullivan

GSCL Race Night

The 2011 Gaelic Sports Club Luxembourg "A Night at the Races" was held on February 25th last at the Black Stuff. There was a great crowd in attendance fancying a flutter and, by all accounts, it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The races kicked off at 9pm, with the audience entertained through all ten races by a man who became horse racing's answer to Micheal Ó Muirheartaigh for the evening – Cathal Davey. The most popular men of the evening were Chris Shephardson and Damien Higgins – the betting stall never seemed to be without a steady queue in front of it!!

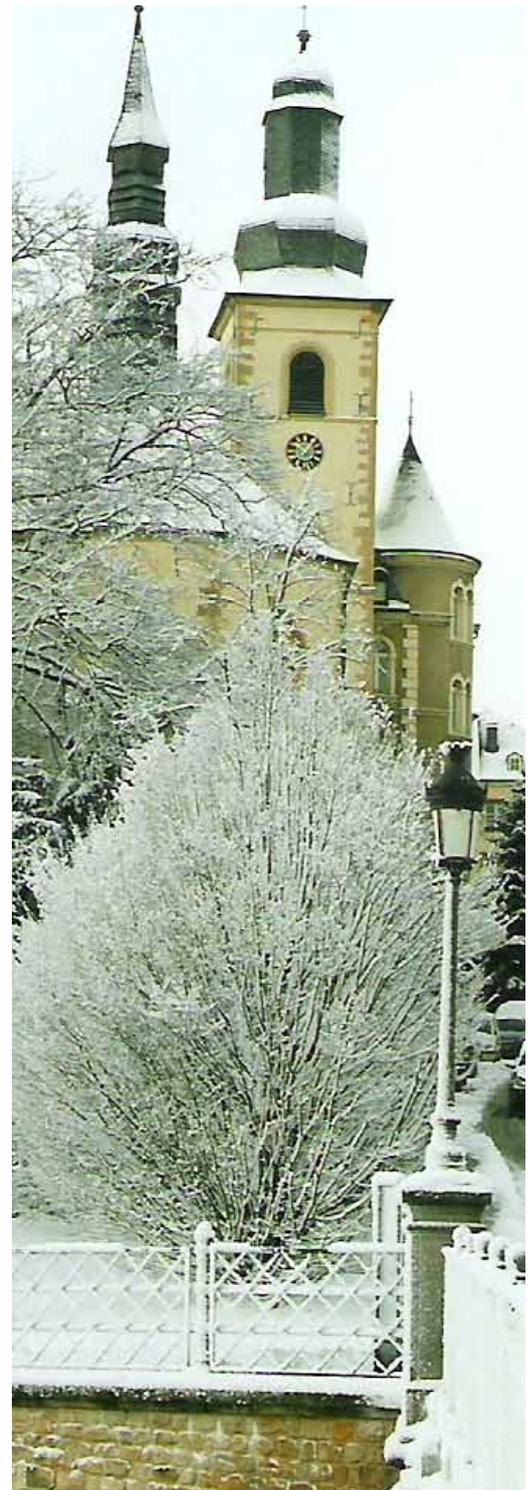
The first 9 races that took place produced over €1500 worth of prizes for winners on the evening. A big thanks must go out those who donated their winnings straight back into the club upon celebrating victory of the horses they owned and trained in advance, including Henry Abbott, Niamh Shivan, Michael Mullen and Leire Zirioncorres.

The final race of the night, the Auction Race, raised enough money to generate €500 for the winning owner. The idea of the race was for people to syndicate together and bid to buy one of the 8 horses running in the race. Nobody seemed to let Martin Cremin know this, however, winning an auction on his horse by himself at over €100 purchase price. Fittingly he went on to win the race and, in a much appreciated act of generosity, gave his winnings straight back to club. Thanks Martin!!

By the end of the night, the club had raised much-needed funds which will go towards insurance, travel subsidies and equipment costs incurred this year across all four codes in the club. Thank you to all who parted with their hard earned cash on the night for the benefit of the GSCL and as always our sponsors, the Black Stuff for their support in hosting the event.



Saint Michel and Saint Nicolas churches under French bombardment in 1683/4.



Saint Michel last winter.

These churches have many Irish connections. An interesting article about Irish marriages and baptisms in both churches during the 17th and 18th centuries will be published in *Hémécht* later this year. During the occupation of Luxembourg by the French in the 1790s, the enemy troops spared the statue that represents Saint George slaying the dragon; this work of art is still outside the church because the Revolutionary soldiers thought it represented a freedom fighter overcoming tyranny.