

GAELIC SPORTS CLUB LUXEMBOURG ASBL



NEWSLETTER

CUMANN BÁIRE GAEIL LUCSAMBURG ASBL



**Some of the GSCL camóige team medal winners
at the Etap Hotel, Zürich, 18 July 2010**

Back: l. to r.: Marie Murphy, Aoife Hayes, Suzie Glynn, Mairéad Craddock, Lauren Harris.
Front: l to r. : Síle Moloney, Niamh Delaney, Christelle Bon.

KELTISCH SPILLER LËTZEBUERG ASBL

Annual General Meeting of the Gaelic Sports Club Luxembourg asbl

The well-attended annual general meeting of the GSCL was held in the Foyer européen, rue Heine, Luxembourg city on Thursday evening, 25 November 2010. The statements of the outgoing Chairman and Secretary and the Club's accounts presented by Mr. Morgan Ferriter and audited by Mr. John Molloy, the GSCL's honorary auditor, were approved by the general meeting, and discharge was given to the outgoing treasurer and to the Committee. There followed a discussion on the training programme for the year ahead, fitness courses and finance. A new Committee, consisting of the following members, was elected:

Uachtarán: Henry Abbott

Leas-Uachtarán: Brian Killeen

Rúnaí: Chris Shephardson

Cisteoir: Eóin Mac Domhnaill

PRO: Damien Higgins

Club Development Officer: Tadhg Dunne

Webmaster: Dónal Shivanan

Registrar: Eoin Mullins

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

Ex-officio Members:

Aircinneach: 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.

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)

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

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.

The fine team photo at the top of page 5 was taken by Mr. Steve Eastwood, photographer to the journal 352 to whom we are much indebted. Most of the remaining photos were taken by Mlle. Christelle Bon – *un grand merci!*

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

An Ambasadóir Nua: Diarmuid O'Leary

Mar atá luaite sa Nuachtlitir dheireanaí, tá Ambasadóir Martin Burke imithe chuig Berne san Eilvéis. Freisin, d'fhág Claire Fitzgibbon an Ambasáid le déanaí le filleadh ar Theach Iveagh i mBaile Átha Cliath. Tá Ambasadóir nua tagtha go Lucsamburg – an Ambasadóir Diarmuid O'Leary. Roimhe seo, d'oibrigh sé in Ambasáidí na hÉireann i Riyadh agus i mBerne agus le Cúnamh Éireann. Chaith sé seal sa Bhruiséal le Buanionadaíocht chuig an AE, le linn na hama seo ghlac sé páirt i gcomórtas Black Stuff 7s i Lucsamburg. Fáilte romhat ar ais a Ambasadóir!

The Irish community in Luxembourg has been very fortunate in the Ambassadors from Ireland who have served in the Grand Duchy. At the very beginning of the existence of the GSCL, Valentine Iremonger, poet and scholar, assisted and encouraged us in those difficult early days. Aidan Mulloy, who translated the Luxembourg national anthem into Irish, was extremely good to us, as have been his successors. We warmly



congratulate the new Ambassador of Ireland, Diarmuid O'Leary, to his appointment and wish him a happy and successful stay in our adopted home.

The summer of 2010



John Keane and Conor Myers in Cork colours, and Andrew Donellan, watch the All-Ireland intently.



Port Omna Abú!
Fiona Byrne at the GSCL colours night.

Flashback ... to 1999

At this time of the year, we think of past players. So, the following photo of a stalwart GSCL team of eleven years ago is shown below. Only three of

these fine hurlers are still in Luxembourg – Cathal, Declan and Frank. We wish all the best to the others who are back in Ireland.



Gaelic Sports Club Luxembourg team at Haguenau, 26 June 1999

Front, left to right: Ronan Carroll, (Cabinteely, Dublin); Darren Ó Rodaigh, (Bray); Adrian Frawley, (Doora-Barefield, Clare); Colm O'Neill, (Trumera, Laois); Ronan O'Connell (Borrisoleigh, Tipperary); Eoin Ryan, (Tipperary)

Back l. to r.: Cathal Cavanagh, (Limerick, referee); David Toye (Glasnevin, Dublin); Jeremiah O'Sullivan, (Ovens, Cork); Mark Milligan, (Ardglass, Down); Declan Ó hAnnracháin, (Howth, Dublin); Niall Flaherty, (Athenry, Galway); Frank Harrison, (Mayo/Lancashire); Brendan Maddock, (Kilkenny)

Participation in the Luxembourg Bank League

Following our initial participation in the 2009 Luxembourg Bank League, the GSCL again entered a team to compete in the 2010 soccer tournament, which involved twelve teams from local industry and banking houses. It was run on a group format followed by knockout stages. In 2009, our lads reached the final. This year, the GSCL team made it to the semi-finals after beating well-established teams such

as JP Morgan and BNP Paribas *en route*. Only an equaliser by the opposing team from Pygmalion in the last minute sent the match to penalty shoot-out which went the wrong way. The Pygmalion went on to win the final – *comhghairdeas dóibh* and especially to their captain our own Morgan Ferriter. Tadhg Dunne shone in this competition and won the top scorer of the tournament award – *maith thú!*

Hurling Round-up 2010

Solid performances by Luxembourg's hurlers in The Hague, Berbourg, Leuven and Zürich led to an overall second place finish in the European standings behind a Belgian team that emerged as champions for the second year in a row.

The team was joined during 2010 by several newcomers to the game of hurling, as well as an enthusiastic group of exchange students from the University of Limerick who spent part of the year on work placements in Luxembourg. Damien Higgins continued to manage the team, assisted by selectors Eoin Mullins and, until his departure for Australia, Eoin O'Sullivan.

The first tournament of the year was in The Hague in May where GSCL faced our hosts, Den Haag, as well as Belgium



Berbourg 2010

Ar cúl, c-d, Síle Moloney, Suzie Glynn, Aoife Hayes (Captain), Marie Murphy, Jeannie Brown, Sarah Enright.

Chun tosaigh, Karen O'Mahony, Niamh Delaney, Lauren Harris, Fiona Byrne, Norma O'Sullivan.

The high point of the hurlers' year was our home tournament at the end of May. Once again, the tournament was held outside the capital city. It was hosted in Berbourg at Stade Reinert in the east of the Grand Duchy. Turnout was higher than at The Hague tournament, with additional hurling and camogie teams



Close marking in the match between GSCL and Belgium

and Paris. Despite strong performances, we weren't able to match the achievements of our tournament-winning Camóige team and had to content ourselves with a victory over Paris in the third place play-off.



John Keane of Cork and GSCL breaks away on a fine solo run

HURLING ROUND-UP



GSCL at the Zürich Hurling Finals

Back row, l. to r.: Kevin Ryan, Brian Kelly, Andrew Donnellan, Damien Hegarty, Major Tim Neylon (Liberty Wing USAF Lakenheath), Conor Bready, Dónal Shivanan.

Front, l. to r: John Keane, Mike Lecroy (Liberty Wing) Eoin Mullins, Eoin Mac Domhnaill and Scott Daily (Liberty Wing).

joining us from Zürich. In total, over a hundred players enjoyed the excellent facilities in beautiful countryside.

GSCL was represented by 21 hurlers, the strongest panel that we fielded since our championship-winning year of 2008. The big squad and Wednesday evening training sessions at Terrains de Sport Boy Konen paid off as the Luxembourgers put in spirited performances in our home tournament led by our captain Kevin Ryan. After a first round loss by two points (2.5 to 1-10) to the reigning European champions, Belgium, Luxembourg won the remaining group matches. All the matches were hard fought and entertaining for the many spectators who had travelled to Berbourg.

We came from behind twice to narrowly beat both Den Haag (0-7 to 1-3) and Zürich (0-7 to 1-3). After a comfortable win over Paris Gaels (1-7 to 0-1) in the last round, GSCL qualified for the final against the undefeated Belgian team. The standard of hurling in the final attested to the significant progress that the game has made on the continent in recent years. At half-time, Belgium were still within reach, but a string of killer scores allowed them to pull away towards the end and win with 5-6 to our 1-6, bringing the AIB Perpetual Trophy back to Brussels. As always, we finished the tournament along with our guests in the Villa d'Este and

the Black Stuff where we celebrated yet another tournament victory of our camogie team.

The Belgium tournament was held in the grounds of the Leuven University. We were unlucky not to make the final and had to watch the final from the sidelines, having overcome a combined Paris/Zürich side in the third place play-off.

The final European hurling tournament took place in Zürich in July. We played well in the group games and

in our last match it looked like we might make the final when we pulled ahead of Zürich. It wasn't to be. Our hosts were determined to win their home tournament and pipped us after a spirited comeback. They were narrowly defeated in the final by Belgium to make a clean sweep for the Belgian hurlers and their second European hurling title. Our disappointment in not making the final was tempered by the fact that we had overtaken Den Haag in the overall standings to come second in the Championship.



No way through; the sliotar is in the grass right of centre.

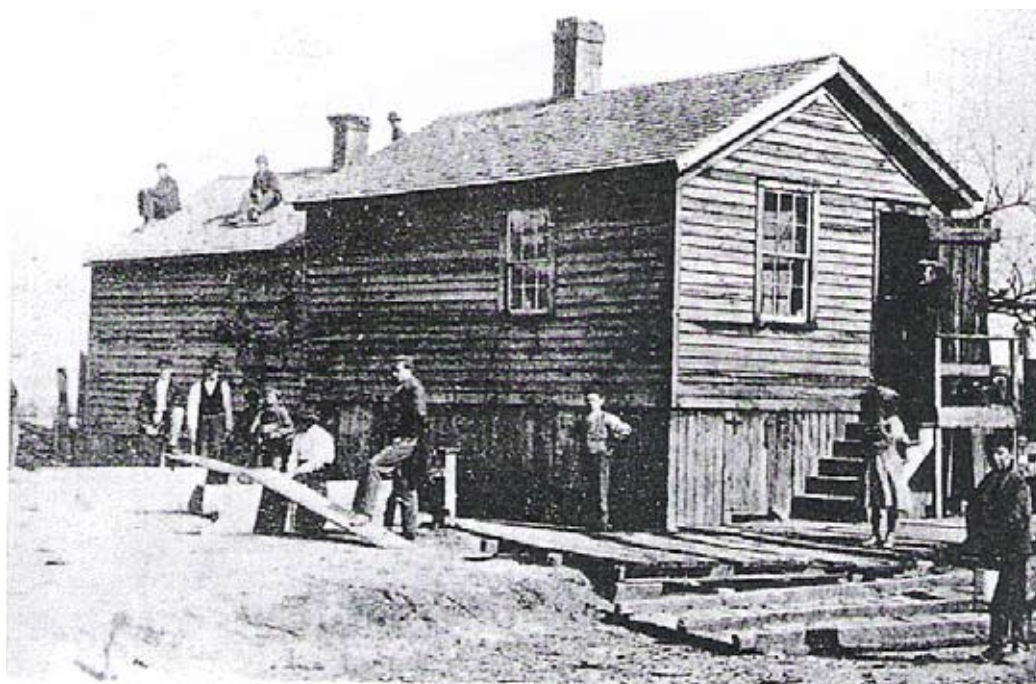
Is olc an ghaoth nach séideann maith do dhuine éigin [It's an ill wind that blows nobody good.]

Chicago is well-known as *The Windy City* – and not without reason. Strong winds blow frequently from the great lake and along the Chicago River valley. The wind played a big part in the major fire which, one hundred and thirty nine years ago, destroyed 2,100 acres of Chicago city, or the equivalent of seventy thirty-acre farms, wiped out some 17,500 houses, led to the loss of 1,500 lives, left 100,000 people homeless, eliminated 200 million dollars worth of property and blackened four square miles of urban area.

The fire started in a banal way. Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Catherine O'Leary had a wooden home at Jefferson and DeKoven streets. To make some money, Catherine kept a few milch cows in a wooden byre back of her house. On Saturday, 8 October 1871, a watchman-fireguard on a tower saw flames leaping into the air; firemen from the Little Giant Fire Company raced to the scene. They found Mrs. O'Leary's cowhouse, two other barns and a paint shop in flames and they were told that one of Mrs. O'Leary's cows had kicked over an oil lamp igniting straw and setting the wooden structures alight.

Despite the efforts of the Little Giant Firemen, the fire got out of control quickly and, fanned by a south-west wind, sent sparks over a wide area. The wooden spire of St. Paul's Catholic Church caught fire; then, the church roof and an adjacent lumber yard where a vast amount of timber planking and firewood was stored went up in flames. Large stables had just been completed nearby and the Parmalee Omnibus and Stage Company had a huge stock of hay for winter feed which was soon alight.

Now desperate, the city authorities contacted far-off Cincinnati, Milwaukee, New York and St. Louis and more fire-fighting equipment was soon on the way. Efforts to slow down the spread of the flames by blasting buildings in its path were in vain. Ships in the Chicago River caught fire; flames leaped across this water barrier and set fire to a train-load of kerosene. People took refuge by standing in the lake edge and in the river but many were suffocated by the smoke or were overcome



by the intense heat. Like the Anglo-American bombing of German cities in WWII, the heat generated strong drafts of wind that sent sparks showering over a wide area and lifted wooden shanties into the air.

On Monday, the fires began to burn out and were extinguished by rain that began to fall at midnight. The immense destruction enabled a modernisation of the city which would have been impossible were it not for the Great Fire. Because of the direction of the wind, the O'Learys' home – see illustration - escaped the flames, even though the conflagration had started literally in their back yard.

Valparaiso

Two poems were published in 1918; one, “*The Ship*” by Oliver Saint John Gogarty; the other, “*An Long*”, by “*An Brúnach*” in *Fáinne an Lae* and later [1920] in *Cuisle na hÉigse*, an anthology of modern Irish language poems. In *The Irish Times* on 23 08 2010, Dr. Anne Markey, School of English, TCD, wrote “While Gogarty’s ship has sunk into relative oblivion, *An Long* has cast off the anchor of its source, capturing the imagination of generations of students of Irish. Surely some of the credit for the hauntingly evocative memory of the enchanting vessel from Valparaiso must go to De Brún?”



Tháinig long ó Valparaiso,
Scaoileadh téad a seol sa chuan,
Chuir a hainm dom i gcuimhne
Ríocht na gréine, tír na mbua.

“Gluais”, ar sí, “ar thuras fada
Liom ó scamall is ó cheo
Tá faoi shleasa gorm Ándes
Cathair scáthmhar, glé mar sheód.”

Ach bhíos óg is ní imeoinn-se,
Am an dóchais, tús mo shaoil,
Chreideas fós go raibh i ndán dom
Íontaisí na ndán is na scéal.

Ghluais an long thar linnte mara
Fad ó shin is a crann mar ór
Scríobh a scéal ar phár na hoíche,
Ard i rian na réiltean mór.

Fillfidh sí arís chugham, áfach,
Chífeadh cathair bhán fén sléibh,
Le hais Mara na Síochána,
Creidim fós, beagnách, a Dhé.

An tAthair Pádraig de Brún
(1889-1960)

A ship from Valparaiso came
And in the bay her sails were furled
She brought the wonder of her name,
And tidings from a sunnier world.

“O you must travel far if you
Would sail away from gloom and wet,
And see beneath the Andes blue,
Our white umbrageous city set”.

But I was young and would not go,
For I believed when I was young
That somehow life in time would show
All that was ever said or sung.

Over the golden pools of sleep
She went long since with gilded spars,
Into the night-empurpled deep
And traced her legend in the stars.

But she will come for me once more,
And I shall see the city set,
The mountainous Pacific shore –
By God, I half believe it yet!

Oliver Saint-John Gogarty