

# Canadian Tour 1989



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*It is with great pleasure and much relief that I pen these few words. What was a dream is now a reality, thanks mainly to the support I received from the hard working members on my Committee, Our Club and last but not least the People of Ballina.*

*The best reward for all our hard work would be a successful and memorable tour.*

*To the Clubs in Canada my thanks and also a special word of thanks to Paul Loftus in Montreal (Canada), and to Peter Murphy, President, Ballina R.F.C.*

*Niall Brennan*

**Niall Brennan,**



**Tour Chairman.**

Bon Voyage Ballina R.F.C.

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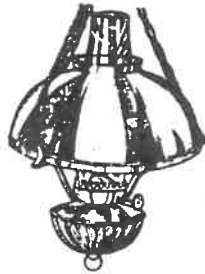


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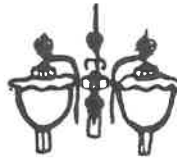
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BALLINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Mr. Niall Brennan,  
Captain,  
Ballina Rugby Club,  
Creggs Road,  
Ballina.

Dear Niall,

On behalf of Ballina Urban District Council I would like to wish you and your teammates every success on your Canadian Tour. I hope that you will have a most enjoyable series of games, that you will promote Ballina and the surrounding district and that we can encourage greater co-operation between Ireland and Canada and especially tourism and business interests for the benefit of Ballina.

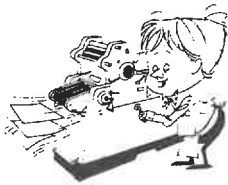
I would also like to send good wishes to all our emigrants in Canada, I trust they will all achieve the success and fulfilment they are striving for in their adopted homeland.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Doherty', written in a cursive style.

Neil Doherty,  
**Chairman.**

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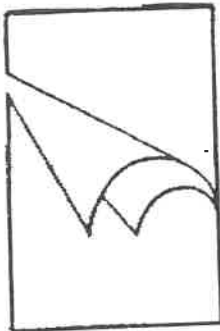
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It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the Ballina Rugby Football Club on the occasion of their tour of Canada. Rugby enthusiasts in Canada will transform my words into tangible warm-hearted hospitality to the Irish visiting team. Tours such as this will further strengthen the bonds of friendship between our respective countries. At the end of the tour, let it be said that "both sides won"!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis McDermott".

**Dennis McDermott,  
Ambassador of Canada to Ireland.**



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## CANADIAN TOUR ITINERARY SEPTEMBER, 1989.

Sat. 9th Sept. Arrive Toronto  
11th Sept. v Toronto Irish R.F.C.  
12th Sept. arrive Peterborough  
13th Sept. v. Peterborough Pagans R.F.C.  
14th Sept. arrive Montreal.  
15th Sept. Montreal City Hall  
17th Sept. v. Ottawa Irish R.F.C.  
19th Sept. v. Montreal Irish R.F.C.  
21st Sept. v. Town Mount Royal R.F.C.  
22nd Sept. Depart Toronto for Shannon, IRELAND.



Ballina R.F.C. Committee: L/R: Mr. Ray Foley, Pat Piggott, Niall Brennan,  
Liam Brennan, Vincent Naylor.

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*BEST WISHES TO ALL THE LADS*

*FROM:*

*JIM & RITA.*

---

# **BALLINA**

## **CO. MAYO, IRELAND**

(BEAL AN ATHA - the mouth of the ford). Ballina is an important commercial centre and is pleasantly situated on the river Moy 9.5 KM (6 miles) south of Killala Bay on the north Western side of Ireland. It is a seaport that still retains the old world charm and hospitable ways. A noted fishing area.

Ballina also has various sporting amenities catering for squash, Tennis, Rugby, Soccer, Gaelic Football and Hurling, Basketball, Golf and a new Swimming Pool located close to the town centre.

Only 8 miles from the town there is a beautiful 3 miles of pollution free sandy beach, while in the town there are also many pleasant walks through an unpolluted environment through woodland and riverside areas of tranquil surroundings.

The Town of Ballina was not established until the 17th Century and was probably founded by Cromwellian planters who received grants of land for their services to the west of the river Moy. Before this Ardnaree on the east bank of the river was the main settlement area and a castle guarded the 'fords' over the Moy. Because there were no bridges in existence at the time one can appreciate the importance of these fords.

A number of Battles were fought in Ballina 1485 and in 1586 more than 1000 were massacred and the same amount in women and children drowned on the banks of the Moy when the Scots McDonnells were caught on the east bank by Sir Richard Bingham.

Today Ballina has a population of over 9,000 people and is one of the largest towns in the province of Connaught. It continues to be a very busy market town but has also moved into the Industrial stream with factories of International Origins from Japan, America, West Germany and many native based manufacturing and service projects. It has proved to be an ideal location for the setting up or relocation of most Industrial projects with assets such as an Industrial estate, an abundance of fresh clean water, a young and flexible work force and it is accessible by road, rail and sea.



For the visitor the town offers top class accommodation with a choice of facilities such as Sports and health complex, Mediaeval banquet hall, excellent cuisine, modern and mediaeval styled bars, coffee shops, craft shops, Moy Salmon and a welcome to all that is unsurpassed in our country. A full spectrum of shopping facilities catering for all is also to be found in Ballina where value, quality and service are the aims to which members of the trade and development association aspire to give you.

On the river Moy, noted throughout Europe, fishing for Salmon and trout is still available within the town boundaries. The fishing potential within the area is almost endless from deep sea to lake fishing on the numerous lakes close to the town to river fishing.

A variety of live entertainment is available especially in the summer months in both the hotels and bars. Lovers of Jazz, popular music and traditional music are all catered for. There are also plenty of night clubs in the town to cater for those who prefer a late night out. With so many lakes and the Atlantic sea near by there's no shortage of beaches and camping areas. Enniscrone, only 8 miles from Ballina, provides an award winning three miles of sandy beach which meets the river as it enters the sea. Also there are fantastic 18 hole golf courses and ultra modern club houses in Enniscrone and Ballina.

Today there are two bridges crossing the River Moy and joining Ballina and Ardnaree. The upper bridge, known as the 'Ham Bridge' was built in 1836 and it replaced an earlier and only structure crossing the river. A second lower bridge was added in 1838.

In 1798 the French Forces under General Humbert marched victoriously into Ballina having landed in Kilcummen below the village of Killala. They came as allies to defeat the occupying British forces but alas were defeated soon afterwards. Today a memorial to Humberts honour is sited close to the town centre.

Ballina is the centre of a scenic and holiday wonderland allowing you a huge choice of day tours from a single base. You will receive a warm welcome to our town and will leave it with treasured memories.

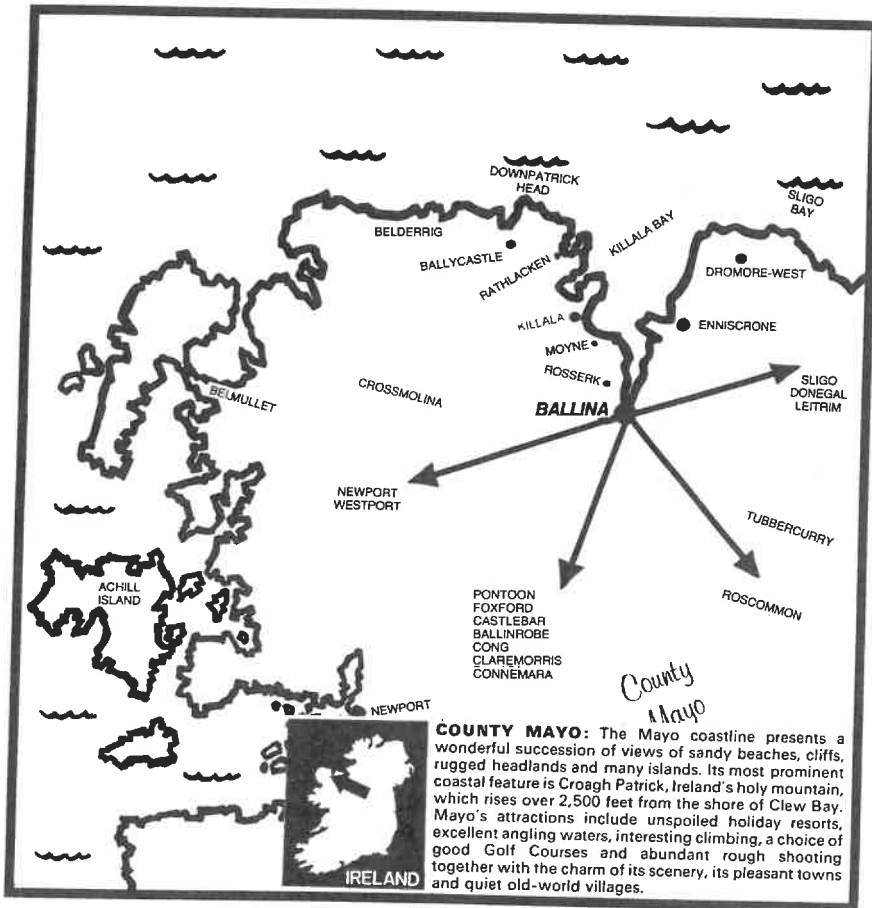




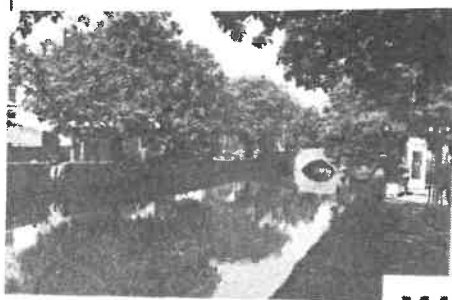
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Humbert's Monument

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**COUNTY MAYO:** The Mayo coastline presents a wonderful succession of views of sandy beaches, cliffs, rugged headlands and many islands. Its most prominent coastal feature is Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain, which rises over 2,500 feet from the shore of Clew Bay. Mayo's attractions include unspoiled holiday resorts, excellent angling waters, interesting climbing, a choice of good Golf Courses and abundant rough shooting together with the charm of its scenery, its pleasant towns and quiet old-world villages.



**MAYO**



Dr. Nigel Carr,  
33 Old Belfast Road,  
Newtownards,  
Co. Down,  
N. Ireland, BT23 4SG.

How I envy Ballina. You are embarking on a tour to Canada which I experienced as a member of a young university side in 1982. The rugby was hard and competitive, even with a talented, albeit young and inexperienced side which was to yield four Lions, two Irish internationals and further Irish tourists, B internationals and provincial players. Equally memorable was the hospitality. The free bar on the transatlantic flight was only the beginning and our first tottering steps in that magnificent country were marked by the club president over-balancing into luggage carosel and finding it impossible to return to terra firma.

Rugby standards have, no doubt, improved further however the standard of hospitality has always been high. I'm sure Ballina will find the same.

Best wishes for a memorable tour.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Carr', written in a cursive style.

**Nigel Carr.**

*Mister A*

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to the ferret and all his furry  
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This is an historic tour for Ballina Rugby Club. We have travelled to such places as Ennis, Ballymena, The Curragh, Edinburgh, Amsterdam and we are very pleased to add Canada to that list.

To organise a tour so far away Canada has been a major undertaking and I congratulate the Brennan brothers Niall and Liam, Pat Piggott and the rest of the tour committee who's hard work and determination will result in Ballina R.F.C. playing on Canadian soil for the first time.

I wish the members of the travelling party every success with the tour and I know they will bring with them the special spirit of Ballina R.F.C.

To our host clubs in Canada and particularly to Paul Loftus who has helped us from the Canadian side I say thank you for having us.

We are most grateful for the kind sponsorship received from companied and individuals who have made this tour possible.

We look forward to meeting our host clubs and the Ballina and other Irish exiles who are based in Canada.

**P. Murphy,**  
**President.**

**RAWHIDE**

*Wishing all the Lads the best  
of luck in Canada*

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Canadian Tour '89.  
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## RUGBY IN CANADA

Though Rugby was introduced to the Canadians by the British military stationed in Canada at the time, the major credit for the embryonic Canadian game lies with the one time English International A. st. G. Hammersly who shortly after playing for England in the very first International against Scotland in 1871 took his knowledge of the game to British Columbia.

Today Canada has over 200 Rugby clubs and over 11,000 players which is similar to Ireland. New Zealand touring teams regularly stop off on their journey to and from Ireland, England and France. Results from these matches in Canada has shown the All Blacks and the rest of the world that Rugby is on the up and up especially in British Columbia where their results against the touring sides have been more superior to those of the National Team.

Canadian Rugby is split, East and West or British Columbia versus the rest. In the east the game has developed from an early period with an influx of professional people from France, the British Isles and Ireland during the 1960's. This included many P.E. teachers all making a great input to the game. Even before the 60's though the game was still being played all over Canada. There are reports of a match played in 1863 between the English Forces and some students from Mc Gill university.

Today Montreal Football Club is among the oldest in the world dating from 1865. The touring party from Ballina will be playing Rugby in Montreal where there is a big contingent of Irish people settled. It is also planned by the team to play a number of matches in Toronto and Peterborough.

The Canadian Rugby Union was formed in 1929 when six provinces met in Winnipeg to draw up the constitution. After folding in 1939 with the outbreak of World War 11, the C.R.U. was reformed in 1965, this time without government Finance. Today the Inter Provincial competition is the back bone of the countrys Rugby. Another competition is held for the smaller unions also with each union holding its own club competitions. Ontario and Eastern Ontario have two divisions each with Niagara and Quebec having three each while Toronto has Four.

Travel in Canada proves a handicap for the clubs. Climate too can also make life difficult. In the east matches take place in the spring and Autumn (May-October) while in British Columbia the Northern Hemisphere season is from September to April being the only climate suitable for winter competition.

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RIVERBOAT INN**



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Without slipping a disc  
Take all the Kicks  
Without one single miss  
Smash the record  
For scoring the most tries  
Be the last one to bed  
And the first one to rise  
Then you're a HOTSHOT

Best Wishes to all the Lads in Canada  
from:

**MICK AT**

**HOTSHOT RECORDS**

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## Senior Cup 1979

For some it may seem like an eternity but in fact it is only ten short seasons ago when Ballina pulled off that historical win the Senior Cup final, wresting Connachts biggest Rugby prize from the renowned Athlone club in the Galway sports grounds.

Twenty eight seasons previously, when Ballina won their first Senior Cup under the captaincy of Ivan Heffernan, the club was at 'Senior status but remarkably on this occasion it was a' Junior Club having qualified for the Senior competition by winning the Junior League title the previous season.

Under the guidance of coach Dr. Oliver Bourke and captained by his brother Dr. Aubrey, who sadly is no longer with us (R.I.P.) the club qualified for the final having defeated a gallant Loughrea team in the semi final at Ballina. An interception by Neil Dodd providing the valuable try to secure victory for the home side and a Cup final appearance against the big guns of the Senior ranks Athlone.

Ballinas achievements caught the attention of the national and local newspapers. There was much talk concerning their chances and some speculative bets were placed, one in particular which was to prove most fruitful for the teams captain.

In the week leading up to the final Michael Rowe, a centre of high renown, was forced to cry off the team with flu and a young Commerce student, Niall Brennan (who currently is a main organizer of this Canadian Trip), was called onto the side.

A capacity crowd turned out that Sunday to watch what turned out to be a ding dong struggle between the paragons of the junior ranks and the seniors from Athlone. Towards the end of the third quarter, both packs sharing the laurels and the scores locked at 6-6, the game developed into a test of wits with many testing kicks and probing, prodding runs. At the end of normal time however both sides were preparing battle lines for extra time but then Ballina had a match winning conjuring act in reserve.

# INJURY TIME TRY SEALS HISTORIC WIN FOR BALLINA

BALLINA .....10  
ATHLONE .....6

In the sixth minute of injury time, Ballina finding greater reserves of strength and concentration, caught the enemy unaware with a quickly taken line out at the Athlone 22 yard line. Hooker Gerry O'Donnell won possession and the ball went out the three quarter line, going to ground on the was but picked up again eventually to the hands of winger Niall Brennan. The crowd rose to their feet and roared him on. Supporters on the side line ran along side him stride for stride as he went over in the left corner for the match winner and his name into the records books of Ballina Rugby Club's achievements. Out half, Charlie Mullaney missed a conversion attempt but it mattered little. The final whistle blew and Ballina pulled off the remarkable victory.

Ballina 10 Athlone 6.

It was a memorable day for Ballina adding the Senior Cup to the previous achievements at Junior level. The club remained in the Junior ranks despite their success and added further glory under Captains Tommie Cooke and Ivan Heffernan (Jnr.) but having won the double in 1984/85 the club did finally 'go Senior' at its first Senior League match that Season in 38 years at the expense of none other than arch rivals Athlone !!



The Ballina team which brought the Connacht Senior Cup to the town. 1950/'51 Back (from left): Seamus Quinn, Sean Murphy (Coach), standing in for Gerry Browne who was not available when the picture was being taken at Ballina Tennis Courts, at the rear of Corcoran's Terrace, by Tommie Battle; Paddy Sheehan, (R.I.P.), Brian Moylett, Joe Dunphy, Seamus Barrett. Middle Row (from left): Mick King, Donie Barrett, Arthur Boland, Ivan Heffernan (Capt.), Tom Connor, Eamon Connor, Jackie Hannick. Front—Manus Gilvarry, Charlie Connor.





**Aubrey Bourke with Senior Cup.**



**Senior Cup Winners 1979.**

**Back: L/R: Dr. Oliver Bourke (Coach), Sean Murphy (R.I.P.), Pat Buckley, E. Cawley, W. Doherty, J. Byrne, L. O'Neill, G. O'Donnell, J.P. Leonard, M. Little (ref.), Ivan Heffernan, Front L/R: P. Tuffy, N. Blakney, N. Dodd, T. Cooke, Dr. Aubrey Bourke (R.I.P.), M. Begley, C. Mullaney, S. O'Dowd, N. Brennan.**

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AND THE TOUGH GET GOING  
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AND FINDING IT HARD TO MANAGE.

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**Tommie Cooke in the Senior Cup Final.**

**The Winner... Ballina's first Senior League try in 38 years scored by  
L. Brennan v Athlone.**



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## Sean Murphy

When the history of Ballina R.F.C. is written it will be found to be interwoven around one man Sean Murphy. Sean for many years kept the club alive when any other club would have faded out of existence. This he did by his tremendous energy and tenacity. He would just not let Rugby die in Ballina. Then in the seventies when the club had a winning sequence Sean saw the chance to progress to a Clubhouse of our own-this was unheralded for a Junior club but he was not daunted by this and in 1978 he saw the realisation of his dream. Throughout the many years of his presidency and in later years his patronage Sean always displayed the utmost courtesy and generosity to all who came in contact with him and in the sometimes tough game of Rugby his gentle and unruffled approach always seemed to win the day. It can safely be said, though he is no longer with us, that without him we would not be touring in Canada - or indeed would we be even playing at all.

Sean is sadly missed by us all but we thank him for the legacy he has left us.

### Rugby patron honoured

Special celebrations have been planned by Ballina Rugby club for Sunday week when the Presidents Room in the club's premises at Creggs Road will be dedicated to the late Mr. Sean Murphy, once described as being "the father of Connacht rugby".

Mr. Murphy who died two years ago gave a lifetime to the game as player, coach, referee and administrator. He was president of the Ballina club for over quarter of a century, was the club's patron at the time of his death. He was a former president of the Connacht branch and served on the executive of the IRFU.

Ten years ago he saw a lifelong dream come true with the opening of the £60,000 clubhouse.

To mark the occasion a large colour photograph of Mr. Murphy was unveiled in the President's room followed by an end of season match when Ballina took on a Connacht selection.



**BON VOYAGE AND BEST WISHES  
FROM:  
BALLINA R.F.C. 1st XV.**



*SO BOYS STICK TOGETHER  
IN ALL KINDS OF WEATHER  
DON'T SHOW THE WHITE FEATHER  
WHERE EVER YOU ROAM.  
JUST BE LIKE A BROTHER  
AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER  
LIKE THE STOUT HEARTED MEN  
FROM THE COUNTY MAYO.*

## ACHILL 1988.

In april of the last year the very first Rugby match was played on Achill Island. The beautiful island off the west coast of Ireland has always been associated with pleasant week ends, long sunny days and of course the occasional beverage. Most of all it is renowned for the friendliness and warmth of its people.

The Rugby match organised by local publican and sturdy prop forward, Tom Cafferky along with tremendous help from Michael Rowe, Arthur West and Donal Quinn was an ideal opportunity for funds to be raised to defray medical expences incurred by a young local lad who had been seriously injured in America.

It was with great pleasure that the "touring" party left Ballina in force that Sunday morning pulling up just outside town to pick up Mick Murphy, who had difficulty sneaking out the back door ! And so we were truly on our way ... looking forward to the historic game. The scenery on the road to Achill is breath taking and every corner on the road we turned revealed even more lovely sights to those of us unfamiliar of the route to the island.

We crossed over the bridge from the main land to the island and there upon were met by the local pipe band clad in their hand woven woollen sweaters. Mike Murphy led the Bus into the village a green and white flag dancing above his head as he marched with the band to .... the nearest pub where upon his duties strayed from him momentarily and he detoured to the counter, flag still in hand, and proceeded to sample the local brew. It was all great fun and much to the amusement of the locals although some were left slightly puzzled to see an army of fine looking "athletes" emerge from the tour mobile and all kitted out in the customary club tie and navy jacket. We filed out of the the bus like toy soldiers, the sounds of the pipe music and snare drum were irrstable... we had to jig. The scene was set for a smashing day ... we had to play the game yet !!



Having rounded up the teams, some of who had slipped into mild hysteria, we got kitted out. There was a short journey to the pitch which was beside the Atlantic ocean. Little did we know at the time looking out on the waves that we would soon be crossing them in the near future on another historic trip for Ballina R.F.C. on route to Canada. A hugh crowd of interested people travelled from near and far to watch the game... the first ever in this part of the world.

A team led by Brian Tuffy wearing green jerseys and including soem notable ball spinners in Eugene Cawley, Neil Dodd, Jonesie, Martin Boland and "Sam" Cawley played the team in blue led by Davie Hunt. That team proved to be slightly stronger with Pat Piggott, Ray Foley, Richard West and Alan Rowe. The Team managers Gerard P.P. "Heineken" and Patrick X.Y. Buckley were busily warming up their respective squads when referee Peter Murphy called on the captains and the game was on.

A titanic struggle was to follow with many fine scores going each way. It turned out to be a fine spectacle for the fans who despite the rain blowing in from the seas remained in good spirits and fine voice throughout the game. It had been agreed by mutual consent to keep the game as open as possible and this proved to be the success of the day and kept the excitement up for all those who were lucky enough to get a game. A knife cutting run by the "Blues" prop forward Tom Cafferky took the game inside the greens 25. A single try separated the teams with a minute of the game to play. There was distinct evidance of urgency in the "Blues" game at this stage ... a little late however as Big Tom drove on ... the line was within sight ... you could see the smile on his face ... he was going to snatch the perverbial late winner and forever be enrolled in Achill's Hall of Fame and be spoke of by the natives forever and a day ... just then Pat Piggott sneaked in under Tom and stole the Ball from his grasp ... just as he was going to "touch down". The game ended and everyone headed back for refreshments. Some were slightly peeved that poor Tom, being a local too, had been denied the match winning score. Surely he should have been awarded a penelty try by referee Walter Rouse for some reason or other. grown men cryed and argued but meanwhile back in Tom's pub everyone was wineed and dined.

A fantastic nights entertainment followed and it was in the early hours of Monday morning when the troops led by a lone Piper and followed close behind by Mick Murphy, cup on head, left by the front door of the bar only to re-emerge in the back door seconds leter !!! Nobody wanted home.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Achill and who knows we will find some excuse to return again hopefully in the near future.

Finally it must also be said that there were many sponsors to the day without who's help would have been less successful. A genuine thank you to you all.





KEEPING WARM IN ACHILL

ACHILL '88.



**DEFINITION OF THE IDEAL ATHLETE:**

STRONG AS A BULL,  
SWIMS LIKE A FISH,  
TALKS TO KING AND COMMONERS ALIKE.

**DEFINITION OF A RUGBY FORWARD:**

SMELLS LIKE A BULL,  
DRINKS LIKE A FISH,  
TALKS TO HIMSELF.

**DEFINITION OF GOOD FOOD AFTER THE MATCH:**



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*Best Wishes from Donnie.*

Dáil Eireann,  
Baile Atha Cliath, 2.  
(Dublin, 2).

In congratulating Ballina Rugby Club on its enterprize and imagination to undertake a tour to Canada I must confess that I felt on hearing of the subject a certain nostalgia that while the spirit was certainly able to accompany the body the limbs no longer could cope with the vigours both on and off the playing fields - of such a tour.

I wish the tour every success and see it as a means of improving Irish Canadian relations. Ballina Rugby Club has a long and distinguished history and its grounds at Cregg's road are very close to the River Moy which is the premier Salmon fishing river in Europe - the ridge pool in which has a record of enormous catches by fishermen.

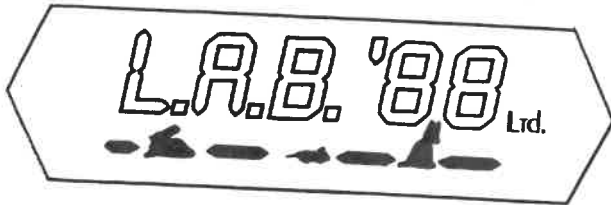
The Town of Ballina is situated on the mouth of the River Moy as it enters Killala Bay which has yielded world specimen fish of different species to sea anglers from Ireland and Europe. It is surrounded by some of the best scenery in Ireland with good sporting facilities, strands, lakes, mountains and forests.

The Club members have many varied occupations, some are self-employed others work in local industry which is somewhat industrial and includes American and Japanese in addition to Irish Companies.

As a Member of the Club I again wish the touring party every success and extend my good wishes and hope that the friendship which I know will be forged during their stay in Canada - A country where many Irish people have made their home and where many others have Irish connections - will cement the excellent relationships between our states and lead to return visits to Ballina by Canadian Clubs and Citizens.

**Sean Calleary, T.D.**  
**Minister of State,**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs.**

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## DID SOMEBODY SAY "A WALK OVER" !!

In 1984 an amazing series of results punctuated the French 3rd division when the small town of Vergt (population 1500) fell foul of the French Federation. The Club had four players suspended for various of mis-doings and they felt quite upset by it to say the least. Thus when they arrived to play their first fixture against Lormont they only had 11 players, the minimum number required for a match to commence.

Vergt kicked off and then would you believe it ... they chose to stand still in the middle of the pitch. Meanwhile Lormont were doing switch moves, scissor's moves, skip three moves ... you name it. Ten minutes later, Vergt having kicked off a number of times, the score read 42-0. The referee decided to abandoned the game.

The following week ... it happened again ! ... they stood still !! ...except this time the referee did not abandon the game.

The final Score Gujan Mestras 236 Vergt 0.  
A new world record ??? Vergt's differences with the French Federation went unresolved and so they proceeded to better themselves against Lavardac in their third game. Final score Lavardac 350 Vergt 0.  
Lavardac scored 26 tries, 40 goals and 2 drop goals. All these games were regarded as official !!!

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*Eric K... 1992*

***Best Wishes from David.***

At the outset I would like to say that I was delighted to be asked to contribute to the Ballina R.F.C.'s Tour Programme.

First of all I would like to congratulate Ballina R.F.C. on arranging a major tour such as this, to Canada. Having been on many tours over the years all I have is pleasant memories of each of them. A tour is an experience which every rugby player who takes part in will benefit from, be it because of the friends he make or the 'crack' (being the Irish for having a good time) that he and his team mates have together while away. Certainly the club will benefit from a tour of this nature, not only from the social side but also from playing against teams from another part of the world. I also feel that Canada is an excellent choice having been there myself in 1980 and hopefully again this summer. I know that the hospitality they will receive will be similar to that which any Canadian side could expect should they tour in Ballina. and that says a lot.

As to the Canadian hosts of Ballina R.F.C. What they have to look forward to is the friendship and humour of the Ballina players and their supporters. When I was dropped by Ireland last year I had the consolation of a trip with my club, Ballymena, down to play in Ballina. To say that my disappointment at not being in the International Team was greatly eased by the reception my club and I received in Ballina would be an understatement, and was one I very much appreciated.

I wish Ballina R.F.C. a happy and successful tour.

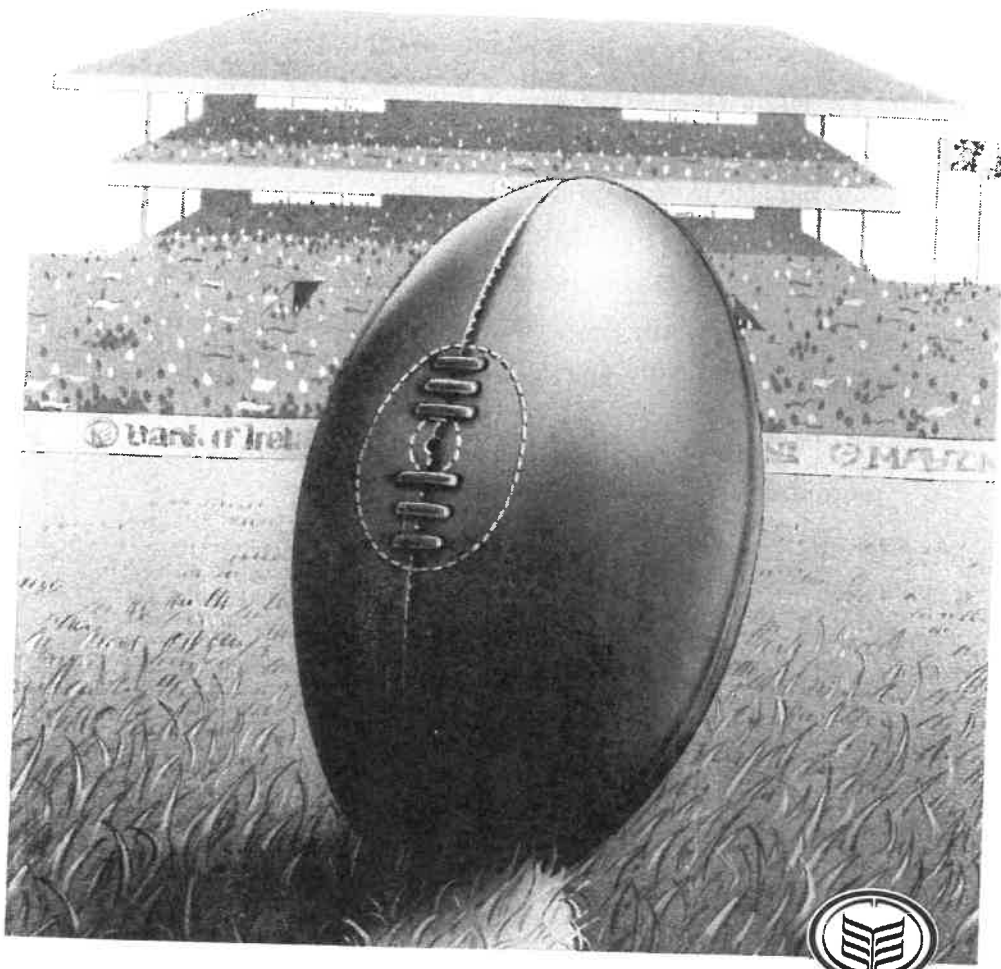
All the best.



**Trevor Ringland.**

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## THE TOURISTS !!

### **SEAN MULLENS**

Age 30

Publican

A seasoned campaigner, Sean has seen more action than he cares to remember. He's a lover of the arts and a keen follower of Sumo Wrestling. His idea of a good night out is a night at the Ballet and back to her place to swop memories and tights. A retired second row player, Sean injured his back while on tour to London in an official match v Soho R.F.C.



### **DONAL QUINN**

Age 30

Butcher

Back from retirement in a bid to be captain of the side, Donal is an ideal tourist. Known throughout for cheating in the scrums, going off side, blaming referees and not buying his round. Spent a week getting into shape for the Tour but will still spend 15 minutes of each half wondering who to play for.

Former 2nd XV Captain.

### **BRIAN TUFFY**

Age 27

Wholesaler

A player of great stature, Brian always rises to the occasion. He never missed his weekly edition of Boxing world and his main ambition is to see the introduction of rugby boots on stilts. Brian is a firey hooker and he respects all his opponents especially in the morning.

Former 2nd XV Captain.



### **JOHN DODD**

Age 25

Technician.

John is a speed merchant of note and really wears out the equipment in no time. Can't get any fitter. He loves chess especially when the Knight jumps the Queen. Deliberately avoided playing last season in order to prepare for this tour. A fast man on the break, John will play on the wing when we are short a few !!!



**LIAM BRENNAN**

Age 25

Retailer

The youngest of the Brennan brothers, Liam likes to think of himself as the only natural in the family. The others agree but natural what? A winger of renown, he can score tries with the ball in one hand and a bottle of Heineken in the other. Liam is a shy man at heart and will only talk to the ladies in far off darkened corners of the clubhouse.

Regular first team player and former under 20's captain.



**STANLEY "GOSH" BOURKE.**

Age 27

Contractor/Farmer.

Stanley agreed to go on this Tour but only did so after a board room meeting with his pet cow, Daisy. He may be called home in the middle of the trip. Played last season with the Connaught Junior side and ever since he believes that the Senior Cap is on the way. Stanley plays in the front row and is always complaining. He's a ladies man and he is admired everywhere he goes.



**SIMON FABBY**

Age 26

Electrician.

Simon enjoys his rugby and talks at length after each game. He spends at least four weeks of each season in casualty ... visiting the nurses! He plays win forward at the best of times and can be called upon anytime to rally the cheer leaders. He says he only decided to come on the tour to keep an eye on Stanley and Declan and to possibly boost his chances of being captain this year. Speaks French fluently.



**PAUL MURPHY**

Age 25

Businessman.

Paul is the eldest of the Murphy brothers and claims to have taught Alan everything he knows. Alan is thinking of suing! A shady looking character with his matcho looks, Paul has received many appreciation awards from the Irish liquor industry.

A rugby player for many's the year .... "he spent all his money on women and beer".  
Has boots will play.



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### **ALAN MURPHY**

Age 24

Entrepreneur

The younger of the Heineken brothers, Alan is noted for his incredible stamina off the field of play! Hardly needs sleep. A nocturnal creature at heart, Alan admits he does his best work at night and rucks well when given the chance. Recently retired from the game after niggly (doggy) back trouble. Does all the donkey work.



### **DESMOND LEONARD**

Age 007

Secret agent/gigalo

The gentleman of the Tour, Dessie will be departing Ireland via Bermuda for Canada in his Jet at least a week before the rest of us. Known world wide for his impeccable manners he will always open the doors for the ladies (and lock them behind him !!) Goes on Safari regularly because he loves the wild life he says. Hopes to capture some major trophies in Canada.



### **BARRY O'CONNOR**

Age 28

Retail Manager

Recently signed from Kilkenny R.F.C. (1970). Barry knows the game and loves to play the field. He will travel provided there are adequate toilet facilities near by. Gives his all but is suspect in recent times of leaking vital information to the press.... the chair .... the floor. Captained U.20's side in 1980's.



### **JIMMY MORAN**

Age 27

Bookmaker

Jimmy was odds on to make this Tour. An extremely fit and robust individual he hopes to run the Dublin City marathon later this year. Recently stated he has over trained but hopes to peak while on tour. Good on the flat and likes the going soft. Captained 1978 U.17 cup winning side.



**NIALL BRENNAN**

Age 30

Retailer

Niall was the Junior member of the Senior Cup winning side of '79 and his main ambition is to be the Senior member of the Junior side...if selected !! A great tourist Niall is well known for his 'jink, link and drink playing strategies. One of the elite band of Hookers that Ballina has produced he has now stepped into the purer position of out half.

Captained 2nd XV in 1982.



**GERRY BRENNAN**

Age 33

Technical Manager

The elder statesman of the Tour, Gerry has been instructed in the finer points of Allicadooing by some of the notable experts in this field. Likes fast women and slow music preferably at the same time. He never gets the wires crossed. Only brought on tour to drink 'Canada Dry' !!



**EAMON O'BOYLE**

Age 23

Mechanic, Fireman.

Specially prepared by the Ballina Fire men for this tour, Eamon is sure to set the scene ablaze !! A keen sports man, he will enjoy the trip and can be called upon to play at short notice — We can 'bleep' him !!



**SEAMUS GREENEY**

Age 24

Supermarket Manager

Seamus collected tokens from Cornflakes boxes for the past 12 months to get on this tour. Recently reported to have lost a very valuable watch but says now he has an idea where it is. He was paid by Guinness not to go on this tour because they were concerned about the effect it would have on their sales and he has been warned by the Irish Authorities he may not be allowed back to Ireland. Plays on the bench. Shakey under the low ball.



**NOEL DEVER.**

Age 24.

Company Representative

Related to the Brennan brothers, Noel was a late entry to the touring party. Noel is a well known dancer and general party man. He says he will play on the wing if selected and can be relied upon for that burst of speed especially when being chased by Rothweilers.



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**JOHN KILROY**

Age 30-50

An old old campaigner, John loves to travel and knows the ins and outs of every club in the British Isles. His main ambition is to be young again and he received a government grant for research into this area. An elder brother of Brian, his place on the tour was secured by the First World War veterans of Ireland. Plays wing forward when his Doctor lets him.

Farmer



**ARTHUR WEST**

Age 29

Tough and rugged scrum half, Arthur is renowned for his thousand yard dash and his ninty yard spin pass even with cigarette in hand. A lover of a good story he tells a few good ones too (ask his wife!). We have been warned to be our guard that he may try to sing on tour. Decided to travel to take care of Donal in Canada. Former 2nd XV Captain.

Importer



**PADRAIC JONES**

Age 30

A fine example of a good up bringing gone wrong. No relation to Tom Jones. Padraic has made successive come backs since 1928 and still can not understand why he can't play alongside the girls. He's a winger with the legs to match and some times these lead him astray. Great tourist and will help he says with all Indian translations in Canada ?? Former 2nd XV Captain.

Retailer and Importer



**PAT PIGGOTT**

Age 24

A member of the Club for over six years, Pat transferred from the Gort club for an undisclosed sum which Gort R.F.C. were quite happy to pay.! Known locally as a prop forward is occasionally found wandering around the full back when the scrums are called. Pat has a great left foot and scores drop goals at ease. Former 3rd XV Captain.

Banker



### VINCENT NAYLOR

Age 27

Printer

A seasoned tourist, Vinny was a member of the Achill side of '88. A connoisseur of wines especially roses or is that rosé, Vinny is partial to nocturnal swimming lessons in Hotel fountains (bet his Mum never knew that). He can be relied upon to play in any position but some one should tell him not all at once.



### BRIAN KILROY

Age 24

Publican

The apple of his mothers eye, Brian is always on the look out for a nice pear. The Tour committee wish to acknowledge the generosity of the Martyn Corporation in releasing him for this Tour. Always consistent under the high ball he was made an honorary member of Corinthians R.F.C. Galway last season. Has been compared to a famous race horse not for his speed but because he loved his nuts.



### MICHAEL MOLLOY

Age 30

Farmer

Known locally as the 'galloping full back', Michael has only one gear... side ways! A convert from Gaelic Football (he still tries to put the ball in the back of the net) and a gentleman at heart. Mick likes the quiet life but if given the half chance we are sure he will go and go and go.



### EUGENE QUINN

Age 22

Student

The baby of the tour he hopes to gain plenty of experience, new skills and also hopes to play some rugby!!. Not a brother of Donals, Eugene is known to disappear now and again but then to resurface again..just in time for the next round. Great ball handling ability but he says that on this tour someone else will be doing the handling!



**DECLAN GILVARRY.**

Age 31

Assurance Broker

Declan is a person of very sober personality and only qualified to go on this tour by a freak accident. He agrees with a drink free tour but he does love to see people drunk and then he gest them to sign suspicious looking documents. He does not want to meet any Canadian women and hopes to keep himself to himself. Will be in bed before 8 every night. Captain of Westport's 2nd XV.



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## KING OF THE FISH.

News that a Canadian Atlantic Salmon which had been tagged in the estuary of the Miramichi river near New Brunswick was caught in Greenland sixteen months later after an ocean trek of over 15,000 miles really puts the spotlight on this remarkable species of fish - the Salmon. This is the longest migration on record for the Atlantic Salmon. Sufficient evidence has now been gathered about the Atlantic Salmon's life which begins in the river. In the autumn the hen Salmon makes its way up river and deposits its eggs in the spawning bed. The fish can be easily discouraged in their progress having to leap ten to twelve feet in height sometimes to avoid obstructions in their path. Occasionally these obstructions prove impassable and the Salmon dies after repeated fruitless attempts.

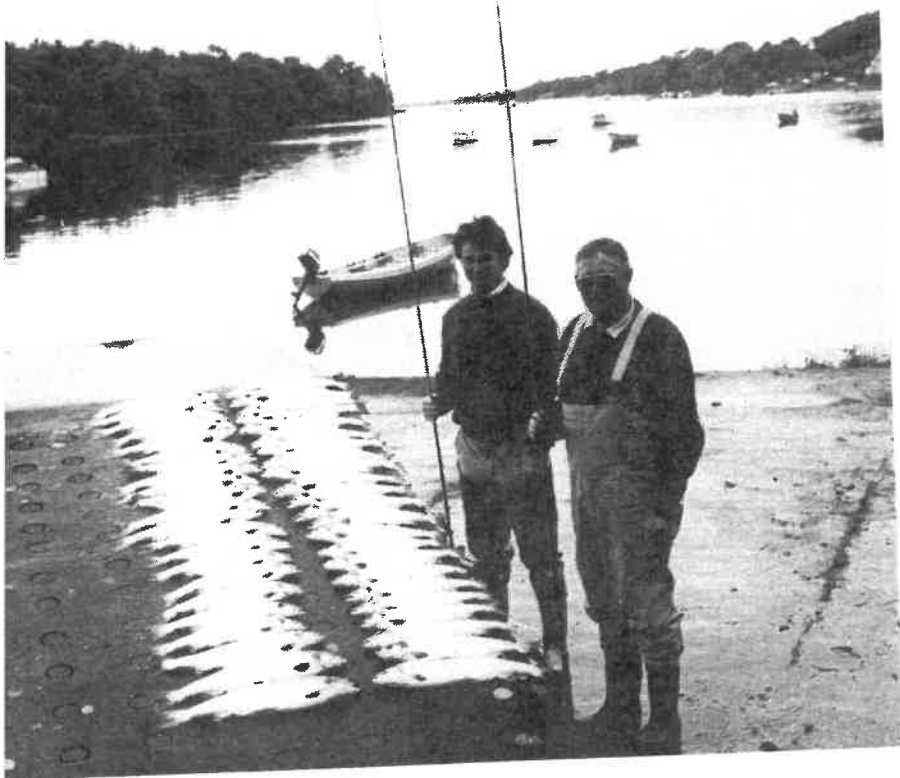
It is believed that the Salmon deposits its eggs in a trench like structure that it has either dug out with its body or by using its mouth and then the eggs are covered over by the male partner. These periodic visits by the Salmon have made many of those in authority and the fishermen to believe that the Salmon will always return to its native river or that in which it was bred and that the fish's sense of smell leads it back. Even when several rivers enter the sea in one stream the Salmon will always return to its own water and avoid all other rivers.

The Salmon can lay up to 900 eggs for every pound of its own weight and in the spring the young fish appear. They are only over an inch in length and like many newly born creatures they face a severe crisis in their immediate lives. The young Salmon grows rapidly however and assumes a banded appearance through the development of dark bars on its sides. The fish soon becomes a 'Parr' and will eventually become a strong and powerful. In about 16 weeks it grows to about double its original length but it still remains in the fresh water as it is still not ready for the sea.

At the end of the second year the Parr attains a gorgeous costume and bright scales are in evidence. The fish is now called a 'Smolt' and moves to the salt water for the first time in its life, around the period of March to June. When they return in May to October the fish are then called 'Grilse' and vary in size depending on the amount of time they were feeding out at sea. Generally speaking if they had spent less than 2 years they are Grilse, more and they are Salmon. The Grilse can be anything from 5 to 7 pounds in weight.

Various groups of fish enter Irish rivers at different times of the year. Between January and May we get Spring fish and from May to October the Summer fish arrive. Depending on the length of time the fish have feed in the sea the average weight of the groups of Salmon can vary between 10 to 60 pounds in weight.

The river Moy has 'runs' of both Salmon and Grilse is noted well through out Europe as a fine fishing river for both Salmon and Trout and where fishing is available within the towns boundaries.



Eddie Doherty and Seamus Barrett, a member of Ballina R.F.C. Senior Cup winning side of 1951, with a days catch of 48 Salmon on the River Moy.  
 Photo Jack Ruane.



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## HOOKED

Not only is Ireland accepted as being the outstanding sea angling holiday resort in Europe, it is also highly renowned for its river and lake fishing. There are a huge varied species of fish to be caught like: Breem, Rudd, Tench, Pike, Perch in the lakes. Salmon and trout in the rivers to Shark, Conger, Bass and Cod to mention but a few in our surrounding sea waters.

Our country offers a well organised angling infrastructure, first class accommodation and a warm hearted people who are always happy to help you to enjoy yourself. Ireland has already successfully hosted most of Europes top Sea Angling events not forgetting to mention the numerous lake and river fishing events every season.

Since no part of Ireland is more than 112 kilometres from the Sea an Angling trip is never difficult and with so many angling centres through out the country and around our coasts it is much simpler than that.

Ireland enjoys the benefits of being situated on the Western European Continental shelf, in the track of the warm water off shoots of the Gulf Stream and the moderating climatic influences of the prevailing south-westerly winds. There is a great range of warm water fish species, extending to the coastal waters off the South west and west, and over — lapping the northern cold water species, such as Cod and Coalfish.

There is a beautiful mixture of Golden sandy beaches, rugged cliffs, great sea inlets and harbours dotted right around our coastline so you can fish from the rocks or from a boat into the cleanest water in the European Community and the best environment in Europe itself.

There are thousands of rivers in Ireland covering 9,000 miles and they feed more than 4,000 lakes. These lakes are long and small and cover an area of over 600,000 acres (2,428 Km) of course there is also water wildlife like Ducks and Swans to be seen not to mention the seals and the beautiful porpoise in the summer. Because of the Gulf Stream influences anglers can enjoy a year long open season but there will be better angling times for each species of course. You seldom, if ever see a river or lake covered with ice so winter, early spring pike anglers get the blessing of the elements.

For over twenty years, responsible state agencies in conjunction with local angling tourism organisations have been developing facilities in Irish Fisheries. Wherever possible the natural aspect has been maintained but where necessary fishing platforms, good boats and mooring facilities have been provided. The Irish tourist board inspects accommodation, registering and approving only those premises that meet the high standards required. Specialist accommodation operators will supply all the up to date information about local fisheries and the Irish people will make your holiday in Ireland a memorable one.

In Ballina you can enjoy all these amenities. With numerous Lakes near by and the River Moy flowing into Killala Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

Come on, Get Hooked !!

REWARD REWARD REWARD REWARD REWARD

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REWARD

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### **RUGBY PLAYERS WANTED !**

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Nor tough as 'Nails'  
But it sure as hell helps.*

Best Wishes to Ballina R.F.C.  
on your Canadian Tour.  
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(Tune of Fields of Athenry)

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We'll take off your nicker  
When we've finished our liquor  
We like girls but we prefer the beer.

**Chorus.**

So raise your glass to the boys of Ballina  
In Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa,  
In Peterborough they're great  
They drink beer from early 'till late  
Yes ! .... and so do the boys from Ballina.

2

Canada we say hello  
We're the boys from Mayo—  
And our shamrocks to the ladies  
we will show.  
For speed we're a disaster  
But a few beers make us faster  
After a keg we'll make love  
to Flo Joe ....  
Chorus.

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## THE TOURING TOURISTS

Ballina R.F.C. are delighted to welcome to the fold for the duration of the tour, six of the best, tourists known to man kind. Three each from Gort R.F.C. and Westport R.F.C.

Gort R.F.C. is a junior Club from south Galway with a small membership and a big reputation. Always good travellers Gort and Ballina have met on many occasions one of the most memorable being possible Gort's finest hour. Their magnificent win in the Connaught Junior plate competition just three years ago. Gort will be well represented in Canada by Sean Mullins and the Kilroy Brothers John and Brian.

Westport R.F.C. need no introduction to anyone remotely connected with Ballina R.F.C. One of Ballina's keenest rivals Westport is a Junior Club with dual status for Senior Cup campaigns. Westport along with Ballina is one of the premier clubs in Mayo if not Connaught and they could not have three better ambassadors in Stanley Bourke, Declan Gilvarry and Simon Fabby.

Ballina R.F.C. wish to thank both Gort R.F.C. and Westport R.F.C. for releasing their players for the tour.



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## BROTHERS IN ARMS!

Ten Seasons ago Ballina pulled off that historcial win, wresting Connachts biggest rugby prize from the renowned Athlone Club and thus turned back the clock 28 years at the Galway sports ground. It was only Ballinas second senior cup win but it was more remarkable because they were only a Junior Club !

The late great Dr. Aubrey Bourke led the team that day into a match that was to prove a titanic struggle between the giants and the paragons of Connacht rugby. At the end of seventy minutes both sides deservedly shared the spoils. However, Ballina had a match winning conjuring act in reserve.

Into the sixth minute of injury time, Ballina finding greater reserves of strength and concentration, caught the enemy unaware with a quick line out taken by Gerry O'Donnell on the Athlone 22. Possession was won and the ball was spun out to the then young and agile, Niall Brennen. With great scences of jubilation Niall touched down in the corner to secure a most memorable victory for Ballina and earning his own place into our clubs history.

Six seasons later, the club having won the Junior Cup and Junior league for a record seventh consecutive time, Ballina moved up to the Senior ranks. The scene was set for their first Senior League match in 32 years against none other than, Athlone.

Ballina won with a try by Liam Brennan in the 23rd minute securing another famous victory for the club and a nice little memento for the.... Brennan brothers!



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**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE  
AUBREY BOURKE**

---

If Aubrey were alive today he would definitely have been the first 'Tourist' to sign up for this tour. We in Ballina lost his larger than life friend when he was still only in his early forties. When he came to the club in the seventies he contributed so much by his knowledge of the game and his commitment to the club. Here was Aubrey who only a few years earlier had had a final trial for Ireland giving his total commitment to Junior Clubs. It was indeed fitting that when still a Junior Club it was Aubrey who captained the club to win the Connaught Senior Cup in 1979/80. Without his tremendous motivation and playing ability this now famous victory could never have been achieved.

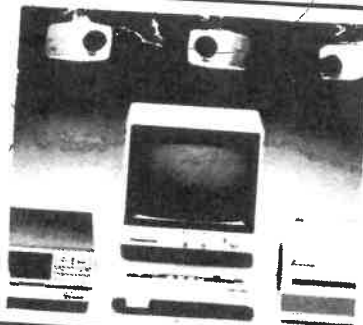
Winning however, with Aubrey, was not everything and there were few who appreciated the humorous and Social side of the game like the big doctor. He was a warm character and wonderful friend to us all. Aubrey was a big man in every sense of the word and the void left by his passing has been equally as big.

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## DID YOU KNOW !!!

The worlds largest Rugby club is the Harlequin football Club in England. It was founded in 1866 and it has provided over 150 international players, 14 England captains and 10 R.F.U. presidents.

In 1979 when Ballina won the senior cup for the second time in the clubs history they were a junior club !! and had qualified for the senior cup by winning the junior league the previous year ... needless to say ... the celebrations went on for a year too !!

The first New Zealand team (All Blacks) wore dark blue jerseys.

The crest on the Argentine Pumas jersey is actually a jaguar.

On April 20, 1902 a ceasefire was concluded between mid day and sunset during the Boer war to enable the British forces and the Afrikaaners to play some Rugby.

Western Samoa's first International in 1924 against Fiji was played at 7 a.m. so that the locals would still be in time for work. The Fijians won 6-0 despite having to play against 15 big Samoans ... and a big tree growing in the middle of the pitch !!!

The heaviest International player according to the Guinness Rugby records is P. R. Ban de Merwe, South Africa who weights 292 lbs. (approx. 21 stone).

The tallest International P.K. Stagg Scotland 6' 10".

The oldest ... E. Hughes, New Zealand at 40 years 123 days.

There are the odd non Internationals about...not as far away as New Zealand who would be ..... well maybe a few hours younger !!!



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residence  
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by AS  
was a

LIAM

Former  
Football  
business

## PAST PLAYERS OF THE CLUB

### GABRIEL FAHY.

A member of the 1st XV Senior Cup winning side of '79. Gabriel is now resident in San Francisco U.S.A. Played on the wing.

### NORMAN BLAKENEY

Norman played out half or Scrum half for Ballina. Captained Ballina 1st XV in 1981/82 to Junior League victory. A photographer, he now resides in Dublin.

### OSIN QUINN

A winner of Junior League and Cup. Medals with the Club. Osin is now living in Donegal. Played second now. A good man for a story or two!

### PADRAIC TUFFY

Feared hooker of days gone by, Padraic now works in Enniscrone. 8 miles from Ballina.

### CHARLIE MULLANEY

Out half on Senior Cup winning side '79. Charlie now resides in Boston U.S.A. where he is involved with the Boston Club.

### WALTER DOHERTY

Senior Cup medal winner 1979, Walter is now employed by Asahi Ireland at Killala 8 miles from Ballina. Walter was a noted player in his day. Played No. 8.

### LIAM O'NEILL.

Former Galway Gaelic Football Player and Mayo Gaelic Football Team Manager. Liam is now in the Insurance business outside Ballina.



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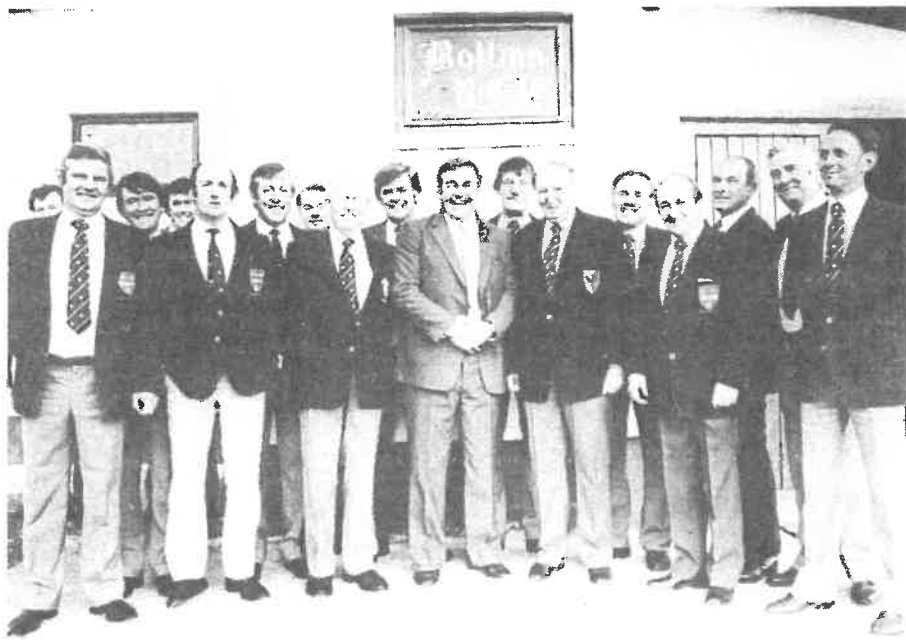
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## **BALLINA R.F.C. EXECUTIVE 1989.**

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>PETER MURPHY.</b>
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>SEAMUS QUINN.</b>
<b>CHAIRMAN:</b>	<b>TONY DUFFY.</b>
<b>HONONORY SECRETARY:</b>	<b>PAT PIGGOTT.</b>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>WALTER ROUSE.</b>
<b>ASSISTANT TREASURER:</b>	<b>PADDY WALSH.</b>
<b>FIXTURES SECRETARY:</b>	<b>KIERAN ROUSE.</b>
<b>P.R.O.:</b>	<b>NIALL JENNINGS.</b>
<b>COACHING DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>KIERAN McDAID.</b>
<b>PATRON:</b>	<b>IVAN HEFFERNAN (Snr).</b>



Opening of our clubhouse in 1979 by Kevin Quilligan President I.R.F.U.



The Legendary Sid Millar at the Ballina Clubhouse with the late Sean Murphy and club dignitaries.

Richard  
Tommy  
Gerry  
Brian  
Tom  
Michael  
Michael  
Eugene  
Neil

'SAM


Martin

Niall  
Brian

J.P.  
Sean


Pat

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## REASONS FOR STAYING AT HOME:

<b>Richard West</b>	Refused to travel without his lovely green and gold rugby sweater.
<b>Tommie Cooke</b>	Travelled to Toronto but was arrested in the Airport bar for standing on tables, swinging glasses and singing rowdy songs.
<b>Gerry O'Donnell</b>	In training for the full back position....or any position.
<b>Brian Mescal</b>	Misunderstood details of last tour meeting and is now believed in to be in China.
<b>Tom Cafferky</b>	Sitting Gynaecology exams.
<b>Michael Hanley</b>	In heavy training for next years Tug of War.
<b>Michel Rowe</b>	Not yet released on parole.
<b>Eugene Cawley</b>	Gone to Scotland !!
<b>Neil Dodd</b>	Got locked into a hugh safe in Galway while practising the 'Dunmore Dummy' ... still can't get it right also he did not want to go untill that bottle of Hair restorer is found.
<b>'SAM' Cawley</b>	Deliberty threw a huge industrial machine on his foot so he has to avoid cutting his toe nails for a while .... sorry to see the plan did not work out Sam !! You won't be seeing your toes for a while !!
<b>Martin Boland</b>	Suffering severe hand trouble having been glued to the rope and the ground in a recent Tug of War !!
<b>Niall Jennings</b>	Currently hard in training to play No. 8 this season.
<b>Brian West</b>	Not invited and then refused entrance to the "rent a player" agency.
<b>J.P. Leonard</b>	His favourite Cow, Daisy is expecting Twins.
<b>Seamus O'Dowd</b>	Waiting at home to see Mayo in the Ireland Final or maybe a late call up to play even !!
<b>Pat Buckley</b>	Couldn't get a loan.

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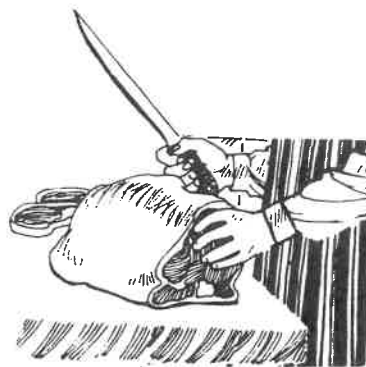
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WISHING BALLINA R.F.C. EVERY SUCCESS  
ON THEIR CANADIAN TOUR.

Treasurer was P. Buckley, a Munster & Leinster Bank official and a real driving force. The banks supplied a large number of players, including J. Carney, Hugh Campbell (Ulster Bank), and a one-time captain, and Tim O'Connor, an international standard high jumper, whose regular feat was to jump the railway gates at Station Road—from the standing position! There were many local players—Leo Ahearne, Eamon and Jimmy English, Bill "Brute" Cosgrave. Players travelling in from outside towns, included Tommy Timoney, from Killala, who had had American Rugby experience in the U.S.A.; Vincie Cosgrave, J.P. Roughneen, Kiltimagh; the Melett brothers, Kevin and Willie from Swinford; Paddy Sherry, Foxford; B. Coleman, Castlebar, and Brendan McAuley, "imported" from Dublin, for vital matches. The Customs and Excise was represented by a very diminutive "Baby" Power.

The Club had its headquarters in the Crescent Hotel, owned by the Cosgrave family, beside the Post Office, and there the visiting teams were entertained, and meetings were held.

The teams travelled mainly by hired omnibus. There were two transport companies in Ballina, at the time—I.O.C. (Irish Omnibus Company) and the Magnet Bus Company. The players' cars were often used for away matches. Following their most auspicious start in Connacht competitive fare, the season 1928/'29 dawned bright, and Ballina shot right to the top of the Connacht graph, by winning the Senior League. The team was led by Eddie Murphy; Eamon English was at out half; Ivan McGee, a student at St. Muredach's College at the time, operated at scrum half; Billy Carlos played at full back; Tim O'Connor centre back; James (Gildie) Ahearne and Jimmy Murphy on the wings; Hugh Campbell led the forwards which included George Conboy, Kevin Mellett and Brendan McAuley.

In 1929/'30 Ballina reached the final of the Connacht Senior Cup, and lost by one score (3-nil) to U.C.G., after a ding dong struggle. They were back in the final again the following season against Loughrea, but the Co. Galway Club emerged victorious by 6—3.

The Club continued to be a force in the province for the following years and although titles did not come its way, it still fulfilled its fixtures.

The outbreak of world war II placed limitations on the activities, and petrol rationing curtailed the number of matches, but there was a surge in the post war years and a gradual build-up to the Junior Cup win in 1948.

Team: Luke Dodd, Jarlath Jennings, Mick King, Aiden Hennigan, Father Anthony Hannick, Arthur Boland (Capt.), Ivan Heffernan, J. Mahoney, Bernie Scott, Eamon Connor, Charlie O'Connor, Andrew Dodd, Bob Scott, Tom Connor and Jack O'Meara.

The 1948 win heralded better things to come, with the gradual preparation and moulding of the team to take the first Connacht Senior Cup title to Ballina in the 1950/'51 season.

On that historic team were: Manus Gilvarry; Gerry Browne; Mick King; Donie Barrett; Jackie Hannick; Arthur Boland; Charlie Connor; Joe Dunphy; Tom Connor; Seamus Quinn; Ivan Heffernan, (Capt.); Paddy Sheehan, (R.I.P.); Eamon Connor, Brian Moylett, Seamus Barrett, The side included the three Connor brothers—Charlie, Tom & Eamon. Coach: Sean Murphy.

## HISTORY OF BALLINA RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

It was in the early days of 1928, when Ballina got it's first real taste of Rugby football, when the newly formed Ballina Club played hosts to a Westport selection, in the grounds of St. Muredach's College.

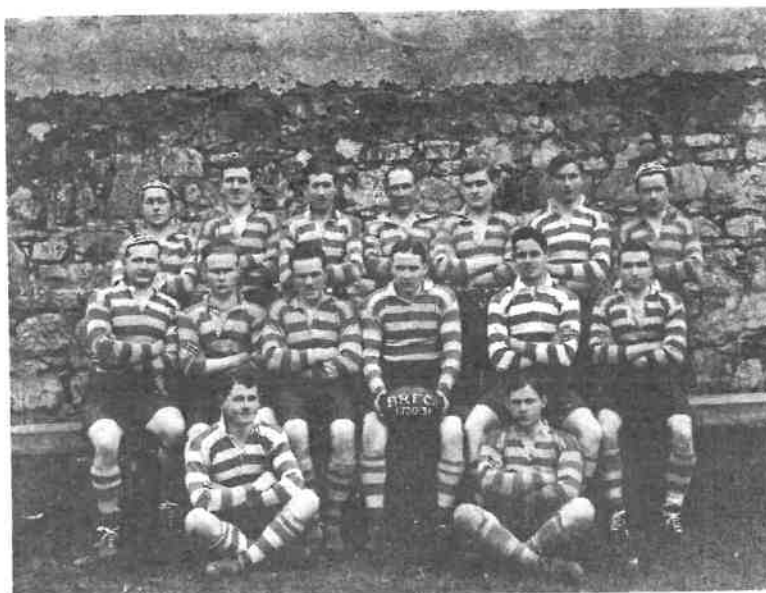
IT was the start of an era, the birth of a Club that was to shed lustre on Connacht, and Irish Rugby. And although the Rules have changed in the interim, the spirit is the same in the Club.

The majority of the Ballina players in those early days were either bank officials or students just out of college, particularly from the Rugby playing nurseries such as Blackrock, Clongowes Wood, etc.

Ballina was proposed for membership at the February meeting of the Connacht Branch in 1928. The affiliation which was accepted unanimously, was proposed by Galwegians, and seconded by U.C.G. Straight away, Ballina got down to business and reached the final of the Junior Cup, to be beaten 8—4 by Galwegians.

In 1929 the Camp Field (now the home of Ballina Stephenites) was acquired as a Rugby pitch, with proper goal posts and markings provided.

The Club's first president was Dr. Francis Keane, of Lr. Pearse Street, and the other officers were Mr. W.S. Huggard, Solr., Mr. William Strong, merchant; and later Mr. J. Killeen, manager of the Bank of Ireland—and old Irish.



Attired in their blue and white jerseys are the players from the Ballina Team of 1930/'31. Back (from left): Kevin Mellett, Bill Cosgrave, Vincie Cosgrave, Ml. Bannerton, Hugh Campbell, Gerry Adair, Tim O'Connor, Seated: Eddie Murphy, Raymond Floyd, Bob Hutchinson, Eamon English (Capt.), Billy Carlos, James "Gildie" Ahearn. Front: Brendan McAuley, Paddy Sherry.



They contested the Final of the Connacht Junior Cup, in 1957, in Galway Sportsground, where they were beaten by Galway Rovers. Back from left). Referee; Sean Gilmartin, Paddy Molloy, David Michael, Peter Mad-eley, Mick Kilcawley, M. Kilcawley. Middle (from left): Manus Gilvarry, James (Mutt) Murphy, Peter Moore, Frank McElwee, Ivan Heffernan, Des McAndrew, Leo Loftus. Front: Rubert McElwee, Larry Ruane.



World War II placed limitations on rugby activity and travelling, but Ballina teamed up with Westport and Sligo in 1941, to compete in the Senior Cup. They were beaten in the first round (6—3) by U.C.G., who went on to take the trophy. Back (from left): M. J. (Mixie) Murphy, Ballina, T. Bourke, Sligo, Ted Hunter, Sligo, Jack Hannick, Ballina, Sean Murphy, Ballina, Johnny McBride, Westport, J. Kelly, Sligo, Pearse Gill, Westport, Arthur Boland, Ballina. Front (from left): J. Corcoran, Ballina, R. Heron, Westport, Bernard Scott, Ballina, Vincie Molloy, Ballina (he was Connacht hooker from 1938 to '47 and was one of the province's most capped players), Tommie Hannick, Ballina, Seamus Barrett, Ballina.

The team also won the Senior League that season, and shared the title the following year, after a series of draws with Galway Corinthians failed to yield a result. Cup final appearance against Galway Rovers in 1957.

Surprisingly fortunes slumped for a time, and apart from a Junior Cup final appearance against Galway, in 1957, success did not come the Club's way until the Junior League win against Sligo, in Galway Sportsground, in 1973.

On duty for Ballina that day were: Seamus O'Dowd, Pat Doherty, Michael Rowe, Walter Rouse, Stanley Rowe, James Murphy (R.I.P.), Tommie Cooke, John Duffy, James Preston, Peter Murphy (Capt.), Michael Begley.

That League win was the start of a golden era for the Club—the purple patch in the Club's history, for it culminated in two Junior Cup wins; two Leagues; the winning of the Junior B League, and under age titles.

Coached by Dr. Oliver Bourke, the Club won the Junior Cup in 1975/76, after a lapse of 18 years, after a nail-biting match against Galwegians, and retained the trophy the following season, again with a spirited display against newcomers, Creggs, from County Roscommon. Creggs, incidentally, are the current holders.

1976/77 Cup team: Seamus O'Dowd, Liam O'Neill, Michael Rowe (capt.), Walter Rouse, Padraic Walkin, Charlie Mullaney, Norman Blakeney, Matt Dwyer, Padraic Tuffy, Gerry O'Donnell, Eugene Cawley, Jack Gleeson, Ml. Begley, Aubrey Bourke, Peter Gibson.

Ballina won the Junior League in 1978, (capt.), Tommie Cooke, Michael Rowe, Ivan Heffernan, having beaten U.C.G. in the final. Ballina: Seamus O'Dowd, John Duffy, Padraic Tuffy, Gerry O'Donnell, Eugene Cawley, Jack Gleeson, Padraic Walkin, Walter Rouse, Norman Blakeney, John Gleeson, Bill Ferguson, Aubrey Bourke, Michael Begley. Replacement: Walter Doherty for Ferguson.

And to crown a great 1977/78 season, the Club also won the Connacht Junior B League with a comprehensive win against Our Lady's Boys' Club. On the Ballina team were: Tony Duffy, Padraic Jones, Liam Martin, David Dodd, (capt.), Padraic Walkin, Tommie Cooke, Brian Mescal, John Duffy, Eugene Langan, Kieran Rouse, Stanley Rowe, Daithi Quinn, Bill Ferguson, Pat Doherty, James Preston. Reserves: Rory O'Connor, Martin Moylett, James Greham.

In 1979 Ballina R.F.C. went on to have its finest hour, when against all odds they beat Athlone in the Connaught Senior Cup Final. 10-6 in injury time. The side was captained by Dr. Aubrey Bourke and team members included Gerry O'Donnell, Eugene Cawley, Walter Doherty, Liam O'Neill, Niall Brennan, Seamus O'Dowd and Tommie Cooke. In the same year Ballina also won the U.17 League.

In 1980 the Junior Cup was added again to the clubs honours and then for the next 5 seasons Ballina won the Junior League 5 times on the trot. In that time a Junior B' League (1983) and another Junior Cup (1985) were added.

Having won the 'Junior Double' (League & Cup) in 1985 the club departed the junior scene in style and moved up a step to the Senior Ranks. Ballina would again be playing Senior League matches.

In the club's first senior league match in 38 years they beat Athlone at home.

## Junior Cup after 28 years



Pictured on the steps of the Corinthians clubhouse, after Ballina had won the Connaught Junior Cup, in 1976—after a lapse of 28 years. Club captain Walter Rouse holds the coveted trophy.



Beaten in the replayed semi-final of the Connacht Junior Cup, by Galway Corinthians (ultimate title winners) in the 1961/'62 season: front (from left): John Coen, Paddy Conway, Des McAndrew, David Michael, Billy O'Keefe, John Gibbs, Des Nolan. Back (from left): Sean Murphy, Tom Moran, Pat Coakley, John Duffy, Mick Kilcawley, Mick Murphy, Noel Gilhooley, Mick Caplice, Hilly Kilcawley, Liam Molloy.

# Ballina Are Connacht Champs

BALLINA ..... 6  
 CREGGS ..... Nil

EVENTFUL WEEK-END FOR TOMMY COOKE

## BALLINA RETAIN CONNACHT JUNIOR LEAGUE

BALLINA: 6 points  
 CREGGS: Nil

24th Dec., 1982 — Page 14

JOURNAL SPORT 

# Ballina Are Connacht Champs

BALLINA "SECONDS" ..... 4  
 CLIFDEN "SECONDS" ..... 3

## Ballina Qualify for Connacht Final

BALLINA ..... 16  
 ATHLONE ..... nil.



### PAST PRESIDENTS:

1956/79 F. Keane M.P.  
1979/82 V. Cosgrave  
1982/84 T. Cooke  
1984/86 B. Hensey  
1986/87 S. Murphy  
I. Heffernan  
Ml. Murphy  
J. Ruddy  
J. Duffy

### PAST CAPTAINS:

1965/66 D. O'Hara  
1966/67 D. O'Hara  
1967/68 D. Coogan  
1968/69 G. O'Donnell  
1969/70 G. O'Donnell  
1970/71 M. Murphy  
1971/72 P. Tuffy  
1972/73 J. Duffy  
1973/74 P. Murphy  
1974/75 E. Cawley  
1975/76 W. Rouse  
1976/77 M. Rowe  
1977/78 S. O'Dowd  
1978/79 A. Bourke  
1979/80 T. Cooke  
1980/81 P. Buckley  
1981/82 N. Blakney  
1982/83 J. P. Leonard  
1983/84 J. P. Leonard  
1984/85 I. Heffernan  
1985/86 J. P. Leonard  
1986/87 B. West

### CLUB HONOURS

1928/29 Senior League  
1947/48 Junior Cup  
1950/51 Senior Cup League  
1973/74 Junior League  
1975/76 Junior Cup, U.15 League  
1976/77 Junior Cup, Junior League  
Junior B League, U. 15 League  
1977/78 Junior League  
1978/79 Senior Cup, U. 17 League  
1979/80 Junior Cup  
1980/81 Junior League, Junior B League  
Murphy Cup (Mayo)  
1981/82 Junior League  
1982/83 Junior League, Junior B League  
1983/84 Junior League, Ryan Cup U. 18  
1984/85 Junior League, Junior Cup  
Aubrey Bourke Cup U. 20 League  
1985/86 U. 20 League Cup  
Aubrey Bourke Cup  
1986/87 Aubrey Bourke Cup



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## BOYS FROM THE COUNTY MAYO

1

Far away from the land  
of the shamrock and heather  
In search of a living  
as exiles we roam  
But when ever we chance  
to assemble together  
We think of the land  
Where we once had our home.

2.

Our homes are destroyed  
and our land confiscated  
Hand of the Tyrant  
Brought plunder and woe  
But Oh how we'd love to go  
back there tomorrow  
To the dreams of our childhood  
where we once had our home

**Chorus.**

So boys stick together  
In all kinds of weather  
Don't show the white feather  
where ever you roam  
just be like a brother  
and love one another  
like the stout hearted men from the  
County Mayo

3.

From Galway to Dublin  
From Derry to Kerry  
Montreal Ottawa, Toronto  
And not to far away  
Peterborough also  
You'll find the stout  
hearted men from the  
County Mayo.

**Chorus.**

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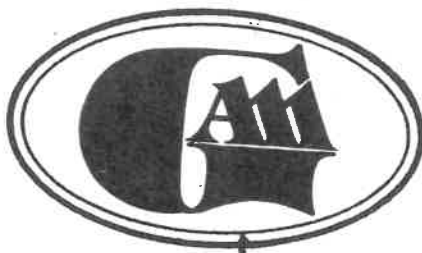
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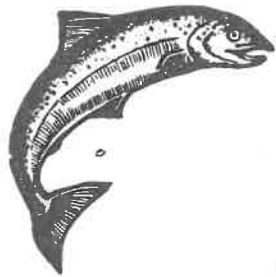
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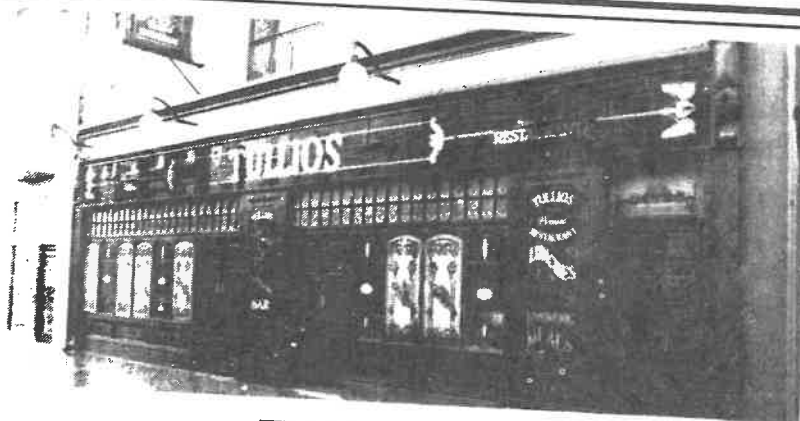
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**the opening of the new Clubhouse in 1979.**  
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1st XV Captained by Tommie Cooke 1979/80. Junior Cup Winners.



1st XV 1980/81. Junior Cup Winners.



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## From Boyhood days

"Would you care to play Rugby"—a note scribbled on a scrap of jotter paper was passed around the Science Lab. in the basement of St. Muredach's College, during a Physics Class, while most of the studios lads were engulfed in "Velocity of Sound".

The obvious 'lads' were earmarked by their size, weight, willingness and sense of adventure to take part in forming an under-age side to represent Ballina. The following day, being our fortnightly half-day, our 'gang' leader Paschal Preston took us to Belleek to tog, and we were greeted and made welcome by our new Coach—a man who would guide, coach and for the next three to four years, mould an inspiring young fifteen—his name, Liam Molloy. Liam, now distinguished in Rugby circles for his refereeing, administration, coaching and P.R.O. duties, is and will be remembered by all of us for his unceasing willingness to revive Juvenile Rugby, and we thank both himself and his wife for the endless hours devoted to this aim.

Every Saturday and every half-day received from school was spent in Belleek, learning the ploys and skills of Rugby Football.

After 7 weeks we played our first ever match against Sligo Grammar School in Belleek. A match of many fortunes—the result did not matter. All of us felt like little giants clapping of our opponents and washing in the bath provided by the Moy Hotel, and then Rugby Headquarters.

From there the momentum increased—a new flux of young blood joined us, and every Saturday during practice we grew up to relish the game. The following seasons were bigger and better. We had regular fixtures with Grammar School, Sligo and Westport R.F.C. on a home and away basis. The overcrowded mini-bus of Rugby enthusiasts and the savoury meals provided will always be remembered.

The following season, my captaincy, our coach decided that we merited an entry to the Branch Competitions. For the first round we were drawn against Sligo in the Minor Cup. Having experienced the usual toughness we pulled through to meet Westport, in the Semi-final. The battle was fought in the Demesne, in a mud bath of rain and hail. We scraped through to meet U.C.G. students in the Final. What a contrast. On a glorious sunny day we arrived in Galway, fresh and well, only to be annihilated by 70 points to nil, by the super knowledgeable school 1st Team leavers of the previous year. Never mind, we were brought to "The Skeff" and given a tidy helping of food, and our spirits were soon raised.

The end of that season then saw a split up of our Team—an inevitable part of life, I suppose—many of the lads departed to follow their respective careers/studies, most never again donned the little green jerseys. What remained—Gerry Hallinan, Pat O'Malley, Eugene Cawley, James Preston and myself—went through the ranks to the Senior teams, and the rest only God knows. They are to be found anywhere from South Africa, Toronto, London and Dublin.

That's what living is all about! For all of us on that Golden Minor Side, wherever we are, we certainly will always remember our introduction to Rugby and that man who made it all possible, LIAM MOLLOY.

To Liam and Family,      THANK YOU.

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**Ballina firsts captained by Norman Blakney 1981/82.**  
Back: P. Buckley, M. Rowe, D. Greeney, B. West, G. O'Donnell, E. Hiney,  
E. Cawley, J.P. Leonard.  
Front: M. Begley, C. Mullaney, M. Kilkenny, N. Blakney (Cpt.), S. O'Dowd,  
T. Cooke, N. Jennings. Connaught Junior League Winners.



**Walter Doherty winning possession v Loughrea Cup Semi-final in 1979.**

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**1st XV 1985/86, Ballina's 1st Senior League Match v Athlone.  
Aubrey Bourke Cup winners.**



**1st XV Captained by Brian West 1986/87. Aubrey Bourke Cup Winners.**

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## APPRECIATION

Ray Foley

A special word of sincere thanks to Ray for his continued support over the past year and a half. Ray has been behind the organising of this tour from the start and his contribution was immeasurable. Unfortunately work matters prevailed and in the end he was unable to make it. We wish Ray and his lovely wife all the best and our lasting appreciation for all his efforts.

Paul Loftus.

Every tour, especially one of this calibre, needs a link man on the other side. In this capacity Ballina was very fortunate to have one of its own in Paul Loftus. Paul hails from Bridge Street and is now living in Montreal for the past number of years where he still keeps very involved in Canadian Rugby. He is a regular visitor to Ballina too and is always keen to hear how his pals are getting on not to mention the local rugby and football scene. We sincerely thank him for his genuine efforts and advice since the tour plans were unveiled.

Ballina Printing Company

For all their advice and efforts on our behalf with posters, tickets and most of all this Souvenir production.

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LIAM MOLLOY ..... For Editing this Programme.  
JUDD RUANE ..... For his help in fundraising.  
MICHAEL WALKIN ..... Travel arrangements.  
TOMMIE COOKE ..... Car Treasure Hunt and Tour Song.  
WESTERN PEOPLE (local newspaper) ..... Photographs.  
JACK RUANE ..... Fishing Photograph.  
CAROLINE McKEOGH, CHRISTINE DOLAN ..... Typist.

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