

CAI are the Irish Swimming Champions



CAI's junior swimming team's winning streak continued last weekend at the Irish Schools' Finals in Belfast when they won gold medals in both the medley and freestyle relays and took home the trophy for the best team overall. CAI had the fastest qualifying times of the 24 competing schools and fin-

ished well ahead of the field in both finals to the delight of the travelling supporters. This is the first success at Irish Secondary Schools' level since 1988, when the senior team won the freestyle final in Galway, and the boys deserve great credit for the hours of training they put in preparing for this competition. They are now in training for the Bath Cup, an invita-

tion gala which takes place in London in June. The medley team consisted of Ciaran Sloan, Jay-Dee Ferguson, Chris Coils and Conor Nicholl. Christy McLaughlin joined Ciaran, Chris and Conor for the freestyle final.

Mr Knox

Under 18's through to the Northern Ireland Final

Medallion team lose out Page 3

Replay Productions Visit Page 4

Interview with James Nesbitt Page 5

BBC Journalist returns Page 6

Lagan Head of The River Page 8

Last Wednesday afternoon, at Ulidia Playing Fields in Belfast, CAI under 18s kicked off their semi-final clash with Portadown



College. This match was highly anticipated as both schools have had a great run of results so far this season. CAI, who have also made it to the final of the Coleraine District League, started the game sharply. Ten minutes into the game some swift passing from the Inst midfield forced a corner. The delivery into the box caused confusion among the Portadown defence and, striker, Stephen Dobbins managed to head the ball on for captain Ed Taylor to scramble the ball over the line, making it 1-0 to CAI. Shortly after a darting run by Alan Ewart was halted outside the box by a foul. The central defender joined his captain in the book for the challenge.

Midway through the first half Inst doubled their advantage, making full use of a free kick just outside the 18-yard box. Fullback Neil Bleakly bent the ball over the wall and past the keeper to make the half time score 2-0.

Portadown began to show signs of a fight back in the second half. A long ball from deep let the centre forward have a shot on goal, but Inst goalie, Clarke, saved comfortably. Portadown continued to pile on the pressure and a free kick from far out seemed to be heading for the top corner only for the head of midfielder, Craig Ramsey, to guide it over the bar for a corner. Portadown were then handed a golden opportunity to drag themselves back into the game. Alan Ewart handled the ball in the area and the referee pointed to the spot. This time Ewart's name was taken. Up stepped the captain who

drilled the ball low and hard, to the right of Clarke in the Inst goal, but Clarke saved the initial strike before recovering to make a double save to



keep his clean sheet. A tackle from behind in the middle of the park saw the Portadown captain receiving his second yellow card. Portadown now had ten men and Inst began to dominate. A great run by Peden on the left flank saw him brought down illegally and while on the ground Peden was kicked by an angry Portadown defender. The tackler received his second yellow and the other culprit saw straight red. Portadown now had only 8 men on the pitch. The resulting free kick saw Neil Bleakly have a third attempt and this one came very close too, grazing the cross bar on the way over. It proved to be irrelevant as it was the final kick of the game. CAI will now progress to the final with a 28th March date pencilled in for this fixture.

Report and photographs by J. Creelman

Coleraine Inst. Friends' Association

Wine Tasting & Tapas Evening

at the School

on Friday 30th March 2007 at 8.00 p.m.

Ticket £10 each available from School Office

Wine Sponsored by Asda, Coleraine

Food Sponsored by The Belfry, Coleraine

Medallion Team Lose out in Semi-Final

As soon as the draw was made this was heralded as the tie of the round. Both teams were well fancied and C.A.I. knew they had their work cut out as they had lost to M.C.B. earlier in the season. Despite this C.A.I. were confident of achieving victory.



The match started in the worst possible way for the away team. After 5 mins the M.C.B. out half carved up the disappointing C.A.I. defence and fed the right winger who scored in the corner. This try was superbly converted from the touchline.

This try seemed to spur Inst into action and from the kick off their forwards grabbed the match by the scruff of the neck. A period of pressure followed and good work by McIntosh, McCabe, Liken and Mcauley led to a penalty opportunity which McMaster converted.

The C.A.I. team continued to work hard in defence against a M.C.B. team who dominated possession. The score remained the same until half time when C.A.I. were dealt a severe blow when talisman McIntosh was withdrawn by the team doctor with suspected concussion.



M.C.B., as they did in the first half, scored an early try, which again came from disappointing tackling. This however seemed to spur C.A.I. into action and over the next 10-15 mins they dominated possession

and territory, coming close to scoring on several occasions. Unfortunately M.C.B. weathered the storm and eventually broke away and scored again. This try was a bitter pill for C.A.I. to swallow and two others followed in quick succession which resulted in a score-line that flattered M.C.B. and did not truly reflect the true nature of the match.



This was an excellent occasion which M.C.B. deserved to win. The CAI boys were gutted at the end but must take a lot of credit from the resilience and heart they showed during this match and the rest of the season. Also the five Under 14 boys will have gained invaluable experience for next season. The C.A.I. team have made great improvements and should be proud of their commitment.

Mr Beggs

Diary Dates

**8th March—
Y10 Parents'
evening**

**26th March—
Closure Day**

A Visit from Replay Productions



The award winning Replay Productions is a professional education theatre company based in Belfast. On the 7th February a lucky group of Drama enthusiasts at Coleraine Inst were given the opportunity to participate in an interactive Drama workshop delivered by one of their touring actors.

Unsure what to expect from a workshop entitled 'Fortress Europe' the 20 pupils were further intrigued when they

entered Templeton Auditorium to find a giant, monopoly styled, board game (complete with giant foam dice!) on the floor.

The activity involved the pupils working in teams whilst taking on the persona of a refugee, desperately seeking asylum from one of the European Union's 27 member nations. Whilst this was a fun exercise the pupils also got to explore more serious human rights issues.

War zones had to be crossed, chances taken and moral dilemmas faced – all in all it was an exciting and challenging afternoon!

Miss Magee.



Much Ado at the Lyric

Recently Year 13 English Literature pupils accompanied by Mrs Taggart and Miss Magee journeyed to see Much Ado About Nothing at the Lyric Theatre. After the usual munchies on the way we arrived in high spirits and took our seats alongside several other school groups for the mid-morning performance. From Leonatos's welcome home party for the returning soldiers via the subsequent turbulent love stories of Hero and Claudio and Beatrice and Benedick through to the double wedding of the social season, the actors brought the words of the Bard to vibrant life. It was an eye-opening inter-



pretation bringing modern understanding to the old language of Shakespeare's England.

After the play we replenished our empty stomachs before the journey homeward returning to school much fed in body and mind!

T. Rajan

Interview with James Nesbitt

James Nesbitt is a well known celebrity famous for numerous roles in Cold Feet, Murphy's Law, Bloody Sunday and of course the hilarious yellow pages adverts. Even now, being the big celebrity that he has become, he hasn't forgotten his roots and can be seen around Coleraine just like any normal person. Nor has he forgotten his seven years of studying at this Coleraine Inst. He took time out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions for Stripes.

Have you always wanted to be an actor; if not, what did you want to be?

I think I always wanted to be an actor but didn't take it seriously. If I didn't do acting I would have liked to become either a teacher or a footballer and play for Manchester United! However, now I realise that acting is always what I wanted to do.

What are you currently working on?

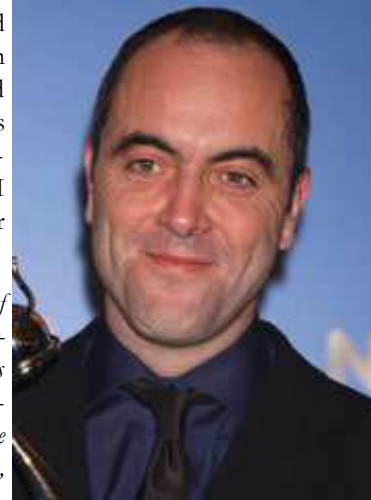
I am currently shooting the 4th series of Murphy's Law in Dublin. Each series of Murphy's Law gets darker and what started as a comedy drama has now become a dark gritty exploration of undercover policing.

What has been your favourite/best performance to date?

It is hard to say because I only ever try to do very good writing so most of my parts have presented me with different and enjoyable challenges but my role in 'Bloody Sunday' was very important

to me and Adam in 'Cold Feet' is something I will never forget.

Which of your performances best describes the real you, and why?



It's hard to be specific about one performance because as an actor I always use little bits of myself in every character.

What is it like being a voice in the cartoon 'Tractor Tom'?

It is actually very difficult to do cartoons because the animation is completed only after the voice work so therefore it is hard to envisage what the character looks like. But it is something for my daughters and granddaughters to enjoy.

What advice would you give to a C.A.I pupil wanting to become an actor?

I'm aware of how insecure the business is and I'm tempted to say don't do it. But if it is someone's dream then they will and should follow it. I have my teachers at C.A.I to thank for encouraging my dream.

K. Armstrong.

1st XV tour to Cardiff

On Friday 2nd February twenty boys from the Schools Cup squad embarked on a long weekend break in Wales after their premature departure from the competition itself.

We travelled on ferry and coach to a hotel near Cardiff arriving at 7.00pm. After the long day's travelling most boys ate dinner and had an early night to prepare for their match in the morning.

Saturday morning saw CAI play local school Isgol Glantaff who have a good rugby tradition and proved to be a tough side. However CAI 1st XV played well and came away with a 27-24 win putting everyone in high spirits for the rest of the trip.

In the afternoon the team went to a local rugby club and had the choice to either watch the Cardiff Blues play or go into the club house to watch the 6 nations games. The afternoon turned out to be thoroughly enjoyable with good rugby to be seen on TV or the pitch. In the evening the bus took everyone

into Cardiff city centre for a night out on the town.

Sunday was the day that people had been most

looking forward to because of the visit to the Millennium Stadium to see Ireland's opening match of the 6 Nations against Wales. It was a tense game, this feeling was heightened by the atmosphere at the huge stadium. Thankfully Ireland came out on top and hushed the Welsh fans. In the evening the party travelled to Walsall in England to spend a quiet evening at the hotel before the long journey home.

Monday was another day of travelling with the bus pulling back into the school at around 9pm. This marked the end to a memorable trip and an enjoyable end to the season.

J. Shiels



School Council Update

The School Council held its first meeting on Friday 2nd February. After a long delay with elections due to exams, both the Headmaster and Mr Allen are glad to see the 2007 Council in operation. First on the agenda was the donation of the money raised on Friday mornings, to a charity that the council felt was most relevant to the pupils in the school. It was decided that the charity which should benefit is the Causeway Wheelers and that the money from the recent non-uniform day should be donated to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young).

On a less important note it was also discussed that the members of the school council be

given badges to identify them to their respective peers, so if you are wondering who your councillor is then check out the lists in the circulation area or keep an eye out for the badges.

Finally, the Headmaster, Mr Allen and the members of the Council are looking forward to, with what little time is left, bringing about changes to better the school environment. If you have any ideas, you can speak to any of your year representatives or council members; they are always glad for suggestions!

G. Steele

BBC Journalist returns to his old School

On 23rd February Miss Magee's Year 11 Journalism class and some Year 13 pupils were treated to a talk, from one of C.A.I.'s favourite sons, BBC journalist and 'Let's Talk' host Mark Carruthers.

After catching up with his former school chum Mr Allen, Mark gave a brief overview of his life and career thus far. He detailed his childhood aspirations of being a barrister, his endeavours at C.A.I as a drama student alongside Jimmy Nesbitt, his tenure at Queen's university where he studied politics, and his progression up the journalistic ladder.

He then threw the floor open for questions. Despite initial apathy and reluctance from students the questions soon flowed with many hands



in the air at once, all eager for Mark to address their queries. He explored many topics including the pressure of being a journalist to the difficulty of entering the field. He also lamented on the prioritisation of graphics and technology over news. Overall I found Mark to be 'down to earth' with no delusions of grandeur just because he is on television and I found the talk to be highly informative and beneficial to any Mark Carruthers wannabees!

D. Montgomery

4th XV Match Report

After a disappointing defeat against Limavady Grammar, the 4th XV squad hoped to win their next match against Banbridge Academy. The game took place on Wednesday 14th February which was a brilliant day for rugby. Prior to the 2:30pm kick off the team was warmed up and ready to tear into the opposition.

Despite 2 tries from the Banbridge side in the first half the Coleraine team were not giving up! The team held their heads high and played an impressive game, with strong forwards and reliable backs. The home side levelled the score early in the second half with two tries. Following this the 4th XV, with their domi-

nance up front, wore down the opposition but sadly made a slip-up and Banbridge capitalised on this to score another try.

Coleraine fought back in the dying minutes of the game with an impressive attack on the tiring Banbridge side and almost scored a striking try to bring the game back on level terms. Despite losing the game, Coleraine stamped a powerful impression on the minds of the Banbridge team.

J Rajan



Photo Round-up



Fireman Rajan arrives on non-uniform day.

Three Ulster Players visit the Under 14 Team



Medallion team on tour in Dublin

Pupils at the Tennis Legends event in the Odyssey.



Lagan Head Of The River

On Saturday the 17th February, the Rowers of Coleraine Inst travelled down to compete in the Lagan Head Of The River race. The race allows all age groups from Junior 14 to Veteran, from all over Ireland, to compete against each other. Our boat club sent four crews to compete in this event, Junior 18 8, Junior 18 Quad, J18 4, and J15 Quad. The first race of the day was a five kilometre race and consisted of mainly big boats, in which our J18 8 competed strongly, coming in at Ninth position out of 20. This is a tough event in which the J18 8 were competing against more experienced university crews and International rowers, and it is fair to say the J18 8 finished in a very creditable position. The Second race of the day was an event mainly based on smaller boats over 2700 metres, and CAI showed even more promising results through-out the categories. The J18 Quad narrowly missed first place in their category by one second, and finished second over all out of fifty-six crews. The J18 4 in their category came third, with first and second places going to



two St. Josephs' crews from Galway, who have a very good reputation for producing Olympic standard rowers. The J15 Quad also came third in their category, and this is very commendable for the rowers as this was their first race.

Some Old boys of Coleraine Inst were also competing in the races. Richard Archibald, currently rowing for Ireland and World Championship Gold medallist, was rowing along side his younger brother Stephen. Both brothers competed in single sculls. With a phenomenal row from Richard, he dominated his category and it can be easily seen why he is rowing internationally.

R.Hart, M.McNaul & R. Dinsmore.

Any comments or ideas please e-mail them to editor@stripes-magazine.co.uk