



The Raven

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GLENSTAL ABBEY SCHOOL

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THE FIFTH ANNUAL GLENSTAL SKI-TRIP

Saturday 28th February saw twenty-two intrepid boys from first year, second year and third year gather at Dublin Airport, ready to depart on the fifth Glenstal ski trip to the Alpine resort of Anzère, in the Swiss Canton of Valais. This week was unforgettable. Again there were no injuries and we got great skiing but this year we had a remarkable series of related experiences which bear the telling. For instance on arrival at Geneva in the late evening of Sat 28 February, there was no bus to meet us. This was because of an administration error in Switzerland. However this problem was overcome by catching a train (luckily there was one!) to Sion where it was promised a bus would be waiting for us. But no; there wasn't one. This was all the more disturbing as the Swiss bus company had its mobile switched to voice mail only! Night was closing in and so were the freezing temperatures when a bus finally swung in front of the train station and we clambered aboard. Finally reaching Anzere we were given keys to five apartments but first enjoyed a hot meal in a local hotel. The next day's skiing was great, with blue skies, freezing air and no queues. But our troubles recurred when that evening we were told that two of the five apartments were not ours and that it was a serious offence in Swiss law to have on one's person the keys of other people's apartments! We, needless to say, quickly moved out and the rest of the week passed off 'skiingly'. A near mishap however was when Matthew MacDonald became unexpectedly airborne. He was coming around a curve and hit ice; there is nothing to do on ice but slip and if this happens on a turn or at a mountain ledge it means shooting through the air. He did, and hit the ground with a smack (luckily there wasn't a tree in the way), rolled over a few times; but then he got up, shook the snow off and headed back up the mountain side! The only damage was done to one of his skis, which was covered by guarantee – lucky! The week continued merrily and there was much enjoyment, some fresh powder snow and splendid views. etc. Every night we enjoyed hamburgers or the like in a local restaurant; for boys there is no escape from this diet! Saturday rolled on and we collected our gear and left Anzere very happy. A bonus of the arrival fiasco was discovering that Swiss trains could be far more comfortable and cheaper than privately hired buses. So we trained it back to Geneva, got

to the airport early enough to detour through the world's biggest motor show and then caught our flight back to Dublin. However we needed one last hurrah; we got it when the pilot announced at 34,000 feet that the door wasn't properly sealed! Air was hissing fast out the door, hostesses looked anxious as they speeded their trolley back to the galley, and we had to move into what the pilot called 'rapid descent'. This involved flying downwards at a most remarkable angle. Reaching 18,000 feet the pilot then informed us that travelling at this altitude meant greater fuel consumption and we mightn't have enough to get to Dublin! He said he'd do a few calculations and get back to us. At any rate he climbed to 24,000. We didn't stay there long; air was again furiously hissing its way out of the plane's door; we did another dive. Some of the boys seemed to enjoy the replay; others tried to equalise air pressure inside and outside their ears. We reached 14,000 and then managed to cross the Irish Sea. It was with much relief that we touched down at Dublin airport and that the boys were handed back to their parents! Our final word is 'thanks' to the boys for great cooperation on the slopes but especially for the good-humoured way in which they handled the unexpected. *Chapeau!*

Fr John and Br Martin

THE ARTHUR REPORT

The report will be available for a **further** limited period from April 5th until April 9th on a secure section of the school website at <http://www.glenstal.ie/com.html>

New Look for The Raven

You will have noticed that The Raven took on a new look with the last issue. The production team wish to thank **Mr David Burke** and **Mr Mike Troughton-Smith** for their input and generosity in making this happen. The feedback that we have got has been very positive—spare copies were very scarce. We always welcome comments from our readership—you can email these to theraven@glenstal.org

NORTH MUNSTER SOCCER LEAGUE

GLENSTAL 1—ST ENDA'S 2 In a game spoiled by a very strong wind, Glenstal can feel unlucky not to have got at least a draw. St Enda's played with the wind in the first half and went ahead from a corner after 15 minutes. Glenstal were playing well and Mark Shanahan had a good strike on goal.

St Enda's scored a second goal minutes before half-time and this proved crucial. Glenstal dominated the second half but couldn't score an early goal, despite good efforts from Fionn Kiely and in particular Andy Shanahan, whose shot was inches wide.

With 8 minutes left Simon Hooper drove home a tremendous 30-yard shot to pull a goal back. Despite some half chances the equaliser never came.

This was a good performance from Glenstal. Shane Farrell and Rory Booth were strong in defence and Guy O'Callaghan worked hard in midfield. The best player on the pitch was Andy Shanahan who gave an excellent all-round display.

GLENSTAL 0—ST CAIMIN'S 5 Glenstal arrived in St Caimin's short 4 regulars and struggled throughout the game. St Caimin's led 2-0 at half-time. Glenstal did much better in the second half and Fionn Kiely was unlucky not to score. However 3 goals in the last 15 minutes gave St Caimin's a deserved win. Guy O'Callaghan battled hard in midfield and Eoin Gallagher made some excellent saves – to earn him Man of the Match.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mary Donnelly had a baby son, Luke

Ann Marie English had a baby girl, Rebecca

Josie Kett is a grandmother.



Kevin O'Sullivan, former Inter Housemaster and Biology teacher, has been appointed assistant editor—special projects for the Irish Times. We wish him well with the challenges that lie ahead (nothing that Housemastering will not have prepared him for!).

Rest in Peace

The students, staff and community extend their condolences to Padraig (IV) and Cathal (II) Hughes and their father Cathal on the untimely passing away of their mother and wife Kim. As a mark of respect the Transition Year Day has been cancelled.

We remember Dr Cormac Macnamara—father of Br Luke, Niall and Corrie; uncle of Gus, Ronan and Patrick.

It was with real sadness that we read of the tragic and unexpected death of 18 year old John McCall while on tour with the Ireland team playing in the Under 19 World Cup in South Africa. John was captain of the Senior XV from the Royal School Armagh which won the Ulster Cup in Ravenhill on 17th March last. Glenstal and The Royal enjoyed a period of 15 years close contact through senior rugby exchanges from 1980 - 1995. Our prayers are with his family, friends and school community.

TENNIS CUPS

U18:

Colaiste Spioraid Naomh Cork –3, Glenstal –1

Squad: Matt de Vere-White, Diarmuid O'Keeffe, Kevin O'Callaghan, Jamie Morton, Paul Cullen

U16:

Glenstal –3, Abbey School Tipperary –2

Squad: Tim Gleeson, Sebastian Moll, Barry Lynch, Joe Pacher, Paul Reddy, Jamie Hunt, Malcolm Phelan

2nd Round: Ardscoil Rís Limerick –3, Glenstal –0

U14:

Glenstal –4, Rockwell –1

Squad: Daniel Heffernan, Chris O'Connor, Jack Holt, Sam Holt, Andrew Ryan, Paul Comerford, Javier Gudino

2nd Round: Glenstal –3, Rochestown Cork –0

Matt Nagle was among the final 40 players selected to attend the Irish Schoolboys coaching weekend in Blackrock College. He and Conor Quinn are still very much in contention for places in the Squad.

Provisional Dates for 2004-5

These dates are in full compliance with the Standard School Year which has been agreed by the Department of Education and the Teaching Unions.

Wed 1st Sept	Whole School Returns
Fri 24th Sept	Start Sept Break
Mon 27th Sept	Boys return pm
Fri 22nd Oct	Start mid-term
Mon 1st Nov	Boys return pm
Fri 26th Nov	Start Nov Break
Mon 29th Nov	Boys return pm
Wed 22nd Dec	Start Christmas Break
Sun 9th Jan	Boys return pm
Fri 28th Jan	Start Jan Break
Mon 31st Jan	Boys return pm
Fri 11th Feb	Start mid-term
Sun 20th Feb	Boys return pm
Wed 23rd Mar	Start Easter Break
Sun 3rd April	Boys return pm
Fri 29th Apr	Start May Break
Mon 2nd May	Boys return pm
Wed 1st Jun	End of School Year

Trócaire Talk

Will Leahy came to the school on Thursday 11th March to speak to a packed cinema gym about his trip to Ethiopia and Kenya, and to promote the Trócaire Lenten fast. He had been sent there by 2FM for this purpose. He was horrified by what he found in both countries; the famine in Ethiopia and Aids in Kenya. He described the shanty towns in Ethiopia: families living in mud huts separated by streams of excrement. Most of the people he met in Kenya will have already died of AIDS. They have no medical facilities to deal with this plague.

Will Leahy was at Glenstal from 1983-1989. During his school years he had a pirate radio station. He often invited me to present his show! He is now a solicitor in Limerick, hosts the "Saturday Show" on 2FM from 12 to 3 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon and DJs the renowned Limerick 80s Night in its new home at The Market (ed—free tickets for that plug!)

Fr Dominic Johnson

24 Hour Fast for Famine

1st Years carried out a 12 hour fast just before the February break and learned first hand how horrible it is to feel hunger. They have raised over €1,200 for Trócaire's work in Africa. Thank you parents, relations and friends for all the support. It should be remembered that 1st Years gave heroic support to the 2nd Years earlier in the year for the Bóthar project. Jacinta our heifer was due to calve sometime in February- so hopefully the milk is flowing to a family in Kosovo right now. Let's hope sows, goats, and bees are doing well too!

Special mention should be given to Fionn Kiely in 5th year who did a 24 hour fast and raised over €150. Also, special thanks to Conor Hanson; Edward Flahavan; Thomas Joyce and James de Boisanger who made a big effort. However, all 1st Years deserve lots of praise - the great thing about raising money is that every bit helps.

Mrs Casey

It is proposed to make an exceptional ski-trip in the Canadian Rockies next year. It would be for experienced skiers and would take place during the Feb/March break. Boys who have mastered the basic skills of skiing could thus be introduced to some of the most dramatic slopes in North America. They could also do some wilderness skiing, visiting isolated valleys and skiing over frozen lakes and even glaciers. It is hoped that the cost of the trip could be kept to €1500 (not including lunches). If this figure is not prohibitive (according to parents) and any boy seriously wants to make the trip please let me know. The trip is envisaged as a once off affair and that the now traditional ski-trip somewhere in Europe, which is open to all levels of skiers, would resume in future years.

Fr John

Battle of the Bands

On the Thursday before the February break a Battle of the Bands was held in the Cinema Gym. All the admissions proceeds were donated to charity. Each Year was represented by a Band and the standard of music was the best we have ever seen. There were some remarkable performances and Andreas Miranda's solo guitar playing was one of the many highlights of the night. Other outstanding performances came from Ronan Roche, Justin Sammon, Tiffer Morris, Rory Booth, James Hogan and Marcus Gordon. The Cinema Gym was packed to capacity and the crowd was not disappointed. There was a great variety in the bands. The Fourth Year's took the overall prize in what were controversial circumstances to say the least. They played the same songs as they did in the last Battle of the Bands and the other Bands were not pleased as they felt they had practised to produce new material and even original songs and this wasn't taken into account by the judges.

But it wouldn't be a Battle if there wasn't some controversy. Denis Weatherman calmed the proceedings with a few wise words like "fix" and "bummer dude". Ex-housemaster Dave Flynn was there in his Franciscan habit. He wanted to form a band consisting of the Franciscans and the Benedictines but Weatherman was having none of it and barred all the monks from the Cinema Gym. It is rumoured that there will be a full investigation in due course...and the music goes on!!!

Life-Saving

For the last 2 terms seven Fourth Years have taken part in a Life Saving course in the U.L. swimming pool. We started in October and have just finished our fifth level. There are nine levels in total to become a qualified life guard. Every Thursday we took a taxi into the pool and swam and trained for an hour and a half. Everyone passed the first six levels and have still three to pass. To pass each level you must undertake a theory test and perform life saving methods in the 50-metre pool. The seven students who took part were: Ben Kitchin, Padraig Hughes, Barry Lynch, Luke Dempsey, Joseph Pacher, Darragh Hurley and William McGrath.

A further and final plea to return any perpetual trophies awarded last year on Sports Day.

OUR HOUSEMASTER

Lukas Holtzhausen arrived from South Africa in March of last year lured by the prospect of rugby coaching and, strangely, housemastering. His laid-back affable manner has gained him many friends throughout the school and his professional Southern hemisphere style of coaching impressed many so much so that he was described by vice-captain Mark Cosgrave as "a Godsend". Much like our Lord, Lukas was born in a town called Bethlehem at a time of political upheaval. The civil rights movements of the 80s had little impact on Lukas who was barely conscious of apartheid. Lukas had a normal Afrikaans speaking South African upbringing; his father was a farmer while his mother taught in the local school. The farm although it was run by his father had black people living on it who did the work; how long they worked for and how much they were paid was entirely at the farmer's discretion. Lukas attended his local school near a town called Kokstad where only white boys and girls were allowed attend. Unlike the majority of his classmates Lukas had grown up with other black children who were the sons and daughters of the labourers on his farm. Because of this regular contact Lukas even learned a black language called "xhosa" - a very unusual achievement for a white middle class boy. Lukas did not see apartheid as an injustice but like most others just accepted it as part of South African life. In spite of this, while growing up, Lukas felt that the end of apartheid was an inevitability. By the time apartheid formally ended in 1990 Lukas was in secondary school, however the changes were slow to come about and by 1996 when he left not a single black person had enrolled in his school. Nor did attitudes change especially among middle class farmers among whom was Lukas' father who rejected apartheid as the black workers were important to the economic well being of the farms. Despite concerns the black labourers have remained on the Holtzhausen farm since as Lukas affirmed they essentially "have nowhere else to go". He also believes because of the workers on his farms lack of education and traditional mindset "all they will ever know is the farm". When asked how much South Africa has progressed Lukas maintains that it has "quite a lot". A small black middle class has emerged which can afford to live in the former whites only sector, however white people continue to hold economic power.

Lukas' passion in life has also been affected by the end of apartheid. A law obliging the South African selectors to pick at least 3 non-white players has changed the outlook of South African rugby. Lukas thinks "it is not impossible" that black players may one day dominate the national rugby team but considers it more likely to be evenly divided between white and black-something he hopes will also happen in every aspect of South African life one day.

In an interview with James O'Dowd (VI)



There has been a marked increase in tempo in chess matches in the last part of this term. There are two separate competitions going on. One is the National knock-out competition, called Secondary Checkmate, and the other the Limerick County League run in two classes: Champions and Novices.

In Secondary Checkmate we entered two teams. The B team, unfortunately, was defeated in the first round by Ennis Comprehensive College, which proved to be a very strong team. They had a second bite of the cherry when they played Castletroy College (another very strong team), where they lost again. It must be said in mitigation that both opponents were exceptionally good, and that the experience of playing at that level was valuable. The A team managed rather better, defeating Ardscoil Rís the first round (2 - 1), and Coláiste Chiarán in the second (4-0). The third round match, against Newport School, is to be played on Tuesday evening, 30th March, and will not be in time to be reported in this issue.

In the Limerick League, our A team (Champions) had three matches to play in the first round. We were defeated comprehensively but not really unexpectedly by Castletroy College, but succeeded in beating Hazlewood College, Dromcolliher, 3-1. In the final match against St Munchins we won, again by three to one. This ought to mean that we shall be in next round of the league. The C team (Novices) had two matches in the first round. They were soundly beaten by Crescent College Comprehensive, but in the match against Hazlewood College they managed a draw, 2-2. Once again, though, the occasions were much enjoyed, and experience gained.

The teams are: A: Brian Heapey, Malcolm Phelan, James de Boisanger and Sam Bouma. (Jonathan Redmond played as reserve when we won 4-0). B: Jonathan Redmond, Brian Hurley, Tom Doyle and Jack Holt. In both matches James Young was brought in as reserve. C was composed of James Young, Thomas Joyce, Cathal Dolan and Alvaro Solé with Justin Sammon brought in as reserve in one match.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The proposed trip to Rome in May has been postponed. We are looking at another possible date in the autumn, either mid October or mid November. Booking will close on Sports Day. All deposits paid for the May trip will be returned.

We would like to have a 'cake sale', on Sports Day, to raise some more funds for 'Share a Dream Foundation'. This charity attempts to make real the dreams of seriously ill children. Cakes of all shapes and sizes will be welcome on the day, the sale will take place before lunch so they can be enjoyed during it. To help us, can you please suggest a suitable price for your cake.

The parents of all 2nd year students are invited to Mass and lunch on Sunday 25th April. All 5th year parents are invited on Sunday 9th of May for the same. We look forward to seeing you here on these dates.

We wish all of you a very happy and holy Easter!