



Principal's Foreword

Every school year starts with a new beginning.

This year sees a new management team begin its term of service to Clonkeen College with Mr. Kevin Barry as Deputy Principal and myself, Dom Twomey as Principal. We know that we can rely on your support as we begin the next new exciting chapter in the life of Clonkeen College. In return, we promise our commitment, dedication and combined energies for the challenges that lie ahead. We are extremely lucky to have a very enthusiastic and caring staff not only dedicated to our core business of teaching and learning but which willingly provides a wide range of extra-curricular activities on a voluntary basis. Sandra Mc Govern and Teresa Bird carry out their administration duties quietly and efficiently and always with a smile. We would travel a long distance to get a better caretaker than Seán O'Neill. We wish the very best to our other new staff members Ms. Kelly, Ms. O'Shea, Ms. Maguire and Mr. O'Reilly Ms. Kelly, Ms. Kavanagh, Mr. Mc Laughlin and Mr. Boyle (both former pupils).

In this time of change we must not forget what we are losing. Along with our departing sixth years, we must say goodbye to two cherished and valued members of staff, Mr. Neil O'Toole (our former principal) and Mr. James Barrett, colleagues that journeyed with us down the years, both arriving in Clonkeen in 1973. What a contribution they made to our College over the years! We will never forget them and what they have given

us and we hope that they, too, will remember us fondly.

A special welcome to our in-coming first years. For you, too, it represents a new beginning. Each of you brings your unique and special gifts to Clonkeen College. We also have the refreshing and renewing challenges of furthering the development of each distinct year group as they move up the school, growing all the while from boys to young men.

Well done to all our students in continuing the Clonkeen tradition of high performance in the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations. To date, Shane Cryan, Gareth Boyle and Ciarán Hickey were awarded entrance scholarships to UCD. The same three young men along with Alex Brock and Eoin Gallagher were the proud recipients of UCD High Achiever Awards. Best wishes to our in-coming Parents Council with Angela Condon at the helm. Our Parents Council has a tremendous input into the development of the school and to all a sincere thank you. Andrew Boyle and Gary Carvill shared the responsibility of chairing the student's Council over the last year and the tremendous efforts of the individual members of the Student Council deserve a special mention. The Board of Management led by Maurice Hedderman continues to work tirelessly for the benefit of Clonkeen College. Thanks for all your efforts. TADA GAN IARRACHT.

Academic achievement. UCD Entrance Scholars Awards .

Recently three of last year's 6th year were presented with UCD entrance scholarships in recognition of very high academic achievement in this year's Leaving Cert.



In UCD College of Business and Law **Shane Cryan**. In UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences **Gareth Boyle** and **Ciaran Hickey** .

These same students were back in the spotlight on Weds the 19th Nov when they joined **Eoin Gallagher** and **Alex Brock** to receive the **UCD High Achievers Award** Congratulations to them.

Br Kelly

Student Council

With the start of the new school year, the work of the Student Council has begun again after its break over the summer.

Already this year the Student Council has organized the hugely successful Prefect vs. Teacher football match, in conjunction with the non-uniform day organized by the Third World Support Group. All the money that was raised by these two events, amounting to €1,763.73, is going towards the Gilgil Primary School Project in Kenya and also to Self Help. The Student Council would like to thank both the Third World Support Group for all the work they put in to insure the day was a success, and also the student body for their more generous contribution to some very good causes.

With each Student Council a new project is decided upon which the Council will undertake in an effort to help improve and benefit the school. In recent years there was the installation of the water fountains and this year it was decided that the goal would be to help improve the school toilet facilities with the installation of electric hand dryers, eco-friendly taps and cisterns, and new locks on all cubical doors. The aim is to have this completed by the end of the present Council's term, though if it isn't completed by this time then it will be handed over to the soon to be elected Student Council from 5th Year.

Mark Malone

(Secretary Student Council)

The student Council has once again exceeded all expectations and believe me when I say the bar is set high.

Many thanks to Mark who has taken time out from all he is involved in to help with the newsletter.

LCVP

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme is a new introduction to the school's curriculum since September. It specifically focuses on the area of Personal Development, World of Work and Enterprise, Business and IT Skills. Participation in this programme, this year, is available to students including Art and Business as two of their subject choices. At present, there are seven LCVP students taking the Link Modules. They will complete a portfolio (60%) and an exam (40%) in Sixth Year and will be able to use the points gained as their sixth subject if necessary.

The school has also received a Start-up Grant and has purchased much needed equipment invaluable to the development of the subject and school as a whole.

LCVP allows the student the opportunity to take responsibility for his own learning, develop communication and IT skills and gain knowledge of the world of work. Typical LCVP activities involve an enterprise activity, visits out and visitors in, work placement and shadowing and project work. The LCVP will be available to incoming Fifth Years next September.

M. Ryan

Public Speaking

The Public Speaking Teams got off to a great start this year. They have entered 'Poetry Aloud' a national competition run by the National Library of Ireland, resulting in Colin O'Shaughnessey getting through to The Semi Final in Nov 08.

The team have also participated in Debating. Taking part in Denny Debating Society, UCD. Phil Speaks Trinity College. For the third year running we are entering a strong team in Mental Health Ireland Public Speaking Competition first round Monday 10th Nov supporters welcome. Good luck to all.

Fiona Lester

U-14 GAELIC FOOTBALL

The U-14s had an excellent campaign which came to a halt in November with a gallant loss to a big, strong Lucan C.C. outfit in the Dublin quarter-final. Training was curtailed in September with the onset of the monsoon season, but we still did very well to have 19 sessions. A total of 69 1st and 2nd Years made an appearance at training since the start of the year: we had a 42-strong panel attending our final match. With central players feeling the effects of other matches and injuries, and indeed missing through injury, Lucan had too much power for us in the end. We outscored our opponents with a total of 1-16, but goals proved crucial with Lucan bagging 5-10, their 5th goal coming with the last kick of the game. This was our first appearance in the knock-out stages for three years after a 100% record in the group stage.

Well done to First Years, Conor O'Sullivan, Steven Byrne, Danny O'Hara and Neil Costello who didn't miss one of the training sessions. Second Years had a couple of sessions fewer, but that didn't stop Gavin Nolan from making 13 appearances despite his hurling and basketball commitments. Well done to Marcus Kane, and Carl Wallace for their excellent attendance as well. All panellists will get certificates at the end of the Year. We also have special Training and All-Star awards to be given out to those most committed panellists. Apart from Conor, Danny, Steven and Neil, those First Years who have shown the best commitment so far are: Jack Behan, Eoin Brennan, Jakub Puszc, Anthony Clarke, and Daniel Flynn Fallon. Well done lads! It augurs well for the First Year championship which hopefully we'll be able to take part in after Christmas. Results:

Challenge:

Oatlands, 6-6; Clonkeen College, 2-10.

Dublin Championship:

Clonkeen College, 4-6; Old Bawn C.S., 2-4.

Clonkeen College, 5-10; St. MacDara's C.S., 3-14.

Clonkeen College, 4-8; St. Mark's C.S., 2-2.

Quarter-Final:

Lucan C.C., 5-10; Clonkeen College, 1-16.

Next up for the U-14s is the 1st and 2nd Year League, which will be completed – weather permitting – this side of Christmas.

Pauline Murray and Jim Lynch.

Golf; School's Matchplay Championship

The qualifying round for this competition was in Blainroe Golf Club. Clonkeen was represented by Shane O'Rourke, Colm Condon and Jamie Keenan. The team narrowly missed out on qualifying for the next round with a combined score of 270.

Leinster School's Junior Event Qualifying

On a cold windy morning at Elm Park Golf Club the Clonkeen Team comprising of Jamie Keenan, Cian O'Hara and Sean Galigan put up a spirited performance, with a score of 37 gross. Again the competition was very strong with a Gonzaga College winning with a score of 65 points.

Inter School's League Matchplay –Leinster

Unfortunately Clonkeen lost their first group match of the season to Blackrock College. Despite a solid performance, the pairing of Shane O'Rourke and Shane Martin lost on the 18th. Despite this loss the team remains confident of winning their remaining group games against Colaiste Eoin, St Andrews and Benildus

Note: any student who wishes to be considered for the domestic competition (within the school) must hand in to Mr Noonan a minimum of one signed score card from a game you have played in the previous 6 months (**Mr. Noonan**)

Comhairle na nÓg is an official government body set up and run by each constituency's County board. The purpose of Comhairle na nÓg is to give young people a say in local governance. Currently, the DunLaoghaire/Rathdown Comhairle na nÓg is organising a seminar on youth transport issues. Among other notable people, Barry Andrews, minister for Children and Youth affairs, will be attending and speaking. Darragh Nolan

Darragh in TY is proving what a difference youth can make if they just get involved. Darragh was recently elected Chairperson of Comhairle na nÓg –Dunlaoghaire/Rathdown. Darragh will be attending, as an elected representative to Dáil na nÓg in 2009. Kellan Scott, TY, is also involved in Comhairle na nÓg. Your future is in their hands.

Athletics

The official cross country season starts with the CBS championship at AALSA, at Dublin Airport on Wed 19th OCT.

The East Leinster Cross Country will follow after Christmas.

Then Track and Field will come to the fore. **Br Kelly**

St Andrew's One Act Drama Festival 09

We are applying again to take part in the Festival, with a fun and challenging play 'Ruckus in the Garden' by David Farr. Reading and casting Nov 19th (open to TYs and 5th years) **Fiona Lester**

CD Project

The CD project for this year is up and running and is already showing great promise in terms of songwriting. It is hoped that this year there will be a different angle to things than before; so if any students have poems or short stories they would like to write for this CD they would be most welcome to bring them along for consideration. Listen out for further announcements.

J Clarke

Tennis lessons with a Professional Tennis Coach

It is hoped to organise tennis lessons for those interested in developing their skills with a view to playing in next summer's leagues. These lessons will run by a professional tennis coach. Please keep an ear out for announcements. There will be a fee payable for these lessons.

J Keogh/J Clarke

Young scientist of the Year Competition

Congratulations to Stephen Lehane in TY and Jacob Brennan and Darragh Cullen in R1 who got accepted to take part in the Young scientist of the Year Competition this year. Best of luck to them. **M Duffy**

(Stephen has been chosen to feature in a programme on students involved in the Young Scientists Competition ...Many thanks also to Ms Duffy whose enthusiasm has encouraged so many to become involved)

Gael Linn Debates

Our senior debating team competed in the Gael Linn debates in St. Josephs, Cluny on Wednesday 12th November. The team consisted of Niall Murphy, Colin Egan, Barry Lennihan and Eoin Ahern, who performed excellently but were narrowly defeated. Their enthusiasm was noted by the adjudicators. The standard was remarkably high and our debaters did us proud. Well done! **Ms McQuaid**

PANTOMIME AT CLONKEEN

This year, 'Sleeping Beauty' is the chosen tale for the annual school Pantomime. Written by Paul Cullen & Ciara Phelan of Arclight Theatre Studio in Cornelscourt, and directed by Ciara, this is Sleeping Beauty with a difference! Principal O Fool (played by the one and only Barry Lenihan), has travelled to Graceland, the home of King Elvis and Queen Priscilla, to celebrate the Christening of their baby daughter, Buttercup. But all is not well. The evil Devilla Cruell is out to ruin the royals!! Only Fairy Cake and Fairy Liquid can save the baby, but will their plan work? Will little Princess Buttercup avoid the wicked sleep spell?

Sleeping Beauty features all the fun & madness which you have come to expect from the school panto. Jamie Whitehouse & Shane O Regan from Transition year step into the Panto Dame Tutus as Buttercup's Fairy Godmothers, Fairy Liquid & Fairy Cake. Ben Corbett from R3 is playing a blinder as King Elvis & watch out for some stunning new talent among the first years. With 55 people in the cast (including some delightful young ladies from Cluny), we couldn't possibly mention them all, but come along and check out the talent on the night.

Mr O Donoghue, Craig O Hehir & Marcus Dalton have begun painting the backdrop, which is looking fantastic. Live music is ably supplied by Marcus Dalton, Adam Lynch & Darragh Cullen, with Kevin Coffey, Conor McLoughlin, Sean O Connor, Cormac O Neill & Dennis Vavasour all contributing.

This is Ciara's 3rd time to produce the Christmas show, following the Variety Show in 2006 and Jack and the Beanstalk in 2007, and this year's production of 'Sleeping Beauty' is shaping up to be our best yet. At only 10euro, tickets are a steal and you can enjoy a great night out while supporting your school!

The panto is running for three nights from Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm in the school hall, with a matinee on Saturday 6th at 3pm. It promises to be a great night out for all the family. Tickets are priced at 10 euro, and will be available at lunch & break times from the foyer & the office from November 24th. Don't miss it!!

Prefect-Teacher Soccer Match Prism Maths test.

Ten past three on a cold, bright Wednesday afternoon, the prefects and the teachers emerge from the dressing rooms simultaneously, the first receiving a chorus of cheers and the latter, boos and whistles. The pitch was shortened and this restricted space gave way to the high-spirited and tough tackling game that was hoped for by all.

The prefects took an early lead, but the teachers shook off the cobwebs and drew level. The prefects scored a dubious second and then lost control of the game, the teachers then scored a terrific equaliser after the best passage of play in the game. The teachers kept the pressure on but the whistle came too soon for them.

Penalties were decided upon, and the teacher's dismay at this was confirmed when Mr. O'Reilly fired his straight at the keeper and Mr. Lynch sent his not only over the bar, but over the school itself. The prefects took away their one hundred percent penalty record away on satisfied and relieved faces.

Well done to all who took part in the Prism Maths Test. Cian was the top Scorer in the Junior category and Colin Egan in the senior category.

Both Cian Aherne and Conor Johnson were in the top 100 in Ireland for the juniors and Colin Egan, Darragh McGrath Ed Byrne, Eoghan Harney, Conor McCarthy Dillon Foley were in the top 100 for the Seniors. Congratulations to all

M. Duffy Cuala Minor Hurling

Congratulations to Cuala on their reaching the Dublin final (A division) on Sunday 16th Nov where they lost narrowly (by a last minute point) to Ballyboden. Paul Butler, Adam Hudson, Rory Cole, Conor O'Brien, Kevin O'Shea, Daniel Spilane and Conor Gough were outstanding members of the team throughout the Championship. They showed supreme levels of skill and commitment in all the games including the final in difficult conditions in O'Toole Park. Rory Cole was named man of the match

M. Brennan

TRANSITION YEAR WORK EXPERIENCE

The TY second term is just getting underway. The students switch classroom and timetable for the new term. They have returned from their first period of work experience. The variety of work placements was astonishing. The students organised work for themselves in a huge variety of retail outlets from pharmacies to sports shops, in solicitors' offices and barristers' chambers, in architects' practices, in theatres and hospitals, in television and media companies, in primary schools, in An Garda Siochana, with tradesmen and in business houses, in the computers sector, in hotels, with local authorities, in the fitness and leisure industry and with charitable agencies..... The list could go on and on....

The work experience programme is a valuable part of the TY experience. It helps with students' career choices, it teaches the practical importance of attendance and punctuation, it stresses the necessity of working as part of a group and it introduces the ups and downs of a daily working routine. A second period of work experience will follow in February/March.

Aussie Rules and Gaelic Football. October 2008

Clonkeen College Versus Southern Cross Catholic College, Brisbane Result 97-43

The young students and cultures of Ireland and Australia came together last October to play a compromise rules game of Aussie Rules and Gaelic Football. The Australian school were on a tour of Ireland, and following games against schools in Wicklow, and Wexford, the Australians arrived in Deansgrange for the match. The parents of Clonkeen students most kindly agreed to house and feed the young Australian boys for a few days, which was much appreciated by all involved. The Clonkeen students between Second and Sixth year took to the compromise rules with aplomb, particularly enjoying the rough and tough of the Aussie tackle. Mr Bennett and Mr O'Reilly took to the sport with great eagerness, and from their great historical sporting backgrounds, and vast coaching experience, got to work. The students trained hard various days after school, and put in great effort. The match was played in great spirits, with Clonkeen being led by Robert Farrelly, had the upper hand throughout. Many impressed, with Conor O'Brien, Rory Cole, and Frank Ryan standing out. Blake Cocharne stood out for the Brisbane school, following on his success in the Para-Olympics on winning a silver Olympic medal in the 100 metres breast stroke. With no dirty play seen in the match at all, the occasion was certainly a success, with speeches, and presentations to both schools going down successfully. It left a special bond between both schools, with Mr Bennett, Mr O'Reilly and the students extremely keen now to play the return match in sunny Australia next October.

Following on from the Compromise rules game, the U18 Gaelic team have started their campaign to bring a cup back to Clonkeen. A match was played against Oldbawn from Tallaght during the week. Although we came out on the wrong end of the scoreline 4-12 to 4-9, the game provided much hope for the year ahead as without some regulars and other players rested during the game for other activities, Clonkeen played excellently with Conor O'Brien, Gareth Fitzsimmons, Rob Moloney and Philip Nolan, in particular, putting in stellar performances. The management team of Mr. Sheehy, Mr Bennett, Mr Brennan and Mr O'Reilly will hope to have a cup in the school either with the U18 or U16 by the end of the year.

Third World Support Group

The group has had a busy few weeks since returning to school in late August. We are all very excited about building a new school in Gilgil, Kenya and towards that end we have organized a number of bag-packings that raised a total of €5700.52

Our commitment to Self Help Africa also remains strong. Since August we have raised €2,721.19 for their African projects.

Ms Agnes Daly is winding down her work in Ethiopia and has asked us to stop fundraising and to divert our attention towards other projects. However we sent €650.00 to help fund the purchase of classroom equipment in a school in Ethiopia. We wish her all the best, the group's association with EPEC has been a very rewarding one.

Finally, we can't ignore the success of the Table quiz in Cuala GAA Club on Thursday the 20th November. Close on €10,000 was raised. All monies raised go towards our Gilgil school project. It was a great night with students from all years involved, their enthusiasm drove the show. A special thanks must go to Ms McQuaid who invested so much time and effort in organising the event. Despite the stress and close deadlines she was never fazed.

C. McGauley (Coordinator Third World Support Group)

Soccer

Philip Knight is going from strength to strength and has signed for Bray Wanderers during the summer. He has numerous games for the U20 and the senior reserves. He made his senior debut against Bohemians where he played 45 mins and made his first full debut against Shamrock Rovers.

The international season begins soon with the first friendly against New Zealand in a months time.

Rugby

At the start of the season, **Andrew Boyle** moved to Old Wesley RFC after 10 years with his former club St Bridg's RFC

Andrew has had a successful season so far with leinster U18 youth, he will be playing for Leinster in the Inter-provincial semi final in January.

Training for the Ireland U18 Clubs is gathering momentum and will culminate in the FIRA AER U18 European Championship in the Cote D'Azure France at Easter next year. We wish him all the best, last year they were only narrowly beaten in the final by France, this year they are not going to let that happen again.

Sailing

During the summer, present 6th ear, **Gary Carvill** travelled to Crosshaven, Co. Cork, to participate in several fun races organized by the Royal Cork Yacht Club. Though these races were not competitive they are said to be a great way to get involved in sailing, as all sailing clubs hold these events, and they help to greatly improve your sailing skills. Gary's interest in sailing came about during 4th year as a result of the sailing module. He recommends that anyone with an interest in the sport should put their name down on notice boards in local clubs, like those in Dun Laoghaire, mentioning that you are available to crew if anyone is short of a team. This is a great way to become involved in sailing and it helps to become known in the club on whose notice board you've put your name down.

During the summer, present 6th yer, **Eoghan Hughes** clocked up over 2000 miles sailing. A sporadic trip that lasted the majority of the summer, beginning with the delivery of a boat from Barcelona, crossing the Gulf of Lyon, to Port Grimaud in the Bay of Saint-Tropez. Soon after returning to Dublin Eoghan made it way to Wicklow to take part in the 2008 BMW Round Ireland Yacht Race, one which proved to be the second toughest in the race's history. One week after completing the race Eoghan was off again. This time to the South of France, spending July and half of August working as a deck hand. A job that was more like a holiday as it involved visiting fifteen different places along Southern France and Corsica.

Next summer Eoghan looks forward to taking part in the 2009 Rolex Fastnet Race from the Isle of Wight, and also working on charter boats in the Mediterranean. Lucky for some.

(I don't think luck has much to do with it, some people just get up and do it, imagination and drive is what it takes. Have you got it? If not, why not?)

Sponsored Sky Dive

During the last school year, present 6th Year and Third World Support Group member, Karl Gill, after having received a birthday present of a free sky dive, decided to organise a sponsored sky dive to help raise money for the Third World Support Group's Gilgil Primary School Project in Gilgil, Kenya. In July, after having raised roughly €200 for the Gilgil project, Karl travelled to the Irish Parachute Club in Edenderry, Co. Offaly. After an hour of preparation Karl was took to the skies and was soon doing a 30 second freefall from 10,000 feet which led to a five minute glide back to ground. This shows perfectly the lengths that the Third World Support Group will go to help raise money for a very worthy cause.

Karl Gill, 6th Year

(Karl is also planning a sponsored crossing of Dublin Bay in a Kayak. His first attempt had to be called off because of gale force winds. I am just surprised that Karl let something as insignificant as a minor hurricane put him off)

THE LIFE & TIMES OF ROOM 2 2008/9

There are 31 students in R2 and here are some fascinating facts about these lively young students.

They support Manchester United-14, Liverpool-6, Arsenal-2, Sunderland-2, Bray Wanderers-2, Chelsea-1, Cork City-1, MK Dons-1, and Hull City-1. Aaron Murphy says he loves Ronaldo (me too!!)

They play Gaelic football for Geraldines-unbeaten in U14 Division * league, and Cuala. Ciarán McDermott, who plays with Cuala, is on the U13 Dublin development squad. Hopefully we will see him lifting the Sam Maguire cup for Dublin someday but only if they haven't beaten Kildare in the final.

Seán Gibney, Daniel Grassick and Ciarán McDermott hurl with Cuala who are the U13 Division A champions and Darragh Lavelle hurls with Clonkeen.

They play soccer for Cabinteely-5, Park Celtic-9 and St. Joseph's FC-3. Aaron Murphy is on the South Dublin SDFL panel and Aaron O'Flaherty has 2 U14 European titles played in Denmark and Italy.

Carl Wallace was also on the Italian trip.

They play Tennis-10 and Golf-7

Shane Forde is a snooker player, Eoghan Mulholland does Archery and Carl Wallace is a Karate kid who is going for his black belt next year.

Martin O'Donoghue is a sailor, Darragh Lavelle is a mountainbiker with MAD-(Mountainbiking Assoc. of Dublin!) and Aditya Chaturvedi plays chess. Mark Hayward plays Airsoft, Daniel Grassick is the current Discus Champion of the year and Leo McMackin would like to play competitive badminton! Corry Nicholls is a kick-boxer and Shane Sexton is taking skiing lessons.

There are also numerous athletes and swimmers.

There are 6 scouts and Tom Toner plays guitar. Other musicians play tin whistle, fiddle, bodhrán and the tenor(giant recorder!).

There are artists and Stephen Maher is a DJ who is making a CD.

Finally, they have an excellent attendance record in school, they pay attention in class and keep the classroom tidy. They have also promised to start studying now for their Christmas exams-keep 'Rockin Robbie' in mind!

Pauline Murray (Class Tutor)

it is just amazing what they get up to in their free time. Thanks Pauline for putting the spotlight on them, next edition we can perhaps focus on another group

Clonkeen Hurling

Some great performances were seen in the U16 and U18 championships, but ultimately we weren't quite good enough. The U16s beat Blackrock College in a thriller and marginally lost to Templeogue and Raheny. Throughout these games Adam Hudson was outstanding while Naoise Greene, Niall O'Dowd and Ben and Shane Errity also impressed.

The U18s drew with Old Bawn and lost to Rathcoole by a point. Templeogue however, proved too strong for us this year. The outstanding players here were Rory Cole, Kevin O'Shea, Paul Butler and Conor O'Brien.

Clonkeen College is once again represented on the Dublin Colleges team -this year by the outstanding Rory Cole. Congratulations Rory and the very best of luck.

We now look forward to next Spring for the lunchtime leagues and the U14 championship. **C. Collins, M. Ryan. (managers)**

Scouting Ireland

There are over 30 million scouts registered world wide. In Ireland we have 45,000 registered members. This number is growing every year. Scouting is not just a way to meet new people at home and abroad but also an opportunity to try new activities from hill walking and rock climbing to Canyoning and alpine climbing.

Scouting is open to boys and girls from ages 6-21. No matter where you are you are almost guaranteed to have a group near you. It is a brilliant experience so join the adventure. Eoin Cambell.

(Eoin, has been involved in the scouts for many years now. Nothing is too daunting, whether it is a marathon river descent or simply managing the scout centre for a the summer with hundreds of kids)

Down hill Mountain biking with David Kennan

It was a fairly successful season. 3rd in the Irish National Points Series, then 34th in the Junior category at the World Cup in Maribor Slovenia. Late June was the Kerry Irish Round where he placed 2nd. Then to race a British Round in Fort William, Scotland where in my second practice run he dislo-

cated his shoulder. This was the same track he broke his ankle in last year. 2 weeks later was the Irish national Championship so he did as much physio as possible and took a gamble and decided to race. Pressure was on, last rider down the hill for the race runs ended up making a big mistake which lost him 2nd place and he finished 4th 2 weeks later he was in France to train, he stayed for 18 days, Lesgets first and then Morzine. A few weeks later was the Wexford NPS (National Points Series) where he came 3rd then to Waterford where it all went pear shaped. Messed up both his race runs and lost 2nd overall due to a poor result and ended up 3rd overall in the Irish series. During the season David got sponsored by Turner bikes which is a top American company making bike frames. They will continue to sponsor him for 09, check them out at www.turner-bikes.com He is looking forward to 09 which will be his first year in elite against all the best senior riders.

David has been a regular contributor to the newsletter and we have followed his career for many years now. I hope he will continue to keep in touch. Keep an eye on that space