

Old Belvedere



Rugby Football Club



YEARBOOK 2011/2012

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A Message from the President



On behalf of all our members and staff, I am delighted to extend a very warm welcome to all players, officials and supporters visiting Anglesea Road throughout this season. It is a particular joy and honour for me to assume the Presidency of this great club in the year following what was probably our greatest achievement on the rugby pitch – winning the AIL for the first time.

Old Belvedere is currently thriving at all levels with over 450 players registered with our mini's section, a vibrant junior set-up, a successful women's section, a large and talented Under 21's squad and a 1st Team Squad that retains most of last year's squad plus some exciting new additions.

I would like to wish all of our coaches, managers, background personnel and players the very best of luck for the coming rugby year. I want to thank our 1st team managers Eoin Deering and Gerry Cruise and I am so delighted that all their hard work over many years, finally brought the success that it did.

May I wish our Director of rugby Phil Werahiko, our new forwards coach, John Fogarty and the entire coaching staff the very best for the season. You have our total support. I am sure that our new position as AIL winners of Division 1A will bring out the very best in our coaches and players.

Best wishes to our Senior Vice President – Mervyn Feely, who takes responsibility for all rugby in the club as Rugby Chairman. Together with Paul Davis, as Chairman of Junior Rugby, Declan O'Dowda in charge of the Academy, Shannon Reid who heads up Women's rugby and Willie MacDonald and Jacqui Holmes running the Mini programme, Mervyn is determined to spread the success of the 1st Team throughout the club.

I also want to thank last year's President John Mahony for his friendship and support and to congratulate him on a great year. I am delighted that John is continuing his huge contribution to the club by taking on the position of Chairman of Senior Rugby and I want to thank Damien Torsney for his enormous contribution in this position last year and at so many levels in the club in recent times.

I am grateful for the support of our previous President, David Hargaden, who continues his contribution solidly in the background, and Richard Ball who succeeds Garvan O'Neill in the great work he did as Honorary Treasurer and to the many members of the various committees whose work is invaluable to the club.

Huge thanks as well to Colm Brennan, who continues this season as our hardworking Honorary Secretary. Paul Reddy takes over from Donal Coyle as Chairman of the Club, and in wishing Paul the very best in this challenging position I would like to extend a huge thank you to Donal for his enormous contribution over the years.

I would particularly like to thank our sponsors who contribute so valuably to the running of our club. To all the companies and individuals who sponsor our matches, lunches and programmes, without your generous support of Old Belvedere would not be the Club it is or be able to strive to become the Club it wants to be.

Finally, may I wish all of our teams' continued success this year.

Enjoy the season.

Noel Shannon, President, OBRFC

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Dr. Ronan Browne



A S H T O N S

Congratulations and Best wishes to

Old Belvedere RFC

Gerry Farrelly

A S H T O N S

CLONSKEAGH



Best wishes and success for

2011/12

from

Clongowes Wood College

Message from Richie Leydon, Old Belvedere Captain



Welcome to Old Belvedere RFC

“Winning takes talent, to repeat takes character”

It is with honour and pride that I take the position of captain of Old Belvedere for the 2011/2012 season. Having finally rescued the Holy Grail from the grasps of Munster Rugby, it is now our objective to use our best endeavour to retain the trophy in 2012.

The elation of last season prevails with both playing and pavilion members; however we must now continue the process of maintaining and developing a winning ethos within the lodge. This is reflected within all levels, from the 1st XI throughout the playing membership of the club.

On behalf of the players I wish to acknowledge the arrival of John Fogarty who will be an excellent addition to the existing coaching staff.

Old Belvedere has a tradition and an abundance of members whose influence is transmitted within all departments of the club, and on behalf of the players I acknowledge the tireless efforts that ensure the continued success of Old Belvedere.

Finally I take this opportunity to welcome the many new faces and promise you all an exciting and enjoyable season ahead.

I wish our new president Noel Shannon every success in 2011/2012 and very much look forward to his term in office

We look forward to seeing you all on the sidelines again this season

Richie Leyden
Captain, Old Belvedere RFC

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Message from John Hussey, President, IRFU to Old Belvedere RFC



Congratulations to Old Belvedere RFC on being champions of the Ulster Bank League, Irish rugby's premier inter-club competition.

Your magnificent victory last season underlined the strength and ambitions of the club and I extend my best wishes to President Noel Shannon and all the members in the defence of the title.

I also congratulate Ben Gormley on being senior Vice President of the Leinster Branch.

This season marks the introduction of an exciting new format with a record 52 clubs competing in two Divisions. I believe it will prove to be a very popular concept with the capacity to generate lots of interest and activity in the clubs on match days.

This would be in line with the objectives of the IRFU, whose policy is to maintain a vibrant club scene throughout Irish rugby.

I take this opportunity to outline my appreciation of the role played by our volunteers at all levels of the game. They make an invaluable contribution to the success of the game. In the current economic circumstances their role is even more important.

I also thank Ulster Bank, the official Community Partner to the IRFU, for their sponsorship of the Ulster Bank League, the Irish Club international team and the Ulster Bank Rugby force initiative.

John Hussey
President – IRFU

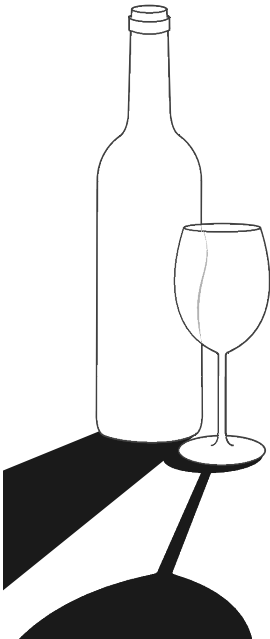


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Message from Stuart Bayley, President, Leinster Branch to Old Belvedere RFC



It gives me great pleasure as President of the Leinster Branch to extend my very best wishes to everyone involved in Old Belvedere RFC for season 2011/12.

We in Leinster Rugby are well served by your representative to the Leinster Branch and this year's Senior Vice President Ben Gormley who is one of a host of members from your club - such as Executive Services Manager David Ross and former Leinster Branch Honorary Secretary Dorothy Collins - who have made a significant impact on the game in our province in recent years.

I know how much time and effort has gone into developing and enhancing the underage and women's structures in your club in recent years and we all congratulate you on your All-Ireland League success last year. I wish you well in your defence of Division 1A of the AIL.

If last season is anything to go by then I am confident that we can approach this season with an air of real confidence. It was an enormous boon for the game across Leinster and Ireland when our inspirational leader Leo Cullen lifted the Heineken Cup trophy in the Millennium Stadium back in May and it was another important stride for the Senior team.

I would like to pay tribute to our Coach Joe Schmidt, his backroom staff and especially all the players for their magnificent efforts and I know that everyone connected with the team are focused on building once more this year in both the PRO-12 and Heineken Cup competitions.

As European champions and the number one ranked team in Europe we will approach this campaign in a positive frame of mind, but mindful that we are now the team to beat in what will be a massively challenging campaign given the busy Rugby World Cup period.

One of the key components of last year was the outstanding support of our loyal followers who typify all of the great virtues that are embedded in the province; strength in numbers, pride, honour and absolute loyalty. With record season ticket numbers for our games in the RDS and the Aviva Stadium, let's hope that our supporters have many wonderful days to savour.

The Leinster Academy continues to produce men of real substance and quality and we have great hopes again for this year's batch, though each of the players need the encouragement and freedom to make

mistakes and, tellingly, learn from them. The improved British & Irish Cup format will no doubt provide these young players with much-needed experience at a high level and hopefully we will see more players merge into the Senior ranks.

It is encouraging to see players enrolled in the Academy hail from across the so-called traditional and non-traditional ranks. It is my firm belief that the Schools, Clubs and Youths systems will continue to play a crucial role for the development of the game and all three areas can further enhance standards across the board.

In this, 'The Year of the Club', I believe that the club game will grow as we enter an exciting phase across all of the respective competitions where the regulations are in place to enhance to help maximise enjoyment, skill levels and participation. The Leinster Branch will do everything in our power to help back our Club, indeed all of our sections, and I would urge each club/school to use the resources at your disposal be it through marketing, promotion, ground development or coaching to help your teams grow.

It was heartening to see thousands of young players avail of the discount ticketing for Leinster games in both the league and cup through the 'One Province' initiative and we hope for increased numbers across the board once more this year.

The Evening Herald weekly supplement, with a readership of over 300,000, is a valuable tool at the Leinster community's disposal and I would urge each Public Relations Officer to avail of the opportunity to promote the great work being done in your local community.

I look forward to renewing acquaintances with my friends in Old Belvedere and I would like to extend my best wishes to your Honorary Secretary Colm Brennan, Senior Coaches Phil Werahiko, Andrew Dunne and John Fogarty, Club Captain Richie Leyden and indeed all the coaches and players the best of luck for the season ahead.



Best wishes and regards
Stuart Bayley

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Message from Ulster Bank's Director of Business Services, Ellvena Graham



With the 2010/2011 Ulster Bank League complete, the attention quickly turns from the post mortem of the past campaign to the season ahead - a chance for all clubs to start on the same foot and challenge for new honours in the 2011/2012 Ulster Bank League in their division.

Rugby at the professional level will always receive the highest profile, but a growing and vibrant club league is crucial to the ongoing success of the sport. Local clubs and club players are the life-blood of the game and the Ulster Bank League in 2011/2012 will no doubt showcase some of the stars of the future senior international scene.

Ulster Bank strengthened its link with Irish Rugby last year, becoming the Official Community Partner to the IRFU, a partnership which includes title sponsorship of the All-Ireland Club League along with the Irish Club International team until 2014.

Our drive into the heart of rugby in Ireland, into the club and the community, was highlighted with the creation last year of a new club volunteer initiative, Ulster Bank RugbyForce, a programme designed to help unite club members and local volunteers to improve their club and community rugby facilities. An excellent response saw clubs from all over the country enter with four lucky clubs winning €5,000 worth of goods and resources. The four winning clubs (Wexford Wanderers RFC, Ballina RFC, Thomond RFC and Ballymoney Rugby Club) took part in the recent Ulster Bank RugbyForce Winning Weekends, which brought together their members to spend the day renovating their facilities. See www.ulsterbank.com/rugby for more details and look out for your chance to enter your club in next season's Ulster Bank RugbyForce programme.

We are greatly looking forward to next season and wish all competing teams the very best of luck.

Ellvena Graham,
Director of Business Services Ireland,
Ulster Bank.

*Wishing Old Belvedere R.F.C. a very
successful and enjoyable Season*



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SEASON'S REVIEW 2010/2011

SENIOR TEAM

1ST MAY 2011

16.09 HOURS

THE GIANT AWOKE!

The greatest day in the 81 year history of Old Belvedere - our first AIL Final and our first season in Division 1A.

Getting there was the result of three years of growing and developing this squad into All Ireland Club Champions.

Getting to this year's Final was a long hard road, posing searching questions of both the individual and the collective.

The campaign started with an away win at St. Marys, laying to rest the ghost of last year's Semi Final narrow loss. Then hosting the 2010 Champions, nothing between the teams on 80 minutes, but a 50 meter drop goal denied us a well earned draw in injury time, having earlier been unlucky not to be awarded a try. More learning to be stored away in the file marked 'Experience'.

On to Stradbrook and Blackrock. Playing well, but not finishing, taking our kicks, we found ourselves 20-6 in arrears with 14 minutes remaining. Then an unanswered 23 points with four tries and a Bonus point and further resolve gained. The final game in October and our first Munster opponent, in Limerick at Young Munster. At one point during this match and deep in our own 22, we were reduced to six forwards, with which we repelled their scrums and mauls, ending the half with a breakaway try. The dominance enjoyed in the second period will live long in the memory, the only regret in a 0-31 win, not to secure the bonus point. But we took it, and will any day.



November brought Shannon to The Lodge, a team we have never experienced victory over in AIL, but buoyed by the emphatic win in Limerick and playing physical and expansive rugby, we achieved our first win over the multiple AIL champions and a bonus point.



Dolphin, in the Republic of Cork, was the next assignment but the assignment of getting there was an equal test, with heavy snow reducing the M50 to a Laneway and travelling at 30kph a 2:30 kick off looked remote. But the route improved and Brunch in Nenagh was most welcome. Another curve ball, the bus would not start. Everyone off, back to the hotel, calls

to Dolphin, the Ref and Blackie, all of whom were very accommodating, allowing us 20 minutes from arrival to kick off at 2:50pm and within 15 mins we were 14-0 down, but we came through to win, courtesy of three drop goals and 4 points. Phew!

Advent saw us entertain Garryowen. Entertain we did and in fairness so did they. It was another free flowing game with some outstanding tries and another bonus point.

The year ended, played 7, won 6, lost 1. 28 points, 3 try bonus, 1 losing bonus and League leaders.

The New Year brought us to Temple Hill, home of the reigning champions. The clash of 2 versus 1. We were really up for this one, but missing several crucial players and blooding some young guns for their first run in Div 1. Con had all their big guns on display and we froze and were well behind by the break. The resolve of the team was being severely tested and having come back to a 9 point deficit, we pressed them all the way, exerting tremendous pressure in the final quarter, but came away with nothing. We were beaten by the better team, and that was the standard we had to achieve for the remainder of the season. Con go top and we go 2nd. Not what we aspired to.

February - month of muck and mire and a difficult month for us, with four matches, three at home. First up Blackrock, who gave us a torrid time for 79 minutes, but the experience of the team to be composed under pressure bore fruit in the final moments and victory by the narrowest of margins. Some say, we got out of jail. Maybe, but we did what was needed to prevail.

The Cookies arrived, and on the Eve of Valentine's Day still smarting from our victory in October. This was another tight game. We were not playing to our best and kept them in the game by spurning several chances. They got one and took it and the win for the second successive year and by a point. This one hurt a lot. Winning the next game was

now a must to continue pressure on Con and maintain the gap to the in-form Munsters. No flowers or chocolates then.

Back to Limerick. Shannon at Coonagh, where we have never won, not even a bonus point. We started like a train and were 20 point up in as many minutes. Half time was our enemy. They took the game by the scruff of the neck and took the lead going into the final quarter. We regained our composure, played through the phases, scored a bonus point try and won a tough old game, as you would expect from Shannon. It was good to see Marcus Horan back playing after a prolonged layoff. Our young 20 year old tighthead gained valuable experienced and was congratulated by Marcus for his efforts. Anyway, another ghost laid. February ended with the visit of Dolphin and a game in which we spurned 4 or 5 try scoring chances. We should have but failed to be out of sight in this one, giving them every chance to get something out of nothing and being a Munster team, took the 2 points, leaving us wondering where the other three went. Honestly, we threw them away.

Springtime, March and back to Limerick. Garryowen struggling to maintain their Div 1A status. They were never doing to let this go without the Mother and Father of a fight. We got it. They won most of the collisions, gave us a torrid 80 minutes at scrum and never let their grip on the game go. In fairness, they played with great passion and inflicted our worst defeat of the season. Mentally, we were not on message for this one, knowing that they were in a tight spot. Whoever said that the passion had gone out of rugby, take a look at this one. But we did store this feeling for the forthcoming and sterner tests, using it to effect, late on, very late on.



April, the final league match. At home to Marys. This was huge for both of us. They had to win to make a Semi Final spot. We wanted to win to at least ensure 2nd spot and a home semi final against Clontarf. For a period in the first half we completely overran them, racing into a 20 point lead and one try from a bonus point. The second half they came back and to within a point with minutes remaining and still pressing. But once again, the experience file was opened and the key to victory found, in the form of a memorable try at the death. A charging run from Leo from 50 meters out, running through five tackles, diving over in the corner. 5 points, 2nd place and a home semi with Clontarf.

16TH APRIL - SEMI FINAL

We were here last year just falling short, but that experience was to stand to us. What a match. Tarf threw Everything at us and were well worth their lead at the break. The second half saw

little respite, but we were always in touch of their lead. The final quarter was not for the faint hearted. Coming back to 17 all and the possibility of extra time, Tarf were awarded a penalty close in and having converted to lead 17-20 on the brink of full time, the



outlook was not good, But having conceded a penalty on the halfway, Tarf had the chance to close out the match, they didn't. Fielding the ball deep in our 22, we ran it back, going through several phases. Hope springs eternal. Now deep in injury time, the ball was moved wide, a cut-out pass from Andy Dunne to Eddie Devitt, who ran into the 22, chipped ahead, Danny Riordan ran onto it and side footed the ball over the line for Eddie to fall on the ball. GAME OVER AND THE FINAL. Some say Tarf should have won, they had the chance to, but did not take it. We had one final chance and we took it.

The whole league campaign, demonstrated the team's resolve in tight situations and when it really mattered, they made it count.

1ST MAY THE FINAL

Defending Champions Cork Constitution were warm favourites, having on paper at least a stronger team with three fully contracted and six development players from the Munster Squad. We were at full strength for our first AIL Final. We were out of the blocks first and within 8 minutes led 7-0. The remainder of the half was display of



outstanding defence, but conceding penalties on a regular basis, leading to a Sin Bin, Con took the lead with three penalties to lead 7-9 at the break.

The half time talk from Phil, Matt and Andy, was the difference. We were over anxious and not composed on the ball in the first half. Relax, believe in yourselves and each other, hit them hard and low AND ENJOY IT.

Within 90 seconds of the restart, we scored a second long range try in the right hand corner to lead 12-9. Of course Con came back, but our defence was solid and resolute. Con were not Champions for nothing, but again the defence was superb, but eventually they did score wide out to regain the lead 12-14. We again took the lead with a penalty 15-14. Then with 10 minutes remaining we scored our third try, again from distance and extend the lead 20-14. Now those in



the stands ran out of nails. Con converted a penalty to reduce the arrears to just 3 points. Four minutes remaining, Con have a penalty from a position that earlier secured three points. But this was to equal the score at 20-20 and a replay. To Everyone's surprise the ball veered well wide. The final three minutes saw Belvo recycle ball after ball, resulting in a pass to the wing, a kick into their 22, and a penalty. Utopia. We did elect to take the kick at goal, but instructions were given to aim for our dressing room. Duly executed and ALL Champions. What scenes then ensued, tears, of joy, cheers, hugs and kisses all around. The Holy Grail had been reached. A great match, sportingly contested by both teams.

The Irish Times summed the game up perfectly: when the reckoning was translated from paper to pitch, it was Belvedere who held sway, outscoring their opponents three tries to one, displaying a more honed and cutting edge.

One of the enduring memories after the final whistle was the sight of the President, Senior Vice President, Club Chairman and Director of Rugby, all spattered with blood, resultant from the celebration of our three tries. What would they have been like if the result was other?



So, where do we go from here? The standard has been set, now everyone wants a piece of us. We should relish this challenge and like Champions strive even harder to hold what we have.

We were fortunate to have a group of players who gave so much of themselves to become Champions, a Captain in Andy Dunne, whose experience and calmness imbued confidence and belief in the players. A coach in Phil Werahiko, the best we have ever had, whose knowledge of the game and belief in the players proved to be the defining result of three years of development and detailed preparation. To Matt for the passion and emotion he brought to the dressing room and on the pitch. In Damien Torsney, we had a man who got things done and more. My mate Zig (Gerry Cruise) whose humour is infectious, whose heart is gold. President John Mahony our Luck General, Colm Brennan who with Declan Hogan were always first on the bus. James our Physio and Maurice our Doc, glad you were part of it and our thanks. Thank you one and all, especially the wonderful support we experienced particularly on the Away games. It really does make a difference.



For my part, I'm so lucky to have been part of it all. What a Season, What a Team, What a Club.

Eoin J. Deering (Zag)

LEAGUE RESULTS

for 2010/2011 Season

St. Mary's 9 – 17 Old Belvedere

Old Belvedere 9 – 12 Cork Constitution

Blackrock 20 – 29 Old Belvedere

Young Munster 0 – 31 Old Belvedere

Old Belvedere 38 – 16 Shannon

Dolphin 15 – 18 Old Belvedere

Old Belvedere 24 – 3 Garryowen

Cork Constitution 23 – 12 Old Belvedere

Old Belvedere 10 – 9 Blackrock

Old Belvedere 17 – 19 Young Munster

Shannon 23 – 30 Old Belvedere

Old Belvedere 16 – 16 Dolphin

Garryowen 13 – 3 Old Belvedere

Old Belvedere 25 – 19 St. Mary's

AIL Ulster Bank League Playoff Semi-finals: Old Belvedere 22 – 20 Clontarf

AIL Ulster Bank League Final: Old Belvedere 20 – 17 Cork Constitution

Pos	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	Pts
1	Cork Constitution	14	10	2	2	275	179	2	1	47
2	Old Belvedere	14	9	1	4	279	197	4	2	44
3	Young Munster	14	8	0	6	220	197	1	4	37
4	St. Mary's College	14	7	0	7	278	224	3	4	35
5	Blackrock College RFC	14	6	0	8	267	304	1	3	28
6	Dolphin	14	5	1	8	221	274	0	4	26
7	Shannon	14	5	0	9	225	327	2	4	26
8	Garryowen	14	3	2	9	204	267	1	5	22

Our New Gym

After years of conditioning in the dismal shed, Old Belvedere teams and members now have a new, state-of-the-art gym on Anglesea Road. The construction lasted several months and took place mostly during the season break. The new building was worth the wait! With brand new cardio machines, plenty of free weights, and various training machines, the compact space ticks all the boxes. Now the players on all Old Belvedere senior, junior, women and academy teams meet regularly for team training sessions during the evening and avail of the gym individually during the day too. When the gym isn't being used by teams, you'll find Life, Pavilion, Mini Parent and Squash Club members enjoying the latest advantage of Old Belvedere membership. Thanks to the



herculean efforts of Damien Torsney, John Mahony and many others, this new gym is a jewel in the Old Belvedere crown. The space will certainly give our teams the training edge over others in the league and will be a major asset to the club for years to come.



The Sunday Bunch

John Merry

Gerry Henrdon

Jim Dobson

Abe Campbell

Brian Whelan

Floss Lynch

Frank Lynch

Jack McDonald

A.J. Whelan

Gerry Cruise

Gerry Lynch

The Doc Tom Maughan

Ciaran Rooney

Ernie Tucker

Austin O'Malley

Brian O'Mahony

Niall O'Carroll

Relaxing on a Sunday, what's your preference? A nice roast dinner, reading the papers, going for a walk along Bull Island or watching an old film on the couch? Typical lazy Sunday activities all.... but wait! There is another activity of choice - heading up to the Old Belvedere Members' Bar.

For more years than they may care to admit, most of the gentlemen mentioned above (or the Sunday Afternoon Crew

as they are known on the streets) have been rocking up to 'The Lodge' on Anglesea Road for a pint or three, to discuss the important matters of the day. Catching up, post-match analysis and World domination are on the agenda, as well as telling, and re-telling the stories from their school days that have grown legs over the years.

These members are the backbone of the club, coming together to keep the club vibrant and to swap the news and the stories that help make Belvedere the strong club it is today.



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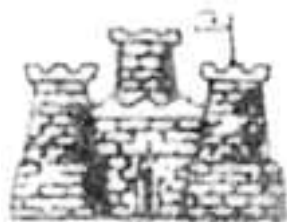
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Old Belvedere's Leinster Representatives for Season 2010/11

Old Belvedere's presence at the provincial level continues to build with five OB players playing for Leinster during the 2010/2011 season. Eoin O'Malley and Fergus McFadden continue to shine as centres. McFadden has also played on the national level this year in both the Six Nations campaign and the Rugby World Cup. Well done Fergus! Joining Eoin and Fergus this year in a blue jersey at number 8 is Leo Auva'a who was tapped at the end of the 2010/2011 season and has made the First XV during the start of the 2011/2012 campaign. Leinster vets Isa Nacewa and Jamie Hagan - both associated with Old Belvedere - continue to do the club proud. OB's Stewart McGuire has made the move to Connacht this year. We wish him the best of luck for the coming season.



Eoin O'Malley



Fergus McFadden



Leo Auva



Isa Nacewa



Jamie Hagan

J2 Season Review 2010-2011

The Old Belvedere J2 team has always been a stalwart of the club. This year was to be no different. However, unlike previous years, this year saw a considerable number of players stepping away from the Junior Section citing work commitments, long term injuries, emigration and retirement. It was going to be a challenging year for all of us but one that we faced head on and with a determined resolve to improve what we had. Also, with Steve O'Leary at the helm as Chairman of Junior Rugby, no stone would be left unturned to field the best Junior teams available in the Belvo' colours.

The coaching team of Tommy Hynes, Jonathan Sharkey, Gary McSherry and myself set out to make the season as organized, effective and enjoyable as possible for all involved. The season began in late August with a particular emphasis on conditioning and up-skilling our pool of Juniors for the year. The players responded well with a keen focus, determination and good humour. As competition time approached the physicality and intensity of the sessions increased but so, unfortunately, did our toll of injuries. Our first match of the season was a challenge match against Wanderers in September that resulted in a good victory but also in a bad injury to our flanker Della- not a good omen for the year.

The Branch then released the fixtures for the J2 Leinster League with our first matches to be played in October. We beat Terenure (Away) well with our gameplan being played to perfection. But, despite this great performance, a long frustrating time was about to begin.

Our next match saw us against a tough Bective side at Home. Although we won this, the bruising encounter saw long term injuries to David Shanley (Captain-broken foot), Greg Cooney (broken ankle), and Johnny Rockett (knee). In addition, the Branch decided to abandon this format of the League, announcing a new format seeing the Belvo J2s playing in a new Pool starting in November. We now found ourselves in a pool with Mary's, Clontarf, Lansdowne, Terenure and Stillorgan with our playing each team on a Home and Away basis.

Each of these matches were to be challenging in their own right but with the toll of injured players escalating dramatically by the week some were asked to be available for both a J2 and a J3 match at the weekend- a big ask. But my personal thanks to those who did- it made the difference and shows not only how much they think of their club but also of their team mates, no matter what team they played for.

With our experienced Captain Dave Shanley being sidelined through injury, Ronan Sharkey stepped into the role with a great determination. Unfortunately, Ronan also got injured long term soon after and our third Captain of the season, Billy Carlos, took the reins with passionate vigor. Injuries and work commitments led to there being 15 players from the J2 panel being unable to play regularly at the weekends for the vast majority of

the season. This proved most disappointing for all involved and culminated in our loss to Stillorgan in the new year where there were 22 players unavailable for selection through injury and unavailability. But those who did represent the club that day did so with as much fight as they could muster.

Finishing the League behind the likes of Mary's, 'Tarf and Lansdowne did not reflect the amount of effort, focus and ambition of all involved in the J2s over the eight months. The battles against these clubs were truly gladiatorial and always were tight with the physicality always being stepped up by us – a facet of the game we truly relished in.

With the announcement of the Cup, we knew this to be an opportunity to finish the season with a high. Our match against Monkstown saw the first time a full strength J2 side had played together in six months. It resulted in a terrific match on the first pitch at Home with a large crowd seeing a performance level and game management worthy of the Seniors. Our match later against Coolmine (Away) in the final stages saw us leading with a minute to go. Unfortunately, a last-play score by our opponents saw victory being snatched from us and a winning Cup side was not to be for the J2s this year.

This year was a challenging one for the Junior sides in Old Belvedere. The unfortunate amount of long term injuries and the economic downturn resulted in there being a smaller pool of players from which to draw. However, as always, the commitment, attitude, consideration and good humour of the pool of players in the Junior section of the club was unique. In this way, I would like to thank them for all their effort during the season; to Tommy, Jonathan and Gary for their support (to Gary for his riling speeches !); to our President, John Mahony, for his support of the Juniors; to Damian Torsney for his uncanny ability to 'fix things' (!); to Steve O'Leary for his passionate, unwavering encouragement, for all the years he has looked after the Juniors in the club and his success in being the most successful Chairman of Junior Rugby in Belvo' over the last number of years.

Finally, as I move on to my new role as Manager of the Leinster U-19s, I would like to wish the best of luck to Peter 'George' O'Donnell in his taking over as Coach of the Junior Section of the club. Although while not being as directly involved in the Junior Section of the club as in previous years, I look forward to supporting the Juniors again this year and wish all the players and teams in Belvo' a successful season.

Neil Ferguson
J2 Manager / Coach

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Old Belvedere Open Day 2011



This September saw the return of the Old Belvedere Club Open Day. Players, Pavilion Members and guests came for a day of tag, games, music, burgers, and chat. The day, which started off with some showers and clouds, kicked off with a round robin tag tournament. The four teams of men and women included tag vets and newbies alike. All enjoyed the matches and worked up an appetite for the BBQ that followed. Over 150 people enjoyed their burgers and pints in the Terrace Bar after as the sun broke through the clouds to brighten the afternoon. Some great music, a blow-up jousting ring and a couple of sumo suits completed the afternoon of fun and games. All in all, a successful afternoon and a great way to come back together at The Lodge after the summer break, welcome new members, and meet the families and friends of the Old Belvedere membership. Well done to the newly formed Social Committee led by Tara Kelly-Mór. Huge thanks also to Eoghan Toomey, Roisin O'Donnell, Rob Cleere, and Evelyn O'Shea.

***We look forward to the next event on the
Old Belvedere Social Calendar***



OLD BELVEDERE R.F.C.

COMPETITION RECORD 1930-2011

Ulster Bank League AIL Div 1		2011			
Leinster Senior Cup	1940	1941	1942	1943	1945
	1946	1951	1952	1968	2007
Leinster Senior League	1993				
AIL Division 1B Winners	2011				
AIL Division II	1995	2007			
Women's AIL Division II	2010				
Leinster Championship	2000				
All Ireland Floodlit	1993				
Leinster Floodlit	1993				
National Tens	1996				
Metropolitan Cup	1936	1937	1945	1946	1952
	1956	1983	2005		
McCorry Cup	1982	1996	1999		
Minor Cup	1983	2003			
Minor League	1945	1948	1951	1953	1966
	1967	1973	2003		
Moran Cup	1952	1953	1956	1960	1978
	1981	1985			
Junior 3 League	1978	1980	1983	1984	1995
	2000	2011			
Winter's Cup	1964	1981	1982	1984	1986
	2000	2001			
Junior 4 League	1978	1980	1981	1998	1999
Tom Fox Cup	1972	1985	2000	2006	
Junior 5 League	1997	1998	1999		
Guilfoyle Cup	1996				
Under 20 Pennant/Purcell Cup	2000	2005			
All Ireland J2 Cup	2003				
Over 35 League Cup	2008				

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J3 Season Report 2010-2011

Manager – Jonathan Sharkey

Coach – Tommie Hynes

Captain – Tim Healy

To All Our Fellow Club Members I thank you for your time in reading the below review of the J3 season for 2010 – 2011.

This season saw a resurrection of the J3 team in Old Belvedere RFC. It was a goal of the junior section, myself, Tommie, Steve and Neil to get the J3 squad back on the map and to make sure that Friday night rugby was a huge success. We appointed our captain Tim Healy to take the reins of this band of bruisers but due to a few serious knocks (he skinned his knees quite badly one game) Tim was not able to lead the chaps out in the black and white week in week out but he was always there to help in selection, motivating and sometimes the odd tear of passion!! He showed a lot of solid leadership and listened well to his hero Mono of how to be an imposing back and use your stature to your advantage while heading towards the white wash (I think we had the biggest waste line in the backs when Tim, Mono and Robbie O’C played together). Tim has had a bright career to date for Old Belvedere Juniors and I hope that he may get the chance again this season to expand on his captaincy career. I think it goes for without saying the guys appreciated your help and leadership through out the year and a massive thank you from myself, Tommie and the ever changing face of the J3 panel.

I think special thanks should go towards Steve O’Leary (Junior Chairman 2010 – 2011) for his many years of leadership looking after Junior Rugby in OBRFC I think without him there would be none of the massive success that the Junior teams has and will have over the coming years. Steve you will be sadly missed by all and the person taking over from you has very big shoes to fill. Also Tommie Hynes who coached the J3’s his pure passion for Belvo can never be questioned he is a true club man and it is sad to see him move on after an offer to take full control of a Junior section in another club. It was a great pleasure to work with you guys over the last number of years and I will miss our chats on the side line and banter over pints (or a 7-up for Tommie). I think it is time for myself and Steve to sit back enjoy the rugby for now and to poke fun at Tommie from time to time.

Now to the league and what a year, the J3 team had always finished the year either bottom of the table or 2nd from last but this year we finished a very impressive 3rd in the J3 League – Section A we played 12 games, we won 7 and lost 5 (not after giving a good fight) scored a massive 273 points and claimed 5 bonus points. Our pool was Lansdowne, St Marys, Old Belvedere, Greystones, DLSP, NUIM Barnhall, and Suttonians. As you will guess Lansdowne and St Marys were our main competition and

after Terenure pulling out of the league it left it open for the top three to play for. But alas it was not to be our year but a massive improvement from the last few seasons.

The team was made up of young and experienced players and I would like to thank the Under 20's who fielded for us on a number of times and also Dec for helping all teams out when we needed strong solid talent. Thanks lads to Shane, Mick, Sam, Chris and Simon. It is great to see the fresh young talent get a few big hits on them and also come off the pitch with big smiles too. There are a number of people that shone over the year the likes of Chappie, Mully, Gally, Howie, Gavo, Mono, Brian Treacy, Paddy Moyles (Under 20's Hero) and of course the unstoppable Mark Belton to name but a few that showed what the team was about and really got the guys going and led by example. It was a pleasure watching the J3's play this season and hopefully that it will continue the next season and I wish all who are involved a very successful season and a heavy silverware return for the guys.

To the players that I have not mentioned (as I am writing this on my lunch break) the same respect was shown across the board and I feel that everyone that was involved enjoyed each game, fought hard for the wins and will be back again next year to fight for there place.

I think the juniors were coached brilliantly by Neil Ferguson this year as Head Coach/J2 Manager. He was there to support encourage and drill the guys but they reacted well and was always in top form for all the games with the skills to win. Lastly I would like to thank Damien Torsney for his unending support of quick one liners and cheering on the side lines when he could attend the matches during the year and to all the alakadoos thanks as always for your support.

It has been a great few years involved in coaching/managing with the Old Belvedere Juniors and I will miss it in the coming season (as will Steve and Tommie) but I would like to thank all who have made my hair go grey and fall out thank you for the memories, heart burn and expensive phone bills!!!

Well done to Phil, Andy and the squad for a great AIL Championship and wish them well in retaining the AIL title for 2011/12.

Jonathan Sharkey

Manager – J3 – 2010/2011

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The Quiet Man

Many in the AIL Squad will already know who he is.

Our AIL Champions Squad have their fair share of talkers, extroverts, comedians and mimics, but only one Quiet Man, who, though he keeps himself to himself verbally, his deeds on the park speak volumes. You won't be dazzled by searing breaks, deft side steps or spectacular tries, what you always get is total commitment and strict adherence to his core talent and with only one goal, The Team.

Usually first in the Dressing room, suited with a refined demeanour, not quite fitting the profile of an exponent of the Dark Art. A visual glance betrays his physical and technical ability to challenge opponents with the sternest of examinations. You will not see his name on the score sheet, but his contribution to the team is incalculable.

Never demanding. Not a word of discourse or negativity, rather an acceptance of decisions made, some of which have not favoured him - made in the best interest of the team and not his personal agenda - he has none. Holding his dignity to foster team ethic and morale, he treats the two great imposters of victory and defeat with equal measure. On the pitch he always gives of his best and possesses a silent determination, desire and honesty not always appreciated. Not a man to seek the limelight, rather he prefers the obscurity of the team collective.

He is held in the highest esteem by everyone in the Squad and beyond. Since he joined us four years ago we've not heard a single negative word spoken of him.

Never missing a training session. At every match, selected or not, sharing both our victories and defeats. Even though he's from The Republic of Cork and played for the team we overcame in the AIL Final, saving his best performances for the matches against Munster teams.

He is, and most will agree The Players' Player, The Quiet Man.

He is Vinnie Soden.

Fair play to you Boy!



With our sincere appreciation. AIL Squad.

The Tourists

FROM TEN OUT OF FIFTY: A CHRONICLE OF OLD BELVEDERE FOOTBALL CLUB 1930 – 1980, E. VAN ESBECK

"Much have I travelled in the realms of gold, And many goodly states and kingdoms seen", John Keats

When the Lions touring team for the 18 match tour of South Africa in the summer of 1980 was announced on St. Patrick's Day, it was confidently expected that the name of Oliver Campbell would be included among the 30 players. And so it came to pass that the Old Belvedere captain of 1979 – 1980 was indeed one of the two out-halves in the party. His selection owed nothing at all to chance for his performances had been magnificent. He had scored 46 points in the four matches and so established an all time record for any player in the championship series, beating the previous best by eight points. One of the four men who held the record was Tony Ward, a player who had come on



Ollie Campbell

the international scene in 1978 and played brilliantly for Ireland in the outside half berth. Ward was Ireland's out-half during the 1979 series and an automatic choice for the Ireland tour to Australia in the summer of 1979. Ollie Campbell also made that tour and wrote a new and glorious chapter into the record books by his performances. He had been preferred to Ward for the two test matches in Australia and took his opportunity brilliantly by scoring 19 points in the first test. That represented a record for an Ireland player in an International. In the second test Campbell scored all Ireland's nine points in another memorable triumph at the famous Sydney Cricket Ground. Campbell was a member of the Belvedere College sides that had won the Leinster Schools Cup in 1971 and 1972, a Leinster Schools and Youths interprovincial. He came into the Old Belvedere side in the mid-seventies and won a Leinster senior cap against Ulster in December 1975. Within a matter of a few weeks an Ireland cap was his when he came into the side as a late replacement against Australia. Some serious injuries interrupted his career, not least

during the 1978 – 79 season and his return to the game came just a matter of a few weeks before the senior cup campaign in 1979. There followed his selection and triumph in Australia. So endeavour and dedication had triumphed over adversity.

In making the tour to South Africa with the Lions, Campbell has followed a distinguished line. It was George Morgan who blazed the trail for Old Belvederians when he went to that country with the 1938 Lions and played in one of the test matches. Karl Mullen, another testimony to his magnificent powers



of leadership, was captain of the splendid Lions side that toured New Zealand and Australia in 1950, and while that team did not win the test series in New Zealand, such success was to be delayed until 1971, Mullen's Lions were rated among the finest ever to leave these shores.

Another Old Belvederian would go back to New Zealand and Australia and perform scoring feats of record proportions. His great skills too were displayed on the hard grounds of South Africa and on both tours, his try scoring achievements put him into the record books. The young man was Tony O'Reilly. His selection for the 1955 Lions tour to South Africa came after just one season in senior rugby, but a season in which he had admittedly won four caps. He played magnificently in South Africa in a splendid back line. He scored 16 tries on the tour and only two men in history had eclipsed that. When he went to New Zealand, Australia and Canada with the 1959 Lions, again his try scoring ability was demonstrated in telling and thrilling fashion. He scored 17 tries in New Zealand, a record for a Lions tourist in that country, added four more in Australia and scored one in Canada for 22 on the tour. That allied to his 16 in South Africa gave him a Lions record with 38. Such a total on two tours can only be described as remarkable.

One other Old Belvederian had made a Lions tour. Des O'Brien, a stalwart in the early days of the seven in a row, was chosen as manager for the 1966 tour to New Zealand and Australia. The Australian part of the tour was a successful mission, but the Lions had a torrid time in New Zealand. Nonetheless O'Brien's selection as manager was a singular tribute to his abilities and experience.



The achievements of Morgan, Mullen, O'Reilly, Campbell and O'Brien are there for the future generations of club members to try and emulate, but that distinguished quintet is by no means the only club member to have carried the club's name and fame onto far foreign fields in international competition.

The overseas tours by individual countries were once very much a rarity, but not any longer. Ireland went to South Africa in 1961, Argentina and Chile had been visited nine years earlier. It was back to Australia again in 1967, the Argentine in 1970, New Zealand in 1976 and Australia in 1979 when Campbell proved a bigger scourge to the natives than the legendary Ned Kelly.

It was Des O'Brien, by then a member of the Cardiff club, who captained the Ireland side in Chile and Argentina in 1952 and he had two Old Belvederians under his command, Mark Birthistle and Mick Dargan. Caps were not awarded for the internationals on this tour and Birthistle was never fortunate enough to win one but Mick Dargan won two, both in 1952 just prior to his selection for the visit to South America.

When Ireland visited South Africa in 1961, Tony O'Reilly was back on the scene of former glory. This time, however, Ireland found the going hard and lost the test by 24 – 8, but did manage to win the provincial games.

There was no Old Belvedere man on the 1967 tour to Australia, but when next Argentina was visited in 1970, Paddy Madigan was included. It was an honour well merited for a man so unfortunate not to have won an international cap. Madigan had given sterling service to the club and to Leinster and was understudy for several years on the Ireland side to Ken Kennedy. Indeed during the match against Wales and Cardiff in 1969, he was called to the touchline to replace Kennedy, but the Ulsterman decided to stay on the field after being injured. It was Madigan's last chance. So the visit to Argentina was some consolation to a man later to emerge as chairman of the Ireland selectors in 1979-80, thus following Karl Mullen's footsteps for the eminent doctor also filled that post in the sixties.

Several members of the club have also graced the famous jersey of the Barbarians club and indeed Ollie Campbell was the most recent to be honoured with selection for that famous touring side. Paddy Madigan also earned that distinction, generally rated second only to winning the international cap.

Karl Mullen obviously had the distinction as had Tony O'Reilly and Des O'Brien. The forerunner to them all was, of course, George Morgan. He was the first from the club to be capped, to go on the Lions tour, to captain Ireland and Leinster. He set a standard for all those who followed. His tradition had been well maintained as the black and white colours and the name of the Old Belvedere club has been carried with dignity and honour to the far regions of the world.



Officials leave the airport. From left, Messrs Maurice Ingpen (New Zealand Rugby Union liaison officer), Des O'Brien (Lions' manager), Roy Mace (vice-president N.Z.R.U.), Lloyd Cederman (Nelson union liaison officer) and Don Merritt (Nelson union life member).

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Women's AIL Division 1 2010 - 2011 Report



This was always going to be a challenging season for the women's team, after moving up to Division One. Training started in July with pre-season fitness, and preparation for the upcoming tour to the Stockholm 10s. Two teams travelled to this tournament, one of them winning the Plate final.

Training resumed straight away, with the season kicking off on the 19th Sept against a seasoned Galwegians side. The season opened very well, with 5 straight victories, including impressive wins against local rivals St. Mary's and Blackrock. The team then had a daunting trip to Limerick to play UL Bohs, the reigning division 1 champions. Despite a massive defensive effort, UL were to take this game and with it, the top spot in the league.

A break in the league after Christmas saw a start to the Cup competition. A very strong performance against Blackrock saw the team reach the Leinster Cup final. This was played against Galwegians in a very tough encounter. Unfortunately Old Belvedere were not to bring home any silver ware on this occasion. The All Ireland cup competition continued with a win over Blackrock. The quarter final was played against City of Derry, and were too strong on the day with a couple of strong South African players!

The league resumed after this break, with some very tough, hard fought games. The remainder of the season had its up and downs, with some tough loses and some great wins. Overall it was a very successful first season in Division 1 with a third place finish, well above expectations at the beginning of the season!

The women's team also had a lot of success in both the provincial and national set-up. 7 players being involved in the Leinster squad, with 3 players making the national team for the 6 nations. Huge congratulations to all players, especially Marie-Louise Reilly, Ailis Egan and Nora Stapleton who played in this years 6 Nations.

Off the pitch, the women's side was again very active – holding a successful table quiz fundraiser, volunteering at the club on various occasions, arranging supporter buses to Six Nation's matches, and organizing another summer tour to the Flanders International Tens in Dendemonde.



The Women's team would like to thank everyone involved in the success of both teams this year, especially to the club, and in particular The Pres, for all its help and support throughout the year. To our coach Aled Huges for all of his hard work, to Mark Hill who unwittingly travelled to many of our far flung away games. To Club Hon. Sec. Colm Brennan for all his help and support and Damien Torsney for his work behind the scenes. To the ever present Ollie Campbell for his invaluable contributions. To JJ Kavanagh for two years of generous support.



Personally I would like to thank all of the players for making it such an enjoyable and successful year, and to all of the players who did so much hard work throughout the year.

Fionnuala Gleeson
Captain, Women's AIL Division 1

**Board Works wish
Old Belvedere RFC
“All The Best”
at all levels for the
2011-12 season.**



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Old Belvedere Women's Development Team Season Review 2010 - 2011



With the success of the Old Belvedere Ladies team last season it was important that a few changes were made to ensure Old Belvedere Ladies continued to be a strong contender.

One of these initiatives was to deepen the panel by recruiting more players to the club.

With this in mind it was decided to create a Development Team in which new players could learn the game and first team substitutes could play competitively and improve their skills.

The ladies recruited lots of new players by approaching girls at tag rugby games and through a poster campaign to invite girls to come to the club to try out the sport. The initiative was launched with a light training session and a BBQ in pre season and we were happy to recruit lots of new players.

The recruitment drive brought many new faces to Belvo including an additional 15 fully paid members, increasing subs contributions from the Ladies.

This new team's season got off to a very rocky start with more experienced teams taking advantage of their inexperience. There were about 9/10 players on the pitch in any given game who had never played the sport before this year.

However, losing games did not deter the development team who continued to turn up to training and play full games (often with the bare 15 players) for their club. What they lacked in experience they made up for in spirit and determination. There was a turning point in the season when they got their own coach Mark Hill who brought them back to basics to improve their skills. And I'm happy to announce that all the girls' hard work and the work of the coaches paid off with a draw followed by two wins in the last games of the season.

We are now looking forward to next season in which we will start the league with an experienced and ambitious team who have tasted victory and are going to train hard to do their club proud.

Some of the new recruits have proven their talent and have been starting games with the first team in the AIL Division 1 League, having only taken up rugby this season.



This is a credit to all the girls' determination and the coaching here at the club.

Old Belvedere is the only club in Ireland, which has two Ladies teams!

Having two Ladies teams is fantastic for the club and for the development of Ladies rugby in Ireland. Congratulations and thanks to all involved. A special thank you to JJ Kavanaugh for their continued and generous support.

Now that the team are more established they will be competing for a promotion and silverware in Division 4 next year as "Old Belvedere Ladies J1's"

I hope you join me in wishing the Ladies J1's success next season!

Mary McMahon
Old Belvedere Development Team Captain
May 2011

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Old Belvedere Ladies Team – Tour to Flanders Ten's 2011

BELGIUM..... A PLACE WHERE RAIN IS TYPICAL!!

The Flanders 10's Tournament in Belgium in mid-June was a memorable occasion for all involved and deservedly capped a season of hard work and commitment from the Old Belvedere Ladies Rugby team. A season which seen both teams represent the club with distinction and reinforce their standings as one of the best clubs in the country.

"Tour rules were explained..... now let the games begin"

'Tooouuuurrrr' as it was affectionately known involved thirty three intrepid explorers setting out for what would prove to be a team building exercise like no other, the type of experience that can only make you stronger as an individual and as a team.... All you have to do is survive it.

"Kangaroo court provided a few insights into the players we 'thought' we knew"

Dublin airport at 4.30am marked the beginning of the challenge with many players opting for the Breakfast of Champions....some of which was served in liquid form. Audrey was Chief Air Stewardess for the day and made sure all players had packed their bags themselves and remembered all the essentials for any self-respecting rugby player going on tour..... Fancy dress costume, sleeping bag and toilet roll – check!

"Do you think the first aid tent will have ice? Are you injured? No, I need it for my G&T's"

On arrival in Belgium a short stop was made in a local village to allow players to sample some of the local culture..... all of which came in either cans or bottles. The venue encompassed numerous pitches, tents and portaloos, with the entertainment tent flanked by two giant inflatable elephants alluding to the Circus theme of the weekend. The event organisers welcomed many of the girls on a first name basis obviously highlighting just how much of a mark they had left on the previous occasion.

'Has anyone seen my sleeping bag?'

Sleeping arrangements were strategically planned with the tried and tested format of 'Wherever you throw your bag' being the preferred option. Once the tent had been made 'homely' the team set about organising Kangaroo Court. A time when players you may not have known that much about became the players you wished you didn't know that much about. And so bedazzled in our Tour T-Shirts and personalised paraphernalia we set about introducing ourselves to other teams in the entertainment tent. Not long after that we realised it was going to be a hectic weekend as it appeared most teams were also not overly concerned with being on tip-top form for the rugby the following morning.

“Great Kick Off Elaine..... High Five!!”

A trumpet call and an MC, who I'm still unsure as to whether or not he was speaking English, was our alarm call the next day. Both Belvo teams were already weary and bruised from the dance off the night before but valiantly took to the field and played with great gusto....then the warm-up finished and they realised it was a very big pitch for ten's. The Old Belvedere team showed great spirit and skill performing on pitch number one with many of the spectators taken aback by the quality of the tackling in particular. Not to be outdone, Belvolicious also showed their dedication whilst walking to a pitch '7 minutes' away by passing a perfectly good pub but surprisingly never venturing in.... true athletes!! At the end of the day's proceedings, both Belvo teams had played with a certain flair.... some of which could have made an episode of 'When Sports Goes Bad' but nonetheless the following day would see them competing in the Cup and Plate competitions.

Look there's a clown waiting to crowd surf.....Er.....Is that a flying Zebra?

The second nights' entertainment involved a Circus Themed Fancy Dress! Cue the magicians, zebras, candyfloss, canons, tents, strong men, monkeys and mystics!! Of course there were a number of clowns on display....some in costume but some just displaying the effects of a few too many Cherry Beers! The events of the night were definitely ones to remember.....and for those that may want to forget..... one word.....Facebook!!



Old Belvedere Players with their haul of trophies from the Flanders Ten's Competition in June 2011

What a great try..... oh..... except for the embarrassing stumble / collapsing finish!!

The 'Plate' competition started early with the players hunting in packs and working tirelessly..... 'Breakfast' in the sports centre was a tough gig. However, it was necessary preparation for the final day of rugby as the other nutritional options later in the day consisted of chips or l'frites. Both of which were served with the interesting choice of 'Curry Tomatoe Sauce' which was served in a number of options..... the bucket load or the barrel load. Despite this, both teams played some fantastic rugby, made some huge tackles and kept playing despite being 'over-hydrated' most of the time. So by the time the final whistle blew and the awards were handed out, Old Belvedere and Belvolicious had secured 3rd place in the Cup, won the Plate competition, achieved Player of the Tournament (Dami Erinle), had a banana dance with the Heineken Cup and fully entertained spectators, refs and weary water girls!

Wow.... what a Mike Ashton style try..... quickly call a medic!!

And so, the 2011 Tour to Belgium was a time of great laughs, super rugby and the perfect ending to a fun filled season for the Old Belvedere Ladies Rugby Club. A huge thank you and congratulations to all involved, particularly Grace and Audrey for all the spreadsheets, t-shirts and constant reminders. Here's hoping for another great season.

And remember.....if in doubt, use your own (tanning) wipes!!!!!!!

FLANDERS TOUR 2011 - APPENDICES:

Awards

Mini trophies, gold medals, tour t-shirts and drinking shots!

Celebrity Guest Appearances

Colours

Yellow t-shirts, white tokens, red noses, orange dungarees, green (pukey)faces, black & blue elbows, cherry beer, pink shower caps, blue tents and bare ar\$es

The Hulk	Janice Dickinson	Belvo Barbie Doll
Charlie Sheen	Brian (The Dog)	L'Oreal Model – Dami who managed to fix her hair before avoiding two Kamikaze tackles before then scoring under the posts!
Kylie Minogue's Gold Hot Pants	Mr Muscle..... Cleaning up the campsite as punishment for an on-field 'altercation' with the cleaning staff.	
Duffy's Circus Camel.....Toe		

Fashion

Straw hats, sun glasses, boots and beer!!

Injuries

Strained shoulders, broken fingers, fat knees and black eyes.

Lost Property

Sleeping bags, mattresses, medals and morals.

Rugby Rules

Hammer time press-ups, left hand drinking, yellow card warm-ups and portaloos penalties.

Will she.... Won't she

Those that unfortunately couldn't make it, in particular, Dessie (condolences from all of us, chicken) and Shannon Reid who once was again bested by the Flanders Curse.

Team Mascot/Doll

Janice 'Big Hair, Shower Cap, Yah Yah' Red.

Tour Legend – JD!!

Face plants, fags..... customs and comedy..... I'm a Belvo Player Get Me Out of Here!!

And last but not least – The Circus:

Flying zebras, Flashing monkeys..... tigers with stripes and then without..... acrobatic strong men, those that do wrong..... popcorn sellers, fortune tellers..... lion tamers, whips and dangerst-shirt swapping, body popping..... Belvo Players and the Flanders TOUUUUURRR!!!

TOUR AWARDS 2011

Cup Competition 3rd Place	Plate Competition Winners	Player of the Tournament Dami Erinle
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The Old Belvedere players got into the spirit of things as they donned their costumes for the 'Circus' themed fancy dress...seers, clowns, broken monkeys and toppling twins all bound for the big top!



RUGBY

Tony Ward

St Mary's Old Belvedere,

Templeogue Road, S. 16, Live 8762

As well as the all-Ireland championship, O'Connell is a member of the Irish national second XV and has played in the 1995 World Cup.

This clearly is many ways ahead of

most other

Behind every player and every game
there's a great story.

Irish Independent 

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Under 21 Academy Review

2010-2011

This was the second season with the same management team but with a new head coach. Quentin O'Neale took over the mantle of Academy Head Coach ably supported by Peter O'Donnell.

The challenges of ensuring that successful players were recruited to supplement those players in their second and third years on the academy was undertaken with fantastic enthusiasm by Declan O'Dowda, Damien Tornsey and Phil Werahiko. This recruitment is the foundation to the continuing development of the Academy.

The objective is to build a successful academy with players moving through the academy structure and developing as people, rugby players and club members. There is a need for a mix of talent, commitment and enthusiasm. This year we saw a huge step up in all of these areas. Success on the pitch was up markedly from previous years and while ultimate success eluded both the Premier and Pennant sides they fared very well in their respective competitions.

The group are generally more committed and, unlike the previous season, we have a very competitive development team which will hopefully help next year's squad. The Premier team qualified for the Super Six this year and have been very competitive, with a little luck we would have qualified for the All Ireland playoffs.

The players were recruited from a broad mix of schools including: Clongowes, St Michaels, CBC Monkstown, Belvedere College, Gonzaga and Newbridge College. This broad group of schools being represented is a key element in growing the experience of the players in the squad and developing their skills.

The academy has seen the development of some great talent which will surely feed into the senior teams very shortly; Michael Oyuga, Colin Mallon and Andrew Walsh just a few of these players. One of the rewarding aspects of being involved in the Academy structure is to watch some players who did not excel in the schools system developing into committed and skilled rugby players holding their Premier side positions.

The new Gym has been a tremendous asset to the club and has been an important element in attracting players to the Academy.

This Academy development approach leaves the Club in good shape for the new season and with a new season all of the optimism. There is no doubt that many of the Academy graduates this year will move forward to play an important role in the development of the Club and that the new recruits along with the second and third year academy members will develop the academy to be a key feeder to the club and ensure a bright future for all.

Old Belvedere Mini Rugby Review for 2010/11



As the new chairman of the Mini's section of the club I would like to congratulate the Senior Club on their phenomenal AIL win last season and look forward to working closely with the committee to ensure the Clubs success continues at all levels. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Chairman Jody Walshe for his dedication and commitment over the last number of years. Under his watchful eye Belvo Minis has grown to become one of the most successful mini sections in the Leinster area. This success is down to the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of all who are involved with the Minis. In particular I would like to single out the commitment of our coaches and managers, and our TY students, who turn out every week, rain, wind or snow (!) on a voluntary basis to encourage and mentor the players.

For the mini's the forthcoming season looks set to be another very busy one. We have around 450 registered players across the U6 to U13 age levels and currently have in the region of 100 coaches volunteering with the Sunday morning sessions.

The inclement weather conditions last season meant that we had to cancel a large amount of weekends due to snow. For the first time in the history of the Minis, the Christmas party was postponed until January, ironically because of snow! Hopefully we will have milder weather this year and can all enjoy a full Season of mini rugby.



Regardless of the weather the “minis” did have huge success in the friendly leagues and blitzes they attended. The annual Belvo Blitz was bigger than ever last year with 216 teams and approximately 1800 players participating over two days. The competition held across the U6 to U9 age groups was based on a round Robin festival format, which meant there were no outright winners but all players had a fantastic time. The event was made even more enjoyable by the appearance of several of the Leinster squad on the Saturday and I would like to thank Mark Quinn of the Leinster Branch for his part in organising this.

The U12s and U13s visited France and Edinburgh respectively as part of their end of season tours. They played lots of great rugby and formed firm friendships with their French counter parts.

The season’s activities culminated at the end of April with our annual BBQ and ‘Parent v Boys’ competitions where many of the mums demonstrated their rugby prowess.

Finally I would like to thank the club President Noel Shanahan and his committee for their continued support of the Mini Section. I look forward to working closely with them over the coming season and all the minis look forward to supporting the team as they bid to defend their AIL title.



1st **XV** DETAILS

MANAGEMENT & COACHING STAFF



Phil Werahiko



John Fogarty



James Allen - PHYSIO



Eoin Deering



Gerry Cruise



Name: Leo Auva'a
 Age: 27
 Position: No. 8
 Rep Honours: U21 Colts (2yrs), Wellington Secondary Schools
 Fav Music: Dave Dobbyn
 Fav Film: Sioune's Wedding

Name: Jody Crosbie
 Age: 20
 Position: Centre, Out half, Scrum half



Name: Kevin Barden
 Age: 26
 Position: Wing
 Rep Honours: Ireland & Leinster U21, Irish/Leinster Schools
 Fav Book: Anything by Cecilia Ahern
 Fav Music: Heather Sisters

Name: Eddie Devitt
 Age: 34
 Position: Flyback/wing
 Rep Honours: Leinster U20
 Fav Film: Hair
 Fav Player: Gavin Henson



Name: Henry Bryce
 Age: 30
 Position: Centre, Wing
 Honours: Samoa A, Samoa Sevens Taro, Palusami, Faiai Elegii Count of Monte Cristo
 Fav Film: Got knocked out and started snoring
 Worst rugby moment: Got knocked out and started snoring

Name: Andrew Dunne
 Age: 32
 Position: Fly-half
 Rep Honours: Ireland U21s/Sevens
 Fav Film: Gone with the Wind
 Hobby: Model building



Name: Kevin Buckley
 Age: 33
 Position: Hooker
 Honours: Munster Schools, U19, U23
 Fav Film: Braveheart
 Worst rugby moment: Tripping over laces and knocking myself and ref out!

Name: Graham Flanagan
 Age: 22
 Position: Scrum-half
 Rep Honours: Leinster U19s
 Fav Music: So Solid Crew/NWA
 Fav TV: Jarhead



Name: Conor Colclough
 Age: 22
 Position: Centre
 Honours: Leinster Schools, Irish Universities
 Fav Food: Steak and Chips
 Fav Film: Cool Running
 Worst rugby moment: Doing laps of college park naked after my first Colours match

Name: David Gilchrist
 Age: 24
 Position: Hooker
 Honours: Irish Schools/ U19s/Leinster 20s
 Fav Film: Remember the Titans
 Worst rugby moment: Dislocating shoulder tackling ref by mistake!



Name: Mark Cooney
 Age: 26
 Position: Hooker
 Fav Food: Steak
 Fav Film: Hangover
 Fav Music: Rock/Pop

Name: Edward J. Hamilton
 Age: 25
 Position: Scrum-half
 Fav Film: School Girls Go Wild VI
 Fav Music: Queen/Gerry and the Pacemakers





Name: Jason Harney
Age: 23
Position: Prop

Fav Food: Lasagne
Fav Film: Godfather
Fav Music: Rock



Name: Brian Kennedy
Age: 25
Position: Back Row
Honours: Leinster Schools
Fav Film: Save the Last Dance

Worst rugby moment: Dave O'Neill accidentally knocking me out in fight!



Name: Ben Harrison
Age: 22
Position: Front Row
Honours: Leinster 18, 19, Welsh Exiles, Gwent Dragons U20

Worst rugby moment: Getting my shorts pulled down, everything on show and no one even noticed



Name: John Kennedy
Age: 27

Position: Centre
Rep Honours: Leinster U19
Best rugby moment: Being mistaken for Conal Keane
Like to meet: Brian Cowen on the lash



Name: Adam Howard
Age: 19
Position: Front row
Honours: Leinster Colleges
Fav Film: Twilight
Fav music: EMO



Name: Simon Keogh
Age: 32
Position: Scrum-Half
Rep Honours: Ireland A, U21, Leinster

Fav Film: Russian Ark
Fav Book: Anything by Dan Brown



Name: Kieran Hurrell
Age: 25
Position: Full Back
Rep Honours: Waikato Age, Colts, Waikato NCP 7's
Hobby: DIY / Fishing / Botany
Fav Film: Shrek 4Ever



Name: Nick Lee
Age: 24
Position: Back row/2nd Row
Honours: Leinster A
Fav Film: Original Sin
Fav Quote: Believe those who are seeking the truth. Doubt those who find it.



Name: Erik Jackman
Age: 31
Position: Second Row/Blindside
Rep Honours: North Harbour U'21s
Fav Music: Dave Dobbyn
Ambition: To maintain position as Ireland's posterboy



Name: Richie Leyden
Age: 27
Position: Back Row
Rep Honours: Leinster
Hobby: Power lifting
Most like to meet: Any physios not yet met.



Name: Conal Keane
Age: 28
Position: Out Half/ Centre
Rep Honours: Leinster A/Schools
Worst rugby moment: Being mistaken on RTE for John Kennedy
Most like to meet: Gay Byrne



Name: Stuart Maguire
Age: 21
Position: Prop
Rep Honours: Ireland U20s
Rugby Dream: To Own premium tickets at HQ
Fav quote: Who is more foolish, the child afraid of the dark or the man afraid of the light?



Name: Steve Mahony
 Age: 21
 Position: Backrow
 Rep Honours: Leinster U18s/19s/20s
 Fav Food: Crab, cockles and mussels
 Fav Quote: Beware lest you lose the substance by grasping at the shadow

Name: Dean Moore
 Age: 25
 Position: Lock
 Honours: AIL 2011
 Fav Food: Lasagne
 Fav Film: Anchorman
 Worst rugby moment: Missing a Penalty in front of the posts



Name: Colin Mallon
 Age: 20
 Position: Back Row
 Honours: Leinster 18, 19, 20s, Irish Schools
 Fav Food: Pizza
 Fav Film: Gladiator
 Fav Band: Kings of Leon

Name: Brendan O'Dea
 Age: 22
 Position: Prop
 Honours: State 15s/16s/19s/force gold/force academy
 Fav Food: Pasta
 Fav Film: Cinderella Man
 Worst rugby moment: Scoring a try in my own dead ball zone



Name: Marcus McAllister
 Age: 26
 Position: Centre
 Rep Honours: Scottish Universities/Leinster Schools
 Fav Food: Snickers in batter
 Fav Book: Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Fixing

Name: Eoin O'Malley
 Age: 24
 Position: Centre
 Rep Honours: Ireland U20s, U19s, Leinster
 Fav Quote: You can't wake a person who is pretending to be asleep.
 Fav Film: Citizen Kane



Name: Fergus McFadden
 Age: 25
 Position: Centre
 Fav Film: Battleship
 Potemkin
 Fav Music: Jedward (seriously!)

Name: Brian O'Neill
 Age: 26
 Position: Scrum Half
 Honours: Leinster Schools



Name: Karl Miller
 Age: 22
 Position: 2nd Row/Flanker
 Honours: Leinster & Irish Colleges
 Fav Film: Anything with Tom Cruise & his winning smile
 Fav Music: Gospel

Name: David O'Neill
 Age: 29
 Position: Back row
 Rep Honours: Irish/Munster Schools, Munster U21s
 Fav Music: I play Irish fiddle and by Zeus I'm good.
 Worst rugby moment: Brian Kennedy saving my life!



Name: David Mongan
 Age: 23
 Position: Wing
 Rep Honours: Irish Schools, Leinster U19/U20
 Fav Film: Fast & Furious 2
 Worst moment in rugby: Jumping up to celebrate cup win when we had lost by 9 points!

Name: Pat O'Regan
 Age: 23
 Position: Prop
 Honours: Munster A, U20
 Fav Food: Indian
 Fav Film: The Departed
 Worst rugby moment: Touching the ball down over 5 metre line thinking it was the try line





Name: Daniel Riordan
 Age: 27
 Position: Fullback
 Rep Honours: Ireland Sevens/U21s/A
 Fav Music: Cars
 Worst rugby moment: Landing on corner flag and getting black eye and dropping certain try!

Name: Greg Walker
 Age: 26
 Position: Utility back
 Rep Honours: Wellington 7s/B/XV/Petone/Wellington Lions Squad
 Fav Food: Sweets. They are Sweet.
 Fav Song: Sweet like chocolate
 Worst rugby moment: Getting sent off for ripping off shorts in try celebration!



Name: Bernard Smyth
 Age: 26
 Position: Flanker
 Rep Honours: Irish Youths, Leinster Youths
 Honours: Leinster Junior Player of the Year
 Fav Food: Pasta and Chicken
 Favourite Film: Memento
 Most like to meet: Richie McCaw

Name: Andrew Walsh
 Age: 20
 Position: Scrum Half



Name: Vincent Soden
 Age: 31
 Position: Prop
 Rep Honours: Irish Uni, Munster U21
 Fav Music: The Saturdays
 Worst rugby moment: Trying drop goal (!) and rupturing tendons!

Name: David White
 Age: 23
 Position: 2nd Row
 Rep Honours: Clontarf Minis 3rd XV
 Fav Food: Bananas covered in jelly beans!
 Worst rugby moment: Breaking nose in touch rugby.



Name: Philip Treacy
 Age: 29
 Position: Utility Back
 Rep Honours: Leinster/Irish Schools, Munster U21
 Fav Food: Food is for the weak
 Worst rugby moment: Wearing my gum shield on the lower teeth and not knowing why people laughed!

Name: Ben Woods
 Age: 21
 Position: Fullback
 Rep Honours: Leinster U18/19/Colleges
 Most admire: Ashley Cole
 Worst rugby moment: Falling over celebrating a big tackle and got knocked out!



Name: Alan Trenier
 Age: 29
 Position: 2nd Row
 Rep Honours: Leinster Colleges
 Fav Film: Dangerous Minds (inspirational)
 Fav quote: Will localizes us; thought universalizes us

Name: Aidan Wynne
 Age: 24
 Position: Centre
 Honours: Irish Youth, U18, U19, U20. Leinster and Connacht Schools Cup Winner, Irish U20s Grand Slam '07
 Worst rugby moment: Getting jocked in the middle of the pitch by a termite



Have you joined the Belvo Monthly Lotto?

In 2008 Old Belvedere successfully launched a Monthly Lotto.

The aim of the draw is to help raise vital funds for the club whilst having a bit of fun in the process.

The winner of the monthly lotto receives a cash prize. All other monies raised from ticket sales is then ploughed back into the club to be invested in facilities and equipment.

Taking part in the draw is easy. The simplest way to join in is to sign up via direct debit and purchase your tickets automatically each month.

Simply download the form from our website www.oldbelvedere.ie (or request one from the office if you are unable to do so) and fill in your bank details. Once you've filled out the form simply send it back into the office and we'll do the rest.

The minimum entry fee per month is €5, which buys you one ticket, but there is no limit to how many more tickets you can buy.

We hope you will join up to this important initiative and we wish you the very best of luck.



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www.oldbelvedere.ie



1962 – 2012

50th Anniversary

Old Belvedere Squash Rackets Club

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the

Old Belvedere Squash Club. Founded as a section of the Rugby Club in 1962, the main driving force in those early years was Joe Hackett. Squash players in the initial days included (amongst others) Barry Mc Hugh, Kevin Mc Gilligan, Hugh Birthistle, Brendan Quinn, Denis Brady, Harry Walsh, Cormack O'Herlihy, and Niall Mc Grath . In 1962 there was just one court at the end of the dressing room and bar building. In 1973 the present two courts were built at a cost of €15,000. The Ladies section was added in 1973/74 and the club went from strength to strength. The Mens Teams have won the 1st Division and Gray Cup and the Ladies have won their Premier Division and the Ivy Hadden Cup. We have had numerous players on the Irish International Teams and Leinster Provincial teams including Donal Byrne, Mossie, Maurice, Chris and Rosie Collins, Anne Sheppard and numerous players at Veterans level.

The club is in a healthy state and a lot of maintenance has been done on the Courts and Building over the years including new floor, painting, new roof, new heating systems etc. Currently there are 4 Mens teams, 2 Veterans teams and a Ladies team in the Leinster Leagues. A drive is currently underway for new members and any Rugby Club members who want to try out a new game in dry conditions would be very welcome

Celebrations will take place to mark our 50th Anniversary in April next year and there is a committee currently planning the format of these festivities. Watch this space (and the Rugby Club web site where we shortly expect to have a Squash Page) for more information in the coming months.

The Committee - Old Belvedere Squash Club



President
DECLAN MC DEVITT



Hon. Secretary
DONIE O'BRIEN



Hon. Treasurer
BRIAN MCNALLY



Club Captain
SIMON ROGALS



Simon Rogals, winner of the Mens Handicap section of the Old Belvedere Open Tournament 2011 receiving his prize from Declan Mc Devitt

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*Wishing your President Noel Shannon and all in
Old Belvedere, every success for the coming season*

OLD BELVEDERE R.F.C.

Awards for the Season 2010-2011

Club Person of the Year	Phil Werahiko
Club Player of the Year	Leo Auva'a
Senior Player of the Year	Eddie Devitt
Junior 1 Player of the Year	Kevin Buckley
Junior 2 Player of the Year	Dave Gavan
Junior 3 Player of the Year	Conor Mullen
Junior Player of the Year	James Flanagan
Ladies' Player of the Year	Ailis Egan
Ladies Development Team Player of the Year	Mary McMahon
Academy Player of the Year	Colin Mallon
Academy Development Team Player of the Year	Stephen McGarry
Most Promising Senior	Ben Woods
Most Promising Junior	Evan Lett
Most Promising Ladies	Janice Daly
Most Promising Under 20s	Michael Oyugo
Try Scorer of the Year (Men)	Daniel O'Riordan
Try Scorer of the Year (Women)	Damilola Erinle
Most Improved player – Academy	Cathal O'Leary
Junior Coach of the Year	Neil Ferguson
Supporter of the year - U20s	Des McGarry
Supporter of the year - Seniors	Margaret Coghlan
Club Supporter of the Year	John Kennedy, Sr.
Supporter of the Year - Juniors	Thomas Toomey
Team Captain of the Year	Andy Dunne
Appreciation Award	Jenny MacGregor
Volunteer Award	Eoghan Toomey







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