

# DISH FROM THE PITCH



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## REF-COM ONE:

On-Field Technology Improves Refeing Consistency

by Aislinn Leonard

With the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MHC just two seasons away, the club is doing everything possible to make sure we have all things necessary to celebrate the landmark year fully equipped.

On-field officials have been given new Midland Two-Way Radios to communicate and raise the bar for refeing standards.

Referee Coordinator Caroline Vanevenhoven and Master Ref Jerry Miksch agree the radios are a great tool for cooperation between refs, goal judges, sideline judges, and scoreboard.

For example, Caroline said, "Last week we were able to communicate with goal judges for an aggressive foul on a goalie that would have otherwise been missed." With immediate and personal on-field communication the refs don't have to shout across the field or disrupt the game to discuss fouls, points, or controversial calls.

Dave Olson, Nick "Tater" Ruetz, and Matt Ebert have all worn the referee headsets on the sidelines to provide extra sets of eyes on the field. Caroline further explained, "We are watching 30 people. It's nice to know



what to watch out for behind the play." Another potential benefit of the radios could be in referee training, and while Jerry says, "nothing compares to shadowing on-field," the radios could give insight to the new referees as to how the pros are seeing the field and discussing issues.

Adding the radios is a big step for the MHC, as it will hopefully make the difficult job of refeing a little bit easier for our awesome, hardworking, volunteer on-field officials.

\*\*Jerry says, "I sing in the mics just for fun." Next time he's refeing your game be sure to listen closely!\*\*

# FACES FROM THE PITCH

By Connor Kilp

## Shaun Luehring

Shaun Luehring is a rookie Trinity Rebel. He happened upon the club one Sunday and was fascinated by the unique sport he saw being played. He soon learned that his friend Jesse Hieb was a member, and has been hooked ever since.

Away from the world of hurling, Shaun is very involved with his work; he is the principal at Atonement Lutheran School, which serves primarily low-income families in Northwest Milwaukee. His work on the school's turnaround led to a membership in "Schools That Can," a national group that recognizes and supports high performing urban schools. Congratulate him on their hard work when you get a chance.

In addition, he serves on a Board that recently started a school in the Caribbean Island of Grenada and will travel there later this summer.

"The highlight [of my career] is that the coaches let me play. It's a fast sport at times but I like the contact and hope to keep gaining the skills to contribute." -Shaun Luehring



## Naomi Gaar



Naomi Gaar has been a supporter of the club since 2005, when she met her now husband Tony Gaar, but she only started playing last year. This year she plays full forward for Irish Pub, and is also a member of the Camogie traveling team. Like many others that have the opportunity to play other clubs, one of Naomi's favorite things is playing on the traveling team. "It was nice to see a different side of hurling," she said, referring to playing in Minnesota a few weeks ago.

Apart from hurling, Naomi enjoys spending time with their dogs, and in the summer she goes to many of the different festivals in Milwaukee.

Fun Facts: If Naomi had a million dollars, she would travel, and include stops in Australia, Japan, and Brazil. And also, she loves the breakfast food at McBob's.

# **“Hops to It!” MHC Homebrewers: Finally an Excuse to Drink More Beer**

## **MHC Homebrewers Unite!**

*The 2nd annual MHC Homebrew competition and beer tasting will be held during the Party at the Pitch (Semi-Finals Sunday). The event will be similar to last year's; however there will be some improvements and changes that everyone is sure to enjoy.*

*We are working on making the competition portion of the event a little more official by getting certified beer judges for the tasting and providing more informative feedback on each person's homebrew.*

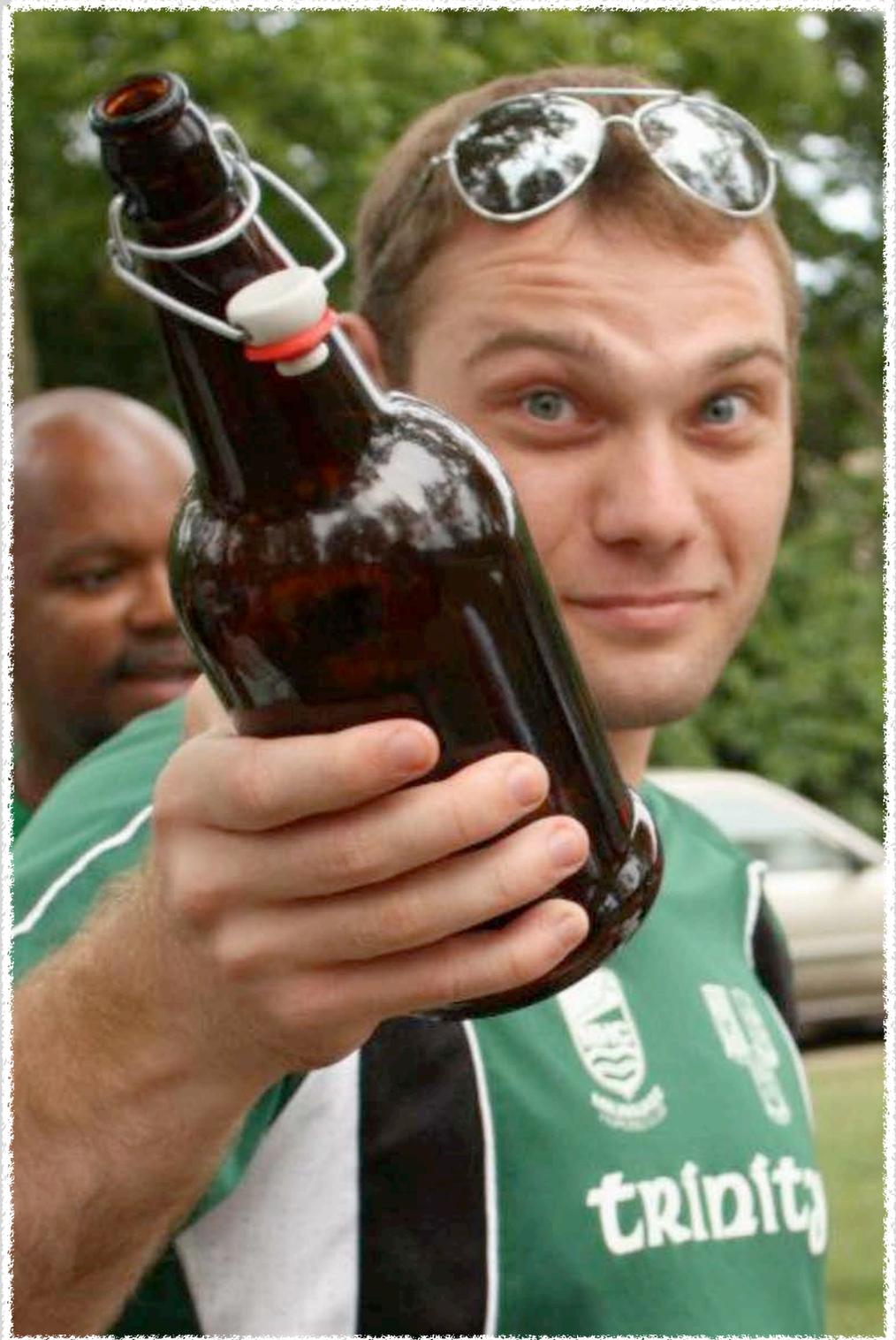
*There will be prizes for the judges' top ranked beers as well as the beer with the most crowd votes. More details to come shortly!*

*In the meantime, if you are a homebrewer and would like to participate and donate a batch of beer to the event, get busy and start brewing!*

Interested

homebrewers contact:

Luke Papenfuss at  
[luke\\_fus@yahoo.com](mailto:luke_fus@yahoo.com)  
for more information.



*photo credit: Ellen Burmeister*

**2012 Winner Kyle Manderscheid  
with his “Miami Weiss”**

# Irish Castle Stand Strong Against Griffin Siege

*by Jack Harrold*

On a day that would see sweltering heat and high octane hurling, Burke's Irish Castle and the Shamrock Club Griffins set the high scoring pace in the very first match. Both full defensive lines quickly swarmed each time the ball came close, setting up an aerial battle. Shamrock managed to find the uprights a couple more times than the Castles, but things were still quite close.

Despite quick clearing by the Griffin half back line, Burke's managed to step up their game in the second quarter. Castle-men Dennis "Dirty" Davidson, Josh O'Malley and rookie Ron Burghaus paved the way with point and passing. On their defensive end, Christian Neuenschwander, Steve Taylor and rookie Timm Heck continued to hold the line, not allowing the ball to stay on their end of the field for long. Burke's clearly had momentum going into the half with a slight lead of 1-8 (11) to 0-9 (9).

The third quarter began slowly with both defenses dominating play. Muddy ground and pools of standing water left over

from the previous night's rain hindered each side's offense. Splashes could be seen as hurlers on both sides attempted to swing through the muck. Despite the field conditions, Shamrock seemed to find their footing thanks to a double for a goal and a kick for a point by Noah Leydel which brought the score dead even - 1-11(14) to 1-11(14).

The final quarter was anyone's game to win. Both sides amped up their play with aggressive fervor. It seemed that we would be going to overtime until the final five minutes of play. Burke's Captain Tony Johnson had an amazing catch while diving for the sliothar which he quickly turned around and pounded into the net. Another Burke's goal a minute later put them solidly ahead. For their part, the Griffins made several pushes to even up the score, but as Griffin Captain and Goalie AJ Veralas later said, "We played like we were all hung over." The stout Castle defensive held out for victory of 3-13(22) to 1-14(17).



*photo credit: Darci Neuenschwander*

# Slim McGinn's Slaintes Stay Undefeated and Conquer the County Clare Cats

*by Rob Berrones*

The County Clare Cats were looking to make Slim's the second unbeaten to fall this Sunday as they took to the pitch against the Slim's Sláintes. There was an air of determination about Slim's to keep the streak rolling as the ash clashed from the opening roll in.

Steve "Jake" Jakubowski continued to be an unstoppable force, scoring a pair of goals early. The play was fast and aggressive on both sides resulting in another Slim's goal by Dan "Danny Mac" McAullife, a Clare goal by co-captain Luke Papenfuss, and a nice point from Mike Hoffman.

The second quarter saw Clare's defense tighten up, allowing only four Slim's points total. Slim's, not wanting to be bested, held the Cats scoreless in the second quarter with great play from co-captain Matt Ebert. This was a challenge considering the standing water on the south end of the pitch. At one point Ebert plowed through a few Clare players as well as the puddles to break away. This would later be called the "Kool-Aid Guy maneuver" by one Slim's player, and chants of "Ooooooh, YEAH!" could be heard at the half.

Both defenses continued to play hard in the third quarter allowing only two points over the bar for each side. Key contributors for Clare were Fatty, John "J-Lo" Loewen and



*photo credit: Darci Neuenschwander*

Nolan Hoffman, while the Sláintes had impressive showings from Adam Blackwell and Jeremy "Fancy" McKenzie. At one point, Fancy charged into the puddle going after a ball where he lost his footing and ended up going swimming. His comment after has been omitted because we are a family publication.

The fourth quarter saw the play on both side elevate even higher. Challenges and scrums were intense and physical, which led to a few exchanges between teams. Neither team willing to give an inch, made for a hot finish and even hotter exchanges resulting in a couple yellow cards being issued. In the end, the early goals proved to be too high a mountain to climb for the Cats. Final score Slim's Sláintes 4-8(20) defeat the County Clare Cats 1-4(7).

# Trinity Rebels Get the Bandits' Points

*by Jack Harrold*

As the sun hit its zenith, the Brocach Bandits squared off against the Trinity Rebels.

After a few clever passes, Brocach quickly got on the board with a point, setting the tempo of the game.

Bandits Jamie Phillips, Tony Gilbert and Andy “Butters” Goelz

all contributed to the air raid on the Rebel defense. Down low, Bandit Pat Burke slung a shot into the back of the net. Trinity’s front line would not be denied as Shannon Meller fired one past the Bandit keeper, making things interesting.

In the second quarter, Bandit Matthew “Parkay” Goelz came into his own - dashing around opponents, passing and shooting with deadly accuracy. Trinity was by no means counted out due to a pair of goals. Brocach, though, had built a solid lead going into the half of 2-17 (23) to 3-2 (11).

Rebel Goalie Andy McKee later said, “By half, my arms were jello from pucking out so much.” And, as has been their way the entire season, the Trinity Defense sucked it up and stepped up their game slowing down



*photo credit: Kerry Leonard*

the Brocach passing/pointing assault. It was now on their offense to bring things level.

Perhaps due to the unexpected heat, the fourth quarter play seemed to drag on. Though Brocach continued to pass and dominate, the points just were not coming in the final quarter. Rebel Alfredo “Fredo” Castillo, as always, would not quit. Knowing that the favor of the hurling gods can change in an instant, he mustered his fellow rebels for a final push. That push was successful as Trinity dug out another goal thanks to a kick by Shannon, while surrounded by four Bandits. Sadly, this was not enough steal away the Bandits victory of 5-20 (35) to 5-3 (18).

# Irish Pub Ninjas Thrash McBob's Gael Winds

by Ivan Baker



*photo credit: Kerry Leonard*

In a game that started with neck-and-neck challenges for the ball and successful movement up and down field, the result was a surprisingly sound thrashing of the Gael Winds by the Ninjas.

Both teams started strong and swift, matching goals in the first quarter. Irish Pub kept a consistent lead of a few points all through the first half with offensive play from Ninjas Justin “Pinball” McCauley and captains Tony Gaar and Tim Dombrowski. McBob’s proved a worthy foe with strong defensive play by Tom Hereley and Andy “Rhino” Wozniak for stepping up to play keeper. McBob’s was in the game until they unraveled in the second half.

The Ninjas never missed a beat. As the Gael Winds slowed in play and confidence, Irish Pub took every opportunity to score. The Gael Winds could not answer for the heightened level of communication and passing from Irish Pub. McBob’s Captain Mike Stuht said after the game, “I would’ve scored a billion points if Tony Gaar or Tim Dombrowski was marking me. Good thing they had [Brian] Lynch and [Chris] Servais on defense!”

The final score fails to represent the level of game play by McBob’s, but at the end of the game, it’s the goals and the points that count, and Irish Pub in the end was the better of the two teams on Sunday, Ninjas 5-10 (25) to Gael Winds 2-6 (12).

# All Tool Attacks Ale House

*by Jack Harrold*

Temperature matched the play as the Ale House Marauders took the field against the All Tool Sales Legion. The initial push came from All Tool Sales as their full forwards were able to successfully sweep in three goals in the first quarter alone. Though the Marauders took their shots, they came away with only four points

The Marauder halftime speech must have been truly epic as Ale House came out swinging. First to the ball across the field, the Legion defense was unable to contain the Marauders' frenzy. Four goals and a point brought the score nearly level; Ale House had whittled away the All Tool lead to 6-10 (28) to 6-8 (26).



*photo credit: Bridget Minster*

during that interval.

Making quick adjustments, Ale House was able to match the quick pace set by the Legion in the first quarter. Marauders Matt Danahey, Jack Tuescher and Sam Hanrahan took advantage of the opportunities and managed a pair of goals and three more points. All Tool would not be left out though, as twice more they buried the sliothar allowing them to go into the halftime break with a solid lead of 5-8 (25) to 2-7 (13).

In the final quarter, both teams shifted into overdrive. Defenses swarmed the ball, limiting the opposition's opportunities. As Ale House managed another goal, the sidelines erupted with cheers believing they might be seeing one of the biggest comebacks in MHC history. It was not to be though. Legionnaire rookie Ronnie Hansen had an amazing weakside goal from 30 meters out that reinvigorated his team. Another All Tool Sales goal and point solidified their victory of 8-11 (35) to 7-9 (30).

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