

DISH FROM THE PITCH



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MHC - ALL AGES WELCOME

by Aislinn Leonard



As physical a game as hurling is, the MHC has over 300 members of all ages, ranging from our preschool bobbleheads to middle-aged adult league members in their fifties. At the MHC, we are a family, and the whole family plays.

Natalie Meller, at four years old, is the MHC's youngest member. Following in her father Shannon's footsteps, and quickly chasing her brother Gabe's legend, she's a beast out on the field racking up goals, using her quick feet to beat opponents to the sliothar, and kicking the ball any chance she can get. When asked what her favorite thing about hurling is, she replied, "Umm, scoring the goals, and practice!" Natalie is a silent force. She never says a word at practice, but her determination and drive speak in very big ways for her, and her future as a shining star is secure.

As a veteran, and our most senior player (by just a few days), Pat Minster of All Tools, looks back fondly at his 13

seasons with the MHC and mentioned that he started playing hurling because when he went to sign up his son, Sean, he was asked to join too! Pat plays keeper and loves the point of view from the net because it allows him to see the entire field, which gives him an advantage when he does get a chance to play offense and score goals instead of save them. Pat also uses the important skills and many lessons learned back at goal to help coach the U11s. His favorite thing about the MHC is the way we can all battle to the death on the field, but once the whistle blows we are all friends again. Pat said, "It's really great that you can walk down the sidelines and ask someone if they have an extra brat or if they want to share a beer. We're a family."

Four year olds and fifty year olds alike love hurling and the MHC family that comes with it. At any age, Milwaukee hurling is all about the *craic*.



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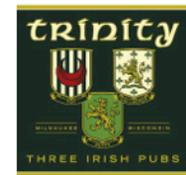
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Brocach's Bandit Nationals Bound: Ian Doherty Takes his Talents to Anaheim



by Aislinn Leonard

Ian Doherty has been with the club for ten years and very few people know that he is also a very talented Irish dancer with Cashel Dennehy Dance School. Ian says he Irish dances and plays hurling to stay active and fit, but also to stay connected with his Irish heritage. He says, "My full name is Ian Courtney Doherty. I don't know how much more Irish it could get."

Back in November, Ian and his Irish dance 8-hand team competed at the Midwest Irish Dance Championships and placed 2nd overall. They will be dancing "Trip to the Cottage," a ceile, at the National Irish Dance Championships in Anaheim, California. His Irish dance instructor, Maura Heck, said, "Ian's good at everything he does. He's very detail-oriented and a perfectionist. He'll work on something until he gets it right." As we've all seen out on the hurling pitch, Ian is a true athlete and competitor. Heck added with a laugh, "Ian's hurling captain is mad at me for taking him away this week!" Brocach captain, Jack Harrold, said, "Ian is an oddity. He plays with exceptional skill, heart, and teamwork - it does not seem to ever occur to him that any other way is possible. He just excels as though that is the natural thing to do."

His team leaves Thursday so send your congratulations and good luck to him as he represents Cashel Dennehy and the MHC out in California!

Marauders Last Minute Goal Halts a Fierce Rebel Charge

by Jason Kirkpatrick



photo credit: Ellen Burmeister

The weather was absolutely perfect as the Trinity Rebels took to the pitch still looking for their first win of the season against the Ale House Marauders. The Trinity squad wasted no time in taking the fight to Ale House and the furious Rebel charge seemed to catch the Marauders off guard which resulted in a goal. As both teams settled into a rhythm, their full forwards took the fight right to the keepers as it became clear that neither team was going to go down easy. A scoring frenzy ensued with multiple Marauders finding the net to keep up with the Rebels. Another powerful Trinity charge resulted in a second goal for the Rebels, and after pointing efforts from both teams the action packed first quarter came to an end in a dead tie at 2-2 (8).

After an out of control first quarter, both keepers were focused on locking down the goal. The defensive rally forced both squads to move their shots above the bar which resulted in a point for each team. A last second shot through the uprights energized the Rebels and put Trinity up by one as the game broke for halftime with a score of Trinity 2-4 (10)

over Ale House 2-3 (9).

Even though it was only a one point lead, the Rebels were relentless and came back on the pitch confident that a win was possible. A Trinity goal from Pat Foley had the Rebels even more convinced that today would be the day they put an end to their winless streak. Ale House pointed in what they hoped would

be the beginning of a comeback, but Rebel Jesse Rapkin sailed in yet another point for Trinity as they took a five point lead into the last quarter.

Ale House continued attacking in the face of adversity, clashing against the hardened Trinity defense led by keeper Andy McKee and fullback Ivan Baker. Ale House keeper Jerry Miksch knew time was running out and could be heard across the field yelling, "Urgency, white! Urgency!" to keep his team motivated. The Marauder push was effective and one by one, the points came raining down. Down by only two with time ticking away, Marauder Carl Whitney found the net on a tip-in off a Sam Hanrahan shot to take the lead by a mere one point. Trinity gave it all they had in the remaining seconds, but there was just not enough time as Ale House was able to steal away the victory with a final score of Trinity 3-6 (15) to Ale House 3-7 (16). Afterwards celebrations were in order for the Marauders and team grill master Sam Hanrahan experienced a true MHC tradition by earning the nickname "Buns" according to his Ale House teammate Jack Tuescher.

Legion Marches over Cats

by Jack Harrold



photo credit: Ellen Burmeister

By mid-season each year in the MHC, one team has usually positioned themselves to be THE team to beat. This year has proven to be no exception as the All Tool Sales Legion continued their bid for MHC glory against the County Clare Cats. With both Captains (Caroline “Mini-V” Vanevenhoven and Luke “The Bionic Brewmeister” Papenfuss) out of action, Clare had their work cut out for them.

All Tool came out strong as has been their tendency all year; their powerful full forward line netting four goals in the opening quarter alone. The Cats just could not seem to transition the sliotar back to their offense.

Making a few lineup changes at the quarter, Clare tightened things up and began their bid for a comeback. Solid defense thanks to Cats Aaron Krueger, John “J-Lo” Loewen and goalie John Clifford held off further goals from the Legion. Meanwhile, Clare’s offense managed to find the back of the net once trimming down some of the Legion’s lead going into halftime.

The Legion was merciless in the second half. Refusing to take their foot off the proverbial pedal, they amassed four more goals padding their lead by twenty-one points by the end of the third quarter. The Cats simply did not seem to have an answer for them.

By the fourth quarter, with game all but in hand, Legionnaire Nick “Tater” Ruetz showed his younger teammates and opponents a measure of class by moving off the full forward line towards midfield. This odd move was to avoid the temptation of running up the score and humiliating their opponents - we are after all, members of the same club.

The Cats took advantage and tried to salvage the day. A pair of late goals, including one by Cecilia Nieves, allowed the County Clare Cats to retain their, if bruised, pride. Mercy, the final whistle blew baring witness to another pummeling by All Tool of 10-7(37) to 3-7(16).

Faces from the Pitch

by Connor Kilp

Sam Hanrahan has played with the Milwaukee Hurling Club for the last ten years. Sam didn't mention how he started playing, but he does fondly recall that his mom made him come to the first practice where he says, "I cracked my head open and I never stopped coming." This year, Sam is an Ale House Marauder. In his ten years of playing, his fondest memory of the club is going undefeated on Slim's in his second year.

Away from hurling, Sam is highly involved in soccer and is going to play at Cardinal Stritch starting this fall.

Ever wonder what it takes to be a top player in the club? Get ready the way Sam does: "I like to have a Sierra Mist and not do too much."

"I prefer hashbrowns over home fries. Hashbrowns 'til I die!"

-Sam Hanrahan

Sam Hanrahan



Brendan Rauer



Brendan Rauer is a rookie forward playing for Trinity. Brendan first heard about the club from Clare's Renee Anzivino. With his (so far) short career here, he does not have too many highlights to look back on, but given his hard work, soon he will have many great memories of his first year in the club. When questioned about his pregame routine, all he had to say was "I never eat before a game."

Outside of the Club, Brendan has a number of interesting hobbies, including motorcycle riding, woodworking, and camping. Along with that, if he had one million dollars, he would travel the world. Being from Minnesota (and moving here six years ago), he has grown to love Milwaukee's lakefront and summer festivals.

Fun Fact: Although Brendan plays offense for the MHC, the rest of the year he plays goalie in hockey.

Ninjas Narrowly Escape the Determined Castlemen

by Christopher Patrick



photo credit: Ellen Burmeister

In one of the closest matched games of the season, the Irish Pub Ninjas narrowly defeated Burke's Irish Castle by just 2 points. Both teams entered week 6 with a 3-1 record and were eager to continue their winning streaks. The opponents spent much of the first quarter sizing each other up and looking for an edge. Despite Burke's early possessions, it was Irish Pub who scored the first points and ended the quarter with a comfortable lead, 1-2 (5) to 0-1 (1).

Building on the momentum gained in the first quarter, Irish Pub played a strong defense and an aggressive offense. Teddy Ruetz made the Ninjas' presence felt with two points in quick succession, with one point off on an intercepted puck out. Burke's responded with an outstanding offensive push led

by Josh O'Malley. However, it was their combination of passing and communication that netted 4 points, closing the second quarter out in Irish Pub's favor 1-6 (9) to 0-5 (5).

The real turning point in the game came during the third quarter, with Burke's Irish Castle coming out in full force. Castleman Steve Taylor led his troops with an effort that Captain Connor Kilp said was "the most consistent play all game." Opening straight away with a goal and a consistent stream of points, Burke's offense made it clear that they weren't going to let the Ninjas steal the game without a fight, with Will Gebauer scoring the match tying point. As testament to their determination, the

Castlemen only allowed two points the entire quarter. The quarter ended with Burke's leading by 1 point, 1-8 (11) to 1-9 (12).

With all eyes on the match both teams brought a huge amount of energy into the final 15 minutes. Teddy Ruetz, playing at mid field for Irish Pub, brought the first point early on. However, the favor was immediately returned by the Castlemen in the form of a goal. While Burke's defense admirably defended their lead, it was ultimately lost in the last 5 minutes of play to a goal by Irish Pub's captain Tim Dombroski, who later described the match as "a complete team win." Both teams played hard and well, with the Irish Pub Ninjas emerging as the victors 2-12 (18) to 2-10 (16).

More Than Just a Game

by Aaron Krueger

The following began as a letter to be shared with Aaron's County Clare teammates. His captain, Caroline Vanevenhoven, felt it was important enough to share with our MHC family.

Hi. I'm Aaron. I am, at best, a mediocre hurler and got into the game because I played baseball my entire life and started to suck at it, so I thought I'd pick up this game and I could only get better. Right? Well, that was 5 years ago, and I can do some things, but man,... this game ain't baseball.

I play for Clare this year. We got our a**es handed to us last week. Personally, I got beat a ton. I'm not the best hurler in this league, on this team, or even on the line. I feel bad for letting the team down playing a position in the center of half back because I've grown accustomed to being a supporting wing. But, this isn't entirely bad, as I learned a lot. About me- you bet. About our team- absolutely.

The way this season has played out, I've concluded it's about personal and team growth. Personal,

emotional growth. grow, at least in my come with adversity, in no shortage of. Our faster than I've seen in people are asked to play accustomed to. But, the asked to perform at better ourselves team as a whole, as long thing and give up. As how important an

While we all throughout life, in educational pursuits, in related complexities, and

Personally, mentally, emotionally and physically tested. Not always, but often, we have a need for people to step up, and if there is one thing I'll point to as a shining light for our injury-riddled team this season, it's the fact that I see that happening. While we're forced to adapt to major changes in our on-field team dynamic, the adoption of those changes that expose our depth of talent and it's evident capability is there and, more importantly trust is growing. As we evolve and adapt to the adversity we've been dealt, the adoption of those changes that expose our depth of talent and it's evident capability is there and, more importantly trust is growing. As we evolve and adapt to the adversity we've been dealt, increasingly we play as a team. That team can go toe to toe with anybody in the league, in my mind.

To this point, the season, my team and my role thereof are a spooky reminder of my life in general. It seems the powers that be are constantly out to throw complications and obstacles right in way of my path in life. I'm sure many, and likely most or all of you could agree with this. Adversity is part of life and our character is less defined by accomplishments which came easily, rather by the manner in which we respond to challenges often unforeseen.



mental, physical and These opportunities to experience, seem to which is one thing we're injury total is mounting this league. As such, positions they're not biggest thing is, we're levels that push us to individually and as a as we don't do the easy such, I want you know opportunity like this is. battle through adversity professional endeavors, personal and family in hurling, we're tested.

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At the MHC...



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true
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ship!

photo credit: Kerry Leonard

One Point Win: Bandits Struggle with Heavyweights

by Ivan Baker



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

“They came to play.”

The words from Brocach Captain Jack Harrold couldn't ring more true. The Silver Spring House Heavyweights indeed came to the pitch with all their might and finesse. From the depths of winless season, the Heavyweights laid into the Bandits with aggressive yet clean hurling. The Bandits struggle to keep over the tenacious Heavyweights.

Silver Spring House wasted no time in getting this game started. Midfielder Joel Ingebritson was pointing from afar after both teams matched goals in the first quarter. The second quarter showed Bandits scrambling to get to the lead that they've been used to having over teams this season. The Heavyweights kept their heads while Brocach found their footing.

Brocach found their comfort zone in the third with a couple of goals, but the Heavyweights would not quit as they kept pace with a goal and three points. The pinnacle of action ensued in the fourth with both teams clawing for the win. Silver Spring House played like no other time this season, each player in constant pursuit of the sloitar with a taste of win on their lips. Heavyweight Robert Hrdi smashed a deadeye goal as the final quarter neared its close. As the urgency of victory drove each team to accelerated play, no team lost their composure in the chaos. And especially a cool-headed Jaime Phillips who struck a weakside game-winning point.

This edge-of-the-seat game, like others, goes to show that teams' records may not reflect how they play. The complexity of hurling, the multitude of factors, is demonstrated in such a game as this. When a winless team can back a dominate team into a corner, it makes us appreciate the sport more.

With one point over to win, the Brocach Bandits will need get back their dominant style to be a force to reckon with in the playoffs. The bittersweet loss for the Heavyweights wakens them to the fact that they are a far better team than their record. At the ultimate whistle, Brocach got the edge over the Heavyweights, 4-8(20) to 3-10(19).

Shamrock Club Griffins Toast Slim McGinn's Slaintes

by Jack Harrold

The final match of the day saw two teams jockeying for a share of second in the standings. With only one loss apiece, both teams took to the pitch determined to earn another mark in the "W" column.

Shamrock released the energy that had bottled up while they had waited all day long for their game. And, Slim McGinn's initially looked like they were ready for the challenge as Slainte Phil Novakovski snatched the first Griffin puck-out and slammed it right back down their throats. But, Shamrock Club was not intimidated as their lightning fast movement coupled with uncanny teamwork set the tone for the day; scoring a goal and six points to the Slaintes pair of points.

Uncharacteristically, the Slaintes seemed slow, back-on-their-heels, as if something or someone was missing. Though they managed to find the uprights three times in the second quarter, Shamrock Club stole the show with a graceful yet potent offensive that built a lead of 3-10(19) to 0-5(5) going into the half.

Having too much respect for Slim McGinn's to rest on their laurels, Shamrock Club continued their amazing play. Knowing that such opportunities rarely present themselves, Griffin Captain and Midfielder Vinny Moloney



photo credit: Aislinn Leonard

set about making sure that each of his teammates "got a touch." Michelle Veralas had a few amazing catches which she quickly turned and hit away like a pro. Griffin Tom Doers joined the other "usual suspects" on the Griffin's offensive scoring rosters - a list that seems to grow each week as the team continues to gel.

But, Slim McGinn's captains are no quitters. Though down by a significant margin, They battled right through to the end. Steve Gilbertson rallied his troops with the help of Alissa Kuether, and began to make headway by turning back the relentless Griffin assault. As the match wore on, Slim McGinn's finally managed to find the back of the net. But, as Griffin Captain A.J. Varelas later said, "This was our best game as a team so far!" True enough as Shamrock Club continued to hold their lead until the final whistle blew to a score of 5-19(34) to 1-10(13).

Tattoo - Guess Who!



photo credit: Aislinn Leonard

Guess who belongs to this tattoo! We have a lot of ink in the club and this game will be a fun way to put it on display and get to know a few of your fellow club teammates. Check back next week to find out who this is!

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picture in the Dish!

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rather by the manner in which we respond to challenges often unforeseen. Often, you don't succeed in pursuit of immediate goals, and delay the gratification that comes with winning, accepting the lessons that only the ugly face of disappointment and failure can offer. But, this is how we learn. This is how we grow. This is directly reflected in not only our season to this point, but throughout my entire life, and likely yours, too. Should you care to know a bit about me personally, since early childhood, I've been made aware that I have a learning 'disability'. It's not that I'm dumb or don't get it, I actually notice things most overlook, but I don't concentrate in the manner which is easy to teach in a group. The older I get and more accepting I am of it, the more I actually believe it's a gift. I think differently than most, and people didn't understand, so I started life in remedial classes for literacy while in advanced classes for math and art. Because of this, I was given little chance to succeed and was an awkward kid. Adversity is something I grew up with, and I fully believe made me then, and continues to make me a better person.

I never accepted the level of expectation assigned to me, eventually creating my own. I found structure in holding a job starting when I was 9 with a paper route, and through playing sports. I learned how to learn the way others wanted me to learn and eventually figured out social skills. I graduated with honors from Cornell College while coming from a modest background. In college, I was pretty proud of where I came from and where I was going. My field of study positioned me for a position within diplomacy. But when I was studying abroad in South Africa after being accepted to a SIT program at the University of Cape Town my senior year to study under Professor Kwasi Kwaa Prah of the Centre for the Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS), world events (9/11) completely erased the promise of grad school. My conviction that US interest in Africa was prime for the future of global trade and humanitarian initiatives that I wanted to direct my career toward, completely crashed. I spoke Xhosa, not Arabic,... and now I was 9 months away from graduation being served a rescind notice for funding to grad school. All of the program acceptance letters were worthless, I wasn't only broke, but up to my eyes in debt, stuck in South Africa for the next 5 months and out of ideas. I felt like I was pushed right back into the hole of adversity I worked so hard to get out of.

But, I learned more about myself in those 5 months than I had anytime previously or since. I finished the program with the firmest handshakes I'd ever received from a man whose influence in the UN remains, last I checked, a top authority on the international matters of Sub-Saharan Africa. The same man who mentored me both academically and through emotions, and pushed me to finish strong. I welled up hearing him tell me he was proud of me.

I came back to Milwaukee defeated. I took a job in IT Recruitment. I was a salty dog for a good couple of years until I met the woman who later became my wife. She inspired me to make my job a career and work to get out of the student debt I buried myself in. However, that wasn't close to the end of adversity. We got into a boating accident that complicated her health. Her back was hurt, went through 4 surgeries to fix the pain that robbed her of her 20s and was almost paralyzed as a result of an infection on her spinal-cord.

So, I'm not doing what I thought I'd be doing, the woman I love was in constant pain I couldn't fix, but I continued to get up, dust myself off, work hard, and started seeing success professionally at the cost of bottling stress and anxiety. It was during this time I discovered the Milwaukee Hurling Club. Finally, I found the pitch, a place I could work off the stresses of life that came with an extended and supportive family of friends, even if we do beat on one and other for 90 minutes a week. I started feeling better. I started doing more and pushing myself the same way I did when I was a kid. The club pushed me to push harder at life, and stay positive.

Today, I'm pleased to announce because Mandy and I stuck with it, the last surgery seems to have taken and she's starting to feel like a real person again. I'm pleased to announce that because I stuck with it, I made my last student loan payment a year and a half ago. I'm almost brought to tears over the fact that my wife can finally travel and we amassed the resources through hard work and sticking with it, which allow me the pleasure of taking her to go see South Africa this coming October, returning after 12 years feeling like a made man when I left broken and dejected. I told them I would return, and I get to keep that promise. Because I stuck with it, I get to shake Professor Prah's hand again. I have this league, in some degree, to thank for that. After a whole childhood for being told I don't fit and continued disappointments beyond my control into adulthood, somehow, I've managed to exceed the low expectations set for me by idiots. I own my little duplex, we're looking for our dream house now so we can do what we couldn't before and start a family, and I have a beautiful and healthy wife who encourages me show up on Sunday and have the weekly moment of Zen I feel when I take my position on the pitch. Somehow, I've dug myself out of debt. Somehow, my wife is FINALLY ok. Somehow, I've learned how to cook and eat ensuring our health. Somehow, I'm lucky enough to run around like a child every Sunday, chasing kids who were born when I was already technically an adult, and somehow the people who told me all my damn life that I "can't" or "shouldn't" are silenced. Somehow, I've found comfort and happiness.

Don't EVER believe anybody that tells you that you 'Can't'. Furthermore, never let people underestimate you and punch them figuratively in the mouth if they do. But most importantly, don't let yourself let adversity come in the way of your efforts. Though I never ended up being what I thought I would become, my biggest accomplishment is getting back up and humbly dusting myself off to keep moving forward. My Clare team this season seems to reflect this some manner. We've experienced adversity, yet somehow, this team of mine is coming together. Somehow, we're finding a way to understand each other. Somehow, we're stepping up. Somehow, hitting our targets. Somehow, we're becoming a team through adversity. Somehow, we're getting back up and dusting ourselves off and trying harder. I can see it. I've lived it. I'm reminded of a Xhosa saying "Siyazama" figuratively translated, to "why we try" or "we're "we're trying". It's about learning. It's celebrating failure, and questioning success and pushing harder. It's doing our best and seeking to better self and community (team). In doing our damndest and not giving up, we learn. And through this, my team is getting a boatload better week in and week out, and I'm proud of us. This improvement is despite the losses we've endured. One could argue it might even be because of them.