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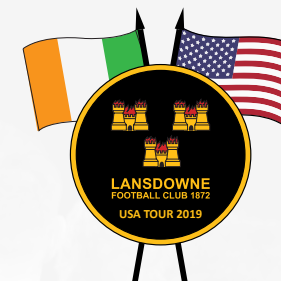
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

KIERAN MULLIGAN

As we near the end of our 146th season at Lansdowne FC, it is indeed my great privilege and honour to lead the players and 'Alickadoos' alike on what I can only describe as an 'old school' Rugby Tour of the USA playing four rugby matches over 10 days and sipping the odd beer with old and new friends alike.

I started planning this tour as far back as November 2017 and since then, I have received tremendous support from my club executive and tour committee with 45 players and 30 Alickadoos signing up for 'tour duty'. We look forward to making new friends when we arrive in the USA taking in Boston, New Jersey & New York. On arrival in Boston, we will play Boston Irish Wolfhounds and America's newest Major League Rugby franchise the New England Free Jacks. After that, we head south to New Jersey where we will renew acquaintances with Monmouth RFC who we last played in Lansdowne road back in 1979. The grand finale on the penultimate day of the tour will be our match against the prestigious New York Athletic Club (NYAC) who will host us in the beautiful surroundings of their home grounds at Travers Island New York.



On behalf of Lansdowne FC, I would like to thank our many tour sponsors & supporters alike and have no doubt about it, this tour would not happen without them. Also, I would like to thank Scott Deacy and the players tour committee who have worked tirelessly over the last 9 months on fundraising events like Blind Date, Valentines Ball, Cheltenham Lunch, Quiz night and raffle as well as many other social events which not only raised significant tour funds but also created a superb social scene in the club throughout the season.

Lansdowne has a long tradition of touring and all participants have returned with fantastic memories of the great friendships that were forged during tours and I suspect that this tour will be no different. In addition to the four rugby matches, we have a superb itinerary planned which I know the players will enjoy and remember for a lifetime and for me personally, it's my great pleasure to be touring with my eldest son James albeit I am not sure that is reciprocated!! Finally, please remember the touring motto "what goes on tour stays on tour", see you all stateside!!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB CAPTAIN

EAMON MILLS

Dear all,

It is with great pleasure and intrigue that we arrive "Stateside" with Lansdowne FC. Although Lansdowne FC haven't ventured across the pond in nearly 40 years, America's reputation speaks for itself and I'd like to thank the Boston Irish Wolfhounds, New England Free Jacks, Monmouth and NYAC in advance, for their hospitality. We are looking forward to sharing adventures on and off the pitch over the next 10 days!

Following, a clean sweep for the senior squad in 2017/2018, it has been a very successful season for Lansdowne once again with the first XV and J1 both winning a Leinster League and Cup double in their respective competitions. This tour is a fitting way to round off another brilliant season for the club.

This tour has been 18 months in the making, and a huge thanks must go out to all who made it possible, and in particular Kieran Mulligan and his tour committee, without whom this tour would never have got off the ground. I would also like to thank all of our sponsors and contributors who supported our fundraising efforts over the last 9 months.

Here's to a fantastic tour and some lifelong memories.



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WELCOME TO THE TOUR

SCOTT DEASY

Fellow tourists,

On behalf of the tour committee I would like to welcome you to the 2019 Lansdowne Football Club tour to Boston and New York. This is our second tour in the last 5 years following on from the unforgettable 'invincibles' tour to South Africa in 2015. This tour represents a natural end to a cycle which has been very successful for the club winning 7 Senior trophies over the past 3 seasons along with numerous Junior and underage cups. These successes are a testament to the structures and professionalism instilled by the club executive, not to mention the dedicated volunteers behind the scenes who maximise the club's potential both on and off the field.

Memories of the South Africa tour are robust with the Whatsapp group still going strong with stories and anecdotes being recounted, regurgitated and embellished regularly! While the South Africa tour had some well-established characters along for the ride such as Scanno, Ratser Geraghty and self-proclaimed 'top tourist' Rhodri Jones, it was the emergence of a new cast of 'young pup' characters that really stole the show. Slugger, Ross Farrell and Prendo have all gone on to captain Lansdowne at various levels whilst also ensuring old school 'play-hard party-hard' values are adhered to at Lansdowne FC. No doubt new characters will emerge in

America who will ensure Lansdowne's values and touring ethos are carried forward into the new decade. We look forward to what the watering holes of Boston and New York have to offer...

Lastly, a special mention to our President Kieran Mulligan who put this tour at the top of his agenda when he assumed the role of Jnr. Vice President 3 years ago. Kieran and the Executive have worked tirelessly over the past 18 months to ensure that this tour is successful. It is very important to Kieran that this tour be a club tour, not a 1st XV tour, as club tours are where cross squad relationships are built and he is knowingly putting the club in the best position by insisting on this being a Lansdowne wide tour. All of us at Lansdowne, especially the tourists, are hugely appreciative of your ongoing support, generosity and the incredible work you have put into this tour. While your presidency is coming to an end we anticipate hearing those famous words for years to come... "Back to Mulligans!!"

Yours in Rugby,
Scott Deasy



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Best of Luck to Lansdowne on the 2019 USA Tour from all at Kepak!



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USA 2019 TOUR ITINERARY

BOSTON

Friday May 31st

- 1.30pm** Arrive at Dublin airport for 'bag & tag', immigration & Pints!!
- 4.20pm** Depart Dublin Airport
- 6.30pm** Arrive Boston Airport
- 7.00pm** Coach departs Boston airport to city centre hotel
- 7.15pm** Check in Loews Boston Hotel, 154 Berkeley st, Boston, MA 02116, USA
- 8.00pm** Evening meal for tour group

Evening free, restaurant options will be provided

Saturday June 1st

Morning free to walk around Boston City Centre

- 12.00pm** Coach departs hotel to the rugby grounds at the Irish Cultural Centre Canton, Boston, MA
- 2.00pm** Lansdowne 2nd XV V Boston Irish Wolfhounds
- 4.00pm** Lansdowne 1st XV V New England Free Jacks
- Post-match BBQ at the grounds
- 9.00pm** Reception in Boston City Centre later that evening

Sunday June 2nd

Day Group activity 'organised by the players for the players' in Boston city centre

Evening Free

Monday June 3rd

Morning training session all players

- Day** Various group activities/tours/sight-seeing options
- 6.45pm** Depart on train from Boston South to NY (Sh!t Shirt night)
- 10.57pm** Arrive Penn Station Manhattan
- Walk/Taxi from Penn Station to Hotel
- 11.30pm** Check in to Park Central Hotel, 870 7th Ave, 56th street, New York, NY 10019, USA

Tuesday June 4th

- Free Day** Various activities/tours/sight-seeing options will be available - you choose!
- 8.00pm** Reception at Pig & Whistle Times Square, Manhattan

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Wednesday June 5th**10.00am** Morning training session - All Players**Day** Various activities/tours/sight-seeing options being considered
5.00pm Train to Citi Field to watch the NY Mets V the San Francisco Giants**7.10pm** Start (USA'94 themed night)**10.30pm** Train back to Manhattan & Night Free**Thursday June 6th****11.15am** Seastreak High speed ferry from E35th st & FDR Drive in midtown Manhattan**12.20pm** Arrive at Highlands on the Jersey shore**12.30pm** Coach (10 mins) to Seabright for beach activity followed by lunch at Rory's Pub, 1124 Ocean Ave, Sea Bright, NJ 07760, USA**4.30pm** Coach (30 mins) to Monmouth RFC rugby grounds at 805 Newman Springs Rd, Lincroft, NJ 07738, USA**6.00pm** Lansdowne 2nd XV V Monmouth RFC**8.00pm** Coach (10 mins) to the nearby Monmouth RFC Clubhouse "The Wilde Rover", 153 Shrewsbury Ave, Red Bank, NJ 07701, USA**12.00am** Late coach back to NY**Friday June 7th****Free Day** Various activities/tours/sight-seeing options will be available - you choose!**8.00pm** Reception Rosie O'Grady's (two blocks from hotel)**Saturday June 8th***Morning free for some sight-seeing and/or shopping***10.00am** Coach departs hotel to NYAC's rugby grounds at Travers Island, New Rochelle, NY 10805, USA**12.00pm** Lansdowne 1st XV V New York Athletic Club (NYAC)**2.00pm** Post-match BBQ at the grounds**8pm** Reception in Manhattan later that evening**Sunday June 9th***Morning free (last minute shopping?)***2pm** Coach departs hotel for JFK, NY
5.20pm Depart JFK, NY**Monday June 10th****4.50am** Arrive Dublin

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LANSDOWNE FC: REFUSING TO REST ON THE LAURELS OF A GLORIOUS PAST

RECORD HAULS OF SILVERWARE, COUNTLESS IRISH INTERNATIONALS... AND D4 ARISTOCRATS ARE STILL AT THE TOP OF THE PILE, WRITES BRIAN LOWRY

Brian Lowry - Club focus

Henry WD Dunlop founded the Lansdowne Club in 1872 when it was first known as the Irish Champion Athletic Club, and Lansdowne FC now stands as one of the oldest and respected clubs in Ireland.

Lansdowne are based in Lansdowne Road at the Aviva Stadium, the oldest international rugby ground in the world. Originally playing in blue and gold jerseys (similar to Monkstown's), the club embraced new colours in 1876 when they adopted those of a popular English gentlemen's touring cricket team called "I Zingari" – the name of the famous Zulu throwing spear – who used to play around the country houses of Dublin and Meath – black, red and yellow.

The lease to the ground was originally passed to the IRFU by HWD Dunlop, Founder of the Club in 1872 and first President of Lansdowne when the office was instituted in 1903-1904. Remarkably, over a hundred years later, Dunlop's son, Eric, was still involved with Lansdowne until his death in July 2008 and he was an honorary life member.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR

The club has been a major contributor to Irish rugby, and countless Lansdowne players have gone on to wear the green of Ireland.

Moss Keane, Eugene Davy, Ernie Crawford, Ned Lightfoot, Mick Dunne, Jack Arigho, Morgan Crowe, Robin Roe, Mick English, Pat Casey, Sean MacHale, Gordon Wood, Alan 'Dixie' Duggan, Barry McGann, Mick Quinn, Noel Mannion, Eric Elwood, Philip Danaher, Michael Kiernan (who dropped the goal to win the 1985 Triple Crown), Conor O'Shea, Donal and Dick Spring (former Tánaiste), Michael Gibson, Des Fitzgerald and, of course, the great Con Murphy (the only man to represent Ireland both before and after World War II) are only the tip of the iceberg.

Murphy captained Ireland to a 22-0 victory over England in the first official post-war international in 1947.

Lansdowne can also boast nine Lions, including two members of the 2005 tourists, Shane Horgan and Gordon D'Arcy, while Leinster and Argentina legend and now Leinster Backs coach Felipe Contepomi became the club's first overseas international. On two occasions in 1931, Lansdowne supplied the entire Irish three-quarter line (Arigho, Davy, Crowe and Lightfoot), one of only two clubs ever to have done so at international level world-wide.

Other more recent internationals include exciting winger Matt Healy (still Lansdowne's record try scorer in the Ulster Bank League), prop Martin Moore and back row Jordi Murphy, (who featured for Lansdowne in the UBL and who are now both with Ulster rugby) Devin Toner, Tadgh Byrne and Dave Kearney. James Ryan and John Cooney are former Lansdowne players, while centre Tom Farrell is still a club player as he awaits his surely inevitable Ireland debut.

There are also a host of current and past Lansdowne players in the various provinces who have been making a name for themselves of late.

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These include Clive Ross in Ulster and the Connacht septet of Craig Ronaldson, Cian Kelleher, Dave Heffernan, Conor McKeon, Tom Farrell, Paul Boyle and Shane Delahunt, while Peter Dooley, Tom Daly (on loan to Connacht), Max Deegan (U-20 World Player of the year 2016) and Ian Fitzpatrick are all on the books at Leinster. Brilliant young international second row James Ryan also commenced his club career with Lansdowne, before moving on to UCD RFC, Leinster and Ireland.

The club is proud to also have a state-of-the-art clubhouse at the side of the Aviva Stadium.

Both inside and out, the club's facilities are right up there with the best in the country. A fine bar as well as a function room capable of holding corporate meetings, functions and parties just adds to the prestige of the club. Further to their main grounds at Lansdowne Road, the club also shares a fantastic facility with Old Wesley RFC in Ballycorus. Opened in 2007, the complex, which replaced the ground the two clubs formerly shared at Kilgobbin, boasts three full-sized pitches (two of which are floodlit), six spacious dressing-rooms, a medical room and catering accommodation as well as a fully-equipped gym.

Lansdowne have won the Leinster Senior Cup a record 27 times, as well as winning 12 Leinster Senior League titles. They are also the current holders of the Metropolitan (Junior 1) League.

Since the club's first Senior Cup victory in 1891, Lansdowne have won over 150 Leinster Branch trophies as well as numerous national titles, including three Premier Division titles in the last six years (2013; 2015 & 2018) as well as the national cup title (Bateman Cup) in 2018, when the Club 1st XV won all four trophies available to them – the Leinster Senior League and Cup and the All Ireland League and Cup under the presidency of the great Michael "Butch" Cassidy, a club hooking legend.

The club caters for players at all levels, and currently fields four senior teams, as well as an U-20s side who have been extremely successful in the past few seasons and were the Leinster League Champions in 2017 and 2018.

Coaches Declan Fassbender and Ben Armstrong, along with U-20 director Ed Lyons, have done tremendous work having secured the JP Fanagan Leinster U-20 League title in both of the last two seasons.

Oisín Dowling, Tadhg McElroy, Paul Boyle (now with Buccaneers and Connacht) and Greg McGrath were all part of Ireland's U-20 Six Nations campaigns in recent seasons, while highly-promising out half Harry Byrne continues to steal the show with the Irish Under 20's.

Mark Roche, John O'Donnell, Alan Bennie, Tom Daly, Foster Horan, Ian Fitzpatrick, Cian Aherne and Matthew Opperman have all been involved with the Irish Sevens squad in recent seasons.

Under the guidance of head coach Mike Ruddock, assistant coach Mark McHugh, director of senior rugby Steve Rooney and chairman of rugby Colin Goode, Lansdowne are again very much in contention for the All-Ireland League title this season.

Lansdowne won the All-Ireland League on three occasions - in 2013, 2015 & 2018 - they also won the Fraser McMullen cup (U-20s All-Ireland Cup) in the 2013 and 2015 seasons.

Prior to their recent successes, in both 1996-97 and 1999-2000 Lansdowne finished second in the All-Ireland League, on the latter occasion losing narrowly to St Mary's College in the final.

Mini and Youth rugby also flourish in the Club, with teams from U-6s up to U-20s under the watchful guidance of Kieran Walsh, Owen Lydon and ex-England Sevens player Will Matthews.

The future looks bright for Lansdowne - last season they won the Under 17 League Championship and Cup double for the second time, ensuring that its successful under-age feeder system will continue to swell the senior club ranks in the coming seasons!

LANSDOWNE FACT FILE

Founded: 1872

Grounds: Lansdowne FC,
Lansdowne Road,
Dublin 4; Ballychorus
Road, Kiltiernan.

Colours: Black, red and yellow
hoops, with navy
shorts.

Division: All-Ireland League, Division 1A.
Youths/Minis: U-6 to U-20, boys and
girls.

President: Kieran Mulligan

Captain: Eamonn Mills

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF LANSDOWNE'S OVERSEAS TOURS

MICHAEL DALY

While Lansdowne Football Club's 2019 Tour to the United States is, perhaps, the club's most prestigious overseas adventure to date, the club already has a formidable international itinerary to its credit, stretching back over a hundred years.

The world has truly become a much smaller place, and the opportunity to travel and see places our forefathers only ever dreamt of is now readily available to anyone with a sense of adventure and a few shillings in their pocket. Travel is not only far more accessible but is also cheaper than ever before. The world has become our proverbial oyster, and there is little or no excuse for vegetating at home lamenting the lack of opportunity to "get out there and live it".

First "Overseas" Tour

The same cannot be said for our predecessors in HGW Dunlop's wonderful "Red, Yellow and Black", however. The worthy stalwarts of Lansdowne FC who set out for England on the club's first ever "overseas" tour on Friday, 26th November 1882 faced a still daunting task. By rough boat crossing and by train, they set out to share the gospel of rugby football with their fellow aficionados of the sport.

Under the captaincy of J.B. "Buffer" Moore, they played against Wakefield Trinity on Saturday 27th November and Halifax the following Monday. In an editorial, The Irish Sportsman and Farmer said: "In the interests of the game we hope the tour will be a complete success. As a social, a really festive trip, its character is assured, since "Features", "Buffer", "Mac" and "Don" will be found among its frivolous spirits."

From a rugby point of view, the tour was only moderately successful, but in every other aspect it was, apparently, a resounding success. Wakefield won the first game by two tries to one, while Halifax claimed the second by a try to a "disputed try".

Life and Souls

The Irish Sportsman newspaper carried a fascinating report in its edition of 2 December, 1882, which goes to show that the Lansdowne Club, whatever its failings on the pitch, never lacked competent entertainers among its members:

"On this side of the Channel we have little idea of the enthusiasm with which football is regarded in England and Scotland, and, consequently, when we read of the reception accorded the Lansdowne team, which left for Yorkshire last week, by the inhabitants of Wakefield, we are quite as much, and as agreeably surprised, as were most of the Dublin men themselves. After a rough passage they reached Wakefield at 10.20 on Friday night, and as the train drew up alongside the platform the dense crowd that thronged the environs of the station and its approaches set up a hearty cheer, which was repeated again and again while the visitors were going through the operation of hand shaking with Mr. Baron Kilner and other prominent members of the celebrated club. Outside the station a wagonette was waiting and, preceded by the Wakefield Voluntary Band, and followed by an enthusiastic crowd, the Lansdowne men proceeded to the Stratford Arms, which was their headquarters during their stay.

In the evening they were the guests at dinner of Mr. M. Sanderson, President of the Wakefield Trinity Club and a most agreeable time was spent..... In the evening after the match there was a great "tuck out" at the Arms, when speechmaking, singing and general jollification were the order of the day, or rather, the night."

It appears that the traditions of a good rugby tour were already well in place, and there is little doubt that the current batch of Lansdowne tourists, in the great traditions of the Club, will not be found wanting in terms of entertaining their hosts at the Newman, Hurling and Old Christians clubs during the present tour.

Strong Yorkshire Links

Lansdowne's connections with Yorkshire rugby continued over the next decade with matches played against Wakefield, Bradford, St. Helen's, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds and Warrington – most of who became Rugby League sides a decade later.



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Jim Toal, Managing Director



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Lansdowne's next major tour took place to France at the start of the 1906-07 season. On Friday, 2nd November 1906 Lansdowne were narrowly defeated by a dropped goal and two tries to two tries at St. Cloud by Stade Francais. A contemporary report stated that incessant rain before and during the match had left the ground in "a deplorable state", and that tackling on both sides was fierce. On the following day the "tourists" took on the local team at Le Havre and routed them by four goals and three tries to nil – chalking up Lansdowne's first tour win ever in the process. It is worth noting that the tour took place three seasons before Ireland played France in an official international.

Little happened by way of tours until well after the First World War, when rugby ceased for five seasons, and took some time to find its feet again.

Post-War Expansion

At the start of the 1927-28 season a major expansion of the annual fixture list took place, with regular trips to England and Scotland becoming commonplace as travel became more accessible and the club enjoyed a "purple patch" on the pitch. Between 1927 and 1933, the Leinster Senior Cup was won on six out of seven occasions, and the Bateman Cup on three of the five times the national competition was held.

That same 1927-28 season Lansdowne also commenced an annual match with Cardiff – defeating the Welsh Champions 11-6 – and the annual fixture against Heriots, or Heritonians, as they were then referred to, commenced. The annual home and away trip to Scotland was to become a feature of the Lansdowne calendar up until the fixture, sadly, was abandoned in the mid-1990's due to increasing rugby costs and the spill-over pressure from professional game. Between the successful defence of the Senior Cup and the Bateman Cup final (which was lost to Young Munster in what was regarded as a surprise result), Lansdowne also managed to fit in a trip to Manchester to play the home city and Waterloo.

In October 1929 the club set-off once again across the Irish Sea to take on Manchester and Waterloo. The first game, played without the inspirational Eugene Davy and Mick Dunne, both of who were playing in the Ireland/Scotland v.



England/Wales match at Twickenham the same afternoon, was lost by 18 points to 12. On the Monday, and restored to full strength, Waterloo met theirs through a 27-0 score line.

On the first return visit to Scotland in that 1928-29 season Lansdowne also played and lost against Watsonians. Matches with Halifax were also resumed for a period the same season, and regular tour matches against Kendall, Broughton Park, Headingley, Roundhay and Edinburgh University also featured during the 1930's.

Second World Conflagration

The Second World War saw the cessation of all international sporting travel, although fixtures with the North of Ireland clubs such as Instonians, Collegians, Malone and NIFC continued throughout the war. The first cross-channel fixture after the end of the war was against Headingley in 1946-47. London-Irish and Glasgow Academicals came on board the following season and the Heriot's fixture recommenced in 1948-49.

That same season Lansdowne won the Leinster Senior Cup again after a gap of sixteen years. To celebrate this return of fortune, the club organised its second tour to France at the start of the 1949-50 season. This tour saw the first match against Stade Toulousaine on 9th October drawn by a try each, and a second fixture against Romans-Piège two days later. The latter match was lost, 14 points to 9. Lansdowne included as guest players three of the previous season's Triple Crown winning Irish side: Jim McCarthy (Dolphin), Leslie Griffin (Wanderers) and George Norton (Bective Rangers), as well as an Old Belvedere opponent of so many years, Kevin Quinn.

News of these star inclusions had gone before the side and there were high expectations among the Romans alicadoos and followers that George Norton was included in the party – but would he actually play in their match? The following letter, in this writer's possession, was awaiting the late Lansdowne President, Mick Dunne at the hotel in Toulouse:

As John Redmond commented in the Lansdowne Centenary History, whatever for French as it is spoken, on that tour Lansdowne got a fair view of Le Jeu Noble as she was then played in the rugby heartland of La Patrie. In Toulouse they also encountered the famous wing, Pomathios ("I am in splendid form – I shall score many tries this season") – one local paper reported him as saying in all his modesty.

In 1963 the long-standing fixture against Racing Club de France was instituted; it endured until the early 1990's as an early season match. In the 1969-70 season, the visit to Paris was combined with a renewal of the former fixture with Stade Toulousain; both matches on the short tour.

however, ending in defeat.

First Outside Europe

How far from the truth could one get! The West Coast of the USA and Canada at the time were populated by hordes of Kiwi-exiles, who were only too delighted to soften up a few of the tourist's bones with some crunching Southern Hemisphere tackles. Only for the pace of one Vincent Becker on the wing - he scored 8 tries in 6 matches - the visitors would have fared worse than a won 3, lost 3 tour statistic.

Third Continent

Lansdowne returned to South Africa in 2001, again basing the tour in Cape Town, and playing matches against opponents who included Nysna and Stellenbosch University.



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That was the last venture overseas before this current tour to South America, which again, breaks new ground for the Irish Rugby Headquarters Club.

Still Playing!

Another new phenomenon in world rugby, the "Golden Oldies" Rugby Festival, commenced in 1981 and Lansdowne participated in the inaugural celebrations, which were based in Long Beach, California. Further tournaments followed in Perth (1991), Dublin (1993) – in which no less than three Lansdowne squads participated - Christchurch (1995) and Cape Town (1998).

Later this year the current crop of Lansdowne Golden Oldies – myself included – will follow in the footsteps of the Lansdowne Seniors and visit Buenos Aires for the Golden Oldies festival and the next celebration of the game. Three of the September tour party also participated in the inaugural Long Beach festival in 1981, a fitting testimonial to the enduring qualities of Lansdowne touring men of all ages and their dedication to the game we all love so well.

South America

In May 2006, a 50 man tour party embarked on an old-school two week tour of Argentina & Uruguay. Led by Captain Graham Quinn and President Oisín O'Buachalla the tour began with a couple of "early" nights in Buenos Aires sampling the local cuisine and sights of the city. Lansdowne kicked off their first tour game with a hard fought win against Club Newman, the hometown club of Felipe Contemponi. Lansdowne began well and battled to a 33-21 victory with scores from David Lavin, Graham Quinn and Leinster's Brian O'Meara.

The tour party then travelled to Montevideo, Uruguay for a unique fixture against the Uruguay national team after their own tour to Japan had been cancelled. Lansdowne put in their best performance of the tour on and off the pitch and led at half time with tries from Stuart McCarron, Justin Meagher and Liam Toland. Uruguay then showed their international pedigree with some excellent second half scores to win 40-35 in the end. The exciting match was equalled by an

extremely unique post match BBQ and talk by the survivors of the Andes plane crash which was depicted in the Hollywood movie "Alive". It was a fantastic occasion and both teams sang and toasted each other long into the Montevideo night.

Lansdowne finished off the tour with a "fighting" win against the famous Hurling Club back in Buenos Aires. Led from the front by club stalwarts, Shane Whelan and Karl Cleere, Lansdowne took the fight (literally) to the Hurling Club and ran out convincing winners in the end by 45-21. Following a hugely successful tour, the Lansdowne men returned home with long lasting memories and lifelong friendships on and off the field from Argentina & Uruguay

Back to Africa

A 60 strong playing squad ventured, once again, to the lands of South Africa in June 2015 where an indelible mark was left on all the tourists not to mention the bars and nightclubs of The Cape. After settling into Cape Town, over four days (and nights...) the tour party took off along the garden route in search of a game after the match against Stellenbosch University was belatedly cancelled and found game opposition from the Province of George, the tourists emerged resounding winners with a scoreline of 85-5 in favour of the Irish.



The tour wound its way further along the Coast taking in the amazing scenery and hospitality, culminating in a visit to Nelson Mandela's home in Soweto, a powerful and inspiring climax to a very enjoyable tour.

Good Luck to the next generation of Lansdowne Tourists, and don't forget you are but the latest in a long line of Lansdowne men to represent their club in the far-flung reaches of the rugby world!!!

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THE INVINCIBLES LANSDOWNE FC 2015 TOUR SOUTH AFRICA SUMMARY

RON BOUCHER

"A captain goes down with his ship"
– Anne Boucher, June 2015

The Trip

We arrived in Dublin Airport excited, nervous; some former Terenure players even had to have a few drinks the night before to calm the nerves. The All Ireland Champions, bolstered by a select crew of good club men, young and old, themselves no strangers to silverware, assembling to fly into the unknown; to challenge ourselves in another hemisphere and see what we were about.

Gav Lee was like a child before Christmas and began every sentence with "On the 2001 tour....." as tour kit was handed out by the venerable Paddy Gore as always – "There's no more gear". Goodie got the pints in, the Disney cards were handed out and tour rules were explained in meticulous detail. Cathal MacNamara was already stealthily taking pictures from a creepy distance and Will Matthews and

Tim "Slayer" Moylan brooded around the Stanley bar – our very own Hansel and Derek Zoolander.

The first flight to Dubai was smooth, and before long Alan Scanlan had been promoted to Head Barman, delegating to the Emirates air hostesses in handing us much needed refreshments along the way. When we landed in Dubai, the bar was empty, we were suitably refreshed, and the Dubai monopoly money would trick many men into paying 60 quid for a pizza and a pint.

The Dubai – Cape Town leg was more sedate, men beginning to focus on the tour ahead and yours truly briefly enjoying a few quiet glasses of champagne in first class before being tossed out for being a spoofer.

Cape Town – Searching for Senso

The tour began in earnest in Cape Town – "TIA baby". After a fairly intense training session laid on by the ever-professional Ciaran Walsh to acclimatise, we settled in Mitchell's, which had kindly agreed to be our HQ in Cape Town for some surf and turf and to come up with a plan for the day. The devil makes work for idle hands and the plan for the day was to bond over what was quite a delicious feed and spend another

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six or so hours there, contributing many "Madibas" to our generous and tolerant hosts.

We returned to the hotel to dine with our proud incoming president Donal Lennon, a tall lithe man in full mustard jumper and trouser combination who insisted on being referred to as Colonel Mustard, "I'm not an alickadoo" Butch Cassidy (he has conceded since and now sleeps in his LFC V-Neck) and the rest of the alickadoos.

We headed out that night to Long Street with tour manager / African dictator Goodie the designated driver as the driver had been unwell; a true tourist. Long Street was a delight for the senses and the sounds and smells of Cape Town life wafted through the streets. We were even treated to a virtuoso performance in one of the bars by a local band who uncannily resembled the Meagher brothers and Joe "Shaggy" O'Brien and sang quite a bit of U2. The early risers amongst us - Will Matthews, Brian McDermott, Andy McDonagh, Prendo, Cillian Barden and a few others or the Breakfast Club, as we were dubbed by those who didn't appreciate the most important meal of the day and lazed in bed, assembled early; excited about Table Mountain and our tour of Robben Island.

Following our ascent of "Table Top Mountain" (as called by one Welsh skydiver) and flag-bearer Ben Geraghty waving the tricolour proudly from the top, we returned to Mitchell's for lunch to discover the cancellation of our ferry to Robben Island due to choppy waters. Our sunken mood was not helped by the news that the first game of the tour against Stellenbosch could no longer go ahead. With no game for a few days, the leadership group was consulted, and it was decided that for the sake of morale we should let our hair down a little bit. Dozy and Prendo took on the Mitchell's challenge which involved a lot of meat, but which was no match for the "blister test", which we were treated to by a convivial local in his forties who was having lunch with his wife and daughter. An epic tourist in his day, no doubt.

A return to Long Street that night revealed our very own Mark Forrest as a Rodriguez / Sugar Man style character unaware of his widespread notoriety and even hero status as his much fêted Sensodyne ads from the noughties had been played daily in South Africa; the Afrikaans of course having a genetic predisposition to sensitive teeth. As Senso's smile grew into a weary grimace as he posed for photos with the locals, the rest of us slipped off for a few quiet beers. The younger men in the crew





(Cian O'Donoghue, Tom Kiersey, Slugger, RBK and Ferdia) ventured onwards while Scanno and I rehearsed a play loosely based on Black Hawk Down as our party piece for later in the tour.

The following morning, with the Breakfast Club membership expanding, talk was of our day out to watch the Super Rugby game between the Stormers and the Cheetahs. The day's theme of Italia '90 was embraced by all, with special mention to physio/shaman Andy McDonough who really brought his A game and left his dignity firmly at the door, draped in an Irish flag with inflatable hammer firmly in hand. Despite Senso having a signed John Aldridge jersey and receiving many congratulations, his scowl was only outdone by perma-grump Shane "It's not a stag do" Gahan. Stuart McCarron led us all in a rendition of "Joxer Goes to Stuttgart" while we engaged in pre-match merriment. Scott Deasy's good mate (friiiieeeeend, rugby friieeeeend) and one of the most capped Springboks of all time, Jean de Villiers sorted us out with tickets. Ever the gentleman, Jean posed for pictures with the group before sharing a few words with former teammate, Scotty ("Is that the guy off the toothpaste ads? Any chance I can get a pic?").

The game itself was a cracking one and we met the players later that evening in a local night club, with the 6'8" Eben Etzebeth gobsmacked by Dozy and his purple toy (a stuffed Barney the Dinosaur doll). "Ebs", as

Dozy now calls him, could not get enough of that toy.

Stellenbosch

We enjoyed a beautiful late morning and afternoon the following day, drinking wine and eating traditional South African food (meat) in an idyllic vineyard in Stellenbosch. Tour skydiver Rhodri Jones when asked by wine enthusiast Handsome Will Matthews what he was getting as Will swirled the glass and sniffed deeply into a Pinotage, responded – "I'm getting the steak, butt!" which only strengthened all our belief that rugby is truly a game for all.

Will Sparks, revelling up to this point in his role as tour role enforcer and his blossoming bromance with Tony O'Kane spoke tearfully of his shattered dreams of one day becoming a sommelier with Paddy O'Driscoll (always the dry-witted rascal) telling him that maybe he should pursue another avenue and write about the power of compound interest and that had the Native Americans invested their pittance received for Manhattan at a reasonable rate of interest they would have far more than you could imagine. In fairness, we all laughed at this incredible specific burn (except Ratser – he was on the phone to his bird) giving little thought that Will would actually go through with it.

The afternoon and early evening were spent in the suave surroundings of Café Caprice in Camp's Bay drinking white



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Russians and watching the sunglass-wearing Antio Quinn bust moves on the dance floor.

Mossel Bay – Five Go Back to Ireland

The tour rumbled on, with Finn Gormley arriving and adding some Scandinavian steel to training the next morning and Flanno waving an emotional goodbye to Humphrey, our “fixer” (adapter plugs, KFC, spare car parts, you name it) in the glamorous New Tulbach Hotel, following a presentation of Lansdowne stash and a thank you card.

At breakfast however, five of the tourists revealed that they would be departing that day. It is shrouded in mystery as to the substance and indeed legitimacy of some of the reasons:

“Well here, the other side of it is, the t-shirts were getting almost too tiiiight.” (S. Smyth);

“I have to return some videotapes.” (Lord S. McCarron Esq.);

“weeping sounds”. It wasn’t like this in 2001” (G. Lee);

“Dozy go home now.” (A. Mathews);

“Going home to have more kids and name them after Ratser.” (R. Geraghty),

but off the Famous Five went, with an impassioned Ross Farrell hurling abuse at them in a language that remains a mystery, as the remaining tourists sharpened our minds towards what was now the only fixture of the tour, and the real reason we had crossed continents.

In Mossel Bay, following our sighting of a sad beached whale (no, not Tyrone Moran), we were treated to a traditional South African “Braai” with an abundance of meat and fish cooked out for us down by the bay. Kingclip, giant prawns, Steenbras, bream – it was magnificent.

It was off season in Mossel Bay so the local pub was quiet for Stephen Gardiner’s 21st birthday soirée. We ruled the jukebox and spent the evening singing songs and being generally scared of Stevie G who showed off incredible feats of strength and even

some fire juggling skills.

I was tired from a long season and the intense training and demands of the tour were beginning to take their toll. Maybe I too should come home? That night I confided in my dear mother while lying beside Paddy Gore (me, not her). Her disgust fortified me – “A captain goes down with his ship.”

Lions, no tigers but scares – Oh My!

On we rolled, my spirits renewed, with Flanno explaining the micro-doses of lethal spider venom you should ingest to optimise key mental focus, remain below 10% body fat and reach inner Zen.

The game drive was a true highlight of the tour as we were taken out in open top jeeps to see the amazing wildlife of South Africa. Our group stalked a cheetah stalking its prey, saw a rhinoceros, giraffes and a “Duggaboy”, colloquially, a cape buffalo who was old and injured and had been abandoned by the rest of the herd (my rather fitting nickname for the rest of the tour).

We pulled up facing a group of lionesses lazing on the savannah one by one perking up slightly as we approached before slumping into the grass. A male crouched down, eyes fixed on our jeep. It was beautiful.

“S**te!”

The male lion took off, bounding powerfully directly at out truck. We laughed excitedly but the laughter was soon replaced by fear as our ranger (a novice, we later discovered) clumsily tried to execute a three-point turn.



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We escaped... just, with the lion as close as a metre from the jeep and our hearts pounding. Cillian Barden has since released a heavily edited video of the chase, which excludes the look of sheer terror in his eyes as the lion drew closer to the jeep.

We drove around that evening in a beautiful thunderstorm, wiped from the adrenalin rush.

The quiz that night was run by cultural appropriator-in-chief Goodie, who had now taken to insisting everyone call him by his African name and dominated by Gonzaga alumni and Kevin Quinlan.

We visited a zoo the following day, but the docile cheetahs only looked sad when compared to seeing the beauty of the animals in the wild. The men were distracted too as focus drew to our game against a combined George XV.

The Match

They were big. God, they were big. Their captain almost picked me off the ground with his handshake and as the George team warmed up in the well-lit amphitheatre it looked like we had our work cut out.

Quick and physical they were but they tried to beat a seasoned team at the end of a championship winning season with one out rugby. Behemoth followed colossus around the corner of every ruck early on and were met by willing Lansdowne tacklers. They had some sharp outside backs too but after the early exchanges we started to dominate the set-piece with Dr. Phil ruling the air in the lineout and our cohesive scrum forcing them back. Forwards and backs then began to combine and cries of "Jouez!" were heard from the bench with Aryan Conneely, Ross Deacon and faith healer and Top Tourist Brenny O'Connell shining as we pulled away from our hosts on the scoreboard. Brian Moylett incredibly was top scorer with a hat trick putting his success down to bringing his lucky bike lock with him.

We ended up 30-point victors in what was a bruising encounter, and justice was handed out in the Kangaroo Court session that followed. An injunction forcing Marc Flood to speak to the members of the tour under the age of 25 was enforced by the officers of the court much to his chagrin and we went to meet our opponents for some beers.

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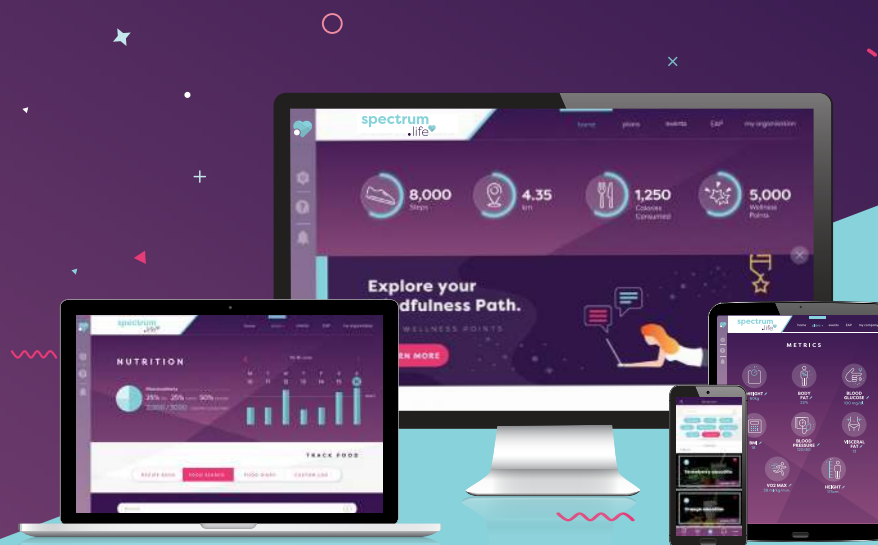
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After the game the men from CJ Stander country could not have been more hospitable and we drank, danced and sang long into the night. Tom Farrell dominated the dance floor and our very own Daniel Craig (David Quigley) assumed the responsibility of the tour leadership role for the evening and let Goodie (now in full dashiki) enjoy himself.

A Bridge Too Far

The next morning sore heads and sore bodies descended on Bloukrans Bridge for a bungee jump. The bus down was a carnival with songs being sang down the back of the bus and Will and Tony growing ever closer. As we drew ever closer to the bridge, the lads quietened down. Some of the tourists had picked up a few knocks and decided it best to step out. Nothing to do with fear. One man, still wearing his sunnies from Caprice, walked across the transparent bridge in full harness and turned back.

Rumours of Prendo needing three harnesses after all of the biltong he had eaten on tour are mildly exaggerated. A screen in the café showed the faces of the willing jumpers; some cocky, others terrified. The sheer bravery of Ross Deacon to overcome what can only be described as extreme trepidation as he hovered on the ledge will live with me to this day.

A quiet pizza night of pizza and beers in PE followed, with the end of a long tour looming.



Jo'burg

A half day tour of Soweto beckoned once we landed in Johannesburg and had got some sleep (some men needed more than others) with the Lansdowne men winning the hearts and minds of the locals with their charm (and stash). A trip to Nelson Mandela's house and a kota sandwich later, Cathal snapped the last few photos of the tour and before we knew it we were in the air.

Homeward Bound

The flights home were a more sombre affair, with the lads telling war stories of the tour. The tries against George became from further and further out, any girls encountered by the self-professed lotharios of the group became more and more beautiful and apparently Prendo could feel the lion's breath on the back of his arms.

We had crossed a continent to test ourselves after a successful season and triumphed. We had made lifelong friends along the way and we had more stories to tell than can be shared in a family publication like this.

This captain was glad to go down with his ship

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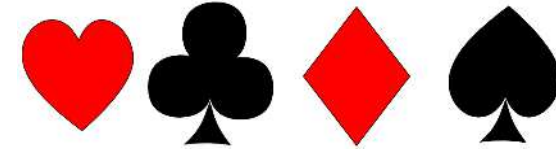
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KIT MAN



PADDY GORE
MANAGER



BIO: "Although my real name is Brian you can call me Paddy. If you come in to me asking for kit without chatting to me first don't be surprised if I give ye a dirty look. Anyway, real reason I'm going to the States is because I've exhausted the Tinder pool back home. Had to resort to Grinder for Valentines day-Shaockin'!"

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PLAYER PROFILES



CILLIAN BARDEN

Abbeyleigh House

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POSITION: Wing
BORN: 12/09/92

BIO: After bouncing back from a horrific injury this man has been in flying form all season, it's believed he's forced other scrum-halfs to leave the club with the pressure he is putting on. The Quagmire clone is still yet to introduce himself to Jack Dineen, even though he spent the Eve of Christmas in the mans house...



JAMIE BARTON

Pigsback.com

POSITION: Wing
BORN: 31/12/87

BIO: Having earned rugby honors at the highest level, when Jamie isn't smashing things up for the J1's he represents Wyvern Harlequins on the world sevens circuit. He also holds the eating record in several restaurants, including an impressive feat of 24 large slices of pizza in one sitting! #LockUpYourDaughters



CATHAL BOYLE

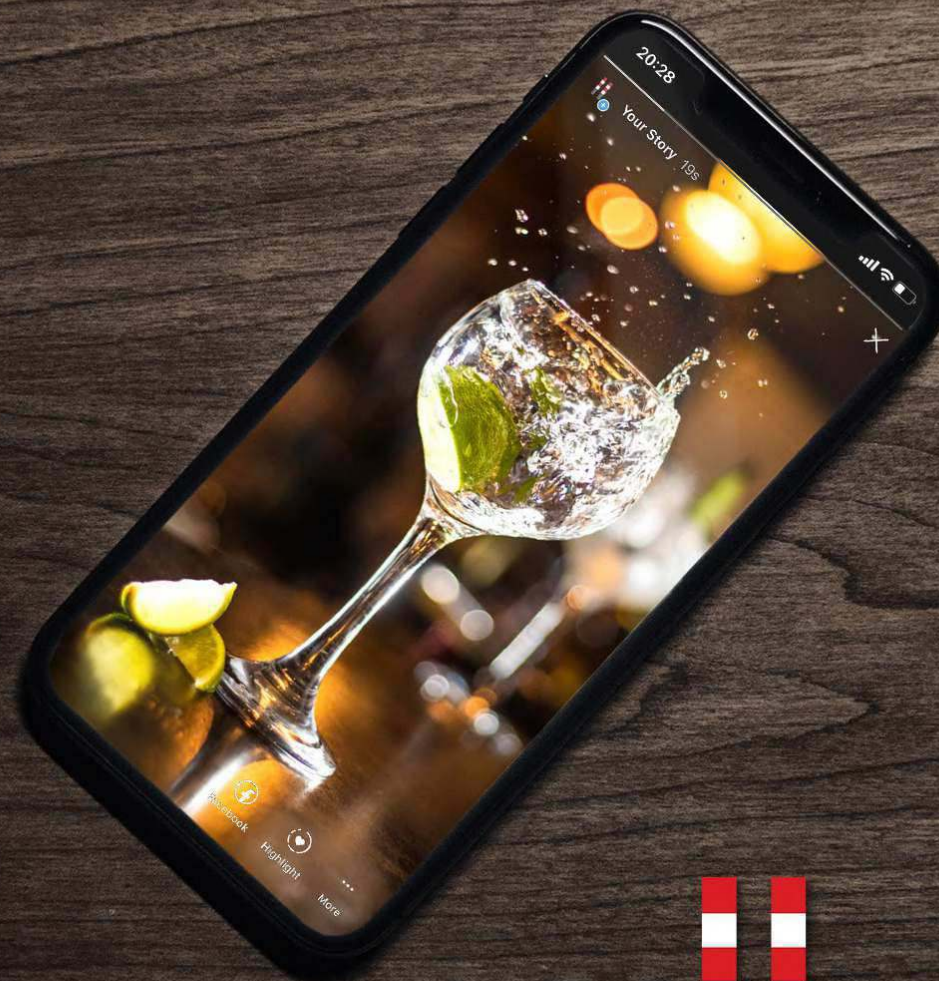


STACKS
CREATIVE

POSITION: Wing
BORN: 21/04/96

BIO: Cathal Boyle is a man of many passions. Social media, Flat earth conspiracy theories and of course, Celtic. Cathal's back injury has prevented him from tossing balls since his last trip to the George but it's great to have him on tour.

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STACKS

CREATIVE



EOGHAN BYRNE



POSITION: Prop
BORN: 03/05/96

BIO: Known only for infamous injuries off the rugby pitch, and warming the bench, self-proclaimed Big Bad Byrne's affiliation with the club is as a mere fair weather balcony supporter that organised the under 20s ball "to raise money". Be prepared for his stingy ways in the States.



CONOR BYRNE



POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 26/03/93

BIO: A dynamic ball carrying second row and a utility back row. With legs that could kick start a combine, he is lethal in the scrum... unfortunately not as lethal with the fairer sex, not for lack of trying, but is still scoreless this season - hoping to change his fortunes on this tour!



FERGAL CLEARY



POSITION: Centre
BORN: 12/03/93

BIO: The adopted son of the Club President. Can be seen sporting classy shades with a cigar and pint in hand in times of great victory.

The Don.



ROBBIE COLLINS



POSITION: Second Row
BORN: 23/04/95

BIO: Robbie is the tallest Lansdowne man to grace the Lansdowne pitch since Dev Toner, based on lifting him in line-outs he is also one of the heaviest. Nicknames include anything about being tall, "how's the weather up there etc. Will be expecting a big tour on and off the pitch from Robbie.

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THE ACTIVE CONSENT PROGRAMME AT NUI GALWAY: SUPPORTING RESILIENCE SKILLS

Mental resilience, an important part for being a successful adult, is often seen as something we are expected to acquire on our own. This can be a difficult path for many people. The Active Consent research team at NUI Galway want to make that path easier, to make sure that young people around the country learn how to cope well with three of the biggest stresses they can face: Mental health, sexual health, and alcohol use.

The team have just launched a four-year campaign supported by Lifes2good Foundation, a Galway-based philanthropic organisation founded in 2017 to improve young people's lives. Between 2019 and 2022 the researchers will work with colleges, schools, and sports clubs on a programme that will be engaging, interactive and fun as well as educational.

The team already have a while load of facts and figures from young adults in Ireland, through surveys with 3,000 college students:

DID YOU KNOW?

In Ireland, a standard drink (e.g., a half pint of beer) contains 10 grams of alcohol, and 'binge drinking' means having 60 grams or more of alcohol in one sitting. **Binge drinking levels start at 3-4 pints of beer.** The more frequently someone binge drinks, the more likely they are to report negative experiences like black outs, passing out, or having arguments.

70%

of First Year college students say they engage in binge drinking at least twice a month.

58%

of students report having a 'black out' from drinking in the past year, i.e. not remembering things they did or said the night before.

If you are experiencing symptoms of depression, you are more likely to miss class, have problems motivating yourself, or have restless sleep.

Students report **mild-moderate anxiety symptoms**

Have **severe anxiety symptoms**.

23%

27%

30%

18%

College students report **mild-moderate symptoms of depression**

Report **severe symptoms**

MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY

means having the knowledge and skills to recognise and manage mental health distress, in yourself or another person.

MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY HAS FOUR LEVELS:

1

Are you aware and knowledgeable about what a mental health problem looks like.

2

Can you identify when you would benefit from seeking help.

3

Do you know where and how to find support.

4

Are you willing to seek support.

The Active Consent programme grew from SMART Consent workshops pioneered by NUI Galway since 2013. This programme is growing quickly on campuses across the country: Over 5,000 students have taken part in one of the hour-long workshops, 2,500 in 2018-19 alone.

Students rated the workshops as being enjoyable, non-judgemental and equally relevant to all genders and sexual orientations. The workshops are based on the idea that given the right information and support people will choose to be more active rather than passive in how they talk about consent using clear verbal and non-verbal communication.

These are not consent classes. Students know that consent is based on trust and communication. ('Consent is OMFG': Ongoing, mutual, and freely given). But when in real life intimate situations it can be more difficult to be sure how consensual or not the experience was (how much alcohol is too much before someone loses the capacity to give knowing consent?, is a smile enough for consent?).

These grey areas create much debate – In one story 30% of students thought that a man and a woman would be too drunk to give consent after they had 28 standard drinks (equivalent to a bottle of vodka), where the pair also showed some signs of mutual consent.

The results of pre / post-workshop surveys show that:

Pre-workshop:

29%

strongly agreed that they felt well informed about consent

28%

strongly agreed that they have the skills to deal with sexual consent

Post-workshop:

71%

strongly agreed that they felt well informed about consent

60%

strongly agreed that they have the skills to deal with sexual consent

The Active Consent research team in NUI Galway will further enhance their consent education package with a film series, social media campaign, and drama production for large groups; Design a consent education programme for schools; Include a consent workshop in the resilience programme that they will offer to sports clubs.

Read our reports at:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/smartconsent/>

Email us at smartconsent@nuigalway.ie

See our short films at www.nuigalway.ie/consent=omfg/





SHANE CONNEELY

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 10/10/90



BIO: Affectionately known as 'bruv', or Aaron Conneely's younger brother, when he's not closing a sweet deal this networking aficionado spends his time working the room. While rumours have circulated about boisterous night-out heroics in his youth, he denies involvement, citing look-a-likes and slanderous allegations. All will be revealed on tour.



AARON CONNEELY

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 23/01/92



BIO:

*"Otherwise known as 'Ze surfing German'
His best friend in art college is a girl called Herman
Aaron's dream in life is to be on Deadliest Catch
Take his knitted jumper and you'll get more than a scratch
But even though he looks like a binman you'd do well to find a better ruckman"*



SHANE D'ALLTON

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 13/12/90



BIO: Shane Dalton is currently the record holder for the most sending offs in junior rugby history. He seems like a lovely lad but misspell his second name and you will see the anger come boiling through. He spends most of his spare time ranting about his love for the Oliver Cromwell, his is British ancestors having a right to own the Pale and throwing serious parties.

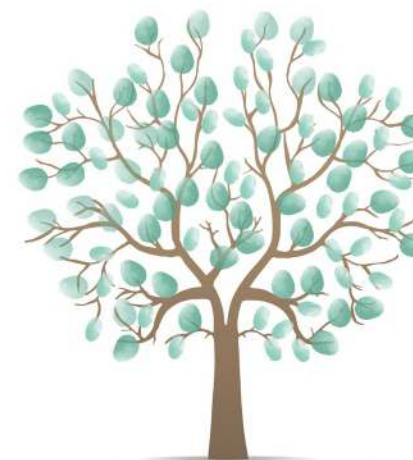


SCOTT DEASY

POSITION: Out Half
BORN: Circa 1988 BC



BIO: Best known for his love of a good battered sausage & haribol. A Lansdowne centurion & current straight arm drinking champion, this is Scotty's last tour as a player so let's make it a good one.



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JOHN DELANY

POSITION: Out Half
BORN: 01/12/95



BIO: "Outstanding talent, one for the future"-Gerry thornley
"Has the potential to go all the way in the Irish set up"-George Hook
These were things said about Joey Carbury. Dell prefers to butter bread and drink pints with his fellow clubmen.



JACK DINEEN

POSITION: Hooker
BORN: 28/11/94



BIO: Find him in the the gym deadlifting 300kg at 5:30am on weekdays or equally, on the weekends in Krystle at 5:30am deadlifting 300kg birds. Ps: For all your gifting needs please make sure to check out Jack's new business venture - ezspre.ie



LEON DOWNER

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 20/01/96



BIO: At Lansdowne, we have men from all around the country. Nowhere else could you talk about going to the VIP section in Krystal one minute and the next be discussing the cattle mart. But diversity makes us unique and if it's a Hit-man from bray you're looking for - Leon is only a call away.



JACK DWAN

POSITION: Second Row
BORN: 30/10/95



BIO: Jack "WOD" Dwan- After years of learning his trade with UCD 2XV, Jack finally realised that he would never be able to oust Andy Skehan and his band of merry Swords. Their loss was LFCs gain. With one Lansdowne tour already under his belt let's hope that Captain Eamonn Mills won't have to do another late night extraction mission this time around.



TRISTRAM DYER

POSITION: Second Row
BORN: 12/03/91



BIO: Hailing from Kilkenny, via Seapoint, Tris joined Lansdowne in summer 2018 as a second row/6, but after agreeing in his first pre-season friendly to cover front row, he's never been allowed to move back. Even after dropping over 15kg! Once a prop, always a prop. #propforlife



JJ EARLE

POSITION: Hooker/Back Row
BORN: 29/11/95



BIO: JJ a smaller version of Willie except a little more handsome even still after getting his face bust open more times than his brother has had Lansdowne appearances, and occasional facial hair that makes mothers pull their children away and fathers buy him pints. Kinda guy who could lead the pack out on force during rag week and throw straight darts the next day.



ROSS FARRELL

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 21/03/91



BIO: Cheesy Pharrell-The Inaugural diplomat of Junior rugby has played in every position in his illustrious career as a Junior rugby stalwart. Nicknamed CHEESE due to an "alleged" incident involving a block of swiss cheese, he now lives by the mantra "It's Not What Happened, It's What You Can Prove in Court".



BARRY FITZPATRICK

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 04/05/97



BIO: Barry Fitz, when not in front of a piano serenading women with his dulcet tones, can be seen in the numerous CrossFit gyms across Dublin. Barry is also fortunate to have experienced fame as a YouTube sensation in his younger years. The man has the lot.



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BARRY GOULDING

POSITION: Centre
BORN: 23/10/97



BIO: A graduate from Gonzaga College, has proven to be one of the most influential chess players for Lansdowne FC. At the age of 21, he's wealth of experience not only reflects his brain but also his looks. Careful girls, this one would make your legs buckle with a look.



MATTHEW HEALY

POSITION: Second Row
BORN: 10/06/99



BIO: A fresh young baby face straight off 'the sword's' production line, Matt Healy will take the title 'baba' of the touring brigade. Not afraid to mix it with the senior boys Matt will be hoping to kickstart his senior career 'shtateside'. A potentially exciting sauce merchant.



SHANE KENNEDY

POSITION: Second Row
BORN: 27/04/90



BIO: Shane was educated at the esteemed Clongowes Wood College. One of the good guys, he is the banker on the team. A utility forward who plays J1, J2 & J3. Known for his long hours pumping iron in the gym, one patiently waits for him to morph into the incredible hulk.



DAN MCEVOY

POSITION: Wing
BORN: 28/12/90



BIO: Daniel "Tyron" SnackEvoy is one of the more refined gentlemen donning the LFC colours. With his lifelong ambition of a place in the front five still in tact, Larry Page in his crosshairs, and a deal with TRESemme all but inevitable, it's onwards and upwards for our determined Zaga (still...) bachelor!

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GREG MCGRATH

POSITION: Prop
BORN: 21/01/97



BIO: Nickname: El Monko - Greg is a gentle giant (sober) and he lives in Wexford where he spend his days grazing in strawberries fields and is always ready for a scrum off. His favorite song is "Hooked on a feeling" and he loves to wash those strawberries down with a glass of milk.



CATHAL MCNAMARA

POSITION: Prop
BORN: 12/06/86



BIO: Cathal the Grandfather of the Lansdowne J2/J3 has no faults. From his scrummaging to his collection of World War 2 Memorabilia. Cathal stands at 6 foot 2 and weighs in at 174kg. In his spare time Cathal enjoys taking long runs, standing outside his teammates houses and Drinking Guinness with his best friend Ross Farrell.



EAMONN MILLS

POSITION: Full Back
BORN: 28/07/92



BIO: Meet your LFC 1st VX Captain. Having plied his trade early on down in Dolphin as an out half, he got sense and moved up to Dublin and in his own words famously said, "it's nice to have moved to a real city and now play for a real club". When he's not on the pitch getting every last wear out of his oldest training gear, he's in the Black Door or more recently, with his missus.



EDUARDO MOFFITT

POSITION: Prop
BORN: 16/12/94



BIO: Eddie put his rugby career aside to pursue selling men's swimwear this season. One can only hope that he does not choose to model his revealing collection of banana hammocks during the tour. Fond of feasting on Spanish chorizo in the early hours of the morning, god help the poor soul that has to room with this man.

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TYRONE MORAN

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POSITION: Hooker
BORN: 15/03/92

BIO: Tyrone is a proud member of the front row club but, alas, not a member of #PropLife. Tyrone is widely considered to be the smartest man on the team with multiple degrees and is regularly seen deep in conversation on obscure topics with Fake Dr. Phil Donnellan.



MARTIN MULHALL

Kells
Wholemeal

POSITION: Prop
BORN: 25/02/97

BIO: Martin 'The Sweaty Train' Mulhall is 22 years old, grew up in Kilkenny and played rugby with his school Kilkenny College, joined Lansdowne in 2015-2016 season. Wears ankle tape when he goes out for extra protection! Author of the book 'My Path To Ultimate Physicality'.



JAMES MULLIGAN

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POSITION: Prop
BORN: 03/06/96

BIO: James Mulligan *a.k.a RASHEEEEEEEERS!* Rashers was once one of Facebook's most popular users. However, nowadays his days are filled with memes. He once got in a fight after a match because someone pulled his man bun. Enjoys spending time with fellow tourists family members.



DR. CONOR MURPHY



POSITION: Out Half
BORN: 25/12/90

BIO: Dr. Conor Murphy (aka the Doc) was born in Belgium on Christmas Day 1990 to a Swedish mother and Irish father. A Swedish rugby international, qualified MD and previous Abercrombie employee of the month, he has established himself as one of the key members of the Lansdowne FC 1st (medical) team.



NILS MURPHY

POSITION: Wing
BORN: 19/04/92



BIO: Born in Ulster in the height of the troubles. Nils Anders Murphy was at a disadvantage from the offset. After 27 years of competition with his two brothers through music, academics, and rugby he can finally run further than them both. Fond of a cold schooner on a hot day.



EOGHAN MURPHY

POSITION: Second Row
BORN: 21/09/95

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BIO: Standing at 6'6" and a whopping 105kg of lean beef, Eoghan (squidward) is a fantastic Meath man, loves a flutter and a pint. He is a close family friend of the McMickan's. Sometimes a bit too close, but nothing that a full Irish breakfast won't solve.



TOM MURPHY

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 12/04/94



BIO: Tom, a fellow flanker as well as another southern hemisphere mate who had to get used to the Northern hemisphere style of rugby. Tom comes across as very reserved and quiet, but I have heard that once he gets a few pints under the belt all hell breaks loose. Apparently he was photographed in Russia looking very suspect – some say he's known as "The Putin from down Under".



CIARAN MYLOD

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 16/09/92

O'KEEFES BEACH TAVERN

BIO: A seasoned club member, utility forward, know to throw the odd goosetep in training. A proud alickadoo who has his own customised line of LFC gear. Current hairstyle has an uncanny resemblance to James Lowe. A frequent flyer to the Amazon.



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JOE O'BRIEN

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 30/08/92

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BIO: A tough tackling and hard charging backrower from Meath, Joe has a remarkably softer side off the field caressing piano keys, strumming the guitar and helping people be more mindful. Joe's musical career is held back by numerous cuts to head with Joe and fellow Meathman Jack O'Sullivan competing to see who can get split open the most over a season.



OSCAR O'CLEIRIGH

POSITION: Centre
BORN: 13/03/95

The
T-SHIRT
COMPANY

BIO: Oscar "Chopper" O'Cleirigh, aptly named for his ability to cut through defences like a hot knife through butter, is a former Gonzaga College ultimate frisbee champion and an avid chef. Having initially begun his junior rugby career with Bective Rangers, Chopper eventually saw sense and moved to Lansdowne where he is now the only vegan member within the ranks



KEVIN O'CONNOR

POSITION: Wing
BORN: 02/03/96

The Bath

BIO: Kev's all belly and tits, which is exactly what he looks for in a woman. Wearing sports bra's until 15, doctors are baffled at how such tiny calves support his barrel of lard. Whether it be against Terenure or with his bird, Kev's renowned for finishing on the Lakelands pitch.



SEAN O'DRISCOLL

POSITION: Centre
BORN: 12/07/92

INSTASPACE

BIO: What a breakthrough season for the son of clubman of the year Beanser. A mainstay of junior rugby Whatsapp groups, Driccs has finally emerged from the shadow of his former housemate and fellow centre John Flynn. Despite possessing the weakest shoulders in the game he has now cemented his position as the grey haired enforcer in the Lansdowne midfield.



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JIM O'SHEA

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 30/11/94



BIO: Better know as "Thicc Jim" or as the ladies like to call him "Hey you behind the bushes". When this man isn't shitting himself or taking cans that don't belong to him he is known to do the odd impression or two.



JACK O'SULLIVAN

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 15/04/96



BIO: Jack 'Big Billy' O'Sullivan was educated (if you can call it that) in the mediocrity of Castleknock College. London Irish trials followed a standout season in the all-conquering 2017/18 team. Bill decided on continuing his studies in DBS rather than continue his pursuit of Professionalism.... Jam Making's a tough slog.



IAN PRENDIVILLE

POSITION: Prop
BORN: 03/07/91



BIO: Captain of the 2017/18 immortals, Prendo led from the front on the pitch and in the Bar. Prendo will always find something to complain about whether it be training, having to play the odd 80 mins or just being generally 'skagged', but give this man a 5 meter scrum and his actions speak louder than words. Known to carry out 'important insolvency business' in the less desirable saloons of Dublin and Nicosia but each to their own I suppose...



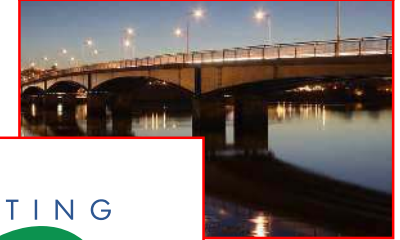
PETER REILLY

POSITION: Prop
BORN: 11/02/92



BIO: Peter "Tolteca" Reilly. It is often said you will hear Peter before you see him. But when you do see him, you will be amazed by the fine specimen that he is. Peter graces junior rugby at Lansdowne with his fast footwork,

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WILLIAM WALSH

POSITION: Full Back
BORN: 24/12/88



BIO: William Walsh has been a mainstay in Lansdowne team (when not injured) for 8 seasons. Willie has been a TOP tourist in Holland, Italy and South Africa both on and off the field..... seeing as he has a new girlfriend we'll let those sleeping dogs lie!!



CUAN ZEEDERBERG

POSITION: Back Row
BORN: 10/06/98

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BIO: Now in his 2nd season as a member of Lansdowne, Cuan is also Lansdowne's 2nd African member. Following his cousin Ntinga Mpiko to Ireland in search of a better life he unfortunately has only found out his knees can't take the lively dance floors of Harcourt street. 3 ACL's later.



Wishing Lansdowne FC the very best
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And I never will play the wild rover no more

*And it's no, nay, never
No, nay, never no more
Will I play the wild rover
No, never no more*

I went into an alehouse I used to frequent
And I told the landlady me money was spent
I asked her for credit, she answered me "nay"
"Such a custom as yours I can have every day"

*And it's no, nay, never
No, nay, never no more
Will I play the wild rover
No, never no more*

I then took from me pocket ten sovereigns bright
And the landlady's eyes opened wide with delight
She says "I have whiskeys and wines of the best"
And the words that you tolt me were only in jest

*And it's no, nay, never
No, nay, never no more
Will I play the wild rover
No, never no more*

I'll home to my parents, confess what I'd done
And I'll ask them to pardon their prodigal son
And when they've caressed me as oftentimes before
I never will play the wild rover no more

*And it's no, nay, never
No, nay, never no more
Will I play the wild rover
No, never no more
And it's no, nay, never
No, nay, never no more
Will I play the wild rover
No, never no more*



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Broadly, the Free Jacks purpose is to grow the game of rugby in New England and across the United States through premier level competition. As a new entrant to Major League Rugby, the Free Jacks will strive to compete with the very best of MLR right from the start. The team will showcase on field talent in an accessible and entertaining environment, leveraging the visibility of our platform to widely disseminate the values intrinsic to the sport. The Free Jacks will also look to enhance the strength and vibrancy of community, collegiate, and club programs across the region.

The Free Jacks recently took part in the Cara Cup featuring the four Irish provincial A sides from March 16th to April 14th with games taking place in Harvard, the Irish Cultural Centre and Union Point Sports Complex. The inaugural Cara Cup was a resounding Rugby and commercial success and we all hope to see Rugby Union continue to prosper in New England with links to Ireland to the fore

"Do Right No Matter What"



Cara Cup Results

NE Free Jacks - 7	Connacht A - 38
Connacht A - 44	Ulster A - 21
NE Free Jacks - 15	Ulster A - 43
NE Free Jacks - 19	Munster A - 38
Leinster A - 53	Munster A - 49
NE Free Jacks - 12	Leinster A - 55



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HISTORY OF NYAC RUGBY

MIKE TOLKIN

It doesn't seem possible that twenty years have gone by since Bill Smith, Jack Delany and I were sitting in a bar discussing the possibility of forming a rugby club within the New York Athletic Club, but it was January of 1973. The Club had been approached by another group some fourteen years earlier but the time just was not ripe, and the club turned them down. This time though, the game had enjoyed a terrific growth, particularly around New York City, and Jack Delaney was very enthusiastic about supporting us and using his influence to gain support from the Board of Governors. They quickly assigned us a budget of \$1000, which was mind boggling at the time to Billy and me. We had spent nearly 20 years playing with rugby clubs who existed through the Christmas raffle.

Once given permission to form the club we had to take inventory of the players we had available and make some decisions as to whom, when, and where we were going to play. There were in fact a number of very good players who were members of the New York Athletic Club

but unfortunately, they were all committed to playing with other clubs and we were moderately successful at recruiting them in the first season. We then made the decision to get the program off the ground by forming a Sunday side. After a hurried call for the recruits we held our first practice on a Sunday afternoon in February of 1973 in the gym. We had something like seven or eight new recruits, people who were athletic and eager to try something new, but who had never played rugby before. Together with them and members of the A.C. who were playing with other clubs we filled 15 spots for our first side. In that first Spring season, many if us played each Saturday with our regular clubs and every Sunday with the NYAC team, to be known as Winged Foot.

Before the first game, George Mayer and I were assigned the task of going up to Travers Island and to survey the playing conditions. We found a 200 year old tree in the in-goal area, a baseball diamond on one end, and four shot putting rings, which were actually steel rings filled with seven inches of reinforced concrete, on our new playing field. Naturally, they strategically placed right at the half-way and inside the touch lines. We had to use great imagination to lay out the pitch in the form of a parallelogram so that the tree, which was at least 6 feet in diameter,



would fall in the in goal area, rather than on the playing area.

We organized a party to go up there the following Saturday armed with sledge hammers and crow bars to break up the shot putting rings. This was hell of a lot easier said than done and we had only partly completed the job when our first scheduled home match came up. It was held on a Sunday in April 1973 against the Old Blue Thirds and luck would have it there was a heavy down pour all day long. In the morning, I had gone to the nursery and purchased 60 to 70 square feet of sod. The owner was somewhat incredulous when he was standing in the pouring rain loading it into the station wagon and he asked "what on earth are you doing to do with sod on a day like this?" I said, "I'm just going to fix my rugby pitch". He simply stood there scratching his head as we went off to Travers Island and immediately set about covering the concrete with a carpet of sod, figuring that the Old Blue would be the none wiser. Sure enough, early in the game I tackled someone who landed on top of the soil who cursed "damn, this pitch feels like concrete".

Eventually we completed the job, had the baseball infield sodded in and continued to play on our parallelogram field for the next five years, much to the dismay of the referees, who could never sort out a forward pass.

We became a regular side in the fall of 1973 and about two years later when the Metropolitan Rugby Union was formed we were assigned to the third division. We won the third division that year and moved up to

second division the following season. We won that also, and competed in the first division until 2001. During that time we had two Sweet Sixteen National Tournament appearances and in 2001, after losing in the finals of the Division 1 National Championship, we were asked to join the Rugby Super League and have been there ever since.

Winged Foot has grown from those early days of scratching for 15 men, to a point where we are now the most successful member of the elite USA Rugby Super League. We field two sides every weekend and an Old Boys side several times each season. The addition of Mike Tolkin and his Xavier High Alumni, along with some key player acquisitions, and as a result of consolidation in the Met Union has emerged an even stronger Winged Foot Rugby Club. The Winged Foot now regularly plays matches all over the US. We have won Rugby Super League National Championships in 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, the most national titles of any member of the Rugby Super League, and well as a 2014 National Division 1 Title (led by coach Mick Quinn, Jr.) and a heartbreaking 2017 National Final loss. Additionally, the club has claimed over a dozen US. Eagles as well as internationals from various countries around the world.

For anyone who lives and works in the New York area, there is no finer place to play rugby than with the Winged Foot. The financial support, the marvelous athletic facilities of the Parent Club, and perhaps most important, the caliber of the individuals who belong to it are second to none.



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THE BOSTON IRISH WOLFHOOUNDS

The Boston Irish Wolfhounds came into existence in the 1980's as a summer touring side. Players from different Boston area clubs, who had played against each other for years, decided to band together to go on tour around the US. 30 years later the Wolfhounds have produced numerous internationals, have won US national championships and are currently one of the three feeder clubs for Boston's new professional side, the New England Free Jacks. We have established a thriving youth program from U12's on up to two actively competitive U19's sides and during the summer we compete in the New England 7s championship.

Despite our name the club has never been predominantly Irish and has always had a significant American playing base. Added to that has been players from most other rugby playing nations and the odd one not known for its skill with the oval ball. Given Boston's multi-national corporate base and Universities, people from all over the globe arrive here bolstering the playing pool. Rugby in the area has benefitted hugely from this influx and marries it well with sizable local talent.

While Boston's cosmopolitan nature has contributed hugely to the club's culture US rugby is intrinsically different to the game in Europe. It is highly unusual to play high level sport after high school (secondary school) unless you get a sports scholarship to college. Similarly, even those on scholarships in college are forced to retire unless they make the professional

ranks. Therefore many US players fall into rugby in college, most having ended their wrestling, football, basketball or ice hockey careers the day they left high school. Suddenly here is a competitive sport that a beginner can take up, work hard at and who knows, maybe make the Olympics in.

What's even more unusual is to then continue to play sport after college. This is an alien concept to most Americans. Here people simply don't play organized sport after college unless you've gone pro. Sure there are men's ice hockey leagues and organized basketball but no-one is playing for a national championship. The only sport that might come close is if you are a Walker Cup standard amateur golfer.

So each club in the US is shaped by a healthy number of immigrants, highly enthusiastic local players who have generally come to rugby late in life and thirdly, by the US rugby landscape. The club game in the US is organized into geographical regions, New England Rugby Football Union being our region. Clubs compete against other regional clubs in the different Divisions (I through IV). The top clubs in NERFU will go into play-offs against teams from the New York geographical region for the right to play in the last 16 in the country. The last 16 gets whittled down to quarter finals, semi-finals and a national final producing the national champion.

While the club was established in the late 1980s as a social touring side, it was not recognized as an official club until 1992, when it entered the NERFU Division II. In 1995 we were promoted to Division I and won it for the first time in 1998. In 2000, we won the Northeast Championships (vs the New York champions) for the first time. In 2001, we got to the Division I National Championship pool for the first time, reaching the last 16. We reached the last 16 again in 2002.

In 2003, the Wolfhounds finally went the whole way and won the Division I National Championship, a feat that was repeated in 2004. In 2005, we were NERFU Division I champions for the third straight year and finished in fifth place in

the Division I National Championship.

In 2006, we became the first-ever team to have two sides in different divisional national finals. Both the 1st XV and the 3rd XV came in second place (Division I and Division III, respectively). The last national championship was in 2007 when the 3rd XV became USA Division III National Champions in San Diego.

It was on the back of these successes that the Wolfhounds joined the Rugby 'Super League' in 2007. The Super League was set up by the top clubs throughout the US, separate from, but sanctioned by USA Rugby, the governing body. The final was typically broadcast live on National TV and the majority of US Internationals played in this competition. At its height the league grew to 18 teams. However, as the Great Recession took hold the league dwindled and was down to 8 teams by 2012. After re-branding as the Elite Cup in 2013 and without any real backing from USA Rugby, it folded that year.

In 2016 came the second effort at an elite league and the first attempt at professionalism – Professional Rugby Organization (or PRO Rugby). This league, set-up by a Manhattan financier with no rugby ties, succeeded in attracting some well-known names such as Mirco Bergamasco, Pedrie Wannenberg and Mils Muliana. However, the founder's model was based around his central control of contracts and the league capitulated in December 2016 after one season with many players claiming they were never fully paid.

The third and so far highly successful attempt at a professional game is Major League Rugby. MLR is centered around a more American model of privately owned franchises with groups of investors backing either an existing club, or more commonly, an area 'Super Club' such as the Free Jacks. While many may argue experiences in France and England should warn against such

a structure, without any backing or input from USA Rugby, this appears to be the most feasible option in the US.

2019 is the league's second year, with and expansion from 7 to 9 teams and 3 more will join in 2020. The league is run in the spring with players free to return to their 'home club' like the Wolfhounds in the Autumn. The league has so far been successfully managed and has succeeded in signing broadcasting agreements with CBS and ESPN. Other than those playing in the UK and France, it is the home of virtually all current USA internationals. It has also been successful in attracting a high number of former Pro14, Gallagher Premiership and Top 14 players. The Free Jacks and its Wolfhounds players will make their MLR debut in the 2020 season.

So that is where the Wolfhounds come from and where we fit into the ever evolving topography of top level rugby in the US. We welcome you to our home pitch in Canton today and we hope you enjoy the best rugby facilities on the east coast of America. We look forward to the match and who knows, perhaps a player or two will fall in love with the rugby experiment in the US and come to lend their weight on a temporary or perhaps like many before, a more permanent basis.

Yours in Rugby,

Boston Irish Wolfhounds Rugby Football Club Executive Committee

Boston Irish Wolfhounds RFC – International Rugby Representatives:

Tadhg Leader, USA (current)
Mike Ross, Ireland
Jason Lett, USA
Brian Lemay USA
Dave Williams, USA
Peter Lupton, Wales (Rugby League)
Jorge O'Hara, Chile
Nick Pineda, Philippines



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MONMOUTH RUGBY CLUB

The Monmouth Rugby Club was started as the Brookdale Rugby Club in 1973, adopting the color scheme of the Royal Air Force, as suggested by club founder Brian Harris. It was in 1976 that the club changed to the Monmouth Rugby Football Club after many of the contacts with the college had left.

The Monmouth Rugby Club was promoted to Division 1 Rugby in 1977 and completed there for most years into the early 90s. Even with players leaving for other clubs, as the sport of rugby grew in the area during the 80s, President Tom Tani worked diligently to ensure that the Monmouth rugby Club held together in both on & off the field.

It was also around 1982, that the Renegades were formed from an association with the Rutgers Women program. Paul Barford was

the first coach of the Renegades, and his wife Ann was their first participating Eagle. It was in the early 90s where the club relegated back to D2 and through the work of many of the Monmouth rugby Club's members, the clubhouse was purchased on Shrewsbury Avenue in downtown Red Bank, NJ.

The clubhouse is still operating, serving the majority of the clubs social needs, as well as available to rent. The mid-to-late 90s saw a resurgence of the Monmouth Rugby Club's playing side, with eight straight trips to the Met Union D2 playoffs, seven straight Jersey Cup titles, and Sweet 16 appearances in '95, '96 & '00. There were also two undefeated league seasons in '99 and '03. Currently, the Renegades compete in Division 2 of the Metropolitan New York Rugby Union, and the Senior Men compete in the first division.

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TOURING WITH LANSDOWNNE AND OTHERS

MICK QUINN

It's a FACT. The Best Fun in rugby happens when a team goes on tour. Even better when it is your own club that's heading off. It matters little whether the players know each other well or not, on tour you can build friendships for life. It is the catalyst for excellent team bonding and camaraderie within the group, to take to the air or sea and head "away with the lads".

Luckily, I discovered early on, in my 1st season in Lansdownne 1970-71 when the club went on tour to Amsterdam. Lads still crow about it and what an eye opener for an 18-year-old.

We played Bohemians from Limerick who were also touring Holland in Hilversum and the locals were out in force, the thousands being entertained by the Hilversum Brass Band.

They played "Amhran Na bhFiann" before we got started, and we stood for 5 verses before we got going. The match was going well for us and we had a good lead when Dave Noble (my future brother-in-law to be) was flying down the wing. The Brass Band were sitting on the grass beside the

pitch close to where 'Nobler' was flying. And fly he did as the Bohs winger pushed him hard into touch. All 'Nobler' could see was that he was joining the Brass Band, and fast. He avoided the flutes and the wind section, sidestepped the trombones and clarinets, swivelled round the oboe expertly when the large base drum came starkly into view. His arse literally went straight through the drum and he sat there impaled and dazed as Con Murphy tried vainly to extract him. It brought tears to our eyes and made the trip.

After that touring was very definitely 'in my blood'. Each summer I was lucky enough to be invited to tour which helped with fitness while seeing new rugby outposts and meeting great people that I am still in regular contact with to this day.

I toured with the Penguins to Bermuda (4 times), Russia, Georgia, and Sri Lanka (mad Mick Kearney was on that one too). The Public School Wanderers went to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and our own Vinny Beaker was on that one. The Warblers to Switzerland, and Bohemians to Canada. I also went to South Africa with London-Irish and I had the honour of doing the serious stuff on tour with Ireland in New Zealand and Fiji in 1976 and South Africa in 1981. I also played with the World XV against the Springboks in 1977. The International trips gave us the opportunity of training in a professional environment which was a change from the sparse 2-day prep before 5-Nations matches in those days.



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The 'icing on the cake' for me was the two super tours to Canada and the USA with Lansdowne. These were mighty fun, second to none on the 'Quinzer Scale'.

Some of the funniest events happen on tour. In Bermuda (a wondrous and beautiful place to tour) players stay in private homes and the only mode of transport is the moped. We had just had a great evening the Bacardi Distillery and the lads were wiped out on 'Dark'n'Stormys'. Our centre Alex Finlayson (Cardiff and Wales) decided he was good to go at 3am and headed for home on his moped. He came to a crossroads, left, right or straight... similar to Ian Prendiville outside "Coppers". He decided to lie down to have a little rest. He awoke at 7am, bike still running, took a smell and thought "that's nice, somebody is cooking a barbeque for breakfast close by", until to his horror he realized his leg was lying on the scalding exhaust and was cooking medium-rare. He still shows off the first degree burn to this day as a badge of honour.

Mike Ruddock took the boys to Swansea a couple of years back. To play rugby was the main reason, but the young bucks got going big time on the pints down Mumbles way. The lads felt a bit inadequate 'cus they weren't covered in tattoos like everybody else. "Pretty Boy" McEvoy couldn't cope with the attention he was getting, and not all of it was female!!



On one great tour in Canada we hit Montreal, a great spot, and a stunning lady came in to the hotel bar and sat beside the great Art Campbell, our most loyal

Alickadoo, and he was so taken with this that he didn't have time to close his 'open mouth' before his set of false teeth fell out on the counter beside her drink. Chance gone!!

Bryan O'Neill organised those tours brilliantly, and later organised many tours for the IRFU Charitable Trust, where his nickname was Capt. Mannering. Ace. He always made sure we had plenty of characters on board, vital for the upkeep of the group. Terry Kavanagh our erstwhile prop was pure gas. During a long delay at Toronto Airport his skit of the 'chicken in the yard' was hilarious and by the end of it he had a crowd of hundreds of fellow travellers falling about at his antics, standing one legged and shaking his head like a chicken. What a Beaut.

During the 'Court Session' one of Lansdowne's most loyal supporters Donal 'Bulam' Ryan was found guilty of "going on tour and leaving his mind behind in Dublin"! Nothing whatever changes then!! Bryan also commandeered Dave 'Hurricane Johnnie and the Jets' Coyle to come along on tour, which guaranteed great music sessions on the piano. He brought the house down. Paddy 'Basher' Boylan was a tour stalwart. We got the usual "if there's one fucking team I hate it's Ottawa" out there too. Priceless!

On Ireland's tour to South Africa I was stirring up a bit of craic. Paul Dean was on his first tour. "Deano" says I, "ask Freddie McLennan what size shoes his Mother takes". After a lot of cajoling he relented, trying to be 'one of the boys'. "Hey Freddie, what size shoes does your Mother take?" And Freddie, all pan-faced and sullen says, "my Mother lost both her legs in a car accident 5 years ago". Deano froze, his heart literally stopped. He wrote letters of apology, the lot. We got two days out of that one before we had to tell him he was set up!

Finally, on the last day of the Bohemians tour in Vancouver in 1981, (Ireland were on tour in South Africa at the same time and I

was a non-traveling sub for that tour). I get a phone call from my Wife Liz asking had I heard anything from the Ireland camp cause Ollie Campbell had shipped an injury in Cape Town. I hadn't heard anything, and I mentioned this to my best friend on tour no. 8 Mick Morrissey (hilarious culchie madman who has remained a best friend since). Foolish in the extreme!!

Next thing, the hotel reception is calling "Mick Quinn, call from South Africa". My heart leaps, I jump up, cheers all round. Morrissey, with tears in his eyes shakes my hand. I pick up the phone, "Mickey, Tommy Kiernan here in Cape Town" we are chatting away and then I realise.... I'm hearing Tommy in stereo, both ears. I lean forward and there hunched down behind the desk is Kenny Rennison our 2nd row, doing a perfect Tommy Kiernan. I literally 'died' on the spot because I knew what was coming. The slagging didn't stop. It was relentless. Mick Morrissey even arranged for the Captain of the 747 on the way home to congratulate me on the speakers.

At 8am the following morning we are all in Myles Breens Pub in Limerick for the final curtain. By 4pm I'm on the road

back to Dublin and soon settled at home with Liz and Michael Jnr. And the phone rings! "Mickey, Tommy Kiernan here in Cape Town" and I said, "Whichever Bohemians Bollox this is you can piss off" and I slammed down the phone. He rings back and says "Quinn, if you're not out here in 24 hours you're not playing in the 2nd Test in Durban". "Jaysus Tommy I'm sorry, I'll be there". I head off and arrived on the Tuesday morning and I played that afternoon at full-back in a comprehensive win against the 'Gold Coast XV' by 56-10. And on the Saturday, I was at out-half in a 10-12 loss to the Springboks in Durban. Tour over, so I took a week r & r by the pool and playing golf with my old Lansdowne mate and Springbok out-half Naas Botha. I also took time out to send a lovely postcard to Thomond Park to the 'Bunch of Bolloxes who toured Canada', from Uncle Mickey in South Africa. It was worth the wait, as they say, 'every road has a turn'!! Another Quinn Win then.

I hope you Lansdowne lads have a magical time in New York and Boston, enjoy two wonderful cities and have fun.

Mick Quinn



Seamus Mulligan and his team at Adapt Pharma would like to wish Captain Ian Prendiville and his team all the best for the season 2017/18

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LEINSTER LEAGUE FINAL

21/09/18 - MICHAEL DALY

LANSDOWNE 42 TERENURE 5

It's unusual to be winning trophies in September, but Lansdowne FC wasted little time in setting out their intentions to retain the unprecedented four senior trophies the Dublin 4 club seized last season.

Having, defeated Clontarf, Old Belvedere and Trinity on their way to the final, Lansdowne faced a strong Terenure outfit who had vanquished UCD, Naas and old rivals St. Mary's on their path to the final. A quick count revealed that from last May's Leinster Senior Cup final, four starters were lining out for Terenure, while Lansdowne fielded five of the starters from that match. Lansdowne opened the scoring early through a Scott Deasy penalty before Terenure launched a series of attacks. Their efforts came to no avail against sterling Lansdowne defence and their Achilles heel on the night – their scrum was overpowered by a determined Lansdowne side which won penalties in the set piece almost at will.

One such penalty saw Lansdowne's first foray into the D6W side's '22, which resulted in a try for last season's captain, Ian Prendiville, off a line out maul.

Deasy, belying a four-week absence on holidays, kicked an excellent conversion from the left-hand corner for a ten point lead. Scott, indeed, took up where he left off last season and, in addition to leading the line well, kicked seven out of eight on the night for a 17-point haul.

Terenure came back on the attack, but were unable to breach a determined and well organised Lansdowne defensive line. On only their third venture into the Terenure half, Deasy added a further penalty for 13-0 from a penalty for holding on in the tackle and Terenure's frustration was palpable. Shortly before the break, however, they were rewarded for all their possession and territory with a well-worked try which remained unconverted.

Lansdowne upped the tempo after the break, with the front row of Denis Coulson, James Rael and Ian Prendiville continuing to dictate affairs up front, while back-rowers Aaron Conneely and Jack O'Sullivan seemed to be everywhere.



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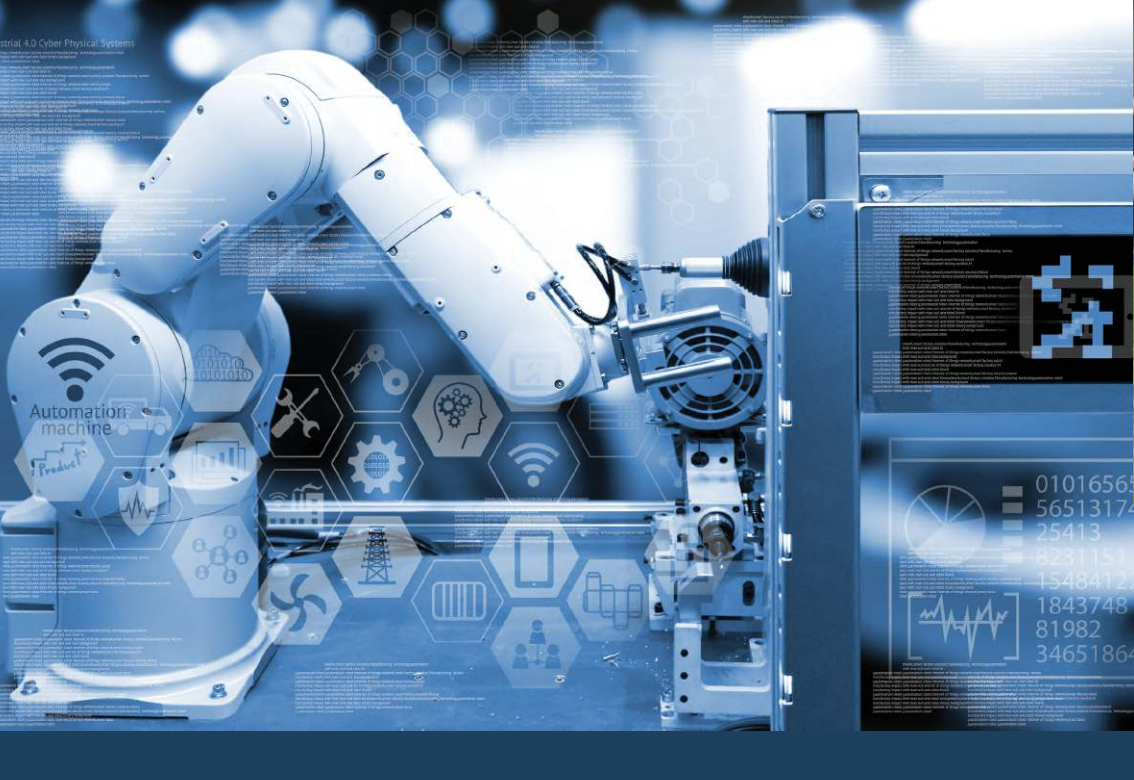
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Scott Deasy was again accurate with a further penalty after 50 minutes, and this was followed by a two-try salvo in as many minutes from No. 8 O'Sullivan, one of which was converted by Deasy. Suddenly Lansdowne had opened up a 28-points to 5 lead and the game was dead in the water competitively.

The strength of Lansdowne's bench was also displayed, as Tyrone Moran, Martin Mulhall and Greg McGrath continued the front row demolition work. Further tries followed from the lively Harry Brennan and a last-minute effort from a driving

maul scored by Mulhall, with Deasy again adding the extras as Terenure ran out of steam.

In addition to retaining their League title, Lansdowne also earned the honour of again representing Leinster in the semi-final of the Bateman Cup, a trophy which the club won last season and which Head Coach Mike Ruddock is determined to retain this time around.



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LEINSTER J1 METRO CUP AND LEAGUE DOUBLE

MICHAEL DALY

LANSDOWNE 17 - OLD WESLEY 14
OLD WESLEY 13 - LANSDOWNE 17

Lansdowne went into Sunday's Metro Cup decider versus Old Wesley with a double to play for having beaten the same opponents in the league final only week previously. Both sides had also beaten each other at home during the regular season in 2 highly skillful and physical affairs.

Unlike the weekend before, Wesley would be the first out of the blocks converting huge pressure, territory and possession into an early penalty and try mid way through the first half. Lansdowne would be under great pressure throughout the half, however, strong carrying from the pack including JJ Earle, Tom Murphy and Will Fay would see Lansdowne first recover ground through a penalty by Dr. Conor Murphy and, crucially a penalty try from scrum pressure just before the break. Wesley would go into the second stanza 13-10 up having been dominant for most of the half.

The second half began with both sides continuing

to display the first half's great attack and physical defence. Both sides played with huge endeavour and there were stand out performances by both sides the top two in the league.

Lansdowne would start to turn the screw, as they did in the previous weekend, with great scrum pressure and their attack really started to make inroads and half breaks into the Wesley red-zone. Despite two penalty misses, the pressure started to tell with great breaks from Tom Murphy and sub prop Shane Moynihan. These were repelled by brave Wesley defence until, with just two minutes to play, Will Fay would break showing tremendous gas and rounding the cover to apply the knock out blow. Lansdowne would hold out a final flurry of attack by the Donnybrook men to win 17-13 and claim the double.

Well done to the players and captain Gareth Molloy, management in John Kilroy and especially coaches Ed Torrie and Will Matthews who finishes with the side after 5 and half seasons in charge bringing unprecedented success, namely 3 metro cups and 3 metro leagues to Lansdowne Road. A fairy tale finish.



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LEINSTER SENIOR CUP FINAL

BRIAN MORAN

LANSDOWNE 49 - TRINITY 22

Lansdowne retained their hold on the Leinster Senior Cup for the third time in a row against a spirited and determined Dublin University in Energia Park, Donnybrook. The Students got an early try from a lucky bounce and a first half penalty to bring them to 10 points. James Rael went off early with a blood injury and was replaced by Jack Dineen who seemed to enjoy himself in the good conditions.

First half tries by Ian Prendiville and Peter Sullivan both converted by Scott Deasy brought the score to 14-10 at half time. In the second half, tries again by Peter Sullivan & Adam Leavy (2), Eamonn Mills, Foster Horan but not without some determined play by the opposition with a fine try from the centre through Lansdowne's defensive line. Adam Leavy's last try in the corner was converted well by Captain Eamonn Mills.



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