

50th Celebrations

A very special and unique night was had by all at the 50th meal and celebration. With guests from near and as far away as Switzerland, all things good about the club were celebrated in style. The good vibe raced all the way to the early hours and memories will be cherished for many years to come. A huge thank you is due to Bernadette Randles and the Dromhall Hotel for catering to our needs all through the night. We had a splendid meal and evening in a room decorated to the nth degree in the blue and white. To all who contributed to the night in any way thank you – you know who you are!

With vice-chairman Joe Daly on capable M.C. duty, we heard congratulatory and celebratory speeches on behalf of the league bodies from our own Gerardine Nagle and also Sean O' Keefe. Chairman Michael O' Shea set out the club's mission for the future and founder Don Harrington reiterated the original vision he had all the way back in 1965 when he spotted a bunch of likely youths playing ball in the Sandpit car park. The scope of the club's achievement in enabling participation in soccer from the youngest of age groups all the way to the professional ranks was given due recognition. It was also noted that the spirit of encouragement and participation was abundant right across the club's ranks.



Don Harrington and Mary McCarrick

Photo: Joe Madden

On a more formal note, Mary McCarrick received the inaugural Lady of the Year Award which was presented by Dan Harrington, the founder of Killarney Athletic, in memory of his late wife Monica who was the club's first female member. We were delighted to have Dan over with us from England and an added bonus was the presence of some of Monica's nieces, Áine, Maura, Trisha and Máiréad and her husband, Michael.



**Left to Right: Don Harrington and his late wife Monica's nieces Trisha, Máiréad, Áine and Maura.
Photo: Joe Madden**

The Donal Brosnan Memorial Trophy for club person of the year was presented by Gina, Donal's wife and jointly shared by the long-serving Donie Murphy and newly-wed Damien McCormick. Player of the Year, Shane Doolan received the Seán O' Connor and Martin Beckett Memorial Trophy from Sean's brother and former senior player Paudie and Martin's sisters Kerrie and Mags.



Left to Right: Mags Beckett O' Sullivan, Paudie O' Connor, Shane Doolan and Kerrie Beckett.

Photo: Joe Madden

Many of our deceased members were proudly represented last night by family members and we remembered them with a story and a smile. (If we mistakenly omitted anyone from the programme on the night please let us know and we will amend it on the finished version on the club website.)

Volunteerism is the lifeblood of all clubs and we were privileged to share in an occasion which marked fifty years of service to sport in Killarney. Well done everyone on a great achievement and we look forward to the next half century in anticipation of much more success and friendship!