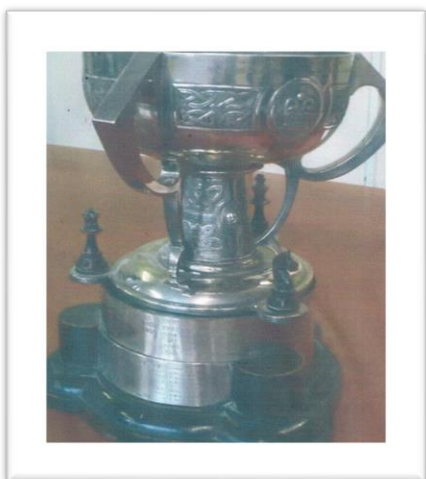


THE GLORNEY CUP

Early Years 1948 – 1963

Recalled by John McMahon, Tom O'Neill and Frank McMahon



"Back in 1956 being selected to play for Ireland in the Glorney Cup was an exciting and joyful highlight of our youth.

Sadly now in 2020, there is little record of it ever having happened."

John McMahon

THE EARLY YEARS

The first Glorney Cup match took place in London in 1948.

When Ireland hosted the 2019 event the organising committee invited alumni from previous Glorney teams to attend the opening ceremony. Among those who attended, Tom O'Neill, 1953/4/5, Michael McMahon 1955/6 with brothers John, 1956/7/8 and Frank, 1960/ 62/63 had played on some of the earlier Irish Glorney teams.

Delegates attending from the UK and Ireland were interested in our reminiscences and felt we should record some memories for posterity.

We were disappointed to discover that the on line Glorney-Gilbert 'Previous Players' list has no record of those participants who played prior to the 1970s.

We have tried to document these early years in a readable format similar to Chess Scotland website's excellent 'Scottish Teams in the Glorney Cup', We have tried to include team personnel, venue and results and where possible we have added photographs and available memorable anecdotes. This is not intended to be a formal cross-referenced archive and we welcome additions and corrections from former team mates with better memories.

Hopefully some of those who played in the Glorney campaigns during the later 1960s and 1970s will produce 'a sequel' covering their own era to bridge the gap into the computer age.

We thank those who have contributed; JJ Walsh, Art Coldrick, Paul Cassidy and John Corcoran.

Tom O'Neill (Dun Laoghaire CC), John McMahon, (Lucan CC), Frank McMahon, (Malahide CC)

Early Years 1948 – 1963

1948



The inaugural match between Ireland and England took place in London in 1948. Dublin business man and Dublin Chess Club member **Cecil Parker Glorney** donated the Glorney Cup for competition between international schoolboy chess teams. Two teams of six played a two round tournament.

This is believed to have been the first ever organized Junior International Chess tournament.

England won this initial match comfortably. Irish Team included Michael Fagan, Geoffrey Hand and Ken O’Riordan..

Jonathon Penrose, later to win the British Championship on ten occasions and to become England’s strongest player, played for the England team.

1949



Ireland, England and Wales competed in a tri-nations tournament in Birmingham in which England won having beaten Ireland by a narrow 3.5 to 2.5 margin. Irish team; Michael Fagan, Tom Conlon, Brian Canton, JJ Walsh, C Cantwell, and Frank Maher. Sadly Brian Canton, Tom Conlon and Frank Maher all died during 2019.

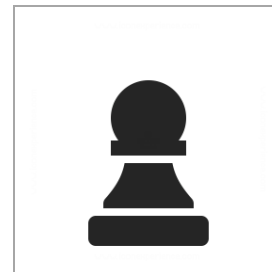
1949 (cont.) The score of a game between Michael Fagan and Walter Marshall of Wales is on the ICU website.

Having retired from competitive chess Marshall enjoyed a stellar business career culminating in the chairmanship of the National Coal Board and being awarded a peerage. Baron Marshall of Goring as he became described his memories of this encounter.

“ It was my first time to play with a chess clock, I was told that I only had three minutes left – I embarked on a speculative sacrificial line – no time for anything else. – it turned out to be sound!!”

Baron Marshall

1950



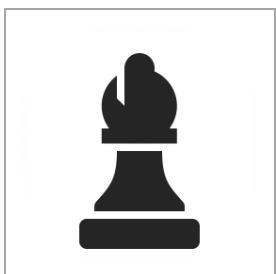
England, Ireland and Wales competed in Cardiff in 1950. The Irish were runners-up to the English team.

Irish team included; Michael Fagan, Tom Conlon, C Cantwell and Sam Ferris. C Cantwell was the leading Irish scorer.

Tom Conlon, is credited with being loser of the best game.

Early Years 1948 - 1963

1951

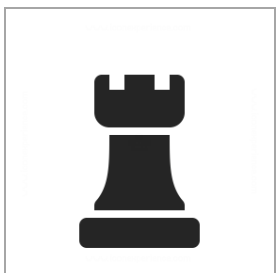


Scotland competed for the first time joining England, Ireland and Wales in Dublin. This four team format became the norm until 1966 when France and Holland entered. Ireland were second beating Scotland 5-1.

Irish team ; Fintan Doyle, Sam Ferris, J Norris, B Gallagher, NO'Brien and D Conlon. 14 year old Sam Ferris scored 2.5/3.0.

The English squad included some formidable characters. Norman Littlewood who became one of England's strongest players finishing runner up in the British Championship four times and a contender at Hastings and Malcolm Baker who at sixteen was regarded as an exceptional prodigy until he prematurely retired from the game.

1952



The Glorney Cup was played in London in 1952.

The Irish team included Alex Montwill, Oisin O'Siochru, Brendan Neville, D McArdle, D Conlon and two representatives from Ulster.

Ireland finished third.

Mike Fallone ,then aged 12, made the first of what was to be six annual appearances for team Scotland in the competition..

1952 (cont.)



*1 The 1952 combined teams from the Chess Scotland website
Mike Fallone is seated right of centre.*

1953



The Glorney Cup was played in High School in Glasgow in 1953. The English team won again, Ireland finished fourth.

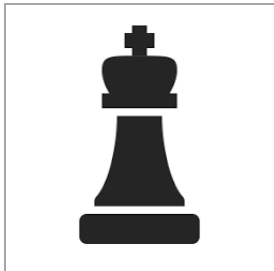
Irish team: Alex Montwill, Tom O'Neill, Donal Deiseach, Brian Hussey, Oisin O'Siochru, AJ Evens and SH Johnston. Andrew O'Higgins was the Ireland team Manager.

Early Years 1948 - 1963

1953 (cont.)

The Scottish team: GW Kerr, D Kinsler, George McGowan, W McLaughlin, Michael Fallone, RW Smeeton.

1954



The Glorney Cup was hosted in Cardiff in 1954. England was again victorious. Team Ireland finished in second place.

Irish team: Tom O'Neill, Donal Deiseach, Dick Grogan, Dermot O'Connell, AJ Evens, JN Johnston and Andrew O'Higgins (Manager).

Scottish team: Michael Fallone, James Blair, B Lindsay, N McCarry, T Stothers, W Speculand, J McCann.

1955



The Glorney Cup was hosted in Dublin in 1955. England was again victorious. Ireland came third.

Irish team: Dick Grogan, Tom O'Neill, Con Deasy, Michael McMahon, David Kennedy, CK Glass, C Kennedy. Manager Andrew O'Higgins.

Scotland team; Michael Fallone, James Blair, W Fleming, J McCann, Iain Morton, George Dickson, JA Phillips. England was again victorious. Ireland finished third.

1955 (cont)

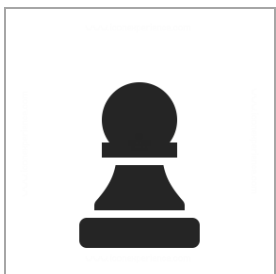
Donal Deiseach, 1955 Irish Schoolboy champion did not play as he was representing Ireland at the world youth championship in Antwerp at the same time. He played Grand Master Boris Spassky of the USSR in the first round. Although he lost, he contributed to an exciting game.



2 Combined 1955 teams photographed at Independent House Dublin

Early Years 1948 - 1963

1956



The Glorney Cup was played in Liverpool. England was again victorious. Dick Grogan was the only Irish winner against a strong England team. Ireland did manage close wins against both Scotland and Wales to secure second place overall. Tom Alcorn was leading scorer winning two of his three games.



3 Combined 1956 teams at Liverpool chess club.

Irish team: Michael Mc Mahon, Dick Grogan, Donal Deiseach, Tom Alcorn, David Kennedy, John McMahon, Art Coldrick ; Manager Tom Conlon.

1956 (cont.)

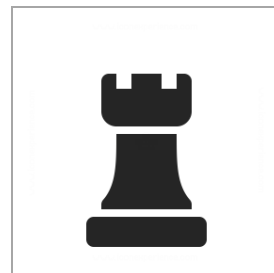
England; NE Lewis, R Payne, WS Deeth, BJ McGreevey, B Ewart, CF Girling, JC Dore

Scotland; M Fallone, W Herrington, G Dickson, A Phillips, O MacLaren , JO'Sullivan.

Wales; MJ Maers, AJ Davies, PM Perry, FS Wusterman, DP Bryon, W Gaugh, B Josephson.

Result; First England 12.5, Second ; Ireland 8.5, Joint third Scotland and Wales 8pts.each.

1957



The Glorney Cup was hosted in Mac Brayne Hall in Glasgow in 1957. England and Scotland tied. Ireland finished third. Art Coldrick was the leading Irish scorer

Irish team: John McMahon, Art Coldrick, Tom Alcorn, Harry Harte, Sean Gilroy, Pat Deasy, Tom Conlon (Manager).

Games; John Mc Mahon v Mike Fallone and Tom Alcorn v George Dickson are on the Chess Scotland website

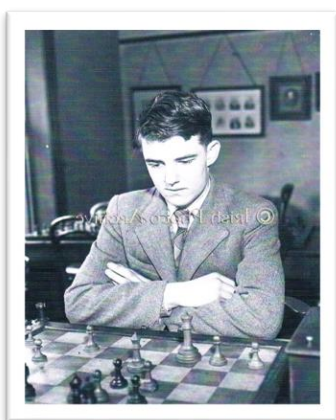
John McMahon recalls that without Grogan, Deiseach and Kennedy from the 1956 the young Irish team struggled a bit.

Early Years 1948 – 1963

1957 (cont.)

John McMahon

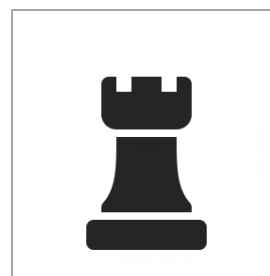
"As schools champion, playing top board, I first played Mike Fallone of Scotland, who was playing in his sixth Glorney Cup campaign and already an established senior international and then I faced Michael McDonald-Ross from England who was, even then, a strong inter-county player. Both my losses were published in the same edition of BH Wood's 'Chess' Magazine. I did manage to partially redeem myself with a good win against Wales."



4 1957 All-Ireland Schools Championship at Dublin Chess Club. John McMahon (on right) won the title and Harry Harte was runner-up. Roles were reversed in 1958 when Harry won.

Early Years 1948 -1963

1958



The Glorney Cup was hosted in Cathay's High School in Cardiff in 1958. Ireland took advantage of England's absence bringing home the Glorney Cup for the first time. England opting instead to compete in a European event against 'stronger opposition'.

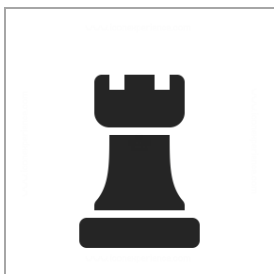
The Irish team travelled by rail from Harcourt Street Station to Rosslare before catching the Fishguard ferry. The Harcourt Street line closed permanently just two weeks later.



5 Glorney Cup presented to the Irish Captain Harry Harte by Lord Mayor of Cardiff Ald. AJ Williams. (L-R) John McMahon, Sean Gilroy, Paul Cassidy, Harry Harte, Lady Mayoress, Art Coldrick, Lord Mayor, Brian Mc Kenna.

Early Years 1948 – 1963

1959



The Glorney Cup was hosted in Newman House, Dublin in 1959. Scotland did not compete due to a clash of dates with their national championships. Team England was again victorious. Ireland finished behind Wales in third.

Irish team included Art Coldrick, Paul Cassidy, Pat Deasy, Sean Gilroy and JB Tomson

Paul Cassidy recalls 'an embarrassing moment' when he uncharacteristically overlooked a lethal threat to his king against his brash young English opponent who declared loudly "I announce mate in one"

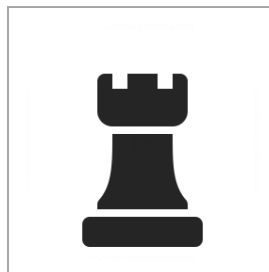
Art Coldrick played in his fourth Glorney campaign. He was again leading Irish team scorer. Art struck up a friendship with the English team manager, New Zealand Chess Master, RG (Bob) Wade which prevailed for many years.

Paul Cassidy recalls his opponent telling the room

"I announce mate in one."

1960

The Glorney Cup was hosted in Gloucester in 1960. England and Scotland tied. Eddie Whiteside was leading Irish scorer. Ireland finished third.



Irish team; Sean Gilroy, Frank McMahon, Paul Cassidy, Hugh McGrillen, Eddie Whiteside, John Corcoran, Maurice McDonough. (See photo below). Paul Cassidy travelled as team manager.

Sean Gilroy played in his fourth Glorney campaign.



6 Irish team photo taken by John Corcoran; Sean Gilroy, Frank McMahon, Paul Cassidy, Hugh McGrillen, Eddie Whiteside, John Corcoran, Maurice McDonough.

Early Years 1948 -1963

1960 (cont.)

John Corcoran reflects on the glamour of international travel "We arrived in Holyhead around midnight aboard the Princess Maud – no trains until morning – no sleep – a burger and a coffee – 'treated' to a carnival during afternoon in Gloucester – faced the might of the English at 7pm."

1961



The Glorney Cup was hosted in Scotland in 1961. Ireland finished fourth.

Eddie Whiteside was again leading Irish scorer. Sadly Eddie died in 2013.

Irish team; John Corcoran, Eddie Whiteside, Hugh McGrillen, Kevin Ryan, Mal Doherty ,William Byrne.

J.J. Walsh The Irish Times Sep 21, 1961

"Ireland's schoolboy chess team had a rough passage in the recent series of international matches for the Glorney Cup"

1962



The Glorney Cup was hosted in Brecon, Wales in 1962. England were again winners. Frank Mc Mahon was top Irish scorer with a creditable 2.5/3.

Sadly Hugh McGrillen who went on to become Irish Champion in 1973 died in 2004.

Ireland; Brian Kerr, Hugh McGrillen, Kevin Ryan, Ray Byrne, Frank McMahon, Ray Farina



7 Frank McMahon Ray Farina and Hugh McGrillen at board, L-R; Frank McMahon, Brian Kerr Kevin Ryan and Ray Byrne.

Early Years 1948 -1963

1962 (cont.)

England; JDL Ball, PJM Edwards, PN Lee, IW Sharp, A Whitely, B Wildig, CF Woodcock.

Scotland; K McAlpine , AM Davie, B Hunter, P Jamieson, R Burt, P Messer, B Marshall.

Wales; D Caines, M Price, D Morgan JK Whitcut, D Ellis, RH Jones, G Phillips

1963

*Ireland won the Glorney Cup for the second time.
Scored first ever win against England in the
tournament.*



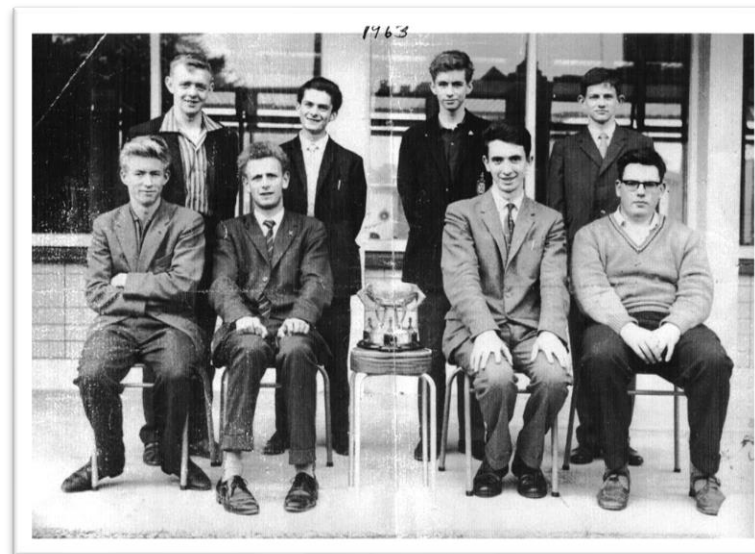
The Glorney Cup returned to Dublin in 1963. Venue was St Joseph's School for the Blind. Ireland defeated England for the first time and shared overall victory.

The late Hugh McGrillen played on his fourth Glorney team and celebrated with a win against England.

Frank McMahon played in 1960, 1962 and 1963 (but not in 1961). He has provided these photos and other details.

Paul Cassidy managed these early 1960s teams.

1963 (cont.)



8 Irish team; Back (L – R) Paul Cassidy (Manag er), Kevin Ryan, Brian Greer, Ray Byrne
Front Pat Caferty, Sean Mooney, Frank McMahon, Hugh McGrillen Frank McMahon was
leading Irish scorer.

J.J. Walsh The Irish Times - Aug 15, 1963

*“Ireland’s schoolboy chess team exceeded all
expectations.”*

Early Years 1948 -1963

Acknowledgements

JJ Walsh, Art Coldrick (1956/7/8/9), Paul Cassidy (1957/8/9) and John Corcoran (1961/2) for their contributions.

Chess historians David McAlister and Sean Coffey for their help and encouragement.

ICU Officers Des Beatty and his organizing team who invited along Glorney Cup 'alumni' and triggered this history. We acknowledge their superb organization and expansion of the Glorney Gilbert project,

Chess Scotland's Website 'Scottish Teams in the Glorney' which gave us the idea of a readable layout.

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Previous Players 1948 -1963

Name	School	Year
Alcorn Tom		1955,56
Byrne Ray	Synge St CBS	1962,63
Cafferky Pat	Belvedere College	1963
Canton Brian	O'Connell's CBS	1949
Cantwell C		1951
Cassidy Paul	O'Connell's CBS	1958,59,60
Coldrick Art	O'Connell's CBS	1956,57,58,59
Conlon D		1951/52
Conlon Tom	O'Connell's CBS	1949/50
Corcoran John	Synge St CBS	1960,61
Deasy Con	Synge St CBS	1955
Deasy Pat	Synge St CBS	1956,57,58
Deiseach Donal	Colaiste Mhuire	1954,56
Doyle Fintan	Terenure College	1949/51
Evens AJ		1952/3
Fagan Michael	Westland Row CBS	1948/9
Farina Ray	O'Connell's CBS	1962
Ferris Sam		1950/51
Gallagher B		1951
Gilroy Sean	Synge St CBS	1957/58/59/60
Glass Ck		1955
Greer Brian		1963
Grogan Richard (Dick)	Synge St CBS	1954,55,56
Hand Geoffrey	Blackrock College	1948
Harte Harry	Masonic College Belfast	1957,58

Name	School	Year
Hussey Brian	St Mary's College	1953
Johnson SH		1952/3
Kennedy C		1955
Kennedy David	Terenure College	1955,56
Kerr Brian	Methodist College	1962
Maher Frank		1949
McArdle D		1952
McDonough Maurice	O'Connell's CBS	1960
McGrillen Hugh	St Mary's Belfast	1960,61,62,63
McKenna Brian	Terenure Collrge	1957,59
McMahon Frank	O'Connell's CBS	1960,62,63
McMahon John	O'Connell's CBS	1956,57,58
McMahon Michael	O'Connell's CBS	1955,56
Montwill Alex	Westland Row CBS	1952/53
Neville Brendan	O'Connell's CBS	1952/3
Norris J		1951
O'Brien N		1951
O'Neill Tom	Synge St CBS	1953,54,55
O'Connell Dermot	St Mary's College	1954
O'Riordan Ken		1948
O'Siochru Oisin	Colaiste Mhuire CBS	1952/3
Ryan Kevin	Synge St CBS	1962,63
Tomson JB		
Walsh JJ (Jim)	Belvedere College	1949
Whiteside Eddie		1961,2,3,4