

### Talking balls

You've all heard the cliché-riddled speeches which grace football but here, for the first time, is the bible from which all of those diatribes are gleaned. Just insert the appropriate bracketed phrase to create your very own soccer waffle.

#### Signing on speech

"It's great to be here at (City/United/Inverness Caledonian Thistle etc) and be joining what I think most people would recognise as (the biggest club in the world/a Premiership club in all but name/the only club daft enough to give me £20,000-a-week). "When I heard they were in for me I (jumped at the chance/didn't have to think twice/briefly considered retirement) and once I'd looked at (the trophy cabinet/the magnificent training facilities/the fat signing- on fee and the manager's daughter) there was only going to be one club for me."The players here are (a great bunch of lads/a tight-knit group/a bunch of losers) who have made (me feel right at home already/a good job of getting this club back on the right track/me a sign reading F\*\*\* Off New Boy) and have shown me (around the club/the best places to look for a house in the area/pornographic pictures of their celebrity girlfriends)."The boss has been described as (the best in the business/one of the best in the business/legally disqualified from running a business) and I'm looking forward to repaying him (for his faith in me/with 20 goals a season/with far less than the £50,000 bung that he agreed with my agent)."

#### Manager explaining defeat

"Despite this defeat, at least I can take (a few plus points/a little bit of hope/£700 after betting against us) away from the match. Today's result might leave us in trouble, but now is not a time for (faint hearts/long faces/unfounded optimism) - it's a time to (stand tall/stand up and be counted/stand at the players' bar for several hours until we fall over). "It would be unfair of me to blame (the players/the pitch/the piss-up we went on last night) but I would like to say that our current (injury crisis/run of bad luck/goalkeeper) is the worst I've seen in 27 years of football management. "Whatever rubbish you might read in the papers, the chairman still has (faith in me/faith in the players/Faith, my 12-year-old daughter, held hostage until I resign) and I look forward to meeting him in the morning to work out (how we can put things right/how we can make sure this never happens again/how I can keep hold of the club Lexus in my redundancy package)."

#### Speech before facing a Cup minnow

"We'll be treating the opposition with as much respect as we'd give to (Manchester United/Arsenal/any bunch of postmen and factory workers from Stow-on-the-Wold). We're aware that they (have got nothing to lose/are treating this like a cup final/have got two centre-backs who've done time for GBH). "Some people might think that just because we're 193 places above them in the league, we'll be (taking it easy/taking liberties/taking the piss out of these fat no-hopers), but I can assure them that we're (fully focused on getting to the next round/fully focused on doing a professional job/full of designer lager from the coach journey down). They're a (better team than their league position suggests/a well- drilled outfit/a load of big, hard thugs) who we were hoping to avoid meeting (in this round/when the draw was made/down a dark alley). But I'm sure the match will be played (in the right spirit/at a great pace/on a ploughed field in front of a baying load of yokels)."



## Main

## Club

## Sponsors



Electricity Supply Board

The Dolphin Hotel

[www.angelfire.com/va/crossmolinaafc](http://www.angelfire.com/va/crossmolinaafc)



# Green Scene

## The fanzine that would rather Jack than Fleetwood Mac

And now the end is near.... The Mayo FA has now closed down operations for the winter months giving players some much needed respite after a hectic summer of League and Cup football. At Crossmolina AFC we will look back upon the season with a sense of disappointment because if we had only applied ourselves in two more games than we did, it might have been us and not Achill Rovers in the Super League. That being said, I think we are all realistic enough to admit that we are not yet equipped to sustain ourselves as a Super League outfit. Being in the Super League requires consistent dedication and effort from both players and management and as a relatively young club we have yet to build the concrete foundation which is required to prosper in the higher echelons of Mayo football. The club will be undertaking measures to correct that during the offseason and hopefully we will see the fruits of that labour once next season rolls around. Inside you can read a more in depth review of the season from manager Bert Carolan. Since the last Green Scene we have been busy playing "formality" games. We had nothing to play for and it was just a formality to turn up and get the games over with. The results reflected this apathy, none more so than the Erris game. I would urge anyone with access to the internet to visit our website and read the report on the Erris match for an insight into how low a club can get when there is nothing at stake for them and their opponents are pushing for a championship title. We were subjected to a 6-1 defeat which was much more than the trouncing that it appears. Bert with his never-say-die attitude professed that "Erris' goals were the last gesture of a beaten team". The season came to a merciful end with a 2-2 draw at home to Achill Rovers who weren't too bothered about the result either. You can read more about it on page 2. So on behalf of Crossmolina AFC I would like to thank everybody who supported us over the last season, whether it was by cheering us on at the matches, sponsoring us to climb Nephin, participating in the mountain ascent, reading the fanzine or website, or just by talking about us in positive terms around the town. We hope to see you all again next year.

### Thanks

This will be the final issue of Green Scene for this season. A few months ago, when we decided to launch a fanzine, we were unsure of what the reception would be like but now seven issues later we are happy with our initiative. But without the help of the local shops who stocked the fanzine we could not have possibly succeeded. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all- Robert Connor's Londis, Sylvie Canavan in the Video Hut and Hiney's supermarket (especially Mary Syron). We hope that they will continue to be receptive to our efforts to promote the club locally and we look forward to their assistance again next season.

### Lookalikes

Beaker  
From  
The  
Muppets



Valencia's  
Didier  
Deschamps

## And if you missed...

### Crossmolina 2-2 Achill Rovers

Crossmolina and Achill Rovers shared the points in an honourable end of season draw at Abbeytown on Sunday morning. With nothing at stake for either side it was a surprisingly entertaining match with lax defending and wasteful finishing providing plenty of talking points. The home side had the better of the play but couldn't convert their possession into goals often enough. The match began with a bang as Crossmolina opened the scoring after 5 minutes.

John Duggan received the ball in midfield and placed an inviting pass into the path of ersatz striker Johnny O'Hora. O'Hora held off the challenge of an Achill defender as he bore down on goal and finished with a powerful shot into the far corner, vindicating his pleas for a striking role on the team. Achill weren't behind for too long as Wesley Padden unleashed a thunderous shot from 25 yards out which dipped perfectly over stranded Crossmolina goalkeeper Michael Moyles. Eoin Syron tried to answer for the home side when he won a tackle and rapped a speculative 25 yard shot which sailed just over the bar. In response Achill shredded their opponents defence with an incisive passing move which culminated in a glorious scoring chance for an overlapping Rovers striker in the 6 yard box. Goalie Moyles smothered his shot brilliantly to get his defence off the hook. Derek Greham had

opportunities to give Crossmolina the lead again but was off the mark until 5 minutes before half-time. He made a good run onto a ball from midfield and the ball bounced perfectly for him on the right hand side of the box to half-volley a rasping shot into the far top corner of the Achill goal. Crossmolina took a 2-1 lead into the interval and the second half continued in the same scrappy vein with both sides charging forward alternately. Pdraig Whittaker and Steven Canavan underhit shots from the edge of the Rovers box after doing well to create the openings as the home side bid to finish off the contest. Rovers attained parity though midway through the half with a controversial goal. An Achill player struck a low drive from 18 yards out which netminder Moyles appeared to fumble on the ground and Rovers striker Ashley Stevenson alertly pounced to poke the loose ball home. Crossmolina's best chance of winning featured a smart piece of play by right back Kenny Canavan. He was in possession well inside the Achill half when Rovers decided to push up and play the

of the season past; the best of times, the worst of times. There were games and performances that were as good as any I have witnessed from a team under my management. Unfortunately there were displays which balanced up the aforementioned, simply brutal. The cup match against Manulla will rank as the highlight of the season for me. The only regret of that day was that we needed penalties to assert our superiority. We were miles ahead in every department and should have been well ahead at the end of ninety minutes. Manulla you may recall came to Crossmolina as Super League double winners. Other performances of note were wins over Achill, Ballina Town and Glensiland. The low points football wise were a couple of insipid displays at home against a verage opposition. I can accept being beaten even though I don't like it. Not trying I can't accept. The real low point for me came at the Erris Utd game. The reasons will be known to anybody involved with the club. There were plus points in terms of personnel. The emergence of Jason Canavan, Kenny Canavan and Eoin Syron as genuine first team players was a real bonus although it bemuses me to see men just turned thirty thinking of retiring. Play every game you are physically capable of would be my motto and maybe even a couple you are not capable of! Off the field there were good signs too; the excellent work of John Hegarty and Pdraig Whittaker at the pitch as well as the inspirational PRO work of John Duggan gives positive pointers for the future. The season is not over of course with the cup matches to come (and with our tradition in the cup competitions a good run could not be ruled out) but the league is where any team indicates its worth and the fact is that joint fourth in the Premier League while not bad is certainly less than we could have managed. Our problem was and is consistency. If we can achieve that next season, Super League headaches could be our lot in twelve months time.

### Manchester United 7 Chelsea 1

Manchester United's march towards the double continued today after a stunning Semi-Final display at Old Trafford where it had been switched due to a request from referee Paul Alcock who said it was the only venue where he could ensure fair play and get away with it. United went ahead just before the kick-off when Gary Neville's through-ball sent the linesman away down the right flank. His cross was handled on the half-way line by a Chelsea defender,

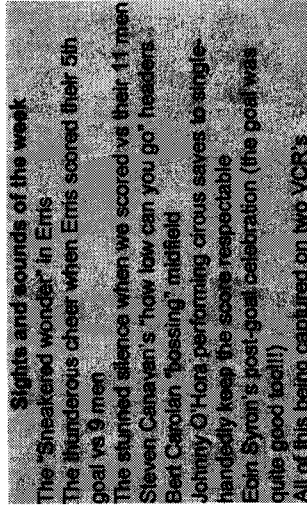
and Paul Scholes stepped up to slot the ball home for his 65th penalty of the season, after hitting both posts and the bar. It was no more than United deserved. The 15th minute saw the Super Reds go two up after Frank Leboeuf was penalised for coughing just outside the area. David Beckham's free kick was handled by Dan Petrescu, struck first time by Giggs, hit the back of a defender's boot, bounced up, struck the rim of a spectator's spectacles and floated, assisted by a freak wind, into the top corner of the Chelsea net. It was no more than United deserved. The 21st minute saw more trouble for Chelsea, when Gianfranco Zola was sent off for enquiring about referee Paul Alcock's red shirt. Two minutes before the interval Chelsea struck back after an amazing piece of good fortune. Dennis Wise hitting home the rebound after a shot had been stopped on the line by the referee. Man Utd could scarcely believe their bad luck. Alex Ferguson threw down his programme and wouldn't talk to anyone for ten minutes. The restart saw unsportsmanlike Marcel Desailly making ridiculous claims for a penalty after Jaap Stam had accidentally beaten up Tore Andre Flo. The referee had missed the incident due to his red scarf flowing in his eyes. Ten minutes later Ferguson took off Andy Cole and replaced him with three other players. Man Utd's third came after Roberto DiMatteo had been caught offside in his own penalty area. Ryan Giggs took the free-kick, which bobbed home after hitting the underside of the floodlights. The referee claimed the final touch. Super-marvel-wonder-Reds goal number four came after ninety-eight minutes after Celestine Babayaro had conceded a penalty for blatantly glancing at the referee. It was no more than United deserved. So 4-1 at full time, but referee Paul Alcock sportingly agreed to call it 7-1 after Ferguson threatened to cry and stamp his feet if he didn't.

### Website

We at Crossmolina AFC care about what you have to say. We have recently added a message board on our website for you to air your opinions. So tell us what you think about the team, the website, football, the town, the Dolphin or any other thing that might be on your mind. Besides all the usual good stuff like match reports, jokes, league tables and statistics we are also running a poll at the moment to decide what was the best performance by the team this year. So log onto [www.angelfire.com/va/crossmolinaafc](http://www.angelfire.com/va/crossmolinaafc) and tell us what you think. "We're listening".

offside trap in an effort to bamboozle him. Unperturbed, Canavan dribbled through the defence who were more concerned with the offside than tackling him and he fired a solid shot from 10 yards out which forced the goalkeeper to make a fantastic save. After that both sides seemed subconsciously content with a draw and that is how the game ended. It brought to an end an enigmatic season for Crossmolina who will feel that they underachieved and didn't do themselves justice over the course of 18 games. But it will give management something to work on in the long winter months until the beginning of next season.

Crossmolina - M Moyles, K Canavan, J Hegarty, P Whittaker, J Heffernan (M Canavan 45), J Duggan, S Canavan, E Syron, D Greham, J Canavan, J O'Hora



Sights and sounds of the week

The "Sneakered wonder" in Erris  
The thunderous cheer when Erris scored their 5th goal vs 9 men  
The stunned silence when we scored vs their 11 men  
Steven Canavan's "how low can you go" headers  
Bert Canavan "bussing" midfield  
Johnny O'Hora performing circus saves to single-handedly keep the score respectable  
Eoin Syron's post-goal celebration (the goal was quite good too!!)  
All of this being captured on the VCR's

### Bert's Brief

Another year over as John and Yoko sang and it ended very feebly for us, with a fizzle more than a bang. The home game against Ballyvaury was most memorable for it's winning goal, a stupendous volley by Eoin Syron which he dramatically saved until the dying minutes of the game. It was a great way to win the game 3-2 against a side whose only victory all season came against us. The much chronicled debacle in Erris needs no further comment from me. Needless to say I was disappointed by a lot of things that day. The finale at home to Achill was a meaningless game and once they drew level at 2-2 the game just petered out to a stalemate. I was delighted to see Johnny O'Hora score the opening goal after he spent the season hounding me to play him up front. He needn't throw away the goalie gloves just yet though! In the broader scheme of things I have been asked to give my opinions on this past season for the club. Something of the Charles Dickens seems to come to mind when I think

Antvedard Gianluca, dao Claudio... Green Scene apologises profusely to Paul Gascoigne... Now Stan Wally Mor, there is a real waste of space... The comeback Rains have stopped coming basic-ck and now they are going down... Rangers seem to have this Euro thing sussed after 9 years of ineptitude... Al Fayed's millionaires are Pul steam ahead for the Premier... Paul's new Jewells aren't aren't sparkling so brightly in their new environment... One loss and Lippi's fate is sealed... Kazman is The Man... The new 'D' Unbelievable's video-Ernis 6 Crossmolina 1, available in Erris only... How does Kanu make the game look so easy when we struggle just to string 3 passes together... Despite their starts to the season W'Harm will finish above the Foxes... Now that the Channel 4 reception has improved we can enjoy Football Italia again... Another new United kit, yaaawwwn