

The Claretian Echo

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St Clarets GFC: Hop on, hold on and scream Hallelujah

Murphy Comes Squeaky Clean

Euro Crash

Regular readers of *The Claretian Echo* may well recall the heartbreaking story of homeless Cavan man Phil Daly, that we published back in April.

Since then, the Shercock giant has managed to convince friends that his itinerant days are over and that he is now happy to pay rent and live in a normal house.

However, during a recent visit to Poznan, Daly suffered what one observer described as: "The mother of all relapses", when steadfastly refusing to pay the extortionate rates for hotel accommodation in the Polish town.

In protest, he took to the streets once more, this time foolishly setting up home outside of the local police station.

Attempts by police to move him on failed, although Marc Collentine and Stephen O'Rourke did kindly offer to share their bath with him in their luxury Poznan hotel.



Daly outside police HQ

Club veteran Tony Murphy this week broke his silence regarding his reason for quitting playing and also his addiction to the industrial lubricant WD40.

Speaking for the first time since his arrest by the GAA's anti-doping officers, Murphy told *The Echo* about the web of deceit that he had built around himself as his addiction took hold.

"It's ridiculous how it all started" he reflected. "I was sitting in the changing room one day around about 1996 and I happened to mention that my knee was feeling a bit stiff.

"Given I was 35, I thought nothing of it, but kit man Jim O'Regan came up to me with a dark bottle and he suggested I try a bit of it.



WD40 addict: Tony Murphy

"I asked him what it was, but he just said to try it and if it worked for me, then he could sort me out with some" Murphy recalled.

"It worked, it was brilliant. I felt 16 again when I was playing, but then of course, there was the come-down afterwards. They never tell you about that when they're peddling their gear.

"The pain in my knee returned and I thought to myself 'another little squirt won't hurt', just to get me through the day.

"Before I knew it, I had set up an account at Halfords and was also making bulk purchases online" an obviously emotional Murphy continued.

"I had to cover my tracks and we had the quietest doors in any house in London for a few years. The slightest squeak and I was on it like a flash with the WD40.

"I love football so much. I love playing, I love training. It's all I know. Even though I'm 52 now, I never wanted it to stop.

"But I've hurt people" he continued reflectively. "My family, my coaches, my team mates and



What GAA anti-doping officers found in Murphy's kit-bag

the fans. I lied to them all. I've been stripped of my medals and also have had my name expunged from the London records. That hurts. It's like I never existed."

Asked about how he feels towards the pushers and suppliers, he merely said: "No one forced me to take it. I wanted the glory without the pain.

"There are no shortcuts to success and coming from Offaly, I should know that better than anyone.

"We've been taking shortcuts for years and look where it's got us?" he concluded wistfully.

Comer Emerges From Hiding

The full extent of the psychological scarring suffered by Claretian Niall Comer during his recent brush with a grizzly has only just been realised.

Many have been concerned about the apparent disappearance of the young defender, but *The Echo* can reveal that Comer

has in fact been hiding in a man-hole since his ordeal.

Sources close to Comer say that he has been so traumatised by the events in the Romanian woods, that he now only feels safe down dark, damp holes.

A bit like a cave I suppose....
...where bears live!!!!!!



Niall emerges from hiding