

## **SKERRIES 2014**

2014 saw Dunbar make their 31<sup>st</sup> visit to play their Irish friends Skerries. Twenty Seven people, which included most of the players left Dunbar at 10.30 to catch flight from Edinburgh to Belfast. A further four people travelled over by car on the Ferry. The Selkirk contingent flew over from Edinburgh to Dublin the same day. The cost of the flights to Belfast averaged around £80. Seventeen people travelled over early Saturday morning leaving Dunbar at 5.00am to catch the 7.00am flight to Belfast.

A local Skerries bus firm picked the two groups up and transferred everyone to our destination. The bus stopped half way to allow group to indulge in some refreshments. The cost to everyone for the buses on the Irish side was 30 euros. A sweep for the Ireland v Scotland match was held, with the nearest score winning what was left after the bus company were paid. Brian Robertson was the lucky winner of the sweep.

Dunbar committee were invited to lunch in the clubhouse prior to the matches with soup followed by roast pork on the menu.

Dunbar pushed Skerries all the way and were unlucky not to win but lost out 28-23. This was followed by dinner and then the speeches. Mick McKiernan spoke for Skerries followed by Billy Low from Dunbar. Everyone mingled in the local pubs before coming together in Ollie's Bar until the early hours of Sunday.

Those going to the match in Dublin travelled by train at 11.05am. It was a long walk for some to the ground but not for four who will not be named. Those four decided to take a horse and carriage at a cost reduced from 35-20 euros. Scotland lost quite heavily in a disappointing match. The cost of the return ticket was 10.50 euros. Tickets for the match varied from 40 – 60 euros.

After the match and a few more drinks those in the group returned by train to Malahide before returning later on to Skerries. The group were in full voice on both trains plus in a local pub in Malahide.

The Dunbar party again mingled in the local pubs before gathering in Ollie's bar for the rest of the evening.

Monday saw everyone meeting up in several pubs before opening time. The bus left Skerries at 11.30 before stopping twice on the way to Belfast, once for refreshments and the other a comfort stop.

Everything went to plan reaching Dunbar at 19.40pm where the bravest made their way to the High Street for more refreshments.

Two of the party, Dave Main and Brian Robertson made their way home via Dublin airport rather than travelling to Belfast. This would no doubt have been a DM plan.