

WAKEHURST F.C.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

1969 = 1994



Subscription £2

Memories are made of this . . . Club President, Mrs Sadie Purser

I suppose my association with Wakehurst F.C. began when the team were using the Tourist Bar, which was beside my shop in Bridge Street as their base.

In those early days Francis Smyth was the main man behind the club and he was very friendly with both myself and my late husband, Bill.

The three of us, along with Billy Black and many others whiled away many a winter's night playing dominoes in the Tourist.



25 Year Dinner - J. Lorimer (Secretary) presents the President Mrs S. Purser with flowers.

But on Saturday evening's from 5pm on, the main topic of conversation in the bar was the afternoon footballing exploits.

After closing up shop, I always called in to keep abreast of the club's fortunes. Eventually I was approached and asked to be Club President, a role I was only too happy (and proud) to accept.

Today, I still have the honour of holding this position and it is with fond memories that I recall trips to Rathmines in Dublin, all the dinner dances down through the years and the many happy evenings spent with the club members.

The latest of these functions was the 25th celebration dinner which was attended by many of the players who have been part of the club through the years.

I was fortunate enough to attend on an evening which proved to be extremely enjoyable and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wakehurst F.C., their committee and their players past and present for wonderful memories and a long, proud association with them.

I extend my warmest congratulations on their 25th anniversary and wish them every success in the years ahead.

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WAKEHURST ORIGINALS



Wakehurst F.C. 1969-70. Back Row: R. McIntosh, B. Rock, F. Best, B. Craig, I. Alexander, I. Hunter, B. Lennox, B. McIlroy. Front Row: C. Best, J. Barrett, J. Cameron, B. Thompson, N. Craig, B. Bamber.

A PROUD HISTORY

Brian Rock, Chairman (1994)

When Wakehurst was founded 25 years ago by a group of friends, little did we know that this club would become one of the best known teams to compete in Northern Ireland Junior Football.

Francis Smyth was the inspiration for the team. He will surely recall spending pre-season 1969 collecting half a crown (22.5p) per week to pay for kit and entry fee for Ballymena Junior League! A special word of thanks to Francis is due from everyone at the club.

Being part of Wakehurst F.C. means belonging to a family of friends through sport. The club becomes a part of you as the superb attendance at the grand re-union dinner proved.

I must thank the 25 year organising committee and all those who contributed in any form to the compilation of this book in particular. I must also thank our sponsors and advertisers - without their generosity there would be no such volume in which to recount the club's proud history.

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FOOTBALL CRAZY? JUST A WEE BIT . . .

Des Blackadder

They say the sixties and early seventies were the golden age of pop music. But there were exceptions to that rule and the Glaswegian novelty song "Football Crazy" is one of them. It is hardly likely to be remembered as a classic of rock n roll writing . . . but it did ring true in an era when most people still had black and white TV, bad haircuts and trousers which could have been used as sails on HMS Victory.

I suppose you could say that the roots of Wakehurst F.C. are found amongst the fitba-daft wanes who played 25-a-side games in Harryville Park, two-a-side games with tennis balls against the walls of furious neighbours houses or simply let their minds wander to dreams of grandeur as they tried to emulate the latest magic of Jimmy Greaves, Bestie or Pele in lonesome back garden moments when nobody else was available to get a side together.

In those days, playtime equalled football. During the summer holidays the average Harryville youngster woke up, got dressed and sought out his mates (especially if one had a half-decent ball) and the game continued with breaks for grub throughout the long day . . . for two months solid. No home computers, no videos, no holidays in Florida for these guys. No sir, it was down the park, up the Moat field, down the backs or over the fence into Harryville school for a kickabout.

You just don't see these things happening anymore and the football purists from Best, Law and Charlton down to the local heroes of junior league football will all tell you the game has suffered as a result. Best learned his tricks knocking the aforementioned tennis ball against garage walls in the Cregagh estate in Belfast. Like thousands of other youngsters of his generation it was the natural thing to do . . . some would say it was the ONLY thing to do!

Given these sixties circumstances, the formation of Wakehurst F.C. was simply a matter of course. Football was THE game and if you wanted to play it properly a real team with proper organisation was needed.

Finding faces for the original Wakehurst F.C. was an easy matter since most of the founder members had been amongst those youngsters who had plagued park-keepers and driven school-caretakeers to distraction. It is for others to give the accurate historical timetable for the club. I'm simply reflecting on what football meant (and continues to mean) to the originals at Wakehurst. I just qualify to make these comments because (1) I couldn't kick a ball to save my life and (2) because I have strong memories of brothers arriving home on Saturday afternoons with muddied legs and soaking football kits for my mother to wash. Although neither played for Wakehurst, Brian and Ian were near contemporaries of the first members of the team and shared their appetite for soccer.

To those who can play the game, and play it well, football is not something to probe or examine. They do it (like some people climb Everest) because it's there to be done. I on the other hand, have to look a bit deeper to find the reasons for this passion. I've already given most of the reasons why football, and especially junior soccer is so important to so many people (and especially those who have associations with Wakehurst F.C.) but the main reason I will leave to last. In my opinion Wakehurst F.C. like a thousand other teams of that generation, were formed because one group of mates reckoned they could stuff any other bunch of lads when it came to sticking a round ball into the onion bag.

Whether they admit it or not, those same guys who formed the team probably reckon their squad could have destroyed the present one . . . to coin a phrase, old footballers never die, they just gim at the new ones! There have been good times and bad times at Wakehurst in 25 years of existence. Here's wishing them 25 more years of success and, most of all, good crack.

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Runners Up	1969-70 1974-75 1976-77 1980-81 1986-87
I.F.A. JUNIOR CUP	
Finalists	1975-76 1980-81 1986-87 1990-91
KNOCKOUT CUPS	
CANADA CUP	
Winners	1980-81 1981-82 1983-84 1984-85
TORONTO CUP	
Winners	1971-72 1972-73 1980-81 1983-84 1984-85
CONNOR CUP	
Winners	1971-72 1977-78
McREYNOLDS CUP	
Winners	1976-77 1981-82
MILLAR CUP	
Winners	1978-79
CRAWFORD CUP	
Winners	1983-84
HANNA TROPHY	
Winners	1980-81
COCHRANE CORRY CUP	
Winners	1985-86 1991-92 1992-93
TRI-SPORT TROPHY	
Winners	1985-86 1986-87

SUMMER COMPETITION WINNERS

Ballyclare F.C. Summer Knockout Cup
 Cullybackey F.C. Summer Knockout Cup
 F.C. Penarol Summer Knockout Cup (Twice)

HONOURS WAKEHURST OLYMPIC

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	1976-77
Runners Up	1977-78 1979-80
O'KANE CUP	
Winners	1976-77 1977-78
TOAL CUP	
Winners	1976-77 1977-78
TOP FOUR	
Winners	1979-80
CARLSBERG CUP	
Winners	1979-80
TEXACO CUP	
Winners	1982-83
ACE CUP	
Winners	1990-91
STEWART CUP	
Winners	1982-83 1988-89

PAST PLAYERS . . . GREAT NICKNAMES 'THE TURK, CHUNKY, SPIDER & CHICK'



25 Year Dinner. Left to right: D. O'Kane, R. Torrington, M. Marshall, G. Erwin.



The Mayor Councillor Robert J. Coulter.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Councillor R. J. Coulter, M.A., B.D.,
M.A.(Ed.)

I am very pleased to convey the greetings of the Borough of Ballymena to the Wakehurst Football Club on achieving their 25th anniversary. Throughout the years, they have won not only many honours, but, more importantly, the respect and good wishes of the citizens of the Borough.

These honours have been achieved through sportsmanship and dedication shown by the many members who have passed through the club.

I wish Wakehurst F.C. well in this, the year of their anniversary, and hope that the years ahead will be full of glory.

"I MIND THE TIME"

Jackie Fullerton, BBC Northern Ireland sports presenter

Wakehurst F.C. is 25 years of age. Hard to believe, but it's true. It is also true to say their story has been one of success. Ballymena folk and local Junior Football supporters should be proud of what has been achieved in a relatively short period of time.

As a teenager, making my way in the game, Harryville Amateurs were the kingpins of the Junior League. It was every young player's dream to pull on their colours and, looking back, it was probably better to play WITH all-action wing-half, Jim Cunningham, than against him!

The Amateurs were still in business when some precocious young men felt the time was right to start another junior club in Harryville.

A few eyebrows were raised. "It won't last" was the consensus of opinion . . . but those precocious young men had other ideas. "Everybody will pay in half-a-crown per week," declared Francis Smyth and the assembled, enthusiastic throng agreed.

Wakehurst F.C. had been born. Francis, Bertie Thompson, Brian Rock, Brian Craig, Norman Craig, the Best brothers and Ian Hunter were just some of those who were in from the start.

Had I not been fortunate enough to play Irish League football, it is odds on that Wakehurst would have been my team as well. But maybe not! After all, at the anniversary dinner (which I thoroughly enjoyed) one of those so called friends hinted I might not have got my place!!

Over the years, Wakehurst outgrew the Junior League. It then took courage (and some forget that) to spread their wings into the Amateur League where they are now firmly established. Trophies? They've won some, lost some and gone close down through the years. But, more importantly, the name of Wakehurst F.C. is respected throughout the Junior ranks of the Province.

When I look back, I think of so many happy days spent with a lot of those lads in Harryville B.B. and in the "wee park" where so many skills were finely tuned. The wee park! Where, any day, the words of caretaker Jim Kernohan, "come on boys, it's time to close up" were the last words we wanted to hear.

I am sure Jim is proud of what those young boys have gone on to achieve. I know I am.

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A MODEL FOR MANY TEAMS

Billy McIlroy, Secretary, Ballymena and District Premier League

Over the past 25 years, the name of Wakehurst Football Club has become synonymous with the footballing fraternity. When the roll call was made at the first monthly meeting of the then Ballymena and District Junior League, at the beginning of the 1969-70 season, it resembled the Who's Who of local junior soccer.

Fifteen teams were present at that meeting and it is to the credit of Wakehurst that after 25 years they are still a force to be reckoned with. Of the 15 teams mentioned, nine are no longer in being. Teams such as Harryville Amateurs, Nelsons, Victoria Rangers, Old Bleach and Riverside, who were once household names, have faded long since into history.

Wakehurst, at the time, joined good company when you consider that Cullybackey, Connor, Enkalon, Ballymoney and Moyola are, like themselves, still to the fore and competing well in their respective leagues. Organisation was a hallmark of Wakehurst in the early days and this, to their credit, is still very much in evidence - being a model for many another team to adopt.

Success on the pitch was not achieved overnight, but it soon became evident to the established teams that the newcomers (or, as some called them, upstarts) would soon be in the hunt for top honours. Though success was achieved in the knock-out competitions it was not until the 1975-76 season that they won their first league championship. A hat-trick of league championships was again won during the 82-83, 83-84 and 84-85 seasons, the last being Wakehurst's final term in what is now known as the Ballymena and District Premier League. At that time the team went to seek new challenges in the Northern Amateur League.

Over the past 25 years quite a lot has happened and who knows what the next quarter century will bring? No doubt Wakehurst, like the League they joined in 1969-70, have a vision. The Premier League has changed from one with many restrictions and a 20-mile radius to one with members from three or four footballing associations.

Wakehurst have always been a team with vision and no doubt they will have their eyes on the future . . . a future in which everyone in the Premier League wishes them continued success.

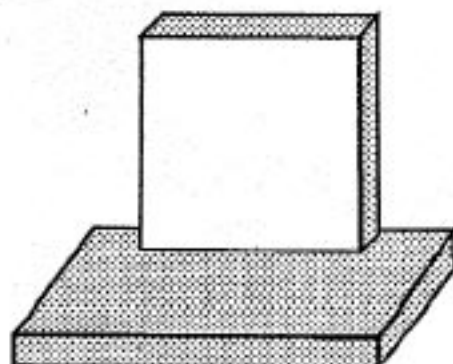
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WAR AND PIECES 'THE TRUE STORY'

Gary (Chunky) Erwin

Although I played many games for Wakehurst, I was never a regular in the true sense of the word. My years in the Irish league and "B" Division kept me away for long periods. In fact, it was only when I was in some dispute or other that I had my very successful spells with the club.

Wakehurst has a reputation for "preying" on players like myself much to the displeasure of some of the other outfits. Such was the pulling power of the club in those days that they could sign almost anyone they wanted. This was due to the fact that the original Francis Smyth team developed into a very formidable Junior League Club. Since players always want to be associated with success they were ready and willing to don the Wakehurst jersey. Prising them away from their former clubs was the task in which Francis and Brian Rock excelled. There are many interesting stories as to how, like the Mounties, they always 'got their man' . . . but they're better left untold.

My most vivid memory whilst playing for Wakehurst was the fixture versus Cullybackey. Each time these two clubs met it was like the kick-off for the Third World War! Our lot dropped all the hanky-ball players (who shall remain nameless) and fortified the squad with thugs like Collie Best, Leo O'Boyle, Jock Moore and the man who was set the task of curbing the wizardry of Willard Reid . . . he, of course, was the irrepressible Bertie Thompson. Thompson couldn't think of a better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than attempting to kick the "wee man" all over the pitch! On the other hand, there was I up at the front and facing the Robinson brothers, ably backed up by what can only be described as the best deterrent to bravery known to man . . . you've guessed it, Jim "Rocky" Rock. Here was a guy who saw the Wakehurst strip and went into a frenzy with eyes bulging, steam coming down the nostrils and teeth gritted! However, even with all the machismo, there was still plenty of room left for good football.

After 25 years, Wakehurst is more like a dynasty than a football and snooker club. The social side to the activities never seems to wane and all the ex-players and old hands like myself always keep in touch and look for the scores every Saturday. This point was proved when nearly everyone turned up for the celebration matches on Boxing Day which marked the 25 years in football. The dinner in March was also a great success as it enabled everyone to reminisce about how it used to be done, especially with friends whom one hadn't spoken to for some years.

The Wakehurst tradition lives on and in closing I would like to request that the management committee drops the reunion ratio from 25 years to five just in case the more mature amongst us like Scobie Cameron, Birdie Craig and Bobby Balmer might not see the longer period through! To the ex-players I wish the very best of health and to the current crop of players I wish the very best of luck in the forthcoming season and in the future.



New Years Day, 25 Year Fixture. Left to right: J. Black, N. Craig and G. Erwin.



Combined Wakehurst F.C. and Wakehurst Olympic Trophies 1976-77.

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THE OLYMPIC

Brian Craig

With Wakehurst F.C. growing in stature by the mid-seventies, it was realised that a release valve was needed to let those players on the fringes of the team let off footballing steam.

The result was the formation of Wakehurst Olympic in the 1976-77 season and over the years it was to provide a vital element in the club's success.

Young players were tried and tested, their skills and fitness honed and refined in Saturday Morning League games.

Established players, returning from injury, also received their match fitness testing with the Olympic who swiftly became respected competitors on the morning scene.

Although the Olympic did play a reserve team role they had their own share of success which should not be forgotten. Their exploits are recorded elsewhere in this book and I'm sure all former members will have their own fond memories to savour.

Amateur League Greetings

*S. J. Shaw, Chairman,
Northern Amateur League*

Wakehurst joined the Northern Amateur Football League at the beginning of the 1985-86 season thus becoming the first team from Ballymena to be associated with the League.

Playing in Division 2C they made an immediate impact by winning the Section and also collecting the Cochrane & Corry Cup which is open to all teams in Division Two.

Wakehurst have since progressed to the top section, Division 2A, and have captured the Cochrane & Corry Cup in consecutive years in the early 1990s.

Wakehurst have become one of the most respected clubs in the membership of the Northern Amateur League and have been served by a dedicated group of competent officials past and present.

On behalf of the Northern Amateur League, I congratulate them on reaching their quarter century and wish them every success for years to come.

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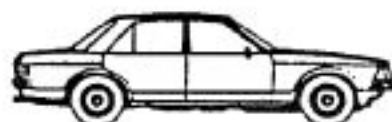
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THEY TOOK THE LEAGUE BY STORM . . .

Brian Montgomery

Secretary, Ballymena and District Saturday Morning League

If ever a club took a league by storm it was Wakehurst Olympic in the 1976 season. This second string to the famous Black and White Stripes hit the Saturday Morning League with blitzkrieg power in their first season.

The O'Kane Cup was won on Boxing Day with Olympic beating Corkey. They also captured the Toal Cup, beating my own team, Broadway Star, in the final on Easter Monday.

However, their first year is most memorable for their League win. They dropped only three points out of a possible 52!

Although the morning team was primarily aimed at bringing youth players through to the senior ranks, a substantial number of those in the "twilight" of their playing careers enjoyed spells with the Olympic.

Scobie Cameron, John Lorimer, Jock Moore and Kevin Carbery will all have fond memories of getting up early on rain-lashed Saturday mornings!

Changes in the rules of the League forced Olympic to quit in 1992. Unfortunately, it was the end of one of the most respected teams ever to play morning football in Ballymena.

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'In The Beginning'

THE HISTORY OF WAKEHURST FOOTBALL CLUB

1969-1970

Wakehurst's history really begins in the season 1969-70 when Francis Smyth, Francis Best and Willie McIlroy formed the present club from the ashes of a junior league team of the same name which had folded the previous season. Francis Smyth must be acknowledged for his spadework. He contacted the players, raised money, arranged a kit and threw himself into the task of preparing his squad for their first season in the Junior League.

And on August 9, 1969, Wakehurst took the field against Connor in the first round of the McReynolds Cup. For the record, the team that day was Ivan Alexander, Billy Armstrong, Brian Rock, Francis Best, Bobby Bamber, Bertie Thompson, Norman Craig, Jim Cameron, Brian Craig, Ian Hunter and Colin Best. Francis, undoubtedly shattered by his hard work, named himself as sub. The score at the end of an evenly contested 90 minutes was 3-3 with goals for Wakehurst coming from Hunter (2) and Thompson. Unfortunately, after extra-time, Connor emerged as 5-3 victors. Better things were to follow and on August 14, Ian Hunter scored both goals in a 2-0 win over Smithfield to register the club's first ever league points. John Barratt came in to the defence for Billy Armstrong (sub) and Billy Lennox replaced the unfortunate Brian Craig who broke his toe in the Connor game.

The Junior League teams of those days were packed with talent and they all contributed in equal fashion to the excellence of the league. They included Cullybackey, Connor, Riverside from Antrim, Nelsons, Ballymoney and Wakehurst's biggest rivals, Harryville Amateurs.

However, Wakehurst quickly showed they were more than capable of playing at this level and team members such as Jim Cameron, Bertie Thompson, Norman Craig and Ian Hunter were feared opponents. By the halfway stage of the championship, they were top with 19 points from 13 games.

In the third round of the Junior Shield they defeated Marlborough Star 3-0 . . . a match in which Scobie Cameron lived up to his nickname, leaving most of the opposition trailing in his wake with lightning runs. One of these ended with him being upended in the box allowing Bertie Thompson to score from the spot kick. Cameron himself and Ian Hunter provided the other goals. Fine wins against Ledley Hall (4-0), Scrabo Rangers (9-0) and Laurel Lodge (3-1) put Wakehurst into the fourth round of the Junior Cup. Away to Ballygomartin, Wakehurst forced a 2-2 draw after extra time. The replay in Ballymena also ended in a 1-1 draw. A third game saw Wakehurst go through 5-2 but defeat was to come in Round 5.

Meanwhile, Wakehurst slipped in the league race where after 24 games Connor and Nelsons shared top spot with 37 points. Wakehurst had 34 points from 21 games and the league seemed to be slipping away from their grasp when Riverside were beating them 3-1 in a vital game. But with goals from Thompson (2), Lennox and Brian Craig they managed to keep their title hopes alive. Going into the last lap with teams having played 27 games each, Wakehurst and Nelsons were joint top with 44, with Connor coming in behind on 43. Wakehurst played at Ballymoney and drew 2-2 (Hunter, Craig) while Connor beat Nelson's 4-3 leaving a play-off for the league.

The play-off was not a rough contest but there was some stiff tackling by both teams and three players had to retire through injury. In fact John Barratt was one of two who had to leave the field for hospital treatment . . . in his case, after only five minutes! Connor took the lead but Wakehurst drew level before half-time through Hunter. Shortly after the interval Connor made it 2-1 but Wakehurst remained in dangerous form for the rest of the game. However, despite a sparkling performance from Norman Craig, Wakehurst were unable to make inroads and their plight was worsened by losing centre-half Brian Rock with a knee injury. Connor held out against the 10-man Wakehurst team to lift the League.

Runners up in the League was not bad for a team in their first season but there were even better days ahead.



1971-1972 Wakehurst F. C. Cannon Cup, Toronto Cup. Back row: F. Smyth, K. Carbery, P. Jordan, F. Best, I. Alexander, J. Moore, J. Foster, B. McIlroy. Front row: N. Craig, B. McGarry, I. Hunter, B. Thompson, L. O'Boyle, I. Gregg, B. Bamber.

1970-71

Wakehurst started the season with determination and new players such as Sammy Clarke and Dessie Lennox who had joined the club towards the end of the first season soon had company in pre-season training with the signing of Jimmy Patterson, Lindsay Gamble, Pat Jordan and Jock Moore.

In the first match against Smithfield, Sammy Clarke scored a double hat-trick with Hunter (3) and Patterson (2) to run out easy winners by 11-2. Hunter continued to make headlines with three goals against the Amateurs in a 4-0 win (the other scorer being Clarke). Hunter also hit six in a 9-2 demolition of Cloughmills! Gamble was also putting 'em in the net with strikes against Ballymoney and Lower Shankill. Wakehurst lost out to Cullybackey in the McReynolds Cup but fared better with a 4-1 victory in the Junior Cup against Dungiven United. Goals on that occasion came from Cameron (2), Hunter and Gamble. They were eventually beaten 3-2 by Lower Shankill in the fourth round match which they should have won but for missed chances.

The League position was poor and by the halfway stage Wakehurst had only 12 points from 10 games. Indeed, they fared little better for the rest of the season despite reaching the final of the Cannon Cup only to be beaten by Old Bleach.

1971-72

This was a much better season for the club and after 15 games Wakehurst lay third in the League. Noteworthy performances and games saw Kevin Carbery scoring a hat-trick against the Amateurs whom Wakehurst beat 6-1, Hunter (2) and Craig were the other scorers. Against Raceview, Wakehurst scored nine with Gary Erwin, arriving at the club from Ballymena United, opening his account with five goals. Hunter, Thompson, Trevor Kernohan and Norman Craig also netted goals. Wakehurst flew the flag for Ballymena in the Junior Shield with wins against Old Bleach (3-2 — Thompson, Moore, N. Craig) and Harland and Wolff Welders (2-0 — Carbery and Craig).

They booked a place in the semi-final, winning 7-0 with a hat-trick from Hunter, two penalties from Thompson and goals from Craig and Moore. Their opposition in the semis came from Rathcoole, the Junior Cup holders. The first match ended in a 3-3 draw (Carberry, Thompson pen. and Pat Jordan), but won the replay 2-1 (Hunter 2) to take their place in the final against Cromac Albion. Unfortunately, glory slipped from Wakehurst's grasp as they lost 2-0 to the very strong Amateur League side who had already snapped up the Junior Cup. The Wakehurst team from the Junior Shield Final was: Alexander, Barratt, Best, Moore, Best, Thompson, O'Boyle, McGarry, Carbery, Hunter, Craig, Jordan.

Silverware did come in the form of the Connon Cup which Wakehurst collected by beating Harryville Amateurs after extra time, the vital goal coming from Ian Gregg. The Toronto Cup also went in the trophy cabinet. Jock Moore scored all three goals in a 3-0 semi-final victory over Cullybackey. In the final Jimmy Foster scored twice to beat the Amateurs 2-0. Team: Alexander, Bamber, O'Boyle, Moore, F. Best, Thompson, Gregg, Jordan, N. Craig, Hunter, Foster. Sub. B. McGarry.

1972-73

In League terms, results were disappointing. Cullybackey emerged as champions with Wakehurst well down the table with 25 points from 22 games.

Crucial games ended in draws or one goal defeats, pushing Wakehurst out of contention.

One of the major factors in this slump in form was the loss of central defender Francis Best who moved to England with his work. He was, however, able to play in some games, the most important being in the Junior Shield where, once again, Wakehurst were on the hunt.

They progressed through the competition by beating Templepatrick 3-0 (Foster, Craig, Davidson); St. Simon's 5-4 (Jimmy Foster 3, Craig, Davidson); 15th O.B. 8-0 (Foster 2, Davidson 4, Craig 2).

In the quarter-final their opponents were Downshire Hospital whom they defeated to make the semi stage for the second consecutive year.

But the victory over Downshire was clouded by a serious injury to free-scoring forward Davidson, who broke his leg after putting Wakehurst into the lead. Unfortunately he was out of the game for a very long time indeed.

Wakehurst were to lose the services not only of Davidson but also of Jimmy Foster (suspended) and Colin Best (suspended).

After a fighting display in the semi-final they were beaten 3-0 by Dunmurry.

On a brighter note, the Toronto Cup was retained with a 2-0 victory over Cullybackey, goals coming from J. Moore and Ian Gregg.

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1973-74

It was a case of so near and yet so far as Wakehurst reached the finals of the Connon Cup and the Junior Shield but failed at the last hurdle.

The 2-0 defeat by Shankill YM in the Shield was, of course, the biggest disappointment. Quite simply, the team did not perform on the night and the battling midfield qualities of Pat Jordan and Jimmy Foster up front (who had scored twice in the semi win over Ballynahinch United) were badly missed.

In the Connon Cup, Moyola also scored a 2-0 victory over Wakehurst. It should be remembered that Moyola were the outstanding junior team of that year having also knocked Wakehurst out of the Junior Cup.

In that game Ian Hunter probably still remembers having a penalty appeal turned down . . . if Wakehurst had scored from the spot a home replay would have been the reward. Significantly, Moyola went on to lift the trophy.



Wakehurst F.C. League Champions 1975-76. Inset: B. Thompson, N. Wylie. Back Row: B. Craig, B. Rock, J. Weir, K. Carbery, M. Montgomery, I. Alexander, R. Lester, P. Jordan, C. Best, K. Berry, I. Hunter. Front Row: L. O'Boyle, J. White, J. Barrett, R. Torrington, N. Craig, J. Lorimer, I. Dunlop, J. Moore.

1974-75

New season . . . new faces. Roy Torrington, Mike Montgomery and Matt Murray signed from Raceview played with distinction throughout the League campaign.

Wakehurst led until the last few weeks of the season but Cullybackey pipped them to the post. In compensation, Wakehurst lifted the O'Gorman Cup and there was recognition of Norman "Birdie" Craig, the Junior League sportsman of the year.

Junior Shield and Cup campaigns are best forgotten. Suffice to say that few will argue the 3-2 defeat by 24th Old Boys left a bad taste in the mouth.

1975-76

Champions! Wakehurst finally clinched the League title . . . but there was a down side to the season as well. New players such as John White, Noel Wylie, John Lorimer, Gary Erwin, Robin Lester, Johnny Weir and Ivor Dunlop entered the fray as Wakehurst rattled up an early lead in the championship — 23 out of a possible 24 points!

They also booked a final spot against Moyola Park in the McReynolds Cup on New Year's Day. Jim McLroy still claims this was the coldest day of his life. Moyola were leading 3-2 when, with 10 minutes left, the game was abandoned because of the arctic conditions. The League awarded the trophy to Moyola.

There was more misery for Wakehurst in early January when Cullybackey dumped them out of the fourth round of the Junior Shield.

Nothing, however, was to stand in their way in the Championship quest. A 1-1 draw with Sranocum clinched the title.

On the Junior Cup front a superb performance at Ballymena Showgrounds against Moyola Park put Wakehurst into the final of the "Blue Riband" Trophy. Goals from Montgomery (2), Craig (2) and Weir gave them a 5-2 victory.

But the celebrations were short-lived. Wakehurst's possible opponents in the final were thrown out and the competition declared void when Wakehurst were found guilty of fielding an ineligible player in the first round at Portstewart. Francis Smith, who had built up such a great squad, was banned for three years and the club prohibited from taking part in the Junior Cup . . . the season ended on a bleak note.

1976-77

A landmark in the history of Wakehurst F.C. was reached with the formation of the Olympic team. Brian Craig took on the role of manager with Leo O'Boyle as captain of the side.

Experienced players such as John Barratt, Lindsay Gamble, Billy McGarry and Robin Lester formed the hard core with new signings Alan Green, John Clarke and Clifford Law also included in the panel.

In their first year, Olympic won the League Championship, going undefeated in all 26 league games. Before the season was out they had also won the O'Kane and Toal Cups.

On the first team front, new manager Ian Hunter brought in new blood in the shape of Seamus and Sean Laverty, Ivor McWilliams, Roy Harris and Maurice Falls.

In league terms, the team had a great start with 18 out of a possible 20 points but they were later overhauled by Moyola and had to settle for runners-up position and the O'Gorman Cup. They also gained revenge over Moyola in the McReynold's Cup game on New Year's Day with a 3-2 victory.

In the Junior Shield, Wakehurst progressed to the quarter-final stage where Iveagh United inflicted the first defeat of the season on the team.

All in all, a good season with five trophies on the table. More importantly, the Olympic had proved successful. Norman Craig was named Olympic player of the year and Noel Wylie Club player of the year.

1977-78

Wakehurst began their pre-season build up with a 3-1 victory over Rathmines in Dublin but they suffered an early set back with the resignation of manager Ian Hunter.

Meanwhile, the Olympic had started their league campaign strongly and battled their way to an all-Harryville derby with Raglan Homers in the O'Kane Cup final.

Played in front of a large crowd at the Showgrounds on Boxing Day, Olympic ran out 2-0 winners with goals from Davy Davidson and Mike Montgomery. Unfortunately they were unable to retain the league title, losing 3-2 in a play-off with Penarol, again Davy Davidson scored both the Olympic goals.

After several disappointing results, the tide started to turn for the afternoon side, culminating in a 1-0 victory over Moyola Park in the Connors Cup Final.

Roy Harris was the marksman in a team managed by Brian Craig in a "caretaker" capacity. Noel Wylie continued to show superb form and it was no surprise when he received the Player of the Year Award for the second successive year.

1978-79

Leo O'Boyle was installed as manager of Wakehurst F.C. and he brought with him several new signings such as Joe McErlean in goals, Anthony Steele and Andy Balmer.

But results didn't go his way and in mid-season he resigned to clear the way for Brian Rock to take his first managerial post.

Rock made some shrewd tactical signings including Bertie Simpson in goal, Joe McCall to play alongside his brother Lenny and goal scorer Derek "Chick" O'Kane. The new-look side began to climb back up the table.



Wakehurst and Wakehurst Olympic 1977-78. Wakehurst F.C. Connon Cup, Wakehurst Olympic O'Kane Cup, Toal Cup, League Runners-up. Back row: B. Rock, W. Henry, J. Montgomery, B. Irwin, D. Davidson, J. Hunter, A. Gardiner, K. Carbery, I. Alexander, B. Craig, I. Hunter. Middle row: J. Loughran, A. Greene, T. Kernohan, B. McGarry, M. Marshall, P. Jordan, A. Steele, S. McCrory, I. Hunter Jr., Front row: L. Gamble, A. Balmer, N. Craig, D. Moore, C. Best, L. McCall, J. Cameron.

The Olympic were again challenging for League honours but slip-ups towards the end of the season saw them fall back and eventually they finished third. Team captain Norman Craig was honoured with the Sportsman of the Year award by his fellow players in the Saturday Morning League.

Norman also received the Olympic Player of the Year trophy with Davy Davidson taking the leading scorer award.

Meanwhile Rock's side continued to make progress and were rewarded with two cup finals.

In the Connon Cup they lost out to Stranocum (2-1 after extra time), but they were more successful in the Millar Cup final beating Raceview 2-1, once again after extra time.

Having gone a goal behind through a Matt Clarke penalty, Bertie Simpson redeemed himself and the team by saving a second spot kick. Inspired by this Wakehurst got back into the game and Pat Jordan hit the equaliser and then the winner to give Rocky the first of what proved to be many trophy successes.

At the end of the season, Derek O'Kane finished as leading goalscorer and Joe McCall was voted Player of the Year.

1979-80

There was a damp start to the season with matches having to be postponed on the very first day!

The Olympic qualified for the final of the Francis McKeown Memorial Trophy, their opponents being Connor Seconds. Connor took an early lead through George Fullerton but Andy Balmer netted twice and Kenny Cuthbert scored the third to give Olympic a 3-1 victory.

They just failed to make it to the final of the Texaco Cup. However, they did contest the Carlsberg Cup final against Clough Rangers and two goals from Billy Erwin, the second an overhead spectacular, gave Olympic a 2-1 win. Again they just missed out on the League with Penarol being the only side above them at the close of the season. Meanwhile, Brian Rock's troops had battled with Arroy United and Cloughmills for supremacy in the Junior League. Indeed, the destination of the Connon Cup was not known until the final match of the season — Arroy needed to defeat Randalstown to pip Cloughmills by one point with Wakehurst a further point behind in third place.

Having completed a league double over Old Firm rivals, Harryville Amateurs, Wakehurst were expected to beat them again in the Hanna Cup Final but this was not to be and Amateurs gained revenge with

a 2-0 win. In this match a young Jimmy Kernohan came on for the Amateurs and set up their first goal and scored the second!

Club prize winners in this lesson-learning season were Robin Galbraith, (Olympic Player of the Year); Andy Balmer and Alan Green, joint Olympic leading scorers; Billy Erwin was Wakehurst leading scorer and Derek Moore the Young Player of the Year.

1980-81

This was to prove a very successful season with Brian Rock's team winning four trophies and just failing to win the coveted Irish Junior Cup.

Rocky's raiders lost out in the final to Ballynafeigh Methodists. In the run-up they disposed of Clonney Rovers, Bangor Parish, Jennymount (Grove United) and holders, 1st Bangor O.B. in the semi-final at Taylor's Avenue, Carrickfergus.

In the final itself, played at the same venue, John Lorimer gave Wakehurst an early lead but their form slumped in the second half and despite sterling performances in defence from captain Roy Torrington, Robin Galbraith and Robin Lester in goal, they went down 4-1.

Nevertheless they had qualified for three cup finals within their own league and winning all three was a superb achievement.

In the Canada Cup Final they convincingly defeated Armoyn United 4-0 (Norman Craig, Billy Erwin, Chick O'Kane and Joe Boyle).

Boyle had made his mark as a match-winner thanks to great heading ability — a strength which would serve him well in years to come.

In the Toronto Cup final, Wakehurst proved too strong for Portglenone. Goals from John Lorimer (2) and Derek O'Kane gave them a 3-1 victory. Albert Boam scored for the Ports.

In the third final, Wakehurst faced Armoyn United in the Hanna Trophy and this time the scoreline was 4-2 in favour of the Ballymena team. McConaghie (pen.) and Small scored for Armoyn but Joe Boyle, Billy Erwin, Willie Barr and Derek O'Kane all found the net to secure the trophy.

The League had still to be decided but Wakehurst's gruelling seven matches in 12 days run-in proved too much. Armoyn retained the title with Wakehurst runners-up. In their final week they played four matches, the last of which was a tough battle against rivals Cullybackey.

They came from behind three times to win 5-4 . . . one of the greatest displays of determination in the club's history.



Wakehurst F.C. 1980-81. Toronto Cup, Canada Cup, Hanna Cup, League Runners-up, Finalists Irish Junior Cup. Back row: I. Hunter, J. Moore, J. Boyle, J. Lorimer, N. Craig, R. Lester, R. Torrington, B. Clark, R. Galbraith, D. O'Kane, B. McGarry, B. Thompson. Front row: B. Rock, D. Moore, J. Nixon, J. McCall, S. McCrory, J. Kernohan, B. Irwin, B. Craig.



Wakehurst Olympic 1981 with trophies. Back row: J. Moore, B. Thompson, J. Lorimer, G. Bell, J. Loughran, J. Black, J. Hunter, N. Garrett, J. Burrell, B. Hegarty, R. Galbraith, B. Craig. Front row: S. McCrory, J. Sexton, I. Gregg, K. Carbery, N. Smith, D. Davidson, M. Smith.

Brian Craig's Olympic also enjoyed a good year, despite the fact that no trophies were won.

The highlight must be regarded as the three-game epic in the McKeown Memorial Cup Final when they played Raglan Homers. Homers' keeper Jock McGarry saved two penalties in the final shoot out to give his team the silverware.

In the O'Kane Cup Final, the Olympic met Cullybackey Blues and at first things seemed to be going well. Neal O'Connell and Andy Balmer gave them a 2-1 interval lead but the Blues responded well and two second half goals from Black and a Bertie Smith penalty gave them the cup with a 3-2 victory.

At the annual dinner and presentation, Club President Mrs. Sadie Purser presented Joe McCall with the Player of the Year award. Leading goalscorer was Joe Boyle and Johnny Black was Olympic Player of the Year.

Jimmy Kernohan was Young Player of the Year and evergreen Norman Craig was again rewarded by his fellow competitors by winning the Junior League's Sportsman of the Year.

1981-82

A truly historic season for the club. Brian Rock's side brought the prestigious Co. Antrim Junior Shield back to Ballymena — a case of third time lucky for players like Pat Jordan and Kevin Carbery.

The road to the final was full of eventful games . . . Roy Torrington will not forget his last minute winner in the first round at home to Newcastle . . . the trip to Killyleagh when a depleted team (whose kit had been left in Ballymena) progressed thanks to a Norman Craig goal.

Portglenone were next to fall in the quarter finals before the semi-final clash with Ballynahinch United. The first game, at Seaview, ended in a draw but two goals from Billy Erwin and one from John Lorimer in the replay put them through to the final.

At Solitude, "Lazy" Lorimer's trusty left foot scored the only goal in the defeat of 1st Bangor Old Boys. The celebrations were, to say the least, exuberant!

Wakehurst's achievement was recognised later in the year when Mayor, Ald. Sandy Spence, invited the team to a Civic Reception in the Town Hall.

On the local scene, Wakehurst lifted the silverware in the McReynold's Cup, beating Macosquin 3-2. The team which played in that final was particularly strong with players like Billy Clark in goals, the Erwin brothers (Billy and Gary), Chick O'Kane and Joe McCall.

Wakehurst also won the Canada Cup with a 4-1 win over Ahoghill.



1981-82 Co. Antrim Junior Shield Winners. Back row: J. Moore, B. Craig, G. Friel, I. Hunter, B. Thompson, B. Clark, J. Black, B. McGarry, B. Rock. Middle row: K. Carbery, J. Boyle, D. Mullan, R. Torrington, A. McClean, J. Nixon, M. Marshall, J. Loughran, B. Irwin. Front row: N. Craig, N. Smith, D. Moore, T. Steele, J. Kernohan, P. Jordan, J. Lorimer, R. Galbraith.



1981-82 Junior Shield, McReynolds Cup and Canada Cup. Back row: I. Hunter, K. Carbery, N. Craig, J. Boyle, D. O'Kane, B. Clark, M. Marshall, J. Black, B. Irwin, B. Craig. Front row: J. Kernohan, D. Moore, D. Mullan, R. Torrington, B. Rock, J. McCall, J. Nixon, R. Galbraith, J. Lorimer, E. Cunningham.

Johnny Black's Olympic side reached two finals but had to accept runners-up in both. Corkey defeated them in the Texaco Cup and Penarol in the Stewart Cup.

No silverware for the Olympic . . . but there is no doubt that their role in the Shield run was vital. In fact it would have been impossible to secure the coveted trophy without the assistance of the Olympic squad members.

On an individual note, Roy Torrington was a deserved Player of the Year for Wakehurst with Davy Mullan taking the Olympic honour.

1982-83

The Olympic bounced back from their trophy famine with a comprehensive victory over Penarol at the "Wee Showgrounds".

Joe Burrell, John Lorimer and Jimmy Hunter all had a great final but it was Alan Green who stole the show with a four-goal haul.

The Stewart Cup was also to come the Olympic's way — this time Johnny Black hit four in a 6-0 demolition of Castletown at the Showgrounds. Everyone at the club was proud of the achievements of Brian Craig and his team.

On the Junior League front, Wakehurst were to clinch the club's second League championship. This was achieved with a defeat of Aghadowey with goals coming from Black (4), Eddie "Ethnic" Cunningham and Joe Burrell.



1982 Ballymena Townhall Reception. Junior Shield Winners. Back row: J. Smith (Trainer), J. Nixon, G. Friel, S. McLlory (Town Clerk), B. Craig, R. Galbraith, A. McClean. Middle row: J. Black, N. Smith, K. Carbery, P. Jordan, M. Marshall, N. Craig, J. Boyle, B. Clark. Front row: R. Torrington (Captain), B. Rock (Manager) B. McLroy (Sec. Ballymena League), S. Morrow (President), S. Spence (Mayor), S. Brown (Chairman Ballymena League), I. Hunter (Chairman Wakehurst).

The squad for that season included a number of new faces such as Sammy "Yosser" Hughes, John Sexton, Michael McCormick and Herbie Kernohan.

Jimmy Kernohan's excellence was recognised when he was voted Junior League and Wakehurst Player of the Year — a tremendous achievement.

Jimmy Hunter was Olympic Player of the Year and Roy Torrington was Junior League Sportsman of the Year.

HONOURS GALORE

1983-84

No shortage of trophies for manager, John "Smudger" Smith. On the way to the League title, Wakehurst played some devastating football disposing of Michelin (10-0), Portglenone (9-2), Cullybackey (8-1) and Bridgend (9-0) to name but a few.

Joe Boyle was in prolific scoring form and Wakehurst stormed home with games to spare, with Armoyle in runners-up position. The Crawford Cup, Toronto Cup and Canada Cup all were added to the Wakehurst trophy collection.

The hardest fought of these matches was the Toronto Cup final against Raceview. It took extra time before Wakehurst emerged 4-2 winners with goals from Boyle (2), Burrell and Jimmy Kernohan.

The squad for this game was formidable indeed — Hunter, Nixon, Cunningham, Torrington, Galbraith, Mullan, Byers, McClean, McVicker, Kernohan, J., Boyle, Calderwood, Kernohan H., Burrell.

In the Co. Antrim Junior Shield, Wakehurst encountered their 81-82 opponents, Bangor O.B. — this time at the quarter-final stage.

Wakehurst won through to the semis with a 4-1 win only to be defeated by 40th Old Boys.

In the Junior Cup quarter-final, Wakehurst were defeated 4-2 by Shelbourne of Omagh after extra time.

The Olympic secured a "top four" place with a 4-2 win over Broadway Strollers (goals from Neil Smyth, Johnny Black, Davy Mullan and Geoff Bell).

The main individual honour of the season went to Jimmy Kernohan who won the Junior League Player of the Year trophy.



Wakehurst F.C. 1982-83 League Champions. Back row: I. Hunter, B. Thompson, G. Friel, M. McCormick, J. Sexton, J. Boyle, B. Clark, R. Galbraith, J. Black, W. McClean, J. Moore, B. Craig. Front row: B. Rock, E. Cunningham, S. Hughes, J. Burrell, R. Torrington, J. Kernohan, H. Kernohan, J. Smith.

HONOURS GALORE



Wakehurst F.C. 1983-84 Crawford Cup, Toronto Cup, Canada Cup, Cannon Cup (League Championship), Semi-Final Junior Shield, Quarter Final Junior Cup. Back row: G. Friel, B. Rock, S. Calderwood, R. Galbraith, E. Cunningham, B. Clark, J. Hunter, W. McClean, C. Mullian, J. Boyle, J. Black, B. Craig. Front row: D. Davidson, J. Moore, P. Byers, J. Kernohan, H. Kernohan, R. Torrington, S. McCrory, S. McVicar, J. Smith, I. Hunter.

1984-85

Wakehurst clinched the League for the third time in a row with a dramatic last game win over Dervock who themselves needed only one point to take the trophy to North Antrim.

Joe Boyle grabbed the winner from a Sammy McVicker cross.

In the Irish Junior Cup, the team fell at the quarter-final stage but a 4-2 victory over Connor in the final of the Canada Cup and a 2-1 defeat of Arroy in the Toronto Cup ensured there was plenty of silverware to polish.

"Tiny" Calderwood finished the season as leading goalscorer and Eddie Cunningham was Player of the Year.

The Olympic kicked off the season well with a 2-1 win over Penarol in the semi-final of the "Four" trophy but luck deserted them in the final against Corkey.

From 2-0 down they fought back with goals from Norman Mellon and Andy Balmer only to see Corkey snatch victory with mere minutes left on the clock.

Barry Kennedy was Olympic Player of the Year.

PASTURES NEW

1985-86

Having won the Ballymena and District Junior League for three seasons on the trot, Wakehurst decided to seek a new challenge in the highly competitive Northern Amateur League.

Their build up for their first term in the "Amateur" included a friendly against Crusaders. Not surprisingly, the Irish League side came out 4-0 winners but Wakehurst learned some pertinent lessons from the game.

New faces began to emerge in the team such as Ian "Stick" Cushenan and Pat O'Neill and they received a baptism of fire in the very first game against Grange Rangers.

Wakehurst found themselves 3-0 down with 30 minutes to go but a great fight back with goals from Roger Galbraith (2), Eddie Cunningham and Mervyn Marshall saw them clinch a superb 4-3 victory.

After this tough test, Wakehurst emerged as the dominant force in 2C scoring 60 goals (with only 8 against) and full points from their first 11 games.

Brian Rock's team, bidding to win the Cochrane Corry for the first time beat Ballyclare (with a young Anthony McCartney in goals) in the quarter-final by a 2-1 margin. In the semi-final they beat Grove United 2-1 (Mullan 2) to reach their first Amateur League final against Rooftop at the Junior Stadium.

Goals from Mullan and Burrell enabled Wakehurst to lift the Cup — the first of many "Amateur" successes.

In the fifth round of the Shield, Wakehurst beat Kyle Rangers 2-0. In the final, however, Wakehurst were beaten 1-0 by Crumlin United despite having most of the play.

It was only a month before the end of the season when Wakehurst lost their unbeaten record in the League to Queen's University — but the title was never in doubt. The record of 26 played, 23 won, 1 draw and 1 defeat speaks volumes for the abilities of the team.

They also broke the scoring record for the Amateur league with 131 strikes.

Player of the Year was Pat O'Neill with the Young Player trophy going to Ian Cushenan. Olympic's Player of the Year was Pat Jordan and for the fourth time Joe Boyle was leading goalscorer — a record yet to be matched. Wille McClean and John Lorimer tied as leading scorers for the Olympic.

1986-87

Promoted to 2B, Wakehurst exacted revenge with a 5-1 defeat of Crumlin United, who had beaten them in the Shield final of the previous season.

Ian Cushenan, after a year's experience, was showing great promise and scored four goals in this game. Mainstays of the team that season included prankster Eddie Cunningham, Jimmy Douglas, Roy Torrington, Robin Galbraith, Jimmy Kernohan, Pat O'Neill, Sammy McVicker, Joe Boyle, Stick Cushenan, Herbie Kernohan and Ronnie Dowds.

Again Wakehurst hit the headlines, gaining promotion to 2A (24 played/38 points) having finished in runners-up spot behind Rosario Santos. They also became the first team in Amateur League history



Wakehurst F.C. 1984-85 League Champions, Canada Cup, Toronto Cup. Back row: J. Moore, B. Thompson, S. Calderwood, R. Galbraith, J. Burrell, J. Hunter, R. Torrington, M. Marshall, J. Boyle, K. Carbery, G. Friel, B. Craig. Front row: B. Rock, C. Mullan, B. McAuley, S. McCrory, J. Douglas, H. Kernohan, J. Kernohan, S. McVicar, E. Cunningham, I. Hunter, P. Byers.



Wakehurst F.C. 1985-86 Amateur League '2C' Champions, Cochrane Corry Cup Winners, Tri-Sport - Leading Goalscorers (131). Back row: J. Moore, J. Lorimer, I. Hunter, R. Galbraith, J. Boyle, C. Mullan, W. McClean, J. Hunter, R. Torrington, J. McCall, J. Boyle, G. Friel, P. Byers, K. Carbery. Front row: B. Thompson, B. Craig, P. O'Neill, S. McVicar, J. Kernohan, E. Cunningham, H. Kernohan, I. Cushenan, B. Carson, B. Rock (Manager).

to retain the leading goalscorer trophy with 107 goals.

In the Junior Cup fifth round they beat Ballymoney 4-0 with goals from Cathal Mullan (3) and Eddie Cunningham. The quarter-final saw Joe Boyle return from injury to score the winner against Irvinestown Wanderers.

They qualified for the final by beating Grange Rangers in a replay by 4-1 with goals from Cushenan (2), Boyle and McClean. The first match finished in a 2-2 draw.

In the Cochrane Corry Cup, Wakehurst beat Ulster Hospital 4-0 with goals from Joe Boyle (3) and Ian Cushenan. They lost their hold on the cup when they were beaten 2-1 by Kelvin. In the Shield against Ards Blues, Joe Boyle reached a remarkable personal milestone with a hat-trick which gave him 300 goals for the club.

Joe once netted nine times against a team from Ards in the 82-83 season! His final "bag" for the year was a staggering 73.

In the May Day Junior Cup Final, Wakehurst lost out to Maghera (Newcastle) in extra time. Leading goalscorer for the year was Ian Cushenan with the Olympic version going to Colin Stewart.

1987-88

After their first eight matches in the 2A "top flight", Wakehurst were joint leaders with Grove United on 12 points.

Brian Rock had virtually dismantled part of the previous year's team to bring in Anthony McCartney in goals, Harry Rock, Rodney Craig and Ernie Corry.

Joe Burrell had returned from Tobermore; Ian Cushenan went to Ballymena United and Harry Kernohan after some superb performances, moved to Larne F.C.

Despite these shake-ups Wakehurst cruised into the quarter finals of the Cochrane Corry Cup with a fine 7-0 win against 2A rivals Ford. Goals came from Rodney Craig (3), Corry, Mullan, McClean and Stewart.

During this period Eddie Cunningham and Pat O'Neill (captain) were chosen for the Amateur League select which defeated the Down Area League.

Wakehurst were narrowly beaten 1-0 by STC in the Clarence Cup. On the league front, Wakehurst were involved in a complicated play-off with Grove United and Kelvin O.B. Unfortunately, Wakehurst were beaten 2-1 in both matches.

Honours at the end of the season went to : Ernie Corry, leading goalscorer; Joe McCall, player of year; Kenny McConkey, Olympic leading scorer; Olympic Player of the Year, Jimmy Elder.

OLYMPIAN HEIGHTS

1988-89

Joe McCall was appointed manager of the Olympic in the Saturday Morning League, leading them to their first trophy success for some time.

In the quarter final of the Stewart Cup they beat Homers 3-2. After being 1-0 down, McCall equalised, typically, after a goalmouth scramble. They lost Jimmy Elder with a facial injury but took the lead through McConkey with seven minutes to go. Homers grabbed an equaliser through Wilfie Loughlin with the clock running out — only for McConkey to score in the last gasp to set up the semi-final against Rathenraw. Having disposed of the Antrim team, Olympic met Penarol in the final.

Jimmy Elder was the hero of this game with a last minute goal in extra time. The Olympic had been leading 1-0 after 10 minutes through Kenny McConkey, with Alan Stewart scoring the second. Penarol fought back gamely to equalise but Elder's last gasp effort was enough to secure the trophy.

In the Amateur League, new players were making their debuts. These included Jason Jordan, whose father Pat had won many medals with Wakehurst in previous years, Kyle Henry and John Brown.

In the Junior Cup, Wakehurst were beaten away at Kilkeel but in the Clarence Cup they scored one of their best victories, defeating Steel and Sons Cup holders, East Belfast, on their home turf.

After the opening 20 minutes in which Wakehurst had flirted with disaster, East Belfast finally got the ball past an in-form McCartney. In the second half, Wakehurst took the game to the city side, Cathal Mullan chipping the keeper to equalise. McCartney saved the day with two minutes left to secure extra time.

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In the first period, Pat O'Neill collected the ball on the left, played a great ball to Jimmy Kernohan and he released Cathal Mullan to score his second.

The team on that day was — McCartney, J. Jordan, J. Brown, Galbraith, Henry, J. Kernohan, McClean, O'Neill, H. Kernohan, Burrell, Mullan. Subs Rock, Cushenan.

SHIELD SUCCESS

1989-90

Joe McCall came in as manager of the Amateur league side at the start of the new season. Brian Rock had given up the post due to work commitments.

Sammy McVicker took over in the Olympic manager's role.

It was to be the year that Wakehurst won the Co. Antrim Junior Shield for the second time in their history — but they paid the price for knock-out success as league fixtures piled up and eventually overwhelmed the team, which finished seventh in 2A.

In the Junior Cup Wakehurst started their campaign with a 5-0 win, goals coming from Mullan (2), Magill, Burrell and Kernohan. Eventually Newry side, Camlough, ended the Wakehurst run with an extra-time victory.

The Shield onslaught started in dramatic fashion as Broadway Thistle went 2-0 up, but goals from Magill, Stewart and a Willie McClean last-gasp effort saw them through.

In the quarter final the team gained a well-deserved away win at Lambeg, winning 2-0 with goals from Junior Magill and Joe Burrell.

They cruised into the semi-final with a 2-0 win against Dublin Road select, both goals being scored by Cushenan.

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Wakehurst reached their fifth Shield final with a win at Inver Park, goals coming from Cathal Mullan (2) and Jimmy Kernohan.

In the final, Wakehurst beat Belfast Rangers 4-1. Herbie Kernohan opened the scoring in the first half but Rangers equalised. Jason Jordan put his team in front again with 20 minutes left and Cushenan scored the "banker", racing from the halfway line to score in the 85th minute. In the dying seconds the same player was fouled in the box and Davy Douglas slammed home the resulting penalty kick.

The Olympic, with a neat blend of youth and experience, gave Dynamo Star a lesson in the Ace Cup, winning 3-0 with goals from Ernie Corry, Colin Stewart and Kenny McConkey.

However, the celebrations were dampened by the broken leg injury to Anthony Steele. They continued on in the Ace Cup with Kenny McConkey getting the winner against Michelln Old Boys.

After 23 matches, the Olympic were again top of the league with 32 points but received a set-back when Dynamo Star returned the "compliment" by beating them 4-1.

1990-91

Ace Cup success came Olympic's way with a final win over Penarol.

The Olympic went 1-0 down early on but eventually they brought pressure to bear on Penarol and snatched the equaliser when Sam McVicker's spadework was nearly headed home by Ernie Corry. Uel McKane made the game and silverware safe with a brave header. Joe McCall's spot kick was superbly saved by Herbie Linton in the Penarol goal but despite this the trophy was destined for the Wakehurst clubrooms.

The Junior Cup trail saw Wakehurst reach yet another final — only to see their hopes cruelly dashed.

In the first game against Lurgan Celtic, at Ballyskeagh, Wakehurst almost had their fingertips on the trophy. With the score poised at 1-1 (Jimmy Kernohan), Junior Magill had a great scoring opportunity . . . but his shot blasted off the Lurgan crossbar.

Finishing power was to prove a problem in the replay when Celtic nudged home by a 1-0 margin.



Wakehurst Olympic 1988-89 Stewart Cup Winners. Back row: Michael O'Neill, K. McConkey, J. Loughran, D. Neeson, C. Marks, E. Corry, J. McCall, A. Stewart, J. Elder. Front row: J. Jordan, D. James, T. Hamill, I. Cushenahan, M. Hamill, S. McVicar, A. Balmer, M. Goktrig.



1989-90 Junior Shield Winners. Back row: K. Carbery, B. Thompson, S. McVicar, B. Storey, Junior Magill, C. Marks, J. Brown, N. Kirk, W. McClean, J. Moore, J. McCall, D. Birt, A. Stewart. Middle row: I. Cushenahan, T. Hamill, J. Burrell, H. Rock, J. Jordan, G. Friel. Front row: B. Rock, R. Jordan, D. James, J. Kernohan, H. Kernohan, D. Douglas, A. Shaw.

In the league, Wakehurst had 24 points from 22 games and again the Cup runs made it very hard to keep up League momentum.

For the record, the Junior Cup Final team was: Marks, Jordan, N. Brown, J. Brown, Rock, McClean, H. Kernohan, J. Kernohan, Hamill, Mullan, Henry,. Subs. Magill, Elder.

... BACK IN THE TROPHY CABINET

1991-92

Wakehurst started the new season in fine form, winning their first two games under the management of (yet again) Brian Rock. New signings Rab Ritchie and Davey Lowry were soon blended into the team.

In the Cochrane Corry Cup, Wakehurst easily beat Bangor Rangers at home with goals from Ritchie (2), Herbie Kernohan, Willie McClean and new signing Mickey Wilson from Antrim.

Back on the league front, there was a notable 7-2 victory (despite a weakened team) over White Belfast. Goals came from Mullan (2), McClean (2), H. Kernohan (2) and Hamill. The result was marred by the injury to Michael McCartney who broke his leg in the second half.

Wakehurst again reached the quarter finals of the Cochrane Corry by beating 2nd Old Boys 3-1 (Wilson, J. Kernohan, McClean).

But the outcome of the resulting encounter with Abbey Villa was worth savouring. Wakehurst were in from through a fabulous Davy Douglas goal and with 10 minutes left Mickey Wilson scored the second. Villa battled gamely and pulled one goal back leaving Wakehurst holding on equally grimly and gamely to secure a semi-final place against Lisburn.

The semi-final saw Wakehurst 1-0 down after 20 minutes but Davy Lowry scored a peach goal, lobbing the keeper from 20 yards to equalise. After that cool piece of play it was only logical that his nickname of the "Iceman" came into vogue.

With 12 minutes to go, Ritchie was fouled in the box allowing McClean to hammer home the penalty.

That man Lowry cropped up in the final again, making two of the goals — one for McClean, the other Neil Brown — on the way to lifting the Cup against 2C Sport and Leisure F.C. Cathal Mullan should also be remembered for his equalising goal which set Wakehurst on the way to victory.

Kyle Henry was Player of the Year with Willie McClean the leading goalscorer.

1992-93

The season started off on a down note with the withdrawal of Wakehurst Olympic from the Saturday Morning League. The Olympic had been weakened in the previous season when they lost a number of players.

The Amateur League side themselves faced problems with Rab Ritchie moving to Ballymena Reserves.

Cochrane Cup success continued at the expense, it must be admitted, of League honours.

By January Wakehurst had 12 points from 10 games, their best league form coming at Holywood where they scored a great 5-2 victory with goals from Lowry (2), Tom McFall, Mark Hyndman and Mullan.

In the Clarence Cup, they lost out on penalties to Ardglass but gained revenge when they beat the same team 2-1 in the Cochrane Corry.

In the semi-final, Davy Lowry's single goal was enough to see off the challenge of Kelvin O.B.

Wakehurst became only the second side in the history of the competition to win the Cochrane Corry two years in succession.

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This was achieved with a 2-0 defeat of Rosario at Dixon Park.

Brian Rock's side went into the lead 15 minutes before half time when Lowry slotted home the opener. The second half had barely begun when Hamill drove into the box for Lowry to finish in typical fashion.

The Final team was: A. McCartney, Brown, Rock, Hill, Hazlett, J. Kernohan, Burrell, McFall, Hamill, Hyndman, Lowry, Mullan, Kernohan and Henry.

Davy Lowry won the leading goalscorer trophy for the first time, adding his name to the likes of Hunter, Erwin, O'Kane, Boyle and Cushenan.

RIGHT UP TO DATE

1993-94

Wakehurst's form in the Amateur League was, again, very inconsistent and they struggled to put any kind of run together.

However, Michael McCartney's team had already won the Cochrane Corry Cup twice and they had every reason to believe they would retain the coveted trophy for the third year running.

Drawn at home in the first round to Newtownbreda Baptist, they had a comfortable 6-1 victory with goals from Davy Lowry, Adrian Hill, Charlie McQuillan, Kenny Neilly, Jimmy Young and Jimmy Kernohan. This earned them a home draw against Castle United who they defeated 3-0 with Lowry again among the goals.

The third round game was a tougher proposition away to Holywood Rec. — but a Davy Lowry hat-trick saw 'Hurst cruise through.

The draw was kind and in the quarter final Wakehurst easily disposed of Wesley (9-1) to clinch a semi spot against old rivals, Rosario.

Abysmal weather conditions caused two postponements before the game was eventually played at the Junior Stadium on March 16, 1994.



1991-92 Cochrane Corry Cup Winners. Back row: I. Hunter, J. Jordan, C. Mullan, N. Brown, A. McCartney, H. Rock, R. Ritchie, A. Hill, W. McClean, B. Rock. Front row: D. Douglas, H. Kernohan, K. Henry, J. Kernohan, M. McCartney, D. Lowry, T. Hamill.



1992-93 Cochrane Corry Cup Winners. Back row: N. Brown, J. Burrell, H. Rock, A. McCartney, A. Hill, B. Hazlett, C. Mullan. Front row: T. McFall, T. Hamill, J. Kernohan, M. Hyndman, D. Lowry, K. Henry.



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The game was played in great spirit with Wakehurst coming from 2-0 and 3-1 down to force the match into extra time, the vital goals were scored by Willie McClean, Charlie McQuillan and Les Crawford . . .

No further goals were added in the extra period and a penalty shoot-out was required to break the deadlock. After five penalties from each side, the score stood at 4-3 to Wakehurst and the celebrations were poised to begin when a controversial decision stopped everyone in the ground in their tracks.

In his wisdom, the referee decided that the kick taken by Wakehurst player-manager, Michael McCartney, was not, after all, a goal. Forced to carry on, the team were beaten in "sudden death".

Following an appeal to the Amateur League, Wakehurst were placed in the final but this was reversed by the IFA following a protest by Rosario . . . a sad and controversial end to Wakehurst's reign as Cochrane Corry Cup supremos.

In the Irish Junior Cup, the team were drawn away to holders Oxford United and were unlucky to lose 1-0. Oxford eventually made it all the way to the final.

In the Clarence Cup, after victories over Wellington Rec. (3-1), Knockbreda (5-1), Queen's Grads. (4-1) and Dundonald (4-2), Wakehurst were drawn away to Premier League kingpins, Drumanness, who won 4-0.

Given that Michael McCartney was working with a smaller squad of players than he would have preferred, he must be congratulated on the team's overall performance in a difficult season.



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Twenty-five Year. 1993-94 Team Dinner Back row: R. Ritchie, H. Rock, A. Hill, G. Black, J. Burrell, I. McCully, J. Young, W. McClean.
Front row: D. Lowry, M. McCartney (Manager), A. McCartney, J. Kernohan, T. Hamill.

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New Years Day Twenty-five Year Fixture. Davy Davidson and
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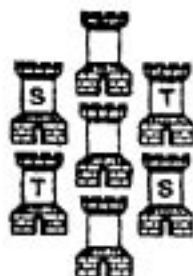
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GREETINGS FROM THE BALLYMENA UNITED SOCIAL CLUB

Mention the name Wakehurst to anybody in Irish Football circles and they will instantly know who you are talking about.

Since they were formed 25 years ago they have won every honour in the Ballymena Junior League and, have enjoyed considerable success since they broadened their horizons and joined the Amateur League eight years ago.

We in Ballymena United Social Club have always been interested in local junior football and we have pleasure in congratulating Wakehurst on their achievements and wish them all the best for the next quarter century.

We are sure they will go from strength to strength.

WILSON MARK

Chairman Ballymena United Social Club

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ODE TO WAKEHURST

I've a story to tell, so come listen to me,
It concerns a great soccer club, Wakehurst FC,
In the Tourist Bar, Bridge Street (the local F.A.)
McIlroy's Babes were founded, it all started that day.
Now the pressure it mounted and "Waughy" departed,
Franny Smyth took his place, that's when big trouble started
He did some funny things and reduced them to tears
By getting them suspended . . . for three bloody years!
But the club made amends and in stature they grew,
Then the Ladysmith Bar became their HQ,
They signed some great players and some weirdos too,
And their names, my dear friends, I will now tell to you.
There was John "Lazy" Lorimer, Tooth Steele and "Wee Wub"
Not forgetting Rab Ritchie, the great "Supergub"
Kevin Carbery (Dalglish) who played in all weathers
And "yer man" Chick O'Kane who ruffled some feathers.
"Big Tiny" McVicker, "Turk" Torrington too,
"Mad Dog" Moore, "Beast" Montgomery . . . it sounds like a zoo!!
"Bossman" Thompson, "Billy Whizz", "Rio" Moore, Birdie Craig, John Barratt
(school teacher) now there's a real gag!
"Butcher Balmer", "El Greggo", Joe McCall and John White,
Big Shepherd, "Iceman" Lowry and Sutcliffe . . . dear God, what a sight!
"Hookie" Craig, "Chunky" Erwin, now there was a sweeper
And poor Ivan Alexander . . . the short sighted 'keeper!
Now Anthony McCartney (and we're not digging dirt)
Wore number 715 on his goalkeeping shirt
They said "Tank" McClean would come a real cropper
But the fact of the matter is, he became a real copper!
Joe Boyle and Ian Hunter still argue it seems
As to which of them scored most goals for the team!
And the best competition, I'm told that by far
Is between Railway Tavern and Ladysmith Bar!
Not forgetting Big Best and wee Bestie too,
(Match of the Day? More like give us a clue!)
And our star Brian Rock . . . he could score at a pinch
Own goals, I mean . . . just ask Ballynahinch.
But alas my dear friends, my ode it has ended
Please don't take offence as none was intended
With my hand on my heart, I'm as thrilled as can be
For the staff — and the players — of Wakehurst FC.



Twenty-five Year Dinner, Adair Arms, Guests and Committee. Back row: F. Smyth, B. Thompson, A. McCartney, B. Storey, M. McCartney, G. Friel, C. Best, J. Moore. Front row: J. Lorimer (Secretary), J. Fullerton (Guest Speaker), B. Rock (Chairman), K. Carbery (Treasurer).

25th DINNER CELEBRATIONS



Twenty-five Year Dinner 1969-70 Team. Back row: B. Rock, B. Thompson, B. Lennox, F. Best, I. Hunter, I. Alexander, B. Craig, B. McIlroy. Front row: B. Balmer, C. Best, N. Craig, J. Barrett, J. Cameron, F. Smyth.

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1985-86 Wakehurst Olympic 2nd Division Champions. Back row: B. Craig, J. Jordan, A. Balmer, A. Greene, G. Foster, R. Torrington, J. McCall, J. Elder, W. Galbraith, I. Hunter, B. Thompson. Front row: S. McVicar, J. Lorimer, K. McConkey, C. Stewart, T. Hamill, S. McCrory, P. Byers, P. Jordan, J. Montgomery, Ryan Thompson.

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1990-91 A grey day for Wakehurst – Beaten Finalists Irish Junior Cup. Back row: J. McCall, J. Burrell, Junior Magill, Terry Hamill, H. Rock, C. Marks, W. McClean, J. Brown, J. Elder, D. Douglas. Front row: R. Jordan, C. Mullan, J. Kernohan, H. Kernohan, N. Brown, K. Henry, J. Jordan, S. McVicar.

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Over the last 25 years the name of Wakehurst has become synonymous with success in the local football scene.

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Indeed many still remember an August night a few years ago when Wakehurst, under the management of John (Smudger) Smith, arguably one of the most talented players ever to don a Ballymena shirt, beat the Light Blues 1-0 at the Showgrounds in a pre-season friendly.

As well as "Smudger" many Wakehurst players have performed with distinction for Ballymena Utd. and, hopefully, this trend will continue.

As they celebrate their Silver Jubilee we at United would like to congratulate them on their many triumphs and wish them all the best for the future.

N. McBURNEY
 Chairman

WAKEHURST FOOTBALL CLUB

Player of the Year

BILL PURSER MEMORIAL CUP

1974-75	R. Torrington	1984-85	E. Cunningham
1975-76	P. Jordan	1985-86	P. O'Neill
1976-77	N. Wylie	1986-87	W. McClean
1977-78	N. Wylie	1987-88	H. Rock
1978-79	J. McColl	1988-89	H. Kernohan
1979-80	A. Cummings	1989-90	J. Brown
1980-81	J. McColl	1990-91	N. Brown
1981-82	R. Torrington	1991-92	K. Henry
1982-83	J. Kernohan	1992-93	A. McCartney
1983-84	R. Galbraith	1993-94	

WAKEHURST FOOTBALL CLUB

Leading Goalscorer

1969-70	I. Hunter	1982-83	J. Boyle
1970-71	I. Hunter	1983-84	J. Boyle
1971-72	N. Craig	1984-85	S. Calderwood
1972-73	G. Erwin	1985-86	J. Boyle
1973-74	N. Craig	1986-87	I. Cushenan
1974-75	G. Erwin	1987-88	E. Corry
1975-76	J. Weir	1988-89	I. Cushenan
1976-77	J. Weir	1989-90	I. Cushenan
1977-78	R. Harris	1990-91	C. Mullan
1978-79	D. O'Kane	1991-92	W. McClean
1979-80	B. Erwin	1992-93	D. Lowry
1980-81	J. Boyle	1993-94	D. Lowry
1981-82	G. Erwin		

WAKEHURST OLYMPIC FOOTBALL CLUB

Player of the Year

CRAIG CUP

1976-77	L. O'Boyle	1984-85	B. Kennedy
1977-78	J. Barrett	1985-86	P. Jordan
1978-79	N. Craig	1986-87	
1979-80	R. Galbraith	1987-88	J. Elder
1980-81	J. Black	1988-89	J. Loughlin
1981-82	D. Mullan	1989-90	J. McColl
1982-83	J. Hunter	1990-91	J. McColl
1983-84	J. Loughlin		

WAKEHURST OLYMPIC FOOTBALL CLUB

Leading Goalscorer

JIM BEST CUP

1979-80	A. Bamber/A. Green	1986-87	C. Stewart
1980-81	A. Bamber	1987-88	K. McConkey
1981-82	D. Davidson	1988-89	J. Elder
1982-83	J. Lorimer	1989-90	K. McConkey
1983-84	J. Black	1990-91	E. Corry
1984-85	P. Thompson	1991-92	I. Cushenan
1985-86	J. Lorimer/W. McClean		

WAKEHURST FOOTBALL CLUB

Young Player of the Year

PRESIDENTS CUP

1978-79	A. Steele
1979-80	D. Moore
1980-81	J. Kernohan
1981-82	N. Smith
1982-83	W. McClean
1983-84	H. Kernohan
1984-85	H. Kernohan
1985-86	I. Cushenan
1986-87	A. Balmer
1987-88	R. Craig
1988-89	J. Jordan
1989-90	J. Jordan
1990-91	D. Livingstone
1991-92	T. Hamill
1992-93	M. Hyndman
1993-94	



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