

Ballylanders clubs join together in celebration

THE great community spirit that exists in Ballylanders was highlighted at the weekend when three local clubs held their fourth joint annual community social at the Aherlow House Hotel.

The Macra na Feirme, GAA and soccer clubs joined forces to celebrate a most successful year for Ballylanders.

Over 270 people gathered at the venue and the MC for the night was the Macra club chairman, John O'Dwyer. He welcomed everyone to the function, in particular the parish priest, Fr T J Breen.

Speaking on behalf of Macra John outlined the great successes Ballylanders Macra achieved in 1993. They won the prestigious county shield for the top club in the county, as well as five county titles, numerous field evenings and a gold award.

The trophies were presented on the night.

He also spoke about the Christmas lights that Ballylanders Macra had put on the school trees and the beautiful backdrop they gave to the village during the Christmas period.

Probably the highlight of the Macra year was when a Friesian calf, called Jessie, joined the club!

Ballylanders Macra, in conjunction with the Bothar third world development agency, hopes to send this in-calf dairy heifer to a poverty stricken family in Uganda next December, when Bothar hopes to send a shipment of about 60 dairy cows to Africa.



Members of Ballylanders Macra na Feirme club with the county shield at their annual dinner dance at the Aherlow House Hotel. (Niall St John)

The soccer club chairman, Damien Fitzgerald, in his address, thanked everyone who supported their recent 300 club draw. He paid particular tribute to P J Noonan and Johnny Connolly for all their help with coaching the junior and youth teams. He also

expressed the club's thanks to all the people who supported them every Sunday at their matches.

The GAA club chairman, James Hickey, talked about the great success the club enjoyed during the past year. The minors and the

junior players were presented with their South and County trophies on the night.

James thanked everyone for joining in the Mackey Stand draw.

A presentation of a gold clock was made to Bill Fox

for all his fund raising work and his dedication to the club down through the years.

Fr Breen, in his summing up address, welcomed everyone and spoke of the great community spirit which existed between the

three clubs.

He said the clubs each played a significant role in the life and activities of the Ballylanders community.

After the formalities, a great evening was enjoyed by one and all as they danced the night away to the music of Kim's People.



Ballylanders soccer club members D J Noonan, Matthew Walsh and Tom Hanly, at their annual dinner dance. (Niall St John)



Pat Irwin, Dan Mansell and Eamonn O'Donnell, Ballylanders soccer club, enjoying their annual social at Aherlow. (Niall St John)



ROUNDAABOUT

BY BILLY KELLY

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Pat Irwin, Dan Mansell and Eamonn O'Donnell, Ballylanders soccer club, enjoying their annual social at Aherlow. (Niall St John)



Ballylanders Macra na Feirme committee members at their annual function in Aherlow House: John Fox, chairman; Margaret Hanley, secretary; John O'Dwyer, president; Bridget Fitzgerald, PRO, and John Hourigan, treasurer.



A presentation to Kathleen Sampson, Ballylanders and district handicapped building fund by Ballylanders Macra members David Noonan and John Hourigan, treasurer. (Niall St John)

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CENTRA



Ballylanders GAA club members at their annual dinner dance at Aherlow House: (front) David Quirke, trainer; Breda Meade, Ann Hickey, secretary, and Seamus Murphy, vice-chairman, (back) Fr T J Breen, president; Bill Fox, vice-chairman; Gerard Kelly, assistant secretary; Dan Kelly, PRO and selector, with Tom O'Connor, chairman, Bord na nÓg. (Niall St John)