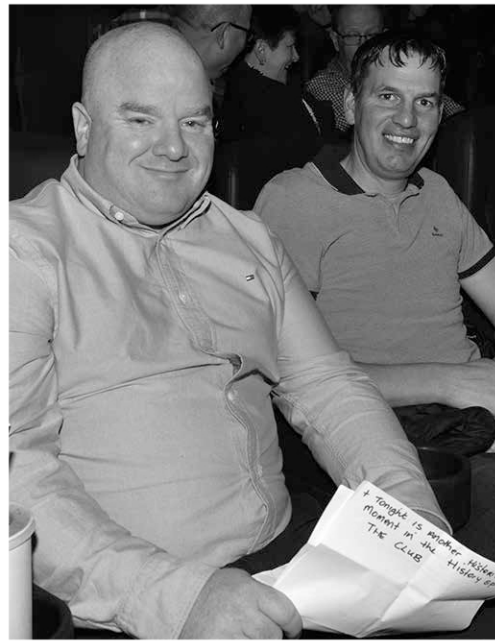




Billy and Adam Gilroy.



Gareth Wilkinson and Noah Gallinagh.



Eddie McGarvey, Paul Doherty and Philip Robinson.

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one part of the financing, the other was the obligation on the committee to provide matching funding. That meant an array of fundraisers including a 'Strictly Come Dancing's show. The local community got behind the venture and the dream was realised. Two men who learned their underage football with Illistrin and have gone on to play at elite level Shane Blaney and Conor O'Reilly were also interviewed. Blaney is now playing in the Scottish Premier Division with Motherwell while O'Reilly, a former Republic of Ireland youth international joined the Ipswich Town Academy before moving on a soccer scholarship to the USA.

It was just over a year ago that Karl Sweeney had the idea of doing something on the history of the Illistrin Schoolboys and when it got the thumbs up from the Chairperson Annraoi Cheevers, Secretary Ciaran McElwaine and the Committee there was lift-off. A huge amount of work went into the project and that was acknowledged by Annraoi Cheevers on Thursday night. Gareth Wilkinson who is a journalist with UTV was a huge help to Karl in putting the video package together.

Addressing the gathering on Thursday night Karl said. "There is so much good that happens in society and local community that never seems to get the same attention as the bad. I see positive role models



Luke and Helen Sweeney with Enda Kelly.

giving of their time voluntarily for the benefit of children every single day I walk through the gates of Corry Park. Through this documentary I wanted to highlight the good in the simple things that people do which mostly goes unnoticed.

We are here tonight to celebrate and reflect on the 2024 season in this short documentary. As busy families, parents, coaches and players, we don't always appreciate the real value of what we are doing, when we are



Ryan McDaid, Jamie Harley and Ben Roche.

doing it. With Just Another Year, we will have a video souvenir of this precious time with our children at Illistrin FC. It will be like looking back at an old photo album, for many years to come."

The three 45-minute episodes show more extended interviews and footage than was shown on Thursday night. There are three distinct parts - Then and Now; Dream on and The Community and The Child. These three (full) episodes will be released shortly.