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September 2025

Your President's Message

Shillelagh Brothers,

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed their Labor Day weekend—local summer is finally here, hallelujah!

Cigar Night – Bourbon Twist

September kicked off with **Cigar Night: Old Fashioned Style**, a great success thanks to Chris Celiberti, Mike Kahrer, Mike Miles, and mixologist Jeff Wells. Proceeds benefited **Tunnels to Towers**—thank you to everyone who attended and supported this cause.

9/11 Run, Walk, Bike, Remember – After Event

Though not an official Shillelagh event, we were proud to host the after-gathering for the annual memorial.

½ Way to St. Patrick's Day Party – Saturday, 9/13

The weather was perfect for our ½ **Way to St. Patrick's Day** celebration, featuring The Snakes and, of course, the "Best Band in the Land." Food from **Berg's** and **Matteo Sabrett's hot dog cart** was outstanding. Huge thanks to our **Kitchen Staff, Security Team, Bartenders**, and especially all members and guests who helped with setup and cleanup.

Fall Activities Are Back

Dart League and **Trivia Night** have started their post-summer seasons with strong turnouts—keep that energy going!

This Saturday: Live entertainment featuring Eammon Ryan.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

- **Saturday, 10/4 – Annual Pat McGovern 5K Run**
- **Sunday, 10/19 – Pint for a Pint Blood Drive**
- **Saturday, 10/25 – Scaryoke Night**

Next Meeting Night

- **Wednesday, October 1st**

Salantie',

Matt Doherty

President, FSOS Jersey Shore



Saturday, September 27th • **Eammon Ryan Band**

Wednesday October 1st • **FSOS Meeting Night**

Saturday October 4th • **Annual Pat Magovern 5K Run**

Friday October 17th • **Trivia Night**

Sunday October 19th • **Greg Higgins Memorial Blood Drive**

Saturday October 25th • **Scaryoke with DJ Don**



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an association, society, or community of people
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Patrick "POD" O'Donnell





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about us:

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Thank You

Irish History #128

The British and Irish Lions: the stuff that dreams are made of.

The club's dedicated movie-man bartender will probably recall this scene better than me, but my memory of the climax in the famous film-noir *Maltese Falcon* goes like this: 4 people are carted off to jail by police for 3 murders motivated by their desire to acquire a black, bejeweled falcon statuette. They believed there was gold under the black paint. Holding the falcon, Ward Bond (Detective Tom Polhaus) asks Humphrey Bogart (private eye Sam Spade) what is this figurine? Bogart responds, it's "the stuff that dreams are made of."

For rugby players on the English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish national teams, making the British and Irish Lions is the stuff that dreams are made of. For a northern hemisphere rugger, selection as a Lion is a mark of excellence.

The Lions have been around since the end of the 19th century, a time when Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom. The first tour in 1888 was played against New Zealand and Australia, both English colonies at the time. The team played South Africa, also a colony, in 1891. The best players from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland are selected to be Lions. Reporters following the 1924 tour in South Africa gave the squad the "Lions" name in recognition of the lion emblem on the ties the players wore. In those days, jackets and ties were de rigueur for ruggers on tour.

Since 1989, the Lions have visited the southern hemisphere every 4 years and played a 3 Test match series against Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa, in that rotational order thereby facing each of them once every 12 years. In the last 36 years, the New Zealand All Blacks and South Africa Springboks have, on occasion, defeated the Lions 3 matches to nil, while the Lions have never won 3 matches in a Test series.

In 1974, the Lions were led by Irishman Willie John McBride. (The captain was from Northern Ireland. Unlike soccer, the Irish national rugby squad is made up of players from all 32 counties on the island.)

McBride instilled "a take no prisoners" attitude in the team, who beat the Springboks in 3 matches and tied them in one. Some call the 1974 squad the best Lions team ever.

This past summer, the British and Irish Lions faced the Australia Wallabies. In their last two contests, the Wallabies won the series 2-1 in 2001, while the Lions won 2-1 in 2013. The Lions hoped to claim sporting glory by winning all 3 matches in 2025. Alas, they fell short of that goal in an exciting Test series.

Ireland's head coach, Andy Farrell, coached the Lions. He selected the team's assistant coaches and players. Hence, there was a large contingent of Irish in both roles. For the first match, out of the 15 players Farrell selected to start, 7 were from the Irish national squad, and out of the 8 replacements 3 were Irish.

The Lions were hungry and physical, muscling to a 24-5 lead. They put the Wallabies away early, although 2 Australian tries in the last quarter (80-minute match) made the final score, 27-19, respectable. After the game, some rugby pundits predicted a 3-0 whitewash. They felt Australia did not have a chance against the power of the Lions. I didn't see it that way. For me, the late Wallaby tries were a sign of things to come. It showed that despite being down they refused to quit and continued to fight.

Farrell named 9 Irish starters for the second match, along with 2 on the bench. The game was played in Australia's largest sports stadium (Melbourne Cricket Ground) in front of 90,000 fans. It was the biggest crowd in Lions history, and spectators got to see an epic match that wasn't decided until the 79th minute.

The Wallabies began where they had left off in the first match. Winning the collisions and scoring 3 unanswered tries, they jumped to a 23-5 lead. But the Lions clawed their way back to make it 23-17 at halftime. A 3-point penalty kick gave the Wallabies a 2-score lead before the Lions cranked-up the heat. A try by Taidhg Beirne (Irish) and the conversion by Fin

Russell (Scottish) cut the lead for Australia to 26-24. As the clock wound down, the Lions went through a 13-phase attack that led to Hugo Keenan's try with 1 minute remaining. Russell missed the conversion but ran out the clock in doing so. Final score, Lions 29, Wallabies 26.

Three Irish starters were involved in the dramatic conclusion. Scrum-half Jamison Gibson Park saw a 2-on-2 to his left. He passed to fullback Keenan, who had big Jack Conan on his outside. Keenan could have passed to Conan. Indeed, Farrell was screaming for him pass it but said he knew Keenan would back himself in that situation. Keenan sidestepped his man and got over the line. Heartbreak for Australia.

Down 2 games to nil, the Wallabies had lost the series. However, they kept fighting, and it paid off in the third match. The game was played in a torrential rainstorm that turned the pitch into a soggy bog. Once again, Farrell named 9 Irish players among the starters with another on the bench.

It was a brutal encounter. 3 players left the field due to head injury protocols. The Lions lost their 2 starting second-rows - team captain Mario Itoje (English), and James Ryan (Irish) who was carted off the field. With Wallaby forward Will Skelton leading a ferocious attack, Australia was up 8-0 at the halftime break. This time they didn't suffer any let-down. 3 minutes into the second half, the threat of lightning strikes caused a 38-minute suspension of play. (A mid-match delay of game for weather is abnormal in rugby. None of the players had experienced it before.) After play resumed, the Wallabies scored 2 more tries, while the Lions were unable to mount a comeback. Final score, Wallabies 22, Lions 12.

Australia's fearless victory denied the Lions rugby immortality. Five decades on, Willie John McBride's 1974 team remains the only Lions squad to win 3 matches down-under.

Nevertheless, the tour gave the Lions in general and Irish in particular much to be proud of. First, the Lions achieved a 2-1 series victory. Second, Munster forward Tadhg Beirne was named player of the series. (As they say in rugby: "forwards win games, backs decide by how much.") Third, Leinster tight head prop

Tadhg Furlong sealed his status as a world class player by starting all 3 tests for the third consecutive Lions tour - 9 matches in a row. (He is from New Ross, Co. Wexford; that is, the same area JFK's family emigrated from when they came to the US during the famine. I've met Furlong. He is very friendly and down-to-earth. He is wearing jersey #3 in the accompanying photo.)

It's not easy to bring a group of diverse players together and forge them into one team in a short period of time. Farrell got everyone to buy into a team-first philosophy, make sacrifices for the team, and perform at their best. Hopefully, he will be asked to return as Lions coach for the Test series in New Zealand in 2029.

Before that, though, world class rugby will be back in Australia in 2027, when they host the world rugby tournament. For centuries up to present times, the Irish have been emigrating to Australia. Some were forced to go and others went willingly. A large contingent of Irish rugby supporters can be expected to fill Aussie stadiums, singing "Zombie" and "The Fields of Athenry" in cheering the Irish national team on in 2027. Give blood. Play rugby. Go Irish.

Slainte, EMN

References: Clem Thomas, The History of the British and Irish Lions, Mainstream Publishing Company (2025); Barry Sheehan, "Dan Sheehan's Father Barry Reflects on Lions Tour," Irish Times (August 7, 2025); Gerry Thornley, "Hugo Keenan's Last-Minute Try Secures Series Win," Irish Times (July 26, 2025); Gerry Thornley, "Should This Be His Final Bow, Furlong Has Signed His Name Among the Greats," Irish Times (August 2, 2025).



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The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore

September 2025

As the end of summer closes in, a fun time of year is upon us. The MLB is gearing up for playoffs, college football has started, the NFL is starting in a week as I write this and the NHL opener is about a month away!

School has started and there has been a slight chill in the air for the last few nights.

As 'local summer' starts, hopefully we can get a few more beautiful days to enjoy!

Quite a few new students are attending our FREE lessons to learn to play bagpipes and drums! What's stopping you from giving it a go! Stop by Tuesday nights at 6:30 upstairs at the club to talk with me or anyone in the band.

We have a performance at our Club's half way to St Paddy's Day Party on September 13th!

We also have a performance set for the Army of Hope for the Lacey Elks on September 14th

October we perform in the annual Columbus Day Parade in Seaside.

We continue to work on new music and having a lot of fun at rehearsals on Tuesday nights!

I am having so much fun in our band and have met so many outstanding people that are more than friends, they are my band family!

PDJS Q&A:

1. Can anyone learn to play?

Yes! Kids and adults can learn to play. I feel anyone with the desire and passion to play, can learn!

2. How many songs does the band play?

We call songs, tunes in the pipe band world. The band repertoire has well over 50 tunes. We play about 25-30 tunes on a regular basis. We rotate some music in and out and in recent years we have been adding new music to keep things fun!

3. What is the criteria to get into the band?

Bagpipers need to perform 12 tunes to pass your audition. Drummers have a little different criteria to pass the audition including playing the street beat, 4/4 scores, 3/4 and 6/8 scores also. Easy? Well, it is easier if you practice and stick with it!

Need a piper or the band to play at an event?

Want to have a bagpiper, small group or the band to celebrate a promotion, a backyard bbq or birthday party? We perform for all kinds of events: weddings, funerals, parties, grand openings, ceremonies, graduations, backyard bbq's and more!

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For more info, please contact our Band Manager, Mark Mastowski (732-233-6136)

Want to find out more about our band? Our email is band@jspipesanddrums.com which can be accessed by visiting our updated website www.jspipesanddrums.com or talk to any band member for information. We always try to accommodate all requests. Remember that we, just like you, have family, job and other commitments/obligations (some beyond our control).

Anyone with pictures or video of the band, please send them along to me pdjspiper@hotmail.com

Thank you!

Thank you and we appreciate the continued support from all of you!!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler



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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, 7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact
information to update?

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rkmckenna@aol.com.com
or Ray Spengler
pdjspiper@hotmail.com

Have information on bereavement?

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Have news to share in the newsletter? Contact info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com

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