

JP McManus singled out for lifelong generosity to Limerick.

A SPECIAL Lifetime Achievement award is being presented this year to JP McManus in recognition of his generosity to his native Limerick. It is estimated that Mr McManus has donated more than €70m to countless worthy organisations and individuals in recent years.

Much of this has been generated by the JP McManus Invitation Pro-Am golf classic, which takes place every five years and which has now raised over €50m for local charities.

The fourth Pro-Am took place last

July in Adare and raised over €30m for the disadvantaged, local hospitals and other Mid-West charities.

Beneficiaries included the Mid Western Hospital Development Trust, the Daughters of Charity, the Brothers of Charity, Limerick Youth Service and Milford Care Centre in Limerick.

And these represent just a few of the organisations in Limerick supported by Mr McManus.

In 1996 he established the JP McManus Scholarship Award, in which he provides €4,500 each study year to selected students at his former secondary school CBS Sexton Street in

Limerick.

A dedicated sports fan, Mr McManus has donated over €5m of his own money to Limerick GAA to help pay for the redevelopment of the Gaelic Grounds. He has also entered into a three-year €500,000 per annum sponsorship of the county's teams.

Other donations include €5m to the University of Limerick Business School and €1m to the local branch of the Alzheimer Society, which helped it buy a new respite centre in Killaloe Co Clare recently.

Other recipients of his generosity over the years include Charleville

Association for the Mentally Handicapped, St Vincent de Paul, MS Ireland, the Samaritans, St Camillus Acquired Brain Injury Centre, the Trocaire Asia tsunami appeal and many more.

Nationally, he has pledged €60m to the Campus Ireland and Stadium Ireland project.

Born in Limerick in 1951, John Patrick McManus began his business career at his family's construction plant hire firm. He then became an on-course bookmaker at Limerick's greyhound track, before moving into horse ownership and racing.

From there, the rest is history. Mr McManus is now famous the world over. He has derived certain fame for his huge bets—which he has never admitted to placing—and also for his astute foreign exchange wheeling and dealing. But however Mr McManus has amassed his fortune, the name JP McManus is synonymous with business success and wealth and the kind of lifestyle that would be simply unattainable for anyone outside the A list. The phonebook on his mobile phone would probably resemble a list of the rich and famous.


It is unsurprising that a man of such profile would have his critics. There would be no love for him among Manchester United fans, aggrieved at how he and his business partner John Magnier amassed a majority shareholding in the club before selling to reviled US business tycoon Malcolm Glazer.

But even among the critics, there is no small amount of admiration about the depth of McManus's multi-million euro generosity towards his native town and county. The term 'putting something back' seems rather insufficient to describe it.


Tanaiste is to reveal the Limerick Person of the Year for 2005

Special Report
by DONAL
O'REGAN


TWELVE people from diverse and different walks of life but united by the will to succeed and make a difference await the announcement of Limerick Person of the Year this Friday. Tanaiste and Minister for Health Mary Harney will bestow the prestigious title on just one of the dozen, but in truth, all of the nominees qualify as Limerick Person of the Year. "We have a magnificent selection of people and I would like to wish each and every one of them the very best of luck," said Joe Gleeson, managing director of the Limerick Leader, which, with the Clarion Hotel and Southern Advertising, sponsor the event every year. From the sporting field, rugby star




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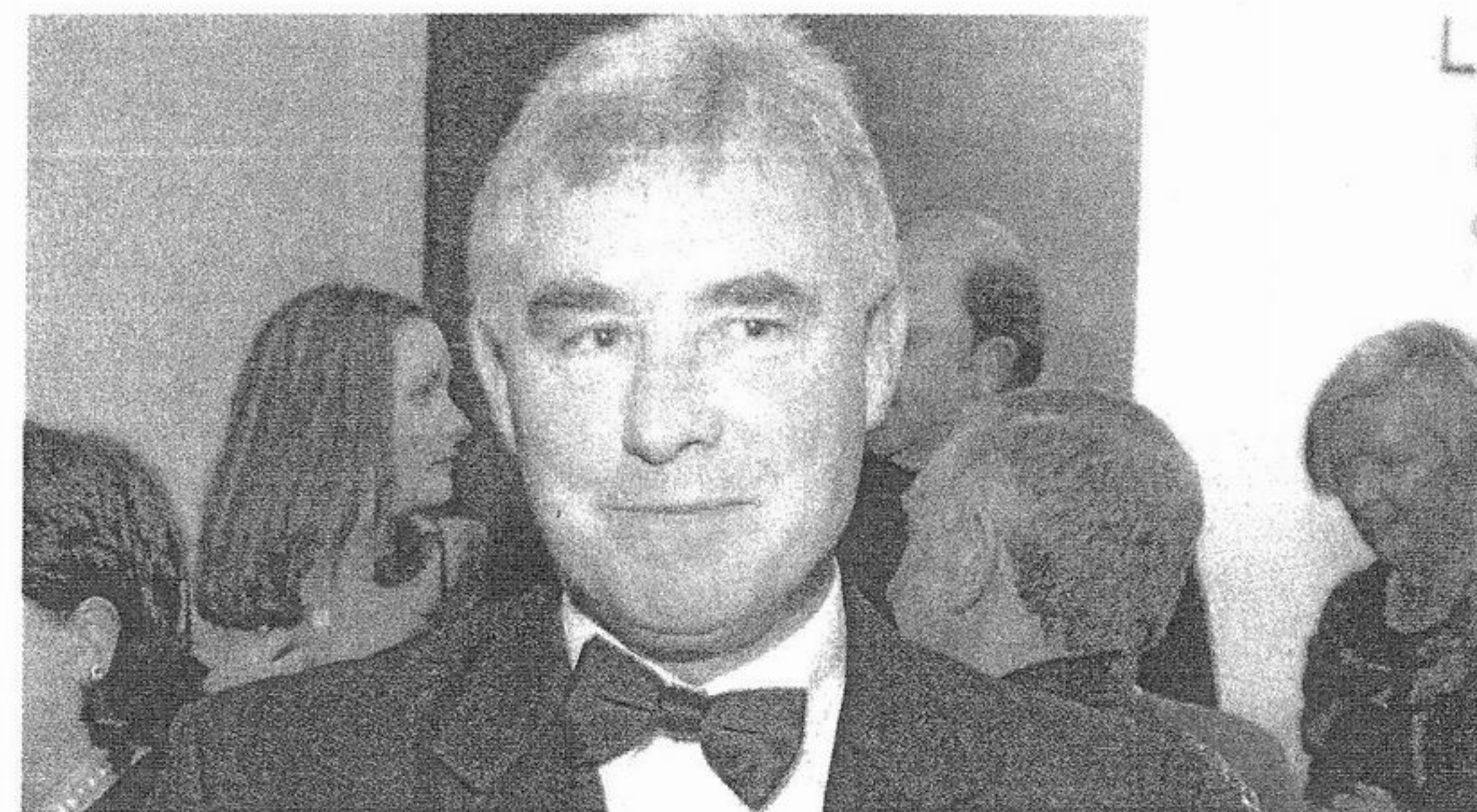
Ger O'Rourke, minor hurling manager Timmy McCarthy are all strong contenders and from the battlefield so too is Tony DeLoughery who combines tours of duty with the Irish Army with giving an invaluable helping hand to communities in the far flung regions in which he has worked. Ciaran MacMathuna and Pat Shortt represent the world of broadcasting and entertainment. The work carried out by Anne Curley with

the youth of Ballinacurra and Sr Nora Wall with refugees has changed lives, while Dr Andrew Kelly and James Hickey save lives through their work with the Red Cross and the Irish Blood Transfusion Service. The dozen denizens of Limerick are completed by Kieran MacSweeney who is an ardent campaigner for development in the Mid-West and Patrick Collison who, at just 16 years of age, designed a new

computer programming language. The unenviable task of picking a winner falls on the shoulders of Ned Gleeson, County Manager and Tom Mackey, City Manager. The guest of honour at the event sponsored by the Limerick Leader, Southern Advertising and the Clarion Hotel will be Tanaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney. She will present the Limerick Person of

the Year award to the deserving winner, but as well she will give a Special Lifetime Achievement Award to JP McManus for his decades of charitable donations to Limerick organisations and people. JP McManus's charitable contributions to Limerick have been too numerous to mention and while we all see the money raised from big events like the Pro-Am in Adare he also does a lot of good work which nobody sees.

The ceremony takes place at the Clarion Hotel this Friday lunchtime and all 12 are already winners. Whoever picks up the prize will have big shoes to fill as they follow in the footsteps of the winners in 2003 and 2004; 2003's winner was the then Limerick hurling manager Dave Keane, and the 2004 winner Pat Cox, then European Parliament



Dave Keane, former Limerick hurling manager, was Person of the Year for 2003

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The 2004 Limerick Person of the Year, Pat Cox, pictured at the award ceremony with his late mother