

Obituary

Prominent Limerick Sportsman

Death of Mr J. P. Hartigan

Mr J P Hartigan, of Limerick, one of the most prominent officials of the Irish Turf Club, died in a Dublin nursing home on Tuesday night after a brief illness.

The news came as a profound shock to the racing public, amongst whom there was not a better known or more popular personality. His unflinching courtesy towards all who came into contact with him, and the efficiency with which he discharged the many onerous duties in connection with race meetings, earned for him widespread esteem and affection, and it is not an exaggeration to state that the Irish Turf has lost its most loveable figure.

The name Hartigan in the county Limerick is synonymous with horserace, the family having for generations been identified in a prominent way with racing and hunting. Some of them have been domiciled in England for years as trainers, notably Mr Martin Hartigan, a first cousin of Jack Hartigan, but none shed more lustre on the family name than the deceased.

Originally an official of the Limerick Co Council, he served his first appointment under the Irish Turf Club some thirty years ago and improved so steadily on the small beginning that by his death he was one of the most active of its many officials. As judge, clerk of scales or clerk of the courses he was associated with the great majority of meetings in Ireland, and there were many who looked upon him as their guide, philosopher and friend.

His deep knowledge of racing was freely at the disposal of those who sought his advice, and for all his lengthy connections with officialdom, in which everything is governed or regulated by strict rules, he was the same genial Jack Hartigan that he was when first he became connected with it. The Racing Press have particular reason to remember him. He was their friend in the highest sense of the word, and quite apart from his great personal qualities which endeared him to every Press representative they will remember him as an official whose first thought was to ensure that every item of information that was of interest or importance to the public was placed at their disposal. By his death Irish racing has been deprived of a man whose services it could ill afford to lose.

There was a second side to the activities of the late Mr Hartigan. For many years he was the manager of the Limerick Junction Race Company and under his expert guidance the fixtures at the junction assumed an importance which placed them in the forefront of Irish meetings. A couple of years ago he was appointed to a similar capacity at Mallow and here again he played a notable part in the return of the county Cork venue to public favour.

In private life Mr Hartigan was an auctioneer with an extensive business in Limerick. He dealt mainly in the sale of horses and cattle. Next to racing his great love was hunting, and though he could ill spare the time his services were placed freely and voluntarily at the disposal of the many county Limerick point-to-point executives who wished him to act as clerk of scales.

From every part of Ireland deep sympathy will be extended to Mrs Hartigan and his two daughters on their irreparable loss.

The funeral took place to Mount Saint Lawrence Cemetery after Requiem Mass at St Michael's Church.

A huge concourse followed the remains and included representatives of public boards, professional and business interests from every part of the country.