

Munster by the grace of God: Huge crowds turn out at Thomond Park to greet Anthony Foley's funeral procession on its way from Shannon to his final resting place in Killaloe. The funeral takes place on Friday PICTURES: MICHAEL COWHEY, ADRIAN BUTLER AND LIAM BURKE

Anthony's final journey

Rugby legend's remains stop at Thomond Park, scene of many triumphs

■ Paul O'Connell and Mick Galwey accompany the Foley family to Paris to bring Munster coach home

ALAN OWENS

E: alan.owens@limerickleader.ie

FROM Shannon Airport to Thomond Park, they lined the route. Carrying with them memories that stretched over some 20 odd years, the Munster family saluted their hometown hero as the hearse carrying his remains passed by.

It began with a soft round of applause at the exit of the airport where the special chartered flight from Paris carrying Anthony

Remembering 'Axel'

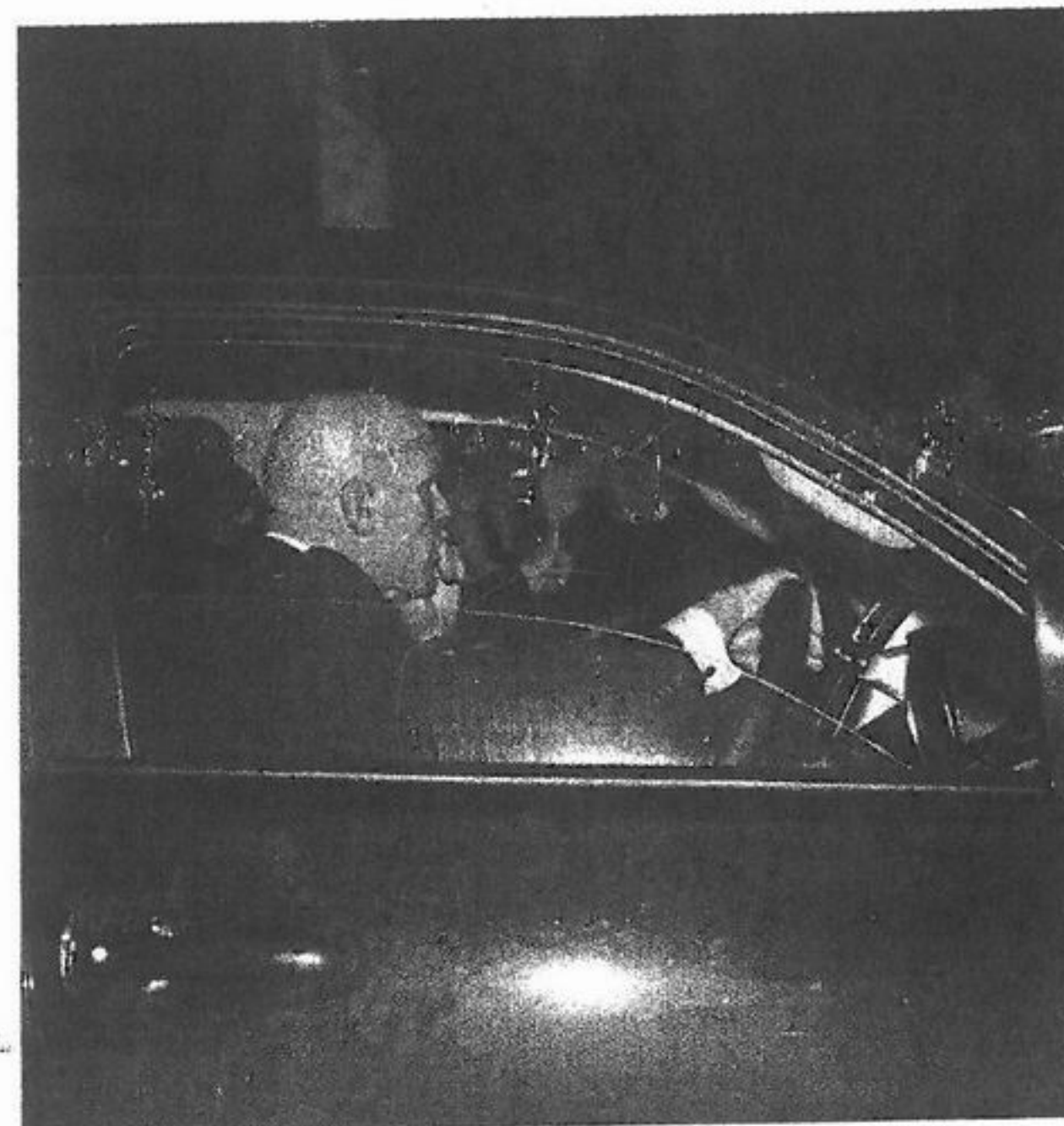
FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FANS ARE LEFT IN SHOCK AFTER MUNSTER GREAT ANTHONY FOLEY PASSES AWAY AT AGE 42: Pages 6, 7 and 18: Sport 1-13

Foley's remains had landed at 6.15pm this Wednesday, coming to a crawl under the cover of darkness outside the spiritual home of Munster Rugby, the ground that had filled with roars at his every move on hundreds of

occasions in the past.

And then it came and shook souls and soil - a rousing rendition of There is an Isle, the Shannon

➔ CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Paul O'Connell, driving behind the hearse carrying his former team mate



There is an Isle: Noel Healy, president of Shannon leads the singing tributes

EX: LIMERICK LEADER
22nd OCTOBER 2016
PAGE 1 & 2

Advertising
Lorna Clancy, Desmond Connolly,
Business Development managers
061-214500
advertising@limerickleader.ie
lorna.clancy@limerickleader.ie
desmond.connolly@limerickleader.ie

Photographic desk
061-214542
photos@limerickleader.ie

Reception
061-214500

Co-option 'jeopardy'

➔ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

utive would be able to decide whether other members outside the "functional area" would remain on the register.

"A number of speakers expressed dissatisfaction with this proposal," Mr Kelly stated, but added that the motion was passed by an "overwhelming majority".

However, one member who was present at the meeting claimed that there were attempts made to adjourn the meeting for more clarity due to the nature of the data. They disputed the claim that an "overwhelming majority" backed the motion.

They said many voted for this, but lots of people abstained due to a lack of understanding.

Speaking anonymously, a Fine Gael source added that this could call Ms Hogan's selection as a new council member into "jeopardy".

"If the membership officer supported by the vice-chair were suggesting if branches were not legally constituted in their opinion, how could they have the right to vote in a subsequent convention? It is like the prisoner being the jury as well," they said.

Meanwhile, questions are also being asked of Ms Byrne, whose election to the Upper House set in train these events.

A letter - seen by the Leader - from party regional organiser Jim McMahon to Mr Curran states that Ms Byrne has seen correspondence from Mr Kilcoyne.

The email, dated June 16, states that effectively Mr McMahon, Mr Kelly and Ms Byrne had seen



Candidate: Fergus Kilcoyne

fices excluded from seeing this letter," one Fine Gael executive member asked, "We should all have been party to this complaint."

Ms Byrne declined to comment.

Separately, Fine Gael's national headquarters have said a letter which appears to recommend Mr Kilcoyne as Ms Byrne's council replacement was never actually sent.

The letter, which carries the letter-head of the party's national headquarters, states the party held a convention and picked Mr Kilcoyne as the replacement candidate.

However, a party spokesman said the communication - dated the same day the original convention was due to take place in June - said: "The paperwork required for the co-option process, would have been prepared in advance of the convention to cater for all eventualities".

At Sunday night's selection convention - which was attended by Minister Noonan, plus Senators Maria Byrne and Kieran O'Donnell - Mr Kilcoyne said: "I want to share with you the events of Friday last. There was an unwanted smear campaign launched against me and my business. I was required to produce documents in a short period of

the industrial action following a Special Delegate Conference on Monday.

Members of the AGSI will refuse to use the garda PULSE system for 24 hours beginning at 7am on Friday while on Friday week

Antoinette Cunningham, president of the AGSI

(October 28) they will also refuse to carry out any administrative duties.

members. We also hope that senior garda management will respect our decision to take this action," said AGSI president, Inspector Antoinette Cunningham, who is originally from Knocklong.

While this Friday's action

Sheahan there are currently just three superintendents in the Limerick division with one currently on long-term sick leave.

Members of specialist units such as the armed Regional Support Unit (RSU) and probationer gardai are

There will be no gardai on the beat, investigations will be stalled, public services such as the processing of passport applications will cease and there will be minimal enforcement of road traffic laws.

Court sittings across the city and county are likely to

Thomond Park on November 11.

The Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald, has expressed her disappointment at the decision of members of both the GRA and AGSI to begin a campaign of industrial action.

■ Hundreds turn out on streets as remains of Anthony Foley are flown home

There Is An Isle is sung as remains pass Thomond Park

➔ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rugby anthem, followed by the stirring Roll On Shannon Forwards. Hundreds of people turned out to pay their respects.

Red flags were pressed against beating Munster hearts, tears dropped past three gold crowns and the stag on the province crest. Shannon president Noel Healy wiped his eyes as Vinny O'Dowd belted out the age old songs. Marcus Horan walked silently with the procession.

As the procession rolled past Thomond Park, one bystander remarked simply that it was 'heart-breaking'.

Anthony's family and former teammates Paul O'Connell, Mick Galwey had travelled on 'Ryanair 8' - a private charter provided by the airline and specially named after his position on the rugby pitch. The cortege also passed St Munchin's College, the school he represented with such distinction.

The Munster and Irish legend, who died suddenly in Paris on Sunday, was brought finally to his family home in Killaloe where his funeral will take place on Friday.

Perhaps not since the processions that brought Mick Mackey, Sean South and Jerry McCabe to their final resting places has such a crowd turned out, or has Limerick been so grief-stricken.

While Foley lived in Killaloe for 30 odd years, he was a product of 'The Parish', where his father grew up and played for Shannon RFC, living his early life in Murroe and going to school in Munchin's.

The family was taken to Paris, where Foley died in a Novotel hotel in the west suburb of Suresnes, by a private Ryanair flight, reportedly at Michael O'Leary's instigation. He was found at 12.40pm on Sunday by a Munster player and a hotel staff

member, according to reports.

Earlier this week, his family - wife Olive and sons Tony and Dan - spoke of a "bottomless anguish" at the loss of "an amazing, adoring and loving father and husband; an equally caring, loyal and devoted son and brother; a central and go-to figure".

"We have been plunged deep into an incomprehensible darkness and sense of loss that we must work our way through over the coming days, weeks, months and years.

"We know, too, that his sudden death has brought the rugby worlds of Shannon RFC, Munster, Ireland and much further afield crashing down. You have lost a former player, coach, friend and all-round inspiration - your and our hero both. We mourn his loss together.

"We again wish to thank everyone for their support; it will help carry us through these darkest days."

An autopsy in Paris revealed that Foley had died from acute pulmonary oedema caused by heart disease, a condition that resulted in a build-up of fluid in his lungs. He was just 42.

Over 5,000 people have signed an online book of condolence set up by Limerick council, with more than 2,000 signatures in the physical version at City Hall and Dooradoyle. Books are also open at area offices in Newcastle West, Rathkeale and Kilmallock. All will remain open until the end of the month.

The funeral will take place at midday on Friday in St Flannan's Church, with the church reserved for family and friends. He will lie in repose on Thursday night from 1pm to 8.30pm, with people intending on paying their respects asked to attend early. The house afterwards is private. Burial afterwards will be at Relig Nua Cemetery, Killaloe.



The early days: Anthony Foley after winning the Munster Schools Junior Cup with St Munchin's in 1989