

# Obituaries & Deaths

## Mick English

Former Irish rugby international and local legend

TRIBUTES were paid to former rugby international Mick English at a ceremony in Dublin last week.

Monsignor Tom Stack, a former senior cup winner with Crescent College in 1951, led the tributes to his former friend at a packed requiem Mass in St. John the Baptist Church in Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

He recalled Mick's generosity, his thoughtfulness, his sense of humour and his courage during the final months of his long illness. He also mentioned that when he was injured during the British and Irish Lions tour of New Zealand in 1959, himself and Irish international winger Niall Brophy returned by luxury liner and arrived in Ireland a couple of weeks after the main party.

His wonderful sense of humour was illustrated by the famous story of English international Phil Horrocks-Taylor, who scored two tries against Mick in a representative game at



On the charge: Mick English in action for Ireland

Thomond Park in the late fifties. Asked why he failed to tackle him, he famously replied: "Horrocks went one way, Taylor the other way and I was left tackling the hyphen."

His thoughtfulness was demonstrated when he sent a letter of consolation to the great Jack Kyle, whom he succeeded on the Irish team in 1958. Mick English received 16 caps for Ireland, won three cup medals with Bohemians (1957, 59 and 62) and a

Leinster cup medal with Lansdowne in 1965 and an under-age medal with Shannon.

Lansdowne club members in their blazers flanked the coffin as it was escorted from the church - to the strains of the immortal Shannon rugby song "There is an Isle", which was led by former Limerick hurling great, Dermot Kelly, a class-mate of Mick when he was a student at Christian Brothers, Sexton Street.

Twelve members of Bohemians travelled for the funeral, including some of his cup-winning teammates, Benny O'Dowd, Billy Slattery, Johnny Ryan and Caleb Powell, the incoming president of the IRFU.

Several rugby internationals were also present, including the great Moss Keane (who played on the Munster team that beat the All Blacks 12-nil in 1978) and Old Crescent and Lansdowne full-back Paddy Berkery. Old Crescent players who played against Mick, including Jim Riordan and Kevin O'Connor, also paid their respects.

The chief mourners were his wife, Pauleen, his daughter, Michelle, his sons, Conor and John, who spoke movingly about his father. The mourners also included his brother John, sister, Phil, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and extended family.

Mick English; died April 27 2010, aged 77

Kevin O'Connor



Mick English was capped a total of 16 times for Ireland. He also won three cup medals with Bohemians, a Leinster cup medal with Lansdowne and an under-age medal with Shannon

## DEATHS ANNOUNCED IN THE PAST WEEK

**BENNETT** John (Jackie), Portarlinton and formerly of Croom. On May 2. Remains arriving this Wednesday at St. Mary's Church, Croom for Requiem Mass at 1pm with interment immediately afterwards in the Old Cemetery, Croom.

Nolan), 67 Tradaree Court, Shannon. On May 2.

**O'MAHONY** Maura, 26 High Street, Limerick City. On April 29. Late of St Pauls Nursing Home and formerly of Charleville, Co. Cork.

**O'RIORDAN** Margaret (née Downey), 12 Kilbrish Drive, Woodview Park, Limerick City. On April 28.

**COFFEY** Josephine (Josie) (née Maher), St Camillus' Hospital and late of 51 Catherine Street, Limerick City. On May 3. Formerly of Dromlara, Pallasgreen. Wife of the late Fred, survived by cousins and close friends.

**RUDDLE** Paddy, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary and late of Dohora, Croom. On May 4. Reposing at Ryan's Funeral Home, Nenagh, this Thursday from 5pm to 7pm. Remains arriving at St. Mary's of the Rosary Church, Nenagh, for Requiem Mass at 10am on Friday. Burial afterwards in Banogue Cemetery, Limerick, arriving at 12.15 approx.

**DELEE** John, Thorpes Nursing Home, Clarina and Rath, Murroe. On April 27.

**EADY** Jim, Hillcrest Drive, Greystones, Limerick and formerly of Portroe. Survived by his wife Sarah and sister Mary.

**RYAN** Séamie, 21 Hennessy Avenue, Kileely, Limerick. On April 28. Late of Limerick Docks. Beloved husband of Mary Anne and loving father of Terry, Seamus, Daniel, Gerard, John, Noel, Paul, James, David, Jackie, Joan, Mary, Majella, Aoife, Carrie, Caitriona and Carmel. He will be sadly missed by his loving family, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

**FLOOD** Patrick, Sarsfield Avenue, Garryowen. Survived by wife Lila, daughter Patsie and son Joseph, sister Monica, nephews and nieces.

**HEALY** Patricia (née O'Connor), Monabrah Road, Ballynanty, Limerick. Deeply regretted by her husband James and her children John, Helen, Christina, Martina, Annette and Pat, extended family, neighbours and friends.

**KIRBY** Bridie (née Holmes), Mountfune, Murroe. On May 1.

**MCCARTHY** Dogie, Athlaccas South, Kilmallock. On April 29.

**MULVIHILL** Patrick J (Paddy), Corrigg, Foynes and formerly of Rathnew, Co. Wicklow. Late of Telecom. On April 29.

**TUITE** Christine (née Sheehan), Granville Park, Limerick City. On April 30. Very deeply regretted by her loving husband Noel, sons Gerard, Peter and Colin, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunt, daughters-in-law Siobhan, Deborah and Donna, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nephews, nieces, grandchildren Charlotte, Mark, Brian, Niamh, Emma, Darragh, relatives and many friends.

**MURPHY** Francis (Frank), Glenduff, Ballagh. On May 3. Survived by his wife Catherine and sons. Removal from Sexton's Funeral Home, Broadford this Wednesday evening, at 8pm to Ashford Church, Broadford.

**VAN de MEERE** Gerry, Rawleighstown, Lough Gur and South Africa, and Villiers Square, Limerick City. Deeply regretted by his wife Valane, daughter Mayleen and son William, grandchildren, rela-

## Conal O'Neill

Vet who was a founding member of Cappamore Development Association

THE DAY Care centre, hall, sports facility, library, fire brigade, playground and much more in Cappamore are a permanent reminder of the life of the late Conal O'Neill. Mr O'Neill, a veterinary surgeon who passed away on April 11 at 77 years of age, was the first chair-

association we would like to extend our sincere sympathies to his wife and family," said Mr Fogarty. Cappamore Development Association gave a guard of honour at the funeral of Mr O'Neill, Dromsally Road, Cappamore.

At the funeral mass, one

spending time working in Ennistymon and Newport he took over the practice in Cappamore in 1961, forming an initial partnership with Pat O'Brien before linking up with Pakie Ryan and Frank Doran to form "O'Neill, O'Brien, Ryan and Doran". He practiced for 36

difficulty. For a finish and upon his retirement in 1997 the practice employed nine vets and three clerical and attendant staff," said Conal.

His commitment to the farming community was echoed by farmer, local councillor and fellow Cappamore Development Asso-

even lower if he had more time on his hands.

It's obvious from his work as a vet, his talent at golf, shooting and rugby that Mr O'Neill was gifted with his hands but he also had green fingers as his vegetable patch and fruit trees delivered bountiful

