

'The Bullet' honoured by Dublin and Limerick mayors

By Jonathan Meaney

LOCAL sporting hero, John 'The Bullet' Loftus, from Clarina, has been honoured by Lord Mayor of Dublin Evelyn Byrne, at a reception on Sunday at Mansion House for the Irish team that took part in the European Transplant and Dialysis games in Wurzburg, Germany in September.

This preceded another Mayoral reception for John at Limerick City Hall on Tuesday, where Mayor John Gilligan honoured him for his remarkable achievements - picking up gold and bronze medals in Wurzburg.

He dedicated both medals to the person who donated his lifesaving organ, a kidney, which allowed him to compete.

John, who picked up the gold in the Super Veterans 100m event, was the only Limerick representative to receive a commemorative medal from Dublin's Lord Mayor, adding yet another medal to his impressive tally.

"I was extremely honoured to be commemorated by a mayor from another city. It was a wonderful gesture," John told the Limerick Post.

After each of the team received their medals, there was a moving service of remembrance



John Loftus with Lord Mayor of Dublin Evelyn Byrne.

Limerick Business Week kicks off with Enterprise Awards

By Rebekah Commane

THE START of Limerick Business Week was marked this year by The Enterprise Awards Ceremony at the Clarion Hotel, attended by 140 guests including Cllrs Maria Byrne and Joe Leddin. The event was hosted by Eamon Ryan, CEO of the Limerick City Enterprise Board and special guest speaker at the awards was Garry Walsh, managing director of Green Isle Foods. Commenting on the current economic situation Mr Walsh made the obser-

Bakery. Run by Nora McGillicuddy and David McCaffrey, the business specialises in creating traditional hand made goods to the highest standard. Accepting the award David McCaffrey thanked the Limerick City Enterprise Board for all their support. He said that this award was "a great emotional boost" and acknowledged that it is "risky to start your own business but a great accomplishment to be successful at it." He completed his speech by encouraging the people of Limerick to support the local Farmer's Markets.

picked up by Brian McGann and Mark O'Connell.

Best Service Business was won by Melissa O'Brien, who jointly founded the Limerick Printmakers Studio and Gallery in 1999. This company is a unique facility in the Mid-West that allows printmakers to print and exhibit their work. The Best New Business was awarded to Michael Garry of Arbor-Care Professional Consulting Tree Service. Among his achievements he secured a major assignment to work with the National Roads

Nicholson. This insulation company provides eco friendly, energy efficient products for the home.

The Best Manufacturing Business tag went to John and Myra Long of Readsland. This company is a manufacturer of items such as engineering products and press tools and has been running since 1985.

Limerick Business Week continues with various events around the city. Details on limceb.ie.

for organ donors and recipients in Drumcondra, which was attended by over 1,000 people.

Following this, the team participated in a procession of light that was also watched by a large section of media.

"It is a very emotional day for everyone concerned. The main reason for the whole event is to highlight how important it is to carry an organ donor card," John said.

John, 61, was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease in 1992 that nearly killed him. He received a transplant in 2000, and has competed in the European Transplant and Dialysis Games and the World Transplant Games since he received the kidney donation.

John is now preparing for the World Transplant Games, taking place in Brisbane, Australia next year.

