

by Minister Dempsey, as reported by the Limerick Leader last month.

He will be joined by Ms Loughnane; Mr Blaney; Ray Gray, a senior civil servant with the DAA, and Shannon Development boss Dr Vincent Cunnane.

In a declaration of intent that tourism interests will have a say in the boardroom, hoteliers Mary Fitzgerald, of the Woodlands in Adare, and Dromoland's Mark Nolan have also been appointed. The remaining two places will be filled by worker directors in an election facili-

"ICTU have yet to make nominations," a Department of Transport spokesperson said this Wednesday.

Among those who have not been reappointed - although there is no suggestion they were seeking another term - are Westpark's Reg Freake; Galway developer Padraic Burke; hotelier Michael Lynch, and Rose Hynes, former legal counsel with GPA and who has vast boardroom experience in the public and private sectors at Aer Lingus, Fyffes and the Bank of Ireland. Earlier

last year, the Limerick woman was appointed chair of Bord Gais.

None of the new appointees contacted this week was in a position to comment on the challenges and opportunities ahead for Shannon Airport.

A former board member, city businessman Tadhg Kearney, declined to comment when contacted by the Limerick Leader on whether he had sought reappointment.

But Mr Kearney said he wished the new board well in its task in a challenging time for aviation, and expressed hope it would

show the purpose and drive of the previous board headed by Mr Shanahan.

"I think the previous board has a record of public service we can stand over. In that time, the number of routes doubled and traffic increased by 50 per cent, although that looks like changing with Ryanair. The board took €10.5m a year out of the cost base, we put in place a strategy to deal with Open Skies at a time when there was none, and we established the US CBP (customs and border protection) pre-clearance post," Mr Kearney said.

This last advance was an initiative taken on, led and driven by local management in Shannon and evolved into an international agreement between Ireland and the US that would bring benefits for Shannon, Dublin and Ireland as a whole.

When Aer Rianta was warning about reducing its cost base, the SAA had taken the tough decisions to cut jobs and remove over €10m from the cost base. Had these decisions not been taken then, Mr Kearney said, doubts about the viability of the airport would be even more acute.

A keen sports enthusiast, Dr Lucey has been team doctor with a number of organisations over the years. He is the team doctor with the Limerick senior football team, Garryowen RFC and the Rac-

children, Mark, David, Michelle, Caroline and Stephen. Stephen plays senior football for Limerick. Last month he was named centre back in the Limerick Football Team of the last 25 years.

Christmas concert

LIMERICK Musical Society will present a Christmas concert, titled Season's Greetings, in St Mary's Cathedral this Thursday, at 7.30pm.

Season's Greetings has

become an annual event in Limerick's Christmas calendar and was described last year as "one of the most enjoyable evenings of music and song ever experienced".

Charity Stars in your Eyes

LIMERICK fundraiser Dave Dineen has announced his final event to raise money for breast cancer services in the Mid-West Regional Hospital, having raised at least €75,000 to date.

Limerick's Got Stars in Your Eyes will take place on Friday, December 18, in Molly Malone's, Denmark Street, at 8pm, and will feature some of the city's best known faces performing hits from international stars.

Tickets cost €15 and are available from Molly Malone's or any of the singers.

The price of admission also includes entry to an 80s disco following the event

Bad weather forces Atlantic rower to drop anchor

Anne Sheridan

A LIMERICK rower who hoped to become the first Irish person to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean has been delayed in his voyage due to bad weather.

Adventurer Sean McGowan, 41, had hoped to be on the high seas by now and complete the mammoth task in 70 days, but is still stuck on dry land on the Canary Islands.

This is the second time his journey has been beset by stormy weather, and he is now hoping to travel next week instead.

He is one of six participants who are singlehandedly attempting to make their way from the Canary Islands to the Caribbean over three months.

As part of his adventure, Mr McGowan from Farran-shone in the city, is hoping to raise €80,000 to build a



Limerick rower Sean McGowan: stuck on the Canary Islands as he waits for bad weather to lift before he can attempt to cross the Atlantic

nutrition centre for families in South Africa - for the charity, the Soweto

Connection, which was set up in Limerick.

The event was due to

begin last Sunday, but was put back to this Wednesday, frustrating the ambi-

tions of the team. However, it may be another few days before a break in the weather allows them to travel across the Atlantic.

Speaking from La Gomera, one of the smallest islands in the Canaries this week, he explained that a storm was due to hit the area on Friday with winds of 60 to 70 knots.

"Everyone is going bananas about it, but I still have a bit of work to do on the boat, so in a way it is a good thing for me," he added.

His vessel, Tess, is 24 feet long and six feet wide, with two cabins at the bow and stern, where Sean will sleep during his over the 2,500 nautical mile voyage.

Mr McGowan, who began rowing aged 13, bought the boat 18 years ago and he has been planning the trip ever since. Apart from some sleepless nights, he is also

prepared for a physical endurance test and is expecting to lose two-and-a-half stone from his 14-and-a-half stone frame.

His schedule will see him getting five hours sleep per night, rising at 5am, and rowing for an hour on and half-an-hour off.

"I keep rowing like that until 1pm. Then I swap and do half-an-hour on and hour off due to the heat. As I get into the evening time I go back to my morning schedule. I'm basically rowing all day apart from five hours sleep," he explained.

This Wednesday, Mr McGowan was planning to say goodbye to his wife, Lorraine, and their four children, who travelled with him to the Canaries.

For further details see www.atlantic09.com or visit www.sowetoconnection.org

EX: LIMERICK LEADER
18TH DECEMBER, 2009
PAGE 8



LIMERICK