

## **SPORTS PERSONALITIES**

### **1979 Roll of Honour**

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Ronnie Long

**HANDBALL**  
Pat McGarry

**LADIES ATHLETICS**  
Margaret Crosse

**HOCKEY**  
Marie Bartlett

**BOXING**  
Tony De Loughrey

**HORSE RACING**  
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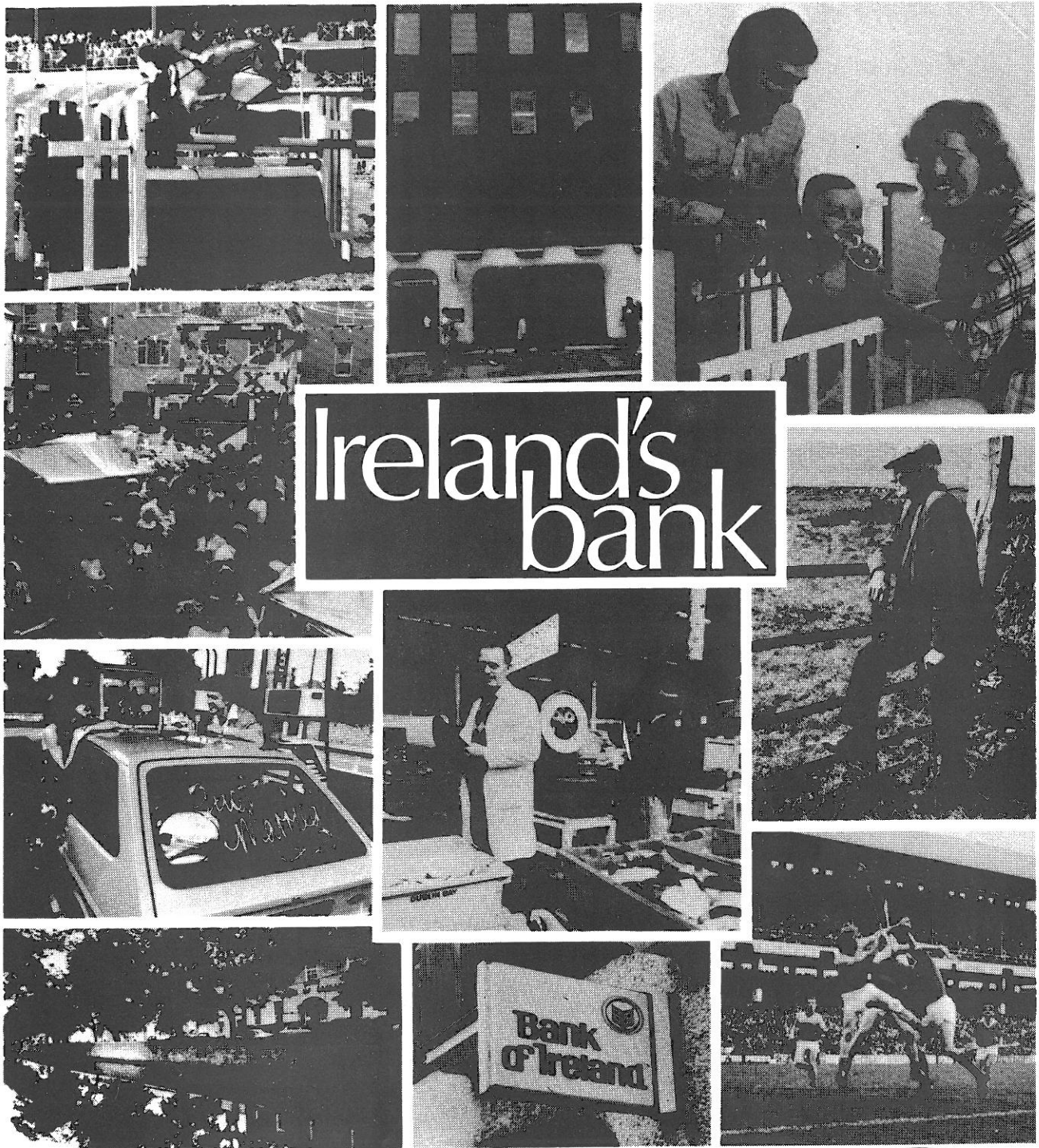


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We also wish to thank the Cork Examiner Group for the use of their photographs.



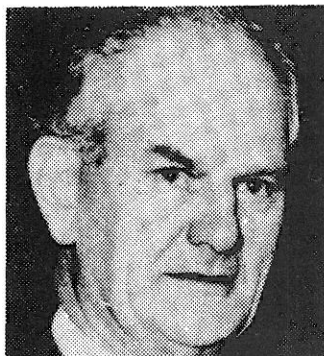
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# FOREWORD

Once again it is the privilege of the Limerick Weekly Echo to pay tribute to those men and women who, through their superiority in sport, have brought glory to themselves and to Limerick. We honour both those who have achieved much in recent times and those whose contribution to sport has been superlatively consistent for a lifetime.

It is particularly gratifying to note that the awards, now in their third year, have become the most valued accolade in sport in the region. It is a matter of pride too that Limerick has sportsmen and women of such calibre that a number of this year's winners have previously been similarly honoured, and one, Tony Ward, has appeared in all three years to date. For these sportsmen and women, reaching the top is important, but staying at the top is even more important.

Most of all we are happy that merit has been the sole criterion used to select our Sports Personalities with many of the recipients having distinguished themselves at national level — some, indeed, achieving glory on an international scale.

Tony Ward, for example, was again nominated as the European Rugby Player of the Year in 1979. The multitudes at Cheltenham rose to Des McDonogh when his charge, Monksfield, won the Champion Hurdle for the 2nd year-in-a-row.

On the domestic scene, Jackie Harrington and Pat McGarry ended long waits when they came out at the top in their chosen sports. Marie Bartlett regained her place on the Irish Ladies Hockey team and went on to win a further nine international caps. Tony De Loughrey represented Ireland in Boxing. Really, we could continue an infinitum — our Sports Personalities have accomplished so much.

And in the first year that recognition is given towards an individual's outstanding contribution to Sport, there could be no more popular recipient than Pat Hartigan. A sportsman supreme, Hartigan's contribution to Limerick's glory in 1973 will never be forgotten.

This year, the supreme accolade of being nominated as our Hall of Fame recipient goes to Martin Molony. Hard to believe that this brilliant horseman should retire from riding at the age of 26 — he had accomplished so much in such a short space of time. His famous victories included 3 Irish Grand Nationals; a Cheltenham Gold Cup as well as successes in the Irish 1,000 and 2,000 guineas.

Perhaps the greatest tribute accorded Martin Molony was that given to him by Tom Forrest in his column in the Sunday Express some months ago. Referring to the current crop of excellent jockeys who compete in the British National Hunt scene, Forrest singled out Tommy Carmody as being the likely successor, in terms of sheer brilliance, to Martin Molony. That was a tremendous compliment to Limerick-born Carmody, but it was an even greater compliment to Martin Molony that Tom Forrest should single him out as the yardstick to measure every potential champion by. As Michael O'Hehir says, "Martin Molony was truly one of the All-Time Greats".

We are happy to have once again as our co-sponsor, Pat Grace of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Pat is, without question, the most generous sponsor and promoter of sport in the region. He gives of his time and resources for the benefit of all sport without seeking material return. We look forward to joining with him again in future sponsorship promotions.

It is the hope of the Echo and of Pat Grace that these, the Third Sports Personalities Awards, will contribute to the promotion of sport and the recognition of Limerick as a place in which sport and sportsmen reach unrivalled heights.

*John W. Harriott*  
Chairman, Limerick Weekly Echo

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# HALL OF FAME

# MARTIN MOLONY

**"He was truly one of the all-time greats"**

**Says Michael O'Hehir**

"Oh lady, how right you were at Navan — Martin Molony could ride ..."

It happened at Navan on that wonderful April afternoon of what was called — for want of a better name — the veterans' race. The horses were on the way to the post and I was about to enter the commentary box. A lady and her escort were passing when she said: "Somebody told me that Molony who rides Miles Along used ride fairly well". It was like hearing somebody say Michelangelo was a painter, Beethoven a musician, or Shakespeare a writer. It was downright heresy!

But it did set me thinking of the Limerick man who made the headlines with such delightful regularity in the forties and fifties. Martin Molony was brilliant. On the flat he won the Irish 1,000 Guineas on Princess Trudy; the 2,000 on Signal Box, on which he was third in the Epsom Derby, as he was on Stella Polaris in the Epsom Oaks; and he won the Park Fifteen Hundred on Abadan, a horse he rates the fastest he ever rode.

And in addition to all the achievement on the flat was a magnificent jumping record of three Irish Grand Nationals, the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Silver Fame in which he was also twice second from three rides. Statistics, however, give no idea



MARTIN Molony pictured at his stud farm at Croom.



THE great Martin Molony, holding a promising colt in the yard of his stud farm at Croom.

of the greatness of the man, who loved race riding and travelled in the style of the seventies only he did it thirty years ago.

In those days Irish racing was virtually one day a week — Saturday was the race day and a six-day racing week an undreamt of occurrence, yet Martin Molony managed, in the same year that he was runner-up with 65 wins to his brother Tim in the English jumping championship, to ride 119 winners under both rules in Ireland, and that with respect to modern-day totals, when there is so much racing, was the mark of a real champion.

It started for the man from hunting stock near Croom when in February 1939 a 13 year old weighing little more than six stone went to Martin Hartigan's stable at Ogbourne to work as a stable boy and learn the trade. His wages for the week were 2/6 and his keep, so there was little danger of the youngster going wild — not that such an inclination was ever in the Molony make-up. He hated the place at first and cried for a week, until he settled down.

The week world war two broke out Martin rode his first home gallop with none other than Sir Gordon Richards and his brother Cliff, and in case you think that lady riders are a modern notion, also in the gallop was Miss Norah Wilmot, now a trainer. He was, like all the other lads at Ogbourne, sent home



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MARTIN Molony holding an unnamed two-year-old colt, pictured in Croom with his son Peter.

when the war started and he went to the late George Harris at Kilmallock for whom he had his first ride, Yonabee, at the Curragh.

Success came soon, for his third ride was a winner, Chitor, which had been in Martin Hartigan's before being sent to the Harris stable. He was away on the road to riding brilliance, spending a time with "Ginger" Wellesley and then going to the late Cyril Harty — "he was like a second father" recalls Martin.

In 1943 he turned to chasing and rode Knight of Menos at Galway for the Harty stable and a year later joined up with Knight's Crest the chaser who won for Martin a Red Cross Chase at Leopardstown and the Irish Grand National.

Martin was becoming more and more in demand and he always stuck to a rule that he would ride the first horse he was asked about, outside of his retainers which at various times included J.V. Rank, Lord Bicester, Joe Osborne, and many others.

It was in 1946 that he rode for the first time in England — a versatile hurdler Rockleigh for John Farrell at Newport and before long the services of the then little known rider were in ever increasing demand.

In fact as Martin chalked up wins on the flat and more particularly over jumps in Ireland, in all kinds of races, and on horses good and bad, his way of life became such as to undermine the stamina of a less-calm man.

It was regular for him between 1948 and 1951 to ride in Ireland on Saturday, head for the Holyhead mailboat that night, and arriving in the small hours of the morning, travel by train to Birmingham, Wolverhampton or more likely to stay with his brother Tim who was leading them all in England at the time, and to whom Martin looked with a respect bordering on hero worship.

In those days the air service to England was minute but when he did get the chance he flew to London for south of England meetings. His amazing ability to relax kept him going when such wearing travels would have worn down a normal person. I recall many times travelling with him and by the time we got to the end of the runway at Dublin Airport Martin would be asleep, a restful posture he maintained until we taxied to a stop in London Airport. He retains the facility to this day.

Martin rode in three Grand Nationals but never got round, yet he has a very fond memory of Aintree — his pal that great sprinter Sugar Palm who won a six furlong handicap before the Grand National itself. So impressed was the then empress of racing Miss Dorothy Paget with his riding that she asked him to ride the valuable Birthday Greetings for her in the English 2,000 Guineas. When Martin went specially to Newmarket to ride him work, the resentment of trainer Henry Jelliss towards the "Irish farmer" riding his horse was evident.

Martin was on the crest of the wave of success in 1951 when he got a very bad fall on Bursary at the Thurles September meeting and he lay at death's door for several days. He still recalls with affection the care he received in the Thurles hospital.

He was advised by the doctor to rest from race-riding for a year, but Martin with a retainer to ride for the powerful Paddy Prendergast stable and some of the choice horses in the Michael Collins yard in addition to his even more attractive jump stable commitments, at the end of the year's rest decided at the age of twenty-six to hang up his boots. The world was at his feet, greatness was his, yet in the calm of his Croom farm and family surroundings he decided that he would never again treat us to his brilliance. Hard to believe that was twenty-nine years ago.

He rates Hatton's Grace and Abadan the two greatest horses he rode, claiming that a good horse will win races but a great horse will give lumps of weight away, something that Hatton's Grace did twice for Martin in the Irish Cesarewitch. He recalls Sadler's Wells that he rode to six wins and never lost on him, a remarkable record he also had on Pelorus the horse that put Paddy Prendergast on the training map. Pelorus was one of five winners he rode at Navan on one afternoon — a remarkable performance.

Nowadays he breeds a few horses, Skindles Hotel was one of his; he keeps the odd store — Kilmakillogue was one. He is a happy man, gaining joy from his memories, his own happy family and the friends he made in their scores.

Oh lady — how right you were at Navan — that Martin Molony could ride. He was truly one of the all-time greats.

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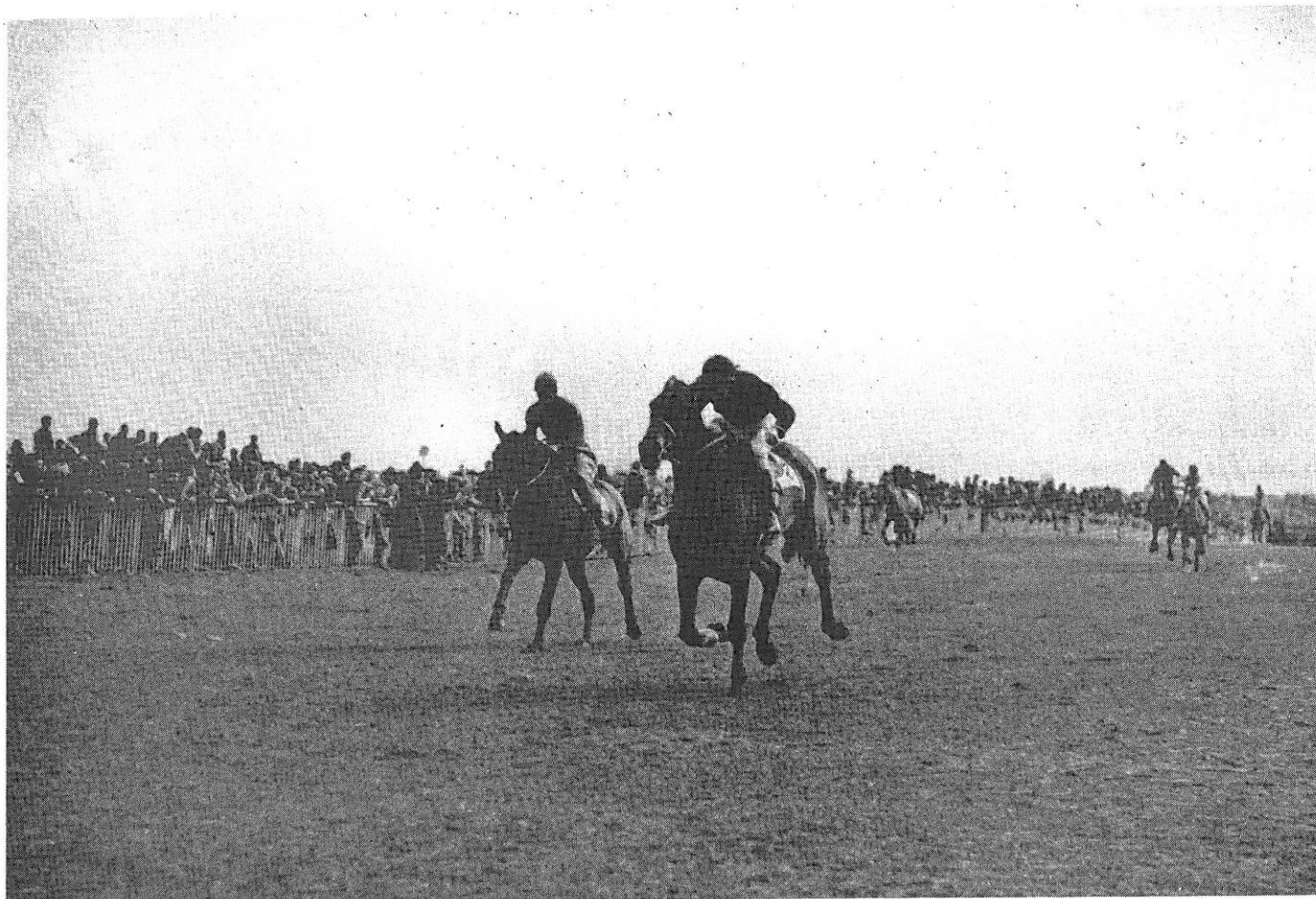
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Dominick's Bar (ridden by Martin Molony) winning the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse in 1950.



A study in concentration, as Martin Molony guides Laisser Passer over a hurdle.

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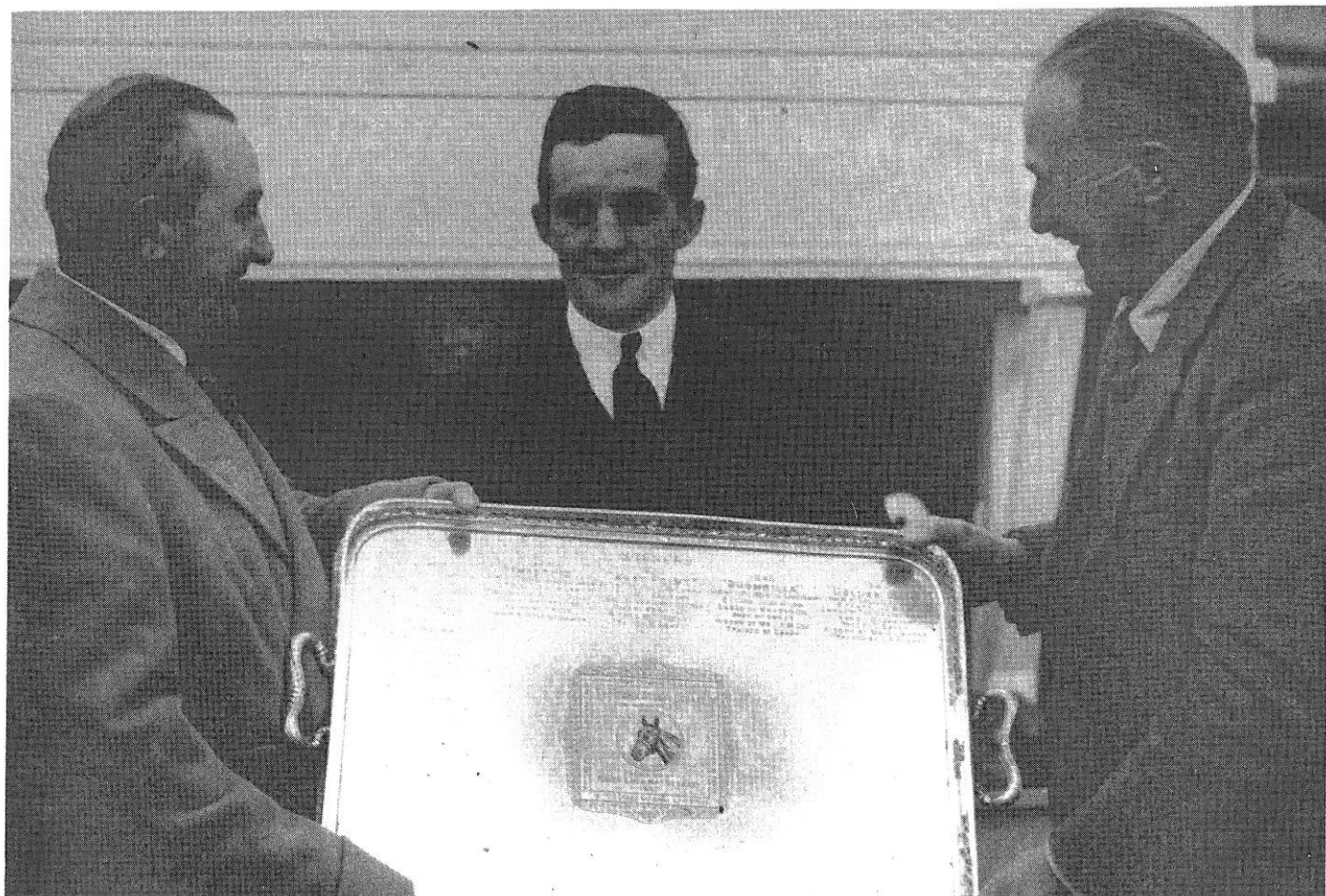


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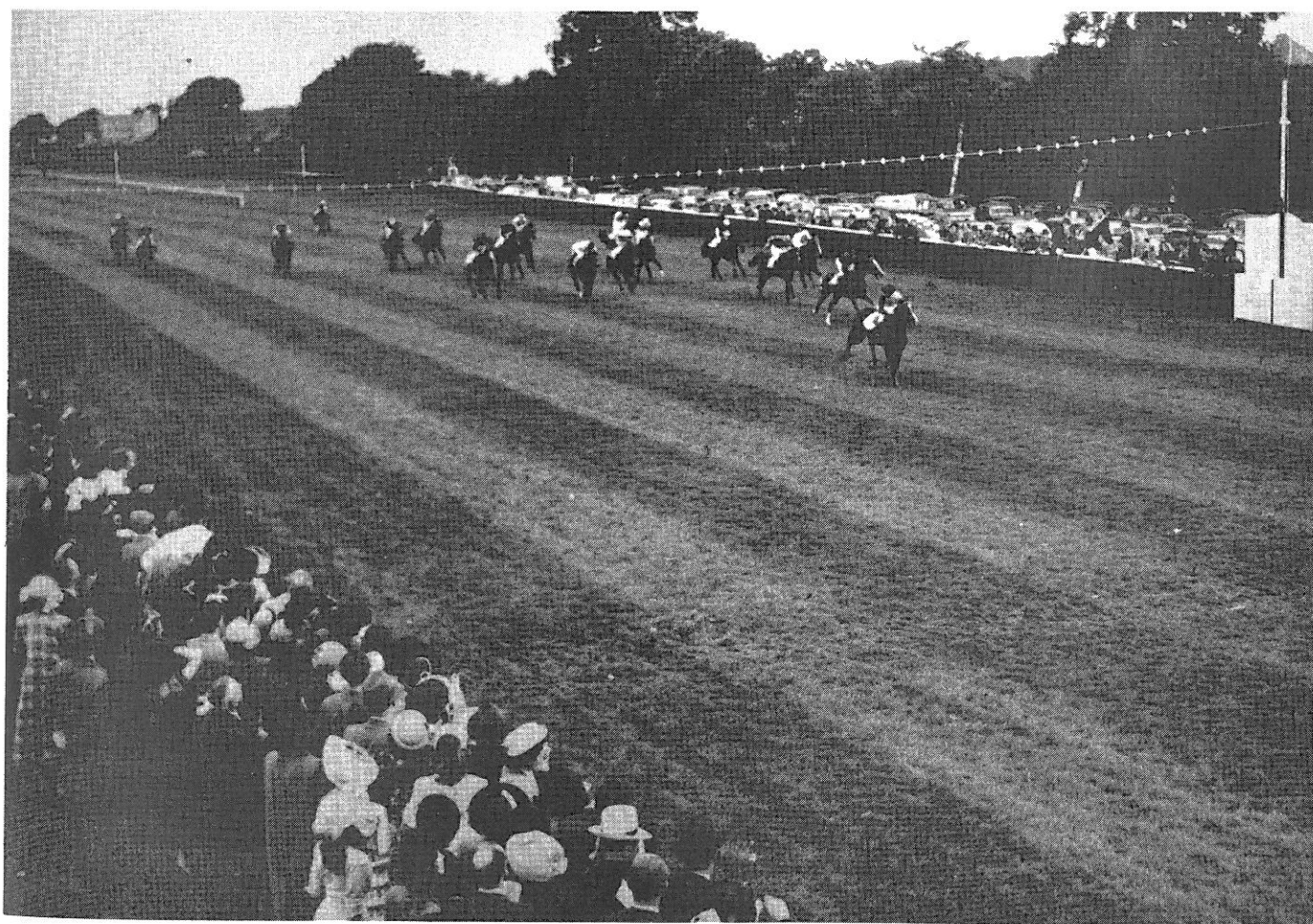
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Paddy Prendergast (left) and Martin Molony (centre) accepting the prize after Pelorus had won the Troystown Chase at Navan.



Winning the park "1500" on Abadan — "the fastest horse I ever rode".

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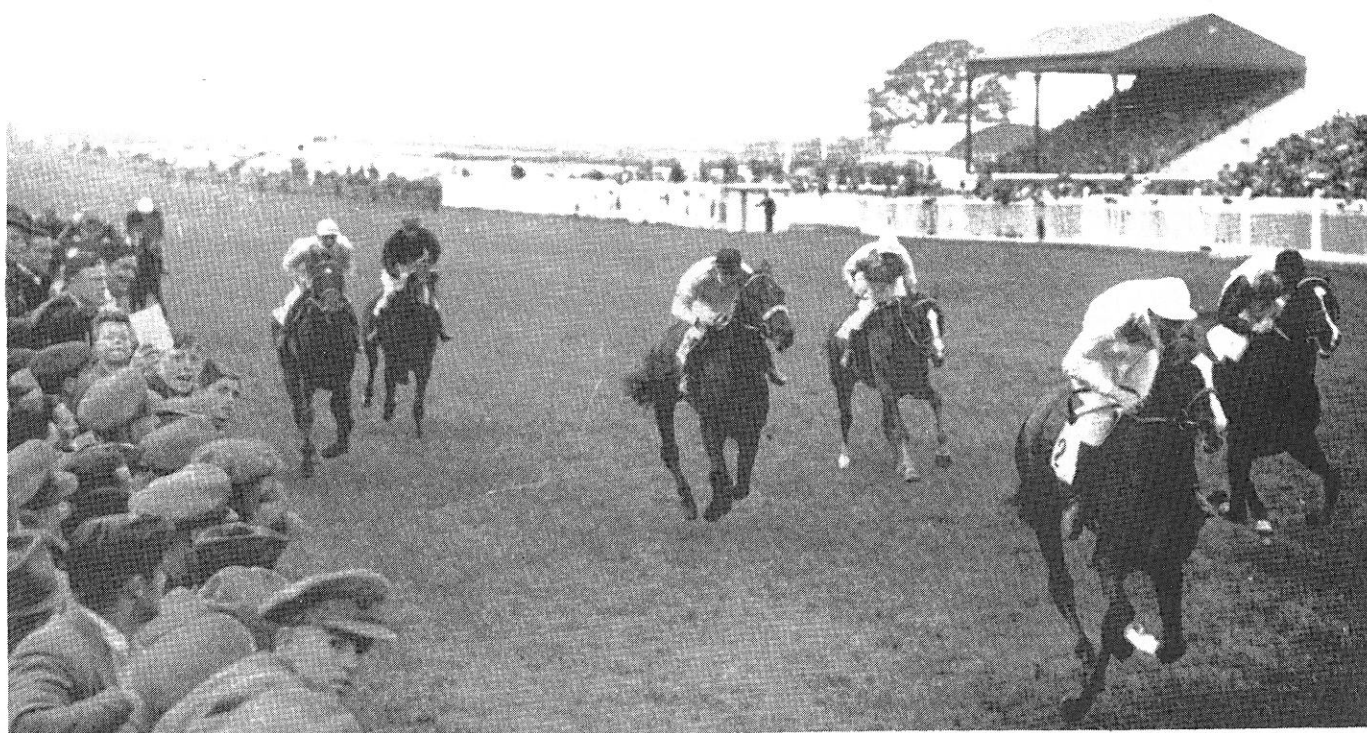


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Little Tricks (Martin Molony up) being led into the winners enclosure at Tramore.



Martin Molony winning the Irish 2,000 Guineas on Signal Box.

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Green Dolphin (left), with Martin Molony in the saddle, taking a fence at Naas.



Winning the Irish Cesarewitch on Hattons Grace.



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# ATHLETICS

## RONNIE LONG

The World Cross Country Championships at Greenpark Racecourse last March were probably the biggest ever international sporting event held in Ireland. With over thirty countries participating, an obviously mammoth organisational task was involved. The preliminary work started as early as the winter of '76 when the BLE Management Committee decided that the Limerick region held the best possible prospects of a successful promotion. One wonders was it a little more than coincidental that our athletics sports star, Ronnie Long, was a member of that decision making body! That the event was an unqualified success is now history. The organisation was simply superb; we had the right result in John Treacy's win and the icing on the cake was the massive financial success. All of this did not just happen.

It was in early 1977 that Ronnie was appointed Press and Publicity Director for the World Championships. From the "off", he had a total commitment to the event. There was certainly no week, or probably very few days, for the two years to the event, that some work was not done. He had a clear definition of what his own work would entail from an early stage but he also could visualise the overall picture down to the last detail. The latter is and has been one of his strongest attributes. Those who worked on the organising committee with him at the time have said that at every meeting numerous small but highly important points were raised by Ronnie. It was obvious that the man was living the event. It wasn't all in the mind either as the hard manual graft was going on from an early stage with every Saturday and plenty of Sundays for months being spent at the racecourse preparing the course.

### TOTAL COMMITMENT

All of this time, the day to day athletic activities were going on. In addition to his position as national P.R.O., there was also the usual club and county affairs to be attended to, and these



RONNIE LONG (extreme right, front-row) pictured with the Irish Athletics team in Rome, in 1974, on the occasion of the European Championships.



did not suffer one iota. It makes one wonder what motivates a person to devote so much for so little material reward. Apart from his obvious commitment to athletics with the resulting benefit to the community at large, one felt it went deeper on this occasion. From the moment the venue was announced, Ronnie admits that a constant stream of people were asking how and why was Limerick chosen as the venue.

There seemed to be a subliminal touch of cynicism in some of the questions. To prove that Limerick could successfully run a world championship was, as we already stated, a very strong motivational factor for Ronnie. Incidentally, the financial benefit of the event to the mid-west region cannot be overlooked either. We must all be grateful to Bord Luthchleas na hEireann for having the faith in awarding Limerick the venue and to all those who worked tirelessly in making us proud to be Limerickmen and Irishmen on that historic day last March.

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### EARLY INVOLVEMENT

The involvement of Ronnie Long in sport goes back to the early fifties. At the start, cycling was his first love and he competed quite successfully over a wide variety of distances, mainly on the road. In 1955, he competed in Ras Tailteann. Even though he was only a teenager then, he had already started on the administrative trail. He was secretary of the Limerick Road Club and contributed a weekly column to the "Limerick Leader" on cycling and athletics. He was a founder member of the now defunct Regional Athletic Club.

His work brought him to Galway in the sixties. The interest had now switched to athletics even though he did, and still does, take a keen interest in cycling affairs. In Galway, he got involved in the Connacht Council of the N.A.C.A. There was a progressive group in Connacht at that time ably lead by Pdraig Griffin (present National Director of Coaching and more recently appointed Coach to the Olympic team in Moscow). Both Ronnie and Pdraig did an enormous amount of work towards the formation of B.L.E. in 1967 which solved the infamous "split" in Irish athletics and which has now progressed to the present stage where we have a strong and vibrant athletics association in the country.

### GALWEGIANS RUGBY CLUB

In Galway, Ronnie had divided administrative loyalties. He became deeply involved with Galwegians Rugby Club and served two years as their treasurer. He still holds many fond memories of his association with the club.

In 1970, Ronnie was transferred by his company Mattersons to his native Limerick. He became immediately involved once again in the local scene. At that stage, he was a member of the national executive of B.L.E. and in 1972, he was elected national P.R.O. With the exception of two years in which he opted out for domestic reasons, Ronnie has held that position.

RONNIE LONG leading the Ros Tailteann field into Limerick in 1955.

Without doubt, he is the finest P.R.O. the association has ever had. The respect with which he is held by the media is testimony of this. He has this tremendous instinctive feeling for a good story which is what the press wants. He is also—dare we say it—able to manipulate the media to the advantage of the association. This surely is the hallmark of a successful P.R.O. His intimate knowledge of the sport and its athletes at all levels is also a help.

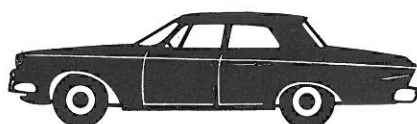
### IRISH TEAM-MANAGER

Many administrative honours have come to Ronnie since his first job of team manager in 1971. On that occasion he was in charge of the Irish squad at the pre-Olympic meeting at Munich. The experience gained stood him in good stead for the major appointment as team manager for the European Championships in Rome in 1974. After that successful venture, he was awarded the ultimate administrative job in the sport in being named as Manager of the Irish Athletics team for the Olympic Games in Montreal. Since then, some of the more difficult team managership jobs have come his way. In 1977, the Europa Cup in Copenhagen; 1978 the eight national Westathletic competition in Sittard, Holland; 1979 Europa Cup in Luxembourg and the home international in Dublin between Wales, Holland and Ireland. Maybe RTE might take him on! Didn't he do a fine job in assisting the "great" Brendan O'Reilly on the television commentaries at last years Irish Championships! He did, and he also does a great job in commenting on various road and cross country races throughout the country.

Ronnie's selection as athletics personality is a deserving one and sure to be well received throughout the area.

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# LADIES ATHLETICS

## MARGARET CROSSE

MARGARET CROSSE, Limerick A.C., at the age of 22 years, achieved one of her life's greatest ambitions during the month of May 1979 when she set a new Irish Javelin record of 43.86 (143 ft. 11 ins.) at the G.V. Ryan meeting at Belfield, Dublin. International honours were achieved on three occasions during the year. Margaret first represented Ireland at senior level in 1977 when the European Cup semi-final was held in Dublin at Belfield. That was a historic day for Javelin throwing because the great Olympic Champion, East German, Ruth Fuchs, was defeated by Tessa Sanderson, England. Sanderson's throw achieved on the new Javelin run-up is still her personal best.

Margaret Crosse was born in Donohill, Co. Tipperary. She was educated at the Convent of Mercy, Doon, Co. Limerick, before moving on to third level at U.C.C. where she got her B.A. H.Dip. Margaret is now teaching at the Presentation Convent, Limerick. She has competed for Limerick Athletic Club for the past five years, though not always in the Javelin. She is a versatile athlete and likes to try her hand at other events such as Shot, Discus and High Jump with a reasonable degree of success.

### 1979 A MEMORABLE YEAR

Margaret will look back on 1979 as a memorable year in her development as a Javelin thrower. She started the year by winning the Irish University title in early May. At the end of the same month the Irish record came into her possession when she won the competition at the G.V. Ryan meeting promoted by Crusaders Athletic Club.

International competition came her way at three venues during July. At Sittard in Holland, Margaret competed against some of Europe's best in the semi-final of the European Cup. The experience gained at this standard of competition was put to good effect in her competitions during the rest of the season as her throwing became more consistent. Denmark came to Tullamore in July for a dual International against Ireland. The home team won by 82 points to 75 points. Margaret had a best throw of 39.21 (128 ft. 7½ ins.) for 4th place. Irish victories were recorded by Michele Walsh, 100, 200m; Caroline O'Shea, 400m; Mary Purcell, 800m and 1500m. Mary Appelby, 400m Hurdles; Patricia Walsh Discus. The 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 Relays were also won in impressive style.

### INTERNATIONAL VICTORY

Ireland next met Israel at Belfield and recorded another victory — 89 points to 64 points. Margaret Crosse had her first International victory with a throw of 42.34m. (138 ft. 10 ins.). Her old rival, Linda Kennedy, was second to record the first ever 1-2 in the Javelin event for Ireland in International competition. Ireland won eleven of the fifteen events. Margaret's clubmate, Phil Barrett got her first Irish singlet in the shot event. The Limerick county championships saw the Crosse name first in the Javelin and third in the Shot, though the National Senior title has so far eluded her. Margaret was third in 1978 and was



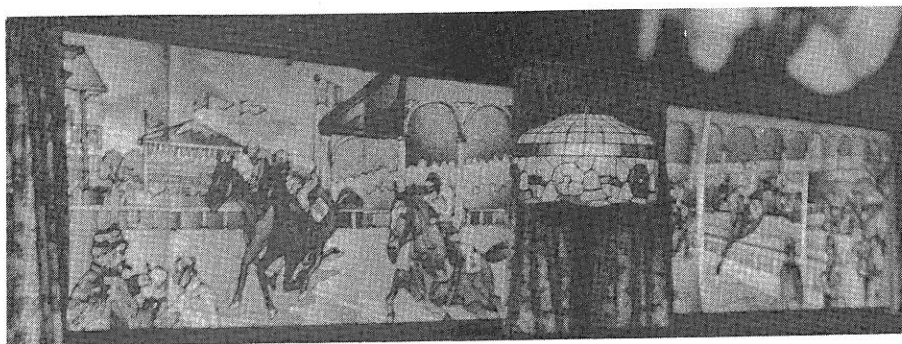
also leading the 1979 competition up until the sixth and final throw by Linda Kennedy who proved the winner. A few evenings later, against Israel, Margaret reversed positions to record the sweetest victory of her career so far.

### IT ALL STARTED IN DOON

Everything that was achieved would not have been possible if her athletic career had not started at the Mercy Convent in Doon. Her first event was at Cross Country, but she was soon attracted to the various throwing events and had a very successful school and B.L.O.E. career.

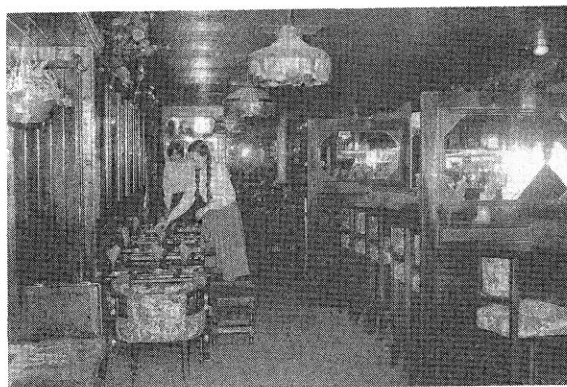
Schools International honours came her way in 1972 at Cwmbran Wales and in Edinburgh in 1974, when Ireland competed against England, Scotland and Wales. National school titles were won for four years, winning the Intermediate title on three occasions ... the first time while still a Junior. Her lone Senior title was won in 1975, but her versatility was displayed in 1972 when she was second in the Junior High Jump. National B.L.O.E. Javelin titles were won in five consecutive years in the under 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 age groups, a very rare feat indeed. A record which will take some years before it is equalled, if ever.





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### INTERVARSITY TITLES

While a student at U.C.C., Margaret had an enviable record in the Annual Irish Interschool Championships. She won the Javelin title in 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1979 and set a new Varsity record in 1978 on the Mary Peters Track in Belfield beating Gay Hogan's (nee Porter) record when recording 38.86 (127 ft. 6 ins.).

As stated earlier, Margaret enjoys competing in the other field events and she did well as the following chart shows in University competitions.

Shot	1st. 1977—1st. 1978—1st. 1979
Discus	2nd. 1977—1st. 1978—1st. 1979
High Jump	2nd. 1977—2nd. 1978—6th. 1979

### TAILTEANN GAMES

Never one to lose the chance of competition, Margaret won the Javelin in the Willwood Tailteann Games in 1971 and 1972. Community Games saw her taking National honours in 1973 and 1974.

A very active and competitive young lady I am sure you will agree in the eight years she has been involved in the sport of Athletics.

All the above mentioned competition and personal improvement she has achieved would not have been possible without the help of others. Margaret Crosse makes it quite clear that she owes a great deal to the help over many, many hours that she has received from Fr. Peter Gilfedder, Glenstal Abbey, during her days in school in Doon and while home on holidays from U.C.C.

In more recent times, Declan O'Donoghue and his large squad of field event athletes who gather at Plassey and other venues are all working together at their Winter Training programme, Margaret is confident that with a solid winters

Margaret Crosse (2nd left, back-row) pictured with the Irish Ladies Athletics team.

work behind her she will go close to pushing the Irish record out to 50 Metres during 1980.

Margaret enjoys attending the National squad sessions under event coach, Dan Kennedy, and feels the competition building up amongst the group will lead to a big improvement in Irish Javelin standards in the near future.

Margaret Crosse for her dedication to her event and for results achieved is well deserving of being elected Senior Woman Athlete of the Year in Limerick for 1979.



Margaret Crosse competing in the javelin event for Ireland.



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# BOXING

## TONY De LOUGHREY

As holder of both the Irish and French Middleweight Titles, Terry Christle, of the Crumlin Boxing Club, is already being spoken of as a potential medallist for the Olympic Games to be held in Moscow later this year. In many quarters, it has been accepted as a foregone conclusion that Christle will automatically be nominated for the Olympic Games by the Irish Amateur Boxing Union, and Christle, himself, would appear to agree with this viewpoint as he paid a brief acclimatizing trip to Moscow recently. Victory in the National Championships, and Christle's Moscow trip is secured. Let the Crumlin boxer be warned, however, a formidable opponent in the shape of Tony De Loughrey, of the St. John's Boxing Club, is equally committed to getting that Moscow nomination.

Tony De Loughrey, who celebrates his 21st birthday on the 27th February, 1980, is a private in the Irish Army and the young Olympic aspirant, who resides in Kennedy Park, is more than grateful to the Defence Forces for the help they are giving him towards achieving his aim of getting to Moscow. "If I could single out a few people, I would like to thank Commdt. McNicholas and Commdt. Daly for the facilities made available to me. Also, I owe a great deal to Sgt. Frawley, my P.T. Instructor, who has often discovered muscles that I never thought existed. And in my Weight Training, Pte. Mick O'Shaughnessy's advice is always appreciated".

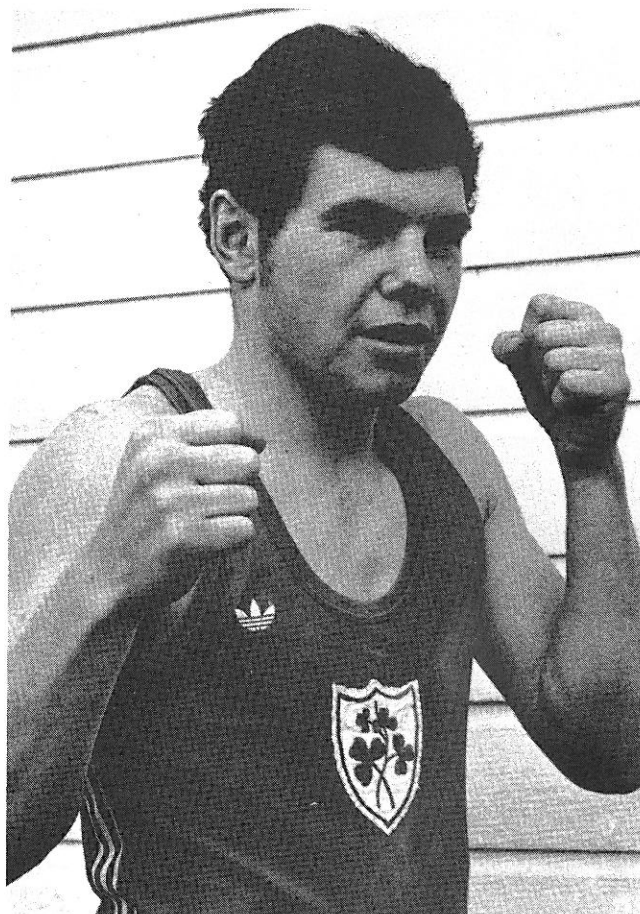
### EXACTING SCHEDULE

Based at the Sarsfield Barracks in Limerick, Tony De Loughrey is now on full-time gym duties with a positively frightening training programme. In the morning, Tony sets off on an 8 mile run which takes him far out beyond Dooradoyle before returning, via Ballyclough, to the Sarsfield Barracks. On returning to base, Tony immediately involves himself in a session of P.T. exercises. In the afternoon, attention is given to weightlifting in a session that lasts up to 3 hours. And in the evening, Tony is present in the St. John's Boxing Club for a 2½ hour programme that involves shadow boxing, sparring and work with the 'medicine' ball and on the punching bags.

Understandably, with that sort of preparation behind him, Tony has improved considerably in recent times, with 1979, perhaps, being his most successful year to date. Under the guidance of John Lee, John Kidney and Pat Joyce, all three of whom are staunch St. John's Boxing Club supporters and invariably in Tony's corner when he is engaged in an important fight, Tony ran up a succession of good victories in 1979, winning at tournaments held in Cork, Galway, Ballina, Castlebar and Wexford. At the Waterford Boxing Tournament, Tony tasted one of his few defeats when he went under to Tony Sinott, who was concentrating on going professional at the time — that fight taught Tony a sharp lesson as he openly confesses that his performance suffered because "I lost my head".

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Still, it was a pretty confident Tony De Loughrey who jour-



neyed to the National Stadium for the National Senior Championships in 1979. In his opening bout, De Loughrey really made the spectators sit up and take notice when he stopped Aidan Heffernan (Galway) in the 1st. Round. Heffernan had stepped up to the middle division having won the National light-middle title in 1979 — he was also a full international. After that, Tony decisively beat Tony Thompson (Dungiven) to give him the right of a crack against Terry Christle in the Final. Though going under by a unanimous decision in that bout, Tony acquitted himself with distinction, earning unstinted praise for his bravery in the National Press.

Certainly, many shrewd judges were impressed by De Loughrey's boxing in those National Finals. At the time, it was no disgrace to be defeated on points by Christle as the Crumlin boxer had been unbeaten for the previous 8 years — that fact alone clearly emphasized the task which confronted De Loughrey, who was contesting his first Senior Championships. The St. John's man made his point, though, and a just reward for his efforts came when he was selected to box for the Irish team against America in Reno, Nevada — famous for its Casino's and gambling dens. Tony's opponent on that occasion was Monte Oswald, one of the few non-coloured American boxers, who won a split decision.

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### FIRST SENIOR INTERNATIONAL VICTORY

The next step in Tony's progress at international level was a journey to Erfurt near Berlin, in East Germany. Toggled out and ready for duty, Tony had the surprise of finding out that no East German opponent materialised with the result that he was given a walk-over — a happening which annoyed Tony as he was looking forward to a good contest. Later in the year, against Canada, at the National Stadium, Tony again went under on a points decision to Ray Henderson, but his moment of glory came in November, in Cardiff, when he gained his first international victory at senior level, beating Steve Davies of Wales on points — Tony had previously beaten Davies on two occasions as a junior in 1978.

That international victory was the source of great satisfaction to the members of the St. John's Boxing Club as Tony had been associated with the Club since 1971 — when he was a mere 11 year old. Those early days do not bring back the happiest of memories for Tony as, in his own words, "I was a very slow learner". In his first fight as a schoolboy, Tony admits that he took a 'hammering' from Pat Finn of Dublin. For a year or two afterwards, it was Tony's younger brother, Jerome, who had joined the St. John's Boxing Club before Tony, who hogged the headlines as Tony was meeting with his fair share of defeats at that stage.

### IMPROVED RESULTS

That image of being a loser altered drastically, however, when Tony came under the expert guidance of John Lee, who quickly changed Tony from an orthodox stance to that of a southpaw — with immediate results. Winner of his first Limerick Title in 1973, Tony won Munster Championships in 1974/5/6 to confirm his growing promise. Tony particularly

Tony De Loughrey being congratulated by Cllr. Bobby Byrne, Mayor of Limerick, on the occasion of his selection to represent Ireland against America in the middleweight grade.

remembers that win in 1976, as he had been knocked down three times in training a few weeks before the Final by Des Daly (St. Munchins) — and Daly was to face De Loughrey in the Final! Ignoring a suggestion that he feign a 'diplomatic injury', Tony obeyed John Lee's instructions to the letter in the Final with the result that he gained an unanimous points decision.

After joining the Defence Forces, Tony competed in the All-Army competitions in Ballincollig in 1977 when he won the Light-Middle Title, and in the Curragh in 1978, where none of his opponents lasted the distance — little wonder that Tony is now temporarily debarred from taking part in the All-Army competitions. In 1977 also, Tony won his first international cap, in the Under 19 grade, against England when he was beaten on points by Mick Courtney. Later in that year, Tony came much closer to winning with the Irish Under 19 team when he lost a majority decision, again to Courtney, in England. In 1978, however, Tony had his first taste of international success at Under 19 level when he was declared the winner over East German Willi Schumaker, who, in desperate difficulties, was eventually disqualified for persistent holding.

### PATIENCE REWARDED

For any youngster with ambitions of pursuing a sporting interest in boxing, Tony De Loughrey stands as a classic example of patience winning through in the end. Though he failed to win a National Title as a schoolboy and junior, Tony's dedication has been such that he is now recognised as an outstanding senior boxer who stands just a few steps away from selection for the Irish party to go to the Olympic Games. All Limerick sports followers will wish him well in his quest to get to Moscow.



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# CYCLING

## EDWARD KEEHAN

Edward Keehan, Limerick Road Cycling Club, who celebrated his 18th birthday during October last had an outstanding year competing here at home in Ireland and France.

Edward, from Rootiagh, Patrickswell, took up cycle racing in 1975 at the age of 14 years. From the beginning it was obvious he had a rare talent. With plenty of financial help from his parents he has continued to improve each season. During 1978 & 1979 he has spent periods of time training and racing in France, a country which is generally considered the home of cycle racing.

### SUCCESSFUL 1979

The 1979 cycling year was an eventful one for Edward. It started for him in January when he trained a few days per week. During February, he spent a week in training in Kerry with John Mangan, Killorglin. He rode his first race of the season early in March and recorded a success. This trend continued until May when he went to Brittany to train and live with John Mangan who now races on a regular basis in France. Edward rode in local events in Brittany and recorded five victories and two seconds. He found racing in France a lot faster throughout the full distance than here in Ireland. Races were usually over 100 Kilometers (62½ Miles) which is 10 to 15 miles longer than the Juniors race here at home. He gained great experience as the number of riders in the French races is usually around 150. The races are held on circuits in the town and villages which results in large numbers of spectators watching.



VIKING Race Winner, EDWARD KEEHAN.



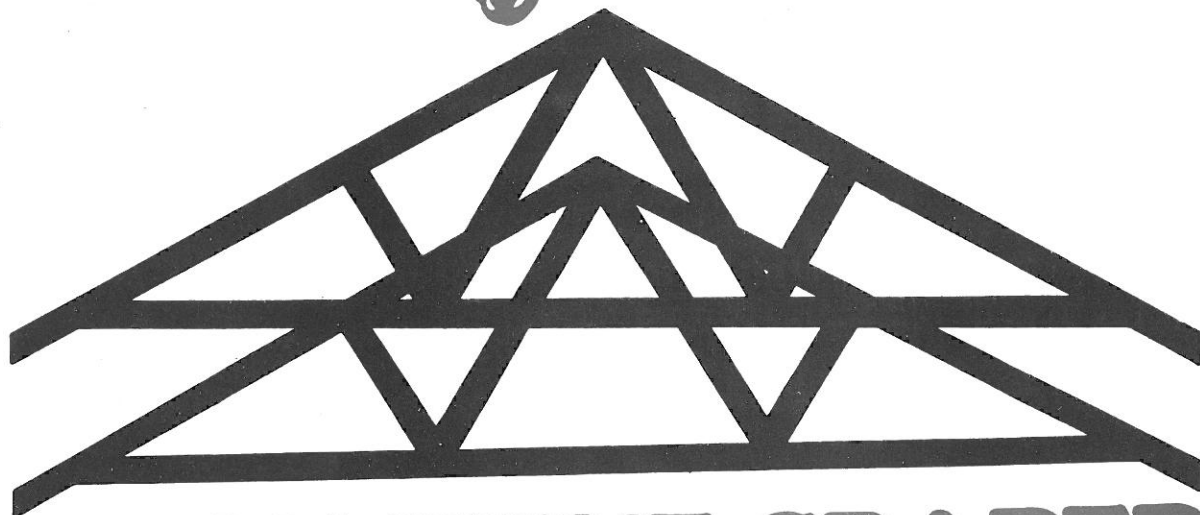
EDWARD KEEHAN (left) being congratulated by his mother after his success in the 6 Day Junior Tour of Ireland.

### VIKING TOUR WINNER

Edward was selected to represent the N.C.A. in the 6 Day Junior Viking Tour of Ireland in July and won the race by 39 seconds. He failed to win a stage but was second on three occasions including the Time Trial where he was only 2 secs behind stage winner Martin Early, Dublin. He won the King of the Mountains award against competitors from England, Scotland, Wales, U.S.A. and Isle of Man. Edward raced with success against seniors at various stages of the season and his victory in the famous Woodcock Trophy race in Phoenix Park by 30 seconds was outstanding and marked him as one of the countries rising stars in this demanding sport. He also won the 60 Mile Open race at Killorglin when former Ras Tailteann winner Seamus Kennedy was third.

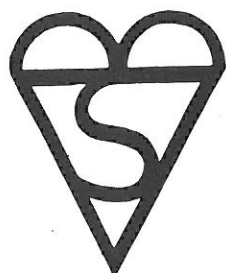
He rode in the three day stage race competed over the roads of Tipperary. The winner of the first stage was his Limerick Clubmate, Niall O'Flanagan. Keehan eventually finished 3rd behind O'Flanagan in the overall classification. He was selected to ride on the N.C.A. team in Belgium in early July. There was a strong Limerick connection on this squad as the team-manager was Michael Hynes, Keehan was captain and O'Flanagan was also on the team. This three stage event was held a few days prior to the Viking Tour of Ireland.

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### EARLY SUCCESS

Keehan was riding at the top level from his first season at the age of 14 in 1975. The All Ireland under 14 was won by Rory Collins, Navan, from Edward but he continued to train until December. 1976 saw him finishing fourth in the N.C.A. Championships at Dundalk. He was disappointed with this as he feels he went off to the front too early in the closing stages. He won a number of races in the Dublin area, before winning the Limerick final of the Community Games and finishing second in the National Finals to Tony Murphy, Dublin, at Butlins, Mosney, in a sprint finish. Edward did a good deal of Physical Training during the following winter, lifting light weights and doing some running. He got on the bike as soon as weather improved, doing about 25 miles four days per week. He raced all over Ireland and had many victories as he grew stronger. At this stage he was riding on restricted gears of 73 ins and this suited him as he is considered a pedlar. He won the All Ireland Under 16 title by inches in an incident packed race from Rory Collins of Navan, and Eugene Keogh, from Dublin, both sons of former great riders at Mondello Park. Keehan chooses this as the happiest moment in his career so far.

### FIRST YEAR AS A JUNIOR

Edward found the experience of riding Junior races over the longer distances a satisfying one. The Junior tour over 6 days and 7 stages in July brought all the Cycling associations in Ireland together for the first time. The stages were over 50 miles and Edward finished 4th overall from 85 riders. He

THE intensity of the big race captured in this excellent action photograph of Edward Keehan.

finished second on 3 stages which was quite pleasing. The N.C.A. Junior Championship was held in Mondello Park and he broke away to come home alone, an impressive winner. He was given permission to ride in the Under 20 National Championship and finished 2nd.

During August he went to France for the first time. He failed to record a victory but was well placed in a number of races but most important of all he was gaining knowledge and experience in totally new circumstances. This was borne out when he returned to ride on the Eamonn Ceannt stadium when he finished 3rd in the Senior 1000 Metres time trial championship behind Shay O'Hanlon, Dublin in 1 min 19 secs, Seamus Kennedy 1.19.2 and Keehan finished third in 1.19.6. He followed up by winning the Munster Senior 1000 Metres Championship at the Geoff track in Waterford.

Edward will be riding in the Senior grade next season and is expected to gain International honours in the near future. His main ambition is to represent Ireland in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and Limerick sports followers will wish to see this dedicated young sportsman achieving his life's desire.

Edward Keehan is a deserving winner of the Limerick Cycling award for 1979 in the face of still opposition from his club-mates, Niall O'Flanagan and Michael Hynes.

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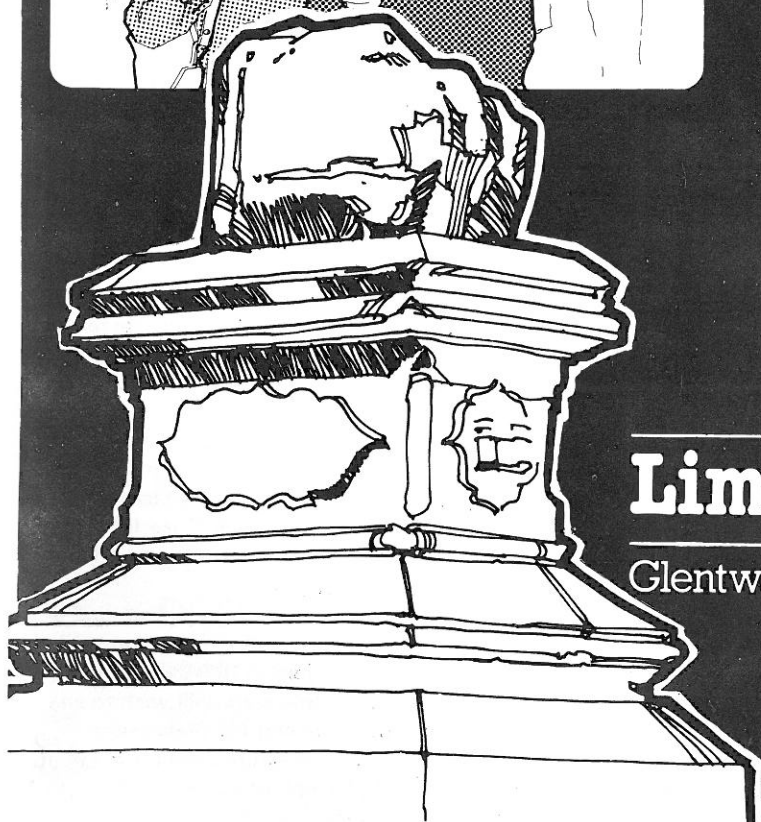


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# GOLF

## JACKIE HARRINGTON

Happy, if a trifle exhausted, the grey-haired, 43 year-old golfer walked off the 17th green at Ballybunion having achieved a life's ambition. 17 years previously, at the prime of his golfing life, he had trooped disconsolately off the Baltray links in Co. Louth having lost in the final of the same tournament at the 42nd. hole.

Now Jackie Harrington, for that's who we refer to, had put the dismal memory of that afternoon in 1960 far behind him. "It doesn't matter any more now", smiled Harrington as he accepted the congratulations and the plaudits of his many supporters at Ballybunion last August. Indeed, once Mark Gannon, his opponent in the Irish Championship final had formally conceded defeat, Jackie was swept shoulder high off the course in scenes more familiar to the football pitch!

The joy of all concerned was, however, well understood. At 43 years of age, Jackie Harrington had been at the top of the Irish amateur golfing tree for longer than most could remember without a major title to show for his endeavours. He had gone a long way in many of them, yet the ultimate prize always seemed to elude the popular Adareman, who works in the family car business in his home town.

Jackie Harrington's promise was evident from his earliest days in Adare. Members at the Manor Club remember his dedication to practise, the natural talent that made one of the front runners in all competitions, even though his handicap plummeted down to the lowest single figures in the quickest possible time. The outside world got a glimpse of the Harrington potential in 1952, when he lifted the Munster Boys title when beating P. Ritchie by 3 and 2 in the final at Limerick. A year later, Castletroy's Noel Hayes was beaten in the final at the first tie hole at Douglas and a new star was born on the Irish golfing scene.

Jackie duly made his Munster senior debut in 1958 and retained his place until '62. At this time, too, he was a regular in the International side, coming in for the '58 campaign, and retaining favour in '60 and '61, but amazingly he wasn't picked in 1962, the year he lost to Michael Edwards at the 42nd. in the Irish Close final at Baltry. Marriage and all its requirements meant a quieter golfing time for Harrington in the '60's, although Munster picked him in '66 and later in 1971.

The Harrington revival really got under way in 1974, when he starred in Munster's Interpro triumph at Royal Dublin but it coincided with Irish selection committees going blindly for a youth policy, although he was also included in the 6-man team for the European Championships. Anybody over 30 was considered to be "past it", and a number of youngsters not fit to fill the shoes of men like Harrington, Vincent Nevin, Bryan Malone and so on were drafted into the Irish team. Jackie was in and out of the side, but his success in the Close last August finally ended all opposition to his claims.

Harrington was bitterly disappointed when he reached the South of Ireland final in July only to lose to the eventual winner, Pdraigh O'Rourke, and was beginning to despair of ever making the big break-through. Nor did he see the "Close" at Ballybunion as likely to end the drought. "It's a great course



Jackie Harrington, Irish Amateur Close Champion.

alright", he said before the event, "but I have rarely played well there. I have never broken 70 there in all my visits."

And when the teams for the controversial Interpro. arrived at Ballybunion, Harrington's head drooped visibly. The weather was absolutely foul, and it seemed impossible that a man of 43 could play through the two days of the Interprovincials, and follow it up with five more of tough Championship golf in such conditions. But that's just what he did!

Harrington and Kerryman Mick Morris won their foursome at no.1 for Munster against Leinster, although Jackie lost his single in the afternoon to Mark Gannon. The weather reduced the Close qualifying round to 18 holes, and Harrington was one of the leaders with a fine 73. But he was placed in the tough lower half of the draw, which looked like a "who's who" of top Irish amateur golfers. Undaunted, he beat one of the favourites, Raymond Kane, in the 2nd. round, a result that must have been a set-back to the plans of the Irish selectors, who saw Kane as a likely winner and backbone of the International side.

But there was more to come. A fierce storm (the same one as caused the Fastnet Race disaster further down the coast)



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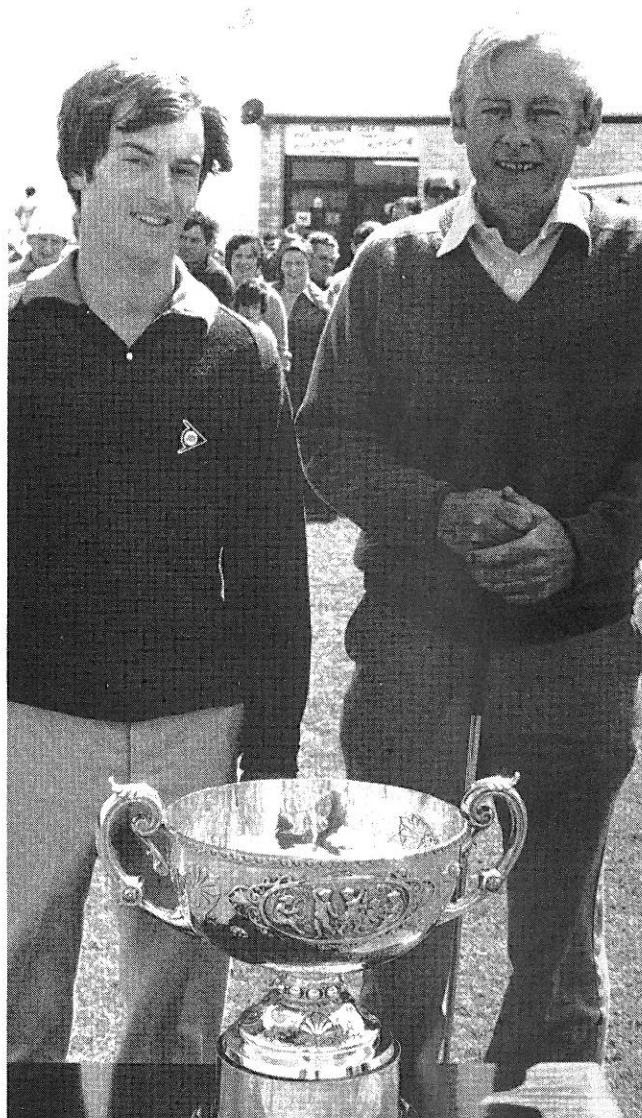


A tense moment for Jackie Harrington during the Irish Close Final.

rendered golf impossible, but the G.U.I. insisted that the matches should go ahead. Harrington didn't let the gale upset him, and went 4 up at the 13th. on Bryan Malone who promptly conceded the match. Harrington remarked: "I don't blame him at all", his teeth chattering with the cold, "it was completely unplayable out there".

Harrington's afternoon opponent was Tom Cleary, one of the better school of young players, and 18 years his junior. The obvious advantage he would have enjoyed in stamina was partially offset by the fact that he had to play 21 holes to beat Donegal priest, Brendan McBride, earlier in the day. Although the weather was still vile, it wasn't quite as bad as in the morning, and Harrington played splendidly to win at the 17th.

So Harrington had taken care of Kane, Malone and Cleary, three of the best around, and now had to face Vincent Nevin, just as experienced and his colleague in the Limerick Golf Club senior cup team. The weather, thankfully, was far more clement for this semi-final clash, which Harrington, playing the steadier stuff, won at the 16th. Mark Gannon could hardly have had it easier against Skibbreen schoolboy, Brendan McDaid in the other "semi", winning by 6 and 5 and was a money-on favourite for the final. Gannon, champion in 1977 and winner of the South and East titles, has been Ireland's most consistent amateur player for most of the 70's.



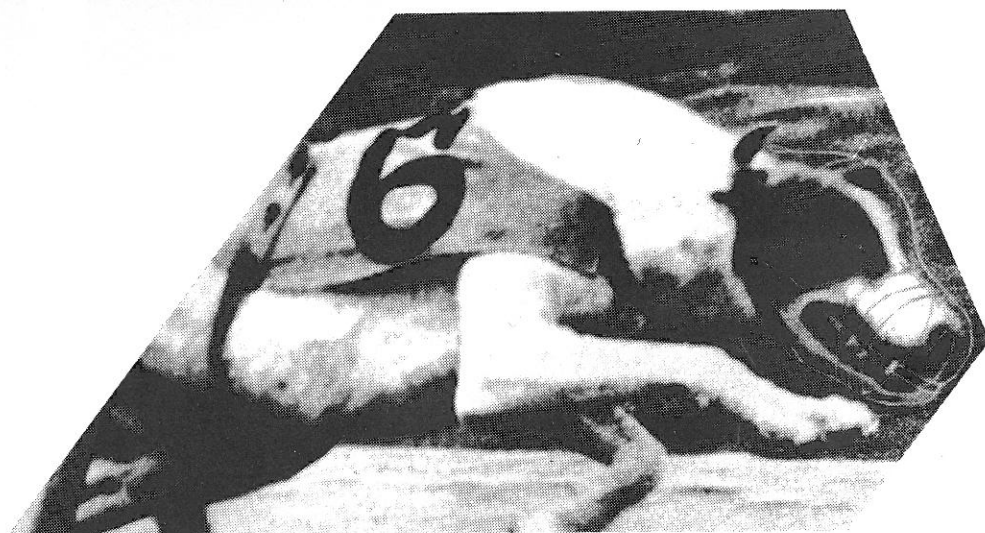
Mark Gannon (left) and Jackie Harrington pictured before the Irish Amateur Close Final at Ballybunion.

So it came as no surprise when Gannon went in front at the 3rd. and was still one to the good playing the 13th. From then on, though, there was only one man in it. Harrington cracked a marvellous 4 wood on to the green for a winning birdie 4, and after a half at the 14th., demolished his man psychologically and materially at the famous 15th., that fiendish par 3 played from an elevated tee down to a green surrounded on all sides by "jungle country". Jack left his 3 wood tee shot just three feet from the target and coolly rolled in the putt for a birdie 2 to go ahead for the first time.

The long 16th. yielded Harrington's third birdie in four holes and now he was dormie. And even though he drove into a rabbit hole and took 5 at the 17th., Gannon was also in trouble and duly conceded the match.

Harrington's rewards were many. A place in the Irish team for the Fiat-sponsored European Championship (he played sparkling golf on a sodden, 7,000 yard course at Turin to finish one stroke behind the winning Spaniard) and, of course, the no.1 spot on the Irish team for the Internationals at Newcastle. Unfortunately, the political situation in the North ruled these Championships out, but a match with Wales was substituted and Jackie duly led his country at Royal Porthcawl in October.

Jackie, his wife Jo and their five children will never forget the last year of the 70's. Their glory was great indeed, and couldn't have come to a more unassuming person or a more talented golfer.



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# GREYHOUNDS

## JOHN HAYES

The small figure of John Hayes, a 31-year-old unmarried Limerickman, is very familiar to patrons of most Irish tracks yet many of those who have cheered his charges to victory would be surprised to learn that he took out a trainer's licence only a little over four years ago. Since then, apart from sending out numerous open race winners, he has had two Carrolls Derby finalists, and there are many handlers still seeking a first runner in the final of a premier classic after a lifetime at the game.

Perhaps Hayes was luckier than most because he has some good owners who have been prepared to fork out the right sort of money for well-bred young stock and then leave the rest to the man from Lisnagry, on the outskirts of Limerick.

However, blue-blooded racers are not, in themselves, a guarantee of success, much depends on the trainer's skill and in this respect Hayes very quickly established himself as one who had the knack of timing a dog's preparation to a nicety. A typical example was the case of Indian Joe when Kevin Frost's puppy was due to contest the final of The Grand Kennel Stake at Shelbourne Park in late September. There was a huge crowd present because it was the eve of the All-Ireland football final

between Kerry and Dublin, with the result that the Irish capital was literally bursting at the seams with followers from every corner of Ireland.

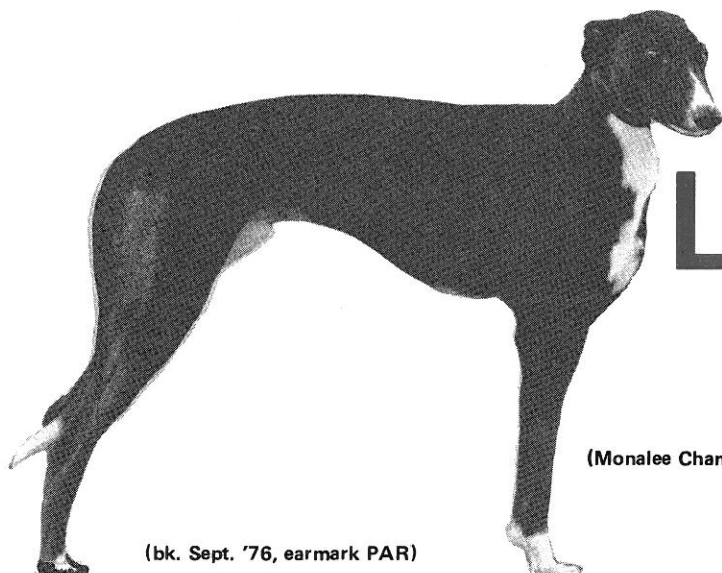
Tough Decision, who needs no introduction, and Hume Highway, the National Produce Stakes winner and successful in the Alan Tuthill '575' at Shelbourne Park two weeks previously, dominated the betting but, after seeing Indian Joe on parade, many shrewd doggy men up for the big game, made Hayes' charge their selection on two grounds ... looks and value for money. Their faith was justified because Indian Joe made all the running and held Hume Highway's late flourish by a neck to win this 550-yard feature at 6-1 in a very fast 30.53 secs.

Despite his success with greyhounds, John Hayes was more interested in horses until about ten years ago. However, hailing, as he did, from the Limerick area, he also had considerable con-

John Hayes holding the greyhound, You Genius, at the presentation after the McElligott's Puppy Derby at Tralee in 1979. Winning owner, John Harnett, receives the trophy from sponsor Mick McElligott.



BACK AT STUD THROUGH INJURY THE FLYING



(bk. Sept. '76, earmark PAR)

# Limerick Echo

By KYBO VENTURE—SKIPPING CHICK  
(Monalee Champion—Funny Venture) (Skipping Tim—Mayfield Chick)

**LIMERICK ECHO** rated by many as one of the fastest greyhounds to race but was unfortunately plagued by injury. His colourful career consisted of only nine races and was injured in the process of no less than four of these. Yet his remarkable performances of recording the following times are still written and talked about by some of the sports' shrewdest judges: 29.30, 29.39, 29.41, 29.45, 29.47 over the Shelbourne Park circuit.

**LIMERICK ECHO** returned to Shelbourne Park on July 2 and almost a year after his last race there, did a solo trial in 29.30 the fastest recorded by an entrant for this year's "Carrolls".

"The first round saw him scoring a trap-to-line victory in 29.45 but four nights later his racing career came to an end — permanently. Limerick Echo hurt a shoulder at the second bend. This caused severe haemorrhaging down the leg and under the arm, so connections, wisely, decided not to try again with him — *Sporting Press*, July 26, 1979".

Had mated 37 bitches and had only six weeks training during which he was committed to cover two bitches prior to the Carrolls Derby. Yes, his 29.30 was faster than the eventual winner Penny County, the Consolation winner Up Nineteen and the flying Knockrour Slave.

How the scribes described him:—

**Trainer Gay McKenna:** "One of the best greyhounds I have ever seen and I have ten of the finest pups you could lay eyes on by him".

**Trainer Paddy Keane:** "Of all the great dogs which I have handled over the years Limerick Echo was the one which I didn't have, but would most of all like to have had."

**Trainer John Hayes:** "Undoubtedly the greatest I have ever trained."

**LIMERICK ECHO** has now mated over 50 bitches and was only three years old in September.

Top coursing trainer **Dick Ryan** had two bitches covered, namely **Miss Dafney** and **Cockscomb Lass**.

Top coursing trainer **Mick Murphy** sent **Scotch Debbie**.

**Limerick Echo** is a half brother to four English classic winners and to the current English Bitch of the Year **Ballinderry Moth**. His half brother and sister **Rhincrew Supreme** and **Skipping Fun** have both won trial stakes.

The remaining member of the **Rhincrew Supreme** and **Skipping Fun** litter (by **Supreme Fun**) namely **YOU GENIUS** won the **Kingdom Puppy Derby**, was runner-up in both the **Duggan Insurances Puppy Stake** and the **Garryowen Puppy Stake**. He was a finalist in the **Munster Puppy Cup** and a semi-finalist in both the **Texacloth Puppy Cup** and the **Bookmakers Champion Stakes**. He only contested two graded races in his first and only season to race. was only once out of the frame.

If you want to breed a champion on both Track and Field — **LIMERICK ECHO** must be number one choice.

His first pups are now just twelve months old.

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**Limerick Echo's** sire's dam **Funny Venture** is the dam of **Go To Work**, herself the dam of **Romping To Work**, **Oaks** and **St. Leger** winner and a host of others.

For further particulars contact;

**JOHN HAYES,**  
Raheen, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.  
Phone: (061) 77376.



tact with greyhounds and eventually he went to work for Steve Gleeson, where he acquired considerable knowledge that has been put to worthwhile use.

Before taking out a licence, he handled the occasional dog for a friend or neighbour, and recalls that John Harnett, who has always supported him, was the first to entrust a greyhound to his charge. On going professional, in the summer of 1975, John was fortunate to get Cindy's Speck, owned by Kevin Frost. Indeed, it would be fair to say that this dog put Hayes on the map because he won the Warrell Stake at Shelbourne Park in 29.05 secs and then went to White City to triumph in the Anglo-Irish International without having previous experience of the Wood Lane circuit.

So 1976 was a very good year for Hayes. Cindy's Speck took the Easter Cup and Game Parachute the McAlinden Gold Cup, both at Shelbourne Park, where he also produced Antone Wonder to finish third to Tain Mor in the Carrolls Derby final. Antone Wonder was, in fact, a model of consistency that season. Prior to the Derby he had captured the Kennedy Cup at Limerick and afterwards he ran up to Nameless Star in the Laurels, at Cork, before going to Kilkenny and triumphing in the McCalmont Cup. Game Parachute was entered for what proved a very hot Burmah Castrol Puppy Derby, in which he ran up to Glen Rock, who returned a fabulous 29-08 at Harold's Cross on final night.

Last year John won the Guinness Puppy Stake at Limerick with Funny Idea, who was shaping up as one of our better hurdlers this season until he aggravated an old injury in the Cork Grand National final and had to be rested. Then there was Limerick Echo, the puppy sensation of 1978 and the first company-owned greyhound based in Ireland. He sailed into the McAlinden Gold Cup final but a bad bump ended his hopes of victory...and also inflicted permanent injury.

After a long lay-off plus a spell at stud, he was treated by a bonesetter, who got him right for this year's Carrolls Derby. A solo trial in 29.30 followed by a first-round victory in 29.45 raised hopes that he might make his presence felt in the premier classic. In fact, he was fancied to beat Knockrour Slave in the second round but his old injury recurred and he has been retired to stud. However, John Harnett, chairman of the Limerick Weekly Echo and the registered owner of Limerick Echo, would appear to have found a more-than-adequate replacement in his half-brother, You Genius, who recently captured the Kingdom Puppy Derby at Tralee. Needless to say, he, too, is trained by Hayes.

A tally of close to 100 winners during 1979 speaks volumes



John Hayes holding three of the top charges he has had under his control, Yankee Gold, Indian Joe and Limerick Echo.

for the progress that John Hayes has made in a few short years and his advancement has been so rapid that he is now bracketed alongside Ger McKenna, Paddy Keane and Matt O'Donnell as one of the best trainers in the business. Perhaps his most outstanding feat was in getting the young puppy Indian Joe to qualify for the Irish Derby Final last July—having earlier run a sparkling 29.23 in the 2nd round. On Final night, though, luck was against John when his charge, a noted outside runner, was drawn in Trap 1 with the result that the Kevin Frost owned puppy was never seen with a chance of lifting the £20,000 prize.

Later in the season, John brought Indian Joe back to Shelbourne Park for the much-publicised Respond Invitation race, sponsored by the Kerry Co-Op group, which had a World-Record Prize of £3,500 for the winner of a single race. Unconsidered in the betting, because he was drawn in Trap 2, 'Joe' fairly hopped out and led the field a merry dance for most of the 525 yds. distance. Just close to the line, however, he was passed by the Paddy Jones trained Distant Clamour — a case of near and yet so far. Throw in the injury to Funny Idea before the Cork Grand National Final, and you have an idea of how close John Hayes came to making 1979 a never-to-be-forgotten year.

Though training for the track is now a full-time task on a 12-month basis in Ireland, John Hayes has also tasted success on the coursing fields. He hasn't kept many for the winter game but two seasons ago he prepared Iron Shore to win an all-aged at Fermoy, the Cork Cup and Treaty Cup and run up for the Champion Stakes at Powerstown Park. Recurring toe trouble interrupted this fast dog's career but he returned to action last January, when he ran up to Tender Heckler in the Munster Cup at Newcastlewest.

John Hayes has come a long way in less than five years and his career to date suggests that he will be in the forefront of Irish trainers for many seasons. Good luck to him.



After the McAlinden Gold Cup Final in 1976, John Hayes (right) holds Game Parachute as the prize is presented to the winning owner Mrs. Noreen McManus.



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# HANDBALL

## PAT McGARRY

In handball circles, 1979 will be remembered as the year that Pat McGarry came in from the cold by winning the All-Ireland Hardball Singles Title. In cold, hard terms, to record that McGarry merely won the Irish Singles Title really does not do justice to the pressure he was subjected to, or the intensity of the effort he put into winning. For fully fourteen years, McGarry acknowledged as one of the great stylists of the handball code, had vainly sought an elusive Singles victory but he was constantly thwarted when it looked as if he were about to realise his ambition. The sadness of defeat was forgotten, though, when he finally made the breakthrough in 1979 — like Jackie Harrington in Golf, McGarry was more than entitled to the lavish celebrations which followed in the wake of his All-Ireland victory.

Facing his 31st birthday in 1979, and with a record of four defeats in All-Ireland Hardball finals behind him, Pat McGarry could have been forgiven if he decided to throw in the towel and resign himself to more leisurely sporting activities. Instead, however, he increased his commitment in training by driving himself far beyond the boundaries that ordinary mortals would have tempted, "I had come so close to a Singles victory over the years that I was determined to give it everything I had in 1979 to make up for my previous disappointments".

### TOUGH PROGRAMME

That training schedule of McGarry's began fully 3 months before the Munster Championships. "Each evening, at least 4/5 times per week, I went out to Shelbourne Park and ran five miles or so along the footpath that surrounds the soccer and rugby field. Running along the footpath was a deliberate policy to strengthen my feet, while I believed that I had to do five miles or so to improve my stamina." That emphasis on stamina certainly paid dividends for McGarry, as it was a noticeable trend right throughout the year that he grew stronger the longer a five-set game went on.

Easily winning through the Limerick section of the Hardball Championship, where his main opposition came from club colleague Joe Bennis, Pat marched on to the Munster Final against Billy McCarthy (Tipperary). Pat's first trip to Ballyporeen for that Munster Final proved a fruitless one as the lights at the Co. Tipperary venue failed. It was a case of second time lucky a few weeks later, however, as Pat comfortably beat McCarthy 19-21, 21-15, 21-10, 21-8. McGarry's emphasis on stamina training being evident in the manner in which he pulled away from McCarthy as the game progressed.

### PHYSICAL EFFORT

Cappagh, near Adare, was the next venue for the All-Ireland semi-final against Tommy O'Rourke (Kildare), who had already beaten the holder of the Hardball title, Cecil Windors, in a previous round. O'Rourke was also the holder of the Gael Linn trophy, while at 24yrs of age he had the advantage of years over McGarry. One thing he did not have, however, was McGarry's depth of experience and that asset was vital as the



A smiling Pat McGarry pictured in training.

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PAT McGARRY, All-Ireland Hardball Singles Champion.

Limerickman ran his opponent all round the court, eventually winning by 21-19, 21-12, 21-7. "That first set", says McGarry, "was the hardest set I played all year in terms of sheer physical effort."

The All-Ireland Final in Roscommon was McGarry's next objective, but the formidable figure of Peadar McGee (Mayo), who had beaten McGarry in three previous Finals in 1974/5/6 stood in the Limerickman's way. All the omens, indeed, pointed to a McGee victory; he had never been beaten by McGarry in Hardball competition, although the St. Munchins man had always come out on top against McGee in the Softball code. Equally, this was to be McGarry's fifth Hardball Final and he had lost the previous four — to McGee, on three occasions, and Cecil Windors in 1978.

#### ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS

That poor run in Finals might have sapped the confidence of a lesser mortal, but Pat McGarry had done his 'homework' in 1979 and it was a confident Limerick group that journeyed to cheer on their man. Amongst the main body of McGarry's supporters were Terry Fitzgerald, the Shannon rugby player whom McGarry often trained with, Willie O'Neill, Paddy O'Neill, Joe Bennis, Phonsie Fitzgerald and Jimmy Kenyon.

Before a full house, McGee and McGarry went into action and the contest they subsequently produced will be spoken of for years as a classic encounter. McGarry lost the first two sets 17-21, 18-21, and when he trailed by 17-19 in the third set it appeared that he was once again destined to taste defeat in an All-Ireland Final. Producing depths of courage, however, McGarry rallied marvellously to win the third set 21-19. That comeback proved too much for McGee, whose confidence visibly drained, as McGarry went on to win the remaining sets 21-10, 21-5. At the end, the spectators gave a standing ovation to two competitors who had given their all.

#### DOUBLES SUCCESS

That marvellous success by McGarry was deservedly celebrated around Kileely and Thomondgate and by the members of the St. Munchins Club, with whom McGarry has been associated since his childhood days. Later in the year, the champagne bottles were again opened when McGarry and Joe Bennis succeeded in retaining their All-Ireland Hardball Doubles

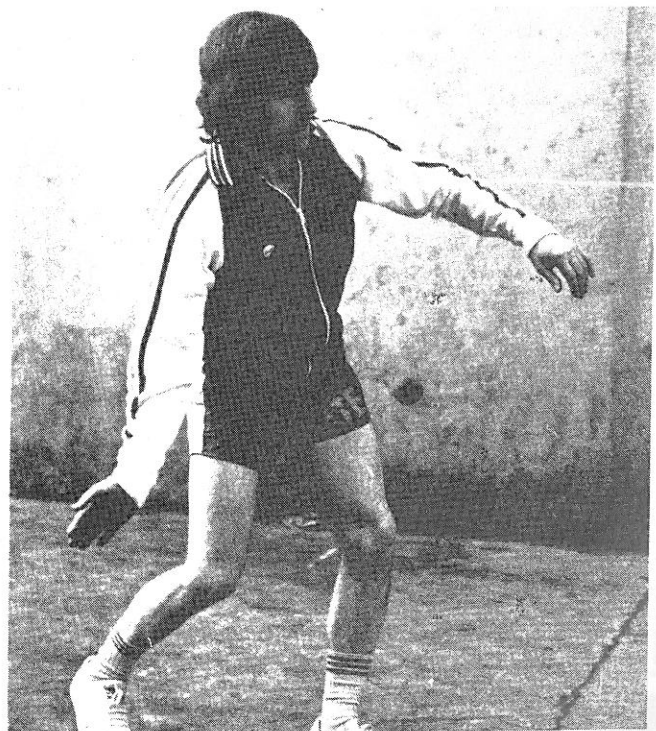
Title. To do so, the St. Munchins pair had to beat some of the best players in the country, knocking out Tommy O'Rourke and Cecil Windors (Kildare) in the semi-final, before going on to beat Peadar McGee and Clem Quinn (Mayo) in a memorable five-set final. McGarry readily acknowledges the part played by Bennis in that Doubles win. "Joe has one of the best serves in the country and this part of his game had opponents in all sorts of trouble in 1979".

At the tender age of twelve, back in 1959, Pat McGarry's talent was such that he appeared at Ballingarry in a county minor singles final. The promise exhibited by the St. Munchins lad was realised some years later when he won the minor All-Ireland Softball Singles Title in 1966—thus emulating his elder brother, Tom, who had won the same title 11 years previously. And it was a case of matching his brother again in 1976, when Pat won the Gael Linn trophy in a year that saw over 2,000 competitors set out in search of that elusive trophy—Tom McGarry had won the Gael Linn trophy twice in the early sixties. Beaten in the All-Ireland Softball Singles Final in 1969, Pat won his first Senior All-Ireland Title in 1976 when, with Mick Hogan, as his partner, the Limerick pair won the Softball Doubles Final.

#### VERSATILE SPORTSMAN

A versatile all-round sportsman, Pat was a Youth final trialist in soccer back in 1966, when Joe O'Mahony, who was subsequently capped, Dick Smyth and Noel Morgan were other Limerick players in contention for international honours. With Treaty Sarsfields, Pat was an excellent gaelic footballer and hurler in the days when the Thomondgate club fielded all-conquering combinations.

Nowadays, though, Pat McGarry's sole sporting activity is handball and with a record of All-Ireland successes in Hardball Singles and Doubles, as well as Softball Doubles, he is recognised as one of the finest competitors in the country. To complete a nap hand, Pat McGarry needs to win the All-Ireland Softball Singles Title and he has already gone on record as saying that he will spare nothing in 1980 to achieve his ambition. With his talent and dedication, it would be a brave man who would bet against Pat McGarry winning that Singles Title in 1980.



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# HOCKEY

## MARIE BARTLETT

WHEN Marie Bartlett failed to gain selection on either the Probables or Possibles teams for the Irish Final Trial in January 1979, it appeared to many that a long, distinguished career at International level had come to a close — since first gaining selection against Germany in 1969, the Catholic Institute star had run up a splendid tally of 36 international 'caps'. Still playing as well as ever at the start of 1979, Marie really should have been a certainty for Final Trial duty, but she was inexplicably passed over — she has her own decisive views on that non-selection.

In Marie's own words "Generally, the interprovincial series is used as a testing ground by the Irish selectors to gauge the current form of potential international candidates. Unfortunately, Munster were severely handicapped in that we had no training or coaching sessions before the interprovincials began. On top of that, we rather surprisingly opted for a new formation which took some adapting to. The end result was that we lost 2-0 to Leinster, while Ulster annihilated us by 6-0. It was inevitable, I suppose, that Munster players should pay the price when it came to the subsequent Final Trial selections".

### STROKE OF LUCK

Any sportsman or woman will tell you that 'the hop of the ball' or 'the rub of the green' can play a decisive part in shaping the trend of their sporting careers — luckily for Marie Bartlett, the 'ball' bounced in her direction in 1979! Just prior to the Final Trial, Violet McBride (Ulster) cried off the Probables team and her withdrawal set in motion a chain of events which saw Frankie Clark (Connacht) being promoted to the Probables side, with Marie Bartlett being called in as reserve on the Possibles team. In the Final Trial itself, played in Dublin, Marie's excellent form was such that she was switched onto the Probables after just 15 mins. play. After the Trial, Marie was nominated on the Irish Reserves team who were to take part in the International Reserves Tournament in Chester, England.

Again, Marie rose to the occasion in that Reserves Tournament with the result that she was selected as one of two reserves to the full international side for the Home International Tournament. On the bench against England — the only occasion she missed playing against the 'auld enemy' since her international debut — Marie again had fate play an important role in her sporting career when, in the 2nd international of the series, she replaced Jane Coulson against Wales after the Ulster girl had the misfortune to break a leg. Predictably, the Catholic Institute star held her place for the next international against Scotland, which was played in Limerick at Thomond College — the second occasion that Marie has appeared at international level in her own city.

### INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

From being a 'non-person' as far as Final Trial duty was concerned a few months previously, Marie was now back in the full stream of international activity and she brought her tally of 'caps' to 40 midway through 1979 when, in quick succession, she appeared against Germany and America. With scarcely a lull in her hockey activities, the next step was on to Vancouver with the Irish party for the World Cup. Accompanying Marie on that memorable trip was Cecile Reid, wife of Paddy Reid who



played on the Irish Rugby team which won the Triple Crown in 1949, who travelled in her capacity as President of the Irish Ladies Hockey Union. Only three Munster players went to Canada for the World Cup, Marie Bartlett, Valerie Shannon and Gwen Doherty — all three of whom were, coincidentally, Limerick born.

That 17 day trip to Canada stands out as a highlight in Marie's hockey career, but the match schedule was extremely tough and demanding, involving no fewer than ten fixtures. After three early warm-up games, Ireland played Bermuda, Holland, Canada (twice), New Zealand, Japan and Argentina — with Marie Bartlett bringing her total of international 'caps' to 47 as she played in all seven games. Marie has particular reason to remember the game against New Zealand as the Irish team went under to two late goals after Marie had retired with





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an injury. Beaten 4-2 on penalty strokes by the host country in a replayed game, Marie feels that some questionable umpiring decisions went against Ireland on that occasion.

Marie Bartlett (2nd right, front row) pictured with the Irish Ladies Hockey Team.

### PLAYING AT WEMBLEY

At International level, Marie's outstanding memory is of Ireland's exciting 2-1 win over England at Wembley in 1973. Of the Irish players she has had as colleagues during her innings on the Irish team, Marie rates very highly the talents of Jennifer Given, Violet McBride and Margaret Gleghorne, who, at the age of fifteen, scored in that memorable game against England at Wembley. Of the present Irish squad, only Jennifer Given, with 48 international appearances, stands ahead of Marie in the list of international honours.

With Catholic Institute, Marie had an outstanding 1979. After winning the Munster Senior League, Institute won through to the Senior Cup Final against Belvedere. Though trailing 1-0 early in the game, Institute came back, thanks to a Maeve O'Neill goal, to equalise before eventually running out 2-1 winners. Marie's vast experience certainly helped in that success, but she herself is quick to praise the efforts of her team-mates — particularly citing the merits of Marie Crawford, Antoinette Jackson, Julie Barkman and Janet Rael.

### IRISH FINAL

That Munster Final success saw Catholic Institute advance to the Irish Finals held at Park Avenue, Dublin, and in the semi-final, the Limerick ladies beat the Connacht representatives by 3-0. Meanwhile, in the other semi-final, Leinster club, Muckross, created a first-rate surprise when they beat Pegasus by 1-0. In the final, Muckross, powered by internationals Laura Flood and Marguerite Barry, beat Catholic Institute 1-0 after a tense, and closely-fought game ... losing out on that All-Ireland winning medal is one of the regrets in Marie's career.

Now holder of four Munster Cup medals, Marie still regards the initial cup success in 1971 as the outstanding memory she has of playing with Catholic Institute. On that team which beat U.C.C., in Cork, were Ann Bradshaw, Patricia Fitzgibbon, Noreen Lynch, Marie Crawford and Sheila Duggan. At club level, Marie cites Jacqueline Begley, Hilary Cunningham, Antoinette

Jackson and Marion O'Connor as exceptionally good players, while she has special regard for the talents of Marie Crawford. "In my view, Marie was desperately unlucky to miss out on international selection over the years as she has been a marvellous forward. When she was finally selected to play for Ireland against Scotland recently, there was nobody more delighted than myself as she really deserved the honour".

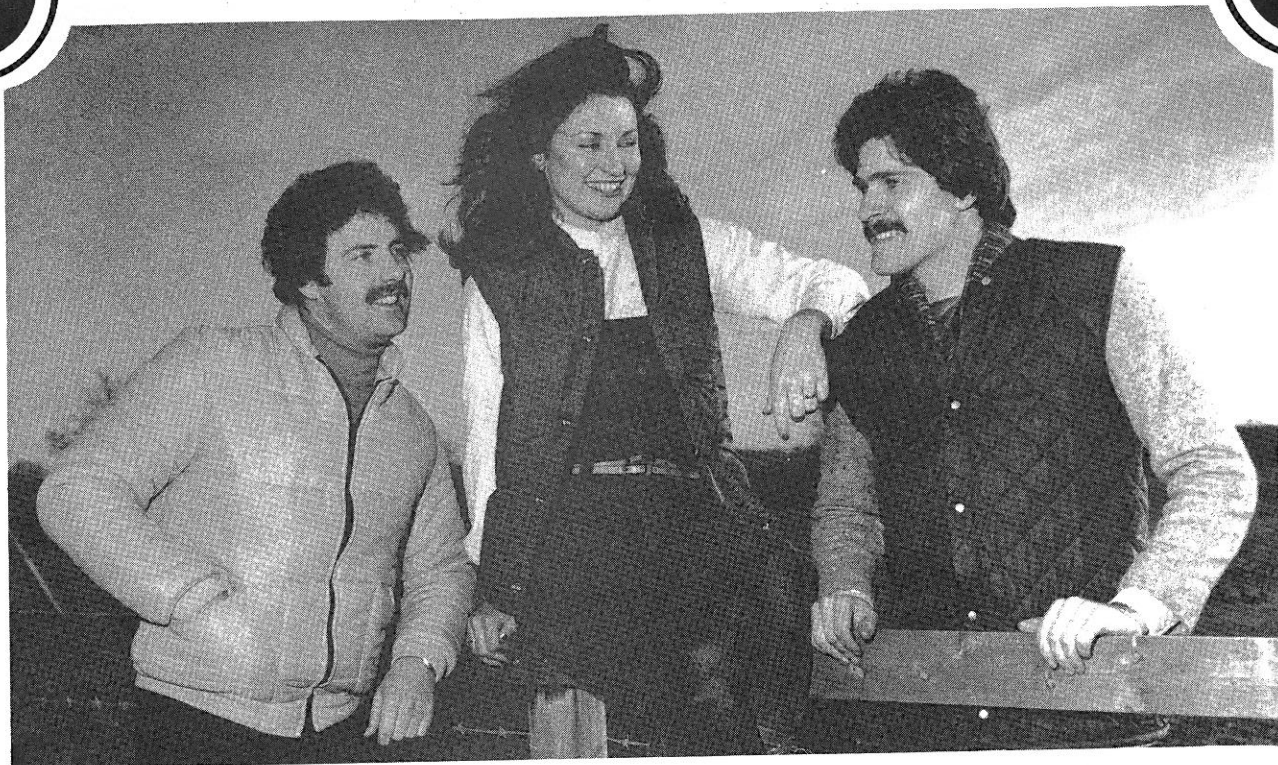
### TWO REMAINING AMBITIONS

Just two ambitions remain to be fulfilled in Marie Bartlett's hockey career. (1) She hopes to bring her tally of 'caps' over the 50 mark and (2) she would like to win an Irish Cup medal with Catholic Institute. Considering the high standards she continues to maintain, Marie still has every chance of realising those ambitions. When Marie lines-out with the Irish Ladies Hockey team against Scotland, in Ayr on March 1st 1980, she will have the distinction of representing her country in three different decades — a remarkable achievement by a truly gifted sports lady.



MARIE BARTLETT (Left) pictured in action for Ireland against Scotland, at Plassey, in March 1979.





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# HORSE RACING

## DES McDONOGH

March 14th, 1979 was the date on which trainer Des McDonogh brought off his greatest achievement in racing. The venue was Cheltenham — the occasion the second day of the world's greatest National Hunt meeting. Des brought two horses to the Festival and both of them won. Monksfield took the Champion Hurdle for the second year running and Stranfield landed the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novice Hurdle.

It was a magnificent performance for a relatively small stable competing against the strongest yards in the jumping game. Stranfield, ridden by Tommy Kinane, whose severed partnership with Monksfield was the subject of much controversy, raced clear of compatriots Glassilaun and Killamonan after the last hurdle to win by five lengths. Successful in five flat races in '78, Stranfield won on his hurdle debut that November but did not win again until Champion Hurdle day when he started at 16/1.

Stranfield's victory was a good omen for McDonogh as Monksfield went to the start for the big race. It had been a worrying time for the trainer. After running a good third under top weight to Chinrullah and Glassilaun in the Sweeps Hurdle at Christmas, Monksfield had only one more run before Cheltenham. He finished out of the money behind English challengers Connaught Ranger and Major Thompson and after that disappointing effort, Des Hughes, who had successfully deputised for Kinane at Liverpool in '77 and '78, was given the ride at Cheltenham.

### RUMOURS ABOUND

As the big day approached rumours were rife that all was not well with the Champion. One English journalist stated that Monksfield would not be in the line up. There were rumours, too, that Sea Pigeon was not one hundred percent fit. McDonogh and Sea Pigeon's trainer Peter Easterby flatly denied the stories but there were still many doubting Thomases. For two supposedly 'wrong' animals, Monksfield and Sea Pigeon certainly gave us a race to remember.

The ground was heavy and Hughes elected to make most of the running. He kept Monksfield to the outside avoiding the badly cut up ground. Nearing the penultimate hurdle, Kybo loomed up on Monksfield's outside and appeared to be full of running when he fell. Jonjo O'Neill sent Sea Pigeon up on the inside of the leader on the turn into the straight and approaching the final flight he seemed to have Monksfield's measure. The Champion was already under pressure and after landing together Sea Pigeon gained a slight advantage. Monksfield thrives in a struggle though, and responding gamely to his riders urgings, he was back level half way up the run in. Running on bravely to the post, he retained his crown by three-quarters of a length.

### TEMPLEGATE HURDLE

The only hurdle race to match it in recent years was the 1977 Templegate Hurdle at Liverpool in which Monksfield and



Night Nurse dead heated. As in the previous two years, Monksfield was brought to Liverpool again in 1979 in search of further glory. Kybo, who many believed would have given 'Monky' an even tougher battle than Sea Pigeon had he survived the second last hurdle was in the field. Josh Gifford's horse had a 5lb. weight advantage in the Coit Sigma Hurdle but Monksfield thrashed him by eight lengths. Sea Pigeon fell at the last when in third place but Monksfield had him well beaten at the time.

The Royal Doulton Handicap Hurdle at Haydock in May was to be Monksfield's last race of the season. He ran his usual honest race but failed by two lengths to concede 13lbs. to the very useful Beacon Light. A year earlier, he had filled runner up spot behind Royal Gaye to whom he was conceding 28lbs.

The trainer of the reigning Champion did not have a racing background although his grandfather was Master of the Limerick Harriers. Des is one of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Clement McDonogh of Summerville Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick. At school in Crescent College he played Rugby on the Senior team and after leaving in 1964 he played Munster Senior Club with Old Crescent for four years. His Rugby activities continued when he joined the Bryce-Smith stable in Co. Meath as assistant trainer. He won a couple of McGowan Cup medals with Navan and the club also reached two Provincial Towns finals.

Des' leisure activities in Limerick were not confined to Rugby. He played Cricket for Catholic Institute and was a prominent member of the now defunct 67 Club. He really en-



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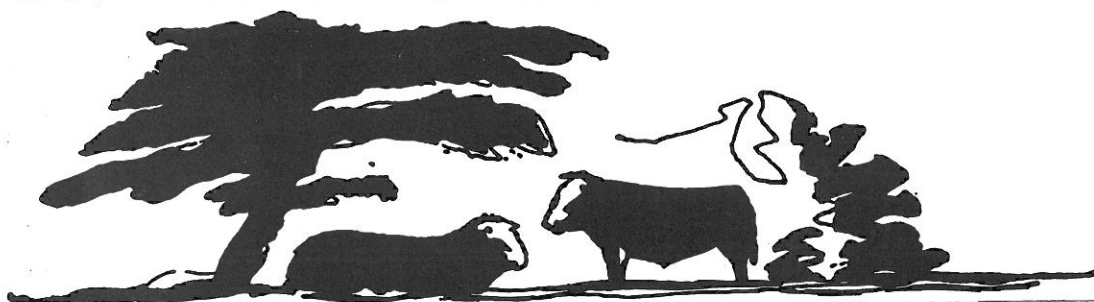
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joyed his days with that drama group and recalls, *The Shadow of a Gunman* and *Charlie's Aunt* in which he played the lead, as particular memories of the Club. He also appeared in an *Old Crescent* production of *Twelve Angry Men*.

### POOR START

Having finished at school Des spent six months with trainer Ger Hogan in Croom and although he tried a variety of jobs in Limerick he had a hankering to become actively involved in racing. He took out an amateur licence and had his first ride in a Three Year Old Hurdle at the Christmas meeting at Greenpark in 1966. Mr. D. McDonogh could have wished for a more auspicious start. His mount Fugleman finished last. Indeed success was a long time coming and in November 1969 he joined Cyril Bryce-Smith's stable at Cherrymount. He was later to marry Helen Bryce-Smith, the late trainer's daughter, and one of the best Point-to-Point riders in the land.

Des has ridden five winners on the track and while he has enjoyed success in the Point-to-Point fields, this branch of the sport provided 34-year-old McDonogh with his worst memory. At a Mullingar Point-to-Point he fell and broke a leg in three places. It took a long time to fully overcome that injury and while Des still rides in the odd bumper, he concentrates on training, a side of the game he decided to enter in 1972. *Muraka*, ridden by Alan Ross, provided him with his first success in a *Thurles* bumper the following February.

In May 1974, he made the purchase that was to shoot Des McDonogh, trainer, into the limelight. It was Goffs' last sales in Ballsbridge before they moved to Kill and for 760 gns., Des acquired a two-year-old by *Gala Performance* out of *Regina* on behalf of Dr. Michael Mangan.

At the start of the present season, *Monksfield* was favourite to emulate *Persian War*, *Sir Ken* and *Hattons Grace* by taking the *Champion Hurdle* for the third time. Events on the racecourse have altered the situation somewhat and having

Ireland's EEC Commissioner, Richard Burke presents the 'Trainer of the Year' (National Hunt Racing) Award to Limerick-born Des McDonogh at a reception and luncheon at Leopardstown racetrack. In the centre is Sean P. Graham, sponsor of the awards. The framed coloured print shows *Monksfield* (on inside) trained by Des McDonogh coming to win the 1979 *Champion Hurdle* at Cheltenham from *Sea Pigeon*. It was his second successive victory in the race.

finished last on his most recent outing at Navan before Christmas 'Monky' is under a cloud.

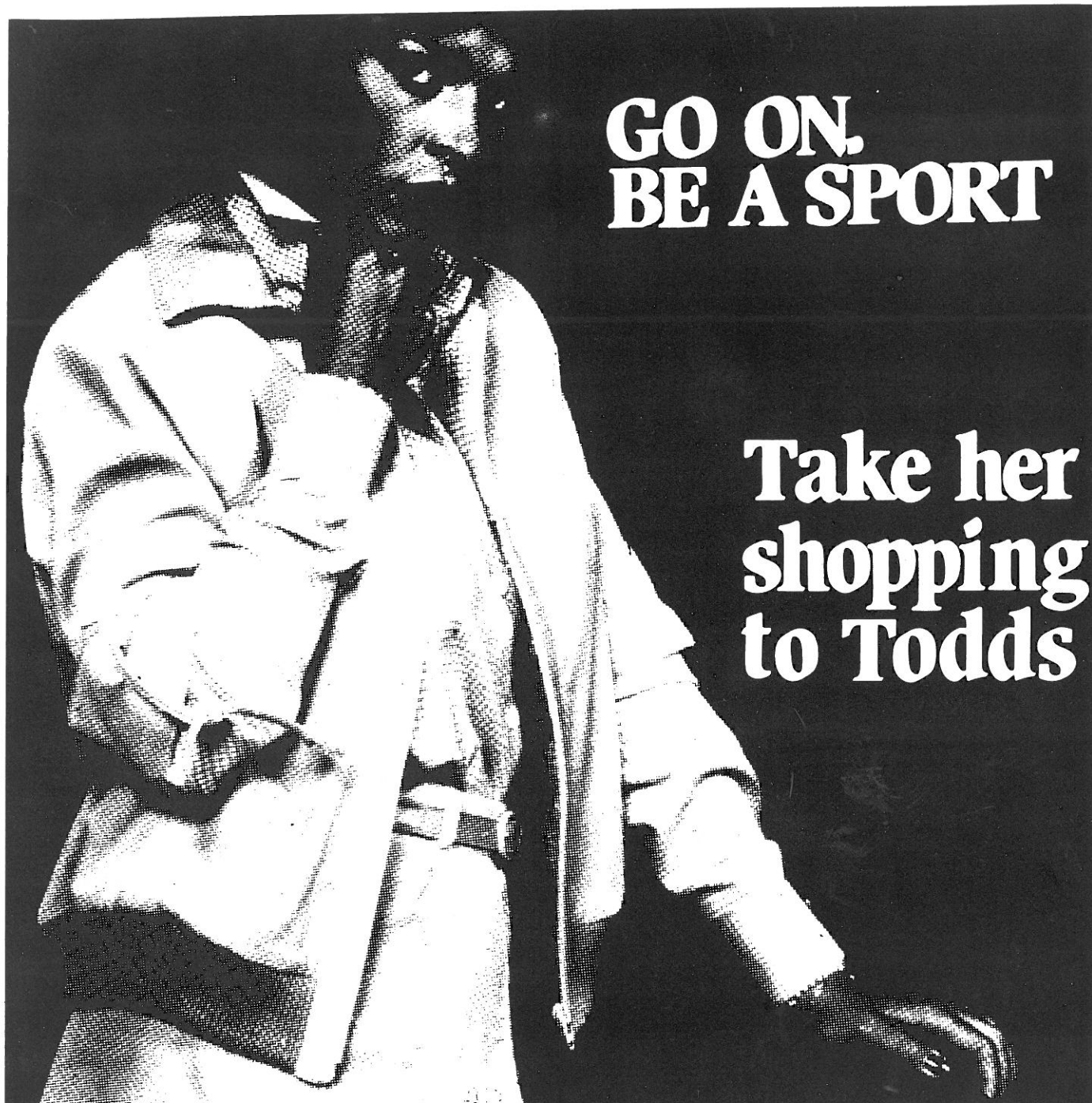
### ABUNDANCE OF CONFIDENCE

34-year-old McDonogh knows the horse better than anyone, though, and he is convinced that the horse is still interested in racing. The knockers have had a feast over the last few months. They say that the horse, an eight year old entire, has lost his enthusiasm. Some maintain he has had too many hard races. After the Navan flop, *Monksfield* became part of racing history in the opinions of some.

A blood count disorder may well have been the principal reason for *Monksfield*'s moderate performances. Before rushing to dismiss him as 'over the hill' it should be remembered that *Monksfield* always was a spring horse. His form in March, April and May always surpassed his efforts in the winter months. The improvement this year will have to be more dramatic, but his trainer expects the *Erin Foods Champion Hurdle* at Leopardstown on February 23rd to signal a return to form.

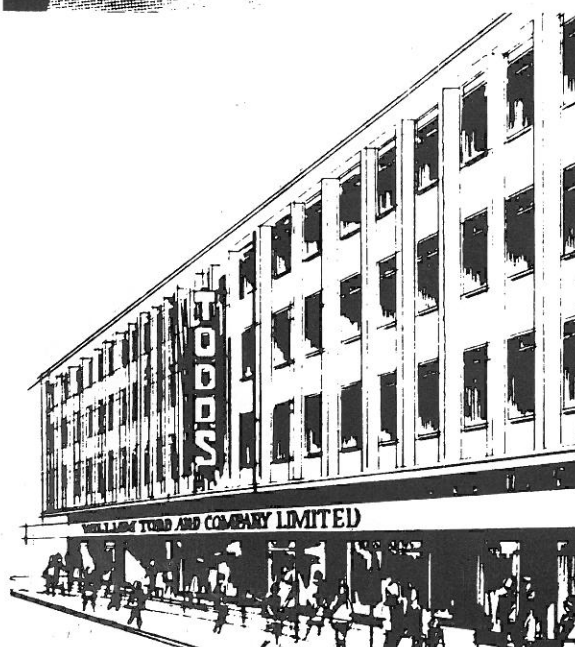
A year ago we mentioned *Stranfield* as the second string to Des McDonogh's *Cheltenham* bow. *Stranfield* will not be travelling this year but in *Mister Niall*, third in last year's *Irish 2,000 Guineas*, Des has an interesting contender for the *Daily Express Triumph Hurdle*. Whatever the outcome of *Cheltenham*, Des McDonogh has made an indelible mark on the Irish Racing scene and is here to stay.





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# HURLING

## JOE McKENNA

After good wins over Waterford and Clare in 1979, hopes were raised in the Treaty City that the glories of 1973 might be repeated and that Limerick might sweep Cork aside in the Munster Final as a prelude to a stirring All-Ireland success. Unfortunately, those dreams faded on that easily forgettable day in Thurles as Cork dealt casually with Limerick's challenge. On the day, Joe McKenna, in such brilliant goalscoring form throughout the year, was well-held by Cork defender Martin O'Doherty and with their most potent force stifled, Limerick had very little to offer in attack. That one game, in fact, so clearly revealed how much Limerick had come to depend on the big South Liberties full-forward.

### HUGE RESPONSIBILITY

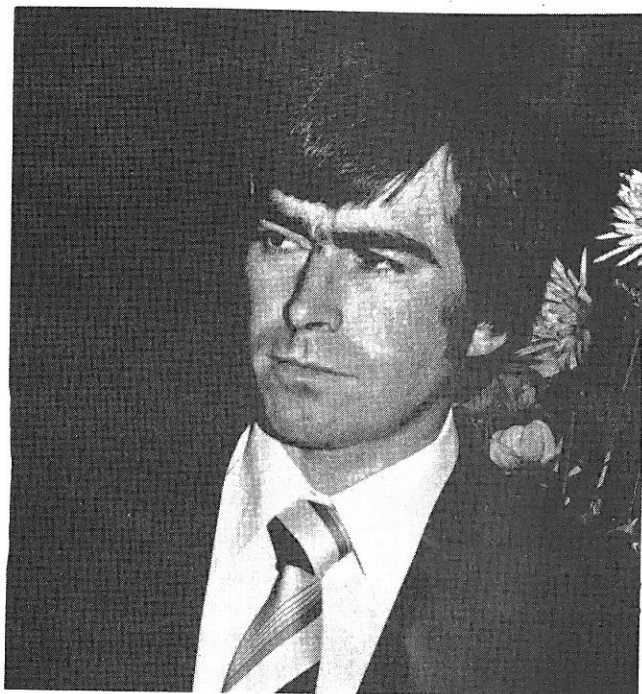
Obviously, all inter-county hurlers are subject to some pressures and tensions before an important championship game, but few, if any, players carried the same responsibility on their shoulders as Joe McKenna did during 1979. Quite simply, he was a one-man forward line himself and the maxim for opposing teams was that of "stop McKenna and you stop Limerick". Inevitably, Joe was subject to the tightest possible marking by defenders but his consistent scoring record throughout the year speaks volumes for the manner in which he coped with the challenge. On the one occasion that he slumped from his usual impeccable standards in the Munster Final, the sad reality was that Limerick had no attacker capable of filling the vacuum.

At times, "supporters" can be a fickle group and quite a few of those "day-trippers" who journeyed to Thurles for the Munster Final were rather vehement in their criticism of McKenna after the game. How easily they forgot Joe's feat of scoring 2-4 from play in the semi-final against Clare. Before that, another two goals against Waterford effectively ended the challenge from the decies men. Rather than denigrate McKenna for that one isolated poor display against Cork, would the interests of justice not have been better served if the suggestion were made that Limerick would not have qualified for that Munster Final in the first instance but for the scoring achievements of McKenna.

### SCORING EFFORTS

Those scoring efforts against Clare and Waterford in the Munster Championship were more in keeping with McKenna's normal form during 1979 as very few games went by without the South Liberties player finding the net. Though eventually finishing on the losing side in the N.H.L. semi-final against Galway, Joe notched two goals from play. Prior to that, the All-Star had raised another brace of green flags against Cork, with Martin O'Doherty at full-back, in the quarter-final. Little wonder, then, that every defence in the country should fear him and be forced to make special contingency plans to prevent his creating havoc.

In the light of his consistent form during 1979, McKenna was an automatic choice on the All-Stars team, which came under the 'umbrella' of the Bank of Ireland group for the first



time last year. This was the fourth occasion in all that the Limerick player had merited recognition from the All-Stars selectors, receiving his first award as right-half forward in 1974. A year later, Joe was nominated for the centre-forward position and in 1978/79 as full-forward. 1980, perhaps, will be the year when Joe joins Noel Skehan, Eddie Keher and club-colleague Pat Hartigan as a unique 5 times winner of All-Stars hurling awards.

### WIDE RECOGNITION

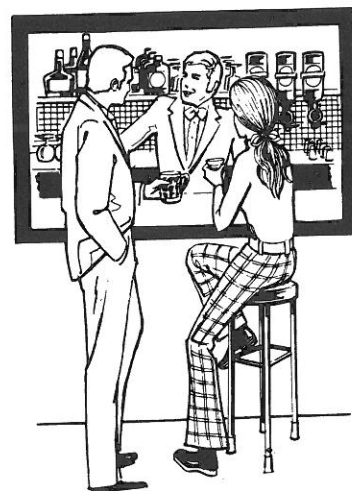
That All-Star recognition was but one of many honours that came Joe's way in 1979. In June, he was selected as the B & I Player of the Month - Pat Hartigan being the only Limerick player to previously win this award. After the N.H.L. play-off stages, Joe received the Irish Nationwide Building Society Award for being the leading scorer from play in the concluding stages of the N.H.L. And at local level, the towering full-forward was elected Sports Personality of the Month by the Limerick Leader in recognition of his excellent Munster Championship display against Clare.

Having travelled to America on four occasions with the All-Stars selections, Joe has his own decided views on how these tours should be handled. In 1979, he maintains that the travelling involved between New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles imposed a taxing schedule on players with the result that they were unable to see many of the famous sights in those cities. Equally, Joe is of the opinion that the option to stay in Hotels should be open to players rather than the present system of staying in the homes of Irish-American families.

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Those minor criticisms aside, Joe opined that the Bank of Ireland sponsored tour was the "most professional" of all and he is confident that further improvements will take place in the future.

#### HARTY CUP OUTINGS

A native of Shinrone, Co. Offaly, Joe was educated at Dunkerrin National School, where he had Jim Ryan, former President of the G.A.A., as one of his teachers. Surprisingly, Joe's initial involvement with Dunkerrin in hurling games came as a corner-back. Later, as a boarder at St. Flannan's College, Joe numbered the Clare trio of Sean Hehir, Ger Loughnane and Colm Honan as his colleagues in many stirring Harty Cup games. Lucky enough to win a Dean Ryan medal with St. Flannan's, one of Joe's major regrets in hurling is that he never figured on a winning Harty Cup team. Going under to Limerick C.B.S. in one semi-final with Pat Hartigan, ("he towered over me at the time") Christy Campbell and Dave Tuohy starring for the winners.

With his native county, Joe competed in the Leinster Championship in 1972 when they went under to a Mick Jacob/Tony

A typical action photograph of Joe McKenna gaining possession.

Doran powered Wexford in the semi-final. At that stage, however, Joe had commenced working in Limerick with Denis Coakley Ltd., where he had the South Liberties pair of Joe Grimes and Vincent Byrnes as colleagues. A regular attendee at South Liberties games, Joe struck up friendships with many of their players and it came as no surprise when he switched his allegiance from Shinrone to the 'Liberties' in 1972. That move proved fortuitous as far as McKenna was concerned as he went on to win a County Championship medal in 1972 with his new club - making it a hat-trick in later years by being on the winning teams in 1976 and 1978.

#### ALL-IRELAND SUCCESS

Impressive in that 1972 Championship campaign, Joe found himself on the Limerick County panel in 1973 and he made his Munster Championship debut against Clare lining out at centre-half forward. Subsequently dropped for that never-to-be-forgotten Munster Final against Tipperary which Richie Bennis won for Limerick with the famous last gasp '70', McKenna received an unexpected call-up for All-Ireland Final duty against Kilkenny when Jackie Power/Dick Stokes & Co. took the decision to move Eamonn Cregan to centre-back. It is now history, of course, that Limerick went on to win their first McCarthy Cup in 33 years by beating Kilkenny 1-21 to 1-14.

A firm admirer of former Tipperary greats Liam Devaney and Mick Roche, Joe's outstanding hurling memories of 1979 were Eamonn Cregan's excellent display against Clare in the Munster semi-final and the tragic eye injury which prevented Pat Hartigan from taking his place in the Munster Final. On the coaching front, Joe compliments Noel Drumgoole for his efforts on behalf of the county hurling team, while he is also loud in his praise of Mick Marrinan for the advice and training assistance he has given to South Liberties.

#### MUCH TO CONTRIBUTE

Now self-employed as a supplier of welding and power tools to Trade and Engineering firms, McKenna is confident that his work commitments will not interfere with his sporting life as a top-class hurler. Just 28, Joe McKenna still has so much to contribute to Limerick hurling over the coming years.



JOE' McKENNA receives his Bank of Ireland Allstar award from Ex-Taoiseach, Mr. Jack Lynch, T.D., at the Allstars Banquet in Jury's Hotel on Friday, December 7th.

Robert V. Barry



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# ROWING

## DERMOT HENIHAN

History was created in more ways than one in 1979, when the Dermot Henihan coached St. Michaels crew won the Junior A Eight Championship of Ireland at Portora. For starters, St. Michaels had never previously won Championship honours at any level in their 75 year history. In addition, St. Michaels became the first commercial club to win the Junior A Title—formerly known as the Senior Schoolboys Eight grade.

That Championship success was no chance occurrence as far as St. Michaels were concerned, but rather a fitting reward for a long and arduous campaign superbly orchestrated by club coach Henihan. Fully 9 months before the Championship Regatta at Portora, Henihan, knowing that he had a good squad of oarsmen under his wing, had his charges training five evenings during the week. Even at that early stage of the season, the demands imposed on his crew by Dermot Henihan would have taxed the fittest of sportsmen. Two evenings were given entirely to weight-training, while on the remaining 3 nights, Henihan had his squad engaged in road running over distances varying between eight and fourteen miles.

### GRUELLING TRAINING SESSIONS

Luckily, the St. Michaels crew of Pat Leahy (Bow), Philip Hackett, Austin Leddin, Barry Smith, Derek Daly, Dermot Woodhouse, Niall De Loughry, Niall Hogan (str), Paul O'Driscoll (cox) and reserve John Hickey were just as committed as Dermot Henihan to the ideal of winning the Junior A Eight Championship with the result that they readily knuckled under to the rigorous training schedule dictated by their coach. From February onwards, the pace was stepped up to 6 days per week, while Henihan often had his men on the water twice on Saturdays and Sundays - often starting the first session as early as 8.30 a.m. in the morning.

Just like a racehorse trainer who views the first racecourse appearance of a promising 2 year old with some trepidation, Dermot Henihan was fully aware that, exacting training schedule or not, the first outing of his crew on a competitive basis would answer a lot of questions. As it happened, Henihan need not have worried as his crew came through the first test, the New Ross Head of the River, with flying colours — finishing in fifth place, well ahead of their Junior A contemporaries, behind elite and senior crews.

### BREATHTAKING PERFORMANCES

That promising display by Dermot Henihan's men was no more than the tip of the iceberg as it later transpired that it was just the opening salvo in a series of breathtaking performances. The prestigious Anderson Trophy, at the Galway regatta, as well as a succession of wins at Lee Schools, Trinity, Limerick and Blessington followed. During this period, Henihan's crew beat all their main Junior A rivals with the result that they journeyed to Portora for the Championship Regatta as red-hot favourites to lift the Junior A Title.

History now records that St. Michaels gained the ultimate honours, but the drama and tensions surrounding that victory will never be forgotten by Dermot Henihan and his men. For



starters, Niall De Loughry, who rowed at No. 7, went down with a severe throat infection just two days before the Championship. For a time, it seemed certain that Niall would have to miss the race, but 48 hours rest in bed allied to a dose of antibiotics worked wonders as far as Niall was concerned with the result that he was able to take his place in the crew.

### UNFAVOURABLE DRAW

Qualifying comfortably for the Final, St. Michaels must have felt that lady luck had deserted them when they were drawn in the notorious 4th lane, with the unenviable prospect of having to row into a 'wind tunnel'. Here, though, Dermot Henihan's gruelling training programme and thorough preparation paid dividends as St. Michaels narrowly beat Methodist College by 1/4 lt. with Neptune finishing in 3rd position. The true merit of St. Michaels win can be gauged in the fact that, over the two days of the regatta, they were the only crew to overcome the handicap of being drawn in the 4th lane.

Understandably, that famous victory by Henihan's crew was celebrated into the late hours by the strong St. Michaels contingent who travelled to Portora - Mick Phelan, Paddy Tracey, Alfie Young, Vinny O'Driscoll, Pat Cunneen, Ray Buckley and



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Dermot Henihan (left) pictured with Damien Masterson, who won the Schoolboys Single Sculls in the Home International Championships in 1978.



Dermot Henihan supervises a St. Michaels crew taking the water for a training spin.

St. Michaels gaining Championship honours were enhanced. So intent, indeed, was Dermot on achieving success that he studied for, and completed, the stiff Coaching Examinations set by the British Amateur Rowing Association, where the examiners are generally individuals who have coached crews of Olympic standards. Dermot is now the proud holder of a Bronze Coaching Award from the British Rowing Association - the only coach in Munster to enjoy this status.

Associated with the St. Michaels club since the early sixties, Dermot followed a long family tradition as, before him, his grandfather had been a captain of the club, while his father served as Vice-Captain. In addition, Dermot's two brothers had also been active in St. Michaels affairs. Cox to a St. Michaels crew at the early age of 12 back in 1964, Dermot rowed as a schoolboy for St. Michaels for a period, but, since 1973 he has concentrated on coaching - with quite spectacular results. The happenings that stand out in Dermot's mind include the Blessington Regatta in 1978, when St. Michaels set a club record of six victories. Other memorable occasions were the Athlone Regatta in 1978, when St. Michael;s won the Best Overall Club Trophy, while the first sculling success, by Damien Masterson in 1976, is also a career highlight.

On the administrative side of affairs Dermot has served as St. Michaels club captain, vice-captain and secretary on more occasions than he cares to remember, while he is the Munster Representative on the I.A.R.U. Junior Executive. On an International scale, Dermot has coached Irish crews in England, Wales and Scotland. One of those occasions was particularly memorable as Dermot's young protege, Damien Masterson, gained a spectacular success in the Schoolboys Single Sculls at Llandegfedd in Wales - young Masterson had come under Dermot's expert tuition at the early age of eleven.

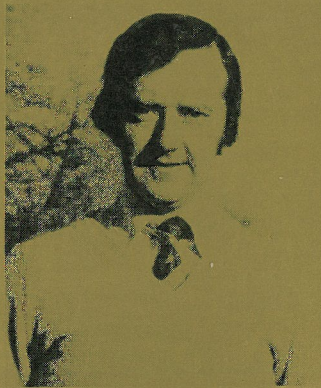
#### VITAL ROLE

Looking forward to the years ahead, Dermot would like to see St. Michaels winning more Championship Titles, while he is also hopeful that, in time, his club will produce oarsmen capable of competing in the World Championships. Dermot particularly mentions 16-year-old Barry Smith as an oarsman of great potential - already, young Smith is on the provisional Irish junior squad to compete in the World Junior Championships, in Belgium, next August. Smith, Masterson, and many other young St. Michaels hopefuls would only too readily acknowledge the vital role that Dermot Henihan has had to play in developing their rowing careers.

#### COACHING AWARD

That Championship success was the culmination of the dreams of hundreds of St. Michaels supporters who had avidly longed for the breakthrough for years. Afterwards, Dermot Henihan was widely, and deservedly, lauded for his efforts as, ever since his first involvement with the club, the prospects of





# LIMERICK WEEKLY ECHO

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