

# PREMIER PROSPECTS

## NO ARRESTING, JUST DEVELOPMENT

**JAMES WOODLOCK** is sure the "new dawn" in Tipperary can deliver the goods.

Woodlock, an instructor at the Garda College in Templemore, took over as Premier minor boss in February this year.

As he prepares the future of Irish law enforcement by day, the next wave of Tipp talent will be under his watch by night.

They lost 2-25 to 4-11 against Waterford in a Munster semi-final in July but, dealing with a work in progress, the manager needs time just as much as the players on the conveyor belt do.

Colm Bonnar has been handed the senior reins and knows what it takes to win.

He helped the Premier bag the 1989 and 1991 All-Ireland titles as a player and insists Tipp will be back at the top, despite Limerick's dominance.

The county last won a minor All-Ireland title in 2016 but Woodlock says it is not so much about trophies. Developing talent for the biggest stage of all is what really counts.

He told SunSport: "It is a new dawn and some of the crop from 2010 are coming back in with the likes of myself in the minor job."

"Darragh Egan was involved last year and now Brendan Cummins has taken the reins of the Under-20s.

"It's all good, it's a changing of the guard for all three management teams really and I'll be working really closely with Brendan Cummins.

"I had a lot of the players he has now at

By **JASON BYRNE**

GAA WRITER



Under-16 level. I'd know a lot of them and we'll work really closely together throughout the season to try and develop underage Tipperary hurling for the benefit of Colm Bonnar then.

"That's what the underage structures are all really about, especially at minor and Under-20 level - feeding talent into your senior team."

Woodlock made his senior debut for Tipp as an Under-21 graduate in 2006 under Babs Keating.

Liam Sheedy then took the reins ahead of the 2008 campaign and led the county to All-Ireland glory two years later in 2010.

But Drom & Inch man Woodlock missed that entire campaign because of a horrific leg break.

The midfielder later stepped away from the inter-county game in 2015 when he was only 29.

Tipp lifted Liam MacCarthy again in 2016 under Michael Ryan and reached the promised land once more in 2019 after Sheedy's second coming.

But when the Portroe man stepped away this year after their All-Ireland quarter-final loss to Waterford, it felt like the end of an era.

Former captain Brendan Maher retired from inter-county hurling last month at 32.

Woodlock's club-mate Séamus Callanan is 33, while Noel McGrath, 30, Pádraic Maher, 32, and Patrick 'Bonner' Maher, 31, are not getting any younger either and new talent will be required to stand up and be counted.

With his minor management hat on

and with Cummins in the Under-20 hotseat, Woodlock insists the future is bright across the board.

He said: "What I've seen from the club action so far in relation to the underage structure and how players in those grades have performed, I would be pretty confident that we'll have a really competitive minor team for the year ahead."

"We have proper time now to develop those players and have them ready for championship hurling. We still don't know the structure of the minor championship yet, we're waiting for that."

"But from what I've seen coming across Tipp and with strength and with conditioning work starting from our Under-14s, Under-16s and minors, it will be a huge boost for our underage squads and eventually our senior set-up down the line if we can keep developing these players."

Covid was a hugely disruptive factor in his first season in charge but Woodlock is hopeful everyone can now sing off the same hymn sheet from his squad right up to Bonnar's.

The group stages of the Tipp club championship are complete and with schools and colleges hurling

back on track, he should be able to have a much better crack at things for the 2022 campaign.

He added: "It was a difficult year to get into inter-county management, we really didn't have time to prepare."

"I had no time to get to know the players coming into me really, I had to go and do old-fashioned trials. We only had seven weeks between those and the start of the championship."

"It was what it was and it was difficult, but the hardest part was not knowing the players coming in at all on that trial basis."

"To be fair, players can show up brilliantly or poorly in trials and it might not be a fair reflection on them at all."

"But that's what we had to do, there was no other way."

"There were no development squads in 2020 or no schools or much club action either. We basically had to comb all the schools, clubs and games development officers across the county to point us in the right direction."

"We had to cut 110 players down to a panel of 32. It wasn't ideal preparation but those were the times we were in and now we can have a really proper run-in and see what's coming through to us."



**TOP MAN**... Tipp legend Colm Bonnar is the new senior boss



DONOGHUE... ex-boss

## Micheál is out of running

By **JASON BYRNE**

**MICHEÁL DONOGHUE** has pulled out of the race for the Galway hurling job.

The Clarinbridge man was set to be ratified to take charge for the second time next week.

The deadline for club nominations for the post passed on Friday, September 17 and Donoghue was not favourite to replace Shane O'Neill.

But it emerged last night that their former supremo is no longer interested in the post.

The race for the job is wide open again with Davy Fitzgerald a potential candidate along with Offaly coach Johnny Kelly and former Galway minor All-Ireland-winning manager Jeffrey Lynskey.

Donoghue led the Tribe to their first All-Ireland title in 29 years in 2017 but quit in August 2019 because of a falling-out with county officials.

Limerick man O'Neill took the reins ahead of the 2020 season but his time in charge was disappointing overall.



### CHANGING OF THE GARDA

James Woodlock is mixing his day job as a Garda instructor with shaping Tipp youngsters into hurlers who can play for the seniors, just as he did (above, left) until defeat to Galway in the 2015 All-Ireland semi-final

### Legal Notices

**DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL**  
Permission is sought by Connor Manning for development at 4 Dartmouth Square, Dublin 6 which is a Protected Structure, comprising of: 1. The amalgamation of two separate dwellings into a single dwelling unit over 3 storeys. 2. A new staircase from Ground to Lower Ground floor along with associated demolition works to the existing utility space. 3. Construction of a glazed rear extension (approx. 24m2) with associated new openings to the existing rear façade, structural reconfigurations to the rear room and landscaping work all at lower ground floor level. 4. Internal reconfigurations to include the first floor rear bedroom and ensuite layout and first floor landing bathroom layout, provision of a new AOV rooftop at first floor level and handing of existing doors. 5. General refurbishment / repair works including refurbishment of original sash windows, reinstatement and repairs to chimneys, fire upgrades to original internal doors, repairs and cleaning to entrance steps and porch. 6. Associated front landscaping works. 7. All associated works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 6 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**  
We, Neil & Maria Johnstone are applying for Permission for First floor extension over existing garage to side and single storey extension to front with covered porch canopy over main entrance and all associated site works at 31 Hillsbrook Drive, Dublin 12, D12AP86. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 6 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.