

# OF THE 2022 CALENDAR

## Head of the Tribe

By JASON BYRNE

PAUL BELLEW has been elected the new chairman of Galway GAA.

The Pádraig Pearse clubman succeeds Pat Kearney, who completed his five-year term in the role at their county convention last night.

Galway hurling committee chairman Bellew saw off the challenge of Kevin Clancy in a vote, having been widely lauded for his work in battling the financial issues that dogged the county in recent years.

Bellew was also a key figure in the Tribesmen securing Kilkenny legend Henry Shefflin as their new hurling manager.

As chairman, he wishes to conduct an independent review into Galway GAA's commercial value and potential and draft a development plan for new facilities.

Outgoing chairman Kearney also says the possibility of the county branding their stadiums to enhance funds from sponsorship will be looked at.

# DJ ISN'T KEEN ON CHANGE

By JASON BYRNE

GAA WRITER

KILKENNY legend DJ Carey has slammed the split-season model and says July is far too early for All-Ireland finals.

The Cats icon feels shifting the biggest games of the year from their old dates in September damages the games' promotion.

Carey won five Liam MacCarthy Cups and nine All-Star awards across a glittering inter-county career.

The Young Irelands clubman is currently in charge of Carlow IT, while he was a Kilkenny selector under Brian Cody in 2020.

A split season is in place for the 2022 campaign in which the inter-county competitions will run from January until July, with the rest of the calendar free for club action.

But the 10-time Leinster champion insists ending the inter-county season two months earlier than used to be the norm is not the way to go.

He said: "I'm one of these people - maybe there's not too many of us - but I just don't understand that we have the mindset that an All-Ireland final can be over in July and the rest of the year is given over to club action.

"I like to think I'm a very good club man myself. I always have been. But we're now rushing our main competition, fitting everything into half a year.

"Unfortunately, club players are brow-beaten into saying, 'We love the club'. Of course we love the club. And we always will and where we come from, that's our backbone.

"But at the end of the day, if

you're good enough to play with your county, that's a great honour in itself. I just don't understand how we're not able to combine both of them in a much more streamlined way.

"I just think over the last number of years, we've gotten to a situation where county managers have dictated where clubs fit in. And that's what has led us now to where we are.

"I just think the All-Ireland series being over in July doesn't make sense to me."

The club versus inter-county debate will always rage on but Carey feels a week-on, week-off model with fixtures dedicated to both would have served the calendar better.

And despite his love for the club game, he admits the GAA's prized asset should get the bulk of the limelight.

He said: "We promote our games by saying that the club is the basis and the backbone of everything.

"But I'm not sure, and I mean this as a GAA fanatic. Whatever is going on in Galway club hurling or Dublin club hurling or Cork club hurling - that's not of huge interest to me.

"What I mean is, I'm not tuning into it. But if Galway were playing Dublin or Cork were playing Wexford, that's what I'm tuning into. Or I'm at those games.

"And I think that unfortunately now, we have a situation where we're rushing the National League. We're going straight into the Championship. It's all over too quickly.

"We're putting much more focus on a club season that doesn't have the profile that the inter-county has. I don't understand how we're not able to combine the two.

"My suggestion a number of years back was, why not designate a particular Sunday for county hurling and football matches?"

"Say the first Sunday in February. All

county football and hurling league matches should be that day. And maybe the following Sunday should be a whole round of club action around the country.

"Then combine that as much as possible until we go into the Championship. We have it running side by side. I'm not saying I'm right. There's many suggestions.

"We brought it back to August. I didn't like that. I thought September was the right time for it. I think we could combine it an awful lot better.

"Everything moves on in time. But I'm not sure exactly what was wrong with it. We could have streamlined it better. There was a way of doing that."

The Electric Ireland Higher Education Championships are back next year - for the first time since 2020 due to the pandemic - and Carey says those college tournaments are also under severe pressure.

IT Carlow are hosting the finals of the competitions in 2022 and his side were paired with DCU, Maynooth and Waterford IT in Group B of the Fitzgibbon Cup.

Carey knows college players on inter-county squads in particular are being pulled from pillar to post each spring.

He added: "Fitzgibbon and Sigerson have been slipping away in the last few years. Because obviously if you're going to squeeze and squeeze... like, I don't mean to disrespect any competition, but if a Walsh Cup or any equivalent competitions in any other province can be squeezed, I'd say that's OK.

"But a Fitzgibbon or Sigerson should never be squeezed in my opinion. See the quality that is going on and what fellas are putting into it. A lot of guys are on scholarships.

"Some fellas may not play because of injury, or management don't want them to play. I see it squeezed and squeezed. We as a college here, we hardly get to train the players.

"More than likely, they're training on a Sunday, they're training Tuesday. So to actually get a squad together unless it's on a match night is very difficult."

© DJ CAREY IT Carlow hurling manager, was speaking during the Electric Ireland GAA Higher Education draw at Carlow IT.

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## Harry leaves such a void

DJ CAREY has paid an emotional tribute to young hurler Harry Byrne, whose death rocked Gowran last month.

The talented 13-year-old (below) was killed when he was struck by a sliotar at his school.

And Carey says the tragedy has cast a dark cloud over the parish and the Young Irelands club.

The Carey family had their own heartbreaks to contend with after he lost one brother in a farming accident and another in a cot death.

And he admits his own parents never recovered from those bereavements.

He said: "It's a very sad one. Horrific. It's my own club. I've been involved with all the underage teams. His grandfather was a great

By JASON BYRNE

servant. He died the night before one of our own matches. He was the selector on our own team, James Byrne.

"The families are immersed. Nolans on the other side of the family, they're immersed in Clara and the Byrnes in Gowran. So it was a very, very sad occasion.

"There's very little words. Only life must go on. Jake, his brother, is involved with the Kilkenny development squads. Mam and dad are very much involved. But I'm sure there's going to be a very large void for a long time.

"I know my own parents lost two children at a very early age as well. I don't know did they ever get over it. Life has to go on. I hope in time that they will be able to get on with it."



### Legal Notices

#### South Dublin County Council

Permission is sought by Noel Whelan for retention of the constructed fence and boundaries and the relocation of existing access gate in revised location and proposed use of space as an allotment at site bounding Long Mile Road Drimnagh, Dublin 12, D12Y11H. The application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation may be made to the Planning Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

#### Voluntary Strike-Off Notice

Eco Guardian Limited, having ceased to trade, having its registered office at 138 The Square, Castletomer, Co Kilkenny and having its principal place of business at 138 The Square, Castletomer, Co Kilkenny and has no assets exceeding €150 and having no liabilities exceeding €150 has resolved to notify the Registrar of Companies that the company is not carrying on business and to request the Registrar on that basis to exercise his/her powers pursuant to section 233 of the Companies Act 2014 to strike the name of the company off the register. By order of the board, Michael Brooke, Director.

#### In the matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 2014 And in the matter of CASTLEKNOCK CONSTRUCTION LIMITED (IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 706 and 707 of the Companies Act 2014 that a Final Meeting of the Members and Creditors of the above-named Company shall be held at the offices of PJ Lynch & Company 5-7 Westland Square, Pearse Street, Dublin 2, on 14th January 2022 at 10:15am and 10:30am respectively for the purposes set out in the said Acts. To comply with government health regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting will be held remotely. Dated this 15th December 2021. PJ Lynch, Liquidator

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