

Athletics

David Mansfield

David, a Clonmel native, is currently based in the Garda College Templemore and is a member of An Garda Síochána for eleven years. Despite being a multi Coiste Siamsa Award winner previously in 2015, 2016 and last year in 2018 Davids' success continues abound, improving year on year.

David is the current USPE, European Police Marathon Champion winning the title on home ground at the 2018 KBC Dublin City Marathon, finishing in 16th place overall, leading the An Garda Síochána team to an overall 4th position. David currently holds the Garda Marathon record with his finishing time of 2 hours 20 minutes 15 seconds.

In April 2019 David finished 28th male overall at the Rotterdam marathon with a time of 2 hours 22 minutes 04 seconds in an international field led by Kenyan Marius Kipserem.

In July 2019 David finished 2nd in the National 10mile road race with a time of 50 minutes 32 seconds and in August finished 5th in the National Half Marathon in a time of 1 hour 7 minutes 52 seconds.

David finished in 12th place overall in this year's KBC Dublin Marathon.

Boxing

Christina Desmond

Christina is a native of Macroom, Co. Cork. Christina holds BSc Honors in Strength & Conditioning, commenced training for An Garda Síochána in 2018 and is currently based in Dungarvan Garda Station, Waterford.

Christina boxes out of the Fr. Horgans club in Cork.

Christina is a former European Middleweight Bronze medallist 2016, World University Games Bronze Medallist 2016 and National Senior Elite Champion 2016 & 2017.

In February 2019 Christina dropped weight division to Olympic qualifying welterweight winning the National Senior Elite title.

In August 2019 Christina reached the quarter finals, last eight, of the European Championships, losing out to the world number two ranked Russian boxer, Darmia Sandakova.

Last month, October 2019 Christina represented Ireland at the World Women's Elite Championships Ulan-Ude, Siberia, Russia.

Gaelic Football

Mullinalaghta Team Mates

Mullinalaghta St Columbas are a Gaelic Football Club based in Co. Longford. With a population in the region of 400 and a club membership of just 155, 40% of the population!!, Mullinalaghta epitomises everything that is good and positive about small rural communities and the GAA.

In 2018 Mullinalaghta became the first Longford Club to win a Leinster Senior Club Football Championship, beating Kilmacud Crokes of Dublin on a scoreline of 1-8 to 1-6.

Many rural clubs survive on the basis of club members commuting long distances to attend training and matches, whilst the 4 Garda members to be honoured tonight might not travel as far as some of their team mates their dedication to their club, bond with their community and commitment to their sport is none the less impressive. Commuting from Kells (50km), Dundalk (100km), Ashbourne (100km) and Blanchardstown (120km) these member are an example of how An Garda Siochana has grown from and is an integral part of local communities nationwide.

Shane Mulligan based in Kells for 10 years, Patrick Rodgers based in Dundalk and now Omeath for over 2 years, Gary Rogers based in Ashbourne for nearly 2 years and Simon Cadam based in Blanchardstown for 18 months exemplify the inextricable link between An Garda Síochána and our communities.

Following the exceptional achievement of Mullinalaghta in 2018 messages of congratulations were sent by President Michael D Higgins and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar.

Tonight Shane, Patrick, Gary and Simon is our opportunity, your colleagues in An Garda Síochána to recognise your dedication.

Hurling

Padraig Maher and Ronan Maher

It is only fitting that we celebrate the 26th Coiste Siamsa Sportstar awards here in Tipperary, home to the All-Ireland Hurling Champions 2019 and hosts for the Liam McCarthy Cup.

Tipperary's 28th title was achieved with the assistance of two brothers from the Thurles Sarsfield's Club.

Padraig, the older brother, has already achieved his place as one of hurling's greats;

At county level he has won

3 All Ireland Hurling Championships

5 Munster Hurling Championships

1 All Ireland and 2 Munster U21 Hurling Championships

2 All Ireland and 1 Munster Minor Hurling Championship

At club level he has won

1 Munster Senior Club Championship

7 Tipperary Senior Club Championships.

Padraig has won a Ryan Cup with the Garda College and a Railway Cup with Munster. He has captained both club and county teams. He has been named on the Sunday Game Team of the year 4 times, including this year 2019 and just last week he was awarded his sixth All Star award.

Ronan, has a few years in reserve on his older brother, but he too is fast staking his claim on hurling history.

At county level he has won

2 All Ireland Hurling Championships

2 Munster Senior Hurling Championships

1 All Ireland and 1 Munster Minor Hurling Championship

At club level he has won

1 Munster Senior Club Championship

5 Tipperary Senior Club Championships

4 U21 Club Championships

Ronan has won 2 Fitzgibbon Cup titles with Mary Immaculate College.

He has been named on the Sunday Game Team of the year twice, including 2019 and just last week he too was awarded a second All Star award.

Padraic is a member of An Garda Síochána for 2 years and is a member of the Limerick Divisional Hurling Team which won the Coiste Siamsa Inter Divisional Championship 2019, this is Padraic's 2nd Coiste Siamsa Sports Star award, previously honoured in 2017. As a community based Garda in Mayorstone Park, Padraic is actively involved with local community groups in the Moyross area and busy training the newest recruits for Limerick Hurling.

Ronan, to our benefit in An Garda Síochána has taken a change in career path and is currently a student in the Garda College due to be attested and pass early 2020. Commissioner he might be having a quiet word with you a little later on!

An Garda Síochána has a very proud tradition of involvement in hurling at the highest level and it is great to see that tradition remains strong.

Padraic and Ronan, you are probably getting tired of award ceremonies at this stage, but it is our, your colleagues, pleasure tonight, to recognise your fantastic achievements.

Rowing

Ken McDonald

Garda Ken McDonald is a native of Limerick and is currently based at the Garda College with over 20 years' service in An Garda Síochána.

Ken has a long history of involvement with rowing, another sport with a long proud history in An Garda Síochána. Ken was Club Captain of the Garda Boat Club in 2002.

In January Ken won Gold and silver at the national indoor rowing championships in Limerick. He broke the national record for 500m in the lightweight open category and the national record for 1000m in the lightweight over 40 category.

In July Ken came second in a coxed 4 at Masters Henley Royal regatta England, being beaten by the narrowest of margins 2 feet.

In August Ken set a new world record for the Lightweight (sub 75kg) Men's 40-49 years 500m indoor rowing with a time of 1 minute 23 seconds flat, a time that is also the fastest 500m recorded by a lightweight in any age category in Ireland. Ken also currently holds the Irish record for 1000m indoor rowing at 3 minutes 3.7 seconds.

In September Ken won two Gold medals at the Masters World rowing Championships in Budapest Hungary. Ken was part of an Irish Masters 8 crew.

In October Ken won The Rhine marathon in Dusseldorf Germany racing in a coxed four over a gruelling 43km race on the River Rhine and Ken has just returned from Boston where he took part in The Head of the Charles regatta in an Irish Eight man crew. Ken again medalled twenty years on from his first race with the Garda Senior eight in 1999 at the same event.

Ken, An Garda Síochána is extremely fortunate to have you as a role model for all students in the Garda College. We look forward to following your endeavours over the years ahead because there is no doubt that they will continue to be interesting.

Swimming

Sinead Scully (Delaney)

The Dublin Liffey Swim celebrated its 100th anniversary this year 2019. The event is a 2.2km open water swim from Rory O Moore Bridge (Watling Street Bridge) near the Guinness Brewery finishing at Custom House Quay in front of the Custom House.

The swim is part of the Leinster Open Sea races and entrants must have completed a minimum of six qualifying open sea races. The race is open to all levels and ages, but entrants must be a member of a swimming club. The race is handicapped with slower swimmers starting first and the fastest last. In 2019 363 male and 252 female competitors started the race.

The first woman home was Sergeant Sinead Scully in a time of 39 minutes 7 seconds. Sinead swam alongside her mother Joan Delaney, who finished 9th, both helping their club, The Phoenix Swimming Club, Clondalkin to win 1st overall female team.

Little did Sinead or Joan imagine that 25 years after they both first competed together in the Liffey Swim, when Sinead was just 13, would a dream come true to win the 100th swimming of the event.

Sinead lives in Dunboyne, Meath and is currently based in Garda Headquarters with over 15 years' service.

Sinead, tonight your colleagues recognise this unique achievement and congratulate you on this award.

Special Contribution Award

Tom Finnan

Garda Tom Finnan, a Tipperary Native has over 25 years' service in An Garda Síochána, spent in Thurles Garda District.

Tom is a lifelong member of St Michaels Soccer Club in Tipperary Town. As a player he has achieved many accolades including FAI Junior Cup, Munster Junior Cup, FAI Youth Cup, FAI U17 Cup, MFA Youth Cup, Tipperary League and Cup at Junior and youth level the Cork AOH Cup and AUL (Athletic Union League) League.

A member of St Michaels for over 30 years, Tom has mentored and coached teams from Juveniles to Adults.

He has been team managers and Club Official, currently holding position of Club Treasurer.

Tom is well known throughout Tipperary, as a proud member of An Garda Síochána, a fierce advocate for his colleagues as a member of the Garda Representative Association but also for his dedication to soccer and his beloved St Michaels.

Tom has also been a stalwart supporter of this organisation, being an active member of and current Tipperary Divisional Coiste Síamsa Treasurer.

Tom demonstrates all that is good about community, and the volunteer ethos which is the backbone of local community sports clubs and associations right throughout this country.

Tom, it is our privilege to recognise your efforts tonight.

Hall of Fame Award

Ken Hogan

Garda Ken Hogan has over 36 years' service in An Garda Síochána, starting in Pearse Street Garda Station, Dublin and currently based at the Garda College, Templemore. A Tipperary native from Lorrha he is a hurling legend as the last line of defence in the Tipperary Champion teams in the mid and late 1980's. His achievements include:

2 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship 1989, 1991

5 Munster Senior Hurling Championship

1 National Hurling League

1 All-Ireland & 2 Munster Under-21 Hurling Championship

1 All-Ireland & 1 Munster Minor Hurling Championship

Ken has had a long back room association with Tipperary hurling, involved as a Tipperary selector in the 1990's and 2000's and Manager in 2003 – 2005.

Ken managed the Tipperary U21 Hurling team from 2009 – 2013 winning the All Ireland U21 Championship in 2010.

Ken was awarded an All Star as goal keeper in the 1987 team, an accolade replicated this year by his son Brian, Brian was awarded his first All Star award in the same position, an All Star first.

Ken is still active with his beloved Lorrha/ Dorrha club and has been involved in club management including Coolderry and currently St Rynaghs.

Ken is well known by all members of An Garda Síochána, many of whom he has put through their paces in the Garda College. He has also been involved in actively encouraging all sports in the Garda College and managing many Garda college teams over the years.

Kens contribution to Hurling and An Garda Síochána certainly make him a worthy recipient of this Coiste Siamsa Hall of Fame Award and it is our, his colleagues, honour to add this award to the many accolades he already has.

Special Contribution Award for Youth Engagement through Sport

Clonmel Boxing Club (Martin Fennessy)

Clonmel boxing club has had long tradition of amateur boxing going back as far as the 1920s winning 17 national senior titles. The 30s were very successful with Johnny Healy, Louis O Donnell and Jimmy Smith to the fore.

Eddie Cantwell, Old Bridge Clonmel won a bronze medal in the light heavy weight division at the 1947 European Senior championships.

In the 50s Peter "iron man" Crotty, won 4 Irish senior welterweight titles. Peter, a Dungarvan man boxing out Clonmel represented Ireland in the 1952 Olympic Games.

A huge influence on Clonmel boxing were army Sgt Major Billy Kane, Garda Billy Blackwell and Garda Bill McMahon.

In 1995 the current club was re-established by TJ Redmond and Sgt Major Billy Kane who wanted to keep the boxing tradition alive and pass it onto the next generation. That club, now training in St Oliver's Community hall Elm Park has gone from strength to strength over the last 25 years producing 104 national boy and girl titles.

Notable club members include Kevin Fennessy, Con Sheehan, Dean Gardiner and Shauna O'Keeffe, all have represented Ireland on senior international duty.

The successes continue with the next generation in European junior Champion Ellie Mai Gartland; a real family affair when Ellie Mai boxed alongside her twin brother Jerome Lonergan-Gartland, supported in their corner by older brother Jamie at a recent Ireland v England Senior Cadet International.

The clubs best achievement lies in providing a positive and safe environment for boys and girls to achieve their dreams. The club thrives on seeing a young person develop into a productive member of society carrying the Discipline, Respect and sense of Community spirit honed at Clonmel Boxing Club.

One of the main driving forces in Clonmel Boxing Club is Martin Fennessy who has been the Manager/Head Coach for over 20 yrs. He has managed, coached and nurtured all members, young and old throughout those years and is largely responsible for the success the club and those individuals have had in that timeframe. Around Martin is a great team of people including his wife Paula and others who have lived Clonmel Boxing Club over those years. The great work that they have given to the club has been carried out on a purely voluntary basis with the core ethos of developing the youth of Clonmel and beyond through boxing

Whilst aware of all the great work that Clubs throughout Tipperary do for the youth and their community, the work that Martin Fennessy and Clonmel Boxing Club have done over the years cannot be understated.

Tonight, in line with An Garda Síochána's commitment to Community Policing, having been specially nominated by Superintendent Willie Leahy and the members of Clonmel Garda Station, it is An Garda Síochána's honour to recognise the community focus and commitment of Clonmel Boxing Club, in various forms, for nearly 100 years, and we are delighted to present Martin Fennessy on behalf of Clonmel Boxing Club a Certificate of Recognition and Donation to Clonmel Boxing Club.