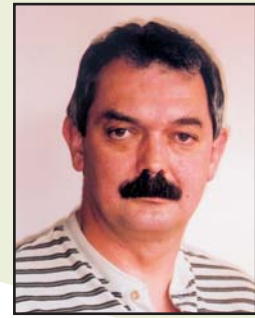


The Cut



Ger O'Sullivan

“Irelands fall”

Labelled as one of the best rugby teams to have come out of this country, our current collection of celebrity performers flattered to deceive in the recent Rugby World cup. This was a team high on hype and dreadfully low on delivery. Not only were we well and truly beaten by France and Argentina, but we were lucky to escape defeat against Georgia and just about overcame Namibia. Was Ireland really that good? Or were we confusing the success of Munster with that of our national team. Did we get carried away with a few triple crowns against weak teams from Wales Scotland and England? After all we failed to win the five nations at each turn.

Surely we can learn something from the English? They went into the world cup as no hopers and yet managed to beat both Australia and France on their way to the final. The pride and passion they displayed in their performances is what is sadly missing in Ireland. To think that we humiliated them in Croke Park a few months previously!



Front Row L-R: Supt. Maurice Regan (Abbeyleix), Chief Supt Kevin Donohoe (recently retired), Supt. Denis Bowe (Tullamore), Supt. John Duleavey (Birr)
Back Row: Insp. Tom Mooney (Portlaoise), D/Insp. Aiden Boyle (portlaoise).

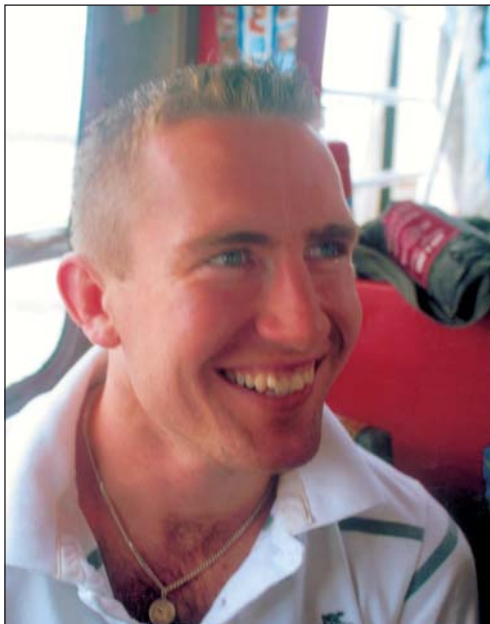
Photo courtesy of Ger Loughnane

Without our National Anthem and tricolor we found ourselves stripped of our self esteem, our heritage and our identity. The farcical “Irelands Call” is as rousing as the “rocks of bawn”. Maybe its now time to drop all this nonsense and go it alone as a Rugby nation. We are now separated politically from the north so why not separate in Rugby. Wales and Scotland have claimed rugby independence and both have won grand slams in recent years.

In a letter to the Irish Times a Belfast man recounted how he attended an event prior to the World cup where Jack Kyle, a member of Irelands only Grand Slam team of 1948 was taking questions. When Kyle was asked how the 48 team would compare with the much hyped, highly-paid squad of today, he replied: “Well it would be close. However, half our team are over 80 and the other half are dead.”

Five for Eddie

Congratulations to Garda Eddie Brennan of Portlaoise station on winning his fifth All – Ireland medal with Kilkenny this year. Not alone did Eddie pick up his winners



Gda Eddie Brennan winner of five All Ireland hurling medals. Photo by Ger Loughnane

medal, but he also got the RTE man of the match award. His other All Ireland achievements were in 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2006. He is the holder of an All Ireland under 21 medal as well as a Leinster senior club medal with his club, Graigue/Ballycallan.

The man who clinically put Galway out of business in the semi final with a superb pair of goals has three all stars to his credit. To cap a great year, Eddie also received the September Vodafone and GPA player of the month award. One of the first people to congratulate Garda Brennan was Sgt Tom Walton the I/C of Portlaoise. Tom's father who was also Tom, won an all Ireland medal with Kilkenny in 1947.

Eddie believes that his most memorable All Ireland was his first, in 2000, when Kilkenny comprehensively beat Offaly. That year he came on as sub and scored a goal, he also got to keep the match ball. Ironically his first cousin Garda Joe Young who is stationed in Anglesey Street in Cork has the unique distinction of having won a county club hurling medal in both Kilkenny and Cork. He won two titles with Graigue/Ballycallan and a senior title with Blackrock. As for Eddie? Well six of the best would do very nicely in 2008.



L-R: Gda. Joe Daly, Sgt. Martin Hannigan, Gda Kevin Woulfe, D/Insp. Aiden Boyle and Gda Jerry Dillon at the retirement of Gda Woulfe.

Photo courtesy of Ger Loughnane

Four gone but not forgotten

Portlaoise said goodbye to four of its finest policemen during 2007. D/Gda Tom Jones finally stepped off the stage and headed for the green green grass of pastures new. The proud holder of a gold Scott medal, the Longford man can now concentrate on his role within the GAA. Tom has given dedicated service both to the association and to the people of Laois over the years.

Garda Kevin Woulfe who according to himself, spent a lot of time in jail during his early years in the force also called it a day. The Clare man, who served in Portlaoise since the early 70's will be fondly missed by both his colleagues and the public. Now Kevin looks forward to spending more time at what he loves best, playing golf at the Heath club. A Woulfe among sheep indeed.

Commissioner Noel Conroy was special guest at a recent retirement function for Chief Supt. Kevin Donoghoe from the Laois/Offaly



L-R: D/Gda. Tom Jones with D/Gda. Seamus Holden (both retired)

Photo courtesy of Eoin O'Sullivan



Supt Denis Bowe on left with Gda Tim Gleeson at hi retirement

Photo courtesy of Eoin O'Sullivan

Division. Kevin departed after 40 years of service which began in Abbeyleix in the 1960's. The Commissioner said that the Chief always brought common sense to the table at meetings of the most senior Gardaí in the force. "When Kevin spoke people listened" he added. Chief Donoghoe thanked the people of the Division for their cooperation during his term of occupancy. He also thanked the Gardaí and paid special; tribute to his office staff at Portlaoise. Chief/ Supt. Gabriel McIntyre took over from Kevin and we all wish him well.

Portlaoise Traffic Corps said goodbye to one of its gifted members when Gda Tim Gleeson finally stepped out from behind the hedge rows of Laois/Offaly. Having slowed down more traffic than an entire county council, the Nenagh cop has finally put away his gun. Unfortunately people like Tim are hardly ever credited for the amount of lives that are saved on our roads from year to year. The Cut would like to take this opportunity to wish all who retired during the past year the very best for the future.

The worse chat up lines

One of the most common ways for a man to make an impact on a woman is through the chat up line. "You're the only girl in the world for me "might have worked for Adam when he met Eve but would surely fall on deaf ears today. The cut uncovered some other gems that may or may not impress.

"I was just wondering if you had space in your bag for the keys of my Merc"

"Is your surname Jacobs? Because, girl, you're a cracker."

"Did it hurt when you fell out of heaven?"

"Excuse me, I'm sorry but I think you owe me a drink. I just looked at you and dropped mine."

"Do you have any change I can borrow? My mother told me to call her when I meet the woman of my dreams."

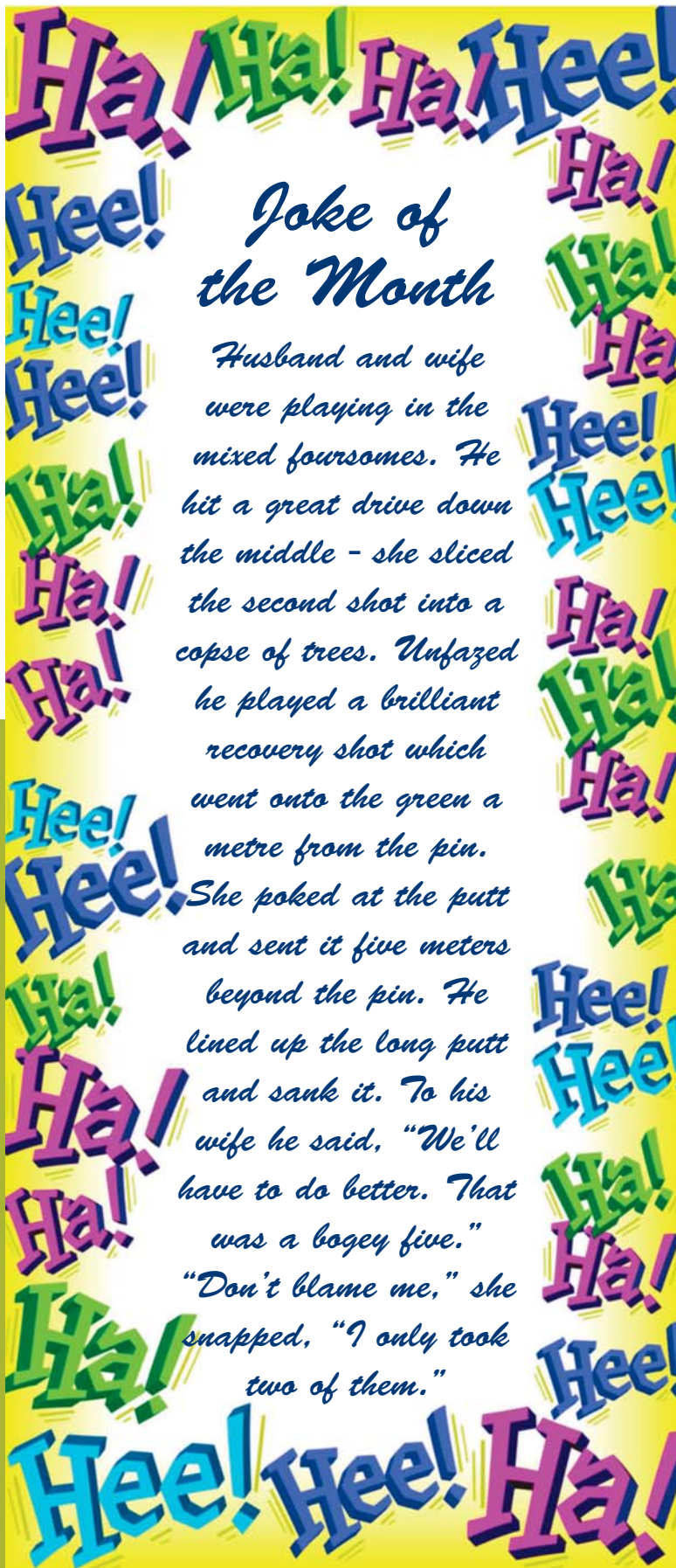
"What's your parent's number? I need to call them and thank them for having you".

"Hey, all those curves and me with no brakes!"

"Do you have a map? Because I keep getting lost in your eyes."

"What do you say to going behind a rock and getting a little boulder?"

Perhaps the following one is more likely to depress than impress. "You must be from Jamaica, because Jamaican me crazy"



Joke of the Month

Husband and wife were playing in the mixed foursomes. He hit a great drive down the middle - she sliced the second shot into a copse of trees. Unfazed he played a brilliant recovery shot which went onto the green a metre from the pin.

She poked at the putt and sent it five meters beyond the pin. He lined up the long putt and sank it. To his wife he said, "We'll have to do better. That was a bogey five."

"Don't blame me," she snapped, "I only took two of them."

The Irish lost in Ireland!

Finally spare a thought for the Heritage golf club in Killinard county Laois who this year hosted the Seve Trophy. The competition is contested between a team made up from Great Britain and Ireland against a team from the rest of Europe. With Paul McGinley shafted and Pdraig Harrington injured, there were no players from Ireland which made a bit of a joke of the whole thing. However the highlight of the event for me was when Scottish golfer Marc Warren took out a five iron in his bedroom and brought the chandelier down on him. I suppose its one way of entering a competition and coming away with a piece of glass!



Christmas Message

'The Cut' would like to send Christmas wishes to all members of the Garda Force and their families. Let's hope the New Year brings peace and happiness to everyone. With a new Minister for Justice and a new Commissioner let's hope we can move from the past and head into the future with harmony and enthusiasm. Our 'Job' deserves only the best!

Eoin O' Sullivan.