



## Citations read by Miriam O Callaghan, Chair Offaly Sports Partnership at Volunteer Recognition night

### **Packie Bonner biography**

Patrick Joseph "Packie" "Pat" Bonner (born 24 May 1960) is an Irish retired goalkeeper who played for Celtic. He began his career in the late 1970s with his local youth side, Keadue Rovers, had trials for Leicester City and was spotted by Sean Fallon who was scouting for Celtic at the time. He signed for Celtic on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1978 and went on to play 642 times for the club, as well as taking on the on the role of player / coach. He left the club in 1998

He earned a total of 80 caps for the Republic of Ireland, after making his debut on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. He is most remembered for his famous penalty save from Daniel Timofte of Romania at the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy during the knockout stages

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2003, following the promotion of Brian Kerr to the position of Republic of Ireland team manager, Bonner was named as technical director of the FAI, having previously held the role of the senior squad's goalkeeping coach in the organisation. In addition, he has worked as a football presenter with TV3, and today he is a technical adviser to UEFA, specialising in goalkeeper coach education.

### **Athletics – Mick Gillespie**

The adopted son from Mayo who has dedicated a lifetime to athletics; as a competitor, club officer, team manager / selector, and “jack of all trades” volunteer, he is one of the unsung heroes who are so important to clubs.

Within the Tullamore Harriers, Mick has given decades of service. Initially joining the committee in 1979 as Chair, he was re-elected as Chair in 1980, 1981 and 1982; and served again from 1989 – 1997.

He has also served on the management committee of BLE from 1994 – 1998; acted as Irish team manager and selector in the 1990s; as secretary to the Offaly Athletics county board from 1996 – 1998; and on the national cross country committee from 1997 into the naughties (00s).

He has enjoyed every minute of his involvement and while he loves his golf, athletics has almost always been his first choice where there's been a clash



### **Badminton- Judy Bryant**

Badminton Ireland would like to nominate Judy Bryant as a long serving volunteer who personifies the commitment and dedication of the wider family of volunteers who make sport happen.

Judy is highly active in club, school, and county Badminton in Offaly for a number of years now. She is the mainstay of Badminton in the county, and has ensured that many children have had the opportunity to try the sport of Badminton through her involvement with Killoughey Badminton club, and the local schools. In addition to her emphasis on player development, she has also upskilled coaches in the county by organising Shuttle Time courses, as well as bringing members along to the Badminton Ireland Annual Coaches Conference. Moreover, Judy has been the lead person on the Offaly Badminton County Committee.

As an organisation we are extremely grateful to have a volunteer like Judy Bryant working in our sport, and believe recognition of her contribution to Offaly Badminton is long overdue.

### **Camogie – Carmel Carroll**

After serving two terms as county board treasurer, Carmel Carroll is stepping down from the Offaly Camogie executive.

The roll of treasurer is defined by the Camogie Association in 16 bullet points, from receiving and paying out money to preparing and presenting the Annual Financial Statement. However, unofficially and unknown to many, Carmel took on many roles behind the scenes throughout the years from booking pitches and referees to washing jerseys; to manning the gate to organising buses, etc. for travelling teams; to maintaining kit and trophies; to communicating with troubled parents, coaches and players; to helping club administrators

To other committee members, she has been the rock that all new committee members stood on for guidance; she has been the person that made the transition from one committee to the next seamless; and she has been a voice of common sense and reason when others lost their calm.

Replacing Carmel will require a new treasurer, a new assistant treasurer, a fundraising committee, and a new structure and rota for manning gates. As one club member said to me: 'Carmel is Offaly Camogie'. She will be sorely missed.



### **Canoeing – Frankie Cunningham**

Frankie has been with Tullamore Canoe Club for the past seven years.

He initially joined to learn to kayak himself along side two of his four sons. He soon became very proficient and at that point decided it was time to give back to the club.

Frankie now trains the young ones and new members at the regular Wednesday night sessions; as well as training members for competition and volunteering with Ballinamere Special Olympics kayakers. He is also a key player in leading river runs and coordinating club trips. To continue to support the club, he is now undertaking his instructor training with Canoeing Ireland

### **Community Games – Mona O’ Reilly**

Mona has dedicated her life to Community Games in Offaly, a founding member of Offaly and Tullamore Community Games over 45 years ago. She has committed herself to ensuring children have had the opportunity to actively take part in Community Games. Mona has volunteered at area, county, provincial and national level over the years.

### **Cycling – Seamus Buckley**

Seamus Buckley has been a major influence in the 25 years of Tullamore Cycling and Touring Club. He has led, organised, coached, supported and helped other members throughout the years. His shop in Tullamore, Buckley Cycles has been the unofficial clubhouse where membership is gathered; kit is kept and maintained; and the meeting point for all spins.

He has captained the A group; leads the evening race training twice weekly; volunteered his expertise in support of the annual “Pat Colgan Pedal the Peaks Challenge”; and founded the “Midlands Cycling League” with his brother, Pat Still a keen cyclist, he has completed numerous long distance cycle challenges amidst his volunteering

Seamus values the club as a community, and is grateful for all that the club has done for him down the years. He reckons that Tullamore CTC is the best club that he’s ever been in! He promotes the club how and where he can. Without doubt, he is the heart of cycling in Tullamore, Offaly and the Midlands



### **GAA - Pat Teehan**

Pat became a member of the Offaly County Committee in 1992 when elected as P.R.O., a post he held until 2004.

He was Chairperson of Coiste na nÓg from 2000 to 2002. He became Vice Chairperson of the County Committee in 2005 and held that post until elected Chairperson in 2008, a role he held for five years. He was Leinster Council Delegate in 2013, and the following year was elected Central Council Delegate. He has served as Leinster P.R.O. in 2015 and 2016 and was elected Leinster Vice Chairperson in January 2017

### **Hockey- Catherine Longworth**

Catherine Longworth joined Tullamore Hockey Club as a player in 1986, one year after the club's foundation. Over the years Catherine proved to be a stalwart in defence and enjoyed an active playing career up until 2010.

Throughout her time in the Club she has also volunteered on the Club Committee covering most positions, for her sins! Her true dedication is in coaching our Junior club members. She is our longest serving active coach in the club, coaching since 1995 and currently she continues this role in introducing the joy of the game to our under 12s age group where she is renowned for her patience.

Highlights of Catherine's involvement with the club include when we found a "home" for the Club in the Harriers and any time a team reached a Leinster Final. She feels coaching and volunteering is about sharing a love of a sport with a new generation. Well done to Catherine and thank you from everyone in Tullamore Hockey Club

### **Rugby – Dave Wilkie**

Dave arrived in Edenderry RFC in 1972 and held the role of underage rugby coach. He went on to serve as Club President in 1977 and continued to coach and manage teams both at senior and youths level throughout the club and only recently in 2017 finished up as Ladies Team Manager, a post he held for a number of years.

Throughout his years volunteering in Edenderry RFC, Dave also became a volunteer with Leinster Boys Youths Rugby. From 1990 to 2000 Dave was a selector with the Leinster U18 boys Club teams and from 2000 to 2012 he was Team Manager for the Leinster Club boys U18s side.

He is held in high regard by many players and rugby people within the county and the province and indeed can boast a phonebook with many international player numbers in it. In total David has been involved for 45 years in varying capacities within club rugby in Co. Offaly and 22 years with Leinster Rugby



### **Rowing – Ciaran Brady**

Ciarán Brady was 16 when he joined Offaly rowing club in 2005. His commitment and dedication was apparent as he achieved National Championship wins in 2006 and 2007. His successes also earned him a place in the Ireland J18 squads in both years. Ciarán went on to achieve further success in the national championships and continues to compete at the highest levels today.

Ciarán returned to the club five years ago in both coaching and competitive roles. In that period, scores of rowing recruits have passed through Ciarán's hands with his Easter and Summer camps a particularly successful recruitment avenue for the club. During his time as coach the club have won a number of golds at the national rowing championships and even secured a gold medal at an international regatta in Ghent in Belgium.

Ciarán leads from the front and is a great role model for all in the club. This season Ciarán has a single minded focus on his training and a stated goal to renew his international career.

### **Pitch & Putt – Joe Mc Grath**

Offaly County Strokeplay champion on three occasions and twice the Offaly Matchplay champion, Erry Club Secretary Joe McGrath (Jnr) has served his club and county in most administrative tasks imaginable. As a dedicated Offaly County Board Juvenile Officer in the past, Joe has helped guide Offaly to two Leinster Juvenile Inter County titles. Hugely active across Offaly in Schools Pitch and Putt initiatives, he has helped introduce a large number of young people to the sport.

### **Soccer – Chris Hand**

Chris Hand has been involved in local soccer for close on 37 years. He started his career in his native Kilcormac as a seventeen-year-old playing with his local team Frankford Utd, finishing his playing career after 25 years with Clonown Rovers.

In 2001, while still playing football, Chris commenced his work as a volunteer in football administration when he was elected to serve as a Committee member of the Leinster Football League. In 2005, he was one of the driving forces in helping to merge clubs from the OWL League (Offaly, Westmeath, Laois) with the counties clubs from the Leinster Football League to form the Combined Counties Football League. From the inception of the league Chris has worked tirelessly to promote the game in Offaly and across the 4 counties that make up the league. He is committed and passionate in his volunteering giving his time selfishly to ensure the success of the game.

From 2005 to 2009 he served as Vice-Chair on the CCFL Committee when in 2009 Chris was elected to the position of Secretary of the league, a position he still holds today.

He is also a current member of the Leinster Football Association's Senior Council and in May of this year, he was nominated to serve on the prestigious FAI Legal and Corporate Committee.



### **Donal Conway**

A former school principal, Donal Conway was elected as the FAI Vice President in 2014 and served as Chairman of the Underage Committee.

A key figure behind the Association's design and implementation of the Player Development Plan, Conway has played an important role in elevating standards in the Schools, Child Welfare, and Education departments.

Conway was elected FAI President at the Annual General Meeting in Cork on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and will serve a four-year term, with Noel Fitzroy elected as Vice President.