



Irish Sporting Legends night

Wanderers Clubhouse in the Aviva Stadium

Thursday 14th February 7.45 pm

In aid of Epilepsy Ireland

The event is in aid of Epilepsy Ireland. It is an **Irish Sporting Legends night in Wanderers Clubhouse in the Aviva Stadium on Thursday 14th February** (much more craic than holding hands on Valentine's night!) at 7.45.

Tickets are **only €20** and we will have a raffle also on the night with some superb prizes. Our stellar line up of Irish sporting legends encompasses all the codes so get your family, friends, relatives, in laws etc to book early to get their tickets!

email peter@low.ie for tickets

The stellar line up is as follows:

Rugby – Tony Ward

Tony Ward won 19 caps for Ireland between 1978 and 1987. He made his international debut against Scotland at Lansdowne Road on 21 January 1978 at the age of 23 and during the 1978 Five Nations Championship he scored 38 points, a record for a debutant. He made one major tour with Ireland, to Australia in 1979 and played his last game for Ireland on 3 June 1987 in a 32-9 win over Tonga during the 1987 Rugby World Cup.

Tony also inspired Munster to a legendary win over New Zealand, scoring two drop goals and a conversion in a 12-0 victory at Thomond Park on 31 October 1978.

He played one Test game for the British and Irish Lions during the 1980 South Africa tour where he set a Lions Test record by scoring 18 points, including 5 penalties and a drop goal. It was also a record for any player against South Africa.

He was the first ever recipient of a European Rugby Player Of The Year award for his performances in the 1979 Five Nations Championship.

Allied to his rugby skills was great talent with the round ball and he played League of Ireland soccer with both Shamrock Rovers and Limerick United He played for Limerick

United in the 1981-82 UEFA Cup and in 1982 he helped them win the [FAI Cup](#). Finally for his sins – he is a die-hard Leeds United fan.

Racing – Ted Walsh

Ted is one of the most famous personalities in Irish racing as well as sire of leading national hunt jockey Ruby Walsh and recently retired leading amateur Katie Walsh.

Himself a brilliant amateur for many years (he won the Irish Amateur title 11 times) with 4 Cheltenham Festival wins – his record as a trainer is also top class. His biggest training feat to date was training Papillon to win the 2000 English Grand National and Commanche Court to win the Irish Grand National, both ridden by his son Ruby. The latter horse had also won the Triumph Hurdle for him, and jockey Norman Williamson in 1997. In the 2002 Cheltenham Gold Cup Commanche Court, ridden by Ruby, also finished second behind Best Mate.

Walsh also trained Rince Ri who won two Ericsson chases as well as a Pillar Chase (he came second in another) and a Power Gold Cup. He trained Jack High to win the Betfred Gold Cup (formerly the Whitbread) at Sandown in 2005 and in the 2012 English Grand National he trained third placed Seabass who was ridden by Katie

Gaelic Football – Mick Spillane

The GAA is built on tradition, and there is nothing more traditional in Gaelic Games than great family dynasties. Nowhere is this more apt than in Kerry. The Ó Sé's of Ventry, the Brosnans of Moyvane, the O'Dwyers of Waterville. By any reckoning the Spillanes of Templenoe must be regarded as among the most blue-blooded families of all.

Pat, Mick, and Tom Spillane hold the honour of the most All-Ireland Senior Football titles won by a set of brothers – 19 in total. Pat won eight, Mick won seven, and youngest sibling Tom won four. They also have five All-Ireland U-21 titles and two All-Ireland minor titles between them, and Pat's nine football All-Stars remains a record.

But the GAA gene did not begin with them and nor has it ended with them and a new generation of Spillanes are now making a name for themselves with Mick's son Daragh lining out for Dublin's U-21 footballers.

Mick played his club football with Templenoe and was corner back on that famous Kerry team of the 1970's and 80s. In addition to his All Ireland medals he is also an All Star.

Hurling – Brian Whelahan

Born in Banagher, County Offaly, Brian first played competitive hurling whilst at school in St. Brendan's Community School. He arrived on the inter-county scene at the age of fifteen when he first linked up with the Offaly minor team, before later lining out with the under-21 side. He made his senior debut during the 1989 championship and went on to play a key role for Offaly during a hugely successful era for the team. He won two All-Ireland medals, four Leinster medals and one National Hurling League medal.

At club level he won a record four All-Ireland medals with Birr, while he also claimed seven Leinster medals and twelve championship medals.

Throughout his career Whelahan made 55 championship appearances, second only to Joe Dooley in Offaly's all-time rankings with his retirement coming at the end of the 2006 championship.

Brian is widely regarded as one of the greatest hurlers in the history of the game. During his playing days he won four All-Star awards, as well as being the first person to be named Texaco Hurler of the Year on two occasions. He has been repeatedly voted onto teams made up of the sport's greats, including at left wing-back on the Hurling Team of the Millennium in 2000.

Golf – Des Smyth

Des was born in Drogheda, County Louth. He turned professional in 1974 and was a member of the European Tour for over a quarter of a century. His best finish on the European Tour Order of Merit was seventh in 1988. He won eight tournaments on the tour across four different decades, breaking Neil Coles' record as the oldest man to win a European Tour event when he claimed the 2001 Madeira Island Open at the age of 48 years and 34 days. This record was broken by Miguel Ángel Jiménez (48 years, 11 months, 13 days) at the 2012 UBS Hong Kong Open.

Smyth represented Europe in the Ryder Cup in 1979 and 1981, losing on both occasions to the United States. Smyth also represented his country in the World Cup and the Alfred Dunhill Cup many times and was a member of the Irish team (alongside Eamonn Darcy and Ronan Rafferty) which won the latter in 1988. At the 2006 Ryder Cup, he was one of Ian Woosnam's vice-captains.

Since turning fifty in 2003, Smyth has had a successful career in senior golf, winning tournaments on both the Champions Tour and the European Senior Tour.

He is the only golfer to win European Tour events in 4 different decades.

Soccer – Kevin Kilbane

Kevin is a former professional footballer who played as both a left back and a left winger. Born and raised in England but of Irish parentage, Kevin won 110 caps for the Republic of Ireland national team, third behind only Robbie Keane and Shay Given as the most capped Irish player of all time.[2]

Kilbane played for several top English Premiership clubs, including Everton, West Bromwich Albion, Sunderland, Wigan Athletic, Huddersfield Town and Derby County (the last two on loan from Hull City) and Coventry City.

He now concentrates on his media career. He has worked as a pundit for RTÉ Sport and is now a columnist for the Irish Daily Mail and appears on Virgin Media Television (Ireland), BBC Radio 5 Live, Football Focus, Final Score, Ireland's Newstalk Radio Off The Ball Football Show and Match of the Day.

The format will be a fireside chat with the sportsmen , followed by a Q & A with the audience.

All support would be greatly appreciated and ideally if people would pre book as that ensures I can keep track of nos as the target is 250 . Just email peter@low.ie for tickets .