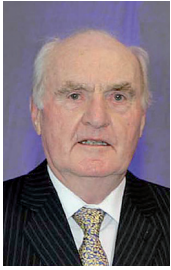


# Tom Milne (Lorrha & London) 1944-2023



By: Seamus J. King

Tom Milne of Ballymacegan, Lorrha and London passed away in Barnet Hospital, London on the 19th October. Although he had had been ill for some time, his death was unexpected and came as a shock to his family and friends. His funeral Mass was celebrated in the Church of St. Magdalen, London N20 9AE on November 2, and the size of the congregation, that filled the church to overflowing, was a tribute to the regard and respect in which he was held by a large number friends and acquaintances. Afterwards he was buried at Islington and St. Pancras Cemetery, London N2 9AG. As well as the wider public he was mourned by his partner, Kathy, children Tony, Susan and Michelle, brothers John and Tony, sisters Ann, Eileen, Marie and Betty, plus other family members.

Tom spent most of his life in London but never lost touch with his native place or Ireland in general. Born on the 30th September 1944 in Ballymacegan, he started school in Redwood N.S. after Easter 1949. He was the second of a family of eight of Tony and Eileen, who ran a pub and a farm. The pub, which received its licence in 1885 at the request of the local landlord, Stoney, who used to hunt and shoot in the woods along the bank of the Shannon with his cronies and needed a spot to entertain them when in the area. It was later famous for entertaining the locals on long winter nights.

Tom went on to secondary education at St. Molasses in Portumna. In 1958 he was part of the Lorrha under-15 panel, which won the county final. After finishing school, he worked locally for a while and then followed his sister, Kathleen, to London, where she had gone a year earlier to train as a nurse. He was just shy of 18 years.

## London

He was met by Christy Kennedy from Rathcabbin on his arrival and Christy and his wife looked after him and got him his first job in the pub trade. This job was in the Wolsey Tavern, Kentish Town. While working there he attended college as a result of which he got a job as a buyer in a building company. He gave up his job in Wolsey Tavern and went to live at Fawley Road West, Hampstead. While there he took a part time job in the Blacklion Pub in Westend Lane.

In the mid-sixties Tom met Helen Dunning, and they got married in 1969. They went on to have three children, Susan, Tony and Michelle. Tom also befriended Helen's brother, John, and they became the best of friends. It was Brian who gave the wonderful eulogy on Tom at the funeral mass. The marriage eventually came to an end and, in the early eighties, Tom met Kathy and she has been by his side for the last thirty-nine years of his life.

Tom's next adventure was to buy his first pub, the Constitution, St. Pancras Way. After making a success of this, Tom and Helen next moved to the Mornington Arms, Camden Town. In the 1980s he moved to the Duke of Clarence in Frampton Street. When Cashel King Cormacs travelled to London in February 1992 to play the All-Ireland Club quarter-final against Sean Treacys, they enjoyed a meal in Tom's place after the match. He was delighted to be our host and made every effort to meet our needs.

## Hospitality Business

Tom's love of the hospitality business can be seen in the number of establishments he managed. After the Duke of Clarence it was The Southampton in Kentish Town, the British Queen in Shepherds and his last pub, Mables Tavern in Euston, which he ran very successfully until his retirement. After his official retirement, Tom couldn't stay away from the pub trade. He helped out son Tony, and Jane at Toolans in North Finchley, when they took it over and, as was always the case, became very popular with the customers in the pub.

Along with his enthusiasm for the pub business, Tom had a great love of hurling. He joined the Brothers Pearse and in the



Left to right: John Doyle, Tom Milne, Pat McNicholas, Dinny Ryan, Tommy Barrett, Liam King, Tommy Dunne, Phil the Plumber, Jim Ryan (F), Kevin Leahy.

The photo was taken outside Tom Milne's pub in 2001

mid-sixties and could be found training on evenings at Clapham Common and then playing matches on the weekend. His playing career merged into unwavering support for the club, where he became a selector, chairman and lastly Life President. He was also instrumental in the founding of the Brothers Pearse camogie club.

From day one with Brothers Pearse he was always active in sourcing players for the club and looking after the welfare of any young lads arriving over from Ireland and especially Tipperary, where his main scouting work was done. A few years ago the club honoured Tom for his life-long support and contribution with a special Volunteer Award.

## A Golfer of Note

Tom was also a keen golfer starting out in the late seventies, and he became a fixture in Mill Hill Golf Club where his playing partners included the late Jim Ryan, Andy Kane and Dr. Michael O'Halloran, to name but a few. He was made captain of the club in 2005. He also organised golfing trips to Ireland and as late as last May he joined the London G.A.A. Golf Society trip to Wexford. Among the stories told at his funeral oration was one from the 12th hole at Mill Hill. He was playing with his pals, including Jim Ryan, and had a putt about 10 feet from the flag. As he faced the putt he said to Jim: 'Now, what was the name of that band Robbie Williams was in that he just left?' to which Jim said: 'Take that.' So Tom picked up his ball and said: 'Great! Thanks.' And walked off to the next tee, leaving Jim dumbfounded.

A very charitable man, Tom helped fundraise for many charities, raising thousands of pounds for various causes. His most recent event, held in Mill Hill golf club, raised just under £50,000 for cancer. He, and his friend from Drangan, Johnny White, worked together to raise funds for Sr. Malachy Mannion, a native of Lorrha, who did so much work to feed the homeless in London.

He was a long-standing member of the London Tipperary Association, hosting the county hurling team on many occasions, and was also Life President at the time of his death. He helped organise many a St. Patrick's Day parade in London. On one occasion when my wife and I were in London for the parade, Tom, who, as Grand Marshall, was being chauffeured in it, spotted us in the crowd and brought us on board for the duration of the parade!

## A Great Person

Tom was a larger than life character. His life and actions touched many people in the course of his time in London, and they were all better as a result of having known him. He is remembered in particular by his family, and the people of Lorrha can be proud of a native, who made such an impact in the huge metropolis of London. He came across a huge number of people in the course

of his years, particularly in the pub trade, and left great memories behind him. It is fitting to conclude this appreciation with a poem about him that was heard at his funeral oration, entitled The Publican:

Tom stood at the Golden Gate,  
His head was bent and low.  
He meekly asked the man of fate  
Which was the way to go.

What have you done St Peter asked  
To seek admission here?  
I kept a pub in London, he said,  
For many and many a year.  
St. Peter opened wide the gates  
And beamed on him as well  
Come in a choose a harp, said he,  
You've had your share of hell!

## Streaming turns mainstream

By: Stephen Gleeson

Everyone who loves hurling and football wants to see a match even if they can't make it to the arena. Word of mouth and the radio are great alternatives but the broadcasting of games on television revolutionised the amount of people who could see and take in the full plethora of emotions from a game.

Over the past four years streaming has crept into the vocabulary of Gaelic Games.

It is where a game is broadcast via a computer link to the viewer wherever they may be in the world and it has opened up the Tipperary club championships like never before.

While a lot of big intercounty games make it to television, more local club championships previously went unnoticed by the masses but the growth in technology and computer usage means that games can now be broadcast live without difficulty.

Under the guidance of Tim Floyd and Liam O'Shea broadcasting of the Tipperary club championships commenced in 2020 and a large number of games were shown live via an online link accessible through the Tipperary GAA website.

It proved popular. Commentary teams and a camera crew brought the coverage to viewers at home and abroad in a time when few could attend games due to the Covid pandemic.

People could log on and access just one game or buy a season pass and watch every game broadcast.

Streaming companies operated as the partner of Tipperary GAA bringing in revenue to the County Board.

In 2021 for instance, the County Board netted over €90,000 and people tuned in with, for example, just below 1000 people logging on to Loughmore-Castleiney and Borris-Ileigh in the county hurling semi final that year.

Over the past number of years the idea of streaming games has become more mainstream and, as well as the club championships, the provincial club championship as well as Under 20 and minor county action has proved hugely popular with viewers in recent years.

In 2022 another streaming brand, GAAGO, started broadcasting



The set up and view from the Tipperary GAA live stream commentary box in FBD Semple Stadium on county final replay day 2022. Stephen Gleeson and James Woodlock are in the picture. Credit Sportsfocus.

intercounty games that weren't broadcast on terrestrial television.

While the streaming of club games proved hugely popular with spectators, GAA Go received a mixed response as many felt that high profile games wouldn't get the exposure they would on television.

It is an art form still in its infancy.

Over the coming years it will be interesting to see how Streaming is broadened and how it evolves. The possibility is there that television networks will link up with Streaming companies and may buy up viewing rights similar to what happens in other sports across channels or on mainland Europe.

Ensuring quality is key to its success. Keeping standards high with good quality cameras, sound and commentary can build the role it can play in people's lives.

No doubt there are growing pains involved with any new technology like radio when it arrived 100 years ago, television more recently and now streaming this decade. Where will it go next only time will tell.



### Celtic Challenge u 17 hurling winners 2023

Back Row L-R: Michael Ryan (Burgess), Matthew Direen (Mullinahone), Adam O'Connell (Ballingarry), Tommy Breen (Boherlahan), Sean Sinnott (Roscrea), Tristan Kelly (Durlas Og), Brian Manton (Cashel), Billy Collins (Ballina), Conor Gleeson (Drom Inch), Cian Hogan (Portroe), Ben Kirby (Boherlahan), Ciaran O'Shea (JK Brackens), Tom Delaney (Borris-Ileigh), Charlie Ryan (Boherlahan).

Front Row L- R: Brian Buckley (Cappawhite), Sam Dooley (Roscrea), Callum Poole (Newport), Jake Hackett (Toomevara), Cian Moyles (Kilruane Mc Donaghs), Bobby Power (Captain) (Boherlahan), Cathal England (Kilruane Mc Donaghs), Darragh Landers (St.Marys), Seamus Kennedy (Clonoulty), Cormac Fitzpatrick (Drom Inch), Eoghan Dunne (Cashel)