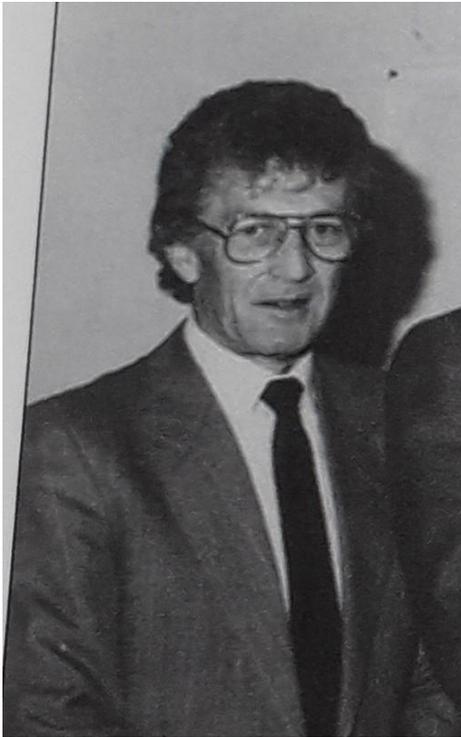


### Jerry Lyons RIP – An Appreciation

*To all parents, when you grow older and have grandchildren of your own, remember something important, a dull grandparent is not fun at all. What a child wants, and deserves, is a grandparent who is sparky, like my grandad.*

*Ben Lyons Dublin Aged 9*



It was with great sadness that Tipperary Athletics was informed of the passing of Jerry Lyons, Ballynonty, Thurles (formerly of Béal na mBláth, Cork) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. Jerry was involved in athletics for over 50 years in a number of roles and at different levels. These included administration, innovation and coaching. He held positions at Club, County, Munster and National level and was always looking for better ways to do things including making the best use of up to date technology and methods. He served as Munster Competition Secretary for a number of years and was involved in the introduction of electronic timing and the meet management system during his reign.

*So sorry to hear of the death of Jerry. Worked with him for 3 years on the Munster Athletics Board in the 1990s and was inspired by his dedication and energy. He was always the first to arrive at championships and at meetings. He had a humorous glint in his eyes when discussions were taking place as he usually knew the answers before the questions were asked. Jerry was one of the reasons why our children and many others enjoyed athletics in Munster. May he rest in peace. From David Kissane and family in Kerry.*

*David Kissane*

Jerry was also responsible for setting up the Tipperary Athletics website, introducing an Excel Workbook to manage entries and results for all County competitions and introducing the County Tipperary Secondary Schools Track and Field Championships to Tipperary Schools. He was a man who got things done, he epitomised the saying "The person who says it cannot be done is being passed by the person who is doing it". Nothing was impossible to Jerry, he always found a way around it. He also had an incredible talent for finding the right person for the right job, frequently quoting his mantra of the 3 "D"'s – Decide, Delegate and then Disappear.

*Jerry's attention to details and to the successes of Tipperary Athletics overcoming all difficulties along the way to achieve them will last us forever in Tipperary AAI*

*Tipperary AAI County Board*

As a coach, Jerry's main focus was on Jumps, Sprints and Hurdles and he helped a number of athletes achieve their potential along with National and International standards.

His son, Jeremy continues on that great family tradition, currently coaching a host of talented athletes, 7 of whom have earned Senior Irish vests. [See his athlete's Virtual Guard of Honour for Jerry on the Tipperary Website](#). The athletes/coaches involved and their clubs are: Kelly McGrory - Tir Chonnaill and Donegal; Sean Dowling - Raheny and Dublin; Eanna Madden - Carrick on Shannon and Leitrim; Cillian Greene - GCH and Galway; Cathal McElgunn - Carrick on Shannon and Leitrim; Gerard O'Donnell - Carrick on Shannon and Leitrim; Oisín McCorry - Raheny and Cavan; Sophie Becker - St Joseph's and Wexford; Eoghan Buggy - St Abbans and Kilkenny; Paul Peppard - Monaghan Phoenix and Monaghan; John Fagan - Clonliffe and Kilkenny; Deirdre Murray - Na Fianna and Meath; Shane McCormack - Menapians and Wexford; Mikey Quilligan - Nenagh and Tipp; Aideen Synnott - Na Fianna and Meath; Brandon Arrey - Raheny and Cork; Mark Rogers - St Peters and Louth; Laura Ann Costello - GCH and Galway; Shane Monagle - Tramore and Waterford; Jack Manning - KCH and Kilkenny



Jerry was, for many years associated with Templemore A.C. as a coach and an advisor on the re-development of the athletic track between 1999 & 2009. He coached the following events: Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump, Hurdles and sprints, and was deeply involved with the Club's National League successes between 1991 & 2003.

Jerry ordered the athletic equipment for the re-developed track in 2006, he established contacts with major international suppliers throughout the world, many of which are still used today. He finally selected Gill Athletics of Chicago as our main supplier. This equipment has stood the test of time and it is highly complemented by track users to this day.

Jerry also worked with the late Paddy Ryan R.I.P, on selecting the Club's public address system in 2008 on behalf of it's development committee; "unless public address can be heard by spectators and athletes alike, it becomes a waste of money", Jerry said.

*To our dear friend and advisor and Coach----- "gone but not forgotten" From all in Templemore Athletic Club. RIP JERRY*

*Martin Leyden*

In 2017, Jerry was awarded the Tipperary Hall of Fame for his dedication to athletics at the Tipperary Athletics Star Awards in the Horse and Jockey. Amid family, friends and colleagues, he received a rousing standing ovation on the night. His reaction was " I never knew I had so many friends and was held in such high regard". It was a great night for County Athletics.



That same year, he was also the recipient of the Patsy O'Connor Award at Munster level for his outstanding contribution to Athletics as an Official but illness prevented him from attending on the night. He is pictured below with one of his former athletes, Daniel Ryan, Moycarkey Coolcree A.C. who presented Jerry with his award at his home in Ballynonty.



*Mab, Jeremy and all the Lyons family, we were so sorry to hear of the passing of Jerry. He was our friend, coach and mentor and we owe all our successes as an athletics family to him. He started us off on our athletics journey and we will never forget him. Ever grateful that he touched our lives. May he rest in peace.*  
*Aisling, Jim and all the Ryans*

In his local area, Jerry was also deeply involved with Slieveardagh A.C. and Gortnahoe Glengoole Community Games. Generous with his time, he was willing to help anyone that asked and over 25 years from the early 1980's to the mid 2000's he served in various roles including County Development Officer, County Chairman, County Secretary, Munster Delegate, NEC Delegate and delegate to numerous AGM's. He was also one of the original sponsors of the CE Scheme which commenced in 1992 as well as secretary of his own Gortnahoe Glengoole Area.



*So sorry to hear of Jerry's passing, we were partners in crime in Community Games and Athletics for many years, I have such fond memories of our weekends in Mosney over the years, Jerry was a gentleman, a perfectionist and always did the right thing even if it was not popular. I learned so much from him. Condolences to the family, he will be sadly missed by you all, Aidan Ryan*  
*Aidan Ryan Roscrea and Nenagh*

The County Bard held a Guard of Honour outside Glengoole Church on Friday 8th of May. His athletics friends and colleagues from Slieveardagh A.C, Templemore A.C., Moycarkey Coolcroo A.C., Moyne A.C., Moyglass A.C., Coolquill A.C., Dundrum A.C., Nenagh Olympic A.C., Clonmel A.C., Thurles Crokes A.C. as well as Officers from Tipperary County Board and the Munster Council lined the village pavements of Glengoole to salute Jerry on his final journey. Many more of his friends and colleagues were unavailable to attend due to the Covid-19 restrictions but we all look forward to celebrating Jerry's life with friends and extended family at a later stage.

Ar dheis de do raibh a anam.

### **Some more of the lovely tributes to Jerry on RIP.ie**

*Sincere sympathies from all in Nenagh Olympic Athletic Club to the Lyons family on the death of Jerry. His contribution to Tipperary Athletic was immense. He will be sadly missed by all.*

*Nenagh Olympic Athletic Club*

*Sincere sympathies to the Lyons family on the death of Jerry. He was a great servant to Tipp athletics for as long as I can remember. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.*

*Liam Tierney Nenagh Olympic*

*Sincere sympathy to Mab and family on the passing of Jerry. Will remember him for his coaching advice for Eoin, Eamonn and Lorcan. May be rest in peace.*

*Carmel and Seamus Troy, Ballinastick*

*Jerry was a decent man and respected in athletic circles from Tipperary and beyond. Condolences to the Lyons family on your loss. May he Rest in Peace.*

*Joseph Barry, Cleakile, Thurles*

*Pray for Jerry's family . He was truly a gifted man and athlete at Fanahan McSweeney AC will never forget his coaching acumen and interpersonal skills. May he rest in peace*

*Seamus Fox Mitchelstown*

*Our heartfelt sympathies to Mab and family brothers Tadhg ,Peter and Sr Eileen on the sad passing of Jerry. I heard of many stories of his deep involvement in athletics which he was very passionate about from my late mother Nell Hinchion Kilmurry A C when they regularly met at Munster Championship . He will be sadly missed and May Jerry. Rest In Peace.*

*Richard Helen Hinchion &family Kilmurry*

*"I am honoured and blessed to have known Jerry. He was truly a blessing in my life and I will miss him. My condolences."*

*Billy and Helen Purcell Tipperary AAI*

*Our deepest sympathy to all the Lyons family on the recent death of Jerry. He worked hard at getting the best out of athletes through his vast experience and knowledge. If ever a problem arose Jerry was the man that would sort things out. Jerry may your gentle soul rest in peace.*

*Albert, Jonathan, Cliona and Lorraine Doyle*

*Very saddened to hear of Jerry's passing. A great man that helped so many in the athletics world.*

*John O Farrell Borrisokane AC*

*Our sincere sympathy to mab and all the family. How many years did we soldier together at all events and always on the end of the phone with advice. Rest in peace dear friend jerry*

*Kathleen and patsy Dorney*

*Condolences to all Jerry's family. I am so saddened to learn of Jerry's passing . He was a great athletics man and worked tirelessly for the sport. RIP Jerry. Thoughts and prayer are with all his family at this really sad time.*

*Brid Golden*

*Jerry was a gentleman. Gave so much to athletics. His willingness and dedication to the sport was amazing. He promoted Tipperary Athletics in a positive light Thinking of all Jerrys family during this difficult time. May he rest in Peace.*

*Sharon Cantwell, Moyne AC*

*Sincerest Sympathies to the Lyons family on the death of Jerry, who gave a lifetime dedicated to the coaching of athletes in many areas especially in the Gortnahoe/Glengoole parish, with the Community games very close to his hearth. Jerry while living in Ballynonty for many years never forgot his Cork roots and had a long career in Telecommunications with the P & T, later to become Telecom Eireann and now eir. May he Rest in Peace.*

*Michael Egan Coole, Gortnahoe*

*Deepest sympathy to the immediate and extended family. I have many great memories of Jerry at athletics and community games events. He was always very helpful to ALL athlete's regardless of where they were from. May you rest in peace Jerry!*

*Corina Kennedy*

*Sincere sympathy to all the Lyons family on Jerrys sad passing. Had a great athletic relationship with Jerry for many years. Always approachable and helpful and totally dedicated to athletics. May he rest in peace.*

*Donal Crowley, Tralee Harriers A C*

*Sincere sympathy to Mab and family on the loss of Jerry. He gave freely of his time and energy to the community especially to the young. Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.*

*Mary and Paddy OReilly*

*Great memories from almost 30 years ago as a young lad heading off running with Jerry at weekends. He had great interest in all of us, may he rest in peace.*

*Eddie O'Brien, Coolquill*

*Extending our sincerest condolences to the Lyons family, a very sincere and helpful colleague in both the athletics and community games for many years, will be sadly missed kitty and mick England roscrea*

*Michael and kitty England*

*Deepest sympathies to Mab and the Lyons family on the passing of a wonderful gentleman that was Jerry. May he rest in peace.*

*Thurles Crokes Athletic Club*

*Sincere sympathy to the Lyons family on Jerry's death. He was a great influence on our young people and a driving force within Slieveardagh Athletic Club for so many years. Rest in Peace Jerry.*

*Gabriel, Mary Lawless & boys, Gortnahoe*

*Sincere condolences to the all the Lyons family on the passing of Jerry. I had the pleasure of serving with him on the County Tipperary Athletics Board, a gentleman, he will be greatly missed. Rest in peace Jerry.*

*Mary Costello, Nenagh*

*Sincere sympathies to the Lyons family at this sad time. Jerry gave a lifetime dedicated to the coaching of athletics and put Slieveardagh Athletic Club on the map. He was a man of great integrity and a wonderful mentor to the young people of Gortnahoe/Glengoole. Jerry, may your gentle soul rest in peace.*

*John, Sheila Large & family*

*Our sympathy to the family on the passing of Gerry, a wonderful athletic tutor RIP.*

*Timmy & David Dunne, Graigue, Gortnahoe*

*My sincere sympathy to you all on the passing of Jerry many a long chat we had a he was always very helpful  
to me rest in peace jerry*

*Mary Cronin Croom co limerick*