

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Jimmy Hannon

by Michael O'Dwyer

Jimmy Hannon was born on 9 May 1910 in Liverpool, England. He was a son of Jim Hannon and Annie Hannon (née Crowe). His father was native of Cappauniac, Bansha, and his mother (sister of the famous Tim Crowe) was native of Bishopswood, Dundrum, and they got married on 19 June 1907 in St Michael's Church, Tipperary town. After moving to Liverpool they returned to Tipperary town in 1912. The Haslams, a noted business family, who had drapery shops in Tipperary town and Carrick-on-Suir also had a farm in Deerpark, near Carrick-on-Suir, and asked Jim Hannon to look after the farm. Jimmy Hannon was educated at Crehana National School, outside Carrickbeg, and ran to and from school, a distance of three miles each way. He began competitive athletics in his teens and his first national title was on 3 February 1934 in the Irish junior cross-country championship at Phoenix Park racecourse, Dublin, when both his club Galteemore Harriers, and O'Callaghan Mills Athletic Club, tied for first place. The six scorers for Galteemore Harriers were Mick Healy, Tommy Morrissey, Jimmy Hannon, Pat Hackett, Davy Lyons and Tony Hackett. Two years later Jimmy Hannon won the Tipperary senior cross-country championship on 5 April 1936 at Gortnahoe. The same year he won the Irish 10 mile championship on 4 October 1936 against thirty-one other competitors at the grounds of Fearon's Athletic Club in Terenure, Dublin, having cycled to the city from Carrick-on-Suir the day before. He was runner-up in the Irish 10 mile championship the previous year when it was held in Cashel. His third national title was on 27 March 1938 in the Irish senior cross-country championship at Baldoyle racecourse, Dublin, when he was a member of the winning Coolcree Athletic Club team. The six scorers were Jimmy Sweeney, Jerry Fahey, Tom Bourke, Jimmy Hannon, Tom Healy and Phil Healy. Jimmy continued through the decades competing in running and walking events all over the country and abroad, and completed four Dublin marathons. He was the recipient of the Knocknagow hall of fame award at the 2000 Cidona Sports Awards. Jimmy Hannon died on 5 September 2001 at Waterford Regional Hospital, aged ninety-one, and is interred in the Friary cemetery, Carrickbeg.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

1936

10 Miles

56:57