

# TIPPERARY ATHLETES



## **John Beatty**

**by Michael O'Dwyer**

John Beatty was born on 22 July 1922 at Earlshill, Ballingarry, County Tipperary. He was the sixth son of John Beatty, a farmer, plasterer and stonemason, and Mary Beatty (née Casey). Both parents were native of Earlshill and they got married on 20 November 1903 in the Church of the Assumption, Ballingarry. John trained as a plasterer and roofer. To find work he moved to Dundalk and worked in various places around County Louth mainly as a plasterer. There he joined Dowdallshill Athletic Club and that was his first contact with athletics. He represented the Louth county team on a number of occasions. When he moved back to Earlshill he joined Coolquill Athletic Club in 1945, the year the club was established. The following year Coolquill did a clean sweep by winning the novice, junior and senior cross-country championships of Tipperary. The winning scoring members were, for novice, Pat Leatham, Mick Kelly, Mick Barry and Mick Tobin. Junior: Mick Kelly, Pat Leatham, Tom Treacy, Willie Sparrow, John Beatty and Mick Barry. Senior: Mick Blake, Chris Cooke, Mick Tobin, Pat Leatham, John Beatty and Tom Treacy. In the 1947 cross-country running season John Beatty won two national medals with Tipperary. On 23 February he was one of the six scorers for Tipperary that won the national junior cross-country championship at Tipperary town, and on 20 April he was one of the six scorers for Tipperary that won the national senior cross-country championship at Mount Merrion, Dublin. He also competed with considerable success on the track at several sports meetings. After he married Kitty Power of Glenane, Ballinamult, County Waterford, on 20 October 1953 at St Mary's Church, Clonmel, they moved to Kilkenny. There his wife Kitty ran a grocery shop in Dean Street for many years, and John continued to work with his brother Jim as a plasterer. In 1949 John helped Ballingarry win the South Tipperary hurling championship. John Beatty died on 3 August 1990 at St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, aged sixty-eight, and is interred in St Kieran's Cemetery, Kilkenny.