

# Lovely hurling at Blackrock? Surely there's some mistake...

A golden era of hurling at a famous rugby school involved fine victories and big names, writes **Brian O'Connell**



once said that, "there is no football game to match rugby". However, being a consummate politician, Dev had not attended a rugby match since 1913, as he "did not want it being raised as a political matter and having rows kicked up about it". De Valera's own government had just introduced an entertainments tax on attendance receipts at sports such as soccer and rugby, but had exempted Gaelic games.

**I**N Ireland one school has long been synonymous with success in schools' rugby — Blackrock College, which has nurtured Irish greats such as Brian O'Driscoll, Fergus Slattery, Niall Brophy and many, many more.

with more boys enrolled from Munster than Dublin. For many of those from counties such as Clare, hurling had been their sport before coming to Dublin.

It may come as a surprise that for a time Blackrock excelled with ash-stick and sliotar — and that the story of hurling's re-admittance to the school involved John Charles McQuaid, Eamon de Valera and the man who is perhaps best known for his role in the invention of Irish coffee and duty-free airport shopping: Brendan O'Regan.

During his first year O'Regan, displayed some of the courage and initiative he would later become noted for. He rounded up some of his schoolmates to meet the college president and requested that Blackrock enter a team in the Leinster Colleges' hurling competition which the school had dropped out of several years earlier. The president was none other than the formidable Dr John Charles McQuaid, who would later serve as Archbishop of Dublin for more than 30 years.

O'Regan, who would go on to head Shannon Development and Bord Fáilte, came as a 14-year-old boarder to Blackrock in 1931. He was from a strong GAA household, his father having been chairman of the training committee for the Clare hurling team that won their first All-Ireland in 1914 — also the first final to be played in the newly renamed Croke Park.

McQuaid had to give this request some careful consideration. The controversial GAA ban on those playing and even attending games of rugby, soccer, cricket and hockey, which ruled out participation by such individuals in Gaelic games, was very much a live issue at the time.

Most of the Blackrock pupils at the time were boarders,

Blackrock's most famous alumnus, Eamon de Valera,

the 1934 Leinster Colleges' Senior team in the inter-provincial championship. In the senior campaign of 1934-5, O'Regan was one of the goal-scorers in a victory over reigning champions, Colaiste Caoimhin, Glasnevin, at Croke Park. However, he did not play in the final where Blackrock defeated a team from the renowned hurling nursery, St Kieran's, Kilkenny, by five points. So, Blackrock had won the junior and senior trophies in their first three years.

Blackrock reached the senior colleges final again in 1936, against Kilkenny CBS, with O'Regan at centre-field. However, Jim Langton — one of the greatest hurlers of all time — won this game for Kilkenny on his own. A week later, O'Regan was one of four Blackrock boys who topped out with Langton on the Leinster Colleges team against Munster.

The era of hurling success did not have any effect on Blackrock's dominance of Leinster Schools Rugby. In 1936, when the 50th senior cup was at stake, the senior



SPORTING CHANCE: Eamon de Valera and John Charles McQuaid at Blackrock Gymkhana in the 1930s with Brendan O'Regan holding rosettes for winners

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team completed a four-in-a-row. This meant that since the competition began in 1887, Blackrock had won the trophy 33 times, or twice as often as all the other schools combined. Blackrock's successful involvement in inter-collegiate hurling lasted for less than a decade. After heavy defeats in the senior competition in 1937 and 1938 and the transfer of some of the priests who had been hurling coaches, interest would appear to have declined. By 1942, the school had dropped out of inter-collegiate hurling and the golden era was over.

O'Regan left Blackrock in 1936 to pursue overseas training as a hotelier. His initiatives in tourism and industry would transform the Shannon region and have national and international impact over the coming decades.

'Brendan O'Regan: Irish innovator, visionary and peacemaker' by Brian O'Connell is published by Irish Academic Press

# Surge in sales of art paints a bright picture

**Sarah Slater**

IF anything, the fall in the market for fine art and sculpture was even harder than the wipeout of property in the crash.

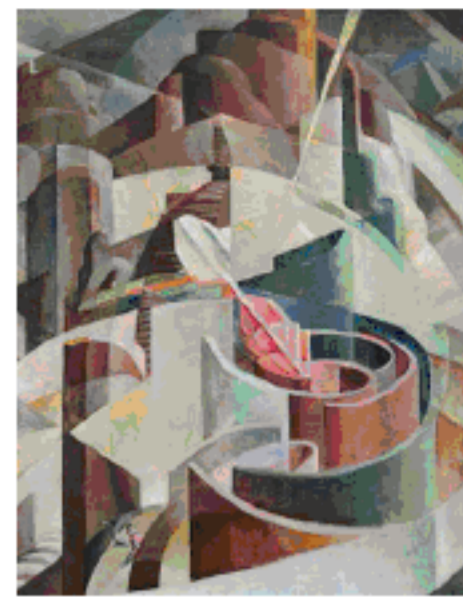
"The years from 2009 to 2016 were bad for the Irish art world here as the Celtic Tiger had well and truly come to an abrupt end. Its roar had become a whimper. It was indeed difficult to sell renowned artists' pieces of art as a consequence," says Ian Whyte, director of Whyte and Sons Auctioneers in Dublin.

In business for two centuries, the auction house is well placed to gauge how the Irish economy is performing. As prices on the international scene continue to rise, art in Ireland has staged a spectacular comeback. And sales suggest the trend is still upward.

While a newly discovered masterpiece, *Saviour of the World*, by Leonardo da Vinci was sold for a record-breaking \$450m in New York last November, in the Irish market prices of hundreds of thousands of euros are viewed as impressive sums.

A painting by Paul Henry, best remembered for his inventive landscape paintings and lush scenes of the West of Ireland, went for more than double its estimated value. *Killary Bay*, depicting a sailing boat, was valued by Whytes at between €50,000 and €70,000, but made €140,000. *Morning Glory* by Jack Butler Yeats went for €175,000 — more than twice the asking price of €80,000.

Yeats was an expressionist painter and was one of Ireland's most important artists. Late last year, a work, titled *The Storm*, a large oil on canvas by Mary Swanzy, sold



MONEY-SPINNER: 'The Storm' belonged to PJ Mara

for €100,000 — €70,000 more than its guide price.

The piece by Swanzy, an Irish landscape and genre artist and one of Ireland's first abstract painters, was part of a collection belonging to former government spin doctor the late PJ Mara.

Two months ago, a rare edition of *The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien was sold for €29,000 in Kilkenny by Mealy's auction house.

Conservative estimates for the book started at €20,000. It was one of 1,500 copies printed in 1937.

Mr Whyte added: "We were extremely surprised the two pieces by Henry and Yeats went for as much as they did. "The demand for good Irish art is back with a bang. During the recession prices being made for paintings were at least 50pc lower than what they are now. The market here started to level out from the lower prices being realised between 2012 and 2015.

"Since then they have been steadily rising from 2016 to what it is now. Confidence is back in the art market now and more and more money is becoming available than was during the recession."

<p><b>AUDI</b></p> <p>2012 Audi A3 Spt 1.8 Sdr, 229,000km, Fully Serviced, Road Tax €200, Warranty Cover, €10,900, Can Deliver. www.NewmarketMotors.ie <b>Co. Cork</b> Tel: 087 7934548 www.carsireland.ie/2036786</p>	<p><b>CITROEN</b></p> <p>2016 Citroen Berlingo 1.6 HDI 75 Enterprise HDI Blue 3 seats Diesel, Manual, 36,334 miles, Van, Full Service History, Warranty, Fitted Autos. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 086 2718282 www.carsireland.ie/1998906</p>	<p><b>FORD</b></p> <p>2015 Ford EcoSport 1.5 TDCI TITANIUM * LOW MILEAGE * FINANCE AVAILABLE * BEST VALUE. 1 owner, NCT 09/19, Saloon, Full brake overhaul with discs. <b>Dublin 15</b> Tel: 086 2414969 www.carsireland.ie/1978342</p>	<p><b>JAGUAR</b></p> <p>2012 Jaguar XF 2.2D SE 163PS ADR Special Edition Cooper S Diesel, Huge Spec, Low miles, Full BMW SHAA Approved, 2 year warranty, Like brand new. VSS PREMIUM CARS.COM <b>Co. Kerry</b> Tel: 087 4517542 www.carsireland.ie/2024008</p>	<p><b>MINI</b></p> <p>2014 Mini Paceman Coupe (142) Special Edition Cooper S Diesel, Huge Spec, Low miles, Full BMW SHAA Approved, 2 year warranty, Like brand new. VSS PREMIUM CARS.COM <b>Co. Kerry</b> Tel: 087 4517542 www.carsireland.ie/2024008</p>	<p><b>RENAULT</b></p> <p>2012 Renault Traffic SL27 DCI SIR, 2.0L, 65,100 miles, FSH, Warranty, Cargo Lining, Shovel, Ladder Rails, Pipe Tube, Terrific vehicle. Sale Price €8400 +Vat. Fitted Autos. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 086 2718282 www.carsireland.ie/1864232</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2012 Volkswagen Golf Trend 1.6TDI Sdr, 192,300km, Fully Serviced, Road Tax €200, Warranty Cover, €10,900, Can Deliver. www.NewmarketMotors.ie <b>Co. Cork</b> Tel: 087 7934548 www.carsireland.ie/2036788</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2014 Volkswagen Passat Comf 1.6TDI Sdr, 1 Lady Owner, Fully Serviced, Warranty Cover, Road Tax €200, 99,500kms, Can Deliver. <b>Co. Cork</b> Tel: 087 7934548 www.carsireland.ie/2036793</p>
<p><b>AUDI</b></p> <p>2013 Audi A6 2.0 TDI SE 177PS 4DR, 2.0L, Diesel, Manual, 89,800 miles, 1 owner, Huge Spec and extras, Self Park, Full service, Beautiful car Full verifiable Audi S/History <b>Co. Galway</b> Tel: 085 1658070 www.carsireland.ie/2036943</p>	<p><b>CITROEN</b></p> <p>2013 Citroen Berlingo 1.6 HDI 75 Enterprise HDI Blue 3 seats Diesel, Manual, 65,000 miles, MPV, FSH, Perfect working order. Fitted Autos. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 086 2718282 www.carsireland.ie/1930164</p>	<p><b>FORD</b></p> <p>2012 Ford Transit BUS 430E 2.2dci 135PS L3 LWB 3DR, 2.2L, Diesel, Manual, 185,262 km, 1 owner, NCT 05/18, Hatchback, €12,930 PLUS VAT. Fred Kilmartin Ltd.ie <b>Co. Galway</b> Tel: 087 1335921 www.carsireland.ie/1739043</p>	<p><b>JAGUAR</b></p> <p>2005 Land Rover Range Rover 3.0TDE Vogue * COMMERCIAL * 2 SEATER * € 7113 plus VAT * ALL EXTRAS * 2.9L, Diesel, Automatic, Lambe and O'Connor. <b>Dublin 15</b> Tel: 086 2414969 www.carsireland.ie/2020196</p>	<p><b>MINI</b></p> <p>2011 Mitsubishi Lancer 2.0 DID GS2 5 DOOR * LOW MILEAGE * SERVICE RECORD Diesel, Manual, 52,000 miles, NCT 03/19. Lambe and O'Connor. <b>Dublin 15</b> Tel: 086 2414969 www.carsireland.ie/2033137</p>	<p><b>RENAULT</b></p> <p>2007 Toyota Corolla 1.4 LUNA, 1.4L, Petrol, Manual, 254,344 km, 3 owners, Saloon, ABS, Electric mirrors, Remote central locking, Radio/CD, Electric windows, Immobiliser, We Perfect working order. Sale Price: €7995. Fitted Autos. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 090 6626160 www.carsireland.ie/1907957</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2010 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI GT 140PS, Diesel, Manual, 107,000 miles, Hatchback, Full Service History, Perfect working order. Sale Price: €7995. Fitted Autos. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 086 2718282 www.carsireland.ie/1979602</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2014 Volkswagen Tiguan Life &amp; Leisure 2.0TDI Sdr, Fully Serviced, Warranty Cover, Road Tax €280, 108,240kms, Can Deliver. <b>Co. Cork</b> Tel: 087 6537841 www.carsireland.ie/2036894</p>
<p><b>BMW</b></p> <p>2014 BMW 2 Series 218D SE COUPE * LOW MILES * FINANCE AVAILABLE * 1.2L, Petrol, Manual, 19,000 miles, 1 owner, Hatchback, Full Service History, Lambe and O'Connor. <b>Dublin 15</b> Tel: 086 2414969 www.carsireland.ie/1967364</p>	<p><b>CITROEN</b></p> <p>2012 Citroen Berlingo Multipace 1.6 HDI Plus 5DR, Diesel, Manual, 42,059 miles, NCT 07/18, MPV, Fred Kilmartin Ltd.ie <b>Co. Galway</b> Tel: 087 1335921 www.carsireland.ie/1964989</p>	<p><b>FORD</b></p> <p>2014 Ford Transit Custom Custom 100PS 270PS L3 L/R 4DR, 2.2L, Diesel, Manual, 1 owner, Tax 03/19, Fred Kilmartin Ltd.ie <b>Co. Galway</b> Tel: 087 1335921 www.carsireland.ie/2029953</p>	<p><b>JAGUAR</b></p> <p>2007 Lexus LS 460 * LS460 with full LEXUS service record * BEST AVAILABLE * INCREDIBLE VALUE * 4.6L, Petrol, Automatic, Lambe and O'Connor. Sale Price: €9,999. Fitted Autos. <b>Dublin 15</b> Tel: 086 2414969 www.carsireland.ie/1966024</p>	<p><b>MINI</b></p> <p>2010 Nissan Qashqai 1.5 DCI Acenta, Diesel, 51,000 miles, SUV, Lovely Car. Parking Sensors, Cruise, Isofix, Warranty. Fitted Autos. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 086 2718282 www.carsireland.ie/1666024</p>	<p><b>RENAULT</b></p> <p>2012 Toyota Prius 1.8 Alpha Estate, Hybrid, 5 seats, Another Fabulous Prius Automatic, 62k miles, Car of the Future, Warranty, Sale price €12,995. Fitted Autos. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 086 2718282 www.carsireland.ie/1594985</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2016 Volkswagen Golf SV Comf 1.6TDI Sdr, Fully Serviced, Warranty Cover, Road Tax €190, 64,335km, Can Deliver. www.NewmarketMotors.ie <b>Co. Cork</b> Tel: 087 6537841 www.carsireland.ie/2036896</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2012 Volkswagen Jetta 1.6 TDI AUTOMATIC, NEW MODEL, Only 55k miles, FSH, Huge Spec, Tax €219, NCT 02/20, 1 yr Warranty, Like New. VSS PREMIUM CARS.COM <b>Co. Kerry</b> Tel: 087 4517542 www.carsireland.ie/2025689</p>
<p><b>CHEVROLET</b></p> <p>2006 Chevrolet Kalos 1.2 SE taxed to 02/19. Nct to 03/19. Elec windows. 5 door hatch. 140k miles. Very reliable and economical. Spotless. <b>Co. Dublin</b> Tel: 087 3560025 www.carsireland.ie/2037650</p>	<p><b>CITROEN</b></p> <p>2009 Citroen Berlingo Multipace 1.6 HDI Plus 5DR, Diesel, Category C, damaged but repaired, Excellent, 68,000 miles, Leather seats, NCT 03/19, Tax 06/18, Very solid. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 086 2718282 www.carsireland.ie/2011700</p>	<p><b>FORD</b></p> <p>2008 Hyundai H-1 VAN, 2.5L, Diesel, Manual, 165,122 km, 1 owner, NCT 07/18, Tax 01/19, Van, Central Locking, CD Player, ABS Brakes, Airbag, Fog Lamps, Power Steering <b>Co. Carlow</b> Tel: 085 7473524 www.carsireland.ie/2037716</p>	<p><b>JAGUAR</b></p> <p>2011 Mercedes-Benz C 200 C 200 CDI BE ROAD TAX € 270 * 2.1L, Diesel, Automatic, 75,000 km, NCT 07/19, Black leather. Lambe and O'Connor. <b>Dublin 15</b> Tel: 086 2414969 www.carsireland.ie/1995804</p>	<p><b>MINI</b></p> <p>2016 Opel Mokka 1.7 CDTI SE 130PS, Diesel, Automatic, 44,969 km, 1 owner, NCT 03/20, SUV, Full Service History, Fred Kilmartin Ltd.ie <b>Co. Galway</b> Tel: 087 1335921 www.carsireland.ie/1940310</p>	<p><b>RENAULT</b></p> <p>2014 Vauxhall Vivaro 2900 Cdti Sportive LWB, 2.0L, Diesel, 65 k miles, 3 seater, Roof rack, Lined, Taxed + Tested. Great vehicle in top condition. Fitted Autos. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 086 2718282 www.carsireland.ie/1930162</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2016 Volkswagen Golf SV Comf 1.6TDI Sdr, Fully Serviced, Warranty Cover, Road Tax €190, 64,335km, Can Deliver. www.NewmarketMotors.ie <b>Co. Cork</b> Tel: 087 6537841 www.carsireland.ie/2036896</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2012 Volkswagen Jetta 1.6 TDI AUTOMATIC, NEW MODEL, Only 55k miles, FSH, Huge Spec, Tax €219, NCT 02/20, 1 yr Warranty, Like New. VSS PREMIUM CARS.COM <b>Co. Kerry</b> Tel: 087 4517542 www.carsireland.ie/2025689</p>
<p><b>CHEVROLET</b></p> <p>2006 Chevrolet Kalos 1.2 SE taxed to 02/19. Nct to 03/19. Elec windows. 5 door hatch. 140k miles. Very reliable and economical. Spotless. <b>Co. Dublin</b> Tel: 087 3560025 www.carsireland.ie/2037650</p>	<p><b>CITROEN</b></p> <p>2014 Fiat 500 1.2i POP * LOW MILES * FINANCE AVAILABLE * 1.2L, Petrol, Manual, 19,000 miles, 1 owner, Hatchback, Full Service History, Lambe and O'Connor. <b>Dublin 15</b> Tel: 086 2414969 www.carsireland.ie/1935564</p>	<p><b>FORD</b></p> <p>2012 Iveco Daily 35S13V 2.3 LWB (3950) H/R, 2.3L, Diesel, Manual, 57,000 miles, High Roof, Long Body, only 57000 miles, €6,999 +VAT. Fitted Autos. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 086 2718282 www.carsireland.ie/1875219</p>	<p><b>JAGUAR</b></p> <p>2014 Mercedes-Benz E Class 142CDI E220. Only 27k miles (Yes 27k), Full MBSH, Huge Spec, AA Approved, €280 TAX, 2 Year Warranty, Like New. VSS PREMIUM CARS.COM <b>Co. Dublin</b> Tel: 086 2438943 www.carsireland.ie/2035952</p>	<p><b>MINI</b></p> <p>2015 Opel Vivaro Combi 2900 L2H1 120PS 5DR 9 SEATER, 1.6L, Diesel, Manual, 80,787 km, 1 owner, NCT 08/18, Tax 09/18, MPV, €21,150 PLUS VAT, Fred Kilmartin Ltd.ie <b>Co. Galway</b> Tel: 087 1335921 www.carsireland.ie/1950306</p>	<p><b>RENAULT</b></p> <p>2017 Volkswagen Caddy 7 Seater Trend Lots of Boot Space, Fully Serviced, Warranty Cover, Road Tax €200, 128,240kms, Can Deliver. <b>Co. Cork</b> Tel: 087 6537841 www.carsireland.ie/2036920</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2013 Volkswagen Jetta 1.6 TDI AUTOMATIC, Fully Serviced, Warranty Cover, Road Tax €200, €12,500. Can Deliver. <b>Co. Meath</b> Tel: 087 7934548 www.carsireland.ie/2036792</p>	<p><b>VOLKSWAGEN</b></p> <p>2015 Mazda Mazda6 2.2 D PLATINUM SPEC WITH EVERY OPTION * ELEC SEATS * 27K MILES. Lambe and O'Connor. <b>Dublin 15</b> Tel: 086 2414969 www.carsireland.ie/2034428</p>