

## DOHENYS AC

### Catherine Murphy

In the 'forties the Doheny's Athletic Club, Dunmanway, was among the foremost in the county. At the height of its fame during that period the Cade Cup - for the best all-round club in the county - was secured among other trophies and laurels. Helping the club in those days were such star competitors as Matt Treacy, Flor Crowley and Paddy Cashel.

Flor was the Irish Goulding hammer champion on a number of occasions and was also a champion bowl player. Paddy was another noted thrower and won the Munster shot title many a time.

In time though the club lapsed and for many years athletics in the Dunmanway region was non-existent.

In 1972 however, the seeds for revival of the club were sown when Garda Jim Allis was transferred to the town from Bantry. Jim had been a capable novice sprinter in his time and wore the Bantry colours with distinction. He got great help in his ideas of reviving the Dohenys Club from former star Matt Treacy and the local curate Rev Fr Buckley. Fr Buckley was the secretary of the Caheragh Novice Sports Committee when he ministered there.

The following year, in November, the Club was revived through a meeting at the Bostonian Hotel. Representatives of all the local sporting interests were present for the purpose of the re-launch. Martin Lynch, chairman of the County Board, Donie Duggan, secretary, and Billy Nestor, PRO, all travelled from Cork for the meeting.

The Club officers elected on the night were as follows -  
President; Canon Watts, Chairman; Matt Treacy, Vice-Chairman;  
Rev Fr Buckley and Joe Mannix, Secretary; Jim Allis, Assistant Secretary; D Kingston, Treasurer; D Cronin, PRO; D Frost.

The original green and white of the Dohenys was adopted as club colours and the first priority was the re-establishment of the Dunmanway Open Sports.

These continued for many years and into the 'eighties as the Club went from strength to strength. These local open sports attracted many an athlete and there were visitors from all over Munster and of course Cork. Fanahan McSweeney of Grange was among those who was a regular at the sports during the 'seventies.

Among the top athletes in the Club in recent years include the Mannix brothers, both of whom were very capable shot putters and carried off many a prize and County Championship. Joe was an officer of the club for many years. Another very prominent athlete in his day was Sammy Beamish. Sam could match strides with the best sprinters in the County and Province and this at a time when a National Championship final would not be the same without three or four from the County.

Sam was the recorder of the Cork County Board for some three years. As such he continued the new club's tradition in this particular field as his immediate predecessor as County Board recorder was none other than Jim Allis himself!