

## PRESS RELEASE

### Big Names Tog-Out for National Library's Sports Programme

Sports writer and broadcaster Eamon Dunphy, one of the world's most successful trainers Dermot Weld and four-times-winner of the Sports Writer of the Year Award in Ireland and the UK David Walsh are included in the starting line-up for the forthcoming series of Library Late events on the theme of sport and sports writing at the National Library of Ireland from October to December 2009. The series which will include interviews, debate and discussion on all aspects of sport from national hunt racing to Gaelic games will also take the opportunity to debate the effects of increased commercial interest in sport, the role of the sports writer in protecting the traditional and intrinsic values of sport and the historic and other factors which influenced the pattern of sports culture throughout Ireland. Library Late also highlights the Library's collection of sports related material which includes a vast newspaper archive of regional and national papers, the Irish Independent Collection of some 300,000 images recording many aspects of 20th century Irish life, and is particularly strong in its coverage of sport in Ireland and the Maunsell Collection: a magnificent collection of some 2,000 volumes on sport and games and a great number of newscuttings and photographs from the period 1889-1947.

To mark the publication of his first book 'Vintage Crop: Against the Odds' (Gill and McMillan), Dermot Weld will be the Library's guest on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Rightfully acclaimed as one of the best trainers in the world, he will look back at a career which produced nineteen Classic winners including the English 2000 Guineas and the Epsom Oaks in an interview with Tracy Piggott, broadcaster and sports person.

Give Us Back our Sport is the topic for debate on Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at 8pm with broadcaster Eamon Dunphy, sports writer David Walsh and anchor for RTE Sport's Rugby coverage Tom McGurk. How long will sport survive under the pressures of increased commercial and other interests and who now owns the people's sport? These and other related issues will be hotly debated. On Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at 8pm Alan English, editor Limerick Leader, former MD and editor of the Longford Leader Eugene McGee and rugby analyst, broadcaster and author George Hook will look at sport and regional/local identity in Ireland in a discussion entitled Sport & Place.

The series will conclude on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 8pm with Tyrone Senior Football manager Mickey Harte. In an interview Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, who celebrates 60 years as a GAA broadcaster this year, Harte will discuss his long-awaited autobiography Harte to be published this autumn (Poolbeg Press).

Library Late Autumn/Winter 09, National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Events are free. For information see [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie) or telephone 01 603 0317 for bookings.

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