

Participants to date include:

John Banville
Eavan Boland
John Boyne
Eoin Colfer
Stephen Collins
John Connolly
Roddy Doyle
Anne Enright
Dr. Garret FitzGerald
Carlo Gébler
Jennifer Johnston
Claire Kilroy
Bernard MacLaverty
Patrick McCabe
Colum McCann
Frank McGuinness
Dervla Murphy
Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill
Edna O'Brien
Joseph O'Connor
Andrew O'Hagan
Peter Somerville-Large

The National Library of Ireland has always been at the centre of Irish cultural life. Not just a place to read, but also a place to meet, write and create. Library Late continues and reinvigorates that tradition.

Sport has always been a means through which people assert their cultural identity on a national or local level and this is borne out by the array of sports related material in the Library's collection. In addition to marking the publication of two long-awaited sports biographies celebrating two strands of our sporting culture, this series of Library Late events will look at the role of sport within Irish culture against a backdrop of increased commercialisation of sport; the role of the sports writer in reflecting and protecting sport's cultural values and the role of the regional press in fostering local identity through its sports coverage.

Please telephone 01 603 0317 to reserve your seat. Reservations will be taken...

from 28.09.09 for interview with *Dermot Weld*

from 14.10.09 for panel discussion *Give Us Back Our Sport*

from 03.11.09 for panel discussion *Sport and Place*

from 24.11.09 for interview with *Mickey Harte*

Brambles Café will remain open for refreshments before and after each event
Please note that charges will apply.

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Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
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LIBRARY LATE

SPORT &
SPORTS WRITING
LIBRARY
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Hear great writers speak their minds
AUTUMN/
WINTER 2009



Admission Free



Dermot Weld

in conversation with
Tracy Piggott, broadcaster and sports person

› Tuesday, October 13th, 2009 at **8.00 pm**

Dermot Weld has consistently been one of Ireland's most successful trainers and is rightfully acclaimed as one of the best trainers in the world having saddled Group One winners on four different continents. Overall he has had nineteen Classic winners including the English 2000 Guineas and the Epsom Oaks. He is the only European trainer to win the Melbourne Cup and the Belmont Stakes. In 1993 the Prime Minister of Australia honoured him with the Key to the City of Melbourne and Jack Charlton presented him with the *Irish Independent Sportsman of the Year Award*. In 2001 he received the *Charter Day Medal* from University College Dublin. He has served on the board of the Irish Horseracing Authority twice and is currently a Director of the Irish National Stud. His first book 'Vintage Crop: Against the Odds' will be published by Gill & Macmillan in October.



Give Us Back Our Sport

a debate with
Eamon Dunphy, David Walsh and Tom McGurk (Chair)

› Monday, November 2nd, 2009 at **8.00 pm**

With the increasing presence of commercial interests, is there an ethical crisis in sport – a crisis where money and markets now overrule human values and ethics? Does the professional era erode a lot of what we respected in sport? How long will sport survive under such pressures and what role do the sports writer and journalist have in supporting the traditional and intrinsic values of sport? Who now owns the people's sport? These and other related issues will be the subject of this evening's debate.

Eamon Dunphy former professional footballer with 23 caps for Ireland, regular soccer panellist on RTÉ television covering all major championships and highly regarded sports writer and biographer; **David Walsh** chief sports writer with *The Sunday Times*, named *Sports Writer of the Year* four times in both the UK and Ireland and author of eight highly-acclaimed books and **Tom McGurk (Chair)** one of Ireland's most distinguished journalists and broadcasters and anchor of RTÉ Sport's Rugby coverage including the RBS Six Nations, European Heineken Cup and Irish rugby Internationals.



Sport & Place

a panel discussion with
Eugene McGee, Alan English and George Hook (Chair)

› Monday, November 23rd, 2009 at **8.00 pm**

How has the historical, cultural and topographical influenced the specific cultural identities of Ireland's regions, cities and towns? How did Tipperary and Kilkenny evolve from cricketing hotbeds at the turn of the 20th century to hurling hotbeds today? This panel discussion will focus on how sport strongly influenced regional and local identity in Ireland and the role of the regional press in reinforcing cultural identity through sports coverage.

Eugene McGee former managing director and editor of the *Longford Leader*, GAA team manager and manager of the Ireland Compromise Rules teams in both Ireland and Australia; **Alan English** editor of the *Limerick Leader*, former sports editor of *The Sunday Times* in Ireland and author of *Stand Up and Fight*, which traced the rise of rugby in Limerick from the 1870s up until Munster's famous defeat of the All Blacks in 1978; **George Hook (Chair)** sportsman, broadcaster and author, rugby pundit with RTÉ rugby and host of *Newstalk's The Right Hook*.



Mickey Harte

in conversation with
Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, the voice of the GAA, who celebrated 60 years as a GAA broadcaster this year

› Monday, December 14th, 2009 at **8.00 pm**

Mickey Harte is the current and most successful manager of the Tyrone Senior Football team, and has so far led them to three All-Ireland titles, three Ulster titles, one National League and four Dr McKenna Cups. He managed Tyrone Minors (1991 – 1998) and Under 21's and won the All-Ireland title with both these teams.

Harte is well known as one of the most shrewd tacticians in the game today. Growing up in the townland of Glencull, Mickey Harte's philosophy and faith lie at the core of Tyrone's success. He is a quiet, humble and deeply spiritual man, which brings its own set of ethics to bear on his outlook.

His long awaited autobiography *Harte* will be published by Poolbeg Press this autumn.