



Des Kiernan, a Tribute

It's that time of the year again and for the first time since their inception in 1973, the Kilmacud Crokes "Sevens" had to be organized without the considerable assistance of one of its central figures, Des Kernan, who died suddenly last December. The news of his unexpected death at the age of sixty was greeted with a deep sense of shock and sadness by Club membership and friends at large.

Des was one of Kilmacud Crokes most popular characters, who possessed excellent qualities of loyalty, charity and sociability. He was always available to help the less fortunate in our society. He also had a number of vices – I just cannot remember any of them at this time. However, when it came to organizing Club social events, Des had few equals. When we think of the many quiz nights, the golf outings and the weekends away, we remember Des's enormous contribution to our social wellbeing over the last decades.

However, it was at the annual "Sevens" that Des really came into his

own. For many years the St Benildus venue was his domain – he did move to Silverpark in recent years, and his organization of the games at the venues was always the ultimate in perfection. He utilized the services of the same loyal team of assistants year after year. With Des in charge everything ran with clock-work efficiency. All he ever wanted as a reward for his endeavors was the availability of his favourite tippie at the end of a hards days work – pints of Smithwicks. On the rare occasions that this did not happen Des would become a very unhappy "camper" and give vent to his feelings in no uncertain terms. A VICE PERHAPS!

In his professional life, Des was a senior member of staff of Roughan O Donovan, the renowned firm of consulting engineers which was established in the early 1970's by his two good friends, Joe O Donovan and Derry Roughan. Des was their first employee and he took great pride in the growth of the firm to their current position of pre-eminence employing over 150 staff and recognized as the

leaders in their field of technical expertise. That Des was one of their best loved members was evident at his funeral ceremonies which were attended by a huge throng of Kilmacud members and fellow employees.

He is survived by his devoted wife Phyl, daughter Jennifer, son Chris, son-in-law Dave and the 'apple of his eye' grandson Daniel. He is also sadly missed by his sisters Bernadette and Mary and his brother, Peter, as well as his brother in law Gerry Walsh and nephews Peter and Gavin and other relatives and friends.

His death leaves a major void in the ranks of Kilmacud Crokes whose members will always have kind and pleasant memories of this lovable man. The words of the poem by James Shirley are appropriate in Des's case – "Only the actions of the just smell sweet and blossom in the dust"

Myles Clancy