

## Dissident republicans appeal after being sued by victims' families

FOUR dissident republicans have started a court appeal after they were successfully sued by families bereaved in the Omagh bombing.

Michael McKeivitt, Seamus Daly, Liam Campbell and Colm Murphy are to challenge the judgment which found

them liable for the 1998 bombing. In a separate move, relatives who were among those that lost loved ones in the attack are also appealing the £1.6million (€1.9million) in compensation recommended in June 2009 after their historic civil action.

The bombing by the break-away Real IRA in the Co. Tyrone town on August 15 killed 29 people, including a woman pregnant with twins. More than 200 were injured in the car bomb blast. No-one has ever been successfully convicted of the Omagh bombing,

with the only man jailed in connection with the attack, 57-year-old Co. Louth builder Colm Murphy, cleared after a retrial in Dublin.

In December 2007, Sean Hoey, 38, from Jonesborough, South Armagh, was cleared at Belfast Crown Court and was

acquitted of 58 charges, including some not directly linked to the bombing in Omagh.

The latest legal challenge over the case is set to begin in the Court of Appeal in Belfast's Royal Courts of Justice and could last up to two

weeks. The families' groundbreaking multi-million pound civil action was described by them as a bid to bring as much information into the public domain as possible. It was the first time a civil action had been brought in a case of its kind.

# Anti-Catholic 'banter' rife within the SFA

BY PHIL MAC GIOLLA BHAIN

IN an escalation of sectarian attacks in Scotland, Celtic manager Neil Lennon from Lurgan and player Niall McGinn from Co. Tyrone have both been sent bullets in the post.

The packages, addressed to the two men at Celtic FC in Glasgow, were posted in the North of Ireland. They were intercepted by staff at the Royal Mail sorting office in Malusk, Co. Antrim. The PSNI said the items have been removed for examination.

Lennon has been the subject of previous, vicious sectarian attacks both in the North and Scotland.

Meanwhile two of the Scottish Football Association workers caught up in the Dallas email affair who subsequently appealed their dismissal learned last week that they had been successful.

The case dates back to last September and the Pope's visit to Britain. The SFA's Head of Referee Development Hugh Dallas forwarded onto the two people an email entitled "RE: FIFA NOMINATION". Attached to the email was a jpeg entitled "popeiscoming". The image was of a photograph of a red triangle road sign depicting an adult holding a child's hand with the word "caution" underneath. The sign was digitally enhanced with: "Pope is coming" underneath the caution sign.

The clear implication of the "joke" was that the Pope himself was a danger to children. The story broke on November 6 when

Irish Post journalist Phil Mac Giolla Bhain published it on his website www.philmacgiollabhain.com

The three SFA employees who appealed last week had gone through the same disciplinary process applied to Hugh Dallas.

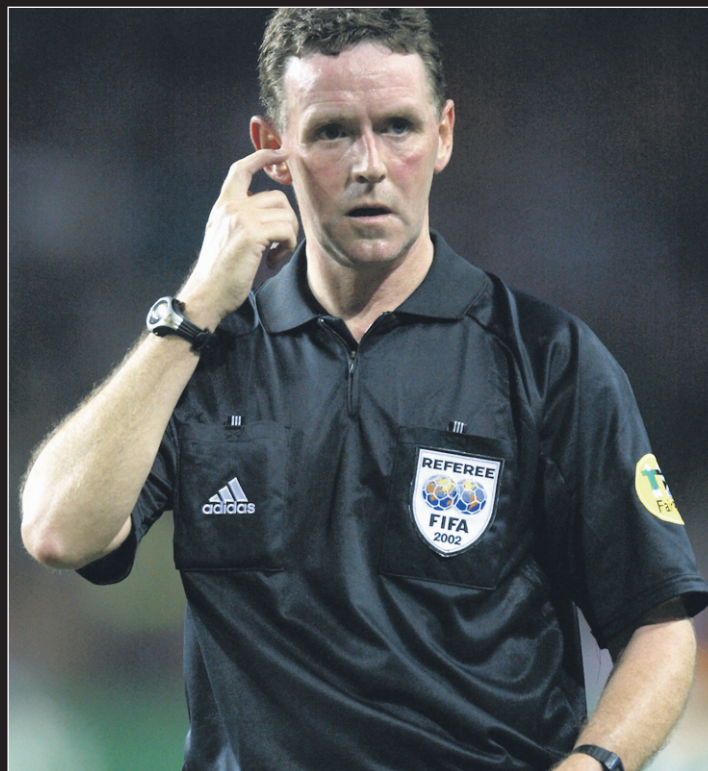
The appeals of the reinstated employees (Amanda McDonald and Marco McIntyre) were successful because the GMB union official Brian Johnston was able to successfully argue that anti-Irish and anti-Catholic "banter" was the norm inside the SFA as regards email "humour".

Moreover Johnston it to it to SFA human resources professional Ms Viv Coody that if the employees were to be sacked for this then 70 per cent of the SFA staff would have to be dismissed for similar offences.

During the appeals, Johnston told presiding chairman George Peat (the SFA President) that he was in possession of a memory stick that contained emails circulating between the "top brass" in the SFA that was of similar nature to the Dallas Pope email.

Mr Dallas was subject to a disciplinary hearing by SFA Chief Executive Stewart Regan and was dismissed from his post in late November. He appealed his sacking. Mr Dallas was unsuccessful in his appeal and was also informed in writing just before Christmas.

This revelation does, of course, pave the way for Mr Dallas to take his sacking to an employment appeal tribunal, a course he is believed to be actively considering.



Hugh Dallas was dismissed from his job in November, however two employees have been reinstated after it was argued that anti-Irish and anti-Catholic is 'the norm' within the Scottish Football Association.

## Prendeville file sent to DPP to decide on prosecution

GARDAÍ have sent a file to the Director of Public Prosecutions following an investigation into allegations that popular Cork DJ Neil Prendeville exposed himself on board an Aer Lingus flight from London last October.

The DPP will now decide whether or not the popular 96FM radio presenter faces criminal charges.

Last October, Mr Prendeville was allegedly seen masturbating as the aircraft on which he was a passenger taxied for take-off.

The chat show host was one of a number of guests at an event in London on October 19 to promote conference business in Cork. The guests were entertained, prior to the late return flight to Cork, at celebrity chef Richard Corrigan's restaurant.

Aer Lingus cabin crew and passengers sitting next to Mr Prendeville on the flight from London Heathrow to Cork were questioned by gardai in early November.

When the incident came to light, Mr Prendeville, 49, issued an emotional apology on Cork's 96FM, blaming a combination of painkillers and alcohol and claiming he could not remember what happened. He did say, however, he would not contest any charges that may arise from his behaviour.

Speculation has been mounting that the radio host is set to return to his morning slot. Kieran McGeary, Chief Executive of Cork's 96FM and C103, previously said Mr Prendeville will not return to work until the radio station's own investigation and the Garda probe is complete. The controversial broadcaster has been off-air since the allegations surfaced last October.

At the time of the incident, the Rape Crisis Network warned that the incident must be "rightly recognised" as "sexually harmful behaviour and as a crime". However, because the incident occurred before the flight took off from Heathrow, it is understood there may be a potential issue with jurisdiction and this may prevent the DPP from prosecuting.

British police are not investigating the matter.



APOLOGY: Neil Prendeville.

## Court of Appeal upholds Michael Stone convictions

LOYALIST Michael Stone has failed in his attempt to overturn convictions for trying to kill Sinn Féin leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness.

The Court of Appeal in Belfast upheld a verdict that his actions, during a lone assault on Stormont in November 2006, were capable of constituting an attempt to murder the politicians. He was given a 16-year sentence.

Dismissing Stone's challenge, Lord Chief Justice Declan Morgan said the 55-year-old had prepared an armoury, travelled to Stormont, and used explosives to create a diversion which would enable him to enter the Assembly chamber and seek out his targets.

Stone, who is suffering from arthritis, was wrestled to the ground by two security guards

after bursting through the main doors as Assembly members were gathered inside. The attack was captured by film crews and photographers who were there to cover developments in the political process.

During the trial, Stone gave evidence on his own behalf and claimed the attack had not been intended to kill or hurt anyone, but rather was a work of performance art, designed to "put a proverbial rocket up the backsides" of the politicians.

Former UDA member Stone attained notoriety in 1988 after killing three mourners when he launched a gun and grenade attack on an IRA funeral at Milltown Cemetery in west Belfast. He was released from prison on licence under the terms of the 1998 Belfast Agreement.



A security guard tackles Stone as he tries to gain access to Stormont in 2006.