

## **EAST CORK ATHLETIC BOARD (now East Cork Athletics Division)**

**The inaugural meeting of the East Cork Athletic Board took place at the Scout Hall, Midleton, on Wednesday October 4th, 1967.**

There were four clubs present – Ballymore, Youghal, Midleton and Carraig na bhFear. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Paddy Hartnett; Vice-Chairman, Noel Higgins; Treasurer, Jerry Russell; Secretary, Donie Duggan. It was decided to hold a cross-country league that winter but because of the foot-and-mouth epidemic, most of the races took place on the road.

The Board's first track and field meeting was held in the Cricket Field, Midleton, where the Abernethy Cup was won by Ballymore-Cobh for the top overall club. The T&F championships of 1969 took place at Youghal Greyhound Track where future Olympian Liam O'Brien won the boys U14 880 yards.

Another future Olympian, Sonia O'Sullivan, also started off her illustrious career at East Cork level and she often speaks of her early days travelling to venues such as Midleton CBS and nearby Ballyannon Wood for various competitions.

The East Cork Road Championships was held for the first time on St Patrick's Day, 1980, at Ballynoe, a venue which still hosts the event.

**The following are the officers who have served the Board down the years:**

### **Chairman**

Paddy Hartnett (Midleton) 1967-74  
Phil Glavin (Midleton) 1975-78  
Dan McCarthy (East Cork) 1979-2009  
Adrian O'Connell (Carraig na bhFear) 2009-2010  
Helen McSweeney (Midleton) 2010-2012  
Martin Drake (Youghal) 2012-2017

### **Secretary**

Donie Duggan (Carraig na bhFear) 1967-1972  
Fr Liam Kelleher (Midleton) 1973  
Cyril O'Flynn (Watergrasshill) 1974  
Michael Burke (Carraig na bhFear) 1975-1977  
Maureen O'Connell (Watergrasshill) 1978-2006  
Tim Twomey (East Cork) 2006-2017

### **Treasurer**

Jerry Russell (Youghal) 1967-1970  
Willie O'Mahony (Youghal, Eastside, Midleton) 1971-2017

