

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Paddy Quinn

by Michael O'Dwyer

Paddy Quinn was born on 10 December 1884 at Erinagh, Capparoe, Nenagh, County Tipperary. He was the youngest child of Denis Quinn, a farmer, and Catherine 'Kate' Quinn (née Seymour). His parents got married in Portroe church on 19 February 1868. Paddy Quinn joined the Dublin Metropolitan Police when he was twenty, and as he was an accomplished musician he was in the DMP Band Division. This gave him more time for training than a regular duty policeman, and became one of Ireland's most prominent athletes becoming champion weight-thrower of Ireland for a number of years. Standing 6 feet 4½ inches, he first competed in the Irish athletic championships in 1910 at Ballsbridge, Dublin. He won the discus with a throw of 109 ft (33.22 m), with James Barrett of RIC, Nenagh (born in County Kerry) coming second. In the shot-put it was the other way around with Barrett taking the title and Quinn second. Paddy Quinn was the winner of the discus (1910, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1921, 1922) and the shot-put (1912, 1913, 1914, 1921) for a total of ten titles at the Irish championships. At the AAA championships in England he was fourth in the shot-put in 1913 and second in the discus in 1914 before winning the discus title at London's Stamford Bridge in 1920. At the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games he competed in the shot-put and was placed eight with a throw of 41 ft 1¼ in. (12.53 m). The winner was Pat McDonald, USA (born in County Clare) with an Olympic record of 50 ft 4 in. (15.34 m). On 26 July 1913 Paddy Quinn broke the Irish discus record at the Dublin Metropolitan Police sports meeting held at Ballsbridge, Dublin with a throw of 125 ft 7½ in. (38.29 m), the previous record being 121 ft (36.88 m) by Dublin-based John Murray (born in County Cork) in 1909. Paddy Quinn's throw was an Irish record until it was beaten by Paddy Bermingham, DMP (born in County Clare) with a throw of 126 ft 11 in. (38.68 m) in 1919. New York-based Martin Sheridan (born in County Mayo) threw the discus 141 ft 4¾ in. (43.08 m) in May 1911 but was representing the United States so was not entitled to the Irish record. Paddy Quinn competed for Ireland in weight throwing a number of times. In later years he was an Irish racecourse detective, based mainly at the Curragh and was well respected by those involved in horse racing. Paddy Quinn died on 2 January 1946 in Dublin, aged sixty-one, and is interred in Mount Jerome cemetery, Dublin.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championships

1910	Discus	109 ft 0 in.	(33.22 m)
1912	Shot-Put	43 ft 0¼ in.	(13.11 m)
1912	Discus	118 ft 0 in.	(35.96 m)
1913	Shot-Put	42 ft 3½ in.	(12.89 m)
1913	Discus	121 ft 9 in.	(37.11 m)
1914	Shot-Put	43 ft 3 in.	(13.18 m)
1914	Discus	120 ft 3 in.	(36.65 m)
1921	Shot-Put	40 ft 11 in.	(12.47 m)
1921	Discus	122 ft 0 in.	(37.18 m)
1922	Discus	116 ft 2 in.	(35.41 m)

Amateur Athletic Association of England Championships

1920	Discus	123 ft 5¼ in.	(37.62 m)
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