

# TIPPERARY ATHLETES



## Pat Harding

by Michael O'Dwyer

Pat Harding was born on 2 August 1874 at Main Street, Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. He was a son of William Harding and Margaret Harding (née Walsh). His parents got married in Carrick-on-Suir church on 28 January 1864. His mother's sister Bridget was mother of the champion athletes Maurice, Tom and Pat Davin of Deerpark. Pat Harding left Carrick-on-Suir for Dublin as a young man and studied law. He practised as a solicitor at the Estate Duty Office, Dublin. In athletics, he made his debut at the national championships on Whit Monday, 3 June 1895, at the Irish AAA championships at Ballsbridge, Dublin. He finished third that day in the 120 yd hurdles. However, over a twelve year period competing at the national championships he won the 120 yd hurdles on three occasions (GAA – 1896, 1899, IAAA – 1903). Also, at the GAA championships he came second in the 120 yd hurdles once, and at the Irish AAA championships he came second in the 120 yd hurdles five times, and third once. In the long jump, between the two associations he came second twice, and third three times. His best performances in England at the AAA championships were second in the long jump in 1903, and third in the 120 yd hurdles in 1898. Pat Harding represented his country on five occasions in the Scotland v. Ireland international athletics meetings. His marriage notice in the *Irish Independent* on 8 August 1904 reads, 'Harding and Butterly – August 3, 1904, at the R.C. Church, Glasnevin, by the Rev. P. Magrath, assisted by the Rev. B. Reynolds, and Rev. John McMahan, Patrick Harding, Estate Duty Office, Dublin, to Agnes (Bonnie), third daughter of the late Francis P. Butterly and Mrs. Butterly, Home Farm, Drumcondra.' Pat Harding died of pneumonia on 8 January 1911 at his residence, Home Farm, Drumcondra, aged thirty-six, and is interred in Glasnevin cemetery.

**Titles Won at Senior National Championships:**

**Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championships**

1903	120 yd Hurdles	17.0
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**Gaelic Athletic Association Championships**

1896	120 yd Hurdles	17.6
1899	120 yd Hurdles	16.8