

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



John Keaty

by Michael O'Dwyer

John Keaty was born on 22 January 1933 at Kilfeacle, County Tipperary. He was the second son of John 'Jack' Keaty and Bridget Keaty (née Mangan). His father was native of Cloughleigh, Golden, and later Thomastown, County Tipperary, and his mother was native of Swordlestown, Naas, County Kildare. They got married in Newbridge church on 20 August 1930. In athletics, John Keaty's event was the hammer. He won three national titles, the first two with Civil Service AC in 1959 and 1960, and the last one with Phoenix Harriers in 1966. The best of his three titles was his second one, and the report in the *Irish Independent* of 22 August 1960 reads, 'John Keaty of Civil Service retained his All-Ireland 16 lbs. hammer championship title at the Curragh, yesterday. Tipperary-born Keaty had his winning effort of 175 feet 2 inches at his second attempt. Runner-up was Captain Mick McDonagh of the Curragh, a son of N.A.C.A. president Chief Supt. Tom McDonagh, who threw 160 ft. 8 ins. Third came another Civil Service athlete and a former winner, Tommy Kelly, with 157 ft. 1½ ins.' John Keaty came third in the hammer at the national championships in 1958, and was second in 1964. When the Garda athletics championships were revived in 1963 after twenty-five years he had a hat-trick of wins by winning the hammer with 170 ft 2 in. (51.87 m), the shot-put with 37 ft 10 in. (11.53 m) and the discus with 112 ft 5 in. (34.27 m). He won further Garda titles in the following years. Interestingly, when Ned Tobin won the 56 lb weight for distance event at the Garda athletics championships in 1963 he retained the title he last won a quarter of a century earlier. John Keaty's best performance was when he won the hammer event at the Guinness sports with 175 ft 8 in. (53.54 m) on 23 August 1959 at Crumlin, Dublin. He was a Garda at Kevin Street station, Dublin when he got married to Hilda Quane from Tipperary town in October 1959. John Keaty died on 22 November 2011 in Dublin, aged seventy-eight, and is interred in Kilfeacle cemetery.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

1959	Hammer	156 ft 0 in.	(47.55 m)
1960	Hammer	175 ft 2 in.	(53.39 m)
1966	Hammer	157 ft 6½ in.	(48.02 m)