

Obituaries

P.J. Cotter 1939 – 2012

News of the death of P.J. Cotter, after a very short illness, came as a great surprise and shock to those who knew him, especially his family and his forestry friends. A big, quiet man, P.J. seemed indestructible, he left us too soon and we will miss him.

A native of Kinsale, he entered forestry in 1958 having spent a year studying at Darrara Agricultural College. In Kinnitty Castle Forestry College he excelled in the practical application of forestry practice. He then spent two years studying at Shelton Abbey Forestry College before graduating in 1960.



His first appointments as an Assistant Forester were to Clonaslee, Kinnitty, and Forth Forests. He then transferred to Clonegal nursery where he met his wife, Anne (nee Hendrick). In 1967, P.J. was appointed Forester-in-Charge at Kilmacrennan Forest, Co. Donegal and in 1974, when he was transferred to manage Camolin Forest, Co. Wexford, he settled in Ferns where he would spend the rest of his life. Following the setting up of Coillte, P.J. was appointed Manager of Camolin Nursery in 1990 and it was in this role that his great skills of organisation and routine came into their own. This was a time of great expansion and development and meeting the plant requirements for this expansion was a huge challenge but one which P.J. rose to with great enthusiasm. He availed of Coillte's Voluntary Parting Scheme on 30th September 2002 after 44 years of exemplary service.

P.J. had a great passion for sport. He was a die-hard supporter of his native Cork and also of Manchester United. He was a member of Courtown Golf Club for more than 30 years. He was a loyal member and Past President of the Eastern Forestry Golfing Society, rarely if ever missing an outing. He played Bridge with his great friend Jim Kennedy every week and kept his mind active with Sudoku. He also followed the hunt using his preferred method of transport – his car! He had a quiet sense of fun and was a member of a syndicate that put a greyhound by the name of “Coillte Six” in training. He was a loyal member of the Society of Irish Foresters and the Coillte Branch of IMPACT.

P.J. and Anne were married in July 1968 and they had four children. He was devastated when Anne died suddenly in 1996. Above all P.J. was a reliable and loyal friend and a fair-minded man, who loved his family.

To his daughter Fiona, sons Liam, Colm and Ciaran, six grand children, brothers Liam and Jimmy and sisters Noranne and Sheila, we extend our sincere sympathy.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Michael Doyle