

Obituaries

Sean Hayes 1942 – 2011

Sean Hayes passed away after a short illness on the 3rd December 2011. Sean was born in Limerick on the 7th January 1942, the eldest son of Pat and Mary Hayes. Sean spent all his childhood in Westfields and attended school at the C.B.S. in Limerick.

Sean graduated with honours from UCD in September 1968. He joined the Forest Service in early 1969 and his first position was as an Acquisition Inspector in Galway where he worked with Jim Kearney and Tim O'Connell. After four years, Sean was transferred to Bray where he worked as Assistant District Inspector and later on as District Inspector in Wicklow. Coillte was formed in 1989 and Sean's last position before his retirement from Coillte was as Environment and Landscape Design Manager for the Eastern Region. He achieved great satisfaction in this role, which was close to his heart and the expertise he had developed from his pursuit of photography was particularly helpful in this role. Sean retired from Coillte in 2002, but continued to work part-time on a consultancy basis for another four years.



Sean had many interests outside of his career in Forestry. His love of gardening and nature gained expression in the spectacular garden he designed and maintained at his home in Delgany. He was a great hurling fan and followed the fortunes of his native Limerick every year – mostly to no avail – although 1973 was a good year for him! He was a key member of his school's Harty Cup winning team in 1963. He was also a keen race-goer and unlike most punters he always appeared to make a profit from his investments.

Sean loved golf and was a member of Greystones Golf Club where he played on Wednesdays in a fourball which he never failed to miss. Sean was a good golfer even though he'd agree his swing was a little "agricultural" at times. My best memory of Sean was when he was playing a fourball with Dermot O'Brien against Declan Egan and myself in Santana Golf Club in Spain. It was all level going up the 18th when Sean disturbed a nesting black swan. Sean dived into the buggy and drove away with the swan in full flight behind him – needless to say, he and Dermot lost the match.

Sean's real love in life was his wife, Mary, and their daughters Hilary, Karen and Valerie. He was very much a family man and his newest passions were his grandchildren, Tomos, Eva and Fergal.

Sean had a great sense of humour and an innate wit, always pleasant and helpful to all his friends and colleagues. He is sadly missed.

We would like to express our deepest sympathy to his wife, Mary, daughters, Hilary, Karen and Valerie, his brothers and sisters, his extended family and friends on their loss.

Eddie Quinn