

# Galvin left 'shook' by off-the-ball incident

By Eamon Donoghue

FORMER Kerry footballer Paul Galvin was said to have been 'left shook' after a man – alleged to have been an official for a rival team – swung a hurl at his head during the Kerry Senior Hurling Championship final yesterday.

Galvin, who was lining out for his club Lixnaw against Kilmoyley, was said to have been lucky to escape without serious injury.

The man involved, who according to Lixnaw GAA club was an off-field official for the Kilmoyley club, was escorted from the field in Tralee by stewards.

Ian Liston from the Lixnaw GAA club told the Mail last night that Galvin was shocked by the incident which led to an all-out melee that was quickly halted.

'They were coming out for the second half and two players from either side were just jostling, handbag stuff really, a bit of elbowing, and the Kilmoyley fella was knocked to the ground,' explained Mr Liston of the incident in which Galvin himself was booked.

'Then an official for Kilmoyley came run-

## 'Would have broken his face'

ning on to the pitch and swung the hurl and hit Paul Galvin across the face. If it hadn't been for the helmet, and it was the flat side of the hurl, he would have broken his face.'

Killarney native John Ivory who was present at the game, having played for Dr Crokes in the preceding intermediate final, tweeted: 'Kerry SHC Final ends in draw, 11 each. Tight game, stained by melee as teams re-emerged. Set off by a P Galvin shoulder, then attacked by Kilmoyley man. Galvin booked for original hit, man taken away by guards, closely contested game followed.'

Last night, Kilmoyley GAA club said it would not comment on an on-field incident, while the Garda press office confirmed that no arrests were made and any gardai present would have been only there to help diffuse the situation.

Galvin himself is no stranger to off-the-ball controversies, most notably a 2008 incident in which he slapped the notebook from referee Paddy Russell's hand after a booking.



Fracas: Scenes during yesterday's Kerry SHC final in Tralee in which Paul Galvin, right, was allegedly struck across the face

# Now fitness to practise goes public for nurses

AN inquiry into a nurse's fitness to practise will be held in public today for the first time in the history of the nursing and midwifery professions.

The hearing will be held over the next two days at the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland's offices in Blackrock on Dublin's southside.

Previous hearings have always been held behind closed doors. However as a result of the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011 and the establishment of new committees, such as a preliminary proceedings committee and a fitness to practise committee of the NMBI, the inquiries will now be held in public.

Details of today's case have been kept under wraps. A note posted on the NMBI's website states: 'There will be a Fitness to Practise Inquiry commencing at 10am on Monday, September 29, 2014 and

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continuing on Tuesday, September 30, 2014.

'The public are invited to attend. Admittance to the inquiry venue will be from 9.15am.'

However no further details have been made public about the case.

NMBI chief Dr Maura Pidgeon said that the hearing is 'an important step' for the nursing and midwifery professions.

Dr Pidgeon claimed that public hearings 'will support the confidence of the public and patients who expect all health professionals to be regulated in this way'.

Along with building confidence in the professions, the public hearings 'will build the case for expanding the role of nurses and midwives to improve the Irish healthcare system and allow for better care provision to patients', Ms Pidgeon said. Liam Doran, general secre-

tary of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation, said the hearings are in the public interest.

'It's what society expects nowadays,' he said. 'Professionals have and hold responsibility and they have to be of high standards.'

But Mr Doran said there is the concern that there an allegation could stick with a person once made public – even if eventually disproven or disregarded.

## 'Allegations could stick with a person'

Complaints against nurses can be made to the NMBI's preliminary proceedings committee which recommends whether a nurse should face an inquiry or not.

Allegations that could be faced include professional misconduct, poor professional performance, medical disability, non-compliance

with a code of professional conduct or irregularities in relation to the custody, prescription or supply of a controlled drug.

Potential sanctions include censure in writing, a fine not exceeding €2,000, the attachment of conditions to the nurse's or midwife's registration, the suspension of a nurse's registration and the cancellation of a nurse's registration.

The board's 2011 report reveals that 51 complaints were made against nurses that year. In 28 of those cases it was decided no inquiry was warranted, but 23 cases went to a hearing.

The public inquiries have already sparked controversy. The NMBI is blaming the cost of the new system for a €50 hike in registration fees.

The three nurses' unions – the INMO, the Psychiatric Nurses' Association and SIPTU – are planning to hold a protest at the NMBI's annual conference next month in opposition to the hike.

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## Ireland and Britain unite to tackle North's legacy issues

FRESH talks aimed at sparking progress on the outstanding issues of the peace process in the North are to begin.

The Irish and British governments say they intend to invite political parties in the North back to the negotiating table – in a bid to break the deadlock over legacy issues such as parades, flags and dealing with the past.

Speaking in the US, Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan said: 'I am strongly of the view that all-party talks involving the two governments are required to overcome the current political impasse within the Northern Ireland Executive.'

He added that the Government 'wishes to see the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement not only function, but flourish to the benefit of all'.

The British Secretary of State for the North, Theresa Villiers urged unionists to get 'back round the table' to try to resolve the impasse, saying: 'I fully appreciate how very difficult these issues are, the roots of some of them date back centuries, but there are huge benefits for Northern Ireland'.