

John Treacy

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JOHN TREACY

DATE OF BIRTH.....4th JUNE, 1957

EDUCATION.....Villierstown N.S. 1961- 1969
St. Anne's Secondary
School, Cappoquin 1969- 1974

Providence State
College, Rhode Isl. 1974- 1978

ACADEMIC AWARDS.....B.S. Degree in Accountancy
(Providence College)
Masters Degree in Business Administration
(Providence College)

OCCUPATION.....Marketing Adviser with Coras Trachtala

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

1971..... Gold Medalist in All Ireland Schools Intermediate Race (Distance 2 Miles)
1971- 74.....Gold Medalist in Three All Ireland Championships
1974.....Bronze Medalist in World Cross Country Junior Championship at Monza
1974.....Gold Medalist in 3,000 Metres British Junior Championships
1975.....Bronze Medalist in World Cross Country Junior Championships at Rabat
1975.....Gold Medalist in 3,000 Metres British Junior Championships
1975.....Gold Medalist in 5,000 Metres British Junior Championships
1975- 78.....Gold Medalist in 5 New England Championships over Indoor and Outdoor tracks in 5,000 metres events.
1978.....Gold Medalist in N.C.W.A. 3 miles indoor event in Detroit.
1978.....Gold Medalist in World Cross Country Championship in Glasgow.
(Youngest ever winner of this event)
1978.....Irish National Champion in 5,000 metres event
1978.....Fourth in European Championships in 5,000 metres event
1979.....Gold Medalist in World Cross Country Championship in Limerick
1979.....Gold Medalist in british AAA 10,000 metres championship at Crystal Palace
1980.....Seventh in the final of Olympic 5,000 metres event in Moscow
1980.....Collapsed from heat exhaustion in the Heats of Olympic 10,000 metres event in Moscow
1980.....Irish National Champion in 5,000 metres event
1981.....Do.
1983.....Do.
1984.....Tenth in 10,000 meters event in Los Angeles Olympics
1984.....Silver Medalist in Marathon Event in Los Angeles Olympics.

Home is the hero By unknown author

From Dungarvan Observer, 25.08.1984

Over 10,000 people welcomed our Marathon Silver Medallist, John Treacy, at Waterford City on Saturday evening. He was driven in an open float from Redmond Bridge to City Hall on the Mall, a journey of barely one mile, but it took nearly an hour. He was accompanied by the other Waterford Olympian, discus thrower Patricia Walsh. There were incredible scenes as the parade, led by St. Patrick's Brass and Reed Band and the Thomas Francis Meagher Fife and Drum Band proceeded up the Quay. Members of local athletic clubs, including Treacy's own Deise Club, marched behind banners in the parade. **Picture:**



Mr. Michael Mernin, Chairperson of the organising committee making a presentation of a plaque from the people of Villierstown to John Treacy, Olympic Silver medallist after his home-coming on Sunday last to Villierstown, (photo-Rory Wyley)

A huge crowd had gathered in front of City Hall and amid prolonged cheering Treacy took his place on the platform along with local dignitaries, including the Mayor, Mr. Billy Kenneally; robed Corporation members; Minister for Agriculture Austin Deasy, T.D.; The Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, Dr. Michael

Russell; Deputy Jackie Fahey, F.F. and Senator Katherine Bulbulia.

Words of praise were spoken by the Mayor, the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Tom Healy of I

Cospoir and Messrs. Paddy Byrne and Paddy McGovern. John Treacy thanked the crowd on behalf of Patricia and himself.

Then it was inside to the City Hall where he was presented with a beautiful Waterford Glass Lamp, while Patricia got a Waterford Glass Cake Stand. From below the chant of "we want John" rose up and the hero and his wife went to the window of the Council Chamber to wave again to the massive gathering below.

THE VILLIERSTOWN WELCOME

When John returned to his native Villierstown on Sunday at 2.00 p.m. the whole countryside turned out to greet him. But if his appearance in the Village lasted only one hour before being whisked off by helicopter to make a guest appearance in Tullamore his welcome was a rapturous one, led by Dungarvan Brass & Reed and Pipe Bands. Alongside him on the laurel-wreathed pick-up truck were his father, Jack, and Michael Mernin, chairman of the organising committee. The procession stopped outside the family house and John's mother, Gertie, was brought out to take her place on the truck beside her famous son. Then it went on to the waiting platform where the V.I.P.s were situated and where a place of honour awaited John. The local parish priest, Fr. William Callanan, told the crowd that the marathon run in Los Angeles had given the people of the parish something to shout about.

"It is hard for us to try and remember when it was young John began his running because his name is almost part of a folk tale. He is a legendary figure."

It was hard, too, said the parish priest, to imagine how a lad from Villierstown had gone to L.A. to take on the world's greatest athletes.

"He achieved something of a David and Goliath task. He has not only become champion of Ireland but in a very particular way he has championed Villierstown. He embodies all the very best qualities of our people," he added.

Local curate Fr. Patrick Fitzgerald said that John's achievements had made the Villiers-town blood flow faster. "your victory made us all immensely proud and gave us a tremendous uplift as your own people. With your kind of talent and the silver today, what is it going to be tomorrow?"

County Council chairman James Aidan Walsh said the country's morale benefited from John's great victory. "Your dignity, your dedication and your talent are a wonderful example to young Ireland."

The principal teacher of the village school, Miss Mary McGrath, left no doubt about the identity of her star pupil, and the principal of St. Anne's Secondary School in Cappoquin, Sister Margaret Mary, also acknowledged John's prowess.

John acknowledged the cheers as he stepped forward just after receiving a magnificent hand-engraved oak plaque carrying the Olympic and Treacy family crest and presented by the people of his own village.

He told them: "I am stuck for words because I am overwhelmed at the reception today, when I see all the familiar faces it is very embarrassing for me to be standing up here in front of you all."

He said he wanted to acknowledge his wife, Fionnuala and his little girl, Caoimhne (1½), his parents, his sisters Patricia and Elizabeth, and his brother Ray for what they had done for him during his athletic career to date.

He had the crowd laughing when he recalled that fourteen years ago when he had first put on running shoes to try his first run in Duffy's Field. But the going was tough and he told his brother Ray later that he had had enough. But the elder brother had shoved him back to take the punishment.

His second story was of the day he told the Cappoquin nun, Sr. Margaret Mary, Head Mistress, that, instead of going home by school bus, he wanted to run back to Villierstown. "She went to my best pal, Pat O'Keeffe, and secretly asked him: 'Do you think John Treacy can make it home?'"

"Every time I run," said John, "I do so first as a Villierstown man, second a Waterford man and third as an Irishman."

John was then whisked back to the waiting helicopter and took-off to playing by the bands and the singing of Congratulations".