

Protest as man arrested in Delany shooting made top soccer club manager



SHOOTING VICTIM: Robert Delany

By Ken Foy
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN arrested in relation to the shooting of a Dublin postman has been appointed manager of a top Leinster Senior League soccer team, leading to protests from the victim's family and friends.

Innocent shooting victim Robert Delany remains in a vegetative state in hospital after a murder attempt at his duplex home in Tallaght on 22 October, 2008 - exactly three years ago today.

The chief suspect for shooting Robert has since been murdered in a gangland hit but gardai have made a number of other arrests in the case, including Tallaght man Andrew Noonan.

Nine people have been detained by gardai as part of the investigation but so far none has been charged.

Noonan was recently appointed manager of the well-respected Bluebell United football side and this has led to members of The Justice For Robert Delany Campaign protesting at Bluebell United matches.

The 31-year-old soccer manager, who is originally from Kilmartin Gardens, Tallaght, but now lives in Co Kildare, has been arrested twice by gardai investigating the shooting along with his 58-year-old dad - notorious ex-Provo John Noonan - and other close associates.

Andrew Noonan has a criminal conviction for firearms offences dating from 2000 and during the summer he was fined €2,000 for possession of an intimidation firearm that was seized by gardai



ARREST: Andrew Noonan; Right - Parents Noleen and Terry and a protest by family and friends seeking justice for Robert

carrying out a search of his home.

In an interview with the *Herald*, Robert's heartbroken dad Terry said: "The reason we are protesting at these matches is simple. Given the circumstances surrounding the shooting of Robert, I am amazed that a respectable club like Bluebell would lend the badge of respectability to this man."

FAMILY

Terry, who is a senior trade union official, also pointed out that his family have a "long association" with Irish football which includes him being a coach at the Cherry Orchard football team for



more than a decade.

Terry's nephew Dean Delany is also currently the goalkeeper for League of Ireland side Shelbourne.

Gardai believe that Robert was shot because he had tried to stop a pub row in south Co Dublin a couple of weeks earlier.

Following his intervention in the pub row, Mr Delany had been threatened and told: "We'll get you."

The shooting was carried out at about 6.30am on October 22, 2008, at the apartment where Robert lived with his partner, Mags, and two children, at Russell Rise, off Fortunestown Way in Tallaght.

Robert had looked out of the

window after his doorbell rang and was hit by a blast of 20 shotgun pellets, 16 of which are lodged in his brain.

The gunman and a possible accomplice made their escape in an unregistered white Honda Integra 'R' type car that had been stolen from a garage on the Naas Road that morning.

The car had distinctive wheels; the front alloys were white and the rear alloys silver.

Robert will never recover from his injuries and he is currently based at the Peamount Hospital in Co Dublin.

Bluebell manager Andrew Noonan - who was a talented footballer - was jailed for a year in November, 2000, after he and

an associate were caught with a stolen rifle, a balaclava and list of targets when they stopped them in a field in Tallaght.

Dublin Circuit Court heard that gardai drew their guns on the two men after spotting them jumping into a field.

The two men were wearing two layers of clothing and were found with five rounds of ammunition, a silencer and a telescopic lens.

They also had a list of names, addresses and car registration numbers in a bag.

The two men later confessed that they wanted to sort out some men who had been fighting with their friends in a disco.

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Suspect held as drugs raid finds €100k heroin and gun

By Ken Foy
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A DUBLIN man who has been caught with a heroin haul worth over €100,000 and a shotgun had never come to garda attention before this year.

He is originally from south Co Dublin and is suspected of a string of crimes.

He was arrested at a house in Portlaoise, Co Laois, after gardai investigating a shooting in Portlaoise conducted a major operation yesterday morning.

Detectives discovered the huge heroin haul along with a shotgun buried in the back garden of the man's home.

The searches were carried out by gardai investigating a murder attempt on a drug dealer aged in his early 30s earlier this month.

That incident happened when a gunman burst into a house on the Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise, where the local man and his partner were living.

Two shots were fired and one struck the man in the leg. He was hospitalised for

non-life threatening injuries.

Follow-up enquiries led detectives to target the 41-year-old man who was arrested yesterday.

A senior source explained: "This is a very unusual case - this man's activities over the past few months show all the hallmarks of an up-and-coming criminal."

"But we are not talking about a teenager here and it is strange to call a 41-year-old up and coming. For whatever reason he has decided to get heavily involved in organised criminal activity.

"Apart from being involved with Dublin gangs, he also has links with criminals from Limerick."

The suspect was also arrested by gardai in Killaloe, Co Clare, in March when he was caught with gloves and balaclavas after being stopped by officers.

"We don't know exactly what he was up to down in Clare but whatever it was, he certainly was up to no good," said a source.

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Gun victim found with €4k drugs in home is released

By Sonya McLean

A MAN who was shot on three occasions "by serious criminals" has received a four-year suspended sentence at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court for possession of drugs.

Wayne Brown (23) of Barry Drive, Finglas, pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled drug for sale or supply at his home on April 27, 2009.

Garda Mark Clifford told Monika Leech, prosecuting, that gardai found €3,732 worth of

heroin and €418 worth of cocaine in two bedrooms in Brown's home. He said Brown has 18 previous convictions.

Sandra Frayne, defending, said Brown was shot three times when he was between the ages of 16 and 17 "by serious criminals", including in the kneecap. She said he cannot play football anymore.

Ms Frayne said he is very remorseful about what he has done and is a different person now.

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