



Shamed: George Gibney in 1988

By **Ali Bracken**
Crime Correspondent

A WOMAN who claims she was abused by shamed swimming coach George Gibney has revealed she may travel to the U.S. to make a formal complaint.

The woman, who was then 17, claims she was attacked in a hotel room in 1991 by Gibney, who was the national swimming coach between 1984 and 1992.

This week charity One Child International, which was established to prevent child abuse, offered to pay for the woman's legal costs and flights to Florida so she can return to make a formal complaint.

The ex-athlete, who is said to have shown great promise, has only a couple of months remaining in which to press charges because of the U.S. state's four-year statute of limitations.

Gibney, who arrived in Florida in 2007, works in sales at Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Cypress Palms, a family holiday resort.

A spokesman for Cypress Palms was unavailable for comment, but it has been established that Gibney now goes by the name 'Jon'. The

'The statute is due to run out'

former Irish Olympic swimming coach is facing eviction from his home in Orange City, near Orlando, after it went into foreclosure in April.

Bank of America lodged papers with a court to seize the \$154,000 (£105,000) apartment which Gibney bought shortly after his arrival.

Gibney also lost his last job after a local anti-abuse group ousted him as an alleged sexual abuser.

The former Irish national swimming coach between 1984 and 1992 was charged with 17 counts of sexual abuse of minors.

But a judicial review in 1994 prevented the case from going forward because of the lapse of time between the alleged offences and when the complaints were made.

The DPP decided that no prosecution should follow a second garda investigation, which began after fresh complaints by four more swimmers in 1996. His extradition

'Disgraced swimming coach Gibney attacked me in Florida hotel room'

Anti-abuse charity offers to pay for alleged Irish victim's trip to U.S. to press charges



Accused: George Gibney, who goes by the name 'Jon'

has never been sought by the Irish State.

A formal complaint was made to gardai by the woman at the time but the DPP ruled that no prosecution could be ordered because the alleged crime occurred outside Ireland's jurisdiction.

When the young woman was informed of this decision, she was devastated.

Evin Daly, of One Child International, said: 'The statute of limitations is due to run out in Florida for this woman to make her complaint against Gibney.'

'We have offered to pay for her flights and legal costs for her to make a complaint to the police here about what happened.'

'She is considering our request; it is a very sensitive matter.'

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is also investigating a

complaint Gibney lied on his immigration application to gain entry to the U.S., an offence for which he could be deported. It is believed he denied being charged with a criminal offence, which is normally sufficient to bar someone from entry.

Mr Daly made a complaint to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security last year, claiming Gibney had lied on his immigration forms to gain entry to the country. He has received a response from the department stating that his complaint is being investigated.

Gibney sparked a national scandal in Ireland when he went to the High Court in 1992 to stop his trial on 17 sexual abuse charges.

He successfully argued that the time limit had expired because most of the alleged abuse took place between the Sixties and 1991.

Gibney then fled the country. A

government-commissioned report, released in 1988, found that Gibney had abused children for three decades. There was a huge public outcry when his replacement, Derry O'Rourke, was jailed for similar offences.

An independent public inquiry led to the development of a new code of ethics for Irish sports. In February

'It is a very sensitive matter'

last year, the residents of Enterprise Cove where Gibney now lives received a flyer about the 1994 Irish court case and allegations of serious child abuse made against him by former swimmers.

Since then, a neighbourhood watch

- organised and guided by the local police - starts and ends its patrol outside the apartment he is soon to be evicted from.

After fleeing Ireland in 1999, he has lived in Scotland, Utah, Colorado and California before settling in Florida in 2007.

In Scotland, it was reported that he was coaching juvenile swimmers at an Edinburgh club.

Prior to his neighbours finding out about his history, he kept to himself, only telling people he spent all his spare time 'busy at his church'.

Gibney was closely associated with the local Church of the Annunciation, which last year said he was no longer permitted to volunteer with them. He was also heavily involved with another Catholic organisation, the Knights of Columbanus.

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An Post bullying victims are awarded €500,000

AN POST has spent an estimated €500,000 settling eight bullying cases.

The majority of the employees, five women and three men, have settled their actions for sums believed to be around €50,000 each, including costs, in the High Court.

All were employed as sorters or sorter managers in the Cork Mail Centre at Little Island, which in 2003 replaced the old city centre sorting office.

None of the allegations related to sexual harassment or physical assaults.

Instead it involved 'explosive outbursts' by another An Post employee against the sorters.

Despite the allegations, the person alleged to be responsible for the bullying is still employed by An Post.

A source told our sister paper,

By **Sean Kane**

the Irish Mail on Sunday: 'There was definitely a bad working atmosphere in the Cork mail centre for a number of years. Those who took the cases were at their wits' end.'

'They felt they could no longer cope with the in-your-face attitude, being shouted and roared at, and being mentally abused.'

'They hated going to work. They were tearful, including the men, anxious, distraught and in a bad place because of what was happening.'

In a statement, a spokesman for An Post said there had been personal injury cases taken by employees and 'a number of these cases have been resolved but without admission of liability by the company'.

Sources at the mail centre said more claims may be in the pipeline.



Troubled life: Oscar Wilde

Curtain rises on the last play by Oscar Wilde, 114 years late

A LOST play written by Oscar Wilde shortly before his death is to be performed for the first time.

The unseen work promises to give a fascinating insight into the colourful dramatist's life.

The play *Constance*, which shares its name with the dramatist's wife, is the only play Wilde wrote after his release from prison in 1897.

At the time he was suffering from depression after his imprisonment two years earlier for acts of gross indecency.

After writing the play in exile, Wilde is believed to have sold exclusive rights to the story to various people.

His manuscript ended up with the American actress Cora Brown Potter, before passing to French writer Guilot de Saix following her death. He

By **Nick Bramhill**

and colleague Henri de Briel put together a French translation, which was published in a magazine in 1954.

Author Charles Osbourne, who translated the play back into English, believes Wilde's original text was probably destroyed by the resistance during the Second World War because de Briel was suspected of collaborating with the Nazis.

However, the play is to get a low-key world premiere, as it will be staged at the 107-seat King's Head Theatre above a pub in North London.

John Stokes, emeritus professor of English at King's College, London, urged caution about assuming these were Wilde's exact words. He said the French text was 'very problematic'.