

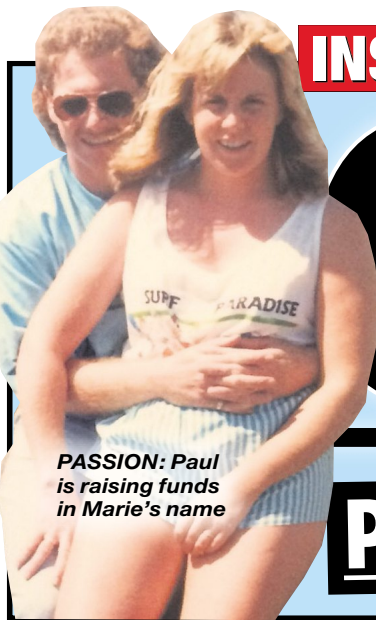
**NEWS  
IN BRIEF**

**O'LEARY: 'D  
FLEE SF TAX'**

Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary has hit out at Sinn Féin's "utterly crazy" economic plans, claiming he would emigrate if the party taxed the "super rich".

Instead, Mr O'Leary called for "sensible policies".

"I don't want to pay 80pc tax. I'll simply move, I'll emigrate," he said. "Most of the super rich in Ireland, that they talk about, don't live here so we can't tax them anyway."



**PASSION:** Paul is raising funds in Marie's name

**INSPIRED JOURNEY FOR CANCER FUNDS**

# Cycle of life

## Paul's epic fundraiser is tribute to late wife

By **EDDIE ROWLEY**

**WHEN Paul Gallagher lost his beautiful wife Marie to breast cancer 12 years ago it changed the focus of his life.**

The Dublin businessman and father of three young girls decided that he would try to make a difference to the lives of other women, by throwing himself into a passionate fundraising drive for Breast Cancer Ireland (BCI).

Paul has since raised tens of thousands for the charity – and next month he will join 54 friends from Dublin's Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club on a mammoth Mizen to Malin cycle, covering over 700km in five days to raise €50,000 each for BCI and the club's development fund.

Marie Gallagher was just 40 years old when her cancer was diagnosed. Paul will never forget the morning in 2004 when his wife discovered the lump in her breast.

"We were away in Spain with a group of 40 friends from Crokes for New Year's Eve," he recalls. "Marie came out of the shower and she was crying. She had found a lump."

When she returned home Marie's GP sent her for a biopsy and cancer was diagnosed.

"It's the saddest day of your life when you get that news," Paul says.

"I said nothing, I just held Marie's hand. Tears were running down her face, but within seconds she said: 'When can I have the operation? There's cancer in my body, whatever you have to do get it out.'"

Paul and Marie's daughters, Amy, Kate and Sophie, were then 15, 11 and six at the time.

"Marie had so much to live for, and she was always the life and soul of every party," Paul says. "She was a fitness fanatic and very sociable."

Marie had a mastectomy, but the cancer had spread.

"She'd say to me about our daughters: 'You're going to rear those girls, don't spoil them.'"

Then he laughs: "Of course, that's easier said than done. Girls control your life."



**TIGHT-KNIT:** Paul with daughters

Watching Marie and the other cancer patients in her ward lose their battle with cancer had a profound effect on Paul.

"There were six girls in her ward and none of them are alive today," he says. "One of those women was just 27 years old. I remember being in one day and she was cuddling her partner on the bed. 'They only got married three weeks ago,' Marie told me."

Paul was determined that Marie's death wouldn't be in vain. He immediately set about fundraising in her name and is now on the board of Breast Cancer Ireland.

**Fitter**

Taking on a Mizen to Malin cycle (sponsored by Nissan) is a challenge Paul would never have considered before Marie died.

"I was 18st 10lbs at that time and the day she died I realised that I was probably heading for a heart attack myself, and I had three girls to look after."

"I started working on getting my weight down and I took up cycling. Now we're all fitter and trimmer."

Paul has also found love again with his current partner Wendy, who shares his passion for cycling.

Irish breast cancer surgeon Professor Arnie Hill says fundraising like this is making a huge difference.

"It means we are allowed to continue the research programme to beat breast cancer," he explains.

● To support Paul's Nissan Mizen to Malin cycle go to: [http://www.mycharity.ie/event/paul\\_gallaghers\\_eventm2m/](http://www.mycharity.ie/event/paul_gallaghers_eventm2m/)

**29/04**

PAPILLON & FATBOY PRESENTS WARRIORS

**STEVE LAWLER**  
**RICHY AHMED**  
**NICK CURLY**  
**DOM TOWNSEND**

22:00pm - 3:00am

TICKETS:  
<http://warriorsdublin.eventbrite.ie>

The Wright Venue  
Airside South Quarter  
Swords,  
Dublin

VIVA OISIN  
FAT BOY  
PAPILLON  
WRIGHT VENUE DUBLIN



**BOND:** Marie with Amy, Sophie and Kate