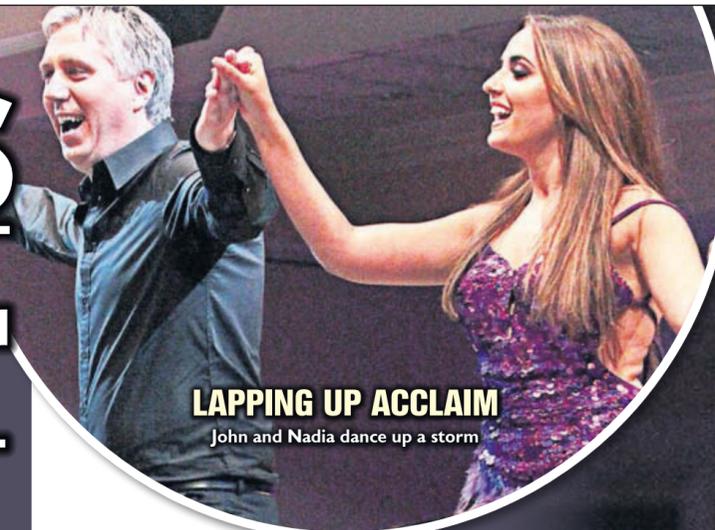


# MODEL PARTNERED DELANEY AT STRICTLY CHARITY FOOTIE BASH

# Nadia was flown over from LA to dance with John ..all of her expenses were paid



**LAPPING UP ACCLAIM**  
John and Nadia dance up a storm

**EXCLUSIVE** by BARRY MORAN and NEIL COTTER

**MODEL Nadia Forde was paid to dance with former FAI chief John Delaney in a charity Strictly Come Dancing event, the Irish Sun has learned.**

The I'm A Celeb star was flown over from Los Angeles and had her expenses covered for the high-profile event in aid of the Homeless World Cup.

Finances at the FAI have come under increasing scrutiny in recent weeks after it emerged Delaney tried to injunct The Sunday Times over a controversial €100,000 "bridging loan".

The former CEO – who stepped aside at the weekend amid the controversy – is set to face a grilling by an Oireachtas Committee next month over the Association's cash flow issues following a series of Irish Sun revelations.

We have now learned that in 2013, top model Nadia was flown in from her LA base to take part in the dancing fundraiser and partnered with Delaney.

The Strictly Soccer Charity Fundraiser was held in Citywest in aid of John Giles' Foundation and Ireland's Street Leagues, which raises money for teams to compete in the Homeless World Cup.

It is unclear at this point whether the FAI or the charitable causes ultimately picked up the tab – and we have asked the FAI for comment.

A spokesperson for Nadia last night told the Irish Sun: "I can confirm Nadia was asked to attend this event and that it was a paid work event."

The star-studded do featured a large number of Irish internationals, top models, socialites and stylists, none of whom asked by us received a fee.

Dancing with the Stars regular Brian Redmond – who received no fee – was among the judges on the night, alongside Giles, socialite Lisa Murphy and journalist Barry Egan.

But we can also reveal Forde – who went on to become close friends with Delaney, 51, and performed the national anthem at the Aviva – was paid to take part after a personal request from the then-FAI supremo.

An FAI source said: "The event was held in aid of the John Giles' Foundation and Ireland's Street Leagues, who would have both split the monies raised. "There was a high-profile press launch for the night, it was on a bigger scale than events they'd usually host."

"The organisers were asked to book Nadia Forde for the night.

"Her flights and expenses were covered. It was made clear that she was abroad and would have to be flown in especially for the night.

"It certainly raised a few eyebrows. The event did OK."

Another source claimed: "Her flights and expenses, came out of the budget for the night."

Delaney later boasted that the event "worked out great" in terms of finances and bragged: "I chose the song for Nadia – she's Dublin's uptown girl."

"I did my best. I like to dance a little bit but I have never been trained."

"Brian (Redmond) was absolutely fantastic. He taught simple steps and it

## EMMA AND NADIA



Delaney's partner, left, & Forde

## NATIONAL ANTHEM



Delaney pal Nadia sings at Aviva

worked. It worked out great. And we got 14 grand. That's the important thing."

A major auction was also held on the night with prizes including Nicky Byrne's Strictly Come Dancing shoes, Kenny Egan's boxing gloves and a dinner with then-Ireland football manager Giovanni Trapattoni.

Forde and Delaney became firm friends after this meeting in May 2013, with the model going on to sing the national anthem before a September World Cup qualifier later that year.

There was much speculation about the nature of their relationship but Delaney told the Irish Sun in 2014 that they were just "very firm friends".

He insisted: "If you read what's writ-



## HE'S-A-FOX(TROT)-IN-THE-BOX

Dance duo with host Andrea Hayes



Fancy footwork... John and Nadia cut a rug at charity event

## ● FAI SUPREMO MADE PERSONAL REQUEST ● STAR-STUDDED DANCE-OFF RAISED €14,000

ten at times, you'd wonder what's going on between me and Nadia. But listen, we're very firm friends.

"I think I'm more like a father figure. I'm 46 years of age, she is in her early 20s, to be fair.

"She is somebody I have a lot of respect for. She's got a great career as a model. It looks like she is heading for a good career in terms of her singing. "I wish her well in that, for sure."

"We're great friends, and we get on really, really well but we were never together – absolutely not."

Delaney found love the following year with former model and PR worker Emma English, who was listed as one of the organisers of the 2013 dance event.

Nadia, 29, who welcomed baby girl Wyatt with fiance Dominic Day last October, later spoke of losing contact with Delaney after his new relationship began. In an interview she said: "Honestly? I don't understand it."

"I haven't spoken to him since he started dating his girlfriend. "He got with her and that was that. I thought we were friends. So it's a bit strange, if not hurtful."

"But I'm always at the end of the phone if he wants to chat, like I always was before. It's hard to understand."

A spokeswoman for Valerie Roe PR – which publicised the event – said: "We don't get involved in third party payments, it's far too messy." Talent show

star Redmond also confirmed he was asked to take part, explaining: "A lady I know helps a homeless soccer charity and she asked me, but I wasn't paid to judge on the night."

Solicitor Gerald Kean also danced for free. He told the Irish Sun: "I never charge a fee for charity events."

"Maybe that's why I'm so popular – I'm f\*\*\*ing cheap!"

The Irish Sun contacted the FAI with a detailed list of questions.

Street Leagues Ireland declined to comment when contacted last night. The Irish Sun revealed in January that, between 2015 and 2018, Delaney sought early access to millions of euro of state funding that hadn't been

approved yet. And on January 25 of this year, the FAI requested an early drawdown of 25 per cent of its 2019 funding from Sport Ireland.

The €100,000 "bridging loan", coupled with the information received by the Irish Sun on early drawdowns, means serious questions will be asked of Delaney at an Oireachtas Committee next month.

We revealed yesterday how the Waterford native wants to stay on in his new €120,000 Executive Vice President role until Euro 2020, after which he will step down.

@IrishSunOnline



Report... Minister

## Ross: FAI loan story raises big concerns

By JOHN HAND

**SPORTS Minister Shane Ross last night said John Delaney's €100,000 "bridging loan" to the FAI raised "serious concerns".** It was the first time Ross spoke about the revelation, a story Delaney tried to block in a failed High Court injunction.

He said: "Recent media reports regarding a loan provided to the FAI by its CEO have raised serious questions about governance and financial controls in the FAI."

"Sport Ireland is engaged with the Association to clarify these matters and when the necessary clarifications have been received from the FAI, Sport Ireland will submit a report to me."

The minister was answering questions from Fine Gael TD Noel Rock.

Rock said: "We saw the revelation of an undeclared directors loan. The question has to be asked, why was this necessary? Is it the only time that happened? Why wasn't it declared?"

The Irish Sun revealed in January that between 2015 and 2018 Delaney sought early access to state funding that hadn't been approved yet.

And yesterday we told how the FAI requested an early drawdown of 25 per cent of its 2019 funding from Sport Ireland on January 25.

Dublin North West TD Rock said: "We've all been taken aback by the governance and corporate issues within the FAI."

"I strongly believe it is now time to set the course right, set the record straight and commence an independent, a truly independent examination into both management and finances which further state funding will be contingent upon."



Strictly event launch... Giles and telly host Andrea Hayes

# THE IRISH SUN

Saturday, November 24, 2018

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€1.20 (70p NI)

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Free Fantastic Beasts sticker album



## Prem's back



SPURS vs CHELSEA



...and so is Mick

SEE SUNSPORT



PLUS FREE MAGS



By AOIFE Nic ARDGHAIL

THIS is the young woman who shot a six-month-old baby during a feud between two families.

Charlene Donovan, 23, and her dad Dan were jailed for five years yesterday after they pleaded guilty to shotgun possession with intent to endanger life and recklessly discharging a firearm.

Full Story — Page 9



THE BABY SHOOTER

# FREE INSIDE



## FAIRYTALE OF DENMARK

# SHANE TO WED VIC

Pogues legend ties knot in 48 hours



Hat's real love . . couple

EXCLUSIVE by KEN SWEENEY, Showbiz Editor, and BARRY MORAN

SHANE MacGowan will marry Victoria Mary Clarke in Denmark on Monday. They will tie the knot in front of a small group in Copenhagen — 11 years after the Pogues star proposed.

Full Story — Page Three

# SHANE OUT OF CHAIR AFTER 4 YEARS



Best of friends . . . Depp played at MacGowan's wedding

**SHANE MacGowan is hoping to get back on his feet with the help of a physiotherapist — who is introducing him to modern music.**

The Pogues icon — who shattered his pelvis in 2015 — is putting in the hard graft with trainer Paddy Pio O'Rourke ahead of a festival appearance in July.

MacGowan, 61, has been confined to a wheelchair since a freak fall leaving a studio four years ago, calling it his most painful injury ever.

The legendary singer is now on the mend thanks to at-home sessions with Paddy, who uses music to help motivate the star.

Shane's wife Victoria Mary Clarke was full of praise for the chartered physio, who she believes is a great fit for the Fiesta rocker.

She told the Irish Sun: "The physio is brilliant. He is from Toomevara in Tipperary and he plays music really loud to motivate Shane.

"He actually introduced him to stuff that he hadn't heard like Post Malone and he is really good at teasing Shane to make him laugh.

"I think psychology is a huge part of getting people moving when they have had mobility issues. He's great."

And physio Paddy was extremely complimentary of MacGowan, telling how the pair have bonded through a shared love of music.

He occasionally uses session breaks to test Shane on his musical knowledge and is blown away by his "phenomenal" reactions.

He told the Irish Sun: "Since I started working with Shane he has been very motivated to get back on his feet and he's doing really well. He's a huge Post Malone fan now!

"His song Rockstar came on through my playlist during one of our first sessions and he couldn't stop laughing at some of the lyrics.

"And now he loves the rest of his music so we usually throw him on as loud as we can and Shane does his best work.

"I'm trying to teach him how to use Spotify so he can access any song whenever he wants.

"When we're taking a break from exercise I sometimes play a game with him where I play a

**EXCLUSIVE by BARRY MORAN**

song from the 70s or 80s and he has to guess the artist and song as quick as he can. His sharpness and knowledge on music is phenomenal."

Shane opened up about his long road to recovery after his horror fall leaving a Dublin studio in 2015.

*Speaking following the accident, he said: "I fell the wrong way. I broke my pelvis, which is the worst thing you can do. I'm lame in one leg, I can't walk around the room without a crutch.*

"I am getting better, but it's taking a very long time. It's the longest I've ever taken to recover from an injury. And I've had a lot of injuries."

Victoria joked at the time that Shane had suffered the injury while attempting a "complicated dance move".

Meanwhile, the journalist told this week how she and Shane were almost married by megastar Johnny Depp.

The couple — who have been together for 32 years and were engaged for 11 years — finally tied the knot in Copenhagen's City Hall last November.

Close pal Depp served as the wedding guitarist but Victoria revealed he could have had a bigger role.

She said: "He was originally going to actually marry us.

"We were going to do it in the Bahamas originally but that was kind of awkward for Shane with his mobility issues and also for my family it's easier. Copenhagen's not very far away."

She said Depp brought a guitar "and he did sing", but Shane put a ban on singing.

A Rainy Night in Soho.



**LET'S GET PHYSIO**

Paddy helps Shane to get back on his feet during a recent rehab session

I dreamed a dream by the gas works walk

I'm glad to see that you are Better Now



**RAP UP WELL**  
Post Malone's tunes inspired recovery

# A roving, a roving, a roving I go



Rock 'n' rolled . . . Paddy wheels Shane on night out with U2 last year