

Gayle's reconciliation with Seán went very well... then along came little baby Tom

By Valerie Hanley

BANKRUPT developer Seán Dunne and his second wife Gayle Killilea have reconciled after their marriage apparently fell apart, court documents have revealed.

And it has also emerged that the couple have added to their family since first becoming estranged – with their fourth son being born in November 2013.

The revelations come after years of speculation about the state of the marriage between the former millionaire, once dubbed the 'Baron of Ballsbridge' because of his penchant for acquiring tracts of land in Dublin 4, and the gossip columnist 21 years his junior.

But the confirmation of the timeline of the split – which occurred because of the size of the settlement Mr Dunne, 62, reached with his first wife – may raise further questions given various state-

'Upset that my ex-wife ranked ahead of her'

ments made in a variety of forums over the past three years.

The details about the couple's married life together are revealed in Mr Dunne's publicly available bankruptcy file.

They emerge in a statement of affairs signed by Mr Dunne and also in the course of a lengthy and heated interview held in June between the developer and the official handling his Irish bankruptcy, Christopher Lehane.

In his statement of affairs, the father of seven – Mr Dunne has three adult children from his first marriage – lists his marital status as married and the members of his household and dependants as wife Gayle, sons Bobby Luke, Harrison, Ryan and Thomas Joseph.

During his first ever interview with Mr Lehane, Mr Dunne said he had four children under the age of 18. Mr Dunne discussed a separation agreement reached in August 2010 while he and Ms Killilea were living in Switzerland, that was revealed by a South African court.

Mr Dunne said in that interview: 'My wife was, I think, at the time pretty upset that my ex-wife was ranking ahead of her.'

...but Killilea insisted to South African court in 2014 proceedings that they were separated



BANKRUPT: Seán Dunne and Gayle Killilea at their Ballsbridge home in 2008

This led to tension between Mr Dunne and Gayle Killilea. 'So that was part of the problem that arose in 2010 and 09,' Mr Dunne added.

When Official Assignee Mr Lehane asked whether there had been a reconciliation between the developer and his second wife, Mr Dunne replied: 'Yeah, there was a reconciliation in 2012 and, yeah, that was two years later. Yeah it was a difficult period, the '05 agreement had not been fulfilled.'

This reconciliation in 2012 was the year before the couple welcomed their fourth child – but, strangely, as recently as September 2014 Ms Killilea insisted to a South African court that they were no longer living happily together.

In an affidavit sworn in Cape Town in September 2014 as part of a legal battle over Lagoon Beach

hotel, she said: 'In early 2010 I applied for judicial separation from Dunne in Geneva, Switzerland... and we agreed to an order on 31 August 2010 which was granted by a Court of first instance in Geneva Switzerland.'

She added: 'The fact remains that the Official Assignee made the assertion that Dunne and I are happily married and reside together in Connecticut with the full knowledge that this is not true.'

The ultimate judgment in this case was published on the South African Supreme Court website and confirmed the existence of the Swiss agreement for the first time.

Mr Dunne and Ms Killilea married in Italy in the summer of 2004 followed by lavish celebrations on board the former yacht of Greek

shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis. It has now emerged that two weeks before the wedding, solicitors prepared a draft pre-nuptial agreement.

But at that stage it was not signed

€100m deal was for her 'love and affection'

on legal advice, according to Mr Dunne, and as a result he did not transfer any assets to his second wife until after the birth of their first child.

Under this €100m deal, Mr Dunne agreed to transfer 70% of the profits of the sale of properties in Ireland for Gayle's 'love and affection'.

It was signed while the pair holidayed in Thailand in March 2005 after the birth of their first child and the unfortunate death of Gayle's best friend in the tsunami in Thailand on December 26, 2004.

But according to Mr Lehane, Mr Dunne has been legally advised that this handwritten agreement is not legally enforceable.

Three years after the 2005 agreement, Mr Dunne transferred his interest in a South African hotel to Ms Killilea.

The first clue the couple had become estranged emerged in 2013 during a case taken in the US against Mr Dunne by Nama. Mr Dunne filed for bankruptcy in America in March 2013 and four months later he was declared a bankrupt in Ireland.

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RECORDING: Seanchai Tom features in the movie

Lost film capturing art of the seanchaí found

By Nicola Byrne

HE is known as the father of documentary making and was one of Ireland's earliest filmmakers, completing the classic *Man Of Aran* in 1934.

Now a new film by Robert Flaherty has been discovered at Harvard University and will be shown on television for the first time on Tuesday night.

The film *Oidhche Sheanchaís (A Night Of Storytelling)* is believed to

be the first sound film ever made in the Irish language. It features Aran storyteller Tom telling a fireside tale to fellow islanders, and is the only film record of a genuine seanchaí at his art, at the hearth.

The movie was unearthed after a colleague emailed Galway filmmaker Kieran Concannon to say it

had been found in the Harvard folklore archive. Mr Concannon, a native of Inisboffin, recalls the first time he saw *Man Of Aran* in the island's community hall as a child.

Fascinated by the film and its maker, he went on to write a paper on him at university. He said: 'When we were growing up on the island, there was obviously not such a thing as going to the pictures – so when this film came, I loved it.'

Mr Concannon has now made a documentary about the making of *Oidhche Sheanchaís* and the mystery of its disappearance.

Oidhche Chaillte An tSeanchaí will air on Tuesday on TG4 at 9.30pm, followed by the first ever television broadcast of *Oidhche Sheanchaís*.

It reveals why it was actually shot in a London studio rather than an island cottage and includes stills from the production set.