

DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL: KIERAN TOALE

A native of Dromintee, Co. Armagh, Ireland Kieran Toale is the eldest of five children born to Sean Toale and Kathleen Grant (a Dromintee, Co. Armagh and Kilcoo, Co. Down partnership). Kieran attended the local primary School in Dromintee, St. Paul's High School, Bessbrook, and The Queen's University of Belfast, Ireland (QUB) from which he graduated with an MSc in 1998.

Kieran got his first taste of Gaelic football with his father going to watch Armagh play in the late 1970s when they famously beat Roscommon in 1977 after a replay in Croke Park and subsequently qualified for the All Ireland final against a great Dublin side. At 10 years of age Kieran played for his local primary school team Dromintee. He then played for Dromintee GFC as a 10 year old and continued right up to playing for their senior team with some special memories of winning honours at u12 and u14 level and reaching an Armagh u21 county final against the great Crossmaglen team who in subsequent years went on to become All Ireland senior champions on several occasions. Kieran played club football for Dromintee GFC until he moved for a bit of craic and adventure to New York in 1999.

Kieran has worked for the previous 10 years at one of New York's most famous healthcare facilities – Bellevue Hospital located in the Kips Bay area of Manhattan where he was directly involved in the 2014 successful treatment of New York's first and to date only Ebola patient.

Kieran and Cincinnati native Amy Arundell tied the knot in 2009 and have two young children, Fionnán, age 9, and Énán, age 5. Both lads are involved with Shannon Gaels playing both Gaelic football and hurling, and take full advantage of all trips back home to Ireland by playing there also.

Kieran is the present u10 boys coach with Shannon Gaels having before that assisted with the u8 Shannon Gaels boy's team. He takes great pleasure in expressing his Irish identity by being involved with Shannon Gaels and coaching all children involved to be the best they can be.

Kieran would like to thank all his family and friends for their support and also thank the Queens County Parade for the honor of being named as a 2017 Deputy Grand Marshall. Kieran has a huge amount of respect for the role that Rockaway has played in the struggle for Irish freedom especially with one of their own, John Kilgallon fighting in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin that ultimately led to 26 out of 32 counties in Ireland being liberated from British occupation. Lets hope it won't be long before the remaining 6 counties also win their freedom.
