

# BETS ON THE BOX

with PADDY POWER



## OBAMA 6/4 TO COME BARACK TO IRELAND

Having paid out early on Barack Obama on Sunday it's safe to say that we breathed a sigh of relief when Monegall's most famous son was re-elected as US President in the early hours of Wednesday morning.



O'Bama wasn't long settling back in to the Oval office before we got thinking about whether he would repeat his 2011 visit to these shores and we make it 6/4 for Barack to return to these shores for a second helping of Guinness before the end of his next term.

Unfortunately for the organisers of The Gathering, which recently drew the ire of Gabriel Byrne, it's an unlikely 40/1 that Obama will visit as part of the celebration, however it's a far more likely 10/1 that the US's commander in chief will make his way to Ireland to help commemorate the Easter 1916 rising.

Meanwhile, Hilary Clinton and Paul Ryan the joint favourites in the betting for the 2016 presidential election with a quartet of Republicans made up of Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush, Mitt Romney and Chris Christie considered their nearest rivals at 14/1 while Obama's running mate Joe Biden is available at 25/1. The next film in the saga will presumably start from a black canvas so it will be interesting to see which of the franchise's iconic characters will be deemed right by Disney to engage a whole new generation of sci-fi fans.

## NADINE DORRIES 4/1 TO QUIT I'M A CELEB

There'll be no shortage of creepy crawlies on our screens in the coming weeks as I'm a Celeb makes its return but what do you expect from a show that's presented by a creature with four legs and two tits that goes by the name of Ant & Dec?



The early favourite in our eyes is former Coronation Street actress Helen Flanagan 9/2 closely followed by horse trainer Charlie Brooks and comedian Brian Conley who are both at 5/1 while muscle bound duo David Haye and The Rock are neck a neck at 7/1.



Elsewhere, former page 3 girl Maria Fowler is a 10/1 shot to be crowned Queen of the jungle ahead of former actress Linda Robson and former darts world champion Eric Bristow who are at odds of 12/1 and 14/1 respectively.

Despite being way out in the betting the contestant at the tip of everyone's lips is Tory MP Nadine Dorries who's caused widespread debate in the UK following her decision to partake in the show and we're offering odds of 4/1 on her quitting the series following the backlash.

At 16/1 she's unlikely to win the show but you can hardly expect the UK tax payer, which make's up the lion share of the show's viewers, to be happy about paying a public representative to eat a kangaroo's testicles in the jungle.

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# EXCLUSIVE YOUNGSTERS PROVE

# TAYLOR



PACKING A PUNCH: (from left) Aoife Hogan, Zara Breslin, Laura Kelly Erin Walsh, Morgan John, Jamie-Lee Kirby, Donna Cowman and Kerry Whelan

## Olympic hero Katie inspiring a generation



CHAMPS: Christy and Jimmy with girls Pics: Mary Browne

### THE PLAQUE on the wall says it all.

It was presented by Muhammad Ali in 1976 "for helping to promote the manly sport of self-defence".

Right underneath it, a group of girls aged 11 to 17 are taking turns to knock the stuffing out of a punchbag, while up in the ring more girls are sparring.

This is Tramore Boxing Club, one of Ireland's oldest clubs, and until three years ago it was a lads-only enterprise.

But thanks to Katie Taylor, women's boxing has taken off, and Tramore, in Co. Waterford, is just one of many clubs around the country where women pack a powerful punch.

Under photos of Joe Frazier, Barry McGuigan and club founder Pete Graham, the girls certainly stand out.

"What Katie Taylor did was tremendous for female boxers," coach Jimmy Denton says as he introduces me to some of his fighters.

"Long before she won the Olympic gold medal, she was well-known. She put in the hard work getting women's boxing recognised. There were a lot of

By GERALDINE COMISKEY

men who didn't want women in the sport. She couldn't have just gone along and joined a club like this when it was boys only.

"Katie was practising with her dad in the kitchen when she was a little girl - it took her years to get taken seriously."

In fact, Jimmy believes girls are better at training than guys.

### Budged

"They are fast learners because they can multi-task. They can take in what you're telling them and still concentrate on the sparring."

Just to prove he was right, he got yours truly to hit a punch bag while I was interviewing him, then got me to lift 20 kilos - 10 in each hand.

I was proud of myself until I saw 11-year-old girls lifting them above their heads.

Jimmy and two other coaches at Tramore Boxing Club - Christy O'Reilly and Larry Hurley - remember when the first girls joined their club.

Christy, who has been a coach with the club since 1985, said: "There were a few against it, but I thought it was great." However, some girls who tried to join



SPAR: Donna Cowman and Jamie-Lee Kirby



TOUGH WORK: Laura Kelly getting stuck in



GUNS: Nicky O'Connor helps Ger pump iron