

**NEWS
IN BRIEF**

**MAN SCOFFS
€10k JACKPOT**

A RYANAIR passenger ate his €10,000 winning scratch card after he was told he could not claim the money immediately, it emerged yesterday.

The man was flying from Krakow, Poland, to East Midlands airport in England when he scooped the prize.

However, when told he would not receive his prize immediately, he started to eat his ticket, ruling out any chance of claiming the money. The cash will now be given to charity.

EXCLUSIVE MAMMY OF FOOTBALL

FIRST LADY

Rebel without a cause as FAI blows the final

**Important information
for Postbank customers**

The shareholders of Postbank Ireland Limited (An Post and BGL BNP Paribas) have decided to continue the Postbank joint venture until the end of 2010, but not beyond that date.

Savings with Postbank remain completely secure and customers do not need to take any action at this time. Customer deposits will remain covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme and the Government Guarantee Scheme.

Whilst Postbank will not be accepting new banking business from Monday 1st March 2010, existing customers of the bank can continue to do their banking as usual until further notice.

We will be writing to our customers in the weeks ahead outlining the options that will be available to them. Postbank will deal with our customers in accordance with the Financial Regulators Guidelines and the Consumer Protection Code.

Postbank is fully supported by its shareholders BGL BNP Paribas and An Post.

Postbank greatly regrets having to announce this decision and would like to thank all customers for their business and support.

Customers seeking further information can call 1890 30 30 40 or visit www.postbank.ie. Our customer support centre is open from Monday to Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 10am-2pm and Sunday 10am-2pm.

Postbank is a separate entity from An Post and An Post savings products are separate from those provided by Postbank. An Post operates State guaranteed savings schemes and is unaffected by this announcement. Please see www.anpost.ie for details of State guaranteed savings options.



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BIGGEST FAN: Cork City's Noelle Feeney at her Ballyphehane home in Cork

BY GERALDINE COMISKEY

SHE was the Mammy of Irish football.

Long before WAGS appeared on the scene, one of Ireland's top league teams had its very own MAG.

Noelle Feeney washed their kit, cooked their dinners and even blessed them with Holy water before matches.

She even chopped up their Mars bars and wrapped the players in towels. But this week the bubbly blonde was fighting back tears as her beloved Cork City FC finally went under.

It's been dubbed "the club with nine lives" after it dodged the axe several times in recent years. Last year, it was saved by the bell when the High Court delayed the winding up after fans stepped in. They offered to buy the club from owner Tom Coughlan and pay its €160,000 tax bill, as well as debts of €600 - on condition that the club got a Premier League licence.

The supporters rallied to save the club after it emerged that the players had not been paid since last November. Team Captain Dan Murray revealed just before Christmas that he could not even afford petrol for his car - but was determined not to quit.

Whistle

But the High Court blew the final whistle this week when the FAI's Licensing Committee refused to grant the licence.

The fans set up a new club this week under a trust, FORAS (Friends of the Rebel Army Society), but Noelle points out: "We'll have to start from scratch again. We can't play off the reputation of the original club."

Sitting in her livingroom surrounded by the team jerseys, scarves and flags, Noelle told the Sunday World: "My heart is broken. It's like someone put a claw in and ripped out my heart. It was like a death."

"I looked after my boys for 22 years. I was like their mother. Now, it's as if none of us ever existed. It's 25 years of history down the drain."

Her home near the Turner's Cross stadium was the unofficial headquarters for 20 years. "People would drop in at any time of the day to buy a jersey or scarf," she said.

She proudly showed me photos of herself with some of the biggest names



HERO: Noelle with George Best

in football - Alex Ferguson, Giovanni Trapattoni, Kevin Doyle, Roy Keane, Niall Quinn, Graham Souhness, Sam Allardyce and Paul McGrath.

"The only one who's not welcome here is Thierry Henry. Cork people like fair play."

Noelle is delighted with the success of Kevin Doyle. "Kevin was one of my babes," she said. "I looked after him when he played for Cork City. I was proud of him the night Ireland played in Cyprus - the following day I got a text from him looking for my address - he wanted to send me his jersey."

Roy O'Donovan's jersey also hangs on her livingroom wall. "I was heart-broken when Roy Keane took him to Sunderland." But she adds that Keane is a "great friend". Whenever the Ipswich boss comes home to Cork, Noelle greets him with a bottle of Holy water and Barry's green tea.

Noelle was on the club's staff as Liaison Officer but she went way beyond the call of duty. "I remember once we went to Malmo and I spent three days just washing their clothes."

She also found sponsors for the club - and was on the ball whenever the team changed sponsors. "Sometimes we wouldn't have the new jerseys in time for a match - so I'd have to sew badges onto their old kit."

The rest of Cork City will remember her as the lady who sang "The Banks of My Own Lovely Lee" before matches and sprinkled the pitch with Holy Water. "I believe it helped them win. But it wasn't enough to save the club."

But she adds: "We'll rise again." Noelle is inviting footie fans to join the new club, Foras (www.forastrust.ie). Membership costs €120 a year (or €10 a month), with a half-price rate for unwaged.