

# SNOOKER CHAMP'S OLD HAUNT CLOSED

**SNOOKER** champ Ken Doherty admitted he hadn't got a clue why his old haunt was suddenly closed to the public.

Local residents were surprised recently to find the doors of the club firmly closed.

Jason's gained legendary status as the club where Doherty learned the skills that led to world championship success.

*Southside People* cornered the player in the Ranelagh club, and surprised him with the news.

He was practising his snooker when we called his mobile, and sounded just as surprised as local people who had tried to get in for a game.

However, the local hero won't be stuck for a play to play.

"It's not closed to me because I have a key so I can get in," he told us.

He added that he hoped

by **GERALDINE COMISKEY**

the snooker hall wasn't going to be closed permanently to the public.

"I suppose the management have to make money but I'll talk to the owners about it just to find out the situation."

Ken honed his skills in the hall as a young lad before making the big time.

The news also came as a shock to Ken Duggan, principal of Ken's former school, CBS Westland Row.

"That's terrible news," he said.

"All the young people who used to play snooker there will be so disappointed. Jason's will be a great

loss to the local community."

A local resident described the closure as "the loss of a real institution".

"It's the end of an era," he said. "The staff will be

badly missed as they were among the best and always supportive and helpful to the local kids trying to learn to play snooker. They certainly helped Ken Doherty to reach his professional ambitions."

Locals say they now fear the site may be sold off to developers for private housing and are blaming parking restrictions as one of the contributing factors to the closure.



Ken Doherty was taken by surprise at the closure of Jason's

# SEA SCOUTS MAY LEAVE THEIR HOME

**DUN Laoghaire's historic Sea Scouts may be leaving their home - if the price is right.**

Sea Scout leaders are in discussion with the Harbour Company over the possibility of selling property owned by them and giving up the use of a site owned by Shell. This would enable the oil giant to complete a deal to sell the land to Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company.

When contacted by *Southside People*, Deputy Group Leader of the Bú Calafort Gasóga Mara Sea Scouts, Richard Mossop, confirmed that they were considering selling their site, but that nothing was definite.

"At present we have no intention of selling up, unless there is a better offer of site, buildings and facilities," he said.

"We are in discussion with the Harbour Company about a new site which may well not come to anything, in which case we will be staying where we are and have been since the early '70s."

Sources close to the Harbour Company believe if they secure the site they could be forced to give it up

to make way for the development of the area between the Carlisle Pier and the West Pier.

A Harbour Board spokesman confirmed that they were in negotiations with Shell concerning a site used by the Sea Scouts.

"The Sea Scouts own their own building but they're using the surface of the Shell site for storage," he said.

"The Harbour Company wants the site but they won't be going ahead with the proposed purchase of the site until Shell have resolved the matter with the Sea Scouts."

The spokesman added that the Harbour Company had no plans for the site but were interested in it as it's the only vacant one on the seafront and it could be useful in any future development.

It is understood that the Harbour Company, if successful in obtaining the site from Shell, would seek to include it in a future commercial development.

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