

PEOPLE



“

There was a lot of talk as to what had led us to leaving the station but the fact was we were mulling over the possibility of branching out on our own for the bones of 18 months. So, while the listeners were shocked when the time came we were happy with our decision

CIARÁN Murphy of Second Captains pictured in his native Milltown.

PHOTO: RAY RYAN

wanted for the show, and we got the right mix of guests, so it's all going really well. The viewing figures are up on 150,000 and we've done 30 shows since we started so we are busy coming up with ideas on how to take the show forward.

"We've had an exceptional summer of sport with the Euros and the Olympics, with hits on the podcast up on 1.2 million during the football, which is far higher than anything we achieved with Off the Ball.

"The RTE Radio One show was an interesting departure from our usual format as we got to interview people with no sporting connection at all and it ended up being a great laugh and we're hoping we will get the opportunity to do something along those lines again."

For now the five are busy putting the finishing touches to the second volume of the Second Captains Sports Annual, which is due to be published in the coming weeks. Ciarán and his other second captains will be hoping to surpass the first volume which was released last year. The team works out of offices on the corner of Baggot Street, where Ciarán's film editor, his older brother John is also based.

"I started out in radio and that remains a huge part of what I do but my main interest starting out was print journalism," added Ciarán. "I still get to do a bit with my GAA column for the Irish Times but the annual is another way of indulging that side of what I do, even though it's a mish mash of everything from the silly to the serious interviews and a dedicated section to our fans around the world who send in their #PBESOs - Pierce Brosnan's Emigrant Shout Out pics.

"I've been incredibly lucky to make a career out of my passion but I've had a lot of help and opportunities along the way.

"My uncle Jim has long been a huge influence and I have talked to him about every major career decision I've made to get his thoughts and advice. We had him as a regular guest on the Podcast throughout 2014 and my favourite instalment was when he reflected on his memories of covering the 1978 World Cup for RTE."

Mixing business and pleasure hasn't hindered the successful development of the Second Captains team who have defied the experts' prediction that their defection from Newstalk amounted to career suicide.

"We are really lucky that we work well together and that relationship is underpinned by a genuine friendship," said Ciarán.

"We're also looking forward to a number of projects coming up in the next few months and seeing where the Second Captains journey leads us to next. It's been an incredible three years."



CIARÁN with his co-presenters, on the set of Second Captains Live, Ken Early and Eoin McDevitt with producers Mark Horgan and Simon Hick in the background.

were approached by RTE about recording a pilot for a TV show but we were too busy trying to get the production company up and running and we decided to throw ourselves into that."

Within weeks they were back in broadcasting mode, serving up the first instalment of a podcast for the Irish Times that is now delivered four times a week, covering all aspects of sporting life.

Five months into their new business venture they found themselves on the set of the pilot show for Second Captains Live which is gearing up for a sixth season later this year.

"I had never done any television up to that point but we all had a very clear vision of what we



Do you know someone who should feature on this page - let us know - tuamherald.ie