

Aer Arann Alumni Award for Sports Achievement and Leadership
Colm Murray BA 1972
RTÉ Sports Presenter

Colm Murray hails from Moate in Co. Westmeath, where, following national school, he was a student at the local Carmelite College, at that time a well-known GAA nursery. Though he didn't shine at Gaelic Games, he showed an aptitude for taking part in college plays and debating, while he was also known for being partial to the odd flutter on big races, and acting as tipster for his classmates. Following his Leaving Certificate in 1969, he enrolled as an Arts student in U.C.G. He graduated with an Arts degree in English, French & History in 1972 and went on to complete his Higher Diploma in Education in Maynooth University, having taken up a teaching position in September of 1972. For the next 6 years, Murray taught in schools in Athlone, Tullamore and in Ballymun, Dublin. In October of 1978, he left teaching to join the staff of RTÉ as a Radio Continuity Announcer. One year later, he became the presenter of the popular and long-running radio programme, *Hospitals' Requests*.

In 1983 he left Continuity to become a newscaster, following the retirement of the legendary Charles Mitchel. In 1989 he moved into sports broadcasting and was the first Sports caster on the newly-launched hour-long rolling news bulletin, the 6-1 News. Over the course of the next 21 years, Colm reported on World Cups; Olympic Games; Paralympic Games; Special Olympics; World & European Athletics Championships; and Rugby Internationals; along with a host of other domestic and international sports events. He is particularly renowned for his coverage of horse racing, however, and he has covered the famous Cheltenham National Hunt Festival for RTE Radio & Television since 1990.

In December 2010 Colm Murray was honoured by Horse Racing Ireland with the Outstanding Contribution to Irish Racing Award.