



IRISH DAILY Mirror

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**Brilliant
football
pullout**

EXCLUSIVE
Jason brother
disgust at U.S.
justice
system



KILLED Jason Corbett and, inset, his brother John

PAGES 6&7

Grand Sam

He's King
of the
Jungle



CHAMPION Sam Thompson won I'm A Celeb last night
SEE PAGES 10&11

STORM FERGUS BLASTS LETTRIM

TORNADO

BY DANNY DE VAAL

A TERRIFYING tornado ripped the roofs off buildings and upturned boats as Storm Fergus battered Ireland with heavy winds and rain.

The village of Leitrim bore the brunt of the brutal twister as it destroyed homes and businesses and uprooted trees.

Local Fianna Fail councillor Paddy Farrell, who was caught up in the freak weather event, said: "I've never seen anything as bad as it in my life."

FULL STORY: PAGES 4&5

Roofs ripped off homes & businesses as freak weather causes chaos



DAMAGE & DEBRIS
Aftermath in Leitrim yesterday

Pic: WILLIE DONNELLAN/LEITRIM OBSERVER

TERROR



DO THE TWIST
Winds whip up huge waves



SINKING FEELING
Boats in marina

JASON CORBETT'S BROTHER TELLS OF FAMILY ORDEAL



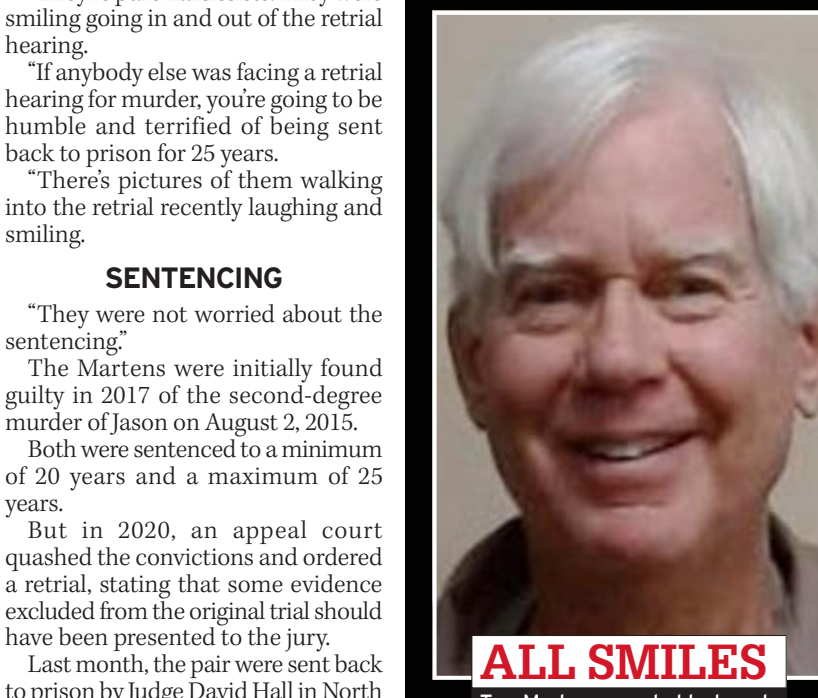
SLAMMERS

North Carolina jails holding pair



SMIRKING

Molly Martens' mugshot last week



ALL SMILES

Tom Martens mugshot last week

EXCLUSIVE
BY DANNY DE VAAL

THE heartbroken brother of Jason Corbett has told how his entire family has been left "scarred" following his sibling's killing and said he's "disgusted" at the US justice system.

In a rare interview, Jason's eldest brother John P Corbett talked about how he hoped the pair would get the death penalty and his encounters with Molly Martens.

John, who works for the NHS and is based in Peterborough in the UK, told the Irish Mirror: "It's a sad reflection on US justice and not because he was my brother but for anybody to see how that case was carried out.

"We're scarred for life. It'll always be with us, unfortunately.

"It's a smack in the face to the whole family – they'll be out in June and they'll live their lives whereas they took our brother's life.

"They're pure narcissists. They were smiling going in and out of the retrial hearing.

"If anybody else was facing a retrial hearing for murder, you're going to be humble and terrified of being sent back to prison for 25 years.

"There's pictures of them walking into the retrial recently laughing and smiling.

SENTENCING

"They were not worried about the sentencing."

The Martens were initially found guilty in 2017 of the second-degree murder of Jason on August 2, 2015.

Both were sentenced to a minimum of 20 years and a maximum of 25 years.

But in 2020, an appeal court quashed the convictions and ordered a retrial, stating that some evidence excluded from the original trial should have been presented to the jury.

Last month, the pair were sent back to prison by Judge David Hall in North Carolina after they accepted a plea deal of voluntary manslaughter in October.

Judge Hall sentenced both to prison time of 51 to 74 months and took into account the 44 months already served.

But US prison records show they will now be released on June 27, 2024.

John, 60, said the sentence handed down by Judge David Hall last month was more akin to what a perpetrator would get if they "robbed a sweet shop".

He added: "If you stole a car in the US, you'd get 10 years.

"You hear of people getting 90 years or 10 lifetimes in prison. I'm just disgusted at the US justice system... I

wanted the death penalty for both of them and I'm not a vengeful person but it's the way they killed him.

"They didn't just push him down the stairs in a heated argument.

"They deliberately hit him multiple times with weapons.

"I've seen pictures of the crime scene and it's horrific. They promised us justice. The Martens family are obviously laughing at the US justice system now because they'll be free in a couple of months' time.

"We weren't looking for any special treatment and we just wanted normal justice for somebody who was a

taxpayer in America, brought his kids over there to live a good life.

"Thanks for coming to America and contributing to the US tax system and giving a new home to that monster of an ex-wife Molly Martens.

"Well done, you got killed in America' but we're going to send you back in a box' and the killers are going to walk free."

Jason was struck with a baseball bat and a concrete paving brick by the pair on August 2, 2015.

His postmortem showed he died from blunt force trauma to his head.

John added: "It doesn't feel like

normal justice, no matter what way you look at it.

"They took my brother's life coldly for their own selfish reasons and they're just total cowards the way they did it.

"They ruined his two children's lives as well and messed them up psychologically as well.

"They have no feelings... they're as cold as ice. They have no remorse which is a true psychopathic trait.

"No remorse, no feelings whatsoever, no warmth.

"If a normal person did that in the heat of the moment, they'd be really

remorseful and sorry and everything but for the last eight years, they've not shown one second of remorse."

John said while he was hoping the pair would get the death penalty, his mum Rita, who died in May 2020, wanted them to get a long prison sentence because it was more of a "punishment".

He said: "My mum, bless her, died from all the stress of it... she said I hope they don't get the death penalty. I hope they get a long time in prison because it would be more punishment for them."

John said he was also angry at how

his brother's character was put on trial during the sentencing hearing where the Martens made wild allegations about the death of Jason's first wife Margaret and him as a person.

When asked about the prison blunder last week, John said "I wouldn't have been surprised if they were let out, to be honest."

He also recounted his experiences with Molly before Jason's



HEARING Molly Martens arriving at court

death. John revealed: "Molly Martens often drove me to the airport when I was flying back to the UK. Very cold, distant person."

He also spoke about the days following Jason's death and the impact it had on him.

John said: "I couldn't function, I had to take six months off work from the NHS. I was absolutely devastated.

"He was my kid brother. I used to bring him fishing as a kid.

"We used to go down

to Spanish Point and holidays with my mum, bless her.

"It was very difficult to even comprehend. I will never forget it, I was at work and my other brother rang me.

"The phone rang and it was my brother Michael. He said, 'Jason is dead'. I thought in a car accident or an accident at work and then he told me.

"I actually came to work the following morning. I was in a daze and my boss came around to me and said 'John, what are you doing?'

"I responded with 'I don't know', he said 'Go home and I'll see you when

you want to come back'. I was in such shock, I don't know what I was doing, to be honest."

He recalled Jason seemed "stressed" in the months before his death.

John said: "We were at a Young Munster match in Limerick and he was on the phone a lot.

"He looked very down, he looked very depressed as if he was under a lot of stress in his life and we kept asking him to put away his phone.

"There was a lot of flags there... there was a lot of warning flags coming up."

Mr Webb first exposed Mr Bashir as having used fake documents to land the 1995 interview, in which Diana famously said: "There were three of us in this marriage."

He took the BBC to a tribunal, arguing its failure to release the emails amounted to a cover-up.

Judge Brian Kennedy said the corporation had been "inconsistent and unreliable". The BBC apologised and accepted mistakes had been made.

Scarred & disgusted at the US justice system

John's death penalty hope for killers Tom and Molly Martens



BRUTAL DEATH
Dad Jason Corbett died in US in 2015

“ I wanted the death penalty for both of them and I'm not a vengeful person...
”
JOHN CORBETT ON HIS SENTENCING HOPES FOR MOLLY AND TOM MARTENS



HARD TIME
Jason's brother John Corbett



ANGUISH
Jason's sister and kids at court

“ He looked very down, he looked very depressed as if he was under stress
”
JOHN CORBETT ON JASON'S MOOD BEFORE HE WAS KILLED



LEGACY Paul with pooch
Paul's animal cruelty fights win him gong

BY JEREMY ARMSTRONG

AN animal rights group has named Paul O'Grady as its person of the year for his fight against cruelty.

Peta said the entertainer, who died in March aged 67, leaves a "legacy of compassion".

It recognised Paul for helping dogs and cats find homes. Other fights he supported including a ban on fur and animal testing.

The star presented ITV's popular documentary series For the Love of Dogs, which showcased Battersea Dogs and Cats Home – where he was an ambassador from 2012.

Elisa Allen, vice president of programmes at Peta, which Paul joined in the 1990s, hailed him as "a tireless animal advocate".

Paul's husband, Andre Portasio, will accept the award on his behalf.



ROW 1995 Diana interview
BBC ordered to release Di scandal mails

BY JORDAN REYNOLDS

A JUDGE has told the BBC to release emails about Martin Bashir's infamous interview with Diana, Princess of Wales.

Documentary maker Andrew Webb said the corporation had failed to release more than 3,000 emails after a Freedom of Information request.

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