

# Talk OF THE Town

EDITED BY JAMES GIBBONS

talkofthetown

## Another two head for exit door, so who's in Residence?

**I**T'S tough to keep track of the ever-changing Residence club on St Stephen's Green. Word reaches Talk Of The Town that two key members of staff have left.

General manager Seamus Dooley has departed in record time. He only joined Residence in September but has already decided to pack his bags and return to his previous job as assistant general manager of Doonbeg Hotel and Golf Club in Co. Clare. He left the club just before Christmas.

Actor Jamie Belton, who was overseeing things in the dining room, has moved on too. He has been replaced by Jubamir Paridi, an Italian who has been promoted from within.

There was much fanfare at the

time of Seamus's arrival at the club. He joined at the same time as Marie Chawke, who remains there as director of business development. She was hired to replace the Stokes brothers, the club's former bosses.

Marie is a close friend of Gráinne Seoige and made her name as general manager of the award-winning five-star Aghadoe Heights Hotel near Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Marie is also friends with TV3 presenters Colette Fitzpatrick and Sinead Desmond of TV3 and is well known on the social scene for organising charity lunches at Aghadoe Heights with her husband Pat.

No doubt all those contacts

come in very useful for the Residence job.

Seamus has been replaced by Richard Huggard, whom a female member of the club

described yesterday as 'unflappable, charming and handsome'. Richard previously worked at the Burlington as conference and events manager.

No question, it has been a traumatic year for the club.

Last summer Residence founders Simon and Christian Stokes were declared 'delinquent directors' by Mr Justice Peter Kelly.

It looked like Residence might have to close its doors for good but Olivia Gaynor-Long stepped in in July to take control of the club, taking it out of receivership.

At its height, Residence played host to celebrities including Bono, Ryan Tubridy, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Eddie Jordan.

But with a membership fee of €1,600, it wasn't long before many of the city's well heeled turned their backs on the D2 premises.

