Din Joe (Denis) Fitzgibbon 1921-1998

A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Better known as Din Joe, Denis Fitzgibbon was a former Pres boy, who played for the Munster Schools side. He joined and played with Dolphin until he moved to Dublin in 1943. A Munster interprovincial, he won a Cork Charity Cup medal with Dolphin in 1940 and also featured in the Senior Cup semi-final against Young Munster. He was knocked out in a collision with an opponent, there was obviously no concussion protocols in those days, he came around with someone standing over him with a “wee bottle” as he said himself.” I lowered its contents, never have I tasted anything like it”, then he went on the score a try which secured the victory. the match winning try. They were beaten by UCC 8-6 in the final with Fitzgibbon kicking a penalty. He was forced to retire from rugby due to a serious eye injury.

When he left for Dublin, he did not even have a train ticket, taking a lift in a lorry. He got a job as an Accountant with Batchelors Foods before moving to Fords Smithfield Motors. He started as an Accountant and then moved into sales and ended up as Sales Manager. He set up on his own in the motor trade before selling his interest and joining Radio Eireann.

In the early 1950’s he was appearing on a quiz show panel on Radio Eireann, he had a distinctive voice with his clear Cork accent. In 1953 he was hosting his own live radio entertainment show “Take the Floor”

“Lift the latch, open the door, step right in and take the floor “the famous opening lines. They experimented with television in the late 60’s but quickly returned to radio and the programme continued until 1978.

He became Sales Director for Volkswagen in 1960 + Managing Director of Toyota Ireland in 1975. He also served as chairman of the Marketing Institute of Ireland.

He passed away in 1998 aged 77.