



## Dub Sub Confidential: A Goalkeeper's Life with – and without – the Dubs

By John Leonard

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By John Leonard

***Dub Sub Confidential* by John Leonard: a GAA memoir like no other.**

**WINNER OF THE SETANTA SPORTS IRISH SPORTS BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD.**

John Leonard was a gifted Gaelic football goalkeeper who had the misfortune to reach his prime at the same time, and in the same county, as one of the all-time greats: Stephen Cluxton. Unless something happened to Clucko, Leonard was always going to be number 2. Of course, it didn't help that he had a problem with drink and drugs ...

*Dub Sub Confidential* is John Leonard's vivid, witty and searingly honest account of his life in and out of sport. He was both a committed Dub and a sceptical observer of the goings on in the dressing-room and on the training pitch. He writes about the players and the mentors, and about the oddity of being part of the GAA's biggest circus while never expecting to get on the pitch. And he writes brilliantly about the demons that led him to addiction, his efforts for many years to party hard and train hard, and his eventual breakthrough to sobriety.

*Dub Sub Confidential* is a GAA memoir like no other yet published - a book about how Gaelic games collide with real life. It is also a brilliant read from a remarkable personality.

'Four decades after Eamon Dunphy published *Only a Game?*, his seminal book on football, **John Leonard has produced the Gaelic football equivalent - only it's better**' *Sunday Times* Sports Books of the Year

'Reads like *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* ... a great read' Ray D'Arcy, RTE Radio 1

'As **fascinating** as its insights into the Dublin dressing room and the big matchdays are, to reduce *Dub Sub Confidential* to being just a sports or GAA book is to do it an injustice; it is an **astonishing, exceptional, visceral** account of

a confused young man' *Irish Examiner*

'Engaging, honest, sad and frightening in places - ultimately raw and real.  
**Couldn't put it down'** Ryle Nugent, RTÉ

'The overall feeling of Leonard's sporting life is of a high-wire act. He somehow managed to have a part-time romance with Dublin football while full-bloodedly chasing whatever and whoever was on offer in Dublin after dark ... There is an antic and often jubilant energy to Leonard's writing' Keith Duggan, *Irish Times*

**Remarkable** ... a stark and searingly honest memoir' *the42.ie*

'Students of Gaelic football will be intrigued by his account of the rivalry with Cluxton, arguably the most important player of modern times' *Sunday Times*

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- Sales Rank: #745724 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-09-24
- Released on: 2015-09-24
- Format: Kindle eBook



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Four decades after Eamon Dunphy published *Only a Game?*, his seminal book on football, John Leonard has produced the Gaelic football equivalent—only it's better . . . This strikingly blunt and honest portrait of the bizarre goings-on in the GAA world includes astute observations not just on modern sport but also modern life." —*Sunday Times*, Sports Books of the Year

"Outstanding. Can't recommend it highly enough. Instant classic." —Joe Molloy

"Compelling and ground-breaking." —*Evening Echo*

"As fascinating as its insights into the Dublin dressing room and the big matchdays are, to reduce *Dub Sub Confidential* to being just a sports or GAA book is to do it an injustice; it is an astonishing, exceptional, visceral account of a confused young man." —Kieran Shannon, *Irish Examiner*

"Reads like *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* . . . a great read." —RTE Radio 1

"The overall feeling of Leonard's sporting life is of a high-wire act. He somehow managed to have a part-time romance with Dublin football while full-bloodedly chasing whatever and whoever was on offer in Dublin after dark . . . There is an antic and often jubilant energy to Leonard's writing." —*Irish Times*

"Remarkable . . . a stark and searingly honest memoir." —the42.ie

"Students of Gaelic football will be intrigued by his account of the rivalry with Cluxton, arguably the most important player of modern times." —*Sunday Times*

"A great read. Honest and really well written." —Conor McKeon

"A fine read." —Damian Lawlor

"John Leonard's brutally honest account of a road less travelled and his time as understudy to iconic Dubs keeper Stephen Cluxton transcends sport." —*Irish Independent*

"Engaging, honest, sad and frightening in places - ultimately raw and real. Couldn't put it down." —Ryle Nugent, *RTÉ*

About the Author

**John Leonard** won a Dublin club championship with St Sylvester's in 1996 and represented Dublin at minor, under-21, junior, and senior level. He now spends much of his time traveling the world filming documentaries of people who make a difference in their communities.

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