organised crime as his family’s empire crumbles

hotel Citywest, once valued at €100 million, Palmerstown House estate and golf course, where Jim Jnr grazed his collection of Llama and Emu and lived as a playboy prince; Finnstown House Hotel; Weston Airport; hundreds of apartments and homes; the controversial €90 million conference centre built without planning and vast tracts of land and other assets. But Jim Mansfield Jnr is facing an even bigger battle – a fight to distance himself from a major gada offensive against money laundering, organised crime, dissident republicans and even murder.

On January 29 last, armed gardai from the Organised Crime Unit and the Criminal Assets Bureau – backed up by members of the Garda National Drug Unit – raided a number of properties around Citywest, including Tassagart House, where Jim Jnr now lives with his mother Anne.

Finnstown House, the hotel once owned by Jim Mansfield Snr, seized by Nama as part of huge debts he couldn’t pay back, sold to a Dundalk businessman and now back under the control of the Mansfields, was also a major target. Last year, a 55-year-old man was charged before the Special Criminal Court for possession of explosives at the Lucan hotel.

Debts

Samuel Devlin will stand trial next year after he was arrested by members of the Special Detective Unit with explosives in a beer keg. He is also being charged with membership of the IRA. His address was given as a suite at the hotel.

The Sunday World can reveal that another property targeted in the raids was in the Coldwater Lakes development, which has been a stronghold of the Mansfields and a tight circle of developer friends for years and is the subject of a Sunday World investigation today.

The house, which is believed to be owned by a Mansfield company, had been under surveillance as Gardai believed that a son of drug lord Christy Kinahan had moved in recent months. Jim Jnr has been struggling to maintain his lifestyle, but as our exclusive aerial photos show today, it is unlikely that the middle of the Mansfield sons is holed up in a box-room at the Georgian mansion which is the last remaining jewel in the family crown.

The vast stately home is complete with outhouses, mews properties and even its own private island area.

The Irish Times recently reported that Mansfield has written to Einda Kenny to complain about the Garda raids and the fact officers had carried guns and worn balaclavas – standard protocol during investigations involving organised crime.

Jim Jnr had lived at the stunning Palmerstown House until it was seized as part of a debt recovery process. It was there that he had entertained the model Katy French, with whom he was in a relationship at the time of her death.

Before she died from a cocaine overdose he had gifted her an apartment in Citywest and a new Range Rover from his friend the car dealer Lee Cullen, who in 2006 made a £2.6million payment to the Criminal Assets Bureau.

It was at that same time that the Mansfields first had to disassociate themselves from drugs and crime.

Then a consignment of drugs bound for Weston on an airplane registered to Jim Mansfield Snr was stopped in Belgium.

Nonsense

Former champion boxer John Kinsella got 12 years for his part in the conspiracy, but refused to ever name who “the big fella” was that he referred to in taped phone conversations.

During his defence of his family, Jim Mansfield Snr said: “I’ve heard the rumours, but they don’t bother me in the slightest. It’s a load of absolute nonsense. A lot of it is down to jealousy.”

His son proffered no explanation as to why the family is yet again embroiled in rumours of links to crime. However, in his letter to Mr Kenny it is understood he has said that various Irish authorities are involved in “dark games”.

‘We have got nothing to do with drug dealing’

Jim Jnr