

ROLL OF HONOUR

7: CORK: 1970, 1971, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986.
5: KERRY: 1964, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977.
3: MAYO: 1967, 1974, 1983.
2: ROSCOMMON: 1966, 1978.
1: ANTRIM: 1969
DERRY: 1968
DONEGAL: 1982.
DOWN: 1979.
GALWAY: 1972.
KILDARE: 1965.

FOOTBALL

1964: Kerry 1-10; Laois 1-3.
1965: Kildare 2-11; Cork 1-7.
1966: Roscommon 2-10; Kildare 1-12.
1967: Mayo 2-10; Kerry 2-10 DRAW
Mayo 4-9; Kerry 1-7 REPLAY
1968: Derry 3-9; Offaly 1-9.
1969: Antrim 1-8; Roscommon 0-10.
1970: Cork 2-11; Fermanagh 0-9.
1971: Cork 3-10; Fermanagh 0-3.
1972: Galway 2-6; Kerry 0-7.
1973: Kerry 2-13; Mayo 0-13.
1974: Mayo 0-9; Antrim 0-9. DRAW
Mayo 2-10; Antrim 2-8. REPLAY
1975: Kerry 1-15; Dublin 0-10.
1976: Kerry 0-14; Kildare 1-3.
1977: Kerry 1-11; Down 1-5.
1978: Roscommon 1-9; Kerry 1-8.
1979: Down 1-9; Cork 0-7.
1980: Cork 2-8; Dublin 1-5.
1981: Cork 0-14; Galway 2-8. DRAW
Cork 2-9; Galway 1-6. REPLAY
1982: Donegal 0-8; Roscommon 0-5.
1983: Mayo 2-5; Derry 1-8. DRAW
Mayo 1-8; Derry 1-5. REPLAY
1984: Cork 0-9; Mayo 0-6.
1985: Cork 0-14; Derry 1-8.
1986: Cork 3-16; Offaly 0-12.



CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

CRAOBH PEILE NA hÉIREANN Fé-21

Páirc Naomh Iarlatha,

Tuam

Co. na Gaillimhe

7 Meithimh, 1987

CIARRAI v DUN NA nGALL

3.30 i.n.

Réiteoir: MICHEAL KEARNS (Sligeach)



TIM CLARKE — MR. KILDARE G.A.A.

In an era when bicycle transport was the only medium distance conveyance, the bicycle that bore Tim Clarke became the most important one in the county.

Tim Clarke was hard-working, often abrasive, cantankerous, disciplinarian and great-hearted; most people will agree that he lived his life for the G.A.A.

He received no financial reward, but he has instead a place in posterity rivalled by few G.A.A. officials anywhere. He had been involved in an accident while a young man which left him with a limp for the rest of his life.

Between 1921 and 1960, Tullamore born Tim was secretary of the County Board, and was also treasurer from 1952 to 1963. "He kept the money as if it was his own" is a frequent comment on his tight control of finances — yet he coped with the Board's financial problems expertly.

His financial trump card was the introduction of the insurance scheme for the county in the 1920's.

Each Sunday Tim Clarke would cycle to some venue at the far end of the county to keep the gate. From early in the morning until that evening he would field every gripe and every question or allegation that the public flung at him, any complaint the spectators had with the G.A.A. — Tim was the G.A.A. in Kildare. As one player put it . . . "He could take dog's abuse — and give back dog's abuse".

The one immense contribution Tim Clarke made to the well-being of the G.A.A. players in Kildare was the introduction of an insurance scheme for injured players. The move was half a century ahead of its time — it is only now that the G.A.A. has promoted a full insurance scheme for its members in association with a broker, although the first attempts to set the scheme after the Kildare model were made in the 1930's.

Five beautiful bound volumes of Kildare County Board minutes survive from that era. The first is tantalisingly labelled Volume 2, and dates from the meeting of July 27, 1924. In the exquisite hand of Tim Clarke, it relates the debates and issues of those meetings.

Today's Under 21 Championship trophy was presented by the Kildare County Board in honour of Tim Clarke.

(We are grateful to the pages of the Kildare G.A.A. history and to its editor, Eoghan Corry, for the basis of the above account).

HISTORIC FOOTBALL FINAL

This is an historic All-Ireland under-21 football final. It is the first between these counties, and also the first meeting of Donegal and Kerry at any stage of this particular championship.

Kerry have met Ulster opposition just once so far in a final. In 1977 a side that included Charles Nelligan, Mick Spillane, Denis "Ogie" Moran, Jack O'Shea and Eoin Liston, beat Down by six points for what now surprisingly enough ranks as the county's last title win. That game was played at Croke Park, and "Ogie" Moran captained the Kingdom.

Kerry's only other final appearance in the meantime was in 1978 when their quest for a fourth championship in succession was spiked by Roscommon by a point at Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon.

Kerry and Laois met in the first All-Ireland final in this grade when they drew an attendance of 10,497 to Croke Park in September 1964. The Southerners won by 1-10 to 1-3.

This national championship has become something of a Munster preserve in the present decade, thanks to the high standard of teams produced by Cork. All but two of the championships of the 'Eighties, those of 1982 and 1983, have been won by teams from the Leeside.

The last year that a Southern side was unsuccessful in a final was in 1979 when Down joined the ranks of All-Ireland champions with a five points win over Cork. Since then it has been a remarkable run of five wins and a draw in six outings by Cork teams in the concluding round.

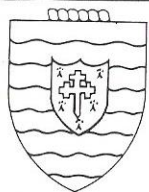
Donegal have nothing like the Kerry tradition in the under-21 grade. They did represent Ulster in the first All-Ireland series in 1964 when they lost the semi-final to Laois, but it was not until 1982 that the North-West county won through to the final.

That decider was played on a damp and windy day at Carrick-on-Shannon, and Donegal collected their first All-Ireland inter-county crown in any grade of football or hurling by beating Roscommon by 0-8 to 0-5.

No Ulster county has won the title in the meantime. Derry lost to Mayo in a replay in 1983, and two years later the Foylesiders went down by three points to Cork in the only other final in which the North had a direct interest in the summit.

No Ulster county has won the title more than once. Can Donegal, then, write another chapter in football history by beating the Kingdom, or will Kerry regain some of their lost glory by returning to the winners rankings after an uncharacteristically long absence for the football stronghold?

These are just some of the many intriguing questions that surround a novel and attractive decider that promises a top class display of football.



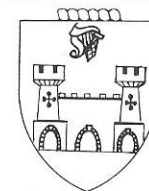
CIARRAI

Dathanna: Gorm is Bán



DUN NA nGALL

Dathanna: Glas is Buí



1
C. O MORAIN
Ciaran Moran
(Derrynane)

2
C. O SABHAOIS
Ken Savage
(Kerins O'Rahilly's)

3
M. O BROSNACHAIN
Michael Brosnan
(Knocknagoshel)

4
M. Mac NIOCAIS
Morgan Nix
(Kerins O'Rahilly's)

5
S. De STAIC
Stephen Stack
(Listowel Emmetts)

6
N. O LAOIRE (Capt.)
Noel O'Leary
(Dr. Crokes)

7
P. O COCHLAIN
Pat Coughlan
(Rathmore)

8
M. O GAILLI
Michael Galway
(Currow)

9
S. O BROSNACHAIN
James Brosnan
(Gneeveguilla)

10
P. S. O GAIRE
P.J. Gaire
(Duagh)

11
G. O LUANAIGH
Ger Looney
(Gneeveguilla)

12
D. Mac AODH BHUI
Donal McEvoy
(John Mitchels)

13
M. O DUNNAI
Martin Downey
(Desmonds)

14
P. O HORA
Pierce Hoare
(Kevin O'Rahilly's)

15
M. O DUINEACHA
Martin Dennehy
(John Mitchels)

Fir Ionad: 16. S. O Laoire (Joe O'Leary) Spa 17. G. O'Murchú (Gerald Murphy) Laune Rangers 18. E. O Muineacháin (Eoin Moynihan) Austin Stacks 19. T. Breathnach (Tom Walsh) Listowel Emmetts 20. S. O Sé (James O'Shea) Cromane 21. S. O Cléirigh (Seán Clarke) Dr. Crokes.

Roghnoiri: Buddy O'Grady (John Mitchels) — Trainer Coach; Don O'Leary (Rathmore); P.J. Donovan (St. Mary's, Caherciveen); Patrick Brosnan (Brosna); Eric Brown (Listowel Emmetts).

CIARRAI	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor-Ciceanna
1adh Leath (1st Half)					
2adh Leath (2nd Half)					
Iomlan (Total)					

1
D. O GALLCHOIR
Danny Gallagher
(Dungloe)

2
S. O DOCHARTAIGH
John J. Doherty
(Naomh Columba)

3
A. N. OTHER

4
P. Mac GIOLLA CHEARA
Paul Carr
(Naomh Columba)

5
S. O CONCHUIR
John Connors
(Dungloe)

6
S. O CUINNEAGAIN
John Cunningham (Capt.)
(Killybegs)

7
D. Mac EOIN
Dermot Keon
(Aodh Rua, Ballyshannon)

8
B. O CUINNEAGAIN
Barry Cunningham
(Killybegs)

9
S. O GALLACHOIR
John Gallagher
(Killybegs)

10
P. O HEIGHEARTAIGH
Patrick Hegarty
(Naomh Columba)

11
T. O RIAIN
Tommy Ryan
(Termon)

12
B. Mac GABHANN
Barry McGowan
(Killybegs)

13
D. Mac a'BHAIRD
Dermot Ward
(Glenfin)

14
M. O BAOILL
Manus Boyle
(Killybegs)

15
L. O GAIBHEACHAIN
Luke Gavigan
(Ardara)

Fir Ionad: 16. B. O Gallachoir (B. Gallagher) Gweedore; 17. C. Mac Gairbhith (Cormac McGarvey) Naomh Mhuire; 18. T. Mac Guidhir (Thomas Maguire) Ardara; 19. G. Mac Suibhne (John Sweeney) Dungloe; 20. C. de Faoite (Conor Whyte) Killybegs; 21. S. Mac Diarmada (Joe McDermott) Glenfin.

Roghnoiri: P.J. McGowan (Sean Mac Cumhals) — Team Manager; Joe Winston (St. Eunan's).

DUN NA nGALL	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	45m	Saor-Ciceanna
1adh Leath (1st Half)					
2adh Leath (2nd Half)					
Iomlan (Total)					

KERRY BACK IN A ONCE FAMILIAR SCENE

Kerry and All-Ireland final appearances are synonymous, but they have not been frequent visitors to the scene in the under-21 football grade in recent times. A four year absence from the Munster title rankings, in fact, was only ended last month with a hard-earned win in extra time over Tipperary in a provincial final replay.

Kerry opened their campaign down South on a promising note. They were always in control against Clare at Tralee, where they won by 3-10 to 3-4. Then came an 0-13 to 1-7 win over Limerick that earned the Kingdom a place in the decider.

Tipperary, who had ended Cork's hopes of a fourth All-Ireland title in succession, threw down the gauntlet to Kerry in the Munster final at Tralee. The game was a thrilling and keenly contested affair, but Tipperary did not help their cause by shooting many wides.

At the final whistle, there was still everything to play for, with the scores tied at 0-7 each. A tight defensive screen, powered by Ken Savage and Michael Brosnan, and the accuracy of Martin Downey, who hit four points, proved the main factors in keeping the Kingdom's hopes alive.

The replay at Clonmel was another competitive game, and had to go to extra time before Kerry pipped the home team by 0-15 to 1-11. As in the first match, Tipperary wasted many good scoring chances, but even so, credit must still be given to Kerry for a wholehearted and non-stop effort.

They were rocked by a Tipperary goal from a penalty in the second half, but came back to send the game into extra time as a result of a Pearse Hoare point thirty seconds from the whistle. Kerry played well in the additional playing time. Their defence gave little way, and the forwards stepped up their scoring rate. Even so, it took a tremendous effort to thwart a gallant Tipperary team.

The Kingdom had little time to rest on the laurels of their return to the top in the South. Less than a week later they were in action against Galway at Ennis in their semi-final on Friday of last week. As in the games with Tipperary, their opponents in that tie lost good scoring chances, but for all that, it would be unfair to Kerry to say that they are not worthy finalists.

Success in any team game is all about taking scoring opportunities, and the Kingdom took their chances when they came about against Galway, as in the clashes with Tipperary.

They showed plenty of character as well. A good start that yielded four points without reply in the opening twenty minutes looked as if it would not be enough, as Galway came back to earn a single point advantage at the break 1-3 to 0-5.

However, Kerry quickly re-asserted their dominance after the resumption. Pearse Hoare had them level with a capital point, and soon afterwards a splendid movement ended with a grand goal from midfielder Michael Galway to put the Southerners back in the driving seat.

Galway played some good football after that, and with seven minutes remaining were back in the match in a big way as they trailed by just one point. Once more the Kerry men demonstrated their character as they came back strongly to book a first final outing in nine years with a 1-9 to 1-7 victory.

Ken Savage and Stephen Stack in the defence, Michael Galway and Ger Looney at midfield, and Hoare and Martin Dennehy in the attack were the outstanding campaigners for the Kingdom.

Interestingly enough in the context of this game, Kerry's first All-Ireland semi-final win was at the expense of Galway. They beat the Westerners by 3-7 to 1-5 in the inaugural championship in 1964 and went on to lift the title.

The Kingdom record in finals is very impressive. They have lost three times in nine outings in the concluding round, including a replay.

The replay was in 1967 when Kerry and Mayo each scored 2-10 in the first match. The second meeting at Ballinasloe was noteworthy for an amazing goal scoring barrage by the Mayo full forward, Willie McGee, who helped himself to four, as the Connacht side recorded a famous win.

Kerry's other setbacks were in 1972, when they lost to Galway, and in their last final outing in 1978 at Roscommon, where a great era came to an end with a point defeat from the home side. Kerry were then in line for a fourth title in succession.

This is the Kingdom's second final against Ulster opposition. Their last title win was at the expense of Down in 1977.

DRAMATIC CHANGE IN FORTUNES FOR DONEGAL

Football fortunes have changed dramatically in Donegal. There was a time when an All-Ireland final appearance by the county in any grade appeared something like an "impossible dream," yet today Donegal are engaged in their second national decider in football in six weeks.

There is also a prominent link between the team that lost the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' final to Kerry at Croke Park late in April, and the squad bidding here for Donegal's second under-21 national crown. P.J. McGowan, from Ballybofey, managed the schools' team, and he holds down the same position with the under-21 squad.

A proud double, then, for McGowan, and he will be hoping for a rich measure of compensation for the 2-13 to 3-9 defeat in the schools' decider.

This is only Donegal's second appearance in an All-Ireland under-21 football final. The first in 1982 proved a double joy day in the wind and rain at Carrick-on-Shannon, where Roscommon were beaten in a keen game by 0-8 to 0-5 before an attendance of 10,000.

The Northerners played with drive and enterprise. Left full back Matt Gallagher, centre half Tommy McDermott, midfielder Anthony Molloy, top scoring Martin McHugh — he hit five points — and Joyce McMullan, also in the attack, were the kingpins of a well oiled and smart moving team. However, every member of the side played his part in shaping a rare slice of football history.

That high point was followed by a valley period in Ulster that saw Donegal unsuccessful in their efforts to add to the 1982 win starting the current campaign. And this year's return to the top was accomplished after a long and testing road.

Fermanagh gave Donegal a real battle at Ballyshannon in the first round, and the home stars just edged home by 2-7 to 2-6. There was better to come in the next round at Bellaghy, where Derry, one of the leading powers in the grade in recent times, were beaten 3-5 to 1-7.

Next stop on the road was at Lurgan, where a deserved 1-9 to 1-6 win over Armagh put Donegal through to a provincial final clash with Monaghan at Irvinestown.

In that summit the North-West county appeared safely on the way to their fifth provincial crown as they led by three points with the game almost over. But a strong Monaghan raid ended with the only goal of the game, and so the teams had to go to a second meeting: Donegal 0-7; Monaghan 1-4.

Right from the start of the replay also at Irvinestown, Donegal left no doubt that they were not in the mood to allow the title to slip away from them again. They took the lead early on, and were never headed.

Full forward Manus Boyle and centre half forward Tommy Ryan combined in striking the vital match-winning score just 16 minutes into the game. Boyle sent up a powerful shot goalwards. The Monaghan goalkeeper partially blocked the shot, and Ryan nipped in to send the ball home. Donegal were on their way.

Right full back Paul Carr, centre half John Cunningham, his cousin Barry Cunningham at centre field, and Boyle were the stars of the 1-11 to 0-8 triumph that earned Donegal a fifth Ulster title.

The first was in 1963 before the All-Ireland championship was launched officially. They won out in Ulster again in 1964, took title No. 3 in 1966, and had to wait until 1982 for their fourth success.

Donegal and Laois renewed All-Ireland semi-final rivalry last month at Carrick-on-Shannon. Laois beat the Northerners in 1964 at Portlaoise, but Donegal had revenge in 1982 at Longford.

Last month's game was an exceptional match, one of the best seen in any code in a long time. It was brimful of top class football, and some fine individual performances.

The issue was always closely contested, with the sides level at 1-3 each at the interval. Laois levelled for the fifth time in the game at 1-6 all with just two minutes remaining, but when a replay appeared distinctly on the cards, Boyle collected his fourth point of the day and Donegal were through.

Boyle, Tommy Ryan, who sparkled both at centre half forward and later at midfield, left half forward Barry McGowan, left half back Diarmuid Keon and Paul Carr were prominent in advancing the Donegal cause.