

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL



CLUICHÍ CEANNAIS PEILE NA HÉIREANN

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Baile Átha Cliath.
28 Méan Fómhair, 2003



CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL LUACH €4.00

Ard Stiurthóir

Kian Ó Maoláin

Bank of Ireland



Football Championship

Teachtaireacht an Uachtaráin



Is iontach an ócáid í Cluiche Ceannais Peile na hÉireann. Bíonn éileamh ar thicéid níós déise gach bliain. Bíonn díomá ar mhórán duine nach féidir leo ticéad a fháil. Dá bhri sin, tá an t-ádh linn bheith anseo inniu. Fáilte uí Cheallaigh romhaibh go Páirc fhíor-ghlas fhairsing an Chrócaigh. Bainigí taitneamh as an dá chluiche agus míle buíochas as ucht bhur stacaíocht do C.L.G..

An all-Ulster Bank of Ireland All Ireland final. Who would have thought it? And what a year to have it – the centenary year of the Ulster Council. Sit back, therefore and observe the Sons of Ulster marching towards the Sam. But which county will triumph? The great All-Ireland champions from the Orchard County, or their near neighbours, the Red Hand brigade from O’Neill County?

Ard Mhaca marched triumphantly through the front door last year. Can they sweep all before them and put back-to-back titles together via the back door this year? Or will Tír Eoghain raid the Orchard and triumphantly carry off their prized silverware – the Sam Maguire Cup – for the very first time? The question is about to be answered.

The minor final too is very interesting as it is an all-Leinster clash. Can the Dubs repeat their Leinster final victory over Laois? They are two fine minor teams, as good as have been seen for a long time, and it promises to be highly entertaining. Go raibh an t-ádh libh, a fheara óga.

When today’s finals are over, work will commence on the reconstruction of the Northern/Hill 16 end of the ground. It will mean borrowings of up to 100m, but we feel it has to be done and now is the time. So when you return next year, our magnificent Páirc an Chrócaigh will be completed and all fans will be able to enjoy world standard facilities. By then too, with the blessing of An Bórd Pleanála, we’ll hopefully be well advanced with the development of a hotel across the road from Ardán Uí hÓgáin. Busy times ahead.

In October, Ireland’s best head for Australia for the International Rules. The first game in Perth is long since sold-out and we hope that all will go well and that the series will further cement the close ties between the GAA and the AFL and indeed, between Ireland and Australia. On a related topic, is the Railway Cup dead? Not by a long shot. The hurling final will be played overseas this year and we’ll shortly be announcing a three-year plan of resuscitation.

Every day I get letters from people with suggestions about referees, rules, mascots, Croke Park, games presentation, etc.. These are all very welcome and taken seriously, but with club AGM’s coming up, people should table motions for their County Conventions on topics they feel strongly about. Tell yourself that “if it is to be, it is up to me”. Ten two letter words with a powerful message. Away leat. Empower yourself.

I was in Ulster during the week. On my way I stopped in Louth to help launch a major fund-raising drive for the Wee County. They purchased a farm which they intend to turn into five playing pitches for the training of their county teams, for club and schools matches, etc.. Well done Paddy Mc Mahon and all involved. Then it was on to Newry for the launch of Sporting Vision, the brainchild of Armagh’s All Star Aidan O Rourke. Basically the idea is that you can access and purchase a photograph of any sporting occasion. Aidan, with impish humour, wished to present me with a framed picture of Seamus Darby’s goal in 1982 (five-in-a-row and all that). I reckoned there was enough depression in Kerry at the minute without reminding my visitors of other “great” occasions. So I settled for one of Daragh Ó Sé outfielding four Cork lads. Now that should cheer up most of the visitors to my sitting room. Thanks Aidan and best of luck in your brave new enterprise.

From Sporting Visions, I went to St. Patrick’s College in Maghera – the holders of the Hogan Cup. Adrian McGuckian, Dermot McNicholl and Sean Marty Lockhart are but three of their teachers. But, most interestingly, all their training and coaching is done outside of school hours on a voluntary basis and nearly all games are played on Saturdays. Like thousands more wonderful teachers, they deserve great credit for their magnificent voluntary commitment to CLG. Buíochas leo uilig.

Last weekend I found myself in Dunmanway at a function to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first presentation of the Sam Maguire Cup. The event was attended by many of those who had lifted Sam in that time and there was much reminiscing on past glories and on the men who have shaped Gaelic football in that period. Each of the surviving captains, and the families of those who have passed on, were presented with beautifully crafted crystal replica Sam Maguire cups, which were very generously sponsored by Waterford Crystal. Our thanks to them and my congratulations to our Social/Awards Committee and everyone in Dunmanway who helped to organise the event. I hope it will be the first of many such occasions.

Finally, in wishing all a great day, I would particularly like to thank all in Bank of Ireland for their committed sponsorship of this great competition. Thanks also to Toyota for supplying cars to the panels of both finalists. And to everybody from Club level up, to Cumann na mBunscol for their organisation of the mini-sevens, to the media and above all to our referees and other officials. Míle buíochas agus biodh sár-lá agaibh go léir.

Le dea-mhéin,
Seán Ó Ceallaigh, Uachtarán CLG

Cluichí Ceannais Peile na hÉireann

Mionúir 1.30.i.n.

Baile Átha Cliath v. Laois

Réiteoir: J. Geaney (Corcaigh)
Linesmen: J. White (Dún an nGall)
STAND-BY REFEREE
M. Daly (Maigh Eo)
Sideline
Official: P. Finnegan (An Lú)
Umpires: David Kelleher, Denis Healy,
Tim Ring, Mossy Cremin.

Sinsir 3.30.i.n.

Ard Mhacha v. Tír Eoghain

Réiteoir: B. White (Loch Garman)
Linesmen: P. Russell (Tiobraid Árann)
STAND-BY REFEREE
A. Mangan (Ciarraí)
Sideline
Official: E. Whelan (Laois)
Umpires: Tommy Lonergan,
Denis Lonergan,
Willie Robinson,
John Maher.

DBA

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Bank of Ireland



Football Championship

**REGULATIONS - PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH**

1. All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Regulations and to the Rules and Regulations of Páirc an Chrócaigh. Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these Rules and Regulations.
2. Fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles and other similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon, are not permitted within the ground, and any persons in possession of such an article or container may be refused entry or ejected from the ground.
3. Spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground/arena.
4. The climbing of walls, stands or other buildings in the ground is forbidden.
5. Excessive noise such as that from the use of radio sets or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language is not permitted in any part of the ground.
6. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any objects onto the pitch.
7. Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play and shall be ejected.
8. Any person who fails to comply with the instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground.
9. The stadium management reserve the right of admission.
10. The stadium management reserves the right to refuse admission to or to eject any person who refuses to be searched by a member of An Garda Síochána.
11. Any person who remains in a gangway or aisle may be ejected from the ground.
12. Páirc an Chrócaigh reserves the right for its servants or agents to remove from the stadium any person who does not comply with the Ground Regulations or whose presence on the ground could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.

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SAFETY NOTICE

In the interests of safety, patrons will not be allowed to enter the playing area after the games.

The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken to avoid further injuries and possible fatality and has been taken on the advice and promptings of the safety authorities, namely the Gardaí, Dublin City Council, Fire Brigade and the ERHA.

Supporters are sincerely thanked for their co-operation to date and are asked to continue this co-operation in the future to ensure that games can be enjoyed without recourse to fencing or avoidable obstructions to seeing the action from all vantage points. Together we can ensure that a Croke Park experience is both enjoyable and safe, particularly for the young and vulnerable.

PUBLIC TELEPHONE LOCATIONS**Cusack Stand**

- Lower Level (Level 3)
- Pay Phone at rear of Sections 309/310.

Box Level

- (Level 6)
- Call Card at elevator opposite Box 633.

ATM SERVICES

Bank of Ireland ATM facilities are available at the following locations:

CUSACK STAND

- at Concourse level
- at Premium level

HOGAN STAND

- at Premium level

MEDICAL / LOST CHILDREN**Cusack Stand Lower:**

Medical Centre rear of Section 301.

Cusack Stand Upper:

Medical Centre rear of Section 701.

Hogan Stand Lower:

Medical Centre rear of Section 329.

Hill 16:

Medical Centre rear of terrace.

The Site Medical Officer will be situated on the pitch in front of the Cusack Stand.
All Treatment Centres are staffed by St. John Ambulance Brigade members.

Lost Children - Lost Children can be collected at the above Medical Centres.

YOU'VE MADE IT TO THE FINAL...

NOW MAKE IT BACK.

Remember - a long journey can mean driver fatigue and you know the score if you fall asleep at the wheel.

So this weekend, stop at least every two hours and take a break. It will help to keep you on the ball with your driving and make it a winning weekend for road safety.

driver **reviver**





The Combined Bands of The Artane School of Music

Cluichí Ceannais Peile na hÉireann — Clár Bhannaí Cheoil Ard Aidhin

1.24i.n. Gradam Uachtarán CLG.

3.18i.n. Gradam An Uachtaráin

1.27i.n. Gradam An Taoisigh

3.23i.n. Paráid na Fóirne

2.02i.n. INTO/GAA Mini Sevens
Tribute to the Counties

3.28i.n. Amhrán na bhFiann
Sung by 'The Celtic Tenors'



HALF TIME ENTERTAINMENT

THE CELTIC TENORS



Matthew Gilsenan (An Mhí) • James Nelson (Sligeach) • Niall Morris (Áth Cliath)

2002/3 have been great years for The Celtic Tenors. EMI Classics, their international record company, took up its third option and will release a new album in late 2003. In Germany they had a number one classical hit, won the German Classical Grammy for crossover album of the year, made number two in the U.K classical chart, entered the U.S billboard chart for the first time and scored their second platinum album in Ireland. They toured Germany in December and performed for ex President Clinton on September 11th at the U.S. embassy in Malta. They also played their first U.S concert dates in Chicago accompanied by a coast-to-coast PBS special. They have just returned from a U.K tour in March with the American legend, Dionne Warwick. They have also sailed the seven seas as a star attraction on some of the world's greatest cruise liners including the QE2. They have visited Hawaii, Tahiti, Auckland, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Capri and Tenerife. They will have their own show in the U.K in October playing over 20 dates and are due to return to Germany in November for their second tour. The climax of their long Irish tour will take place with a week at the Cork Opera House in August followed by Limerick UCH, and the Gaiety Theatre Dublin. Overall they will have played in excess of 50 Irish shows in 2003 alone.

Programmes available by post

A selection of programmes is available by post from the publishers.



Write for full list to:



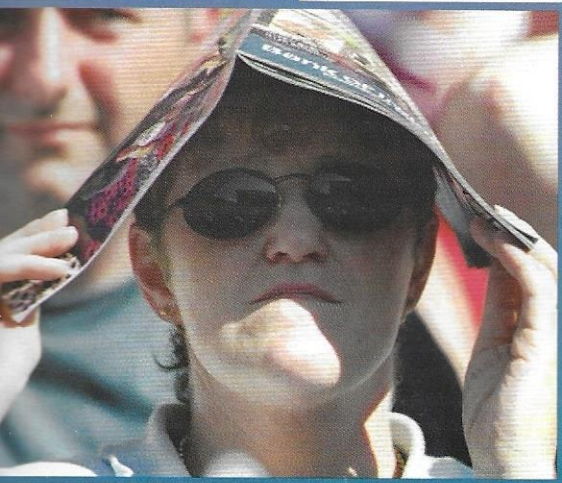
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Coimhlint Uile-Ultach

SHADY LADY!

In this summer of sunshine, another use is found for the programme!



Níl fágtha idir Ard Mhacha agus an duais is mó i saol na peile Gaelaí a bhaint don dara bhliain as a chéile ach fathaigh na Láimhe Deirge. Pé acu a bhuafaidh inniu beidh stair á dhéanamh. Seo an chéad uair riamh do dhá fhoireann Ultach aghaidh a thabhairt ar a chéile i gcluiche ceannais Uile Éireann. Chomh maith le sin, beidh Tir Eoghain, mar curaidh reatha na Sraithe Allianz, ag iarraidh an tSraith agus an Craobhchomórtas a bhuachaint sa bhliain céanna don chéad uair ag foireann Ultach.

Tá imreoirí den scoth ag an dá fhoireann agus tá súil le sár-chluiche eatarthu ar lá mór na peile. Cé nach bhfuil an craobhchomórtas sinsir buaite go dtí seo ag Tir Eoghain, tá an-taithí acu ar chraobhacha scoile, mionúir agus fé 21 a bhuachaint. Beidh Ard Mhacha mar rogha na coitiantachta ach ní chuirfidh sé seo isteach ná amach ar fhir na Láimhe Deirge. Bhí Ciarraí mar rogha na núdar nuair a chasadar ar a chéile sa chluiche leathcheannais agus, ainneoin gur chailleadar a gcaptaen agus príomh-aimsitheoir a scóranna go luath sa chluiche, bhí bua suntasach acu.

Is é Peter Canavan a laoch, gan amhras, ach níl siad ag brath chomh mór sin air is a bhíodh. Tá 1-43 aimsithe aige

go dtí seo i mbliana agus níl amhras ná go mbeidh tionchur mór aige ar chluiche an lae inniu. Is fíor go bhfuil laochra ag an bhfoireann seo ar fud na páirce. Tá Cormac McAnallen ar bharr a mhaitheasa ina ionad nua mar lán-chúlaí agus tá Seán Cavanagh agus Kevin Hughes i lár na páirce an-láidir agus aclaí.

Maidir leis na tosaithe, at 120 cúlín aimsithe acu go dtí seo sa chraobhchomórtas, rud a léiríonn go bhfuil cumas scórala agus scil acu os comhair an chúil. Chomh maith le Peter Canavan, tá Eoin Mulligan, Brian Dooher agus Brian McGuigan acu chun éacht a dhéanamh dóibh más gá.

Tar éis bua na bliana seo chaite, tá an-féin-mhuinín ag Ard Mhacha. Ní chailleann siad an misneach nuair a bhíonn siad faoi bhrú agus tá sár-imreoirí sciliúla acu i ngach líne ar fud na páirce. An bhfuil triúr níos fearr in Éireann ná Oisín McConville, Steven McDonnell agus Diarmuid Marsden? Cuirfidh an triúr seo dian-scrúdú ar líne lán-chúil Thír Eoghain um thráthnóna. I lár an ghoirt beidh sé deacair Paul McGrane a chloí agus, cad mar gheall ar a gcúlaithe cróga? Ní dócha gur chas tosaithe Thír Eoghain ar fhir inchurtha le leithéidí Kieran McGeeney, Enda McNulty ná Andrew McCann go dtí seo sa chraobhchomórtas reatha.

Ní bheidh sé éasca an craobh a bhaint d'fhir Ard Mhacha ach ní bheidh fuacht ná faitíos ar a gcéilí comhraic inniu. Tá cúlaithe den scoth ag Tir Eoghain: tá siad láidir na ghoirt freisin agus níl ceist ar bith faoi chumas scórala a dtosaithe. Má éiríonn leis na cúlaithe agus na fir lár-páirce an lámh in uachtar a fháil níl amhras ná go bhfuil ar a gcumas bua stairiúil a bheith acu. Ní bheidh mórán eatarthu ag buille na feadóige ach 'siad foireann Mickey Harte an rogha dá gcéad chraobh sinsir.

I.N.T.O. / G.A.A. Mini-Sevens



Peil (Buachaillí)

TEAM U

Ard Mhacha: Orange and White.
Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand — Canal End.

- Brendan Cassidy, Coranny P.S., Roslea, Fermanagh.
- Liam Shevlin, St. Finian's N.S., Dillonstown, Louth.
- Keith Fitzpatrick, St. Fiachra's N.S., Beaumont, Dublin.
- Robert Tasker, St. Patrick's P.S., Cullyhanna, Armagh.
- Patrick Mallon, St. Aidan's P.S., Belfast, Antrim.
- Shane Mahon, Aughnagarron N.S., Longford.
- Tomás Slevin, Killenard N.S., Laois.
- Niall Judge, Corballa N.S., Sligo.
- Niall Clifford, Ballyduff N.S., Waterford.
- Darragh Lennon, Ardkeenán N.S., Roscommon.

TEAM V

Tír Eoghain: Red and White.
Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand — Canal End.

- Joseph Melvin, St. Oliver Plunkett N.S., Ballina, Mayo.
- Ciarán Ó Mathúna, Gaelscoil Choráin, Eochail, Corcaigh.
- Shane Goff, Kilmore N.S., Wexford.
- Stephen Crowley, Mooncoin N.S., Kilkenny.
- Mark Mangan, St. Colman's N.S., Cappagh, Offaly.
- Darragh McAnenly, St. Malachy's P.S., Glencull, Tyrone.
- Eoin Hennessy, Barefield N.S., Clare.
- Aidan Murphy, Castledermot N.S., Kildare.
- John Maher, Bayside N.S., Dublin 13.
- Ross McGarry, St. Dallan's P.S., Warrenpoint, Down.

Peil (Cailíní)

TEAM W

Ard Mhacha: Orange and White.
Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand — Hill 16 End.

- Aoife Scully, Corrandulla N.S., Galway.
- Tessa Phleameann, Gaelscoil Ultan, Muineacháin.
- Aoife Dunford, Coolnasmear N.S., Waterford.
- Toni McGrath, St. Bernadette's N.S., Quarryvale, Dublin.
- Rachel Fulton, Mount St. Michael's P.S., Randalstown, Antrim.
- Katie Power, Owning N.S., Kilkenny.
- Claire McCann, Scoil Phódraig Naofa, Kilcurry, Louth.
- Leanne Barrett, Our Lady of Mercy N.S., Cahir, Tipperary.
- Aedin Murray, St. Paul's N.S., Navan, Meath.
- Nicole Donoghue, Scoil Bhríde, Clonastee, Laois.

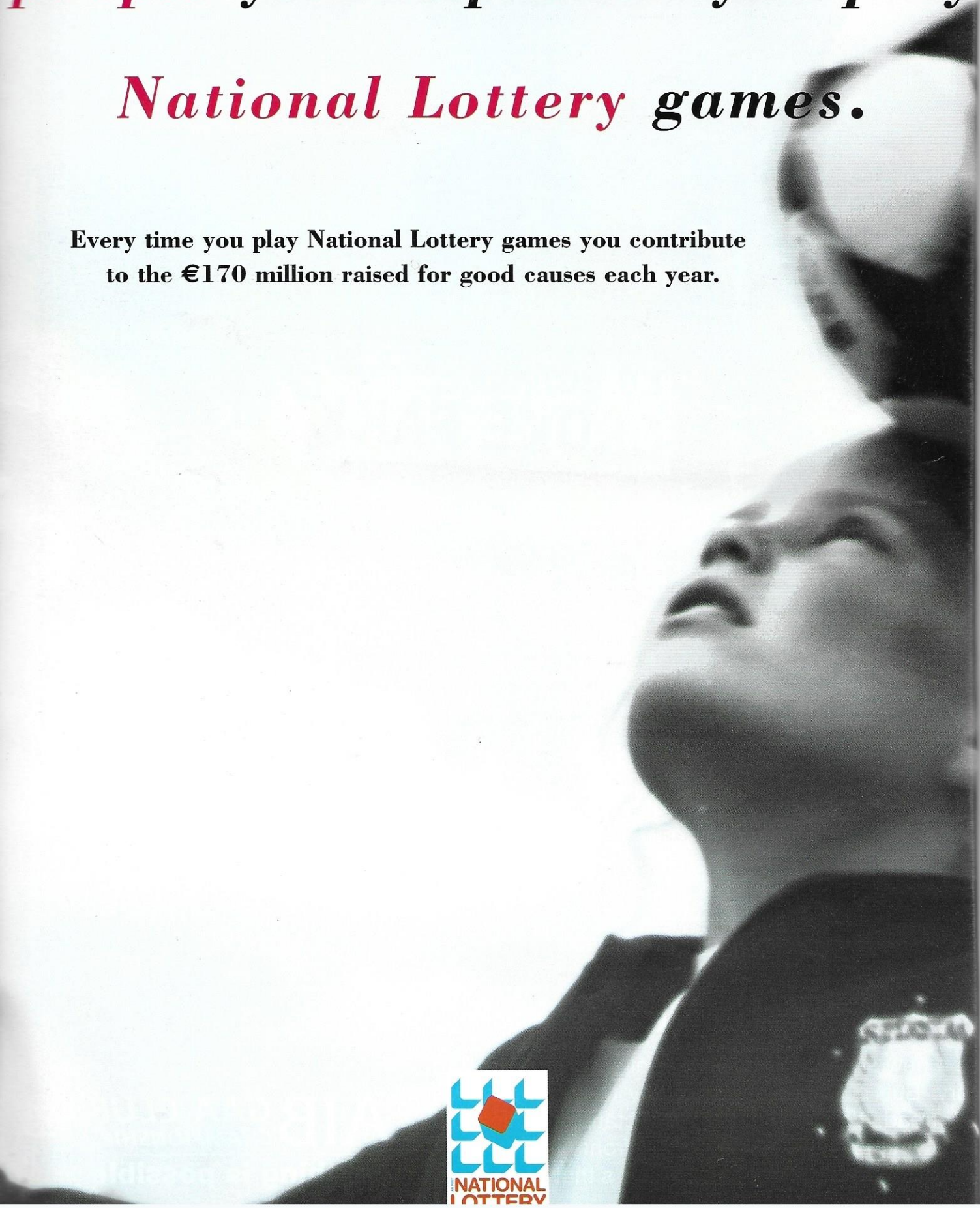
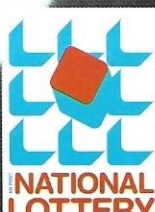
TEAM X

Tír Eoghain: Red and White.
Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand — Hill 16 End.

- Róisín McCafferty, Scoil Cholmcille, Termon, Donegal.
- Clíodhna McHugh, Curraghboy N.S., Roscommon.
- Niamh Foley, Scoil Mhuire, Sandymount, Dublin.
- Georgina Fagan, Tubberdair N.S., Westmeath.
- Mary Cunningham, Scoil Mhuire, Swanlinbar, Cavan.
- Mariah Butler, Corrandulla N.S., Galway.
- Danielle Maguire, St. Naile's P.S., Kinawley, Fermanagh.
- Michelle Ní Riordáin, Scoil Abán Naofa, Corcaigh.
- Aoife Fitzpatrick, Kilmore N.S., Wexford.
- Stephanie Byrne, St. Paul's N.S., Navan, Meath.

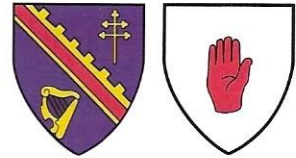
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History in the making in more ways than one



History could be made on the double in the Sam Maguire Cup tie. Not only is this the first final between counties from the one province but a Tyrone victory would mean a new name on the All-Ireland senior football championship Roll of Honour.

ULSTER'S FIFTH

- Armagh became the fifth Ulster county to win the title when Kieran McGeeney led them to victory over Kerry in last year's final.

EXCESSIVE DOUBLE

- A successful defence of the title by Armagh would earn McGeeney the distinction of being the first to be presented twice with the new Sam Maguire Cup. Only six men were presented twice with the old Sam Maguire Cup—Joe Barrett (Kerry), 1929 and 1932, Jimmy Murray (Roscommon), 1943 and 1944, John Joe O'Reilly (Cavan), 1947 and 1948, Sean Flanagan (Mayo), 1950 and 1951, Enda Colleran (Galway), 1965 and 1966, and Tony Hanahoe (Dublin), 1976 and 1977.

TITLE DEFENCE

- The last year a county made a successful defence of the All-Ireland senior title was in 1990, when Cork beat Mayo.
- No Ulster county has retained the title since Down followed up their first-ever final win in 1960 over Kerry by beating Offaly a year later before the largest attendance at a sporting fixture in this country—90,556.

RARE DOUBLE

- Tyrone are in line to record a rare double by an Ulster county. They retained the Allianz League title in May and the last year that the League and All-Ireland double was completed by an Ulster county was in 1968 when Down recorded that double for the second time.

TOP SCORERS

- Joe Kernan, now the Armagh manager, was the county's top scorer with 2-1 for in their unsuccessful meeting with Dublin in an all-ticket final in 1977, which attracted an attendance of 66,542.
- Peter Canavan scored 0-11, all but a point of his team's total, in their unsuccessful final outing against Dublin in 1995. Ten of his points were from frees. The Ulster team also included Chris Lawn, who was at full back. Gerard Cavlan was in the official substitutes panel (No. 21), but did not make an appearance during the game.

FULL HOUSE

- The attendance at last year's final was 79,500. The all-time record is 90,556 for the 1961 Final between Down and Offaly which, of course, can not now be beaten.

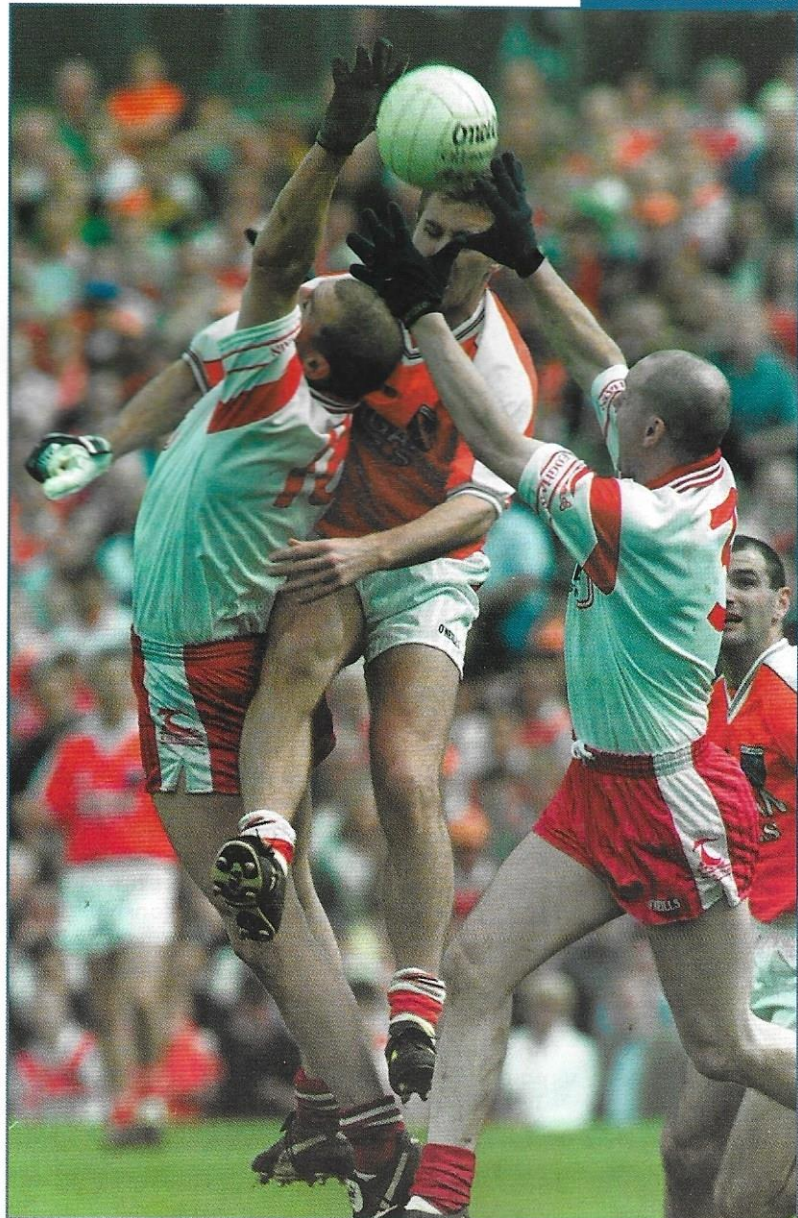
FIRST AND LAST MEETINGS

- Armagh and Tyrone rivalry goes back to the early days of the Ulster senior championship. For instance, they met in the second Ulster senior final, that of 1890 when Armagh won by 2-8 to 1-2.
- Armagh and Tyrone last met in senior championship fare in an Ulster quarter-final replay last year at Clones. The sides were level seven minutes from the end. Then a goal by substitute Barry Duffy clinched a 2-13 to 0-16 win for Armagh.

LAST DRAWN FINAL

- The last drawn All-Ireland final was in 2000 when a point in the 66th minute by Pdraig Joyce brought Galway level with Kerry and sent the game to a replay. Final score 0-14 each.

Tony McEntee (Ard Mhacha) in action against Sean Teague, left, and Chris Lawn (Tír Eoghain) in the 2002 Ulster Senior Football Championship at St. Tiernach's Park, Clones.





Roll of Honour

All-Ireland Senior Football Championship

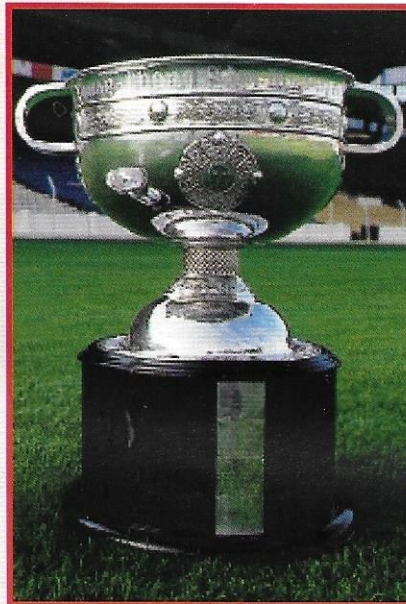
32: Kerry:	1903, 1904, 1909, 1913, 1914, 1924, 1926, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1937, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1946, 1953, 1955, 1959, 1962, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1997, 2000.
22: Dublin:	1891, 1892, 1894, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1942, 1958, 1963, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1983, 1995.
9: Galway:	1925, 1934, 1938, 1956, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1998, 2001.
7: Meath:	1949, 1954, 1967, 1987, 1988, 1996, 1999.
6: Cork:	1890, 1911, 1945, 1973, 1989, 1990.
5: Down:	1960, 1961, 1968, 1991, 1994.
Cavan:	1933, 1935, 1947, 1948, 1952.
Wexford:	1893, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918.
4: Kildare:	1905, 1919, 1927, 1928.
Tipperary:	1889, 1895, 1900, 1920.
3: Louth:	1910, 1912, 1957.
Mayo:	1936, 1950, 1951.
Offaly:	1971, 1972, 1982.
2: Limerick:	1887, 1896.
Roscommon:	1943, 1944.
1: Derry:	1993.
Donegal:	1992.
Armagh:	2002.

The Sam Maguire Cup

The Sam Maguire Cup is named in honour of the late Sam Maguire who gave outstanding service to Cumann Luthchleas Gael in Britain being the mainstay of the GAA in London for the first twenty years of its existence.

Born in Mallabraga, County Cork in 1879, he came to London in 1899 and took a huge interest in the infant GAA scene here. Sam found a job in the Post Office and played for the Hibernian football club, captaining them to four consecutive London Championships (1901-1904).

Sam was to the fore as the London County panel contested four All-Ireland finals in a row from 1900 to 1903, although the exiles were unsuccessful in all four games, losing to Dublin (twice), Tipperary and Kerry. However, his sheer leadership qualities and amazing determination for the success of London GAA earned him the respect of every player in London. In 1907 he was elected chairman of the London County Board.



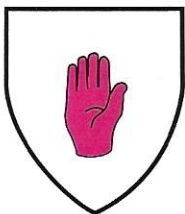
While in the Gaelic League in London, Sam joined up with the I.R.B. and it was he who recruited Michael Collins into the movement in 1909. Maguire's contribution to the London GAA scene ended in 1923 when he returned to Ireland. He passed away on the 6th Feb, 1927 at the young age of 47. The Sam Maguire Cup was first presented to the All Ireland champions in 1928 after Kildare defeated Cavan in the All Ireland final.

The new Sam Maguire Cup was first presented in 1988 to Meath's Joe Cassells, who captained his county to victory over Cork in a replay.

Since then the Cup has been presented to Dinny Allen (Cork) in 1989, Larry Tompkins (Cork) in 1990, Paddy O'Rourke (Down) in 1991, Anthony Molloy (Donegal) in 1992, Henry Downey (Derry) in 1993, D.J. Kane (Down) in 1994, John O'Leary (Dublin) in 1995, Tommy Dowd (Meath) in 1996, Liam Hassett (Kerry) in 1997, Ray Silke (Galway)

in 1998, Graham Geraghty (Meath) in 1999, Seamus Moynihán (Kerry) in 2000 and Pdraig Joyce (Galway) in 2001 and Kieran McGeeney (Armagh) last year.

Tyrone and the Champions



Throwing down the gauntlet to the All-Ireland champions may not be a role familiar to Tyrone teams over the years, for obvious reasons; but at somewhat irregular intervals since the 1930s they confronted the holders without success. Yet at the first attempt they almost succeeded. Cavan brought the Sam Maguire Cup to Ulster for the first time in 1933 and in the following year's championship, the luck of the draw pitted Tyrone against the holders. There couldn't have been much hope of causing an upset among Tyrone players or followers as, in the 1933 Ulster final – Tyrone's first since 1890 – Cavan had won by a massive 26 points! But against all the odds and predictions, Tyrone almost brought off a sensational victory as they ran Cavan to a point (2-4 to 2-5).

Tyrone never again got as close to dethroning the

champions and, indeed, their next venture in this field saw them lose to Cavan in the 1949 first-round tie by a margin of 21 points (1-7 to 7-10). The roles and the result were the same in 1953 when Cavan won by 2-10 to 2-4.

Inevitably, it was Down who provided the next challenge with Tyrone showing up well before going down by six points (1-6 to 1-12) in the 1962 provincial semi-final. Twenty-two years were to pass before Tyrone's next tilt at the holders – the result, however, was the same as Dublin won the 1984 semi-final by 2-11 to 0-8. Tyrone's sixth, and last to date, clash with the champions was in 1986 when Kerry were pushed into seven-point arrears before a fatal lapse saw the prize of a first All-Ireland title fade to a 1-10 to 2-15 defeat.

Six attempts – six defeats; Tyrone have much to prove today.

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Lovely People

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Tourism Officer: Honor Deevy

Director of Services/Economic Development: Louis Brennan

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All of us in Comhairle Chontae Laoise wish Craig and his Team every success in the All Ireland Minor Football Final Today.

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5. _____

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Phone: _____

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Today's Top
Counties
look to

LAOIS



Monaghan knocked Armagh out of the Ulster Championship

Antrim and Waterford fell in the early rounds of the Qualifiers

A storming second half saw off Dublin

Laois fell at the quarter-final stage

Armagh put four goals past Limerick

In the semi-final, two second half goals ended Donegal's challenge



The Road to

Antrim fell in the Ulster semi-final

It took a replay to see off Derry in the Ulster Championship

Fermanagh were comprehensively outplayed in the quarter-final

The Ulster Final with Down also needed a replay

Tyrone reached the final with victory over the Kingdom

to the Final





A MINOR BEGINNING

Seventy-five years ago the minor championships were launched, let it be said, without fanfare, and while Munster and Leinster competed in hurling, only Leinster displayed sufficient interest in the new grade to actually organise a championship that wasn't long in progress before the problems that were to bedevil the grade in the early years – illegal teams.

Still, at the outset nine counties affiliated and the first game was played at Portlaoise on May 13th with Laois taking on Offaly. It was anything but a happy introduction to the new competition for the home side as the visitors cruised to an 18-point victory (6-6 to 1-3). It would be a long time before Laois would suffer such a heavy reverse at this level of football.

Dublin made their debut a fortnight later at Croke Park where they had a goal to spare (2-4 to 1-4) over Kildare. The problem of the age-limit – or rather the observing of same – surfaced after the third game when Wexford, who had lost to Carlow by 0-4 to 2-9 at

Muinebeag, lodged an objection, which was upheld and the result on the field reversed.

Westmeath beat Longford at Mullingar by 3-4 to 2-4 and Louth disposed of Meath with ease at Drogheda (3-6 to 1-4). More than three months after they had helped to launch the new competition, Offaly, in a remarkably low-scoring game, ousted Westmeath by 1-1 to 0-1 at Tullamore.

But from here on confusion reigned. Dublin travelled to Enniscorthy and beat Wexford by 3-4 to 1-9. Wexford promptly lodged an objection to the composition of the Dublin team, but before hearing the Wexford case the Leinster Council went ahead with the Dublin-Louth semi-final, which Dublin won by 5-6 to 3-4. However, when Wexford's objection was heard, it was upheld. But the Offaly-Wexford final never took place, and it is now into November and it seemed no one was particularly interested.

The minor championship was off to a less than encouraging start.

2003 MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARD

LAIGHIN

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

29th March at Nowlan Park:

Carlow 4-15; Kilkenny 0-11

29th March at Ballymahon:

Longford 3-16; Wicklow 0-11

12th April at Drogheda:

Louth 0-12; Longford 0-9

12th April at Aughrim:

Wicklow 5-9; Kilkenny 3-6

19th April at Nowlan Park:

Louth 5-18; Kilkenny 0-3

19th April at Dr Cullen Park:

Carlow 1-11; Wicklow 1-8

29th April at Ardee:

Louth 2-12; Carlow 0-1

3rd May at Aughrim:

Louth 3-12; Wicklow 1-8

7th May at Dr Cullen Park:

Longford 2-13; Carlow 2-9

QUARTER/FINALS

17th May at Ardee:

Louth 4-7; Offaly 0-12

17th May at Wexford Park:

Kildare 1-14; Wexford 2-2

17th May at An Uaimh:

Dublin 0-14; Meath 2-4

17th May at Mullingar:

Laois 3-10; Westmeath 0-4

SEMI/FINALS

2nd July at Tullamore:

Laois 1-14; Kildare 1-4

2nd July at An Uaimh:

Dublin 0-11; Louth 1-8

9th July at An Uaimh (replay):

Dublin 1-12; Louth 1-7

FINAL

20th July at Croke Park:

Dublin 1-11; Laois 1-9

ULADH

1st Round

11th May at Clones:

Armagh 0-13; Monaghan 1-9

QUARTER/FINALS

18th May at Clones:

Tyrone 2-9; Derry 2-9

25th May at Casement Park:

Cavan 0-11; Antrim 1-7

28th May at Casement Park (replay):

Tyrone 2-7; Derry 0-12

1st June at Enniskillen:

Fermanagh 1-4; Donegal 0-7

8th June at Ballybofey (replay):

Fermanagh 1-10; Donegal 0-11

8th June at Casement Park:

Down 2-14; Armagh 0-6

SEMI/FINALS

22nd June at Clones:

Fermanagh 2-3; Down 0-8

29th June at Enniskillen:

Tyrone 2-8; Cavan 1-11

2nd July at Enniskillen (replay):

Tyrone 1-9; Cavan 0-9

FINAL

13th July at Clones:

Tyrone 3-9; Fermanagh 0-9

MUMHA

Round Robin

1st March at Ennis:

Clare 0-11; Limerick 0-4

1st March at Dungarvan:

Cork 3-14; Waterford 2-2

1st March at Kilmallock:

Kerry 2-13; Tipperary 1-7

8th March at Ballyagran:

Tipperary 2-9; Cork 1-9

8th March at Killarney:

Kerry 3-10; Limerick 2-5

8th March at Ennis:

Clare 0-8; Waterford 1-5

15th March at Fermoy:

Tipperary 2-6; Limerick 2-5

15th March at Cappoquin:

Kerry 0-21; Waterford 1-9

15th March at Buttevant:

Cork 1-18; Clare 0-7

29th March at Claughan:

Clare 4-9; Tipperary 1-10

29th March at Cappamore:

Limerick 0-16; Waterford 1-7

29th March at Páirc Uí Chaoimh:

Cork 2-12; Kerry 1-11

16th April at Newcastlewest:

Cork 1-12; Limerick 1-10

16th April at Fermoy:

Tipperary 2-15; Waterford 1-3

16th April at Ballylongford:

Kerry 0-9; Clare 1-4

SEMI/FINALS

3rd July at Tralee:

Kerry 1-10; Clare 0-4

3rd July at Kilmallock:

Cork 2-18; Tipperary 0-8

FINAL

13th July at Killarney:

Kerry 1-14; Cork 0-10

CONNACHT

QUARTER/FINAL

3rd May at Dr. Hyde Park:

Galway 3-11; Roscommon 1-2

SEMI/FINALS

17th May at Markievicz Park:

Mayo 1-11; Sligo 1-10

18th May at Galway:

Galway 2-7; Leitrim 1-9

FINAL

6th July at Galway:

Galway 1-9; Mayo 0-9

ALL-IRELAND

QUARTER/FINALS

2nd August at Ennis:

Cork 2-11; Galway 2-10

Kerry 2-10; Mayo 1-8

2nd August at Longford:

Laois 0-15; Tyrone 1-8

Dublin 0-15; Fermanagh 0-5

SEMI/FINALS

24th August at Croke Park:

Laois 2-15; Kerry 2-10

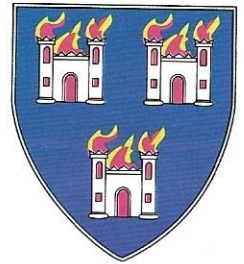
31st August at Croke Park:

Dublin 1-18; Cork 1-9





Dublin bid to end long wait with repeat win



Although Dublin beat Laois in the Leinster minor football final in July, they will still appreciate that they cannot take anything for granted in this bid to bring the All-Ireland title to the capital for the first time since, surprisingly, as far back as 1984.

Laois have made the type of come-back from the Leinster final defeat that indicates they will make a bold bid to go one better in this game.

However, Dublin have also been moving very well in the meantime. They proved far too good for Ulster title runners-up Fermanagh in an All-Ireland quarter-final at Longford and gave a very workmanlike performance when seeing off Cork in the semi-final at Croke Park.

The sharpshooting of Kevin Leahy proved a key factor in shaping that 1-18 to 1-9 win. He scored some splendid long-range points from frees and was also on the target from play when compiling a tally of 0-7.

Dublin also displayed a real will to win in that semi-final. They looked to be assured of a final ticket when they led by 0-10 to 1-4 at the interval. However, Cork played their best football of the game in the early stages of the second half to take one point lead after seven minutes and

present the Dubs with a real test of character.

The Leinster champions responded to the challenge in fine style. A point by Leahy boosted their prospects and they followed on with a golden nine minutes spell that yielded 1-6 without reply to effectively clinch victory.

The goal was scored Aidan Relihan after fifty minutes and gave the Leinster champions a comfortable cushion of six points.

Dublin displayed flair, all round ability and sharpness up front.

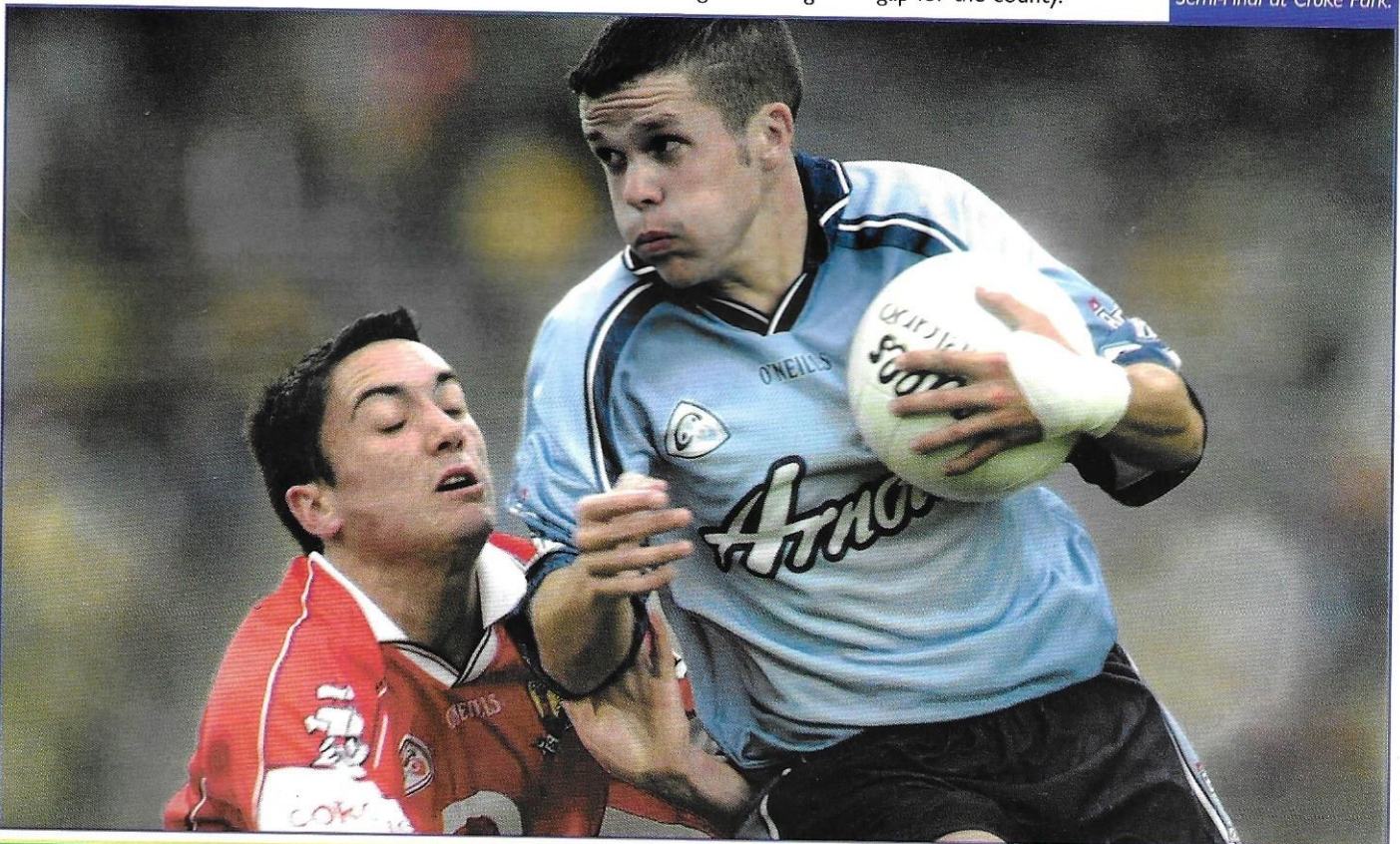
While Leahy made his mark on the success in a big way others also contributed richly to the success. Relihan and John O'Hara also provided plenty of problems for the Cork defence.

The defence, with Kian Cleere, Donnacha Reilly and Gerard Brennan to the fore, made the Munster attack work really hard for scores, while midfielders Brendan Phelan John Coughlan showed up well.

Teamwork is another strong point and that win over Laois earlier on will also help the side to settle down and produce their best form from the throw-in.

So, the Metropolitan have a lot in their favour as they bid to bridge that long titles gap for the county.

Aidan Relihan (Baile Átha Cliath) in action against Kevin Hartnell (Corcaigh) in the 2003 All-Ireland Minor Football Championship Semi-Final at Croke Park.



EQUALLING THE KINGDOM

A Dublin win in today's minor final will bring them level with Kerry at the top of the winners' list with eleven titles, one ahead of Cork who are currently tied second with the Metropolitan. Dublin may have been the first of the trio to win an All-Ireland title (1930), but when Kerry came through for the first time in 1931, they immediately set the pace and for the next 20 years Dublin trailed in their wake. By the end of the fifties, however, Dublin had moved in front having won five titles between 1954 and '59. Kerry took it up again in 1962, drew level with Dublin a year later (seven titles each), and the counties were still neck-and-neck at the end of the seventies. Kerry in '80 and Dublin in '82 maintained the balance before Dublin won their tenth title in '84. However, Kerry successes in '88 and '94 established the present (11-10) position as Dublin have now gone 19 years without a title. Much to play for today.



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Laois come back in style for revenge bid



No team needs an incentive for victory in an All-Ireland final in any grade but Laois minor footballers have an extra spur as the game affords them an early opportunity for revenge over Dublin for their defeat when the counties met in the Leinster final in July at Croke Park

Laois have made a splendid come-back from that set-back and go into this game buoyed up by two good winning performances.

The O'Moore County boys took a long time to settle down against the Dubs but proved their character with a spirited rally in the second half. They played with poise and authority and a goal on full time by Colm Kelly (St. Joseph's) left them just two points in arrears.

Three minutes of injury time remained and substitute Michael Tierney boosted hopes with a point. But Dublin had the final say when a point by Kevin Leahy ensured a 1-11 to 1-9 win.

Laois bounced back well from that set-back by beating a fancied Tyrone side in an exciting quarter-final at Longford.

After a slow start they rallied well to lead at the interval by four points. They went six points clear in the second half and had to battle a strong rearguard action before finishing good winners by 0-15 to 1-8.

Laois maintained their rate of improvement against Kerry in the semi-final. They played against the wind in the first half and were well placed when they turned over at the break just four points adrift. They were helped to that position by two great saves by goalkeeper Conor Gorman.

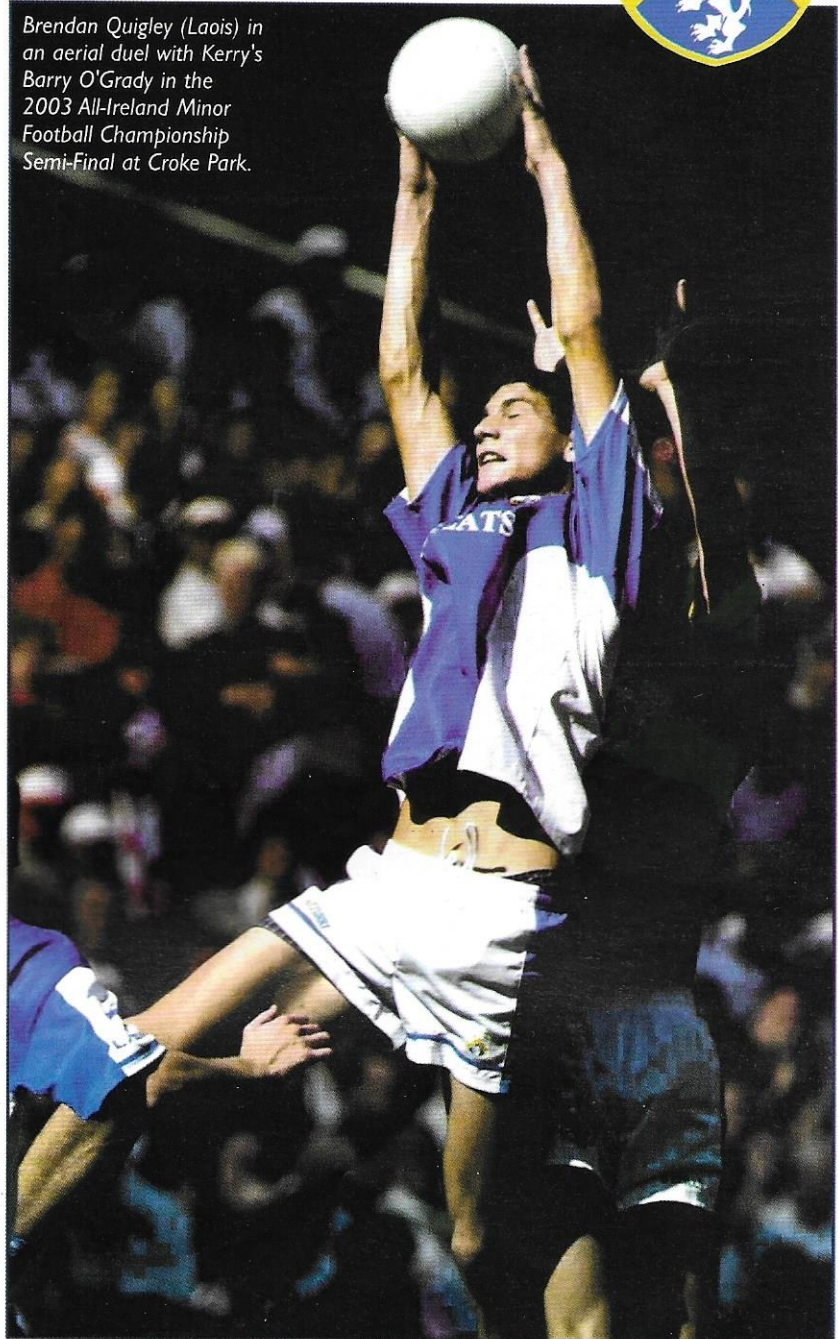
The O'Moore County had the better of the second half exchanges. They conceded just two points in the half and a goal by Colm Kelly (St. Joseph's) after forty-five minutes had them on level terms at 2-10 each. Laois continued to play confidently after that and finished deserving winners by 2-15 to 2-10.

Kelly, of St. Joseph's, who is brother of senior stars Tom and Stephen, played a big part in the success. Apart from his equalising second half goal, he did well in general play. Chris Bergin, who finished top scorer for both teams with 1-5, was another star of the Laois attack.

Brendan Quigley and Craig Rogers showed up well in the middle of the park. The defence, with Gorman in goal and also cleverly marshaled by Colm Begley, Cahir Healy and Cathal Ryan, will give little away easily.

A comeback of quality that indicates that Laois have a lot to recommend them as they bid to go one better than in the Leinster final.

Brendan Quigley (Laois) in an aerial duel with Kerry's Barry O'Grady in the 2003 All-Ireland Minor Football Championship Semi-Final at Croke Park.



UNIQUE MINOR FOOTBALL FINAL

The All-Ireland minor football final, like the senior decider, is the first involving two teams from the one province.

Dublin and Laois met in the Leinster final at Croke Park in July when the Metropolitans survived a late rally to regain the title after an interval of two years.

Just on full time Laois left full forward Colm Kelly goaled to leave his side two points adrift. Three minutes additional time were played and substitute Michael Tierney pointed from a free for Laois, but Dublin held out for a 1-11 to 1-9 win.

The title is now assured of returning to Leinster for the first time since, surprisingly, 1997 when Laois made a successful defence of the title to record only their second championship success. The O'Moore County's bid for a third title was ended in the final by Tyrone.

Dublin played a draw with Tyrone at Croke Park in their last outing in the concluding round in 2001. The O'Neill County, with current senior Sean Cavanagh on the target with two points, won the replay by 2-11 to 0-6 at Cavan.

Dublin have not won the title since as far back as the Centenary Year of 1984. That team was captained by Paul Clarke at midfield and his partner in the centre was Jim Stynes, who went on to carve out a big reputation in Australian Rules football. Dublin beat Tipperary for a tenth title since 1930.

Despite that long absence from the rankings, victory today would still bring them level in the Roll of Honour with Kerry.

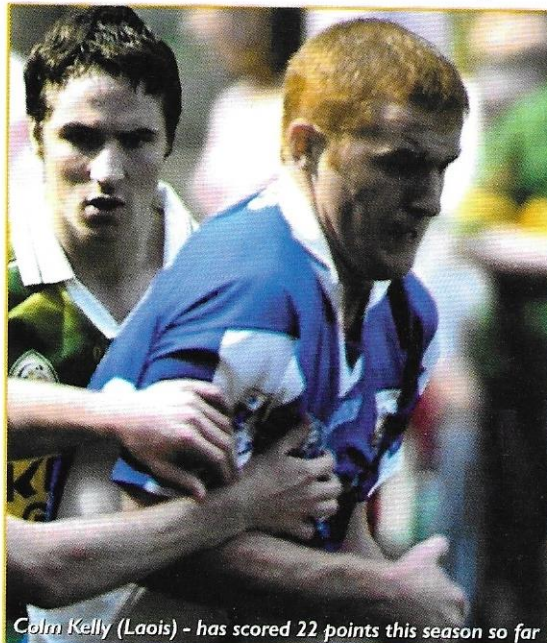


• T O P S C O R E R S •

With Dublin having no player in the top ten and Laois's Colm Kelly just scraping in at the bottom of the chart, Louth's Shane Lennon is certain to be the top scorer in this year's minor championship. Colin Weste of Cork (tenth last year) improves to the runners-up position this year while Dan Doona (9th to 4th) and Sean O'Meara (10th to 6th) are the only others to reappear from last year's top ten.

THE TOP TEN MARKSMEN IN THE MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP TO DATE ARE:

1	Shane Lennon (Louth)	6-42 (60)
2	Colin Weste (Cork)	4-36 (48)
3	Damian McDermott (Tyrone)	6-24 (42)
4	Dan Doona (Kerry)	2-25 (31)
5	B Mulvihill (Tipperary)	2-22 (28)
6	Ger Ahern (Limerick)	2-19 (25)
	Brian Sheehan (Kerry)	3-16 (25)
	Sean O'Meara (Clare)	3-16 (25)
9	Shane Hogan (Galway)	4-12 (24)
10	Colm Kelly (Laois)	2-16 (22)



Colm Kelly (Laois) - has scored 22 points this season so far

AN RÉITEOIR



John Geaney (Corcaigh)

John is the first Cork man to take charge of an All-Ireland minor football final since Jimmy Denny in 1978.

He has been refereeing locally since 1995 and joined the intercounty ranks only three years ago.

However, he is no stranger to All-Ireland championship duty as he had charge last year of the minor games between Meath and Galway in a quarter-final and the Derry-Longford semi-final.

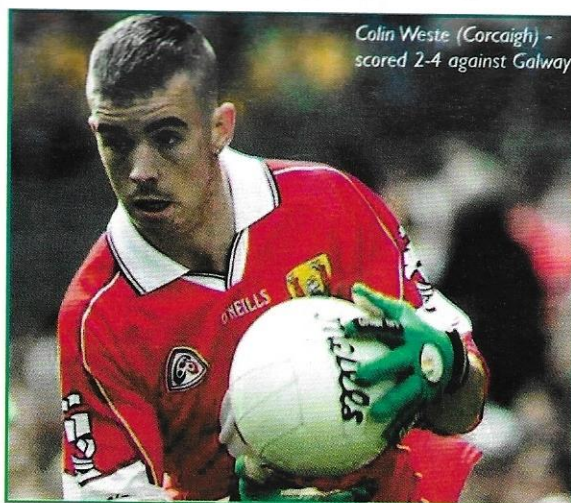
Geaney is a former player and won a Cork county junior football medal as a defender with his club, Kilshannig.

He was on duty earlier this year in the Allianz League and the All-Ireland Qualifier.

• I N D I V I D U A L F E A T S •

Shane Lennon looks set to do the overall/individual double as the Louth ace leads the individual feats chart with his 2-7 return against Kilkenny in the preliminary competition in Leinster. Five returns, two of which were from Lennon himself, along with McDermott, Curran and Mulvihill came within a point of that total. Niall McAuliffe of Dublin in 2001 was the last minor to take the overall and individual titles. Seventeen returns (just six last year) of nine points or better were recorded in the current campaign and they are:

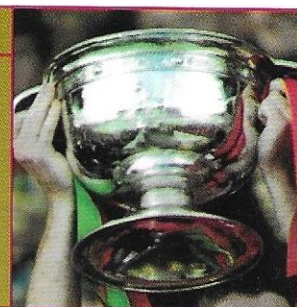
Shane Lennon (Louth)	2-7
v Kilkenny, 19th April at Nowlan Park	
Damian McDermott (Tyrone)	2-6
v Derry, 28th May at Casement Park	
Shane Lennon (Louth)	2-6
v Offaly, 17th May at Ardee	
Shane Lennon (Louth)	2-6
v Wicklow, 3rd May at Aughrim	
A Curran (Carlow)	2-6
v Kilkenny, 29th March at Nowlan Park	
B Mulvihill (Tipperary)	2-6
v Cork, 8th March at Ballyagran	
Brian Sheehan (Kerry)	2-5
v Mayo, 2nd August at Ennis	
Steve Sands (Down)	0-10
v Armagh, 8th June at Casement Park	
Colin Weste (Cork)	2-4
v Galway, 2nd August at Ennis	
Damian McDermott (Tyrone)	2-4
v Fermanagh, 13th July at Clones	
Sean O'Meara (Clare)	2-4
v Tipperary, 29th March at Claughan	
Colin Weste (Cork)	0-9
v Clare, 15th March at Buttevant	
Damian McDermott (Tyrone)	1-6
v Derry, 18th May at Clones	
Shane Hogan (Galway)	1-6
v Roscommon, 3rd May at Dr Hyde Park	
Ian Barnes (Tipperary)	1-6
v Waterford, 16th April at Fermoy	
Shane Hogan (Galway)	2-3
v Leitrim, 18th May at Galway	
Ger Ahern (Limerick)	2-3
v Tipperary, 15th March at Fermoy	



Colin Weste (Corcaigh) - scored 2-4 against Galway

MINOR TROPHY

The winners of the All-Ireland minor football championship receive the Tom Markham Cup, which commemorates a Dublin Gael, Tom Markham. The trophy was first presented for the 1940 final, when Louth were the first winners.



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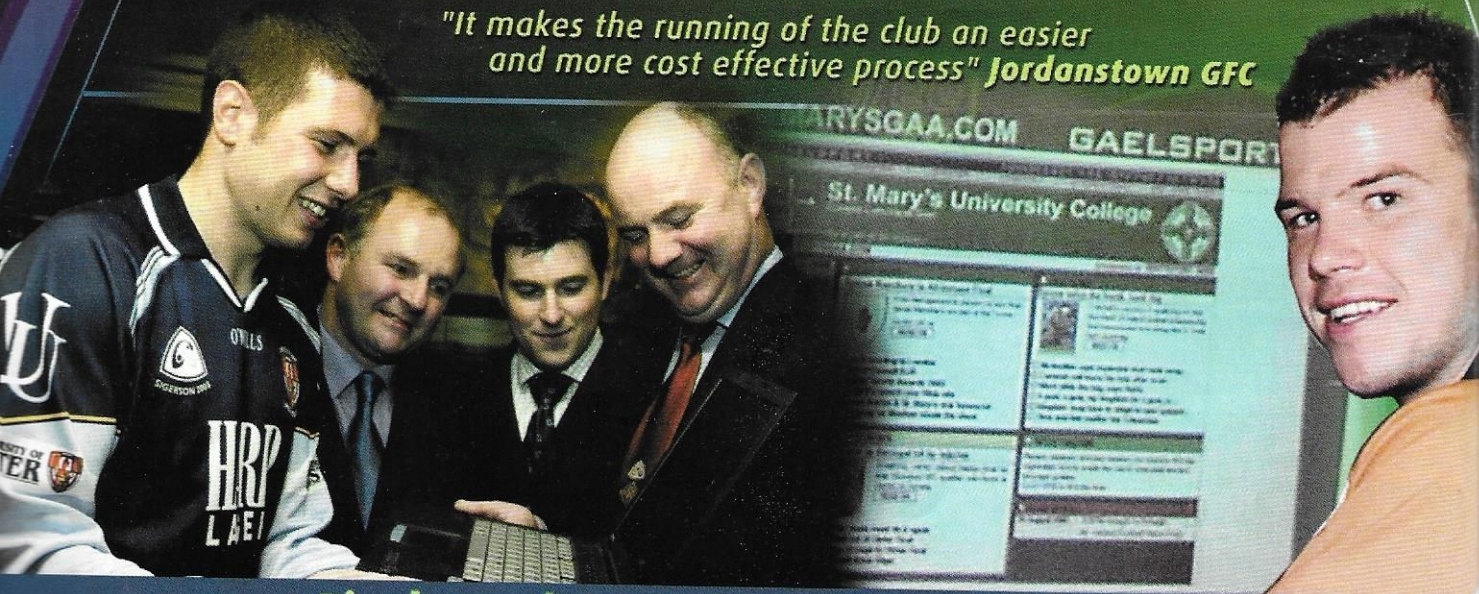
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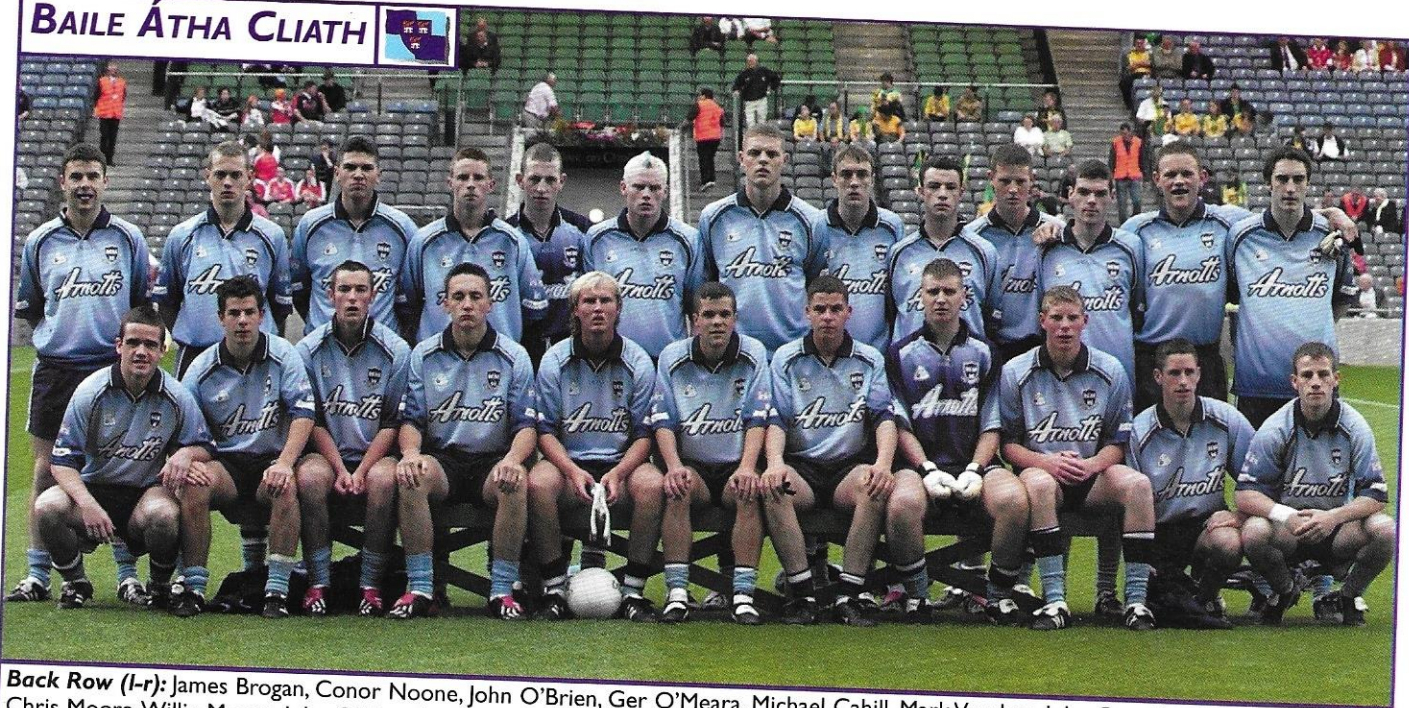
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BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH



Back Row (l-r): James Brogan, Conor Noone, John O'Brien, Ger O'Meara, Michael Cahill, Mark Vaughan, John Coughlan, Willie Lowry, Chris Moore, Willie Moore, John O'Hara, Brendan Phelan, Danny O'Reilly.
Front Row (l-r): Ger Brennan, Daragh Walsh, Barry Kennedy, Kevin Leahy, Cian Cleere, Aidan Relihan, Aidan Downes, Kieran Walsh, Donncha Reilly, Ciarán Murtagh, Ian Ward.

HOW THEY REACHED THE MINOR FINAL

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

17th May at An Uaimh:
 Dublin 0-14; Meath 2-4.
2nd July at An Uaimh:
 Dublin 0-11; Louth 1-8.
9th July at An Uaimh:
 Dublin 1-12; Louth 1-7.
20th July at Croke Park:
 Dublin 1-11; Laois 1-9.
2nd August at Longford:
 Dublin 0-15; Fermanagh 0-5.
31st August at Croke Park:
 Dublin 1-18; Cork 1-9.

TOTAL SCORED: 3-81 (90 points).

TOTAL CONCEDED: 6-42 (60 points).

AVERAGE: 1.5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score/Total
Aidan Relihan	0-3	0-1	0-3	0-2	0-3	1-4	1-16 (19)
John O'Hara	0-3	0-3	0-2	1-1	0-2	0-2	1-13 (16)
Mark Vaughan	0-3	0-2	1-2	0-2	0-3	—	1-12 (15)
Kevin Leahy	—	—	—	0-3	0-3	0-7	0-13
Barry Kennedy	0-1	0-2	0-1	0-2	0-2	0-1	0-9
Francis Fitzgerald	0-2	0-1	0-2	—	—	—	0-5
John O'Brien	—	—	0-1	0-1	0-1	—	0-3
Conor Noone	0-2	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-3
Ian Ward	—	0-1	—	—	0-1	—	0-2
Donnacha Reilly	—	—	0-1	—	—	0-1	0-2
Brendan Phelan	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1
Gerard O'Meara	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1
John Coughlan	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1

DUBLIN AND LAOIS... THE FIRST MEETING

1933: Dublin 3-7 Laois 0-6

Laois were defending Leinster champions and could call on eight of the previous year's victorious team but, as so often happens in under-age competition, all the newcomers didn't measure up to the required standard, though none of them could be found wanting in the matter of spirit and enthusiasm. Considerable qualities, but not sufficient to offset Dublin's power in every sector, which became more obvious as the hour went on.

But while they enjoyed the advantage of a wind that blew directly into the Railway end, Laois did the pace-making. However, their failure to raise a flag until the 12th minute meant that Dublin's second-half surge did not have to travel as far to make up the leeway. None the less, during their period of ascendancy Laois did

put over some good scores following Joe Meehan's opener. The same player added another before Dublin had their only score of the half from corner-forward Moore. Laois might have had a goal, or even two, in the second quarter, but faulty finishing and a tenacious Dublin defence meant that only the white flag was raised.

An interval lead of 0-6 to 0-1 hardly represented the balance of the first-half exchanges and three Dublin points – Boland (two) and Cahill – preceded the goal by Galvin, which sent Dublin on their way. But even after Maher had pushed Dublin four points in front, Laois battled away, but it was a losing battle and when Meehan's shot for a goal was pushed away by the Dublin 'keeper, it was all over. The ten-point margin may have flattered the winners, but the laurels of this first Dublin-Laois clash rested where they rightly belonged.

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LAOIS



Back Row (l-r): Eoin Culleton, Brian Mortimer, Colm Kelly (St. Joseph's), Ian Fleming, Colm Begley, Barry Fitzgerald, Enda Butler, David Murphy, Mark Timmons, Cathal Ryan, Peter McNulty, Daniel O'Shea, Brendan Quigley.

Front Row (l-r): Cahir Healy, Donal Brennan, Michael Tierney, Niall Donagher, Craig Rogers, Conor Gorman, Rory Stapleton, Peter O'Leary, Chris Bergin, Colm Kelly (Stradbally), Cathal Fleming.

HOW THEY REACHED THE MINOR FINAL

LAOIS



27th May at Mullingar:

Laois 3-10; Westmeath 0-4

2nd July at Tulamore:

Laois 1-14; Kildare 1-4.

20th July at Croke Park:

Laois 1-9; Dublin 1-11.

2nd August at Longford:

Laois 0-15; Tyrone 1-8.

24th August at Croke Park:

Laois 2-15; Kerry 2-10.

TOTAL SCORED: 7-63 (84 points)

TOTAL CONCEDED: 5-37 (52 points)

AVERAGE: 1.6

	1	2	3	4	5	Score/Total
Colm Kelly (Stradbally)	1-1	0-6	1-2	0-3	0-4	2-16 (22)
Chris Bergin	1-3	0-2	0-1	0-1	1-5	2-12 (18)
Michael Tierney	0-1	—	0-3	0-5	0-4	0-13
Donal Brennan	0-3	0-2	0-2	0-3	—	0-10
Colm Kelly (St. Joseph's)	—	0-1	—	0-2	1-1	1-4 (7)
Peter McNulty	1-0	0-1	—	—	—	1-1 (4)
Brendan Quigley	—	1-0	—	—	0-1	1-1 (4)
Ian Fleming	0-1	—	—	0-1	—	0-2
Barry Fitzgerald	0-1	0-1	—	—	—	0-2
Daniel O'Shea	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
Craig Rogers	—	—	0-1	—	—	0-1

LAST JULY'S MEETING

Dublin 1-11 Laois 1-9

A little over two months ago Dublin and Laois clashed in the Leinster final, but it was a less than enthralling encounter, although the closeness of the scoring did maintain interest. The opening 25 minutes were eminently forgettable with Dublin just edging matters to lead by three points to two. A point from Mark Vaughan doubled their advantage, and although Donal Brennan replied, points by Barry Kennedy and Aidan Relihan left it 0-6 to 0-3 in the Metropolitans' favour at the break.

With the breeze now at their backs, Laois were expected to be the dominant force on the restart, but it was Dublin who continued to have the better of affairs. By the end of the third quarter Laois had made no inroads into their interval deficit (0-7 to 0-10), and their cause appeared lost when John O'Hara finished a fine move involving Brendan Phelan and Relihan to the net.

That appeared to be the end of the matter, but when Colm Kelly punished some sloppy Dublin defending with a goal on the hour mark,

it set up an exciting finish. In lost time Michael Tierney brought Laois within a point of salvation, but they were unable to find an equaliser, and substitute Kevin Leahy fired over the insurance point for Dublin.

Dublin scorers: J.O'Hara 1-1, K.Leahy 0-3, B.Kennedy 0-2, M.Vaughan 0-2, A.Relihan 0-2, J.O'Brien 0-1.

Laois scorers: C.Kelly (Stradbally) 1-2, M.Tierney 0-3, D.Brennan 0-2, C.Bergin 0-1, C.Rogers 0-1.

Dublin – Kieran Walsh, Aidan Downes, Kian Cleere, Willie Lowry, Donnacha Reilly, Gerard Brennan, Ian Ward, Brendan Phelan, Gerard O'Meara, John O'Brien, Barry Kennedy, Mark Vaughan, Aidan Relihan, Francis Fitzgerald, John O'Hara. Subs – Kevin Leahy for Fitzgerald, Chris Moore for O'Brien, Conor Noone for Relihan.

Laois – Conor Gorman, Cathal Fleming, Cathal Ryan, Rory Stapleton, Craig Rogers, Colm Begley, Niall Danagher, Brendan Quigley, Colm Kelly (St. Joseph's), Peter McNulty, Barry Fitzgerald, Ian Fleming, Donal Brennan, Chris Bergin, Colm Kelly (Stradbally). Subs – Michael Tierney for Fitzgerald, Peter O'Leary for McNulty.

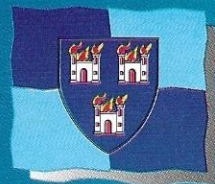


MINOR PROBLEMS

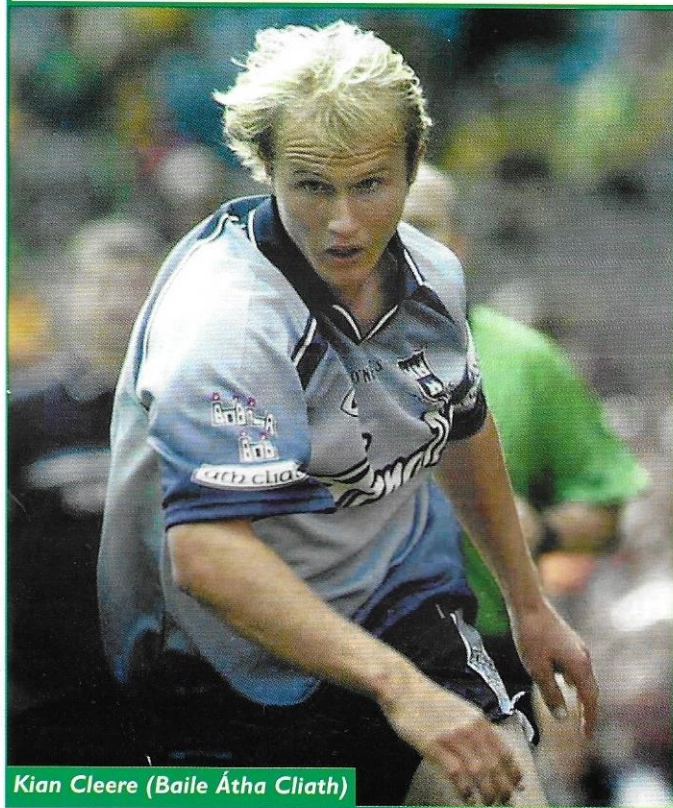
Retaining the All-Ireland minor title is a most difficult assignment to judge by the record over the past 33 years as only one county has retained the crown – Laois in 1997 after they had won it for the first time 12 months previously. Not alone that, but since 1970 the reigning champions have failed to reach the final the following year, with the exception of the O'Moore county.

Until recently Laois made little impression in under-18 football, but since 1996 they have been a force to be reckoned with as, apart from joining the select group which has retained the title – just five counties have done so – by reaching the 1998, final they joined Kerry, Dublin and Cork as the only counties to contest three successive finals in the grade.

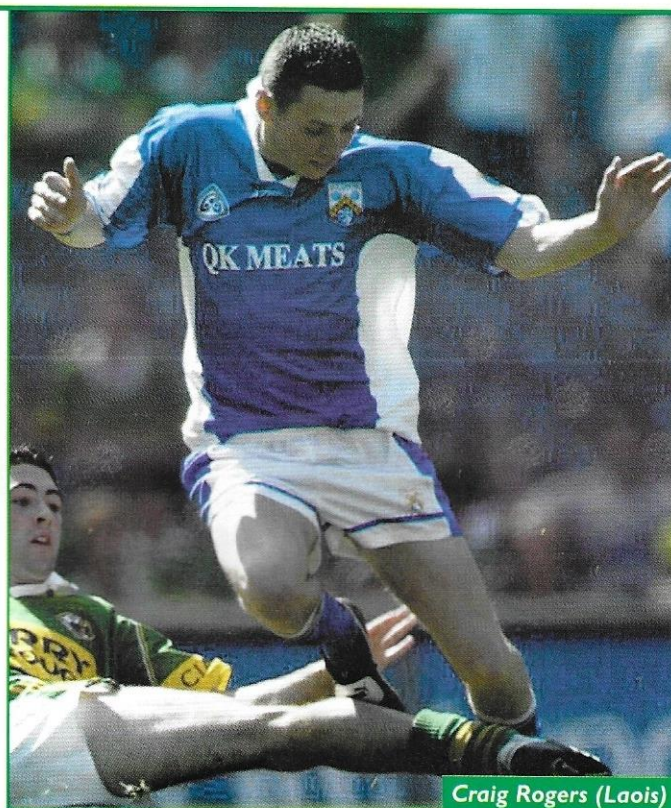
There may be minor problems to be addressed in some counties...but Laois is not one of them. For a county with such limited resources, their success is truly astonishing.



NA CAPTAEIN - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS LAOIS



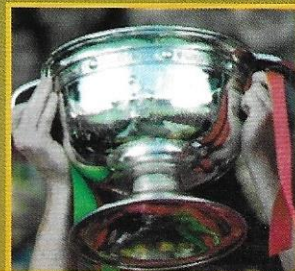
Kian Cleere (Baile Átha Cliath)



Craig Rogers (Laois)

ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ROLL OF HONOUR

11: Kerry :	1931, 1932, 1933, 1946, 1950, 1962, 1963, 1975, 1980, 1988, 1994.	3: Roscommon:	1939, 1941, 1951.
10: Dublin:	1930, 1945, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1979, 1982, 1984.	Meath:	1957, 1990, 1992.
Cork:	1961, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1981, 1991, 1993, 2000.	Down:	1977, 1987, 1999.
6: Mayo:	1935, 1953, 1966, 1971, 1978, 1985.	2: Cavan:	1937, 1938.
5: Galway:	1952, 1960, 1970, 1976, 1986.	Laois:	1996, 1997.
Tyrone:	1947, 1948, 1973, 1998, 2001.	Louth:	1936, 1940.
4: Derry:	1965, 1983, 1989, 2002.	1: Armagh:	1949.
		Clare:	1929.
		Offaly:	1964.
		1: Tipperary:	1934.
		Westmeath:	1995.



Baile Átha Cliath

Dathanna: Gorm is Dubhgorm



Fir Ionaid

- (16) **Michael Cahill**
M. Ó Cathail
(Craobh Chiaráin)
- (17) **Ciarán Murtagh**
C. Mac Muireartaigh
(St. Peregrine's)
- (18) **Darragh Walsh**
D. Breathnach
(Kilmacud Crokes)
- (19) **John O'Brien**
S. Ó Briain
(St. James Gaels
Robert Emmets)
- (20) **James Brogan**
S. Ó Brógáin
(St. Brigid's)
- (21) **Chris Moore**
C. Ó Mórdha
(St. Maur's)
- (22) **Francis Fitzgerald**
P. Mac Gearailt
(St. Margaret's)
- (23) **Willie Moore**
L. Ó Mórdha
(Man-O-War)
- (24) **Danny O'Reilly**
D. Ó Raghallaigh
(Templeogue Synge Street)

Roghnóirí:
Ciarán O'Hare (Manager),
Brendan Horan,
Shane O'Hanlon, Michael Whelan.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1
KIERAN WALSH
C. Breathnach
(Thomas Davis)</p> | <p>2
AIDAN DOWNES
A. Ó Dubháin
(Na Fianna)</p> | <p>3
KIAN CLEERE
C. de Cléir (Capt.)
(St. Sylvester's)</p> |
| <p>4
WILLIE LOWRY
L. Ó Labhraí
(St. Vincent's)</p> | <p>5
DONNACHA REILLY
D. Ó Raghallaigh
(Skerries Harps)</p> | <p>6
GERARD BRENNAN
G. Ó Braonáin
(St. Vincent's)</p> |
| <p>7
IAN WARD
I. Mac an Bhaird
(Round Towers Clondalkin)</p> | <p>8
BRENDAN PHELAN
B. Ó Faoláin
(Kilmacud Crokes)</p> | <p>9
JOHN COUGHLAN
S. Ó Cochláin
(St. Sylvester's)</p> |
| <p>10
GERARD O'MEARA
G. Ó Méara
(O'Tooles)</p> | <p>11
BARRY KENNEDY
B. Ó Cinnéide
(St. Mark's)</p> | <p>12
MARK VAUGHAN
M. UACHAN
(Kilmacud Crokes)</p> |
| <p>13
AIDAN RELIHAN
A. Ó Roileacháin
(St. Sylvester's)</p> | <p>14
KEVIN LEAHY
C. Ó Laocha
(Clontarf)</p> | <p>15
JOHN O'HARA
S. Ó hEára
(Skerries Harps)</p> |

Laois

Dathanna: Gorm is Bán



Fir Ionaid

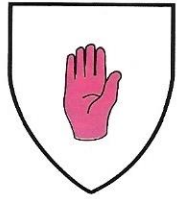
- (16) **Eoin Culliton**
E. Mac Collatain
(Timahoe)
- (17) **Daniel O'Shea**
D. Ó Sé
(Portlaoise)
- (18) **Cathal Fleming**
C. Pleimeann
(St. Joseph's)
- (19) **Sean Brennan**
S. Ó Braonáin
(Killeshin)
- (20) **David Murphy**
D. Ó Murchú
(Portarlinton)
- (21) **Ian Fleming**
I. Pleimeann
(Graiguecullen)
- (22) **Brian Mortimer**
B. Ó Muireartaigh
(Stradbally)
- (23) **Barry Fitzgerald**
B. Mac Gearailt
(Portlaoise)
- (24) **Mark Timmons**
M. Mac Tiomáin
(Graiguecullen)

Roghnóirí:
Sean Dempsey, Manager
John Mulligan,

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
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C. Ó Gormáin
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CAHIR HEALY
C. Ó hÉilí
(Portlaoise)</p> | <p>3
CATHAL RYAN
C. Ó Riain
(Portarlinton)</p> |
| <p>4
RORY STAPLETON
R. Mac an Ghail
(Annanough)</p> | <p>5
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P. Ó Laoire
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COLM BEGLEY
C. Ó Beaglaioch
(Stradbally)</p> |
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NIALL DONAGHER
N. Ó Danachair
(Courtwood)</p> | <p>8
BRENDAN QUIGLEY
B. Ó Coighligh
(Timahoe)</p> | <p>9
CRAIG ROGERS
C. Mac Ruiari (Capt.)
(Portlaoise)</p> |
| <p>10
DONAL BRENNAN
D. Ó Braonáin
(Arles-Killeen)</p> | <p>11
CHRIS BERGIN
C. Ó Beirgín
(The Heath)</p> | <p>12
PETER McNULTY
P. Mac an Ultaigh
(Portlaoise)</p> |
| <p>13
MICHAEL TIERNEY
M. Mac Tiarnaigh</p> | <p>14
COLM KELLY
C. Ó Ceallaigh</p> | <p>15
COLM KELLY
C. Ó Ceallaigh</p> |



Tyrone bid to make it third time lucky



Will it be a case of third time lucky for Tyrone in this unique Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior football championship final?

The O'Neill County lost their two All-Ireland senior final appearances so far (1986 and 1995), but the successful defence of the Allianz League title earlier this year and an impressive march to the final tie indicates that they have the credentials to make a bold bid for that elusive first title.

Tyrone, Ulster champions, clinched their return to this stage with a well merited semi-final win over All-Ireland title specialists Kerry, who started favourites in many quarters for that game.

The Northerners win last time out was all the more noteworthy for the fact that they lost their inspirational captain Peter Canavan after only fourteen minutes, He had to retire with an ankle injury.

The players showed their character as they took that set-back in their stride and went to forge out an even more clear-cut win than their most ardent supporters could have anticipated at 0-13 to 0-6.

The Ulster champions took their game to their fancied opponents right from the throw-in and were six points clear after twenty-five minutes when Kerry had their first score. Tyrone maintained the momentum and were well placed at the interval when they led by 0-9 to 0-2.

They were six points ahead after about fifteen minutes of the second half, but Kerry rallied somewhat and had reduced their arrears to four points eight minutes from the end.

However, Tyrone were not about to let victory slip from their grasp. They did not concede another score, and held out for a good win.

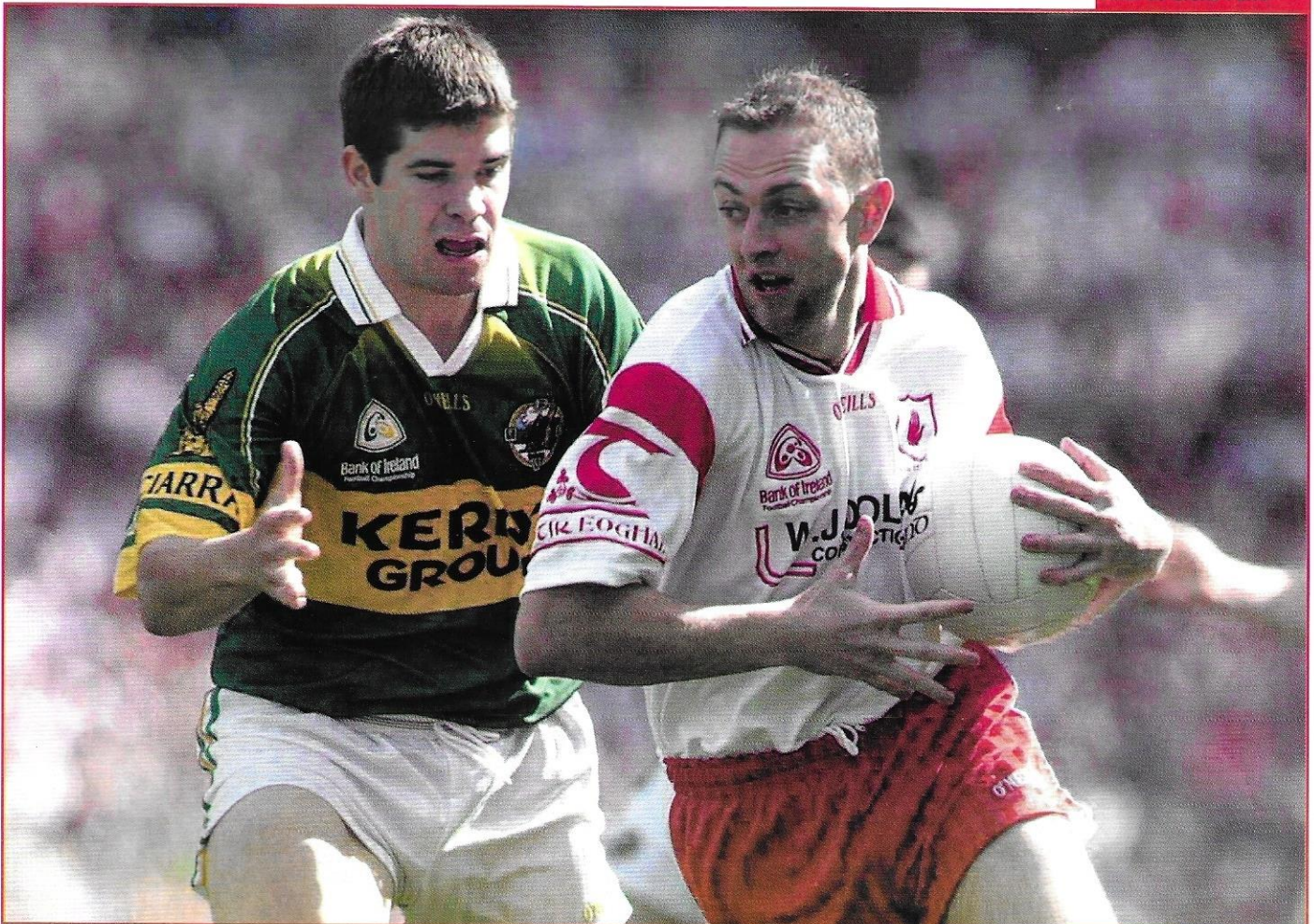
Stephen O'Neill, who went in as substitute for Canavan, did well. He caused problems for the Kingdom defence and finished with three points. Brian Dooher gave another top class and industrious performance as he roamed far and wide and also got on the scoresheet with a point.

Sean Cavanagh had a fine game at midfield and he received strong support there from Kevin Hughes.

The back division made scoring difficult for the Kerry attack. Cormac McAnallen is making a big success of his transfer from midfield to full back. Philip Jordan and Ryan McMenamin were others who made outstanding contributions in moulding the rearguard into a tight and disciplined unit.

Tyrone have certainly come a long way in recent times and are now a well-drilled and clever side which will not be overawed by Armagh's reputation or their status as favourites. The nature of the occasion will also serve to bring out the very best in the side.

Gerard Cavan (Tir Eoghain) evades Kerry's Eamonn Fitzmaurice in the 2003 Bank of Ireland All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Semi-Final at Croke Park.



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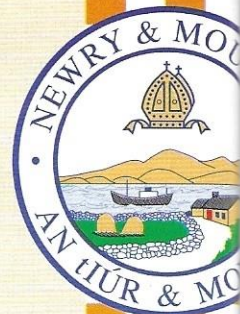
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Armagh well armed for their first titles double



An Ulster county has not made a successful defence of the All Ireland senior football title since Down as far back as 1961, but Armagh hope to bridge that long gap in this historic decider.

The All-Ireland Champions have come back in very impressive manner from their shock defeat by Monaghan in the opening round of the Ulster championship at Clones in May — a defeat that cost them their Northern title.

They also clearly demonstrated on the way to the final with their never-say die spirit and cool, confident approach, that they are very determined to take their place among the great teams by retaining the Sam Maguire Cup.

Last time out against Donegal they made things difficult for themselves by shooting twenty-one wides. But still they were unnerved by their wayward shooting and continued to play with coolness and purpose.

They finally really clinched their place deservedly in the decider with a goal in the fifty-sixth minute by Stephen McDonnell.

Donegal took the game to their fancied opponents right from the throw in and, playing good football, measured up to the challenge in fine style. A splendid move ended with a cracking goal by Christy Toyne after thirty-five minutes that helped the challengers to an interval lead of 1-4 to 0-4.

The North West county had a defender dismissed by the

referee very early in the second half but they continued to play with drive and determination. However, Armagh steadily came more into the picture and in the fifty-sixth minute a high ball from John McEntee was caught by McDonnell and he made the most of the opportunity by expertly steering the ball to the net to bring his side level.

Substitute Paddy McKeever put Armagh a point ahead from a free, but Donegal were soon back on level terms. But Armagh were in no mood to vacate their place as All-Ireland kingpins.

They moved back into the attack and eventually finished good winners by 2-10 to 1-9.

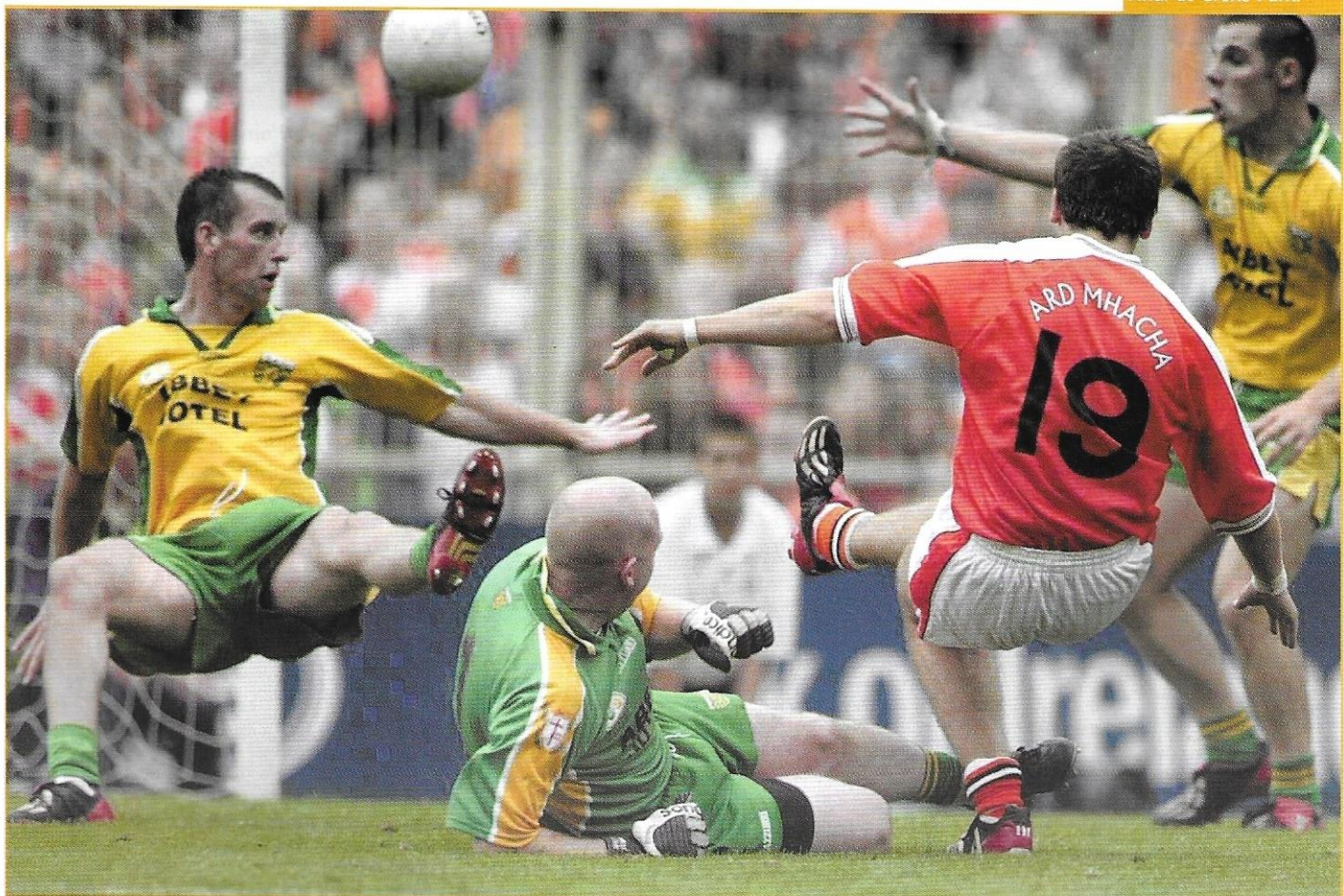
Oisín McConville scored the second goal from a penalty and finished leading marksmen with 1-5.

He made a big contribution, then, to the success, while another bright light up front was McDonnell, who capped a good display with that vital first goal. Peter Loughran and Paul McGrane got through much valuable work in midfield, while Aidan O'Rourke, Kieran McGeeney and Andy Mallon played big parts in blending the defence into a tightly-knit unit.

So, the win over Donegal was another important step forward in their bid to retain the title. It underlined yet again that they are a very mature team, with great self-believe and tons of skill.

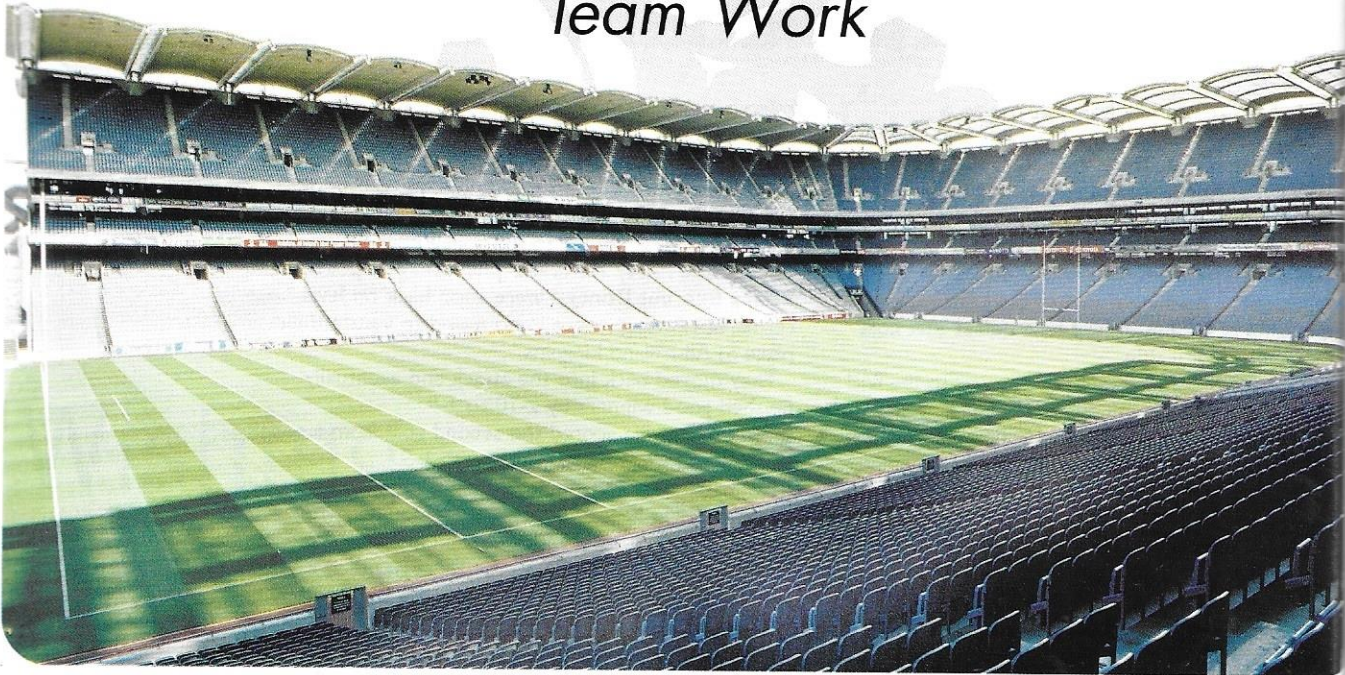
A side well armed for this final for this hurdle on the road to record the first titles double since Cork in 1989 and 1990.

Paddy McKeever (Ard Mhacha) beats Donegal goalkeeper Tony Blake to score a goal which was subsequently disallowed in favour of a penalty, which Oisín McConville scored in the 2003 Bank of Ireland All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Semi-Final at Croke Park.





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LITTLE IN IT LAST TIME OUT



Armagh 1-12 Tyrone 1-12

A crowd of almost 32,000 made their way to Clones expecting to see the league champions and provincial title-holders comfortably defeat Armagh, but in the end it took a goal in lost time to earn them a second chance. Not a lot separated the sides in the opening half, although John Toal provided a midfield edge for the underdogs. However, the Orchard county were unable to turn that possession to account and at the break the sides had evenly divided a dozen points.

The tit-for-tat nature of the scoring continued on the restart, but before the end of the third quarter Armagh appeared to have struck the decisive blow. A long delivery from John McEntee was fielded by Steven McDonnell and the Killeavy ace calmly fired home for the game's first goal. Ronan Clarke quickly added a point and it appeared as if Armagh were on course for a surprise win.

However, Tyrone continued to battle on, although they were still three points in arrears at the game entered lost time. Peter Canavan set up Richard Thornton for a possible equalising goal, but the chance was missed. Luckily for Tyrone, Armagh were happy enough to sit on their lead and the trailing team manufactured another opportunity, which this time Sean Cavanagh converted to ensure a second meeting.

Armagh scorers: O. McConville 0-7, S. McDonnell 1-1, R. Clarke 0-2, J. McEntee 0-1, P. McKeever 0-1.

Tyrone scorers: S. Cavanagh 1-2, P. Canavan 0-4, K. Hughes 0-2, R. McMenamin 0-2, D. McCrossan 0-1, S. O'Neill 0-1.

REPLAY

Armagh 2-13 Tyrone 0-16

Seven days later at the same venue the crowd had diminished slightly (30,158), but the absent few were the unfortunate ones as the counties served up a hugely entertaining contest. The big news on the personnel front was the absence of Peter Canavan from the Tyrone forward line due to injury, and it appeared bleak for the reigning provincial champions as Armagh had the first three scores of the afternoon.

However, by the end of the opening quarter Tyrone had replied with six unanswered points to lead by three. Then the leaders suddenly faltered and the Orchard county replied with five points to lead by two as the interval approached. But before referee Brian White signalled the end of the opening half, John McEntee struck for a goal to leave it 1-8 to 0-6.

On the restart the momentum again switched with Tyrone now back in the ascendancy and the deficit was quickly narrowed to the minimum. Armagh stopped the rot to pull three clear, but with seven minutes remaining Tyrone were level after Declan McCrossan and Kevin Hughes pointed. However, four minutes from time Oisín McConville set up substitute Barry Duffy for Armagh's second goal and this time there was no comeback from Tyrone.

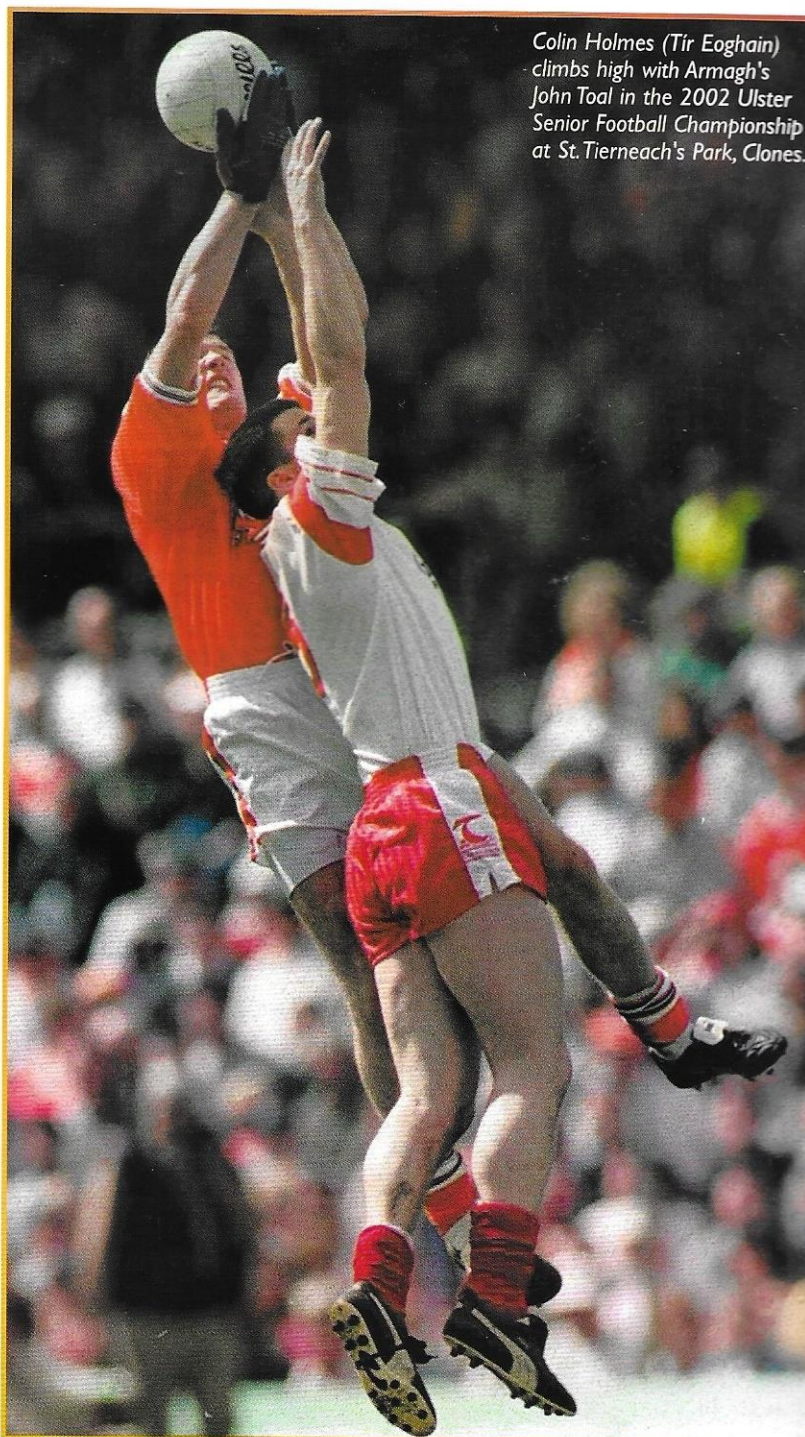
Armagh scorers: P. McKeever 0-5, J. McEntee 1-1, S. McDonnell 0-3, B. Duffy 1-0, O. McConville 0-2, R. Clarke 0-1, D. Marsden 0-1.

Tyrone scorers: S. O'Neill 0-7, K. Hughes 0-3, S. Cavanagh 0-2, C. McAnallen 0-2, D. McCrossan 0-1, R. McMenamin 0-1.

Armagh – Brendan Tierney, Enda McNulty, Justin

McNulty, Francie Bellew, Aidan O'Rourke, Kieran McGeeney, Andrew McCann, John Toal, Paul McGrane, Paddy McKeever, John McEntee, Oisín McConville, Steven McDonnell, Ronan Clarke, Diarmuid Marsden. Subs – Kieran Hughes for McCann, Barry Duffy for Clarke, Philip Loughran for Marsden.

Tyrone – Peter Ward, Conor Gormley, Chris Lawn, Brian Robinson, Philip Jordan, Ciaran Gourley, Ryan McMenamin, Cormac McAnallen, Colin Holmes, Brian Dooher, Kevin Hughes, Gerard Cavlan, Stephen O'Neill, Sean Cavanagh, Richard Thornton. Subs – Declan McCrossan for Gourley, Pascal Canavan for Thornton, Brian McGuigan for Cavlan.



Colin Holmes (Tír Eoghain) climbs high with Armagh's John Toal in the 2002 Ulster Senior Football Championship at St. Tierneach's Park, Clones.

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Armagh and Tyrone...Head-to-Head

Today's meeting of Armagh and Tyrone is the 30th in a series that goes back more than 110 years. The Orchard county won the first meeting in 1890 and the next six before Tyrone got off the mark in 1941. By the end of the fifties, Armagh led 11-4, but since then each side has recorded seven victories to leave the overall score 18-11 in the All-Ireland champions' favour.

1890	Armagh	2-8;	Tyrone	1-2
1902	Armagh	0-3;	Tyrone	0-2
	Armagh	1-6;	Tyrone	0-3
1903	Armagh	0-12;	Tyrone	0-3
	Armagh	7-4;	Tyrone	0-1
1917	Armagh	2-3;	Tyrone	1-3
1920	Armagh	2-1;	Tyrone	0-0
1930	Armagh	1-6;	Tyrone	2-3
	Armagh	1-8;	Tyrone	1-3
1932	Armagh	1-5;	Tyrone	1-4
1941	Tyrone	3-13;	Armagh	0-1
1942	Armagh	3-4;	Tyrone	0-0
1945	Armagh	3-13;	Tyrone	0-2

1947	Tyrone	1-6;	Armagh	1-6
	Tyrone	2-5;	Armagh	1-4
1951	Armagh	1-13;	Tyrone	2-3
1952	Armagh	1-8;	Tyrone	1-6
1957	Tyrone	2-9;	Armagh	3-5
1958	Tyrone	1-9;	Armagh	0-10
1971	Armagh	4-9;	Tyrone	2-10
1972	Tyrone	0-13;	Armagh	1-7
1980	Armagh	4-10;	Tyrone	4-7
1984	Tyrone	0-15;	Armagh	1-7
1987	Armagh	5-9;	Tyrone	1-9
1988	Tyrone	0-15;	Armagh	1-8
1989	Tyrone	1-11;	Armagh	2-7
1990	Armagh	0-12;	Tyrone	0-11
1993	Armagh	0-13;	Tyrone	1-10
	Armagh	2-8;	Tyrone	0-12
1994	Tyrone	3-10;	Armagh	1-10
1997	Tyrone	1-12;	Armagh	0-12
2000	Armagh	0-12;	Tyrone	0-8
2001	Tyrone	1-14;	Armagh	1-9
2002	Armagh	1-12;	Tyrone	1-12
	Armagh	2-13;	Tyrone	0-16



What The Papers Said...

.... About the first meeting of Armagh and Tyrone

One hundred and thirteen years ago not much coverage was given to gaelic games in either the national or local newspapers, and it goes without saying that when Armagh and Tyrone were fixed to play the 1890 Ulster final, newspaper desks were not exactly agog with excitement and anticipation. It was not surprising that newspapers were little concerned with the doings of an organisation that could organise so few events, and which could attract such slight public interest. At least that was the case in Ulster where few counties were willing or able to put teams in the field.

The provincial final of 1890 took place at Lisburn on October 12th with Armagh, who had beaten Antrim in the semi-final (the only other contender), taking on Tyrone, who were making their first-ever appearance in the championship. Both counties were represented by clubs – Armagh Harps and Cookstown, but this historic (for the counties concerned) encounter went unnoticed by almost the entire media.

On the Monday following the game the "Freeman's Journal" in its sports pages gave three-quarters of a column to athletics; cycling had about half a column with rugby trials organised by the Bective, Monkstown and Wanderers clubs merited a column between them; but perhaps most remarkably, a full column was devoted to English sports events. However, of Armagh and Tyrone there wasn't a mention.

"The Irish Times" in its issue of October 13th covered a broad range of sports including cycling, rugby (English), athletics in America, the rugby trials in Dublin, results of

English club rugby games, and the scores of a number of soccer games in Dublin and Belfast. But the Ulster final was not rated by the "Times" sports desk.

The local papers were equally uninterested. The "Armagh Standard" of October 17th was concerned with the price of potatoes locally, which could be bought for four pence to five pence per stone, and the fact that a hundredweight of Irish bacon cost 52/= while American bacon cost only 36/=; but the fortunes of the county football team were of no interest to the readers of the "Standard".

The "Tyrone Courier" was likewise devoid of news about its county footballers, and as far as the national dailies and the local weeklies were concerned, the first-ever meeting of Armagh and Tyrone was a non-event.

But fortunately for the record, the Dublin-based "Sport", a weekly paper devoted entirely to sport, did show an interest in gaelic games and, apart from some items relating to clubs in Kildare, Dublin and Derry, had this to say about the Lisburn game: "The following report of the final tie of the Ulster championship played at Lisburn on Sunday has been supplied: Armagh Harps v Cookstown O'Neills. The above teams met on the grounds of the Red Hands, Lisburn club to decide the final of the Ulster football championship. The weather was all that could be desired. The first half of the game was well contested, Armagh scoring 1 goal and 2 points while Cookstown scored 1 goal and 1 point. At the end of the second half the score was: Armagh 2 goals and 8 points, Cookstown 1 goal and 2 points. I hear a protest has been lodged by Cookstown".

But nothing more was heard of Cookstown's objection and Armagh went on to contest the All-Ireland semi-final with Cork five weeks later. While historians have reason to be grateful to "Sport", it was most unfortunate that the lineouts were not included in the report.



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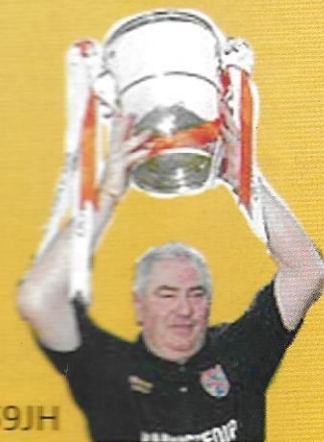
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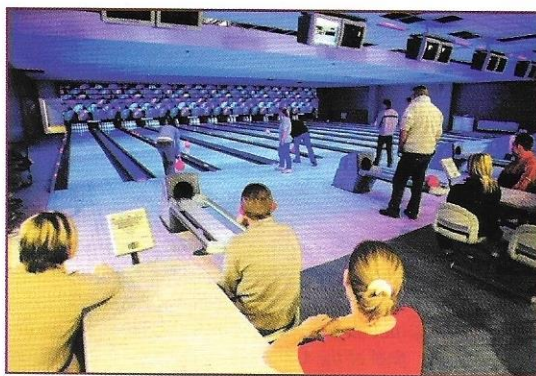
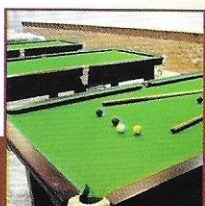
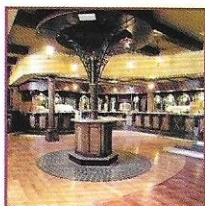
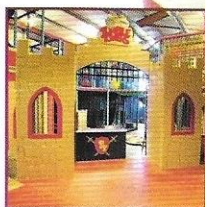
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A First Retention

In striving to the title they won for the first time last year, Armagh will be following in the footsteps of some distinguished combinations, which succeeded in retaining the title after winning it for the first time. The honour of being the first county to record this particular double was Dublin who won their first crown in 1891 by beating Cork in the final and Kerry in the 1892 decider.

By the time Kerry won their first title in 1903 and retained it the following year, no fewer than four counties – Limerick, Tipperary, Cork and Wexford – had failed to gain a second title after their initial success.

It was to be 40 years after Kerry's double that another county retained the honours at the first attempt, when

Roscommon took their first in 1943 and their second twelve months later. In between the Kerry and Roscommon achievements, Kildare, Louth, Cavan, Galway and Mayo had failed to follow up their initial triumph, and it wasn't until 1961 that Down, champions for the first time in 1960, joined the select few.

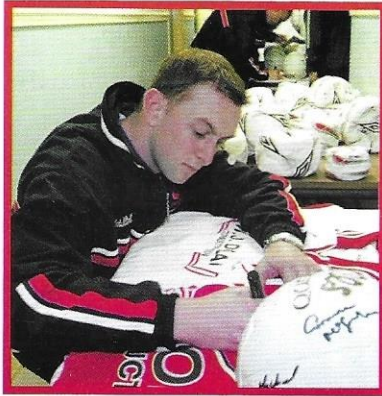
And the last retention by first-time champions was Offaly's dual success in 1971/72. An interesting note on Armagh's position today is that they are taking on a county in the final who are seeking a first title – a situation that cropped up just twice previously – Down v Offaly in '61 and Dublin v Kerry in 1892.

Only five first-time retentions in 114 years; if Armagh require an incentive today, which most likely they do not, this is it.



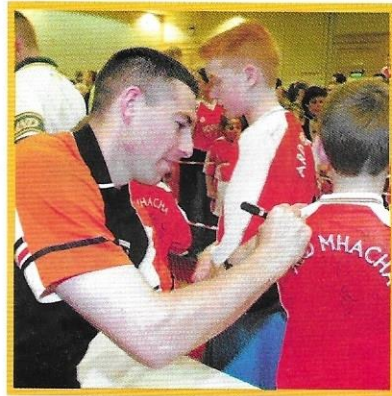
SEEKING THE FOURTH

Apart from seeking their first All-Ireland senior title today, Tyrone will also be striving to become one of the select band of counties which have won All-Ireland honours in four different grades of football. Currently the group includes seven counties – Kerry, Cork, Mayo, Roscommon, Galway, Meath and Down. Understandably, the under-21 title was the last which each county won to complete its "quartet" – with Kerry being the first (1964), followed by Roscommon (1966), Mayo (1967), Cork (1970), Galway (1972), Down (1979) and Meath (1993). Unlike the above mentioned seven, Tyrone have already won honours in the three lower grades with the senior title still outstanding.



SIGN HERE PLEASE!

Tyrone's Gerard Cavlan and Armagh's Diarmuid Marsden are kept busy signing memorabilia for their fans in the run up to the All-Ireland Final.

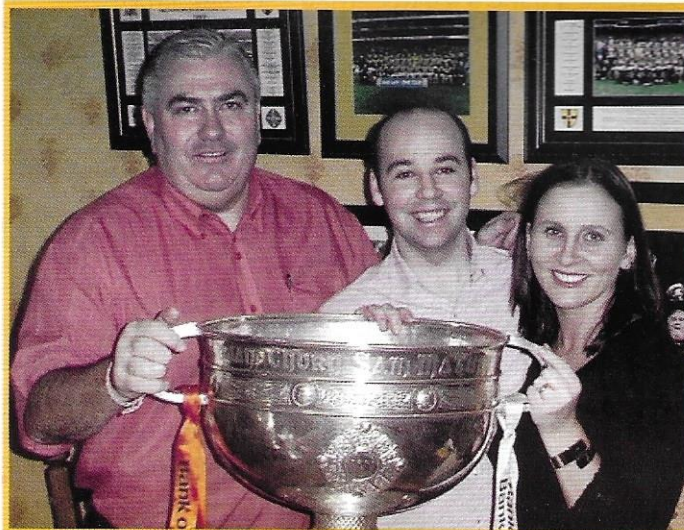


Big Change...Short Time

Football fortunes change from year to year, a fact to which all counties will attest and it is not unusual for a county that has won a championship game one year to have that result reversed by their erstwhile victims twelve months later. But it is doubtful if any two counties experienced the fluctuation in fortunes as did Armagh and Tyrone in the early forties. When these counties met at Coalisland in the first round in 1941, it was a wonderful day for Tyrone who, in recording their first-ever win over the Orchard county, did so by an astonishing 21-point margin (3-13 to 0-1).

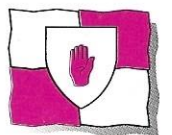
A year later, with much the same personnel, they were again first-round opponents, but at Armagh there was a complete reversal of form with Tyrone this time on the receiving end as the home side won with 13 points to spare (3-4 to 0-0).

Over the years the pendulum has swung both ways between these rivals but not so widely as it did some sixty years ago.



IN THE FAMILY!

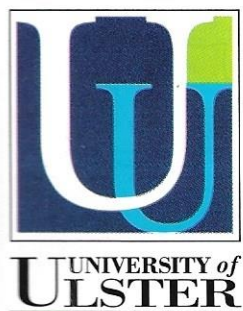
Pictured with the Sam Maguire Cup are Mary and Art Kernan with Art's uncle Joe. Mary is a native of Belcoo in Co Fermanagh but is currently living in Carryduff Co. Down, where she is a member of the Tecconnaught Ladies football team. Mary is well known for her work in promoting Gaelic games in the county and she has been instrumental in establishing a ladies football league at primary school level in County Down. A former intercounty player with both Leitrim and Fermanagh, Mary's infectious enthusiasm has encouraged many girls to begin playing Gaelic football and she is highly respected within the county as a coach and promoter of Gaelic Games.





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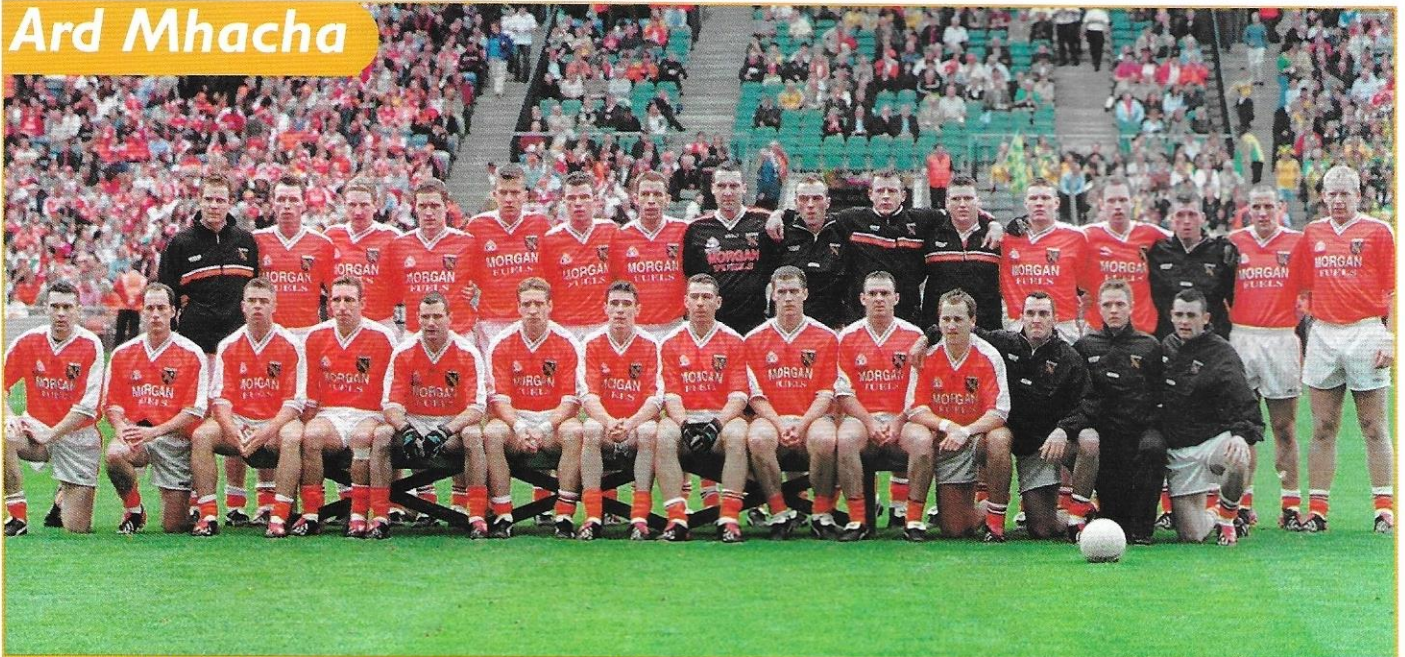
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Dr Eugene Young, High Performance Director for Gaelic football in Ulster, is based at the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland located at the University.



Ard Mhacha



Back Row (L-R): Des Mackin, David Turley, Francie Bellew, Tony McEntee, Philip Loughran, Ronan Clarke, Paul McGrane, Paul Hearty, Malachy Mackin, Justin McNulty, Kieran Hughes, John Toal, Andrew McCann, Ciaran McKeever, Barry O'Hagan, Barry Duffy
Front Row: Oisín McConville, Kevin McElvanna, Paul McCarmack, Enda McNulty, Steven McDonnell, Kieran McGeeney, Andy Mallon, Diarmuid Marsden, John McEntee, Aidan O'Rourke, Paddy McKeever, Martin O'Rourke, Ciaran McKinney, Pádraig Duffy.

Armagh's path to the Final

Armagh lost their opening game in the Ulster senior championship and with it their provincial crown. They went down to Monaghan at Clones by 0-9 to 0-13.

Since then they scored six wins on the way to their second successive Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior final appearance. Armagh conceded just one goal in the championship so far this season. This is their record:

11th May at Clones:

Armagh 0-9; Monaghan 0-13.

8th June at Waterford:

Armagh 2-21; Waterford 0-8.

21st June. Casement Park:

Armagh 0-15; Antrim 0-12.

5th July at Croke Park:

Armagh 0-15; Dublin 0-11.

20th July at Dr. Hyde Park:

Armagh 4-10; Limerick 0-11.

3rd August at Croke Park:

Armagh 0-15; Laois 0-13.

31st August at Croke Park:

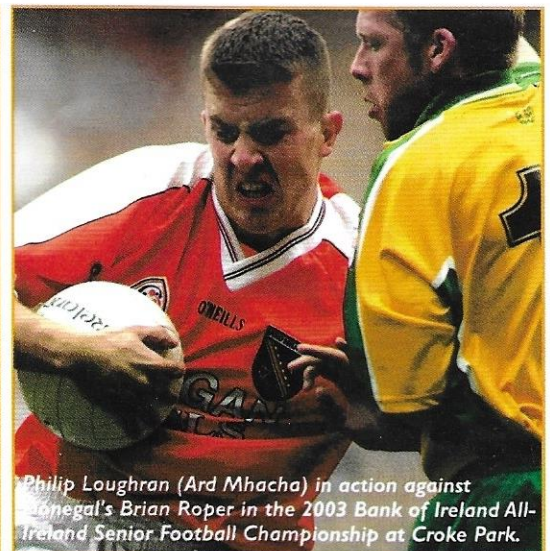
Armagh 2-10; Donegal 1-9.

TOTAL SCORED: 8-95 (119 points).

TOTAL CONCEDED: 1-77 (80 points). AVERAGE: 1.48

TYRONE SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score/Total
Steven McDonnell	0-2	1-4	0-6	0-5	3-4	0-1	1-1	5-23 (38)
Oisín McConville	—	1-7	0-7	0-1	0-3	0-7	1-5	2-30 (36)
Diarmuid Marsden	0-2	0-3	—	0-2	—	0-2	0-1	0-10
Ronan Clarke	—	—	0-1	0-1	1-2	0-1	—	1-5 (8)
Paddy McKeever	0-2	0-3	—	0-1	—	—	0-1	0-7
John McEntee	—	0-1	—	0-4	—	0-1	—	0-6
Philip Loughran	0-2	0-1	—	—	—	0-1	0-1	0-5
Paul McGrane	—	—	0-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	0-3
Aidan O'Rourke	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-2
Tony McEntee	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
Barry O'Hagan	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
John Toal	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	0-1
Andrew McCann	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1



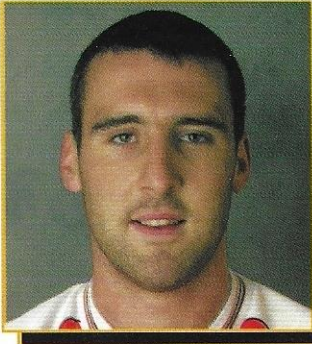
Philip Loughran (Ard Mhacha) in action against Donegal's Brian Roper in the 2003 Bank of Ireland All-Ireland Senior Football Championship at Croke Park.

ULSTER TITLE WINNING YEARS

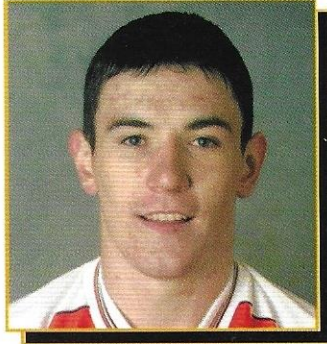
1890, 1902, 1950, 1953, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1999, 2000, 2001.



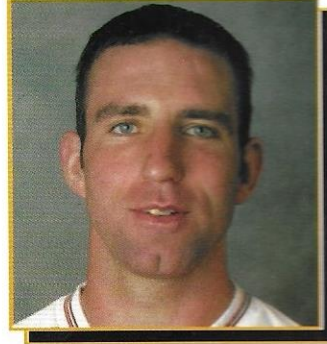
ARD MHACHA- Player Profiles



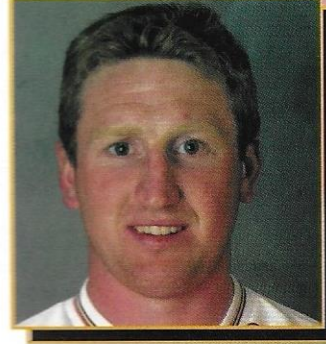
1. Paul Hearty
 (Crossmaglen)
 Age: 25. Ht: 6'4". Wt: 15st.
 Occupation: Electrician.
 Since taking over from the vastly experienced Brendan Tierney, Hearty has conceded just one goal in 7 championship games.



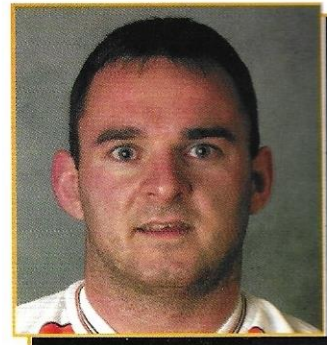
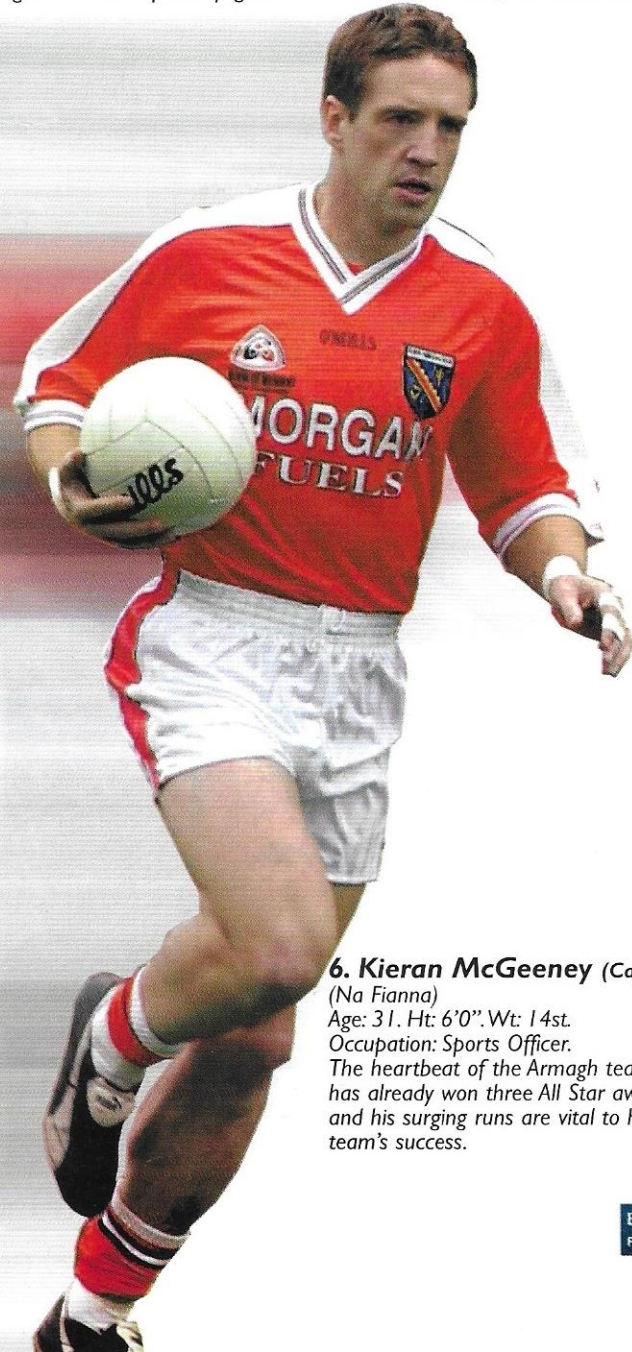
2. Andy Mallon
 (Pearse Óg)
 Age: 20. Ht: 6'1". Wt: 11st.
 Occupation: Electrician.
 A newcomer to the panel from last year, the Pearse Óg player has had an excellent season for the Orchard county at corner back.



3. Enda McNulty
 (Ballyboden St. Enda's)
 Age: 27. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 10st.7lbs.
 Occupation: Coaching Officer.
 McNulty is a strong powerful player who gives his all to the Armagh cause. Will face his biggest task yet as he attempts to curb Peter Canavan.



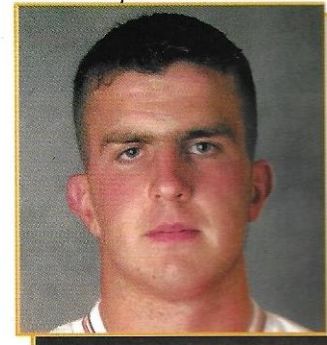
4. Francie Bellew
 (Crossmaglen)
 Age: 27. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 13st.
 Occupation: Fitter.
 A hardworking and dependable corner back who has gone from strength to strength since donning the Armagh jersey.



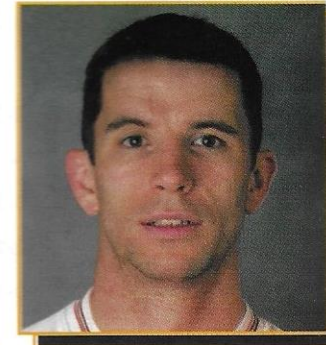
5. Aidan O'Rourke
 (Dromintee)
 Age: 27. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 13st.
 Occupation: Engineer.
 The Dromintee man was rewarded for his hard work in 2002 with an All Star award and a good performance today may see him repeat the honour.



7. Andrew McCann
 (St. Mary's, Leixlip)
 Age: 29. Ht: 6'1". Wt: 13st.
 Occupation: Engineer.
 An attacking wing back who has weighed in with some vital scores over the years, McCann is never found wanting on the field of play.

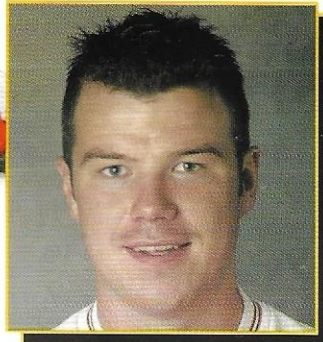
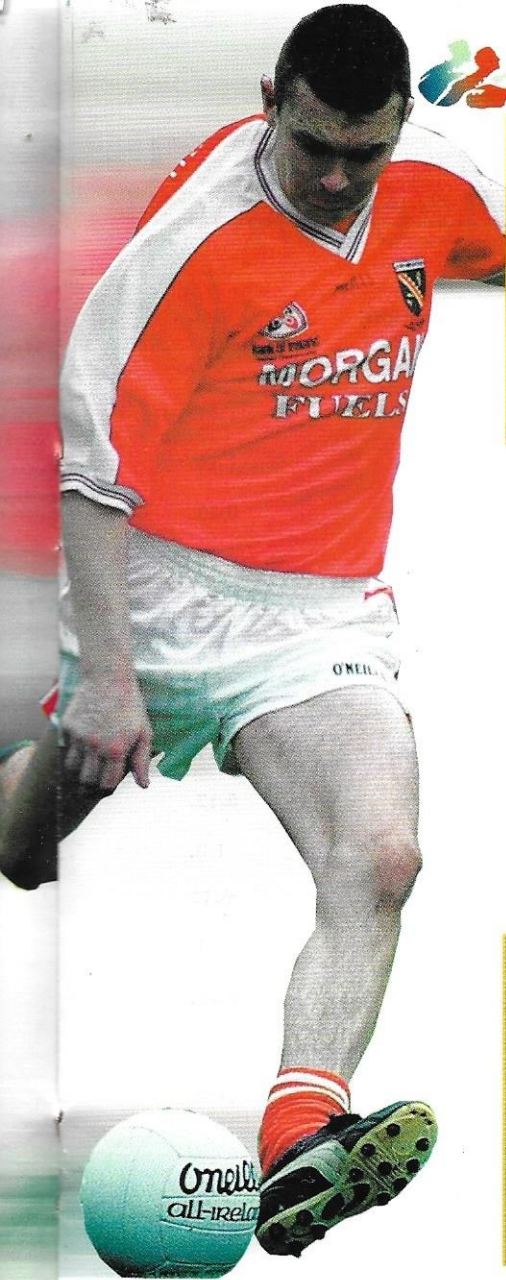


8. Philip Loughran
 (Clady)
 Age: 23. Ht: 6'4". Wt: 13st.
 Occupation: Student.
 Since replacing John Toal in the middle of the field, Loughran has earned rave reviews for a series of outstanding displays for his county

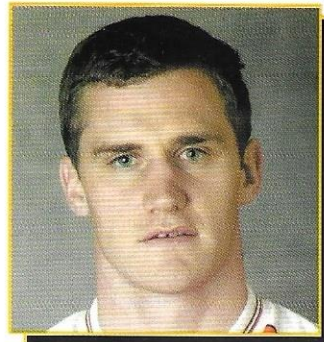


9. Paul McGrane
 (Ballyhegan)
 Age: 29. Ht: 6'2". Wt: 14st.
 Occupation: Accountant.
 Had an outstanding year in 2002 when winning an All Star place at midfield and continues to impress at midfield for the All-Ireland champions

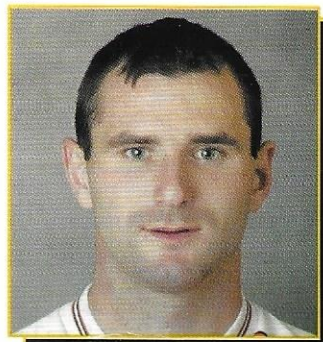
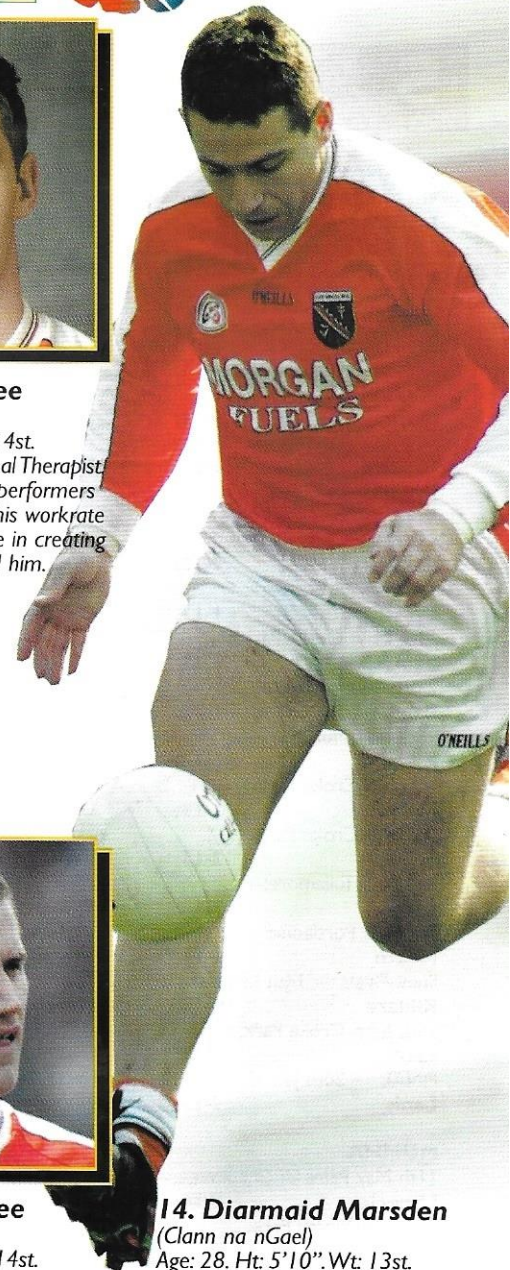
6. Kieran McGeeney (Captain)
 (Na Fianna)
 Age: 31. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 14st.
 Occupation: Sports Officer.
 The heartbeat of the Armagh team, he has already won three All Star awards and his surging runs are vital to his team's success.



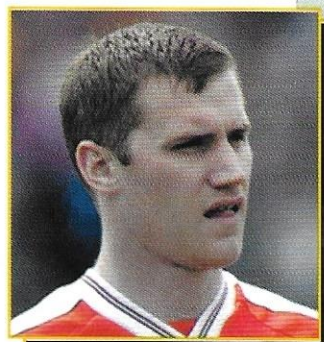
10. Ronan Clarke
(Pearse Óg)
Age: 20. Ht: 6'3". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student.
Last year's full forward has been reinvented on the wing in 2003 and continues to display the maturity that brought him to prominence last year.



11. John McEntee
(Crossmaglen)
Age: 26. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 14st.
Occupation: Occupational Therapist.
One of the most solid performers in the Armagh set up, his workrate plays an important role in creating space for those around him.



12. Oisín McConville
(Crossmaglen)
Age: 27. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Insurance Claims Officer.
An outstanding player who's accuracy and general ability are widely recognised. His 1-5 in the semi-final ensured Armagh's progression.



13. Steven McDonnell
(Killeavey)
Age: 24. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 12st.
Occupation: Joiner.
His knack of scoring vital goals places him among the top forwards in Ireland and he has already scored 5-23 in this year's championship.

15. Tony McEntee
(Crossmaglen)
Age: 26. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 14st.
Occupation: Cardiac Officer.
Didn't start in last year's final, but played a major role when introduced. Expect him to roam out the field and lend assistance in the middle third.

14. Diarmaid Marsden
(Clann na nGael)
Age: 28. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 13st.
Occupation: Student.
There is no questioning Marsden's talent and having recovered from a series of injuries he is returning to something near his best this year.

FIR IONAIÐ

16. Ciarán McKinney
(Pearse Óg)
Age: 22. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 12st.5lbs.
Occupation: Student.

20. John Toal
(Keady)
Age: 24. Ht: 6'2". Wt: 13st.
Occupation: Student.

24. Kevin McElvanna
(Madden)
Age: 23. Ht: 5'9". Wt: 12st.
Occupation: Student.

28. Pádraig Duffy
(Pearse Óg)
Age: 21. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 12st.
Occupation: Bricklayer.

17. Barry O'Hagan
(Clann na nGael)
Age: 29. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 14st.
Occupation: Software Engineer.

21. Kieran Hughes
(Pearse Óg)
Age: 26. Ht: 6'1". Wt: 13st.
Occupation: Welding Engineer.

25. Malachy Mackin
(St. Patrick's)
Age: 20. Ht: 6'2". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student.

29. Des Macken
(Na Fianna)
Age: 28. Ht: 6'1".
Occupation: Sports Sales Representative.

18. Justin McNulty
(Mullabawn)
Age: 28. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 10st.7lbs.
Occupation: Civil Engineer.

22. Barry Duffy
(Killeavey)
Age: 26. Ht: 6'3". Wt: 15st.7lbs.
Occupation: Quantity Surveyor.

26. Martin O'Rourke
(Dromintee)
Age: 23. Ht: 5'10".
Occupation: Student.

30. Ciarán McKeever
(St. Patrick's)
Age: 20. Ht: 6'1". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Bricklayer.

19. Paddy McKeever
(Ballyhegan)
Age: 23. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student.

23. Paul McCormack
(Keady)
Age: 24. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 13st.
Occupation: Student.

27. David Turley
(Tír na nÓg)
Age: 24. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 13st.
Occupation: Swimming Teacher.



**S C O R E B O A R D****CONNACHT**

4th May. New York (After Extra Time.):			
Leitrim	0-14;	New York	0-12.
18th May. Pearse Stadium:			
Galway	0-12;	Roscommon	0-8.
25th May. Ruislip:			
Sligo	3-11;	London	0-9.
Semi-Finals — 1st June. Carrick-on-Shannon:			
Galway	2-13;	Leitrim	1-7.
8th June. Markievicz Park			
Mayo	0-14;	Sligo	0-11.
FINAL — 6th July. Pearse Stadium:			
Galway	1-14;	Mayo	0-13.

LAIGHIN

11th May. Croke Park:			
Louth	4-12;	Wicklow	2-7.
11th May. Croke Park:			
Westmeath	1-17;	Carlow	1-12.
11th May. Croke Park:			
Laois	1-19;	Wexford	0-10.
25th May. Portlaoise:			
Laois	1-12;	Offaly	1-12.
25th May. Mullingar:			
Kildare	1-14;	Longford	2-6.
1st June. Croke Park:			
Dublin	1-19;	Louth	0-9.
1st June. Croke Park:			
Meath	2-13;	Westmeath	2-13.
2nd June. Tullamore:			
Laois	2-10;	Offaly	0-13.
7th June. Portlaoise:			
Meath	1-11;	Westmeath	0-5.
Semi-Finals — 14th June. Croke Park:			
Kildare	0-15;	Meath	1-11.
15th June. Croke Park:			
Laois	0-16;	Dublin	0-14.
FINAL — 20th July. Croke Park:			
Laois	2-13;	Kildare	1-13.

MUMHA

11th May. Páirc Uí Chaoimh.			
Limerick	0-16;	Cork	0-6.
25th May. Walsh Park:			
Tipperary	0-18;	Waterford	1-12.
Semi-Finals			
15th June. Ennis:			
Limerick	2-14;	Clare	0-12.
15th June. Tralee:			
Kerry	0-25;	Tipperary	1-10.
FINAL — 13th July. Killarney:			
Kerry	1-11;	Limerick	0-9.

ULADH

11th May. Clones.			
Monaghan	0-13;	Armagh	0-9.
18th May. Clones:			
Derry	1-9;	Tyrone	0-12.
24th May. Casement Park (Replay):			
Tyrone	0-17;	Derry	1-5.
25th May. Casement Park:			
Antrim	2-9;	Cavan	1-10.
1st June. Enniskillen:			
Fermanagh	0-10;	Donegal	0-6.
8th June. Casement Park			
Down	1-12;	Monaghan	0-13.
Semi-Finals — 15th June. Casement Park:			
Tyrone	1-17;	Antrim	1-9.
22nd June. Clones:			
Down	2-10;	Fermanagh	0-11.
FINAL — 13th July. Clones:			
Tyrone	1-17;	Down	4-8.
20th July. Clones:			
Tyrone	0-23;	Down	1-5.

QUALIFIERS ROUND 1

7th June. Walsh Park:			
Armagh	2-21;	Waterford	0-8.
7th June. Wexford Park:			
Derry	3-10;	Wexford	0-9.
7th June. Ballybofey:			
Donegal	1-17;	Longford	1-11.
7th June. Hyde Park:			
Roscommon	0-14;	Cork	1-10.
7th June. Carlow:			
Carlow	0-18;	Wicklow	0-13.
7th June. Tullamore:			
Offaly	4-15;	London	0-10.
8th June. An Uaimh:			
Cavan	1-12;	Louth	2-7.
14th June. Clones:			
Monaghan	0-14;	Westmeath	1-9.

QUALIFIERS ROUND 2

21st June. Carrick-on-Shannon:			
Roscommon	2-9;	Leitrim	1-11.
21st June. Casement Park:			
Armagh	0-15;	Antrim	0-12.
21st June. Ennis:			
Offaly	1-12;	Clare	1-8.
21st June. Clones:			
Meath	2-10;	Monaghan	0-12.
21st June. Thurles:			
Tipperary	1-14;	Carlow	0-13.
22nd June. Ballybofey:			
Donegal	0-16;	Sligo	0-11.
28th June. Clones:			
Dublin	3-9;	Derry	1-9.
29th June. Enniskillen:			
Fermanagh	0-16;	Cavan	1-10.

QUALIFIERS ROUND 3

5th July. Croke Park:			
Donegal	2-19;	Tipperary	0-15.
5th July. Croke Park:			
Armagh	0-15;	Dublin	0-11.
5th July. Mullingar (After Extra Time.):			
Roscommon	1-20;	Offaly	1-15.
6th July. Clones:			
Fermanagh	1-12;	Meath	0-9.

QUALIFIERS ROUND 4

19th July. Markievicz Park:			
Fermanagh	0-12;	Mayo	1-8.
20th July. Dr. Hyde Park:			
Armagh	4-10;	Limerick	0-11.
26th July. Clones:			
Donegal	3-15;	Down	2-10.
26th July. Portlaoise (After Extra Time.):			
Roscommon	1-18;	Kildare	0-19.

ALL-IRELAND QUARTER FINALS

3rd August. Croke Park:			
Tyrone	1-21	Fermanagh	0-5.
3rd August. Croke Park:			
Armagh	0-15;	Laois	0-13.
4th August Croke Park:			
Donegal	0-14;	Galway	1-11
4th August. Croke Park:			
Kerry	1-21;	Roscommon	3-10.
10th August. Castlebar (Replay):			
Donegal	0-14;	Galway	0-11.

ALL-IRELAND SEMI FINAL

24th August. Croke Park:			
Tyrone	0-13.	Kerry	0-6
31st August. Croke Park:			
Armagh	2-10.	Donegal	1-9



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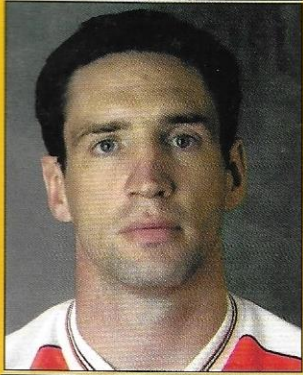


Ard Mhacha

Dathanna: `Oráiste is Bán



An Captaen



Kieran McGeeney

Kieran is in line to become the first Ulster man to captain All-Ireland senior football title-winning teams in successive years since the late John Joe O'Reilly led Cavan to the 1947 and 1948 titles.

The last footballer from any county to achieve this distinction was Tony Hanahoe with Dublin in 1976 and 1977.

McGeeney was centre half back in the Armagh team that lost the 1989 Ulster final to Derry. A year later he was a substitute in the team that lost the Ulster final to Donegal.

He played senior championship football as a forward before settling in to become one of the best centre half backs in the game.

Kieran won his first Ulster senior medal on his final debut in 1999 and now has three provincial senior medals. He has also won provincial medals with Mullabawn, Armagh, and Na Fianna, Dublin.

The very experienced defender was a most influential figure in last year's historic All-Ireland final win and some months later he won his third All Stars trophy—all at centre half. He has also represented Ireland against Australia in the International Rules Test series.

1 PAUL HEARTY

P. Ó hAghartaigh
(Crossmaglen)

3 ENDA McNULTY

E. Mac an Ultaigh
(Ballyboden)

6 KIERAN McGEENEY

C. Mac Géibheannaigh (Capt.)
(Na Fianna)

4 FRANCIE BELLEW

P. Ó Beillíú
(Crossmaglen)

7 ANDREW McCANN

A. Mac Cana
(Leixlip)

8 PHILIP LOUGHRAN

P. Ó Luachrán
(Clay)

9 PAUL McGRANE

P. Mag Ráine
(Ballyhegan)

10 RONAN CLARKE

R. Ó Cláirigh
(Pearse Óg)

11 JOHN McENTEE

S. Mac an tSaoi
(Crossmaglen)

12 OISÍN McCONVILLE

O. Mac Conmhaoil
(Crossmaglen)

13 STEVEN McDONNELL

S. Mac Dónaill
(Killeevy)

14 DIARMAID MARSDEN

D. Mac an Mhaistir
(Clann na nGael)

15 TONY McENTEE

A. Mac an tSaoi
(Crossmaglen)

Fir Ionaid

- (16) Ciarán McKinney
C. Mac Coinnigh
(Pearse Óg)
- (17) Barry O'Hagan
B. Ó hAgain
(Clann na nGael)
- (18) Justin McNulty
S. Mac an Ultaigh
(Mullabawn)

- (19) Paddy McKeever
P. Mac Iomhair
(Ballyhegan)
- (20) John Toal
S. Ó Tuadhail
(Keedy)
- (21) Kieran Hughes
C. Ó hAodha
(Pearse Óg)
- (22) Barry Duffy
B. Ó Dufaigh
(Killeevy)

- (23) Paul McCarrmack
P. Mac Carrmack
(Keedy)
- (24) Kevin McElvanna
C. Mac Góillín Mhuinn
(Walden)
- (25) Malachy MacLáin
M. Ó Mhacáin
(St. Patrick's)
- (26) Martin O'Rourke
M. Ó Ruairc
(Dromites)

- (27) David Turley
D. Ó Toirealaigh
(Tír na nÓg)
- (28) Pdraig Duffy
P. Ó Dufaigh
(Pearse Óg)
- (29) Des Mackin
D. Ó Maicín
(Na Fianna)
- (30) Ciarán McKeever
C. Mac Iomhair
(St. Patrick's)

Ard Mhacha

Cúil Cúilíní Seachai 45m Saor Ciccanna

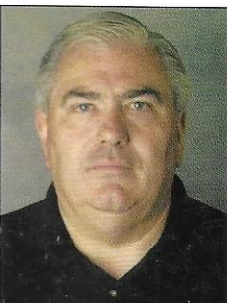
Iadh Leath

Zadh Leath

IOMLÁN

Bainisteoir

Joe Kernan



Victory today would complete a remarkable All-Ireland double on the double for Kernan. After guiding Crossmaglen Rangers to their first AIB All-Ireland club title in 1997, he also managed the side that recorded two titles in a row in 1999 and 2000.

Kernan first experienced the tensions of an All-Ireland senior final in 1977 and responded with a splendid display at midfield, which he highlighted by scoring 2-1 in Armagh's unsuccessful bid against Dublin.

He won his first Ulster senior medal that year and collected further medals in 1980 and 1982. An All Star at midfield in 1977, Joe gave great service to Ulster over the years and helped the province to their interprovincial wins of 1979, 1980 and 1984, all in attack.

His contribution to last year's historic Sam Maguire Cup win as manager was immense.

Roghnóirí:

Joe Kernan (Manager), Paul Grimley (Asst. Manager), Trainer: John McCloskey.

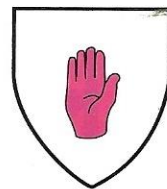
An Réiteoir:

Brian White
(Loch Garman)



Tír Eoghain

Dathanna: Bán is Dearg



1 JOHN DEVINE

S. Ó Daimhín
(Aireagal Chiaráin)

2 CIARÁN GOURLEY

C. Mag Thoirealaigh
(An Charraig)

3 CORMAC McANALLEN

C. Mac an Ailín
(An Eaglais)

4 RYAN McMENAMIN

R. Mac Meanmáin
(An Droim Mór)

5 CONOR GORMLEY

C. Ó Garmaile
(An Charraig Mhór)

6 GAVIN DEVLIN

G. Ó Doibhlínn
(Árd Bó)

7 PHILIP JORDAN

P. Mac Shiúrtáin
(An Maigh)

8 KEVIN HUGHES

C. Ó hAodha
(Cill Íseal)

9 SEAN CAVANAGH

S. Caomhánach
(An Maigh)

10 BRIAN DOOHER

B. Ó Dúchair
(Clann na nGael)

11 BRIAN McGUIGAN

B. Mac Uiginn
(Árd Bó)

12 GERARD CAVLAN

G. Cathláin
(Dún Geannain)

13 ENDA McGINLEY

E. Mag Fhionnaile
(Aireagal Chiaráin)

14 PETER CANAVAN

C. Ó Ceannubháin (Capt.)
(Aireagal Chiaráin)

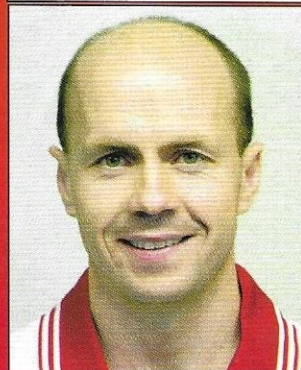
15 EOIN MULLIGAN

E. Ó Maolagáin
(An Chorra Chríochach)

Fir Ionaid

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| (16) Pascal McConnell
P. Mac Dhónaill
(An Baile Nua) | (19) Colin Holmes
C. Mac Thómais
(Na Clairsigh) | (23) Seamus Mulgrew
S. Ó Maoilchroibhe
(Domhnach Mór) | (27) Frank McGuigan
P. Mag Uiginn
(Árd Bó) |
| (17) Dermot Carlin
D. Ó Cearúlláin
(Coill an Chlochair) | (20) Paul Horisk
P. Ó hUarais
(Aireagal Chiaráin) | (24) Declan McCrossan
D. Mac an Chrosáin
(E. R. Uí Néill) | (28) Stephen O'Neill
S. Ó Néill
(Clann na nGael) |
| (18) Mark Harte
M. Ó hAirt
(Aireagal Chiaráin) | (21) Chris Lawn
C. Ó Liatháin
(Baile na Móna) | (25) Michael McGee
M. Mac Aoidh
(Loch Mhic Ruair) | (29) Brian Robinson
B. Mac Roibín
(Domhnach Mór) |
| | (22) Peter Loughran
P. Ó Luachráin
(Aireagal Chiaráin) | (26) Cormac McGinley
C. Mag Fhionnaile
(Aireagal Chiaráin) | (30) Michael Coleman
M. Ó Colmáin
(Árd Bó) |

An Captaen



Peter Canavan

Peter is hoping for better fortune than in his only All-Ireland senior football final appearance in 1995 when he scored a splendid 0-11 but still finished on the losing side against Dublin.

One of the most accomplished forwards in the game, he has already a remarkable record as an All-Ireland title winning captain. After winning his first All-Ireland Vocational Schools medal in 1988 he led Tyrone in their successful defence of the title a year later.

Peter captained the O'Neill County to their first All-Ireland under-21 title in 1991 and a year later became the first player to captain two national title-winning teams in that grade.

The sequence of firsts continued last year when he was captain of the side that won the Allianz League title for the first time and he was again team leader when the trophy was retained last May.

Canavan made his intercounty senior championship debut in 1990 and has been a consistent marksman over the years. Winner of his fourth Ulster senior medal in July, he is the leading marksman in this season's championship.

Last year he won his fourth All Stars award. He has also appeared with Ireland in the International Rules Test series against Australia.

When Brian refereed an Ulster senior football quarter-final replay between Armagh and Tyrone at Clones last year, who would have thought then that he would be in charge of the same counties in a clash for the Sam Maguire Cup in 2003?

White today becomes the first Wexford man since the forties to referee three All-Ireland senior finals. This includes a replay.

He took charge of his first Sam Maguire Cup tie in 1997 between Kerry and Mayo and refereed the Kerry-Galway final replay three years ago.

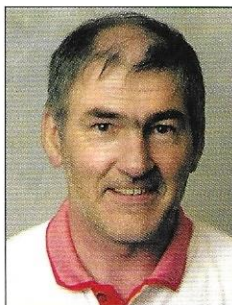
Now one of the most experienced referees in the sport, Brian is a former footballer and hurler. He officiated as Ireland's Referee/Umpire in the Coca Cola International Rules series between Ireland and Australia last year.

His refereeing duties have also taken him to New York, where in 1997 he took charge of a National League game between Kerry and Cavan to commemorate the All-Ireland senior final of 1947 between those counties.

Tír Eoghain

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	45m	Saor Ciceanna
Iadh Leath					
2adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					

Bainisteoir



Mickey Harte

It will be a remarkable achievement by Mickey Harte if he crowns his first season as manager of the Tyrone senior team by leading the county to All-Ireland honours in three grades.

He was manager of the side that won the All-Ireland minor title in 2000. After moving up to the under-21 ranks he guided Tyrone to All-Ireland glory in 2000 and 2001.

Harte got his career as senior county team manager off to a bright start earlier this year when the O'Neill County retained the Allianz League title and then went on to regain the Ulster crown.

He is a former county player.

Roghnóirí:

Mickey Harte (Manager),
Paddy Tally, Gerard McAleer.

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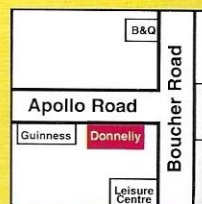


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Donnelly



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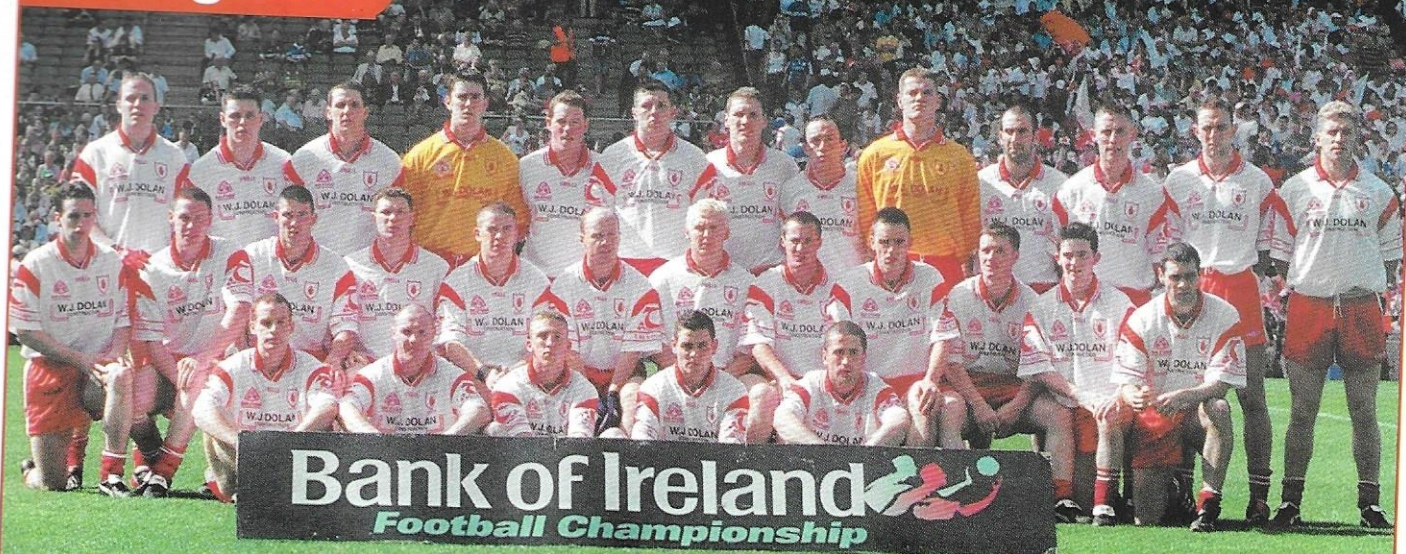
SUBARU

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Tír Eoghain



Back Row (L-R): Peter Loughran, Conor Gormley, Colin Holmes, John Devine, Gavin Devlin, Sean Cavanagh, Cormac McAnallen, Brian Dooher, Pascal McConnell, Declan McCrossan, Michael Coleman, Gerard Cavlan, Kevin Hughes.
Middle Row: Brian Robinson, Cormac McGinley, Ciaran Gourley, Enda McGinley, Phillip Jordan, Peter Canavan, Owen Mulligan, Brian McGuigan, Ryan McMenamin, Frank McGuigan, Mark Harte, Paul Horisk
Front Row: Seamus Mulgrew, Chris Lawn, Dermot Carlin, Michael McGee, Stephen O'Neill

Tyrone's route to the Final

Tyrone had seven games on the way to their first All-Ireland senior football final appearance in eight years. Along the way they regained the Ulster title after two years. This is their record so far:

18th May at Clones:

Tyrone 0-12; Derry 1-9.

24th May at Casement Park:

Tyrone 0-17; Derry 1-5.

15th June at Casement Park:

Tyrone 1-17; Antrim 1-9.

13th July at Clones:

Tyrone 1-17; Down 4-8.

20th July at Clones:

Tyrone 0-23; Down 1-5.

3rd August at Croke Park:

Tyrone 1-21; Fermanagh 0-5.

24th August at Croke Park:

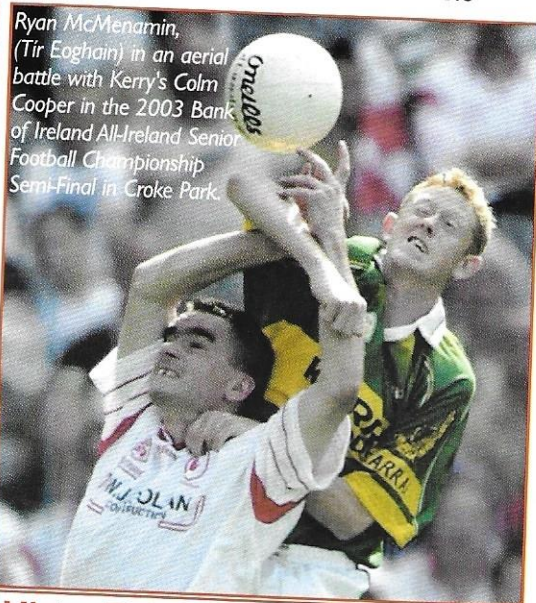
Tyrone 0-13; Kerry 0-6.

TOTAL SCORED: 3-120 (129 points).

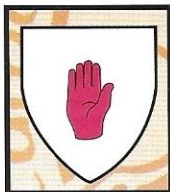
TOTAL CONCEDED: 8-47 (71 points). AVERAGE: 1.8

TYRONE SCOREBOARD

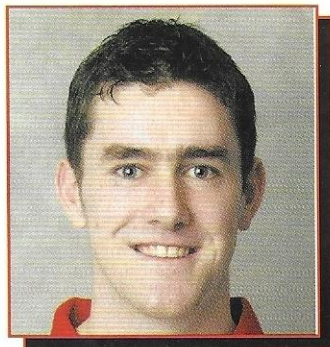
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score/Total
Peter Canavan	0-6	0-8	0-7	1-6	0-11	0-4	0-1	1-43 (46)
Eoin Mulligan	—	—	1-3	0-3	0-4	0-4	0-3	1-17 (20)
Sean Cavanagh	—	0-3	—	0-2	0-1	1-2	0-1	1-9 (12)
Brian Dooher	0-3	—	—	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-7
Brian McGuigan	—	0-2	—	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-7
Gerard Cavlan	0-1	0-1	0-1	—	0-1	0-3	—	0-7
Kevin Hughes	0-1	—	—	0-1	0-2	0-2	—	0-6
Stephen O'Neill	0-1	—	0-2	—	—	—	0-3	0-6
Mark Harte	—	—	0-3	—	—	—	—	0-3
Conor Gormley	—	—	—	0-1	0-1	0-1	—	0-3
Enda McGinley	—	—	—	—	—	0-2	0-1	0-3
Declan McCrossan	—	0-1	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-2
Ciarán Gourley	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1	—	0-2
Paul Horisk	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
Stephen Lawn	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
Philip Jordan	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
Frank McGuigan	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	0-1
Ryan McMenamin	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1



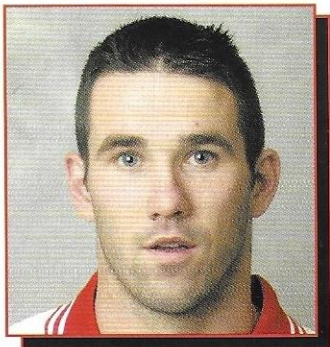
Ulster Title Winning Years
 1956, 1957, 1973, 1984, 1986, 1989, 1995, 1996, 2001, 2003.



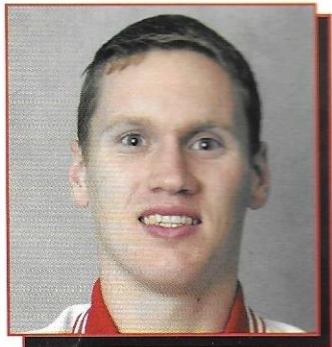
TÍR EOGHAIN - Player Profiles



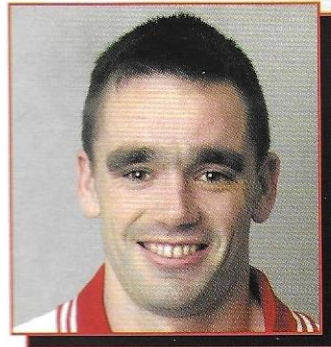
1. John Devine
(Errigal Ciarán)
Age: 20. Ht: 6'2". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student
Part of the Errigal Chiarán contingent, he has enjoyed a great battle with Paschal McConnell for the No.1 shirt this year.



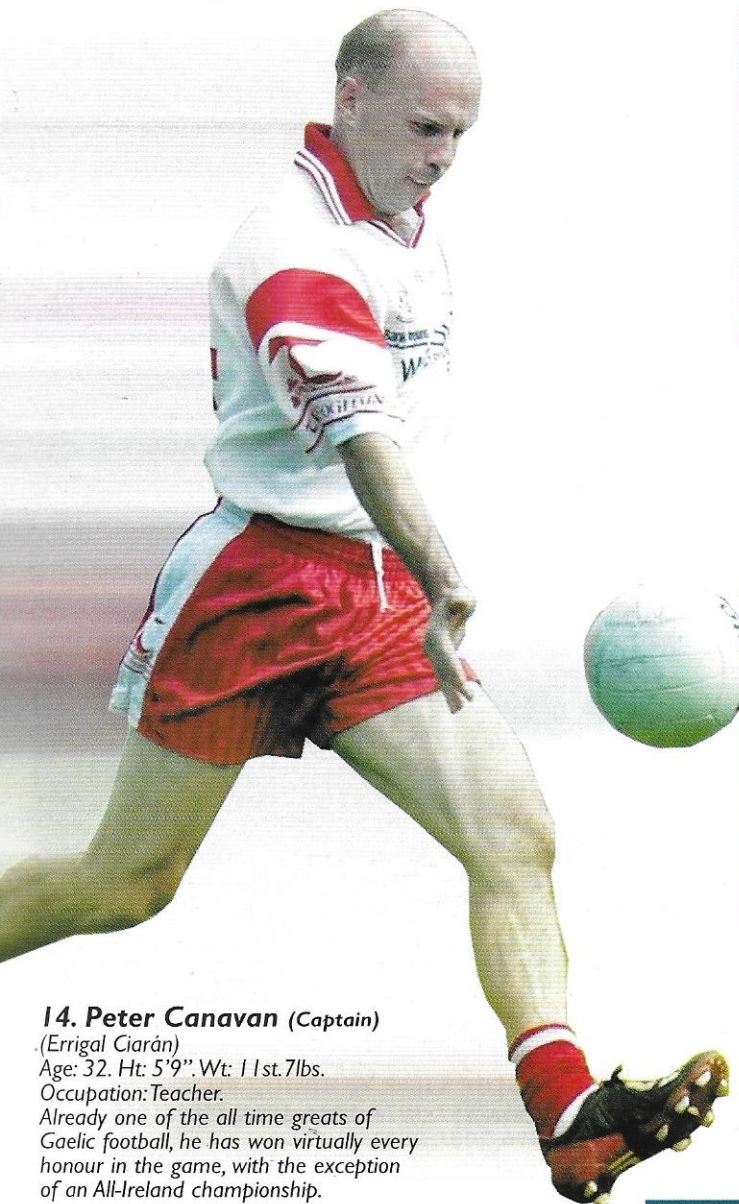
2. Ciarán Gourley
(Rock)
Age: 24. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Teacher.
Played much of this season at centre half back, but returned to the corner for the semi-final after Gavin Devlin's re-instatement.



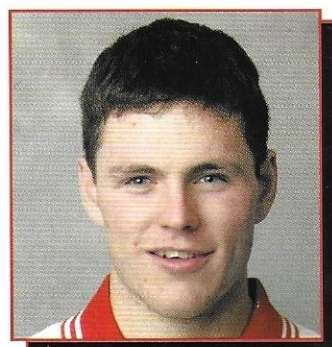
3. Cormac McAnallen
(Eglishe)
Age: 23. Ht: 6'1". Wt: 14st.
Occupation: Teacher
Better known as a midfielder or centre half forward, McAnallen's conversion to full back has been one of the stories of the season.



4. Ryan McMenamin
(Dromore)
Age: 25. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 11st.7lbs.
Occupation: Civil Servant
A dependable corner back, McMenamin has had a good year but will face his biggest test today when he faces Stephen Mc Donnell.



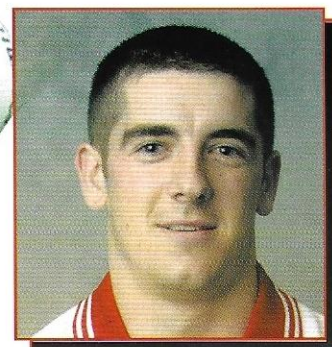
14. Peter Canavan (Captain)
(Errigal Ciarán)
Age: 32. Ht: 5'9". Wt: 11st.7lbs.
Occupation: Teacher.
Already one of the all time greats of Gaelic football, he has won virtually every honour in the game, with the exception of an All-Ireland championship.



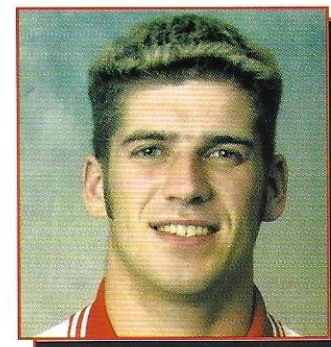
5. Conor Gormley
(An Charraig Mhór)
Age: 22. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 13st.4lbs.
Occupation: Electrician.
The Carrickmore man is not afraid to come forward and has already notched a few points from wing back this season.



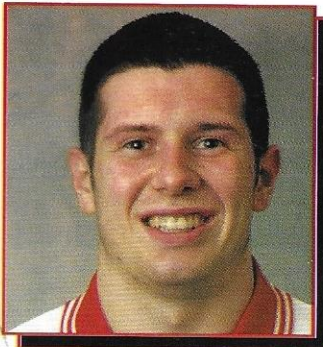
6. Gavin Devlin
(Ardboe)
Age: 23. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Joiner.
Returned to the Tyrone team for the semi-final win over Kerry and showed that he had lost none of his early season form.



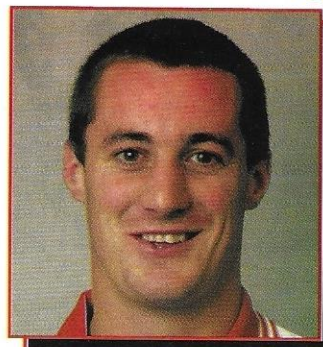
7. Philip Jordan
(Moy)
Age: 23. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 12st.
Occupation: Student
Another defender who is not afraid to get forward, Jordan had a tremendous game in the semi-final victory over Kerry.



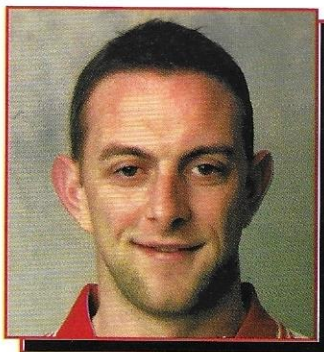
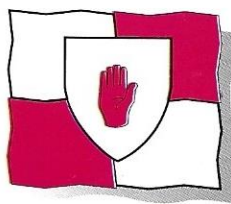
8. Kevin Hughes
(Killeeshil)
Age: 23. Ht: 6'1". Wt: 13st.
Occupation: Engineer
Has had an excellent season at midfield, and his partnership with Sean Cavanagh is recognised as one of the finest in the game.



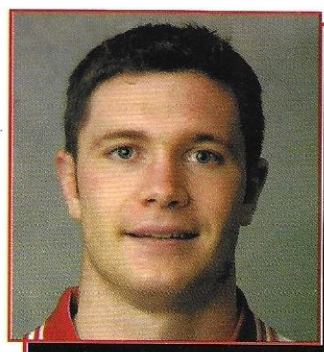
9. Sean Cavanagh
(May)
Age: 20. Ht: 6'1". Wt: 14st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student.
Already a contender for Player of the Year, the midfielder has contributed an incredible 1-9 to the Tyrone cause en route to the final.



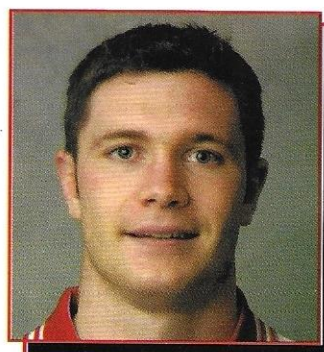
11. Brian McGuigan
(Ardboe)
Age: 23. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 11st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student
A son of the legendary Frank, he pulls the strings in the centre of the Tyrone attack, unlocking defences for those around him.



10. Brian Doohar
(Clann na nGael)
Age: 28. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Veterinary Surgeon.
His commitment to the Tyrone cause is borne out by an incredible engine that will see him cover every blade of grass in Croke Park.



12. Gerard Cavlan
(Dungannon)
Age: 27. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Purchasing Officer
The Dungannon man had a most impressive semi-final and when he delivers on his undoubted talent he is unstoppable.



13. Enda McGinley
(Errigal Ciarán)
Age: 22. Ht: 6'1". Wt: 14st.
Occupation: Physiotherapist
Has benefited greatly from the influence and experience of his clubmate Peter Canavan and works very hard in the corner.

15. Eoin Mulligan
(Cookstown)
Age: 22. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 13st.9lbs.
Occupation: Joiner
Has taken much of the pressure off Canavan and his strength and scoring ability have marked him out as a real star in 2003.

FIR TONAID

16. Pascal McConnell
(Newtownstewart)
Age: 23. Ht: 6'3". Wt: 14st.7lbs.
Occupation: Civil Servant

20. Paul Horisk
(Errigal Ciarán)
Age: 25. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Sales Representative.

24. Declan McCrossan
(E. R. Uí Néill)
Age: 24. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Marketing Officer

28. Stephen O'Neill
(Clann na nGael)
Age: 22. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student

17. Dermot Carlin
(Killyclogher)
Age: 19. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student

21. Chris Lawn
(Moortown)
Age: 31. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 13st.
Occupation: Joiner

25. Michael McGee
(Loughmacrory)
Age: 22. Ht: 5'9". Wt: 12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Labourer

29. Brian Robinson
(Donaghmore)
Age: 25. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Accountant

18. Mark Harte
(Errigal Ciarán)
Age: 24. Ht: 5'9". Wt: 11st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student

22. Peter Loughran
(Errigal Ciarán)
Age: 27. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Sales Representative.

26. Cormac McGinley
(Errigal Ciarán)
Age: 24. Ht: 6'2". Wt: 13st.8lbs.
Occupation: Site Engineer

30. Michael Coleman
(Ardboe)
Age: 24. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 13st.
Occupation: Musician.

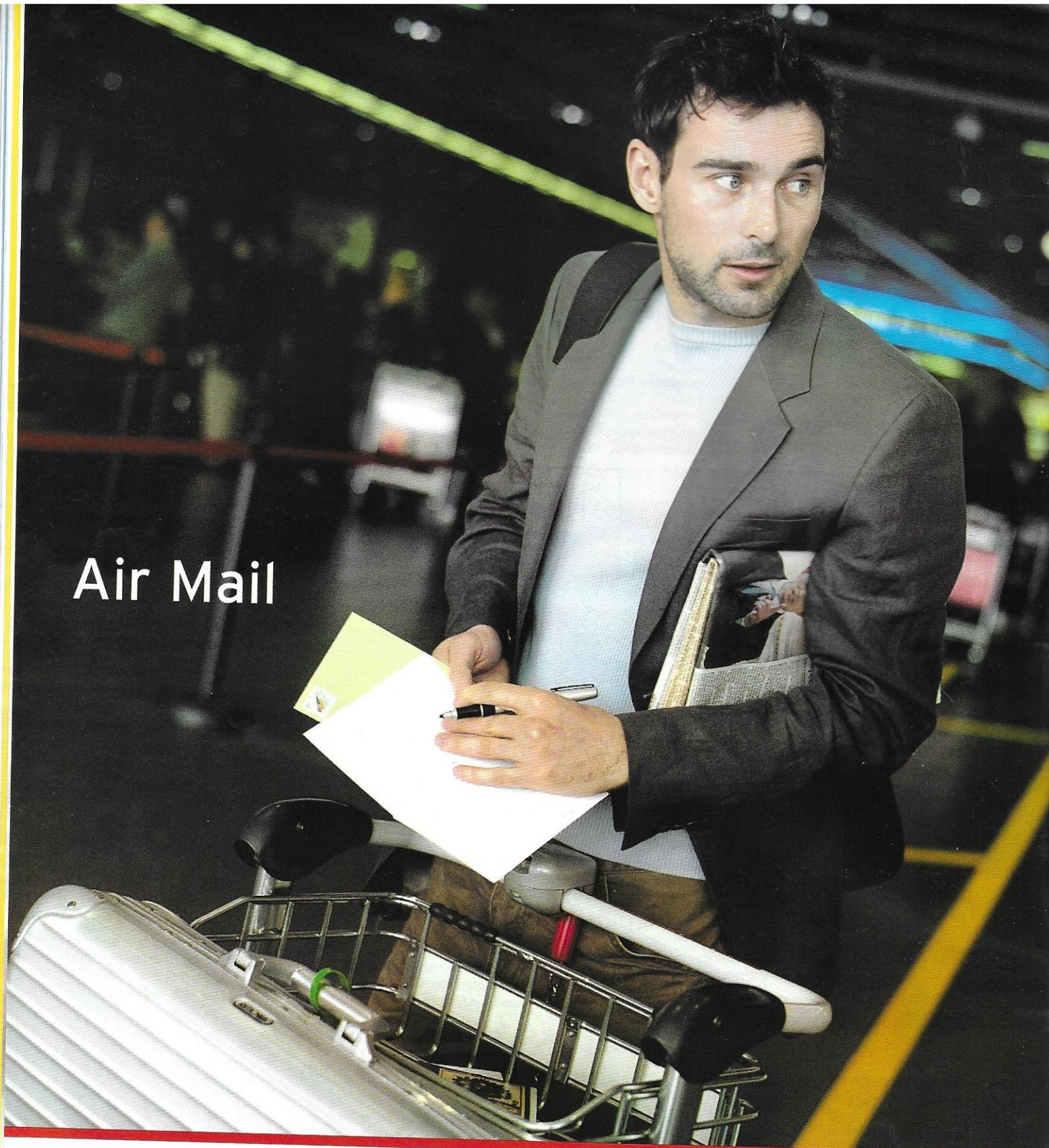
19. Colin Holmes
(Armagh Harps)
Age: 27. Ht: 6'0". Wt: 13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Teacher

23. Seamus Mulgrew
(Donaghmore)
Age: 27. Ht: 5'11". Wt: 12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Doctor

27. Frank McGuigan
(Ardboe)
Age: 24. Ht: 5'10". Wt: 13st.
Occupation: Clerical Officer



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Three Armagh Victories

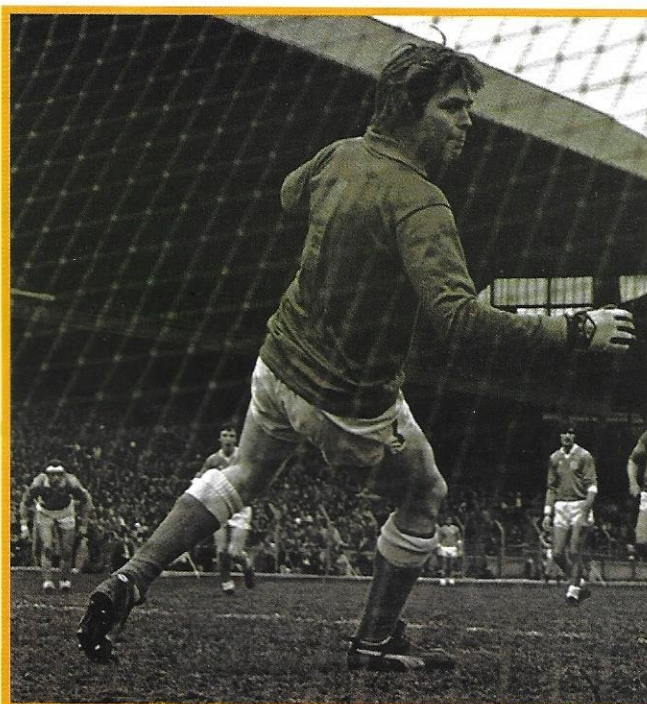


1952 – Armagh 1-8; Tyrone 1-6

Armagh had surrendered their Ulster crown to Antrim in 1951, but they were still one of the strongest teams in the province and they were unlikely to be caught napping a second time as they accepted the challenge of Tyrone, a county struggling to capitalise on the achievements of their great minor squads of the late 1940s. And it was proving to be a slow process as, so far, just four members of those fine teams had commanded a permanent place with the senior fifteen.

But on home turf at Dungannon and with the aid of a strong breeze they set about unsettling the favourites. It took them three minutes to open the scoring and Frankie Donnelly pointed a free before J.J.Kelly from play and Donnelly from another free made it 0-4 to nil. Armagh had still to mount a serious threat, but eventually Gerry O'Neill finished a neat move for their first score with 20 minutes gone. Tyrone responded quickly and Murphy found the net after Donnelly's shot had hit the post.

Another Tyrone point made it 1-5 to 0-1 at the break – an advantage that looked vulnerable in view of the wind strength. And so it proved to be and Bill McCorry's goal after four minutes was the catalyst. However, Iggy Jones pointed for Tyrone and they were still ahead as the game entered the closing stages. Then O'Neill struck three vital blows – the levelling point and the two that ensured victory.



Armagh goalkeeper Brian McAlinden.

Armagh scorers: G.O'Neill 0-5, B.McCorry 1-1, G.Fagan 0-2.
Tyrone scorers: F.Donnelly 0-4, K.Murphy 1-0, I.Jones 0-1, J.J.Kelly 0-1.

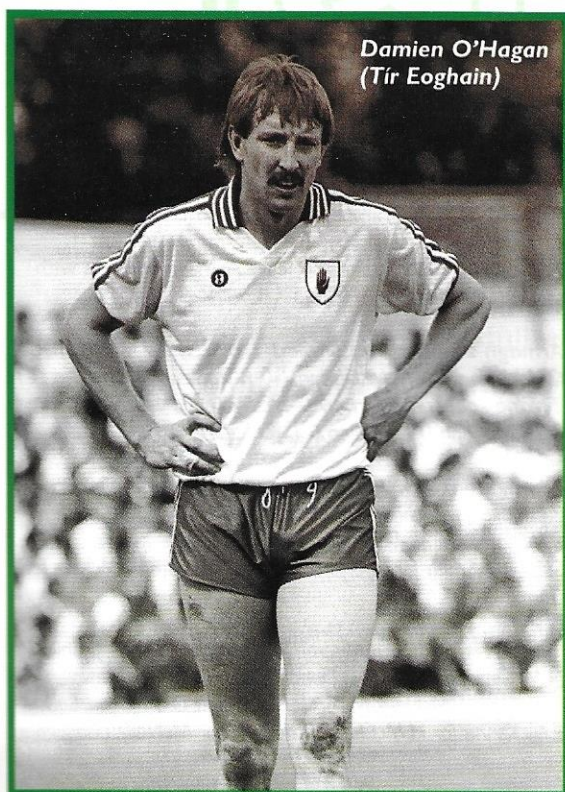
Armagh – L.McCorry, J.McStay, B.Seeley, P.McGleenon, F.Kernan, J.Bratton, S.Quinn, G.Morgan, B.McCorry, P.McGlowan, M.McEvoy, J.Cunningham, G.Fagan, A.O'Hagan, G.O'Neill.
Tyrone – T.Turbett, O.Slane, T.Campbell, D.Donnelly, P.Donaghy, L.Campbell, P.Quinn, S.McGrath, M.Connolly, F.Donnelly, S.Donnelly, I.Jones, K.Murphy, T.Maguire, J.J.Kelly.

1980 – Armagh 4-10; Tyrone 4-7

A crowd of over 21,000 turned up for this first-ever Ulster final between Armagh and Tyrone and after a number of less than enthralling finals over the previous few years, this game did much to advertise the attractions of football in the northern province.

Armagh were striving to regain a title they last held in 1977 while Tyrone were making their first appearance at this stage of the championship since their 1973 success against Down. Both teams had progressed to the final without difficulty and their semi-final wins – Armagh by seven points over Monaghan and Tyrone by six over Cavan – showed just how far ahead of the pack they were.

No previous Ulster final had produced eight goals and Patsy Kerlin got the first of these for Tyrone after just two minutes, which set the tone for the afternoon. Patsy Hetherington had Tyrone's second and if Armagh took



Damien O'Hagan
(Tír Eoghain)

Continued on page 56 →



Three Armagh Victories

Continued from page 55

some time to find the goal-scoring touch, when they did it was to mount a three-goal barrage, which left them leading by 3-4 to 2-3 at the interval.

Tyrone cut that lead by two points early in the second period only to have Joe Kernan and Brian Hughes restore the interval position. By the 50th minute the Armagh lead had moved out to eight points, but goals by Damian O'Hagan threw the issue wide open until Jimmy Smith's point clinched it for Armagh.

Armagh scorers: P.Loughran 0-5, J.Smith 1-2, J.Kernan 1-1, B.Hughes 1-1, H.Kernan 1-0, N.Marley 0-1.

Tyrone scorers: D.O'Hagan 2-1, P.Hetherington 1-2, P.Kerlin 1-0, G.Taggart 0-2, M.Harte 0-2.

Armagh – B.McAlinden, B.Canavan, J.McKerr, K.Rafferty, P.Moriarty, J.McCorry, J.Donnely, J.Kernan, C.McKinstry, N.Marley, J.Smith, F.McMahon, S.Devlin, B.Hughes, P.Loughran. Subs – H.Kernan for Devlin, D.McCoy for Marley.

Tyrone – B.Campbell, C.McGarvey, F.Rafferty, C.McRory, K.McCabe, S.Donnely, P.King, K.Toner, P.Kerlin, P.Hetherington, G.Taggart, D.O'Hagan, P.Donnely, E.McKenna, M.Harte. Subs – W.McKenna for Toner, S.Daly for P.Donnely, D.McKenna for McRory.

1987 – Armagh 5-9; Tyrone 1-9

The scoreline at the end could hardly have been more emphatic – a clear four goals leaves little room for argument – but with only eight minutes remaining the issue was still wide open after Tyrone, the defending provincial champions, had clawed their way back to within three points of hitherto rampant Armagh.

Early on Tyrone had looked perfectly composed at Irvinestown as they moved into a four points to nil lead with 15 minutes gone. Then Armagh were suddenly alive and as Tyrone reeled, the Orchard county hit 2-4 (the first goal being an absolute gem by Ger Houlihan and which gave Armagh a lead they never subsequently surrendered) before Tyrone had their fifth point at the 32nd minute, which left it 2-4 to 0-5 at the changeover.

Armagh had another goal and a point before Tyrone rallied and Steve Conway, despite missing at least three scoreable frees, tacked on as many scores before Eugene McKenna slammed home a goal after Padge Quinn's penalty had been saved by Brian McAlinden.

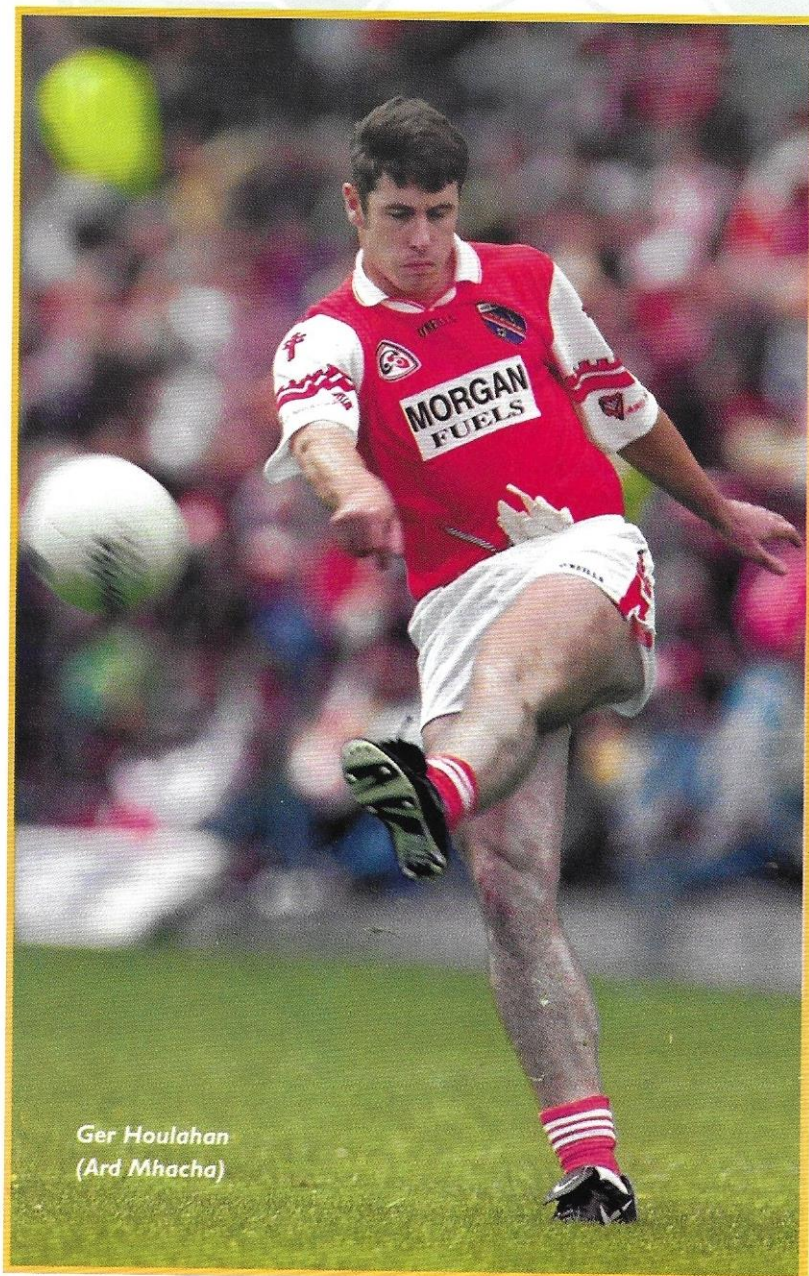
For a time, as the exchanges swayed from one end to the other, it was anyone's game; but Armagh quickly rediscovered their goal-scoring touch. Martin Toye and Martin McQuillan rampaged through the Tyrone defence to raise the green flag before Denis Seely and Jim McConville added points to leave Armagh winners with something to spare.

Armagh scorers: J.McConville 1-2, D.Seely 1-2, S.Skelton 1-1, G.Houlihan 1-1, M.McQuillan 1-0, P.Grimley 0-2, J.McKerr 0-1.

Tyrone scorers: S.Conway 0-4, E.McKenna 1-0, M.McClure 0-2, T.McCann 0-1, P.Quinn 0-1, K.McCabe 0-1.

Armagh – B.McAlinden, V.Loughran, V.Cassidy, P.Rafferty, B.Canavan, C.McNally, A.Shortt, M.McQuillan, C.McGuirk, S.Skelton, P.Grimley, G.Houlihan, M.Toye, D.Seely, J.McConville. Subs – N.Smith for Toye, J.McCorry for Loughran, J.McKerr for Gormley.

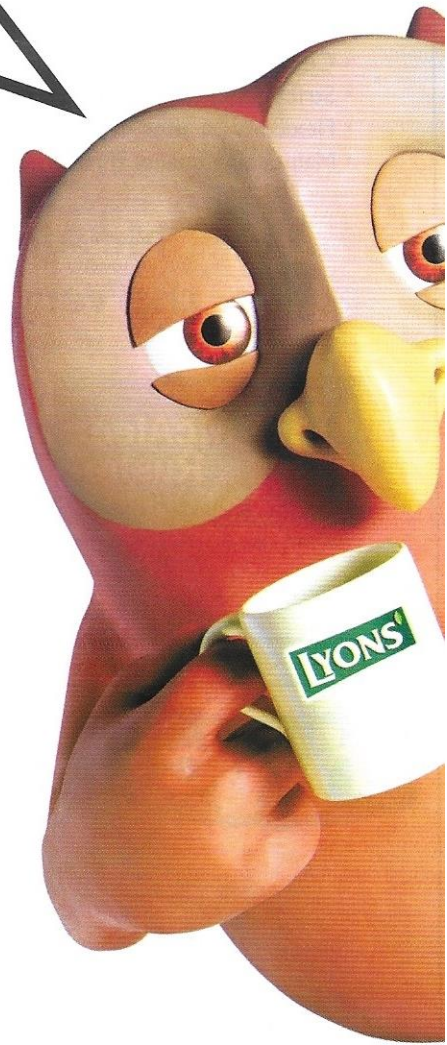
Tyrone – A.Skelton, R.Munroe, C.McGarvey, S.Myle, J.Mallon, N.McGinn, E.Kilpatrick, D.Donaghy, H.McClure, S.Conway, T.McCann, S.McNally, M.McClure, P.Quinn, D.O'Hagan. Subs – E.McKenna for H.McClure, K.McCabe for McNally, I.Gallagher for McCann.



Ger Houlihan
(Ard Mhacha)

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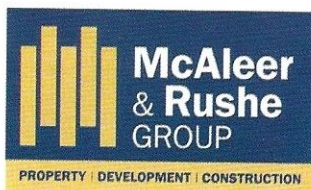
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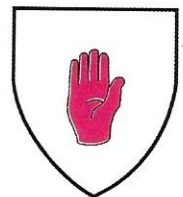
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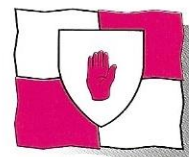
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Wishing Tyrone all success in all Ireland football final



Three Tyrone Wins



1941 – Tyrone 3-13 Armagh 0-1

In the previous ten years Tyrone had won only two championship games, so it was understandable that when they lined out against Armagh, a county they had never beaten in senior championship football, few gave them a chance of upsetting the odds. And the odds were considerable as their opponents had been Cavan's most consistent challengers in the province for the previous nine or ten years.

But at Coalisland this was to be a memorable and uplifting day for the O'Neill county men as they tore the form book to shreds and in the process inflicted on Armagh the heaviest defeat suffered by the county.

From the throw-in Tyrone were setting the pace and with the Campbell-Keenan midfield providing an almost non-stop service, the forwards were soon hoisting the flags around the Armagh posts. Points were recorded by Keenan, Brian Devlin and Cormac before Begley finished Campbell's free to the net.

Armagh struggled desperately against the Tyrone tide, but their scoring efforts were easily contained by a vigilant defence, which never faltered and by the interval the scoreboard showed 2-7 to 0-0. The second half was a replica of the first and the herculean efforts of Jim McCullagh, Alf Murray and Con Shortt went for nought as Tyrone clinched an astonishing victory. A magnificent first.

Tyrone scorers: P.Begley 2-4, B.Devlin 1-5, M.Keenan 0-2, F.Cormac 0-1, P.Campbell 0-1.

Armagh scorer: A.Murray 0-1.

Tyrone – C.Poynty, C.McGrath, J.Herron, J.Hagen, M.Toal, A.Montague, P.Crozier, P.Campbell, M.Keenan, D.Devlin, P.Begley, P.Cormac, J.Rafferty, B.Devlin, B.Cullen.

Armagh – J.McManus, E.McMahon, P.Carney, J.McAlevey, M.O'Hanlon, J.McCullagh, P.Hanratty, T.Clarke, J.Cassidy, D.McGeown, A.Murray, L.McAlinden, M.Heaney, C.Shortt, M.McNeill.

1947 – Tyrone 1-6 Armagh 1-6

Having already drawn with Fermanagh and won the replay, Tyrone were having the rare experience of appearing in a third championship match in the one season when they took on Armagh at the Athletic Grounds on the fourth Sunday in June. For 55 minutes of an interesting, but by no means great, contest the visitors were in the lead – and deservedly so, as they had much more of the play for more than three-quarters of the way. And if their shooting had been on a par with their work further afield they would not have been caught by Hollywood's late strike which tied the scores in lost time.

Replay – Tyrone 2-5 Armagh 1-4

As so often with second meetings, the exchanges ran to a different pattern a week later at Dungannon, as this time Armagh, more economical up front, made the early running thanks to a midfield pull that wasn't great, but was still pushing much of the play into the Tyrone half. Even so, Tyrone had numerous chances which, had only a portion of them been turned to account, would have left them closer than five points adrift at the break (0-1 to 1-3).

However, Tyrone got it right in the second half and though it took them some time to get on target, once their first goal went in they were playing in a winning vein. But Armagh were there almost to the end until Quinn's goal wrapped it up for the home team.

Tyrone scorers: T.Campbell 1-2, B.Devlin 0-3, I.Quinn 1-0.

Armagh scorers: D.Slevin 1-1, H.Hollywood 0-2, T.Murray 0-1.

Tyrone – A.McCormack, P.O'Neill, G.Rice, P.Gallagher, H.Kelly, J.Doris, P.McGrath, I.Quinn, B.Devlin, P.Corry, J.Devlin, I.Jones, S.Mallon, M.Camac, T.Campbell.

Armagh – F.McVeigh, B.Murphy, J.McCullagh, J.McVeigh, F.O'Neill, J.Lappin, S.Morgan, L.McAlinden, T.Murray, S.Fagan, H.Hollywood, D.Slevin, T.Daly, V.Kinney, M.O'Loughran.



Tyrone's Frank McGuigan — long-serving stalwart.



Three Tyrone Wins

Continued from page 59

1972 – Tyrone 0-13 Armagh 1-7

This first-round game at Dungannon, if lacking some of the more silken skills of the game,

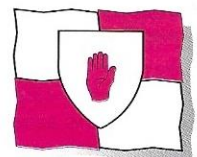
was still an absorbing contest with the issue open to the very end. Indeed, but for a fine save late in the hour when the winners' goalkeeper did well to withstand a legitimate shoulder-charge practically on the goal line, it would surely have taken a second meeting to separate the sides.

As it was Tyrone just about deserved their win as they showed character in recovering from a bad start, which saw Jimmy Smith ram home a goal that was quickly supplemented by a Peter Loughran point inside three minutes. When Tyrone got moving Patsy Hetherington pointed a couple of frees conceded by a hard-pressed Armagh rearguard, but on a limited service the Orchard county contrived to keep ahead and it was almost on the half-time whistle before Hetherington brought the sides level (0-8 to 1-5).

Chances were wasted by Tyrone in the third quarter, but they did succeed in inching ahead as Armagh's problems up front became all too clear. Still they were never too far behind to preclude the possibility of a match-saving strike. But it never came and the issue could have been decided sooner, but for a remarkable save by Armagh 'keeper Padge Scullion while lying on the goal line, and Tyrone had to settle for a three-point win.

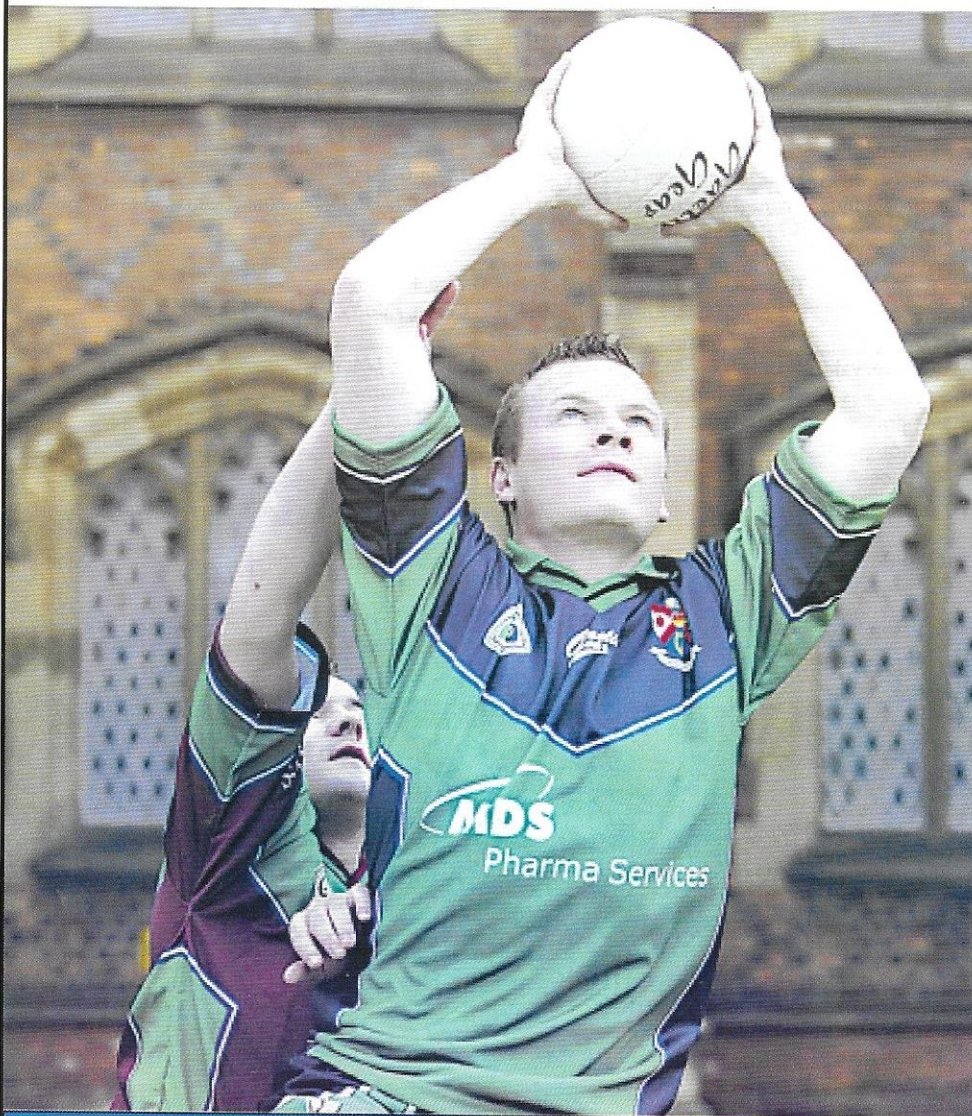
Tyrone scorers: P.Hetherington 0-3, P.Harte 0-3, F.McGuigan 0-3, B.Dolan 0-2, H.Crawford 0-1, P.Mulgrew 0-1.
Armagh scorers: J.Smith 1-1, P.Loughran 0-3, J.O'Loan 0-2, L.McCabe 0-1.

Tyrone – M.McCann, J.McElroy, R.Mulgrew, J.Duffy, M.J.Forbes, G.Taggart, P.King, B.Dolan, F.McGuigan, P.Hetherington, S.McElhatton, K.Tague, P.Harte, F.Quinn, H.Crawford. Subs – A.McMahon for McElhatton, M.Hughes for Crawford, J.Earley for Quinn.
Armagh – P.Scullion, P.McCann, T.McCreesh, G.Harte, G.O'Reilly, S.Bellew, G.Hughes, P.McGuinness, O.Carty, K.Stevenson, J.Smith, F.Hanna, L.McCabe, P.Loughran, J.O'Loan. Subs – M.Creesh for McGuinness, T.Quinn for Hughes, H.McGeough for Stevenson.

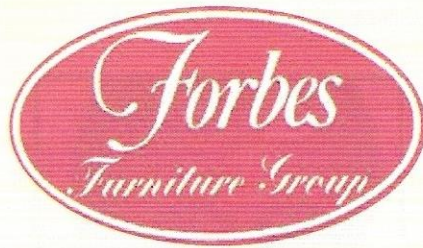


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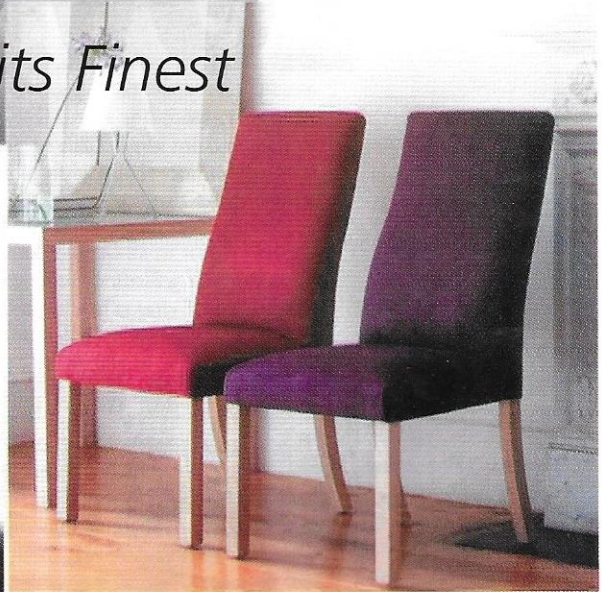
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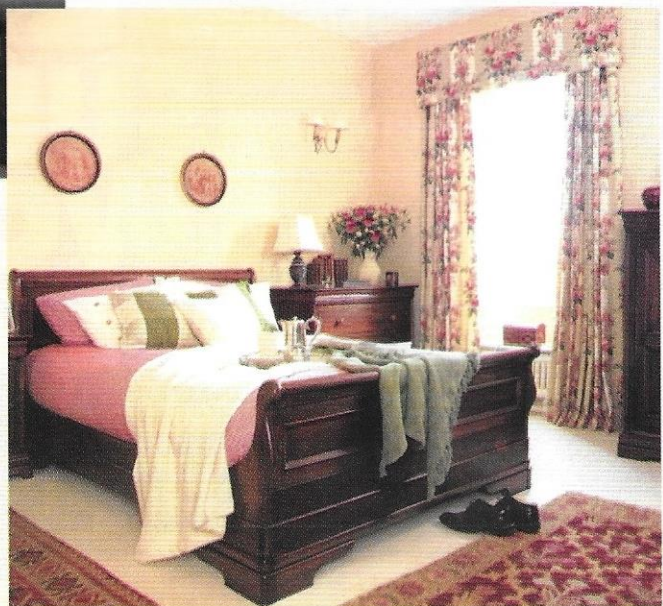
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Football memories of a Tyrone childhood

by Seamas Ó Catháin

For all that football was the favourite sporting pastime of my teenage companions in my native parish in Tyrone, their fortunes and mine on the field of play generally tended to vacillate between poor and downright disastrous. For example, I once had the dubious distinction of playing on a team of ours that went down ignominiously (at home) to a neighbouring parish by a margin of 42 points! Some days, we didn't happen as 'donsie', as they say, and could even rise to winning the first half – as one wag put it when questioned about the result of an away fixture. In my playing days, the only boast we could lay claim to was winning the toss from time to time and, like kissing the devil in the dark, betting on our success would have been a rather 'chancey' business!

But we persisted and, eventually, our dogged efforts were rewarded and I became the proud possessor of a West Tyrone Minor League medal, gained in neck and neck competition with a team from Fintona, the premier outfit of that era in our neck of the woods. That same year, however, Fintona succeeded in knocking us out of the first round of the minor championship, after a replay.

That replay, staged at the neutral venue of the Christian Brothers' Park in Omagh, was occasioned by the abandonment of the first encounter when, with Fintona edging ahead on our home ground and only minutes to go, a fracas broke out between the different sets of supporters. 'Up Fintona for hairy butter!' was among the many taunts I remember ringing out as denizens of the respective parishes waded into one another, the pitch was invaded and the match called off.

Another match against Urney also came close to suffering a similar fate when the ball was 'blarged' clean out of the field, and the jurisdiction, landing across the border in county Donegal on the far side of the River Finn. Play was eventually resumed, however, when another ball was located.

Our efforts at the CBS in Omagh, particularly in the McRory Cup, met with little more success. Once, a gang of us foregathered behind our own goals as our team squared up to St Eunan's College, Letterkenny. From this vantage point, tutored and encouraged by our Latin teacher, we then

proceeded to greet every Donegal wide with the demented chorus 'puella mala', literally 'a bad girl', but here perversely intended to convey the message 'Bad Miss'. Needless to say, while this exercise may have marginally expanded our Latin vocabulary and likewise improved our understanding of gender and case endings, such obscure censure had absolutely no effect on the visitors' scoring capacity. The Donegal lads won handsomely despite all our learned 'guldering'.

Bhí spéis mhillteanach agam sa pheil i gcónaí, ach níor lú ná sin an tsuim a chuir mé sa teanga Ghaeilge. Ar deireadh thiar, ba í an Ghaeilge a d'fhág an pheil in áit na leithphínne, mar tharla go raibh comórtas iontach ar siúl i dtús na seascaidí d'fhoirne mionúir idir chlubanna Ultacha agus go raibh club s'againne le himirt sa chéad bhabhta ar a leithéid seo de thráthnóna. Cad é a d'éirigh suas ach gur gláiodh aníos go hArd Mhacha ormsa an oíche cheanann chéanna chun go mbronnfaí orm bonn a bhí gnóite agam i gcomórtas eile, comórtas Gaeilge do dhaltai scoile an Tuaiscirt, a bhí á reachtáil ag Gael Linn.

Ba é cic an scéil é gur i Halla Pádraig in Ard Mhacha a sheas mé an oíche úd agus bhí de thoradh ar an mhéid sin gur corthum fánach a sheas mé ar pháirc peile ar bith ina dhiaidh sin, sa bhaile nó i gcéin. Ba bheag an chaill cinnte mé ó thaobh na peileadóireachta de, ach ba ligint síos mór don fhoireann s'againne ina dhiaidh sin an rogha sin ar son na Gaeilge a rinne mé an tráthnóna sin. Níl a fhios agam ar mhaith mo chomrádaithe peile dom riamh é!

As far as I recall, contacts with footballing neighbours to the east – even within the borders of county Tyrone – were practically non-existent in those days. The 'Lough Shore' (the lough in question being Lough Neagh, of course) might as well have been on a different planet (or even part of Armagh for that matter) as far as we were concerned. Only the names of its illustrious footballing sons featuring on the Tyrone county panel would have been familiar to us. So too, as it happened, were the names of members of the famous Armagh team of 1953 which gave Kerry such a close call in the All Ireland Final of that year. I grieved heart sore from the sideline of my first All Ireland for my fellow Ulstermen that year. This year, one way or another, I'll be cheering a 'Far Downer' triumph and, if push comes to shove, shedding another tear for Armagh.

Seamas Ó Catháin
is head of the
Department of Irish
Folklore at University
College, Dublin and is a
native of Drumquin in
the parish of Langfield.

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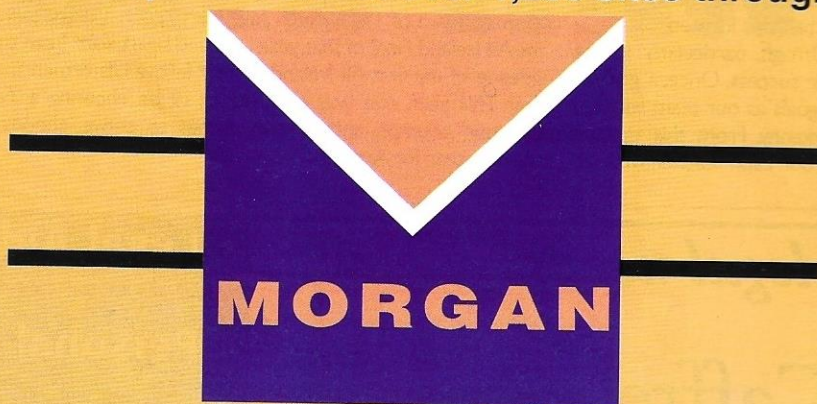
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“I got roasted in the Monaghan game and I didn’t think I’d hold my place”

WHEN Armagh ended their search for a very first All-Ireland title last year, Andy Mallon was perched on Hill 16,

blown away by it all.

This afternoon he makes the transition from terrace to touchline and beyond as the Orchard County aims to keep hold of the Sam Maguire Cup.

The 20-year-old electrician has enjoyed a blinding debut season at senior level after making the most of his chance to impress during the spring McKenna Cup campaign.

With Armagh’s more seasoned campaigners away on holidays, Pearse Óg star Mallon made the most of his chance to impress and earned himself a championship shirt with a series of gutsy league displays.

“We went through an U21 development squad last year and played in the McKenna Cup - Peter Rafferty was the manager and he helped us through,” Mallon explained. “Monaghan beat us in the final and but I got called into the senior panel after that.”

He wasn’t alone as fellow young guns David Turley, Ciarán McKeever, clubmate Ciarán McKinney and Mal Mackin all made

the step up to senior ranks.

Mallon, a former minor and U21 starlet, made his full senior debut in the National Football League against Donegal and hasn’t looked back since.

“It’s been very tough but it’s a dream come true - I didn’t think this time last year that I’d be here,” he added.

“I got roasted in the Monaghan game and I didn’t think I’d hold my place but I was glad Joe kept me in. He gave me a chance and I had to take it.”

Armagh recovered from their shock defeat against Monaghan in the Ulster championship with victories against Waterford and Antrim in the qualifiers. But then came the acid test and the turning point in Armagh’s season - a date with Dublin at Croke Park.

“The Dublin game was the turning point for us,” Mallon agreed. “At half time everybody thought we were gone but we came back into it.”

It was Mallon’s second taste of the big stage at Croke Park having replaced Enda McNulty in the league semi-final.

And he’s quick to pay tribute to the more seasoned campaigners for helping him along the way in his first year.

Pearse Óg clubmate Ronan Clarke was in the same boat last year as an awestruck rookie and Mallon explained: “Ronan’s helped me and told me what to expect. I take each game as it comes and try to keep a level head.

“But the boys were great, they’re friendly and they brought me on - I didn’t feel out of place.”

And his displays have been of such consistent excellence that some extremely talented players have been left kicking their heels on the bench.

“Justin McNulty played full back last year on the All-Ireland winning team and Kevin McElvanna is a class corner back. They’re always pushing me for a place,” Mallon said.

“The full back line is working well but if we’re not playing well there’s always other lads to fill our shoes - it keeps the pressure on us.”

PROFILE

Andy Mallon

by JACKIE CAHILL

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“We concentrated on getting the best out of ourselves.”

CORMAC McAnallen, one of the finest midfield talents in the country, has made the move to Tyrone's full back line with effortless ease.

The call arrived from manager Mickey Harte for this year's Ulster final replay against Down and McAnallen was more than happy to oblige. The two men go back a long way - McAnallen was Harte's captain in successful minor and U21 teams and the manager knew he could depend on the English man to fill the gap.

“Mickey expects a lot of his teams but he gives an awful lot. He expects respect but he respects all his players and that's the way to manage. He's very good at all that. He's a good motivator and works us hard in training. He expects that hard work to be shown on the field whenever we go into games. “Colin Holmes had an injury and Chris Lawn picked up a knock too,” McAnallen recalled. “The position was lying vacant and Mickey asked me to play there. When Mickey had faith and confidence in me, that was good enough for me.”

McAnallen, who played Sigerson Cup football for Queens and won a Dublin championship with UCD, joined the Tyrone senior panel as a 19-year-old in 1999.

A year previously he skippered the minor side that ended Laois hopes of three-in-a-row of All-Ireland titles before graduating to the U21 ranks under Harte and landing two All-Ireland titles in 2000 and 2001, the latter as skipper.

Today he aims to complete the set and collect a senior All-Ireland medal and he admitted: “A senior title would mean an awful lot. The county's never done it before and until we do there will be a great yearning for it. We have a good chance but Armagh are in our way and they're an outstanding side.”

And McAnallen knows all about the intense rivalry between today's two competing counties - he's a history teacher in St. Catherine's in Armagh city!

He smiled: “I have the rules well set out before class - no talking football! But it's a good bit of banter, it's all good-natured and there's no malice.”

It gets serious in today's very first all-Ulster All-Ireland final and McAnallen has a huge respect for the reigning champions.

“Armagh will come out and play with great vigour - we have to match that,” he said.

“They're famous for how well they can adapt - they're not a team with just plan A, they can change to plan B or C and that's what makes them such good opponents and such a hard team to play against. There's no point preparing for one man alone or one way that the game's going to go. It can go any way and we have to be flexible.

“We worked very hard this year and the thing we concentrated most on was getting the best out of ourselves.”

The sides met in last year's Ulster championship with Armagh winning a replay en route to provincial glory and McAnallen recalled: “They were hard, draining matches. The first day we got a last minute goal to equalise and there were chances for either team to win it. The second day was even harder and both teams upped their performance. Armagh went into the lead, we came back and this time they won it with a goal in the last few minutes. Matches between the two teams are always very close and well fought but sporting encounters - hard but fair.” The way Cormac McAnallen likes to play it.

PROFILE

Cormac McAnallen

by JACKIE CAHILL



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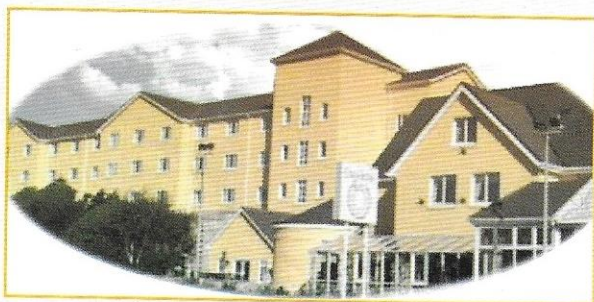
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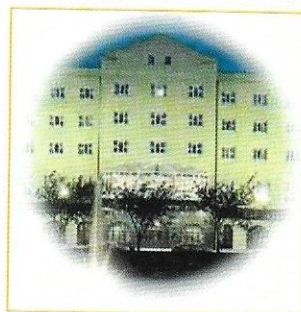
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TOP SCORERS

Eight years ago Peter Canavan scored eleven points against Dublin in the All-Ireland final, and although that wasn't enough to secure Tyrone the title, it did enable the Errigal Ciarán ace to edge by Colin Corkery and take top spot in the 1995 scorers' chart. It looks likely that Canavan will again take

Adrian Sweeney (Dun na nGall) - scored 41 points in 8 matches

pole position this year as he currently enjoys an eight-point lead over Steven McDonnell and is a further two ahead of Oisín McConville (winner in '99 and joint first with Ray Cosgrove last season).

The Tyrone captain scored 1-43 (46 points) in seven games, including that limited appearance in the semi-final against

THE TOP 20 MARKSMEN IN THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO DATE ARE:

	Total	Games	Average
1 Peter Canavan (Tyrone)	1-43 (46)	7	6.75
2 Frankie Dolan (Roscommon)	1-38 (41)	6	6.83
Adrian Sweeney (Donegal)	0-41	8	5.12
4 Declan Browne (Tipperary)	2-34 (40)	4	10.0
5 Steven McDonnell (Armagh)	5-23 (38)	7	5.42
6 Oisín McConville (Armagh)	2-30 (36)	7	5.14
7 Muiris Gavin (Limerick)	0-27	4	6.75
8 Paul Finlay (Monaghan)	0-25	4	6.25
Colm Quinn (Offaly)	0-25	5	5.0
Brian McDonald (Laois)	2-19 (25)	6	4.0
11 Raymond Gallagher (Fermanagh)	1-21 (24)	5	4.8
Brendan Devenney (Donegal)	1-21 (24)	6	4.2
13 Kevin Madden (Antrim)	1-19 (22)	3	7.33
14 Ciaran McManus (Offaly)	4-9 (21)	5	4.2

Kerry, at an average of 6.75 points a game.

He is five points ahead of his nearest rival, Frankie Dolan (Roscommon) and has that eight points advantage over Armagh's leading marksman, Steven McDonnell.

Canavan (12th to 1st), McDonnell (15th to 5th) and McConville (1st to 6th) reappear from last season's chart and others to do so are Adrian Sweeney (4th to 2nd), Declan Browne (5th to 4th) and Brendan Devenney (8th to 11th).

INDIVIDUAL FEATS

The highest individual score in the All-Ireland senior football semi-finals was Oisín McConville's 1-5 in Armagh's win over Donegal. However, that was still not good enough to earn him a place the top rankings in the nationwide chart of leading individual returns for this season's championship.

Sharing the top spot are Steven McDonnell and Frankie Dolan on an impressive return of thirteen points.

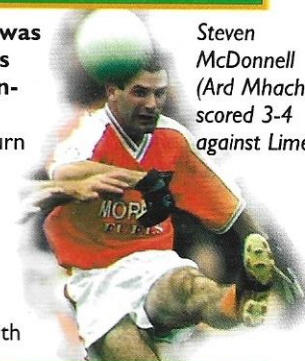
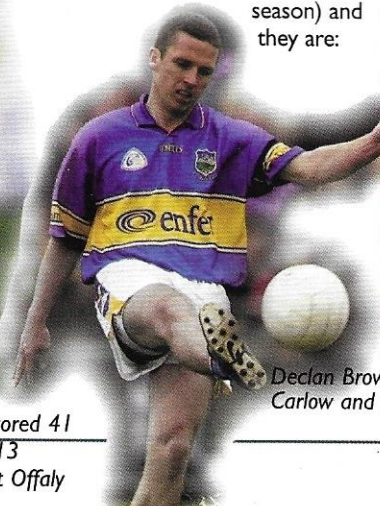
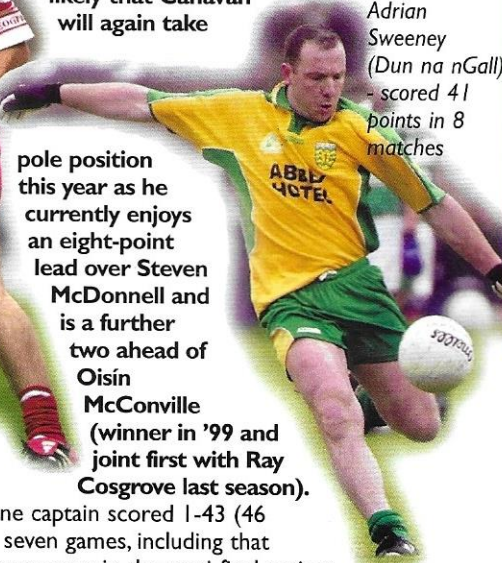
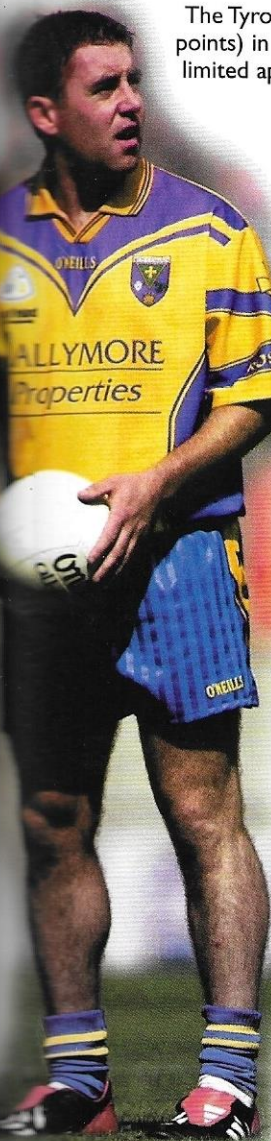
Last season Rory Gallagher easily took this honour with his magnificent personal haul of 3-9 against Monaghan, and another three-goal salvo is at the head of affairs this year. In late June Declan Browne set the target with 1-9, which was equalled by Frankie Dolan a couple of weeks later, albeit the Roscommon ace had extra time in which to compile his total. Steven McDonnell then set a new target with 3-4 against Limerick in the fourth round of the qualifiers, but again Dolan responded to draw level with 0-13 against Kildare in the same round six days later, although again extra time was a factor. In what was a bumper year for individual returns - 18 of nine points or better were recorded in the current campaign (which is six more than last season) and they are:

Steven McDonnell (Ard Mhach) scored 3-4 against Limerick

Frankie Dolan (Roscommon)	0-13	v Kildare, 26th July at Portlaoise
Steven McDonnell (Armagh)	3-4	v Limerick, 20th July at Dr Hyde Park
Frankie Dolan (Roscommon)	0-12	v Offaly, 5th July at Mullingar
Declan Browne (Tipperary)	1-9	v Carlow, 21st June at Thurles
Peter Canavan (Tyrone)	0-11	v Down, 20th July at Clones
Declan Browne (Tipperary)	0-11	v Waterford, 25th May at Walsh Park
Oisín McConville (Armagh)	1-7	v Waterford, 8th June at Walsh Park
Des Dolan (Westmeath)	1-7	v Meath, 1st June at Croke Park
Muiris Gavin (Limerick)	0-9	v Armagh, 20th July at Dr Hyde Park
Declan Browne (Tipperary)	0-9	v Donegal, 5th July at Croke Park
Ken Madden (Antrim)	0-9	v Armagh, 21st June at Casement Park
Muiris Gavin (Limerick)	0-9	v Cork, 11th May at Páirc Uí Chaoimh
Ciarán McManus (Offaly)	3-0	v London, 7th June at Tullamore
Peter Canavan (Tyrone)	1-6	v Down, 13th July at Clones
Dara Ó Cinneide (Kerry)	1-6	v Limerick, 13th July at Killarney
Paddy Bradley (Derry)	1-6	v Tyrone, 18th May at Clones
Mark Stanfield (Louth)	2-3	v Wicklow, 11th May at Croke Park
J.P. Rooney (Louth)	2-3	v Wicklow, 11th May at Croke Park

Declan Browne (Tiobraid Árann) scored 1-9 against Carlow and ended with 40 points for the season.

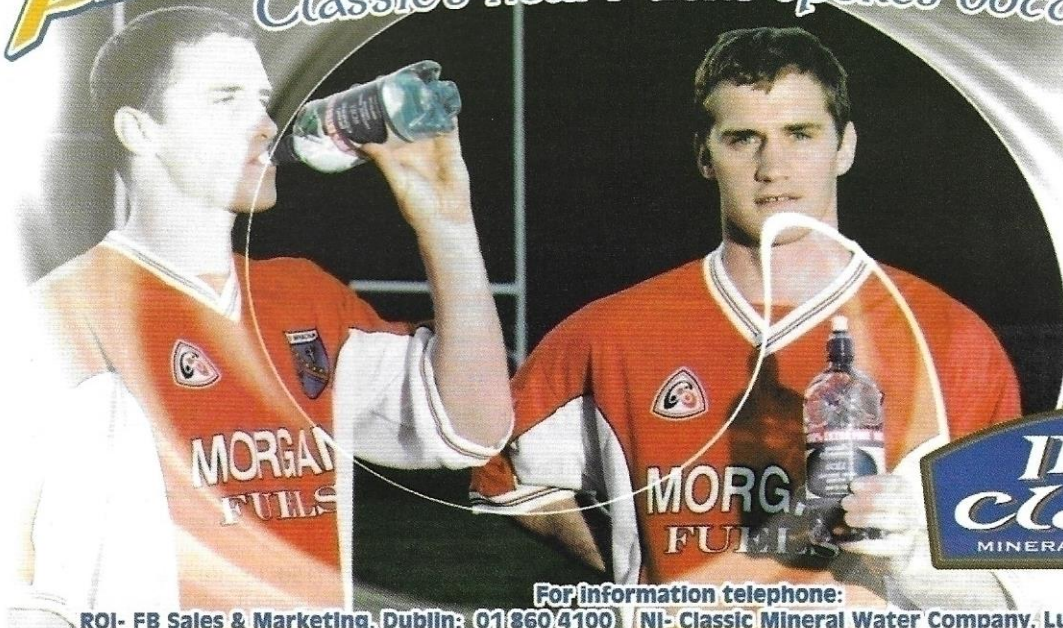
Peter Canavan (Tír Eoghain) - top scorer with 46 points



Frankie Dolan (Ros Comáin) - scored 41 points this season. He scored 0-13 against Kildare and 0-12 against Offaly

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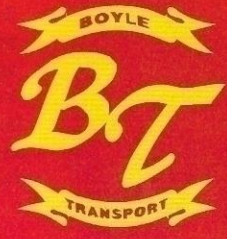
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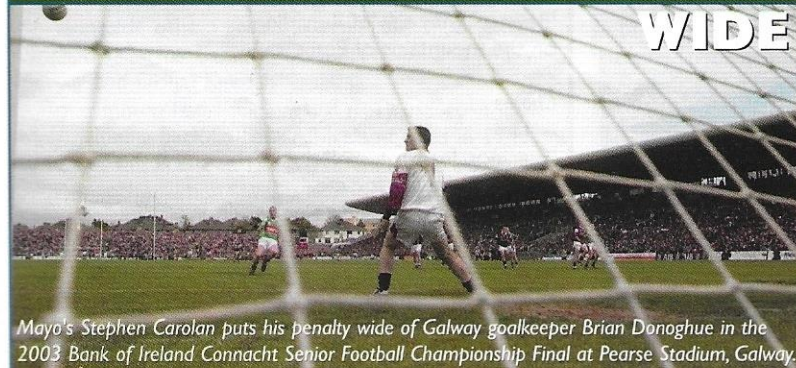
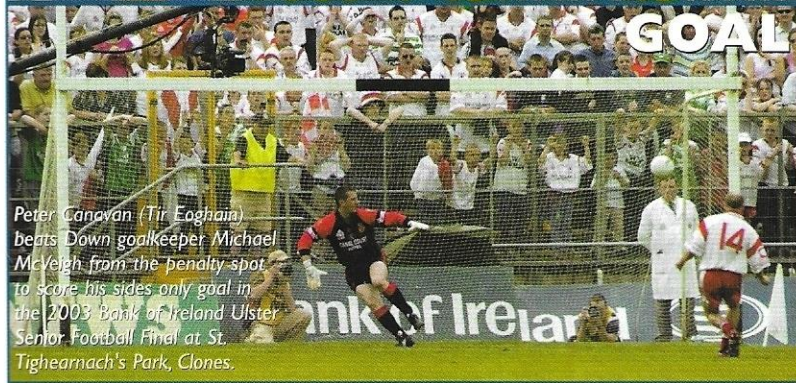
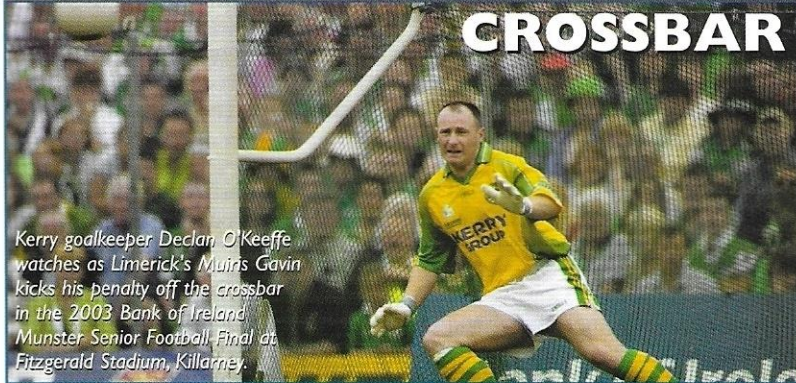


PENALTY PARADE

To date, 16 penalties have been awarded in the current campaign, which is three less than were awarded at the same stage last season. The yield per penalty has also dropped slightly from 2.26 points per penalty to 2.06 as 11 goals resulted from the 16 kicks awarded.

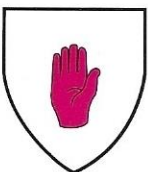
Rory Gallagher (three from three), and Derek Savage and Ciarán McManus (two out of two) were the only players last year to successfully convert more than one penalty, but this year Oisín McConville is the only player to do so.

Declan O'Keeffe saved both penalties he faced last season (v Cork and Armagh) and the Kerry net-minder again kept a clean sheet this year, although having saved Michael Reidy's effort, the crossbar came to his rescue when Muiris Gavin attempted to beat him.



The 16 penalties awarded this season and the result of each is as follows:

25th May Connie Power (Waterford) v Tipperary	GOAL
1st June Derek Savage (Galway) v Leitrim	GOAL
7th June Des Dolan (Westmeath) by Cormac Sullivan (Meath)	SAVED
8th June Oisín McConville (Armagh) v Waterford	GOAL
Mark Stanfield (Louth) by James Reilly (Cavan) Paddy Keenan goaled the rebound	SAVED
Mark Stanfield (Louth) v Cavan	GOAL
14th June Trevor Giles (Meath) v Kildare	GOAL
15th June Kevin Madden (Antrim) v Tyrone	GOAL
22nd June Gregory McCartan (Down) v Fermanagh	GOAL
5th July Gerry Lohan (Roscommon) v Offaly	GOAL
6th July Stephen Carolan (Mayo) v Galway	WIDE
13th July Michael Reidy (Limerick) by Declan O'Keeffe (Kerry) Muiris Gavin (Limerick) v Kerry	SAVED HIT CROSSBAR
Peter Canavan (Tyrone) v Down	GOAL
20th July Ronan Sweeney (Kildare) v Laois	GOAL
31st August Oisín McConville (Armagh) v Donegal	GOAL



County Songs

The Boys of the County Armagh

There's one fair county in Ireland
With memories so glorious and grand
Where nature has lavished its bounty
On the orchard of Erin's green land
I love its cathedral city
Once founded by Patrick so true
And there in the heart of tits bosom
Lie the ashes of Brian Boru

Chorus:
It's my old Irish home
Far across the foam
Although I've often left it
In foreign lands to roam
No matter where I wander
Through cities near and far
My heart is at home in old Ireland
In the county of Armagh

I've travelled through parts of this county
Through Newtown, Forkhill, Crossmaglen
And round by the gap of Mountnorris
And home by Blackwater again
Where the girls are so gay and so hearty
None fairer in Erin go Bragh
And where are the boys that can court them
Like the boys of the county Armagh

Chorus

The Mountains of Pomeroy

The morn was breaking bright and fair,
The lark sang in the sky,
When the maid she bound her golden hair,
With a blithe glance in her eye;
For, who beyond the gay green-wood,
Was a-waiting with her joy?
Oh, who but her gallant Renardine,
On the mountains of Pomeroy.

Chorus
An outlawed man
In a land forlorn,
He scorned to turn and fly,
But kept the cause
Of freedom safe
Up on the mountains high.

Full often the dawning hour,
Full oft in twilight brown
He met the maid in the woodlawn bow'r,
Where the stream comes foaming down.
For they were faithful in a love
No wars could e'er destroy;
No tyrants law touched Renardine,
On the mountains of Pomeroy.

Chorus

'Dear love', she said, 'I'm sore afraid,
For the foeman's fierce and you
They've tracked you in the lowland plain
And all the valley through.
My kinsmen frown when you are named;
Your life they would destroy.
'Beware', they say, 'of Renardine,
on the mountains of Pomeroy'.

Chorus

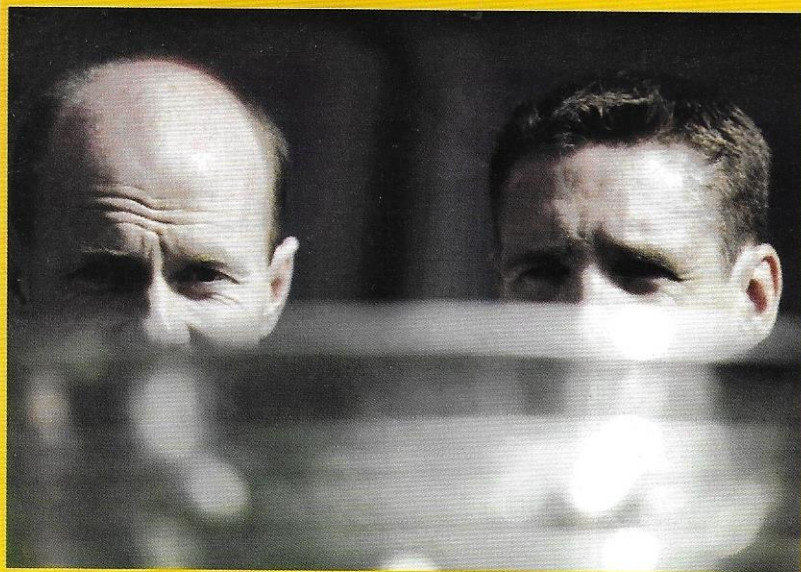
'Fear not, fear not, sweetheart', he cried,
'Fear not the foe for me.
No chain shall fall, whate'er betide,
On the arm that would be free!
Oh, leave your cruel kin and come
When the lark is in the sky;
And it's with my gun I'll guard you,
On the mountains of Pomeroy'.

Chorus

The morn has come, she rose and fled
From her cruel kin and home;
And bright the wood, and rosy red,
And the tumbling torrent's foam.
But the mist came down and the tempest roared,
And did all around destroy;
And a pale, drowned bride met Renardine
On the mountains of Pomeroy.

Chorus

EYEING UP SAM!



Rival captains Peter Canavan and Kieran McGeeney have their eyes firmly set on the Sam Maguire Cup at a photocall to announce that the All-Ireland Football Final winners will receive a Toyota Corolla and losing team will receive a Toyota Yaris at the Toyota Motor Centre in Ballsbridge, Dublin.



Memories of Croke Park

BY R.T.É. GAELIC GAMES CORRESPONDENT, BRIAN CARTHY

It is now over forty years since I first heard Croke Park spoken about and little did I realise back then how significant a role the internationally renowned venue on Jones Road would play in my life. That introduction took place in our home when one night my father and a few of the neighbours started discussing the deeds of the Roscommon team of the forties and their legendary captain Jimmy Murray. That conversation, some time in the early sixties, introduced me to the wonderful world of Gaelic football and hurling and to the G.A.A.'s most celebrated venue.

What struck me most powerfully about that fireside chat among friends and the hundreds of others that followed in the years ahead, was the respect accorded Croke Park as a place of high standing. My father and his friends also spoke of Croke Park in a friendly, familiar way almost as they would about local places like Lavin's Well, Walsh's Field, Clooncagh School, Carnaska Church or the cross on Sliabh Bán.

There was a sense that Croke Park was both local and national, indeed international; well-known to all, but not to the degree that it could be taken for granted. It was far too important and historic for that.

As far as Jimmy Tiernan, Mike King, Johnny Walsh, Packie Sweeney, Mick McLoughlin and my father were concerned, Croke Park was the 'People's Park'. It was the place where footballers and hurlers from little scattered villages and towns around the country attained legendary status for their sporting exploits and where joy and heartbreak were experienced in equal measure. Furthermore, Croke Park was the place where one of their very own, a near neighbour and friend, Dr. Hugh Gibbons had made his name on All-Ireland final day alongside others greats like Bill Jackson, Brendan Lynch, Bill Carlos, Eamonn Boland, Phelim and Jimmy Murray and Donal Keenan.

Roscommon had their days of glory in Croke Park when winning back-to-back All-Ireland titles in 1943 and 1944, but the final that I heard discussed more often than any other when I was a boy was the 1946 decider. Kerry forced a replay that year by scoring two goals in the closing minutes and then went on to win the replay. I often went to bed with my mind racing, thinking how cruel it was that Jimmy Murray was lying on the sideline in Croke Park nursing a broken nose when Paddy Burke and Tom 'Gega' O'Connor scored a goal each for Kerry to rock the men in primrose and blue.

Back then, like all the rest, I wondered too, if the fair-haired Jimmy from Knockcroghery would have led Roscommon to an historic third if he hadn't been injured.

JOY AND PAIN

Through my work with R.T.É. Sport over the past twenty years, I have witnessed first hand, up close, the unrestrained joy felt by players at the realisation that their ambition of winning an All-Ireland medal have been achieved. And I have observed, too, at close quarters that awful pain experienced by players who finish up on the losing side on All-Ireland final Sunday. I

will never forget the delight on Clare captain Anthony Daly's face in 1995 when he led Clare to their first All-Ireland senior hurling success in eighty-one years. Contrast that with the heartbreak felt by Limerick forward Gary Kirby, who agonisingly finished up on the losing teams in the All-Ireland Finals of 1994 and 1996 and all the others like him, since Croke Park first opened its gates.

IMPARTIAL

As a broadcaster, I set out at all times to be as fair-minded and impartial as I possibly can be, but like everyone else I like to see new counties emerge as Armagh did last year. The sight of inspirational captain Kieran McGeeney sinking to his knees at the final whistle is a memory that Armagh followers will cherish forever.

For many years now, I have had the privilege of visiting dressing rooms to check lineouts and other details before all the big games in Croke Park and to chat with the players, managers and officials. It is vitally important on such occasions to judge the mood of the dressingroom so that one never, ever intrudes on the players' thoughts under any circumstances.

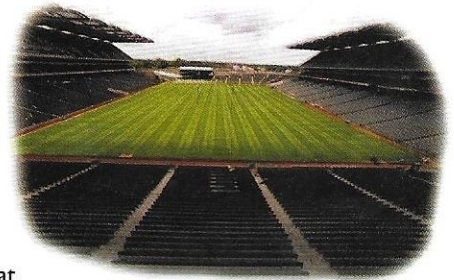
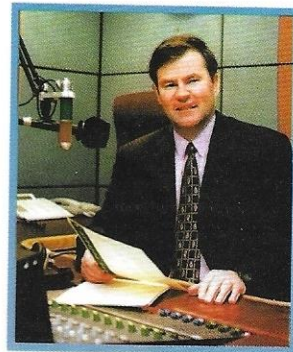
There is nothing quite like the winners' dressingroom on All-Ireland Final day with all the excitement that comes from having won an All-Ireland medal and having the Liam McCarthy Cup or Sam Maguire Cup to show for it. But the losers' dressingroom is the loneliest and saddest place of all, as players try to come to terms with defeat. Well-meaning words like 'hard luck' or 'you gave it your best shot, but it wasn't to be' are of little consolation to a player who has just seen his dream of winning an All-Ireland medal disappear without trace.

The 'Voice of Gaelic Games', Micheál O'Hehir, through his vibrant living commentaries, constantly provided his radio listeners with a most vivid and colourful description of Croke Park. Someone once said that there are more pictures on radio. How true! Even before I was lucky enough to make it through the turnstiles, I felt I knew every nook and cranny of the 'Peoples Park'. Micheál O'Hehir saw to that! Eventually, I got to Croke Park in the early sixties. Just as a spectator. My greatest desire would have been to play there but happy days in gentle places like Orchard Park in Elphin or Coman's Park in Roscommon town was more at pace with my run of the mill football and hurling talents.

PRIVILEGED

Yet, I am privileged to be doing the next best thing in my role as commentator with R.T.É Radio Sport and for me any day in Croke Park is a day well spent.

There are so many wonderful memories of Croke Park provided by legends like Mick O'Connell, Matt Connor, Dermot Earley, Seán Purcell, Gerry O'Malley, Jack O'Shea, Seán O'Neill, Maurice Fitzgerald, D.J. Carey, Brian Whelahan, Jimmy Doyle, Ollie Walsh, Noel Skehan, Eddie Keher, John Connolly, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Joe

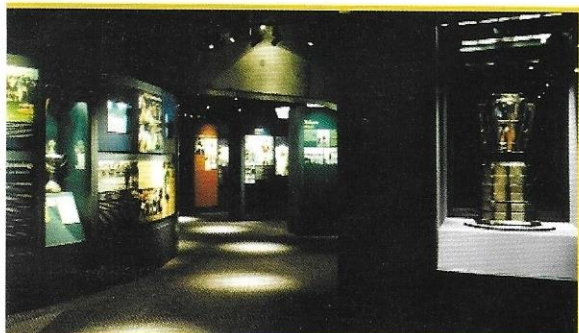


Continued on page 74



Armagh & Tyrone at the GAA Museum

When Armagh and Tyrone lock horns in battle today, their fans would do well to pause momentarily and reflect on the part both counties contribute to the rich tapestry that is the GAA community. The best means of doing this is to visit The GAA Museum whilst they make their pilgrimage to Croke Park today.



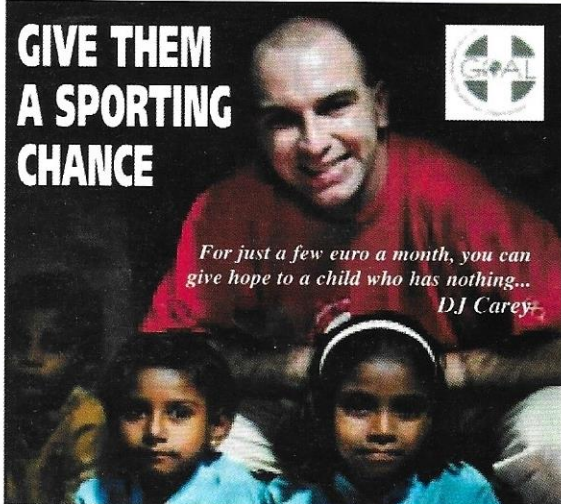
Once again it's halcyon days for Ulster football with the province reliving a period of dominance not seen since the early 90's. Indeed this period can be revisited in the museum's "Breakthrough" section, while footage of other Ulster successes (and memories of less happier days)

can be accessed in the museum's resource centre. The healthy state of Gaelic games in both competing counties can be confirmed by perusing the clubs database where Armagh and Tyrone Gaels can research the histories of their local clubs. Other essential facets of GAA history are included in the museum, including some of the games greatest stylists and some of the fiercest rivalries. A gallery honours former Allstars, with both Counties being well represented.

Most importantly of all, both sets of supporters might like to snatch a sneak preview of the most treasured prize of all: The Sam Maguire Cup. The original jewel in the Gaelic football crown, first presented in 1928, rests resplendently in The GAA Museum.

The museum, which is located under the Cusack Stand, is open today from 12.15pm and remains open until one hour after the end of the senior game.

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DJ Carey was profoundly moved by the plight of the children he met on the streets of Calcutta during a visit to GOAL's programmes. "I have never seen such total poverty and neglect", he says. "GOAL is making a huge difference to the lives of these most vulnerable of children. I appeal to everyone to sign a standing order form and donate just €10 a month to support GOAL's work in 20 countries worldwide

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Memories of Croke Park — CONTINUED

Cooney Nicky English and hundreds more hurling and football heroes.

And what about Enda Collieran captaining Galway to their three-in-a row in 1966 and the brilliant Donie O'Sullivan, the longest dead ball kicker in the game, leading Kerry to All-Ireland success in 1970, which was the first eighty minute final. There was mighty midfielder Willie Bryan and his Offaly team reaching the promised land in 1971; the Dublin/Kerry clashes of the seventies and Mikey Sheehy's sensational goal in '78; Kerry's four-in-a-row in 1981; Seamus Darby's famous goal in 1982; Sean Boylan's Meath of the eighties and nineties; Larry Tompkins and Cork; Pete McGrath, Mickey Linden and Down; the breakthrough of Brian McEniff's Donegal and Eamonn Coleman's Derry; Dublin captain John O'Leary in 1995 against Tyrone when Peter Canavan scored 11 points but still ended up on the losing side.

And then there was Maurice Fitzgerald's superlative display in the 1997 All-Ireland Final victory over Mayo and not forgetting Galway, who won the All-Ireland in 1998 after a gap of thirty-two years.

On the hurling front, it was a privilege to see eight times All-Ireland medal winner, John Doyle in the 1967 final when Tipperary lost to Kilkenny. It was also wonderful to watch Babs Keating in the 1971 decider and to have the opportunity to appreciate the skills of Jimmy Barry Murphy, Charlie McCarthy, Ray Cummins and Seán O'Leary in the Cork three-in-a-row of the seventies. And who will ever forget Joe Connolly's wonderful speech as *gaeilge* following Galway's 1980 All-Ireland victory over Limerick and Pádraig Horan leading Offaly to their first ever All-Ireland senior hurling title in 1981. History was made in 1990 when Teddy McCarthy played a unique role in Cork's All-Ireland double. Clare's All-Ireland success in 1995 was both memorable and emotional and similarly Wexford's triumph in 1996, under the guidance of Liam Griffin, who coined the phrase, 'hurling is the riverdance of sport'.

And in recent years, we have all been privileged to witness the likes of D.J. Carey, Henry Shefflin, Johnny and Joe Dooley, Brian Whelahan, Jamesie O'Connor, Seán McMahon, Brian Lohan, Martin Storey, Brian Corcoran, Joe Deane, John Leahy, Tommy Dunne and hundreds more display their enormous talents on the Croke Park sod.

Those are just a small flavour of the magical moments that have lit up Croke Park through the years – and hopefully we can all look forward to many more wonderful games in what is now a multi-million euro, state of the art stadium that is the envy of all other sporting bodies in the country.

FOOTBALL FIRSTS

- Armagh's first All-Ireland title was in Junior Football in 1926, while Tyrone had to wait until 1947 for a first National Title. That year Tyrone won the Minor Football title defeating Mayo by a point, 4-4 to 4-3. Tyrone retained the crown in 1948 by defeating Dublin 0-11 to 1-5.
- Limerick won the first All-Ireland football final in 1887. It was 46 years later before the title came to the province of Ulster for the first time, when Jimmy Smith led Cavan to success in 1933.
- Patsy Devlin (1972) became the first Tyrone man to referee an All-Ireland Senior Football Final.



GAA NATIONAL COACHING CONFERENCE

BEST PRACTICE FOR BEST PERFORMANCE

November 22, 2003
The Helix, Dublin City University

Objectives

- At the conclusion of the conference, participants should be able to:
- Recognize contemporary issues related to coaching and managing Gaelic games
 - Identify new approaches to, and perspectives on, problems in coaching and managing Gaelic games

Programme

- Keynote Address 1:**
Best Practice for best performance – looking outside the box
- Keynote Address 2:**
How do successful managers manage?
- Parallel Session 1:**
- Developing a national plan for underage hurling-lessons that can be learned
 - Drills, drills, drills...do they improve performance on match day?
- Parallel Session 2:**
- Are we misguided in our efforts to identify and cultivate talented players and elite teams at younger and younger ages?
 - Match analysis-a gimmick or a useful tool?
- Parallel Session 3:**
- Playing mind games – role of psychology in developing skills and optimizing performance
 - Conditioning for Gaelic games....myths & truths

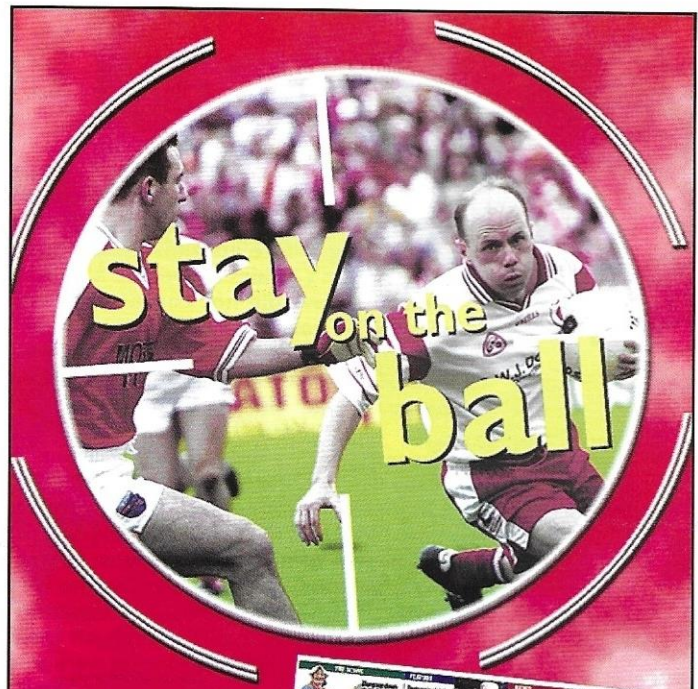
Registration

The conference addresses the needs of coaches and managers at all levels of competition

Registration fee €75: Includes parking, lunch and handout of the conference proceedings

Forward remittance — cheque or postal order — payable to GAA Coaching Conference, Invent Building, DCU, Dublin 9.

For details contact or visit :
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Ulster...a century of progress

Although provincial championships were introduced as early as 1888, it was to be some time before administration of the Association's affairs moved to a provincial basis. And the move did not come about without dissent. As early as 1891 a proposal at Congress that provincial councils be formed was rejected, one of the foremost opponents of the proposal being Michael Cusack.

The matter didn't really surface again until 1900 when at the Congress held in Thurles in September approved a motion that provincial councils be formed. Events moved swiftly in Munster where the first provincial council was formed five weeks later (October 14th) and in Leinster where the founding was on November 4th. The first Connacht Council was formed two years later (November 9th, 1902), which left Ulster as the only unorganised body. But moves were afoot, especially in Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Tyrone and Monaghan to bring the province into line.

DIFFICULTIES

Ulster had obvious difficulties – difficulties with which the three other provinces did not have to contend as the championship record of the period between the foundation and the early years of the last century clearly shows. Between 1888 (there was no Ulster presence in the inaugural championships of 1887) and 1891 only six championship football games were played in Ulster and none at all between 1892 and 1900. There was much leeway to be made up in the province and the efforts of a number of dedicated men finally bore fruit when the first Ulster Council was formed at a meeting in Armagh on March 22nd, 1903. George Martin of Belfast was elected President and L.F.O'Kane (Derry) Secretary.

Events initially moved quietly, and though the 1903 championships drifted well beyond the year in question, in that campaign seven games were played before Cavan became Ulster champions by beating Armagh in the final.

Hurling, too, was making progress and in 1901 the first provincial final was played between Antrim and Derry. It is worthy of note that in the first decade of the century, Derry, Antrim and Cavan all appeared in All-Ireland senior hurling championship semi-finals, while Donegal, who won the provincial title in 1906, missed a semi-final engagement because of the somewhat uncertain arrangements prevailing at that time.

REGULAR ACTION

By 1909 all nine counties were regularly engaged in championship action and the game in Ulster received a wonderful fillip when Antrim – by defeating Kilkenny in 1911 – became the first county from the province to contest an All-Ireland senior final. And lustre was added to that achievement by the semi-final win over Kerry a year later.

Over the next 30 years significant events marked the progress of Ulster – the province's first-ever All-Ireland title (Armagh junior football) in 1926, Cavan's senior win in 1933, and the election of Pdraig McNamee as the Association's first President from Ulster in 1938. Since then the record speaks for itself and it should be noted that in the past 12 years four Ulster counties (it could be five after today) – Down, Derry, Donegal and Armagh – have won All-Ireland titles against five from the other three provinces combined.

And what more appropriate way to celebrate the centenary of the Ulster Council than with an historic all-Ulster All-Ireland final.

SAM IS 75!

The unique Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior football championship marks the 75th anniversary of the first presentation of the Sam Maguire Cup to the winners of the decider.

Kildare, defending All-Ireland champions, and Cavan met in the first final for the trophy on September 30, 1928. That final made history in another way as well in that it marked Cavan's debut at that stage of the championship.

Conditions were ideal for the game and the teams responded with a good game, marked by football of a high standard throughout.

The final attracted an attendance of 24,700 and Kildare, captained by Bill "Squires" Gannon, won by 2-6 t 2-5.



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Best of luck to the Armagh team in the All Ireland final from the Principal, Staff and Pupils at the school.

Congratulations to our past pupils Joe Kernan, Kieran McGeeney, Tony & John McEntee, Aidan & Martin O'Rourke, Enda & Justin McNulty, Barry Duffy & Oisín McConville.





Show your colours!

Armagh and Tyrone fans bring colour and excitement to Croke Park.



Jubilee Awards for Kerry four-in-a-row



Michael Fingleton, Managing Director of Irish Nationwide Building Society with Sean Kelly, President of the GAA and Aengus Fanning, Editor of The Sunday Independent.

The great Kerry All-Ireland champions of 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981 will be honoured guests at a celebration lunch in the Hogan Stand today when they will be presented with this year's Irish Nationwide Building Society GAA Jubilee Football Awards.

The players and substitutes will be introduced on the field before the start of the senior game.

The Kerry All-Ireland four-in-a-row players and subs were: Charlie Nelligan, Jimmy Deenihan, John O'Keefe, Mick Spillane, Páidí Ó Sé, Tim Kennelly, Paudie Lynch, Jack O'Shea, Sean Walsh, Ger Power, Denis Ogie Moran, Pat Spillane, Mikey Sheehy, Eoin Liston, John Egan, Paudie O'Mahony, Tommy Doyle, Vincent O'Connor, Ger O'Keefe, Ger O'Driscoll, John Mulvihill, Gerald Griffin, Pat O'Mahony, Pat McCarthy, Barry Walsh, John McElligott, Diarmuid O'Donohue, Jackie Walsh, Tom Spillane, Pat Sheehan, Bernard O'Sullivan.

The Golden Jubilee of the Hogan Cup (1946-48 & 1957-2003)

When St. Patrick's College, Maghera lifted the Hogan Cup to clinch the 2003 All-Ireland Colleges' title, it marked the 50th occasion on which the cup had been presented to the captain of the All-Ireland Colleges' champions. On Saturday next October 4th, in the Greville Arms in Mullingar, the President of the GAA Sean Kelly will officially launch a history of the competition written by Westmeath native Gerry Buckley.

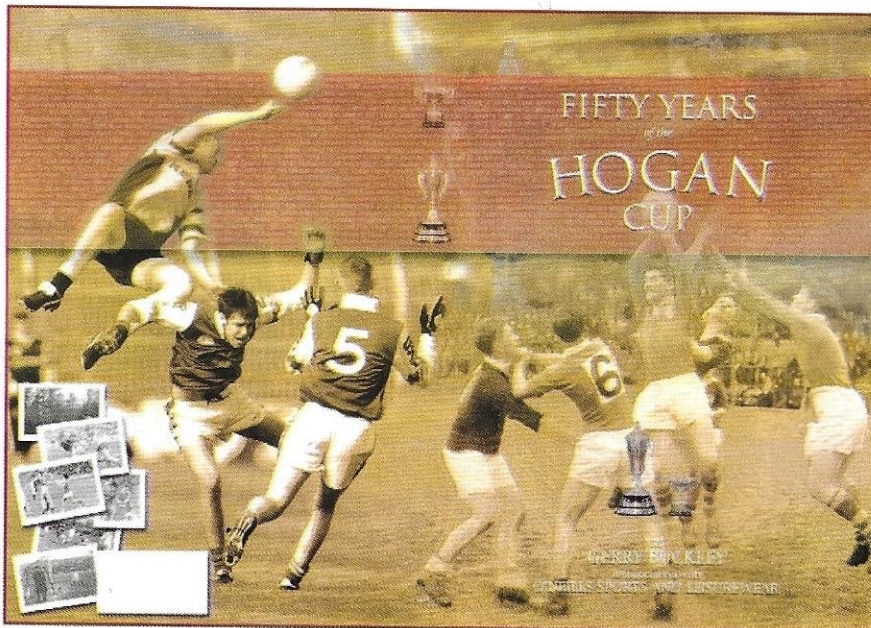
The book, which was produced in association with O'Neills Sports and Leisurewear, contains an array of statistics, photographs and anecdotes that chronicle the history of this celebrated competition. It features profiles of the winning captains and members of some of the winning panels at its core. Among those profiled are Pat O'Neill (captain of St. Patrick's Armagh in 1946 and a member of the Armagh team which played in the All-Ireland final in 1953),

Galway great Jimmy Duggan (St. Jarlath's 1966) and Irish International Rules Team manager and Kerry star John O'Keefe (St. Brendan's 1969).

More recent winning captains profiled will include Eamonn Burns (who played for Derry in the 1993 All-Ireland final), Cork goalkeeper Kevin O'Dwyer (captain of St. Fachtna's, Skibereen in '91) and star Galway forward Padraig Joyce who captained St. Jarlath's in 1994. All

recall their memories of Colleges' football and the tremendous dedication and single mindedness needed to capture the Hogan Cup.

Gerry Buckley was author of the very successful Millennium Handbook of Westmeath Gaelic Games and is a native of Mullingar. His interest in the Hogan Cup came from his father, who was a teacher in St. Finian's in Mullingar for 42 years and the book is dedicated to his memory. "Fifty Years of the Hogan Cup" will be available in all good newsagents and bookstores from next weekend on.





World Handball Championships return to Ireland

October 17th to 26th, 2003

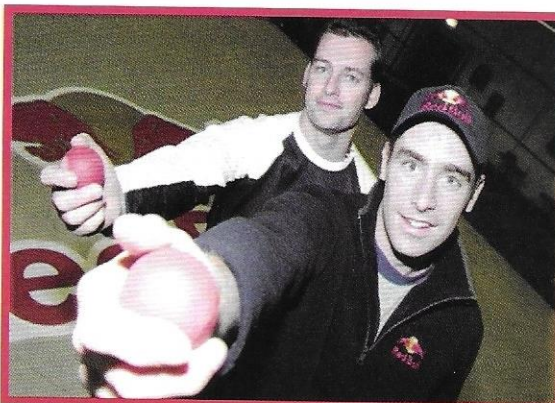
A record breaking 1000+ handballers from 9 countries will come together in Ireland next month in what promises to be a fantastic World Championships. With competitions ranging from juveniles through seniors to veteran events more than 1500 hundred matches will be played making this the biggest participative international sporting event outside the Special Olympics in Ireland this year.

The games will be hosted in three areas, the Dublin region (extending to Rush, Leixlip and Ballymore Eustace), the Kilkenny/Carlow/Laois region and the new state-of-the-art three-court venue in Kingscourt, Co. Cavan.

The World Championships were first held in 1964 and now take place at three-year intervals. Initially the event was held on an invitational basis and was limited to senior players, but has now expanded to include many grades ranging from the very young to the not so young! The Championships provide a marvelous mix of age and experience and show that handball really is a 'game for life'. More than 300 players will come from the USA, Canada, Japan, England, Wales, Belgium, Spain and Australia, making the event truly international in character. First round games in the various grades, including one-wall events, will begin over the weekend of 17 October.

UNDERAGE STARS

In the underage events, players such as Galway's Noel McHugh, Tipperary's Ger Coonan, Westmeath's Robert McCarthy, Meath's Brian Carroll, Carlow's Gerry Kane,



The picture shows World Championship hopeful Walter O'Connor from Meath with Kerry football star Dara O'Shea. They are promoting the Handball World Championships which take place in Ireland from October 17th - 26th.



Roscommon's Damian Martin, Kilkenny's Richard Hogan are expected to excel and are all in with a very good chance at winning their various events. Kerry's Maria Daly, Antrim's Aisling Reilly and Nicola Kelly from Roscommon will similarly provide keen opposition in the girls' competitions.

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS AT CROKE PARK

The premier Open championships will decide the World Handball Singles and Doubles champions for the next three years. The quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are scheduled for Wednesday through Saturday the 22nd to the 25th October at Croke Park Handball Centre and will display the sport at its very best. Tickets may be bought at the door and the smart move is to arrive early!

Details of the various events and general information about the World Handball Championships can be found on Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann's website www.handball.ie.

Buíochas

The Irish Handball Council wishes to thank the following sponsors of/contributors to the World Handball Championships

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HISTORY ON THE DOUBLE IN HANDBALL

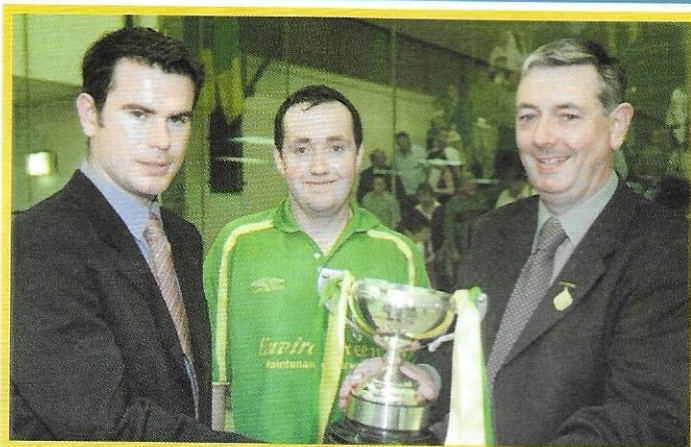
Handball, like the All-Ireland finals at senior and minor this year, made history with a first-ever all-Meath decider for the All-Ireland 60 x 30 senior final at Croke Park earlier this month.

Long-time doubles partners Tom Sheridan and Walter O'Connor met in friendly rivalry for the title. Last year the pair won their fourth All-Ireland senior doubles title for the fourth time in five years.

Sheridan, who has a proud record of national title wins in doubles from under-age to senior, was bidding for his first-ever senior singles title in any code of handball.

O'Connor won the title for the first time in 1998 when he also became the first Meath handler to take this crown. Sheridan came out on top by 21-6, 21-15.

The pair came together last evening at Croke Park in defence of their doubles title against Tommy Hynes and Colin Keeling, of Wexford.



Antóin Ó hAodha, Uachtarán Comhairle Liathróid na hÉireann (right) along with Killian Burns, Marketing Manager, Red Bull (left) presents the All-Ireland Singles 60 x 30 Trophy to Tom Sheridan.



Ag Feachaint Siar

Cead Bliain Ó Shin (1903)

There was a striking contrast between some of the provinces. Leinster and Munster saw a full turnout of counties, but Ulster with only five counties taking part and Connacht with a mere two, indicated that the G.A.A. had still some way to go before it could claim to be a truly national organisation.

Most first-round results in Leinster were predictable – Westmeath beating Longford (0-7 to 0-5), Laois beating Offaly (1-5 to 0-2) and Louth beating Meath by 0-7 to 0-2; but the extent of Kildare's win over All-Ireland champions Dublin was truly staggering (3-11 to 0-3) at Geashill. Kilkenny impressed in ousting Westmeath by 1-13 to nil at Jones's Road, while Wexford were easy winners over Wicklow (1-11 to 1-2) at Enniscorthy.

Both semi-finals were uncompetitive. Louth saw off Wexford at Jones's Road (1-6 to 0-1) and Kildare crushed Laois by 4-5 to 0-1 at Portlaoise. The final was played at Wexford Park on the second Sunday of December and ended in a draw – Kildare 1-2; Kilkenny 0-5. A disputed goal in the replay led to a second replay, which Kildare won by 0-9 to 0-1 at Jones's Road.

Reigning Ulster champions Armagh got off to a winning start with a 2-9 to 0-1 win over Down, which they followed with a 0-12 to 0-3 win over Tyrone. Tyrone objected and got a replay, but the second game resulted in an even easier win for Armagh (7-4 to 0-1). Cavan, meanwhile, had qualified for the provincial final by beating Monaghan by 1-8 to 0-3. The final took three hours to decide. Two drawn games with identical scorelines of 0-5 each preceded the decisive encounter at Newbliss, which Cavan won by 0-8 to 0-4.

The Connacht record for 1903 is confused. Some reports credit Mayo with a 3-6 to 0-1 win over Roscommon; others state that Roscommon won the game at Claremorris by 1-1 to 0-3 and were then disqualified.

Kerry powered through Munster. Clare put out Limerick by 2-4 to 0-3 at the Markets' Field, Cork downed Tipperary at Kilmallock, but when the Kingdom came in they beat Waterford by 4-8 to 1-3 at Cork, Clare by 2-7 to 2-0 at the Markets' Field, and then regained the provincial crown after a lapse of eleven years with a 1-7 to 0-3 win over Cork, also at the Limerick venue.

The All-Ireland semi-finals saw Kerry beat Mayo by 2-7 to 0-4 at Limerick, while Kildare, against stiff Cavan resistance at Jones's Road, came through on a 0-8 to 0-0 scoreline. The meeting of Kerry and Kildare in the "Home" final went to three meetings; the first game finished 1-4 to 1-3 in Kerry's favour; a Kildare objection resulted in a replay which ended in a draw at Cork (1-4 to 0-7), with Kerry winning the third game, also at the Athletic Grounds by 0-8 to 0-2. The final with London was a low-key affair at Jones's Road, which Kerry won with something to spare (0-11 to 0-3).

Cuig Bliana Fíchead Ó Shin (1928)

Antrim opted for junior fare to leave eight teams in the Ulster race, in which Monaghan got off to a flying start with a 3-5 to 1-3 win over Down at Carrickmacross, while Tyrone hit a massive 7-3 to Derry's 2-3 at Dungannon. Armagh had a more difficult task in disposing of Donegal at Ballyshannon by 1-8 to 1-4. Monaghan moved into the semi-final as they easily outscored Fermanagh by 6-3 to 1-7.

Tyrone's interest ended at Dungannon where Cavan, making their first appearance, were easy winners by 4-3 to 0-3. In a low-scoring game at Carrickmacross Armagh beat Monaghan (the reigning provincial champions) by 0-4 to 0-1, but the Orchard county could not contain Cavan at Breffni Park and went down by 1-4 to 2-6.

Connacht was the only province to have all its counties involved with Leitrim and Galway kicking things off with a 1-0 each draw at Roscommon. Mayo beat Roscommon by 1-5 to 0-2 at Ballyhaunis and Leitrim got it right at the second attempt (0-7 to 0-3). As scores remained difficult to come by, Sligo's 1-5 at Boyle easily saw off Leitrim, who could manage just 0-2. And at long last Sligo became Connacht champions for the first time when they held on to beat Mayo by 1-4 to 0-6.

In line for a sixth successive provincial title, Kerry opened confidently at Kilrush where they were not pressed to dispose of Clare by 3-4 to 0-5. But there was a shock in store for the Kingdom. Tipperary's opening burst left Kerry with a by-no-means-great leeway to make up; but Kerry just failed to make it and Tipperary held on for a sensational 1-7 to 2-3 win. The Premier county, however, could not sustain their effort and Cork won the final by 4-3 to 0-4.

In Leinster Westmeath, Offaly, Carlow and Wicklow chose to remain in junior ranks as champions Kildare were the team to beat. But no one did, although Laois made a brave bid before going down on a 1-0 to 0-4 scoreline. Longford beat Meath by 3-4 to 0-11 at Mullingar and Louth went down to Dublin by 0-3 to 0-5. Kilkenny were fading fast on the football scene as Wexford beat them by 7-5 to 2-3, while Kildare's win over Longford and Dublin's over Wexford set up a provincial final meeting which went right down to the wire – the Lily Whites just holding on for a 0-10 to 1-6 win.

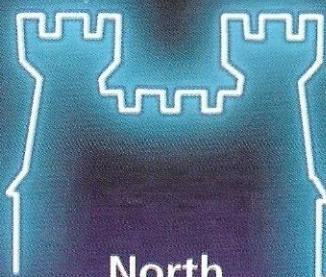
The first-ever Ulster-Connacht semi-final went on at Breffni Park where Cavan proved too good for Sligo (2-5 to 0-4) while Kildare were never in trouble at the Cork Athletic Grounds in winning by 3-7 to 0-2. In the final, Cavan's great bid just failed as Kildare held on to their crown on a 2-6 to 2-5 scoreline.

FIRST ALL-STARS

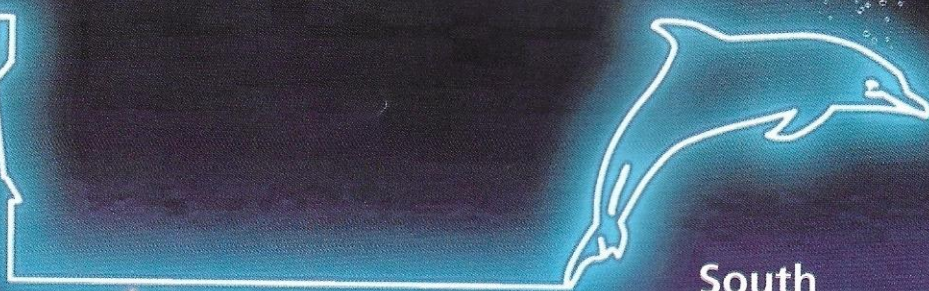
The All-Star teams were first selected in 1971, Andy McCallin (Antrim) and Sean O'Neill (Down) were the only Ulster representatives on the inaugural team. In 1977 Paddy Moriarity and Joe Kernan became the first Armagh All-Stars. Three years later Kevin McCabe became the first Tyrone man to receive an All-Star statuette.

Two Armagh men have been awarded Football All Time All-Star awards: Jim McCulloch (1983) and Alf Murray (1986).

Continued on page 83 →



North



South

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Ag Feachaint Siar

Caoga Blian Ó Shin (1953)

Both Galway and Mayo had slipped back somewhat in the Connacht ratings, but they did manage to survive their opening encounters. At St. Coman's Park Galway beat Leitrim by 1-8 to 2-3 while Mayo got the better of Sligo at Ballymote (2-6 to 1-6). In the first defence of their provincial title Roscommon crushed Galway by 4-4 to 0-3 at Tuam and then just about held off Mayo in the final at Roscommon by 1-6 to 0-6.

With Limerick standing down, Waterford and Tipperary opened the Munster campaign, with the former winners by 2-4 to 0-4. The semi-finals were contrasting affairs. Kerry, without an All-Ireland title for seven years, were on the comeback trail as they hammered Clare by 6-10 to 0-2 at Cusack Park, but at Walsh Park Cork were lucky to hold off the locals by 1-7 to 1-5. Kerry had home advantage at Killarney for the final, where they won by 2-7 to 2-3.

The opening rounds in Leinster produced few surprises as Wicklow beat Longford by 4-7 to 2-10 at Tullamore, Louth beat Westmeath at An Uaimh (2-11 to 0-11), Carlow beat Kildare at Athy (1-9 to 2-1), and Wexford overcame Laois by 1-9 to 0-11 at Carlow. The big shock of the campaign was Meath's one-point win over National League champions Dublin; against all the odds the Royals came through by 2-6 to 2-5 at An Uaimh. Offaly beat Carlow with difficulty (1-7 to 0-9) and Louth beat Wicklow with ease (1-10 to 0-4), before Offaly came unstuck against Wexford (0-7 to 1-7). Louth edged Meath by 1-7 to 1-6 and then took provincial honours by beating Wexford by 1-7 to 0-7.

All-Ireland champions Cavan opened their defence with a 2-7 to 0-2 win over Monaghan while Tyrone won by double scores (0-12 to 0-6) at Donegal's expense at Ballybofey. Armagh won the first round at Lurgan by 1-8 to 1-4 and Derry had to fight all the way to get the better of Down (1-11 to 2-5). Tyrone fought bravely, but eventually went down to Cavan (2-4 to 2-10) at Clones while Armagh coasted into the final with a 4-11 to 1-5 win over Derry at Belfast. And back in Casement Park a fortnight later Armagh took provincial honours with a 1-6 to 0-5 win over Cavan.

In the All-Ireland semi-finals Kerry's goals beat Louth's points (3-6 to 0-10) – a scoreline that flattered the winners – but Armagh had to fight all the way to overcome Roscommon (0-8 to 0-7). The 1953 All-Ireland final will always be remembered for Armagh's penalty miss and never was one kick so vital in a final, which Kerry won by 0-13 to 1-6.

Cuig Bliana Ficead Ó Shin (1978)

It was obvious that Kerry was the team to beat in Munster, but after the early rounds had been played in which Clare beat Limerick (0-19 to 1-4) and Waterford beat Tipperary on a replay (2-19 to 2-17), the Kingdom gave evidence of their intent when crushing the Decies by 4-27 to 2-8 at Killarney to set up yet another decider with Cork, after the Leesiders had seen off Clare by 3-16 to 0-11. The final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh was always going Kerry's way and they finished with a comfortable seven points to spare (3-14 to 2-7)

Up North, Derry scored a surprisingly easy win over Donegal (3-12 to 0-7) and Antrim were comfortable winners over Monaghan (4-6 to 2-4). Down won a thriller with Fermanagh (0-14 to 2-7), but both Armagh and Tyrone failed to survive their first outings. Down easily saw off the Orchard county (0-16 to 0-9) at Armagh, while the Oak Leaf county was an even easier victor over Tyrone at Casement Park (3-11 to 0-9). It was to be Down's year in Ulster and they defeated Derry by 1-14 to 2-8 and Cavan in the final at Clones by 2-19 to 2-12.

Could anyone hold Dublin in Leinster was the big question, and although Offaly made a brave bid in the semi-final, no one could. The preliminaries went much as expected. Wicklow recorded an easy win over Kilkenny and a comfortable one over Wexford (4-9 to 2-8). Carlow beat Westmeath with five points to spare (5-8 to 3-9) at Portlaoise and Offaly overcame Longford by 2-12 to 0-8 at Mullingar. Kildare beat Louth with surprising ease (4-15 to 1-8) and followed with a 3-14 to 1-12 victory over Meath at Croke Park. Dublin strolled past Carlow (6-15 to 2-9) and Offaly beat Laois (0-16 to 2-8), but the Midlanders faltered in the closing stages against Dublin next time out at Portlaoise (0-12 to 2-9). Kildare beat Wicklow easily (4-14 to 2-6) to make the provincial final, but came a cropper badly in the decider against Dublin (1-6 to 1-17).

In Connacht there were no upsets. Sligo beat London (4-13 to 2-10), Mayo accounted for Leitrim (2-18 to 1-8), and Galway then put out Sligo by 1-11 to 1-8. Roscommon opened the defence of their provincial title by beating Mayo by 1-12 to 1-9 at Hyde Park and clinched it with a 2-7 to 0-9 win over Galway at Pearse Stadium.

The All-Ireland semi-finals were one-sided affairs. Down never looked like beating Dublin and went out on a 1-16 to 0-8 scoreline while Roscommon's challenge to Kerry fizzled out weakly (0-8 to 3-11). Dublin were seeking a third successive All-Ireland title, but looked like doing so for barely 20 minutes; then Kerry cut loose and romped to a 5-11 to 0-9 win – the heaviest defeat suffered by the reigning All-Ireland champions for more than 70 years.

Continued from page 81

LONG WAIT

Though the GAA was founded in 1884 it was all of 42 years before any All-Ireland title went to Ulster. The Province finally broke its duck in 1926 when Armagh won the Junior Football title.

Armagh won the Ulster title for the first time in 1890, defeating Tyrone by 2-8 to 1-2. Tyrone had to wait a further 43 years to reach their second Ulster final. Defeat was their lot again in 1933 when they went under to Cavan by 6-13 to 1-2. In 1956 Tyrone finally captured the Anglo-Celt Cup defeating Cavan by 3-5 to 0-4. Having contested the 1890 Ulster Final Armagh and Tyrone amazingly had to wait 92 years before meeting in a Senior Provincial Final! Their second ever Ulster Final clash came in 1980 when an eight goal thriller resulted in a 4-10 to 4-7 win for the men from the Orchard county.



“You’re the fella that washed his ticket!”

by Sean Moran (The Irish Times).

A STRIKING thing about memories of Croke Park is that so little of what I first remember remains. This is a phenomenon unique to our age. Throughout its history the venue had been refurbished on a rolling, piecemeal basis with physical changes nearly every decade. Now in the space of 15 years everything has changed.

Since the Nally Stand came down at the end of 2002 there is nothing left in the ground that predates 1989 and by the time the Northern End is completed there will hardly be any further physical development at the venue for another half century. In the late 1960s when I first became aware of Croke Park it had none of the

In a way the juxtaposition of the Connolly Youth Movement and the GAA’s headquarters was a reflection of what Croke Park meant. In those days before Kevin Heffernan’s team re-awakened an urban GAA consciousness the ground was an interface. It was a city landmark more familiar to country people than those who lived in its catchment. On a personal level it represented something uniquely Irish, something of powerful if sentimental appeal to a returned, first-generation emigrant child. It was a monument to the most enduring branch of the national cultural resurgence. And in its shadow I clumsily but happily played foreign games.

Gradually the connection became less oblique. Although unprompted at home I began to follow football and hurling through the Sunday coverage of Raidió Éireann. Listening to the exploits of counties familiar to me through holiday excursions or distant family connections, I was prepared when Dublin rose in the 1970s.

A first visit in 1971 or ’72 was to see a charity match played over four quarters but about which I otherwise remember nothing. Thereafter Croke Park was a more mainstream experience for me. Despite the great years of that decade the most vivid recollection of a Dublin final was in 1983.

Arriving – late – at the Canal End (“for culchies and southsiders” I was once advised) to find a huge crowd locked out, a few of us waited around to watch as the big gates were somehow unbolted at the top and swayed backwards and forwards so that the desperate and reckless could scramble over before the gates snapped back and squashed them against the concrete lintel. Eventually the Gardai decided that it would be safer to open the gates and relieve the pressure and I began what would become an annual dispensation of getting into All-Ireland finals for free.

My first accreditation was for the Cork-Dublin semi-final of 1989. The night before I had thrown the ticket, in a shirt pocket, into the washing machine. Only sodden pellets remained. There followed my first conversation with Danny Lynch. On the phone that Sunday morning I explained in needless detail what had happened. On arrival at Swan’s Lane I discreetly whispered my name to a steward who guffawed loudly, looked around at his companions and roared: “You’re the fella that washed his ticket”.

Two years ago I brought my own children to see the museum and walked around the ground then half way through Phase Three. We sat in the temporary press seats at the back of the Cusack’s bottom tier and ate our sandwiches and gazed over at the unfolding Hogan Stand mark three.

So the memories of Croke Park for a new generation will have started earlier than mine and less awkwardly. I hope it brings them as much enjoyment.



conventional connotations. Recently returned from England having spent my first seven years there, attending a rugby school and living on the south side of Dublin, I grew up unnoticed by the GAA.

Yet Croke Park loomed large. Every week I trundled down Jones’s Road to remedial-level rugby practice on what is now the carpark behind the new Cusack Stand. As we turned right at the bridge and passed the concourse that would become familiar to me as the Canal End entrance I vividly remember a big CYM logo painted onto the wall.

This article is reprinted from the commemorative publication for the official opening of the redeveloped Croke Park earlier this year.



The DNA of the GAA



In his seminal publication – Sport, Policy and Politics – Professor Barrie Houlihan (Staffordshire University) summarized the GAA’s contribution to the development of sport in Ireland as follows.

“The central position of the GAA in Irish political and cultural life left little for the Irish state to do.....The effectiveness of the GAA partly explains the absence of direct state intervention in sport until comparatively recently.....The centrality of the GAA to rural community life also influenced the character and development of both sport in schools and especially extracurricular sport. However, the significance of the GAA in the development of school sport is in marked contrast to the marginal contribution of the Irish state until comparatively recently.”

Pat Daly – Head of Games - outlines how the Association will continue to be a vibrant and dynamic force for the development of sport in Ireland.

While GNP (Gross National Product) is important in an economic context, it’s even more important where the GAA is concerned in that it represents Grassroots to National Policy. This, in essence, involves providing players with access to a Games Development Pathway (GDP), which has regard for their underlying ability and development potential – see figure 1 – and the implementation of a number of STEPS (Sport Through Education Programmes) as set out in the Core Underage Strategic Plan (CUSP) – see figure 2.

SUMMARY OF STEPS (SPORT THROUGH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES)

STEP 1

Establishing links between Primary Schools and Clubs with a view to ensuring that Schools are provided with a minimum of eight coaching sessions between Easter and Summer and a further eight between September and Halloween.

STEP 2

Providing back up coaching/administrative assistance to 2nd Level Schools in order to maximize participation in internal/external competitions, and involvement in Transition Year Coaching and Young Referee Courses.

STEP 3

Reinforcing the link between Schools (Primary/2nd Level) and Juvenile Clubs and providing all players with a regular programme of games.

STEP 4

Organising Schools of Excellence (U.14/U.15) and Development Squads (U.16/U.17) in Hurling and Football within each County and ensuring a minimum of 8 quality Coaching sessions are organized for each squad and that players get an opportunity to represent their county in at least 4 games per year.

Central to STEPS 1-4 will be the delivery of Foundation, Level 1 and Level 2 Coaching Courses and Basic Courses in effective Administration.

SOME OTHER SALIENT FACTS AND FIGURES:

- The GAA is currently catering for 19,893 teams. This comprises of 8,761 Youth Football (U.18) teams, 3,700 Adult Football teams, 5,289 Youth Hurling teams and 2,063 Adult Football Teams.
- Over 57,000 children attended GAA Summer Camps in 2003.
- Clubs, County Boards, Provincial and Central Councils are contributing almost €7 million to the implementation of this Plan.
- The Irish Sports Council is also contributing €1.34 million for the implementation of specific projects.
- Almost 40,000 volunteer Coaches have completed Foundation and Level 1 Coaching Courses.

Figure 1:

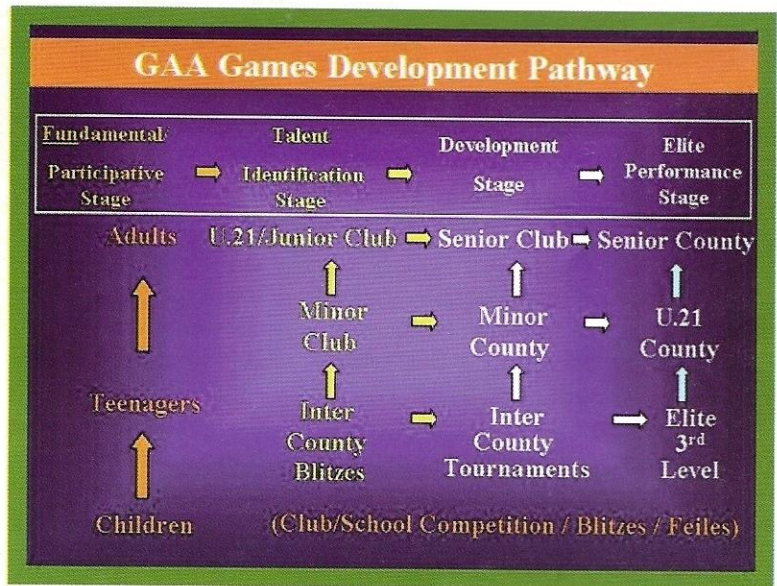
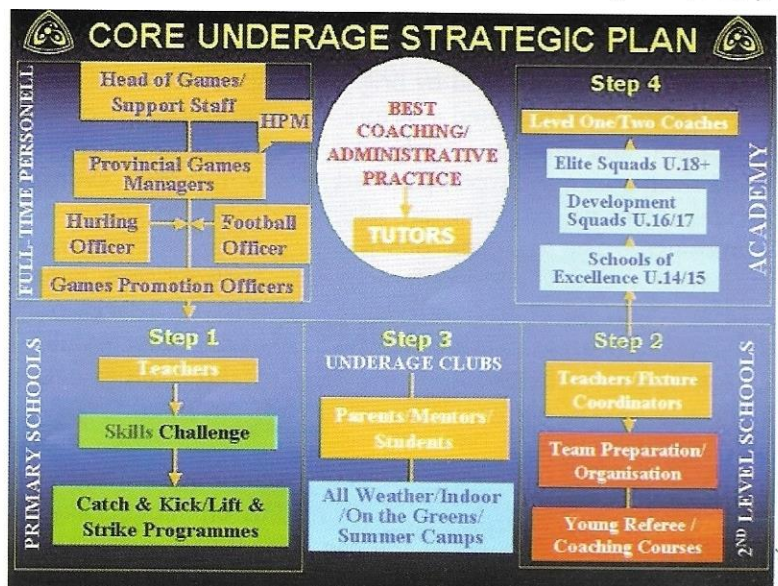


Figure 2 (CUSP):



An Inspirational Venue for Inspirational Events

A trip to Croke Park on match day is a way of life for many Irish people and what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon. But what happens when the crowds depart? As one of Europe's most modern sporting arenas, Croke Park provides an exciting and unusual setting for conferences and events. The stadium has played host to business meetings, conferences, private dining, product launches, exhibitions, examinations, set-design, training courses and press conferences, with capacity for 10 to 2000 people.

The modern exterior is mirrored by bright spacious contemporarily designed interiors. Smooth marble and merbau hardwood flooring and clean cream and wood panelled wall surfaces combine to offer an airy, elegant ambiance. The complex offers a large variety of meeting and conference rooms, restaurants and bars, with large foyer and concourse areas overlooking the hallowed playing ground below.

Event organisers also have the option of allocating time for their delegates to take a guided tour through the stadium itself to capture the essence of what makes Croke Park a truly unique venue. The GAA Museum, right in the heart of the stadium complex, provides the visitor with an opportunity to amble through a living history of the country's principal sporting and cultural organisation.

This year the world was welcomed to Croke Park with the hosting of the spectacular opening and closing ceremonies of the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2003. These wonderful events demonstrated the versatility of the venue and its capacity for such extravaganzas. In addition, the conference & event facilities have played host to a large number of other events, having successfully launched the Hogan Stand facilities earlier this year.

For enquiries, call 01 819 2300
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Investing in the Future

Feargal Mc Gill, Information Officer CLG

One of the great successes of the qualifier system in both the hurling and football Championships is the number of extra games at the highest level of Gaelic Games. Last year, for example, there were 37 extra games between both championships (including replays), which considerably boosted the finances available to Central Council to assist in the day to day running of the Association.

Gate receipts still account for approximately 72% of Central Council's annual income and the Association remains heavily dependent on the numbers coming through the turnstiles for the bulk of its financial resources. Last year, gate receipts from the Qualifiers and the All Ireland series were worth €19m. It might have been expected that with the early exit of such traditional crowd pullers as Clare in hurling and Meath, Kildare and Dublin in football, this figure would have been down in 2003 but with attendances more than holding their own throughout the qualifiers and into the All Ireland series, it is expected that similar income will be generated from this year's championships.

There is no doubt that €19m is a sizable figure for an amateur association, and the question that is frequently asked is where exactly does this and the Association's other revenue go?

The greatest proportion of gate receipts (€5.6m in 2002) is spent on match related costs. Nearly two-thirds of this money (63%) went straight back to the grounds as rent, to be used for general maintenance and in the continued development of one of the GAA's biggest assets - it's impressive infrastructure. It was recently estimated that at current prices, over €2600m had been invested by the GAA in physical facilities alone since its inception. In the last three years alone, in the region of €40m has been spent on the redevelopment of grounds such as Semple Stadium, the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick, Pearse Stadium, Nowlan Park and Armagh's Athletic Grounds. By any standards, it is a huge investment, but one which is hugely important for the future of an Association which sees the provision of the most modern facilities for players and spectators as an absolute necessity.

Aside from what is given back to grounds as rent, there are many other costs to be considered. In terms of major games like the All Ireland finals, the GAA must cover costs ranging from security to insurance, the Garda presence on the day and other costs such as cleaning, both within the stadium and in the residential areas around Croke Park, and general maintenance and services associated with the stadium.

The cost of preparing teams also continues to rise. Last year, a total of just over €11m was spent on the preparation of intercounty teams, with food and travel expenses, accommodation, the provision of playing and training gear, clothing and medical expenses among the areas in which there is considerable expenditure on players. Indeed it has been estimated that the Amateur

Status committee's recommendations on the concerns of intercounty players (which included an increase in the mileage rate) will result in an additional annual cost to the Association of approximately €2m.

On top of this, a further 6% of gross gate receipts are used to finance the Players Injury Scheme, which is available to players at all levels of the Association, while the four All Ireland finalists will this year each receive €80,000 from GAA resources towards their holiday/training fund.

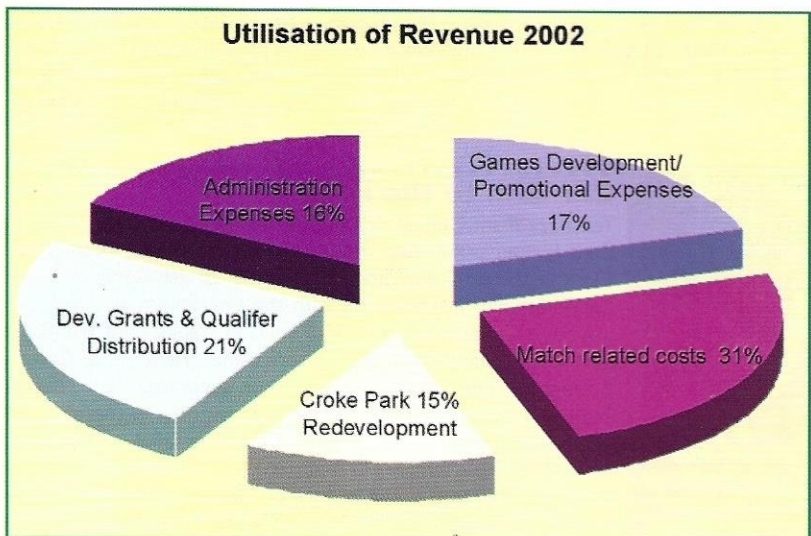
There are of course also considerable administration fees for an Association that runs literally hundreds of thousands of games at all levels and age groups throughout the 32 counties. Indeed, in an era of increased competition for the attentions of our youth, the GAA has significantly stepped up its commitment to coaching and games development. In 2002, just short of €4m (or 17% of total revenue) was re-invested in the games at central level on football and hurling development projects, youth and coaching initiatives and areas such as referee's development and overseas development.

At more local level, clubs, county boards and the Provincial Councils will commit even more funds to ensure the continued development of both the players and the games. The policy of the Association, at all levels, is very clearly one of re-investment in its players, coaches, referees and physical infrastructure. It is a policy that has served the GAA well and one which is borne out by the fact that a mere €47,000 was transferred to central reserves after all operations in 2002.

And indeed, it is a process that is set to continue. Studies such as the recently published Strategic Review have re-emphasised the need for reinvestment and highlighted a number of areas and projects which can be undertaken to ensure that Gaelic Games continue to grow in quality and popularity as the Association rises to the challenges of the 21st century.



Utilisation of Revenue 2002





Cumann na mBunscol



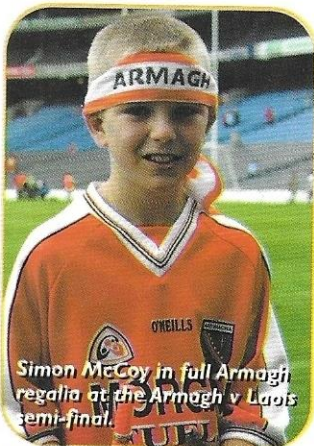
It has been another successful year for Cumann na mBunscol with all 32 counties running leagues and the national committee promoting initiatives such as the INTO-GAA Mini-Sevens and the Roadstone National Awards. The McDonald's 'Catch and Kick Challenge' is the latest addition to the portfolio and it has been a great success in its inaugural year. Cumann na mBunscol, Corcaigh, celebrated 100 years in existence and Cumann na mBunscol, Áth Cliath, celebrating its 75th. anniversary, was involved in new and exciting initiatives such as the innovative 'Other Foot' game, face-painting at matches and some exciting school-based projects. Cumann na mBunscol teachers made a significant contribution to the Special Olympics World Games, an event that will never be forgotten by those privileged to have experienced it. Appropriately, it was the best year yet for the great sport of Wheelchair Hurling. Cameras were present to capture the drama and excitement of the league final in the Irish Wheelchair Association Sports Complex in Clontarf. This and other special moments will form part of the awards banquet night for the Roadstone awards next November.



Colourful Tyrone supporters at the semi-final.

Cumann na mBunscol schools in Tír Eoghain have been buzzing with excitement in the build-up to today's encounter with their neighbours. Tyrone children have come to Croke Park in their thousands this summer to cheer on their Red Hand heroes. Many of them have availed of the free face-painting service provided by Cumann na mBunscol, Ath Cliath. They wore their red and white with pride and, no doubt, many of them will be back today. The face-painters, operating under the "Show Your Primary Colours" banner will also be in attendance today, adding a dash of colour to the greatest day in the football calendar.

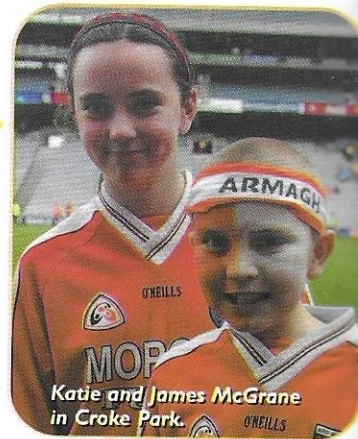
Katie and James McGrane from St. Joseph's PS, Newry, Co. Armagh have had a very enjoyable year supporting The Orchard County as they chase a second All-Ireland success. They both play football and James is also a keen hurler. Not surprisingly, their hero is namesake Paul McGrane and this football mad pair will be hoping he can produce a top performance today and help bring Sam to Newry in the coming weeks.



Simon McCoy in full Armagh regalia at the Armagh v Laois semi-final.

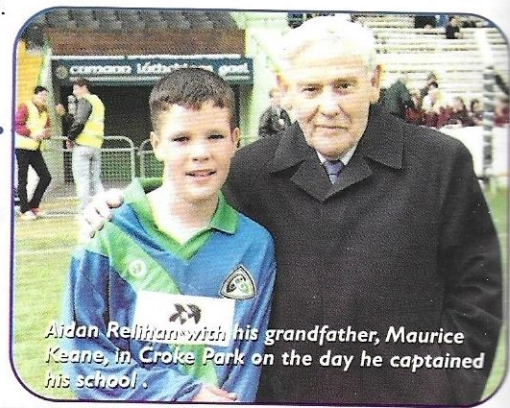


Simon Mc Coy is the real thing as far as supporters go. He attends the games, wears the colours and makes plenty of noise to motivate his heroes. He was in Croke Park for the semi-final with his mother, Noeleen, and, if his search for a ticket was successful, he'll be present today to cheer his favourite player, Kieran McGeeney. Simon is in P7 in Armagh CBS and he plays for Armagh Harps. He is a forward and has won U.12 league and championship medals with the club.



Katie and James McGrane in Croke Park.

Maurice Keane, grandfather of Aidan Relihan, was present to see Aidan captain his school in Croke Park in 1998. It was a proud and nostalgic moment for him as it rekindled memories of his own playing days when he led Brunswick St. to victory in Croke Park in 1933. He was a player with Dublin minor hurlers in the All-Ireland hurling final in 1938 and scored 2-1 despite being marked by none other than the great Christy Ring. Maurice worked for many years in Valentia Observatory in Cahierciveen where he played football for both Renard and St. Mary's clubs. He is still remembered fondly in The Kingdom and the locals will be watching Aidan closely today and comparing him to his distinguished Grandfather.

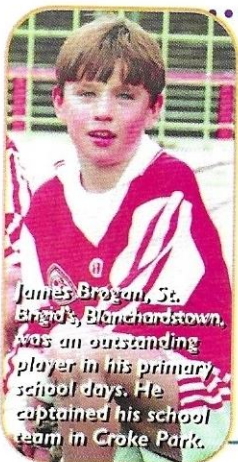


Aidan Relihan with his grandfather, Maurice Keane, in Croke Park on the day he captained his school.

Cumann to the Fore

Teachers from Cumann na mBunscol, Áth Cliath, have been scrambling for tickets all week to see their former pupils don the blue jersey in today's minor final. The squad, that comprehensively beat Cork in the semi-final, are all graduates of the Cumann na mBunscol system and they have been tipped for national honours with the Dubs from an early age. A considerable number of them played in Cumann na mBunscol finals in Croke Park and represented Dublin on Cumann na mBunscol squads that played inter-county friendlies in Casement Park and other famous venues throughout the country. Four of them captained their schools to victory in high-profile Croke Park finals and will, undoubtedly, have bright futures in the blue jersey.

The four former captains have impressive GAA pedigrees. John Coughlan is one of the famous Coughlan's from Offaly; O'Reilly is a son of singer, Mary Black and GAA player and club official Joe O'Reilly; Brogan is a son of former Dublin player and selector, Jim Brogan, and a first cousin of Alan Brogan while Aidan Relihan's grandfather, Maurice Keane, was an outstanding footballer and hurler.



James Brogan, St. Brigid's, Blanchardstown, was an outstanding player in his primary school days. He captained his school team in Croke Park.



Danny O'Reilly raise the cup for the fans St. Joseph's, Tereburne in Croke Park.

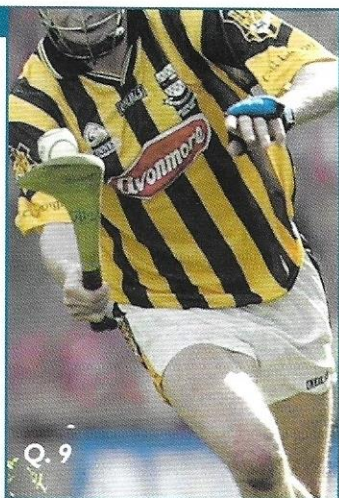




Cúinne na nÓg

TRÁTH NA GCEIST

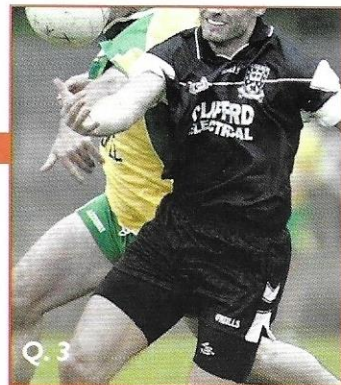
1. How many goals did Tyrone score in their Allianz League final win over Laois last May?
2. Did Kerry score a goal against Armagh in last year's All-Ireland senior final?
3. Armagh's win in the Sam Maguire Cup tie last year was the first by an Ulster county since Donegal won the title in 1992. True or false?
4. Ulster champions Tyrone lost to what county in this year's All-Ireland minor football quarter-final?
5. What county finished runners-up in last year's All-Ireland minor football final?
6. How did Donegal fare in their opening game in the Ulster senior football championship last June?
7. Waterford won their first, second or third Munster under-21 football tile earlier this month. Your choice!
8. Who was the last Munster man presented with the Sam Maguire Cup?
9. A switch here to hurling. Who was top scorer in the All-Ireland senior hurling final earlier this month?
10. Back to football and what is the name of the trophy presented to the winners of the All-Ireland minor championship?



ALL STARS

After today's Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior football-final the focus will increase on the probable line-up of the Vodafone All Stars team in the code for 2003 Here's your chance to see what you can recall about last year's football team.

1. How many of the Tyrone side were included in the All Stars selection?
2. Armagh dominated the selection. How many of their players were honoured—five, six or seven?
3. One Connacht player was included in the side. His name, please.
4. How many Kerry players were included in the team—two, three or four?
5. Was Cork's top scorer Colin Corkery included in the selection?



WHAT IS MY CLUB?

Listed below are six prominent intercounty senior footballers and six clubs. What you have to do is to match the player with the appropriate club.

Kevin Cassidy	Killanin
Gerry McGowan	Gowna
Enda Muldoon	Kilmacud Crokes
Ray Cosgrove	Gweedore
Dermot McCabe	Ballinderry
Gary Fahey	Tourlestrane

Brian Carthy The Championship 2003

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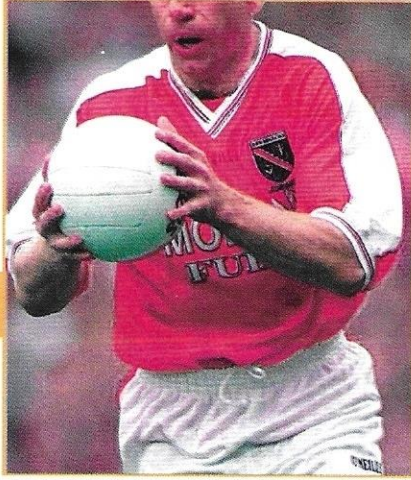
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KNOW YOUR REFEREES

1. Who refereed the Armagh-Down All-Ireland semi-final last month?
2. Who had charge of last month's Tyrone-Kerry All-Ireland semi-final?
3. Michael Collins (Cork) refereed the Allianz League final between Tyrone and Laois. True or false?
4. Michael McGrath is from Derry or Donegal?
5. Finally, a hurling referee. Who refereed the All-Ireland senior final earlier this month?



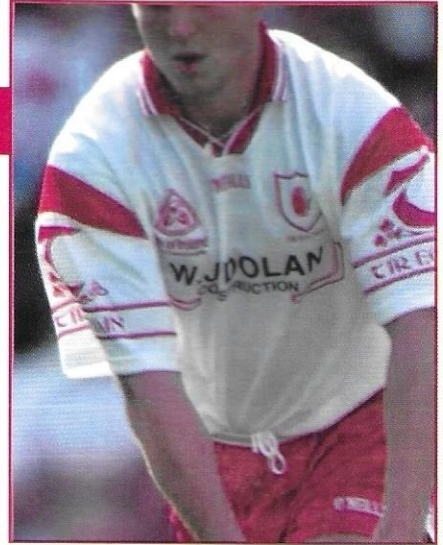
WHO AM I FROM ARMAGH?

I am a forward and I was my club's only representative in last year's All-Ireland senior final win. I scored three

points in last year's final and I was in the team that was beaten by Meath with a dramatic late goal in the 1992 All-Ireland minor final. I am 28 and I have three Ulster senior medals. I lined out in a different position in attack against Donegal in the recent semi-final than the one I started in last year's All-Ireland final.

WHO AM I FROM TYRONE?

I scored Tyrone's opening goal in this season's championship. I won All-Ireland medals at minor and under-21 and I also have played in an Allianz League final win. My club is Cookstown and I wore the same number jersey in the Allianz League final win in April and on my last appearance at Croke Park.



What is My Club? 1. Kevin Cassidy—Gweedore. Gerry McGowan—Tourlestane. Enda Muldoon—Ballinderry. Ray Cosgrove—Kilmacud Crokes. Dermot McCabe—Gowra. Gary Fahey—Tourlestane.

Know Your Referee 1. Michael Monahan (Kildare). 2. Gerry Kinnearay (Roscommon). 3. True. 4. Donegal. 5. Pat O'Connor (Limerick).

Who Am I From Armagh? Diarmuid Marsden.

Who Am I From Tyrone? Eoin Mulligan.

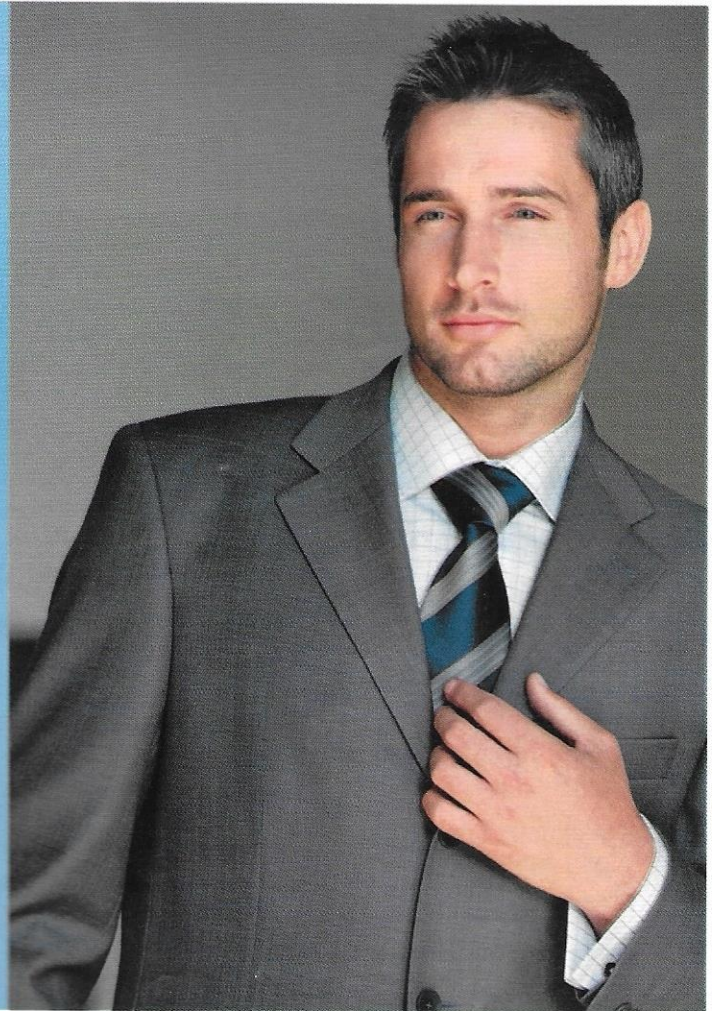
Fragra! 1. None. 2. No. 3. False. It was the first since Down in 1994. 4. Laois at Longford. 5. Meath. 6. Donegal lost to Fermanagh. 7. First. 8. Seamus Moyrhan (Kerry) in 2000. 9. Martin Comerford (Kilkenny) with 1-4. 10. The Tom Markham Cup.

All Stars 1. One—Peter Canavan. 2. Six. 3. Eamonn O'Hara (Sligo). 4. Two. 5. No.

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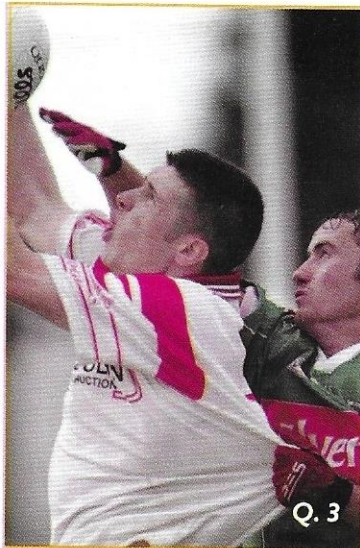
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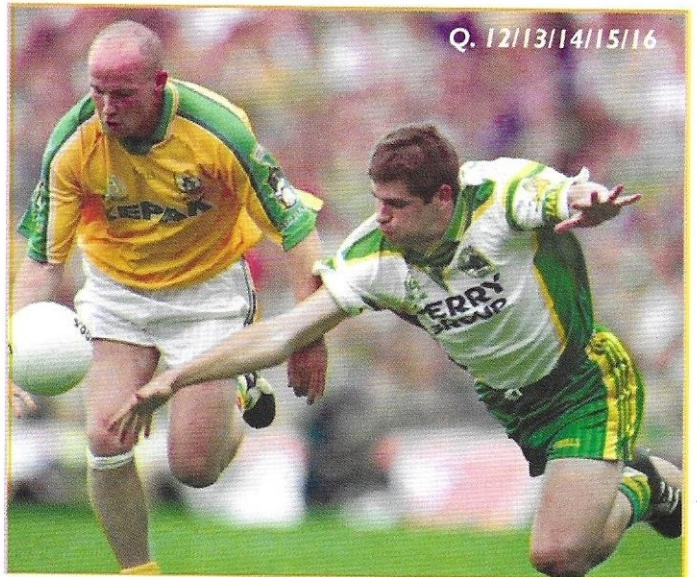


Fiche Ceist

1. How many times has Armagh won the National Football League title?
2. Tyrone were the first Ulster winners of the All-Ireland under-21 football title. True or false?
3. Who scored the only goal in the All-Ireland under-21 semi-final between Tyrone and Mayo earlier this month at Markievicz Park?
4. Who captained Armagh in the 1977 All-Ireland senior football final against Dublin?
5. Galway was the first county to win the Sam Maguire Cup after losing a game earlier in the provincial championship. Who beat the Tribesmen in that particular game?
6. What two counties will contest the All-Ireland ladies junior football final next Sunday?
7. Who refereed last year's All-Ireland senior football final?
8. What county brought the NEW Sam Maguire Cup to Ulster for the first time?
9. When did Armagh last lose a competitive senior football game at Croke Park?



10. Tyrone brought the All-Ireland minor football title to Ulster for the first time. True or false?
11. Who won the All-Ireland senior softball singles title in handball earlier this month for the first time?
12. Who is the footballer on the left in our photograph?
13. What is his club?
14. Who is the footballer on the left in our photograph?
15. What is his club?
16. This action "shot" was taken during what game?
17. Who was the first Connacht man presented with the new Sam Maguire Cup?
18. What county qualified earlier this month for an All-Ireland ladies football final for the first time?
19. Limerick beat Cork earlier this year in a Munster senior football championship game for the first time since 1962, 1965 or 1970. Your choice!
20. What was the first Ulster county to contest a Sam Maguire Cup tie, as distinct from an All-Ireland senior final without that trophy as the prize for the winners?



Fréagraí
 1. Armagh have still to win the National Football League title. 2. False. Derry recorded the first win by an Ulster county in 1968. 3. Sean Cavanagh. 4. Jimmy Smyth from centre half forward. 5. Roscommon in a Connacht semi-final in 2001. 6. Donegal and Kildare. 7. John Bannon (Longford). 8. Down in 1991. 9. Last April when they lost to Laois in an Allianz League semi-final. 10. False. Cavan brought the title to Ulster for the first time in 1937. 11. Tom Sheridan (Meath). 12. Ollie Murphy (Meath). 13. Carraross. 14. Eamonn Fitzmaurice (Kerry). 15. Finghe. 16. The 2001 All-Ireland senior semi-final. 17. Ray Silke (Galway) in 1998. 18. Dublin. 19. Dublin. 20. Cavan, who lost the first final for the Sam Maguire Cup in 1928 to Kildare.

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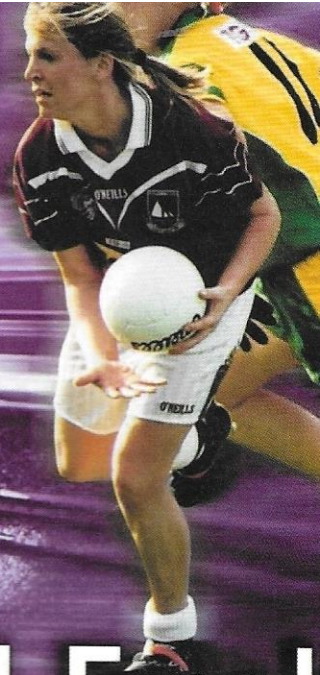
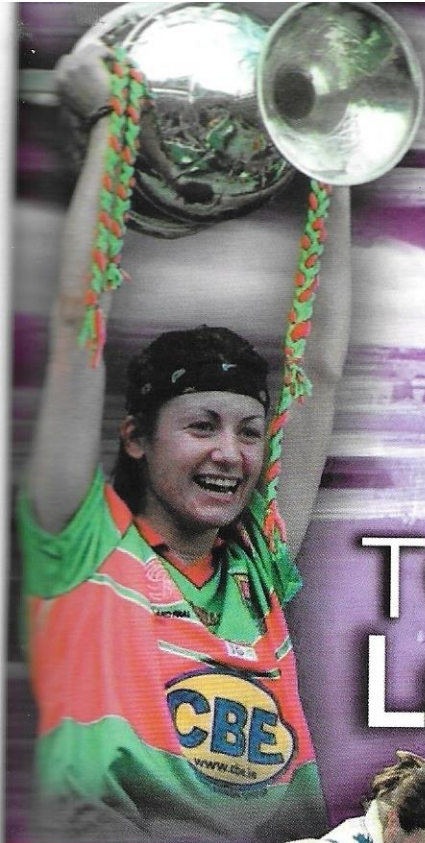


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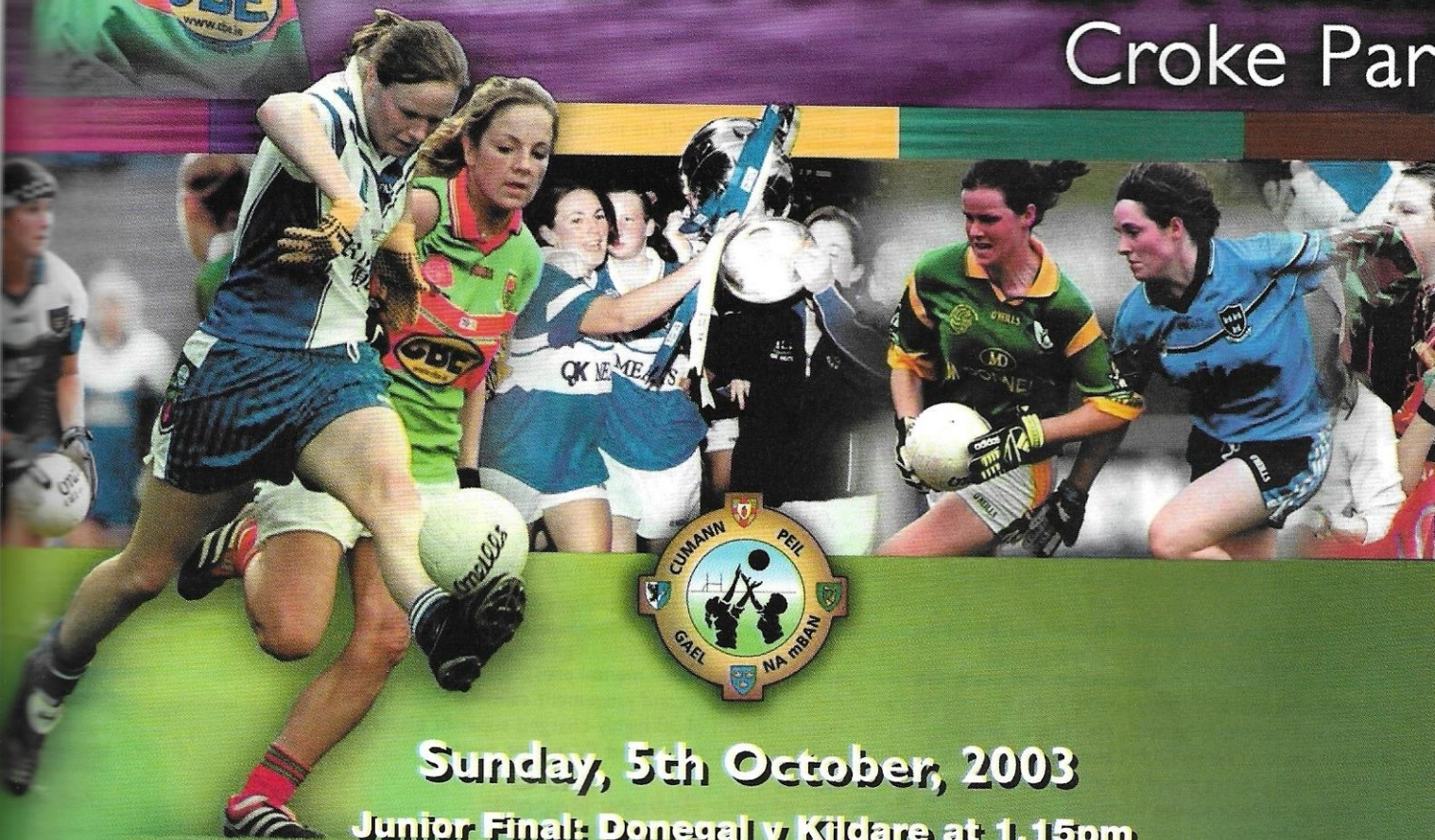
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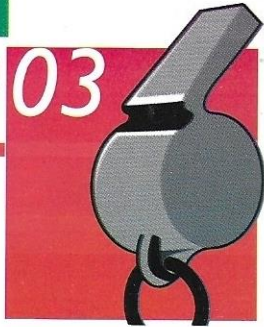
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Refereeing Matters in 2003

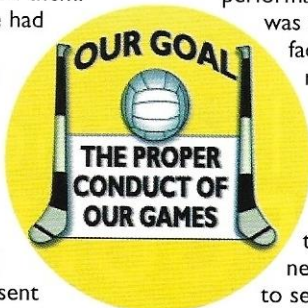


Football Championship 2003:

In this year's football championship, 64 games have been played to date and 24 referees have refereed them. One referee had 6 games, Four had 5, One had 4, Five had 3, Six had 2 and Seven had 1 game each. Unlike Hurling there was much more discussion re refereeing decisions. In the early rounds of the championship, managers complained that referees were being too strict, that the physical element was being taken out of football games, that it was too easy to get two yellow cards. Underlying these comments seemed to be a feeling that a player should not be sent off unless there was something malicious in what he did. Surprise was expressed that, in what was not considered a dirty game, five or six players could get yellow cards.

Noting and Cards:

The purpose of the Noting and Caution offences was to punish persistent fouling and thereby give more scope to the skilful player. The referees are asked to implement these rules to eliminate persistent fouling which is prevalent in football. The main criticism of referees was lack of consistency – not so much of any one referee but between one referee and another. We are inclined to forget in overall generalisations that there were very good Football games this Summer. Invariably these involved two teams who played positively without resorting to fouling persistently and made the



Assesments in Championship 2003:

58 games were assessed. In 30 of these the referee's performance was rated 'Very Good' and in 22 it was rated as 'Good'. This seems to fly in the face of the common allegations about refereeing this Summer. Are the Referee's Committee fooling themselves? How explain the difference? One definite consequence is that it should dispel the idea that referees are in fear of this shadowy figure in the stand jotting down their mistakes. First of all the assessor is neutral and he is reading the game trying to see it from the referee's viewpoint. What did the referee see? Why did he not penalise a foul? The first criterion is – was the referee in control? Were aggressive fouls penalised? If he persistently does not penalise Technical Fouls he will not get a good assessment either. If he misses a few fouls then he may get a 'Good' assessment overall but it will be clearly pointed out what he didn't penalise and how he must improve.

Also, assessors are asked to write their report before they watch the game on TV and to report on what they saw at the game and not what the TV camera revealed or became apparent through numerous playbacks.

Way Forward:

The referees as a group are very open to what they are asked to do and have adapted readily to new procedures in the last few years – noting yellow and red cards, additional time to be played, links with linesmen, substitutions zones etc. Debates in relation to two referees, a sin-bin, more power to linesmen, entrusting timekeeping to another official are all, of course, matters for legislators but debates in which referees should have a voice.

The Referees' Committee feel strongly that too little allowance is made for the huge task a modern inter-county referee has – mental pressures, physical demands, split second judgement calls. All these in the huge cauldron of 30 highly-charged super-fit players, up to 80,000 spectators, and TV instant replays.

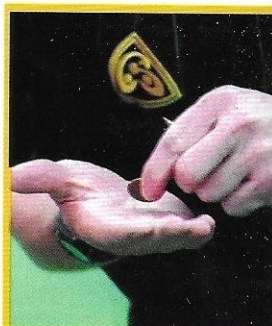
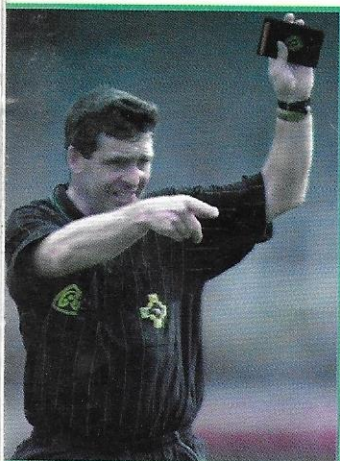
Strategic Review Report:

An interesting recommendation in the SRC report: "The GAA should invest in the appropriate technology and systems to enable the comments of referees to be audible to viewers of all televised GAA games; furthermore, improved systems should be developed to enable referees to communicate efficiently with both linesmen and umpires."

The system of linking referees and linesmen was experimented with in some games last year with mixed results. Most of the criticisms by some referees were of technical problems re sound quality and the equipment being uncomfortable to wear. Dave McHugh, Ireland's international rugby referee, spoke to the referees on their system which seems effective and further development and experimentation in this area is about to begin.

Referee Quotation:

"We were unlucky that we ran into a referee who ought to be thinking more about his diet than his refereeing"!!!!
(Italian defender, World Cup Finals, 2002)



referee's task easier. If there are 70 frees in a game, the referee will definitely be criticised. The assumption seems to be that he shouldn't have blown all the frees, or that more players should have got two yellow cards. This brings us back to the rules again. Do we want the referees to implement the rules as they are? The general feeling seems to be that we don't want players to be sent off for what are two cautionable offences. This has lead to talk of two Referees, video referee systems, sin-bins etc..

Rules Teaser

The referee is preparing to throw in the ball between 2 players from either side to start the game or restart it after half time. Where precisely should the other players be?

Answer: In their respective positions behind the 45m line.

It's the Final. There can only be two winners.



Our best wishes to everyone on the Tyrone and Armagh panels, and their supporters. And not just our best wishes. From 2003 on, there's a Corolla for the winners and a Yaris for the runners-up, for the direct support of the Players' Funds.



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