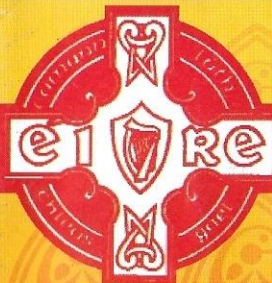
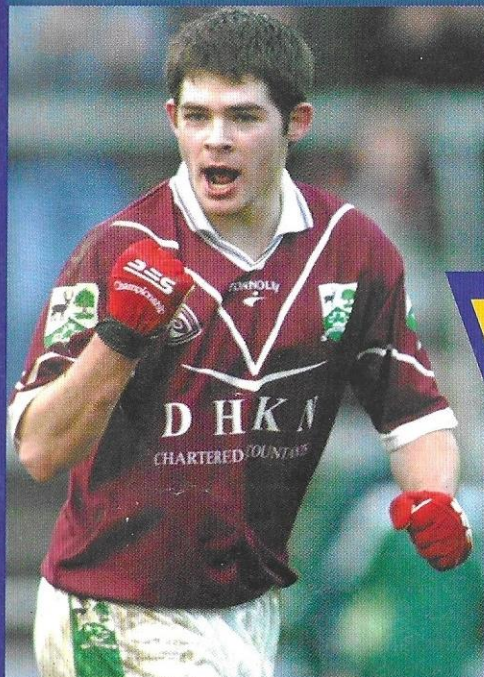


CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

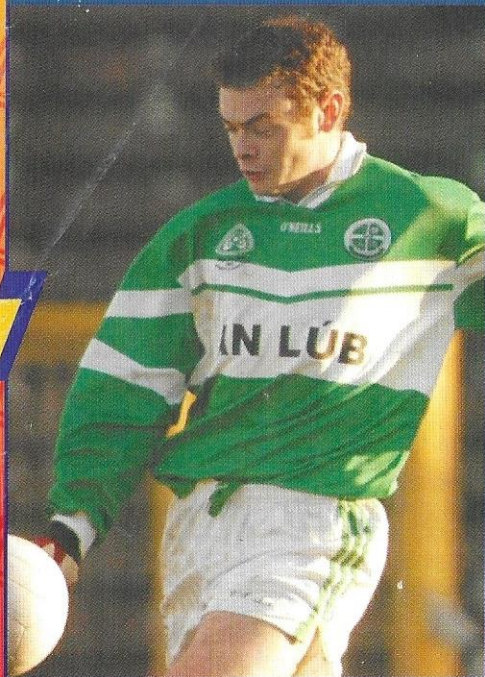


AIB All-Ireland Club Football Championship Semi-final  
Cluiche Leath-Cheannais Péile AIB Chlubanna na hÉireann

**AN CHEALTRACH**



**AN LÚB**



**CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL**

Árd-Stiúrthóir *Rian Ó Madadhacháil*



Páirc Markievicz, Sligeach. 22 Feabhra, 2004. Luach: €2.00



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CLUICHÍ CEANNAIS AIB CHLUBANNA NA HÉIREANN

AIB ALL-IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS



PEIL



**AN CHEALTRACH (GAILLIMH)**

V.

**NAOMH PÁDRAIG, AN LÚB (DOIRE)**

2.00 i.n. Réiteoir: E. Murtagh (Longfort)  
Linesmen: S. McCorkmack (An Mhí)  
STAND-BY REFEREE  
P. Daly (An Iarmhí)  
Sideline Official: M. Duffy (Sligeach)



An Réiteoir

Eugene Murtagh (An Longfort)

Eugene ended last year on a high note with two major finals. He refereed the Ulster-Connacht interprovincial decider at Enniskillen in November and in early December took charge of his first Leinster club final—the St. Brigid's (Dublin)-Round Towers (Kildare) summit at An Uaimh.

He has refereed finals at all levels in Longford and has been on the senior inter-county referees panel since 1994.

Murtagh is a member of the Sean Connolly club in Ballinalee and was on duty last year in the Allianz League. He also took charge of the Ulster senior quarter-final between Down and Monaghan at Casement Park.

He helped to usher in the new Allianz League season by refereeing the meeting of Armagh and Wexford at Crossmaglen in round one earlier this month.

### Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fianna Fáil,  
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,  
Buíon dár slua  
Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn  
Faoi mhóid bheith saor,  
Sean-tír ár sinsear feasta  
Ní fhágar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill.  
Anocht a théam sa bhearna baoil  
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil  
Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,  
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.



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## Lá sa Cheannárus le Baint

**S**eo an chéad uair dona foirne ar fad san Siomaiocht i gcluichí leathcheannais AIB na gclubanna sa pheil dul chomh fada sa chomórtas. Cothaíonn an comórtas seo an spiorad agus, le cúpla mí anuas, tá fuadar faoin réamh-ullmhúchán 'sna clubanna agus 'sna paróistí éagsúla i mBleá Cliath, Doire, Ciarraí agus sa Ghaillimh.

Tá súil le cluiche bríomhar idir foireann na Gaeltachta agus Naomh Bríd, Baile Bhláinséir - curaidh Mumhan agus Laighean fé seac. Tá imreoirí den scoth ag an dá fhoireann - leithéidí Dara Ó Cinnéide, captaen Chiarraí, na deartháireacha Ó Sé agus Aodán MacGearailt ag foireann na Gaeltachta agus na deartháireacha Darcy chomh maith le Rory, Ramie Gallagher agus Peadar Andrews ag Na Laigheannaigh.

Ceaptar go forleathan go bhfuil imreoirí ó cheann ceann na tíre ag Naomh Bríd. Ní hamhlaidh atá. Taobh amuigh de Rory agus Raymie Gallagher is ó cheantair 'Bhleá Cliath Thiar formhór mór na nimreoirí. D'imir Ken agus Declan Darcy agus Jason Ward do Liatroim ach tógadh i mBleá Cliath iad. D'Fhrestail seisear eile ar an bhfoireann agus ceathrar ón bpainéal ar Scoil Náisiúnta Francis Xavier sa Chúl Min. D'imir na deartháireacha

Darcy le Scoil Réalt an Mara, Sandymount agus d'imir Ken Darcy, chomh maith le lucht Francis Xavier; i gcaobhacha Chumann na mBunscol i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

Ceaptar go mbraithfidh toradh an chluiche seo ar éifeacht na gcúlaithe ón nGaeltacht. Má éiríonn leo smacht a choimeád ar Rory, Raymie agus a gcomhghleachaithe beidh an lá leo. Ní dócha go néireoidh leo, áfach, agus moltar Naomh Bríd don chluiche mór ar Lá le Pádraig.

Is ar Shligeach a bheidh trial ag lucht leanta Caltra agus An Lúp. Bhuaiigh Na Gaillimhigh a gcéad chraobh contae anuraidh agus ó shin bhí an lámh in uachtar acu ar churaidh, Shligigh, Ros Comáin agus ar churaidh Liatroma. Braitheann said go mór ar na deartháireacha Meehan agus, go háirithe, ar Michael agus Noel dona scóranna. Bhí Michael ar bharr a mhaiteasa don Ghaillimh anuraidh agus níl amhras ná go mbeidh tionchur suntasach aige ar chluiche an lae inniu.

Ní bheidh sé éasca ag Na Tuaisceartaigh an liathróid a choimeád ó Michael Meehan. Beidh éacht ag teastáil uathu ach tá imreoirí den scoth acu freisin - leithéidí Paul McFlynn agus Johnny McBride. Smaoinigh, freisin, gur chloí said Crossmaglen Rangers, Bryansford agus St.Gall's ar a mbealach don chluiche leathcheannais. Moltar Na Gaillimhigh, áfach, don turas go Bleá Cliath.

## Wind of change in club football scene

**T**he AIB All-Ireland club senior football championship semi-finals bring a fresh wind of change to the competition. The four clubs engaged are all appearing at this stage for the first time.

The last time this occurred was in 1991, when Lavey, of Derry, Thomas Davis, of Dublin, Salthill, of Galway, and Dr. Crokes, of Killarney, all made their semi-final debuts.

Caltra and St. Brigid's won their respective county senior titles before Christmas for the first time. Loup are Derry champions after 67 years, while An Ghaeltacht won their second title in late October.

An Ghaeltacht are striving to earn Kerry a direct interest in a final for the first time since Laune Rangers, Killorglin, beat Éire Óg, Carlow, in 1996.

Nemo Rangers, Cork, recorded the last semi-final win by a Munster club last February. They beat Errigal Ciarán, Tyrone, at Portlaoise and went on to win the final. Nemo, who were captained to last year's success by Colin Corkery, went out at an early stage in last year's Cork county senior championship.

St. Brigid's are hoping to record the first win by a Dublin club since the success of Na Fianna over Crossmolina, Mayo, at Longford in 2000.

Loup are in line for a second win by a Derry club in two years. Ballinderry beat Rathnew, of Wicklow, in 2002 and followed on by capturing the title. That was also the last year that the North had a direct interest in the All-Ireland decider. Ballinderry joined the title winning ranks for the first time.

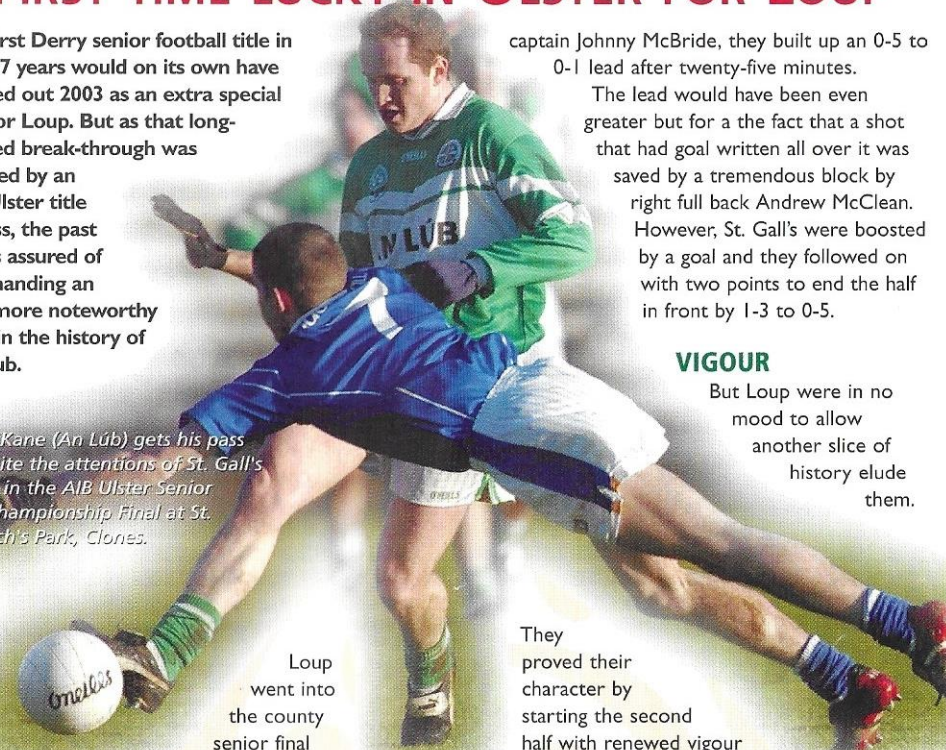
A Caltra win would earn Galway a direct interest in the summit for the first time since Corofin ousted Dungiven, of Derry, in 1998. Corofin, captained by Ray Silke from centre half back, went on to win the title and so record the first final success by any Connacht club in the All-Ireland series, which was launched as far back as 1971.

Crossmolina, Mayo, won their semi-final last February against Dunshaughlin, of Meath, at Roscommon, but lost the summit to Nemo Rangers. Two years earlier they recorded the West's last final win.

## FIRST TIME LUCKY IN ULSTER FOR LOUP

**A** first Derry senior football title in 67 years would on its own have marked out 2003 as an extra special year for Loup. But as that long-awaited break-through was followed by an AIB Ulster title success, the past year is assured of commanding an even more noteworthy place in the history of the club.

*Padraig O'Kane (An Lúp) gets his pass away despite the attentions of St. Gall's Sean Kelly in the AIB Ulster Senior Football Championship Final at St. Tighearnach's Park, Clones.*



Loup went into the county senior final with Ballinderry against the background

of an eight points defeat by that club in the 2002 decider. But they lost little time in showing that they were not overawed by the opposition.

The challengers were quickly into their stride with two early points that helped to boost morale. They built on that start and went on end that long, long absence from the Roll of Honour by finishing good winners by four points.

After a winning start in Ulster against Bryansford (Down), the Derry champions did well to beat the very experienced Crossmaglen Rangers, winners of three All-Ireland titles, next time out in a semi-final at Clones.

Loup also displayed plenty of character when seeing off the challenge of St. Gall's, Antrim, in the decider at Clones, by 0-11 to 1-5. They looked to be heading for a comfortable win when, spurred on by youthful full back Joseph O'Kane and midfielder and

captain Johnny McBride, they built up an 0-5 to 0-1 lead after twenty-five minutes.

The lead would have been even greater but for a fact that a shot that had goal written all over it was saved by a tremendous block by right full back Andrew McClean. However, St. Gall's were boosted by a goal and they followed on with two points to end the half in front by 1-3 to 0-5.

### VIGOUR

But Loup were in no mood to allow another slice of history elude them.

They proved their character by starting the second half with renewed vigour and drive and after ten minutes were on level terms. The

exchanges continued to prove very keen after that but Loup finished the stronger to score three points without reply to deservedly take the title.

McBride played a real captain's part. He got his side off to a good start with their first two points and was an influential figure all through. The captain was well supported in the middle by John O'Kane.

Joseph O'Kane was a tower of strength at the back. John Young was also sound all through at right full back and near the end he brought off a great block that ended a great St. Gall's bid for a goal. Ronan Rocks and Shane McFlynn spearheaded the attack.

Loup have come a long way since their defeat in the 2003 county final. They are a side with football ability, self confidence and a real will-to-win to recommend them. They will certainly not fail in this game for lack of all out effort and class.

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\*1995 Journal of Sports Science



# MOST RECENT SEMI-FINAL VICTORIES

GAILLIMH 1998

**COROFIN 0-11; DUNGIVEN 0-9**

It had been 18 years since a Galway side had emerged victorious from the semi-final stage of the club football championship (St.Grellan's three-point win over Walsh Island in 1980) and with Corofin themselves having come a cropper at this hurdle in 1992 (Dr.Crokes) and 1996 (Laune Rangers), a lack of desire was certainly not going to be a problem for their meeting with Dungiven at Ballyshannon.

A crowd of 8,000 made their way to the Donegal venue for this clash and it was the Derry side with household names like Emmet McKeever, Brian McGilligan, Geoffrey McGonigle and Joe Broly that were favoured to advance. But the foundations for the Westerners' success were laid at midfield where Aidan Donnellan and 39-year old Gerry Burke got the better of McGilligan and McCloskey.

However, the first two scores of the hour fell to Broly, but they were quickly cancelled out and by the end of the opening quarter the Galway champions led by 0-5 to 0-2. Their prospects brightened further when Dungiven corner-back Seoirse McGonigle was ordered off at the 18th minute for an off-the-ball incident and, using the extra man wisely, Corofin built up a five-point interval lead (0-8 to 0-3).

Within 40 seconds of the restart Michael Donnellan extended Corofin's advantage and within a minute Derek Reilly almost snatched a goal. However, now backed by the wind, the Oak Leaf outfit narrowed the gap to three before Aidan and Michael Donnellan increased it to five by the end of the third quarter. The Northerners did have the better of the closing period, but never looked like overcoming the deficit.

**Corofin scorers:** A.Donnellan 0-3, E.Steede 0-2, M.Donnellan 0-2, G.Burke 0-1, D.Reilly 0-1, T.Burke 0-1, S.Conlisk 0-1.

**Corofin –** M.McNamara, O.Burke, K.Newell, J.Lardner, A.Fahy, R.Silke, J.Lardner, A.Donnellan, G.Burke, M.Donnellan, E.Steede, J.Killeen, D.Reilly, T.Burke, S.Conlisk, Sub – T.Greaney.

DOIRE 2002

**BALLINDERRY 1-9; RATHNEW 0-7**

Ballinderry were making their second appearance at the semi-final stage of the club championship when they took on Rathnew two years ago at Pearse Park, Longford, and were hoping to atone for their loss to Garrymore of Mayo two decades previously. Both sides had some mileage on the clock before this encounter with the Wicklow side making their eighth appearance of the campaign and the Oak Leaver's taking to the field for the fifth time.

The Ulster champions made the perfect start and were four points to the good after just five minutes. The first score arrived when Gerard Cassidy was fouled in the square and Conleth Gilligan expertly dispatched the penalty before following up with a point from play. With treacherous underfoot conditions that early advantage was a huge bonus to Ballinderry, and the rest of the opening half was an even affair with each side adding four points to leave it 1-5 to 0-4 at the break.

On the restart Rathnew set about trying to get back on terms but with Enda Muldoon edging the midfield exchanges and man-of-the-match Gilligan brilliantly leading the attack, their opportunities were few and far between. And even when they did make it deep into Ballinderry territory, they found Niall McCusker in dominating form as Ronan Coffey struggled to make an impact on the full-back. Leading by 1-6 to 0-4 at the 40th minute, the leaders were more than happy to trade points for the last twenty, and were comfortable winners.

**Ballinderry scorers:** C.Gilligan 1-3, G.Cassidy 0-4, P.Wilson 0-1, A.McGuckin 0-1.

**Ballinderry –** M.Conlon, K.McGuckin, N.McCusker, J.Bell, P.Wilson, R.McGuckin, D.Crozier, S.Donnolly, E.Muldoon, B.McCusker, C.Gilligan, D.Conway, D.Bateson, A.McGuckin, G.Cassidy, Sub – J.Conway.



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# HISTORY ON THE DOUBLE IN THE WEST FOR CALTRA

**C**an Caltra, who made history on the double in the West before Christmas, add another memorable chapter to their latest exciting success story? That's a key question as the Galway side step into the AIB All-Ireland club senior football championship semi-final action for the first time.

Caltra displayed plenty of ability and skill in an impressive march to a first Galway senior title, climaxed by a decisive fifteen points win over favourites Killereerin in the final at Pearse Stadium, and maintained the momentum in fine style on the way to the Connacht crown.

The Galway champions had some anxious moments in their Connacht championship debut against St. Mary's, Carrick-on-Shannon at Cloone. Late in the game goalkeeper Kevin Kilroy bought off a tremendous save to play a big part in ensuring a 1-6 to 0-8 win.

They had a more convincing success over St. Kevin's, Castlereagh, next time out and maintained the momentum by beating Curry, of Sligo, in a keenly contested Connacht final by a goal at Pearse Stadium.

The Galway men laid the foundations for that provincial success with a bright start. They dropped a point behind two minutes into the first half, but bounced back so well that they led at the interval by 1-5 to 0-2.

## BROTHERS

Their goal came just before half time and was fashioned by Noel and Michael Meehan, two of five brothers in the side. Noel put Michael through and he made the most of the opportunity by expertly drilling the ball to the net for a crucial score.

Curry came more into the picture in the second half as the Galway men squandered some good opportunities and their scoring rate dropped greatly on that of the opening half. Fifty one minutes into the game, the Sligo champions were just two points adrift.

However, Caltry did not panic. They continued to play with plenty of skill and all out effort and did not concede a further score.

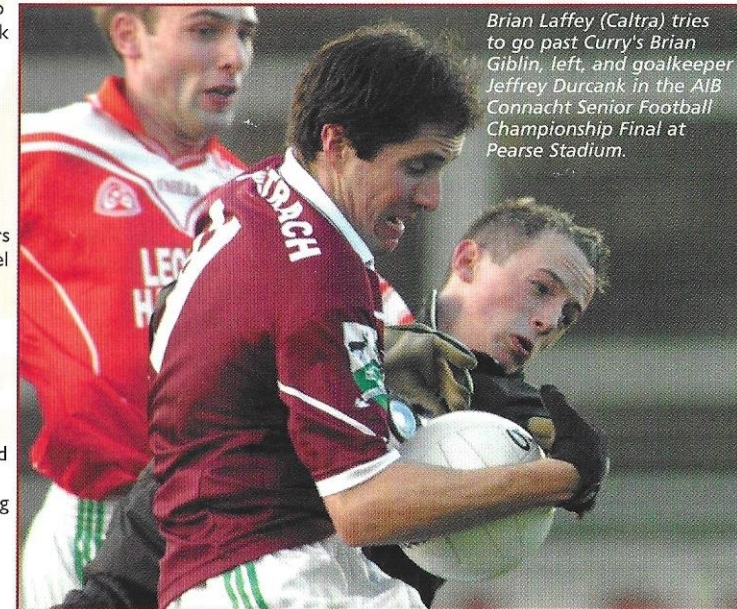
The Galway standard-bearers' only score of the half was recorded by Matthew Killilea after fifty-three minutes and, while they had some anxious moments in the concluding stages, they held out for a well-merited win.

Declan Meehan, winner of All-Ireland senior medals in 1998 and 2001, Enda Meehan and Brian Kilroy, efficiently marshaled the defence into a tight and unyielding unit.

John Galvin and Oliver Hennelly got through much valuable work in midfield, while teenager Michael Meehan starred up front and his goal was a priceless score.

Tomás Meehan, another link with Galway's Sam Maguire Cup winning sides of 1998 and 2001, team captain Noel Meehan, who led by example, and Matthew Killilea were others to the fore in attack.

Caltra have shown that they are a well-drilled side, with potential match winners in all sectors and their winning run will have boosted confidence and teamwork.



Brian Laffey (Caltra) tries to go past Curry's Brian Giblin, left, and goalkeeper Jeffrey Durcank in the AIB Connacht Senior Football Championship Final at Pearse Stadium.

Other members of the squads, not included on the teamsheets, are:  
**CALTRA:** Aidan Murray, Seamus Meehan, Cathal Kilroy, Solan Kelly, Colin Higgins, Damien Coen, Ronan Finnerty, Seamus Kelly, Thomas Dalton.  
**LOUP:** John O'Kane, Cahal O'Kane, Noel Rocks, John McGuckin, Aidan McVey, Mark McGuckin, Brendan Devlin, Henry Walls, Thomas Rocks, Kevin Ryan, Roidan Martin.



# An Chealtrach

(Gaillimh)

Dathanna: Marún is Bán

## Fir Ionaid

- (16) Darren Smyth  
D. Mac Gabhann
- (17) Ollie Hennelly  
O. Ó hIonnaile
- (18) Paul Gately  
P. I Gatlaioich
- (19) Colm Kilroy  
C. Mac Giollarua
- (20) Niall Keighrey  
N. Ó Céirigh
- (21) Kevin Killilea  
C. Mac Giolla Léith
- (22) David Costello  
D. Ó Coisdeabhla
- (23) Michael Finnerty  
M. Ó Fiannachta
- (24) Shane Costello  
S. Ó Coisdeabhla

	<b>1</b> <b>KEVIN KILROY</b> C. Mac Giollarua	
<b>2</b> <b>JARLATH MURRAY</b> I. Ó Muiri	<b>3</b> <b>ENDA MEEHAN</b> E. Ó Míacháin	<b>4</b> <b>BRIAN KILROY</b> B. Mac Giolla Rua
<b>5</b> <b>DECLAN MEEHAN</b> M. Ó Míacháin	<b>6</b> <b>KEVIN GAVIN</b> C. Ó Gabháin	<b>7</b> <b>OISÍN KELLY</b> O. Ó Ceallaigh
<b>8</b> <b>TOMÁS MEEHAN</b> T. Ó Míacháin	<b>9</b> <b>DAMIEN CUNIFFE</b> D. Mac Connuibh	
<b>10</b> <b>BRIAN LAFFEY</b> B. Ó Lafaigh	<b>11</b> <b>JOHN GALVIN</b> S. Ó Gealbháin	<b>12</b> <b>MATHEW KILLILEA</b> M. Mac Giolla Léith
<b>13</b> <b>MICHAEL MEEHAN</b> M. Ó Míacháin	<b>14</b> <b>NOEL MEEHAN</b> N. Ó Míacháin	<b>15</b> <b>SHANE HOGAN</b> S. Ó hÓgáin

Roghnóirí:  
Joe Burke,  
Gabriel Naughton,  
Frank Mockler,  
Paul Kilgannon.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Ciceanna
<b>1adh Leath</b>					
<b>2adh Leath</b>					
<b>IOMLÁN</b>					



# Naomh Pádraig, An Lúb

(Doire)

Dathanna: Dearg is Bán

## Fir Ionaid

- (16) Ronan Devlin  
R. Ó Doibhlín
- (17) Kevin Bigmore  
C. Ó Beighmhór
- (18) Paul Marshall  
P. Ó Marascal
- (19) Seamus O'Kane  
S. Ó Catháin
- (20) Ciarán Hegarty  
C. Ó hEigearthaigh
- (21) Sean Doyle  
S. Ó Dugaill
- (22) Gavin Mallon  
G. Ó Meallóin
- (23) Enda McQuillan  
E. Mac Uilín
- (24) Ciarán Maynes  
C. Ó Mianis

	<b>1</b> <b>SHANE MCGUCKIN</b> S. Mac Eochain	
<b>2</b> <b>JOSEPH DEVLIN</b> S. Ó Doibhlín	<b>3</b> <b>JOSEPH O'KANE</b> S. Ó Catháin	<b>4</b> <b>PADDY MCGUINNESS</b> P. Mac Aongusa
<b>5</b> <b>BRIAN LAVERY</b> B. Ó Labhraí	<b>6</b> <b>PADRAIG O'KANE</b> P. Ó Catháin	<b>7</b> <b>FINTAN DEVLIN</b> S. Ó Doibhlín
<b>8</b> <b>JOHNNY McBRIDE</b> S. Mac Ghiolla Bhríde (Capt.)	<b>9</b> <b>JOHN YOUNG</b> S. de Súin	
<b>10</b> <b>BRENDAN McVEY</b> B. Mac an Bheatha	<b>11</b> <b>FINTAN MARTIN</b> F. Ó Mhairtín	<b>12</b> <b>RONAN ROCKS</b> R. Mac Concarraig
<b>13</b> <b>PAUL McFLYNN</b> P. Mac Flionn	<b>14</b> <b>SHANE McFLYNN</b> S. Mac Flionn	<b>15</b> <b>PAUL YOUNG</b> P. de Súin

Roghnóirí:  
Malachy O'Rourke,  
Leo McBride,  
Adrian Mallon,  
John O'Brien.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Ciceanna
<b>1adh Leath</b>					
<b>2adh Leath</b>					
<b>IOMLÁN</b>					

## • HOW THEY REACHED THE SEMI-FINAL •

Although Loup won their second Derry senior football title in October, they only made their debut in the Ulster senior championship in 2003. Their first county crown was won in 1936. Their three game programme on the way to the Ulster crown included a semi-final win over experienced Crossmaglen Rangers, Armagh.

Caltra made a noteworthy break-through in early October by beating a fancied Killereerin to capture their first-ever Galway senior title. They had three games in the West.

This is how the clubs reached this history-making game:

### LOUP'S VICTORIES

**26th October. Glen:**

Loup 0-10, Bryansford (Down) 1-6.

**Scorers:** Paul McFlynn 0-4, Shane McFlynn 0-2, Paul Young 0-2, Fintan Martin 0-1, Joe O'Kane 0-1.

**9th November. Clones:**

Loup 0-10; Crossmaglen Rangers (Armagh) 0-8.

**Scorers:** Fintan Martin 0-3, Paul McFlynn 0-2, Johnny McBride 0-2, Joe O'Kane 0-1, Brian McVeigh 0-1, Ronan Rocks 0-1.

**30th November. Clones:**

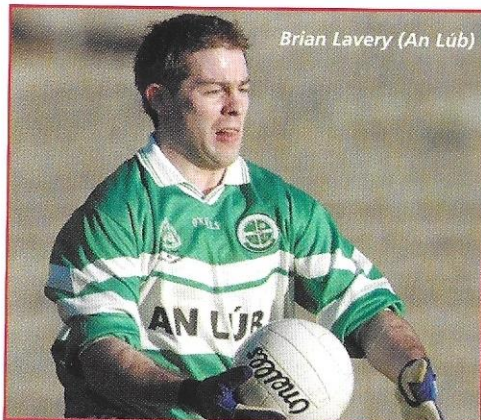
Loup 0-11; St. Gall's (Antrim) 1-5.

**Scorers:** Shane McFlynn 0-3, Ronan Rocks 0-3, Johnny McBride 0-2, Paul McFlynn 0-1, Brian McVeigh 0-1, G. Mallon 0-1.

**TOTAL SCORED: 0-31.**

**TOTAL CONCEDED: 2-19 (25 pts). AVERAGE: 1.25**

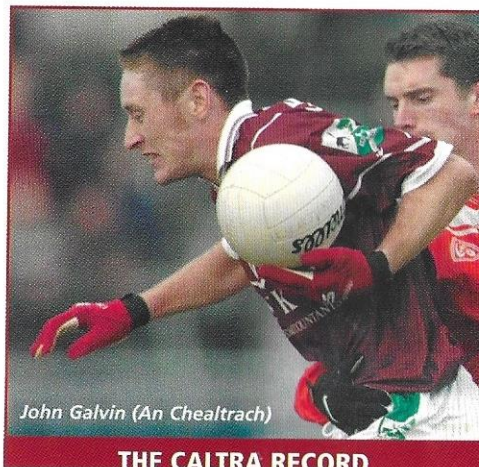
**Scorers:** Paul McFlynn 0-7, Shane McFlynn 0-5, Johnny McBride 0-4, Fintan Martin 0-4, Ronan Rocks 0-4, Paul Young 0-2, Brian McVeigh 0-2, Joe O'Kane 0-2, G. Mallon 0-1.



Brian Lavery (An Lúib)

**ON TG4**

Highlights of today's game can be seen on TG4 tomorrow night, beginning at 8.00. The specially extended programme will also feature yesterday's hurling replay between O'Loughlin Gaels and Newtownshandrum, and the other football semi final between An Ghaeltacht and St. Brigid's. There will also be two Allianz Hurling League games, the Kilkenny-Waterford clash and the Limerick-Cork encounter. Sin Ard San Aer, oíche amárach, ag 8.00.



John Galvin (An Chealtrach)

### THE CALTRA RECORD

**19th October. Cloone:**

Caltra 1-6;

St. Mary's, Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim, 0-8.

**Scorers:** Michael Meehan 1-1, Matthew Killalea 0-2, Brian Laffey 0-1, John Galvin 0-1, Noel Meehan 0-1.

**2nd November. Roscommon:**

Caltra 1-13;

St. Kevin's, Castlereagh, Roscommon, 1-7.

**Scorers:** Michael Meehan 1-7, Noel Meehan 0-4, Tomás Meehan 0-1, Anthony Keighrey 0-1.

**30th November. Pearse Stadium:**

Caltra 1-6; Curry, Sligo, 0-6.

**Scorers:** Michael Meehan 1-2, Noel Meehan 0-2, Matthew Killalea 0-1, John Galvin 0-1.

**TOTAL SCORED: 3-25 (34 points).**

**TOTAL CONCEDED: 1-21 (24 points).**

**AVERAGE: 1.4**

**Scorers:** Michael Meehan 3-10, Noel Meehan 0-7, Matthew Killalea 0-3, John Galvin 0-2, Brian Laffey 0-1, Tomás Meehan 0-1, Anthony Keighrey 0-1.

## ...SEMI-FINAL RECORDS... DERRY AND GALWAY

When it comes to experience at the semi-final stage of the club football championship there is little to choose between Derry and Galway as the Oak Leafs' representatives are making their 10th penultimate appearance this afternoon, with the Corribiders edging matters as Caltra contest the Westerners' eleventh semi-final.

In terms of taking to the field, the sides are tied at ten appearances each as, when Father Griffin's qualified in the inaugural year in 1971, they conceded a walk over to Bryansford of Down. Twelve months later Bellaghy made a successful debut with a narrow win over Portlaoise, while Father Griffin's returned in '73 only to lose to Nemo Rangers.

In 1977 the champions of Derry and Galway clashed at the semi-final stage for the first time, but it was a bit of a mis-match as Ballerin hammered Killereerin by 5-9 to 1-4. And things didn't improve for the Corribiders two years later, although at least on this occasion they battled well before succumbing to Nemo Rangers by six points.

The eighties finally brought the Westerners their first semi-final success as St.Grellan's defeated Offaly's Walsh Island in 1980, and just two years later Derry suffered their first penultimate defeat at Ballinderry lost by the narrowest of margins to Mayo's Garrymore. However, the rest of the decade

saw no more appearances by the representatives of Galway and Derry as Roscommon's Clan na nGael virtually monopolised the western crown and Burren (Down) did likewise up north.

In 1991 both counties returned to semi-final action and it was a winning return as Salthill overcame Dr.Crokes of Kerry and Lavey got the better of Dublin's Thomas Davis. But the Kingdom representatives gained revenge just twelve months later when they defeated Corofin and in 1993 Lavey were easily beaten by O'Donovan Rossa of Cork. In 1995 the champions of Galway and Derry met for the second time at the semi-final stage with Bellaghy getting the better of Tuam Stars.

Galway's luck hadn't improved a year on as Corofin lost to Laune Rangers, but the third, and most recent, meeting at the penultimate stage of the Galway and Derry champions in 1998 saw Corofin defeat Dungiven by 0-11 to 0-9. That was the last occasion on which the Galway champions have emerged from the West, but Derry's representatives have had two outings in the current decade with Bellaghy losing to Crossmolina in 2001 and Ballinderry defeating Rathnew the following year.

In all, Derry's representatives have appeared in nine semi-finals with a record reading five wins and four defeats. Galway's representatives have also "played" nine 'semi's with a record of three wins and six defeats.

## The New Order

For the first time in 13 years and only the fifth time in the history of the club championship, all four of today's semi-finalists are making their debut at this stage of the competition. Needless to say when the first semi-finals of 1971 were played all four clubs – East Kerry, Gracefield (Offaly), Bryansford (Down) and Father Griffin's (Galway) – were new to the 'last four'. A year later U.C.C., Claremorris (Mayo), Bellaghy (Derry) and Portlaoise (Laois) qualified for semi-final action, but for the next five years at least one of the penultimate qualifiers had previous experience at this stage of the competition.

In 1978 Thomond College (Limerick), St.Mary's (Sligo), St.John's (Antrim) and Summerhill (Meath) all became provincial champions for the first time, but 13 years were to pass before four more debutants made the All-Ireland series. That was in 1991 when the four counties represented were Galway (Salthill), Kerry (Dr.Croke's), Derry (Lavey) and Dublin (Thomas Davis). It is interesting to note that today is the first time since that those four counties' champions have reached the penultimate stage, with all again being first-time semi-finalists.

At the opposite end of the scale there has been just three occasions when all four All-Ireland semi-finalists have had previous 'last four' experience and they were 1975, 1986 and most recently in 1988 when Burren (Down), Nemo Rangers (Cork), Clan na nGael (Roscommon) and Portlaoise won through.

# COUNTY FINALS

— STEPPING STONES ON THE WAY TO ALL-IRELAND GLORY —

**T**he county senior championships open the way, of course, to the AIB Provincial Club senior championships. It is interesting, then, to take a brief look back at the county finals of 2003 in Derry, Dublin, Galway and Kerry.

## DOIRE

Loup bridged a long gap when they beat defending champions Ballinderry by 0-11 to 0-7 at Celtic Park. That was their first title in 67 years and only their second over-all.

The challengers opened brightly and led at the break by three points. Late in the second half midfielder and captain Johnny McBride put Loup four points clear and well on the way to revenge for their defeat in last year's final.

McBride, forwards Ronan Rocks and Paul McFlynn and defender Pdraig O'Kane were to the fore in forging out the rare success.

## ÁTH CLIATH

A good start proved half the battle for St. Brigid's, Blanchardstown, in the county senior final against favourites Kilmacud Crokes at Parnell Park. Brigid's led at the interval by 0-11 to 0-3.

Crokes came more into the game after the change of ends and after about ten minutes a goal left them just two points adrift. But Brigid's took that set-back firmly in their stride and pulled away again for a well

merited 0-17 to 1-8 win.

Fermanagh cousins Rory and Raymond Gallagher and Declan Lally in attack, midfielders Ken Darcy and Jason Ward and centre half back Peadar Andrews were influential figures in the success.

## GAILLIMH

The Meehan family had plenty of cause for celebration when Caltra beat favourites Killereerin by 3-11 to 0-5 at Pearse Stadium for a first county senior final win.

Noel captained the side in fine style from full forward. His brothers Michael and Tomás, also in the attack and defenders Declan and Enda, were all very influential in opening the door to history.


Michael also finished as the team's leading marksman with a splendid 1-8.

## CIARRAI

An Ghaeltacht had to go to a replay before regaining the title after a two year interval. They also showed plenty of character in their second clash with Laune Rangers at Austin Stack Park.


They trailed by five points at the interval, but rallied strongly in the second half and came out on top in a close finish by 0-12 to 2-4.

Tomás Ó Sé had a capital game at centre half, midfielder Darragh Ó Sé and Dara Ó Cinnéide and Aodán MacGearailt were other highly influential figures for the winners.



**St. Patrick's GFC Loup** are holding a Fundraising Golf Classic at Moyola Park Golf Club, Castledawson, Co Derry on Friday 7th May 2004. Valuable prizes will be on offer and the entrance fee of £160 (€230) for a team of four includes participation in the main event and a meal. Current GUI handicap is required. There is also the opportunity for Businesses or individuals to sponsor tees/greens at a cost of £100 (€140).

All interested parties should contact Christy McGuckin (Club Treasurer) at (028)79418596, 07803833607 or email him ^ christymcguckin@hotmail.com. Your support is very much appreciated and will be acknowledged at the event.



# • TOP SCORERS •

## McCONVILLE SETS AN IMPRESSIVE TARGET

Although Oisín McConville's direct interest in the race for the AIB All-Ireland club senior football title ended in November with an Ulster semi-final defeat by Loup (Derry), he still sets the pace in the chart of leading individual scorers starting the semi-finals.

McConville played an outstanding role in getting Crossmaglen Rangers, of Armagh, off to a winning start in Ulster at the expense of Killyclogher (Tyrone) by scoring 2-7 at Crossmaglen in early November.

He scored his first goal from a penalty and hit six points from frees. His tally was all but three points of his team's total.

McConville has a lead of two points over his closest rival in the nation-wide chart, Adrian Marren (Currey, Sligo). He was in sharpshooting form with 2-5 in his club's surprise Connacht semi-final win over Ballina Stephenites at Markievicz Park on the same day as McConville was chalking up the scores in Crossmaglen.

Marren scored both of his goals from play and three of his points from frees.

Holding down third place is the only footballer in the top four still in the running for an All-Ireland medal—Michael Meehan (Caltra, Galway).

He had his big day in a Connacht semi-final win over Castlereagh St. Kevin's at Roscommon, where he finished with 1-7.

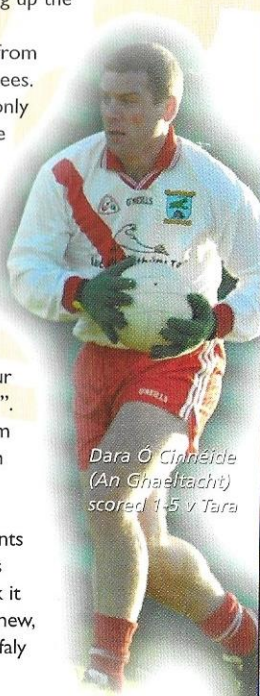
Meehan, who is only 19, scored four points from frees and two from "45's".

Like the two footballers above him in the chart, he was impressively on the target on the first Sunday in November.

The footballer with the highest points tally, as distinct from goals and points combined, is Tommy Gill, who struck it rich in this regard with nine for Rathnew, Wicklow, in their win over Clara, Offaly at Aughrim at the end of October.



Oisín McConville (Crossmaglen Rangers) scored 2-7 v Killyclogher



Dara Ó Cinnéide (An Ghaeltacht) scored 1-5 v Tara

THE LEADING SCORERS IN THE INDIVIDUAL MATCH RETURNS IN THE PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BEFORE CHRISTMAS WERE:	
<b>2-7:</b>	<b>OISÍN McCONVILLE (CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS, ARMAGH)</b> v KILLYCLOGHER (TYRONE) AT CROSSMAGLEN ON 2ND NOVEMBER.
<b>2-5:</b>	<b>ADRIAN MARREN (CURREY)</b> v BALLINA STEPHENITES (MAYO) AT MARKIEVICZ PARK ON 2ND NOVEMBER.
<b>1-7:</b>	<b>MICHAEL MEEHAN (CALTRA, GALWAY)</b> v CASTLERA ST. KEVIN'S (ROSCOMMON) AT ROSCOMMON ON 2ND NOVEMBER.
<b>0-9:</b>	<b>TOMMY GILL (RATHNEW, WICKLOW)</b> v CLARA (OFFALY) AT AUGHRIM ON 26TH OCTOBER.
<b>1-5:</b>	<b>G. WALKER (O'HANRAHAN'S, CARLOW)</b> v JAMES STEPHEN'S (KILKENNY) AT CALLAN ON 25TH OCTOBER.
<b>1-5:</b>	<b>DARA Ó CINNÉIDE (AN GHAELTACHT)</b> v TARA (LONDON) AT RUISLIP ON 7TH DECEMBER.
<b>2-1:</b>	<b>DAMIEN CONNOR (ST. PATRICK'S, LOUTH)</b> v THE DOWNS (WESTMEATH) ON 26TH OCTOBER.
<b>2-1:</b>	<b>ENDA BARDEN (CLONGUIGH, LONGFORD)</b> v KILNERIN (WEXFORD) AT LONGFORD ON 26TH OCTOBER.
<b>0-7:</b>	<b>MICHAEL DOHERTY (FOUR MASTERS, DONEGAL)</b> v CAVAN GAELS AT BALLYBOFEY ON 9TH NOVEMBER.
<b>2-1:</b>	<b>DECLAN DARCY (ST. BRIGID'S)</b> v ROUND TOWERS AT AN UAIMH ON 7TH DECEMBER.
<b>2-0:</b>	<b>BRIAN WALKER (O'HANRAHAN'S)</b> v JAMES STEPHEN'S AT CALLAN ON 25TH OCTOBER.
<b>0-6:</b>	<b>MICHAEL DOHERTY (FOUR MASTERS, DONEGAL)</b> v CASTLEBLAYNEY FAUGHS (MONAGHAN) AT BALLYBOFEY ON 19TH OCTOBER.
<b>0-6:</b>	<b>D. McARDLE (CASTLEBLAYNEY FAUGHS)</b> v FOUR MASTERS AT CLONES ON 26TH OCTOBER.
<b>0-6:</b>	<b>TOMMY DEEHAN (CLARA)</b> v RATHNEW AT AUGHRIM ON 26TH OCTOBER.
<b>0-6:</b>	<b>OISÍN McCONVILLE (CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS)</b> v LOUP AT CLONES ON 9TH NOVEMBER.
<b>0-6:</b>	<b>MICHAEL DOHERTY (FOUR MASTERS)</b> v CAVAN GAELS AT BALLYBOFEY ON 9TH NOVEMBER.
<b>0-6:</b>	<b>CORMAC NELLIGAN (CAVAN GAELS)</b> v FOUR MASTERS AT BALLYBOFEY ON 9TH NOVEMBER.
<b>1-3:</b>	<b>PAUL BARDEN (CLONGUIGH)</b> v BLACKHALL GAELS (MEATH) AT LONGFORD ON 9TH NOVEMBER.

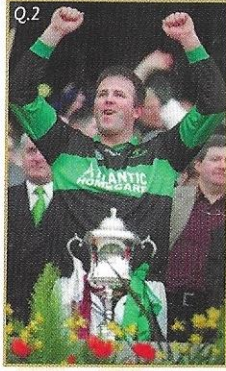


# CÚINNE NA nÓG

## 2003 AIB FOOTBALL SERIES

The questions in this section all relate to happenings in last year's AIB All-Ireland club senior football championship semi-finals and final.

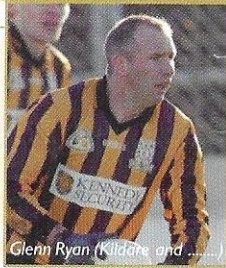
1. The Nemo Rangers-Errigal Ciarán semi-final last February was played at Portlaoise, An Uaimh or Longford. Your choice.
2. Colin Corkery led Nemo Rangers to last year's All-Ireland title. What position did he fill in the final?
3. Only one of the four clubs engaged in the All-Ireland senior semi-finals appeared at that stage for the first time. Can you name the club in question?
4. Who refereed the All-Ireland final last St. Patrick's Day—Brian Crowe (Cavan), Michael Monahan (Kildare) or Paddy Russell (Tipperary)?
5. James Nallen captained Crossmolina, Mayo, in last year's All-Ireland Final. True or false?



## FIND THE CLUB

Name the club of each of the six players listed below, all of whom were in action in the AIB provincial championships before Christmas.

1. Glenn Ryan.....
2. Paul Barden.....
3. Denis Russell.....
4. Paul Durcan.....
5. Darren O'Hare.....



Glenn Ryan (Kildare and .....)

## THE MISSING LINK

One word is missing from each of the five sentences below. Can you find the missing link in each case?

1. Tyrone won ..... Vodafone All-Stars awards in football at the end of November.
2. Ulster regained the interprovincial football title in November with a final win over..... at Enniskillen.

3. The winners of the AIB All-Ireland club senior football final are awarded the..... Merrigan Cup.
4. Dublin beat ..... in the Leinster minor football final in July.
5. .... Gavin was top scorer for Limerick in their Bank of Ireland Munster senior football championship first round win over Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh last May.

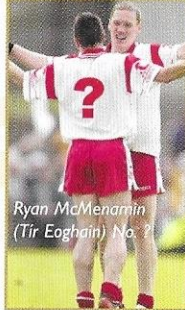
## SPOTLIGHT ON THE LADIES

1. Who captained Mayo to their All-Ireland Ladies senior football final win over Dublin last October?
2. Who scored Mayo's dramatic last gasp winning goal?
3. Debbie Lee Fox led what county to an All-Ireland ladies football title last October?
4. Name the Tipperary forward who won a Texaco award at the end of last year in camogie?
5. Una O'Dwyer led Tipperary from full back to victory over Cork in the All-Ireland senior camogie final in September. True or false?

## THE NUMBERS GAME

The five footballers named below were all in action in the Bank of Ireland senior football final last September. If you correctly name the jersey number each wore in that game the total will add up to 41.

1. Conor Gormley (Tyrone), Andrew McCann (Armagh), Gerard Cavan (Tyrone), Steven McDonnell (Armagh), Ryan McMenamin (Tyrone).
2. The total number of All-Ireland senior football title wins recorded by Donegal, Derry, Armagh and Tyrone between them.
3. Kerry lead the All-Ireland minor football Roll of Honour with this number of titles.
4. Galway's tally of goals in the Connacht senior football final in early July.
5. The number of Connacht footballers included in the Vodafone All Stars team last November.



# NÁOMH PÁDRÁIG ÁN LÚB CUMÁNN LÚTHCHLEÁS GÁEL



Johnny McBride  
(The Loup)

THE COMMITTEE, MEMBERS AND PLAYERS OF ST. PATRICK'S G.F.C., LOUP WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR GRATEFUL THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO OUR MAIN CLUB SPONSOR

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**FREAGRAÍ**  
 1. Round Towers, Kildare. 2. Clonguish, Longford. 3. St. Patrick's, Kildare. 4. Longford. 5. Mullins.  
**FIND THE CLUB**  
 1. Seven. 2. Connacht. 3. Andy. 4. Laois. 5. Mullins.  
**THE MISSING LINK**  
 1. Portlaoise. 2. Full forward. 3. Dunshaughlin, Meath. 4. Brian Crowe. 5. True.  
**2003 AIB FOOTBALL SERIES**  
 1. Full back Heena Lohan. 2. Diane O'Hara. 3. Donegal. 4. Emer McDonnell. 5. True.  
**THE NUMBERS GAME**  
 1. Four—one each. 3. Eleven. 4. One. 5. One.  
 2. Four—one each. 3. Eleven. 4. One. 5. One.  
 3. Four—one each. 3. Eleven. 4. One. 5. One.  
**SPOTLIGHT ON THE LADIES**  
 1. Senan's, Killee, Clare. 4. Curry, Sligo. 5. St. Gall's, Antrim.





**LOUP**  
Derry

**CALTRA**  
Galway

**THEY GO HEAD TO HEAD IN THE AIB GAA  
FOOTBALL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI FINAL ON  
22ND FEBRUARY AT 2PM IN MARKIEVICZ PARK**

**AIB GAA CLUB**  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Anything is possible

