

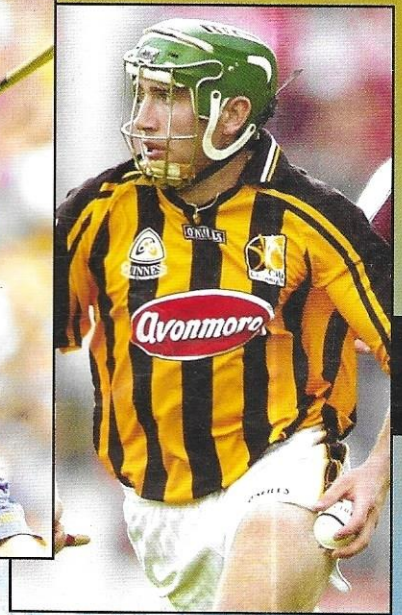
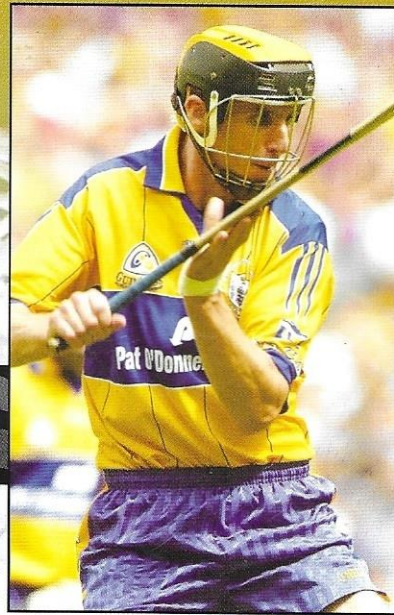
THE GUINNESS HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP



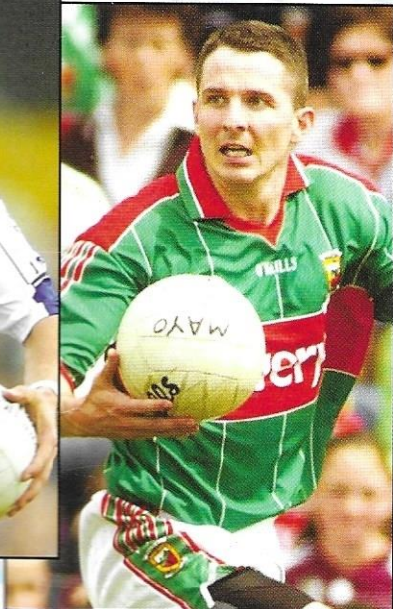
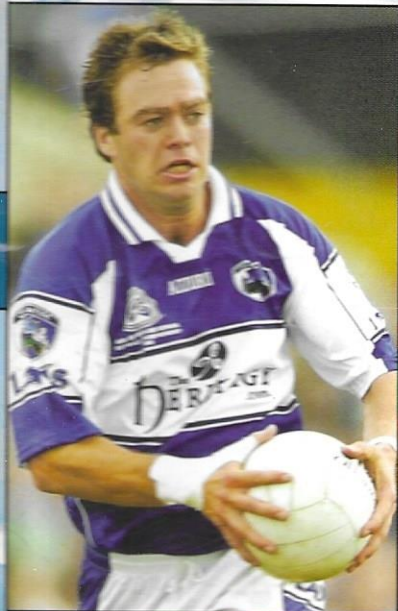
Páirc an Chrócaigh,
Baile Átha Cliath.
13 Lúnasa 2006.



CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL



GUINNESS CLUICHE LEATH-CHEANNAIS
IOMÁNA NA hÉIREANN



BANK OF IRELAND CLUICHE CEATHRÚ-
CHEANNAIS PEILE NA hÉIREANN

CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL
€ 4.00

ARD-STIURTHÓIR
Riam Ó Maolmíchéil

Bank of Ireland
Football Championship



12.30.n.

**ESB ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING
CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL**



Cill Chainnigh v. Tiobraid Árann

Réiteoir: Ger Hoey (An Clár)

Linesmen: Declan Magee (An Dún) STAND-BY REFEREE
Fergus Devereux (Cill Dara)

Sideline Official: Eoin Shaughnessy (Gaillimh)

2.00 i.n.

**BANK OF IRELAND ALL-IRELAND SENIOR
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER-FINAL**

Laois v. Maigh Eo

Réiteoir: Pat McEnaney (Muineachán)

Linesmen: Martin Higgins (Fear Manach) STAND-BY REFEREE
Michael Meade (Luimneach)

Sideline Official: T. P. Petit (An Longfort)

4.00 i.n.

**GUINNESS ALL-IRELAND SENIOR
HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL**

**An Clár v.
Cill Chainnigh**

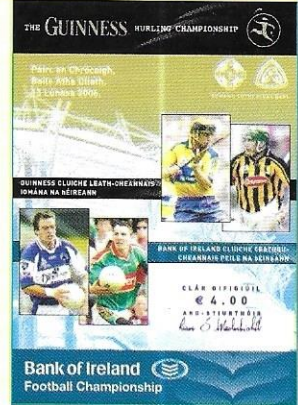
Réiteoir: Seamus Roche (Tiobraid Árann)

Linesmen: Barry Kelly (An Iarmhí) STAND-BY REFEREE
Eamonn Morris (Baile Átha Cliath)

Sideline Official: Jim O'Rourke (Muineachán)

Ár gClúdach

Our cover shows:
Chris Conway
(Laois),
Peadar Gardiner
(Maigh Eo),
Tony Griffin
(An Clár) and
Eddie Brennan
(Cill Chainnigh).



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 fhágfar faoin tóirán 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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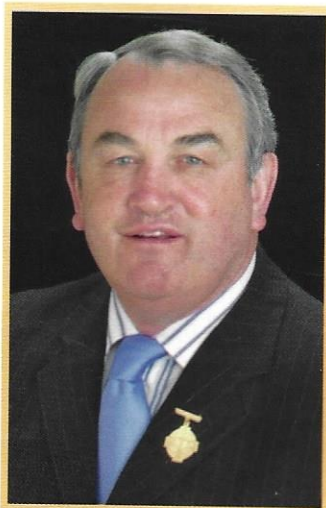
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Printing:



TEACHTAIREACHT AN UACHTARÁIN



S mian liom fáilte a fhearadh romhaibh go Páirc an Chrócaigh inniu agus muid ag tnúth le caighdeán ard i bpeil agus in iománaíocht. Fáilte faoi leith roimh ógánaigh Chill Chainnigh agus a gcomharsan ó Thiobraid Árann. Go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as bhúr lá sa stáid iontach seo. Ní gá domsa a rá go mbeidh géar-choimhlint sa chluiche idir An Clár agus Cill Chainnigh. Beidh na himreoirí ó Laois is ó Mhaigh Eo á léiriú dúinn go bhfuil siad lán dáiríre leanúint ar aghaidh sa chomórtas ó thús an chluiche.

After the excitement of last Sunday's first Guinness All-Ireland Senior Hurling Semi-Final, Kilkenny and Clare battle it out today for the right to play Cork in the 2006 Guinness All-Ireland Hurling Final on the first Sunday in September. It promises to be a fiercely competitive encounter judging by recent championship games between the two counties.

With Dublin having yesterday to themselves in Croke Park (along with the Nicky Rackard Hurling Final), GAC had little choice but to stage the last of the Bank of Ireland All-Ireland Senior Football Quarter-Finals today. Laois and Mayo will provide an open and exciting game and I am confident we can look forward to a tremendously entertaining trio of games in Croke Park this afternoon.

The third game on today's programme is the ESB Minor Hurling Semi-Final between Kilkenny and Tipperary. These traditionalists continue to churn out wonderful hurlers and the latest crop on view today will continue a great rivalry between these neighbours. Many of the players on view will represent their senior side in the not too distant future. Kilkenny strolled through the Leinster Championship, while Tipperary suffered the disappointment of a Munster Final defeat but came back impressively to defeat Carlow in the Quarter-Final. There is little to choose between the two teams, so anyone arriving early today will be not be disappointed with the fare on offer.

I welcome the Players, Team Mentors, County Board Officials and Supporters from the five counties to Croke Park this afternoon. I also welcome the three referees, plus their umpires and linesmen and I wish them well. Finally, I welcome the representatives of our sponsors Guinness, Bank of Ireland and the ESB and I thank them for their ongoing support.

Kilkenny had a very easy passage through Leinster but Galway were expected to provide a much sterner test in the Quarter-Final. For much of that game the Westerners were completely off the pace and were out-hurled in most sectors by the Cats. A late rally from Galway will have left the Kilkenny team management with some decisions to make prior to finalising the team for today's game. Clare also had a rather easy passage to today's Semi-Final. The side recovered well from the disappointment of losing in

Munster and they seem to have found a few highly promising newcomers to assist the great warriors who brought the All-Ireland double in the nineties to the Banner.

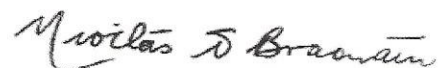
Winning the Under 21 Football Championship earlier this year brought long overdue success to Mayo and after a good win in the recent Connacht Senior Football Final against great rivals Galway, expectations are high once again that even better days might lie ahead in the coming weeks. Opponents Laois have been reborn since they started out in the Qualifiers and there is an air of confidence about their play these days. This could well be another close encounter at the finish.

One of the issues we have focused on recently has been supporters coming on to the Croke Park pitch after games. This is causing us serious concerns right now from a health and safety perspective. I am appealing to supporters to stay off the pitch at the conclusion of a game. Remember that the players have endured a physically demanding encounter and they need space to recover. While the sight of thousands of supporters entering the pitch is seen as a great GAA tradition, nonetheless, the danger to players and young supporters cannot be ignored. Unless the situation improves the G.A.A. will be forced to take remedial action. The traditional presentation ceremony after a game including the speeches may have to be curtailed or even cancelled if it is decided that there is a health and safety risk to patrons. It is you the supporters of the various counties who will decide on what action, if any, we have to take in the coming weeks.

Another issue getting headlines right now is the sale of G.A.A. property to developers with some County Boards and Clubs considering a move to another location in their hinterland. Each case has to be considered on its merits but it is crucial that any unit considering the sale of an existing property must ensure that it has received the necessary clearance from the appropriate G.A.A. body. The proceeds of any sale must be ploughed back into the club for the developments of additional facilities and must not be used to support the day-to-day financing of the club.

Finally, I wish all patrons an enjoyable afternoon in Croke Park. Thank you for your support I would ask you all to take special care on our roads on the way home.

Mar sin a chairde, bainigí taitneamh as bhúr lá.



Níoclás Ó Braonáin,
Uachtarán, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



CLÁR AN LAE

12.13	Tiobraid Árann amach ar an bpáirc
12.15	Cill Chainnigh amach ar an bpáirc
12.30	Tús an chluiche
01.45*	Críoch an chluiche
01.47	Laois amach ar an bpáirc
01.50	Maigneo amach ar an bpáirc
02.00	Tús an chluiche
03.30*	Críoch an chluiche

03.43	An Clár amach ar an bpáirc
03.45	Cill Chainnigh amach ar an bpáirc
03.54	Paráid na Fóirne
03.58	Amhrán na bhFiann
04.00	Tús an chluiche
04.39*	GAA/INTO Mini-Sevens
05.30*	Críoch an chluiche

* depending on 'added time'

'GUINNESS'® Champion of Fans'

Last year GUINNESS®, sponsors of the Hurling Championship since 1995, honoured the best fifteen players – in the fans view – from that period. This year, they've turned their attention to the fans themselves and are looking to find Ireland's most dedicated hurling fan.

Auditions took place all around the country in June and July, then judges had the almost impossible job of whittling all the audition tapes down to just six finalists who will now battle it out in the 'GUINNESS'® Champion of Fans' TV series, which is broadcast as a 5 minute segment in "GAA 2006" at 8.30pm every Monday on TG4.

The first programme aired on July 17th, showing highlights from the auditions, and since then, the six finalists Mary Flynn, Waterford; Tim O'Leary, Cork; Padraig Burke, Galway; Francis Dorris, Antrim; Margaret Nagle, Clare and Bobby Walsh, Kilkenny have each been given a specific challenge to undertake, which tests the level of their devotion to their county and the game of hurling!

One finalist and their specific challenge is featured each week. Monday 28th August is the last show before the grand final, and people can vote by text for their choice from Monday 28th until the live programme on the

2nd September. Full voting details will be given during the last programme, and will also be online @ www.guinness.com The final of the competition will be broadcast live on TG4 at 7.15pm the night before the GUINNESS® All-Ireland Hurling Final.

The eventual winner will be crowned "The GUINNESS® Champion of Fans" and will receive a whopping €10,000 and two premium level tickets to all hurling games in Croke Park in 2007 and 2008!

Further details about the competition and TV series can be found at www.guinness.com.



Bobby Walsh,
Kilkenny.



Margaret Nagle,
Clare.



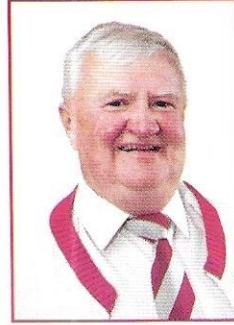
Francis Dorris,
Antrim.



Mary Flynn,
Waterford.

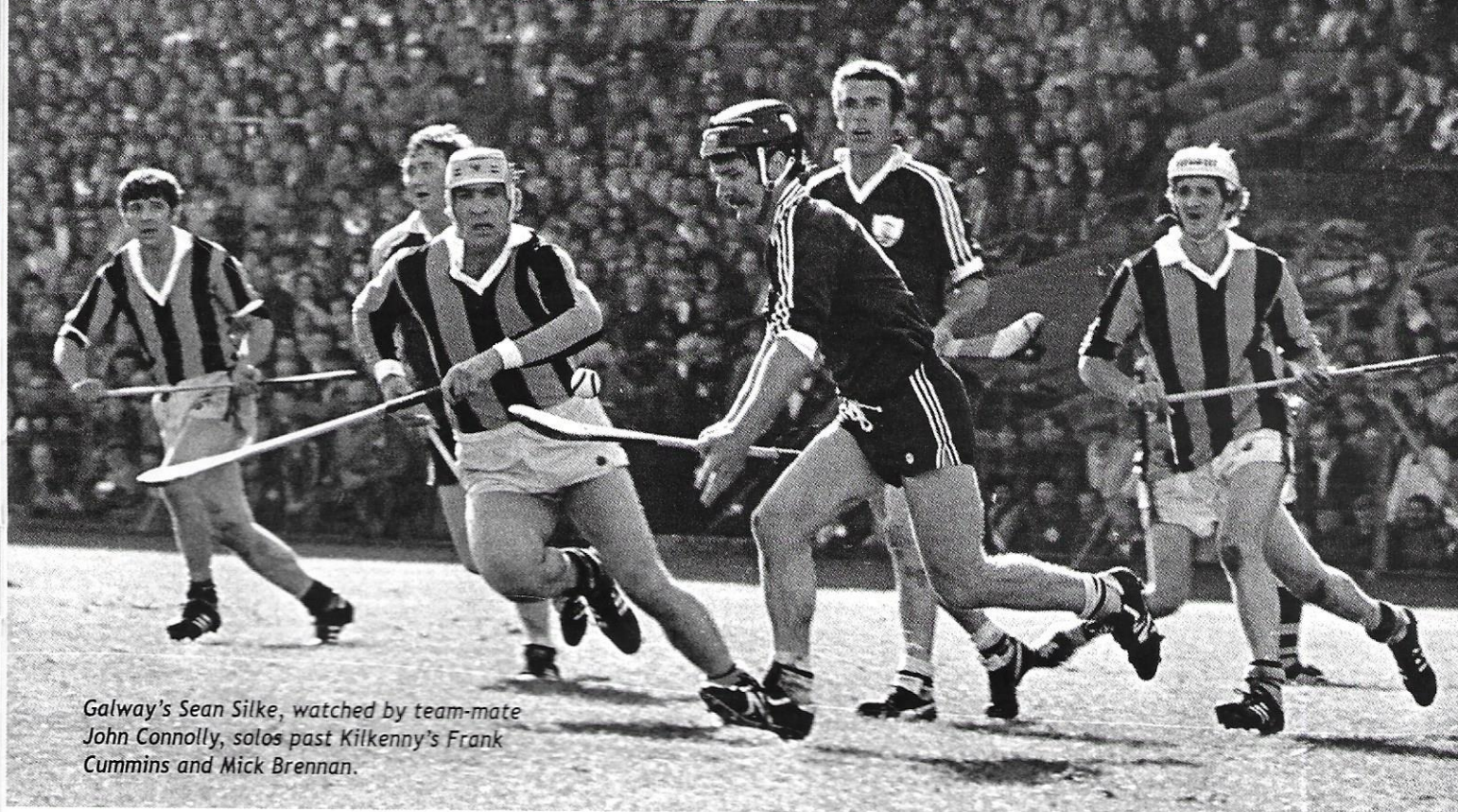


Padraig Burke,
Galway.



Tim O'Leary,
Cork.

CLASSIC MOMENT



Galway's Sean Silke, watched by team-mate John Connolly, solos past Kilkenny's Frank Cummins and Mick Brennan.

All-Ireland final, 2 September 1979: Kilkenny 2-12, Galway 1-8.

Following their four-point defeat of Cork in the semi-final, Galway entered the All-Ireland final with high hopes of claiming a first All-Ireland since 1923. Kilkenny, as ever, had other ideas. Galway's attack, which had been so impressive in the semi-final victory over Cork, failed to sparkle. The Kilkenny defence kept a tight rein on them, with Nickey Brennan and Ger Henderson subduing the twin threat posed by Bernie Forde and Frank Burke.

Although Galway led by a point on four occasions in the first period, the decisive score of the half came four minutes before half time. Liam O'Brien's 70 bounced awkwardly in front of Galway net-minder Seamus Shinnors and ricocheted off him and into the net. Shinnors never played for Galway again and ruefully recalled the incident in Christy O'Connor's excellent examination of the goalkeeping condition, *Last Man Standing*.

Trailing by 0-5 to 1-4 at the break, Galway opened the second half brightly. In the 48th minute Noel Lane rounded Noel Skehan and struck the sliotar to the net to put Galway 1-8 to 1-6 in front, but it was to be the Tribesmen's last score. Kilkenny soon regained the initiative and were leading by two points when referee George Ryan awarded Galway a 63rd minute penalty. But the Kilkenny trio of Fan Larkin

(then just a month short of his 38th birthday), Noel Skehan and Ger Henderson blocked John Connolly's shot. The ball broke down field and Liam O'Brien pointed a free to break Galway hearts: instead of leading by one, they now found themselves three behind. Any slim hope Galway had of staging a late comeback was dashed when a speculative 45-yard shot from Mick Brennan dipped under Seamus Shinnors' crossbar and into the net to compound a miserable day for the goalkeeper. Kilkenny's victory was the county's 21st All-Ireland senior title.

Taoiseach Jack Lynch gave his views on the game to *The Irish Press*. "Galway threw away at least five good opportunities to score in the first half. That must have been a terrible psychological setback, and in the second half, when they fought so well, that missed penalty seemed to break them...I am sorry Galway didn't make it, but Kilkenny proved worthy winners."

At 53,535, the attendance was the lowest since 1958 when Tipperary beat Galway. A combination of bad weather, an unofficial rail strike and the fact that petrol stations remained closed on Sundays following the 1979 oil crisis were all cited as reasons for the relatively small crowd.

The final was also notable in that it pitted two future GAA Presidents against one another. Joe McDonagh, President from 1997-2000, captained Galway from right half-back, while current President Nickey Brennan won his first All-Ireland medal at left half-back for Kilkenny.

The last word is left to Babs Keating, who coached the Galway team. "We missed so many chances, particularly in the first half. We never got into our stride and the signs looked bad from an early stage. It's a terrible disappointment, but the lads are good enough to come back." Which indeed they did, claiming the All-Ireland title the following year.

Kilkenny: N. Skehan; P. Larkin, P. Prendergast, J. Henderson; R. Reid, G. Henderson, N. Brennan; J. Hennessy (0-1), F. Cummins; G. Fennelly (captain 0-1), W. Fitzpatrick (0-1), L. O'Brien (1-7); M. Brennan (1-1), M. Crotty (0-1), M. Ruth. Subs: E. Fennelly, for Crotty, R. O'Hara for Prendergast.

Galway: S. Shinnors; N. McInerney, C. Hayes, A. Fenton; J. McDonagh (captain), S. Silke, I. Clarke; S. Mahon (0-1), John Connolly; B. Forde; F. Burke, Joe Connolly (0-2); PJ Molloy (0-3), N. Lane (1-0), F. Gantley (0-2). Subs: S. Linnane for Forde, M. Whelan for Burke.

Referee: G. Ryan (Tiobraid Árann).



PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH

AG MOLADH AN OIGE

Gabhaimid buíochas inniu le múinteoirí Chumann na mBunscol a chaitheann a gcuid ama go fial, flathúil chun scileanna ár gcluichí a mhúineadh agus na cluichí a chur chun cinn imeasc daltaí bunscóile na tíre.

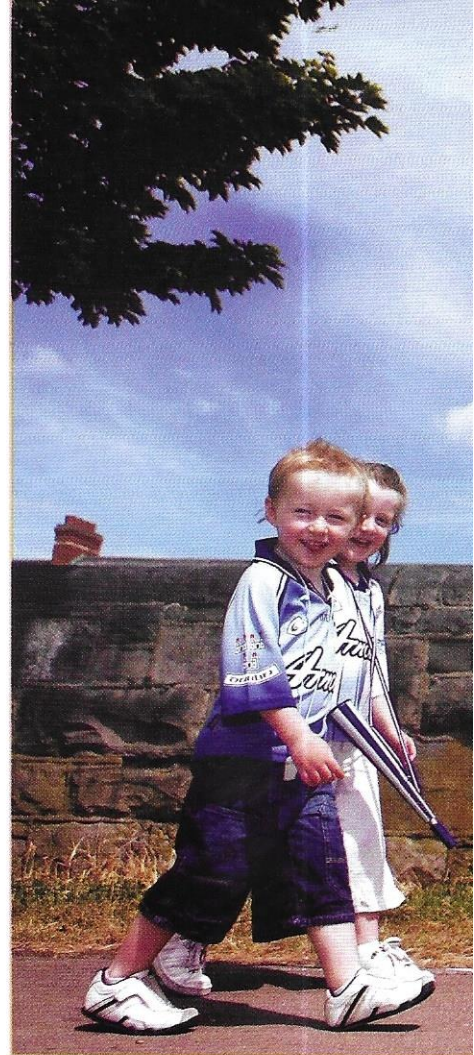
Bhí dlúth-bhaint riamh ag bunmhúinteoirí le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Nach méanar do pháistí bunscóile an lae inniu go bhfuil na mílte múinteoirí gafa fós leis an obair dheonach, luachmhar sin. Is cinnte gur fhoghlaim na himreoirí, a bheidh os ár gcomhair mgo rialta i bPáirc an Chrócaigh, na scileanna bunúsacha i mbunscóileanna na tíre ó mhúinteoirí Chumann an mBunscol. Tá ard-mholadh tuillte freisin ag meánmhúinteoirí agus baill na gcubanna éagsúla a rinne a gcionn chun na scileanna a fhorbairt agus suim na ndaltaí a chothú agus a threisiú.

O thús na bliana reatha, ghlac páistí bunscóile ó gach contae páirt sna sraitheanna eagraithe

ag Cumann an mBunscol. Ghlacadar páirt freisin sna hócáidí INTO-GAA Mini-Sevens. I rith an tsamhraidh, triallfaidh 240 páiste – cailíní agus buachaillí – ó gach chontae ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh le himirt sna cluichí ag leath ama ar na laethanta is mó i bhféilire Chumann Lúthchleas Gael.

Arís i mbliana beidh na gasúir páirteach ar na laethanta móra – cluichí leathcheannais agus cluichí ceannais peile agus iománaíochta. Nach iontach an phribhléid agus an onóir dóibh siúd, agus do thuismitheoirí agus múinteoirí díograiseacha, go mbíonn na páistí ag caitheamh geansaithe na gcontaethe ar na hócáidí móra i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

I láthair na huairé tá rogha cuimsitheach spóirt agus caitheamh aimsire ag na hógánaigh. Murach dílseacht na múinteoirí agus lucht na gclubanna dár gcluichí n'headar an mbeadh a bhformhór ag imirt cluichí Gaelacha. Tá todhchaí ár gcluichí ag



brath go mór ar na múinteoirí agus baill dílis na gclubanna. Tá súil againn go leanfaidh siad leo ag múineadh na scileanna agus ag cothú suime i gcluichí na nGael. Moladh go deo le múinteoirí na tíre.

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



IOMÁINT

Team E

Cill Chainnigh: Dubh agus Ómra
Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand, Canal End.

1. Sean Keller, St Mary's BNS, Rathfarnham, Áth Cliath.
2. Sean Keogh, Scoil Eoin, Killbarrack, Áth Cliath.
3. Charles Dwyer, Firoda NS, Castlecomer, Co. Chill Chainnigh.
4. Jason Clarke, St Brigid's NS, Bagnelstown, Co. Cheatharlach.
5. Daire Henderson, St Cronan's BNS, Bray, Co. Chill Mhantáin.
6. Ryan Peacock, Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix, Co. Laoise.
7. Tommy Gallagher, St Michael's NS, Castlepollard, Co. na hIar Mhí.
8. Cian O'Byrne, St Cronan's BNS, Bray, Co. Chill Mhantáin.
9. Sean O'Gorman, St Aidan's NS, Enniscorthy, Co. Loch Garman.
10. Michael Murray, St Michael's NS, Castlepollard, Co. na hIar Mhí.

Team F

An Clár: Buí agus Gorm
Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand, Canal End.

1. Conor Grimes, St Brendan's NS, Birr, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.
2. John Murray, St Dymna's NS, Kildalkey, Co. na Mí.
3. David Kenny, St Brigid's NS, Tooreen, Co. Mhaigh Eo.
4. Eoin Kelly, St Mary's NS, Knockcroghery, Co. Ros Comáin.
5. Patrick Mullins, St Brendan's NS, Birr, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.
6. Padraig Flanagan, St Joseph's NS, Carrabane, Co. na Gaillimhe.
7. Niall O'Rourke, Ransboro NS, Co. Shligigh.
8. Seamus Maloney, St Joseph's NS, Carrabane, Co. na Gaillimhe.
9. Tommy Mc Keown, Newtownforbes NS, Co. Longfort.
10. Gary Cadden, Ransboro NS, Co. Shligigh.

CAMÓGAÍOCHT

Team G

Cill Chainnigh: Dubh agus Ómra
Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand, Hill 16.

1. Ela Yazar, St. Vincent de Paul GNS, Griffith Avenue, Áth Cliath.
2. Niamh Mooney, Rath NS, Birr, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.
3. Rachel Conroy, Paddock NS, Mountrath, Co. Laoise.
4. Kiera Barcoe, St Colman's NS, Clara, Co. Chill Chainnigh.
5. Aisling Burke, Paddock NS, Mountrath, Co. Laoise.
6. Shannen O'Connell, Rathnure NS, Co. Loch Gharman.
7. Christine Grimes, St Joseph's NS, Kilmessen, Co. na Mhí.
8. Laura Manley, St Joseph's NS, Glenealy, Co. Chill Mhantáin.
9. Shauna O'Rourke, Scoil Mhuire, Drumpeha, Co. Cheatharlach.
10. Niamh Reid, Rath NS, Birr, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

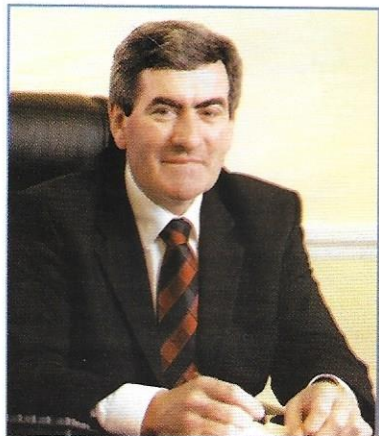
Team H

An Clár: Buí agus Gorm
Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand, Hill 16.

1. Aoife Coyle, Glanduff, Kiltoom, Athlone, Co. Ros Chomáin.
2. Caroline Dowling, Glanduff, Kiltoom, Athlone, Co. Ros Chomáin.
3. Laura Gay, St. Claire's NS, Harold's Cross, Áth Cliath.
4. Deirbhile Byrne, Crookstown NS, Co. Chill Dara.
5. Eimear Cuskelly, Scoil Bhríde, New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co. na Gaillimhe.
6. Gráinne Carty, Castlerock NS, Aclare, Co. Shligigh.
7. Rachel Masterson, St Bernard's NS, Abbeylara, Co. Longfoirt.
8. Orlaith McGrath, Scoil Bhríde, New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co. na Gaillimhe.
9. Niamh Watson, Glanduff NS, Kiltoom, Athlone, Co. Ros Chomáin.
10. Aoife Flynn, St Michael's NS, Castlepollard, Co. na hIarmhí.

MESSAGE FROM ESB

SPONSORS OF MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP



On behalf of ESB, I would like to welcome you all to the ESB All Ireland Minor Hurling Semi Final between Kilkenny and Tipperary.

Today's game promises to be competitive and entertaining. There is no doubt that when the championships get to semi final stage the stakes are high and level of competition higher.

The link between ESB and the GAA through this sponsorship is perhaps one of the most fitting business sporting alliances in Ireland today. Both our organisations have developed alongside each other over the past decades. ESB and the GAA Minor Championships were both founded in the late 1920's, so it could be said that they both grew up together.

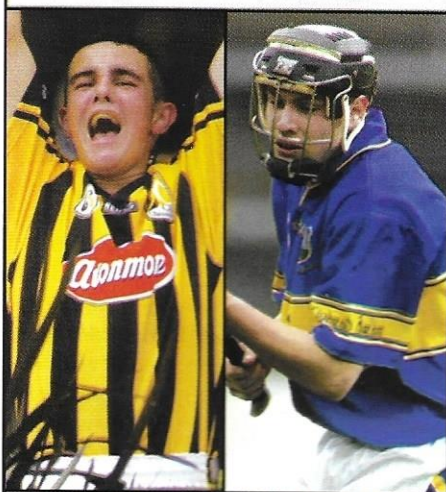
The similarities between ESB and the GAA do not end there; both organisations have a proud tradition of excellence and achievement, qualities that our sponsorship is helping to maintain and develop.

ESB's sponsorship of the All Ireland Minor Hurling Championship is more than just a nice thing to do; it has a sound commercial basis. ESB is one of the few companies with a presence in every parish in the country. It makes sense that we should support a sporting organisation that mirrors that presence.

I wish the best of luck to the teams taking to the field for today's semi final and hope that they and all of you enjoy a magnificent game of minor Hurling.

Pádraig McManus
Chief Executive ESB

NA CAPTAEIN



COLIN McGRATH (CILL CHAINNIGH) JOEY McLOUGHNEY (TIOBRAID ÁRANN)

Kilkenny and Tipperary experienced contrasting fortunes on the way to this meeting for a place against Galway in next month's ESB All-Ireland minor hurling championship final.

DIFFERENT ROUTES FOR KILKENNY AND TIPPERARY

Kilkenny had a high scoring march on the way to regaining the Leinster title that they lost last year after reigning supreme in the province for four seasons in succession.

Tipperary were beaten by Cork in the Munster final but refloated their All-Ireland ambitions by seeing off Carlow in comfortable style in a quarter-final last month.

The Noreside youths set the seal on their campaign in Leinster with a good win over the earlier headline-makers in the province, Carlow, at Croke Park.

Carlow, to their credit, battled all the way, but Kilkenny had too many aces. One of their brightest was Richie Hogan, who contributed a splendid 2-10 in the 4-22 to 1-5 success.

Jonjo Farrell, also in attack, midfielders Mark Kelly and Mark Murphy along with Kieran Mooney and Pat Nolan in defence were

other influential figures in what, however, was a good all round team performance.

Tipperary made a spirited bid against Cork in the Munster final at Semple Stadium. They led at the interval by a goal, but two goals after the break set the scene for a successful defence of the title by the Leesiders by 2-20 to 1-15.

Tipperary returned to winning form at the expense of Carlow in an All-Ireland quarter-final at Nowlan Park last month.

An outstanding display by Patrick Bourke, who scored 1-11, and polished performances by Timmy Dalton and Tony Dunne, also in attack, and defenders Pádraig Maher and Thomas Stapleton were features of a decisive 4-19 to 0-12 win.

Both teams have many accomplished hurlers and a keen encounter looks in prospect between these two great rivals.

AN RÉITEOIR

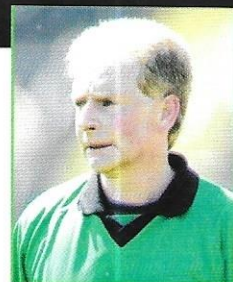
Ger Hoey (An Clár)

Ger makes his debut as a referee at Croke Park in this ESB All-Ireland minor hurling semi-final. He is secretary of the Killanena club and Chairman of the Clare Referees' Association.

Hoey has played hurling and football with the club and won two county junior hurling medals and two county League souvenirs, also in hurling. He has been refereeing locally since 1991 and has controlled county finals in all grades up to senior.

Ger has been on the intercounty panel for a number of years and is having a busy season. He was on duty in the Allianz League, refereed Christy Ring Cup games between London and Meath in London and Mayo and Kerry at Tralee.

Another major assignment was the Munster Intermediate decider between Cork and Tipperary at Páirc Uí Chaoimh last month.



PREVIOUS MEETINGS



Today Kilkenny and Tipperary meet for the 18th time in the minor championship with the record reading nine wins each. Just four of those 18 meetings have been at the semi/final stage with the record again even at two wins apiece.

1930 - Final	Tipperary 4-1; Kilkenny 2-1	1949 - Final	Tipperary 6-5; Kilkenny 2-4	1959 - Final	Tipperary 2-8; Kilkenny 2-7
1931 - semi/final	Kilkenny 3-6; Tipperary 3-1	1950 - Final	Kilkenny 3-4; Tipperary 1-5	1960 - Final	Kilkenny 7-12; Tipperary 1-11
1932 - Final	Tipperary 8-6; Kilkenny 5-1	1955 - semi/final	Tipperary 3-13; Kilkenny 1-8	1961 - Final	Kilkenny 3-13; Tipperary 0-15
1933 - semi/final	Tipperary 11-6; Kilkenny 4-2	1956 - Final	Tipperary 4-16; Kilkenny 1-5	1962 - Final	Kilkenny 3-6; Tipperary 0-9
1935 - Final	Kilkenny 4-2; Tipperary 3-3	1957 - Final	Tipperary 4-7; Kilkenny 3-7	1976 - Final	Tipperary 2-20; Kilkenny 1-7
				1991 - Final	Kilkenny 0-15; Tipperary 1-10
				2002 - Final	Kilkenny 3-15; Tipperary 1-7
				2004 - semi/final	Kilkenny 1-8; Tipperary 0-10

HOW THEY REACHED THE SEMI-FINAL

CILL CHAINNIGH

Kilkenny are appearing in their first ESB All-Ireland minor hurling semi-final in two years. Their last outing was a successful one at the expense of Tipperary—1-8 to 0-10 at Croke Park.

This is their record so far:

15th April. Nowlan Park:

Kilkenny 1-18; Dublin 1-9.

Scorers: Richie Hogan 1-9, Mark Bergin 0-3, Martin Walsh 0-2, P. J. Rowe 0-2, Mark Kelly 0-1, Ger Fennelly 0-1.

29th April. Wexford Park:

Kilkenny 2-18; Wexford 0-11.

Scorers: Richie Hogan 1-8, Martin Walsh 1-3, Mark Bergin 0-5, Jonjo Farrell 0-1, John Mulhall 0-1.

24th June. Portlaoise:

Kilkenny 2-14; Dublin 0-8.

Scorers: Richie Hogan 1-5, Ger Fennelly 1-0, John Mulhall 0-3, Jonjo Farrell 0-2, Michael Murphy 0-2, Mark Bergin 0-1, Martin Walsh 0-1.

2nd July. Croke Park:

Kilkenny 4-22; Carlow 1-5.

Scorers: Richie Hogan 2-10, Jonjo Farrell 1-2, Mark Bergin 0-4, Nicholas Anthony 1-0, Martin Walsh 0-3, John Mulhall 0-2, Ger Fennelly 0-1.

Total Scored: 9-72 (99 points).

Total Conceded: 2-33 (39 points).

Average: 2.5

Scorers: Richie Hogan 5-32, Mark Bergin 0-13, Martin Walsh 1-9, Jonjo Farrell 1-5, John Mulhall 0-6, Ger Fennelly 1-2, Nicholas Anthony 1-0, Michael Murphy 0-2, P. J. Rowe 0-2, Mark Kelly 0-1.

3rd May. Semple Stadium:

Tipperary 2-23; Limerick 3-8.

Scorers: Niall Bergin 1-3, Joey Moloughney 0-5, Tony Dunne 1-1, Seamus Hennessy 0-4, Patrick Bourke 0-3, Seamus Callanan 0-3, Michael Gleeson 0-2, E. Hogan 0-2.

25th June. Semple Stadium:

Tipperary 1-15; Cork 2-20.

Scorers: Patrick Bourke 0-6, Tony Dunne 1-3, Joey Moloughney 0-2, B. Maher 0-1, Seamus Hennessy 0-1, Niall Bergin 0-1, E. Hogan 0-1.

15th July. Nowlan Park:

Tipperary 4-19; Carlow 0-12.

Scorers: Patrick Bourke 1-11, Timmy Dalton 1-5, Tony Dunne 1-0, Joey Moloughney 1-0, Gearóid Ryan 0-2, Michael Gleeson 0-1.

Total Scored: 9-70 (97 points).

Total Conceded: 6-48 (66 points).

Average: 1.5

Scorers: Patrick Bourke 2-21, Joey Moloughney 2-11, Tony Dunne 3-4, Timmy Dalton 1-5, Seamus Hennessy 0-7, Niall Bergin 1-4, B. Maher 0-5, Gearóid Ryan 0-4, Michael Gleeson 0-3, Seamus Callanan 0-3, E. Hogan 0-3.

TIOBRAID ÁRANN

Tipperary lost their last ESB All-Ireland minor hurling semi-final outing in 2004 to Kilkenny by 0-10 to 1-8.

Their last success at this stage was a 4-13 to 0-13 win over Wexford in 2002. This is how they reached the last four:

5th April. Limerick:

Tipperary 2-13; Clare 1-8.

Scorers: Joey Moloughney 1-5, Patrick Bourke 1-1, B. Maher 0-3, Gearóid Ryan 0-2, Seamus Hennessy 0-2.

WHEN LAST THEY MET...2004

Kilkenny 1-8 Tipperary 0-10

The swirling wind and incessant rain ensured that this semi/final encounter at Croke Park was not played in the ideal conditions, but the protagonists overcame the elements to serve up an exciting hour's hurling. All-Ireland champions for the previous two years, Kilkenny were favoured to comfortably see off a Tipperary side that had lost to Cork in the Munster decider, but on the day the Noresiders were relieved to escape with a win by the narrowest of margins.

On such an afternoon goals were going to be crucial and this game yielded just one, which fell to Gavin Nolan at the ninth minute. This enabled the Noresiders to turn over leading by 1-5 to 0-5, but despite now enjoying what advantage there

was from the wind, they could not pull clear of a dogged Tipp side. Indeed, a brace of points from Kieran Bergin cut the Noreside lead to the minimum, before Richard Hogan responded with a brace to restore the interval position.

Six minutes from time Darragh Egan brought the Premier county within two, but a superb long-range point from Patrick Hogan - Kilkenny's last of the afternoon - again left three points between the sides. Tipperary refused to give in and a couple of Niall Bergin points left Kilkenny clinging to the lead at the hour mark. Alas, time ran out for the Munster runners-up and the dream of a hat-trick of All-Ireland crowns remained intact for the Noresiders.

Kilkenny scorers: R.Hogan 0-4, G.Nolan 1-0, E.Guinan 0-2, P.Hogan 0-1, M.Nolan 0-1.

Tipperary scorers: K.Bergin 0-3, D.Hickey 0-3, N.Bergin 0-2, D.Egan 0-1, S.Long 0-1.

Cill Chainnigh - L.Tierney, J.Maher, K.Joyce, E.Walsh, N.Prendergast, R.Maher, S.Prendergast, P.Hartley, P.Hogan, G.Nolan, N.Kenny, E.O'Donoghue, R.Hogan, M.Nolan, E.Guinan. Subs - M.Ruth for O'Donoghue, J.Farrell for Guinan.

Tiobraid Árann - M.Ryan, I.Delaney, S.Ryan, R.McLoughney, S.O'Brien, J.McCarthy, J.McLoughney, J.Woodlock, R.McGrath, K.Bergin, J.Dixon, D.Egan, D.Hickey, P.Ivors, S.Long. Subs - S.Lillis for Ryan, N.Bergin for Woodlock, C.Larkin for Ivors, T.King for Dixon.

DATHANNA: DUBH IS BUÍ

CILL CHAINNIGH



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| | 1
COLIN McGRATH
C. Mac Craith (Capt.)
<i>(St. Martin's)</i> | |
| 2
PAT NOLAN
P. Ó Naulláin
<i>(St. Martin's)</i> | 3
KIERAN MOONEY
C. Ó Maonaigh
<i>(Conahy Shamrocks)</i> | 4
JOHN FITZPATRICK
S. Mac Giolla Phádraig
<i>(St. Lachtains)</i> |
| 5
PAUL MURPHY
P. Ó Murchú
<i>(Danesfort)</i> | 6
DAVID LANGTON
D. Langtún
<i>(Clara)</i> | 7
P. J. ROWE
P. S. Ó Rua
<i>(Mooncoin)</i> |
| | 8
MARK KELLY
M. Ó Ceallaigh
<i>(O'Loughlin Gaels)</i> | 9
MARK BERGIN
M. Ó Beirgin
<i>(O'Loughlin Gaels)</i> |
| 10
MICHAEL MURPHY
M. Ó Murchú
<i>(Erin's Own)</i> | 11
JOHN MULHALL
S. Ó Maolchathail
<i>(St. Martin's)</i> | 12
MARTIN WALSH
M. Breathnach
<i>(Tullaroan)</i> |
| 13
COLIN FENNELLY
C. Ó Fionnalaigh
<i>(Ballyhale Shamrocks)</i> | 14
RICHIE HOGAN
R. Ó hÓgáin
<i>(Danesfort)</i> | 15
JONJO FARRELL
S. S. Ó Fearghaill
<i>(Thomastown)</i> |

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Br. Damien Brennan (Manager), Joe Hennessy, James Grace, Seamus Hartley, Pat Nolan.

DATHANNA: GORM IS ÓR

TIOBRAID ÁRANN



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| | 1
JOHN RYAN
S. Ó Riain
<i>(Drom & Inch)</i> | |
| 2
MICHAEL CAHILL
M. Ó Cathaill
<i>(Thurles Sarsfields)</i> | 3
PÁDRAIG MAHER
P. Ó Meachair
<i>(Thurles Sarsfields)</i> | 4
DONAGH MAHER
D. Ó Meachair
<i>(Burgess)</i> |
| 5
EÓIN HOGAN
E. Ó hÓgáin
<i>(Kilruane MacDonaghs)</i> | 6
THOMAS STAPLETON
T. Mac an Ghoill
<i>(Templederry)</i> | 7
JOHN O'KEEFFE
S. Ó Caoimh
<i>(Clonoulty-Rossmore)</i> |
| 8
JOEY McLOUGHNEY
S. Mac Lachtna (Capt.)
<i>(Toomevara)</i> | 9
BRENDAN MAHER
B. Ó Meachair
<i>(Borris-Ileigh)</i> | |
| 10
SEAMUS HENNESSY
S. Ó hAonasa
<i>(Kilruane MacDonaghs)</i> | 11
THOMAS McGRATH
T. Mac Craith
<i>(Ballingarry)</i> | 12
GEARÓID RYAN
G. Ó Riain
<i>(Templederry)</i> |
| 13
PATRICK BOURKE
P. de Búrca
<i>(Thurles Sarsfields)</i> | 14
TONY DUNNE
A. Ó Doinn
<i>(Burgess)</i> | 15
TIMMY DALTON
T. Daltúin
<i>(Arravale Rovers)</i> |

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Liam Sheedy (Manager), Ger Maguire, Martin Gleeson, Noel Russell.

FIR IONAIÐ

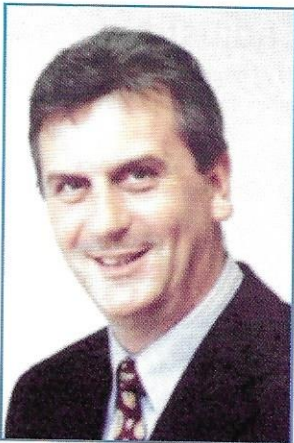
- | | |
|------|---|
| (16) | Nicky Cleere
N. de Cléir
<i>(Bennettsbridge)</i> |
| (17) | James Dowling
S. Ó Dúllaing
<i>(St. Martin's)</i> |
| (18) | Kieran Grehan
C. Ó Gréacháin
<i>(Fenians)</i> |
| (19) | Andy Kearns
A. Ó Ciaráin
<i>(O'Loughlin Gaels)</i> |
| (20) | Ger Fennelly
G. Ó Fionnalaigh
<i>(Ballyhale Shamrocks)</i> |
| (21) | Shane Brennan
S. Ó Braonáin
<i>(James Stephens)</i> |
| (22) | Martin Phelan
M. Ó Faoláin
<i>(Lisdowney)</i> |
| (23) | Naoise Waldron
N. de Bhaldraithe
<i>(St. Lachtain's)</i> |
| (24) | David Lyng
D. Ó Lionn
<i>(Rower Inistioge)</i> |

FIR IONAIÐ

- | | |
|------|---|
| (16) | Matthew O'Donnell
M. Ó Domhnaill
<i>(Killenaule)</i> |
| (17) | Willie O'Dwyer
L. Ó Duibhir
<i>(Carrick Davins)</i> |
| (18) | Michael Gleeson
M. Ó Glasáin
<i>(Thurles Sarsfields)</i> |
| (19) | Liam Mackey
L. Ó Maca
<i>(Carrick Davins)</i> |
| (20) | Noel McGrath
N. Mac Craith
<i>(Loughmore-Castleiney)</i> |
| (21) | Seamus Callinan
S. Ó Ceallanáin
<i>(Drom & Inch)</i> |
| (22) | Shane Bourke
S. de Búrca
<i>(JK Brackens)</i> |
| (23) | Paul Fitzgerald
P. Mac Gearailt
<i>(Cappawhite)</i> |
| (24) | Cathal Dillon
C. Ó Diolúin
<i>(Aherlow)</i> |

LAOIS v MAIGH EO

Message from Bank of Ireland



On behalf of Bank of Ireland, I would like to welcome you to Croke Park today for the fourth quarter-final matches in the 2006 Bank of Ireland Football Championship between Mayo and Laois. It also gives me great pleasure to announce that today we will be passing the one millionth spectator mark. This is a truly remarkable achievement and we would like to thank you, the fans, for your continued support and for making the Bank of Ireland Football Championship the unique sporting occasion it is.

While we all have our favourites of who will win today the statistics can't tell us anything about these two counties, given that it has been 70 years since their last championship clash in the 1936 All Ireland final which Mayo won. Both teams have shown impressive form in the championship to date. Laois have had a successful journey through the qualifiers including defeating the 2005 All Ireland champions Tyrone, while Mayo reclaimed their Connacht title in a strongly contested battle in Castlebar against old rivals Galway.

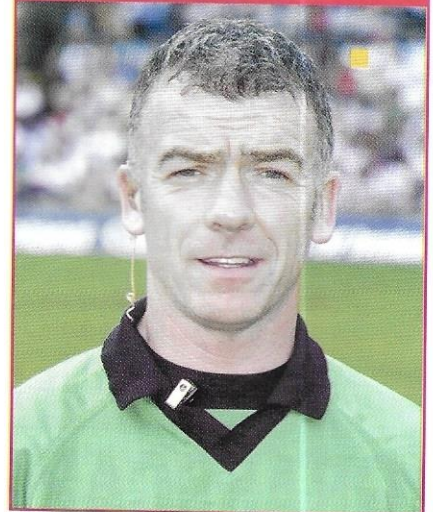
Mick O'Dwyer is looking for the treble here today by attempting to steer an historic third county through to the All Ireland semi-finals. He reached several semi-finals with Kerry before taking over Kildare whom he guided to the semi-finals in 1998 and 2000. Meanwhile, new Mayo manager Micky Moran led Derry to the 2004 semi-finals and is now hoping to repeat the achievement with Mayo in his inaugural season in charge.

Now in its thirteenth year, Bank of Ireland are delighted to be sponsors of the key sporting event in Ireland that is the Bank of Ireland Football Championship. This year's championship has already had many action packed and exciting clashes and we look forward to the rest of the season with more fantastic football.

Enjoy today's encounter and I would like to wish both Mayo and Laois the best of luck today in what promises to be another afternoon of great football.

*Joe Larkin,
Director, Personal Lending Bank of Ireland*

AN RÉITEOIR



**Pat McEnaney
(Muineachán)**

The very experienced Monaghan referee controlled the meeting of Laois and Meath in an All-Ireland Qualifier tie at An Uaimh last month.

McEnaney took charge of the 1996 All-Ireland senior final and replay involving Meath and Mayo, and the drawn Sam Maguire Cup tie of 2000 featuring Kerry and Galway.

Pat won minor, junior and intermediate championship medals with Corduff and played with Monaghan at Under-21.

He has refereed five Ulster senior finals.

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hÉireann

NA CAPTAEIN AGUS
NA BAINISTEOIRÍ

Fergal Byron



Fergal's goalkeeping skills played a prominent role in the Laois march in 2003 to their first Leinster senior football title in 57 years. Later in

the year he was honoured by the Vodafone All Stars selectors for the first time.

His leadership and cool and dependable goalkeeping has been a feature of the county's march to this All-Ireland quarter-final.

The Courtwood clubman, who has been a regular member of the county senior side for a number of years, helped Leinster regain the interprovincial title last November—his first medal win in the competition. He also has a flair for scoring from penalty kicks.

Mick O'Dwyer



The Kerry native, now in his final season as Laois manager, guided the county back to the top in Leinster in 2003 after a long interval. He

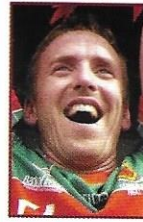
completed a noteworthy treble, having earlier managed two counties to provincial crowns—Kerry and Kildare.

O'Dwyer, of course, had a distinguished career in the Kerry football colours, both as a back and sharp shooting forward, winning All-Ireland medals in both positions.

He guided Kerry to five All-Ireland wins between 1975 and 1981, and three more from 1984 to 1986.

Under his managership Kildare reached the 1998 All-Ireland final, in which they lost to Galway.

David Heaney



David is one of the longest-serving Mayo players. He won a Connacht under-21 medal in 1997 and over the years has made his mark with the county senior team.

Heaney won provincial medals on the playing field in 2004 and again this year. He was at full back in 2004 when Mayo's Sam Maguire Cup hopes were ended in the final by Kerry.

The Swinford man's skills have also won him honours at international level in the International Rules Test series against Australia.

Mickey Moran



Mickey lost little time in guiding Mayo to the Bank of Ireland Connacht senior football title this summer, his first season as team manager. The Derryman

brings a wealth of big game experience to his role. He was coach to the Derry team that under manager Eamonn Coleman won the county's only All-Ireland senior title in 1993.

He is also a former Sligo and Donegal county manager. He was on duty in that role when Donegal lost to Dublin in an All-Ireland quarter-final replay in 2002.

Earlier this year he also filled the role of manager with UUJ in the Sigerson Cup.

THE YEAR TO DATE

LAOIS

15th January – O'Byrne Cup:
Laois 3-9; Kildare 0-13
22nd January – O'Byrne Cup:
Offaly 0-15; Laois 0-10
5th February – League:
Laois 1-13; Wexford 0-10
12th February – League:
Laois 0-8; Galway 0-8
5th March – League:
Meath 1-11; Laois 0-13
12th March – League:
Laois 1-17; Down 1-12
19th March – League:
Laois 1-16; Derry 0-10
26th March – League:

Laois 1-15; Armagh 2-9
9th April – League:
Laois 0-10; Kildare 0-10
16th April – League semi/final:
Kerry 1-15; Laois 0-10
4th June – Championship:
Laois 1-17; Carlow 1-9
25th June – Championship:
Dublin 3-17; Laois 0-12
8th July – Qualifier Round 2:
Laois 0-9; Tyrone 0-6
15th July – Qualifier Round 3:
Laois 2-13; Meath 0-13
30th July – Qualifier Round 4:
Laois 1-9; Offaly 0-4
Played 15, Won 9, Drew 2, Lost 4.

MAIGH EO

7th January – FBD League:
Mayo 1-10; NUIG 2-5
15th January – FBD League:
Mayo 0-14; Sligo IT 1-9
22nd January – FBD League:
Mayo 2-12; Roscommon 1-8
4th February – League:
Mayo 1-15; Kerry 1-14
12th February – League:
Mayo 1-15; Offaly 0-10
26th February – FBD League Final:
Galway 2-8; Mayo 0-9
5th March – League:
Mayo 1-16; Monaghan 1-11
12th March – League:

Mayo 0-19; Fermanagh 1-14
19th March – League:
Mayo 0-12; Cork 0-7
25th March – League:
Dublin 4-10; Mayo 1-10
9th April – League:
Mayo 1-8; Tyrone 0-11
16th April – League semi/final:
Galway 1-11; Mayo 1-6
28th May – Championship:
Mayo 1-18; London 0-8
25th June – Championship:
Mayo 1-10; Leitrim 1-9
16th July – Connacht Final:
Mayo 0-12; Galway 1-8
Played 15, Won 11, Drew 1, Lost 3.

Mayo County Council

Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo

Best Wishes to the Mayo Team in today's Quarter-Final

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Ceathrú-Cheannais
Peile na
hÉireann

MAIGH EO

Mayo have been making a habit in recent times of forging out narrow wins in close finishes in Bank of Ireland senior football championship play.

Conor Mortimer (Maigh Eo) scores the last minute free to win the Connacht Final against Galway.

MAYO FORGE OUT NARROW WINS



MAIGH EO



THE MAYO SQUAD WHICH DEFEATED GALWAY IN THE CONNACHT FINAL AT McHALE PARK, CASTLEBAR.

Front row (left-right): David Clarke, Keith Higgins, Barry Regan, Michael Conroy, Dermot Geraghty, Alan Dillon, Peadar Gardiner, David Heaney (Capt), Andy Moran, Pat Harte, Aidan Higgins, Trevor Howley.

Back row (left-right): Kevin O'Neill, James Gill, Austin O'Malley, Barry Moran, Aidan Kilcoyne, Ciarán MacDonald, Billy Joe Padden, Liam O'Malley, Conor Mortimer, John Healy, James Nallen, Ger Brady, Ronan McGarrity, Pat Kelly, Colm Lyons.

They led Leitrim by six points at the interval in their Connacht semi-final at Carrick-on-Shannon in June, but battled a strong rearguard action in the second half when reduced to fourteen players, to edge through by a point.

In the Connacht final at Castlebar they relieved Galway of the provincial title with a late, late dramatic winning point in injury time from Conor Mortimer in a keenly contested encounter.

That score set the seal on a fine come-back after Galway scored the only goal of the game in forty-three minutes to help Galway to a 1-7 to 0-6 lead. The defending champions looked to be taking control at that stage, but Mayo quickly

showed character and skill by responding in positive fashion to the new challenge.

They hit back with points from Ger Brady, Alan Dillon, two, and Kevin O'Neill to get on level terms after sixty-six minutes—0-11 to 1-8.

In a tense atmosphere, Mortimer finally measured up superbly from the 13 metre free to secure the winner.

Mayo had a few anxious moments after that when Galway were awarded a 37 metres free in injury time, but the kick fell short and the home side triumphed by 0-12 to 1-8.

Mortimer, apart from that dramatic late

winning score got through much good work throughout, and finished with four valuable points. Ciarán McDonald also showed up well in the forward division, while Ronan McGarrity had a fine game in midfield.

The defence fared well against the fancied Galway scoring division, with Keith Higgins, Peadar Gardiner and James Nallen setting a good headline with their polished and dependable play.

This was a hard-earned but merited win for Mayo and the type of testing engagement that ranks as splendid preparation for this return to All-Ireland action.

CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING WITH LAOIS

1936 All-Ireland Final:

Mayo 4-11; Laois 0-5.

LAST 5 CHAMPIONSHIPS OUTINGS

2006

Mayo 0-12; Galway 1-8.
Mayo 1-10; Leitrim 1-9.
Mayo 1-18; London 0-8.

2005

Mayo 0-18; Kerry 2-15.
Mayo 0-11; Cavan 0-8.

WILLIE MCGEE

Willie stamped his name in a big way on Mayo's win over Kerry at Ballinasloe in a 1967 All-Ireland Under-21 final replay. He scored 4-0 to prove a commanding figure in what ranks as the county's first national title in the grade.

Less than a year later McGee scored 1-1 as Mayo beat Meath in the now suspended series of games at Wembley Stadium. He went on to prove a consistent sharpshooter with the county senior team.

McGee won a Connacht senior medal in 1969 and was also to the fore in the side that beat Down in 1970 for a first National League title in sixteen years.



MAIGH EO



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A LEAGUE RELATIONSHIP



Although Laois and Mayo have met just once in the senior championship, the counties have a bit more in common as regards the National League with 15 meetings between the counties to date. The last five meetings have seen each side win twice with one game drawn, but Mayo won the first ten meetings between the sides and thus lead the overall series by 12-2 with one draw.

1934/35 - Ballina:				
Mayo	4-5;	Laois		3-6
1935/36 - Portlaoise:				
Mayo	2-6;	Laois		0-3
1936/37 - Ballina:				
Mayo	3-4;	Laois		0-2
1937/38 - Portlaoise:				
Mayo	1-3;	Laois		0-4
1949/50 - Portlaoise:				
Mayo	7-13;	Laois		2-5
1950/51 - Ballina:				
Mayo	6-10;	Laois		3-4
1971/72 - Charlestown:				
Mayo	4-5;	Laois		2-4
1972/73 - Portlaoise:				
Mayo	2-10;	Laois		2-9
1980/81 - Portlaoise:				
Mayo	2-8;	Laois		2-4
1992/93 - Ballina:				
Mayo	0-13;	Laois		2-5
1996/97 - Portlaoise:				
Laois	2-4;	Mayo		0-9
1997/98 - Crossmolina:				
Mayo	1-14;	Laois		2-10
1998/99 - Graiguecullen:				
Laois	1-8;	Mayo		0-11
2000/01 - Portlaoise:				
Mayo	1-11;	Laois		0-11
2003 - Ballinrobe:				
Laois	1-9;	Mayo		1-8

AT OTHER LEVELS

Laois and Mayo have met just once in the senior championship, in the 1936 All-Ireland final and it was a day to forget for the O'Moore county as they were walloped by 18 points - 4-11 to 0-5. The counties have yet to meet in the under-21 championship, but their paths did cross in the 1968 junior semi-final at Castlebar, a game won by the hosts by 1-7 to 1-3. However, it isn't all gloom and doom for the Midlanders as the counties did clash in an All-Ireland minor semi-final nine years ago, which Laois won by five points on their way to retaining the title. A number of players from both sides in that game will be in action today.

1997 - Laois 3-8 Mayo 1-9

This was a contest Mayo could well have won but inaccuracy up front proved their undoing. In the course of the hour the Connacht side shot 18 wides, which was three times what the Midlanders registered.

The losers made the ideal start with Trevor Mortimer and Martin McNicholas combining to set up Gabriel Walshe for a ninth-minute goal, but within 60 seconds Brian McDonald was raising the green flag at the other end. Mayo edged in front through McNicholas but McDonald's second goal at the 25th minute helped Laois into a flattering interval lead of 2-3 to 1-4.

On the restart points from McDonald and Shane Hennessy increased the O'Moore county lead, but with the two Ger Bradys and Paul Navin coming to the fore Mayo stormed back and points by Brady (Claremorris), Navin and Enda Lavelle closed the gap to the minimum by the 48th minute. After ten minutes of defending, Laois broke upfield at the 50th minute and Tom Kelly set up Kieran Kelly for the clinching goal.

Laois scorers: B.McDonald 2-3, S.Kelly 0-3, K.Kelly 1-0, J.P.Kehoe 0-1, S.Hennessy 0-1.

Mayo scorers: G.Walshe 1-0, G.Brady (Claremorris) 0-2, G.Brady (Ballina) 0-1, P.Navin 0-1, E.Lavelle 0-1, T.Mortimer 0-1, J.O'Malley 0-1, S.Walshe 0-1, M.McNicholas 0-1.

Laois - Michael Leigh, Paul McDonald, Eoin Bland, Thomas Mulligan, Diarmuid Mullins, Joe Higgins, John Paul Kehoe, Brian Fitzpatrick, Darren Rooney, Kieran Kelly, Shane Hennessy, Brian McDonald, Stephen Kelly, Mark Hovenden, Billy Brennan.
Subs - Tom Kelly for Hennessy, Michael Lambe for Brennan.

Maigh Eo - Sean Campbell, Anthony McDermott, Ger Brady (Ballina), David Lynch, Niall Dunne, Paul Navin, Alan Costello, Enda Lavelle, Ger Brady (Claremorris), Trevor Mortimer, Jarlath O'Malley, Kieran Kilkenny, Martin McNicholas, Gabriel Walshe, Stephen Walshe.

Sub - Colm Staunton for Kilkenny.

Best wishes to Mayo for 2006



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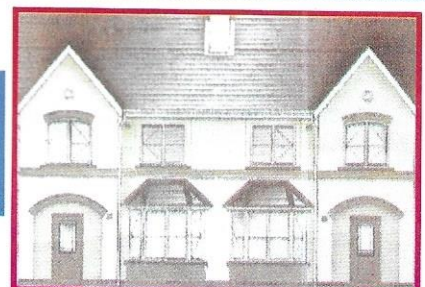
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Peile na
hÉireann

LAOIS

How times have changed for Laois! Beaten by fourteen points by Dublin on their last Croke Park appearance in a Leinster semi-final in June, they return to headquarters backed by three wins in the Bank of Ireland All-Ireland Qualifiers.

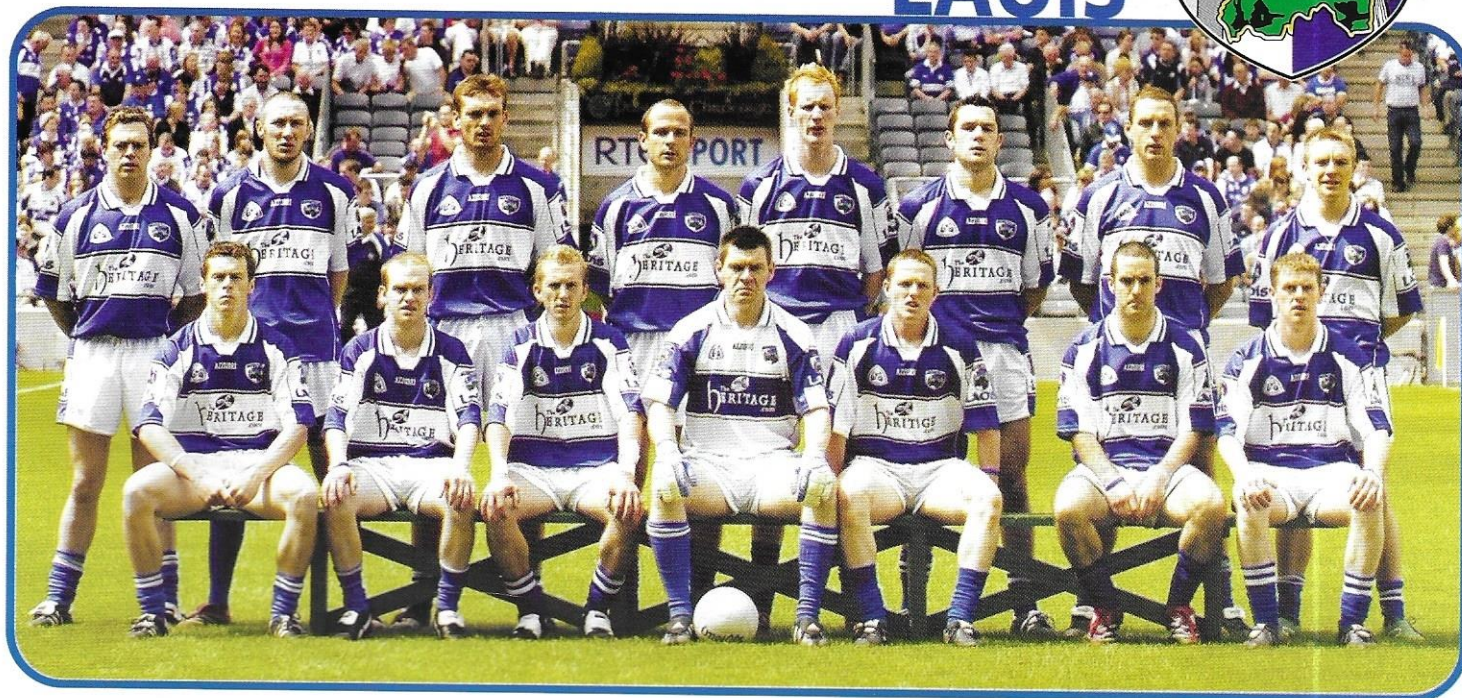
Pádraig Clancy
(Laois)

LAOIS LOSE
NO TIME IN
REGAINING
WINNING
FORM





LAOIS



Their success over Offaly last time out at Portlaoise was not as spectacular as their win over Meath in the previous round when they chalked up an impressive 2-13, but they still finished good winners.

They restricted the Faithful County to just four points, and a goal by Pádraig Clancy after sixty-one minutes sent them firmly on the road to their 1-9 to 0-4 victory.

Offaly played against the wind and started promisingly with a point in the first minute. They looked to have a real chance of success at the break when they were just 0-5 to 0-3 in arrears.

However, the O'Moore County stepped up

their performance after the change of ends. Pádraig Clancy, who went into midfield as a substitute in the first half, brought new purpose and drive to the side.

So much so that Laois conceded just a single point in the second half. The attack also moved with more purpose and points by Ross Munnelly and Chris Conway soon had the home side ahead by four.

Offaly did respond with that solitary point, but then came a good movement involving Munnelly and Tom Kelly to provide Clancy with the goal chance that he took in fine style.

Laois went on from there for a well-merited

and clear-cut success.

Joe Higgins had a major say in fashioning the success. He was a tower of strength at left full back with his dependable and clever play. Darren Rooney also did well in defence, while Clancy was very influential during his limited appearance.

Brendan Quigley proved a real threat to Offaly and also hit two valuable points. Munnelly, who scored three points and Conway also made important contributions.

So, Laois have come a long way since that dismal day against Dublin and with self-belief boosted greatly are sure to make a strong effort to keep the winning sequence on the rails.

CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING WITH MAYO

1936 All-Ireland Final

Laois 0-5; Mayo 4-11.

LAST 5 CHAMPIONSHIPS OUTINGS

2006

Laois	1-9; Offaly	0-4.
Laois	2-13; Meath	0-13.
Laois	0-9; Tyrone	0-6.
Laois	0-12; Dublin	3-17
Laois	1-17; Carlow	1-9.

HUGH EMERSON



Hugh made his senior intercounty debut late in 1991 in the National League and went on to prove one of the county's most versatile players. He appeared in the half-back line, at midfield and also up front.

He got among the county championship medals with Portlaoise at Intermediate and Senior and was honoured by Leinster in the Railway Cup.

Emerson had a particularly noteworthy day in early 1997 when he scored 3-1 to mastermind a Laois win over Derry in a National League quarter-final at Croke Park.



LAOIS

BLONDI BOMBSHELLS

EVERY intercounty team in the modern game needs a flair player or two, a man who can change a game in an instant with a piece of footballing magic. In this regard, Mayo and Laois can each call upon the services of real match-winners, off-the-cuff stars who can make things happen. In his fourth full season with the Laois seniors, Ross Munnely is now a tried and trusted campaigner. Blessed with a blistering turn of pace, he's accurate on that trusty left peg from both placed balls and from play. Munnely may be small in stature but he more than makes up for that with sheer footballing ability and he's deceptively strong, well able to take the inevitable hits from opposition defenders who invariably single him out for special treatment. He should consider such punishment as a compliment but if Munnely isn't firing on all cylinders for Laois, they will struggle.

Today at Croke Park, he'll be hoping to plot the downfall of Mayo, a county close to his heart. His father David, who never kicked a ball in anger according to Ross, is a native of Crossmolina in county Mayo. His mother Mary is a Laois woman, from Stradbally, and her father was a Cork man. We can trace Munnely's footballing talent back to his grandfather David, who won a club championship with Mayo club Deel Rovers during his playing days. Ross himself is a

holder of a prized county championship, won with his club Arles/Kilcruise in 2003. Remarkably, due to a fixture pile-up, Arles/Kilcruise were in action against O'Hanrahan's from Carlow in the Leinster club championship the day after they won their county crown. They won that game too, but their provincial campaign was eventually ended by Round Towers of Kildare. 2003 was certainly a good year for Munnely as he burst onto the intercounty scene with Laois. He admits that he never won anything at underage level with the county as a member of U16, minor and U21 teams, but the valuable lessons learned from defeats during the formative years of his career stood him in good stead. And when he finally landed some massive silverware with Laois in 2003, he appreciated it all the more.

Mick O'Dwyer masterminded the O'Moore County's first provincial title success since 1946 three years ago — and Munnely was a key member of the team. Now 23 years of age, he's playing some of his best football during the current championship campaign and is central to Laois hopes of progressing to an All-Ireland semi final. In five championship outings, Munnely has contributed 2-15, high-scoring for a wing forward. And he produced one of THE outstanding individual performances of recent years

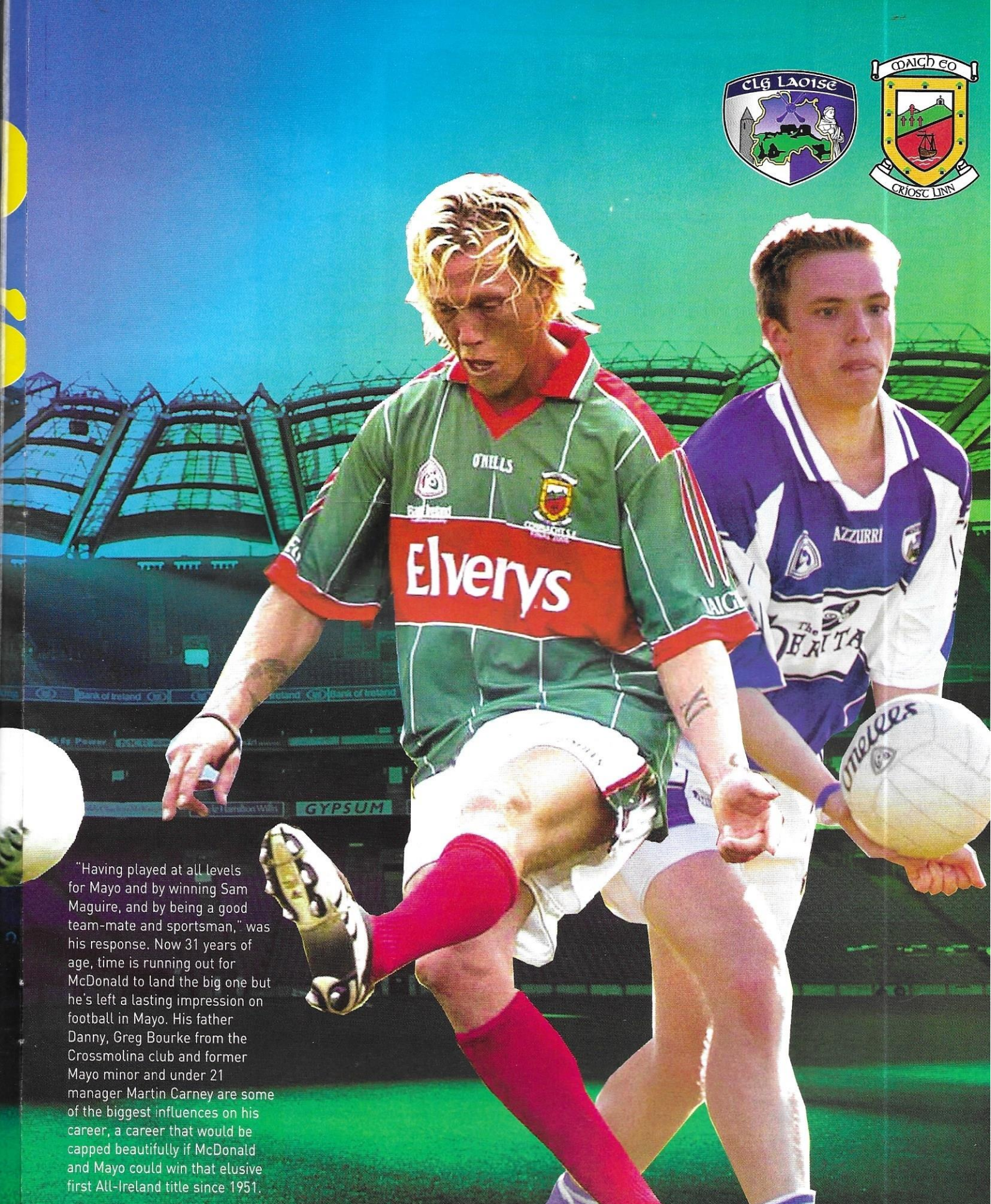
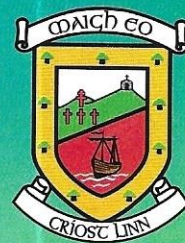
**“A MAN WHO CAN
CHANGE A GAME IN
AN INSTANT”**

against Meath in the Navan qualifier, blasting two brilliant second half goals to sink the Royals. Munnely notched four points against Carlow, three in the Leinster championship defeat at the hands of Dublin, one as Laois sunk reigning All-Ireland champions Tyrone, 2-4 in that aforementioned Meath clash and three more points against local rivals Offaly in the O'Moore County's last championship outing. He's certainly a man on a mission — and will take some stopping. Munnely is a ball of fire for Laois and his direct style of play has marked him out as one of the country's leading forwards.

Mayo's mercurial Ciarán McDonald is just as effective, but in a more measured kind of way. McDonald is one of the finest passers in the game, on a par with Tyrone's Brian McGuigan in a play-making sense, and well capable of taking a long range score. He's the player that makes Mayo tick and when in possession, he has a superb ability to unlock defences. An All-Ireland club medal winner

with Crossmolina in 2001, McDonald has also won county titles with the club at every underage grade, bar U21, and also at senior level. He first played for Mayo at 15 years of age in the U16 Ted Webb Cup back in 1990, the year after Mayo lost to Cork in the All-Ireland senior final of 1989. The unlucky Westerners lost another final in 1996 and McDonald sampled the big day for the first time a year later, when Mayo were once again left heart-broken on the big day.

As McDonald's career progressed, so too did his influence on the Mayo team and he was a major catalyst en route to the 2004 final. McDonald kicked some nice scores in the final itself and tried hard to pull the strings but Mayo were the bridesmaids again as Kerry claimed a 33rd crown. When interviewed in January 1996, McDonald was asked how he would like to be remembered.



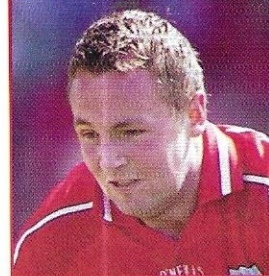
"Having played at all levels for Mayo and by winning Sam Maguire, and by being a good team-mate and sportsman," was his response. Now 31 years of age, time is running out for McDonald to land the big one but he's left a lasting impression on football in Mayo. His father Danny, Greg Bourke from the Crossmolina club and former Mayo minor and under 21 manager Martin Carney are some of the biggest influences on his career, a career that would be capped beautifully if McDonald and Mayo could win that elusive first All-Ireland title since 1951.

ROSS MUNNELLY

CIARÁN McDONALD

HOT SHOTS

MASTERS WELL PLACED FOR A TOP TAKE-OVER



James Masters is now the chief challenger to Matty Forde for the premier position in the nationwide chart of leading scorers in senior football championship play this year.

The Cork sharpshooter has moved up to joint second in the chart following his three points in his team's dramatic All-Ireland quarter-final win over Donegal last weekend. He shares the position with Brian Kavanagh (Longford), a point behind the leader, but the Leinster man cannot, of course, now add to his total.

Masters has 1-24 from four games, which gives him a better match average than Kavanagh—6.75 points as against 5.4 points. Also well up on Forde's total is another footballer who will be chasing scores later this month—Bryan Sheehan. He contributed two points to Kerry's win over Armagh last week-end to boost his total to 0-24 from six outings for an average of four points.

Ross Munnelly has a chance in his county's novel All-Ireland quarter-final to gain some promotion. He is bracketed with two Fermanagh footballers on twenty-one points.

However, the Laois forward leads in the match average review with 4-2 points for a return of 2-15 in five outings.

TOP SCORERS

THE LEADING SCORERS IN THE PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, ALL-IRELAND QUALIFIERS AND QUARTER-FINALS BEFORE THIS WEEKEND'S QUARTER-FINALS ARE:

Points	Player	Score	Games	Average
28	Matty Forde (Wexford)	1-25	3	9
27	Brian Kavanagh (Longford)	1-24	5	
27	James Masters (Cork)	1-24	4	6
26	Paddy Bradley (Derry)	2-20	4	
24	Bryan Sheehan (Kerry)	0-24	6	
23	Michael Meehan (Galway)	1-20	4	5
23	Paul Barden (Longford)	1-20	5	
22	Niall McNamee (Offaly)	2-16	5	
22	Oisín McConville (Armagh)	0-22	6	3
21	Ross Munnelly (Laois)	2-15	5	
21	Ciarán O'Reilly (Fermanagh)	3-12	6	
21	Tom Brewster (Fermanagh)	1-18	6	

MAYO & LAOIS...THE LONE MEETING

1936 - Mayo 4-11 Laois 0-5

In qualifying for the All-Ireland final both Mayo and Laois had presented excellent credentials; Mayo after more than 30 years conceding to Kerry had finally overcome the Kingdom with a magnificent display in the semi/final at Roscommon after they had overcome their great rivals Galway in the Connacht final; Laois had downed rapidly-improving Offaly to qualify for the provincial final with Kildare (the previous year's All-Ireland finalists) before eliminating the reigning champions Cavan in the semi/final to qualify for their first final since 1889.

In many quarters it was accepted that a better or more evenly-qualified pairing could not have been arranged. But what happened mystified even the most ardent Mayo

supporter as one of the most one-sided finals in the history of the championship emerged. In fact, only once previously - 1911 - did an All-Ireland final provide a greater margin of victory.

The attendance - only two hundred short of the record set twelve months previously - reflected the public interest, but by the three-quarters stage only the most rabid follower of the Connacht champions had retained an interest in proceedings.

The early exchanges gave little indication of the deluge to come as both ends were visited in turn in search of the opening score. Gradually, however, Patsy Flannelly was taking over at midfield and a well-supplied attack soon had the flags flying. By half time the title was flowing inexorably for Mayo with the score at 2-5 to 0-2.

Laois restarted vigorously but without reward and long before the end hundreds were streaming from the ground. A wonderful occasion for Mayo; a sad day for Laois.

Mayo scorers: J.Munnelly 2-3, P.Mocclair 1-0, P.Munnelly 1-0, J.Carney 1-0, P.Flannelly 1-0, T.Grier 0-1.

Laois scorers: W.Delaney 0-2, T.Keogh 0-2, D.Douglas 0-1.

Maigh Éo - T.Burke, J.McGowan, P.Quinn, P.Kelly, T.Regan, S.O'Malley, G.Ormsby, P.Flannelly, H.Kenny, J.Carney, P.Laffey, T.Grier, J.Munnelly, P.Mocclair, P.Munnelly.

Laois - T.Delaney snr, J.McDonnell, T.Delaney jnr, J.Brennan, T.O'Brien, P.Swayne, D.Walsh, C.Delaney, W.Delaney, D.Douglas, J.Delaney, M.Delaney, T.Keogh, J.Keating, J.O'Reilly.
Sub - J.Moran for Walsh.

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LAOIS



1
FERGAL BYRON
F. Ó Beirn (Capt.)
(Courtwood)

2
AIDAN FENNELLY
A. Ó Fionnalaigh
(Portlaoise)

3
DARREN ROONEY
D. Ó Ruanaidh
(Clonaslee St. Manman's)

4
JOE HIGGINS
S. Ó hUiginn
(St. Joseph's)

5
PAUL McDONALD
P. Mac Dónaill
(Arles Killeen)

6
TOM KELLY
T. Ó Ceallaigh
(St. Joseph's)

7
PÁDRAIG McMAHON
P. Mac Mathúna
(Ballyroan)

8
PÁDRAIG CLANCY
P. Mac Lannchaidh
(Timahoe)

9
BRENDAN QUIGLEY
B. Ó Coigligh
(Timahoe)

10
ROSS MUNNELLY
R. Ó Maonaile
(Arles Kilcruise)

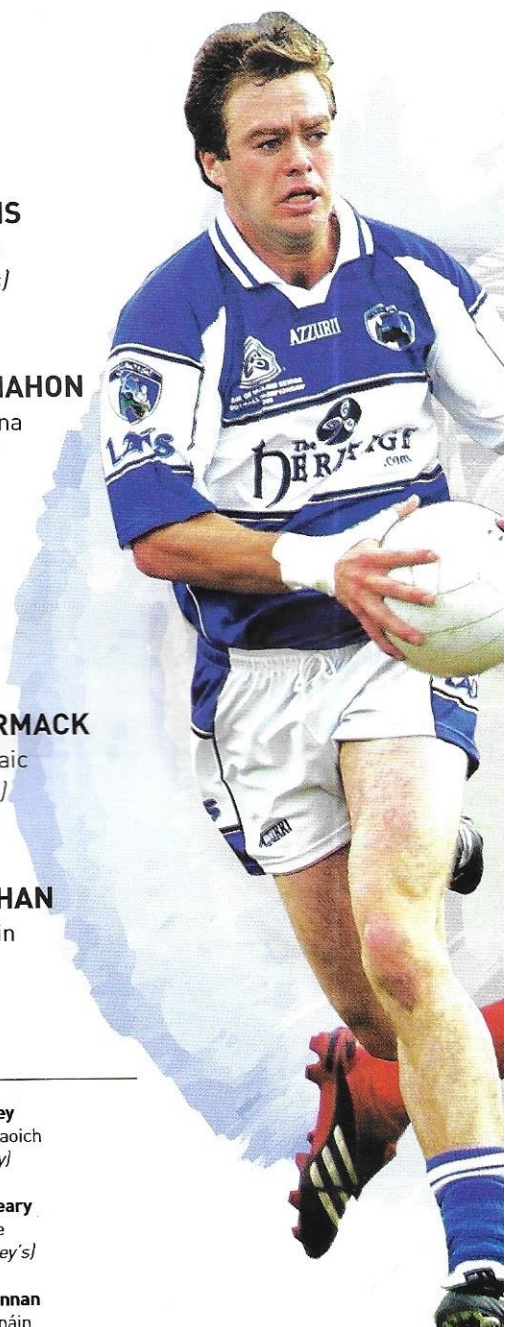
11
CHRIS CONWAY
C. Ó Conbhuí
(Arles Kilcruise)

12
BRIAN McCORMACK
B. Mac Cormaic
(Portlaoise)

13
BRIAN McDONALD
B. Mac Dónaill
(Arles Killeen)

14
NOEL GARVAN
N. Ó Garbháin
(St. Joseph's)

15
BILLY SHEEHAN
L. Ó Síocháin
(Emo)



FIR IONAIÐ

(16) Colm Munnelly C. Ó Maonaile <i>(Arles Kilcruise)</i>	(19) Ian Fitzgerald I. Mac Gearailt <i>(Portlaoise)</i>	(23) David Murphy D. Ó Murchú <i>(Portarlinton)</i>	(27) Paul Begley P. Ó Beaglaioch <i>(Stradbally)</i>
(17) Cathal Ryan C. Ó Riain <i>(Portarlinton)</i>	(20) Rory Stapleton R. Mac an Ghaill <i>(Annagh)</i>	(24) Colm Parkinson C. Mac Peáircín <i>(Portlaoise)</i>	(28) Peter O'Leary P. Ó Laoire <i>(O'Dempsey's)</i>
(18) Gary Kavanagh G. Ó Caomhánaigh <i>(Stradbally)</i>	(21) Paul Lawlor P. Ó Leathlobhair <i>(Emo)</i>	(25) Donal Brennan D. Ó Braonáin <i>(Arles-Killeen)</i>	(29) David Brennan D. Ó Braonáin <i>(St. Mary's)</i>
	(22) Shane Cooke S. Mac Dhabhóc <i>(St. Mary's)</i>	(26) Colm Kelly C. Ó Ceallaigh <i>(Stradbally)</i>	(30) Mark Dunne M. Ó Doinn <i>(The Rock)</i>

	Cúil	Cúitíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					

ROGHNÓIRÍ

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Gabriel Lawlor,
Declan O'Loughlin,
Martin Parkinson.

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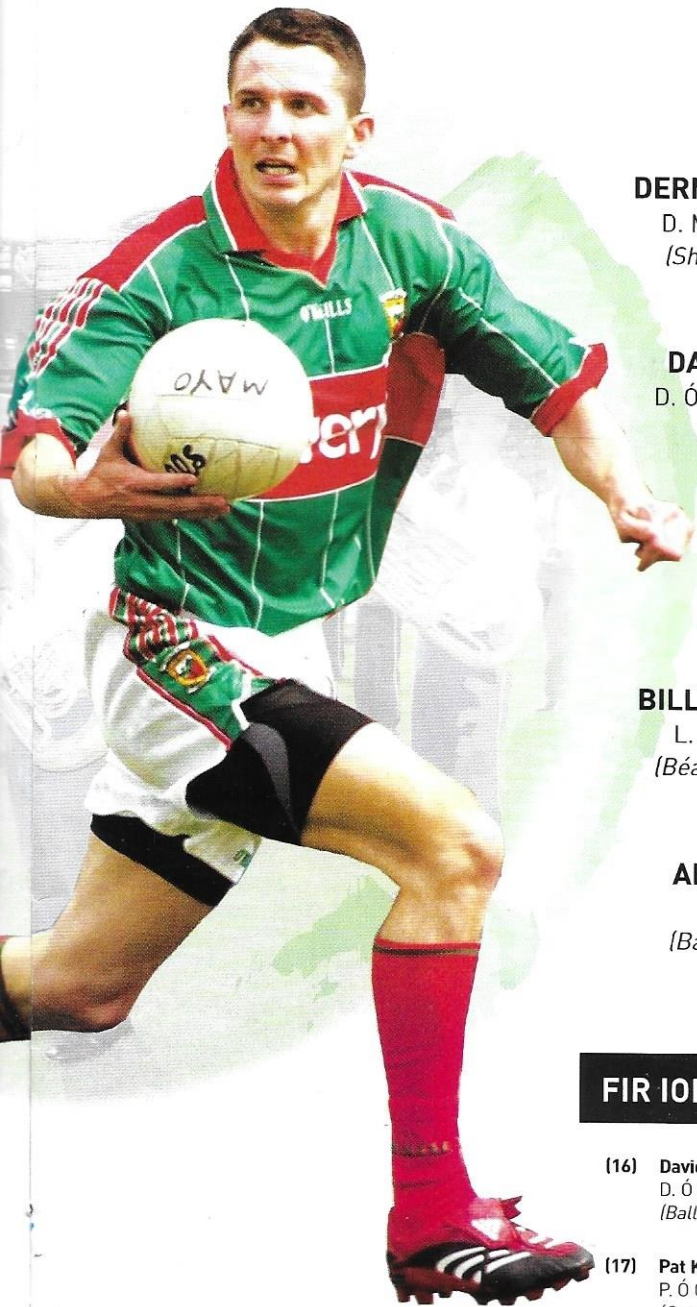


Football Championship



DATHANNA: UAITHNE IS DEARG

MAIGH EO



1

JOHN HEALY

S. Ó hÉilí
(Ballina)

2

DERMOT GERAGHTY

D. Mac Oireachtaigh
(Shrule-Glencorrib)

3

LIAM O'MALLEY

L. Ó Máille
(Burrishoole)

4

KEITH HIGGINS

C. Ó hUiginn
(Ballyhaunis)

5

DAVID HEANEY

D. Ó hÉanaigh (Capt.)
(Swinford)

6

JAMES NALLEN

S. Ó Nailín
(Crossmolina)

7

PEADAR GARDINER

P. Ó Gardineir
(Crossmolina)

8

RONAN MCGARRITY

R. Mac Fheartaigh
(Ballina)

9

PAT HARTE

P. Ó hAirt
(Ballina)

10

BILLY JOE PADDEN

L. S. Mac Phaidín
(Béal an Mhuirthead)

11

GER BRADY

G. Ó Brádaigh
(Ballina)

12

ALAN DILLON

A. Ó Diolúin
(Ballintubber)

13

ANDY MORAN

A. Ó Moráin
(Ballaghaderreen)

14

CONOR MORTIMER

C. Ó Muireartaigh
(Shrule-Glencorrib)

15

CIARÁN MacDONALD

C. Mac Domhnall
(Crossmolina)

FIR IONAID

(16) **David Clarke**
D. Ó Cléirigh
(Ballina)

(17) **Pat Kelly**
P. Ó Ceallaigh
(Garda Club)

(18) **Trevor Howley**
T. Ó hUallaigh
(Knockmore)

(19) **Aidan Higgins**
A. Ó hUiginn
(Charlestown)

(20) **James Gill**
S. Man an Ghoill
(Westport)

(21) **Barry Moran**
B. Ó Moráin
(Castlebar)

(22) **Kevin O'Neill**
C. Ó Néill
(Na Fianna)

(23) **Aiden Kilcoyne**
A. MacGiolla Chadhain
(Knockmore)

(24) **Austin O'Malley**
A. Ó Máille
(Louisburgh)

(25) **Michael Conroy**
M. Ó Conraí
(Davitts)

(26) **Barry Regan**
B. Ó Riagáin
(Ballaghaderreen)

(27) **Stephen Carolan**
S. Ó Cearúlláin
(Béal an Mhuirthead)

(28) **Trevor Mortimer**
T. Ó Muireartaigh
(Shrule-Glencorrib)

(29) **Colm Lyons**
C. Ó Laighin
(Breaffy)

(30) **David Brady**
D. Ó Brádaigh
(Ballina)

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Mickey Moran, Manager
John Morrison,
Kieran Gallagher

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					



DATHANNA: ÓR IS GORM

AN CLÁR



1

DAVID FITZGERALD

D. Mac Gearailt
(Sixmilebridge)

2

GERRY O'GRADY

G. Ó Gráda
(Crusheen)

3

BRIAN LOHAN

B. Ó Leocháin
(Wolfe Tones na Sionna)

4

FRANK LOHAN

P. Ó Leocháin
(Wolfe Tones na Sionna)

5

BRIAN O'CONNELL

B. Ó Conáill
(Wolfe Tones na Sionna)

6

SEÁN McMAHON

S. Mac Mathúna (Capt.)
(St. Joseph's/Doora-Barefield)

7

GERRY QUINN

G. Ó Coinn
(Corofin)

8

JONATHAN CLANCY

S. Mac Lannchaidh
(Clarecastle)

9

COLIN LYNCH

C. Ó Loingsigh
(Kilmaley)

10

DIARMUID McMAHON

D. Mac Mathúna
(Kilmaley)

11

TONY CARMODY

A. Ó Ceármada
(Inagh)

12

NIALL GILLIGAN

N. Ó Giollagáin
(Sixmilebridge)

13

TONY GRIFFIN

A. Ó Gríofa
(Ballylea)

14

ALAN MARKHAM

A. Ó Maracháin
(Kilmaley)

15

DEREK QUINN

D. Ó Coinn
(Clarecastle)



FIR IONAIÐ

(16) Philip Brennan
P. Ó Braonáin
(Tulla)

(17) John Coen
S. Ó Cadhain
(Wolfe Tones)

(18) Daithí O'Connell
D. Ó Conaill
(Wolfe Tones)

(19) Colm Forde
C. Mac Giollarnáth
(Ogonellloe)

(20) Conor Harrison
C. Ó hEarchaí
(Cloonay-Quin)

(21) David Hoey
D. Ó hEochaidh
(St. Joseph's/
Doora-Barefield)

(22) Tommy Holland
T. Ó hAoláin
(Whitegate)

(23) Fergal Lynch
F. Ó Loingsigh
(Cloonay-Quin)

(24) James McInerney
S. Mac an Airchinnigh
(Newmarket)

(25) Conor McMahon
C. Mac Mathúna
(Kilmaley)

(26) Barry Nugent
B. Nuiseann
(Éire Óg, Inis)

(27) Declan O'Rourke
D. Ó Ruáirc
(Wolfe Tones)

(28) Conor Plunkett
C. Pluincéid
(Clarecastle)

(29) Andrew Quinn
A. Ó Coinn
(Tulla)

(30) Pat Vaughan
P. Ó Macháin
(Crusheen)

1adh Leath

Cúil

Cúilíní

Seachaí

65m

Saor Pocanna

2adh Leath

IOMLÁN

ROGHNÓIRÍ

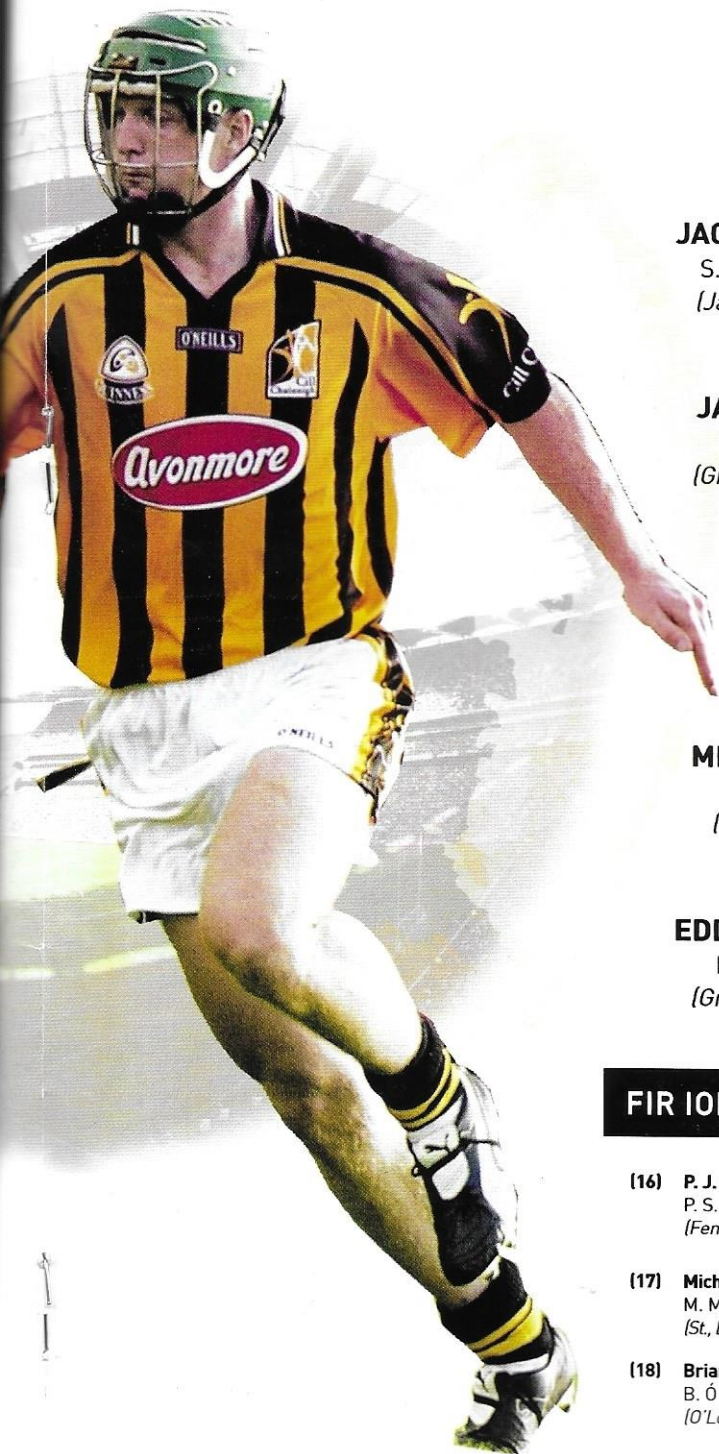
Anthony Daly, Manager
Fr. Harry Bohan,
Ollie Baker,
Alan Cunningham.





DATHANNA: DUBH IS BUÍ

CILL CHAINNIGH



1
JAMES MCGARRY
S. Mac Fhearaigh
(Bennetsbridge)

2
JACKIE TYRRELL
S. Ó Tirial (Capt.)
(James Stephens)

3
NOEL HICKEY
N. Ó hÍcí
(Dunnamaggin)

4
J.J. DELANEY
S. S. Ó Dúláinne
(Fenians)

5
JAMES RYALL
S. Ó Riall
(Graig Ballycallan)

6
JOHN TENNYSON
S. Tennyson
(Carrickshock)

7
TOMMY WALSH
T. Breathnach
(Tullaroan)

8
JAMES 'CHA' FITZPATRICK
S. Mac Giolla Phádarig
(Ballyhale Shamrocks)

9
DEREK LYNG
D. Ó Loinn
(Emeralds)

10
MICHAEL RICE
M. Rís
(Carrickshock)

11
HENRY SHEFFLIN
A. Ó Sibhleáin
(Ballyhale Shamrocks)

12
EOIN LARKIN
E. Ó Lorcáin
(James Stephens)

13
EDDIE BRENNAN
E. Ó Braonáin
(Graig Ballycallan)

14
MARTIN COMERFORD
M. Comartún
(O'Loughlin Gaels)

15
AIDAN FOGARTY
A. Ó Fogartaigh
(Emeralds)

FIR IONAIÐ

(16) **P. J. Ryan**
P. S. Ó Riain
(Fenians)

(17) **Michael Kavanagh**
M. Mac Caomhánaigh
(St., Lachtains)

(18) **Brian Hogan**
B. Ó hÓgáin
(O'Loughlin Gaels)

(19) **Richie Mullally**
R. Ó Maolalaidh
(Glenmore)

(20) **Donncha Cody**
D. Mac Óda
(James Stelphens)

(21) **Stephen Maher**
S. Ó Meachair
(Tullaroan)

(22) **John Dalton**
S. Ó Daltún
(Carrickshock)

(23) **P. J. Delaney**
P. S. Ó Dúláinne
(Fenians)

(24) **Michael Fennelly**
M. Ó Fionnataigh
(Ballyhale Shamrocks)

(25) **Eoin McCormack**
E. Mac Cormaic
(James Stelphens)

(26) **Willie O'Dwyer**
L. Ó Dubhuir
(Mullinavat)

(27) **Peter Cleere**
P. de Cléir
(Blacks & Whites)

(28) **Austin Murphy**
A. Ó Murchú
(Clara)

(29) **Eoin Reid**
E. Ó Maoildeirg
(Ballyhale Shamrocks)

(30) **Richard Power**
R. de Paor
(Carrickshock)

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Brian Cody, Manager
Martin Fogarty,
Michael Dempsey.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					



IOMÁINT HOW THEY REACHED THE SEMI-FINAL

AN CLÁR



28th May, Thurles:

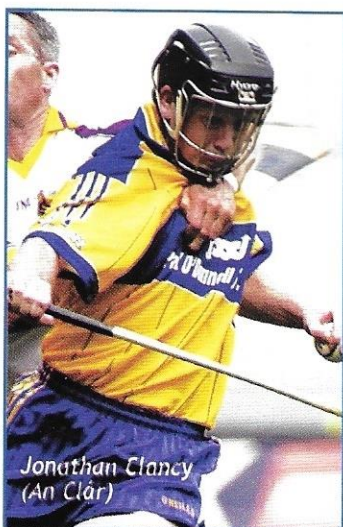
Clare 0-14; Cork 0-20

Scorers - Niall Gilligan 0-6, Tony Carmody 0-3, Barry Nugent 0-2, Alan Markham 0-1, Daithi O'Connell 0-1, Jonathan Clancy 0-1.

18th June, Ennis:

Clare 2-21; Limerick 0-10

Scorers - Tony Griffin 1-5, Declan



Jonathan Clancy (An Clár)

O'Rourke 1-3, Niall Gilligan 0-4, Jonathan Clancy 0-3, Barry Nugent 0-2, Brian O'Connell 0-1, Alan Markham 0-1, Fergal Lynch 0-1, Derek Quinn 0-1.

1st July, Parnell Park:

Clare 4-21; Dublin 1-16

Scorers - Niall Gilligan 2-6, Alan Markham 2-0, Sean McMahon 0-4, Tony Griffin 0-3, Tony Carmody 0-3, Diarmuid McMahon 0-2, Colin Lynch 0-1, Jonathan Clancy 0-1, Barry Nugent 0-1.

8th July, Ennis:

Clare 2-15; Offaly 1-9

Scorers - Derek Quinn 1-7, Tony Carmody 1-2, Tony Griffin 0-2, Niall Gilligan 0-2, Colin Lynch 0-1, Sean McMahon 0-1.

23rd July, Croke Park:

Clare 1-27; Wexford 1-15

Scorers - Tony Carmody 0-5, Tony Griffin 0-5, Niall Gilligan 0-5, Diarmuid McMahon 1-2, Sean McMahon 0-3, Daithi O'Connell 0-2, Alan Markham 0-2, Derek Quinn 0-1, Barry Nugent 0-1, Fergal Lynch 0-1.

CILL CHAINNIGH



10th June, Mullingar:

Kilkenny 1-23; Westmeath 1-9

Scorers - Henry Shefflin 0-8, Eoin McCormack 1-3, Martin Comerford 0-3, Michael Rice 0-3, Richie Mullally 0-2, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick 0-2, Derek Lyng 0-1, Willie O'Dwyer 0-1.

2nd July, Croke Park:

Kilkenny 1-23; Wexford 2-12

Scorers - Henry Shefflin 1-7, Martin Comerford 0-4, Richie Power 0-3, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick 0-2, Eddie Brennan 0-2, Richie Mullally 0-1, Derek Lyng 0-1, Jackie Tyrrell 0-1, Michael Rice 0-1, Michael Fennelly 0-1.

22nd July, Thurles:

Kilkenny 2-22; Galway 3-14

Scorers - Henry Shefflin 0-11, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick 1-2, Eoin Larkin 0-4, Martin Comerford 0-3, Aidan Fogarty 1-0, Derek Lyng 0-1, Eddie Brennan 0-1.



Derek Lyng (Cill Chainnigh)

PEIL HOW THEY REACHED THE QUARTER-FINAL

LAOIS

4th June, Portlaoise:

Laois 1-17; Carlow 1-9

Scorers - Ross Munnelly 0-4, Brian McDonald 0-4, David Brennan 0-3, Fergal Byron 1-0, Paul Lawlor 0-2, Gary Kavanagh 0-2, Chris Conway 0-1, Ian Fitzgerald 0-1.

25th June, Croke Park:

Laois 0-12; Dublin 3-17

Scorers - Brian McDonald 0-4, Ross Munnelly 0-3, Chris Conway 0-2, Darren Rooney 0-1, David Brennan 0-1, Brian McCormack 0-1.

8th July, Portlaoise:

Laois 0-9; Tyrone 0-6

Scorers - Billy Sheehan 0-3, Chris Conway 0-3, Ross Munnelly 0-1, Brian McCormack 0-1, Tom Kelly 0-1.

15th July, An Uaimh:

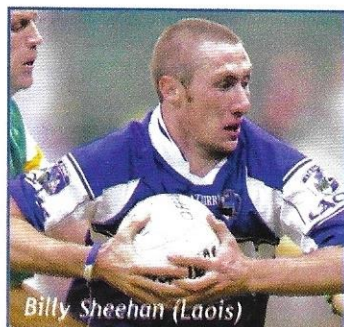
Laois 2-13; Meath 0-13

Scorers - Ross Munnelly 2-4, Chris Conway 0-6, Brian McCormack 0-2, Brian McDonald 0-1.

30th July, Portlaoise:

Laois 1-9; Offaly 0-4

Scorers - Chris Conway 0-3, Ross Munnelly 0-3, Padraig Clancy 1-0, Brendan Quigley 0-2, Fergal Byron 0-1.



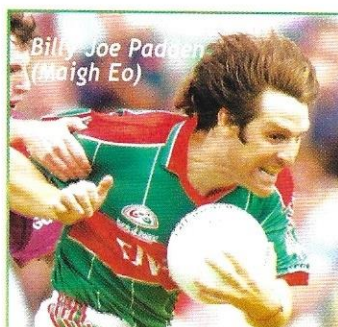
Billy Sheehan (Laois)

MAIGH EO

28th May, Ruislip:

Mayo 1-18; London 0-8

Scorers - Conor Mortimer 1-8, Ciaran McDonald 0-3, Andy Moran 0-2, Peadar Gardiner 0-1, Ger Brady 0-1, Alan Dillon 0-1, Kevin O'Neill 0-1, Barry Moran 0-1.



Billy Joe Padden (Maigh Eo)

25th June, Carrick-on-Shannon:

Mayo 1-10; Leitrim 1-9

Scorers - Conor Mortimer 0-4, Ger Brady 1-0, Ciaran McDonald 0-2, Pat Harte 0-1, Alan Dillon 0-1, Andy Moran 0-1, Aiden Kilcoyne 0-1.

16th July, Castlebar:

Mayo 0-12; Galway 1-8

Scorers - Conor Mortimer 0-4, Ciaran McDonald 0-2, Alan Dillon 0-2, Kevin O'Neill 0-1, Billy Joe Padden 0-1, Ger Brady 0-1, Pat Harte 0-1.



THE YEAR TO DATE



Cluichí
Leath-Cheannais
Iomána na
hÉireann

AN CLÁR AGUS
CILL CHAINNIGH

AN CLÁR

22nd January – Waterford Crystal Trophy:	Clare	1-14;	UCC	0-16
29th January – Waterford Crystal Trophy:	Limerick	1-14;	Clare	0-13
11th February – Challenge:	Galway	2-16;	Clare	0-17
19th February – League:	Clare	5-21;	Down	0-9
26th February – League:	Wexford	2-13;	Clare	0-11
12th March – League:	Clare	1-16;	Waterford	0-15
26th March – League:	Clare	2-22;	Offaly	2-14

9th April – League:	Clare	0-18;	Cork	0-16
23rd April – League semi/final (aet):	Limerick	3-23;	Clare	2-23
28th May – Championship:	Cork	0-20;	Clare	0-14
18th June – Qualifier:	Clare	2-21;	Limerick	0-10
1st July – Qualifier:	Clare	4-21;	Dublin	1-16
8th July – Qualifier:	Clare	2-15;	Offaly	1-9
23rd July – All-Ireland quarter/final:	Clare	1-27;	Wexford	1-15
<i>Played 14, Won 9, Lost 5.</i>				

CILL CHAINNIGH

29th January – Walsh Cup (aet):	Kilkenny	2-25;	Laois	2-23
4th February – Walsh Cup:	Kilkenny	2-15;	UCD	0-11
11th February – Walsh Cup Final:	Kilkenny	1-18;	Wexford	1-12
19th February – League:	Kilkenny	1-26;	Laois	1-13
26th February – League:	Kilkenny	0-19;	Tipperary	0-10
5th March – Challenge:	Kilkenny	0-19;	Cork	0-11
12th March – League:	Kilkenny	0-14;	Limerick	1-11

26th March – League:	Kilkenny	0-12;	Antrim	1-7
2nd April – League:	Kilkenny	1-16;	Galway	0-10
23rd April – League semi/final:	Kilkenny	3-20;	Tipperary	2-11
30th April – League Final:	Kilkenny	3-11;	Limerick	0-14
10th June – Championship:	Kilkenny	1-23;	Westmeath	1-9
2nd July – Leinster Final:	Kilkenny	1-23;	Wexford	2-12
22nd July – All-Ireland quarter/final:	Kilkenny	2-22;	Galway	3-14
<i>Played 14, Won 13, Drew 1.</i>				

AN RÉITEOIR

Seamus Roche (Tiobraid Árann)



Seamus joined the ranks of Guinness All-Ireland senior hurling final referees last September for the first time and has been busy in the meantime.

He was on duty at Singapore early in the year as referee for the game between the 2004 Vodafone All Stars and the 2005 All Stars and his assignments at home included Clare's ties against Offaly in the Allianz League at Ennis in April and against Limerick in All-Ireland Qualifier, also at Ennis in June.

Roche is a former footballer and hurler with his club, Kilsheelan/Kilcash and has been on the intercounty panel for some seven seasons.

NA CAPTAEIN AGUS NA BAINISTEOIRÍ

Seán MacMahon



This is Seán's second successive appearance as captain in an All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final.

One of the giants in the team that brought the All-Ireland senior hurling crown to the Banner in 1995, he was also a commanding figure in the last Liam MacCarthy Cup triumph two years later.

A cool, reliable defender with a flair for finding the scoring target from long distance frees, Seán is having another fine season.

The wily campaigner has also enjoyed All-Ireland club success with St. Joseph's, Doora-Barefield in 1999.



Anthony Daly



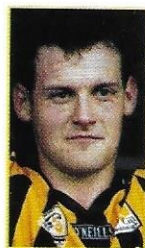
Anthony is hoping for better fortune as team manager than at this stage last year when Clare lost to Cork.

He captained the county from left half back to that memorable break-through that was the All-Ireland senior title win of 1995.

Two years later the Clarecastle club hurler was team leader when the Banner County regained the All-Ireland title and became the first man to be twice presented with the new Liam MacCarthy Cup.

Daly had a successful under age career and won Dr. Harty Cup (Munster Championship) and All-Ireland Colleges' medals with St. Flannan's, Ennis.

Jackie Tyrrell



Jackie was an accomplished right half back in the James Stephens team that won the AIB All-Ireland club senior title last year—the club's first in twenty-three years.

Tyrrell is also a brilliant graduate from the under-age intercounty ranks. A former county minor and Colleges' star, he was centre half back in the team that won the 2003 All-Ireland under-21 title.

A wholehearted and accomplished defender, he was in the official substitutes panel when Kilkenny last won the Liam MacCarthy Cup in 2003. He also helped Kilkenny to their Allianz League title wins of the last two years.

Brian Cody



One of the most experienced and successful managers in the sport, Brian guided Kilkenny in this role to their All-Ireland senior titles of 2000, 2002 and 2003.

He also enjoyed All-Ireland success as a hurler. He captained the county to the 1972 All-Ireland minor title and the big double of National League and Liam MacCarthy Cup in 1982.

A former All Star, Cody won a second All-Ireland senior medal in 1983. He had success earlier this year when Kilkenny retained the Allianz League title.



Cluichí
Leath-Cheannais
Iomána na
hÉireann

AN CLÁR

Gerry O'Grady
(An Clár)

It would be a splendid achievement by Clare if they followed up their defeat by Cork in the opening round of the Guinness Munster senior hurling championship in May by earning another meeting with the Leesiders—but this time for the sport's greatest prize.

CLARE SHOW GREAT STRIDES

AN CLÁR



THE CLARE TEAM WHICH DEFEATED WEXFORD IN THE ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINAL AT CROKE PARK.

The Banner County advertised their comeback in the best possible way on their last outing at Croke Park last month with a polished and decisive win over Wexford.

They lost little time in asserting their superiority as the ball had hardly been thrown when Tony Carmody pointed and seventeen minutes later Diarmuid McMahon had the ball in the Wexford net.

That score put Clare not only 1-7 to 0-1 ahead, but well on their way to the semi-final, such was the quality of their hurling. They

continued to set the pace, with Colin Lynch leading by example at midfield, and they finished the half 1-13 to 0-7 ahead.

Clare started the second half as they began the first in points scoring mood. They strengthened their grip on the game and went on for a well-merited and authoritative 1-27 to 1-15 success.

The Banner County had match-winners all over the field. Brian and Frank Lohan and Gerry Quinn were giants in a well-drilled defence that gave little away easily.

Jonathan Clancy provided excellent support

to Lynch in the middle of the park. The attack packed plenty of punch, with Carmody, Tony Griffin and Niall Gilligan spearheading matters with their creative play and good finishing.

This was a splendid return by Clare to Croke Park and strong evidence as well that they have improved greatly since their loss to Cork.

They, in fact, seem capable of making a tremendous bid to get back within striking distance of the Liam McCarthy Cup for the first time since Kilkenny foiled them of the trophy in the 2002 decider.

LAST 5 CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS WITH KILKENNY

2004 All-Ireland Quarter-Final Replay
at Semple Stadium:

Clare 0-9; Kilkenny 1-11.

All-Ireland Drawn Quarter-Final at Croke Park:

Clare 1-13; Kilkenny 1-13.

2002 All-Ireland Final:

Clare 0-19; Kilkenny 2-20.

1999 All-Ireland Semi-Final at Croke Park:

Clare 1-13; Kilkenny 2-14.

1997 All-Ireland Semi-Final at Croke Park:

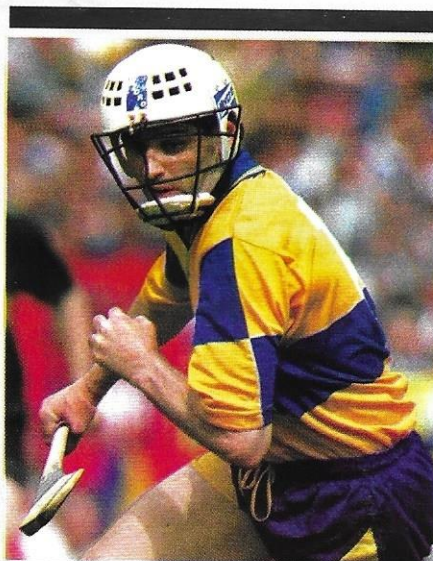
Clare 1-17; Kilkenny 1-13.

LAST 5 CHAMPIONSHIP OUTINGS

2006

Clare	1-27;	Wexford	1-15.
Clare	2-15;	Offaly	1-9.
Clare	4-21;	Dublin	1-16.
Clare	2-21;	Limerick	0-10.
Clare	0-14;	Cork	0-20.

GER O'LOUGHLIN



Ger was an exciting forward during Clare's golden era in the nineties.

He won All-Ireland senior medals in 1995 and 1997.

A clever and creating attacker, the 'Sparrow' won every honour available in the County with Clarecastle, including a number of senior county medals.



AN CLÁR

Davey Fitzgerald recalls some memories from his schooldays

I really enjoyed the hurling in Sixmilebridge NS. For me my hurling career started in the school. There were two very dedicated teachers and they gave us a lot of coaching and taught us the basic skills. They were James Bradley and James Shannon. Their enthusiasm and commitment certainly was a big influence on me. I can say that the Bridge School has done a tremendous amount for hurling in our village. We used to have mini-leagues in the school and I greatly enjoyed playing for a team. It was a big thrill when I got to play for a school team. Until I

was in 2nd class the Bridge used to win the title regularly – in fact the school won five 1st Division titles in a row from 1976 to '80.

After that we were defeated for a few years.

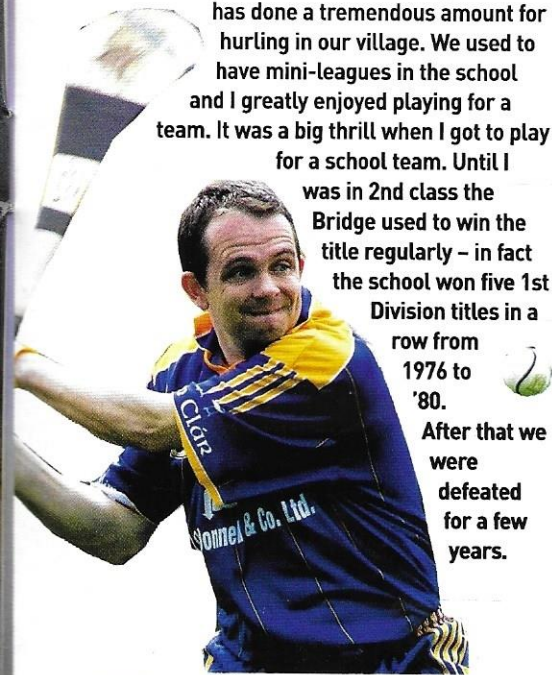
I was very excited when we began to improve and reached the finals in 1982 and '83. However, St. Conaire's won those two finals and we were hugely disappointed. The team was improving, though, and I felt we could give it a big shot in 1984. It was particularly important to me as it was my last year in Sixmilebridge school. We felt the confidence growing when we beat Conaire's in the League. But then we were brought back to earth when St. Senan's Shannon, defeated us.

A Final To Remember

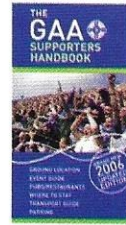
However, we won the rest of our matches to reach the final. And who should our opponents be only Senan's? We knew we had improved but we were still worried because of that defeat. It was a big occasion for us and for me, having lost in the two previous finals. I felt calm. I was so determined to win that I didn't feel nervous. Early in the final I played outfield. The atmosphere was brilliant as the game was in Cusack Park. I was thrilled to score a point and things looked good. However, I was changed back to play in goal. Senan's gave us a really tough game. Still, my confidence was growing that we could do it this time. In the end we won by four points. It was a truly emotional experience, a really upbeat feeling.

That '84 final and all my Primary School games gave me a tremendous love and an appetite for Hurling. I still have that today.

Is fearr go mall ná go brath!



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CLARE'S PENULTIMATE RECORDS

When it comes to experience of the All-Ireland semi/final stage Clare are very much the junior partners today as the Banner is appearing in just their ninth penultimate clash. However, the Munster side do have a winning record at this stage of the championship with five wins and three losses to date.

1915 – Gort:
Clare 2-1; Galway 1-1
1932 – Limerick:
Clare 9-4; Galway 4-14
1995 – Croke Park:
Clare 3-12; Galway 1-13
1997 – Croke Park:
Clare 1-17; Kilkenny 1-13
1998 – Croke Park:
Clare 1-13; Offaly 1-13
replay – Croke Park:
Clare 1-16; Offaly 2-10*

refixture – Thurles:
Offaly 0-16; Clare 0-13
1999 – Croke Park:
Kilkenny 2-14; Clare 1-13
2002 – Croke Park:
Clare 1-16; Waterford 1-13
2005 – Croke Park:
Cork 0-16; Clare 0-15

*Re-fixture ordered as referee inadvertently ended the match early.

Cluichí
Leath-Cheannais
Iomána na
hÉireann

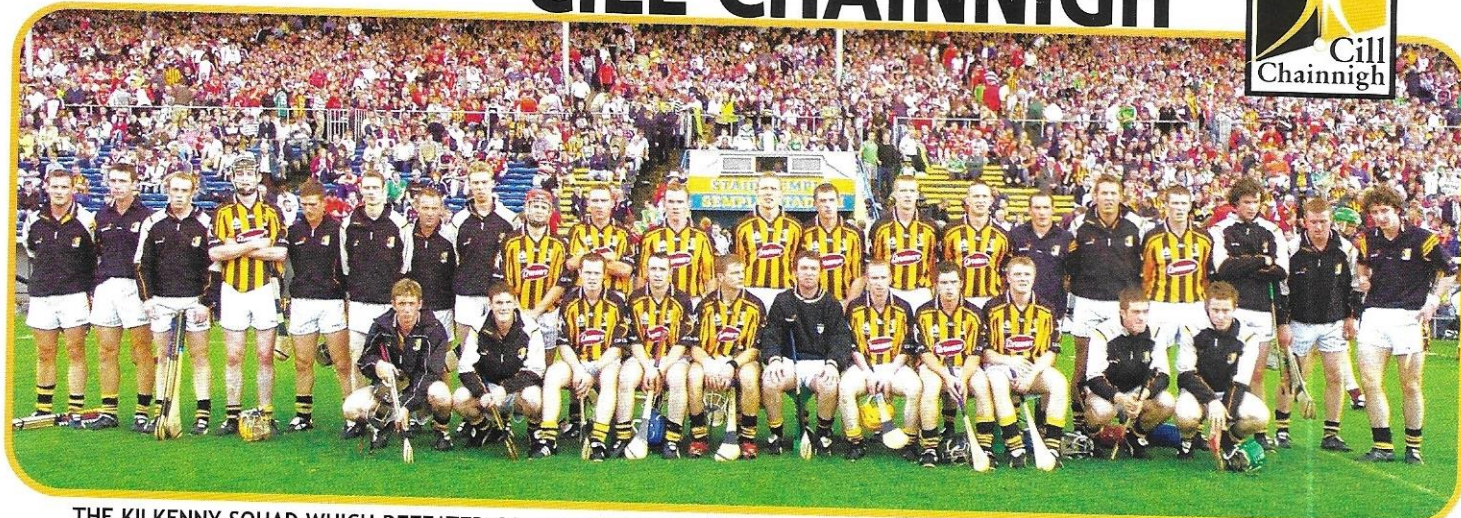
CILL CHAINNIGH

John Tennyson
(Cill Chainnigh)

Kilkenny are hoping for better luck in this Guinness All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final than a year ago when they bowed out at this stage to Galway in one of the best games in many years.

**KILKENNY SURVIVED
LATE GALWAY RALLY**

CILL CHAINNIGH



THE KILKENNY SQUAD WHICH DEFEATED GALWAY IN THE ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINAL AT SEMPLE STADIUM .
Back Row (Left to Right): Jackie Tyrell, P.J. Delaney, Richard O'Neill, Martin Comerford, Richard Mullally, Seaghan O'Neill, P.J. Ryan, Brian Hogan, Tommy Walsh, Eddie Brennan, Noel Hickey, James Ryall, Derek Lyng, Henry Shefflin, John Tennyson, Willie O'Dwyer, Peter Cleere, Michael Rice, Donncha Cody, Stephen Maher and Austin Murphy.
Front Row (Left to Right): Michael Fennelly, Eoghan Reid, Michael Kavanagh, Eoin Larkin, J.J. Delaney, James McGarry, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick, Eoin McCormack, Aidan Fogarty, Sean Cummins and John Dalton.

They took a handsome revenge for that defeat when the sides provided another high scoring game, but that one in a quarter-final last month at Semple Stadium.

However, the Leinster champions had to stage a strong rearguard action after looking "home and dried" seventeen minutes into the second half when they had a comfortable seventeen points lead.

After a slow start that had them a point adrift after eight minutes, Kilkenny got their game together following a goal by James "Cha" Fitzpatrick from a long-range free.

Powered by Fitzpatrick at midfield, and with Henry Shefflin setting out on a man-of-the-

match display, and ably assisted by Eoin Larkin and Martin Comerford in attack, the Noresiders powered to a commanding 2-13 to 0-6 interval lead.

They continued to have the better of the exchanges after the change of ends and there appeared no way back for Galway when they went 2-19 to 0-8 behind after seventeen minutes.

However, the Connacht men improved greatly after that and put their opponents under great pressure and struck it rich with three goals.

Kilkenny did not panic in the face of the Western rising tide. They continued to hurl with poise and rifled over three valuable points

to finish winners by 2-22 to 3-14.

Shefflin did much to secure the success with his quality play and excellent finishing technique that yielded eleven points. Eddie Brennan and Martin Comerford provided strong support in the attack, while Fitzpatrick had a fine game around the midfield area.

At the back, Tommy Walsh, John Tennyson and Noel Hickey were tireless and effective workers all through.

A close enough call for Kilkenny at the end, but over-all a good all round display and one that underlines that they have their eyes firmly set on another September showdown with the three-in-a-row chasing Cork.

LAST 5 CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS WITH CLARE

2004 All-Ireland Quarter Final Replay at Semple Stadium:
 Kilkenny 1-11; Clare 0-9.

Draw at Croke Park:
 Kilkenny 1-13; Clare 1-13.

2002 All-Ireland Final
 Kilkenny 2-20; Clare 0-19.

1999 All-Ireland Semi-Final at Croke Park:
 Kilkenny 2-14; Clare 1-13.

1997 All-Ireland Semi-Final at Croke Park:
 Kilkenny 1-17; Clare 1-13.

LAST 5 CHAMPIONSHIP OUTINGS

2006

Kilkenny 2-22; Galway 3-14

Kilkenny 1-21; Wexford 2-12

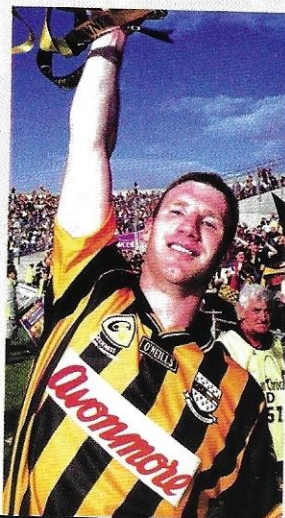
Kilkenny 1-23; Westmeath 1-9.

2005

Kilkenny 4-18; Galway 5-18.

Kilkenny 0-18; Limerick 0-13.

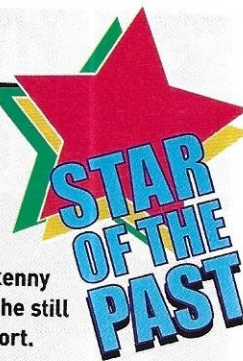
DENIS BYRNE



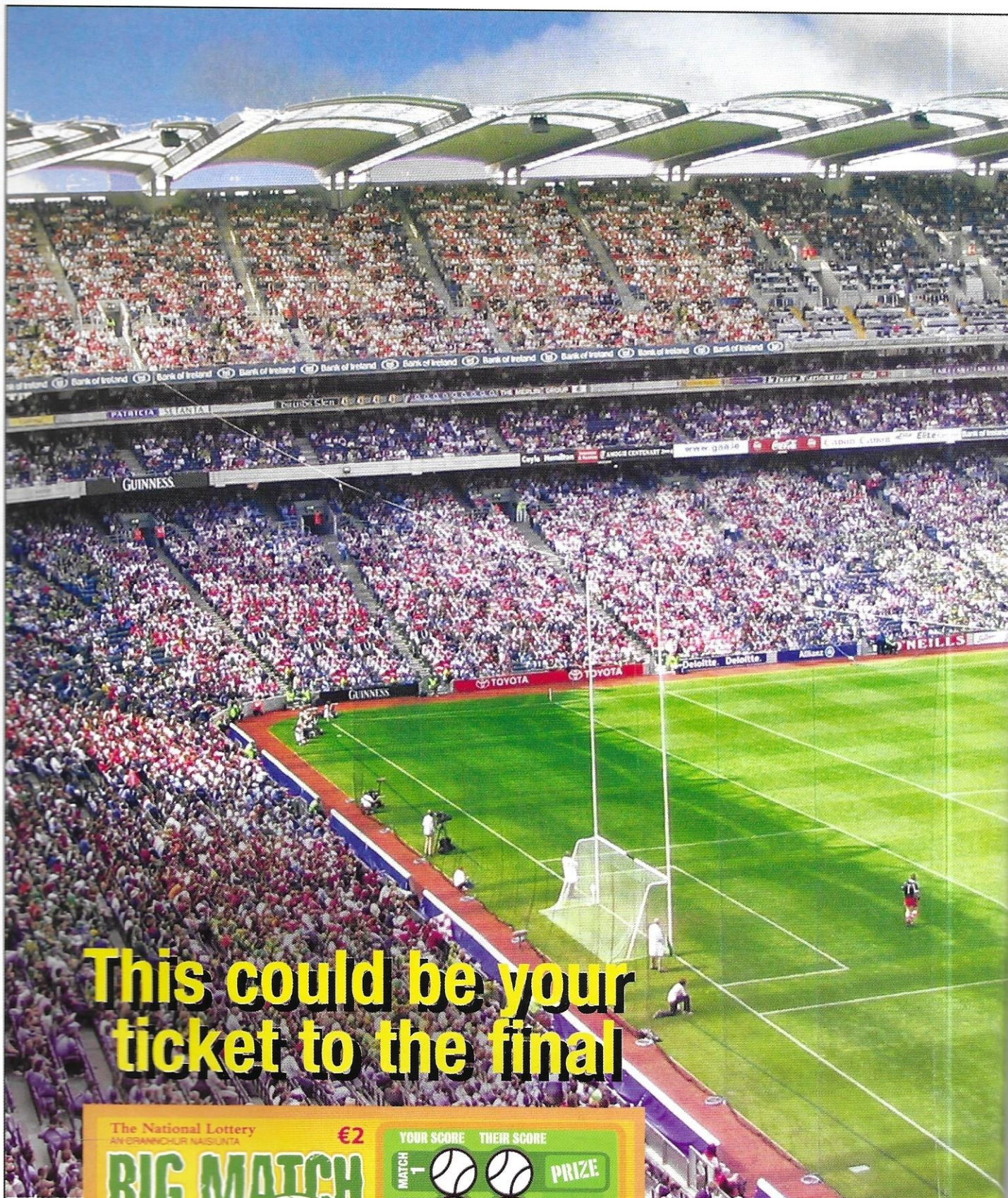
Although Byrne's hopes of joining the ranks of All-Ireland senior hurling title winning captains were ended by Cork when he led Kilkenny from midfield in the 1999 final, he still enjoyed much success in the sport.

Denis, who was an accomplished and hard working hurler, won All-Ireland medals at minor in 1991 and under-21 in 1994 and won a National League souvenir in 1995.

Byrne helped to make history in 1998 as left half forward in the Graigue-Ballycallan team that won the county senior title for the first time.



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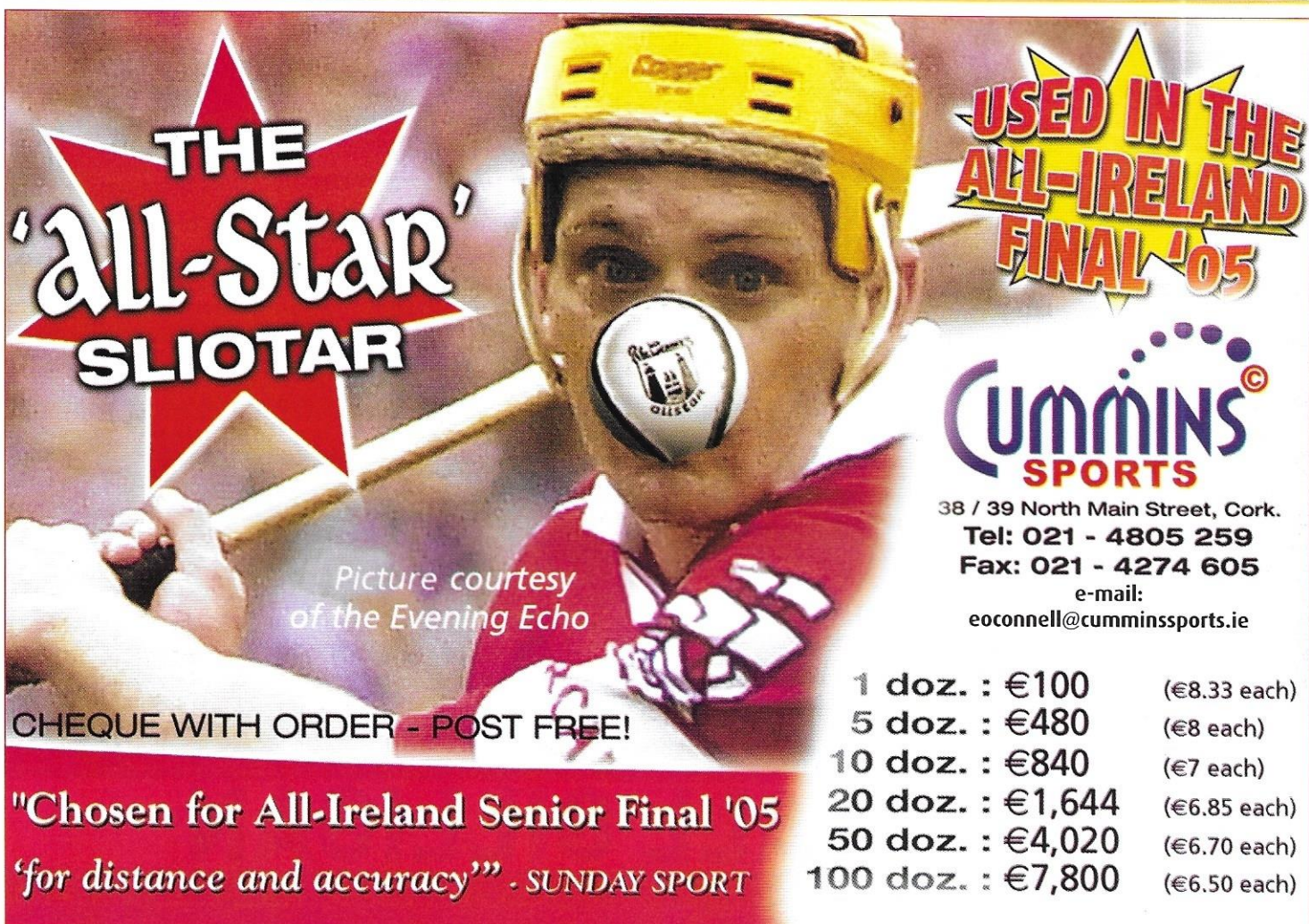
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KILKENNY'S SEMI-FINAL RECORD

This afternoon Kilkenny will be taking part in their 45th All-Ireland semi/final and the Noresiders hold an impressive record at this juncture with 32 victories far exceeding the 12 defeats they have suffered.

1887 - Urlingford: Tipperary 4-7; Kilkenny 0-0	1926 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 6-2 Galway 5-1	1953 - Croke Park: Galway 3-5; Kilkenny 1-10	1992 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 2-13; Galway 1-12
1897 - Jones's Road: Kilkenny 3-4 Galway 0-4	1929 - Birr: Galway 7-7 Kilkenny 7-1	1958 - Croke Park: Tipperary 1-13; Kilkenny 1-8	1993 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 4-18; Antrim 1-9
1900 - Carrick-on-Suir: Tipperary 1-11 Kilkenny 1-8	1931 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 7-2; Galway 3-1	1969 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 3-22; London 1-10	1997 - Croke Park: Clare 1-17; Kilkenny 1-13
1903 - Jones's Road: Kilkenny 6-29 Antrim 3-2	1933 - Birr: Kilkenny 5-10; Galway 3-8	1971 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 2-23; London 2-8	1998 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 1-11; Waterford 1-10
1904 - Athlone: Kilkenny 2-8 Galway 1-7	1935 - Birr: Kilkenny 6-10; Galway 1-8	1972 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 5-28; Galway 3-7	1999 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 2-14; Clare 1-13
1909 - Jones's Road: Kilkenny 3-17 Derry 0-3	1937 - Birr: Kilkenny 0-8; Galway 0-6	1974 - Birr: Kilkenny 2-32; Galway 3-17	2000 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 2-19; Galway 0-17
1911 - Jones's Road: Kilkenny 5-5 Antrim 1-1	1939 - Roscrea: Kilkenny 1-16; Galway 3-1	1978 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 4-20; Galway 4-13	2001 - Croke Park: Galway 2-15; Kilkenny 1-13
1912 - Jones's Road: Kilkenny 8-3 Galway 2-2	1943 - Corrigan Park: Antrim 3-3; Kilkenny 1-6	1982 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 2-20; Galway 2-10	2002 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 1-20; Tipperary 1-16
1913 - Jones's Road: Kilkenny 4-4 Lancashire 1-4	1945 - Birr: Kilkenny 5-3; Galway 2-11	1986 - Thurles: Galway 4-12; Kilkenny 0-13	2003 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 3-18; Tipperary 0-15
1923 - Croke Park: Galway 5-4 Kilkenny 2-0	1946 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 7-11; Antrim 0-7	1987 - Dundalk: Kilkenny 2-18; Antrim 2-11	2004 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 3-12; Waterford 0-18
1925 - Croke Park: Galway 9-4 Kilkenny 6-0	1947 - Birr: Kilkenny 2-9; Galway 1-11	1991 - Croke Park: Kilkenny 2-18; Antrim 1-19	2005 - Croke Park: Galway 5-18; Kilkenny 4-18



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Cluiche
Ceathrú-Cheannais
Peile na
hÉireann

JACKIE CAHILL
IRISH DAILY MIRROR
GAA CORRESPONDENT

STICKMEN

have hit the headlines and he's one of the Banner County's key men against Kilkenny in this afternoon's Guinness All-Ireland hurling semi-final. After clubmate Davy Fitzgerald missed a penalty against the Cats in the quarter-final clash here two years ago, Gilligan took over when Clare were awarded another one and he sent a bouncer screaming past the three Kilkenny men on the line. Gilligan has that ability to surprise and his quickly-taken 2-yard free that found the net was a key score to drive Clare back into contention during the 2002 All-Ireland quarter-final clash with Galway.

Gilligan has a certain fondness for Croke Park and he was honoured with a Vodafone Allstar award in 1999 after a string of fine performances. Kilkenny won't need reminding that he can wreak havoc if given the space and time to do so. When the two sides met in the league at Nowlan Park in March 2005, Gilligan blasted 0-12 as the visitors stunned Kilkenny by 2-10 to 1-8. They met later in the final of the competition and, suitably forewarned, the Cats managed

It's hard to believe that Niall Gilligan has been a key part of the Clare set-up for almost a decade now, since making his senior debut in a league match against Laois in March, 1997. In September of that year, Gilligan had an explosive impact in the All-Ireland final clash with Tipperary. With manager Ger Loughnane, fond of naming

"BOTH LARKIN AND GILLIGAN ARE VERY TALENTED STICKMEN"

dummy teams, Gilligan was a shock inclusion from the start against the Premier County. Gilligan replaced the named Fergal Hegarty before the throw-in and he proceeded to take three points off Paul Shelley, who had enjoyed a fantastic defensive season for Tipperary. Ever since, Gilligan's high-scoring exploits

turn the tables on Clare. Eoin Larkin scored 1-2 for Kilkenny. Thurles that afternoon as he collected his first medal at senior level in the black and amber.

The 2004/2005 AIB All-Ireland club hurling championship heralded Larkin's arrival on the hurling landscape and the former U21 star will be a key

NIALL GILLIGAN

SUPREME



member of the Kilkenny attack for many seasons to come. The talented forward began making waves as his club James Stephens captured an historic Kilkenny SHC in 2004 and in the provincial series Larkin began racking up scoring totals that propelled him into the national hurling consciousness. The Village swept all before them in 2005 to end an All-Ireland famine that stretched back to 1982, when Kilkenny boss Brian Cody was wielding the ash at club and county level. The club platform, and Larkin's performances on it, were enough to convince Cody that his club-mate could do a job at intercounty level.

And come the end of the 2005 season, Larkin had secured a NHL medal, a Leinster championship medal and an Allstar nomination. That haul makes it hard to believe that Larkin couldn't even make the Kilkenny U21 team in 2004. But he's been busy making up for lost time over the past couple of seasons and, in 2006, he's already added another league medal and a Leinster title to his collection. Both Larkin and Gilligan are very talented stickmen and can also hammer over the trees when they're on duty from placed balls. The pair met earlier this week and Larkin admitted that he much prefers the freedom to showcase his talents further out the field after struggling in the full forward line against Wexford.

In that Leinster final, Larkin was taken off with five minutes remaining and he was the only member of Kilkenny's attack not to register a single score — with midfielders Derek Lyng and Richie

Mullally also popping up with a point apiece. "I don't think the inside line suits me at all," Larkin said. "You're getting one ball every twenty minutes and if you don't win that, you're depending on scraps. I prefer being out around the half forward line. Centre forward or midfield, with the bit of space out there, would probably suit me better."

Gilligan is renowned as a corner forward but he's spent time on the wing this year. He celebrated his 30th birthday yesterday and rejects suggestions that Clare are over the hill. "Seanie McMahon and Brian Lohan —

you're talking about two colossal men who have proven people wrong time and time again through the years," said Gilligan. "In particular Seanie, you'd often doubt him in training and think he might be going bad, but he'd come out on Sunday and provide a man-of-the-match performance. The same with Brian, it's happened time and time again and you can't write off those two guys. Clare goalkeeper Davy Fitzgerald recently celebrated his 35th birthday and Gilligan, a Sixmilebridge clubmate of Fitzgerald's, accepts that it's time that some of the younger members of the panel created their own history. Today, they have a great chance to do just that and book a dream final date with Cork.



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PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1932

Kilkenny 3-3 Clare 2-3

The first-ever meeting of Clare and Kilkenny attracted a crowd of 35,000 to Croke Park for the final and they witnessed a slow-burning contest that really came to life in the second half. Territorially, the Noresiders had the better of the early exchanges, but the only score of the opening quarter came from the Banner's Jack Gleeson. Eddie Byrne opened Kilkenny's account early in the second quarter before Mick Connery edged Clare back in front. Jim Holohan (Clare) and Eddie Doyle (Kilkenny) swapped scores just before the break to leave it 0-3 to 0-2 for the Munster champions.

On the restart Mattie Power had the afternoon's first goal to give Kilkenny the lead for the first time and they continued to press with Lory Meagher and Martin White combining twice for two more green flags. Clare responded superbly and goals by "Tull" Considine and Tony Burnell cut the deficit to just two points. A minute from time Considine narrowly missed an equaliser and straight from the puck out Kilkenny broke downfield where Mattie Power fired over to give the Leinster champions a three-point winning margin.

Kilkenny scorers: M.White 2-0, M.Power 1-1, E.Byrne 0-1, E.Doyle 0-1.

Clare scorers: T.Considine 1-0, T.Burnell 1-0, J.Gleeson 0-1, M.Connery 0-1, J.Holohan 0-1.

Cill Chainnigh – J.Dermody, P.Larkin, P.O'Reilly, E.Doyle, P.Phelan, P.Byrne, J.Carroll, E.Byrne, L.Meagher, J.Walsh, Martin Power, T.Leahy, D.Dunne, Mattie Power, M.White.

An Clár – T.Daly, J.Higgins, P.McInerney, J.J.Doyle, J.Holohan, D.J.Hogan, L.Blake, J.Gleeson, T.McInerney, M.Falvey, M.Connery, M.O'Rourke, J.Mullane, T.Burnell, T.Considine.

1997

Clare 1-17 Kilkenny 1-13

A good start is generally said to be half the battle and this was very much the case in this semi/final encounter as Clare took an early lead and protected it all the way to the final whistle. Within four minutes of the throw-in Clare were five points to the good thanks to points by Ger O'Loughlin and James O'Connor with the former adding a goal. Kilkenny did close within three points early in the second quarter, but then points from O'Connor and Niall Gilligan re-established Clare's five-point advantage, which they still enjoyed at the change of ends – 1-8 to 0-6.

On the restart minors by Gilligan, O'Connor and P.J.O'Connell stretched the Banner's lead to eight points before Charlie Carter had Kilkenny's lone point of the third quarter. A brace of points from O'Connor and a single from O'Connell left Clare cruising into the final quarter holding a 1-14 to 0-7 lead. A couple of point exchanges left the Noresiders trailing by ten, but a quick 1-1 from D.J.Carey close to the hour mark suggested the contest wasn't quite over. However, O'Connor steadied the leaders with a minor and a late hat-trick of points by Kilkenny only altered the margin, not the result.

Clare scorers: J.O'Connor 0-9, G.O'Loughlin 1-1, S.McMahon 0-2, N.Gilligan 0-2, P.J.O'Connell 0-2, D.Forde 0-1.

Kilkenny scorers: D.J.Carey 1-6, C.Carter 0-2, P.Barry 0-1, P.Larkin 0-1, P.O'Neill 0-1, D.Byrne 0-1, C.Brennan 0-1.

An Clár – D.Fitzgerald, M.O'Halloran, B.Lohan, F.Lohan, L.Doyle, S.McMahon, A.Daly, O.Baker, C.Lynch, J.O'Connor, C.Clancy, P.J.O'Connell, N.Gilligan, G.O'Loughlin, F.Hegarty. Subs – D.Forde for Hegarty, E.Taaffe for Baker.

Cill Chainnigh – A.Ronan, J.Costello, E.O'Connor,

W.O'Connor, D.O'Neill, P.O'Neill, L.Keoghan, P.Larkin, A.Comerford, J.Power, C.Brennan, D.J.Carey, K.O'Shea, P.J.Delaney, C.Carter. Subs – P.Barry for O'Shea, D.Byrne for Power, B.McEvoy for Brennan.

1999

Kilkenny 2-14 Clare 1-13

Their second semi/final meeting in three years attracted an audience of 54,000 to Croke Park and on this occasion Kilkenny made the fast start with Ken O'Shea opening the scoring with a goal inside 60 seconds. Andy Comerford added a point, but the rest of the opening quarter belonged to Clare and points by James O'Connor (3), Niall Gilligan, David Forde and Alan Markham made it 0-6 to 1-1. By the half hour mark the Noresiders were on level terms and an exchange of points between O'Connor and John Power left it that way at the interval – 0-8 to 1-5.

On the restart points by Brian McEvoy and Henry Shefflin edged Kilkenny ahead before O'Connor reduced Clare's deficit to the minimum. However, a hat-trick of points from McEvoy, Shefflin and Power increased the Noreside advantage to four points, which was still the margin as the game entered the final quarter – 1-11 to 0-10. A goal by Stephen McNamara got the Banner back within one, but only for 90 seconds as Carey found the net to restore the Noresiders' four-point lead. Points were exchanged in the closing minutes, but Kilkenny's advantage remained the same.

Kilkenny scorers: D.J.Carey 1-3, B.McEvoy 0-4, H.Shefflin 0-3, K.O'Shea 1-0, J.Power 0-2, A.Comerford 0-1, P.O'Neill 0-1.

Clare scorers: J.O'Connor 0-5, N.Gilligan 0-3, S.McNamara 1-0, D.Forde 0-1, A.Markham 0-1, P.J.O'Connell 0-1, A.Daly 0-1, E.Flannery 0-1.

Cill Chainnigh – J.McGarry, P.Larkin, C.Brennan, W.O'Connor, M.Kavanagh, P.O'Neill, P.Barry,

A.Comerford, D.Byrne, D.J.Carey, J.Power, B.McEvoy, K.O'Shea, H.Shefflin, C.Carter. Subs – N.Moloney for O'Shea, P.J.Delaney for Carter.

An Clár – D.Fitzgerald, B.Quinn, B.Lohan, F.Lohan, A.Daly, S.McMahon, L.Doyle, O.Baker, C.Lynch, J.O'Connor, C.Clancy, P.J.O'Connell, D.Forde, N.Gilligan, A.Markham. Subs – S.McNamara for Forde, B.Murphy for Clancy, E.Flannery for O'Connell.

2002

Kilkenny 2-20 Clare 0-19

A first All-Ireland final meeting for 70 years was something of a disappointment at Croke Park as Kilkenny established an early advantage and then expertly nursed it to the finish. After three minutes D.J.Carey batted in a goal from Henry Shefflin's cross and a couple of points gave the Cats a five-point cushion. At the end of the opening quarter it was 1-5 to 0-3 and that five-point lead was maintained for most of the second as the leaders happily traded points. Just before half time Carey and Jimmy Coogan had points to which Niall Gilligan replied with a single to leave it 1-11 to 0-8.

An early swap of points on the restart did nothing for Clare's cause, but then points by James O'Connor, Gilligan and Sean McMahon halved the interval deficit. However, sensing danger Kilkenny upped the pace and a brace of points from Shefflin and a one from Carey restored the interval position entering the last quarter. Six minutes from time Shefflin's goal increased the lead to nine points to seal the win and after some further point swapping that appeared likely to be the winning margin until injury-time points from Gearoid Considine and Andrew Quinn reduced it somewhat.

Kilkenny scorers: H.Shefflin 1-7, D.J.Carey 1-6, M.Comerford 0-1, E.Brennan 0-1, A.Comerford 0-1,

Continued on page 51

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PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Continued from page 49

J.Coogan 0-1, D.Lyng 0-1,
B.McEvoy 0-1, C.Carter 0-1.

Clare scorers: S.McMahon 0-6,
J.O'Connor 0-4, C.Lynch 0-2,
N.Gilligan 0-2, G.Considine 0-2,
T.Griffin 0-1, A.Quinn 0-1,
O.Baker 0-1.

Cill Chainnigh – J.McGarry,
M.Kavanagh, N.Hickey, P.Larkin,
R.Mullally, P.Barry, J.J.Delaney,
A.Comerford, D.Lyng, B.Hoyne,
H.Shefflin, J.Coogan, E.Brennan,
M.Comerford, D.J.Carey. Subs –
C.Carter for Coogan, B.McEvoy for
Hoyne, J.Power for Brennan.

An Clár – D.Fitzgerald, B.Quinn,
B.Lohan, F.Lohan, D.Hoey,
S.McMahon, G.Quinn, J.Reddan,
C.Lynch, J.O'Connor, T.Griffin,
A.Markham, T.Carmody,
N.Gilligan, D.Forde. Subs –
O.Baker for Reddan, G.Considine
for Forde, A.Quinn for Markham,
C.Plunkett for Baker.

2004

Kilkenny 1-13 Clare 1-13

This first-ever quarter/final meeting wasn't a classic, but the tight nature of the proceedings kept the 37,000 attendance at Croke Park enthralled. There was little between the sides in the opening half and it took a point by Sean McMahon just before the break to separate them – 0-6 to 0-5 for Clare.

A goal by John Hoyne within 30 seconds of the restart gave Kilkenny the lead and they held it until the 57th minute when Niall Gilligan blasted home a penalty for the equaliser – 1-10 apiece. It was nip and tuck to the finish with Kilkenny twice edging ahead before Clare got on terms.

Kilkenny scorers: H.Shefflin 0-9,
J.Hoyne 1-0, P.Tennyson 0-1,
J.Coogan 0-1, D.J.Carey 0-1,
S.Dowling 0-1.

Clare scorers: N.Gilligan 1-7,
S.McMahon 0-3, D.McMahon 0-1,
A.Quinn 0-1, J.O'Connor 0-1.

Replay

Kilkenny 1-11 Clare 0-9

The action moved to Thurles for the replay and it was a day when defences generally had the better of the argument. Kilkenny made an impressive start with Eddie Brennan's 11th-minute goal giving them a 1-2 to nil lead, but they failed to build on it and at the break they led by only four points – 1-4 to 0-3.

On the restart Clare took the game to the reigning All-Ireland champions and for most of the third quarter looked likely to overhaul the deficit. However, they could never quite manage it and having weathered the storm Kilkenny pulled clear in

the last 15 minutes for a hard-earned victory.

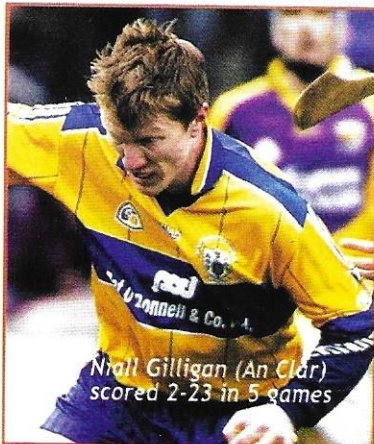
Kilkenny scorers: E.Brennan 1-2,
D.J.Carey 0-3, H.Shefflin 0-3,
M.Comerford 0-2, J.Hoyne 0-1.

Clare scorers: N.Gilligan 0-3,
J.O'Connor 0-2, S.McMahon 0-2,
T.Griffin 0-1, D.Forde 0-1.

Cill Chainnigh – J.McGarry,
M.Kavanagh, N.Hickey, J.Ryall,
T.Walsh, P.Barry, J.J.Delaney,
D.Lyng, K.Coogan, E.Brennan,
J.Hoyne, D.J.Carey, M.Comerford,
H.Shefflin, J.Fitzpatrick. Subs –
J.Maher for Shefflin, S.Dowling
for Coogan.

An Clár – D.Fitzgerald, B.Quinn,
B.Lohan, G.O'Grady, D.Hoey,
S.McMahon, F.Lohan, D.McMahon,
C.Lynch, J.Reddan, G.Quinn,
A.Quinn, N.Gilligan, T.Griffin,
A.Markham. Subs – C.Plunkett for
B.Lohan, J.O'Connor for A.Quinn,
D.Forde for Hoey, B.Murphy for
Reddan, O.Baker for Markham.

HOT SHOTS



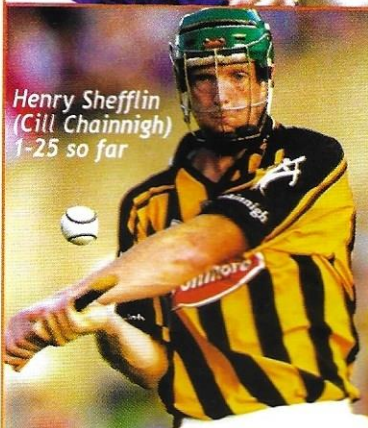
Niall Gilligan (An Clár)
scored 2-23 in 5 games

Niall Gilligan and Henry Shefflin are the hurlers best placed to make inroads today on the lead that Eoin Kelly (Tipperary) currently enjoys on top of the nationwide chart of leading scorers in senior championship play this season.

Gilligan is in fifth position, 18 points behind the chart leader, with 2-23 (29 points) from five games at an average of 5.8 points an outing.

The Clare sharpshooter is a point ahead of Shefflin, who chalked up 1-25 in three appearances at an average well above Gilligan's at 9.33 points. This is the second highest match average in the table, fractionally ahead of second placed James Young (Laois).

Joe Deane has moved up from tenth position to eighth after his return of four points in Cork's win over Waterford last Sunday.



Henry Shefflin
(Cill Chainnigh)
1-25 so far

GILLIGAN AND SHEFFLIN IN LINE TO MAKE UP GROUND ON LEADER

TOP SCORERS	THE LEADING SCORERS IN SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY (PROVINCIAL, QUALIFIERS, AND ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINALS AS WELL AS LAST WEEK'S CORK-WATERFORD TIE) ARE:			
	POINTS	SCORE	GAMES	AVERAGE
47	Eoin Kelly (Tipperary)	3-38	4	11.75
36	James Young (Laois)	1-33	4	9.0
33	David Curtin (Dublin)	0-33	5	6.6
30	Andrew Mitchell (Westmeath)	0-30	6	5.0
29	Niall Gilligan (Clare)	2-23	5	5.8
28	Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)	1-25	3	9.33
27	Dave Bennett (Waterford)	0-27	5	5.4
26	Joe Deane (Cork)	0-26	4	6.5
25	Ger Faragher (Galway)	1-22	4	6.25
24	Brian Carroll (Offaly)	0-24	5	4.8

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TEAM STATISTICS

PLAYERS' CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS



IOMÁINT

AN CLÁR



CILL CHAINNIGH



Name	Debut	App.	Scores
Philip Brennan	—	0	0-0
Tony Carmody	2001	24	4-38
John Coen	—	0	0-0
Jonathan Clancy	2005	7	0-5
Davy Fitzgerald	1990	59	2-0
Colm Forde	2004	6	0-0
Niall Gilligan	1997	43	14-144
Tony Griffin	2002	25	10-52
Conor Harrisson	2002	4	0-0
David Hoey	2001	20	0-1
Tommy Holland	2004	0	0-0
Brian Lohan	1993	53	0-0
Frank Lohan	1995	47	0-5
Colin Lynch	1997	40	0-33
Fergal Lynch	2005	4	0-2

Name	Debut	App.	Scores
Alan Markham	1998	39	10-31
James McInerney	—	0	0-0
Conor McMahon	—	0	0-0
Diarmuid McMahon	2003	19	2-16
Seanie McMahon	1994	50	0-93
Barry Nugent	2005	8	0-7
Brian O'Connell	2004	13	0-5
Daithí O'Connell	2003	16	1-5
Gerry O'Grady	2004	14	0-0
Declan O'Rourke	2005	10	1-5
Conor Plunkett	2002	15	0-2
Andrew Quinn	2002	16	1-8
Derek Quinn	2006	5	1-9
Gerry Quinn	2000	25	0-3
Pat Vaughan	—	0	0-0

Name	Debut	App.	Scores
Eddie Brennan	2000	26	15-33
Peter Cleere	2006	1	0-0
Donnacha Cody	2006	2	0-0
Martin Comerford	2002	22	2-39
John Dalton	—	0	0-0
JJ Delaney	2001	25	0-0
PJ Delaney	1993	24	6-15
Michael Fennelly	2006	2	0-1
James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick	2004	7	1-11
Aidan Fogarty	2004	3	1-0
Noel Hickey	2000	26	0-0
Brian Hogan	2004	2	0-0
Michael Kavanagh	1998	34	0-1
Eoin Larkin	2005	7	0-8
Derek Lyng	2001	23	0-20

Name	Debut	App.	Scores
Stephen Maher	—	0	0-0
Eoin McCormack	2005	6	2-5
James McGarry	1999	32	0-0
Richie Mullally	2002	15	0-11
Austin Murphy	—	0	0-0
Willie O'Dwyer	2006	2	0-1
Richie Power	2005	5	1-9
Michael Rice	2006	3	0-4
Eoin Reid	—	0	0-0
James Ryall	2003	14	0-0
P.J. Ryan	2003	1	0-0
Henry Shefflin	1999	33	17-230
John Tennyson	2005	6	0-0
Jackie Tyrell	2005	5	0-1
Tommy Walsh	2003	18	1-25

PEIL

LAOIS



Name	Debut	App.	Scores
Paul Begley	—	0	0-0
David Brennan	2001	9	0-2
Donie Brennan	2004	7	0-9
Fergal Byron	1997	37	1-1
Padraig Clancy	2001	27	1-12
Chris Conway	1998	28	5-69
Shane Cooke	2001	8	0-5
Mark Dunne	2005	3	0-0
Aidan Fennelly	2000	24	0-1
Ian Fitzgerald	1996	31	2-48
Noel Garvan	1998	35	0-11
Joe Higgins	1999	32	0-1
Gary Kavanagh	2001	21	0-13
Colm Kelly	—	0	0-0
Tom Kelly	1999	27	0-6

Name	Debut	App.	Scores
Paul Lawlor	2004	5	0-1
Brian McCormack	2006	5	0-4
Brian McDonald	1998	33	5-44
Paul McDonald	2001	21	0-4
Padraig McMahon	2004	12	0-0
Colm Munnelly	—	0	0-0
Ross Munnelly	2003	21	4-68
David Murphy	2006	2	0-0
Peter O'Leary	—	0	0-0
Colm Parkinson	1998	16	1-9
Brendan Quigley	2006	5	0-2
Cathal Ryan	2004	3	0-0
Darren Rooney	2003	21	0-4
Billy Sheehan	2005	9	1-9
Rory Stapleton	2006	2	0-0

MAIGH EO



Name	Debut	App.	Scores
David Brady	1996	25	0-12
Ger Brady	1999	3	1-2
Stephen Carolan	2001	9	0-10
David Clarke	2005	4	0-0
Michael Conroy	2004	2	1-1
Alan Dillon	2003	17	1-25
Peadar Gardiner	2004	13	0-1
Dermot Geraghty	2004	9	0-0
James Gill	2000	24	0-15
Pat Harte	2006	3	0-2
David Heaney	1997	32	0-4
John Healy	2006	3	0-0
Aidan Higgins	1999	14	0-1
Keith Higgins	2005	5	0-0
Trevor Howley	—	0	0-0

Name	Debut	App.	Scores
Pat Kelly	2004	12	0-1
Aidan Kilcoyne	2005	2	0-1
Colm Lyons	—	0	0-0
Ciarán McDonald	1997	27	5-62
Ronan McGarrity	2004	13	0-4
Andy Moran	2004	12	0-12
Barry Moran	2005	5	0-2
Conor Mortimer	2002	21	3-91
Trevor Mortimer	2000	21	2-29
James Nallen	1995	43	1-3
Austin O'Malley	2004	7	2-11
Liam O'Malley	2005	4	0-0
Kevin O'Neill	1993	10	2-21
Billy Joe Padden	2005	7	0-5
Barry Regan	—	0	0-0

Good Luck to Mayo from One Successful Team to Another

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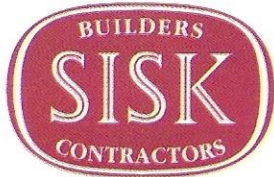
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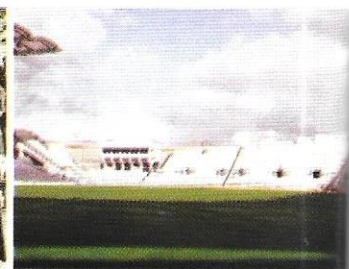
1993
CUSACK STAND DEMOLISHED



1998
CANAL END CONSTRUCTION



2000
HOGAN STAND CONSTRUCTION



2005
HILL 16 / NALLY STAND COMPLETED



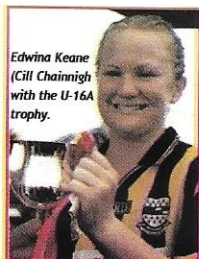
Gearing up for Gala & Erin Finals

As the hurlers of Tipperary, Kilkenny contest the ESB Minor and Guinness Senior Hurling semi-finals today the camogie players from one of these counties are through to the Gala All Ireland Camogie Final which for the first time will be played as a double header with the Erin U21 Hurling final in Croke Park on Sunday the 10th of September.

The Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie semi-finals took place in Nowlan Park yesterday and you can see the highlights of these games tonight on The Sunday Game and repeats of the full games during the week on Setanta. The Gala All Ireland Camogie championship has been a fantastic success this year in its restructured format. Gala, as our new sponsors, are offering a great prize to one lucky club to get to the All Ireland final. (See poster above right).

Of course, Kilkenny have already had success on the camogie fields this year when the U16A team retained their title last weekend where they defeated Cork and Derry beat a gallant Armagh team in the U16B final.

Outside of the top counties there is also



Edwina Keane (Cill Chainnigh) with the U-16A trophy.

plenty of camogie being played. While we have the footballers of Laois and Mayo here today in Croke Park the camogie players in these counties have also been making their mark during they year too. St. Fergals Secondary School in Rathdowney, where Áine O'Neill is a teacher, took home an All Ireland title this year – the All Ireland Colleges B title.

Mayo recently participated in the Division 4 National League with Louth, Monaghan and Donegal. The development of the game of camogie in Mayo is a priority in our Strategic Plan.

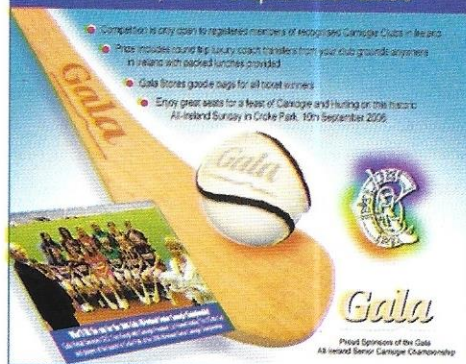
Clare, as always, contribute hugely to the game of Camogie and have been a force to be reckoned with during 2006. They started the year by beating Derry in the Division 2 National League Final. They were unlucky not to make it the All Ireland Junior Final which takes place next week ahead of the Galway v Kilkenny Erin U21 Hurling semi-final.

So put Sunday September 10th in your diary as the Gala Camogie and Erin U21 Hurling finals promise all that is best in both games. For details see www.gaa.ie and www.camogie.ie.

Win 50 Tickets for your club to the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final

10 Lucky Girls will be selected as Ball/Watergirls for the Game

Croke Park, 10th September 2006



Entry forms available from your Camogie Club!

Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final: Croke Park, September 10th. All Ireland Junior Final: Derry v Dublin Tullamore 4.30pm



Mayo Camogie team, National League, Division 4.

THE ALL TIME GREATS



Selecting your 'All Time Greats' team is a popular GAA pastime. But while it may help to pass away a few hours in a pub or provide questions for a clubhouse quiz, these selections are a fundamentally flawed idea. It's just not possible to run a comparative rule fairly over the hurlers of the past hundred years or so.

A feature of such selections is that they tend to be dominated by players from the traditional 'Big Three' in hurling - Tipperary, Kilkenny and Cork. This aspect often brings rumblings of apoplexy from our friends in places like Galway, Offaly, Limerick, Wexford, the fair Déise and even in Dublin. It may be heresy in some quarters to even think it, but maybe this is only right and proper. Maybe this is how it is - and indeed, how it ought to be - with the game of hurling?

Hurling enthusiasts - fortunate enough to have been born into the game in one of the stronger counties - are always eager to proselytise it into the so-called 'weaker' counties. Often this missionary activity is based on a premise that Gaelic football is only an artificial upstart of a mere hundred or so years of age, while hurling has been played for more than two thousand years, and is inherently more 'Gaelic', more 'native' or whatever and, therefore, superior to football.

But maybe there is nothing inherently wrong with a set-up that sees the 'Big Three' always dominating with occasional interludes of supremacy for other lesser counties? There are many distinctive aspects of Irish life that are not universally practised throughout the island. Sometimes, the older and more traditional these are, the less widespread they are. But they are not diminished or in any way

less respected because of that.

For example, the Irish language is confined to a dwindling handful of counties. Certain counties have much stronger traditions in Irish music and dancing than others. Wexford is the last great centre for mummery in this country. Road bowling is confined to Cork and Armagh. Maybe, then, it is the natural order of things that consistently great hurling is confined to the three big farming counties abutting the famous Golden Vale. Is it a misplaced aspiration to be devising various schemes to even out the standards between stronger and weaker counties?

Could it be that a kind of Darwinian 'survival of the fittest' or 'natural selection' has been going on in hurling for the past one hundred years? The distinguished historian, Professor Joe Lee, has an interesting theory on the underlying economic and social reasons for the uneven spread of hurling and the wider

dispersal of football. Hurling is a summer game essentially, requiring good, level fast ground and with a certain amount of basic expenditure required on hurling sticks. Ideal for the fat farming lands of Tipp, Cork, Kilkenny and parts of Limerick, Waterford, Offaly, Laois and Wexford. Essentially, the Golden Vale of Munster and areas contiguous to it. Football, on the other hand, is a winter game, requiring no equipment only a football. Thus, it was ideal for the poorer, boggy lands of the West, North and North West of the country (and, of course, Kerry and West Cork!).

Maybe, in the cutting words of the Kilkenny man, watching teams from two weaker counties struggling through a Junior 'B' Final in hurling, it is time to 'lave hurlin' to the hurlin' men'?

'An Fear Rua - The GAA Unplugged!' www.anfearrua.com is a popular web site for GAA fans.

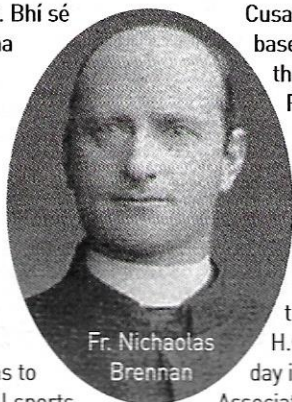
Aisling an Chíosógaigh

Dúirt Pádraig MacFloinn nuair a bhí sé ina Uachtarán ar Chumann Luthchleas Gael agus é ag caint go poiblí in Inis, 29ú Meitheamh 1980 "gan Chíosóg ní bheadh aon Cumann Luthchleas Gael". Dúirt an scoilire agus staraí, an Bráthar Liam Ó Cathnín a scríobh an chéad bheathaisnéis Mhíchil sa bhliain 1982, gurb é "Clarach uasal misniúil faidhiúil dílis-chomh dílis agus a bhí riamh in Éirinn". Bhí Gaeilge ón gcliahdán ag Micheál agus dúirt Dughlas de h-Íde nár chuala sé riamh "cainteoir a raibh an Ghaeilge ar a thoil féin aige ná cainteoir níos líofa, níos blasta ná an Chíosógach". Cailltear teanga bheo nuair a ligeann cine le sruth í da dtoil féin. Rinne Micheál Ó Chíosóg tréan iarracht i rith a shaoil suim i ngach rud a bhí Gaelach a mhúscailt i measc an phobail, go h-áirithe athbheochan na Gaeilge labhartha. Bhí sé in a chisteoir ar choiste Aontacht na Gaeilge sa bhliain 1982.

Michael Cusack is one of Ireland's most outstanding sporting and cultural figures. Father Seán Farragher, CSSp, wrote in the Blackrock College Annual, 1975, of how Cusack immersed himself in the college sports, during his teaching career there. As a resident of this famed former French College, Cusack was to the forefront in the promotion of all sports there. It is recorded in a college ledger that part of Cusack's living expenses was a cricket trousers worth 15 shillings! There is a strong tradition there that Cusack framed a set of rules that was later recognisable as Gaelic football. This was because the Scholastics were not allowed to doff their soutanes even during recreation, so Cusack devised a set of rules which allowed them handle the ball in a manner which anticipated the codification of Gaelic football. Legend has it that the rules of Gaelic were a later development from that modified form of football. Fr. Nicholas Brennan (1854-1928), a native of Sart, Co. Kilkenny, and a Blackrock senior student between 1874 and 1876, collaborated with Cusack in the promotion of hurling. During this time Blackrock students played their hurling in rough ground in the Merrion farm at Nutley. Cusack later persuaded Lord French to lease Elm Park as a hurling field adjacent to Nutley, after the GAA was founded and he renewed contact with his former fellow collegians, including the new College Principle from Kilkenny, Fr Nicholas Brennan.

Cusack left the teaching staff of Blackrock in 1876 and established what was to become the Civil Service Academy, known affectionately from India to Canada as Cusack's cramming school. He was an enthusiastic advocate of

athleticism in all of its forms and was indirectly involved in the establishment of the IRFU, having been a sitting member on the council of the Irish Champion Athletic Club (ICAC) from which the IRFU sprang, and also helped to save the grounds at Lansdowne Road for Irish athletics. Cusack was to rail against the elitism of Irish athletic administration, including the ten shilling subscription fee for membership of the ICAC, confined as it was to 'gentleman athletes'. He also argued strongly for the inclusion of traditional Irish jumping and throwing events and demanded the removal of all class barriers which prevented the ordinary person from participating in official competition. He attacked this sporting apartheid in a series of brilliant articles in 'The Irish Sportsman'.



Fr. Nicholas
Brennan

Cusack's academy was to become based at his residence in what is today the Dergvale Hotel at 4, Gardiner's Row, Mountjoy Square. It was here from 1882 that Cusack seriously set about reviving the game of hurling and codifying its playing rules. He spearheaded the hurling revival by founding the Dublin Hurling Club, and a short time afterwards the Metropolitan H.C., before that eventful November day in 1884 when the Gaelic Athletic Association was formed with the great Tipperary champion Maurice Davin leading the answer to Cusack's clarion call.

Beidh na habhair seo agus gnéithe eile de shaol an Chíosógaigh, léirithe go soiléir ins an tionscnamh nua atá beartaithe ag Comhlucht Forbartha Mhíchil Uí Chiosóig Teo, faoi láthair. Freisin, agus níl sé thar am, tá beatha agus ré an Chíosógaigh á bplé go diograsach, críochnúil i Scoil Merriman, 19-26 Lúnasa, i Lios Dún Bhearna, (www.merriman.ie).

Mas mian leat breis eolais a fháil faoi 'Tuismitheoir na gCleas Lúith Gael', tá sé le fáil sa leabhar 'The Man from Carron', nua fhoilsithe ag Br. Seán MacConmara, agus ins an caibidil, 'Citizen Cusack and Clare's Gaelic Games' le Donal MacCarthaigh ins an leabhar 'Clare History and Society' a bhéas fhoilsithe i mbliana.

Mar fhocal scoir, creidtear gur féidir iad siúd atá imithe romhainn, muid a fheiceáil ar thalamh. Má's fíor é sin beidh meanga gáire ar ghnúis Mhíchil nuair a fhéachann se anuas ar ghaiscaigh Dál gCais i ngleic fíochmhar le iománaithe Chill Chainnigh ar fhód fairsing glas 'Croker' -staid den scoth mar seoid ag glioscarnacht i gceart lár na h-Ard cathrach.

Seán Ó Catháin, Leas-Runaí, Coiste Chontae an Chláir, CLG & Stiurthóir, Comhlucht Forbartha Mhíchil Uí Chiosóig Teo.



GAA President launches Cusack Centenary Project

Nickey Brennan recently turned the sod at Carron, Co. Clare (pictured below) for a €1 million project commemorating GAA founder Michael Cusack. The project includes the restoration of the Cusack herdsman's cottage and the development of a visitor centre containing research, archive and lecture facilities. Funding for the centre is well under way with €677,000 already committed from bodies such as Clare, Munster and Leinster GAA, the Central Council, Clare Co. Co., Leader/Rural Resource Development Ltd., Clár/Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and the Ireland Fund of Canada. FÁS are to contribute €90,000 over a three-year period.

For further information contact:
Martin O'Loghlen, 087-6184136.





Self Help 'GAA Charity of the Year'

The GAA announced recently that for the first time ever it was nominating an official 'charity of the year' – and as its inaugural candidate chose **Self Help Development International**, an Irish charity that has been implementing long term sustainable development programmes in eastern Africa for the past 22 years. The Co. Carlow based charity is appealing to GAA clubs and members across the country to lend their support and with the backing of GAA clubs and members, Self Help is aiming to help upwards of 800,000 small-holding farmers to become self sufficient in food production for the rest of their lives.

SUPPORT THE GAA CHARITY OF YEAR

Clubs and County Boards — send a Jersey and a Donation

President Nicky Brennan, together with his predecessor Sean Kelly, have appealed to GAA members to lend their support to the Self Help Campaign.

The GAA President said: "We will be writing to all clubs and county boards to ask for

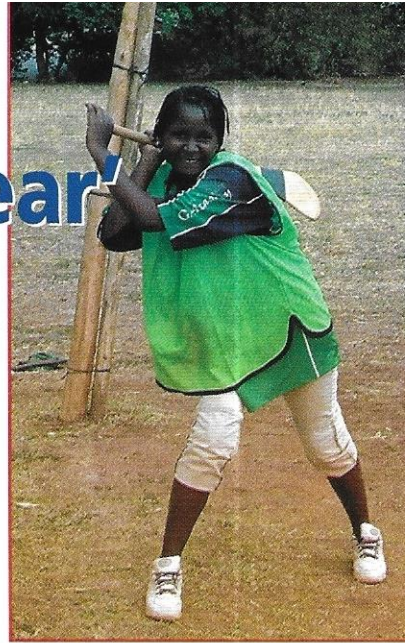
support and are asking each club to consider making a contribution and donating a jersey. If each club gave a jersey and €200, Self Help would be able to help close to one million people get on the food sufficiency ladder'

'Jerseys that are donated from clubs around the country will be distributed to schoolchildren in Self Help's project areas in Africa, while the proceeds of the appeal will be invested in our long-term rural programmes', Self Help's Nancy Aburi said. 'Collecting jerseys is a good way of establishing a clear link between the clubs themselves, and the work that we are doing in Africa'.

GAA FANS

All GAA fans around the country can also support the GAA's designated charity by signing up to a standing order or direct debit to support the charity's work.

Just €7 a month will plant over 80 trees and develop a homestead woodlot to provide fuel for one African family; while €25 a month enables one farmer to break the cycle of



poverty permanently. Such a donation also attracts a further €126 a year from the tax at no further cost to the donor, making it worth considerably more to the people of Africa.

You can also support the charity by making cash, cheque or credit card donation. For more information see www.selfhelp.ie 1850 75 76 78

Gaelic Telecom to sponsor Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta Awards

Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta is delighted to announce that Gaelic Telecom has agreed to sponsor the national awards which will be held this year on 9th December in the Berkley Court Hotel. This is the ninth year of the awards which honour and reward the voluntary efforts of the national school teachers of all of

Ireland who give of their time freely in order to promote our national games of hurling, camogie, football, rounders and handball. For eight years Roadstone Provinces sponsored this ceremony which has had special guest appearances from Uachtarán na h-Éireann, Mary MacAleese, An Taoiseach Bertie Aherne and the Minister for Education Mary Hanafin. There are nine categories as follows: Best Hurling/Camogie Promotion; Best Football Promotion; Best Handball Promotion; Assessors' Merit Award; County Website/Publication of the Year; Annual Fixtures/Information Booklet; Public Relations of the Year; Small School of the Year and Large School of the Year. One other

category marks the efforts of a teacher who has promoted our games in a special way over a long period of time. This award is known as The Pat Trainor Award and is named in honour of our late treasurer who passed away in 2005. The closing date for receipt of entries is 16th September. Details including entry forms can be downloaded from the Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta website www.scoilspport.org. At Croke Park to officially launch the Gaelic Telecom Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta Awards were Alan Faisey, Gaelic Telecom, Uachtarán CLG Nicky Brennan, Cathaoirleach Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta Margaret Cunningham, and four pupils from Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa in Glendalough—Kevin O'Neill, Stephen Olohan, Orla Kennedy and Jessica MacDonald.

M. Donnelly Poc Fada 2006

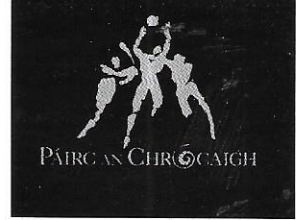
Despite a stiff breeze on parts of the 5 Km. course over the Cooley Mountains the weather was excellent for the crowd who followed a star studded list of players in the 2006 M. Donnelly Poc Fada All-Ireland Finals. Presidents of C.L.G. Nicky Brennan & Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael Liz Howard were both present at the Finals.

Brendan Cummins [Tipp. 52 pocs 34 m] was in top form winning his second title three pocs ahead of Graham Clark [Down], runner up on 55 pocs 37m. Brendan Cummins score combined with that of fellow Tipperary player Eoin Kelly [3rd place with 57pocs, 68m] ensured the Comortas Beirte [Down Competition] travelled down South once again. Bernard Gallagher [Clare]; Keith Carr [Galway]; Adrian Power [Waterford]; Alan Shanahan [Limerick, 2001/2005]; Damien Fitzhenry [Wexford]; Shane O'Connor [Offaly]; Davy Fitzgerald [Clare, 1999/2002]; Stephen Smith [Louth] and Peadar Turley [Armagh] all ensured that the competition was keen from start to finish on the hilly mountain course at Annaverna.

Mary Henry [Westmeath] on 28 pocs 4.m held out to win the first ever M. Donnelly Poc Fada Ladies title despite an excellent outing from 15 year old Patricia Jackman [Waterford] who was runner up on 31 pocs 38m, just ahead of the 2005 Winner Patricia Lynch, Clare who came third with 31 pocs 14 m. Sinéad O'Donnell [Westmeath], Sharon Finneran [Roscommon], Marie O'Donnell [London]; Voureen Quigley [Louth] and Collette McSorley and Caitriona Corry [both Armagh] all traversed a difficult course.

N. Brennan C.L.G., L.Howard C.C.G, Poc Fada Task Force Chairman Donie Nealon and Sponsor Martin Donnelly presented the winners with All-Ireland Medals and EACH contestants received an engraved crystal vase. Both Presidents lauded the Competitors, Committee and Sponsor M. Donnelly on a well organised and top class Competition far removed from the Park environments to a mountain-side course set in such a scenic location overlooking Louth, Armagh & Down.





REFEREEING MATTERS IN 2006

Seamus Gardiner, Spokesman for Referees

QUESTION OF SLIOTARS

In some games this year a controversy arose over the use of different sliotars. For the first hurling semi-final last Sunday the following were the arrangements:

- (a) Both teams consulted as to their choice of sliotar.
- (b) The named sliotars were tested for official approval re dimensions, weight etc.. They were then stamped with the DCU stamp.
- (c) The only sliotars to be used are those with the official stamp and which are provided for the game.

At each end two designated official ball-boys give the sliotar to the goalie for the puck-out. Last Sunday this seemed to work to the satisfaction of both teams and avoided the unseemly dispute re use of sliotars. The referee's only function re sliotars is to ensure that an official sliotar i.e. an officially stamped one, is in use.

MISTAKES BY REFEREES

One of the nightmares for a referee is when he makes a mistake that seemingly influences the result of a game. No referee lives with this lightly but, unfortunately, human error is part of the human condition. Mistakes regarding frees and foul play are of course serious but can happen in the speed of the action and the need for a split-second decision. Mistakes by umpires regarding scores are even more serious and should be rare even though the height of the sliotar combined with the difficulty of getting back far enough for a better view isn't easy, particularly in some venues. More serious again are mistakes regarding yellow and red cards because of mistaken identity. It's crucial that the referee takes his time and consults with his officials if there are any doubts. It's better to consult and be sure than a hasty decision that's wrong. He must ignore the shouts of impatience of supporters and make, as far as is humanly possible, the right decision.

At a recent game I saw a points umpire unsure, consulted the other umpire and they were joined by the referee and then the

decision was given - which TV subsequently proved right. Even though an analyst at first criticised the umpire's indecision my reaction was - wasn't this good procedure if one is in doubt? Nowadays, with the audio link to linesmen and one umpire at each end, consultation is easier. While in theory we all accept we can make mistakes - players take wrong options, managers make wrong selections - a referee's mistake does get more condemnation. It compares in some way to a mistake made by a goalkeeper - it has immediate visible consequences. But a referee who is fully fit, up with play, in consultation with his other officials, must call it as he sees it and normally in the eyes of the neutral spectator gets it right.

THE PUCK-OUT

In this championship there has been some discussion on the practice by some goalkeepers of taking a quick puck-out. The reason for this practice is obvious - the wish to place the puck-out to an unmarked colleague and so retain possession. A referee who blows and insists that the puck-out must be retaken after his signal is often booed and derided as spoiling the continuity of play. But the rule is quite clear:

1.1. The ball is in play once it has been thrown in or pucked AFTER THE REFEREE HAS GIVEN A SIGNAL to start or restart play.

When the ball goes wide or a score results, the referee is usually in around the 20m line, he may have to note down a score and if a quick puck-out is taken, he may not be ready, he may be running out with his back to the goalie. A modern sliotar may be pucked 90m and the referee may find himself 70m from the play through no fault of his own. All the top-class referees want to keep the game flowing and will not delay needlessly but they must be in position for the puck-out. Interestingly, in the *Irish Independent* of Saturday July 29th Cyril Farrel argues strongly for the implementation of this rule by all referees:

"Why do referees allow goalkeepers to puck

RULE TEASERS

Incident: In a legal side to side tackle a player in possession of the ball falls to the ground and lies on the ball. To howls of derision the referee gives a free against the player who falls. Why?

Answer: The fact that the player fell was not a foul as it was a legal side-to-side tackle but if he lies on the ball without releasing it, that's a foul.

Technical Fouls 4.4. To lie on the ball

Incident: Unusual for hurling but the unusual sometimes happens and needs a vigilant referee. A ball comes in flight across the square and the forward, who has broken his hurley, palms it to the net for a goal. Is this a foul?

Answer: No. Rule 3.2 A score may be made by striking the ball in flight with the hand(s).

out the ball without blowing the whistle and giving them a signal that they're clear to restart? Here's why it's wrong. A midfielder or half-forward makes a run, leaving their markers way behind, yet, if they score or shoot wide, the goal-keeper can re-start play before they have a chance to get back out which isn't fair". "Why do some referees ignore the rule altogether while others apply it to the strict letter of the law? I wonder if they're asked about it at referees' meetings?" The answer to Cyril's last question is yes, the infringements of the rule were discussed at a referees' meeting this year and video clips were shown to illustrate the point. A referee who does not implement the rule loses marks in his assessment for non-implementation of any rule but obviously less marks are lost for technical fouls than for aggressive ones. Yes the best solution - all referees should implement the rule - that's consistency.

DELAYED PUCK-OUT

In the Cork v Waterford game last Sunday the referee penalised a goalie for delaying a puck-out.

What is the rule?

Technical Fouls Rule 4.30:

To waste time by delaying own puck-out.

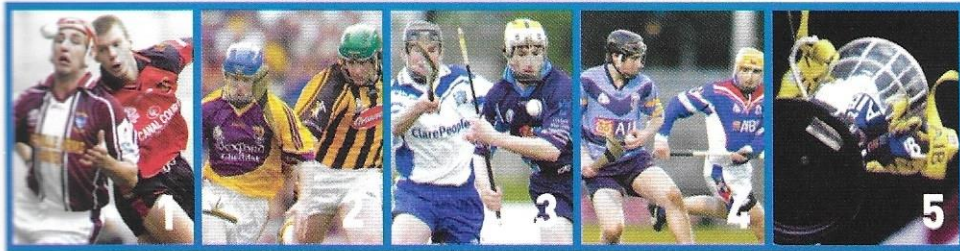
Penalty: (1) Cancel puck-out.

(2) Throw in ball on defenders' 20m line opposite the scoring space.



Trophy Time

1. What county's name was the first inscribed on the Christy Ring Cup Roll of Honour?
2. Who are current holders of the Bob O'Keeffe Cup?
3. Name the winners of the Croke Cup this year?
4. Who are the current holders of the Fitzgibbon Cup?
5. Portumna, Galway, won this Cup on St. Patrick's Day for the first time.



Personalities Parade

Listed below are four personalities who were to the fore in various matches last week-end, with a clue under each name to help identify the county of the player in question.

1. Eddie O'Donoghue.

He scored eight points for his county in their All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling semi-final.

2. Joey Scullion.

He scored a goal for his county in the Christy Ring Cup final.

3. Frank Foley.

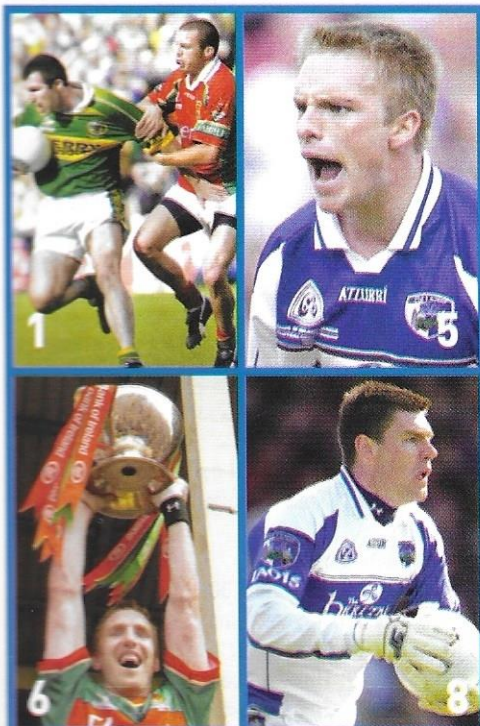
A hurling goalkeeper with a flair for scoring goals from penalties.

4. James McGrath

Had an important role in a major game last Sunday.



Football Review



1. When did Mayo last appear in an All-Ireland senior football final?
2. Laois have still to win an All-Ireland senior football title. True or false?
3. When did Laois last contest a Leinster senior football final?
4. How many Mayo players were included in last year's Vodafone All Stars football team?
5. Ross Munnely appeared with Ireland in Australia in the International Rules Test series last year. True or false?
6. What is the name of the trophy that Mayo won last month by regaining the Connacht senior football title?
7. How many Laois footballers won Vodafone All Stars awards last year?
8. Fergal Byron was chosen as the Vodafone All Stars football goalkeeper in 2003. True or false?
9. How did Mayo fare in this year's Connacht minor football championship?
10. And, how far did Laois advance in this year's Leinster minor football championship?

The Numbers Game

If each question is answered correctly and the numbers are then added up the total will come to 32.

1. The number of points, as distinct from goals and points combined, scored by Antrim in their Christy Ring Cup final win last Sunday.
2. Galway's winning margin over Cork in last Sunday's ESB All-Ireland minor hurling semi-final.
3. The number of goals scored in last week's Cork-Waterford Guinness All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final.
4. The number of years since Clare last won the Liam MacCarthy Cup?
5. Eoin Kelly's points total, as distinct from goals and points combined, for Waterford last Sunday.

All-Ireland Captains

Another name will be added to the ranks of All-Ireland senior hurling title winning captains next month. What do you remember of those already on the list?

Below are six title winning All-Ireland captains and six dates. Can you match each captain with the correct date?

Tommy Dunne	2003
Andy Comerford	1996
Seán Óg Ó hAilpín	1998
Hubert Rigney	2001
Martin Storey	2002
D. J. Carey	2005

ALL-IRELAND CAPTAINS: 1. Tommy Dunne—2001 (Tipperary), 2. Andy Comerford—2002 (Kilkenny), Seán Óg hAilpín—2005 (Cork), Hubert Rigney—1998 (Offaly), Martin Storey—1996 (Wexford), D. J. Carey—2003 (Kilkenny), as Leinster senior hurling champions, 3. Dublin Colleges, winners of the All-Ireland Colleges senior hurling title, 4. Waterford IT, 5. Tommy Moore Cup for the AIB All-Ireland Club championship, THE NUMBERS GAME: 1. 13, 2. 2 points, 3. two, 4. nine, 5. 6 points, PERSONALITIES PARADE: 1. Kilkenny, 2. Antrim, 3. Carlow, 4. From Westmeath, he refereed the Christy Ring Cup final, FOOTBALL REVIEW: 1. 2004 when they lost to Kerry, 2. True, 3. Last year when they lost to Dublin, 4. None, 5. True, 6. J. Nestor Cup, 7. None, 8. True, 9. They lost the final to Roscommon, 10. They lost their semi-final to Meath.

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SUPPORTERS ARE ASKED TO RESPECT THE FACT THAT THEY ARE ENTERING AND LEAVING THE STADIUM THROUGH RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

BULLETIN BOARD

Health and Safety Rules - Páirc an Chrócaigh

1. All persons entering this ground are admitted subject to the following Rules (which are designed to protect the health and safety of all entrants to the ground). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all of these Rules.
2. The management reserves the right of admission.
3. The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
4. All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
5. Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
6. The following are not permitted:-
 - 6.1. Entry upon the pitch or engaging in conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury or harm to, or otherwise interferes with, disrupts, hinders or distracts a person playing in, refereeing or otherwise having a role in a match at this ground.
 - 6.2. Any unauthorised contact with the boundary wall surrounding the pitch or incursion on to the pitch. Any such unauthorised contact or incursion constitutes a trespass to property.
 - 6.3. The climbing of floodlight or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behaviour constitutes a trespass to property.
 - 6.4. Throwing any object onto the pitch.
 - 6.5. Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
 - 6.6. Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
 - 6.7. Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
 - 6.8. Bringing into the ground of fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, distress signals, laser pointers and other similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon.
 - 6.9. 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.
7. If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
8. Where a person is in breach of any of these rules, or where the management believes that a person constitutes a source of danger to others, or to the ground, such person may be refused entry to or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

• C.C.T.V. IS IN OPERATION AT THIS STADIUM •



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ LOST CHILDREN

Cusack Stand Lower:

First Aid Centre rear of Section 312.

Canal Stand Upper:

First Aid Centre rear of Section 724.

Hogan Stand Lower:

First Aid Centre rear of Section 329.

Hill 16:

First Aid Centre rear of Section A

Lower Hogan:

Medical Centre

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.

PUBLIC TELEPHONE LOCATIONS

Cusack Stand

- At Lower Level (Level 3)
Pay Phone at Section 309.



Cusack Premium Level 5

- Pay Phone at Section 508.

Hogan Premium Level 5

- Pay Phone at Section 529.

SAFETY NOTICE

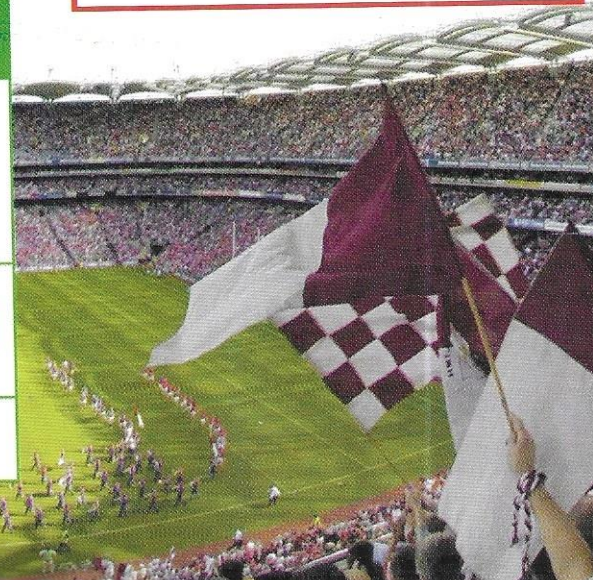
IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY, PATRONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PLAYING AREA AFTER THE GAMES.

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 prompting of the safety authorities, namely the Gardaí, Dublin City Council, Fire Brigade and the ERHA.

Supporters are sincerely thanked for their co-operation 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.

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OF THE GROUND.



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