



GAA
FOOTBALL
ALL-IRELAND SENIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP



ceiliúrach
I25
bliain

Páirc Ó Dúfagh
ÁRD STIURTHÓIR

CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
LUACH €5

CRAOBH CLUICHE CEANNAIS PEILE SINSEAR NA hÉIREANN
CORCAIGH v CIARRAÍ
CORK v KERRY

CRAOBH CLUICHE CEANNAIS PEILE MIONÚIR ESB NA hÉIREANN
ARD MHACHA v MAIGH EO / ARMAGH v MAYO

Páirc an Chrócaigh, 20 Meán Fómhair / Croke Park, 20 September, 2009

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time is nearly at hand.”**

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Amhrán na bhFiann

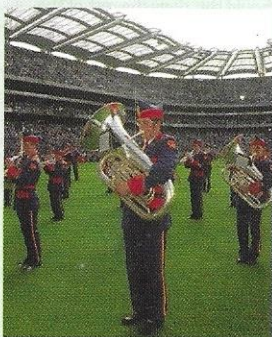
Sinne Fianna Fáil,
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua

Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn
Faoi mhóid bheith saor,
Sean-tír ár sinsear feasta
Ní fhágfar faoin tóran
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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Páirc an Chrócaigh, Áth Cliath. 20 Meán Fómhair, 2009

1.15i.n.



ESB GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND MINOR
CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



Ard Mhacha v Maigh Eo

Réiteoir:	Eddie Kinsella	(Loais)
Linesmen:	Brian O'Shea	(Áth Cliath) (Standby Referee)
	Derek O'Mahoney	(Tiobraid Árann)
Sideline Official:	Richard Maloney	(Luimneach)
Umpires:	Pat O'Connell, Arthur O'Conner, Alan O'Halloran, Pat Behan.	

3.30i.n.

GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Ciarraí v Corcaigh

Réiteoir:	Marty Duffy	(Sligeach)
Linesmen:	David Coldrick	(An Mhí) (Standby Referee)
	Joe McQuillan	An Cabhán
Sideline Official:	Stephen McNamee	(Tír Eoghain)
Umpires:	Michael Duffy, John Kilgannon, Pat Cauley, Michael Kelly.	



Teachtaireacht an Uachtaráin



Is cúis mhór áthais dom Fíorchaoin fáilte a fhearadh romhaibh go léir go dtí Páirc an Chrócaigh inniú le haghaidh Cluichí Cheannais Peile na hÉireann. Fearaim fáilte faoi leith roimh na himreoirí ó Chiarraí, Corcaigh, Ard Mhaca agus Maigh Eo a bheidh ag ghlacadh páirte anseo inniú. Tá súil agam go mbeidh lá iontach taitneamhach ag gach uile dhuine.

Today sees the staging of our showcase football match and one of the last major high profile events in this our 125th Anniversary Year.

The pairing is an intriguing one pitting as it does Munster's traditional 'Big Two' against each other in the final for the second time in three years.

While there are other events planned to mark the remainder of the year I am sure that the winning players from today's final will cherish their Celtic Crosses in years to come when they look back on the 2009 success just as the Kerry players from 1984 do.

Cork and Kerry have between them fostered one of the Association's most enduring rivalries down through the illustrious history of both counties and anytime red and white and green and gold are flown together in a GAA context, this storied rivalry comes to mind.

Days in Killarney and Páirc Uí Chaoimh, and of course more recently at Croke Park, evoke for me and many others sepia-toned images of great matches, superb players and sporting if ultra competitive encounters. The GAA landscape would be a duller one without the unique competitiveness that neighbours bring out in each other.

In a nutshell it's what our Association is all about, encapsulating as it does the passions that go hand in hand with representative honours and identity with one 'tribe' or another all in a good natured and uplifting way that threatens no one and engenders respect and admiration – if sometimes begrudgingly!

Cork have been one of the success stories of the year to date and their dashing brand of football, welded as it is to an impressive level of athleticism, skill and fitness, has seen them account for all comers to date.

That they have to face their closest rivals in the final after already beating them on the Munster circuit will no doubt have them and manager Conor Counihan on a state of red alert. Even allowing for the Kingdom's early season set back there are few who will underestimate the credentials of Jack O'Connor's team, possessed as they are with a vast array of

talents as seen in their hugely impressive quarter-final win over Dublin.

Kerry's presence in today's decider can come as a shock to no one given their incredible record this decade. However it does add to the debate over the merits of the system we currently use to play off our football championship.

There is no doubting that this system does provide the stronger teams with a second chance even if they happen to experience a wobble early on and a number of our traditionally stronger counties have used it to maximum effect in recent years.

However, I was privileged to visit Baltinglass GAA Club as recently as last Saturday for the dedication of facilities in memory of Godfrey Timmins TD and saw first hand, not for the first time this year, the buzz and excitement that this year's campaign generated in the Garden County. Counties such as Sligo, Westmeath and Fermanagh are others who have availed of the alternative route in recent years.

The idea that strong teams benefit from having a safety net is difficult to refute but should this deny the rest of the counties with the chance to extend their summer activity the way Wicklow did this summer? As ever, we assess our competition structures on an ongoing basis and if the need to revisit our senior championship arises we will do so.

I would like to acknowledge those without whom today's final would not be possible, namely the players and match officials. Today they occupy centre stage on the day we all aspire to be involved in and they will provide the drama, entertainment, thrills and spills which we will all savour and dissect.

Our players have provided superb entertainment all summer, playing our games in the best spirit while at the same time attempting to excel and advance their county's fortunes. Getting a balance can be a challenge but I am pleased to say that in most instances this is achieved.

Our match officials are no less important and their role in our big occasions – and indeed all of our matches at every level – should never be overlooked.

Although 2009 is entering its final stage, there will be more events organised to commemorate this important year.

I could not mention our 125 year without welcoming Uachtarán na hÉireann Mary McAleese and her husband Dr Martin McAleese and acknowledge and thank them sincerely for their support of Gaelic Games.

Our visit to Áras an Uachtaráin for a specially arranged Garden Party was a stand out occasion in our 125 Calendar and a day we all enjoyed immensely.

Looking ahead and proceeding quietly in the background will be our Ag Éisteacht Programme which will see myself and Páirc Duffy visit clubs across the country in an effort to gauge opinion and take stock of the challenges facing us from grass roots level up.

GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

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Thurles Sarsfields in Tipperary was the last club visited on Tuesday last and as we approach the number 20 mark it has been a most enjoyable and enlightening experience. I would encourage clubs who believe they might benefit from what is essentially a two hour questions and answer session, to contact us at Croke Park expressing interest in the possibility of a visit.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the players, backroom team members, county and match officials and supporters of the four teams involved today and wish them every success in their endeavours.

I would also like to acknowledge the presence of all of the underage players who will compete in our GAA INTO Go Games Exhibition at half time in today's minor final.

They, along with the minor footballers of both Armagh and Mayo, represent the future of our Association and I laud the role their parents play in fostering a love and admiration in our games in their children ensuring the torch is passed onto the next generation and hopefully others to follow, in rude health.

It would be remiss of me to let today pass without mentioning the extraordinary achievement of Jim O'Sullivan who will today cover his 81st All-Ireland final before hanging up his pen and laptop as a full time GAA Correspondent following his retirement from the Irish Examiner.

His attention to detail and the manner in which he carried out his duties ensured he was always a valued member of the wider GAA family, albeit one with professional responsibilities to oversee. His presence and analysis will be missed but he can take solace in the fact that his incredible record is one that is unlikely to be equalled, at least not for some time to come.

A special word of thanks is due to our GAA Football Championship sponsors Toyota, Ulster Bank and Vodafone for their work in promoting our competition. Your work is appreciated and our relationships are valued.

Finally, last week we were treated to what I am confident will be viewed as a hurling epic in years to come thanks to the efforts of two committed teams driven by the lure of success on the day that matters most.

Hopefully we will see more of the same today ensuring we enjoy an occasion that provides us with a fitting finale to a memorable championship in what has been a special year for everyone with an interest in the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Ar aghaidh len ár gluichí,

Christóir Ó Cuana

Christóir Ó Cuana, Uachtarán
Chumann Lúthchleas Gael



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CROKE PARK

SAFETY AND
GENERAL
INFORMATION

BULLETIN BOARD

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

REGULATIONS Páirc an Chrócaigh

1. All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Rules (which are designated 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 floodlights or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behaviour constitutes a trespass to property.
 - 6.4 Throwing of objects 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 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 or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

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

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

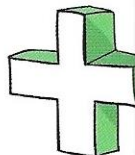
CROKE PARK NOW OPERATES A NO SMOKING POLICY EXCEPT IN DESIGNATED AREAS OF THE GROUND.



Medical Assistance

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.

Recycling at Croke Park

As part of Croke Parks Cúl Green initiative, we appeal to all patrons to use the recycling facilities provided in the stadium.

Clár an Lae

- 12.55 Ard Mhaca amach ar an bpáirc
- 12.57 Muigheo amach ar an bpáirc
- 01.09 Introduction of Uachtarán CLG, agus a bhean agus Eirleamh CLG
- 01.12 Introduction of An Taoiseach leis an tArd Stiúrthóir agus a bhean
- 01.15 Tús Chluiche Peile Mhionúir na hÉireann
- 01.47* Leath Am
- 01.49* GAA/INTO Go-Games Exhibition
- 01.57* Tús an Dara Leath
- 02.37* Presentation of Trophy by An Dr. Diarmuid Ó Clúmháin
- 02.45 Jubilee Teams – Kerry 1984 '85 & '86 and Dublin 1984 – Introduced by Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh
- 02.55 125 Celebrations - Arcana
- 03.05 Ciarraí amach ar an bpáirc
- 03.07 Corcaigh amach ar an bpáirc
- 03.17 Uachtarán na hÉireann agus a fear céile introduced - accompanied by Uachtarán CLG agus a bhean
- 03.18 Uachtarán na hÉireann meets the teams
- 03.22 Paráid na Fóirne
- 03.28 Amhrán na bhFiann
- 03.30 Tús Craobh Peile na hÉireann 2009
- 04.07* Leath Am
- 04.09 Irish Handball Team introduced
- 04.13* Musical Entertainment by the Sharon Shannon Band
- 04.22* Tús an Dara Leath
- 05.03* Presentation of Trophy by Uachtarán CLG, Criostóir Ó Cuana

*depending on 'added time'

THE ARTANE BAND

Musical Director – Ronan O'Reilly

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

- 1.09 GAA Salute *Ronan O'Reilly*
- 1.12 Taoiseach's Salute
- 1.50 Make Way for Melody *Leon V Metcalffe*
Band Boys *Ed Chanette*
- 3.17 Presidential Salute
- 3.18 Star of the County Down
arr Ronan O'Reilly
- 3.22 God Save Ireland (Parade) *A.J. Potter*
- 3.28 Amhrán na bhFiann *A.J. Potter*



Half Time Entertainment

Sharon Shannon provides the half time entertainment at today's GAA All-Ireland Senior Football Final.

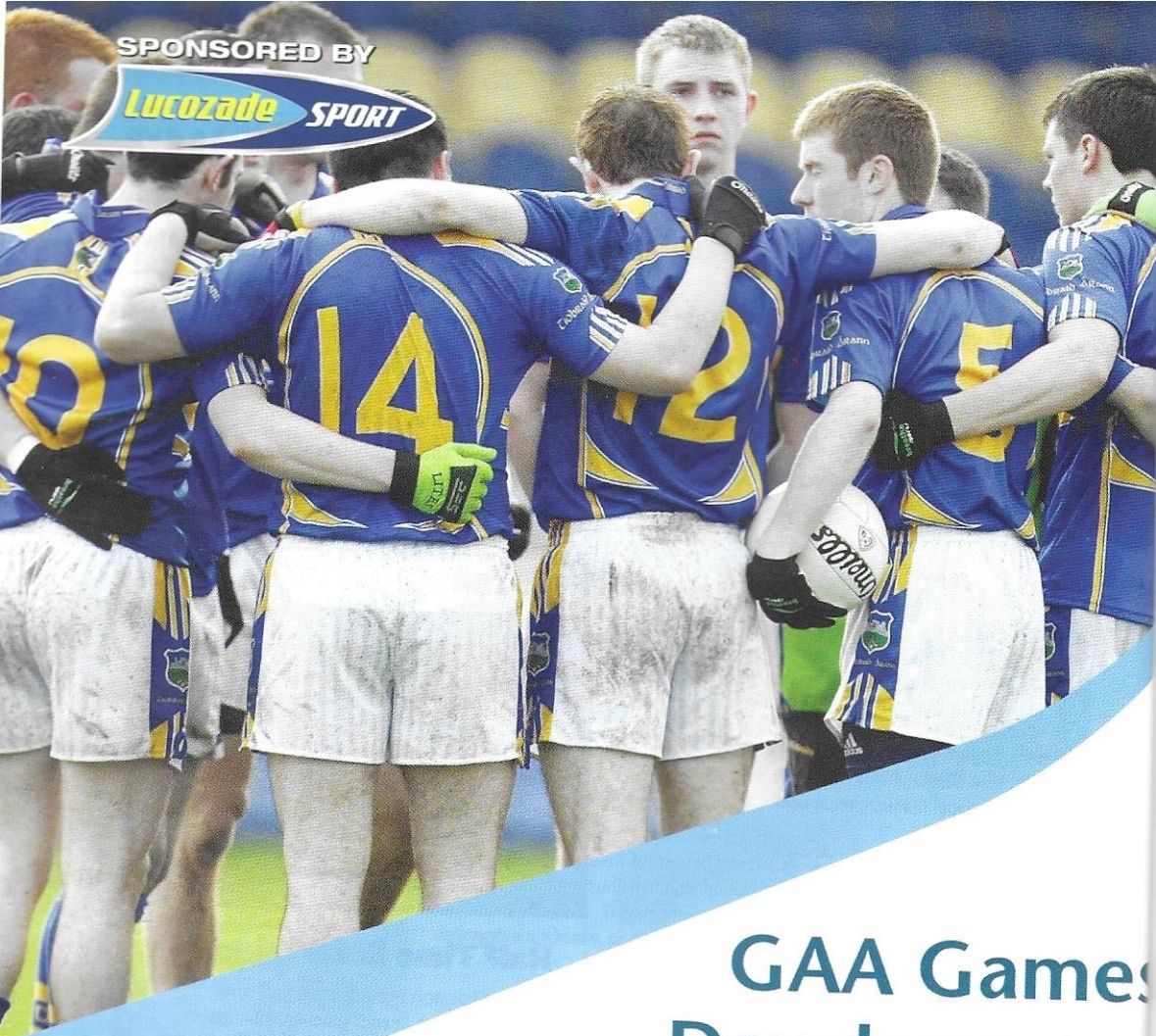
The accordionist from Clare has achieved legendary status throughout the world and is renowned for her collaborations, not just in Irish traditional music, but through all musical genres.

Sharon Shannon's new album SAINTS AND SCOUNDRELS is out on September 25th and again showcases Sharon's ability to integrate traditional Irish instruments with Cajun, Funk, African and Jazz arrangements.



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GAA Games Development Conference 2009

Conference Theme:

**Coaching to Optimise Playing Performance
– Nurturing the Culture of Skill and Will**

Croke Park; Friday November 20th and
Saturday November 21st 2009

Telephone: 01 836 3222
Fax: 01 865 8650
Email: gamesdevelopment@gaa.ie
Web: www.gaa.ie

GAA
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From our Sponsors . . .



TOYOTA

On behalf of Toyota Ireland, proud sponsors of the GAA Football Championship, I am delighted to welcome all GAA supporters to Croke Park for one of the sporting highlights of the year, the All Ireland Senior Football Championship Final.

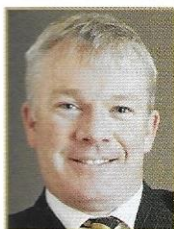
The 2009 Championship has produced many memorable matches, which is a testament to everyone involved in GAA football, at every level, from underage clubs through to senior intercounty teams.

Sam Maguire will return to Munster but it remains to be decided which of these great counties will triumph. Cork are aiming to repeat their victory over Kerry earlier this season in the Munster semi-final replay. The Rebel County, beaten in the 2007 final by Kerry, are bidding to bring Sam home to Cork for the first time since 1990. Kerry are aiming to reclaim the title of All-Ireland Champions after Tyrone prevented the Kingdom from claiming three in a row last year.

Both sides have brought us some spectacular football this season. Good luck to the players and management of both teams ahead of what promises to be a thrilling contest to decide the 2009 GAA All Ireland Football Champions!

Enjoy the game.

David Shannon, Managing Director



Ulster Bank

Cuirim fáilte mór roimh gach éinne go Páirc an Chrócaigh i gcomhair Cluiche Cheannais na hÉireann sa pheil. Is mór an ócáid é seo i gconair do mhúintir na hÉireann, idir óg agus aosta, agus tá súil agam go mbainfidimid go léir taitneamh as an lá.

This year's championship has seen some excellent football and great success stories with teams continuing to illustrate the rewards that talent and hard work can bring. Cork have made great strides under the leadership of Conor Counihan in 2009 and Jack O'Connor's return to Kerry sees him lead the team to their sixth All Ireland final this decade - an incredible achievement.

Our entire branch and business centre network have seen great support for the sponsorship and this year in particular, we have reached right into the heart of GAA communities throughout the country. Our partnership with Newstalk's Off the Ball sport show has seen the programme broadcast live around Ireland this summer with huge support from local Ulster Bank customers and employees.

I would like to extend my congratulations to one of Ulster Bank's GAA stars, Michael Fennelly who captained Kilkenny to victory in the hurling final earlier this month, a fantastic achievement.

The very best of luck to all involved in today's match, in particular our colleagues, Kieran Donaghy and captain, Darran O'Sullivan, representing Kerry today.

Cormac McCarthy, Group Chief Executive, Ulster Bank



vodafone

Vodafone is proud to join with the GAA in welcoming you to Croke Park today for what promises to be a classic All Ireland final, an occasion befitting of the 125th anniversary of the GAA.

The GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship - the biggest competition in the country's sporting calendar - is Vodafone's largest ever sponsorship commitment in the Irish market and Vodafone is very proud of its strong association with Gaelic games.

On behalf of Vodafone's staff and two million customers, I want to extend my best wishes to the footballers of Cork and Kerry, as well as their management and backroom teams today and here's to a memorable and fitting end to the 2009 GAA Football All Ireland Senior Football Championship.

Charles Butterworth, CEO Vodafone Ireland



GAA/INTO Go Games Exhibitions

The GAA/INTO Go Games Exhibition games are organised in conjunction with Cumann na mBunscol and promote participation for all. Go Games are now best practice up to and including 12 years of age ensuring that children are given meaningful playing time playing Gaelic games. The rules of Go Games are not set in stone but the key message is that small sided games are played in a non competitive environment where the emphasis is on skill development, respect for all, fun and fair play.

Research conducted in DCU under the guidance of Professor Niall Moyna and Dublin football coach Mickey Whelan was crucial in the development of Go Games. By tracking the same 7 players in a 15-a-side and 7-a-side game (each of 30 minute duration) the findings showed that the players worked harder, got possession of the ball more often and had an increased number of opportunities to score in the small-sided game. Players also reported a greater level of enjoyment and had higher levels of perceived confidence in the modified game.

INTO President Maire Ní Chuinneagáin is a fan of Go Games stating; "I fully endorse the sport for all approach adopted by the GAA and Cumann na mBunscol. The maximum participation of all primary school children in sporting activities is at the heart of the primary school curriculum. Participation must never be sacrificed for competition, the success of the few must not be promoted over the opportunity for all children to take part, enjoy and develop to the best of their ability. I am confident that Go Games will fit seamlessly into the primary school curriculum where the special place of Gaelic sport is recognised and will be used by teachers in all parts of the country."

For more information on Go Games log on to www.gamesdevelopment.gaa.ie or contact Micheál Martin at michael.martin@gaa.ie

Boys Football

Blue jerseys, white shorts, white socks

1. Darren Crooks, St. Brigid's N.S., Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
2. Dylan Connolly, Pope John Paul II N.S., Malahide, Dublin
3. Brian Connolly, Rathgormack N.S., Co. Waterford
4. Cillian Nagle, St. Ciaran's N.S., Baylin, Co. Westmeath
5. Gary Allen, Scoil Nicholas Naofa, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow
6. Michael Greed, St. Colmcille's N.S., Templemore, Co. Tipperary
7. Brian Conlon, St. Oliver Plunkett's, Blackcastle, Navan, Meath
8. Ethan Lawlor, Scoil Phódraig Naofa N.S., Mountmellick, Laois
9. Barry Murphy, Doon CBS, Doon, Limerick
10. John Hand, Stonepark N.S., Co. Longford

White jerseys, blue shorts, white socks.

1. Gareth Gilmartin, St. Joseph's BNS, Boyle, Co. Roscommon
2. Darragh Cummins, St. Patrick's N.S., Calry, Co. Sligo
3. Declan Magee, Naomh Proinsias, Lurgan, Co. Armagh
4. Oisín Shiels, Gaelscoil Adhamhnain, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Donegal
5. Donal Feeley, St. Patrick's BNS, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim
6. Barry McGinn, Dooahamlet N.S., Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan
7. Conor Glass, St. Mary's P.S., Glenview, Maghera, Co. Derry
8. Shane Finnegan, Scoil Naisiunta Naomh Feilim, Co. Cavan
9. Ryan Morris, St. Joseph's P.S., Ederney, Co. Fermanagh
10. Kevin Savage, St. Fiachra's BNS, Beaumont, Co. Dublin

Girls Football

Blue jerseys, white shorts, white socks

1. Claire Tuohy, Our Lady of Lourdes P.S. Greencastle, Tyrone
2. Kaitlin Fleville, Tannaghmore P.S., Lurgan, Co. Armagh
3. Triona Kelly, St. Mary's N.S., Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
4. Emma Boyle, Scoil Thomáis, Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Co. Dublin
5. Hannah Doherty St. Joseph's P.S., Crumlin, Co. Antrim
6. Natasha Curran, St. Mary's N.S., Virginia, Co. Cavan
7. Louise Ward, Clonberne N.S., Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
8. Anna Rogan, St. Malachy's P.S., Castlewellsan, Co. Down
9. Eimear Mc Guigan, St. Mary's P.S., Draperstown, Co. Derry
10. Shauna Howley, Foxford N.S., Foxford, Co. Mayo

White jerseys, blue shorts, white socks.

1. Sinéad Hickey, Ballybryan N.S., Rhode, Co. Offaly
2. Emer Heaney, Scoil Samthann, Ballinalee, Co. Longford
3. Carol Casey, Our Lady of Mercy N.S., Cahir, Co. Tipperary
4. Lauren Dwyer, Bennekerry N.S., Bennekerry, Co. Carlow
5. Kelsey Nesbitt, St. Oliver Plunkett's N.S., Navan, Co. Meath
6. Louise Fitzgerald, Boherbue N.S., Co. Cork
7. Sarah Farrell, Clongeen N.S., Clongeen, Co. Wexford
8. Meadhbh Ní Arragain, Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn, Co. Kerry
9. Chloe Fox, Clongeen N.S., Clongeen, Co. Wexford
10. Muireann Quinn, St. Brigid's N.S., Glasnevin, Co. Dublin

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael would like to express sincere gratitude to the schools and teachers who give of their time freely for the promotion of Gaelic games.

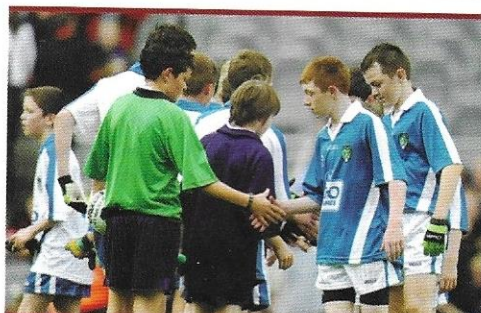
INTER-COUNTY STARS OF THE FUTURE!

Many intercounty stars first played in Croke Park when they were in National School. For the Dublin school children Cumann na mBunscol finals are a regular fixture in headquarters, but for children outside of the capital their first run-out onto the famous pitch is usually when they have been selected to play in the GAA/INTO Mini Sevens on either All Ireland semi-final or final day. Today forty children from many counties will play in the specially commissioned GAA 125 jerseys. For these children and their parents, teachers and coaches, this is a dream come true. First of all the children have to play for their school and be noticed at county level. From here they progress to the regional festivals where the emphasis is on skill and teamwork. During the regional festivals at least one pupil from every county is selected to play in Croke Park.

Today we welcome **Louise Fitzgerald** who attends Boherbue Comprehensive School and plays football with her local GAA Club, Boherbue. Her favourite player is current Cork player Donnacha O'Connor. All the way from St. Fintans CBS, Doon is **Barry Murphy**. Barry's favourite playing position is wing forward with Stephen O'Neill and Noel McGrath among his favourite GAA players.

Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta wishes all the children and their families who are participating today the best of

luck and we hope that you bring back many happy memories from today and that we will see you playing again in headquarters in the years to come. Go n-éirí libh!



The GAA Respect Initiative highlighted during a GAA/INTO Go Games Exhibition.

An Réiteoir Marty Duffy

This afternoon's All-Ireland senior football final between Munster rivals Cork and Kerry represents a role reversal for big-match referee Marty Duffy. When the counties met in the 2007 showpiece, Duffy was standby referee for David Coldrick but today, Sligo native Duffy takes centre stage as Meath official Coldrick serves as standby referee and linesman.

Duffy's appointment is a dream come true for the Enniscrone/Kilglass clubman and a very first All-Ireland senior final for the 42-year-old whistler. He said: "Once you start refereeing at intercounty level, the big ambition is to referee a senior final. You'd always be hoping and my ambition is now coming true. I can ask for no more and it's a tremendous honour for myself and my family while I have had terrific support from my club and the county board."

"Refereeing at this level, the prospect of refereeing a final is always in the back of the head and with no Connacht team involved this year, I felt I might have a chance of getting it. Luckily enough, this is my year."

Refereeing the glamour football final in the GAA's 125th year is an added bonus for Duffy, who remarked: "It's something I will look back on more later but for now, it's more about the game and I'm keeping it in that context."

Duffy has been involved with his club for many years and played at underage level and in the adult ranks with Enniscrone/Kilglass. The highlight of Duffy's playing career was an intermediate club championship success in 1991 while he has also served as the club's secretary and treasurer at various times.

An employee of Chanelle in Loughrea, Galway, Duffy drifted into refereeing in 1995 when he stepped into the breach at a local fixture when the appointed official failed to show. Duffy attended an official refereeing course with clubmate Dermot Mullaney soon after and quickly worked his way through the ranks in Connacht.

Not long after graduating to the intercounty panel, Duffy took charge of his first major fixture in 2001, a National League encounter between Antrim and Louth. Duffy handled the 2006 Leinster SFC final between Dublin and Offaly and was also the man in the middle for the 2007 Munster decider involving today's opponents.

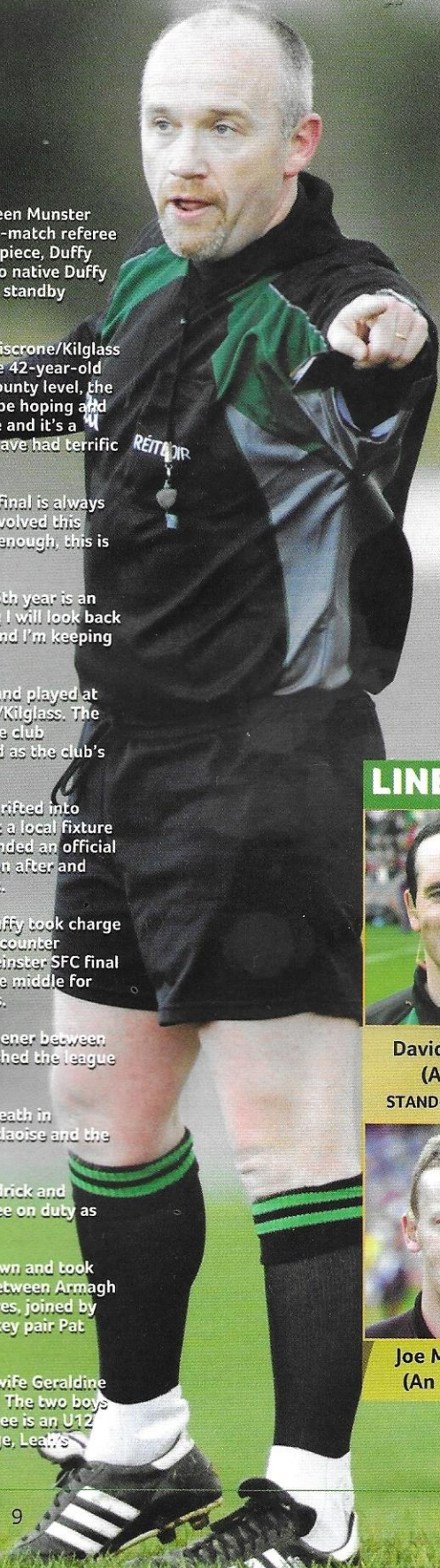
This year, Duffy took charge of the memorable NFL opener between Dublin and Tyrone under lights at Croke Park and finished the league season with the final meeting of Derry and Kerry.

In the championship, Duffy was referee for Dublin v Meath in Leinster, the thrilling Kildare-Wicklow qualifier in Portlaoise and the meeting of Derry and Monaghan in the qualifiers.

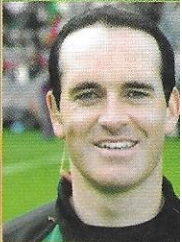
This afternoon, Duffy will be assisted by linesmen Coldrick and Cavan's Joe McQuillan, with Tyrone's Stephen McNamee on duty as fourth official.

Marty's brother Michael is also a referee of some renown and took charge of the recent ESB All-Ireland MFC semi-final between Armagh and Kerry. Today, Michael is one of Marty's four umpires, joined by Enniscrone/Kilglass clubmate John Kilgannon and Easkey pair Pat Cawley and Michael Kelly.

Behind the scenes, Marty receives loyal support from wife Geraldine and their four children: Aimee, Aaron, Conal and Leah. The two boys play at U8 and U10 level with Enniscrone/Kilglass, Aimee is an U12 player with the local girl's club while, at six years of age, Leah's career is just beginning.

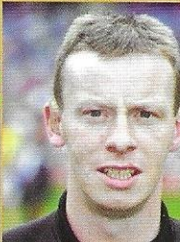


LINESMEN



David Coldrick
(An Mhí)

STAND-BY REFEREE



Joe McQuillan
(An Cabhán)

Cogadh Áitiúil

Ní dócha go bhfuil cogadh níos fíochmhaire ná cogadh na gcarad. Nuair a thabharfaidh fir na Ríochta agus Reibiliúnaigh Chorcaí aghaidh ar a chéile um thráthóna is cinnte go mbeidh fíor-iomaíochta idir dhá chontae le meas ar a chéile mar dhaoine agus mar chomharsana ach nuair a bhíonn liathróid peile san áireamh bíonn an choimhlint eatarthu géar i gcónaí. Le blianta beaga anuas bhí an lámh – nó an chos - in uachtar ag na Ciarraigh. I 2002, 2006 agus arís i 2008, bhí an lá leo i bPáirc an Chrócaigh cé gur chloí Corcaigh iad níos luaithe i gcaobhchomórtas na Mumhan. I mbliana, áfach, tá foireann iontach acu, bainisteoir den scoth agus tá siad mar rogha na núdair agus na ngeallghlacadóirí do chluiche an lae inniu. Is cinnte go mbeidh gearradh san imirt agus tá súil le cluiche ceannais le ríomh.

Tá go leor daoine den tuairim go bhfuil foireann reatha Chiarraí inchurtha le foireann Ré Orga Chiarraí - 1975 do 1986. Tá sé deacair é sin a shéanadh. Leis na deartháireacha Ó Sé, Declan O'Sullivan, Colm Cooper agus Paul Galvin sa bhfoireann ní hionadh go bhfuil an fhoireann seo sa séú chluiche ceannais Uile-Éireann as a chéile. Nach iontach an bheart í sin. Chun an fhírinn a rá , áfach, ní raibh siad thar mholadh beirte ag tús an chraobhchomórtais. Tar éis thromlú Chorcaí i gcluiche leathcheannais na Mumhan, shleamhnaigh siad amach an doras chúil chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar leithéidí An Longfort, Sligeach agus Aontroim. Is ar éigin a d'éalaigh siad le buanna i gcuid dena cluichí sin, ach, bhíodar ag feabhsú diaidh ar ndiaidh agus ag múnú foirne don chluiche ceathrúcheannais cinniúnach in aghaidh Áth Cliath. Thugadar greadagh d'fhir na príomhchathrach agus thugadar faoi Ríogaigh na Mí sa chluiche leathcheannais. Bhí Tommy Walsh ar fheabhas an lá sin ach níor scanraigh an taispeántas muintir Chorcaí. Braithfidh toradh an chluiche seo ar an bplean a bheidh ag Jack O'Connor agus a chomhghleacaithe chun sríana a chur le fir láidre Chorcaí timpeall lár an páirce – Graham Canty, Alan O'Connor, Nicholas Murphy agus Pearse O'Neill. Beidh brú ar an gcúl báire na ciceanna amach a dhíriú go cruinn do gheansaithe glasa agus beidh ar fhir na Ríochta an liathróid a bhogadh go tapaidh go dtí na

cliatháin. Beidh orthu freisin an liathróid 'salach' a bhuaichint i lár 'a ghoirt. Is fíor go bhfuil 'Plean B' acu freisin – na fir mhóra a ghlaoch don aiscean !

Tá foireann iontach múnlaithé ag Conor Counihan. Tá siad mór, aclaí, tapaidh agus sciliúil. Chuir siad deireadh le feachtas Mumhan na Ríochta tar éis athimirt agus, ina dhiaidh sin, chloí siad Tír Chonaill sa chluiche ceathrúcheannais agus curaidh reatha Uile-Éireann, Tír Eoghain, sa chluiche leathcheannais. Bhí muintir na Láimhe Deirge an-dóchasach go mbaufaidís dhá chraobh Uile-Éireann as a chéile i mbliana ach bhí Deargaigh na Mumhan ró-láidir dóibr ar an lá. Bhí siad thar bharr ar fud na páirce an lá sin. Bhí na cúlaithé chun tosaigh, bhí smacht acu i lár na páirce agus d'aimsigh gach tosaí scór taobh istigh de thrí noiméad déag den chéad leath. Bhí ceannairí acu ar fud na páirce. Níl amhras ná gur fhoireann na bliana iad go dtí seo. Tá dian-scrúdú rompu inniu, áfach, agus má thagann siad tríd beidh na boinn tuillte acu. Tá siad i bPáirc An Chrócaigh i gcluiche leathcheannais don dara huair ó 1997. Ní féidir a rá nach bhfuil taithí acu ar na laethanta móra. Tá droch-stair acu le fir na Ríochta sa Cheannárus, áfach, agus beidh orthu an cath sícheolaíochta a bhuaichint ina naigne féin roimh dhul chun páirce. Má éiríonn leo é sin a dhéanamh beidh sé fíor-dheacair iad a stopadh. Tá na himreoirí acu chun an bheart a dhéanamh agus léirigh siad in aghaidh Thír Eoghain go bhfuil mianach iontu anois nach raibh ann le blianta beaga anuas. Tá sé rí-dheacair buaiteoir a phiocadh ach ceaptar go mbeidh cúpla cúlín le sparáil ag foireann Jack ag an deireadh.

Tá gach uile dhuine ag súil freisin le cluiche den scoth idir Ard Mhacha agus Maigh Eo sa chluiche ceannais mionúir. Chloí Na Tuaisceartaigh ógánaigh Chiarraí sa chluiche leathcheannais agus d'imríodar sár-pheil. Bhí laochra Mhaigh Eo ar fheabhas freisin nuair a bhí an lá leo in aghaidh An Dúin sa chluiche leathcheannais eile. Tá a lá mór tuillte go maith ag an dá dhream agus a lucht bhainistíochta. Bíonn teannas faoi leith ag baint le laethanta móra spóirt ach tá súil againn go mbeidh ár bpeileadóirí óga, sciliúla fíor-spraoi as imeachtaí an lae.

Seo lá mór na nGael – bainigí uiligh sár-thaitneamh as.

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HISTORY IN THE MAKING IN THE FINAL?

By Owen McCann

History in the making in the second all Munster All-Ireland senior football final? At first glance that would seem unlikely, with Kerry and Cork both represented on the All-Ireland title winners list. But the game might still end with a famous first.

VICTORY AT HQ

A win for Cork would give them their first championship victory over Kerry at Croke Park since the introduction of the All-Ireland Qualifiers in 2001.

Between 2002 and last year, the Kingdom recorded four wins and were involved in a draw in All-Ireland semi-finals meetings with Cork at headquarters. They also beat the Rebel County in the first all-Munster Sam Maguire Cup tie in 2007.

- That game marked Cork's first appearance in an All-Ireland senior final in eight years. Kerry started as defending champions.

Since the introduction of the All-Ireland Qualifiers in 2001, Galway in the inaugural year, Tyrone in 2005 and last September, and Kerry in 2006 have won the Sam Maguire Cup in the same year that they failed to win out in the provincial championships.

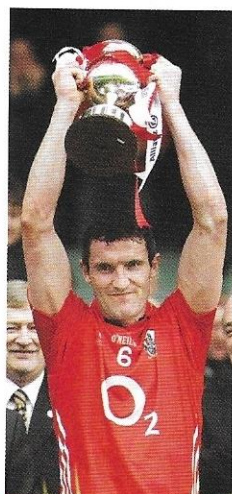
- That outing marked Cork's first appearance in an All-Ireland final in eight years. Kerry started as defending champions.
- Right full forward Colm Cooper scored the first goal of the game after seventeen minutes. That helped the Kingdom to an interval lead of 1-6 to 0-6. The second half had hardly started when full forward Kieran Donaghy goaled for Kerry and he collected a second goal after forty-eight minutes.

Daniel Goulding, who went in as a substitute at the start of the second half, scored a goal for Cork, who eventually went down by 3-13 to 1-9.

Cooper had an outstanding game and finished top scorer with 1-5. Donaghy, with his two goals, and midfielders Darragh Ó Sé and Seamus Scanlon also made big contributions. Goulding and Donncha O'Connor, who scored 1-1, and 0-4 respectively, and right half back Noel O'Leary, were best for Cork.



NFL DIVISION I WINNERS:
Darran O'Sullivan (Clarra)



NFL DIVISION II WINNERS:
Graham Canty (Corcaigh)

NATIONAL DOUBLE

Kerry and Cork are both in line for national titles doubles.

- Last April Darran O'Sullivan led the Kingdom to victory over Derry at Croke Park for a first National League Division I title in three years. A goal from left half forward Donncha Walsh after nine minutes helped the Kingdom to the 1-15 to 0-15 win.
- In the curtain-raiser Cork, captained by Graham Canty from centre half back, beat Monaghan 1-14 to 0-12 in the National League Division II final. Right full forward James Masers scored the only goal late in the game, while left full forward Daniel Goulding was top scorer for both teams with five points.



TWO LOSSES

Kerry have not lost two All-Ireland senior football finals in succession since 1964 and 1965 when Galway football was at such a height that in 1996 they completed their only sequence of three titles in succession.

Cork are bidding for their first Sam Maguire Cup win since sharpshooting Larry Tompkins led them from centre half forward to victory over Meath in 1990 for what ranks as the county's only successful defence of the title.

DRAMATIC WIN

In early May Cork beat Down by 1-13 to 2-9 in dramatic style in the All-Ireland Under-21 football final at Portlaoise.

The game was two minutes into added time when left half forward Colm O'Drisoll earned Cork their late, late win with a goal. Colm O'Neill, who captained the side from right full forward, was joint top scorer with full forward David Gould with five points each

- This is proving a good year, in fact, for Cork on the titles front. Last month the juniors added to the success by seeing off Roscommon in the All-Ireland final at Portlaoise by 0-15 to 0-12.

SIX IN A ROW

Kerry are appearing in their sixth successive final and ninth counting a replay in all in this decade — a remarkable record,

- They beat Galway in 2000 in a replay, lost to Armagh in 2002, beat Mayo in 2004, lost to Tyrone a year later, beat Mayo and Cork in 2006 and 2007, and lost to the O'Neill County last September.

LAST DRAWN FINAL

Kerry were involved in the last drawn All-Ireland senior final. They were a point ahead of Galway in the 2000 summit as the game neared a close, but a point from full forward Pádraic Joyce after sixty-six minutes tied the scores at 0-14 each and sent the game to a replay. The Kingdom won at the second attempt by 0-17 to 1-10.

ROLL OF HONOUR and THE SAM MAGUIRE CUP

35	Kerry:	1903, 1904, 1909, 1913, 1914, 1924, 1926, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1937, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1946, 1953, 1955, 1959, 1962, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2007.
22	Dublin:	1891, 1892, 1894, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1942, 1958, 1963, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1983, 1995.
9	Galway:	1925, 1934, 1938, 1956, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1998, 2001.
7	Meath:	1949, 1954, 1967, 1987, 1988, 1996, 1999.
6	Cork:	1890, 1911, 1945, 1973, 1989, 1990.
5	Cavan:	1933, 1935, 1947, 1948, 1952.
	Down:	1960, 1961, 1968, 1991, 1994.
	Wexford:	1893, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918.
4	Kildare:	1905, 1919, 1927, 1928.
	Tipperary:	1889, 1895, 1900, 1920.
3	Louth:	1910, 1912, 1957.
	Mayo:	1936, 1950, 1951.
	Offaly:	1971, 1972, 1982.
	Tyrone:	2003, 2005, 2008.
2	Limerick:	1887, 1896.
	Roscommon:	1943, 1944.
1	Armagh:	2002.
	Derry:	1993.
	Donegal:	1992.

NOTE: No final was played in 1888 due to a visit of hurlers and athletes to the U.S.A. known as "The American Invasion".

SAM MAGUIRE CUP

The Sam Maguire Cup was first presented for the 1928 All-Ireland senior football final, in which Kildare, then defending All-Ireland champions, beat Cavan.

The trophy commemorates Sam Maguire, who gave outstanding service to the Association in Britain. He was a key figure in the organisation in London for the first twenty years of its existence.

Born in Mallabraga, County Cork, in 1879, he was to the fore as the London County panel contested four All-Ireland finals in a row from 1900 to 1903. He died in 1927 at the young age of 47.

The Sam Maguire Cup was replaced with a new trophy, also known, as the Sam Maguire Cup, for the 1988 All-Ireland final.

Meath beat Cork in a final replay that year and Joe Cassells was the first player presented with the new trophy.



Fear factor could decide this local battle

By Jackie Cahill

Blood and bandage against green and gold. An All-Ireland senior football final dripping with tradition at Croke Park this afternoon as Munster's heavyweights lock horns on the biggest day of all for the second time in three years.

The less said about 2007 the better from a Cork perspective as Kerry crowed long before the finish. Cork appeared gripped

by fear and that was

reflected in the team's performance as elementary mistakes were punished by ruthless Kerry efficiency.



Nicholas Murphy (Corcaigh)

The Rebels have come a long way since then and armed with a potent mix of power, pace and footballing ability, they are now ideally suited to Croke Park. They have already sampled victory against Kerry

this year, in the Munster semi-final replay, but provincial bragging rights will matter little if green and gold ribbons adorn Sam Maguire again this evening.

Kerry, contesting a sixth successive All-Ireland final and in search of a 36th crown, have been around the block so many times but Cork's experience of two years ago will stand them in good stead. They have never beaten Kerry at Croke Park but crucially, they did manage to get one over on the Kingdom's arch-rivals, Tyrone, in the recent semi-final.

BLISTERING

Cork pulled on the party hats and demolished Donegal with a blistering quarter-final display but they toughed it out against Mickey Harte's Tyrone, and with just 14 men to boot.

Popular theory suggests that on the back of recent underage success, Cork's footballers will be making regular trips to Croke Park over the next few years but for this group of players, the time is now.

Long-serving defenders Anthony Lynch and Graham Canty are players who deserve to have the words 'All-Ireland senior football medallist' stamped on their CVs but Kerry great Darragh Ó Sé won't want to end his glittering intercounty career with defeat to Cork.

CLASSIC

It really is set up for a classic this afternoon and the stakes couldn't be higher.

Cork's graph has been on an increasing rise in recent years and there is a massive hunger within Cork to claim a first All-Ireland SFC crown since 1990. Current manager Conor Counihan was a player then and has his team operating to high levels of intensity this year. National Football League Division 2 success was achieved earlier in the season before the serious business began and Cork claimed provincial glory.

“...provincial bragging rights will matter little if green and gold ribbons adorn Sam again this evening.”

BELOW PAR

Kerry were put to the sword and a below par final performance against Limerick gave Cork plenty to work on before they hit Croke Park. They hit the hallowed sod with a bang as Donegal were blown out of the water before Tyrone could not live with the Rebel power play last time out.

Canty and Lynch have been magnificent in defence but if there is one weakness at the back, it's in the inside line where Donegal's young full-forward Michael Murphy showed that Cork can be susceptible to the high ball.

Expect Kerry to launch it high and often early on today as they look to profit.

KEY BATTLE

At midfield, Nicholas Murphy and O'Sé renew acquaintances and it's now time for Murphy to stand up and be counted in this key battle. Around the middle, Cork dominated against Tyrone and with Murphy's sidekick Alan O'Connor providing a useful foil, the Rebels can win this crucial sector.

Rampaging centre forward Pearse O'Neill will also add massive height and impetus here and, when in possession, O'Neill's direct running will prove difficult to counteract.

In defence and at midfield, Cork appear to have an edge but it's in attack where Kerry have have an advantage. Writing last weekend, former Meath star Colm O'Rourke pointed to Cork's defensive strength but warned that All-Ireland finals are usually won by classier forwards, which Kerry possess.

Defensively, Kerry are much sounder now than when the sides met in Munster, with Mike McCarthy relishing the freedom of his new centre back role.

Tom O'Sullivan and Marc Ó Sé's form has improved considerably and it should not be forgotten Ó Sé was badly hampered by injury

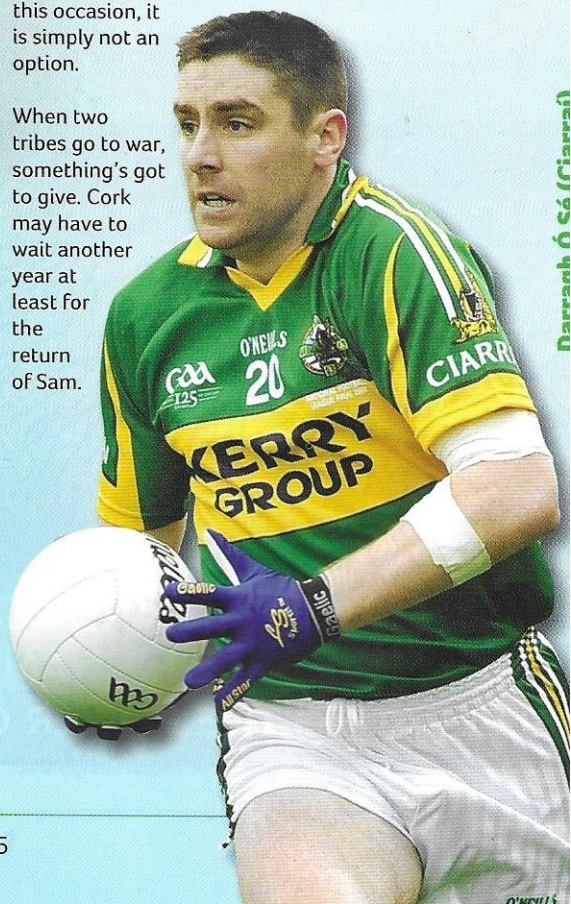
when Donncha O'Connor performed exceptionally well against him in that provincial meeting.

In the Kerry forward line, Colm Cooper and Declan O'Sullivan are household names while Paul Galvin, despite his sending off against Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, has been playing like a man possessed. Elsewhere, Tadhg Kennelly's ascent to peak form and fitness has provided Kerry with a stunning extra option and the former Australian Rules star will also ensure that Canty doesn't wander too far into enemy territory.

DUELS

All over the pitch, fascinating duels lie in store but a massive underlying fear factor must be taken into account. Two years ago, neither side contemplated defeat approaching the final but on this occasion, it is simply not an option.

When two tribes go to war, something's got to give. Cork may have to wait another year at least for the return of Sam.





ESB GAA HURLING AND FOOTBALL
ALL-IRELAND MINOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
CELEBRATING THE POWER OF PEOPLE.



Message from ESB Chief Executive, Pádraig McManus

SPONSORS OF MINOR HURLING AND FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A chairde uilig, it is an immense pleasure to be back in Croke Park today at the end of a wonderful season to watch the footballers of Armagh and Mayo contest the 2009 ESB GAA Football All Ireland Minor Championship Final.

Both counties are synonymous with great and skilful football and I have no doubt we will see on this pitch the essence of fine future senior teams.

Promoting and nurturing young players is at the core of ESB's sponsorship of the Minor Football and Hurling Championships. Our involvement is now in its fifth year and I am particularly pleased that this support is yielding such fruitful dividends.

ESB and the GAA share a long history, serving local communities throughout the country. Both organisations share similar goals – the maximum inclusion of young people in sport that brings good health, personal fulfilment and a strong sense of belonging in our society.

It is indeed a privilege to watch these young players, proud of their counties and expending all their energies in bringing honour home. I wish them all well. After today is over, they will take with them the unique and memorable experience of playing in an ESB GAA Football All Ireland Minor Final in Croke Park.



Pádraig McManus, Chief Executive ESB.

FIRST ARMAGH-MAYO FINAL

The ESB All-Ireland minor football championship final makes history as it is the first between Armagh and Mayo.

The Orchard County have a direct interest in a final for the first time since 1992 when they were in touching distance of the title as the game moved into added time only to lose out to a goal from substitute Michael Farrelly that earned Meath a dramatic 2-5 to 0-10 win.

Armagh were captained by Paul McGrane from midfield in what was their first final appearance stretching back to 1957 when they also lost to Meath.

Mayo are appearing in their second successive All-Ireland final. Last year they were a point ahead of Tyrone with time almost up when left half forward Matthew Donnelly displayed coolness and accuracy in pointing to tie the scores at 0-14 each and send the game to a replay.

In the replay at Longford the match finished all square at the end of normal time, with full forward Aidan Walsh (Mayo) pointing from a free to level the scores at, amazingly, 0-14 each.

Tyrone went on in extra time to complete the minor and senior double for the county that season at 1-20 to 1-15 before an attendance of 15,056.

- Mayo last won the title in 1985 when they beat Cork by 3-3 to 0-9 for a sixth title.
- The 2005 final made history as both Mayo and their opponents, Down, both lost their provincial finals that year. As a result, the final was the first in the grade between two counties both beaten earlier in the campaign.

- Armagh and Mayo were last engaged in a minor football championship game in 2005 when the Western county, who were beaten in the Connacht final, won by 0-10 to 0-6 at Dr. Hyde Park. Armagh were Ulster champions at the time.



- Roscommon and Kerry failed to score a goal when they played a draw in the 2006 final. That was the first to end all square since 2003 when Laois and Dublin each scored 1-11. The O'Moore County won the replay.



- Galway recorded the last Connacht success in 2007 by beating Derry. They were captained from midfield by Paul Conroy.
- The winners of the All-Ireland minor football championship are presented with the Tom Markham Cup. The trophy commemorates a great Dublin Gael, Tom Markham, and was presented for the first time for the 1940 final. Louth beat Mayo by 5-5 to 2-7 in that game.
- Cork have won the trophy more times than any other county. All of their ten All-Ireland titles were won during the Markham Cup era.
- Armagh captured the trophy for the first time in 1949.

Tyrone set the standard for Ulster with seven Cup wins. Their first-ever All-Ireland minor football title in 1947 also earned them ranking as the first county to bring the trophy across the Border.

ARMAGH BID FOR A 50th CELEBRATION



Armagh will have more than the usual cause for celebration if they win the All-Ireland minor football final. After all, it is fifty years since the county last captured this title.

They line out in their first final appearance in seventeen years with sound credentials. They set the seal on impressive performances in the earlier rounds with a comprehensive win over Kerry last time out at Croke Park.

Two goals from left full forward Gavin McPartland separated the teams at the end. However, the Ulster champions would have finished more convincing winners but for some brilliant saves by Kerry goalkeeper Peter O'Sullivan.

Kerry had the edge in the first half and a late save by O'Sullivan made a big contribution to sending them into the half time break ahead by 0-7 to 0-4.

The second half had hardly started when midfielder Peter Carragher put McPartland in possession and he efficiently collected his first goal in fine style. Armagh, with Carragher and James Donnelly showing up well in midfield, maintained the pressure and had two fine shots saved by the Kerry goalkeeper.

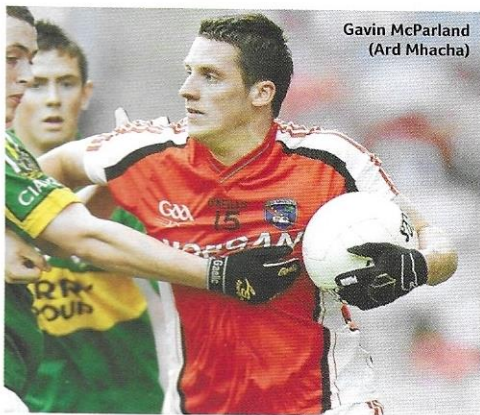
However, after twelve minutes a fine movement ended with McPartland back again on the goal standard to put the Northerners well in command with a lead of 2-6 to 0-7. Kerry continued to strive

earnestly but Armagh did not lose their composure, and finished deserving winners by 2-10 to 0-10.

McPartland's finishing flair and the sharpshooting of right half forward Rory Grugan, who finished with six points, were two features of the success.

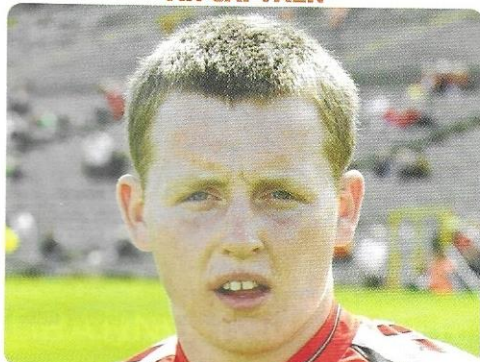
The midfielders, and defenders Declan McKenna, the team captain, and Kevin Nugent also showed up well, while goalkeeper Stephen O'Reilly brought off a good save at the expense of a point at the end of the match.

However, this was a good team performance and an impressive platform from which to press forward in quest of that long awaited second All-Ireland title.



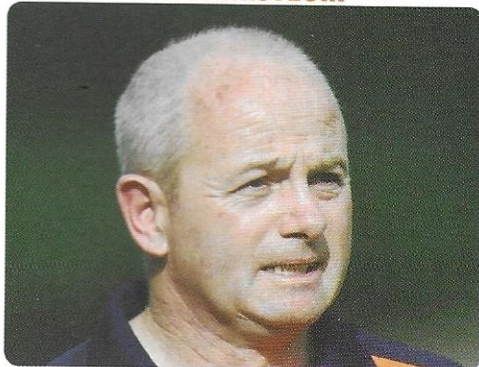
Gavin McPartland
(Ard Mhacha)

AN CAPTAEN



DECLAN MCKENNA

AN BAINISTEOR



PAUL McSHANE

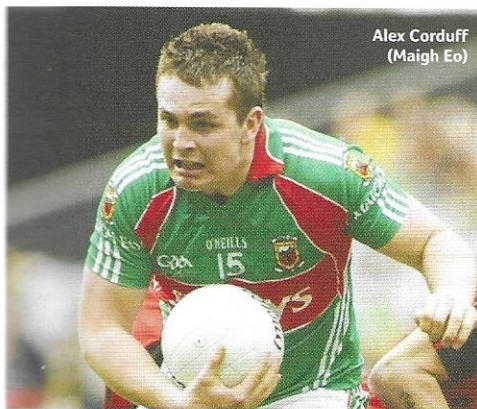
MAYO HOPING TO FINISH THE JOB THIS TIME



Can Mayo go one better than last year when their All-Ireland minor football title hopes were ended by Tyrone in a final replay that went to extra time?

They return to the final scene with a good all round team and also impressive form to recommend them. They retained the Connacht final after a replay, scored well against Tipperary in a quarter-final, and a two goal blitz in the second half sent them on their way to the final at the expense of Ulster title runners-up Down.

Goalkeeper Michael Schlingermann played a big role in the success with some superb saves while a two goal salvo by left full forward Cillian O'Connor in the second half made significant contributions to the success.



Alex Corduff
(Maigh Eo)

Down had somewhat the better of the first half exchanges and but for the brilliance of Schlingermann would have been further ahead at the break than by 0-7 to 0-5.

The second half was only four minutes old when O'Connor gave Mayo a real boost by scoring his first goal. A few minutes later he gathered a rebound after the Down goalkeeper made a fine save and again sent to the net.

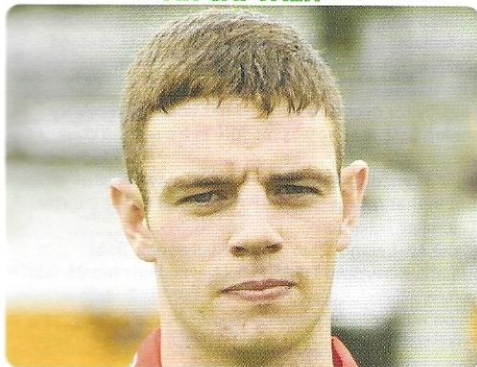
Those goals helped turned Down's two points lead at the interval into a 2-7 to 0-7 deficit and set the Connacht champions firmly on their way. Scores were at a premium after that with each side adding just two each and Mayo finished ahead by 2-9 to 0-9.

Schlingermann again played a big part in keeping the Ulster side's scores to a minimum with some superb saves in the concluding stages of the half. O'Connor with his two goals, and Aidan Walsh, who lined out a full forward and scored six points, were also starred.

The Mayo back division, powered by full Keith Rogers and right half Ciarán Charlton, and with Schlingerman in such majestic form in the last line of defence, ensued that the Mourne County attack had a frustrating afternoon.

There is little doubt, then, that Mayo are well armed in all departments for this bid to go one better than last year and end the county's disappointing record in finals of late.

AN CAPTAEN



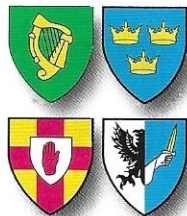
AIDAN WALSH

AN BAINISTEIR



RAY DEMPSEY

2009 Minor Football Championship Scoreboard



Leighin

(PR) 18th April @ Nowlan Park:
Wexford 3-19 Kilkenny 0-5
(PR) 18th April @ Aughrim:
Kildare 4-19 Wicklow 0-5
(PR) 18th April @ An Uaimh:
Meath 0-18 Offaly 1-11 aet
(PR) 18th April @ Dr Cullen Park:
Westmeath 1-15 Carlow 1-6
(PR) 18th April @ Pearse Park:
Laois 3-10 Longford 1-13
(PR) 18th April @ Drogheda:
Dublin 4-15 Louth 0-5
(PR) 25th April @ Pearse Park:
Offaly 4-12 Longford 1-6
(PR) 25th April @ Aughrim:
Wicklow 2-12 Carlow 1-8
(PR) 9th May @ Tullamore:
Offaly 1-15 Louth 0-16
(PR) 9th May @ Aughrim:
Wicklow 8-15 Kilkenny 1-1
(QF) 23rd May @ Portmarknock:
Dublin 0-14 Laois 1-10 aet
(QF) 23rd May @ An Uaimh:
Meath 0-18 Westmeath 0-9
(QF) 23rd May @ Droichead Nua:
Kildare 3-15 Wexford 2-4
(QF) 23rd May @ Tullamore:
Offaly 3-13 Wicklow 2-11
(SF) 27th June @ An Uaimh:
Kildare 1-8 Meath 0-10
(SF) 27th June @ Tullamore:
Dublin 5-17 Offaly 1-15 aet
(F) 12th July @ Croke Park:
Dublin 1-10 Kildare 1-10

@ 18th July @ Dr Cullen Park:
Dublin 1-15 Kildare 1-10 aet

Uladh

(PR) 17th May @ Enniskillen:
Down 1-12 Fermanagh 0-4
(QF) 24th May @ Celtic Park:
Monaghan 1-12 Derry 0-10
(QF) 30th May @ the Athletic Grounds:
Down 1-11 Cavan 2-7
(QF) 31st May @ Clones:
Armagh 2-8 Tyrone 1-9
(QF) 14th June @ Ballybofey:
Donegal 0-14 Antrim 0-11

(SF) 27th June @ Clones:
Down 1-10 Donegal 1-8
(SF) 4th July @ Clones:
Armagh 2-14 Monaghan 2-8
(F) 19th July @ Clones:
Armagh 1-8 Down 1-5

Mumha

(PR) 15th April @ Thurles:
Kerry 1-11 Tipperary 1-6
(PR) 15th April @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 2-12 Limerick 1-6
(PR) 15th April @ Dungarvan:
Clare 1-15 Waterford 1-5
(PR) 20th April @ Dungarvan:
Waterford 0-9 Limerick 0-6
(PR) 24th April @ Thurles:
Tipperary 1-15 Waterford 0-6

(SF) 13th May @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Tipperary 0-13 Cork 0-10 aet
(SF) 13th May @ Tralee:
Kerry 2-10 Clare 1-4
(F) 5th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Kerry 0-12 Tipperary 0-6

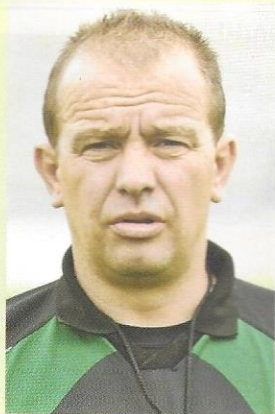
Connacht

(QF) 16th May @ Tuam:
Galway 1-5 Sligo 0-7
(SF) 27th June @ Hyde Park:
Roscommon 1-17 Leitrim 0-3
(SF) 28th June @ Markievicz Park:
Mayo 2-13 Galway 1-7
(F) 19th July @ Pearse Stadium:
Mayo 1-5 Roscommon 0-8
@ 26th July @ Hyde Park:
Mayo 1-8 Roscommon 0-5

All-Ireland

(QF) 1st August @ Breffni Park:
Galway 2-14 Kildare 2-8
(QF) 3rd August @ Croke Park:
Kerry 3-15 Roscommon 1-17 aet
(QF) 3rd August @ Tullamore:
Mayo 3-10 Tipperary 1-8
(QF) 15th August @ Breffni Park:
Down 2-16 Dublin 2-14
(SF) 23rd August @ Croke Park:
Armagh 2-10 Kerry 0-10
(SF) 30th August @ Croke Park:
Mayo 2-9 Down 0-9
PR - Preliminary Round
QF - Quarter-Final
SF - Semi-Final

An Réiteoir: Eddie Kinsella (Laois)



Eddie is only the second Laois man to take charge of an All-Ireland minor football final. Maurice Deegan was the first in 2005. Kinsella is a member of the Courtwood club, and won Junior and Intermediate county medals as a defender.

The Laois man took up refereeing seriously after having been first pressed into taking charge of a local practice game. His first local assignment was an Under-12 game between Portlaoise and Portarlinton.

He has been refereeing locally for over six years and has controlled county finals in all grades up to senior. Last year he was on duty in his second county senior decider.

Kinsella is in his fourth year as an intercounty referee and made his All-Ireland championship debut in that role at the 2007 All-Ireland minor quarter-final between Kerry and Tyrone at Tullamore.

Last January he refereed the All-Ireland Club Intermediate semi-final between St. Michael's, Foilmore, Kerry, and Trillick, Tyrone and last month was the man in the Mayo-Tipperary All-Ireland minor quarter-final at Tullamore.

Eddie, who has also been on Allianz League duty this year is a self-employed Roofing Contractor. He is married to Sinéad and they have two children, Chloe (13) and Alan (10).

Last Meeting...2005

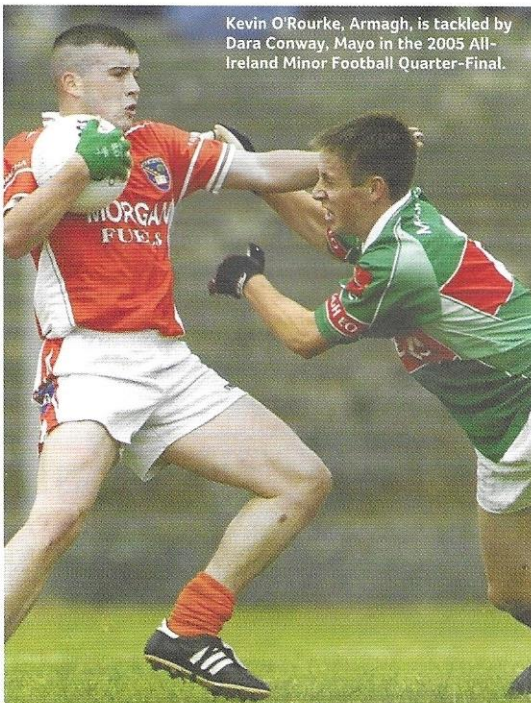
STRONG START SEES MAYO THROUGH

Mayo 0-10 Armagh 1-6

A good start is half the battle and that was very much the case when Mayo and Armagh last clashed in the minor championship four years ago at the quarter-final stage. Having battled through four matches to take the Ulster crown, the Orchard county were quietly fancied to beat the Connacht runners-up, but with Pierce Hanley and Aidan Campbell to the fore Mayo started superbly and led by 0-6 to 0-1 after 19 minutes. Two points by Stefan Forker reduced Armagh's deficit to three points at the change of ends. In the third quarter each side added a brace of points to their interval totals before Hanley pushed Mayo four clear. There was still four points dividing the sides after an hour, but a goal from Colm Watters in injury time reduced Armagh's arrears to a point. Alas, time ran out before they could source an equaliser.

Mayo scorers: A Campbell 0-4, P Hanley 0-3, P O'Connor 0-2, R O'Boyle 0-1.

Armagh scorers: S Forker 0-3, C Watters 1-0, K O'Rourke 0-2, K Carragher 0-1.



Kevin O'Rourke, Armagh, is tackled by Dara Conway, Mayo in the 2005 All-Ireland Minor Football Quarter-Final.

Final Records

Ard Mhacha

Wins – 1

1949 Armagh 1-7 Kerry 1-5

Losses – 3

1951 Roscommon 2-7 Armagh 1-5

1957 Meath 3-9 Armagh 0-4

1992 Meath 2-5 Armagh 0-10

Maigh Eo

Wins – 6

1935 Mayo 1-6 Tipperary 1-1

1953 Mayo 2-11 Clare 1-6

1966 Mayo 1-12 Down 1-8

1971 Mayo 2-15 Cork 2-7

1978 Mayo 4-9 Dublin 3-8

1985 Mayo 3-3 Cork 0-9

Losses – 13

1930 Dublin 1-3 Mayo 0-5

1933 Kerry 4-1 Mayo 0-9
 1940 Louth 5-5 Mayo 2-7
 1947 Tyrone 4-4 Mayo 4-3
 1958 Dublin 2-10 Mayo 0-8
 1961 Cork 3-7 Mayo 0-5
 1962 Kerry 6-5 Mayo 0-7
 1974 Cork 1-10 Mayo 1-6
 1991 Cork 1-9 Mayo 1-7
 1999 Down 1-14 Mayo 0-14
 2000 Cork 2-12 Mayo 0-13
 2005 Down 1-15 Mayo 0-8
 2008 Tyrone 1-20 Mayo 1-15 ®

- 11. Kerry: 1931, 1932, 1933, 1946, 1950, 1962, 1963, 1975, 1980, 1988, 1994.
- 10. Dublin: 1930, 1945, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1979, 1982, 1984.
 Cork: 1961, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1981, 1991, 1993, 2000.
- 7. Tyrone: 1947, 1948, 1973, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2008.
- 6. Mayo: 1935, 1953, 1966, 1971, 1978, 1985.
 Galway: 1952, 1960, 1970, 1976, 1986, 2007.
- 4. Derry: 1965, 1983, 1989, 2002.
 Down: 1977, 1987, 1999, 2005.
 Roscommon: 1939, 1941, 1951, 2006.
- 3. Laois: 1996, 1997, 2003.
 Meath: 1957, 1990, 1992.
- 2. Cavan: 1937, 1938.
 Louth: 1936, 1940.
- 1. Armagh: 1949. Clare: 1929. Offaly: 1964. Tipperary: 1934. Westmeath: 1995.

Roll of Honour



NOTE: This championship was suspended from 1942 to 1944 inclusive because of World War II.

PLAYERS ON THE MINOR PANELS NOT INCLUDED ON THE TEAMSHEET ARE — Ard Mhacha. Conn Stevenson (Na Clairsigh Ard Mhacha), Karl Loughran (Na Clairsigh Ard Mhacha), Matthew Greene (Michael MacDubhuir An Ceide), Michael Lennon (Naomh Mochua Doire Nuis), Mark Davidson (Port an Dunain Tír na nÓg), Pdraig McGlone (Uí Conaill Tullach Sarain) Maigh Eo. Andrew Carroll (Kiltimagh), Niall McCarney (Castlebar Mitchels), Michael Morley (Aghamore), David Morrin (The Neale), Conor O'Shea (Breaffy), Brian Walsh (Garrymore).

Darrock Mulhall
(Cill Dara)



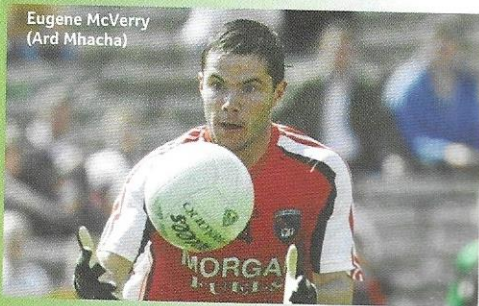
TOP SCORERS

The race to succeed Kerry's Barry John Walsh as the minor top scorer looks settled with Darrock Mulhall edging out the Dublin duo of Paul Hudson and Darragh Stapleton by a point. It would require twelve point returns by either Eugene McVerry and/or Killeen O'Connor to deny the Lily White, which is a tall ask in any match, let alone an All-Ireland final. The top ten (eleven) currently reads:

Darrock Mulhall (Kildare)	4-22 (34)
Paul Hudson (Dublin)	3-24 (33)
Darragh Stapleton (Dublin)	3-24 (33)
Eanna O'Connor (Kerry)	2-20 (26)
Anton Sullivan (Offaly)	6-7 (25)
Ross McGarry (Down)	3-15 (24)
Eugene McVerry (Armagh)	1-19 (22)
Killeen O'Connor (Mayo)	5-7 (22)
Tommy Kelly (Wicklow)	2-15 (21)
Bernard Allen (Offaly)	1-15 (18)
Gavin McPartland (Armagh)	4-6 (18)

Individual Feats

Eugene McVerry
(Ard Mhacha)



Paul Hudson may have missed out on the overall scoring title by a point, but the Metropolitan looks set to claim the individual feats award by the same margin. The Dublin ace hit 2-7 in Tullamore against the hosts, albeit with the benefit of an extra 20 minutes, while fellow Liffesider Darragh Stapleton got within a point of that total in the All-Ireland quarter-final against Down. In all there were ten returns (seven last year) of nine points or more in the current campaign and they are:

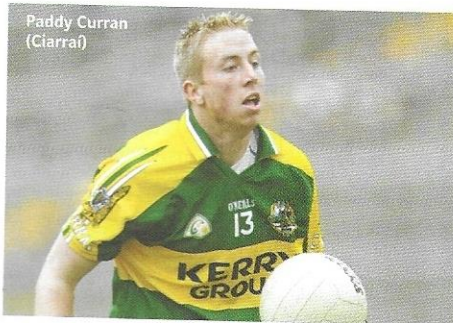
- 13 Paul Hudson (Dublin) 2-7 v Offaly
@ Tullamore*
- 12 Darragh Stapleton (Dublin) 1-9 v Down
@ Breffni Park
- 10* Eugene McVerry (Armagh) 1-7 v
Monaghan @ Clones
- Tommy Kelly (Wicklow) 1-7 v Offaly
@ Tullamore
- Anton Sullivan (Offaly) 3-1 v Longford
@ Pearse Park
- I. McDonald (Wicklow) 3-1 v Kilkenny
@ Aughrim
- 9 Daniel Fitzgerald (Cork) 1-6 v Limerick
@ Pairc Ui Chaoimh
- D. Quinn (Longford) 1-6 v Laois
@ Pearse Park
- Darragh Stapleton (Dublin) 1-6 v Offaly
@ Tullamore*
- Niall McCague (Wicklow) 3-0 v Kilkenny
@ Aughrim

*extra time played

Top Scorers in Minor Finals since 2000

- 2000 Conor Mortimer (Mayo) 0-6 v Cork
- 2001 Leo Meenan (Tyrone) 1-4 v Dublin
- 2002 Brian Farrell (Meath) 0-7 v Derry
- 2003 Barry Kennedy (Dublin) 0-4 Colm Kelly (Laois) 1-1
replay Kevin Leahy (Dublin) 0-6
- 2004 Paul O'Connor (Kerry) 0-6 v Tyrone
- 2005 Paul McCumiskey (Down) 1-3 v Mayo
- 2006 Paddy Curran (Kerry) 0-8 v Roscommon
- replay Donal Shine (Roscommon) 0-6 v Kerry
- 2007 Michael Martyn (Galway) 0-6 v Derry
- 2008 Paddy McNiece (Tyrone) 0-6 v Mayo
- replay Aidan Walsh (Mayo) 0-6 Conor O'Neill (Tyrone) 1-3

Paddy Curran
(Ciarraí)



PATHS TO THE FINAL



Back (L-R): James Donnelly, Niall McConville, Paul McGeown, Thomas McAlinden, Eugene McVerry, Conor King, Andrew Murnin, James Kelly, Stephen O'Reilly, Peter Carragher, Shane Mone, Padraig Hollywood, Gavin McParland.
Front (L-R): Robbie Tasker, Kevin Nugent, Christopher McCafferty, James Morgan, Niall Rowland, Declan McKenna (capt), Rory Grugan, Roman Finnegan, Kealan Downey, Dean Nugent, Ryan Rafferty.

Ard Mhacha



31st May @ Clones:

Armagh 2-8 Tyrone 1-9

4th July @ Clones:

Armagh 2-14 Monaghan 2-8

19th July @ Clones:

Armagh 1-8 Down 1-5

1st August @ Breffni Park:

Armagh 2-14 Kildare 2-8

23rd August @ Croke Park:

Armagh 2-10 Kerry 0-10

Total Scored 9-54 (81) Total Conceded 6-40 (58)

Average 1.4

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Eugene McVerry	0-1	1-7	0-1	0-7	0-3	1-19
Gavin McParland	0-4	1-1	0-1	1-0	2-0	4-6
Rory Grugan	—	0-2	1-2	0-3	0-6	1-13
Robbie Tasker	2-2	0-3	0-2	—	0-1	2-8
Conor King	0-1	—	—	0-1	—	0-2
Andrew Murnin	—	0-1	—	0-1	—	0-2
Kealan Downey	—	—	0-1	—	—	0-1
Peter Carragher	—	—	0-1	—	—	0-1
James Morgan	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1
Niall Rowland	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1
Tomas Moolick (Kildare)	—	—	—	1-0og	—	1-0

Maigh Eo



28th June @ Markievicz Park:

Mayo 2-13 Galway 1-7

19th July @ Pearse Stadium:

Mayo 1-5 Roscommon 0-8

25th July @ Hyde Park:

Mayo 1-8 Roscommon 0-5

3rd August @ Tullamore:

Mayo 3-10 Tipperary 1-8

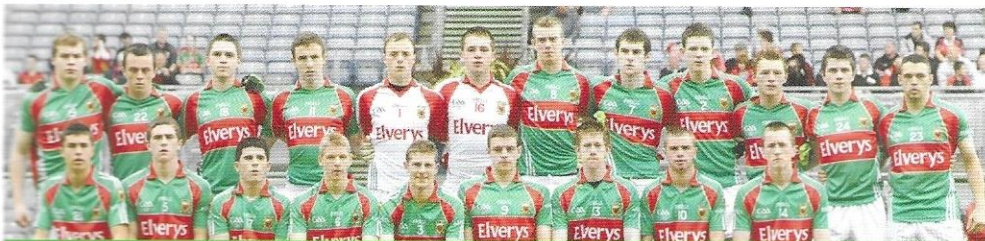
30th August @ Croke Park:

Mayo 2-9 Down 0-9

Total Scored 9-45 (72) Total Conceded 2-37 (43)

Average 1.53

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Killeen O'Connor	1-0	1-1	0-5	1-1	2-0	5-7
Aidan Walsh	0-6	0-3	—	0-1	0-6	0-16
Andrew Farrell	0-1	—	0-3	0-2	—	0-6
Darren Coen	0-2	—	—	1-0	0-1	1-3
Alex Corduff	—	—	—	1-1	0-1	1-2
Danny Kirby	—	0-1	1-0	—	—	1-1
John Carney	1-0	—	—	—	0-1	1-1
Brian Rutledge	0-2	—	—	—	—	0-2
Jack McDonnell	0-1	—	—	0-1	—	0-2
Ciarán Charlton	—	—	—	0-2	—	0-2
Shane McDermott	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1
Darren Hebert	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1
Brian Walsh	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1



Back (L-R): Danny Geraghty, Brian Rutledge, Ian Costello, Darren Coen, Michael Schlingermann, Conor Campbell, Danny Kirby, Caoilan Crowe, David Gavin, Michael Walsh, Brian Walsh, Alan Stadler.
Front (L-R): Jack McDonnell, Ciarán Charlton, John Carney, Shane McDermott, Keith Rogers, Aidan Walsh, Daryl Hebert, Andrew Farrell, Cillian O'Connor.



Stephen O'Reilly
S. Ó Raghallaigh
(Na Madain)



Kealan Downey
C. Mac Giolla Domhnaigh
(Naomh Moinne Cill Sléibhe)



Ronan Finnegan
R. Ó Fionnagáin
(Raonaoithe na Croise)



Kevin Nugent
C. Nuinseann
(Machaire)



Declan McKenna
D. Mac Cionaoith (Capt.)
(Na Cláirsigh Ard Mhacha)



Niall Rowland
N. Ó Rothláin
(Baile Mhic Cullach)



James Morgan
S. Ó Muireagáin
(Raonaoithe na Croise)



Peter Carragher
P. Mac Fhearchair
(Na Cláirsigh Béal Átha an Airgid)



James Donnelly
S. Ó Donnaille
(Naomh Moinne Cill Sléibhe)



Rory Grugan
R. Ó Gruagáin
(Na Cloighithe Baile Mhic an Aba)



Andrew Murnin
A. Ó Murnáin
(Naomh Pól An Lorgain)



Conor King
C. Ó Cionga
(Naomh Moinne Cill Sléibhe)



Robbie Tasker
R. Tascair
(Naomh Pádraig Colleach Eanach)



Eugene McVerry
E. Mac Fearaigh
(Cúchulláin Mullach Bán)



Gavin McParland
G. Mac Parthaláin
(Na Cloighithe Baile Mhic an Aba)

	1 ^{ADH} LEATH	2 ^{ADH} LEATH
CÚIL		
CÚILÍNÍ		
SEACHAÍ		
45M		
SAOR GICEANNA		

FIR IONAD

(16) **Darren Kelly**
D. Ó Ceallaigh
(Naomh Peadar An Lorgáin)

(18) **Christopher McCafferty**
C. Mac Gafraidh
(Clann Éireann An Lorgáin)

(20) **Niall McConville**
N. Mac Conmhaoil
(Naomh Peadar An Lorgáin)

(22) **Pádraig Hollywood**
P. Ó Cuileannáin
(Naomh Mhuire An Gairseach Mhór)

(24) **Shane Mone**
S. Ó Mocháin
(Micheál MacDubhuir An Céide)

(17) **Ryan Rafferty**
R. Ó Raifeartaigh
(Naomh Mhuire An Gairseach Mhór)

(19) **Dean Nugent**
D. Nuinseann
(Micheál MacDubhuir An Céide)

(21) **Thomas McAlinden**
T. Mac Giolla Fhíolindáin
(Na Sairsealaigh na Moirte Airde)

(23) **Paul McGeown**
P. Mac Eoghán
(Na Sairsealaigh na Moirte Airde)

ROIGHNÓIRÍ

Paul McShane (Manager), Seán Hughes, Kieran Robinson.

ARD MHACHA



Time	Score	Goal

Michael Schlingermann
M. Schlingermann (Kiltimagh)

Michael Walsh
M. Breathnach (Ardnaree Sarsfields)

Keith Rogers
C. Mac Ruairí (Ballaghaderreen)

David Gavin
D. Ó Gabháin (Breafy)

Ciarán Charlton
C. Cathaláin (Kiltimagh)

Shane McDermott
S. Mac Diarmada (Burrishoole)

Caolán Crowe
C. Mac Conchra (Garrymore)

Danny Kirby
D. Ó Ciarba (Castlebar Mitchels)

Andrew Farrell
A. Ó Fearail (Killala)

Brian Rutledge
B. Ó Maoildeirg (Knockmore)

Darren Coen
D. Ó Cadhain (Hollymount)

Fergal Durkan
F. Ó Dureáin (Castlebar Mitchels)

Alex Corduff
A. Ó Colrduibh (Ballina Stephenites)

Aidan Walsh
A. Breathnach (Capt.) (Castlebar Mitchels)

Cillian O'Connor
C. Ó Conchúir (Ballintubber)

FIR IONAD

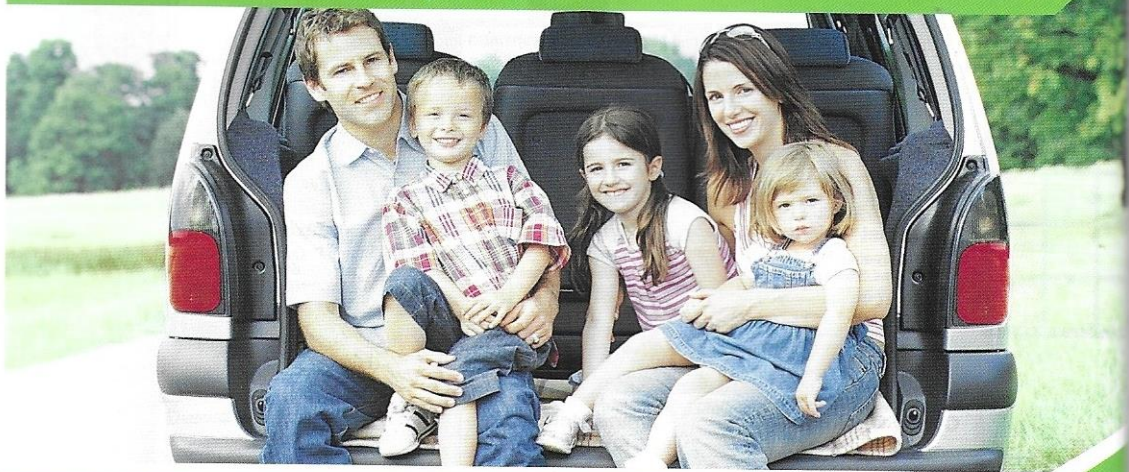
(16) Conor Campbell C. Miac Cathmhaoil (Swinford)	(18) Ian Costello I. Ó Coisdealbha (Carramore)	(20) Danny Geraghty D. Mac Daireachtáigh (Ballintubber)	(22) Michael McCormack M. Mac Cormaic (Ardnaree Sarsfields)	(24) Alan Stadler A. Stadler (Knockmore)
(17) John Carney S. Ó Cearnaigh (Swinford)	(19) Jonathan Donoghue S. Ó Donnchú (Belmullet)	(21) Daryl Herbert D. hÓlreabard (Knockmore)	(23) Jack McDonnell S. Mac Dónaill (Swinford)	

ROIGHNÓIRÍ

Ray Dempsey (Manager), Kevin Beirne, Stephen Healy, Tomás O'Grady.

MAIGH EO

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The Big Day: Bringing it to you

by Ger Canning

All-Ireland final day represents my idea of Heaven. It can never start early enough for me, so I'm in Croke Park from about 10am, going over my part in the operation. I've been fortunate enough to work on the big day since the early 1980s.

Back then, RTÉ decided to cover the final on two channels between 1981-'84. Michael O'Hehir gave the main commentary on RTÉ 1 and the game was covered 'tré Ghaeilge' on RTÉ 2.

In 1981 I was chuffed to be asked to do both finals in Irish and my third All-Ireland (in Gaeilge) was the football decider between Kerry and Dublin in 1984.

Today's football final is one of those iconic Irish sporting occasions, for many in the wider world our sport defines us, and Gaelic football is part of our shared heritage.

When I was a child the All-Ireland football final signalled the end of summertime. Once it was over there was nothing to look forward to except tiresome school work, dreary dark evenings and precious little sport on TV. In those days (admittedly in the last century!), the only GAA matches covered 'live' were All-Ireland semi-finals and finals, and the Railway Cup in March.

How things have changed!

When I began working with RTÉ in 1980 the majority of games covered were done on two or three cameras. It was down to the skill of the operators and the director that such quality was produced at that time. Nowadays over 20 cameras will be used to bring every possible moment of drama into people's living rooms.

The match is centre-piece. If that becomes a captivating engagement (as in the hurling final) then there's a very fair chance that a majority of viewers will be satisfied.

TEAM EVENT

Covering the final on TV is a team event. Led by our Head of Sport, Glen Killane, the meticulous planning is guided expertly by Paul Byrnes and Noel Carroll, responsible for editorial output and match direction. The work of Paula Fahy and Bill Lalor has once again this season ensured the highest production standards. All of these people are deeply passionate about Gaelic Games and are always searching for new angles to enhance the product presented.

Did you, for instance, notice the 'eye in the sky'



camera at the recent hurling final? This is positioned high in the roof of the Hogan Stand, and is remotely controlled from the Outside Broadcast 'scanner' (so called, because the TV director can 'scan' the camera pictures and decide which ones are most appropriate at any given moment during the match).

In the past this tiny little camera, about the size of a pen, might have been located inside the goal or somewhere else. However, by utilising resources in a prudent manner, you offer viewers a different perspective. This little camera can now do an internal panoramic swing around the ground and offer another novel dimension.

PREPARATION

The Sunday Game team begins the preparation for a championship season as soon as the old one finishes. O.B. vans (sorry, scanners!) cannot just pull into Clones or Thurles on a Sunday morning and 'off you go'. There are a million and one things to be done. My colleague, Joan O'Callaghan is a secret treasure in this respect, and we shall all miss her greatly after she retires following this All-Ireland final.

Here's a little example of what Joan and her colleagues like Áine Parkinson do. Some years ago when Tipp played Cork in the Skydome in Toronto on St. Patrick's Day, Joan remembered to bring shamrock out from Ireland so that those of us on screen that day would look 'properly dressed'! Every little bit counts in our business.

Rarely can I concentrate on the minor match on All-Ireland day. The only thing in my head today is Cork and Kerry. There are facts and figures, dates and details, odds and ends. 95% of what I've researched will never be used if the game is flying.

My old pal, Tim McCarthy, a former basketball international, keeps match-day stats for me, and he knows how I operate and what information will enhance a commentary and what could be termed 'superfluous'. We avoid the latter. And if Tim isn't there, Fr. Eoin Thynne gives me great help.

Kerry and Cork is far from a local spat. These are the two best teams in the country right now. They deserve to compete for the Sam Maguire Cup, because the rivalry here is keenly intense, and has been for generations.

Long may it continue.

GAA PROVINCIAL SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCOREBOARD 2009

CONNACHT

10th May, New York:
Mayo 2-19; New York 0-10.
24th May, Ruislip:
Galway 1-18; London 1-7.
31st May, Carrick-on-Shannon:
Roscommon 2-13; Leitrim 2-9.
SEMI-FINALS
20th June, Castlebar:
Mayo 3-18; Roscommon 0-7
28th June, Markievicz Park:
Galway 1-13; Sligo 0-12.
FINAL
19th July, Pearse Stadium:
Mayo 2-12; Galway 1-14.



LAIGHIN

17th May, Parnell Park:
Louth 1-13; Carlow 1-11.
24th May, Portlaoise:
Wicklow 2-12; Longford 1-13.
24th May, Portlaoise:
Kildare 1-16; Offaly 1-10.
7th June, Croke Park:
Dublin 0-14; Meath 0-12.
13th June, Carlow:
Kildare 2-12; Wexford 0-11.
14th June, Tullamore:
Westmeath 0-16; Wicklow 1-10. AET
14th June, Parnell Park:
Laois 1-15; Louth 1-11.
SEMI-FINALS
27th June, Tullamore
Kildare 2-18; Laois 0-9.
28th June, Croke Park:
Dublin 4-26; Westmeath 0-11.
FINAL
12th July, Coke Park:
Dublin 2-15; Kildare 0-18.



MUMHA

24th May, Thurles:
Limerick 1-11; Tipperary 1-9.
24th May, Dungarvan:
Cork 2-18; Waterford 1-7.
SEMI-FINALS
7th June, Killarney:
Kerry 0-13; Cork 1-10. DRAW
7th June, Ennis:
Limerick 1-13; Clare 1-9.
13th June, Pairc Ui Chaoimh:
Cork 1-17; Kerry 0-12. REPLAY.
FINAL
5th July, Pairc Ui Chaoimh:
Cork 2-6; Limerick 0-11.



ULADH

17th May, Enniskillen:
Fermanagh 0-13; Down 0-10.
24th May, Celtic Park:
Derry 1-10; Monaghan 0-10.
31st May, Clones:
Tyrone 2-10; Armagh 1-10.
6th June, Kingspan Breffni Park:
Cavan 0-13; Fermanagh 1-9.
14th June, Ballybofey:
Antrim 1-10; Donegal 0-12.
SEMI-FINALS
21st June, Casement Park:
Tyrone 0-15; Derry 0-7.
27th June, Clones:
Antrim 0-13; Cavan 1-7.
FINAL
19th July, Clones:
Tyrone 1-18; Antrim 0-15.



ALL-IRELAND QUALIFIERS

Round One

4th July, Ballybofey:
Donegal 2-13; Carlow 1-6.
4th July Clones:
Monaghan 0-13; Armagh 0-12.
4th July, Navan:
Meath 1-20; Waterford 0-8.
4th July, Aughrim:
Wicklow 0-17; Fermanagh 1-11.
4th July, Wexford Park:
Wexford 2-11; Offaly 0-16.
4th July, Drogheda:
Tipperary 2-10; Louth 1-12.
4th July, Newry:
Down 1-16; London 1-7.
4th July, Carrick-on-Shannon:
Longford 0-13; Leitrim 0-10.

Round Two

11th July, Newry:
Down 2-9; Laois 0-7.
11th July, Clones:
Derry 3-16; Monaghan 0-20.
11th July, Longford:
Kerry 1-12; Longford 0-11.
11th July, Wexford Park:
Wexford 1-8; Roscommon 0-11. DRAW.
11th July, Thurles:
Sligo 1-13; Tipperary 1-12.
11th July, Ballybofey:
Donegal 0-13; Clare 1-7.
11th July, Mullingar:
Meath 1-15; Westmeath 1-5.
11th July, Aughrim:
Wicklow 1-12; Cavan 0-8.
18th July, Wexford Park:
Roscommon 0-11; Wexford 0-8. REPLAY.

Round Three

18th July, Aughrim:
Wicklow 1-15; Down 0-17.
18th July, Tralee:
Kerry 0-14; Sligo 1-10.
18th July, Ballybofey:
Donegal 2-13; Derry 0-18. A.E.T.
25th July, Navan:
Meath 2-12; Roscommon 0-11.

Round Four

25th July, Makievicz Park:
Donegal 0-14; Galway 0-13.
25th July, Portlaoise:
Kildare 1-16; Wicklow 2-9.
26th July, Tullamore:
Kerry 2-12; Antrim 1-12.
Quarter Finals
1st August, Portlaoise:
Meath 1-13; Limerick 2-9.

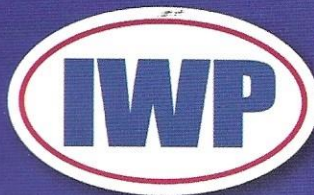
QUARTER-FINALS

2nd August, Croke Park:
Cork 1-27; Donegal 2-10.
2nd August, Croke Park:
Tyrone 0-16; Kildare 1-11.
3rd August, Croke Park:
Kerry 1-24; Dublin 1-7.
9th August, Croke Park:
Meath 2-15; Mayo 1-15.

SEMI-FINALS

23rd August, Croke Park:
Cork 1-13; Tyrone 0-11.
30th August, Croke Park:
Kerry 2-8; Meath 1-7.

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GETTING ON WITH THE JOB

The 2009 season has may have ended up with a final pairing familiar to many but Kerry's march to a sixth consecutive final appearance was anything but straight forward, including as it did a scenic route through the qualifier series.

GAA Communications Manager Alan Milton spoke to experienced Kingdom defender Tommy Griffin about the highs and lows of 2009 and the trappings of being involved in another GAA Football All-Ireland final.

He's one of the quiet men, the lesser known face who toils away from the spotlight and gets on with the job – whichever one it is that's asked of him on any given day – with minimum fuss. Tommy Griffin doesn't carry with him the marquee baggage that normally clings on to free scoring forwards or high profile operators.

Nonetheless Griffin's role is likely to be a crucial one if Kerry's season is to finish on a high today ensuring that an impressive turnaround has been overseen by manager Jack O'Connor following early season turbulence that had the prophets of doom in the Kingdom rubbing hands and salivating.

In any other county the two sub-standard displays against Cork could only have led to a de-stabilising effect and that's before lacklustre showings in three consecutive qualifier outings are factored in. In Kerry it's par for the course.

Griffin's move to full back for the qualifier route forced on the county after the Munster semi-final replay defeat at Páirc Uí Chaoimh has been one of the stand out switches in the overhaul that leaves the green and gold machine 70 minutes away from yet another All-Ireland success.

With the benefit of hindsight it's easy to be glib about the fall-out to that setback and the general pall of negativity that clung to Kerry's wobbling All-Ireland aspirations thereafter. However Griffin is not surprised by the reaction that accompanied the county's Munster exit nor the series of very public post mortems that followed.

"Everybody had written us off and maybe rightly so after the performance against Cork but we had won the league a couple of weeks before so we couldn't have become that bad that quickly," he points out. "I suppose the Kerry public wrote us off but we had a lot of lads out at the time and we now have a lot of lads back from injury from those two days.

"We got back, knuckled down again, had a few

meetings and straightened a few things out, made a few changes to the team and got back on the road again with the Longford game. We got back to winning ways slowly but surely and we've been getting there ever since.

"In Kerry it's not good enough just to win a game. You have to put in the complete performance before people are really happy. The qualifying games and the Munster semi-final games just weren't up to scratch and we knew we had work to do.

"Did I ever think we were in real trouble? Maybe when Sligo were gearing up to take the penalty against Diarmuid Murphy in the qualifier game in Tralee! That was the time when we I felt we had the biggest chance of crashing out.

"However we always believed in ourselves. We always knew we were capable of turning things around and patience was the key. A bit of experience from cool heads was also crucial in getting us over the line and to where we are at the moment. This is where we want to be." Griffin has more reason than most to value his involvement in this year's final. The four time All-Ireland medal winner, who at one stage or another has enjoyed game time in almost every position between numbers two and nine, was a surprise omission from the Kingdom line-up this time 12 months ago when the Kerry management team headed by Pat O'Shea sat down to select their starting fifteen for the final joust with Tyrone.

It's easy to be wise after the event but the absence of a man who had more than held his own in battles against Cork's big men was felt on a day when Seán Cavanagh raised an early gallop as part of a pattern that would leave its mark on the remainder of the contest.

The 31 year old has long since fixed his gaze on the 2009 season - and perhaps beyond - but admits the omission from the starting fifteen last year still rankles.



"Of course I was disappointed," he concedes. "Initially I was disappointed not to be playing. Afterwards it was disappointment with losing and coming on and not playing well. I played for fifteen minutes but didn't play as well I would have liked.

"Nobody likes to be dropped for an All-Ireland. I expected to have got a better crack of the whip after playing the two games but it wasn't my call, it was the selectors and management's. I did the Kerry press day last year. You're put up there and you answer the questions. I always knew the dangers of it. It was said that I was the Kerry full back but there's no such thing, it's just a man that's playing there on any given day.

"You have to live with it. I didn't give it a whole pile of thought afterwards. We had a lot of football to play after the final. As soon as November came Jack was on the phone again asking me to give it another year. To be honest I didn't need a whole pile of persuading."

It's this sort of 'up and at it' attitude that probably endears the ever versatile Griffin to O'Connor. In a helter-skelter season that has seen Kerry mix the sublime (quarter-final v Dublin) with the uncharacteristically less than impressive (see Cork replay, Longford and Sligo) it's a virtue that has served both Griffin and Kerry well.

The former minor knows what a win today against Kerry's old foes would mean, especially in an era where the back door system has diluted a pre-second chance rivalry that he found almost intoxicating as a sub in Killarney back in 2000 in what was his debut year.

Even if he wanted to, there will be no getting away from talk of the game in the coming days. Griffin, who rubbishes the suggestion that an All-Ireland without a win over Tyrone is in some way tarnished, runs a pub on John's Street in Dingle with long time friend Pádraig Ó Corráin, a domiciled Dub quietened after his native county's last eight collapse to his current hosts.

Tigh Mhuiris Dan Uí Shuilleabháin will host a dissection process win, lose or draw and Griffin, who became the first outfield starting player from the town to win a Celtic Cross since the legendary Paddy Bán Brosnan, wouldn't have it any other way.

"Talk of football is non-stop in the bar," admits Griffin. "It's West Kerry, you're in the middle of Dingle Town. There's great tradition in Dingle. It isn't basketball or badminton we're going to be talking about in the middle of Dingle and in the middle of west Kerry. That's what we're brought up with and it goes with the territory. You have to get yourself up for it and get on with it.

"If you don't like talking to people you shouldn't be in the bar business. Get a job behind a desk or go mountain climbing."

Mountain climbing indeed. When Kerry struggled past the early qualifier challenges of Longford, Sligo and Antrim that's the type of challenge many believed awaited this group of Kerry players – footballers who owe very little to very few as they gear up for a sixth consecutive final appearance.

Maybe, just maybe, this one, if it happens to be recorded against a buoyant Cork team, will be as satisfying as any of the others of recent vintage. Don't be surprised to see Griffin in the thick of it if that aspiration is to become a reality delivering for him medal number five in the process.

It would be due reward for one of Kerry's quiet men.

MISKELLA AND CORK TAKE THE LONG ROAD BACK

GAA Communications Manager Alan Milton spoke to John Miskella on the 2009 Rebel Revival

If tradition is weighing heavily on Cork's class of 2009, flying wing back John Miskella wears it well. Another game, another assignment, another All-Ireland – all opportunities he aims to grasp with both hands.

Today the age-old rivalry of the 'Southern Big Two' moves from its traditional Munster base to the one that matters most – namely that where the most sought after prize in football is awarded, Croke Park.

It may be a different stage but the same generational baggage will move in tow. Same rivalries, expectations, fears and hopes will shunt up the N7 and N8 and other arteries leading to the capital before parking up in Dublin 3.

Given the regularity of games between the teams – in recent years alone – it is hardly a new phenomenon and yet for all the familiarity there is a certain intrigue to the latest instalment, a real sense that this one could be different, that it might just buck the trend.

Cork have never beaten Kerry in a Croke Park encounter and they have come thick and fast since the qualifier system changed football's landscape in a profound way back in 2001.

That's six meetings without a win and the one result worth speaking of – a draw in last year's semi-final – is the only crumb of consolation in a run that has completely overshadowed Cork's efforts against the same opposition on the provincial circuit.

However hope springs eternal and Miskella is unperturbed by the wait for a win over Cork's fiercest rivals on the national arena ahead of the two counties' latest encounter. "I don't think playing Kerry in the final has really added to our involvement in the final," says the Clonakilty based Garda.

"As far I'm concerned it's another All-Ireland final. It's good to get there and no matter when you play Kerry it's going to be tough whether that's a league game or a championship match.

"We had a fair idea that we could end up playing them again because there are a few teams that were going to be in the shake up and they are one of them. They are a very good side. I don't think what happened this year, last year or any other year is anything to do with what happens in this year's final.

"Our record against Kerry in Croke Park is not something that we've dwelt on. We haven't thought about that. It's about getting the final day right. They've been upping their performances and I suppose we have to come up to that standard as well. This year

we're definitely improving. We're on the right track."

The last assertion is one that could be categorised as something of an understatement. Conor Counihan has brought a new dimension to the Rebel set up over the last two seasons, progress that was hinted at last year in a run that saw Cork push Kerry to the wire twice in All-Ireland semi-final outings.

While it could be said that Cork's probing over the course of those games pointed to weaknesses that Tyrone would later expose in Kerry, the Rebel displays were enough to underline the significance of the strides they had made in year one of Counihan's reign.

While Miskella's evergreen and all action displays from the half back line underline an outlook that he is one of the stalwarts of the team, his intercounty record backs this up. The Ballincollig ace featured in the finals of 1999 and 2007, neither of which worked out for the Cork camp.

As one of the more experienced heads he believes the combination of the influence of team manager Counihan on the set up and the infusion of fresh blood has taken the team off on a different tangent – one that has yielded very obvious benefits.

"Fresh blood is good and we've got strong players, three or four in some cases vying for each position and that means that training is very intense," he says.

"In addition to that, training has ramped up and our professionalism has gone up a notch. Brendan Cummins was on about it there before the hurling final saying that Tipperary have taken it to a new level this year in terms of a professional approach. I think every team in the country is trying to do it. Lads become more hungry for a place in a set up like that.

"Lads like Paul Kerrigan and Paddy Kelly do a world of work, both defensively and in attack. Look at Colm O'Neill in the full forward line who is going to be a massive player in the future and Ray Carey, who gets his job done, is a very good player. Maybe in the past you could nearly always pick two out of each line in the Cork team. That's not the case anymore and that's the best way to have it.

"Conor's role has been hugely important too. I remember him as a player – he was teak tough. As a manager he's full of encouragement, there is nothing negative in training. All the criticism, if there is any, is constructive.

"He's definitely got us working together. He has us trying things, playing out of our box as opposed to playing in our comfort zone. We're trying things and if

you try stuff you get the rewards. You have to take risks to win the big prize.”

Miskella has kept most of his visits to Croke Park for games he has actually been playing in. His father is of Wexford stock and his mother hails from Offaly and he readily admits a family interest in hurling would have meant that Thurles would have a more popular port of call than venues hosting high profile football matches.

Although he has had to park up his hurling playing commitments in more recent times, he retains a keen interest in the game.

Today however his focus will be on Kerry and whoever it is he detailed to shadow – or plausibly who is instructed to follow him in an effort to curb his frequent up field raids with a view to denting his eye for scores – a penchant that has seen him account for 0-9 of Cork’s total championship tally so far this summer.

The versatile father of two has good reason to look forward to today’s outing at headquarters as the curtain falls on another season of top level action. A clash with Brian McGuigan in the impressive semi-final win over Tyrone gave rise to speculation that Miskella’s final involvement could be jeopardised. This proved wide of the mark after an incident that was dealt with the issuing of a yellow card at the time.

To add further value to his presence today one only has to look to the injuries that ravaged his intercounty career leaving him at one stage to believe that his involvement at this level – and with the International Rules team last year – was something that had passed him by.

Speaking of the McGuigan incident he added. “To be honest, I was home Sunday night and I was on nights in work from Monday and asleep during the day. I didn’t hear a thing. Then I heard I got the all clear. I was relieved. It’s water under the bridge at this stage. I didn’t think much about it. If it happened, it would have happened and I would have had to deal with it.

“It was my fault. I knew this wasn’t a club game I was playing in, there were cameras everywhere. I was talking to Brian McGuigan after the game and he was grand. It’s irrelevant now at this at this stage and it hasn’t effected the way I was thinking or the way I have thought since.”

Asked about the more long term challenges and whether or not he thought the chance of playing in games like this had ended he says. “Oh yeah – absolutely. In 2006 I wasn’t even playing with my club and I was almost 29.

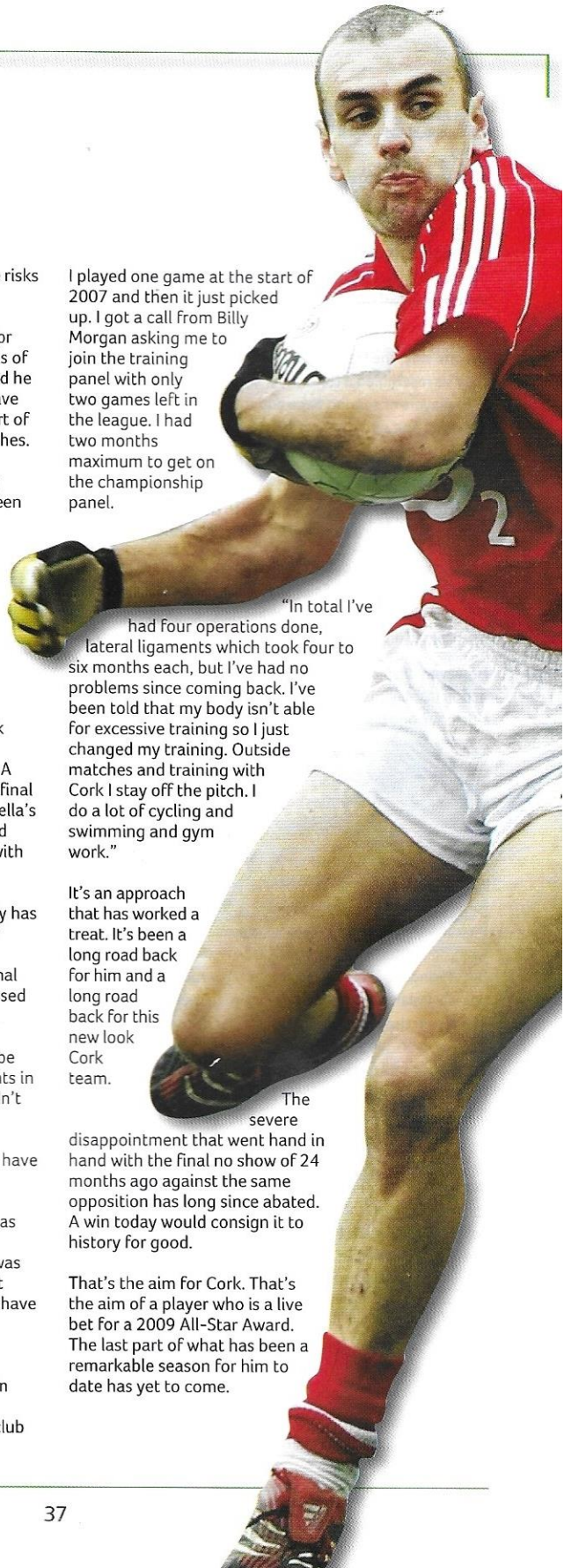
I played one game at the start of 2007 and then it just picked up. I got a call from Billy Morgan asking me to join the training panel with only two games left in the league. I had two months maximum to get on the championship panel.

“In total I’ve had four operations done, lateral ligaments which took four to six months each, but I’ve had no problems since coming back. I’ve been told that my body isn’t able for excessive training so I just changed my training. Outside matches and training with Cork I stay off the pitch. I do a lot of cycling and swimming and gym work.”

It’s an approach that has worked a treat. It’s been a long road back for him and a long road back for this new look Cork team.

The severe disappointment that went hand in hand with the final no show of 24 months ago against the same opposition has long since abated. A win today would consign it to history for good.

That’s the aim for Cork. That’s the aim of a player who is a live bet for a 2009 All-Star Award. The last part of what has been a remarkable season for him to date has yet to come.



Just don't mention the hoodoo ...

By Eamon Seoige

With bated breath, we await the throw-in on this potentially incendiary encounter matching two richly talented and familiar opponents from the south-west.

On one side, the fresh upstarts of foireann Corcaigh. In '09 they've resembled a runaway juggernaut, a team adorned with players of searing pace and muscle, balanced by no little skill and multiple scoring options.

Their much celebrated opposition from 'An Ríocht' boast a myriad of multiple All-Ireland winners, a record breaking group of household names, taking to the field for the sixth consecutive time on the third Sunday in September.

Kerry, the wily old fox, have somewhat stumbled their way through the months of summer, only occasionally hitting the dizzy heights, while their rebel neighbours have maintained an impressive level of fluid consistency.

However, despite dismissing the mighty Tyrone with an all action display that simply suffocated the champions, this side have one last mountain to conquer.



Former Nemo Rangers and Cork scoring machine **Colin Corkery** has faith in his county-men.

"I don't think the younger lads will be over-awed by the occasion. They will approach the game with no fear. Don't forget some of these players are multiple underage All-Ireland winners and have grown up with a culture of winning. If they can stay with Kerry, neck and neck, until the closing minutes, I think they'll have the belief to win this All-Ireland. Without a doubt, the game will be won and lost in the middle eight and, so far this year, our varying kick-out policy has worked very well. The big danger is that Darragh Ó Sé is one man who always rises to the occasion on the biggest stage. It will also be very interesting to see where the 'Gooch' Cooper lines out. I have a feeling that he'll start at centre forward and Kerry will look to involve him in the game as early and often as possible. On the flip side, Pierce O'Neill will be a key player for Cork. If he can dominate his area and use his pace and power to telling effect, it could have a major outcome on the result. Our inside forwards are well capable of a solid scoring return but will need quality ball delivered from out the field. I think their time has arrived."



In recent seasons, these two great rivals have met on numerous occasions. With little to separate them **Eoin 'The Bomber' Liston** can foresee a tight tactical battle.

"A big plus for Kerry is Seamus Scanlon's partnership with Darragh. Seamus was missing for both games against the Rebels, earlier this year, and Darragh's fitness is hugely improved on a couple of months ago. I think we might shade centre-field and you could see Conor Counihan moving out Pierce O'Neill to add his considerable bulk and power to the midfield battle. We will look to Paul Galvin and Tadhg Kennelly to win their fair share of breaking ball. I also think that in Mike McCarthy we have the Kerryman best suited to O'Neill. Mike is very pacy, well able to contest in the air and has brought a freshness and competitive edge to the half-back line. The area that worries me is the Cork full-forwards. These lads are very talented footballers and have the ability to wreck havoc. It's worth mentioning that Marc Ó Sé pulled his hamstring in the drawn match earlier this year, played on and couldn't have been fully fit for the replay. Also, Tom Sullivan has grown in confidence since and overall, our defence is playing more as a unit. They'll need to be at their best because Cork have so many options. It's the kind of game, between two very familiar teams, that could be won on the sideline. Both have strong bench options and it'll be a day where they both empty the tank!"

Niall Cahalane, teak-tough Castlehaven man and celebrated defender from the last great Cork team, expects a ferocious encounter.



"Conor has done a fantastic job with this group of players and taken a very calculated approach to preparing them for every game. The fact that he knows how to win an All-Ireland, as a player, is also an advantage. He has built a well focused, committed team and there's no chance of them not 'showing up' on Sunday. This talk of a 'hoodoo' is just that, talk. Cork have been the most consistent team in this year's championship but that in itself doesn't guarantee anything. We bet them well in the replayed Munster championship match but, like all big games, it swung on the momentum of a major incident, in this case a penalty awarded. Kerry are old hands at finals, six-in-a-row is some record and they won't be at all fazed by the occasion. We'll need to bring the same level of direct attacking football, commitment and belief that's been present all year. Naturally, the centre-field area will be hard fought and both sets of wing-backs and half-forwards will compete fiercely for the breaks. On Cork's side, Paddy Kelly and Paul Kerrigan have been a breath of fresh air this year. They've shown a willingness to win dirty ball, take their men on and get important scores. The Darragh Ó Sé factor is a major one. Write off that man at your peril. He's undoubtedly one of the all-time great

“ ... midfield is a minefield! ”

centre-fielders and I'm sure he'll die on his feet before he'll allow any Corkman to dominate him!"

St. Mary's Cahirciveen clubman **Maurice Fitzgerald**, one of the supreme talents of football's 'modern age', also expects his old team-mate to exert an influence.



"The closer to September, the better Darragh gets! He's a very intelligent footballer, has learned to adapt his game and formed a telling understanding with Seamus Scanlon. They haven't been turned over all year and are the right men in a tight game. It's going to get very clogged up around the middle. Darragh hasn't lost his fantastic aerial ability but in today's game, midfield is a minefield! If you look at the hurling final, Tipp probably shaded centre-field but it's really how you use the possession that counts. Both teams possess strong forward lines, lads with pace you are capable of linking with the inside line or kicking from distance. As always, Kerry will look to the 'Gooch' for

inspiration and, in fairness, that man has never let us down. Men like Cooper, Declan O'Sullivan and Paul Galvin are exceptional footballers who'll be totally concentrated on delivering a winning performance. These lads really play for one another and can play a mixture of the short, slick style or the more direct route into Tommy Walsh or the returning Donaghy.

"Kerry will need to be at their best because Cork are formidable opposition. From Lynch, Canty and Shields in the defence, right up to O'Neill and Goulding, they are proven footballers, with a lot of ability. They have been building now for a few years and will feel that '09 is to be their year. The occasion will be electric. An All-Ireland final involving close neighbours and rivals will always have an edge. However, it's a very respectful rivalry and the banter between both sets of supporters will be worth the trip alone! It'll probably come down to who's the most driven and obsessed to win Sam. It's always nice to take home the big prize and sure if you get one over on the nearest neighbours, it's a handy bonus!"

Good Luck to Our Stars Darran and Kieran

Darran O'Sullivan
Wing Forward, Kerry,
Customer Services Officer,
Ulster Bank

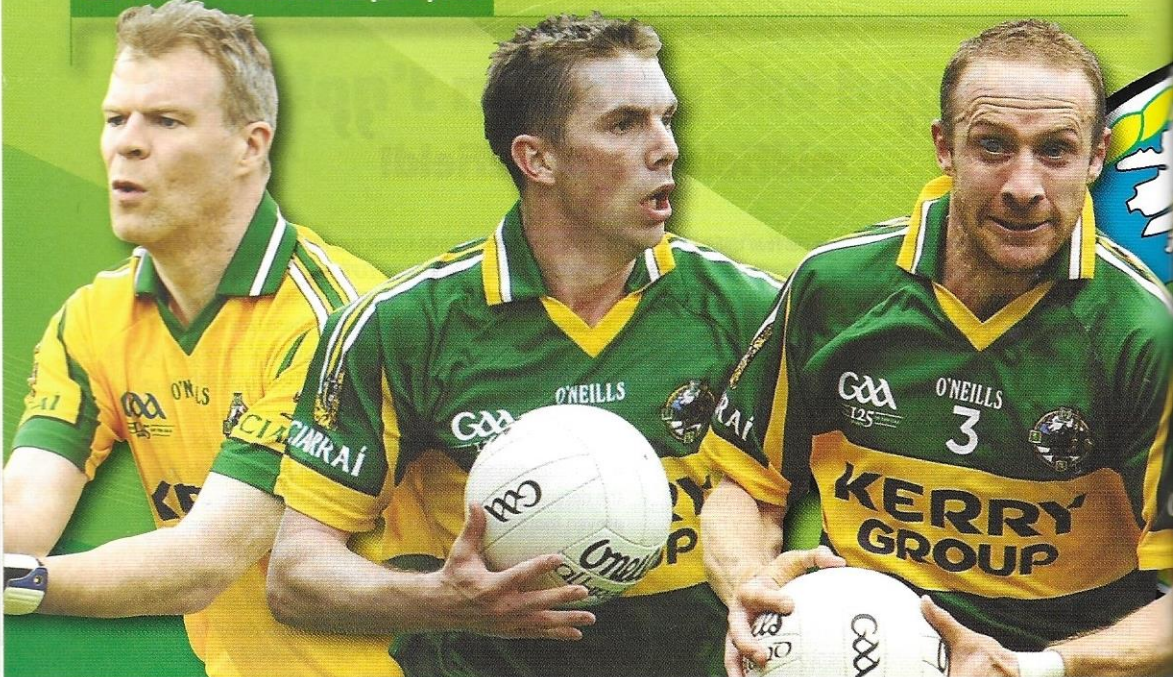
Kieran Donaghy
Full Forward, Kerry,
Business Development Officer,
Ulster Bank

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1 Diarmuid Murphy

Club: Daingean Uí Chúis
Age: 34
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 15st.5lbs.
Occupation: Insurance Clerical Officer
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SFC, 2 All-Ireland U21F, 4 Munster JFC, 4 Munster SFC, 3 NFL, 2 All-Stars.

Daingean Uí Chúis clubman is already the holder of three All-Ireland medals and two All-Star awards. His consistently solid form in recent seasons has continued in 2009.

2 Marc Ó Sé

Club: An Ghaeltacht
Age: 29
Height: 6'
Weight: 12st.5lbs.
Occupation: Teacher
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SFC, 1 Munster MFC, 4 Munster SFC, 2 County SFC, 2 NFL, 1 Munster Club, 3 All-Stars, Player of the Year 2007, Texaco GAA Star of the Year 2007.

The youngest of the three Ó Sé brothers in action today, Marc won his third All-Ireland medal in 2007 when he was also named as Footballer of the Year.

3 Tommy Griffin

Club: Daingean Uí Chúis
Age: 31
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 14st.
Occupation: Publican
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SFC, 1 All-Ireland U21F, 3 Munster U-21F, 1 Munster MFC, 3 NFL.

Versatile defender Griffin won four All-Ireland senior medals and was also a member of the Kingdom side that claimed the 1998 All-Ireland U21 title.

FIR IONAD

16 Ger Reidy

Club: Castleisland Desmonds
Age: 23
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 13st.
Occupation: Student/Journalist
Honours to date:
 1 NFL,
 3 Munster
 Under 14 and
 Under 16



17 Aidan O'Mahony

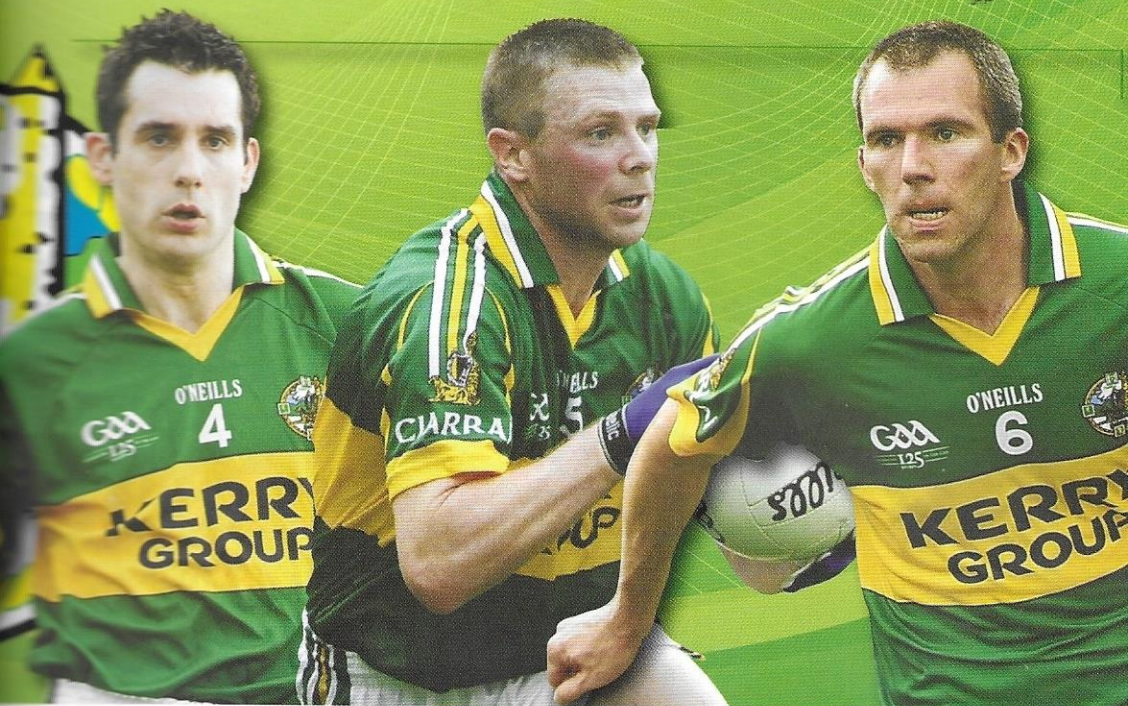
Club: Rathmore
Age: 29
Height: 6'
Weight: 13st.
Occupation: Garda
Honours to date:
 3 All-Ireland SFC
 3 NFL,
 4 Munster SFC,
 3 All-Stars,
 1 County SFC,
 1 County U21,
 1 County Intermediate.



18 Donnacha Walsh

Club: Cromane
Age: 25
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 12st.5lbs.
Occupation: Engineer
Honours to date:
 1 All-Ireland
 SFC,
 2 Munster MFC,
 1 NFL,
 1 County SFC.





4 Tom O'Sullivan

Club: Rathmore
Age: 30
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 13st.
Occupation: Garda
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SFC, 6 Munster SFC, 1 All-Ireland U21F, 2 Munster U21F, 1 All-Ireland Vocational Schools, 3 County SFC, 3 NFL, 2 All-Stars.

A mainstay of the Kerry defence, O'Sullivan has switched between the full-back and corner-back positions over the last year.

5 Tomás Ó Sé

Club: An Ghaeltacht
Age: 31
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 12st.5lbs.
Occupation: Teacher
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SFC, 1 All-Ireland U21F; 3 Munster U21F; 1 Munster MFC; 7 Munster SFC, 2 County SFC, 3 NFL, 1 Munster Club, 1 Railway Cup, 4 All-Stars, Player of the Year 2004, Texaco Award 2004.

A four-time All-Star who won Footballer of the Year in 2004, Ó Sé's leadership has been crucial for the Kingdom in helping them reach their sixth successive All-Ireland final.

6 Mike McCarthy

Club: Kilcummin
Age: 31
Height: 6'
Weight: 14st.
Occupation: Draftsman
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SFC, 1 All-Ireland U21, 1 Munster MFC, 5 Munster SFC, 3 All Stars, 1 NFL.

The evergreen Kilcummin clubman returned to the inter-county scene this year after retiring in 2006, and made an immediate impact setting up Colm Cooper's goal in the quarter-Final win over Dublin.

19 Bryan Sheehan

Club: St. Mary's
Age: 24
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 13st.5lbs.
Occupation: Quantity Surveyor
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SFC, 2 NFL, 2 Munster SFC, 3 Munster MFC, 3 Munster Colleges, 3 County SFC, 1 County IFC, 1 County MFC, 1 County Under 21F.



20 Micheál Quirke

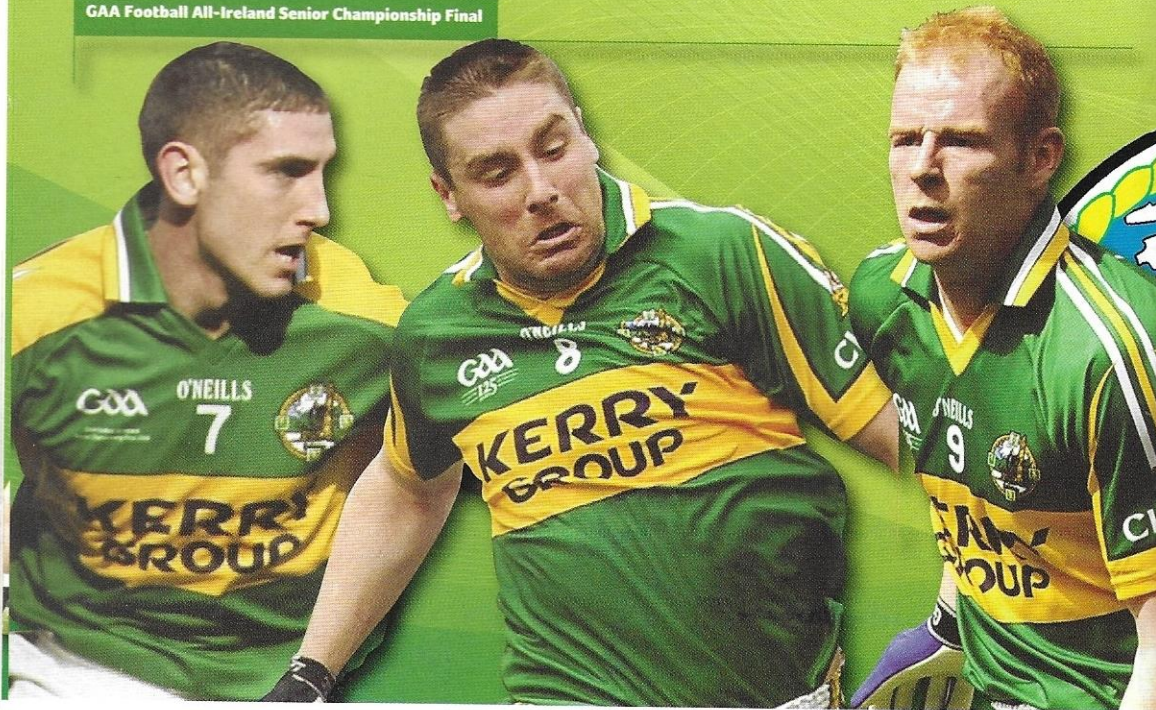
Club: Kerins O'Rahillys.
Age: 29
Height: 6'7"
Weight: 17st.
Occupation: GAA Coach
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SFC, 3 NFL, 4 Munster SFC, 1 County SFC.



21 Paul O'Connor

Club: Kenmare
Age: 23
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 12st.
Occupation: Bookmaker
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SFC, 1 All-Ireland U21, 1 Munster MFC, 1 NFL.





7 Killian Young

Club: Renard
Age: 22
Height: 6'
Weight: 12st.
Occupation: Bank Official
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SFC, 1 All-Ireland U21F, 2 NFL, 1 Munster SFC, 1 Munster MFC, Young Player of the Year 2007.

Young captained Kerry to All-Ireland U21 glory last year, and the Renard man is renowned for his strong, penetrating attacking runs.

8 Darragh Ó Sé

Club: An Ghaeltacht
Age: 34
Height: 6'
Weight: 14st.
Occupation: Auctioneer
Honours to date: 5 All-Ireland SFC, 2 All-Ireland U21F, 4 NFL, 9 Munster SFC, 1 Railway Cup, 4 All-Stars, International Rules 2001, 2 County SFC, 1 Munster Club.

Darragh today seeks his sixth All-Ireland medal, adding to a record confirming his place as one of the best midfielders of his generation. A four-time All-Star.

9 Seamus Scanlon

Club: Currow
Age: 27
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 14st.5lbs.
Occupation: Fitter
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SFC, 2 Munster SFC, 1 Munster Under 21F, U-17 International Rules 1999, 1 NFL.

The Currow midfielder has made the midfield role his own since establishing himself in the senior panel in 2007, when he won his first All-Ireland medal.

22 Pádraig Reidy

Club: Scartaglin
Age: 22
Height: 6'
Weight: 12st.
Occupation: Sales Representative
Honours Won: 2 All-Ireland SFC, 2 NFL, 1 Railway Cup, 2 Munster MFC, 3 Munster SFC, 1 Junior International Rules 2004



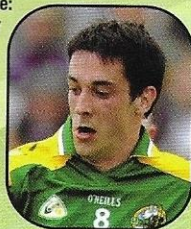
23 David Moran

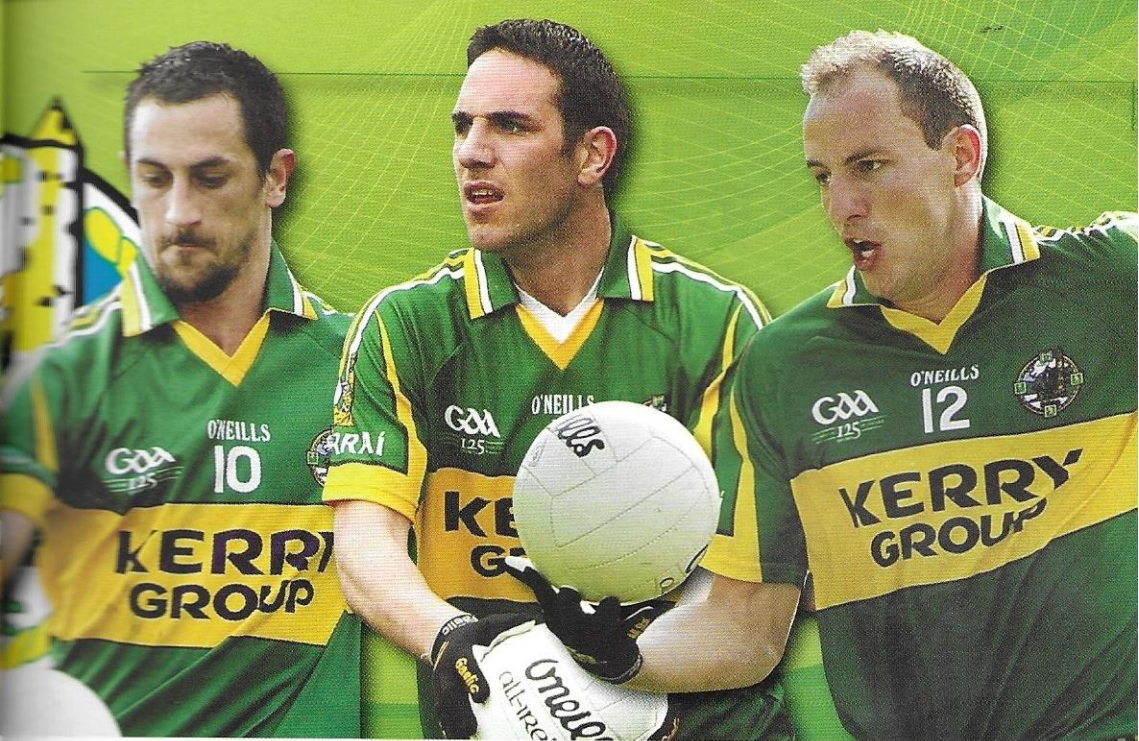
Club: Kerins O'Rahillys
Age: 21
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 15st.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 NFL, 1 All-Ireland U21, 1 Munster MFC, 1 County MFC.



24 Anthony Maher

Club: Duagh
Age: 22
Height: 6'4"
Weight: 13st.5lbs.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 NFL, 1 County SFC, 1 Munster Junior Club, 1 County Junior Club, 1 Munster MFC





10 Paul Galvin

Club: Finuge

Age: 29

Height: 6'

Weight: 12st.

Occupation: Teacher

Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SFC, 2 County SHC, 1 County SFC, 3 Munster SFC, 1 Munster U21F, 1 Munster MFC, 3 NFL, 1 Munster Club, 2 All-Stars, 2 Munster Junior Club, 1 All-Ireland Junior Club.

The 1,000th recipient of a GAA All-Star award, Galvin has been a prominent feature of the Kingdom squad since his Championship debut against Clare in 2004.

11 Declan O'Sullivan

Club: Piarasigh na Dromada

Age: 25

Height: 6'

Weight: 13st.

Occupation: Sales Representative

Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SFC, 4 Munster SFC, 1 Munster MFC, 1 Munster U21F, 3 NFL, 2 All Stars.

One of only eight people to have lifted the Sam Maguire Cup on two occasions, O'Sullivan is a widely feared sharpshooter with two All-Stars to his name.

12 Tadhg Kennelly

Club: Listowel Emmets

Age: 27

Height: 6'3"

Weight: 14st.

Occupation: GAA Coach

Honours to date: 1 NFL, 1 County U21F, AFL Premiership 2005

Returned to Ireland after eight seasons in the AFL with the Sydney Swans, and today he aims to become the first man to win both AFL Premiership and All-Ireland medals.

25 Seán O'Sullivan

Club: Cromane

Age: 29

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 12st.

Occupation: Bank Official

Honours to date:

3 All-Ireland SFC, 2 NFL, 1 Munster MFC, 1 Munster U21, 2 Munster SFC, 1 Trench Cup, 1 County SFC.



26 Daniel Bohan

Club: Austin Stacks

Age: 26

Height: 6'

Weight: 12st.5lbs.

Occupation: Financial Advisor

Honours to date:

1 All-Ireland SFC, 1 NFL



27 Kieran Donaghy

Club: Austin Stacks

Age: 26

Height: 6'5"

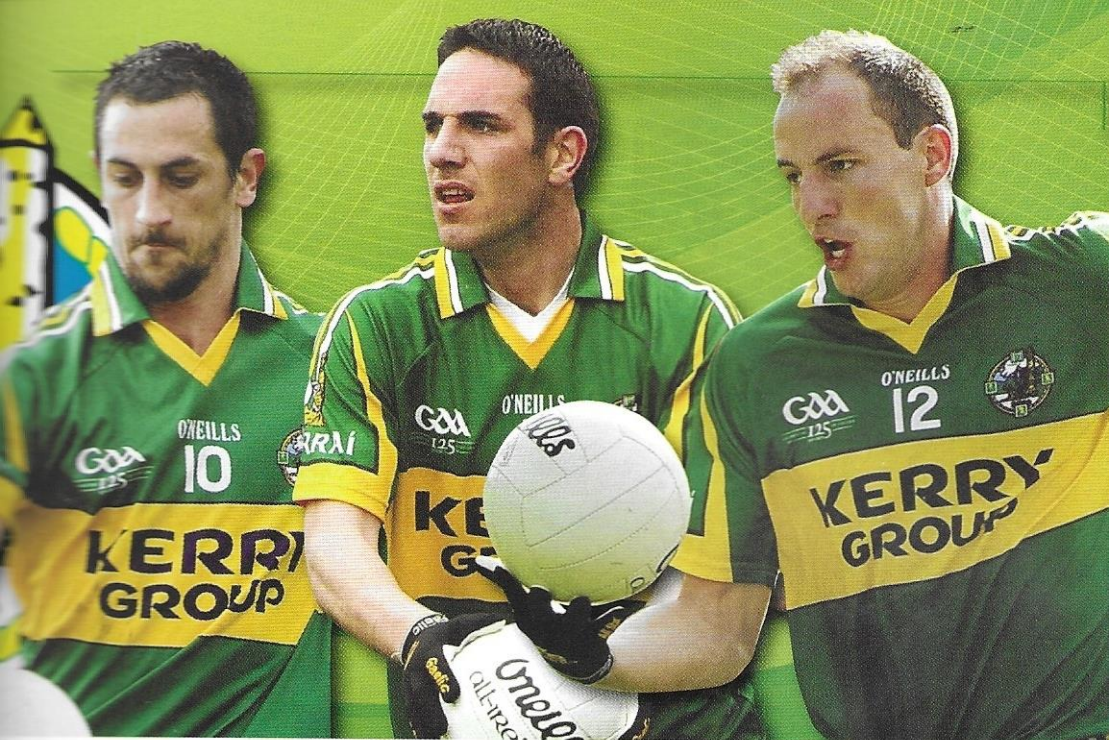
Weight: 15st.

Occupation: Bank Official

Honours to date:

2 All-Ireland SFC, 2 NFL, 2 Munster SFC, 1 All-Star, Player of the Year 2006





10 Paul Galvin

Club: Finuge

Age: 29

Height: 6'

Weight: 12st.

Occupation: Teacher

Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SFC, 2 County SHC, 1 County SFC, 3 Munster SFC, 1 Munster U21F, 1 Munster MFC, 3 NFL, 1 Munster Club, 2 All-Stars, 2 Munster Junior Club, 1 All-Ireland Junior Club.

The 1,000th recipient of a GAA All-Star award, Galvin has been a prominent feature of the Kingdom squad since his Championship debut against Clare in 2004.

11 Declan O'Sullivan

Club: Piarasigh na Dromada

Age: 25

Height: 6'

Weight: 13st.

Occupation: Sales Representative

Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SFC, 4 Munster SFC, 1 Munster MFC, 1 Munster U21F, 3 NFL, 2 All Stars.

One of only eight people to have lifted the Sam Maguire Cup on two occasions, O'Sullivan is a widely feared sharpshooter with two All-Stars to his name.

12 Tadhg Kennelly

Club: Listowel Emmets

Age: 27

Height: 6'3"

Weight: 14st.

Occupation: GAA Coach

Honours to date: 1 NFL, 1 County U21F, AFL Premiership 2005

Returned to Ireland after eight seasons in the AFL with the Sydney Swans, and today he aims to become the first man to win both AFL Premiership and All-Ireland medals.

25 Seán O'Sullivan

Club: Croomane

Age: 29

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 12st.

Occupation: Bank Official

Honours to date:

3 All-Ireland SFC, 2 NFL, 1 Munster MFC, 1 Munster U21, 2 Munster SFC, 1 Trench Cup, 1 County SFC.



26 Daniel Bohan

Club: Austin Stacks

Age: 26

Height: 6'

Weight: 12st.5lbs.

Occupation: Financial Advisor

Honours to date:

1 All-Ireland SFC, 1 NFL



27 Kieran Donaghy

Club: Austin Stacks

Age: 26

Height: 6'5"

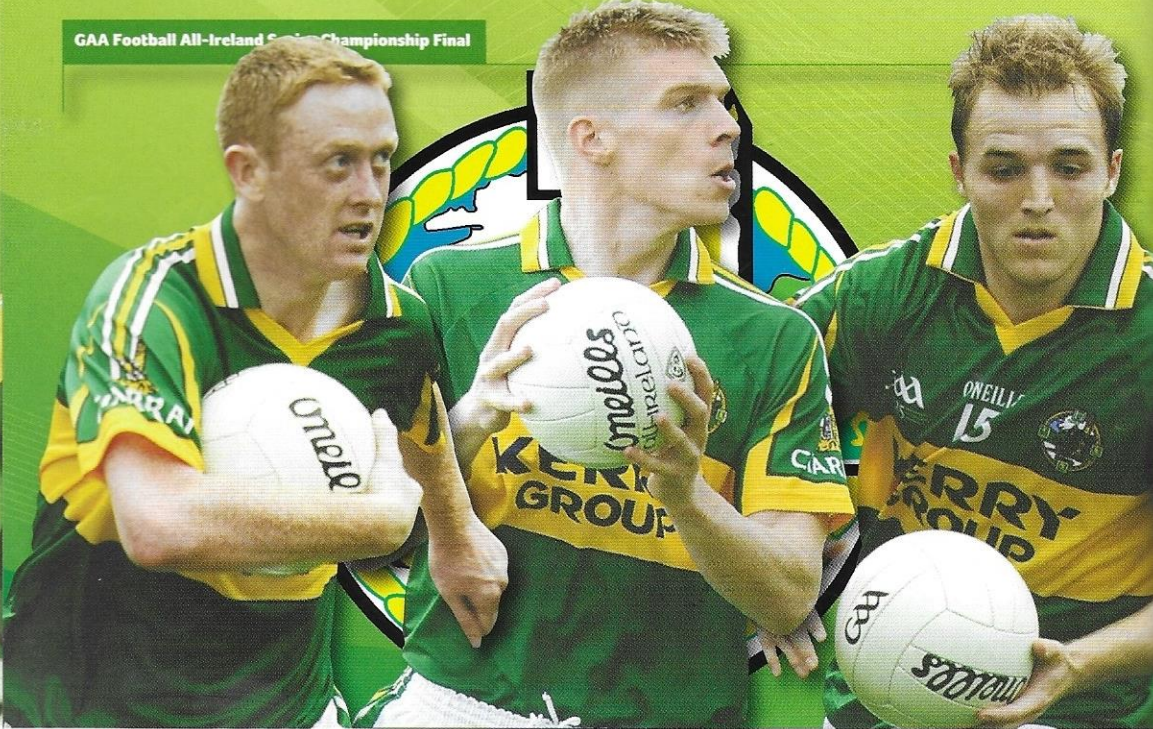
Weight: 15st.

Occupation: Bank Official

Honours to date:

2 All-Ireland SFC, 2 NFL, 2 Munster SFC, 1 All-Star, Player of the Year 2006





13 Colm Cooper

Club: Dr. Crokes
Age: 26
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 12st.
Occupation: Bank Official
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SFC, 1 Munster MFC, 1 Munster U21F, 5 Munster SFC, 3 NFL, 5 All-Stars, Texaco Player of the Year 2004

An undoubted star of the game, 'Gooch' has been at the top of the intercounty scene since blazing onto the Kerry senior team in 2002. Five All-Star awards and three All-Ireland medals are testament to his ability.

14 Tommy Walsh

Club: Kerins O'Rahillys
Age: 21
Height: 6'4"
Weight: 15st.5lb.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SFC, 1 NFL, 1 All-Ireland U21F, 1 Munster MFC, Young Player of the Year 2008

The Kerins O'Rahilly's forward combined his role in the All-Ireland winning team of 2007 with a pivotal presence in the U21 side, with whom he tasted All-Ireland success last year.

15 Darran O'Sullivan

Club: Glenbeigh/Glencar
Age: 23
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 12st.
Occupation: Bank Official
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SFC, 1 Munster MFC, 2 Munster SFC, 2 NFL, 1 County SFC.

This year's captain, the Glenbeigh-Glencar forward has secured a starting berth in 2009, having previously earned a reputation as an important impact substitute.

FIR IONAD

28 Aidan O'Shea

Club: Glenbeigh/Glencar
Age: 24
Height: 6'3
Weight: 76.2kg/12st.
Occupation: Teacher
Honours to date:
 1 County SFC,
 1 NFL.



29 Maurice Corridan

Club: Fingue
Age: 27
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Farmer
Honours to date:
 1 All-Ireland
 Club, 1 County
 SFC



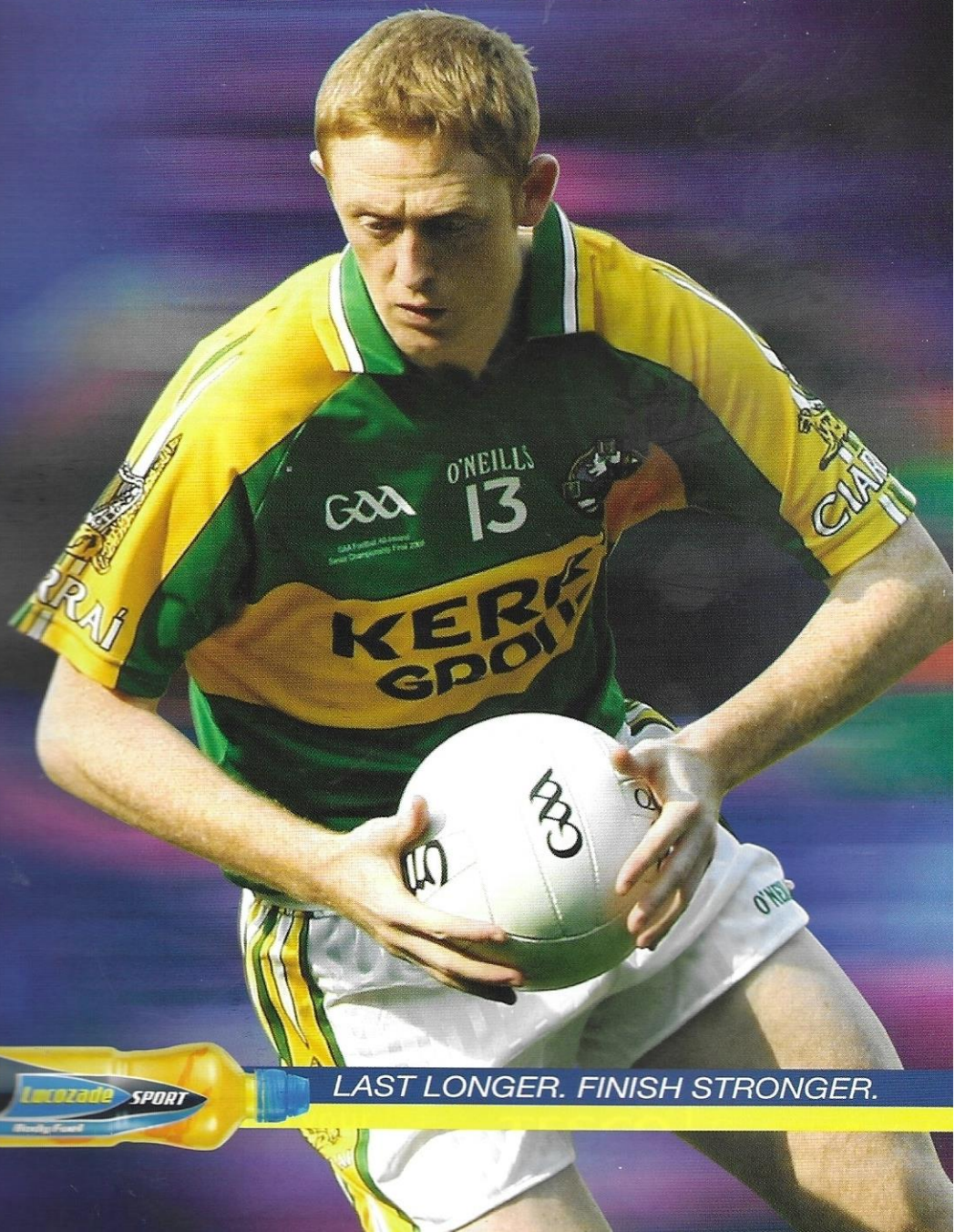
30 Barry John Walsh

Club: Kerins O'Rahillys
Age: 19
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 13st.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date:
 1 Munster MFC,
 1 County MFC,
 4 Minor County
 Leagues,
 1 Munster
 Colleges



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TO GO,
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TO BE READY TO POUNCE
WHEN AN OPPORTUNITY
PRESENTS ITSELF”**

COLM COOPER - KERRY



LAST LONGER. FINISH STRONGER.

Paths to the Final

Corcaigh

24th May. @ Dungarvan:

Cork 2018; Waterford 1-7,

7th June. Killarney:

Cork 1-10; Kerry 0-13.

13th June. Páirc Uí Chaoimh:

Cork 1-17; Kerry 0-12. REPLAY.

5th July. @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:

Cork 2-6; Limerick 0-11.

2nd August. @ Croke Park:

Cork 1-27; Donegal 2-10.

23rd August. @ Croke Park:

Cork 1-13; Tyrone 0-11.

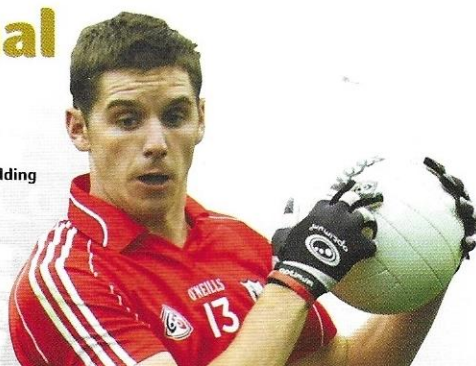
TOTAL SCORED: 8-91 (115 Points)

TOTAL CONCEDED: 3-64 (73 points)

AVERAGE: 1.57



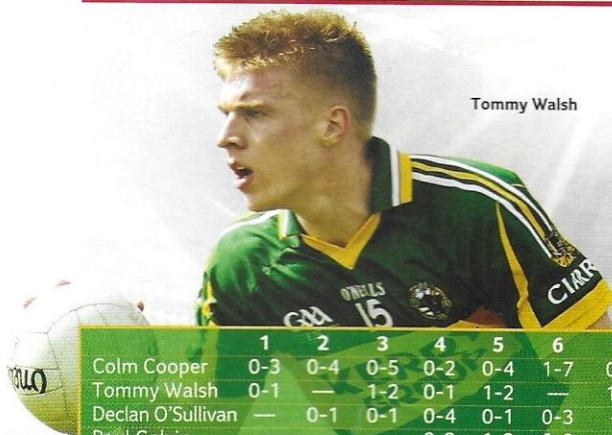
Daniel Goulding



	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Donncha O'Connor	1-5	0-3	1-5	1-1	0-4	0-4	3-22
Daniel Goulding	0-2	0-2	0-5	1-3	0-3	1-1	2-16
Paul Kerrigan	1-2	—	0-1	—	1-4	0-1	2-8
Colm O'Neill	0-2	0-1	—	0-1	—	0-2	0-3
John Miskella	0-3	—	0-2	—	0-4	—	0-9
Pearse O'Neill	—	1-2	—	—	0-2	0-1	1-5
James Masters	0-2	—	0-1	0-1	—	—	0-4
Paddy Kelly	—	—	0-1	—	0-2	0-1	0-4
Fintan Goold	—	—	0-1	—	0-2	0-1	0-4
Paul O'Flynn	0-1	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-2
Graham Canty	—	0-1	—	—	0-1	—	0-2
Paudie Kissane	—	—	—	—	0-2	—	0-2
Michael Shields	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
Noel O'Leary	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1
Fiachra Lynch	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1
Alan O'Connor	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1

Ciarraí

Tommy Walsh



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Colm Cooper	0-3	0-4	0-5	0-2	0-4	1-7	0-3	1-28
Tommy Walsh	0-1	—	1-2	0-1	1-2	—	1-2	3-8
Declan O'Sullivan	—	0-1	0-1	0-4	0-1	0-3	—	0-10
Paul Galvin	—	—	—	0-3	1-2	0-2	—	1-7
Darran O'Sullivan	—	0-2	—	—	—	0-3	1-1	1-6
Bryan Sheehan	0-5	0-2	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-8
Tadhg Kennelly	0-1	0-1	—	—	—	0-2	0-2	0-6
Donncha Walsh	0-2	—	0-1	0-1	—	0-1	—	0-5
Seán O'Sullivan	—	—	0-2	0-1	0-1	—	—	0-4
Paul O'Connor	—	—	—	—	0-2	0-2	—	0-4
Tomás Ó Sé	—	—	0-1	—	—	0-2	—	0-3
Darragh Ó Sé	0-1	0-1	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-3
David Moran	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
Seamus Scanlan	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1
Tomás O'Sullivan	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1

7th June. @ Killarney:

Kerry 0-13; Cork 1-10.

13th June. @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh;

Kerry 0-12; Cork 1-17. REPLAY.

11th July. Longford:

Kerry 1-12; Longford 0-11.

18th July. @ Tralee:

Kerry 0-14; Sligo 1-10.

25th July. @ Tullamore:

Kerry 2-12; Antrim 1-10.

3rd August. @ Croke Park:

Kerry 1-24; Dublin 1-7/

30th August. @ Croke Park:

Kerry 2-8; Meath 1-7.

TOTAL SCORED: 6-95 (113 points).

TOTAL CONCEDED: 6-72 (90 points).

AVERAGE: 1.25



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Barry's Tea (Cork)



Cuthbert's Handmade Breads (Midleton)



Clonakilty Pudding (Clonakilty)



Lee Strand Creamery (Tralee)



Kerry Spring (Kerry)



Ballymaloe Country Relish (Cork)



Murphy's (Cork)



Kerry Low Low (Kerry)



Barry's Bakery (Tralee)



Irish Yogurts (Clonakilty)



Ardfert Potatoes (Kerry)



Griffin's Potatoes (Carrigaline)



Kerrygold Butter (Kerry)

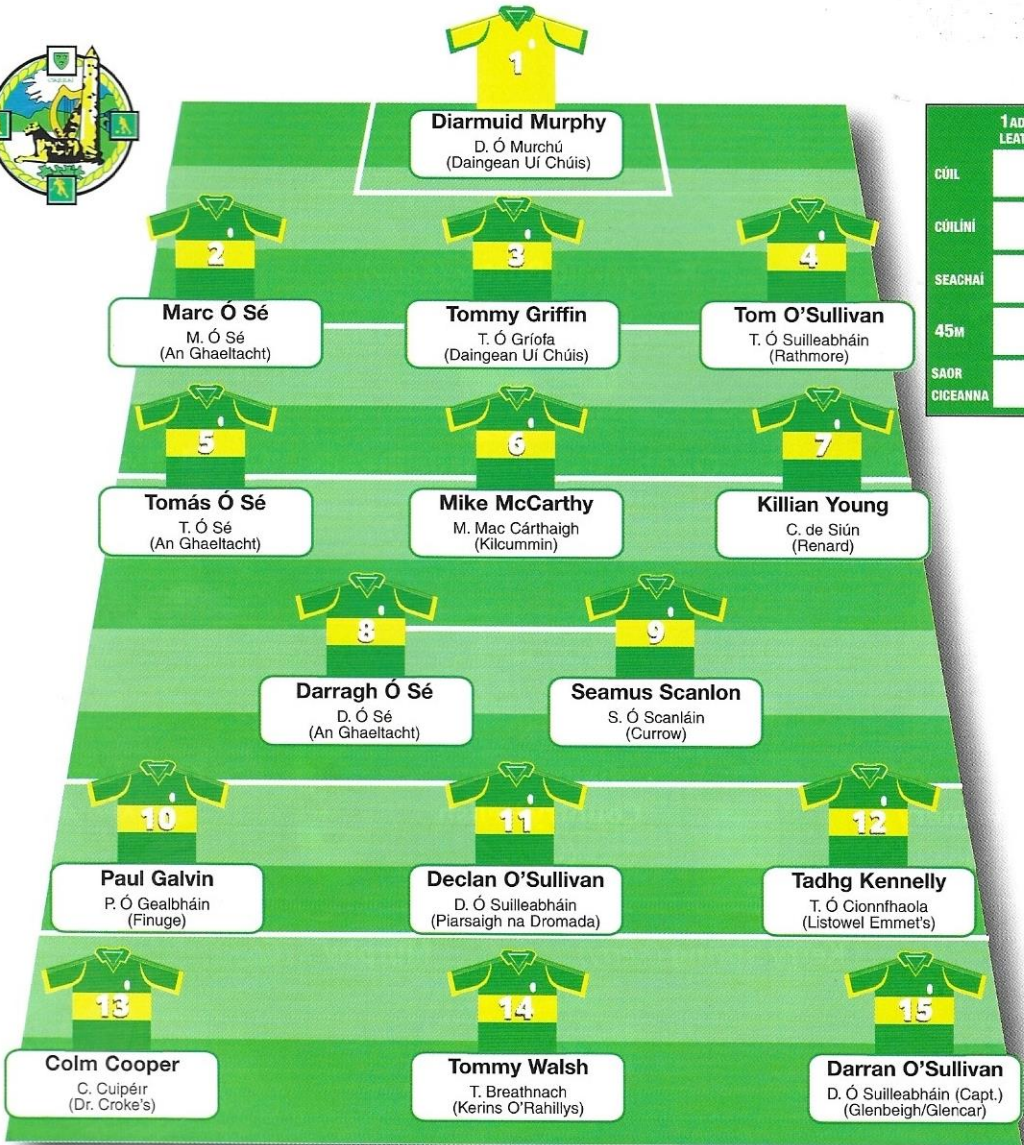


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FIR IONAD

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| (16) Ger Reidy
G. Ó Riada
(Castlesland Desmonds) | (19) Bryan Sheehan
B. Ó Stocháin
(St. Mary's) | (22) Pádraig Reidy
P. Ó Riada
(Scartaglin) | (25) Seán O'Sullivan
S. Ó Sulleabháin
(Cromane) | (28) Aidan O'Shea
A. Ó Sé
(Glenbeigh/Glencar) |
| (17) Aidan O'Mahony
A. Ó Mathúna
(Rathmore) | (20) Micheál Quirke
M. Ó Cuiric
(Kerins O'Rahillys) | (23) David Moran
D. Ó Moráin
(Kerins O'Rahillys) | (26) Daniel Bohan
D. Ó Buacháin
(Austin Stacks) | (29) Maurice Corridan
M. Ó Corridáin
(Finuge) |
| (18) Donnacha Walsh
D. Breathnach
(Cromane) | (21) Paul O'Connor
P. Ó Concubhair
(Kenmare) | (24) Anthony Maher
A. Ó Meacháir
(Duagh) | (27) Kieran Donaghy
C. Ó Duinneacha
(Austin Stacks) | (30) Barry John Walsh
B. S. Breathnach
(Kerins O'Rahillys) |

ROIGHNÓIRÍ

Jack O'Connor (Manager), Ger O'Keeffe, Eamon Fitzmaurice. Trainer: Alan O'Sullivan.

CIARRAÍ



Alan Quirke
A. Ó Cuirc
(Valley Rovers)



Ray Carey
R. Ó Ciara
(Clyda Rovers)



Michael Shields
M. Ó Siall
(St. Finbarr's)



Anthony Lynch
A. Ó Loingsigh
(Naomh Abán)



John Miskella
S. Mac Scaláif
(Ballincollig)



Graham Canty
G. Ó Cainte (Capt.)
(Bantry Blues)



Noel O'Leary
N. Ó Laoire
(Cill na Martra)



Alan O'Connor
A. Ó Conchubhair
(St. Colum's)



Nicholas Murphy
N. Ó Murchú
(Carrigaline)



Paul Kerrigan
P. Ó Ciaragáin
(Nemo Rangers)



Pearse O'Neill
P. Ó Néill
(Aghada)



Patrick Kelly
P. Ó Ceallaigh
(Ballincollig)



Daniel Goulding
D. Ó Golláin
(Eire Óg)



Colm O'Neill
C. Ó Néill
(Ballyclough)



Donncha O'Connor
D. Ó Conchubhair
(Ballydesmond)

FIR IONAD

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| (16) Kevin Murphy
C. Ó Murchú
(Boherbue) | (19) Ger Spillane
G. Ó Spealáin
(Ballygarvan) | (22) Fintan Goold
F. de Gúil
(Macroom) | (25) Paul O'Flynn
P. Ó Floinn
(Ballyclough) | (28) Conor McCarthy
C. Mac Cárthaigh
(O'Donovan Rossa) |
| (17) Kieran O'Connor
C. Ó Conchubhair
(Aghada) | (20) Eoin Cadogan
E. Ó Ceadaigáin
(Douglas) | (23) John Hayes
S. Ó hAodha
(Carbery Rangers) | (26) James Masters
S. Mac Maistir
(Nemo Rangers) | (29) Brian O'Regan
B. Ó Riegáin
(Nemo Rangers) |
| (18) Paudie Kissane
P. Ó Ciosáin
(Clyda Rovers) | (21) Fiachra Lynch
F. Ó Loingsigh
(Valley Rovers) | (24) Derek Kavanagh
D. Ó Caomhánach
(Nemo Rangers) | (27) Michael Cussen
M. Ó Cuisin
(Glanmire) | (30) Aidan Walsh
A. Breathnach
(Kanturk) |

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Conchúr Ó Cuanacháin (Coach), Peadar Ó hEaluighte, Traotalach Ó Néill, Gearóid Ó Suilleabháin, Seamus Ó Nualláin.

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WILL MURPHY BE OVERTAKEN?

Will Michael Murphy be deprived in the final of becoming the first Donegal footballer to head a Top Ten nationwide scoring review for an annual senior football Championship? He has a lead of five points over the only two players in a position to pass him out during the All-Ireland final—Donncha O'Connor and Colm Cooper, who share third position.

But whether this will prove enough only time will tell.

Murphy scored 0-36 in six appearances for the second highest match average in the Top Ten at six points. Fractionally ahead of him is Bernard Brogan (Dublin) on 6.5.

O'Connor's match average is well up on the Northerners at 5.16 points and he also has a better match average than Cooper. Cork's leading marksman scored 3-22 (31 points) in six games.

The Kerry top scorer played seven games, and scored 1-28 at an average of 4.42 points a match. Strangely enough no other player from the finalists is in the chart.

Holding down second position, a point behind the current leader, is Cian Ward (Meath) but, of course, he cannot add to his 3-26 from seven games at five points a game on average.

The leading scorers starting the All-Ireland senior football final are:

*Includes 65's, sideline kicks and penalties.

Michael Murphy (Dún Na nGall)

Colm Cooper (Ciarra)



Donncha O'Connor (Corcaigh)

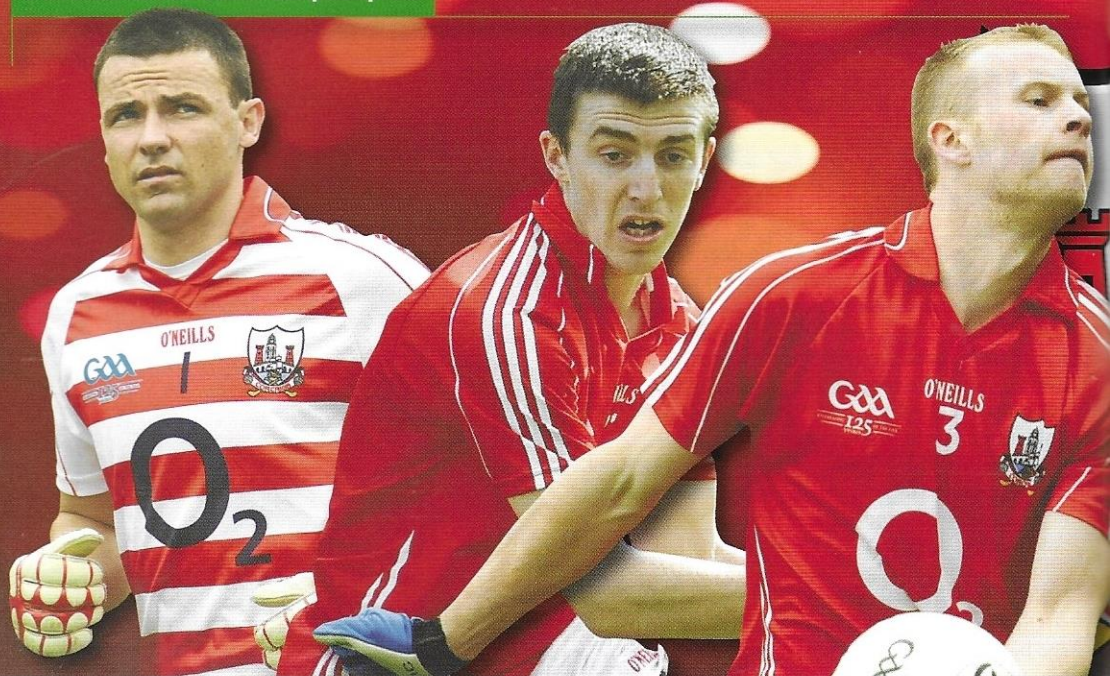
Points	Score	Frees*	Games	Average	
36	Michael Murphy (Donegal)	0-36	0-20	6	6
35	Cian Ward (Meath)	3-26	1-24	7	5
31	Donncha O'Connor (Cork)	3-22	2-12	6	5.16
31	Colm Cooper (Kerry)	1-28	0-19	7	4.42
27	John Doyle (Kildare)	0-27	0-18	6	4.5
26	Bernard Brogan (Dublin)	2-20	0-8	4	6.5
25	Tony Hannon (Wicklow)	1-22	0-8	6	4.16
24	Donie Shine (Roscommon)	0-24	0-16	5	4.8
24	Seanie Furlong (Wicklow)	1-21	0-13	6	4
23	Michael Meehan (Galway)	2-17	1-7	4	5.75

The race to succeed Limerick's Ian Ryan (3-7 v Meath last season) with the best individual return looks likely to be shared by Paddy Bradley and Bernard Brogan who each hit 2-8 against Monaghan and Westmeath respectively. That duo are three points clear of Paddy Cunningham's Ulster final return with Colm Cooper's score against Dublin in the All-Ireland quarter-final the only other to reach double figures. Twelve months ago no fewer than nine double-digit returns were recorded. The top individual returns in the 2009 campaign to date are:

- 14 Paddy Bradley (Derry) 2-8 v Monaghan @ Clones
- Bernard Brogan (Dublin) 2-8 v Westmeath @ Croke Park

- 11 Paddy Cunningham (Antrim) 0-11 v Tyrone @ Clones
- 10 Colm Cooper (Kerry) 1-7 v Dublin @ Croke Park
- 9 Donal Shine (Roscommon) 0-9 v Wexford @ Hyde Park
- 8 Nicky Joyce (Galway) 0-8 v Mayo @ Pearse Stadium
- Michael Murphy (Donegal) 0-8 v Carlow @ Ballybofey
- Michael Meehan (Galway) 1-5 v London @ Ruislip
- Donncha O'Connor (Cork) 1-5 v Waterford @ Dungarvan
- Donncha O'Connor (Cork) 1-5 v Kerry @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh
- Barry Grogan (Tipperary) 1-5 v Louth @ Drogheda

Individual Feats



1 Alan Quirke

Club: Valley Rovers
Age: 32
Height: 6'3
Weight: 14st 5lbs
Occupation: Army Officer
Honours to date: 1 County MFC, 1 County IFC, 1 County SFC, 1 Munster JFC, 1 All-Ireland JFC, 1 NFL Div. 2, 3 Munster SFC.

The Valley Rovers clubman made his Championship debut in 2002 and has earned call-ups to the Munster inter-provincial side and the International Rules panel.

2 Ray Carey

Club: Clyda Rovers
Age: 24
Height: 6'0
Weight: 13st 7lbs
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 2 Munster U21, 1 County U21, 1 NFL Div. 2, 1 Munster SFC.

A Championship debutant this season, the Mourneabbey man featured regularly on the Cork U21 teams that reached two consecutive All-Ireland finals, tasting glory against Laois in 2007.

3 Michael Shields

Club: St. Finbarr's
Age: 23
Height: 6'0
Weight: 13st
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 County IFC, 1 Corn Uí Mhuiri, 1 Dr. O'Callaghan Cup, 2 Munster SFC, 1 NFL Div. 2.

Another member of the team that claimed U21 All-Ireland victory in 2007, St. Finbarr's clubman Shields made his senior debut in the 2006 Munster Final against today's opponents

FIRIONAD

16 Kevin Murphy

Club: Boherbue
Age: 23
Height: 6'1
Weight: 13st 8lbs
Occupation: Engineer
Honours to date:
 1 Duhallow League,
 1 Munster MFC,
 1 All-Ireland MFC, 2 Munster U21, 1 NFL.



17 Kieran O'Connor

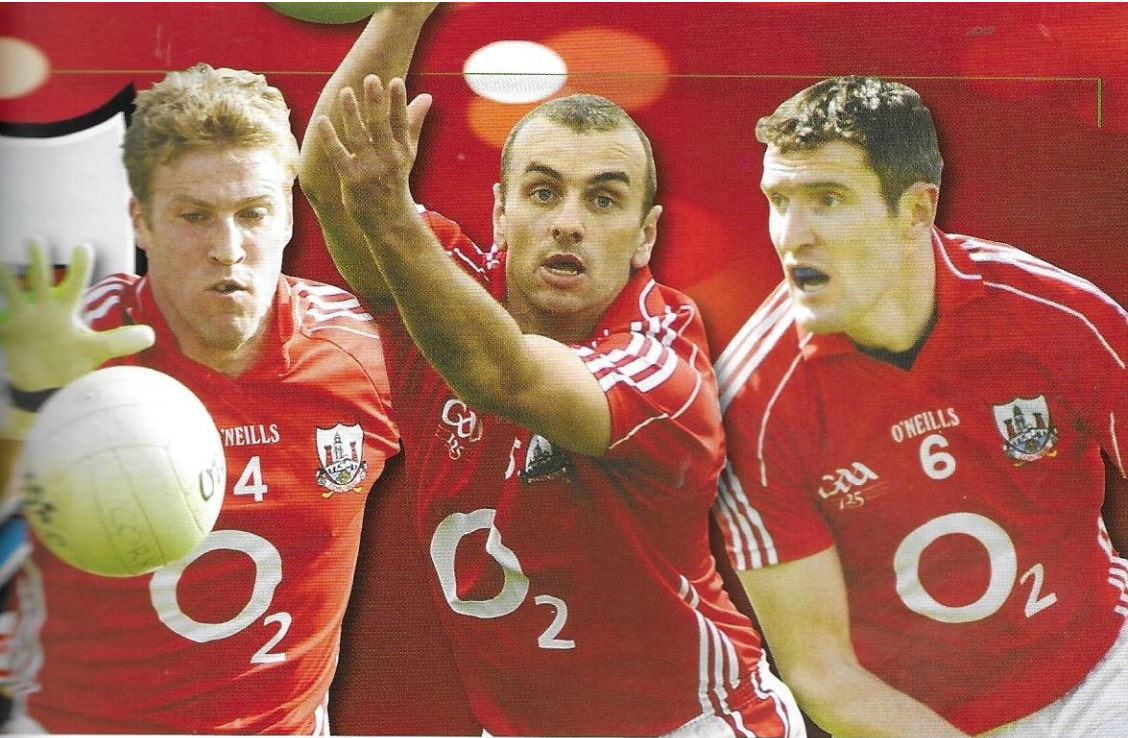
Club: Aghada
Age: 28
Height: 5'10
Weight: 12st 10lbs
Occupation: Fitter
Honours to date:
 1 NFL Div. 2,
 3 Munster SFC.



18 Paudie Kissane

Club: Clyda Rovers
Age: 26
Height: 6'1
Weight: 13st 7lbs
Occupation: Games Development Officer
Honours to date:
 3 Munster SFC,
 1 NFL Div. 2,
 1 All Ireland Junior.





4 Anthony Lynch

Club: Naomh Abán
Age: 30
Height: 5'11
Weight: 12st 7lbs
Occupation: Stockbroker
Honours to date: 1 NFL, 1NFL Div.2, 2 All-Stars, 3 Munster SFC.

A constant fixture in the Cork backline since his debut in 1999, the Ballyvourney native is the holder of five Munster championship medals and two All-Star awards.

5 John Miskella

Club: Ballincollig
Age: 31
Height: 5'11
Weight: 12st 7lbs
Occupation: Garda
Honours to date: U21 Club Hurling, 1 Club IHC, 1 NFL, 1 NFL Div. 2, 5 Munster SFC.

The Ballincollig clubman has flourished in the half-back line this season after previously excelling as a half-forward for the Rebel senior team. Miskella today appears in his third All-Ireland final.

6 Graham Canty

Club: Bantry Blues
Age: 29
Height: 6'2
Weight: 13st
Occupation: Engineer
Honours to date: 1 U21 West Cork FC, 1 County SFC, 1 Munster U21, 3 Munster SFC, 1 NFL Div 2, 1 All Star.

A talismanic figure in the centre of defence, Bantry Blues clubman Canty made his Championship debut in 2001 as a full-back after earning Munster under-21 honours as team captain.

19 Ger Spillane

Club: Ballygarvan
Age: 28
Height: 6'1
Weight: 13st
Occupation: Sales Representative
Honours to date:
 1 County JHC,
 1 County SHC,
 1 Munster U21,
 2 Munster SFC,
 1 NFL Div 2,
 1 All Star, 2 All-Ireland JFC,
 2 Munster JFC,
 1 Munster IHC.



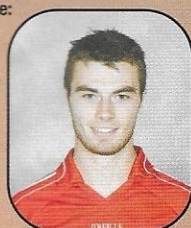
20 Eoin Cadogan

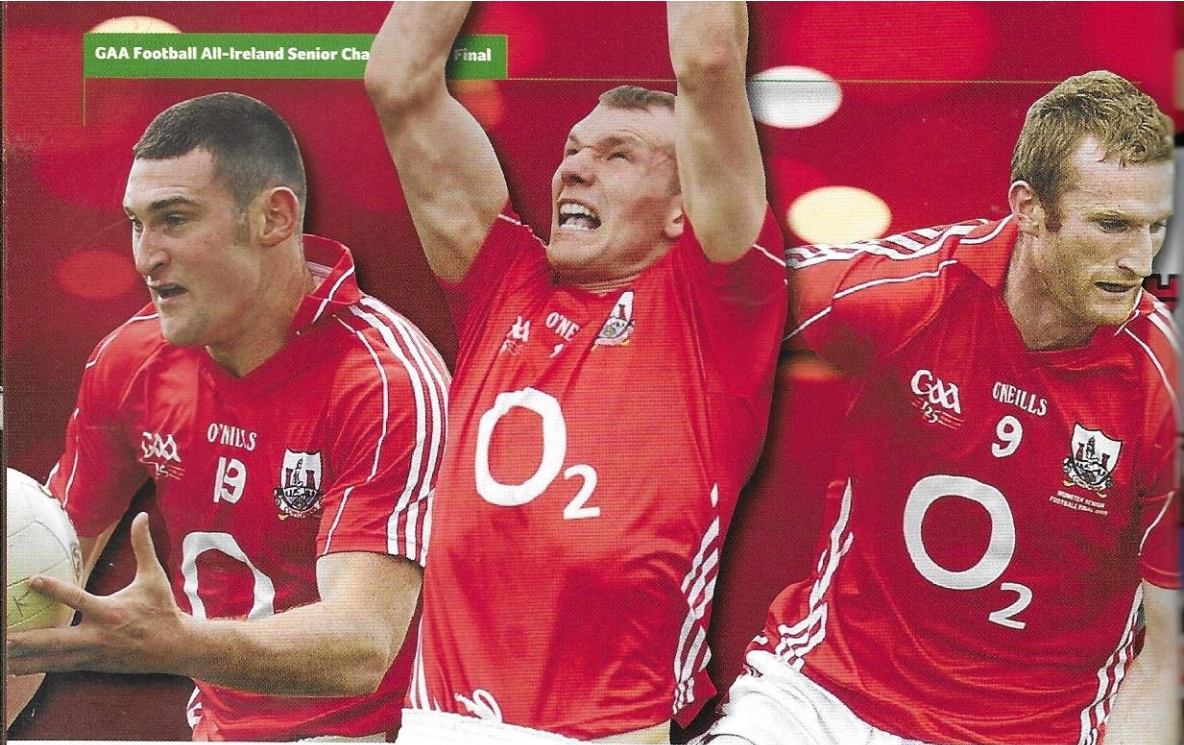
Club: Douglas
Age: 23
Height: 6'2
Weight: 14st.
Occupation: Electrician
Honours to date:
 1 Kelleher Shield,
 3 Munster U21,
 1 All-Ireland U21,
 1 Fitzgibbon Cup,
 2 Munster U21H,
 1 Munster MHC.



21 Fiachra Lynch

Club: Valley Rovers
Age: 23
Height: 5'11
Weight: 13st
Occupation: Student
Honours to date:
 1 Club IFC,
 3 County U21,
 1 Munster MFC,
 2 Munster U21,
 1 All-Ireland U21, 2 Munster JFC, 1 All-Ireland JFC.





7 Noel O'Leary

Club: Cill na Martra
Age: 27
Height: 6'0
Weight: 13st 10lbs
Occupation: Tree Surgeon
Honours to date: 2 Mid-Cork JFC, 2 MFC, 1 Munster MFC, 1 All-Ireland MFC, 1 Munster U21, 1 Munster SFC, 1 NFL Div. 2.

A reliable half-back from Cill na Martra, O'Leary has been a feature of Cork inter-county teams from U16 grade, and starred in the side that claimed NFL Division 2 honours this year.

8 Alan O'Connor

Club: St. Colum's
Age: 24
Height: 6'3
Weight: 13st
Occupation: Electrician
Honours to date: 1 County JHC, 1 County JFC, 2 All-Ireland JFC, 3 Munster U21, 1 Munster SFC, 1 NFL Div. 2, 1 Railway Cup.

The St. Colum's clubman has overcome knee injuries to dominate midfield this season, and was particularly impressive in Cork's replay win over Kerry in the Munster semi-final.

9 Nicholas Murphy

Club: Carrigaline
Age: 30
Height: 6'5
Weight: 14st
Occupation: Sales Representative
Honours to date: 1 County IHC, 1 County IFC, 3 Munster SFC, 1 NFL, 1 NFL Div. 2, 1 All-Star, 2 GPA awards.

Now in his 12th season playing at the top level, the 2006 All-Star has been a rock in midfield, and won an All-Ireland Intermediate medal in hurling with Cork in 2004.

FIRIONAD

22 Fintan Goid

Club: Macroom
Age: 23
Height: 6'1
Weight: 14st
Occupation: Chemical Engineer
Honours Won:
 1 County MFC,
 3 Munster U21,
 1 All-Ireland U21, 2 Munster SFC, 1 NFL Div.2.



23 John Hayes

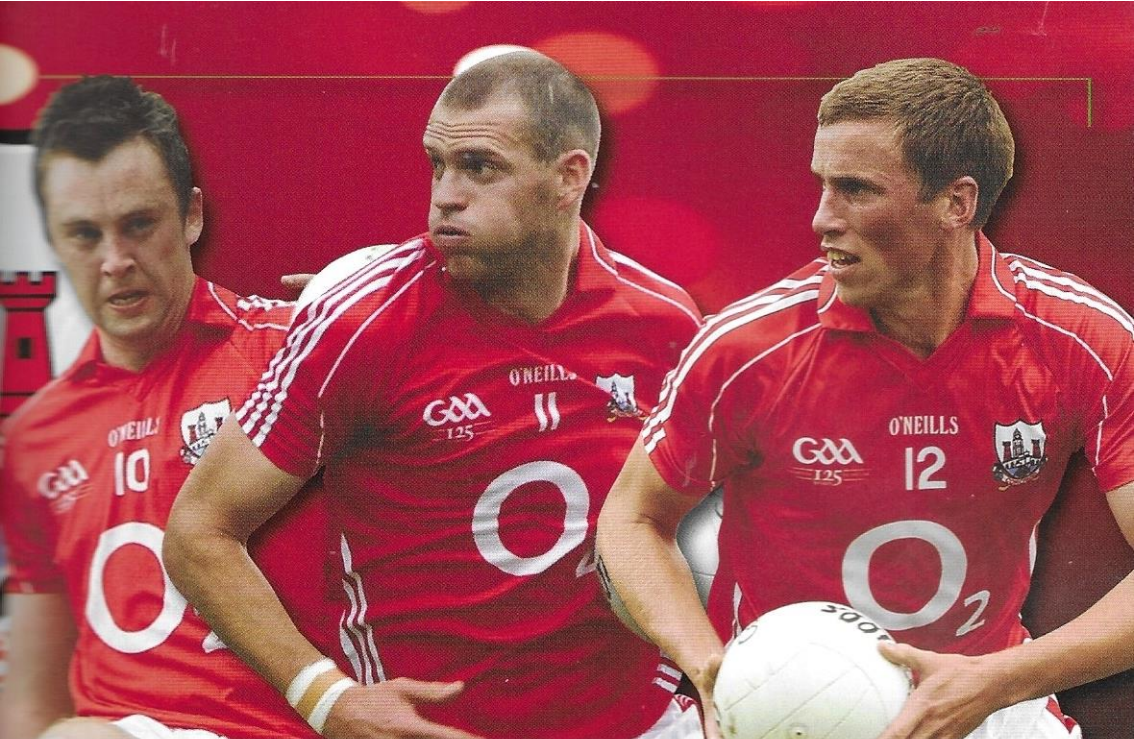
Club: Carbery Rangers
Age: 24
Height: 5'10
Weight: 12st 8lbs
Occupation: Sales Representative
Honours to date:
 1 County IFC,
 1 Munster Club JFC, 2 Munster Club IFC,
 1 Club IFC,
 1 County JFC,
 1 County SFC
 3 Munster U21,
 1 NFL Div. 2,
 3 Munster SFC.



24 Derek Kavanagh

Club: Nemo Rangers
Age: 29
Height: 6'2
Weight: 14st
Occupation: Engineer
Honours to date:
 7 County SFC, 3 Munster Club, 1 All-Ireland Club, 1 Munster U21.





10 Paul Kerrigan

Club: Nemo Rangers

Age: 23

Height: 5'11

Weight: 13st

Occupation: Student

Honours to date: 4 County SFC, 2 County U21, 1 County IFC, 2 Munster Club, 1 MFL, 3 Kiallieher Shield, 3 Munster FL, 2 Munster SFC, 3 Munster U21, 1 All-Ireland U21, 1 NFL Div. 2, 1 Corn Uí Muirí, 1 Sigerson, 1 Sigerson Rising Star, 2 U17 International Rules.

A two-time Munster Senior Club Championship winner with Nemo Rangers, Kerrigan broke through the U21 ranks before making his senior debut last year.

11 Pearse O'Neill

Club: Aghada

Age: 29

Height: 6'5

Weight: 16st

Occupation: Accountant

Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland Sevens, 1 County MHC, 2 County U21, 2 Munster SFC, 1 NFL Div. 2.

The towering Aghada man has been a regular feature of the Cork attack since 2006, and hit the net when today's sides met in the drawn Munster semi-final.

12 Paddy Kelly

Club: Ballincollig

Age: 23

Height: 6'0

Weight: 13st

Occupation: Primary School Teacher

Honours to date: 3 Mid-Cork U21, 1 County MFC, 3 Munster U21, 1 All-Ireland U21, 2 Munster SFC, 1 NFL Div. 2, 1 Railway Cup.

A clubmate of John Miskella at Ballincollig, Kelly has impressed since making his first Championship start earlier this year in the first Munster semi-final clash between these teams.

25 Paul O'Flynn

Club: Ballycough

Age: 23

Height: 6'2

Weight: 14st

Occupation: Student

Honours to date:

2 County JFC,
1 U21B,
2 Munster U21F,
2 Munster U21H,
1 NFL Div. 2,
1 Sigerson Cup.



26 James Masters

Club: Nemo Rangers

Age: 27

Height: 6'1

Weight: 13st

Occupation: Garda

Honours to date:

7 County SFC,
1 All-Ireland Club, 1 Munster MFC, 1 All-Ireland MFC,
1 Munster U21,
3 Munster SFC,
1 NFL Div. 2.



27 Michael Cussen

Club: Glanmire

Age: 25

Height: 6'7

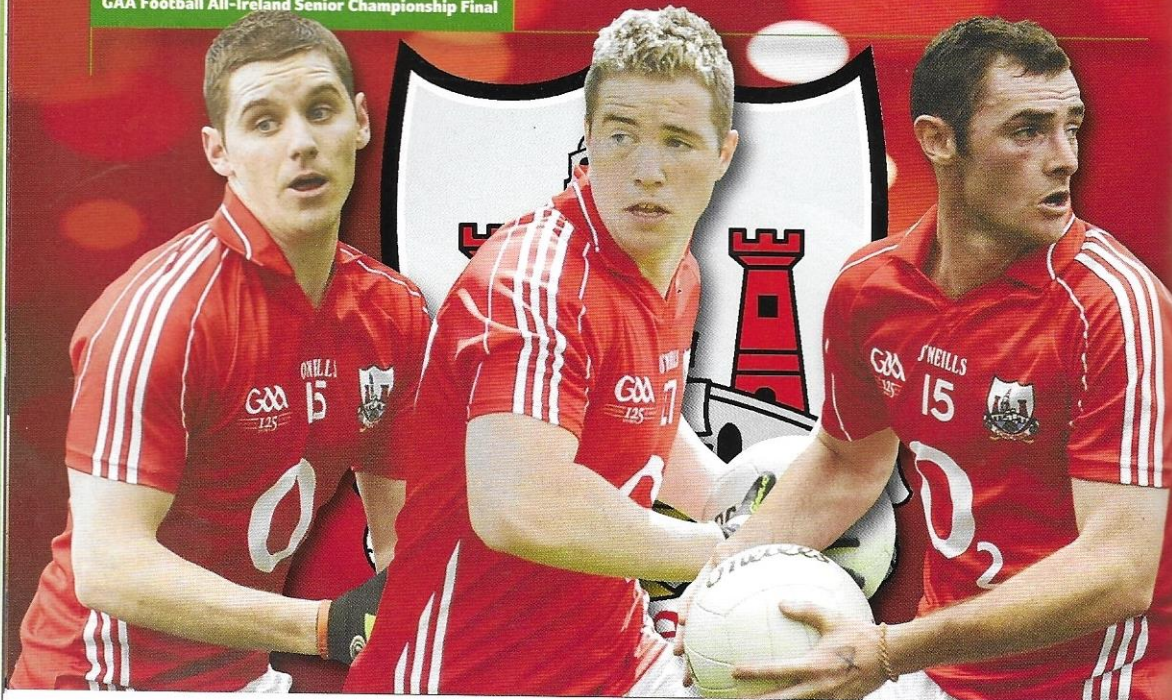
Weight: 15st 7lbs

Occupation: Garda

Honours to date:

2 Munster SFC,
1 Munster U21H,
1 NFL Div. 2.





13 Daniel Goulding

Club: Éire Óg
Age: 23
Height: 5'11
Weight: 12st 7lbs
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 County MFC, 1 County JFC, 3 Munster U21, 1 All-Ireland U21, 2 Munster SFC, 1 NFL, 1 NFL Div 2, Sigerson Cup, Railway Cup, 3 Munster SFC.

A member of the senior squad since 2006, the Éire Óg marksman is an expert freetaker, scoring nine placed balls as his Cork IT side won this year's Sigerson Cup final against DIT.

14 Colm O'Neill

Club: Ballyclough
Age: 20
Height: 6'0
Weight: 13st
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 Munster MFC, 2 Munster U21, 2 All-Ireland U21, Cadbury's U21 Hero of the Future 2009.

One of the youngest men on the Rebel squad, Ballyclough forward O'Neill made his championship debut this year and has featured in every game since, scoring 10 points.

15 Donnacha O'Connor

Club: Ballydesmond
Occupation: Coaching Officer
Age: 26
Height: 6'0
Weight: 12st 7lbs
Honours to date: 1 Duhallow, 1 County MFC, 1 U12, 1 U14, 1 U16, 1 U18 Duhallow titles, 1 All-Ireland JFC, 1 Munster JFC, 3 Munster SFC, 1 NFL Div. 2.

Chief marksman for the Rebels this season and the Championship's highest scorer to date, the Ballydesmond man has scored 3-22 in his team's six games so far.

FIR IONAD

28 Conor McCarthy

Club: O'Donovan Rossa
Age: 28
Height: 5'11
Weight: 13st
Occupation: Banker
Honours to date: 2 Kelleher Shield, 1 West Cork U21, 1 Munster MFC, 1 Munster U21, 1 NFL Div. 2.



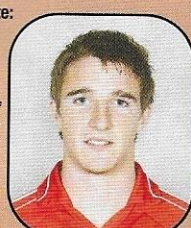
29 Brian O'Regan

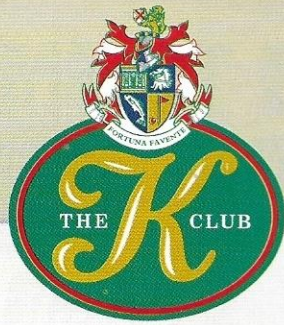
Club: Nemo Rangers
Age: 22
Height: 5'11
Weight: 12st 7lbs
Occupation: Carpenter
Honours to date: 6 County SFC, 3 County U21, 1 County MFC, 1 Munster MFC, 1 All-Ireland MFC, 1 Munster U21.



30 Aidan Walsh

Club: Kanturk
Age: 19
Height: 6'1
Weight: 14st
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 County MHC, 1 County MFC, 2 County U21H, 1 Munster MHC, 1 Munster MFC, 1 Munster U21, 1 All-Ireland U21.





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Victory for Kerry in this afternoon's All-Ireland SFC Final would add fresh cement to Jack O'Connor's reputation as one of the finest intercounty managers in modern times.

After a stumbling start to the season, mid-season disciplinary problems have been dealt with and he has plotted Kerry's route to a sixth successive All-Ireland Final.

O'Connor, 52, is enjoying a second spell at the helm after guiding Kerry to All-Ireland glory in 2004 and '06. He teaches Irish and Spanish at Coláiste na Sceilge in Caherciveen and is the author of 'Keys to the Kingdom', about his first term in charge.

Both of O'Connor's previous All-Ireland victories were preceded by National Football League glory and history could repeat itself again following this year's NFL victory.

Following the 2006 campaign, O'Connor stepped down for personal reasons but was enticed back last year after Pat O'Shea vacated the Kerry post. After he was first appointed in the autumn of 2003, O'Connor became the first Kerry manager since Mick O'Dwyer to take the Kingdom to three successive All-Ireland finals.

After taking a break from management for a year, O'Connor took over Tralee club side Kerins O'Rahilly's in 2008 and guided them in the Munster club

championship, where they lost out to Cork's Nemo Rangers. After O'Shea stepped down as Kerry manager, O'Connor's name was soon linked with the post but it still came as a surprise to many when he returned to the hot seat. Following his appointment, county board officials confirmed that O'Connor was the only candidate put forward for ratification

by delegates. Selector Ger O'Keefe returned to serve alongside O'Connor while former player Eamon Fitzmaurice also agreed

to come on board. The management team's early work bore fruit in April when Kerry captured the NFL title, courtesy of a 1-15 to 0-15 victory over Derry.

However, it's in championship football where every

Kerry manager is judged and, privately, O'Connor felt that he had unfinished business to attend to following a painful 2005 All-Ireland final defeat against Tyrone.

The Red Hands cast a shadow over Kerry in this decade with big-game successes in 2003, 2005 and 2008 and O'Connor was fuelled by a desire to exact revenge when he returned to the job. Cork's victory against Tyrone in the semi-final has denied O'Connor a crack at them but Kerry certainly won't lack for motivation this afternoon.

The Munster semi-final replay defeat against Cork led to much soul-searching in the Kingdom but they have slowly recovered and O'Connor will hope to mastermind another successful assault on Sam Maguire today.



Conor Counihan is this afternoon looking to join a select band of men who have played on and managed All-Ireland SFC winning teams. Counihan, who celebrates his 50th birthday in eight days time, played football with his local club Aghada and was a member of the Cork senior team from 1981 until 1993.

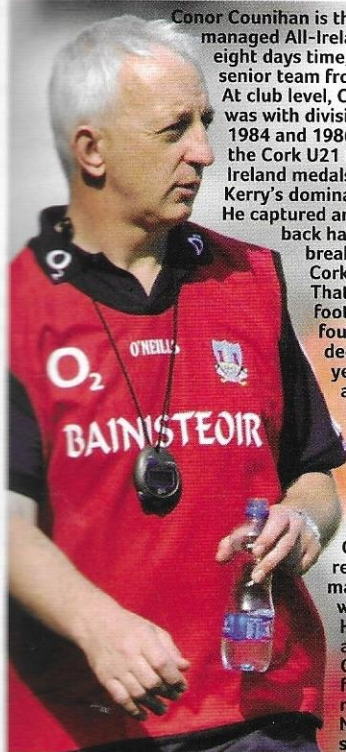
At club level, Counihan won county junior and intermediate medals with Aghada but it was with divisional side Imokilly that he captured two senior championship titles in 1984 and 1986. He first came to prominence on the intercounty scene as a member of the Cork U21 football team in 1980 as he finished the season with Munster and All-Ireland medals. The next year, Counihan joined Cork's senior football panel but, due to Kerry's dominance, success was slow in coming.

He captured an All-Ireland junior medal with Cork in 1984 and the tough-tackling wing back had soon established himself as a regular on the senior team. A significant breakthrough arrived in 1987 when he was appointed as team captain and Cork stopped Kerry from achieving a Munster championship four-in-a-row. That victory signalled the beginning of a golden period for the Cork senior footballers as they went on to land four successive Munster titles and contest four All-Ireland finals from 1987-1990. Meath won the 1987 and 1988 deciders but Cork emerged victorious against Mayo in 1989 and Meath a year later, to earn Counihan two Celtic crosses and two subsequent Allstar awards. In 1993, he was a substitute against Derry in the All-Ireland final and he retired from intercounty football following this defeat.

Counihan, who played in six Railway Cup campaigns, moved quickly into the world of management and served as a selector in 1994 with Cork alongside Billy Morgan. In 1999, he also played a vital role alongside Larry Tompkins as a specialist backs coach and selector. Cork went on to contest that year's All-Ireland final but once again, Meath were successful on Gaelic Football's big day.

Counihan returned as backs coach again in 2003 and following the resignation of Tompkins, was installed as favourite to take over as manager but lost out to Morgan. Counihan was prepared to be patient. He was overlooked again in 2007 when Teddy Holland was appointed. When Holland was controversially ousted from the job, Counihan was installed as manager in February 2008.

Cork secured an impressive Munster final victory over Kerry in Counihan's first season in charge but fell to their old rivals in an All-Ireland semi-final replay. So far this season, Cork have been nothing short of powerful with National Football League Division 2 glory already secured, along with a second successive Munster title.



Jimmy Kerrigan

CORK



IN 1994, Jimmy Kerrigan brought his All Ireland club medal count to five, a tally no one in football has ever equalled.

You can throw in five Cork titles, five Munster titles, an All-Ireland senior with his county, three Munster titles, two league medals and an All Star to his collection. What a haul. He also played for Ireland in the international

rules series too and played in both defence and attack for his native county.

There ain't much that Jimmy Kerrigan hasn't seen in Gaelic Football.

And now his son is busy carving his own legacy. Paul is having a smashing season with Conor Counihan's side and his father, obviously, is truly delighted. Though both sublimely talented at football, they have many different qualities. The son, for example, is much quieter than his dad.

"He doesn't say half as much as me, that's for sure," Jimmy says, "and when we beat Tyrone I think I did way more celebrating than he did. In fact I'm sure of it - he went home after just a few hours. I think they all did, they were allowed out for a few scoops but they made a bit of a pact and there was no celebrating at all really. In many ways the fun element is almost gone from the game now but sure they are getting the rewards."

Although Jimmy's playing days are long since over he's been heavily involved with Nemo Rangers ever since his retirement. This year he's a selector with the club intermediates, with Billy Morgan as manager.

A few years ago he was over the juniors. "I'll always be involved in some shape or form," he says, "we have a great club. Moving to our new home was the right thing to do because we can use the space and facilities to great effect."

He doesn't go along with the theory that Kerry have the psychological edge over his county today.

"That may be the case over the past four or five years but it wasn't always like that," he says. "A lot of our lads were making their first appearances in Croke over that time and they are way more settled now. This year's team is stronger because their weight training of the past few years has paid off. Billy Morgan took over Cork when they were at a low ebb and he built them back up again. Now Conor Counihan is taking them on again and I have to say that it's a much different team to last year's. They are harder working and more physical too."

"I think we have a great chance today. I think the hunger will be stronger on our behalf. Kerry are after having a strange old season and I will admit I did fear the worst when they beat Dublin but having seen them against Meath I think we have a good old chance."

He admits it's torture going to games these days - even when they are winning. Anyone who has ever had a close relation playing on a team will concur with him.

Sometimes he tends to watch Paul more than the players on the ball.

"It's a nightmare," he says. "If he missed a goal or a point someone would have a pop at him and I'd be biting my lip. I'd be very anxious that he would do well and it's hard to watch high intensity, high pressure games when one of your own is involved. But we're delighted that he's at this level - it's only his second year on the panel and already you can see the change in him."

Jimmy captained Cork in 1984 and feels that football in the county is in great nick at the moment.

"Things are gone a little quiet with the hurling so we'll have a huge following today," he says. "Cork people are hungry for success so maybe it's time for the footballers to get a little bit of attention - they certainly deserve it. We've clawed our way back up the ladder in recent times and we've plenty of good, honest, hardworking forwards. We have a great defence and lads who can score. I think we have a right shot today."

**TERRACE
HERO**

by DAMIAN LAWLOR

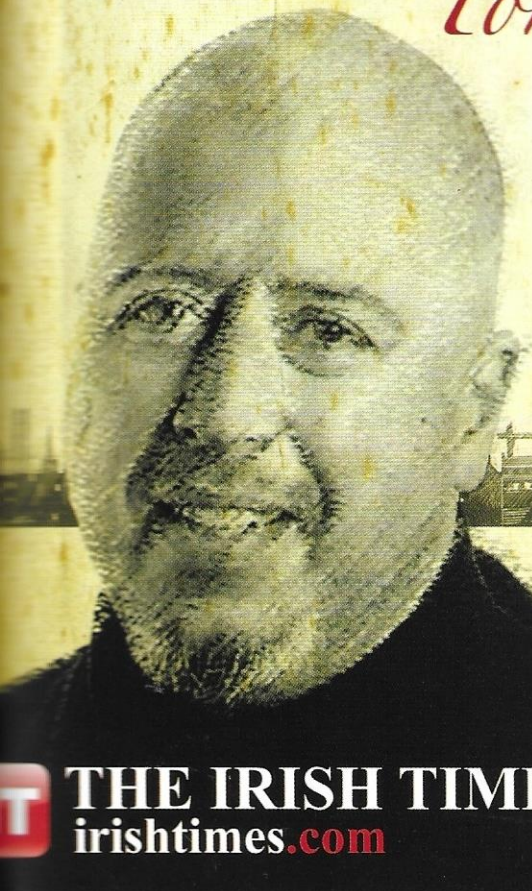
THE GAA museum at Croker.
Some of the stuff they have even pre-dates
the Heineken Cup.

Tom: 79

NO MATTER how much you know about
the GAA you're only a bar stool away from a
fella who knows twice as much.

Tom: 49

*The GAA according to
Tom Humphries*



Your Life, Your Times,
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LAST MEETING(S)...LAST JUNE

Kingdom hangs in in injury time

Kerry 0-13 Cork 1-10

In most drawn encounters it is generally felt that either side could have won but at Fitzgerald Stadium just under four months ago the visitors were clearly the superior outfit and had they been a little more clinical in attack would have won comfortably. Within 13 minutes a Pearse O'Neill goal helped the Leesiders into a four-point lead which had been reduced by a point at the change of ends (1-5 to 0-5), although the hosts could have been on terms had Colm Cooper not wided a penalty.

Daniel Goulding pointed on the restart and then the leaders managed just a single point (Noel O'Leary) from three gilt-edged goal chances. Points from Cooper and Tadhg Kennelly reduced the deficit to three points before a brace of frees from Bryan Sheehan left just a point between the sides. A lovely score by Cooper brought Kerry level but then O'Neill converted a '45' to give the Rebels a lead in injury

time. Two minutes later Kerry were awarded a free about 45 metres from goal and Sheehan kept his nerve to tie up matters.

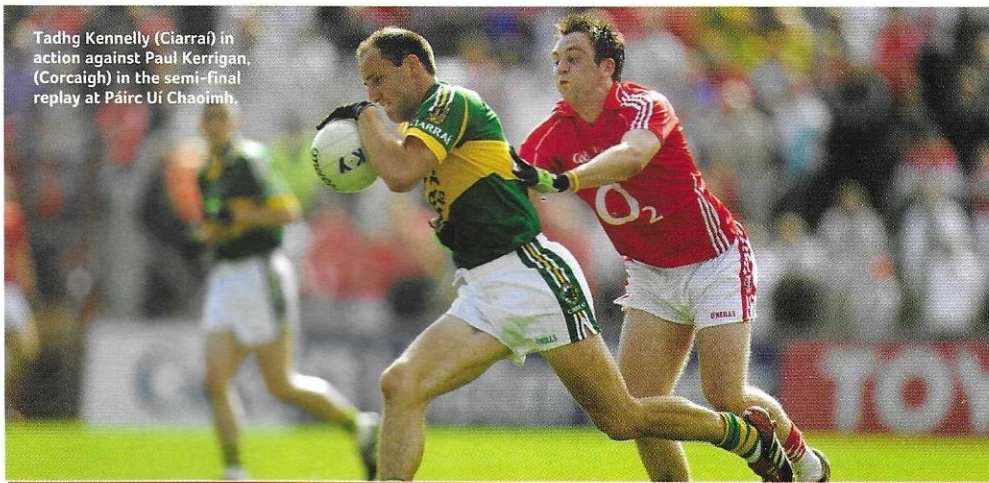
Kerry scorers: B Sheehan 0-5, C Cooper 0-3, D Walsh 0-2, D Ó Sé 0-1, T Kennelly 0-1, T Walsh 0-1.

Cork scorers: P O'Neill 1-2, D O'Connor 0-3, D Goulding 0-2, G Cauty 0-1, N O'Leary 0-1, C O'Neill 0-1.

Ciarraí – D Murphy, M Ó Sé, T O'Sullivan, P Reidy, T Ó Sé, T Griffin, A O'Mahony, T Kennelly, M Quirke, Darren O'Sullivan, D Walsh, P Galvin, C Cooper, T Walsh, Declan O'Sullivan. Subs – D Ó Sé for T Walsh, B Sheehan for D Walsh, D Moran for Quirke, B J Walsh for Darren O'Sullivan, Sean O'Sullivan for Kennelly.

Corcaigh – A Quirke, J Miskella, M Shields, A Lynch, G Spillane, G Cauty, K O'Connor, A O'Connor, N Murphy, P Kelly, P O'Neill, P Kerrigan, D Goulding, J Masters, D O'Connor. Subs – M Cussen for Masters, N O'Leary for Spillane, N O'Donovan for Miskella, B O'Regan for K O'Connor, C O'Neill for Goulding.

Tadhg Kennelly (Ciarraí) in action against Paul Kerrigan, (Corcaigh) in the semi-final replay at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.



First Meeting... 120 Years Ago

The first-ever meeting of Cork and Kerry in 1889 wasn't exactly a thriller with the Leesiders (represented by Middleton) defeating the Kingdom's Killorglin by 0-2 to 0-1...a scoreline that didn't reflect the winners' superiority. The lineouts on that historic occasion were:

Corcaigh – J Power, J Leahy, P O'Brien, B Kelleher, J D O'Brien, M Hennessy, W Hennessy, M Roche, W Colbert, B Hennessy, J Ahern, M Buckley, D Murphy, M Moore, W Kennedy, W Twomey, P Moore, W Barry, J Kennedy, J Hannon, W Buckley.

Ciarraí – J P O'Sullivan, P O'Sullivan, E O'Sullivan, M O'Sullivan, Jack O'Sullivan, John O'Sullivan, Tim Curran, Tom Curran, P Teehan, P Sheehan, P Regan, P O'Shea, P Fleming, J Hayes, T Murphy, J Doyle, D O'Neill, D Murphy, T Cremin, M O'Brien, T Foley.

Rebels confirm their superiority

Cork 1-17 Kerry 0-12

Six days later at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork confirmed the superiority that had been evident at Killarney with an eight-point victory. It was a complete performance by the hosts with the visitors only really showing up to good effect on the restart when they closed down a five-point interval deficit. At the break Cork led by 0-9 to 0-4, but within nine minutes of the restart the Kingdom had hit five points without reply and it looked as if momentum alone might carry them to victory.

However, Cork were awarded a penalty at the 47th minute when Pádraig Reidy fouled Daniel Goulding and Donncha O'Connor converted the kick for a lead they would not relinquish. Still, with quarter of an hour remaining it was 1-12 to 0-11 and the prospect of another tight finish was still very much alive. But the Leesiders had other ideas and in the closing

quarter they continuously raided the Kerry lines scoring seven points and conceding just one to run out comfortable winners.

Cork scorers: D O'Connor 1-5, D Goulding 0-5, J Miskella 0-2, P Kelly 0-1, P Kerrigan 0-1, J Masters 0-1, F Goold 0-1, P O'Flynn 0-1.

Kerry scorers: C Cooper 0-4, B Sheehan 0-2, Darren O'Sullivan 0-2, D Ó Sé 0-1, Declan O'Sullivan 0-1, T Kennelly 0-1, D Moran 0-1.

Corcaigh – A Quirke, R Carey, M Shields, A Lynch, J Miskella, G Canty, N O'Leary, A O'Connor, N Murphy, P Kelly, P O'Neill, P Kerrigan, D Goulding, J Masters, D O'Connor. Subs – F Goold for Murphy, P O'Flynn for Kerrigan, J Hayes for Kelly, F Lynch for A O'Connor.

Ciarraí – D Murphy, M Ó Sé, T O'Sullivan, P Reidy, T Ó Sé, A O'Mahony, K Young, D Ó Sé, T Griffin, P Galvin, Declan O'Sullivan, T Kennelly, C Cooper, T Walsh, B Sheehan. Subs – Darren O'Sullivan for Sheehan, D Moran for M Ó Sé, A O'Shea for Reidy, D Walsh for T Walsh, E Brosnan for D Ó Sé.



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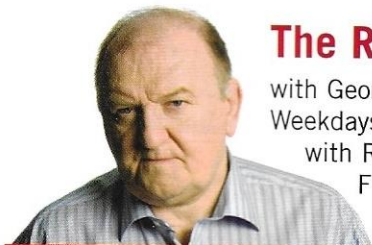
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Six-in-a-Row

This afternoon Kerry join a very exclusive club...counties that have featured in six successive All-Ireland Finals. This feat has been achieved just twice previously. Wexford were first to do so between 1913 and 1918 with the Slaneysiders losing the first two finals (to Kerry) before winning the following four. Dublin reached six successive finals in the 1970s winning three and losing three (all to Kerry). Thirty years later the Kingdom becomes the third county to feature in six successive finals and a victory would see them emulate the Slaneysiders (four wins/two losses) while defeat would replicate the Metropolitans (three wins/three losses).

Wexford - 1913/18

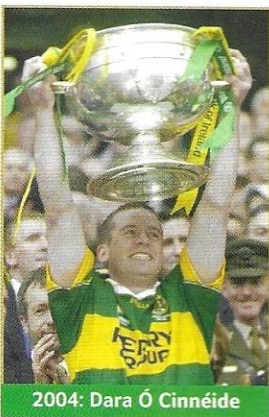
- 1913 Kerry 2-2 Wexford 0-3
- 1914 Kerry 2-3 Wexford 0-6 @ (Kerry 1-3 Wexford 2-0)
- 1915 Wexford 2-4 Kerry 2-1
- 1916 Wexford 3-4 Mayo 1-2
- 1917 Wexford 0-9 Clare 0-5
- 1918 Wexford 0-5 Tipperary 0-4

Dublin - 1974/79

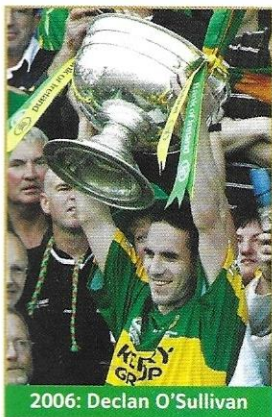
- 1974 Dublin 0-14 Galway 1-6
- 1975 Kerry 2-12 Dublin 0-11
- 1976 Dublin 3-8 Kerry 0-10
- 1977 Dublin 5-12 Armagh 3-6
- 1978 Kerry 5-11 Dublin 0-9
- 1979 Kerry 3-13 Dublin 1-8

Kerry - 2004/09

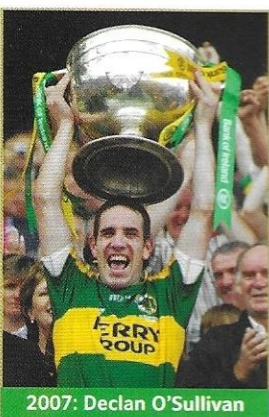
- 2004 Kerry 1-20 Mayo 2-9
- 2005 Tyrone 1-16 Kerry 2-10
- 2006 Kerry 4-15 Mayo 3-5
- 2007 Kerry 3-13 Cork 1-9
- 2008 Tyrone 1-15 Kerry 0-14
- 2009 Kerry ? Cork ?



2004: Dara Ó Cinnéide



2006: Declan O'Sullivan



2007: Declan O'Sullivan

HALF-TIME QUICK QUIZ

Questions

- Q1. Who scored Kerry's only goal in their All-Ireland quarter-final win over Dublin?
- Q2. Cork has conceded three goals en-route to today's final. What counties scored them?
- Q3. Who was the top scorer in the 2008 championship?
- Q4. Today Kerry appear in their sixth successive senior final. What other counties have achieved this feat?
- Q5. Since 2000, two Kerry players have been the top marksman on All-Ireland Final day. Colm Cooper is one...who is the other?
- Q6. Kerry and Cork won the National League Division 1 and 2 titles this year. What counties did they beat in the finals?
- Q7. What team defeated Mayo in last year's All-Ireland minor final?
- Q8. Who were the captains when Kerry played Cork in the 2007 final?
- Q9. What club does Kieran Donaghy play for?
- Q10. Kerry has won 35 senior titles. How many has Cork won?

1. Colm Cooper. 2. Donegal (2) and Waterford. 3. John Doyle (Kildare). 4. Wexford (1913/18) and Dublin (1974/79). 5. Dara Ó Cinnéide. 6. Derry and Monaghan respectively. 7. Tyrone. 8. Declan O'Sullivan and Derek Kavanagh. 9. Austin Stacks. Tralee. 10. Six.

Answers

Previous Meetings 93

Kerry 64 Cork 29



1889 — 29th July @ Mallow:
Cork 0-2 Kerry 0-1
 1890 — 29th September @ Markets Field:
Cork 0-0 Kerry 0-0 — abandoned
 20th October @ Banteer:
Cork 1-4 Kerry 0-1
 1891 — 2nd September @ Killarney:
Cork 2-5 Kerry 0-2
 1892 — 30th October @ Killarney:
Kerry 3-6 Cork 0-5
 1893 — 2nd April '94 @ Mallow:
Cork W.O. Kerry Scr.
 1901 — 28th August '02 @ Markets Field:
Cork 0-6 Kerry 0-1 — objection
 5th September '02 @ Millstreet:
Cork 0-8 Kerry 0-6
 1902 — 10th August '03 @ Millstreet:
Kerry 2-7 Cork 0-3
 1903 — 31st October '04 @ Markets Field:
Kerry 1-7 Cork 0-3
 1904 — 29th October '05 @ Markets Field:
Kerry 1-4 Cork 0-0
 1905 — 21st January '07 @ Cork Athletic
 Grounds:
Kerry 1-7 Cork 0-5
 1906 — 19th August '07 @ Tipperary
 town:
Cork 1-10 Kerry 0-3
 1907 — 29th March '08 @ Markets Field:
Cork 1-9 Kerry 0-6
 1909 — 19th September @ Markets Field:
Cork 2-8 Kerry 1-7 — objection
 7th November @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Kerry 1-5 Cork 0-6
 1910 — 29th October @ Cork Athletic
 Grounds:
Kerry 0-4 Cork 0-2
 1912 — 23rd June @ Tralee:
Kerry 2-3 Cork 0-1
 1913 — 26th October @ Cork Athletic
 Grounds:
Kerry 1-6 Cork 0-1
 1914 — 4th October @ Tralee:
Kerry 0-5 Cork 0-1
 1920 — 20th June @ Cork Athletic
 Grounds:
Kerry 2-6 Cork 0-4
 1923 — 2nd September @ Cork Athletic
 Grounds:
Kerry 3-4 Cork 0-3
 1924 — 7th September @ Cork Athletic
 Grounds:
Kerry 4-3 Cork 2-1
 1925 — 16th August @ Tralee:
Kerry 3-8 Cork 1-0
 1926 — 18th July @ Listowel:
Kerry 1-9 Cork 2-1
 1927 — 8th May @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Kerry 1-7 Cork 0-1
 1929 — 26th May @ Cork Athletic
 Grounds:
Kerry 1-7 Cork 1-3
 1934 — 27th May @ Fermoy:
Kerry 2-6 Cork 0-3
 1937 — 13th June @ Killarney:
Kerry 6-7 Cork 0-4
 1938 — 7th August @ Clonakilty:
Kerry 4-14 Cork 0-6
 1942 — 19th July @ Tralee:
Kerry 3-7 Cork 0-8
 1943 — 6th June @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Cork 2-3 Kerry 0-9
 11th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Cork 1-5 Kerry 1-4 @

1945 — 8th July @ Killarney:
Cork 1-11 Kerry 1-6
 1946 — 2nd June @ Killarney:
Kerry 1-8 Cork 1-4
 1947 — 27th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Kerry 3-8 Cork 2-6
 1948 — 25th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 2-9 Cork 2-6
 1950 — 30th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Kerry 2-5 Cork 1-5
 1951 — 15th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 1-6 Cork 0-4
 1952 — 20th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Cork 0-11 Kerry 0-2
 1953 — 19th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 2-7 Cork 2-3
 1954 — 25th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Kerry 4-9 Cork 2-3
 1955 — 24th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 0-14 Cork 2-6
 1956 — 15th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Cork 0-8 Kerry 2-2
 29th July @ Killarney:
Cork 1-8 Kerry 1-7 @
 1958 — 13th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Kerry 2-7 Cork 0-3
 1959 — 2nd August @ Killarney:
Kerry 2-15 Cork 2-8
 1961 — 16th July @ Cork Athletic Ground:
Cork 1-7 Kerry 0-10
 23rd July @ Killarney:
Kerry 2-13 Cork 1-4 @
 1962 — 15th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Kerry 4-8 Cork 0-4
 1963 — 14th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 1-18 Cork 3-7
 1964 — 19th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Kerry 2-11 Cork 1-8
 1966 — 17th July @ Killarney:
Cork 2-7 Kerry 1-7
 1967 — 16th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Cork 0-8 Kerry 0-7
 1968 — 14th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 1-21 Cork 3-8
 1969 — 20th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Kerry 0-16 Cork 1-4
 1970 — 26th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 2-22 Cork 2-9
 1971 — 18th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Cork 0-25 Kerry 0-14
 1972 — 16th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 2-21 Cork 2-15
 1973 — 15th July @ Cork Athletic Grounds:
Cork 5-12 Kerry 1-15
 1974 — 14th July @ Killarney:
Cork 1-11 Kerry 0-7
 1975 — 13th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 1-14 Cork 0-7
 1976 — 11th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh :
Cork 0-10 Kerry 0-10
 25th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Kerry 3-20 Cork 2-19 @
 1977 — 24th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 3-15 Cork 0-9
 1978 — 16th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Kerry 3-14 Cork 3-7
 1979 — 22nd July @ Killarney:
Kerry 2-14 Cork 2-4
 1980 — 6th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Kerry 3-13 Cork 0-12
 1981 — 19th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 1-11 Cork 0-3
 1982 — 14th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 0-9 Kerry 0-9

1st August @ Killarney.
Kerry 2-18 Cork 0-12 @
 1983 — 17th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 3-10 Kerry 3-9
 1984 — 1st July @ Killarney:
Kerry 3-14 Cork 2-10
 1985 — 21st July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Kerry 2-11 Cork 0-11
 1986 — 6th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 0-12 Cork 0-8
 1987 — 26th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 1-10 Kerry 2-7
 2nd August @ Killarney:
Cork 0-13 Kerry 1-5 @
 1988 — 3rd July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 1-14 Kerry 0-16
 1989 — 23rd July @ Killarney:
Cork 1-12 Kerry 1-9
 1990 — 1st July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 2-23 Kerry 1-11
 1991 — 16th June @ Killarney:
Kerry 1-10 Cork 0-11
 1992 — 24th May @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Kerry 2-14 Cork 0-10
 1993 — 20th June @ Killarney:
Cork 1-10 Kerry 0-10
 1994 — 26th June @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 1-13 Kerry 2-8
 1995 — 23rd July @ Killarney:
Cork 0-15 Kerry 1-9
 1996 — 21st July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Kerry 0-14 Cork 0-11
 1998 — 5th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 1-14 Cork 1-11
 1999 — 18th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh :
Cork 2-10 Kerry 2-4
 2000 — 18th June @ Killarney:
Kerry 2-15 Cork 1-13
 2001 — 15th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Kerry 0-19 Cork 1-13
 2002 — 16th June @ Killarney:
Kerry 0-8 Cork 0-8
 23rd June @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 0-15 Kerry 1-9 @
 25th August @ Croke Park:
Kerry 3-19 Cork 2-7
 2004 — 13th June @ Killarney:
Kerry 0-15 Cork 0-7
 2005 — 10th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Kerry 1-11 Cork 0-11
 28th August @ Croke Park:
Kerry 1-19 Cork 0-9
 2006 — 9th July @ Killarney:
Kerry 0-10 Cork 0-10
 16th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 1-12 Kerry 0-9 @
 20th August @ Croke Park:
Kerry 0-16 Cork 0-10
 2007 — 1st July @ Killarney:
Kerry 1-15 Cork 1-13
 16th September @ Croke Park:
Kerry 3-13 Cork 1-9
 2008 — 6th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 1-16 Kerry 1-11
 24th August @ Croke Park:
Kerry 1-13 Cork 3-7
 31st August @ Croke Park:
Kerry 3-14 Cork 2-13 @
 2009 — 7th June @ Killarney:
Kerry 0-13 Cork 1-10
 13th June @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 1-17 Kerry 0-12 @

One Hundred Years Ago... Kerry's Third Title

Five years had passed since Kerry's second title and the previous year the Kingdom had lost the "Home" Final to Dublin so confidence wasn't exactly brimming when the reigning Munster champions set out on the 1909 campaign. However, their opening encounter didn't exactly test them as they cruised to a 2-10 to 0-5 win over Tipperary at Fermoy and the semi-final with Limerick was even more one-sided as the hosts hammered the Shannonsiders by 2-18 to 1-2.

The final against Cork was an altogether different proposition. The Leesiders had been surprised by Waterford in the previous campaign, but easily saw off the Decies in the semi-final at Dungarvan (2-7 to 0-3) to book their place in the decider. At the Markets' Field the Kingdom had first use of the breeze and built up a less than intimidating interval advantage of three points – 1-6 to 1-3. Early in the second period a Cork player picked the ball off the ground and scored a point. So incensed were the Kerry team by the lack of a free that they informed referee William Naughton they were no longer going to play on and left the field en-masse.

After some time the Kerry players were persuaded to resume but the momentum was with the Rebels and after sneaking into the lead they clinched victory with a late goal – 2-8 to 1-7. Feeling hard done by, the Kerry County Board lodged an objection to the result and the Munster Council decided to award the game to the Kingdom. However, such a victory would have been a hollow one and Kerry insisted on a second match which took place at the Cork Athletic Grounds in early November.

Suitably determined to reaffirm their win on the field of play, the home side spared no effort and amid robust exchanges led by two points at the change of ends. That lead was extended to three on the restart but points from Johnny Skinner and Kennelly (two) brought Kerry level before Skinner had the game's only goal nine minutes from time. It was the crucial score and Kerry retained their provincial honours on a 1-5 to 0-6 scoreline.

The All-Ireland semi-final against Mayo was a replay of their meeting the previous year as was the outcome...an easy win for the Kingdom – 2-12 to 0-6. Louth, with wins over Meath, Dublin (All-Ireland champions for the previous three years) and Kilkenny took Leinster honours for the first time and a narrow win over Antrim qualified the Wee county for the decider.

The final at Jones's Road on December 5th attracted an attendance of 16,000 with Louth opening the scoring before Skinner equalised. Louth added a brace before Costello and Skinner restored parity with Skinner then grabbing a goal to leave it 1-3 to 0-3 at the break. In the second period the Munster side always had the edge and in the end won by double scores – 1-9 to 0-6.

The team which won Kerry's third senior title 100 years ago was – T Costello, M McCarthy, C Healy, T Rice, J O'Sullivan, D Breen, M J Quinlan, R Fitzgerald, C Murphy, E Spillane, J Skinner, P Mullane, J Kennelly, B O'Connor, J McCarthy, F J Cronin, P Dillon.

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The answer to the question 'Who won the last semi-final meeting between Kerry and Meath?' is Meath.



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Jimmy Deenihan

KERRY



OLD habits die hard – Jimmy Deenihan had just finished a six mile run when he took this call. The 56 year old is training for the Dublin City Marathon, his first attempt at the great race, and he's looking forward to the new challenge.

He has an inkling that his native county will leave Croke Park today as All-Ireland champions. "Cork are stronger, no doubt about that; they have shed this alleged fear of Croke Park and they look to be a different team than they were in the past.

"But I have great meas on this Kerry team. I think they are under-rated and there are plenty of fine, natural footballers there. People are often unfavourably comparing them to the team of the 1970s and 80s but that's not right – they are playing in their sixth successive All-Ireland final today and that's not easy.

"But from what I have heard, they have trained exceptionally well and they will be fired up to make their mark today.

"It's been a pretty up and down year from a Kerry point of view but there was a lot of old nonsense talked during the year. The bottom line is that the media tend to exaggerate things when Kerry are involved. There are incidents, splits and little tensions in every team and squad in the country and it's no different here in Kerry. But when we're involved in a little bit of controversy the whole thing seems to be blown out of all proportion."

He's well entitled to his opinion; after winning five All-Ireland and seven Munster titles as a player, Deenihan enjoys a fantastic standing the game. His displays at right corner back over his career marked him out as one of the biggest names in the game.

And that status brought its own perks. Just as his intercounty football career was drawing to a close, his political career was just beginning. He was asked to stand for Fine Gael in an election on a Thursday night and the local convention gave him approval the following Saturday night. He was appointed to the Seanad and was elected a TD for the first time in the 1987 general elections. After 27 years and four subsequent general elections he is still standing.

"I wouldn't have entered politics had I not been asked," the former PE teacher says.

"I would be the first to admit that my GAA career opened the door to me. I promised the Kerry people that I would work every bit as hard at representing them as I did playing for the county. But after a while your reputation will only get you so far. You have to be out there, working away, to gain the trust of the people. After the first election, when they got a chance to see what I was about, it would have mattered little that I was a former Kerry player – that's for sure."

He says he's not surprised that so many of the GAA fraternity are heading down the politics route these days. The last local elections, for instance, were peppered with big names who were standing in their own constituencies. "No, that's no surprise to me at all," Deenihan says.

"Sure people see it as a way of representing their parish and community just like they did when they were with GAA teams," he adds. "It's a perfect fit in many ways. My only advice is that while the GAA might open the door for you, it won't keep it open. You have to work hard and carve out your own niche," the former Minister of State said.

Back to today's game and Deenihan says it will come down to tactics. "I think so," he continues. "After their last two outings you can see that Cork certainly don't have a problem playing in Croke Park anyway so it will come down to tactics and who is sharper on the day.

"As I say, Cork might have that extra bit of hunger but I really think we will hang on by a few points. I just feel we want to make one big statement after the year we've had."

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At Croke Park

Played 6, Ciarraí 5, Drawn 1

2002 – Kerry 3-19 Cork 2-7

A day to forget for the Leesiders as Kerry won their first-ever meeting at Croke Park by 15 points. The Kingdom scored six points in the opening nine minutes and goals by Colm Cooper and Mike Frank Russell made it 2-10 to 1-4 at the break. Kerry moved into a double-digit advantage on the restart and although the Munster champions rallied to close within seven the Kingdom finished strongly hitting 1-5 without concession.

Kerry scorers: M F Russell 1-6, C Cooper 1-5, D Ó Cinnéide 0-3, L Hassett 0-2, D Ó Sé 0-1, S O'Sullivan 0-1, A MacGearailt 0-1, S Levis (Cork) 1-0 og.

Cork scorers: C Corkery 0-5, F Murray 1-1, P Clifford 1-0, J O'Donoghue 0-1.

Ciarraí – D O'Keeffe, M Ó Sé, S Moynihan, M McCarthy, J Sheehan, E Fitzmaurice, T Ó Sé, D Ó Sé, D Daly, S O'Sullivan, E Brosnan, L Hassett, M F Russell, D Ó Cinnéide, C Cooper. Subs – A MacGearailt for S O'Sullivan, T O'Sullivan for M Ó Sé, J Crowley for Ó Cinnéide, D Quill for Hassett, B O'Shea for T Ó Sé.

Corcaigh – K O'Dwyer, E Sexton, C O'Sullivan, A Lynch, S Levis, R McCarthy, M Cronin, N Murphy, G Canty, B J O'Sullivan, J Kavanagh, A Cronin, P Clifford, C Corkery, F Murray. Subs – M McCarthy for Cronin, C Crowley for Kavanagh, J O'Donoghue for R McCarthy, D O'Sullivan for Clifford.

2005 – Kerry 1-19 Cork 0-9

Another disappointing afternoon for the Leesiders at headquarters as, after grabbing the first two scores of the day, they then conceded the next eight to Kerry. At the interval the Kingdom led by 0-11 to 0-4 and fears of another double-digit defeat loomed large. And it came to pass as Eoin Brosnan crashed home the game's only goal 13 minutes after the resumption to end any lingering doubts as to the outcome.

Kerry scorers: C Cooper 0-5, E Brosnan 1-2, P Galvin 0-3, B Sheehan 0-2, T Ó Sé 0-1, L Hassett 0-1, W Kirby 0-1, M F Russell 0-1, A O'Mahony 0-1, M McCarthy 0-1, D Ó Cinnéide 0-1.

Cork scorers: J Hayes 0-3, K McMahon 0-2, J Masters 0-2, P Clifford 0-1, A Lynch 0-1.

Ciarraí – D Murphy, A O'Mahony, M McCarthy, T O'Sullivan, T Ó Sé, M Ó Sé, S Moynihan, D Ó Sé, W Kirby, P Galvin, E Brosnan, L Hassett, C Cooper, D O'Sullivan, B Sheehan. Subs – D Ó Cinnéide for Sheehan, M F Russell for Hassett, E Fitzmaurice for T Ó Sé, D Quill for Cooper, K Donaghy for Kirby.

Corcaigh – K O'Dwyer, G Murphy, G Canty, N Geary, N O'Leary, A Lynch, E Sexton, D Kavanagh, N Murphy, J Masters, C McCarthy, K McMahon, P Clifford, B J O'Sullivan, J Hayes. Subs – K O'Connor for Geary, A Cronin for Masters, M Cronin for O'Leary, K O'Sullivan for McCarthy.

2006 – Kerry 0-16 Cork 0-10


Despite defeating the same opposition in the provincial final, Cork faced into a third clash with Kerry at Croke Park acutely aware of the outcome of the previous two. As with twelve months early the Leesiders established an early lead but another second-quarter burst from Kerry gave them an interval advantage of three points – 0-8 to 0-5. The momentum stayed with the leaders on the restart and the victory margin of six points didn't reflect their dominance.

Kerry scorers: M F Russell 0-6, C Cooper 0-4, S O'Sullivan 0-2, T Ó Sé 0-1, P Galvin 0-1, Declan O'Sullivan 0-1, K Donaghy 0-1.

Cork scorers: J Masters 0-5, D O'Connor 0-2, C McCarthy 0-1, K O'Sullivan 0-1, S O'Brien 0-1.

Ciarraí – D Murphy, M McCarthy, A O'Mahony, T O'Sullivan, T Ó Sé, M Ó Sé, S Moynihan, D Ó Sé, T Griffin, S O'Sullivan, E Brosnan, P Galvin, C Cooper, K Donaghy, M F Russell. Subs – Declan O'Sullivan for Brosnan, Darren O'Sullivan for S O'Sullivan, E Fitzmaurice for Griffin.

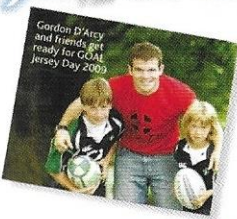
Corcaigh – A Quirke, M Prout, D Kavanagh, K




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O'Connor, M Shields, G Spillane, A Lynch, N Murphy, P O'Neill, S O'Brien, C McCarthy, K McMahon, J Masters, D O'Connor, J Hayes. Subs – G Murphy for Shields, N O'Leary for Prout, K O'Sullivan for Hayes, D Niblock for McCarthy, F Goold for O'Neill.

2007 – Kerry 3-13 Cork 1-9

Despite playing second fiddle for much of the first half of this final Cork trailed by just a goal (1-6 to 0-6) at the change of ends, which Colm Cooper notched at the end of the opening quarter. However, Kerry hit 1-4 without reply in the ten minutes after the restart and when Kieran Donaghy grabbed a second goal at the 48th minute the game as a contest was finished. Daniel Goulding's goal early in the final quarter was merely a footnote.

Kerry scorers: C Cooper 1-5, K Donaghy 2-0, B Sheehan 0-2, A O'Mahony 0-1, P Galvin 0-1, T Ó Sé 0-1, S Scanlon 0-1, Declan O'Sullivan 0-1, S O'Sullivan 0-1.

Cork scorers: D O'Connor 0-4, D Goulding 1-1, J Masters 0-3, M Cussen 0-1.

Ciarraí – D Murphy, M Ó Sé, T O'Sullivan, P Reidy, A O'Mahony, T Ó Sé, K Young, D Ó Sé, S Scanlon, P Galvin, Declan O'Sullivan, E Brosnan, C Cooper, K Donaghy, B Sheehan. Subs – S O'Sullivan for Galvin, Darren O'Sullivan for Brosnan, T Griffin for Young, M F Russell for Sheehan, M Lyons for Reidy.

Corcaigh – A Quirke, M Shields, G Canty, K O'Connor, N O'Leary, G Spillane, J Miskella, D Kavanagh, N Murphy, C McCarthy, P O'Neill, K McMahon, J Masters, M Cussen, D O'Connor. Subs – D Goulding for Masters, A Lynch for Miskella, F Goold for McMahon, K O'Sullivan for McCarthy.

2008 – Kerry 1-13 Cork 3-7

Despite having the better of the opening half Kerry led by just 1-5 to 1-4 at the break, but turned possession to account in the second to lead by eight points with four minutes remaining. However, a late rally from the Leesiders yielded an unanswered 2-2 and a replay.

Kerry scorers: B Sheehan 0-4, K Donaghy 1-1, C Cooper 0-3, T Walsh 0-2, E Brosnan 0-1, Darren O'Sullivan 0-1, T Ó Sé 0-1.

Cork scorers: D O'Connor 0-4, J Hayes 1-1, D Goulding 1-0, J Masters 1-0, N Murphy 0-1, J Miskella 0-1.

Ciarraí – D Murphy, M Ó Sé, T Griffin, T O'Sullivan, T Ó Sé, A O'Mahony, K Young, D Ó Sé, S Scanlon, D Walsh, Declan O'Sullivan, B Sheehan, C Cooper, K Donaghy, T Walsh. Subs – E Brosnan for D Walsh, Darren O'Sullivan for T Walsh, S O'Sullivan for D O'Sullivan.

Corcaigh – A Quirke, D Duggan, D Kavanagh, A Lynch, G Spillane, J Miskella, K O'Connor, A O'Connor,

G Canty, D O'Connor, P O'Neill, S O'Brien, D Goulding, M Cussen, J Hayes. Subs – N Murphy for A O'Connor, J Masters for Goulding, K McMahon for O'Brien, N O'Leary for K O'Connor, M Shields for Spillane.

Replay – Kerry 3-14 Cork 2-13

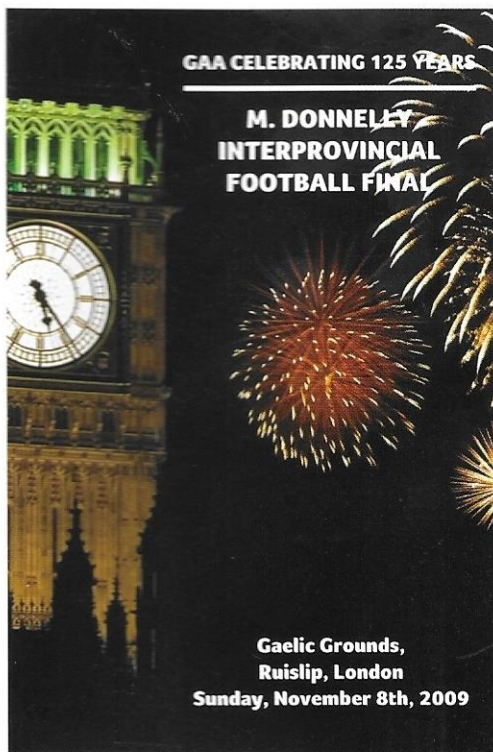
Again Kerry had the better of the opening half to lead by five (1-8 to 1-3) and when that was extended to nine on the restart the game looked over. The leaders retreated and Cork roared back to level (2-12 each) with five minutes remaining before Colm Cooper's goal settled it.

Kerry scorers: C Cooper 1-8, T Walsh 1-2, Declan O'Sullivan 1-0, S Scanlon 0-2, T Ó Sé 0-1, E Brosnan 0-1.

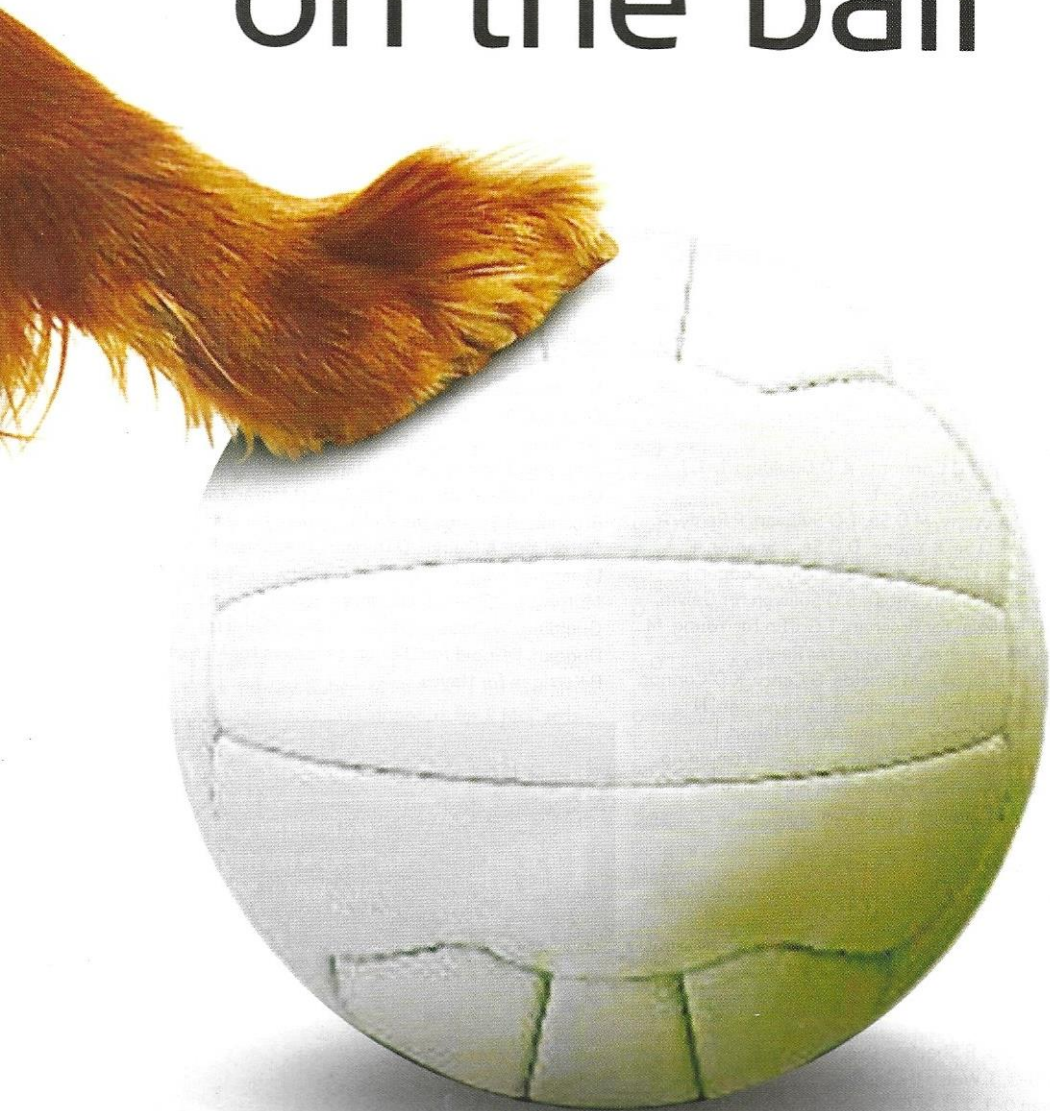
Cork scorers: D Goulding 1-7, D O'Connor 0-4, P O'Neill 1-0, J Miskella 0-1, J Masters 0-1.

Ciarraí – D Murphy, M Ó Sé, T Griffin, T O'Sullivan, T Ó Sé, A O'Mahony, K Young, S Scanlon, M Quirke, B Sheehan, Declan O'Sullivan, E Brosnan, C Cooper, K Donaghy, T Walsh. Subs – Darren O'Sullivan for Quirke, S O'Sullivan for Sheehan, D Moran for Brosnan, D Bohane for Walsh, Quirke for Donaghy.

Corcaigh – A Quirke, D Duggan, D Kavanagh, A Lynch, G Canty, J Miskella, N O'Leary, P O'Neill, N Murphy, S O'Brien, D O'Connor, K McMahon, D Goulding, M Cussen, J Hayes. Subs – M Shields for Duggan, F Goold for O'Brien, J Masters for McMahon, P Kerrigan for Hayes.



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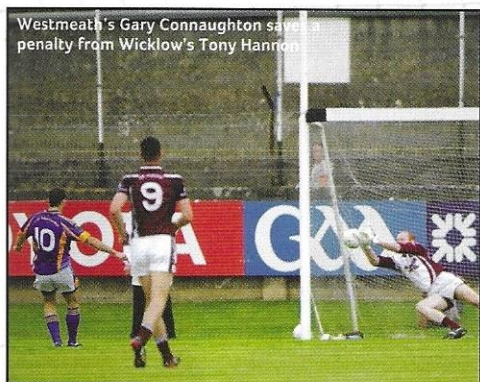
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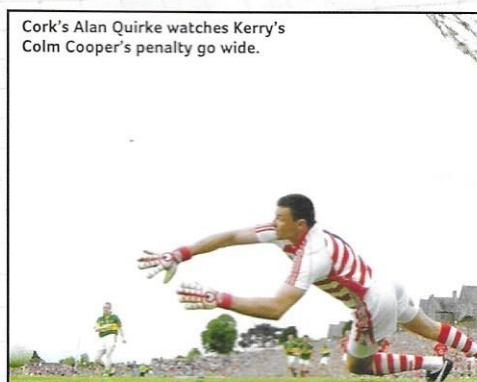
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PENALTY PARADE



Westmeath's Gary Connaughton saves a penalty from Wicklow's Tony Hannon.



Cork's Alan Quirke watches Kerry's Colm Cooper's penalty go wide.

SAVE

WIDE

To date 14 penalties have been awarded in the 2009 campaign which is two fewer than at this stage twelve months ago. The 16 penalties in the 2008 campaign yielded a return of 9-1 (28 points) giving an average of 1.75 points per penalty, but this season's 14 kicks gave a return of 9-0 (27 points) or 1.93 points per penalty. For the third year running Gary Connaughton saved a penalty...indeed, the Westmeath net minder saved both kicks he faced, while Donncha O'Connor was the most successful penalty taker converting both his efforts.

The 14 penalties awarded in the current campaign and the result of each is as follows:

24th May – Michael Meehan (Galway)

31st May – Karol Mannion (Roscommon)

7th June – Colm Cooper (Kerry)

13th June – Donncha O'Connor (Cork)

14th June – Tony Hannon (Wicklow)

20th June – Pat Harte (Mayo)

28th June – Conal Keaney (Dublin)

4th July – J P Rooney (Louth)

4th July – J P Rooney (Louth)

5th July – Donncha O'Connor (Cork)

11th July – David Tubridy (Clare)

18th July – David Kelly (Sligo)

9th August – Cian Ward (Meath)

30th August – Darren O'Sullivan (Kerry)

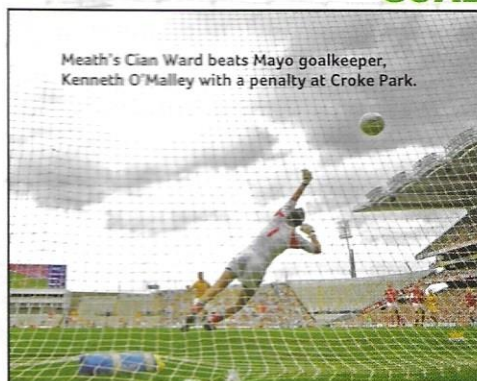
GOAL v London
GOAL v Leitrim
WIDE v Cork
GOAL v Kerry
SAVED by Gary Connaughton (Westmeath)
GOAL v Roscommon
SAVED by Gary Connaughton (Westmeath)
GOAL v Tipperary
WIDE v Tipperary
GOAL v Limerick
GOAL v Donegal
SAVED by Diarmuid Murphy (Kerry)
GOAL v Mayo
GOAL v Meath

GOAL

GOAL



Limerick's Sean Kiely falls to stop Donncha O'Connor's penalty in the clash against Cork.



Meath's Cian Ward beats Mayo goalkeeper, Kenneth O'Malley with a penalty at Croke Park.

Criostóir Ó Cuana

Uachtarán,
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

by Jim O'Sullivan

CHRISTY Cooney enjoys the odd game of golf! Yes, the GAA President does have other interests outside of what is nowadays his primary role in life, that of guiding the biggest sporting organisation in the country, of being not only its leader but its principal driving force. And, while it's all-consuming in terms of the time and travel the job demands, he knew exactly what he was committing himself and his family to when he was elected at the second attempt at the 2008 Congress in Sligo.

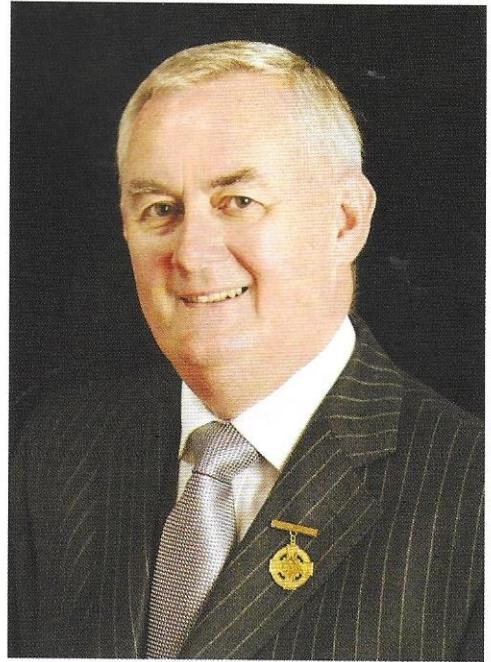
In the interim period, he has been on the golf course just twice - on both occasions for the Youghal GAA Club's annual outing on the local course. That's one of the downsides of occupying what amounts to virtually a seven-day a week role, not that he's complaining. His interest in following Youghal teams and attending championship games around Cork has also had to be sacrificed, but it's only for a relatively short period.

"That's the way things are and I fully understand that for three years, the GAA is my life. I realise that for three years I am the GAA's property. If you want to call it another way I am public property. It's important I recognise that and I am happy to be doing everything I can to develop and support the GAA because that's why I am there. That's what I want to do and you couldn't get a greater job in this world."

In common with most people who pursue an interest in sport, his was greatly influenced by his father Paddy, who represented the Youghal club on the County Board for about 15 years. So were his brothers Daithí, Kevin, Patrick and Brendan and all five were active players in both football and hurling from youth level upwards.

"Daithí was the only one who played with Cork, in minor, under-21 and senior. He was sub 'keeper for three years on the senior team around the time of Ger Cunningham - and he was an institution. In any other county he would probably have made the team!"

For all of his adult life, from the time his father died, Christy has been immersed in GAA administration,



serving as vice-chairman and chairman in Cork and then with the Munster Council, before first standing for election as President four years ago. Then, he lost narrowly to Nickey Brennan but the support he gained around the country and overseas encouraged him to go forward again.

His father was also a member of the East Cork Board and served as an under-21 and senior selector with Cork hurling teams. After his death in 1978, Christy took over the twin roles as delegate to the divisional and 'senior' board. "When you went into the County Board, there were nearly 'set' positions and I automatically sat where my father used to sit," he recalled. And, that position was alongside the then Secretary of the East Cork Board, the late Jim O'Flynn - whose daughter Joan happens to be the current President of the Camogie Association.

While he had been secretary of the minor section at the age of 16 and later club chairman, Christy has often asked himself the question if his life in the GAA would have turned out differently if circumstances had been different.

"I look back in hindsight and wonder if I would ever have been President if my father hadn't died so young," he said. "Taking over his position on the County Board was what got me involved in the administration side of the GAA."

"About 10 years after he died I met somebody who recalled a conversation he had with him at a time

Pictured with An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen T.D. are the GAA President Christy Cooney along with the President of the Camogie Association Joan O'Flynn and Ladies' Gaelic Football Association President Pat Quill. All three presidents hail from Cork.



when he wasn't very well. He said to him, 'Paddy, is there somebody in the family to carry on if anything happens you?' and my Dad said, 'there's no problem. Christy will do it.....'

"We never discussed that type of situation, but he knew the interest I had and why I wanted to do it. There's no doubt I would have got that fundamental love for the GAA from my father and the commitment to do whatever I could to support it. The sad thing about it is that he died when I was only 25 and we never really got the opportunity to know each other as man to man. I would have loved that, but it didn't happen."

The public perception of the role of GAA President is very different from the reality of what the job entails, as he explains: "it would be fair to say that since I have taken over, it's 24/7. It's nearly a seven-day week job, between officiating at meetings, doing whatever I have to do with regard to visiting clubs, going to functions, being at matches, chairing Central Council and Management Committee and reviewing the policy issues around the Association."

In addition to liaising with the various sub-committees that he has in place (30 approx), he represents the Association at official functions all over the country. And, considering where he lives – at home in Youghal – the amount of time spent travelling is considerable.

His diary for the rest of the year is 'full,' and at this stage he can only hope that he will have time for a short break in January. But, even that's not certain. "Next year is starting to fill up already. There are certain commitments 'made' for the next two years that I know about, like Central Council/Management meetings and Congress," he added.

"There are dates that myself and Páraic (Duffy) set aside for us to sit down and review where we are at

and review how our strategy is going. That's a key issue for us - to look at how the Association is going, what challenges are there for us, what issues we need to keep on top of the agenda, and how we present the Association. We do that very much in a partnership way and it's working extremely well."

The evidence he has seen from his travels around the country – and abroad – has re-affirmed for him 'the wonderful work' going on at club level and given him the most satisfaction. "The voluntary work of club members is second to none. That and the amount of physical development is phenomenal. There is also a greater degree of participation in our games, particularly at youth level and there is wonderful work being done overseas, particularly in North America and Britain."

Naturally, he has concerns about the effects of the recession, in terms of the increasing number of players - and supporters - who have either joined the ranks of the unemployed or whose livelihoods are threatened.

"There is an opportunity for people to get involved in our clubs, where they can be given a role that's both meaningful and self-fulfilling" he points out. "In some respects, the downside of the economy brings the Association to the fore in the community, but the most difficult thing of all is that so many of our members are out of jobs.

"But, like we have always done in the past, our Association is trying every way to get them back into employment. It's a big challenge, but hopefully we'll get out the right end of it."

**Jim O'Sullivan recently retired as GAA Correspondent of the Irish Examiner but is continuing with the paper on a freelance basis.*

GAA 125 –The Seven Founders

By John Arnold

The meeting that led to the formation of the Gaelic Athletic Association was held in Miss Hayes' Commercial Hotel in Thurles on November 1st, 1884. We can be certain that at least seven people attended the Association's inauspicious beginning but there may have been more – there is no doubt however that Cusack, Davin, Wyse Power, McKay, McCarthy and Ryan do deserve the title of the GAA's Founding Fathers and they deserve to be remembered and honoured in this, the 125th Anniversary year of the Association.



Michael Cusack.

Born in Carron, Co. Clare on September 20th 1847 –one hundred and sixty two years ago today! He qualified as a teacher and worked in schools in Connacht, Ulster and Leinster before setting up his own Private Academy in Dublin in 1877. With Maurice Davin, Cusack was the inspirational force behind the summoning of the Thurles meeting. Cusack served as GAA secretary from 1884 until 1896. He was narrowly beaten on a 19/17 vote in 1901 when he attempted to regain the position of GAA Secretary. Michael Cusack died in Whitworth Hospital in Dublin on November 27th, 1906. He is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.



Maurice Davin.

A native of Deepark, Carrick-on-Suir, Maurice Davin was born on June 29, 1842. An all-round athlete Maurice and his brother Pat were National and International stars at various athletic pursuits. These included hammer and weight throwing, shot putting and long and high jumping. Davin advocated that Athletics in Ireland should not be governed by English rules. He was appointed first President of the GAA in 1884. Though he resigned in 1887 he returned to the GAA the following year to help heal the split after the stormy Thurles Convention. The 1904 All Ireland Hurling Final between Kilkenny and Cork was played on the Davin Farm at Deepark. Maurice Davin died on January 26, 1927 and was buried in Dysert-Churchtown Cemetery.



John McKay.

A native of Co. Down, John McKay was a reporter and journalist. He worked with the Cork Examiner newspaper and along with Cusack was one of the first joint Secretaries of the GAA. He later moved to London. In 1934, when the GAA celebrated it's 50th Anniversary and again in Centenary Year, 1984 extensive efforts were made to try and find out more information about McKay's latter life- all to no avail. Recently due to the research of Donal McAnallen it has been established that John McKay died in London in 1923. He is buried in a London Cemetery in an unmarked grave and Cumann Lúthchleas Gael plan to erect a suitable memorial.



J.K.Bracken.

Joseph Kevin Bracken was born in Templemore. A stonemason and building contractor by trade, Bracken was very involved in athletics. He was a member of the IRB and at the 1886 GAA convention was elected National Vice President. He became the first chairman of Templemore UDC. The Bracken family moved to Kilmallock Co. Limerick in 1904 and two years later J.K. Bracken died. He is buried at Tankardstown Cemetery near Kilmallock.



John Wyse Power.

John Wyse Power was born in Waterford. He was a member of the Fenian Movement and a journalist by profession. He worked for the Leinster Leader and the Freeman's Journal. He was the official GAA athletics handicapper for several years. He also served as Honorary Secretary of the GAA and Dublin GAA Board Chairman. His wife Jenny was an elected member of Seanad Éireann. He died on May 29th, 1926 and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.



Joseph Patrick Ryan.

Joseph P. Ryan was born in Carrick-on-Suir in April, 1857. Having qualified as a Solicitor he practised in Callan and Thurles. He would have known Maurice Davin well and that friendship was possibly the reason he attended the meeting in 1884. In 1899 Ryan emigrated to Canada. He settled in Cranbrook, British Columbia where he became immersed in local life – the Board of Trade, the Mining Industry and as a Police Magistrate as well as becoming a prominent journalist. He died in March, 1918 and is buried in Cranbrook.



Thomas St. George McCarthy.

The longest surviving GAA founder, Thomas St. George McCarthy was born in Bansha, Co. Tipperary in June 1862. Like his father George, Thomas St. John joined the Royal Irish Constabulary. He joined Michael Cusack's Academy in Dublin and it was Cusack who prepared him for his Cadetship Examination in 1882. At the time of the November, 1884 meeting McCarthy was stationed in Templemore. He retired from the RIC in 1912 and lived in the Ranelagh area of Dublin. He died on March 12th, 1943 at the Linden Convalescent Home in Stillorgan. He is buried in Deansgrange Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Cumann Lúthchleas Gael intend to erect a fitting memorial shortly.

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2009 — Celebrating the GAA's 125th Anniversary



CELEBRATING **125** YEARS OF THE GAA

GAA Director of Communications Lisa Clancy takes a look at some of the celebrations that have taken place to celebrate this very historic year for the Association.

The All-Ireland Finals are the undoubted showpiece occasions of the year in our Gaelic Games calendar and this year, as the GAA celebrates its landmark 125th birthday, the Finals take on an added importance as one of the standout events organised in 2009 to mark this landmark anniversary.

Many of these moments and events as well as player interviews have been captured on video and are available to view by visiting www.gaa.ie and clicking on "Watch the latest GAA Videos".

January saw a huge crowd assemble for the league meeting of Dublin and Tyrone and a sold-out Croke Park enjoyed fireworks, entertainment and a light show – as well as an enthralling match, that saw the then reigning All-Ireland champions pip Dublin by a single point.

The official re-opening of Semple Stadium in Thurles and the switching on of the new floodlights on **St. Valentine's Day** was another memorable occasion prior to the Tipperary v Cork National Hurling League game. Earlier that day Central Council held its February meeting in Hayes Hotel to mark the occasion of the foundation of the Association in the same hotel 125 years ago.

In **March**, the GAA again occupied centre stage, as the St Patrick's Festival chose to mark the GAA's 125th Anniversary by announcing Henry Shefflin, Brian Dooher, Angela Walsh and Caitriona Foley – 2008 hurling, football, ladies' football and camogie All-Ireland winners – as joint Grand Marshals of the St Patrick's Day parade through the streets of Dublin. The parade and accompanying pageantry later made its way to Croke Park as part of interval

entertainment at the AIB GAA All-Ireland Club Championship Finals, bringing a unique sense of colour and occasion to the games.

The GAA's 125th Annual Congress, held in **April** at the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork, saw Criostóir Ó Cuana succeed Níckey Brennan to become the 36th President of the GAA. The anniversary was marked with a special GAA 125 Banquet attended by club and county representatives from units all over the world. From there, celebrations spread nationwide, as primary school pupils wore their club and county colours to school with pride on **April 24th**, GAA 125 Schools Day, as they shared their GAA stories and learnt more about the Association, its history, culture, and role in Irish society.

Lá na gClub on **May 10th** saw GAA clubs across Ireland and around the world, open their doors to their local communities, organising social events for their communities, catering for boys and girls, men and women of all age groups and nationalities, helping the GAA to share its history and games with devoted supporters and newcomers alike.

Úachtarán na hÉireann, Mary McAleese, chose to honour the GAA's 125 Celebrations by hosting a Garden Party in honour of the Association in **July**. Representatives from every county, as well as the GAA's overseas units, were invited to Áras an Uachtaráin for the event, where entertainment was provided by the Artane Band as well as the winners and choice entrants from the various Scór competitions. President McAleese said the GAA had given "memories to last not just one lifetime but many. It has created opportunities, seeded ambition, honed skill, galvanised the individual, harnessed the team. It has brought days of massive pride and occasional broken hearts to the parish, the club, the school, the county, the province and the country. Such a debt as we owe to the GAA could never be repaid but today we gather to say a heartfelt thank-you."

Today's festivities in **September** obviously mark another landmark achievement as another exciting championship reaches its conclusion, but even after the trophy has been presented and the teams return home, the festivities are not over yet. As the Association moves past its 125th anniversary, the GAA is taking account of its history to date in a unique joint project with Boston College-Ireland.

The GAA: A People's History, a book commissioned by the GAA, will be launched in **October**. It tells the story of how the GAA has carved for itself a unique place at the heart of Irish life. It will outline how Gaelic Games and the social world which revolves around the Association, has shaped the lives of generations of Irish people at home and abroad, and will set the GAA experience in the context of an island in the midst of significant change, and how generations of Irish people have spent their time in the hours between work and sleep, in thrall to the games and the Association that organises them.

The book is part of the GAA Oral history project which aims to record the rich, diverse and complex history of the Association through the words of local people in every parish of the country and among Irish communities overseas. It is the largest sports history project of its kind and one to which anyone can contribute. Your story is our history. For more information on the project or to participate, please visit www.gaahistory.com. All of your contributions are welcome.

These are just a few of the events that have taken place to mark this milestone year for the Association, an Association which by its very existence has impacted on the lives of millions. Let the festivities continue in every parish, community and club in Ireland and across the world.

Bain taitneamh as.



Cork seek the summit to escape Kerry's shadow

by Michael Foley

GAA correspondent *The Sunday Times* (Irish edition)

For a few years, amid the bunkers and sand dunes of northwest Kerry, Churchill GAA club organised an annual sports quiz to raise funds. To add a little colour they included a mystery person round, drawing their guests from every nook and cranny of the GAA. Over the years, with the pleasure of a day's golf in Ballybunion behind them, Colman Corrigan and Niall Cahalane, Sean Doherty of Dublin, Larry Tompkins, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Mick O'Dwyer and a sprinkling of Cork and Kilkenny hurlers were all hidden in the cellar of a local pub, to be revealed at the right moment amid gasps and applause.

One year the former Cork great Billy Morgan was led down the same steps into the cellar. His old friend Dinny Allen kept him company and with a lavish wine list to help them mark time the night passed by merrily. Eventually they were exhumed, unveiled and applauded. The reception, in deepest Kerry, the place that had infuriated and exhilarated Morgan as player and coach over five decades, surprised him. It was almost reverential. After the 2007 All-Ireland final, when Kerry buried Cork by 10 points, Morgan visited the Kerry dressing room, and captured the essence of their relationship. He hated Kerry when he was playing them, he told the players, but that there was nobody outside of Kerry who respected Kerry football more than he did. The Kerry players understood. They carried the same uneasy admiration for Cork. It divided them, but gave them something in common, too.

Therein lay all the complexities and simplicities of an immortal rivalry. Even during periods when their dominance over Cork was supreme, Kerry stayed cautious around Cork. Cork teams routinely heard Mick O'Dwyer proclaim them the second best team in Ireland following another Munster final defeat and bristled with annoyance. But still, they lived for that one day when the tables would turn. Kerry always feared it.

Tyrone might sometimes dominate Kerry's thoughts in this era, but nothing still hurts like defeat to Cork. After the 2007 All-Ireland final, Paul Galvin captured the sense of dread Kerry recycled into fuel for that match. Everything Kerry football stood for, he said, was on the line.

continued overleaf

Cork seek the summit to escape Kerry's shadow

CONTINUED

The result of that unstinting caution and respect for their neighbours was decades of suffering in Cork. Nothing encapsulated Cork's torment like the sight of Billy Morgan sinking to his knees behind the goal as Mikey Sheehy jinked and found an impossible sliver of space to slip his shot to the net at the end of the 1987 Munster final. Cork had spent 70 minutes forcing a great Kerry team into its coffin, hammering nails into the lid. But they refused to lie down.

What Morgan didn't see, though, was his players' reaction. A few moments later, Larry Tompkins was levelling the match. The Cork players knew. The hoodoo was broken. Even though Kerry have dominated Cork in terms of Munster titles and regularly humbled them in Croke Park this decade, the old aura has never been the same since Tompkins' point. Since then, Cork have always met Kerry with at least a chance.

Football binds them together, but not in the way it links Dublin and Meath, Galway and Mayo, Tyrone and Derry. While football defines Kerry, football in Cork takes its place behind hurling, only moving to centre stage for matches against Kerry and rare days like this.

In a county blessed with sporting excellence across the codes, Cork's struggle to match Kerry has always been a significant blot on their record. The frontier towns, stretching from Ballydesmond to Rathmore, along the jutting coastline splitting the Beara and Iveragh Peninsulas, live for these days when the atmosphere will darken for an afternoon. The rest of Cork, though, sees Cork-Kerry as a mid-summer interlude, with their matches in Croke Park best avoided. The old cliché goes that Cork love travelling to Killarney. The problem for Cork is, Kerry love to see them coming, too.

The Cork team has suffered and thrived because of that apathy. They have found strength among themselves when the rest of the county has ignored them. They have seen the hurlers soak up all the light at home, always knowing that the only way to escape Kerry's shadow is to scale that summit.

This year, Cork have already glimpsed the peak in Munster. For the first time this decade they travel to meet Kerry in Croke Park with real belief. Kerry have never travelled there with anything else. The result is a rivalry reborn for another generation. It will be our continuing privilege to witness it.



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The Class of 1984



2009 isn't the first year in recent decades that the All-Ireland Championships have taken on an added importance and, just as they will be today, Kerry were also involved in the senior final back in 1984 against Dublin when the Association celebrated it's Centenary Year.

While the hurling final meeting of Cork and Offaly went to Thurles weeks earlier in recognition of the special role that town played in the foundation of the GAA, the football final remained in the capital and featured the two counties who between them provided the game with it's most enduring rivalry.

Kerry triumphed on a scoreline of 0-14 to 1-6 and Jack O'Shea admits it was a special year to come out on top. The legendary midfielder scored a point and according to then Irish Times GAA Correspondent, Paddy Downey, performed 'Trojan work' in the Kingdom engine room.

O'Shea recalls, "My abiding memory of the game is my good friend Barney Rock clashing with Ambrose O'Donovan and going to the ground before Mick Holden ran over to him and pulled him to his feet.

"Micheál Ó Hehir's commentary described it as 'a helping hand to get up and get on with it'. I also remember it being relatively low scoring but us keeping them at arm's length and remaining in control. There is no doubting that it was special because, like this year, there was a special emphasis on the finals in particular.

From a personal perspective I also remember scoring a point in the Canal End that I should have buried in the net after receiving a pass from John Egan."

O'Shea also recalls team manager Mick O'Dwyer placing a special emphasis on that year's final. It's a recollection shared by teammate Ger Power.

"I recall Mickey Sheehy being injured and me being called into his place," says Power. "After the disaster of 1982 and the disappointment of 1983 people nearly wanted heads to roll but we got back on track and this would prove to be the first win of three consecutive successes for us. It was a special time for the GAA in that our rivalry with Dublin was huge and the crowds were just like as they are now when the Dubs are involved."

Not surprisingly both have a sneaking regard for Kerry today if Jack O'Connor's team can hit the high notes.

In this special anniversary year both expect the class of 2009, whether they be in green and gold or red and white, to cherish the winners' medals that come their way today, the way they look on their 1984 Celtic Crosses.

On Saturday next (September 26), the hugely successful Walk for the Cure/Síúloid Leigheas, takes place on Mount Brandon in Dingle, Co.Kerry. The walk, now in its eighth year, has raised over €170,000 and this year's event is dedicated to the memory of Jane Power, daughter of Ger.

Kerry Three in a Row (1984-86) and Dublin Team of 1984 Honoured

The GAA Centenary Year of 1984 saw Kerry overcome Dublin in Croke Park on a score line of 0-14 to 1-6 in what was the beginning of Kerry's three in a row of All Ireland Senior Football titles between 1984 and 1986.



Áth Cliath: John O'Leary, Mick Holden, Gerry Hargan, Mick Kennedy, Pat Canavan, Tommy Drumm, P. J. Buckley, Jim Roynane, Brian Mullins, Barney Rock, Tommy Conroy, Ciarán Duff, John Kearns, Anton O'Toole, Joe McNally.

Fir Ionaíid: John Caffrey, Ciarán Sutton, John McCarthy, Maurice O'Callaghan, Tom Cassin, Frank McGrath, Vincent Conroy, Tom Byrne, Mick Egan.



Ciarraí: Charlie Nelligan, Páidí Ó Sé, Seán Walsh, Michael Spillane, Tommy Doyle, Tom Spillane, Ger Lynch, Jack O'Shea, Ambrose O'Donovan, John Kennedy, Denis 'Ogie' Moran, Pat Spillane, Ger Power, Eoin Liston, John Egan.

Fir Ionaíid: Mike Sheehy, Timmy Dowd, Diarmuid O'Donoghue, John Higgins, Donal Hartnett, Gerry O'Sullivan, Willie O'Connor, Vincent O'Connor, Tom Lynch, Michael Keating.

Also on the three in a row Kerry team was: Willie Maher (1986) and panel: Dermot Hanafin (1985/86), Liam Kerins (1985), John Keane (1985), Michael Galway (1986), Seán Liston (1985/86), Johnny Mulvihill (1985) and Stephen Stack (1986).

Mattie Gilsenan

Meath's captain of 70 years ago



In a recent newspaper article Colm O'Rourke described Mattie Gilsenan as the greatest living Meathman and it's something there would be general agreement on throughout the county. Mattie will be 94 years of age next month but his enthusiasm for football and for Meath teams is still as intense as it was when he led the history-making Royal County team to the All-Ireland Final of 1939.

It was Meath's first All-Ireland Final as a county entity. Pierce O'Mahonys from Navan had contested the 1895 final but in the intervening 44 years there was nothing in terms of Championship success.

The breakthrough came with the Leinster final victory over Wexford, which was followed by an All-Ireland semi-final win over neighbours Cavan. To 23 year old Mattie Gilsenan from Moynalty fell the honour of becoming the first man to lead Meath out in an All-Ireland Final at Croke Park.

The occasion was dampened somewhat by the outbreak of the Second World War but the events in central Europe were forgotten about for at least one afternoon as Kerry and Meath faced each other to see who would succeed Galway as All-Ireland football champions.

Because of the clash of colours Kerry wore the Dingle jerseys, red with a white stripe, but they still managed to emerge as champions on a 2-5 to 2-3 scoreline. One of the Kerry goals was somewhat controversial but Meath had made a brave attempt to win the Sam Maguire Cup at the first time of asking.

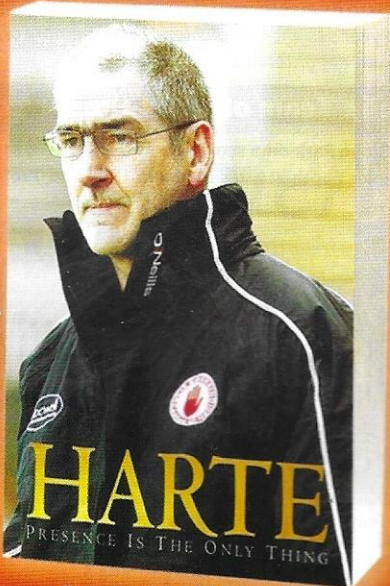
Mattie Gilsenan, playing at right-half-forward, scored Meath's first goal and this was how it was described in the 'Irish Press'. "The Meath captain was in dazzling form and his goal was not only the best of the match...it was the best of the season and one of the best in GAA records. The movement that led up to it was delightful. Gilsenan started the movement and the ball was handled by Joe Loughran, Tony Donnelly and Jack Cummins. The last named centred a low ball for Gilsenan who had crossed to the far wing in support, to tap the ball down on his toe and send in a first time drive which Kerry goalie Dan O'Keefe did not see until the ball shook the net."

Mattie's heroics were not enough to see him become the first Meathman to be presented with the Sam Maguire Cup but the men of 1939 paved the way for the breakthrough success which came ten years later.

Mattie was also connected with the 1949 team as a selector and he also filled that role for the 1954 and 1967 successes. Despite his advanced years, he attends all of Meath's games and most of the training sessions and still provides inspiration for all players who wear the green and gold jersey.

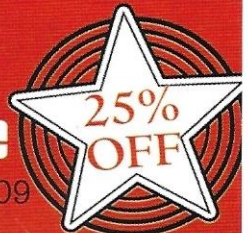
He is the only survivor from the two teams that contested the All-Ireland Final of 70 years ago. We wish Mattie many more years of good health and hope that he continues to enjoy his football.

Essential reading for all GAA fans!



New book by
Mickey Harte

published 13th Oct 2009



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The Volunteers who labour in the GAA Vineyards



Mary Foley

(Buffers Alley GAA Club, Wexford).

2009 marks the 125th Anniversary of the GAA. It's almost impossible to imagine the changes that our organisation has undergone over the last century and a quarter. At a time when the very existence of the rural Post Office, the local pub and the two teacher village school are under threat, the GAA goes from strength to strength, a beacon to the many generations of voluntary workers, who asked not what "the club could do for them" but "what they could do for their club or county".

Social capital is a term used to describe the unpaid input of the few for the benefits of the many. Perhaps, now is the time to dwell on who are these practitioners of Social Capital. We owe an outstanding debt to those, who, day after day, labour in our GAA vineyards as volunteers.

I became one of those volunteers 15 years ago when I was appointed to the position of PRO in my local club, Buffers Alley in Wexford. In 2006 the County PRO Alan Aherne stepped down after many years of dedicated service to Wexford GAA and his position was one of the less sought after on annual Convention night.

I now know why! No perks attached to the post, but many headaches and sleepless nights! I was then approached in January about the job and gave it lengthy thought. Following persuasive talk from the Rúnaí at the time, Michael Kinsella, I agreed, for better or for worse.

Someone has to do this voluntary work. On many occasions since and especially late at night when I am awaiting a team panel I often dwell on what he said to me that evening in the Riverside Park Hotel: "Mary, you'll probably be bored in the job". I have never had a dull moment in my three years as PRO. The reward lies in the personal satisfaction gained in working not for the games alone but for our club and county. The

Association engenders a national pride that promotes belief in a cause that offers no material reward.

My work as a PRO can be an isolated one trying to keep abreast of everything that is happening around me but the personal satisfaction from a job well done keeps me afloat. To the outside world my duties are often associated with keeping results up to date and producing team sheets but my work is much broader. Realistically, my main job is to be the "Voice for the Association" keeping the public and media informed of all the latest news through the correct channels. We need volunteers in all areas that are appreciated and valued for their contribution.

Criostóir Ó Cuana, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, has put a Committee in place, under the chairmanship of Jarlath Burns, which is currently reviewing the role of the volunteer and hopefully a constructive plan will be put in place in the near future to attract more men and women to continue on where our grassroots began in 1884.

As County PRO I rarely have time to myself with almost every night of the week occupied with GAA work in addition to the weekends but there are so many personal rewards for doing so – the banter and comradeship you experience at games and meetings, in addition to the feeling of being part of a great organisation, is a great tonic. Families and friends also play a major role in the life of a volunteer. On rare occasions I receive negative vibes which can be annoying, but one learns to be positive and to move forward.

The day the association hasn't got links with the volunteer in our society will be a sad one, so let's work together to ensure this doesn't happen. "Bailíonn Brobh Beart".

CORK GAA CLUBS' DRAW

Thank you to all our Clubs, Co-ordinators, Sellers and Draw Members.



New Draw Series commences Friday, October 30th, 2009

12 monthly draws €10 per month (10 months)

2 free draws cash/odd/€100 full payment

(September/October Draws take place on October 30th, 2009)

"Support your local club for less than €2 a week"



GO RAIBH MÍLE MAITH AGAIBH GO LÉIR!

All Hail the Minibus Player

Round Up and Rule 2.2



THE SQUINTING EYE

One of the great traditions of the GAA over the years has been all the rigmarole associated with the round up of players before the game. Although we still pride ourselves on being a resolutely amateur organisation, in matters such as preparation for matches even the most junior B outfit these days will run their matchday logistics like clockwork.

Players will be given precise times to load up with carbs ahead of the big game. They will be well hydrated, well enough to know that clear water means go and amber means stop. They will have digested the psycho-babble at meetings, the individual stats sheet prepared meticulously by the coach, gleaned from a shiny silver Macbook he bought after a stint on placement with a company that specialised in greyhound performance management.

Nowadays no self-respecting coaching course is complete without the mandatory section on what to eat before, during and after a match. Steaks, rashers and bacon; a slice of orange and a rake of pints replaced by pasta; energy bars and more pasta. But it wasn't ever thus. . .

Sunday morning, coming down for the game. There were always fellas that were too keen by far at the prospect of a match; likewise plenty of the other lads wouldn't have minded if it was postponed or forgotten about completely. The lads that were keen weren't usually up to much, maybe played corner back, marking the slowest forward, but useful nonetheless for pumping up balls, filling water jars and maybe making sure the jerseys were washed once in a while, whether they needed it or not. "There's nothing like the smell of another man's sweat on your

shirt to clear the head, eh lads?" roars one veteran, his wintergreen bringin' a tear to every man's eye.

The other lads, well some of them would be sittin' in the house or maybe still lyin' in bed hopin' they'd never hear the craggy diesel of the minibus or the doorbell would never ring. Their pre-match routine was a feed of rashers and eggs scorched to within an inch of being edible, maybe a puddin' or two. A recuperative Major would complete the process, before the painful business of locating football socks, togs and especially boots last seen under a bed, dried turf intact and still in place. The final items in the carrier bag a yellow Mikasa glove and a clean pair of Y Fronts.

This scene was repeated in numerous households round the parish as fellas faced into the fag end of a season. Then there was the lad that managed finally to disentangle himself from active football, but walked that murky twilight between playing and not playing. So the boys still called at the door when they were stuck for players and he inevitable obliged.

His whereabouts might depend on who he was seen talking to the night before and the minibus often trekked the parish looking for him to bring him back to his mammy's to get his stuff and his inevitable mercurial contribution delivered through the fugue of last night's fun.

The throw-in time of course was a moveable feast – refs knew not to get there too early, for them it could be a long stand waiting for the away team to appear. But, to their eternal credit the 'Powers that Be' have always recognised the difficulty of rounding up fellas for an away game, with Rule 2.2 permitting a team to start a match with only thirteen men – it explicitly says that so long as the other two lads appear by the beginning of the second half that's grand.

The arguments around any abolition of Rule 2.2 would make the debate over opening Croker look like a teddy bear's picnic. The origins of the rule are thought to date back perhaps to more agricultural days when fellas had to complete the farmwork and might be delayed getting away; others put it down to the checkpoints operated by occupation forces targeting known GAA men. Others just point out that it's a practical rule that has its place and that's that.

So, the next time your pre-hydration or your carb loading is behind schedule and you're running late for a match, remember Rule 2.2. Twas made for days like that.

Scór



Be amongst the first to claim an All-Ireland title in 2010 with national Scór titles up for grabs before the top football and hurling honours are handed out next year.

This year's Scór competitions will start around the country after the senior inter-county championships. These competitions are organised on a county by county basis and members are asked to consult with their clubs or local organising committees for more information.

The Scór na nÓg National Final takes place in Athlone on February 20 next while the Scór Sinsir Finals return to Killarney on April 24.

Wonderful web work by Belgian brigade

With the GAA celebrating its 125th year, one club in Belgium is helping to maintain a link to home through its football, hurling, camogie and website successes. Club member Adrian Hiel spoke to Cian Ó Raghallaigh.

When Marty Duffy throws in the ball to start today's All-Ireland senior football final, Croke Park will be packed to capacity, supporters will be on tenterhooks in thronged bars and tense living rooms. It would be easy to forget, though, those abroad who will be eagerly tuning in to cast an eye over the action at headquarters. The Irish diaspora, never forgotten by Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh in his radio commentary, comprises an important part of today's audience.

One of these groups keenly observing today's events is the Belgium GAA club. The club (www.belgiumgaa.com) went a step further this year in its development, at the national McNamee (Media and Communications) Awards, winning best website.

Canada native and club member Adrian Hiel explained the importance of the website and the work invested by Dublin's Conán McCoscar in helping to ensure that the website is at the top of its field. McCoscar, a club member of the Baire Setanta, an all-Irish-speaking GAA club in Ballymun, also designed the club jerseys, club logo and all the club gear. This is done alongside running a café with his girlfriend, Áine Murphy from Galway.

"Conán put in a tremendous amount of work to get the website designed. It's easy to set up a website but it is much harder to hound people for news. People can often go onto websites and they see that it hasn't been updated and they think then that nothing has happened since, say, April," he says.

Hiel, originally from Montreal, has been involved since 2004 and is one of 35 members in the Belgium GAA hurling squad. The team has now won four consecutive European tournaments in Paris, Luxembourg and Zurich (twice). Their next mission is the Hague tournament later this month and are hoping to have a second team on board for that tournament. The club has been "brilliant" and he adds that he wouldn't have remained involved for so long if he didn't love it. Moreover, a background in ice-hockey and baseball helped him to adjust fairly quickly to hurling.

"It's not too bad really. Anyone who has played a reasonable level of sport can pick up the hurley really. It mystifies me that people say that you have to be born into hurling in Kilkenny from the age of two to be able to play the game. One of the nicest things about it here is that it encompasses all different levels, between people just taking it up and some intercounty players. Standards can vary

and it may be about junior C standard in Ireland but everyone has a role."

Belgium GAA Club founded the first camogie club in continental Europe. Overall, then, it's a thriving club with players coming from Liege, Antwerp and the surrounding Brussels area. It is one which, he says, provides an important connection for those taking up a new base in Brussels and who want to build a social circle.

"We now have six teams between hurling, camogie and football. For a lot of the players it provides a very important link for them when they come over here. A lot of them wouldn't know many people when they come and so it provides a good social structure for them. And you can also get to know people and find out about tips for housing and other things."

Although there are no full-size Gaelic football pitches in Europe, it doesn't detract from the intense training programmes which the club undertakes every week.

For Hiel, there has been one stand-out moment this year. In the Luxembourg tournament, Kilkenny native Phil Cushen had to be replaced in the first game. But they managed to advance to the final without him with three periods of extra-time needed before they prevailed against Den Haag (Holland). In that game, along with Hiel, there were three other non-Irish players involved. They were Dutchman Maurits de Bruijn, Belgian Yann de Kesel and Canadian Jarret Reckseidler.

A deal is also in place with O'Neills to bring out equipment. But, Hiel says, there are always problems bringing out hurleys with players having to pay exorbitant costs to bring them out.

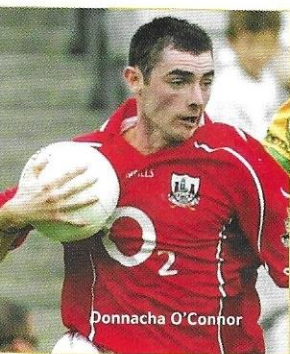
Maybe it costs a bit to bring out the equipment but with good organisation on the field and a website award off it, Belgium GAA club has become a yardstick for any Irish club abroad.





Rebel with a handball cause

Cork senior footballer, **DONNACHA O'CONNOR**, is no stranger to the alley and as a native of the famed Cork handball district of Ballydesmond, he failed to escape the small ball calling. In his youth, O'Connor was a talented handballer and collected three Munster Singles titles at U-12, U-13 and U-14. All-Ireland glory soon beckoned for Ballydesmond when O'Connor took Féile honours with current Irish handball star, and second cousin, Tony Healy, along with Noel Tarrant, Michael Murphy and Danny Healy. O'Connor then went on to take the U-16 Vocational Schools Doubles All-Ireland title with Tim Breen. Turning his attentions to football, O'Connor made his way on to the Cork Senior Football panel, and was



today lines out at corner-forward for the Rebels. In December, O'Connor will take part in the GAA Handball Showdown, with top GAA stars such as Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny), Conal Keaney (Dublin), Andy Moran (Mayo) and Conor Gormley (Tyrone). One of today's opponent's, Kerry's Darren O'Sullivan will also take part in the Showdown, where players from all Gaelic Games codes will take part in handball games which will mark the close of the GAA 125 Celebrations.

American dream to Cork handballer

Cork's **Caítriona Casey** may be only 15 years of age, but the young Ballydesmond handballer has already represented Ireland on two occasions and will travel to Portland, Oregon for the World Championships at the end of the month.

"It's an honour to represent Ireland and I'm really looking forward to my first World Championships," said the talented youngster. "The trials for the team were very intense and I'm expecting even tougher games in Portland."

Casey came through a grueling weekend of games back in May, where she defeated Down's Lorraine Havern in the final to take her place on the Irish squad.

Havern will be one of many players who will be aiming to take down the Rebellete stateside. The 17 and Under grade in a very competitive one and both Amy Corrigan (Mayo) and Westmeath's Aoife McCarthy will provide difficult opposition for Casey.

Casey is part of an 18-strong Irish Team who will set off for Portland, Oregon on September 30th to take part in the World Handball Championships. Among them will be One-Wall Captain, Armagh's Charly Shanks and Mayo's Kevin Geraghty, who will represent Ireland in the Golden Masters Singles.

Team Ireland will be lead by Cavan's Paul Brady, current world number one, who is bidding to become the first man to win three world titles in succession. Brady, who is also a member of the Cavan Senior Football team, is joined by an official Irish Squad of 17, with players from all over the country.



Caítriona Casey

OFFICIAL IRISH TEAM

Men's Open Singles: **Eoin Kennedy (Dublin)**

Ladies Open Singles: **Aisling Reilly (Antrim)**

Men's Open Doubles: **Paul Brady and Michael Finnegan (Cavan)**

Ladies Open Doubles: **Fiona Shannon and Sibéal Gallagher (Antrim)**

Golden Masters (50+): **Kevin Geraghty (Mayo)**

Masters (40+): **Michael 'Ducky' Walsh (Kilkenny)**

Girls 15 and Under: **Lauren O'Riordan (Roscommon)**

Boys 15 and Under: **Pádraig McKenna (Monaghan)**

Girls 17 and Under: **Caítriona Casey (Cork)**

Boys 17 and Under: **Jamie Lynch (Clare)**

Girls 19 and Under: **Shauna Hilley (Wicklow)**

Boys 19 and Under: **Diarmaid Nash (Clare)**

ONE-WALL TEAMS

Ladies: **Marianna Rushe (Roscommon) & Bernie Hennessy (Limerick)**

Mens: **Charly Shanks (Armagh) & Robbie McCarthy (Westmeath)**

ALAN KERINS AFRICAN PROJECTS NAMED GAA CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2009/10

Alan Kerins African Projects develop independent sustainability for the people of Zambia and have designed a ten-year plan for multi-purpose centres to engage the people in sport and trade, skill learning and basic education. The award of GAA Charity of the Year 2009/10 is of great significance to the founder, Alan

Kerins. Founded in 2005, Alan has blended his work for Alan Kerins African Projects with his love of playing County Senior Hurling and Football for Galway.

For further press information please contact Elaine Divilly on elainedivilly@gmail.com or Alan Kerins African Projects on 086 8194025.

Loyalty rewarded in every sense

Consider yourself a dedicated county supporter? League matches in the Springtime? Summer Sundays spent in 'neutral' venues? Want to follow the county all year round and save some money in the process? If so, the GAA Season Ticket is for you.

Cast your eyes to Section 305 in the middle of the Lower Tier of the Cusack Stand. Seated in 305 today are over 200 GAA Season Ticket holders from Cork & Kerry. These Season Ticket holders have been to the League & Championship matches and they can prove it.

It's simple. You purchase a Season Ticket prior to the League at a base price of EUR75. The base price includes all your county's League matches and the opening Championship fixture. After that you pay a discounted price for each Championship fixture your



county plays. Go to enough matches and you are eligible for your seat at the All-Ireland Final.

So this year, Cork Season Ticket holders saw the entire League plus the Munster Quarter Final against Waterford for the base price alone. Their Kerry counterparts saw all the League matches and the opening Munster Championship clash with Cork for the base price.

After that you are charged for the subsequent Championship fixtures, all the way to the Final.

	CORK		Season Ticket	KERRY	
	Face Value	Saving		Saving	Face Value
7 League Round Matches plus League Final plus Provincial Opener	155	80	75	80	155
Munster Qtr Final v Waterford	20	20	—	—	—
Munster Semi Final v each other*	25	5	20	25	25
Munster Semi Replay v each other*	20	5	15	5	20
Qualifier v Longford	—	—	15	5	20
Qualifier v Sligo	—	—	15	5	20
Qualifier v Antrim	—	—	15	5	20
Munster Final v Limerick	35	—	35	—	—
All-Ireland Quarter-Final	35	5	30	5	35
All-Ireland Semi-Final	45	5	40	5	45
Totals	335	120		135	340

The GAA Season Ticket is not for all match-goers. The GAA Season Ticket is designed for the loyal county follower. The more you go the better value the Season Ticket is to you.

So if you want to sit in 305 next September and have your loyalty rewarded or if you just want to learn more, go to www.seasonticket.gaa.ie or email us at seasonticket@gaa.ie.

How does the Season Ticket operate?

You are provided with a card with your name, county, code and a unique barcode – this is your Season Ticket. You then use that Season Ticket for every fixture. To gain entry with the Season Ticket you must use the Season Stile for that venue.

What is the Season Stile?

The Season Stile is how Season Ticket holders get into a fixture and where you have your attendance recorded.

Why is Season Ticket attendance recorded?

Only the dedicated are entitled to All-Ireland Final tickets.

What if I want to bring someone to a match with me?

Season Ticket holders have been able to avail of 'guest' offers for all-ticket matches throughout the Championship. Each Season Ticket holder can buy a face-value ticket in the Season Ticket section to use on match day.

What about families?

'Guest' juvenile tickets were available to all Season Ticket holders throughout the year so bringing the kids along was no problem for Season Ticket holders.

LADIES FOOTBALL

Festival of football

The last big day out at Croke Park of the Championship season will play host to a festival of football as the TG4 All Ireland Ladies Football Finals take centre stage in Croke Park.

Cork are vying for a fifth consecutive All Ireland Senior title having overcome Kildare and Mayo to reach the final. The Rebelettes have again shown their pedigree with some awesome displays this year. This year it is up to Dublin to succeed where Galway, Armagh, Mayo and Monaghan failed and deny Cork the Brendan Martin Cup.

Clare make a second trip to Croker in as many years as they again contest the Intermediate Championship final. The Banner lost out to Tipperary last year but take on Fermanagh this time out for the Mary Quinn Memorial Cup.

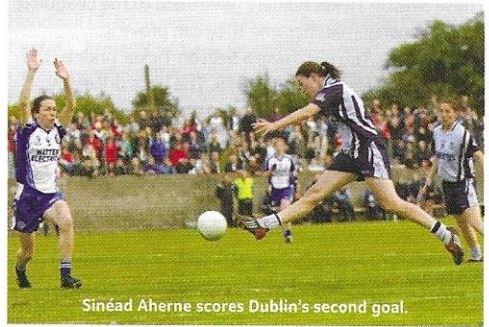
There will be a new name on the Junior Championship Cup this year as Antrim and Limerick make their final debuts. The Junior Championship continues to play a vital role in the development of emerging counties as witnessed by the fact that mighty Cork earned their senior status by winning the Junior Championship in 1995.

Ladies Football's Gaelic4Mothers programme is entering its second year and in recognition of the programme's success, six participating clubs from around the country will take to the field on All Ireland finals day to play exhibition matches.

The six clubs participating in finals day are Taghmon (Wexford), Kilmovee (Mayo), Milltown (Galway), Moyle Rovers (Tipperary) and Whitehall Colmcille and St Sylvesters from Dublin.



Team celebrations at the end of the game.



Sinéad Aherne scores Dublin's second goal.

Taghmon take on Kilmovee at half-time of the Junior final between Limerick and Antrim while St Sylvesters face Moyle Rovers during the half-time break in the Senior final between Dublin and Cork.


Milltown of Galway take on Whitehall Colmcille at the interval of the Intermediate final between Clare and Fermanagh. Whitehall Colmcille was one of the most successful Gaelic4Mothers programmes in 2008 with 89 mothers participating in the programme.

Ladies Gaelic Football goes Gaga in 3rd Level Institutions

This September sees the launch of one of the Association's newest initiatives, again concentrating on the concept of participation and enjoyment but this time the Association is teaming up with 3rd Level Institutes across the Country. The initiative, fittingly titled LadiesGaga, will be rolled out in eight 3rd Level Institutes in the coming semester on a pilot basis with plans to expand the initiative in Semester 2.

The initiative will target students who have never played the game or who are not currently playing Gaelic Football. Many students do not participate in 3rd Level competitive sport due to the required commitment and time associated with 3rd Level sport. However, research has shown strong links between physical activity and academic achievements where students found a successful balance between the two. Being involved with college teams has also been shown to assist students to adjust to college life by finding a social network which they can relate to.

LadiesGaga will offer students the opportunity to play Gaelic Football in a fun and recreational environment, where making the team is not priority as everyone who participates will be guaranteed a game! The initiative will provide students with the essential break from the studies while the same time exercising and having a laugh!

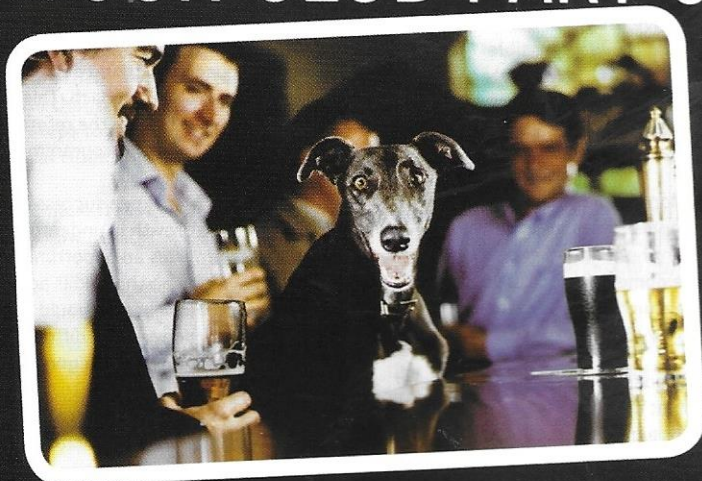


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THE DOGS - ALWAYS TOP FORM



Coach
Education

Thoughts on Coaching

This article has been based on a number of presentations delivered at the GAA Games Development Conference, including those by Mickey Whelan in 2006, Brendan O'Sullivan in 2007, Roger Keenan in 2008 and Professor Niall Moyna in 2006. For more information on the 2009 Games Development Conference see the Conference advertisement in today's programme, visit www.gamesdevelopment.gaa.ie or email gamesdevelopment@gaa.ie.

For many, All Ireland final day is the biggest day of the sporting calendar. For the minor teams on show today, it is the biggest day of their sporting lives so far. For their families, friends and their clubs it is also a big day – the support they have provided has helped enormously in making this day possible. Making the minor squad represents the final stage of their underage careers. For some it will be the peak of their sporting achievements, for others the springboard to future success.

The process of developing talented underage players has become more sophisticated in recent years. County Academies, in the form of Schools of Excellence and Development Squads, have become the norm across the country. These cater for the talented player at U14/15 and U16/17.

The difficulty for the coach of players at this level is that players develop at different rates. The average teenager experiences a growth spurt occurs some time between 14 and 16 years of age. However, there is now evidence that teenagers of the same age can have up to a four year difference in their biological development – this means that some players aged 15 years, may be biologically as young as 11 or as old as 19! We all know of these types of player. They are the ones that stand out physically, either because they are much bigger or much smaller than their teammates.

Therefore when a School of Excellence coach is choosing players for the squad the temptation is there to pick the biggest players available, because a good big player will always be better able for the rough and tumble of a game than a good small player. Mickey Whelan, the Dublin Senior Football coach spoke about this scenario when speaking at the National Games Development Conference in 2006 – ‘what coaches perceive as early talent are in many instances the advantages afforded by early physical maturation’.

If this is the case, what can be done about it? Best practice from around the world and across a range of different sports tell us to choose players based on playing ability and skill level rather than physical

characteristics. The good small player will grow, it might just take place later than for some of his teammates. These players should not be forgotten.

To assist with this the GAA has reformatted the Coach Education programme to cater for the coach of the youth player. Over the coming years it will be possible for coaches working at this level to gain qualifications as a Youth coach. This has already started with the roll out of the reformatted Foundation and Award 1 programmes.

It is also necessary to keep success at these ages in perspective. The growth in underage inter county tournaments provides an opportunity for these talented players to pit their skills against the best in other Counties. However, it should be remembered that since players develop at different rates, success in these competitions is not a good predictor of future success. While it's true to say that many star senior players have first come to prominence in competitions such as the Buncrana Cup or Ted Webb Cup, many others don't come to our attention until much later in their development.

So while these games provide a great opportunity for players to test themselves against other Counties and provide us, the supporter, with some of the best football games that you are likely to see all year, success at this level needs to be thought of as more than just winning or losing. Player retention, skill development, tactical prowess, nutrition and lifestyle choices, discipline, the idea of teamship rather than individualised play are all factors that impact on the success of the County Academy system, and are all factors which are better predictors of future success than simply winning alone.

So sit back and enjoy the minor game today. Remember that there has been an enormous amount of work put in within Schools, Clubs and at County Academy level to assist these players to get to where they are today. The game won't go well for every player, others who may not have been expected to shine will, but it's all part of the development process that will, hopefully, produce talented footballers for adult level games in the years to come.

GAA 125 Platinum Collection

The Association has launched a limited edition 'GAA 125 platinum collection' commemorative leisure range.

Sales of this unique clothing range will help fund the development of a GAA Club Wall in Croke Park. The 'falla an club' will display the crest of every GAA club in Ireland and around the world. It is being

developed in recognition of the huge part played by each and every club in building the GAA into the great sports and cultural organisation that it is today. For purchase information, please visit: <http://www.gaa.ie>.



Preventing the spread of Swine Flu Influenza A (H1N1)

The spread of Swine Flu is a concern at this time, and given the role the Association plays in Irish society, it is vital that all members and volunteers take adequate steps to contain the spread of the virus among local clubs and communities.

There are some simple steps everyone can take to stop the spread of Swine Flu:

- Use a tissue to catch coughs or sneezes
- Bin the tissue straight away
- Wash your hands well and often.

Following these steps will help stop the flu and all respiratory illness from spreading to others.

If you or anyone in your club feels they have the flu:

- Check the symptoms on the HSE website at www.hse.ie or by calling the 24-hour Flu Information Line on 1800 941100.

- Contact your GP by telephone - don't go to the surgery or to A&E, as this places other people at risk of infection.
- Your GP will decide if you need testing or treatment.

The vast majority of people who get this flu are able to recover at home without needing anti-viral treatment - following simple home-care advice.

Informative posters detailing simple precautions are available from the HSE and it is recommended that clubs display these posters anywhere large groups are likely to assemble on your club's grounds.

For further information:

- www.swineflu.ie
- Freephone 24-hour HSE Flu helpdesk on 1800 941100

WWW.GAACORK.IE

for all the
up-to-date
information
on
Cork GAA.

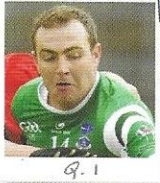
FICHE CEIST

21 20



09 CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

- Ryan Carson marked his senior football championship debut earlier this year by finishing top scorer with six points in what county's winning start to the campaign?
- Mark Alcorn scored his side's only goal in their losing start to the senior football championship.
- How many of the season's provincial minor football finals ended in draws?



- Who refereed the Leinster senior football final in July?
- What two counties contested the only Leinster senior football quarter-final that went to extra time?

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL FINALS

- How many times have Galway won the new Sam Maguire Cup?
- What was unusual about last year's Tyrone-Kerry final?
- In what year did Tony McTague lead Offaly to an All-Ireland senior title?



- This footballer captained his county to their last All-Ireland senior title a year after filling the captain's role in an unsuccessful final outing.
- Who captained Cavan to their last All-Ireland senior title?

ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL FINALS

- In what year did Dublin last win the All-Ireland crown?
- How many goals were scored in last year's drawn final?
- Trevor Giles (Meath) won an All-Ireland minor medal in what year?
- What was the last year in which a new name was added to the All-Ireland minor Roll of Honour?

- Who refereed last year's minor final replay at Longford—Derek Fahy (Longford), Cormac Reilly (Meath) or Maurice Deegan (Laois)?

HERE AND THERE

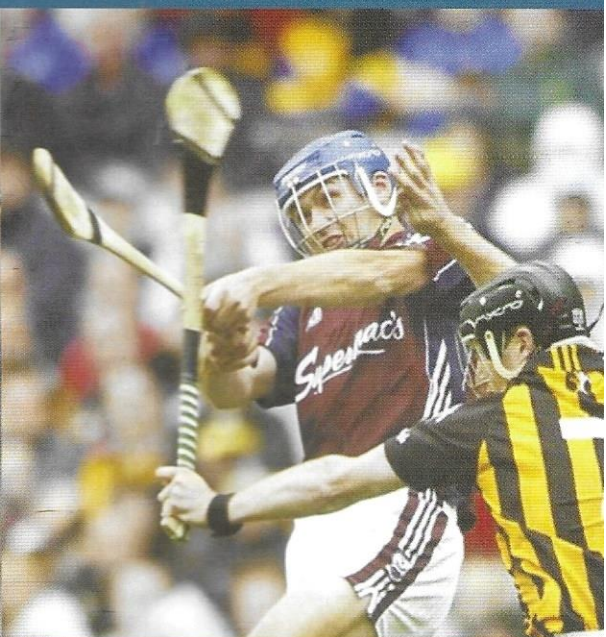
- Dublin will later this month contest their first All-Ireland Ladies senior football final in how many years?
- Eoin Kennedy (Dublin) won his fourth, fifth or sixth successive All-Ireland senior softball singles title in handball on the eve of the All-Ireland senior hurling final?
- Who won the recent All-Ireland Ladies junior football semi-final between Fermanagh and Longford?
- Dublin won the All-Ireland junior football title last year. True or false?
- Westmeath beat what county in 1999 to capture their only All-Ireland Under-21 football title?



Freagraí

19. True, 20. Kerry.
 2004 final to Galway, 17. Sixth, 18. Fermanagh.
HERE AND THERE 16. Five. They lost the
 14. 1996 when Laois won the title, 15. Cormac Reilly.
FINALS 11. 1984, 12. None, 13. 1992.
ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL
 John O'Leary (Dublin) in 1995, 10. Mick Higgins,
 earlier in the provincial championships, 8. 1972, 9.
 Quailers in 2001 featuring two counties beaten
 first since the introduction of the All-Ireland
FINALS 6. Twice—1998 and 2001, 7. It was the
ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL
 Wicklow.
 4. Pat McEneaney (Monaghan), 5. Westmeath and
 London, 3. Two—Connacht and Leinster.
 1. Fermanagh, 2. London, against Galway in
09 CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

Stay ahead of the game – wear your hurling helmet



- From 1st January 2010 ALL HURLERS must wear a hurling helmet for training and games.
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REFEREEING MATTERS

Michael Curley, Chairperson, Coiste na Réiteoirí

The All-Ireland final

The All Ireland final marks a very special place in the lives of all those who take part. It is the culmination of one or more years of real hard work, dedication on the part of everybody involved and participation in the final is a just reward for that effort. It is where every player, manager, mentor and county official want to be on this day, and so it is for the referee, his four umpires and two linesmen.

To be chosen to officiate in an All Ireland final at any grade is a wonderful honour for anybody involved in refereeing. While many who start out on the road as match officials may not always see themselves attaining that ultimate goal, it is certainly something that all of them aspire to as their career progresses. To be chosen to officiate at the biggest game of the GAA football calendar, to know that one is good enough not only to be considered but to be given the job, should be and indeed is a source of great pride for those involved in today's games, minor and senior. This is not only true for the referee himself but for his family, his club and his county. The feeling of achievement when one walks out on Croke Park on All Ireland final day, is something that must be experienced to be appreciated.

Preparation

For the referee, like the players, his participation in today's showpiece is also the result of hard work on the training field, and participation in training seminars over a number of years. His career will have progressed through his county and his province before being included on the national panel. His preparation for today's game will be much more low key in terms of public attention than that of the players/managers but that is not to say that it will be any less important. Far from it. His primary focus is to ensure that the game is played in accordance with the rules, a factor that not only requires physical but mental fitness also. He must ensure that his team of officials are prepared and totally focussed on the job in hand. While players will

concentrate on gaining possession, taking whatever scoring opportunities that present themselves or being strong and decisive in the tackle, the referee will focus on always being up with play, getting his positioning right, and being able to deal decisively and fairly with whatever situations may present. His ability to 'shut out' the urgings and comments of the crowd and to ignore any 'advice' in pre-game commentaries will be a big factor, and for most referees who reach this level, this ability will have been tried and tested many times. The most important attribute for the referee and his officials will be their level of concentration throughout the game and, for the referee himself, his communication with players.

Contrast

In the lead up to the games, the main focus of attention will be on the players/mentors from both counties. The referee will rarely be mentioned. That will be to his benefit. He can go about his preparations in a quiet, undisturbed manner. During the game the more each player is involved in the course of the game, the better for them, unlike the referee who will be delighted to be ignored. The primary focus for the players will be to win the game, for the referee in this respect it will be that his contribution will not only ensure fairness and sportsmanship but also that it would play a major part in the enjoyment of the game for the players/mentors and supporters. This however is not always something that is within his control, a situation that can require some unpopular but necessary interventions. These are part of the game and are generally accepted as such.

Finally, on behalf of Coiste Riarachán Naisiunta na Reiteoirí, we congratulate the teams from **Mayo** and **Armagh** in minor, and **Cork** and **Kerry** in senior for achieving the ultimate accolade of being involved in today's All Ireland Finals, and we wish them the best of luck. Likewise to the match officials, we say well done on your appointments, good luck with your pre-game preparations, and may your participation in today's proceedings be, in so far as is possible, conspicuous by your anonymity.

Enjoy the game.



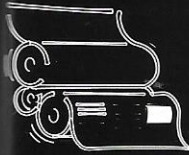


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CÚINNÉ NA NOG

Name that Footballer

1. I scored a goal from a penalty in my county's opening provincial championship engagement in May outside this country, and finished as my county's top scorer this year. I have silt to win an All-Ireland senior intercounty medal.
2. Although I am a defender I scored a very early goal in a provincial senior final in July to set my county on the road to another title. My club is St. Brigid's. I have won a number of provincial senior medals but have yet to win an All-Ireland senior medal.
3. I lined out at full forward for my county in their opening senior championship game, but later in the season was in action as a defender with the county. My club is Dunshaughlin.
4. I led my county to a rare provincial senior final appearance during the summer. I scored 0-11 but we did not win the game. My club is Lámh Dhearg and we put up a spirited performance in our All-Ireland quarter-final debut.
5. I went in as a second half substitute in a provincial final, took a pass from my brother and scored a goal well into the game. We won with a late, late point and my cub is Shrule-Glencorrib.



Who, Where, When?

1. Who won the opening game in this year's provincial senior football championships?
2. Where was that game played?
3. In what month was that game played—April, May or June?
4. What county recorded two wins over Monaghan in senior football championship play during the summer?
5. Where was the second win recorded?
6. When did the two-times winners in this rivalry last win the All-Ireland senior football title?



Personality Parade

Here's your chance to see how well you know senior footballers. All six were in action during the championship this year. Can you match each footballer with the correct list from the six below?



David Tubridy

P. J. Ward

P. J. Banville

Kieran Toner

Leo McLoone

Barry Gillis

Derry Wexford Clare Offaly Armagh Donegal

General Review

1. Who is the odd man out in this group of personalities—Rory Kavanagh, David Coldrick, Peadar Gardiner, Stephen Cluxton.
2. In what year did a Connacht county last win the All-Ireland minor football title?
3. What have Ger Devlin, Tony Carroll, Cathal McAllister and Alan Kelly got in common?
4. This well known midfielder announced his retirement from intercounty football earlier this month.
5. This player scored 1-7 for her county in one of this season's All-Ireland Ladies senior football semi-finals, but still finished on the losing side.

NAME THAT FOOTBALLER
 1. Michael Meehan (Galway). 2. Barry Cahill (Dublin). 3. Caomhán King (Meath). 4. Paddy Cunningham (Antrim). 5. Conor Mortimer (Mayo).
 WHO, WHERE, WHEN
 1. Mayo. 2. New York. 3. May. 4. Derry. 5. Clones. 6. 1993.
 PERSONALITY PARADE
 David Tubridy—Clare. P. J. Ward—Offaly. P. J. Banville—Wexford. Kieran Toner—Armagh. Leo McLoone—Donegal. Barry Gillis—Derry.
 GENERAL REVIEW
 1. David Coldrick, a referee in company with footballers. 2. 2007 when Galway won the title. 3. All are intercounty referees. 4. Cláirín Whelan (Dublin). 5. Cora Staunton (Mayo) against Cork.

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