

CEILIÚRADH

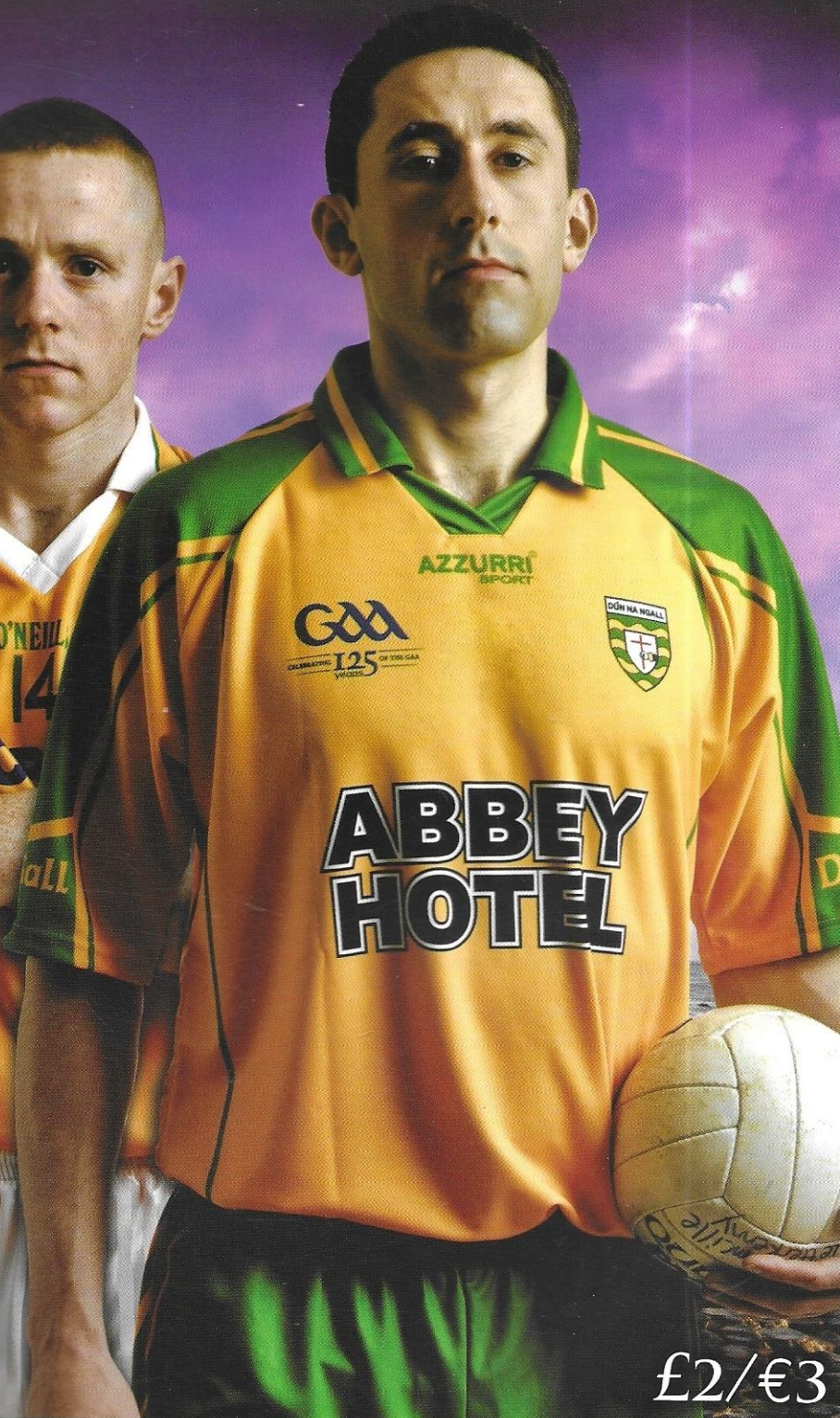
125

GAA



CRAOBH PEILE ULADH

ULSTER SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2009



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14Ú MEITHEAMH
2009

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Welcome

Presidents Foreword



Fáilte romhaibh go léir go dtí Páirc Sean McCumhaill do Craobh Peile Uladh 2009. Fearaim fáilte faoi leith roimh na fóirne bainistíochta ón dá chondae agus an lucht tachaíochta a bhíonn

dílís dúinn-ne bliain i ndiaidh bliana. Mo bhuíochas fosta do na daoine atá ag feidhmiú go hoifigiúil ar son Comhairle Uladh anseo inniu agus do na hoibrithe deonacha atá mar cnámh-droma an chumainn.

On behalf of Comhairle Uladh, I extend a very warm welcome to the players, team management and supporters of the two participating counties, namely Dún na nGall agus Antrim.

A well prepared Antrim team, comes to Donegal today full of anticipation as their preparations have gone very well this year. In the home side they face many seasoned campaigners. With the prize of an Ulster semi-final place against An Cabhán awaiting the winners, we look forward to a competitive game.

Our double header format today gives the young players from both counties the opportunity to experience championship atmosphere at its best as they seek to progress to the semi-final stage of the Ulster Minor Football Championship.

Last autumn myself and the Provincial Director, Danny Murphy met with senior officials of Donegal County Board and agreed a programme of works at this ground which would put the finishing touches to McCumhaill Park and consolidate the capacity here at approximately 20,000. Through a partnership approach, significant funding

was achieved in order to complete all of the necessary works. I wish to pay a tribute to all involved at County Board level in planning and organising the construction and re-furbishment works, which were undertaken in double-quick time. Combined with the major project undertaken by the McCumhaill's club to expand the changing rooms and other facilities, this venue has now been brought up to a standard which will match the best of primary county ground facilities anywhere. Fíor Bhuíochas agus comghairdeas do gach duine uilig a raibh bairt acu leis on obair.

I would like to thank all of our match officials for the important roles they continue to play throughout these championships and also for their supportive role in the running of our competitions throughout the year.

Today's game will reach a large audience and we look forward to a fine spectacle, worthy of the occasion. In the 125th anniversary year of CLG and the 40th anniversary year of the establishment of the Scór competitions it is good to have with us today Scór competitors from Dún na nGall.

Thanks as always to everyone involved in McCumhaill Park for the presentation of the grounds and their work and co-operation.

Buíochas fosta do gach éinne as ucht a gcomhoibriú agus as ucht na tacaíochta a thug siad don Chomhairle agus don Chumann arís i mbliana.

Tomás Ó Dalaigh
Uachtaráin
Comhairle Uladh
C.I.G



CEILIÚRADH **125** BLIAIN AN GAA

Today's Games



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BUÍOCHAS: Comhairle Uladh would like to thank the County Boards and all other contributors for their assistance in the compilation of this programme.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all the players, management, and backroom staff for their efforts today.

Finally we thank all the supporters who have attended today's match, without you the championship just wouldn't be the same.

Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fanna Fáil,
atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua
Thar toinn do ráinig chughainn,
Faoi mhóid bheith saor
Seantír ár sinsear feasta,
Ní fhágfar faoin tóirán
ná faoin tráill.
Anocht a théam sa bhearn baoil,
Le gean ar Ghaeil,
chun báis nó saoil,
Le gunna scréach faoi
lámhach na bpiléar,
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann

Sunday 14th June at MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey Ulster GAA ESB Minor Football Championship Quarter Final

Dún na nGall v Aontroim

Throw In 1.45pm (Extra time if required)

Referee: Leo Smyth (An Dún)

Standby: Stephen McNamee (Tír Eoghain)

Linesman: Fergal Daly (Tír Eoghain)

Sideline: Eamon McHugh (Tír Eoghain)

Leo Smyth (An Dún)



Leo played Division 1 and 2 Senior Football with his club, Mayobridge. He is married to Julie and they have three children, Caitlin, Charlie, and Mollie. Leo has been on the Down Referees panel for fifteen years and has officiated at Intermediate and Junior Finals, and at numerous senior Championship games. He has been on the Ulster panel for seven years, where he has taken charge of matches at various levels.

Ulster GAA Senior Football Championship Quarter Final

Dún na nGall v Aontroim

Throw In 3.30pm (Extra time if required)

Referee: Pdraig Hughes (Ard Mhacha)

Standby: Marty Duffy (Sligeach)

Linesman: Eamon O'Grady (Liatroim)

Sideline: Martin McErlane (Doire)

Padraig Hughes (Ard Mhacha)



Padraig is married to Geraldine and they have one child Caitlin. He is a member of the Crossmaglen Rangers Club and has been refereeing for 11 years.

Six years ago he was appointed an Intercounty referee and at 31 is one of the youngest members on the panel.

Whilst he has refereed at all levels in Armagh he has never done a Senior Championship Final. It is hard to be the Crossmaglen Rangers referee when your club has won the last thirteen titles! Padraig refereed the 2004 Minor league Final and was the man in the middle for the historic first Ulster Minor Final in Croke Park.

Padraig has also officiated at National League and Tommy Murphy games.

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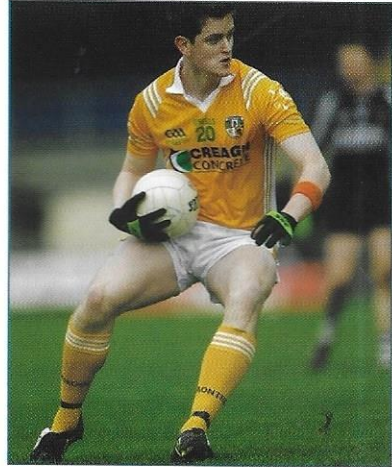
Clar an Lae

- 13.30 Aontroim amach ar an bPáirc
 - 13.33 Dún na nGall amach ar an bPáirc
 - 13.45 Tús an Cluiche: Dún na nGall v Aontroim
 - 14.16 Half Time / Leath Am
 - 14.18 Entertainment / Siamsa
 - 14.26 Start of Second Half / Tús an dara leath
 - 14.58 Críoch an Chluiche Mionúir
- * If Extra Time (1) is required see below

Siamsa

- 15.09 Aontroim amach ar an bPáirc
- 15.12 Dún na nGall amach ar an bPáirc
- 15.28 Amhrán na bhFiann
- 15.30 Tús an Cluiche: Dún na nGall v Aontroim
- 16.05 Half Time / Leath Am
- 16.07 Cluichí Cumann na mBunscol / Siamsa
- 16.20 Start of Second Half / Tús an dara leath
- 16.59 Críoch an Chluiche Shinsir

* If Extra Time (2) is required see below



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1)* 15.03 Start of First Period of Extra Time 15.14 End of First Period of Extra Time 15.17 Start of Second Period of Extra Time 15.28 End of Extra Time 15.30 Aontroim amach ar an bPáirc 15.33 Dún na nGall amach ar an bPáirc 15.49 Amhrán na bhFiann | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.51 Tús an Cluiche: Dún na nGall v Aontroim 16.26 Half Time / Leath Am 16.28 Cumann na mBunscol Exhibition 16.41 Start of Second Half / Tús an dara leath 17.20 End of Senior Game / Críoch an Chluiche Shinsir | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (2)** 17.04 Start of First Period of Extra Time 17.15 End of First Period of Extra Time 17.18 Start of Second Period of Extra Time 17.29 End of Extra Time |
|---|---|---|

Ground Regulations

Please note the following regulations. We ask for your full co-operation with stewards and other volunteers who are doing their best to ensure you enjoy the match. If you fail to co-operate it may be necessary to refuse you entry or, if inside the stadium, to ask you to leave.

Please do not bring anything into the stadium that can be used as a weapon or that will cause interference with others. This includes fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, flagpoles, banners.

We do not allow alcohol in the ground.

We ask you not to climb onto walls, stands and other buildings.

Likewise, we ask you to refrain from making unnecessary noise that will annoy other spectators nearby. That includes the likes of air horns or radios.

Please do not use foul, abusive or offensive language. There are families and children present.

We ask you not to enter the field of play during or after the game for health and safety reasons.

Occasionally we may be required to search patrons entering the ground. If you refuse to be searched you may be refused entry.

Please do not obstruct gangways or stairwells etc. Also, please do not engage in behaviour that may cause a fire or other dangerous event.

The Officers on duty reserve the right to remove you from the ground if you do not comply with these simple regulations. Our intention is simply to ensure that all our supporters can enjoy the match.

First Aid

First Aid is provided at today's venue by Order of Malta with ambulances at the rear of the Main Stand and beside the river terrace.

Lost Children

Children who have become separated from their parents/guardians should be brought to the rear of the Main Stand.

Safety Notice

We have established this policy for health and safety reasons, to avoid serious injury or death.

We thank you for your co-operation, and hope you enjoy the match.



Cumann na mBunscol

Today's Mini Games

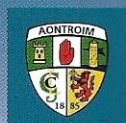
Donegal

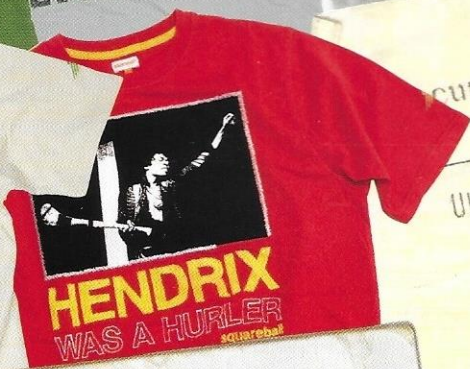
Ódhran Coll, Ramelton NS
Dan Gallagher, Luineach NS
Seán Duffy, St. Ernans, Balintra
Christopher Carr, Scoil Mhuire, Creeslough
Brendan McCole, St. Naul's NS, Inver
Brendan Gillespie, Creevey NS, Ballyshannon
Nathan Boyle, Scoil Chaitríona, Ballyshannon
Paddy McKelvey, Doochary NS
Declan Ward, Belcruit NS, Glenties
Philip McNern, Cashel NS, Glencolmcille
Michael Sweeney, St. Mary's NS, Ardara
Joseph Lafferty, St. Mary's NS, Castlefin
Brett Mc Ginty, St. Bathain's NS, St. Johnston
Christopher Duffy, Scoil Cholmcille, Letterkenny
Nathan McElwaine, Scoil Cholmcille, Kilmacrennan
Kyle Long, Scoil Naomh Mura, Tooban
Mark Doherty, St. Patrick's Boys, Carndonagh
Danny Mc Carron, Scoil Threasa Naofa, Malin



Antrim

Peter Mc Callan, Scoil na Fuiseoige, Belfast
Gavin Campbell, St Bride's PS, Belfast
Matthew Crozier, St Patrick's, Holywood
Aidan Mc Mahon, Scoil na Fuiseoige, Belfast
Martin O'Lali, Bunscoil an tSleibhe Dhuibh, Belfast
Eoghan Mc Cabe, St Teresa's PS, Belfast
Ronan Beattie, Holy Child PS, Belfast
Pierce Fagan, Bunscoil Phobal Feirste, Belfast
Ryan Loughran, St Patrick's PS, Holywood
Connell Lemon, St Brigid's PS, Ballymena
Conor Doherty, St Colmcille's PS, Ballymena
Kyle Johnston, Carlane PS
Brendan O'Callaghan, St Joseph's PS, Crumlin
Colm Griffin, St Comgall's, Antrim
Conor Carey, Glenravel PS
Liam Quinn, Creggan PS
Kevin Small, Creggan PS
Pearse Downey, St. Mary's PS, Portglenone





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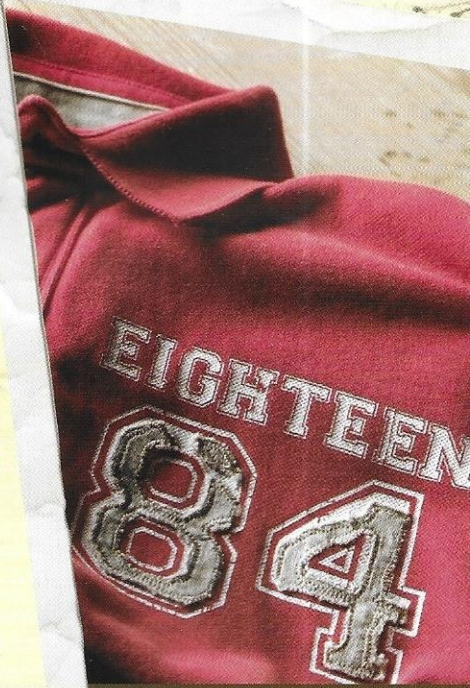
Cumann Luth' cles Saebéal
Comairle Uladh.

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There are a staggering 250,000 people

volunteering in GAA activities across Ulster in clubs and counties.

There are many different volunteer roles including everything from playing Gaelic Games to being a club official, a linesman, a groundskeeper, a mentor - the list is endless. The commitment GAA volunteers give to the Association is not known in any other organisation.

Regular visitors to Sean MacCumhaill Park will be familiar with the face of Eugene Gallagher. The not-to-regular among you should keep an eye out for the popular MacCumhails man this afternoon, for his is a story of a remarkable loyalty to club and county that seems to know no bounds.

Those of you who attend this venue with regularity will know Eugene as scoreboard operator, turnstile operator, steward, tea maker for the press or the man who carries out some other thankless task be it a big game or otherwise that has rolled into his beloved Sean MacCumhaill Park.

On St Patrick's Day of this year Eugene, his wife Helen and sons Kevin and Shaun,



were the proud guests of honour at the Club finals, after which Eugene was presented with a President's Award in honour of his services to the GAA over the years. Eugene was a talented forward during his playing days, winning a Senior Championship with MacCumhails in 1971 and he played for Donegal at Minor, U21 and Senior level. He hung up the boots in '77, but by that time he had already moved into administration.

35 years ago, Eugene was appointed Club Treasurer of Sean MacCumhails and to this day he still controls the purse strings as well as being the treasurer of the Park's Committee and being one of the driving forces of the new Clubhouse.

At County Board level he was assistant treasurer to Charlie Faulkener and was

also involved with the County Fixtures Committee.

At the end of 2008 Eugene suffered a bad fall while carrying out one of the many match-day jobs, falling from a ladder while setting up the scoreboard. Undeterred, Eugene is back as busy as ever and he will be one of the unsung heroes making sure that today's occasion runs smoothly.

"If I gave it up, I would miss it for sure. I'll probably have to stay around now for another couple of years, but I'll hardly be here for another 35," he recently said. Whatever time, he closes the cheque book for the last time, he will leave a fair legacy behind and it will take a mammoth effort to carry the baton as strongly.

By Chris McNulty,
Donegal News

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Minor Preview

Ronan Scott, **GaelicLife**



Today's game serves to remind us how much of a nuisance exams

are. The majority of the players on these two minor teams were forced to make their exams a priority in the run up to this game. This means that the result is far less certain than it originally should have been.

If the Donegal manager Martin Regan could have had unrestricted access to his panel during the past fortnight, rather than the two or three measly sessions he did have, then I would be predicting a clear victory for Donegal. But he didn't, and I won't.

Even though Antrim's players have also been studying and sitting their exams this week, they have something else in their favour. Namely their St Mary's CBGS contingent. The Glen Road boys made a return to MacRory Cup football this year after a hiatus of eight years and it will be to the county's benefit today.

It is perhaps pertinent to point out that, only last week, Cavan boss Mickey

Graham told me that if St Pat's Cavan would only push on and start challenging for MacRory Cups then the county minor team would be much stronger. St Mary's CBGS reached the semi-finals of the Ulster Colleges Senior A competition. According to their coach, Donal Armstrong, they were good enough to reach the final.

So, on that evidence, there should be some spark from the Antrim lads. Keep an eye out for Christopher McGuinness, if he plays, because he was involved in the St Mary's team this season and did plenty of scoring.

But will that be enough to beat Donegal? Again, that will depend on how Regan's players recover from their exertions in an exam hall.

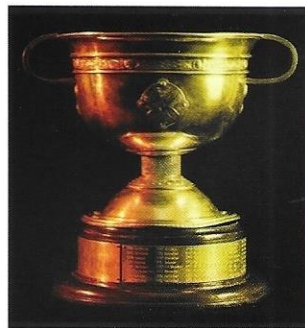
They should certainly be tested though, as Antrim will want to prove that their performance against the Tir Chonaill side in the Ulster League, when they lost 2-17 to 0-7, was not a fair representation of their talent. But the Donegal team have a strong back bone, not to mention a handful of players who were involved in the Ulster Inter County Vocational Schools Final.

One player from that team to watch out for is Cory Gallagher. He was involved for Donegal right up until the Vocational final which they lost against Monaghan, but he was also part of last year's county minor team.

The key to this game will be scores though. Like the senior team, Antrim don't have many scores coming from different areas. Which is in contrast to Donegal who, during the league, had a raft of players who could split the posts.

So, if I must choose a victor then it has to be Donegal. They may not be completely match fit but their performances in the Ulster League, when they were not at full strength suggest that they should have enough to win.

But, just like when I was sitting my exams all those years ago, you can never be sure how you've done until you've seen the results.



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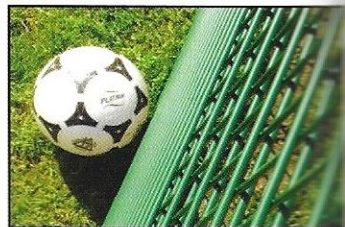
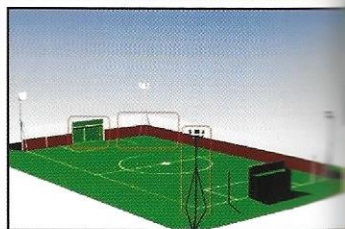
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- Kickhams GAA, Randalstown
- St Canices , Dungiven
- Slaughtmanus GAA , Derry
- Steelstown Brian Og's , Derry
- Ballymena GFC , Antrim

Spectator Surround Supplied & Fitted At Brewster Park , Enniskillen



A Moment in History

Donegal's All-Ireland Breakthrough



Dateline:
17th October,
1982 Venue:
Pairc Sean
Mac Diarmada,

Carrick-on-Shannon.

That was the date and venue of Donegal's All-Ireland breakthrough when the county's Under-21 footballers claimed the first ever All-Ireland title for Donegal. A championship that started in Breffni Park on Sunday, April 25th had the perfect ending when Brian Tuohy collected the Clarke Cup with victory over Roscommon by 0-8 to 0-5.

Back then the Under-21 championship was a long, drawn-out affair. The road to Pairc Sean included victories over Cavan, Down (after a replay) and Derry in Ulster before Laois were conquered in the All-Ireland Semi-Final on a very wet day in Pearse Park, Longford on the last Sunday of September.

At the helm was Tom Conaghan, assisted by Michael Lafferty and Donal Monaghan. Of the panel of 23 (yes just 23) for the final, many were still on board ten years later when Donegal collected their first senior All-Ireland. There were many memories of the campaign, not least Eunan McIntyre winning a free late in the first game against Down in Ballybofey for Martin McHugh

to convert to secure a replay. That Down team contained a certain Mickey Linden and John Trainor. There was controversy before the replay with Tom Conaghan laying down the law by dropping a few players for missing training.

In the Ulster Final Donegal had a narrow victory over a Derry team which included Damien Barton and Dermot McNicholl, while in the semi-final on a miserable day, just a point separated them from Laois for whom Pat Roe was full-back.

In the final against Roscommon the conditions were only slightly better but Donegal prevailed despite losing full-back, Sean Bonner, to injury within nine minutes. Pauric Gallagher was introduced and played a pivotal role. The talented Gallagher is the only member of the panel no longer with us, having lost his life tragically in a traffic accident in Boston seven years later.

Pauric contributed two points in the 0-8 to 0-5 victory while Martin McHugh put in another great performance, accounting for five points. Paul Earley, Pat Doorey and Eamonn McManus were among the best known Roscommon players on the day.

The Donegal team on the day of the final was:
Michael Kelly;

Michael McBrearty,
Sean Bonner,
Matt Gallagher;
Eunan McIntyre,
Tommy McDermott,
Brian Tuohy;
Anthony Molloy,
Donal Reid (0-1);
Martin McHugh (0-5),
Charlie Mulgrew,
Joyce McMullan;
Seamus Meehan,
Paul Carr,
Patrick McGroarty.

Subs:

Pauric Gallagher (0-2) for Bonner; Sylvester Maguire for McGroarty. Rest of panel: Martin Shovlin, John O'Donnell, Marty Carlin, Maurice Carr, John McGowan, Donie McCole.

The road to All-Ireland success was:

First Round:

Donegal 1-10, Cavan 1-7

Semi-Final:

Donegal 1-9, Down 1-9

Semi-Final Replay:

Donegal 0-9, Down 0-4.

Ulster Final:

Donegal 0-10, Derry 1-5

All-Ireland semi-Final:

Donegal 0-5, Laois 0-4.

All-Ireland Final:

Donegal 0-8,
Roscommon 0-5.

Article by Peter Campbell,
Sports Editor, Donegal Democrat



Dún na nGall

Donegal

Manager: Máirtín Ó Riagáin



Fír Ionaid/Substitutes

16. Ashley Mulhern, Bun Dobhrain 17. Ciaran Conaghan, Na Cealla Beaga 18. Declan McGuire, Naomh Columba
19. Johnathon Harkin, Gaoth Dobhair 20. John O'Malley, Naomh Conall 21. Luke Keeney, Na Ceithre Máistrí
22. Owen Grant, Naomh Mhuire 23. Patrick McBrearty, Cill Cartha 24. Stephen Doak, Naomh Mícheál

Notes

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45	Saor	Ciceanna
1AD Leath						
2AD Leath						
Iomlán						



Aontroim

Antrim

Manager: Liam McGoldrick



Fír Ionaid/Substitutes

16. Damian O'Hagan, Naomh Mhuire 17. Hugh Campbell, Naomh Eanna 18. John Carran, Clann na hÉireann
19. Colm Duffin, Naomh Eargnaid 20. Kevin Floyd, Padraig Sairseil 21. Fergal Johnston, Clann na hÉireann
22. Martin Johnston, Ciceam Creagan 23. Declan Lynch, Lamh Dhearg 24. Sam McWilliams, Naomh Eanna

Notes

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	45	Saor	Ciceanna
1AD Leath						
2AD Leath						
Iomlán						

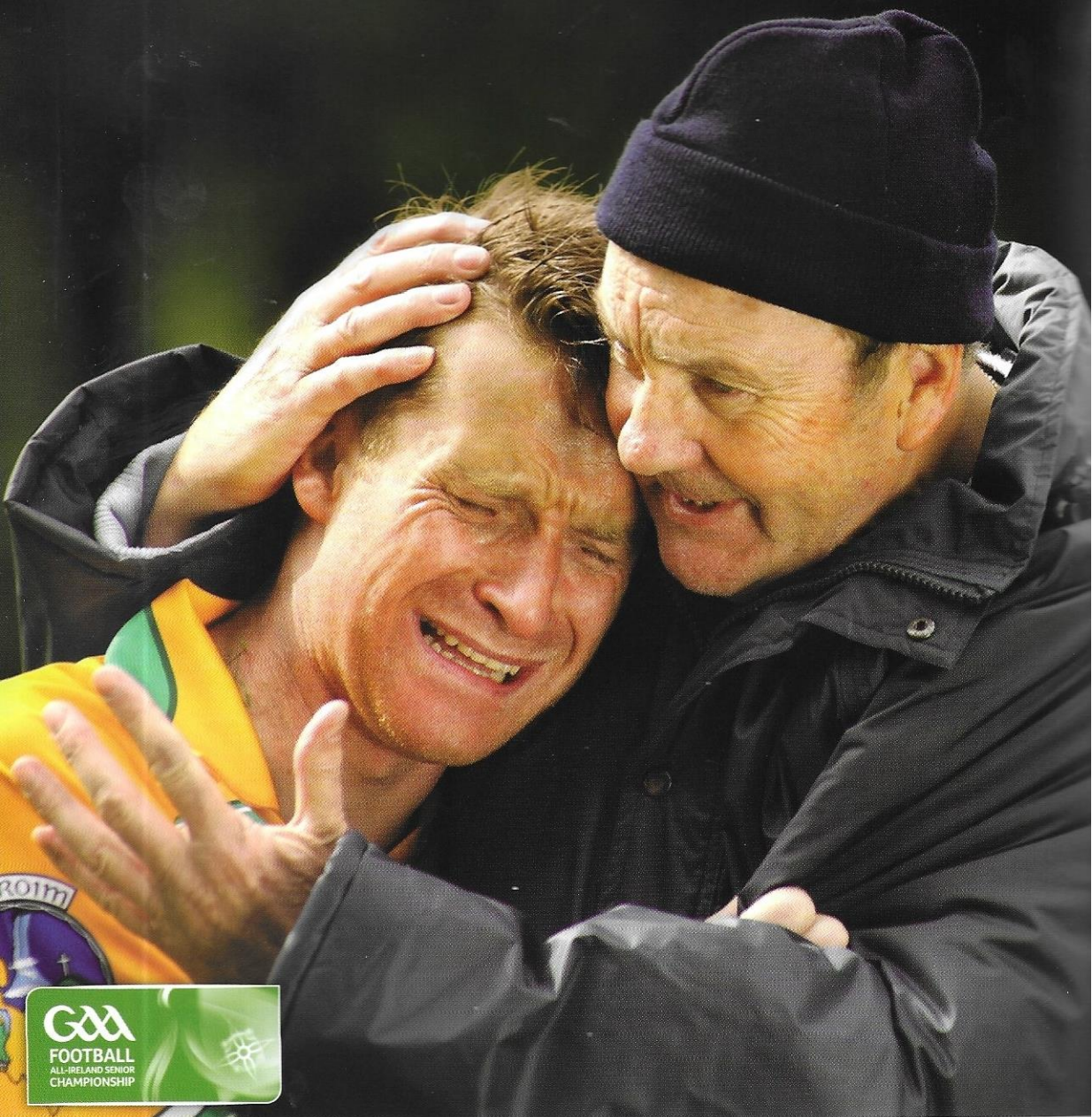


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Focus on Volunteers

Cross Border Initiative

Ulster GAA has joined, Department of Social Development, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Volunteer Initiative, Church and Ireland and Voluntary Arts Ireland in new volunteer development initiative. The pilot scheme is jointly funded on an equal basis by the Department for Social Development and the Department for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The Church Of Ireland, Voluntary Arts Ireland and Ulster GAA will collaborate to share best practice from each of their initiatives on a cross community and cross border basis, using their existing networks to develop their volunteer base, promote community

development and help build community cohesion. GAA projects will work across border counties; Voluntary Arts Ireland will work in Fermanagh, Sligo and Donegal; and Church of Ireland will target areas in Derry and Donegal. Speaking at launch in Downpatrick in January. The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is supporting the project as part of its mission to promote and support the sustainable and inclusive development of communities and alleviate disadvantage.

Minister Curran, addressing the launch said: "This is an innovative project which will contribute to the growing volunteer base on both sides of the border.

Volunteering is central to the ideals of democracy, social inclusion and active citizenship. It is also an expression of the individual's involvement in their community. I am particularly pleased to be working with Minister Margaret Ritchie and the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland. I hope this will be the first of many mutually beneficial cross border joint initiatives."

Danny Murphy Provincial Director of Ulster GAA said: "Ulster GAA are delighted to be part of the Volunteer Project, we hope to build a meaningful and productive partnership with all project participants and look forward to developing a range of Volunteer support resources.

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Football, Hurling Camps

Summer 2009

Venue	Dates	Camp Type	Club Coordinator	Mobile Number	Cost per child (€)		
					1st	2nd	3rd
Week 1							
Dungloe	29 June-3 July	F/H/C	John Ward	086 6036406	65	50	50
Red Hughs	29 June-3 July	F/H/C	Cathal Doherty	086 3038286	65	50	50
Convoy	29 June-3 July	F/H/C	Stephanie Friel	087 7618831	65	50	50
Gaoth Dobhair	29 June-3 July	F/H/C	Brendan O'Baoill	087 2938230	65	50	50
Week 2							
Bear	6-10 July	F/H/C	Bearnie Glenn	087 7720049	65	50	50
St Eunans	6-10 July	F/H/C	Thomas O'Fearraigh	086 8289935	65	50	50
Naomh Ultan	6-10 July	F/H/C	Michelle Bennett	087 9813508	65	50	50
Naomh Pdraig Muff	6-10 July	F/H/C	Michael McMenamin	087 2448200	65	50	50
Urris	6-10 July	F/H/C	John Friel	086 0523550	65	50	50
Week 3							
Carndonagh	13-17 July	F/H/C	John Gibbons	086 3850729	65	50	50
Glenswilly	13-17 July	F/H/C	Paddy McGinty	087 9210846	65	50	50
Mc Cumhails	13-17 July	F/H/C	Patricia Doherty	086 3957003	65	50	50
Na Dunaibh	13-17 July	F/H/C	Denis McBride	087 6132360	65	50	50
Naomh Pdraig Lifford	13-17 July	F/H/C	Orla McGhee	086 8615237	65	50	50
Week 4							
Ardara	20-24 July	F/H/C	James McHugh	087 2222277	65	50	50
Kilcar	20-24 July	F/H/C	Patrick McShane	087 2506443	65	50	50
Malin	20-24 July	F/H/C	Maria McLaughlin	087 7763679	65	50	50
Moville	20-24 July	F/H/C	Heather Norris	086 8365656	65	50	50
Naomh Colmcille	20-24 July	F/H/C	Sharon Monaghan	087 9685558	65	50	50
Fanad Gaels	20-24 July	F/H/C	Fiona Shiels	087 6594524	65	50	50
Week 5							
Bundoran	27-31 July	F/H/C	John McEniff	087 2386250	65	50	50
Cloughaneely	27-31 July	F/H/C	Declan McGarvey	086 1009467	65	50	50
Four Masters	27-31 July	F/H/C	John Joe O'Shae	087 7959924	65	50	50
Milford	27-31 July	F/H/C	Shaun Barrett	086 6052169	65	50	50
St Michaels	27-31 July	F/H/C	Liam McElhinney	086 8611097	65	50	50
Naomh Conaill	27-31 July	F/H/C	Daragh Gallagher	087 2121036	65	50	50
August							
Aranmore Island	17-19 August	F/H/C	John Ward	086 6036406	65	50	50
Four Masters	5-7 August	H/C	Noel Ward	087 8251408	40	40	40
Leterkenny Gaels	10-14 August	H/C	Dan Hartnett	085 1743228	65	50	50
Carndonagh	17-21 August	H/C	Elizabeth Doherty	086 3773300	65	50	50
Bunrana	24-28 August	H/C	Chris Walsh	086 0515438	65	50	50

COUNTY COORDINATORS FOOTBALL:

Mick Murphy M 086 6003159
Gavin Craig M 086 2019635

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Senior Preview

John Hughes, **GaelicLife**



June half gone and yet only now are Donegal and Antrim taking to the field to

do championship battle. Down have already been ruefully contemplating the back door for a month at this stage. Still, they say hunger is the best sauce and the long wait will only have served to sharpen the appetite of both sides for this tie.

To a great extent the story of this game will revolve around the performances of the two rookie managers, John Joe Doherty and Liam Bradley. John Joe got off to a good start, winning the Gaelic Life McKenna cup. That campaign was notable for a series of wins where the Tir Chonnail men showed uncharacteristic grit, a bit of the grind that had been missing from Donegal football for the best part of a generation.

But that early season silverware was followed by a schizophrenic league campaign where Donegal were as likely to deliver a stormer as a stinker.

Unfortunately the stinkers outnumbered the stormers

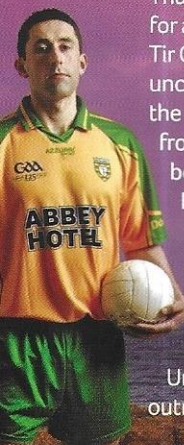
with four defeats, a draw and two wins seeing Donegal relegated from division one. Doherty made light of Donegal's demotion emphasising that he was building for the championship. Having cast his eye over no fewer than 34 players during the league, more than any other Ulster manager, perhaps he has a case.

After missing out on the Derry job, Liam Bradley has been installed as the latest saviour of Antrim football. The Saffrons are a famously skittish bunch, possessed of plenty of raw talent, but lacking in backbone and seemingly unwilling to dog a game out. Early season disciplinary issues provided Bradley with the opportunity to stamp his authority on the side and focus minds. Bradley made it clear that if anyone was going to play for Antrim, they were going to do it on his terms. No player would be allowed to value himself above the team. Already he has bettered Jody Gormley's league record by getting Antrim promoted from division four, topping the division on points difference against a Sligo team also on the rise.

The story of today's match is the story of two managers

trying to instil fighting spirit in their sides, teams that are better known for their soft underbellies. Donegal's challenge against Sligo on a hot evening in Ballyshannon two weeks provided some interesting pointers on that front. Sligo are on roughly the same level of the GAA food chain as Antrim, yet they played some stylish football against a Donegal side that seemed inchoate and uninterested. Sligo were full value for their 2-14 to 1-13 win. Donegal players seemed to be playing as if they believed form was something that could be turned on and off. That makes me think that Donegal are sleepwalking into this game, confident that their innate ability and footballing superiority will find full expression on the home turf of Ballybofey against Antrim's whipping boys.

I'm not so sure that Antrim will be anyone's whipping boys today. If they carry the game to Donegal and show some self-belief for once, this is a victory that is there for the taking. Doherty or Bradley? Have to say I have a strong suspicion the Derry man is going to win the day.



Dún na nGall Pen Pics

Donegal

Name	Club	Occupation	Age	Height	Weight
Barry Dunnion	Four Masters	Football Coach	25	5'8"	11st 7lb
Barry Monaghan	Four Masters	Tyre Sales	30	6'0"	13st 7lb
Brendan Boyle	Ardara	Civil Engineer	26	6.1..	13st 8lb
Adrian Hanlon	Dungloe	Construction	23	5'9"	11st
Brian Roper	Aodh Ruadh	Monumental Sculptor	32	5'7"	11st 5lb
Charlie Byrne	Malin	Student	22	5'11'	12st
Christy Toye	St Michaels	Insurance Official	25	6'3"	13st 10lb
Ciaran Bonner	Glenswilly	Construction	25	6'2"	13st
Colm McFadden	St Michaels	Teacher	25	6'3"	13st 5lb
Conall Dunne	St.Eunans	Accountant	25	5'11"	13st 5lb
Dara Gallagher	Naomh Conaill	Student	20	5'11"	11st 6lb
David Walsh	Naomh Brid	Construction	25	6'0"	11st 7lb
Eamon McGee	Gaoth Dobhair	Football Coach	24	6'3"	14st
Eoin Wade	Naomh Conaill	Student	20	5'10"	11st 8lb
Frank McGlynn	Glenfin	Teacher	23	5'11"	12st
Johnny Gallagher	Aodh Ruadh	Student	22	5'11"	11st 7lb
Karl Lacey	Four Masters	Student	25	5'10"	11st 12lb
Kevin Cassidy	Gaoth Dobhair	Teacher	27	6'1"	12st.10lb
Michael Boyle	Termon	Student	21	6'1"	13st 4lb
Michael Doherty	Four Masters	Student	24	6'0"	12st 7lb
Michael Hegarty	Kilcar	Sales Rep	28	5'11"	12st
Michael Maguire	Naomh Columba	Carpenter	25	6'0"	12st 7lb
Michael Murphy	Glenswilly	Student	19	6'2"	12st 7lb
Neil Gallagher	Glenswilly	Civil Engineer	24	6'3"	14st 9lb
Neil McGee	Gaoth Dobhair	Plumber	23	6'0"	13st 7lb
Paddy McDauid	Termon	Waste Management	26	5'8"	11st 7lb
Paul Durcan	Four Masters	Civil Engineer	25	6'5"	16.00st
Raymond Sweeney	Dungloe	Software Engineer	30	6'0"	12st 12 lb
Rory Kavanagh	St.Eunans	Teacher	25	6'2"	13st 5lb
Stephen Griffin	St Nauls	Student	21	5'11"	12st 6lb

“We are expecting a very close encounter against an Antrim side that are really showing great promise” John Joe Doherty





Dún na nGall

Donegal

Manager: John Joe Doherty

1 P Ó Durcain Paul Durcan Na Ceithre Máistrí	2 É Mac Aoidh Eamon Mc Gee Gaoth Dobhair	3 N Mac Aoidh Neil McGee Gaoth Dobhair	4 C De Léis Karl Lacey Na Ceithre Máistrí
5 B Ó Dúinín Barry Dunion Na Ceithre Máistrí	6 C Ó Caisside Kevin Cassidy Gaoth Dobhair	7 M Mag Uidhir Michael McGuire Naomh Columba	
8 N Ó Gallachóir Neil Gallagher Gleann tSúilí	9 B Ó Baoill Brendan Boyle Ard 'A Ratha		
10 C Ó Cnámhsí Ciaran Bonner Gleann tSúilí	11 M Ó hÉigheartaigh Michael Hegarty Cill Charta	12 R Ó Caomhanach Rory Kavanagh (C) Naomh Adhamhnáin	
13 C Mac Phaidín Colm McFadden Naomh Micheal	14 M Ó Murchú Micheal Murphy Gleann tSúilí	15 C Ó Dúinn Conal Dunne Naomh Adhamhnáin	

Fír Ionaid/Substitutes

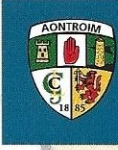
16. Micheal Boyle, An Tearnann 17. Frank Mc Glynn, Gleann Fhinne 18. Johnny Gallagher, Aodh Ruadh (B/S)
 19. Paddy Mc Daid, An Tearnann 20. Barry Monaghan, Na Ceithre Máistrí 21. Raymond Sweeney, An Clochan Liath
 22. Eoin Wade, Naomh Conaill 23. Charles Byrne, Malainn 24. David Walsh, Naomh Bríd 25. Brian Roper, Aodh Ruadh (B/S)
 26. Christy Toye, Naomh Micheal 27. Darragh Gallagher, Naomh Conaill 28. Michael Doherty, Na Ceithre Máistrí
 29. Stephen Griffin, Naomh Naille 30. Adrian Hanlon, An Clochan Liath

Notes

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45	Saor	Ciceanna
1AD Leath						
2AD Leath						
Iomlán						

Aontroim

Antrim



Manager: Liam Bradley



Fir Ionaid/Substitutes

16. Peter Graham, Ciceam Creagan 17. Patrick Carey, Mhic Asmoint 18. Ciaran Close, Clann na hEireann
 19. Aaron Douglas, Naomh Eoin 20. Dara Edwards, Naomh Brid 21. Colm Fleming, Uí Donnabhain Rosa
 22. Benny Hasson, Naomh Mhuire 23. Conor Murray, Lamh Dhearg 24. Kevin Niblock, Naomh Gall
 25. Kevin McQuillan, Cuchullian 26. Chris McVeigh, Naomh Seamas 27. Kevin O'Boyle, Clann na hEireann
 28. Neill O'Connell, Naomh Mhuire 29. Deaghlán O'Hagan, Naomh Brid 30. Michael Pollock, Gort na Mona

Notes

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45	Saor	Ciceanna
1AD Leath						
2AD Leath						
Iomlán						

Aontroim Pen Pics

Antrim

Name	Club	Occupation	Age	Height
Colin Brady	St Galls	Engineer	26	6'0"
Kevin Brady	St Ergnats	Teacher	30	5'10"
Sean Burke	St Galls	Student	20	6'0"
Paddy Carey	Roger Casements	Accountant	24	6'0"
Ciaran Close	Erins Own	Contractor	27	5'9"
Justin Crozier	Erins Own	Student	20	6'1"
Patrick Cunningham	Lamh Dhearg	Teacher	23	5'10"
Mark Dougan	Creggan Kickhams	CAD Technician	23	6'1"
Aaron Douglas	St Johns	Student	24	5'11"
Dara Edwards	St Brigids	Accountant	26	6'2"
Colm Fleming	St Johns	Student	19	6'2"
John Finucane	Lamh Dhearg	Solicitor	29	6'2"
Aodhan Gallagher	St Galls	Teacher	24	6'3"
Peter Graham	Creggan Kickhams	Student	21	6'5"
Benny Hasson	Rasharkin	Engineer	23	6'6"
James Loughrey	St Brigids	Student	21	6'0"
Dermot McCann	Creggan Kickhams	Student	20	6'2"
Michael McCann	Erins Own	Quantity Surveyor	23	6'2"
Tomás McCann	Erins Own	Student	21	5'10"
Sean McGreevy	St Pauls	Sales Rep.	39	5'11"
Niall McKeever	Roger Casements	Student	20	6'7"
Odhran McLarnon	Creggan Kickhams	Joiner	19	5'10"
Andrew McClean	St Galls	Sport Scientist	22	6'2"
Kevin McQuillan	Dunloy Cúchulainns	Student	24	6'0"
Chris McVeigh	St James' Aldergrove	Student	21	5'10"
Conor Murray	Lamh Dhearg	Student	21	6'0"
Kevin O'Boyle	Erins Own	Student Teacher	21	5'10"
Neil O'Connell	Ahoghill	Student	23	6'2"
Deaghan O'Hagan	St Brigids	Student	24	5'11"
Michael Pollock	Gort na Mona	Student	22	6'0"
Tony Scullion	Erins Own	Entrepreneur	26	5'10"



“ We have a young team; they have worked hard and are otherwise well prepared for the challenge today” Liam Bradley

A View from the Top

John Joe Doherty, Donegal



We, as a county, are really looking forward to the Ulster Senior Football Championship. Having not played a competitive match since our final game in the National Football League against

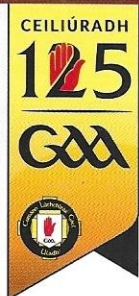
Derry on the 12th April it will be good to be back in action again.

As manager of a football team all games are tough but nothing can be compared to the excitement and expectations of the Football Championship, especially when it's your

first year as manager of a county team, as I am today.

We are expecting a very close encounter against an Antrim side that are really showing great promise, this year, having gone through the League undefeated and only missed out narrowly, by two points, on winning the Division 4 League title to Sligo in the Final. I know that their manager, Liam Bradley, will have prepared them meticulously for this game as well.

Finally, I would like to thank our sponsors and supporters who have supported us during the year, and wish both teams an injury free game.



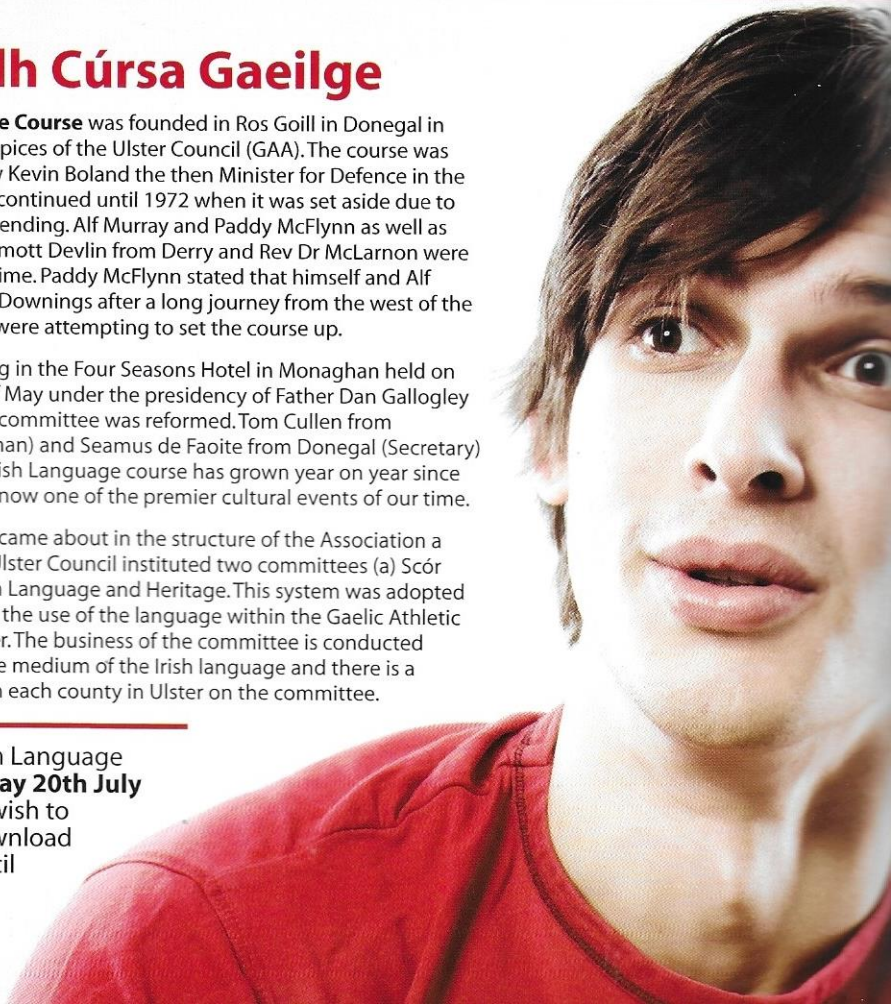
Cuireadh Cúrsa Gaeilge

The Irish Language Course was founded in Ros Goill in Donegal in 1959 under the auspices of the Ulster Council (GAA). The course was officially opened by Kevin Boland the then Minister for Defence in the South. That course continued until 1972 when it was set aside due to lack of numbers attending. Alf Murray and Paddy McFlynn as well as people such as Dermott Devlin from Derry and Rev Dr McLarnon were prominent at that time. Paddy McFlynn stated that himself and Alf Murray cycled into Downings after a long journey from the west of the county when they were attempting to set the course up.

In 1989 at a meeting in the Four Seasons Hotel in Monaghan held on Wednesday 10th of May under the presidency of Father Dan Gallogley the Irish Language committee was reformed. Tom Cullen from Fermanagh (Chairman) and Seamus de Faoite from Donegal (Secretary) were chosen. The Irish Language course has grown year on year since 1989. The course is now one of the premier cultural events of our time.

When big changes came about in the structure of the Association a few years ago the Ulster Council instituted two committees (a) Scór and Culture (b) Irish Language and Heritage. This system was adopted in order to develop the use of the language within the Gaelic Athletic Association in Ulster. The business of the committee is conducted entirely through the medium of the Irish language and there is a representative from each county in Ulster on the committee.

The 2009 Comhairle Uladh Irish Language Course takes place from **Monday 20th July to Saturday 25th July**. If you wish to attend this course, you can download the form from the Ulster Council website: www.ulster.gaa.ie or contact your County Cultural officer.

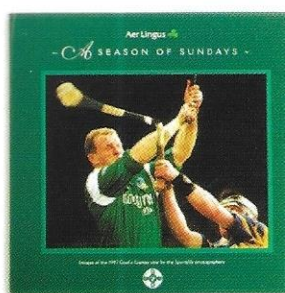
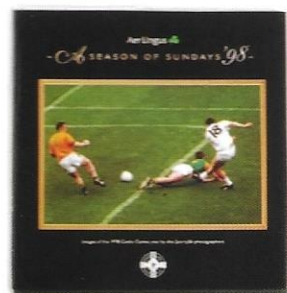
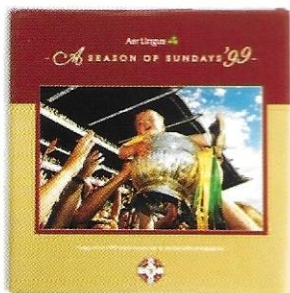
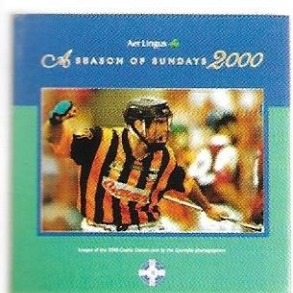
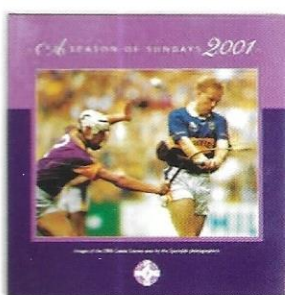
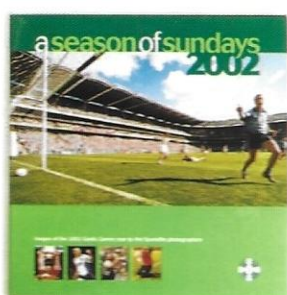
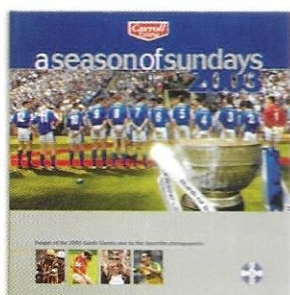
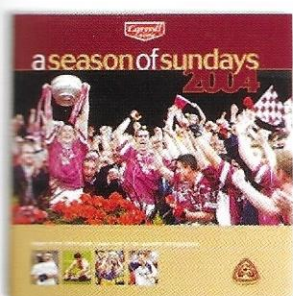
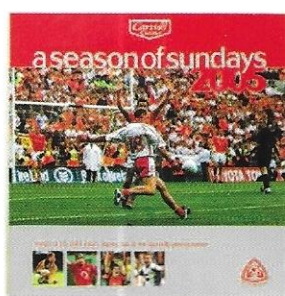
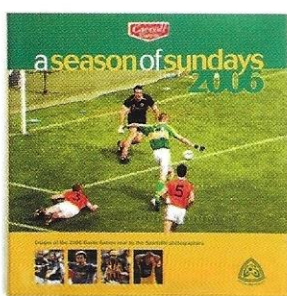
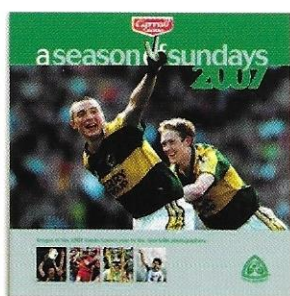
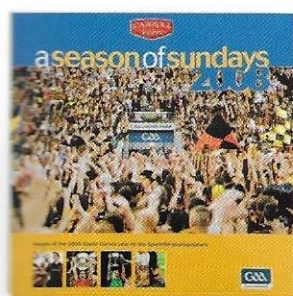




A Season of Sundays

The annual pictorial record of the GAA year by the Sportsfile photographers

2009 edition on sale from mid-November



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Valuing Volunteers

What is the value and importance of a Volunteer in Gaelic life?



The volunteer in the GAA is probably the most important person to the Association and there are thousands worthy of praise.

Volunteers are in essence the very veins of the GAA and always have been since its inception. The role of the 'volunteer' is in effect the pursuit of vocation, in the service of others.

In GAA, as in life, there are both givers and takers; thankfully there are still many givers. The giver will often be hallmarked by way of a happy disposition, primarily because he has no unreasonable expectation or focus upon personal gain and is less likely to suffer disappointment in the way of many others.

In Antrim, we are fortunate to be able to call on the service of many great volunteers, all of whom have the best interests of the GAA in the county at heart.

It is extremely difficult to choose one particular individual who encapsulates all that is good about volunteerism in Antrim. The individual chosen in this article is worthy of all that has been said above and we are extremely grateful to him for his support.

Fergal Mc Cann, from Creggan Kickams, epitomises the values of the true Volunteer. Fergal is a seventeen year old who has accepted life as is, and then set about the task of playing his full and participative role within his local GAA club.

Fergal was chosen as Captain of the Féile team in his era, has since worked with the under eights and was this year invited, by Tony Mc Collum, the Antrim Senior Football Team service manager, to come on board and help out with the running of the Antrim Senior Football team.

There have been more than a few cold, wet training sessions since the commencement of the season and there have also been occasions when all and sundry were battered by sleet and snow or had to endure severe frosty conditions.

Whatever the conditions Fergal was there without failure – invariably weighed down with kit.

The banter was always good; Fergal is well used to getting 'stick' from those within the camp but he is wholeheartedly appreciated as one of the team. He thoroughly deserves due recognition

and hearty appreciation for his efforts.

All too often our volunteers are overlooked. They more than any others, are what has got the GAA to where it is today; an organisation doing sterling work for the benefit of all children throughout Ireland and providing unrivalled competition and spectator sport for people of all denominations throughout the world.

In a troubled society and floundering economy, as we have today in Ireland, the work of the volunteer brings peace of mind and is often of lasting benefit to others in society.

In life not everything is about money and perhaps one of the positives, which could conceivably emerge from this present metamorphic process affecting our domestic economy, there is an ongoing refocus upon some aspects of our daily lives, which will bring back some once cherished traditional values.

Volunteering has a very important role to play in creating a stable and sustainable society. It also brings with it, its own spiritual rewards.

Well done Fergal.



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AN DOMNACH MÓR

BBC Radio Ulster, 6.00pm

Have your say with Lynette Fay, as she discusses
the best of the day's action.

BBC SPORT NI

Donegal 125 List

Gerry McLaughlin looks at the top players to have represented Donegal (Courtesy of The Irish News)...

Martin McHugh was a supreme motivator and playmaker extraordinaire. Got two Allstars and could have had more.

Brian McEniff was a wing-back who worked relentlessly at his game and became a truly great leader.

Tony Boyle perfected a famous sliding method of winning possession and turning in a flash. He won an Allstar in 1992.

Sean O'Donnell was a brilliant reader of the game and had the subtlety to mark feared forwards.

Sean Ferriter played from 1957-1970 and was still fit enough to make a comeback in 1975.

Hudie Beag Gallagher was small in stature, his blistering pace and swerve broke the hearts of many Ulster defenders.

Barry McGowan was a most graceful player who had the balance, vision and intelligence to perform anywhere.

Anthony Molloy had levels of character and charisma that were very apparent in 1992 when he was captain.

Padraig McShea could mix it with the best full-forwards around. Captained his county to an Ulster title in 1974 and received an Allstar.

Hughie Tim Boyle could play anywhere in defence but was an exceptional corner-back in the '40s and '50s.

Mickey McLoone had a thundering shot and incredible pace. His performance in the All-Ireland club final in 1968 was epic.

Manus Boyle was one of the most natural strikers of a ball anywhere. A key figure in Donegal's renaissance from 1987-1993.

PJ Flood was a colossal centre-back from Pettigo. Flood was a magnificent fielder who negated some of the finest forwards in the country.

Michael Lafferty was a no-nonsense stopper at centre-back who also provided superb leadership.

Martin Carney was a flying wing-forward with a headband. Played for the county from 1971-1987.

Paul Kelly was a tidy corner-back who was a key figure on the Railway Cup sides of 1965 and 1966.

John Hannigan played for his county from 1958-1973 and was also a driving force for St Eunan's.

Martin 'Rambo' Gavigan was probably the most powerful centre-back of them all. Held the line superbly in Donegal's triumph in 1992.

Seamus Hoare raised the standard of goalkeeping immeasurably and he won three Railway Cup medals, as well as lining out for Tir Chonaill from 1955-1969.

Michael Carr was a gifted wing-back who plyed in the 1983 Ulster final victory over Cavan. Carr always had time on the ball and he also played corner-forward in the 1974 Ulster victory.

Frankie McFeely became the first Donegal man to lift the Anglo Celt Cup on a wet day in Clones in 1972.

Matt Gallagher was the solid full back on the 1992 team. The Naomh Brid man was one of Tir Chonaill's best performers from 1982-1997. He played 147 county games.

Seamus Bonner is always remembered for the two goals which broke Down hearts in the final of '74.

Anthony Gallagher was a commanding centre-back for Donegal in the Ulster triumphs of 1972-1974.

Jim 'Natch' Gallagher was a tough, uncompromising centre-back in the 1940s and 1950s.

Columba McDyer brought an element of tactics to playing at centre-forward. The Glenties man also had the distinction of playing with the great Cavan team which won

the All-Ireland in New York in 1947.

'Red' Jack Gallagher was a small man with a huge spring and immense physical strength.

Donal Monaghan won an Allstar in 1974 at right corner-back after his county team had taken their second Ulster title in three years.

John Joe Doherty came in as a last minute replacement in '92 to win an Allstar.

Patsy Brogan was a teak tough defender for Four Masters in the leaner days of the 1950s.

Frankie Brennan was equally at home at midfield or the half forward line.

Brian Murray had a great pair of hands and a perfect foil for Molloy. The Aodh Ruadh man was a stylish midfielder.

Donal Reid made a seamless transition from half-forward to wing-back and was a key figure in 1992.

Declan O'Carroll was a commanding figure on the St Joseph's side which dominated club football in the county in the 1960s.

Neily Gallagher was a very skilful corner-forward from Gaoth Dobhair who spent many of his formative years abroad.

Brendan Dunleavy was a very classy wing-back from Sean MacCumhaill's. He played for Donegal from 1975-1989.

Jackie Gallagher was the lynchpin of the great Gaoth Dobhair team which won so many Donegal titles in the 1940s and early '50s

Kieran Keeney was a livewire corner-forward who won two Ulster Championship medals in 1974 and 1983.

Joyce McMullan was one of the most physical forwards ever to play for Donegal. Was vital in 1992.

Kevin Cassidy won an Allstar in 2002 and his combative spirit has inspired Gaoth Dobhair in recent years.

Peadar McGeehan was a clever wing-back in the late 1940s and 1950s. Was a great thinker about the game.

Seamie Granaghan was a pocket rocket from St Joseph's who cut swathes through defences in the 1960s and early '70s.

Noel Hegarty had one of the greatest engines ever seen on a football field. Played for his county from 1991-2001

James McHugh was a wing-forward who had great vision as well and deserved his Allstar in 1992.

Bernard Brady played for the county for five years from 1963-1968 and was a match for many of the top full-forwards around.

Gary Walsh was a quite remarkable keeper and an excellent shot-stopper.

Martin Griffin was a free spirit who made the edge of the square his own and had one of the finest catches ever seen on Donegal fields.

Adrian Sweeney, 'Eddie' was a superb natural scorer who earned an Allstar in 2003.

Brendan Devenney is remembered for scoring 0-14 in the county final of 1999. Great pace and natural strength.

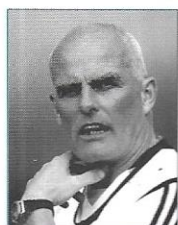
Mick Melly was a really towering presence for Donegal in the late 1930s.

Declan Bonner had skill to burn and tremendous accuracy, a left foot to die for and an ability to punish mistakes ruthlessly.

Brian Roper is the county's current favourite little big man. The record appearance holder has been a fixture for the past 14 years and has the ability to kick truly memorable points against high-quality opposition.

A View from the Top

Liam Bradley, Antrim



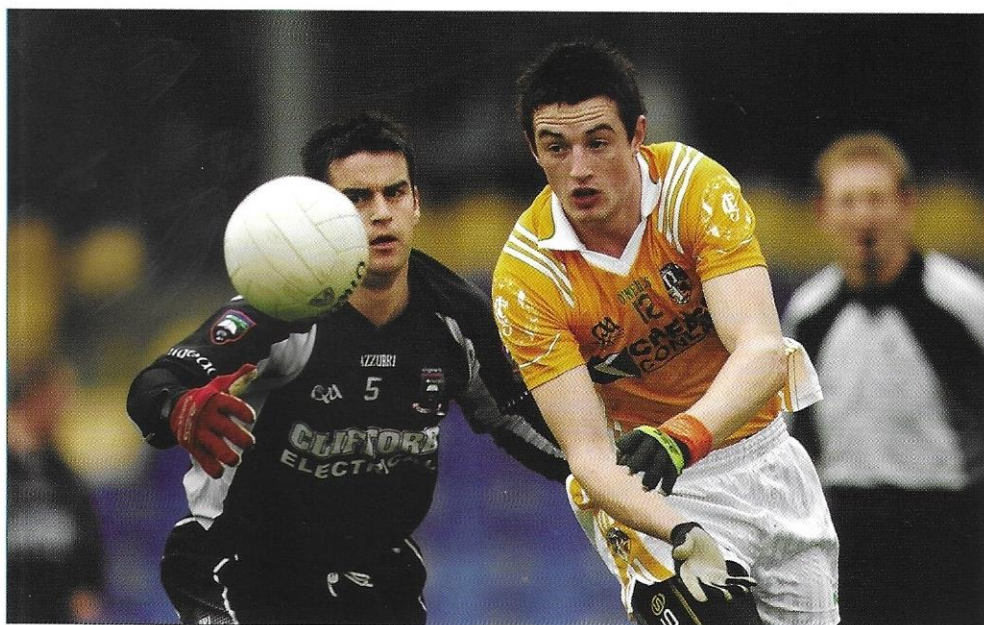
It is a great honour to bring the Antrim Senior Football team to the home of GAA in Donegal today. As usual, we go into today's game very much the underdogs; perhaps rightfully so, as we are playing one of the strongest teams in the country, in their own backyard.

Our primary aim and stated objective, at the beginning of the year, was to achieve promotion to Division 3, where we thought we deserved to be. Having achieved our objective we will expect to face stronger opposition next year, which in turn should provide us with the challenge of rising to the bar, in Antrim Senior Football. Championship Sunday in Ulster is a very special occasion. I sincerely hope that my team can truly express themselves today. We have a young team; they have worked hard and are otherwise well prepared for the challenge today. We have three debutants out today, who will get their first taste of Championship football. I

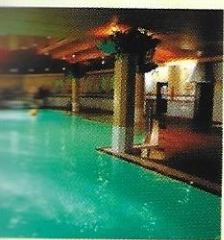
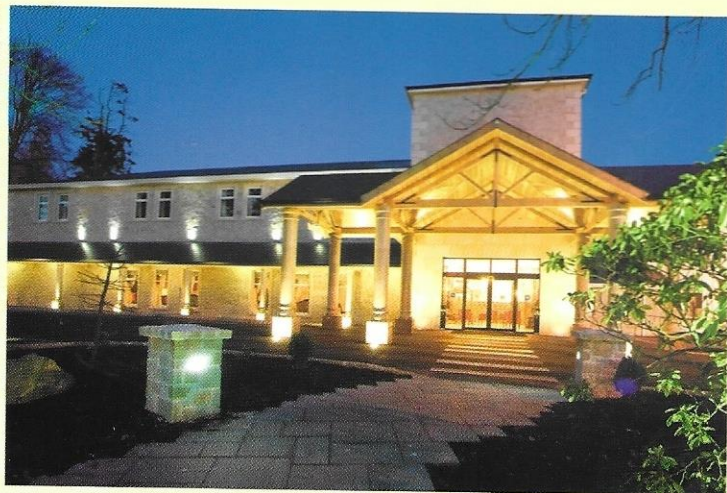
know that they will do their County proud and I want to wish them well.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Niall, Paddy, Mickey and Honda, who worked countless hours, to get the team in peak condition for today's game. I would also wish to express my appreciation to the medical team and my thanks to Tony Mc Collum, our sponsors Creagh Concrete and to the County Board; a special word of thanks to you, our supporters, for being the 16th player on our team, especially throughout this season. Now the time has come for you, the players to show the rest of Ulster that you have pride in your county. Go out today and keep your heads high – you have the talent and the ability – use it well, and earn lasting respect for both yourselves and for your County. Lastly and by no means least, I want to thank my partner Carmel, who has to endure both the highs and the lows of a County Manager, during the past six months. Enjoy the game.

Antrim Abu.



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Land of the Giants

Ulster GAA Website on the Ball

Packed with exclusive video-interviews, fixtures, facts and figures, picture galleries and a bit of fun, this unique Ulster Championship-focused site offers the Ulster GAA fan a rich vein of content. The site even offers fans the opportunity to purchase highly sought-after match tickets online.

The site is part of Ulster GAA's Land of the Giants marketing campaign for this summer's action. And the creative team at Lairdesign that conceived the innovative campaign have been lauded by Ulster Gaels for their unique approach.

Ulster GAA's Damian Kelly said: "Over the years supporters have come to expect certain standards from Ulster GAA in the way we market our games. Many of the things we have done are looked up to by the other provinces and the Land of the Giants micro-site is our way of adding value to the Ulster Championship for the Ulster GAA supporter. Through this site we can engage with the fans. There are opportunities on there for them to state their own views and opinions. We keep it updated daily with unique exclusive content."

Fehin Quinn, Creative Director at Lairdesign says:

"The Land of the Giants idea is inspired by the legends of Ulster, the tales of great feats, magnificent achievements and heroism; of giants and epic battles. We used the Giant's Causeway, a world heritage site to draw attention to our own heritage of Gaelic Games and the 125 celebrations."

Ulster GAA has been promoting the 'Land of the Giants' campaign via billboards which have been strategically positioned throughout the province of Ulster and are displayed in the participating counties the week before the county is involved in the Ulster Championship. The campaign is also promoted through posters, flyers, newspaper advertising, Championship programmes and now through the dedicated website. In the first week, almost 3,000 people visited the site, with the video interviews and the

programme features proving most popular among the users.

The site features everything an Ulster GAA fan could want ranging from detailed match information, previews and a wealth of online video interviews compiled by respected sports journalist Jerome Quinn.

Lairdesign's Fehin Quinn said: "That all adds to the buzz of the Ulster Championship. If you look at other sports the way they market their games is really eye-catching. This shows Ulster GAA up there with the best."

Ulster GAA fans can keep in touch with all the latest Championship news, views and opinions on the Ulster GAA Land of the Giants website.



www.ulster.gaa.ie/landofthegiants/



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Antrim 125 List

Tony McGee selects the finest players to have worn the Saffron shirt (Courtesy of The Irish News)...

Kevin Armstrong was undoubtedly one of the best forwards that Ulster ever produced. The O'Connell's club man was a dual player with both county and province, and he also gave back much of what he learned as Antrim football manager.

Brian Bateson was a strong, attacking half-back from Creggan, whose charges up the right wing relieved many a dangerous moment for the Antrim defence.

Joe Bateson played in attack, mostly on the half-forward line, from where he took many vital scores in the 1960s. A handful for any opponent.

John Burns began his county career as a minor goalkeeper, but then moved out to the edge of the square, where he became a permanent fixture.

Mickey Darragh (Junior, the St John's man) was one of the best in the '80s. Stocky in stature, he ran at defences with purpose and his speed left many a defender in his wake.

Aidan Donnelly had spells in attack, at half-back and corner-back, despite his lack of height. Wherever he played he gave 100 per cent.

Danny Dougan, the Falls Road postman delivered many a blow to opposing teams' against the Saffrons.

Paddy Dougan, as a minor, the Dunloy teenager played at full-back in the last Antrim team to win the Ulster title (1951). Even then, he was a pillar of strength in front of goal and his shrewdness as a footballer was later carried into industry.

Greg Finnegan was sound as a bell at full-back with good hands and long clearances. Greg's career in the Saffron shirt ended prematurely as he decided to concentrate on his dentistry business.

Frank Fitzsimmons was the typical rugged midfielder, with endless supplies of energy.

Donal Forde made his name early as he played senior county football when barely out of teenage years. He was a full-forward in the Antrim team of the early '50s.

Sean Gallagher was an imposing figure in midfield and he also managed Antrim for a time and, when in the army, steered the careers of other county footballers.

Sean Gibson was a corner-forward in the 1951 Ulster Championship winning team 'Medicine Man' Sean continued his attacking role for some further years.

Aidan Hamill was fast and accurate, he was a nightmare for opponents as he twisted

and turned and was accurate with both feet.

Ciaran Hamill was a player who led his line with purpose and was usually available to cover off when the need arose.

Sean Kelly is another centre-back who can stamp his authority on a game. He has been in the county side since his teenage days.

Seamus Killough extracted much pleasure from Antrim fans as he bossed forwards from far and wide. Seamus played at full-back in the All-Ireland U21-winning side.

Tony McAtamney was effective at both midfield and centre-back and manned the middle for a long spell. He was another Antrim player who played with Ulster.

Andy McCallin is Antrim's only football Allstar. Another product of the Saffron U21 national-winning side who was a speedy right corner-forward with an accurate boot. Small in stature, he made up for his lack of inches with his ability to evade tackles and speed past opponents for scores.

Joe McCallin, an uncle of Andy's, but from a different era. Joe shared in the glory days of the '40s and '50s and, like his sharpshooting nephew, was a corner-forward.

Antrim 125 List

Gerry McCann normally operated at centre-forward, from where he snapped up many great scores.

Gerry McCrory won a Sigerson Cup medal with Queen's University and won many plaudits from the fans.

Frank McCorry was not only a gifted footballer, he was an all-round sportsman, also excelling at golf and basketball.

Jim McCorry missed the best of Antrim's days, but he stood out as one of the best full-backs in Ulster and beyond during his county days.

Sean McGreevy played between the Antrim posts during the past two decades bringing off many an important save. The St Paul's man ranks with the best.

Pat McKay played in the Saffron side of the '60s that could hold its own with the best, but still didn't get the results many felt they deserved.

John McKiernan was a powerhouse in Antrim teams during the '70s and '80s. He played university football and for Ulster teams.

Malachy McMahon was from the old school. A player who stood firm in the face of pressure. A strong defender, he was a most difficult player to out-fox or shake off.

Alex McQuillan was the typical attacking half-back who also had some outings in attack.

Stephen Mulvenna, if only for the fact that he is the proud holder of an All-Ireland senior football medal, he deserves inclusion. Granted, the medal was won during his spell playing with Derry, but he gave many good displays for his native Antrim.

Paddy Murray played with success during the '40s and '50s. He was a member of the 1951 Ulster SFC-winning side.

Paddy O'Hara was a wily corner-forward who proved a real headache for defenders the country over, not least defenders from Kerry.

Peter O'Hara was a midfielder of great ability he was many inches taller than his sibling and made full use of every inch he had. Fearsome in the air and accurate in attack.

Paul 'PJ' O'Hare was an under-rated player. The St Gall's man was an exceptional full-forward and deceptively fast for his size.

John P O'Kane made his mark with Antrim and, later, with Louth, wearing both the Ulster and Leinster jerseys.

Hugh O'Kane was a strong player of the '50s and '60s,

Hugh captained Queen's in the Sigerson Cup.

Harry O'Neill, the Glenavy clubman was among the best centre fielders.

Joe Quinn captained the team for quite a spell and led by wholehearted example. A fine fielder of the ball.

Jimmy Roe was a tenacious little corner-back who gave opponents little room to run. He was also a fine dead-ball kicker and took kick-outs with precision.

Patsy Totten was a tough tackling half-back, usually playing on the right side of defence. He was a member of the '60s side that pushed other teams to the limits.

Liam Vaughan, the life of Fr Liam was cut short, but not before he left his mark on football as a left winger in attack. A speedster whose scything runs cut through many defences.

Harry Vernon led the way as a goalkeeper in the '40s. One of the old style 'keepers who had to deal with a lot more pressure from forwards than the present custodians.

George Watterson was a wiry, tall defender who could deal with any style of opponent. He made full use of the lean frame he had to man the square with confidence.

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Long Time Gone, So Why Retire?

Well-informed ignorance. Talking Balls Resident Expert Ger Manas gives his opinion on today's match.



Whenever a fella ever tells me he thinks he's givin' up playin' football I always tell him to think twice. It's just like bein' dead I say, you're a long time retired, and that's a fact.

Nowadays things is changed from when I gave up playin', thanks be to God. Them days boys slipped down the ranks, some gracefully, some disgracefully. Bit like those catchpenny's ye see in shops for the lifeboats, where the

next county minor star, cept you're old enough to be his oul boy and slow enough ye couldn' catch him anyway. Flat out provin' to someone ye still have it. The wife nods and maybe agrees, but really she's thinkin' about the jobs for ye about the house.

Maybe the club has a third team, ye may hit it on the way out, like a drunk man hittin' a saloon door on the stumble home. Finally there's pure desperation when the boys call one Sunday mornin' lookin' ye to dig out the boots, just one more time. The young lads away on a stag, and they hope you'd never turn them down. Until now that is. Last of all ye may stand in round full forward if the club has a social game at Christmas. The dawnin' on ye comes droppin' slow.

One club I know's lookin' to introduce social football on Sunday evenin's for oul boys like mesel that think they could do better. Other boys know better from bitter experience, after ripped hamstrings and split heads from arrivin' too late in the tackle. There's other lads whose ambition is get back in togs they wore years ago. Life's optimists them boys. They forgot how much they paid for that gut.

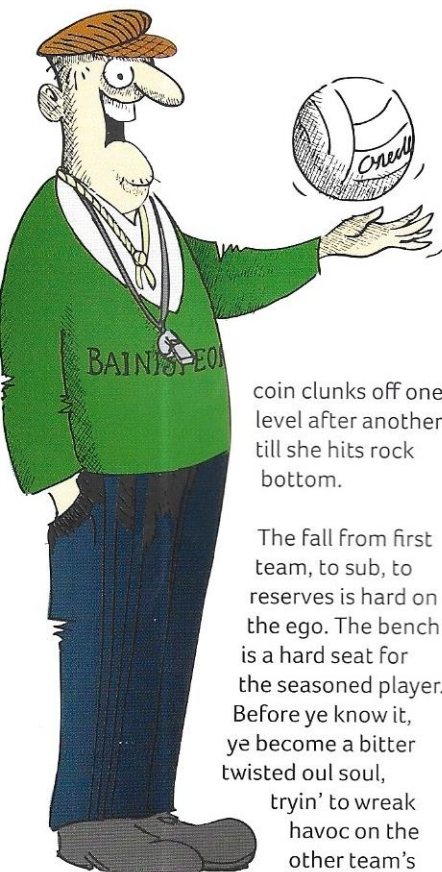
I went along to pitch openin' there in the granddaughter's

club. The Antrim Masters was one of the attractions. Before the game them and the Derry lads paraded with the club's under-eights round the park. Might as well been in Clones, Casement or Ballybofey.

Them Masters fellas were that good with the youngsters, ye wouldn't believe it. The young lad walkin' with Henry Downey hadn' a clue who he was with, made no odds to him all the same. The youngsters felt like kings, chest puffed out, stridin' along behind the band, proud as punch. The mothers wipin' a tear at the sight of it. This was their All Ireland, and who only knows what dreams was in their heads.

The Masters too, some them boys only started with the county when they should have known better, but means the world all the same. Come half-time the youngsters got to play their own ball. The pace was maybe a bit faster than the Masters, but under 8, over 40, no matter. The craic was much the same. There's life in them boys yet.

And I'm thinkin' to meself, maybe today's game will be a bit faster and so I'm chancing me arm for a Saffron scare.



coin clunks off one level after another till she hits rock bottom.

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DERRY PEOPLE

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MONDAY EDITION

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FIRST WITH THE NEWS AND SPORT EVERY MONDAY

DONEGAL FACE ANTRIM IN ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

BY G.J. McNEIL

THE NEW Donegal football team, under the guidance of manager John O'Connell, are set to face Antrim in the first round of the Ulster Senior Football Championship on Sunday, June 7.

The Donegal team, who were promoted to the top tier of the Gaelic football pyramid last year, will be looking to make a strong start to their championship campaign.

The match will be played at the Antrim Gaelic Grounds, and will be a crucial test for the Donegal team as they look to establish themselves as a force to be reckoned with in the province.

The Donegal team will be led by captain [Name], and will be supported by a strong squad of players who have shown their quality in the league and in the county cup.

The Antrim team, who are the defending champions, will be a tough opponent for the Donegal team to face.

The match is expected to be a high-quality affair, and will be a real test of the Donegal team's ability to compete at the highest level of the game.



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FULL MATCH COVERAGE

IN TOMORROW'S
DERRY PEOPLE
DONEGAL NEWS

Sraith Staire 125

Dónal Mac An Ailín

i 1889, agus bhog sé go Béal Feirste mar dhéagóir. Cháiligh sé mar mhúinteoir i gColáiste De La Salle, Port Láirge, agus chaith sé leathbhliain in Ollscoil na Banríona chomh maith. D'imir sé iomáint le Cumann Sheáin Uí Mhistéil (agus le Cumann Sheaghain an Díomais ar feadh tamaill fosta), agus do Chontae Aontroma. Bhuaigh sé dhá bhonn Chraobh Iománaíochta Uladh, i 1913 agus 1916. Ceapadh é mar Rúnaí Chontae Aontroma ó 1915 go 1917 agus toghadh é mar Uachtarán Chomhairle Uladh ó 1919 go 1923.

Dobbyn was in the small group who assembled at Coalisland at Easter 1916, to join in the Rising, but received countermanding orders. He and his father, Henry, a Fenian veteran, and younger brother Phonsie, were then interned at Frongoch, Wales. He was imprisoned again in Wakefield in March 1917 for "making statements likely to cause disaffection to His Majesty" in a private letter. At Lincoln Jail in 1919 he helped Éamon de Valera to escape, but was promptly punished with solitary confinement and hard labour.

In 1919 Dobbyn was elected as Uachtarán of Comhairle Uladh, when his predecessor, Patrick Whelan (Muineachán), retired due to a recent ban on oath-taking civil servants. Dobbyn remained in this position until early 1923.

During the War of Independence Dobbyn was intelligence officer to the IRA's Belfast brigade. In 1920 he was jailed again in Mountjoy and Kilmainham jails. He got out in time to attend an Ulster Council meeting in July, but for the next fifteen months the Council ceased to function, largely due to the other distractions of Dobbyn and its secretary, Eoin O Duffy.

In spring 1922 Dobbyn went to the USA, as official representative of Dáil Éireann to organise the Tailteann Games. He returned after the Irish Civil War and lived in Dublin until his death in 1966.

Is í Brídín Uí Mhaolagáin, iníon Shéamuis agus iar-Uachtarán Chumann Camógaíochta na hÉireann (1991-94), a bhronn an mhír seo do Leabharlann Uí Fhiaich.

The Ó Fiaich Library's Ulster GAA 125 Years History exhibition can be seen Monday-Friday until the autumn. The library also holds a recorded interview with Dobbyn about the revolutionary period, in the Fr Louis O Kane papers. Tuilleadh eolais: 028-37522981 / eolas@ofaich.ie

Tomorrow night, Monday 15 June, at 7.30 p.m., the library will host a night celebrating the 1960s Down teams. After a talk by Joe Lennon, footage of Down games (1959-68) will be shown.

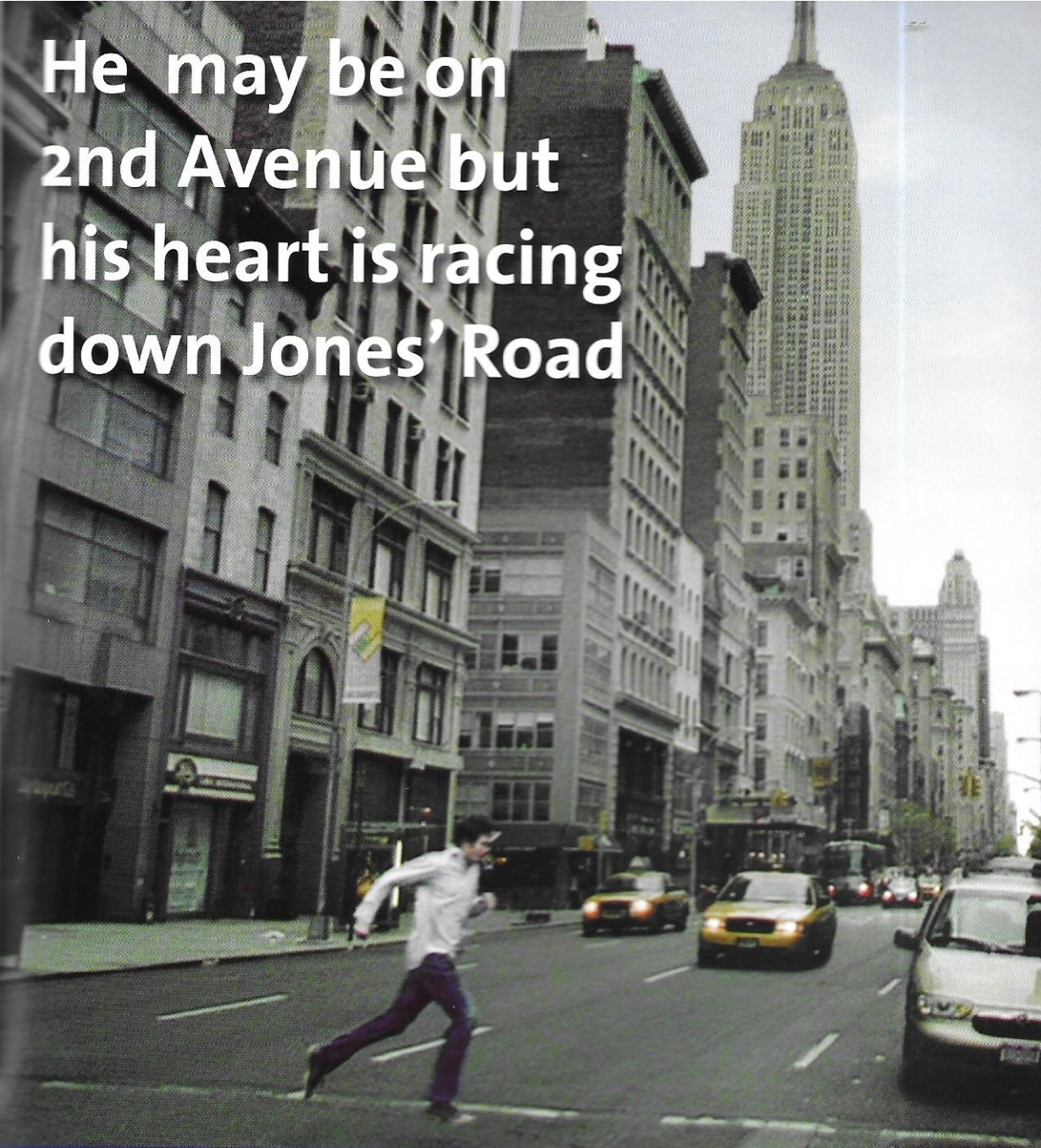
I gcláir Uladh na bliana seo amharcfaidh muid ar mhíreanna éagsúla ó 125 bliain de CLG.

This year's Ulster programmes carry a special series on items displayed in the current Ulster GAA history exhibition at the Cardinal Ó Fiaich Library & Archive, Armagh.

Today we feature a walking stick presented to Séamus Dobbyn, Uachtarán of Comhairle Uladh, by Irish Independent, in 1919, with the cryptic inscription – "as a souvenir of your visit to Ireland". This was in fact an allusion to his release from Lincoln Jail.

Rugadh Séamus i mBéal Eachaidh, Co. Dhoire

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2nd Avenue but
his heart is racing
down Jones' Road



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LAND OF THE GIANTS

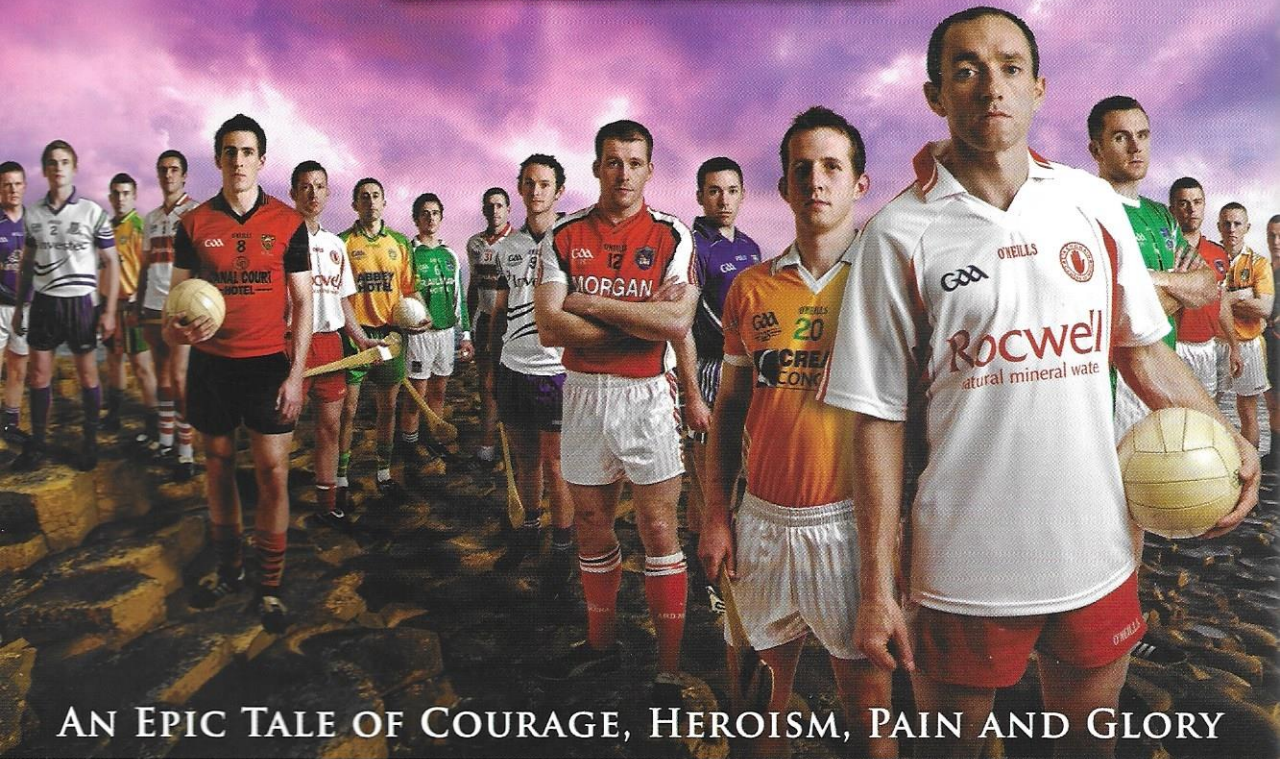
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