



**GAA**  
FOOTBALL  
ALL-IRELAND SENIOR  
CHAMPIONSHIP

GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

# DÚN NA NGALL v MAIGH EÓ

DONEGAL v MAYO

ELECTRIC IRELAND GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL  
AN MHI v ÁTH CLIATH / MEATH v DUBLIN

**Páirc an Chrócaigh, Meán Fómhair 23 2012**

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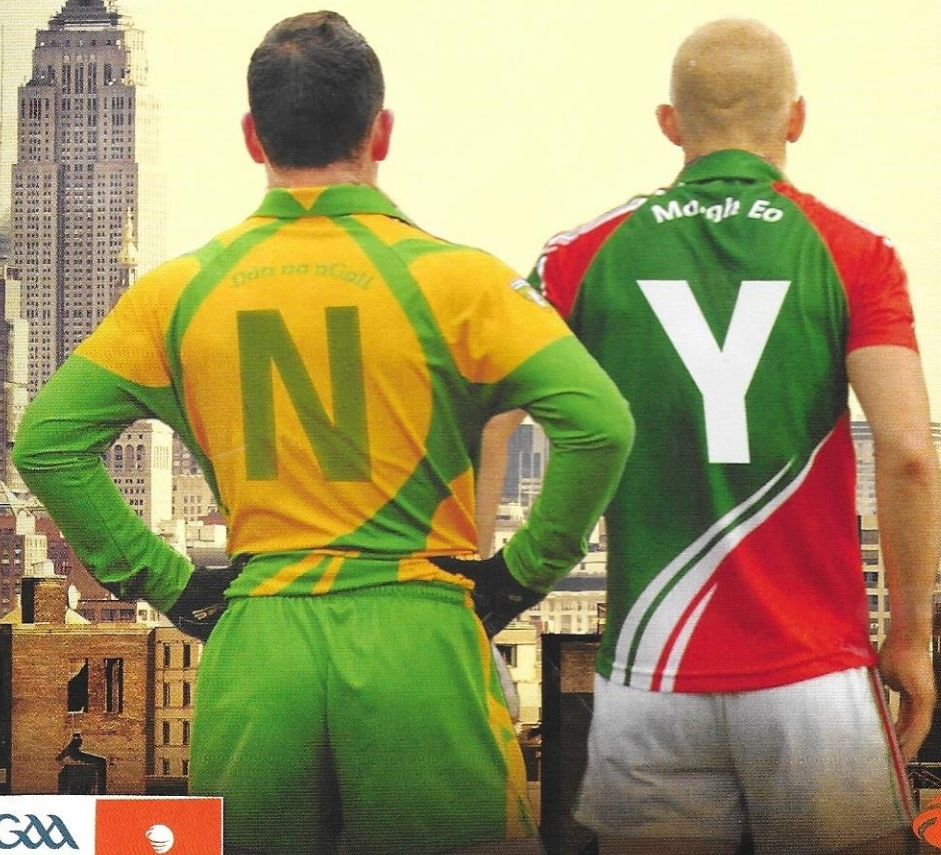
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ELECTRIC IRELAND GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

1.15 PM



## AN MHÍ v ÁTH CLIATH

REFEREE: Barry Cassidy (Bellaghy Wolfe Tones, Doire)

LINESMEN: Martin Higgins (Fear Manach) (STANDBY REFEREE), Fergal Kelly (An Longfort)

SIDELINE OFFICIAL: Jerome Henry (Maigh Eo)

Umpires: Kevin Torner (Bellaghy Wolfe Tones), Anthony Campbell (O'Donovan Rossa), Tom O'Kane (St Malachy's Castledawson), Alan Nash (Derrytrasna)

## GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

3.30 PM



## DÚN NA nGALL v MAIGH EO

REFEREE: Maurice Deegan (Stradbally, Laois)

LINESMEN: David Coldrick (An Mhí) (STANDBY REFEREE), Eddie Kinsella (Laois)

SIDELINE OFFICIAL: Conor Lane (Corcaigh)

Umpires: Kevin O'Brien (St Joseph's), Seán Langton (St Joseph's), Alan Abbey (Stradbally), Richard Oxley (Tímhaoe)

### AMHRÁN NA BHFIANN

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ná faoin tráill.  
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bhearna baoil  
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun  
báis nó saoil

Le gunna screach faoi  
lámhach na bpiléar,  
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.

Dearadh

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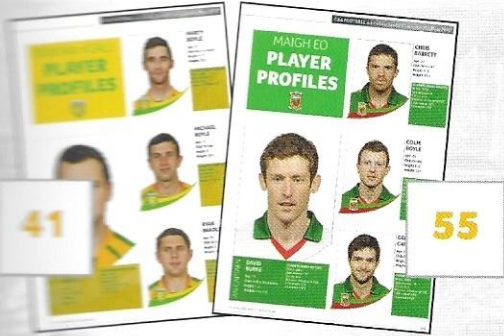


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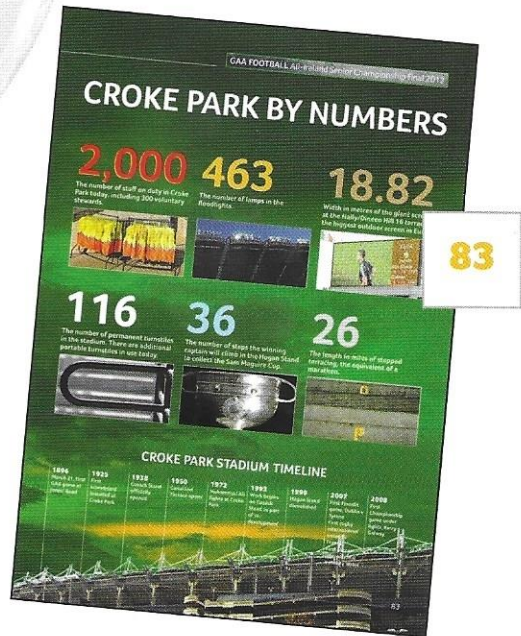
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**Check out The Family Funzone in the Davin Car Park**

It's free to match ticket holders and open today from 11.30am-3.00pm  
Activities for the young and young at heart include:

- Big Match Preview with former and current football greats
- Large screen
- Skills game cage
- Interactive football gGames
- Balloon modelers
- GAA Handball Wall
- Have your picture taken with the Sam Maguire cup
- Novelty Games

Access to the Funzone is off NCR (beyond Gill's pub) and from the Russell Street Bridge entrance (Jones's Road).

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The Artane Band



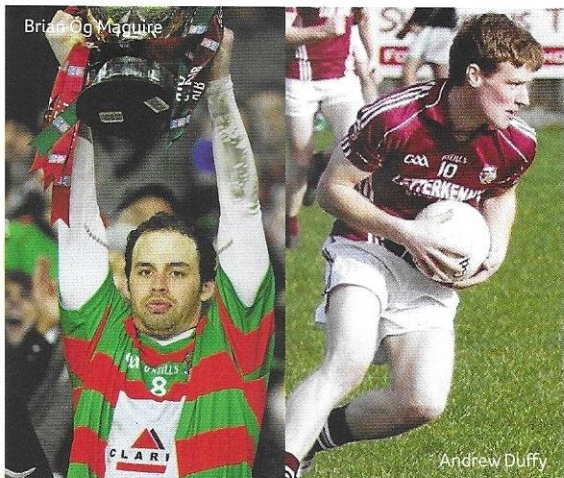
The Donegal senior team



# CLÁR AN LAE

- 12.55pm **ÁTH CLIATH** amach ar an bpáirc
- 12.57pm **AN MHÍ** amach ar an bpáirc
- 12.58pm Réiteoir amach ar an bPáirc
- 01.00pm Toss of coin
- 01.05pm An Taoiseach arrives in Croke Park
- 01.09pm Introduction of Uachtarán CLG, agus a bhean agus Eirleamh CLG
- 01.10 Introduction of An Taoiseach leis an Ard Stiúrthóir agus a bhean - via players' tunnel
- 01.15pm Tús Chluiche Peil Mhionúir na hÉireann
- 01.47pm\* Leath am
- 01.49pm\* INTO/RESPECT Exhibition Go Games
- 1.50pm\* The Buachaills
- 01.57pm\* Tús an dara leath
- 02.30pm\* Críoch an cluiche
- 02.32pm\* Presentation of trophy
- 02.35pm\* Winning minor team lap of honour
- 02.40pm Jubilee Team – An Mhí 1987 and 1988
- 03.05pm Uachtarán na hÉireann arrives in Croke Park

Brian Óg Maguire



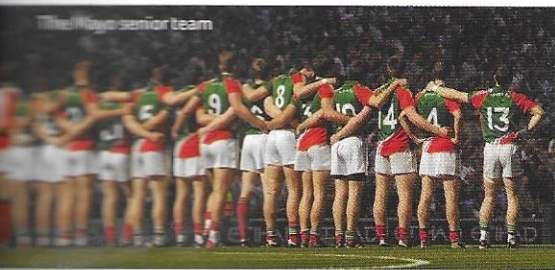
Andrew Duffy

The Buachaills

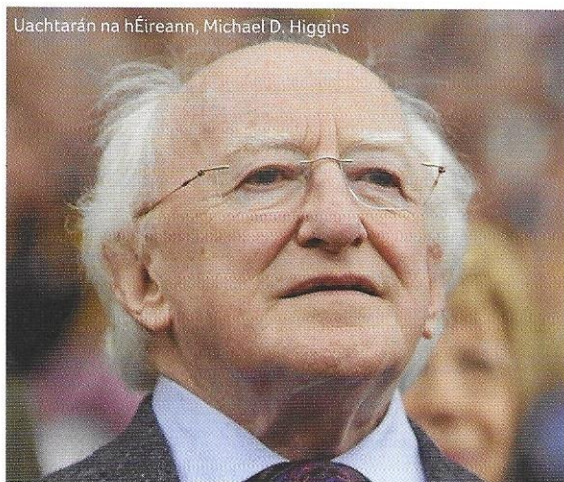


Minor football, Tom Markham Cup





The Mayo senior team



Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins

# 2012

- 03:05pm **DÚN NA NGALL** amach ar an bpáirc
- 03:07pm **MAIGH EO** amach ar an bpáirc
- 03:08pm Réiteoir amach ar an bpáirc
- 03:10pm Toss of coin
- 03:12pm Player profiles
- 03:17pm Uachtarán na hÉireann agus a bhean introduced accompanied by Uachtarán CLG agus a bhean
- 03:18pm Uachtarán na hÉireann meets the teams
- 03:23pm Paráid na fóirne
- 03:27pm Moment's Silence
- 03:29pm Amhrán na bhFiann – Artane Band
- 03:30pm Tús Craobh Peil na hÉireann 2012
- 04:07pm\* Leath am
- 04:12pm\* Janet Devlin
- 04:22pm\* Tús an dara leath
- 05:00pm\* Críoch an cluiche
- 05:03pm\* Presentation of trophy by Uachtarán CLG, Lap of honour by winning team

\*Depending on 'added time'



Meath Jubilee team



Senior football, Sam Maguire Cup



Janet Devlin





# TEACHTAIREACHT AN UACHTARÁIN

Is cúis mhór áthais dom fáilte a chur romhaibh anseo inniu ar an lá speisialta seo agus ceithre chontae ag teacht le chéile ag iarradh craobhacha a thabhairt abhaile leo.

Bhí séasúr iontach againn sa pheil i mbliana agus cé go raibh imní ar dhaoine i dtús na bliana faoin treo ina raibh an pheil ag dul, is cúis áthais dúinn gur shocraigh na foirne a dhúil ar an ionsaí, rud a d'fhág na cluichí i bhfad níos taitneamhaí ag an lucht féachana

Seo é an lá mór ag na daoine ar fad ar ansa leo an Pheil Ghaelach, ní amháin sa tír seo, ach freisin in áiteacha thar lear ina bhfuil Éireannaigh bailithe. Riamh cheana ní raibh oiread suime san ócáid thar lear agus tá na mílte imirceach as Dún na nGall agus as Maigh Eo fillte ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh inniu. Geallaim dóibh go bhfuil fáilte agus fiche rompu ar ais inár measc. Pé ar bith caoi a bhféachann duine air, ba chomórtas faoi leith é Craobhchomórtas 2012. Facthas cluichí den scoth, iomaíochtaí cothroma agus ag deireadh an bhóthair tá cluiche an lae inniu – Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann atá uathúil, spreagúil.

Bhuaigh an dá fhoireann craobhacha a gcúigí agus chuireadar foirne a raibh ceapadh mór dóibh de dhroim seoil. Tá díogras faoi leith le brath sa dá chontae agus is léiríú sin ar an meas atá ar na himreoirí ag a lucht a leanta.

Is léir dóibh siúd a bhfuil ard-scíl acu sa pheil agus fiú acu siúd nach bhfuil go bhfuil an Pheil Ghaelach ag síor-athrú.

Cé go bhfuil muide mar riarthóirí sásta leis an gcaoi ar thit an séasúr amach go dtí seo, ní mór dúinn a bheith ag caitheamh súil chun cinn de shíor. Tá a bhfuil i ndán don Pheil Ghaelach ag

brath go mór ar an obair atá idir lámha acu siúd atá ag plé le Forbairt na gCluichí.

Tá an Oilúint roinnte againn ina trí choda, mar seo a leanas :

Roinn do Phaistí (Daltaí Bunscoile) Roinn do Ógánaigh (Buachaillí Dara Leibhéal). Ní cuirtear cailíní a bhíonn os cionn 12 bliain san áireamh mar gheall ar chúrsaí sábháilteachta. Roinn do Dhaoine Fásta (Iad siúd is sine ná Ógánaigh).

Ceadaíonn seo dúinn freastal a dhéanamh ar na riachtanais atá ag ár n-imreoirí ar fad.

Níl foláir dúinn a chinntiú go bhfuil dóthain cluichí ar fáil do dhéagóirí sa chaoi agus go leanfaidh siad orthu ag imirt ár gcluichí. "Imir agus fan le CLG" an mana atá againn agus ní mór dúinn seasamh leis sin. Tá roinnt mhaith den obair déanta san athbhreithniú atá á dhéanamh ar an bPeil Ghaelach agus tá Eugene McGee agus a choiste ag oibriú go dícheallach chun a chinntiú go dtabharfar deis do gach duine ar mian leo sin a dhéanamh a dtuairimí faoin bPeil Ghaelach a nochthead. Tá mé ag súil go mór le toradh a gcuid oibre agus leis na moltaí a thiocthaid uathu.

Foirne as Cúige Laighean atá againn i gcluiche na míonúr – athimirt ar Chluiche Ceannais an Chúige sin, a bhuaigh Áth Cliath agus iadsan ag déanamh an bhealaigh chuig Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann don dara bliain as a chéile.

Léirigh foireann na Mí an mianach dúshlánach atá iontu féin sa chluiche leathcheannais in aghaidh Mhaigh Eo agus sa bhfeachtas seo freisin tá buaite acu ar Thír Eoghain.

Is do Átha Cliath is mó a thugtar seans, ach ní gá a chur i gcuimhne dóibh céard a tharla i gcluiche ceannais na bliana seo caite in aghaidh Thiobraid Árann. Ba chóir go mbeadh an cluiche seo chomh maith le ceann na sinsear.

Guídhim gach rath ar na himreoirí, ar lucht a mbainistíochta, a dtraenáilithe agus ar lucht a riartha.

Chomh tábhachtach céanna tá an ról a bheidh ag feidhmeannaigh na gcluichí tráthnóna agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh siadsan freisin ard-shásamh as an deis, nach dtagann an bealach go minic ach aon uair amháin.

Mar chróllár san ócáid seo chomh maith tá meoin na n-oibrithe deonacha. Ní bheadh ar ár gcumas an lá seo a bheith againn dá bhfuireasa. Níor chóir a n-iarrachtaí siúd a ligean i ndearmad, ach oiread le hiarrachtaí na n-imreoirí, a thugann a gcuid ama féin go deonach freisin ar ndóigh. Ná ligimís a thábhacht sin as ár gcuimhne go deo.

Focal buíochais faoi leith don lucht leanta a rinne freastal ar na cluichí i rith an tsamhraidh agus dóibh siúd a raibh sé de ádh orthu ticéad a fháil do chluichí an lae inniu. Tá súil agam go mbeidh an lá chomh maith leis an gceann a bhfuil súil againn leis.

Faoi dheireadh, thar ceann an Chumainn, ba mhaith liom ár mbuíochas a ghabháil le hurraithe chomórtais na sinsear, Eircom, Supervalu agus Ulster Bank agus do Electric Ireland, urraithe na míonúr. Is mór a chuidíonn a bhfuinneamh leis na comórtais agus tá súil againn a bheith ag obair as lámha a chéile san am atá le theacht.

Rath Dé ar an Obair



For the very many people who have a passion for Gaelic football, not just here in Ireland but around the globe this is their day of days. Never has interest from our diaspora been so intense and thousands of Mayo and Donegal people from around the world will today descend on Croke Park. Let me assure them that they are most welcome back amongst us.

The 2012 championship was by any standard a remarkable competition. We had thrilling contests, close results and today we end with the most unique and exciting of All-Ireland finals. Both teams have taken the traditional route of claiming provincial silverware along the way and have accounted for fancied teams. The fervour evident in both counties points to the appeal of both games to their respective sets of supporters.

The ongoing evolution of the game of Gaelic football is very apparent to both aficionados and those with only a passing interest.

While we are happy with the season so far, we administrators always have to have an eye to the future. The work of our Games Development team is vital to securing the future of Gaelic football. We have divided our coaching into three areas as follows:

Child Section (primary school children), Youth Section (second level boys; girls are not included after 12 years of age for safety reasons), Adult Section (those older than youth). This allows us to meet the unique needs of all our players.

We have to ensure that our teenagers get a regular programme of games to ensure that they stick with us. Our games motto is "Play and Stay with the GAA" and we need to live up to it. The review of Gaelic football is well underway now and Eugene McGee and his committee are working hard to make sure that all who wish to express a view on Gaelic football will get a

chance to do so. I look forward to their findings and to the suggestions they will make.

In today's minor game we have an all-Leinster pairing and a re-match of that province's final which Dublin won on the way to what is their second consecutive All-Ireland final appearance.

Meath showed admirable battling qualities in their semi-final win over Mayo and also accounted for Tyrone while resurrecting their campaign.

Dublin may enter the contest as the fancied outfit but will need no reminding of last year's final reversal at the hands of Tipperary. All told it should be as fascinating as the senior tussle.

I wish all competing players, their managers, coaches and trainers and all backroom team members every success ahead of their respective assignments.

Of equal importance is the role our match officials will play this afternoon and I hope they derive great satisfaction from their roles on what is for many people a once in a life time experience.

The volunteer ethos that underpins today's event is something that should not be allowed to go unnoticed and from stewards right up to players it is a strand that makes our final day unique. It is something we should never take for granted.

A special word of thanks is due to all of our supporters who attended our games throughout the summer and especially to those lucky enough to acquire prized tickets for today's event. I hope today's experience lives up to its billing.

Finally, on behalf of the Association I would like to express our gratitude to

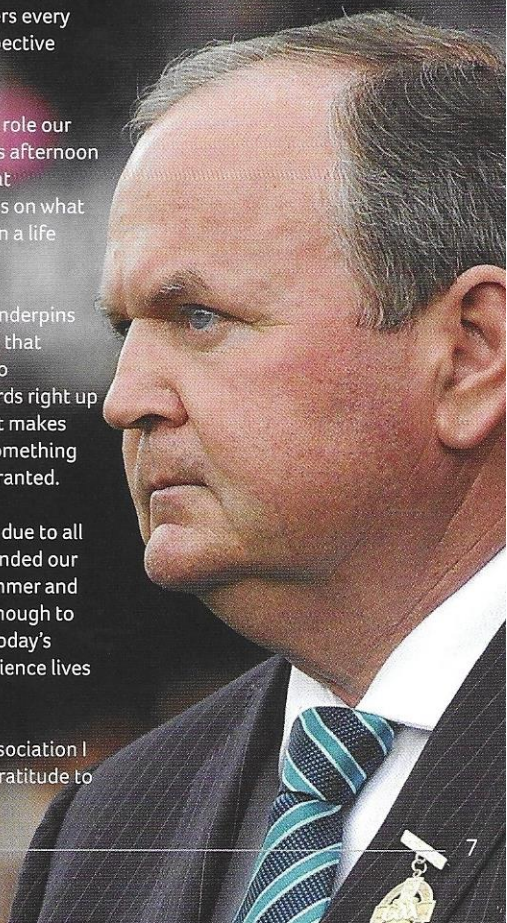
our senior sponsors eircom, SuperValu and Ulster Bank and to our minor partners Electric Ireland for the passion and creativity they bring to our competition. We look forward to working with them into the future.

Rath Dé ar an obair,

*Liam Ó Néill*

Liam Ó Néill

Uachtarán  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael







# SPONSORS' MESSAGE



Herb Hribar,  
CEO,  
eircom



I am delighted to welcome everyone to Croke Park today for what promises to be a fantastic All-Ireland football final. On behalf of all the staff at eircom, I would like to congratulate both Donegal and Mayo on reaching the final. The road to today's final has undoubtedly been an exciting one and I am sure that today will be no exception. Donegal's last victory was in 1992 and Mayo's back in 1951, so I am sure that both teams and supporters are very excited about the prospect of bringing the Sam Maguire Cup back to their respective counties. I would like to take this opportunity to wish both teams the very best of luck.

eircom is thrilled to be a sponsor for the GAA. In our second season as sponsor we have launched a number of initiatives on our GAA website to engage fans. Thanks to all of you who participated by adding your personal moments and stories to our interactive timeline – for the first time ever there is now a rich vein of GAA stories available on an interactive digital forum. In addition, many of you have played our Championship Challenge, demonstrating the great interest and expertise that exists throughout the country on the topic of Gaelic football. The Challenge has already been played over 100,000 times.

To be in with a chance to win a trip for two to New York you can play the Championship Challenge at [www.experience.ie](http://www.experience.ie). Full details can be found on the website, in our advertisement in this programme, and on the big screen here today.



Jim Brown,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Ulster Bank



It is hard to believe another year has passed and the GAA Football All-Ireland final is upon us once again. On behalf of Ulster Bank, I am delighted to welcome you all to Croke Park today for this great sporting occasion.

The 2012 GAA Football season has been filled with excitement, surprises, tears and smiles. Through our various GAA sponsorship initiatives, and through our branch network across the country, I have been overwhelmed by the passion that comes from GAA fans and communities around Ireland.

Last year, we launched 'Ulster Bank GAA Force', an initiative designed to bring local communities together to carry out improvements to their GAA club facilities. The response was overwhelming. St. Joseph's GAA Club Ederney, Fermanagh came out with the top prize of €25,000 and they held a wonderful community weekend last year to invest the funding into their club grounds. Ulster Bank GAA Force is now open again and GAA clubs should enter their details at [www.ulsterbank.com/gaa](http://www.ulsterbank.com/gaa) before October 5th to be in with a chance to win many prizes.

I would like to wish both Donegal and Mayo the very best of luck today. In particular, I would like to wish Karl Lacey, of Ulster Bank Letterkenny, every success today. Both teams have fought great battles to get here today and I congratulate them for that.



Martin Kelleher,  
Managing Director,  
SuperValu



2012 marks SuperValu's third year as proud sponsors of the GAA Football All-Ireland Championship. Over the last three years the sponsorship has grown into a real partnership between SuperValu and the GAA, one that we are both very proud of.

SuperValu has a long and distinguished history of being at the heart of Irish communities, helping to build the towns and villages in which we operate into thriving and vibrant local communities. A visit to SuperValu is a vote for the local community, local food and local jobs. We look forward to working with the GAA in the coming year and delivering further on our continued common goal of creating a better Ireland for now and the future.

As a result of our partnership, we are now delighted to be able to provide a GAA match tickets service in over 100 SuperValu stores nationwide, with additional stores to be added next year. This initiative has improved access to match tickets and resulted in thousands of happy GAA fans attending matches across the country. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all those who participated in this year's GAA Football All-Ireland Championship for the thrilling season of sporting action.

Finally, I wish the Donegal and Mayo teams, their management and their supporters the best of luck in today's final.





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# POINT TAKEN: STEVEN McDONNELL ON FOOTBALL

Log on to GAA.ie next Wednesday to read Steven's exclusive championship column, 'Point Taken'

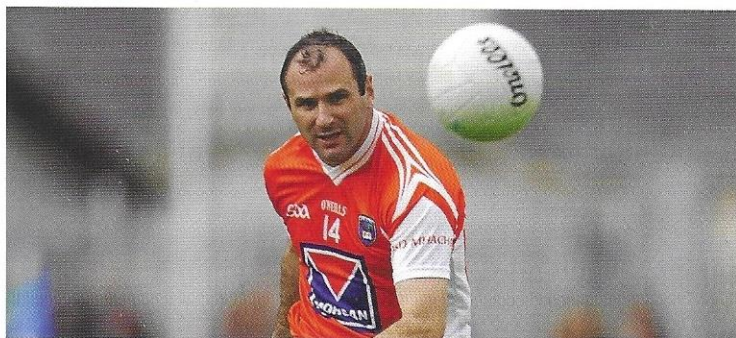
**A**t the start of the year you would have got serious odds on a Donegal v Mayo final. Not even the so called expert analysts could have predicted the final pairing and that includes me. A final without the recognised top teams such as Cork, Dublin, Kerry and Tyrone could never have been forecasted but that is exactly what we have.

The thing is, the two teams are there totally on merit and while they have had a certain degree of luck along the way, they have been the two most consistent and best performing teams in the championship this year.

For me this is a dream final. We will have a new winner and we will escape from the norm even if it is only for one year. Can Donegal win it on the 20th anniversary of their one and only win, or will it be Mayo lifting the title for the first time in 61 years after being on the receiving end of so much heartache over the past 15 or 16 years? The answer to this is anyone's guess as both teams are very similar in style and in how they go about their business. They both thrive on high energy work-rate and sheer intensity, which in turn enables them to express their full skill-set and this is the formula that has got the best out of both teams.



Another similarity between them is that they have young, vibrant managers in Jimmy McGuinness and James Horan. Both are full of fresh ideas, and they plan every minute detail in full. Behind these guys though, are the often forgotten people of successful teams - their backroom teams. Anyone involved in a team sport and especially a successful team will realise just how important a role each and every member of the backroom team plays.



This is an extract from Steven McDonnell's exclusive 'Point Taken' football column. For Steven's analysis of today's final, log on to GAA.ie next Wednesday.

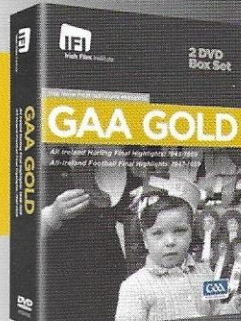
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# SCREENING SAM MAGUIRE: A BRIEF HISTORY

By Seán Moran, The Irish Times

It is an unfortunate irony that the very first All-Ireland football final broadcast by RTÉ 50 years ago today was by all accounts a very poor match. Kerry beat Roscommon in a contest described by Paddy Downey in *The Irish Times* in the following, less-than-glowing, terms:

"Seldom has the distinguished name of the champion footballers of the Kingdom been associated with such an appallingly undistinguished game, and never has a Croke Park final crowd been treated to such spurious value for their money".

He reckoned it was the worst final since Mayo demolished Laois in 1936. In his 2009 book *The History of Gaelic Football*, Eoghan Corry pushed the low-tide mark back to Kerry's 1930 annihilation of Monaghan. Put simply the 1962 final doesn't appear to have been much good.

We can't be sure about the quality of today's final but on the evidence of what has been seen to date this championship, there's every reason to be confident that the 50th anniversary screening won't be as underwhelming as the first.

Although Donegal and Mayo is a novel final pairing – the third in six years after Kerry-Cork in 2007 and Cork-Down two years ago – the counties individually bring some of their own distinctions to football's big day. On the subject of broadcasting, Donegal have already played a role in the evolution of Gaelic Games coverage. The county's first brush with modern broadcasting didn't earn much kudos.

In the summer of 1966 the GAA felt for the first time the pressure

Continued on page 12

Action from the first televised All-Ireland football final in 1962 featuring Kerry and Roscommon







of soccer's rising popularity with for the first time widely available television access to the World Cup tournament, played in England. Although contemporary TV schedules indicate that RTÉ's – and even BBC's – coverage wasn't of the wall-to-wall intensity taken for granted these days, the GAA were keen for some recognition themselves.

As a result the Ulster Council agreed to allow the provincial football final between Down and Donegal, played in Casement Park Belfast because it was the ground most suited to television cameras, to be broadcast live on the same weekend as the World Cup final. It was an undistinguished match, doubly unfortunate in that it was meant to put football in the shop window, and drew the following withering comparison from the newspaper columnist Séamus Kelly, better known as Quidnunc of The Irish Times 'Irishman's Diary'.

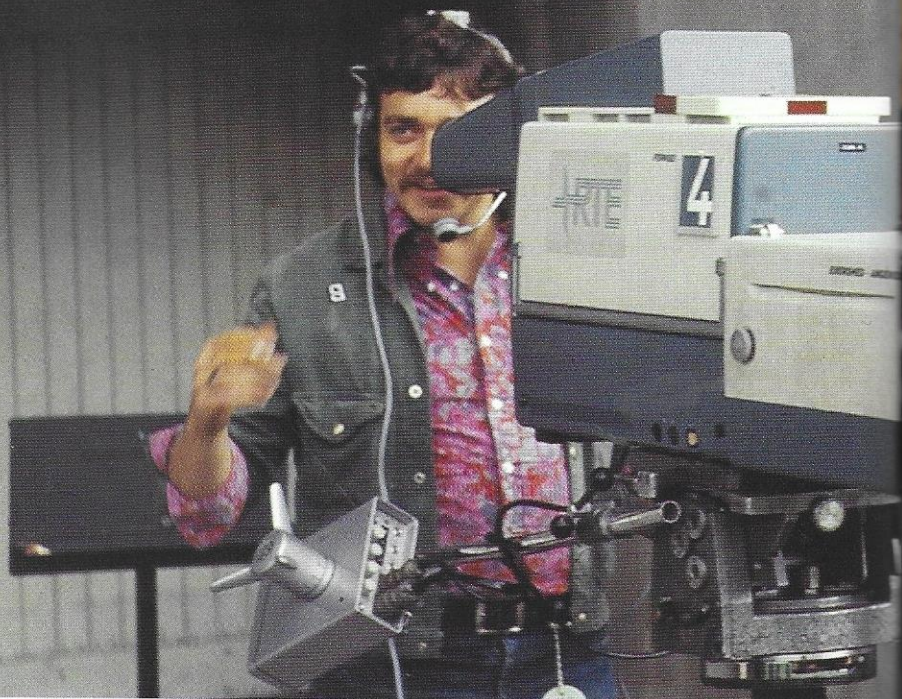
"When the England-Germany game was replayed on television on Sunday afternoon, it must have commanded record-breaking Tam figures for the time, since both those who had seen it and those who hadn't felt compelled to look at it. It was all the more unfortunate then that this fine exhibition of clean, sporting (but foreign) football was followed immediately on Teilifís Éireann and UTV (it was actually BBC) by a game that certainly didn't deserve either prefix, The Ulster Gaelic Football Final between Down and Donegal from Casement Park Belfast."

Donegal's second major contribution to broadcasting Gaelic Games was more influential. When a couple of London-based Irish music promoters noticed a decline in business on the day of the Mayo- Donegal All-Ireland semi-final 20

years ago, they put two and two together and, having successfully screened the Ireland-Holland World Cup match in 1990 (British television was showing the simultaneous broadcast of England-Egypt) at venues in London, made enquiries about the rights and acquired a licence to show Donegal's first All-Ireland, against Dublin.

The success of the venture led to their company Setanta eventually bidding for and winning the overseas rights to GAA matches. Setanta in time launched the sports channel that became the first subscription service to show GAA matches in Ireland and continues to do so during the national leagues.

Mayo have also been centrally involved in another great screening initiative, this time of a by-gone era.





There has already been a great deal of coverage of the fact that today's final is the first between Connacht and Ulster champions since the 1948 meeting of Cavan and Mayo. A strange match saw Cavan leading by 3-2 to 0-0 at half-time. Somehow Mayo came back into it after the break and actually equalised in the second half before losing by a point 4-4 to 4-5.

This was the first year of what became the extremely popular National Film Institute (now the IFI) highlights of All-Ireland finals, which were distributed by Abbey Films and General Film Distributors to cinema screens around the country.

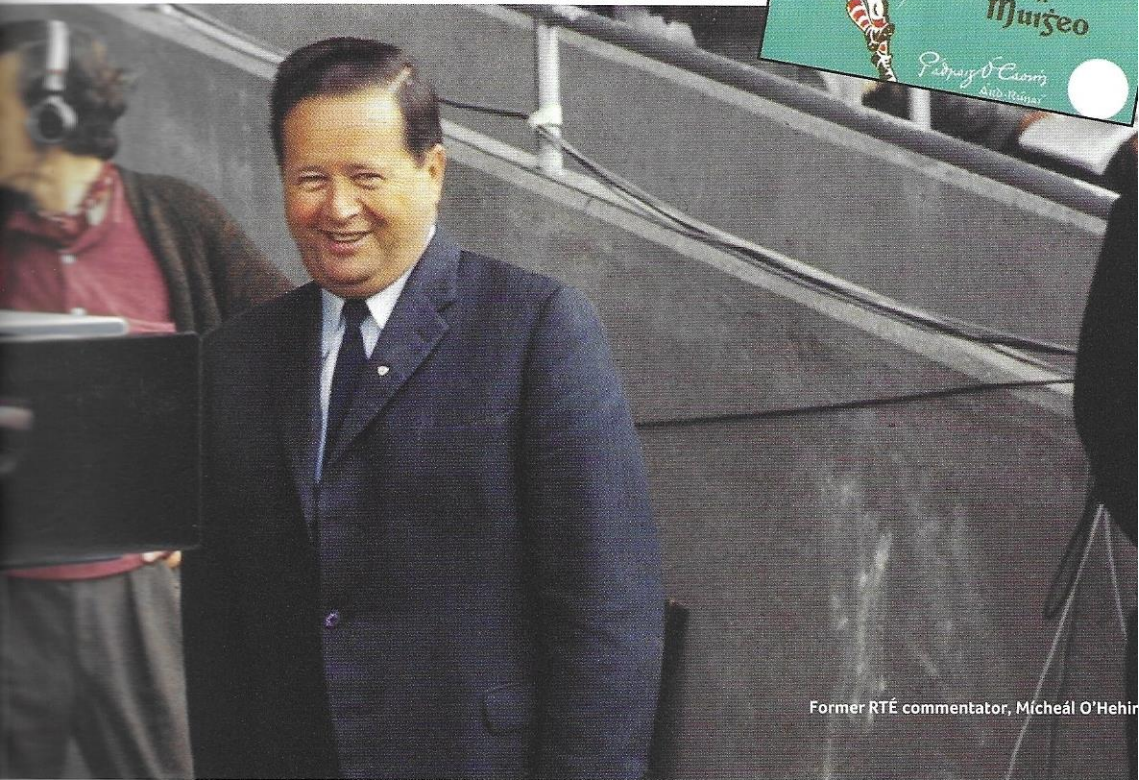
The impetus to produce these recordings arose from one of the most famous All-Ireland finals in history, the 1947 Polo Grounds final in New York. Then GAA general

secretary Pádraig Ó Caoimh was one of the original directors of the NFI when it was established in 1945.

Played in the USA to commemorate the centenary of the Famine, the 1947 Cavan-Kerry final led to a realisation that there was a big audience for Gaelic Games highlights. Ó Caoimh observed as much when the 10-minute highlights package filmed by New York production company Winik played to huge crowds in cinemas around the country. It was this that prompted him to facilitate access to All-Irelands so that the NFI could produce similar highlights films each year.

That dramatic Cavan-Mayo match was the first football final covered under this agreement. In the past two years the IFI has re-released some of these recordings, GAA Gold and GAA Football Gold which still make

fascinating viewing, even as Mayo and Donegal provide a new All-Ireland final pairing in the era of high-definition television and Internet and mobile phone rights.



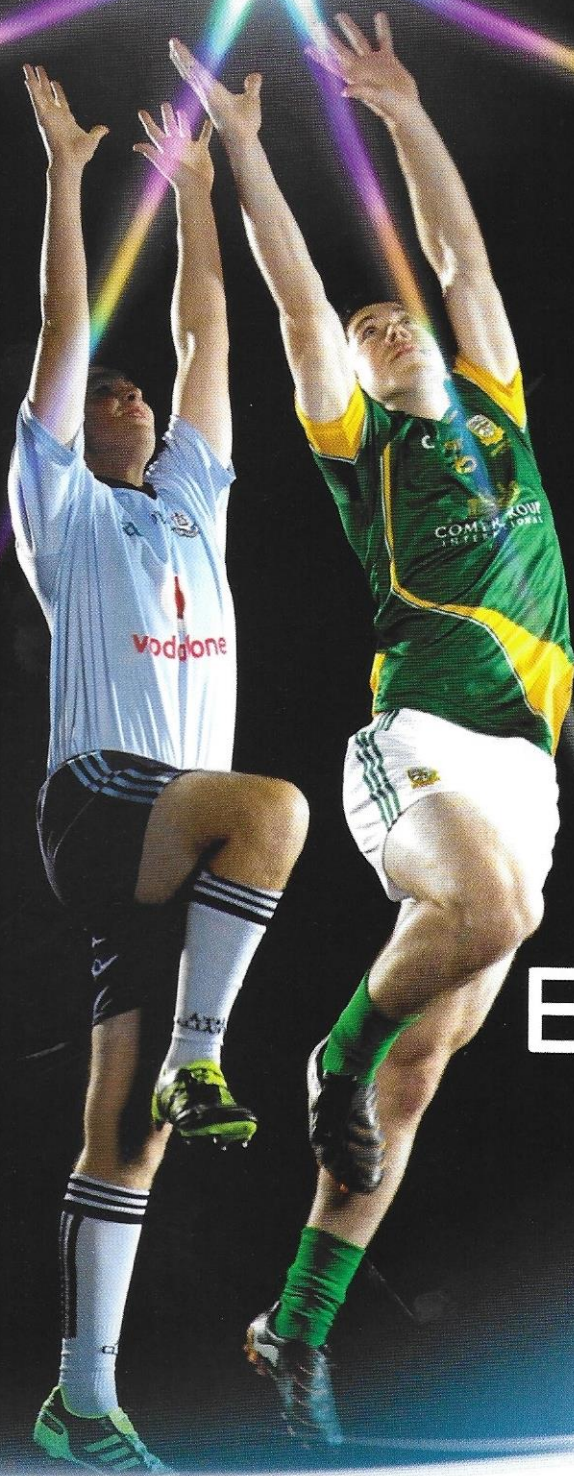
Former RTÉ commentator, Micheál O'Hehir



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FOOTBALL  
ALL-IRELAND  
— MINOR —  
CHAMPIONSHIPS



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# MINOR SPONSOR'S MESSAGE



CEO  
Pádraig Ó'Doherty

Welcome to the 2012 Electric Ireland GAA Football All-Ireland Minor Championship final. Today is a fantastic occasion for the players from both the Dublin and Meath minor football teams. It is a tremendous achievement for a player to represent their county on All-Ireland final day and I know the families and friends of the players are very proud of them and will give them wonderful support as they take to the field today. Electric Ireland is very proud to support the GAA Football and Hurling Minor Championships. In common with the GAA we have a long tradition of supporting young people in their sporting endeavours. We are very enthusiastic about our partnership with the GAA because we believe that by providing young people with the opportunity and encouragement to excel in sport we can foster personal fulfilment, team work and inclusiveness in Irish society. Dublin have won the All-Ireland Minor Football Championship on 10 occasions but have to look back to 1984 for their last minor title. They were beaten finalists in 2011 and only Kerry have enjoyed more success at minor level. Meath last enjoyed success in 1992. On that occasion they won their third minor title. As sponsors, we want to wish both teams the best of luck today. I would encourage everyone to get behind the senior players of the future as they bring their talents and skills to this fantastic stadium. Let's hope that today will be a great experience for the players, their families and supporters and all the spectators here today.

# MINOR HISTORY REPEATED?

Final starting to look a little familiar. Indeed, one could be tempted to substitute Meath for Tipperary and Royal for Premier in last year's preview piece as regards today's Electric Ireland Minor final.

Twelve months ago, Dublin went into the final with the endorsement of virtually every member of the fourth estate and we all know how that turned out as Tipperary bridged a 77-year gap back to their last title in 1934.

The Metropolitan are seeking to

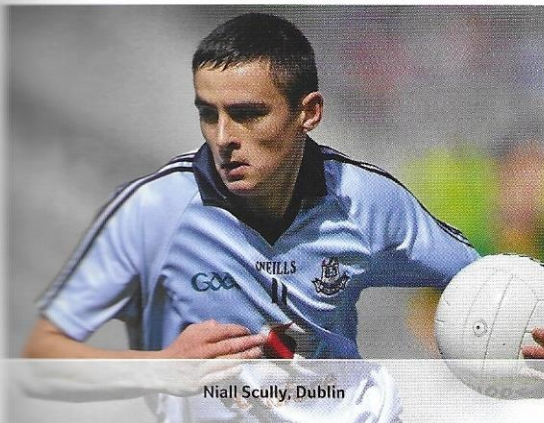
bridge a gap of their own this afternoon, albeit a 28-year one back to their last success in 1984 when they overcame the Premier County by 1-9 to 0-4. It's been 20 years since Meath last won the Tommy Markham Cup (a 2-5 to 0-10 victory over Armagh) so whatever the outcome today, a long-awaited title win will have been recorded.

Cormac Costello and Conor McHugh have notched 8-42 between them in Dublin's impressive run to the final, but Meath have their own strike force

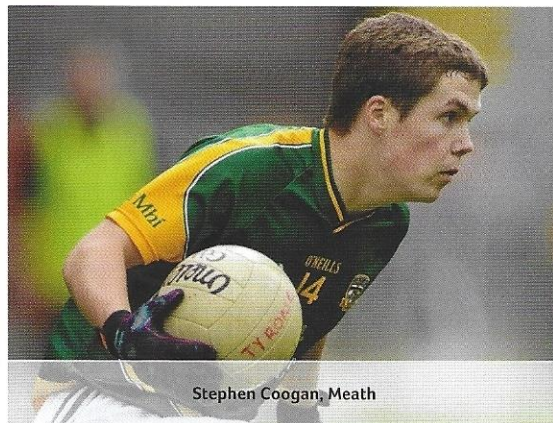
in the shape of Fiachra Ward, Barry Dardis and Cillian O'Sullivan who have also accumulated a 66-point return (9-39) between them.

A high-scoring contest looks the most likely scenario and for those who point to Dublin's Leinster final victory, one has only to look back to 2003 when the Liffeside U18s defeated Laois in the provincial decider only to lose to the O'Moore County youths in the All-Ireland final a couple of months later.

Will history repeat itself?



Niall Scully, Dublin



Stephen Coogan, Meath



# 2012 GAA FOOTBALL MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARD



## LEINSTER

## LEINSTER

Offaly	8-30	1-0	Kilkenny
Kildare	3-19	0-10	Wexford
Wicklow	2-5	1-6	Laois
Louth	2-10	0-6	Westmeath
Dublin	2-21	0-4	Carlow
Meath	1-11	0-11	Longford
Wexford	2-12	2-12	Carlow (aet)
Carlow	2-11	0-9	Wexford @
Longford	2-10	1-10	Laois
Westmeath	0-19	1-13	Carlow
Dublin	2-14	1-5	Longford
Meath	3-11	1-8	Offaly
Kildare	2-16	2-8	Louth
Westmeath	0-10	0-7	Wicklow
Meath	3-14	1-7	Westmeath
Dublin	2-16	1-8	Kildare

### FINAL

Dublin	3-17	1-11	Meath
--------	------	------	-------

## CONNACHT



Roscommon	4-15	2-3	Leitrim
Mayo	1-6	0-6	Sligo
Roscommon	1-11	1-9	Galway (aet)

### FINAL

Roscommon	0-10	0-8	Mayo
-----------	------	-----	------

## ULSTER



Donegal	1-11	0-10	Cavan
Monaghan	2-10	1-2	Antrim
Derry	2-9	1-7	Donegal
Down	1-11	1-8	Fermanagh
Tyrone	4-11	0-19	Armagh
Monaghan	0-11	0-8	Down
Tyrone	0-15	0-6	Derry

### FINAL

Tyrone	0-14	1-8	Monaghan
--------	------	-----	----------

## MUNSTER



Tipperary	2-9	0-8	Kerry
Clare	2-20	0-6	Waterford
Cork	3-13	0-6	Limerick
Kerry	1-14	1-3	Waterford
Kerry	3-9	0-5	Limerick
Tipperary	1-10	0-9	Cork
Kerry	0-17	3-4	Clare

### FINAL

Tipperary	2-14	1-14	Kerry
-----------	------	------	-------

## ALL-IRELAND

### QUARTER-FINALS

Mayo	0-19	1-8	Tipperary
Kerry	1-9	0-11	Roscommon
Meath	2-12	1-14	Tyrone
Dublin	1-16	0-8	Monaghan

### SEMI-FINALS

Meath	2-10	1-11	Mayo
Dublin	3-12	1-10	Kerry

## GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Dublin

Meath



# PATHS TO THE MINOR FINAL



## MEATH

### APRIL 14, GLENNON BROTHERS, PEARSE PARK

Meath 1-11 0-11 Longford

### MAY 19, TULLAMORE

Meath 3-11 1-8 Offaly

### JULY 7, MULLINGAR

Meath 3-14 1-7 Westmeath

### JULY 22, CROKE PARK

Meath 3-17 1-11 Meath

### AUGUST 5, NEWRY

Meath 2-12 1-14 Tyrone

### AUGUST 26, CROKE PARK

Meath 2-10 1-11 Mayo

**TOTAL SCORED:** 12-69 (105)

**TOTAL CONCEDED:** 7-68 (89)

	14/4	19/5	7/7	22/7	5/8	26/8	TOTAL
RICHIE WARD	----	0-3	1-5	0-6	0-4	1-3	2-21
DARBY DAVIDS	1-0	2-1	2-2	0-1	1-0	----	6-4
COLLUM O'SULLIVAN	0-5	0-1	0-3	1-0	0-3	0-2	1-14
STEPHEN COOGAN	0-3	----	----	0-1	1-4	----	1-8
PATRICK KENNELLY	0-1	1-0	----	0-1	----	1-0	2-2
JASON O'RY	----	0-2	----	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-6
JAMES LENTEE	----	0-2	0-2	----	----	0-1	0-5
KEVIN O'COLEÁIN	0-1	0-1	----	----	----	0-1	0-3
ADAM FLANAGAN	----	----	0-1	0-1	----	----	0-2
RONAN HARNAN	----	----	0-1	----	----	0-1	0-2
DAVID WALLACE	0-1	----	----	----	----	----	0-1
KEVIN GRIFFIN	----	0-1	----	----	----	----	0-1



## DUBLIN

### APRIL 14, DR. CULLEN PARK

Dublin 2-21 0-4 Carlow

### MAY 19, PARNELL PARK

Dublin 2-14 1-5 Longford

### JULY 11, NEWBRIDGE

Dublin 2-16 1-8 Kildare

### JULY 22, CROKE PARK

Dublin 3-17 1-11 Meath

### AUGUST 5, NEWRY

Dublin 1-16 0-8 Monaghan

### SEPTEMBER 2, CROKE PARK

Dublin 3-12 1-10 Kerry

**TOTAL SCORED:** 13-96 (135)

**TOTAL CONCEDED:** 4-46 (58)

	14/4	19/5	11/7	22/7	5/8	2/9	TOTAL
CORMAC COSTELLO	0-3	0-2	1-5	3-4	0-4	1-3	5-21
CONOR McHUGH	0-10	1-2	1-3	0-4	--	1-2	3-21
GAVIN BURKE	1-3	--	--	0-3	0-4	0-1	1-11
SHANE CARTHY	0-1	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-3	0-2	0-10
SHANE CUNNINGHAM	1-1	0-2	0-1	0-1	--	0-1	1-6
NIALL WALSH	0-1	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-1	--	0-8
NIALL SCULLY	0-1	--	0-3	0-1	--	0-2	0-7
DAVID CAMPBELL	0-1	0-3	--	--	0-1	1-0	1-4
ROBBIE GAUGHAN	--	1-1	0-1	0-1	--	----	1-3
STEPHEN CUNNINGHAM	--	--	--	--	1-0	--	1-0
ERIC LOWNDES	--	--	--	--	0-2	----	0-2
MAITIAS Mac DONNCHA	--	--	--	--	0-1	0-1	0-2

Other Minor panel members not included on the teamsheets are:

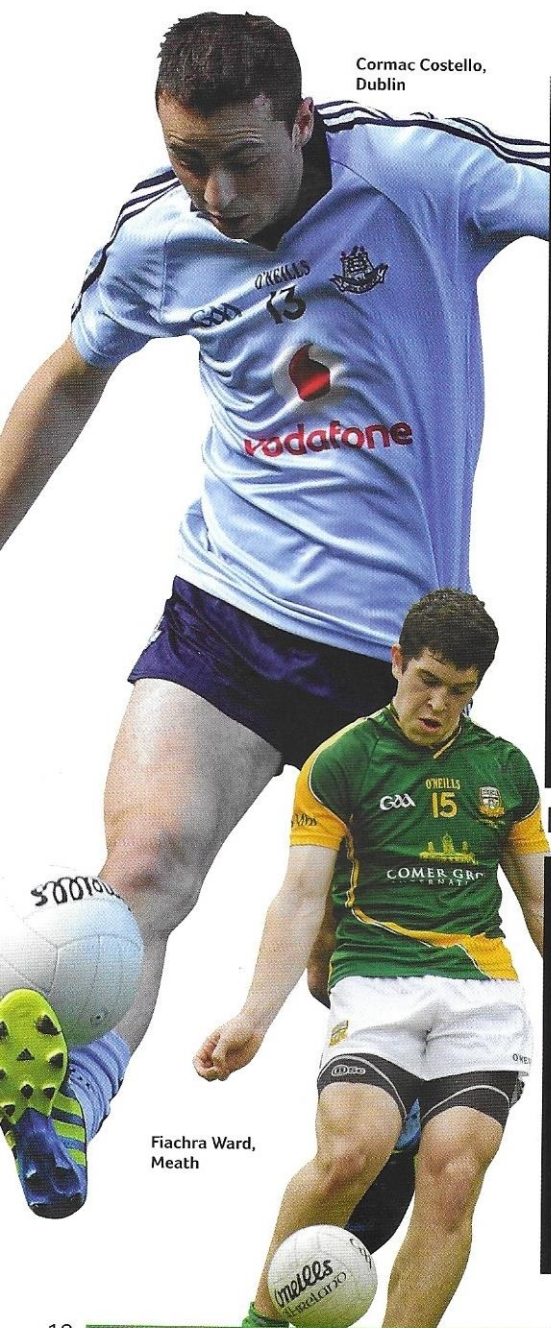
MEATH: Anthony Neary (Na Fianna), Brian Harnan (Jenkinson Gaels), Ciarán Gillespie (Summerhill), David Toner (St Vincents/Curraha), James O'Malley (Navan O'Mahony's), Jamie McDonnell (St Colmcille's), Jack O'Sullivan (Dunshaughlin), Jason Dowdall (Clonard).

DUBLIN: Martin Cahalin (Cuala), Shane Hickey (Skerries Harps), Shane McGrath (St Pat's, Donabate), Sam Moloney (Ballyboden St. Joseph), Conor Mullins (Clontarf), Stephen Mulvany (St Olaf's), Adam Rogers (Clann Mhuire), Conor Ryan (St Sylvester's), Joey Fitzgibbon (Na Fianna), Cahal Flynn (Ballyboughal), Luke Carey (Na Fianna).





# MINOR FOOTBALL TOP SCORERS 2012



Cormac Costello,  
Dublin

Fiachra Ward,  
Meath

	SCORE	TOTAL
CORMAC COSTELLO, DUBLIN	5-21	36
CONOR McHUGH, DUBLIN	3-21	30
FIACHRA WARD, MEATH	2-21	27
MARK BRADLEY, TYRONE	2-19	25
JACK SAVAGE, KERRY	0-24	24
DIARMUID MURTAGH, ROSCOMMON	1-19	22
BARRY DARDIS, MEATH	6-4	22
JOE MAHER, OFFALY	1-17	20
GER LEECH, WESTMEATH	0-19	19
NIALL QUINLAN, CARLOW	0-19	19
NIALL SHEEHY, KERRY	1-16	19

## FINALS TOP SCORERS SINCE 2000

2000	CONOR MORTIMER, MAYO	0-8
2001	LEO MEENAN, TYRONE	1-4
2002	BRIAN FARRELL, MEATH	0-7
2003	KEVIN LEAHY, DUBLIN	0-6 ®
2004	PAUL O'CONNOR, KERRY	0-6
2005	PAUL McCOMISKEY, DOWN	1-2
2006	PADDY CURRAN, KERRY	0-8
2007	MICHAEL MARTIN, GALWAY	0-6
2008	PADDY McNIECE, TYRONE	0-6
	AIDAN WALSH, MAYO	0-6 ®
	CONOR O'NEILL, TYRONE	1-3 ®
2009	ROBBIE TASKER, ARMAGH	0-3
	EUGENE McVERRY, ARMAGH	0-3
2010	DAN McEOIN, CORK	0-5
2011	CIARÁN KILKENNY, DUBLIN	0-7



# MINOR FOOTBALL ROLL OF HONOUR

**KERRY (11)** 1931, 1932, 1933, 1946, 1950, 1962, 1963, 1975, 1980, 1988, 1994.

**DUBLIN (10)** 1930, 1945, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1979, 1982, 1984.

**CORK (10)** 1961, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1981, 1991, 1993, 2000.

**TYRONE (8)** 1947, 1948, 1973, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2008, 2010.

**MAYO (6)** 1935, 1953, 1966, 1971, 1978, 1985.

**GALWAY (6)** 1952, 1960, 1970, 1976, 1986, 2007.

**DERRY (4)** 1965, 1983, 1989, 2002.

**DOWN (4)** 1977, 1987, 1999, 2005.

**RIDGECOMMON (4)** 1939, 1941, 1951, 2006.

**WEEATH (3)** 1957, 1990, 1992.

**LAOIS (3)** 1996, 1997, 2003.

**CAVAN (2)** 1937, 1938.

**LOUTH (2)** 1936, 1940.

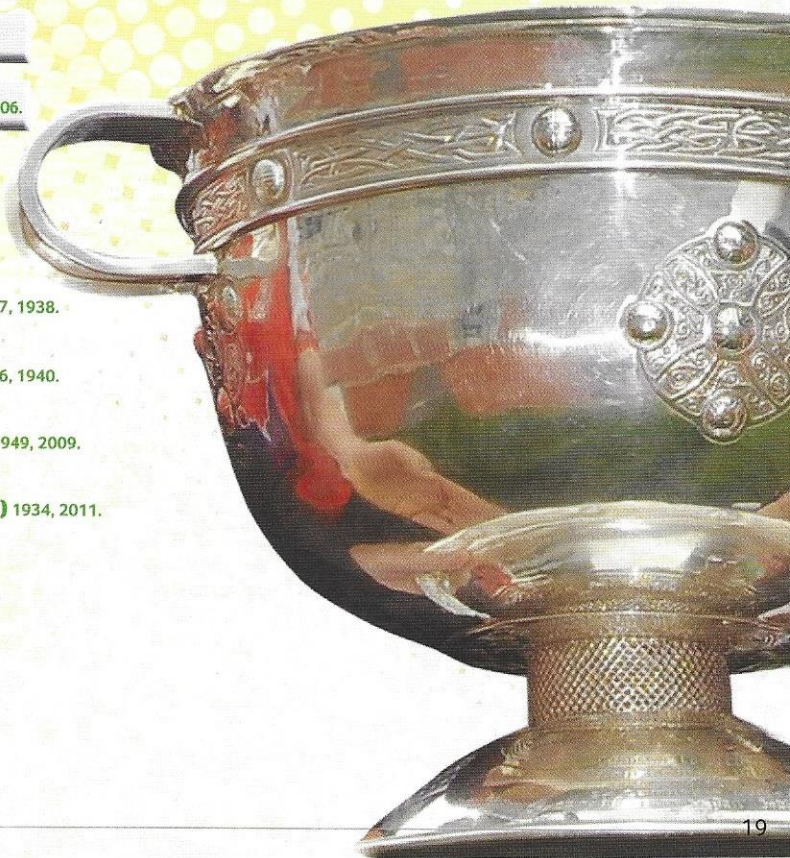
**ARMAGH (2)** 1949, 2009.

**TIPPERARY (2)** 1934, 2011.

**CLARE (1)** 1929.

**OFFALY (1)** 1964.

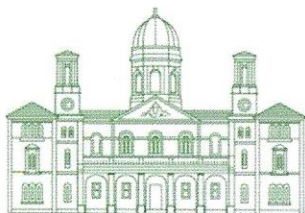
**WESTMEATH (1)** 1995.







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## MEATH MINOR FOOTBALL 2012

Back (L-R): Harry Rooney, Shane McEntee, Jack Hannigan, Caoimhín Ó Gríofa, Alan Garry, Adam Flanagan, Anthony Neary, Stephen Coogan, Fiachra Ward, Brian Power, Ciarán Gillespie, Barry Dardis, Declan Smyth, Robert Burlingham, Jason Dowdall, Conor O'Brien, Seamus Lavin, Jamie McDonnell.

Front (L-R): Brian Harnan, Jack O'Sullivan, James O'Malley, Paul Donnellan, Paddy Kennelly, Cillian O'Sullivan, Jason Daly, Pádraic Harnan, Ruairí Ó Coileáin, James McEntee, Shane Gallagher, Conor Carton, David Toner, Niall Kane.





CÚIL	CÚILÍNÍ	SEACHAÍ	45m	SAOR CICEANNA	1st Half
					2nd Half
					Total



# AN MHÍ

GLAS IS ÓR



**ROBERT BURLINGHAM**  
R. Burlingham  
Simonstown Gaels



**Roghnóirí**  
PJ Cudden,  
Pádraic Coyle,  
Kevin Foley,  
Breen O'Grady

## Fir Ionaid

- 16. **Jack Hannigan**  
S. Ó hAnnagáin  
Donaghmore/Ashbourne
- 17. **Alan Garry**  
A. Mac Fhearaigh  
Dunderry

- 18. **Conor Carton**  
C. Mac Artáin  
Donaghmore/Ashbourne
- 19. **Niall Kane**  
N. Ó Catháin  
Simonstown Gaels
- 20. **Harry Rooney**  
A. Ó Rúnaidh  
Skryne

- 21. **Patrick Kennelly**  
P. Mac an Fhailí  
Dunderry
- 22. **Caoimhín Ó Gríofa**  
C. Ó Gríofa  
Clann na nGael
- 23. **Conor O'Brien**  
C. Ó Briain  
Skryne

- 24. **Paul Donnellan**  
P. Ó Dónalláin  
Walterstown





	CÚIL	CÚILÍNÍ	SEACHAÍ	45m	SAOR CICEANNA
1st Half					
2nd Half					
Total					

# ÁT H CLIA TH

GORM IS DUBHGORM



**Riaghnoirí**  
Alan McNally,  
Philip McElwee



**LORCAN MOLLOY**  
L. Ó Maolmhuaidh  
St Anne's



**EMILE MULLAN**  
E. Ó Maoiláin  
Na Fianna



**DAVID BYRNE**  
D. Ó Broin (Capt.)  
Naomh Olaf



**ROSS MCGOWAN**  
R. Mac Gabhann  
Kilmacud Crokes



**ERIC LOWNDES**  
E. Lowndes  
St Peregrine's



**CONOR MULALLY**  
C. Ó Maolalaidh  
Cuala



**MAITIAS Mac DONNCHA**  
M. Mac Donncha  
Clontarf



**STEPHEN CUNNINGHAM**  
S. Ó Cuinneagáin  
St Sylvester's



**SHANE CARTHY**  
S. Ó Cárthaigh  
Naomh Mearnóg



**ROBERT GAUGHAN**  
R. Ó Gacháin  
Ballinteer St John's



**NIAL SCULLY**  
N. Ó Scoláí  
Templeogue Synge Street



**NIAL WALSH**  
N. Breathnach  
St Oliver Plunkett's Eoghan Ruadh



**CONOR MCHUGH**  
C. Mac Aodh  
Na Fianna



**CORMAC COSTELLO**  
C. Mac Coisdealbha  
Whitehall Colmcille



**GAVIN BURKE**  
G. de Búrca  
St Vincent's

## Fir Ionaid

16. **Conor Ferris**

C. Ó Feariosa  
Kilmacud Crokes

17. **Eoin Fletcher**

E. Mac an Fhleastair  
St Maur's

18. **Brendan Bentley**

B. Bentley  
Templeogue Synge Street

19. **Tom Quinn**

T. Ó Coinn  
Castleknock

20. **Niall O'Sullivan**

N. Ó Súilleabháin  
Templeogue Synge Street

21. **Shane Cunningham**

S. Ó Cuinneagáin  
Kilmacud Crokes

22. **David Campbell**

D. Ó Cathmhaoil  
Kilmacud Crokes

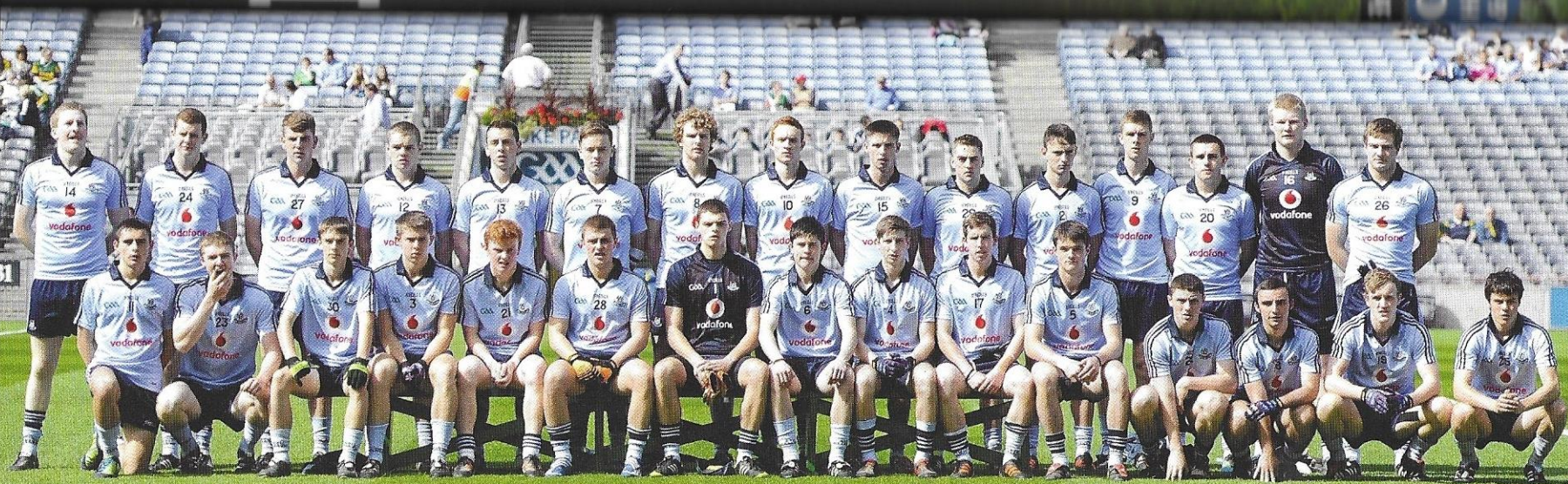
23. **Donal Gormley**

D. Ó Garmaille  
Ballinteer St John's

24. **Michael Deegan**

M. Ó Duiginn  
Donaghmore Ashbourne





## DUBLIN MINOR FOOTBALL 2012

Back (L-R): David Campbell, Niall O'Sullivan, Cathal Flynn, Gavin Burke, Cormac Costello, Maitias Mac Donncha, Stephen Cunningham, Niall Walsh, Robbie Gaughan, Conor Ryan, Emile Mullan, Shane Carthy, Michael Deegan, Conor Ferris, Shane McGrath.

Front (L-R): Niall Scully, Donal Gormley, Conor Mullins, David Byrne, Conor McHugh, Sam Moloney, Lorcan Molloy, Conor Mulally, Ross McGowan, Eoin Fletcher, Eric Lowndes, Tom Quinn, Brendan Bentley, Shane Cunningham, Martin Cahalin.





**Irish Daily Mail**

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Read It.**

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**Liam Hayes**

**Joe Brolly**

**Charlie Carter**

**Micheal Clifford**

**Philip Lanigan**

**Mark Gallagher**

**Shane McGrath**

**Irish Daily Mail**

**GAA**

**Higher Education Leagues  
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**Irish Daily Mail**

**FITZGIBBON**

**CUP**

**GAA**

**Irish Daily Mail**



**GAA MUSEUM  
CROKE PARK**





# SENIOR FINAL MATCH OFFICIALS



David Coldrick



Eddie Kinsella



Conor Lane

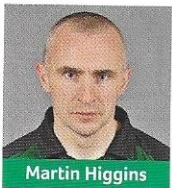


AN RÉITEOIR - MAURICE DEEGAN (Laois)

After a four-year absence Maurice returns to centre stage at Croke Park today as the Laois referee takes charge of his second All-Ireland senior final having been the man-in-the-middle for the Tyrone-Kerry decider in 2008.

The Stradbally clubman is no stranger to GAA Headquarters as just last month he took charge of the All-Ireland quarter-final clash between Mayo and Down. Earlier this season the O'Moore County official took the helm at Croke Park for the Allianz League Division 1 decider between Cork and Mayo and the tie between Dublin and Kerry under lights in the opening round also came under his remit.

# MINOR FINAL MATCH OFFICIALS



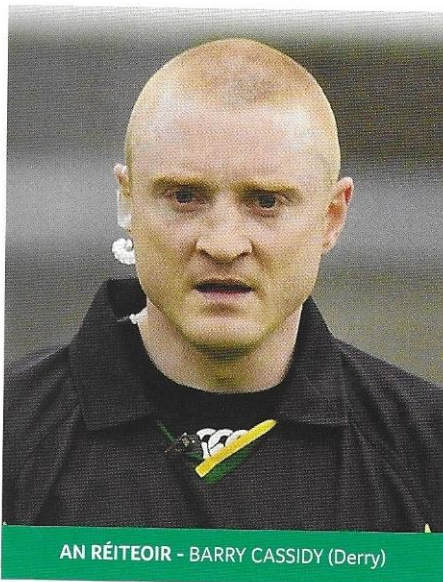
Martin Higgins



Fergal Kelly



Jerome Henry



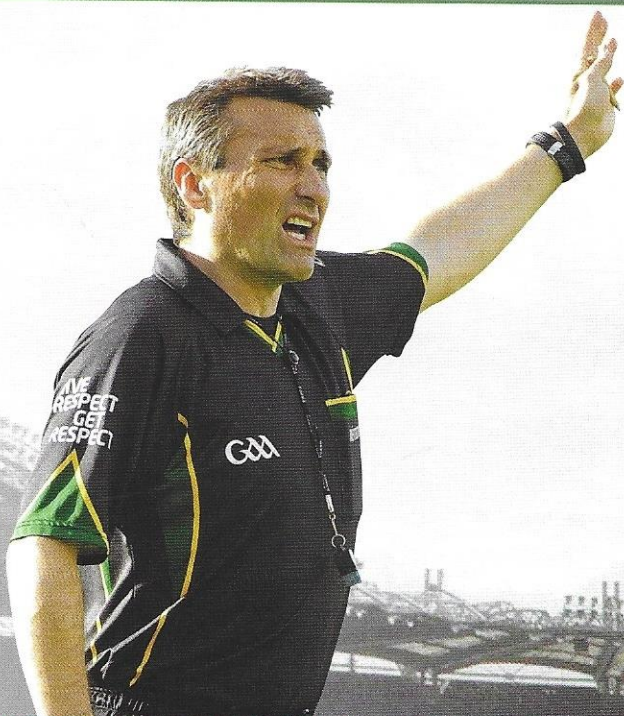
AN RÉITEOIR - BARRY CASSIDY (Derry)

Quite often referees appointed to All-Ireland finals have had previous experience of the big day in an ancillary role and Barry continues that trend having been a linesman last year when Tipperary overcame Dublin in the decider. Today's fixture is the Oak Leaf whistler's first outing in the 2012 Electric Ireland Minor Championship with all but one of his inter-county outings this season coming at senior level. That was back in April when Barry took charge of the Cadbury Ulster U21 final at Enniskillen between Cavan and Tyrone while earlier in the season the Derry referee handled three matches in the Allianz League and one in the McKenna Cup. On the senior championship front



These games were two of the five Maurice refereed in the league while he has also had five outings in the Premier competition this season.

His last assignment involving Dromegal was their All-Ireland semi-final clash against Dublin 13 months ago while earlier in that campaign he commanded their Ulster final outing against Derry and the provincial clash versus Antrim. With extensive experience of today's protagonists and the venue Maurice will relish his role on the big stage today.



**Senior Match Umpires** - Kevin O'Brien (St Josephs, Laois), Seán Langton (St Josephs, Laois), Alan Abbey (Stradbally, Laois), Richard Oxley (Timahoe, Laois)

Quaidy has had four outings in 2012 three of which were in the All-Ireland Qualifiers at venues ranging from Enniskillen (Cavan v Fermanagh), Carrick-on-Shannon (Laois v Wicklow) and Portlaoise (Wicklow v Limerick).

Darryl's most recent refereeing role in the minor championship was just over 13 months ago when he was the man-in-black for the All-Ireland quarter-final clash of Tipperary and Meath at O'Moore Park.

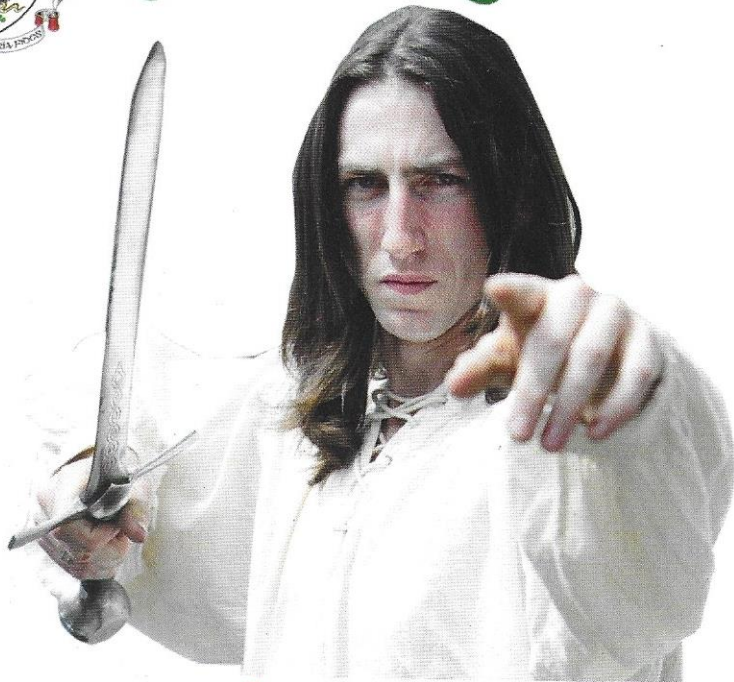


**Minor Match Umpires** - Kevin Torner (Bellaghy, Wolfe Tones, Derry), Anthony Campbell (O'Donovan Rossa, Magherafelt, Derry), Tom O'Kane (St Malachy's Castledawson, Derry), Alan Nash (Derrytrasna, Derry)





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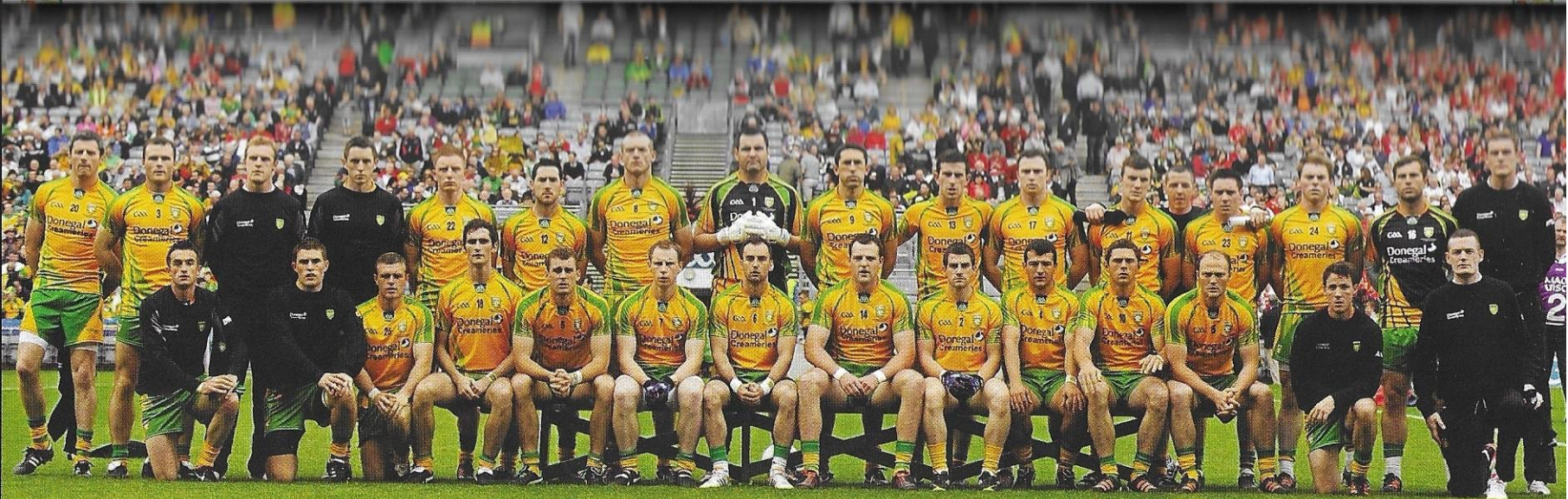
For further information: Gallagher Clan, c/o Óstán Loch Altan, Gortahork, Co. Donegal.  
Tel. No.: 087 6680593, Website: [www.gallagherclan.org](http://www.gallagherclan.org)  
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## DONEGAL SENIOR FOOTBALL 2012

Back (L-R): Christy Toye, Neil McGee, Peter Withrow, Stephen Griffin, Daniel McLaughlin, Mark McHugh, Neil Gallagher, Paul Durcan, Rory Kavanagh, Patrick McBrearty, Martin McElhinney, Leo McLoone, Barry Dunnion, Martin O'Reilly, Dermot Molloy, Michael Boyle, Peter McGee.

Front (L-R): David Walsh, Declan Walsh, Adrian Hanlon, Marty Boyle, Eamon McGee, Anthony Thompson, Karl Lacey, Michael Murphy, Paddy McGrath, Frank McGlynn, Ryan Bradley, Colm McFadden, Antoine McFadden, Kevin Rafferty.  
Missing: Tommy McKinley, Gary McFadden.





CÚIL	CÚILÍNÍ	SEACHAÍ	45m	SAOR CICEANNA	1st Half
					2nd Half
					Total



# DÚN NA nGALL

ÓR IS GLAS



**BAINISTEOR**  
Jim McGuinness

**Roghnóir**  
Rory Kavanagh



**AN CAPTAIN**  
Michael Murphy



## Fir Ionaid

- 16. **Michael Boyle**  
M. Ó Baoill  
An Tearnann
- 17. **Martin McElhinney**  
M. Mac Giolla Chainnigh  
Naomh Mícheál
- 18. **Marty Boyle**  
M. Ó Baoill  
Naomh Conaill
- 19. **David Walsh**  
D. Breathnach  
Naomh Bríd
- 20. **Christy Teye**  
C. Ó Tuathaigh  
Naomh Mícheál
- 21. **Stephen Griffin**  
S. Ó Gríofa  
Naomh Naille
- 22. **Daniel McLaughlin**  
D. Mac Lochlainn  
Naomh Mícheál
- 23. **Martin O'Reilly**  
M. Ó Raghallaigh  
Seán Mac Cumhaill
- 24. **Dermot Molloy**  
D. Ó Ludhóg  
Naomh Conaill
- 25. **Declan Walsh**  
D. Breathnach  
Málainn
- 26. **Adrian Hanlon**  
A. Ó hAnluain  
An Clochán Liath





	CÚIL	CÚILÍNÍ	SEACHAÍ	45m	SAOR CICEANNA
1st Half					
2nd Half					
Total					

# MAIGH EO

## GLAS IS DEARG



**BAINISTEOIR**  
James Moran

## Riaghnoíirí

Glan O'Neill,  
James Nallen,  
Tom Prendergast,  
Rody Moran,  
Dr. Seán Moffat,  
Caroline Brennan



**INN-CAPTAIN**  
David Clarke



**DAVID CLARKE**  
D. Ó Cléirigh  
Ballina Stephenites



**KEVIN KEANE**  
C. Mac Caitháin  
Westport



**GER CAFFERKEY**  
G. Mac Eafarcaigh  
Ballina Stephenites



**KEITH HIGGINS**  
C. Ó hUiginn  
Ballyhaunis



**LEE KEEGAN**  
L. Mac Aogáin  
Westport



**DONAL VAUGHAN**  
D. Ó Beachain  
Ballinrobe



**COLM BOYLE**  
C. Baoill  
Davitts



**BARRY MORAN**  
B. Ó Móráin  
Castlebar Mitchels



**AIDAN O'SHEA**  
A. Ó Sé  
Breaffy



**KEVIN MCLOUGHLIN**  
C. Mac Lochlainn  
Knockmore



**JASON DOHERTY**  
S. Dochartaigh  
Burrishoole



**ALAN DILLON**  
A. Diolún  
Ballintubber



**ENDA VARLEY**  
E. Mac an Bhearlaigh  
Garrymore



**CILLIAN O'CONNOR**  
C. Ó Conchúir  
Ballintubber



**MICHAEL CONROY**  
M. Ó Conraoi  
Davitts

## Fir Ionaid

### 18. Kenneth O'Malley

C. Ó Máille  
Ballinrobe

### 19. Shane McHale

S. Mac Héil  
Knockmore

### 18. Peadar Gardiner

P. Ó Gardinéir  
Crossmolina

### 19. Richie Feeny

R. Ó Flainná  
Castlebar Mitchels

### 20. Danny Geraghty

D. Mac Oireacht  
Ballintubber

### 21. Chris Barrett

C. de Bairéid  
Belmullet

### 22. Séamus O'Shea

S. Ó Sé  
Breaffy

### 23. Jason Gibbons

S. Ó Giobúin  
Ballintubber

### 24. Alan Freeman

A. Mac an tSaoir  
Aghamore

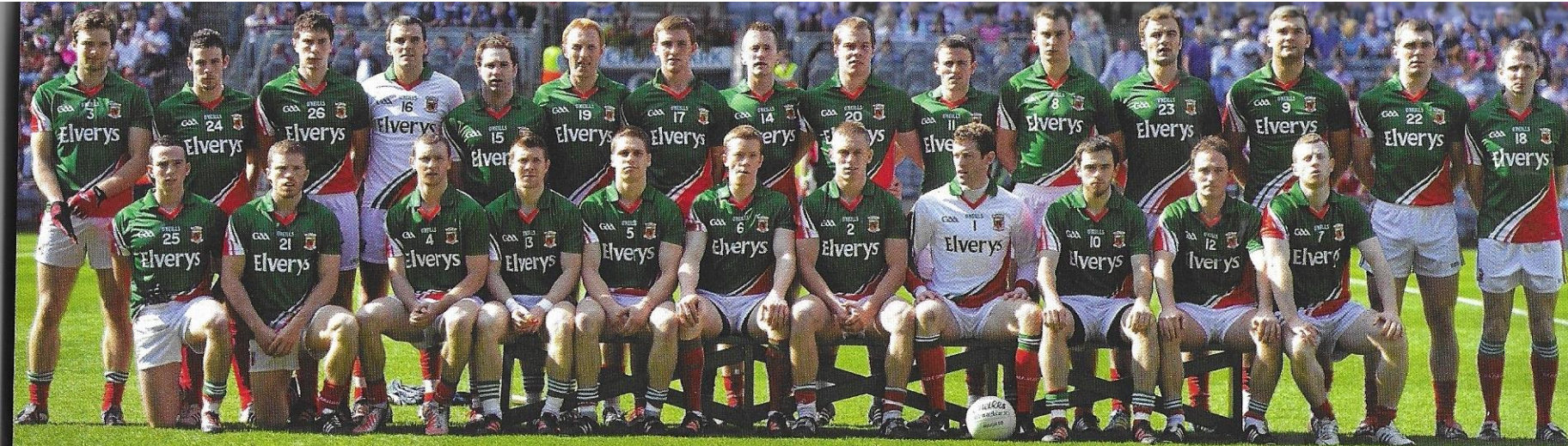
### 25. Cathal Carolan

C. Ó Cearúlláin  
Crossmolina

### 26. Evan Regan

E. Ó Reigán  
Ballina Stephenites





## MAYO SENIOR FOOTBALL 2012

Back (L-R): Ger Cafferkey, Cathal Carolan, Alan Freeman, Kenneth O'Malley, Michael Conroy, Richie Feeney, Shane McHale, Cillian O'Connor, Danny Geraghty, Jason Doherty, Barry Moran, Jason Gibbons, Aidan O'Shea, Seamus O'Shea, Peadar Gardiner.

Front (L-R): Evan Regan, Chris Barrett, Keith Higgins, Enda Varley, Lee Keegan, Donal Vaughan, Kevin Keane, David Clarke, Kevin McLoughlin, Alan Dillon, Colm Boyle.







# Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo Mayo County Council

Comhairle Baile Chaislean a Bharrai  
Castlebar Town Council

Comhairle an Bhaile Cathair na Mart  
Westport Town Council

Comhairle an Bhaile Bhéal Átha 'n Fheadha  
Ballina Town Council

The members and staff of the four Mayo Local Authorities congratulate  
the Captain, the Members and Management of the Mayo Football Team on  
their success to date agus go mbeidh an bua acu ar an Dómhnach

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# ASK THE EXPERTS

## FIVE KEY QUESTIONS

We put five of the country's top football journalists on the spot, asking them to answer five key questions that could determine the outcome of today's All-Ireland senior football final.



**KEITH DUGGAN**  
The Irish Times



**COLM KEYS**  
The Irish Independent

### Key Players:

Select who you think is the key player from each side.

**Karl Lacey (Donegal):** Donegal's consummate player through bad times and good. Technically excellent defender with great counter-attacking skills and instinct. As smart as they come.

**Alan Dillon (Mayo):** When Dillon plays well, Mayo play well. Ferocious appetite for work and lands big scores. Wants the ball in tight games and takes the right option.

**Aidan O'Shea (Mayo) and Michael Murphy (Donegal):** Two players who missed much of the earlier part of the season through injury may just be coming into their best form now, Murphy provided he is allowed to take up a more advanced role, and O'Shea who now knows he is as physically strong as anyone out there.

### Key Battle:

Which match-up do you think could have the biggest influence on the game?

Leo McLoone has become an integral part of the Donegal attack this year. He is brave, athletic, wins tough ball and makes big plays in a quiet way. Donal Vaughan is a busy, smart centre-back with a knack for getting the Mayo attack moving. It is not the most obvious match-up but could have a big bearing on the outcome of this final.

There is no one player who commands that much more attention than any other but after shadowing Bernard Brogan so well perhaps Ger Cafferkey is well suited to security around Colm McFadden, allowing Keith Higgins to get forward.

### Key Trend:

Isolate one important or noteworthy trend that has emerged in this year's championship.

Management has changed. Look at the sideline today. Jim McGuinness and James Horan have reinvigorated and re-imagined the way their respective counties play football. Both are analytical, meticulous and completely unafraid to try new things.

Is it too soon to herald the return of high fielding from kick outs again? Donegal's Neil Gallagher, Mayo's Barry Moran and Aidan O'Shea, Cork's Aidan Walsh and even Brendan Quigley from Laois have restored the old art consistently this season.

### Season Highlight:

Your favourite moment of the 2012 football championship.

All-Ireland semi-finals are rarely memorable but Donegal v Cork and Mayo v Dublin elevated what had been an entertaining championship into a great championship. All-out-attack, great scores, unpredictable to the last and wonderful occasions for the underdogs.

Not a specific moment but an entire half of football, the first 35 minutes of the Donegal/Cork All-Ireland semi final was the most riveting contest in a long, long time. They were level seven times before Donegal forged ahead. In fact, taken together, it's hard to recall a football championship having a better semi-final series.

### Verdict:

Who do you think will win and why?

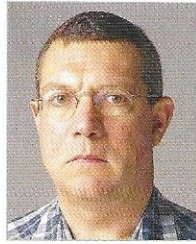
**DONEGAL.** A draw is highly possible. But Donegal have found a way to cope with the various challenges that confronted them this season and are playing with terrific cohesion and confidence and at a pace that is difficult to live with.

**DONEGAL.** Despite the obvious distractions and the fact that they are going into a Croke Park championship match as clear favourites for the first time. There has been such a consistent pattern to their play in all their games it's hard to see that failing them now.





**STEVEN McDONNELL**  
GAA columnist



**SEÁN MORAN**  
The Irish Times



**SEÁN MCGOLDRICK**  
The Sunday World

**Neil Lacey (Donegal):** He is the main cog in this team. He controls the tempo and everything goes through him. He is so comfortable on the ball.

**Alan Dillon (Mayo):** He is the link between defence and attack and he sets up so much. He plays a similar role like Alan Clasher did for Tyrone and offers a scoring threat too.

Jimmy McGuinness v James Horan. Both men have proved that they are very tactically but this is the biggest secret. Will Mayo aim to start as they did against Dublin and can Donegal weather the storm? Or will Donegal target the goal just after half time as they have done already this year? Getting the individual pairings right is so important.

It's actually a trend that has always been there. If you have a system that everyone has got to and with everyone working hard for the team then you will always be able to compete. Add in the flair players like McBrearty, Murphy, McFadden, O'Connell and Dillon and then you have the correct formula.

Both semi-final displays from Mayo and Donegal. They went in as underdogs but expectations were soon thrown out once they got a hold on the match. They stepped up and showed us all what is so great about our game. Great saves, solid defence, quick counter-attacking and dramatic score taking. The semi-finals really ignited the championship for me.

**DONEGAL**, because I am an Ulster man. It will be a close contest but I expect Donegal to shade it just about based on the teams that they have already knocked out. This will give them huge relief.

**Mark McHugh (Donegal):** The microchip in the Donegal system, his constant movement and availability as an auxiliary defender, linkman and scoring option has almost created a new position.

**Kevin McLoughlin (Mayo):** His absence during Mayo's semi-final substitutions caused trouble. His ability to win breaks and take scores was missed in Dublin's comeback.

Two teams cast in the modern mould still find a place for traditional centrefield virtues. Donegal's Neil Gallagher dominated Cork while Barry Moran and Aidan O'Shea have had big seasons for Mayo.

The importance of leadership: two teams of largely the same players have gone from despair to within a match of winning the All-Ireland because of the input of bright, tactically aware managers.

The quarter-final between Donegal and Kerry had everything: modernity against tradition, garlanded champions against newcomers, a gripping finale and the Kerry Coyote's latest brush with an Ulster Roadrunner.

**DONEGAL.** Donegal's system has been more convincingly stress-tested. Mayo will hope to dictate terms early and build a lead but so far no-one's managed to do that to the Ulster champions.

**Mark McHugh (Donegal):** Sweeps up in front of his full-back line and launches a high percentage of the side's counter-attacks before going forward.

**Alan Dillon (Mayo):** In the absence of Andy Moran he has taken over as the leader of the attack and gave an exceptional performance in the semi-final. Contender for Footballer of the Year.

Given the way both teams set up, specific match ups are very difficult to predict. However, the exchanges at midfield between Neil Gallagher/Rory Kavanagh and Barry Moran/Aidan O'Shea will be absolutely crucial as they aim to win primary possession from kick outs.

Virtually everything is choreographed at the top level in football now and teams are becoming increasingly cynical in the way they try to run down the clock and engage in tactical fouling.

All-Ireland semi-finals are normally dull, forgettable affairs but this year's two penultimate ties were memorable for all the right reasons; they produced a lot of very high quality football and much excitement.

**MAYO.** Unlike Donegal's other opponents this year Mayo will stick to their own game plan and won't be spooked by the false rhetoric that their opponents have reinvented the game. Provided they can reduce Mark McHugh's influence and their forwards' long range kicking is as accurate as it was in the semi-final they can exorcise the county's final ghosts.





# BEYOND BELIEF: 'BIG JIM' AND THE DONEGAL REVIVAL

By Damian Lawlor, The Sunday Independent

**I**n the summer of 2010, following an embarrassing qualifier defeat to Armagh, former Donegal captain Kevin Cassidy announced his retirement and looked for a "total rebuild" of the senior football team.

"That was one of the worst defeats I ever experienced," admits Cassidy's clubmate Eamon McGee. "A lot of lads were looking at themselves in the dressing room afterwards."

There was no mutiny, though, because there was no need for it. In post-match interviews John Joe Doherty, their manager, signalled his intention to leave the post and a number of players also felt their blade was blunt beyond repair. There was no salt in the air whatsoever, only resignation.

That afternoon Colm McFadden, who had just played his 100th game for the county, was taken off. Moments later a county board official approached him to ask if he would mind staying put for a presentation after the final whistle to mark his personal milestone. McFadden smiled wryly at the thought of it. Just then the TV cameras honed in on him. For all the world, on TV screens all over the land, it looked like another Donegal player was making light of yet another defeat.

Nothing could have been further from the truth.

Likewise today, the side that Jim McGuinness leads into battle could not be more different from the one that flopped in Crossmaglen.

Months after that Armagh game, U21 manager McGuinness got the senior job at the third time of asking. An inspirational character, the 40 year-old made the decision to go back and sit the Leaving Cert in his 20s and in the following years won Sigerson Cup honours on his way to getting a degree in sports psychology. His football career peaked in 1992 with an All-Ireland winners' medal but that was about as good as it got.

This time, though, his was the only name in the hat for the gig.

"People close to me asked if I was off my head but I still wasn't sure if the board would give it to me,"

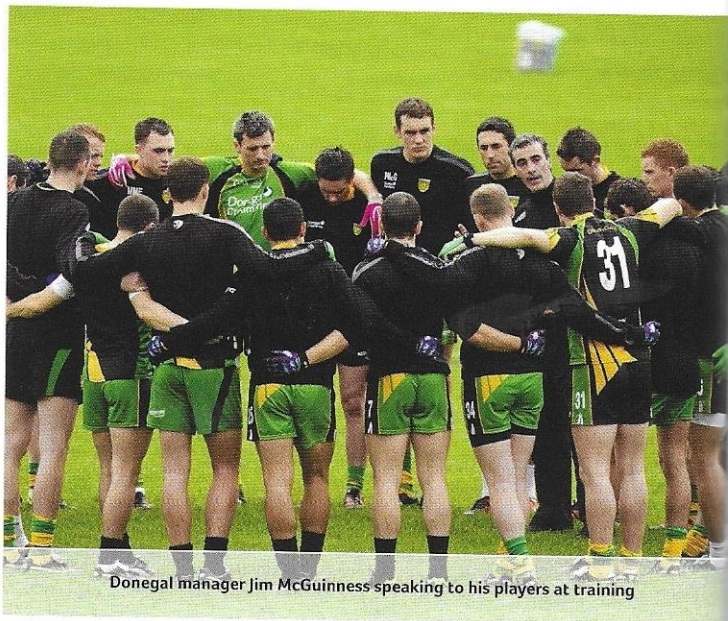
McGuinness smiles. "I had to wait for it anyway, that's for sure."

What a move it's been.

Slated and slaughtered for their compressed, rugby-league style of football in 2011 they nonetheless came within an inch of making the All-Ireland final.

And this year they've spread their wings like a bird discovering for the first time just how high it can soar.

McGuinness has kept cool along the way, refusing to get sucked into rows over criticisms of his team's 2011 displays and then resisting the temptation to celebrate wildly this



Donegal manager Jim McGuinness speaking to his players at training





Donegal manager Jim McGuinness celebrates with Patrick McBrearty after the Gaelic Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Semi-Final against Cork

warns the pundits gave a thumbs-up to their refined, much more attractive ways.

Next, incredibly, he's also managed to keep the team and Donegal public focused despite the high-profile dismissal of folk hero Cassidy from the panel.

And it's intriguing, too, that 10 of the team that collapsed in Crossmaglen are still involved today because when 'Big Jim' first took charge it seemed a spring-clean was imminent.

Next, just led the U21s into an All-Ireland final where they lost to Dublin after a dramatic missed penalty in the dying embers of a thrilling encounter. Out of his first senior squad of 34 the majority were under 20. The broom was at the ready.

Next, seasoned players like the McGee brothers, McFadden, and Christy Toge have survived and thrived. It just shows - the moment you think you know McGuinness is the moment you've made a mistake.

He supplemented his backroom team with former Fermanagh star and St Gall's All-Ireland winner Rory Gallagher who now resides in Killybegs.

"Once I knew Rory was around the place I decided to sit down and have a chat with him," McGuinness recalls. "We sat down, had a cup of tea and ended up chatting for four hours."

Gallagher's introduction as coach instantly eased the pressure on McGuinness - he takes speed-orientated, sharp training sessions while the manager attends to all other areas. On the line the pair work in tandem with Gallagher displaying his emotions much more visibly while Jim stands back, with arms folded, plotting the next move.

"It's the best set-up we've ever had," continues Eamon McGee.

"I would safely say that we'll all be close friends in 20 or 30 years' time because we've gone through so much together.

"We're a tightly-knit family and no-one has stepped out of line or given anything less than 100 per cent commitment."

Traditionally, Donegal have frequently failed to live up to their billing, but this team bears no comparison with sides of the past.

Just before he took his first training session as county U21 manager three years ago he called his men into a huddle and told them they would be celebrating an Ulster title a few weeks down the line. One player burst out laughing in front of him. He wasn't being discourteous, the youngster was giggling before he even realised it.

But McGuinness pounced on him.

He turned to the other players: "Do you see that? This is where we were at. This is what Donegal football has become. No belief."

How the wheel has turned. If it's one thing they have in abundance these days, it's belief.



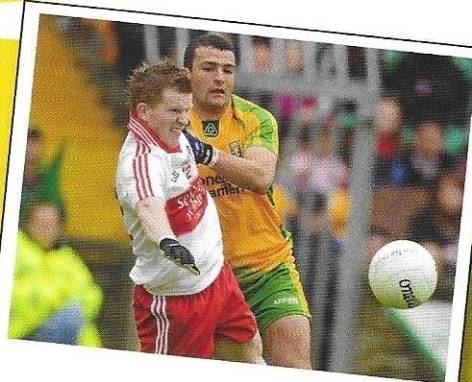
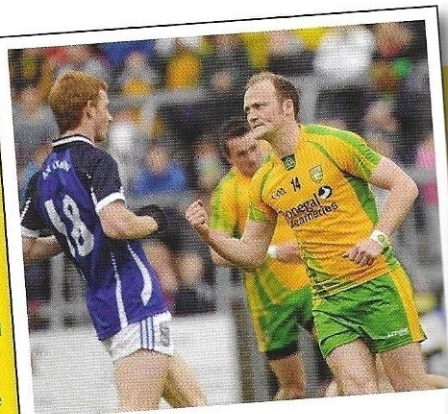


# ROUND BY ROUND WITH...

We asked Donegal defender Frank McGlynn to cast an eye back on six defining images of his side's campaign to date.

Ulster GAA Football Championship Preliminary Round  
Cavan 1-10 Donegal 1-16, Breefní Park, Cavan, May 20

The preliminary round is always sticky, but if you get over that first game you come into the quarter-final stage with a good game under your belt. Luckily enough, having been nip and tuck for periods of the first half, we stretched away in the second half. That game really stood to us. I don't remember much about Colm McFadden's goal, but when you look back, Colm has improved with every game he has played, and after the Ulster campaign he really started to produce the goods in Croke Park. We went into that game as heavy favourites. They had a new manager and every one of their players seemed to raise their game because they all wanted to prove themselves. We kicked 1-16 and one of the things we identified at the end of last year was that the scores were going to have to come a bit more frequently if we were going to challenge for top honours. It's something that has improved and from that day against Cavan, we have maintained that scoring record right throughout.

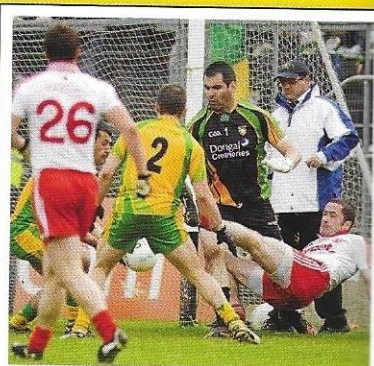


Ulster GAA Football Championship Quarter-Final  
Donegal 2-13 Derry 0-9, MacCumhail Park, Ballybofey, June 1

It was probably an easier game than what we expected. Last year we played them in the Ulster final and had a really tough game when they were missing a few top players. This time they had Paddy Bradley back on the playing field so we expected a huge challenge. Luckily enough in the first half we got off to a good start, opened up a good lead of two or three points early on and we seemed to move on from there. Karl Lacey did a man-marking job on their danger man, Paddy Bradley, and did a very good job, even managing to get forward himself a few times. I think, overall, that day will go down as a good team performance, though. We were very happy with the way things worked out.

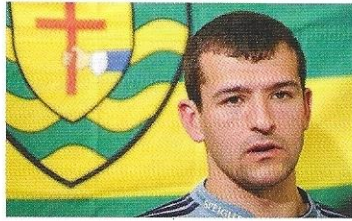
Ulster GAA Football Championship Semi-Final  
Tyrone 0-10 Donegal 0-12, St Tiernach's Park, Clones, June 30

The first half of this game was one of the toughest halves of football we played throughout the whole year. We got what we expected from Tyrone, the same as we did against them in Ulster a year earlier. In the first half they dropped huge numbers back but the game opened up a little bit more in the second half and we got scores a little easier. It was really close that day and could have gone either way only for a good save from Paul Durcan at the very end. We could have been dumped out of the Ulster championship that day, but we were lucky enough to come through. We were three points up at the end when Martin Penrose sold a great dummy and hit a fine shot. Luckily, Paul got down, managed to make the save and it stayed out. It's something we knew, that Tyrone could beat us on the day if they were given time and space. From the very start of the Ulster campaign we felt they presented a huge hurdle even though they might have had a few players out injured.



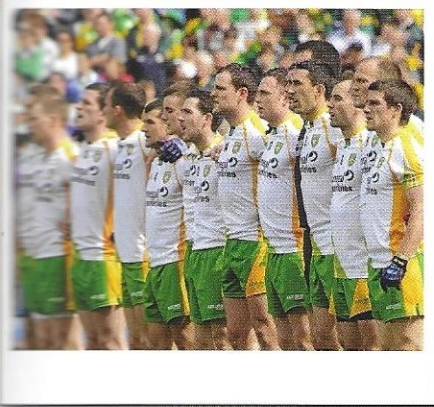
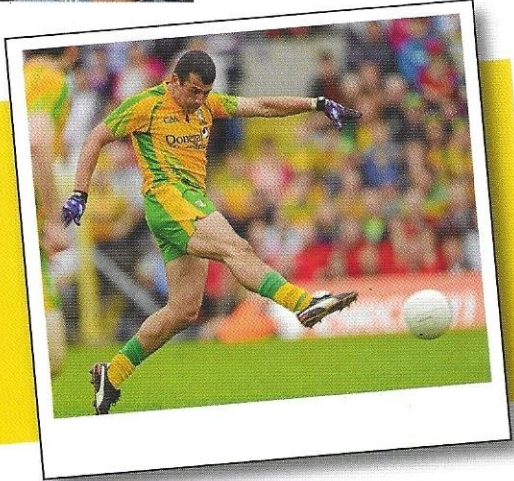


FRANK McGLYNN, Donegal



Ulster GAA Football Championship Final  
Donegal 13 Donegal 2-18, St Tiernach's Park, Clones

It was my one and only championship goal for Donegal that day. In the previous attack I got a bang to the stomach so I was down wounded for a few seconds. I stayed up the field from the resultant kick-out and Michael Murphy won a great turnover, laid it off to me and the space seemed to open up. I picked my spot early and it went in. It was something special to get a goal in a packed house in Clones on Ulster final day. That goal spurred us on to a great victory. Remember that things were quite tight until Leo McLoone popped up on the break from a kick-out and got our first goal just before half-time. That really set us on the way. It was great to defend the Ulster title, especially for the young lads in the team like Patrick McBrearty and Mark McHugh.

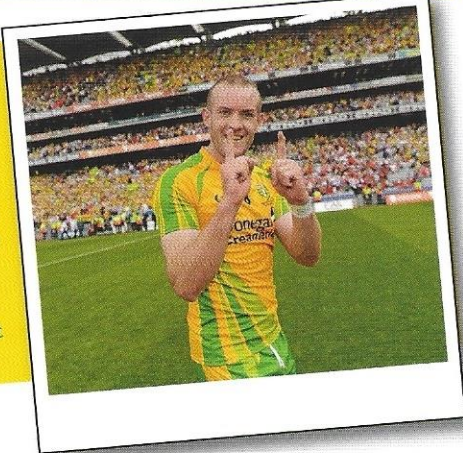


GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Quarter-Final  
Donegal 1-12 Kerry 1-10, Croke Park, August 5

It was a day we were all looking forward to, playing a team like Kerry for the first time in championship football in Croke Park. We went with the attitude that 'we are going to make the most of this'. Last year we were lucky in that we got a few games in Croke Park before the championship even started. That helped us a lot. Playing in an All-Ireland semi-final against Dublin, in front of a capacity crowd, gave us a taste for the atmosphere, and what the noise levels are like. We enjoyed it on the day and seemed to be well prepared for it. In the first half we kept it very tight against a Kerry team that are renowned for their quick starts. That settled us into the game and we pushed on from there and opened up a lead that we didn't give up. While they did come back at us with a goal in the last few minutes and a few points after that, we hung on and luckily enough Karl Lacey kicked over the point that secured the victory.

GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Semi-Final  
Donegal 0-16 Cork 1-11, Croke Park, August 26

One of the main things from that day was that we played so well in mid-field and denied Cork one of their main platforms for setting up attacks. Neil Gallagher (pictured) had one of his best ever days in a Donegal jersey and caught some incredible balls in the air from kick-outs. It really helped us to get on top and we kicked some great scores in the period just after half-time. We got caught out a bit at the end when Colm O'Neill got in for their goal in the closing stages. There were only two points in it at the final whistle and we only have ourselves to blame for that because I thought we were in control of the game at that stage. One of my main memories of that game is of the Donegal fans taking over Croke Park and turning it green and gold. I don't know how many Donegal people were there but they gave us great support, as they have done all year. It's a massive boost in a pressurised game like that to know that the crowd is behind you.





# DÚN NA nGALL PLAYER PROFILES

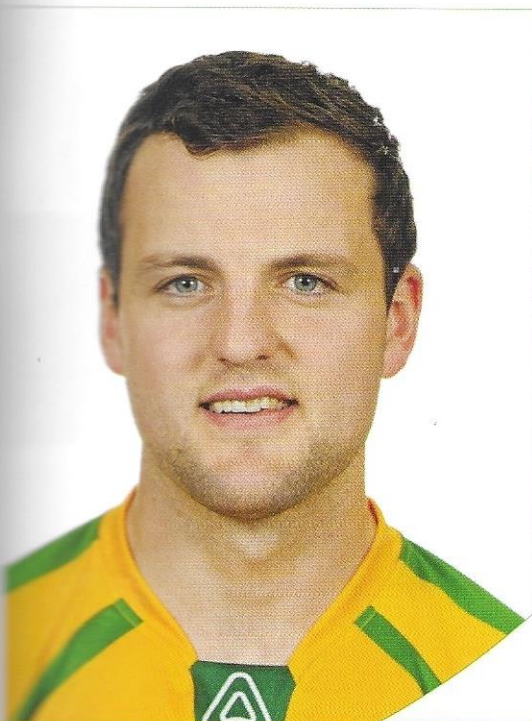


## MARTY BOYLE

Age: 27  
Club: Naomh Conaill  
Height: 6' 1"  
Weight: 12st

### CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

Debut: 2011  
Appearances: 3  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



AN CAPTAIN

## MICHAEL MURPHY

Age: 23  
Club: Glenswilly  
Height: 6' 2"  
Weight: 14st

### CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

Debut: 2007  
Appearances: 25  
Scores: 5-77  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC,  
1 Ulster U21,  
1 Ulster MFC



## MICHAEL BOYLE

Age: 25  
Club: Termon  
Height: 6'  
Weight: 16st

### CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

Debut: 2005  
Appearances: 8  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



## RYAN BRADLEY

Age: 26  
Club: Buncrana  
Height: 6' 2"  
Weight: 14st

### CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

Debut: 2005  
Appearances: 20  
Scores: 0-12  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC

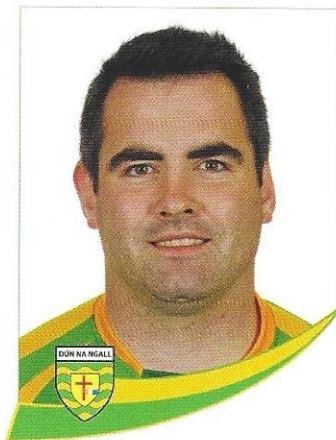




## PAUL DURCAN

Age: 29  
Club: Four Masters  
Height: 6' 5"  
Weight: 15st

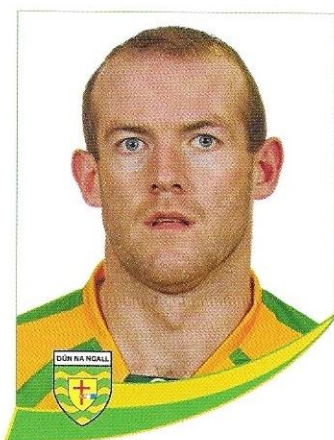
**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2004  
Appearances: 34  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



## NEIL GALLAGHER

Age: 29  
Club: Glenswilly  
Height: 6' 4"  
Weight: 15st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2005  
Appearances: 28  
Scores: 0-3  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



## STEPHEN GRIFFIN

Age: 24  
Club: St Naul's  
Height: 6' 2"  
Weight: 14st

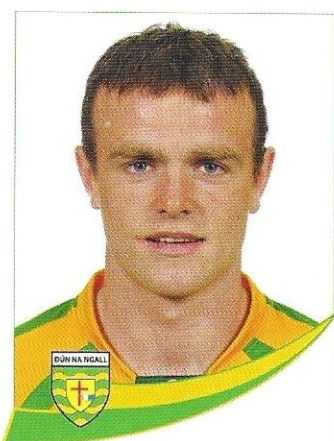
**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2008  
Appearances: 5  
Scores: 2-1  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



## ADRIAN HANLON

Age: 26  
Club: Dungloe  
Height: 5' 8"  
Weight: 12st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2009  
Appearances: 6  
Scores: 0-4  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



## RORY KAVANAGH

Age: 30  
Club: St Eunan's  
Height: 6' 2"  
Weight: 14st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2002  
Appearances: 39  
Scores: 4-37  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



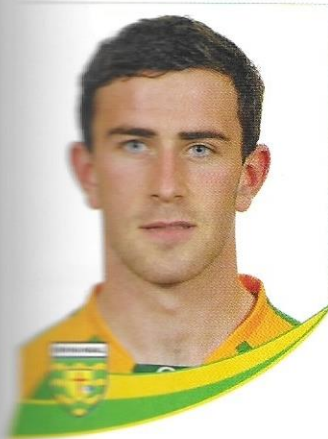
## KARL LACEY

Age: 28  
Club: Four Masters  
Height: 5' 11"  
Weight: 14st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2004  
Appearances: 40  
Scores: 0-7  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC,  
3 GAA All Stars





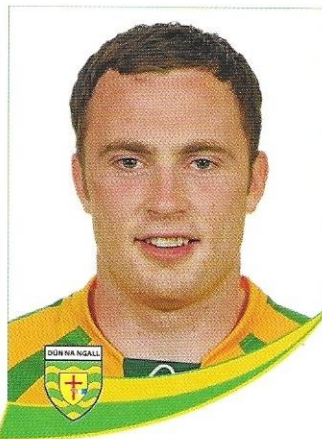


**PATRICK  
McBREARTY**

Age: 19  
 Club: Kilcar  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 12st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2011  
 Appearances: 12  
 Scores: 1-9  
 Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



**MARTIN  
McELHINNEY**

Age: 24  
 Club: Naomh Mícheál  
 Height: 6' 2"  
 Weight: 13st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2007  
 Appearances: 13  
 Scores: 0-3  
 Honours: 2 Ulster FSC,  
 1 Ulster MFC



**COLM  
McFADDEN**

Age: 29  
 Club: Naomh Mícheál  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 13st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2002  
 Appearances: 44  
 Scores: 6-122  
 Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



**EAMON  
McGEE**

Age: 28  
 Club: Gaoth Dobhair  
 Height: 6' 2"  
 Weight: 13st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2004  
 Appearances: 33  
 Scores: 0-5  
 Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



**NEIL  
McGEE**

Age: 26  
 Club: Gaoth Dobhair  
 Height: 6' 1"  
 Weight: 15st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2006  
 Appearances: 33  
 Scores: 0-1  
 Honours: 2 Ulster FSC,  
 1 GAA All Star



**FRANK  
McGLYNN**

Age: 26  
 Club: Glenfin  
 Height: 5' 11"  
 Weight: 13st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2006  
 Appearances: 27  
 Scores: 1-3  
 Honours: 2 Ulster FSC

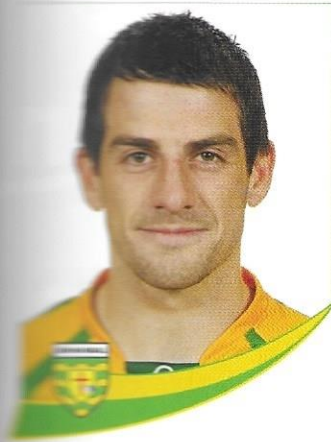


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**PADDY  
McGRATH**

Age: 23  
Club: Ardara  
Height: 5' 11"  
Weight: 12st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2010  
Appearances: 14  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



**MARK  
McHUGH**

Age: 22  
Club: Kilcar  
Height: 5' 11"  
Weight: 12st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2010  
Appearances: 14  
Scores: 1-10  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC,  
1 Ulster U21



**DANIEL  
McLAUGHLIN**

Age: 22  
Club: Naomh Mícheál  
Height: 5' 11"  
Weight: 12st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2011  
Appearances: 4  
Scores: 0-1  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC,  
1 Ulster U21



**LEO  
McLOONE**

Age: 23  
Club: Naomh Conaill  
Height: 6'  
Weight: 14st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2009  
Appearances: 13  
Scores: 2-7  
Honours: 1 Ulster FSC,  
1 Ulster U21,  
1 Ulster MFC



**DERMOT  
MOLLOY**

Age: 21  
Club: Naomh Conaill  
Height: 6'  
Weight: 12st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2010  
Appearances: 8  
Scores: 2-7  
Honours: 2 Ulster FSC,  
1 Ulster U21



**MARTIN  
O'REILLY**

Age: 19  
Club: Mac Cumhailís  
Height: 5' 9"  
Weight: 12st 7lbs

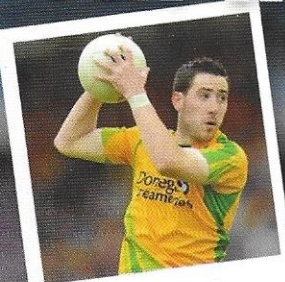
**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2012  
Appearances: 2  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 1 Ulster FSC

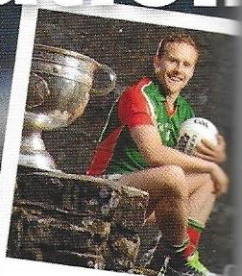




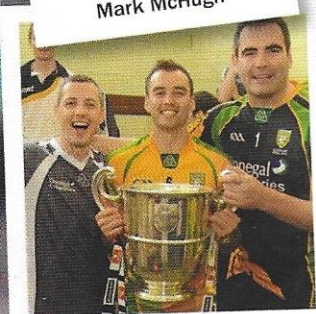
# All-Ireland Education



Mark McHugh



Andy Moran



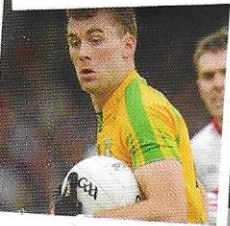
Barry Dunnion, Karl Lacey and Paul Durcan



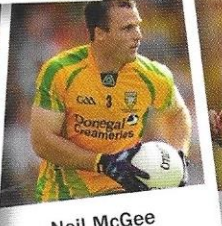
Kevin Keane



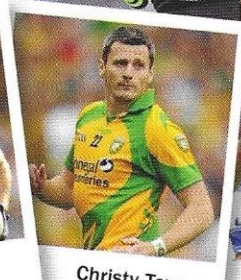
Alan Finlay



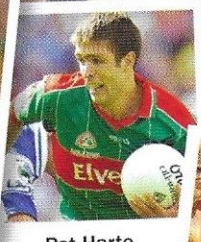
Eamon McGee



Neil McGee



Christy Toyne



Pat Harte



Colm Boyle



Keith Harty



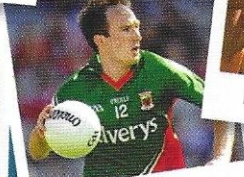
Rory Gallagher



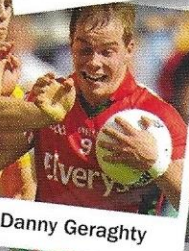
Pat Shovelin



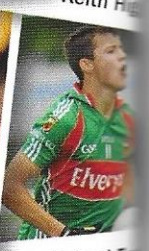
James Horan



Alan Dillon



Danny Geraghty



Michael Fogarty



Michael Walsh



Evan Regan

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**CHRISTY TOYE**

Age: 29  
 Club: Naomh Mícheál  
 Height: 6' 2"  
 Weight: 14st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2002  
 Appearances: 46  
 Scores: 4-26  
 Honours: 2 Ulster FSC

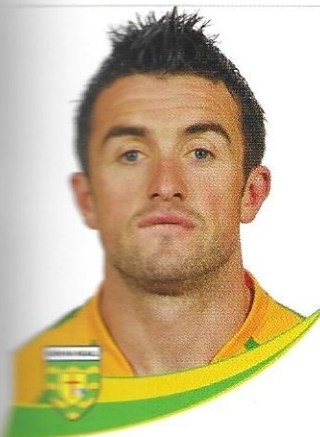


**ANTHONY THOMPSON**

Age: 26  
 Club: Naomh Conaill  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 12st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2006  
 Appearances: 13  
 Scores: 0-4  
 Honours: 2 Ulster FSC

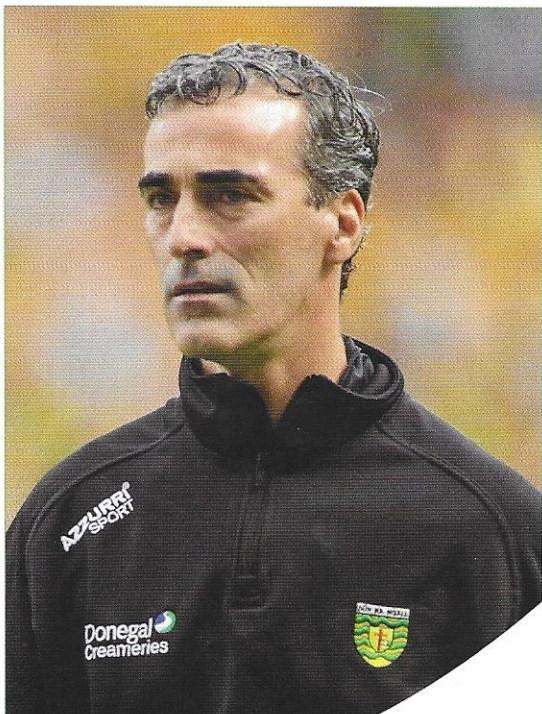


**DAVID WALSH**

Age: 30  
 Club: Naomh Bríd  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 12st 7lbs

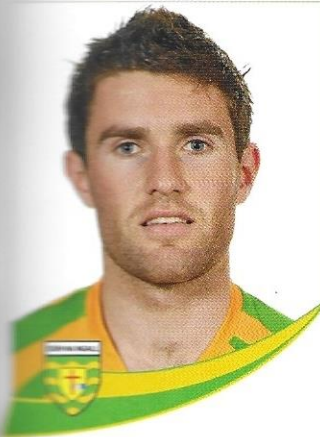
**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2008  
 Appearances: 21  
 Scores: 0-12  
 Honours: 2 Ulster FSC



**BAINISTEOR JIM MCGUINNESS**

McGuinness was a member of the last Donegal squad to take Sam Maguire back to Donegal in 1992, when he was a sub at just 19 years of age. The 39-year-old Glenties man hung up his inter-county boots in 2003 before transforming the Fortunes of his native county when he took over as senior manager at the start of the 2011 campaign, having led the county's U21s to the All-Ireland final the previous year. McGuinness guided his side to back-to-back Ulster titles for the first time in history earlier this summer.



**DECLAN WALSH**

Age: 23  
 Club: Malin  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 13st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2012  
 Appearances: 4  
 Scores: 0-2  
 Honours: 1 Ulster FSC,  
 1 Ulster U21,  
 1 Ulster MFC





# REVOLUTIONARY ROAD LEADS TO CROKE PARK

By Alan Mac Maoldúin, GAA Communications Manager

**S**t Oliver Plunkett Park, Crossmaglen is according to Google Maps just shy of 60 miles from Croke Park.

In terms of arguably the most fanciful journey taken by any group of footballers in modern football since Donegal's last championship outing against Armagh 26 months ago, the famed venue might as well be in a different solar system.

Without pressing the hyperbole button it really has been that stark.

It seems an age ago now but the accompanying headlines after what was described as a 'facile' 2-14 to 0-11 qualifier win for the hosts included 'Armagh swat woeful Donegal aside'.

The defeat ended the managerial stint of John Joe Doherty and paved the way for the incumbent, Jim McGuinness.

That it came 10 months after a 14-point hammering to Cork at Croke Park did not help matters.

It would not be an exaggeration to say the outing in question was something of a nadir for a county that has always held the game dear to its heart.

Donegal as a county has, at times at least, been viewed as being too 'nice' and unable to forge the necessary steel, but with an undoubted knack for churning out quality footballers.

Easy assumptions? Lazy observations? Sweeping generalisations?

Perhaps, but not entirely without foundation either. How perceptions can be rendered obsolete with the passing of even the shortest periods of time.

Few team voyages in recent times have generated more acreage in terms of newsprint. Lesser still sound bites *go leor* through the dissection and analysis of a way of playing that has shook the last remnants of the kick and catch brigade.

Therein lies the kernel of a story that has already been touted as the next stage in the evolution of football.

If Armagh and more notably Tyrone took football in a certain direction from the early stages of the last decade, Donegal have nudged it along another tangent over the last 26-month period which has seen them lose only one championship outing, book a second All-Ireland final day out and annex first ever back-to-back Ulster wins.

The current manager's role in this process cannot be overstated.

Mindset. Organisation. System.

Nine of the players who started against Armagh that day played against Cork. Another came on.

Neil McGee, one of three Gaoth Dobhair brothers toggled today, has had a bird's eye view of the transition.

He was one of the nine that day in Cross'. He will play today where it

matters most and crucially has been a defensive cog in an approach based first and foremost on getting it right at the back.

That much they have done – and more.

"We always felt that the talent was there but at times things were all over the place," points out the 26-year-old construction worker.

"We weren't fit enough and it was the first thing Jim brought to the set up last year.

"The one thing about coming out of Crossmaglen that day was that the boys were willing. The spirits were down and we had a lot to prove because things hadn't gone well but a lot of the boys were willing to put in the work and it was just a matter of getting the right direction and that's what Jim has brought to it.

"As you would be for every championship game we were well up for it but they hit us for two goals in 10 minutes and it took the wind out of our sails. We had a lot of bad memories from Armagh and knew that they were going to go at us hard.

"It was a formality after that and they just wound down the clock."

Of course you could quite easily have been perched here 12 months ago reading this synopsis and had it been so the journey would have been all the more remarkable given it was year one of the 'Glenties-led Revolution'.



...filled Colm McFadden goal bound semi-final effort flew over against Dublin instead of under shortly after half-time and the eventual All-Ireland champions navigated the wobble to silence and write their own piece of history.

The analysis that followed bordered on mass hysteria in some quarters. Coaches and those with a particular interest in game-plans, it was describing.

McGee is not sure what all the fuss was about and believes the attacking direction to their approach in 2012 was a natural direction for the team to take in year two.

Referring to the critics he adds: "I thought it was a bit over the top and it didn't come from Dublin. Some people were giving out about us but they didn't praise the way Dublin defended that day.

"We had worked on things in training in an effort to run the game and we thought we were getting good rewards from it but obviously when we came up against Dublin it was a different story.

"We defended well too but they managed to add on a couple of more scores than us.

"We met a couple of weeks after that. It was a fairly positive meeting and we knew we had to push on and make the

most of the good base we had. It wasn't negative.

"The development of the team meant that change was going to happen. The first thing we had to sort out was to get a good defensive base and it's about improving all of the time."

The last time silverware of the variety on offer today was a possibility for the 'Hills' McGee was six.

He admits his recollections of all the fuss are patchy but remembers the giddiness that permeated throughout the county and indeed considerably further afield.

"I was six and I only have vague memories of sitting on the couch watching it," he recalls.

"The Sam Maguire came to the school

alright afterwards but it's all a bit hazy to be honest.

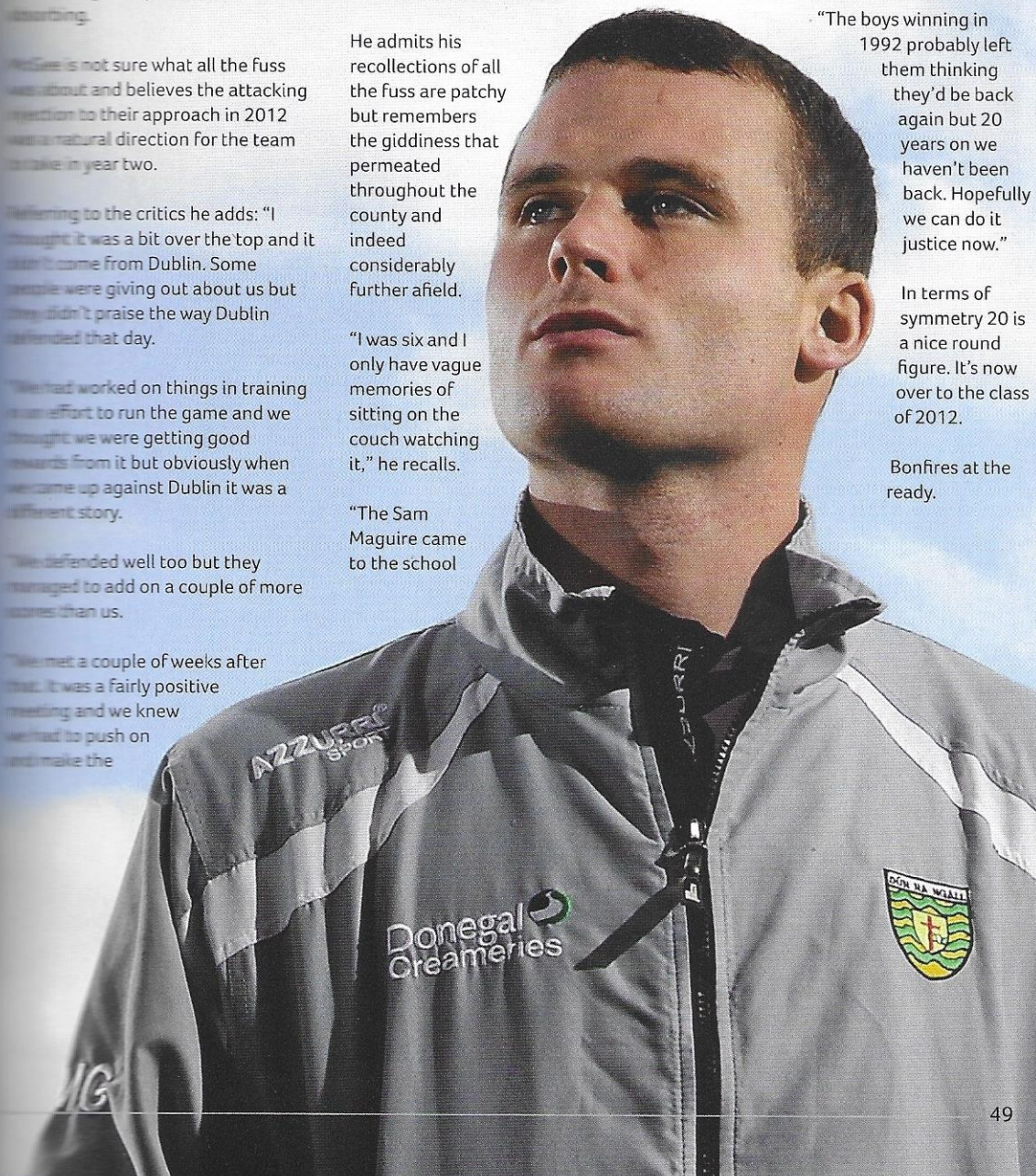
"I remember there was a massive hype and everyone was mad to wear the jersey and get out and kick ball and I think it's the same way now.

"Gaoth Dobhair didn't have anyone on it at the time so it's a massive boost for the club to have the three of us on it now.

"The boys winning in 1992 probably left them thinking they'd be back again but 20 years on we haven't been back. Hopefully we can do it justice now."

In terms of symmetry 20 is a nice round figure. It's now over to the class of 2012.

Bonfires at the ready.







# DONEGAL AND MAYO

## DONEGAL

### MAY 20, BREFFNI PARK

Donegal 1-16 Cavan 1-10

### JULY 16, BALLYBOFEY

Donegal 2-13 Derry 0-9

### JUNE 30, CLONES

Donegal 0-12 Tyrone 0-10

### JULY 22, CLONES

Donegal 2-18 Down 0-13

### AUGUST 5, CROKE PARK

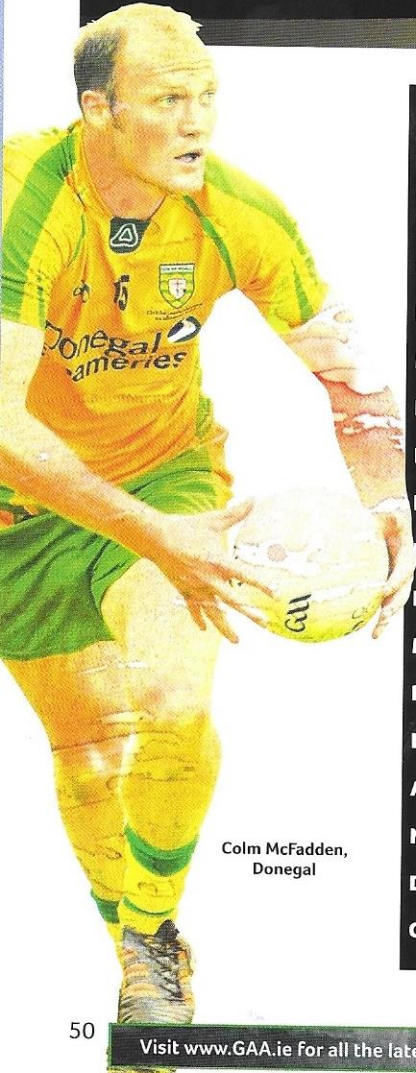
Donegal 1-12 Kerry 1-10

### AUGUST 26, CROKE PARK

Donegal 0-16 Cork 1-11

**TOTAL SCORED:** 6-87 (105)

**TOTAL CONCEDED:** 3-63 (72)



Colm McFadden,  
Donegal

	20/5	16/6	30/6	22/7	5/8	26/8	TOTAL
COLM McFADDEN	1-6	1-2	0-3	0-6	1-6	0-5	3-28
MICHAEL MURPHY	----	0-3	0-3	0-1	0-3	0-3	0-13
LEO McLOONE	0-2	1-0	----	1-0	0-1	----	2-3
RORY KAVANAGH	0-3	----	0-2	----	----	0-1	0-6
MARK McHUGH	0-2	----	0-1	0-2	----	0-1	0-6
FRANK McGLYNN	0-1	0-1	----	1-0	----	0-1	1-3
PADDY McBREARTY	----	0-2	0-1	0-1	----	----	0-4
RYAN BRADLEY	----	0-1	0-1	0-2	----	----	0-4
DAVID WALSH	----	0-2	----	0-1	----	0-1	0-4
KARL LACEY	----	----	0-1	----	0-1	0-2	0-4
MARTIN McELHINNEY	----	----	----	0-2	----	0-1	0-3
DECLAN WALSH	----	----	----	0-2	----	----	0-2
NEIL GALLAGHER	0-1	0-1	----	----	----	----	0-2
ANTHONY THOMPSON	----	0-1	----	----	----	0-1	0-2
NEIL McGEE	0-1	----	----	----	----	----	0-1
DANIEL McLAUGHLIN	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	0-1
CHRISTY TOYE	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	0-1



# PATHS TO THE FINAL

## MAYO

### JUNE 24, MACHALE PARK

Mayo 4-20      Leitrim 0-10

### JULY 15, DR. HYDE PARK

Mayo 0-12      Sligo 0-10

### AUGUST 4, CROKE PARK

Mayo 3-18      Down 2-9

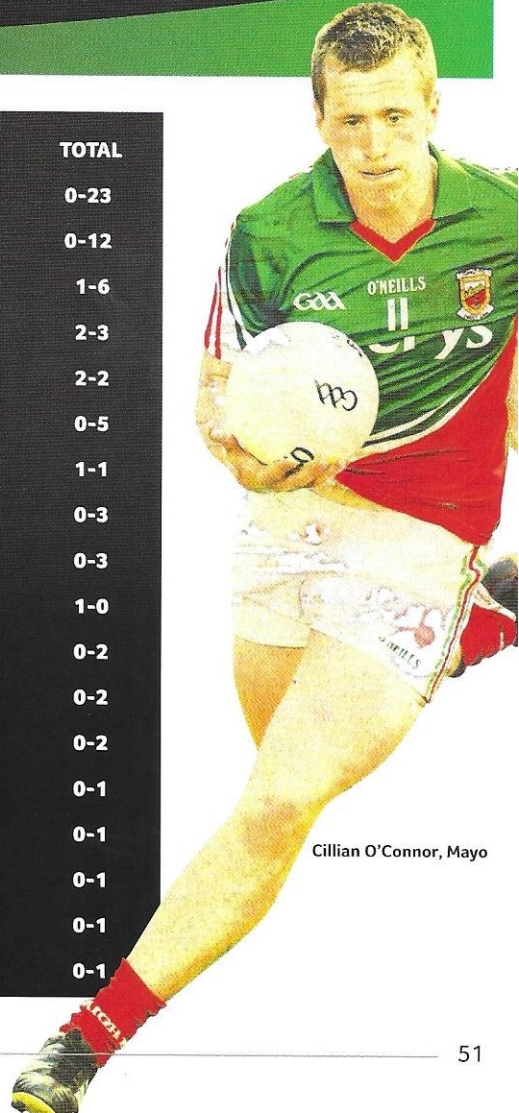
### SEPTEMBER 2, CROKE PARK

Mayo 0-19      Dublin 0-16

**TOTAL SCORED: 7-69 (90)**

**TOTAL CONCEDED: 2-45 (51)**

	24/6	15/7	4/8	2/9	TOTAL
CELIAN O'CONNOR	0-6	0-3	0-7	0-7	0-23
ALVIN DILLON	0-3	0-2	0-4	0-3	0-12
KEVIN McLOUGHLIN	1-2	----	0-2	0-2	1-6
MICHAEL CONROY	0-1	----	2-1	0-1	2-3
JIMMY MORAN	2-0	0-1	0-1	----	2-2
ENDA VARLEY	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-5
JASON DOHERTY	----	----	1-0	0-1	1-1
LEE KEEGAN	0-1	0-1	0-1	----	0-3
DANNY MORAN	0-1	0-1	----	0-1	0-3
ALVIN FREEMAN	1-0	----	----	----	1-0
CONOR MORTIMER	0-2	----	----	----	0-2
DANNY GERAGHTY	0-1	0-1	----	----	0-2
ADAM O'SHEA	----	0-1	0-1	----	0-2
KEITH HIGGINS	0-1	----	----	----	0-1
EDMAN McGARRITY	0-1	----	----	----	0-1
COLIN BOYLE	----	0-1	----	----	0-1
RICHIE FEENEY	----	----	----	0-1	0-1
SEAMUS O'SHEA	----	----	----	0-1	0-1



Cillian O'Connor, Mayo





# AIDAN O'SHEA: MAN OF THE MOMENT

By Alan Mac Maoldúin, GAA Communications Manager

**E**very now and then a player comes along who seems to have been around forever.

Joe Canning is one. Colm Cooper another. And in Aidan O'Shea Mayo have their very own 'stalwart' at the ripe old age of 22. Of course it just seems that way.

The towering Breaffy clubman pricked football's national conscience early on, standing out – literally – as an impressive minor, penning an exam diary for a national newspaper before trialling Down Under with the Western Bulldogs in Melbourne before his gaze finally fell closer to home.

A lot of ground has been covered in a short career to date but today's involvement is the tangible reward of a burgeoning potential that few have doubted from the outset.

With his early season osteitis pubis injuries firmly behind him as he inches back to his very best, O'Shea will form one half of the Mayo engine room today in a sector that will have a major bearing on the ebb and flow of today's battle royale, regardless of the much vaunted systems that will be employed.

Today, Mayo will attempt to set the tone for the years to come safe in the knowledge that this is a chance that has presented itself on numerous occasions previously (we won't bother

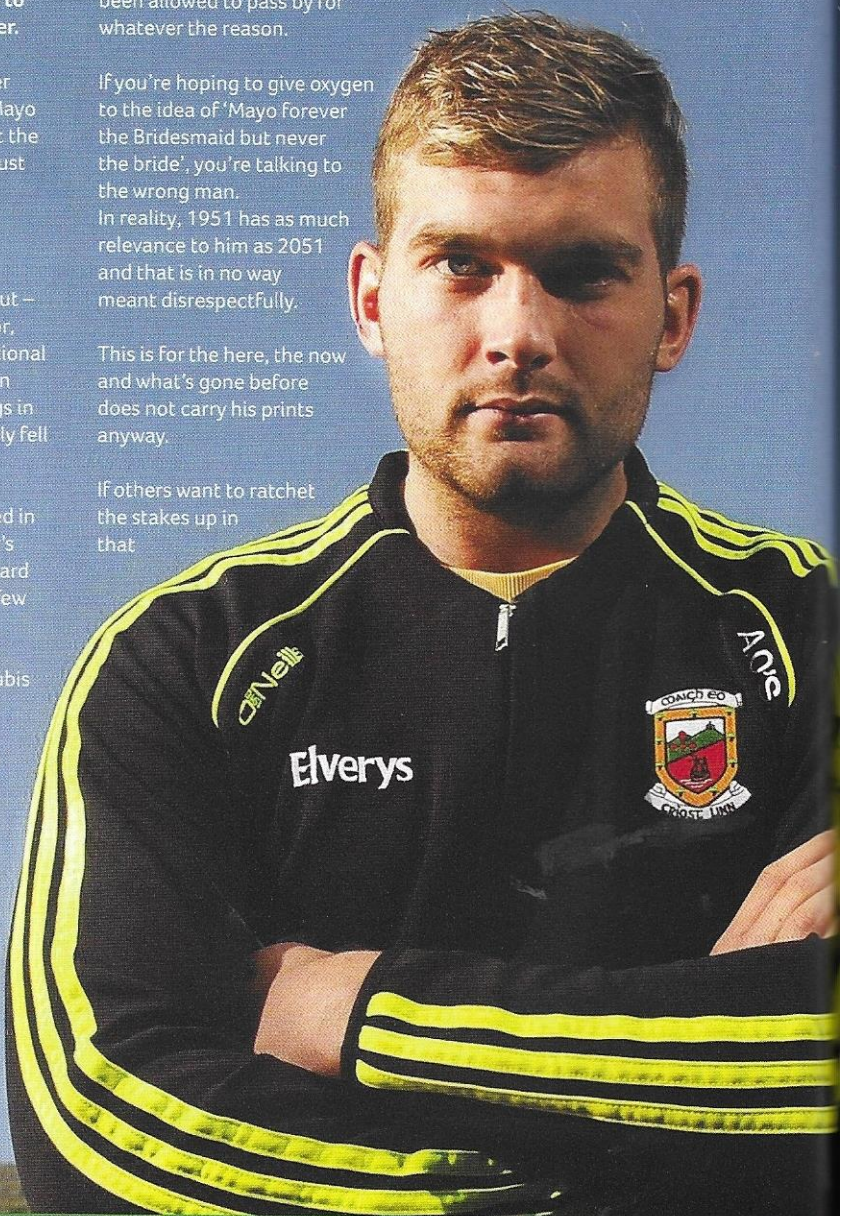
with the citations) but one that has been allowed to pass by for whatever the reason.

If you're hoping to give oxygen to the idea of 'Mayo forever the Bridesmaid but never the bride', you're talking to the wrong man.

In reality, 1951 has as much relevance to him as 2051 and that is in no way meant disrespectfully.

This is for the here, the now and what's gone before does not carry his prints anyway.

If others want to ratchet the stakes up in that





regard there is precious little he can do about it.

"The record is not something that I am conscious of," says O'Shea.

"There are lots of teams not winning All-Irelands every year.

"I am four years playing senior football for Mayo and for three of them I haven't won an All-Ireland final and that's the way I view it.

"We can't look at what went before and what might have been because I wasn't involved so it is not an issue.

"I was at both the 2004 and 2006 games and Mayo didn't show up on either day. There is no correlation between the two teams. There are only three or four players who played in 2006 so they are two totally different teams. There is no comparison between the two."

It's a candid assessment for a man so young and yet worldly to a level belying his years.

If O'Shea and team manager James Horan wanted to pair themselves with one of the few counties that could outstrip them as hype merchants, they could hardly have chosen a better one than Donegal if given a blank canvas.

In many ways the billing has allowed Mayo to plough on regardless largely away from the spotlight with the focus falling further to the north-west thanks in part to Donegal's impressive 2011 campaign and a number of barnstorming performances this year to date.

When you've waited since 1992 for a final appearance, never mind a win, what's the difference in real terms in going all the way back to 1951? Negligible, in the greater scheme of things.

Now that the day has arrived Breaffy and the O'Shea family can justifiably stand tall today when Aidan bursts out of the Hogan Stand tunnel. That he's joined by brothers Séamus and Conor on the panel adds a further sense of achievement.

If ever a player or indeed a group of brothers were destined to be involved in an All-Ireland final it was surely the O'Sheas – not unlike their namesakes Muintir Uí Shé from Ceann Trá in the county of their father Jim.

They are one of those quintessential families similar to so many who are synonymous with the GAA and who by the same token make it tick. O'Shea's first All-Ireland memories are stitched with green and gold – not surprising given the Killorglin lineage of both his father Jim and mother Sheila.

"Both of my parents are from Killorglin and are steeped in football," he adds. "Dad played Kerry minor and played with Laune Rangers. He worked in the bank and got transferred around the place.

"I was born in Westmeath - in Mullingar - and then we moved onto Ballinasloe in Galway before the family settled in Mayo.

"There's not much else talked about in this house to be honest. Dad is the manager of the local team and Mam does the washing for all three of us. We're all football mad, even the little sister Meadh is into it and it's all we talk about."

While Mayo have embarked on a journey of their own to reach this juncture it hasn't attracted as much attention as that of Donegal.

That's all the more surprising when you consider that in year one of the current regime they were taken to extra-time in London - a game O'Shea

concedes he thought was gone from them – before stripping reigning All-Ireland champions Cork of their crown.

Then there's his own journey. It's conceivable that O'Shea could be wearing a sleeveless signet or guernsey clutching an oval-shaped ball at the MCG last Friday had he persevered with a trial with the Western Bulldogs.

Delighted to have trialled? Definitely. Disappointed to have returned home? Not at all.

"I went over in Christmas of 2009 and they were very keen after I had had a good year here at home," he adds. "However that interest subsided a little after the following year which didn't go quite as well.

"I suppose it came to a decision like missing an opportunity to pursue the chance to play in an All-Ireland final in Croke Park or playing in an AFL grand final in the MCG.

"I know where I'd prefer to be playing. It's easy to say now being passionate about Gaelic football but if the choice had to be made I would probably have stayed around and played football at home.

"It would be silly to say that I didn't dream about this when I was younger."

Carpe diem as the old Latin phrase instructs. Seize the day.

O'Shea and co. will know today they have the chance to alter the perception, mood and psyche of a county in the short-term at least.

They may be ignoring history but it won't ignore them if the result is right today.



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# MAIGH EO PLAYER PROFILES



## CHRIS BARRETT

Age: 25  
Club: Belmullet  
Height: 5' 9"  
Weight: 12st

### CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

Debut: 2010  
Appearances: 4  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 3 Connacht FSC,  
1 All-Ireland U21,  
3 Connacht U21



## COLM BOYLE

Age: 26  
Club: Davitts  
Height: 5' 9"  
Weight: 12st

### CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

Debut: 2008  
Appearances: 6  
Scores: 0-1  
Honours: 1 Connacht FSC,  
1 All-Ireland U21,  
2 Connacht U21



## GER CAFFERKEY

Age: 25  
Club: Ballina Stephenites  
Height: 6' 1"  
Weight: 13st 5lbs

### CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

Debut: 2009  
Appearances: 13  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 3 Connacht FSC,  
1 All-Ireland U21,  
3 Connacht U21



## DAVID BURKE

Age: 28  
Club: Ballina Stephenites  
Height: 6' 2"  
Weight: 14st 5lbs

### CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

Debut: 2005  
Appearances: 19  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 4 Connacht FSC,  
3 Connacht U21,  
2 Connacht MFC

AN CAPTAIN





## CATHAL CAROLAN

Age: 23  
Club: Crossmolina  
Height: 5' 7"  
Weight: 12st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: N/A  
Appearances: 0  
Scores: 0  
Honours: 1 Connacht U21



## MICHAEL CONROY

Age: 27  
Club: Davitts  
Height: 5' 9"  
Weight: 12st 11lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2004  
Appearances: 8  
Scores: 3-4  
Honours: 3 Connacht FSC,  
1 All-Ireland U21,  
2 Connacht U21



## ALAN DILLON

Age: 28  
Club: Ballintubber  
Height: 5' 10"  
Weight: 12st 4lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2003  
Appearances: 40  
Scores: 1-89  
Honours: 5 Connacht FSC,  
2 Connacht U21,  
2 Connacht MFC,  
1 GAA All Star



## JASON DOHERTY

Age: 22  
Club: Burrishoole  
Height: 5' 11"  
Weight: 12st 9lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2010  
Appearances: 9  
Scores: 1-4  
Honours: 2 Connacht FSC,  
2 Connacht U21



## RICHIE FEENEY

Age: 29  
Club: Castlebar Mitchels  
Height: 6'  
Weight: 12st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2011  
Appearances: 8  
Scores: 0-1  
Honours: 2 Connacht FSC,  
1 Connacht U21,  
1 Connacht MFC



## ALAN FREEMAN

Age: 23  
Club: Aghamore  
Height: 6' 1"  
Weight: 13st 8lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
Debut: 2010  
Appearances: 11  
Scores: 3-12  
Honours: 2 Connacht FSC,  
1 Connacht U21





**PEADAR GARDINER**

Age: 32  
 Club: Crossmolina  
 Height: 5' 11"  
 Weight: 12st 2lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
 Debut: 2004  
 Appearances: 33  
 Scores: 0-6  
 Honours: 5 Connacht FSC



**DANNY GERAGHTY**

Age: 21  
 Club: Ballintubber  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 14st 10lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
 Debut: 2012  
 Appearances: 2  
 Scores: 0-2  
 Honours: 1 Connacht FSC,  
 1 Connacht MFC



**JASON GIBBONS**

Age: 23  
 Club: Ballintubber  
 Height: 6' 3"  
 Weight: 14st 9lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
 Debut: 2011  
 Appearances: 3  
 Scores: 0-0  
 Honours: 2 Connacht FSC,  
 1 Connacht U21



**KEITH HIGGINS**

Age: 27  
 Club: Ballyhaunis  
 Height: 5' 10"  
 Weight: 11st 12lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
 Debut: 2005  
 Appearances: 25  
 Scores: 0-4  
 Honours: 4 Connacht FSC,  
 1 All-Ireland U21,  
 1 Connacht U21,  
 Young Player of the Year  
 (2006)



**KEVIN KEANE**

Age: 22  
 Club: Westport  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 12st 13lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
 Debut: 2012  
 Appearances: 4  
 Scores: 0-0  
 Honours: 1 Connacht FSC,  
 1 Connacht U21,  
 1 Connacht MFC



**LEE KEEGAN**

Age: 22  
 Club: Westport  
 Height: 5' 11"  
 Weight: 12st 13lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**  
 Debut: 2011  
 Appearances: 6  
 Scores: 0-4  
 Honours: 2 Connacht FSC,  
 1 Connacht U21





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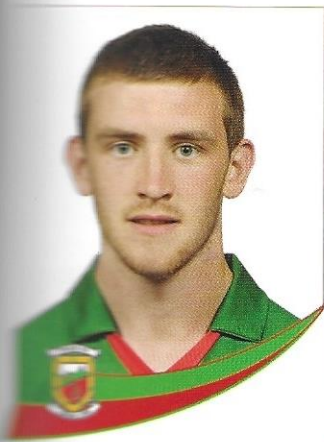
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**SHANE  
McHALE**

Age: 21  
Club: Knockmore  
Height: 6' 1"  
Weight: 13st 6lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2012  
Appearances: 1  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 1 Connacht FSC,  
1 Connacht MFC



**KEVIN  
McLOUGHLIN**

Age: 23  
Club: Knockmore  
Height: 5' 11"  
Weight: 12st 5lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2009  
Appearances: 13  
Scores: 2-11  
Honours: 3 Connacht FSC,  
2 Connacht U21



**BARRY  
MORAN**

Age: 26  
Club: Castlebar Mitchels  
Height: 6' 4"  
Weight: 15st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2005  
Appearances: 19  
Scores: 3-9  
Honours: 3 Connacht FSC,  
1 All-Ireland U21,  
3 Connacht U21



**CILLIAN  
O'CONNOR**

Age: 20  
Club: Ballintubber  
Height: 6'  
Weight: 14st 3lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2011  
Appearances: 9  
Scores: 1-42  
Honours: 2 Connacht FSC,  
2 Connacht MFC,  
Young Footballer of the  
Year (2011)



**KENNETH  
O'MALLEY**

Age: 25  
Club: Ballinrobe  
Height: 5' 11"  
Weight: 12st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2007  
Appearances: 4  
Scores: 0-0  
Honours: 2 Connacht FSC,  
1 All-Ireland U21,  
2 Connacht U21



**AIDAN  
O'SHEA**

Age: 22  
Club: Breaffy  
Height: 6' 4"  
Weight: 16st 2lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2009  
Appearances: 14  
Scores: 3-7  
Honours: 3 Connacht FSC,  
1 Connacht U21,  
1 Connacht MFC





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**SÉAMUS O'SHEA**

Age: 25  
 Club: Breaffy  
 Height: 6' 2"  
 Weight: 14st 11lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2010  
 Appearances: 7  
 Scores: 0-2  
 Honours: 3 Connacht FSC,  
 1 All-Ireland U21,  
 3 Connacht U21



**EVAN REGAN**

Age: 19  
 Club: Ballina Stephenites  
 Height: 5' 10"  
 Weight: 12st

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: N/A  
 Appearances: 0  
 Scores: 0-0  
 Honours: 1 Connacht FSC

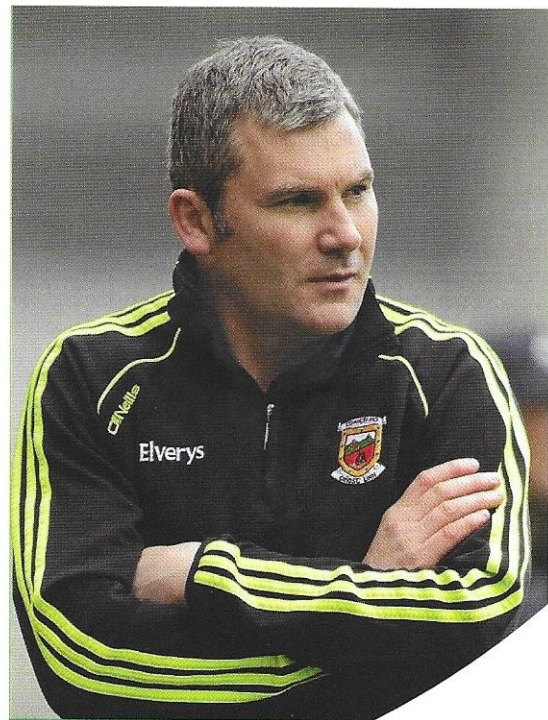


**ENDA VARLEY**

Age: 26  
 Club: Garrymore  
 Height: 5' 9"  
 Weight: 12st 5lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2010  
 Appearances: 9  
 Scores: 0-8  
 Honours: 2 Connacht FSC,  
 1 All-Ireland U21,  
 2 Connacht U21



**DONAL VAUGHAN**

Age: 23  
 Club: Ballinrobe  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 13st 7lbs

**CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD**

Debut: 2009  
 Appearances: 15  
 Scores: 0-3  
 Honours: 3 Connacht FSC,  
 2 Connacht U21



**BAINISTEOR**

**JAMES HORAN**

Horan made his name in management with Ballintubber, guiding them back into the senior ranks after his appointment in 2007 and then to a maiden Mayo title in 2010. As a player, Horan was a brilliant wing-forward, winning three Connacht titles and appearing in the three All-Ireland finals (including replays) as well as gaining GAA All Star awards in 1996 and '99. Horan guided Mayo to their 43rd Connacht title with victory over Sligo last July. The 40-year-old was born in New Zealand and is a father of four.





# OLD GHOSTS CAN MAKE WAY FOR IMMORTALS

By Keith Duggan, Irish Times

**I**n August 1992, Donegal met Mayo in an All-Ireland semi-final which offered the last word in the old saying that familiarity breeds contempt. In the lead-up to the match, the Westerners were absolutely certain that they would have no problem dealing with Donegal. Up in Donegal, the general assumption was that beating Mayo was a done deal. Both counties, in short, believed that the other had a rubbish team.

It was Pádraig Brogan's misfortune to be caught in the middle that day. The Knockmore man had spent the summer re-establishing a sometimes incandescent Mayo career after a single season spent moonlighting as a Donegal man. He had been involved with Donegal for their ill-fated Ulster '91 season which ended with a hammering against an irresistible young Down team in the provincial final. Now, Brogan found himself back in a Mayo shirt and entering a cagey, nerve-ridden match in the second half. The appearance of their former teammate drew the expected reaction from indignant Donegal men.

"I got a fair few belts too," Brogan recalled in an interview years later. "They were lining up to say hello. But they were a fine bunch of lads and I was delighted for them." Donegal won on a scoreline of 0-13 to 0-9 in a match of such staggering mediocrity that it almost certainly convinced the awaiting Dublin team that if even a dozen of them showed up for the All-Ireland final halfway sober, they would still win it comfortably. It didn't quite work out that way.

Brogan's introduction in that semi-final enhanced a rich Donegal-Mayo tradition which bridges the decades back to the great Mayo side established by Gerald Courell and Jackie Carney in the middle part of the last century. In 1948, Paddy Prendergast, the livewire full-back on the 1950 and '51 teams was happily kicking ball for Dungloe while he was stationed in Ardara garda station. (Everyone knows that all Mayo Guards end up in Donegal and that all Mayo stations are full of Donegal men. John Forde, the army man from Ballina also spent a few seasons kicking football in Donegal before forming part of the great Mayo full-back line with Prendergast and Seán Flanagan).

Prendergast had lined out for Donegal

when he received a letter of invitation to take part in a trial game for Mayo against Galway. He fretted over the letter, finally showing it to Frankie White of Sligo. It took several Donegal men to persuade him that it would not be treasonable to line out for his native county before he agreed to make the long trip by bus to Ballina. Understandably, the Mayo men kept him and that was that.

Over the years, the traffic between the counties was constant, and invariably it had repercussions on the football field. Martin Carney from Ballyshannon had already finished a glittering career with Donegal when he began to play for Mayo. He was just continuing a family tradition: his uncle Jackie had played on the Mayo team



Mickey Finian and Henry Lynch (far left) join in the celebrations as Seán Flanagan and Mayo County Board Secretary Finn Mongey lift the Sam Maguire in 1950.



Donegal's 1992 All-Ireland winning team



1936 and trained the 1950/'51 vintage. He was teaching and living in Castlebar when he decided to transfer in 1979: Mayo had not won a Connacht title since 1967. But Carney was captain when they broke through in 1981 and was still on the panel when the county returned to the Connacht final of 1989.

Since then, Mayo have been one of the most consistent football counties in Ireland and their enduring love for Gaelic football and their faith in the green and red has become one of the motifs of the summer championship. Mayo show up, season after season. Donegal have shape-shifted countless times in the years when Mayo pushed hard for All-Ireland titles. At times the Ulster men looked like contenders, at times they looked all washed up.

Now, both Donegal and Mayo have been transformed by their respective managers, Jim McGuinness and James Horan. Both teams have made it to this day on merit and are characterised by a granite self-belief

and unity of purpose. Both these teams are bucking their respective traditions. These are lean, hungry teams coming from big football counties that have probably punched below their weight for too long.

That is why this is such a special All-Ireland weekend. Officially, The Gathering will take place next year but the clans from Donegal and Mayo got a head start this weekend. They are here from London, from Chicago, from New York and beyond in the belief that they are going to witness something historic.

And either way, it will be historic. And they know each other. The familiarity remains except that now it is accompanied by respect. For years, Donegal people took pride in the fact that Ciarán McDonald, the Crossmolina natural, has a Donegal connection through his father. And it goes both ways. Michael Murphy's father Mick is from Bonniconlon. Paul Durcan's father John hails from Foxford (where, in the homecoming

nights of 1951 Seán Flanagan stood on the stage and told the crowd: 'The one thing warmer than a Foxford blanket is a Foxford welcome.')

Go to any pub in Mayo or Donegal and you will find the same photographs: black and whites of Mayo 1950/'51 or the obligatory framed image of Brian McEniff's smart lads from 1992. After today, one of these teams is going to join them. It is a strange thing to come from a county which produces football teams that, while strong enough to do well on many seasons, rarely wins in September. It means that an odd immortality is conferred on their All-Ireland champion sides: they are literally never forgotten.

So there will be a lot of history and old ghosts swirling around Croke Park today. The thing about Mayo and Donegal people fortunate enough to be here in this stadium is that they get all that. They know what this this day means.

And so: listen to that roar.



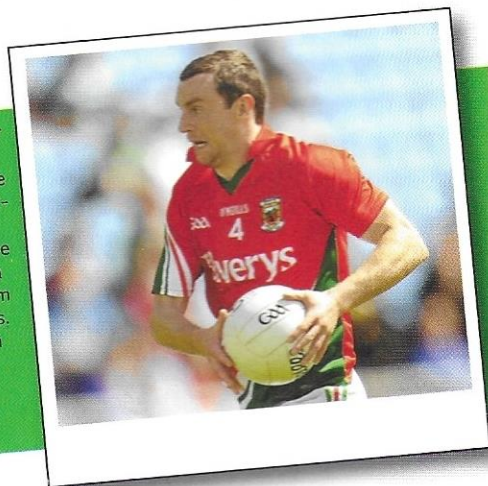


# ROUND BY ROUND WITH...

We asked Mayo goalkeeper David Clarke to cast an eye back on six defining images of his side's campaign to date.

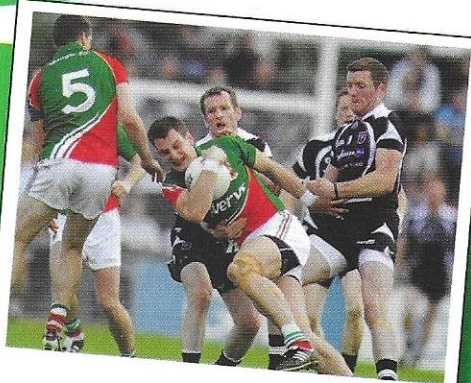
Connacht GAA Football Championship Semi-Final  
Mayo 4-20 Leitrim 0-10, MacHale Park, June 24

If memory serves me correct, the first 10 or 15 minutes didn't go all our way. Leitrim were putting it up to us for a while. The picture there shows Keith Higgins bursting out of defence. With the speed he has, he always has that ability to be able to break the gainline and bring us forward. It was a nice warm day, there was a decent crowd there and it took us a while to get going but after we got the first goal we were able to push on. We got a goal or two after half-time that gave us a bit of a cushion. Looking at Keith there, he gives us that attacking threat from defence. He's a great footballer and his kickpassing ability is top class. It's about the way we play as well, we try to give the ball to the man in the best position. If there's space in front, you go into it. Moving the whole time, everyone is a forward and everyone is a defender.

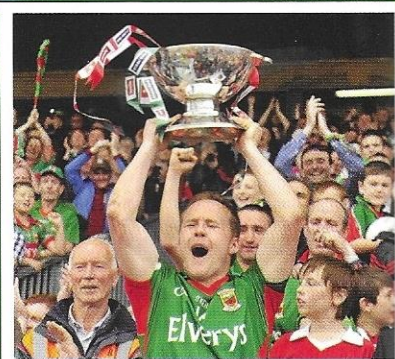


Connacht GAA Football Championship Final  
Mayo 0-12 Sligo 0-10, Dr. Hyde Park, July 15

That was one of those games where we probably didn't play to our ability, or weren't let play to the top of our ability, but there was quite a strong breeze out on the pitch and just looking at that picture of Barry, he played very well that day. He caught some kickouts, especially in the first half and in the second half when we were under pressure. I think he ended up with the Man of the Match award. We dominated for periods in midfield and Barry was a major player in that. Definitely it was a game that could have went either way, but I suppose it just shows the different types of ways we can win games, and we were definitely very happy with the result and getting out of there with the cup.



It was great to win back-to-back Connacht titles. Looking at this year in itself, we only had two games the way our hand was dealt this year, and it was a tough final to win so when you win them like that it's always enjoyable and you can see the joy on Andy's face there. He's been a real leader and driver of the team over the last two or three years, so it was a good reward for him to be able to lift the cup. There was a good Mayo following there as well, as you can see behind in the picture, which has been a feature of all our games in the league and championship this year. Andy's a top quality player and if he was fit, he'd definitely be playing on the majority of teams in the country, if not all of them. He's a bubbly character and he's still like that and he's still the team captain. He's still having a major impact before the games, at training and at different times. The legacy he left after his injury is that there were plenty of guys there willing and able, after the work Andy put in with them, to be able to take up the mantle and continue on in the same way when he was playing.



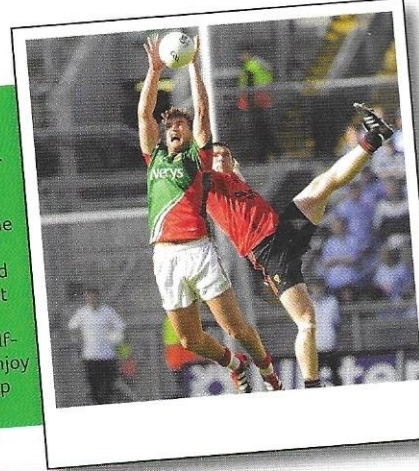


DAVID CLARKE, Mayo



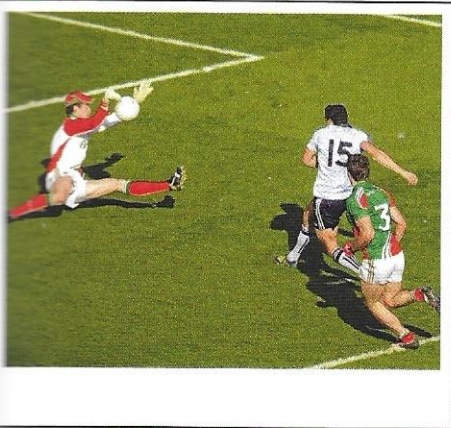
GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Quarter-Final  
Mayo 3-18 Down 2-9, Croke Park, August 4

Looking at last year, Aidan O'Shea (pictured right) went out to midfield, his preferred position and he really developed. This year, he really worked hard on his fitness and in the early part of the league, he was probably our player of the season. A colossus, a big man, a good kickpasser and he can move. He's a strong man, but he's not only a big man, he's a great footballer with a good football brain. And he's very skilful as well. Unfortunately for him, he was out for a good bit at the end of the league. That game in that picture was his first start in the championship, against Down, so for himself it was great to just get 70 minutes of football in the championship. It really stood him in good stead for the semi-final against Dublin. The start of that game against Down, it was tight enough for a while. There were a couple of goal chances and we took them at the right time and we were able to push on after half-time and were able to develop for the rest of the game. For ourselves, we really enjoy playing in Croke Park and as the picture shows, it was a nice bright day. Getting up there onto the big open spaces definitely helped us.

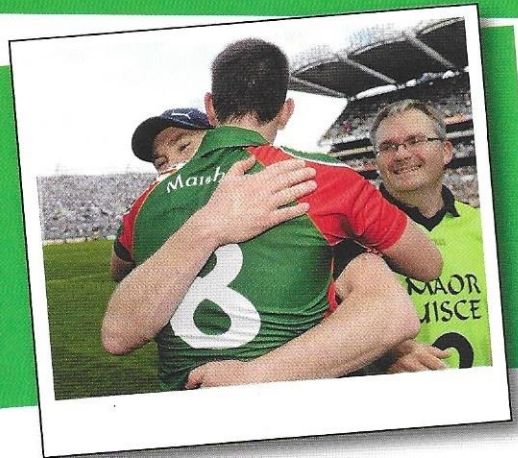


GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Semi-Final  
Mayo 0-19 Dublin 0-16, Croke Park, September 2

I was obviously conscious that things were turning against us. We weren't able to win possession in midfield or push on into our forwards for a long period, and they were coming back, closer and closer. During the game, I was trying to change things up a bit. To go short, or try a different type of kick-out. But that moment, it's just a split-second. I was out a bit early because I saw it was possibly going over Ger Cafferkey's head but you just get out there and try and spread yourself. Sometimes they hit you, and sometimes they don't. Thank God it did that day. It's probably from the training pitch that you learn to come out in that split second. I don't think it's a thing you're conscious of in the moment that 'I'm going to put my hand up here, or do this or that.' But as I said, if I was a foot lower or a foot higher, it could have been something different. Luckily enough, it hit my hand and we were grateful for that.



It was good. That was our fourth game, but we always said there are five games in the championship season for us this year. We didn't get overly excited. There wasn't too much jumping around, or playing to the crowd or anything like that. It was just the end of the next step. You obviously get that buzz for the first few minutes after the game, and it's what you play football for, so you do obviously enjoy it afterwards. But there's nothing given out that day, no cups or medals. It's just a means to an end, but we were delighted to get over the line. Especially the way it was tight at the end, we showed a bit of character to push on after the Dubs came back, and our squad really came into play. Séamus O'Shea, Jason Gibbons and Shane McHale, lads like that coming on and doing the business. They were needed.





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**DUBLIN (23)** 1891, 1892, 1894, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1942, 1958, 1963, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1983, 1995, 2011.

**GALWAY (9)** 1925, 1934, 1938, 1956, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1998, 2001.

**MEATH (7)** 1949, 1954, 1967, 1987, 1988, 1996, 1999.

**CORK (7)** 1890, 1911, 1945, 1973, 1989, 1990, 2010.

**WEXFORD (5)** 1893, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918.

**CAVAN (5)** 1933, 1935, 1947, 1948, 1952.

**DOWN (5)** 1960, 1961, 1968, 1991, 1994.

**TIPPERARY (4)** 1889, 1895, 1900, 1920.

**KILDARE (4)** 1905, 1919, 1927, 1928.

**LOUTH (3)** 1910, 1912, 1957.

**MAYO (3)** 1936, 1950, 1951.

**OFFALY (3)** 1971, 1972, 1982.

**TYRONE (3)** 2003, 2005, 2008.

**LIMERICK (2)** 1887, 1896.

**ROSCOMMON (2)** 1943, 1944.

**DONEGAL (1)** 1992.

**DERRY (1)** 1993.

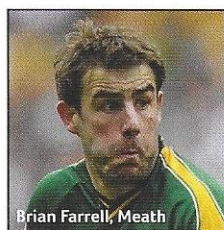
**ARMAGH (1)** 2002.



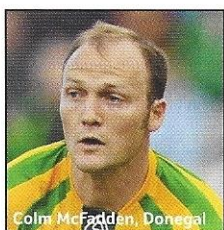




# TOP 10 SCORERS 2012



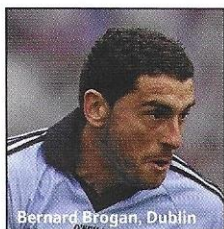
Brian Farrell, Meath



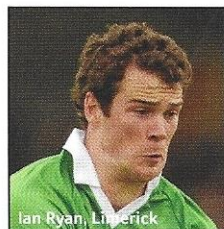
Colm McFadden, Donegal



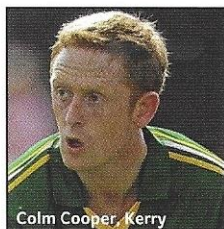
Seán McCormack, Longford



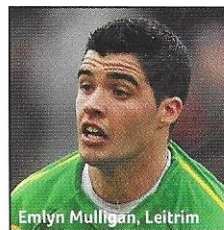
Bernard Brogan, Dublin



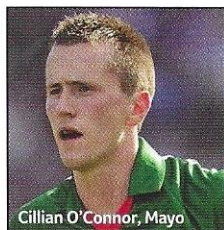
Ian Ryan, Limerick



Colm Cooper, Kerry



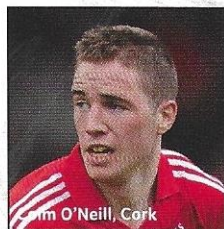
Emlyn Mulligan, Leitrim



Cillian O'Connor, Mayo



Adrian Marren, Sligo



Colm O'Neill, Cork

	SCORE	PLAY	TOTAL
BRIAN FARRELL, MEATH	0-37	0-14	37
COLM McFADDEN, DONEGAL	3-28	1-11	37
SEÁN McCORMACK, LONGFORD	0-33	0-11	33
BERNARD BROGAN, DUBLIN	3-23	3-8	32
IAN RYAN, LIMERICK	1-28	1-9	31
COLM COOPER, KERRY	1-25	1-15	28
EMLYN MULLIGAN, LEITRIM	0-24	0-4	24
CILLIAN O'CONNOR, MAYO	0-23	0-2	23
ADRIAN MARREN, SLIGO	2-17	1-9	23
COLM O'NEILL, CORK	2-15	2-10	21

## TOP SCORERS SINCE 2000

2000	DARA Ó CINNÉIDE, KERRY	3-22 (31)
2001	PÁDRAIC JOYCE, GALWAY	3-45 (54)
2002	OISÍN McCONVILLE, ARMAGH	1-38 (41)
	RAY COSGROVE, DUBLIN	6-23 (41)
2003	PETER CANAVAN, TYRONE	1-48 (51)
2004	MATTY FORDE, WEXFORD	3-38 (47)
2005	STEPHEN O'NEILL, TYRONE	5-50 (65)
2006	CONOR MORTIMER, MAYO	1-36 (39)
2007	JAMES MASTERS, CORK	3-30 (39)
2008	JOHN DOYLE, KILDARE	2-26 (32)
2009	COLM COOPER, KERRY	1-34 (37)
2010	JOHN DOYLE, KILDARE	1-49 (52)
2011	COLM COOPER, KERRY	2-27 (33)



# ALL-IRELAND FINALS

## 1970-2011

1970	KERRY	2-19	0-18	MEATH
1971	OFFALY	1-14	2-8	GALWAY
1972	OFFALY	1-13	1-13	KERRY
	OFFALY	1-19	0-13	KERRY ®
1973	CORK	3-17	2-13	GALWAY
1974	DUBLIN	0-14	1-6	GALWAY
1975	KERRY	2-12	0-11	DUBLIN
1976	DUBLIN	3-8	0-10	KERRY
1977	DUBLIN	5-12	3-6	ARMAGH
1978	KERRY	5-11	0-9	DUBLIN
1979	KERRY	3-13	1-8	DUBLIN
1980	KERRY	1-9	1-6	ROSCOMMON
1981	KERRY	1-12	0-8	OFFALY
1982	OFFALY	1-15	0-17	KERRY
1983	DUBLIN	1-10	1-8	GALWAY
1984	KERRY	0-14	1-6	DUBLIN
1985	KERRY	2-12	2-8	DUBLIN
1986	KERRY	2-15	1-10	TYRONE
1987	MEATH	1-14	0-11	CORK
1988	MEATH	0-12	1-9	CORK
	MEATH	0-13	0-12	CORK ®
1989	CORK	0-17	1-11	MAYO
1990	CORK	0-11	0-9	MEATH

1991	DOWN	1-16	1-14	MEATH
1992	DONEGAL	0-18	0-14	DUBLIN
1993	DERRY	1-14	2-8	CORK
1994	DOWN	1-12	0-13	DUBLIN
1995	DUBLIN	1-10	0-12	TYRONE
1996	MEATH	0-12	1-9	MAYO
	MEATH	2-9	1-11	MAYO ®
1997	KERRY	0-13	1-7	MAYO
1998	GALWAY	1-14	1-10	KILDARE
1999	MEATH	1-11	1-8	CORK
2000	KERRY	0-14	0-14	GALWAY
	KERRY	0-17	1-10	GALWAY ®
2001	GALWAY	0-17	0-8	MEATH
2002	ARMAGH	1-12	0-14	KERRY
2003	TYRONE	0-12	0-9	ARMAGH
2004	KERRY	1-20	2-9	MAYO
2005	TYRONE	1-16	2-10	KERRY
2006	KERRY	4-15	3-5	MAYO
2007	KERRY	3-13	1-9	CORK
2008	TYRONE	1-15	0-14	KERRY
2009	KERRY	0-16	1-9	CORK
2010	CORK	0-16	0-15	DOWN
2011	DUBLIN	1-12	1-11	KERRY



# 2012 GAA FOOTBALL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARD

## LEINSTER



Longford	1-10	0-12	Laois
Louth	2-9	0-14	Westmeath
Meath	0-16	0-11	Wicklow
Dublin	2-22	0-12	Louth
Wexford	0-15	2-9	Longford
Wexford	1-13	0-15	Longford®
Meath	1-12	1-12	Carlow
Meath	2-21	1-9	Carlow®
Kildare	0-19	0-6	Offaly
Meath	1-17	1-11	Kildare
Dublin	2-11	1-10	Wexford
<b>FINAL</b>			
Dublin	2-13	1-13	Meath

## MUNSTER



Limerick	2-12	0-7	Waterford
Kerry	0-16	0-10	Tipperary
Clare	1-13	0-15	Limerick
Cork	0-17	0-12	Kerry
<b>FINAL</b>			
Cork	3-16	0-13	Clare

## ULSTER



Donegal	1-16	1-10	Cavan
Monaghan	1-12	1-9	Antrim
Down	2-10	1-8	Fermanagh
Tyrone	0-19	1-13	Armagh
Donegal	2-13	0-9	Derry
Down	1-14	1-13	Monaghan
Donegal	0-12	0-10	Tyrone
<b>FINAL</b>			
Donegal	2-18	0-13	Down

## CONNACHT



Sligo	3-21	0-6	New York
Galway	3-15	0-10	Roscommon
Leitrim	0-12	1-8	London
Sligo	2-14	0-15	Galway
Mayo	4-20	0-10	Leitrim
<b>FINAL</b>			
Mayo	0-12	0-10	Sligo

## QUALIFIERS

### ROUND 1

Laois	1-10	0-9	Carlow
Antrim	2-11	2-9	London
Longford	0-17	2-8	Derry
Wicklow	1-17	0-15	Waterford
Tipperary	1-12	0-10	Offaly
Westmeath	1-15	0-12	Louth
Roscommon	1-11	1-9	Armagh
Cavan	3-13	0-15	Fermanagh

### ROUND 2

Limerick	1-21	1-15	Longford (aet)
Tipperary	1-13	0-15	Wexford
Antrim	0-11	0-10	Galway
Tyrone	1-16	0-8	Roscommon
Leitrim	0-13	0-10	Wicklow
Laois	2-12	0-12	Monaghan
Kerry	2-10	1-12	Westmeath
Kildare	3-20	1-9	Cavan

### ROUND 3

Laois	1-13	1-11	Leitrim
Kerry	1-16	1-6	Tyrone
Kildare	0-19	0-12	Limerick (aet)
Tipperary	0-10	0-8	Antrim

### ROUND 4

Laois	1-15	1-12	Meath
Down	1-13	0-11	Tipperary
Kerry	2-22	1-6	Clare
Kildare	0-13	0-4	Sligo

## ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINALS

Mayo	3-18	2-9	Down
Dublin	1-12	0-12	Laois
Cork	2-19	0-12	Kildare
Donegal	1-12	1-10	Kerry

## ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINALS

Donegal	0-16	1-11	Cork
Mayo	0-19	0-16	Dublin

## GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Donegal  
v  
Mayo



# MEATH JUBILEE TEAM 1987

By Arthur Sullivan

**T**here's a vocabulary of Meath football. A repository of wisdom, dipped into whenever Royal football feats require explanation. The words and phrases are familiar. Tough. Physical. Never-say-die. Uncompromising. Unforgiving.

Perhaps every team that ever came from the fifth province carried the weight of such words on their shoulders. But no team crystallised this enduring vernacular quite like the All-Ireland winning Meath teams of 1987 and 1988 did.

When tracing the evolution of that team, there are many portals of discovery to be explored in the long run of years that went before they eventually triumphed.

The story starts with the early years of the careers of Mick Lyons, Gerry McEntee, Joe Cassells and Colm O'Rourke. Four men who would become father figures to the 1987 generation, they had been around

since the 1970s, battling against the seemingly endless tide of Dublin and Offaly success in Leinster.

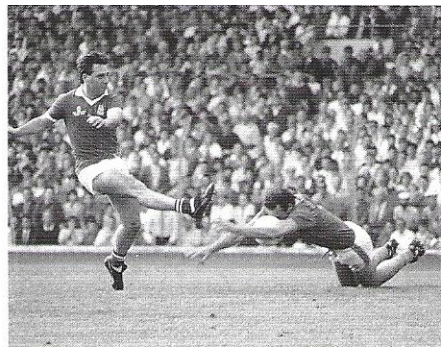
Then along came Seán Boylan. The charismatic icon who brought it all together, his appointment as manager in 1983 was the catalyst for change, and the beginning of the march towards success. Towards Sam.

A new crop of talent had emerged by the mid 1980s to join those four aforementioned on-field totems. Martin O'Connell, Robbie O'Malley, Liam Hayes and Bernard Flynn were all part of the team that lost to Dublin in the 1984 Leinster final, and who then finally ended a 16-year wait for a provincial title two years later in 1986, when they beat Dublin by 0-9 to 0-7.

The victory march of 1987 began with wins over Laois and Kildare. A second successive Leinster title was achieved with four points to

spare against Dublin in the final. A winning narrative had been established, and Derry were no match for Meath in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Cork awaited in the final, the first of three All-Ireland deciders that would take place between the two counties from 1987-1990. Meath won that game by 1-14 to 0-11, but it all could have been so different. Mick Lyons' famous block on Jimmy Kerrigan (below), when he dived headfirst at the Cork attacker's goalbound shot, was a moment upon which history hinged.



Meath team 1987

Back (L-R): Colm O'Rourke, Mick Lyons, Michael McQuillan, Gerry McEntee, Brian Stafford, Martin O'Connell, David Beggy, Joe Cassells.  
Front (L-R): PJ Gillic, Terry Ferguson, Bernard Flynn, Robbie O'Malley, Liam Harnan, Kevin Foley, Liam Hayes.



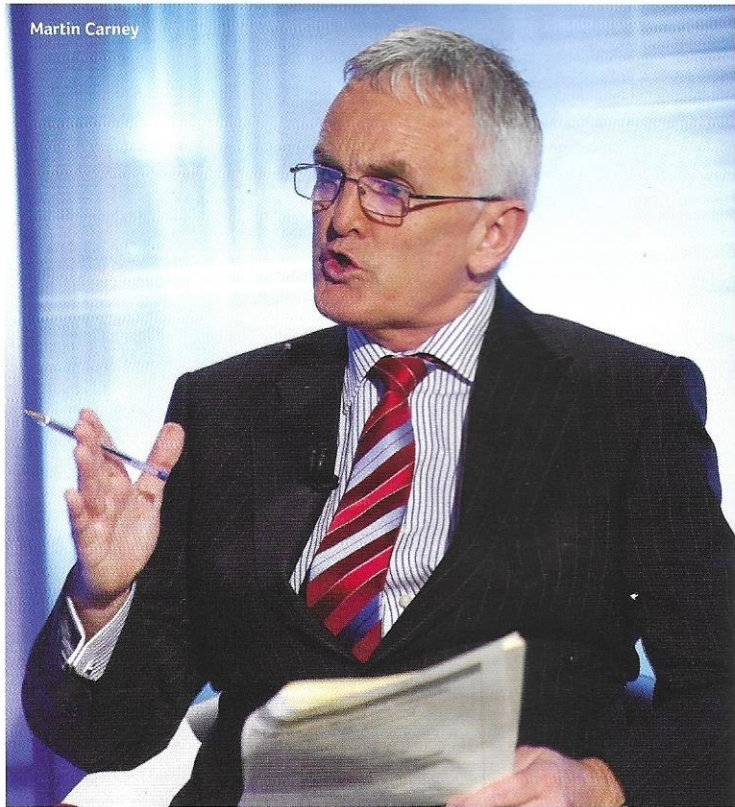


# LAOCH SA DÁ CHONTAE

Le Mártn Ó Ciardha

**Ó**gánach foltach, féasógach ab ea Martin Carney nuair a chuir mé aithne don chéad uair air i gColáiste na hOllscoile i nGaillimh i dtús na seachtóidí. Bhí a cháil mar pheileadóir taghtha chomh fada leis an áit sular leag sé féin cos ann – bonn craoibhe buaite aige i nDún na nGall lena chumann Naomh Seosamh, Béal Átha Seanaigh agus gan é fós seacht mbliana déag. Níorbh aon ionadh go raibh a ainm ar bharr an liosta ag captaen na foirne Sigerson agus eisean ag earcú don séasúr a bhí le teacht.

Níorbh é Martin an peileadóir ba mhó ar an fhoireann na hOllscoile, níorbh é ba láidre ná ba téagartha ach an oiread – go deimhin is ar éigin go raibh sé 11 cloch meáchain. Ach in achar gearr thuig mé go raibh duine de na peileadóirí ab fhearr a facthas riamh taghtha inár láthair. Faoi chlúdach na féasóige agus na gruaige, bhí inchinn peile den ghrád ab airde agus an inchinn sin tiomáinte ag croí cróga nach bhfaca míse a shárú. Faoin am ar fhág sé an Ollscoil ina dhiaidh, bhí an pobal a mba shuim leo



**Ógánach foltach,  
féasógach**

A bearded,  
long-haired youth

**ag earcú**

recruiting

**téagartha**

broad

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an Pheil Gaelach níos eolaí faoin imreoir óg seo, ach thuig siad siúd a raibh aithne acu air nach raibh a cháil ach ina tús. Bhí sé i ndán do Carney a bheith ar dhuine de mhór-pheileadóirí a linne. Mhair a shaol peile ag an ngrád is airde 18 bliain agus is comhartha ar a stádas gur chuir an dá chontae lena imir sé Martin san áireamh agus iadsan ag roghnú na bpeileadóirí ab fhearr a sheas an fód dóibh. Sin iad na contaethe atá ag casadh ar a chéile i gCluiche Ceannais Síneair na hÉireann inniu, mar bhí a ainm sa líne leath-thosach ar Fhoireann na Mílaoise i nDún na nGall agus san ionad céanna ar an bhfoireann ab fhearr a d'imir do Mhaigh Eo le 50 bliain.

Déagóir ab ea Martin Carney nuair a d'imir sé do Dhún na nGall i gCraobh Síneair Uladh don chéad uair riamh i 1971 – i lár an líne leath thosach, in aghaidh an Dúin in Iúr Chinn Trá. Idir sin agus 1978 bhí sé ar an bpáirc i ngach cluiche a d'imir siad sa chraobh sin, ina measc cluichí ceannais 1972 agus '74 nuair a fuair eadar an bua ar Thír Eoghain agus ar an Dún (in athimirt). Ba in aghaidh Dhoire i mBaile na Scríne i 1978 a d'imir Martin i gCraobh Uladh don uair dheireanach. Faoin tráth sin bhí dornán craobhacha buaite aige le Naomh Seosamh - chomh maith le '68, bhuaigh siadsan cluichí ceannais an chontae i '70, '73, '74, '75 agus '76.

Post múinteoireachta a beith faighte

aige i mBéal Átha na Mhuice a thug Martin Carney go Maigh Eo agus nárbh gheall an lá don chontae céanna an ceapachán. I mbua in aghaidh Liatroma i gCora Droma Rúisc i lár mhí an Mheithimh 1979 a d'imir sé dóibh i gCraobh Chonnacht don chéad uair agus ar feadh 11 bliain ina dhiaidh sin bhí an Cearnach ar an bpáirc i ngach cluiche-craoibhe a d'imir Maigh Eo, cé is móite do cheann amháin in aghaidh Liatroma i 1982 nuair a bhí sé gortaithe.

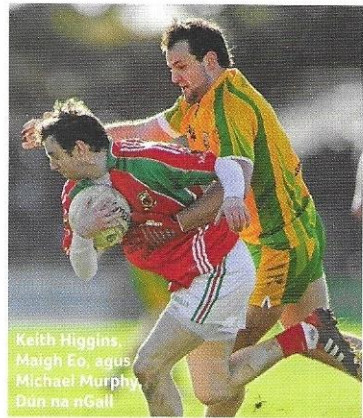
Ba é a bhí ina chaptaen nuair a bhuaigh siad ar Shligeach sa chluiche ceannais i 1982 agus nuair a d'imir siad Ciarraí i gCluiche Leathcheannais na hÉireann. Bhuaigh sé boinn Chonnacht arís i 1985, 1988 agus i 1989 – ba san athimirt in aghaidh Ros Comáin i gcluiche ceannais na blianta sin a d'imir sé i gCraobh Chonnacht don uair dheireanach. Chaith sé geansaí Mhaigh Eo sa tSraithchomórtas Náisiúnta i 1990 agus ba thráthúil go mba anseo i bpáirc an Chrócaigh a chuir sé deireadh lena shaol peile idir-chontae – i gcluiche cáilithe Sraithchomórtais in aghaidh na Mí ar an 12ú Márta 1990.

Ba le Cumann Oileáin Éadaigh a d'imir Martin Carney nuair a d'aistrigh sé go Maigh Eo – bhí Taoiseach na tíre, Enda Kenny mar chomrádaí imeartha aige i dtús aimsire. Ach ansin d'aistrigh sé chuig Místéalaigh Chaisleáin a Bharra, lena bhuaigh sé cúpla craobh contae.

Chaith sé sealanna ina bhainisteoir ar fhoirne mionúr agus Faoi 21 Mhaigh Eo. Sa Chraobhchomórtas Idir-Chúige roghnaíodh é ar fhoirne Chúige Uladh agus Chonnacht agus bhí sé ar fhoireann na nOllscoileanna a bhuaigh an chraobh sin i 1973.

Is fada an lá an fhéasóg agus an folt gruaithe caite dó ag Martin Carney. Is mar ainilísí piochta, bearrtha, deaghléasta ar chlár teilifíse RTÉ The Sunday Game is fearr aithne air na laethanta seo. Ansiúd freisin bíonn a cháilíochtaí le n-aithint sa mbreithiúnas a thugann sé – éirim, grinneas, cneastacht, ionracas agus macántacht. Fiú agus é ag lochtú píosa imeartha, ní dhéanann sé peileadóir a ghortú nó a mhaslú. Ní sin an bealach atá leis.

Ach ní bheinn ag súil lena mhalairt ó dhuine uasal mar é.



inchinn

brain

a cháil ach  
ina tús

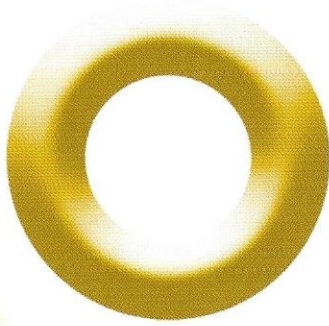
his fame was only  
in its infancy

i ndán dó

destined

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# Líofa

## 2015

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AN ROINN

**Cultúir, Ealaíon**  
**agus Foilíochta**



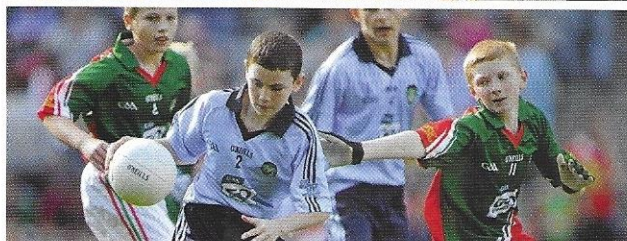
# INTO/RESPECT EXHIBITION GO GAMES

**T**oday's GAA Football All-Ireland Finals allow us an opportunity to showcase the excellent work of our primary school teachers and club coaches in promoting Gaelic Games throughout Ireland, particularly for our underage players.

Many of the players participating in today's minor and senior finals will speak volumes about the basic skills and the respect ethos they developed when at primary school. This work, often unseen and undervalued, is coordinated by Cumann na mBunscol in every county in Ireland and nurtured in partnership by our club coaches.

The exhibition games on show here today are based on small-sided games and in line with the GAA Go Games and Give Respect – Get Respect

Continued on page 77



## DONEGAL BOYS

2. PATRICK MURPHY St. Patrick's BNS Wicklow Co. Wicklow
3. EAMONN KEOGH St. Teresa's N.S. Ballinalee Co. Longford
4. DIARMUID KING Annagh N.S. Milltown Malbay Co. Clare
5. GERARD BYRNE Scoil an Linbh Iosa Killymard. Donegal Co. Donegal
6. DANIEL GOGGIN O'Brennan N.S. Kielduff Tralee Co. Kerry
7. JOEY WALSH Scoil Ruadhain Tullaroan Co. Kilkenny
8. PAUL LUBY St. Colman's N.S. Mucklagh Tullamore Co. Offaly
9. MIKIE DEMPSEY Ballyadams N.S. Athy Co. Kildare
10. LOUIS DEE St. Nessian's N.S. Mungret Co. Limerick
11. JAMES RIORDAN Scoil Mhuire N.S. Abbeyside Co. Waterford

## MAYO BOYS

2. RYAN CUNNINGHAM Abbey Primary School Newry Co. Down
3. JOSHUA KEANE Quinlivan Brierhill N.S. Brierhill Co. Galway
4. DARRAGH FLOOD St. Peter Apostle SNS Clondalkin Co. Dublin
5. EOIN O'DWYER Glasnevin Educate Together N.S. Co. Dublin
6. JOHN JOE McVICKER Edmund Rice CBS Belfast Co. Antrim
7. EOIN CRILLY Saint & Scholars Integrated P.S. Armagh Co. Armagh
8. COLM JOYCE St. Corban's N.S. Naas Co. Kildare
9. OISIN MULLIN Roundfort N.S. Hollymount Co. Mayo
10. RORY GAVAN Annahorish P.S. Toome Co. Derry
11. JACK TWOMEY Dromahane N.S. Mallow Co. Cork.



# GAA Club Support Programme

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Quite simply - **5%** of your accommodation and food spend at The Croke Park Hotel and/or room hire and food spend at the Croke Park Conference Centre, will be donated to your preferred GAA club by the venue/s.

Over €2,000 has been donated to GAA clubs nationwide so far in 2012.



*"The Croke Park Hotel - the No. 1 GAA hotel"*  
- Liam Ó'Neill, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael

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philosophy where a balanced approach to competition at this age is encouraged. The benefits of small-sided games include greater participation for all, improved fitness levels and the organising of games appropriate to the age of the youths.

In recent weeks 40 different children from primary schools have on each Sunday enjoyed the experience of playing at half-time in Croke Park. With the generous support of the INTO these half-time games have given primary school children an opportunity to live the dream of playing a game on All-Ireland finals day.

Let us support their dream today and throughout their playing careers in the GAA.

Go néirí go geal leo agus ár mbuíochas do na múinteoirí agus na cóitseálaithe a chuidigh linn agus leis na himreoirí uilig ar fud na tíre i rith na bliana.

## GIVE RESPECT – GET RESPECT: POSITIVELY PROMOTING OUR GAELIC GAMES

Some of the initiatives which have taken place in 2012 to support the programme are:

- The introduction of a team handshake with their opponents and match officials at the commencement of a game
- Enshrined into the inclusion and integration strategy of the Association
- Respect Go Games at half time in Allianz League and Championship games
- The wearing of the Respect logo on Club and Referee jerseys
- Development of a new joint Code of Behaviour when working with Underage Teams for all GAA Clubs including Ladies Gaelic Football, Camogie, Handball and Rounders Clubs.

Further information available from [www.gaa.ie/respect](http://www.gaa.ie/respect) or by emailing [respect@gaa.ie](mailto:respect@gaa.ie).

### Today's referees are Kate Dooley and Seán Collins (Scoil Bhailenóra, Cork)

#### DONEGAL GIRLS

2. KAIESHA TOBIN St. May's N.S. Dungarvan Co. Waterford
3. ÁINE McNULTY St. Patrick's P.S. Dungannon Co. Tyrone
4. ANDREA O'REILLY The Vale N.S. Bailieborough Co. Cavan
5. SINÉAD DIXON Holy Family N.S. Rathcoole Co. Dublin
6. HANNAH LOHAN John Scottus School Dublin Co. Dublin
7. SARAH SCALLY Ballyleague N.S. Ballyleague Co. Roscommon
8. EIMEAR SMYTH St. Patrick's P.S. Derrygonnelly Co. Fermanagh
9. MARIA RAFFERTY St. Patrick's P.S. Glen Co. Derry
10. LAURYN NIC GHRIOGHAR Scoil Eanna An Uaimh Co. Meath
11. TARA HUGHES Ardnagrath N.S. Athlone Co. Westmeath

#### MAYO GIRLS

2. SIOBHÁN DOOLAN St. Margaret's N.S. Curraclloe Co. Wexford
3. MEAVE RYAN Sisters Of Charity P.S. Clonmel Co. Tipperary
4. FAITH McCOURT St. Joseph's N.S. Dundalk Co. Louth
5. NICOLE McGARRY St. Patrick's N.S. Drumshambo Co. Leitrim
6. LOUISE COLGAN St. Patrick's N.S. Rathrilly Co. Carlow
7. REBECCA BREHONY Geevagh N.S. Geevagh Co. Sligo
8. BECKY OPPERMAN Scoil Naisiunta An Chroí Naofa Co. Cork
9. LEAH O'CARROLL Inistioge N.S. Co. Kilkenny
10. EMMA REYNOLDS Cappeltaggle Central School Co. Galway
11. MORGAN NÍC CIONNA Gaelscoil Ultain Co. Monaghan





# SIDELINE SNIPPETS:

## A SIDEWAYS LOOK AT THE FINAL



### WRITTEN IN THE STARS?

Mayo fans of a superstitious nature will have been looking for signs that they will end an All-Ireland final drought that goes back to 1951 in Croke Park today.

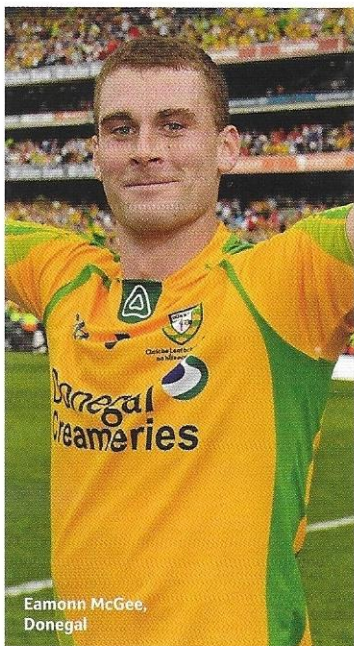
No doubt, in recent weeks, there were wistful Westerners gazing at the stars and analysing their tea-leaves as closely as James Horan has been Donegal's formation.

They could do worse than to ease their minds back to the day 61 years ago when Mayo beat Meath to retain the Sam Maguire Cup. Not only did Mayo beat another team decked out in green and gold, they did so on this very date, September 23.

The world may have been a very different place back then – coincidentally, the Taoiseach and devout Green and Red supporter Enda Kenny was born that year – but perhaps those Mayo fans went to invoking mystical forces in their longing to see the return of Sam will take some comfort from what others might regard as a trivial piece of happenstance.



Mayo captain, Seán Flanagan, in 1951



Eamonn McGee, Donegal

### CENTURY MAN

Today, Eamonn McGee becomes the latest Donegal centurion, completing the remarkable double of appearing in an All-Ireland final on the same day as his 100th competitive outing for his county.

The honour fell to Karl Lacey in the semi-final win over Cork, when the Four Masters clubman made his 100th appearance for Donegal.

McGee, the 28-year-old Gaith Dobhair clubman, would have reached that remarkable milestone against Cork in the semi-final had he not missed the Ulster final win over Down.

### 50 YEARS AGO TODAY

It's hard to believe it now, in this modern age of media saturation, but the first All-Ireland finals to be shown live on RTÉ were in 1962. In fact, the first televised football final was played exactly 50 years ago today, on September 23, '62.

The football final that year was between Kerry and Roscommon, a game the Kingdom won by 1-12 to 1-4 before a crowd of 75,771 at GAA Headquarters.

However, it is unlikely that the game will be too fondly remembered by those in attendance, or the many more that tuned in to the live broadcast, as it is widely regarded as one of the poorest finals ever.

*The Irish Times'* Paddy Downey was a little harsher in his analysis of the game: "Seldom has the distinguished





name of the champion footballers of the Kingdom been associated with such an appallingly undistinguished game, and never has a Croke Park final crowd been treated to such spurious value for their money”.

*To read more about the 1962 final and RTÉ's coverage of it, read Seán Moran's article on page 10.*

### THE FASTEST GOAL

Of course, the 1962 final is probably remembered more for the scoring feat of Kerry's Garry McMahon than the quality of the fare on offer.

McMahon scored a goal for the Kingdom after just 35 seconds, which is to this day the fastest goal ever scored in an All-Ireland final and was until recently the fastest goal ever scored in Croke Park.

Keen observers will point out that Richard Dunne achieved a similar feat while playing for the Republic of Ireland against Bulgaria in a soccer match in March 2009.

Garry, incidentally, is the son of famed Listowel writer Bryan McMahon, while there is also a McMahon presence in Croke Park today, as Garry's brother, Muiris, performs his duties as 'maor' of the press box with his usual grace and good nature.

### TANGLED ROOTS

Given Donegal and Mayo are located so close to each other in the north-west corner of the country – Bonniclon and Bundoran are less than 90k apart – it's almost inevitable that there would be some links between the counties in evidence on the field of play today.

Two of Donegal's key players, captain Michael Murphy and goalkeeper Paul Durcan, have the sort of tangled roots that could make today's final an interesting test of where their families' loyalties lie.

Both players' fathers hail from Mayo, something that had never caused an issue until both counties were pitched together for just the second time in the championship.

“There was a bit of cheering when Mayo beat Dublin in the semi-final, but we'd expect nothing else,” said captain Murphy in the build-up to Sunday's game.

“Paul and I used to chat about it when we were up and down in the car from Dublin, what we would do if the chance ever came.

“We'll have a word with them to get them transferred over to Donegal colours. I'm sure the fathers will be hoping for the best for Donegal having been living here for the last few years.”

### DEDICATED FOLLOWERS

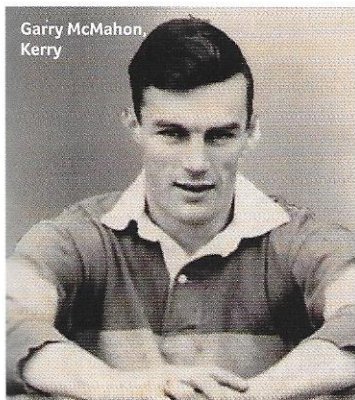
For many here today it may be the first All-Ireland final they have attended, but a select few passionate followers of our games can lay claim to reaching such lofty heights as 50, 60 and even 100 consecutive All-Ireland finals.

John Joe Holleran, current chairman of the Galway Football Board, reaches the 100th consecutive All-Ireland final milestone today, and he hasn't missed a final in either code since his first in 1962.

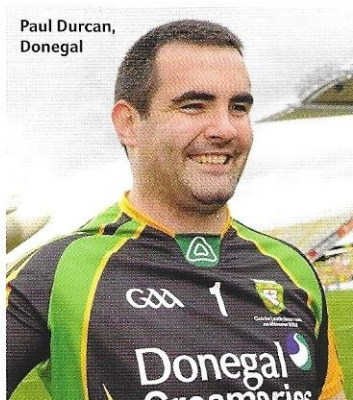
Jim Snow, who originally hails from Co. Fermanagh and who has lived in Pettigo, South Donegal for most of his life, is looking forward to his 74th consecutive All-Ireland football final since attending his first as an 18-year-old in 1938.

We also have John Murphy from Donegal Town attending his 60th final while our very own Annette Coyle, proud Kildare woman and tour guide in the GAA Museum, attends her 60th consecutive football final today.

To John Joe, Jim, Annette, John and our many loyal members and supporters, we acknowledge and congratulate you all on this wonderful achievement and hope there will be many more to come.



Garry McMahon, Kerry



Paul Durcan, Donegal







# GAA FIGURES AT A GLANCE

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED AND VALUED SUPPORT

**E**ver wondered how the GAA puts its resources to use year on year?

Every year the Association publishes a full set of accounts which cover both the running of Croke Park and the Association as a whole.

These accounts are made available before Congress and can be viewed online at [GAA.ie](http://GAA.ie)

### €49 million

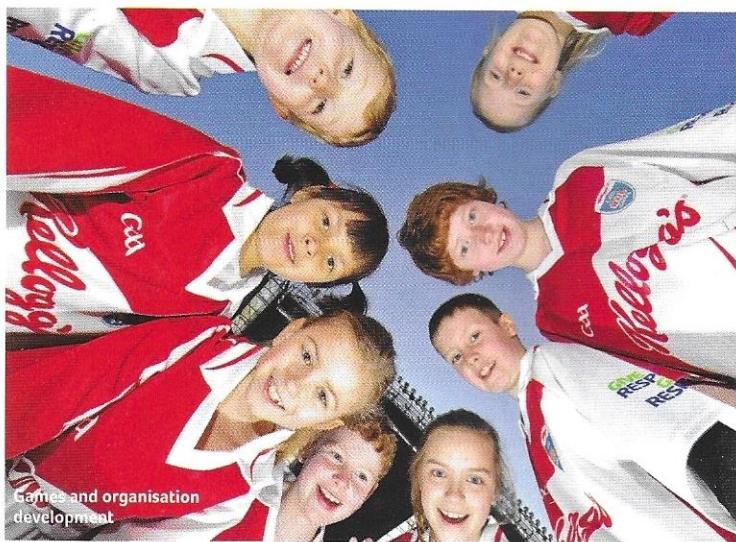
Last year (2011) the GAA's income was €49m and 86% of these funds were re-invested in GAA units and activities of one sort or another.

### €37 million

No less than €37m of these funds were distributed to GAA units nationwide and to our growing network internationally.

### €5.4 million

€5.4m was invested in supporting games development in schools, clubs and counties.



### 52%

Tickets purchased by supporters to attend games accounted for 52% of all the GAA's revenue.

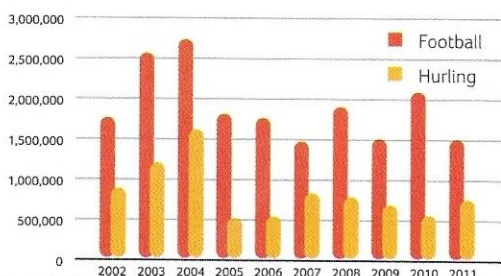
So in addition to the unique atmosphere supporters help to generate at our big games, your presence also has a huge bearing on the overall health and well-being of the GAA.

### 32%

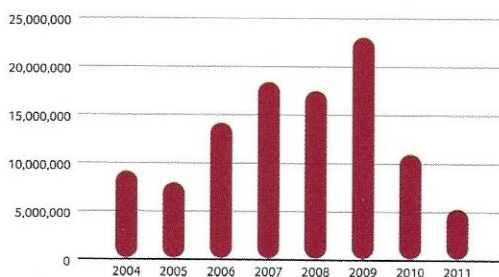
The next biggest figure in income is the 32% generated by commercial activity.

How much we can put back into coaching our young players and developing facilities to foster this

#### ALL-IRELAND QUALIFIER SERIES GATE INCOME 2002-2011



#### GRANTS FOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT 2004-2011





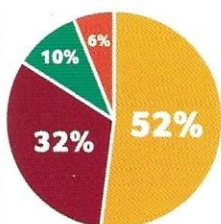
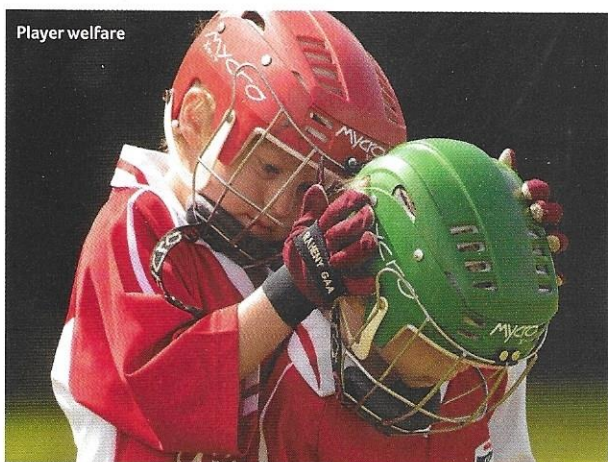


talent in addition to supporting players at all grades and ages, is linked directly to the number of people who attend our games.

This year we have worked harder than ever to promote and market our games and we are delighted that year on year, our figures remain robust and on target.

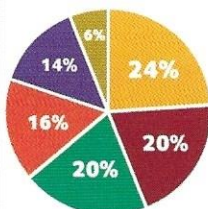
At our first GAA Football Championship semi-final four weeks ago, we welcomed our one millionth championship supporter through the turnstiles and it's this level of backing that allows Cumann Lúthchleas Gael to continue to invest in excellence from nursery level to the highest echelons of our games.

Ár mbuíochas as bhur dtacaíocht.



**SOURCES OF REVENUE 2011**

- 52%** Gate Receipts
- 32%** Commercial Revenue
- 10%** Other Income
- 6%** State Funding



**UTILISATION OF REVENUE 2011**

- 24%** Payments to Counties
- 20%** Games & Org. Development
- 20%** Match & Competition Costs
- 16%** Grants
- 14%** Administration
- 6%** Player Welfare



# CROKE PARK BY NUMBERS

**2,000**

The number of staff on duty in Croke Park today, including 300 voluntary stewards.



**463**

The number of lamps in the floodlights.



**18.82**

Width in metres of the giant screen at the Nally/Dineen Hill 16 terrace, the biggest outdoor screen in Europe.



**116**

The number of permanent turnstiles in the stadium. There are additional portable turnstiles in use today.



**36**

The number of steps the winning captain will climb in the Hogan Stand to collect the Sam Maguire Cup.



**26**

The length in miles of stepped terracing, the equivalent of a marathon.

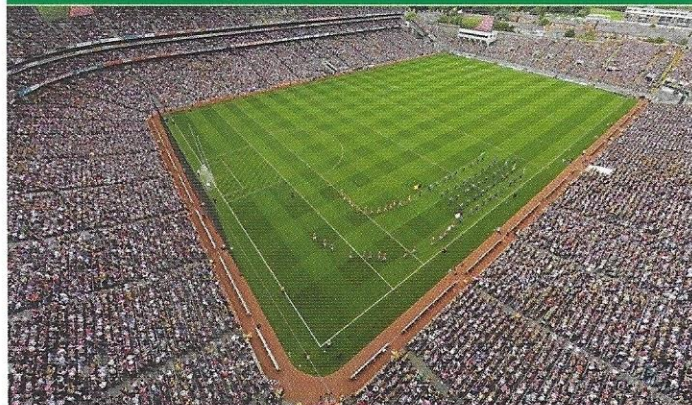


## CROKE PARK STADIUM TIMELINE

<b>1896</b> March 21, First GAA game at Jones' Road	<b>1925</b> First scoreboard installed at Croke Park	<b>1938</b> Cusack Stand officially opened	<b>1950</b> Canal End Terrace opens	<b>1972</b> Muhammad Ali fights at Croke Park	<b>1993</b> Work begins on Cusack Stand as part of re-development	<b>1999</b> Hogan Stand demolished	<b>2007</b> First Floodlit game, Dublin v Tyrone First rugby international Ireland v France First soccer international Ireland v Wales	<b>2008</b> First Championship game under lights, Kerry v Galway
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# A season of sundays



Images of the 2012 Gaelic Games year by the *Sportsfile* photographers



All the colour and drama of the 2012 GAA season captured by the Sportsfile photographers

## A season of sundays 2012

The 16th edition of the best-selling hardback in book shops from mid November



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# GAA MUSEUM OPEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



Championship season may be drawing to a close but the GAA Museum remains open throughout the year and is a must for GAA fans of all ages. The museum is home to many exclusive exhibits including the original Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy Cups, as well as the new temporary exhibition 'GAA – A Global Phenomenon' which

opened this summer. Experience the magic of a match day and walk in the footsteps of legends on a Croke Park Stadium Tour, operating from the museum throughout the year.

For more information on visiting the museum, taking a stadium tour and special offers for groups and individuals, visit our website – [www.crokepark.ie/gaa-museum](http://www.crokepark.ie/gaa-museum).



# DUBLIN SIGHTSEEING REACHES NEW HEIGHTS



In June Dublin's newest visitor attraction, the Etihad Skyline opened at Croke Park Stadium, offering visitors the best views of Dublin from the roof of Croke Park.

Accompanied by an experienced tour guide, visitors ascend to a walkway 44 metres above the ground to take in the panoramic views of the capital city and find out more about its key landmarks.

There are five viewing platforms along the 0.6km rooftop walkway with audio-guides providing historical information and quirky anecdotes.

Adventurous visitors have the chance to walk from the stadium roof onto a specially-designed walkway suspended above the famous Croke Park pitch. Not for the faint hearted, this view of Croke Park shows the famous arena from a completely different angle!

Etihad Skyline tours depart daily from The GAA Museum, located under the Cusack Stand, with special offers available from November.

Check our website for details [www.skylinecrokepark.ie](http://www.skylinecrokepark.ie)



## SPECIAL WINTER OFFER

Save €5 on adult/child/student/senior ticket price and save €15 on family ticket price when you book online!



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# CONTINUED GROWTH OF GAA COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORMS

The GAA has continued the expansion of its communications platforms over the course of 2012 to ensure members and supporters can access news, fixtures and results easier than ever before.

The Official GAA Facebook and Twitter profiles have grown consistently in 2012 and we would like to thank all our supporters who have helped establish a strong positive online GAA community on various social media networks.

A new social media initiative was also established recently allowing supporters send us a picture in their

county jersey along with a good luck message for their team. The best images are then displayed on the big screens in Croke Park on match days.

A large number of counties have now joined the GAA family online with their own individual social network profiles. Combined our official county, provincial and national social media profiles have a following of over 300,000 people.

In tandem with these developments, GAA.ie has continued to deliver the latest GAA news and video content to online users while on a weekly basis our Championship columnists Steven McDonnell (Armagh) and Donal Óg

Cusack (Cork) have given readers fascinating insight into our games. All news on the website also feeds directly into our official iPhone, Android and Nokia apps so supporters can remain informed on our games while on the go.

Our online show 'Round the Square' also returned for a third series in 2012 and aired every Thursday since the beginning of August. Each week the show features previews of upcoming games, a player in focus and much, much more.

If you are at the game today, why not find us on Facebook or Twitter and get involved!



<p><b>FOLLOW US ON TWITTER</b></p>  <p>@officialgaa</p>	<p><b>FIND US ON FACEBOOK</b></p>  <p>www.facebook.com/officialgaa</p>	<p><b>CONTACT US</b></p>  <p>socialmedia@gaa.ie</p>
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# SUPPORTING PLAYERS TO WIN OFF THE FIELD



**S**upporting players with their off-field careers is a central component of the GPA's Player Development Programme with over 800 county players assisted since the service was initiated in 2010.

The rationale behind the Programme is to ensure that players take responsibility for their future career prospects and plan for their long-term personal development.

Players who access the service are assessed by the GPA's Career Adviser who along with supporting them with job searching, CV preparation and networking also examines the available opportunities, the player's transferable skills and further training or education requirements.

The ultimate objective is to achieve not just gainful employment but to establish a meaningful career path, something often neglected by ambitious players totally focussed on

achieving success on the field of play.

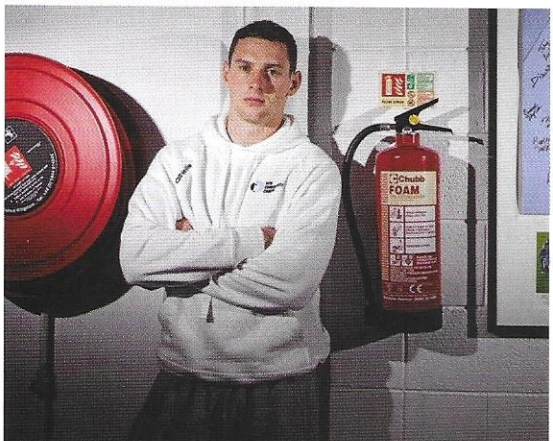
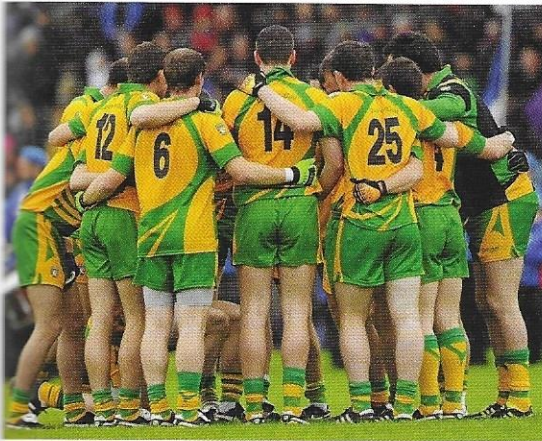
The consequences of this 'tunnel vision' can be detrimental to the player's career development. Short-term solutions chosen to accommodate the substantial commitment to county football or hurling often lead to difficulties and lost opportunities down the line.

However, through the GPA service players are encouraged to examine and promote the skills honed from years playing Gaelic games at the top level; dedication to team ethic, commitment to hard work, leadership skills and the ability to perform under pressure. Businesses seek these qualities in employees but players are frequently unaware of the value of embracing these transferable skills. In more complex cases, where a player is struggling to develop a meaningful career path or to strike a balance between the commitment to sport and work/study, they are directed to the

GPA's Life Skills Programme where, through one-to-one personal and professional coaching the player has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The GPA's Career Development Programme also includes support for players who wish to set up or enhance their own business. Players such as Tipperary hurler Conor O'Mahony ([irishbobbles.com](http://irishbobbles.com)), Dublin footballer Philly McMahon ([bktstrengthandconditioning.com](http://bktstrengthandconditioning.com)), Fermanagh footballer Shane Lyons ([gnsfitness.com](http://gnsfitness.com)) and former Waterford hurlers Eoin McGrath and Mossie O'Keefe (Over the Bar Catering) are provided with financial and general business planning along with marketing and promotional support.

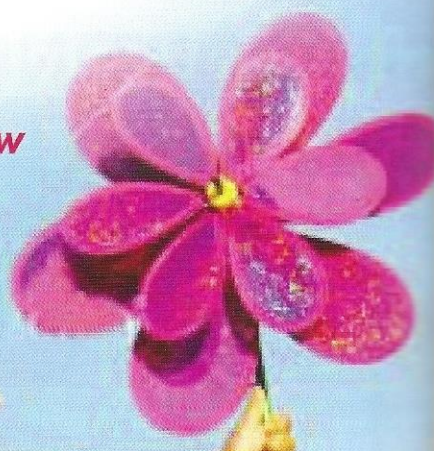
For further information about the GPA Player Development Programme, supported by the GAA, see [www.gaelicplayers.com](http://www.gaelicplayers.com)





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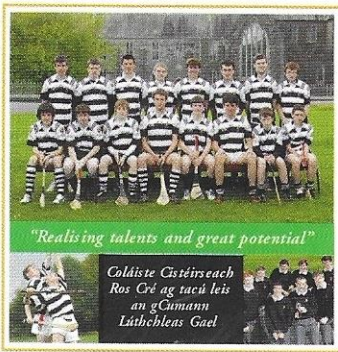


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e: [admissions@cisterciancollege.com](mailto:admissions@cisterciancollege.com)  
[www.cisterciancollege.com](http://www.cisterciancollege.com)

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## Best wishes to Mayo for 2012



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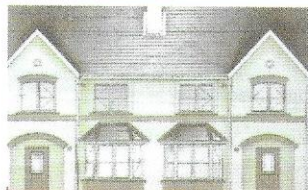
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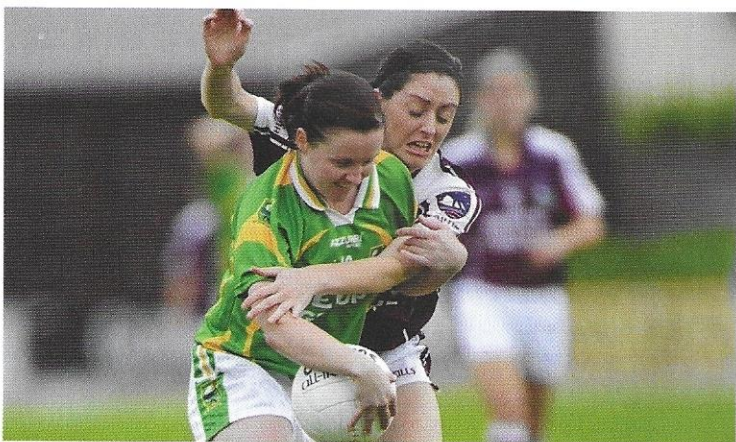
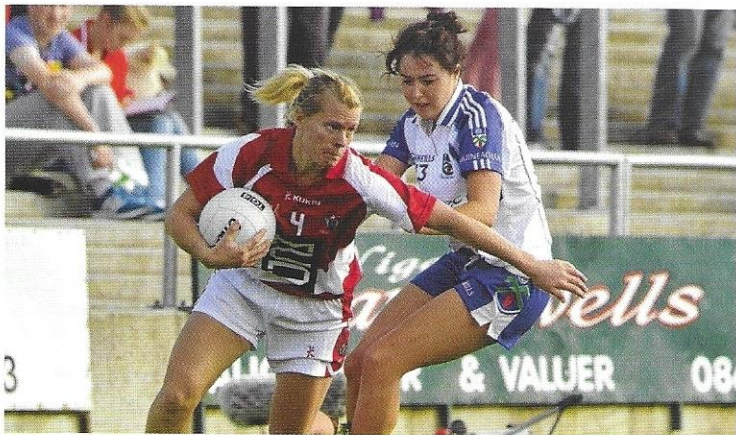
**New Housing Scheme at Tulsk, Co. Roscommon,  
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# LADIES ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL FINALS 2012

**T**he 2012 TG4 All-Ireland Ladies Football finals will now take place on Sunday, October 7 in Croke Park. Three finals will be contested on the day with the Junior decider involving Louth and Antrim at midday.

The Intermediate final throws in at 2pm with Armagh taking on 2010 finalists Waterford while the senior final is an all-Munster affair with Kerry versus Cork at 4pm. All three matches will be televised live on TG4.



## TICKET PRICES FOR THE DAY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**Adults:** €25; **Students / Senior Citizens:** €10; **U14's:** €8

**Groups of U16's (min. 10):** €5 per person + 1 adult priced at €5 each

**Family Tickets:** 2 Adults €25 each and children €5 each



Tickets are available through the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) Office, by phone on 01-8363156 or online at [www.ladiesgaelic.ie](http://www.ladiesgaelic.ie).

Please note group rates, underage and family tickets may only be purchased directly from the LGFA office. Full price tickets will also be

available from the usual ticket outlets on the day.

Don't forget to check out [www.ladiesgaelic.ie](http://www.ladiesgaelic.ie) over the coming weeks for all the build up to the games, Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/LadiesGaelicFootball](https://www.facebook.com/LadiesGaelicFootball) and follow us on Twitter @LadiesFootball.



# GAA HANDBALL PUT ON WORLD EXTRAVAGANZA

**T**he world's most prolific handballers, representing over 30 countries, will converge on the Citywest Events Arena, in Dublin, this October for the most spectacular showpiece occasion in the sport's history.

Ireland's fastest growing sport, proud of its GAA heritage, has an ever expanding international appeal and is on the threshold of achieving Olympic status following the unification of the various forms of 'handball' established in many nations across the globe. Worlds 2012 is without doubt the biggest handball festival that has ever been undertaken and excitement levels are mounting as the Irish handball community prepares to host this thrilling extravaganza from 11th to 20th October.

One of the huge attractions of the event is that it will be staged in a stunning purpose built arena, which will be able to facilitate almost 2000 participants and 5000 spectators (per day) over ten days of exhilarating competition.

Contestants will be aged from 8 to 80+, one of the unique and beautiful features of this extraordinary game. There will be world titles contested from under-11 to over-80 and the standards across the board promise to surpass anything witnessed before.

'Handball' will be returning to its roots in Worlds 2012, and putting on a breath-taking show that will illustrate all that is special about the sport and just how far it has come since its beginnings – although the increasingly

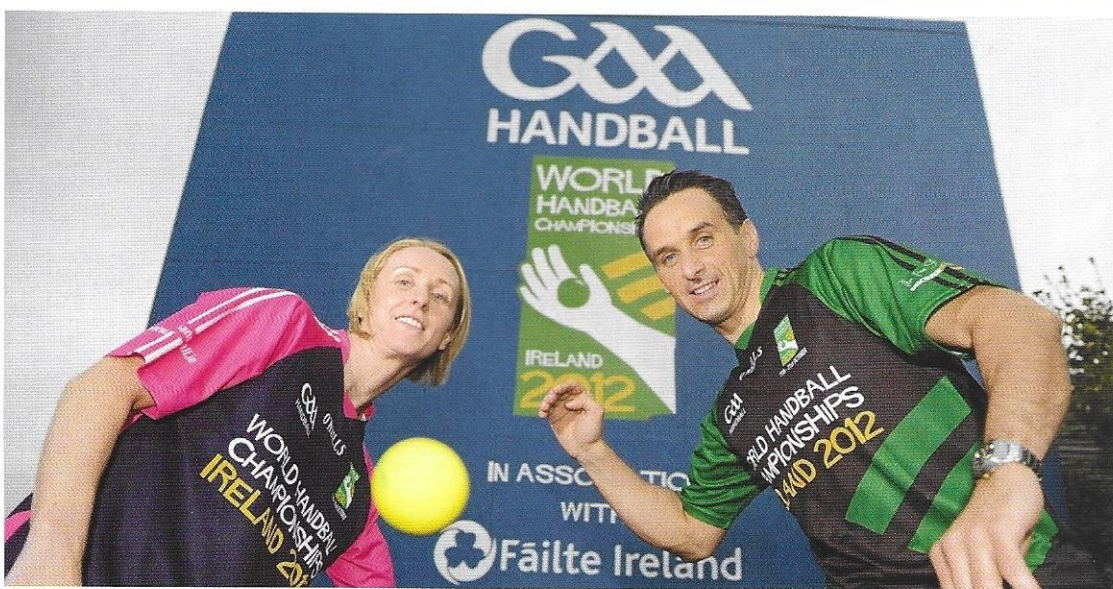
popular one-wall element of handball is a clear reminder of how it all began.

If you have not yet been given a taste for the very special benefits associated with this great community and family orientated GAA Sport, then be sure to check out how you can witness this special World Championship occasion.

Log onto [www.worldhandball2012.com](http://www.worldhandball2012.com) and find out about the fantastic offers currently available for the event.

**WORLD HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Citywest Arena, Dublin

Thursday 11th –  
Sunday 21st October 2012







## **Ploughing the path for quality Irish food.**

At SuperValu, we are very proud of our sponsorship of the GAA All Ireland Football Championships. Our support of local communities doesn't stop there. We are also fully committed to working with Irish farmers and producers.

Our SuperValu fresh meat is 100% Irish born, bred and reared on Bord Bia approved farms. Our SuperValu milk is 100% Irish and National Dairy Council approved.

We take great pleasure in supporting great Irish food and the quality really shows. This year, a staggering 32 SuperValu Own Brand products earned a prestigious Great Taste Award.

**To find out more log on to [SuperValu.ie](http://SuperValu.ie), or visit our stand at the National Ploughing Championships Tuesday 25th – Thursday 27th September, New Ross, Co. Wexford.**

**Meet some of our SuperValu Range suppliers and see Kevin Dundon showcasing locally sourced produce.**

**SuperValu**  
Real Food, Real People