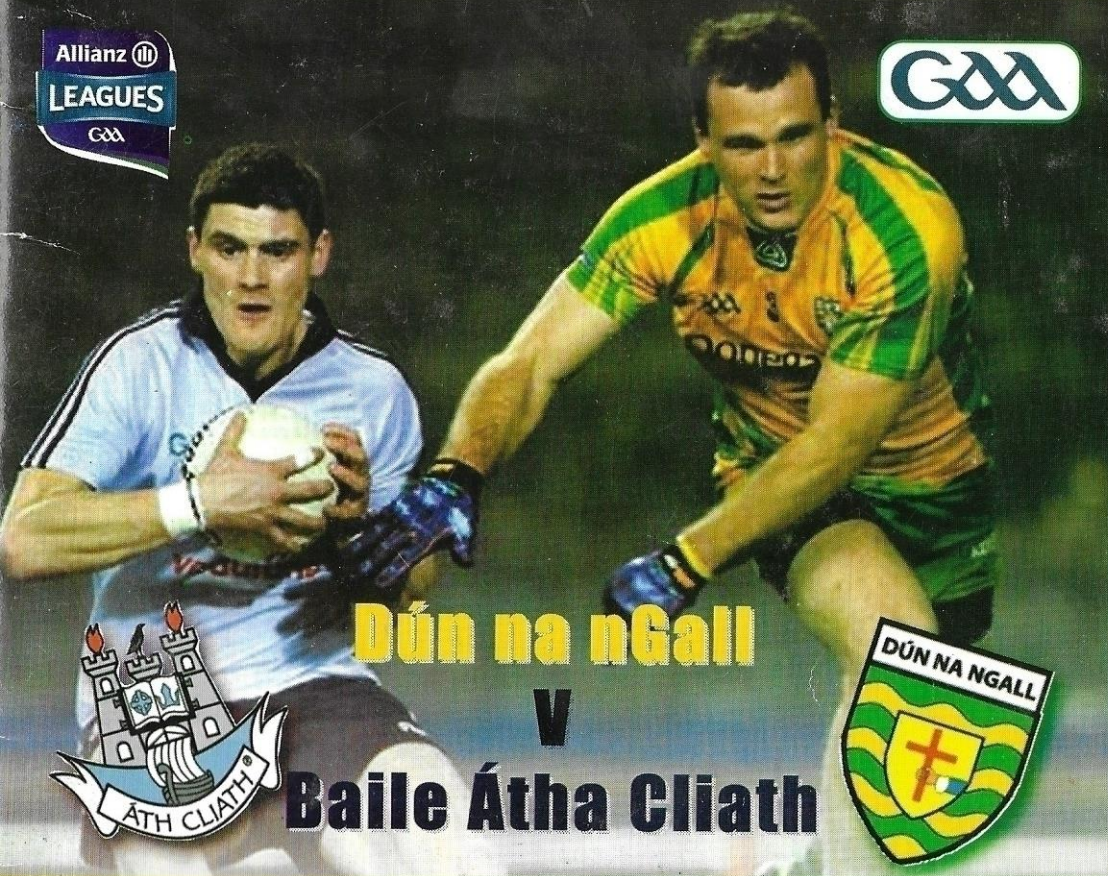


# Allianz Football League

ROINN 1 - 2013 • Round 7



**Dún na nGall**

**V**

**Baile Átha Cliath**



**Parc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill Bealach Feich**

**Dé Domhnach 7ú Aibreán**

**3.00 i.n.**

**Reiteoir: Pdraig Hughes, Ard Mhacha**

**Linesman: Brendan Rice, An Dun**

**Sidelline: TJ Keavey, Sligeach**

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## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Ar son Bord na Condae CLG Dhún na nGall, ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir anseo inniu go Páirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here today to Mac Cumhaill Park for our final home game of the 2013 Allianz National Football League. I also extend a warm welcome to the Dublin team, management, officials and supporters.

On behalf of Bord na Condae, I would like to take this opportunity to remind the Donegal supporters that Club Tír Chonaill will be re-launched today immediately following this match at 5.00pm in the Villa Rose Hotel. This committee has been set a target of €180,000 for 2013 so I am appealing to the Gaels of Donegal at home and abroad to support the fundraising efforts of Club Tír Chonaill in the months ahead and enable us to have our Centre of Excellence and Participation in Convoy open and fully functioning in Q1 2014.

Finally, I hope that you enjoy this afternoon's game and a safe journey home to both the Dublin & Donegal supporters.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an chluiche agus go mbeidh turas slán sábháilte ag lucht leanúna Áth Cliath agus Dhún na nGall agus iad ag pilleadh na bhaile.

*Is mise le meas,*  
**Seán Ó Duinnín,**  
Cathaoirleach.

The advertisement for Kia Kabs features the company name "Kia Kabs" in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. To the right is a white double-decker bus with "Kia COACHES" written on its side. Below the bus are a silver van and a purple car. The background is a yellow and green gradient. Text at the bottom lists seating capacities and services.

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Sean-tír ár sinsear feasta  
Ní fhágfar faoin tíoran ná faoin tráill.  
Anocht a theám sa bhearna baoil  
Le gean ar Ghael chun baís nó saoil  
Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar  
Seo libh canaigh amhrán na bhfiann.

*Sung by Catriona Solan, Clochan Liath Club  
Scor Sinsear County Champion*

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10. The Ground Management reserves the right to refuse admission to or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
11. Any person who remains in or obstructs a gangway or circulation area may be ejected from the ground.
12. The Ground Management reserve the right for its servants or agents to remove from the ground any person who does not comply with the Ground Regulations or whose presence in the ground could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.
13. All persons in the grounds are reminded of their obligation under Section 18(3) of the Fire Services Act 1981 to ensure that their behaviour does not present a danger from fire to anyone using the grounds.

### MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: **Padraig Hughes, Ard Mhacha**  
Stand By: **Michael Duffy, Sligeach**

Linesman: **Brendan Rice, An Dún**  
Sideline: **TJ Keavey, Sligeach**

## A Must Win Game for Donegal

BY RYAN FERRY (*Donegal Democrat*)

Donegal welcome Dublin to MacCumhaill Park this afternoon with their Allianz Football League Division One status still under threat.

Jim McGuinness's side sit dangerously close to the relegation zone in sixth position, with four points, but their opponents Dublin have enjoyed a much more successful league campaign and sit joint top with Tyrone.

McGuinness has been adamant that Donegal's focus is on their Ulster championship clash with Tyrone, but relegation from Division One would not be ideal preparation for that game.

Indeed last year, Donegal found themselves in an almost identical position, needing to defeat Armagh at home to survive in the league's premier division.

Donegal rose to the occasion to defeat Armagh by three points, and that proved to be an important psychological boost on their way to All-Ireland glory in September.

Dublin have been in sensational form under the guidance of new manager, Jim Gavin, and they come to Ballybofey with a league semi-final spot already booked.

Their free-flowing football has seen them receive lots of plaudits, and many bookmakers have installed them as favourites to capture the Sam Maguire Cup this year.

With Bernard Brogan returning to form, Jack McCaffrey cementing a starting berth, and Paddy Andrews enjoying a second coming in a sky blue shirt, the Dubs already look like a potential threat to Donegal's All-Ireland title.

Gavin was at the helm for Dublin U-21s when they defeated Jim McGuinness' Donegal in the All-Ireland U-21 final in Kingspan Breffni Park in 2010.

A last minute penalty from Michael Murphy struck the crossbar, and Gavin's side held out for a narrow two point victory.

The Dublin manager also won the All-Ireland U-21 title last year and has introduced a number of young players from both teams to the senior set-up, and competition for places is fierce.

This should ensure there will be no let up from Dublin, despite already having their place

in the semi-finals secured, as fringe players stake their claim for Championship playing time.

Donegal have not been at their best during the league campaign losing four times, but in Ballybofey they have been dominant, recording two comfortable victories over Down and Kerry.

They will also be buoyed by the Ulster Council's ruling to fix their Ulster championship quarter-final fixture against Tyrone in MacCumhaill Park.

The loss of the 2012 Footballer of the Year, Karl Lacey, to a groin injury, had been a big blow to Donegal, and they have missed the incisive runs out of the defence from their talismanic centre-back.

They also will be without All-Star full back, Neil McGee, who injured his knee in the defeat to Mayo in their last fixture.

Donegal-Dublin is a clash looked on fondly by Donegal people after Donegal won their first All-Ireland in 1992, with an 0-18 to 0-14 victory over the boys in blue.

However, in 2011, Dublin avenged that defeat in the All-Ireland semi-final, as their two-point win proved to be the catalyst for them to go on and beat Kerry and win their first All-Ireland in 16 years.

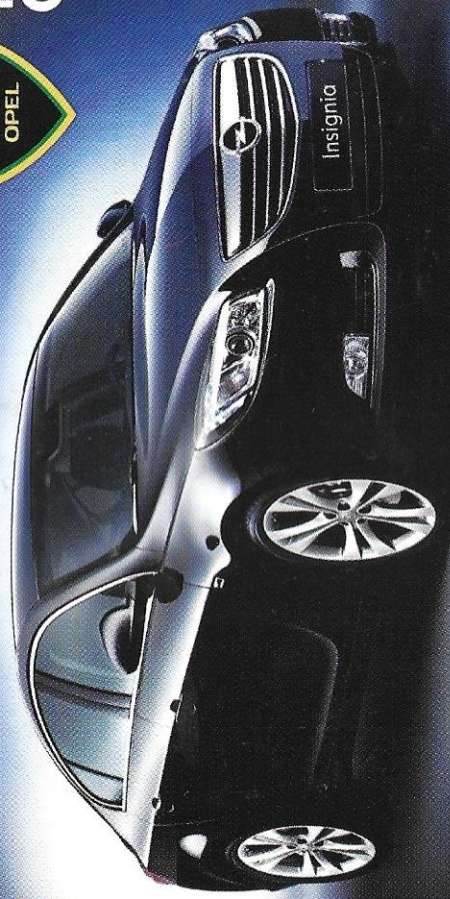
When the sides met in last year's Spring series league game in Croke Park, Dublin came out comfortable winners on a scoreline of 2-16 to 0-13.

Donegal will be looking for an improved performance on their least outing in the league when they lost to Mayo in Elverys McHale Park. Dublin, on the other hand, eased to a win against Down, with 19-year-old, Paul Mannion, putting in a stellar performance.

Despite, the prospect of relegation hanging over Donegal, there is also the possibility that they could join Dublin in the league semi-finals if results go their way. It should be a fascinating battle, as Gavin's free-spirited side meet a Donegal team, who cannot afford another slip up.



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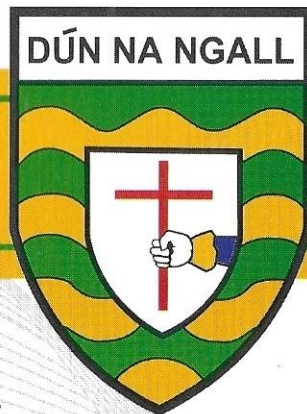


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## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Fr Seán

It seems that to-day's is the twentieth League meeting of Dún na nGall and Baile Átha Cliath:

1984-85	Baile Átha Cliath	1-6	Dún na nGall	1-4	Bealach Féich
1985-86	Baile Átha Cliath	0-15	Dún na nGall	0-8	Páirc an Chrócaigh
1988-89	Baile Átha Cliath	0-10	Dún na nGall	0-9	Páirc an Chrócaigh
1989-90	Dún na nGall	1-10	Baile Átha Cliath	0-9	Bealach Féich
1990-91	Dún na nGall	2-11	Baile Átha Cliath	1-9	Bealach Féich
1991-92	Baile Átha Cliath	3-6	Dún na nGall	1-10	An Cabhán ( ¼ )
1992-93	Baile Átha Cliath	0-9	Dún na nGall	0-9	Páirc an Chrócaigh (cc)
1992-93	Baile Átha Cliath	0-10	Dún na nGall	0-6	Páirc an Chrócaigh (cc)
1993-94	Dún na nGall	0-11	Baile Átha Cliath	0-7	Bealach Féich
1994-95	Dún na nGall	0-12	Baile Átha Cliath	1-8	Páirc an Chrócaigh
1998-99	Dún na nGall	1-8	Baile Átha Cliath	0-9	Béal Átha Seanaidh
'99-2000	Baile Átha Cliath	1-11	Dún na nGall	0-11	Páirc Parnell
2000-01	Baile Átha Cliath	0-11	Dún na nGall	0-8	Béal Átha Seanaidh
2002	Baile Átha Cliath	2-10	Dún na nGall	0-14	Páirc Parnell
2003	Baile Átha Cliath	1-10	Dún na nGall	0-9	Béal Átha Seanaidh
2005	Baile Átha Cliath	1-11	Dún na nGall	0-13	Páirc Parnell
2007	Dún na nGall	0-9	Baile Átha Cliath	0-5	Béal Átha Seanaidh
2009	Baile Átha Cliath	0-13	Dún na nGall	1-8	Béal Átha Seanaidh
2012	Baile Átha Cliath	2-16	Dún na nGall	0-13	Páirc an Chrócaigh

Baile Átha Cliath won 12:

Dún na nGall won 6:

One draw - 1993 final.

Dún na nGall have won 3 of the 4 Bealach Féich encounters.

Colm A. McFadden made his Dún na nGall debut when he came on as a sub. against Baile Átha Cliath on 10 February 2002.

### 1984

The first competitive Senior League or Championship game between Dún na nGall and Baile Átha Cliath was played here in Seán Mac Cumhaill Park on December 2, 1984 in Division 2 of the National Football League. The post-match shenanigans surrounding referee

Pádraig Gorman attracted as much publicity as the thrilling game itself. Brian McEniff's Dún na nGall led Heffo's Baile Átha Cliath all the way until one minute from full-time when Barney Rock's goal saw Baile Átha Cliath win by 1-6 to 1-4.

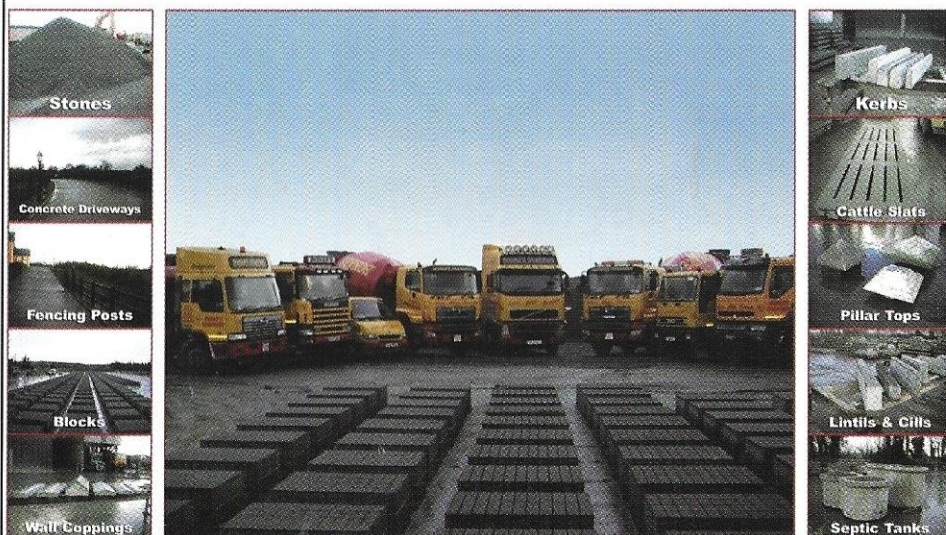
The main talking points of the game were four goalmouth incidents. After 12 minutes Martin McHugh was fouled in the square but managed to get the ball into the net. However, the referee awarded a penalty and John O'Leary saved Martin McHugh's kick. After 2 minutes of the second half Ciarán Duff flicked the ball into the Dún na nGall net but the goal wasn't allowed as Duff was in the square. With a minute to go Tom Cassin's cross was punched to the net by Barney Rock. The goal stood despite furious Dún na nGall protests that Barney was in the square. And deep into injury time a high ball into the Baile Átha Cliath goalmouth was fielded by John O'Leary, who was dispossessed by Séamus Bonner (whom we remember fondly to-day). The ball ended in the net but the goal was disallowed and there was great annoyance.



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### Dún na nGall:

Noel McCole:

Tommy McDermott  
Donal Reid

Brendan Dunleavy  
Michael Lafferty

Anthony Molloy and Martin Griffin:

Martin McHugh (0-2)

Paul McGettigan

Subs: John 'Baker' Boyle and Séamus Bonner.

Sylvester Maguire (0-1)

Pauric Farragher

Seán Bonner:  
Martin Shovlin:

Joyce McMullan (1-1):

Brian Murray.

### Baile Átha Cliath:

John O'Leary:

Declan McGrath  
Pat Canavan

Frank McGrath  
Tom Byrne

Tommy Conroy (0-1) and Brian Mullins:

Joe McNally

Ciarán Duff (0-2)

Anton McCaul

Glen O'Neill

Subs: Barney Rock (1-3) and Tom Cassin.

P.J. Buckley:  
David Synott:

Maurice O'Callaghan:

John McCarthy.

### 1993 – THREE MEETINGS

Dún na nGall reached the National League Final for the first time in 1993. Their final opponents were Baile Átha Cliath, all-out to avenge the Championship defeat of 1992. Over 51,000 crowded into Croke Park on 2 May 1993 to witness a thriller. Baile Átha Cliath dominated the first half and led by 0-6 / 0-2 at half-time. Noel Hegarty's introduction re-invigorated Dún na nGall and they fought back to level it at 0-8 each. Vinny Murphy restored Baile Átha Cliath's lead but Noel Hegarty saved the day for

Dún na nGall with a late equalising point. As in 1984, there was a square-ball incident with Manus Boyle's 53rd minute goal disallowed.

### Dún na nGall:

Gary Walsh:

John Joe Doherty  
Donal Reid

Matt Gallagher  
Martin Gavigan

Anthony Molloy and Brian Murray:

Martin McHugh (0-1)

Tony Boyle

Barry McGowan (0-1):

Martin Shovlin:

Barry Cunningham:

Mánus Boyle (0-4).

James McHugh

Declan Bonner (0-2)

Subs: Noel Hegarty (0-1)

### Baile Átha Cliath:

John O'Leary:

Ciarán Walsh  
Paddy Moran

Dermot Deasy  
Paul Curran

Paul Bealin (0-1) and Jack Sheedy:

Tommy Carr

Vinny Murphy (0-4)

Éamonn Heery

Martin Doran

Subs: Keith Barr and Mick Galvin.

John Calvert:

Mick Deegan:

Niall Guidan (0-1):

Charlie Redmond (0-3).

Nearly 60,000 spectators came to Croke Park for the replay a week later. The two Martins – Gavigan and McHugh – were flu victims and were replaced by Noel Hegarty and Joyce McMullan. Both Martins came on as subs along with Sylvester Maguire. Baile Átha Cliath had to field without the injured Charlie Redmond. Paul Clarke took his place and Jim Gavin was selected instead of John Calvert. Brian White refereed both games. Baile Átha Cliath had a whirlwind start and despite having Tommy Carr sent off after just 5 minutes, led by 0-8 to 0-1 at the interval. Although Dún na nGall staged another comeback the gap was too big and Baile Átha Cliath deserved their 0-10/0-6 victory and their eighth (and last) National League crown. Dún na nGall would return for the 1995 and 1996 League finals before winning it eventually in 2007. The League final results from 2007 were:



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2007	Dún na nGall	0-13	Maigh Eo	0-10
2008	Doire	2-13	Ciarraí	2-9
2009	Ciarraí	1-15	Doire	0-15
2010	Corcaigh	1-17	Maigh Eo	0-12
2011	Corcaigh	0-21	Baile Átha Cliath	2-14
2012	Corcaigh	2-10	Maigh Eo	0-11

Dún na nGall and Baile Átha Cliath met again on the 7 November 1993 in the 1993-94 League - Baile Átha Cliath's last visit to Bealach Féich. It was Gary Walsh's 100th appearance for Dún na nGall, who won 0-11/0-7. The game marked Marty Carlin's return to inter-county football and a storming display by man-of-the-match, Mark Crossan. Baile Átha Cliath's Niall Guiden was sent off rather harshly half-way through the second half.

It is noteworthy that both to-day's managers played in the 1993 match, though Jim McGuinness had been replaced by John Duffy by the time Jim Gavin replaced Mick Galvin! Both have done their respective counties some service since!

#### Dún na nGall:

Gary Walsh:  
Donal Reid  
Mark Crossan

Matt Gallagher  
Noel Hegarty (0-1)

Paul Carr:  
Martin Shovlin:

Brian Murray (0-1) and Marty Carlin (0-2):

James McHugh (0-1)  
Jim McGuinness (0-1)

Martin McHugh (0-1)  
Tommy Ryan

Joyce McMullin:  
Declan Bonner (0-3).

Subs: John Duffy (0-1), Mark McShane, and Martin Gavigan.

#### Baile Átha Cliath:

John O'Leary:  
Ciarán Walsh  
Ger Regan (0-1)

Dermot Deasy  
Keith Barr

Paddy Moran:  
Mick Deegan:

Paul Bealin and Johnny Barr (0-1):

Vinny Murphy  
Dessie Farrell

Tommy Carr  
Charlie Redmond (0-4)

Niall Guiden:  
Mick Galvin (0-1).

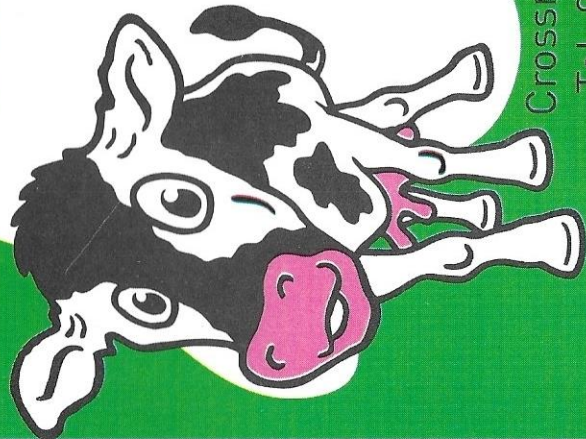
Subs: Jack Sheedy, Stephen Carslake, and Jim Gavin.

Referee: Pat McEneaney





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## Right Decision Made On Venue – Now Let's Prove Them Right

BY CHRIS McNULTY (Donegal News)

AND so the old lady gets to stage the big dance after all.

Last week in Armagh, a meeting of the Ulster CCC decreed that Páirc Sheáin Mac Cumhaill was to be pencilled down to host this summer's day of days. Ulster will stand still on May 26th. The swords of Ulster's new 'big two', Donegal and Tyrone, will cross upon this hallowed sod by Finn's side.

The eyes of Ulster – and beyond – will be upon this proud little corner of ours seven weeks from today.

There were very real fears that, not only would Donegal lose home advantage, but that the Twin Towns would suffer the indignity of being termed not suitable to host a game of such magnitude.

This was after the controversial Slattery Report slashed MacCumhaill Park's capacity down to 12,250.

"If we were to draw say Tyrone or one of the big teams in the championship, there is no way we would be able to stage the game in MacCumhaill Park. It simply would not have the capacity," was the grim prediction of then County Chairman PJ McGowan in the lead up to last year's Championship.

Subsequent to that, Donegal won a trophy named Sam, a county went daft and the laws of fate decided it'd have a bit of fun. It seemed almost inevitable: the balls of Dún na nGall and Tír Eoghain were paired back in October.

Crucially, Donegal were drawn first – handed 'the home draw' for an eighth year in succession.

Slattery's findings appeared to rule out the prospect of Ballybofey getting the nod.

But then, an opening appeared. During a visit to Donegal in December – when he presented these players with their All-Ireland medals – Aogán Ó Fearghail suggested that he would pitch for Donegal to be given the game, provided that the ground was 'brought up to scratch'.

18,000 was the magic number. The clubs of the county gave their blessings to the upgrade work and construction began almost immediately. New County Chairman Sean Dunion vowed that 'no stone would be left unturned'.

When Slattery's figures appeared hours before the Armagh meeting, they were slightly beneath the magical mark. 17,520 patrons can now be accommodated. It did not deter the delegates.

It was not only a minor feather in the cap for Donegal, but it was perhaps a victory for good, old-fashioned common sense.

For these towns, it is certainly a coup.

Ballybofey is a town, like many others of its size, in decline in many ways. It has suffered from the closure of many establishments that seemed at one time to be 'part of the furniture' and now the absence of



Championship Sunday would come as a telling blow to many of its remaining businesses.

Ballybofey on Championship Sunday is a heartening sight, which outlines on so many levels the goodness that sport can bring to a town. It is a boost, too, for the business community of the Twin Towns.

Tommy Gallen of the Villa Rose Hotel on Ballybofey's Main Street says that Championship Sunday when Donegal are in MacCumhaill Park is their 'biggest day of the year by a mile'.

He says: "It is the biggest for bar trade, the biggest for food, everyone gets a turn out of it – that is the beauty about it. No matter what team comes, Derry, Tyrone, Armagh, whoever, there is no doubt that it's the biggest day of the year."

The prospect of big Murphy emerging from that dusty tunnel to a heaving mass of 17,520 passionate fans in seven weeks time is enough to make the hairs on the back stand.

Step one in securing the game has now been achieved. Michael McMenamin, the Development Officer, made a very salient point at Tuesday's County Committee meeting when he remarked: 'The next part of it is actually running and managing the game...we need to rise to the occasion'.

Necks will be craned here on May 26th; eyes will be upon us from all corners.

Donegal made the pitch to play at home. Now, our Ulster and All-Ireland champions will begin their next odyssey on their own turf.

Let us all ensure that those present in Ulster Council blazers do not wake on the morning of May 27th and regret the decision of last week.

The old lady must waltz her finest if she is to stage this dance again in the future. Otherwise, the curtain could fall and getting a swell of support again from Ulster be an impossibility.

Over to you...

\* Chris McNulty is the Gaelic Games Correspondent with the bi-weekly Donegal News



# Dún na nGall



**1**  
Pól Ó Dorcáin  
Paul Durkan  
*Na Ceithre Máistirí*



**2**  
Deaglain Breathnach  
Declan Walsh  
*Málainn*



**4**  
Prionsias MacFhloinn  
Frank McGlynn  
*Gleann Fhinne*



**3**  
Éamonn Mac Aoidh  
Éamonn McGee  
*Gaoth Dobhair*



**5**  
Rian MacAoidh  
Ryan McHugh  
*Cill Chartha*



**7**  
Antaine Ó Tomais  
Anthony Thompson  
*Naomh Conail*



**6**  
Leo Mac Giolla Uoin  
Leo Mac Loone  
*Naomh Conail*



**8**  
Ruairí Caomhánach  
Rory Kavanagh  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*



**9**  
Rian Ó Brollchain  
Ryan Bradley  
*Buncranaigh*



**10**  
Marcus MacAoidh  
Mark McHugh  
*Cill Chartha*



**11**  
Ross Ó Faghartaigh  
Ross Wherity  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*



**12**  
Martain Ó Raghallaigh  
Martin O'Reilly  
*Sean MacCumhaills*



**13**  
Pádraig Mac Breartaigh  
Patrick McBrearty  
*Cill Chartha*



**14**  
Mícheál Ó Murchú  
Michael Murphy  
*Gleann Súilí*



**15**  
Colm MacPháidín  
Colm McFadden  
*Naomh Mícheál*

**Fir Ionaid**  
16 Mícheál Ó Baoill Michael Boyle  
17 Mairtín Ó Baoill Martin Boyle  
18 Sean MacGabhann Shane McGowan  
19 Máirtín MacGiolla Chainní Martin McElhinney  
20 Gearoid MacPhaidín Gary McFadden

21 Adrian Ó hAnluain Adrian Hanlon An Clochán Liath  
22 Diarmuid Ó Ludhóg Dermot Molloy Naomh Conail  
23 Odhrain MacNiallais Odhrain MacNiallais Gaoth Dobhair  
24 Daniel MacLochlainn Daniel McLaughlin Naomh Michael  
25 Maitiú MacGabhann Matthew Smyth Na Cealla Beaga  
26 Tomas MacFhionnlaich Tomas McKinley Naomh Colmcille

**Bainisteoir:** Jim McGuinness

**Maor Foirne:** Ruairí Ó Gallachóir

**Roghnóirí:** Marcos Ó Curráin & Pádraig Ó Seibhlinn

	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45	Saor	Ciceanna
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2 Adh Leath	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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# Baile Atha Cliath



**1**  
Stiofáin Cluxton  
Stephen Cluxton  
*Parnells*



**2**  
Caoimhín Ó Briain  
Kevin O'Brien  
*Naomh Mearnog*



**4**  
Darren Ó Dálaigh  
Darren Daly  
*Raibíní Fhine Ghall*



**3**  
Pilib Mac Mathúna  
Phil McMahon  
*Ciceam Baile Munna*



**5**  
Seán Mac Gafraidh  
Jack McCaffrey  
*Cluain Tarbh*



**7**  
Nioclás Déabhrús  
Nicky Devereux  
*Naomh Eoin  
Baile an tSaoir*



**6**  
Gearóid Ó Braonáin  
Ger Brennan  
*Naomh Uinsíonn*



**8**  
Mícheál Mac Fháilí  
Michael Dara Macauley  
*Baile Buadáin Naomh Éanna*



**9**  
Cian Ó Súilleabháin  
Cian O'Sullivan  
*Cill Mochoda Na Crócaigh*



**10**  
Pól Mac Floinn  
Paul Flynn  
*Fine Ghallainn*



**11**  
Tomás Ó Brádaigh  
Tomas Brady  
*Na Fianna*



**12**  
Brian Ó Cullinn  
Bryan Cullen  
*Cláirseacha Na Scéirí*



**13**  
Caoimhín Mac Meanman  
Kevin McManamon  
*Naomh Jude*



**14**  
Pádraig Mac Aindriú  
Paddy Andrews  
*Naomh Bríd*



**15**  
Pól Ó Mainnín  
Paul Mannion  
*Cill Mochoda Na Crócaigh*

**Fir Ionaid**  
16. Shane Supple Seán Suipéil Naomh Bríd  
17. Denis Bastick Donncha Bastic Teach Mealóg Sráid Singe  
18. Shane Carthy Seán Carthaigh Naomh Mearnog  
19. Mick Fitzsimons Mícheál Mac Siomóin Cuala  
20. Chris Guckian Críostóir Guckian Naomh Jude  
21. Kevin Nolan Caoimhín Ó Nualláin Cill Mochoda Na Crócaigh  
22. Emmett O'Conghaile Emmett O'Conghaile Na Sáirséaligh Leamhcáin  
23. Declan O'Mahony Déaglán Ó Mathúna Baile Buadáin Naomh Éanna  
24. Dean Rock Dean MacConcharraige Ciceam Baile Munna  
25. Philip Ryan Pilib Ó Riain Naomh Bríd  
26. Jason Whelan Jason Ó Faoláin Ciceam Baile Munna

**Bainisteoir:** Jim Gavin

**Roghnóirí:** Declan Darcy, Mick Deegan, Michael Kennedy, Shane O'Hanlon

	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45	Saor	Ciceanna
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*Wishing the Donegal Team every success in 2013*

## Martin Griffin a legend of Donegal football

by TOM COMACK

Donegal has produced many great footballers down the years. Legends and characters some more decorated than others with the awards and accolades from the game.

One such former Donegal great that fits into the category of the lesser laden down with awards and honours but none the less his name will always be etched in Donegal history and folklore.

That player is Martin Griffin, a local man, from the Twin Towns here and a former Sean MacCumhail's and Donegal great.

Martin Griffin's Donegal career spanned two decades, the 1970s and 80s, and he was an accomplished footballer. One of his big attributes was his great pair of hands and high fielding.

He was one of those players that had the ability to raise the crowd and his team mates with one of his spectacular fetches when he would latterly pluck the ball out of the clouds.

The holder of two Ulster Senior Championship winning medals from 1974 and '83; Martin made his championship debut in the summer of 1975, as Donegal began the defence of their Ulster crown.

A real character at the time he was also know as the man with the sweatband and is reputed to have famously on one occasion have worn a feather in the sweatband.

That was against Cavan, in the championship of '75. His first start was at fullback as he took over duties on the edge of the square from the legendary Pauric McShea.

In all he played in 11 championship campaigns from '75 to '86 – he missed out on the '81 championship through injury - before he walked off the county stage after being sprung

from the bench against Down, in 1986, in Newcastle.

While his debut was in the number three shirt and fullback was arguably his best position, he also featured at midfield from time to time and had many fine days too in the number eight shirt.

In the squad when Donegal won a second Ulster Championship, in 1974, he was firmly established as the first choice number three by 1983, when his club colleague Mickey Lafferty became the third Donegal captain to raise aloft the Anglo Celt, in St. Tiernach Park.

Martin Griffin was also a gifted hurler and played hurling for both his club and Donegal at all levels and came from a family steeped in Gaelic Football and the Gaelic tradition.

His late father Gerry was recognised as a leading coach of his time and managed Sean MacCumhail's to championship success and also managed Donegal, both men and ladies teams at a time. And his grandfather Ben Griffin is synonymous with Sean MacCumhail's and in particular the development of Sean MacCumhail Park.

As well as his two Ulster champions winners medals Martin is also the proud holder of a Donegal U-21 and senior championship medals. The U-21 won in 1975 and the senior three years later, in 1977, when MacCumhail's defeated Gaoth Dobhair in the final to claim the last of the clubs six titles.

After calling time on his Donegal career, Martin played on for a few more years for MacCumhail's before hanging up the boots for good.

A native of the Twin Towns he still resides on the banks of the Finn, in Ballybofey, and still attends games here in MacCumhail Park.

Allianz LEAGUES CMA

**Allianz National League Division One Table**

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Dif	Pts		P	W	L	D	F	A	Dif	Pts
Dublin	6	5	1	0	116	75	+41	10	Mayo	6	2	4	0	82	80	+2	4
Tyrone	6	5	1	0	87	78	+9	10	<b>Donegal</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
Kildare	6	4	2	0	87	95	-8	8	Kerry	6	2	4	0	53	73	-20	4
Cork	6	3	3	0	81	86	-5	6	Down	6	1	5	0	68	87	-19	2





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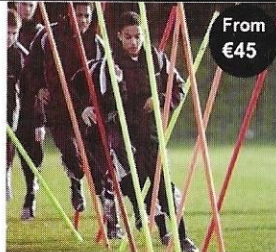
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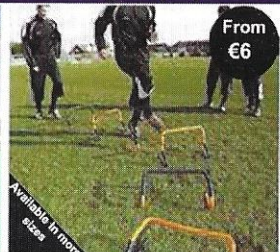
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- Walking up Jones Road in September.
- The noise in Croke Park as the teams comes out.
- Banter between the supporters.
- Old blokes with transistor radios who are always more interested in the radio telling you about a U21 game down in Limerick than the game they're watching in Croke.
- The OOOOOOOO of the crowd when there is a bone crunching shoulder.
- Championship football on a warm summers evening, the hard sod, quick ball and the roar of the crowd.
- John 3:16
- Bringing the Sam Maguire around to schools in the months after the All Ireland.
- The one line comment from some wit in the crowd that's gets both sets of supporters laughing and cheering.
- "Anyone buying or selling a ticket"
- Being lifted over the turnstiles by your Da when you were a kid.
- Beaches in July when all the fathers are inside cars listening to the news from Clones or Thurles.
- Wearing your county jersey because you love it, not because it's a fashion statement.
- The consolation that no matter how bad things go.....there's always next year!
- It gives you a sense of identity, where you come from, something you will have till the day you die.
- Ringing up people you haven't spoken to in 12 months telling them to keep you in mind for a ticket, then getting a complete shock when they come up with the goods. Then telling everybody that asks you for a ticket to feck off- Do they not know how hard it is to get a ticket.
- When Karl Lacey makes a surging run and you just know he's going to pop it over the bar
- The craic in the pub after a big win.
- Michael Murphy shouting "We have him"
- JIMMY'S WINNING MATCHES!!!!

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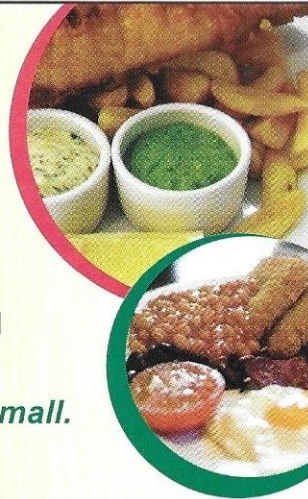
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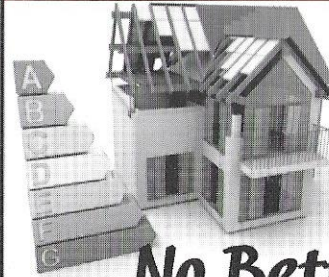
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*Best of luck to Donegal Team from Paula and Staff*

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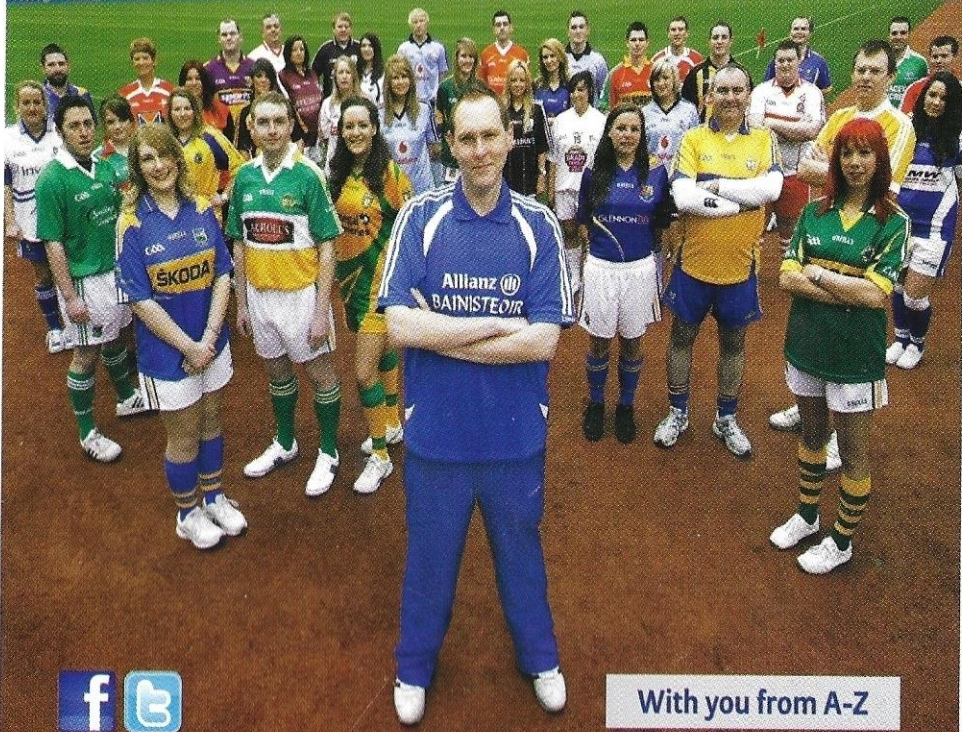
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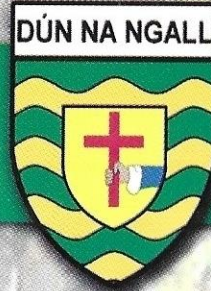
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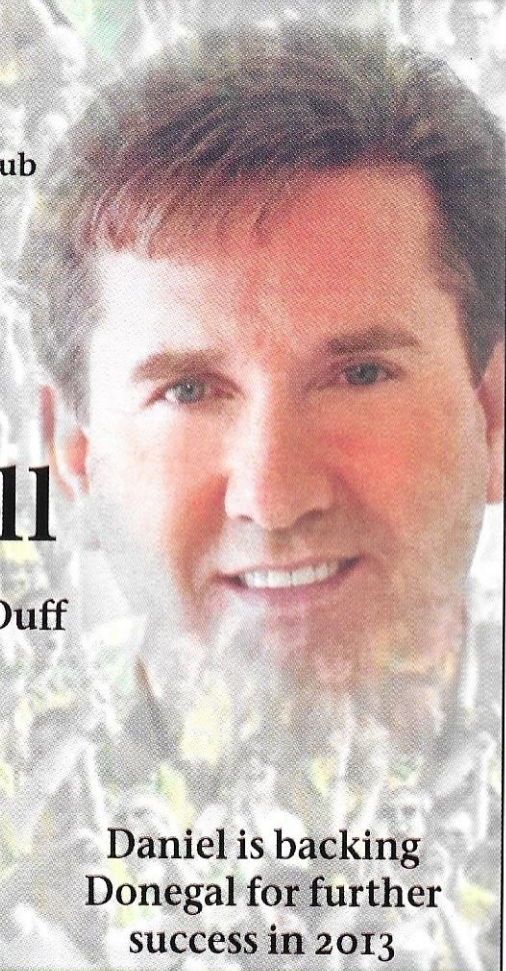


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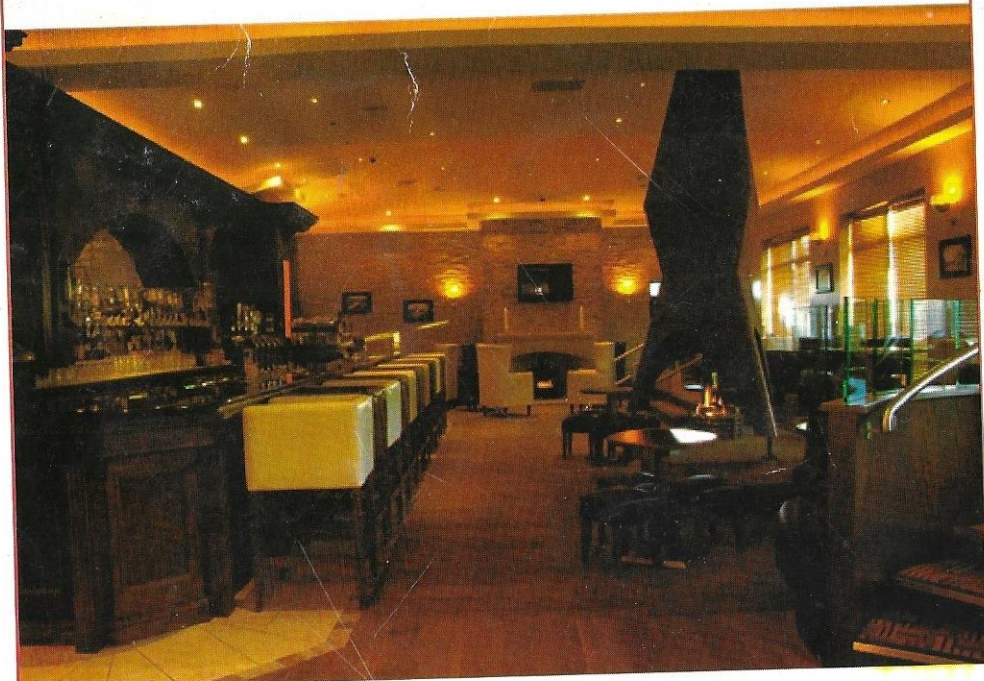
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