



ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
DIVISION I FINAL

# ÁTH CLIATH v DOIRE



ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
DIVISION II FINAL



# DÚN NA nGALL v MUINEACHÁN

Páirc an Chrócaigh  
Aibreán 27 2014

CLÁR OIFIGIÚL / OFFICIAL PROGRAMME LUACH €4

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the best of luck in today's finals.**

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ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION II FINAL 2.00 PM

## Dún na nGall v Muineachán

An Réiteoir: David Gough (An Mhí)

Linesmen: Marty Duffy (Sligeach) (STANDBY REFEREE), Barry Cassidy (Doire)

Sideline Official: Seán McCarthy (Áth Cliath)

Umpires: Eugene Gough, Terry Gough, Dean Gough, Stephen Gough

In the event of a draw, extra-time will be played

ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION I FINAL 4.00 PM

## Áth Cliath v Doire

An Réiteoir: Cormac Reilly (An Mhí)

Linesmen: Conor Lane (Corcaigh) (STANDBY REFEREE), Martin McNally (Muineachán)

Sideline Official: Ian Molloy (Dún na nGall)

Umpires: Michael Bell, Ricky White, Colin McHugh, Seán Walsh

In the event of a draw, extra-time will be played

### CLÁR AN LAE

1.40 DÚN NA nGALL amach ar an bpáirc	3.40 ÁTH CLIATH amach ar an bpáirc
1.42 MUINEACHÁN amach ar an bpáirc	3.42 DOIRE amach ar an bpáirc
1.45 Oifigigh an Chluiche amach ar an bpáirc	3.45 Oifigigh an Chluiche amach ar an bpáirc
1.50 Coin toss	3.55 Toss
2.00 Tús an chluiche	3.58 Amhrán na bhFiann
2.37 <sup>*</sup> Leath-am	4.00 Tús an chluiche
2.38 <sup>*</sup> Respect Exhibition Go Games	4.37 <sup>*</sup> Leath-am
2.52 <sup>*</sup> Tús an dara leath	4.38 <sup>*</sup> Respect Exhibition Go Games
3.30 <sup>*</sup> Críoch an chluiche	4.52 <sup>*</sup> Tús an dara leath
3.32 <sup>*</sup> Presentation of trophy by Uachtarán CLG	5.30 <sup>*</sup> Críoch an chluiche
	5.32 <sup>*</sup> Presentation of trophy by Uachtarán CLG

\* depending on 'added time'

### AMHRÁN NA BHFIANN

Sinne Fianna Fáil,  
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,  
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Faoi mhóid bheith saor,

Sean-tír ár sinsear Feasta  
Ní fhágfar faoin tÍoran ná faoin tráill.  
Anocht a théam sa  
bhearna baoil  
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun

báis nó saoil  
Le gunna scréach faoi  
lámhach na bpiléar,  
Seo libh canaig  
Amhrán na bhFiann.

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## Ireland's 3rd Largest Further Education College

Wishing our neighbouring counties all the best!

We've had a run of success at national level in recent years in Gaelic games and soccer, but there are several other active and growing sports teams and clubs at the Institute. Access to sport and fitness facilities is open to everyone, students and staff alike, and the new state-of-the-art gym is a particular favourite.

### Sports Scholarship

Each year a number of sports scholarships are awarded to talented male and female students to develop their sporting talents. This year two of our boxers on scholarships represented Cavan Institute and Ireland in London. Details on our scholarship programme can be found on our website at [www.cavaninstitute.ie](http://www.cavaninstitute.ie)

**Men's GAA:** The men compete in division 2 of the Higher Education league. We are the only Further Education Institute in the country competing at this level. This year Cavan Institute were crowned Corn Na Mac Léinn Cup champions at the All Ireland Sigerson weekend in Belfast. Next year they will be competing in the Trench Cup competition.

Our sports therapy/physiotherapy assistant tutors and students were involved with pre and post-match sports massage for the Irish International rules football team against Australia in Kingspan Breifni Park and Croke Park

### Recent roll of honours:

- All Ireland Sigerson weekend - Corn Na Mac Léinn Cup winners 2014
- All Ireland Higher Education Division 3 League winners 2012
- All Ireland Further Education League and Championship winners 2011

**Ladies' GAA:** The ladies compete for the Lagan Cup during the championship season. The girls reached the quarter-final but were beaten by Blanchardstown IT.

**Camogie:** In 2014 the girls competed in the Ulster Further Education 9 a side competition and were victorious.

**Hurling:** Following on from the setting up of a hurling club in the Institute in 2013 the lads competed in a super 7s competition this year which was hosted by Cavan Institute.

**Sports Development:** Students on our level 6 Sports Development course get into second year on the BSc in sports in Institutes of technology.

**Sports Therapy/Physiotherapy Assistant:** Students from this course have in the past progressed to Teeside, Salford and Middlesex Universities onto the BSc degree in physiotherapy.

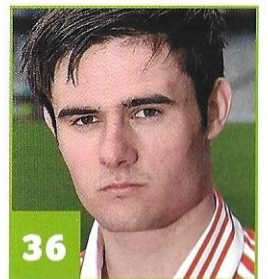
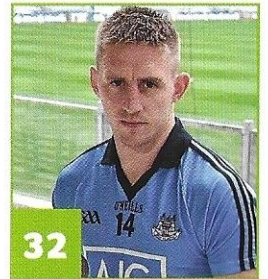
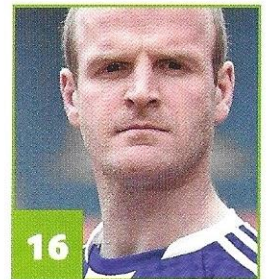
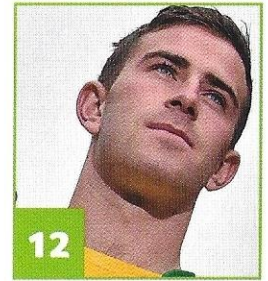


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# TEACHTAIREACHT AN UACHTARÁIN

Is cúis mhór áthais dom fáilte croíúil a chur romhaibh go Páirc an Chrócaigh inniu le haghaidh Cluichí Ceannais na Sraithe Allianz 2014.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Croke Park today for the climax of what have been excellent Allianz League campaigns across both Divisions I and II.

The pace and intensity on view in our games to date this year has once again been staggering, and when you factor in the remarkable success recent winners of the competition have subsequently had in the championship, it simply underlines the importance of these competitions. That's all before mention of the national titles that will be won and lost today on the back of eagerly-anticipated finals.

Reigning Allianz League Division I and All-Ireland champions Dublin have impressed under Jim Gavin for the second year running, and arrive here today after a superb comeback win over Cork in the semi-final two weeks ago. It will be fascinating to see if Dublin can continue that remarkable sequence of success into a second year.

In the opposite corner Derry are building a strong team under the vastly experienced Brian McIver, and are here on finals day for the second year in a row, having beaten Westmeath in last year's Division II decider. The resilience and attacking flair they showed in their semi-final win over Mayo impressed many, and an Allianz League Division I title would surely signal their return to the very top of the game.

Today's first game, the Division II final between Donegal and Monaghan, is a real treat as it is a repeat of last year's Ulster Championship final, which Malachy O'Rourke's Farny County side so memorably won to claim the Anglo Celt Cup for the first time in 25 years.

Monaghan won last year's Division III title and have been on an upward curve throughout Malachy O'Rourke's reign. Today's game, against Jim McGuinness's revitalised Donegal side, will be a real test of their credentials ahead of the defence of their



Ulster title. Relegated from the top tier last year, and after a disappointing 2013 Championship, Donegal will see this as the perfect game ahead of their Ulster quarter-final against Derry on May 25.

I wish all four competing teams and their backroom teams every success today and hope their supporters derive great satisfaction from their visits to Croke Park – perhaps a portent of things to come later in the year. I'd also like to acknowledge our match officials for the all-important role that they play in our games.

Finally, a special word of thanks to Allianz and their CEO Brendan Murphy for their support and assistance in promoting competitions that have certainly captured the public's imagination again this year.

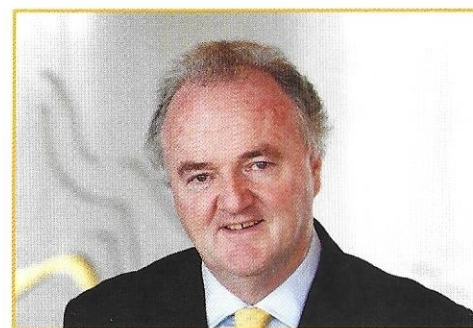
Rath Dé ar an obair.

*Liam Ó Néill*

Liam Ó Néill  
Uachtarán  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



# MESSAGE FROM THE SPONSOR



On behalf of Allianz Ireland I would like to welcome all supporters of Dublin, Derry, Monaghan and Donegal to Croke Park today for the Allianz Football League Division I and II finals.

The 2014 Allianz Football League has given us a spring full of fantastic football and a very exciting competition with so many games going down to the wire demonstrating the hunger and desire of all those involved to set their stall out for the remainder of the season. Both sides in today's Division I final are reigning Allianz League champions with Dublin defending their Division I title and Derry the reigning Division II champions. Derry will be looking to repeat their Round 5 win over the Dubs and lift their second Allianz League title in as many years.

Ulster sides have shown their strength this season providing four of the eight finalists across the four divisions of the Allianz Football League and I've no doubt that the Division II

final featuring Monaghan and Donegal will be a hard fought affair.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the GAA, and particularly the team here in Croke Park, for hosting today's Allianz Football League matches. The pitch and stadium are a credit to all involved and it is certainly a fitting venue for us to enjoy Ireland's top footballers compete for success in Divisions I and II of the Allianz Football Leagues.

We wish the squads, management and supporters of Dublin, Derry, Donegal and Monaghan the very best of luck.

Enjoy the action,

Go raibh maith agaibh,

**Brendan Murphy**  
CEO Allianz Ireland





# NA RÉITEOIRÍ

## Donegal v Monaghan



**AN RÉITEOIR:**  
**DAVID GOUGH (AN MHÍ)**

Like his fellow Royal in charge of the Division I decider, today David is making his fourth appearance in this year's Allianz League. His first was at Dr. Cullen Park in early February for the Division IV meeting of Carlow and Tipperary and that was followed by outings in Division I at Mullingar (Dublin-Westmeath) and Division II in the Athletic Grounds (Monaghan-Armagh). Earlier in the year a couple of O'Byrne Cup fixtures at Portlaoise and Parnell Park also came under his jurisdiction. David's last assignment in the primary role at GAA Headquarters was last July when he was in charge of the Cork-Galway Round 4 All-Ireland Qualifier.

## Dublin v Derry



**AN RÉITEOIR:**  
**CORMAC REILLY (AN MHÍ)**

Matches at Croke Park have been a regular assignment for the Royal referee and just last month Cormac took charge of the Dublin-Mayo Allianz League Round 6 tie at GAA Headquarters. This followed earlier outings in the second tier of the competition at Newry (Down-Monaghan) and Drogheda (Laois-Louth). Also appearing on the Meath official's 2014 CV was the AIB Club semi-final between Castlebar and Dr Crokes at Portlaoise in February. Other assignments on the biggest stage over the last 14 months include the Dublin-Kerry and Tyrone-Monaghan All-Ireland semi-final and quarter-finals from last summer and the Kildare-Down and Dublin-Mayo Allianz League ties from spring 2013.

## Final Referees 2009-2013

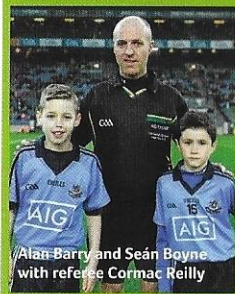
### DIVISION I

- 2009 Marty Duffy, Sligo
- 2010 Pádraig Hughes, Armagh
- 2011 Joe McQuillan, Cavan
- 2012 Maurice Deegan, Laois
- 2013 Marty Duffy, Sligo

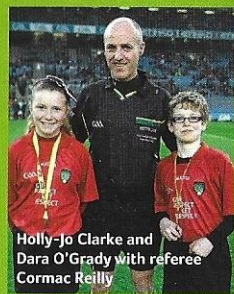
### DIVISION II

- 2009 Syl Doyle, Wexford
- 2010 Gearóid Ó Connámha, Galway
- 2011 Marty Duffy, Sligo
- 2012 David Coldrick, Meath
- 2013 Conor Lane, Cork

## YOUNG WHISTLERS



Alan Barry and Seán Boyne with referee Cormac Reilly

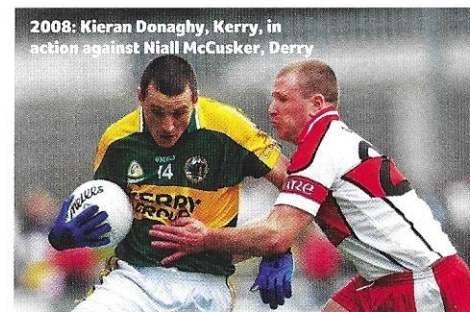


Holly-Jo Clarke and Dara O'Grady with referee Cormac Reilly

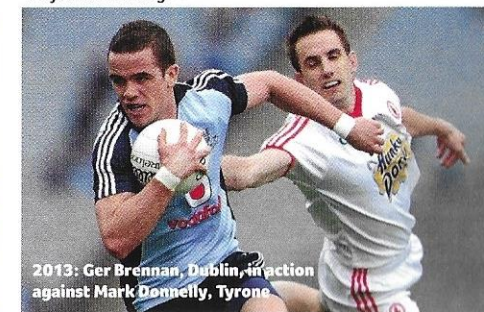
# ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE FINALS 1970-2013

1970	Mayo	4-7	Down	0-10	1991	Dublin	1-9	Kildare	0-10
1971	Kerry	0-11	Mayo	0-8	1992	Derry	1-10	Tyrone	1-8
1972	Kerry	2-11	Mayo	1-9	1993	Dublin	0-9	Donegal	0-9
1973	Kerry	2-12	Offaly	0-14	Replay	Dublin	0-10	Donegal	0-6
1974	Kerry	1-6	Roscommon	0-9	1994	Meath	2-11	Armagh	0-8
Replay	Kerry	0-14	Roscommon	0-8	1995	Derry	0-12	Donegal	0-8
1975	Meath	0-16	Dublin	1-9	1996	Derry	1-16	Donegal	1-9
1976	Dublin	2-10	Derry	0-15	1997	Kerry	3-7	Cork	1-8
1977	Kerry	1-8	Dublin	1-6	1998	Offaly	0-9	Derry	0-7
1978	Dublin	2-18	Mayo	2-13	1999	Cork	0-12	Dublin	1-7
1979	Roscommon	0-15	Cork	1-3	2000	Derry	1-12	Meath	1-12
1980	Cork	0-11	Kerry	0-10	Replay	Derry	1-8	Meath	0-9
1981	Galway	1-11	Roscommon	1-3	2001	Mayo	0-13	Galway	0-12
1982	Kerry	0-11	Cork	0-11	2002	Tyrone	0-16	Cavan	0-7
Replay	Kerry	1-9	Cork	0-5	2003	Tyrone	0-21	Laois	1-8
1983	Down	1-8	Armagh	0-8	2004	Kerry	3-11	Galway	1-16
1984	Kerry	1-11	Galway	0-11	2005	Armagh	1-21	Wexford	1-14
1985	Monaghan	1-11	Armagh	0-9	2006	Kerry	2-11	Galway	0-11
1986	Laois	2-6	Monaghan	2-5	2007	Donegal	0-13	Mayo	0-10
1987	Dublin	1-11	Kerry	0-11	2008	Derry	2-13	Kerry	2-9
1988	Meath	0-11	Dublin	1-8	2009	Kerry	1-15	Derry	0-15
Replay	Meath	2-13	Dublin	0-11	2010	Cork	1-17	Mayo	0-12
1989*	Cork	1-12	New York	1-5	2011	Cork	0-21	Dublin	2-14
	Cork	2-9	New York	1-9	2012	Cork	2-10	Mayo	0-11
1990	Meath	2-7	Down	0-11	2013	Dublin	0-18	Tyrone	0-17

\*Played over two legs

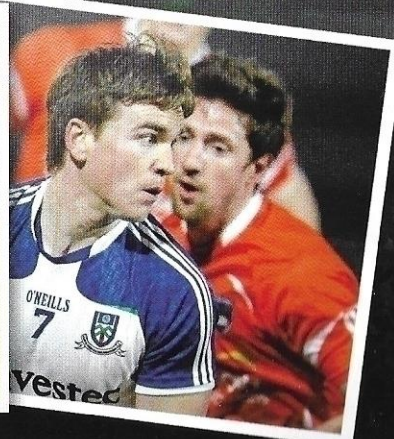
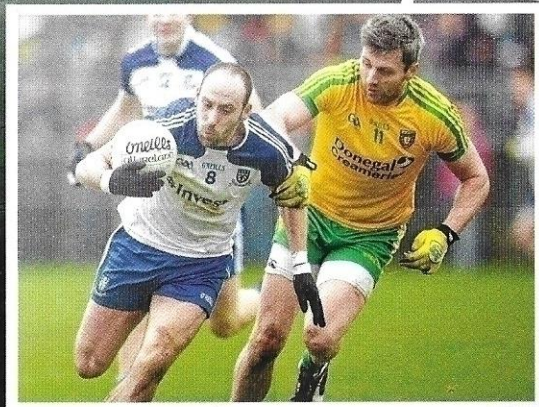
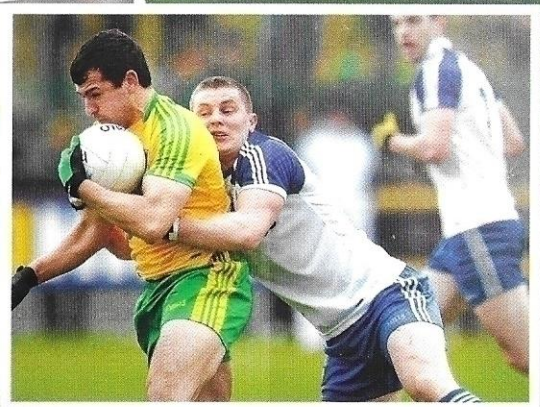
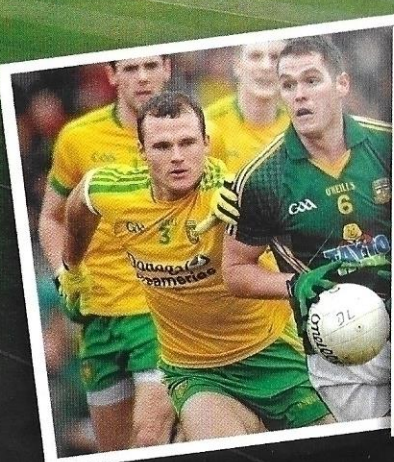
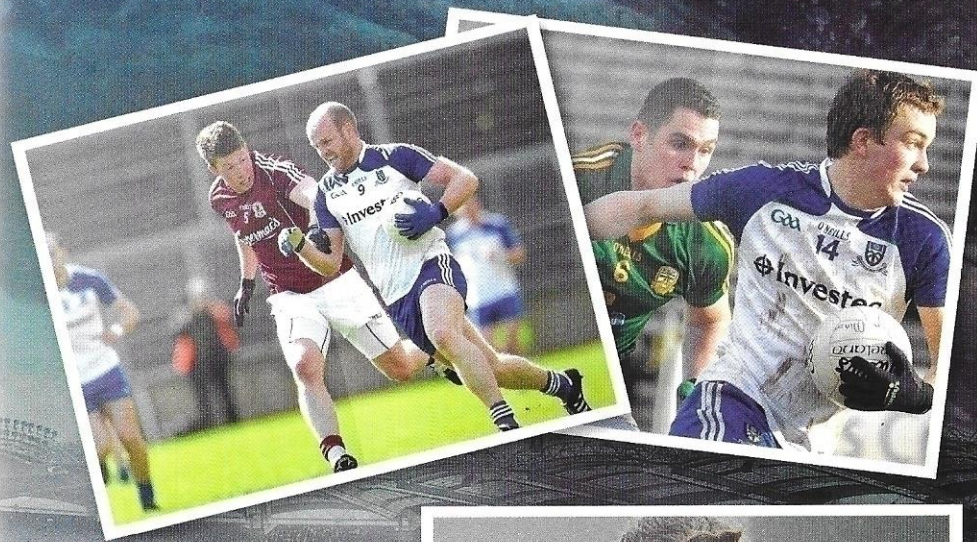
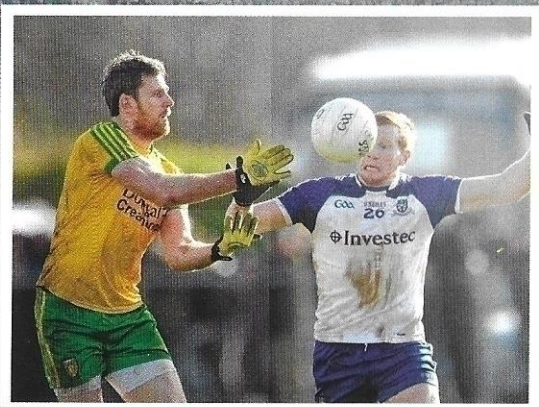
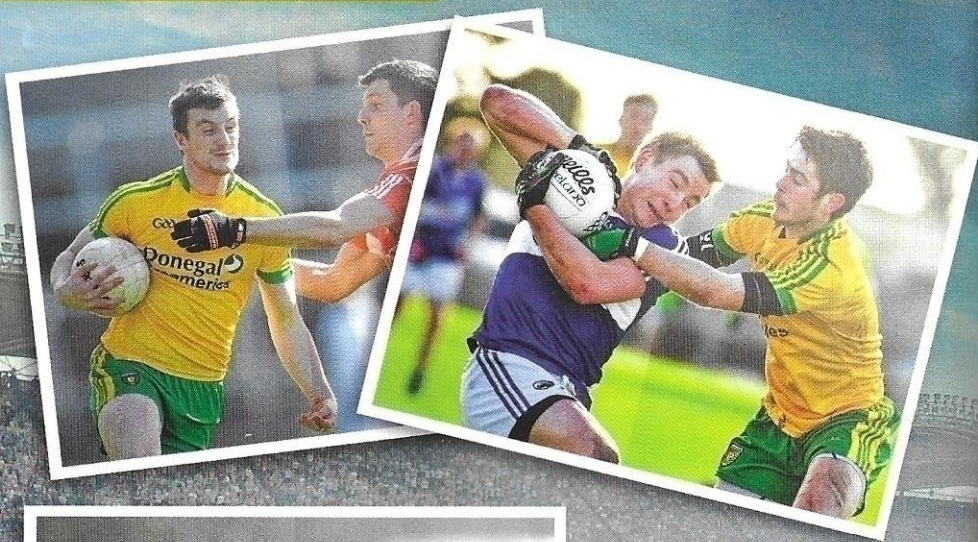


2008: Kieran Donaghy, Kerry, in action against Niall McCusker, Derry



2013: Ger Brennan, Dublin, in action against Mark Donnelly, Tyrone







# ANOTHER STEP ON THE ROAD TO REDEMPTION

By Chris McNulty, Donegal News

On Easter Sunday night in 2011, Donegal defender Paddy McGrath bumped into Damian Diver at a low-key homecoming reception after Donegal had defeated Laois to win the Division II League title at Croke Park earlier that afternoon.

McGrath had had a chastening Championship debut the previous summer, given the run-around by Jamie Clarke as Armagh ran riot and his number was up after only 11 minutes. His confidence was stripped bare, self-belief evaporated.

Jim McGuinness has always said that the 2011 League campaign was used for Donegal to gain 'traction' and the winning of the silverware that spring laid a platform for a first Ulster Championship success in 19 years. McGrath was a mainstay of the team in 2011, graduating with McGuinness's crop

of U21s, who'd been a crossbar away from an All-Ireland 12 months earlier.

"It's just a league medal and I want to push on now and achieve bigger things," McGrath told fellow Ardara man Diver, who was taken aback.

For 120 games he'd soldiered, but his inter-county mantlepiece remained empty when he called time. Diver reminded McGrath that his League medal was 'one more medal than I ever got'.

Diver just missed out on an Allianz League medal in 2007. For 11 years he toiled, playing in 36 Championship matches that included four Ulster final losses.

"My great regret is that we did not win one of those Ulster finals," he said after retiring. Under McGuinness's watch, Donegal have won



Donegal manager, Jim McGuinness, speaking with his players

a Division II title, two Ulster Championships and the All-Ireland in 2012. In their history, Donegal have only ever won four national titles; McGuinness has delivered two of them. It is one of the reasons this final means a lot to Donegal, but the Monaghan and Croke Park factors are at play too.

Defeat to Monaghan in last year's Ulster final cut Donegal to the core and their last visit to the Jones's Road was similarly excruciating - annihilated by Mayo in an All-Ireland quarter-final.

If 2011 had seen them gain traction then 2013 saw the energy drain from them. "It's the flattest we have ever been," McGuinness admitted in the Croke Park pressroom after Mayo cantered into the semi-finals at the expense of the champions.

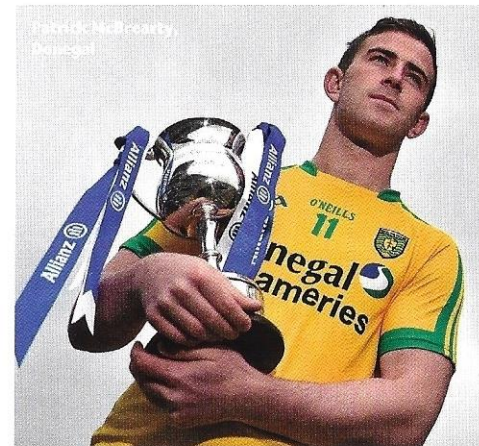
The 2012 Footballer of the Year Karl Lacey missed large swathes of last year after having hip surgery and then having his progress stunted by a knee injury.

"This year has been all about getting back to where we were in 2011 and 2012," Lacey said recently.

With Donegal 2-10 to 0-4 in arrears to Mayo, McGuinness called for Lacey in a last roll of the dice. "It doesn't matter at that stage if you're Superman. I don't think it was going to make any difference who came on," Lacey said. "I remember Jim was saying 'we're still in this, we still can win this."

"He still had the belief, but you could just see in guys' eyes in the dressing-room: 'How the hell are we going to get this back?' "The fight had nearly gone out of us at that stage and Jim was trying to push us on a wee bit and under my three years under Jim I had never seen that happen before."

Neil Gallagher, Mark McHugh, David Walsh and Frank McGlynn missed massive amounts of training; all of them significant figures.



The manager's task now has been to get the non-believers believing again. The return of Christy Toyne, who missed all of 2013, has been a huge boost, while the emergence of Odhrán Mac Niallais has given new dynamism to the half-forward line.

The rest of the walking wounded are refreshed and revitalised again. In January, Lacey put the cards on the table: "We don't want to be known as a one-year wonder. We want to push on and prove a point."

Last autumn the shockwaves rippled when it emerged that Rory Gallagher and Maxi Curran were no longer to be part of McGuinness's backroom team. Among those recruited was Diver, who gets another shot at a league title today, albeit as a selector.

While the signs of improvement have been there, particularly in their opening three wins over Laois, Galway and today's opponents, Monaghan, Donegal have had plenty of questions throughout this League campaign. A warm-weather training camp in the Algarve was to find the answers.

Now, building confidence ahead of a tilt at redemption in Ulster is the aim for a county that has won only four senior titles here in its history. As Diver reminded McGrath three years ago, these days are to be 'treasured'.





### DÚN NA nGALL

February 2, Portlaoise	Donegal	2-19	Laois	1-9
February 9, Salthill	Donegal	1-16	Galway	0-12
March 2, Letterkenny	Donegal	2-11	Monaghan	0-10
March 9, Ballybofey	Donegal	1-12	Meath	1-12
March 16, Newry	Down	1-9	Donegal	0-10
March 30, Ballyshannon	Donegal	1-19	Louth	3-7
April 6, Athletic Grounds	Donegal	2-10	Armagh	1-8

TOTAL SCORED 9-97 (124)

TOTAL CONCEDED 7-67 (88)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL
Colm McFadden	1-3	1-4	1-2	0-3	0-2	0-7	0-5	3-26
Michael Murphy	0-6	0-4	0-1	0-6	0-3	0-4	2-0	2-24
Odhrán Mac Niallais	1-1	0-1	1-3	----	----	----	----	2-5
Paddy McBrearty	0-1	0-3	0-2	----	----	----	0-2	0-8
Dermot Molloy	0-1	0-2	----	0-1	0-2	0-1	----	0-7
Rory Kavanagh	----	----	0-1	----	----	0-2	0-3	0-6
Martin McElhinney	0-3	----	0-1	----	0-1	----	----	0-5
Christy Toye	----	----	----	0-2	----	0-3	----	0-5
Declan Walsh	----	0-1	0-1	----	----	0-1	----	0-3
Frank McGlynn	----	----	----	1-0	----	----	----	1-0
David Walsh	----	----	----	----	----	1-0	----	1-0
Hugh McFadden	0-2	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-2
Anthony Thompson	0-1	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	0-2
Mark McHugh	0-1	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-1
Ryan McHugh	----	0-1	----	----	----	----	----	0-1
Leo McLoone	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	0-1
Neil Gallagher	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	0-1

# PATHS TO THE FINAL



### MONAGHAN

February 2, Newry	Monaghan	0-14	Down	1-11
February 9, Clones	Monaghan	0-20	Meath	0-8
March 2, Letterkenny	Donegal	2-11	Monaghan	0-10
March 9, Clones	Monaghan	2-14	Louth	0-12
March 15, Athletic Grounds	Monaghan	1-17	Armagh	0-10
March 30, Clones	Monaghan	0-19	Laois	0-14
April 6, Clones	Monaghan	0-13	Galway	0-12

TOTAL SCORED 3-107 (116)

TOTAL CONCEDED 3-78 (87)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL
Conor McManus	0-2	0-7	0-5	0-7	0-7	0-6	0-3	0-37
Jack McCarron	0-7	0-4	0-2	0-3	0-6	----	----	0-22
Kieran Hughes	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-4	0-2	0-7
Rory Beggan	0-1	0-3	0-1	0-1	----	----	----	0-6
Dessie Mone	----	----	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-1	0-6
Fintan Kelly	----	0-2	0-1	----	----	0-1	0-1	0-5
Gavin Doogan	----	----	----	1-1	----	0-1	----	1-2
Thomas Kerr	0-2	0-2	----	----	----	----	----	0-4
Christopher McGuinness	0-1	0-2	----	0-1	----	----	----	0-4
Paul Finlay	0-1	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-2	0-4
Dermot Malone	----	----	----	1-0	----	----	0-1	1-1
Stephen Gollogly	----	----	----	----	----	0-2	0-1	0-3
Darren Hughes	----	----	----	----	1-0	----	----	1-0
Dick Clerkin	----	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-1	0-2
Owen Lennon	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	0-1
Pádraig Donaghy	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	0-1
Martin McElroy	----	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	0-1
Colin Walshe	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-1



# HIGH-FLYING FARNEY REMAIN ON UPWARD CURVE

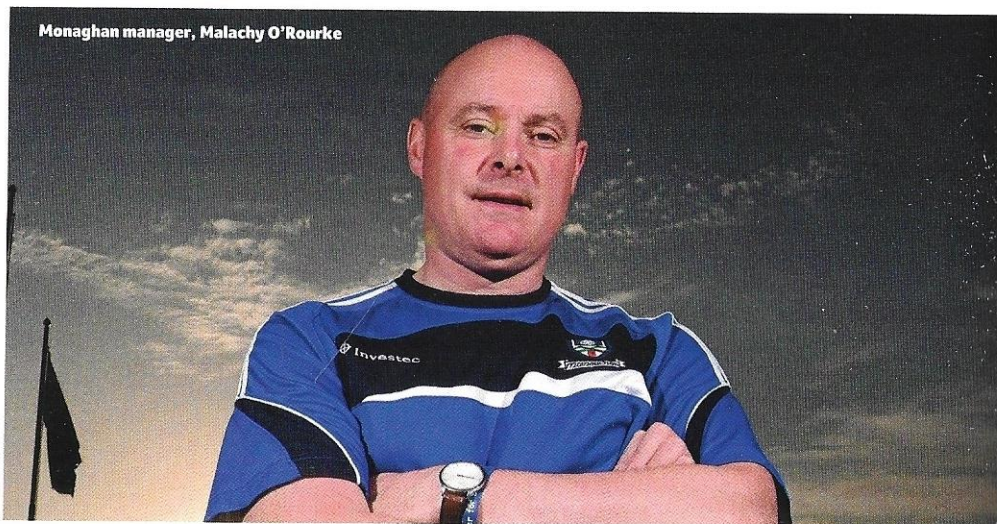
By Colm Shalvey

Much attention was focused on Monaghan's Allianz Football League Division II campaign and whether they could build on the success of 2013, which saw them win the Division III title before ending a 25-year wait for Ulster Championship success. So far, the upward curve has continued for Malachy O'Rourke's side, whose exemplary home form helped them secure a second consecutive promotion, completing their recovery from dropping from the top flight to the third tier in the previous two years.

Monaghan left Newry on the opening day feeling they left a point behind them after they let a seven-point lead slip against Down, but they impressed at Clones a week later when they put Meath to the sword. Monaghan left Letterkenny empty-handed after losing to Donegal, but that proved to be their only

defeat of the seven group games, as they finished with four straight wins. Goals by Dermot Malone and Gavin Doogan – two of just three majors Monaghan have scored in the current campaign – saw them comfortably beat Louth, while a powerful start and a strong finish was enough to eventually run out double-scores winners in Armagh.

Laois and Galway both tested Monaghan's unbeaten home run, which is now in its fourth year, but the hosts came out on top on both occasions. It took a cracking last-gasp winner from substitute Paul Finlay, who earlier this year kicked his 500th point in the county colours, to edge out the Tribesmen last time out and stretch Monaghan's run of wins on home soil in league and championship to 14 matches.



Monaghan manager, Malachy O'Rourke

With a number of established stars unavailable at stages of this year, particularly earlier on, Malachy O'Rourke introduced U21 players Ryan Wylie, Pádraic Keenan, Thomas Kerr and Conor Boyle to the starting team and although many of the tried and trusted have regained their places as the league progressed, the depth of the panel is improved.

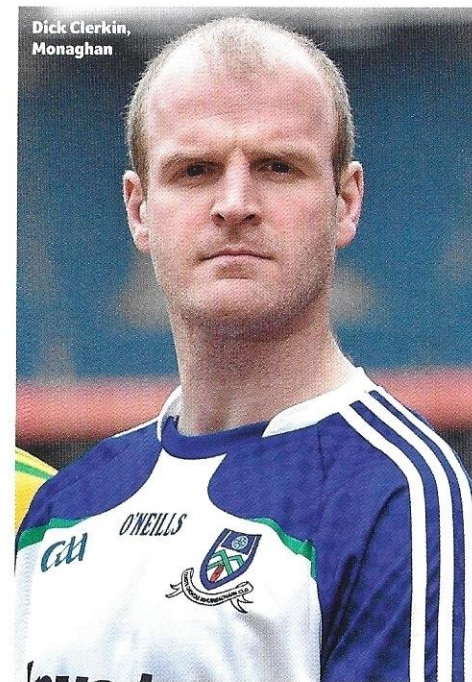
One player who has begun to really deliver on his promise is Jack McCarron, who has 0-22 to his name in the league to add to the 1-13 he accumulated in the Dr. McKenna Cup. Jack, son of 1985 All Star Ray, has a lethal left foot and even though he didn't score in his last two appearances (one off the bench), he can still add to Monaghan's firepower.

Others to make a breakthrough in 2014 are Fintan Kelly and Gavin Doogan, who have both nailed down starting places, having previously been in and out of the team. Kelly has impressed at corner-back and has even managed to kick five points, while Doogan is the only other man to have started all 11 of Monaghan's competitive fixtures this year, but a broken bone in his foot will rule the midfielder out of today's game.

All Stars Conor McManus and Colin Walshe have continued to play key roles, with the former top-scoring on 0-37. Three-time All-Star nominee Dessie Mone has been in great form, kicking a number of inspirational points from half-back, while the versatility of Kieran Hughes has been an asset, leading to him featuring at midfield, half-forward and full-forward.

Last year's first-choice midfield duo Darren Hughes and Owen Lennon have struggled with injury and an ongoing ankle problem has ruled out Owen Duffy, who was man-of-the-match in the Division III final win over Meath 12 months ago.

Despite playing at a higher level than last year, and their struggles to find the net, Monaghan's scoring rate has remained high



Dick Clerkin, Monaghan

at over 16.5 points per game, as they were the only Division II team to break the 100-point mark, excluding goals. Eighteen of the 29 players to feature in the campaign to date have contributed to their total of 3-107. Monaghan's concession rate has also stayed steady at just over 12.4 points on average and they have kept five clean sheets, with the two goals Donegal sent past Rory Beggan at O'Donnell Park proving an exception.

Today's game gives Monaghan an always-welcome opportunity to play at Croke Park and another chance to cross swords with one of Ulster's leading contenders in Donegal. Monaghan don't start their provincial title defence until June 15 against the winners of the preliminary-round game between Down and Tyrone and another competitive match will surely prove ideal preparation for what promises to be another fiercely contested Ulster championship, including four teams who are playing in Allianz Football League finals this weekend.



# DONEGAL-MONAGHAN 1970-2014

**1970/71 – CLONES**

Monaghan 2-7 Donegal 1-6

**1971/72 – BALLYBOFEY**

Donegal 1-7 Monaghan 0-10

**1972/73 – BALLYBAY**

Donegal 3-7 Monaghan 0-5

**1973/74 – BALLYBOFEY**

Donegal 1-11 Monaghan 1-6

**1974/75 – BALLYBOFEY**

Donegal 1-6 Monaghan 0-7

**1982/83 – BALLYSHANNON**

Donegal 1-7 Monaghan 1-5

**1983/84 – BALLYBAY**

Monaghan 1-9 Donegal 0-8

**1984/85 – BALLYBOFEY**

Monaghan 0-11 Donegal 0-7

**1987/88 – OMAGH, QUARTER-FINAL**

Monaghan 1-5 Donegal 0-6

**1988/89 – BALLYSHANNON**

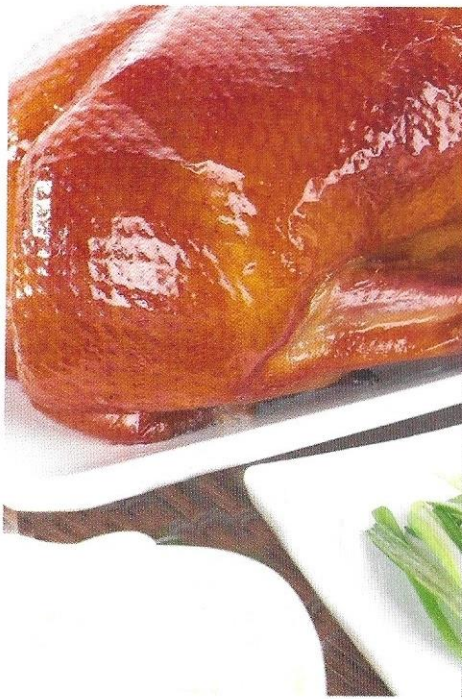
Donegal 1-6 Monaghan 0-5


**2004 – BALLYSHANNON**

Donegal 3-6 Monaghan 1-11

**2014 – LETTERKENNY**

Donegal 2-11 Monaghan 0-10





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**DÚN NA nGALL**

(L-R): Karl Lacey, Frank McGlynn, Neil McGee, Leo McLoone, Ryan McHugh, Mark McHugh, Rory Kavanagh, Martin McElhinney, Michael Murphy, Paul Durcan, Colm McFadden, Anthony Thompson, Odhrán Mac Niallais, Dermot Molloy, Christy Toye.



# Dún na nGall



## ROGHNÓIRÍ

Jim McGuinness (Bainisteoir),  
Damian Diver, Paul McGonigle,  
John Duffy, Pat Shovelin

**1 PAUL DURCAN**  
P. Ó Durcáin  
Na Ceithre Máistir

**2 ÉAMONN McGEE**  
É. Mac Aoidh  
Gaoth Dobhair

**3 NEIL McGEE**  
N. MacAoidh  
Gaoth Dobhair

**4 KARL LACEY**  
C. de Lása  
Na Ceithre Máistir

**5 FRANK McGLYNN**  
P. Mac Fhloinn  
Gleann Fhinne

**6 LEO McLOONE**  
L. Mac Giolla Uain  
Naomh Conaill

**7 ANTHONY THOMPSON**  
A. Mac Thomáis  
Naomh Conaill

**8 RORY KAVANAGH**  
R. Caomhánach  
Naomh Adhamhnán

**9 MARTIN McELHINNEY**  
M. MacGiolla Chainnigh  
Naomh Mícheál

**10 CHRISY TOYE**  
C. Ó Tuathaigh  
Naomh Mícheál

**11 RYAN McHUGH**  
R. MacAodha  
Cill Chartha

**12 ODHRÁN MAC NIALLAIS**  
O. Mac Niallais  
Gaoth Dobhair

**13 COLM McFADDEN**  
C. Mac Pháidín  
Naomh Mícheál

**14 MICHAEL MURPHY**  
M. Ó Murchú (Capt.)  
Gleann Súilí

**15 PATRICK McBREARTY**  
P. Mac Breartaigh  
Cill Chartha

## FIR IONAID

**16. MICHAEL BOYLE**  
M. Ó Baoill  
An Tearmann

**17. DECLAN WALSH**  
D. Breathnach  
Málainn

**18. LUKE KEANEY**  
L. Ó Cianaigh  
Na Ceithre Máistir

**19. PADDY McGRATH**  
P. Mac Craith  
Ard an Ratha

**20. NEIL GALLAGHER**  
N. Ó Gallachóir  
Gleann Súilí

**21. CONOR CLASSON**  
C. Ó Classáin  
Ard an Ratha

**22. DAVID WALSH**  
D. Breathnach  
Naomh Bríd

**23. MARK McHUGH**  
M. MacAodha  
Cill Chartha

**24. MARTIN O'REILLY**  
M. Ó Raghallaigh  
Seán Mac Cumhaill

**25. DARACH O'CONNOR**  
D. Ó Conchúir  
Bun Crannacha

**26. DERMOT MOLLOY**  
D. Ó Ludhóg  
Naomh Conaill

## ROGHNÓIRÍ

Malachy O'Rourke (Bainisteoir),  
Leo McBride, Ryan Porter



# Muineachán

**1 RORY BEGGAN**  
R. Ó Beagáin  
An Bhoth

**2 KIERAN DUFFY**  
C. Ó Dufaigh  
Leachtain

**5 DESSIE MONE**  
D. Mocháin  
Cluain Tiobraid

**8 OWEN LENNON**  
E. Ó Lionnáin  
Leachtain

**10 KIERAN HUGHES**  
C. Ó hAodha  
An Bhoth

**13 DERMOT MALONE**  
D. Ó Maoileain  
Fág An Bealach

## FIR IONAID

**16. GERARD McCAFFREY**  
G. Mac Gafraidh  
Scairbh Na gCaorach

**17. RYAN WYLIE**  
R. Wylie  
Béal Átha Beithe

**18. CONOR BOYLE**  
C. Ó Baoil  
Cluain Tiobraid

**3 DREW WYLIE**  
A. Wylie  
Béal Átha Beithe

**6 VINNY COREY**  
U. Ó Comhraí  
Cluain Tiobraid

**9 PAUL FINLAY**  
P. Ó Fionnlaigh  
Béal Átha Beithe

**11 STEPHEN GOLLOGLY**  
S. Mac an Ghallóglaigh  
Carraig Mhacaire Rois

**14 JACK McCARRON**  
S. Mac Cearáin  
Curraichín

**19. CONOR GALLIGAN**  
C. Ó Gealagáin  
Cláirsigh Mhuineacháin

**20. MARTIN McELROY**  
M. Mac Giolla Rua  
Fág an Bealach

**21. DICK CLERKIN**  
R. Ó Cléirchín  
Curraichín

**22. DARREN HUGHES**  
D. Ó hAodha  
An Bhoth

**4 FINTAN KELLY**  
F. Ó Ceallaigh  
Cluain Eois

**7 KARL O'CONNELL**  
C. Ó Conaill  
Tigh Thalainn

**12 CHRIS McGUINNESS**  
C. Mag Aonghusa  
Béal Átha Beithe

**15 CONOR McMANUS**  
C. Mac Maghnúis (Capt.)  
Cluain Tiobraid

**23. PAUDIE McKENNA**  
P. Mac Cionnaoith  
Gaeil Triucha

**24. PÁDRAIC KEENAN**  
P. Ó Fhinn  
Corr Dubh

**25. SHANE CAREY**  
S. Ó Ciara  
An Bhoth

**26. THOMAS KERR**  
T. Mac Giolla Cearra  
Beal Átha Beithe





## MUINEACHÁN

Back (L-R):

Owen Lennon, Vincent Corey, Conor McMannus, Paul Finlay, Thomas Kerr, Jack McCarron, Karl O'Connell, Rory Beggan, Gavin Doogan, Shane Carey, Kieran Hughes, Dick Clerkin, Gerard McCaffrey.

Front (L-R):

Stephen Golligly, Dessie Mone, Drew Wylie, Dermot Malone, Fintan Kelly, Kieran Duffy, Colin Walshe, Pádraic Keenan, Ryan Wylie, Conor Boyle, Christopher McGuinness, Conor Galligan, Shane Smyth.

# FINALS WEEKEND: THE END OF THE BEGINNING?

By Arthur Sullivan, GAA.ie

*"This is not the end, this is not even the beginning of the end. This is just perhaps, the end of the beginning."*  
Winston Churchill, November 1942, after the Second Battle of El Alamein

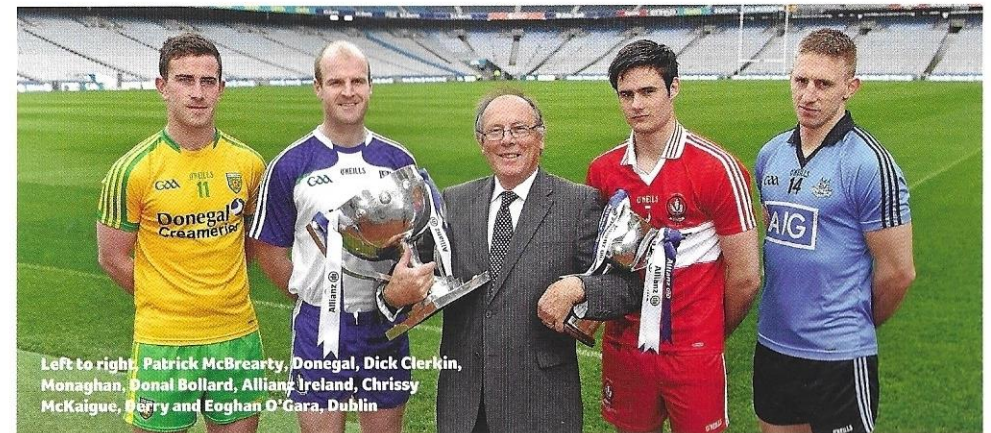
The inter-county Gaelic football season effectively starts twice. There's the 'first' beginning - that being the cold drudgery of winter training. That's followed by a schedule of matches in those various January competitions, the results of which are forgotten by most supporters as soon as the matches are over.

February brings the beginning of the league and the games come thick and fast; before you know it, you're into March as the wheel turns on irrevocably. Assessments are made, but discarded and re-imagined from week to week. Inconsistency often reigns. But the action rolls on. From early January until late March, it really is match after match - most inter-county teams play a minimum of 10 competitive

matches in that period, whereas from late April to December, very few play more than three or four.

Once the regulation rounds of the league are over, a calm descends. April is a quiet month. The majority of teams in the four divisions -22 - retreat to their sanctuaries. Their spring campaigns will be reviewed, the good and the bad, but it is largely a time for renewal, as most teams have a minimum of eight weeks before their first championship game. Take Kerry this year for example. The Kingdom's last league match was on April 6 and their championship opener isn't until June 21/22 - that's a break of 11 weeks.

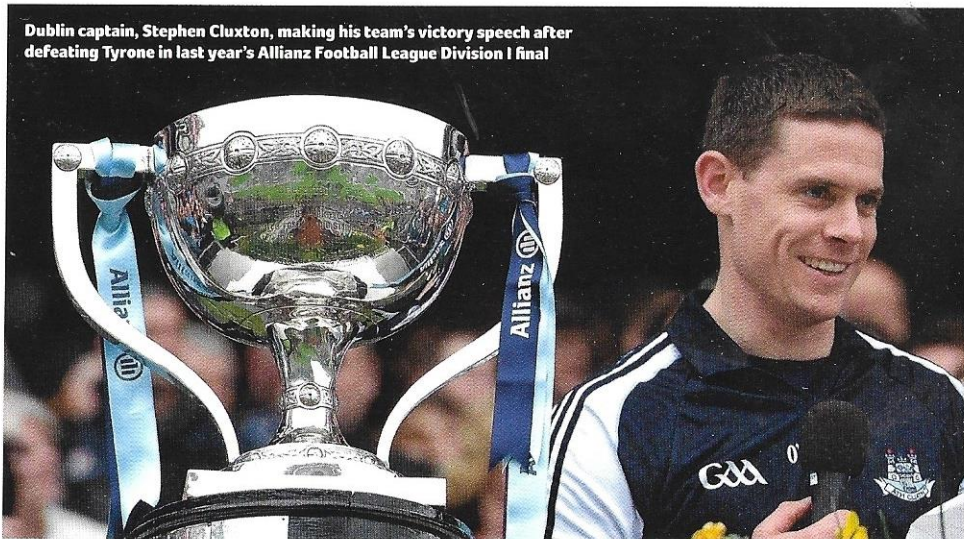
Therefore this period is the second beginning, or perhaps, the end of the beginning- eight or more weeks without a competitive game is a long period in which to reshape things at training and to wipe the slate clean. As well as that, the increased light in the evenings, the



Left to right, Patrick McBreaty, Donegal, Dick Clerkin, Monaghan, Donal Bollard, Allianz Ireland, Chrissy McKaigue, Derry and Eoghan O'Gara, Dublin



Dublin captain, Stephen Cluxton, making his team's victory speech after defeating Tyrone in last year's Allianz Football League Division I final



ever-hardening sod and the quickening pace of the ball all contribute to the sense that this is perhaps the real beginning of the season.

However, for the eight teams that reach the four divisional finals that are before us at Croke Park this weekend, this period carries a slightly different quality. Their league campaigns have not yet been concluded, and while they will also feel the sense of natural release that comes at this time of year, they all still have something significant to play for before the championship kicks off – silverware.

The other big difference between the eight finalists and those counties whose league campaigns have already concluded is quite simple – the finalists have all been successful. Dublin, Derry, Donegal, Monaghan, Cavan, Roscommon, Clare and Tipperary have all enjoyed superb Allianz League campaigns. The latter six have been promoted, while Dublin and Derry have proven themselves the top two teams in the country this spring. For Derry in particular, that's a thrilling and sensational achievement.

The eight teams' presence in Croke Park is a reflection of how well they have gone about their business so far in 2014. And while league success will always be greeted with a certain reserve in a sport where the championship is the only thing that ultimately counts, doing well in the spring has many benefits. It insulates teams from most criticism during this crucial 'second beginning' period, it gives them an extra competitive game (or two) during a lull in the calendar, and it also gives them the chance to achieve the morale-boosting feat of bringing a cup back to the camp before the final tilt for summer begins.

Therefore fans of the teams involved this weekend should make sure to enjoy the moment. The real tests all remain ahead of course, and forgiveness recedes from here, but this is a time to savour the modest advances already made and to let hope levels rise to their fullest.

So what general lessons might we take from the teams that have reached the four games on show this weekend? Interestingly, four are from Ulster – Cavan, Derry, Donegal and Monaghan

– surely a reflection of the increasing depth of competition in the province. Next season six Ulster teams will play in the top two divisions – the highest representation from any province. The Ulster Championship should be very interesting this year.

There is just one team from Leinster playing this weekend – League and All-Ireland champions Dublin – and when one considers that five of the six teams that got relegated this year (Kildare, Westmeath, Louth, Longford and Offaly) are all from Leinster, it suggests that Dublin's domination of the province isn't going to end any time soon. None of the big powers from Connacht or Munster are here this weekend, but to be fair to Cork and Mayo, they both reached the Division I semi-finals.

Making championship predictions based on league results is always a hazardous business, so before being too dogmatic about things, it's worth looking back to this weekend last year to see which eight teams were here and how they subsequently got on. Dublin and Tyrone contested the Division I final, and they both certainly took that form into the summer.

Dublin went on to win the All-Ireland while Tyrone reached the semi-finals, running Mayo close in a compelling game.

In the lower divisions, the connections aren't as easily made. Derry and Westmeath were both here for the Division II final in 2013, but neither distinguished themselves last summer. Westmeath in particular struggled – they lost both their championship games, and were out by June. Derry fared somewhat better but a home defeat to Cavan in Round 3 of the Qualifiers was probably not where Brian McIver saw his side's summer ending.

However, in reaching this year's Division I final in their first season after promotion, Derry have shown just how much a county can benefit from a positive league. It's been quite a while since Derry entered the summer with as much optimism, and their springtime achievements will rightly make them feel they belong at this level.

Last year's Division III final was between Meath and Monaghan, and encouragingly for this year's finalists Cavan and Roscommon,

Mark McHugh, Donegal, gets past Dermot Malone, Monaghan in this year's Allianz Football League, Division II meeting between the sides at O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny





both those counties went on to reach their provincial finals in 2013, with Monaghan winning a first Ulster crown in 25 years. Monaghan are a county whose arc has been on the rise ever since Malachy O'Rourke took over, and their presence in the Division II final this weekend carries the story on further still. There they play Donegal, a team that haven't always paid full heed to the league under Jim McGuinness, but who have seen and lived the benefits this year following last season's disappointments.

At Division IV level, playing at the lower standard can often cost teams come championship time. Last year's finalists Limerick and Offaly certainly didn't notice any great uptick in their fortunes after reaching

the decider. Nonetheless, Tipperary and Clare will greatly welcome their presence here this weekend. In two counties where hurling dominates, the chance to lift some football silverware in Croke Park is not one that comes around too often.

So for the eight teams involved on Saturday and Sunday, this weekend is one last hurrah before they all start again. The teams that aren't here won't fret too much about it; too many times it has been shown that you don't have to be here to thrive come summer. Yet for those that are, there is no way they will want to leave Croke Park with anything other than a shiny piece of silver this weekend – whatever it's worth.



Jonny Cooper, Dublin, has his clearance blocked down by Ciarán McFaul, Derry, in this year's Allianz Football League Division I meeting between the sides at Celtic Park, Derry



## ÁTH CLIATH

Back (L-R):

Nicky Devereux, Seán George, Jason Whelan, Ciarán Reddin, James McCarthy, Niall McGovern, Harry Dawson, Eoghan O'Gara, Michael Darragh Macauley, Seán Currie, Rory O'Carroll, Paddy Andrews, Declan O'Mahoney, Tomás Brady, Michael Fitzsimons, Paul Flynn, Darragh Nelson, Bernard Brogan, Diarmuid Connolly.

Front (L-R):

Davy Byrne, Alan Brogan, Paul Hudson, Philly McMahon, Stephen Cluxton, Jonny Cooper, Michael Concarr, Kevin Nolan, Kevin McManamon.



# Áth Cliath



## ROGHNÓIRÍ

Jim Gavin (Bainisteoir),  
Declan Darcy, Mick Deegan,  
Shane O'Hanlon

**1** **STEPHEN CLUXTON**  
S. Cluxton (Capt.)  
Parnells

**2** **PHILLY McMAHON**  
P. Mac Mathúna  
Ballymun Kickhams

**3** **RORY O'CARROLL**  
R. Ó Cearúill  
Kilmacud Crokes

**4** **JONNY COOPER**  
S. Ó Cui péir  
Na Fianna

**5** **JAMES McCARTHY**  
S. Mac Cárthaigh  
Ballymun Kickhams

**6** **NICKY DEVEREUX**  
N. Déabhrús  
Ballinteer St John's

**7** **KEVIN NOLAN**  
C. Ó Nualláin  
Kilmacud Crokes

**8** **MICHAEL DARRAGH MACAULEY**  
M. D. Mac Fháilí  
Ballyboden St Enda's

**9** **CIAN O'SULLIVAN**  
C. Ó Súilleabháin  
Kilmacud Crokes

**10** **PAUL FLYNN**  
P. Mac Floinn  
Fingallians

**11** **PADDY ANDREWS**  
P. Mac Aindriú  
St Brigid's

**12** **DIARMUID CONNOLLY**  
D. Ó Conghaile  
St Vincent's

**13** **ALAN BROGAN**  
A. Ó Brógáin  
Oliver Plunketts Eoghan Ruadh

**14** **EOGHAN O'GARA**  
E. Ó Gadhra  
Templeogue Synge Street

**15** **BERNARD BROGAN**  
B. Ó Brógáin  
Oliver Plunketts Eoghan Ruadh

## FIR IONAID

**16. SEÁN CURRIE**  
S. Ó Comhraí  
Ballymun Kickhams

**17. TOMÁS BRADY**  
T. Ó Brádaigh  
Na Fianna

**18. DAVY BYRNE**  
D. Ó Broin  
Ballymun Kickhams

**19. BRYAN CULLEN**  
B. Ó Cuillinn  
Skerries Harps

**20. MICHAEL FITZSIMONS**  
M. Mac Siomóin  
Cuala

**21. SEÁN GEORGE**  
S. Mac Seoirse  
Ballymun Kickhams

**22. PAUL HUDSON**  
P. Hudson  
Thomas Davis

**23. KEVIN McMANAMON**  
C. Mac Meanman  
St Jude's

**24. DARRAGH NELSON**  
D. Mac Neighill  
Ballyboden St Enda's

**25. CIARÁN REDDIN**  
C. Ó Roideáin  
St Maur's

**26. JASON WHELAN**  
S. Ó Faoláin  
Ballymun Kickhams

## ROGHNÓIRÍ

Brian McIver (Bainisteoir),  
Paddy Tally, Paul McIver,  
Bernie Henry, Jody Wilson



# Doire

**1** **THOMAS MALLON**  
T. Ó Mealláin  
An Lúb

**2** **OISÍN DUFFY**  
O. Ó Dufaigh  
Forghleann

**3** **CHRISSEY McKAIGUE**  
C. Mac Thaidhg  
Leacht Néill

**4** **DERMOT McBRIDE**  
D. Mac Giolla Bhríde  
Baile na Scrine

**5** **KEVIN JOHNSTON**  
C. Mac Seáin  
Dún Geimhin

**6** **GERARD O'KANE**  
G. Ó Catháin  
Glenn an Iolair

**7** **AIDAN McALYNN**  
A. Mac Ailín  
An Lúb

**8** **FERGAL DOHERTY**  
F. Ó Dochartaigh  
Baile Eachaidh

**9** **PATSY BRADLEY**  
P. Ó Brollacháin  
Leacht Néill

**10** **ENDA LYNN**  
E. Loinn  
Grainlocha

**11** **MARK LYNCH**  
M. Ó Loingsigh (Capt.)  
Beannchar

**12** **CIARÁN McFAUL**  
C. Mac Pháil  
Glenn

**13** **BENNY HERON**  
B. Ó hEaráin  
Baile na Scrine

**14** **EMMETT McGUICKIN**  
E. Mac Eochain  
Machaire Fíolta

**15** **CAILEAN O'BOYLE**  
C. Ó Baoill  
Leamhaigh

## FIR IONAID

**16. EOIN McNICHOLL**  
E. Mac Niocail  
Glenn an Iolair

**17. CONOR McATAMNEY**  
C. Mac an Tiompánaigh  
Suaitreach

**18. DECLAN BROWN**  
D. de Brún  
Baile Eachaidh

**19. CHARLIE KIULT**  
C. Ó Caoilte  
Cill Ría

**20. MARK CRAIG**  
M. Craig  
Dún Geimhin

**21. NIALL HOLLY**  
N. Mac Cuillinn  
Eoghan Rua

**22. DANNY HEAVRON**  
D. Ó hAmhráin  
Machaire Fíolta

**23. CARLUS McWILLIAMS**  
C. Mac Uilliam  
Baile na Scrine

**24. EMMET BRADLEY**  
E. Ó Brollacháin  
Glenn

**25. DECLAN MULLAN**  
D. Ó Maoláin  
Eoghan Rua

**26. JAMES KEARNEY**  
S. Ó Cearnaigh  
Suaitreach





**DOIRE**

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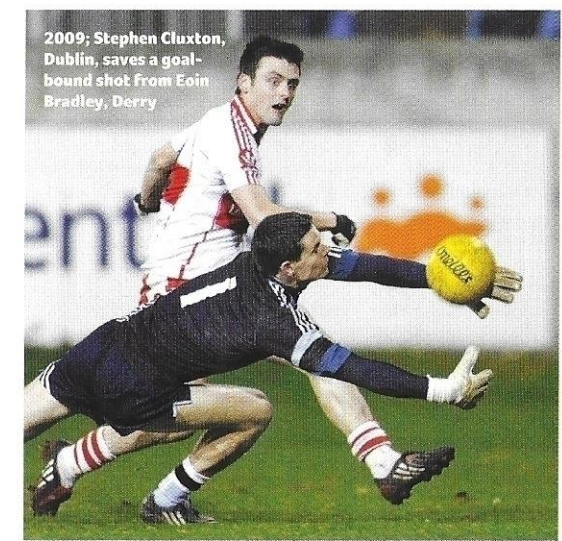
Emmet Bradley, Chrissy McKaigue, Charlie Kieft, Patsy Bradley, Emmett McGuckin, Kevin Johnston, Thomas Mallon, Eoin McNicholl, Carlus McWilliams, James Kearney, Mark Lynch, Niall Holly, Aaron Kerrigan, Mark Craig, Fergal Doherty.

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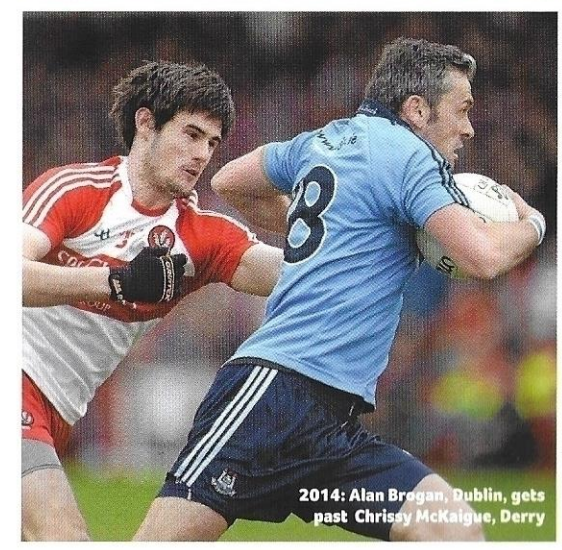
Gerard O'Kane, Danny Heavron, Seán Leo McGoldrick, Declan Mullan, Aidan McAllynn, Catean O'Boyle, Oisín Duffy, Benny Heron, Dermot McBride, Erida Lynn, Ciarán McFauli, Ciarán McGoldrick, Conor McAmamney, Karl McKaigue, Aaron Devlin.

# DUBLIN-DERRY 1970-2014

<b>1975/76 – CROKE PARK, FINAL</b>			
Dublin	2-10	Derry	0-15
<b>1982/83 – BELLAGHY</b>			
Derry	1-11	Dublin	1-10
<b>1987/88 – PARNELL PARK</b>			
Dublin	1-9	Derry	0-5
<b>1988/89 – BELLAGHY</b>			
Derry	1-7	Dublin	0-6
<b>1989/90 – CROKE PARK</b>			
Dublin	4-18	Derry	1-9
<b>1992/93 – CROKE PARK</b>			
Derry	0-11	Dublin	0-9
<b>1993/94 – BELLAGHY</b>			
Dublin	0-15	Derry	2-6
<b>1994/95 – CROKE PARK</b>			
Dublin	1-9	Derry	1-9
<b>2009 – PARNELL PARK</b>			
Derry	0-20	Dublin	1-12
<b>2010 – PARNELL PARK</b>			
Dublin	1-11	Derry	0-7
<b>2014 – CELTIC PARK</b>			
Derry	1-16	Dublin	0-13



2009: Stephen Cluxton, Dublin, saves a goal-bound shot from Eoin Bradley, Derry



2014: Alan Brogan, Dublin, gets past Chrissy McKaigue, Derry



# CASE FOR THE DEFENCE

By Peter Sweeney

Before last year, Dublin hadn't won an Allianz Football League Division I title in fully two decades.

It wasn't for the want of trying that they couldn't get their hands on the trophy, but between 1999 and 2010 they couldn't even make the final.

Yet here they are now, in their third final in four years and seeking to retain the title for the first time in the county's history.

Dubs manager Jim Gavin is building on the solid foundations laid by Pat Gilroy when he brought the Boys in Blue to within a score of beating Cork in the 2011 Division I final and, of course, the All-Ireland that same year.

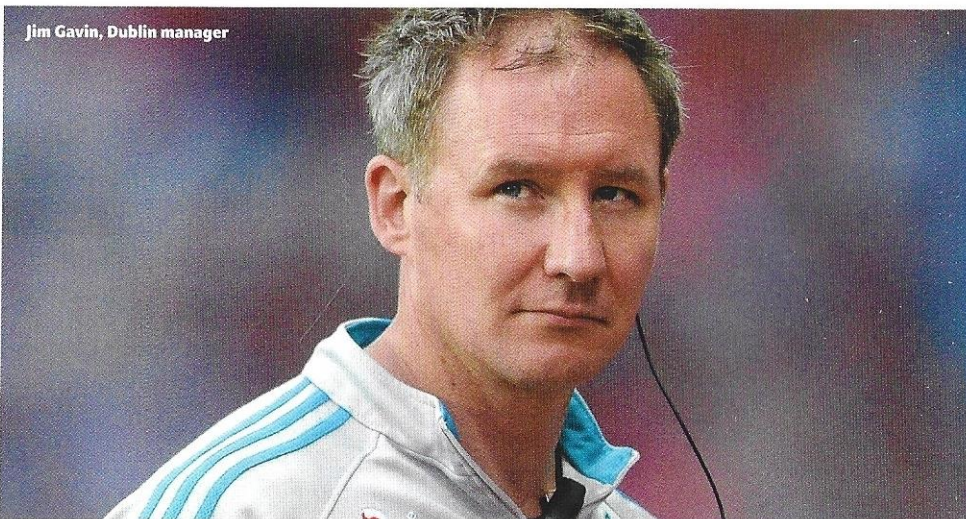
Under Gavin, the Boys in Blue took a clean sweep of the major trophies last year -

League, Leinster and Sam Maguire. He sets standards high and he is aiming for another treble in 2014.

The first part of that mission could be completed this afternoon in Croke Park and the Dubs will know, based on the evidence of the past ten years or so, that winning the Division I final will give them a 50-50 chance of keeping Sam for the winter.

Dublin haven't been as impressive during this springtime campaign as they were in 2013, when they only lost one game.

This time about they dropped five points - losing twice and drawing once - and needed a narrow win over Tyrone on the last day of the regular season to book their place in the play-offs.



Jim Gavin, Dublin manager



Eoghan O'Gara, Dublin

But when they have hit their form they have been devastating. They trailed Cork by 10 points at one stage of their semi-final at Croke Park earlier this month, but a fierce move through the gears saw them win by seven. A 17-point swing in 30-odd minutes over a top-flight team that had only lost one competitive game this year up to that stage is pretty impressive.

The way that, a few weeks earlier, the Dubs battled back apparently from the dead with just 14 men following captain and goalkeeper Stephen Cluxton's sending-off to draw with Mayo was just as eye catching, though for different reasons.

Dublin have made it to this stage without two of their most promising young players, two men who picked up their first senior All-Ireland medals last September. Kevin O'Brien and Ciarán Kilkenny were both unfortunate victims of season-ending cruciate ligament injuries, meaning that Gavin had to recalibrate his plans.

He has at his disposal arguably the strongest squad in the country. Without 2011 Footballer of the Year Bernard Brogan, the focal point of their attack, for most of 2014 to date they have continued to rack up big scores.

Kevin McManamon is their top scorer with 2-17 and he wasn't able to force his way into the Championship starting team at the business end of last season. Eoghan O'Gara is second in the Dubs' scoring charts with 3-5 and, like McManamon, he spent most of 2013 on the bench.

Alan Brogan, after missing much of 2012 and most of 2013 due to injury, is back and finding his groove. Diarmuid Connolly wasn't available before St Patrick's Day because of his involvement in St Vincents' successful All-Ireland club title drive and he has returned as the in-form forward in the country.

In defence, players like Philly McMahon and

Kevin Nolan - another two 2011 All-Ireland winners who spent much of last season watching from the sidelines - are busy trying to nail down places for the forthcoming Championship campaign.

And then there are the young men who have helped Dublin into another All-Ireland U21 final next weekend against Roscommon. Many of them who haven't already will be hoping to do enough to catch Gavin's eye and earn a call up to the senior panel ahead of the summer.

Derry will pose plenty of difficult questions in this afternoon's Allianz League final, of course. As the new boys in Division I they were many people's tip for the drop straight back down this season, yet here they are - looking for their second Allianz League title in succession (they were promoted 12 months ago as Division II champions).

They have a pedigree in this competition too. They have six Division I titles, just three less than Dublin, and they only have to look back to 2008 for their last win.

Retaining titles at the top level of inter-county football hasn't proven easy over the past 20 years, but the Dubs look in as good a position as any previous winners to do it.





# PATHS TO THE SEMI-FINAL

## DUBLIN

February 1, Croke Park	Dublin	2-8	Kerry	1-10
February 9, Mullingar	Dublin	0-14	Westmeath	1-7
March 1, Croke Park	Cork	1-17	Dublin	0-18
March 8, Croke Park	Dublin	1-22	Kildare	1-12
March 16, Celtic Park	Derry	1-16	Dublin	0-13
March 29, Croke Park	Dublin	3-14	Mayo	2-17
April 6, Omagh	Dublin	3-10	Tyrone	1-15
April 13, Croke Park, semi-final	Dublin	2-20	Cork	2-13
<b>TOTAL SCORED 11-119 (152)</b>	<b>TOTAL CONCEDED 10-107 (137)</b>			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	S/FINAL	TOTAL
Kevin McManamon	1-1	0-1	0-3	0-8	----	1-2	0-1	0-1	2-17
Eoghan O'Gara	1-0	----	----	0-2	----	2-0	----	0-3	3-5
Diarmuid Connolly	----	----	----	----	----	0-2	0-5	1-2	1-9
Paddy Andrews	----	----	----	1-2	0-2	0-1	----	0-3	1-8
Cormac Costello	0-2	----	0-4	----	----	0-4	----	----	0-10
Alan Brogan	----	----	----	----	0-6	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-10
Stephen Cluxton	----	0-3	0-3	0-2	----	0-1	----	----	0-9
Michael D. Macauley	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	1-0	1-1	2-2
Paul Hudson	----	0-4	0-1	----	0-2	----	----	----	0-7
Ciarán Kilkenny	----	0-3	0-3	----	----	----	----	----	0-6
Jason Whelan	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-1	1-1	----	1-3
Bernard Brogan	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-5	0-5
Ciarán Reddin	----	0-2	0-2	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-5
James McCarthy	----	----	0-1	----	----	----	1-0	----	1-1
Shane Carthy	0-2	----	0-1	----	----	----	----	----	0-3
David Byrne	----	0-1	----	0-1	----	----	----	0-1	0-3
Jonny Cooper	----	----	----	0-2	----	----	----	0-1	0-3
Paul Mannion	0-2	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-2
Cian O'Sullivan	----	----	----	0-2	----	----	----	----	0-2
Bryan Cullen	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	0-1	----	0-2
Philip McMahon	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	0-1	----	0-2
Paul Flynn	----	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	0-1	0-2
Jack McCaffrey	0-1	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-1
Tomás Brady	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	----	----	0-1
Darragh Nelson	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	----	----	0-1



## DERRY

February 1, Celtic Park	Derry	1-15	Tyrone	2-12
February 9, Killarney	Derry	0-16	Kerry	0-14
March 2, Celtic Park	Derry	3-16	Westmeath	0-12
March 9, Páirc Uí Rinn	Cork	2-18	Derry	3-14
March 16, Celtic Park	Derry	1-16	Dublin	0-13
March 30, Celtic Park	Derry	2-17	Kildare	3-9
April 6, Castlebar	Mayo	2-12	Derry	1-7
April 13, Croke Park, semi-final	Derry	2-15	Mayo	1-16
<b>TOTAL SCORED 13-116 (155)</b>	<b>TOTAL CONCEDED 10-106 (136)</b>			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	S/FINAL	TOTAL
Mark Lynch	0-4	0-4	0-6	0-5	1-8	1-6	----	0-9	2-42
Emmett McGuckin	0-1	0-3	1-1	1-0	----	0-2	1-1	0-1	3-9
Enda Lynn	0-3	0-2	0-2	2-1	----	0-2	----	0-1	2-11
Cailean O'Boyle	1-0	----	1-1	----	0-1	1-2	----	1-1	4-5
Ciarán McFaul	0-2	----	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-1	----	0-1	0-10
Benny Heron	----	0-1	1-0	0-1	0-2	0-2	----	----	1-6
James Kieft	0-2	0-2	0-2	----	----	----	----	----	0-6
Seán Leo McGoldrick	----	0-2	0-1	0-1	----	0-1	----	0-1	0-6
Fergal Doherty	0-1	----	----	0-2	0-2	----	----	----	0-5
Kevin Johnston	----	0-1	0-1	----	----	----	----	1-0	1-2
Aidan McAlynn	0-1	----	----	----	----	----	0-2	----	0-3
Charlie Kieft	----	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-1	----	0-2
Emmet Bradley	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-1	0-2
Gerard O'Kane	0-1	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-1
Ciarán McGoldrick	----	0-1	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-1
Mark Craig	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	----	----	0-1
Chrissy McKaigue	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	----	----	0-1
Declan Mullan	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	----	----	0-1
Aaron Kerrigan	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	0-1
Niall McFeely	----	----	----	----	----	----	0-1	----	0-1



# UNCANNY PARALLELS FOR McIVER'S DERRY

Karl O'Kane, Irish Daily Star

An All-Ireland quarter-final with Donegal in 2006; seconds away from a probable last eight appearance with Derry in 2013. Division I champions with Donegal in 2007; Division I finalists with Derry in 2014.

Two counties with plenty of talent just looking for a steady guiding hand. Brian McIver has previous here, and in the mould of Billy Morgan, he knows how to build football teams.

The Down boys will tell you that. So will Ballinderry and they have the All-Ireland medals to show for it. In his debut season as a county manager the canny Ballinderry man led Donegal to an All-Ireland quarter-final (2006). Cork edged them out by a point.



Derry manager, Brian McIver

The following year McIver's Donegal won the only Division 1 title in the county's history. In his first year with Derry (2013) McIver's side won the Division II title. They defeated Westmeath by a point in the Croke Park curtain-raiser, which appeared a million miles off the pace of the Dublin/Tyrone Division I decider.

The Mayo League semi-final at Croke Park a fortnight ago was another barometer that Derry have bridged that gap this spring and Paddy Tally has the team in great shape. They managed to defeat Mayo despite being down to 14 men after 20 minutes at Croke Park and the way they kept Donal Vaughan and Lee Keegan in check was particularly impressive.

But, they weren't all that far away last year either. Last July, Derry led Cavan by a point three minutes into injury time at Celtic Park in a Round 3 qualifier but were hit with a late equaliser and well beaten in extra-time. Cavan, with the winner's path already mapped out, defeated London at Croke Park in Round 4 and got a run out against Kerry in the All-Ireland quarter-final.

Derry missed some valuable experience of the big pitch on the big day but they've long since moved on. Last year it was noticeable that Derry felt they couldn't afford to play Eoin Bradley and Emmett McGuckin – their two out and out inside men – in the same forward line.

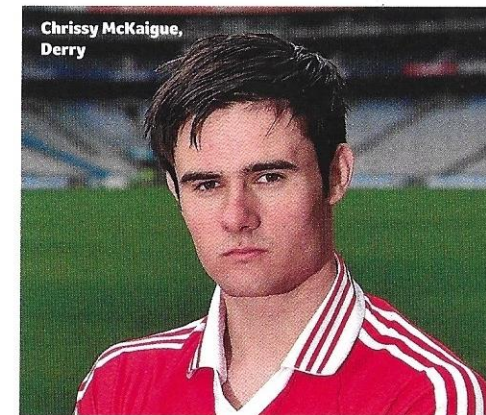
For much of the season Mark Lynch was used as a sweeper with a license to attack, but he was also there to cover overlaps at the back. This year the sweeper has been dispensed with in a clear signal of intent and Lynch is excelling at centre half-forward.

Every man has to fight his own patch, track his own man and back himself. Last year Derry faded after 45 minutes in the Ulster quarter-final defeat by Down. This year they've a good hour of championship football at breakneck pace in them.

They're also fully loaded with quick ball carriers like Ciarán McFaul and Benny Herron, who have looked the part at this level in recent weeks and can both finish. Enda Lynn and Seán Leo McGoldrick are also prime ball carriers, with Gerard O'Kane in his best position again – holding at centre half-back.

This means Derry can attack in twos and threes with the man in possession always having an option. No team coming out of the county has moved the ball as quickly.

It may not always be forward, but the ball is always moving and the ball carrier has plenty of options, as opposed to one man going on his own, getting isolated and being turned over. The big question today is will Derry's



Chrissey McKaigue, Derry

ball carriers be bottled up in the tackle by a physically stronger Dublin side?

If not, they have a chance. Last month at Celtic Park Derry just about broke the Dublin tackle in a league group game. And apart from a 15 minute spell in the second half when they were under the cosh, physical conditioning wasn't an issue for McIver's men in their six-point win.

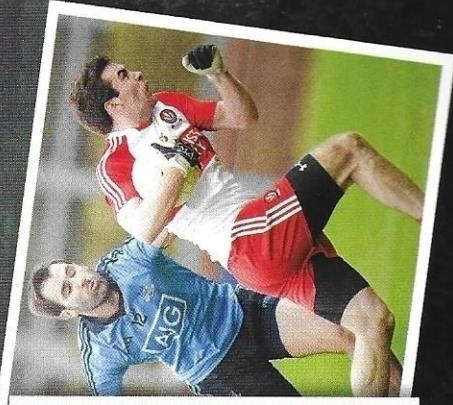
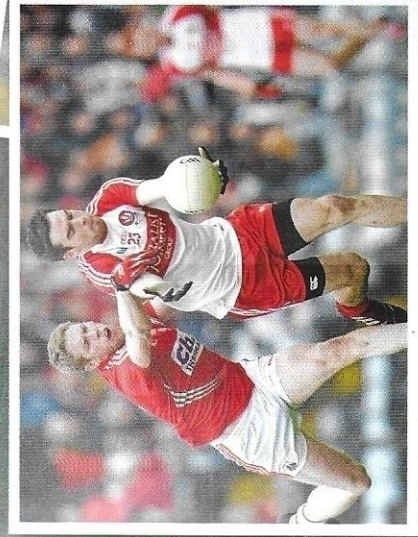
In the Mayo semi-final win, not one man played poorly and this has to fill the side with confidence and belief. They set a high standard that day and it's one they'll do well to repeat today.

The sight of full-back Chrissey McKaigue powering up the field twice in the final quarter against Mayo showed how far Derry have come, but Dublin are the barometer.

One cameo in the closing stages of the Cork game said it all as a flying column of corner backs – Philly McMahan and Jonny Cooper – sped up the field with Cooper hitting a point. That's the level Dublin are at and the one everyone else has to reach.

Meanwhile, Jimmy's been winning Division II matches – and watching Derry in Division I matches. McIver's been busy himself, building a team to run at McGuinness' Donegal in next month's Ulster quarter-final at Celtic Park. They'll hardly change tack now.







### DIVISION I TOP SCORERS

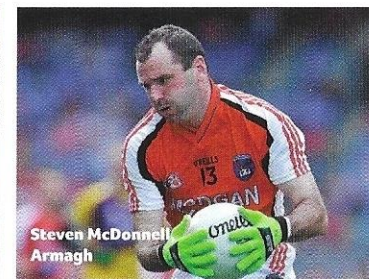
	Score	Total
Mark Lynch, Derry	2-42	48
James O'Donoghue, Kerry	5-24	39
Alan Freeman, Mayo	4-22	34
Brian Hurley, Cork	1-30	33
Darroch Mulhall, Kildare	1-27	30
Darren McCurry, Tyrone	3-21	30
Kevin McLoughlin, Mayo	1-24	27
Kevin McManamon, Dublin	2-17	23
Daniel Goulding, Cork	0-22	22
John Heslin, Westmeath	0-21	21

### DIVISION II TOP SCORERS

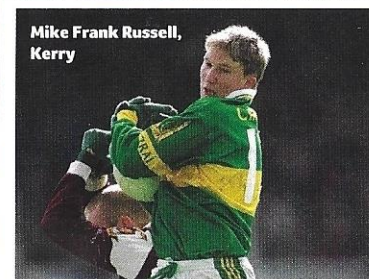
	Score	Total
Conor McManus, Monaghan	0-37	37
Donal O'Hare, Down	1-34	37
Colm McFadden, Donegal	3-26	35
Michael Murphy, Donegal	2-24	30
Ross Munnely, Laois	2-22	28
Michael Newman, Meath	3-18	27
Jamie Clarke, Armagh	1-21	24
Tony Kernan, Armagh	2-18	24
Donie Kingston, Laois	0-22	22
Jack McCarron, Monaghan	0-22	22

### DIVISION I FINAL TOP SCORERS 2000-2013

Year	Player	Score	Opposition
2000	Anthony Tohill, Derry	1-4	v Meath
2001	John Donnellan, Galway	0-4	v Mayo
2002	Peter Canavan, Tyrone	0-6	v Cavan
2003	Peter Canavan, Tyrone	0-6	v Laois
2004	Mike Frank Russell, Kerry	1-6	v Galway
2005	Steven McDonnell, Armagh	0-10	v Wexford
2006	Bryan Sheehan, Kerry	0-5	v Galway
2007	Conor Mortimer, Mayo	0-6	v Donegal
2008	Paddy Bradley, Derry	0-6	v Kerry
2009	Colm Cooper, Kerry	0-6	v Derry
2010	Daniel Goulding, Cork	1-5	v Mayo
2011	Bernard Brogan, Dublin	1-3	v Cork
2012	Cillian O'Connor, Mayo	0-6	v Cork
2013	Bernard Brogan, Dublin	0-5	v Tyrone
	Niall Morgan, Tyrone	0-5	v Dublin



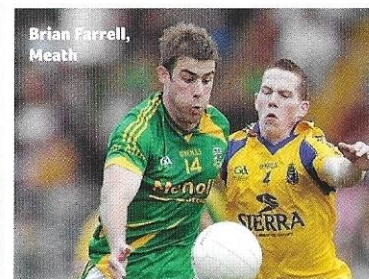
Steven McDonnell, Armagh



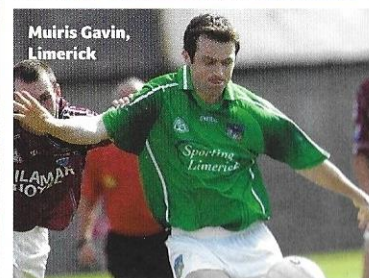
Mike Frank Russell, Kerry

### DIVISION II FINAL TOP SCORERS 2000-2013

Year	Player	Score	Opposition
2000	Ciarán McManus, Offaly	0-5	v Louth
2001	Ger Heavin, Westmeath	2-2	v Cork
2002	Colm Cooper, Kerry	1-2	v Laois
2003	Muiris Gavin, Limerick	1-8	v Westmeath
2004	Ciarán McManus, Offaly	0-5	v Down
2005	Tomás Freeman, Monaghan	2-3	v Meath
2006	Michael Doherty, Donegal	1-3	v Louth
2007	Brian Farrell, Meath	2-8	v Roscommon
2008	Fergal Wilson, Westmeath	0-4	v Dublin
2009	Daniel Goulding, Cork	0-5	v Monaghan
2010	Steven McDonnell, Armagh	0-6	v Down
2011	Michael Murphy, Donegal	1-3	v Laois
	Colm McFadden, Donegal	1-3	v Laois
2012	Michael Conway, Kildare	0-5	v Tyrone
2013	John Heslin, Westmeath	0-5	v Derry



Brian Farrell, Meath



Muiris Gavin, Limerick



Kevin McManamon, Dublin

Conor McManus, Monaghan

Colm McFadden, Donegal

Mark Lynch, Derry



DUBLIN TALKS WITH

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## BLÚIRÍ BEAGA

le Márta Ó Ciardha

- Nuair a bhuaigh Doire Craobhchomórtas Chúige Uladh go deireadh i 1998 ba é laoch Áth Cliath, Brian Mullins a bhí ina bhainisteoir orthu. Chaith an Maolánach seal freisin ina chomh-bhainisteoir ar Áth Cliath, i gcuideachta Seán Doherty agus Robbie Kelleher, nuair a d'éirigh Kevin Heffernan as i 1986.
- Chaith Paddy Cullen, Pat O' Neill agus Tony Hanahoe tréimhsí mar bhainisteoirí ar Áth Cliath freisin agus bhí siadsan, Mullins, Doherty agus Kelleher ar fhoireann an chontae a bhuaigh ar Dhoire (2-10, 0-15) i gcluiche ceannais na Sraithe Náisiúnta 1976. Bhí Micky Moran agus Adrian McGuckian ag imirt do na caillteoirí, iadsan i mbun bainistíochta ar Dhoire ina dhiaidh sin.
- Ba iad Ódhrán Mac Niallais agus Colm McFadden a scóráil na cúil do Dhún na nGall nuair a bhuaigh siad ar Mhuineachán 2-11, 0-10 Domhnach geimhriúil i Leitir Ceanainn i dtús an Mhárta seo caite. D'fhág an bua sin na Conallaigh ar bharr Roinn 2.
- Toradh a bhí ansin a d'fhág Muineachán sa 4ú háit ar thábla na sraithe, ach sna babhtaí a lean bhuaigh siad ar Chontaetha Lú, Ard Mhacha, Laoise agus na Gaillimhe agus níor ghéilleadar aon chúl i gceachtar de na cluichí sin.
- Is iad an Cábhán amháin a bhuaigh gach ceann de na cluichí-réamhbabhtaí i Sraithchomórtais Peile Allianz 2014, (buadh ar Áth Cliath agus ar Dhoire faoi dhó agus chríochnaíodar ar chomhscór i gcluiche eile). Sna 7 gcluiche atá imrithe acu níor ghéill an Cábhán ach aon chúl amháin. 67 cúilín a scóráileadh ina gcoinne.
- Cúilín faoina bhun sin atá ceadaithe ag Ros Comáin agus tá 9 gcúl scóráilte acu i gcomparáid leis na 4 chúl atá faighte ag an gCábhán. Is ag Cathal Cregg (3-20) agus ag Donie Shine (0-28) atá formhór na scórála déanta.
- De na foirne ar fad sna ceithre roinn atá i Sraith Peile Allianz, is ag Tiobraid Árann is mó atá scóráil déanta, 14 cúl agus 122 cúilín. Is é Conor Sweeney (5-41) príomhscórálaí an chomórtais ina iomláine. Tá cúl na heangaigh aimsithe 5 uaire freisin ag Barry Grogan.
- Imríonn ochtar de fhoireann iomráiteach iomána an Chláir peil le curaidh an chontae sin, an Chreatlach agus d'imir beirt acu, Podge agus Seán Collins go rialta ar fhoireann peile an chontae atá i gCluiche Ceannais Roinn 4. Sé a n-athair, Colm, bainisteoir na foirne.

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Your link to the language  
Do nasc leis an teanga

tréimhsí

periods

geimhriúil

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# PUTTING THE POSITIVE BACK INTO MENTAL HEALTH

In the modern sporting world we have all become fairly attuned to what we need to do to maintain our physical health and fitness.

We need to maintain our bodies with a balanced diet, exercise regularly, we need to keep well hydrated and enjoy life's treats in moderation, and we need to get lots of sleep and fresh air. And even if we succeed in doing all this from time to time we can pick up an injury or suffer from ill-form while playing or training. Sometimes we can rectify or rehabilitate these problems ourselves; sometimes we need the assistance of a coach or a physio.

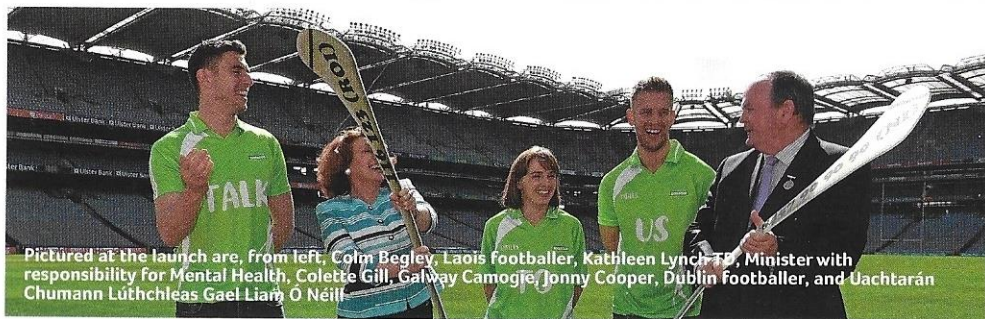
The very same formula applies to our mental health. Our mind, like our body, needs regular exercise, requires the good nutrition offered by a balanced diet, must be kept hydrated, will suffer if we drink excessively, or smoke, and needs plenty of down time and relaxation from the pressures of everyday life. Even if we adhere to such a lifestyle occasionally we experience an issue with our mental health. Some of these we can navigate ourselves with support and assistance of friends and family,

some we will need input from a professional to overcome.

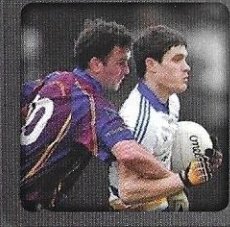
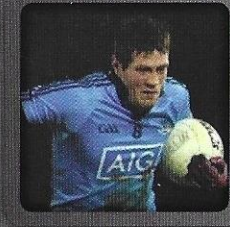
To try and offer an additional layer of support to any members that may be experiencing challenging times, the GAA has this month launched a new partnership with Samaritans, and produced club mental health packs designed in association with St Patrick's Mental Health Foundation (and supported by Allianz). In the first instance the aim is to direct members to avail of Samaritans' 24-hour helpline that is available 365 days a year. Regardless of what is on your mind this confidential service can help you.

The 'Play in my Boots' mental health packs aim to de-stigmatise the concept of mental health by speaking to players in a sporting language familiar to them and using the term 'mental fitness'. The packs contain supportive advice from players including Alan O'Mara (Cavan), Eoin Cadogan (Cork), Darran O'Sullivan (Kerry), Deirdre Burke (Galway camogie), Conor Lehane (UCC), Valerie Mulcahy (Cork), Séamus Hennessy (Tipperary) and Donegal manager Jim McGuinness.

Details of both initiatives are available on [GAA.ie/community/talktous](http://GAA.ie/community/talktous) and [GAA.ie/community/playinmyboots](http://GAA.ie/community/playinmyboots)

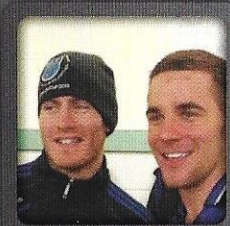
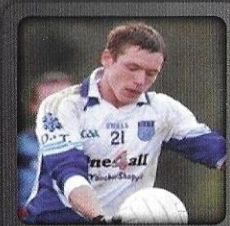
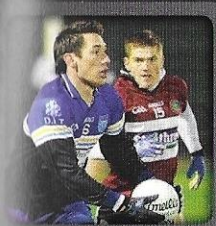


Pictured at the launch are, from left, Colm Begley, Laois footballer, Kathleen Lynch, Minister with responsibility for Mental Health, Colette Gill, Galway Camogie, Jonny Cooper, Dublin Footballer, and Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Liam Ó Néill



## Best of Luck from DIT Gaelic Football Club

to all current and former DIT Students involved as players and Mentors in this years Division 1 National League Football Final.



If you would like more information on DIT GAA club or "DIT Athlete Support Programme", please contact:

**Darragh Biddlecombe**  
DIT GAA Development Officer

DIT Aungier Street.  
Telephone: 01-402 3042  
Email: [dbiddlecombe@dit.ie](mailto:dbiddlecombe@dit.ie)



[www.ditgaa.ie](http://www.ditgaa.ie)

[www.facebook.com/DIT.gaa](https://www.facebook.com/DIT.gaa)



# CROKE PARK SAFETY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

## REGULATIONS Páirc an Chrócaigh

- All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Rules (which are designated to protect the Health and Safety of all entrants to the ground). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all of these Rules.
- The management reserves the right of admission.
- The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
- All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
- Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
- The following are not permitted:
  - Entry upon the pitch or engaging in conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury or harm to, or otherwise interferes with, disrupts, hinders, or distracts a person playing in, refereeing or otherwise having a role in a match at this ground.
  - Any unauthorised contact with the boundary wall surrounding the pitch or incursion on to the pitch. Any such unauthorised contact or incursion constitutes a trespass to property.
  - The climbing of floodlights or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behavior constitutes a trespass to property.
  - Throwing of objects onto the pitch.
  - Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
  - Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
  - Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
  - Bringing into the ground of fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, distress signals, laser pointers and similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon.
  - Excessive noise such as that from the use of radio sets or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language.
- If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
- Where a person is in breach of any of these rules, or where the management believes that a person constitutes a source of danger to others, or to the ground, such person may be refused entry or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

## Safety and General Information

Supporters are asked to respect the fact that they are entering and leaving the stadium through residential areas.



## Safety Notice

In the interests of safety, patrons will not be allowed to enter the playing area after the games.



The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken to avoid further injuries and possible fatality and has been taken on the advice and promptings of the safety authorities, namely the Gardai, Dublin City Council, Fire Brigade and the HSE. The full co-operation of supporters is requested to avoid serious injury and to ensure that games can be enjoyed without recourse to fencing or avoidable obstructions to seeing action from all vantage points. Together we can ensure that the Croke Park experience is both enjoyable and safe, particularly for the young and vulnerable.

## Smoking Policy

Croke Park now operates a No Smoking policy except in designated areas of the ground.



## Medical Assistance

First Aid Centres are located in the following areas:

Davin Stand/Cusack Stand Level 3:	Section 312
Hogan Stand Level 3:	Section 333
Cusack Stand Level 7:	Section 701
Davin/Cusack Stand Level 7:	Section 724
Dineen/Hill 16 Cusack Side:	Section A
Medical Centre:	Hogan Players Tunnel



## Lost Children

Lost children will be brought to the above First Aid Centres.

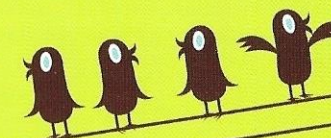


Please play your part by co-operating with the Greener. On and off the pitch initiatives at the Stadium and using the recycling stations provided. Please log onto [www.crokepark.ie/about/sustainability](http://www.crokepark.ie/about/sustainability) for further information.



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