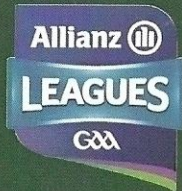
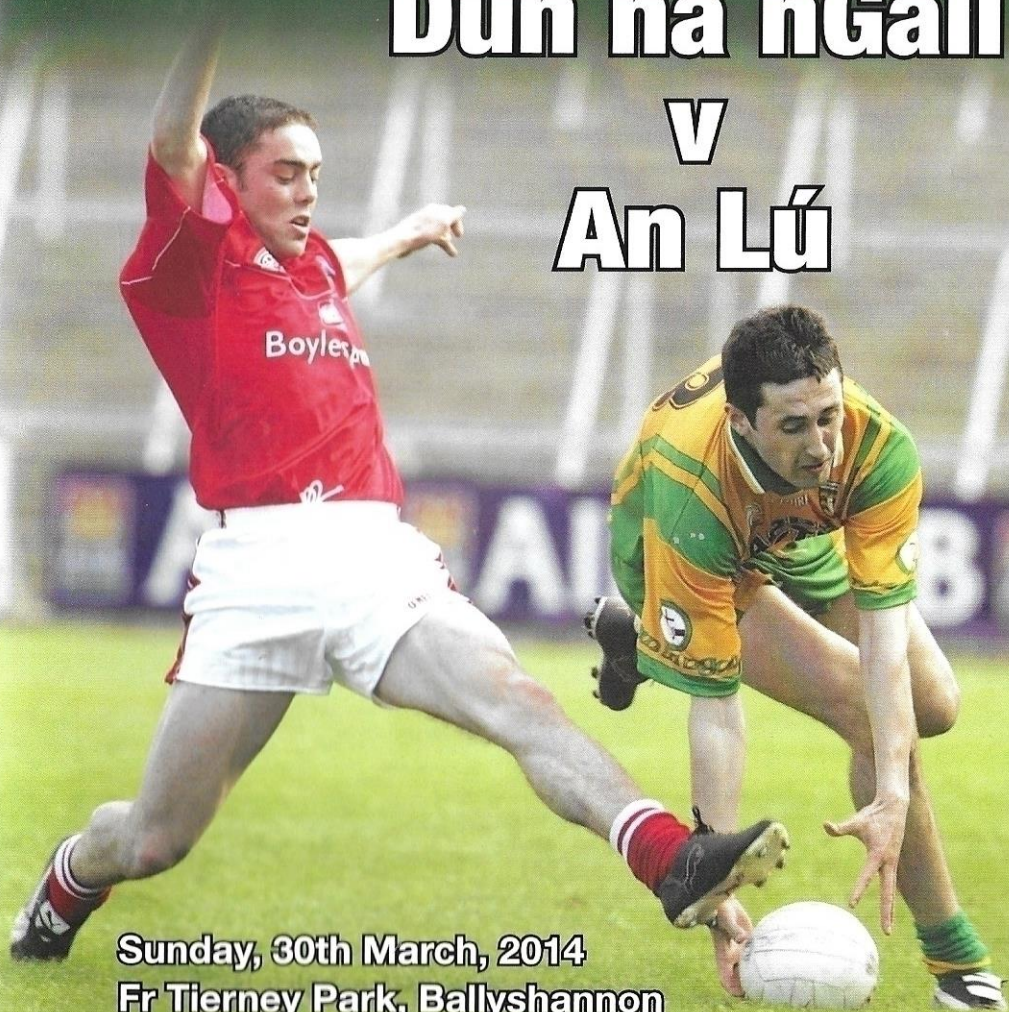


ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Dún na nGall v An Lú



Sunday, 30th March, 2014
Fr Tierney Park, Ballyshannon

Clár Oifigiúil €3

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Foreword

Ar son Bord na Condae CLG Dhún na nGall, ba mhaith liom fáilte a romhaibh go léir anseo inniu go Páirc an Athar Uí Thiarnaigh.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here this afternoon to Fr. Tierney Park, Ballyshannon for our final home game of the 2014 Allianz National Football League. I also extend a warm welcome to the Louth team, management, officials and supporters and I hope you enjoy your short visit to the north-west.

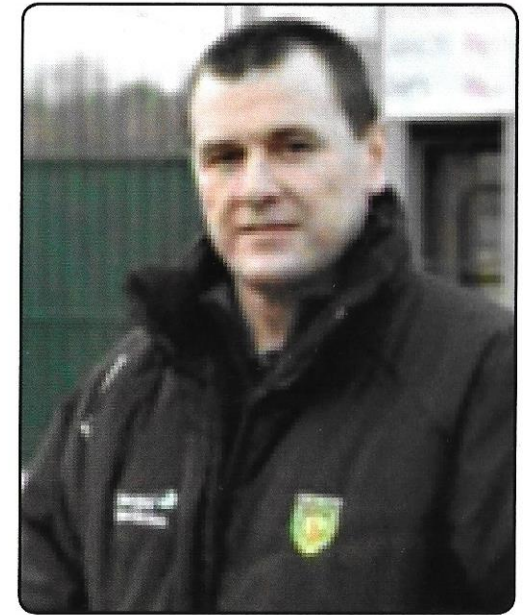
On behalf of Bord na Contae, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the home club Aodh Ruadh, Béal Átha Seanaidh for hosting today's match

and congratulate them on the ongoing works to improve their already impressive facilities. I would also like to thank the Donegal supporters who once again have given tremendous support to the team in this year's campaign.

Finally, I hope that you enjoy this afternoon's game and may the best team win. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an chluiche agus go mbeidh turas slán sábháilte ag lucht leanúna an Lú agus Dhún na nGall agus iad ag pilleadh na bhaile.

Is mise le meas,

Seán Ó Duinnín,
Cathaoirleach.



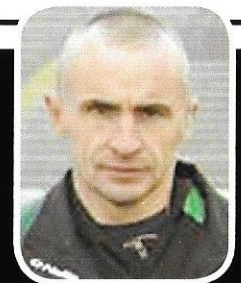
Allianz Football League, Roinn 2 - Round 6:

Referee: Martin Higgins (Fear Manach)

Stand by Referee: Joe McQuillan (An Cabhán)

Linesman: Stephen McNamee (Tír Eoghain);

Sideline Official: Shane Meehan (Tír Eoghain).



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Fr. Tierney Park - The 60th Anniversary & 2014 Development Project

“For the good of all”

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Official Opening of the Fr. Tierney Memorial Park which took place on Sunday May 9th 1954. The event was marked with a game between Donegal and Armagh for the Erne Cup and a set of silver medals which had been presented by the Traders of Ballyshannon. The game was refereed by former Cavan great, the late John Wilson who made a major mark subsequently in civic and political life as a T.D., Government Minister and Tánaiste.

The Aodh Ruadh Club on the occasion of the Official Opening paid this tribute to the late Fr Tierney: - “Today we honour the memory of a great Priest and a great Irishman, the late Rev. Cornelius Tierney, B.D., whose burning devotion to the ideal of an Ireland Gaelic and Free, marked him as a man among the leaders of the National Resurgence Movement. A President of the local Craobh of the Gaelic League, during the years when hundreds of Irishmen made the supreme sacrifice for freedom, he inspired the youth of the town to be loyal to the language, games and traditions of Roishín Dubh.

Volunteering for the Foreign Missions he was appointed Director of St. Columban’s Mission in Kien Chan (Nan Cheing) in the Province of Kiang Si, China. He was captured and imprisoned by the Communists and after four months detention he died for the Faith”

On that day in 1954, the starting Donegal line-up included Aodh Ruadh man Jackie McDermott who played in goals. Jackie’s son, Tommy, went on to play for club, county and province with distinction in the 1980’s.

The full Donegal team and panel at the opening was: (1)J McDermott, (2)P. Dawson, (3)F O’Donnell, (4)B Coyle, (5)J Boyle, (6)J, Carroll, (7)PMcGeehin, (8)MJ Gallagher, (9)D Gallen, (10)T Keogan, (11)F. Brennan, (12)M Coyle, (13) C Breslin, (14)F Farrelly, (15)PJ Burke, (16)D Bonner,(17) F. McCready, (18)D McGill, (19)W Gallagher.

With regard to the dedication and effort required to construct the Fr. Tierney Park, at a time when there were no Sports Capital or other funding Programmes, the Club had this to say: - “The provision of this Park has been a heavy task but it was a work which was tackled enthusiastically and courageously by a few for the good of all. We are proud of the achievement, but we are not boasting, for there is a long road to travel to the realisation of our ideals as an Association and our aims as a club.”

The references to the efforts “of a few for the good of all” and to the “long road to travel” were somewhat prophetic.



After the 1954 Official Opening the task of developing the Fr. Tierney Park continued with modest progress in the 1960’s and 1970’s; significant works in the 1980’s — first spectator stand in the County and new dressing rooms and Club Shop; “Munday’s Field” purchased in 1987 and work on land-filling spectator embankments progressed; Aras Aodh Ruadh and new changing rooms built with a Community Employment Scheme and Officially Opened as the Cubs Millenium Year Project in 2000.

Widening and lengthening of Fr. Tierney Park playing field took place in 2007

when development works at the grounds ceased for the next seven years in order to implement Aodh Ruadh’s decision to undertake a €5m re-development of “Munday’s Field” which was the venue for the club’s first games in 1909; the latter re-opened in 2009 with a Prunty championship standard enclosed playing field and a Prunty sand-based Training Field which was flood-lit to competition standard in 2013.

To coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Official Opening, a major redevelopment of spectator facilities at the Fr. Tierney Park is now underway. This focusses on restoring the capacity of the grounds towards the 12,500 target set for the Fr. Tierney Park in the County Board’s Strategy.

Significant progress towards that capacity figure has already been made in the current phase of works and will be further advanced by year end.

All of these works are aided by Aodh Ruadh’s 30+ years involvement as a Sponsor of Employment Schemes with just under 30 participants at the grounds and in the wider community currently.

As we enjoy today’s game, welcome Louth and support Donegal in their quest for Division I status, we recognise that in the current economic climate, where communities like ours have lost businesses and so many of our young people have gone to seek employment in the four corners of the world, there is still “a long road to travel”. The journey can be made easier if all of us who work as GAA volunteers make our contribution always in a positive and progressive way, with a bias towards action and achieving.

Ni neart go chur le chéile.

Tom Daly,

Chairman, Aodh Ruadh Park Committee

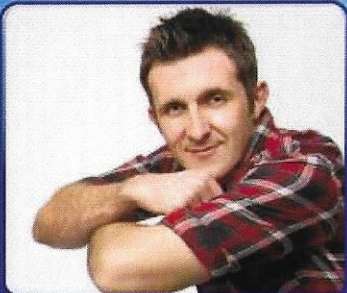


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Best of luck to Jim and all the lads from Peter and Elizabeth

Donegal have bone to pick with Louth

By Peter Campbell (Sports Editor, Donegal Democrat, Donegal People's Press)

When Donegal and Louth last met, the Wee County were underdogs, but over two games they proved too strong for Donegal.

The meeting was in the Division Two League decider in 2006 - Brian McIver's first year in charge of Donegal. Back then Division Two was divided into Division 2A and Division 2B and when they met in the decider in Kingspan Breffni Park on April 23rd, the first game ended in deadlock.

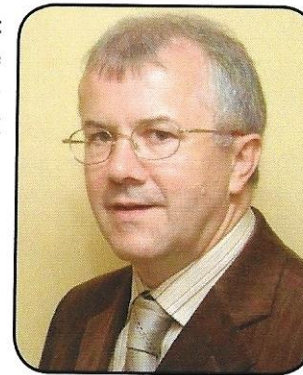
Indeed, it took the introduction of Adrian Sweeney at half-time to spur Donegal into action as Louth, under Eamon McEneaney, led by 2-5 to 0-6 at the interval, thanks to goals from Aaron Hoey and a Mark Standfield penalty.

A large crowd of some 12,000 was present to witness the Donegal comeback in the second half with Sweeney central. The Donegal side hit six unanswered points and seemed to be on their way to victory only to be hit with a third Louth goal from Martin Farrelly. The tie ended - Donegal 0-17, Louth 3-8.

The sides were:

Louth: S Reynolds; D Brennan, C Goss, J Carr; J O'Brien, P McGinnity, J Neary; M Farrelly (1-2), P Keenan (0-1); C Grimes (0-2), M Brennan, M Stanfield (1-0); JP Rooney, A Hoey (1-0), D Clarke (0-3). Subs., S Lennon for M Brennan 51; J Kermath for Stanfield 58; T O'Brien for Rooney 62; M Brennan for Lennon 70.

Donegal: M Boyle; N McGee, P Campbell, B Dunnion (0-1); D Diver (0-1), B Monaghan (0-1), F McGlynn; B Boyle, N Gallagher;



C Toye (0-1), M Hegarty, R Kavanagh (0-2); B Roper (0-1), C Bonner (0-3), M Doherty (0-3). Subs., A Sweeney (0-4) for Roper ht; S McDermott for Hegarty 44; R Sweeney for McGee 50.

Replay

Sunday 30th April

Louth 1-12

Donegal 1-9

If anyone thought that Louth had blown their chance, they were mistaken as the Wee County tore into Donegal early on with three quick points from John O'Brien, Martin Farrelly and Darren Clarke before Barry Dunnion and Michael Doherty responded for Donegal.

JP Rooney put Louth clear but Michael Doherty had Donegal in front when he converted a penalty on 20 minutes. The sides exchanged points before Louth struck for their goal three minutes from the break. Christy Grimes was the engineer and he set up Mark Stanfield to fist to the Donegal net and give his side a 1-6 to 1-5 interval lead.

The second half saw Louth move four ahead, 1-9 to 1-5 with Darren Clarke getting two good scores. Michael Doherty with two frees and one from Adrian Sweeney reduced the gap to the minimum.

Aaron Hoey and Darren Clarke restored the Louth three point advantage before Donegal full-back Paddy Campbell receive a straight red card. They did have the chance of an equaliser when Adrian Sweeney was straight through but he was thwarted by the Louth 'keeper Stuart Reynolds and Louth celebrated a famous victory.

Continued on Page 9

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Louth's proud history

Even though they have not hit the heights in recent times, Louth have a very good pedigree of success in Gaelic football. They contested the first ever All-Ireland senior final and have won the All-Ireland title on three occasions - twice before the Sam Maguire was in vogue (1910 and 1912) - and in living memory when famous accordionist Dermot O'Brien, held aloft the Sam Maguire in 1957.

They made history when they were the first winners of the Tom Markham (All-Ireland Minor football) Cup in 1940. They had won the Minor Championship prior to that in 1936.

Their full list of honours includes:

All-Ireland Senior Football Championships: 3

1910, 1912, 1957

All-Ireland Minor Football Championships: 2

1936, 1940

All-Ireland Junior Football Championships: 4

1925, 1932, 1934, 1961

Leinster Senior Football Championships: 8

1909, 1910, 1912, 1943, 1948, 1950, 1953, 1957.

Leinster Minor Football Championships: 8

1931, 1935, 1936, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1953

Leinster Junior Football Championships: 10

1910, 1912, 1925, 1928, 1932, 1934, 1946, 1957, 1961, 2009, 2010

Owen Treacy Cup: 1

2006

Tommy Murphy Cup: 1

2006

O'Byrne Cup: 4

1963, 1980, 1990, 2009

National Football League Div 3 : 1

2011

Buiochas:

Sincere thanks is expressed to all our contributors, our advertisers and the respective county board officials in Donegal and Louth for their help and cooperation in compiling this programme.

Particular thanks also to Erne Print, Ballyshannon Tel 071 98 58004 for their assistance.

Michael Daly, PRO,
Aodh Ruadh Park Committee.

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FIFTEENTH CLASH – FOURTH HERE

by Fr. Seán O Gallachoir

It seems that to-day's match is the fifteenth League encounter between Dún na nGall and Lú and the fourth time that the Louthmen have visited Béal Átha Seanaidh. They have never won here.

1.	17 Oct 1971	Div 2	Lú	1-7	Dún na nGall	0-5	Áth Fhirdia
2.	17 Dec 1972	Div 2B	Dún na nGall	2-5	Lú	0-6	Bealach Féich
3.	14 Oct 1973	Div 2B	Dún na nGall	2-10	Lú	1-10	Droichead Átha
4.	10 Nov 1974	Div 3A	Lú	2-9	Dún na nGall	2-6	Dún Dealgan
5.	12 Oct 1975	Div 3A	Dún na nGall	1-11	Lú	0-4	Béal Átha Seanaidh
6.	2 Nov 1980	Div 3	Dún na nGall	1-5	Lú	1-5	Dún Dealgan
7.	18 Oct 1981	Div 3	Dún na nGall	1-12	Lú	1-5	Béal Átha Seanaidh
8.	24 Oct 1982	Div 3	Lú	1-11	Dún na nGall	2-4	Dún Dealgan
9.	2 Feb 1985	Div 2	Lú	0-10	Dún na nGall	0-8	Dún Dealgan
10.	23 Feb 1985	Div 2	Dún na nGall	2-7	Lú	2-5	Cluain Eois
11.	26 Nov 2000	Div 1A	Dún na nGall	2-14	Lú	1-10	Béal Átha Seanaidh
12.	4 Nov 2001	Div 1A	Dún na nGall	3-12	Lú	1-11	Inis Ceithleann
13.	23 Apr 2006	Div 2	Dún na nGall	0-17	Lú	3-8	An Cabhán
14.	30 Apr 2006	Div 2	Lú	1-12	Dún na nGall	1-9	An Cabhán

Dún na nGall won 7 : Lú won 5 : Drawn – 2

- Christy Toye made his senior inter-county competitive debut in the November 2001 League play-off game against Louth in Enniskillen. Christy played his 126th game for Dún na nGall in Newry a fortnight ago.
- To-day Colm A. McFadden joins Matt Gallagher as Dún na nGall's second most-capped player. He plays his 147th game for Dún na nGall to-day and is catching up on Brian Roper's 159 games.
- Paul Durcan, Karl Lacey, Neil Gallagher, Christy Toye and Rory Kavanagh played in the last Dún na nGall – Lú League match, on 30 April 2006, with Frank McGlynn coming on as a sub.
- On the previous Sunday Frank McGlynn, Neil Gallagher, Christy Toye and Rory Kavanagh had played as well as Michael Boyle and Neil McGee. Damien Diver played in both 2006 games, as well as in the 2000 and 2001 games. Paul McGonagle played in the 2000 and 2001 games.

1975

The Wee county's first League trip to Béal Átha Seanaidh was on 12 October 1975. They came as favourites but were short a few players and gave debuts to Matt McDermott and Peter McCarthy. John Hannigan's Dún na nGall were poor in the first half but impressed in the second half to win by 1-11 to 0-4.

Dún na nGall: Noel McCole, Donal Monaghan, Pauric McShea, Andy Curran, Brian McEniff, Anthony Gallagher, Finian Ward, Martin Griffin, Brendan Dunleavy, Michael Carr (0-3), Martin Carney (0-4), Seán Gallagher, Pat Boyle, Séamus Bonner (1-4), Kieran Keeney. Sub: Joe Winston.
Lú: Gerry Farrell, Dessie Murray, Matt McDermott, Danny Culligan, Danny Nugent, Terry Lennon, Peter Lennon, Peadar Gallagher, Peter McCarthy, Kevin Kerr, Eugene Sheelan, Anthony Hoey, Damien Reid (0-3), Richie Brennan, Benny Gaughran (0-1). Subs: Adrian Boyle, Mickey White.

1981

Lú returned to Béal Átha Seanaidh on October 18, 1981 to face Dún na nGall in Division 3. Brian McEniff's Dún na nGall produced a fine display to win by 1-12 to 1-5.

Dún na nGall: Noel McCole, Eunan McIntyre, Finian Ward, Seán Gavigan, Martin Sweeney, Michael Carr, Conor Carney, Brendan Dunleavy (0-1) , Michael Gallagher (0-2), Martin McHugh (0-4), Fintan Lynch (0-2), Francie Martin, Charlie Mulgrew (0-1), Connie Molloy, Séamus Reilly (0-2). Subs: Séamus Gallagher (0-1), Brian Tuohy, Tommy McDermott.

Lú: Gerry Farrell, Gary O' Callaghan, Declan Healy, Noel Callan, Peter Fitzpatrick, Matt McDermott, Tony McCarragher, Mickey McCabe, Pat McConnon, Jimmy McDonnell, J.P. O' Kane (0-1), Sean Thornton, Johnny McDonnell (0-2), Denis Kelleher (0-1), Kevin Dawe (1-1). Subs: Seán McGee, Damien Reid, Eugene Marmion.

2000

Lú's last visit to Béal Átha Seanaidh was on 26 November 2000 when Adrian's Sweeney 2-3 led to an impressive 2-14 to 1-10 Dún na nGall victory. The match had been switched to Béal Átha Seanaidh at the last minute when Mac Cumhaill Park was unplayable. Noel Hegarty had to cry off the selected Dún na nGall team due to his father's death. Mickey Moran sang the praises of his team. Mark Stanfield, Stephen Melia and Johnny McCafferty were sent off.

Dún na nGall: Tony Blake, Éamonn Doherty, Mark Crossan, Noel McGinley (0-1), Jonathan Scanlon, Raymond Sweeney, Damien Diver, John Gildea, Barry Monaghan, Brian Roper (0-1), Michael Hegarty (0-1), James Gallagher (0-4), Andrew Gallagher (0-2), Adrian Sweeney (2-3), Johnny McCafferty (0-1). Subs: Paul McGonagle (0-1), Shane Carr, Kevin Winston, Séamus Friel.

Lú: Colm Nally, John Neary, Denis Reilly, Peter McGinnity, Aaron Hoey, Stephen Melia, Simon Gerrard, Ken Reilly, Martin Farrelly (0-1), Christy Grimes (0-4), Séamus O'Hanlon (1-0), Mark Stanfield (0-2), David Reilly (0-1), Aidan O'Neill, J.P. Rooney. Subs: Cathal O'Hanlon (0-2), Brendan Reilly, Colm Quinn, Paddy McGuigan.

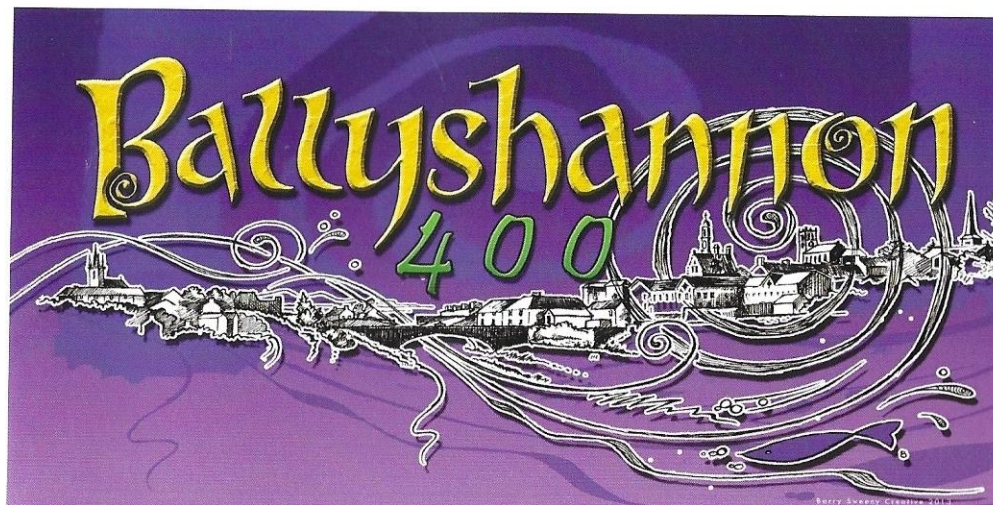
1971

Lú won the first-ever Dún na nGall – Lú League match. It was played in Baile Átha Fhirdia on 17 October 1971. Lú won by 1-7 to 0-5.

Lú: Paddy Gallagher, Paul Kenny, Jim Mulroy, Danny Culligan, Danny Nugent, Leslie Toal (0-1), Tom Rice, Bartle Faulkner (0-1), Gerry Sheridan, Richie Barry, Eugene Sheelan (0-2), 'Ango' Courtney, Damien Reid (0-1) , Mick McKeown (1-1), Jim Malone (0-1). Sub: Séamus Kirk.

Dún na nGall: Anthony McFeely, Andy Curran, Ray Sheerin, Liam Sweeney, Brian McEniff, Anthony Gallagher, Anton Carroll, Séamus Bonner, Frankie McFeely, Eugene Gallagher, Pauric McShea (0-2), Hughie McClafferty, John Bradley, Joe Winston (0-3), Thomas Quinn. Sub: Declan O'Carroll.

Dún na nGall, whose manager Ambrose Given, had just resigned, fielded six McCumhails' men!



*Best Wishes to the Donegal Team today from
Ballyshannon Town Council and a warm welcome to all those
visiting our town for the match*

Dates for Diary

Saturday 11th April – Operation Ballyshannon – One Day Community Clean Up in association with Ballyshannon Regeneration Group, meeting point Ballyshannon Town Council at 10am – please come along and do your bit, your town needs your help!

Sunday 20th April – Abbey Arts Centre at 8pm – Town Twinning Concert featuring musicians and singers from Ballyshannon and Grenay with special guests

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Aodh Ruadh Schools Coaching Initiative

Fr. Tierney Park – 1954-2014

Just three weeks ago the Aodh Ruadh School's Coaching Initiative commenced. This is an initiative to mark the 60th anniversary of the Official Opening of the Fr. Tierney Park by putting the emphasis on gaelic games and youth development in the Club's area. All six National Schools in the Club's area, St. Catherine's NS; Kilbarron NS; Holy Family NS; Gaelscoil Éirne; Creevy NS and Rockfield NS are participating. Experienced club coaches, Teddy Kane, Val Murray and Brian Roper (football) and Peter Horan (Hurling) are rostered to visit the schools and provide substantial coaching sessions every week. The objective is to give every boy and girl attending Primary school in the Club's area the opportunity to play Gaelic games and

to receive expert coaching. The club looks forward to sustaining this initiative for an extended period into the future and the possibility of adding a further hurling coach, such is the interest in the game, is being actively pursued.

The co-operation of the local schools has been magnificent and very encouraging. The co-operation and support of the Principals and teachers in all six schools is greatly appreciated. The Initiative will be reviewed shortly with a view to examining how it may be extended to support the teachers involved in coaching and managing school teams in Colaiste Colmcille who continue to field in hurling and football, and with increasing success, in the second level colleges competitions.



Aodh Ruadh coach, Val Murray passing on the skills to pupils at Creevy N.S.



Above and below Aodh Ruadh coach, Val Murray and pupils at Creevy N.S.



National Anthem

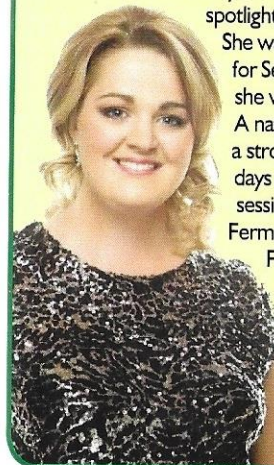
Our national anthem will be sung today by Farrah Bogle who is currently starring on TG4's Glór Tire programme.

The 21-year-old from Ballyshannon just launched her first album in September and is now in the spotlight on the talent show that seeks to find Ireland's next big country and western star. She was also musical director of this year's panto and was the female lead in Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Farrah started to play fiddle but didn't begin to sing solo in public until she was 15. Now, just six years later, it's her full-time career.

A native of Ballyshannon, from Behey in Cashelard, Farrah was born into a family with a strong musical tradition. Her late father Phonsie was a legendary performer, from his days playing with Cormac McCreedy and Brian McEniff at the Holyrood Hotel to his sessions in Josie's and Patsy's bars. Originally from Roscor, Belleek, he also played on Fermanagh's u21 intercounty GAA team.

Farrah's mum Carol Bowring is from Kinlough and Farrah has five siblings: Brendan (39) is a lorry driver; Siobhan (38) works at the Abbey Hotel; Donna (36) is with the HSE in Sligo; Johnny (32) and Blain (19) are currently working in construction in England.


Vote for Farrah on Glór Tire: Voting is open 24/7. You can vote as often as you like. Ring 1513 415 107, or text GLOR7 to 53307 (from ni: tel 0901 6566 107 or text GLOR7 to 60999).



Donegal Dún na nGall

Manager: Jim McGuinness



 <p>Pól Ó Dúrcáin PAUL DURCAN Na Ceithre Máistir</p>		
 <p>Éamonn MacAoidh ÉAMONN MCGEE Gaoth Dobhair</p>	 <p>Niall MacAoidh NEIL MCGEE Gaoth Dobhair</p>	 <p>Carl de Lása KARL LACY Na Ceithre Máistir</p>
 <p>Proinsias MacFhloinn FRANK MCGLYNN Gleann Fhinne</p>	 <p>Leo Mac Giolla Uain LEO MCLOONE Naomh Conaill</p>	 <p>Antoin Mac Thomáis ANTHONY THOMPSON Naomh Conaill</p>
 <p>Ruairi Caomhánach RORY KAVANAGH Naomh Adhamhnán</p>		 <p>Máirtín MacGiolla Chainnigh MARTIN MCELHINNEY Naomh Mícheál</p>
 <p>Marc MacAodha MARK MCHUGH Cill Chartha</p>	 <p>Criostóir Ó Tuathaigh CHRISTY TOYE Naomh Mícheál</p>	 <p>Oghrán Mac Niallais ODHRÁN MAC NIALLAIS Gaoth Dobhair</p>
 <p>Colm Mac Pháidín COLM MCFADDEN Naomh Mícheál</p>	 <p>Mícheál Ó Murchú (c) MICHAEL MURPHY (C) Gleann Súillí</p>	 <p>Diarmuid Ó Lúdhóg DERMOT MOLLOY Naomh Conaill</p>

SUBSTITUTES:

16. Mícheál Ó Baoill **Michael Boyle** An Tearmann; 17. Darach Ó Conchúir **Darach O'Connor** Bun Crannacha; 18. Déaglán Breathnach **Declan Walsh** Málainn; 19. Ryan MacAodha **Ryan McHugh** Cill Chartha; 20. Gary Mac Pháidín **Gary Mc Fadden** Gleann Súillí; 21. Aodh MacPháidín **Hugh McFadden** Na Cealla Beaga; 22. Pádraig Mac Breartaigh **Patrick McBrearty** Cill Chartha; 23. Lúcas Ó Cianaigh **Luke Keaney** Na Ceithre Máistir; 24. Daithí Breathnach **David Walsh** David Walsh; 25. Niall Ó Gallachóir **Neil Gallagher** Gleann Súillí; 26. Tomás MacFhionnghaile **Thomas McKinley** Naomh Colmcille.

Dath: Glas agus Oir



Louth

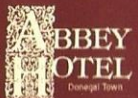
Manager: Aidan O'Rourke

 <p>SEAN MAC AOIDH SHANE McCOY DROIM AN TÍ</p>		
 <p>PADRAIG DE RATHA PADRAIG RATH DREADNOTS CEANN CLOCHAIR</p>	 <p>DEASUN O FIONNAGAIN DESSIE FINNEGAN NAOMH PADRAIG</p>	 <p>SEAN O'BRIEN JOHN O'BRIEN SEAN O MATHUNA</p>
 <p>LIAM O SEIBHLÍN LIAM SHEVLIN DREADNOTS CEANN CLOCHAIR</p>	 <p>DARACH MAC RAGHALLAIGH DEREK CRILLY NA GAEL, DUN DEALGAN</p>	 <p>ADRIAN O RIADA ADRIAN REID RAONAITHE MAITEOIGE</p>
 <p>PADRAIG O CIANAIN PADDY KEENAN NAOMH PADRAIG</p>		 <p>BRIAIN O DONNAILE BRIAN DONNELLY CICEAMS CHUAILGHNE</p>
 <p>PADRAIG O RAGHALLAIGH PATRICK REILLY NAOMH BRID</p>	 <p>BRIAIN DE FAOITE BRIAN WHITE CICEAMS CHUAILGHNE</p>	 <p>STIOFAN MAC CAITHMHAOIL STEPHEN CAMPBELL NAOMH MAIRTIN</p>
 <p>ANDRIAS MAC DOMHNALL ANDY McDONNELL GORMAITHE BAILE NUA</p>	 <p>EOIN O CONCHUIR EOIN O'CONNOR NAOMH PADRAIG</p>	 <p>COLM MAC AN BHREITUNAIGH COLM JUDGE GORMAITHE BAILE NUA</p>

SUBSTITUTES:

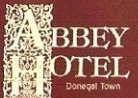
16. Neil Gallagher Neill O Gallchoir Ciceams Chuailghne; 17. Declan Byrne Deaglan O Broin Naomh Mochta; 18. Darren Clarke Darren O Cleirigh Naomh Mhuire; 19. Bevan Duffy Beabhan O Dufaigh Naomh Feichin; 20. Mick Fanning Micheal O Fainin Naomh Mairtin; 21. Shane Lennon Sean O Leannain Emmitt Cill Choirle; 22. Darren O Hanlon Daire O Hanluain Naomh Padraig; 23. Shane O Hanlon Sean O Hanluain Na Gearaltaigh; 24. Conor Rafferty Conchur O Raifeartaigh Ciceams Chuailghne; 25. Kevin Rogers Caoimhin Mac Ruairi Naomh Malachi; 26. James Stewart Seamus Stiobhard Na Gaeil, Dun Dealgan

Dath: Bán agus Dearg



Best of luck to Jim and the lads!

The ideal venue for after the match.



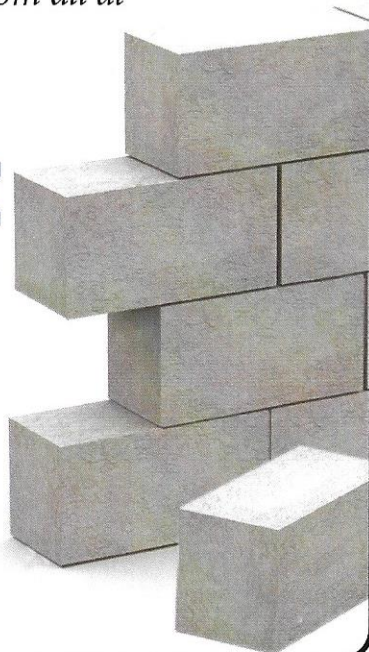
Good luck to Donegal from all at



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Donegal and Louth by numbers

By John Hughes of Gaelic Life

Increasingly my Sunday evenings have been spent sifting through the numbers behind our games. They are like DNA. They might not dictate behaviour, but it is difficult to escape established patterns.

The most telling numbers as we look ahead to the meeting of Donegal and Louth can be seen on the Allianz NFL division two table. Donegal top with seven points, Louth bottom with two. That tells its own story, but dig deeper and you not only discover why the teams are in those positions, but also compelling reasons to believe this match is Donegal's to lose.

Let's start by looking at home and away form.

Surprisingly, Donegal have the third worst home record in Ulster this year. The running average for winning home games is 58 percent. Donegal's number is 50 percent, with the opening day loss to Tyrone in the McKenna cup and the NFL draw with Meath pulling them down on this metric. On the other side of the coin Donegal losses in Father Tierney Park are a rare thing indeed, 2009 against Dublin, 1-8 to 0-13, was the last one.

Louth have played three away games this year and lost them all, their lowest losing margin being four points against Dublin in the O'Byrne cup. Not only do they lose away games, they usually take a beating in the process. The only other sides yet to win on the road this year are Carlow, Offaly, Westmeath, Limerick, Galway and Sligo. That's not great company to be in.

One of the great boosts for Donegal this year has been the rediscovery of their scoring knack. Their average score for 2013 was 14.53 points per game (PPG). So far in 2014 it is running at 16.88 PPG. One of the key factors behind this is Colm McFadden's return to form. He was one of the central drivers in the 2012 campaign, outscoring Michael Murphy by 12 points that year and averaging 5.091 PPG. In 2013 his PPG rate dropped to 3.5, but already in 2014 his PPG rate is on the rise, up to 4.63, with 5-22 to his credit, 0-13 from frees. He is just two points behind Murphy who, it should be noted, has sourced over two thirds of his scores from placed ball this year.

A slight concern for Donegal is the fact that 56.3 percent of all their scores this year have come from the boots of Murphy and McFadden. But then again, they did win an All-Ireland on a not dissimilar number.

Louth's scoring returns make a sorry contrast. Sitting at 12.13 PPG in a season when scoring is up generally is poor going. Last year their scoring sat at 15.8 PPG and their top scorer was Shane Lennon.

The Kilkenny Emmet's man hit 6-45, getting a quarter of all Louth's scores. Lennon hasn't featured this season through injury and the current top scorer for the Wee county, Brian White, has only managed 0-15. White was second highest scorer in 2013, but Aidan O'Rourke just hasn't able to replace Lennon's scoring power. Only 16 players have got on the score sheet for Louth this year, one of the worst figures in the country. By way of contrast Donegal have had 23 scorers in 2014. Things don't get much better for Louth on average concession per game. Their number this season is 16.63 PPG as against Donegal's 12.38 PPG.

Broadening it out a bit, one of the noticeable aspects of the advent of the black card has been the generalised increase in scoring. The average total PPG last year was 29.51. This year it is running at 31.54, a seven percent increase in scoring year-on-year. However Donegal (29.25 PPG) and Louth (28.75 PPG) aren't among the sides sharing in the scoring bonanza, so we shouldn't be expecting a particularly high scoring game today.

Of course, one of the main talking points this season has been the introduction of the black card. So far 117 have been doled out in senior inter-county football, an average of 0.41 per game. Donegal are well below the average at 0.25, but Louth's discipline has let them down quite a bit this year. Their black card average of 0.63 is decidedly on the high side, while they have also been giving up a lot of yellow cards, and reds too with Dessie Finnegan sent off against Monaghan and Brian White getting the line against Down.

On the basis of the numbers it's a gloomy outlook for the visitors. But every game is an opportunity to amend the trend. Just look back to Ulster championship 2013 when Donegal reversed pretty much every metric going in the season up to that point to dispose of Tyrone.

It's hard to look past another two points for Donegal, but there's always a but...



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Twenty Questions on Louth and Donegal

with PJ Buggy

1. Who captained Louth to All-Ireland Senior Football victory in 1957?
2. What county won the Tom Markham Cup when it was first presented for the All-Ireland Minor Football championship in 1940?
3. What man played football championship for Donegal in 1980 and managed the Louth Senior team in 2002 and 2003?
4. Who is captain of the St Eunan's team that recently won the McLarnon Cup, Ulster Collages competition?
5. What former President of the GAA recently published the book "The Outsider"?
6. Name the two Mayo born players who were leading members of the Louth team that won the All-Ireland in 1957?
7. With what Co. Louth club did Steve Staunton win a senior football championship medal?
8. Donegal won the 2006 Ulster Minor League and Championship – who was their captain?
9. Who are the current Louth Senior Football Champions?
10. The first All-Ireland Senior Football final was won by Limerick in 1887 – who did they defeat in the final?
11. The father of what Donegal panellist represented Roscommon in the 1980 All-Ireland Senior Football final?
12. When Leinster completed a 4 in-a-row Railway Cup sequence of victories from 1952 to 1955 what Louth player played in all 8 games during this period?
13. How many All-Stars have Louth won?
14. Who is the current Donegal Senior hurling manager?
15. Two Donegal players were selected on the Universities football team of the year recently. Name them?
16. Who is Donegal Minor football manager?
17. Who won last year's Hurler of the year award at the All-Stars ceremony?
18. Who won Footballer of the year in 2013?
19. What two Donegal football goalkeepers have won All-Star awards?
20. How many All-Star awards has Kilkenny hurler Henry Shefflin won?

Answers on Page 30

Wee County looking for a few favours from others

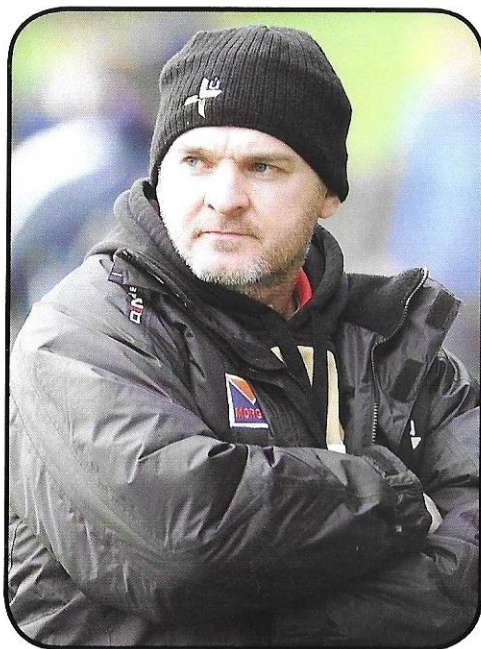
By David Lynch, Sports Editor, Dundalk Democrat

There's just four points left to play for now and after their stagnant draw with Galway, Aidan O'Rourke's side now need to conjure at least three points from four to stand any chance of dropping to Division Three. It's a big ask and results elsewhere need to do the Wee County a favour as well.

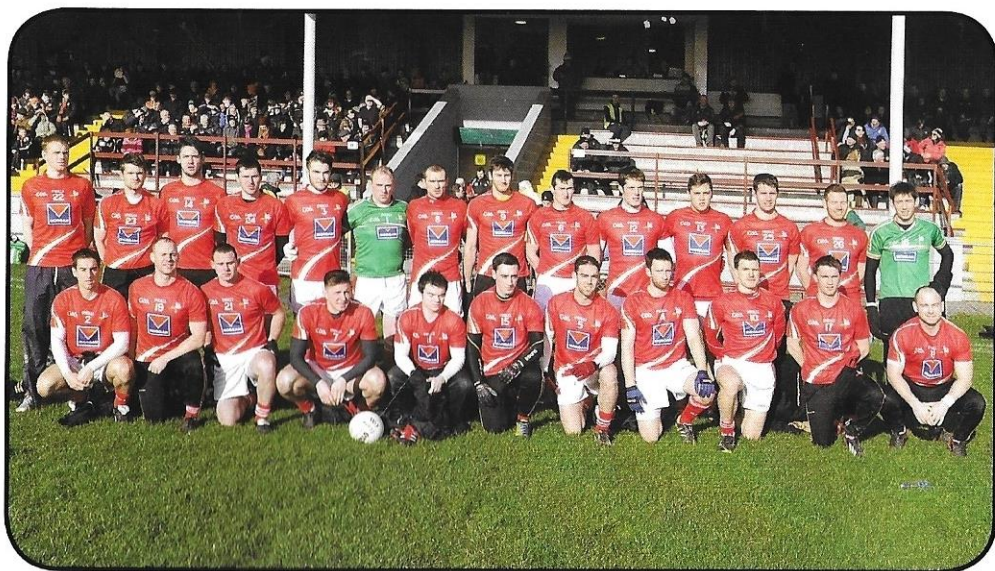
It's a worrying prospect for all Louth fans. The thoughts of travelling to far flung outposts better known for deeds with a sliotar rather than the O'Neills size five next year is chilling.

But, there's still the championship to take solace from if the wheels do come off the league bus this year.

Amongst the rubble of the past few weeks, Louth have shown an increase in performance. It's marginal, but still there. Whether there's a masterplan of peaking in



Louth Manager Aidan O'Rourke



The Louth senior panel.

time for the Leinster Championship at play from Aidan O'Rourke and his backroom team is not an unreasonable suggestion.

Still, the league is important to a county like Louth. Playing Division Two football guarantees good opposition and the end result will inevitably benefit any future championship run.

That the likes of Adrian Reid and Andy McDonnell look to be finally hitting some form is another major bonus.

Also the news that Shane Lennon could make a return for Louth in these crunch matches is, of course, a massive plus for

O'Rourke. But the Kilkenny man has been blighted with injury for the last few league seasons and to risk him in this relegation dogfight is to potentially lose him for the championship.

It's a big decision for O'Rourke and co. and it's only heightened by the fact that Louth have been so inadequate between the posts thus far.

Today in Ballyshannon is another big ask indeed for Louth and time now to make some lasting decisions which could have a bearing on how 2014 shapes up for the Wee County.



Louth Manager Aidan O'Rourke and Team Captain Paddy Keenan launching the Louth GAA Positive Mental Health Initiative 'It's OK not to be OK' which appears on the back of the Louth jersey.

Donegal - where are we right now?

Alan Foley - Donegal Democrat

Seeing as we're the self-proclaimed forgotten county in Ireland, some might accuse Donegal folk of being a little paranoid.

Good times and bad have seen voters in the county continually act against the national trends. Away from the polling stations, Donegal embraced their Ulster and All-Ireland triumphs of 2012.

It brought much-needed joy to the county and also plenty of attention,

which of course was treated with an element of suspicion in some quarters.

When Donegal failed to retain those titles the theory bandied about was that it was due to a lack of hunger, a flash in the pan, a system meltdown.

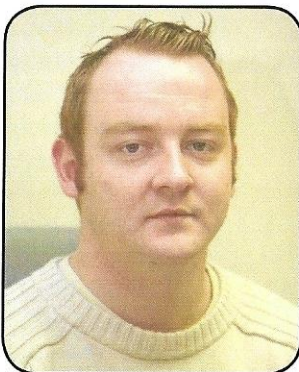
Although Down, in last year's Ulster semi-final, were the first team to really find a chink in the Donegal armour, it was Malachy O'Rourke's Monaghan who floored them, winning handsomely, 0-13 to 0-7, in the provincial final.

It was the loudest cheer heard at St Tiernach's Park in Clones in quarter of a century. Donegal, with barely a pulse to be felt, were then obliterated by Mayo, 4-19 to 1-10, in an August Bank Holiday Massacre at Croke Park.

Seeing only Kerry in 2007 have defended the Sam Maguire since 1990, Donegal didn't really buck a national trend as their retention fell short. But the manner of the defeat and the continual reference to what might've caused it didn't sit easily with the progressive Donegal manager.

"Last year, we were managing a situation and not a team," McGuinness said recently on Charlie Collins' Talking Sport podcast. "We never really got off the ground at all."

Collins and podcasts with McGuinness, as well as the volumes of written press in the county, provide the Donegal footballing fraternity with a 'State of the Nation' type appraisal of where the contemporaries stand - like those ones on the



flickering television sets from RTE when Jack Lynch spoke about the escalating troubles in 1969 or when Charlie Haughey warned us that "we were living above our means" in 1977.

Donegal's present state is difficult to pin-point precisely from the outside looking in. All we know for sure is that the panel have been and are being well trained, while there's only a fraction of the injury concerns of last year.

McGuinness, aided by their new backroom team of Paul McGonigle, Damien Diver and John Duffy oversaw an earlier pre-season than usual in dimly-lit Castlefin or the windswept Dunfanaghy.

Away off in the overlooked north-west, it was a fair distance from Croke Park in terms of mileage - even more so metaphorically.

For some, Donegal's intense approach to 2014 is considered as a final throw of the dice from McGuinness, who sought a four-year term when initially appointed in July 2010. However, McGuinness has never said that the conclusion of year four necessarily means the end for him. Now, though, the focus is on the panel and not the manager.

"We've taken a different approach this year," he explained. "A lot of the lads were out through injuries for a long time so we've been trying to take care of them. It's about trying to bring them steadily forward and not have any setbacks. We feel we are at a decent level now. We want to win games."

Division Two in March isn't a place where too many juries sit to make their verdicts. Donegal, though, were plotting along well, winning 2-19 to 1-9 in Laois and then 1-16 to 0-12 against Galway in Salthill.

Aside the results, even at that embryonic time of year, there were little signs of 2012 - hustling and breaking, scurrying and scampering - back in Donegal's play.

If there was one team, historically and presently, who have never stood in any sort of trepidation of Donegal, then it's Monaghan. Last year's Ulster final - as big a shock as it was at the time to many - was not the exception, it was the rule.

Only a battle-hardened Tyrone's more advanced stage of cuteness denied Monaghan a place in last year's All-Ireland semi-final.

Monaghan were more experimental than Donegal when both arrived at a crammed O'Donnell Park on March's first Sunday. A bit like the 2012 All-Ireland final against Mayo, Donegal's early goals - this time through Odhran MacNiallais and Colm McFadden - provided the wriggle-room that was never relinquished. Donegal won 2-11 to 0-10.

Whilst those six points provided for a commendable start, since then it's not been so clear-cut. Michael Murphy had to chip in from the bunker with the last kick of the game to scramble a 1-12 apiece draw with Meath in Ballybofey before Down sank a wasteful Donegal 1-9 to 0-10 when the talk of an uncharacteristic lack of composure in the forward line dominated the post-match interviews.

As tepidly as Donegal performed, though, it did boil down to a mountain of missed chances resulting in one missed opportunity.

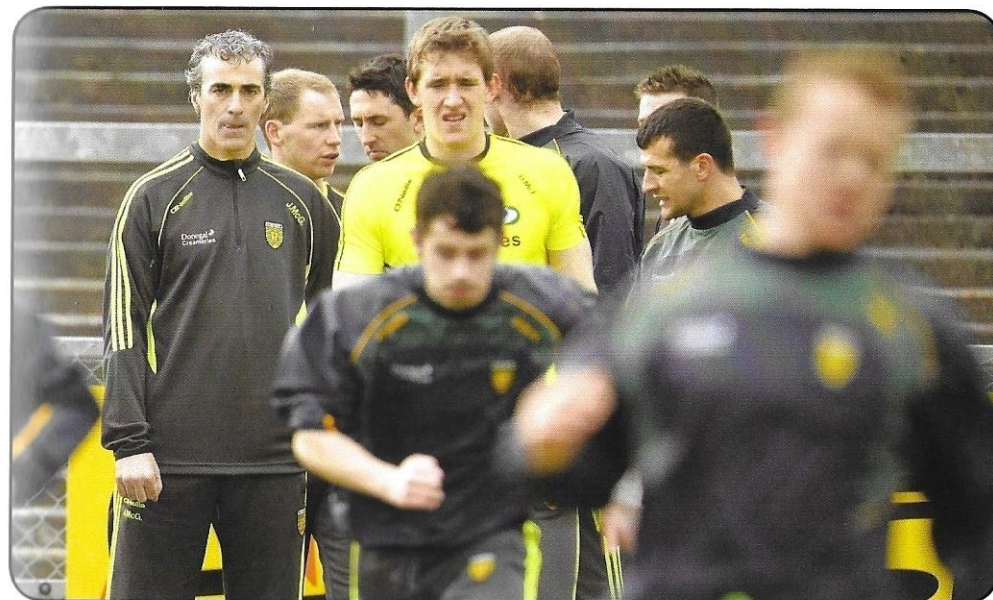
The scare-mongers are out in force again after Newry but the Allianz League only provides semblances of evidence that can be taken into account prior to the championship ball being thrown in the air.

The last time Donegal appeared here at Fr Tierney Park, on St Patrick's weekend 2012, McGuinness had seen his team pick up only two points from four Division One encounters prior to their meeting with Mayo.

He admitted recently Donegal "haven't pressed the button yet" and they hadn't back then. Summer will tell a tale of its own. It's not too far now. Hopefully you remembered to put your clock forward the hour last night.

There's a claustrophobia developing in the higher regions of Division Two right now, but the best thing for all the mathematicians to do today in Ballyshannon is to get behind the team against Louth and leave the calculations till supper. The picture in Division Two will soon become much clearer.

A win today means there will hopefully be no need for paranoid notions or looking unexpectedly over our shoulders. Two points today and Donegal will have their destiny in their own hands.



Jim McGuinness watching over training



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DÚN NA NGALL SA PHÁIRC SEO

Today's will be Dún na nGall's twentieth League game in Béal Átha Seanaidh since the turn of the century. They have won 11, lost 7, and drawn 1. They have won their last three games here.

1.	26 Mar 2000	Ciarraí	2-16	Dún na nGall	0-14
2.	26 Nov 2000	Dún na nGall	2-14	Lú	1-10
3.	25 Feb 2001	Baile Átha Cliath	0-11	Dún na nGall	0-8
4.	24 Feb 2002	Gaillimh	0-9	Dún na nGall	0-7
5.	24 Mar 2002	Dún na nGall	1-12	Corcaigh	0-9
6.	9 Feb 2003	Baile Átha Cliath	1-10	Dún na nGall	0-9
7.	9 Mar 2003	Ciarraí	1-12	Dún na nGall	0-8
8.	15 Feb 2004	Dún na nGall	3-6	Muineachán	1-11
9.	4 Apr 2004	Dún na nGall	3-15	Ceatharlóch	0-5
10.	27 Mar 2005	Uíbh Fháilí	1-11	Dún na nGall	0-13
11.	3 Apr 2005	Dún na nGall	3-11	Corcaigh	1-7
12.	5 Feb 2006	Dún na nGall	0-11	Liatroim	1-8
13.	4 Apr 2006	Dún na nGall	3-16	Longfort	0-9
14.	25 Feb 2007	Dún na nGall	0-9	Baile Átha Cliath	0-5
15.	6 Apr 2008	Dún na nGall	1-14	Laois	2-8
16.	8 Mar 2009	Baile Átha Cliath	0-13	Dún na nGall	1-8
17.	14 Feb 2010	Dún na nGall	3-11	Laois	0-5
18.	3 Apr 2011	Dún na nGall	1-17	Aintroim	1-8
19.	18 Mar 2012	Dún na nGall	0-17	Maigh Eo	1-7
20.	30 Mar 2014	Dún na nGall v Lú			



**League Table before
today's game**

1	DONEGAL	5	3	1	1	86	61	7
2	MONAGHAN	5	3	1	1	84	61	7
3	DOWN	5	3	1	1	75	59	7
4	ARMAGH	5	2	2	1	80	80	5
5	MEATH	5	2	2	1	81	90	5
6	LAOIS	5	2	3	0	77	83	4
7	GALWAY	5	1	3	1	73	92	3
8	LOUTH	5	0	3	2	63	93	2

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"Best wishes to the Donegal Team"

Today at a half time we present two underage games. The Aodh Ruadh under 10 footballers will be on one pitch with the Aodh Ruadh under 10 and under 12 hurlers playing on the other. As you will note from the panels, we have a large number of dual players in the club and this is a feature we are very proud of in Aodh Ruadh CLG. The footballers have just completed their winter indoor training programme and will be enjoying the chance to finally show off their skills in the fresh air. The underage hurlers have already been training outdoors for a few weeks, but they will be heading back indoors when they stage their eighth annual Hurl-A-Thon on Saturday 5th April from 10am to 10pm in the Mercy Hall at Coláiste Cholmcille. We hope you enjoy the display of skill and enthusiasm on show in both our ancient codes.

- John Hughes, Aodh Ruadh club PRO.

Aodh Ruadh under 10 footballers

Kenzie Ayres	Art Mag Fhionnghaile
Ronan Barron	Lorc Mag Fhionnghaile
Daniel Breen Brosnan	Dáire Mc Devitt
Conor Cleary	James McGinley
Aaron Cullen	Shane McGloin
Oisin Daly	Cian Mc Kenna
Pauric Daly	Cillian Meehan
Ryan Daly	Darragh Monaghan
Shane Delahunty	Aaron Neilan
Michael Doogan	Daniel Patterson
Darragh Dolan	David Roper
JJ Doran	Drew Ryan
Kian Duncan	Aidan Sweeny
Jack Gallagher	Aonghus Sweeny
James Gallagher	Gavin Timoney
Cian Hunter	Kian Timoney
Ryan Keenaghan	Tommy Winters
Eoghan Kelly	

Aodh Ruadh under 10 and under 12 hurlers

Kenzie Ayres	Killian Magee
Aine Barrett	Kyle McCafferty
Sinead Barrett	Daire McDevitt
Ronan Barron	Gavin McGarrigle
Shane Brady	Peadar McHenry
Daithi Breen	Mitchell McLaughlin
Declan Breslin	Cian McKenna
Aaron Cullen	Darragh McSharry
Michael Doogan	Liam McSharry
Pauric Daly	Sean O'Reilly
JJ Doran	Ultan O'Reilly
Eoghan Furey	Grace O'Sullivan
Gero Gilmartin	Nathan Owens-Kelly
Dara Gormally	Senan Rooney
Ryan Kane	Corey Ryan
Ryan Keenaghan	Drew Ryan
Eoghan Kelly	Matthew Tierney



Some of our underage footballers and hurlers participating in the Ballyshannon Saint Patrick's Day parade recently

Ground Regulations for Fr Tierney Park, Ballyshannon

All persons entering Fr Tierney Park, Ballyshannon are admitted only subject to the following ground regulations and to the rules and regulations of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these rules and regulations. Any person who fails to comply with these ground regulations may be refused entry, or removed from the ground.

Alcohol: The consumption of alcohol is not permitted within the ground and spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground.

Safety: The unauthorised climbing of any structure, walls or buildings in the ground is strictly forbidden. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any object onto the pitch.

Access: A person may not obstruct a gangway, stairwell or circulation area at any time.

Field of Play: Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play at any time, before, during or after the games.

Ground Control: 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.

Smoking: Permitted only in designated areas of Ground - Signposted in each of the 4 corners of grounds. Please respect this policy.

Stewards: All spectators are asked to co-operate with Stewards at all times.

Defibrillator: Located & signposted at changing rooms.

Exits: New exit to main road at stand side of grounds; Exit behind "old" scoreboard will bring you in direction of town centre & Belleek road & N15/by-pass.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ: 1 Dermot O'Brien; 2 Louth; 3 Paddy Carr; 4 Conor O'Donnell; 5 Peter Quinn; 6 Dan O'Neill and Seamus O'Donnell (serving Gardai in Louth); 7 Clanna Gael Dundalk; 8 Eoin Waide, Naomh Conail; 9 Newtown Blues; 10 Louth; 11 John "Jigger" O'Connor, who is father of Darach O'Connor; 12 Stephen White; 13 One, Paddy Keenan in 2012; 14 Ray Durack; 15 Paddy McBrearty (Maynooth) and Luke Keaney (Jordanstown); 16 1992 star forward Declan Bonner; 17 Tony Kelly (Clare); 18 Michael Darragh McAuley (Dublin) whose late father came from Leitir; 19 Gary Walsh in 1992 and Paul Durcan in 2012; 20 Eleven (record for any individual hurling or football).



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GAA - ALLIANZ NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 2

Donegal relief as Louth fight back causes concern

DONEGAL 1-19
LOUTH 3-07

REPORT BY CHRIS MCNULTY
AT FR TIERNEY PARK

BY the end, there was a strange feeling of relief on an afternoon where Donegal really ought to have had a much bigger margin of victory.

The scoreline and a six-point win merely scratches the surface of the narrative of this, a game Donegal had seemed to have in the bag well before the second half, but one in which they needed a 87th minute goal from David Walsh to enable themselves some breathing space again.

Substitute Walsh netted just after a purple patch from Louth saw them punish Donegal as Paddy Keenan and Brian White netted goals. When White slotted home, barely a minute after midfielder Keenan score his second major of the day, the margin was down to only three points.

Suddenly, there were very real fears of a capitulation, but Walsh fired to the net after good approach work by Ryan McHugh and Dermot Molloy, who passed a late fitness test to start the game.

Donegal were well in command of things until that period where Louth blasted away the deficit.

It won't have been the concession so much as the manner of them that will have concerned Jim McGuinness and company.

When White, who ended the day with 1-3, slotted over a free in the 54th minute, Donegal led handsomely 0-16

MATCH STATS

DONEGAL v LOUTH

1	Goals	3
19	Points	7
6	Wides	10
0	45s	3
21	Frees awarded	28
8	Frees scored	4
4	Short efforts	2
0	Black cards	2
2	Yellow cards	2
0	Red cards	0
ATTENDANCE 3,600		

to 1-4.

However, Paul Durcan's subsequent kick-out was punted into the hands of Adrian Reid and after he made the telling incision into Donegal's skin, it was Keenan who applied the finishing touch.

Rocked already, Donegal could hardly believe what was happening when White found himself with a chance and he made no mistake as the Wee County side took full advantage of the gaping holes in the Tir Chonaill rearguard.

Just when it seemed as if an upset of epic proportions was on the cards, Walsh stepped up to calm the nerves. His finish was crisp and decisive, it's meaning particularly important to the end game of not just this but perhaps the final placings in a League where the teams head for the final day of action with little to separate them.

Colm McFadden took his tally to seven points with a pair of late scores

and Michael Murphy added a brilliant effort, although a trio from Shane Lennon kept the Louth tally ticking.

And there was time for them to punch another notch in Donegal's cloth, as Declan Byrne got in for another goal chance, but his goal-bound shot was bravely blocked by Mark McHugh.

The day had started off routinely for Donegal, who were without the injured Frank McGlynn, while Martin McElhinney was deemed unfit to start having reported feeling ill overnight.

Needing a win to bolster their promotion hopes after disappointing results against Meath and Down, Donegal got off to almost the perfect start.

McFadden and Declan Walsh posted Donegal into an early lead before Brian White fired over a Louth free, for what was their only score in the opening 32 minutes.

As inspired as Donegal might have been, Louth were every bit as insipid and the visitors had the look of a side that had already given up the ghost in terms of survival for they were an outfit that

Donegal reeled off eleven points in a row as the afternoon seemed to be evolving into a procession.

McFadden, Murphy, Molloy and Toye were among the scorers, while the ever-efficient Anthony Thompson got in on the act and the excellent Rory Kavanagh notched a pair of fine scores to cap an influential display at centerfield.

Just before half-time, the Louth supporters managed to get something cheer when the Wee County bagged a

goal, though it was one brought about not by their own design, but a moment that Donegal will look back on with regret.

Declan Byrne's shot from distance dropped on the edge of the square. Shane Lennon contested the aerial duel with Paul Durcan and when the Donegal 'keeper could only palm the ball down midfielder Paddy Keenan riffled to the net.

By that stage, though, the game had seemed long gone as a contest. Certainly, there were few around Ballyshannon who could have foretold the sequence of events in what was something of a mad-cap second half.

Louth had lost both Dessie Finnegan and Colm Judge to black cards and looked for a time as if they were set to throw in the towel, but they got back into it and ensured there were no early-leavers as they made for a difficult ending for the hosts.

Donegal had began the second half brightly with Toye, Murphy and McFadden clipping them eleven in front, only for events to take a strange turn and leave the fingernails a little shorter.

Although there were positives in the twenty scores posted and the performances of the likes of Kavanagh, Thompson, Toye and McFadden, the manner in which the goals were leaked is a point of concern, one that McGuinness insisted will be top of his list this week.

He said: "We will have to look at the goals and how they originated. They could have been prevented."

Still, his side have destiny in their palms and this result inches them closer to Division 2, but Louth have now fall-

en down the trapdoor and will play in Division 3 next year.

DONEGAL: Paul Durcan; Eamon McGee, Neil McGee, Karl Lacey; Declan Walsh (0-1), Leo McLoone, Anthony Thompson (0-1); Rory Kavanagh (0-2), Christy Toye (0-3); Mark McHugh, Dermot Molloy (0-1), Odhrán MacNiallais; Colm McFadden (0-7, 5f), Michael Murphy (0-4, 3f), Patrick McBrearty. Subs: Ryan McHugh for Lacey (half-time), David Walsh (1-0) for McBrearty (53 mins), Gary McFadden for Kavanagh (68 mins), Luke Keaney for Thompson (70 mins).

LOUTH: Neil Gallagher; Padraig Rath, Dessie Finnegan, John O'Brien; Gary O'Hare, Derek Crilly, Adrian Reid; Paddy Keenan (2-0), Brian Donnelly; Patrick Reilly, Brian White (1-3, 2f, 1'45), Stephen Campbell; Andy McDonnell, Eoin O'Connor, Shane Lennon (0-3, 2f).

Subs: Darren O'Hanlon for Finnegan (4 mins, black card), Colm Judge for Campbell (22 mins), Bevan Duffy (0-1) for O'Connor (30 mins, black card), Declan Byrne for Judge (31 mins), Liam Shevlin for Reilly (49 mins), Darren Clarke for Donnelly (64 mins).

Black carded: Louth - Dessie Finnegan (4 mins), Colm Judge (30 mins).
Louth - Colm Judge (24 mins), Darren O'Hanlon (54 mins).

REFEREE: Martin Higgins (Fermanagh).