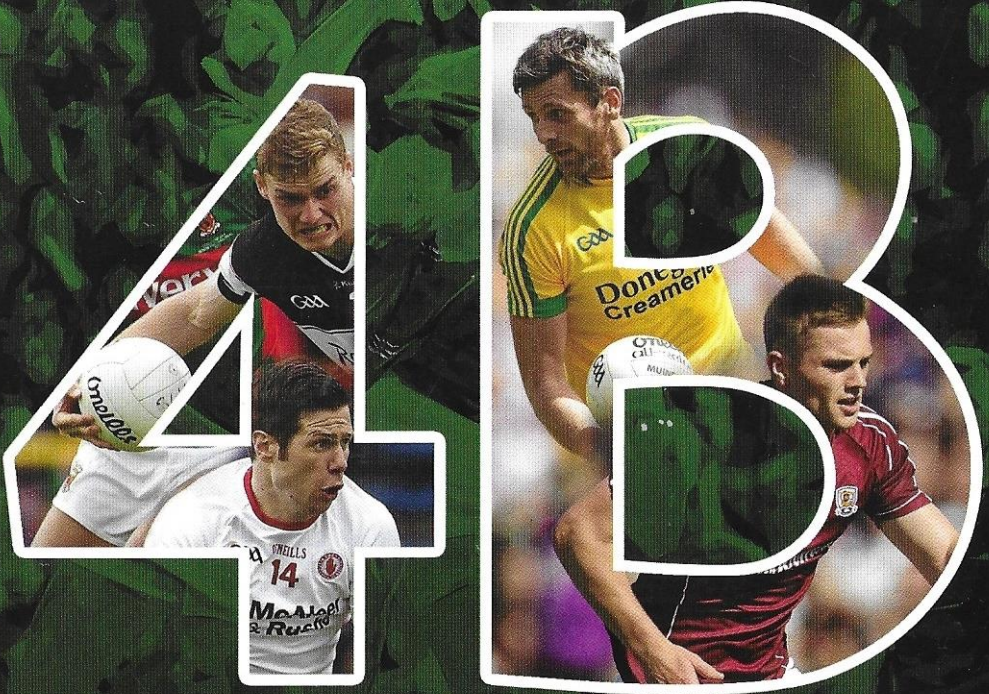


GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

# QUALIFIERS ROUND



CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL / OFFICIAL PROGRAMME €4  
Páirc an Chrócaigh, Lúnasa 1 2015  
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GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP **ROUND 4B**



**SLIGO v TYRONE 4.00 PM**



**An Réiteoir:** Rory Hickey (An Clár)  
**Linesmen:** Anthony Nolan (Cill Mhantáin) (STANDBY REF), Pádraig Hughes (Ard Mhacha)  
**Sideline Official:** Shaun McLaughlin (Dún na nGall)  
**Umpires:** Pat McInerney, Barry Keane, Michael Kelly, Flan Glynn

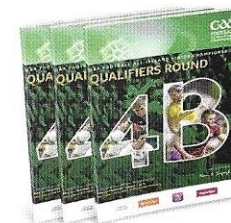


**DONEGAL v GALWAY 6.00 PM**



**An Réiteoir:** Eddie Kinsella (Laois)  
**Linesmen:** Conor Lane (Corcaigh) (STANDBY REF), Derek O'Mahoney (Tiobraid Árann)  
**Sideline Official:** Brendan Cawley (Cill Dara)  
**Umpires:** Pat Connell, Arthur O'Connor, Niall Murphy, Alan O'Halloran

IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW IN EITHER FIXTURE, EXTRA-TIME WILL BE PLAYED



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FLEADH 2015

Sligo Style



## RÉAMHFHOCAL ÓN UACHTARÁN

Tá fíorchaoin fáilte romhaibh uilig go Páirc an Chrócaigh inniu don babhta deireanach d'ár gcluichí cailithe agus Sligeach, Tír Eoghain, Gaillimh agus Dún na nGall go léir ag imirt agus ag déanamh a seacht ndícheall áit sna cluichí ceathrú ceannais a bhaint amach.

I'm delighted to welcome all four counties to Croke Park today for the last series of Qualifier games that will help finalise our two remaining GAA Football Championship quarter-finals.

The arrival of post-provincial championship football at Croke Park can only mean one thing at this time of the year – that we are inching towards the eagerly-awaited latter stages of the campaign.

The prize on offer for all four competing counties is a return ticket back to the same venue a week later for an encounter with one of two waiting provincial champions – either Mayo or Monaghan – who emerged from Connacht and Ulster respectively after their recent final successes.

The immediate challenges facing them today should preoccupy their thinking and with good reason given the quality of players and teams involved.

Sligo will arrive in the capital looking to atone for the massive disappointment that was their Connacht final day out. They will try to do so against a Tyrone team that has generated momentum with qualifier successes over Limerick, Meath and Tipperary in the last few weeks.

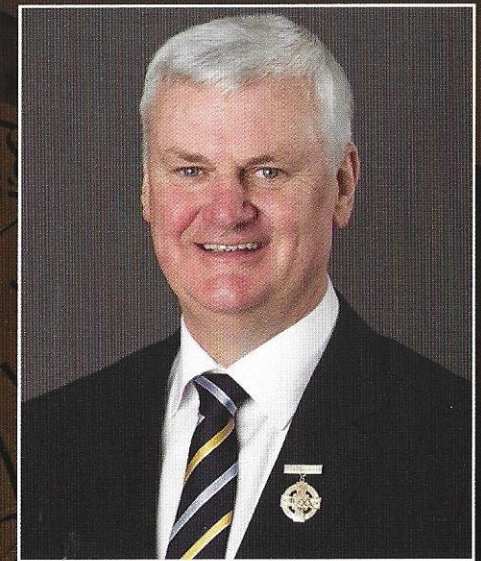
The western seaboard will also be represented in our other encounter as Donegal clash with Galway.

Galway have also availed of the backdoor route claiming two Ulster scalps since their reversal to Mayo. Whether they can add Donegal to that list remains to be seen as they return to action for the first time since their Ulster final defeat.

All told, it will make for an intriguing afternoon of football agus táim ag tnúth go mór leis go pearsanta, agus níos mó chun teacht amárach freisin.

Our 2015 championships have been well supported and they have thrown up their share of surprise results and story lines.

They are in essence the shop window for the GAA, shining a light on the reach and passion that underpin our games in villages, towns and cities across the island and further afield.



Having had the privilege of travelling across Ireland as well as engaging with our international network in recent months, it is difficult not to be impressed by the positivity and energy that fuels our organisation.

Refocussing on today's action, I would especially like to wish our players, their mentors and of course our all-important match officials every success in their exploits and I hope supporters from all four counties in attendance enjoy their visit to Croke Park even allowing for the fact that we can only have two winners.

I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of our valued sponsors, AIB, eircom and SuperValu for their energy and imagination in helping us to market and promote our games.

Aogán Ó Fearghail

Aogán Ó Fearghail  
Uachtarán  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael





# EXCEPTIONS IN THE GENERATION GAME

BY COLM KEYS, IRISH INDEPENDENT

**WHEN JIM McGUINNESS WAS PREPARING HIS DONEGAL SQUAD FOR LAST YEAR'S ALL-IRELAND FINAL AGAINST KERRY HE SPOKE OF HIS FOUR YEARS IN CHARGE IN TERMS OF AN OLYMPIC CYCLE.**

That was the optimum time he felt was required to lay the groundwork and then implement his strategies.

"An Olympic cycle is four years and it's four years for a reason," he recalled.

"You're hoping that all the development phases can be worked through and you can bring an athlete or a team to where they can compete at an elite level."

True to his word McGuinness didn't seek to look to another 'Games.'

He stepped down within weeks of the Kerry defeat, four years done. It was neat and right on cue.

At the time of writing earlier this week, four inter-county football managers have left their positions.

Peter Creedon was three years and four Championship campaigns at the helm, Brian McIver had three years done in Derry, Tomás Ó Flatharta and Jack Sheedy signed off in Laois and Longford respectively after just two years in charge, the 'Olympic' flames extinguished quickly in both cases.

At the end of last year, 14 football managers left their positions.

James McCartan had five years completed with Down, McGuinness and James Horan four each with Donegal and Mayo, Alan Mulholland and Harry Murphy three each with Galway and Wicklow and then a raft that had just one and two seasons in charge.

The average stay for the 14 was just over two seasons in charge.

It may still be 10 years short of Seán Boylan's time in charge of Meath and behind Brian Cody's 17 seasons with Kilkenny's hurlers, but in the context of such turnovers, it makes Mickey Harte's

longevity in Tyrone all the more remarkable.

This weekend he bids to take his team to a 10th All-Ireland quarter-final in 13 years in charge.

Only Kerry with 13, Dublin with 12 and Cork with 11 can better that record of consistency in reaching the last eight across the same period of time. Mayo's fifth successive Connacht title has earned them a 10th quarter-final appearance since Harte assumed the reins in Tyrone.

His future in the position is still unclear. In the past he has always had a year, sometimes two, 'in credit' but no such arrangement has been put in place this time, at least none that has reached the public domain.

Harte turned 60 last October, bringing to three the number of 2015 managers that are still in business past the milestone of a seventh decade. Another manager involved this weekend has also passed the 60 mark in

recent years. Pete McGrath is enjoying quite a second coming as Fermanagh manager, earning promotion to Division II and building on that with a Qualifier run that takes the county into a first-ever Championship appearance against Dublin.

This after a 12-year break from senior inter-county management, though he had spells in charge of Down minors and U21s and the Irish International Rules team in between.

Harte and McGrath bring wisdom and great experience to the sideline but are they the exception now more than the rule? Is inter-county management more and more becoming, if not a young man's game then certainly one for the young to middle-aged bracket?

The last four All-Ireland winning managers – Pat Gilroy (39), McGuinness (39), Jim Gavin (41) and Éamonn Fitzmaurice (38) have had an average age of 39-and-a-half.

Prior to the start of the 2013 Championship the average age of a football manager was 44; within a year that had jumped up by almost three years and has remained around the 47 mark this season.

When Kerry were replacing Jack O'Connor in 2012 the players let it be known to the chairman Pat O'Sullivan what their preference was.

Fitzmaurice spoke their language, same with Rory Gallagher stepping in after Jim McGuinness.

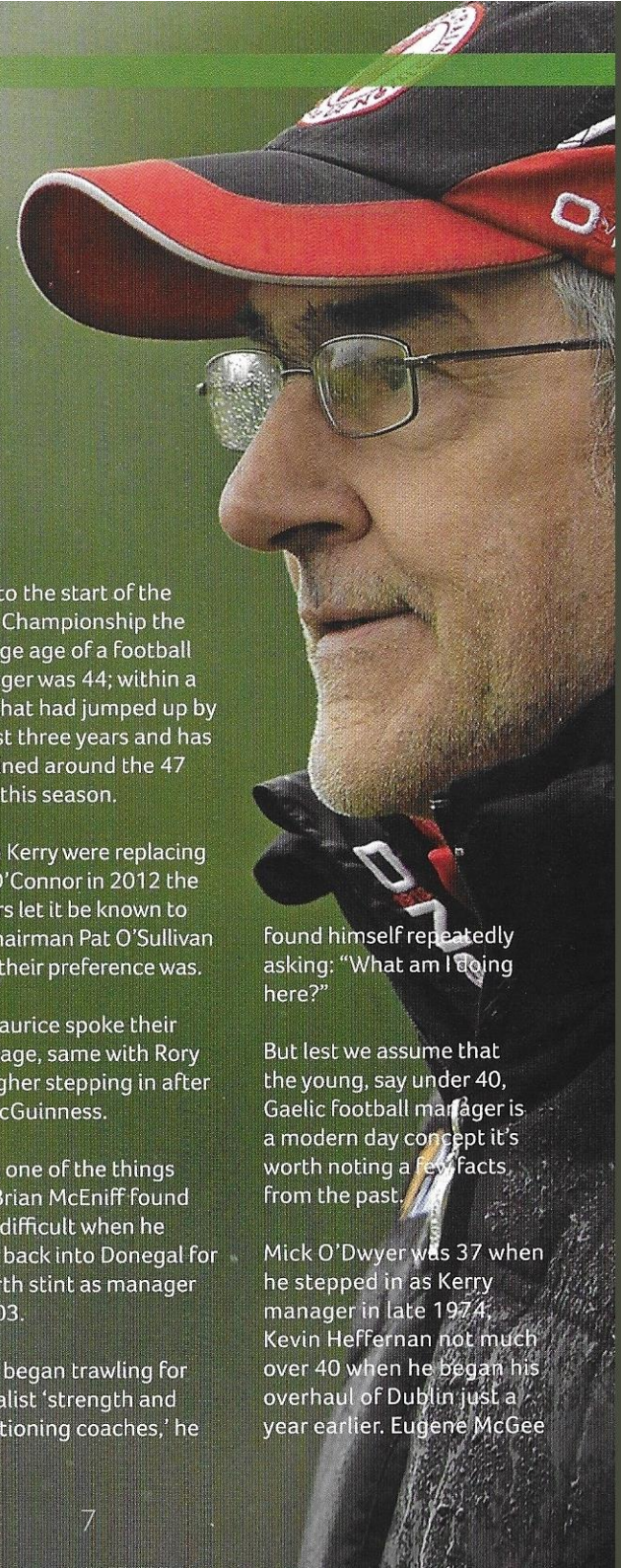
It was one of the things that Brian McEniff found most difficult when he came back into Donegal for a fourth stint as manager in 2003.

As he began trawling for specialist 'strength and conditioning coaches,' he

found himself repeatedly asking: "What am I doing here?"

But lest we assume that the young, say under 40, Gaelic football manager is a modern day concept it's worth noting a few facts, from the past.

Mick O'Dwyer was 37 when he stepped in as Kerry manager in late 1974. Kevin Heffernan not much over 40 when he began his overhaul of Dublin just a year earlier. Eugene McGee





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was 35 when he went to Offaly in 1977.

Twenty-five years ago Clare went even further, however, hiring a manager under 30 years of age which went right against the grain.

But when Noel Walsh went casting his net he had no doubt that the young man he had come across in military circles was the right fit in the right place at the right time.

John Maughan was just 28 when he took charge of Clare. Within two years they were Munster champions for only the second time and the only time from 1935 to the present day that the prize has gone outside Kerry or Cork.

A knee injury had cut short his Mayo playing career at the age of 24 so Maughan had filled the time working with Defence Forces teams and a club in Galway.

But before he walked into a Clare dressing-room where some of the occupants were more senior Maughan had never managed an inter-county team.

Problem?

"I never found it one bit intimidating going into a dressing room where I knew some of the players would be older than me. It wasn't an issue at all for me, nor was it an issue for the players," recalled Maughan many years later.

Not everyone enjoyed Maughan's ease of transition, including his own successor in Mayo some years later, Pat Holmes.

Maughan's departure after his first stint in Mayo paved the way for the then 33-year-old Holmes to step in. Only four weeks earlier he had been a Mayo player.

But on his return last autumn for a second term as Mayo manager, in a joint capacity with Noel Connelly, Holmes would reflect that he was "ill-equipped" at the time for such a role, despite leading Mayo to their only national title in 45 years.

It was the wrong decision for him to accept it and the wrong decision to be offered it in the first place, he acknowledged.

Now? Holmes should feel a lot more equipped with the challenges of sharing half the load of what's involved in inter-county management, having built up extensive experience as an All-Ireland winning U21 manager (again in a joint capacity with Connelly) and manager of All-Ireland club finalists Castlebar Mitchels.

McGee figures that the difference between someone in their 20s and someone in their 50s is a lot greater now than it was 30 or 40 years ago.

Thus, for McGrath and Harte adaption has been a core principle.

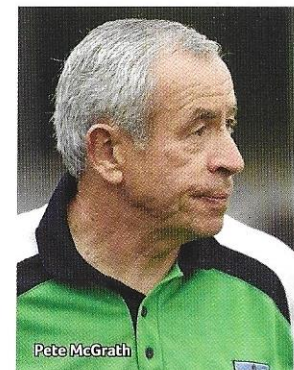
"It's a question of how old is anyone? How old is their mindset?" asked Harte in response to questions about age earlier this year.

"How open are they to new ideas, how much can you draw on what's happened in the past - are you a slave to it or do you have some way of making things different. Life changes all the time and so it does in sport."

For McGrath, physical fitness plays a big part in maintaining a healthy mind.

He is no stranger to 10km runs over Slieve Martin, on the southern edge of the Mourne Mountains not far from his Rostrevor home, and regular trips to the gym. He was 62 in June.

When both men look around at the teams left standing they won't see another manager over 50 from the teams left standing. But they've learned the language and continue to bridge the generation gap.



Pete McGrath





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GAA Club  
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LE MÁRTAN Ó CIARDHA

**I** DIR CHÚIL AGUS CHÚILÍNÍ, TÁ GO DÍREACH 200 SCÓR (17-183) AIMSITHE EARTARHU AG TÍR EOGHAIN, SLIGEACH, GAILLIMH AGUS DÚN NA NGALL SNA CLUICHÍ ATÁ IMEARTHA GO DTÍ SEO ACU I MBLIANA I GCRAOBHACHA PEILE A GCÚIGÍ AGUS SNA BABHTAÍ CÁILITHE.

Ní ionann an méid cluichí atá imeartha acu, (5 ag Gaillimh, 4 ag Dún na nGall agus ag Tír Eoghain, péire ag Sligeach) agus d'fhéadfaí go leor ama a chur amú ag cur figiúirí i gcomparáid lena chéile. Ach is suimiúil mar sin féin agus a bhfuil de chaint á dhéanamh ar pheil 'dhiúltach,' go mba as an imirt a tháinig 66% den 200 scór sin.

Ar cheann an liosta scórála tá fear óg nach raibh le bheith ag imirt beag ná mór nuair a chuir Gaillimh tús le Craobh 2015 i Nua Eabhrac, ach d'fhág tinneas a bhuail cuid de na himreoirí gur thosaigh Damien Comer agus gur scóráil sé 1-4. Fuair sé 1-1 in aghaidh Liatroma, 1-2 in aghaidh Ard Mhacha agus cúilín in aghaidh Mhaigh Eo, rud a fhágann 3-8 ar fad aige, cúilín amháin chun cinn ar Paul Conroy (0-16) agus Gary Sice (1-13).

Tá scóranna aimsithe ag Patrick McBrearty agus ag Michael Murphy i ngach cluiche atá imeartha ag Dún na nGall i gcraobhchomórtas na bliana seo, fágann an cúl

a d'aimsigh sé in aghaidh Ard Mhacha go bhfuil farasbarr cúpla cúilín amháin ag McBrearty (1-11) ar Mhac Uí Mhurchú (0-12).

Tá os cionn leath na scóranna atá faighte ag Tír Eoghain go dtí seo sa craobh aimsithe eatarthu ag Darren McCurry (1-7), ag Seán Kavanagh (0-11) agus ag Conor McAliskey (0-15), scóranna faighte ag an triúr sna ceithre chluiche.

Is é Adrian Marren príomh-scórálaí Shligigh, na trí chúilín a fuair sé in aghaidh Mhaigh Eo i gCluiche Ceannais Chonnacht le cur leis an 1-7 a fuair sé roimhe sin in aghaidh Ros Comáin.

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go díreach	exactly	i gcomparáid	compare
aimsithe	scored	ar cheann an liosta	top of the list
earththu	between them	diúltach	negative



# THE DEBATE CONTINUES

BY DONAL KEENAN

**ONE OF THE PECULIARITIES OF MODERN PUNDITRY, PARTICULARLY OF THE CELEBRITY KIND, IS THE ASSUMPTION THAT EVERY THOUGHT AND OPINION IS ENTIRELY NEW AND THEREFORE UNIQUELY INSIGHTFUL.**

The theme of this summer has been the structure of the football championship and we have heard and read trenchant declarations of the need for change; even to the extent that the provincial championships be abolished despite the statistics that show attendances soaring.

As those championships and the Qualifier series have developed side-by-side during June and July, the now familiar arguments and opinions have been proffered – the need for a Champions League-style Championship or the introduction of an ‘open draw’; all delivered with revelatory zeal.

A perusal of the contents of the GAA’s ever-growing library is actually insightful as it reveals that these

arguments and opinions are certainly not new but have existed through the decades, sometimes blessed with official sanction.

Four and a half decades have now passed since the publication of one of the most influential studies carried out in the history of the GAA. The Report of the Commission on the GAA in 1971 was revolutionary in its time. It created the shape and structure of the Association that allowed it to grow and prosper into the powerful movement that exists today.

Along with the acutely technical aspects of organisation such as constitutions, structure and financial management (they inspired the acceptance of sponsorship), the Commission also examined the major competitions. And their most radical recommendation was the introduction of an open draw All-Ireland Senior Football Championship AND the abandonment of the provincial championships in football.

The Commission – made

up of former players, past and future Presidents of the GAA and some of the country’s top civil servants – presented their argument for change in considerable detail and it is interesting to read that presentation and place it in a modern context.

They argued: “We feel strongly that the Association as a whole would benefit from the introduction of the open draw system. In particular we see the following advantages:

“(a) It would be more equitable as it would be much more likely that the two best teams in the country would meet in the final.

“(b) It would create more interest. There would be new pairings and the draws in themselves would create focal points of comment.

“(c) Even where teams might not be well matched, games would be likely to draw better attendances. A top team playing its fixture in a weak county could help to promote the game in that county.

“(d) It would lead to a rationalisation of fixtures and enable a fixture list to be drawn up with little trouble.

“(e) New pairings in All-Ireland finals would be more likely to result and this would be good for the games.

“(f) It would strengthen still further that the GAA is an All-Ireland association.

“(g) It would reduce tensions which inevitably arise as a result of frequent encounters between the same teams.

“(h) The same number of rounds would have to be played by both finalists.”

It is interesting to note also that the Commission recommended that the All-Ireland U21 championships in both football and hurling – then less than a decade old – be discontinued.

While much of the Commission’s work was lauded and many of their recommendations were taken on board and remain in use today, their proposals for the football championship – to be trialled over a two-year period – did not achieve traction within the corridors of power and were rejected by a Special Congress in December of 1971.

It took another three decades before major changes were again countenanced and the Qualifier system was

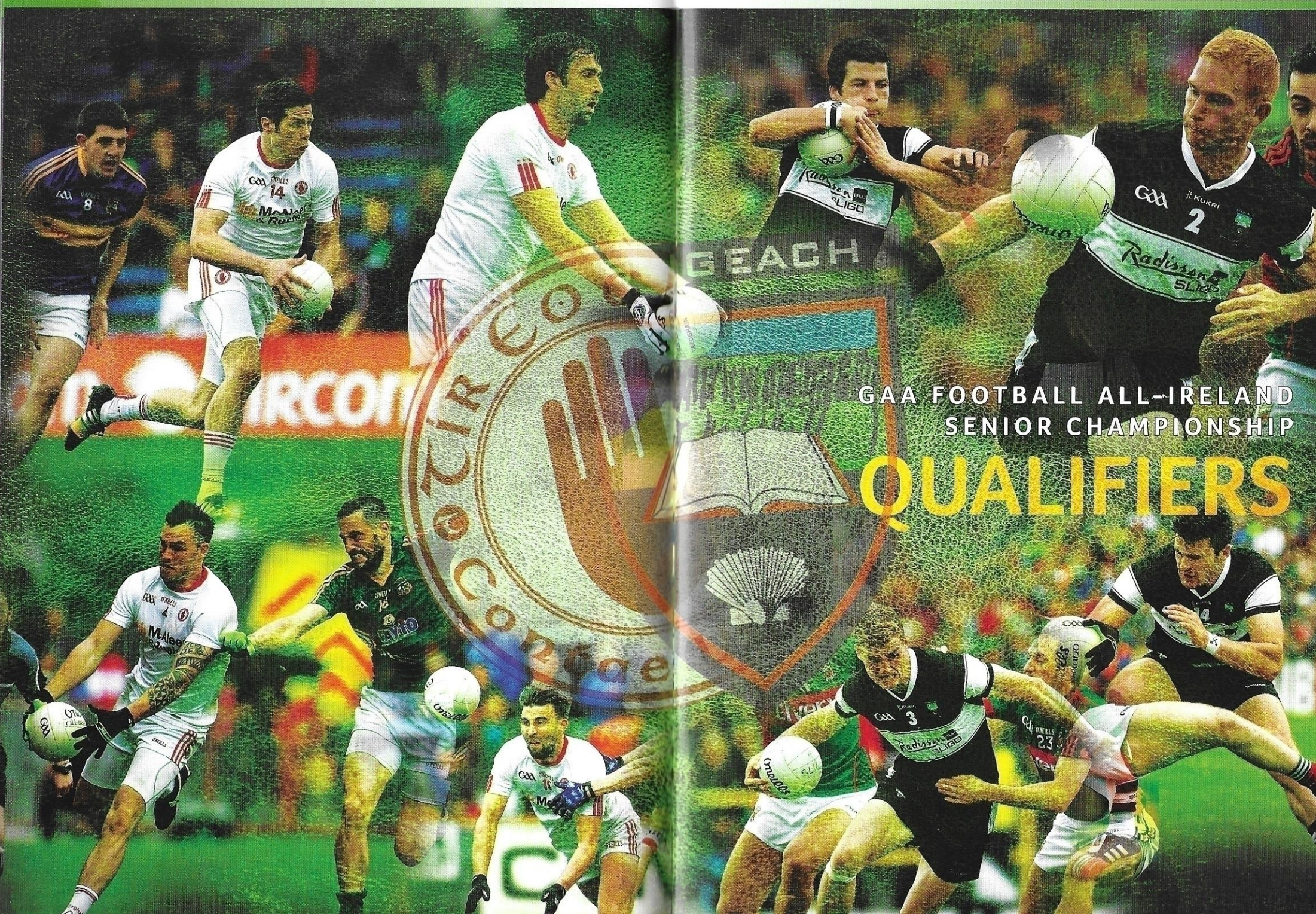
introduced. And now, almost half a century after the Commission members stuck their heads above the parapet, the debate continues and submissions have been invited once again from the GAA membership about further changes to the structure of the championship. The key for any new structure is that it is an improvement on what is currently used. And, despite reservations in some quarters, the introduction of the Qualifier series run alongside the provincial championship, has achieved the targets set back in 2001.

For example, under the old system Tyrone would have been finished with competition on May 17 this year. Instead, their participation has lasted at least until August, giving purpose and reward to their efforts in preparation.

Despite smarting from their defeat in the Connacht final, Sligo have the opportunity today to get their campaign back on track. And the players get an opportunity to play in Croke Park.

It might not have been how the visionaries of 1971 perceived the future but one suspects they would have approved. They were as ambitious and creative then as we are now.





GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND  
SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

# QUALIFIERS



# LAST TIME OUT: outs shoot 2002

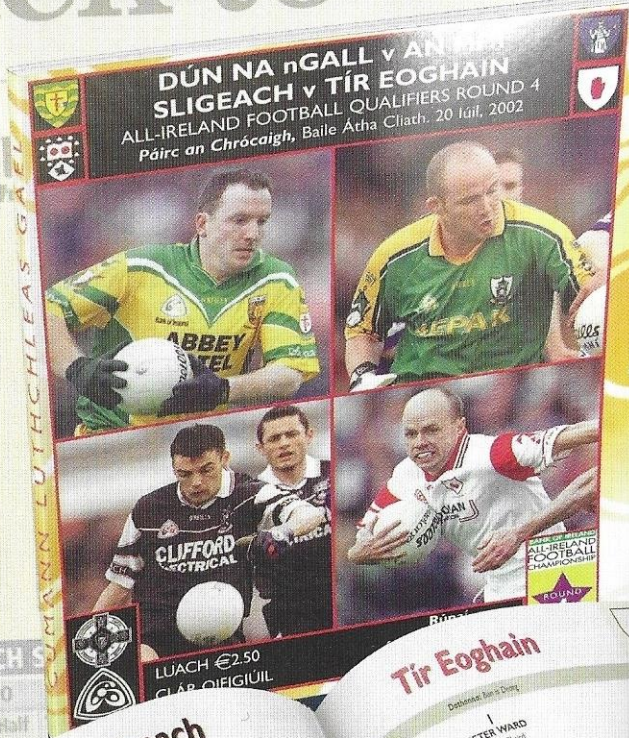
**ON JULY 21, 2002, SLIGO CAUSED A MAJOR UPSET WHEN THEY OUTCLASSED TYRONE AT CROKE PARK IN ROUND 4 OF THE ALL-IRELAND QUALIFIERS.**

Managed by Peter Ford, the Yeats County were enjoying a superb season and they would go on to take Armagh to a replay in the quarter-final, where they lost by 1-16 to 0-17 in Navan, eventually ending their remarkable summer odyssey against a side that would go on to win the All-Ireland title.

The Round 4 win over Tyrone, though, was the shock of the summer, especially when you consider that the Red Hands would go on to win the All-Ireland title the next year, though they were under the management of Mickey Harte by then.

Tyrone, with Brian Doohar, the late Cormac McAnallen, Stephen O'Neill and Peter Canavan in their ranks, powered into a 0-8 to 0-2 lead after just 20 minutes, but inspired by their Messianic captain Eamonn O'Hara, Sligo fought back to trail by just two - 0-7 to 0-9 - at the break.

Midway through the second half, the Yeats County levelled, and then Dessie Sloyan struck the killer blow when he fired a shot to the roof of the Tyrone net.



**DÚN NA nGALL v AN tSÍO**  
**SLIGEACH v TÍR EOGHAIN**  
 ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL QUALIFIERS ROUND 4  
 Páirc an Chrócaigh, Baile Átha Cliath, 20 Iúil, 2002

**Sligeach**  
 Deiseán: Dáib & Níe

**Tír Eoghain**  
 Deiseán: Ben & Dary

1 JAMES CURRAN S O Carra (Gaelinn/Sraoláil)	2 MARK COSGROVE M Mac Oisín (Sionainn)	3 NIGEL CLANCY N Mac Lárdaibh (Ais Faoine)	4 BRENDAN PHILLIPS B Mac Mhuirí (Eascair/Hogha)	5 PADRAIG DOOHAN P O Duibhinn (Aisneach)	6 DAVID DURKIN D O Duibhinn (Tuarascáil)	7 PATRICK NAUGHTON P O Neachtáin (Aisneach)	8 PAUL DURKAN P O Duibhinn (Aisneach)	9 EAMONN O'HARA E O'Éara (Cap) (Tuarascáil)	10 DARA MCGARTY D Mac Oisín (Aisneach)	11 MARK BREHONY M O Breithneáin (Aisneach)	12 KIERAN QUINN K O Cairn (Aisneach/Sraoláil)	13 JOHN MCPARTLAND S Mac Partláin (Aisneach/Sraoláil)	14 GERRY MCGOWAN G Mac Gabhán (Tuarascáil)	15 DESSIE SLOYAN D O Sloyán (Eascair)
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**Sligo**  
 1 PETER WARD  
P Mac Buidé  
(Aisneach)

**Tyrone**  
 1 PETER WARD  
P Mac Buidé  
(Aisneach)

**Sligo**  
 2 CONOR GORMLEY  
C O Gormáil  
(Aisneach/Hogha)

**Tyrone**  
 2 BIAN DOOHAR  
B O Duibhinn  
(Aisneach)

**Sligo**  
 3 CHRIS LAWHN  
C O Lárdaibh  
(Aisneach)

**Tyrone**  
 3 PHILIP JOYDA  
P Mac Mhuirí  
(Aisneach)

**Sligo**  
 4 BIAN DOOHAN  
B O Duibhinn  
(Aisneach)

**Tyrone**  
 4 BIAN DOOHAN  
B O Duibhinn  
(Aisneach)

**Sligo**  
 5 PASCAL MCANALLEN  
P O'Callaghan  
(Aisneach/Hogha)

**Tyrone**  
 5 PASCAL MCANALLEN  
P O'Callaghan  
(Aisneach/Hogha)

**Sligo**  
 6 CORMAC MCGINLEY  
C Mac Gabhán  
(Aisneach/Hogha)

**Tyrone**  
 6 CORMAC MCGINLEY  
C Mac Gabhán  
(Aisneach/Hogha)

**Sligo**  
 7 PHILIP JOYDA  
P Mac Mhuirí  
(Aisneach)

**Tyrone**  
 7 PHILIP JOYDA  
P Mac Mhuirí  
(Aisneach)

**Sligo**  
 8 CORMAC MCANALLEN  
C Mac Gabhán  
(Aisneach/Hogha)

**Tyrone**  
 8 CORMAC MCANALLEN  
C Mac Gabhán  
(Aisneach/Hogha)

**Sligo**  
 9 COLIN HOLMES  
C Mac Mhuirí  
(Aisneach)

**Tyrone**  
 9 COLIN HOLMES  
C Mac Mhuirí  
(Aisneach)

**Sligo**  
 10 BRIAN DOOHAR  
B O Duibhinn  
(Aisneach)

**Tyrone**  
 10 BRIAN DOOHAR  
B O Duibhinn  
(Aisneach)

**Sligo**  
 11 PASCAL MCANALLEN  
P O'Callaghan  
(Aisneach/Hogha)

**Tyrone**  
 11 PASCAL MCANALLEN  
P O'Callaghan  
(Aisneach/Hogha)

**Sligo**  
 12 DAVID DURKIN  
D O Duibhinn  
(Aisneach)

**Tyrone**  
 12 DAVID DURKIN  
D O Duibhinn  
(Aisneach)

**Sligo**  
 13 BRIAN DOOHAN  
B O Duibhinn  
(Aisneach)

**Tyrone**  
 13 BRIAN DOOHAN  
B O Duibhinn  
(Aisneach)

**Sligo**  
 14 GERRY MCGOWAN  
G Mac Gabhán  
(Tuarascáil)

**Tyrone**  
 14 GERRY MCGOWAN  
G Mac Gabhán  
(Tuarascáil)

**Sligo**  
 15 DESSIE SLOYAN  
D O Sloyán  
(Eascair)

**Tyrone**  
 15 DESSIE SLOYAN  
D O Sloyán  
(Eascair)

# O'Hara the inspiration as Sligo storm back to outshoot Tyrone

**SLIGO** 1-14  
**TYRONE** 0-12

THEY looked dead and buried after 20 minutes, but super Sligo stormed back in Lazarus-like fashion to shatter Tyrone's All-Ireland dream in this absorbing and intensely combative All-Ireland fourth round qualifier. In the initial 20 minutes, Tyrone had played virtually all the football at Croke Park yesterday. They were tight at the back, in command at midfield, and their incisive and imaginative play up front — with the Canavan brothers, Peter and Pascal, and Stephen O'Neill exciting — constantly had the alarm bells ringing loudly in the beleaguered Sligo defence.

Not for the first time Peter Canavan underlined what a selfless player he is by often setting up scores for teammates when they were only marginally better placed than himself.

And he demonstrated his class when, though fouled, he kicked the ball, he still tried to place midfielder McAnallen for a sixth point.

In an exception of the expected, muddled and interplay attack was the Ulster centre who flattered the Tyrone defence.

After the League champions' ninth point, Sligo rocked them with four points on the trot, O'Hara fittingly leading the surge, followed by Mark Brehony, McGarty and Quinn.

In fact, Tyrone were not pulled back to parity rather than trailing 0-7 to 0-9 at half-time, as Quinn could well have found the net by setting up Peter Canavan.

But with only goalkeeper Peter Ward to beat, he blazed the ball over the bar. On the restart, Sligo, who began with six personnel changes from the side chastened by Galway in the Connacht final, moved into an even higher gear.

The surprise was to the Canavans and O'Neill were almost entirely cut off, due to the increasing influences of Durkan and O'Hara over McAnallen and Colin Holmes, and of the Sligo half-back line of Noel McGuire, Nigel Clancy and David Durkan over Declan McCrossan, Pascal Canavan and Brian Doohar.

But in addition to that very significant development, the Sligo defence and half around with similar fluidity and inventiveness to Tyrone in the first half with the result that the Ulster side were often left chasing shadows.

It was a similar story in the battle between the Sligo attack and the Tyrone defence. In the first 20 minutes, the Sligo attacking unit had shown little flair and penetration, but in the second half they played with tremendous understanding, energy and panache.

The first seven minutes of

the second half saw Tyrone outscore their opponents by three points to one to move 0-12 to 0-9 in front. But from that point on, the Red Hands' fans were almost totally alienated, such as the grip that Sligo exerted on the contest.

Appropriately, it was the inspirational O'Hara who initiated the Sligo recovery, pointing from over 45 metres nine minutes into the second half. Twelve minutes later the Connacht men levelled at 0-12 each.

But they should not have had to wait that long, as Gerry McGowan, after being set up by a measured 60-metre delivery from John 11 metres, with only goalkeeper Ward to beat, in the eight minutes left on delivered the knock-out ball to the roof of the net, after McGowan's point attempt had struck the left post.

Almost immediately, Sligo should have found the field, but at least they can take some consolation at contributing to a riveting contest which provided tremendous value for money.

Indeed, the only downside was once again the standard of refereeing, with many of John Bannon's decisions being extremely baffling. Frequently players who

**Bank of Ireland Football Championship**

**MAN OF THE MATCH**  
**EAMONN O'HARA**  
 (Sligo)  
 A FINE performance by the Sligo skipper in the engine room sector. Even when Tyrone dominated the first 20 minutes, O'Hara made a massive contribution. His blistering pace, excellent ball-carrying ability, and willingness to run at the Tyrone defence were also impressive.

**BIG MATCH STATISTICS**

	SLIGO			TYRONE		
	1st Half	2nd Half	Total	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
Goals	0	1	1	0	0	0
Points	7	7	14	9	3	12
Wides	4	1	5	3	3	6
Freees for	9	5	14	5	7	12
Freees Against	5	7	12	9	5	14
45s	0	0	0	0	0	0
Line-balls	1	5	6	1	0	1
Yellow Cards	2	1	3	0	0	0
Red Cards	0	0	0	0	0	0

**MOVE OF THE MATCH**  
 THE imaginative build up to Tyrone's fifth point, Peter Canavan showed that he is also an excellent creator of scores by setting up Declan McCrossan. And the half-forward then set up Stephen O'Neill for a score.

**MISS OF THE MATCH**  
 SLIGO squandered a number of goal chances, but the most glaring mis was Gerry McGowan's failure to find the net early in the second half. A measured delivery from John McPartland was taken superbly by McGowan, but he shot wide.



Tyrone's Brian Doohar leaves Sligo's Neil Carew stumbling behind during yesterday's All-Ireland Football Qualifier at Croke Park. Picture: Kenneth O'Halloran

total in the remaining 31 minutes. Of course, the warning signs were evident for Tyrone before the interval break.

After the League champions' ninth point, Sligo rocked them with four points on the trot, O'Hara fittingly leading the surge, followed by Mark Brehony, McGarty and Quinn.

In fact, Tyrone were not pulled back to parity rather than trailing 0-7 to 0-9 at half-time, as Quinn could well have found the net by setting up Peter Canavan.

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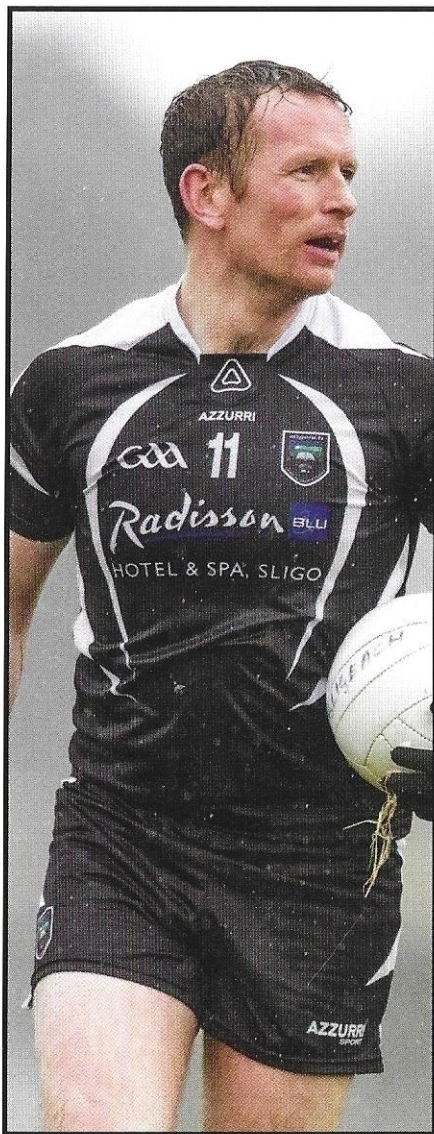
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# QUALIFIER RECORD: SLIGO



2001	Sligo	2-14	2-7	Carlow
	Sligo	0-16	0-15	Kildare
	Dublin	3-17	0-12	Sligo
2002	Sligo	1-14	0-12	Tyrone
2003	Donegal	0-16	0-11	Sligo
2004	Clare	1-15	1-7	Sligo
2005	Sligo	0-18	0-16	Longford
	Sligo	1-11	1-10	Kildare
	Sligo	1-13	0-11	Clare
	Cork	3-13	0-11	Sligo
2006	Sligo	1-7	0-4	Down
	Sligo	1-7	0-9	Leitrim
	Westmeath	1-12	0-14	Sligo
2009	Sligo	1-13	1-12	Tipperary
	Kerry	0-14	1-10	Sligo
2010	Down	3-20	0-10	Sligo
2011	Wicklow	1-18	0-16	Sligo
2012	Kildare	0-13	0-4	Sligo
2013	Derry	0-15	0-8	Sligo
2014	Sligo	0-12	0-10	Wicklow
	Sligo	0-12	0-10	Limerick
	Cork	0-21	1-11	Sligo

PLAYED 22, WON 11, LOST 11

#### TOP MARKSMEN

Mark Breheny	1-47
Adrian Marren	0-37
Dessie Sloyan	2-29
Seán Davey	2-22
Stephen Coen	2-12



## SLIGEACH

**BACK (L-R):** Gary Cadden, Fintan Ruddy, Ross Donovan, Cathal Henry, Daniel Maye, Darragh McConnon, Cian Breheny, Pádraic Clarke, Eoin McDonagh, Eoin McHugh, Niall Murphy, Pat Hughes, Brendan Egan, Kevin McDonnell, Cristóir Davey, Kenneth Sweeney.  
**FRONT (L-R):** Eoin Flanagan, Stephen Gilmartin, Cathal Surlis, Brian Curran, Brian Egan, David Kelly, Adrian Marren, Keelan Cawley, Mark Breheny (Capt.), Neil Ewing, Noel Gaughan, Luke Bree, James Hynes.



## SLIGEACH



CÚIL	CÚILÍNÍ	45M	SAOR CICEANNA	
				1st HALF
				2nd HALF
				TOTAL

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Niall Carew (Bainisteoir), Ronan Sweeney, Keith Carty

**1** Aodhán Ó Dubhánaigh  
**AIDAN DEVANEY**  
Calraigh Naomh Iósef

**2** Rossa Ó Donnabháin  
**ROSS DONAVAN**  
Cláirsigh an Oirthear

**3** Caoimhín Ó Dónaill  
**KEVIN McDONNELL**  
Caisleán Uí Conchubhair

**4** Domhnail Ó Miadhaigh  
**DANIEL MAYE**  
Tobar an Choire

**5** Caoláin Mac Amhlaigh  
**KEELAN CAWLEY**  
Cúil Irra-Leathros

**6** Brendáin Mac Aogáin  
**BRENDAN EGAN**  
Naomh Uinsean

**7** Eoghan Ó Flannagáin  
**EOIN FLANAGAN**  
Naomh Eoin

**8** Cian Mac an Breithiúnaigh  
**CIAN BREHENY**  
Naomh Muire

**9** Niall Ó Murchú  
**NIALL MURPHY**  
Cúil Irra-Leathros

**10** Brian Ó Corráin  
**BRIAN CURRAN**  
Tobar an Choire

**11** Marcus Mac an Breithiúnaigh (C.)  
**MARK BREHENY**  
Naomh Muire

**12** Néill Mac Eoghain  
**NEIL EWING**  
Droim Cliabh-Ros Ceite

**13** Daithí Ó Ceallaigh  
**DAVID KELLY**  
Tobar an Choire

**14** Pádraig Ó hAodha  
**PAT HUGHES**  
Gaobach

**15** Adrian Ó Mearmáin  
**ADRIAN MARREN**  
Curraigh

## FIR IONAIÐ

**16.** Fiontáin Ó Rodaigh  
**FINTAN RUDDY**  
Naomh Muire

**17.** Eoghan Mac Aodha  
**EOIN McHUGH**  
Naomh Sheamais

**18.** Nollaig Ó Gacháin  
**NOEL GAUGHAN**  
Tuarloistreain

**19.** Lucas Ó Bré  
**LUKE BREE**  
Cuil Irra-Leathros

**20.** Críostóir Ó Daibhí  
**CRÍOSTÓIR DAVEY**  
Cúil Áine-Mullach na Breine

**21.** Pádraig Ó Cleirigh  
**PÁDRAIG CLARKE**  
Naomh Pádraig

**22.** Brian Mac Aogáin  
**BRIAN EGAN**  
Tuarloistreain

**23.** Stiofáin Mac Giolla Mhairtín  
**STEPHEN GILMARTIN**  
Tobar an Choire

**24.** Cathal Mac Éinrí  
**CATHAL HENRY**  
Tuarloistreain

**25.** Séamas Ó hEidhín  
**JAMES HYNES**  
Naomh Fearnain

**26.** Cionnaith Mac Suibhne  
**KENNETH SWEENEY**  
Gaobach

	CÚIL	CÚILÍNÍ	45M	SAOR CICEANNA
1st HALF				
2nd HALF				
TOTAL				

ROGHNÓIR: Micheál Ó hAirt (Bainisteoir)

**1** Niall Ó Muireagáin  
**NIALL MORGAN**  
Éadan na dTorc

**2** Aodhán Mac Ruairí  
**AIDAN McCRORY**  
Aireagal Chiaráin

**3** Ronan Mac Con Midhe  
**RONAN McNAMEE**  
Achadh Uí Aráin

**4** Ruairí Ó Braonáin  
**RORY BRENNAN**  
Trí Leac

**5** Ronán Mac an Aba  
**RONAN McNABB**  
An Droim Mór

**6** Seosamh Mac Mathúna  
**JOE McMAHON**  
An Omaigh

**7** Peadar Ó hAirt  
**PETER HARTE**  
Aireagal Chiaráin

**8** Colm Caomhánach  
**COLM CAVANAGH**  
An Mhaigh

**9** Maitiú Ó Donnaille  
**MATTIE DONNELLY**  
Trí Leac

**10** Tiarnán Mac Cana  
**TIERNAN McCANN**  
Coill an Chlochair

**11** Marcas Ó Broilcháin  
**MARK BRADLEY**  
Coill an Chlochair

**12** Conchúr Mac Maoilrí  
**CONOR MEYLER**  
An Omaigh

**13** Darren Mac Camhraí  
**DARREN McCURRY**  
Éadan na dTorc

**14** Seán Caomhánach (C.)  
**SEÁN CAVANAGH**  
An Mhaigh

**15** Conchúr Mac Conuisce  
**CONNOR McALISKEY**  
Cluain Eo

## FIR IONAIÐ

**16.** Micheál Ó Néill  
**MICHAEL O'NEILL**  
Cluain Eo

**17.** Conchúr Ó Chleirigh  
**CONOR CLARKE**  
An Omaigh

**18.** Risteard Ó Donnaille  
**RICHIE DONNELLY**  
Trí Leac

**19.** Peadar Ó hAodha  
**PETER HUGHES**  
Eisceach

**20.** Dónal Mac Giolla Bhríde  
**DANNY McBRIDE**  
An Srath Bán

**21.** Conál Mac Cana  
**CONALL McCANN**  
Coill an Chochair

**22.** Saerbhreach Mac Mathúna  
**JUSTIN McMAHON**  
An Omaigh

**23.** Pádraig Mac an Ultaigh  
**PÁDRAIG McNULTY**  
Dún Geanainn

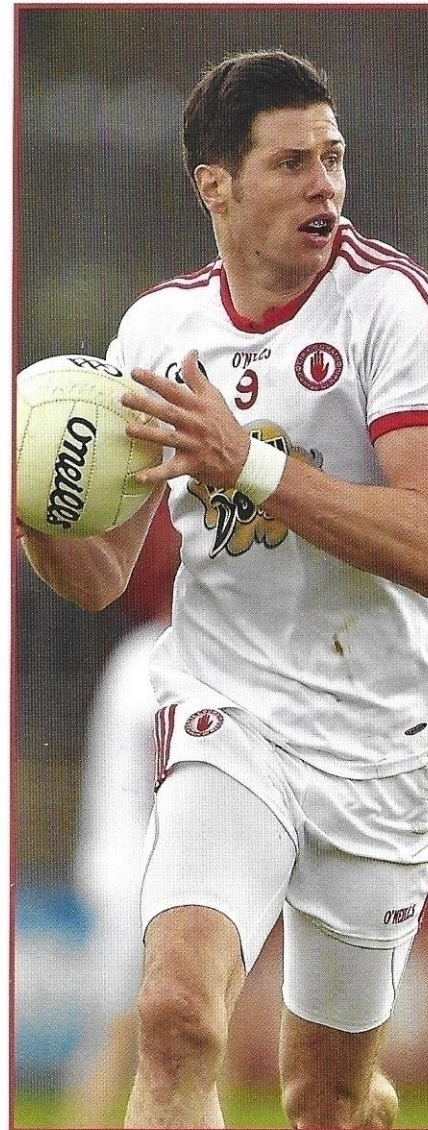
**24.** Cathal Mac Seáin  
**CATHAL McSHANE**  
E. R. Uí Néill

**25.** Ronán Ó Néill  
**RONAN O'NEILL**  
An Omaigh

**26.** Barra Ó Tighearnaigh  
**BARRY TIERNEY**  
An Omaigh



# QUALIFIER RECORD: TYRONE



2002	Tyrone	1-9	0-10	Wexford
	Tyrone	1-22	0-7	Leitrim
	Tyrone	1-17	1-12	Derry
	Sligo	1-14	0-12	Tyrone
2004	Tyrone	1-15	0-10	Down
	Tyrone	1-16	0-11	Galway
	Tyrone	3-15	2-4	Laois
2005	Tyrone	2-14	1-7	Monaghan
2006	Tyrone	2-16	2-16	Louth
replay	Tyrone	1-12	1-7	Louth
	Laois	0-9	0-6	Tyrone
2008	Tyrone	1-18	1-10	Louth
	Tyrone	0-14	1-7	Westmeath
	Tyrone	0-13	1-9	Mayo
2011	Tyrone	1-17	0-15	Longford
	Tyrone	2-13	0-13	Armagh
	Tyrone	3-19	1-14	Roscommon
2012	Tyrone	1-16	0-8	Roscommon
	Kerry	1-16	1-6	Tyrone
2013	Tyrone	1-27	0-8	Offaly
	Tyrone	0-12	1-7	Roscommon
	Tyrone	1-11	0-12	Kildare
	Tyrone	0-17	2-9	Meath
2014	Tyrone	2-21	0-10	Louth
	Armagh	0-13	0-10	Tyrone
2015	Tyrone	1-14	0-8	Limerick
	Tyrone	1-10	0-11	Meath
	Tyrone	0-19	0-7	Tipperary

PLAYED 28, WON 23, DREW 1, LOST 4

#### TOP MARKSMEN

Seán Cavanagh	3-62
Stephen O'Neill	3-35
Darren McCurry	0-42
Owen Mulligan	3-27
Peter Harte	3-19



## TÍR EOGHAIN

**BACK (L-R):** Dan McBride, Barry Tierney, Rory Brennan, Richard Donnelly, Cathal McCarron, Aidan McCrory, Seán Cavanagh, Matthew Donnelly, Seán Fox, Colin Cavanagh, Conal McCann, Connor McAliskey, Joe McMahon, Ronan McNamee, Cathal McShane.  
**FRONT (L-R):** Conor Clarke, Ronan O'Neill, Conor Meyler, Tiernan McCann, Darren McCurry, Peter Harte, Mark Bradley, Ronan McNabb, Peter Hughes, Pádraig McNulty, Niall Morgan.





# RECALLING A DONEGAL-GALWAY CLASSIC

BY KEITH DUGGAN, THE IRISH TIMES

**I**F KEVIN WALSH RECALLS THE MOMENT AT ALL, HE MAY FIND THE FACT THAT IT IS 12 YEARS OLD THE MOST SHOCKING PART.

It was on the August Bank Holiday of 2003 that Donegal and Galway last met in Croke Park for an All-Ireland quarter final that few would have predicted at the outset of that year's championship. As it turned out, Galway were on the descending curve of a fabulous five-year arc while Donegal were writing one of their episodic tales of the unexpected. Thanks to Walsh, they couldn't shake one another off.

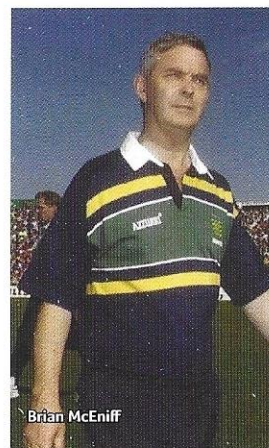
The details of the drawn match have almost been forgotten: Donegal went 0-7 to 0-2 ahead before gifting the Galway men with a primary school goal which left Brian McEniff, the Donegal manager, reflective afterwards. "We spoke about not doing those things but it's in the Donegal psyche to play pure football all the time," he said. Both teams entertained the notion of winning it in the second

half but with time running out and Galway trailing 0-14 to 1-10, Walsh almost seemed to lose patience as he demanded the ball at midfield and sent a huge, booming point over the bar. It was the score that defined the match and the replay was announced for Castlebar for some six days later, a Saturday evening throw-in. Both counties considered the location as something of a slight and a demotion.

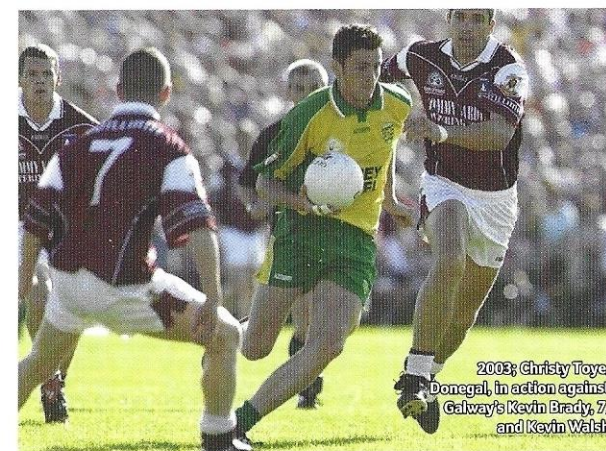
As it turned out, that Castlebar replay marked the last sideline meeting of two managers who shaped Gaelic football in Connacht and Ulster: John O'Mahony and McEniff. O'Mahony's Galway had won the All-Ireland titles of 1998 and 2001 playing a brand of football that seemed like a salute to their 1960s predecessors and there are still plenty in the county who will argue that they would have won the 2000 final against Kerry, too, had Walsh not been forced off injured in the replay. It is impossible to underestimate the big Oughterard man's presence on that team. By 2003, the

team was still considered a contender but there was a fear that it had lost some essential edge or the ability to close games out. The failure to take care of Donegal in Croke Park was interpreted as further proof and led to a testy week of analysis.

For Donegal's presence in the last eight was contrary to all reasonable evidence. McEniff had returned to management after a ten-year absence after heading up a committee to find a successor to Mickey Moran, only to discover that nobody wanted the job. So he stepped into the void. In that year's league, McEniff was taken aback by the physical strength of opposition teams as Donegal were relegated from Division I. It got worse: he took a team to Brewster Park which was knocked out of the championship by Fermanagh by 0-10 to 0-6, a defeat which prompted a phone call to his cousin and godfather of Tyrone football, Art McRory. Whatever they spoke about worked. Donegal went to qualifier rehab: soothing wins over Longford, Sligo



Brian McEniff



2003; Christy Toye, Donegal, in action against Galway's Kevin Brady, 7, and Kevin Walsh

and Tipperary led to an eye-opening 3-15 to 2-10 dispatch of Down at Clones. Against all odds, McEniff had brought another Donegal team back to Croke Park.

That evening, August 10th, MacHale Park was crowded and sun baked. Donegal supporters were enjoying the bonus of a long summer. Galway people wondered if there was another All-Ireland in their team. There wasn't. Donegal led by 0-13 to 0-6 with 20 minutes to go and those in attendance got to witness what was in essence the last stand of a great team. Galway came roaring back into it as time ebbed away, outscoring Donegal 0-5 to 0-1 and would have manufactured a goal to claim another draw but for a priceless goal line block

by Four Masters defender Shane Carr from Matthew Clancy's whipped effort. Just like that, McEniff had worked another miracle. Afterwards, Walsh spoke about a week during which the team had been openly criticised.

"I felt it was over the top. But I think this Galway team has been given a lot of great years since 1998 and we are still not finished. The back-door system has helped Donegal and I wish them the best of luck. It will take a good team to beat them. But let the experts criticise both teams all they like. Maybe it is time they copped on to themselves."

In late August, Donegal met Armagh in the All-Ireland semi-final, a team as stern and fastidious

as they were cavalier and expressive. Donegal suffered an undeserved sending-off and lost by 2-10 to 1-9.

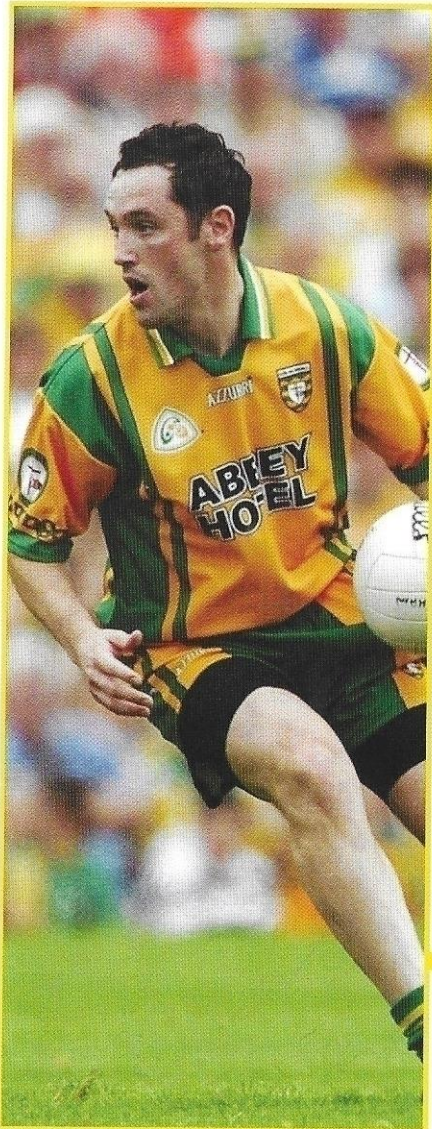
It was Brian McEniff's last day as manager of Donegal. The following summer, John O'Mahony stepped down as manager of Galway.

Both men may well be in the crowd today for this evening's encounter, the first Croke Park meeting of the counties since Walsh's thunderous score. The tables have turned. Galway supporters are eager to see just how far Walsh can bring his young team. The Donegal crowd arrives hopeful that their team can extend what has been a run of unforgettable, brilliant summers.

They may find themselves back in Castlebar.



# QUALIFIER RECORD: DONEGAL

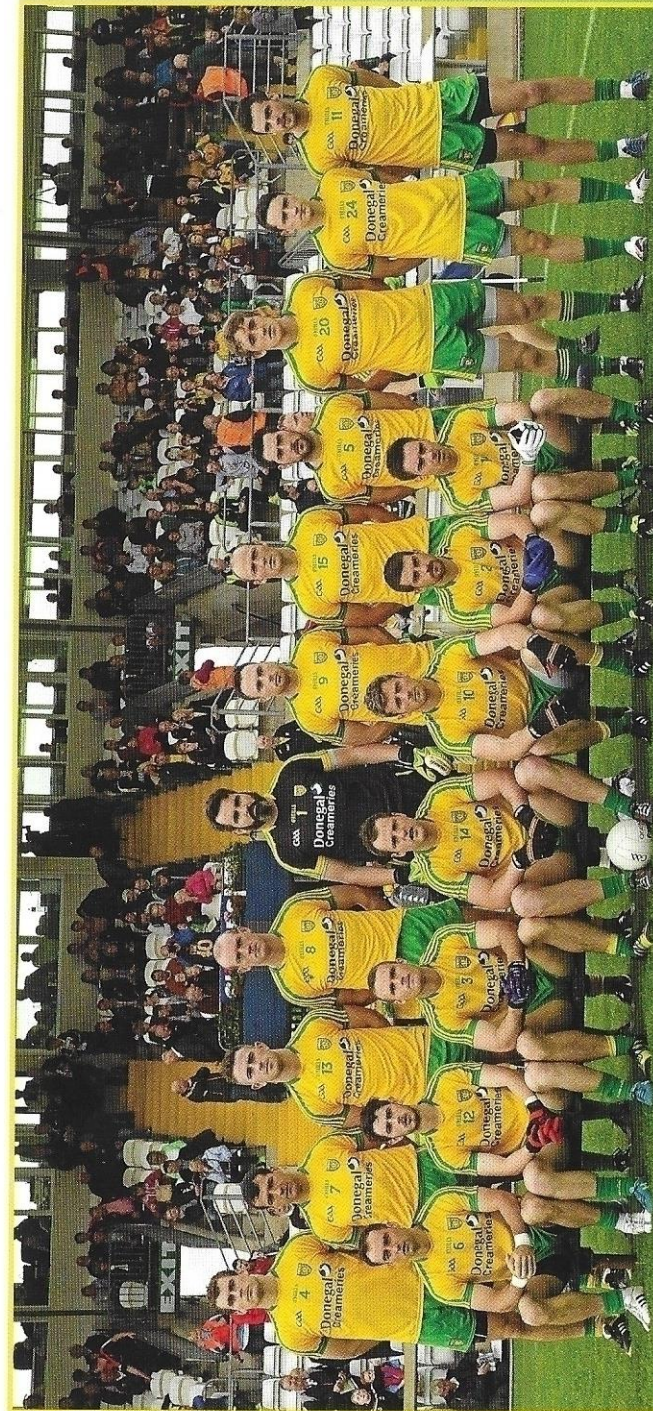


2001	Donegal	0-15	1-6	Fermanagh
	Kildare	1-17	1-16	Donegal
2002	Donegal	1-13	0-14	Meath
2003	Donegal	1-17	1-11	Longford
	Donegal	0-16	0-11	Sligo
	Donegal	2-19	0-15	Tipperary
	Donegal	3-15	2-10	Down
2004	Fermanagh	1-10	0-12	Donegal
2005	Donegal	0-16	0-12	Wicklow
	Cavan	1-11	1-10	Donegal
2006	Donegal	0-11	0-8	Fermanagh
2007	Donegal	1-16	1-14	Leitrim
	Donegal	1-13	1-8	Westmeath
	Monaghan	2-12	1-7	Donegal
2008	Donegal	3-11	1-9	Roscommon
	Monaghan	0-16	0-15	Donegal
2009	Donegal	2-13	1-6	Carlow
	Donegal	0-13	1-7	Clare
	Donegal	2-13	0-18	Derry
	Donegal	0-14	0-13	Galway
2010	Armagh	2-14	0-11	Donegal
2013	Donegal	0-14	0-8	Laois

PLAYED 22, WON 16, LOST 6

#### TOP MARKSMEN

Brendan Devenney	4-43
Michael Murphy	3-42
Colm McFadden	1-43
Adrian Sweeney	0-42
Brian Roper	1-17
Christy Toye	2-14



## DUN NA NGALL

BACK (L-R): Eamon McGee, Frank McGlynn, Frank McGlynn, Paddy McGrath, Neil Gallagher, Paul Durcan, Martin McElhinney, Colm McFadden, Mark McHugh, Hugh McFadden, Eoin McHugh, Eoin McHugh, Odhrán Mac Niallais.

FRONT (L-R): Karl Lacey, Ryan McHugh, Neil McGee, Michael Murphy, Christy Toye, Paddy McGrath, Martin O'Reilly.



## DÚN NA nGALL



CÚIL	CÚILÍNÍ	45M	SAOR CICEANNA	
				1st HALF
				2nd HALF
				TOTAL

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Rory Gallagher (Bainisteoir), Jack Cooney, Gary McDaid

**1** Pól Ó Dúrcáin  
**PAUL DURKIN**  
Baile Baodáin, Naomh Éanna

**2** Pádraig Mac Craith  
**PADDY McGRATH**  
Ard an Ratha

**3** Niall Mac Aoidh  
**NEIL McGEE**  
Gaoth Dobhair

**4** Éamonn Mac Aoidh  
**EAMONN McGEE**  
Gaoth Dobhair

**5** Riain Mac Aodha  
**RYAN McHUGH**  
Cill Chartha

**6** Antoin Mac Tomás  
**ANTHONY THOMPSON**  
Naomh Conaill

**7** Proinsias Mac Fhloinn  
**FRANK McGLYNN**  
Gleann Fhinne

**8** Niall Ó Gallchóir  
**NEIL GALLAGHER**  
Gleann Súilí

**9** Mairtín Mac Giolla Chainnigh  
**MARTIN McELHINNEY**  
Naomh Mícheál

**10** Criostóir Ó Tuathaigh  
**CHRISTY TOYE**  
Naomh Mícheál

**11** Odhrán Mac Niallais  
**ODHRÁN MAC NIALLAIS**  
Gaoth Dobhair

**12** Marc Mac Aodha  
**MARK McHUGH**  
Cill Chartha

**13** Pádraig Mac Breartaigh  
**PATRICK McBREARTY**  
Cill Chartha

**14** Micheál Ó Murchú (C.)  
**MICHAEL MURPHY**  
Gleann Súilí

**15** Colm Antoin Mac Pháidín  
**COLM A. McFADDEN**  
Naomh Mícheál

## FIR IONAIÐ

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 16. Marc A Mac Fhionnghaile<br><b>MARK A. McGINLEY</b><br>Naomh Mícheál | 18. Déaglán Breathnach<br><b>DECLAN WALSH</b><br>Málainn                  | 21. Aodh Mac Pháidín<br><b>HUGH McFADDEN</b><br>Na Cealla Beaga | 24. Eoin Bán Ó Gallchóir<br><b>EOIN BÁN GALLAGHER</b><br>Na Cealla Beaga |
| 17. Éamonn Ó Dochartaigh<br><b>ÉAMONN DOHERTY</b><br>Naomh Adhamhnáin   | 19. Mairtín Ó Raghallaigh<br><b>MARTIN O' REILLY</b><br>Seán Mac Cumhaill | 22. Leo Mac Giolla Uain<br><b>LEO McLOONE</b><br>Naomh Conaill  | 25. Ciarán Mac Fhionnghaile<br><b>CIARÁN McGINLEY</b><br>Cill Chartha    |
|   | 20. Daithí Breathnach<br><b>DAVID WALSH</b><br>Naomh Bríd                 | 23. Gary Mac Pháidín<br><b>GARY McFADDEN</b><br>Gleann Súilí    | 26. Dónall Mac Lochlainn<br><b>DANIEL McLAUGHLIN</b><br>Naomh Mícheál    |

	CÚIL	CÚILÍNÍ	45M	SAOR CICEANNA	
1st HALF					
2nd HALF					
TOTAL					

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Kevin Walsh (Bainisteoir), Brian Silke, Séan Conlon

**1** Brian Ó Donnacha  
**BRIAN O'DONOGHUE**  
Baile Clár na Gaillimhe

**2** Séan Ó Duain  
**JOHNNY DUANE**  
Naomh Séamus

**3** Finian Ó hAinle  
**FINIAN HANLEY**  
Bothar na Trá/Cnoc na Cathrach

**4** Cathal Mac Suibhne  
**CATHAL SWEENEY**  
Cill Ainnin

**5** Liam Ó Síoda  
**LIAM SILKE**  
Corafinne

**6** Garraí Ó Domhnaill  
**GARY O'DONNELL**  
Réalta Thuama

**7** Gearóid Breadseach  
**GARETH BRADSHAW**  
Maigh Cuilinn

**8** Fiontán Ó Curraoin  
**FIONTÁN Ó CURRAOIN**  
Mícheál Breathnach

**9** Tomás Ó Fhloinn  
**THOMAS FLYNN**  
Baile Átha an Rí

**10** Garraí Ó Saigheas  
**GARY SICE**  
Corafinne

**11** Pól Ó Connaire (C.)  
**PAUL CONROY**  
Naomh Séamus

**12** Mícheál Mac Giolla Fiondáin  
**MICHAEL LUNDY**  
Corafinne

**13** Adrian Mac an Bhearlaigh  
**ADRIAN VARLEY**  
Seamróige Cortúin

**14** Damien Ó Ciaragáin  
**DAMIEN COMER**  
Anach Cuain

**15** Donal Ó Coimín  
**DANNY CUMMINS**  
Baile Clár na Gaillimhe

## FIR IONAIÐ

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16. Manus Breathnach<br><b>MANUS BREATHNACH</b><br>An Spideal | 18. Eadbhard de hÓra<br><b>EDDIE HOARE</b><br>Naomh Mícheál         | 21. Peadar Óg Ó Gríofa<br><b>PEADAR ÓG Ó GRÍOFA</b><br>Mícheál Breathnach | 24. Éanna Ó Tiarnaigh<br><b>ENDA TIERNEY</b><br>Uachtar Ard                 |
| 17. Séan Denvir<br><b>SEÁN DENVIR</b><br>Mícheál Breathnach   | 19. Deaglán Ó Cadhain<br><b>DECLAN KYNE</b><br>An Fhairche          | 22. Pádraig Mac Suibhne<br><b>PATRICK SWEENEY</b><br>Cill Áinnin          | 25. Pól Mac an Bhearlaigh<br><b>PAUL VARLEY</b><br>Seamróige Cortúin        |
|   | 20. Micheál Ó Mairtín<br><b>MICHAEL MARTIN</b><br>Baile an Mhuilinn | 23. Ronán Mac Eachaidh<br><b>RONAN STEEDE</b><br>Corafinne                | 26. Seadhna Breathnach<br><b>SHANE WALSH</b><br>Cill Choirin-Cluain Bheirne |



# QUALIFIER RECORD: GALWAY

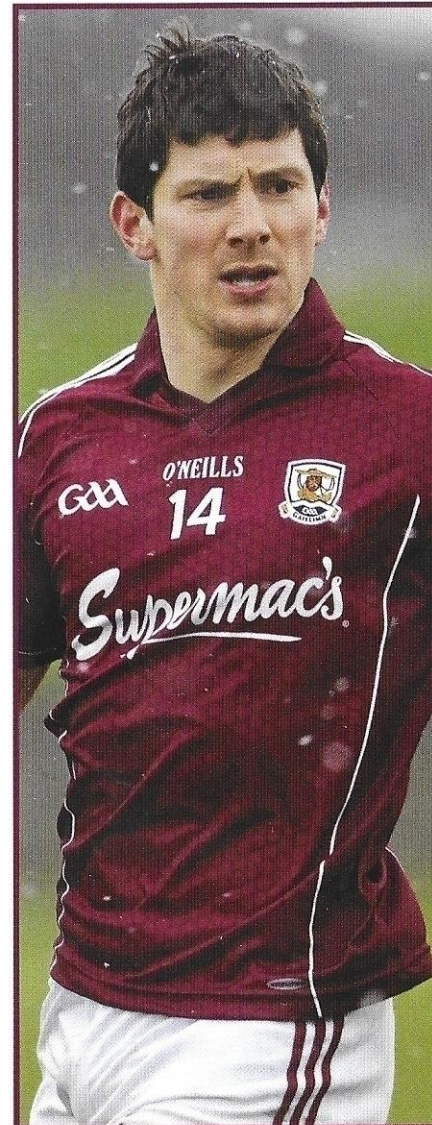


2001	Galway	3-12	1-9	Wicklow
	Galway	0-13	0-12	Armagh
	Galway	1-14	1-10	Cork
2004	Galway	2-8	0-9	Louth
	Tyrone	1-16	0-11	Galway
2006	Westmeath	1-8	0-10	Galway
2007	Meath	2-14	1-14	Galway
2009	Donegal	0-14	0-13	Galway
2010	Wexford	1-11	0-13	Galway
2011	Meath	0-11	0-10	Galway
2012	Antrim	0-11	0-10	Galway
2013	Galway	1-12	0-11	Tipperary
	Galway	1-12	0-14	Waterford
	Galway	1-11	0-9	Armagh
	Cork	1-17	1-16	Galway
2014	Galway	4-17	4-12	Tipperary
2015	Galway	1-12	0-12	Armagh
	Galway	1-11	0-8	Derry

**PLAYED 18, WON 10, LOST 8**

#### TOP MARKSMEN

Michael Meehan	4-32
Pádraic Joyce	1-35
Paul Conroy	0-20
Seán Armstrong	0-18
Danny Cummins	3-7



## GALLIMH

**BACK (L-R):** Tom Fahy, Michael Martin, Declan Kyne, Paul Varley, Gareth Bradshaw, Damien Comer, Gary Sice.

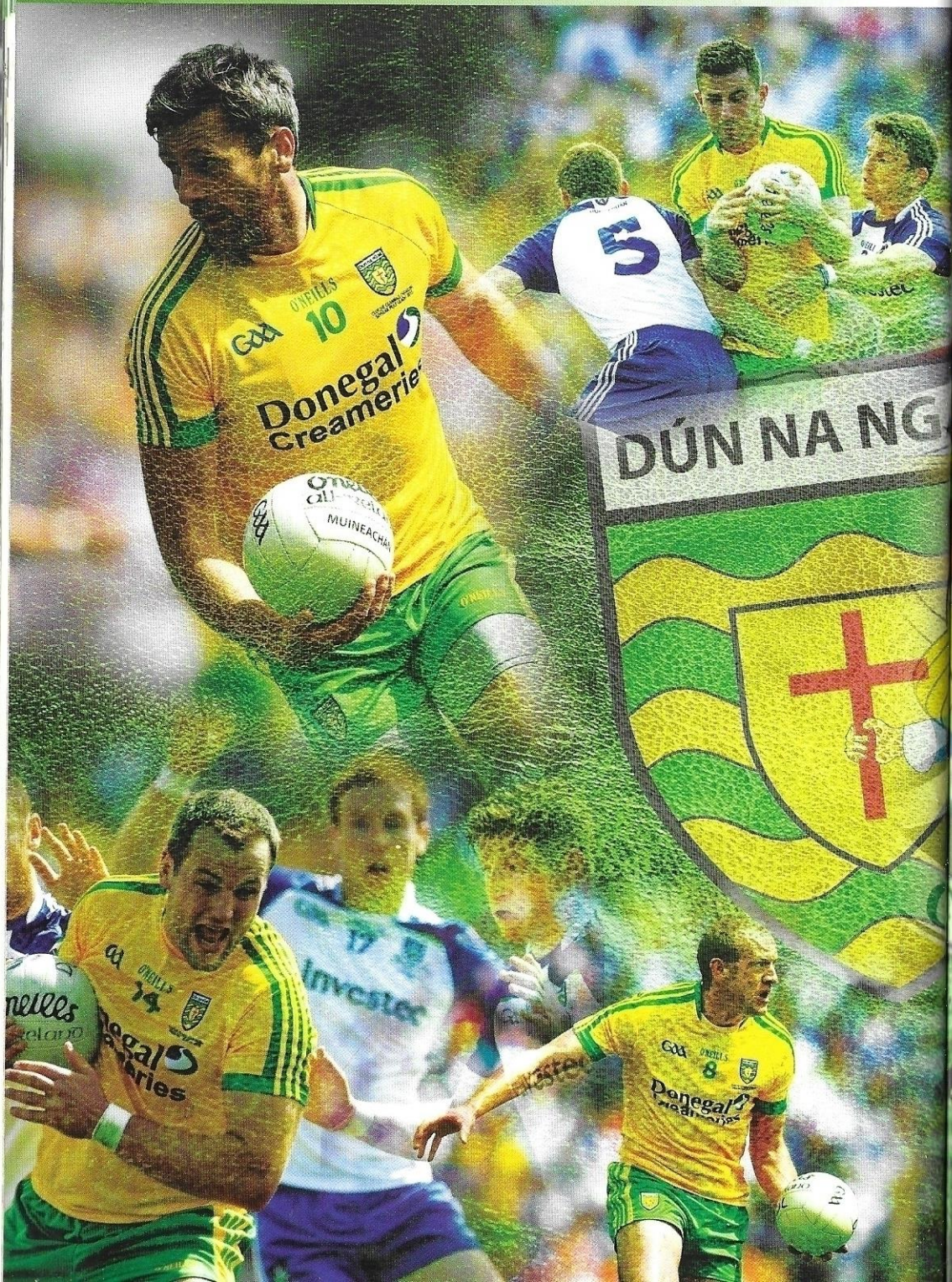
**FRONT (L-R):** Brian O'Donoghue, Thomas Flynn, Liam Silke, Finian Hanley, Enda Tierney, Ronan Steede, Adrian Varley, Manus Breathnach.

**FRONT (L-R):** Patrick Sweeney, Seán Denvir, Johnny Duane, Cathal Sweeney, Paul Conroy, Gary O'Donnell, Peadar Óg O'Gríofa, Michéál Lundy, Johnny Heaney, Danny Cummins.

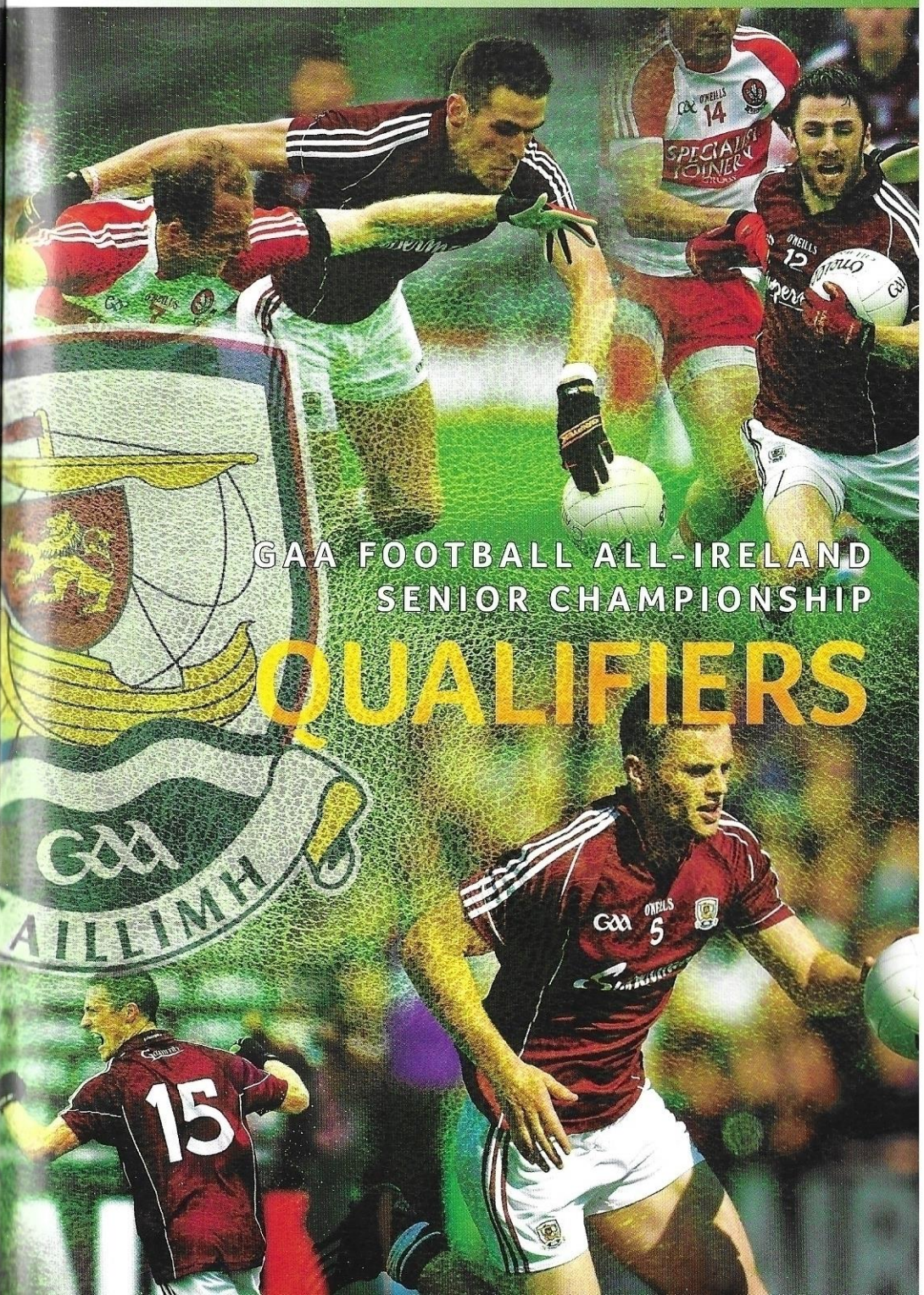






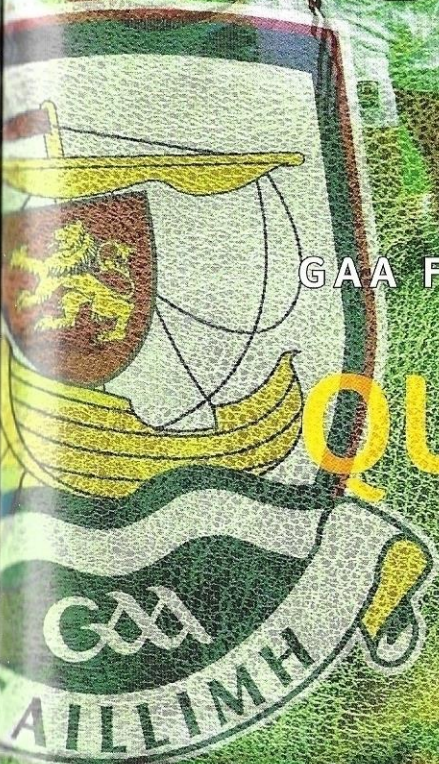


DÚN NA NG



GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND  
SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

# QUALIFIERS



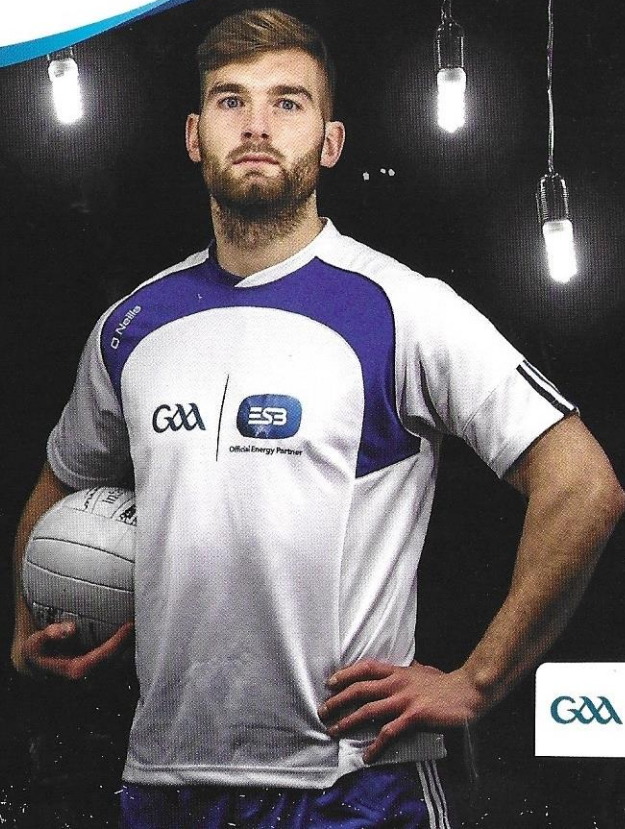




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# ESB IS PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL ENERGY PARTNER TO THE GAA

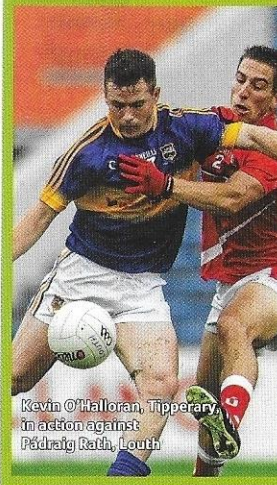
ESB has been proudly supporting the GAA since 2012 and we are now helping GAA Clubs Light The Way On Energy Efficiency through the "EnergyFit" Programme.



# KNOW YOUR FOOTBALL QUALIFIERS

## WINNING MARGINS

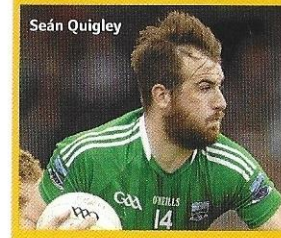
The 2015 All-Ireland Qualifiers have had their share of runaway victories with Tipperary's 23-point demolition of Louth in Round 2B the largest to date. However, that margin is still four shy of the record which is jointly held by Dublin and Armagh. Eleven years ago the Metropolitans accounted for London in the opening round at Parnell Park by 3-24 to 0-6 and that mark stood alone until 2013 when Armagh equalled it with a 8-13 to 0-10 win over Leitrim at Carrick-on-Shannon.



Kevin O'Halloran, Tipperary in action against Pédraig Rath, Louth

## DÈJÀ VU

The top individual return in the All-Ireland Qualifiers last season was Seán Quigley's 2-8 for Fermanagh at O'Moore Park when the visitors lost out to Laois. The Roslea sharp-shooter recorded another 14-point return this year (all white flags) when the Ernesiders overcame Antrim at Enniskillen in Round 2A. However, both of Quigley's excellent returns are a couple of points shy of the Qualifier record which is jointly held by Matty Forde of Wexford and Limerick's Ian Ryan. The Model County ace notched 2-10 for the Slaneysiders when they defeated Offaly on home turf in 2004 while four years later the Shannonsider was also on familiar ground as he hit 3-7 in Limerick's win over Meath.



Seán Quigley

## FOUR-IN-A-ROW

Winning four All-Ireland Qualifier matches in the one season is by no means a unique occurrence and indeed Westmeath managed just that feat in the maiden year of the format when they defeated Wexford (replay), Limerick, Louth and Mayo to qualify for the quarter-finals. Roscommon, Armagh, Dublin, Kildare and Meath are among the other counties to repeat that feat but to date just one county – Donegal – has managed it twice. In 2003 they defeated Longford, Sligo, Tipperary and Down while six years later Carlow, Clare, Derry and Galway were their victims. Tyrone did the four-in-a-row in 2013 for the first time having come close 11 years earlier only to be denied by Sligo. Two years ago the Red Hand beat Offaly, Roscommon, Kildare and Meath en-route to the 'last eight' and can emulate that achievement with victory over Sligo today following wins over Limerick, Meath and Tipperary.



# NA RÉITEOIRÍ

SLIGO V TYRONE



## RORY HICKEY, CLARE

Rory was involved at this stage of the Qualifiers 12 months ago when he took charge of the Armagh-Meath tie, while this season he has been assigned three fixtures in the premier competition. In May he was the man-in-the-middle for the Tipperary-Waterford game at Thurles and that was followed by outings at Clones (Donegal versus Derry) and Semple Stadium again for the Premier County's Qualifier against Louth. In his 11th year on the inter-county panel, Hickey's most recent match involving Tyrone was 16 months ago when they faced Kerry in the Allianz League whereas Sligo haven't featured at all over the last four years.

DONEGAL V GALWAY

## EDDIE KINSELLA, LAOIS



Handling championship matches at Croke Park involving Galway and Donegal will be no novelty for the Laois referee as he was assigned fixtures involving both in the past 12 months. Just under a year ago Kinsella was in charge of Galway's All-Ireland quarter-final against Kerry while seven weeks later Donegal's final against the Kingdom came under his remit. This year the O'Moore County whistle-blower has taken charge of championship matches at Ruislip (Roscommon v London), Celtic Park (Derry v Down) and the Athletic Grounds (Armagh v Wicklow), while earlier in the year he handled three games in the Allianz League and the Sigerson Cup final.

# BACK YOUR COUNTY, BACK YOUR McGETTIGAN'S!



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# KERNAN ON FOOTBALL

**O**N JUNE 24, 2012, DOWN STAGED A REMARKABLE SECOND-HALF COMEBACK TO BREAK MONAGHAN'S HEARTS IN THE ATHLETIC GROUNDS AND END THEIR HOPES OF REACHING THE ULSTER FINAL.

A month later they exited the All-Ireland race to Laois, their manager Eamonn McEaney resigned and most people assumed that particular Monaghan squad had reached the end of the road. A number of key personnel would surely sign off on their county careers without any championship silverware after a number of near misses.

For a minority of players, trophies and awards will flow throughout their careers. The majority, many of whom will devote the same if not more time and effort, receive little or no reward in the way of medals.

After the 2012 championship, those Monaghan players obviously still believed they would fall into the first category. They had more to give, and without creating too much fuss publicly, they made their feelings known to the

county board. They wanted an input into the search for a new manager and top of their list was Malachy O'Rourke.

Their situation then reminds me of my own club Crossmaglen in 2009. We had lost to Kilmacud Crokes in the All-Ireland club final and followed that up in September by losing in the Armagh Championship for the first time since 1995. It was the end of an era, almost all of the original squad from our first All-Ireland win in 1997 had retired. It had been good while it lasted.

Both Monaghan and

Crossmaglen got the men they desired. Malachy O'Rourke was the new man in charge for Monaghan in 2013 while my former teammates Tony McEntee and Gareth O'Neill led us into 2010. We now know they were the correct choices for the roles. Their tactical brains, leadership and ability to get the best out of their players have been outstanding.

To read the rest of the column, log on to GAA.ie. This is the latest of Aaron's exclusive football columns, which will feature on GAA.ie throughout the summer.

The opinions expressed in this column are personal and are not necessarily those of the Association

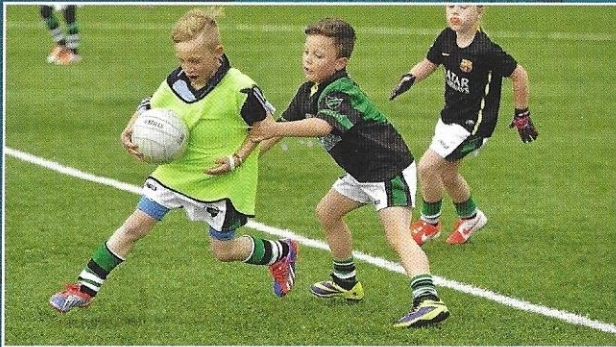


# YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS. GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH AS BHUR DTACAÍOCHT.

**T**HE LATTER STAGES OF THE ALL-IRELAND SERIES ARE NOW UPON US AND OUR 2015 CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE ALREADY PROVEN TO BE HUGELY POPULAR WITH SPECTATORS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE 34 TEAMS THAT COMPETE IN OUR SENIOR COMPETITIONS.



In recent weeks, the focus has moved away from our provincial championships as the All-Ireland series take centre-stage but, either way, the GAA has as an organisation worked hard, with the support of our sponsors, to promote and market our games in an effort to make them as appealing a prospect as possible to the largest number of people.



Your presence here today – and that of so many others – helps make our games the unique occasions they are, thanks to the colour and unrivalled atmosphere that goes hand in hand with our match days.

However, your patronage

also helps to run the Association from top to bottom with as much as 82 per cent of the funds we generate re-invested across the wider GAA family.

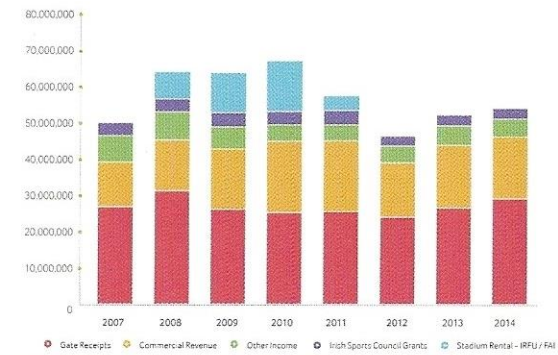
So whether it's games development, the provision of facilities at club, county or national level, the training of county squads or the myriad

of other uses for these funds, your presence and support makes a difference in the day-to-day running of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

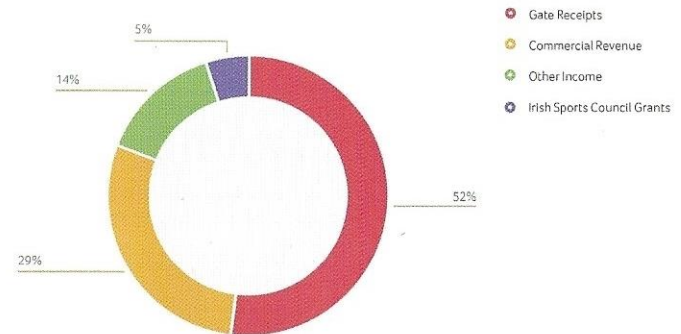
Thank you for your support, thank you for being here and thank you for helping to make a difference.

*Ár mbuíochas*

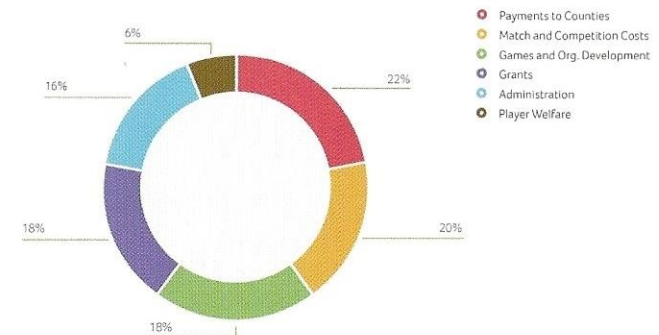
## SOURCES OF REVENUE 2007 - 2014



## SOURCES OF REVENUE 2014



## UTILISATION OF REVENUE 2014



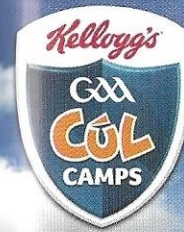


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## JOIN YOUR LOCAL CAMP THIS SUMMER

Summer can only mean one thing... it's time for Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps! An action packed week of activities for children aged 6-13 throughout July and August 2015. They'll get to learn GAA games from qualified coaches in a safe and fun environment in their local GAA club.

Register at [gaa.ie/kelloggsculcamps](http://gaa.ie/kelloggsculcamps)  
from the 30th March 2015.

For more details contact your local GAA club or call:

SLIGO	Liam Óg Gormley	086 8254420
TYRONE	Anne Daly	028 85567723
DONEGAL	Michael Murphy	086 6003159
GALWAY	Tom McManus	087 2612089



Action shots from 201



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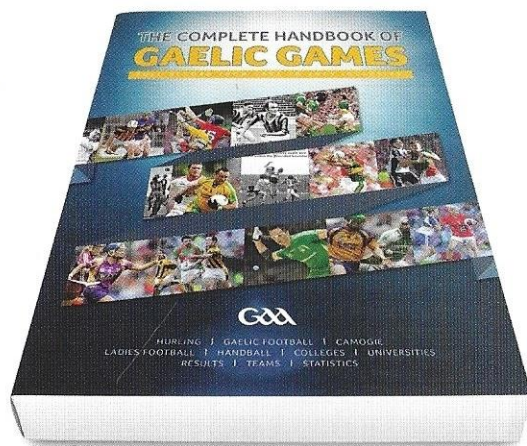
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For illustrative work on on all things GAA

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**T**HE GAA IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE MARIA GORETTI FOUNDATION, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT OF JOHN HANLON RECOGNISING A PROFOUND NEED IN HIS HOME COUNTY OF LOUTH FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND OTHER HEALTH CONDITIONS.

Following nine years of development and planning, the Maria Goretti Foundation, with the help of John's family, opened its doors to welcome the first children in September 2014. It provides 24 hour care.

The Foundation welcomes children with different needs and offers them a 'home from home' while their parents and care providers are afforded a break. The success of its work has been immediate.

Carefully seeking to understand the needs of each child, the Foundation researches their personal preferences. Bedrooms are decorated accordingly and personalised. Every time a child stays at the Foundation, he or she stays in the same



Ard Stiúrthoir of the GAA Pádraic Duffy with, from left, Claran Hanlon, Pádraic Vallely, Paula Dardall, Seamus Kirk, Kathleen Hanlon and Fr. Malachy Conlon, all from the Maria Goretti Foundation, in attendance at the announcement of the GAA charities for 2015

## Text MGF to 50300 to donate €4

100% of your donation goes to the Maria Goretti Foundation across most network operators. Some operators apply VAT which means that a minimum of €3.25 will go to the Maria Goretti Foundation. Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 0766805278

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



room, adding to the experience of it being a form of 'sleepover club' for them.

Children's normal daily routines are followed,

even dropping them off at and picking them up from school. The typical stay is 48 hours long, though it can be adjusted depending on the requirements of families.

The GAA is delighted to partner with this organisation for 2015 and acknowledges its vital work in communities in the north-east.

For more information on how you can help go to: [www.mariagoretti.ie](http://www.mariagoretti.ie)



# CROKE PARK STADIUM 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:  
6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The climbing of floodlights or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behavior constitutes a trespass to property.
- 6.4 Throwing of objects onto the pitch.
- 6.5 Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
- 6.6 Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
- 6.7 Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 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.



CROKE PARK

## 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 Gardaí, 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 313
Hogan Stand Level 3:	Section 333
Cusack Stand Level 7:	Section 702
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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#shoutitout

