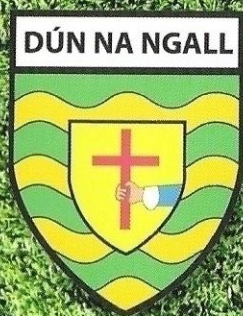


ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Round 1

Dún na nGall



V



Doire

**Dé Sathairn, 31ú Eanáir 2015 - 7.00i.n.,
i Páirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill, Bealach Féich**



Referee: Marty Duffy - Sligeach
Stand By: Joe McQuillan - An Cabhán
Linesman: Eamon O'Grady - Liatroim
Sideline: Martin Conroy - Tír Eoghain



Clár Oifigiuil: €3.00

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here this evening to Mac Cumhaill Park, Ballybofey for our first game of the 2015 Allianz National Football League. I also extend a warm welcome to the Derry panel of players, our former team manager Brian Mc Iver and his backroom team, officials and supporters for what promises to be a lively and entertaining encounter.



On behalf of Bord na Contae, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Donegal people at home and abroad who gave tremendous support to the Donegal Senior and Minor Football Teams in 2014 on what was a tremendous journey to Ulster Championship titles and All-Ireland Final appearances for both. However, this is the start of a new chapter in our history so I would like to convey my best wishes to our new manager Rory Gallagher, his management team and support personnel for the season ahead.

Finally, I hope that you enjoy this evening 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 Doire agus Dhún na nGall agus iad ag pilleadh na bhaile.

Is mise le meas,
Seán Ó Duinnín,
Cathaoirleach.



Donegal National League Games

Dublin	V	Donegal	Croke Park	Sat 7th February
Donegal	V	Cork	Ballyshannon	Sunday 1st March
Donegal	V	Monaghan	Letterkenny	Sunday 8th March
Kerry	V	Donegal	Tralee	Sun 15th March
Donegal	V	Tyrone	Ballybofey	Sun 29th March
Mayo	V	Donegal	Castlebar	Sun 5th April



Ulster U21 Football Championship

DONEGAL

V

CAVAN



MacCumhail Park,

Wednesday 18th March

Precision remains new boss Gallagher's trump card

by Chris McNulty, Donegal News

RORY Gallagher had an archer's eye during the playing days and has taken a similarly precision-driven approach into coaching and, now, management.

Three years running – in 2000, 2001 and 2002 – Gallagher was the top scorer in the Ulster Championship while playing for Fermanagh.

In '02, he scored 3-9 against Monaghan, a score that still stands as a record to this day, and he lit the touchpaper to score 1-6 in a Man of the Match display against Donegal in 2000.

His performance spurred Fermanagh to their first championship win against Donegal in 64 years and included a goal lobbed past Tony Blake that was, until 2011, the most vivid image of Gallagher for Donegal's supporters.

Gallagher hails from Belleek which straddles the border between Fermanagh and Donegal and he has recalled days of his young when he'd travel, with his father, Gerry, into Donegal to witness clashes between those fierce rivals in south-west Donegal – Kilcar, Ardara, Naomh Columba and Killybegs – at a time when they were in their pomp.

Now, Gallagher is based within that same pocket. Living in Killybegs, he has managed the Kilcar senior team and is now firmly an adopted Donegal man.

It could've been so different.

Billy Bingham, the former Northern Ireland manager, once saw Gallagher playing for Belleek in a five-a-side soccer tournament in Belfast. Gallagher was a star and Bingham could see something within the youngster.

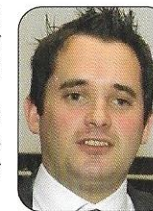
Gallagher subsequently captained Northern Ireland's Schoolboys team and would later have trials at Manchester United and Blackburn Rovers.

Gaelic football was where he found his calling, though, and he became one of the most feared forwards in Ulster in his heyday.

He turned out for Erne Gaels in his native Belleek before a controversial transfer to St Brigid's in Dublin. While subsequently with the Crosserlough club, Gallagher turned out for Cavan and he went onto play for St Gall's with whom he won the All-Ireland club title in 2010.

Less than a year later, Gallagher took a call from Jim McGuinness, who was in search of an assistant manager. McGuinness was taking over the Donegal seniors and Peter McGinley, who'd filled the role with the Under-21s, couldn't commit.

McGinley put Gallagher's name forward and Martin McHugh, under whom he won a Sigerson Cup title



with IT Sligo, was another to give a glowing recommendation to the ex-Fermanagh player.

Gallagher headed to Letterkenny on a frosty night, promised his wife that the meeting with McGuinness would take an hour.

They spent four hours and Gallagher left the rendezvous as McGuinness's number 2.

Gallagher spent three years in the post until they parted ways in the autumn of 2013. He spoke in 2012 about the job and what it meant to him.

"I have always been football mad," he said.

There was never a time when I wasn't involved and I can't see a stage in my life when I won't be.

"I get a lot of flak for being involved with 'X number' of clubs, but

I have been lucky that I have been able to get involved in Gaelic football, no matter where I've lived or worked.

"It is something that I really enjoy."

The first session Gallagher met up with Donegal at was on a frosty January night in 2011. Michael Hegarty knew Gallagher well, but wondered to himself – 'What the Hell's he up to?' – as he headed into Castlefin's Páirc Eiméid.

Following his own retirement, Hegarty spoke of the impression made by Gallagher from the get-go. Players since have talked of how Gallagher knew each one by name, something that struck the squad on the new man's first night.

"Rory was very hands on, even on that night of his first session," Hegarty said.

"From day one, Rory wasted no time. He really got stuck in. Around half an hour into that first session, we knew we'd struck gold in getting Rory Gallagher on board.

"When Jim was putting the jigsaw together, Rory was the missing piece.

"He was a massive influence on the players.

"He was such an intelligent player himself and he brought that intelligence, and more, to the Donegal dressing room."

Kevin Cassidy, too, has voiced the opinion that Gallagher is the man to keep Donegal dining at the top table.

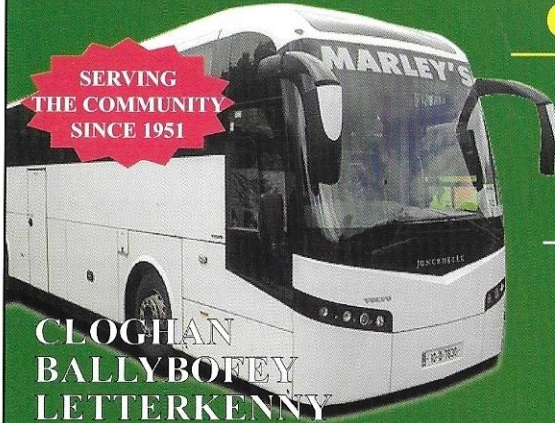
Writing in his column in Gaelic Life earlier this month, Cassidy said: "For me Rory has it all: a great football brain, intelligent, compassionate, and most of all ruthless when needs be.

"I would place him alongside the top coaches in the modern game."

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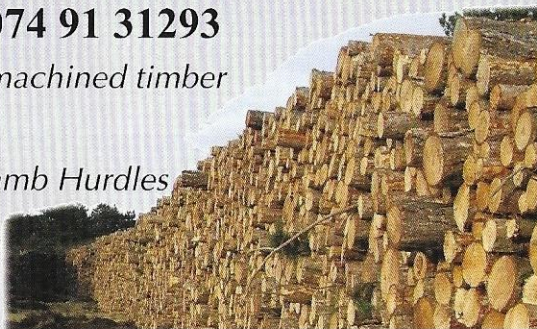
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Wishing the Donegal Team every success in 2015

Learning lessons is Derry's aim

By Cahair O'Kane (Derry Post)

MAYBE it's just in us Derry folk to be pessimistic. When you're turning into your 17th year without an Ulster title and you've seen players of the calibre of Paddy Bradley, Enda Muldoon, Johnny McBride, Kevin McGuckin, Kevin McCloy, et al come and go minus even provincial glory, you get used to it.

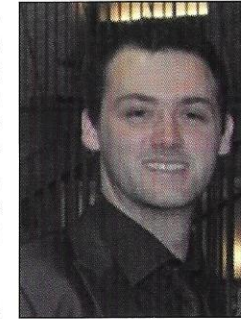
The first four months of last season saw the pre-league worries of relegation well and truly banished by an unexpectedly bright league campaign. A one-point defeat in Cork was their only loss prior to securing a semi-final, after which they sent a weakened team to Mayo on the final day.

The league final did much of the psychological damage. Dublin dished out a 3-19 to 1-10 demolition on the same day that a tired Donegal were denied the Division Two title. But despite Rory Kavanagh's suspension, despite Mark McHugh being in absentia, despite Derry's apparent upward curve, it all fell apart in 70 minutes.

Derry blitzed their way through the league but by the time the sun set on the summer solstice, they were out of the championship. Little wonder we're pessimistic. Many expected that Derry's return to Division One in 2014 would provide them with a relegation battle. In spite of being proven wrong once, the same many expect that this league campaign could be much tougher.

For a start, promoted Donegal and Monaghan are stronger than the two teams that went down. Derry have to go away to both of them. They're also away to Dublin and Tyrone. The absence of the club-tied Slaughtneil contingent for at least the first part of the league is a blow. The absence of Chrissy McKaigue leaves them needing a full-back. Niall Holly and Conor McAtamney are the leading contenders to fill the number three jersey tonight – neither of them a natural edge-of-the-square man.

At midfield, Patsy Bradley will be missing. Fergal Doherty was given an extra few weeks' rest and



isn't up to speed yet. PJ McCloskey is no closer to a return. That means Mark Lynch is almost certain to play in the middle, alongside one of Holly, McAtamney or Mark Craig.

Up front, Cailean O'Boyle is no longer part of the panel. Emmett McGuckin is working in Birmingham and travelling home for games, while Eoin Bradley's league involvement is likely to be fairly limited.

Glenavon's home tie with Warrenpoint this afternoon will take priority under the terms of the agreement which has facilitated his return to the Oak Leaf shirt. And in truth, Derry fans really shouldn't mind too much. A county that has always produced fine footballers and good teams, they have all too often failed to back good National League campaigns up. Their last Division One success in 2008 led to the summer where the Anglo Celt got away. Having won in Ballybofey, they lost an Ulster semi-final to Fermanagh having been six points up. Since then they've played in the league finals of 2009 and 2014, as well as winning Division Two in 2013. None of those relative successes have paved the way for extended summers.

Donegal came to Owenbeg a few weeks back for Rory Gallagher's first game and played in a way that no Derry fan expects them to play again tonight. And that's a worry. Under Brian McIver, John Brennan, Damian Cassidy, Paddy Crozier, whoever else, the blanket defence is something that Derry have always had a particularly miserable time of trying to break down. Yet the games against Donegal and Monaghan, even should they end in defeat, might be far more beneficial to Derry than their run to the final last season. Coming up against that bunched defence is something that never happened once in nine league games last year. They need competitive practice at breaking it down.

Defeat tonight would be no disaster. Even relegation, they could live with, as long as there are lessons learned by the time the real business starts.



**Best of luck to Rory and the lads
from Charlie and team and
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A new journey under a different leader

Peter Campbell (Sports Editor, Donegal Democrat)

Four years ago at this venue in the first game of the Allianz National Football League, Jim McGuinness set out on a journey that made him a household name in Gaelic Games throughout the country.

Tonight his successor Rory Gallagher sets out on the same journey with his adopted county, Donegal, but the starting point is much further advanced.

Donegal were in Division 2 at the start of 2011 and were ranked 18th in Ireland. Now they are in Division 1 and are ranked 2nd after winning three Ulster Senior Championships, one All-Ireland and last year narrowly defeated in their second All-Ireland final.

Gallagher was part of the Donegal set up for three of those years and is very well in tune with the improvement which took place over those years.

The success achieved has also brought greater expectation which can be just as big a burden as anything that happens inside the white lines.

Four years ago there was an inauspicious start with Sligo the visitors in MacCumhaill Park and it took a late goal from full-back Neil McGee to give Donegal a share of the spoils. Those present in MacCumhaill Park that night were not setting any high targets when they dissected the match afterwards. Thoughts of winning Ulster and All-Ireland titles were the stuff of dreams.

But even though it was an inauspicious start, the season just took off culminating in the winning of Division 2 (defeating Laois in the decider in Croke Park) and then winning the Ulster Championship title for the first time in 19 years.

Trips to Croke Park became the norm. Finding parking spaces adjacent to Jones's Road became as familiar as a day out to Ballybofey.

Tonight Rory Gallagher sets out on the journey again, this time as boss, and he faces a tricky assignment against neighbours Derry.

The bar is set higher now and given the draw that

faces Donegal in the Ulster Championship, 2015 will be nothing if not an interesting year.

The target of survival in Division 1 of the League and getting past the preliminary round of the Ulster Championship (at home to Tyrone) are two good goals to start with.

With four home games in Division 1, eight league points should be enough to ensure top

flight survival, and that means

victory in our opening game tonight against the Oak Leaf county.

Rory Gallagher has a fairly strong hand, although the loss of Rory Kavanagh will be felt as the year goes on. Like all good intercounty players, their worth is much greater when they are not there to do the things that only an experienced county player can do.

The recent Dr. McKenna Cup games threw up a few names that have added strength to the squad - players like Ciaran McGINLEY, CONOR PARKE and Eoin McHUGH - were to the fore.

The new manager will be fully focused on the next two months and seven league games but ultimately his focus will be on the clash against Tyrone at this venue on Sunday, 17th May. Back in 2011, Jim McGuinness's focus was on Sunday, May 15th and his opening Ulster Championship outing with Antrim.

For Rory Gallagher, the bar has been raised a few notches more. Tyrone, out of the limelight in Ulster since 2010, will be seeking to set the record straight. Donegal have not lost to the Red Hand men in the championship since Jim McGuinness took charge.

For that reason, the challenges ahead for Donegal will all focus on that Sunday in May. Plans and goals will be reset that Sunday evening.

But for now, it is all about getting those vital league points to survive in the top flight. It's a new year and a new journey and even though there is new leadership, we have much of the same players who know what is needed.

It can be the start of another good year.





Health & Wellbeing Information

Background

As per motion passed at congress 2013, each county to put in place a County Health & Wellbeing Committee Donegal County Board set up this committee last year.

Responsibility: To assist the County Board and the clubs in identifying and responding to the Health & Wellbeing needs of our members in a planned and appropriate manner, both directly through appropriate GAA

programmes and by way of signposting to the partnership with relevant local service for training/education delivery. Liaise with Provincial Council and Croke Park for support, direction and assistance. Establish a baseline audit of programmes and training/education needs in the county. Put in place an action plan addressing these needs over 2/3 years. Liaise with relevant outside agencies and engage their assistance in

delivering the action plan. Make available resources to clubs to promote health, as provided by Ulster Council, Croke park and other external statutory, voluntary, or community agencies. Provide support, advice and signposting to clubs on health related matters.

Policy on Cardiac Screening

The GAA advise that the most effective way to identify risk is for players over the age of 14 to undergo cardiac screening on one occasion. It is also advised that his process be repeated before the age of 25. If players wish to be screened, the best practice process which the Medical, Scientific and welfare committee of the GAA recommends is for players to visit their local GPs and screening should consist of completion of the GAA's Cardiac Screening Questionnaire a

Physical Examination and an ECG. If the GP considers that the result of the ECG indicates that a particular player should be excluded from play, then he/she may post the ECG and completed Questionnaire to Dr. Joseph Galvin in the Mater Private for his interpretation. The purpose of this is to eliminate false positives. The cost of this interpretation is covered by the GAA and the GP should explain in the cover letter that the GAA

will be covering the cost of the interpretation as part of the GAA/GPA scheme set up in 2010

Members of Committee

2015:

Chairperson Marian McNulty
Secretary Noreen Doherty
County Chairman Sean Dunnington
Gary Duffy
Oisín Cannon
Sean Reilly
Carol Gallagher
Sarah Toye
James Pat McDaid
Dolores McWeeney

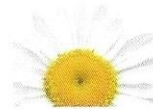


safeTALK

Learn four basic steps to recognize Persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them with suicide helping resources



Suicide Awareness



safeTALK

In conjunction with the HSE Donegal Health Promotion Department we are about to commence another series of workshops on the above topic. All clubs have been notified on this. The target group in clubs are key administrators and coaches and persons who would interact frequently with teenagers and young adults. The feedback from these course are very positive.

A certificate on suicide alert will be issued to each participant on completion of the workshop. Over the next 12-18 months we proposed to run courses in all clubs. These courses prepare participants to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resource. These specific skills are called suicide alertness and are taught

with the expectation that the person learning them will use them to help reduce risk in their community. We are very grateful to Sarah Meehan Bill Vaughan Tommy Ronaghan Tutors from HSE who delivered these courses free of charge to clubs

Critical Incident Response

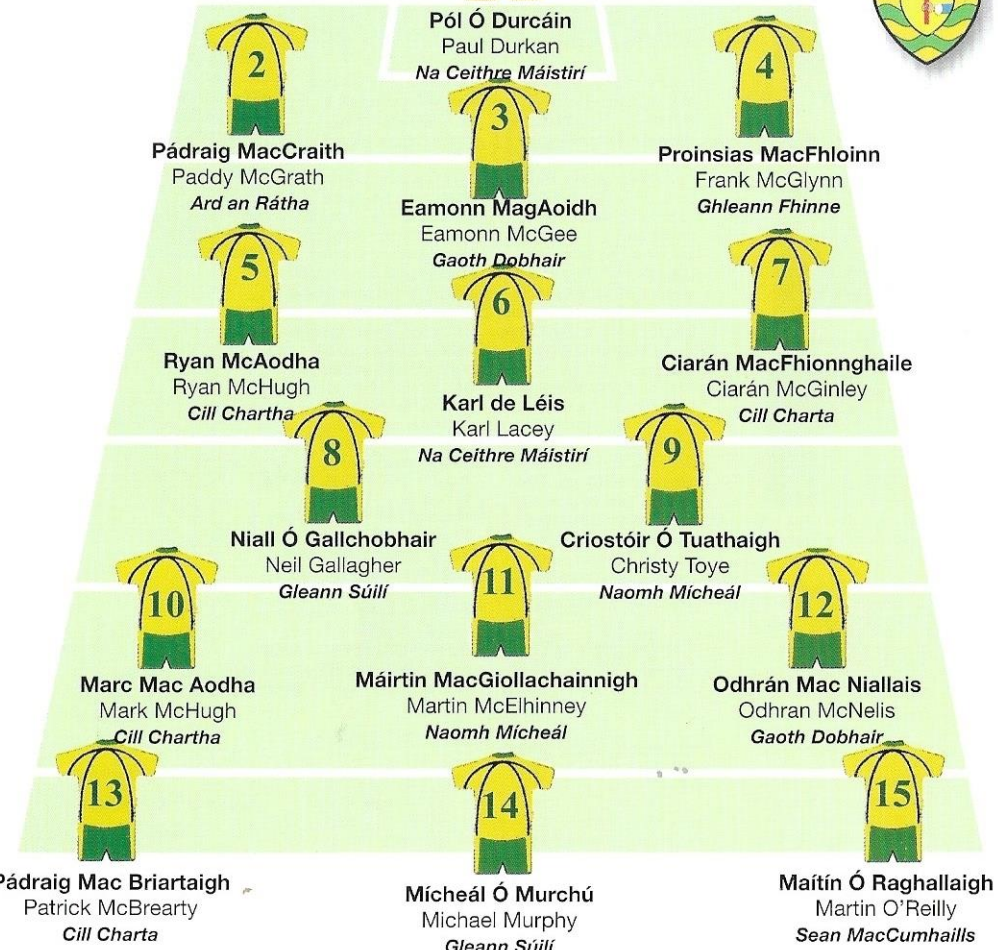
We have put in place an Interim Critical response team which consists of County Chairman County Secretary Chairperson of Health & Wellbeing Committee

Critical incidents could include. Death or serious injury on or off the playing field

Exposure to the aftermath of a road traffic accident

e.g. the accident scene, the victim(s). Personal loss or injury, real or threatened to a child or adult. Being violent threatened. Close encounter with death Suicide of a club member A situation with excessive media interest. Other incidents not covered above but which are associated with unusually strong emotional reactions

Dún na nGall



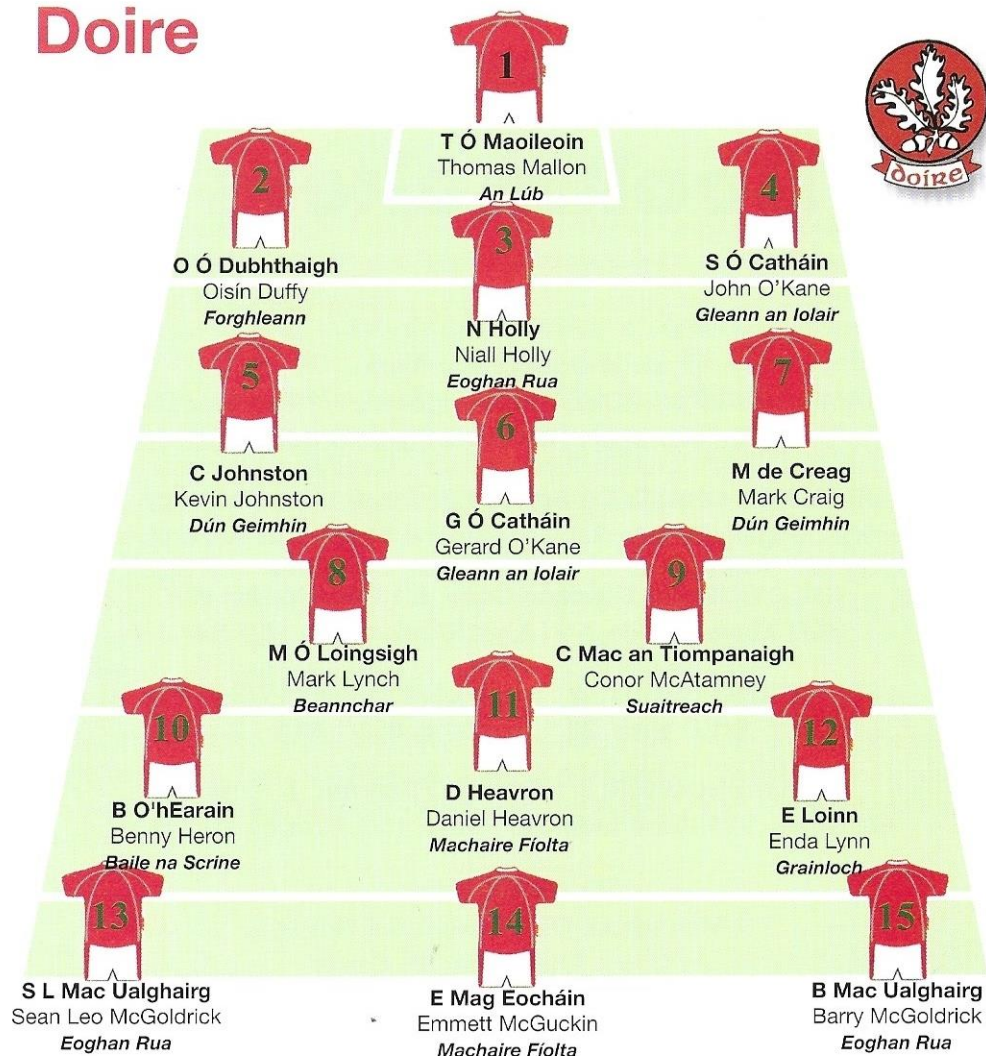
FIR IONAIÐ

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| 16. Michael Boyle - Mícheál Ó Baoill | An Tearmann | 21. Gary McFadden - Gearóid Mac Pháidín | Gleann tSúilí |
| 17. Declan Walsh - Déaglan Breathnach | Málainn | 22. Hugh McFadden - Aodh MacPháidín | Na Cealla Beaga |
| 18. Eamonn Doherty - Eamonn Ó Dubhartaigh | | 23. Daniel McLaughlin - Dónal MacLochlainn | N. Michael |
| | N. Adhamhnáin | 24. Ryan Mally - Rian Mally | Ard an Rátha |
| 19. Joe Gibbons - Seosamh Mac Giobúin | Gleann tSúilí | 25. Eunan Doherty - Adhamhnán Ó Dubhartaigh | N. Conaill |
| 20. Cory Gallagher - Cory Ó Gallchobhair | An Clochán Liath | 26. Darach O'Connor - Darach Ó Conchubhair | BunCranncha |

Bainisteoir: Rory Gallagher

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Doire



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| 16. Eoin McNicholl / E Mac Niocaill | Gleann an Iolair | 21. Neil McNicholl / N Mac Niocaill | Gleann an Iolair |
| 17. Brian Óg McGilligan / B Óg Mac Giollagáin | | 22. Ciarán McFaul / C MacPhail | Gleann |
| | Beannchar | 23. Terence O'Brien / T Ó Briain | An Lúb |
| 18. Liam McGoldrick / L Mac Ualghairg | Eoghan Rua | 24. James Kearney / S Ó Brollacháin | Suaitreach |
| 19. Brian Óg McAlary / B Óg Ó Cleirigh | Cill Ría | 25. Daniel McKinless / D Mag Aonglais | Baile an Doire |
| 20. Conor Murphy / C Ó Murchadh | Dún Geimhin | 26. Eoin Bradley / E O'Brolachán | Gleann an Iolair |

Bainisteoir: Brian McIver

	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45	Saor	Ciceanna
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9/2 Dodging Bullets, 8/1 Champagne Fever, 10/1 Al Ferof

GOLD CUP: 7/2 Silvinaco Conti, 8/1 Road to Riches,
10/1 Many Clouds, 14/1 Lord Windermere, 16/1 Bar

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6/1 France, 33/1 Scotland, 800/1 Italy

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8/1 Selby, 10/1 Robertson, 12/1 Ding, 16/1 Murphy, 20/1 Bar

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6/1 Derry, 7/1 Tyrone, 8/1 Cavan,
10/1 Down., 30/1 Fermanagh, 50/1 Antrim

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FIFTY YEARS AGO

Fr Seán

Fifty years ago on April 9, 1965, Dún na nGall met Doire in the Dr. Lagan Cup Final in Irvinestown. In those years the winners of the Dr Lagan Cup qualified for the National Football League semi-finals. Dún na nGall began their campaign on September 25, 1964, with a 1-10/1-7 victory over Fear Manach i Leitir Ceanainn. A fortnight later, they travelled to Lurgan and beat Ard Mhacha

1-11/1-6. Dún na nGall had never beaten Doire in Ballinascreen but they did so on October 23 – by 4-9/1-10. Seán O' Donnell and John Hannigan were outstanding while Paul Kelly was more than a match for the great Seán O' Connell.

Both Dún na nGall and Doire qualified for the Dr. Lagan Cup semi-finals. The Dún na nGall v An Dún match was fixed for Dungannon on March 7, 1965. There was snow and frost that day and the match was postponed. It was refixed for the same venue on March 21. Referee Jimmy Martin ruled that the ground was unplayable and they reckoned 12,000 Dún na nGall supporters went home an angry bunch (one wonders how many of those 12,000 are here in Bealach Féich to-day!). The Dún na nGall County Board protested vigorously and the match was eventually played in Ballybay on April 2, 1965. A P.J. Flood-inspired Dún na nGall had a splendid victory over An Dún 2-7/0-11.

The final between Dún na nGall and Doire was played in Irvinestown a week later. Doire led by 1-5 to 0-4 at half-time and stretched the lead to five points soon after the re-start. Then, Dessie Houlihan's goal sparked a Dún na nGall revival. Micky McLoone's goal put Dún na nGall ahead and they controlled the rest of the game. Seán O' Donnell and Frankie McFeely were outstanding in a 2-9/1-7 victory.

Doire:

D. McLarnon
Colm Murray

S. Higgins:
Hugh Francis Gribben
Henry Diamond
Larry Diamond and Phil Stuart

W. O'Kane:
Phelim McCotter:

Seán O' Connell (0-4)

Frankie O' Loane

Leo O'Neill (1-0)

George Magee (0-1)

Pat Quinn (0-1)

Liam McEldowney

Subs: Brian Cassidy (0-1), Brian Devlin.

Dún na nGall:

John Dan McMenamin
Brendan McFeely (capt)

Séamus Hoare:

Hughie Travers
Seán O' Donnell

Bernard Brady:
Paul Kelly

Seán Ferriter and Frankie McFeely (0-1)

Dessie Houlihan (1-1)

Michael McLoone (1-3)

P.J. Flood

John Hannigan (0-1)

Frankie Campbell (0-3)

Tony McDevitt

Sub: Declan O' Carroll

(Seán McHugh, Fionn Gallagher, Eddie Gallagher, Michael Griffin, Neil McKelvey made appearances during the campaign).

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Dún na nGall lost to Ciarraí (3-10/1-8) in the National Football League semi-final the following Sunday.

RECENT LEAGUE MEETINGS

Doire beat Dún na nGall in the National League (Division 1) finals of 1995 and 1996 in Páirc an Chrócaigh:

14-5-1995:	Doire	0-12	Dún na nGall	0-8
5-5-1996:	Doire	1-16	Dún na nGall	1-9

Since then:

16-2-1997:	Doire	1-13	Dún na nGall	1-6	Doire Cholmcille
2-11-1997:	Dún na nGall	2-14	Doire	1-9	Bealach Féich
13-4-2008:	Doire	0-15	Dún na nGall	0-10	Leitir Ceanainn
12-4-2009:	Doire	0-14	Dún na nGall	0-10	Machaire Rátha
19-3-2011:	Dún na nGall	2-18	Doire	2-12	Doire Cholmcille

Doire's last League visit to Páirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill was on November 2, 1997. Jim McGuinness was the man-of-the match for Declan Bonner's Dún na nGall, scoring two goals and having one of his best games for the county. Doire were short of up to nine regulars including Kieran McKeever, Seán Martin Lockhart, Séamus Downey, Fergal McCusker, Dermot Heaney and Joe Brolly.

Dún na nGall:

	Paul Callaghan	
Noel McGinley	John Joe Doherty	Éamonn Reddan:
Mark Crossan	Noel Hegarty	Damien Diver:
	Martin Coll and Jim McGuinness (2-0)	
Shane Bradley (0-2)	Adrian Sweeney	Brian Roper (0-2):
John Duffy (0-2)	Tony Boyle (0-6)	Brendan Devenney (0-2)
Subs:	Brian McLaughlin, Brian Murray.	

Doire:

	David Hasson	
Paul Diamond	Johnny McBride	Gary Coleman
Karl Diamond	Henry Downey	Adrian Heaney:
	Anthony Tohill (0-1)	Gary Doyle
Gary Magill (0-3)	Dermot Dougan (0-1)	Benny Murray (0-1):
Michael Gribben (0-1)	Ronan Rocks (1-0)	Joe Cassidy (0-1)
Sub:	Gavin Diamond.	

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Donegal 1st Championship match v Derry 17th March 1906

(As Reported in Local Press at the Time)

Saturday was a great day among the lovers of Gaelic football. Donegal and Derry agreed to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in real Irish fashion by having an inter county match to decide which of them should advance another rung in the ladder of ascent to the All-Ireland Championship.

The players were of pure Irish stock, the ball was an Irish make, and the language used—especially by the Donegal men—was the Irish tongue of their ancient forefathers. The event was therefore, very Irish in every respect and a worthy commemoration of the day named after Ireland's patron saint.

This was the first meeting between those two counties in football, on account of both of them being absent from the arena of competition for the National Cup for more years than I dare to mention. It shows however, the present spread and popularity in Gaelicism in Ulster to find these two counties now engaging in the ambitious task of endeavouring to prove themselves the best footballers in Ireland. Derry team. Thornton, M. Mc Callion, Mc Grath, P Deeney, P Cassidy, W. P. Doherty, D. Cassidy, Flynn, Boyle, Dunniece (Clann Uladhs). Reilly, Hants, Duffy (Emmetts). Mc Veigh, Harte (Eire Og), Elliott (St Patrick's).

Donegal team. D Boyle, Mc Fadden, Barr, Curran, Gambion, Coll, Boyle, N Mc Bride, C Mc Bride (all Gweedore). Gallagher, Naughton (Bundoran). Reilly (Newtowncunningham). Mc Dyer (Glenties). P Mc Callion (Fahan). G Campbell, Mullin and J Campbell (Burt). Final score Derry 18 pts; Donegal 2 pts.

Did you Know

On Sunday 2nd September 1888 the first Derry GAA County Committee was formed with six clubs present. St Patrick's Waterside, Hibernian's, Emerald's, Eire Og, St Columb's and Hibernian's Burt from Donegal.

In 1889 Fourteen clubs were playing in games under the control of the Derry Co. Board—two from North Derry, nine from Derry City and three from Donegal Burt Hibernian's, Killea Hibernian's and Portlough Harps.

In 1930 Burt won the Derry Senior Hurling Championship and the following year they won the double in Derry by retaining their hurling title and defeating Eire Og in the football final on a scoreline 2-4 to 0-1.

On October 23rd 1905 the Donegal GAA County Board was formed at a meeting in Mc Intyre's Hotel Mountcharles which was organised by the author and poet Seamus Mac Manus. Those elected to serve were. Patron Most Rev. Dr. O Donnell Glenties Bishop of Raphoe; President Rev. Dr. Maguire Inver; Vice Presidents, Rev. J.C. Cannon Letterkenny; P.A. Mooney, "The Independent", Ballyshannon and Peter Ward Dunkineely. Treasurers E Mac Fadden M.P. Letterkenny and Rev. C. Boyce; Secretaries A Mac Dyer Glenties and J. Dowds Burt.

At the first meeting Donegal was divided into two divisions---East and West. The West Donegal Division to extend from the Drowes river, west of Bundoran to Glen Head, and from Pettigo to Fintown and Doochary, Ballybofey and Stranorlar, as well as the Rosses, consequently belonging to East Donegal for GAA purposes.

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Donegal and Derry once more in the Allianz League

Tom Comack (Donegal Democrat/Peoples Press)

Donegal and Derry have brushed off the cobwebs in the Dr McKenna Cup in recent weeks and it's down to serious business tonight in Ballybofey.

For both, the Allianz League Division One is hugely important and retaining their top flight status is the number one priority for Donegal manager Rory Gallagher and his opposite number Brian McIver.

Talk of the knock-out stages and a league title are for further down the road. For now, it is about picking up enough points to survive in the top division.

And it's no different in any of the other six Division One dressing rooms this weekend, and that includes All-Ireland champions Kerry and winners of the last two Division One titles, Dublin.

That might seem strange for what's the Association's second major competition - but that's how it is.

Donegal, under new manager Rory Gallagher, have warmed up for the league with two wins and one defeat in the Dr McKenna Cup. The wins were over the students from Queen's University, and Fermanagh, while the one reversal was at the hands of tonight's opponents Derry.

Derry won that game 1-16 to 0-8. And while the Oak Leafers were in experimental mode for that tie in Owenbeg, Brian McIver's selection featured more recognised names than those lined out by Rory Gallagher.

Midfielder Martin McElhinney was the only man in the Donegal starting 15 that featured in last September's All-Ireland final. And only Michael Boyle, Eamon Doherty, Martin O'Reilly, Hugh McFadden and Dermot 'Brick' Molloy of the starting 15 were part of the Donegal set up in 2014. That game also marked the return of 2012 All-Star Mark McHugh after a year out. It

also marked senior debuts for Mark's cousin Eoin McHugh along with club colleague Ciaran McGinley, Cory Gallagher, Eamon Ward, Conor Parke, Eunan Doherty and Willie Gillespie.

Joe Gibbons (Glenswilly), Ryan Malley (Ardara) and Malachy McDermott, (Moville) also saw action in Owenbeg when introduced after half-time.

With the shadow boxing over, Rory Gallagher has selected a much stronger line up for tonight's encounter with the bulk of the stars from the last four roller-coaster seasons on board from the off.

And aside from Rory Kavanagh (retired) and Leo McLoone (taking time out), Gallagher has a strong and proven squad at his disposal.

Donegal have four home games in this year's league. Derry tonight is followed by Cork, in round three, Monaghan in round four and Tyrone in round six. The away games are against Dublin this night week in Croke Park; All-Ireland champions Kerry in Killarney in the middle of March and Mayo in Castlebar in the last round.

Derry, last year's beaten finalists, have three home games - Kerry, Mayo and Cork; and four away - Donegal, Tyrone, Monaghan and Dublin.

Tonight's meeting is the 45th in the National League with the sides locked on 20 victories each and four draws.

Their last league meeting was back in March, 2011, in Celtic Park.

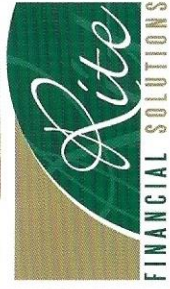
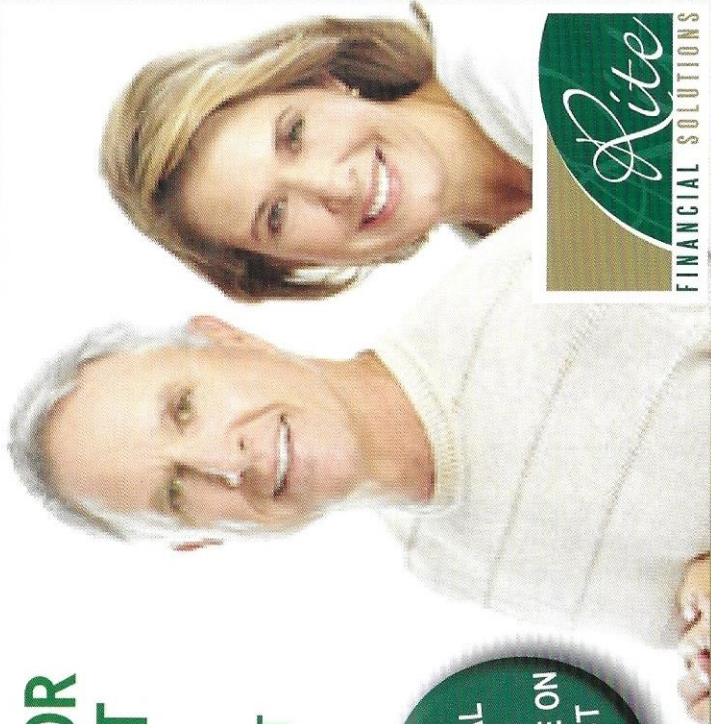
Donegal won a high octane encounter 2-18 to 2-12 on a night when Michael Murphy hit 1-7 in a man-of-the-match performance. Donegal emerged from a cracking encounter with the precious points despite being hit with two early Caolan O'Boyle goals.

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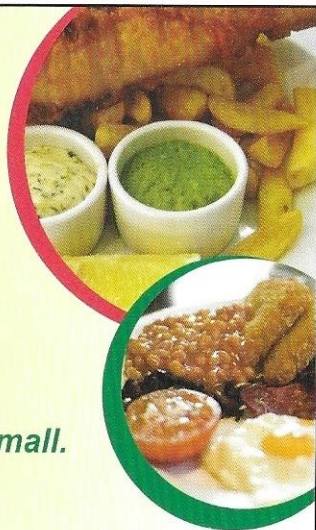
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Best of luck to Donegal Team from Paula and Staff



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