



Páirc Mac Giolla Cumhaill, Béal Féich
AN LONGFORT v **DÚN NA nGALL**

Páirc Uí Mhórdha, Portlaoise
AN CLÁR v **LAOIS**

Páirc Elverys Mhic hÉil, Caisleán a'Bharrraig
DOIRE v **MAIGH EO**

Páirc Tailteann, An Uaimh
AN MHÍ v **SLIGEACH**

GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship

ROUND 2A

CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL LUACH €3
Iúil 1 2017

ARD STIÚRTHÓIR
Páirc Ó Dufaigh



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GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 2A



AN LONGFORT v DÚN NA nGALL



An Réiteoir: Pádraig Hughes (Ard Mhacha)
Linesmen: Barry Cassidy (Doire) (STANDBY REFEREE), Liam Devenney (Maigh Eo)
Sideline Official: Niall McKenna (Muineachán)

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



AN CLÁR v LAOIS



An Réiteoir: Jerome Henry (Maigh Eo)
Linesmen: David Gough (An Mhí) (STANDBY REFEREE), James Bermingham (Corcaigh)
Sideline Official: Fergal Smyth (Uíbh Fhailí)

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



DOIRE v MAIGH EO



An Réiteoir: Maurice Deegan (Laois)
Linesmen: Niall Cullen (Fear Manach) (STANDBY REFEREE), James Molloy (Gaillimh)
Sideline Official: Eamon O'Grady (Liatroim)

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



AN MHÍ v SLIGEACH



An Réiteoir: Noel Mooney (An Cabhán)
Linesmen: Fergal Kelly (An Longfort) (STANDBY REFEREE), John Hickey (Ceatharlach)
Sideline Official: Niall Ward (An Iarmhí)

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

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RÉALTA AGUS CÚ CHULAINN

Le Mártaín Ó Ciardha

Tá Longfort ar cheann de leatdosaen contae atá ag fanacht fós go mbronnfar an gradam “All Star” ar dhuine dá gcuid peileadóirí – níor tháinig an scéim ar an saol go dtí 1971 agus ar an drochuair bhí sin ródheireanach do pheileadóirí an chontae a bhuaigh an tSraithchomórtas Náisiúnta i 1966 agus Craobh Laighean dhá bhliain ina dhiaidh sin.

Ach roimh theacht na “All Stars” bhí scéim eile darbh ainm “Gradaim Chú Chulainn” a mbíodh an iris “Gaelic Weekly” ina bhun idir 1963-1967 agus roghnaíodh Seán Murray as Longfort ar dheis sa líne lántosach i 1965. Ba as Teach Sinche i ndeisceart an chontae Ó Muirí a bhuaigh Craobh Áth Cliath faoi dhó le Coláiste na hOllscoile ansiúd.

Agus Craobh Laighean buaite acu i ’68 gortaíodh Seán Murray agus ní raibh sé in ann a dhul chun páirce i gCluiche Leathcheannais na hÉireann in aghaidh Chiarraí, inar buadh

ar a fhoireann le dhá chúilín.

Le teacht na All Stars i 1971 bhí triúr peileadóirí as na contaethe atá sa iomaíocht i nBabhtáí Cáilithe 2A an lae inniu ar an gcéad fhoireann riamh a roghnaíodh.

Johnny Carey as Beanchor Iorrais Mhaigh Eo ar dheis sa líne lánchúil, Pat Reynolds as Baile Bháltair na Mí lasmuigh dó ar chlé sa leath líne agus Micheál Kearins as an Droim Ard is Sligeach sa leath líne tosaigh.

Níor imir Kearins ná Carey i gCluiche Ceannais na hÉireann riamh cé gur bhuaigh siad 4 chraobh cúige eatarthu, ach i 1967 bhí Mac Raghnaill ar fhoireann na Mí a bhuaigh ar Chorcaigh.

Nuair a bronnadh an gradam All Star ar Brian McEniff i 1972 bhí sé ar an gcéad duine as Dún na nGall a fuair an onóir – an bhliain sin bhí sé ag imirt

agus mar bhainisteoir ar fhoireann an chontae sin a bhuaigh Craobh Uladh don chéad uair. Fiche bliain ina dhiaidh sin bhí sé ina bhainisteoir ar Dhún na nGall arís nuair a bhuaigh siar Corn Mhic Guidhir.

Sa bhliain 1973 thug Anthony McGurk an gradam All Star go Doire don chéad uair. Thuill sé an onóir arís dhá bhliain dar gcionn.

I 1986 a hainmníodh peileadóirí as Laois ar an bhfoireann don chéad uair – Colm Browne, an captaen a bhí ar fhoireann an chontae a bhuaigh an tSraithchomórtas Náisiúnta an bhliain sin agus Liam Irwin, a d’imir i lár na páirce.

1992, an bhliain ar imigh Marty Morrissey as a chranna cumhachta agus inar fágadh na ba in Iarthar an Chláir gan crú, a thug Séamus Clancy an chéad All Star Peile chuig an gcontae sin.

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www.gaeilge.ie

LEATHDOSAEN

half-dozen

AG FANACHT

waiting

AR AN DROCHUAIR

unfortunately

SUPER 8s COULD BREATHE THE NEW LIFE INTO QUALIFIERS

Last weekend's edition of *The Sunday Game* reminded us that it's that time of year again in football. Not quite time for talk of the dry sod and the fast ball; not time to talk of forthcoming provincial finals and All-Ireland contenders either. Rather, it's time for that dreaded, now annual debate – championship structures.

A specific focus of the programme was a segment about a possible 'B' football championship, prompted by Dublin's profoundly dominant 31-point Leinster semi-final victory over Westmeath. Ten senior inter-county managers were interviewed on the topic, with their views predictably divergent.

It's not that debating the topic is without merit – there clearly is, given the near universal agreement across all levels of the GAA that some kind of change is necessary. It's more the fact that by now, the debate has become

an annual set-piece, predictably following any one-sided game. It will power a few columns and generate some bloviating from pundits for a few weeks before the actual sport commands our attention once again.

Interestingly, the differing views of the 10 managers – from similarly ranked counties, most of who played in Divisions 3 and 4 in 2017 – illustrated the challenge and complexity of addressing the issue.

From Sligo manager Niall Carew saying he believed a 'B' championship would be a "a disaster going forward for football" to Longford manager Denis Connerton saying that he believed "it's very important that players compete in a competition which they feel they can honestly win", it's obvious there is no quick fix and no easily digestible solution.

A common catalyst for this well-worn debate in recent years has been a general

sense of weariness with the All-Ireland qualifier system, with an argument taking hold that it has become stale and needs some kind of freshening up.

That sense might be enhanced by the fact that it is now seven years since a team came through the All-Ireland qualifier route to win an All-Ireland title, as Cork did in 2010, and as Kerry, Tyrone and Galway had done in the years before.

Or it might be linked to the fact that over the last few seasons, the same counties have tended to appear at the same stage of the qualifiers year after year.

Take this evening's Round 2A fixture list for example – seven of the counties involved played in Round 2 of the qualifiers last year while Donegal were also in the back door format in 2016, joining at the Round 4 stage.

However, since their introduction 17 years ago,

the All-Ireland qualifiers have to a certain extent created a new competition, with the prize at the end of it being an All-Ireland quarter-final place, rather than a trophy.

Generally speaking, teams that have appeared in the qualifiers over the last couple of seasons have been surprisingly well matched, leading to relatively few extreme scorelines. Indeed, those have been largely restricted to games in the provincial competitions, inevitably involving the big beasts of Dublin and Kerry – both on lengthy unbroken runs in Leinster and Munster – and the slightly lesser beasts of Donegal, Mayo and Tyrone.

For counties cast out

early from the battle for provincial honours, or for those who can't realistically aspire to winning the All-Ireland, reaching the All-Ireland quarter-final stage has become a substantial prize in itself. However, perhaps the most intriguing thing about the entire championship structure debate at present is the fact that the already confirmed introduction of the 'Super 8' format in place of the quarter-finals from 2018 on has hugely enhanced and incentivised reaching the last eight.

The substantial allure of the Super 8 – two groups of four, three big games guaranteed for each county – could have the added effect of increasing the already cutthroat competition of

the qualifiers. With such a big prize now available at the end of the week-by-week gauntlet, a county's motivation to do well in the backdoor system could increase substantially. And the good news is that, perhaps contrary to prevailing wisdom, reaching the last eight is not such a closed shop.

In the last five seasons, half of the island's 32 counties have reached the last eight. Yes, Kerry, Dublin, Donegal and Mayo have been there every year but there has been plenty of opportunity for those outside the 'elite' – just look at the examples of Clare, Tipperary (both 2016), Fermanagh (2015), Cavan (2013) and Laois (2012). Over the 16-year history of the last eight, all but nine counties have reached the All-Ireland quarter-final stage.

It's true that those counties at the very bottom of the football food chain – those that generally operate in Division 4 and who have never reached the last eight – are likely to remain cast out from the feast.

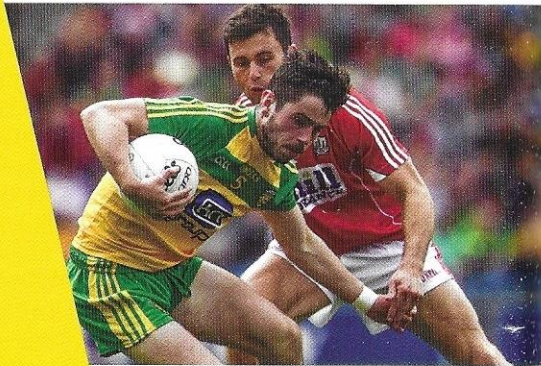
But unlike the relatively nouveau topic of championship structures, the debate of how to make those weakest few stronger is about as old as the game itself – that's not going away any time soon.



LAST 10 QUALIFIER MATCHES

DONEGAL

2008	Donegal	3-11	Roscommon	1-9
	Monaghan	0-16	Donegal	0-15
2009	Donegal	2-13	Carlow	1-6
	Donegal	0-13	Clare	1-7
	Donegal	2-13	Derry	0-18
	Donegal	0-14	Galway	0-13
2010	Armagh	2-14	Donegal	0-11
2013	Donegal	0-14	Laois	0-8
2015	Donegal	3-12	Galway	0-11
2016	Donegal	0-21	Cork	1-15



WON 8

LOST 2

10

LOST 4

WON 6

LONGFORD

2013	Wexford	2-15	Longford	0-16
2014	Longford	2-16	Derry	2-14
	Tipperary	2-17	Longford	0-6
2015	Longford	2-15	Carlow	1-8
	Longford	2-12	Clare	1-12
	Kildare	2-24	Longford	0-11
2016	Longford	2-24	Down	3-17
	Longford	2-13	Monaghan	1-13
	Cork	2-9	Longford	1-6
2017	Longford	2-15	Louth	1-10

LAST MEETING

DONEGAL 1-17 LONGFORD 1-11

Date: June 7 2003

Stage: All-Ireland Championship Round 1

Venue: Mac Cumhaill Park, Ballybofey

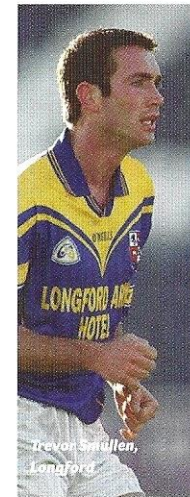
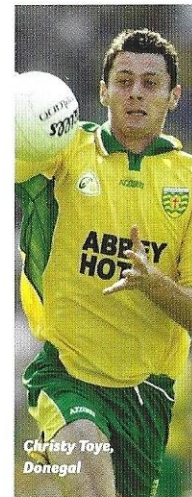
Referee: D Joyce (Galway)

Half-time score: Donegal 1-6 Longford 0-8



Subs - J McGuinness, J McCafferty, C Toye

Donegal scorers: A Sweeney 0-8, S McDermott 1-1, C McFadden 0-3, B Roper 0-3, M Hegarty 0-2.



Subs - P Shanley, M Kenny, C Hanniffy, M Kelly
Longford scorers: P Davis 0-5, L Keenan 0-4, N Sheridan 1-0, T Smullen 0-1, P Barden 0-1.

AN RÉITEOIR

Pádraig Hughes (Armagh)



The Crossmaglen Rangers clubman was assigned two fixtures in the qualifiers last season as the Kildare-Offaly (Newbridge) and Clare-Roscommon (Salthill) ties came under his jurisdiction. The 12-year veteran of the inter-county panel was last in charge of Donegal in January this year for their McKenna Cup tie against Tyrone at Omagh while his last match at Ballybofey was in March 2014 for the home side's Allianz League tie with Meath. Longford have not featured among his matches over the past five years. Earlier this year he handled three matches in the league and last month refereed the Kerry-Clare Munster semi-final.

**AN LONGFORT**

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Denis Connerton (Bainisteoir), Trevor Smullen, Ciaran Fox, Enda Macken, Derek Ryan

1 *Pádraig Mac Colaim*
PADDY COLLUM
Fr. Manning Gaels**2** *Diarmuid Mac an Mháistir*
DIARMUID MASTERSON
Dromard**3** *Pádraig Mac Cormaic*
PÁDRAIG McCORMACK
Killoe Young Emmets**4** *Barra Mac Giollaráin*
BARRY GILLERAN
Longford Slashers**5** *Dónall Mac Uileagóid*
DONAL McELLIGOTT
St. Columbas**6** *Micheal Ó Cuinn (C.)*
MICHAEL QUINN
Killoe Young Emmets**7** *Deasún Mac Ránaill*
DESSIE REYNOLDS
Seán Connollys**8** *Seán Ó Caogáin*
JOHN KEEGAN
St. Columbas**9** *Daithí Mac Dhuibhne*
DAVID McGIVNEY
St. Columbas**10** *Dónall Muimhneach*
DANIEL MIMNAGH
Killoe Young Emmets**11** *Séamas Mac Dhuibhne*
JAMES McGIVNEY
St. Columbas**12** *Dáire Ó Gallchobhair*
DARREN GALLAGHER
St. Marys Granard**13** *Roibeard Mac Gabhann*
ROBBIE SMYTH
Abbeylara**14** *Liam Ó Connachtáin*
LIAM CONNERTON
Rathcline**15** *Barra Mac Eoin*
BARRY McKEON
Colmcille**FIR IONAIÐ****16.** *Coilm Ó Fearail*
COLM FARRELL
Longford Slashers**17.** *Labhrás Ó Móráin*
LARRY MORAN
Killoe Young Emmets**18.** *Aindriú Ó Fearail*
ANDREW FARRELL
Cashel**19.** *Conchúr Ó Béarra*
CONOR BERRY
Abbeylara**20.** *Rónán Mac an tSaoir*
RONAN McENTIRE
Dromard**21.** *Barra Ó Fearail*
BARRY O'FARRELL
Carrickedmond**22.** *Cian Ó Fearghallaigh*
CIAN FARRELLY
Killoe Young Emmets**23.** *Marcas Ó hAodha*
MARK HUGHES
Killoe Young Emmets**24.** *Rían Ó Brádaigh*
RIÁN BRADY
St. Columbas**25.** *Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh*
JOE KELLY
Ballymahon**26.** *Cillian Ó an Lia*
CILLIAN LEE
St. Brigids**DÚN NA nGALL**

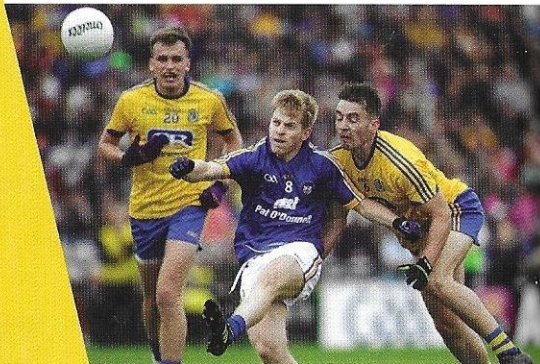
ROGHNÓIRÍ: Ruairí Ó Gallachóir (Bainisteoir), Marcas Ó Curráin, Breandán Mac Giolla Chaoimín

1 *Marc Antaine Mac Fhionnghaile*
MARK ANTHONY McGINLEY
Naomh Mícheál**2** *Pádraig Mac Craith*
PADDY McGRATH
Ard an Ratha**3** *Niall Mac Aoidh*
NEIL McGEE
Gaoh Dobhair**4** *Caolán Mac an Bháird*
CAOLAN WARD
Naomh Adhamhnáin**5** *Riain Mac Aodha*
RYAN McHUGH
Cill Chartha**6** *Proinsias Mac Fhloinn*
FRANK McGLYNN
Glenn Fhinne**7** *Eoghan Ban Ó Gallchóir*
EOGHAN BÂN GALLAGHER
Na Cealla Beaga**8** *Iasán Mac Aoidh*
JASON McGEE
Cloch Cheann Fhaola**9** *Ciarán Mac Thomáis*
CIARÁN THOMPSON
Naomh Conaill**10** *Mícheál Ó Cearrbhaill*
MICHAEL CARROLL
Gaoh Dobhair**11** *Mairtín Ó Raghallaigh*
MARTIN O'REILLY
Seán Mac Cumhaill**12** *Eoin Mac Aodha*
EOIN McHUGH
Cill Chartha**13** *Pádraig Mac Breartaigh*
PATRICK McBREARTY
Cill Chartha**14** *Mícheál Ó Murchú (C.)*
MICHAEL MURPHY
Glenn tSúilí**15** *Cian Ó Maolagáin*
CIAN MULLIGAN
Gaoh Dobhair**FIR IONAIÐ****16.** *Peadar Ó Baoill*
PETER BOYLE
Aodh Ruadh B.A.S.**17.** *Éamonn Ó Dochartaigh*
EAMONN DOHERTY
Naomh Adhamhnáin**18.** *Carl de Léis*
KARL LACEY
Na Ceithre Máistirí**19.** *Marc Mac Aodha*
MARK McHUGH
Cill Chartha**20.** *Pól Ó Braonainn*
PAUL BRENNAN
Real Na Mara, Bundobhráin**21.** *Ciarán Mac Giolla Easbuig*
KIERAN GILLESPIE
Gaoh Dobhair**22.** *Mairtín Mac Giolla Chainnigh*
MARTIN McELHINNEY
Naomh Mícheál**23.** *Mícheál Ó Longáin*
MICHAEL LANGAN
Naomh Mícheál**24.** *Aodh Mac Pháidín*
HUGH McFADDEN
Na Cealla Beaga**25.** *Jamie Ó Braonáin*
JAMIE BRENNAN
Real na Mara, Bundobhráin**26.** *Darrach Ó Conchubhair*
DARRACH O'CONNOR
Bun Crannacha

LAST 10 QUALIFIER MATCHES

CLARE

2010	Offaly	2-18	Clare	1-18
2011	Down	1-13	Clare	1-12
2012	Kerry	1-22	Clare	1-6
2013	Laois	3-17	Clare	0-10
2014	Clare	4-26	Carlow	2-13
	Kildare	0-13	Clare	0-12
2015	Longford	2-12	Clare	1-12
2016	Clare	0-14	Laois	1-10
	Clare	2-17	Sligo	1-13
	Clare	2-12	Roscommon	1-9



LOST 6 **WON 4** **10** **LOST 4** **WON 6**

LAOIS

2013	Laois	3-17	Clare	0-10
	Laois	0-16	Wexford	2-8
	Donegal	0-14	Laois	0-8
2014	Laois	1-19	Fermanagh	2-15
	Laois	0-18	Wexford	0-17
	Tipperary	3-17	Laois	4-9
2015	Antrim	2-15	Laois	1-16
2016	Laois	1-11	Armagh	1-10
	Clare	0-14	Laois	1-10
2017	Laois	2-16	Wicklow	3-10

LAST MEETING

CLARE 0-14 LAOIS 1-10

Date: July 10 2016

Stage: All-Ireland Championship Round 2A

Venue: Cusack Park, Ennis

Referee: M Duffy (Sligo)

Half-time score: Laois 1-7 Clare 0-7



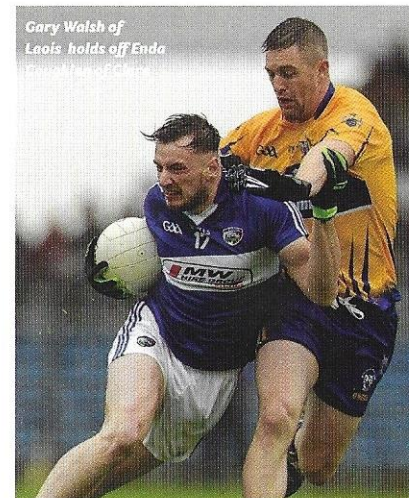
Subs – S McGrath, E Coughlan, S Malone, P Collins, D Ryan

Clare scorers: E Cleary 0-4, J Malone 0-3, G Brennan 0-1, C O'Connor 0-1, K Sexton 0-1, D Tubridy 0-1, S Hickey 0-1, S Malone 0-1, S McGrath 0-1



Subs – A Farrell, J Farrell, M Champion, R Munnelly, G Walsh

Laois scorers: J O'Loughlin 0-3, D Kingston 0-3, S Attridge 1-0, C. Meredith 0-1, D Conway 0-1, D Strong 0-1, P Cahillane 0-1



AN RÉITEOIR

Jerome Henry (Mayo)



Today's fixture is the Castlebar Mitchels clubman's second outing in the qualifiers as Henry was in charge of the Waterford-Derry Round 1A tie at Fraher Field, Dungarvan three weeks ago. In his seventh season as a member of the inter-county panel, the 36-year-old was assigned Laois' Allianz League tie with Longford at O'Moore Park in March while he also had an outing at Croke Park the previous month for the AIB Club Junior final. Jerome's most recent outing with Clare was 16 months ago for their league tie with Westmeath at Ennis, while both counties featured among his 2015 league fixtures.



AN CLÁR

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Coilm Ó Coileáin (Bainisteoir),
Éimhín Ó Seancháin, Ailéin Ó Floinn, Daibhéid Ó Briain

1 *Seosamh Ó hAodha*
JOE HAYES
Lios Uí Chathasaigh

2 *Dean Ó Riain*
DEAN RYAN
Éire Óg Inis

3 *Caoimhín Ó hAirtnéada*
KEVIN HARNETT
Míliluch

4 *Mairtín Mac Mathúna*
MARTIN McMAHON
Cill Mhuire Uí Bhreacain

5 *Cian Ó Deá*
CIAN O'DEA
Cill Fhionnurach

6 *Gordan Ó Ceallaigh*
GORDON KELLY
Naomh Iosaif Sráid Na Cathrach

7 *Ciarán Ó Ruiseil*
CIARÁN RUSSELL
Éire Óg Inis

8 *Gearóid Ó Braonáin (C.)*
GARY BRENNAN
Cluain Da Ghad

9 *Cathal Ó Conchúir*
CATHAL O'CONNOR
Cúil Mín

10 *Séamus Ó Maoileoin*
JAMIE MALONE
Cora Finne

11 *Seán Ó Coileáin*
SEÁN COLLINS
Creatlach

12 *Piaras Laighleis*
PIERCE LILLIS
Cuar An Chláir

13 *Eoghan Ó Cleirigh*
EOIN CLEARY
Naomh Iosaif Sráid Na Cathrach

14 *Daibhéid Ó Tiobraide*
DAVID TUBRIDY
Dún Beag

15 *Caolán Ó Seasnáin*
KEELAN SEXTON
Cill Mhuire Uí Bhreacain

FIR IONAID

- 16.** *Cill de Roiste*
KILLIAN ROCHE
Cuar An Chláir
- 17.** *Daire Ó Buacháin*
DARRAGH BOHANNON
Gael Na Sionna
- 18.** *Eoghan Ó Coileáin*
EOGHAN COLLINS
Baile atha hAmhnais-(Maigh Eo)

- 19.** *Eimhín Ó Curnáin*
EIMHIN COURTNEY
Éire Óg Inis
- 20.** *Daibhéid Ó hAogáin*
DAVID EGAN
Cill Mhíchíl
- 21.** *Seán Ó hAodha*
JOHN HAYES
Cill Ruis Seamróg
- 22.** *Ciarán Ó Maoileoin*
KIERAN MALONE
Naomh Iosaif Sráid Na Cathrach

- 23.** *Seán Ó Maoileoin*
SEÁNIE MALONE
Naomh Iosaif Sráid Na Cathrach
- 24.** *Seán Ó Muireasa*
JACK MORRISSEY
Cuar An Chláir
- 25.** *Darren de Nógla*
DARREN NAGLE
Lios Ceannuir
- 26.** *Gearóid Ó Briain*
GEARÓID O'BRIEN
Cill Ruis Seamróg

FIR IONAID

- 16.** *Eoghan Mac Eochaidh*
EOGHAN KEOGH
Mountmellick
- 17.** *Séamus Ó Ceallaigh*
JAMES KELLY
St Joseph's
- 18.** *Ciaran Laighléis*
KIERAN LILLIS
Portlaoise

- 19.** *Gearóid Diolún*
GARETH DILLON
Portlaoise
- 20.** *Ambros Ó Deoráin*
AMBROSE DORAN
Graiguecullen
- 21.** *Pól Mac Clochaire*
PAUL KINGSTON
Arles-Killeen
- 22.** *Niall Ó Danachair*
NIALL DONOHER
Courtwood

- 23.** *Ross Ó Maonaile*
ROSS MUNNELLY
Arles-Kilcruise
- 24.** *Séamus Ó Finn*
JAMES FINN
Ballyfin
- 25.** *Brian Ó Dálaigh*
BRIAN DALY
Barrowhouse
- 26.** *Caoimhín Ó Maonaigh*
KEVIN MEANEY
Arles-Kilcruise



LAOIS

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Peadar Ó Críodáin (Bainisteoir),
Gearóid Ó Caomhanach, Tomás Mac Shitric

1 *Graham Ó Bruaideadha*
GRAHAM BRODY
Portlaoise

2 *Darren Strong*
DARREN STRONG
Emo

3 *Marcas Ó Tiomáin*
MARK TIMMONS
Graiguecullen

4 *Trevor Ó Coileáin*
TREVOR COLLINS
Graiguecullen

5 *Eoin Ó Bogaigh*
EOIN BUGGIE
Stradbally

6 *Pádraig Mac Mathúna*
PÁDRAIG McMAHON
Ballyroan Abbey

7 *Coilm Ó Beaglaioich*
COLM BEGLEY
Stradbally

8 *Breandán Ó Coigligh*
BRENDAN QUIGLEY
Timahoe

9 *Seán Ó Lochlainn*
JOHN O'LOUGHLIN
St Brigid's

10 *Ailéin Ó Fearail*
ALAN FARRELL
Ballylinan

11 *Daithí Ó Conbhui*
DAVID CONWAY
Arles-Kilcruise

12 *Damien O'Conchuir*
DAMIEN O'CONNOR
Timahoe

13 *Stiofán Attride (C.)*
STEPHEN ATTRIDE
Killeshin

14 *Dónal Mac Clochaire*
DONAL KINGSTON
Arles-Killeen

15 *Gearóid Breathnach*
GARY WALSH
Ballylinan





FAILURE NO LONGER AN OPTION

By John Harrington, GAA.ie

The trick with the All-Ireland Qualifiers is to get over the initial hump – after that it's easier to convince yourself you have momentum again.

But beware! The first match you play in the qualifiers tests you like no other.

You're there essentially because you've failed, and the human psyche doesn't always deal well with failure.

The bould Winston Churchill once said: 'Failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts', but he never had to pick himself up after being knocked out of a provincial championship.

No matter the status of a county, they go into their provincial campaign thinking they can win it, or at least go far in it. So, when they fall at an early hurdle and are forced to reset their goals, the necessary

recalibration isn't as simple as pressing a few buttons.

Negative emotions like regret and anger have to be flushed from the system sharpish, and you have to convince yourself all over again that there's something worth fighting for.

It isn't easy to believe you can scale the mountains required to win an All-Ireland title when you're viewing that distant peak from the foothills of the early rounds of an All-Ireland Qualifier.

Perhaps you're better off if you never thought that was an achievable destination in the first place.

If you're just focused on enjoying the view for as long as it lasts rather than getting yourself in a funk about how high you now have to hike. Longford are a consistent example of just how important

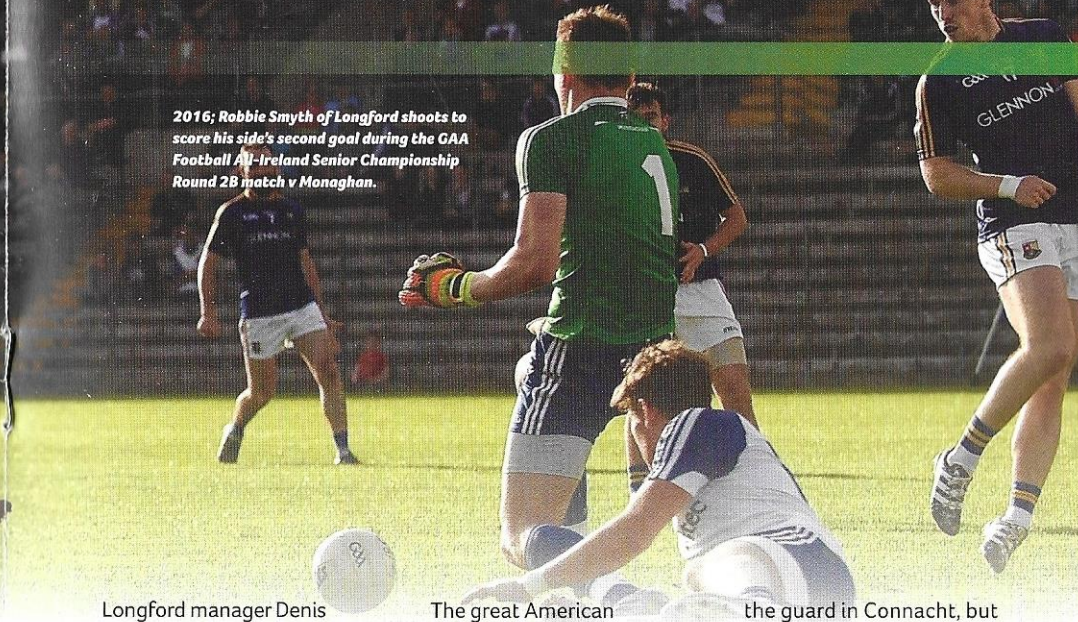
a positive mental attitude is when it comes to the qualifiers. That's seen them pull off some high-profile shocks, most notably last year when they knocked out Monaghan.

They were very poor when beaten by Laois in the Leinster Championship this year, but they didn't wallow in self-pity afterwards.

Instead, as is consistently their trait, they picked themselves up, dusted themselves down, and played a brand of no-fear attacking football that earned them a highly impressive victory over Louth in Round 1A of the qualifiers.

No-one is giving them much of a hope going up to play Donegal in Ballybofey today, but you can take it as read they're going to throw the kitchen sink and whatever crockery is in it at the Ulster side today.

2016; Robbie Smyth of Longford shoots to score his side's second goal during the GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Round 2B match v Monaghan.



Longford manager Denis Connerton claimed this week that his players are going out to play with a smile on their faces, but how about Donegal?

It's hard to believe the frowns that creased their faces after the drubbing Tyrone handed out to them in the Ulster semi-final have faded just yet.

They should win the match if they play anything like their full ability, but if they're still in a funk and feeling sorry for themselves, then it could be a long afternoon.

The same goes for Mayo and Meath who are warm favourites to beat Derry and Sligo respectively, but could find things trickier than the odds suggest if they're not in a good place mentally.

Much like Longford, both Derry and Sligo have a tradition of finding their best form in the All-Ireland Qualifiers, and they'll have a bounce in their step after winning their first-round matches.

The great American basketball coach John Wooden once said that "failure isn't fatal, but failure to change might be."

That's a piece of wisdom that both Mayo and Meath would do well to take on board as they try to reboot their championship campaigns.

Mayo manager Stephen Rochford is starting to earn a reputation for making big selection calls that end up back-firing, and the first step forward for the Connacht side must surely be getting their best XV on the pitch and keeping it there for as long as possible.

That surely means including Aidan O'Shea and Colm Boyle from the start, and not taking off a player like Andy Moran just after he's scored a screamer of a point.

Defeat to Galway was a sore one because it seemed to confirm a changing of

the guard in Connacht, but resilience is something you could never accuse Mayo footballers of lacking so we'll have to assume they've already emotionally processed the disappointment.

As for Meath, the defensive naivety that has been exposed so often this year simply has to be addressed by their manager Andy McEntee, even if that means a tactical change that goes against his instincts for playing front-foot football.

All of which leaves today's fourth and final Round 2A qualifier between Clare and Laois.

The Banner County are coming in off a defeat, but the fact that it was against Kerry and they put up a good show means they should still be in a good place mentally.

And that's what counts for most when it comes to proving yourself all over again in the All-Ireland Qualifiers.



DOIRE

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Damian Bartún (Bainisteoir),
Brian Mag Eocháin, Aodh Mac Craith

1 *Beirheart Mac Fhionnlais*
BEN MCKINLESS
Baile An Doire

2 *Naill Ó Fhinín*
NIALL KEENAN
Seanmullach

3 *Breandán Mac Ruairí*
BRENDAN ROGERS
Sleacht Neil

4 *Kearúll Mac Thaidhg*
KARL MCKAIGUE
Sleacht Neil

5 *Ciarán Mac Pháil*
CIARÁN McFAUL
An Gleann

6 *Críostóir Mac Thaidhg*
CHRISTOPHER MCKAIGUE
Sleacht Neil

7 *Cearúll Mac Uilliam*
CARLUS McWILLIAMS
Baile na Scríne

8 *Conchúr Mac an Tiompánaigh*
CONOR McATAMNEY
An Suaiteach

9 *Dónall Ó héimhrín*
DANNY HEAVRON
Machaire Fiolta

10 *Rian Mac Giolla Mhaoil*
RYAN BELL
Baile An Doire

11 *Niaill Ó Lochlain*
NIALL LOUGHLIN
An Grianloch

12 *Éanna Ó Loinn (C.)*
ENDA LYNN
An Grianloch

13 *Dónall Talún*
DANNY TALLON
An Gleann

14 *Eiméid Mag Eocháin*
EMMETT MCGUCKIN
Machaire Fiolta

15 *Breandán Mac Giolla Chearáin*
BENNY HERON
Baile na Scríne

FIR IONAIÐ

16. *Séamas Ó Caoilte*
JAMES KIULT
Cill Riabach

17. *Micheál Mac Fhíobhú*
MICHAEL McEVOY
Machaire Fiolta

18. *Seán Mag Uiginn*
SHANE MCGUIGAN
Sleacht Neil

19. *Conchúr Mac Cnáimhin*
CONOR NEVIN
Baile An Doire

20. *Marcas Ó Loingsigh*
MARK LYNCH
Beannchar

21. *Néill Fuireastar*
NEIL FORRESTER
Baile Na Stallaigh

22. *Conchúr Ó Dochartaigh*
CONOR DOHERTY
Droichead Nua

23. *Oisín Duffin*
OISÍN DUFFIN
Baile An Doire

24. *Conchúr Mac Gruagáin*
CONOR MCGROGAN
Droichead Nua

25. *Gabhán Ó Néill*
GAVIN O'NEILL
Beannchar



MAIGH EO

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Stephen Rochford (Bainisteoir),
Tony McEntee, Donie Buckley, Peter Burke

1 *Daithí Ó Cléirigh*
DAVID CLARKE
Ballina Stephenites

2 *Breandan Ó Hearcháí*
BRENDAN HARRISON
Aghamore

3 *Gearóid MacEafarcaigh*
GER CAFFERKEY
Ballina Stephenites

4 *Críostóir Baróid*
CHRIS BARRETT
Beimullet

5 *Coilm Ó Baoill*
COLM BOYLE
Davitts

6 *Laoi Mac Aogáin*
LEE KEEGAN
Westport

7 *Pádraig Ó Dhurcáin*
PATRICK DURCAN
Castlebar Mitchels

8 *Séamus Ó Sé*
SÉAMUS O'SHEA
Breaffy

9 *Tomás Mac an Phearsúin*
TOM PARSONS
Charlestown

10 *Fearghal Ó Beolláin*
FERGAL BOLAND
Aghamore

11 *Diarmuid Ó Choncuir*
DIARMUID O'CONNOR
Ballintubber

12 *Stíofain Ó Cadháin*
STEPHEN COEN
Hollymount/Carramore

13 *Caoimhín Mac Laughlainn*
KEVIN McLOUGHLIN
Knockmore

14 *Cillian Ó Choncuir (C.)*
CILLIAN O'CONNOR
Ballintubber

15 *Aindriú Ó Moráin*
ANDY MORAN
Ballagherreen

FIR IONAIÐ

16. *Riobeard Ó hIonuille*
ROBERT HENNELLY
Breaffy

17. *Caolán Mac Conchradha*
CAOLAN CROWE
Garrymore

18. *Donal Ó Beachain*
DONAL VAUGHAN
Ballinrobe

19. *Daithí Drake*
DAVID DRAKE
Ballagherreen

20. *Seán Mac An Fhailighigh*
SHANE NALLY
Garrymore

21. *Iasán Dochartaigh*
JASON DOHERTY
Burrishoole

22. *Aodhán Ó Sé*
AIDAN O'SHEA
Breaffy

23. *Dónall Ó Ciarba*
DANNY KIRBY
Castlebar Mitchels

24. *Éimhín Ó Réigin*
EVAN REGAN
Ballina Stephenites

25. *Conchúr Ó Lachtnáin*
CONOR LOFTUS
Crossmolina

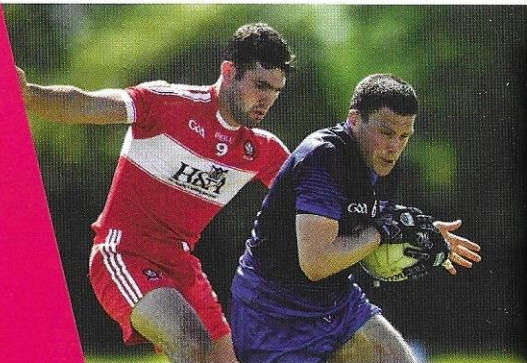
26. *Ailéin Diolún*
ALAN DILLON
Ballintubber



LAST 10 QUALIFIER MATCHES

DERRY

2013	Derry	0-13	Down	1-5
	Cavan	1-22	Derry	0-20
2014	Longford	2-16	Derry	2-14
2015	Derry	1-16	Wexford	0-10
	Galway	1-11	Derry	0-8
2016	Derry	1-18	Louth	2-10
	Derry	1-14	Meath	1-11
	Derry	1-17	Cavan	0-18
	Tipperary	1-21	Derry	2-17
2017	Derry	1-17	Waterford	0-13



LOST 4

10

LOST 4

WON 6

MAYO

2002	Mayo	0-21	Tipperary	1-14
2003	Fermanagh	0-12	Mayo	1-8
2005	Mayo	0-11	Cavan	0-8
2007	Mayo	1-19	Cavan	3-7
	Derry	2-13	Mayo	1-6
2008	Tyrone	0-13	Mayo	1-9
2010	Longford	1-12	Mayo	0-14
2016	Mayo	2-14	Fermanagh	1-12
	Mayo	2-17	Kildare	0-14
	Mayo	3-15	Westmeath	1-14



LAST MEETING

DERRY 2-13 MAYO 1-6

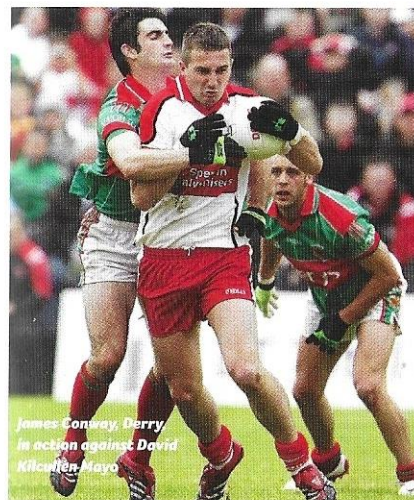
Date: July 14 2007

Stage: All-Ireland Championship Round 2

Venue: Celtic Park, Derry

Referee: D Coldrick (Meath)

Half-time score: Derry 0-8 Mayo 1-3



James Conway, Derry in action against David Kilcoyne, Mayo

Subs- M Lynch, R Wilkinson, Patsy Bradley, G Donaghy, P O'Hea

Derry scorers: P Bradley 0-5, E Muldoon 1-1, C Devlin 1-1, C Gilligan 0-3, J Conway 0-1, B McGoldrick 0-1, R Wilkinson 0-1.



Subs - A Kilcoyne, A Campbell, K O'Neill, P Gardiner, C McDonald, R McGarrity

Mayo scorers: B Moran 1-2, P Hanley 0-1, C Mortimer 0-1, A Moran 0-1, A Kilcoyne 0-1.



AN RÉITEOIR

Maurice Deegan (Laois)

The Stradbally native has already refereed a championship match featuring Derry this season as the O'Moore County whistle-blower was in charge of the Oak Leaf's Ulster quarter-final against Tyrone at Celtic Park five weeks ago. Deegan is also familiar with Mayo as he was the man-in-the-middle last October for the All-Ireland final replay against Dublin. His last assignment at MacHale Park was in February 2013 when Mayo hosted Tyrone in the Allianz League. Maurice was assigned three fixtures in that competition this season while he was also in the top officiating role for the AIB Club final at Croke Park.



AN MHÍ

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Andy McEntee (Bainisteoir),
Donal Curtis, Finian Murtagh, Cormac Sullivan, Gerry McEntee

1 *Pádraig Ó Ruairc*
PADDY O'ROURKE
Skyrme

2 *Mícheál de Búrca*
MICKEY BURKE
Longwood

3 *Conchúr Mac Giolla*
CONOR MCGILL
Ratoath

4 *Dónnacha Tóibín*
DÓNNACHA TOBIN
Blackhall Gaels

5 *Pádraig Ó hEarnáin*
PAURIC HARNAN
Moynalvey

6 *Dónall Mac Eochagáin*
DONAL KEOGAN
Rathkenny

7 *Seán Mac on tSaoi*
SHANE McENTEE
St. Peter's-Dunboyne

8 *Briain Ó Mantáin*
BRYAN MENTON
Donaghmore/Ashbourne

9 *Rónan Seoin*
RONAN JONES
St. Peter's-Dunboyne

10 *Séamus Ó Tuachair*
JAMES TOHER
Trim

11 *Cillian Ó Súilleabháin*
CILLIAN O'SULLIVAN**
Moynalvey

12 *Ruairí Ó Coileáin*
RUAIRÍ Ó COILEÁIN
Navan O'Mahony's

13 *Graham Ó Raghalaigh (C.)*
GRAHAM REILLY
St. Colmcille's

14 *Seán Tóibín*
SEÁN TOBIN
Simonstown Gaels

15 *Dónall Ó Loingeacháin*
DONAL LENIHAN
St. Peter's-Dunboyne

FIR IONAIÐ

16. *Seosamh Ó Sirideáin*
JOE SHERIDAN
Seneschalstown

17. *Séamus Mac on tSaoi*
JAMES McENTEE
Curraha

18. *Briain de Paor*
BRIAN POWER
Ratoath

19. *Ailén Mac Dúghlais*
ALAN DOUGLAS
Trim

20. *Briain Ó Conalláin*
BRIAN CONLON
Simonstown Gaels

21. *Tomás Ó Raghalaigh*
THOMAS O'REILLY
Wolfe Tones

22. *Cian Ó Briain*
CIAN O'BRIEN
Ratoath

23. *Éamann de Bhoilís*
EAMON WALLACE
Ratoath

24. *Caoimhín Rosch*
KEVIN ROSS
Castletown

25. *Adam Ó Flannagáin*
ADAM FLANAGAN
Clonard

26. *Michéal Nuaman*
MICHAEL NEWMAN
Kilmainham



SLIGEACH

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Niall Carew (Bainisteoir),
Noel McGuire, Keith Carty

1 *Aodhán Ó Dubhánaigh*
AIDAN DEVANEY
Calraigh Naomh Íosef

2 *Rossa Ó Donabháin*
ROSS DONAVAN
Clarsigh an Oirthear

3 *Caoimhín Mac Dónaill*
KEVIN McDONNELL
Caisleán Uí Conchubhair

4 *Searlas Ó hEarcaí*
CHARLIE HARRISON
Naomh Eoin

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

6 *Brendáin Mac Aogáin*
BRENDAN EGAN
Naomh Uinsean

7 *Seán Ó Ceallaigh*
JOHN KELLY
Tuar Loistreáin

8 *Adrian Mac an tSaoir*
ADRIAN McINTYRE
Tuar Loistreáin

9 *Pádraig Ó Conchubhair*
PATRICK O'CONNOR
Naomh Fearnáin

10 *Néil Mac Eoghain (C.)*
NEIL EWING
Droim Cliabh-Ros Ceite

11 *Shuile Mac Amhlaí*
KYLE CAWLEY
Naomh Muire

12 *Nial Ó Murchú*
NIALL MURPHY
Cúil Irra-Leathros

13 *Stiofáin Ó Cadhain*
STEPHEN COEN
Naomh Muire

14 *Pádraig Ó hAodha*
PAT HUGHES
Gaobach

15 *Aidrian Ó Mearnáin*
ADRIAN MARRÉN
Curraigh

FIR IONAIÐ

16. *Dónal Mac Eafarcaidh*
DANIEL CAFFERKEY
Bun an Fheadáin

17. *Marcus Mac an Breithiúaigh*
MARK BREHENY
Naomh Muire

18. *Stiofáin Mac Éinrí*
STEPHEN HENRY
Tour Loistreáin

19. *Nollaig Ó Gacháin*
NOEL GAUGHAN
Tuar Loistreáin

20. *Gearóid Ó Ceallaigh-Loinsigh*
GERARD O'KELLY-LYNCH
Naomh Muire

21. *Criostóir Ó Daibhí*
CHRISTOPHER DAVEY
Cuil Áine-Mullach na Breine

22. *Daithí Ó Ceallaigh*
DAVID KELLY
Tobar an Choire

23. *Domhnall Ó Miadhaigh*
DANIEL MAYE
Tobar an Choire

24. *Brian Mac Aogáin*
BRIAN EGAN
Tuar Loistreáin

25. *Stiofáin Mac Giolla Mhártain*
STEPHEN GILMARTIN
Tobar an Choire

26. *Darrach Ó Coimín*
DARRAGH CUMMINS
Calraigh-Naomh Íosef





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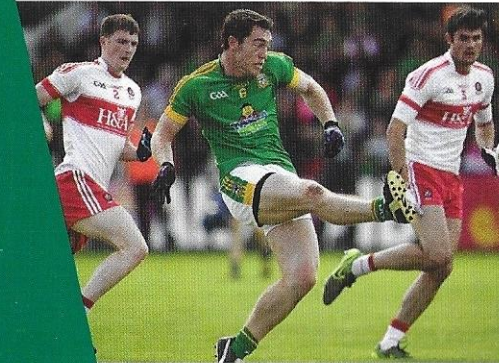
PORTADOWN

Seagoe Industrial Area,
Portadown, Co. Armagh,
BT635QE
Tel: 028 3833 7222

LAST 10 QUALIFIER MATCHES

MEATH

2009	Meath	2-12	Roscommon	0-11
	Meath	1-13	Limerick	2-9
2011	Meath	5-8	Louth	2-8
	Meath	0-11	Galway	0-10
	Kildare	2-11	Meath	0-14
2012	Laois	1-15	Meath	1-12
2013	Tyrone	0-17	Meath	2-9
2014	Armagh	0-18	Meath	0-13
2015	Tyrone	1-10	Meath	0-11
2016	Derry	1-14	Meath	1-11



LOST 6

WON 4

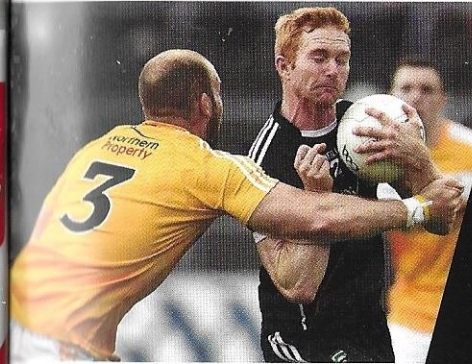
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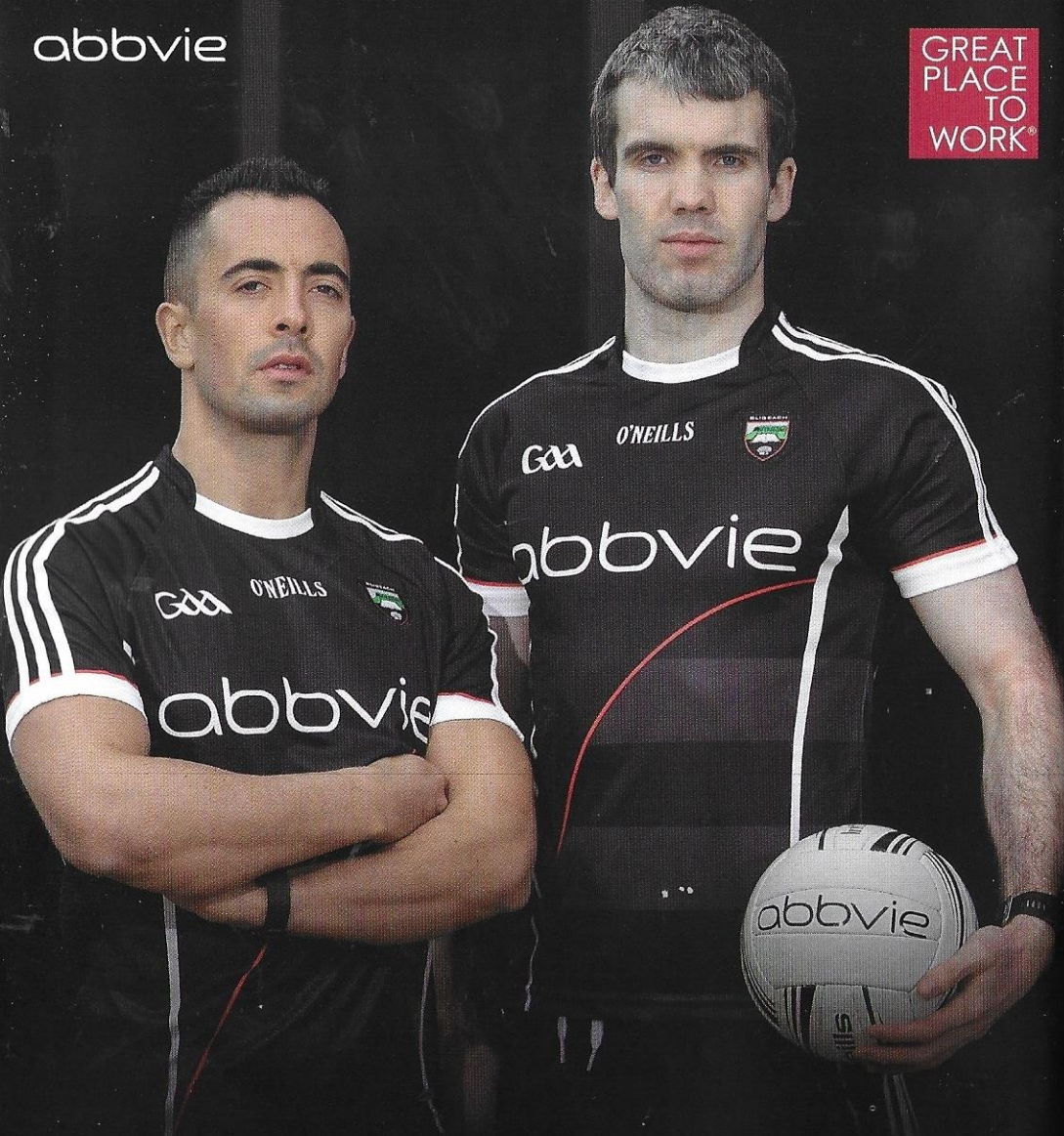
WON 4

LOST 6

SLIGO

2011	Wicklow	1-18	Sligo	0-16
2012	Kildare	0-13	Sligo	0-4
2013	Derry	0-15	Sligo	0-8
2014	Sligo	0-12	Wicklow	0-10
	Sligo	0-12	Limerick	0-10
	Cork	0-21	Sligo	1-11
2015	Tyrone	0-21	Sligo	0-14
2016	Sligo	2-15	Leitrim	0-10
	Clare	2-17	Sligo	1-13
2017	Sligo	0-22	Antrim	3-7





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LAST MEETING

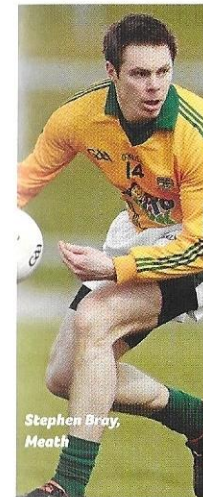
MEATH 1-17 SLIGO 2-12

Date: March 16 2013
Stage: Allianz League Round 5
Venue: Páirc Tailteann, Navan
Referee: B Cassidy (Derry)
Half-time score: Sligo 2-9 Meath 1-5

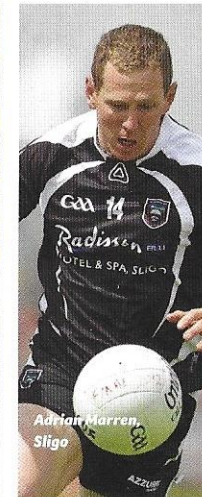


Subs - G Reilly, C Gillespie, P Gilsean, B Farrell, J Sheridan

Meath scorers: M Newman 0-8, C Lenehan 0-3, S Bray 1-0, B Meade 0-1, D Larkin 0-1, E Wallace 0-1, G Reilly 0-1, J Sheridan 0-1, P Gilsean 0-1.



Stephen Bray, Meath



Adrian Marren, Sligo



Subs - J Clarke, J Kelly, N Murphy

Sligo scorers: A Marren 1-5, M Breheny 0-3, S McManus 1-0, A McIntyre 0-2, K Cawley 0-1, P Hughes 0-1.



AN RÉITEOIR Noel Mooney (An Cabhán)

The Cavan Gaels clubman already has an outing under his belt in the qualifiers as Mooney blew the whistle at the Louth-Longford tie at Drogheda a couple of weeks ago. A member of the inter-county panel for six years, four Allianz League ties were played out under his jurisdiction this season, including Sligo's trip to Corrigan Park to face Antrim. However, today's match will be Noel's first featuring the Royal County and it will be his first at Páirc Tailteann since January 2015 (junior club semi-final). The Breaffni whistle-blower also made the journey to Ruislip for Leitrim and London in May.

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Care & Education**
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Early Childhood Care and Education (L5)
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Early Childhood Care and Education (L6)

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Computer Systems and Networks (L6) *New
Department of Sport *New
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Football Championship

Ulster Championship

First Round			
Sat, May 20	Monaghan 1-20	1-11 Fermanagh	Clones
Quarter-finals			
Sun, May 21	Donegal 3-19	1-9 Antrim	Ballybofey
Sun, May 28	Tyrone 0-22	0-11 Derry	Derry
Sun, June 4	Down 0-15	2-7 Armagh	Newry
Sun, June 11	Monaghan 1-15	0-15 Cavan	Breffni Park
Semi-finals			
Sun, June 18	Tyrone 1-21	1-12 Donegal	Clones
Sat, June 24	Down 1-14	0-15 Monaghan	Armagh
Final			
Sun, July 16	Tyrone v Down		Clones, 2pm

All-Ireland SFC qualifier Round 2A

Indiscipline costs Longford against misfiring Donegal

Donegal	0-12
Longford	0-7

By the numbers

	Donegal	Longford
Full-time score	0-12	0-7
Half-time	0-3	0-4
Wides	16	16
From play	0-5	0-2
Frees conceded	18	25
Yellow cards	4	2
Red cards	0	1
Black cards	0	3
Attendance	9,915	

All-Ireland qualifiers

Round 1A			
Sat, June 17	Derry 1-17	0-13 Waterford	Dungarvan
Sat, June 17	Longford 2-15	1-10 Laois	Armagh
Sat, June 17	Laois 2-16	3-10 Wicklow	Aughrim
Sat, June 17	Sligo 0-22	3-7 Antrim	Sligo
Round 1B			
Sat, June 24	Limerick 0-11	0-12 Wexford	Limerick
Sun, June 25	Armagh 0-20	0-11 Fermanagh	Armagh
Sun, June 25	London 0-12	0-13 Carlow	Ruislip
Sun, June 25	Offaly 0-16	0-17 Cavan	Tullamore
Round 2A			
Sat, July 1	Meath 0-14	1-9 Sligo	Navan
Sat, July 1	Mayo 2-21	1-13 Derry	Castlebar
Sat, July 1	Donegal 0-12	0-7 Longford	Ballybofey
Sat, July 1	Clare 2-18	0-14 Laois	Portlaoise
Round 2B			
Sat, July 8	Westmeath v Armagh	Mullingar, 7pm	
Sat, July 8	Wexford v Monaghan	Wexford, 3pm	
Sat, July 8	Carlow v Leitrim	Carlow, 3pm	
Sat, July 8	Cavan v Tipperary	Cavan, 2pm	
Round 3A			
Sat, July 8	Meath v Donegal		
	Clare v Mayo		
Round 3B	Involves four teams — winners from Round 2B.		
Sat, July 15			

ROUND FOUR 4 matches. Involves four teams beaten in provincial finals and four winners from Round Three. The defeated Munster & Connacht finalists will play Round 3A winner, with losing Leinster & Ulster finalists playing Round 3B winner. Where feasible, repeat pairings will be avoided.

All-Ireland series

Quarter-finals			
July 29-30	Connacht winner v Round 4A winner	Venue TBA	
July 29-30	Munster winner v Round 4A winner	Venue TBA	
Sat, Aug 5	Leinster winner v Round 4B winner	Venue TBA	
Sat, Aug 5	Ulster winner v Round 4B winner	Venue TBA	
Semi-finals			
Sun, Aug 20	Connacht/Q-F v Munster/Q-F	Croke Park	
Sun, Aug 27	Ulster/Q-F v Leinster/Q-F	Croke Park	
Final			
Sun, Sep 17	Semi-final 1 v Semi-final 2	Croke Park	

Longford will look back on this game with regrets. They had 16 wides and lost their entire half forward line to black and red cards as Donegal stumbled over the line to victory in MacCumhaill Park in Ballybofey.

When James McGivney saw black and red in the 48th minute, Longford were level at 0-5 apiece and really should have been three or four points to the good.

"The massive turning point in that game for us was the sending off of James McGivney," Longford manager Denis Connerton said afterwards. "It was a game that, I thought, was played in very good spirit. I felt for us to get three black cards, and one of them to end up with a red was very, very difficult for us."

Outscore

Donegal went on to outscore Longford 0-6 to 0-2 in the 25 minutes that were played after the sending off, but looked far from convincing. Apart from Patrick McBrearty they were bereft of any sting in attack and ended up bringing experienced players off the bench to get them over the line.

One of those was Martin McElhinney, who came in before halftime to hit two good points, but they mostly relied on McBrearty and Michael Murphy from placed balls.

"It was a very flat perfor-



■ Donegal manager Rory Gallagher: "It was a very flat performance."

mance," Rory Gallagher said afterwards. "Longford obviously made it difficult but we did not do enough to break them down and missed too many chances.

"We are in the hat for next week and that is where we wanted to be. We would have loved to have played better, but at the end of the day we won and that is the most important thing, we edged it out.

Worst games

"It is not easy. Longford have good pedigree in the qualifiers; we knew, they were well flagged."

The first half was one of the worst games of football seen at the venue for a long time. Longford led 0-4 to 0-3 at the break with Martin McElhinney getting the only point from play.

Indeed, there were 50 minutes on the clock before Longford got one of their two scores from play, corner back Diarmuid Masterson coming forward to show the way.

The quality of the fare on display did improve a little after the break but by the end both sides had amassed 16 wides each.

There were few lasting memories apart from one point from Jamie Brennan in the 58th minute, which saw good approach work by McElhinney, Murphy and Karl Lacey.

Longford had probably the only good chance of the game in the opening half but Robbie Smyth's effort to flick over his head went just the wrong side of the post.

On the evidence of this game Donegal have not got over their Ulster semi-final exit to Tyrone and will need huge improvement if they are to stay in the championship beyond next weekend.

DONEGAL: MA McGinley, P McGrath, N McGee, C Ward, E McHugh (0-1), R McHugh, E Bán Gallagher, J McGee, M Murphy (0-3, three frees); C Thompson, F McGlynn, M Carroll, M O'Reilly, P McBrearty (0-5, four frees), M Langan. **Subs:** M McElhinney (0-2) for Carroll (26 mins); H McFadden for J McGee (48 mins); J Brennan (0-1) for O'Reilly (52 mins); M McHugh for McGlynn (54 mins); K Lacey for Langan (57 mins); P Brennan for E Bán Gallagher (65 mins).
LONGFORD: P Collum, D Masterson (0-1), P McCormack, B Gilleran, D McElligott, M Quinn, D Reynolds, J Keegan, D McGivney (0-3, three frees), D Minnagh, J McGivney, D Gallagher, R Smyth (0-3, two frees), I Connerton, B McKeon. **Subs:** C Berry for Minnagh (26 mins, black card); Larry Moran for Gallagher (42 mins, black card); A Farrell for McKeon (66 mins); R McEntire for D McGivney (66 mins); J Kelly for Connerton (70 mins).
Referee: P Hughes (Armagh)