

Páirc Tailteann, An Úaimh

AN MHÍ v **DÚN NA nGALL**

Páirc Uí Chiosóg, Inis

AN CLÁR v **MAIGH EO**

GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship

Round 3A

CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL LUACH €3
Iúil 8 2017

ARD STIÚRTHÓIR
Páirc 5 Dufaigh

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SuperValu



Lúil 8 PÁIRC TAILTEANN, NAVAN 6.00 PM

MEATH v DONEGAL

An Réiteoir: Derek O'Mahoney (Tiobraid Árann)

Linesmen: Joe McQuillan (An Cabhán) (STANDBY REFEREE), Martin McNally (Muineachán)

Sideline Official: Fergal Barry (Cill Dara)

Umpires: Stan Barlow, Liam Barrett, Paddy Noonan, Peter Macken

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



Lúil 8 CUSACK PARK, ENNIS 5.00 PM

CLARE v MAYO

An Réiteoir: Seán Hurson (Tír Eoghain)

Linesmen: Maurice Deegan (Laois) (STANDBY REFEREE), James Bermingham (Corcaigh)

Sideline Official: Seán Lonergan (Tiobraid Árann)

Umpires: Martin Coney, Mel Taggart, Martin Conway, Cathal Forbes

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



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Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill.
Anocht a théam sa
bhearna baoil

Le gean ar Ghaeil chun
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Ó GHLÚIN GO GLÚIN

Le Márta Ó Ciardha

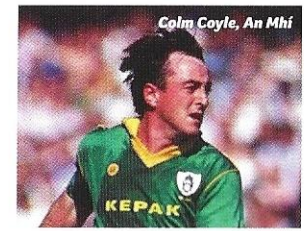
Bhí Colm Coyle ar dhuine de laochra peile na Mí a thug boinn Chroibhe Peile na hÉireann leo i 1987 agus '88, ach ó thuaidh i nDún na nGall bhí cáil chomh mór céanna ar a athair Paddy Mac Giolla Chomhaill, a bhí ina chaptaen ar fhoireann shinsear an chontae sin i dtús na 1950idí agus a bhuaigh trí chraobh contae as a chéile ar fhoireann cáiliúil Ghaoth Dobhair i 1953, '54 agus '55.

Le linn an ama sin bhuaigh siad craobh shóisireach Uladh faoi dhó agus Corn an Lagáin i '51 agus '52. Agus é ag traenáil mar mhúinteoir i gColáiste Phádraig i nDroim Conrach, bhuaigh Mac Giolla Chomhaill Craobh Átha Cliath leis an gCumann Dóchas Éireann agus tar éis dó a dhul ag múinteoireacht i mBaile an Cheantaigh agus ar an Aitinn Bhuí i gContae na Mí, bhuaigh sé craobhacha contae ansiúd leis na Mathúnaigh agus le Baile an tSeanascail.

Ba leis an bhfoireann is deireanaí acu sin a d'imir a mhac, Colm, a chuaigh chuig na Stáit Aontaithe tar éis bua na Mí i gCraobh Laighean in '86 ach a bhí ar ais an bhliain dar gcionn agus a d'imir sa gcluiche comhscóir agus san athmirt in aghaidh Chorcaigh in '88. Chaith Colm Coyle dhá bhliain ina bhainisteoir ar pheileadóirí na Mí idir 2006-2008.

Lasmuigh de Cho. An Chláir is beag a thuigeann go mba peileadóir as Sráid na Cathrach darbh ainm Georgie Comerford a chroch an corn nuair a himríodh Cluiche Ceannais Mionúir na hÉireann don chéad uair riamh i 1929.

Níor cuireadh tús le Craobhacha na Mionúir i gCúige Uladh ná i gCúige Chonnacht go dtáinig an bhliain 1930 agus faoin am sin bhí siad ar bun sa dá chúige eile le bliain agus an bua faighte ag an gClár



Colm Coyle, An Mhí

ar Longfort (5-3,3-5) sa gcéad chluiche ceannais a himríodh.

Sa bhliain 1935 a bhuaigh Maigh Eo craobh na mionúir don chéad uair agus d'imir siad féin agus an Clár a chéile i gcluiche ceannais an chomórtais sin i 1953 tar éis do na Cláirínigh an bua a fháil ar Cho. Lú i mbabhta leathcheannais, mar a rinne Maigh Eo le Ard Mhacha.

Tús dhá chúilín a bhí ag Maigh Eo ag leathama (1-4, -12), ach sa dara leath chuir Eddie Nealon as Béal an Átha cic éirice go cúl na heangaigh agus bhuaigh Maigh Eo 2-11, 1-6.

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11km Family Spin

Sunday 30th July
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11km FAMILY SPIN
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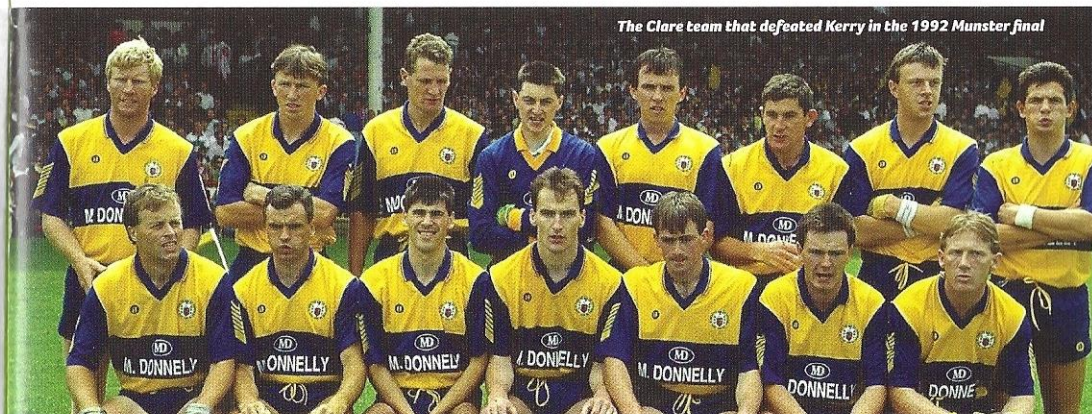
Standard Entries: Fri. 21st July to Wed. 26th July (additional fee applies). Strictly No Entries after 26th July
Nominated Charity for this event is Enable Ireland, Meath.

No entries accepted on the weekend of the event, apart from the 11km Spin on Saturday
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HOW A MAYO MAN LED THE CLARE FOOTBALL REVOLUTION

By SEÁN MCGOLDRICK, GAA Correspondent Sunday World



The Clare team that defeated Kerry in the 1992 Munster final

For one Mayo man, the moment his native county was drawn against Clare in the All-Ireland football qualifiers last Monday must have evoked mixed emotions. John Maughan put Clare football on the map, when in 1992 he guided them to a historic Munster Championship win.

Later in a very successful managerial career, he coached Mayo not just to Connacht Championship wins, but to within touching distance of an All-Ireland title in 1996. Arguably, though, what he achieved with the Banner

County represents the highpoint of his career.

A knee injury had brought a premature end to his own playing career. A member of the Defence Forces at the time, he began coaching the Army's football team and Galway club, Caltra.

He was only 29 when he took over as Clare manager in 1991. There was no great fanfare about the appointment. At the time Clare were languishing in Division 3 South of the league where they had Kilkenny, Carlow, Wicklow,

Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford for company.

Their last appearance in a Munster final had been in 1949 – when they lost to Cork 3-6 to 0-7 – and they had won their only provincial title in 1917. At first glance it was unpromising territory, but away from the playing fields a revolution was fermenting within the boardrooms of the GAA.

Future Labour TD Jack Wall, then chairman of the Kildare GAA Board, piloted a motion through

the Leinster GAA Council to introduce an open draw in their football championship in 1991. The result was sensational. Dublin and Meath, who had contested the previous five provincial finals, were drawn to meet in the preliminary round.

Nobody was to know at the time that the Dublin v Meath preliminary round match would turn into arguably the greatest ever saga in the history of Gaelic football. It stretched over four remarkable games in a sequence, which popularised Gaelic football beyond all recognition.

Meanwhile, in Munster, Clare native Noel Walsh persuaded his fellow Munster Council members – many of whom were far more interested in hurling – to follow suit and change the format of the provincial draw in the province.

Kerry and Cork, who had contested every Munster final between 1966 and 1990 were always on the opposite sides of the draw. So in order to win a Munster title the four football minnows in the province, Waterford, Tipperary, Limerick and

Clare would have had to beat BOTH Cork and Kerry in the same season.

The annual showdown between Kerry and Cork was the biggest football money-spinner for the Munster Council – even if Cork failed to beat their neighbours in eight consecutive finals between 1975 and 1982. So the mandarins were reluctant to embrace the change. Walsh, though, was indefatigable in his pursuit of what he argued was a just cause. Ultimately he cajoled the council members into backing his plan.

Ironically, it was next door neighbours Limerick that benefitted in the first year. Clare drew Kerry and although they shipped five goals in the quarter-final in Ennis; the visitors, under new team boss, Mickey Ned O'Sullivan, were flattered to win by 13 points. The fact that Limerick then nearly beat the Kingdom in the final – they lost by two points – reinforced the validity of Walsh's argument.

In those days the league campaign began shortly after the All-Ireland final and there was also an All-Ireland 'B' competition for 'weaker'

teams. Maughan – who only missed one training session during his four years with Clare – introduced a training regime, which extolled the virtues of suffering.

But it meant that Clare had a definite edge in physical fitness on most other teams, which in turn made them mentally more resilient. It was almost inevitable that results would improve and once they started winning confidence grew.

On November 14, 1991 more than 3,000 fans – the majority of them from Clare – gathered in Ballinasloe to witness Clare's victory – after extra-time – over Longford in the All-Ireland 'B' championship final. A goal in extra time from David Keane sealed a famous win. The bandwagon was rolling.

Clare remained unbeaten in the league in 1990-91 until the quarter-finals. They produced a credible performance when going down to Meath, who had lost to Down in the previous year's All-Ireland final, by two points.

Still, it looked as if it would be business as usual in the Munster

championship. The big talking point was Kerry's first round demolition of Cork – they won by ten points. Their semi-final performance against Limerick was less emphatic – they withstood a spirited rally from the underdogs and held on to win by three points.

Meanwhile, in the other half of the draw Clare ended a 43-year famine when they qualified for the Munster final with a four-point win over Tipperary. Yet nobody outside the Banner County rated their chances against the Kingdom in the final.

Clare, though, approached the decider at the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick in a totally different frame of mind. Twenty years later in an interview in the *Irish Independent* Maughan revealed his thinking before the game.

"I knew if the sky fell down that day we were going to win that game. It was one of those unique feelings. I was just absolutely convinced we were going to do it."

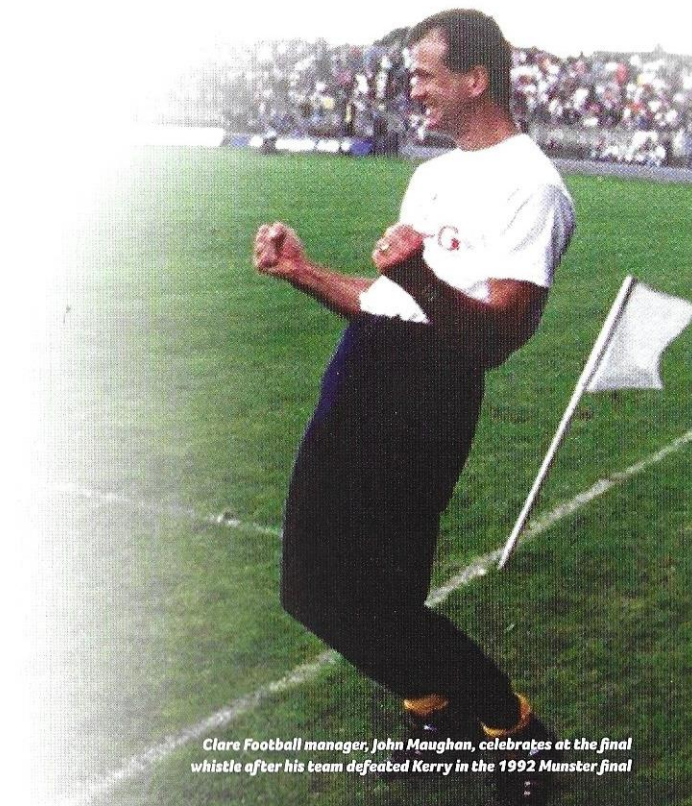
His words echo the comments made immediately after the

game by Séamus Clancy – who later won an All Star for his performances in 1992 – who said he was absolutely convinced beforehand that Clare were going to win.

Goals from Colm Clancy and substitute Martin Daly gave Clare a deserved 2-10 to 0-12 victory ending their 75-year-wait for a Munster title. Jack O'Shea never played for Kerry again though Séamus Moynihan, who made his debut that day, went on to

become one of the most distinguished players in the history of the game.

But it was Clare and Maughan who made all the headlines that famous day. Even though they never subsequently reached those peaks again – they lost to Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final – Mayo fans with long memories will recall that the following season they came to Castlebar and beat Mayo by a point in a league quarter-final.



Clare Football manager, John Maughan, celebrates at the final whistle after his team defeated Kerry in the 1992 Munster final

MEATH AND DONEGAL TO KICKSTART THEIR SUMMER

The first time Meath ever faced Donegal in championship football was in the 1990 All-Ireland semi-final. It was a bleak day for Donegal. Martin McHugh remembers it as probably his worst ever day in a Donegal jersey.

"I stopped in Cavan on the way back from the match," McHugh remembered. "I was in a wee restaurant in Cavan and some fella came over and said 'Where was your famous Martin McHugh today!'. He didn't even know who I was!"

Meath and Donegal both cast long shadows across the modern history of Gaelic football, having accounted for six All-Ireland titles between them since 1987, yet this evening's game at Páirc Tailteann is just the third ever championship meeting between the sides and the first to take place outside of Croke Park.

The only other meeting between Meath and Donegal was in a Round 4 qualifier back on July 21, 2002, which Donegal won 1-13 to 0-14.

"Donegal's boat has risen so fast that they are now able to withstand Meath's heaviest storms although it must be acknowledged that Meath are no longer able to generate the grinding power of previous years.

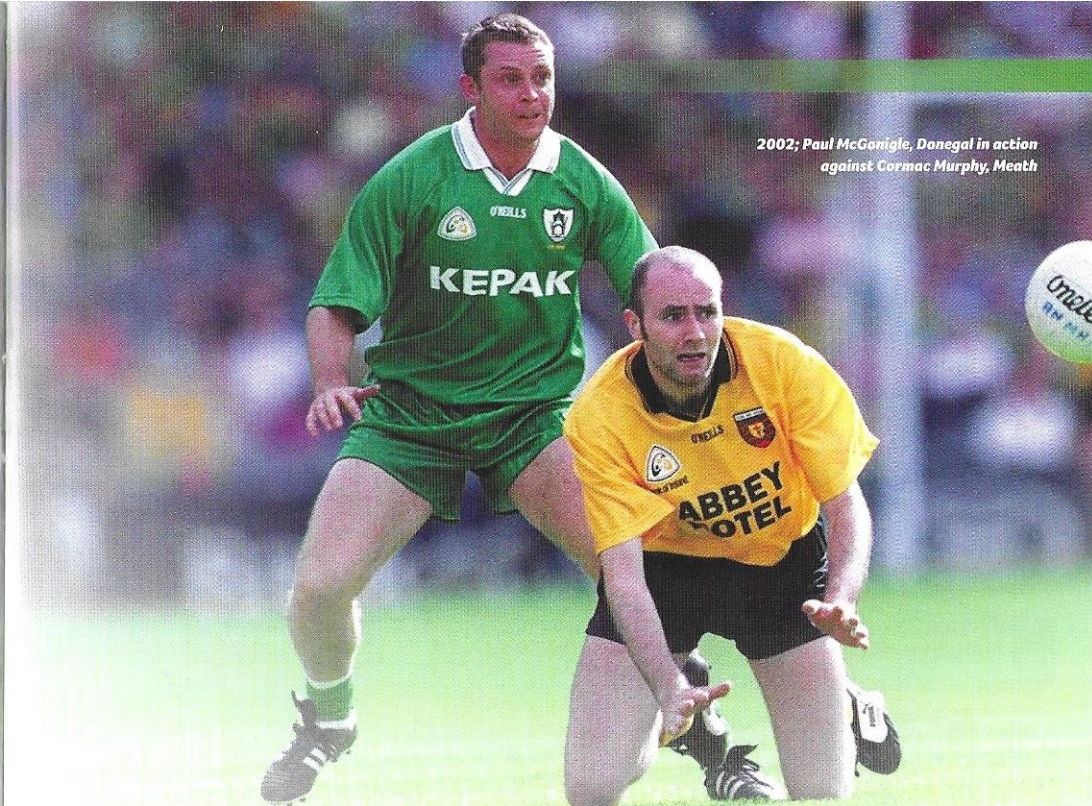
"That's a worrying thought as they end their 2002 championship bid," was the somewhat ominous conclusion of Martin Breheny's match report in the *Irish Independent*. Jim McGuinness played in that match for Donegal and looking at the teamsheets from that day almost 15 years ago, it is remarkable to think of the footballing journey both counties have gone on since.

McGuinness, the man who revolutionised Donegal and inspired them to the 2012 All-Ireland title a decade after that game may well be watching this evening's game from Beijing. McGuinness moved to the Chinese capital last weekend to continue his own remarkable post-Donegal journey into the world of professional soccer coaching and management.

Seán Boylan was still in charge of Meath back in 2002, but the end of that era was drawing in. And as the match report had hinted, so too was the era when Meath teams were routinely feared. The 15 years since have seen the Royals lift just one Leinster title, after all.

Yet despite the multifarious turns, twists and forks in the road that Donegal and Meath have encountered in the 15 seasons since that game, they both present themselves in Navan this evening in somewhat similar circumstances.

Championship 2017 has yet to really get going for either county, despite the fact that both started the summer with relatively high expectations. A youthful Donegal had looked full of brio in Division 1, defying predictions to finish third and spark serious talk of an assault on Ulster. Meath's stargazing was a little less advanced perhaps, but still, things were expected of the Royals this summer. A strong finish to the Division 2 campaign seemed to confirm the positive impact



2002; Paul McGonigle, Donegal in action against Cormac Murphy, Meath

Andy McEntee has had since taking over last August.

Dreams have fled away quickly in the intervening weeks. Donegal's provincial ambitions crashed quite spectacularly in the nine-point loss to Tyrone in the Ulster semi-final, while Meath's loss to Kildare in the Leinster semi-final, also by nine points, was equally humbling. Both defeats had the same, sobering effect, akin to a glass of ice cold water being poured unexpectedly on the face. Championship football can quickly expose the imposter of spring.

Donegal and Meath returned to action last

weekend looking to get the show back on the road before summer slips away from them altogether, but neither will have been overly ecstatic with their Round 2 performances.

While Meath will of course be happy to have simply beaten Sligo and end their dreadful winless streak in the qualifiers – which stretched back to 2011 – it was not a performance to set pulses racing. Indeed, Sligo can count themselves very unlucky to finish on the losing side, having come agonisingly close to what probably would have been a match-winning goal in the dying stages.

As for Donegal, it's hard to say much positive about their 0-12 to 0-7 victory over Longford. On an evening when the teams hit 33 wides between them, the wry grin of Rory Gallagher afterwards said it all – he was happy to get the win, but this was a game to be forgotten as quickly as possible.

This evening's game is a chance for both counties to start again. Considering the lethargy of last weekend, it remains to be seen how much fight either Meath or Donegal truly have left in them for the summer, but whoever emerges this evening will at least be stronger for it.



AN MHÍ

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

1 *Pádraig Ó Ruairc*
PADDY O'ROURKE
Skryne

2 *Dónall Mac Eochagáin*
DONAL KEOGAN
Rathkenny

3 *Conchúr Mac Giolla*
CONOR MCGILL
Ratoath

4 *Mícheál de Búrca*
MICKEY BURKE
Longwood

5 *Pádraig Ó hEarnáin*
PAURIC HARNAN
Moynalvey

6 *Briain de Paor*
BRIAN POWER
Ratoath

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

8 *Briain Ó Mantáin*
BRYAN MENTON
Donaghmore/Ashbourne

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

10 *Séamus Mac on tSaoi*
JAMES McENTEE
Curraha

11 *Cillian Ó Súilleabháin*
CILLIAN O'SULLIVAN
Moynalvey

12 *Graeme Ó Raghallaigh (C.)*
GRAHAM REILLY
St. Colmcille's

13 *Ruairí Ó Coileáin*
RUAIRÍ Ó COILEÁIN
Navan O'Mahony'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 Ó Tuachair*
JAMES TOHER
Trim

18. *Dónnacha Tóibín*
DONNACHA TOBIN
Blackhall Gaels

19. *Ailéin Mac Dúghlais*
ALAN DOUGLAS
Trim

20. *Briain Ó Conalláin*
BRIAN CONLON
Simonstown Gaels

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

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

23. *Éamann Bhailis*
EAMON WALLACE
Ratoath

24. *Caoimhín Rosach*
KEVIN ROSS
Castletown

25. *Adéim Ó Flannagáin*
ADAM FLANAGAN
Clonard

26. *Mícheál Nuaman*
MICHAEL NEWMAN
Kilmainham



DÚN NA nGALL

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

1 *Marc Antaine Mac Fhionnghaile*
MARK ANTHONY MCGINLEY
Naomh Mícheál

2 *Pádraig Mac Craith*
PADDY McGRATH
Ard an Ratha

3 *Néill Mac Aoidh*
NEIL MCGEE
Gaoth Dobhair

4 *Caolán Mac an Bháird*
CAOLAN WARD
Naomh Adhamhnáin

5 *Riain Mac Aodha*
RYAN MCHUGH
Cill Chartha

6 *Proinsias Mac Fhloinn*
FRANK MCGLYNN
Gleann Fhinne

7 *Eoghan Bán Ó Gallachóir*
EOGHAN BÁN GALLAGHER
Na Cealla Beaga

8 *Iasán Mac Aoidh*
JASON MCGEE
Cloch Cheann Fhaola

9 *Ciarán Mac Thomáis*
CIARAN THOMPSON
Naomh Conaill

10 *Séamus Ó Braonáin*
JAMIE BRENNAN
Realt na Mara, Bundobhráin

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
Gleann tSúilí

15 *Aodh Mac Pháidín*
HUGH MCFADDEN
Na Cealla Beaga

FIR IONAIÐ

16. *Peadar Ó Baoill*
PETER BOYLE
Aodh Ruadh B.A.S.

17. *Carl De Léis*
KARL LACEY
Na Ceithre Máistirí

18. *Ciarán Mac Giolla Easbuig*
KIERAN GILLESPIE
Gaoth Dobhair

19. *Marc Mac Aodha*
MARK MCHUGH
Cill Chartha

20. *Pól Ó Braonáin*
PAUL BRENNAN
Realt Na Mara, Bundobhráin

21. *Éamonn Ó Dóchartaigh*
EAMONN DOHERTY
Naomh Adhamhnáin

22. *Mairtín Mac Giolla Chainnigh*
MARTIN McELHINNEY
Naomh Mícheál

23. *Mícheál Ó Longáin*
MICHAEL LANGAN
Naomh Mícheál

24. *Mícheál Ó Cearúill*
MICHAEL CARROLL
Gaoth Dobhair

25. *Darrach Ó Conchúbhair*
DARRACH O'CONNOR
Bun Crannacha

26. *Éanna Mac Cormaic*
ENDA MCCORMACK
An Tearmainn



QUALIFIER RECORDS

2002	Meath	3-8	2-9	Louth	2008	Limerick	4-12	4-3	Meath
	Meath	1-15	0-7	Laois	2009	Meath	1-20	0-8	Waterford
	Donegal	1-13	0-14	Meath		Meath	1-15	1-5	Westmeath
2003	Meath	2-10	0-12	Monaghan		Meath	2-12	0-11	Roscommon
	Fermanagh	1-12	0-9	Meath		Meath	1-13	2-9	Limerick
2004	Fermanagh	0-19	2-12	Meath	2011	Meath	5-8	2-8	Louth
2005	Meath	5-12	0-13	Antrim		Meath	0-11	0-10	Galway
	Meath	1-12	1-8	Leitrim		Kildare	2-11	0-14	Meath
	Cavan	1-8	1-6	Meath	2012	Laois	1-15	1-12	Meath
2006	Meath	1-17	0-12	Carlow	2013	Tyrone	0-17	2-9	Meath
	Meath	1-19	0-9	Roscommon	2014	Armagh	0-18	0-13	Meath
	Laois	2-13	0-13	Meath	2015	Tyrone	1-10	0-11	Meath
2007	Meath	1-10	0-8	Down	2016	Derry	1-14	1-11	Meath
	Meath	0-11	0-9	Fermanagh	2017	Meath	0-14	1-9	Sligo
	Meath	2-14	1-14	Galway					

MEATH

WON - 17 LOST - 12

2001	Donegal	0-15	1-6	Fermanagh	2008	Donegal	3-11	1-9	Roscommon
	Kildare	1-17	1-16	Donegal		Monaghan	0-16	0-15	Donegal
2002	Donegal	1-13	0-14	Meath	2009	Donegal	2-13	1-6	Carlow
2003	Donegal	1-17	1-11	Longford		Donegal	0-13	1-7	Clare
	Donegal	0-16	0-11	Sligo		Donegal	2-13	0-18	Derry
	Donegal	2-19	0-15	Tipperary		Donegal	0-14	0-13	Galway
	Donegal	3-15	2-10	Down	2010	Armagh	2-14	0-11	Donegal
2004	Fermanagh	1-10	0-12	Donegal	2013	Donegal	0-14	0-8	Laois
2005	Donegal	0-16	0-12	Wicklow	2015	Donegal	3-12	0-11	Galway
	Cavan	1-11	1-10	Donegal	2016	Donegal	0-21	1-15	Cork
2006	Donegal	0-11	0-8	Fermanagh	2017	Donegal	0-12	0-7	Longford
2007	Donegal	1-16	1-14	Leitrim					
	Donegal	1-13	1-8	Westmeath					
	Monaghan	2-12	1-7	Donegal					

DONEGAL

WON - 19 LOST - 6

LAST MEETING

DONEGAL 1-13 MEATH 0-14

Date: July 21 2002

Venue: Croke Park

Stage: All-Ireland Championship Round 4

Referee: M Collins (Cork)

Half-time score: Donegal 1-7 Meath 0-6

Donegal scorers: B Devenney 0-5,

A Sweeney 0-4, C Toye 1-1, J McGuinness 0-1,

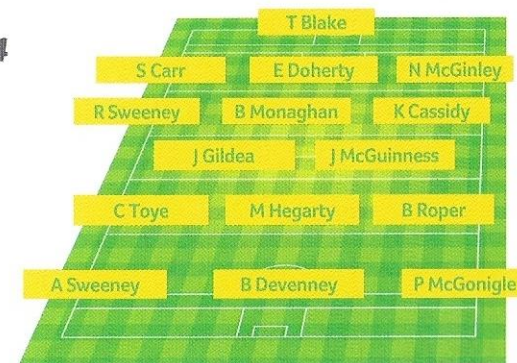
M Hegarty 0-1, B Roper 0-1.

Meath scorers: O Murphy 0-2, T Giles 0-2,

G Geraghty 0-2, R Kealy 0-2, N Crawford 0-2,

N Nestor 0-1, J Cullinane 0-1, A Kenny 0-1,

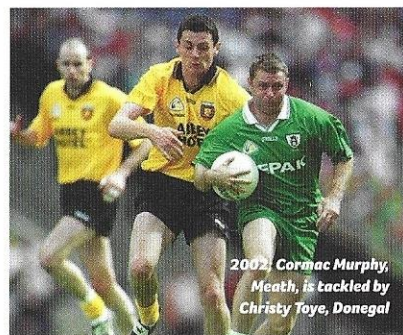
D Curtis 0-1.



Sub - D Diver



Subs - D Crimmins, D Curtis, S Kenny



2002, Cormac Murphy, Meath, is tackled by Christy Toye, Donegal



AN RÉITEOIR

Derek O'Mahoney (Tipperary)

This will be the Ardfinnan clubman's second outing at Páirc Tailteann this season as O'Mahoney was the man with the whistle in March when the Royals hosted Fermanagh in the Allianz League. In his seventh year as a member of the inter-county panel, the Premier County official already has an outing in the qualifiers under his belt this season as he was at Tullamore for the Round 1B clash of Offaly and Cavan. Among the four league matches the 42-year-old was assigned this season was Roscommon v Donegal at Dr. Hyde Park and the Division 2 final at Croke Park.

LOGIC DOES NOT ALWAYS PREVAIL

By **DERMOT CROWE**, *Sunday Independent*

On Easter Sunday, 1993, a stranger arriving in Castlebar, at least one poorly informed on GAA affairs, might have been mystified by the unusually large crowds that had besieged the town.

A great throng of saffron and blue followers could be seen headed towards MacHale Park, many of them having spent the previous night enjoying the native hospitality. They had come in force for a National League quarter-final between Mayo and Clare. Before an attendance of 12,000 the reigning Munster champions defeated the reigning Connacht champions 0-9 to 0-8 to earn a place in the semi-final in Croke Park against

another of today's four counties in round 3A of the qualifiers, Donegal.

You could say it began to gradually unravel for Clare from there, with Donegal, then reigning All-Ireland champions, proving much too strong. That windy day in Croke Park brought a jolt of reality that Tom Morrissey's late fly-kicked consolation goal could not hide. At the end of May the RTÉ television cameras were brought to Ennis to bring live coverage of Clare's Munster title opening defence against Cork. That at a time when live coverage was mostly confined to provincial finals and beyond, not first-round games, certainly not first-

round games involving Clare footballers. Colin Corkery stole the show with a man-of-the-match performance and from there, under Mayo man John Maughan, Clare never really had the same spring in their step again. Maughan cut his ties after defeat to Tipperary in Munster in 1994, before taking over Mayo and launching the county's next determined assault on an All-Ireland which fell short, most painstakingly, and bitterly, against the fourth of today's 3A contestants, Meath.

Clare have been making impressive progress under Colm Collins over the last three years, enjoying a rising profile through

successive climbs from Division 4 to Division 2 in the Allianz League, and retaining their status in the second tier during the spring. Their appearance in the All-Ireland quarter finals last year also points to clear advancement. Interest in the team has grown alongside the team's broadening ambition. The lead-in to today's qualifier match isn't quite as feverish as that which preceded the meeting of Mayo and Clare in '93, but it is the closest since then in having a grip on the public imagination. It is also their first-ever championship meeting. And meetings of any kind have become scarce with Clare's demise. The last competitive meeting of the counties was 15 years ago, also in Ennis, when Mayo won 2-19 to 1-6 in the league.

For most of the time since Mayo have been a Division 1 side and a regular All-Ireland contender. Clare

languished in the lower ranks until the recent surge under Collins. But while reaching an All-Ireland quarter-final last year was hailed, justifiably, as a major step forward for Clare, to Mayo reaching the last eight is the least that's expected. They are favourites today but know they are meeting a team happy in its own skin and with the wind to its back. Nobody will want Clare in the next round became a common refrain after their win over Laois last weekend, all the more if any county had to travel to play them in Ennis. If Mayo are to realise their ambition of winning an All-Ireland they must embrace the challenge and demonstrate why they are still a realistic September shot.

Not quite as novel, or box office, is the meeting of Meath and Donegal in Navan, it being their third championship engagement and neither looking in the best of form. The game in

Ennis is being televised live on RTÉ. Those who wish to see Meath and Donegal must make the journey. The journey being significantly more taxing on Donegal, with Meath first to come out of the bowl when the draw was made last Monday morning. Conceivably, each of the four counties has something positive to take from the draw. Clare got home advantage and a glamour tie. Mayo face a county which, going on league placings, is the weakest of the four teams. Meath enjoy a home draw and Donegal are still a Division 1 team facing one from the tier below. And facing one that made hard work of seeing off Sligo, after being beaten soundly by Kildare.

But the qualifiers are a strange fish. Logic does not always prevail. Cork, awaiting one of the two winners, will be watching with added interest.



QUALIFIER RECORDS

2001	Laois	0-13	1-8	Clare	2011	Down	1-13	1-12	Clare
2002	Laois	1-19	1-6	Clare	2012	Kerry	2-22	1-6	Clare
2003	Offaly	1-12	1-8	Clare	2013	Laois	3-17	0-10	Clare
2004	Clare	1-15	1-7	Sligo	2014	Clare	4-26	2-13	Carlow
	Cork	0-15	0-11	Clare		Kildare	0-13	0-12	Clare
2005	Clare	0-12	0-9	Westmeath	2015	Longford	2-12	1-12	Clare
	Sligo	1-13	0-11	Clare	2016	Clare	0-14	1-10	Laois
2006	Clare	1-13	2-9	Antrim		Clare	2-17	1-13	Sligo
	Fermanagh	0-15	0-10	Clare		Clare	2-12	1-9	Roscommon
2009	Donegal	0-13	1-7	Clare	2017	Clare	2-18	0-14	Laois
2010	Offaly	2-18	1-18	Clare					

CLARE

WON - 8 LOST - 13

2001	Westmeath	1-14	0-16	Mayo	Derry	2-13	1-6	Mayo	
2002	Mayo	0-20	2-8	Roscommon	2008	Tyrone	0-13	1-9	Mayo
	Mayo	0-13	1-9	Limerick	2010	Longford	1-12	0-14	Mayo
	Mayo	0-20	1-14	Tipperary	2016	Mayo	2-14	1-12	Fermanagh
2003	Fermanagh	0-12	1-8	Mayo		Mayo	2-17	0-14	Kildare
2005	Mayo	0-11	0-8	Cavan		Mayo	3-15	1-14	Westmeath
2007	Mayo	1-19	3-7	Cavan	2017	Mayo	2-21	1-13	Derry

MAYO

WON - 9 LOST - 5

LAST MEETING

MAYO 2-19 CLARE 1-6

Date: February 17 2002

Venue: Cusack Park

Stage: League Round 2

Referee: J Bannon (Longford)

Half-time score: Mayo 0-7 Clare 0-5

Mayo scorers: C Mortimer 1-8, M Moyles 0-3,

M McNicholas 1-0, S Carolan 0-2,

J Gill 0-1, D Heaney 0-1, N Connelly 0-1,

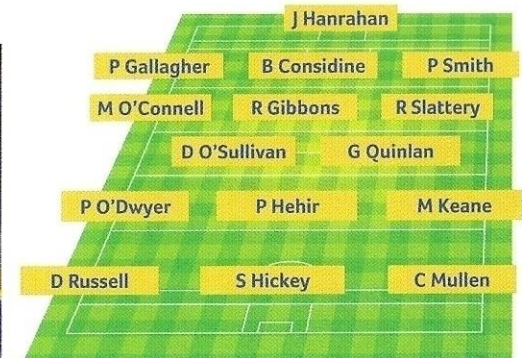
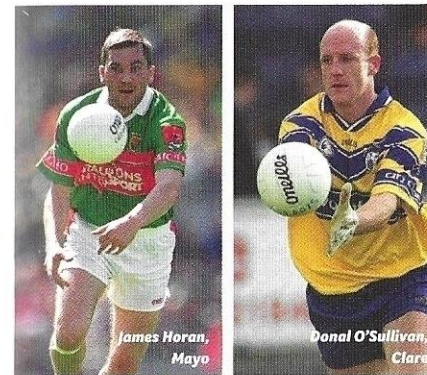
J Horan 0-1, G Mullins 0-1, M Mullins 0-1.

Clare scorers: P Hehir 0-3, M O'Shea 1-0,

D Russell 0-1, S Hickey 0-1, C Mullen 0-1.



Sub - G Mullins, M Mullins, S Fitzmaurice, K Mortimer, T Nallen



Subs - N Hawes, D O'Driscoll, P McMahon, M O'Shea



AN RÉITEOIR Seán Hurson (Tyrone)

A member of the Galbally Pearses club, Hurson has already been assigned a match in the premier competition with Mayo this season as he was the man-in-black for their Connacht quarter-final against Sligo at MacHale Park. However, this will be his first match in either league or championship with Clare. In his fifth year of inter-county panel duty, Hurson had three outings in the Allianz League before taking charge of the EirGrid U21 Ulster final between Donegal and Derry in April. Following the Castlebar outing, the 38-year-old was assigned the Leinster quarter-final between Dublin and Carlow at O'Moore Park, Portlaoise.



AN CLÁR

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

1 *Seosamh Ó hAodha*
JOE HAYES
Lios Uí Chathasaigh

2 *Déin Ó Riain*
DEAN RYAN
Éire Óg Inis

3 *Caoimhín Ó hAirtnéada*
KEVIN HARNETT
Míliuch

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
Cúl 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 IONAIÐ

- 16.** *Cillian de Róiste*
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.** *Éimhín Ó Curnáin*
ÉIMHÍN COURTNEY
Éire Óg Inis
- 20.** *Daibhéid Ó hAogáin*
DAVID EGAN
Cill Mhichíl
- 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.** *Darran de Nógla*
DARREN NAGLE
Lios Ceannuir
- 26.** *Gearóid Ó Briain*
GEARÓID O'BRIEN
Cill Ruis Seamróg



MAIGH EO

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

1 *Daithí Ó Cléirigh*
DAVID CLARKE
Ballina Stephenites

2 *Breandán Ó Hearchaí*
BRENDAN HARRISON
Aghamore

3 *Gearóid Mac Eafarcaigh*
GER CAFFERKEY
Ballina Stephenites

4 *Críostóir Baróid*
CHRIS BARRETT
Belmullet

5 *Laoi Mac Aogáin*
LEE KEEGAN
Westport

6 *Coilm Baoill*
COLM BOYLE
Davitts

7 *Dónal Ó Beachain*
DONAL VAUGHAN
Ballinrobe

8 *Séamus Ó Sé*
SÉAMUS O'SHEA
Breaffy

9 *Tomás Mac an Phearsúin*
TOM PARSONS
Charlestown

10 *Fearghal Ó Beolláin*
FERGAL BOLAND
Aghamore

11 *Aodhán Ó Sé*
AIDAN O'SHEA
Breaffy

12 *Diarmuid Ó Conchúir*
DIARMUID O'CONNOR
Ballintubber

13 *Caoimhín Mac Lochlainn*
KEVIN McLOUGHLIN
Knockmore

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

15 *Conchúr Ó Lachtnáin*
CONOR LOFTUS
Crossmolina

FIR IONAIÐ

- 16.** *Roibeard Ó hIonnaíe*
ROBERT HENNELLY
Breaffy
- 17.** *Caolán Mac Conchradha*
CAOLAN CROWE
Garrymore
- 18.** *Céit Ó hUiginn*
KEITH HIGGINS
Ballyhaunis

- 19.** *Daithí Drach*
DAVID DRAKE
Ballagherreen
- 20.** *Seán Mac An Fhailghigh*
SHANE NALLY
Garrymore
- 21.** *Iasán Dóchartaigh*
JASON DOHERTY
Burrishoole
- 22.** *Stiofán Ó Cadháin*
STEPHEN COEN
Hollymount/Carramore

- 23.** *Dónal Ó Ciarba*
DANNY KIRBY
Castlebar Mitchels
- 24.** *Éimhín Ó Réigin*
EVAN REGAN
Ballina Stephenites
- 25.** *Aindriú Ó Moráin*
ANDY MORAN
Ballagherreen
- 26.** *Ailéin Dioláin*
ALAN DILLON
Ballintubber



SLIDING DOORS MOMENT FOR CLARE AND MAYO?

For the ever-increasing band of detractors of the current system of All-Ireland Qualifiers, the first-ever championship meeting of Clare and Mayo today represents the kind of fixture that even the most ardent amongst them will admit is hard not to get excited about.

There are plenty out there who believe that this could well be a sliding doors moment for two

sides moving in different directions on their respective developments arc.

In order to advance, Mayo will have to win a Qualifier game on the opposition's home patch for the very first time, while upwardly mobile Clare will be confident of landing the biggest fish left swimming in the Qualifier pool.

Amongst the sides Clare have beaten in championship football under manager Colm Collins since 2014 are Limerick (three times), Laois (twice), Waterford, Sligo, Roscommon and Carlow.

While that is an impressive hit-list for a side that was mired in Division IV football for seven successive seasons until their emancipation under Collins in 2014, it does not contain the scalp of an A-list side that would elevate the current Clare team from everyone's second favourite team to that most coveted status in the GAA – that of a 'serious force'.

It's a subject Collins brought up and addressed enthusiastically in the aftermath of last Saturday's 2-18 to 0-14 destruction of Laois in Portlaoise.

"If you're coming up the ladder you've got to take out one of the big guns," Collins said with the authority of a man who had overseen the most impressive performance in the Banner's recent history. "That's what it's about and you're never really regarded until you do that so hopefully that will be the next step."

Inherent in the statement is an acknowledgement that while Clare have been getting the sometimes patronising slaps on the back we often save for over-achieving minnows, it's high time they stepped out of the shadows and set the championship ablaze by taking out one of the big guns.

And they don't come much bigger than that western behemoth, Mayo. Collins couldn't have hand-picked a better opponent to prove his thesis.

If, as Collins suggests, Clare are on the way up the ladder, there were plenty proclaiming that Mayo were going in the opposite direction ahead of Saturday's game against Derry. Based on their poor performance, they may well have slipped another few rungs in the eyes of their critics.

Ahead of the Derry game, former Mayo player David Brady recalled the 2007 Round 2 Qualifier defeat to the Oak Leaf County, his final appearance in the Green and Red, on Off The Ball, and surmised that it not only represented the end of his own career but the sundering of the great Mayo side he played in.

He remembered a training session in Ballaghaderreen a fortnight earlier, of looking at fellow veteran Billy Joe Padden and knowing deep down that after all the heartache he had suffered, he had nothing left to give Mayo football. He wondered if the current Mayo side had reached a similar crossroads, and if a Round 2 Qualifier against Derry would also represent the end of the road for them.

It was a popular theory: that if the Mayo players did not have the stomach to keep drawing from the same well

year on year, a low profile Qualifier on a weekend of blockbusters attractions elsewhere might well have been the place to slip away quietly.

The evidence to support that theory appeared to be stacking up in MacHale Park last Saturday afternoon. As Edwin McGreal of the *Mayo News* pointed out on Twitter, during a 27-minute period in the second half, Mayo could not hit the proverbial barn door, scoring from just one of 16 shots.

Two points down with 10 minutes left, Mayo were unravelling until manager Stephen Rochford threw caution to the wind and brought on Jason Doherty and youngster Conor Loftus, who conjured a brilliant goal.

Incredibly, Derry hit back with a Mark Lynch goal in stoppage time and might well have won it had James

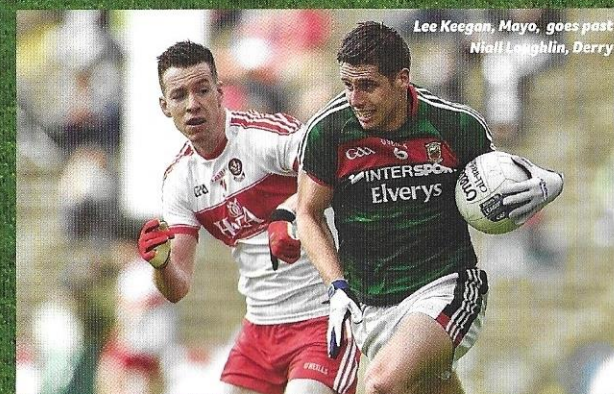
Kielt landed a tough free at the death.

In extra-time, Mayo looked like a side reborn and couldn't miss the target, nailing 10 scores from 12 attempts to run out 2-21 to 1-13 winners.

The parallels with last summer are uncanny. Mayo were beaten by Galway in Connacht and scraped past Fermanagh in Round 2 of the Qualifiers before recovering to reach the All-Ireland final.

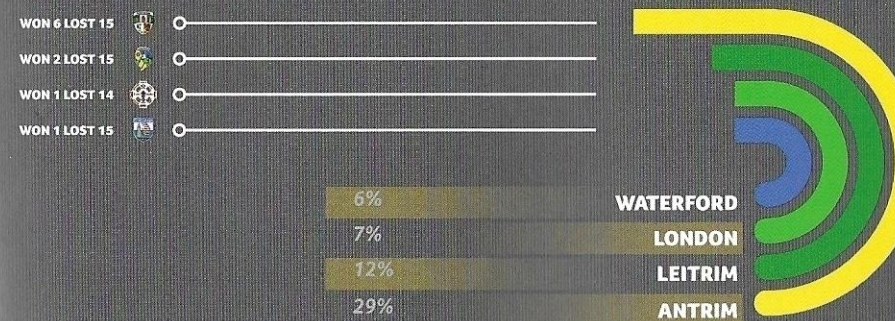
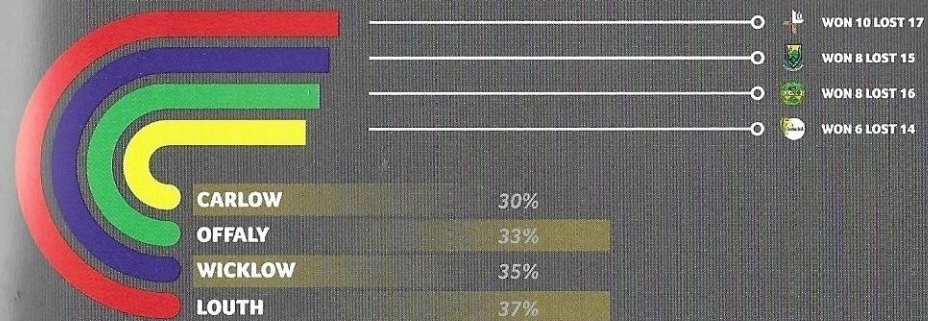
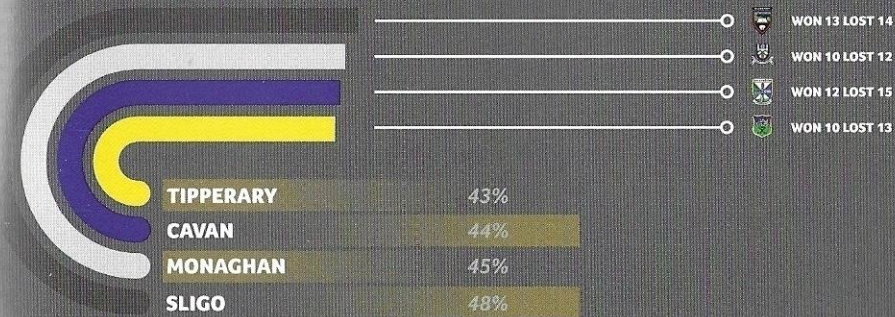
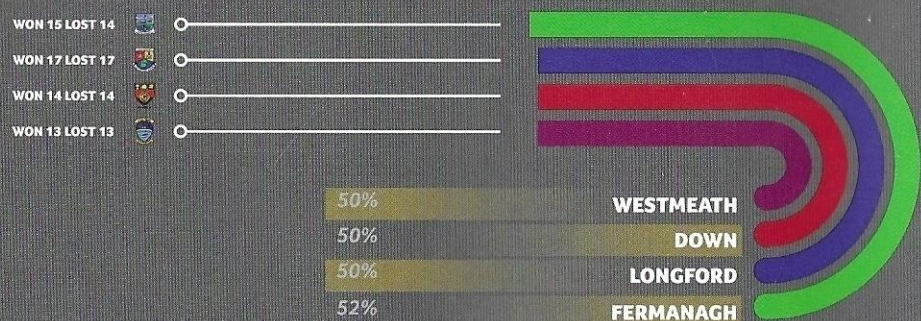
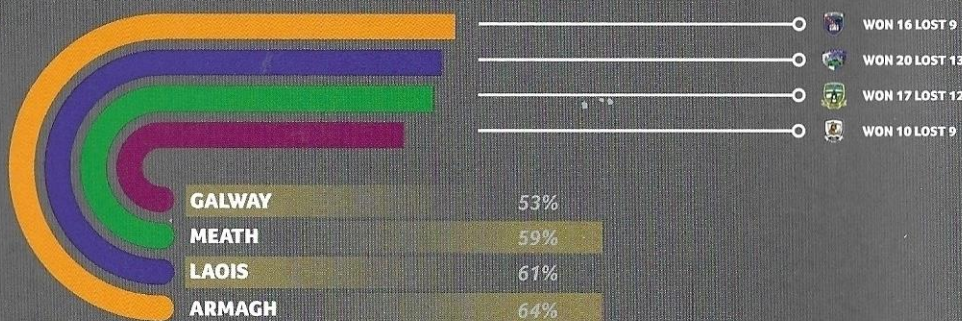
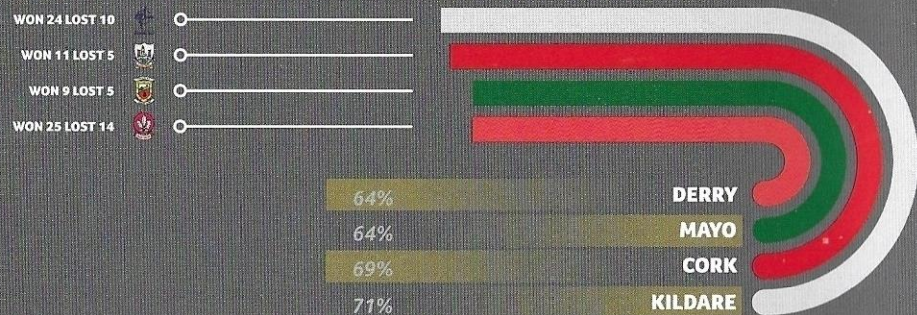
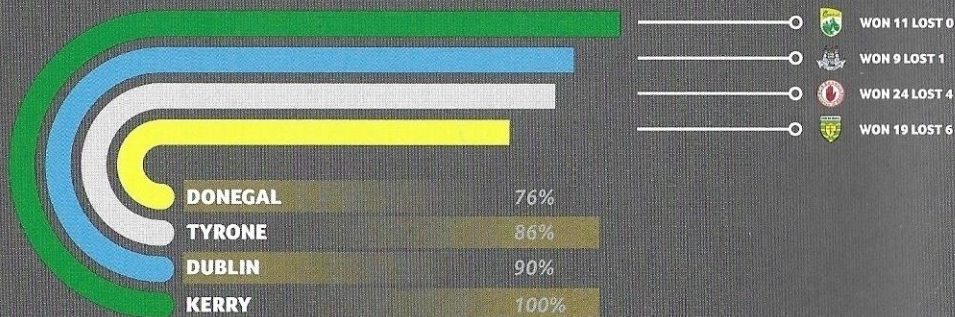
If Mayo do overcome Clare today and manage to launch another summit attempt, it would represent yet another remarkable triumph of the will. If Clare take out one of the big guns they have had in their sights, they would boldly plant a flag on their own peak and get to look out across the horizon at further conquests. Either way, it'll be great fun.

Clare manager, Colm Collins



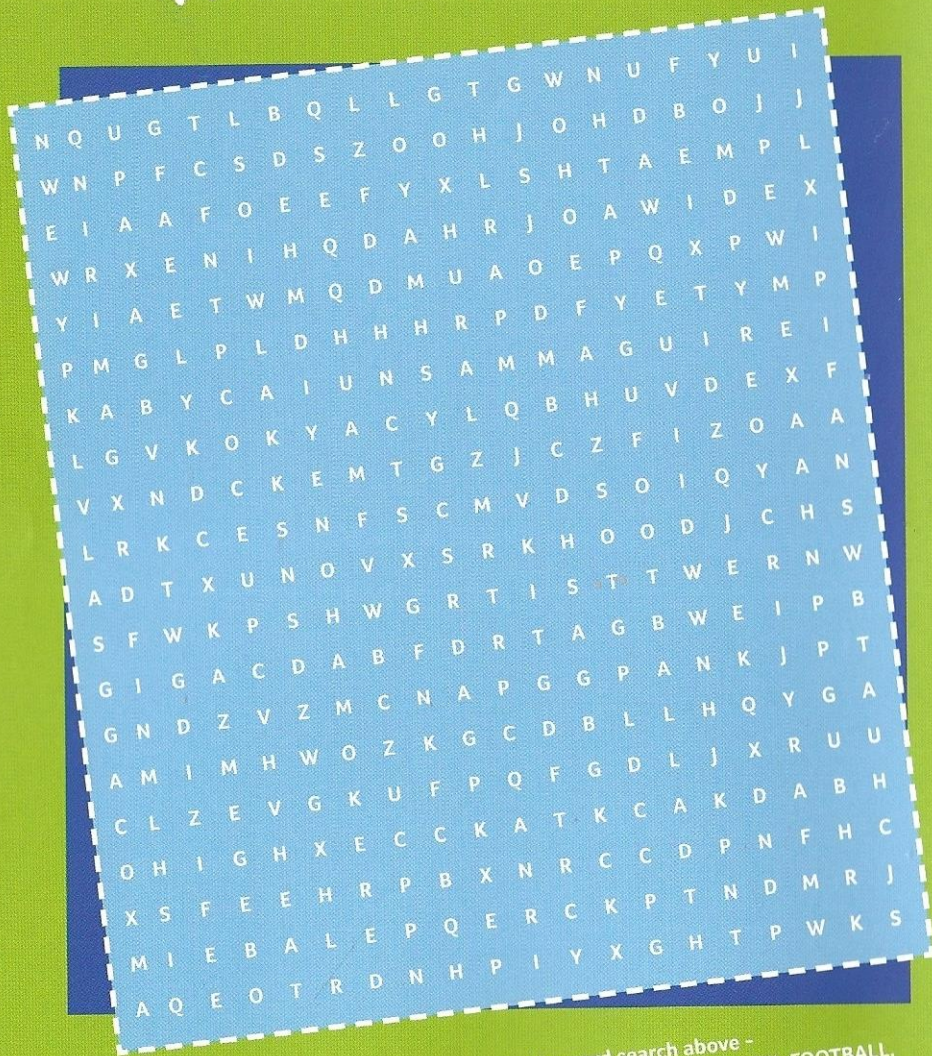
Lee Keegan, Mayo, goes past Neil Loughlin, Derry

QUALIFIER RECORDS



CÚINNE NA NÓG

WORD SEARCH



Can you find these words in the word search above -
MEATH, DONEGAL, CLARE, MAYO, DEREK O'MAHONEY, SEÁN HURSON, FOOTBALL,
SAM MAGUIRE, PAIRC TAILTEANN, CUSACK PARK

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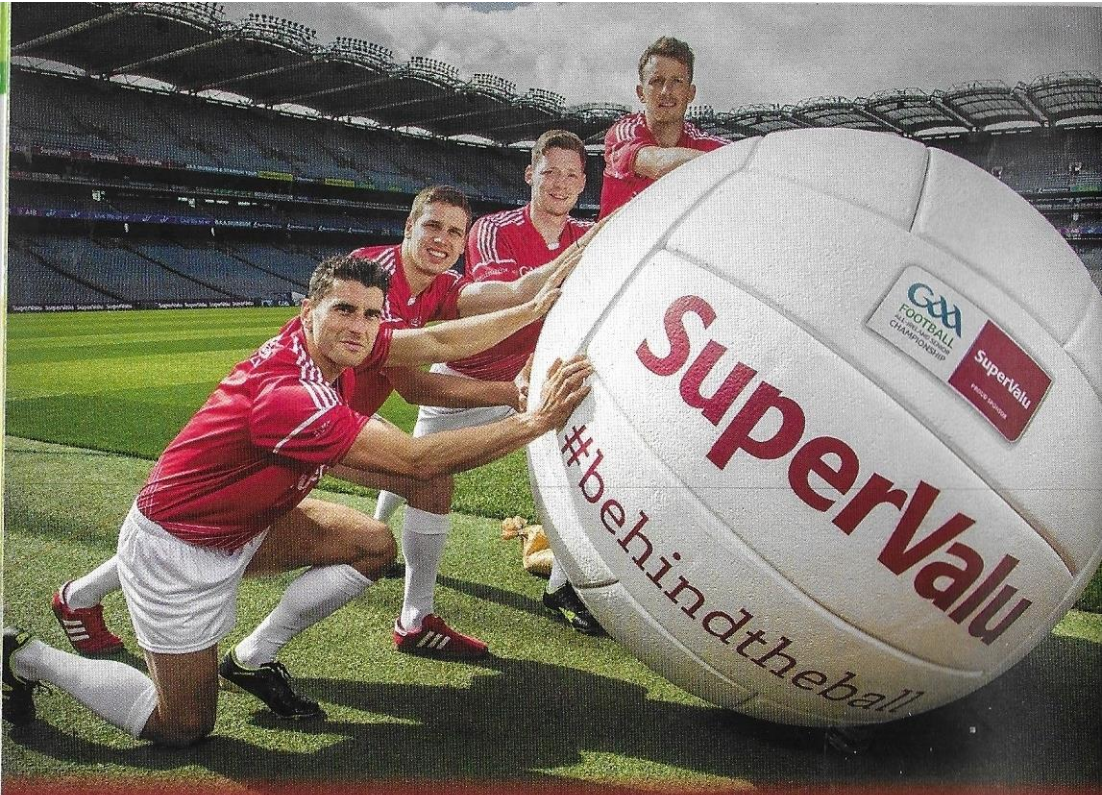


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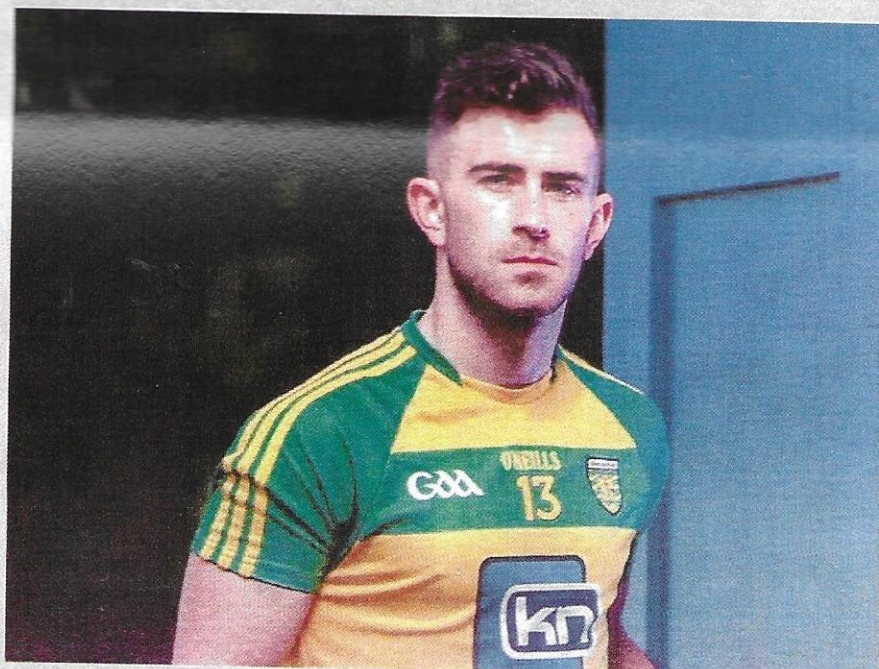
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McBrearty class edges Donegal past Royals

DERMOT CROWE

Donegal	1-15
Meath	1-14

PAIRC TAILTEANN



EXTRA-TIME was looming when Patrick McBrearty stamped his class on the evening and steered Donegal into the next round of the qualifiers, where they will be bunched with Mayo, Cork and the losing Connacht finalist in a fortnight's time.

In unbearable tension he kicked a beautiful score off his left foot with Meath players crowding him in desperation. All evening they had kept coming back when Donegal looked to make a decisive break.

They had one more attack, and a claim for a free which the referee overlooked, and then the whistle sounded to end their summer.

Their management appeared unhappy not to have been given that late call but they were fortunate, if anything, with the calls on the night from Derek O'Mahoney. Donegal had a goal from Hugh McFadden disallowed, seemingly for a square ball violation, and Meath's last levelling point, a seventh pointed-free from seven attempts from their excellent marksman Donal Lenihan, came from a dubious award in their favour.

Donegal were also furious when the referee signalled a free for Ryan McHugh ten minutes into the second half, then allowed an advantage that didn't accrue. When Donegal lost the ball a Meath counter-attack led to a levelling score for Shane McEntee.

In the end they survived and those misgivings will fade into the evening. It was not a vintage performance. They relied hugely on their captain Michael Murphy who scored 0-5, three from play, as he emptied himself around the middle of the field, covering ground, getting tackles in, leading the drive when they were struggling. At one point in the second half he ran 40m back towards his own goal to dispossess Brian Conlon, the Meath midfielder, and defuse the danger.

McBrearty improved greatly as the game went on and finished with four points from play. On an evening when it looked impossible to separate the teams, his intervention finally broke Meath's stubborn resistance.

There wasn't much of that quality in evidence. The teams were level on 10 different occasions, including half-time (0-7 apiece), and even when Donegal got what looked like a crucial break with Ryan McHugh's 60th-minute goal, it took only a minute for Meath to respond. O'Sullivan finished to the net after an initial effort from Paucic Harnan was saved by Mark McGinley.

Donegal's support, in tune with much of their team's performance, was subdued for long stretches. Only when McBrearty spun clear of Donal Keogan and kicked a neat point in the sunshine after 56 minutes did they break into sound. That score nudged Donegal 0-12 to 0-11 in front, the third in a row without reply, but James McEntee had the teams tied again a minute later.

Meath had the better of the midfield exchanges but depended heavily on frees for scores. O'Sullivan left the field on a black card for a foul on Mark McHugh five minutes from the end and Graham Reilly managed just one point, watched closely all evening by Paddy McGrath.

Donegal took off Ciaran Thompson in the second half with Bryan Menton and Conlon dominating the middle, but they had strong performances from Eoghan Bán Gallagher, who set up their goal, and Ryan McHugh, who finished it.

Despite the exciting final ten minutes, with two goals and a tight finish, the match was dour for long spells. Two points was the widest gap between the teams at any stage of the first half, with Donegal forging ahead before late scores from Keogan and a third free by Lenihan brought the home team level again.

Meath packed bodies into their own half and left Donegal's attack with little room to function. In the 32nd minute Eoin McHugh combined with Gallagher to create a goal chance but Conor McGill intercepted the danger. McGill made another outstanding saving block in the second half with Donegal threatening.

It had a drawn match written all over it until McBrearty stepped up for his match-winning score.

Scorers — Meath: D Lenihan 0-7 (0-7f), C O'Sullivan 1-1, D Keogan, R Ó Coileáin, B Menton, J McEntee, S McEntee, G Reilly 0-1. Donegal: P McBrearty 0-7 (0-3f), M Murphy 0-5 (0-2 fs), R McHugh 1-0, J McGee 0-2, F McGlynn 0-1.

Meath: P O'Rourke; D Keogan, C McGill, M Burke; P Harnan, B Power, S McEntee; B Menton, B Conlon; R Ó Coileáin, J McEntee, G Reilly; S Tobin, C O'Sullivan, D Lenihan. Subs: M Newman for Tobin (half time); D Tobin for S McEntee (61); E Wallace for O'Sullivan (BC 65). Donegal: M McGinley; P McGrath, N McGee, C Ward; R McHugh, F McGlynn, E Gallagher; J McGee, C Thompson; C Gillespie, M O'Reilly, E McHugh; P McBrearty, M Murphy, H McFadden. Subs: M McElhinney for Thompson (42 mins); J Brennan for McFadden (48); K Lacey for O'Reilly (57); M McHugh for McGlynn (59). Referee: D O'Mahoney (Tipperary).