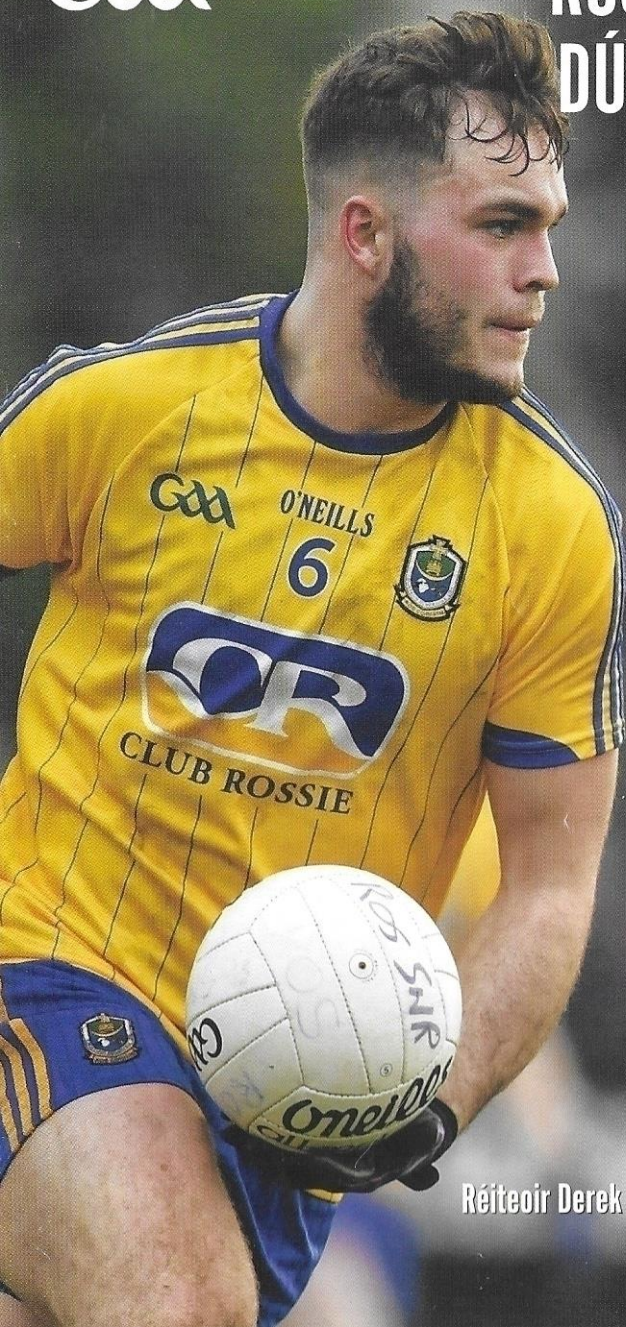


GAA

# ROS COMÁIN V DÚN NA NGALL



Sraith Naisiunta  
Allianz Roinn 1.  
Domhnach  
12 Feabhra 2017  
Throw in 2-30



Réiteoir Derek O Mahoney (Tíobraid Árann)

€3



# Chairmans Welcome

A dhaoine uaisle thar cheann Coisdé Chontae Ros Cómain ba mhaith liom fáilte mhor a chur roimh gach éinne go dtí an dara babtha sa tsraith Allianz inniu í bPáirc de hÍde. Cuirim fáilte ar leith roimh muintír Dún na nGall ar gcúairteoirí inniú.

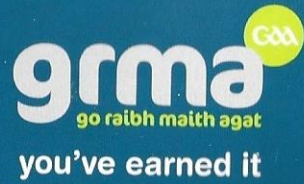


For the early mornings, the late nights, the miles travelled, the hard yards and heroics. Thank you for playing your part...



GAA members can now enjoy partner discounts, special offers and earn points for going to games with the grma programme.

To start benefiting, register now at [gaa.ie/grma](http://gaa.ie/grma)



Fáilte fé léith roimh na himreoirí, na hoifigigh, an réiteoir agus a fhoireann, na meáin chumarsáide agus sibhsé an lucht tacaíochta. Ta fáilte romhaibh agus táim cinnte go mbeidh sár cluiche spóirtúil againn. On behalf of Roscommon County Board I welcome each and everyone of you to Dr Hyde Park for Roscommon's Allianz League Division 1 second round clash against Donegal. I welcome Donegal Officials, Management, Players and supporters and I hope you enjoy your visit to Roscommon.

As a county and people it is with great pride and relief that we can once again play our games on the newly installed fantastic playing surface in Dr Hyde Park after the issues encountered last year. As you all know we had major problems with the playing surface over the last number of years and last year in particular we were only able to play one of our four home league games in Hyde Park and that was even difficult. After the Connacht Championship game against Sligo in June the ground was closed and work began on removing the old pitch and putting in place a new all weather pitch. We now have a magnificent pitch to play our games on and can once more welcome teams in the knowledge that this new surface is up there with the best pitches in the country. The work was carried out by Prunty Pitches and I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved.

In what is a novel fundraising idea the sale of virtual squares of the Dr Hyde Park pitch was launched last Saturday night in Down the Hatch, Roscommon town. Buy a square for €20, add your name & club and enter the details of your favourite Roscommon GAA memory/ Hyde Park memory/that of your parent or in memory of a loved one that brought you to the Hyde. You can also nominate people.

Division 1 of the Allianz league is always extremely competitive and this year will be no different. Last Sunday in Omagh we began our campaign against Tyrone, next up today's game against Donegal in Round 2, a two-week break followed by Round 3 against Mayo under lights in McHale Park on the 25th of February and Round 4 at home to Kerry. We play away to Monaghan in Iniskeen on the 19th of March in Round 5, a visit to Croke Park to face All-Ireland champions Dublin under lights in Round 6 and in Round 7 our final game is at home to Cavan.

Games between Roscommon and Donegal are traditionally extremely competitive with little separating the teams and I have no doubt that today's game will be no different. I wish Kevin Mc Stay and his management team and the panel of players the best of luck today and in the year ahead. On the Club front our County Leagues start on the weekend of 17th/18th/19th of February, I take this opportunity to wish all Clubs the very best of Luck in both the League and Championship in 2017.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our patrons for their continued support and efforts in helping our teams reach their full potential. I ask you to continue that support which is essential in our continued efforts to make Roscommon GAA competitive. Without your support this would not be possible.

Finally, and as always, my thanks to all who made the staging of today's game possible – our administrative staff, my fellow County Board Officers, Event Controller, our stewards, gate people and all whose unseen efforts are vital for the smooth running of occasions like this.

**Mile buíochas Libh go léir.**  
**Seamus Mc Suibhne**  
**Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae Ros Comain**



# GAA Football Allianz National Football League Round 1



## ROSCOMMON V DONEGAL



### AN RÉITEOIR



Today's referee is Derek O Mahoney a member of the Ardfinnan club in Tipperary. A very experienced referee he took charge of the Connacht Senior championship game between Mayo and London in May 2016. He was also the man in the middle for the Leinster Championship game between Kildare and Westmeath. Derek took charge of three National League games in 2016 in Salthill, Newry and Carrick-on-Shannon where the rearranged fixture between Roscommon and Dublin was played.

### STANDBY REFEREE

Padraig O Sullivan (Kerry)



### LINESMAN

Rory Hickey (Clare)



## Junior Club Rossie Mascots



Our two Junior Club Rossie mascots today are Cathal Guckian and Micheál Greene. They were pulled out of the members draw. You too can be a mascot! Every month we draw names from our members list and the lucky winners get to be mascots at a game, get the use of the Roscommon GAA team bus or even a coaching session for their school or club. Make sure that anyone eligible in your house is a Junior Club Rossie member too.

Cathal Guckian is a member of the St Michaels Club. He's aged 12 and is in 6th class in Drumboylan NS and his favourite player is Ciarán Murtagh. Micheál Greene is aged 7 and a member of the Éire Óg GAA Club. Micheál goes to school in Lisacul NS and his favourite player is Seanie Mac Dermott.



## Great to be back in the Hyde, but collecting league points is all that matters

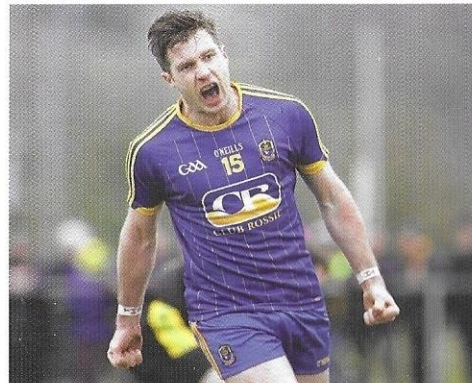
Roscommon Herald - Ian Cooney Sports Editor

It may only be the second weekend of the Allianz Football Leagues, but today's match between Roscommon and Donegal has a defining look about it. While the losers will claim that there's still plenty to play for, the reality, and competitiveness, of Division One suggests that the relegation trapdoor awaits.

A week ago, Donegal managed to gain some respectability with a flurry of late scores against Kerry, only falling short by three points in the end. Had the Kingdom taken their foot off the gas in the knowledge that the game was in the bag or did Donegal belatedly discover their scoring touch?

A young Roscommon team paraded spirit and resilience against Tyrone in Omagh. Yet Mickey Harte's men never looked in danger of losing the match, despite the visitors' second-half recovery. Still, there was still plenty to admire about Roscommon taking the game to Mickey Harte's charges after the break when all looked lost at half time.

Consequently both teams have a point to prove. The aim will be to put their best foot forward and build on the positives from last week. On paper, Roscommon seemed to have gained more from their trip north but Donegal still managed 1-17 against one of the best teams in the country.



Cathal Cregg celebrates his defining goal against Donegal during last year's league match in Letterkenny.

Despite Donegal being in a period of transition, they still retain a core group of experienced players that will give Roscommon plenty to think about. Roscommon don't have a player of Michael Murphy's calibre. If Paddy McBrearty has one of those days when everything he touches turns to gold, it's hard to see Rory Gallagher's men being beaten.

For one reason or another, Roscommon's experience levels have been decimated in the space of 12 months. Kevin McStay has a young team at his disposal. It's not necessarily a new team but these players will need time as they strive to reach their potential. Perhaps, it's that fearlessness of youth that makes Roscommon dangerous opposition for Donegal today. That's the carrot that the home side's support will be clinging to.

Then there's the Hyde Park factor. Roscommon finally has a home again, something Kevin McStay feels will make a huge difference to the team's preparations as the season progresses. Being back on your home pitch playing Division One football and welcoming big teams like Donegal in front of a partisan home crowd — if that doesn't inspire these Roscommon players, nothing will.

A fast pitch should suit Roscommon's style of play. They can't afford to take possession into contact because the team lacks physicality in certain areas to retain the ball. Move the ball quickly into the scoring zone where there are forwards who know a thing or two about kicking points.

As much as today is about Roscommon welcoming top flight league football back to the Hyde without having to worry about Mother Nature, the management and players will need to detach themselves from the giddy excitement that will engulf the stadium. Two league points are the only currency in town. The problem is that Donegal will be singing from the same hymn sheet.

It should make for quite a spectacle.



# Roscommon clinch semi-final spot with hard fought win over Donegal



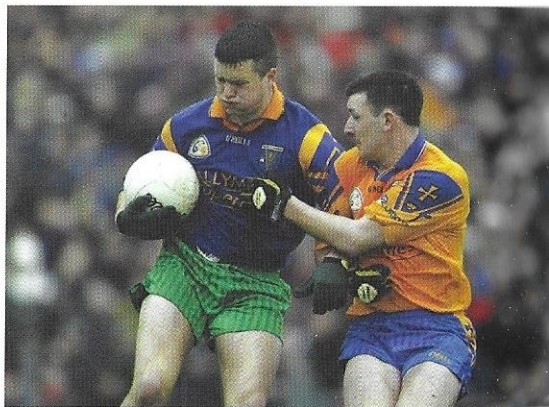
**From Roscommon Champion report**  
by Noel Fallon 13 March 2002

Roscommon qualified for the national league semi-finals for the third successive year with a four-point win over Donegal in a hard fought Division 1A match played in poor conditions at Hyde Park last Sunday. Roscommon did not play particularly well but the match showcased another dimension of John Tobin's maturing team. Rather than swash the buckle they refused to buckle when Donegal pilled on pressure in a tense second half. In driving rain on a heavy pitch against a physically stronger team Roscommon were resolute and defiant. One trend which has maintained was the Blue and Gold's new acquired and happy habit of getting a goal when it's needed. Stephen Lohan's freak 44th minute score didn't compare with vintage strikes in previous league games, yet his mis-hit 35 metre free which rolled through the legs of Donegal's John Gildea into the net was probably the decisive score of the game.

This was a victory for determination and graft rather than the champagne football of recent weeks, although the team produced a bout of their trade mark intelligent, direct style for 20 minutes in the first half. The conditions and an over fussy referee stymied flowing play but the match still provided entertainment, drama and the inevitable frayed nerves for an enthusiastic crowd of 8,500 fans. Referee Michael Monahan adhered to the letter of the law when he could have kept more to the spirit of the rules and taken account of the wet conditions. This was not a dirty game yet two players were sent off and seven others were booked.

Nigel Dineen was the key figure in Roscommon's win. Dineen has been on fire throughout the league and was once again a magnetic target man last Sunday. Most impressively he raised his performance level when it was clear the rest of the forward line wasn't functioning with the fluency of recent matches.

It turned out to be an especially good day for Roscommon Sponsor Sean Mulryan.



Due to a mix-up in Jerseys Donegal wore the home team's change strip which meant double exposure for Ballymore Properties on live television. One onlooker claimed it was Roscommon A v B but for the first 20 minutes the "second team" were out classed.

Although Adrian Sweeney gave Donegal the lead in the first minute Roscommon quickly took command. Dineen slotted over a free after nine minutes and one minute later Roscommon gained a lead they never lost. Paul Noone won a breaking ball at midfield and found John Hanly who transferred to Dineen. The Castlereagh forward sent in a lob which was cleverly flicked just inside the left post to the net by Gary Cox.

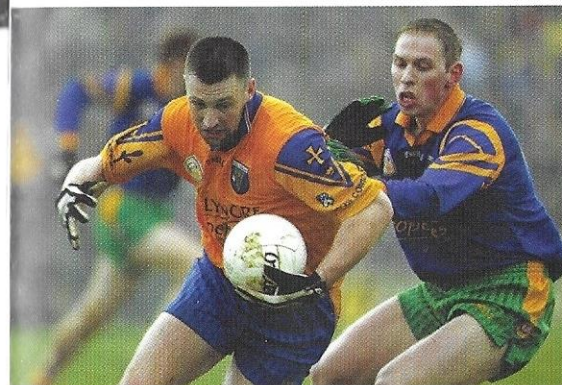
That goal was the impetus for incessant Roscommon pressure. After 10 minutes Dineen thumped over a point after a move involving Francie Grehan, Martin Raftery, John Tiernan and Cox. Another slick move out of defence in the 16th minute led to Stephen Lohan setting up Seamus O'Neill for a point. Lohan converted two close range frees in quick succession before the centre forward powered up field to set up a point for Cox who had enough room for Michael Schumacher and Juan Pablo Montoya to get through together.

It looked like the game would be over at half time but Donegal who were totally off the pace at that stage, got a life line in the 30th minute. Sweeney caught cleanly behind John Whyte and was tumbled by David Casey. The burly full forward hammered the resulting penalty to the net.

Cox shot wide after a deft flick from Dineen before Michael Hegarty and Dineen exchanged points. Kevin Raftery kicked over a good point for Donegal and Lohan rounded off the first half scoring two minutes into injury time with a tremendous free after O'Neill had been brought down. Roscommon were full value for their 1-8 to 1-3 lead at half time.

Donegal were a transformed team after the interval and reeled off four points within five minutes of the resumption from Hegarty, Sweeney and dynamic under 21 player Colm McFadden who scored twice. Roscommon's earlier assurance deserted them and Lohan and Dineen both missed scoring chances.

The trend looked set to continue after 44 minutes when Lohan didn't connect properly



with a 35 metre free from his hands. However the ball skidded through Gildea's legs and rolled over the line. Seconds before the goal Fergal O'Donnell came on to revive a labouring midfield and the Lionheart had a major steadying influence on the team.

Donegal almost hit back within two minutes of Lohan's goal but Thompson made a super save from a point blank shot by Seamus Friel. Sweeney rattled over a point yet Donegal suffered another body blow in the 48th minute when centre back Barry Monaghan brought down Jonathan Dunning and was dismissed for a second bookable offence. Dineen converted the resulting free and Lohan increased Roscommon's lead to

five points with a good score from play after approach work by Dunning and Noone.

Yet Donegal hung on tenaciously and should have been right back in the game in the 52nd minute as Paul Mc Gonigle put McFadden clear on goal only for the corner forward to blast the chance over the bar. Sub Brian McLaughlin narrowed the gap to three points one minute later and a speculative shot from McFadden bounced across the square with nobody able to apply the final touch.

Roscommon responded with a good free from a free by Lohan who intercepted the short kick out which followed that score and passed to O'Donnell who set up Dunning for a point. Sweeney replied with two points from frees and Roscommon then had Fearghall Carroll sent off after the substitute full back was booked twice in a minute.

Noone drove a point chance wide but appropriately it was Dineen who sealed victory with a splendid left footed point after a swift move involving Denis Gavin, Grehan and Hanly. Roscommon almost rounded off a satisfactory outing with a goal when Dineen's sublime tap down set Jarlath Egan Free. Egan could have gone for goal himself but instead passed to Dunning whose shot was saved superbly by Tony Blake. Roscommon could afford late wides from Dineen and Hanly before the finish as victory and a semi-final place were in the bag.

Derek Thompson made a marvellous save and his kick outs, long and short, were better than they've been in some time. The full back line had a torrid time even though Donegal were without International rules star Brendan Devaney who was on soccer duty with Finn Harps. In Devaney's absence Adrian Sweeney reprised his performance of last year in Ballybofey and was a constant menace. The half back line was the launching pad of most of Roscommon's attacks, particularly in the first half. Martin Raftery showed an encouraging return to last year's form. Francie Grehan was the link man in numerous attacks and Paul Noone was authoritative and athletic.

After a good start midfield struggled until O'Donnell came on but it is a timely reminder that Seamus O'Neill and David Casey are both under 21 and the schedule of four games 15 days was bound to take a toll on them. The luckless Gildea was the dominant figure in the centre. Apart from Dineen, Gary Cox and Stephen Lohan was the most effective Roscommon forwards.



The home team got a further boost after the final whistle when it was discovered that Cork had beaten Tyrone to ensure Tobin's side had finished top of the ultra-competitive Division 1 A, which was a tremendous achievement in itself. It also means that instead of another meeting with Mayo, Roscommon will face a novel and attractive semi-final against Cavan on Sunday week.

**Roscommon:** Derek Thompson, Denis Gavin, John Whyte, Ian Daly, Martin Raftery, Francie Grehan, Paul Noone, Seamus O'Neill, (0-1), David Casey, John Tiernan, Stephen Lohan (1-5, 1-4 frees) Gary Cox (1-1) Nigel Dineen (0-5 three frees) Johnathan

Dunning (0-1) John Hanly.  
Subs used: Fergal O'Donnell for Casey (44 mins), Ja Egan for Tiernan (45 mins), Fearghal Carroll for Whyte (49 minutes) Don Connellan for O'Neill (58 mins) Gerry Lohan for Stephen Lohan (70 mins)

**Donegal:** Tony Blake; Damien Diver, Mark Crossan, Noel Mc Ginley; Raymond Sweeney, Barry Monaghan, Kevin Cassidy; John Gildea, Kevin Raftery (0-1); Christy Toyne, Michael Hegarty (0-2), John Haron; Seamus Friel, Adrian Sweeney (1-5, 1-0 penalty, 0-4 frees), Colm Mc Fadden (0-3). Subs used: Paul Mc Gonigle for Toyne (45 mins), Brian Mc Loughlin (0-1, free) for Friel, Paddy Campbell for Raftery (54 mins) Brendan Boyle for

# Managers Message

It has been a long time coming but today, finally, the surface of Dr. Hyde Park is fit to host Division 1 football. You will recall that last year we played 22 inter-county games (4 x FBD, 8 x NFL, 6 x Championship and 4 x Challenge) and played only two of them (v Mayo NFL and v Sligo in Connacht Championship) at home in Dr. Hyde Park. In the majority of cases we had to pass up the advantage of playing our home games here, reaching the unacceptable situation of being denied home advantage for the replay of the Connacht Final as we had to travel to Castlebar because we had no home ground. That situation was unacceptable to all involved in Roscommon GAA and thankfully, it is now resolved and behind us.

I want to sincerely thank all the clubs who generously gave us the use of their grounds for matches and training in 2016 and into 2017 – we literally changed venues every week. In particular, I want to thank St. Brigids, St. Aidans, Clann na nGael and Athleague and Roscommon Gaels for the extended use of their facilities during the spring and summer months of last season. The FBD provincial league has served us reasonably well and we enjoy playing in it. By the end of January we were in a position to select our 2017 panel of 30 players. However, I would like to make two observations about the provincial league: (1) in my opinion, Connacht GAA needs to shake up the group stages urgently as playing against the same opponents each year does not add to the league and (2) Connacht GAA needs to examine the ability of some of the college teams to play at this level.

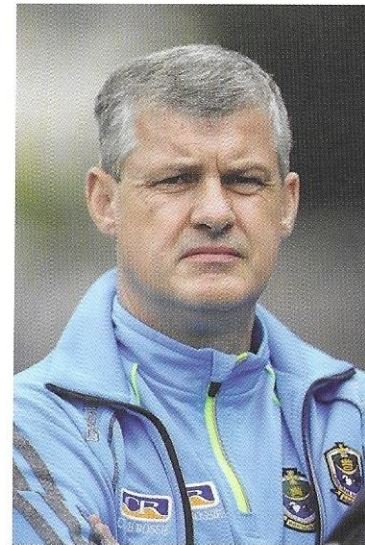
Last Sunday we played Tyrone and playing away in Omagh against an experienced, well-conditioned and well-drilled outfit like Tyrone is always challenging. But once we came to terms with the tempo of the game I felt we gave as good as we got. However, unless we build today on the positive aspects of that 2nd half effort, the trip to Tyrone will be viewed as being of little or no benefit to the progress of this group. I am confident we will give of our very best against Donegal today.

It will take time and patience to further develop this squad but I take the responsibility of managing Roscommon senior footballers very seriously indeed. Those challenges continue to stack up – we are off to Mayo in a fortnight and face Kerry the following week at home. The players very much enjoy the pressures of playing in this division and indeed require those pressures. Not all the experiences gained will be enjoyable but we will all be the better for them after another season of life in the 'Big Boys' School'.

Sincere thanks to Roscommon GAA officers who work tirelessly on behalf of all of us. And a big thank you to our sponsors and Club Rossie for their continued support and encouragement. Thank you to each and every Roscommon supporter attending today. Know that we take great pride in this squad of young players and that we continue to encourage them to play the game in a manner that will allow you identify with them – with honesty of effort, desire, skill, absence of ego and sportsmanship.

Today is one of the good news days for the GAA in the county of Roscommon and our fervent hope is that over the next few hours our team will represent you well. And that, at the end of proceedings, we will have secured our first points of the 2017 NFL.

**Kevin McStay**, Manager, Roscommon Senior Footballers



## Match Statistics

ROSCOMMON	G	P	W
First-Half	1	8	3
Second-Half	1	5	6
TOTAL	2	13	9

**Booked:** John Whyte, Martin Raftery, David Casey, Fearghal Carroll.  
**Sent-off:** Fearghal Carroll.

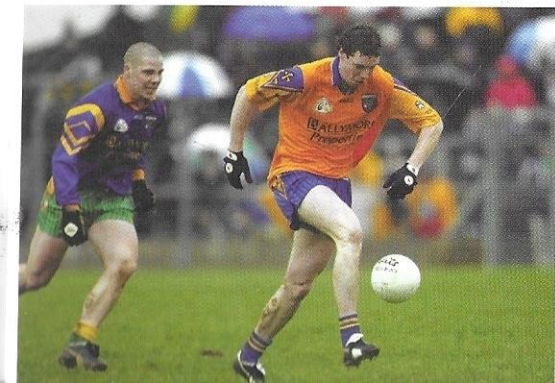
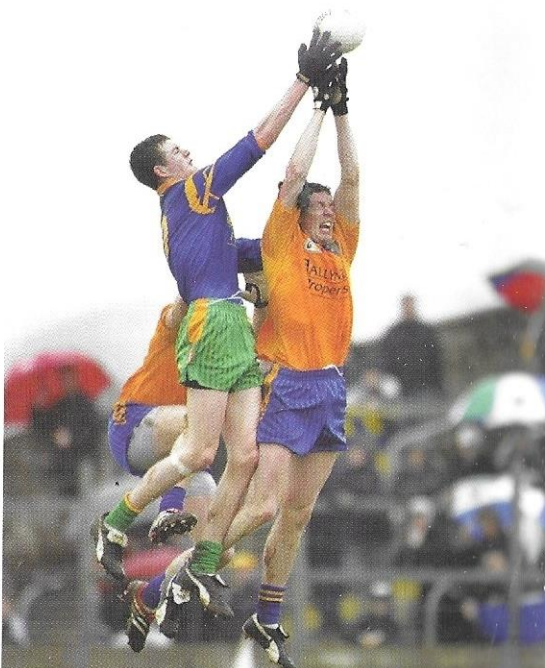
DONEGAL	G	P	W
First-Half	1	3	6
Second-Half	0	9	4
TOTAL	1	12	10

**Booked:** Mark Crossan, Barry Monaghan, John Gildea, Michael Hegarty, Seamus Friel.  
**Sent-off:** Barry Monaghan.  
**Attendance:** 8,500.

## Player of the Match

### NIGEL DINEEN

OVER the last five games Nigel has been Roscommon's most consistent player. Dineen has been pipped to man of the match each time but last Sunday his credentials were impeccable. The Castlereagh player carried the forward line in the first-half and while he was starved of possession for much of the second-half he got the clinching point near the end.



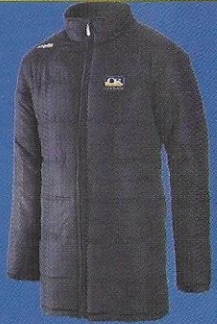




CLUB ROSSIE

Proud supporters of Gaelic Games in Roscommon, on and off the field!

## 2017 Membership launching soon



**Pre-launch Offer:**  
Renew / Join at Gold Level by February 10th and receive this exclusive Jacket ahead of our Round 3 game away to Mayo on February 25th

### Gold Membership €228

Also includes  
3 Entries to Members Draw  
Reserved Parking near Hyde Park  
Draws for All-Ireland Tickets  
and more

Join now at [www.clubrossie.ie](http://www.clubrossie.ie)  
or drop in to the Roscommon GAA Office;  
Open Mon - Fri, 10am - 4pm  
Queries to [info@clubrossie.ie](mailto:info@clubrossie.ie)  
or 086 839 9584

Details of Bronze Membership at launch

### Do you remember the day when...

What was your most memorable moment in Dr Hyde Park?  
Was is Gerry Lohan's last minute Connacht Final winning goal of 2001 or the All-Ireland Under 21 Final win of 1978?

Buy a square of our Virtual Dr Hyde Park at [clubrossie.ie](http://clubrossie.ie), for just €20, and leave your memory there for the world to see.

Form also available in this week's Roscommon Herald



# Player Profile



## Colm Lavin

Date of Birth: 11-11-1993      Club: Éire Óg  
Height: 6ft 1"      Weight: 96kg  
Occupation: Student Teacher

When And Where Did You First Play Football?      Éire Óg u8  
Inter County Debut Date: -      5 February 2017 (last week)  
Sporting Achievements To Date:      Connacht Minor & u21 championship  
Favourite Venue      Croke Park  
Most Memorable Sporting Moment As A Player?      U21 Semi-Final v Cork 2014  
Biggest Influence On Your Sporting Career To Date      Parents & Dara Bruen  
In Ten Years' Time I Hope To Be...      Rich and have an All-Ireland medal.

If There Was A 'Transfer Market' Who Would You Buy?      Diarmuid Connolly  
Person You Most Admire      Mark O'Brien - had a trial with Fulham in 2010  
The Best Invention Ever:      Smartphone/dishwasher  
What Skill Is The Most Important In Football?      Being able to kick with both feet  
Favourite Sport Other Than Football?      Rugby/Golf  
What Do You Like Most About The GAA?      The friendships you make and opportunities you get from it.

Something People Might Not Know About You      I was born in Manchester and lived there until I was 4

One Word To Describe Yourself      Relaxed  
Advice For Beginners      Practice using both feet as much as you can and enjoy it

Best Advice You Ever Got      All that matters is what your friends and family think of you

Most embarrassing thing to happen to you      In secondary school getting caught by the principal with 5 tools from the woodwork room in my school bag that were put there by my 'friends'

What One Thing Would You Like Changed In The GAA?      Make the season shorter

Ambition for the future      Win as much as I can and see as much of the world as I can

Favourite Food?      Pasta/pizza  
Favourite Drink?      Water  
Favourite Music:      Ed Sheeran/The Weekend  
Favourite Film:      The Dark Knight Trilogy  
Favourite App:      Whatsapp/Instagram  
Chinese/Indian      Chinese  
Android/Iphone      iPhone  
Twitter/Snapchat      Snapchat





# ROS COMÁIN

(1)

**Colm Lavin**  
Colm Ó Laibhín  
Éire Óg

(2)

**Seán McDermott**  
Seán Mac Diarmada  
Western Gaels

(3)

**Thomas Featherston**  
Thomas Fetherstin  
Oran

(4)

**Niall McInerney**  
Niall Mac an Airchinnigh  
St Brigids

(5)

**Ronan Stack**  
Ronáin de Staic  
St Brigids

(6)

**Sean Mullooly**  
Seán Maoluala  
Strokestown

(7)

**John McManus**  
Seán MacMánais  
Roscommon Gaels

(8)

**Kevin Higgins**  
Caomhín Ó hUiginn  
Western Gaels

(9)

**Tadhg O'Rourke**  
Tadhg Ó Ruairc  
Tulsk

(10)

**Shane Killoran**  
Seán Mac Giolla Luairinn  
Elphin

(11)

**Ciaráin Murtagh (Capt)**  
Ciarán Ó Muireartaigh  
St Faithleachs

(12)

**Enda Smith**  
Éanna Mac Gabhan  
Boyle

(13)

**Donie Smith**  
Dónal Mac Gabhan  
Boyle

(14)

**Fintan Cregg**  
Fiontán de Creag  
Elphin

(15)

**Conor Devaney**  
Conchubhar  
Ó Duibheannaigh  
Kilbride



**BAINISTEOIR** Kevin Mc Stay  
**ROGHNÓIRÍ** Liam Mc Hale, Ger Dowd

	Cúil	Cúilliní	Seachaí	45s	Saor Chiceanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
Iomain					

## FIR IONAD:

16 **Darren O'Malley**  
Dáire Ó Máille  
Michael Glaveys

17 **Paddy Brogan**  
Padraig Ó Brógáin  
Strokestown

18 **Ciaran Cafferkey**  
Ciarain  
Mac Eatarcaigh  
Western Gaels

19 **Cian Connolly**  
Cian Ó Conghaile  
Roscommon Gaels

20 **Tom Corcoran**  
Tomás Ó Corcráin  
Strokestown

21 **Hubert Darcy**  
Hoibeard Ó Dorchaí  
Padraig Pearses

22 **Niall Daly**  
Niall Ó Dalaigh  
Padraig Pearses

23 **Niall Kilroy**  
Niall Mac Giolla  
Rua Fuerty

24 **Aengus Lyons**  
Aengus Ó Laighin  
Fuerty

25 **Gary Patterson**  
Gearóid Mac Pháidín  
Michael Glaveys

26 **Brian Stack**  
Brian Stac  
St Brigids



# DÚN NA NGALL

(1)

**Mark Anthony Mc Ginley**  
Marc Antaine Mac Fhionnghaile  
Naomh Mícheál

(2)

**Caolan Ward**  
Caolán Mac an Bháird  
Naomh Adhamhnáin

(3)

**Neil Mc Gee**  
Niall Mac Aoidh  
Gaoth Dobhair

(4)

**Paddy Mc Grath**  
Pádraig Mac Craith  
Ard an Ratha

(5)

**Ryan Mc Hugh**  
Riain Mac Aodha  
Cill Chartha

(6)

**Eoghan Bán Gallagher**  
Eoghan Bán Ó Gallchóir  
Na Cealla Beaga

(7)

**Paul Brennan**  
Pól Ó Braonáin  
Realt na Mara,  
Bun Dobhráin

(8)

**Jason Mc Gee**  
Jason Mac Aoidh  
Cloich Cheann Fhaola

(9)

**Hugh Mc Fadden**  
Aodh Mac Pháidín  
Na Cealla Beaga

(10)

**Ciaran Thompson**  
Ciarán Mac Thomáis  
Naomh Conaill

(11)

**Martin O' Reilly**  
Mairtín Ó Raghallaigh  
Seán Mac Cumhaill

(12)

**Conor Gibbons**  
Conchúr Ó Giobúin  
Naomh Adhamhnáin

(13)

**Patrick Mc Brearty**  
Pádraig Mac Breartaigh  
Cill Chartha

(14)

**Michael Murphy**  
Mícheál Ó Murchú  
Gleann Súilí

(15)

**Jamie Brenna**  
Jamie Ó Braonáin  
Realt na Mara,  
Bundobhráin

## FIR IONAD:

16 **Peter Boyle**  
Peadar Ó Baoill  
Aodh Ruadh B.A.S.

17 **Frank Mc Glynn**  
Proinsias Mac Fhao  
Gleann Fhinne

18 **Eamonn Doherty**  
Éamonn Ó Dochar  
Naomh Adhamhná

19 **Michael Langan**  
Mícheál Ó Longáin  
Naomh Mícheál

20 **Mark Mc Hugh**  
Marc Mac Aodha  
Cill Chartha

21 **Eoin Mc Hugh**  
Eoin Mac Aodha  
Cill Chartha

22 **Darrach O'Connor**  
Darrach  
Ó Conchubhair  
Bun Cranncha

23 **Ethan O' Donnell**  
Ethan Ó Domhnaíl  
Naomh Conaill

24 **Mícheál Carroll**  
Mícheál Ó Cearrb  
Gaoth Dobhair

25 **Conor Morrison**  
Conchúr  
Ó Muircheasáin  
Naomh Adhamhnáin

26 **Christopher McLaughlin**  
Cristóir  
Mac Lochlainn  
Malainn

**BAINISTEOIR** Ruairí Ó Gallachóir  
**ROGHNÓIR** Breandán Mac Giolla Chaoim

	Cúil	Cúilliní	Seachaí	45s	Saor Chiceanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
Iomain					



# Player Profile



## Eoghan Ban Gallagher

Date of Birth: 11/04/96 Club: Na Cealla Beaga  
 Height: 5'11 Weight: 12 stone 7 lbs  
 Occupation: Student

**When And Where Did You First Play Football?** Old Fintra aged 3 or 4  
**Inter County Debut Date: -** McKenna Cup Donegal v Down Jan 2016  
**Sporting Achievements To Date:** Ulster Minor League & Championship Club U21b County Title 2016  
**Favourite Venue** Old Fintra  
**Most Memorable Sporting Moment As A Player?** U21 B County Final for my club  
**Biggest Influence On Your Sporting Career To Date** Parents, Declan Gallagher, Paul Fisher, Rory Gallagher  
**In Ten Years' Time I Hope To Be...** Suceessfully playing Gaelic Football  
**If There Was A 'Transfer Market' Who Would You Buy?** Diarmuid Connolly  
**Person You Most Admire** Michael Murphy  
**The Best Invention Ever:** XBOX  
**What Skill Is The Most Important In Football?** Kick with both feet  
**Favourite Sport Other Than Football?** American Football  
**What Do You Like Most About The GAA?** Playing football with friends  
**Something People Might Not Know About You** Captained South west Schoolboys in Foyle Cup  
**One Word To Describe Yourself** Honest  
**Advice For Beginners** Listen to your coaches  
**Best Advice You Ever Got** Learn from mistakes  
**Most embarrassing thing to happen to you** Posted a picture to players group  
**What One Thing Would You Like Changed In The GAA?** Fixtures  
**Ambition for the future** To be a suceessful Gaelic Player

**Favourite Food?** Steak & Chips  
**Favourite Drink?** No favourite  
**Favourite Music:** None  
**Favourite Film:** Law abiding citizen  
**Favourite App:** Snapchat

**Chinese/Indian**  
**Android/Iphone**  
**Twitter/Snapchat**  
 Chinese  
 iPhone  
 Snapchat



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# Tales of Western Showdowns

by Darragh Kelly

There's a hackneyed old saying in sport that certain games are 'six pointers' or in the case of today's game 'four pointers'. I think I've some idea of what that means – it's the extreme swing of fortunes that's associated from the outcome of games like today's encounter

For either side to win today victory would mark an important step, only one step mind you, of preserving Division One status for next season; for the losers, a setback will result in a further loss of momentum and a struggle to remain in top flight league action for next year.

So for both teams, after respective losses last weekend, the stakes are understandably high. It has always been thus in encounters between both Donegal and Roscommon, in what has always been a keenly felt rivalry. Donegal travel today to avenge last year's loss in Letterkenny, a performance that for quality was one of Roscommon's best last year. In a match where fortunes see-sawed, the visitors success caused the GAA world to sit up and take notice. Alas, it was a fleeting fascination as events began to conspire against the primrose and blue later in the year.

My first recollection of a Donegal and Roscommon rivalry was on a blustery day in Pairc Sean MacDiarmuda in Carrick-on-Shannon with the 1982 All-Ireland U-21 title at stake. It was a historic day for Donegal winning their first-ever All-Ireland crown of which footage still exists on YouTube.

That day, it would not be an exaggeration to say the whole of Donegal was present! And like Munster's famous victory over the All-Blacks in that famous rugby match in Thomond Park in 1978, I'm sure the number of Donegal people at that game has considerably swelled as the years have gone by!

For Roscommon, captained that day by Gary Wynne, that loss reflected the despair of the county's footballing fortunes after the exploits of that peerless team which captured four Connacht titles on the trot

from 1977 and who, in the words of the late Mick Dunne of RTE and the Irish Press, were 'the finest team he ever saw never to win an All-Ireland.'

For Donegal, their victory was the springboard to Ulster Final success the following year as Brian McEniff's side came up an agonising point short (1-12 to 1-11) in the last four against Galway on what was a sweltering day.

That semi-final in Croke Park was also the day when Eamon Coughlan triumphed in the 5,000 metres of the World Athletics championships in Helsinki and that wonderful commentary by Tony O'Donoghue as Coughlan overtook the Russian on the last bend of that final lap.

Few need reminding Donegal's U-21 success was bookended by Sam Maguire triumphs in 1992 and 2012. Three things stand out for me from that original victory of '92 – the pride of flame haired Declan Bonner after kicking what was the insurance score in the Final, Anthony Molloy, who featured on the U-21 team of 1982, lifting Sam Maguire and the pride of Donegal's 'first lady', singer Bridie Gallagher being interviewed the following morning by Gay Byrne on RTE Radio One.

On recent occasions when Donegal and Roscommon met, the odds have favoured the visitors, save for last year. Back in 2003, Roscommon in their final game, faced Donegal, already relegated, in Ballybofey. The odds favoured the visitors, but in a cruel twist of fate, Roscommon succumbed late, losing 2-10 to 1-10. To rub further salt in the wound, Roscommon joined Donegal in Division Two for the following season, despite winning three of their seven games that season.

That result, in its own small way, is proof, if any were needed, of Donegal's pride and fortitude. Working in that region for many years, I always found Donegal people to be fiercely proud, straight talking but always fair – what you see is what you get. It's the very same with their footballers – determined, brave and resilient.

So while today's game will conjure up memories of past games, including Donegal's comfortable 3-11 to 1-9 victory in the side's first and to date, only championship meeting in Ballybofey in 2008, today is a new era, not just for both teams after disappointments of recent years, but also a new era for the newly resurfaced Dr. Hyde Park.

For me, there are many memories, of great League battles, particularly in the early 1980's with the likes of Kerry and Dublin, but the one I best recall was victory over Mayo in

the semi-final of 1981 before Galway got the better of us in that year's decider, marking the effective break-up of the illustrious four-in-row team, who dramatically lost to Sligo in the championship later that year.

There are other League memories, but two, not concerning Roscommon, stand out in particular; as a young fella, watching the majestic Matt Connor in action for that great Offaly team in the Hyde in the early 1980's - if ever there was an artist in Gaelic Football, then for me, it was surely him.

My other League memory is that of a victory for Leitrim in a Division Three League play-off, against Offaly, in March 1990. Led by Cavan man P.J. Carroll, the victory marked Leitrim's breakthrough on the national stage, culminating in their unforgettable Connacht title of 1994. It's time for more memories and where better than for Roscommon and Donegal to begin today!

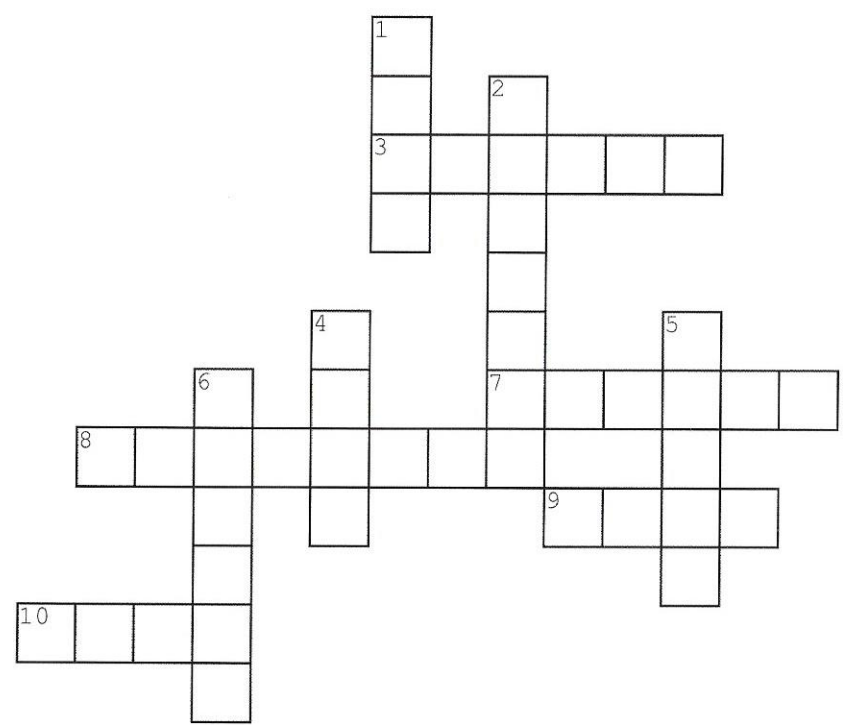
## Football Fixtures for Roscommon & Donegal for rest of the League Campaign

<b>Round 3</b>	Saturday 25 February	 Mayo	v	 Roscommon
	Sunday 26 February	 Donegal	v	 Dublin
<b>Round 4</b>	Saturday 4 March	 Cavan	v	 Donegal
	Sunday 5 March	 Roscommon	v	 Kerry
<b>Round 5</b>	Saturday 18 March	 Donegal	v	 Tyrone
	Sunday 19 March	 Monaghan	v	 Roscommon
<b>Round 6</b>	Saturday 25 March	 Dublin	v	 Roscommon
		 Donegal	v	 Monaghan
<b>Round 7</b>	Sunday 2 April	 Mayo	v	 Donegal
		 Roscommon	v	 Cavan



# Junior Crossword

Complete the crossword below



**Across**

- 3. Roscommon County Junior Champions
- 7. New CEO of the GPA. His father was also named Dermot
- 8. Flower associated with Roscommon Jersey
- 9. Green Flag goes up to show it was one of these
- 10. First President of Ireland

**Down**

- 1. Mick is President of Connacht GAA, also a type of music and a big stone
- 2. The man with the whistle
- 4. Catch the kick out in mid field is a what?
- 5. Christian name the player on the Front cover
- 6. John and Darach O Connor are called this nickname.

## JUNIOR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

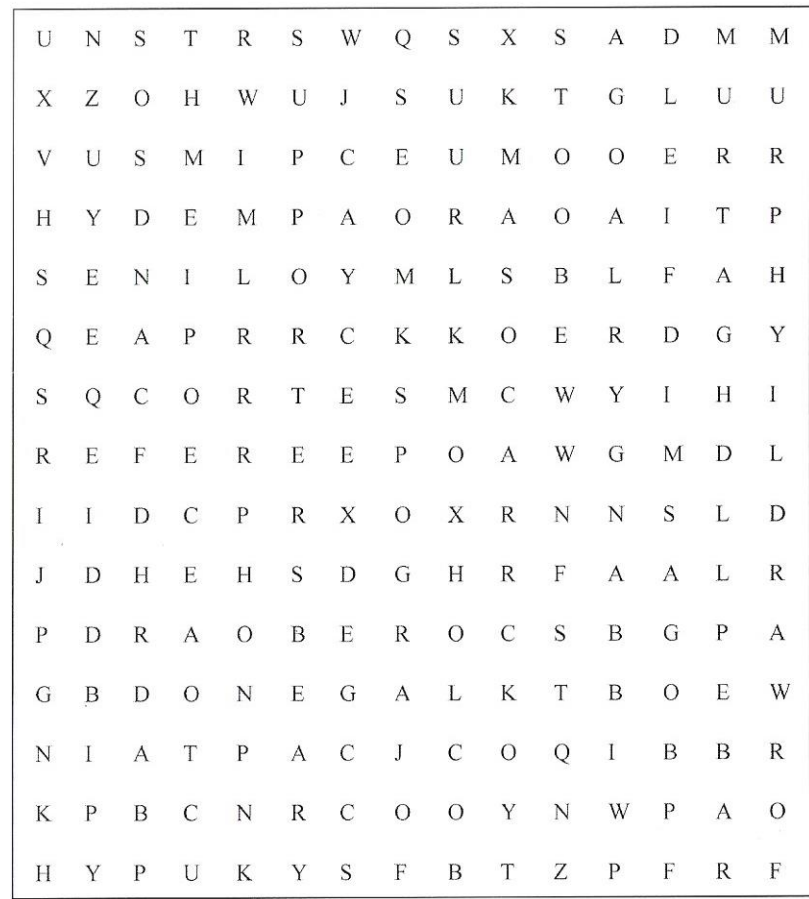
NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

Entries to be sent by post to  
Roscommon GAA Racecourse Rd, Roscommon by February 16th

# Word Search



- BACK
- BOOTS
- CAPTAIN
- DONEGAL
- FOOTBALL
- FORWARD
- GOAL
- GOALKEEPER
- HYDE
- JERSEY
- LINES
- MANAGER
- MIDFIELD
- MURPHY
- MURTAGH
- PITCH
- POINT
- REFEREE
- ROSCOMMON
- SCOREBOARD
- SOCKS
- SUPPORTERS



# National Pitch Maintenance Work Group

Our Ard-Stiúrthóir Mr Paraic Duffy wrote about the need to develop a more scientific approach to pitch maintenance in his report to Congress in 2016. He noted that the growth in the number of county training centres and the increasing number of clubs that are developing additional pitches emphasised the importance of properly protecting and sustaining these important assets. Then in March, Ard Chomhairle approved the establishment of a National Pitch Maintenance Workgroup under the chairmanship of Kieran McGann (Corcaigh), and with the active support of Damian McLaverty, General Manager of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland: -

**National Pitch Maintenance Work Group Committee**  
 Chairman: - Kieran Mc Gann & Munster Representative; Ph 086-7773100, Email: ktmcoare@gmail.com  
 Secretary: - Damian Mc Laverty, General Manager GCSAI; Ph 087-9316687, Email: damian@gcsai.org

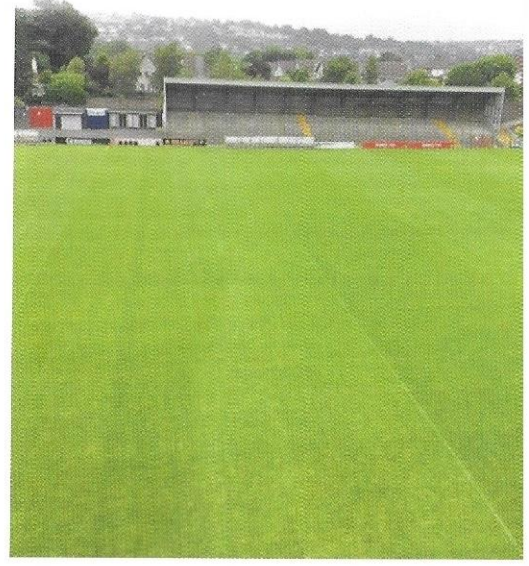
**Committee: -**  
 Stuart Wilson, Pitch Manager Croke Park; Ph 087-7669697, Email: swilson@crokepark.ie  
 Páraic Greene, Groundsman National Games Development Centre; Ph 086-8929432, Email: pgreene@crokepark.ie  
 Ian Mc Clements, STRI, Sports Turf Research Institute; Ph 087-1317218, Email: ian.mcclements@stri.co.uk  
 Stephen Forrest, Turftech; Ph 087-6856013, Email: turftech@eircom.net  
 Colm Daly, Groundsman Croke Park; Ph 083-1548396, Email: cdaly@crokepark.ie  
 Hugh Rudden, Connacht Representative; Ph 086-3817783, Email: hughrudden@eircom.net  
 Eddie Hughes, Ulster Representative; Ph 087-1247090, Email: ccdelegate.armagh@gaa.ie  
 Noel Brady, Leinster Representative; Ph 086-3424093, Email: bradynoelp@hotmail.com

Develop Guidelines and Education Programmes in relation to care, maintenance procedures and usage levels as follows: -  
 Construction, Renovation and Drainage.  
 Mowing  
 Seeding  
 Fertilizing  
 I.P.M.  
 Aerating.  
 Health and Safety.  
 Prepare Guidelines to optimise Pitch usage and performance during the playing/training season.  
 Work with relevant Educational Institutes with a view to developing an accredited course for Groundskeepers.  
 Develop a core groups of qualified Groundsmen in each County.











**Progress to date.**  
 The Pitch Workgroup in association with the GCSAI and industry partners has organised and run several successful events including: A series of provincial open days with practical demonstrations and theoretical sessions on pitch maintenance.  
 A workshop for CLCG Development Officers.  
 In conjunction on with the GCSAI developed a pitch maintenance section on in their Greenside magazine.  
 In conjunction on with the GCSAI provide access to their CPD Programme and an online platform Plans for 2017.  
 Have arranged an award for the best County Ground of the Year.  
 The Pitch Workgroup have had a Stand at the recent Officer's Day in Croke Park in February '17.  
 Will be holding a workshop at Congress '17

**Terms of Reference**  
 Ensure Groundsmen have knowledge to maintain pitches to the highest possible standards in accordance with best practices.  
 Organise Groundsman National Education Days/Events  
 Organise Regional and Provincial Educational Events.

The development of a pitch maintenance calendar to help clubs identify key maintenance operations over a 12-month period.  
 Hold a national pitch maintenance education day in Croke Park in April.  
 Hold a series of provincial maintenance workshops during 2017.  
 The National Pitch Workgroup strongly believes that our playing fields and pitches are essential and critical to the continued success and development of our games. It is imperative that Cumann Lúthchleas Gael deliver better standards for players and supporters. The Group would really appreciate your attendance at the various National and Provincial Open Days which will be held throughout 2017 and will be well promoted in advance. Should you have any queries do not hesitate to contact any of the above Committee. Thanks again.  
**Kieran McGann**  
 (Ciarán Mac Cana)



## Roscommon Hurling Fixtures Allianz League Division 2B

Sunday 12 February	 Roscommon	v	 Wicklow
Sunday 19 February	 Down	v	 Roscommon
Sunday 5 March	 Roscommon	v	 Meath
Sunday 12 March	 Derry	v	 Roscommon
Sunday 26 March	 Roscommon	v	 Mayo



## The Interclub Leagues start next week below are the details of the first round of each of the top three divisions

### O'Rourke Cup

Roscommon Gaels v Western-Gaels	Lisnamult	18-Feb	8pm
St. Croans v St Brigids	Kiltoom	18-Feb	8pm
Clann na nGael v Tulsk Lord Edwards	Johnstown	19-Feb	2pm
Kilmore v Pádraig Pearses	Pairc na Phiarsaigh	19-Feb	2pm
Strokestown v Elphin	Orchard Park	19-Feb	2pm

### O'Gara Cup

Creggs v Castlerea St Kevins	Creggs GAA Pitch	19-Feb	2pm
Éire Óg v Boyle	Abbey Park	19-Feb	2pm
Michael Glaveys v St. Dominics	Peadar Earley Park	19-Feb	2pm
St. Faithleach's v Oran	Rockfield	19-Feb	2pm
Western-Gaels (B) v Fuerty	Nash Park Frenchpark	19-Feb	2pm

### Tansey Cup

Kilbride v Ballinameen	Kilbride GAA Park	17-Feb	8pm
Elphin (B) v Clann na nGael (B)	Johnstown	18-Feb	8pm
Shannon Gaels v Naomh Bearraí	Croghan	19-Feb	2pm
St Michael's v St Aidan's	Ardcarne Park	19-Feb	2pm
St Ronan's v Kilglass Gaels	Kilronan Park	19-Feb	2pm

# The Mark

The new 'mark' rule came into effect at all levels of Gaelic Football from January 1st this year. When a player catches the ball cleanly from a Kick-Out without it touching the ground, on or past the 45m line nearest the Kick-Out point, he shall be awarded a 'Mark' by the Referee.

The player awarded a 'Mark' shall have the options of (a) Taking a free kick or (b) Playing on immediately.

The following procedures shall apply:

(a) Free Kick

The player shall signify to the Referee if he is availing of the free kick and then take the free kick himself from the hand from the point where he was awarded the 'Mark'.

Once the player indicates he is taking the 'Mark', the Referee shall allow up to five seconds for the player to take the kick. If the player delays longer than five seconds, the Referee shall cancel the 'Mark' and throw in the ball between a player from each side.

Once the player indicates he is taking the 'Mark', the opposing players must retreat 10m to allow the player space to take the kick. If an opposing player deliberately blocks or attempts to block the kick within 10m, or if an opposing player impedes the player while he is taking the kick, the Referee shall penalise the opposing team by bringing the ball forward 13m.

If the Referee determines that the player who makes the 'Mark' has been injured in the process and is unable to take the kick, the Referee shall direct the Player's nearest team mate to take the kick but he may not score directly from the kick.

(b) Play on immediately

(i) In this circumstance the player may not be challenged for the ball until he carries the ball up to a maximum of four consecutive steps or holds the ball for no longer than the time needed to take four steps and/or makes one act of kicking, handpassing, bouncing or toe-tapping the ball.

(ii) If the Player is illegally challenged, a free kick shall be awarded to his team from the point at which the challenge is made, and this free kick may be taken by any player on his team.

Central Council have interpreted the rule to mean

1. The referee shall award "the mark" by blowing the whistle.

2. "On or past the 45m line" shall mean that both feet of the catcher are on or past the 45m line when he catches the ball or on landing.

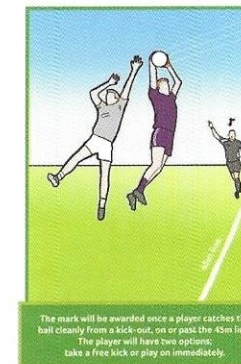
3. In order to signify that he wishes to take a free-kick, the player who catches the ball and has been awarded a "mark" by the referee should stop playing. If he does not obviously stop then it should be taken that he is "playing on".

4. "Challenged" as mentioned in the rule is taken as "tackle" as defined; once the player plays on he may be tackled after four steps or once he plays the ball in any way.

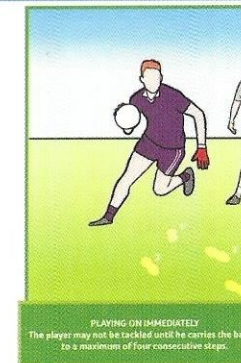
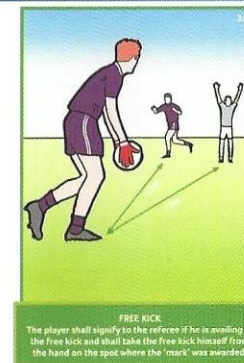
5. All players must be at least 13 metres from where "the mark" is awarded.

6. When a player who is awarded a "mark" is injured, any team mate may take the free kick, which must be taken from the hands. The player in question may not score directly from the kick. (Current rule states that only the "nearest team mate" may take the free kick).

7. In order to be awarded a "Mark", the ball must not have been touched in flight by another player.



## GAELIC FOOTBALL: THE MARK





# A Roscommon Volunteer

Volunteers are the life and soul of every GAA Club. The GAA is unrivalled in terms of the number of volunteers that provide endless hours of service to the Association's many GAA Clubs.

Throughout the world, GAA volunteers undertake the administration of clubs, coaching of teams, washing of jerseys, the lining of playing pitches, the transportation of players to and from games, the organisation of fundraising initiatives in addition to performing a host of other specialised tasks. Without volunteers, clubs and the GAA cannot function.

In recognition of this Roscommon GAA will introduce through our match programmes some of the many wonderful volunteers who work so hard to ensure that the association and our activities are carried out effectively. Today we meet up with Hyde Park Announcer Gerry Kehoe.



**How long are you involved in the GAA?**

*I'm involved all my life really. As a player since I was 9 or 10. I played the whole way through under 12, 14, 16 minor a bit of junior. Then I got involved in the administration end of the club. I was PRO for many years I was club secretary for 3 years. I was asked to join the Hyde Park Committee as a young 20 year old around 1984 by the late Dr Keenan who was chairman of the Hyde committee at the time. He wanted young blood so he inveigled us to join. All young enthusiastic fellas. So we did. It didn't entail a lot just preparing the place for big matches, giving a dig out.*

**So, Gerry when did you start as the Stadium Announcer in Hyde Park?**

*Approximately 1995 I think I started.*

**And what do you do?** *Well basically I do the public address in Hyde Park for National League and club games. I don't do it for the championship games because Connacht Council have their own person for those games.*

**And how did you end up doing it?** *I was asked. The previous individual was unable to turn up one particular day for a*

*National League match and I was asked to do it. I said I would of course I was a bit nervous at the time. I sort of knew what the job entailed as I'd be up there at the time anyway in the Press box, helping out there. My biggest fear at the time was to make sure the unit stayed on and did not die half way through.*

**Has it ever died on you?** *It has, a couple of times. It was an old system we had I used to have it at home in my own house, you'd unscrew it, this was in the old stand before the new stand was built. You'd bring it up the steps at the side of the stand and set it up screw it to the wall and use it. Then a wire might come loose. Indeed it happened a couple of times but we managed to get it sorted.*

**Did you get any training to be a match announcer?**

*No not really well I did about two years ago but I had been doing it for 20 years before that. It was on a Saturday and it was for Stadium Announcers and there were Stadium Announcers from all over the country there from all the provincial grounds. There were various speakers at it including the man in charge*

*of entertainment in Croke Park and also Eileen Dunne the Newsreader and daughter of the late Mick Dunne. She gave us tips on how to prepare yourself when speaking into a microphone or when speaking to a large volume of people. One tip she gave us was that she'd advise people never to eat chocolate before they start speaking. It makes your mouth dry up.*

**Any funny thing happen to you?**

*There did once when the National Anthem broke down on me. The CD started to skip and I had to improvise. So, I started singing it. Now having said that I ran behind the wall so nobody would see me as I sang the Anthem. I just acted on instinct and sang it myself.*

**You've been involved in The Hyde for 33 years what's the biggest change you've seen?**

*The development of the Hyde. In the original Hyde we had these grass banks. I can remember raking the grass off the banks along with a load more volunteers. Getting ready for Connacht Finals getting the grass cut and raked. Now since the Hyde is developed all those jobs are gone. There's not much voluntary Meithal type work that needs to be done. There's lots of voluntary work needed but it's different. We'd be a fortnight getting ready for a Connacht Final or any Championship game.*

**What's the biggest crowd you saw in the Hyde?**

*The biggest crowd had to be in 2001 the Connacht Final.*

**Is that because everyone tells you they were there, like the GPO in Easter week?**

*No I was there myself, the capacity was actually reduced because the current stand was not even in use. The PA was in the score board that particular year and all the media were in a trailer at the side of the stand. There were big crowds, Back in the day in the 90's there might be 24,000 with the grass banks but now with the Eastern Terrace sur the capacity is way more. The capacity was up to 32,000 there was certainly that there that year. And it was a lovely day too, that helped.*

**Who was the best player you saw in the Hyde?**

*I'm fortunate enough to have seen the great team of the 70's the best player I ever saw was Harry Keegan, he was a terrific tenacious corner back he had the physique of a strong individual. I know the forwards get all the glory because of the scores they get but I thought Harry Keegan was tremendous and I suppose the best non-Roscommon player I ever saw playing in the Hyde would have been Jack O Shea of Kerry. He would have played in the under 21 final against us in 1978 he really came to prominence when he was with the Kerry Senior Team. He was the best player I've ever seen.*

**Finally, as we finish up is there any funny story you have from the Hyde. You told us about the Anthem but is there anything else you could tell us?**

*I remember we were playing Dublin in the National League I think it was around 99 or 2000. Nigel Dineen would have been playing we'd have had a good team, Frankie Dolan, Mike Ryan that team that won in 2001. I remember at half time there was a gathering of Dubs behind the town goal. These two came onto the field at half time to have a penalty shootout they were dressed in Viking hats, things were quiet, Roscommon were a point or two up at half time. I can remember poor old Frank Dennehy RIP trying to sprint from the player's gate down at the hospital end to march these fellas off the field. I decided to do a running commentary. Frank just put his hands up in the air and decided to walk away sort of saying ara what harm are they doing. One guy scored a penalty and I said that guy should get a jersey for the second half with the Dublin seniors. Seamus Duke told me that it appeared in the Evening Herald on the Monday where they said the best Dublin performance was at half time and the two boys taking the penalties. We won that game by I think 4 or 5 points.*

*When you hear "there will be at least two minutes' additional time at the end of this half" you'll know it's a volunteer like Gerry Kehoe who's making the announcement. Thank you, Gerry, for keeping us informed.*



# Dr Hyde Park the story

Even though much work remains to be done in the stadium in general, we are entering a new era for the famous Roscommon town venue this afternoon. For 45 years Dr Hyde Park ground has seen so much drama and excitement, heartbreak and joy, winners and losers, great games and not so great games, but lifelong memories, and it has given much pleasure to the hundreds of thousands of people who have attended the games and played there since it opened its gates in 1971. The old pitch had come to the end of its natural life and what we see today heralds a new dawn for Roscommon GAA.

For many decades Roscommon's main GAA pitch was St Coman's Park in Roscommon town. All the major GAA games like Connacht finals and big championship and league games were played at St Coman's Park. But before every big game the locals had to borrow 1500 wooden railway sleepers from CIE to accommodate patrons who wanted to sit on 'the sideline' and in the stand. These huge sleepers had to be unloaded and put in place before the games, and taken away again afterwards. That backbreaking work, plus the fact that St Coman's Park was liable to flooding during the winter, meant that it was time to look around for an alternative venue in Roscommon Town.

"Rafferty's Field" (where we are today) on the Athlone Road was an obvious choice. It was always associated with the GAA. Although it was not an official GAA pitch, a number of club games were played there over the years. Then in 1962 the GAA purchased the 14 acre field and the contract was signed by the late Dr Donal



Keenan (former GAA President) and Barry Molloy. The purchase price was 3,000 pounds. The late Paddy Walsh and the late John Joe Fahey were both also instrumental in the purchase of the field at the time and were involved in the negotiations. A local committee which also included my late father, set about preparing the grounds for use as the headquarters of Roscommon GAA.

It took a number of years before work on the field started as the legal end of the purchase took a while to be resolved, but local GAA people worked hard to get the pitch in place and it opened on the 20th June 1971. The main game of the day was the Connacht SFC game between Roscommon and Sligo, but the honour of the first game ever to be played in Dr Hyde Park fell to Michael Glavey's and Roscommon Gaels who met in the U-14 final, which was the curtain raiser. In fact the first player ever to score in an official game at Dr Hyde Park was Greg McCrann of Roscommon Gaels (who went on to play minor and U-21 for Roscommon) in that U-14 decider!

The Hyde Park Committee ran the affairs of the county grounds for many years after that. It was made up of local GAA people who looked after the maintenance and funding of the grounds. In 1992 funding was

secured to develop the terracing on three sides of the ground and that was opened in 1993, and at that stage the capacity was over 32,000. Further developments were carried out with the provision of dressing rooms at the cemetery end of the grounds. Then in 2000 it was agreed to build a new spectator stand which holds 3,750 people and that was opened in 2003.

A dispute about the ownership of the grounds between Roscommon County board and the local club Roscommon Gaels, which has been well documented elsewhere, was settled in 2010 and in 2013 the county board officially took over the ownership of the grounds. New Health and Safety regulations saw the grounds' capacity reduced to 18,500 but following remedial work over the past number of years, that was raised again to 25,000 and that's where it stands today.

With the increased rainfall that we have seen during our winters in recent years, it was becoming more and more obvious that a major job needed to be done on the playing pitch at Dr Hyde Park before anything else was done. More and more games were being called off due to flooding and unsuitable ground conditions. Thankfully the funding was secured (in the region of 700,000 Euro) by the county board to provide a new playing pitch, and the GAA President Aoghain O Fearrail turned the sod last July. A vote of congratulations to the contractor and everyone else involved for getting the project to where it is today is well deserved.

Hyde Park's caretaker Peter Murray will now oversee the maintenance of this superb new Prunty pitch and if there are as many

thrills and spills in the next 45 years as we have seen in the last 45 then we will all be happy. As I said above, much more work needs to be done with the facilities at the stadium itself, but the most important thing is being looked after first (the pitch), and I am certain that the other work needed will be done in the years to come as money becomes available.

Of course in any major ground it is the players, the matches and the memories that matter most. The last 45 years have seen much drama, heartbreak, tears, joy and exhilaration in all grades be it club, county, colleges levels, ladies and men's football and hurling. Everyone who has played or indeed attended Dr Hyde Park over the years will have their own special memories. There are too many to mention but the 2001 Connacht final, the 1980, 1990 finals, and the 1991 replay stand out in terms of the Roscommon senior team. The 1978 All Ireland U-21 win against Kerry was also a day that many of us will never forget. But there have been so many memorable days for clubs, colleges, and underage teams too. Indeed our Donegal visitors today will fondly remember that





they beat Kerry in the All Ireland U-21 final here at Dr Hyde Park in a replay in 1987 with Manus Boyle scoring an incredible 1-7 that day.

This new pitch will mean that countless more memories will be created in Dr Hyde Park, and the fact that it is a state of the art facility means it will attract many neutral games as well as those involving Roscommon. The commitment of the GAA to this refurbishment project is very welcome indeed and we thank them publicly today. Those of us who have been associated with Dr Hyde Park since

the very start are really looking forward to the opening of this new pitch today and a positive new era for Roscommon GAA. Many great people who contributed to the purchase and development of Dr Hyde Park since it opened have gone to their eternal reward and most of them are laid to rest just beyond the wall at the Cemetery end of the ground. I think they would all be very happy that we have come to this day and are smiling down on us. Let's hope for a great game today and maybe even a Roscommon win to get that new era underway!!



# The Roscommon Donegal Links

by Fr. Liam Devine

I am sure it is possible to forge a link between any two counties in the country, tenuous though some of them may be. However, there is nothing tenuous about the links between Roscommon and Donegal. It goes back to the 1950's when Paddy English, regarded by many as one of Roscommon's greatest ever full backs, lined out for Donegal and Ulster after he took up his duty as a garda in that county. Paddy, a Knockcroghery native, was full back on the Roscommon team that won the Connacht championship in 1952 and '53. He was right full back on the Connacht team that played Leinster in the Railway Cup semi-final in 1953. Seán Purcell was full back and Mayo's Seán Flanagan was left full back on that team. He was full back on the Connacht team that beat Munster in the semi-final in Tralee in 1954. The late Aidan Brady was the goalkeeper and Mayo's Willie Casey, who died recently, was right full back with Seán Flanagan in the left corner. Leinster beat Connacht by 1-7 to 1-5 in the final on St. Patrick's Day. Paddy English was at right full back and Paddy Prendergast was full back. That was his last appearance on a Connacht team before moving to Donegal as a young garda. He wasn't long in Donegal when his talents were noticed and he was a regular on Donegal teams for a number of years.

Another Roscommon footballer who wore the Donegal jersey was the St. Michael's clubman Ray Sheerin. Ray was a substitute of the Roscommon team that won the All-Ireland U-21 title in 1966. He went to live in Donegal at the end of the 1960's and joined the St. Joseph's Club, a combination of Ballyshannon and Bundoran. He won senior championship medals with the club in 1970, '73, '74, '75 and '76. The club won the Ulster club championship in 1975 but lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Roscommon Gaels, 1-7 to 0-3. Ray played at full back for the club and at left corner back was Liam McDaid from Bundoran. Liam later became Fr. Liam McDaid and was appointed Bishop of Clogher in July 2010 but had to retire at the end of last year on the grounds of ill health. Ray played full back for Donegal for

a number of years in the 1970's. He now lives in Tullaghan, Co. Leitrim, which is just across the county boundary from Bundoran. Des Newton is another Roscommon player who wore the green and gold jersey of Donegal. Des won an All-Ireland U-21 medal with Roscommon in 1978. He was a member of the Donegal team that won the 1983 Ulster title. He transferred back to Roscommon in time to win Connacht senior championship medals with his native county in 1990 and '91. He has the distinction of winning All-Ireland medals 24 years apart. He was player manager of the Donegal team that won the Masters (over 40's) All-Ireland in 2002.

A team mate of Des Newton's on that Donegal team in 2002 was John 'Jigger' O'Connor who now lives in Buncrana, Co. Donegal. In the final the Strokestown man scored an outrageous point that reminded G.A.A. followers of his hey day when he thrilled G.A.A. followers with his exquisite skills. John's son, Darrach, is a member of the Donegal panel for today's game. He came on as a substitute against Kerry last Sunday and scored two points from play. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree as the saying goes.

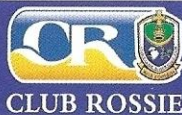
Another Donegal link with Roscommon is Anthony Thompson who was left half back on the Donegal team that won the All-Ireland title in 2012. Anthony's brother Ciarán is on the Donegal team today. Their father Anthony is a native of Tulsk. Anthony senior was an accomplished footballer with Tulsk Lord Edward's before moving to live in Donegal.

The Donegal team doctor Dr. Kevin Moran is a native of Four Roads. His brother P.J. designed the stand in Hyde Park. P.J. is well known in G.A.A. circles in Roscommon and he was an outstanding hurler and handballer. So Roscommon has probably more links with Donegal than with any other county in the country. As we welcome the Donegal team, supporters and management to Hyde Park today we know that it will be a case of some of them returning to their roots.





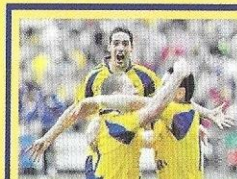
# Roscommon GAA



## Buy a Square of The Hyde and Record your Memory

All is looking good for the new Hyde pitch which opens to welcome Donegal to Roscommon for round 2 of the Division 1 Allianz League. In recognition of the fact that Dr Hyde Park has been home to Roscommon GAA for over 40 years a wealth of great memories have been created. We all have memories of the Hyde, who will ever forget the Gerry Lohan Goal in 2001, Connacht Final of 1980, Dermot Earley's last game in 1985? What about 1978 and the Under 21 All Ireland or The Ladies All Ireland Final of the same year?

Did you score in the Hyde? Play for your school, club, or county? Maybe it's something else an occasion, someone you were with. Regardless, we have memories and we can share them.



All Ireland Minor winning medallist Stephen Ormsby from St Faithleach's shared his favourite memories of Hyde Park. As a supporter, the Connacht Final in 2001 and St Faithleach's winning

the Intermediate Championship in 2002. As a player, my first home senior championship match v Leitrim in 2010. An adrenaline rush that can't be matched representing Roscommon in the championship at home. Winning a club minor final in 2003 was another good day.

Frank Harvey shared his Favourite Memory: 98 replay v Galway. My two young men standing on the pitch in their 747 Jerseys. Very down watching the Galway lads accept the cup. Fergie spots them and ruffles their hair "chin up lads-there will be another day too. Class from a legend.

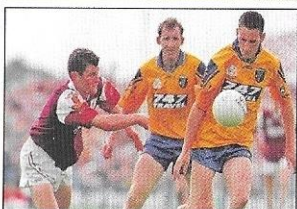
Sean Mullaney from Kilbride remembers being the man in the middle at the 1979 Roscommon senior championship final, the first occasion he refereed one.

Declan Molloy remembers 1977 - when Roscommon won the Nestor Cup for the 1st time in 5 years and I am on the back of the lorry that is bringing the team into town and Mickey Freyne turns to some of the players and with a clenched fist says "WE ARE BACK IN THE BIG TIME LADS"

Those are some of the many memories already on the virtual pitch please share yours too.

Go to [www.clubrossie.ie](http://www.clubrossie.ie) and follow the instructions. It costs just €20 and it's there for the next 3 years. In addition you can also look at what others have shared. What a wonderful chance to relive old memories and give someone a chance to share their memory too. Fill in your memories and you have a lovely memorial on our virtual Hyde.

This is a low cost way of showing your desire to support Club Rossie and Roscommon GAA as we work to make things great. In addition you can fill out the piece attached and send it to Roscommon GAA Racecourse Rd Roscommon with the required fee.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Memorable moment \_\_\_\_\_

What type of Square Standard Pitch Square  Cost €20 Where would you like your Square to be located?  
 Between the "45s"  Towards the Town End  Towards the Graveyard End  
 Goal Net Square  Cost €50 What end you like your Square to be located?  
 Town End Goal  Graveyard End Goal

# Ground Regulations

- All persons entering Pairc Naomh Bhríde are admitted only subject to the following Rules (which are designated to protect the health and safety of all entrants to the ground). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all of these Rules.
- The management reserves the right of admission.
- The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
- All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
- Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
- The following are not permitted:
  - Entry upon the pitch or engaging in conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury or harm to, or otherwise interferes with, disrupts, hinders or distracts a person playing in, refereeing or otherwise having a role in a match at this ground.
  - Any unauthorised contact with the boundary wall surrounding the pitch or incursion on to the pitch. Any such unauthorised contact or incursion constitutes a trespass to property.
  - The climbing of pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behaviour constitutes a trespass to property.
  - Throwing any object onto the pitch.
  - Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
  - Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
  - Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
  - Bringing into the ground of fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, distress signals, laser pointers and other similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon.
  - Excessive noise such as that from the use of radio sets or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language.
  - Smoking unless in designated areas.
- If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
- Where a person is in breach of any of these rules, or where the management believes that a person constitutes a source of danger to others, or to the ground, such person may be refused entry to or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

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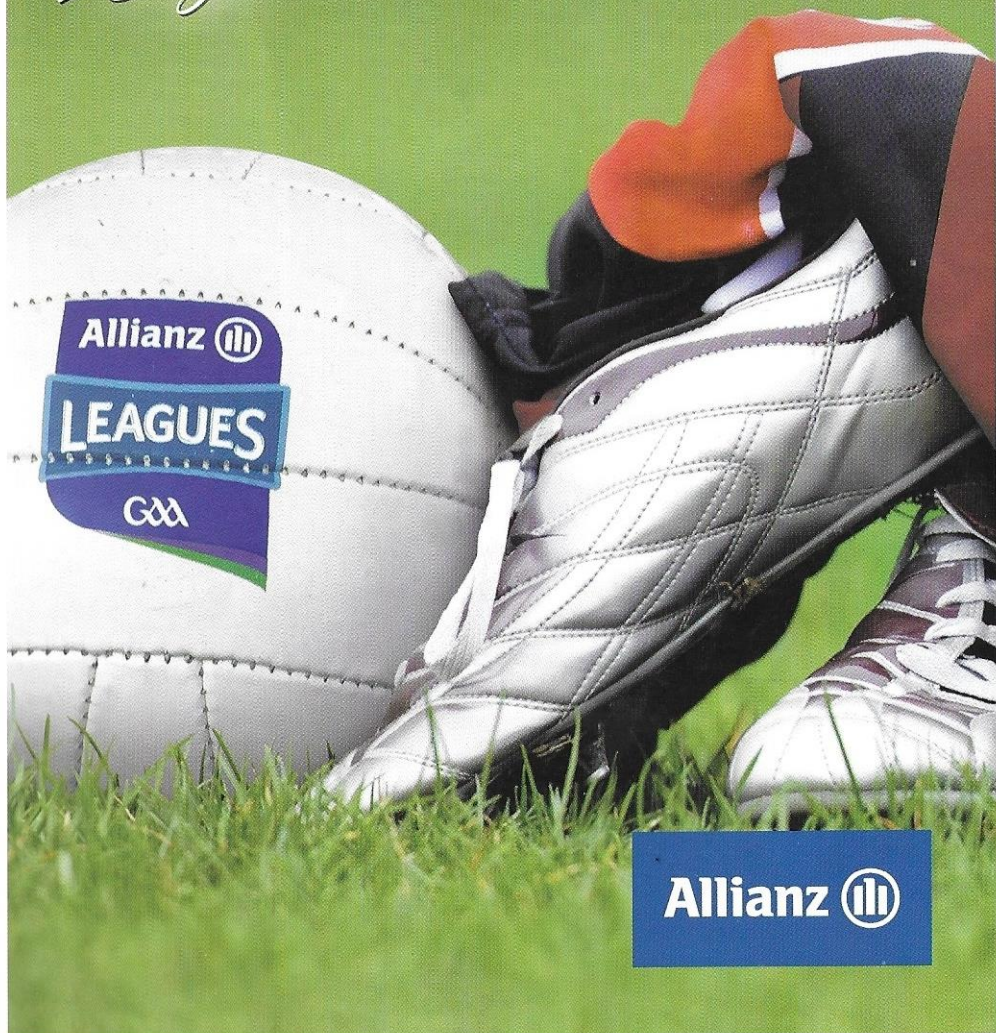
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