



**Group 2**  
Phase 2

**GAA FOOTBALL**  
**All-Ireland Senior**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Quarter-Final Group Stage



**DÚN NA nGALL**  
v  
**ROS COMÁIN**



CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL LUACH €5  
Páirc Dr. de hÍde, Ros Comáin, Iúil 21 2018

*Tomás Ó Rian*  
ARD STIÚRTHÓIR

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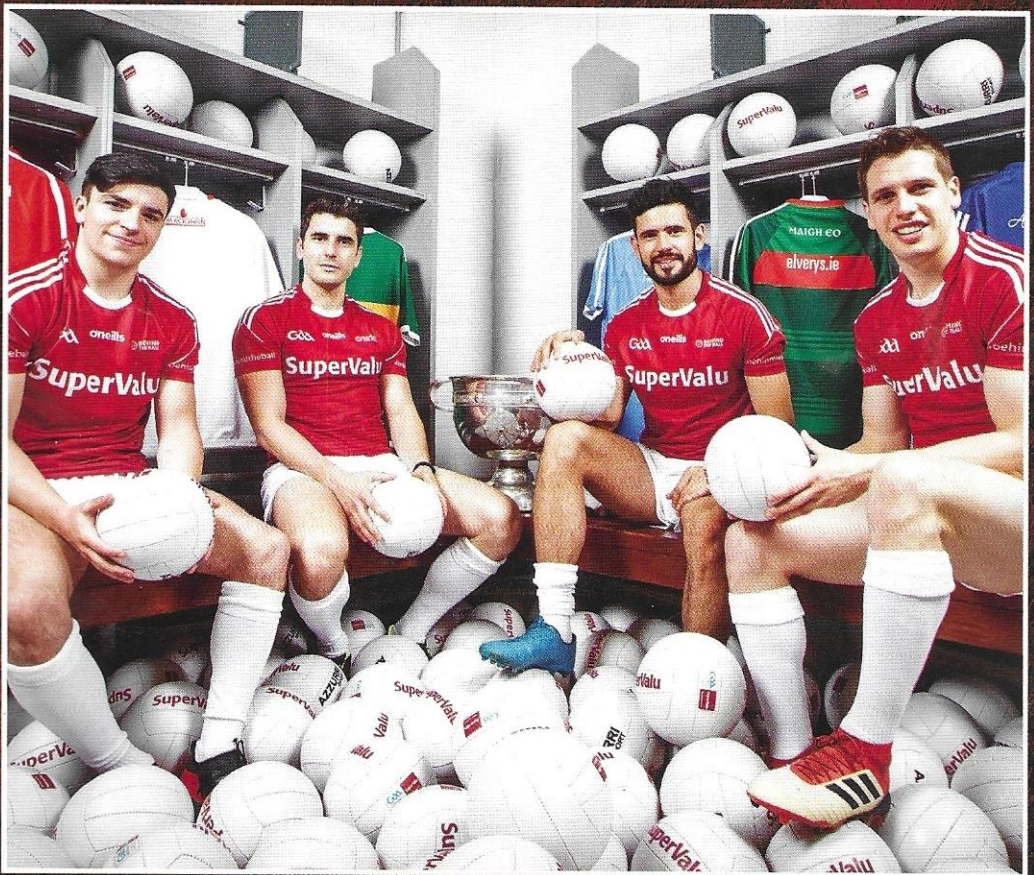
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# RÉAMHFHOICAL ÓN UACHTARÁN

**B**a brea liom fáilte a chur roimh gach éinne go dtí an lá speisialta seo le haghaidh cluiche ceathru ceannais peil na hEireann – babhta 2.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here today for the second round of matches in the GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship quarter-finals.

This is a big day for our new football format – where the quarter-final play-offs go ‘on the road’ and big championship clashes are played at local venues.

After the events of last week in Croke Park where it seemed as if the build-up and the expectation around the new format inhibited teams and made them extra cautious – there is surely no hope of a repeat here.

There is too much at stake for caution. The winners from Round 1 have a foot in an All-Ireland semi-final if they can drive on and maintain their winning streak.

Meanwhile, last week’s defeated teams know that this is a must win game if they are to try and keep their summer alive.

There has been a lot of comment on the new format and we welcome the debate.

From the very outset this was announced as a modest change to the existing structure rather than a revolution and the ultimate goal of any trial is to try and find improvements.

In previous years we would now have a race for the Sam Maguire without Kerry, Kildare, Donegal or Roscommon in it as they would be finished for the year after their defeats last week. Now however,

we get to see the fruits of their labours to stage a recovery to keep their season alive.

Having the best teams play each other over an equal number of games at the All-Ireland stage was a key component of the new format. It is enhanced by playing in local venues in every province and I’ve no doubt we will see exciting football this weekend.

All the while, let us remember that the new format in a new calendar has had an impact on our clubs.

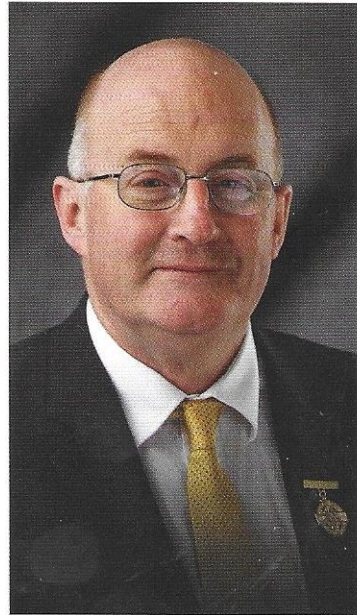
There were 16 teams still active in championship in early July previously which is eight now and means 24 counties are free to play club competition and respond to the call for more club activity from club players.

We hope that clubs and county boards have seized on this opportunity and look forward to reviewing how the first year of this trial has played out later in the year.

I want to thank all of those who help make Gaelic games an integral part of the Irish summer and our partners in eir, AIB and SuperValu for their promotional support and the supporters who bring such colour and passion to these occasions.

Above all, I want to thank the players for the ambassadorial work they do for our great games.

Ta súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an lá.



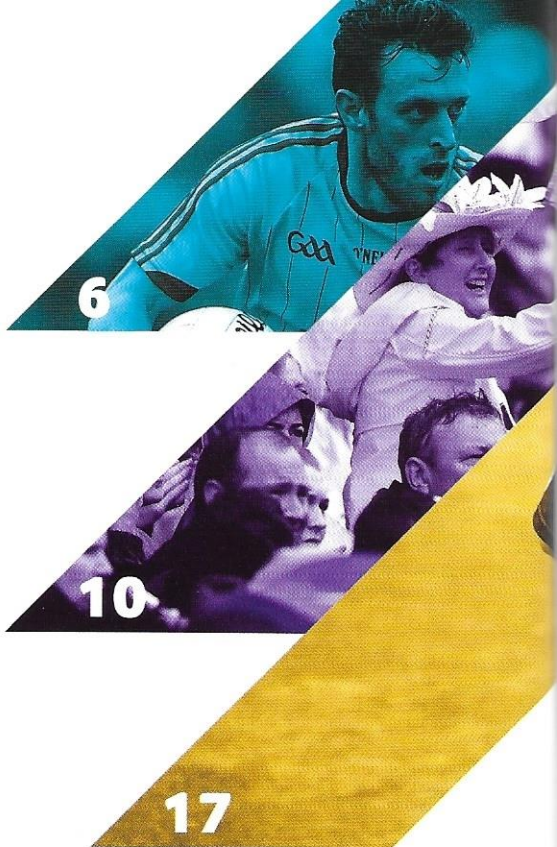
*Seán Ó hÓráin*

Seán Ó hÓráin  
Uachtarán  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



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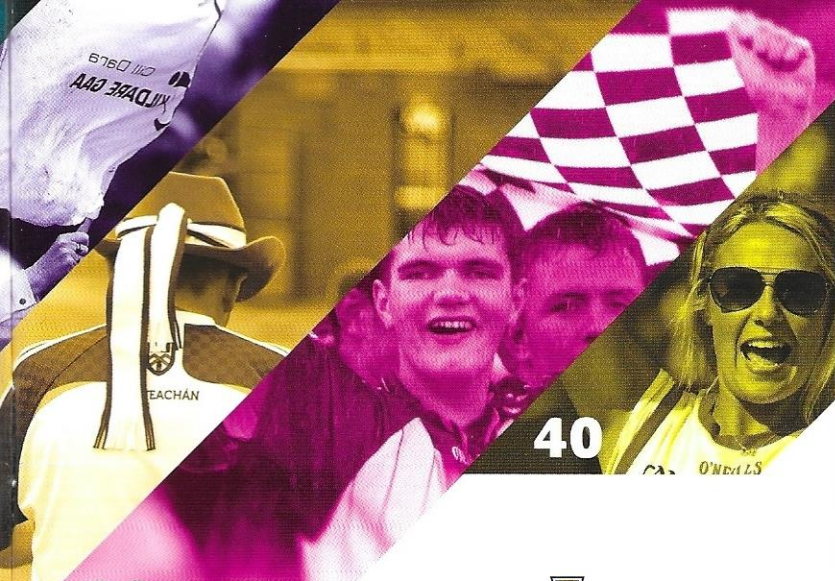


## CIARÁN BRANAGAN (AN DÚN)

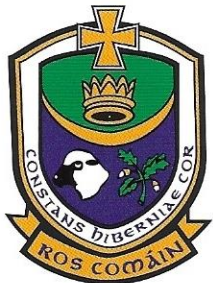
The Clonduff clubman returns to Dr. Hyde Park for the first time since April last year when he was in charge of the Roscommon-Cavan Allianz League tie. That was the Mourne referee's last outing with today's hosts while five weeks previous to that Branagan was the man with the whistle for Donegal's league match against Dublin. On the championship scene the 46-year-old's last quarter-final assignment was in 2016 (again Dublin-Donnegal) while his outings in the premier competition this season have been at O'Moore Park for the Leinster quarter-final (Dublin and Wicklow) and at Páirc Uí Chaoimh for the Munster final.

AN RÉITEOIR





33



**GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship**  
**Quarter-Final Group Stage Group 2 Phase 2**  
**5.00 PM**

*In the event of a draw, both teams earn one point.*

**DÚN NA nGALL v ROS COMÁIN**

**AN RÉITEOIR:** Ciarán Branagan (An Dún)  
**LINESMEN:** Derek O'Mahoney (Tiobraid Árann) (STANDBY REF),  
 Niall Cullen (Fear Manach)  
**SIDELINE OFFICIAL:** James Molloy (Gaillimh)  
**UMPIRES:** Mark Doherty, Micky Curran, Séamus O'Hanlon, Marty Brady



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# CLUBANNA NA gCAPTAEN

Is mór an onóir i gconaí ag aon club duine dá gcuid imreoirí a bheith mar chaptaen ar fhoireann an chontae. Rud thar a bheith spéisiúil a bhaineann le captaein na bhfoirne atá san iomaíocht mbabhtaí Chluichí Ceathrú Ceannais Chraoibhe Peile na hÉireann i mbliana go bhfuil 6 cinn acu ar an saol beagnach chomh fada leis an gCumann Lúthchleas Gael féin agus ceann eile os cionn 100 bliain d'aois.

Is é club chaptaen Dhún na nGall, Michael Murphy, an ceann is deireanaí acu a tháinig ar an saol. Níor bunaíodh Gleann tSúilí go dtí 1982. Beagán ó thuaidh de Leitir Ceanainn ar bhóthar an R250 atá a bpáirc, Páirc Naomh Columba i nGleann Caorach agus tá craobh shinsearach an chontae buaite trí huair acu ó 2011.

Is iad Crócaigh Chill Airne is faide ar an bhfód. Sa bhliain 1886 a bunaíodh an cumann lena n-imríonn Fionn Fitzgerald – ag cruinniú a reachtáil leadh faoi rún agus gan ach coinne ag coineáil an tsolais leis na bunaitheoirí. Tá Craobh Chiarraí buaite 11 uair acu agus chomh maith le peileadóirí cáiliúla de chumas Colm Cooper a bheith acu, ba ball dá gcuid freisin Diarmuid Ó Donnabháin Rosa.

Bliain i ndiaidh na gCrócach a bunaíodh 3 cinn eile de na clubanna a chuireann captaein fhoirne an deireadh seachtaine seo ar fáil. Ba i 1887 a bunaíodh

Anach Cuain lena n-imríonn captaen na Gaillimhe Damien Comer, Cill Bhríde lena n-imríonn captaen Ros Comáin Conor Devaney agus Nás na Rí lena n-imríonn captaen Chill Dara Eoin Doyle.

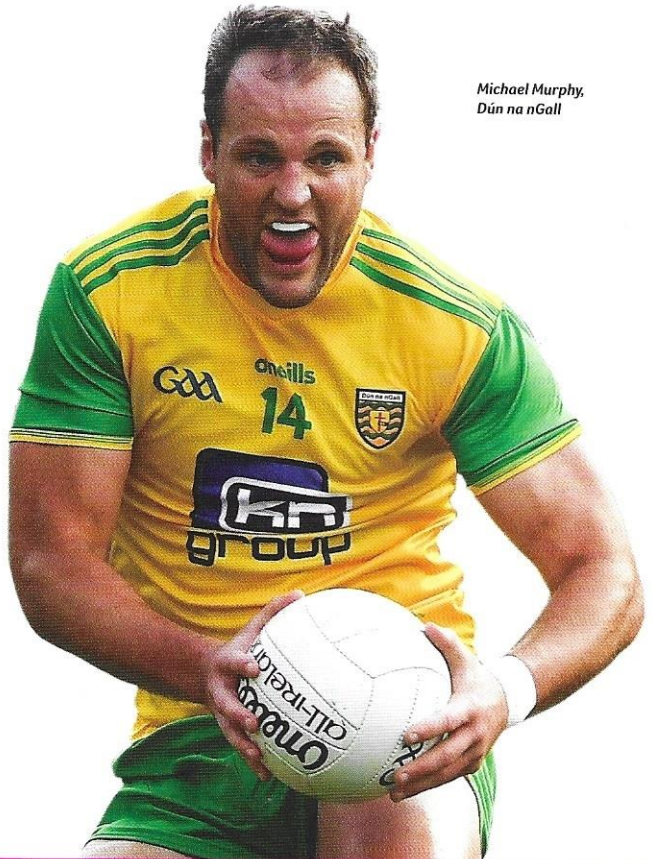
Ar bhruach Loch Coirib atá an club as a dtagann Comer agus bá é ar an loch céanna sin a tharla an t-eachtra is mó a thuileann clú don pharóiste – bá 11 fear agus 8 bean sa bhliain 1828 agus iad

faoi bhealach i mbád chuig aonach i gcathair na Gaillimhe. Is ar atá an t-amhrán cáiliúil a scríobh Raifteraraí an file bunaithe.

Ar thalamh tirim tá Craobh Shinearach na Gaillimhe buaite ag Anach Cuain 5 huair, rinneadar sin go deireadh i 2001.

Ba in 1887 freisin a bunaíodh Cumann Chill Bhríde atá ar bhóthar an N61 idir baile Ros Comáin agus Mainistir na Buaille agus lena n-imríonn Conor Devaney.

Michael Murphy,  
Dún na nGall



Your link to the language

ONÓIR

THAR A BHEITH SPÉISIÚIL

FAIDE AR AN BHFÓD

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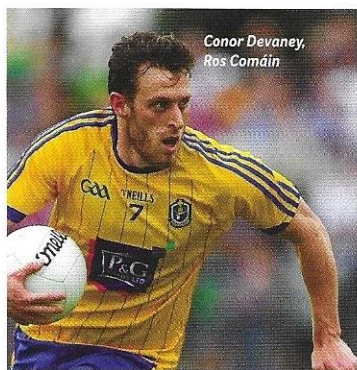
honour

fascinating

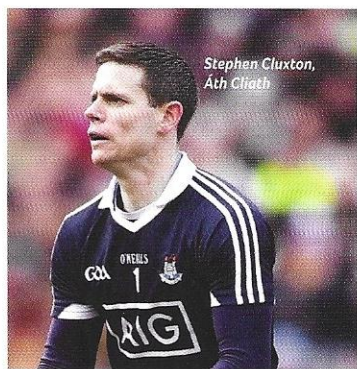
longest in existence

Bhíodar thar a bheith láidir i dtús an chéid seo caite agus thug craobh an chontae leo 6 huairé idir 1906 agus 1915, ach níor tháinig an corn an bealach arís go dtí bliain na Mílaoise.

“To Spooners Lane and Beyond” atá ar stair Chumann Nás na Rí, nó ‘Nás na Ríogh’ mar atá acu ar shuaitheantas an chlub agus iad dílis don sean-litriú. Liam McManus a scríobh. Tá sé le fáil freisin ar shuíomh idirlín an chumainn. Ní amháin sin, ach tá curtha leis ag an údar ansiúd ó foilsíodh i dtús báire é mar cheiliúradh 100 bliain i 1987. Trasna ó Pháirc na Rásaí Capall



Conor Devaney,  
Ros Comáin

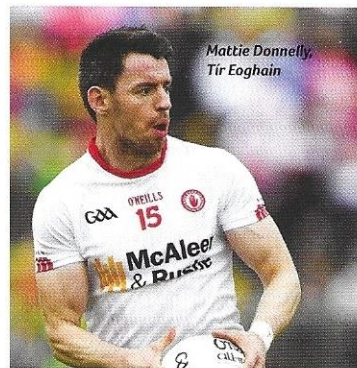


Stephen Cluxton,  
Áth Cliath

ar an mbaile atá Spooners Lane, áit ar imir an cumann don chéad uair. Nuair a bunaíodh Cumann Parnell in 1903 le freastal a dhéanamh ar na Cluichí Gaelacha i dTuaisceart Átha Cliath, tá mé cinnte gur beag a cheap go dtiocfadh an lá gur acu a bheadh ceann de na club-thithe is galánta i Éirinn, ach sin mar atá. Gar den phríomhshráid atá an áit a mbíonn Stephen Cluxton agus a chomrádaithe club i mbun imeartha.

“Old and tired players” a thug nuachtán áitiúil ar an gcead fhoireann a chuir Cumann Uí Néill as Dúthamhlachta chun páirce in 1896. Beag an baol go bhféadfadh siad an rud céanna a rá faoi chaptaen Mhuineachán an lae inniu, Colin Walshe, agus a chomrádaithe as an gclub. Cosúil le cumainn go leor timpeall na tíre bhuaile an imirce Dúthamhlachta agus ní raibh aon fhoireann acu idir 1956 – 1969, ach tá siad ar ais go láidir ó shin agus ag iarraidh an grád Sinsearach a bhaint amach arís.

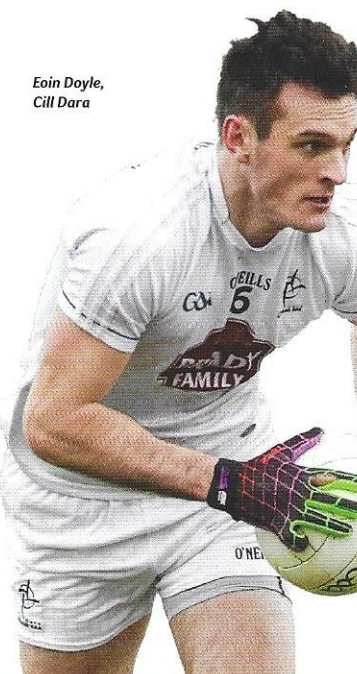
As cumann Naomh Mac Artáin i dTrileac do chaptaen Thír Eoghain Mattie Donnelly, áit a fhaigheann a ainm as trí leac cloiche atá san áit ar a dtugtar an ‘Sean Chaisleán’ inniu. Ba i dtús an chéid seo caite a tosaíodh ag imirt na peile sa bparóiste atá in iarthar an chontae agus bhí ‘Trileac Mac Donnchadha’ mar ainm orthu ar feadh tamaill freisin. Tá craobh shinsearach Thír Eoghain buaite acu 7 n-uaire agus dar ndóigh ba leo freisin a d’imir Brian Dooher, duine den bheagán a chroch corn Sam Maguidhir faoi dhó.



Mattie Donnelly,  
Tír Eoghain



Colin Walshe,  
Muineachán



Eoin Doyle,  
Cill Dara

REACHTÁILEADH FAOI RÚN

COINNLE

BÁ

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held in secret

candles

drowning

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# CELEBRATING GAELIC SUNDAY

**T**he *Freeman's Journal* on August 5, 1918 captured precisely what had happened the previous day throughout Ireland.

"Gaelic Sunday, organised by the Gaelic Athletic Association was observed throughout the country yesterday with great success, the article started.

"Every football and hurling team in the country took part in a match, and in all some 54,000 players were engaged.

"As a result of the withdrawal of the prohibition against Gaelic games enforced for the past couple of weeks by police and military, there was no interference with the matches, which were carried out with perfect order in the presence of large numbers of spectators.

"Every town and district had its own venue, and all the matches started simultaneously at three o'clock (old time).

"The progress of the play was everywhere followed with enthusiasm, and the occasion provided a unique display of the popularity of the Gaelic games.

"The proceedings of the day, the good order among the crowds, the perfection of organisation, and the magnificent response made by every team and club throughout the country, constituted at once a vindication of the Gaelic Athletic Association and its objects, and a demonstration of the popular hold which the Gaelic games have on the interests and sympathies of the Irish people."

So 100 years on during a



weekend with All-Ireland Football quarter-final round robin series action taking place clubs will participate with a range of activities.

While a match was held in nearly every parish in the country in 1918 clubs are already busy planning for events next month.

The centenary of Gaelic Sunday is set to be marked at the four All-Ireland quarter-final fixtures, but clubs will also organise their own occasions as a mark of respect to the 100,000 people who watched in 1918.

It was a significant statement by the GAA as tight knit communities worked together. In Mullinavat in Kilkenny a hurley maker hid sticks so the game could take place, but there was further drama. When police arrived outside people flocked elsewhere where a game commenced.

That type of spirit, sense of pride and place remains an integral part of the Association. When nine boys were arrested for playing football in the Phoenix Park the GAA had tough decisions to make. Ultimately it decided to ensure County Boards would arrange games on August 4. Now 100 years later internal club tournaments and family days are amongst the items being

proposed with the emphasis placed on the importance of loyalty for those who have maintained the traditions and ethos of the GAA.

Clubs are also being invited to create their own projects such as history exhibits to emphasise their own achievements during this time.

Significant changes have occurred in Ireland during the past 100 years, but the GAA club remains a constant source of hope and inspiration for people interested in Gaelic games.

With the number of GAA clubs increasing throughout the world the upcoming August weekend offers an ideal opportunity to reflect on the strides being made in various different ways.

A hugely courageous act and statement was made on a national day of defiance when GAA clubs refused to seek a permit opting to organise activities and in Cork, where 40 matches were scheduled, but the adverse weather had a severe impact. Still people tried to find a way to play and those brave souls won't be forgotten by GAA enthusiasts and during the coming weeks clubs will continue to prepare to remember one of the most important and iconic days in the history of the Association.



# BY THE NUMBERS

# 84,241

The attendance at the four Phase 1 matches last weekend. On Saturday 53,501 were at Croke Park for the Donegal-Dublin and Roscommon-Tyrone double-header while a further 30,740 filed through the turnstiles on Sunday afternoon for Galway-Kerry and Kildare-Monaghan.



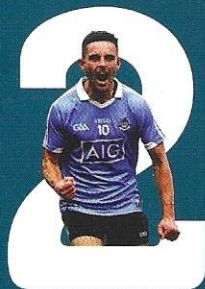
The top individual return from the four matches a week ago was David Clifford's hugely impressive 1-5 for Kerry in their loss to Galway. The Fossa ace hit 1-5, all but a point of which came from play, in his senior championship debut at Croke Park. Only Dean Rock 1-8 (7f, 1'45) and Cillian O'Connor 1-6 (5f) v Roscommon in the replay bettered the teenager's return 12 months ago.

# 7

The average winning margin in points from the four matches last weekend, albeit the figure is somewhat skewed by Tyrone's emphatic win over Roscommon. It is still less than half the figure (14.5) for last year when Tyrone had another big win (this time over Armagh) and Roscommon were again on the receiving end in the replay against Mayo.



The number of matches where a half-time deficit was overturned last weekend. All four sides leading at the change of ends were still on top at the close of business as Tyrone morphed a seven-point lead into an 18-point winning margin; Galway and Dublin increased one and four-point advantages to three and five respectively, while Monaghan maintained their two-point interval lead over the Lilywhites.

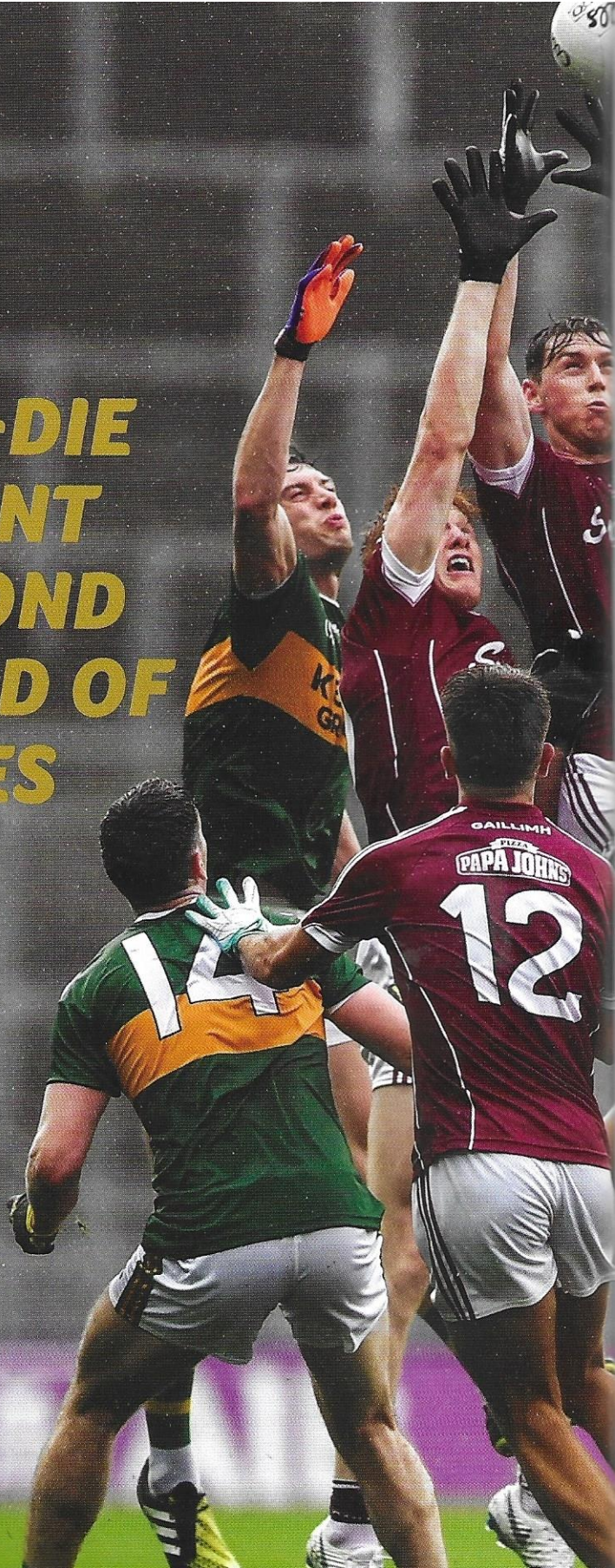


The number of goals scored by Dublin's Niall Scully in their win over Donegal at Croke Park. Tyrone's David Mulgrew was the last player to notch a brace in the 'last eight' in the Red Hands comfortable win over Armagh 12 months ago. The last Dublin player to score two goals in an All-Ireland quarter-final was Ray Cosgrove, also against Donegal, in 2002.

Malachy Clerkin

# DO-OR-DIE ELEMENT IN SECOND WEEKEND OF GAMES

10



**Y**ou'd miss Eamon O'Shea around the place. Or, to put a more fine point on it, we – the nation's GAA reporters – would miss Eamon O'Shea around the place. The former Tipperary hurling manager has melted back into civil society with typical

alacrity since his time in the *Bainisteoir* bib ended in 2015, leaving those of us who rely on some bit of colour on which to hang our weekly musing feeling ever so slightly bereft. What we're going to do next year with no Derek McGrath to fill the void is a matter which our shrinks will spend much of the winter dealing with.

Eamon is an economics professor in real life and thus had an innate inclination toward the broader view of most things. Asked once after a league quarter-final win over Cork whether his team was a bit too open to be able to handle Clare in the semi-final, he shrugged and said, "Yeah, the evidence so far is that we can't beat them."



But you should be careful making forecasts with very little data.”

Okay, so maybe it amounts to a college man’s take on one-game-at-a-time, but there’s surely a lesson in it for everyone. Especially in these hot-take times when everything has to be a disgrace or the best thing ever. We should be careful making forecasts with very little data. We should be even more careful drawing firm conclusions.

So, the first weekend of the quarter-final round-robin didn’t exactly rattle the roof over Croke Park. The crowds were smaller than hoped for, the football caught the wind only in flashes and it rained in Ireland for the first time in a month.

Still and all, did it not feel a little bit unseemly the way everyone fell over themselves to knock the opening round last weekend? The Sunday papers were full of doom after Tyrone beat Roscommon and Dublin shook off Donegal – and this was before either of the Sunday games were played or, indeed, a drop of the aforementioned summer showers arrived.

And once the Sunday double-header was over? Oh, the humanity. People had feared what the World Cup final might do to the general level of interest in Kerry v Galway – half an hour in, both games were near enough going score for score with each other. Not a great look,

granted. But bad games happen all the time. There was nothing surer than the new phase of the competition would contain a few. Doesn’t mean they’re automatically an abomination.

When it was conceived that the opening round of games would be in Croke Park, the idea of big bang weekend with provincial champions facing off against each other didn’t sound all that bad. What more could anyone want than the best teams in the land tearing strips off each other on Jones’ Road? With the next best jockeying for position behind them?

The reality of it turned out to be that almost exactly no strips were torn. Virtually all the teams



played as if they knew that what they were involved in was a pool game. There would be another day for everyone.

Hence Dublin protected their lead on Saturday as they were perfectly entitled – nay, duty-bound – to do. Donegal kept at it for a while but once it was clear they'd be held at arm's length, didn't kill themselves as the clock ran dead. Ditto Roscommon earlier in the day against Tyrone – once the game was gone, they were mentally onto the next one. Monaghan and Kildare played to the end because it was the one close encounter of the weekend. But even when it finished, there were perfunctory handshakes and not a whole lot more.

That's what happens at the end of a league game. You move on at warp speed – and that goes for those in the stands as much as it does for the players on the pitch. Whatever about hanging on for the second game of a double-header in the old quarter-final format, there was almost no crossover between curtain-raiser and bill-topper on either day last weekend.

The departure of Roscommon and Tyrone people from the stadium around 6.45 on Saturday was mirrored by Monaghan and Kildare folk circa 3.45 the next day – snaking amazons of supporters heading out the gates with their business done for the day. The atmosphere was

punctured before it ever had a chance to swell.

That's what was missing last weekend. There was no feeling of jeopardy. It wasn't the end of the world for whoever lost. Games need some element of do-or-die about them. The second weekend of games can't but provide that.

This was the first weekend of the first year of this. And no, it wasn't amazing. But it doesn't mean that it can't be refined and evolved and eventually become something more engaging. Surely the least we can give it is another couple of weekends before casting judgment.

If only in tribute to the estimable Prof O'Shea.



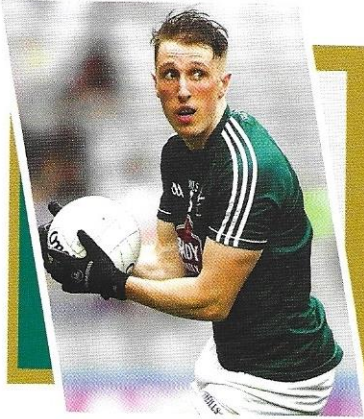
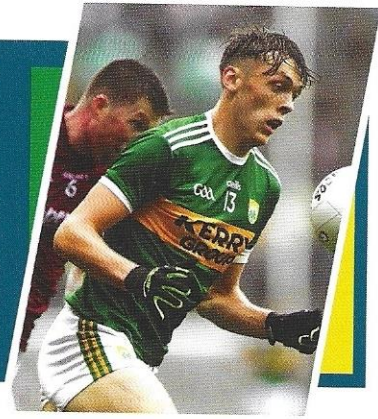
# TEAM OF THE WEEK PHASE 1

This is the team chosen by the editorial staff at GAA.ie



PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEKEND

David Clifford (Kerry): It was going to take something special to top the performance delivered by Dublin's Brian Howard on Saturday night, and that's exactly what David Clifford produced against Galway. While all around him was falling apart, Clifford showed remarkable grit and poise, showcasing his dazzling array of talents: snake hips, languorous, glorious point-taking off left and right that evoked impossible-to-ignore memories of Maurice Fitzgerald. Scored 1-4 from play and everything he did oozed class. Kerry's superstar - their version of Luka Modric and Kylian Mbappé rolled into one.

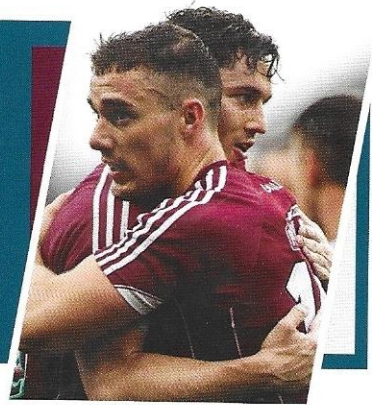


SCORE OF THE WEEKEND

Neil Flynn (Kildare): A point that would have delighted the purists. Kildare broke from deep inside their own half and a handpass set Peter Kelly on his bike through the middle. Kelly spotted Neil Flynn's run across the 21-yard line and found him with a sweetly struck, diagonal chest high pass across the forward's body. Without checking his run, Flynn caught the ball, shimmied and lost the Monaghan defender with a bounce of the ball, before slinging it over the bar. Poetry on a day of prose in Croke Park.

TALKING POINT

Galway's first championship win over Kerry since 1965. Kerry have consistently been the Tribesmen's bête noire, standing in their way and blocking progress at critical junctures of the championship - 1984, 2000, 2002, 2008, 2014 and 2017. It's fair to say Kevin Walsh's side buried a few ghosts in Croke Park last Sunday, producing a solid if unspectacular display that Kerry, who had looked so good against Cork in the Munster final, could not match.



MOMENT OF THE FIRST ROUND

What should have been a red letter day in the career of one of Galway's most loyal servants, Paul Conroy, turned into a nightmare when he broke his leg in two places following a nightmare first-half incident that has ended his season prematurely. Seeing the obvious pain he was in was a really low moment of the weekend. However, it was great to see Conroy sitting up and smiling in his hospital bed later that evening in a photograph posted on Twitter by team-mate Damien Comer. We wish him a speedy recovery.



# LOUGH **eske** CASTLE

## NEW Sunday Lunch in Cedars Restaurant

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## ALL YOUR GAA NEEDS, ONE STOP...

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Kildare's Eoin Doyle celebrates after his side defeated Mayo in Newbridge

# ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?

Onwards then, to Clones and Omagh, Newbridge and Roscommon. Officially, this weekend's round of fixtures is termed "All-Ireland Quarter-Final Group Stage, Phase Two". The reality of what is at stake in all four games warrants a less prosaic title.

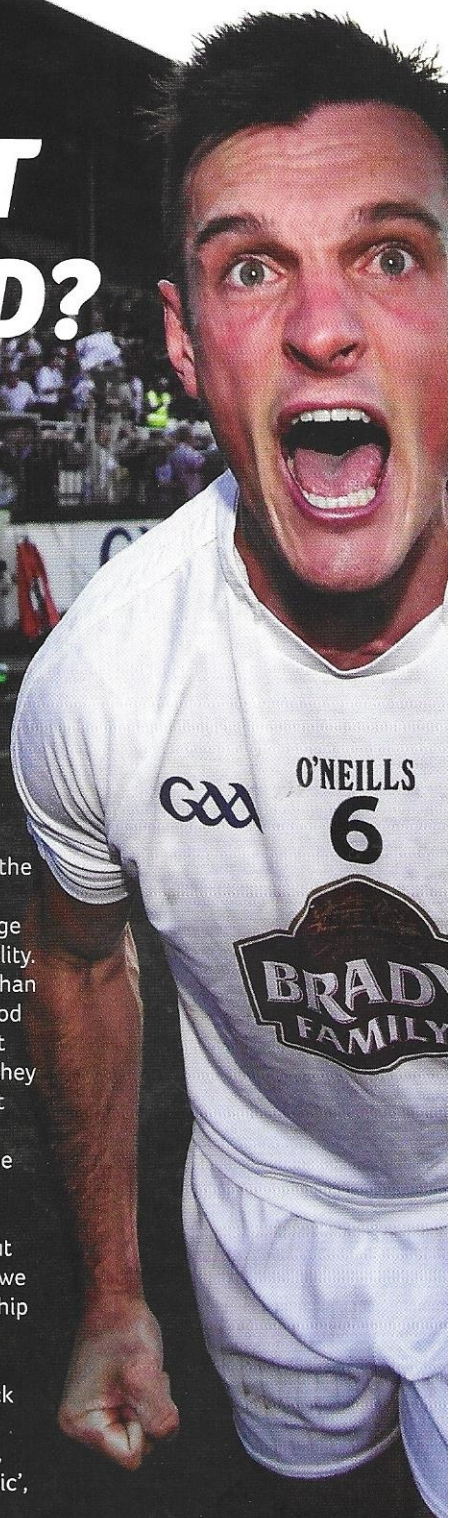
It would be disingenuous to say the opening round of group stage games in Croke Park set pulses racing. Naturally for the victors - Galway, Tyrone, Dublin, Monaghan - it was a happy couple of days but it was hard to escape the sense, present in all four games, that the real day of judgement lay ahead.

That day may well be today.

Once the dust had settled on the opening round of results, the second wave of the group stage suddenly teemed with possibility.

Kerry have to go to Monaghan and win or else they are as good as out. Galway can book a first semi-final spot in 17 years if they win in Newbridge. Tyrone host that most novel of spectacles - a Dublin championship game in Ulster. And Donegal face Roscommon at Dr. Hyde Park in what is in effect a knock-out game. That less prosaic word we were looking for? Championship will do nicely.

It has been a summer of dispute over territory. If Patrick Kavanagh was still around, he might point us to the wisdom, found in his famous poem 'Epic',





Monaghan supporters  
outside St Tiernach's Park, Clones

that Homer “made the Iliad from such a local row” and that “Gods make their own importance.” If that’s true, then the force of this weekend’s games will surely be accentuated by the local element. The buzz of the Clones diamond will be a world away from the capital grandeur of Dublin 3.

For many GAA supporters, not as used to Croke Park as others, championship football means a trip to a certain type of provincial town. A town that you probably only really know in its guise as a place to go and watch a match. The provincial championships and qualifiers are defined by such sojourns, but the business end of the championship has belonged to Croke Park for the best part of a century.

Since the 1940s, it has been a matter of course that the All-Ireland semi-finals take place in Croke Park, with the final having established itself as a Croke Park-only occasion in the early years of the last century. Before the 1940s, All-Ireland semi-finals regularly took place around the country, with bluebloods such as Dublin

and Kerry having to earn their stripes a long way from La Scala, in places such as Cavan, Tuam and Mullingar. As well as the colour it brought off the field, it evened the odds on it.

When the tradition died away, it meant that championship matches between teams from different provinces happened almost exclusively in Dublin. The idea of a later-stage championship match being played outside the capital became a thing of exotic novelty - a case in point being the famous 1983 All-Ireland semi-final replay between Cork and Dublin in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Then there’s the 1947 Polo Grounds final in New York City, something which now feels as though from another universe.

Since 2001 and the advent of the All-Ireland qualifiers, the situation has changed markedly, although Croke Park has remained the home of the biggest games. The fact that the rare occasions when that doesn’t happen are so iconic and memorable is a powerful recommendation for it

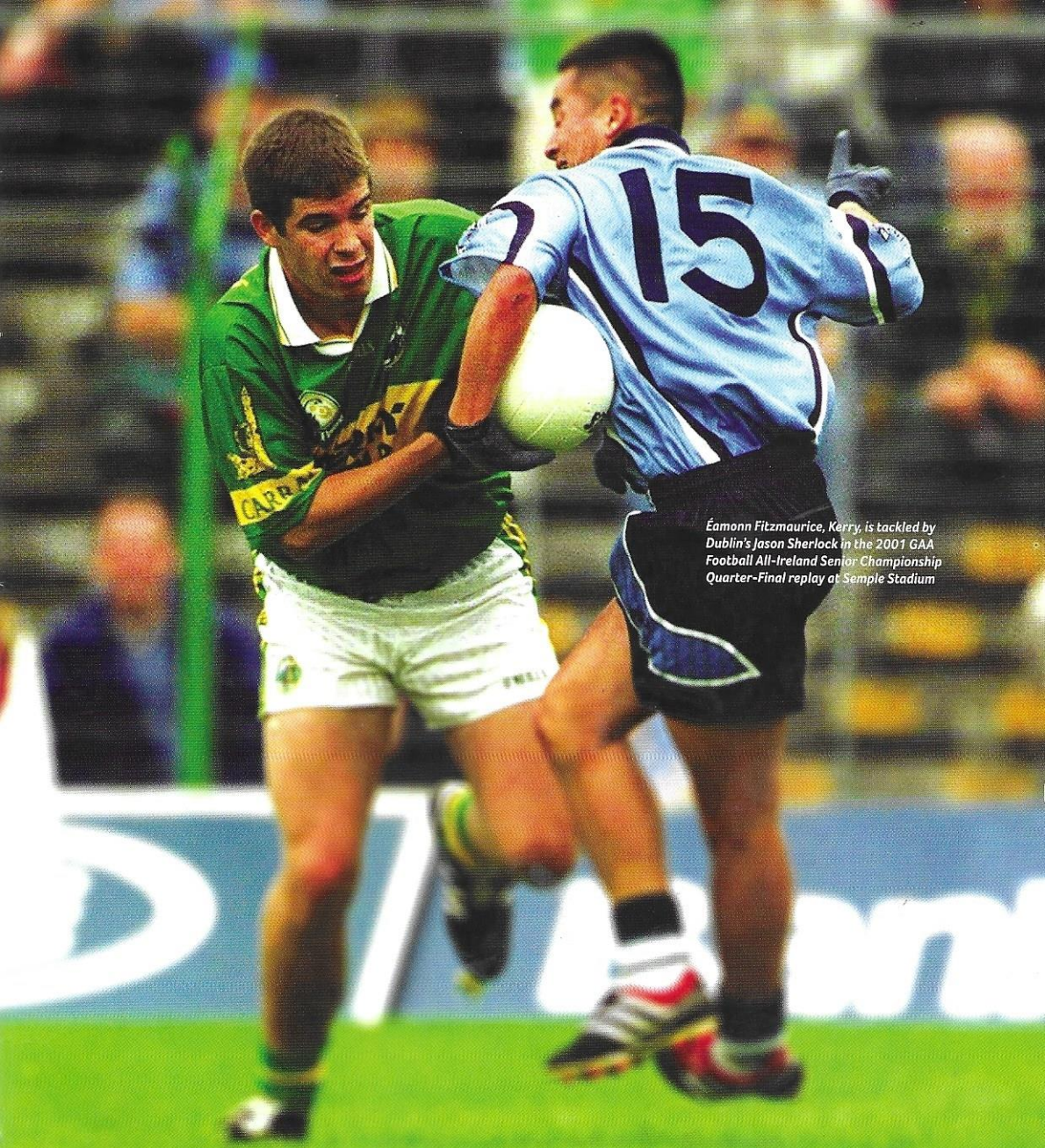
to happen more often.

The two quarter-final meetings of Dublin and Kerry in Thurles in 2001 are part of modern GAA folklore, while the 2014 All-Ireland semi-final replay between Kerry and Mayo in Limerick was an extraordinary occasion, undoubtedly heightened by the different kind of energy the new surrounds provided.

The vivid iconography of those games indicates why this weekend ought to be more than a little special. With no disrespect to Kerry, Dublin or their own worthy ambitions, imagine the scenes come full-time should their summer sails be lowered in the market towns of Ulster?

Even disregarding such eminently possible outcomes, the sheer presence of Dublin supporters in Omagh or Kerry supporters in Clones will breathe new life into a championship that looks like it needs it this year.

The matches in Newbridge and Roscommon hold the same fertile appeal. Having both surrendered limply last weekend in Dublin, Donegal and Roscommon need



*Éamonn Fitzmaurice, Kerry, is tackled by Dublin's Jason Sherlock in the 2001 GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Quarter-Final replay at Semple Stadium*

to justify their continuing July presence on Saturday evening. In Newbridge a few weeks ago, Mayo finally met their Waterloo. How will their great western rivals Galway face up to that singular challenge?

It might be a little impertinent to allow reality intrude at this point, but could it be that we make too much of all this venue malarkey? The essentials - a football, a pitch and two

teams - are all the same after all, whether the game be on a Sunday afternoon in Croke Park or at midnight in Madagascar, to borrow former Galway manager John McIntyre's memorable phrase.

Yet we can choose to be optimistic this weekend. That scene in the film 'Gladiator' comes to mind, when the character of Maximus, fighting at a small provincial venue as he battles his

way back to the Colosseum, scythes his way ruthlessly and spectacularly through a series of opponents to leave himself standing alone, in silence, on the field as the victor. "Are you not entertained!?" he roars at the crowd. "Is that not why you are here?"

The odds are that we will be entertained over two days. That is unlikely to slip from memory banks anytime soon.

**grma**  
go raibh maith agat

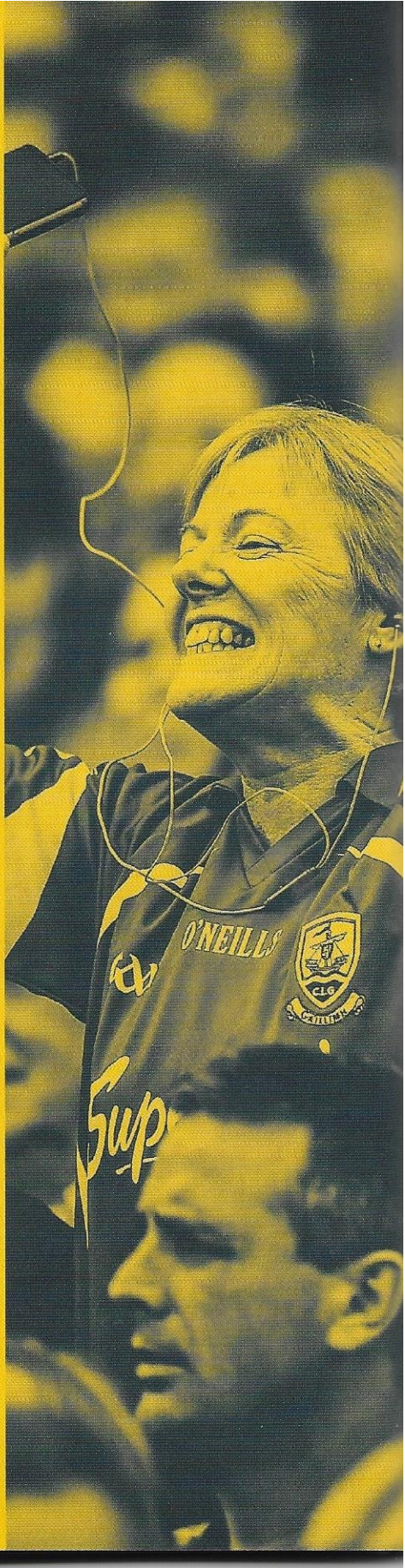
GAA

# TAKE YOUR POINTS AND THE REWARDS WILL COME

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# THE CAMPAIGN TO DATE...

## DÚN NA nGALL

PLAYED 5 WON 4 LOST 1

SCORED 8-92 (116), CONCEDED 4-70 (82)

Date: May 13

Venue: Ballybofey

Referee: David Gough (Meath)

Half-time score:

Donegal 1-10 Cavan 1-6

Full-time score:

**DONEGAL 2-20 CAVAN 1-15**



Date: May 27

Venue: Celtic Park

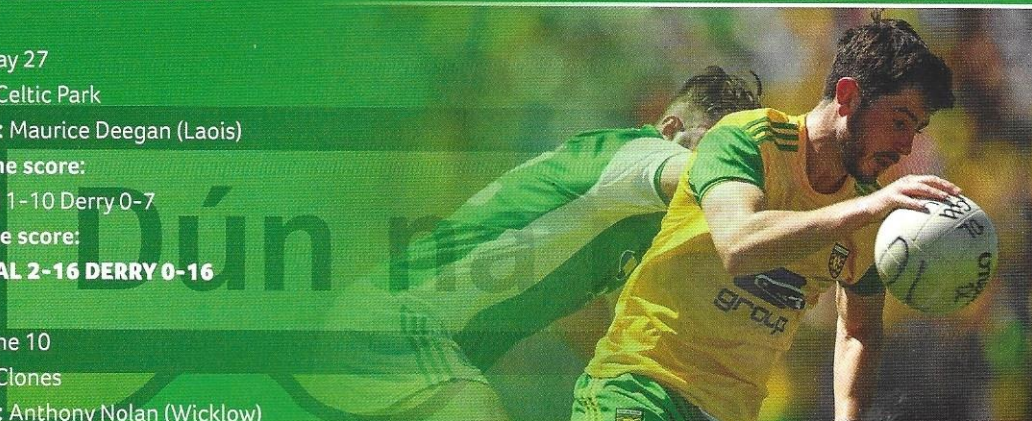
Referee: Maurice Deegan (Laois)

Half-time score:

Donegal 1-10 Derry 0-7

Full-time score:

**DONEGAL 2-16 DERRY 0-16**



Date: June 10

Venue: Clones

Referee: Anthony Nolan (Wicklow)

Half-time score:

Donegal 1-12 Down 0-7

Full-time score:

**DONEGAL 2-22 DOWN 1-12**

Date: June 24

Venue: Clones

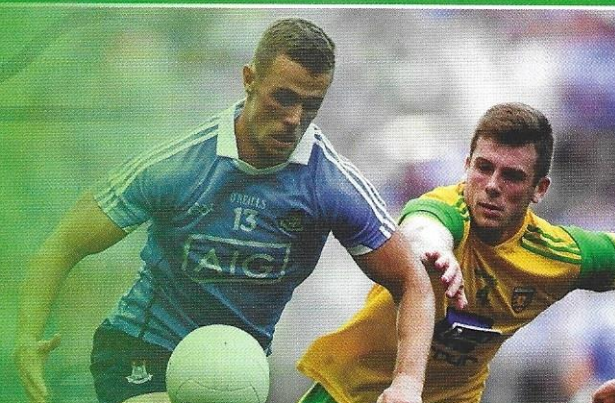
Referee: David Gough (Meath)

Half-time score:

Donegal 2-7 Fermanagh 0-5

Full-time score:

**DONEGAL 2-18 FERMANAGH 0-12**



Date: July 14

Venue: Croke Park

Referee: Conor Lane (Cork)

Half-time score:

Dublin 1-9 Donegal 0-8

Full-time score:

**DUBLIN 2-15 DONEGAL 0-16**

**Scorers** - Connor McAliskey 2-30 (20f), Niall Sudden 2-11, Richie Donnelly 2-8, Peter Harte 2-8 (2p, 6f), Cathal McShane 0-10, Frank Burns 0-8, Ronan O'Neill 1-5 (3f), Mattie Donnelly 0-7, Michael McKiernan 1-3, Conor Meyler 1-2, Mark Bradley 1-2, Tiernan McCann 0-3, Lee Brennan 0-3 (3f), Harry Loughran 1-0, Declan McClure 0-2, Pádraig Hampsey 0-1, Ronan McNamee 0-1, Colm Cavanagh 0-1, Rory Brennan 0-1.

# STARTERS AND SUBS

## TOP SCORER

**OVERALL:  
MICHAEL  
MURPHY  
0-23**

**FROM PLAY:  
PATRICK McBREARTY,  
JAMIE BRENNAN  
0-13, 1-10**



Started

Substitute

Cavan

Derry

Down

Fermanagh

Dublin

Shaun Patton

Eoghan Bán Gallagher

Neil McGee

Caolan Ward

Stephen McMenamin

Paul Brennan

Ryan McHugh

Hugh McFadden

Leo McLoone

Ciarán Thompson

Michael Langan

Frank McGlynn

Patrick McBrearty

Michael Murphy

	Cavan	Derry	Down	Fermanagh	Dublin
Shaun Patton	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started
Eoghan Bán Gallagher	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started
Neil McGee	Started	Started	Started		Substitute
Caolan Ward	Started	Started	Started	Substitute	Substitute
Stephen McMenamin	Started		Substitute	Started	Started
Paul Brennan	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started
Ryan McHugh	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started
Hugh McFadden	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started
Leo McLoone	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started
Ciarán Thompson	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started
Michael Langan	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started
Frank McGlynn	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started
Patrick McBrearty	Started	Started	Started	Started	
Michael Murphy	Started	Started	Started	Started	Started

**MICHAEL MURPHY**

**JAMIE BRENNAN**

**RYAN McHUGH**

**SCORED IN EVERY GAME**

**SUB IN EVERY GAME**

**CIAN MULLIGAN**

Started

Substitute

Cavan

Derry

Down

Fermanagh

Dublin

Jamie Brennan



Ciarán McGinley



Eamonn Doherty



Cian Mulligan



Mark McHugh



Stephen McBrearty



Caolan McGonagle



Paddy McGrath



Odhrán Mac Niallais



Daire Ó Baoill



Anthony Thompson



Darrach O'Connor



# DÚN NA nGALL



ROGHNÓIRÍ - DEAGLÁN MAC CNÁIMHSÍ (BAINISTEoir), Carl de Léis, Pól Mac Congail, Gearóid Ó Baoill



Seán Ó Peatáin

**SHAUN PATTON**

Naomh Adhamhnáin



Pádraig Mac Craith

**PADDY McGRATH**

Ard an Ratha



Néill Mac Aoidh

**NEIL McGEE**

Gaoth Dobhair



Eoghan Bán Ó Gallchoir

**EOGHAN BÁN GALLAGH**

Na Cealla Beaga



Proinsias Mac Fhloinn

**FRANK McGLYNN**

Gleann Fhinne



Pól Ó Braonáin

**PAUL BRENNAN**

Realt na Mara, Bundobhráin



Riain Mac Aodha

**RYAN McHUGH**

Cill Chartha



Aodh Mac Pháidín

**HUGH McFADDEN**

Na Cealla Beaga



Leo Mac Giolla Úain

**LEO McLOONE**

Naomh Conaill



Néill Ó Domhnaill

**NIALL O'DONNELL**

Naomh Adhamhnáin



Mícheál Ó Longáin

**MICHAEL LANGAN**

Naomh Mícheál



Ciarán Mac Thomáis

**CIARÁN THOMPSON**

Naomh Conaill



Odhrán Mac Niallais

**ODHRÁN MAC NIALLAIS**

Gaoth Dobhair



Mícheál Ó Murchú (C.)

**MICHAEL MURPHY**

Gleann tSúilf



Séamus Ó Braonáin

**JAMIE BRENNAN**

Realt na Mara, Bun Dobhairin

## FIR IONAIÐ

16. Marc Antaine Mac Fhionnghaile  
**MARK ANTHONY McGINLEY**

Naomh Mícheál

17. Stiofán Mac Meanman  
**STEPHEN McMENAMIN**

Aodh Rua, Cuil Mhic gCuirridín

18. Caolán Mac an Bháird  
**CAOLAN WARD**

Naomh Adhamhnáin

19. Marc Mac Aodha  
**MARK McHUGH**

Cill Chartha

20. Dáire Ó Baoill  
**DAIRE Ó BAOILL**

Gaoth Dobhair

21. Stiofán Mac Breartaigh  
**STEPHEN McBREARTY**

Cill Chartha

22. Ciarán Mac Giolla Easbuig  
**CIARÁN GILLESPIE**

Gaoth Dobhair

23. Antóin Mac Thomáis  
**ANTHONY THOMPSON**

Naomh Conaill

24. Cian Ó Maolagáin  
**CIAN MULLIGAN**

Gaoth Dobhair

25. Mairtín Ó Raghallaigh  
**MARTIN REILLY**

Seán Mac Cumhaill

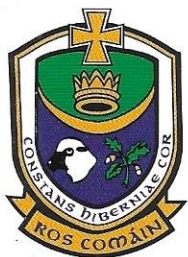
26. Éamonn Ó Dochartaigh  
**EAMONN DOHERTY**

Naomh Adhamhnáin





OFFICIAL SPONSORS



# ROS COMÁIN

KEVIN McSTAY (BAINISTEOIR), Liam McHale, Ger Dowd- ROGHNÓIRÍ



## FIR IONAIÐ

16. Séamus Featherstone  
**JAMES FETHERSTON**  
Roscommon Gaels

17. Caoileann Mac Muiris  
**CAOILEANN FITZMAURICE**  
Michael Glaveys

18. Ciarán Ó Leannáin  
**CIARÁN LENNON**  
Clann na nGael

19. Dónall MacGabhan  
**DONAL SMITH**  
Boyle

20. Fionnbharr de Creag  
**FINBAR CREGG**  
Western Gaels

21. Eoin Mac Giolla Bhríde  
**IAN KILBRIDE**  
St Brigid's

22. Néill Ó Dálaigh  
**NIALL DALY**  
Padraig Pearses

23. Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh  
**PÁDRAIG KELLY**  
St Brigid's

24. Rossa Mac Tomaltaigh  
**ROSS TIMOTHY**  
St Croan's

25. Seán Mac Giolla Luairinn  
**SHANE KILLORAN**  
Elphin



OFFICIAL SPONSORS

# STARTERS AND SUBS

## TOP SCORER

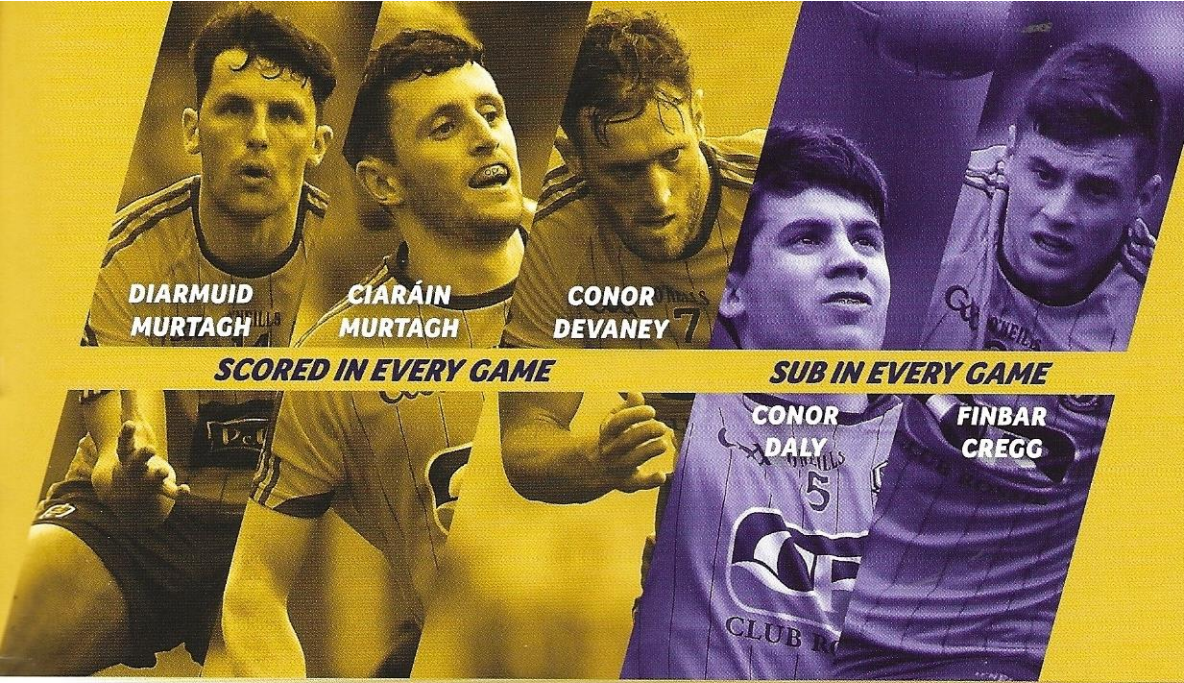
**OVERALL:  
DIARMUID  
MURTAGH  
0-21**

**FROM PLAY:  
ENDA  
SMITH  
3-3**



26

	Leitrim	Galway	Armagh	Tyrone
Colm Lavin	Started	Started	Started	Started
David Murray	Started	Started	Started	Started
Peter Domican	Started	Started	Started	
Niall McInerney	Started	Started	Started	Started
John McManus	Started	Started		Started
Fintan Cregg	Started	Started		Started
Brian Stack	Started	Started		Substitute
Cathal Compton	Started	Started	Substitute	Started
Tadhg O'Rourke	Started	Started	Started	Started
Enda Smith	Started	Started	Started	Started
Niall Kilroy	Started	Started	Started	Started
Conor Devaney	Started	Started	Started	Started
Donal Smith	Started	Started	Started	Started
Diarmuid Murtagh	Started	Started	Started	Started



**DIARMUID  
MURTAGH**

**CIARÁIN  
MURTAGH**

**CONOR  
DEVANEY**

**SCORED IN EVERY GAME**

**SUB IN EVERY GAME**

**CONOR  
DALY**

**FINBAR  
CREGG**

Started

Substitute

Leitrim

Galway

Armagh

Tyrone

Ciaráin Murtagh



Cathal Cregg



Conor Daly



Shane Killoran



Ronan Stack



Finbar Cregg



Pádraig Kelly



Ultan Harney



Fergal Lennon



Niall Daly



Seán McDermott



Tadhg McKenna



Gary Patterson

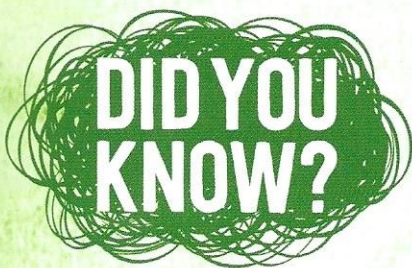


Ian Kilbride



# REDUCE THE ODDS

## PROTECTING OUR GAMES, PLAYERS AND MEMBERS



### GAA RULES & CODE OF CONDUCT PROHIBITS:

- Players, team management or match officials from betting on games in which they are involved
- Match fixing activities
- Sponsorship by a betting company of any GAA competition, team, playing gear, or facility

**ATHLETES  
ARE AN AT  
RISK GROUP  
FOR PROBLEM  
GAMBLING  
BECAUSE OF....**

- Their competitive nature and desire to win
- A desire to replicate the buzz of playing / competition
- Group dynamics or possible gambling culture in squads
- Gambling appeals to those driven by extrinsic (external) motivation – the reward of the win!
- The worldwide relationship between sport and betting
- Exposure to increased betting advertising & discussion through sport media

## WATCH OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS

- Hiding time spent gambling or hiding bills and unpaid debt
- Bragging about winning, exaggerating wins and/or minimizing losses
- Lying about how much time or money is spent on gambling
- Restless or irritable when not gambling
- Borrowing for gambling

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION GO TO  
[www.gaa.ie/community](http://www.gaa.ie/community)

### WHERE TO GET HELP:

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS 01 8721133 [www.gamblersanonymous.ie](http://www.gamblersanonymous.ie)  
GAMBLE AWARE (Mon-Fri 9am to 5.30pm) 1800 753753 [www.gambleaware.ie](http://www.gambleaware.ie)  
PROBLEM GAMBLING IRELAND 089 2415401 (call-back service) [www.problemgambling.ie](http://www.problemgambling.ie)  
DUNLEWEY ADDICTION SERVICE (Mon-Sun 9am to 11pm) 1800 936725 (ROI) 0800 0886725  
[www.dunlewey.net](http://www.dunlewey.net)



# THE CAMPAIGN TO DATE...

## ROS COMÁIN

PLAYED 4 WON 2 LOST 2

SCORED 6-64 (82), CONCEDED 5-69 (84)

Date: May 26

Venue: Carrick-on-Shannon

Referee: Joe McQuillan (Cavan)

Half-time score:

Roscommon 0-9 Leitrim 0-2

Full-time score:

**ROSCOMMON 0-24 LEITRIM 0-10**



Date: June 17

Venue: Roscommon

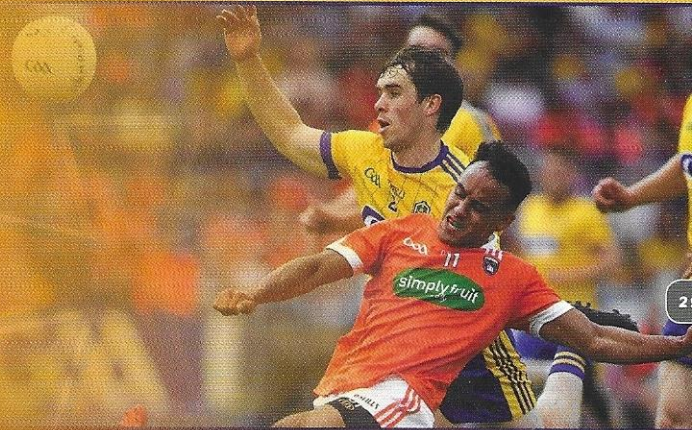
Referee: David Coldrick (Meath)

Half-time score:

Roscommon 1-5 Galway 0-5

Full-time score:

**GALWAY 0-16 ROSCOMMON 2-6**



Date: July 7

Venue: Portlaoise

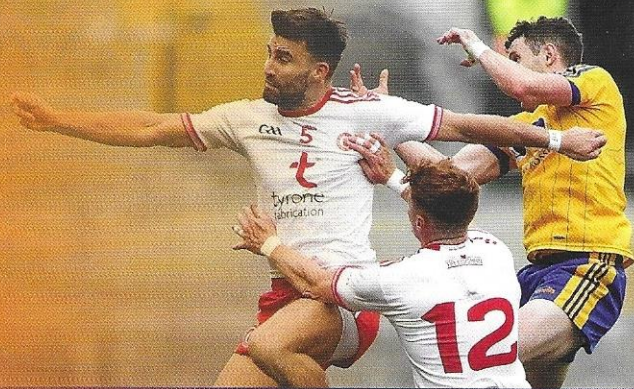
Referee: Joe McQuillan (Cavan)

Half-time score:

Roscommon 1-11 Armagh 0-12

Full-time score:

**ROSCOMMON 2-22 ARMAGH 1-19**



Date: July 14

Venue: Croke Park

Referee: David Gough (Meath)

Half-time score:

Tyrone 1-10 Roscommon 0-6

Full-time score:

**TYRONE 4-24 ROSCOMMON 2-12**

**Scorers** - Diarmuid Murtagh 0-21 (12F), Ciarán Murtagh 2-12 (7F), Enda Smith 3-3, Cathal Cregg 0-7, Donal Smith 0-6, Conor Devaney 1-3 (1p), Cathal Compton 0-2, Finbar Cregg 0-2, John McManus 0-1, Fintan Cregg 0-1, Brian Stack 0-1, Tadhg O'Rourke 0-1, Niall Kilroy 0-1, Conor Daly 0-1, Shane Killoran 0-1, Pádraig Kelly 0-1.

# SENIOR SCOREBOARD 2018

## CONNACHT

Leitrim	0-19	1-15	New York
Sligo	1-21	1-11	London
Galway	1-12	0-12	Mayo
Roscommon	0-24	0-10	Leitrim
Galway	4-24	1-12	Sligo
Galway	0-16	2-6	Roscommon

## LEINSTER

Laois	2-21	1-18	Wexford
Carlow	2-17	0-12	Louth
Wicklow	1-20	1-15	Offaly
Laois	4-13	1-12	Westmeath
Carlow	2-14	1-10	Kildare
Dublin	4-25	1-11	Wicklow
Longford	0-16	0-14	Meath
Laois	0-12	0-8	Carlow
Dublin	2-25	0-12	Longford
Dublin	1-25	0-10	Laois

## MUNSTER

Tipperary	0-20	0-9	Waterford
Clare	1-22	0-14	Limerick
Cork	1-17	0-9	Tipperary
Kerry	0-32	0-10	Clare
Kerry	3-18	2-4	Cork

## ULSTER

Donegal	2-20	1-15	Cavan
Fermanagh	0-12	0-7	Armagh
Monaghan	1-18	1-16	Tyrone
Down	1-18	0-14	Antrim
Donegal	2-16	0-16	Derry
Fermanagh	1-8	0-10	Monaghan
Donegal	2-22	1-12	Down
Donegal	2-18	0-12	Fermanagh

## QUALIFIERS

Waterford	3-14	1-18	Wexford
Kildare	2-22	2-14	Derry
Tyrone	2-14	0-19	Meath
Cavan	2-16	1-5	Wicklow
Offaly	2-20	1-15	Antrim
Mayo	5-19	3-7	Limerick
Armagh	3-16	1-11	Westmeath
Louth	2-26	1-19	London
Monaghan	5-21	0-9	Waterford
Tyrone	3-14	1-10	Carlow
Cavan	1-14	0-15	Down
Mayo	1-19	1-11	Tipperary
Armagh	1-19	1-13	Sligo
Leitrim	0-25	1-12	Louth
Kildare	1-16	1-13	Longford
Clare	1-19	2-14	Offaly
Monaghan	1-19	0-9	Leitrim
Armagh	2-16	1-15	Clare
Tyrone	0-18	1-12	Cavan
Kildare	0-21	0-19	Mayo
Roscommon	2-22	1-19	Armagh
Tyrone	3-20	0-13	Cork
Kildare	3-20	0-18	Fermanagh
Monaghan	0-19	1-11	Laois

## GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship (Quarter-Final Group 1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
<b>Galway</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 - 13</b>	<b>1 - 10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Monaghan</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 - 15</b>	<b>1 - 10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Kildare</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 - 10</b>	<b>0 - 15</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 - 10</b>	<b>1 - 13</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>0</b>

# SENIOR SCOREBOARD 2018

## ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINAL GROUP STAGE

### Group 1 Phase 1

Galway 1-13 1-10 Kerry

Monaghan 0-15 1-10 Kildare

### Group 2 Phase 1

Tyrone 4-24 2-12 Roscommon

Dublin 2-15 0-16 Donegal



## GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship (Quarter-Final Group 2)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
<b>Tyrone</b>	1	1	0	0	4-24	2-12	18	2
<b>Dublin</b>	1	1	0	0	2-15	0-16	5	2
<b>Donegal</b>	1	0	0	1	0-16	2-15	-5	0
<b>Roscommon</b>	1	0	0	1	2-12	4-24	-18	0

Dublin supporters before the start of the Dublin v Leitrim game in Carrick-on-Shannon in the 2004 Football Qualifiers



Declan Bogue

## THE BIG WEEKEND

So here it is at last, the big weekend. Time to check the oil and fill the diesel tank. Break out the cool boxes and pack those sandwiches.

Stock up on loose change for the toll booths and Kanye West for the CD player. Because this is the weekend that the All-Ireland Football Championship brings it all back home, and 'the games' to 'the people.'

It's got a Woodstock feel about it. Or at the very least, a county Fleadh. Perhaps fans might even consider a Tailgate Party.

Who would have thought that the new All-Ireland quarter-finals series could offer the same opportunity for travel and seeing parts of the world that no Allianz League campaign could reach?

Take Saturday for example. Roscommon fans in Dr. Hyde Park will have their own memories of the 1980 All-Ireland final defeat to Kerry, with a special place for their first-minute goal, hand-passed to the net by their jinky forward, John 'Jigger' O'Connor.

There is a chance that his son, Darach 'Jigger', will be an inclusion on the Donegal panel they face. While the two sides have met once before in the 2008 Championship, this will be the first time for Donegal fans to experience championship football in Dr. Hyde Park.

Onto Newbridge and Kildare hosting Galway has a certain level of fatalism hanging over it. Over the last few weeks they have achieved plenty, but another defeat here will leave their season with that sickening feeling of a

belly full of candy floss.

Galway fans may be watching a type of football that is alien to them and their bloodlines. But then, they are also looking at a run of results they have not seen in a couple of generations, last Sunday's win over Kerry their first since they were powered by the Donnellans and Dunnes.

As tasty as those encounters are, the tension rising in the air as the Kerry faithful make their way up from Fermanagh Street to St Tiernach's Park in Clones for a humid afternoon will be enough to choke on.

After last Sunday's defeat to Galway, it's an enormous moment for this young Kerry team and their management. Does Éamonn Fitzmaurice trust in youth and risk a fate akin to Mickey Ned O'Sullivan, or do they go back to



*Gavin Doogan of Monaghan celebrates after scoring his side's second goal against Kerry in last year's Allianz Football League Division 1 Round 3*

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the old dogs fan the hard road as they desperately seek points against Monaghan?

Hard to believe, but it was a decade ago now when Monaghan were putting it up to the Kingdom, twice in two years.

Back then they were all fingernails and spite and Banty and caveman diets. Everything to prove and nothing to lose.

Nowadays, they are a more self-assured group. They have Ulster titles, a manager of the highest tactical sophistication, and a tendency to take their eye off the ball when they are

expected to win.

In February past in Inniskeen Monaghan beat Kerry for the second league campaign in-a-row. They also beat Dublin in Croke Park for the first time in their history. Even allowing for all the form guides and home advantage, they are seen by bookmakers as the underdog for this game.

After winning their first-ever quarter-final last week can they become the type of ruthless, top-tier team that they threaten to be, by ending Kerry's season?

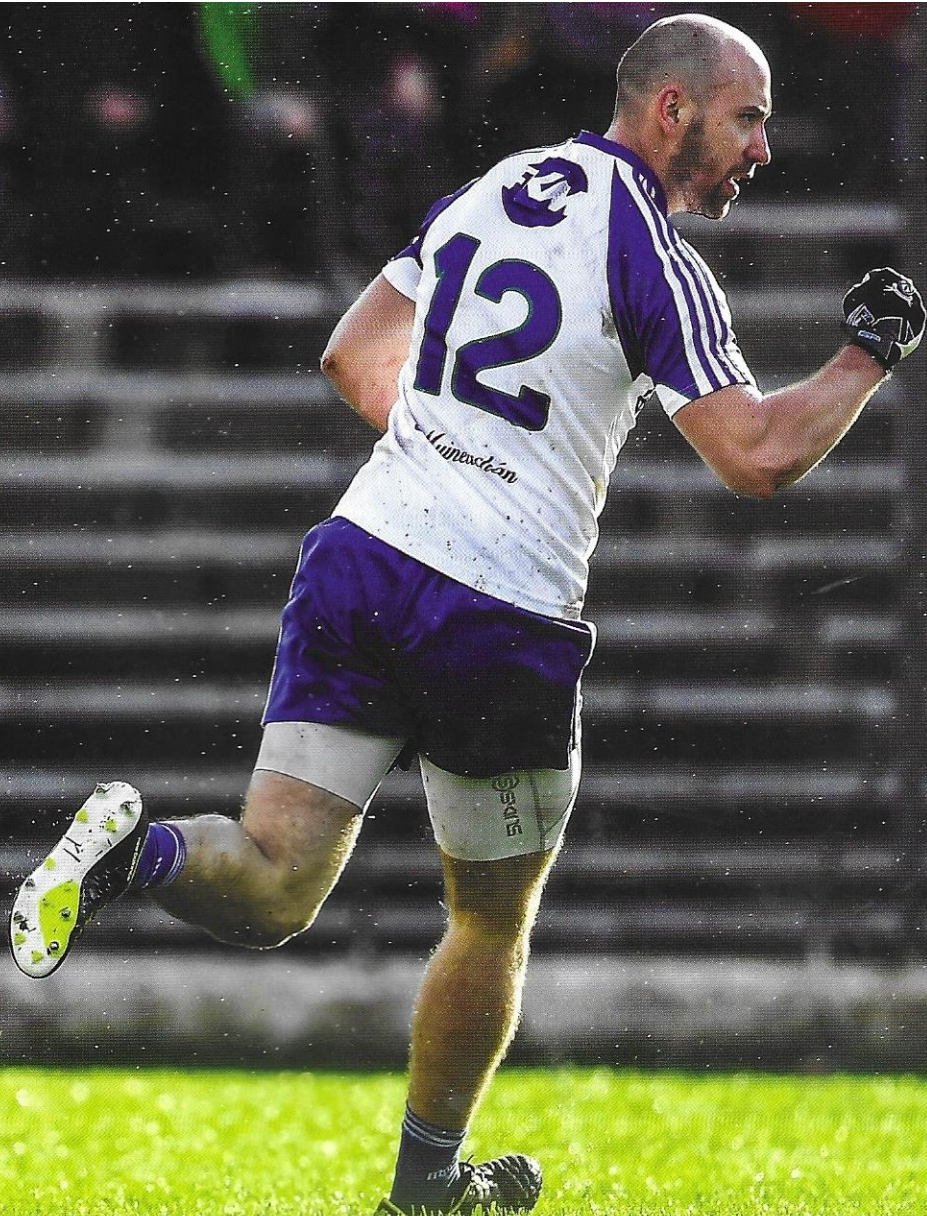
And even as tasty, as enticing

as that prospect is, it's not even the most fattening dish on the menu.

The convoy of Dublin supporters snaking their way across the border, over the Moy Bridge into the wide spaces of Aughnacloy's main thoroughfare will be a symbol of what the new system gifts us; Dublin on the road, to Omagh.

There is a lazy assumption that because of their gift of geography, that the Dublin supporters do not like travelling, which is not the case.

This is only the sixth time they



will have played championship football outside of Leinster and what some will discover but has previously been largely untested, is that the Dublin crowd love being on the road.

In 1983 they famously replayed an All-Ireland semi-final on Leaside. In an echo of more recent developments, the Cork officials argued persuasively that Croke Park amounted to a home venue for Dublin and they should host the replay.

We don't know if it would happen now, but when Cork made their pitch, Dublin did not object.

Thousands made Blarney their base. It was the first time that group had ever stayed in a hotel before a game. Newspaper columnists and various officials had blown dog whistles about the threat of violence and the Garda presence was beefed up for the day. It was, as one GAA scribe later described it, as if they were gearing up for the 'Invasion of the Zombie Monsters.'

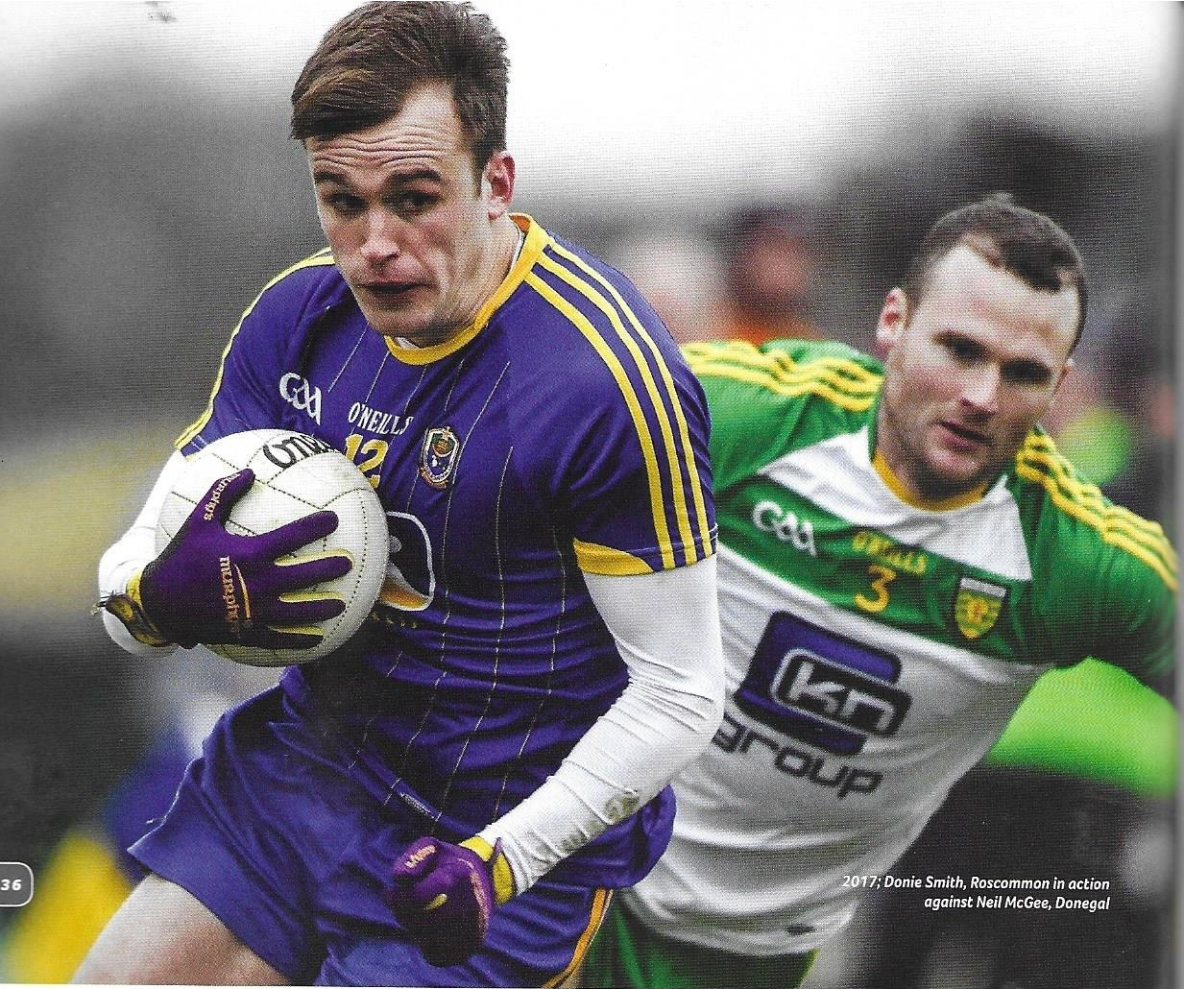
Dublin supporters took over the Blackrock End of Páirc Uí Chaoimh, christening it Hill 17. And that was them until 2001

and the two-game epic in Sempia Stadium against Kerry, the fixture made famous by Maurice Fitz and his sideline miracle.

In 2003, they took over the narrow thoroughfares leading from Matt Fitzpatrick Square to the pitch in Clones to beat Derry in a backdoor game.

A year later, they brought cheer and bonhomie to the bars and cafés of Carrick-on-Shannon and repeated the dose against Leitrim.

Since then, they have been confined to barracks. Until now.



2017; Donie Smith, Roscommon in action against Neil McGee, Donegal

## WE HAVE MET BEFORE

Donal Keenan

# DÚN NA

**19.07.2008**  
**DONEGAL 3-11**  
**ROSCOMMON 1-9**  
 All-Ireland qualifier

A teenager fresh from completing his Leaving Certificate exams in St. Eunan's of Letterkenny lined out for Donegal alongside his former teacher Colm McFadden. His name was Michael Murphy and a legend was born. Murphy scored 2-2, his mentor McFadden contributed five points and was chosen as man-of-the-match as Donegal enjoyed a fairly comfortable victory over

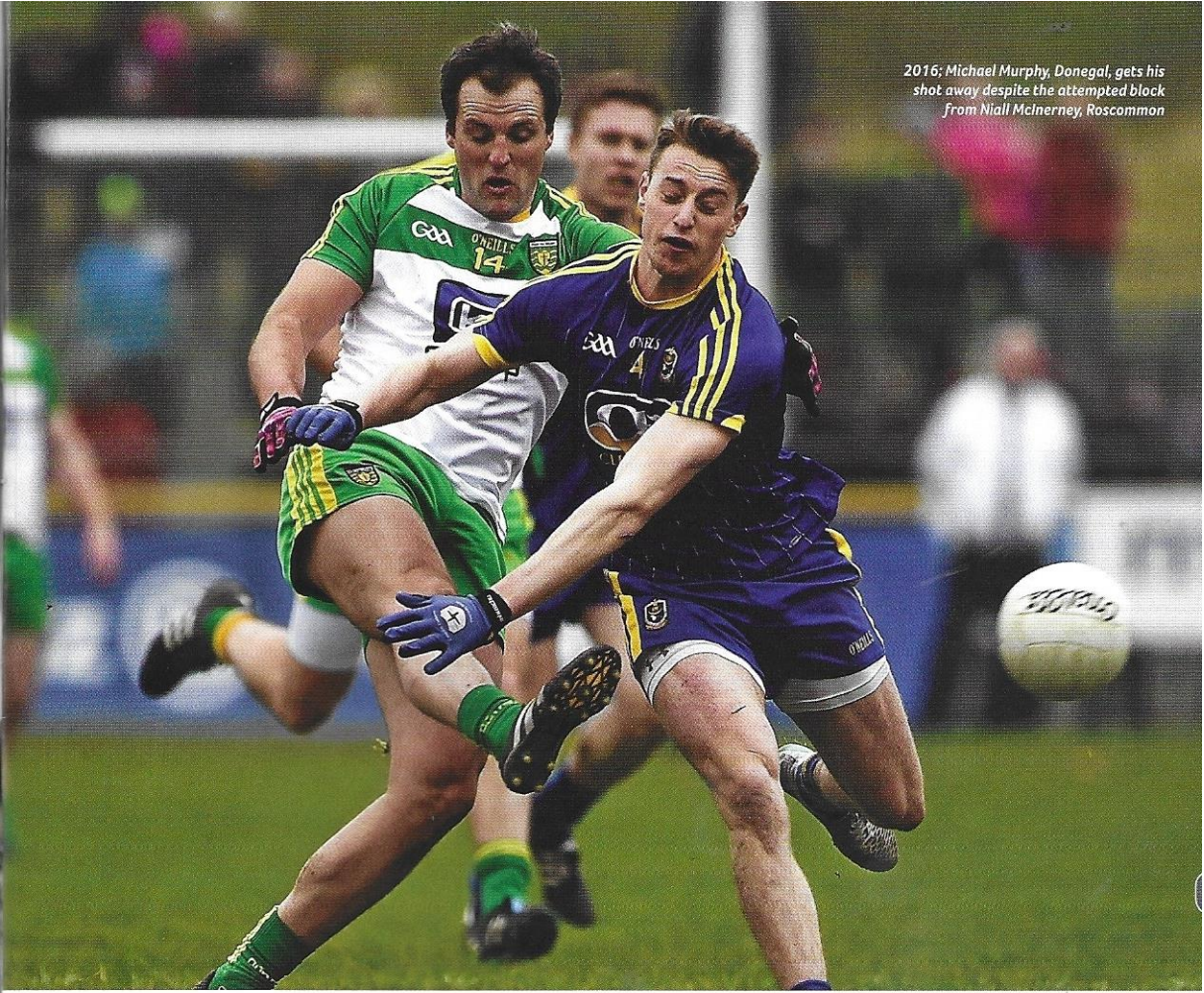
Roscommon in Ballybofey in the only senior championship encounter between the two counties. Donegal scored two of their goals in the opening eight minutes. Roscommon's cause was not helped when they were reduced to just 13 men during the second half following the dismissals of Cathal Cregg and Jonathan Dunning.

**12.02.2017**  
**DONEGAL 0-16**  
**ROSCOMMON 2-9**  
 Allianz League

When Roscommon's Conor

Devaney scored what the *Donegal Democrat* newspapers described as a "fantastic" goal eight minutes from the end of this Division 1 game at Dr. Hyde Park, he set up a storming finish full of twists and turns. Roscommon had led by three points at the break but Donegal fought back with a strong wind on their backs. Devaney's goal levelled matters and Ronan Stack might have snatched a winner but his shot was blocked and the ball broke in Donegal's favour. In a sweeping movement the ball was quickly transferred to the safe keeping of Eoin McHugh who kicked the winner.

2016: Michael Murphy, Donegal, gets his shot away despite the attempted block from Niall McInerney, Roscommon



# IGALL



**13.03.2016**  
ROSCOMMON 1-19  
DONEGAL 0-17  
Allianz League

Roscommon's return to Division 1 was capturing the headlines on the sports pages in the spring of 2016. "Rossies' 2016 rising is forcing big guns into shock surrender" was the heading on Eugene McGee's column in the *Irish Independent* as they added Donegal to the list of victims that also included Kerry and Cork during that league campaign. "Not only did Roscommon win these games

but they have also amassed outrageous scoring tallies, which adds up to a total of 100 points including seven goals," wrote an amazed McGee. Cathal Cregg's goal ten minutes from the end was the crucial score here.

**17.10.1982**  
DONEGAL 0-8  
ROSCOMMON 0-5  
All-Ireland U21 Final

History was in the making on a wet, cold and windy day in Carrick-on-Shannon when the U21 footballers brought Donegal its first ever All-Ireland football

title. The majority of the team, captained in '82 by Brian Tuohy, would go on to create further history when landing Donegal's first senior title ten years later. Donegal, backed by a huge support group in the crowd of 10,000, recovered from the early loss of full back Seán Bonner, brother of current manager Declan, through injury and adapted to the conditions. Martin McHugh kicked five points; Matt Gallagher was outstanding in their defence and one of the principal reasons why Roscommon failed to score in the second half.



Paul Fitzpatrick

# PRIMED TO IGNITE

Kerry's Paul Geaney looks out  
on Fitzgerald's Stadium, Killarney,  
in last year's Allianz League  
meeting with Monaghan

**T**he new-look All-Ireland quarter-final group stages were panned by the critics on their opening weekend. Returns at the box

office were below expectation and reviewers were quick to label the whole thing a little underwhelming.

It's true that attendances were disappointing and the fare on the pitch in a couple of the matches was below what we have come to expect at this time of the season, but it's too early to dismiss the experiment as a failure just yet.

The truth is, if the cast of characters is what makes a blockbuster, this year's Quarter-Final Group Stages could yet be the smash hit of the summer.

Every team in the quarter-finals has their own story. Some, like the peerless Dubs and the

aristocrats of the Kingdom, are old money. As Kieran Donaghy stated a couple of months ago, "Kerry football never really takes too much of a dip".

Every sport has superpowers; Kerry and Dublin are ours, constants in the championship narrative - and it is all the more enriched for that.

Others, like Roscommon, are desperately yearning for a breakthrough. They've won Connacht titles, they've taken notable scalps, but the westerners crave the validation a return to an All-Ireland semi-final or final would provide.

Few counties are as football-mad as they are. The game runs deep with the Rossies and their pulse quickens like few others when their side is involved on the big days.

By way of illustration, a story is told about the time, a couple of

decades ago, that Jimmy Murray's pub in Knockcroghery went on fire.

Murray, the legendary captain of the 1943 and 1944 All-Ireland winning sides, had kept the football from the first of those finals hanging by a chain from the roof of the pub.

When the blaze broke out, a man suddenly broke from the crowd which had surrounded it, trying to fight the flames, and dashed inside, emerging moments later triumphantly crying "I've got the ball. I've got the ball!".

That fanaticism is matched in Kildare. At one time, they too were landed gentry in Leinster but somewhere along the line, they were displaced. Provincial titles dried up in the land of the short grass. They came agonisingly close under Kieran McGeeney but didn't just make it.

When they lost all seven

Allianz League matches this spring and sank to a championship loss against a superbly-organised and motivated Carlow, it seemed they had slipped back again.

And yet despite that their flame has not been extinguished and their standing army of supporters – numbering many thousands – was mobilised once again at short notice. And now they're back in the quarter-finals and still in with a fighting chance of going further. What a storyline that would be.

Standing between them and a season-saving win are Galway. Do you believe in omens? Twenty years ago, Kevin Walsh enjoyed his greatest day when he lined out at midfield for the Tribesmen in their iconic All-Ireland win. Across the water, Didier Deschamps did the same with France in the World Cup.

Last Sunday, as Galway were beating Kerry for the first time since the swinging 60s, Deschamps was managing France to another title. Could it happen again?

So much – a whole season – rides on this one. A Year Till Sunday, all over again.

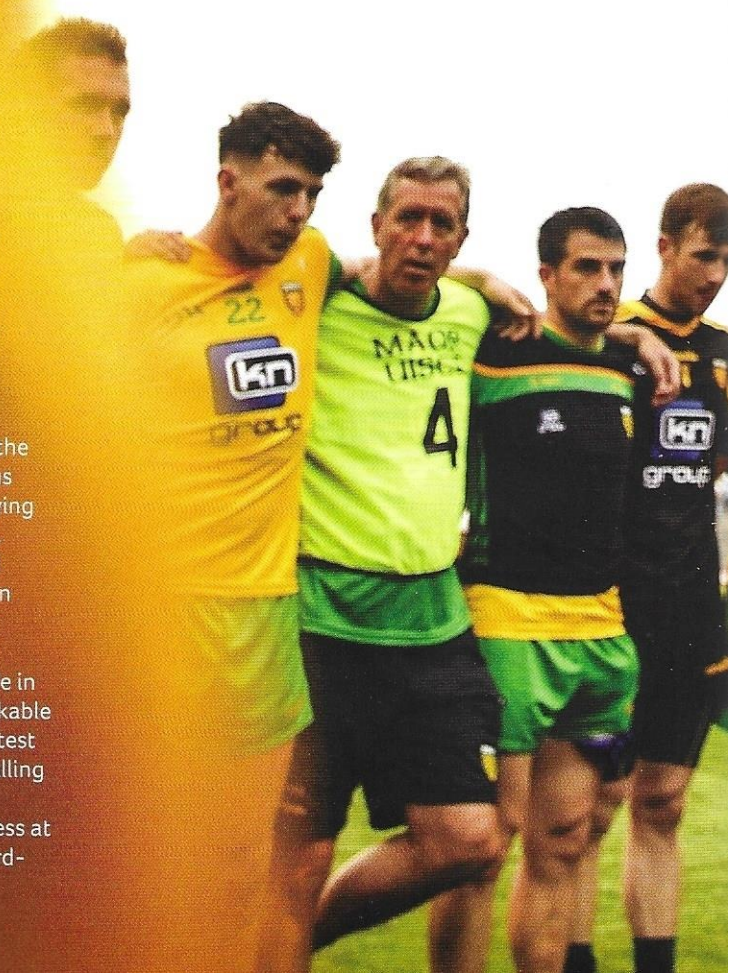
And then there's Monaghan, who may just boast the most evocative back story of the lot.

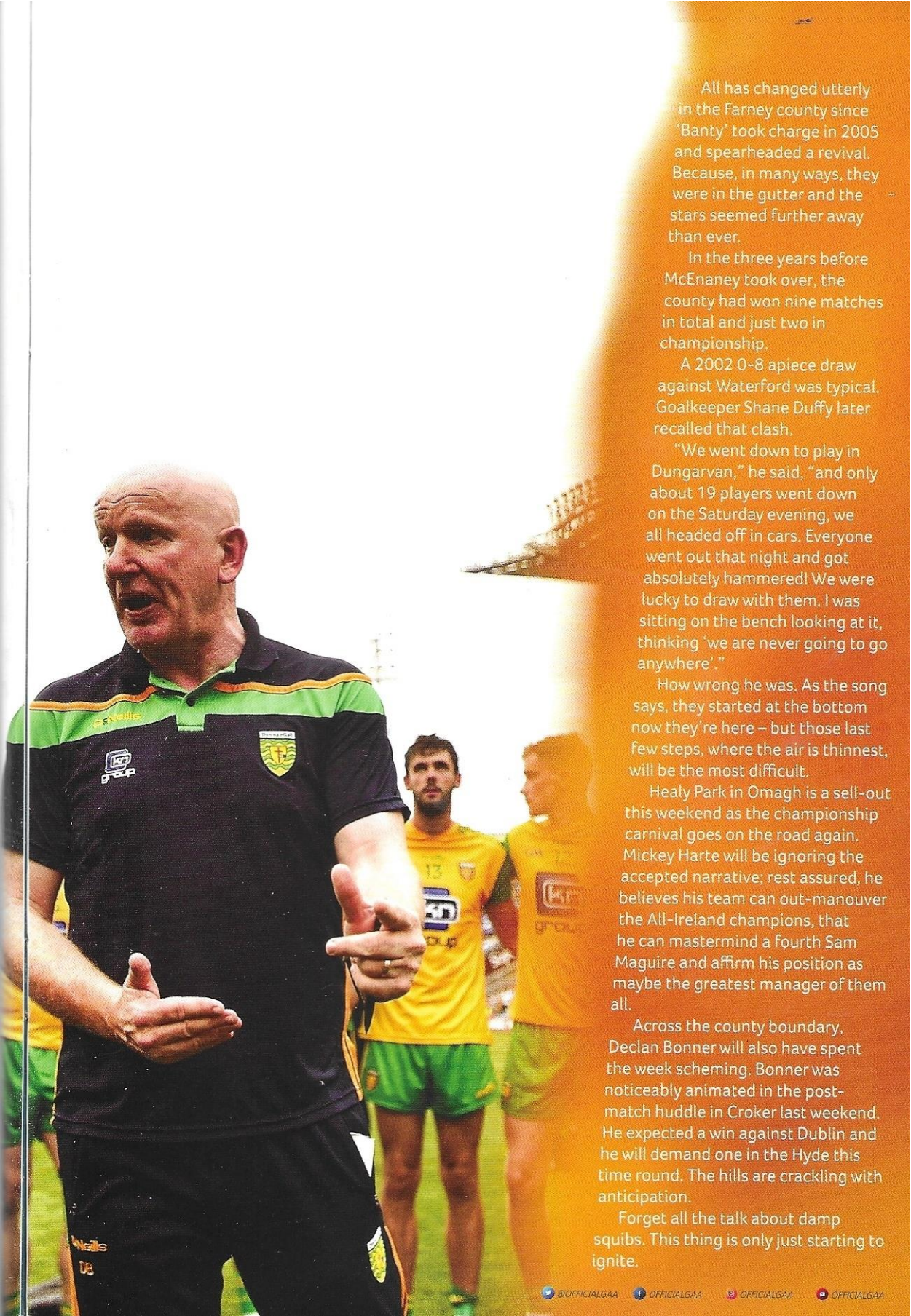
"Starting back in 2005," tweeted Dick Clerkin last Friday night, "when the Monaghan story commenced, Séamus McEnaney poured everything into trying to win us an Ulster title. We fell short. He finally got that medal tonight and fittingly with his 2005 captain Damien Freeman on the line with him."

McEnaney had guided Monaghan minors to only their second Ulster title in 73 years that evening. It was a remarkable achievement but it was merely the latest milestone for a county in rude footballing health.

Monaghan are now enjoying success at **all levels**, not least last weekend's hard-earned win over the Lilywhites.

*Donegal manager, Declan Bonner, speaks to his players out on the Croke Park pitch after their defeat to Dublin in last weekend's game*





All has changed utterly in the Farney county since 'Banty' took charge in 2005 and spearheaded a revival. Because, in many ways, they were in the gutter and the stars seemed further away than ever.

In the three years before McEnaney took over, the county had won nine matches in total and just two in championship.

A 2002 0-8 apiece draw against Waterford was typical. Goalkeeper Shane Duffy later recalled that clash.

"We went down to play in Dungarvan," he said, "and only about 19 players went down on the Saturday evening, we all headed off in cars. Everyone went out that night and got absolutely hammered! We were lucky to draw with them. I was sitting on the bench looking at it, thinking 'we are never going to go anywhere'."

How wrong he was. As the song says, they started at the bottom now they're here – but those last few steps, where the air is thinnest, will be the most difficult.

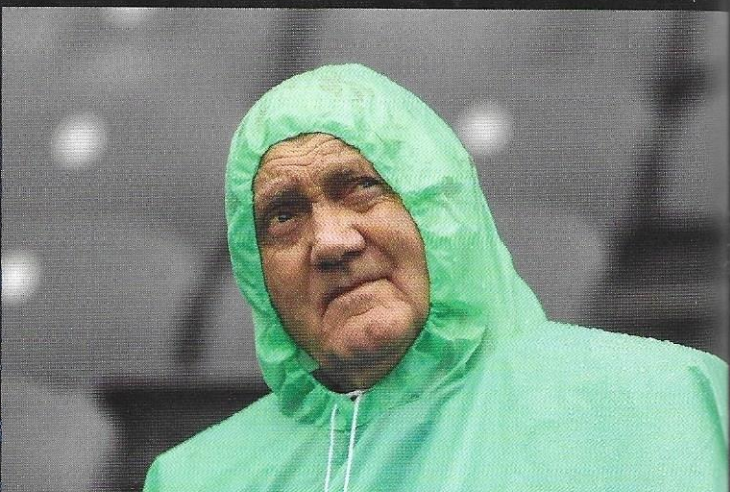
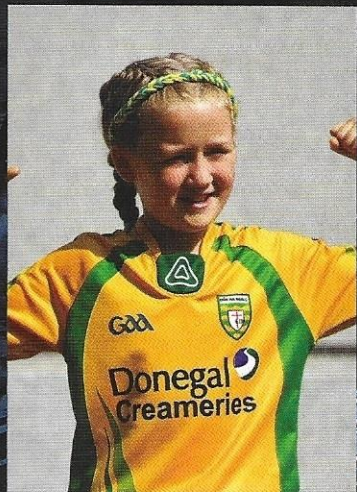
Healy Park in Omagh is a sell-out this weekend as the championship carnival goes on the road again. Mickey Harte will be ignoring the accepted narrative; rest assured, he believes his team can out-manoeuvre the All-Ireland champions, that he can mastermind a fourth Sam Maguire and affirm his position as maybe the greatest manager of them all.

Across the county boundary, Declan Bonner will also have spent the week scheming. Bonner was noticeably animated in the post-match huddle in Croke last weekend. He expected a win against Dublin and he will demand one in the Hyde this time round. The hills are crackling with anticipation.

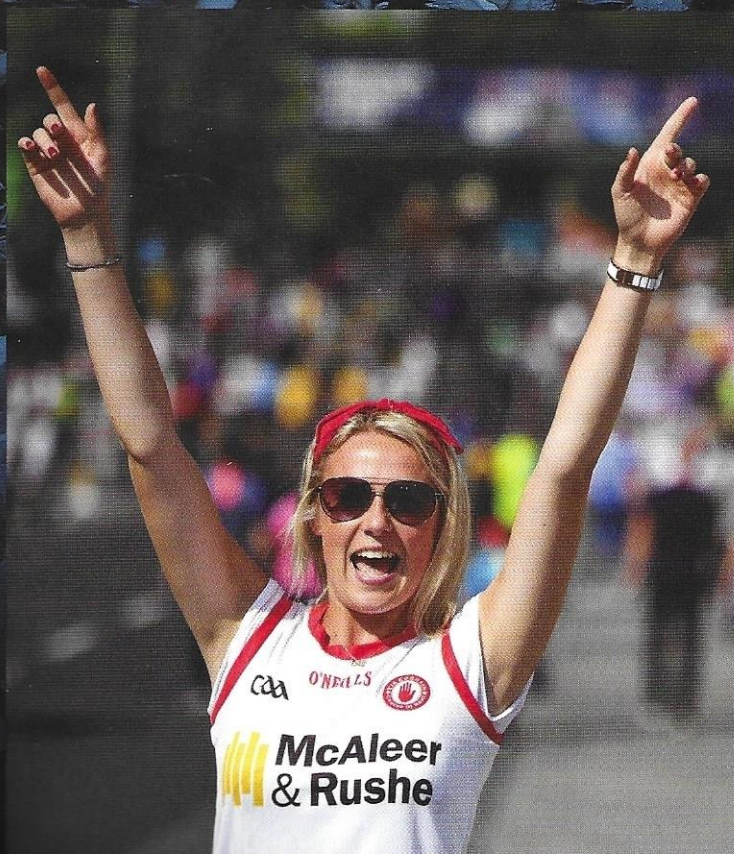
Forget all the talk about damp squibs. This thing is only just starting to ignite.

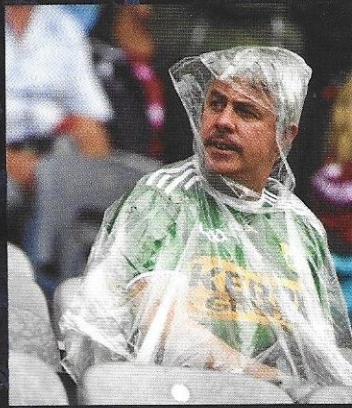
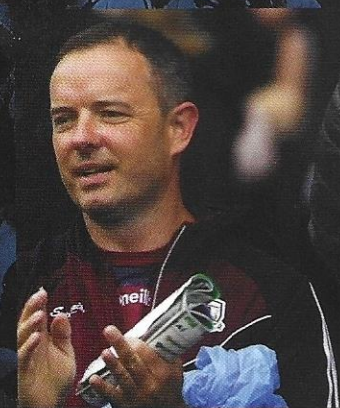
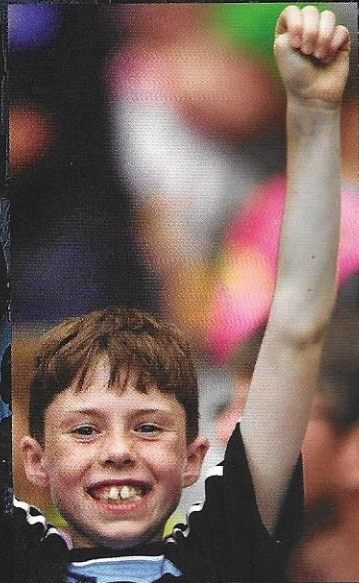
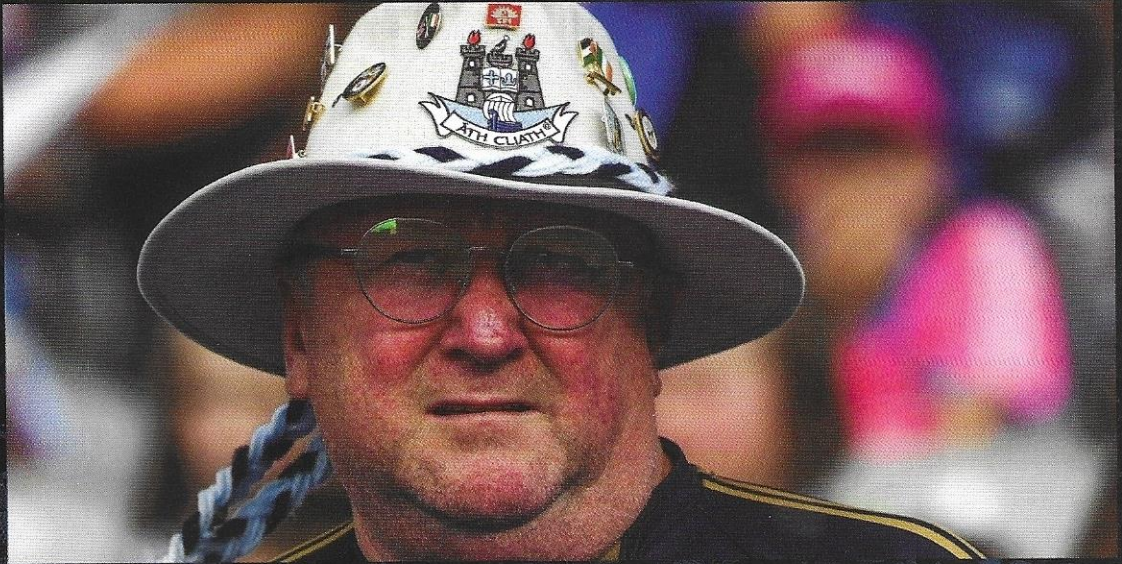


# NOTHING BEATS BEING THERE



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# CÚINNE NA nÓG

## CUARDACH FOCAL

# H

Help Fionn find the county teams and venues he's looking for in the grid below!

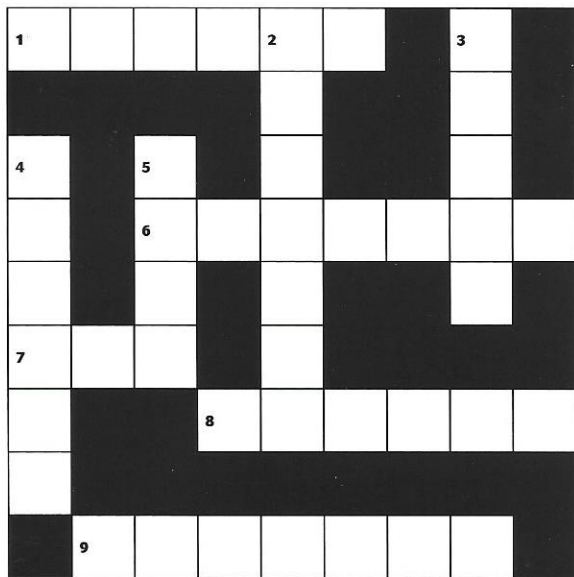
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A	I	P	N	E	N	O	H	A	R	Y	X	H	M	I
G	F	R	R	H	N	D	W	U	V	A	P	A	U	B
E	D	R	O	A	N	L	J	N	C	R	D	G	U	Z
N	Y	U	G	S	A	M	P	R	L	S	I	L	I	W
O	E	H	B	G	C	T	Y	R	O	N	E	H	I	O
D	A	F	I	L	K	O	E	D	N	B	N	H	D	K
N	W	E	K	U	I	R	M	K	E	O	E	M	D	U
E	K	O	R	C	F	N	A	M	S	I	W	J	A	F
O	F	Y	A	N	G	K	E	P	O	Q	B	U	S	W
V	M	D	J	J	A	X	Z	Z	D	N	R	I	Y	U
L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F	P	C	C	I	G	Z	C
X	N	C	E	Z	V	Z	G	L	L	I	D	W	X	K
R	Q	N	C	F	G	F	N	T	Q	K	G	G	X	G
R	G	N	U	B	K	M	B	E	Q	M	E	D	V	E

KILDARE  
GALWAY  
KERRY  
MONAGHAN

ROSCOMMON  
DONEGAL  
TYRONE  
DUBLIN

FOOTBALL  
CROKE PARK  
NEWBRIDGE  
CLONES

# CROSFHOCAL



## TRASNA

1. Fuair an Niall seo dhá chúil do BÁC in aghaidh Dhún na nGall.
2. Dúirt Ed amhráin i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i mí Bealtaine.
3. Bíonn deora i do shúile nuair a bhíonn tú 'ag \_ \_ \_ "
4. Brian Mór Áth Cliath i lár na páirce
5. Imríonn an Tommy seo i lár na páirce do Chill Dara.

## SÍOS

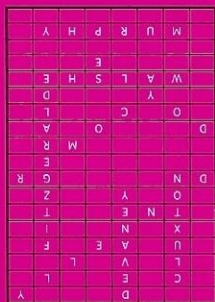
2. Rory - Cúl Báire na Gaillimhe.
3. Do Chiarraí a imríonn an David seo i lár na páirce.
4. Cúl báire Mhuineachán.
5. Ainmí a mbíonn cluasa móra air.

# NA CAPTAEIN

Tá ainmneacha gach captaen atá ar na foirne atá san iomaíocht ar na babhtaí ceathrú ceannais peile le fáil san alt Gaeilge atá sa gclár seo. Tá siad i bhfolach freisin sa tomhas seo, cuid acu síos, trasna, ar chlaonadh etc. Aimsigh iad.

R	N	A	A	H	A	L	B
T	R	G	D	A	G	H	Y
C	C	B	E	I	U	L	C
N	L	A	V	I	L	N	A
S	U	A	A	E	N	F	I
T	X	T	N	H	C	I	L
G	T	N	E	A	L	T	T
A	O	N	Y	R	H	Z	H
D	N	C	O	A	H	G	R
H	E	D	R	S	L	E	A
B	A	B	U	E	M	R	U
D	R	Z	Y	O	X	A	C
I	O	H	C	D	E	L	L
U	Y	Y	H	B	R	D	X
N	W	A	L	S	H	E	T
S	R	Y	A	E	B	A	O
F	M	U	R	P	H	Y	R
G	A	K	M	U	S	S	D

## FREAGRAÍ



- CROSFHOCAL
- TRASNA
1. Scully.
  2. Lavelle
  3. Moran
  4. Began
  5. Asal
- SÍOS
6. Sheeran
  7. Gol
  8. Fenton
  9. Moolick

# STADIUM SAFETY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Supporters are asked to respect the fact that they are entering and leaving the stadium through residential areas

- All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Ground Regulations and to the Rules and Regulations of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these Rules and Regulations.
- Fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glass, cans, flags, banners, poles and other similar articles or canisters including anything which could or might be used as a weapon, are not permitted within the ground and any person in possession of such an article or container may be refused entry or ejected from the ground.
- Spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground/area.
- The climbing of walls, stands or other buildings in the ground is forbidden.
- Excessive noise such as that from the use of radio sets and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language is not permitted in any part of the ground.
- Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any object onto the pitch.
- Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter onto the field of play and may be ejected from the ground.
- In general, The Ground Management reserves the right of admission.
- The Ground Management reserves the right to refuse admission or to eject any person who refuses to be searched by a member of An Garda Síochána.
- Any person who remains in a gangway may be ejected.
- The GAA event promoters reserves the right for its servants or agents to remove from the ground any person who does not comply with the ground regulations or whose presence on the ground could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.
- Smoking is forbidden in enclosed areas of stadium.
- Security Cameras are in operation throughout the stadium.



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