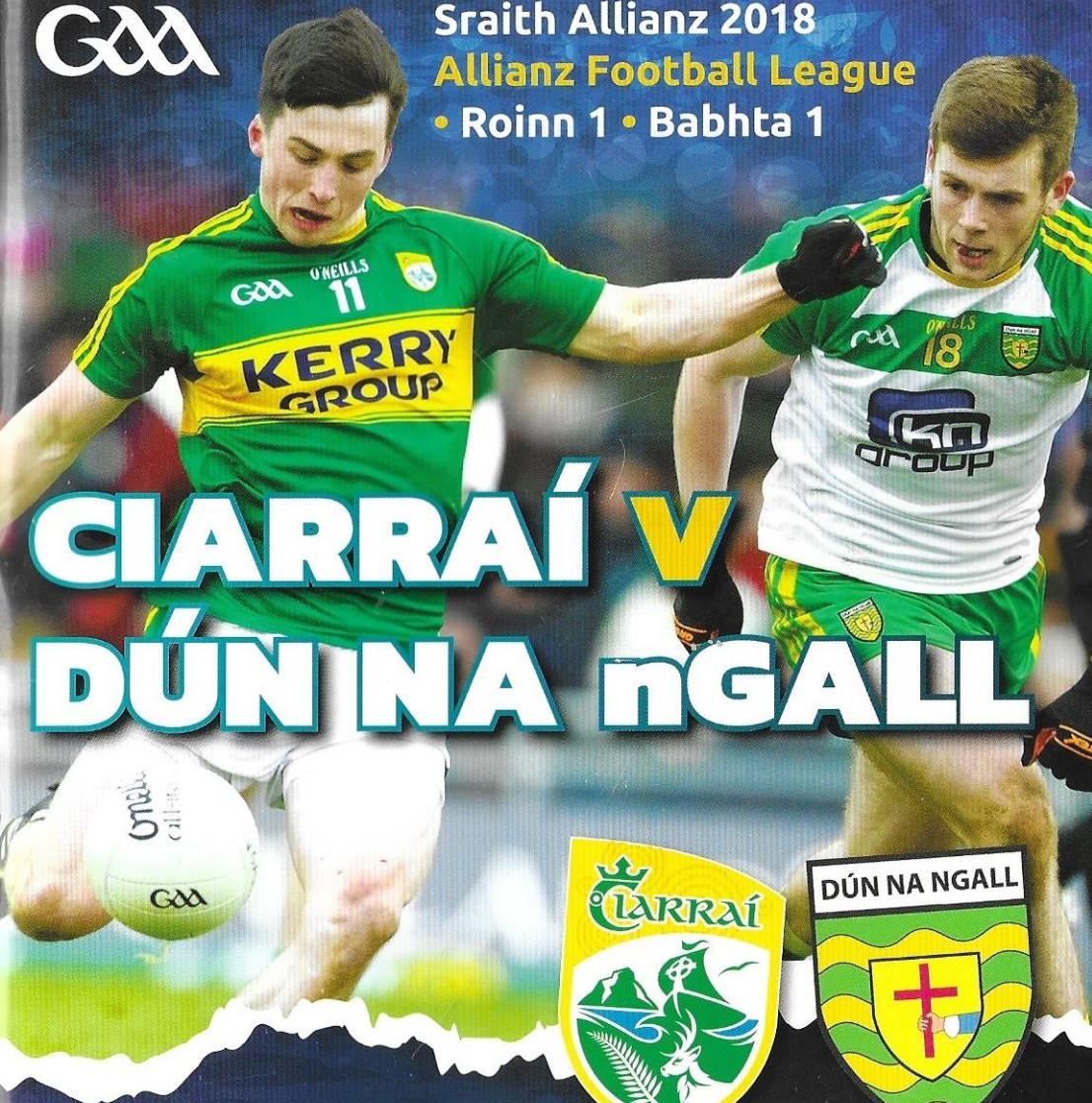


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Fáiltiú an Chathaoirligh



A Chairde Uilig,

Tá Fíor Chaoin fáilte romhaibh go léir go dtí Stáid an Ghearlaigh tráthnóna inniu chuig an Chéad cluiche Allianz Sráid Peile 1 2018 idir Dún na nGall, ár gCuartheoirí agus Ciarraí.

I extend a hearty welcome to the players, officials and supporters from Donegal who have made the long trip to this first round of the 2018 Allianz National Football League Div 1 in Fitzgerald Stadium Killarney.

I think the sense of anticipation and expectation from both sets of supporters has been building all week. Kerry come here today as Allianz League Champions for 2017 with a number of players making their debuts. Similarly Donegal come to Killarney with a relatively new look team under the Stewardship of recently appointed manager Declan Bonner.

130 years of GAA in Kerry

The Kerry branch of the Gaelic Athletic Association was founded in 1888 so 2018 marks the 130th Anniversary of Cumann Luchcleas Gael in our County. To mark this historic occasion we are launching our new "Away Jersey" on next Saturday evening in the second round league fixture against Mayo at McHale Park Castlebar.

Paul Galvin has again assisted us in what is a joint collaboration with Kerry CLG and O'Neill's in designing the away jersey. Again, I wish to take the opportunity to thank Paul for his expertise and input.

New training Centre & the Future

Our Senior football team used the new facility for the first time this week. After many years in the offing the dream has finally become a reality through the hard work and dedication of many people.

I think this marks the beginning of a new era for Kerry GAA as we now have a state of the art facility where all our training and preparation can take place in one location.

As previously mentioned I feel the timing of the development is opportune with many of our successful All Ireland minor winning players now beginning to make the breakthrough to senior ranks as is evidenced in today's lineup.

The 3 year programme of supports which I outlined last September with a particular emphasis on player development and progression together with strength and conditioning is now firmly underway. Our new centre in Currans will enable us to deliver this programme within a state of the art facility in a co-ordinated and streamlined fashion.

Bryan Sheehan

On behalf of Coiste Chontae Chiarraí CLG and all the Gaels of Kerry both at home and abroad I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of one of Kerry's greatest servants – Bryan Sheehan of the St. Mary's Club in Caherciveen who retired from Senior Inter-County football since the end of our 2017 season.

Bryan's status and contribution to the game not only here in Kerry but nationally cannot be overstated. He was a leader on the field and we all owe him both a huge debt of gratitude. We wish Bryan and his family all the very best in the future.

Fitzgerald Stadium Committee

We are indebted to the Fitzgerald Stadium Committee who present us with excellent facilities to play our games – a special word of thanks to them.

BUÍOCHAS

Thanks to all our supporters and patrons who travelled here today and we all hope that this year's Allianz League will again deliver high quality exciting football for all to enjoy. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh an taitneamh as an cluiche seo inniu.

Tadhg O'Murchú, CATHAOIRLEACH

BUÍOCHAS

My thanks to all who contributed to today's Match Programme, the proceeds of which are going towards the upkeep of Fitzgerald Stadium. Leona Twiss O'Brien, PRO Kerry County Committee

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Réiteoir: Paddy Neilan (Ros Comáin)
Standby Referee: Jerome Henry (Maigh Eo)
Linesman: Rory Hickey (An Clár)
Sideline Official: David Murnane (Corcaigh)

COVER PHOTO: Paul Murphy (Ciarraí) in action against Eoghan Gallagher (Dún na nGall) in the National Football League, Division 1 game at Austin Stack Park in 2016. Photo: Kerry's Eye

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They created the idea of a Stadium. Along with their contemporaries they erected a fitting memorial to one of the greatest footballers of all - Dick Fitzgerald. A suitable field was found and Dr. Crokes Club purchased a field from Dan Courtney at Kilcoolaght at a price of £750.

Over the next four years that field was transformed into a first class stadium.

To quote Dr Eamon O'Sullivan, “Members and supporters did not spare themselves, particularly on Thursdays and also working into late evenings during the summer months. Great help also came from members of the St. Finians Hospital staff, among them Denso Hurley, Myo Murphy and Tim O'Donoghue along with about 50 patients from the hospital.

Fitzgerald Stadium was officially opened in 1936 and now stands as a fitting memorial not alone to Dick Fitzgerald but to all those who dedicated their time and labour.

FOOTNOTE:

Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan trained Kerry Senior Football Teams to win 8 All-Ireland winning titles in 5 different decades. Eugene O'Sullivan, Kerry captain 1902, Kerry County Board Chairman 1903-1908. “Small Jer” O'Leary, Kerry Minor Selector 1931-1933, Kerry Senior Selector 1936-1939.

After the 1913 All-Ireland Football Final replay, “Small Jer” was with, among others, Dick Fitzgerald, Austin Stack, Michael Crowe and Harry Boland in Wynne's Hotel, Dublin. They were discussing the possibility of purchasing a pitch at Jones's Road with the owner. There was £1000 between the purchaser and the seller and Jerry suggested that they would divide the difference and the deal was made. Croke Park now stands proudly there.



RIGHT: Photo taken on the eve of the 1937 All-Ireland Hurling Final between Tipperary and Kilkenny which was played in Fitzgerald Stadium. **Left to right:** Small Jer O'Leary, Denso Hurley, Tim Lyne and Eugene O'Sullivan.

New look Kerry face experimental Donegal in interesting league opener

By Murt Murphy

THE Kerry-Donegal rivalry is not as intense as the game in Tralee would have suggested two years ago and in the championship the first time they clashed was in 2012. Last year two goals from full-forward Paul Geaney proved enough for Kerry as they claimed deserved victory over Donegal in their Allianz Football League Division 1 clash in Letterkenny.

Before 6,320 spectators Donegal never looked like winning, but their finish to the game was impressive and Kerry was relieved to hang on to win on a 2-17 to 1-17 scoreline. Kerry and

Donegal will have much changed sides for this meeting in the Fitzgerald Stadium with Kerry definitely without eight of the starters last February, and they include Mark Griffin, Killian Young, Tom O'Sullivan, Peter Crowley, David Moran, Tadhg Morley, Jonathan Lyne and Donnchadh Walsh and in all Kerry will be without 19 players for a variety of reasons.

Kerry manager Eamonn Fitzmaurice is not worried as he is sure to introduce some of the younger players that many have been clamoring for over the past twelve months. Eamonn Fitzmaurice wants to work on a three year plan that has been devised to cater for the emerging talent that is the fruits of four All-Ireland Minor wins in a row. "We're very conscious at the moment that we're in a three-year plan and to bring the young talent in the county from minor success to senior which, as you all know, is a considerable jump. We have a group training at the moment, as well. When we announce the squad for the Donegal game, you'll see who is there. There are some experienced fellas, but there are players in there who haven't got as much game-time as we would have liked to have given them. It is an opportunity for them to play. You have Jason Foley; Shane Enright is there, in terms of experienced bodies, Cormac Coffey, Paul Murphy, Gavin Crowley, Matthew Flaherty, Andrew Barry and Ronan Shanahan. Killian Spillane is there. Barry John Keane is there."

But the Kerry boss warns that it is going to be experimental on Sunday and throughout the league.

"We are happy with the group that is training. It is going to be inexperienced. There is going to be a share of experimentation throughout the national league. When you are committing to a three-year plan, you have to experiment and you have to give players their head. We are very conscious of that. With the national league, we have always taken it game-by-game. We are looking at the Donegal game. We have a fantastic opportunity to give players game-time, show them what a step up it is. Last year, there were an awful lot of fellas who played in the league and went on and made championship debuts afterward, the likes of Jack Savage, Jack Barry, Tom Sullivan, and Kevin McCarthy. A lot of those fellas wouldn't have been seen as possible championship players this time



last year. They proved throughout the league that they could go on and compete at a championship level. It will be similar this year. We will be looking at players, seeing who can handle it, seeing who needs to develop further. We are trying to strengthen our squad. We will be trying to win every game."

But for now Fitzmaurice says the focus is on Donegal. "The mindset is the Donegal game. I don't want to get bogged down in three-year plans. We are thinking about the Donegal game and developing the squad throughout the league to be as competitive as we possibly can come championship. That is the same as every year; it is same as it was in 2013. It is important for the county to have a plan to develop all these players."

Donegal are going well reaching the final of the Dr McKenna Cup and have some of the minors that were beaten by Kerry in 2014 minor final, players like Stephen McMenamin, Tony McClenaghan, Caolan McGonagle and Stephen McBrearty and they have impressed new boss in Declan Bonner who is starting a three year term. Patrick McBrearty will take some stopping and if Micheal Murphy and the McHugh's are back, then Kerry could face a tough afternoon.

Eamonn Fitzmaurice feel that Donegal might have the edge in match fitness "Donegal will be probably more [match fit] but they don't have 19 injuries. While we are focused on the Donegal game, we have to be conscious that we have three-game in-a-row. It wasn't very appetising to be thinking about playing McGrath Cup in late December right up to before the national league. That was the proposal, that there would be four round-robin games and then a final. For me, to be playing eight games in-a-row at this time of year, throw Sigerson into the mix, it wasn't going to work. I take the point in match sharpness; they will definitely be sharper than us."

But Fitzmaurice is expecting a battle on Sunday "There will be a lot of players from the 2014 All-Ireland minor final on both teams. That'll be interesting in itself. A new manager is always going to bring new energy and a new dynamic. A new style, too, perhaps. He has been there before; he is coming back with new ideas. The first game is the one where you are not too sure about the opposition because they won't have played a game. We'll just be prepared for Donegal and the challenge they bring. I am sure they are tough."

So as the supporters wonder will David Clifford start or not, what is certain is that Kerry's "boy wonder" will get some game time and that is sure to get the loudest cheer of the afternoon. It would be pointless to try and analyse a game with no idea of what the



Kerry captain Fionn Fitzgerald in action. Photo: Kerry's Eye

Peter Crowley, Kerry, in action against Hugh McFadden, Donegal, in the National Football League, Division 1 tie at Austin Stack Park in 2016. Photo: Kerry's Eye



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COISTE SCÓR CHIARRAÍ

by Jack Hennessy

Exciting times ahead for Coiste Scór Chiarraí with the first of the three competitions; Scór Na nÓg which is for Under 17 coming to the concluding stage

Three Clubs have made it to the All Ireland Finals **Dr. Crokes**, East Kerry Board will cross swords with the remaining 31 Counties in the Quiz

Spa, East Kerry Board will go in as reigning All Ireland Scór Na nÓg Set Dancing champions; **Na Gaeil**

Tralee/St. Brendans Board will be appearing in their first ever All Ireland Final at Scór Na nÓg in Léiriú. The Tráth na nGeist will take place in the Pegasus Ballroom, Clayton Hotel commencing at 11.00 am. The other competitions will take place in the Knockree Arena, Sligo I.T

Moving on to Scór Sinsear; sponsored by Estuary Print, Ballylongford which is pencilled in for Saturday February 24th in the Muire Gan Smál, Presentation Primary School, Castleisland. All Clubs in Kerry are urged to commence preparations now by encouraging participation of their members in the various Scór competitions.

Dates and venues for Scór Na nÓg Léiriú which is for National School Children are to be confirmed.



Na Gaeil - Scór Na nÓg Léiriú Winners



Spa - Scór Na nÓg Rince Seit Winners



Dr Crokes - Scór Na nÓg Quiz Winners

BLIAIN NA GAEILGE le Christy Killeen (Kerry GAA Cultural Officer)

2018 is designated as "Blain na Gaeilge" - the year of the Irish language in Ireland and overseas, the main aim is to celebrate our native language and to encourage greater use of Gaeilge in our daily lives. Today we invite you to avail of the opportunity to speak the "cúpla focal" to each other, mar shampla - Dia Dhuit, Failte Rómhat, Conas atá tu, Tá sé Fuair inniu!, Cen t-am é anois, Cluiche an Mhaith atá again, Sin cúlín an mhaith, Cé hé an Reiteóir Inniu, Thuigim, Go raibh maith agat, Buíochas, Slán go Fóil, Le cúnadh Dé and so on - the list is endless. We all have a store of Gaeilge in us from our school days - **let's use it and speak it a little more this year.** We should celebrate

the vibrancy of our language and culture, increase its usage and profile, share ownership of it and normalise it within our community. We can ensure renewal and survival of our Irish language by speaking a little Gaeilge often - the key is "little and often".

The new challenge for us as GAA supporters, (Lucht Leanúna) is to use and share a cúpla focal and Irish Proverbs with work colleagues and particularly at games and meetings - with support and encouragement we can make a difference.

Usáid agus Labhair cúpla focail Gaeilge inniu agus Amárach freisin. Go n-éirí leat.

Bryan Sheehan a Players' Player and a Fan Favourite

By Donal Barry

THERE will be a stage in today's contest when Kerry will win a free from distance, it could well be a very important one at a crucial stage in the game where somebody watching will utter the words "Sheehan would have kicked that".

That in itself will be the ultimate tribute to the man who quietly handed back his Kerry jersey last November ending a 17 year career wearing the green and gold in which he captained the Kingdom at minor, under 21 and senior level. It is a remarkable fact that is often hidden among the many achievements of the modest St Mary's Cahirciveen player.

Maybe the five time All Ireland winner's destiny was always charted out for him considering he served his apprenticeship to the master and his mentor Maurice Fitzgerald, who today is a selector for Kerry.

Sheehan in an interview once revealed, "I know my capabilities and the way I see it, every time I kick a free I expect to score". A big statement but it's the statement you expect from a player who spent countless hours of his career practicing the art of free taking from the ground. An art that he learned the hard way and something that was born out of tradition in a place where tradition is still very important - South Kerry.

"When I was a young fellow, my father was playing with St Mary's and Maurice Fitzgerald was

just on the Kerry scene at the time. The father use always say to me just watch Maurice, just watch Maurice Fitzgerald so I used to go home and start kicking from the lawn at 13 yards out, then 20 yards out and I started from the age of ten onwards."

It was this ability that was practiced night after night on that lawn that saw him picked at just 15 to represent his county at minor level and it was in a position that many have forgot that he first played, that of goalkeeper.

Once finished his three year career as a minor it was a four year stint as an under 21 before making his Kerry Senior league debut against Offaly in 2005 and he followed this with his championship debut again Tipperary the same year. In the end, he would play 66 times for Kerry in the league and oddly, the same number of times for Kerry in the championship amassing 6-223 and 6-161 respectively in a 14 year career, which saw him, win an All Star in 2011.

In a time when club and county players due to the intensive nature of their schedules seem to be growing apart, the three time league winner was one who swam against the tide consistently. His tradition and love of the game made him part of the club fabric and many will agree that he has been one of the few county players who constantly shone brightest in his club and district jersey.

A haul of ten South Kerry titles for his native St Mary's. Two intermediate county medals (one as a minor) and a county Junior title were only steps along the way to helping his native club to All Ireland club titles in 2011 (Junior) and 2016 (Intermediate).

When the call to arms for South Kerry came, Sheehan too answered the call in the most glorious of fashions winning five



County Senior titles. Sometimes he was a victim of his own success as his elegance from a dead ball often overshadowed his talent as a superb footballer.

Last October Sheehan probably put in his finest hour in a South Kerry jersey as he hauled South Kerry from the brink of defeat to Kerins O'Rahillys in the county semi-final. It was a day that by his standards his free kicking was wayward with no return from a dead ball but he hit three massive points to become the driving force for his team and with Maurice Fitzgerald and Mick O'Dwyer watching on from the stand, the heartbeat of tradition shone through.

A week later as we attended the South Kerry press night ahead of last year's County Final. One man stayed back in the mist of Con Keating Park as the gentle South Kerry rain drifted down from Beentee. Sheehan remained on the field practicing his kicks once again. Shooting towards Barr Na Sráide he nailed 14 of his 15 kicks all from distances beyond 40M. Once completed the two excited young boys behind the goal kicked them back out for him to start all over again.

It was something that he used do as a child for Maurice Fitzgerald and Sheehan famously recalls how he remembers Maurice score that Semple Stadium wonder point against Dublin in 2001 from the sideline in Con Keating Park.

"Maurice asked me to go for a kick-around the Wednesday night before the game. I was in the goal kicking it out to him. He went out to the stand side, outside of his boot and over the bar. Over to the other side and did the exact same thing with his left leg."

Sheehan did not get to see the game live on TV as he was on holidays but "The uncle rang when we were on holidays, and said Maurice kicked a screamer from the sideline to draw the game. When we came back and watched the video, I said, 'He did that on Wednesday before we left!' That man put in so much practice."

So it would not surprise me that one of those young children behind the goals in years to come will follow in the steps of Sheehan after all that is how apprenticeships are served and Sheehan went from being the apprentice to the master.

Thanks for the good times Bryan, there have been many. Now what to do with that long range free?



Bryan Sheehan in action against Hugh McFadden of Donegal, in a National Football League game at Austin Stack Park, Tralee in 2016. Photo: Kerry's Eye



St. Mary's club celebrating Bryan's career. Left to right: Junior Murphy (Club President), Bryan Sheehan and Mossie Coffey (Club Chairman). Photographer: Alan Landers

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Kerry v Donegal

PREVIOUS LEAGUE MEETINGS

by Tim Slattery

DATE	TEAM	SCORE	TEAM	SCORE	VENUE	STAGE
11/04/65	Kerry	3-10	Donegal	1-8	Croke Park	Semi/Final
20/11/88	Kerry	0-11	Donegal	1-10	Austin Stack Park Tralee	
19/11/89	Kerry	0-10	Donegal	0-11	Fr Tierney Park Ballyshannon	
25/11/90	Kerry	0-12	Donegal	1-12	Fr Tierney Park Ballyshannon	
13/03/94	Kerry	0-11	Donegal	0-9	Austin Stack Park Tralee	
19/03/95	Kerry	0-14	Donegal	0-10	Fr Tierney Park Ballyshannon	
02/04/95	Kerry	1-10	Donegal	1-8	Tuam Stadium	Play/Off
26/11/95	Kerry	1-11	Donegal	0-6	Fr Tierney Park Ballyshannon	
24/11/96	Kerry	2-9	Donegal	2-7	Austin Stack Park Tralee	
26/03/00	Kerry	2-16	Donegal	0-14	Fr Tierney Park Ballyshannon	
08/04/01	Kerry	0-14	Donegal	0-9	Fitzgerald Stadium Killarney	
09/03/03	Kerry	1-12	Donegal	0-8	Fr Tierney Park Ballyshannon	
03/03/05	Kerry	1-9	Donegal	1-10	Sean MacCumhaill Park Ballybofey	
25/03/07	Kerry	0-13	Donegal	1-15	Pairc Ui Dhomhnaill Letterkenny	
02/02/08	Kerry	1-7	Donegal	1-8	Sean MacCumhaill Park Ballybofey	
01/02/09	Kerry	2-13	Donegal	0-11	Austin Stack Park Tralee	
11/03/12	Kerry	2-16	Donegal	1-8	Fitzgerald Stadium Killarney	
10/03/13	Kerry	0-6	Donegal	1-12	Sean MacCumhaill Park Ballybofey	
15/03/15	Kerry	2-13	Donegal	2-11	Austin Stack Park Tralee	
06/03/16	Kerry	1-13	Donegal	1-8	Austin Stack Park Tralee	
05/02/17	Kerry	2-17	Donegal	1-17	Pairc Ui Dhomhnaill Letterkenny	

Kerry and Donegal have met on 21 occasions in the National League, Kerry has 14 Wins and Donegal has 7 Wins.

DID YOU KNOW???

- Kerry and Donegal have played in seven different venues in the National League.
- Donegal's last victory on Kerry soil was thirty years ago in 1988 in Austin Stack Park.
- The McHugh family won 5 All Star Awards, Martin in 83 & 92, James (Brother) in 92, Mark in 2012 and Ryan in 2016.
- Denis 'Ogie' Moran and his son David won All Star Awards, Ogie in 1981 and David in 2014.
- Michael Murphy was Donegal's Top Scorer with 1-22 in the 2017 National League campaign.
- Paul Geaney was Kerry's Top Scorer with 3-41 in the 2017 National League campaign.
- Donegal were Runners-up in the National League Finals in 95 & 96 to Derry.
- Mick O'Dwyer made 93 National League Appearances with Kerry (4th Overall).



Photo: Kerry's Eye

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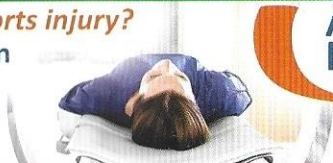


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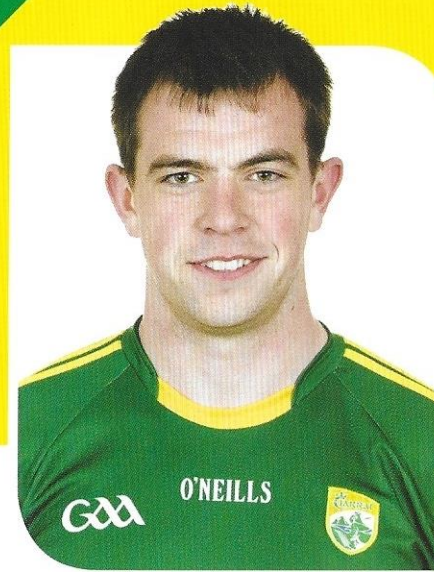
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JACK BARRY



Ciarraí



Club: Na Gaeil

Occupation:
Engineering Student

Childhood GAA hero:
Darragh Ó Sé

Inter-County Debut:
Donegal NFL 2017

Pre Match Superstition:
None

**Song you listen to before a
game:** 'Live Forever' - Oasis

Favourite Venue:
Fitzgerald Stadium

**Most Memorable Sporting
Moment to date:**
Munster Final 2017

**Who would you buy in a
'GAA Transfer Market':**
John Heslin

PERSONAL PROFILE

DATE OF BIRTH: 24/12/1994

WEIGHT: 14 st

HEIGHT: 6ft 4in

One word to describe yourself:
Competitive

**How would you improve the
GAA:** Better defined season

Favourite Food: Boojum

**Favourite Social Media
App:** Bebo

**Advice to young
players:**
Focus on
the basic
skills

PLAYER PROFILE

Ciarraí



1
Seán Ó Murchú
Shane Murphy (c)
Dr. Crokes

2
Cormac Ó Cofaigh
Cormac Coffey
Kerins O'Rahillys

3
Jason Ó Foghlú
Jason Foley
Ballydonoghue

4
Seán Mac Ionrachaigh
Shane Enright
Tarbert

5
Pól Ó Murchú
Paul Murphy
Rathmore

6
Gaibhín Ó Cruallaíoch
Gavin Crowley
Templenoë

7
Ronán Ó Seanacháin
Ronan Shanahan
Austin Stacks

8
Seán de Barra
Jack Barry
Na Gaeil

9
Breandán Ó Súilleabháin
Brendan O'Sullivan
Valentia

10
Micheál Ó Braoín
Micheál Burns
Dr. Crokes

11
Seán Ó Sé
Seán Ó Sé
Kenmare

12
Stiofán Ó Briain
Stephen O'Brien
Kenmare

13
Dáithí Ó Clúmháin
David Clifford
Fossa

14
Pól Ó Géibheannaigh
Paul Geaney
Dingle

15
Barra Seán Ó Catháin
Barry John Keane
Kerins O'Rahillys

- 21. D. Ó Cathasaigh **Dáithí Casey** *Dr. Crokes*
- 22. A. De Barra **Andrew Barry** *Na Gaeil*
- 23. C. Ó Spealáin **Killian Spillane** *Templenoë*
- 24. G. Ó hÓrain **Greg Horan** *Austin Stacks*
- 25. B. Ó Seanacháin **Brian Ó Seanacháin** *Ballydonoghue*
- 26. T. L. Ó Suilleabháin **Tom (Leo) O'Sullivan** *Dingle*

FIR IONAIÐ

- 16. B. Ó Ceallaigh **Brian Kelly** *Killarney Legion*
- 17. S. Ó Donnchú **James O'Donoghue** *Killarney Legion*
- 18. S. Sabhaois **Jack Savage** *Kerins O'Rahillys*
- 19. B. Ó Suilleabháin **Barry O'Sullivan** *Dingle*
- 20. M. Ó Flátharta **Matthew Flaherty** *Dingle*

BAINISTÍOCHT: Bainisteoir: Eamonn Fitzmaurice (Finuge); Roghnóirí: Mikey Sheehy (Austin Stacks), Pádraig Corcoran (Dingle), Liam Hassett (Laune Rangers), Maurice Fitzgerald (St Marys).

Ciarraí	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					



Dún na nGall



1
Marc Antoine Mac Fhionnghaile
Mark Anthony Mc Ginley
Naomh Mícheál

2
Stiofán Mac Meanman
Stephen Mc Menamin
Aodh Rua, Cúil na nCuirridín

3
Caolán Mac an Bháird
Caolan Ward
Naomh Adhamhnáin

4
Éamonn Ó Dochartaigh
Eamonn Doherty
Naomh Adhamhnáin

5
Riain Mac Aodha
Ryan Mc Hugh
Cill Chartha

6
Leo Mac Giolla Uain
Leo Mc Loone
Naomh Conaill

7
Eoghan Bán Ó Gallchóir
Eoghan Bán Gallagher
Na Cealla Beaga

8
Aodh Mac Pháidín
Hugh Mc Fadden (c)
Na Cealla Beaga

9
Nathan Ó Maoláin
Nathan Mullins
Naomh Uinseann, B.A.C.

10
Mairtín Ó Raghallaigh
Martin O'Reilly
Seán Mac Cumhaill

11
Niall Ó Domhnaill
Niall O'Donnell
Naomh Adhamhnáin

12
Caolan Mac Congaill
Caolan Mc Gonigle
Bun Crannacha

13
Pádraig Mac Breartaigh
Patrick Mc Brearty
Cill Chartha

14
Jason Mac Aoidh
Jason Mc Gee
Cloich Cheann Fhaola

15
Odhrán Mac Niallais
Odhran Mac Niallais
Gaoth Dobhair

FIR IONAIÐ

- 16. P. Ó Baoill **Peter Boyle** *Aodh Ruadh B.A.S.*
- 17. P. Ó Braonáin **Paul Brennan** *Bun Dobhráin*
- 18. S. Mac Breartaigh **Stephen Mc Brearty** *Cill Chartha*
- 19. C. Mac Fhionnghaile **Ciaran Mc Ginley** *Cill Chartha*
- 20. M. Mac Aodha **Mark Mc Hugh** *Cill Chartha*

- 21. J. Ó Braonáin **Jamie Brennan** *Bun Dobhráin*
- 22. M. Ó Cearrbhail **Mícheál Carroll** *Gaoth Dobhair*
- 23. D. Ó Conchubhair **Darrach O'Connor** *Bun Crannacha*
- 24. D. Ó Baoill **Dáire Ó Baoill** *Gaoth Dobhair*
- 25. C. Mac Thomáis **Ciaran Thompson** *Naomh Conaill*
- 26. A. Mac Leannacháin **Tony Mc Clenaghan** *Bun a Phobail*

BAINISTÍOCHT: Bainisteoir: Declan Bonner; Assistant Manager: Paul McGonigle; Maor Foirne: Anthony McGrath; Selector: Gary Boyle.

Dún na nGall	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					





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HUGH McFADDEN



**Dún na
nGall**



PERSONAL PROFILE

CLUB: Na Cealla Beaga
FAVOURITE POSITION:
Midfield

Favourite Pitch:

McDevitt Park (Old Fintra)

Hobbies: Soccer, Cards

Childhood hero: Roy Keane,
Daniel Breslin, Colm McFadden

Best Player you have played with:
Michael Murphy

Best Player you have played against:
David Moran

**Best game you have been involved
in:** Dublin v Donegal 2014
All Ireland Semi Final

Best game you have ever seen:
Donegal v Cork 2012

Best trainer within the squad:
Ryan McHugh

Worst trainer within the squad:
Eoghan Ban Gallagher

Worst training drill:
Anything with running

Best motivator within the squad: Neil
McGee would have a word or two to say

Pre Match meal: Soup and Sandwiches

Any superstitions: None really

Favourite Song: Homes of Donegal

Favourite Film: Gladiator

Favourite Holiday Destination: Dubai

Favourite Drink: Pint of Coke

Favourite Meal:
Melly's Fish and Chips Killybegs

Biggest influence on career: My Dad

Club Volunteer of note: Peter McGinley

Song you listen to before big games:
'Old Thing Back'

Most important skill: Winning the ball

Biggest Strength in your game:
Emphatic Speed..

**Area of your game you would like to
improve:** Goal scoring

**Which club do you like to see do well
apart from your own:** Donegal Boston
- a lot of our boys from home out there

**Which county do you like to see do well
apart from your own:** Kerry

Advice for youngsters: Play and train
everyday like its your last

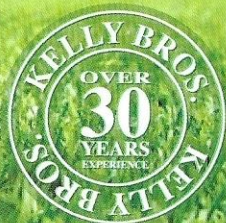
**Young Player within your club to
look out for:** Ryan Cunningham

Best thing about the GAA:
The game of
football itself

Twitter Account:
@hughmcfadden

**Facebook
Account:**
None

PLAYER PROFILE



KELLY BROS

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BALLYDESMOND MALLOW
TEL 064 7751164 FAX 064 7751597
EMAIL info@kellysballydesmond.ie



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www.orona-mwl.ie



Keel GAA Lights Up!

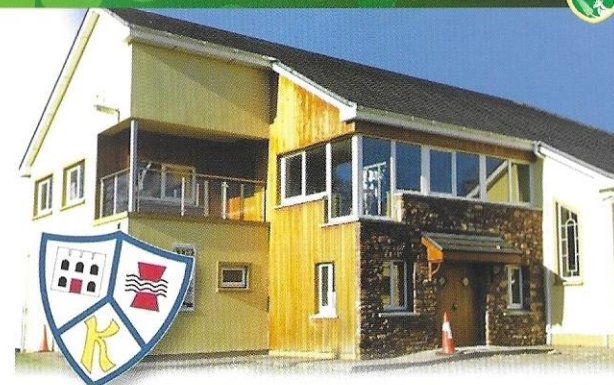
By Seán Ó Liodáin (Cathaoirleach)
& Donal Aghas (Runaí)

"Your local GAA Club is something very special. Wherever I find myself, whether within Kerry or elsewhere in the country, I love it when people ask me "who're your local club?" Responding with "Keel" always evokes a feeling of unique identity and pride". (Brendan Griffin TD Junior Minister at The Dept of Transport, Tourism & Sport)

Keel GAA was founded back in 1889 and since then it has always been at the heart of the community, it is located on the western side of the Castlemaine Parish between the Sliabh Mish Mountains and Castlemaine harbour. The Club is more than just a sporting organisation and sees itself as being part of the greater community.

Keel GAA are delighted to be part of Ireland Lights Up initiative with the GAA and RTE's Operation Transformation. It is a unique initiative designed to encourage health and wellbeing and the bringing together of communities across the 32 counties. We could not be part of this initiative without having the walking facilities at the club. In 2017 we were lucky enough to draw down on a grant from the Sport's Capital Programme funded by Dept of Transport, Tourism and Sport to create a professionally designed hard surface walking track for use by the local community. The track is approximately half a kilometre in length and it is used on a daily basis by young and old. It has been extremely well received by the community of Keel and Castlemaine, the feedback has been fantastic.

As part of Operation Transformation initiative, the club will turn on its flood lights every Monday and Wednesday nights from 7pm to 9pm until the 26th February. Everyone is more than welcome to join us on the walks which are led by our designated leaders who



will give basic safety advice following registration. We advise people to be suitably attired for the elements. Since the walks started, more and more walkers have joined us in the club to enjoy the family friendly atmosphere and be part of the great community spirit

This community spirit was proven once again recently when we needed to bring forward the opening of our new walking facility to enable our club participate in the Light up Ireland initiative as part of Operation Transformation. Despite the inclement weather we had no shortage of volunteers willing to put their shoulder to the wheel to complete the work on time. Down through the years the club has always been well supported in the community. Recently we have seen a large number of new families moving into the parish and their participation in the club has contributed greatly to the success of our underage teams and Coiste nÓg in general.

Looking forward to a successful year ahead for both our Club and County teams.





FIXTURES 2018



PART I

Date	Football	(F) Intercounty	(H) Intercounty	Hurling	Backdoor
Sat Dec 30			Clare v Kerry		
Sun Jan 7			Limerick v Kerry		
Sun Jan 14			Kerry v Cork		
Wed Jan 17		Corn Ui Mhuiri Qtr/F			
Sun Jan 21	Club Int & Jun S/F		Mun Hurl League Final		Club Int & Jun S/F
Sun Jan 28		Kerry v Donegal	London v Kerry		
Sat Feb 3	Club Int & Jun Finals	Mayo v Kerry			Club Int & Jun Finals
Sat Feb 3		Corn Ui Mhuiri S/F			
Sun Feb 4			Kerry v Carlow		
Sat Feb 10					
Sun Feb 11		Monaghan v Kerry			
Sat Feb 17	MFL Rd 1	Sigerson Cup			MFL Rd 1
Sat Feb 17	Paidi Ó Sé	Scór na nÓg Finals			Paidi Ó Sé
Sun Feb 18			Kildare v Kerry		
Fri Feb 23		Congress			
Sat Feb 24	Scór Sinsir	Congress	Fitzgibbon Cup		Scór Sinsir
Sat Feb 24		Corn Ui Mhuiri Final			
Sun Feb 25	Dis Comm	Kerry v Galway	Kerry v Meath		Dis Comm
Sat Mar 3	MFL Rd 2	Dublin v Kerry			MFL Rd 2
Sun Mar 4	Dis Comm		Westmeath v Kerry		Dis Comm
Sat Mar 10	MFL Rd 3	Munster Scór Sinsir			MFL Rd 3
Sun Mar 11	SFL Rd 1		AHL Finals		SFL Rd 1
Sat Mar 17	Senior Club Final	Kerry v Kildare			Senior Club Final
Sun Mar 18				SHL Rd 1	
Mon Mar 19	MFL Rd 4				MFL Rd 4
Sat Mar 24				SHL Rd 2	
Sun Mar 25	SFL Rd 2	Tyrone v Kerry			SFL Rd 2
Wed Mar 28		Hogan Cup S/Final			
Fri Mar 30					
Sat Mar 31			Todd Nolan Tournament	SHL Rd 3	
Sun Apr 1	Club Cham Rd 1/SFL Rd 3	AFL Final			Club Cham Rd 1/SFL Rd 3
Mon Apr 2					
Fri Apr 6					
Sat Apr 7		Hogan Cup Final			
Sun Apr 8	Club Cham Rd 1/2				Club Cham Rd 1/2
Wed Apr 11		MFC Rd 1 Tipp v Ky			
Fri Apr 13	MFL Rd 5				MFL Rd 5
Sat Apr 14		Scór Sinsir Finals			
Sun Apr 15	Club Cham Rd 2/3			SHL Rd 4	Club Cham Rd 2/3
Wed Apr 18		MFC Losers Rd 1			
Fri April 20	MFL S/Finals				MFL S/Finals
Sat Apr 21					
Sun Apr 22	Club Cham Rd 3/S-F /SFL Rd 3				Club Cham Rd 3/S-F /SFL Rd 3

Date	Football	(F) Intercounty	(H) Intercounty	Hurling	Backdoor
Tues Apr 24				SHL Rd 5	
Wed Apr 25		MFC Losers Rd 2			
Fri Apr 27	MFL Finals				MFL Finals
Sat Apr 28					
Sun April 29	Club Cham S/F-Finals				Club Cham S/F-Finals
Fri May 4					
Sat May 5					
Sun May 6	Club Finals		Carlow v Kerry		Club Finals
Mon May 7					
Tues May 8		Mun Minor S/Final			
Fri May 11	MFL Finals				MFL Finals
Sat May 12	SFL Rd 4				SFL Rd 4
Sun May 13			Kerry v Laois		
Fri May 18	MFL Finals / JFL Rd 1				JFL Rd 1
Sat May 19					
Sun May 20			Kerry v Westmeath		
Mon May 21				SHL Rd 6	
Sat May 26					
Sun May 27					SFL Rd 5
Wed May 30				SHL Div 2 Rd 1	
Fri June 1	JFL Rd 2				JFL Rd 2
Sat June 2		Munster SFC S/Final			
Sun June 3				SHL Div 2 Rd 2	
Sun June 3	Comortas Peile		Meath v Kerry		Comortas Peile
Mon June 4					
Fri June 8	JFL Rd 3				JFL Rd 3
Sat June 9			Féile na nGael		
Sun June 10	SFL Rd 6		Antrim v Kerry		SFL Rd 6
Wed June 13				SHL Div 2 Rd 3	
Fri June 15		U20 Limerick v Kerry			
Sat June 16					
Sun June 17	SFL Rd 7			SHC Rd 1	SFL Rd 7
Fri June 22	JFL Rd 4	U20 Munster S/Final		SHL Div 2 Rd 4	JFL Rd 4
Sat June 23		Qualifier Rd 2			
Sat June 23		Munster Final			
Sun June 24	SFL Reserve/Dis Com			SHL Rd 7	SFL Reserve/Dis Com
Mon June 25				MHL Rd 1	
Wed June 27		Mun Jun Football Final		SHL Div 2 Rd 5	
Thur June 28	MFC Rd 1				MFC Rd 1
Fri June 29		U20 Munster Final			
Sat June 30		Qualifier Rd 3			
Sat June 30	SFL Rd 8	Féile na nÓg	Tier 2 Final/Reg play-off		SFL Rd 8



ROUND 1

27.01.2018 (Sat)	Páirc an Chrócaigh	19:00	Áth Cliath v Cill Dara
28.01.2018 (Sun)	Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney	14:00	CIARRAÍ V DÚN NA NGALL
	St. Tiernach's Park, Clones	14:00	Muineachán v Maigh Eo
	Pearse Stadium, Salthill	14:30	Gaillimh v Tír Eoghain

ROUND 2

03.02.2018 (Sat)	Elverys MacHale Park, Castlebar	19:00	MAIGH EO V CIARRAÍ
	Healy Park, Omagh	19:00	Tír Eoghain v Áth Cliath
04.02.2018 (Sun)	St Conleth's Park, Newbridge	14:00	Cill Dara v Muineachán
	O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny	14:30	Dún na nGall v Gaillimh

ROUND 3

10.02.2018 (Sat)	Páirc an Chrócaigh	19:00	Áth Cliath v Dún na nGall
11.02.2018 (Sun)	Pearse Stadium, Salthill	14:00	Gaillimh v Maigh Eo
	St Conleth's Park, Newbridge	14:00	Cill Dara v Tír Eoghain
	Páirc Grattan, Inniskeen	14:00	MUINEACHÁN V CIARRAÍ

ROUND 4

24.02.2018 (Sat)	Elverys MacHale Park, Castlebar	19:00	Maigh Eo v Áth Cliath
	St. Mary's Park, Castleblayney	19:00	Muineachán v Tír Eoghain
25.02.2018 (Sun)	Fr. Tierney Park, Ballyshannon	14:00	Dún na nGall v Cill Dara
	Austin Stack Park, Tralee	14:30	CIARRAÍ V GAILLIMH

ROUND 5

03.03.2018 (Sat)	Páirc an Chrócaigh	19:00	ÁTH CLIATH V CIARRAÍ
	Healy Park, Omagh	19:00	Tír Eoghain v Dún na nGall
04.03.2018 (Sun)	Pearse Stadium, Salthill	12.30	Gaillimh v Muineachán
	St Conleth's Park, Newbridge	14:00	Cill Dara v Maigh Eo

ROUND 6

17.03.2018 (Sat)	Austin Stack Park, Tralee	19:00	CIARRAÍ V CILL DARA
18.03.2018 (Sun)	Elverys MacHale Park, Castlebar	14:00	Maigh Eo v Tír Eoghain
	Pearse Stadium, Salthill	14:00	Gaillimh v Áth Cliath
	St. Tiernach's Park, Clones	14:00	Muineachán v Dún na nGall

ROUND 7

25.03.2018 (Sun)	Páirc an Chrócaigh	15:00	Áth Cliath v Muineachán
	MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey	15:00	Dún na nGall v Maigh Eo
	St Conleth's Park, Newbridge	15:00	Cill Dara v Gaillimh
	Healy Park, Omagh	15:00	TÍR EOGHAIN V CIARRAÍ



Coiste na nÓg Ciarraí

By DAMIEN MCCARTHY

IN 2017, Coiste na nÓg Ciarraí celebrated its 50th anniversary. We celebrated the event with a gala night in the Gleneagle Hotel.

This was a world away from the inaugural meeting in 1967. This was held in the CYMS building on Tralee's Denny Street. Johnny Walsh of Ballylongford was the first chairperson with Fr. James Linnane the vice-chairperson. Declan Horgan was the first secretary.

The gala event in the Gleneagle Hotel celebrated the volunteerism of all the persons that have given of their time to facilitate the running of Coiste na nÓg over the last 50 years. Jerry O'Sullivan, Chairperson Munster GAA, Tim Murphy, Chairperson Kerry GAA, Tom Keane Chairperson Kerry Coiste na nÓg all spoke on the common theme of people giving of their time to facilitate the running of Coiste na nÓg. Two Kerry greats spoke on the benefit that they derived from the efforts of officers throughout their careers. Colm Cooper and John Griffin, both spoke on the enjoyment that they have benefited from playing the games that they love.

Jimmy D'Arcy O'Sullivan has written a comprehensive history of Coiste na nÓg Ciarraí. We have a number of copies available. Email your name and address to pro.cng.kerry@gaa.ie to be in with a chance of winning a copy.

As we move into our 51st year, Kerry Coiste na nÓg is busy getting ready for 2018. We have met with all the clubs in Kerry over the last two weeks. These information gathering meetings allow us to grade our competitions for the year ahead.

The next few weeks will be taken up with reviewing the information that we have received and reviewing performances by clubs in previous years. We will then decide the grading for our clubs and publish our leagues. Wednesday Night Football will return on the 28th of March with the commencement of our U14 Leagues.

After 50 years of facilitating Coiste na nÓg competitions we look forward to many more successful years of promoting the games we love to the children of Kerry. *Mol an Óige agus Tíocfaidh sí.*

CAOGA BLIAIN
AG FÁS

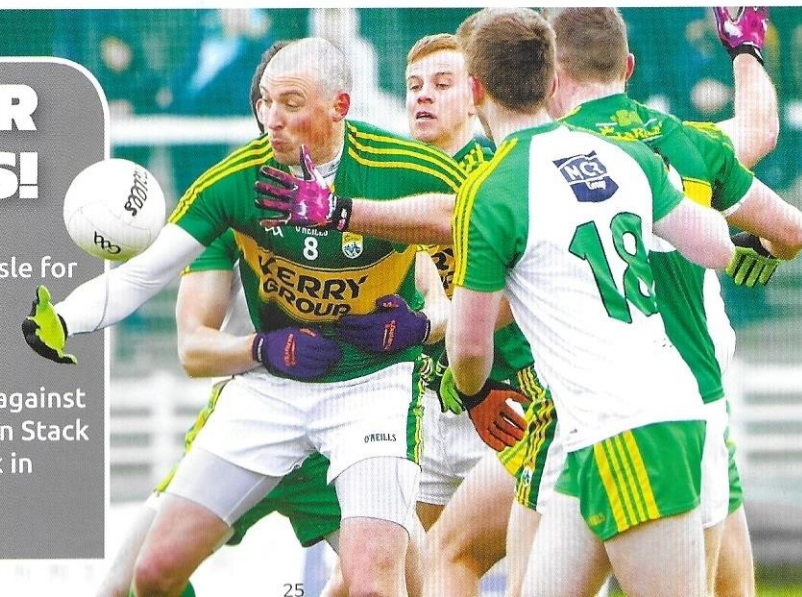
A History of
Coiste na nÓg Ciarraí



UP FOR GRABS!

Kerry's Kieran Donaghy in a tussle for possession in the National Football League Division 1 game against Donegal at Austin Stack Park, Tralee back in March 2016.

Photo: Kerry's Eye





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Down Memory Lane

KERRY HIT TOP FORM TO DEFEAT DONEGAL IN THE 1965 LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL

By Tom Morrison

DESPITE having to line out without players in the calibre of Johnny Culloty, Niall Sheehy and Mick O'Connell, Kerry steadied commendably to defeat Donegal by 3-10 to 1-8 before 19,773 spectators on the first Sunday of April 1965.

It was inevitable that this was going to be a tough contest as Donegal were going well and had no shortage of good players. In the end experience counted as Donie and Denis O'Sullivan, Mick Morris and Jehr D O'Connor provided a real threat at the back and were backed up by Pat Griffin and Mick Fleming who looked well capable of grinding down their opponents in the middle of the field.

Up front Joe Joe Barrett, Dave Geaney and Mick O'Dwyer shared the goals. Donegal had two chances of goals but Teddy Bowler proved his worth with a couple of capital saves. At the interval Donegal's position was beyond redemption with an eight-point deficit but they made an attempt to rescue the match when John Hannigan scored a wonderful goal.

Jimmy Lucey came on to the side for the final against Galway. The teams were level four times during the hour. Seamus Leydon's goal was the killer and the Connacht men held on to win the trophy on a 1-7 to 0-8 scoreline.

DONEGAL: John D McMenamin, Hugh Travers, Paul Kelly, Sean O'Donnell, Bernard Brady, Brendan McFeely (Capt), Sean Ferriter, Frank McFeely, Declan O'Carroll, PJ Flood, Frankie Campbell, Mickey McMcLoone, John Hannifin, Des Houlihan. Subs: Antoin Carroll, Tony McDevitt, Fionn Gallagher, Brendan Dowling, John Bonnar, Brian McEniff.

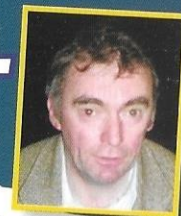
KERRY: Teddy Bowler, Donie O'Sullivan, Paudie O'Donoghue, Mick Morris (Capt), Denis O'Sullivan, Jehrde O'Connor, Seamus Murphy, Pat Griffin, Mick Fleming, Bernie O'Callaghan, Mick O'Dwyer, Dave Geaney, Joe Joe Barrett, Vincent Lucey, Sean Burrows. Subs: Johnny Culloty, Derry O'Shea, Pat Hanley, Seamus Fitzgerald, Mick O'Connell, Niall Sheehy.





KERRY v DONEGAL

A Preview by Gerry McLaughlin (Donegal)



FOR natives, Donegal is its own mantra, the special place where the wind sings the secrets of Noirin Bawn, and the mountains lie like sleeping Gods. We are the Kerry Kingdom of the North West (and our real jersey will always be the old green and gold) and we will never forget a golden September Sunday in 1992 when our Gaelic football mountainy men walked in the shadow of Paradise in Croke Park, Ireland's greatest field of dreams. Our captain Anthony Molloy took Sam Maguire home to his native Leim A Ghabra. He wore the timeless dignity of his own Hills like a Gaelic chief, on a day when we walked like gods and drank deep from the wine red rose of victory and left the Dubs drowning in the wild waves of defeat.

And there were more glory days in 2012 when Jim McGuinness guided us to our second All-Ireland title and there were so many more happy days. Oh and we beat Kerry along the way in the All-Ireland Quarter-Final which was a pretty big deal. But there are two nightmares that in almost 30 years of covering GAA that this correspondent struggles to shake off.

One is the spectre of Paul Geaney rising high above Paddy McGrath and hitting the net early on and the second is Paul Durcan kicking the ball straight at a grateful Kieran Donaghy in an All-Ireland final that slipped away from us.

Just over three years on we head to Killarney with a new manager, a young team and a son of Brian Mullins called Nathan who is an impressive midfielder.

Donegal is in transition, but have 13 players in the squad who are either 6 feet or more. Some of them have a bit of filling out to do but they have loads of skill and pace. Declan Bonner has vowed to cut down on the "Gaelic Handball" and Donegal have been putting the boot in, in a much more positive way in the Dr McKenna Cup.

We have had a few feisty encounters with Kerry in recent years so Sunday's showdown in Killarney will be no different. Michael Murphy, Neil McGee, Frank McGlynn, Paddy McGrath and Martin McElhinney are not available for a few weeks. So our team will contain a number of fresh faces hoping to make their mark where it really matters.

We hear that Kerry will be doing a bit of experimenting as well and that maybe the precocious David Clifford might be making his debut. It will be a very tough assignment for us especially if Paul Geaney, James O'Donoghue, Anthony Maher, Paul Murphy, Darran O'Sullivan, Barry John Keane are all lurking with intent.

This will be a big test for our young team and for new manager Declan Bonner.

Most people come to Killarney for the craic, and I always found that my heart and pocket was always much lighter by the time I got around to go home. But Declan Bonner and his boys are not just coming down for the scenery in the syrupy south.

Either way, they will find out where they really are later this afternoon!

GROUND RULES & REGULATIONS

1. 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.
2. Fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glass, cans, flags, banners, poles and other similar articles or canisters including 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.
3. The consumption of intoxicating liquor is not permitted and spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground/area.
4. The climbing of pylons, stands or other buildings is not permitted.
5. Unnecessary noise such as that from the use of radio sets, air horns 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.
6. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any object on to the pitch.
7. Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter on to the field of play and may be ejected.
8. Any person who fails to comply with instructions from a Steward may be ejected from the ground.
9. In general, the Ground Management reserves the right of admission.
10. The Ground Management reserves the right to refuse admission or to eject any person

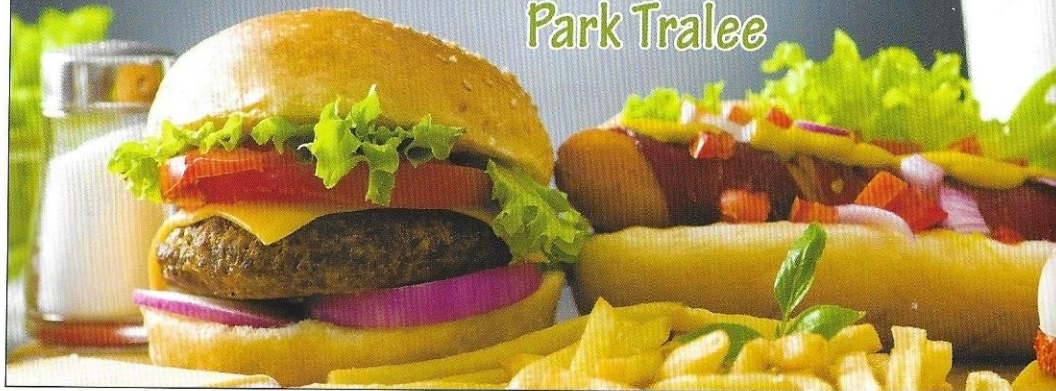


who refuses to be searched by a member of An Garda Siochana.

11. Any person who remains in a gangway may be ejected.
12. The GAA, event promoters reserve 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.
13. All persons in the ground are reminded of their obligations under Section 18 (3) of the Fire Services Act, 1981, to ensure that behaviour does not present a danger from fire to anyone.
14. The Stand is a NO SMOKING AREA

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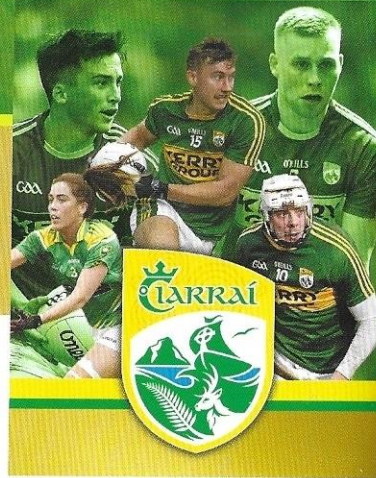


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Kerry County Committee

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The name and address of each subscriber along with their email address and mobile number will be registered with Coiste Chontae Chiarraí. It will be the responsibility of the subscriber to notify Coiste Chontae Chiarraí of any changes to their details.

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ENTITLEMENTS

Right to Purchase

- Stand ticket for All Ireland Senior Football Final involving Kerry
- Stand ticket for All Ireland Senior Football Semi-Final involving Kerry
- Stand ticket for All-Ireland Senior Football Quarter Finals ('Super 8' Series) involving Kerry for:
 - Croke Park fixture
 - Home fixture
 - Away Fixture (subject to availability)
- Stand ticket for All Ireland Senior Football Qualifiers involving Kerry (subject to availability)
- Stand ticket for Munster Senior Football Championship games (including Final) in Killarney involving Kerry
- Stand ticket for Munster Senior Football Championship games (including Final) in Pairc Uí Chaoimh involving Kerry.
- Stand Ticket for all other Munster Senior Football Championship Games (subject to availability)
- Stand ticket for National League Final involving Kerry
- One Ticket per Unit purchased in this scheme



Application: Application must be accompanied by full payment.

Tickets: Details for each match, including cost of tickets, will be emailed to Scheme Members in advance of game. They will also be published on the Kerry GAA website and social media sites.

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THE LITTLE THINGS CAMPAIGN

Physical and Mental Fitness are important. Kerry GAA through the County Health & Wellbeing Committee supports the 'Little Things' campaign, which aims to help build Mental Fitness and emotional wellbeing. The 'Little Things' campaign has three messages: We all go through tough times. When we do, **little things can make a big difference** to our mental health: Keep Active, Talk about how you feel, Do Things with others, Eat Healthily, Stay in Touch, Drink Less Alcohol. Look out for others, Sleep Well and Find the little things that work for you.

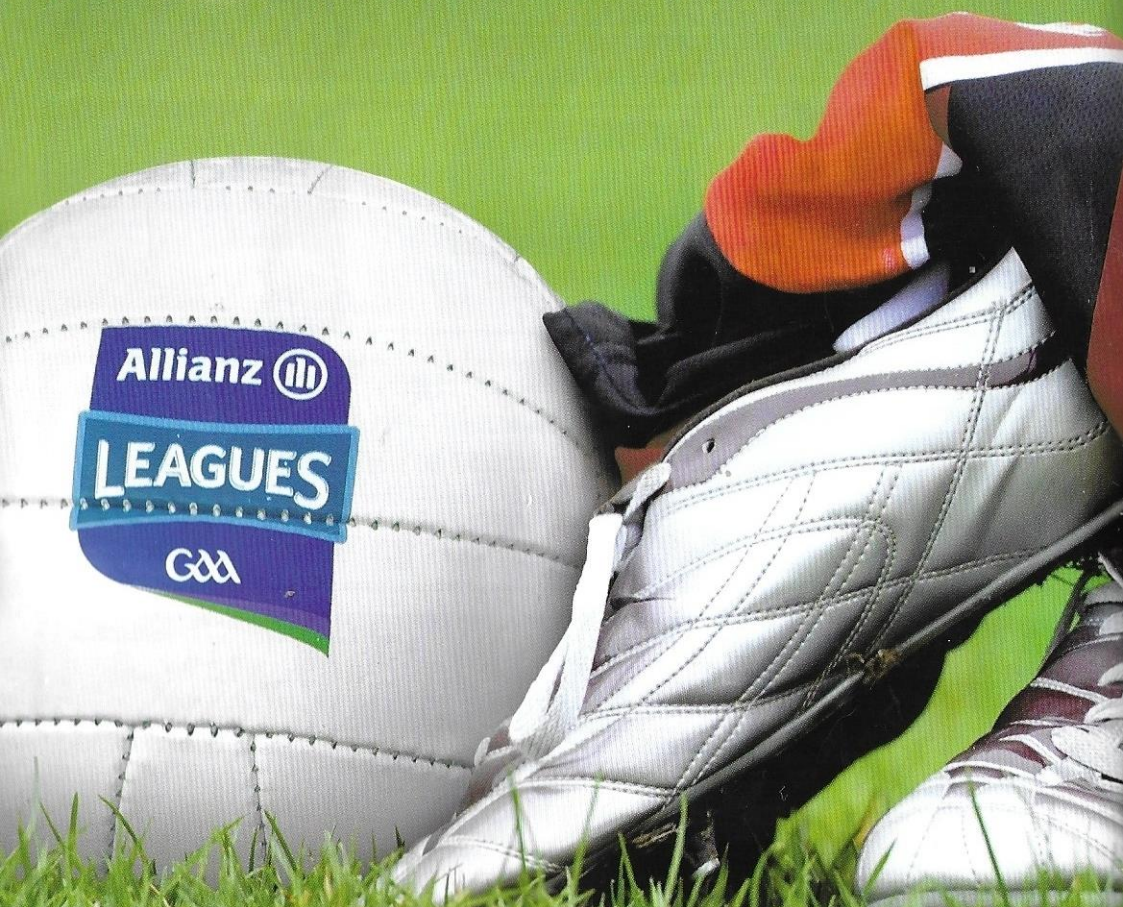
You can find out more about the #littletthings and about mental wellbeing on www.yourmentalhealth.ie or call Samaritans on 116 123 for a listening ear. Further information: www.kerrygaa.ie/clubzone-health-and-wellbeing





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Plenty of positives for Donegal to take after defeat in Killarney

KERRY 2-18
 DONEGAL 3-14

BY RYAN FERRY

Donegal put in a trojan effort against Kerry in Fitzgerald Stadium on Sunday, but lost out to Daithi Casey's late winner.

Kerry were the better team in the first half despite playing against the breeze, and Stephen O'Brien's goal put them 1-5 to 0-4 ahead after 18 minutes.

It got worse for Donegal moments later when Nathan Mullins was shown a straight red card after an off-the-ball incident with Brendan O'Sullivan.

Patrick McBrearty kicked six points for Donegal in the first half, but his team still trailed by three at the break.

Donegal made a great start to the second half when Tony McClenaghan fired to the net in the 37th minute.

Paul Geaney drove a penalty over the bar for Kerry, before Odhrán MacNiallais palmed the ball to the net for Donegal.

Geaney also raised a green flag in the 63rd minute, and Kerry looked to have won the game when they led by two points going into injury-time.

There was still time for more drama with Darach O'Connor fisting to the net with his first touch.

However, Declan Bonner's team couldn't hold out, and Sean Ó Se tied up matters.

Tony McClenaghan and Gavin Crowley were sent off in a tense finale, before Daithi Casey kicked the winner in the 76th minute.

Donegal made a fast start with Jamie Brennan scoring after 14 seconds, before Barry John Keane, and Sean Ó Sé pointed for Kerry.

The visitors should have hit the net in the fourth minute when they broke past the Kerry defence from Mark Anthony McGinley's kick-out.

Ryan McHugh released Jamie Brennan, but the Bundoran man spurned his chance, while Odhrán MacNiallais had two opportunities as he followed up, but his first was blocked by Gavin Crowley, and he fired the second one wide.

Patrick McBrearty converted two frees for Donegal, but Kerry were enjoying plenty of possession and they landed points from Ó Sé (2) and Barry John Keane.

Odhrán MacNiallais replied with a neat score for Bonner's side, but they conceded a goal moments later.

Gavin Crowley was allowed to roam up the field and he laid inside to David Clifford, who unselfishly set up O'Brien and the wing-forward hammered to the net.

It got worse for Donegal in the 19th minute when Mullins was dismissed after kicking out at Brendan O'Sullivan.

Donegal battled well for the rest of the half, although Clifford did kick a free.

McBrearty kept the scoreboard ticking with a brace, but Kerry were always dangerous, and Ó Sé (free) and Ronan Shanahan kicked points.

McBrearty concluded the first half action with a monster free, and a brilliant point from play, but Donegal still

trailed by three at half-time, despite playing with the aid of a strong breeze in the first half.

It was a tough task to come back, but Donegal made a great start to the second half when Patrick McBrearty found Tony McClenaghan, who powered his way through and drilled high to the net.

Micheál Burns nudged Eamonn Fitzmaurice's side ahead, but McBrearty cancelled that out with a free, after MacNiallais made a stunning catch and was fouled.

Gavin Crowley and Paul Geaney dissected the posts for Kerry, while MacNiallais did likewise at the other end.

Donegal started to make good traction midway through the half and Patrick McBrearty levelled matters with a long-range free, before his younger brother Stephen curled over to put them ahead.

Patrick McBrearty slotted over from an acute angle and the travelling supporters started to believe that it could be their day.

Kerry had offered very little in the third quarter, but they were given a lifeline in the 53rd minute when Paul Murphy was brought down and the referee Paddy Neilan gave a penalty. However, Geaney blazed his effort over the bar.

Ó Sé levelled matters with a free, but Donegal hit the net again in the 57th minute with MacNiallais playing a one-two with Niall O'Donnell before palming to the net.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Patrick McBrearty: The Kilcar forward has started the year in brilliant form, and he continued that against Kerry on Sunday.

Patrick McBrearty made it a four-point game with a free, but Kerry weren't finished yet.

Geaney slipped the ball into the net in the 63rd minute, after Caolan Ward had made a superb block from Stephen O'Brien.

That gave the Kingdom some momentum again, and O'Brien and Ó Sé tagged on scores, with Donegal guilty of pushing too far forward.

When Killian Spillane put Kerry two ahead in the 71st minute, it looked like the game was over, but Donegal kept fighting.

Darach O'Connor was only on the field a matter of seconds when he got on the end of Hugh McFadden's long ball and fired to the net.

That put them into the lead, but Ó Sé converted a free to equalise, and the tension started to rise in the closing exchanges.

A skirmish got up on the stand side of the pitch, and both Tony McClenaghan and Gavin Crowley picked up second yellow cards.

It looked like Donegal were going to hold out for a draw, but Casey slipped through in the 76th minute, and while he double-hopped the ball, the referee allowed him to continue, and the Dr Crokes player curled over the winning score.

TEAMS

Kerry: Shane Murphy; Cormac Coffey, Jason Foley, Shane Enright, Paul Murphy, Gavin Crowley (0-1), Ronan Shanahan (0-1); Barry O'Sullivan, Brendan O'Sullivan; Micheál Burns (0-1), Seán Ó Sé (0-7, 4fs), Stephen O'Brien (1-1); David Clifford (0-1, 1f), Paul Geaney (1-2, 1 pen), Barry John Keane (0-2). Subs: Jack Savage and James O'Donoghue for Clifford and Keane (48 mins), Killian Spillane (0-1) and Daithi Casey (0-1) for Barry O'Sullivan and O'Donoghue (54 mins), Matthew Flaherty for Coffey (60 mins), Brian Ó Seanacháin for Burns (67 mins).

Donegal: Mark Anthony McGinley; Stephen McMenamin, Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher, Caolan Ward; Leo McLoone, Paul Brennan, Tony McClenaghan (1-0); Hugh McFadden, Nathan Mullins; Caolan McGonagle, Ryan McHugh, Martin O'Reilly; Patrick McBrearty (0-10, 8fs), Odhrán MacNiallais (1-2), Jamie Brennan (0-1). Subs: Peter Boyle for McGinley (17 mins), Niall O'Donnell for J.Brennan (Half-time), Ciaran Thompson for McGonagle (43 mins), Stephen McBrearty (0-1) for O'Reilly (47 mins), Jason McGee for McLoone (66 mins), Darach O'Connor (1-0) for McGee (71 mins).

Referee: Paddy Neilan (Roscommon).