



WHERE YOUR
EDGE
BELONGS



Photo courtesy of Sean Brilly

Allianz Hurling League Roinn 2B | Round 2



CILL DARA **v** DÚN NA NGALL



**WHERE WE
ALL BELONG**

Date: Saturday 15.05.2021 **Throw in:** 1pm
Venue: St Conleth's Park, Newbridge
Reiteoir: Chris Mooney (Áth Cliath)

C'MON KILDARE!



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CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir go dtí Droichead Nua inniu agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh sár-thaitneamh as an dá chluiche.

On behalf of Kildare GAA I want to welcome you all to St. Conleth's Park for the Allianz League Hurling Division 2B game between Kildare and Donegal at 1pm.

I want to extend a warm welcome to the Donegal team and their management, their officials on their visit today. I expect that we will all be treated to very enjoyable, exciting and competitive game.

I wish David Herity and his selectors along with all our players and backroom teams all the best and we look forward to a successful day.

To ensure the running of our organisation and our games is of the highest standard it requires a lot of work behind the scenes. On that note I want to thank my fellow officers, our stewards, and all who continue to volunteer their services to Kildare GAA. Thanks also to our grounds men for having



our pitch in excellent condition for today's game. I also want to express my thanks to Club Kildare who continue to raise funds for Kildare GAA.

I wish to thank our main sponsor Brady Family and all our sponsors for their continued support, we are extremely grateful, and we wish you continued success.

Finally, I want to thank all our loyal supporters and I hope you all enjoy today's game.

Yours in sport

Mick Gorman
Cathaoirleach

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Chris Mooney
(Áth Cliath)

Standby: Sean Cleere
(Cill Chainnigh)

Linesman: Peter Carroll
(Tiobard Árann)

Sideline: Raymond Byrne
(Cill Chainnigh)

2021 ALLIANZ HURLING LEAGUE FIXTURES

Saturday 15th May: Kildare v Donegal, St Conleth's Park, 1pm.

Sunday 23rd May: Kildare v Derry, Manguard Plus Hawkfield, 4pm.

Sunday 6th June: Roscommon v Kildare, Dr Hyde Park, 2pm.

Saturday 12th June: Mayo v Kildare, Elvery's MacHale Park, 2pm.

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CLASH OF CHAMPIONS

BY PAT COSTELLO, Sports Editor, Kildare Nationalist

Round 2 of the 2021 Allianz National Hurling League Division 2B at St Conleth's Park provides a clash of champions, Kildare, Christy Ring Cup Champions against Donegal, Nicky Rackard Cup Champions.

The comparisons don't end there either. Each has won their respective championship competitions on three occasions, Kildare in 2014, 2018 and last year, 2020. Donegal started a year earlier, winning their first Rackard Cup in 2013 and like Kildare followed that up with victories in 2018 and 2020.

Donegal also claimed victory in the 2011 Lory Meagher Cup, with current Manager, Mickey McCann, in the side. The Burt club man has since led the Tir Conaill men to some notable results in both League and Championship and still found time to play, as a goalkeeper, for Burt in last year's Donegal Senior Hurling Championship.

Kildare Hurling is in a good place at the moment, both at Club and County level, and a conveyor supply of talent is on tap from Eoin Stapleton's minors to Pat English's U20 side all the way through to David Herity's seniors. This was something that was missing in the Kildare jigsaw over the years with the gap between Minor and Senior too big for many players.

The Kildare Hurling Action Plan, launched three years ago, has been the catalyst for the improvement in Kildare Hurling at Club and County level. Each of the Managers, Stapleton, English and Herity, has been at pains to ensure that not only will their players be coached and trained to the highest possible standard

but that they will return to their clubs as better players, benefitting the clubs in the process.

Unlike years ago, players want to play Hurling for and in Kildare and enormous credit is due the work of Director of Hurling, the now retired, John Doran, and his colleagues on the Kildare Coaching and Games Development Programme. Through the plan a Hurling Goalkeeper Pathway was launched late last year, the first of its kind in the country and recently the Caman Chill Dara Hurling Awards were launched to give clubs recognition for their achievements in a number of identifiable categories.

Under the guidance of Hurling Committee Chairman, Colm Nolan, and with the support of the County Board, a lot of initiatives and a lot of hand holding has ensured that Kildare Hurling is in a bit of a renaissance at the moment.

Will it ever reach the heights of the 60's and 70's when with men like Jack Wall, Tommy Carew and Pat Dunny, Kildare were competing with teams from the so-called "hurling counties". Men like Gearoid Tiernan, kept Kildare Hurling alive when many were content to let it slip away, as concentration on the success of the footballers in the 90's took centre stage.

The recent "successes" of the Roar for Ruairi and Malin to Mizen to Conleth's Park campaigns showed that not only have the players bought into the Kildare Hurling message but the county, too, is lending its support to the cause.

2020 was a good year for Kildare Hurling or to be more precise it ended as a good year with promotion to the Joe

McDonagh Cup and victory over a very good Down team after a very good game and team performance in the Christy Ring Cup Final.

The Allianz League was a disappointment with the aim of promotion to Division 2A thwarted by some poor and often inconsistent performances. The Covid-19 lockdown followed by a decent County Championship, yet to be completed, meant that the players returned to David Herity determined and focused to make an impression in the Christy Ring Cup.

An influx of young players, not long out of the minor grade, like Simon Leacy, Cian Shanahan, Rian Boran, the Dowlings, Cathal and Conor, as well as Cathal McCabe gave the Lilywhites an impetus to which the more experienced players responded to. It gave the likes of John Doran, Niall O Muineachain and Paul Divilly a new lease of life and when those three are on song then Kildare are on song. The addition of former footballer, David Slattery, to the squad was a huge boost as his exhilarating pace put many defences under pressure from which proven score getters, James Burke, Jack Sheridan and Brian Byrne profited.

For the first time in ten years a Kildare team will line out without Doran but the Leixlip man's absence will be offset somewhat by the return to the squad of Johnny Byrne and Declan Flaherty, each vastly and experienced hurlers.

Kildare and Donegal last met in the League in Letterkenny in January 2019 with the Lilywhites emerging 2-16 to 1-13 winners. Although Kildare did eventually win by six points in the end, David Herity's memory of the game is that Kildare stumbled over the line with Brian Byrne's last-minute goal putting a gloss on the scoreline. Apart from Doran, Diarmuid Cahill, Martin Fitzgerald Ryan Casey and

“Kildare have an ambitious Manager in five times All Ireland winner, Herity, and it looks like his Kildare players are now trying to match those ambitions.”

Bernard Deay, the Kildare team boosts many of the players who captured the victory on that January day.

Donegal too have a fair splattering of players who lined out that day and were to the fore in the Nickey Rackard win over Mayo last November including Stephen Gillespie, Jack O'Loughlin, Joe Boyle, Declan Coulter, Ronan McDermott, Danny Cullen, Kevin Kealy and Gavin Browne, goal scorer on the day.

Donegal have the advantage in that they opened their League campaign with a 1-13 to 1-11 victory over Roscommon on Sunday last in Letterkenny with Declan Coulter grabbing 0-8 and Ronan McDermott snatching a late goal. The only comparison we have is that Kildare beat the Rossies 3-24 to 1-9 in the Christy Ring Cup semi-final last November.

David Herity has set his stall out but saying that the League and promotion from Division 2B are the only show in town for him. The Joe McDonagh Cup can wait.

Kildare have struggled to get out of the Division for the last three years but with a tough home game against Derry next weekend followed by away fixtures to Roscommon and Mayo nothing short of a victory on the Patsy Power manicured St Conleth's Park will suffice this Saturday.

Kildare have an ambitious Manager in five times All Ireland winner, Herity, and it looks like his Kildare players are now trying to match those ambitions.

Quickfire Questions with
Kildare Captain

BRIAN BYRNE



Age: 25

Club: Naas

Senior Inter County League Debut: 2017
v Armagh

**Senior Inter County Championship
Debut:** 2016 v Antrim

Pre-Match Day Routine: I'll try get up at the same time each morning. I'll get breakfast and then depending whether the match is around lunch or in the evening, if it's in the evening I'll go for a walk. I'll try take my mind off the match as much as possible. I'll have food again roughly 3 hours before the match starts.

Pre match rituals: Thankfully, no!

Toughest opponent: The few previous times playing against Antrim, Neil McManus has been top class.

Describe yourself in three words:
Relaxed, determined and hard-working

Proudest Day: Both Christy Rings in '18 and '20 were brilliant and special but I think our Club Championship with Naas in 2019 meant a huge amount!

Toughest or most disappointing day:
Leinster U21 Football Final 2016

Biggest influence on your career: Several people in my family have a big influence in my career



Joker in the panel: Paul Dermody

Best advice you were given: There's always room for improvement

Best Trainer: Niall O'Muinicheain

Teammate most likely to be a future manager: Paul Divilly

If there was a transfer market, who you buy: Someone like Gearoid Hegarty would be ideal

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The Fortunes of Cill Dara Hurling from 1888 to 2021

BY LORCÁN O'ROURKE

From the earliest days of organised hurling, the history of the game in Kildare makes for very interesting reading.

From the very first Leinster senior championship in 1888, to the present day, Kildare have had very mixed fortunes. Sometimes depressing, dispirited and without hope, at other times with great promise and commendable success, the game has progressed from a very low club base in the late 19th century to a much better place in 2021.

Monasterevin won the **1888** county title and, representing Kildare, lost to Dublin's Kickhams in the first round of the Leinster championship by 4-3 to 0-2. Maynooth represented the county in the **1897** Croke Cup and lost to a Dublin team by 14-15 to 1-1 in one of the most one-sided matches in the history of hurling.

Eoghan Corry in his *Kildare GAA – A Centenary History* writes that **“Two of the most powerful rugby forces in Leinster, Dominican College, Newbridge and Clongowes Wood College, were at the heart of the mini-revival in Kildare hurling at the turn of the century”**.

Leinster Council established a Leinster Junior Hurling championship in **1905** which finished in 1907 when Kildare defeated Wicklow by 7-19 to 0-1 and Westmeath by 3-8 to 3-5 to win the title. A **1906** title followed when Kildare beat Louth by 9-11 to 0-3 and Meath, 2-6 to 1-8. *Thigean Roe* reported that

“The Kildare captain during the second half of the Louth match was a decidedly interested spectator. He is a man whom nothing can disturb for he smoked his cigarette as calmly on the field as he would were he in Staplestown”.

Into Senior Ranks

Those two titles put Kildare into senior ranks where the team suffered a massive defeat to Offaly (7-15 to 0-3) in **1907**. Further losses in **1908 and 1909** sapped interest and the standard of hurling went into decline. Back again in junior ranks, Kildare lost the **1914** final to Laois, 16-4 to 0-0. The county team made little progress until army teams took part in the county championship in the 1920s.

1932: Corry records that 11 army personnel lined out for Kildare who defeated Offaly and Kilkenny before losing to Dublin in the Leinster final. A hurling revival had begun but the inclusion of so many military personnel was no advantage to the development of the game in local clubs.

1934: Success came in 1934 - the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the GAA – with a 1-8 to 1-7 Leinster final win over Kilkenny. Waterford beat Kildare in the 'Home' final, 10 army men on the team. After two years in senior grade, with more civilians than soldiers on the team, Kildare were back in junior losing to Laois by 10 points in **1937** and by 34 points in **1938**.

1940s & '50s: Things did not improve in the 1940s; there were junior championship

losses to Offaly and Dublin before the championship was suspended from 1942 to 1945. The rest of the 1940s proved no better. The county did not win a single championship match in the **1950s** beginning with a 33-point defeat to Offaly.

The 1960s brought Kildare hurling to new heights. A Leinster intermediate championship was introduced in 1961 which catered for reserve teams from Dublin, Wexford and Kilkenny and other senior teams. Kildare, in the junior grade, benefited from this and won Leinster and All-Ireland Junior titles in **1962**. Larry Kiely who won All-Ireland senior medals with Tipperary in 1964 and '65, bagged six goals in the last three matches.

Kildare won a second Junior All-Ireland in **1966** for which the medals were suitably inscribed to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the 1916 Easter Rising. The next milestone was an All-Ireland Intermediate win in **1969** when the Lilies beat Cork, 2-8 to 3-4 in Thurles on 12 October.

Foireann Chill Dara: Peter Connolly (Eire Óg), Seamus Malone (Coill Dubh), Colm O'Malley (Ardclough), Noel Burke (Ardclough), Tony Carew (Coill Dubh), Pat Dunney (Eire Óg), Mick O'Brien (Kilcock), Bobby Burke (Ardclough), Jack O'Connell (St Brigid's), Tommy Christian (Ardclough), Tommy Carew (Coill Dubh), Mick Dwane (Ardclough), Jack Wall (St Dermot's), Mick Mullins (Eire Óg), Nicky Behan (Aer Lingus, formerly Eire Óg).
Subs: Pat 'Red' Connolly (Eire Óg), Walsh (Ardclough).

Pat Dunney was the only player to feature on the three All-Ireland winning teams, as captain in '66 and '69 as well as leading the 1965 Under-21 All-Ireland football champions.

1976 was another high-water mark when Kildare hurlers led by four points in the closing stages of a Leinster SHC semi-final against eventual All-Ireland finalists Wexford.

Four All-Ireland Senior B Titles

1974: 1-26 v Antrim 3-13; **1980:** 2-20 v London 2014; **1989:** 1-13 v London 1-12; **2004:** 3-14 v Mayo 3-7.

Christy Ring Cup Titles

In **2014**, Kildare won the Christy Ring Cup for the first time in its history, defeating Kerry by 4-18 to 2-22 in the final when Niall Ó Muineacháin was captain. Brian Byrne led the team to two more titles in **2018**, 3-19 to 1-11 v London, and 3-16 to 0-22 v Down in **2020**.

The introduction of the **Camán Chill Dara Club Awards Scheme** on 21 Aibreán last, is certain to benefit Kildare hurling for many years to come: perhaps the county will once more progress through the tiers and eventually take its place at the top table in the Liam MacCarthy Cup.



Strong Roots not just branches



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Quickfire Questions with Donegal Captain

SEAN McVEIGH



Age: 30

Club: St. Eunan's

Senior Inter County League Debut: 2007
v Longford

Senior Inter County Championship Debut: 2007 V Leitrim

Pre-Match Day Routine: Wake up around 8. Pint of Water. Smoothie for breakfast. Relax with a cup of coffee and some music or a podcast.

Pre match rituals: Cup of coffee and a few tunes.

Toughest opponent: I get to mark Declan Coulter in training.

Describe yourself in three words: An Lk sham

Proudest Day: Daughter's Birth

Toughest or most disappointing day: Ulster Club Minor semi-final loss to Ballinderry 2008.

Biggest influence on your career: My family and Paddy Flood

Joker in the panel: Jack O'Loughlin

Best advice you were given: Its the work you do away from training that makes the difference.

Best Trainer: Gavin Brown



Teammate most likely to be a future manager: Danny Cullen

If there was a transfer market, who you buy: Gearoid Hegarty



CILL DARA



Paddy McKenna
Pádraig Mac Cionaoith
Claonadh



Cathal Derivan
Cathal Derivan
Léim an Bhradáin



Rian Boran
Rian Ó Bodhráin
Nás na Ríogh



Simon Leacy
Siomón Ó Laitheasa
Nás na Ríogh



Kevin Whelan
Caoimhín Ó Faoláin
Nás na Ríogh



Declan Flaherty
Deaghlain Ó Flaitie
Coill Dubh



Sean Christanseen
Sean Christanseen
Claonadh



Cathal Dowling
Cathal Ó Dúllaing
Nás na Ríogh



Paul Divilly
Pol Ó Duibhle
Confái



Kevin Aherne
Caoimhín Ó hEathrín
Nás na Ríogh



Johnny Byrne
Sean Ó Broin
Coill Dubh



James Burke
Seámas de Búrca
Nás na Ríogh



Tadhg Forde
Tadhg MacGiollarnáth
Maigh Nuad



Shane Ryan
Seán Ó Riain
Nás na Ríogh



Brian Byrne
Brian Ó Broin
Nás na Ríogh

FIR IONAID

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 16. Mark Doyle | Claonadh |
| 17. Cian Forde | Maigh Nuad |
| 18. James Dolan | Éire Óg Corra Choill |
| 19. Colm Chan | Confái |
| 20. Cathal McCabe | Maigh Nuad |
| 21. Sean Whelan | Ard Cloc |
| 22. Conor Kielty | Éire Óg Corra Choill |
| 23. Conor Dowling | Nás na Ríogh |
| 24. Caolan Smith | Claonadh |
| 25. Liam Dempsey | Éire Óg Corra Choill |
| 26. Jack Sheridan | Nás na Ríogh |

Bainsteoir: David Herity **Roghnóirí:** Deckie O'Toole, Ronan McWilliams, Paul Dermody

	1ST HALF	2ND HALF	TOTAL
GOALS			
POINTS			
WIDES			
6SM			
FREES			



DÚN NA NGALL



Luke White
Lúcás Ó Banáin
St. Martins



Gavin Browne
Gabhan O Broinn
Sean Mac Cumhails



Stephen Gillespie
Stíopháin Mac Giolla Easpaig
An Bheart



Mark Callaghan
Marcas Ceallachán
Setanta



Christopher McDermott
Cristóir MacDiarmada
An Bheart



Sean McVeigh
Sean Mac an Bheatha
Naomh Adhamhnáin



Michael Donaghue
Micheál Ó Donnchú
Setanta



Declan Coulter
Déaglán Ó Coltair
Setanta



Ciaran Mathewson
Ciarán Mac Matha
Sean Mac Cumhails



Danny Cullen
Donail O Cuilin
Setanta



Ritchie Ryan
Risteaird Ó Riain
An Clochán Liath



Jack O'Loughlin
Sean Ó Lochlain
Bun Cranncha



Bernard Lafferty
Bearnard Ó Laifeartaigh
Setanta



Ronan McDermott
Ronan MacDiarmada
An Bheart



Gerry Gilmore
Gearard Mac Giolla Mhuir
Setanta

FIR IONAID

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 16. Dylan Lafferty | Sean Mac Cumhails |
| 17. Conor OGrady | Naomh Adhamhnáin |
| 18. Niall Cleary | Setanta |
| 19. Padraig Doherty | Carndoagh |
| 20. Josh Cronolly McGhee | Setanta |
| 21. Colm Flood | Naomh Adhamhnáin |
| 22. Dylan Duffy | Bun Cranncha |
| 23. Ruairi Campbell | Setanta |
| 24. Stephen Doherty | Naomh Adhamhnáin |
| 25. Ciaran Bradley | An Bheart |
| 26. Oisín Grant | Bun Cranncha |

Bainisteoir: Mickey Mc Cann **Roghnóirí:** Gabriel O Kane, Jamesie Donnelly, Martin Mc Grath



	1ST HALF	2ND HALF	TOTAL
GOALS			
POINTS			
WIDES			
65M			
FREES			

Iománaíocht i nDún na nGall

By Manus Ó Domhnaill

Hurling has been played in Donegal long before the GAA was formed. A Camán and a Sliotar are featured on a 15th century gravestone at Cloncha, Culdaff in North Inishowen – as shown in a television documentary narrated by Jarlath Burns of Armagh football fame.



The game of **Cross-Country Commons** was played in South West Donegal and in Burt as far back as 1700. The famous Burt 1906 Ulster Senior Hurling Championship winners played Carey of County Antrim in the first Ulster final (either hurling or football) which took place in July 1907.

Senior and Junior Successes

The Donegal senior team followed on the success of the success of the Burt 1906 team with two more Ulster SHC titles in 1923 and 1932. Six Ulster Junior Championships were won in 1947, 1948, 1972, 1989, 2001 and 2003.

Donegal won the **Lory Meagher Cup** in 2011 and three **Nicky Rackard Cups** were won in 2013, 2018 and 2020. On Saturday the winners of the 2020 Christy Ring Cup play the 2020 Nicky Rackard Cup winners in the 2021 Division 2B of the Allianz National Hurling League.

National Hurling League Division 3 titles were secured in 2001 and 2005. In 2004 Dún na nGall were Division 3 Shield winners, and in 2017 and 2020 Division 3A winners

Senior County Championship

Burt lead the way in the 'Honours List' of Donegal SHC titles with 39 wins and add to this two Derry SHC titles in 1930 and 1931. Setanta Hurling Club which is just over 40 years old and based at 'The Cross' in Killygordon have 15 titles and won their last in 2020.

The past 10 years has seen a greater interest in the game of Hurling or Hurley, as it known as in Dún na nGall. In 2021, we have **10 clubs fielding adult teams:** Carndonagh, Buncrana, Burt, Saint Eunan's, Letterkenny Gaels, Dungloe, Sean MacCumhaill's, Setanta, Four Masters and Aodh Ruadh. Gweedore have underage teams. Six teams will compete in the County 2021 SHC, and at least 10 teams will compete in the Junior Championship.

Kildare GAA Club Draw 2021



Gill Dara
KILDARE GAA

**FIRST
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DRAW DATES

Draw 1: 30th July 2021 **Draw 2:** 27th August 2021

Draw 3: 24th September 2021 **Draw 4:** 29th October 2021

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