

**DONEGAL G.A.A. YEARBOOK**

**1982**

**ALL-IRELAND**



**CHAMPIONS**

Pliainiris C.L.G. Dhún na nGall 1982.

**Bliainiris Choiste Contae  
Dhúin na nGall  
de Chumann Lúthchleas Gael**

**Donegal G.A.A. Yearbook  
1982**

**Eagarthóir:**  
Seán Ó Baoill  
Oifigeach Caidrimh Poibli

**Dearadh:** An tEagarthóir

**Leagan Amach:** Martin McGuinness

**Grianhraf Clúdaigh:** Dún ná nGall, All Ireland U-21  
Champions 1982  
(Micheal Ó Domhnaill, Na Gleanntaí a tharraing)

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# Focal ón Eagarthóir

TO BE a member of Cumann Luthchleas Gael in Dún na nGall in 1982 is a great pride and joy. An All-Ireland football crown at last—yes a dream in the past—a dream unbelievably come true. That is exactly what 1982 brought for us in Donegal with winning the All-Ireland Under-21 title. It was a long time “awaiting” from that St. Patrick’s Day in 1906 when Derry beat us 0-18 to 0-2 in our first ever representative inter-county football match. After threequarters of a century of trying and many bitter disappointments the barrier was broken—that “elusive All-Ireland” was brought home to the most Northern and success-starved county in Ireland on Sunday 17th October 1982 when our under-21 team beat Roscommon by 0-8 to 0-5 at Carrick-on-Shannon in the All-Ireland final. It may be a long time before our second All-Ireland comes along (confidently not) but the main and most important aspect of this achievement in my opinion is that no longer is an All-Ireland title a dream—it will be for ever more always a reality. That barrier is gone forever. But spare a thought for those who did not see that dream come true, “Great Gaels” such as Hugh Daly, P. J. Ryan, John McDermott (Dodger), Des Houlihan, Sandy Harper etc. to mention but a few.

I hope our county folk in Britain, U.S.A., Canada, Australia and all around the world equally enjoyed this first All-Ireland success, and we extend our sincere thanks to you for carrying on the activities of the G.A.A. and for your help in the past — wherever you are in this historic year for Donegal football.

Congratulations too, to our county minors on winning the Ulster Minor Football League—our first since 1963 and third in all. They were a shade unlucky in the Ulster Championship semi-final losing narrowly to Antrim, the eventual winners. And luck was not on the side of our county seniors either when Armagh pipped us by a single point in Ballybofey (who also went on to win the Ulster title). How near we were, therefore, to having won three “Ulster Championships” in 1982.

Every year brings its sorrows and sadness and 1982 was no exception. As usual some of our Gaels and friends were called to their eternal reward but the sad and unexpected death at an early age of Anne Cunningham, wife of our County Treasurer Francie—evoked the greatest sorrow and shock amongst us—may they rest in peace.

Fr. Seán Ó Galchóir’s All-Ireland Scór success was another great achievement in 1982. However, there is urgent attention and improvement required within the county concerning the cultural aspect of our Association despite this success and the trojan efforts of County Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Seamus de Faoite. Likewise hurling, handball and camogie are still the “poor relations” in most clubs and areas of the county and no longer can we totally rely on the much improved “local press coverage” as sufficient communication for our needs, education and information—these are all areas to be very mindful of for improvement in the immediate future.

Tá mé buíoch do gach duine a chuidigh liom an bhliainiris seo a chur amach—the four local newspapers—Donegal Democrat, Derry People/Donegal News, Donegal People’s Press, and Derry Journal; photographers, Michael O’Donnell, Glenties, John Foy, Stranorlar, Declan Doherty, Derry People, Packie Keeney, Lifford, Patrick Stevenson, Derry Journal, the Donegal Democrat cameramen, and all those people and club officers who contributed photographs, articles and secured advertisements. Special thanks to all the sponsors, advertisers and subscribers whose names appear in this book for your generosity and for making this book possible. Also a special thanks to Ann for all the typing and general help; our Communications Committee and our County Chairman Mícheál Mac Giolla Easpaiú for their co-operation, advice and unstinted help. Lastly but not least to all the staff of our printers “The Donegal Democrat” for their co-operation and attention which was a great source of encouragement and help to me throughout. Go raibh maith agaibh.

Is mise,  
SEÁN Ó BAOILL.

## CONTENTS

Our first All-Ireland.....	3
The Final Hour.....	4
How it happened.....	5
How we got our first All-Ireland.....	15
The Manager of the Month.....	19
Ulster Minor League Champions.....	20
First Decade, 1919-1928.....	22
Og Sport Gael.....	23
Co. Board Officers 1982.....	25
Honours List 1982.....	26
Lifford G.A.A. Club.....	28
Video, Video, Video.....	30
Burt regain Senior Hurling crown.....	31
Hurling within the county.....	32
Tir Conaill Gaels London.....	33
Cumann Naomh Columba.....	33
Ar gCluiche Arsa Peile.....	34
Dualgas Don Oige.....	35
Kilcar alive and well in South-West.....	36
Ballintra on the move.....	39
Downings 1982.....	40
1982 in Glenfin.....	41
No silver, but no shame either— Killygordon 1982.....	44
Scoil Chroine, Dungloe.....	46
Ballybofey and Stranorlar Cup.....	46
Paddy McDevitt, Killybegs.....	47
Sean ‘ac Fhionnlaioch, R.I.P. In Omos.....	47
50 years ago, Swilly Rovers - Glenswilly today.....	48
Ardara youth wins through.....	50
National Schools scene.....	51
National Schools quiz.....	52
Cloich Cheann Fhaola 1982.....	53
Southern Divisional Minor Board.....	55
Coiste Mionuir an Iar-Thuaiscirt.....	57
South West Divisional Minor Board.....	59
County Champions 1982.....	64, 65, 67
Ten years ago and our first.....	68
All-Ireland title for Letterkenny RTC.....	68
Donegal Minors 1956.....	69
Lifford’s 1967 Cup win.....	69
An Gaeilge O Thus Ama.....	70
Og Sport Gael - Never to be forgotten.....	71
A more “professional” look to the future.....	72
Na Rossa.....	73
A look at Martin McHugh’s career.....	76
St. Eunan’s host National Sevens.....	77
A Young Officer’s remarks.....	78
Handball.....	79
Tir Chonaill chun tosaigh.....	83
Ulster Herald Cup.....	85
Vocational Schools county team.....	87
G.A.A. in Letterkenny.....	89
Comortas Peile na Gaeltachta i nGaoth Dobhair.....	95
Sean Mac Cumhail’s G.A.A. Club.....	98
All-Ireland Scór victory.....	101
Our President.....	102
Ulster Championship 1982.....	103
Camogie News 1982.....	107
58 years a waiting, Four Masters.....	108
Early years of the GAA in Donegal.....	110
St. Connell’s Club, Glenties.....	112
Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon.....	113
With the senior team.....	119



M. KELLY



B. TUOHY



C. MULGREW



P. MCGROARTY



A. WOLLOLEY



T. McDERMOTT

## The Heroes Of Donegal

by Paddy Tunney (Tune: The Valley of Knockanure)

*We have listened long both in verse and song  
To the feats of the Kingdom bold  
That royal name in the Hall of Fame  
Is lettered in leaves of gold.  
I sing of a band from O'Donnell's land  
Who conquered them one and all  
As the bonfires blaze we will chant the praise  
Of our heroes from Donegal.*



P. MCGROARTY



W. CARLIN



M. McBREARTY

*From Saimer's side to the Swilly tide  
Kilcar and the Corkscrew Brae  
From Eske and Finn the crowds poured in  
Drumholme and Sheephaven Bay  
For Tuohy's men from hill and glen  
Had answered the clarion call  
And in Carrick town they would gain renown  
For the kingdom of Donegal.*



S. BONNAR



W. SHOVELIN



J. McMULLAN

*A fierce gale blew and a stray curlew  
Lamented near lone abodes  
And sheets of rain wrapped Breffni's plain  
Rakeshifting off puddled roads  
We raised a shout when the teams came out  
And Moran threw in the ball  
Then the wizard McHugh the first blood drew  
For the honour of Donegal.*



M. GALLAGHER



J. MCGOWAN



E. McINTYRE

*There was mighty Matt and his brother Pat  
From the limestone of Ballintra  
McMullan, McDermott, McBrearty bold  
And the giant from Ardara.  
Young Anton Molloy, our pride and joy,  
As high ones he down did haul  
And McIntyre did the team inspire  
As he foraged for Donegal.*



P. GALLAGHER



D. MCCOLE



P. CARR

*Paul Carr on the square I do declare  
He was jumping full five feet high  
While Donal Reid from a warrior breed  
Broad-shouldered he raked the sky  
McGroarty and Meehan overlapped  
The fortress was doomed to fall  
When the lion Mulgrew he came bounding through  
In the vanguard of Donegal.*



S. MEEHAN



W. CARR



D. REID

*All honour to Martin, the mastermind  
From the fastness of famed Kilcar,  
Five times in all he did flight the ball  
Straight over Roscommon's bar.  
While Kelly in goal kept cool control  
McGuire rubbed in the gall  
As Ross men lost thrust and bit the dust  
'Neath the onslaught of Donegal.*



S. MAGUIRE



J. O'DONNELL

*As their strength did sap a yawning gap  
In Roscommon's defence rent wide  
Paul Earley too late tried to slam the gate  
He couldn't turn back the tide.  
"Board up the goal, we have lost control",  
A Ross man in tears did bawl  
But their stoutest oak only splintered broke  
On the granite of Donegal.*

*Then spare a thought for men who fought  
For the county in days of yore  
The Dodger McDermott, O'Donnell, Doyle,  
Wee Hudie from green Gweedore,  
Hugh Daly, McCool and P. J. Ryan  
Who answered to every call  
May the sod lie light on their bones tonight  
In the graveyards of Donegal.*

# *OUR FIRST ALL-IRELAND*



# The Final Hour

SUNDAY 17th OCTOBER 1982 is a day that will forever live in the memories of the people of Donegal and a date that will forever occupy a place in the annals of the history of the G.A.A. It was All-Ireland Under-21 football final day and the first time ever Donegal had reached an All-Ireland football final "proper" in any grade. "Proper" is emphasised because the county junior team had reached two home All-Ireland football finals away back in 1933 and 1954, but unfortunately lost both—had they won on either or both of these occasions they probably would have won the All-Ireland "proper" as their conquerors had easy passages against the champions of Britain in the All-Ireland "proper" finals. This was the day, however, when there would be no more obstacles to be overcome. There was a mass exodus of people from the county from early morning—approximately 15,000 Donegal men, women and children had gathered into Pairc Sheán Mhic Diarmada, Carrick-on-Shannon for this historic and unique occasion. There seemed to be Donegal folk everywhere with banners and the county colours flying. The enthusiasm was magnificent and confidence seemed good but deep down there must have occasionally occurred that daunting thought—could we be beaten again—older people had flashes of previous bitter disappointments—still, no one could hear of defeat again—this was the day we were going to win our first ever All-Ireland title.

Eight minutes to three o'clock, the biggest roar ever for a Donegal team in any sport erupted as the boys in green and gold emerged from the dug-out. They looked stern, fit and determined. They appeared like a team possessed with just one thought in mind—there is no going back now—it's do or die. After the usual preliminaries referee Tommy Moran checked his watch—a few seconds silence and the game was on—the final hour had arrived. Two minutes later the Donegal cheers could nearly have been heard back home when Martin McHugh sent over the opening score from 30 yards out. A 14 yard free to Roscommon in front of goals left the scores level within a further two minutes. Then, with just five minutes gone, Roscommon took the lead for the first and last time when Marty Shanaghan pointed. In the 8th minute all-square again as late replacement Donal Reid pointed. It was obvious even at this early stage the Donegal boys were on "song". They were playing with an unswerving will to win that would have taken them through brick-walls if necessary. Twelve minutes gone and Paucic Gallagher cut brilliantly through but with the goals at his mercy blasted over for a point. No one from Donegal minded the miss of the major—we were in the lead again—the side was playing with a nerve and determination never displayed by a Donegal team before. Two minutes into the second quarter and it was Martin McHugh again after receiving from Gallagher to point—it was four points to two in our favour now—yes, this was going to be our day. Every player was at his very best—the backs were coping with anything Roscommon offered—our midfield pair of Anthony Molloy and Donal Reid were playing as they had never played before—this was an inspired team performance. Twenty minutes gone and the wizard McHugh was at it again—another point for him, another point for Donegal and even our "video team" of Packie Keeney on camera and Fr. Seán Ó Gallchoir on commentary forgot about their task and jumped with joy. Roscommon were not beaten yet—for the next ten minutes they simply showed what a good team they are—a point in the 22nd minute from Paul Early followed two minutes later with another from a magnificent 60 yds. drive by Paucic O'Neill. The Donegal defence was

under severe pressure now but the full back line of McBrearty, McDermott—who went back to full-back on the early retirement of Sean Bonner (due to an injury he received earlier in the week in training)—and Matt Gallagher, with half-backs, Eunan McIntyre, Donal Reid, who was now filling McDermott's spot and captain Brian Tuohy hounded and harried their hapless opponents into errors and kept the scoring chances to a minimum in front of goalkeeper Michael Kelly. Roscommon, though, had the last say in this half when they levelled on the stroke of half-time from a Jimmy Connellan free. It was 0-5 all at the interval and while Donegal hearts may have taken a flutter at seeing the three points advantage being wiped out, they certainly were not dispirited. We had been playing against a strong breeze and the team had taken everything Roscommon offered and would have the undoubted advantage of the elements in the second half. This belief and confidence was amply demonstrated during the break by the vast Donegal support as they sang and danced with the music and waved their flags even higher.

The second half was on, Roscommon tried to take over where they left off, but there was simply no way through. More determined than ever—now just a half-hour away from glory seemed to be the Donegal team's only thoughts. Into the lead again with a Martin McHugh point from a free after six minutes. After ten minutes two points ahead with another McHugh point from a 40 yards free. Hitting the threequarter stage, a real beauty from Paucic Gallagher after he side-stepped his man to send over from an acute angle on the right. The euphoria of the Donegal supporters had to be witnessed to be believed. There was now dancing in the terraces, dancing on the sidelines, All-Ireland champions were being prematurely proclaimed. McMullan, who had dropped back to midfield when Reid went back to McDermott's centre-half spot had adapted well and he with Molloy were feeding the forwards well. Mulgrew leading the attack flanked by McHugh and Meehan fought for everything and thrust forward at every opportunity with a drive and skill becoming players of much higher acclaim. McGroarty, Carr, Gallagher and Sylvester Maguire when he came on, harassed the Roscommon full back line as if their lives depended on victory. But there was no more scores coming—the only fault one could levy on a super performance. Two minutes remaining, a 55 yds. free to Donegal—McHugh stepped up to take it—would he take out the insurance. He tried, the ball ended in the net, the Donegal crowd went furious—that was the last many of us saw of the game—it was much later that we realised that score had been disallowed for an adjudged square infringement but it did not matter, we were All-Ireland champions some minutes later. The final whistle had sounded; men, women and children from Donegal embraced, cried unashamedly with joy. The gates to the pitch opened—the heroes were carried shoulder-high suffering much more now at the hands of frantic supporters than at time during the game. The Tadhg O'Cleirigh All-Ireland Cup was ours on this day. The "boys" that went out just an hour previous to represent us were now hailed as "men", heroes.

Entering Ballyshannon on the way home was the most magnificent thrill as bonfires blazed, people lined the streets, children waved...Ah! too emotional to go on. Donegal Town to the victory celebrations and what an enthusiastic and euphoric crowd of thousands of Donegal people of all ages, creeds and sporting codes. A week, a fortnight of county-wide victory tours and celebrations—the 17th October and 1982 will never be forgotten for this—what glorious memories. A thought—what will it be like when the "Sam" comes across Lifford bridge for the first time in a few years time with these heroes.

The Donegal team on that wonderful occasion was: Michael Kelly, Michael McBrearty, Sean Bonner, Matt Gallagher, Eunan McIntyre, Tommy McDermott, Brian Tuohy (capt.), Anthony Molloy, Donal Reid, Martin McHugh, Charlie Mulgrew, Joyce McMullan, Seamus Meehan, Paul Carr, and Patrick McGroarty. Subs used: Paucic Gallagher, Sylvester Maguire. Subs not used: John O'Donnell, Maurice Carr, John McGowan, Donie McCole, Marty Carlin, Martin Shovelin.

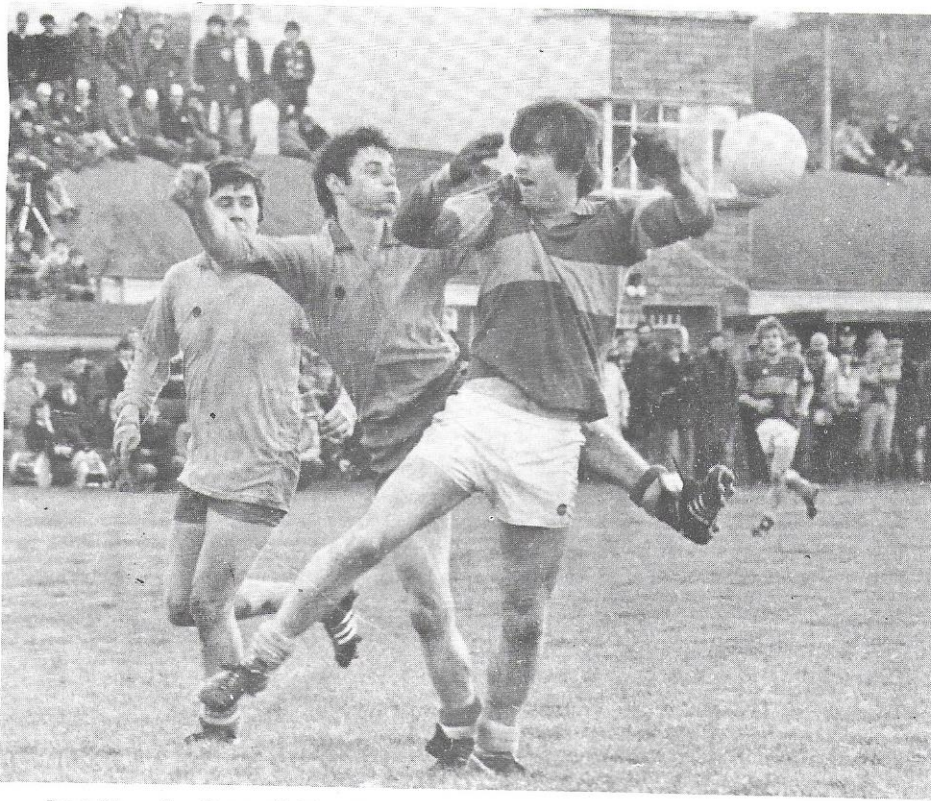
# HOW IT HAPPENED . . .



The determination and character that brought Donegal their first ever All-Ireland title emphatically shown here by Paul Carr, Seamie Weirhan, Donal Reid and Charlie Mulgrew in the first minutes of the All-Ireland Under-21 final.



It's 2 points each and the anxiety great as this picture shows with Anthony Molloy and Pauric Gallagher in the thick of the action with Charlie Mulgrew and Seamie Meehan nervously awaiting the outcome.



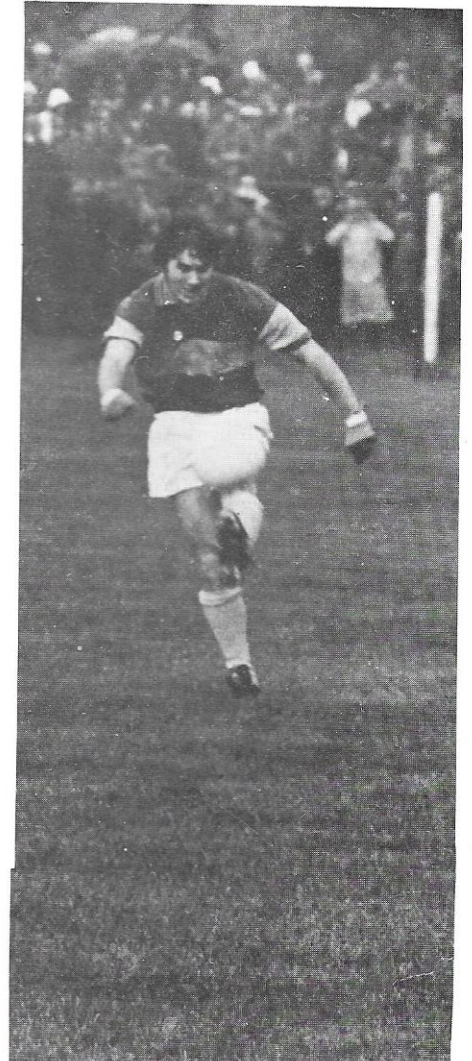
Paul Carr, the Donegal full forward on the receiving end from a tactical charge during the All-Ireland Under-21 final, as Donegal make their last attack before half-time.



Pádraig Gallagher gets in a shot at goal.

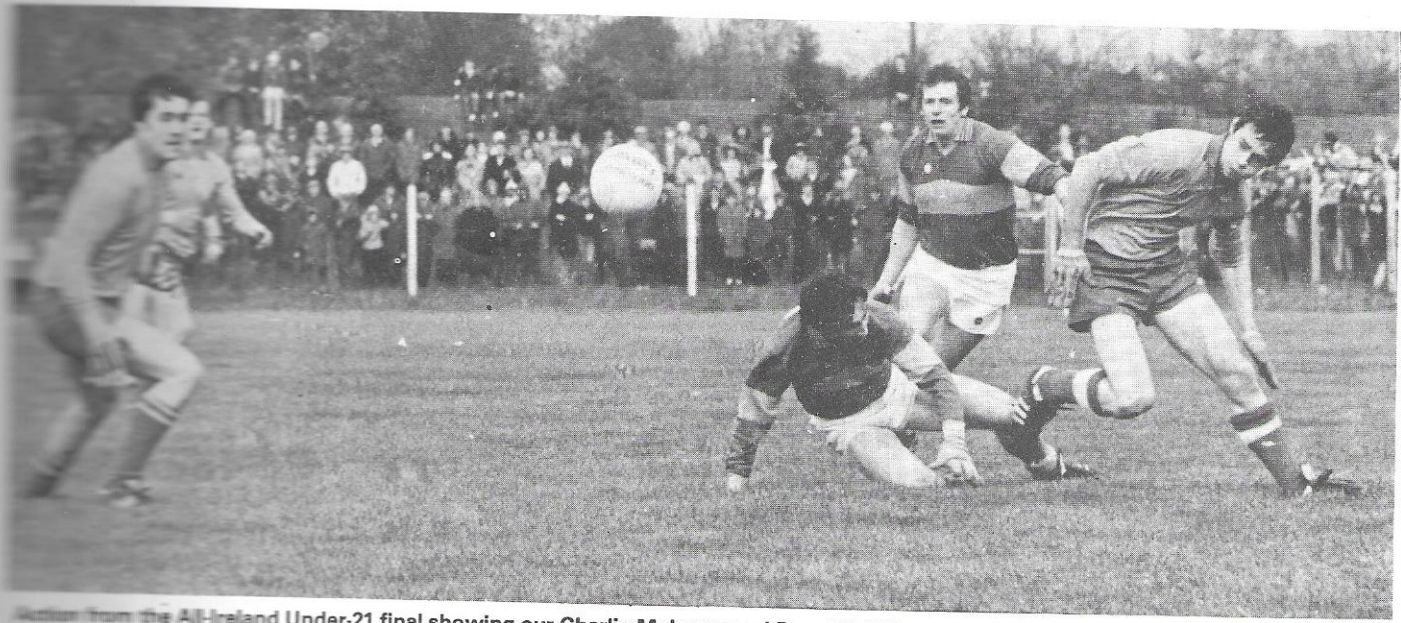


Patrick McGroarty all alone among Roscommon defenders hoping for a slip-up that might have given him a chance to put Donegal into the lead before half-time.



Top scorer MARTIN McHUGH kicks one of his five points.

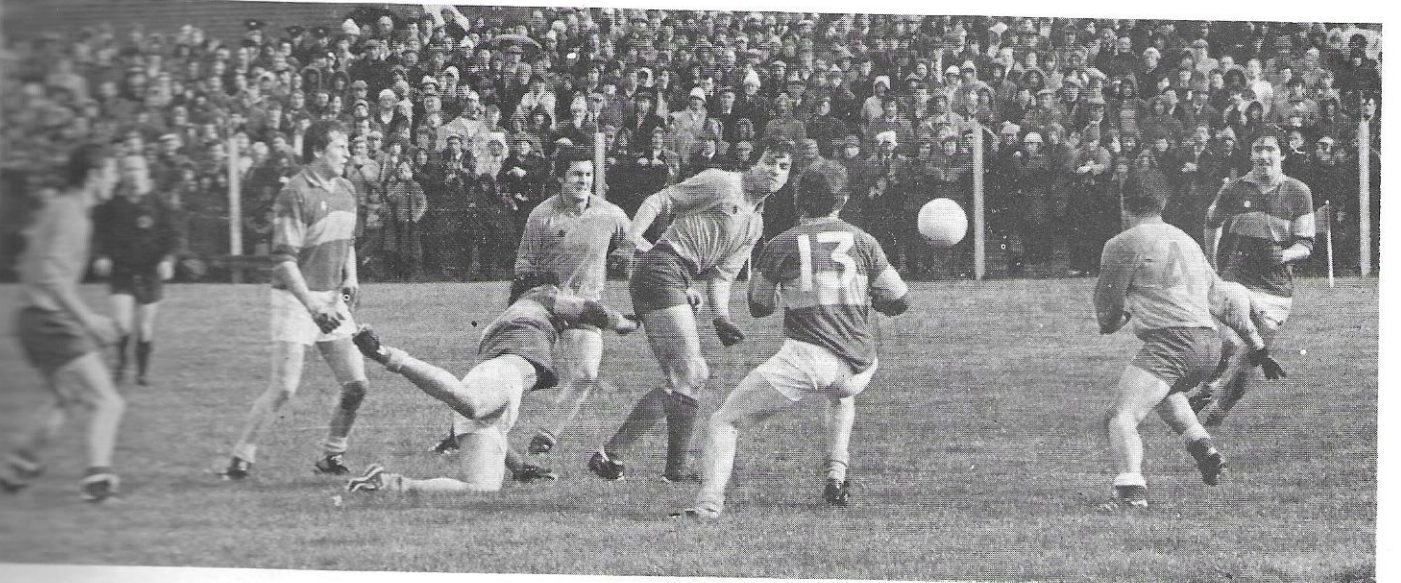




Action from the All-Ireland Under-21 final showing our Charlie Mulgrew and Donal Reid (on ground) in determined mood during the first half.



"That's the place for you", says Seamie Meehan, showing no signs of sympathy as he forges on to collect the ball after his Roscommon opponent slips in the All-Ireland final.



Anthony Molloy goes full stretch to get a valuable touch to the ball as Seamie Meehan turns to collect the outcome - watched by Charlie Mulgrew and Paul Carr on All-Ireland final day - 1st half.



**UP FOR THE FINAL:** A group of youngsters from Downings, Donegal with their teddy bear up for the All-Ireland Under-21 final in Carrick-on-Shannon during half-time.



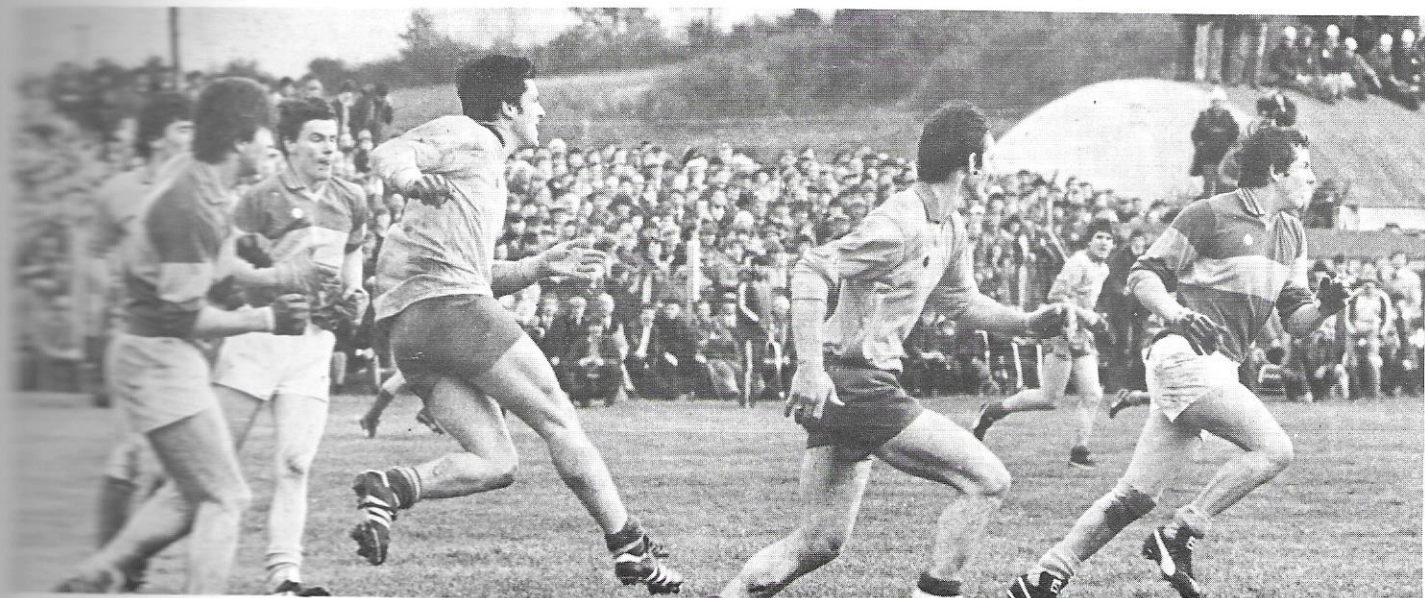
**A section of Donegal supporters at the All-Ireland Under-21 final in Carrick-on-Shannon in jubilant mood at the interval. They seemed to be convinced of a first All-Ireland despite being level at 0-5 each. And who could blame them after a tremendous first half display against the strong breeze. How right they were!**



An early attack in the second half sees Paul Carr in flight and being foiled with Charlie Mulgrew either not pleased with Paul not fetching or at the Roscommon player's tactics.



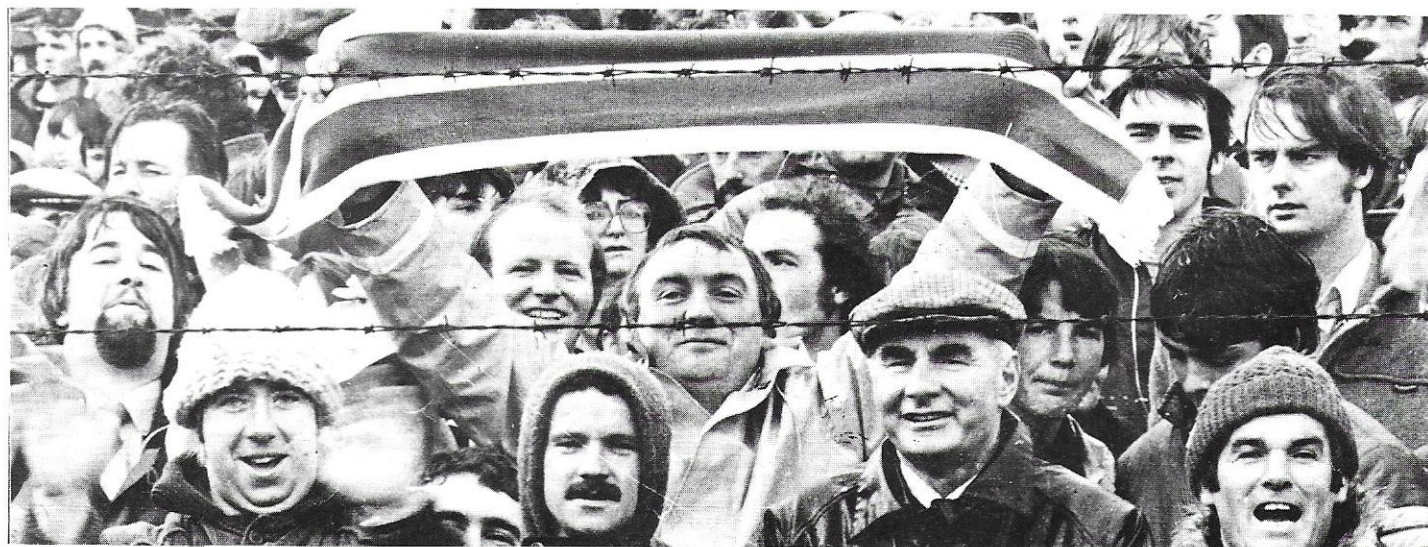
Sylvester Maguire was not long in getting into the action when he joined the Donegal team in the second half, as he goes head and shoulders above everyone with team mates Paul Carr, Seamie Meehan and Anthony Molloy all there to see he comes safely back to earth.



This one may have got away from us, says Paul, Charlie and Sylvester, but we are in pursuit.



"Come back here" is Sylvester Maguire's attitude as Roscommon try to initiate a last desperate effort in the closing stages of the All-Ireland final. They did not succeed.



**UP FOR THE FINAL:** The picture tells it all—we are going to be All-Ireland champions any moment now, says this section of the thousands of Donegal supporters on All-Ireland day in Carrick-on-Shannon. Seconds later we were—we had beaten Roscommon 0-8 to 0-5 and had won our first All-Ireland.

# THE CELEBRATIONS

Minutes after the final whistle, the All-Ireland Cup is ours, say the Donegal players as they are molested by supporters after the All-Ireland U-21 final. (Photo by Declan Doherty, Derry People)



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It is "thumbs up" to the Donegal supporters from Sylvester Maguire, Anthony Molloy and Maurice Carr as they acknowledge the thousands of fans after the final in Carrick-on-Shannon.

(Photo by Declan Doherty, Derry People and Donegal News)



County Under-21 All-Ireland final stars, Matt Gallagher and Tommy McDermott with Tommy's mother and father, Jackie, shortly after the historic All-Ireland final victory — a happy family indeed.



**WELCOME HOME LADS!** Back home to a tremendous welcome. Scenes in Donegal Town as the All-Ireland Under-21 team arrived that Sunday night.

## THE COUNTY-WIDE VICTORY TOUR

The victorious under-21 team did a whirlwind tour of the county with the cup. The schedule was:

**Thursday 21st Oct.** Starting in the Glenfin-Cloughan area at 7.00 p.m., and travelling via Crossroads, Killygordon, Liscooley, Lifford, Raphoe, Convoy, Drumkeen and arriving at Port Road, Letterkenny, at 10.30 p.m. From there a band parade to the Market Square for a civic reception and then to a victory dance in the G.A.A. Social Centre at O'Donnell Park.

**Friday 22nd Oct.** Assembling in Donegal Town (no stop) at 7.00 p.m. and proceeding via Mountcharles, Frosses, Dunkineely, Killybegs, Ardara, Glencolumbkille, Carrick and arriving in Kilcar for dance at 11.00 p.m.

**Saturday 23rd Oct.** Commencing in Glenties at 2.00 p.m. and proceeding through Lettermacaward, Doochary,

Churchill, Kilmacrennan, Ramelton, Milford, Carrigart, Downings, Creeslough, Dunfanaghy, Falcarragh, Annagry, Kincasslagh, Dungloe, arriving for dance at Gweedore G.A.A. Social Centre at 10.30 p.m.

**Sunday 24th Oct.** Assemble in Donegal Town (no stop) at 7.00 p.m. and proceeding via Laghey, Pettigo, Ballintra and on to Bundoran, arriving back in Ballyshannon at 9.00 p.m. for civic reception and celebrations.

**Monday 25th Oct.** Commencing at Manorcunningham at 2.00 p.m. and proceeding via St. Johnston, Carrigans, Newtowncunningham, Burt, Bridgend, Burnfoot, Muff, Quigley's Point, Moville, Gleneely, Culdaff, Malin, Carndonagh, Buncrana, Clonmany, Urris to arrive at the Strand Hotel, Ballyliffen, for victory dance at 10.30 p.m.

When at Crossroads,  
home of the Red Hughs,

why not call at

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the year.**

*Congrats to U-21 team.*



**All-Ireland Under-21 team mates carry Martin McHugh and Maurice Carr on their shoulders as the triumphant All-Ireland champions enter Martin and Maurice's home town of Kilcar on their celebration victory tour of the county.**  
(Photo by Michael O'Donnell)



**Speaking on his arrival in his home town of Glenties is John O'Donnell as the All-Ireland champions continue their county wide victory tour.**  
(Photo by Michael O'Donnell)



# How we got our first All-Ireland

Many will subscribe to the view that the introduction of this present side to success outside the county — and indeed outside the province — dates back to 1978. On Sunday, Oct. 8th, 1978, as a prelude to the then most attractive pairing of Kerry v Dublin (N.F.L., 78-9, when both teams were at the zenith of power), Donegal Under 16 year olds outplayed their Dublin counterparts at a packed and an appreciative Croke Park.

Many of the present team of All-Ireland champions first gave a broad and prophetic hint of future greatness on that memorable occasion. All credit to the officers of the then Donegal Minor Board who made that Croke Park debut possible; **charman Naul McCole, secretary Eugene Boyle and treasurer Liam Mullin** — three dedicated officials who have endured as Minor Board key figures to date; three who guided the fortunes of these Under 16 heroes through Minor and now Under 21 hours of greatness. And the man who managed that Under 16 team way back in '78, who was their mentor during their Minor careers (along with Sean O'Donnell) is, of course, none other than **Jackie McDermott**. The early formation of the Under-21 side belongs also in large measure to **Michael Lafferty** who, as manager of the Voc. Schools' county side for five years to date, had a round dozen of them under his wing since they were Under 16 year olds. Michael, with his colleagues in the V.S., especially **Danny O'Brien**, guided the fortunes of over half the present Under 21 panel during their formative football years. The following players were V.S. stars in those years: Martin McHugh, Martin Shovelin, Maurice Carr, John McGowan, Seamus Weehan, Joyce McMullan, Sylvester Maguire, Michael Kelly, Patrick McGroarty, Anthony Molloy, Donie McCole, Sean Bonner and John O'Donnell.

**Eddie McDevitt**, retired, is one teacher who did so much to ensure that his V.S. boys learned the basics of the G.A.A. game. How well the lessons were mastered must be a special source of pride and joy for Eddie who now sees so many of his pupils honoured among the panel who brought the first All-Ireland to Donegal.

**The Colleges also contributed their quota.**

**St. Eunan's** who won the Colleges 'B' All-Ireland in '79 gave us a great trio in Eunan McIntyre, Charlie Mulgrew and Paul Carr. **De La Salle, Ballyshannon**, who repeated that win for Donegal in 1980 gave us Pauric and Matt Gallagher, Tommy McDermott and our first All-Ireland captain in Brian Tuohy. Michael McBrearty is also a College product — from MacCartan's, Monaghan.

**Joe Winston** might have upstaged this All-Ireland success if injury to Pat McCrea and Anthony Molloy had not deprived him of their strength in the middle a year earlier before the Ulster final when Monaghan deprived the Donegal boys (and manager Winston) of an Ulster title — at least.

**Brian McEniff** must take credit for his inclusion of many of the Under 21 squad in his senior team during last winter's League campaign. This gave the youngsters a taste of adult football in heavy sodden conditions — a toughening experience that left them confident when faced by the lads of other counties during their Under 21 trip to the top: thanks to

By

COLM MURRAY

Brian, our lads knew all about the "man's game" (literally) so nothing or no one in their own grade looked formidable thereafter.

At this stage anything I might say in praise of **Tom Conaghan's** singleminded dedication to the team and the team's success must be treated as an exercise in "gilding the lily". It has all been said and no doubt Tom's praises will be sung over and over again so I can only add my personal congrats. Congratulations then to all who can identify with Donegal's wonderful achievement and that, of course, embraces **Donal Monaghan**. Donal, our only All Star in Ulster (1974), Four Masters' captain this year (when they won their first county title in half a century) and the "third man" in Tom Conaghan's team of mentors can look back with pride on this our Donegal year of great breakthrough.



Ulster Under-21 semi-final captains meet at MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey, with referee P. Mulholland, Derry.

(Photo: Declan Doherty, Derry People)

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SERIES

A quiet beginning at Beragh. We won our friendly with Tyrone, 0-10 to 1-3. Molloy, not fully fit, and Reid were absent and we had early misgivings about our lack of power at midfield.

**The big test in April, away to Cavan in the first round.** A great day for Charlie Mulgrew who ran, foraged, ran; for Martin McHugh who tormented various Cavan defenders in our 1-10 to 1-7 win; Seamus Meehan hit our goal in style to give us a 1-5 to 0-3 half time lead.

**Down at Ballybofey looked ordinary enough** as we started in whirlwind fashion with Paucic Gallagher winning well from McHugh's sideline ball to put away a great goal. That goal counted, for Down kept plugging away and it was 1-4 to 0-4 at half time. 1-7 to 0-6, then 1-7, 0-8, and Down's doggedness paid off when they took the lead for the first time with a scrambled goal. Micky Linden's free made the Mourne boys happy but what pressure was on Martin McHugh as he pointed a late free; then a last gasp free, cool as a cucumber, when Eunan McIntyre won an "impossible ball" to earn that second free. My best memory of the series, this, and it should be for everyone who ponders on the margin between success and failure: had Eunan not won that ball in the dying



A bunch of Lifford supporters with that familiar "U-21" banner from Ballintra at the semi-final in Longford.

seconds, had ice-cool Martin not converted the resulting free, then our All-Ireland run would have ended there. Donegal 1-9, Down 1-9.

**To Newry where no one looked for an easy win.** Donegal had a lot of the first half play with only 6 points to show for their work. Down hit eight wides all around the posts but then a Conrad Haughian goal caught Donegal defenders napping. Haughian points were largely responsible for Down levelling scores with over 10 minutes left, 1-4 to our

0-7. Enter the "super-subs" McDermott and Maguire, and they ended the Down fight back. Donegal 0-9, Down 1-4.

**Derry next with the Ulster trophy up for grabs:** A gift goal and a woeful Donegal finishing left Derry 1-2, in front to our 0-3 at the halfway. Super subs again; this time it was Reid and Maguire, but the transfer of Molloy into attack and McMullan to midfield were a improvements. So with 0-10 to 1-1 Donegal took the "Irish News" Cup and incidentally this was a repeat, at Omagh also, of our Minors' Ulster League Cup victory earlier on — two Ulster trophies thanks to two Omagh appearances!



Go get him Charlie! Young Mulgrew 'catches' his opposite Down marker in the Under-21 Ulster semi-final in MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey.

(Photo: Derry People)

## ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

**So we met Laois in Longford in quagmire.** Tommy McDermott was majestic in the middle of our defence coming through for a fine point. Seamus Bonner in the heart of the backline was outstanding and some of his fielding in the awful conditions was brilliant, all of it good.

Super subs Reid and Maguire arrived when Laois, virtually camped in front of our goal, looked like overhauling us, given time. But time was running out for them once Reid came running on with McIntyre and Tuohy sound at the back and Paucic Gallagher with McBrearty covering to perfection. Mulgrew kept prompting an attack that only lacked some luck with their shooting though McHugh hit three grand points. Reid hit the other in our 0-5 to 0-4 victory.



## THE FINAL

The final at Carrick-on-Shannon brought Roscommon into opposition. Need I say more about this game other than remind you how Reid, Molloy, McMullan and McDermott above all did most in our first All-Ireland win. Mulgrew, Tuohy and McBrearty contributed much and all the others deserved their All-Ireland medal to say the least. And that, when you stop to think about it, is as much credit as any player could ever expect to receive!

Donegal 0-5, Roscommon 0-5, at half-time. Roscommon failed to score in the second half and Donegal added 0-3 to their total. McHugh's tally was 0-5.

Victory again, and "we're through to the final". The county U-21 side after the All-Ireland semi-final against Laois in Longford.

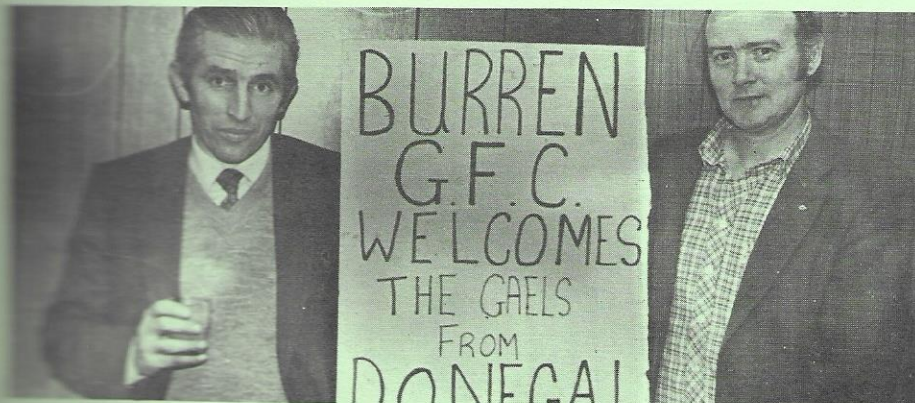
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And still more congratulations for our All-Ireland Under-21 champions when the Co. Down referees team visited the famous Co. Down — Ambrose Given and P. J. Hughes with a plaque presented to mark the occasion.

## PHONSIE McDERMOTT

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# THE MANAGER

Tom Conaghan — the family man — with his wife, Celine, 11-year-old son, Kevin, and daughters, Liza (9) and Emer (4), in the comfort of their sitting room in Donegal Town on a rare occasion relaxing from his manager's chores.



Tom Conaghan's success story as a top G.A.A. football manager is the modern "Cinderella" story of our times. Tom only got seriously involved in football management two years ago when he attended the annual general meeting of his club, Four Masters, Donegal Town, and was persuaded to take the job of senior team manager. He immediately met with success taking that team to the county senior football final from nowhere in 1981. He took his club team that extra ultimate step this year when he managed Four Masters to their first county senior football title success in 58 years.

He took over the role of county under-21 team manager earlier this year when Joe Winston resigned the position. To be drafted into such an important post in midstream is not the ideal start to say the least but Tom to his credit was undaunted and immediately set about the task with diligence and dedication. That zeal and self-confidence has culminated in Donegal winning their first All-Ireland title.

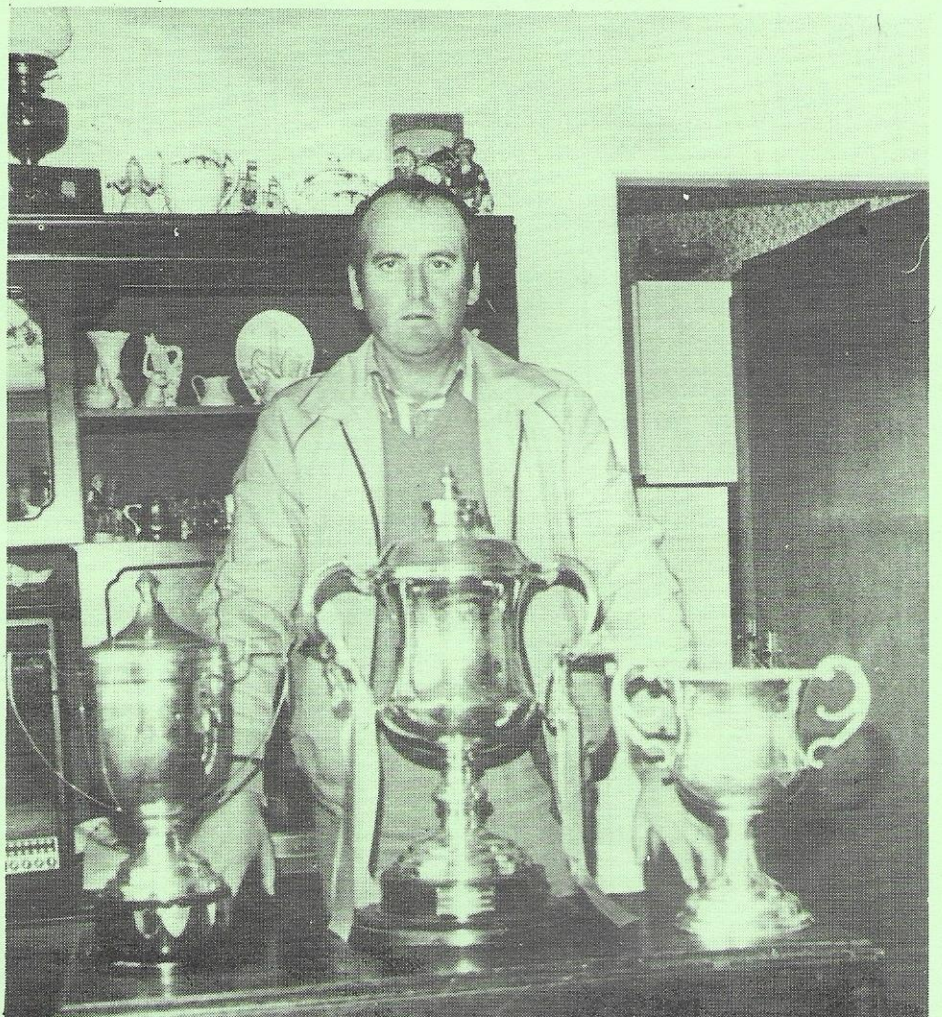
His great achievements and managerial ability was immediately recognised nationally and he received the "Talbot" Manager of the Month award for October. He was further honoured by being chosen as "Ulster Team Manager of the Year" and received the "Donegal Sports Star Appreciation Award" for 1982.

Tom was born in Donegal Town in 1945. He played his club football with his home club, Clann na nGael, later to be known as Four Masters. He played for the county minor team but a serious knee complaint curtailed his playing career and he finally retired from active play ten years ago.

He attributes much of his manager success story to insistence on teams being 100% fit, commitment, dedication, and above all, discipline. Having self-confidence and installing this self-confidence in every member of the team is a must for success, he believes.

Modestly he says his success story is all due to his teams — both club and county — and it is to them he gives full credit for everything.

Tom is the Donegal rep. for Cahill May Roberts Drug Company, Sligo. His work takes him to practically every corner of Donegal and he finds that every place he goes the impact of the All-Ireland success is overwhelming. His immediate plan is a well deserved rest for a short period and he will then be available again for carrying on from where he left off.



## of the Month

# Ulster Minor League Champions

BY COLM MURRAY

1982 was the best for Donegal minor football at intercounty level for a good many years. In defeating seven of Ulster's eight rival county teams Donegal created something of a record, en route to the Provincial League championship.

The sequence of successes came as follows:

- 0-7 to 1-3 v. Down, at Ballybofey (challenge game);
- 3-8 to 0-6 v. Derry, at Ballybofey, Ulster Minor League;
- 1-6 to 1-5 v. Tyrone, at Omagh, U.M.L.;
- 1-3 to 0-4 v. Antrim, at Clones, U.M.L. semi-final;
- 2-7 to 0-11 v. Monaghan at Omagh, U.M.L. final;
- 2-13 to 0-4 v. Fermanagh at Falcarragh (challenge game);
- 1-9 to 1-8 v. Armagh, at Ballybofey, Minor Championship, 1st round.

10 goals, 53 pts. against 3 goals, 41 pts., is the total aggregate from these seven successes on the trot. The "odd man out" is Cavan who lost to Monaghan in the M.F. League so, since we beat Monaghan in the final of that competition, we can claim Cavan as our eighth Ulster "victim by proxy"!

The above statistics of "for and against" figures imply a free scoring attack and a tight marking defence and that in fact gives a good over-all picture where Donegal's young stars are concerned.

The winning of the Ulster Minor League Cup was no mean achievement and team manager Liam Reilly must take a very large share of the credit here; Liam spared no effort to get the best out of his boys and to get the best team on the field for 20.

every occasion; he received good support from Jackie McDermott, a capable aide, and of course, the lads gave of their wholehearted co-operation too. So it was a task well done by all concerned and it represented another successful break through, another milestone passed, for resurgent Donegal.

I know that we failed to defeat Antrim in the Championship semi-final, going under at Clones on a scoreline of 1-8 to 0-7. I've been reading how well the Glensmen did their homework on us following their league defeat at our hands; homework or not, the loss of form of several key players on the Donegal team on the day was the deciding factor, in my view.

We did not play up to our own normal standards against Antrim, just as they in turn were only a pale shadow of their true form v. Kerry — as mediocre a Kerry minor outfit as you could hope to see.

So forget about your homework, Antrim; our lads had an off day (or too many of them had) and that is a cold fact of football "form", especially where minors are concerned.

Highlights of our successful summer were the memories that come, unbidden, without reference to notes or games reports. These, for me, were as follows: —

A good team performance against Down who came at almost full championship strength to Ballybofey for our first inter-county game; and, though it was only a "challenge" affair, though Down only lost by one point, they went home crestfallen for they rated their team highly.

Paddy Ban Gallagher's well taken goals v. Derry spring readily to mind. What a pity we lost this fine player, due to injury, shortly afterwards, from the panel. But it was another goal by Paddy Ban at the end of a great move involving Seamus Ward to Liam McGee to Christy Ryan (one end of the park to the other) that kept us in front, v. Tryone, at half time.

Timely interceptions by James McHugh repeatedly denied a rampant Tyrone attack the scores they merited in this opening half. A glorious Donegal "blitz" in the third quarter opened up a 1-5 to 0-2 lead as Liam Kennedy, Declan Bonner and Christy Ryan turned on the style well supported by Eamonn McGinley and Brian Murray. Paddy Ban hit a splendid point before hobbling off the field. A penalty brought Tyrone back into the game and they hit us with everything they had. But for a very long and very accurate Declan Bonner free we would have been in for a draw here.

So on to Antrim at Clones in a downpour. They led us 0-3 to nil at the end of 30 minutes in terrible conditions. Five minutes of second half magic changed all that as Dermot Slevin crashed a low shot to the Antrim net and the Bonner brothers (Michael and Declan) had a point each in that period following half time. Oh yes, one other memory of this game has to be of Ciaran Tinney who at left full back broke the back — and the heart! — of innumerable Antrim attacks. Space, or the limitations thereof, does not allow me to do justice to our league final v. Monaghan but in a thrilling game the following quartette stand out from

the others for these reasons; James McHugh, already mentioned for his corner back display v. Tyrone, now assumes the mantle of goal getter — his two early goals were gems. Brian Murray won everything in the air for long periods of Monaghan pressure in a heart stopping second half with Christy Ryan latching onto breaking balls or battling for possession like a man inspired. The superb fielding of Seamus Ward at the back when under extreme pressure was a revelation and his pinpoint clearances, invariably won by Murray or Ryan, highlighted a great personal display. Donegal led 2-6 to 0-4 at half time but relied on a lone Liam Kennedy point in the second half to keep them afloat as Monaghan racked on seven more points to end marginally in arrears, 0-11 to our 2-7. It was a great win and since it brought Donegal its first silverware since 1974 the team must be given in full here: Garry Walsh; Seamus Ward, Conor Boyle, Eamon McGinley; Ciaran Tinney, John Kiers, Liam McGee; Brian Murray (capt), Aidan Boyle; Sean McEniff, Dermot Slevin, Christy Ryan; James McHugh, Michael Bonner, Liam Kennedy. Myles Sweeney came on for Liam McGee and did his share in this fine win. As I have stated, it was a fine all round showing by Donegal with some on the day doing that bit extra.

It must be recorded here that all members of the panel used did their bit — a bit more on some occasions than on others, as happens; but all can look back on the campaign with pride.

Too often teams who win the Minor League do not win Ulster championships and Donegal were no exception. Did I detect a note of complacency in the camp before the Armagh game? It was certainly there despite the narrow win we had against the Orchard county and perhaps we took the Glensmen too lightly when they defeated us, the second time round, in the championship semi final at Clones.

James McHugh's great goal late in the game v. Armagh proved to be a match winner. Frankie Gallagher came on for Michael Bonner during the game and showed promise. Joe Curran replaced Liam McGee at right half back v. Antrim, otherwise the team was unchanged — Joe had a fine game as indeed had all the defence with Seamus Ward finishing in a flurry of timely interceptions and clearances. Michael Bonner can look back with pride as he led the Glensmen a dance here! So far so good; we lost to Antrim who went on to represent Ulster at Down's

expense; but we did win the Minor League and to all concerned my heartiest congratulations. Mention must be made of goalie Gary Walsh and consistent Conor Boyle who never let us down throughout the series. John Kerrs, "the man you never noticed at centre half until he was missing"; needs no further word of commendation! The Bonners, Liam Kennedy, Christy Ryan, McHugh himself and Seanie McEniff all played their part. Aidan Boyle gave some useful displays and Eamon McGinley was consistently a success. Tinney, Curran and McGee were sound and Dermot Slevin led his attack with force and vision. Spare a thought for Andy Faulkner who kept his goal intact in the early games until injury forced him out of contention. Jackie Gallagher, Ardara, Marty Boyle and Liam Ward gave us useful service when called on.

Last word is in praise of captain Brian Murray, who led by example, especially in the crucial second half of the League final when Monaghan seemed set to overhaul us.

## GEARTHÓGA

At a meeting of the Ulster Council held in Clones on the 11th July, 1922, the first every Ulster football team was selected to contest The Tailteann Games to be held in 1924. Representatives attended from Cavan, Monaghan and Antrim. One player from Donegal — Mr. O'Rourke — was chosen at full back on the football team and no Donegal player was chosen on the hurling team although there were 15 clubs (hurling or football) in Donegal at that time. The teams selected never played according to the records.

The Ulster football team which was selected at the May meeting of the Ulster Council included Bernie Sharkey from the Rosses who was selected at full forward and scored the only goal registered in the semi-final against Munster. Bernie Sharkey was the first native Donegal man to be selected on an Ulster football team. Also playing in that semi-final was Garda P. Mulvihill of Donegal Town and Mr. Aherne who was a substitute.

In the first Ulster football team selected for the Interprovincial Championship (Railway Cup) in 1926 a Charlie McDyre, N.T., Kilraine, Glenties, was chosen at full back and played against Munster in semi-final at Breffni Park on 14th November, 1926. Munster won 1-8 to 3-1.

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Two footballers, while participating in the Dublin County football championship in the early 30s, when scoring points from 50s in Croke Park, had the experience of seeing the ball come back of the Railway Wall. The players in question were the late John O'Donnell of Dungloe playing with U.C.D. in 1931 and the red haired Ned McCann of Dublin playing with Clann na nGael in 1933.

\*\*\*\*\*

Not too often in the history of Donegal football do we find four brothers featuring on Senior County Championship teams. But we have a few such as the four Hannigan brothers — Jim, Paddy (R.I.P.), Jack and Cahal of Stranorlar in 1940-1945; the Keeney brothers, John, Charlie, Packie, James and Michael in 1968 and 1969, with Ardara, and McGill brothers, Manus, Aidan, Declan and Enda of Edergole, Ardara, in 1972-1973, who are also holders of 17 Donegal County Championship medals. Two other members of the Keeney family — Packie and Kieran — also played with Ardara in later years and with the county team — Kieran being a member of the present inter-county team.

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Yes, it's a record — three brothers on any Donegal inter-county football team in any grade — set up by the Bonner brothers, Michael, Sean and Declan of Na Rossa G.A.A Club when they played on the Donegal inter-county Minor team in 1981.

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At a meeting of the Donegal County Board held in Ballyshannon on the 13th May, 1927, the first ever Selection Committee was appointed and consisted of the following: J. J. Cassidy, Ardara; Patrick Sweeney, Letterkenny; John McGill, Ballybofey and Ardara; John Conaghan, Glenties, and John Downey, Ballyshannon.

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# First decade of re-organised G.A.A. in Donegal, 1919-1928

WITH THE WONDERFUL upsurge of national re-awakening of the national spirit after the establishment of Dáil Éireann, came the rapid growth of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Donegal. We cannot overlook the fact that the early years of the century brought a wonderful revival and the setting up of an administrative unit in Donegal but this was due among other things to the efforts of influential individuals such as Dr. Maguire, Alex McDyre, N.T., Dick Bonner, N.T., Seamus McManus, Dr. Patrick O'Donnell, Lord Bishop of Raphoe, Canon Hugh Gallagher, Fr. Cannon, P. M. Gallagher and others who guided the destinies of the Association from 1903 to 1910.

At all times from 1884 onwards there were competitions in hurling in Donegal and in 1889-91 there were three clubs active in Donegal and down the years until a county board was formed in 1928 Donegal was engaged in the Ulster hurling championship and even in 1914 there were five organised football clubs in the county and a similar number of hurling clubs.

In 1917 all Ulster counties were affiliated to the Ulster Council for the first—Donegal being the last to affiliate, but even then North Donegal was included in Co. Derry, for G.A.A. purposes. There was no championship in Ulster that year but an inter-county competition was run off between county champions. Donegal although affiliated did not participate. This competition was known as The National Aid and Dependents Competition, and was organised for the purpose of raising funds for the dependents of those who had been engaged in the national struggle. It is evident that a championship had not been run off in Donegal that year or even in the following year.

The first football championship, that is after the re-organisation in 1919, was contested in the final stages by Bundoran and Killygordon, the latter winning by a small margin and in the following year the same teams contested the final but the previous year's result was reversed. It is appropriate at this point to clarify the position that existed for the championship which was run off on a league system. The league (double) was run off beginning in October and

finishing the following May or June. This clarifies the erroneous idea that arose that the final played in any year, was that year's championship when, in fact, it was the previous year's championship. It is also important that the county was divided in three districts: South, South-West and East and that the winners of the South-West played the winners in the South and the winners then played a final against the winners in the East. It is also to be noted that the South-West did not have clubs in 1919 or 1920 but in 1921 Glenties (July), Ardara (October) and Killybegs were established.

The 1921 final played on 1st June, 1922 in Ballybofey was won by Castlefin when they defeated Glenties by three points. The championship of 1922 played in Letterkenny in the presence of a large crowd who witnessed a fast game seldom witnessed. The Donegal team representing the South and South-West was captained by that expert footballer, Patrick Mulvihill—a member of the Garda stationed in Donegal, and was victorious over a Dungloe team which was a "much slighted combination who played a great game and were unlucky to fail in their first attempt to win county championship honours".

In October 1922 the South-West district was formed in Ardara and three clubs affiliated—Glenties, Ardara, Killybegs and a league played off which was won by Ardara who then went on to defeat Ballybofey at Hollymount Park at Mullinard by 1 gl. 2 pts. to 3 pts. The game was described as "keen, even fierce in its intensity". The game was remarkably clean, chivalrous and unflinching and it terminated amid a murmur of appreciation that broke with tumultuous cheers for Ardara, the victors only because the prestige of the home league area had been maintained.

Ballyshannon and Ardara were contestants for the 1924 championship at Kilcar. At the request of Ardara, Ballyshannon with their usual courtesy agreed to play in Mountcharles where they were victorious. However, Kilcar who were third in the league table lodged a protest on the grounds that both clubs were automatically disqualified owing to not playing fixture at proper venue. The protest was upheld and

Kilcar declared county champions later on when Dunfanaghy failed to field in the final in Letterkenny in summer 1925.

The 1925 championship also played on the existing league basis was won by Ardara who defeated Letterkenny Rovers 0-5 to 0-2. This was the last championship played on a district league basis and the championship commenced in 1926 was competed for on a county-at-large basis and was won by Letterkenny Rovers who were the first to be presented with "The Dr. Maguire Memorial Challenge Cup" and received on behalf of the team by Mr. Larkin. This valuable trophy which was designated by the County Board to the Senior Football Championship had been purchased by funds subscribed by G.A.A. members and admirers of Dr. Maguire, first patron of the G.A.A. in the early years of the century.

The Dr. Maguire Cup, which was designed by Mr. Sean Connaghan, county treasurer, Glenties, was a graceful and lasting tribute in memory of the first county president G.A.A. It weighed 2 lbs. 5 ozs. 9 dwts and was 11½ inches high on plinth standing 10 inches high and bowl 9" wide with each handle projecting 4 inches, and engraved in Irish, and cost £50.

The 1928 football championship was played on a county-at-large basis and was contested by nine teams, and played under the first by-laws ever promulgated in the county. At a meeting of the County Board held in Dungloe, Sean Cassidy, Ardara, presiding, it was decided that Ardara play Killygordon in Hollymount Park, at Mullinard, Glenties, better known locally as "The Curragh" on May 6th, 1928 with Mr. McNicholl, Annagry, as referee. The playing pitch which was 140 yds. by 60 yds. was specially prepared for the final, with marking and nets. The final score was: Ardara 1-4, Killygordon 0-3. The teams in this final were:

Ardara—Thomas O'Donnelly (goal), Tom Gallagher, Con Breslin, Leo Howley, Patrick Breslin, Hugh Mooney, Patrick J. Gildea, Michael McArdle, John Watters, Hugh Haughey, Patrick McGrath, Michael Cullen, Charles McDyre, Christopher Kennedy, Denis Mooney, Bernard McNelis, John Gallagher, Hugh Gildea, Hugh Gallagher.



Killygordon—Patrick Bonner (capt.), Patrick Hannigan (capt.), Robert Brady, Jim McGrotty, Willie McDullion, Edward Brady, Edward Carr, Alex McNulty, Frank Kelly, Tom Wainwell, Charles Kelly, Mick McNulty, John Brady, Alex Brady, Willie J. Brady, Tom Sweeney, Jack Copley, John Sweeney.

In 1925 "The Democrat Cup" was presented to the County Board by the "Democrat Printing Company" and assigned to the Football League. The County Board continued to organise the hurling championship at interclub and intercounty level. The hurling championship, within the county got under way in 1925 and won by Ballyshannon, in 1926 by Letterkenny Glenties and in 1927-28 by Finner Camp. At intercounty level Donegal contested the Ulster Championship from 1923 onwards and met with great success that year by winning the Ulster Championship and contesting the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final with Limerick which they lost 7 gls. 4 pts. to 0 gls. 1 pt. in Croke Park on the 27th April, 1924. Of the 9 intercounty Ulster Championship hurling matches played by Donegal 1923-1928 Donegal won nine and in the football championship 1919-1928. Of the 13 intercounty matches played Donegal won three. Of the 11 Dr. McKenna Cup games played 1925-28, Donegal won four and of the four friendly matches played—2 in 1926 and 2 in 1927—Donegal won three against Tyrone.

At the end of the decade 14 clubs were affiliated and 13 had senior football teams and 5 hurling teams, and were as follows: Ardara (F.), Ballybofey (F.), Ballyshannon (H.F.), Bundoran (H.F.), Castlefin (F.), Derry City (H.F.), Dungloe (F.), Dunkineely (F.), Glenties (F.), Killygordon (F.), Letterkenny (H.F.), Mountcharles (F.), Moville (H.F.), Newrycunningham (H.) and many others not affiliated. The officers at that time were President, Sean Cassidy, Ardara; Vice-Presidents, Rev. J. Gallagher, C.C., Churchill, and Michael Dawson, Letterkenny; Registrar, John McGill, Ballybofey; Treasurer, Sean Conaghan, Glenties; Secretary, Charles McDyre, N.T., Killygordon.

On the 23/9/1923 the County Board liabilities were £139.10.0 with no assets and £13-0-2 in cash on hand. However, on the 30/9/1928 all debts had been cleared in respect of 1923 to 1928 and the Board had trophies valued £110 and jersey £8-10-0. The gate receipts for cup finals at Glenties and Letterkenny amounted to £131-18-7 which was very good considering that the admission fee was one shilling.

One cannot but remark on the progress made by the Association in County Donegal in the decade under review. Clubs were established all along the western seaboard where none existed before, but it is also equally true that there was not a single G.A.A. owned playing pitch in the county by 1928, and this militated enormously against the spread and propagation of the game as rented fields very often did not lend themselves to the proper development of skills or the expense necessary for players to reach a high standard at intercounty level, particularly at senior level. By the end of the decade Gaelic football was widely played in Donegal and hurling had held its own and perhaps most important of all an administrative machinery had been firmly established; a county board was operational, conventions were held, and Donegal had become an integral part of the Gaelic Athletic Association at provincial and national level.

PÁDRAIG S. MAC A' GHAOILL

## ÓG SPÓRT GAEL

IN 1979 the G.A.A. introduced an exciting new concept, a football competition and an All-Ireland club seven-a-side under-15 football tournament, which goes under the title Óg Spórt Gael. It was designed not only to develop the national games but to promote other aspects of national identity in a pleasant, entertaining and non-competitive way. The competition was planned to be run on a county basis, with the 32 county winners coming together for the holiday camp at Gormanston College, Co. Meath, where the national winners emerge over the week. Leading coaches and physical education teachers attend to deal with the finer points of training in the skills and tactics of the game. Top G.A.A. officials explain the workings of the Association from national to club level. All the emphasis is not directed solely to the playing of the game. There is handball, tennis, basketball, volleyball and swimming facilities to the lads. The programme also includes community singing by the boys themselves, discussions with intercounty stars and novelty games. The camp includes ceremonial aspects and the Irish language is encouraged to be used as much as possible.

Since this competition began Donegal has taken part and although

we have never won it outright, we have been well served by the clubs from Ballyshannon, Dungloe, Glenfin and Killybegs. Each year the lads from Donegal have performed admirably, bringing honour and credit to the home county in the sporting and skilful way they performed their task. Young Cunningham of Killybegs was chosen as the most outstanding young player of 1982 in Gormanston this year. It's a great honour for him to be given national recognition or distinction on behalf of the G.A.A. in the county, I take the liberty of congratulating him on his achievement. He is not alone because his team mates and indeed the lads of previous years gave warning of the high standard of football in the county.

This year's competition within the county was run on a divisional (board) basis and there was further entries, of which one eventually did not take part. There were four Divisions with Urris participating in the East and the competition was run off on a blitz fashion, the winner in each division progressing to the county semi-finals. The four semi-finalists were Ballyshannon, Killybegs, Letterkenny and Termon and the games were played in Glenfin on a shortened pitch. The final was between Ballyshannon and Killybegs and could be described as a close encounter with Ballyshannon having the ability but they failed to convert it into scores. On the other hand the never-say-die attitude of the Killybegs lads knew where the goals were and what they had to do to get on the holiday camp. It was a great game played in a sporting fashion before a very small crowd. It's sad that the parents at least don't come along to see their sons play. Mind you Killybegs had the best support that evening and when the final whistle was sounded they made their presence felt.

The tournament is sponsored by the New Ireland Assurance Company and Kennys Public Relations were employed to take charge of the publicity. Present at the final and semi-finals were Mairéad Brennan from Kennys Public Relations and to represent New Ireland Assurance Company was Mr. William Costelloe, who presented the trophies to the winning team. The local organiser, who is the youth officer introduced the players to Mr. Costelloe, who thanked all the teams, officials and referees involved in the competition. The referee for the semi-finals and the final was Sean McGoldrick who did an excellent job.

REV. EAMON CROSSAN, C.C.



Reps from Kellys Garage, Dunkineely — Main Toyota Dealers — handing over the keys of the Toyota car the County Board won in the Ceannaras Draw to County Chairman, Michael Gillespie. Also in picture Sean O Siochan, former Director General of the G.A.A., and Liam Mullen, Co. Minor Board treasurer.



County Under-21 team manager, Tom Conaghan, receiving a cheque from Sean McCormack, Milford Bakery, as part sponsorship for the All-Ireland U-21 final.



County officers Michael Gillespie, chairman, and Sean Boyle, P.R.O., pictured receiving a cheque from Bank of Ireland officials as part sponsorship for the Donegal U-21 team in the All-Ireland final the Tuesday night prior to the All-Ireland day.

# CO. BOARD OFFICERS 1982

**UACHTARÁN:**

An Dr. Ro-Oirmh. Antoine Mac Fichille, D.D.,  
Leitir Ceanainn.



**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

Mícheál Mac Giolla Easpaig, Kílcar.



**RÚNAÍ:**

Partholan Ó Faolain, Ardara.



**CISTEOIR:**

Proinsias Mac Cuinneagáin, Carrick.



**CLARAITHEOIR:**

Reggie Mac Amhlaidh, Leitir Ceanainn.



**OIFIGEACH**

**CAIDRIMH POIBLÍ:**

Seán Ó Baoill, Leitir Ceanainn.



**OIFIGEACH NA  
GAEILGE:**

Seamus De Faoite, Leitir Ceanainn.



**OIFIGEACH OIGE:**

An tAth. Eamon Ó Crosain, Churchill.



# HONOURS LIST 1982

## COUNTY FINALS' RESULTS

### County Senior Football Championship:

FOUR MASTERS, DONEGAL 1-4, KILCAR 0-6.

### County Senior Hurling Championship:

BURT 1-8, SETANTA 1-6.

### County Intermediate Football Championship:

URRIS 1-5, RED HUGH'S 0-7.

### County Junior Football Championship:

NA ROSSA 3-4, GWEEORE 2-6.

### County Under-21 Football Championship:

AODH RUADH, BALLYSHANNON 2-10, ARDARA 0-5.

### County Minor Football Championship:

AODH RUADH, BALLYSHANNON 0-13, ARDARA 0-8.

### County Juvenile Football Championship:

GLENFIN 1-9, BUNCRANA 1-3.

### County Under-14 Football Championship:

NAOMH COLUMBA, GLENCOLMCILLE 1-4, DOWNINGS 0-1.

### Boys Under-12 County Football Championship:

ST. EUNAN'S, LETTERKENNY 6-11, GWEEORE 4-1.

## COUNTY LEAGUE WINNERS

Division 1 — KILCAR.

Division 3 — CLOUGHANEELY.

Division 2 — DOWNINGS.

Division 4 — AODH RUADH.

ÓG SPORT GAEL — KILLYBEGS.

### FEILE NA nGAEL:

Hurling: BURT.

Camogie: LORETO, LETTERKENNY.

John Cunningham, Killybegs, was voted player of the tournament in Óg Sport Gael Gaelic football in Gormanston, 1982.

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# LIFFORD G.A.A. CLUB

by *PACKIE KEENEY*

This little Border club continues to make steady progress. From the first Sunday five years ago when the club reformed we used a borrowed set of jerseys, had a rented field and a "gather up" team, we have now progressed to the point of owning one of the finest full size playing pitches in the county, have a regular team and own three sets of jerseys!!! The rule is more now that the team has more locals than "blow-ins" (and I can put myself in that category) as the latter

was more the pattern with Lifford teams over the years. No doubt these visitors were also very much responsible for creating what tradition the club enjoys to-day, but it is very heartening for the club officers to see so much local interest.

One man who has departed from Lifford and who should be leaving with a great deal of pride, is former Ballyshannon full-back, Lifford player, and chairman, Danny Bannigan. Over his 23 years in Lifford

Danny worked tirelessly to further G.A.A. football in the area, and was to the fore when the club bought and developed their new pitch. He will be well remembered by the Lifford club and best wishes are extended to him on his promotion and to his wife, Kathleen, and family.

Being from West Donegal myself, I can appreciate that G.A.A. people elsewhere in the county would not be inclined to attach a lot of importance

## LIFFORD G.A.A. PITCH AND CLUB OFFICIALS 1982



TONY DEVINE



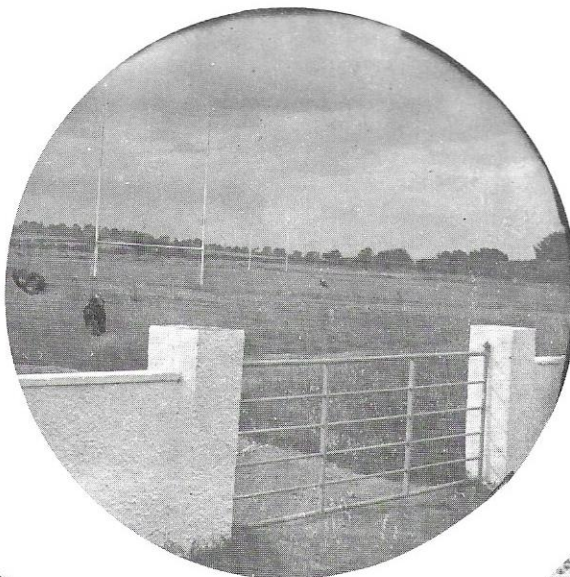
BRENDAN NEEDHAM



BARNEY McDERMOTT



BRENDAN DAVITT



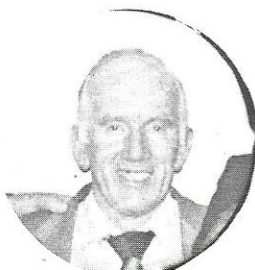
LIFFORD G.A.A. PITCH



DAN CARLIN



SEAN MCGOLDRICK



JOE GORMLEY



LIAM MCGROARY



WILLIE LYNCH



### LIFFORD G.A.A. TEAM 1982

Back row (left to right): Barney McDermott, Dessie McDermott, Liam Harte, Paul Campbell, Raymond McGinley, Austin Daly, Raymond McDonnell, Benny Duffy, Eamonn McLaughlin. Front row (left to right): Kevin Costello, Robert Campbell, John Campbell, Paddy Melaugh, Danny Carlin, Sean Quinn, Johnny Thompson, Tony Devine.

to a little club on the border in East Donegal, but I can assure them that the club members here, although up against a lot of obstacles, are very much committed to further promotion the G.A.A. in the area and when I mention people like Liam McDermott, Joe Gormley, Tony Devine, Brendan Davitt, Willie Lynch, not to mention Barney McDermott and his sons, John, Enda and Desmond, club treasurer, Brendan Needham, Dan Carlin, and referees Sean McGoldrick and Francie Haughey, their names may not mean a lot in some parts of the county but these are the people who are keeping the Lifford club on the "map", and are to be appreciated by all G.A.A. people for making such great strides in such short time.

Since now the club is established with a football field the next priority must be to build dressing room accommodation and this is planned. Meanwhile, with the amount of experience our young players are gaining with each outing, we are looking forward to the day when we will carry off our first county trophy, and when that happens I expect we will have stars in the likes of Johnny Thompson, Raymond McGinley, Liam Harte, Austin Daly, Robert and Paul Campbell, Mark McClay, Kevin Costello, Tony Friel, John Sheahan, Benny Duffy, Eamonn McLoughlin, Paddy Melaugh, Derek McLoone and I hope many others — that will be quite a night in Lifford!

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**WILLIE LYNCH,**  
Coneyburrow Rd.,

**LIFFORD.**

Phone Lifford 336

# VIDEO VIDEO VIDEO

by Packie Keeney

It's the 1998 senior county final at MacCumhaill Park between Ballintra and Lifford (I don't know what happened all those other great teams like Ardara, Kilcar, Four Masters, etc). The television cameras are in the Ballintra dressing rooms (covering the event to be shown on local television that night). A giant video screen erected above the scoreboard is watched by the eager spectators to see when the teams will leave the dressing rooms to take the field. Cameras are posted around the pitch with the two main cameras in their perches on the front of the new sideline spectators stand. During the game Ballintra veteran full-back Matt Gallagher is having the better of exchanges with the Lifford attack. Lifford decide to move in another "old fashioned" veteran Johnny Thompson to curb the domineering Matt. Matt talks a lot to Johnny, but to the delight of the Lifford supporters Johnny puts the ball in the Ballintra net!!! Then all eyes turn to the giant video screen to watch the action replay of the goal.

Fiction, you might say, but whatever about whoever contests that final, one thing is assured, it will be well and truly filmed by video much more sophisticated than we have to-day.

Three years ago the County Board bought its own video equipment and to date it has proved to be a good investment. I still don't know how I became the "video operator", and many times I wish I hadn't, but the joy of seeing the enthusiasm of players and supporters alike watching the playback of their winning game when every good point and every mistake is cheered, has made it worthwhile.

We have the senior finals of the last three years on records as well as a number of other finals from underage to intermediate. Also there's the visit of the great Kerry team to Ballybofey, the Armagh-Dublin League game which I got a great "kick" out of covering from the R.T.E. perch on the Hogan Stand in Croke Park for team manager Brian



PACKIE KEENEY (Lifford)  
Co. Board video operator.

McEniff, with commentary from Danny Harkin. We of course have the Donegal v. Armagh Championship games in both senior and minor this year, the under-21 Ulster final and the tape that made the video equipment worth every penny — the only record of the All-Ireland U-21 final at Carrick-on-Shannon. I thought I would "burst" with emotion trying to keep a cool head to film this one and concentrate on the game, but the marvellous commentary flowing from Fr. Sean Gallagher beside me seemed to say what we all felt.

In years ahead these recordings will be regarded as fairly primitive, but they will be a record of how the game was at the time just as I wish we could go back to see the great Gweedore, MacCumhaills, St. Eunan's teams, and the great St. Joseph's team even of more recent years.

One thing sure that the popularity of video is growing every year, and see it as a great promotional aid for the G.A.A. and I hope Croke Park will also soon issue video coaching tapes for club coaches.

The video tapes sent across the water to Donegal exiles gives them a great sense of joy and pride in their national game too.

Finally, I would like to thank my commentators, Fr. Sean Gallagher, Sean McGoldrick and Danny Harkin for their assistance, as the only reward they get is their own enthusiasm! Also Joe Doherty (MacCumhaill Park) where I seem to do about 90% of the games, for his assistance and co-operation, and of course to those people who appreciate and enjoy the games.



Mr. Danny Bannigan and his wife, Kathleen, receive a presentation from Tony Devine, chairman of Lifford club, on his promotion on transfer to Stranorlar.



# BURT REGAIN SENIOR HURLING CROWN

by JAMES McLAUGHLIN



Burt hurling team, winners of the County Senior Hurling Final, 1982.

(Photo: John Foy)

1982 was a good year for the Burt G.A.A. Club on the playing fields. As well as taking the senior hurling championship, "The Derry People Cup", back to Burt after a lapse of two years, 1979 was our last victory. Seanta beating us in the 1980-1981 final.

Our local school St. Angus taking the Primary Schools county hurling championship. The under-14 hurlers taking the county title for the first time in twelve years beating the famed Killygordon team in the final, and the deserved reward was a trip to Dublin to represent the county in the finals of Na Feile all-Ireland competitions. Going down to a very strong Dublin team in the first game in their group but getting over some of the early nerves these youngsters came out and won their second game against a Dublin team also, as well as getting something to cheer about these young boys also got a bundle of experience.

Our under 12 hurlers still in the running for Inishowen title competition yet unfinished, our under-12 footballers winning the Inishowen title, but losing out to the much famed Gweedore team in the county semi-final, our under-14 footballers

losing the Inishowen final play-off to Carndonagh, the junior football team winning at home in the first round, losing the second game in Fanad to Roger Casements. The third game in Letterkenny was a close affair with Roger Casements coming out on top at the end. In the Primary Schools football championship St. Angus won their section in Inishowen but went down to a Letterkenny team in the latter stages of the competition.

The club is indeed thankful to the local priest for use of hall for bazaars, meetings and fund-raising activities, to the local businessmen for their help during the year, to the ladies who helped in any way during the year, and to any other person who helped to make Burt G.A.A. Club continue to further successes. Last, but not least, to Josie Dowds for the loan of the field down through the years.

## BURT CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING TEAMS

**St. Angus (Primary Schools) —** Sean Harrigan, Bert O'Neill, Barry Harrigan, Daniel McDaid, Fergal

Grant, David McAuley, Gary McLaughlin, Henry McKinney, Seamus Grant, Seamus Whoriskey, Teague Whoriskey, Martin Fanning, P. J. McDermott, Michael Broderick, Sean Breslin, Thomas Downey, Peter Downey, Patrick Downey, Henry Doyle, John McDermott, Andrew Wallace.

**Burt Under-14:** Thomas Downey, Liam McGrath, Darin McDermott, David McAuley, Stephen McClafferty, Roger Doyle, Sean Harrigan, Frankie McDermott, Kevin Callaghan, Ivor Dowds, John Friel, Donal Campbell, Barry Hannigan, Declan Callaghan, P. J. McDermott, Michael Campbell, Brian Donaghey, Gary McLaughlin, Fergal Grant, Peter Downey.

**Burt Senior:** Cathal Crawford, Danny Gallagher, Anthony McGrath, Thomas Brennan, Raymond Gallagher, Jude Campbell, Frankie Harrigan, Vincent Hoey, John O'Brien, Teague Whoriskey, Sean Crawford, Martin McLaughlin, James McLaughlin, Brian Whoriskey, Paul Downey, Liam Burns, Teague Corbett, Eugene Sherry, Martin Doherty, John Joe Doherty.



St. Angus (Primary School)



Burt Under-14 team

# HURLING WITHIN THE COUNTY

by JAMES McLAUGHLIN

In 1982 we again divided the county into divisions. It was hoped that each division would try and promote hurling, especially at junior level. Apart from Inishowen there was no organised competition except for the under-14 Feile competition. In Inishowen, the Divisional Committee ran an under-12 competition, got a good response with seven teams taking part, Carn, Urris, Bunrana, Fahan, Burt, Newtowncunningham and Na Maha, (from Derry City). This turned out to be a very good competition. Everyone concerned with these teams are worthy of the highest praise for the effort they put into this competition, and if this can be maintained for a few years would be rewarded with a strong pocket of hurling in the North of the county. If the Eastern Division could get a competition going there it would give great support to Setanta who have over the years in this area done great work for hurling, and hopefully we would then see hurling spread all over the county.

At senior level we had Setanta, Burt, Gweedore, Killybegs and 28th Battalion (Army) in the Championship. The first rounds were on a home and away basis. First round fixtures were not adhered to, and once again left the final too late. As in years before the winning team (Burt this year) suffers as the final had to be played on the Saturday evening, and the winners play the following day in the Ulster Club Championship. We will have to make sure in the coming year that all games fixed by played on the given date.

At inter-county level we did better than for some years. The county team had its first outing of the season against Sligo at Sligo. We won this one fairly easily. The second game was in Ballybofey against Longford, losing this one which we could have won. We then played Leitrim in Leitrim, winning this one, leaving us runners-up to Longford in our sec-

tion, which left us in the semi-final of Division 3 against Derry, who beat us in a good hard game. The team started training together one night a week before the competition started and during the competition we had a good commitment from the players, and with even a bit more commitment in the coming season we could reap a higher reward.



Action from 1982 senior hurling final between Burt (winners) and Setanta.

# Tír Conaill Gaels London

The Tír Conaill Gaels were formed in 1962 by a small determined group of Donegal men and in its first year went on to win the Junior Championship and League. At that time all players and officials were natives of Donegal but that has since changed as now the Gaels have players from all over Ireland. The club is based in North London and have now got their own playing field and training facilities. 1981 was the first time the Gaels had a visiting club from Donegal. The Glenfin Club were the first to make the trip. In October we had the privilege to play the 1981 Donegal Senior Champions, Ardara, and it proved a major success for both clubs. The club at present are lucky to have a group of hardworking officers such as chairman Eddie McGinty from Glenfin; Secretary, Frank Glynn, Clare; Treasurer, Seamus Mohan, Frosses and others such as Michael McGrath and Paddy Burke. We intend starting underage football in the coming season as we have sons of officials and supporters eager to play our native game.

For a club to be successful in London it needs a regular supply of

players coming over from Ireland. In the past few seasons we were lucky to have players with County experience — men such as John and Brian McParland of Down, Sean McCormac of Meath, Seamus Carr and Paul McGeehan of Donegal. Unfortunately for us we have lost one of our most outstanding players Fr. Paul McGeehan, who has since returned to his native county. Last year was a most successful year, winning the Intermediate Championship, the McArdle Cup, the Intermediate Sevens and were beaten in the final of Sean Shields Cup. This year Tír Conaill Gaels travelled to Portsmouth and won the first ever nine-a-side competition held there. In June they went on to win the Great Britain nine-a-side in Ruislip and were very unlucky to get beaten by the Round Towers in the Senior Championship.

At present we are well placed in the league and have qualified for the final of the Tipperary Cup by defeating St. Mary's, Round Towers and Aer Lingus. We are at present organising our first ever nine-a-side tournament

which we hope will be a major annual event with visiting teams from Ireland taking part. The trophy is sponsored by the Gaels in memory of their former player, John Roach, from Mayo, who was tragically killed in 1980.

The Gaels hope for a prosperous and successful future and continued support from our native Green Isle.

## LIST OF OFFICERS:

President: Michael McGrath, Ballyshannon. Vice-President, Frank Hegarty, Glencolmcille. Chairman: Eddie McGinty, Glenfin. Vice-chairman: Martin Hennessy, Clare. Secretary: Frank Glynn, Clare. Asst. Sec.: John Wrynn, Kinlough. Treasurer: Seamus Mohan, Frosses. Team Manager: Paddy Burke, Frosses. Trainer: Seamus Carr, Glencolmcille. Captain: John McParland, Down. Vice-Captain: Danny Tully, Dunkineely. Club Referees: P. J. McGinley, Glencolmcille, Dermot O'Connor, Limerick, Seamus Mohan, Frosses.

# Cumann Naomh Columba

*Ó thus Meán Fómhar tá an cheannar seo faoi smúid agus faoi ghruam de thairbhre bás Anna Mhic Cummeagáin, O.S., bean céile Phárasias, atá mar cheisteoir ar Bhord C.L.G. Dhún na nGall agus ina amhl gníomhaigh de chumann Naomh Columba.*

*Tá an bás dona go leor in am ar bith ach nuair a sciobtar duine chun na saorachta imbláth na hóige is cúis níos bráin é don bhunadh atá lagtha. Cuireann muid ar gcomhrón in-áil do fear céile, an clann óg, a h-athair, a mathair, dearthair agus deirfiúreacha. Go laghdai Dia a mhóin.*

*le Séan Ó h-Eighne*

Ceist bliain ó shoin:

Is minic a cluintear ceist curtha cainte na cluichí a bhí a n-imirte anseo

roimh 1884, an bhliain a chur Micheál Ó Ciosóig tús le C.L.G., agus sé'n freaga a cluintear ón mhuintir is sine ná go raibh imirt "camán" i ngach corineal de'n pharaiste. Sin an cluiche ar a dtugtar ionánaíocht anois. Dé réir an tseanchais, ní raibh aon teach sa pharaiste nach raibh camán agus cnaig, or a dtugtar sliotar anoin, ann. Bhí imirt "camán" anseo sa pharaiste go dtí tús an chéid seo. Tá daoine beo sa cheanntar go fóill a chonaic fear nó dhó a bhí bacach de bhart gortu a fuair siad ag imirt "camán".

Ba é an chéad rud a chur isteach ar chamanaíocht san am ná an imirce. B'éigean d'fir óga an cheanntair dul go Mérioca nó ar aimsir "taobh thoir den sliabh", i dTír Eoghain, Doire agus in oirthear Dhún na nGall.

Tharla rud iontach nuair a stad an imirt "camán". Thosaigh imirt liathróid láimhe. Mil aon binn tí sa cheanntar nach raibh liathróid láimhe a imirt an gach Domhnach agus morán tráthnóntaí ar feadh an tsamhraidh.

Chuaigh seo ar aghaidh go dtí na triochaidí. Faoin am seo bhí an cluiche peile ag leathadú go mór fríd an cheanntar agus bhí sraith — chomortas eagraithe ar fud an dá pharóiste, Cill Chartha agus Glencolmcille, san am Chuir sin deire leis an liathróid láimhe.

Ach mar deir an seanfhocal, "Ní raibh ariamh nach mbeadh arís", agus anois is cúis bróid do chumann Naomh Columba é go bhfuil cúirt liathróid láimhe tógtha sa cheanntar agus suim ag buachaillí agus cailíní oga san chluiche.

Tá coiste na páirce ag féachaint chuig a dtaobh fein den ghluaiseacht. Tá sé ar intinn acu deontas a fháil chun costaisí airithe a íoc ionnas go rachaidh acu an beart atá ar intinn a chur i gcúroch sa doigh mbeidh páirc imeartha eile i dTír Chonaill agus sin a bheith déanta roimh deireadh 1984.

Maidir le h-imirte chluichí na bliana seo níor éirigh leis na foirne sinsear dul go barr an chrainn, ach is cúis áthais dúinn gur bhuaidh an fhoireann faoi-14 craobh na condáe rud a chuireann in iúl go bhfuil an mór-shiúl ar siúl i gconai.

# Ar gCluiche Arsa Peile

Le cianta cairbreacha anuas bhí peil de chinéal éigin a h-imirt ar fud na h-Éireann. Rud nadúra don duine é rud a bhuaileadh roimhe lena chois fiú amháin nuair a bhí an cine daona costarnocht agus go mbéigean don duine bheith faithcheallach fá na gcuid ladhar.

Ón t-seanchas, ón bhéaloideas agus sean-scríbhíní thig linn a bheith cinnte go mba gháth le bunadh na dtíortha Artach agus bunadh Oilean Faro cluiche a imirt le liathróidí deanta de chnaince a imirt le liathróidí deanta de chnaince ainmhí le builg séidte ionntú. Sa Ghréig, de réir a scríbhíní féin bá ghnáth cluiche Hoopaston a imirt agus ar ndoigh d'imir na Romhanaigh Follis. Tá muid cinnte i gcás na gcluichí seo gur ghnáth greim a fháil ar an liathróid agus í a chiceál ón lámh agus gur cluichí fóirne a h-imríodh san am sin níos mó ná dhá mhíle blian ó shoin.

I seanchas na gCeilteach anseo in Éirinn tá iomra ar dhá chluiche a bhí chomh h-arsa le cluichí na nGréigeach agus na Romhánach. B'iad sin "iomain" nó "iomain léana" agus "iomain le caman" nó "camán" nó camánacht mar a tugadh air in Albain. Thig linn a beith cinnte gur "iomain" nó "camán" a d'imir Cú Chulainn agus Fionn Mac Cumhaill sa tseanchas ach gur peil a bhí san "iomain Léana" agus go raibh sé chomh sean leis an iomain.

Is Achtanna na Gaillimhe (Dlí Shasana) i 1527 cuireadh cosc ar "Iomain le smaichtíní fada agua liathróid bheag", ach tugadh cead "cluiche a imirt in ar baineadh úsaid as liathróid mhór" siocar nár chuir sé isteach ar chaitheadh saighead do chogadh. Deir na h-údair is cailliúla gurbh iad na romhaniagh a thug peil go h-iarrthar na h-Eorpa ach de réir an t-seanchais b'iad na Ceiltigh a d'imir cluichí peile i gCornwall na Breataine, i nGaeltacht na H-Albain agus in Iarthar Chiarraí áit nach raibh na Romhanaigh ariamh.

I mbéaloideas agus seanachas na ndaoine tá mórán scéalta fá chluichí peile idir ceantracha agua paróistí in áiteacha éagsúla ar fud Éireann céad go leith agus níos mó blian ó shoin, i bhfad sul ar smaointigh Míchéal Ó Cíosóig ar Chumann luith-cheleas Gael a bhunú. Bhí peil a imirt, de réir scéal Mhuiris Uí Dhábhain, i gcondaethe Thiobrad Arainn, Port Lairge agus Corcaí níos mó na céad go leith blian ó shoin — nuair a bhí seisean ina ghasúr agus san 18ú aois bhí peil a imirt; Muigheo, Gaillimh, san Chabhain, Aontruim, Loch Garmain, 34.

agus i dtuaisceart Laighean ón "Éirne go Béal na Bóinne", a deir file na h-aimsire sin.

Nuair a bhí an t-Athair Liam Ó Feirís as Gleann Fhleasca, comhangarach do Chill Áirne ag scríobh ar imirt "caide" i gCiarraí dúirt sé gur innis fear as Baile an Fheirtearaigh dó gur gnáth "Caid páirce" agus "caid tíre" (trasna na tíre) a imirt ar chinn tíre Chiarraí dhá chéad blian ó shoin agus gur imríodh é go h-ionraice agus go macanta, chan ionann é agus an cluiche a h-imríodh i Sasana áit a ndearnadh "cluiche feille" de de réir dlí na tíre sin i 1314, 1369, 1401 agus 1590 (faoi Eamonn II go Eilís I) siocar go raibh sé — cé bith cinéal cluiche a bhí ann — chomh garbh agus chomh contúirteach sin agus an míorán a thóg sé idir na fóirne a bhí ag imirt.

An cluiche ar ghnáth imirt i gCiarraí agus in aileacha eile sa tír tugadh "caid" ar an liathróid, liathróid nach raibh cruinn go h-iomlán a rinneadh as cnaiceann de sheithe ainmhí le bolg séidte inntí ach in aiteacha féar a cuirtí inntí. Dhá ghéag eadtrom crainn ceangailte le chéile ar uachtar ar dhéanamh stua na báirí a cuirtí suas. (Bhí an rud céanna acu san "camán"). Bhí óg agus aosta ag imirt agus fá Nollaig, fá Shamhain, nó ar lá na bliana úire bhíodh comórtaisí móra ar siúl idir na paraistí, fiú amháin anseo i dTír Chonaill, nuair a bhí na páirceanna glan.

Sna cluichí peile a bhí a n-imirt san am, agus anuas go 1886, bhí cead an liathróid a iompar, ceadáíodh iomrascal nó corraíocht agus dá mba rud é gur "peil treas-tíre" a bhí ann d'fhanfadh na h-óganaigh bá lúthfara ar imeall an léana sa doigh go bhféadfadh siad imeacht go tapaídh abhaile leis an liathróid agus an cluiche a bhaint. Ba mhinic a mhair cluiche Dómhnaigh, gan rialacha, gan moltóir, ó indiaidh am Aifrin go clap-sholus.

I ndán a scríobh Séamus Dall Mac Cuarta tá cuntas ar chluiche peile a chonaic sé féin tuairim trí chéad bliain ó shoin. Rugadh é i 1647. Sé tiodal an dáin ná "Imirt na Bóinne" agus tá dhá rann déag de le fáil go fóill. H'imríodh an cluiche ar An Fhéar Mhór, in aice Chnoc Sláine agus d'imir Gleann na Bóinne, Gleann na h-Éanaí agus de réir an fhile bhí cead ag imreoir rith leis an liathróid, í a chiceál óna lámh, í a fhuadach ó imreoir eile, páirt a ghlacadh i gcorraíocht agus tuisióg a úsaid.

I ndán eile, "Iomain léana an Bhabhdúin", a scríobh Réamon Ó

Murchú an t-sleibhe, (bhí beirt mhac agus cara leis ag imirt) bheir sé ar chluiche peile a h-imríodh in Omeithe i gCo Lú dhá chéad blian ó shoin. Sa chluiche seo bhí na rialacha céanna in úsaid a bhí sa chluiche a h-imríodh ar Bhruach na Boinne.

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## *le Pádraig S. Mac a Ghoill*

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Scríobh Maitiú Ó Concanainn dán ag cur síos ar chluiche a h-imríodh i 1720, idir Sord Cholmcille agus Loisc i dtuaisceart Bhaile Atha Cliath ag Fionnghall. Dán an-fhada i mBéarla é seo agus de réir an eolais ann chruinnigh na mílte leis an cluiche a fheiceáil. Bhí mór uaisle na tíre agus tiarnaí talaimh ann, píobaire leis na fóirne a thabhairt thart ar an bpáirc agus marcaigh le fhupeanna leis an slua a choinneál den áit imeartha. Deir an file go ndearnadh cumhdach na Liathróide de sheithe damh agus gur líonadh é le féar mín. H'imríodh an cluiche seo mar an dá cheann a dtug mé cuntas orthú cheana. Ainmníodh séisear ar gach taobh, ach is cinnte go raibh míos mó ag imirt mar go mbíodh duine is fiche ar fhoireann san am. Bhíodh cuailí báire agus cuailí pointe a n-úsaid, chomh maith le trasnán ar an dá chuaille sa lár, a bhí deich go leith dtroigh ar airde, agus thiocfadh pointe a fháil ar dhá thoabh an bháire agus os cionn an trasnáin.

San ochtú agus naoiú aois déag chuirfheadh buic mhóra na céadta giní ar chluichí peile agus ar chluichí iománaíochta.

Sa bhliain 1731 h-imríodh cluiche mór i nDaingean i gCo. na Mí idir "na fir pósta" agus "na fir díomhaoine". Chomh maith le sin tá cuntas againn ar chluiche mBaile Atha Cliath agus ar an oidhreogach ar an Life i 1741. Bhí a leithid de chluichí peile agus iománaíochta a n-imirt i mórán áiteacha ar fud na tíre, ach mo léan! is minis a chríochnaigh siad in imreas, míarán agus troid agus ba mhinic go mb'éigean do na péas deire a chur leis an trioblóid. Chuaigh ár gcluichí i léig agus in ísle brí san dara leath den naoiú aois déag agus is cinnte go ndearn an Gorta Mór an-dochar do na cluichí, damhsaí agus teanga siocar an imirce a tharla da bharr ó 1847 go tús na h-aoise seo. Sin mar a bhí ár gcluichí nuair a smaoinigh Mícheál Ó Cíosóig go dtáinig an t-am le stad a chur le rudaí mar a bhí siad.

I ndeireadh na naoiú aoise déag bhí an chosúlacht air go raibh bunadh na tíre seo in umar na h-aimhléise, gan brí, gan spiorad, gan uchtach,

Indiadh trí Éirí Amach agus Gorta a mhair ceithre scór bliain, agus anois an imirce a bhí ag dríogadh croí Fadhla. Bhí meath ar ár gcultúir, bhí ar n-oidhreacht ársa idir ceol, damhsa, teanga agus cluichí, a d'éigint ag daonnra nach bhfaca aon rud rompu ach bichtineacht, cruatán, léan agus leatrom, iad mar scábhaithe ina dtír féin, gan acfainn, gan maoin, gan meas.

Thoisigh an lá ag gealadh i Mí na Samhna, 1884, nuair a scairt Mícheál Ó Cloisóg ar fhir óga na h-Éireann mucailt as a suan,, go raibh "dóchas ag briseadh ar Éirinn go léir" agus bhuaigh sé Cumann Luithchleas Gael. In éadan deacrachtaí spréidh an Cumann ar fud na tíre. Bunaíodh seirbhíocht leis an Chumann a reachtáil ó Ard Chomhairle go dtí an ball aonair ní amháin in Éirinn ach in Albain, Sasana, Merioca, an Astráil, Canada agus san Airgintín. I dtosach gídh gur cuireadh ord ar imirt na gcluichí fágadh cuid mhaith de na n-ádh mar a bhí siad.

Sa bhliain 1886 cuireadh deire le comórtas agus in 1888 cuireadh deire le "pointí breise" agus cuireadh cic ceap sa stát ina n-áit agus socraíodh go mbeadh ach seachtar déag ar fionnann. In 1898 socraíodh go mba comann báire agus trí phointe agus siad an trasnán ó deich go leith go dtí ocht droigthe. I 1909 cuireadh leis le reathaidh leis an liathróid mar a bhí a dhéanamh i gcluiche de chineál eile a rinne aithris ar chluiche peile na h-Éireann in 1823. Ní raibh ceol feasta an liathróid a chaitheamh ná i a iompar níos mó ná ceithre chéad bliain.

Leathchéad bliain ó shoin bhí an liathróid ní ba mhó agus ní ba throime ná mar atá sí anois go h-airithe má bhí fúchtas inti. Thug Cill Dara isteach an "scur" (pas) ach choinnigh comdarthe eile mar Ciarraí agus Gallimh an sean stíl — an breith árd agus cic fada ach ins na blianta damhsamagha seo baintear úsáid as an pas ar fud na tíre. Idir 1884 agus 1887 himríodh cluichí caradais idir condáe ach himríodh Craobh na h-Éireann sa pheil don chéad uair i 1887 idir Éire Óg as Co. lú agus Commercials as Luimneach ag Cluan Scaich i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Ó shoin leanadh le comórtasí amháin, seoisear, mionúr agus faoi 21 i bpeil idircondáe; comórtasí condáe do bhuachaillí faoi 16, faoi 14, faoi 12 agus fiú comórtasí do bhunscoltacha, meánscoltacha, gamscoltacha, scoltacha den tríú leibhéal agus anois comórtasí idirnáisiúnta agus do mholtóirí. Ní raibh mar sin don cluiche ársa peile fead is tá Cumann Luithchleas Gael seirbhíocht agus ag marachtáil mar atá anois.

# Dualgas do'n Óige

Le Antoin Ó Dochartaigh

'Sna blianta atá romhainn amach bhféidir go ndéanfar tagairt de'n bhliain 1982 i n-íochtar na Rosann, ná bliain na cinniúna i gcúrsaí C.L.G. Is cinnte gur bliain thabachtach i do chlub Naomh Mhuire, de bharr go rabh orainn dualgaisí breise a chomhlíonadh i gcóir comórtasí faoi aoise na condáe, ina rabh muid páirteach go h-íomlán don chéad uair.

Go dtí seo bhí muid comhnásgaithe le clubanna eile na Rosann ag cuir foireann amháin i ngach grád, i bpáirtíocht. De thairbhe bunaidhm C.L.G., chinnidh muid, i gcumann Naomh Muire, briseadh ar shiúl ón seanchóras agus feidhmniú ar son aos óg ár gceantar.

Chomh maith le sin tháinig fás mhór ar dhaonra na Rosann le blianta beaga anuas, agus ar an abhar sin mheas muid go mbeidhfídh ag déanamh leathcheall ar go leor imreoirí óga muna mbeadh muid ag obair ar a son uilig.

Anois agus obair na bliana seo críochnaite againn tá mé lán-chinnte go dtug muid faoi an bheartas chart. Cibé ar bith tá athas orainn gur éirigh go geal linne bhíomhú ar son an óige. Níor bhuaidh muid craobh ná corain ach tá muid bródúil as ár bhfoirne faoi-aoise mar gur chruthaigh siad go raibh siad ionchurthe le cach.

Chuir muid foirne chun na páirce ins na comórtasí peile uilig, sin faoi 12-14-16-18-21 augs bhí foirne againn sna cluichí pobail (faoi 13) agus in Óg-sport Gael (faoi 15).

Bhí foireann láidir agus éirimiúil faoi-14 againn ach sáraíodh orthu in éadan Naomh Columba, a bhuaidh craobh na condáe i ndeire na dála. Bhí dochas an-mhór againn san fhoireann faoi-16 ach cheannsaí Ard-a-Ratha iad i gcluiche ceannais na roinne. Bhí comórtas dian faoi-18 san Iar-dheisceart agus b'éigeann dúinn

dhá chluiche breise a imirt ann sul ar cuireadh as muid. Níor bheag an cháilíocht dúinn é, mar sin, go ndeachaigh Ard a Ratha go cluiche ceannais na condáe.

Cé go raibh líon mhór imreoirí faoi-12 againn ní rabh siad chom láidir i mbliana is a bhíos de ghnáth, I ngrád faoi-21 ní rabh ach a bheagan díobh comhángarach go leor do theora na h-aoise sin. Thit an foireann faoi-13 san dara babtha sna cluichí pobail i gcoinne Aodh Ruadh (Bhéal Atha Seanaigh) agus chaill an foireann Óg-spoirt sna céad bhabhtaí. Bhuaidh Gaothdobhair orainn sa chéad chluiche de chraobh na seoisear agus chuaigh siadsan fhad le cluiche ceannais na condáe chomh maith. Indiadh céimíú aníos a fháil ó Roinn 4 go Roinn 3 sa t-Sraith ní raibh muid ag súil le toradh mór ar bith agus, ach de bharr mÓrán dár n-imreoirí bheith in easnamh orainn ó h-am go h-am, sílim go mbeadh muid i bhfad níos aoirde sna tablaí ná bhí.

Thig linn cuntas a thabhairt anois gur ghlac 102 imreoir páirt i gcluichí Oifigiúil C.L.G. faoi chúram Naomh Muire i mbliana agus go raibh 95 díobh faoi bliain is fiche. Bá mhór ár ndualgaisí breise.

Bhí muid níos gníomhaí ó thaobh sóisialta an chumann de fosta mar gur mhéadaigh muid go mór ár bpáirtíocht sna comórtasí Scór. I Scór na n-Óg bhuaidh Bríd Anna Ní Bhaoil craobh na condáe san aithriseoireacht. Bhí bua agu ár grúpa ceol urleise sna comórtasí condáe sa Scór Sineasar. B'iad sin Feilimidh, Dónal agus Seán Ó Gallchóir.

Tá muid sásta mar sin go ndearn ár gclub dul chun cinn an-mhór in 1982. Tá súil againn feabhsú ar seo de réir na mblianta le tacaíocht phobal an pharaiste. Tá sin againn ó go leor den phobal san am i lathair agus tá muid buíoch sóibh uilig ar a shon.



Naomh Mhuire Ranafast junior football team 1982.

# KILCAR ALIVE AND WELL IN THE SOUTH-WEST

by SEAMUS DOOGAN



The Kilcar team who reached the county final in 1959. They were beaten by MacCumhalls 2-7 to 1-6 in Donegal Town. Front row (left to right): Eamon Browne, Aidan O'Donnell, Cathal McLaughlin (deceased), Leo Murray, Sean O'Donnell (Meenaneary), Packie Haughey, Sean Doogan, Mickey Haughey, John J. Lyons, Prionnsias Carr, Frank Gillespie. Back row (left to right): Big Frank O'Donnell (injured on that day), James Ward, Jimmy Cunningham, Josie Gillespie, Jimmy Doogan, Gerry Breslin, Seamus McNulty, Aodh O'Donnell, Sean O'Donnell (Bogagh), and Paddy O'Donnell.

The emergence of the present Kilcar team, as a force to be reckoned with in Co. Donegal, began eleven years ago when they won the Junior Co. Championship at MacCumhail Park against St. Michaels by a single point. Of course, Kilcar had reached two county finals as a senior team when amalgamated with Glencolumbkille, in 1959 and 1963, being beaten on both occasions by MacCumhalls, in 1959 by 2-7 to 1-6 and in 1963 by 1-6 to 0-4.

The full Kilcar line-out on that day was: Seamus Gillespie; Seamus Shovelin, Francis B. Campbell, Seamus Campbell; Donie Cronin, Danny Gillespie, Ian Hegarty; Hugh Shovelin, Sean McGinley; Seamus Galiagher, Paddy Cannon, Michael O'Donnell (Largy); Joseph Boyle, Connie Hegarty (capt.), Michael O'Donnell (Kilcausey). Subs., Mickey O'Donnell (Bogagh) for Hugh

Shovelin; Packie Haughey for Donie Cronin; Michael O'Byrne for Joseph Boyle.

Other prominent subs (who went on to greater things) were the present Co. Chairman, Micheal Gillespie, and well-known Kilcar referee, Proinnsias Carr.

It is ironic that St. Michaels, who were only beaten by a single point in a very closely contested match, have never emerged as a senior team in Donegal. What a difference that one point can make!

In our first year as a senior team in 1972 we reached the county semi-final to be beaten by St. Eunan's who went on to win the championship.

The club's participation in the Under 21 championship in 1972 provided a new inspiration for the future.

We reached the final where we defeated Convoy by 6-15 to 0-5 in

what the Donegal Democrat described as the best display ever seen by an under-age team in Donegal.

The line-out on that occasion was Seamus Doogan; Sean Cannon; Seamus Shovelin, Dinny McBrearty, Hugh Shovelin, Martin Gillespie, James Cunningham; Danny Gillespie, Michael O'Donnell (Largy); Micheal Carr, Micheal O'Donnell (Kilcausey), Aiden O'Donnell; Aodh Cannon, Bernard Shovelin, Ighneachar Cannon.

We successfully defended our under 21 crown in 1973 against Four Masters in December (this competition has a habit of dragging on). We had eleven of the team that lined out the previous years with the addition of John Carr, Tommy McFadden, Peter Conroy and Eamon O'Donnell.

It is interesting to note that the fifteen who lined out for Kilcar in that

final five of them lined out in this year's Co. final: Dinny McBrearty, Danny Gillespie, Aodh Cannon, Micheal Carr and Tommy McFadden. John Carr would have been a sixth but injury prevented him from playing. From the Four Masters lineout in 1973 Brendan Martin, Enda Wulim and Jackie McGroarty lined out in this year's final.

In 1974 we were going for three-in-a-row. We defeated Glenties in the final at Fintra with eight of the previous year's lineout, the new faces being John G. Campbell, John O'Donnell, Stephen O'Donnell, Michael O'Donnell (Ballymoon), Francis Cannon, Seamus McBrearty and Michael Doherty.

Our first taste of success at senior level came in 1975 when (contrary to local press reports earlier this year) we won the Donegal Gaeltacht Championship and although beaten by the Kerry champions at the All-Ireland finals in Gweedore we went on to win the Junior All-Ireland title.

Micheal Gillespie with the help of Dan Cunningham and Michael O'Byrne took over the team management in 1975.

The big breakthrough came that year when we won the Senior League for the first time since 1959. The League was organised on a home and away basis — a lot of games and a lot of travelling. The decider was against Gweedore in Fintra. Donie Doherty's goal ten minutes from time, which clinched the game and the League for Kilcar, is still talked about in football circles in Kilcar.

In the same year the club reached the Co. semi-final against the mighty

St. Joseph's in Donegal Town, to be narrowly beaten by two points. 'Red Jackie's son' destroyed us that day. We had no answer.

Following our success from 1972 to '75 we all felt that a senior championship was possible. We more or less expected it to happen, but in the next four years our performances never matched our potential. The process of maturing was a long and painful experience.

Our record in the championship was dismal: 1976, beaten by St. Joseph's (first round); 1977, beaten by Naomh Columba (quarter final); 1978, beaten by MacCumhailis (first round); 1979, beaten by MacCumhailis again (quarter final).

Our lack of success during these years did not diminish our support for football in the parish, and on Micheal Gillespie's recommendation in 1977 we decided to enter a second team in all competitions. It was a gamble that paid off handsomely. It has provided football for all those interested in playing and it has been a vital breeding ground for potential senior players.

For a second team to be of benefit to any club there must be close liaison between senior and junior team managers and between players on both teams. We are lucky so far to have had men like Seamus Gillespie (1977), Ian Hegarty ('78-'79) and Sean Brady ('80-'82) in charge of our junior team. When junior players needed for the senior team they were always made available.

And so to 1980, the year that all our dreams finally came true, the winning of that elusive senior championship.

Ian Hegarty took charge of the senior team and having defeated Ballyshannon and Rosses Rovers the way was clear for a local derby semi-final clash with Naomh Columba in Fintra. What a match it turned out to be. We were seven points down at half time and all seemed lost. I remember Ian Hegarty coming back to the sideline after half time, shaking his head saying 'If they come back from this it'll be a miracle'. But slowly we clawed our way back and a goal each from Francie Gallagher and Peter Conroy put us a point ahead with two minutes to go.

Martin McHugh added another from a sideline kick — the final whistle sounded. We had reached the Co. final, the miracle had been performed.

The story of the final is now history, but the scenes in Kilcar on final night will never be forgotten. The Dr. Maguire Cup had finally arrived . . . grown men cried . . . the parish was united in celebration — magic.

It is said that the first championship is hard to win, but that the second is harder. How true that is.

We were expected to beat Ardara in last year's semi-final and Four Masters in this year's final, but we fell at both hurdles. Disappointed — yes — despondent — no. We have a habit of bouncing back in Kilcar.

Who knows what lies ahead, but the foundations are solid in Kilcar. We are now fielding a third team with John Hegarty in charge — no mean achievement for one of the smallest club areas in the county. The future certainly looks bright.



The Kilcar team which won the Junior Championship in 1971 being presented by Tom Walsh: Front row—Paddy Cannon, Donie Cronin, Hugh Shovelin, Seamus Gallagher, Ian Hegarty, Michael Gillespie. Back row—Michael O'Byrne, Michael O'Donnell (Kilcausey), Sean McSmiley, Francis B. Campbell, Seamus Shovelin, Danny Gillespie, Seamus Campbell, Mickey O'Donnell (Bogagh), Connie Hegarty (capt.), Donie Doherty, Joseph Boyle, Packie Haughey, Seamus Gillespie and Prionnsias Carr.

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Ballintra G.A.A. Junior Team, 1982.

(Photo: Muvagh Studios, Laghey)

# BALLINTRA ON THE MOVE

By Eamon Mac Giobúin

After a lapse of a considerable number of years Ballintra G.A.A. club was reformed in January 1976 mainly due to the efforts of two newcomers to the local Garda Station, Tom O'Donnell and John McKenna. Both have since been transferred out of the area but Tom married a local girl and still keeps in touch with the team. At the first meeting, held in the Community Centre, the officers elected were: Chairman, William Walls; secretary, Tom O'Donnell; treasurer, Joe McGroarty, and team manager, John McKenna.

The club have also moved to a new pitch in Trummon thanks to the generosity of Jim McGrory. This new pitch is a vast improvement on our two previous ones, and is one of the reasons why the quality of our play has improved so much.

The club has fielded a junior team in the League and Championship since 1976, and fielded a team in the Shield since 1979. While having little success in the championship to date, the club gained promotion from Division 4 to Division 3 in 1980, and even if no major honours have come their way the club has produced some fine players who have represented the county at various levels.

The years 1982 started off with the A.G.M. in January and the following officers were elected: President, Fr. A. McCauley; chairman, Tim McGrory; secretary, Sean McGee; treasurer, Eamon Gibbons; team

manager, Michael Gallagher, and under age team manager, Pat Molloy. As was the case since its reforming the main activity would be with the junior side but this year there would also be an under 15 and under 16 team. There was great hope for the junior side due to the presence of our two best known players, the Gallagher brothers, Padraig and Matt. Backboned by these two players and with the help of Sean McGee, John Joe Travers, Hugh Sweeney and Patrick McGarrigle it was felt that the makings of a good team were there; also there were some fine young players coming along like Michael Gallagher, Peter McNulty, Sean McGarrigle and Michael Molloy.

After a good deal of effort the under 16 team was put together by Pat Molloy and due to necessity included a few twelve and thirteen year olds like Dermot Gallagher and Dessie McNulty which was unfair to the boys themselves. The most that can be said about the under 16 team is that they fulfilled all their fixtures even though it looked hopeless from the beginning, because the club is midway between two very strong clubs in underage football, Ballyshannon and Donegal. It would seem that a new system is needed so that weaker clubs at under age level can compete at their own standard at the start, because getting inflicted with massive defeats is not going to help young players give their all to their own parish team. Separate rural

and urban divisions is one idea that should be looked into. The under 15 team in the Og Sport competition put up a good show before going out to Donegal Town and again it was Ballyshannon and Donegal in the final. Eamon McNulty was the only player in the Ballintra panel to be on a par with the best of the rest.

Even with this lack of success three of our younger players were on the Divisional Minor team which won the Minor League, Edmund Cassidy, Michael Gallagher and Declan Gallagher. This, coupled with the success of Padraig and Matt Gallagher, in firstly winning their places on the senior county team which went down to Armagh in the Ulster Championship, then in winning county under 21 medals with the Ballyshannon team which Padraig captained, and then the crowning glory when they both starred in Donegal's under 21 Ulster championship victory in Omagh on the 5th September and at the time of writing the chance of All-Ireland medals to come.

Another of the club's activities this year was the holding of ceili dancing classes and they hope to have the same again this winter.

At the time of writing the Shield has got under way and while we lost away to Kilcar by two points we beat Naomh Muire at home in a good display and the team, while hoping to do well in this competition, is mainly concentrating on doing well in the League next season.

# DOWNINGS 1982

by KEVIN WARD

"1981 was the greatest year in the history of the Downings G.A.A. Club" — so runs the quotation from the 1981 Donegal G.A.A. Yearbook. Without labouring the superlatives, 1982 was equally as good as far as the club is concerned . . . Donegal and All-Ireland Gaeltacht titles securely retained . . . Division 2 of the All-County League dramatically won in the last game of the season . . .

St. Eunan's 13-a-side Tournament won in fine style . . . under 14 team contesting the county final yet to come . . . Donegal Girls Community Games title retained and fighting for further honours and perhaps the most significant of all, a narrow defeat in the semi-final of the senior championship.

However, back to September '81 and playing their 27th game of the year, Downings started off their winter campaign in the Shield competition with a three point victory of St. Nauls at Tra-na-Rosann. Mixed fortunes followed with wins over Casements, Glenfin, Cloughaneely and defeats by Emmets, St. Michaels and Gaoth Dobhair to take us into 1982 to face Ardara's second team where a victory would take us into the Top Four. This was achieved on January 24th, and the following Sunday gained revenge by beating Gweedore 1-11 to 2-6 in the Division 2 Shield semi-final. Another final! The fifth in ten months . . . were we interested in the Shield? . . . Could we lift ourselves again? On Valentine's Day we faced the men from Castlefin. The appetite wasn't there; the bite was missing — the result a draw 1-6 each. The replay a fortnight later . . . where was the buzz, the excitement, the butterflies? Non-existent . . . "too much football", said the experts. The result the success-hungry, eager Robert Emmets won by 1-3 to 0-3.

Now morale was ebbing — what's wrong boys? Has too much winning blunted the will to win? No break from football — a game next Sunday v Glenfin. Which competition is this? The Gaeltacht. THE GAELTACHT? Right, boys we're defending the title here — Downings 1-10, Glenfin 0-5. No game for a month. 2nd round of Gaeltacht, we beat Dungloe by 1-7 to 0-7 on a Saturday and following day we make a bad start to Division Two All-County League by losing to Red Hughs in Killygordon. Continue in League by defeating Na

Rossa and Glenties. Then the weekend of the Gaeltacht finals in Glencolumbkille. Beat Glen second team on Saturday and though expecting a tight game from Cloughaneely, beat them 2-9 to 0-3. Here we go again, lads, Donegal junior representatives in Gweedore.

Back to the League and wins over St. Nauls, Robert Emmets and Termon take us further along the road to the League title. Then St. Eunan's 13-a-side tournament we beat Cloughaneely again on a Tuesday, having drawn with them in the first game and we inflict a heavy defeat on the hosts the following Sunday evening in the semi-final. Hughie's "do-we-take-it-seriously-or-not" campaign of absolute fitness for the Senior Championship is now beginning to show.

The following week-end — 'an dtig linn gaisce trí lá a dheánamh i nGaoth Dobhair, a fhearaibh? Saturday, 6th June, Downings 0-13, Rath Cairn (Meath) 0-4. Sunday, 7th, in a classic game, Roddy snatches a draw in dying seconds with An Cheathrú Rua (Galway) and superior fitness in a greulling extra time leaves the score 4-13 to 2-10 in our favour. How is the other section going? Some surprises — Baile na Sceilg out, Tuar Mhic Eadaigh out, a big surprise

Cloughaneely in the final. 'Ar a laghad, coinneoidh muid sa chonndae'. Whit Monday and we face our old rivals. This one will be no walk-over. No false sense of security after Glen! Cloughaneely have the ball in the back of our net after 45 seconds. Is this Waterloo? No! remember the example of the Glen men in Cois Fharrage! Half-time we lead 0-7 to 1-1. At the three-quarter stage a point separates us 0-10 to 2-3. And that little bit of extra something carries us home 0-14 to 2-6! "Now Seán Bán what about the Ceathrú Rua v Leitir Mór final? Cuir sin in do phíopa, a dhiúlaigh!

Senior championship follows the following Sunday. Disaster! Too much celebration? Too cocky? Do we still fear the name of Gweedore? Gweedore 2-7, Downings 0-10. Go to Glenfin the following Sunday and by all accounts hand the League on a plate to Red Hughs by only drawing with Glenfin. Get a thrashing from St. Michaels on the Tuesday evening in the Charles Greene Tournament.

Strong words from the manager, grit the teeth and keep training, harder than ever. The following Sunday the result we knew we could achieve Na Dúnaibh 2-11, Gaoth Dobhair 0-3, and repeat the dose in the first round of championship play-



Roddy Gillanderson, captain of Downings, All-Ireland Gaeltacht champions for the second year in succession, being presented with the All-Ireland cup by Minister for Sport, Maire Geoghan-Quinn, with Timlin Kearney, R. na G.

off, Na Dúnaibh 3-10, Gaoth Dobhair 0-7. In the meantime we have two games left in the League — both difficult, St. Michaels and Urris. We've dropped 3 points and Red Hughs have only dropped 2 with one game to play. Kiss goodbye to the League! We beat St. Michaels surprisingly easy and lo and behold Robert Emmets do us a favour and beat Red Hughs. Now for our final in Trá-na-Rosann v Urris. If we lose we're out, if we draw, we get a play-off and if we win . . . Are we going to win this one, boys? Yes, by 4-13 to 0-5. We've won the League.

The training is really getting serious now. 1st Commandment: 'You shall live, eat and sleep football' — only exceptions for not so doing are family and work. Four nights a week — really hard graft. We're up against a top side in Kilcar, but we're now over-awed. Downings are in the Senior championship semi-final for the first time ever.

Sunday, 8th August — the green sward of MacCumhaill Park, a big crowd of supporters, young and old — not a great game but level pegging for the first half, and leading 0-6 to 0-5 at the interval. Then our downfall — the first quarter of the second half — Kilcar peg us in our own half — five points without replay and though we eventually break out and go on to dominate the second quarter and scoring three points we cannot grasp that vital equaliser. We finish the stronger and fitter of the teams, but still the losers. Kilcar have played below their best, but Downings, we feel, even more so. Disappointed? Yes. Despondent? No. We lived with the best and we will fear none in the future!

What of the future! We lose a hard-working and dedicated secretary, Hugh McClafferty — we establish a junior team and are surprised by the talent in the parish — the nucleus of a good junior team is there. Bradley is still at the helm, as full of enthusiasm as ever. We reflect contentedly and with just a little pride on 1982 and we face the future with confidence.

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## SNIPPET

### JOE DOYLE

Does anyone know a Joe Doyle who hails from about half way between Falcarragh and Gortahork? He is supposed to have won an All-Ireland senior medal with Cavan. — Does anyone know?

# 1982 IN GLENFIN

by CIARAN Mac FLOINN

We had high hopes that this would be a very successful year for the club but I am afraid we were somewhat disappointed. It is still with pride that we look back on a year in which we won a county championship, the under 16 title; contested the Division Four League final; reached the semi-final of the under 21 championship only to be defeated in a replay; captured the Tommy Ryan Trophy in Termon, and also the Sean MacCumhaills under 16 tournament.

This year saw the return of the Divisional Boards for under age football. The Minor Divisional team was well served by the Ward brothers, Seamus, Liam and Dermot, Joey McDermott, Francie P. Marley and Martin McCrudden in their early Spring games.

In the under 12 and under 14 grades Glenfin was forced to field teams which were much under age and did not meet with much success.

Our under 16 side was made up of most of the winning under 12 county champions side of 1978. Much was expected of them. They were successful in all their matches in the Eastern Division until they met their neighbours and good friends, MacCmuhaills. On the night, the Twin Town boys won and this meant a three way play-off between MacCumhaills, St. Eunan's and Glenfin. The draw paired St. Eunan's and Glenfin with the winners to meet MacCumhaills in the Divisional final. We just scraped through against St. Eunan's by a point, 1-2 to 0-4 in a very wet MacCumhaill Park.

In the Divisional final the sides were level at half time, Glenfin 1-3, MacCumhaills 1-3 but at full time we had qualified for the county semi-final by 3-6 to 1-9. It was a great game played before a large and appreciative crowd.

The opponents in the semi-final were the much fancied Ardara side but at the end of a hard fought game we had qualified for the county final by four points. The opposition for the final came from Bunrana. Glenfin had the opening scores with points from Joey McDermott and Dermot Ward. Bunrana then got a point from a free. Francie P. Marley and Johnny McGinty had further Glenfin points but these were cancelled out by Bunrana. Dermot Ward had another Glenfin point just before half time to leave it Glenfin 0-5, Bunrana 0-3. It was felt at half time that whichever side would get a goal

would take the title. Little did we know what was about to happen because Sean Brosnan had the ball in the Glenfin net in the very first minute of the second half. This should have been a killer blow but within a minute, Glenfin had hit the Bunrana net, when Frank Ward, playing his first match since breaking a leg, chipped a cheeky goal past Matt Masterson in the Bunrana goals. A combination of great defensive play and some poor finishing kept Bunrana scoreless for the remainder of the game. Further Glenfin points were scored by Frank Ward (2), Charlie McGlynn (2) and Francie P. Marley. When referee Jimmy O'Donnell blew for full time, Glenfin had captured their first ever under 16 county championship. There was great excitement, as Minor Board secretary, Colm Toland, presented the cup to our captain, Seamus Ward, who had his finest ever game in a Glenfin jersey on that final day. The members of that historic side were: Brendan Marley, Eamonn McGlynn, Seamus Ward (capt.), Seamus Kelly, Cathal Marley, Declan Martin, Gerry Marley, Joey McDermott, Francie (P) Marley, Francie (F) Marley, Dermot Ward, Charlie McGlynn, Paul Marley, Johnny McGinty and Frank Ward. Subs. were, Pauric McGinty, Sean McCrudden, Paul McGill, Robert McMenamin, Sean McGlynn, Paul Martin and John Boyle.

Earlier Glenfin had captured the MacCumhaills under 16 tournament, with victories over their county final opponents, Bunrana in the semi-final, and then Ardara in the final.

In the under 21 championship it took three games to dispose of Red Hughs. Killybegs were the opponents in the quarter-final and after a tough game in Donegal Town we survived by a point. The semi-final was in Glenties against Ardara. A close game all through and in the end a draw. The replay was in MacCumhaill Park but we had to give second best to a strong Ardara side. Our minors were beaten by MacCumhaills and St. Eunan's and did not qualify for the Easter Divisional final.

The junior side had a very successful run in the Division 4 League (North) and dropped their only point to Robert Emmets. The Division 4 (South) winners were Aodh Rua of Ballyshannon. Their 'senior' experience told and in the final we were well beaten. In the

junior championship we were drawn against MacCumhalls and beat them in the first leg. A last minute penalty to MacCumhalls in the second leg forced a play off which MacCumhalls won. The junior side are also taking part in the Shield.

The Intermediate side had a poor run in the League and for a few weeks were in danger of being relegated. They survived. They had a bye in the first round of the championship but it was bye bye in the quarter finlas when two late goals set Robert Emmets on their way to victory. They are also taking part in the Shield.

We took part in tournaments in Ballybofey, Castlefin and Letterkenny without success. We did capture the Tommy Ryan Memorial Trophy in Termon, when we defeated St. Eunan's in the final. We played our best football of the year that evening. Downings put an end to any thoughts we had of becoming junior Gaeltacht champions in 1982 when they beat us in the first round. They, of course, went on to retain their county and All-Ireland Gaeltacht titles. We surrendered our Óg Sport county title and our local Primary Schools, Taobhóg, Comeen and Ballykerrigan and took part in the National Schools two teacher football competitions.

During the years Seamus and Liam Ward featured on the county minor team and it should not be long before a few of our other very talented young players make the breakthrough. Seamus Marley was injured and out of football for a few months. He is now back on the county senior team.

Ciste Gael is our main source of revenue to meet the cost of fielding two adult teams and all the under age sides. The monthly subscription to Ciste Gael is now £2 but we are confident of maintaining our present membership numbers. The annual club bazaar is always very successful.

A sincere "thank you" is due to all our loyal supporters, indeed the best supporters in the county, who stand by us at all times.

Looking back on '82 it would have been reasonable to expect better results, especially from our talented Intermediate side. Let 1983 be the year that we achieve the results we are capable of.

Some of our aims for 1983 should be:

1—To win the Intermediate championship and be in the running for League honours in both Intermediate and Junior.

2—To continue with our second adult side.

3—To be established in the new sports centre and handball alley.

4—To devote more time to the promotion of Gaelic football among our primary schools and among all our under age players.

5—To get more people actively involved in the running of the club.

6—To have a handball club organised for the 1983 season.

7—To promote outdoor games for the lady members of our club.

8—To increase our membership in Ciste Gael.

9—To make more use of the Irish Language in our club activities.

Now is the time to get working on achieving our aims.

#### GLENFIN COMMITTEE 1982

The following were elected at the 1981 A.G.M. of Glenfin G.A.A. Club to look after matters in 1982: Club president, Canon Joseph McDaid, P.P.; chairman, Paddy Breen; secretary, Kieran McGlynn; treasurer, Jim McGlynn (Gortiness); vice-chairman, Eamonn McDonnell; assistant secretary, Jim McGlynn (Lettershanbo); assistant treasurer, Charles McGlinchey; registrar, Eamonn McDonnell; PRO, Kieran McGlynn; Oifigi na Gaeilge, Paddy McGlynn with assistance from Jim McGlynn (L) and John Doherty; hurling officer, Francie Martin (junior); handball officers, Liam Martin and Danny Harkin; Ciste Gael co-ordinator, Paddy Breen with assistant, Terry Reilly; intermediate and under 21 team manager, Francie Ward with selectors John McMahan and Jim McCrudden; junior team manager, Michael McDermott; minor team manager, Michael McDermott with assistant, Jim Quinn; under 16 manager, Jim Quinn with assistance from Gerry McCool and Liam Martin; under 12 and under 14, Terry Reilly and John McGinty; intermediate team captain, Liam Martin; vice-captain, Terry Reilly; junior team captain, Charlie McFadden; vice-captain, Paddy O'Donnell; club referees, Sean McDermott; under-age, Kieran McGlynn; gatemen, Francie Martin (senior) and Paddy McGlynn; field man, Danny Harkin.

How many changes will 1983 bring?

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# NO SILVER, BUT NO SHAME EITHER - KILLYGORDON - 1982

*le ÉAMON Ó FEARGHAIL*



Setanta hurling team beaten in the county final by Burt.

While no major trophies came to the parish this year we in the Red Hugh's, Markievicz and Setanta clubs take solace from a very enjoyable year's Gaelic games. The Olympic motto of participation taking precedence over victory rules O.K. Our new field patiently awaited development while experts (official and otherwise) tramped and mused around it and we played most of our home fixtures in an adjacent rented pitch. This coming year we hope to see a phased development beginning with the building of a properly drained and graded playing surface which work will be accompanied by a lot of smoke and noise to judge from the underlying rock deposits. The activities over the year were varied as we continued with our policy of catering for all aspects of G.A.A. affairs and I shall summarise the results hereunder.

## Camogie

Over 60 girls trained hard all year but got few games due to the scarcity of club teams in the county. The actual team, resplendent in their new outfits of amber and black, played a number of friendlies with MacCumhalls and reached the final of the National Schools competition (as yet unplayed). Josephine McClements, this year's Gradam

Tailtean Award winner, came to the club for a week-end's coaching and was impressed with the standard they have reached in such a short time. The girls are now arranging a trip to the Maghera area to play a couple of games and great credit is due to the trio in charge of the club, Kathleen Campbell, Phyllis Gillespie and Patricia Gallen and to the players themselves for their magnificent input into training all year.

## Social Activity

Was limited most to after match get together in local licensed establishments to quench thirst and review games. Our thanks to Denis Roper, Benny Browne and John Willie McNulty for the use of their premises and to Denis and Benny especially for their club kit-bags received gratefully by Red Hugh's. Last year's dinner was a big occasion enjoyed by all. This year's will be a more modest affair unaccompanied I'm afraid by any clanking of medallions. Scór was a local success — an enjoyable night for the local community which should be its real purpose — but we made no impact at the later stages. Kieran Doherty's stage expertise was invaluable in running Scór and it will be in his capable hands this year also. The county finalists in football and hurling

had dinner on the evenings of the games, an expensive innovation but the players considered it worthwhile. Red Hugh's have finalised plans for a week-end in Galway in late October but the hurlers in Setanta are as yet un-convinced as to the attractions of distant pastures. Regular meetings were held throughout the year and a joint steering committee is envisaged for next season composed of delegates from the three clubs. Fixture clashes, problems of dual players, etc., will, we hope, be resolved by this approach and all activity dove-tailed into a plan of mutual benefit to everyone.

## An Gaeilge

I górsaí teangain níor déanadh morán i rith na bliana. Déantar cuid d'obair chumainn Séntanta tré Gaeilge ach tá an fadhb céanna againne sa gceannair seo agus atá ag morán clubanna sa Ghalltacht. Tá beirt nó tríúr san áit abhfuil suim acú sa Ghaeilge ach síleann na daoine eile nach bhfuil bainnt ar bith idir an tanga agus cúrsaí cluichí. B'fhéidir go bhfuil an ceart acú sa bpointe beag sin ach ag an am céanna caithfidh síad admháil go bhfuil níos mó sa ghluaiseacht seo sa cheanntair ná cúrsaí peile agus iománaíochta amháin. Gluaiseacht chultúrtha atá inntí agus ba cheart go mbéadh an teanga dúchasach an chómgarach do

chroíthe na ndaoine atá páirteach ann. Tá beagánín teangmháil againn le Coláiste Choimín — d'ímríodh cúpla cliuchí leo go dtí seo — agus b'fhéidir gur anseo i measc na n-óg atá an seans is fearr dúinn cuidiú leis and tanga — tóifimid an samhradh seo chugainn.

### Handball

Not much progress was made in this sphere although the old alley at Crossroads saw a fair amount of activity with the ebb and flow of the schoolchildren's interest. A number of adults played during the winter evenings in the MacCumhail Social Centre and 5 players entered the Open 40 x 20 competition organised by the Handball Board. We enjoyed the experience but only one of us, Danny Cullen jnr., got past the first round. He was also successful in the next fixture and is now at the semi-final stage of the tournament — eventually beaten in the county semi-final by the winner Matt Mulhern.

### Football

The big ball game, of course, dominated the year's proceedings and it was obviously going to be difficult to emulate last year's achievement by winning the higher grade Intermediate championship this season. Hugh Gillespie's men, however, set to with a will and settled into an arduous winter's training which was the basis for their good runs in Shield and Championship. As well as reaching the final of both these competitions they played in six tournaments and were knocked out of the League at the crucial stage by Robert Emmets. Glenties eliminated our juniors in the first round of the Championship but this second team provided many with enjoyable Sunday afternoons although the strain of fielding two teams in such a small parish will need better planning in 1983. Sessiaghoneill were the victors in the parish school league and are the current holders of the Paddy Bradley Cup. This is probably our most important football activity and in the hands of the teachers who organise it lies the future prospects for Red Hugh's — our thanks and appreciation is due to all of them. Eugene Quinn and Danny Cullen looked after the most successful of our young teams, the under 12s, who lost the Divisional final to St. Eunan's and there are some good wee footballers emerging from this grade. Their interest is, of course, much stimulated by our having two players on the county under 21 team which has just recently qualified for the All-Ireland final, Marty Carlin and Donal Reid. Marty is a sub and Donal scored



A HISTORIC OCCASION . . . Officials of Red Hughs club signing for their new playing park with county vice-chairman Charles Faulkner.

the most important point of the competition. Highlights of the adult football season were probably the fine point from Brendan Brady's boot in the closing stages of the county final and the consistency and high standard of Gerard McColgan's play throughout the whole campaign.

### Hurling

We are pleased to report another good year for hurling in the parish. Wee boys with hurleys are as commonplace now at the Cross as they are in Tommevara, Bennetsbridge or Castlegar and it is in this and not in the winning of medals that the Setanta club takes most satisfaction. Hurling is fast becoming a way of life for many people in the club. Mark Campbell, our Feile na nGael Skillstar, came ninth overall in the country and can be seen at all hours and in all weathers practising his caman craft and with his pals angrily demanding more games. It is hard to explain to such talented youngsters that the rest of the clubs outside of Inishowen are not interested in hurling and that it is worth continuing with their apprenticeship to the game. No doubt there will be a flurry of patriotic fervour in the Centenary Year but by then another group of youngsters will have been denied an introduction to the game at the proper age level. Our youth section got no games due to the same problems that beset the juveniles but two of them Anthony McDaid and Chris Gillespie are being gradually introduced to senior hurling and have proved more than equal to the task. Our sympathy goes to Bernard Lafferty, another of our young players, and to all his family on

the tragic death of their mother, Madeliene — Ar Dheis De go raibh an h-anam uasal. Together with Burt we provided most of the county senior team and were unlucky not to have done better in the National League. Better organisation will, we hope, bring better things in '83. Scarcity of games forces us to initiate our own tournament, Sciath Sétanta which was late in commencing but has provided enjoyable matches so far. Refereeing is a major problem for hurlers at present in the county as the only potential referees are still playing the game and this problem has dogged us all season. In the Championship we eventually met up with our perennial rivals, Burt, and were beaten in a great game of hurling in the final. The standard of the county final was commented on by many as being the highest of any Gaelic final all year. Laurence Doherty's incapacity was a severe blow to us but our congratulations to Burt as they received the cup were sincere as we acknowledged our defeat by a better team. Our humble achievements in club organisation were marked by our success in the A.I.B. Club of the Year Awards — one of a series of landmarks which we hope will continue as we try here in Donaghmore Parish to build a Gaelic Athletic organisation worthy of the aspirations of Cusach and his comrades.

A sad note to end the year on for Red Hughs's was the death on 15th October of Eddie Brady, a former "great" from the club. Another bereavement during the year which brought sadness to the club was Paddy Murray — May they rest in peace.

# SCOIL CHRÓINE, DUNGLOE

Scoil Chróine, Dungloe, winners of the Donegal Schools Championship, the Michael Coyle Memorial Trophy and the Donegal School of the Year Award. On their path to the final they overcame such schools as Naomh Dubhthaigh N.S., Annagry, Derrybeg N.S., Niall Mór N.S., Killybegs, and finally Presentation B.N.S., Letterkenny. Captain of the team was Patrick Sweeney, and other boys who were outstanding throughout the championship were Denis O'Donnell, Ronan Farren, John Doyle, John McGee, Patrick Forker, Michael Doherty, and last but not least, Joseph McGovern.



## BALLYBOFEY AND STRANORLAR CUP

(IN AID OF CHARITY)

By P. S. Mac a Ghoill.

**Draft bye-laws made by the Executive Committee and approved of at a meeting held in The Butt Hall on 1st August, 1928. (For the sanction of the Donegal County Board G.A.A.).**

- 1—The Competition shall be known as the Ballybofey and Stranorlar Cup League in aid of charity.
- 2—The Competition shall be under the jurisdiction of The Donegal County Board G.A.A. and the running of same under the hands of the Executive Committee.
- 3—The Executive Committee shall consist of the Hon. President, Rev. Chancellor McCafferty, P.P.; chairman, Mr. James Magee; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Sean MacCumhaill; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Tim Meehan; and the following members elected by the general meeting held on 16th July, 1928 — Messrs. Neil Harvey, John McGill, Daniel McGlynn, Thomas McGlynn, Frank Dunleavy, James Shesgreen, Hugh Herron, Patrick Lafferty, Thomas Parking, Thomas Garvey, James Beirne, Michael McGinty (assistant secretary), and Edward McFeely. Vacancies to be filled by co-options. Nine members of

the Committee shall form a quorum.

- 4—The making of draws, deciding of protests and other matters in dispute between competing teams shall be in the hands of The Donegal County Board. Two members of the Executive Committee to attend all meetings of the County Board if matters pertaining to the competition are on the agenda. All other matters pertaining to the competition shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee.
- 5—The Competition shall be for teams in County Donegal but teams from adjoining counties may compete provided they receive the sanction of their respective County Boards and of the Ulster Council.
- 6—The Competition to be run on a double league basis (with home and away matches). For the purpose of the competition the county shall be divided into such league districts as the County Board shall deem suitable.
- 7—A solid silver perpetual challenge cup (to be retained by the winning club for one season) shall be presented to the league winners together with a set of gold medals. The runners-up shall

receive a set of silver medals.

- 8—The winners of the cup in any season shall be required to enter into a bond with two solvent securities for the safe custody and return of the cup to the Executive Committee. The date when same is to be returned shall be inserted in bail.
  - 9—A seven-a-side competition shall be inaugurated with the football league (provided sufficient entries are obtained) the matches to be played on same dates and same venues as the football matches where same is found convenient. A set of medals shall be presented to the winners of this competition.
  - 10—The League shall be governed by the current Official G.A.A. Guide and by the bye-laws made by the Executive Committee.
  - 11—Players to be registered in accordance with Rules in Official Guide.
  - 12—Players who have played for any team in the competition may not be transferred.
- This Cup was competed for on a county at large basis from 1928 until 1963 when the Divisions were instituted. At this point the Charity Cup Competition was confined to the Eastern Division.



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## PADDY McDEVITT Killybegs

Paddy McDevitt — life President of the Killybegs G.A.A. Club — died during the month of July. A sad and fitting last farewell was paid to his memory by club members at his funeral.

Born in Drimarone, he emigrated to America at an early age where he held a regular place on the Donegal New York team for many years.

Altogether he spent approximately 30 eventful years there during which he married Anne, his wife, who hailed from Killybegs, the place to which they returned to settle and set up business in the Pier Bar.

Many a good argument and laugh was heard from the back kitchen of these premises during the many club and park committee meetings held there, but moreso from the solo and 25 games which he loved. He was the driving force behind the small hard-working committee which undertook the task of negotiating, purchasing, and developing Fintra G.A.A. pitch, and transforming the sand dunes into the fine all-weather drive-in pitch it is to-day.

To commemorate his memory, the club have donated a silver cup to the Divisional Board for under 14 years divisional champions. The cup to be known as Corn Paddy McDevitt.

Go ndéanaid Dia trocaire ar a ainm usual.

## Seán 'ac Fhionnlaoich

### R.I.P.

### In Ómós

AN UAIR deireanach a thug Gaoth Dobhair craobh sinsear an chontae leo sa bhliain 1961, ba é Seán 'Ac Fhionnlaoich a bhí mar rúnaí. Anuraidh thoiligh sé ar achainí ón fhó-chumann máistreacht na foirne a ghlacadh as lámha agus Gaoth Dobhair a threorú arais ar bhealach na buaidhe. Ní ar nós cuma liom a ghlac sé an cúram sin ar féin. Thuig sé gur do réir a chéile a thógtar na caisleáin. Thosaigh sé comórtas paráiste, bhronn sé féin corn don chomórtas agus chuir an choimhlint a d'eascair as, spiorad in imreoirí agus lucht leanúna nach raibh le mothachtáil le fada. Bhí súil aige rudaí móra a chur i gcrích i mbliain lubhaile Órga seo an fhó-chumainn. Ní raibh sin indán do. Sciob an bás uainn é agus is boichte muid uilig a imeacht uainn.

Ní dhearna Seán 'Ac Fhionnlaoich dhá leath dá dhícheall ariamh, ba chuma cé'n saothar a bhí idir lámha aige. Cioca ina mhúinteoir i mbun scoile nó ag obair go deonach ag caomhnú an dúchais ní raibh sé sásta ach le obair a bhí snasta, críochnúil. Bhí an foirfeacht mar sprioc aige agus ba le dúthracht agus díogras a rinne sé ar an sprioc sin. Do shaol dúchasach na hÉireann gan truailliú a bhí a dhílseacht. Agus ní raibh gné ar bith do'n tsaol sin a ba mhó ar chaith sé dúthracht leis ná cluichí Gaelacha. Ar feadh chúig mbliain fichead dá shaol bhí sé ar choiste fhó-chumann Ghaoth Dobhair—mar rúnaí nó mar Chathaoirleach. Bhí sé na chathaoirleach ar bhord an chontae i 1954 agus threoraigh sé an foireann sóisear go dtí an babhta deireanach i gcrabha na hÉireann.

Ní raibh sé foighdeach le daoine a mheas sé nár shíúil an bealach ar chóir d'Éireannaigh siúl. Bhí a dhílseacht iomlán do theanga agus do chluichí a thíre. Chaith sé a shaol á gcaomhnú. Agus nuair a bhí sé réidh le múinteoireacht chuir sé an díogras a bhí mar riail beatha aige i scríobh na teangan. Tháinig dhá leabhar ó na pheann 'Ó Rabharta go Mallmhuir' agus 'Is glas na cnoic' agus tá an trífú ceann—stair a pharáiste dhúchais ag na foillsitheoirí. 'Sé an trua nár mhair sé le na fheiceáil i gcló.

Ba é a mhian Gaoth Dobhair a fheiceáil arís faoi bhláth i gcúrsaí peile mar a bhí ins na daicheadaí agus na caogadaí. Ba chuige sin an iarracht mhór dheireanach mar bhainisteoir na foirne. Ar a thuras deiridh go reilig Mhachaire Gathlán sheasaigh muid go hómósach ag leána na himeartha—imreoirí, iar-imreoirí agus baill den fhó-chumann dá dtug sé seirbhís chomh fada 's chomh dílis. Shiúil muid na coiscéimeacha deireanacha indiaidh na cónrach go béal na huaighe. Sheasamar go meabhrach gur thit scaoba na húire ar an chónáir. Bhí tocht inár gcroíthe. Spréadh an cumhdach glas ar an uaigh. Agus muid ag fágáil slán go deo ag Seán Mac Fhionnlaoich ar imeall na Binne Buí bhí dord ceolmhar na mara le clos thíos fúinn—fuaim a ba bhinne leis ná aon cheol dar cumadh—agus trasna na báighe an áit a b'ansa le na chroí—a oileán dúchais, Gabhla.

D'imir sé a chluiche go fíor, go raibh luach a shaothair aige sa Ghlóir.

C.L.G. GAOTH DOBHAIR

# 50 YEARS AGO SWILLY ROVERS

## —GLENSWILLY TO-DAY

by FR. E. CROSSAN

In the Summer of 1982 Glenswilly revived their Gaelic tradition that had lay dominant for over 50 years. Whenever I questioned anyone about those former years, they all referred me to a Mr. Jimmy Conaghan of Gartan. Jimmy has many links in a wide variety of sports, which include football, fishing and shooting and until recently he worked in Glenveagh, where he was boatman and a good shot with the gun when it comes to culling a stag. He played with Swilly Rovers in the late twenties and early thirties when the club was first formed. Jimmy is a tall man, quietly spoken and I visited him and his wife at their home in Gartan and put a few questions to him about his memories of the good old days with Swilly Rovers as they were called then.

### To begin with how did you get involved in the G.A.A.?

When I was young there was no G.A.A. in Gartan, Churchill or Glenswilly. It was mostly soccer the lads played and occasionally the odd challenge match would be arranged. Mind you, we often hadn't got a football. The game was played with a wee handball, in the corner of some field. There was no pitch as such, no football boots either. You played in your shoes.

### How did it all start then?

Sometime around 1928 Fr. James Gallagher came as C.C. to Churchill and he was a G.A.A. man. The whole family was steeped in the Gaelic tradition. His brother, Anthony, played for the county and you know his sons, three of them still play for St. Eunan's, but they're going on in years. The Gallaghers are sib to the McFeely family, you know the Bishop's ones. Anyway Fr. James arrived and suggested we play a man's game and enter a team in the Donegal Senior County Championship.

### How was the club formed?

Ah I wasn't involved in that. As far as I know, there was a meeting held in Drumbologue National School and the club was founded. They had elected a whole committee.

### Would you remember who the original officers were?

Oh indeed I do. Joe Doherty was the chairman. Joe Glackin, who was the clerk in Crumlishes of Letterkenny, was the treasurer, and

acted as secretary at times, but I think Fr. James was elected to do that job. The rest of the officers were, and there may have been more: Mickey Toner, Denis Mailey, Joe McCafferty.

### Starting of as you were, where did the team come from; Starting from scratch mush have been a tremendous undertaking.

It is true that the locals had no grounding in the game but the local Garda had played the game and a few of the Glenswilly lads played in Letterkenny. Anyhow the game wasn't the same as you know it to-day.

### What do you mean by that?

The game has changed a lot. It was more physical and you had to be tough. Height and weight was a big help and we did not go in for those nice wee touches of the '80s. Players to-day tend to be more skillful and nifter than in our day but for speed we had men who could show their heels to any county man to-day. They were fast and could handle a ball.

### Granted! but to get back to the first team was it difficult to get a full squad in this new club?

No, I don't think so. We had twenty one players registered, the number required but we only needed thirteen to make up a team. It was 13-a-side until you came to the finals and then it was 15-a-side.

### Could you line out the team?

You will appreciate that we never had the same lads for two games running but all in all the team would have been picked from the following and they were all locals. In goals was Brian McFadden. The backs were Michael Peoples, Joe McDaid, John Toner, Jim Crossan, John Gallagher, Sgt. Brennan (Garda Station). The midfield was always the two Guards Gilmartin and Anthony Varley. Sometimes I played there but most I was right half forward. The forwards were Connie Kelly, Michael Toner, Jim and Mickey McGinley, Brian McNamee, Johnnie John McDaid, Patrick Laughlin and John McDaid. Charles Ward was the captain and the character of the team. He was a powerful footballer and he could play anywhere on the field. Later we were joined by Letterkenny men: Anthony Gallagher, Frank Larkin and Billy Roarty. Oh we had a right old side.



Jimmy Conaghan, a player with old Swilly Rovers 50 years ago.

### Where did you play your home games?

It wasn't in the present sports field but down at Rashedogue in a field of a Mr. Kelly near McGinley's Bar. The field was rented at a rate of 10/- per match.

### Did you have any system of fund-raising?

We had the old Barn Dance and we used to get good support from the locals at 1/- or so a game. The week before the match, the game was the talk of the parish, something like the talk about our county under 21 game that is coming up. God it would be great if they could win their first All-Ireland title. Will they do it. What do you think?

### At the moment, Jimmy, I am 50 years behind you, back in the 30's.

Sorry! go ahead, my fault.

### I can see you are still as enthusiastic as ever but could you tell me about the away games. What were the travelling arrangements and the venues you remember?

After the 11.00 Mass in Glendowan the Churchill lads had tea in The Barracks and headed on in John McConnell's old Ford without going home for dinner. Each of us would pay a shilling if it was to Letterkenny and half-a-crown to Ballybofey or Raphoe. The Glen boys had their own transport. The boys from the Upper Glen would have tea in Joe Glackin's and they travelled with Charles Duffy from the foot of the town (Letterkenny).

### You mentioned Raphoe. Were there many places like Raphoe that had a team but do not have one now?

We played in Raphoe, Kerrykeel and Porthall as well as the established places like Letterkenny, Ballybofey, Gweedore, Glenfin and Castlefin.

#### **What were the facilities like?**

You can smile but there were no Social Centres like what they have now. We changed in houses near the playing field or as in Letterkenny we changed in the whins. The pitch in Letterkenny was not the O'Donnell Park but a field up the Glencar.

#### **What sort of training did you do for those matches?**

There was no training as such. We never did exercise or run around the field as they do now. Remember we were all working men and generally we were in good shape. Any preparation we did was just match practice. We would play a game or just kick and catch. We were all fit men.

#### **Would I be right in assuming then that the fags and the bottle was low in your list of priorities?**

Oh, there was no fags and no beer or at least very few of us did. There was the odd one who did. We hadn't the money. There was no hanging around the pub after a game. We were lucky to get a bit to eat. Raphoe, I remember, was the first place we had a meal. It was in Green's. The landlady was a cousin of Fr. James and she wanted to put up the meal and I would say it was her last time too. We nearly eat her out of house and home. It was so bad at one stage that a wee girl in the kitchen was heard saying "My arms are sore cutting bread". The club was paying for it and we eat till our hearts were content.

#### **What colours did you play in?**

At first we wore an all green jersey. But when the Pats folded up we got theirs. St. Pats were one of the Letterkenny sides and their colour was blue, with the goalie having a white ring around the neck. They were a good strong set of jerseys.

#### **What about referees: Were they appointed by the County Board?**

Yes, there was always a neutral ref. appointed but occasionally he might not turn up and then there could be sport when a by-stander was drafted in.

#### **How did referees deal with the physical side of the game?**

To-day they would never have the whistle out of their mouth. We expected it to be hard. Every man was determined to stay on his feet no matter how hard he was hit. Lying down, looking for a free would never happen. It wasn't a manly thing to do

and it would be considered unsporting. You just wouldn't do it. Anyway the ref would pay no attention.

#### **Does any ref stand out in your memory?**

Yes, Pappa Sweeney of Letterkenny. He was excellent, very fair and seldom gave a wrong decision. He allowed play to go on.

#### **Is there a game you like to remember?**

My favourite would be our home game against St. Eunan's at Rashedogue when we had one of our finest hours in football. We thrashed them 14 points to one and Brian McFadden, our goalie, scored that one for them. St. Eunan's had a crammed team in for the match, Garda from Kilmacrennan and Milford. Boys like Duffley, Kennedy and Temple.

#### **How long was the club in existence?**

I would say four or five seasons at most. With challenge games, etc., it is hard to say exactly, I would say from 1928 to 1934 approx.

#### **Had the club any success?**

If by success you mean winning Co. finals, the answer is no, but to be fair we made considerable inroads into the world of the G.A.A. in a short time. In our second year, 1929 I think it was, we reached the semi-final. It was against Castlefin and the game was in St. Eunan's ground up the Glencar. I am afraid our dreams fell flat and Castlefin went on to play Ballyshannon in the final, the latter being the victors.

#### **What team presented the toughest opposition?**

Fanad were no weaklings but Raphoe take the biscuit. They were tough. They did everything but step on you when down. The comment "When you go up for a ball don't expect to come down on your feet" summarises their play and indeed much of the football in the early 30s. Men came home as if from the wars.

#### **Who was team manager of Swilly Rovers?**

Fr. James was and Charles Ward was captain.

#### **Who were the great men you played against?**

There were a set of brothers from Killygordon, the Brady brothers. They were tough men and fellow club and county player by the name of Hannigan. There was Quinn from Castlefin. McKnley, Larkin and Crampsie from Letterkenny and fellow clubmate, Mickey Blake. There was a fellow by the name of Devlin

but I don't remember where he was from. But the greatest of them all was Joe Doyle from the Pats. He must have been the best in the county if not in Ulster at that time.

#### **What do you attribute to the cause of the revival of Gaelic in Glenswilly?**

It may be that the soccer team has let the locals down. It could also be the victory of the local boys over Termon in sports day but I would say its the new generation in Glenswilly. Glenswilly is experiencing a rebirth, a new lease of life and it is this more than anything else that is behind the revival of G.A.A. down there.

#### **How do you rate their chances?**

Alright. It will take them a few years to find their feet and with good organisation and plenty of hard work they can be a club of the future. In their short time in existence they have made good progress and recorded a few remarkable victories. They have also displayed a touch of good organisation and have raised a considerable sum of money. The future looks promising.

#### **Would you be afraid they would fold up after a few years as happened in the 30s?**

You must remember there were certain factors in the 30s that are not at work to-day, especially emigration. Also we depended on the local Garda and when they were changed we did not get footballers to replace them. If the players can stay together and play as a team it shouldn't happen. In the 30s we didn't have a youth policy and the future of any club depends on the youngsters coming on. If the foundations are laid at National School level you will always have young players in the pipeline. Another thing to remember too is the part the supporters play in a club. If the people back the club fully and lend a helping hand when required it can mean the difference between success or failure. Parents must realise their role in the club.

#### **Any final advice or words of encouragement to the new club?**

Don't expect too much too soon. You will need a few years to lay the foundation and build for the future. Success doesn't come overnight. With the right men at the top; with vision and a good selection of hard working men on the ground Glenswilly can go places and be a force in the county in the years to come. I wish them the best of luck in the future and much enjoyment on the field. Its the participation, not the winning, that counts. Its the quality of the game and not the quantity. May God bless your good work.

# REVIVAL OF GAELIC FOOTBALL IN GLENSWILLY

by EDDIE McDEVITT

At a meeting held in the Parochial Hall on Monday, June 14th, 1982, it was decided that there was a need for a Gaelic football club to cater for the youth of Glenswilly and it was agreed that application be made to the Co. Board for application of Club Gleann tSuile. A membership list was drawn up, club colours, blue and yellow were agreed and an officer board was elected as follows: Cathaoirleach, Eamonn Mac Daibheid; Runai, Ruair Mac Daibheid; Cisteoir/Bainisteoir Foirne, Manus Mac Pahidin; Cisteoir Cunta, Donncha Mac Grianra; OCP, Peadar O Tomhnair; Captaen Foirne agus Traenalaí, Sean Mac Fhionnlaioch.

The new club was affiliated to the Donegal County Board at its meeting in Ballybofey on July 5th, and a team was entered in the Fourth Division of the Junior Shield. For the present it was agreed that the club grounds should be at Churchill.

The formation of this new club recalls memories of the former Swilly Rovers G.A.A. club which flourished in the Glen during the late twenties and early thirties. Unfortunately the fall in population which occurred in the mid thirties meant that it was no longer possible to field a full team from the club area and for the past number of years the young footballers of the Glen played with clubs in Termon, Letterkenny and Glenfin. There has been a rapid rise in the population of Glenswilly during the past decade as evidence by the number of new houses being erected throughout the district and the club can look forward to an increasing membership and a bright future. There is now one central National School at Rashedog which has a rapidly increasing enrolment and it is hoped to have teams entered for all levels of under age competition in the coming years.

# ARDARA - YOUTH WINS THROUGH

by N. McCOLE, Chairman.

A quick glance at this headline and one would be forgiven for thinking that the Ardara Club are shooting hot air again and pride comes before a fall. Well by now most people who are familiar with the Ardara Club will know that we don't make wild claims without having the facts to back them up and anyone who knows me personally will know that unless I think something is worth saying then it is better keeping your mouth shut. "Why do I think we will be back." Well let me put it like this, if you had 60 players under the age of 21 who can reach two finals and one semi-final of county competitions would you say that we have the firmest base to build on; add to that ambitious mentors, officials and club members whose lifeblood runs side by side with success and deep belief in the G.A.A. and who genuinely love football and you can see that I hold no fear for the future of our club.

After our worst showing in the Senior championship for some years, before you start to write us off look a lot deeper. I have heard it said that Ardara are an old team, past it, been there for the last 10 years and are now on the way out. Well I won't deny that we have been there or thereabouts for the last 10 years but we will be there for the next 10 as well. As for our old team — 10 of our senior panel are under 21, not only are they on our panel but 9 of them played against the county panel recently and achieved a magnificent result by drawing with them.

Right at the bottom of the table let us start with our under 12 team who were defeated in the under 12 divisional final; our under 16 team who won the South West divisional title but went under to Glenfin in the county semi-finals, and our under 18 panel who defeated Naomh Muire, Rosses and St. Eunan's inside a week but succumbed only in the last 6 or 7 minutes to Ballyshannon in the final which was heartily enjoyed by the spectators on both sides and by neutrals who went to great pains afterwards to congratulate both teams for a wonderful display of football and for providing easily the best football of any county final in any grade for this year. It was very disheartening for us to be defeated in that final particularly as the Minor Board saw fit to give us three games

that week, a divisional final, a county semi-final and a county final — God knows, they should know that players, like themselves, are only human and even professionals don't have timetables like that. Our under 21s, who were written off as no-hopers at the beginning of the year, proved again that anything is possible. They battled their way through an under 21 competition that had more postponements and refixtures than a C.I.E. timetable for the whole summer. As you can guess by now the Minor Board were not the most popular of people in Ardara this year.

To all these young men from under 12 to under 21 who wore the green and gold and gave off their time and ability I salute you and let you all know that we are very proud of you and that your guts and determination are looked on with pride. To our team managers who I am not going to name as I have named no players either, I say a sincere thank you. Without you it would not be possible and your time, know how and commitment is greatly appreciated. So to those of you who wrote us off in Fintra last year, beware, from the ashes of defeat will arise one stronger, fitter and more determined than ever to succeed. So I say again to those who doubt — we will be back.

## SNIPPET

Copy of Poster for 1928 Final

Dr. Maguire Memorial  
Challenge Cup  
(Donegal Co. Championship final)

FINAL

Killygordon v Ardara

at Hollymount Park, Glenties

on Sunday, 6th May, 1928

Throw-in 4 p.m. (ST.)

Referee, Mr. McNicholl, Annagry.

Admission: One shilling  
(exempt of tax)

Special train from Strabane on  
day of final.

See Railway bills for further  
particulars.

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS SCENE

by Fr. EAMON CROSSAN

As I sit down to record the events of 1982 two things come to mind, how we hate the past and love the present. Very few people at club level, including myself, want to sit down and review the past, let it be laziness or more likely a fear, a fear of being confronted with our mistakes or failures. The dreadful past! Modern man is so obsessed with the present that he takes little time off to consider the past. The attitude of some delegates at County Board meetings is well summed up in a few lines from Lory Tennyson and reflects my present feelings:

"Let us alone. What is it that will last?

All things are taken from us and become

Portions and parcels of the dreadful past".

As those words flicker through my mind, in the smokefilled room at the Co. Board meeting, Liam Mullin whispers from behind, "Father, the schools, don't forget them, send in your report, it will be recorded for ever, a reference for the future and don't forget the essay's, Father, either. Send them in.

So allow me briefly to take a trip down memory lane, a short trip in my melancholic state.

In March 1982 some 150 schools received a circular in relation to all the competitors in the National Schools for that year. This included the usual events of previous years three football championship for boys in small, medium and large schools and an essay competition with a selection of titles. The new competition included hurling, camogie and handball for boys and girls and a quiz competition. In all there was something for every child at school and the response was encouraging.

Over 50 schools responded and took part in the different events. Competition was keen and in general all ran smoothly until the finals. Few problems emerged, teams turned up as fixtures were made. Clubs and teachers looked after the needs of the players, picked the teams and even acted as referees when called upon. There was a good spirit of co-operation and goodwill among all concerned. In the past communication was poor and this year there was a marked

improvement with the appointment of a contact boy with a home phone number to assist the teacher and report the results of matches.

As the months went by the finalists emerged and the 17th of July was set for the finals, held this year in the MacCumhaill Sports Complex in Ballybofey. This was the second year the National Schools Gala Day was held and again it was a success with plenty of fun and games for the many children who were present. In all twelve schools were represented from all over the county and their behaviour and conduct was of a high standard. The proceedings commenced around 1.30 with a full programme until 6.30 followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. The festivities began with the newly formed Drumkeen Accordion Band leading the players out onto the pitch and the playing of the National Anthem.

The first game to get under way was the medium size school final between Eoin Baiste N.S., Carrigart and Ranafast N.S., followed by the small school final between Bruckless N.S. and Loch An Iuir N.S. in the small pitch. These same two schools met in the final last year and again Bruckless were champs for another year. And the Carrigart parish retain the crown in the medium size school competition as St. Bridget's, Downings, were last year's winners. In the large school competition St. Crona's N.S., Dungloe, met St. Colmcille N.S., Letterkenny, and what a final. The Letterkenny boys were small but plenty of skill but the Dungloe lads were solid and only a kick of the ball separated the two teams with the Rosses lads taking the title.

In the hurling final St. Aonghus N.S., Bridgend met Naomh Mura N.S., Burnfoot in the first ever National Schools final to be played in Donegal. It was a historic occasion and the standard of hurling was fitting for the occasion. I am no expert in hurling but they have informed me that it was great stuff. It was enjoyable for me to watch. I was speaking to a Dublin man, a Captain P. Rheinirch, who's son played for Dublin and he wondered why Donegal at county level was so low when the lads could play as they did. He was amazed at the high standard. So lads take a bow and keep it up. The Hurling Board can answer your man's question. Only six schools entered, a small beginning with room for growth but I am hopeful it will improve the eventual winner of this classic final was Naomh Mura.

While all this activity was going on in the fields the handballers were indoors doing battle and as only four

schools entered this competition and Rockfield, Ballyshannon, had to withdraw, leaving three schools taking part. St. Mary's N.S., Ardara, were knocked out by Cashel N.S., Glen, and they continued their killer instinct form by defeating Drum More N.S. in the final. Much credit is due to the Glen lads and the local club for this success. Handball in Donegal has been neglected and only Falcarragh has kept it alive and yet the area that is synonymous with handball in the county had no school entered in the National Schools competition. I say to them pull up your socks and take the lead of Paddy Beag Gillespie and Co.

The camogie final could not take place as the Duiblinn Riabhach school had a double commitment. The school band was playing at a festival and the majority of the girls were involved. The Drumore girls were there but were not a bit discouraged at the prospect of meeting the opposition at a later date — why should they, sure its another day out, cheered the young ladies enthusiastically in the spirit of the day. Now that the schools are back at school a suitable date can be arranged.

When the competition that had been going on between the schools over the previous month, in other words the finals of the day there were more sports finals to be run and the winners received points for their school and when all the points were counted and events over the schools with the greatest number of points would be deemed the winner of the honour "G.A.A. National School of the Year", St. Bridget's N.S., Downings, being the first school to hold the honour.

Each school nominates two boys to take penalty kicks and having three attempts from different angles and distances. There is also a seven a side tug-o-war and 100m sprint. Marks also go for participation in the essay competition and the quiz and when the marks were all added up St. Crona's N.S., Dungloe, became the second school to hold the title G.A.A. School of the Year.

If you were there, you would agree that the day was a success. There was scores of youngsters milling around happy and having great fun. Parents meeting other parents and making friends and a good gathering of G.A.A. men from all parts of the county. From an organisation point of view there was no real problem but it would be too much to expect that such a day, such a big undertaking would not have its problems and they came from an unexpected area. Two schools were found to have played

illegal players, children going to secondary school and were immediately sent home. This was an insult to the G.A.A., an affront to the rest of the children taking part and a scornful abuse of the authority of the teachers whether present or not. I deplore such actions, and I regret sending innocent children home but I had no other option open to me. The whole episode cast a shadow on the rest of the proceedings of the day. O'h the dreadful past. Otherwise it was an excellent sporting occasion. The emphasis was not on winning but on the skills and sporting ability of the young people. All present enjoyed themselves and no one went home hungry. Tine Sí referred to the miracle of loaves and fishes in his weekly column but Maureen just laughed at it. Single-handed she managed to feed the multitude but behind every good woman there is a man, in this case Eugene.

Thanks were expressed to all who helped in any way to make the

competition a success, especially the teachers, the clubs and the sponsors who donated trophies. Joe Kelly, Co. Cleaners, Letterkenny; Convoy Paper Mills; Twin Towns Festival Committee; Eamonn Harvey Sports Shop, Donegal Town; Convoy GAA Club; Danny McIntyre Sports and Book Centre, Ballybofey; Gallens Supermarket of Ballybofey. All were splendid awards indeed and we in the G.A.A. are much indebted to them. I say thanks to Mr. and Mrs. E. Boyle for their help; the MacCumhalls Club for the use of their facilities and not forgetting the refs on the day, Eugene Quinn and Kieran McGlynn and hurling ref from Burt. Thanks to the Press for their presence, it was much appreciated and the Drumkeen Accordion Band for their colourful contribution to the air of the day. Thanks to O'Donnells Bakery for the trophy and the buns, cakes and bread and the Milford Bakery for their sponsorship of the school essay competition.



Dungloe N.S. team, winners of Large School Competition and Overall G.A.A. School of the Year 1982.



Scoil Naisiunta Luinneach Buaiteoiri Corn Sheain Ui Shuilleabhain - do no Bun Scoilteacha 1982. Le Muinteoiri Noel O Fearraí, Tadh O Duibhir agus Ard Mhaistir Prionnsias O Maoinaigh. Ba e an Cathaoirleach C.L.G. Gaoth Dobhair a rinne an bronnadh ar an caiptean Sean Bosco O Gallchoir.

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS QUIZ

by REV. EAMON CROSSAN  
Co. Youth Officer.

- 1—Name three of the top G.A.A. grounds in Munster?
- 2—Name the player who played in two All Ireland finals in 1981?
- 3—What colours do the following counties wear: Limerick, Derry, Fermanagh and Cork?
- 4—Who is Iggy Clarke; what does he play and for what county?
- 5—Name the player who missed a penalty in the semi-final Down v Offaly '81?
- 6—In the 1967 game Donegal v Galway we have the most talked about penalty. Name the player and who won?
- 7—Name the longest serving official on the Donegal Co. Board ever?
- 8—Name the odd man out: John Joe O'Reilly, Mal McEvoy, Ray Cullivan, Columba McDyer, Peter Donaghue.
- 9—Casement Park was the venue for the first Provincial Final televised live by the B.B.C. Name the two teams involved and the year?
- 10—Sean Gallagher was the winner of the "Man of the N.S. Finals Award" in 1981. What school did he play for?
- 11—How many of the clubs in Donegal won the Ulster Club Championship finals? Give some details.
- 12—The 1981 Donegal Sports Stars Award for Gaelic Football went to . . . ? Name the player and his club.

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Answers to the above questions to be returned to Rev. E. Crossan, C.C. (Co. Youth Officer), Churchill, Letterkenny, not later than the 17th of March, 1982. Information can be had anywhere and if more than one correct entry is received the winner will be picked out of a hat. The winner will receive a trophy. This quiz was set to schools in 1982 and there was no outright winner therefore children are getting a second chance to participate and come up with the correct answers. Recent publications in the GAA world will be a great help.

# CLOICH CHEANN FHAOLA 1982

"1981 was not a great year for C.L.C.G. Cloich Cheann Fhaola on the playing field in that the club failed to win any under-age or senior competition". (Review of the Year — local papers, December, 1981)

"Ní féidir a rá ach go raibh bliain mhaith ag Fó-chumann Lúthchleas Gael Cloich Cheann Fhaola imbliana ar pháirc na himeartha. Rug siad leo Sciath Roinn III i mí Feabhra agus chríochnaigh siad ar bharr na Sraith i mí Iúil. D'imir an foireann go maith i gComórtas Peile na Gaeltachta (Soiséar), ach bhuail na Dúnaibh iad sa Chraobh Contae agus i gCraobh na hÉireann. D'éirigh go maith leis an chlub i ngeithe eile d'imeachtaí an Chumainn. Bhain An t-Athair Seán Ó Gallchóir Craobh na hÉireann, i Scór na Sinnsear sa chomórtas aithriseoireachta don chlub. Chuir an club tús le comórtas bliantiúil in onóir Charlie Greene. D'eagraigh an Cathaoirleach cluichí idir-chontae ar an Fhálarrach le cuidiú le Ciste Tógála an Tí Phobail Úir. Bhí Colm Mc Alarney mar aoi ag an Dinneár Bliantiúil i mí Feabhra. Ar an taobh eile den scéal, bhí droch-bhlain ag na foirne faoi-aois. Bhí dóchas ag go leor go sciobfadh an club leo an Craobh Idirmhéanach, ach bhí na Red Hugh's ró-mhaith acu sa chéad babhta.

## SCÓR

An t-Athair Seán Ó Gallchóir, club referee and vice-principal of Pobalscoil Cloich Cheann Fhaola, won the All-Ireland title in the

recitation section of Scór on the 1st May in the National Stadium, Dublin. It was Cloich Cheann Fhaola's first victory in Scór na hÉireann. The long road to success began in Fál Carrach on the 14th February. He recited "Óíche Nollag", Eoghan Ó Tuairisc's touching reflections on the birth of Iosa Críost, in the Regional final, County final, Ulster semi-final and final, and in the All-Ireland, to bring the title to Tír Chonaill for the second year in a row. The Regional final of Scór na Sinnsear was held in the Pobalscoil, where Cloich Cheann Fhaola played hosts to seven other neighbouring clubs. Tá dóchas agam go spreagfaidh bua na bliana seo níos mó den aos óg le páirt a ghlacadh i gcomórtaisí Scór na bliana seo chugaine.

## Shield success

Cloich Cheann Fhaola surprised Na Rossa on the 24 January with a one-point victory in the Shield semi-final, thus qualifying to meet Red Hughs in the final. And what a final! The final in Dunfanaghy on the 31 January ended 0-5 to 0-5. The two sides clashed again on 14 February — another draw 0-7 to 0-7. Finally, Cloich Cheann Fhaola won the second replay in Ballybofey on 21 February to the delight of their supporters. It was a long Shield campaign — 7 Shield games, a semi-final and "three" finals. For many of the players, it was their first success after the fruitless years of sweat and effort.

Cloich Cheann Fhaola recorded eight wins in a row in the league between April and July. Cill Chartha had done the same. The two sides, already assured of promotion to Division II, clashed in the final on 18 July. The game was a poor one but Cloich Cheann Fhaola gained victory to collect their second trophy of 1982. They have now lost two of their first three Shield games in Division II to Naomh Conaill and St. Nauls, but they are happy to be back in the higher grade.

## Championship disappointment

Cloich Cheann Fhaola were unlucky to lose to Na Dúnaibh in the 1981 Championship, and were confident of doing well in 1982 especially after their Shield victory and good league campaign. Red Hughs came to Falcarragh on 13 June in the first leg of the first round hoping to gain revenge for their Shield defeat. They hammered a totally outclassed home club — 7-9 to 1-2. Cloich Cheann Fhaola played much better football in the second leg, but lost 0-14 to 2-6. It was all over for another year.

## Gaeltacht Runners-up

Cloich Cheann Fhaola, beating Ard an Rátha comfortably in the semi-final, on Saturday 2 May, were confident as they faced Na Dúnaibh on Sunday in the Donegal final of Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta. But Na Dúnaibh won easily. Cloich Cheann Fhaola were invited to compete in the competition proper in Goath Dobhair as the home club were not fielding a junior side, and they performed well. They defeated Club Éinne, Árainn and Naomh Anna, Leitir Mór from Galway, and qualified to meet Na Dúnaibh again in the final. Despite a brilliant performance, they lost by two points.

## Charles Greene Memorial Trophy

The Charles Greene Memorial Trophy final was played in Falcarragh on 20 July between St. Michael's and St. Eunan's. St. Michael's were the first winners of this 13-a-side competition (which attracted ten teams) in honour of Charles Greene, one of the co-founders of the club and a very active supporter of the club throughout his life.

## Inter-county game, and dinner dance

Josie Doohan, Cathaoirleach, organised two inter-county matches between Fermanagh and Donegal in aid of the Church Building Fund, in May. A good crowd saw two good Donegal performances in both the



Cloughaneely Intermediate team 1982, winners of Division 3 of All-County Football League.

minor and senior game. The club's annual dinner dance was a great success and the presence of Colm McAlarney added a great prestige to the occasion.

**1983**

Many people, mistakenly, refer to the Cloughaneely club as simply Falcarragh. Nevertheless, it is not very far from the truth. The composition of the senior team bears witness to this. The poor attendance at most club matches during the year is further evidence of this. Soccer is very strong in certain districts in the parish. But there is ample evidence to suggest that the game has suffered as a result of this Falcarragh domination. I would suggest that little effort has been made to promote the club in the various districts within the parish boundary down the years. I would also suggest that more support would be forthcoming if this was done.

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Owenie McBride (capt.), Cloughaneely, receiving League trophy from Mr. Michael Mac Giolleasbuig, chairman of C.L.G. Dun na nGall.



*Congratulating Donegal G.A.A. on success in 1982  
and wishing further success in 1983*

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# Southern Divisional Minor Board

by TOM DALY

The Southern Divisional Minor Board's area encompasses the following clubs: Bundoran; Aodh Ruadh (Ballyshannon); Ballintra; Pettigo; Four Masters (Donegal); St. Naul's (Mountcharles) and Naomh Ultann (Dunkineely).

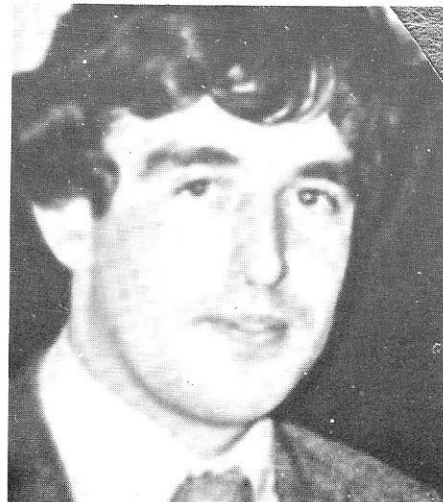
The inaugural meeting of the Board was held in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town, on February 4th, 1982. As well as representatives from most clubs in the Division, the attendance included the chairman, secretary, treasurer, registrar and P.R.O. of the County Minor Board.

The following persons were elected officers of the Southern Divisional Minor Board for 1982: Chairman, John Travers (Aodh Ruadh); Vice-Chairman, Liam Mullin (Four Masters); Secretary, Tom Daly (Aodh Ruadh); Treasurer, Jim Carr (Bundoran); Registrar, Patrick Molloy (Ballintra); Referee's Secretary, Jack Furey (Naomh Ultann).

During the year the business of the Board was conducted through a series of seven Board and three Executive meetings which were general-

ly well attended by those clubs with under-age teams entered in the various competitions. The following table illustrates the representations of the various clubs within the Division at Board meetings during the 1982.

Club	No. of meetings	No. at which club represented
Aodh Ruadh	7	7
Ballintra	7	6
Four Masters	7	6
Naomh Ultann	7	5
Bundoran	7	4
St. Naul's	7	3
Pettigo	7	Nil



Tom Daly, secretary of the Southern Divisional Minor Board, is a former officer of the Lifford G.A.A. Club. He has been chairman of Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, for the past three years.

## Under-age Football

Under the terms of reference accorded to it by the then Co. Minor Board the Divisional Board had responsibility for organising and administering to the Divisional final stage, all County Board run under-

age football competitions.

The entries received from clubs in the various competitions are indicated below:

## UNDER-AGE TEAMS ENTERED - 1982

Club	Under 12 C'ship	Under 14 C'ship	Under 15 C'ship	Under 16 C'ship	Under 18 C'ship	Minor League	No. Club teams entered
Aodh Ruadh	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Four Masters	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Naomh Ultann	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Bundoran	1	1	—	1	1	1	5
Ballintra	1	—	1	1	—	—	3
Pettigo	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
St. Naul's	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Overall no. of teams in each competition	5	5	4	5	4	4	(27)

Whilst each club which entered a team in a particular grade at least fielded, Naomh Ultann later withdrew its minor team from both the minor championship and minor league on the stated grounds that they had difficulties in fielding a full team. This meant that only three of the seven clubs in the Division demonstrated their capacity to field and compete in minor (under 18) football during the year.

## SOUTHERN DIVISIONAL BOARD - ROLL OF HONOUR - 1982

MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP	—	AODH RUADH
UNDER-16 CHAMPIONSHIP	—	FOUR MASTERS
UNDER-15 CHAMPIONSHIP	—	AODH RUADH
UNDER-14 CHAMPIONSHIP	—	AODH RUADH
UNDER-12 CHAMPIONSHIP	—	AODH RUADH
MINOR LEAGUE	—	AODH RUADH AND BUNDORAN GO FORWARD

## Under-12 Championship

The first of the championships got under way in the Division. This competition involved twelve fixtures, eleven of which were fulfilled. The competition was run on a double league (home and away) basis with, as in all competitions, neutral referees appointed throughout. A feature of the competition was the high standard of skills displayed by the young players involved with all five participating teams exposing fine individual players. Aodh Ruadh took the title and went as far as the county semi-final where they were defeated by eventual county champions St. Eunan's.

The under-12 championship table within the Division reads as follows:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
Aodh Ruadh	6	5	0	1	10
Bundoran	6	2	0	4	4
Dunkineely	5	2	0	3	4
Four Masters	6	2	0	4	3

Every game, except one where the appointed referee did not turn up, was refereed by a person from outside the two participating clubs.

## Under-14 Championship

Five of the clubs in the Division entered teams in this competition which was run on a single league basis. Seven of the ten games scheduled took place, once again reflecting the traditional problem of running competitions on a league basis — when the winner becomes evident the incentive to field lessens for those further down the table. This is of course an unfortunate attitude. In this case it meant that the Pettigo club who had entered only one under-age competition got only two games of football for their efforts. Four championship games (at most) within the Division is certainly not enough for this important age group. The timing of the competition which ran from early June to the beginning of July also required further consideration. The officially appointed neutral referees turned up for six of the seven games played in this competition.

The under-14 championship table reads as follows:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
Aodh Ruadh	4	4	0	0	8
Four Masters	4	3	0	1	6
Dunkineely	1	0	0	1	0
Bundoran	2	0	0	2	0
Pettigo	2	0	0	2	0

## Under-16 Championship

Four Masters (Donegal) succeeded in breaking the domination of Aodh Ruadh in the divisional winning stakes by taking this championship.

Once again played on single league bases, nine of the ten games scheduled were played. The teams in this competition were more balanced than in the younger age groups and consequently the winning margins, in most cases, were not quite as dramatic. There were neutral referees for eight of the nine games played. The table for the under-16 championship was as follows:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
Four Masters	4	3	1	0	7
Aodh Ruadh	4	2	1	1	5
Dunkineely	3	1	1	1	3
Ballintra	4	0	0	4	0

## Minor Championship

With four teams entered this championship was played on a home and away double league basis. The championship commenced at the end of June and finished in early August. Unfortunately, due to the withdrawal of the Naomh Ultann team and the failure of Bundoran to field on two occasions, only four of the twelve games originally scheduled actually took place. Nonetheless the standard of football was good with competent teams fielded by Four Masters, Aodh Ruadh and Bundoran. The Aodh Ruadh/Four Masters encounters produced a lot of excitement. In their first encounter Aodh Ruadh had a narrow one point margin to spare and in the return game managed a more clear-cut 2-7 to 1-4 win. The Divisional minor championship was the only under-age competition in the division to produce county champions this year, when Aodh Ruadh proceeded to win their fourth successive County Minor Championship title.

## Minor League

In this competition, Bundoran, with a good win over Dunkineely, and Aodh Ruadh, who defeated Four Masters, go through to the latter stages of the competition.

## "Super League" Success

One of the highlights of the year within the Division was the unqualified success of the Southern Divisional Minor Team in the Inter-Divisional League. Under team manager Gerry Molloy from the Four Masters club, a well-blended side was selected with an opportunity given to players from all seven clubs to join the panel. There was excellent co-operation from all of the players and club officials alike with lads who had been keen rivals in under-age club football over the past few years knitting together well as a team and obviously enjoying the opportunity to field as a unit. During the course of the league the team, under captain Brian Murray, recorded victories over Western, Northern, Eastern and Inishowen divisions before taking the final honours against the Western team at MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey.

The panel for the duration of the league was as follows:

S. McEniff, E. Cullen, J. Travers (Bundoran), Gary Walsh, Conor Boyle, Terence McShea, F. Gallagher, D. Slevin, B. Murray, C. Tinney, J. Curran (Aodh Ruadh), D. Gallagher, E. Cassidy, M. Gallagher (Ballintra), M. Caldwell, P. Brogan, S. Boyle, A. Faulkner, B. McAuley, J. McGroary, R. Muldoon (Four Masters), Liam Kennedy (Dunkineely), J. Kerr (St. Naul's).

Overall the standard of football in the Division was good with all competitions run off in a sporting manner. An isolated instance of the playing of an over-age player had to be dealt with by the Divisional Board. Otherwise co-operation with and between clubs in the Division was good. The great deal of time and effort being put into the preparation of young teams by all clubs in the Division is commendable and worthy of recognition. Much work remains to be done in providing more games for under-age teams and in doing something positive to promote hurling among the youth of the area. A heartening development has been the positive response of clubs in providing neutral referees for the games. Most clubs had at least two active referees available and it should be seen as a priority within clubs to maintain interest in this important aspect of games administration.

# Coiste Mionúr An Iar-Thuaiscirt

le tAth. Seán Ó Gallchóir

## COMÓRTAISÍ

Reachtáil an coiste cúig chomórtas agus seo mar a chríochnaigh na cluichí ceannais:

Comórtas	Cluiche Ceannais	Imreoir is Fearr
Faoi-12	Gaoth Dobhair 7-2, Na Dúnaibh 0-1.	Ciarán Mac Pháidín (G.D.)
Faoi-14	Na Dúnaibh 4-2, An Tearmann 0-5	Cathal S. Mac Fhionnghaile (AT)
Faoi-15	An Tearmann 4-6, N. Mícheál 0-1	—
Faoi-16	Gaoth Dobhair 4-3, Cloich Cheannfhaola 1-1	Séamus Ó Dubhchain (CC)
Faoi-18	An Tearmann 0-13, Gaoth Dobhair 1-9.	Éamonn Bán Mac Fhionnghaile (AT)

Ní raibh na clubanna go léir páirteach i ngach comórtas. Seo mar a bhí an pháirtíocht:

Fo-Chumann	Faoi-12	Faoi-14	Faoi-15	Faoi-16	Faoi-18
An Tearmann					
Cloich Cheannfhaola					—
Gaoth Dobhair			—		
Naomh Mícheál				—	—
Ruairí Mhic Easmainn		—			
Na D'unaibh			—	—	—

Tearmann chan ionann is na ceantacha móra scaipthe atá i nGaoth Dobhair, i nGaoth Cheannfhaola agus i gceantar na gCasements.

Ar an Dara dul síos ní bheimid sásta go dtí go mbainfear Craobhacha contae. Níor bhain an Roinn Craobh contae ar bith i 1982. Fuair Gaoth Dobhair (Faoi-12) agus Na Dúnaibh (Faoi-14) fhad leis an chluiche ceannais. Is tuar dóchais agus éadóchais aga n am chéanna é sin. An gciallaíonn sé gur i measc na ngasraí beaga is mó atá tallan? Nó an gciallaíonn sé gur ó cheithre bliana déag suas a thosaíonn an neamart agus an neamhshuim? Tá gá le gníomh a ardós an caighdeán.

Ar an triú dul síos ta obair mhór le déanamh le suim an phobail a mhuscail sna cluichí. Nuair a dímair gasraí beaga Gaoth Dobhair i gcluiche ceannais an chontae ní raibh de thuismitheoirí i láthair ach Mícheál Eoghain Eoin agus Donal Breslin. Ní raibh ach scaiftí beaga ag ár gcluichí ceannais féin i nDún Fionnachaidh cé go raibh dhá thráthnóna bhrea peile

ann.

Ar an ceathrú dul síos níor éirigh go maith linn ar chor ar bith sa 'Super-League é an comórtas faoi-18 idir-roinn a imríodh i rith an Earraigh. Bhí lá amháin nar éirigh linn foireann a chur chun na páirce ar chor ar bith (in éadan an Deiscirt). Dímair muid na cluichí eile. Bhuaíl muid Inis Eoghain. Chaill muid in éadan an Oirthir agus an Iar-Dheiscirt. Bhí toscaí go leor inár n-éadan (peil coláistí, easpa suime, baint na móna, easpa comhoibrithe óna clubanna etc.).

## FOIREANN AN CHONTAE

Triúr as an Roinn a bhí ar fhoireann Dhún na nGall a bhain Sraith Mionúr Uladh — Liam Mac Aoidh as Gaoth Dobhair, Éamonn Mac Fhionnghaile as Naomh Mícheál agus Críostóir Ó Riain as an Tearmann. Dímair siad triúr go maith i rith na Sraithe sin. Bhí siad ar fhoireann na Craoibhe in éadan Ard Mhacha agus Aontroma fosta.

Nuair a d'athroinn Coiste Mionúr Dhún na nGall an chontae i gcuig cōda ag tus na bliana 1982 d'fhag siad sé fho-chumann san Iar-Thuaiscirt — Gaogh Dobhair, Cloich Cheannfhaola, Naomh Mícheál (Dún Fionnachaidh/Craosloch), Na Dúnaibh, An Tearmann agus Ruairí Mhic Easmainn (Baile na nGallóglach/Fánad/Rath Mealtáin). Tionóladh an chéad chruinniú de Choiste Mionúr an Iar-Thuaiscirt i bPobalscoil Chloich Cheannfhaola ar an 16ú Feabhra 1982. Toghadh beirt de bhunadh Gaoth Dobhair mar Chathaoirleach agus mar Rúnaí. Cé gur de bhunadh Gaoth Dobhair ia d ta Gaoth Dobhair fágtha acu agus iad gníomhach i gclubanna eile — an tAthair Seán Gallchóir (Cloich Cheannfhaola) agus Eoghan Mac Fhionnghaile (Ruairí Mhic Easmainn).

Toghadh Séamus Ó Dónaill (An Tearmann) mar Leas-Chathaoirleach, Mícheál Ó Dochartaigh (Na Dúnaibh) mar chisteoir agus Seán Mac Fhionnghaile (Naomh Mícheál mar chláraitheoir.

## BUNTAÍSTÍ

Bhí buntáistí mhóra ag an scéim úr:

(i) B'iontach an spríoc an cluiche ceannais ceantach. Bhí luach saothair le fáil ag na buachaillí óga (sciath agus boinn) i ndiaidh chluichí ceannais an Iar-Thuaiscirt, rud nach raibh amhlaidh le blianta beaga anuas nuair nach raibh de chraobh ann ach Craobh an Chontae.

(ii) Bhí an réiteoireacht níos sasula ná mar a bhíodh ó tharla gur ainmnigh an Coiste réiteoir do gach cluiche.

(iii) Ba bheag contúirt mionracais a bhí ann ó tharla aithne mhaith againn uilig ar a chéile.

(iv) B'ocáidí breátha laethe na gcluichí ceannais.

## OBHAIR LE DÉANAMH

Cé go rabhthas sásta go leor le saothar na bliana tuigtear go bhfuil an-obair le déanamh go fóill. Ar an chéad dul síos ní bheimid sásta go dtí go mbeidh sé fhoireann i ngach ceann dena cúig comórtaisí. is mor an moladh atá tuillte ag An Tearmann, an t-aon fho-chumann a ghlac páirt i ngach comórtas i mbliana. Bhain siad dhá cheann agus buaileach iad sa chluiche ceannais faoi-14. Dealraíonn sé anois gur buntáiste agus nach mi-bhuntaiste é a bheith i do phobal beag comhtháite mar atá sa

## FAOI-12

D'éirigh go maith leis an Chraobh Faoi-12 a imríodh i rith an Aibreáin agus na Bealtaine. Ba i nDún Fionnachaidh ar Lá Fhéile Chorp Chríost a imríoch an chuiche ceannais. Ba é Aindí Ó hAnnlúain an réiteoir. Ceapadh go mbeadh cluiche cothrom idir Gaoth Dobhair agus Na Dúnaibh ach bhí Gaoth Dobhair i bhfad ró-láidir agus bhain siad é go héasca. Chuaigh siad ar aghaidh ansin go ndearna siad ionadaíocht ar son na roinne i gcluiche leath-cheannais an Chontae. Bhuaill siad muintir Inis Eoghain. Sa chluiche ceannais bhuaidh Naomh Adhamhnán ar Ghaoth Dobhair (6-11/4-1). Ba é foireann Ghaoth Dobhair: A. Ó Duibhir; M. Ó Dónall, D. Ó Biataigh, D. Ó Breisleáin; S. Ó Fearraí, C. Ó Gallchoir, M. Mac Giolla Bhríde; C. Mac Pháidin agus D. Ó Baoill; M. Mac Giolla Chomhaill, M. Ó Dochartaigh, S. Mac Pháidin; C. Mac Cumhaill, M. Mac Suibhne, S. Ó Gallchoir.

## FAOI - 14

Bhí An Tearnann agus Na Dúnaibh i bhfad níos láidre ná na foirne eile sa chraobh Faoi-14. Casadh ar a chéile sa chluiche ceannais iad i nDún Fionnachaidh ar an 14ú Lúnasa. Bhí cluiche breá ann agus bua mhaith ag an Dúnaibh. Bhí foireann an Tearnainn ní ba mhó agus ní ba láidre ach chuir siad an-chuid seansanna

amú sa chéad leath nuair a bhí an ghaoth leo, Fuair Na Dúnaibh na cuil in am trath agus bhain siad an Chraobh. Bhuaill siad Carn Domhnaigh i gcluiche leath-cheannais an chontae agus ba Naomh Columba a bhí ina n'éadan sa bhabhta deireannach. Seo foireann na nDúnaibh: Marcus Mac Laifeartaigh; Micheál Mac Giolla Chearra (Wilhare), Seamus Mac Giolla Chearra, Micheál Ó hEimiligh; Micheál Mac Giolla Bhríde, Peadar Mac Lochlainn, Caoimhin Ó Ceallaigh; Greagóir Mac Aoidh agus Micheál Ó Gallchoir; Bosco Mac Giolla Bhríde, Éamonn Mac Suibhne, Seamus Mac Pháidin; Seán Mac Suibhne, Stíofán Ó Seibhealain, Aindrias Mac Giolla Bhríde.

## FAOI-15

Imríodh comórtas seachtar-antaoibh Ógspóirt Gael ar an Fhál Carrach. Ní raibh páirteach ach Cloich Cheannfhaola, Naomh Micheál agus an Tearnann. Bhain an Tearnann gan dua: Seamas Ó Brádaigh, Seán Ó Dochartaigh, Seosamh Ó Dochartaigh, Seamus Ó Cellaigh, Liam Mac Eiteagáin, Tomás Ó Riain, Cathal S. Mac Fhionnghaile, Brian Ruiséal, Seán Mac Giolla Bhríde agus Breandán Ó Gallchoir. Níor éirigh leis an Tearnann i mbabhtai deiridh an chontae.

## FAOI-16

Bhain Gaoth Dobhair an Chraoch

Faoi-16 agus is é mo bharúil féin go raibh an cumas iontu Craobh an Chontae a bhaint. Ina áit sin bhuaill Bun Cranncha iad sa chluiche leath-cheannais. Bhí cluiche maith idir Gaoth Dobhair agus Cloich Cheannfhaola san Iar-Thuaisceart. Gaoth Dobhair: Eoin Hamer; Antoin Ó Dochartaigh, Seosamh Ó Cuirreáin, Brian Mac Giolla Chomhaill; Seosamh Mac Pháidin agus Brian Ó Gallchoir; Cóilin Ó Breisleáin, Éamonn Mac Niallais, Antoin Ó Dochartaigh; Pádraig Mac Giolla Bhríde, Pádraig Ó Dónaill.

## FAOI-18

Ba é cluiche ceannais na mionúr an cluiche a b'fhearr sa roinn i rith na bliana. Shíl 'ach a'n duine go mbainfeadh Gaoth Dobhair ach bhuaill An Tearnann iad le pointe B'iad an bheirt as club Naomh Micheál, Éamonn Bán Mac Fhionnghaile agus Adrian Ó hAodha, laochra an Tearnainn. Bhuaidh an Tearnann ar Bhun Cranncha ina dhiaidh sin ach bhí Aodh Rua ró-láidir acu sa chluiche leath-cheannais 0-8 in éadan 0-2. Foireann an Tearnainn: Dónall Ó Ceallagh; Deaglán Mac Giolla Chearra, Dónall Ó Gallchoir, Micheál Mac Giolla Bhríde (Cathal S. Mac Fhionnghaile); Niall Ó Dochartaigh, Seán Ó Gallchoir agus Éamonn Mac Fhionnghaile; Brian Ó Gallchoir, Adrian Ó hAodha, Micheál Mac Giolla Chearra; Críostóir Ó Connacháin, Éamonn Mac Fhionnghaile, Tomás Ó Riain.

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# South West Divisional Minor Board

by EDWARD MOLLOY

THE excitement and tension is back in football again in the south west after a season of hard tough, drama filled, and tension packed games, of which supporters had been wishing for in times gone past. It has been a good year for the South West Board with their clubs winning the county U.14 title; their representative in the minor championship only being narrowly beaten in the county final and mostly above all the county O'g Sport Gael title coming to Killybegs for a first time ever. This division seemed to have everything that players have come to expect, that spectators in their wildest dreams couldn't visualise happening, but happen it did with a team trailing by three points in a divisional final missing a penalty with just seconds left. That drama coupled with the excitement of an eleven goal thriller in the minor section make attending matches worthwhile.

We did have our sad days as well like the evening in Ballybofey when we gave the first ever Super League Shield to 'South' division without even fielding a team in a competition we expected to win. We earlier in the year had beaten the other divisional Super League minor teams quite easily and had staged an amazing comeback against 'South' to draw and force this play-off with them. With the division having eight teams at under age level and seven in the other competitions the league basic was played in two sections.

The U.12 competition got this exciting year under way with a lot of good football being played and many close finishes. The break up in the Rosses due to a motion passed at Convention didn't affect the Dungloe Club who powered through to the semi-finals with great performances to remain undefeated to be followed by N. Chonaill who kept up their good form in this age group from the last few years. Killybegs had runaway victories in section 'B' to remain undefeated until Ardara scored a surprise eight points victory to ensure runners-up place. In this game the Killybegs club were alleged to have fielded an over age player. The competition was held up as the Board gathered evidence. When this was not forthcoming Killybegs decided to

withdraw their team giving N. Chonaill a bye into the divisional final to face old rivals (or young) Ardara, who accounted for Dungloe in a dull semi-final win.

If that game was dull the final was otherwise. Suspense was never higher as a huge crowd gathered to Sandfield to witness a titanic struggle between these near neighbour, one nil to N. Chonaill at half time, points that is, told of the closeness of this game. Two points each with five minutes left and the game was starting to boil over in a football sense as a N. Chonaill forward going through was pulled down. Penalty shouted the crowd. Penalty it was as the referee pointed to the penalty spot. A hard shot to the roof of the net and N. Chonaill were almost there. But not quite as more drama was to come when with Ardara pressing forward a N. Chonaill defender lifted the ball off the ground. Another penalty. The tension was unbearable as the kick went towards the goal but to the outside of the post. N. Chonaill were champions in as most dramatic a fashion as anyone could wish for. For them the road to county success didn't last long when they met and lost to a strong Aodh Rua fifteen, but they had given their share and with the likes of O'Donnell, McKelvey and captain Martin Doherty, the future looks bright for the Glenties club.

Staged along with this competition was the U.16 championship which proved to be very competitive and interesting. A lot of attention was focused on the U.14 county finalists of last year, Killybegs and Ardara, with so many of their stars playing a higher grade this year, and on the Rosses teams N. Mhuire and Na Rossa to see if their split up would affect their chances of a divisional or county title in this grade. With their U.14's combining well with their older team mates Ardara played impressively to win all their six divisional games quite easily and on this form were easily favourites for the title. Naomh Mhuire qualified as runners up in this section with an evenly balanced team who played with grit and determination in every game. Killybegs powered by the Cunningham brothers and their stars

from last year had it quite easy in section 'B' and were joined by N. Columba in the play-off stages.

In the first semi-final a major surprise was in store for Killybegs when they met N. Mhuire who scored a clear cut victory in great style. Shocks seemed to be the order as in the other semi-final only a last minute point saved Ardara when a N. Columba team playing with great heart and skill and never say die attitude almost stole the day but not quite. The replay resulted in an easy win for Ardara, when the boys from Glen didn't live up to the previous meeting form. With the likes of Luke Gavigan, Stephen Keeney, and captain Tomás McGuire playing superb football, Ardara were red hot favourites going into the final, but Naomh Mhuire had other ideas. After twenty minutes they led by five points but constant pressure by Ardara resulted in scores being piled up before N. Mhuire came late and only a brilliant save in the last minute saw Ardara ahead at the finish.

Playing Glenfin in the county semi-final Ardara played brilliantly to keep within striking distance but the power of the likes of high fielding Seamus Ward and nippy forward Joey McDermott proved too much so with two competitions gone we were still waiting for a county honour for the 'South West', but in a few weeks we were celebrating with the county O'g Sport Gael title coming to the fishing port of Killybegs, who beat the county's best in tremendous fashion on a warm Sunday evening at Glenfin.

Killybegs had won the divisional section in great style, scoring an impressive 35 goals, 15 points in four games showing the kind of marksmanship Kerry forwards would be proud of. More success was to follow in the All-Ireland finals held in Gormanstown when they beat seven teams in the section to qualify for the quarter-finals but alas their luck ran out to a Kildare team who beat them. Receiving the trophy for the outstanding player of the tournament was the Killybegs captain, John Cunningham, to cap a memorable weekend that brought pride and joy to the county and especially the 'South West'.

As we moved on the U.14 grade we felt a lot of pressure trying to keep the county title in the South West this year again. In the sectional league 'A' N. Mhuire and N. Chonaill were a class above the rest. Naomh Mhuire had big wins in all their games scoring a mammoth 28-61 in only six outings and following this brilliant young team into the semi-finals were

N. Chonaill, well supported by their super U.12's of last year. With only a few of their county winning team from last year playing, Killybegs and a strong looking N. Columba team finished level in their section with the former going through as winners on the toss of a coin. It seemed that the boys from Glen had got the hardest draw but they surprised all with a great win over N. Mhuire in the semi-finals and advanced to meet Killybegs again who accounted for N. Chonaill in a hard fought semi-final tie in Ardara. On a stormy evening in August, the divisional final was staged when any hopes of a good game were spoiled by a strong gale force wind. Two goals in each half secured the cup for Paddy 'Beag' Gillespie's young hopefuls in which the likes of Conal Gavigan, Damien Gillespie and captain John Joe Doherty stood out, but for Killybegs it was the end of a road and tournament in which they had played brilliantly but in the end had to give way to a stronger outfit.

Meeting Aodh Rua in the county quarter-final N. Columba scored a superb win to play McCumhalls in the semi-final. Showing grit, skill and overall commitment, they reached the county final in great style. In the final they met and defeated Downings to capture the county title with an easy six points victory. To bring back the first county title at under age level to the South West we are all proud of them and hope this team can stay together for many years to thrill us in years to come. Moving on to the minor championship, we expected great things from many of the players who had won Ulster league medals with the county this year and also from the U.16's, who showed such football skills in their age group. We were not to be disappointed, with excitement, tension and drama one could only dream about.

These were the games that brought supporters from their homes and spectators to their feet. In section 'B' Killybegs kept up their great form this year by winning their fourth section in the various age groups but they didn't have it all their own way with a strong Kilcar fifteen well managed by their senior stars, John Carr and Tommy McFadden. If section 'B' was hard fought the other section was almost unbearably close. With N. Chonaill withdrawing due to fielding a team problems, it was left to the other three teams to share the spoils. With each team beating the other once we ended up back where we started with all teams level on eight points each. Ended back where we started — not quite — for we had 60.

seen entertaining football never witnessed before in this area of Donegal. Games that spring to mind are Ardara's one point victory over Na Rossa after being seven points behind towards the finish, N. Mhuire's surprise win over Na Rossa at Dooey but most of all the thriller in Sandfield when eleven super goals were scored in a game, highlighted with great ball control and high fielding. In the first play-off game to decide sectional winners we had a gruesome contest where only the hardest of hard men could compete and in the end Ardara won easily to play Kilcar in the first semi-final. With senior star James McHugh playing superbly and ably assisted by Michael Molloy, Martin O'Donnell and hard running Neilly Cannon, Kilcar looked to be heading for a surprise win before Ardara, inspired by Luke and Martin Gavigan and high fielding Eamonn Cunningham, sneaked ahead to reach the divisional minor final after a superb goal line save by Martin Gavigan that will remain long in the memory. After their play-off game was held up for a few weeks Na Rossa and rivals N. Mhuire clashed again for the former to win easily in the end, after being behind by nine points at one stage. The end of the campaign had come for the brilliant N. Mhuire team which had given us a great many memories over the last few months. Players like Paddy Bán Gallagher, Owen Bonner, Hugh and Cormac McGarvey were a delight to watch and hopefully they will be back to contest for honours in the years ahead.

In the semi-final Na Rossa played Killybegs fielding short a few regulars and accounted for them quite easily in the end, despite the great play of Barry and John Cunningham, Niall Erskine and Paul Murrin. As the points went over from all angles especially from the Bonner brothers one couldn't help but wonder if this was the team with all the talents. What a final it promised to be and indeed it was and although the wet conditions didn't help matters the spectators who braved the elements were treated to some great football. A strong win helped Ardara build up a 1-5 to 0-1 half time interval lead but with the wind in their backs in the second half Na Rossa powered on by Michael Bonner and Myles Sweeney at midfield, Noel Bonner at full back and roving corner forward Donal Bonner pressed forward time and time again only to be denied by a strong tackling Ardara rearguard in which Martin Gavigan, Jimmy Caffrey, Tomás McGuire and captain Jackie Gallagher stood out. As the

margin between the teams narrowed football fever was at its highest pitch with Ardara holding out. Na Rossa's reign as South West minor kingpins came to an end as Ardara came forward to receive the Packie "The Cope" Cup for divisional champions. Nobody could deny the effort the Na Rossa team had put into the competition to make it the most memorable minor championship we're ever likely to see. Playing in the county semi-final against St. Eunan's, Ardara kept the South West flag flying high with a hard fought and close exciting win after a game in which scores were level for most of the game until a well struck fifty yards free from Luke Gavigan ended up in the net. Ardara were through to meet favourites Aodh Rua in the county decider at Ballybofey. Playing with great spirit and will to win these lads served up a game great teams of the past would be proud of. Spectators who witnessed poor finals this year were thrilled with this spectacle between two great teams. The lads from the south west lost in the end but nobody was a loser in a game where football was the winner. The year had come to an end with a flourish and we can only hope it continues on next year.

We will always remember the games which thrilled us, the players who showed great football skill, let it be high fielding or by taking marvellous scores. It was a year in which the unlikely was always likely and the suspense and drama alive all the time. We salute the U.14 team from Glencolumbkille and the Og Sport Gael team from Killybegs for bringing honour to the division with their marvellous county wins. To all the players, club officials and team managers keep your stars interested and hopefully further county honours will come to his division in the years ahead.

### SOUTH WEST DIVISIONAL BOARD U.12 RESULTS

N. Mhuire 1-1 Na Rossa 1-0,  
Dungloe 2-2, 1-2. N. Chonaill 1-3, 0-2  
Na Rossa 2-0, 1-0. Dungloe 2-5, 2-6  
N. Chonaill 5-1, W.O. N. Mhuire 0-0,  
N. Mhuire 0-1, 0-0. Dungloe 4-4, 5-2  
Na Rossa 1-0, N. Chonaill 1-1, W.O.

Ardara 6-3, 3-6. Kilcar 3-3, 2-2  
N. Columba 1-1, 0-0. Killybegs 6-3, 4-4  
Kilcar 1-6, 2-3. N. Columba 1-2, 2-0  
Ardara 0-2, 3-4. Killybegs 2-3, 1-2  
Ardara 4-2, 2-0. N. Columba 1-1, 2-4  
Killybegs 4-3, 2-4. Kilcar 4-2, 1-1

### TABLE A

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Dungloe .....	6	6	0	0	12
N. Chonaill .....	6	4	0	2	8
N. Mhuire .....	5	1	0	4	2
Na Rossa .....	5	0	0	5	0

**TABLE B**

Killybegs	6	5	0	1	10
Ardara	6	4	0	2	8
Kilcar	6	2	0	4	4
N. Columba	6	1	0	5	2

**U.12 SEMI FINALS  
AT GLENTIES**

Ardara 2-2, Dungloe 1-2.  
N. Chonaill W.O. v. Killybegs  
(Killybegs withdrew).

**FINAL**

N. Chonaill 1-2, Ardara 0-2, at Ardara.

**COUNTY QUARTER FINAL  
AT DONEGAL**

Aodh Rua, Ballyshannon 6-9, N. Chonaill 2-3.

**SOUTH WEST DIVISIONAL  
BOARD U.14**

N. Chonaill 3-8, 2-7. Ardara 0-3, 1-4.  
N. Mhuire 5-7, 6-7. Na Rossa 1-1, 1-1.  
N. Chonaill 6-9, 6-8. Na Rossa 3-6, 0-3.  
N. Mhuire 6-11, 6-11. Ardara 0-1, 0-0.  
Na Rossa 2-5, 2-4. Ardara 1-5, 4-5.  
N. Mhuire 4-14, 1-11. N., Chonaill 1-2, 0-2.

N. Columba 5-3, 4-12. Kilcar 3-2, 0-3.  
Killybegs 5-7, 4-5. Kilcar 0-2, 3-2.  
Killybegs 2-2, 0-0. N. Columba 1-2, 2-8.

**U.14 FINAL LEAGUE TABLES**

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
N. Mhuire	6	6	0	0	12
N. Chonaill	6	4	0	2	8
Ardara	6	1	0	5	2
Na Rossa	6	1	0	5	2

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Killybegs	3	3	0	1	6
N. Columba	4	3	0	1	6
Kilcar	4	0	0	4	0

Killybegs winners on toss.

**U.14 SEMI FINALS**

N. Columba 6-4, N. Mhuire 3-3. At Glenties.  
Killybegs 2-8, N. Chonaill 3-4. At Ardara.

**FINAL**

N. Columba 4-0, Killybegs 0-1. At Ardara.

**HOW THEY FARED**

**QUARTER FINAL:**

N. Columba 3-8, Aodh Rua 3-4.

**SEMI-FINAL:**

N. Columba 2-5, McCumhails 1-5.

**FINAL:**

N. Columba 1-4, Downings 0-1.

**SOUTH WEST DIVISIONAL  
BOARD U.16**

N. Mhuire 7-15, W.O. N. Chonaill 0-0. W.O.  
Ardara 2-6, 0-10. Na Rossa 0-1, 1-0.  
Ardara 4-8, 2-10. N. Mhuire 1-1, 3-4.  
Na Rossa 1-5, —. N. Chonaill 0-6, W.O.  
Na Rossa 2-6, 2-3. N. Mhuire 1-3, 5-8.  
Ardara 6-10, 3-11. N. Chonaill 0-0, 0-2.

Killybegs 2-5, 2-7. Kilcar 0-3, 0-3.  
Killybegs 2-11, W.O. N. Columba 0-2. —  
N. Columba 4-13, 5-4. Kilcar 0-1, 0-3.

**SEMI FINALS**

N. Mhuire 4-4, Killybegs 1-4 at Glenties.  
Ardara 2-7, N. Columba 2-7, (draw) at Fintra.

Ardara 3-11, N. Columba 0-4 (replay) at Fintra.

**U. 16 FINAL**

Ardara 0-12, N. Mhuire 1-7, at Glenties.

**COUNTY SEMI-FINAL**

Glenfin 1-7, Ardara 0-5 at Ballybofey.

**U.16 FINAL TABLES.**

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Ardara	6	6	0	0	12
N. Mhuire	6	3	0	3	6
Na Rossa	6	3	0	3	6
N. Chonaill	6	0	0	6	0

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Killybegs	4	4	0	0	8
N. Columba	4	2	0	2	4
Kilcar	4	0	0	4	0

**SOUTH WEST DIVISIONAL  
BOARD U.18 MINOR RESULTS**

Na Rossa 2-9, 1-7. Ardara 1-5, 2-5.  
N. Mhuire 4-16, W.O. N. Chonaill 0-1, —  
Ardara 3-17, W.O. N. Chonaill 0-4, —  
Na Rossa 3-13, 1-6. N. Mhuire 0-7, 2-10.  
Ardara 7-6, 1-5. N. Mhuire 4-4, 1-9.  
Na Rossa W.O. W.O. N. Chonaill — —

N. Columba 0-2, 0-1. Kilcar 5-7, 2-12.  
Killybegs 1-13, 3-9. Kilcar 0-6, 1-0.  
Killybegs 3-12, W.O. N. Columba 1-4.

**MINOR DIVISIONAL FINAL  
LEAGUE TABLES**

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Ardara	6	4	0	2	8
Na Rossa	6	4	0	2	8
N. Mhuire	6	4	0	2	8
N. Chonaill	withdrew.				

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Killybegs	4	4	0	0	8
Kilcar	4	2	0	2	4
N. Columba	4	0	0	4	0

**MINOR PLAY OFFS**

Ardara 2-7, N. Mhuire 0-5 at Dooley.  
Na Rossa 2-9, N. Mhuire 1-7, at Glenties.

**DIVISIONAL MINOR SEMI-FINALS**

Ardara 1-6, Kilcar 1-5 at Fintra.  
Na Rossa 1-18, Killybegs 2-2 at Ardara.

**MINOR FINAL**

Ardara 1-5, Na Rossa 0-7, at Glenties.

**HOW THEY FARED**

**SEMI-FINALS:**

Ardara 1-5, St. Eunan's 0-5 at Ballybofey.

**MINOR COUNTY FINAL**

Ardara 0-8, Aodh Rua 0-13 at Ballybofey.

**OG SPORT GAEL**

South West Divisional Play-off results

Killybegs 7-2, Ardara 0-2.  
Dungloe 5-2, N. Mhuire 2-3.  
Kilcar 5-1, Ardara 4-3.  
Killybegs 8-5, Dungloe 3-0.  
Killybegs 10-5, Kilcar 3-0.  
Ardara 4-6, Dungloe 3-3.  
Killybegs 10-3, N. Mhuire 0-2.  
Ardara 3-6, N. Mhuire 4-1.  
Dungloe 9-4, Kilcar 2-1.  
N. Mhuire 4-5, Kilcar 2-2.

**WINNERS**

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Killybegs	4	4	0	0	8

Scores for: 35-15. Against: 5-4.



**Ardara U-12, runners-up South West Divisional Board.**



**Killybegs U-14, runners-up South West Divisional Board.**



**Ardara U-16, winners South West Divisional Board.**



**Naomh Conaill U-12, winners South West Divisional Board.**



**Naomh Mhuire U-16, runners-up South West Divisional Board.**



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# COUNTY CHAMPIONS



## URRIS - INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONS

Urris - winners of the Intermediate Championship final. (Photo: John Foy)



## NA ROSSA - JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

Back row - left to right: Pat Boyle, Jim Brennan, Conal Boyle, Eamonn Melly, Joe Rodgers, Patrick J. Boyle, Dannie Molloy, Jamsie Melly, Colm Cannon, John Boyle, Martin McShane, Tony Croke, Brendan Ward. Front row: Charlie Bonner, Sean Bonner, Michael O'Donnell, Jim O'Donnell, Declan Bonner, Vinnie Gallagher, capt., Jerry McHugh, Donal Bonner, Peter Molloy, Michael Bonner.

# 1982



## AODH RUADH - UNDER-21 CHAMPIONS

Front row - left to right: Thomas Cleary, Ciaran Tinney, Tommy McDermott, Pauric Bromley, Padraig McLoone, Pauric Gallagher (capt.), Eunan Doyle, Frankie Gallagher, Eamonn Maguire, Paul Tuohy. Back row - left to right: Thomas Gallagher, Eunan Gallagher, Conor McMahon, Matt Gallagher, Sylvester Maguire, Gary Walsh, Brian Murray, Terence McShea, Martin Williamson, Pascal McTiernan.



## AODH RUADH - MINOR CHAMPIONS

Front row, left to right: Patrick McGovern, Brian Drummond, Joe Curran, Brian Murray (capt.), Frankie Gallagher, Mark Cleary, Terence McShea, Pauric Gallagher. Back row - left to right: Patrick Daly, David Meade, Gary Walsh, Alan Murray, Seamus McGonagle, Liam McGill, Martin Lee, Declan Walsh, Paul Gallagher, Conor Boyle, Gavan Murphy, Seamus Gallagher.

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# COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1982



**GLENFIN - JUVENILE CHAMPIONS**



**NAOMH COLMCILLE - U-14 CHAMPIONS**



**ST. EUNAN'S - U-12 CHAMPIONS**

# Ten Years Ago And Our First

by FRANK MULDOON

A very special page in the history of the G.A.A. in the County of Donegal was written on the Sunday, the 30th July, 1972, when Donegal won their first ever Ulster Senior Football Championship.

This was a high point of achievement in seventy years of the Association's activity in the county.

Along that road to the 1972 final Donegal had beaten Down by 1-8 to 0-8 at Ballybofey. They came from behind to earn a draw with Cavan at Irvinestown almost on the stroke of time with the score Donegal 0-12, Cavan 2-6.

These games served to demonstrate more than anything else the spirit and determination that characterised this Donegal team and they took a special delight in defeating Down and Cavan who had been the top counties in the province for so long and who had so often dashed the high hopes of the Tironaill men.

The Cavan replay at Clones attracted a huge Donegal following and they were treated to a sparkling display of football particularly by the Donegal forwards who laid the foundation for a 2-11 to 1-9 victory and paved the way to a third Ulster final.

The final in Clones provided a thrill a minute for the spectators in the first ever game at this stage of the championship with Tyrone.

Once again the determination to win of Donegal players became very evident as they took everything that Tyrone could give and came back to lead in the closing ten minutes and win by five points.

As captain, Frank McFeely was handed the cup by Michael Feeney, Vice-President of the Ulster Council, he was mobbed by delighted fans while the smiles on the faces of Co. Secretary, the late Hugh Daly, and Co. Registrar, Edward Quinn (now also deceased) said it all.

The All-Ireland semi-final against Offaly ended in a 1-17 to 2-10 victory for the 1971 All-Ireland champions but to quote a sports writers on the game: "The lambs turned out to be tigers" and Donegal gave a great display.

The team: Alan Kane; Donal Monaghan, Pauric McShea, Andy Curran; Brian McEniff, Anthony Gallagher, Anton Carroll; Seamus Bonner, Frank McFeely; Declan O'Carroll, Michael McMenamin, Martin Carney; Seamus Granaghan, Michael Sweeney, Joseph Winston. Subs., John Hannigan, Enda Bonner, Hugh McClafferty.



Michael Feeney, Ulster President G.A.A. presenting the cup to capt. Frankie McFeely with Eddie Quinn, late Hugh Daly, Co. Secretary, and Frank Muldoon, Central Council.

## ALL-IRELAND TITLE FOR LETTERKENNY R.T.C.

By James McMonagle

This past year was a historic one for the R.T.C. Letterkenny who won Division III of the Higher Education All-Ireland League. This league is run on All-Ireland basis and to win it the Letterkenny team had to overcome opposition from teams as far apart as Queens University, N.I.H.B., Dublin, R.T.C. Athlone and Tralee R.T.C. The fact that the final was against a Kerry based team made victory all the sweeter.

For two of the players, Charlie Mulgrew and Eunan McIntyre, it was but the prelude to even greater glory with the All-Ireland Under-21 team. A pleasing feature of the Regional College team was that it brought together players from a number of counties. Apart from the home county there were players from Galway, Mayo and Monaghan.

Promotion to Division II is a mixed blessing. The standard in this division is quite high and the R.T.C. Letterkenny is virtually the smallest college in the country. Nevertheless it will hopefully raise standards and that must be considered a desirable goal. The R.T.C. Letterkenny is grateful for the support of the Donegal County Board and to St. Eunan's G.A.A. Club in particular, for their assistance during the year.

Brian Gallagher, team physio, played an important part in this All-Ireland success.

The R.T.C. panel was: Gerry Boyle (Killybegs), Joe McFadden (St. Eunan's), Brian Ferry (do.), Malachy Crawford (Convoy), Colm Gallagher (Killybegs), Pauric McDaid (St. Eunan's), Bernie Murray (Scotstown), Charlie Mulgrew (St. Eunan's), Eunan McIntyre (do.), team captain; Bosco Walsh (Charlestown), John Griffin (St. Naul's), Paul Brennan (Ardara), Martin Joyce (Tuam), Pauric O'Dea (Tuam), Kieran Patton (Convoy), Vincent Blain (Killybegs), Tommy McQuade (Monaghan), Johnny Harte (Convoy), Brendan Boyle (Killybegs), Eamonn McGettigan (Termon), Raymond Blake (St. Eunan's).

# THEY MADE HISTORY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO - DONEGAL MINORS 1956



This team brought honour and glory to Donegal just over a quarter of a century ago — the 1956 Donegal team which won the first and only Ulster Minor Football Championship. Team: Bernie Gildea (Glenties), Paul Sweeney (Dungloe), Sean O'Donnell (Kilcar), Sean McHugh (Ballyshannon), John Hannigan (Letterkenny), Cathal Carr (Gweedore), Sean McEntee (Ballybofey), Jackie Reilly (Ballybofey), Mick McGinley (Creeslough), John Campbell (Dungloe), Sean Ferriter, capt., (Creeslough), Brendan Foley (Bundoran), Paul Kelly (Falcarragh), Seosamh Halpin (Letterkenny), Eamon Monaghan (St. Naul's).

## LIFFORD'S 1967 FR. BRADLEY CUP WIN

Lifford G.A.A. junior team who had reached two county junior championship finals in the early sixties, won their one and only major football competition in 1967. That year they won the Fr. Bradley 13-a-side tournament in Clady which was open to junior and intermediate teams from Donegal, Tyrone, Derry and Fermanagh.

Members of that team included Hugh Burns (goalkeeper), En-

da McDermott, Colm Lynch, Willie Crowley, Denis Porter, Brendan Dowling (later of Donegal county team fame), Liam Caffrey (of Sligo and Connacht Railway Cup fame), Brian Kelly, Sean Boyle, Dessie McDermott, Jim McGarry (Leitrim county player), and others. Lifford were behind at half-time by 1-4 to 0-2 but a superb second half saw them come from behind to win by a goal against Donemana.

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# An Gaeilge O Thus Ama

Ní féidir dearmad a dhéanamh de gur tír dhá theangach atá in Éirinn, agus goi bhfuil dhá theanga oifigiúil a labhairt inti, Gaeilge agus Béarla. Is í an Ghaeilge an chéad teanga oifigiúil do reir Bunreacht na hÉireann. Seo mar atá sé curtha síos in Airteagal 8, alt a haon, dó agus a trí.

"Os í an Ghaeilge an teanga náisiúnta is í an príomhtheanga oifigiúil eile. Ach féadfar socrú a dhéanamh le dlí d'fonn ceachtar den dá theanga sin a bheith ina haonteanga le haghaidh aon ghnó nó gnóthaí oifigiúil ar fud an Stait are fad nó in aon chuid de."

Teanga ársa í an Ghaeilge agus baineann sí leis na teangacha Ceilteach achis leis an ghrúpa Testanach a bhaineann an Béarla. Mar a dúirt mé is teanga ársa í an Ghaeilge agus tá sí linn ó thús na stáire — ní mar sin de'n Bhearla é. Is nua-theanga an Béarla nach bhfuil linn ach thart ar thrí chead go leith bliain. Bhí coimplint gearr i gcónaí idir an da theanga ag ionróirí an da thír. Bhí na teangacha Ceilteach a labhairt go príomha in Iarthar na hEorpa. Tá sé ráite go mbéadh na teangacha seo a labhairt níos forleithne 'sna ceantair seo ach amháin an doigh ar leathnagh Impireacht na Róimhe i dTuaisceart na hEorpa ó dheas trasna thar Iarthar na hEorpa.

Fiú le teacht na Criostaíochta go hÉireann agus an Laidin a teagasc mar theanga go for-leathan ag na manaigh ina scoltachta, ní raibh an Laidin ariamh in iomáiocht leis an Ghaeilge mar a bhí sí le teangacha eile. Mar thoradh ar seo níor tháinig litríocht dúchasach chun cinn 'sna tíortha Eorpacha eile go dtí an deiciú no an aonú aois deag ach téann litríocht na hÉireann, i bhfad níos faide siar no sin i rith an ochtú aois déag bhí an Naisiún Ghaelach anseo sínte clóite faoi chosa Shasana. Bhí a ceannairí marbh no díbrithe as an tír, bhí na daoine curtha as seilbh, a gcuid talamh agus bhí na tithe pobail agus na scoltacha tormeascaithe.

Ba le linn an naoiú aois déag a thosaigh an Béarla a fháil an bhuaidh ar an Ghaeilge mar theanga labhartha na ndaoine. Mar sin féin ag tús na haoise sin ba í an Ghaeilge an teanga labhartha a bhí ag tromlach mór de mhuintir na hÉireann. Ag deire na haoise sin bhí sí ailaithe isteach siar go dtí na ceantair ar chósta thiar na tíre agus ba ceann de na haidhmeanna aba dheacaire a bhí le comhlíonadh ag ár Rialtas dúchais fein i dtús agus i lár na fichiú aoise 70.

léas a dhéanamh ar an chreach a bhí déanta ar an teanga dhúchais.

Le linn an chuid dheiridh de'n naoiú aois déag bhí an meath agus an chreach ar an Ghaeilge an-tahaidh ar fad.

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## le SEAMUS DE FAOITE (Oifigeach na nGaeilge)

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Ba i dtratha an ama seo a thainig dream de dhaoine díograiseach idir fhir agus mhná ar an tuairim ma bhí Náisiun Ghaelach le bheith ann 'sna blianta abhí le theacht go raibh gá mór le teanga agus cultúr na nGael a bheith mar chuid dithe. Thuig siad nar leor saoirse polatíochta amháin lena haitheanntas ársa cultúrtha féin a bheith slán. Ba de bhárr an tuiscint a dtáinig na daoine seo ar a bunaíodh Conradh na Gaeilge in 1893. Chuir seo tús leis an athbheochaint agus ba é an rud is mo a bhí le déanamh ag lucht an Chonradh no muintír na hÉireann a mhuscailt suas f'n neamh shuin a bhí a dhéanamh acú ina dteanga dhúchais féin agus an riocht a raibh sí ann. D'éirí go híontach maith leo seo a dhéanamh. Ba é an chéad chéim eile na ath-reimiú na Gaeilge sna scoltacha agus i measc an lucht gairme agus gnó, áit a raibh lámh an uachtair go mór ag an Bhearla.

Ba tré iarrachtaí de'n tsórt chéanna a d'éirí leis an Bhearla an ruaig a chur ar an Ghaeilge agus bhí sé an-soilléir muna bhféadfaidh lamh an uachtar a fhail ansin ar an cur faoi chois seo agus an tionchar abhí aige ar shaol eachnamaíochta agus sóisialta na ndaoine nach raibh seans da laghad ann go mbauidh an cath no go gcuirfidh ath-reimiú na Gaeilge chun críche. I dtús ama mheas cuid de lucht an Chonradh go bhféadfaidh na spriocanna seo a bhaint amach fad a bhí siad faoi rial Shasana, ach ba ghairid go raibh sé an-soilléir do'n chuid a ba dhuthrachaigh agus a ba dhílse acú nach raibh suim da laghad ar aon Rialtas de chuid na Sasana ba chuma góidé comh liobarálach, leo, aon gheilleadch a dhéanamh ar mhaithe le seasamh na Gaeilge i saol na tíre seo. Go luath san fichiú aois d'eascair eite mhíleata as an Chonradh agus shocraigh siad ar an lámh láidir a úsáid leis na haidhmeanna a bhí acú a bhaint amach. Bhí go leor eile ar aon intinn leo agus fuair siad a lán tacaíochta uatha. Tharla rudaí go tapaidh ansin. Bhris Cogadh Mór na hEorpa amach



agus spreag sé daoine le suim a chur i gcearta na Náisiúin bheaga. Chuir an bhagairt go dtógfaidh fir óga na hÉireann isteach in arm Shasana fearg an-mhór ar na daoine.

Ba de bhárr an tionchair a bhí ag na h-imeachtaí seo uilig ar an tír a tháinig Éirí Amach na Casca, 1916 agus an Cogadh eadarnaíochta a lean é go dtí naoi deag fiche haon.

Bhí páirt nach beag ag lucht an Chonradh agus ag lucht ha hAthbheochanna san Éirí Amach ní amháin mar shaighdiuirí ach mar cheannairí comh maith. Bhí baint mhór ag cuid de na daoine sin le bunú an Éire Nua. Bhí ath-reimiú na Gaeilge 'sna bunscoltacha agus na hiarbhunscoltachta agus san chóras Oideachais ar fad ar cheann de na príomh aidhmeanna a bhí ag an chéad Rialtas Dúchais. Ní raibh anseo ach céim amháin agus tús de go leor céimeanna a glacadh le athbheochaint na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn. Bhí an Gaeilge éigeantach mar áthar do gach gné do'n tSeirbhís poiblí. Rinneadh gach iarracht le saol eachnamaíochta na Gaeltachta a bhisíú agus tugadh deiseanna speisialta do aos óg na Gaeltachta le Oideachas a chur orthú agus obair a chur ar fáil daofa agus cuireadh an Ghaeilge a chur ar aghaidh i saol na tíre go ginearálta.

Obair chruaidh chasta atá in athbheochaint a dhéanamh ar theanga ar bith agus tá an scéal ceánna fíor fa'n Ghaeilge. Is furast an chreach a dhéanamh ach níl sé furast rudaí a chur ina gceart arís, ach tá a ceann tógtha go maith ag an Ghaeilge arís agus tá ré nua taghta. Le díogras agus le am déanfar fíorú ar Aisling an Phiarsaigh.



# OG SPORT GAEL – NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN



*The team: (Sitting, left to right): W. McCallig, C. White, B. McGowan, F. Murray, A. Meehan, M. Murchan. (Standing, left to right): J. White, team manager, B. Cunningham, J. Gallagher, J. Cunningham, D. Carbery, and T. White, assistant team manager.*

By  
**JIMMY WHITE**

Sunday, 15th August, 1982, we gathered at 7.00 a.m. for our departure to Dublin. Everyone was there eagerly awaiting the journey to first Croke Park and then Gormanston. The final preparations had been completed and everyone seemed satisfied. For the first time ever our young lads experienced and relished the Croke Park atmosphere. Even though Armagh were hammered the enjoyment and pleasure which the boys experienced was there to be seen on their faces, as they looked down at the green grass at headquarters. The journey from Croke Park to Gormanston seemed life-long as everyone couldn't wait to get there and settle in. At last we had arrived and within minutes we had settled in. The scene was one of scores of boys walking around in bright tracksuits etc., measuring up the opposition etc. "They're not that big" was the first comment, and before a ball was kicked we were confident of holding our own. Our first match on Monday morning soon opened our eyes to reality. We played Louth and stood watching them run round us in the first half to lead 3-3 to -0-2. A few heated words at half-time and at this stage they knew it would be tough but the second half revival was astonishing. Everyone lifted their head and their game and we triumphed 6-7 to 3-3, keeping the

Louth men scoreless in the second half. We now knew that things would not be easy and were grateful for our tough baptism. Our second match at 7.30 p.m. in the evening brought us against Down whom we beat 10-7 to 3-10.

Tuesday 16th: A few sore legs and arms as the early rise took its toll at 7.00 a.m. Leitrim was to be our next opposition and as we found out they were our weakest as we won 13-2 to 2-3. After lunch we played and defeated Antrim 6-12 to 1-3. We had now won our first four, but so had Cork our next opposition in the evening. This was the crucial one. Soon we had rain, lots of it, but it seemed to inspire us. Without doubt the boys finest performance as they overcame Cork 2-8 to 1-2. It was close for a long time but the performances of John and Barry Cunningham at midfield, Barry McGowan and Denis Carbery in defence, and Martin Murchan up front, was as near to perfection as you could get. We had now qualified.

Wednesday 17th: We still had two games in our section left. This gave a chance for Wee Willie & Co. to show their ability and that they did show. We defeated Longford 9-9 to 3-4 and Wexford 6-6 to 2-2. We were now in the All-Ireland quarter finals. The volume of support from Killybegs so far made one wonder if we were in

Gormanston or just up the road in Ballybofey. They were magnificent. Kildare was our opposition in the quarter-final and we knew it would be very hard. Hard it was as we went down gallantly by 3-9 to 2-6.

We had some consolation in that first Conor White came third in the penalty kick competition, and John Cunningham came third in the long kick competition. We attended the presentation and closing ceremony half downhearted but we were soon revived with the announcement that John Cunningham was selected as the best overall player from the 32 counties present. A fitting tribute to a fine player who only less than two years ago had never played Gaelic football before in his life. But when you are a son of Andy Cunningham and a nephew of Willie Cunningham then it has to be in you. His selection was judged by Dublin's Brian Mullins, Mickey Whelan and Kerry's Jack O'Shea, who need no introduction.

The performance and dedication of the ten players was second to none. The ten players were: John Gallagher, Francis Murray, Denis Carbery, Barry McGowan, John Cunningham, Barry Cunningham, Conor White, Martin Murchan, Arthur Meehan, Willie McCallig. Their team managers were Jimmy and Tommy White.

# A More "Professional" Look To The Future

By Connie Duffy,  
Derry People & Donegal News

BEFORE WE CAN justify another page in this Yearbook I seriously believe we should look at the appeal of the G.A.A. within the county. As we all know only too well, the Association doesn't enjoy the 'closed shop' status it once held and in today's world there are so many other sporting activities that can also project attractive pictures. Before you read the miles of column space that will undoubtedly be devoted to the exploits of the clubs and teams over the past year consider for a minute what a gloomy picture the Association sometimes paints for the average man in the street.

It's all very well hearing about new techniques, new skills and the new approach but shouldn't we also hear about a fresher appeal which is vital. Success will breed interest but only while it lasts. Popularity seems to come at intervals and thankfully it can be said we now seem to be approaching another high point. So what's to stop the Association from staying on top and setting sights even higher for the rest of this decade. Do I dare use that ill-begotten word that has crept stealthily into G.A.A. dialogue, "professionalism", or perhaps the lack of it.

I remember once using that word in a match report only to be taken to task for it. Still one reads about the "sheer professionalism" of teams like Kerry or Offaly so where is the line drawn? By definition the G.A.A. remains strictly amateur but at the same time it can borrow ideas and methods from the sporting bodies.

Here in Donegal would it be wrong to apply such a term to the ordinary club scene? Absolutely not because it is in the clubs that the success at county level is born. Now more than ever before the onus is on all clubs big or small to produce the players for county panels. Dedication is required and must be given if this county is to make a positive step forward. Therefore, is it not of vital importance then that all clubs adopt a more 'professional' outlook to make a solid and memorable impression and thereby enlighten the general public on how attractive the G.A.A. really is when given a chance.

Tradition has a lot to do with this kind of professionalism. Certain clubs have strengthened the Association in

the public's mind with simple things like fielding on time for their games, wearing their correct jerseys and providing facilities like changing rooms and toilets. The attitude of the knowledgeable weatherproof fan is that a little drop of rain wouldn't hurt anyone and the slippery grass bank will do the job. This attitude is as out of date as the penny farthing. The G.A.A. conversationalists tell us the game is 'alright' but that isn't reflected in the gates. If the Association is to have a bright future clubs ought to take the provision of facilities seriously. The "Angel of Inspiration" isn't going to come down and tell the public what a good team the local boys have.

Happily, here in the county several clubs have taken the initiative and built social centres, changing rooms, bought their pitches, built stands and this must augur well for them. The dedication required by this new 'professionalism' is basically to ensure that the game enjoys a healthy future and this dedication is above and beyond the call of amateurism. At the moment two to three nights training, club commitments, match preparations and the travel involved all add up to a pretty hectic schedule for any club. But of course a good working club can overcome this by good working officers. Talking about officers there is also a great onus on them nowadays to make sure their club is in a healthy state.

If such a professional attitude was adopted then the Association's image in the public eye would surely be strengthened. It would take on a fresher appeal and while club won't be looking to compete in fashion shows with their spanking new rigouts they will have begun to occupy a respectable place in sporting society. There are so many other things that would need to be looked at but unfortunately it might take more than a Yearbook to mention them all. Things like efficiency, fixtures, and club P.R.O.s play a vital part in this new professionalism. Believe it or not a good P.R.O. can outclass the 15 players any day if he does his work properly. This county is fortunate in being able to boast some efficient and dependable public liaison men, others however in some clubs aren't so hot but again this is something the clubs must sort out for themselves.

The County Board has set a high standard and their efforts to improve the Association in Donegal ought to be mentioned. However, even they would agree that the time is ripe for all concerned to improve upon weak points because its only through constant effort that the G.A.A. will fulfill its role in today's world. We here in Donegal wouldn't surely want the finger from Croke Park being pointed at us for not pulling our weight. That is where this new thinking on 'professionalism' must come in.

If we don't seek to improve all the time then what chance do the aspiring youth teams have going into the next few years. 1982 has been a historic year in Donegal under-age football and it paves the way for a brighter future in both county and inter-county football. Ulster titles are there for the taking but the clubs, officials, players must have a firm foundation from which to build upon, the very elements of professionalism are embedded within this and they have to be looked at if Donegal is to lose the "ninth best county in Ulster tag".

It would be unfair to overlook the likes of hurling, handball, or camogie for they, too, have an important part to play in the future. A more courageous attempt ought to be made to help these sports within the Association in the county. Perhaps they suffer due to the wide coverage the football receives in the local papers, or perhaps because there aren't enough people willing to push the games hard enough at county level, even though all three sports have had a fair amount of success recently. Maybe a more professional approach by the respective organisers of these games would help promote the game.

One can only wonder how the Association can hope to grow if it doesn't forge ahead of the sporting opposition. We need the professional approach. The dedicated G.A.A. fan might not need any such thing but there's a wealth of talent to be used for this county in the years to come and now is the time we should be looking to the future. To leave it any later and it will mean trouble. 'Professionalism' isn't such a bad word and being realistic, let's get off cloud nine and step into the real world and make sure the Association is dictating the pace.

# NA ROSSA

## HISTORY BEGINS IN 1982

by HUGH TRIMBLE

PATHS TO VICTORY are never easy, and '82 was no exception. Twenty-nine teams fought for the Junior Championship—that's a record. Only one team was to emerge victorious—Na Rossa—and that's history!

Kilcar was to be the first stepping stone on this great road; in Dooley on June 13th and 'away' on the 27th. More equally gallant and sporting teams were to fall in their wake: Naomh Conal at Sandfield, Ardara in Glenties, Dunkineely in the 'semi' and then there stood the might and tradition of the Gweedore men. Tradition and might were not enough. Na Rossa were not to be denied. The triumph and the glory they made their own. And was not the taste of victory made so much sweeter by this longer and harder than ever before road and by the great last stand of gallant Gweedore. But Rome wasn't built in a day and neither was Hughie's motorway.

Nor did the real road to victory begin in sea and wind blown Dooley on June 13th 1982. It began almost to the day some thirty six years earlier. 1946 was the year and the local 'Gweebarra' side had stormed to the Junior Championship semi-final only to fall to the eventual winners, Clonleigh. But from the ashes of that proud year a new team was to emerge, a team that donned the mantle of their fathers and achieved for them what was felt to be theirs by right—their first Donegal Junior Championship. That team was Na Rossa! Bonners, Boyles, Mhacatins and Cannons were to see their nephews and sons fulfil their dreams. Dan Bonner with his flying quartet and his brother, Sean were to be proud men; Conal Boyle with two of his own as members and his brothers, Frs. Niall and Hugh saw the 36 year gap successfully spanned; Patrick Cannon who as the old Gweebarra manager assisted by Danny 'the Cope' Gallagher, was to have his own son Brian at the helm now, and another in the wings; Paddy 'Mhacatín' Cannon was to see his nephew Gerry McHugh make that some left-wing his own. Yet the link between '46 and '82 was more than all this. Once again, every man, woman, child and maybe the 'Cat' too, was to leave the area. This time it was to see sons, neighbours and adopted sons—Croke and Brennan—turn back the clock and re-write the proper ending to a great story...Na Rossa! The Champions!



Gweebarra 1946: Back row, left to right: Hughie (Biddy Hughie) O'Donnell, Conal Boyle, Sean Bonner, Hugh Francis Boyle, Jim McCole, Michael Dorris, Jimmy (Dubbins) O'Donnell, Hughie (The Gunner) Gallagher, Tom McDermott, Sean O'Connor. Front row, left to right: James (Donald Shean) Gallagher, Owney Ward, Paddy (Mhacaitin) Cannon, Paddy (Ned) Breslin, Niall Boyle, Anthony O'Donnell, Dan Bonner.

Today's team was just as family-tied as the old, with 5 Bonners, 2 Melleys, 2 Gallaghers, 2 Molloyes, 2 O'Donnells and 2 Cannons involved as members and officials of the club. Today's men also set the standard for the other finals that followed in '82—they gave birth to the one-point victories, showing the way to Urris, the Four Masters and of course Offaly!

An interesting difference between the old and the new is, that they had three priests in their ranks and we had none. And, you know, with all respect to Frs. Niall, Hugh and Anthony O'Donnell, we won and they didn't...could there be a moral in that!...Of course there's still time (closing time?) for the boys to don a different uniform in the black and white.

Finally, county men Dan Bonner, Conal Boyle (first Donegal jersey), Fr. Hugh (first Ulster jersey) have set precedents of which McHugh, O'Donnell and the Bonners have begun to emulate. These precedents set by the boys of '46 are not just strict reminders of what a great future holds in store and will yield if we so wish it. Let it be that Na Rossa have not just made history, but that Na Rossa have only begun.

### STATISTICS ETC.

Aug. 22nd '82.

Officials: President, Dan Bonner. Treasurer, Hugo Trimble. P.R.O., Johnny Doherty. Secretary Pat Boyle. Assistant members, Brendan Ward, Packie Gallagher, Martin McShane, Sean Bonner.

Team: P. Boyle; J. Boyle, J. Melley, T. Croke; M. O'Donnell, M. McShane, J. McHugh; V. Gallagher and S. Bonner; P. Molloy, E. Melley, M. Bonner; D. Bonner, J. Brennan, D. Bonner.

1942 Team: Paddy 'Ned' Breslin; Hughie Biddy Hughie O'Donnell (Dungloe, R.I.P.), Sean Bonner (Doochary), Jimmy Dubbins O'Donnell (Sheskinarone); Fr. Anthony O'Donnell (Sheskinarone-Nigeria), Sean O'Connor (Doochary-Garda), Jim McCole (Sheskinarone, R.I.P.); Fr. Hugh Boyle (Dooley), Owney Ward (Dungloe): Fr. Niall Boyle (Dooley), Conal Boyle (Dooley), Dan Bonner (Doochary); James 'Donal Shean' Gallagher (Dooley), Tommy McDermott (Doochary-Garda), Paddy 'Mhacaitin' Cannon (Dirlat).

Subs., Hughie 'The Gunner' Gallagher, Wee Hughie 'The Quiet Man' McCready, Michael Doris (Dooley).

Footnote: Mr. Brian Cannon Manager, would like to thank all the team members, officials and supporters who gave him their fullest support all through this campaign.

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# THE REFEREES TEAM 1982



The Donegal Referees county team which drew with Down in the semi-final of the Ulster Referees Football Championship. Front, left to right: Gerry Molloy, John Harkin, Pat Boyle, Damien Mulgrew, Sean Boyle, Charles Harvey, Frankie Campbell, Frankie Doherty. Back, left to right: Tom McMullen, Jim Moore, Ciaran McGlynn, Jackie Reilly, Sean McGoldrick, Jimmy White, Patsy Hanlon, Francie Haughey, James C. O'Donnell, P. J. McHugh and Dessie Kelly (Manager).

*Photo by Pat Stevenson (Derry Journal)*

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# A Look At Martin McHugh's Career

by SEAN BOYLE, CO. P.R.O.

"GOOD GOODS come in small parcels". This certainly has held true in Donegal Gaelic football for decades now and no more so than at present where the most northern team in the country can boast of the services of the country's top scorer, Martin McHugh. Whilst the county's meagre achievements won't be muted everywhere G.A.A. people meet and reflect, the names of the 'mighty mites' such as Neilly Gallagher, Mickey McLoone, Harry Laverty, Jim Quigley, Seamie Granaghan are household names everywhere in the country as prolific scorers from Donegal. This stream just seemed to be about running out at the end of the 'seventies with nobody obvious or apparent coming along to replace this type of player unique to Donegal football for so long. Then Martin McHugh burst on the scene to crown them all. It all started on the last Sunday of August, 1980 when he lined out with his club, Kilcar, (which he dearly loves) in the county senior football championship final against Ardara. It was a big occasion for the entire Kilcar parish, not to mention young Martin—it was exactly 55 years since their last appearance in the county final — the one and only time they won the blue riband in 1925. Martin McHugh was operating at right half forward for them—he was just 19 years of age having been born in Kilcar on 29th June, 1961. He was the club's top scorer but not recognised at county level. A sub. on the county minor team the previous year but had never actually played county football. In fact, it is surprising now that he never played minor for the county, and his debut on a county team was at senior level. Within an hour, however, on that county final day, Martin McHugh had become a potential star and he was hailed as the brightest prospect to appear on the Donegal scene in years. He scored 10 points—some from nearly impossible positions—to help his club win their second title by beating a good Ardara side 1-13 to 0-8, who incidentally it transpired reversed the situation a year later.

Martin barely 5ft. 7ins. and weighing just over 10½ st. was educated in St. Cartha's National School, Kilcar, and received his secondary education at Carrick Vocational School. He won many

school football honours with his school team and it was there that Barry Campbell, the school coach, was first to recognise Martin's exceptional talents. Martin still attributes a lot of his development and progress in football to Barry's coaching. On completion of his education Martin took up employment at Snath Gaeltarra in his native Kilcar.

After his county final performance, he was an automatic choice for the county senior team for their opening game against Tipperary in the National Football League in October 1980. He celebrated with a good four points on his inter-county debut. In his now familiar No. 10 shirt, Martin has played with distinction for the county in every competitive match since and he has been their most consistent scorer and the country's top scorer during the 1981-82 National League programme. Here is a sample of his scoring for his county:

N.F.L. v Tipperary	0 - 4	(out of 0-10)
N.F.L. v Louth	0 - 4	(out of 1-12)
N.F.L. v Antrim	0 - 8	(out of 0-11)
N.F.L. v Laois	0 - 6	(out of 0-10)
N.F.L. v Westmeath	0 - 5	(out of 0-16)
N.F.L. v Wexford	0 - 5	(out of 1-6)
McKenna v Down	0 - 3	(out of 0-7)
S.F.C. v Armagh	0 - 8	(out of 0-13)
U-21 v Cavan	0 - 8	(out of 1-10)
U-21 v Down	0 - 7	(out of 1-9)
U-21 v Down	0 - 3	(out of 0-9)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0-61</b>	

And he wasn't forgetting about his club either:

v St. Eunan's (Towney)	0 - 5
v St. Eunan's (Letterkenny)	0 - 5
v St. Eunan's (Ballybofey)	0 - 5
v Downings (Ballybofey)	0 - 5
	<u>0-16</u>

In the Shield final — 0-8 out of 1-10

In the Under-21 F.C. —

v Four Masters (Donegal)	0 - 5
v Four Masters (Towney)	0 - 5
v Four Masters (Fintra)	0 - 6

In the League —

v N. Columba	0 - 6
v St. Eunan's	0 - 4
v Gweedore	1 - 7

He received the Donegal Player of the Year Award in 1981. It is difficult to see who is going to deprive him of that honour in 1982. Although the year started on something of a

disappointing note when he failed to be included in the Ulster Railway Cup team which is difficult to understand, especially when one reflects on the Ulster forwards' performances. His consistency with club and county is a great tribute to his ability, temperament, fitness and dedication. On many evenings in summer or winter, Martin can be seen training on his own, practising free kicks from the 50 to the 14. His self-discipline is a shining example to all young players. Indeed, Martin's training plans would not find favour with many of the top Gaelic football stars as it has been known that Martin has trained for two hours on mornings of important matches such as he had done on the morning of that famous county final.

All the glamour and publicity has not affected Martin. He is still an unassuming and modest young man and realises that at 21 years of age he still has many ambitions left to fulfil in Gaelic football. His immediate ambition was to win an All-Ireland Under-21 medal with Donegal this year — and he duly did.

He feels that Donegal are long overdue promotion from Division 3 of the National League and that the blend of youth and experience now in the Donegal panel can bring another Ulster title to his native county and, perhaps, to an All-Ireland final within the next four years.

His motto is 'you can only get from Gaelic football what you put into it'. He is certainly prepared to put the work in, on or off the field and his dedication deserves success. He attributes his great interest and will to succeed to the fact that his uncles took him to Gaelic matches from he was a tiny tot. He has his superstitions too, for instance, he always puts on his left boot first. He jokingly remarks "I wear out five or six pairs of football boots each year—there should be an E.E.C. subsidy for players who are prepared to wear them out".

He has a younger brother now following in his footsteps called James who made his inter-county debut this year as a minor. James is noted for getting the goals, while Martin's record of point scoring is outstanding. The future of Donegal senior football teams can be assured when we get both these talented McHughs on the one team.

# ST. EUNAN'S, LETTERKENNY, HOST NATIONAL SEVENS

By SEAN BOYLE,  
CO. DONEGAL P.R.O.

What started five years ago as a modest Easter 7-a-side tournament with just eight selected teams has now grown into a major annual national competition. The St. Eunan's Club in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, hosts this top event. It is known as the Cavan Crystal National 7-a-side tournament. Played in the St. Eunan's club grounds at O'Donnell Park where the club has just opened their new luxury Social Centre at a cost of over £100,000.

It has become so well nationally acclaimed that it is just by invitation only that teams can participate. This year it had twenty teams taking part representing all four provinces. Famous Ulster clubs such as St. Johns, Antrim; Castlewellan, Down; St. Teresas, Belfast; Enniskillen Gaels, Fermanagh; Ballerin, Derry; Ardboe, Tyrone; plus famous 7-a-side specialists like Kilmacud Crokes, Dublin; Laune Rangers, Kerry; St. Marys, Louth; Civil Service, Dublin; Lackan, Mayo; Milltown, Galway and of course hosts St. Eunans are but some of the famous names that took part in 1982. Civil Service emerged victorious this year beating the hosts St. Eunans in an exciting final by 2 points. The beaten semi-finalists were St. Johns, Antrim and Milltown, Galway. Gaelic stars such as Gay McManus, Johnny Hughes, Joe Shannon, Anthony McGurk, Michael Carr, Aiden Lunny, Jim McCartan, Paddy Crozier, Benny Gaughran, Kevin Kilmurray, John O'Connor, Colm McAlarney and Kevin Armstrong are familiar faces around Letterkenny at Easter weekend now.

This year also heralded the visit for the first time to an Ulster venue of the famous Sam Melbourne Museum. It was housed in the first floor of the club's magnificent new complex and attracted crowds from neighbouring counties. AS well as the excellent standard of football on show, the occasion has a carnival atmosphere about it too. It is becoming a major tourist attraction to the town for the Easter weekend. The main cog in its promotion is club P.R.O., Mr. Joe Kelly. It takes a lot of organisation and already Joe and his dedicated committee are vetting performances of teams, arranging accommodation, preparing material for programmes etc. for the 1983 competition. Over 5,000 people attended the event over the weekend last year and that in itself speaks volumes for the image and attraction this Easter event has created.



St. Eunan's club chairman, Dr. James McDaid, admiring some historic exhibits with Sam Melbourne on the first ever visit of the Melbourne G.A.A. Museum to Letterkenny last Easter Sunday.



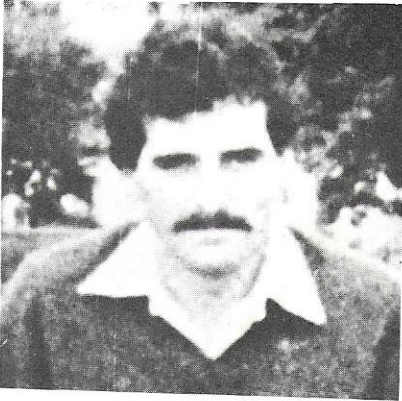
Austin Quinn, Manager of Cavan Crystal, (left) presents Joe "Dodo" Winston with a piece of Cavan Crystal for team manager of the 7-a-side Easter tournament. In centre is St. Eunan's club P.R.O., Mr. Joe Kelly, who has worked so hard over the years for the success of the Easter tournament.



Some of our top county referees being presented with gifts of Cavan Crystal in appreciation of their services at the "Cavan Crystal" sponsored St. Eunan's National 7-a-side tournament last Easter. Left to right: Fr. Seán Ó Gallchoir, Thomas McBrearty, Austin Quinn, manager Cavan Crystal, Sean McGoldrick and Tom McMullan.

# A YOUNG OFFICER'S REMARKS

MICHAEL McANAW, MINOR BOARD REGISTRAR



Michael McAnaw,  
Minor Board Registrar.

Just a short twelve months ago this publication carried a headline "Minor Board Crisis" with which no one could argue. Maybe there is still room for improvements but at least we are going in the right direction. Two Ulster titles in one year isn't bad and it's not every year that we win an All-Ireland final. The success which this Under-21 team is now enjoying started in 1978 with their appearance in Croke Park as Under-16s against their Dublin counterparts. On that occasion they

gave a vintage display of good football and scoretaking (something that has been notably absent from Donegal teams of recent times). Other members of the present team have won top honours with De La Salle, Ballyshannon, St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, and with Thomond College, Limerick.

Behind every successful team there is a successful manager and here great credit is due to Tom Conaghan, Michael Lafferty and Donal Monaghan, and in the case of the minors to Liam Reilly and Jackie McDermott.

Getting back to that crisis again, when the officers of the Minor Board looked back on 1981 things were in a shambles. Important games hadn't been played, quite a number of over-age players were reported with some other cases not coming to the surface at all. There were problems with referees not turning up for matches and some of those who were not sending in reports. It was decided that in the interests of football some form of Divisional Board would work best. These Boards would be given

certain powers and would be responsible for running all under-age competitions in their area (except Under-21). This was then entered as a motion to the Senior Board Convention and was duly passed. Later divisional boundaries were drawn up.

The Minor Board felt that an Inter-Divisional League would be of benefit to find how much talent was available. However, this competition was a little late in starting and was of no real value to the county minor manager.

It is very disappointing to see some of the clubs not bothering to enter under-age teams. I feel that any club with two or more schools in their area should at least enter an under-12 team in the championship. If a club could get thirty young lads interested at this age, then, making allowance for some players dropping out and others losing interest they should still have the basis of a good team left over. It is well worth remembering the old Irish saying, "An run a cuireann tu/san earrach bainfidh tu san fomhair".

*Congratulations to our All-Ireland Under-21 Champions  
Ulster Minor League Champions  
County Senior Champions — Four Masters  
and their team management  
on a memorable 1982*

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# HANDBALL

## THE STORY OF A GREAT GAME

By PÁDRAIG S. MAC A GHOILL

ACROSS 3,000 miles of the Atlantic Ocean and across a century and a half stretches the story of what is perhaps the world's oldest game, and mentioned in "The Annals of Ireland" as having been played in pre-Christian times. Records also show that a form of handball was played in Egypt and by the early Greeks. In France it is known as "Jeu-de-Pauma" and a modified form of the game is known as "Pelota" in Spain and in England where it is played on a smaller court it is called "Fives". Some authorities think this designation was associated with the five fingers of the hand but a more acceptable explanation would be that the game was marked in "fives" as was common here in Ireland up 'til some years ago.

Here in Ireland the game of handball was supposed to have originated and certainly preserved along the western seaboard where the simplicity of its requirements—a gable end, a flat floor, a tossing flag (sometimes this was missing) and a sheepskin ball—made it popular as a game that could be played during the summer months when fields were not available for hurling and football. With the spread of the Grattan Volunteer Movement and later The United Irishmen ball courts were built at the parade grounds in the eastern counties and this development gave the game a phenomenal lift throughout Ireland. Handball became a major sport in Ireland from 1800 onwards with matches lasting a full day, on three walled courts attracting large crowds and side-bets were a feature of the game, and matches for hundreds of sovereigns were not unusual.

Sir William Brereton in his "Travels" in Ireland around 1640 when on his way from Drogheda to Swords watched four men at "The Sign of the Boot" "playing ball with skill and ease." It was customary in those days to have a ball court or alley attached to every village tavern, half-way house (of which we had quite a few here in Donegal), public houses and cross-road shebeen. The biographers of Goldsmith record that he spent many golden hours playing dice at The Three Jolly Pigeons and handball at Ballymahon, Co. Longford. It is quite evident that handball was very widely played here in Ireland over 150 years ago.

The game of handball had not altered from its simple requirements of centuries ago down till fifty years ago and to the emigrants from Ireland since the days of the Famine goes the credit of carrying the game to North America where it spread rapidly and today neon signs light the way to the glass walled maple-floored courts in the cities on the western seaboard of the United States where each spring the best of America one million plus players gather to play their championships, toast their champions and smile for the television cameras—a far cry from The Hills of Donegal one hundred years ago.

The game as played in its simple form in the West of Ireland against a straight wall has changed little as far as rules are concerned, except that it is no longer permissible to return the ball with the foot, the ball hopped for the toss and the number of aces definitely fixed at 21—there are no bonus aces up to the maximum of

four, whereby a winner at 21 aces could lose on the four extra aces. The marking of the games before the days of pencil and paper was done by the umpire but cuts along a piece of green branch or stick, made with a penknife. The team winning an ace shouted "cut", and the aces were marked in fives at opposite ends of the stick. If the marking was made on a flagstone stake or even on the ground with another piece of slate or stone also in "fives" to wit, or

Where the gable wall was used, the line of the wall was extended 5 or 6 ft. at each end and the sidelines at right angles to these for whatever distance was available. This line-out was used to eliminate the practice of "scoughing" (Irish sceabha) or skew shot i.e. a ball returned at an acute angle to a point on the wall near the end and came off the wall (at an acute angle) and generally well off court and therefore difficult to return.

In recent years, with the change in lifestyle, more leisure time and long period of inactivity, sitting, standing and driving the need for regular exercise was taken on a new meaning. Jogging was thought an American fad, but statistics have shown its benefits but handball has also proved that it also can provide useful relaxation and develop skill and alertness for everyone from 7 to 70. Handball is one of the games that American astronauts are required to play in Florida under the guidance of our own Pat Kirby, who is also Director of Athletics at the prestigious Downtown Athletic Club in New York. The introduction of ladies handball a few years ago gave

an added dimension to the sport. The fact that handball is a two handed game leads to harmonious development of all muscles of the body. It also improves the sharpness of the eye and can be of considerable benefit to players of field games. In addition it is not a vigorous body contact game and in covered courts can be played in all seasons, getting the maximum of exercise in the minimum of time as stated in 1974 by Theodore J. Klump, medical consultant to the U.S. Presidents' Council of Physical Education and Sports.

In 1923 the first attempt to organise handball and that year the Leinster Handball Council was formed and the first championship in handball and the comparatively new rubber soft ball championship was held. (The softball referred to was The Elvery or I.A.H.U.—Irish Athletic Handball Union—1½" in diameter). The following year saw the inaugural meeting of the Handball Council which then became and still is the governing body for the sport. In 1928 matches were arranged on an international basis between Ireland, England, Scotland and the following under the aegis of the newly-formed International Board Players from the Basque region of Spain played exhibition matches in Ireland.

From 1928 until 1970 the Irish Handball Council consolidated itself administratively and broadened the game to include more juveniles. The situation then was that handball was played with a hardball and a softball on an outdoor court with competition available in singles and doubles from under-12 up to senior level, with occasional international matches involving America, Australia, Mexico and Canada. The year 1970 when Ireland hosted the World Championship stands as a milestone in handball history and the modern development of the game in this country dates from that time.

The new court built at Croke Park—custom built for the World Championship was indoor, heated and lighted and had features unique at that time—glass sides and back wall. Suddenly handball had become a spectator sport which could be played at any time irrespective of the weather. This was an innovation and has continued since. All courts being built now are indoor with glass back walls and proper heating and lighting spectator accommodation is optional.

Another spin-off from the 1970 World Championship was standard specifications for international courts and as a result all courts in the U.S.A., Canada, Mexico are now standard in size, 40 ft. by 20 ft. and 20

ft. high. Australia is now following suit and the move to build such courts in Ireland began a few short years ago and gathered momentum very fast. Over the last five years almost 50 courts of the indoor type have been built and 98% of these are 40 ft. by 20 ft. and in the same period over one million pounds have been spent on these buildings. The provision of indoor courts has increased the number of people playing the game. In 1958 the number of indoor courts was 70 with 8,000 players participating in the sport. By 1978 the number of indoor courts has increased to 250 and the number of players has now reached 30,000. In 1971 the Ladies Handball Council was formed and has gone from strength to strength. Today the Irish Handball Council has a Central Council, Provincial Council, County Committees, Clubs, a Ladies Handball Council, a School and College Council and a Third Level College Committee which is under the direct control of the Irish Handball Council.

Competitions, Doubles and Single are held for men at All-Ireland level at senior, junior, minor, u-21, novice, over-40 and over-50; at county level in senior, junior, minor, novice and team championships and the Willwood Group of Companies sponsor the Willwood Tailteann Games for juveniles at all levels in the u-12, u-13, u-14 and u-16. Ladies separate competitions are held each month from March to December culminating in the Top Ace competition. International competitions are also a regular feature of the game with contests in Canada, U.S.A., and Mexico and University students visiting America participate in competitions at any one of the 36 indoor courts at the University of Austin in Texas or at six other venues. In 1978 the U.S.A. team played teams from the Rugby Fives Association at Oxford, Cambridge, Old Bedford and Worcester and a U.S. Army team at Upper Heyford.

In recent years the popularity of handball has been enhanced and publicised by the showing on T.V. of the Top Ace competition and international contests. The skills and dexterity of the world's best players has been impressed on the minds of all those participating or interested in the game and has helped to popularise it to a great degree. Added to this visual appreciation is the training of coaches at club, county, senior and advanced level at the National Coaching Course conducted by that world famous handballer and Director of Coaching, Pat Kirby, at Gormanston College.

International handball matches like

boxing contests have always fired the imagination of sportsmen and contests between Irish and American champions attracted big crowds, worthwhile prizemoney and substantial betting. In the year 1887 an Irish America, Phil Casey landed in Cork from the SS. Carmania. He was a prosperous member of the Consolidated Stock Exchange in Manhattan and a famous handballer. He challenged John Lawlor, a Dublin cab driver for the world's handball title. The first half of the rubber was played at the Grattan Racquet Court with £400 prizemoney, and hundreds of pounds were wagered on Lawlor who had won hundreds of sovereigns at the neighbouring Old Markets Place Court. At the end of the day's play Lawlor led by seven games to three but three months later when the second rubber was played in America, Casey turned the tables on Lawlor and won the title, but later surrendered the title to the youthful Lawlor. In 1895 James Fitzgerald defeated Lawlor by 11 games to 3 in Cork and was proclaimed world champion. Three other Irishmen challenged for the world title afterwards on a "home and home" basis, and lost one. Oliver Drew who lost to Egan of America after leading 4-3 in Jersey City in 1902 but failed to turn up for the game in Ireland; Tim Twohill of Strand St., Cork, challenged Egan in 1903 but lost seven games in a row in Jersey City and fared no better at Kanturk; J. J. Bowles of Thomondgate, Limerick, a powerful oarsman, challenged James Kelly of America and although he won two games at Rutland St. court in Cork he failed miserably in America because he had agreed that all tossing should be to the left-hand side of the court but alas Kelly was a left handed player.

The last of the "home and home" internationals took place some years afterwards under strict amateur rules with prizemoney bets or title between Joseph Heeney of the U.S.A. and J. J. Kelly, Ireland on a three walled court. The scores were level at two games each and in a welter of excitement Heeney won the title with the best of five games (3) of 21 aces each.

In 1932 the Spanish handballers visited Ireland and showed us how close the game of Pelota is to our version. Throughout the Pyrenees and the Basque country the game is a feature of local festivals and picked professional teams from France and Spain engage in tournaments that attract tens of thousands of spectators and visitors from both countries. The spectators become very much involved in the game and are very critical of the players and

demonstrate their feelings in no uncertain manner and showered flowers and confetti on those of whom they approve.

In Cuba and Mexico the game is known as Jai Alai and the big matches in the headquarters club of Tijuana have an audience of over two million on T.V. and radio over the America border. It is thought that it was one of these Jai Alai players, a negro from the West Indies, named Osmund who was employed by Col. Lynch and who provided the people of Barna, Co. Galway with as fine an exhibition of handball skill as ever was witnessed in the West in 1913 when he played the great P. J. McDonagh, later champion of Ireland. The game lasted two hours and the Irishman was very fortunate to narrowly defeat the Cuban on the three walled court.

About one hundred years ago a diminutive Basque jockey arrived from Spain with a racehorse to be trained in Glenties, Co. Donegal, to take part in a challenge race. While here he soon became famous as a handballer and defeated every ball player in Donegal. His backers claimed their prodigy—Don Frasco—was the best player in Glenties and billed him as Danny Frask, champion of Ulster. He was challenged by one Mick Tierney, a cab driver from Portrush, Co.

Derry, and the backers agreed that the contest would take place in Derry. When the contestants met the Derryman was surprised that his opponent could not speak English but this he attributed to the fact that he came from the Gaelic speaking Glenties and had no Béarla. The game was played and the Basque jockey beat the Portrush cab driver scoreless—his tactics completely outwitting the Derryman—who then walked coolly through the wildly jubilant Donegal folk and congratulated the Basque in Gaelic. The victor nonchalantly turned to him and said, "No entiendo, señor" in Spanish ("I do not understand"). That gave the game away and the Derryman now realised that the victor hailed from a land far removed from the Glenties Gaeltacht.

Down the centuries great and famous handballers appeared on the national and international scene. Apart from those already named one cannot but recall the name of P. J. Gilmartin of Kilkenny who won eight Irish championships. In our own time we have the indomitable and versatile Pat Kirby who won the junior and senior single championships of the U.S.A. and also of Canada in 1964 and repeated this feat in 1969 and 1972 and represented the U.S.A. in the World Championships in

Dublin in 1972. Joey Maher of Co. Louth, another world class handballer, who emigrated to Canada and won three singles championships—1966-7-8. In 1967 he won the Canadian open as well as the closed championship for Canada and finished fourth in the U.S.A. National Singles. In 1974 he made history when he captured the U.S.A. Masters title in Knoxville, Tennessee. Long may our country continue to produce world class handballers like these.

Forever associated with the game of handball will be the name of Fr. Tom Jones, P.P., Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry, who in 1888 defeated O'Shea of Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary for the Irish Handball Championship and who for the following seven years until 1895 was undefeated world champion—undefeated and unbeatable. In his heyday he was known to take a new handball and crash it to pieces before his left hand had put out his right hand when practising on his own. Years later he was awarded a gold cup by the King of Norway for his heroism in saving the lives of Norwegian sailors on the Kerry coast and in 1920 in Killorglin, Co. Kerry flung defiance in the face of the Black and Tans. AS was once said of him "he had the grace of the Greeks and the speed of their gods".



CASHEL N.S. (GLEN), winners N.S. Handball Final 1982.  
Teacher: F. Cunningham.

# Robert Emmets win the Shield

This win was Robert Emmets' first major win since 1961 when they won the Junior Championship. They were semi-finalists this year in the Intermediate Championship.

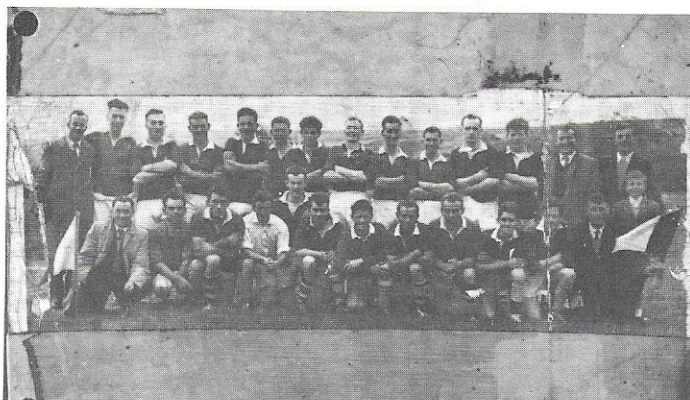


Kevin Doherty, captain of Robert Emmets, and team manager Seamus Kane, with the All-County Shield Division 2 which the Castlefin side won in 1982 for the first time in their history.

## SCÓR

In the County Finals of Scór they were successful in Set Dancing, Céilí Dancing and Novelty Act.

Main officers in the club are Gabriel Gordon, chairman; Samuel Gallagher, secretary; Tommy Gallagher, treasurer.



ROBERT EMMETS, CASTLEFIN, 1958

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Tá deire bliana eile sroiste againn agus muid ag teacht an chongarach do Chomóradh Céad an Chumann Lúthchleas Gael. Mar sin de bar chóir do gach duine againn anois ceist a chur air fein an bhfuil muid ag comhlíonadh ár nduagaisí agus ag tacú leis na haidhmeanna a bhí ag bunathóirí an Chumann beagnach céad bliain a shin?

Tá Oifigeach na Gaeilge ag feidhniu i mbeagnach gach club san Chontae anois. Post tabhachtach é san Chlub. Ba chóir go mbeadh an té sin atá ceapaithe, dílis i gconaí don ár h-oidhreacht náisiunta. Tá beagán de'n diomá orm mar sin féin go bhfuil roinnt clubanna ann nach bhfuil aon duine acu san phost seo go bóill. Beidh mé ag súil leo an ceapachán seo a bheith mar sprioc tabhachtach acu i 1982.

## DUALGAISI:

Is iad seo leanas na príomh dhualgaisí a bhíonn ar Oifigeach na Gaeilge:

1. Treoir a thabhairt do Oifigigh an Chlub fá chursaí Gaeilge.
2. Tacaíocht a thabhairt do bhaill an teanga a úsáid ag cruinnithe.
3. An Ghaeilge a úsáid i bhfograíocht agus i bhfoillseacháin an Chlub.
4. Cuidiú Ranganna Gaeilge agus Ranganna Ceilí a eagrú.
5. Cuidiú le Scór a eagrú san Chlub.
6. Cuidiú le eagrú Ceilithe, Scoraíochtaí, Coirmeacha Ceoil, Tráth na gCeist, Diospóireachtaí agus an Fáinne Nua.
7. Tuairiscí rialta a chur chuig Oifigeach na Gaeilge an Chontae.

Tá Oifigigh na Gaeilge sna clubanna ag obair ar phlean forbartha san am i láthair. Lena chur go simplí siad na nithe tabhachtach atá le déanamh acu ag leibhéal an Chlub ná:

1. Ranganna Gaeilge a thosnú.
2. Ranganna Rince Ceilí.
3. An Comórtas Scór a reachtáil san Chlub.

Tugann an Comórtas seo deis do bhaill na tréithe atá acu ó thabhairt ceoil, etc., de a fhorbairt agus a léiriú.

I rith na bliana thug mé cúirt ar an mhór-chuid de Chlubanna an Chontae. Churi mé spéis mhór san obair a bhí ar siúl acu agus rinne mé na deacrachtaí a bhí ag na Clubanna eagsúla a phlé leo. Ghlac siad go fionnmhar liom agus leis an méid sásta rud éigin a dhéanamh ar



Seamus de Faite,  
Oifigeach na  
Gaeilge i dTír  
Chonail.

mhaith le forbairt ar chursaí cultúir agus teangan san chlub.

Reachtáil mé na cruinnithe leis na clubanna Gaelachta go h-iomlán tré Ghaeilge agus bhí cuid mhaith Gaeilge in úsáid an oireach agus a bhféidir leo é ag cruinnithe agus i ngach gné dá gcuid oibre.

## Seimineár Tabhachtach:

Tionóladh seimineár an tabhachtach ar an Ghaeilge i Leitir Ceanainn i mó lúil. Mhair sé ar feadh coicise agus bhí sé ar siúl gach oíche agus bhí baill de'n Chumann as Doire agus Tír Eoghain ag freastal air comh maith. Cuireadh deire leis, le turas Stairiúil ar an Chontae. Tá mé buíoch do Bhord na Gaeilge a thug tacaíocht airgid do'n turas seo.

Maidir le Ranganna Ceilí bhí trí seimineár agam i rith na bliana. Sé an aidhm a bhí agam leis na seimineáir seo ná caighdeán a dhéanamh ar na rincí agus rincí nua a thabhairt isteach. Bhí seimineár agam ar an ábhar seo i gCoillte Clochair i gContae Liatroma fosta.

Tá sé ar inntinn agam iaracht a dhéanamh ar na rincí ag na "Crois-Bhealaigh" a chur ar siúl i rith an tSamhraidh. Beidh mé i dteangmhail leis na clubanna fá seo gan mhoill.

## Tír Chonail

1. Ranganna Gaeilge, 14 Rang sa chontae.

2. Tá comóraisí idir na Ranganna seo (dhá chomóras ceann amháin don Ghaeltacht agus an ceann eile don Ghalltacht).

3. Dinneár agus Ceilí Mór eagraithe ag an Bord Contae. Gach rud tré Gaeilge i rith na hoíche.

4. Trí cruinnithe Gaeilge in iomlán ag an Bhoird Contae i rith na bliana.

5. Gaeilge amháin ag babhta deiridh Scór agus Scór na nÓg.

6. Tá rang díospóireachta ag Cumann Naomh Adhamhnáin, Leitir Ceanainn gach seachtain.

7. Seimineár agus cruinnithe eagraithe i gcóir Oifigigh na Gaeilge.

(22 Oifigeach ag feidhmiú).

## Staid na gContae 1981-1982

1, Tír Chonail; 2, Maigh Eó; 3, An Chláir; 4, An Gaillimh; 5, Doire, 6, Antrim; 7, Tír Eoghain; 8, An Dúin; 8, Cill Dara; 10, Iar Mhí; 11, Sligeach; 12, Port Láirge; 13, Ciarraí; 14, Tiobraid Árann; 15, Co. na Mí; 16, Cill Chainnigh; 17, Cill Mantáin; 18, Corcaigh; 19, Co. Lú; 20, Luimneach; 21, Laois; 22, Ros Comáin; 23, Baile A' tha Cliath; 24, Ceatharloch; 25, Ard Mhacha; 26, Fearmanach; 27, Laitrim; 28, An Cabhán; 29, Muineacháin; 30, Loch Garman; 31, Longfoirt; 32, Uibh Fhlií.

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# FALCARRAGH WIN "ULSTER HERALD" CUP

By FR. S. Ó GALLCHÓIR

Falcarragh  
Community School ..... 2-7  
St. Louis,  
Ballymena ..... 2-3

The final of the "Ulster Herald" Cup (Ulster Colleges Under-17, Grade 'B') was played at the Templemore Sports Complex, Derry. The finalists were the Community School, Falcarragh, and St. Louis, Ballymena. Falcarragh had swept through to the final with a fine unbeaten run, while St. Louis had shocked the much-vaunted Castleblaney team in the semi-final. The Templemore pitch was in lovely fettle.

It turned out to be a wonderful evening for Falcarragh as they beat their Antrim opponents by 2-7 to 2-3. It was the first time that Falcarragh had won the "Herald" and for this under-17 squad it was the triple crown as they won the Corn Cholm Cille in 1979, and Corn Loch an Iuir in 1980. Raymond Gallagher, of St. Columb's College, presented the cup to Sean Ferry, captain of the Falcarragh

team. Bonfires greeted the home team to Cloughaneely. A cavalcade of cars accompanied them to Falcarragh where they were welcomed by Mr. M. Ward, the School Principal.

Falcarragh had played some excellent football in the previous six matches, but on final day it was their determination more than their class that pulled them through. They stuck to their task manfully and deserved their victory.

## Ballymena's Early Lead

Joe McFadden gave Falcarragh an early lead with a well-taken point after three minutes. But the Falcarragh boys found it difficult to settle and Ballymena kept pressing. The Antrim boys went ahead with points in the sixth and seventh minutes. Falcarragh were in trouble in midfield where Enda McAtamney was ruling the roost and only magnificent play by John Cunningham prevented Ballymena from forging further ahead. Sean Ferry pointed a free to leave it 0-2 apiece after 15 minutes.

Barry Cunningham put Falcarragh a point ahead three minutes later, but the next ten minutes were unhappy ones for Falcarragh. During that period Ballymena scored two goals — one penalty and one well-worked goal — to leave them 2-2 to 0-3 ahead. Only for great work by John Cunningham, again abetted by Seamus Doohan, Paul Ferry and goalkeeper McFadden, Falcarragh could have been further behind. The last two minutes of the half were vital. Barry Cunningham's shot was deflected to the net by Charlie Joe McGinley, and then on the interval, Sean Ferry took a good point to leave St. Louis ahead 2-2 to 1-4 at half-time. It was a relieved Falcarragh team that heard the half-time whistle.

## Second Half

The second half was a different matter altogether. Sean Ferry and Barry Cunningham came to grips with the Ballymena midfielders. Sean Ferry got the better of McAtamney and Barry Cunningham began to win more and more of the ball. Falcarragh



THE FALCARRAGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL U-17 team which won the "Ulster Herald" Cup for the first time in October 1982. They beat St. Louis, Ballymena by 2-7 to 2-3 in the final. Back row: An tAth. Seán Ó Gallchóir; Séamus Gallagher, Joe McFadden, John Cunningham, Séamus Doohan, Dónall Coyle, Anthony Doherty, Charlie Joe McGinley, Kevin Boyle, Conall Boyle, Raymond McGarvey. Front row: Anthony B. Doherty, Vincent Collum, Owen Kavanagh, John Ferry, Barry Cunningham, Seán Ferry (capt.), Paul A. McFadden, Donncha McGettigan, Francis Murray, Paul Ferry, Alistair Stewart.

ragh's forwards found the going difficult despite a plentiful supply of the ball. A resolute Ballymena defence kept them at bay until the fourteenth minute. Then wee Owen Kavanagh of Arranmore, banged home the decisive goal, just as he had done in the Loch an Iuir final two years ago. It was a ding-dong struggle then. Ballymena broke on a number of occasions but Falcarragh were equal to it. John Cunningham was once more the main defensive stalwart, but now his midfielders were fighting with grit. After twentytwo minutes Barry Cunningham made it 2-5 to 2-2. Two Anthony Doherty points, both well-taken, gave Falcarragh a five-points cushion going into the last five minutes. Ballymena came again. Paul A. McFadden dealt very well with two difficult high balls, the two Ferrys and the two Cunninghams did trojan work; the other defenders gave of their best. Enda McAtamney's last point was of little consolation to the Antrim lads whose sportsmanship during and after the game was of the highest quality. Seamus Mullen, of Claudy, was an excellent referee, whose job was made easy by two sporting sides.

**John Cunningham — Star**

All seventeen Falcarragh players

made significant contributions to this final victory. John Cunningham was the rock on which St. Louis foundered. The Killybegs lad had his finest game for Falcarragh with some great fielding, good tackling, fine clearances, keen anticipation and splendid leadership. Barry Cunningham and Sean Ferry, both of whom had difficult first halves, were magnificent in the second half, winning the midfield battle and doing a lot of covering back when necessary. In the last couple of minutes their ability to carry from defence was vital. Joe McFadden, too, had a fine game, going through a power of work and combining with the two midfielders to break Ballymena's stranglehold on that area. Paul Anthony McFadden could not be blamed for the goals and he made a series of important saves, particularly late in the game. Paul Ferry continued his good form at full-back, and Seamus Gallagher and Francis Murray stuck to their men throughout. Seamus Dooan had some excellent moments, and Donal Coyle and Anthony Ban Doherty kept the right half-forward scoreless. In attack, Anthony D. Doherty's points were splendidly taken; Kavanagh deserved his goal for his great heart and guts; Charlie Joe McGinley did a lot of work and was always in the

thick of it — he was Falcarragh's main forward threat after McFadden; John Ferry, Vincent Collum and Alistair Stewart fought bravely too. And so ended a fine campaign: Falcarragh 5-11, St. McNissi's 0-1; Falcarragh 2-8, St. Eunan's 0-2; Falcarragh 5-8, De La Salle 2-6; Falcarragh 5-7, St. Louis 3-7; Falcarragh 7-7, St. Malachy's 1-4; Falcarragh 3-6, Omeath 1-3; Falcarragh 2-7, St. Louis 2-3. That meant they scored 29-54.

Scoring honour went to: Barry Cunningham, 6-1 (29); Sean Ferry, 5-10 (25); Charlie Joe McGinley, 4-10 (22); Anthony Doherty, 3-11 (20).

The final team was: Paul A. McFadden (Falcarragh), Seamus Gallagher (Meenlaragh), Paul Ferry (Ardsbeg), Francis Murray (Killybegs), Seamus Dooan (Falcarragh), John Cunningham (Killybegs), Donal Coyle (Lifford), Barry Cunningham (Killybegs), Vincent Collum (Ardsbeg), Charlie Joe McGinley (Kilmacrennan), Anthony Doherty (Derrybeg), Owen Kavanagh (Arranmore), Joe McFadden (Glasserchoo), John Ferry (Glasserchoo).

Subs: Anthony Doherty (Derrybeg), Alistair Stewart (Dunfanaghy), Raymond McGarvey (Dunfanaghy), Kevin Boyle (Falcarragh), Conal Boyle (Derry), Donncha McGettigan (Downings).

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# THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS COUNTY TEAM

By  
COLM MURRAY

As a member of the Minor County Board I felt that I should keep tabs on the county vocational side since quite a few minors emerge from the V.S. every year. In this respect I picked the right year since the Donegal V.S. county team were, by and large, candidates for county minor selection, age wise — they were a young V.S. team by any standards.

The '81-82 season began well when Donegal defeated Tyrone at Ballybofey. Tyrone fielded several who would wear their county jersey. These included Colm McGleenan, Dermot Monaghan, Victor Toner, Jody Hughes and Eugene McConnell. Donegal led by 1-4 to 1-2 at half-time and ended winners by 2-6 to 1-2. So Tyrone failed to score in the second half but it was not for the want of trying. Donegal lined out as follows: Andy Faulkner (Donegal), Jackie Gallagher (Killybegs), Seamus Ward (Stranorlar), Marty Boyle (Na Rossa), Michael Gallagher (Donegal), John Kerrs (Donegal), Paschal Brogan (Donegal), Sylvester Maguire (Ballyshannon), Declan Bonner (Na Rossa), John McGroary (Donegal), Michael Bonner (Na Rossa), Liam Kennedy (Donegal), Paul McCool (Gweedore), Con Barrett (Milford), Dermot O'Brien (Buncrana). Schools attended are indicated — not necessarily the clubs to which the lads are attached, be it noted.

Sylvie Maguire did trojan work for Donegal who had a three-star performance from Liam Kennedy, but it was a team effort that revealed character and clever playing ability and augured well for their future hopes.

Next it was Derry with three All-Irelands in a row and some hopes of a fourth title to go with their three. Derry had several players not new to an all-Ireland atmosphere whether as minors from the 1981 Croke Park final or as Vocationals with their county. Such as Liam Peoples, Eamon Lynch, Cathal Glass, John Mulholland, Eunan Rafferty, John Quinn and the towering Francis Burke backboned a strong team. But Donegal met them at Strabane and in a classic emerged the victors on a scoreline of 1-9 to 1-7. Derry started as if they would destroy a dithering and desperate Donegal rearguard and when they led 1-4 to 0-3 at half-time the Oak Leaf county looked good. However, Donegal, who had overplayed the ball in elaborate first

half build-ups, now settled for the direct approach. A '50' by Maguire went all the way for a point and a Declan Bonner long kick caught the Derry 'keeper off his line, sailing under the crossbar to level scores.

After that it was tit for tat scoring with all the dash and fire of a final itself. Donegal edged in front, then Derry came back and this was repeated until with the sides locked at 1-7 all, Liam Kennedy hit a line ball beautifully over the bar and then he crowned a great display by taking on three Derry defenders to kick a point from the opposite flank. Derry strove mightily to get the goal they now needed but Donegal, very composed at the back after a shaky start, held out. Seamus Ward, with a few great catches and good clearances, was outstanding hereabouts. Highlight of the game had to be the clash of Donegal's talented Sylvie Maguire with all-Ireland centre-half star the giant Francie Burke for Derry. Declan Bonner was a constant threat to Derry's defenders. Mr. Harry Brennan, well known as Tyrone minor manager for the past few years and latterly in business as a jeweller in Ballybofey, had a grand game as referee here. The Donegal team showed one change from the side which defeated Tyrone — Miles Sweeney (Na Rossa) replacing Paschal Brogan (Donegal) who had left school meanwhile.

And so we came to Feb. 10th, 1982, and an interesting trial game, Vocational Schools v. Donegal Colleges Selected, at Ballybofey. The immediate purpose of this game was to get the V.S. county side tuned up for their game v. Antrim (Ulster semi-final). The longer term effects were the formation of a county minor team, based on this trial. Both sides were a couple short of their best possible selection but for "colleges", Brian Murray, Eddie McGinley, Gary Walsh, Conor Boyle, Joe Curran, Seanie McEniff, Frankie Gallagher and Aidan Boyle represented the future minor panel. Along with Kerrs, Sweeney, Kennedy, Jackie Gallagher, Marty Boyle, the Bonner brothers, we had Sean Boyle and Johnny Thompson introduced to the V.S. team and indeed subsequently to the minor county panel also. Colleges led 2-3 to 1-5 at the interval and

won in the end by 2-11 to 2-8 in quite an interesting match.

On to the Antrim game at Augher, with Pat King of Tyrone and Ulster fame as the referee. Donegal survived a late Antrim effort in comfort, after leading at half-time by 1-4 to 0-2 and extending that lead by 1-6 to 0-3 with ten minutes remaining. An Antrim goal immediately followed by a point gave us the threat of an upset but Donegal coasted to a 1-9 to 1-5 victory having reasserted their control of a game they enjoyed for most of the hour.

Joyce McMullan had returned to the Donegal team but Sylvie Maguire was missing (he had left school at Christmas) so there was no gain there, or no loss let me quickly add! Johnny Thompson made his debut, one the Antrim defence won't recall with much joy; before Johnny entered the game some Antrim defenders found it a good tactic to hit the lighter Donegal front men hard; with Johnny in the game the boys from the Glens found matters to be in reverse and so Kennedy, McCool and the Bonners got time and space to get the scores without being harassed to the same degree.

So Donegal arrived in their fourth final in five years in this grade. Derry had been their bogey in two finals and Down who "stole" another were again the team to beat in the last game in Ulster. But the final, fixed for March 10th, was postponed until 31st and thereby hangs a tale which has to do with a bogey of another nature — the hoodoo which hangs over Donegal in postponed games. Last year our under-21 side was all set to play Monaghan in the final of that grade. It was postponed. Meanwhile key players McCrea and Molloy were injured and so could not field for that belated refixture. Now it was the turn of our V.S. county side. At first sight it seemed to work to our advantage as it allowed the injured Joyce McMullan to improve; on the other hand, however, a certain Ross Carr, who was ineligible for Down (due to suspension) on March 10th, became very eligible indeed on March 31st. It is a matter of history now how the rusty headed Carr took us apart at Augher where we met Down. Ross had a hand in every Down move and his second half display of fetching and laying-off to colleagues denied us possession. Donegal cruised to a 0-6

to 0-3 lead at the interval and when McMullan added a point on resuming we looked good for an Ulster title at last.

It is hard to believe that this was not simply our last score of the game but also virtually our last scoring chance — bar one — for the twenty-five minutes remaining. The exception came when a Donegal shot came off the crossbar just beyond reach of little John McGroary who was free unmarked in front of a gaping Down net. Any other Donegal forward could have reached that rebound and done the needful but it was our luck that our smallest front line man was the man available.

Thanks chiefly to Carr, who had assistance in depth from a good Down team, the Mourne men crept slowly to a 0-8, 0-7 winning margin.

Not a bad Down team who could call on eleven minors (4 Armagh, 7 Down) and 1981 minor full back star Eugene McNulty as well. The all-Armagh half back trio were sound and the all-Down backline, plus goalie, were unyielding. The twin menace of Carr and Tony McArdle (who both played a big part in Down's reaching the minor Ulster final later in the year) was well supported by Paul Grant.

Donegal's final lineout was Andy Faulkner, Jackie Gallagher, Seamus

Ward, Marty Boyle, Sean Boyle, John Kerrs, Miles Sweeney, Sean Bonner, Joyce McMullan, John McGroary, Liam Kennedy, Declan Bonner, Paul McCool, Michael Bonner, Dermot O'Brien.

The Donegal defence was outstanding; Andy Faulkner in goals repeated his great reflex save of the Antrim game and Seamus Ward was unbeatable in the air. John Kerrs as usual dominated as centre half-back with the minimum of fuss. McMullan, still carrying an injured shoulder, could in no way do himself justice and Sean Bonner was "new" to the team and so was of limited use in this game. Without this pair "on song" at midfield clever attackers (especially Declan Bonner and Liam Kennedy) were very restricted regarding ball supply in the second half. Declan and Liam did very well in the first half but once their opposite numbers marked tightly that, combined with virtually no supply of the ball forthcoming, ended their threat. Let's say all did well and they were up against a very good Down team indeed.

**Michael Lafferty, V.S. county manager for four years, may play down the impact of reaching four finals in five years. But it takes a good team to reach so many finals and it takes a dedicated manager to keep on turning out one good**

**team after another.** Full marks then to Michael and his predecessor Danny O'Brien, who is still Michael's most valuable aide in producing V.S. county teams of skill and courage. The work done in these schools has been a key factor in Donegal's upsurge, not forgetting the colleges' contribution with recent all-Ireland 'B' championships to their credit of course.

But back to the V.S. scene, and one must admire the work done in conjunction with Michael and Danny, by the McGinleys (Gene and Packie), Barry Campbell, of Carrick, Paddy O'Donnell of Rossa, Frank Dooley of Stranorlar, and the V.S. secretary himself, Dessie Griffin, also from the Twin Towns Tec.

**Eddie McDevitt, retired, pioneered gaelic football in Donegal Vocational Schools and still takes a keen interest in his boys from his Glenswilly seat. Eddie will join with me in congratulating Michael Lafferty on the success of our under-21 team, not simply because Michael assisted Tom Conaghan and Donal Monaghan with the preparation of this team all spring and summer. For at Vocational level Michael shaped the football careers of so many who brought Donegal its first all-Ireland ever.**

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# History of the G.A.A. in Letterkenny and St. Eunan's Club

The Gaelic Athletic Association (G.A.A.) was founded in Hayes Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, on 1st November, 1884. Michael Cusack was the Association's first secretary and he selected the first patrons in Dr. Thomas Croke, Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt. Dr. Croke wrote the 'Charter of the G.A.A.', which, simply summarised, says the Association is a 32-county national organisation, actively supporting Irish culture and Irish dancing with a special emphasis on the preservation and advancement of the Irish language and the fostering, promotion and controlling of the National games of hurling, Gaelic football, handball and camogie. The first G.A.A. match was played in Callan in 1885 which consisted of 21 players a side. However, it was not until 20 years later that the G.A.A. really got established in Co. Donegal when, in 1905, the first County Board was formed. On St. Patrick's Day 1906 Donegal fielded its first county senior football team against Derry, being beaten by 0-18 to 0-2. In the same year the county captured its first major G.A.A. trophy by winning the Ulster senior hurling championship by beating Antrim 5-15 to 0-1 at the Moss Road hurling field in the Ulster final.

It was about a decade later that clubs really started to spring up all over the county in a big way and Letterkenny was one of the towns to take up the code. In 1917 two former Cavan men, Frank "Steve" Donohoe and Mickey McGovern, held a special meeting in McGovern's Public House, Lr. Main Street, to form a Gaelic football team. A club was formed and called the 'Fag A Bailes'. Other members of that 1917 team included two famous Letterkenny men, Fr. John McMonagle, Glencar, and Johnny McClean, who was the goalkeeper. Fr. McMonagle and Mickey McGovern were reputed to be two of the best midfielders in the province in that era. The first playing pitch where Gaelic football was played in Letterkenny was situated at

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By  
**SEAN BOYLE,**  
*Club Youth Officer*

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the top of the Convent Road where the new Brothers School now stands. This club established the Gaelic code in East Donegal until the 'Black and Tan' war reduced their playing numbers to such an extent that they were forced to cease activities in the early 1920's. It is happy to report that one of these founders of the G.A.A. in Letterkenny, Frank Donohoe, is still amongst us and well.

However, it was not long until the 'good old days', the real magical days of Gaelic football in Letterkenny emerged with the formation of two famous clubs, the Geraldines, formed in 1924, and Letterkenny Rovers.

Many a story is told of their clashes, the local derbies, the personalities, but mostly because no matter how much pride and prestige was at stake, they were clean, sporting and happy affairs. The first officers of the Geraldines were: Chairman, Samuel Forsythe; secretary, Frank 'Steve' Donohoe, and treasurer, Hugh McGlynn. Those were the days in the town when flags flew, banners were out, the A.O.H. band paraded, and rival loyal supporters looked on their 'stars' as the men of brilliance in Gaelic football when these two famous teams met.

The celebrities of Letterkenny were the Gaelic footballers. Discipline was strict, no smoking or drinking before big matches and, above all, absence from training meant instant dismissal. Training was hard, often 6 to 10 mile road runs after several hours of ball practice and a practice match. The



Fr. John McMonagle, Johnny McClean and Michael McGovern, three founder members of the first G.A.A. Club in Letterkenny.

disgrace of defeat had to be avoided at all costs (so different to-day alas). An example of the times in the town around those days can be visualised in recalling that there were only two motor cars in the town, belonging to Hugh Crerand, Church Street, and Mrs. Coyle, St. Eunan's Terrace. The Urban Council rent for houses was 1/6d, and a dance once a month was the sole happening in this form of entertainment or recreation outside of Gaelic football matches.

In 1926 the Donegal county team reached the final of the Dr. McKenna Cup for the first time by beating Tyrone 4-4 to 2-3 at the Christian Brothers Park, Omagh, on 13th March in a semi-final replay. Some of the Letterkenny players who helped Donegal to that memorable history making victory were P. 'Coachie' Doherty, Dan Taylor, Bill Roarty, H. McGlynn and P. Boyle, and the remainder of the side was: C. Black, Chas. McDyer (Glenties), D. Whelan, P. Breslin, C. O'Donnell, H. Martin (Newtowncunningham), J. Murphy, Jack Carey, Paddy Hannigan (Killygordon), T. Gallagher, C. Callanan and C. Drumm.

### First Senior Football Championship Title

1927 saw the first Donegal senior football championship title coming to the Cathedral Town and the team to bring this honour was Letterkenny Rovers. They beat Carrigans in a truly unique county final. Unique not only because it was the first senior football title for Letterkenny or because the opposition was Carrigans, but because of the venue. Believe it or not, the venue was Newtowncunningham. It was the first and to date only county final played in Newtowncunningham. The venue was agreed between the two teams because of its mid-location, a field was simply arranged and goalposts erected. The admission fee was 6d, and a 'gate' of over £300 was collected representing a paying crowd in excess of 12,000 people. The Letterkenny Rovers team of that historic period included Willie Roarty, Joe Gibbons, M. Harkin, Bill Strain, Willie Brown, Frank 'Pointer' Drain, Willie 'Midge' Curran, John Hegarty, P. 'Coachie' Doherty, John 'Darkie' McManus, Anthony "Stit" Gallagher, Bill O'Donnell, Thomas 'Casey' Campbell, and the club chairman at the time was Phil Doherty. The team mascot was a Charles Collins — I wonder was it 'Bovril'. The famous Geraldines team of that time included such players as John Curran, Charlie Ward (Glendowan). Hugh McGrath, John

Harvey, Charles Quigley, Dan Taylor, Jim Flynn, J. Lynch, Mijo Peoples, Hugh 'Chune' McGlynn (captain), C. O'Donnell, Master Carr, Samuel Forsythe, Denis Houston, John Rooney and their team mascot was a wee lad called Tommy Mulhern. It is worth noting that the late Frank 'Pointer' Drain, one of the specialists of Gaelic football, played his last game in 1972 at the age of 72 as a specially invited guest for a local match in O'Donnell Park. The Rovers and Geraldines held regular monthly meetings (and sometimes more often) in Packie Doherty's bar — now well known to all of us as the Central. There were often up to 100 members attending. In those good old days practically every club player and member attended. It was a sacrilege to miss your club meeting just as it was for a player to miss his training. I know these names will recall happy memories of the 'greats' of Gaelic football in Letterkenny and raise much discussion again.

### Handball and Camogie

There was great interest in handball in the town then too. Queues lined up at the various open handball alleys in the town and it was always a rush from school or work to get as near to the front of the queues as possible for your nightly games watched by hundreds of supporters. The G.A.A. activities of the time embraced the ladies equally as much as the men. There were a number of local camogie teams and rivalry was as great between some of them as it was between the Rovers and the Geraldines. Some reports say their meetings in local derbies were everything but ladylike such was the enthusiasm. Ladies were admitted free to all G.A.A. matches and functions — an interesting chivalrous touch, I must admit, about our early days.

### St. Eunan's Begin

In 1930 saw the foundation of the present St. Eunan's Club. As the famous Geraldines and Rovers were fading from the scene, it was decided to form a new club embracing all interested G.A.A. people in the town into one club and team. They secured their first playing pitch in Glencar and entered teams in all county and local competitions. The first St. Eunan's club officers and committee formed 52 years ago were: President, Chief Supt. Leahy; chairman, Supt. Patsy Cronin; secretary, Guard Walsh; treasurer, John Hourihan; committee: John Curran, John Crumlish, Guard Murphy and Guard Mulcahy.

Three of those founders are even to this day household names not only in Letterkenny but through the length and breadth of the county. They are John Hourihan — the man who did so much in securing the club's present grounds, O'Donnell Park, and unpaid groundsman for years and years; John Crumlish, who with Hourihan played such a significant part in the setting up of the O'Donnell Park and the early development of what we have to-day in our club; and Johnny Curran (father of our well known and respected Sean), whose dedication and shrewd managerial qualities guaranteed G.A.A. for Letterkenny for ever. Johnny also represented the club at county and provincial level and progressed to the positions of county treasurer and secretary — positions he held with distinction. These three men are often referred to by our more senior members during debates as the 'three famous Johnnys' of Letterkenny — may they rest in peace.

The club immediately met with a degree of success in their first year by reaching the county senior football final in 1930 but beaten by Dungloe 3-2 to 2-3.

### Opening Of O'Donnell Park

It would appear that the first and foremost task these men of our foundation set themselves was the acquisition of a proper field and club headquarters. They set about and bought a field consisting of 7.024 acres at Sallaghgrane for £300 — a big price in those days — and called it O'Donnell Park. Their tremendous work rate and zeal was rewarded with the opening of the O'Donnell Park on Sunday 2nd May, 1937. The programme for that official opening 45 years ago reads as follows:

2.00 p.m. — Blessing of the Park by the Most Rev. Dr. McNeely, Bishop of Raphoe.

2.15 p.m. — Official Opening by Mr. P. McNamee, Chairman, Ulster Council G.A.A.

2.30 p.m. — Hurling — Donegal v. Antrim.

3.45 p.m. — Address by Mr. R. O'Keeffe, President of the G.A.A. Reply by Mr. P. O'Donnell, Solicitor, Dungloe.

4.10 p.m. — Football — Donegal v. Armagh.

Note: Spaces both inside and outside the enclosure reserved for the representatives of the Clans of Donegal.

Two well known present day G.A.A. personalities, Paddy McGill, Ardara, and Alf Murray, former G.A.A. President, from Armagh, played against each other that day.

And so a foundation was laid which has been build on steadily ever since. Others to join the ranks about this period and devoting a lifetime to our Association and club were such people well known to us all as Patsy O'Donnell, U.D.C., Frank Larkin (father of Senator James Larkin), Roger McRory and Hugh McGovern, and I'm sure many others whose names I have not got yet — so excuse me for their omission this time.

The forementioned men went on to hold higher positions in the club such as president, chairman, secretary, etc., and were for a number of years the backbone of the club during difficult and lean times. Their contributions were so great that we must all be very appreciative of them for giving us what we have to-day in both facilities and opportunities.

They disbanded about 1935. In 1937 another team called St. Columba's emerged. The reason for their birth would seem to be similar to that of St. Pats with perhaps an added reason, this principal reason being that St. Eunan's had taken part in some kind of a soccer tournament in Ramelton and wore the St. Eunan's jerseys. This was against the rules at the time and difference of opinion arose and hence St. Columba's. They operated until the mid-forties when they also disbanded. St. Columba's first officers were: President, Dr. Eugene McDermott, (now P.P., Termon); chairman, George McCaul; treasurers, Sean McGinley and Michael McMonagle; committee: Pat Murphy, P. J. Mulcahy, Hugh McGovern, Pat Gill, Johnny McGlynn, Laurence Gildea, Paddy Vaughan, James Meegan and Mick

to these competitions was because some of their players were affiliated to their home clubs in their home county. Their most memorable season was 1941-42 when they won the Democrat Cup, the Dr. McGinley Cup and the St. Patrick's Day Cup for a clean sweep. Their team that year consisted of Pte. Canning, Pte. Casey, Pte. Stapelton, Pte. McMorrow, Pte. Mulligan, Lt. Brady, Pte. Forde, Pte. Nicholson, Pte. Brady (captain), Cpl. Keogh, Lt. O'Beirne, Pte. Cross, Cpl. McInerney, Lt. Dunlop and Pte. Farrell. They disbanded when their numbers dwindled in the '40s as less and less men became stationed in Rockhill. Perhaps the best known personality of this team around the town for years after was Andy Keogh who became a very popular figure as a local postman.

### A St. Eunan's Panel

And for interest, to complete these earlier team panels is one for St. Eunan's in the mid-thirties: J. McDevitt, N. McGroarty, P. Gallagher, C. McGinley (now postmaster, Buncrana), W. Doherty, T. Gallagher, B. Curran, J. O'Rourke, J. Devlin, J. McGlynn, M. Friel, H. McGovern, F. Drain, B. McGranaghan, E. Crerand, C. Collins, V. McKenna, J. Ward, J. McMonagle and M. Blake. Among the Letterkenny stars who played on Donegal county teams were players of the calibre of Frank 'Pointer' Drain, Hugh McGovern, Joe Doyle, P. 'Coachie' Doherty, Dan Taylor, Hugh 'Chune' McGlynn, Bill Roarty, and Pat McGill.

### Only St. Eunan's Stood Test of Time

By the mid-forties, with just over a quarter of a century of Gaelic football in Letterkenny and the rise of six different clubs or teams from time to time, there now only remained St. Eunan's. They, it seemed, stood the test of the times best and were now on their own to carry on the good work. There was a big upsurge of interest and participation again with many of Letterkenny's sporting family names of to-day getting very actively involved. 1944, 1946 and 1947 saw the senior team reach the county senior football finals only to be beaten by the then invincible men from Gweedore in their history making 4-in-a-row.

### First Senior County Title

Then the big breakthrough deservedly came in 1948 when St. Eunan's won their first ever county



As well as the formation of St. Eunan's and the opening of O'Donnell Park in the 1930s two other Gaelic teams also emerged during this decade in Letterkenny. In 1931 a team called St. Pat's was born. It would seem that this team was founded because some enthusiasts were not too happy with the new St. Eunan's, and also because they felt the scene had lost much of its glamour and atmosphere with only one team in the town. St. Patrick's consisted of many of the old Rovers side. Jim 'Fuddy' McGranaghan, Laurence Gildea and Paddy Herron were their chief administrators, and players included Paddy McGinley, Neil McGroarty, Pat Gallagher, Hugh O'Donnell (father of our Mickey 'the boy' O'Donnell), Mickey McMonagle, Barney Crampsie, Phil McBride, Mijo Peoples, Jim Ferry and Joe Glackin.

Moriarty. Like the start of the G.A.A. in the town in 1917, this club was also founded in McGovern's Lounge and names such as McGinley, McFadden, Pat Gill, J. Boyle, McDaid, Hugh McGovern, Mick Moriarty, Duffy, Sean Ruth, Carroll, Paddy Vaughan, Joe McDaid and McGrenra became established players with Columba's.

### The 17th Infantry Battalion, Rockhill

Yet another famous Gaelic football team in Letterkenny existed for a couple of years starting about 1940 — the 17th Infantry Battalion, Rockhill. They were a team of soldiers stationed there at that time. They were allowed to take part in all Gaelic football competitions in the county except the county championships. The reason they were not allowed in-

senior football championship beating their old rivals and all conquering Gweedore by 1-7 to 2-1. They maintained this high reputation by reaching the final in 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952, but had to wait to 1956 before securing their second title when they beat Ballyshannon by 0-8 to 1-2 in the final. This was followed with senior title victories in 1960 beating Gweedore 0-11 to 3; in 1967 beating the famous St. Joseph's 1-13 to 1-9; 1969 beating St. Joseph's

John Hannigan, Joe Winston, Jim Clarke, Paddy Tunney, James Gallagher, Gerard McMonagle and John McGeehan. Joe 'Dodo' Winston was carried off early in that final when savagely punched by a St. Joseph's defender who got suspended for six months for the offence. The club won their last all-county senior football league in 1974 which included all the forementioned players. Senator James Larkin was team manager in 1974.

1931, 1938, 1941, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1950, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1978. At juvenile level (under-16) they also won eleven titles. Those successes were gained in 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1959, 1966, 1972, 1975, 1976 and 1977. In the county under-14 championship two titles were lifted in the years 1973 and 1974. They also have two more county titles in the boys under-12 football championship — the first in 1972 and our second came this year, 1982, under team



The first St. Eunan's team to ever win a County Senior Football Championship — in 1948. Front: l. to r.—Eamon McMenamin, P. J. Dolan, Eddie Boyle, Gerard Dawson, Peadar McGeehin, Paddy McGeehin (V.S.), Fr. Colm Halpin. Back: l. to r.—Con Halpin, Fr. P. J. McGlinchey, Tom Curran, Charlie Boyle, Jim (Tune) McGlynn, Sean Curran, Fr. Denis Curran, Pearse Dawson.

again 0-10 to 1-4, and finally their last in 1972 when they beat Clan na nGael (now Four Masters, this year's champions) by 2-12 to 1-8 in MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey. The club's last senior football final appearance was in 1974 when St. Joseph's defeated them by 1-8 to 1-4 in the final. The panel that final day in 1974 was: Michael Sweeney, Pat Conaghan, P. J. Hoey, Paddy Gallagher, Michael Crossan, Anthony Gallagher, Paul McGettigan, Paudge McGowan, Damien Judge, Seamus Durkin, Sean Boyle, Denis Doherty, 92.

### Successes In Other County Championships

The club's proud record is not limited to their six senior county football championship successes. In all under-age county competitions they have always been to the fore. They won two county under-21 championships in 1976 and 1977, beating Four Masters, Donegal, in both finals by 2-6 to 1-5 and 2-9 to 0-1 respectively. At minor level, they have the highest number of titles — eleven in all — stretching back to 1931. The successful years were

managers Peadar McGeehin, Bro. Connor and Sean McIntyre.

### U.S.A. Tour

After their 1969 senior championship success, the club embarked on its biggest ever venture — a tour of the United States of America. This tour was very successful and an experience never to be forgotten by all who made it. Matches were played in many U.S.A. cities and the hospitality given surpassed all expectations. Another tour the club

made was in 1977 when a tour of Glasgow was enjoyed by all.

### Sole Junior Title

The club's sole junior title was a long time in coming but eventually in 1980 — the year we celebrated our Golden Jubilee — that elusive title was won. At MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey, we beat Ardara in the final to take the only county championship cup without St. Eunan's name on it.

The team managers on that historic occasion were Charlie Kavanagh and Patsy Kelly, and the panel consisted of: Eugene Dowling, P. J. Hoey, Martin Rafferty (captain), Peter Kelly, Carl Hogg, Joe 'Dodo' Winston, Fr. Declan Nee, Fr. Michael Cannon, Pauric Gallen, Billy Roarty, Christy Callaghan, Tony Murray, Pauric McDaid, Manus McFadden, Joe Kelly, Dickie McGranaghan, Sean Boyle, Brian Ferry, Jimmy Kennedy, Damien Mulgrew, Kevin Kiely, Noel McGoohan, Kenny King, Eddie McCauley, Pauric Roarty and the two playing managers.

This side followed up their championship success by capturing the club's only all-county Shield title when they won Division 3 in 1981, beating Termon by a single point in an exciting final.

### All-Ireland Club of the Year Award

Many laurels have been won on the field of play but perhaps the proudest moment in the club's history came in 1980 on a Saturday night when in the

A.I.B. Centre, Ballysbridge, Dublin, the name of St. Eunan's Club, Letterkenny, was announced as winners of the A.I.B. sponsored "All-Ireland Club of the Year" in their category. Dr. James McDaid, club chairman, was presented with the all-Ireland trophy amid scenes of tears of sheer delight.

The other club members attending this 'never to be forgotten' occasion as club representatives were secretary Frankie Campbell, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Seamus De Faoite, vice-chairman, Sean Boyle, and his wife, Ann, representing the ladies committee, and Denis Doyle, executive member. On this memorable night St. Eunan's G.A.A. club really took its place among the 'greats' of the G.A.A.

### New Social Centre Built And Opened

1982 saw another dream come true with the completion and opening of the club's new ultra-modern Social Centre in O'Donnell Park, on Friday 19th February. This was the culmination of three years hard work by a select development committee consisting of Dr. James McDaid, Frankie Campbell, Sean Boyle, John O'Donnell, Frank Devine, Seamus McRory and Denis Doyle.

### All-Ireland Final Players

Yes, despite Donegal's rare All-Ireland appearances, five players from the club have the distinction of playing in All-Ireland finals. In 1954 two noted club players, Peadar

McGeehin and James McGettigan, played in the All-Ireland Junior final against Kerry. But again 1982 is even more significant as three club players, Eunan McIntyre, Charles Mulgrew and Paul Carr, helped Donegal win their first ever All-Ireland title when the county captured the Under-21 Football Championship.

Some other players with all-Ireland distinctions are Paddy Tunney and Paul McGettigan who won All-Ireland Colleges Senior Football Championship medals with Gormanston College and another McGettigan, young Leslie, had a similar distinction this year when he played with St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, who also won the Colleges senior title. Another club playing member, Michael Houston, has an All-Ireland Club Senior Football Championship medal which he won with Thomond College, Limerick, when a student there.

### Firsts In Croke Park

Donegal's first appearance in Croke Park was on Sunday, 6th April, 1952, when they were beaten in the National League semi-final by Cork on a score of 3-3 to 0-7. Four Letterkenny men played in that historic game: Con Halpin (goalkeeper), Pearse Dawson (full-back), Peadar McGeehin (left half-back), and Charles 'Bovril' Collins (left half-forward).

### Outstanding Long Serving Stars

St. Eunan's Club has supplied many many star county players down the years. In addition to those already mentioned the following come to mind who have unique achievements: Seamus Hoare (goalkeeper with four Railway Cup medals), Sean Ferriter, John Hannigan, Fionn Gallagher, Noel O'Donnell, Michael Ronaghan, Joe Carroll, Joe 'Dodo' Winston, Anthony Gallagher, Michael Sweeney, Jackie Reilly, Noel McCole and Declan O'Carroll.

### St. Eunan's Team 25 Years Ago

St. Eunan's only lost one county senior football championship final replay. That was on Sunday, 21st September, 1958, when they were beaten by a single point by Dungloe by 2-6 to 2-5 in the final replay. The team on that occasion was: Seamus Hoare, Fionn Gallagher, Michael Ronaghan, Patrick Peoples, James Larkin, Joe Carroll, Michael Heneghan, Noel O'Donnell, Peadar McGeehin, Noel Manley, John Hannigan, John Charles Duffy, Harry



A historic signing: Mrs. Ann McGeehin, chairperson and Mrs. Ann Boyle, vice-chairperson of St. Eunan's G.A.A. Club Ladies Committee were given the honour of being the first two club members to sign the attendance book in the club's new Social Centre, O'Donnell Park, on opening night, Friday 19th February, 1982.



Officers and Committee of St. Eunan's G.A.A. Club at the opening of their new Social Centre on Friday 19th February, 1982. L. to R. — Frank Devine, Sean Boyle, Dr. James McDaid (chairman), Seamus De Faoite, Denis Doyle, Joe Kelly, Mrs. Ann McGeehin, John O'Donnell and Hugh McGovern (vice-president).

Blake, John Courtney and James McGettigan.

### Some Club Officers

Some of the people who held prominent offices in the club down the years: **Presidents:** Charles O'Donnell, Hugh McKendrick, Anton Gallagher, Fr. Colm Halpin, Fr. O'Friel, Patsy O'Donnell (U.D.C.), Reggie McRory, Fr. Paddy Kerr, Roger McAuley (present). **Chairmen:** James Gormley, Jim O'Donnell, Roger McRory, Sean Curran, William Wiseman, John P. Wilson (present Minister for Education), Sean O'Callaghan, James McGettigan, Senator James Larkin, Danny McGlinchey, Sean Boyle, Connie Maguire, Joe Gallagher and Dr. James McDaid (present). **Secretaries:** Michael Ronaghan, Phil Bonner, Harry Blake, Kevin Shanaghan, P. J. Ryan, Noel Manley, Tommy Gillen, Pat Conaghan, Sean Boyle, Connie Maguire, Damien Judge, Frankie Campbell (present). **Treasurers:** Roger McRory, Frank McLaughlin, Michael Ronaghan, William Wiseman, John Charlie Duffy, Dan McMenamin, Brendan O'Boyle, Tommy Gillen, James McMonagle, Seamus McRory (present).

### All-Irelands For Our Colleges

St. Eunan's College was once looked on as the "breeding ground" for our Gaelic football stars. In 1956 the College reached the final of the coveted McRory Cup, the Ulster Colleges senior football championship under team Manager, John Wilson — present Minister for Education. In 1979 they brought another great honour to Letterkenny and wrote their name on the history books of the G.A.A. when they won the All-Ireland Colleges Football 'B' Championship and became the first Donegal school to achieve such fame. The manager on this great occasion was our own club member and player, Paddy Og Tunney. Another College to bring All-Ireland honours to the town was the Regional Technical College who won the High Education All-Ireland Division 3 League in 1981. Their manager was also a club member and player, James McMonagle.

### Hurling

It is difficult to put together a record of our hurling achievements but it is obvious that much hurling was played in the town up until about a decade ago.

As far back as 1926 there was a strong hurling team in the town — they won the Senior Championship that year. Other records of county hurling championship titles include 1958 when the juvenile title was won. In 1972 our hurlers made it a unique double by adding the county senior hurling championship to the football crown.

Some members of the 1972 hurling side were Dr. Vincent Murphy, Bro. Austin, Bro. Seraphin, Oliver Cahill, Joe Winston, James Gallagher, Dickie McGranaghan, Patsy James, Colm McManus.

Former hurlers from the Letterkenny club who are reputed to have been among the best the county has ever produced were Anton 'Stit' Gallagher (father of the three famous Gallagher brothers, Paddy, James and Anthony, who are still playing with the club), Hugh McGovern and Jim 'Tune' McGlynn, (E.S.B.).

1972 was the last time the club won a hurling title. In fact hurling has been nearly non-existent in the town since but it is happy to report that a big revival is on with the schoolboys getting regular sessions every Sunday morning in O'Donnell Park under coaches Dr. Vincent Murphy, Sean Rabbite and Jimmy Ward.



# Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta i nGaoth Dobhair

*Le MÁIRE MHIC NIALLAIS*

BLIAIN an stairiúil do'n Chumann, Luthchleas Gael i nGaoth Dobhair mar bunaíodh an Club Aitiúil i 1932 agus i mbliana tá siad ag ceiliúradh a nIubhaile Órga.

Mar gheall ar seo d'iarr ionadaithe an Chlub ar Choiste Náisiúnta Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta ag a gcuinníú cinn bliana i 1980 go mbéadh an comórtas i nGaoth Dobhair i 1982, rud a bhí agus d'éirí go hiontach maith leis.

Fuair an Club ard mholadh as na ceithre háirde as go foirfe agus a reachtáil siad imeachtaí iomlán ag deireadh seachtaine. Le barr feabhais a chur ar rudaí bhí a gClubtheach úr réidh agus foscailte do'n ócáid faoi Bhainistíocht Sheáin Uí Mhaolagáin imreoir óg de chuid an Chlub agus ba mhór an bhuntáiste é sin.

Bhí am gnoitheach roimhré ag na daoine a bhí ag obair ar an fhoirgneamh faoi stiúir Pheadair Uí Dhochartaigh ag iarraidh a chinntiú go mbéadh an áit réidh do'n ócáid mhór. Ar feadh coicise roimhré bhí gach ball de'n chlub idir fhir agus mná agus daoine óga, ag obair oíche agus lá ag péinteáil, ag scuabadh agus ag sciúradh agus bhí a shliocht air nuair a tháinig an tam agus fosclaíodh an áit do'n phobal. Bhí iontas ar gach duine a léitheid de fhoirgneamh breá lena áiseanna nua-aimsire a fheiceáil daofa féin.

Bhí an sprioc a chuir an club rompu trí bliana ó shin bainte amach acu agus bhí siad mórtasach as.

Bhí obair chruaidh agus socraithe tábhachtacha le déanamh do'n chomórtas agus fágadh iad faoi fhóchoiste speisialta de'n chlub ar a raibh Seán Ó Gallchóir mar Chathaoirleach air. Ba iad baill eile an choiste nó Seán Ó Maolagáin, Rúnaí, Uinnsion Ó Breisleáin, Cisteoir, Seosamh Ó Duibhir, Oifigeach Lóistín, Seámus Mac Gairbhí, Oifigeach Caidrimh Poiblí. Ba coiste éifeachtach é agus ar ndóighe fuair siad tacaíocht iomlán ó oifigigh an chlub agus na baill.

Ba san chlubtheach úr a bhí lár ionad an chomórtais agus is an a bhí príomh imeachtaí na féile gidh go raibh imeachtaí ar siúl ann go leor ionaid eile ar fud an pharóiste comh maith.

Cuireadh tús go hoifigiúil leis na himeachtaí oíche Aoine san

chlubtheach le bronnadh an Fháinne Nua ar bhaill an C.L.G. san chontae.

Bhí sé de onóir agam-sa mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge san Chlub a bheith mar Chathaoirleach ar an ócáid stairiúil seo, an chéad imeacht oifigiúil san chlubtheach.

Ba é Tomás Mac Gabhann ó Chomhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge agus Uachtarán Ghaelscoileanna a rinne an bronnadh. I láthair comh maith bhí Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh iar-Chathaoirleach Choiste Gaeilge C.L.G. agus Seámus De Faoite, Oifigeach na Gaeilge san chontae.

Ina aitheasc labhair Tomás ar Chomóradh Mhícheáil Uí Chíosóig duine de bhunaitheoirí an C.L.G., a bhéas ar siúl in Inis, Co. an Chláir ag tús mí na Samhna i mbliana. Labhair sé ar an méid a tharla i mBaile Átha Cliath, faoi thionchar Uí Chíosóig, agus an tioncar a bhí ag sin uilig ar bhunadh an C.L.G. féin in 1884, agus ar shaol cultúrtha na tíre ó shin i leith. Ba as Co. an Chláir ó dhúchas do Ó Cíosóig. Labhair Tomás fosta ar an meas a bhí ag Ó Cíosóig ar an Ghaeilge agus ar a tabhacht san oideachas.

Sheas Ó Cíosóig go príomha ina smaointe do'n Ghaeilge, an Oidhreacht Náisiúnta, féin mheas agus cothrom na féinne. Dar leis an Uasal Mac Gabhann go seasann an C.L.G. leis na prionsabail seo inniu ach ní leor seasamh leo, caithfear iad a chur i bhfeidhm.

I láthair an oíche stairiúil sin ag bronnadh an fháinne bhí Seán Mac Gearailt fear uasal a tháinig an bealach ar fad as Baile na Sceilge do Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta. Bhí Seán ar a chéad chuairt ar Gaoth Dobhair agus bhí a shaith iontais air fá'n áit. Níor chreid sé go raibh áit mar é san Ghaeltacht agus mheas sé nach raibh aon áit in Éirinn cosúil leis.

Indiaidh an bhronnadh cuireadh tús le ceiliúradh le buíonn cheoil Anagaire agus Seámus De Faoite mar fear a' tí. Bhí oíche bhreá bhríomhar ann idir rince agus ceol. Cheol Caitlín Nic Niallais, Sally Bn. Uí Ghallchóir, beirt de fhoireann Raidió na Gaeltachta as Casla i gConamara, s'iad sin Mairtín Ó Fatharta agus Tomás Rua Mac an Iomaire agus an fear mór grinn é féin Niall Ó Maolagáin. Cé a dhéanfadh a

áit? Bhí Neilly bródúil agus mórtasach an oíche sin agus thuig mé do é. Is iomaí oíche mhór a chonaic sé i nGaoth Dobhair mar is Iar-Aisteoir de chuid Aisteoirí Gaoth Dobhair é agus chonaic sé ré órga na naisteoirí lena linn.

Maidin Dé Sathairn a cuireadh tús i gceart leis an chomórtas nuair a thosaigh na cluichí ar 11.00 i.n. Ba iad na foirne a bhí san iomaíocht nó, Setanta Baile Munna, Naomh Éanna Árainn, Naomh Anna Leitir Mór, Tuar Mhic Éidigh, An Cheathrú Rua, Ráth Chairn, An Port Mór (Ard Mhacha), Baile na Sceilge agus Na Dúnaibh, foirne soisreach ar fad iad seo.

Dona Sinnsir bhí Corca Duibhne, Béal a' Mhuirthid, Maigh Cuillinn agus Cill Chartha san iomaíocht.

Ag deireadh an lae bhí an bhua ag Cloicheannfhaola, Na Dúnaibh agus An Cheathrú Rua do na soisir agus ag Béal a' Mhuirthid, agus Máigh Cuillinn dona sinnsir.

Bhí comórtaisí liathróide láimhe ar siúl Dé Sathairn comh maith agus bhí iomaitheoirí as gach ceannar Gaeltachta comh maith le Baile Átha Cliath ag glacadh páirt ann.

Arís an oíche sin san chlubtheach bhí rinceoirí ann ó Chorca Dhuibhne, Port Mór, Rath Chairn, Baile na Finne agus Gaoth Dobhair. Bhí an bhua ag foireann Bhaile na Finne agus ba seo an dara bliain daofa an bhua a fháil san chomórtas náisiúnta. Ba thrua go raibh rinceoirí Bhaile Mhúirne mall ag teacht, ní raibh siad ann do'n chomórtas ach thug siad taispeántas. Bhí ar gcara as Baile an Sceilge antógtha le caighdeán an rince seit anseo i dTír Chonaill agus dúirt sé "Níl a leitheid againn i gCiarraí" rud a chur iontas orm mar mheas mé i gcónaí gur i gCiarraí a bhí fód dúchais an rince seit.

Bhí Aifreann na Féite i Séipéal Mhuire Dhoire Beaga Dé Domhnaigh a cheiliúradh ag an Chanónach Aodh Ó Cnáimhsí, Sagart Paróiste Gaoth Dobhair agus bhí sé craolta beó ar Raidió na Gaeltachta. Rinne Raidió na Gaeltachta sár obair tré imeachtaí uilig an chomórtas a chraoladh beó ar feadh na dtrí lá.

Ar 2.00 i.n. a thosaigh na cluichí, buaiteoirí an tSathairn comh maith. Baile Mhuirne agus Gaoth Dobhair a



Foireann sinnsear Gaioth Dobhair 1981 le bainisteoir foirne, Seán Mac Fhionnghaile. Go ndean Dia trocaire ar a anam.



Buaiteoirí Cailín Gaelach Gaioth Dobhair, Mairéad Ní Chearra agus Eibhlín Ní Roartaí, leis an chuid eile de na h-iomanthair agus an cúl coistí den Chailín Gaelach. Rory agus Heinz agus a bhean ceile a bhí i mbus an roghnú.

bhí san iomaíocht. Ba é seo an lá mór ag an lucht leanúna áitiúil. Ach ní raibh an lá leo gidh go dtug siad iarracht mhaith air. Bhí an bhua le Cloicheannfhaola agus Na Dúnaibh sna sóisir agus le Baile Mhúirne agus Béal a' Mhuirthid dona sinnsir.

Oíche Dé Domhnaigh bhí an comórtas do'n Chailín Gaelach agus ceili mór le Noel Ó Gallchóir agus S.B.B. mar fhir toighe. Ba iad Teaghlach Harper a chuir an ceol ar fáil. Tá an comórtas do'n Chailín Gaelach mar chuid de chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta ó 1970 agus déanann Udarás na Gaeltachta urraíocht air.

Bhí beirt chailín as Gaoth Dobhair Mairéad Ní Fhearraigh agus Eibhlín Ní Rabhartaí san iomaíocht comh maith le beirt do'n chontae Bernadette Nic Giolla Easboig as Cill Chartha agus Máire Ní Hicín as Gleann Cholm Cille. Ba í Bríd Una Ní Mhaoileoin, bun mhúinteoir óg as an Ghráig i gCorca Dhuibhne a toghadh mar Chailín Gaelach na bliana seo.

Le linn an chéili an oíche sin comh maith d'fhógair Mícheál Mac Donncha, Rúnaí Náisiúnta Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta foireann Réalt na Gaeltachta. Forbairt nua ar an chomórtas é seo agus piocadh cúigear as Tír Chonnaill do'n fhoireann agus beirt as Gaoth Dobhair mar fir ionaid, Pádraig Mac Fhionnghaile agus Seamús Mac Gairbhí. Ba iad an chúigear a piocadh do'n fhoireann nó, Finian Mac a' Bháird, Seán Ó Gabhagáin, Mairtín Mac Aoidh, Aodh Mac Laifeartaigh agus Ciarán Ó Cianaigh. Toghadh Mícheál Mac Giolla Chearra agus Brian Ó Canainn mar ionadaithe fosta. Béidh siad ag imirt in aghaidh foireann Sinnsir an Chláir ar an seachtú lá de mhí na Samhna in Inis i gCo. an Chláir le linn do Chomóradh Mícheáil Uí Chíosóig a bheith ar siúl.

Béidh cluiche ceannais iomána na Oireachtas a imirt an lá sin comh maith.

Ba é an Luan lá na cinniúna leis na cluichí ceannais. Bhí cluiche sár-mhaith idir na Dúnaibh agus Cloicheannfhaola. Chuir Cloicheannfhaola suas troid chruaidh ach bhí an lá leis na Dúnaibh. Is iad a bhuaigh a gCois Fharráige anuraidh comh maith.

Ba iad Baile Mhúirne a thóg leo an Corn úr a bhronn Aire na Gaeltachta. Seo an ceathrú bliain indiaidh a chéile an comórtas sinnsir buaite ag Baile Mhúirne. Anuraidh thóg siad leo Corn Iar Aire na Gaeltachta Tomás Ó Dónaill de bharr gur bhuaigh siad é trí bliana as a chéile.

Bhronn Aire na Gaeltachta Pádraig Ó Floinn a chorn féin ar fhoireann Bhaile Mhúirne agus ba í Máire Geoghegan Quinn, Aire Stáit do Spóirt a bhronn Corn Ghael Linn ar na Dúnaibh. Bhí an dá Aire i láthair le linn do'n dá chluiche a bheith ar siúl.

Ba iad na buaiteoirí do'n liathróid láimhe nó Tuar Mhic Éadaigh. Cuireadh deireadh go foirmealta an oíche sin le imeachtaí an deire seachtaine le dinnéar na Féile in Óstan Ghaoth Dobhair. I láthair ag an dinnéar bhí Oifigigh Choiste na Contae C.L.G., An Coiste Áitiúil, Riobard Mac Góráin, Gael Linn, Seamús Ó Faoláin, Rúnaí Choiste Gaeilge C.L.G., Maidhc Ó Sé, Ceannaire Raidió na Gaeltachta, Feardorcha Ó Colla, Cathaoirleach Náisiúnta Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta, Donnchadh Ó Dúill ó Bhord Fáilte, baill an Chlub Áitiúil agus ionadaithe na bhfoirne a bhuaigh na comórtaisí.

Chuir grúpa de cheoltóirí óga faoi stiúir Proinsias Uí Mhaonaigh cabaret ar fáil le linn an dinnéar agus bhí oíche mhór ceoil agus rince san

chlubtheach ina dhiaidh sin a mhair go dtáinig ball bán ar an lá.

Chuir sin deire le Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta go ceann bliana eile. Is maith an rud comórtas mar seo a bheith ann agus gan aon amhras cuireann muintir na Gaeltachta aithne ar a chéile.

Tuigim mar sin féin go bhfuil an structúr faoina bhfuil an comórtas ag feidhmiú faoi láthair lochtach ó thaobh airgid de. Má tá sé le bheith ann 'sna bliana atá romhainn caithfear an córas a leasú san dóigh gur féidir leis na coistí áitiúla a bhéas ag tabhairt faoi é a reachtáil, sin a dhéanamh le díogras agus le fonn mar a rinne an coiste i nGaoth Dobhair i mbliana agus gan doicheall a bheith orthu de bharr cúrsaí airgid de.

Tá árd mholadh ag dul do Oifigigh Chlub Ghaoth Dobhair, an Cathaoirleach Timlín Ó Cearnaigh, an Leas Chathaoirleach Peadar Ó Dochartaigh, An Rúnaí Pádraig Mac Fhionnaile, Na Cisteoirí Seán Ó Duibhir agus Eoghan Mac Giolla Bhríde agus baill eile an chlub as an saothar a rinne siad le trí bliana anuas agus a sprioc a bheith bainte amach acu do Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta na bliana seo. Is mór an cuidiú a thug na oibrithe óga ó AnCO daofa comh maith.

Ós rud é gur seo é bliain ceiliúrtha A lubhaile Órga tá súil agam go mbéidh an Cumann Luth Chleas Gael i nGaoth Dobhair agus a gClubtheach úr i Machaire Gathlán mar leacht cuimhneacháin ar na Gaeil mhóra a rinne sár obair do'n chlub agus atá anois ar shlua na bhfireán. Daoine mar an Canónach Seán Mac Eiteagáin, Conall Ó Fearraigh agus Seán Mac Fhionnlaoiche agus go leor eile. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a n-anamacha uasal.



Grúpa a bhí i láthair ag bronnadh an Fháinne Nua ins an chlubtheach úr i Machaire Gathlán le linn deire seachtaine Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta.

# Seán Mac Cumhailís

## G.A.A. Club

By CHARLIE FAULKNER

SEAN MacCUMHAILL was born in Killybegs in 1901. His father was a native of Derry City, but was employed as an engine driver at Stranorlar on the old Co. Donegal Railways (C.D.R. narrow gauge). His mother was Sweeney from Mullindrait, about one mile from Stranorlar. He had one sister, Jeanie, (decd. about 1927), and one brother, Dannie, (more interested in horse racing and greyhound racing than football), not like Sean.

As was the custom in rural Ireland about the time Sean was in his 'teens, people generally had some convenient meeting place and the Stranorlar location was Coyles Bakery. On an evening in 1919 at such a gathering it was decided to organise a G.A.A. Club in Stranorlar. Vincent Laverty and Diny O'Kane were the prime movers. Ballybofey already had their club — "Eire Ogs" — formed in 1917. "Sarsfields" was the name applied to Stranorlar. Ballybofey were the runners-up in the football championship in 1923-24. Their club colours green with white diamond, Stranorlar white.

Prominent Ballybofey footballers played in 1919 with Red Hughs, Killygordon, next parish to Stranorlar: Jimmy McGowan and Henry Charles Doherty (Barney's of Johnstons motor car fame brother), Paddy McAteer (Nigger), and J. Kerrigan. The first inter-county match played in the area was a Dr. McKenna Cup game in "Sarsfield", Stranorlar, in 1925 which Donegal won. In October 1926 at a joint meeting of the two clubs, at which Sean MacCumhailís played a prominent part, a new club with the name "Erin's Hope", was formed. Honours did not come easily, the first trophy won by the "Hopes" was the Dr. McGinley (surgeon, Letterkenny) Cup in 1932, and again in 1940. The junior team brought the junior championship in 1932 and 1944, 1955. In their first appearance in the senior championship final in 1930, Dungloe proved their masters after a pulsating struggle. On a second occasion Dungloe got the upper hand in a final played at Magheragallon (Gweedore). The highest honour that

is of football, the Senior County Championship, eluded the Erin's Hope combinations, but as it not popularly known the "Hopes" won the senior hurling championship in 1947, beating long famed Burt in the final at Letterkenny. In the following year, 1948, they also qualified for the county final beating another stronghold club, Carndonagh, in the semi-final. During these years Donegal had also captured the Junior Hurling Championship of Ulster, and the local team provided a good backbone of these sides.

Playing pitches had always been a problem since the "Showfield", Stranorlar, was no longer available. A field was obtained in 1937 with the division of the Hayes estate in Drumboe and was used up to 1952. But as an aftermath to a very successful first ever Civic Week in 1946 the old playing pitch of "Byrnes Holm" adjacent to the Butt Hall in Ballybofey was purchased in 1947. Sean MacCumhailís was secretary of the Civic Week Committee and saw the potential of the "Holm" as the future G.A.A. home. He was secretary of the fund-raising committee but he did not live to see the full potential of his "G.A.A. Home" completed. He died in Donegal Hospital in May 1949. May he rest in peace. Adjoining property was purchased in 1952 and development progress was continuous so that the official opening of the new park was fixed for 22nd April 1956, and the unanimous voice of all was that it should be called Sean MacCumhailís G.A.A. Park. So it was, and Kerry, all-Ireland champions, on their first visit to Donegal, opposed a Donegal selection in the opening game. Directly the name of the club was also changed to Sean MacCumhailís G.A.A. Club and so to-day you have the privilege of entertaining this famous club.

Since then the club has gone from strength to strength. Perhaps it is the great facilities available to them as a result of the foresight of the late Sean. For those of you who might like to have old memories revived, the present club and pitch is a far cry from the "Twelves" field, the Big

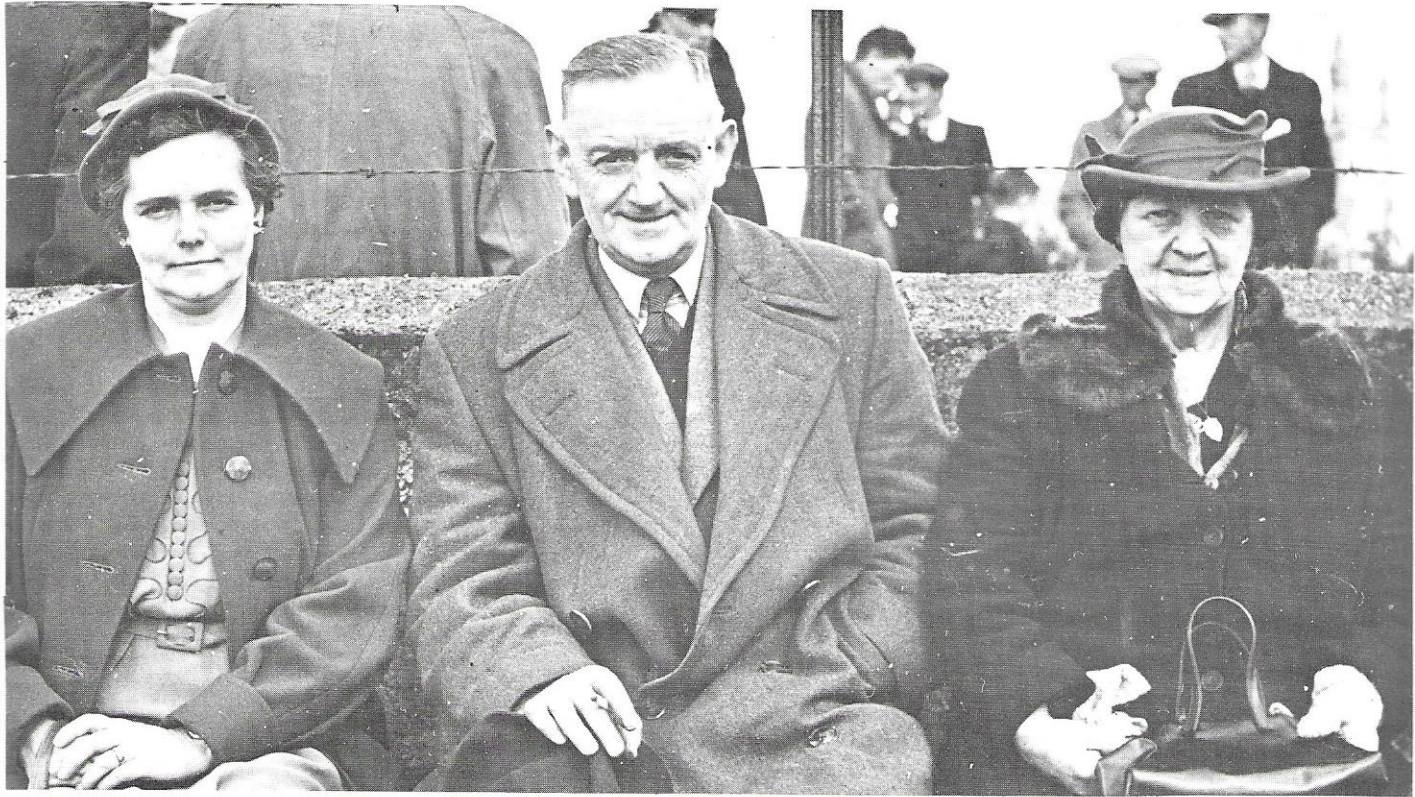
Meadow, McGintys Holm down the Water Lane, with changing accommodation behind the hedge, gate money being counted in shillings.

Honours have been obtained in all grades of football, as follows: Senior Championships: First in 1959, three years after the new formation; three in a row in 1961, 1962, 1963, again in 1971 and 1977.

1971 was a memorable year. Besides the seniors, the minor footballers got through; also the under-14s and under-17s. Four championships in one year. Willie McIntyre (Eason) was chairman that year. He has returned to live again in Stranorlar. Senior League won in 1960, 1963; Juvenile Hurling 1966; Juvenile Football 1960; Under-16 1973.

Again as another major achievement a £30,000 Social Centre opened at the Park in 1974. Chairman of to-day, Charlie Faulkner, was also chairman then. He of course is a native of Inishowen, North Donegal. He shall have a neighbour in Phil Brennan (Clonmany), prominent in G.A.A. circles in New York, to keep him in touch while in the U.S.A. Phil remembers those rides in the pig lorry to your school in Carndonagh with your sister Kitty.

Clubs are people and many people over the past sixty years have helped this club to continue and prosper. Why should we not remember, or do you, the Posh Man (Paddy Duffy, R.I.P.), and his brother Craig (??? R.I.P.), Perkins (W.T.'s office), Sgt. Deralley, Big Frank Murphy, decd., Eddie McFeely, and his brother, Tony, now Bishop of Raphoe, Eddie's sons, Frankie, who captained the county team to first Ulster Championship, Brendan and Anthony. Can you remember Duff, Big Jack, Vincy, Tit and Norton Laverys, of course; the O'Dohertys, Charles, Barney (Johnstons motor car), Rohan, Big John O'Farrell, John Williams, Martin Brockagh, Wee Peter Hughes, all Gardaí of the First Batch, Mannelly John, Mickey Lawlor, "Bush" Shesgreen, Big Johnny Roulstone (decd.), Austin and John Joe, Hughie McNulty (Bouldy), Big Pat Houston and the Snipe Crawford



Mrs. Danny MacCumhail, Danny MacCumhail and Seán MacCumhail's sister.

(decd.), from Glencorib, Anthony Gillespie, (decd.), Sessiaghoneill, "Gumsy" Lawlor, "Smiles" McMenamin (great ref.), Frank Dunleavy (decd.), (his sons are with you to-day), John McGill, Neil Harvey, all from Harry McNulty's Drapery and Tailoring. Then, of course, Wee Harry McNulty, "Flutter" McNulty and "Wee Charlie" (decd.), nephews of Henry's, "Time" McGlynn (Cope), Mick McMahon (Hah wha) (decd.), Meehan's manager, Harry Reid, the Griffens, Ben and "Tatty" (Frank) Gega, find out who he is from some of the group, and Gega again, Doherty, no call for any other name — Park manager, "Woxy", his brother, the Thompsons, Abla, Pope and Frank, Liam, the Baker, McMenamins, Stranorlar, Stanley Why? (Jim), George, Fred (decd.), Charles Rutherford; it is endless; the very "wee" Hannigans, Jack, Jim, Paddy, Cathal (F.F.F.), nothing political (not a very becoming description, however), the Gounger Lavertys, any of them here to-day, Fr. Austin (Paddy Quinns, U.S.A., nephew), Enda, Young John, Ben, Harry (wee Tam), Willie (Winters), Mickey (Prildy), Lawrence (Meta), and Danno, what about that? "Dinders" McNulty, "Poke" Boyle, "Pronto" Carroll, Wee Jimmy McDermott, Big Andy Gallen, John Dan (McMenamin), Connie Houston, Paddy Ward, Dan McCool (no relation), Kinaderry, Tommy and Liam McMenamin (Big Willie), Jackie

Reilly (Davy), "Buff" Armstrong (after Buffalo Bill), Jack and Kevin McCafferty, "The Lad" spent a sojourn in U.S.A., Johnny Lynch, Mickey and Fan Jo, Seamus Kane, Wee Andy, Sean Young (still Young Sean — what do you say, Ann?); the greatest traveller of them all, Paddy McCruddery McKnight — where did we meet him last?). You have already met Charlie, there is Dessie (has he the film with him), Declan, Eugene

No. 2, (is Maureen with him?), and Eugene (No. 1 all the way), "Sniper", "Kearney", "Full" time secretary, organiser, cashier and P.R.O., Sean MacCumhail. Will somebody take care of Helen for him. The members of the playing panel will appear separate with little briefs on them all.

Hope you enjoyed this review and that it brought back some happy memories.



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**DANNY McINTYRE**

**BALLYBOFEY 78**

*Congratulations to Donegal U-21 team.*

# MY ALL-IRELAND SCÓR VICTORY - SEÁN Ó GALLCHÓIR

My Scór story is the story of five nights. The North-West Donegal finals in Falcarragh; the County final in Letterkenny; the Ulster semi-final in Carrickmore; the Ulster final in Castleblaney; the All-Ireland final in Dublin.

Since the North-West Donegal Scór Sinsear finals were held in Falcarragh in the school in which I teach I was told to look after the tea. I delegated that responsibility to the senior girls and between sips — Eliot lurks there somewhere, Prufrock — recited Eoghan Ó Tuairisc's *Oíche Nollag*. I was representing Cloich Cheannfhaola and my young brother, Joe, was representing Gaoth Dobhair. And I was representing Cloich Cheannfhaola for the sole reason that each club has to partake in four of the comórtaisí if they are to take part at all. I was making up numbers. Connie Maguire, Paddy McMenamin and I formed the Cloich Cheannfhaola quiz team but we failed to get through. But I was successful in the Aithriseoireacht.

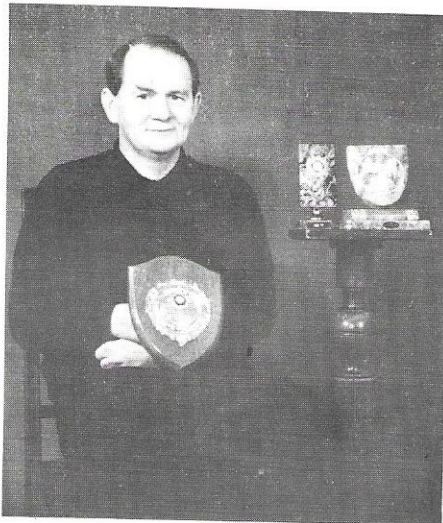
The County final was held in St. Eunan's College. February. The snow lay on the slopes of the Sperrins that day as I went to Ballinascreen to referee the Derry-Meath National Football League match. Fred, Dessie, Joe, Pat with me. It was a draw. We ate in Timoney's of Draperstown. Back to Letterkenny. Cup of coffee in the Dolpin. You'll have a jog to-night, Dessie told me. Aussie Bryson of Castlefinn, a Lifford Player, Maccook's Corner, was the Eastern winner. Hard to bate. But beat him I did. Did question-master that night too. Aodh Rua won narrowly.

*Oíche Nollag* is the first poem in Eoghan Ó Tuairisc's book of poems 'Lux Aeterna'. The title poem is the feature of the collection.

Lá gréine na blaisféime  
Do shéideamar Hiroshima

as a mantra in one's mind. Many lines from the book often ripple back into one's consciousness. *Oíche Nollag* begins

Dá mbeadh míleoidéan agamsa  
Ní bheadh críost gan cheol anocht



An tAth. Seán Ó Gallchóir,  
All-Ireland Scór champion

It was Christmas night. The grandchildren have wrecked the music box and the poet cannot play for Him. It has long been a favourite poem of mine.

## Carrickmore

The Ulster semi-final night in Carrickmore will live long in memory. I refereed in Fintra that day. Kilcar beat Glen 1—10 to 1—5 in the Shield final. From Killybegs to Castlefinn. Tea in Dessie's. We headed off to Carrickmore. Packed hall. This was my first taste of the real Scór as the Gaels of Ulster gathered in the heart of Tír Eoghain, ar an gCarraigh Mhór, to celebrate facets of their distinctiveness. I qualified for the Ulster final as did the instrumentalists from Rann na Feirste. Disappointment for Robert Emmets and Aodh Rua. The journey home was eventful. The Newtown Stewart diversion brought us through dark and lonely country roads. The Strabane experience was eerie. Another diversion. Had to go right at Seán McGoldrick's. Soldiers on corners. Running under cover up empty streets. Crowd of people cuddled at street's end. Bomb scare. Ministry of fear. Dessie thankfully knew of another exit from the town. Lifford Bridge a welcome sight. Ballyconnell 2.15 a.m.

April 4. Castleblaney. Lyric. Practised it before leaving. Refereed in Castlefinn as the Emmets beat Urris in Division 2 of the League. Tea in Dessie's and off we go. The Lyric was packed for the Ulster finals of Scór. Marvellous atmosphere. The lilting voice of Séamus McCloskey ran the show with efficiency and style. One can still hear his highly individual introductions . . . the Newry Shamrocks . . . St. Peter's, Warrenpoint . . . Seosamh Mac Grianna's Creach Choinn Uí Chónaill sprang into mind as one saw the gathering of Ulster's hosts from Maguiresbridge and Warrenpoint, from Glenaley and Scotstown, from Rann na Feirste and Baile na Scríne . . . A thousand people. Faustina Hegarty from Belfast recited 'The Fool' and did so very well and my heart was beating loudly and I was nervous and eventually I won and I was happy and we went home through the northern rain.

## Final

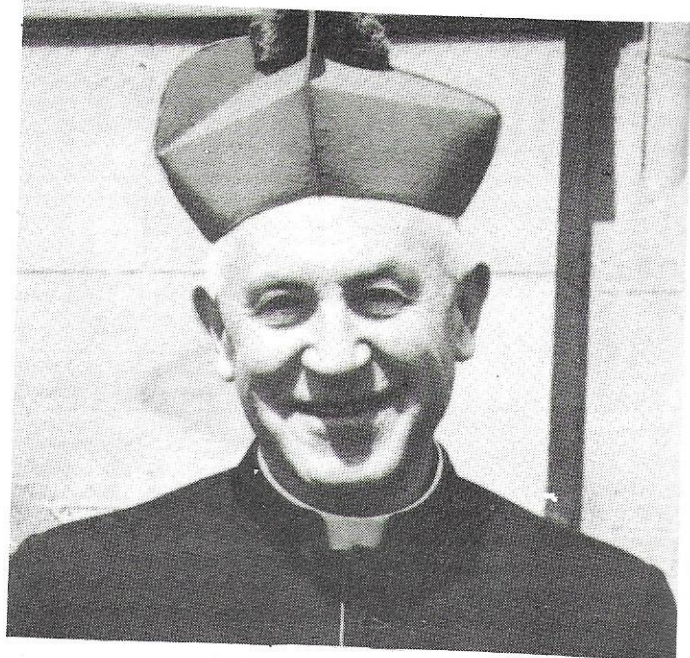
The National Stadium, Dublin. You see nobody from the stage. Lights. And you try to squeeze every iota of meaning out of Ó Tuairisc's words and communicate the fulness of his filocht to those out there somewhere in front of you. The continual recitation has discovered fresh nuances, new shades. Mo dhícheall agus is cuma lion. And on feels a great affinity with one's fellow Ulstermen and Ulsterwomen as the boundaries of one's parish extend to Warrenpoint. And we swept the boards. Warrenpoint won. And Killeavy won. And Newry Shamrocks won. And I won. Four out of eight. And I re-discover that the sweetness of success is exaggerated. Yes, it is an All-Ireland Scór for Donegal but the fact that Joe McKelvey from Fintown was the only man who travelled from Donegal to see it speaks for itself.

And one's disillusionment turned to sadness as the Autumn claimed the life of Eoghan Ó Tuairisc and saw the Scór Committee scarp the Aithriseoireacht.

# OUR PRESIDENT

By

JOHN McINTYRE



MOST REV DR. MacFEELY

It is a remarkable coincidence that in the year in which our revered President, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Mac Feely, retired Bishop of Raphoe, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood the County Under 21 side should succeed in bringing the first All-Ireland title to the land of the O'Donnells.

We have, therefore, much cause for jubilation and thanksgiving in this epoch making year, and it provides us with an opportunity to record the noble part played by Dr. MacFeely in fostering the ideals of the Association, throughout a period which stretches back to his playing days almost 60 years ago.

From those halcyon days when the G.A.A. in this county were engaged in a struggle to popularise our native games among the youth, our President had no problem in deciding the code which he would support.

It was in the playing fields around his native Sessiaghoneill, at Ballybofey, as a boy and a later as a student at St. Columb's College, Derry, he acquired the fundamental skills of Gaelic football away back in the early 1920s.

He was soon to become a devoted and loyal member of the local Knock side. His academic success at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, during the period 1926-'29 was matched by his skill and craftsmanship on the playing fields. There are many in the locality who can still recall with pleasure some of his memorable displays for the local club. They remember him best for his wholehearted commitment to the game and the sporting spirit in which he played, and his ability to take a "knock" without retaliating in kind.

102.

His playing days were severely restricted, when he went to Rome to complete his studies in 1929, and he was ordained in the Eternal City in the Lateran University in 1932. He spent two further years studying in Switzerland at the Friburg University, and it was not until 1934 that he returned to this country on his appointment to the teaching staff of St. Columb's College, Derry.

He was to spend a quarter of a century in Derry's Diocesan College, eight of them as President, before being appointed Parish Priest of Strabane.

From the day the historic See of Raphoe was enriched by his elevation to the Episcopal dignity in June, 1965, Dr. MacFeely's nobility of spirit, his high degree of humanity and his solicitude for the spiritual and temporal welfare of his flock assured him of the loyalty and devotion of his clergy and the warm and affectionate esteem of the people.

He was consecrated by the late Cardinal Conway and among those who attended the the joyful ceremonies was the then President of Ireland, Mr. Eamon de Valera.

His retirement, earlier this year, due to failing health, brought to an end a 16 years tenure of inspired leadership and guidance which will be recalled for many years to come with affection and admiration.

When leading members of the Association in the county, who knew of his abiding interest and loyalty to Gaelic games, learned of his merited elevation, they lost no time in offering him the post of Presidency.

His Lordship had no hesitation in lending his support to the Association, which he had always

regarded with affection, and for the past 17 years his keen interest and fidelity to Gaelic games has played a major role in boosting the years of his presidency.

Despite the formidable task he had undertaken in his exalted office, Dr. MacFeely missed no opportunity to show his interest and care for the aims of our Association.

If his health had been up to it, we feel confident that he would have been present in Carrici-on-Shannon to see his native county make sporting history.

He was, however, ill and in hospital at the time. It was a fitting gesture on the part of the County P.R.O., Mr. Sean Boyle, who was accompanied by Eunan McIntyre, a member of the All-Ireland team, that they should acknowledge the County Board's appreciation of his invaluable contribution to Gaelic games, by taking the coveted Clarke trophy to his bedside in Letterkenny Hospital.

Donegal had not more jubilant supporter than the former Bishop, when the young men by their spirited display, provided this county with its finest hour of glory. But in honouring these young men, let us not overlook the shining example set them by our revered President.

We all can show our grateful appreciation to this dignified and distinguished Prelate by saying a prayer for his speedy recovery to full health.

Is é ar ngúí go mba fada buan an ceangal atá ag ar nUachtarán, lar Easbog Rath-bhota, le Cumann Luth Chleas Gael sa Chonndae. Gúimis sonas agus sástacht air agus táimid fíor bhúíoch do as an suim ata aige in ar gcluichi agus in ar gcultúr.  
Beannacht De air.



# Donegal's Great Showings in Ulster Championships 1982

SEAN MAC CUMHAILL PARK, Ballybofey; Sunday 30th May, 1982; a glorious day, the sun shining bright in the clear blue sky. A crowd in excess of 7,000 had gathered. The reason—the first round of the Ulster Senior and Minor Football Championships 1982 between the home side Donegal and firm favourites Armagh. The beautiful green pitch with the immaculate white lining was itself already paying a tribute to Joe (Doherty) the groundsman—you would think he measured every blade of grass and had architects take in the sods for lining on their drawing boards. The stewarding looked militarily perfected, while Jack and Seamus continued their usual Sunday vigil at the gates to the playing area.

For some mysterious reason an air of expectancy seemed to have suddenly gripped the crowd just prior to the senior game. Until now Donegal were considered 'no-hopers' except by their loyal supporters which, even for the home venue, only numbered about half the attendance. While Armagh were the red hot favourites—a team that can beat Kerry (and did earlier in the year in the National Football League) but all of a sudden now things for some magical phenomena seemed balanced. Was it because of the Donegal Minors great victory over Armagh by 1-9 to 1-8 in the Minor Football Championship minutes earlier that raised the hearts of the Donegal fans and put a damper on Armagh? First out of the dug-out came the Donegal side as if to present an added challenge or even a cheeky threat to their so formidable opponents. The orange jerseys of the Orchard County were on their heels. Then the photographs, the parade, the National Anthem and the game was on.

Donegal would dearly want to impress in the opening stages and their supporters did all in their power by producing many more decibels than the Armagh crowd to encourage them. However, it was Armagh who

made the break to shake the rear line of the Donegal defence out of any complacency there might have been with a forceful thrust only to shoot narrowly wide, but to definitely indicate their worth and intentions.

## FIRST SCORE

The game was two minutes old when the first score was registered and, to the pleasure of the now nearly hoarse home crowd, it was for Donegal—from the golden boot of the county's top scorer, Martin McHugh from a free out on the left. Two more minutes and Donegal tails were really up when the talented McHugh fired over his and Donegal's second point with Armagh seeming helpless (or at least dismayed) at the determination and ability of this Donegal fifteen. The expectancy or

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By  
*SEAN BOYLE,*  
*County P.R.O.*

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sudden change of atmosphere that mysteriously gripped the pre-match minutes was by now a reality. Another wide for Donegal before Dermot Dowling, who was supposed to be out of bounds due to exams earlier in the week, notched Armagh's opening point and score in the 6th minute. As if to prove a point, the evergreen Kieran Keeney, who was to give one of his best displays for seasons, struck back almost immediately with a good point from play. Armagh were by now, after only ten minutes, fully aware, if any convincing was necessary, that this was going to be a cliff-hanger of a game. Big Fran McMahan and captain Colm McKinstry more than anyone else seemed to realise the urgency about stemming this Donegal tide and they began pulling out all the stops at midfield over the Donegal pair of equally big Martin Griffin and Michael Carr. Joe Kiernan

too knew what was needed and he responded with a second point for the visitors. But as if to say the higher you go the higher we will go, a Kieran Keeney, Pat McCrea, Michael Carr and Charlie Mulgrew combination saw the latter sail over a high ball to restore Donegal's two point advantage. Play swung to the other end again but Finian Ward, Eunan McIntyre and Michael Lafferty, in particular, seemed to be more than able to cope with any Armagh onslaught offered to a well drilled defence.

## THE DECISIVE SCORE

Then just after the first quarter came the decisive score of the game and the only goal—the score in fact many Armagh mentors agreed won them the 1982 Ulster Championship. A free some 45 yards out on the left from the Donegal goals seemed to have been miskicked (excuse me, Peter, if it was intended) by Peter Rafferty. The Donegal defence in the one and only lapse seemed to be surprised and in popped corner forward Mickey McDonald to pick up the unexpected low ball, solo almost straight past the goals along the 14 yards line before unleashing a bullet of a shot passed the helpless McCole. Armagh had as a result the honour of leading for the first time. Shrewd and experienced Donegal team manager, former county, Ulster and All-Star player, Brian McEniff, had only to see McDonald operate like this once to realise his potential and he immediately brought on Brendan Dunleavy at half-back to allow Eunan McIntyre back on McDonald and the luckless Dermot McGettigan who had always been in the thick of things but found lacking in coping with McDonald's style of play getting an early rest. Dunleavy, who it was quietly known was disappointed at not being included in the first fifteen, was soon to justify his viewpoint. His inclusion seemed to herald an even greater effort from his colleagues and

the goal seemed to inspire Donegal more than Armagh but, as it transpired, it was still this sole goal that made the difference in the end. Within minutes Kieran Keeney levelled with his second point from play after receiving from under-21 star, Joyce McMullan from his sideline kick. John Corvan, for the most part the most dangerous and deadly Armagh forward, cancelled Keeney's score within a minute but only for sufficient time to allow Martin McHugh to receive his next ball and do a tit-for-tat job, with ten minutes of the first half remaining. Griffin and Carr after the shaky opening minutes were holding their own now at midfield but from this kickout Frank McMahon collected high and cleanly and put the Armagh men that slender

would be 1982 Ulster champions. Somewhat disappointed plus a quick kickout allowed Armagh to mount a direct offensive which once again allowed McMahon to send over for the equaliser. Experience had taught Armagh to "give their all" minutes before the break and they were doing just that now. John Corvan put them ahead and, for the first time, Donegal seemed to be wilting and counting the seconds remaining in this hectic first half. However, McHugh was not content to allow his side to take the break in arrears and he firmly struck a rebound over the bar from a good Pat McCrea effort which involved Michael Lafferty, Charlie Mulgrew and Seamus Gallagher in a set piece from the kick out. The half-time whistle went immediately with the

him the chance to equalise and he similarly obliged. After eight minutes, local hero Martin Griffin—for years the regular county full back cum midfielder—brought the biggest roar of the day when he stormed through to point and give the lead again to Donegal. This is the type of thing that switches the big Stranorlar man on and soon Armagh had to switch Joe Kiernan from the forty in an effort to curb Griffin and his partner and club mate Michael Lafferty, who earlier had a direct switch with centre half back Michael Carr. Temporarily this seemed to improve the struggling Armagh middle section and John Corvan again restored their confidence with another levelling point. McHugh had a wide—so unusual for him—but it was enough



**DONEGAL SENIORS**, who lost by just a single point in 1982 Senior Football Championship to Armagh on Sunday 30th May, 1982.

point ahead again. Martin McHugh responded as if to prove his great kicking ability when he first-timed a free all of 50 yards directly between the uprights to level again and two minutes later continued his scoring sequence to put Donegal back in the lead.

### **OPPORTUNITY MISSED**

Entering the last five minutes of the half, Donegal missed one of their two golden opportunities of the entire game for goals. A long ball from half back Tommy McDermott was brilliantly fielded by full forward Pat McCrea, but he seemed to be surprised at the goaling chance presented, hesitated, and allowed an Armagh defender time to get to him to knock the ball away as he went to kick—a goal at this stage and we

sides all square—Donegal 0-9; Armagh 1-6. Donegal people were in great mood while Armagh supporters did not allow their anxiety to show with both sets of followers producing an unbelievable atmosphere of the best in sportsmanship. McEniff demanded even more from his side and kept telling them "now do you believe me that we are the better side and can beat them".

### **SECOND HALF**

The second half started in a welter of excitement. Both the home supporters and the visiting supporters knew they had their part to play in this type of duel and they set a real carnival atmosphere. Armagh were first to raise a flag again when Brian Hughes obliged with a minor. A foul on that man McHugh himself gave

for Armagh to deem a change of opponent for him was required and they switched Joe Murphy out from the corner of the defence to marshall the "mighty midget" letting Peter Rafferty drop back while replacing Dermot Dowling with Sean Slevin. Donegal at the same time replaced Seamus Gallagher with under-21 star of the same name, Pauric, in an effort to boost their forward power.

### **HECTIC LAST QUARTER**

Still level entering the last quarter with neither side asking or giving quarter—was the upset of the year really on? It appeared even more so when who else but McHugh restored Donegal to that slender lead which was the hallmark of this game. Another effort by the Armagh sideline to save the day saw them put

Peter Loughran in to replace the tiring Colm McKinstry. Armagh pressed hard but McIntyre, McDermott, Ward and company held firm.

## SECOND GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

It was inside the final ten minutes now with the home side still that lone point in front when the second golden opportunity for a goal came Donegal's way. Letterkenny man now—but incidentally former Armagh schoolboy—Charlie Mulgrew elusively slipped Paddy Moriarty's attention for a split second to be put away behind the Armagh defence 21 yards out. He soloed in beautifully but put his rocket-like shot too close to Armagh keeper Brian McAlinden's upstretched arms who brilliantly deflected over for a point. Still, this put the home side two points clear and only five minutes remaining—the impossible was about to happen—even the Armagh mentors were nearly convinced and their supporters were sure of it. However, Armagh had not earned the reputation or the success to be outdone without an all-out do-or-die effort. A long free by Paddy Moriarty had to be deflected over the bar for safety sake as it dropped dangerously. A point in the lead; Donegal hearts thumped harder. With two minutes left, Armagh were desperate for the equaliser and the visitors were finding that little bit of "stuff" that makes champs while Donegal were looking over their shoulders on the home-straight

pleading for the tape to come closer. John Corvan punished them for this—a point to equalise. Then seconds into injury time the unbelievable happened—it could only happen to poor 'auld' Donegal—a harmless looking sideline kick to Armagh nearly 40 yards out—Mickey McDonald stepped up to kick and, to the absolute delight of the Armagh supporters, who had not left earlier thinking their side were beaten and to the horror of every Donegal person, Mickey floated it all the way for a fairytale victory. Within a minute referee, S. Murray, Monaghan, blew the final whistle, and the best Donegal effort and performance for years had failed in the hard luck story of the 1982 Ulster Senior Football Championship.

It would be wrong to take from Armagh's victory. They showed character and, above all, "true grit" in a 50/50 game that everyone in Donegal think their side deserved. Full credit to Armagh who weathered the storms to finally take control in the closing minutes when victory to everybody except the fifteen Armagh players on the field seemed impossible. So what happened to Donegal. Difficult to say—but rendering a calculated guess or two, lack of experience; some lacking in maturity of their much younger members; but, perhaps above all, the real belief and confidence in themselves of their true ability and talents and their right to victory. What else could it be—they have everything else.

In the dressing rooms afterwards, it was not the usual feeling of despair, frustration or feeling of defeat again—it was pure sadness—with everyone just wondering why sport can seem so cruel. However, a secret promise was made immediately between all the players and team manager, Brian McEniff—it won't be fully disclosed until after the Ulster final next year—that's the spirit that divides the men from the boys, and those men will keep their promise.

The two teams on that memorable but sad day in Donegal's G.A.A. history were:—

**Donegal**—Noel McCole; Dermot McGettigan, Finian Ward, Matt Gallagher; Eunan McIntyre, Michael Lafferty, Tommy McDermott; Martin Griffin, Michael Carr; Martin McHugh, Charlie Mulgrew, Joyce McMullan; Seamus Gallagher, Pat McCrea, Kieran Keeney. **Subs.** Brendan Dunleavy for McGettigan; Pauric Gallagher for Seamus Gallagher.

**Armagh**—Brian McAlinden; Sean Gordon, Jim McKerr, Joe Murphy; Denis Stevenson, Paddy Moriarty, Peter Rafferty; Colm McKinstry, Fran McMahan; Brian McGeown, Joe Kiernan, Dermot Dowling; John Corvan, Brian Hughes, Mickey McDonald. **Subs.**—Sean Devlin for Dowling; Peter Loughran for McKinstry; Mark Kernan for McGeown.

Referee: S. Murray, Monaghan.

## DONEGAL MINORS LIFTED THE GLOOM (Continued)

(Continued page 106)



DONEGAL MINORS, who beat Armagh in the Ulster Minor Football Championship on Sunday 30th May, 1982.

# MINORS LIFTED THE GLOOM

It was not all sadness, however, in the dressing rooms for Donegal that day as the Donegal Minors had reversed the result of a year previous over Armagh. It was also a close and exciting game. Again, in this game the scores were level at half-time, but Donegal should have had a comfortable lead were it not for their one and only slip up a minute before the interval, when Armagh scored their only goal. With six minutes to go, Declan Bonner pointed from a free to bring Donegal level after trailing for most of the second half. A grand slam finish was in store but all seemed lost for Donegal when Gary Boyle shot Armagh back into the lead with only minutes remaining and the

Donegal boys seemed to have lost their touch as far as point scoring was concerned. However, James McHugh had other ideas. After picking up the ball about the half-way mark, he wizardly soloed through to slam a great shot to the Armagh net. Despite a grand slam effort by Armagh and a point in injury time, by Gary Boyle again, Donegal won by the slenderest of margins for a semi-final place against Antrim, whom they had beaten to take the Ulster Minor League.

The teams were:—

**Donegal**—Gary Walsh; Seamus Ward, Conor Boyle, Eamonn

McGinley; Kieran Tinney, John Kerr, Liam McGee; Brian Murray, Declan Bonner; Seanie McEniff, Christy Ryan, Liam Kennedy; James McHugh, Dermot Slevin, Michael Bonner. **Subs.**—Francis Gallagher for M. Bonner; Joe Curran for L. McGee; Patsy Gallagher for S. McEniff.

**Armagh**—Peter McDonnell; Barry McLean, Sean McAlinchey, Peter McGeown; Owen Devlin, Vinny Loughran, Hugh McCarry; Aiden O'Grady, Des McCoy; Kevin O'Rourke, Gary Houlihan, Sean McGinness; Aiden Smyth, Gary Boyle, Paud Loughran. **Subs.**—Francie Tallon for B. McLean; Don McGurran for D. McCoy.

## DUNGLOE G.F.C.

Dungloe is one of the oldest clubs in the county, formed in 1922. The club has a great tradition and has won seven senior county titles, the last being in 1958. Twenty-four years has passed since they won the last title, the longest gap in the club's history.

The club was reformed in 1981 after a lapse of twelve years and won a county under-sixteen title and the county minor league last year and

reached the Shield final of Division Four. The average age of the team is nineteen years. It has a good blend of youth and experienced players such as Campbell, Ward, McCarron, Boner, O'Donnell, Gallagher, Boyle, Boner, O'Donnell, Gallagher, Boyle Bros., McElwee Brothers, White have younger players of the calibre of Myles Sweeney, Aidan Boyle, Marty Boyle, Peter Ward, Seamus Doherty and Noel Boner.

The club has produced some great inter-county players, names like John O'Donnell, R.I.P., Paddy McPaul, R.I.P., Neilly Sweeney, R.I.P., and Neilly Sweeney, R.I.P., and in latter years names like Sean O'Donnell, John Campbell, Enda Boner, Gerald McElwee and Noel McCole just to mention but a few. It is hoped that in the years to come that this famed club will return to its former glory years.



**DUNGLOE, COUNTY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1957** — Packie Boyle (Dungloe), Eddie Gillespie (Kincasslagh), Garda, John Gillespie (Kincasslagh), Dan Bonner (Leitir); Ownie Boyle (Kincasslagh), J. Boyle (Kincasslagh), Paddy O'Donnell (Dungloe), Seán O'Donnell (Kincasslagh), John Doherty (Kincasslagh); Sean Boyle (Kincasslagh), Dom Murray (Leitir), Garda, C. Duggan (Kincasslagh); Hugh McGee (Dungloe), J. Kilmartin (Dungloe), Garda, D. Boyle (Dungloe).

# DONEGAL CAMOGIE NEWS 1982



By Ann Carroll, Loreto, Letterkenny.

The Ulster Junior Colleges title came to Donegal and to Loreto Letterkenny for the second year in succession in February. Apart from the first play-off game in which they were lucky to beat Ballymena, Loreto had convincing wins the rest of the way.

Unfortunately victory in an All-Ireland semi-final is still proving to be the big stumbling block but the scoreline of 2-0 to 5-3 against St. Raphael's, Loughrea, in Loughrea, did not reflect the play. For the record Letterkenny scored 75-9 and only conceded 8-2 on their way to the All-Ireland semi-final.

Carndonagh Community School had their best ever season last year. Both the Seniors and Juniors qualified for the Ulster play-offs and it took a replay for St. Patrick's, Maghera, to knock out a fine Junior squad in the quarter final. The highlight of the year for the Inishowen school was, however, the splendid win by their first years in the Donegal Championship. They defeated a gallant Milford team in a most exciting final.

Congratulations to Liz Conneely on her recent marriage to Mairtin Breathnach. Liz, a former U.C.G. Ashbourne Cup captain, has been an inspiration to camogie in Loreto Milford, and it is due to her excellent coaching that such fine players as Belinda McDaid, Geraldine Kerr and

Roisin Sheridan have come to the fore for Milford in recent years. Milford came very close to their first big win last season when their first years lost narrowly to Carndonagh in the Donegal final.

Loreto Letterkenny with Geraldine Kerr and Roisin Sheridan from Milford guesting had a highly successful trip to the Pan Celtic U-16 Tournament in Killarney in May. This is a very popular tournament which attracts the top teams in the country and Loreto qualified out of their group for the first time. They were most unlucky to lose the semi-final by two points to Blacks and Whites, Killkenny. In qualifying such famous teams as Duniry from Galway and Bishopstown from Cork were defeated.

Fourteen year old Noreen McCusker, a student at Loreto Letterkenny, had an outstanding year at camogie in 1982. She won her second Ulster Junior medal in February, played both Minor and Senior for Donegal in the Ulster Championships and representing Donegal came third in the Gradam Tailte competition. This was a day of sporting competition involving the camogie player of the year from each of the 32 Counties and Noreen did exceptionally well to rate so highly in this 'Superstars' competition. Still a Junior player, Noreen is on the Loreto Senior panel this season and

she is hoping to add two Ulster medals to her collection in February.

Several Donegal Vocational Schools are now fielding very good camogie teams and the newest competitors Donegal Town and Buncrana are showing tremendous improvement. The Vocational Schools competition should be a very close contest this year with the experienced teams of Raphoe and Stranorlar under pressure from the newcomers.

The most improved team of the year must be the Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana, juniors. Unbeaten in the Ulster Championship so far they are favourites to qualify from their zone and have the ability to make an impression in the play-offs.

The U-14 competition was dominated by Loreto Letterkenny with their 'A' and 'B' teams qualifying for the final. The winners represented Donegal in Feile na nGael and lost the semi-final of the section. The weekend in June was a most enjoyable one. The Crumlin Club were generous hosts, the concert in the National Stadium was marvellous but the highlight was the parade into Croke Park on the Sunday. One wonders will some of these players play in Croke Park within the next year — it could happen. In the skills competition Deirdre O'Toole of Milford did very well to come 7th out of 20 competitors.



ULSTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONS 1981-1982

Left to right, back—Patricia McFadden (Newtowncunningham), Anne Marie Ginks (Kennaghan), Niamh Blaney (Letterkenny), Rosemarie Devine (Letterkenny), Sinéad McLaughlin (Letterkenny). Middle: Bernadette McNamee (Knockbrack), Mary Devine (Glenswilly), Suzanne Drein (Letterkenny), Brona O'Reilly (Aughlehard). Front: Noreen McCusker (Letterkenny), Emer McDonagh (Manorcunningham), Mary Roarty (Kennaghan), captain Marie Crawford (Letterkenny), and Andrea McHugh (Letterkenny). Absent: Maura Doherty (Newtowncunningham).

# 58 years a-waiting —Four Masters

Fifty eight years of waiting ended on the 29th August, 1982, for the team, officials and supporters of Four Masters, Donegal Town, when their hunger for victory became a reality by a single point margin at MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey, in a thrilling game against worthy sporting opponents, Kilcar.

Generations had come and gone in the intervening years all of whom played their part in keeping the club alive and thriving, all with the ambition of winning a County Senior Title but it took the players of 1982 to bring that success to Donegal Town the team that beat Kilcar by 1—4 to 0—6 were: Michael Kelly; Gerard Breslin, Donal Monaghan, Michael McBrearty; Peter Callaghan, P. J. McGarrigle, Martin Gillen; Dermot McGettigan, Joseph McMullan; Larry Walsh, Seamus Meehan, P. J. Dooley; Jackie McGroarty, Enda Mullin, Brendan Martin. Subs., Eamon Gorrell, Cornelius Carr, Paul Duncan, Tommy Caldwell, Glen McGinty, Paddy Muldoon, Edward Hughes.

Team manager (and Co. under-21 manager), Tom Conaghan.

Officials of the club in this historic year were: President, John Joe Mulhern; chairman, Brendan O'Neill (also County Delegate to Ulster Council); vice-chairman, Jim Gorrell; treasurer, Brian Gallagher; assistant treasurer, Michael Cooney; secretary, Peter Campbell; registrar, Gerald Timoney; joint PROs, Paul Timoney and Patrick McBrearty; Oifig Gaeilagh and Ciste Gael and treasurer Co. Minor Board, Liam O Maolain;

youth officer, Eamon Gorrell.

The team went into the game as underdogs but came off in triumph and deservedly so.

Watching them in training months before one could not help but admire their dedication and from the moment that now famous Brendan Martin goal crashed to the Kilcar net they were unbeatable.

Four Masters had fallen to Ardara in 1981 and many wrote them off as having failed at their best but they were to come back one year later having trained with determination under Donal Monaghan and beaten St. Columba's and Bundoran on their way to the final and to emerge victorious.

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By  
**BRENDAN O'NEILL**

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What memories the game evoked as we watched the sons of former players help to win that victory.

Michael McBrearty, whose father, Sean, and uncle, Anthony, had given great service to the club. Jackie McGroarty, son of former full forward, Tommy, and Enda Mullin, whose father, Sean, was noted as one of the county's finest forwards, while super-sub Eamon Gorrell is a son of long serving official, Jim.

Good to see as spectators, and looking as fit as they were so many years ago, "Big" Patsy Brogan, Jackie "Cowboy" McMullin, P. J. Brogan, Joe Boyle, Joe Kelly, Gene Doherty and life long officials Gerry McCauley and Michael Williamson.

They, like stars of more recent years, Seamus Bonner, and many others had not succeeded in getting that elusive senior medal but were delighted to see the team of 1982 gain success.

Sad to think that this was the year that Charlie Harvey, Frankie McMullin, Gregory Hughes and Jimmy McGroarty had gone to their reward; they too would have been very proud of the team.

Four Masters have also been to the forefront in other aspects of the G.A.A. in 1982.

They hosted the Ulster Convention of the G.A.A. through the efforts of Ulster Council Representative, Brendan O'Neill, and their

representatives in Question Time reached the Ulster final of Scor 1982. They were Brian McCauley, Connie Bennett and Mark Stewart.

The trojan work done by club and county official, Liam Mullin, in establishing Dun na nGael in Tironaill Street as a cultural centre must be appreciated and it is to the clubs credit that they have given it their full support.

A great year for the Four Masters then with a fine record in all grades in 1982. With the senior team also going well in the league, while the under 16s won in South Donegal but were beaten by Bunrana in the quarter final. The team (under manager Michael McInaw with Liam Mullin as assistant): John Daly, Charlie McGovern, Ronan O'Toole, Paul Griffin, Francie Brogan, Sean O'Driscoll, Cathal McGroarty, Stephen Boyle, Niall Muldoon, Danny McMenamin, Vinny Breslin, Tony Byrne, Sean Dunnion, Raymond Boyle, John Doherty, Alec Reid. Subs., Rory Muldoon, John Gildea, Ronan Hanna, Donagh O'Toole, Dermot Quinlan, Mark O'Neill.

Teams in other grades were: Junior (under John J. Mulhern and Sean Dunnion): Gerald Gorrell, A. Faulkner, G. Molloy, F. O'Donnell, Sean Folan, P. Brogan, M. Martin, C. McGonagle, J. O'Neill, K. Mundy, P. Brogan, F. Brogan, B. McCauley, E. Gorman, M. Brennan, S. Faulkner, M. Caldwell, M. Kelly, K. Early.

Under 14 team: D. Quinlan, Rory Muldoon, D. McBrearty, E. McNulty, D. Slevin, R. McAllister, C. Reid, L. Murray, D. Thomas, S. Dunnion, D. Dunnion, S. Boyle, D. O'Toole, E. McCauley, D. Faulkner, A. Dore, V. Shovlin, D. Hunt, K. Meehan, P. McGinty, P. Corley, A. Brogan. Team manager, Jimmy McMullin.

Under 12 team (manager Andrew Faulkner, assistant, Michael Cooney): D. Nolan, K. Sinclair, C. Hogan (captain), P. Sweeney, K. Conaghan, G. Thomas, C. Sheridan, A. Deering, D. Dunnion, C. Espey, P. Corley, G. McHugh, D. Gildea, D. Harvey, K. Gillespie, F. McAllister, J. Stephenson, S. Gorrell, E. McMullin, L. Dunphy, B. Hannigan, S. Grant, D. Williamson, B. Cannon, P. Cannon.

Minor team (manager Glen



**NOREEN McCUSKER** — 3rd place in 'Gradam Táiite' 1982

McGinty, trainer, Walter Espey): A. Faulkner, S. Boyle, R. Boyle, F. McGirr, P. Brogan, J. Kerrs, M. Martin, M. Caldwell, B. McCauley, J. Murray, J. McGroary, P. Jordan, R. O'Neill, Gary Martin, Francie Cassidy, Ronan Muldoon, H. Muldoon, S. O'Driscoll, M. Gallagher, E. Cassidy, C. Bennett, Conal McGroarty.

Under 21 team (manager Gerry Timoney; assistants, Paddy Brogan, Liam McCauley): Michael Kelly, G.

Gorrell, A. Faulkner, J. O'Neill, S. Meehan, B. McGroarty, T. McIntyre, M. McBrearty, C. Carr, E. Gorrell, J. McMullan, T. Cassidy, John O'Neill, M. Breslin, J. J. Travers, M. Caldwell, Ronan Muldoon, Patrick McGroarty, J. J. Griffin, J. McGowan, E. Breslin, B. McGonigle, J. Kerrs.

To conclude we have had a lot written and more said about Four Masters first senior title and the fact

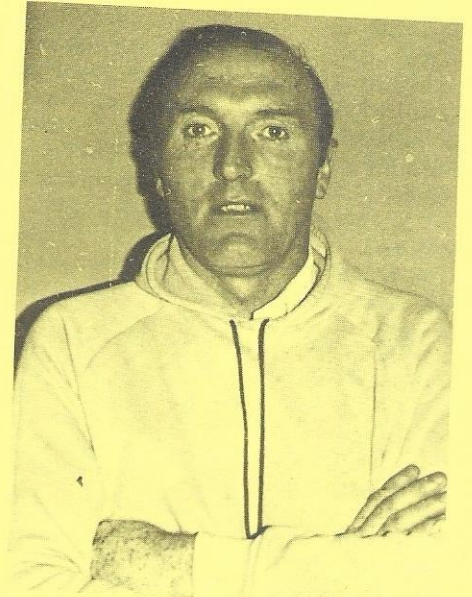
that it took 58 years to achieve, perhaps former Sligo star and former Donegal clubman Luke Nangle really explained it.

When asked for his opinion his comment was "Ballyshannon", and the more you think about the great Aodh Ruadh teams that Donegal had to meet the more you know that Luke was correct.

Many of those players were in Ballybofey to wish Four Masters well.



Winners of the County Donegal final Scór na nÓg Quiz 1982, representing Four Masters G.A.A. Club—Mark Stewart, Conail Bennett, Brian McCauley, Donegal.



John Cassidy, Physio, Four Masters



Pictured at the recent G.A.A. Ulster Convention: Michael Gillespie, chairman, Donegal County Board, Peter Harte, chairman, Ulster Council, Brendan O'Neill, chairman, Donegal Four Masters Club and Ulster Delegate.

# EARLY YEARS OF G.A.A. IN DONEGAL

By  
PÁDRAIG S. MAC A' GHOILL

In common with other Ulster counties the flag of the Gaelic Athletic Association was not raised in Donegal until comparatively late in the history of that organisation. The Association, founded in 1884, had come of age before the basis of administration had been undertaken and even then the effort was shortlived despite the successes that had been achieved in a relatively short time. This outburst of national enthusiasm in the early years of the century was not maintained in Donegal nor in the neighbouring counties.

The grand old game of 'Caman' was widely played as a pastime in many areas in Donegal and stories are told of famous contests in Inishowen, The Lagan and South and West Donegal and cross-country. Caman matches were quite common as were cross country football contests in other parts of Ulster where it was known as 'Ioman Aeanas and hurling as "Ioman an Chamain"'.

It was not until 1904-5 that some effort was made to organise the native games and affiliate with the parent body. The irregular configuration of the county and remoteness from the hub of activity in the South of Ireland as well as the influence of devotees of foreign games in garrison centres were strong contributing factors to the delayed advent of the national organisations in the county. However, another organisation was very active in Donegal, as elsewhere and that was Connradh na Gaeilge — The Gaelic League — founded in 1892, and which was making a determined effort to revive preserve and promote the native language and saw in the G.A.A. a virile force composed mostly of youth whose aim was to preserve and promote our native pastimes. Allied to this also was the victories gained by the Land League whereby the long down trodden tenantry became independent landowners.

The pioneers of the effort in Donegal, the revered names of Very Rev. Dr. E. Maguire whose memory is perpetuated in the Dr. Maguire Cup; P. M. Gallagher, solicitor, Donegal; Richard Bonner, N.T. (Dick); Mr. E. Daly, Bundoran; Seamus McManus, Townatallan;

Alec McDyre, N.T., Kilraine, Glenties; James McGahern, Donegal; Domhnall O Baoill, Gweedore. It might be noticed that Donegal Town — the town of the Four Masters — was the centre of activity and not without reason for the distinguished Gaelic scholar, P. M. Gallagher whose influence and help — financial and otherwise — helped to promote every national effort in his native county. Seamus McManus had his home some miles away at Townatallan and here the inaugural meetings of the G.A.A. were held.

The first County Board Committee had as its first President, the Very Rev. Canon Maguire, D.D., a native of Inver, one time Professor of Rhetoric, Maynooth, and author of "The History of the Diocese of Raphoe". The Secretary was Mr. Alec McDyre, N.T. Mr. E. Daly and Mr. McGahern formed the working Executive. As was expedient pride of place was given to the promotion of hurling due to its long and honoured place in the life of the nation; also because that the game was widely played, if not on an organised basis, in many parts of Donegal. Great credit is due to these enthusiastic pioneers to the work done in organising Gaelic games — particularly hurling in the county from 1903 onwards. Such were the achievements that in 1907 the Donegal county senior hurling team had won the Ulster championship by defeating Antrim at Burt in the 1906 competition.

To the influence and prominence of the active members of the committee in the life of the county is due to the popularity of the game of hurling in the early years of the century and this was further enhanced by the interest shown by Very Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe — afterwards Cardinal — and a native of Kilraine, Glenties, when he presented a very valuable trophy — The Cardinal O'Donnell Cup — for hurling in Donegal.

The principal centres of hurling in the early years of the century extended from Malin Head to The Drowes in the South where Bundoran Sinn Feins held forth. Burt was a very strong hurling area and their special make of caman has become very widely known as 'The Burt Hurley'. Other areas which had a strong hurling tradition and were

organised in competition with each other and therefore adopted the rules of the Association were Ardaghey, Croagh, Brackey (Ardara), Donegal Town and Townawilly. The team names of some of these, like those of other clubs throughout Ireland at the time all are almost like signposts of our chequered history — "Old Celts" (Ardaghey), Burt "Hibernians" and Bundoran "Sinn Fein". The Burt hurlers were the most proficient and skillful in Donegal in those early years and seemed to have adapted earlier and quicker to the game as it was then played in Munster. The only aspect of the game which they held on to was the type of hurley used. It was home made, about twice as heavy as to-day's stick, much narrower in the boss which had a grooved inner side or ridge along the heel for the purpose of giving the ball elevation when struck off the ground. This design of hurley was used in other parts of Donegal also and in the Townatallan area the full forward used a hurley with a hollow in the boss for carrying the ball to the opposing teams' goal.

G.A.A. clubs were catered for by the County Board of these years but the game made very little progress. This is surprising in view of the fact that football was played in Ireland in the 16th century and the game, like hurling, should have been continued to be played in Donegal despite the prohibition imposed by the 1695 Act of Parliament. Clubs were now organised in Gweedore, Letterkenny, Donegal, Ballyshannon, Townatallan and Bundoran. Unfortunately the promise of progress of the era 1905-1908 was not fulfilled due, no doubt, to a number of factors, some of a national character which affected the whole organisation and others of a local nature such as cost of travel, prevalence of other games, lack of playing fields and the drain of emigration which resulted in 32,410 persons emigrating from Donegal between 1891 and 1901. Despite this Donegal, although not affiliated to Central Council or Ulster Council for football competition, played and were defeated by Derry in Derry on St. Patrick's Day, 1906, by 18 points to 2 points.

Although Gaelic football failed to catch on in the first decade of this century hurling continued to be widely played and records and traditions confirm the fact that



## A UNIQUE DONEGAL MAN

By DONAL GALLAGHER

*(Castlebar, formerly Cloughaneely)*

A Donegalman with 2 All-Ireland football medals (one senior and one junior). A lot of people including Donegal G.A.A. followers would say that no such man exists but living in his adopted county of Mayo is Christy Hegarty, a former member of an Garda Síochána, now a hard-working farmer and still as fit looking as in his footballing heyday. Those that know their G.A.A. facts and figures will know that Mayo won two senior titles in 1950 and 1951 and it was with that 1951 team that Christy got his senior medal. He was only a sub on that great team but it is possible that he would be playing only for the fact that he wasn't a native son. His junior medal was won the previous year when he played at left half back.

Christy left his native Teelin in the mid-forties to join the Garda Síochána. His first station was Rosport in the wilderness of North Mayo. It was when he was transferred to Glenisland outside Castlebar that he made a name for himself. He won two county championship titles with Castlebar Mitchels in 1948 and 1950. He played with Mayo juniors until 1951 when he got his place on the senior team. He had a disagreement with the Mayo mentors over the 51 final team and he subsequently transferred his allegiance to his native Donegal, perhaps hoping that a transfer as a Garda might arise but alas such was not the case.

He went back playing with Mayo in 1953 but he had been then transferred to Enniscrone in Co. Sligo with whom he won a Divisional title in 1956. He was still on winning teams in 1958 when he won an East Mayo title with Charlestown where he was to spend the remainder of his garda service. One of his colleagues in Charlestown was Sean Reilly who played club football with Downing and Dungloe and who also represented both Ulster and Connaught in the Railway Cup.

Christy has very little interest in modern-day football, especially the short-passing game. It is said of Christy that when he shouldered an opponent every bone in that man's body rattled for two days. Christy Hegarty, that Terrier from Teelin, now living just outside Charlestown on the Ballyhaunis Road in a two storey house, proudly called "Tirconaill".

## NAOMH CONNELL U-12 S.W. DIV. CHAMPIONS

1982

By PAT BOYLE

It was with hope more than confidence that we set off for Dungloe on the 5th of April. We had an unknown quantity of over enthusiastic hopefuls. Dungloe, always hard to beat at home, proved just that, but only after a struggle. We had work to do but we had players to work on. Next we had N. Muire at home and this gave us our first victory and it seemed like the championship to the squad. While Dungloe were still winning, we were keeping close behind by beating Na Rossa in Dooley. We then got a walk over from N. Muire due to a misunderstanding by the Ranafast boys, our long journey would have been more rewarding with a game.

Our home game with Dungloe was another thriller, again Dungloe came out on top but only just. This game decided winners and runners-up. Our next meeting was to be with Killybegs but the boys from the fishing village were withdrawn from the competition so we waited the result of the Ardara v Dungloe. Ardara were our opponents and we also gave away ground advantage. This was a vintage performance with the spectators as excited as the boys. Just one point apart in the end, tears flowed from both teams for joy and sadness. We had brought the first trophy to Glenties for many years.

For our panel of thirty five players, it was a job well done.

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## SNIPPET

On Sunday, 26th February, 1933, subsequent to the semi-final of The Charity Cup in Donegal Town at meeting of the Donegal County Board at which Sean Cassidy, Ardara, Co. Chairman, presided, it was decided to establish four Divisional Boards in Donegal and the following members were appointed to act as organisers in their respective areas — South, Mr. Joseph Maguire, Bundoran, Co. Secretary; South West, Mr. Sean Kennedy, Ardara; West, Mr. Anthony Delap, Gweedore; East, Garda Michael Walsh, Letterkenny. All divisions were to hold first meetings on 10th March, 1933, appoint officers and make fixtures.

Donegal remained a force in Ulster. In 1904 Donegal lost the Ulster 1903 semi-final to Antrim and the 1908 final with Derry — played on 28/11/1909, was won by Derry. The 1910 final was won by Antrim by defeating Donegal.

In the first ever Ulster final (hurling or football) Burt, representing Donegal in hurling, defeated Carey, Co. Antrim, for the senior hurling title at Burt in the 1906 championship played on the 20th July, 1907. As was stated at the time the game was played "under the shadow of Royal Aileach near the fort of the famous O'Doherty Castle". The game resulted in a runaway victory for Burt, 5 goals and 21 points to Carey's one point. It was reported that Carey were two players short throughout and one wry commentator reported that although it was a good spirited game it would not be a bad thing if Burt played the ball with their camans instead of their tongues. "Some of them talk far too much". They must have played some hurling as well, however, considering the scoreline.

Another report read that Burt turned out in mass, man women and children from the king to the youngest child. There was a large representation of the fair sex, more than we have seen previously. Twenty car loads and cyclists from Derry City attended as well as spectators from Letterkenny, Strabane, Newtowncunningham and Manorcunningham and as supporters of Burt got excellent value for their money and journey.

A Belfast commentator wrote that although the field was a fine one the grass could do with being trimmed a little better. The length of the pitch favoured the copyright Burt caman but proved extremely difficult for the short clean-cut hurley favoured by the Antrim men.

Donegal fielded an all Burt selection but the Carey line out included players from other Antrim clubs. The following were the respective line-outs.

Donegal: Joseph McLoughlin, John Gallagher, Willie Gallagher, John Whoriskey, James Whoriskey, T. Coyle, M. Coyle, C. Dowds, G. Dowds, J. Burns, Willie Kennedy, Willie Moody, Willie Sheevin, T. Campbell, Peter McClafferty.

Antrim: McGarry, Black, Butler, McCormack, (Carey), Harnain or Harner, McKay (Cushendall), McKeegan (Cushendall), O'Neill, McGavack and Shane O'Neill (Slenarm), Harvey (Glenariffe), McKee and McAleese (Loughgiel), G. Ralph (Crowleys), Gallagher (goals), Manning (capt.), Dempsey (Tir na nOg, Belfast).

# History of St. Connell's G.A.A. Club, Glenties

Glenties answers the call.

The County Board was founded in 1906, exactly twenty two years after the Association has been established in Thurles, and it took another fifteen years before the young men of Glenties and district decided to answer the call and give their full allegiance to Gaelic games.

Up to then Association football held sway in the parish and Glenties (Town) and Kilraine both boasted of teams.

It was a time of change and 1921 dawned with the National struggle against foreign occupation entering its final phase.

The Truce came into force at noon on 11th July.

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*Extract from*  
*"Searchlight on the Past"*  
By  
**PAT BOYLE**

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Young men's minds turned again to sport and those in the parish of Inniskeel came at last to understand the significance of the words used in the manifesto, written by the County G.A.A. President, Very Rev. E. Canon Maguire, D.D., Inver, in 1906 and approved by Bishop O'Donnell (later to become Cardinal).

The manifesto was issued by Alex McDyre<sup>1</sup> on behalf of the County Board and declared:

"Till now, we have to our shame been West-British in many things. We have for years been playing the games the foreigner brought us".

The manifesto concluded by appealing to the youth of the county in general, and in particular to leading men both young and old, in each district where there was no Gaelic Athletic Club to found one at once.

Local sporting history was made on Sunday, 24th July, 1921, when the first Gaelic football match organised in the parish took place in the "Curragh" (Mullinard) and this put an end to soccer football in Glenties for some considerable time. As far as Kilraine was concerned the "Bright Stars"<sup>2</sup> were destined not to shine again.

On that historic day teams from Glenties (town) and Kilraine (selection) faced up to each other with Alex McDyre as referee.

Amongst those participating were: Kilraine (selection): P. A. O'Donnell, Jim O'Donnell, C. McDyre, H. McDyre, F. O'Donnell, Jimmy O'Donnell, McIntyre (Killybegs), John O. Gallagher, J. Keeney.

Glenties Town: C. Molloy, T. O'Donohue, B. Campbell, P. Craig, J. Houston, P. J. Molloy, P. Molloy, J. Kelly, J. Boyle, J. Gallagher, F. McDevitt, P. Kennedy. Unfortunately the lists are incomplete.

The Town team were narrow winners by one point on a glorious summer's day, with two Black and Tans out from Glenties Barracks taking advantage of the Truce as interested spectators at a Gaelic game and it was observed they were unarmed.

The ice, however, was broken and thoughts were now turning towards the first Gaelic Athletic club in the parish.

## Club formed

Denis Phelan, Thos. O'Donoghue (excise officer), J. Kelly (agricultural officer) and John Conaghan encouraged, of course, by Alex McDyre set about the task of organising the new club. When called on Barney Campbell, Charlie Molloy and Paddy Molloy gave magnificent assistance in getting the new club on its feet.

## First club games

When the club was established in 1921 a game was arranged with Clady (Co. Tyrone) and played at "The Curragh" (Mullinard) so that local players could learn some of the finer points of Gaelic football. The traditional style of the game at that time was "catch and kick" and the locals proved to be good students.

On the following Sunday, 7th August, 1921, they travelled to Clady and surprised the home town when defeating them by two points.

The teams for those early games were selected from the following: Joe B. Gallagher, Foncie McDevitt, Paddy McDevitt, Packey J. Craig, J. Craig, J. Kelly, Charlie Molloy, Barney Campbell, Paddy Molloy (capt.), John Houston, Paddy Kennedy, John Boyle (N.T.), John O. Gallagher, Francie Duggan, J. Connaghan, Frank O'Donnell, Joe Campbell, Paddy A. O'Donnell, Jimmy O'Donnell, Chas. McDyre,

Paddy J. Molloy, Brian Gallagher, Tony O'Donnell, Sergt. McMahon.

The team adapted itself well to Gaelic football and quickly became a force competing with the best, as it proved in those early days against Donegal, Bundoran, Castlefin, Ardara and Dungloe.

The competitions in the county were not, as yet, well organised; indeed records show that there was a lapse from 1907. The British Authorities prohibited the playing of Gaelic games during the War of Independence years and this delayed any resurgence. The next recorded holders of county football titles are Bundoran (1919), Killygordon (1920) and Castlefin (1921).

It would appear, however, that these competitions were finished off on dates much later than years indicated. It would certainly appear that the 1921 competition was finished in 1922 at earliest, and St. Connell's defeated Bundoran in a sectional play-off to meet Castlefin at Ballybofey in the decider.

Castlefin won this game of which there is no record available.

## Conclusion

The club was now firmly established in the parish thanks to the dedication of those who founded it in 1921 and worked so assiduously for it during those early formative years. It was of immense value to the social and cultural life of the parish and its members were becoming increasingly aware that it was a unit of an Association that had given the nation a new spirit and a sense of national pride.

This was the heritage that the club was passing on to future generations within the parish of Inniskeel.

1—Alex McDyre was Joint Secretary of the County Board at this time.

2—Kilraine "Bright Stars" was an Association Football team at this time.

**MICHAEL O'DONNELL**  
**PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIOS**  
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# AODH RUADH

By TOM DALY

## BALLYSHANNON

1982 has proven a busy and rewarding year for Aodh Ruadh. Throughout the year the club committee endeavoured to ensure full participation in all competitions organised by the County Board including Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear and the County Handball Championships. At local level the club maintained a high profile in working with young players culminating in successful trips to the Lucan Sarsfields Club in Dublin and to the All-Ireland Under 14 football championships in Cavan.

There was an encouraging level of participation in all Aodh Ruadh activities with noteworthy success both on and off the playing field, taking the County Minor Championship title for the fourth successive year, the County Under 21 Championship for the second year in a row, and the Junior League (Division Four) title for the first time. The club's under-age teams won every Divisional Championship title except the Under 16 Championship which meant that for the first time in six years Aodh Ruadh was not to contest the county juvenile championship final. Early in the year the club's Scór Sinsear competitors succeeded in winning three of the events in the Co. Scór Sinsear final and went on to represent Donegal in the Ulster Finals. The club entrants in the Scór na nÓg competitions also did well.



Tom Daly, chairman of Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, accepting the Donegal County Club of the Year award at the presentation of prizes in the A.I.B./G.A.A. Club of the Year Awards Scheme, at the Bank Centre, Ballsbridge, Dublin. Also included are Jerry McAuliffe, Chief General Manager, Allied Irish Banks (left), and Liam Ó Maolmhicil, Director General G.A.A.



The Aodh Ruadh team which won the quiz section in the county final of Scór Sinsear: (from left): John Travers (club secretary), Michael Daly and Paul Hannigan.

Those included in running Aodh Ruadh were particularly proud at the distinction conferred with the announcement in May of this year that the Club had been selected, by an independent panel of assessors, as A.I.B. Donegal G.A.A. Club of the Year (1981).

The club's entry was subsequently held for display with eight other entries from throughout Ireland at the Féile na Gael G.A.A.

The club's achievements during the year were not confined to sporting and social activities as a very active Park Committee maintained the momentum of the past few years in improving and developing the facilities at the Fr. Tierney Park. With most of the planned shorter term developments now completed, the club can concentrate on its longer term objectives of providing



Charles O'Donnell's team which won this year's Aodh Ruadh under-10 final sponsored by James Likely and Co. Ltd. with a 3-6 to 3-0 margin over Gavan Bourke's team. Back row (left to right): Eoin O'Donnell, Michael Dolan, Francis McPhelim, Gary Kennedy, Donncha Kilgallon, Rory Bourke, John Likely. Front row: Eamonn O'Donnell, Brian Roper, Charles O'Donnell, Christy Dolan, Dermot McClean.

additional playing space and an indoor handball alley with ancillary clubhouse facilities.

The youth policy of the club over the past number of years and the continuing efforts of a small number of dedicated club members in the coaching and organising of young players continues to pay dividends at both club and indeed county level. Seven Aodh Ruadh minors were in the county minor panel which this year won the Ulster minor league. A number of club players wore the county senior jersey the year and several of the club's under 21 panel performed with distinction for this year's very successful county under 21 team. Club player Sean O'Rourke fielded consistently with the county senior hurling team which had a good run in the N.H.L. and Pauric O'Brien and Michael McCafferty also fielded.

County Competitions apart a lot of time was spent again this year on club organised competitions for young players. The following competitions were organised:

Dan Gibbons Cup (football) — For boys attending St. Joseph's Primary Schools.

Ballyshannon Bakery Cup — Run each year since 1957. Under 14 football league, won by John Forkin's team.

Aodh O'Dalaigh Shield (hurling) — Under 14 hurling league run for the

first time this year. Won by Finbarr Burke's team.

O'Donnell Bakery Shield (football) — Under 12 football league. Final contested by Gary Kane's and John Duffy's teams.

Aodh Ruadh Under 10 League (football) — Sponsored by James Likely and Sons Ltd. and won this year by Charles O'Donnell's team.

Gaeltacht Scholarship — The club again this year awarded two full scholarships, one each to a boy and a girl from the club area to attend the Gaeltacht. The scholarships went to Fiona Gallagher and Mark Sheerin.

Much work remains to be done to maintain the present high level of local participation in the club's activities and to ensure that the potential of Aodh Ruadh and of an C.L.C.G. generally in the area is developed to its fullest. In footballing terms ambitions centre on bringing a senior championship once again to Ballyshannon and on ensuring that every individual in the club area who wants to play Gaelic football (or hurling) and is prepared to give commitment to the club, gets as many games as possible. In this context the fielding of a second adult football team over the past three years has proved to be a progressive, worthwhile and successful development. Within the club area there is obvious further potential for increased involvement of adults in Gaelic games and the realisation of this potential is something to which the club must address itself in the coming months and years. With regard to hurling the club committee is committed to fielding both senior and under 14 hurling teams in next year's competitions.

Handball, a traditional game in this area can be restored to its former

popularity and developed as a competitive game through the provision within the club's grounds, as soon as possible, of an indoor handball alley. It is a sobering thought that this idea was first mooted at the official opening of the Fr. Tierney Park in 1954.

It is a fact that very often the broader cultural aspirations and role of an C.L.C.G. can be lost on many of those who are active players for a club. The appointment of Pat McGee as Aodh Ruadh's Oifigeach na Gaeilge for the past two years has succeeded in developing this important aspect of the G.A.A. ethos within the club and hopefully the future will see greater involvement of club players and members in cultural activities, particularly through the medium of Scór Sinsea and Scór na nÓg.

#### Aodh Ruadh Club Officers, 1982

President: Rev. Fr. Cahill, C.C.  
 Vice-President: Mr. Willie Kerrigan.  
 Chairman: Tom Daly.  
 Vice-Chairman: Frank McHale.  
 Secretary: John Travers.  
 Assistant Secretary (Park Committee): Vincent McNally.  
 Treasurer: John Magee.  
 Treasurer (Park Committee): Sean Slevin.  
 Oifigeach na Gaeilge: Pat McGee.  
 P.R.O.: Gerard McIntyre.

#### Founding of Aodh Ruadh Hurling and Football Club, Ballyshannon

While Gaelic games, particularly hurling were played in Ballyshannon at the turn of the century, the formal development of the Gaelic Athletic Association in the area owes most to the founding of the Aodh Ruadh Hurling and Football Club in 1909.

The formation of the Aodh Ruadh Club was closely connected with the activities of the Ballyshannon Branch of the Gaelic League and the appointment of the late Mr. Cecil Stephens to the secretaryship of the branch in 1909. The Gaelic League was active in promoting drama and also organised regular Irish language classes at beginner, junior and advanced levels. Less than successful were the efforts made at running Irish History Classes. On Sunday, September 26th, 1909, the annual general meeting of the Gaelic League was held in the Rock Hall under the chairmanship of Fr. J. O'Daly, C.C. This was to prove an important and significant meeting from the point of view of the strengthening of the Gaelic Athletic Association in the area as within a month the newly appointed Gaelic League Secretary, Mr. Cecil Stephens had called a public meeting "to consider the

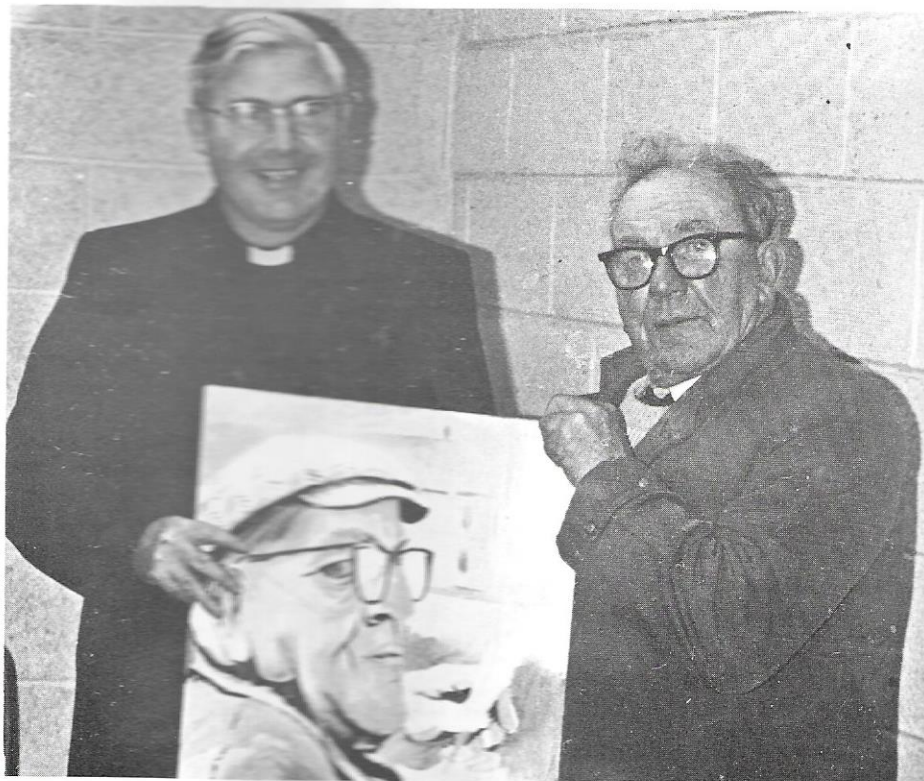
advisability of having some Irish games started in the town". A this meeting, under the chairmanship of Mr. Thomas McCaffrey, there was a consensus that a Gaelic Football Club should be formed. A temporary committee was elected and arrangements made for another meeting on Sunday October 24th at 12.30 p.m. This meeting took place, and thus, 73 long years ago Aodh Ruadh was born. At the founding meeting Mr. Thomas Caffrey again presided. It was unanimously decided to promote hurling in conjunction with Gaelic football. The entrance fee to games was fixed at one shilling and a membership fee of one penny per week was levied. The first officers of the Aodh Rudh Club were: President, Rev. J. O'Daly, C.C.; Vice-President, Mr. James Rogan; Treasurer, Mr. J. Downey; Secretary, Mr. Cecil Stephens; Committee, Messrs. D. Quinn, M. D. Quigley, John McCormack, Thomas McCaffrey, W. Gillespie, J. Ward, A. McShea, T. Kelly, Mick Munday, E. Cassidy, T. Campbell and D. Campbell.

The first Aodh Ruadh team captains were — Hurling: Captain, Mr. Mick Munday; Vice-Captain, Mr. J. Ward.

Football: Captain, Mr. Thomas McCaffrey; Vice-Captain, Mr. John McCormack.

The club resolved that it would be strictly non-political and non-sectarian. Arrangements were made to have hurling and football practices each Sunday with hurling at 12.30 p.m. and football at 3.00 p.m. The venue for the games and practices was what was then known locally as "the Workhouse Meadow", better known in later years as "Monday's Field", beside the present Rock Welfare Home. The first practices were held on Sunday, October 31st, 1909. At that stage club membership totalled sixty persons about forty of whom played the games. Although not all the players fully understood the games, the first practices were heralded as a great success. To familiarise players with the rules it was decided by the first Aodh Ruadh Club committee to have the rules of both hurling and Gaelic football printed in book form for distribution to each player.

Thus, from small beginnings, the growth of the Aodh Ruadh Club was carefully fostered and in succeeding weeks a number of challenge games were held before Aodh Ruadh teams went on to take their place in inter club competitive football and hurling and to develop over the years, a track record of which local gaelts are justly proud.



Earlier in the year the club presented long serving member, Terry McDermott, with a commissioned portrait painted by Dermot Carney. Rev. Fr. Cahill, C.C., Club President, made the presentation to Terry at the Club's annual general meeting.

(June 13th, 1924)

#### AODH RUA ABU

Rallying song of Aodh Rua, Ballyshannon Hurling team written on the occasion of the return match in Derry Road Hurling Grounds, Strabane <sup>2</sup> 8/6/1924. (Air O'Donnell Abu).

Loudly the note of the whistle is sounding  
Shouts of "Get Ready" resound through the hall  
Youngsters their favourites praises are singing  
Recounting each great feat with hurley and ball.

Get on the white and blue  
Come on old Aodh Rua.  
Onward to Victory for the old club so true  
From wing to the centre drive, Come boys look alive  
Rush to the war cry Aodh Rua Abu.

Boldly the men on the front line are pacing  
With fleetness and neatness each wields his caman.  
Pass the half-backs like lightening they're racing  
While all who would stop them are dashed thro the air.

Grasping the leather quick  
Swiftly each swings his stick  
Straight through the up-rights the ball whistles thro,  
Hurleys are thrown on high, cheers nearly rend the sky  
Health to our Hurlers — Old Aodh Rua Abu.

When after the battle triumphant we are shouting  
When true men and bold our hands in grip take  
Or when the fates hard, our efforts are flouted  
We'll remember that all is for Eire's dear sake.

Come every Ulster man,  
Fight like O'Donnell's clan  
Show every Sportsman what courage can do  
Connaught men and Leinster men — Aye even Munster men  
Hear our bold war cry — Aodh Rua Abu.

# AODH RUADH - WINDOW ON THE PAST



1924—The Aodh Ruadh sénior hurling team. In the first row extreme left is Mick Munday, the first elected captain of an Aodh Ruadh hurling team.



1932—The Aodh Ruadh senior football team with captain, Terry McDermott. In that year Aodh Ruadh won its second ever senior championship with a 1-7 to 0-1 win over Dungloe.



1945—Aodh Ruadh setting out for Glenties to play Gweedore in the senior championship final which they lost by 4-5 to 1-6 (left to right): Hughie McGuinness (R.I.P.), Paddy O'Neill (R.I.P.), Dan Doherty, Mick Slevin, Richie Bromley, Michael Murray, Johnny McGuinness (R.I.P.), Jack Gallagher, Seamus Cleary, Bob Gallagher, James Daly. The young lad is Dan McGettigan.

# AODH RUADH – PICTURES OF THE PRESENT



The Aodh Ruadh team which won the final of League Division Four. Front row (l. to r.)—Frank McHale, Paul Tuohy, Frankie Gallagher, Frankie Sheerin, Conor McMahon (capt.), Ciaran Tinney, P. J. Ward, Eamonn Maguire, Pauric Bromley, Paul McLoone, Jackie McDermott. Back row (l. to r.)—P. J. Ferguson, Pascal McTiernan, Thomas Gallagher, Anthony Sheerin, Dermot Slevin, Gary Walsh, Joe Curran, Tom Daly, Gerard Cuman, Gerry Gallagher, Jim McGrath, Sean O'Rourke, Josie Boyle.



The Magill family, representing Aodh Ruadh who won the ballad group section in the County Finals of Scór Sinsear. Siobhain, second from left also won the solo-singing section.



Finbarr Burke's team which won the Under-14 Aodh Ó Dálaigh Hurling League run by the club, pictured with club chairman Tom Daly and Owen Roe O'Neill of the club's Hurling Committee. Back row (l. to r.)—Peter McKenna, Brian Campbell, Finbarr Burke, Adrian Gallagher, Michael Carolan, William Slevin. Front row: Barry Sweeney, Alan Sweeney, Barry O'Neill, Shane O'Neill.

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# WITH THE SENIOR TEAM — N.F.L.

## TINE SÍ

It is hard to visualise the emergence of a potential side of Ulster champions when one peers at makeshift Donegal spluttering through the murky and muddy winter series of National League near wins or near misses as the case may be. When we were at home to Louth, Laois and Westmeath we looked middling to good, when we travelled to Tipperary, Antrim, Wexford and Wicklow we varied from mediocre to middling.

We were nothing to write home about when we met Down at Ballybofey (McKenna Cup). Then we surprised everybody by that Championship display at Armagh, also at Ballybofey. The only sad thing about our Armagh taste is that not only did we surprise Armagh but also we surprised ourselves — and that very definitely includes our players who couldn't see a possible victory but who went out to make the best of it. Too late in the day Donegal discovered that they could, on sheer merit, defeat Armagh. But let us briefly recap on our build up to that game during the League series of seven games. I doubt if "build up" is the proper term to use unless it is at the same time conceded that we were building with bricks of straw, too often. Unfit players presented manager McEniff with problems he might largely have avoided had he given more attention to trainer Austin Coughlan's blunt appraisal of the fitness, or lack of fitness, of several players.

"Seeing is believing" was Austin's maxim. Brian, with an eye on the future (Championship) seemed loath to sacrifice his "better class" players for lesser men no matter how fit or dedicated the latter otherwise might be. That several good players in his panel were so much in earnest to turn out for Donegal that they disguised their lack of fitness, in order to "con" the manager, is apparent, but they only succeeded in conning their own unfit selves. And they cost us vital League points in games that should have been won.

Away to Tipp and we lost 0-10 to 1-10, after leading 0-6 to 0-3 at halftime. It only took five minutes of the second half to see our lead wiped out and Tipp go a point up. Our half

back trio and both our midfielders were out of it and but for Eunan McIntyre and goalie McCole we were repeatedly in dire trouble. Highlight of the hour was the Tipp goal as Benny Conway tore through our defence like a knife through butter to thump the ball into the net. McHugh, Mulgrew, Meehan and P. Gallagher all played in this game so Brian McEniff at least gave several Under 21 players their chance.

Donegal 1-12, Louth 1-5. Scoreline looks good but it was only in the final quarter at Ballyshannon when we made sure of a win here. In fact the highlight here — and the turning point also — came as Mulgrew drew defenders then passing neatly into the path of intruding "super sub" Seamus Gallagher who ended with a well hit goal. Donegal then tacked on five more points without reply. We put in a storming finish, thanks to Gallagher's fierce shot, and the scoreline flattered us at the end. Mostly Louth gave us all we wanted by way of a match. Two more U 21 players in Tuohy and McDermott appeared here.

Antrim 2-9, Donegal 0-11. Eleven scores apiece and we gave Antrim a flying start. Still, at 0-8 to 0-6 at half time you could say we were back in business. Two snap goals, both in the opening minutes of the second half, changed the picture. Mediocre Antrim barely mounted a raid for the rest of the game but our attack failed to convert its chances — McHugh apart, for Martin's mighty sequence of points from long range dead balls was surely the highlight of this game. The Antrim fans gave him a standing ovation at the end.

Tuohy, McDermott, Mulgrew, McHugh, McIntyre were joined by Joyce McMullan and Paul Carr during this game so our Under 21 team was getting valuable experience.

Donegal 0-10, Laois 2-3. Both the Laois goals came early in this home game but the highlight again must be the place-kicking of Martin McHugh. Martin had 0-6 and his direct contribution to the play was a considerable one. Matt Gallagher became the tenth U 21 player to appear for Donegal in the League so far.

Donegal 0-16, Westmeath 0-8. The midlanders received their fifth defeat at Ballyshannon and so the above scoreline reflects their lowly League status especially away from home. Actually the visitors were ahead, 0-7 to 0-5, at the interval. No highlights here but a feature was the scoring by the Donegal half line attacking trio: McHugh 0-5, Dunleavy 0-4, and Michael Gallagher 0-3.

Wexford 0-10, Donegal 1-5.

The end of Donegal's promotion was as we "fell by the pleasant Slaney". Highlight was a Pat McCrea net-buster which saw us leading into the wind by 1-2 to 0-3 after 15 minutes. Disaster came as our centre-half, Michael Lafferty, went — injured — so we were in arrears at the halfway, 0-6 to 1-2.

Midfield failed to function freely and our attack was not over zealous. Four of them handled the ball only once to any effect during the hour.

Wicklow 1-7, Donegal 0-7.

A hotly disputed goal at the end raised temperatures all round in a game where Pauric Gallagher ably deputised for the unavailable McHugh. Pauric, 0-5, converted some nice frees. Did I mention **heat**? That is a sore point still with the Donegal party who overnight endured some of the cold that their illustrious countyman, Red Hugh O'Donnell, was exposed to, centuries earlier in Wicklow. Apparently the hotel heating system did not improve since then! Manager McEniff saw his League hopes buried so perhaps I could quote from the "burial of Sir John Moore" regarding Brian's night in Wicklow as "he lay like a warrior taking his rest with his martial cloak around him".

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**St. Michael's, Dunfanaghy being presented with the Charles Greene Memorial Trophy by Alfie Greene. The Dunfanaghy side beat St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, in the final.**

(Photo by Declan Doherty, Derry People)



**Regional Technical College Letterkenny team who won the All-Ireland Division 3 Higher Education football league 1981-82.**



A group of Kilcar school children with the All-Ireland Under-21 Cup and team during the visit of the All-Ireland champions to Kilcar on their county-wide victory tour.

(Photo by Michael O'Donnell)

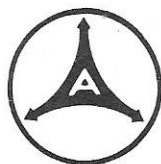


The Woodlands N.S. pupils with Tom Conaghan Under-21 manager and the All-Ireland Cup on the visit of the All-Ireland champions to the school.

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