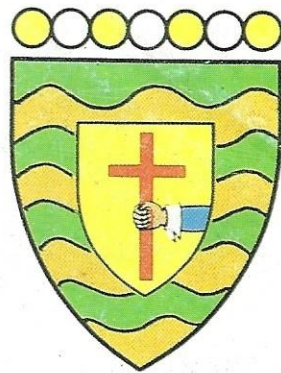




Donegal GAA Yearbook 1987



BLIAINIRIS C.L.G. DHÚN NA nGALL 1987

Eagarthóir: SEÁN Ó BAOILL

£3.00

ALL-IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS



DONEGAL U-16 HURLING TEAM WHO WON THE ALL-IRELAND SPECIAL U-16 HURLING TITLE

ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL FINALISTS



DONEGAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS TEAM WHO WERE DEFEATED BY KERRY IN THE ALL-IRELAND FINAL.

Bliainiris Choiste Contae Dún na nGall de Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, 1987

FRONT COVER: Donegal Under-21 team — All-Ireland champions, 1987

BACK COVER: Aodh Ruadh, County Senior Football champions, 1986-'87

The colour photographs for both front and back covers were taken by Mr. Michael O'Donnell, photographer. Glenties, and kindly donated by him for this publication.

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Focal ón Eagarthóir

1987 — year 103 in the life of C.L.G. — will go down in history as the year Dún na nGall for the first time ever won two All-Ireland titles in the same year. History may often repeat itself but with the achievements of 1987 I have every confidence these honours will be surpassed in the not too distant future. I wrote in this column of the 1982 Yearbook that a "dream had become a reality and a barrier had been broken for ever" when our County Under-21 football team won our first ever All-Ireland title that year. This has been very evident since but never more so than in 1987 when we regained that All-Ireland Under-21 football title and won our first ever All-Ireland hurling title. We are conscious that this first All-Ireland hurling title by our juveniles was in the special category but it is "very special" to us and, hopefully, will have the same desired effect as our first football title. Congratulations to both teams and their respective managers, P. J. McGowan and Manus O'Donnell. Indeed, if P. J. McGowan could only have transferred a couple of points of his All-Ireland Under-21 final margin of victory over Kerry or managed an aggregate final score we would have won a third All-Ireland title because P. J. also in 1987 managed the County Vocational Schools football team to the All-Ireland final only to lose by a single point to Kerry. In this competition we were seeking to repeat the 1984 and 1985 All-Ireland successes — but not bad, however, to have beaten Kerry in one out of two All-Ireland football finals in the same year.

Kilcar brought further honour and glory to the county in 1987 when they won the All-Ireland Gaeltacht senior football championship, thereby emulating Naomh Columba's success the previous year. Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, became the first club in over a decade to retain the county senior football championship. They really came of age when they held former All-Ireland club champions, Burren, Co. Down, to a draw in the Ulster club championship in Burren. They were narrowly beaten by a goal in the replay at Ballyshannon but this young team has a very bright future. (Burren have won the Ulster club championship now at the time of writing). An tAth. Seán Ó Gallchoir just narrowly failed to repeat his 1982 All-Ireland senior Scór "Aithriseoireacht" success after a most unusual and dramatic journey from Aranmore Island to the finals in Limerick.

Despite all the achievements and glory 1987 brought, it will be remembered in a particular way for a very sad occasion. On August Bank Holiday Monday every Gael in Donegal was grief stricken by the news that 17-year-old Gerald Gallagher of Mountcharles had died as a result of a freak accident during a game while representing his club, St. Naul's, the previous day in Glenties. We all know Gerald is happy since but to his parents, Danny and Dympna, brother and sisters, we still feel so sorry for you on the tragic loss of such a good person and member of your family. To all who suffered bereavements in 1987 the deepest sympathy.

Tá mé buíoch do gach duine a chuidigh liom leis an Bliainiris seo a chur amach — all club officers and individuals who furnished me material or information; our advertisers; our four local newspapers, 'Donegal Democrat' (who supplied the highest percentage of photos used), the 'Derry People and Donegal News', 'Derry Journal', 'Donegal Peoples Press'; photographers, Michael O'Donnell, John Foy, Declan Doherty, Larry Doherty, Patrick Stevenson, Packie Keeney, Paddy Gallagher, Alo Tully and Kevin Shanahan. To Pól Ó Gallchoir, R. na G., for results and, of course, Ann, for all the typing and general contributions, a very special thanks. Last, but by no means least, to all the staff of our printers, especially Peter Campbell and Paddy McLoone, who responded above the call of duty in helping me produce this publication.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Seán Óg O'Callaghan, R.T.E.: The Irish Press and Irish Independent for the respective weekly quick results services which is so important to our emigrants.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

Is mise, SEÁN Ó BAOILL, Eagarthóir.

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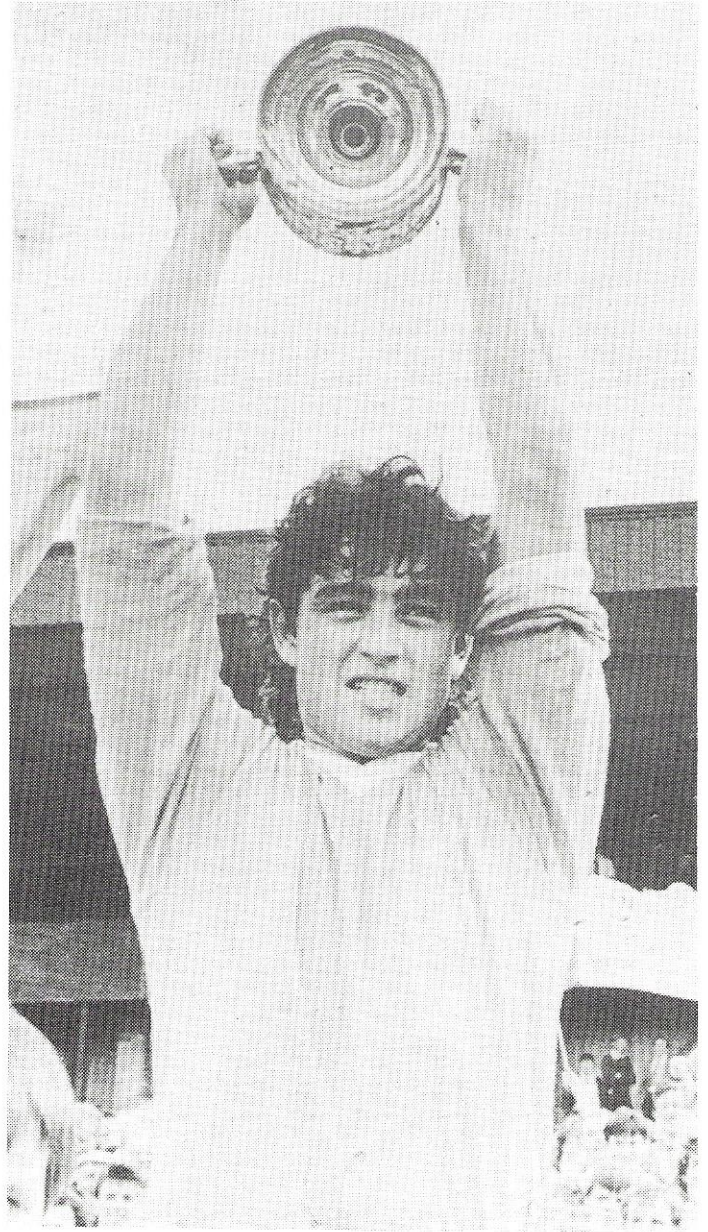
Donegal — All-Ireland champions

When Sligo referee, Michael Kearins blew his whistle to end the All-Ireland Under-21 football final replay at Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon at 4.42 on Sunday, 28th June, over 5,000 Donegal supporters went frantic. Donegal had just won their second All-Ireland U-21 football final. For many it was the proud and historic privilege to see the county team take their second title; for others it was that tremendous unparalleled great feeling of witnessing their county, for the first time, win an All-Ireland. But for everybody it was that something extra special — they had seen the county beat the greatest name in Gaelic football, “Kerry”, in an All-Ireland final. It is a common quote that you must beat Kerry in an All-Ireland final before you can say you have really won the All-Ireland — Donegal had done just that — magnificent.

Team manager, P. J. McGowan; mentors, Jimmy White and Joe ‘Dodo’ Winston, and un-used substitutes on that day: Brian Mor Gallagher, Joey McDermott, Conor White, John Sweeney, Cormac McGarvey, Seamus Doohan, Peter McIntyre and Emmet Golden (goalkeeper) were first on to the playing field to greet and congratulate the heroes. As the considerate and understanding Roscommon officials gratefully opened the pitch gates to let the Donegal people savour this great moment with their heroes, a sea of flag waving, cheering supporters descended on the young stars.

Eventually the players were carried shoulder high to the platform for Dr. Mick Loftus, President of the G.A.A., to present John Cunningham with the coveted Tadhg O’Cleirigh Cup. What a roar of delight as John received the trophy and unaware of his antics did a jig as he kissed and hoisted the All-Ireland Cup. There was an equal roar of approval when Manus Boyle, Donegal’s 1 goal 7 point super-hero, was called forward to receive the “Man of the Match” award — a beautiful crystal glass trophy presented by Sean McCormack on behalf of sponsors, Milford Bakery and Flour Mills. Oh, it was great, great, great; the emotion, the happiness, the indescribable feeling — nearly unbelievable.

Donegal had become the first Ulster county to win the All-Ireland U-21 title for the second time; the first Ulster county to win the title in an All-Ireland final replay and, to crown it all, the first



Donegal u-21 captain, John Cunningham, holds aloft the Tadhg O’Cleirigh Cup after Donegal had won the All-Ireland U-21 football final replay in Hyde Park, Roscommon on Sunday, 28th June, 1987.

Ulster county to beat Kerry in an All-Ireland final. Glory and honour was brought to Tirconail Gaelic football again. A mighty day of triumph that in all honesty must have seemed practically impossible for most that saw the side’s opening game that Saturday in March against Fermanagh in Ballyshannon. A marvellous fait accompli by manager, mentors and players from an uninspiring beginning.

How we won our second All-Ireland football title — step by step

**1st round: v Fermanagh in Ballyshannon, Sat., 21st March
DONEGAL 2-7, FERMANAGH 2-6**

A hotly disputed disallowed Fermanagh point in the fifteenth minute of the first half made the difference in the end between victory and a replay in this rough and tumble first round U-21 Ulster Championship game. Two brilliant goals by Ardara man Luke Gavigan in as many minutes mid-way through the first half, plus a personal tally of four well taken points by Killybegs man, Manus Boyle, were the main contributions to this slender victory. Donegal led at half-time by double scores, 2-4 to Fermanagh's 1-2. Despite intense pressure in the closing minutes of the game, Donegal held out for what we now know was a most important victory. If Donegal people have learned anything from this result, it must be — "the first game could be your All-Ireland title winning game." Poor Fermanagh; their team manager, Jim Carty, stated immediately after the game, "we were totally robbed — Paul Coyle's point in the first half should never have been disallowed; we were the better team on the day." He wasn't far wrong; we were just a point better — if a trifle lucky.

Donegal team and scorers: David Meehan; Thomas Maguire, Seamus Ward, John Connors; Diarmaid Keon, John Cunningham, Cormac McGarvey; Brian Mor Gallagher, Barry Cunningham; John Sweeney, Tommy Ryan, Barry McGowan (0-1); Luke Gavigan (2-0), Manus Boyle (0-4), Dermot Ward (0-2). Sub., Conor White.

**2nd round: v Derry in Bellaghy on Sat., 28th March
DONEGAL 3-5, DERRY 1-7**

It was obvious from this game if the team continued to improve as much as they did from the disappointing performance against Fermanagh they could go a long way — a provincial title crossed people's minds even at this early stage such was the improvement. The Donegal team were hit with problems before the game even started — left-half back Cormac McGarvey (Naomh Mhuire) was involved in a car accident and although not hurt himself, the game was over before he made the venue. Brian Mor Gallagher did not hear the game was switched from Magherafelt and arrived there. He had to rush at the last minute to Bellaghy. This game saw the introduction of John Joe Doherty and Paddy Hegarty in the first fifteen and Peter McIntyre and Joey McDermott to join as subs.

Donegal got off to a dream start when Manus Boyle scored a great goal a mere three minutes after the throw-in when Barry Cunningham pumped in a long ball he collected from a kick-out. Back luck struck Derry's Henry Downey in the 9th minute when he had to be carried off with a broken leg. With 20 minutes gone Barry Cunningham stepped up to take an innocent looking 14 metre free and I'm sure Barry thought it innocent enough too but his weakly taken shot dropped short and into the back of the net for our second goal. The best score of the day came five minutes later when Brian Mor Gallagher, who was having a splendid game, scored a mighty point from all of 50 metres



The Donegal team who beat Fermanagh in the first round of the Ulster U-21 Championship at Ballyshannon on March 21st, 1987: Back row, l. to r., Barry McGowan, Manus Boyle, Brian Mor Gallagher, Barry Cunningham, Seamus Ward, John Sweeney, Dermot Ward, Tommy Ryan. Front row: Diarmaid Keon, John Connors, Cormac McGarvey, John Cunningham, David Meehan, Luke Gavigan and Thomas Maguire.



The Donegal U-21 team pictured after they had won the Ulster U-21 title in Irvinestown.

out. The tall Gweedore player rose high above all the other midfielders to fetch a Derry kick-out. He tried to manoeuvre his way through a crowded pack but when he didn't find a gap he sensibly lobbed the ball high and long directly between the posts. A Tommy Ryan goal on the stroke of half-time left the score Donegal 3-3, Derry 0-1 at the interval. Playing against the strong breeze in the second half Donegal were cruising to victory over the reigning Ulster champions. A penalty goal ten minutes from the end raised Derry's hopes and efforts. For the final ten minutes they literally swamped the Donegal half of the field and scored five points to put a respectable look on the final score for defending champions. After the game manager P. J. McGowan said: "I am happy with the big improvement in this game. The boys showed great determination but I feel they must play a much faster game if they are to go all the way." And team mentor, Joe Winston, said: "I think now this is as good a team as the 1982 team." — such thoughts even at this stage — cheeky, confident, knowledgeable!!! But one cannot forget the sterling performance of Derry's corner back, Seamus O'Neill — he worked like a terrier, fielding, distributing, weathering all the Donegal forwards could throw at him — he kept Derry in the game for as long as possible and was solely responsible for preventing many Donegal scores.

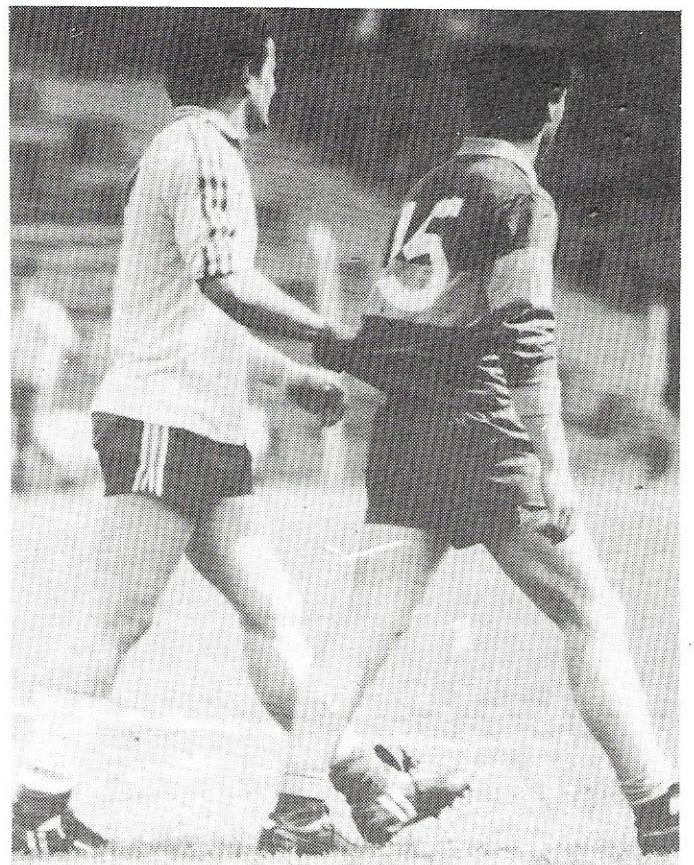
Donegal team and scorers: David Meehan; Thomas Maguire, Seamus Ward, John Joe Doherty; Diarmaid Keon, John Cunningham, John Connors; Barry Cunningham (1-1), Brian Mor Gallagher (0-1); Paddy Hegarty, Tommy Ryan (1-0), Barry McGowan; Dermot Ward, Manus Boyle (1-3), John Sweeney. Subs., Conor White, Peter McIntyre and Joey McDermott.

Ulster semi-final: v Armagh in Lurgan, on Easter Sunday, 19th April
DONEGAL 1-9, ARMAGH 1-6

With the reigning Ulster champions from the Oak Leaf County having been comprehensively taken care of it was now to Lurgan on this Easter Sunday to meet the Orchard County in their own back yard. The big question was could Donegal reach the Ulster final for a second year in a row.

In this game we were to see the introduction of a new goalkeeper in Danny Gallagher from Dungloe, and the return of Luke Gavigan after his suspension arising from his sending-off in the first round Fermanagh game. But we were without regular centre forward, Tommy Ryan, this time due to suspension sustained at college level.

Armagh played with the strong breeze in the first half and steamrolled into a dream start with a goal inside the first minute when new goalkeeper Gallagher and Seamus Ward were very much at cross purposes. This was a terrible start to a semi-final but the class and determination of Donegal soon began to show. They settled quickly, kept their heads to turn in a good workmanlike performance against what turned out to be their biggest enemy, the 'wind', until the interval. Armagh led at half-time by 1-5 to Donegal's two points. Barry McGowan



Monaghan defender, Timmy Byrne, making sure that Luke Gavigan doesn't make a quick getaway.

scored Donegal's first point after some beautiful approach play with Manus Boyle getting the other from a free.

Three minutes after the re-start Manus Boyle showed his wonderful scoring power again. He knocked the Armagh kick-out down to Joey McDermott who gave a slick, quick pass to Luke Gavigan. His half volley flick-on found Boyle who hesitated in front of the goals to bewilder the Armagh keeper, Canavan, before shooting a mighty goal. Points by Paddy Hegarty, Boyle and Gavigan brought the scores level after only ten minutes into this second half at 1-5 each. Inevitably, Donegal were to take the lead now and it was that man Boyle again who obliged with a point from a free nearing the three quarter stage.

Further points from Paddy Hegarty, Luke Gavigan and Joey McDermott completed the Donegal scoring in the last quarter with Armagh's solitary point of the second half coming twelve minutes from the end. Donegal should have won by more but although a very dangerous margin is the three points or goal, it was ample to celebrate Easter Sunday in style at Davitt Park. On hindsight, however, this was the first sign of the one and only weakness this magnificent side had throughout their campaign to glory. They showed the tendency not to kill off the opposition when they had them at their mercy, which we all know now proved nearly so costly later.

Donegal team and scorers: Danny Gallagher; Thomas Maguire, Seamus Ward, John Joe Doherty; John Connors, John Cunningham, Diarmaid Keon; Brian Mor Gallagher, Barry Cunningham; Paddy Hegarty (0-2), Joey McDermott (0-1), Barry McGowan (0-1); John Sweeney, Manus Boyle (1-3), Luke Gavigan. Subs., Dermot Ward, Cormac McGarvey.



Mr. Michael Feeney, secretary of the Ulster Council, presents the Irish News Cup to John Cunningham, Donegal captain.

Ulster final: v Monaghan in Irvinestown, Sun., May 3rd DONEGAL 0-7, MONAGHAN 1-4 (draw)

We were in the final for the second year in a row. Monaghan were considered a good side — a little young and raw, perhaps — but they had beaten a very fancied Down on their way to this final. P.J., Jimmy and Joe were quietly confident that their side could lift the Ulster title — and they had instilled in the lads the same belief.

Seldom does a team dominate a game so much and be deprived of victory in the end. Donegal were superb on the day but it was that little killer-blow that they failed to inflict that delayed the celebrations — in fact that nearly destroyed them. It was close to unbelievable that a team could dictate and dominate a game from beginning to practically the end and only manage a draw. Admittedly, Monaghan stole in for that last gasp draw with a goal against the run of play in the 59th minute, but this was barely a good enough excuse for the need for a return trip to St. Molaise Park, Irvinestown. This was the day John Connors made his debut at full-back. Regular full-back, Seamus Ward, although present, was under stern doctor's orders not to tog out because of tonsillitis. John Gallagher, Killybegs, was moved to Connors No. 5 spot to release the talented Dungleo man for the full-back role. It also saw the introduction of Paul Carr (Naomh Columba) to the first fifteen for the first time.

Monaghan played with the aid of the stiff breeze in the first half but it was Donegal that was doing all the pressing. Barry Cunningham and Manus Boyle scored two points from frees, while Stephen White, the Monaghan senior star and former Louth player, did likewise for Monaghan during the first quarter. The second quarter brought even less scores but this was not Monaghan's fault — superb defensive work from the entire Donegal defence gave the opposition forwards little scope or opportunity to register. From new man, Paul Carr, step-in full back John Connors; centre-half back John Cunningham; that terrier, John Joe Doherty; stylish Diarmaid Keon, to midfielder come half-back for the day, John Gallagher, this was a truly exceptional display of determination and true class. Michael Conlon flicked over his shoulder to take a rather spectacular point from the wing to give Monaghan the lead in the 18th minute but Dermot Ward levelled seven minutes later for the only scores of the second quarter to leave the half-time score at 0-3 each.

It seemed only a matter of time in the second half until Donegal would wrap up this game and take the Ulster title now that they were playing with the strong wind. Joey McDermott did point us into the lead in the 8th minute but it was Monaghan that was the aggressor in this half, coupled with many missed chances; no more scores came until the start of the last quarter when Barry McGowan stretched our slender lead. Joey McDermott got injured in the movement that brought that score and had to be replaced by John Sweeney. Sweeney's first touch of the ball brought him a lovely right footed point, and we were three points in the lead. Monaghan's only point of this half then arrived falling to substitute midfielder, Eddie Walsh. Dermot Ward, who was having a rather quiet day by his standards, put a goal between the sides again when he scored Donegal's last point.

It looked now that nothing could stop us from being Ulster champions in 1987. Then with a minute to play Stephen White fielded a high ball when slipping the attention of J. J. Doherty. He blasted a hard, left-footed shot to Danny Gallagher's left hand side — Gallagher did well to deflect it against the upright but the incoming Dermot Jones had little trouble sliding it to the net for the all important score that meant a draw and replay.

Donegal team and scorers: Danny Gallagher; Paul Carr, John Connors, John Joe Doherty; John Gallagher, John Cunningham, Diarmaid Keon; Brian Mor Gallagher, Barry Cunningham (0-1); Paddy Hegarty, Joey McDermott (0-1), Barry McGowan (0-1); Dermot Ward (0-2), Manus Boyle (0-1), Luke Gavigan. Sub., John Sweeney.

Ulster final replay: v Monaghan in Irvinestown, Sunday, 10th May DONEGAL 1-11, MONAGHAN 0-8

Donegal team manager, P.J. and mentors, Joe and Jimmy, were determined they would not let their supporters down this time — they would not let the Ulster title slip a second time. They were going to lift their fourth Ulster under-21 Football Championship at St. Molaise Park to-day.

There was one change on the team from the drawn game — Termon's Tommy Ryan was back after serving his suspension to lead the attack again. This turned out to be a great game. With Monaghan's never-say-die attitude and Donegal's footballing ability, both teams contributed to a very exciting

hour's football. There were some excellent individual performances, some good team work, but above all a clear winner and it was Donegal.

Donegal went into an early lead having elected to play against the strong breeze. By the 17th minute they had built up a lead of 1-3 to 0-1, thanks to scores from Manus Boyle (0-1, from a free), Barry McGowan (0-1 from play), Paddy Hegarty (1-0) and Boyle again with a point from a free. Monaghan's only reply was a point from a well struck 50 metre free by Stephen White, who on this occasion was easily Monaghan's man of the match. Michael Conlon reduced the deficit somewhat with another Monaghan point in the 21st minute. This score seemed to spur Monaghan into more urgent action while Donegal gave the impression they had the game very much under their control. The end result was that Monaghan went on to score a further three points by Stephen White in the last seven minutes to bring them to within a point of Donegal. On the stroke of half-time Dermot Ward stopped the rot with a point to leave the scores at Donegal 1-4, Monaghan 0-5 at the interval.

Within a minute of the restart, Frankie McCormack for Monaghan reduced our advantage to the bare minimum again. However, Barry Cunningham and Dermot Ward responded with points from frees. In the 13th minute Paddy Hegarty nearly scored another goal but the Monaghan keeper, Dermot Murphy made an excellent effort to divert it over the bar for a point. Barry Cunningham and Luke Gavigan added further points as the game ran into the last quarter. Donegal had simply gone into overdrive now on the final run-in and were heading for that title and semi-final place. To Monaghan's great credit they tried, tried and tried but Donegal simply had too much talent and with the bit between their teeth there was no stopping this fine team this time. Points by Barry McGowan and Tommy Ryan in the closing stages put the issue away beyond Monaghan's capabilities but still they never gave in and came back to take the last score of the game when a great shot at goals from Owen Hamilton had to be brilliantly deflected over the bar by our keeper, Danny Gallagher.

Resolute defending, brilliant goalkeeping when called upon, a high workrate and some superb finishing all contributed to this two goal (6 point) margin of victory.

After the game, Mr. Michael Feeney (himself a Monaghan man), secretary of the Ulster Council, presented a delighted Donegal captain, John Cunningham, with the Irish News Cup,

amidst scenes of sheer delight and euphoria. 1982 came flooding back to us — that real feeling of, yes — it is on again.

Man of the match: Barry Cunningham.

Donegal team and scorers: Danny Gallagher; Paul Carr, John Connors, John Joe Doherty; John Gallagher, John Cunningham (capt.), Diarmaid Keon; Barry Cunningham (0-2), Brian Mor Gallagher; Paddy Hegarty (1-1), Tommy Ryan (0-1), Barry McGowan (0-2); Dermot Ward (0-2), Manus Boyle (0-2), Luke Gavigan (0-1). Sub., Seamus Ward.

Monaghan team and scorers: Dermot Murphy; Timmy Byrne, Gerard McGuirk, Adrian Gunn; Frankie McCormack (0-1), Martin McKenna, Alan O'Rourke; Francis McEnaney, Michael Deery; Noel Marron, Dermot Jones, Owen Hamilton (0-1); Michael Conlon (0-1), Declan Brennan, Stephen White (0-5). Subs., Raymond Kelly and Eddie Walsh.

Referee: Des Slater (Tyrone).

**All-Ireland semi-final: v Laois in Carrick-on-Shannon,
Sunday, 17th May, 1987**

DONEGAL 1-7, LAOIS 1-6

Back to Sean McDiarmuid Park, Carrick-on-Shannon, in lovely Leitrim brought fond and historic memories — it was there that we won our first All-Ireland football title less than five years earlier, and it was at Under-21 level as well. More thoughts — it was Laois we met and beat in the All-Ireland semi-final that historic year of 1982. We beat them by a single point in a low scoring game on one of the most dreadful Sundays (weatherwise, that is) in Longford. Could it be repeated — the weather was different — the teams were the same in name only — the managers were different — we would soon know — All-Ireland fever had gripped us again.

From the start of this game Donegal answered all their critics and when Manus Boyle thundered through for that winning point with less than two minutes remaining we were back in an All-Ireland football final again. Laois were to prove the best combination Donegal met in the entire championship with fast, clean, skilful and classy football. After an hour's top class performance from both sides we had a single point to spare again, and were on our way to Croke Park — at least that is what we thought then.

Dermot Ward opened the scoring in the 6th minute with a 25 metre point when he caught a long lob from Barry Cunningham. A minute later Laois' Derek Coogan equalised.



The Donegal U-21 team which was held to a draw in the Ulster U-21 final. Back row, l. to r., Manus Boyle, Paddy Hegarty, Brian Mor Gallagher, Barry McGowan, Danny Gallagher, Dermot Ward, John Joe Doherty. Front, from left, Diarmaid Keon, John Gallagher, John Connors, John Cunningham, Barry Cunningham, Luke Gavigan, Paul Carr, Joey McDermott.

Donegal's goal came in the eleventh minute and again the scorer was Dermot Ward — he was having a great game. Paddy Hegarty had sent to Barry Cunningham who quickly kicked on a high ball that looked to be going wide — somehow, from somewhere Luke Gavigan appeared and rising higher than everyone else punched the ball from the end-line towards the goals and Dermot came running in to volley it to the net. Laois had a goal disallowed by Sligo referee, Michael Kearins, four minutes later because of a square infringement. A point each by Laois' Leo Turley and Tommy Ryan left the scores at Donegal 1-2 to Laois 0-2 after 20 minutes. Manus Boyle stretched Donegal's lead but Mark Behan cancelled it out quickly. Then with two minutes of the half left Laois' James Fahy came storming through to rip the Donegal defence apart with one of the best goals in the competition. This left the scores level at 1-3 each at half-time.

With scores level, conditions perfect and the big crowd of good humoured supporters creating a good atmosphere, the second half was something to look forward to. And it did not disappoint. Barry McGowan edged Donegal into the lead within two minutes. Manus Boyle retrieved a ball that looked like going wide four minutes later to score from a very difficult angle. Michael Turley cancelled its effect some five minutes later to leave the score standing at 1-5 for Donegal, 1-4 for Laois, as the game entered the last vital quarter. Star of the Laois team, Leo Turley, levelled the scores with twelve minutes remaining when his shot was brilliantly pushed over the bar by Danny Gallagher when a goal looked certain. Manus Boyle put Donegal ahead again but once again Leo Turley set up a move to place Kevin McCann to equalise. Two minutes to go and deadlocked, when Manus Boyle fielded a John Cunningham free, typically put his head down, ran at the defence and slotted over the last and most important score of the game — we were in the All-Ireland final — magnificent.

It was again the great talent of the Donegal players and the determination to win at all costs that pulled them through in the end. Poor Laois, well if you were not a Donegal person you would probably say they deserved another chance.

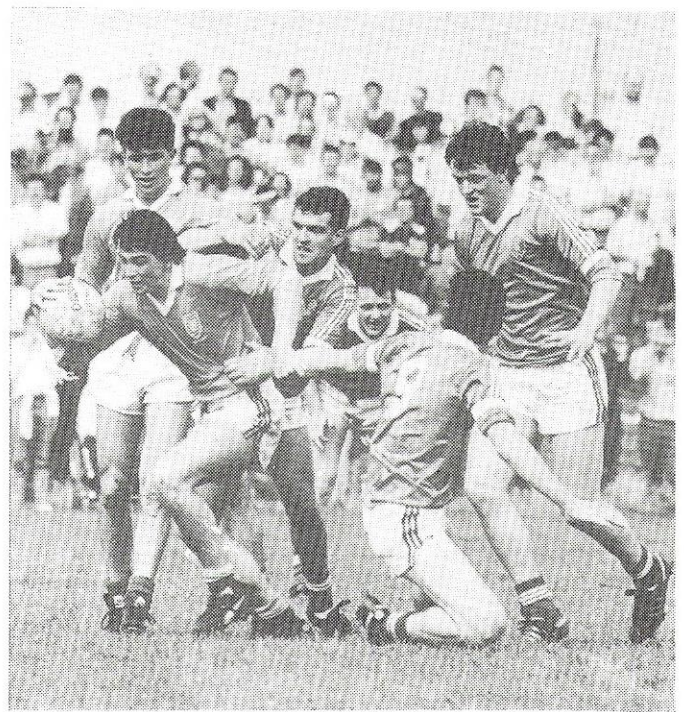
Donegal team and scorers: Danny Gallagher; Paul Carr, John Connors, John J. Doherty; John Gallagher, John Cunningham (capt.), Diarmaid Keon; Barry Cunningham, Brian Mor Gallagher; Paddy Hegarty, Tommy Ryan (0-1), Barry McGowan (0-1); Dermot Ward (1-1), Manus Boyle (0-4), Luke Gavigan. Subs., John Sweeney and Conor White.

OUR U-21 FINAL SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN CROKE PARK

As we waited for the date and the other finalists to be decided, all our thoughts were set on a visit to Croke Park to cheer on our team in the All-Ireland final at headquarters. Sufficient to say now how disappointing it was for a success starved county like ours to be deprived of the opportunity of a lifetime by fixing the final for June 7th, when it clashed with the Leinster Championship fixtures. But it was a very bitter pill to swallow when a second opportunity presented itself as a result of the draw and we were again deprived of this unique and what would have been a most historic occasion by having the wrong U-21s in Croke Park on Sunday, 28th June.

All-Ireland final: v Kerry in Tuam, Sun., 7th June, '87 DONEGAL 1-7, KERRY 0-10

The preparations over, excitement at fever pitch, young and not so young mobilised for a mass exodus to the Galway town of Tuam; the obstacle, the mighty Kerry. Not since 1982 when Donegal won their first All-Ireland U-21 title, has there been such excitement and enthusiasm about Gaelic football throughout the length and breadth of the county. We didn't care if it was the Kerry seniors, the reigning All-Ireland champions we were meeting — every supporter had the fullest belief in P.J. and the lads now — we had no worries, the All-Ireland was coming back to Donegal despite the fact we were meeting the greatest name in Gaelic football. Danny, Paul, John, John J., Thomas,



There's no holding Tommy Ryan back as he breaks through a pack of Kerry players.

Razda, Diarmaid, Barry, John Ban, Paddy, Tommy, Barry, Dermot, Manus, Luke, Conor, Joey, Brian Mor, Cormac, Peter, Emmet, Seamus, John and Seamus could not be beaten — they would never let us down.

As it turned out that was correct but they didn't win either. They met a fine Kerry team that threatened to swamp them in the second half but the players displayed a firm intensity of purpose with a dour, dogged determination to avoid defeat and earn a deserved draw in the end. Donegal may not have played their very best but make no mistake about it this was a fine Kerry combination that showed all the hallmarks of Kerry tradition and Gaelic football greatness.

Playing against the strong breeze in the first half, Donegal must have felt the crisis was over at half-time as they trailed by only two points, 0-6 to 0-4. Kerry were first to score when Donal McEvoy pointed from the throw-in. Dermot Ward equalised with a beautiful point from out wide on the left after three minutes and Manus Boyle put us into the lead in the next minute. More settled now, the Donegal boys were giving every sign that they could match the Kingdom at their best. However, it was P. J. Gaire who scored next for Kerry to leave the score 0-2 to 0-1 at the end of the first quarter. John Connors was having a brilliant game at full-back and the rest of the defence, while finding some of McEvoy's solo runs hard to stop, were standing firm to the much feared Kerry attacking machine. Donegal were playing some very enterprising football at this stage and were very unlucky when Manus Boyle took the ball along the ground to smack a rocket-like shot off the crossbar. Martin Downey converted a '45' to give Kerry the lead but Manus Boyle cancelled it with a neatly placed minor from a play. Then Luke Gavigan did well to hold off a couple of challenges to edge Donegal into the lead after 23 minutes. Another '45' conversion for Kerry, this time by Pierce Hoare, put the sides back to equality again for the fourth time. Gaire had an excellent point from play and Hoare pointed a free to leave Kerry with two points to spare at the interval, 0-6 to 0-4.

A minute into the second half and Donegal got the breakthrough that should have won the game. Dermot Ward was fouled and referee Mickey Kearins had no hesitation in awarding a penalty. Donegal captain, John Cunningham, stepped up to blast the ball past Moran for the only goal of the game and put Donegal into the lead again. This score should have been the tonic Donegal badly needed but it had a more stimulating effect on Kerry. A point by Martin Downey had

the sides equal for the fifth time. Gerard Murphy put Kerry ahead in the 5th minute. Kerry were now back in the driving seat with Galway, Stack, McEvoy making an increased number of runs from deep positions. Murphy stretched Kerry's lead. Donegal were giving a jittery performance — they were for the first time losing control of the game but they weren't losing their cool or determination. Kerry looked set for victory but magnificent fielding by John Connors at full back was hypnotising the Kerry forwards and at the same time inspiring Donegal to claw their way back into the game. Then came a wonderful point which revived some hope — Barry McGowan cleverly set up Barry Cunningham to point in great style to leave us only a point behind the Kingdom. Within minutes we were level thanks to Manus Boyle's splendid point. Ten minutes to go and all-square. Tension was running high — both sides were missing chances — then Gerard Murphy put Kerry back in the lead with seven minutes left. Time slipped quickly as the boys tried hard — they would not give in — they were forced to take a step backwards, could they recover it. I know a man who prayed and prayed earnestly for that equaliser. Two minutes left, a point behind the greatest name in football — then Tommy Ryan got fouled 30 metres out — it must be our last chance, could Manus hold his nerve and level — he did and we had lived to fight another day.

That was the day we were most lucky not to have lost our All-Ireland. It was a gallant team effort when every player showed true grit when Kerry were at their best. It was the most marvellous example of determination ever by a Donegal team at any level because it was a game Donegal were not at their brilliant best and found so many wee things failing them but they simply would not let themselves or us down — they simply would not accept defeat — even at the hands of mighty Kerry — would not have been a good enough excuse for our heroes.

Donegal team and scorers: Danny Gallagher; John Joe Doherty, John Connors, Thomas Maguire; Paul Carr, John Cunningham (capt., 1-0), Diarmaid Keon; Barry Cunningham (0-1), John Ban Gallagher; Paddy Hegarty, Tommy Ryan, Barry McGowan; Dermot Ward (0-1), Manus Boyle (0-4), Luke Gavigan (0-1). Subs., Conor White, Joey McDermott.

All-Ireland final replay: v Kerry in Roscommon on Sunday, 28th June

DONEGAL 1-12, KERRY 2-4

After what seemed an ageless wait the date and venue was eventually settled for the All-Ireland replay. Sunday, 28th June, at Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon, was decided. Another mass exodus of Donegal supporters with their green and white and orange flags left the county for the renowned Connacht venue. Full of hope and belief that they would capture the title and end this marathon All-Ireland under 21 championship of 1987. The great cavalcade of cars, buses, mini-buses, even trucks and vans,



GOAL ... The net shakes as John Cunningham converts the penalty awarded in the final in Tuam.



The Donegal team which drew with Kerry in Tuam. Back, l. to r., John Connors, Barry Cunningham, Danny Gallagher, Tommy Ryan, John Joe Doherty, Thomas Maguire, Barry McGowan. Front, from left, John Gallagher, Manus Boyle, Paul Carr, John Cunningham, Dermot Ward, Luke Gavigan, Diarmaid Keon, Paddy Hegarty.

wound its way down the N61. The atmosphere was electrifying. P.J. had kept faith in the side that battled so gallantly for the draw. I have never seen a team so eager and a manager and his mentors so confident that today would be the day they would take the Tadhg Ó Cléirigh Cup back home to Donegal.

As it turned out they were perfectly correct as Donegal played their way into history to become the first Ulster county to win the All-Ireland Under-21 Championship for the second time and the first Ulster team to win it in a replay. Every player rose to the occasion to give his all for the honour of the county.

From the start it was evident Donegal had improved a lot from the drawn game and were "on song". All the key players were performing up to standard again. Even captain, John Cunningham, was so confident that he was causing some consternation with his taunting soloing around his centre half-back position. Donegal went on the offensive from the throw-in. Many good early chances were missed as the players tried to settle and overcome their eagerness to end this contest in the first quarter. It was once again left to Manus Boyle to open the account. He intercepted a Kerry movement, passed to Luke Gavigan, who returned the ball instantly to elude the Kerry defenders and Boyle drove over from 21 metres in the 14th minute. No sooner had the Donegal supporters taken their seats when Kerry answered with a goal. Thomas Maguire had been forced to kick the ball over the sideline — P. J. Gaire took the resultant sideline free, sending it into the square. Kerry midfielder, Michael Galway, was there to break it down, regain possession and drive a low shot to the net.

This score certainly acted as a catalyst to the Donegal team. Manus Boyle pointed from a 50 metre free in the 22nd minute and a minute later Dermot Ward levelled when he collected from Tommy Ryan, turned his man well to shoot over for a good point. Manus Boyle followed with another minor from a free before Barry McGowan scored a magnificent long-range point in the 27th minute that would have lifted any team. But true to tradition Kerry came storming back in the closing minutes of this half to convert a '45' from the boot of ace kicker, Pierce Hoare, and Ger Looney added another by the 29th minute to level again. Donegal had the last say when Manus Boyle pointed from a 40 metre free to put Donegal ahead by a point at half-time, Donegal 0-6, Kerry 1-2.

One minute after the break Tommy Ryan stretched Donegal's lead with a fine point. Two minutes later came Donegal's goal. Ryan sent a long ball to Paddy Hegarty who shot for goals. The ball rebounded off a Kerry defender for Manus Boyle to collect and he made no mistake in slotting the ball to the back of the Kerry net. In the fifth minute Donegal were well on their way to the title when Boyle scored another point from 30 metres after receiving a return pass from John Cunningham. We were now celebrating victory as the terraces and stand was a sea of

green, white and gold Donegal flags — we had a six point margin and in overdrive. But Kerry were not to be that easily disposed of — back came Gerald Murphy with a well taken goal when a defensive error left him totally unmarked and our margin was halved by a single mistake. This goal gave the Kingdom new heart — if a Kerry team ever needs such — and they followed with another Pierce Hoare point. After this Manus Boyle had the miss of the game when put through superbly by Barry McGowan with only the keeper to beat. Seamus Ward joined the Donegal team at the start of the last quarter to operate at centre-half forward. It was his first taste of match play after suspension resulting out of the Ulster final replay. Manus Boyle restored Donegal's one goal advantage with a point from a free in the 19th minute but a minute later Pierce Hoare replied to narrow it to two points again. This proved to be the mighty Kingdom's last score.

In the final ten minutes Donegal's super fitness and their incomparable hunger for victory completely swept the Kerry players off their feet. Manus Boyle restored that significant but dangerous goal advantage again in the 24th minute when he coolly and accurately stroked over his final point of the game to bring his personal tally to an incredible 1-7. Three minutes from time the big Glenfin substitute, Seamus Ward, capped his inclusion with a spectacular point from all of 40 metres. Few of us saw the final point from his brother, Dermot, on the stroke of full-time. Amidst an unprecedented sea of Donegal banners we were already celebrating and making our way to the presentation platform, to be part of that unexplainable feeling of being All-Ireland football champions. G.A.A. President, Dr. Michael Loftus, presented a delighted Donegal captain, John Cunningham, with the Tadhg Ó Cléirigh Cup as Ulster champions. There was no surprise when Manus Boyle was declared "Man of the Match" and presented with a cut-glass trophy by Sean McCormack on behalf of the sponsors, Milford Bakery and Flour Mills.

P.J., Dodo, Jimmy and the heroes had come through it all with flying colours. They don't realise yet how much we appreciated them. We were proud, very, very proud and no apologies for feeling that sinful way on that glorious and historic day in Co. Roscommon.



Donegal U-21 captain, receives the Tadhg O'Cléirigh Cup from Dr. Mick Loftus, President of the G.A.A.

Donegal team and scorers: Danny Gallagher; John Joe Doherty, John Connors, Thomas Maguire; Diarmaid Keon, John Cunningham (capt.), Paul Carr; Barry Cunningham, John 'Ban' Gallagher; Paddy Hegarty, Tommy Ryan (0-1), Barry McGowan (0-1); Dermot Ward (0-2), Manus Boyle (1-7), Luke Gavigan. Sub., Seamus Ward (0-1).

Kerry team and scorers: Ciaran Moran; Ken Savage, Michael Brosnan, Morgan Nix; Pat Coughlan, Noel O'Leary, Stephen Stack; Michael Galway (1-0), James Brosnan; P. J. Gaire, Martin Dennehy, Donal McEvoy; Ger Looney (0-1), Pierce Hoare (0-3), Gerald Murphy (1-0). Sub., Martin Downey and Tom Walsh.

Referee: Michael Kearins (Sligo).



A section of the Donegal support at the final.

WHAT THEY SAID IN THE NATIONAL PAPERS

The National newspapers were full of praise for the victorious Donegal team: "Boyle guides Donegal home", read the headline in the *Irish Press* while the *Irish Independent* headed their story with "Inspirational Boyle gives Donegal title" and in the *Irish Times* "Donegal capture under-21 crown" was the heading.

Sean McGoldrick, writing in the *Press*, effectively expressed the views of many people. "There is a special magic about beating Kerry in an All-Ireland final and although the result of this contest was long in doubt, victory ultimately rested where it richly deserved.

"The story of the game is best summed up in the statistic that Donegal registered 13 scores, compared to just six for their opponents," he reported.

Among the other players who he singled out were Barry Cunningham and John Gallagher for their work in midfield and John Cunningham at centre-half-back.

"Manus Boyle, a 21-year-old employee of a Killybegs fishing net manufacturing company, was the hero of Donegal's deserved victory over Kerry . . .", wrote Liam Kelly in the *Independent*, who went on to say that Boyle "gave a scintillating performance."

"The title deservedly went to Donegal," he commented. The second half had been action-packed with Donegal "setting a fierce pace," from the start. "Donegal were rampant," he wrote.

The *Irish Times* report read that Donegal had out-played Kerry and were well "worth their eventual five point victory," but pointed out that they "struggled to convert outfield supremacy for long periods of the game."

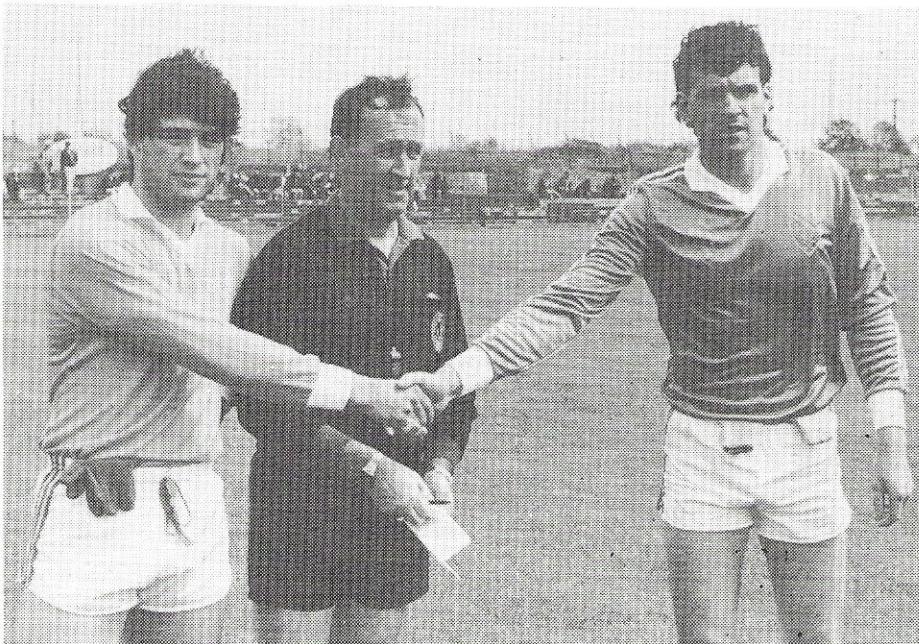
It continued: "The game was a personal triumph for their full-forward, Manus Boyle, who recorded 1-7 of their total. Their defence, notably the half-back line of Diarmaid Keon, John Cunningham (capt.) and Paul Carr, played solidly throughout, while in attack the match-winning efforts of Boyle were best augmented by Tommy Ryan, Barry McGowan and Dermot Ward."

However, let it be said that Kerry played their part in a fine game. "Certainly this current team are not lacking in footballing ability," wrote McGoldrick, who added that for long periods "the appeared to possess the necessary audacity to steal victory," but he added that their will to win "never quite matched that shown by the victors."

"Super-hero", was how the *Irish News* report described Manus Boyle, who had helped Donegal to victory in an "absorbing" replay. And the game was well summarised in the following way: "Kerry proved a stubborn side threatening always to sneak a goal. However, a final flourish by Donegal saw them eventually move away with ease from the Kingdom."



WELL DONE MANUS . . . Donegal full-forward, Manus Boyle, is congratulated by John Mangan, Churchill (left) and Thomas Cormack, Mounthcharles, after the final whistle in Roscommon.



The rival captains, John Cunningham (Donegal) and Noel O'Leary (Kerry) with referee, Michael Kearins (Sligo) pictured before the start of the final in Tuam.

FUTURE IS BRIGHT, STATED PRESIDENT

Outgoing President of the GAA, Dr. Mick Loftus, believes that there is a great future for Donegal football.

Speaking after the game in Roscommon, Dr. Loftus said that with the success that the county has been achieving at both Vocational Schools level and at U-21 there must be great prospects for Donegal. The President said that he enjoyed the match and was very pleased with the standard of football.

"It really was a skilful and sporting game. I do not think that there was even a semblance of an incident during the game. On the broader context it just shows what Gaelic

football can be like when it is played in the proper spirit," Dr. Loftus said.

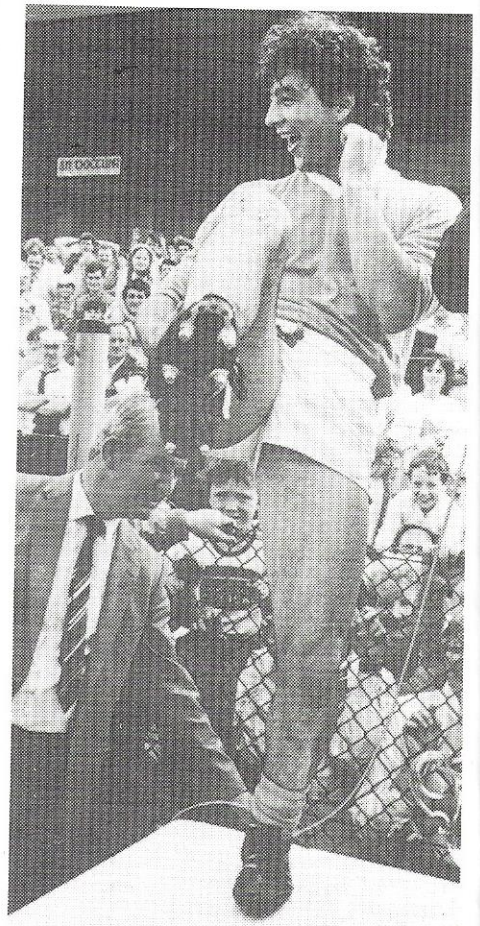
He added that both Donegal and Kerry have a very healthy attitude to the game at all levels. "They have a very positive attitude", he said.

But the President felt that Donegal were without doubt the better footballing side.

"They have some tremendous footballers. I do not know what happened to them in Ballybofey, but I suppose it was like my own county last year. But with this success and the success of your Vocational team the future has to be good in Donegal," he added.



Donegal mentors Joe Winston, and Jimmy White share the triumph with manager, P. J. McGowan.



John Cunningham does a jig of joy on the presentation platform prior to being presented with the cup.



A section of the huge crowd which greeted the heroes on their return to Donegal Town.

THE MANAGER



If there was a national award for "County Manager of the Year", P. J. McGowan, Donegal, would surely be a strong contender. P. J. managed two Co. Donegal teams to All-Ireland finals in 1987. His first final achievement was with the Voc. School team who were beaten by Kerry, the reigning champions, by a single point in Croke Park. His second final brought ultimate success when he managed the Co. U-21 team to the title over none other than Kerry at Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon. He was part of some little history here as he was the first manager of an Ulster team to win the All-Ireland U-21 title in a replay and also the first man to manage an Ulster County to a second All-Ireland U-21 Championship title.

P. J. is a member of Sean MacCumhail's Club. He is a

former county senior player and managed the Co. Vocational team to All-Ireland titles in 1984/1985. A Secondary School teacher by profession, P. J. is attached to the staff of Raphoe Vocational School as a P.E. instructor.

It was while training for teaching in Manchester that he met his wife, Ann. Ann was born and reared in Orpington, Kent of Irish parents, Michael and Eileen O'Sullivan, who hailed from Youghal, Co. Cork. Since meeting P. J. in 1974, Ann has become a very keen and knowledgeable Gaelic football supporter and a dedicated follower of Donegal.

Although a qualified Primary School teacher, Ann prefers to stay at home to look after their three children, Kevin, aged 7 years; Mark, 3½ years, and Gina, 1½ years.

First ever All-Ireland Hurling title — An historic victory



The road to All-Ireland glory began in Dungannon on Saturday, July 4th, with a stunning 6-4 to 0-4 victory over Tyrone, in the quarter-final of the All-Ireland Under-16 Special Hurling Championship. The heading over the match report in the Irish News on Monday, 6th July, read 'Craig sweeps Tyrone aside'. This was indeed a memorable day for Paul Craig as he scored 3-1 of his side's total, the other scorers being Stephen McFadden (1-1), Seamus Craig (1-1), Conor Kelly (1-0) and Sean Hegarty (0-1).

After this victory the real training began. In case the team were over confident a friendly against a strong Derry selection was played on July 12th in Dungiven. Needless to say the Derry boys gave us all a lesson in hurling and back to the basics in training. Our next game was against Longford, the defending champions. In a very exciting semi-final, played at Ballyshannon, Donegal defeated Longford by 3-5 to 1-6. At half-time the sides were level 1-2 each. In a two-minute spell in the middle of the second half Donegal scored 2-1 and were now on the road to their first ever All-Ireland Hurling final. The Donegal scorers were Seamus Craig (0-2), Sean Hegarty (0-2), Ronan McLaughlin (1-1) and Paul Craig (2-0).

There was now a great buzz of excitement in the squad and there was a great team spirit. In the build-up to the final two friendly matches against Dungiven and Na Magha of Derry City were played, and in both games the Donegal boys came out on top. We are indebted to both Liam Hinphey of Dungiven and Sean Mellor of Na Magha for their help.

The big question before the final was, 'Would it be played in Croke Park?' The powers that be in Croke Park and U2 gave us the answer, a Donegal or Sligo venue. Lucky for us the toss was won by Donegal and we had the use of the great facilities of the Aodh Ruadh Club and Fr. Tierney Park in Ballyshannon. I would like to thank the ground staff and the Aodh Ruadh Club for providing us with a splendid pitch for both the semi-final and final.

Final day came — August 15th. As we sat in the Imperial Hotel taking our soup and rolls, one could sense that the team were ready for the big day. Sligo had won the Special Minor Championship in 1986, so we knew we would have to battle

all the way to achieve an historic victory.

The game was played in atrocious conditions, constant rain all during the game. The Donegal team started very nervously and indeed should have scored a goal or two in the opening five minutes. However, at half time the score was Sligo 1-3, Donegal 0-1. Eamon McLaughlin-Harkin of Carndonagh got Donegal's only point of the first half in the 29th minute. Indeed at half-time some of the team were near to tears. The second half began and within two minutes Donegal had reduced the deficit to two points as Declan Doherty of Urris scored a great goal. In the 38th minute Peter Doyle of Burt brought Donegal a point nearer Sligo. Sean Hegarty of Naomh Mura then levelled the scores. Donegal then took the lead with a point from Stephen McFadden of Naomh Mura.

Sligo restored their lead with a goal in the 46th minute. However, Eamon McLaughlin-Harkin scored a point from 45 metres and in the next attack Sean Hegarty levelled the scores. With eight minutes to go Sean Hegarty once again restored Donegal's lead and with four minutes to go Paul Craig scored the vital goal and Donegal were now four points ahead. There were great scenes of jubilation when Michael Ferguson, the referee, blew the final whistle. History was made and we had our first All-Ireland title — "special" — it certainly is.

The Donegal team was: Alan McMenamin (MacCumhaills); Seamus Grant (Burt), Christopher Nelson (Carndonagh), Kevin Barr (Burt); Stephen McFadden (Naomh Mura), Peter McGonagle (Naomh Mura), Seamus Duffy (MacCumhaills); Seamus Craig, capt. (Naomh Mura), Eamon McLaughlin-Harkin (Carndonagh); Peter Doyle (Burt), Sean Hegarty (Naomh Mura), Seamus Doherty (Naomh Mura); Ronan McLaughlin (Burt), Paul Craig (Naomh Mura) and Declan Doherty (Urris). Subs. used, Conor Kelly (Carndonagh) and Andrew Wallace (Burt).

Remainder of panel: Aidan Thompson (MacCumhaills), Fergal Doherty (Urris), Ciaran Twomey (Four Masters), Gerry Sheerin, Donal McGowan, Shane O'Neill and Owen Roe O'Neill (Aodh Ruadh), Sean Kelly, Sean Bradley and Alan Doherty (Carndonagh), Dermot Doherty, Ciaran Toner and Donal Walker (Naomh Mura) and Gary Grant (Burt).



Sligo's goalkeeper ends up wet and beaten as Declan Doherty's shot slips past him and into the net.



Seamus Craig, captain of the victorious Donegal team, is presented with the match sliothar by referee, Michael Ferguson, Fermanagh.



Two players from each side battle it out to win possession.



Tight marking meant that gaining possession was never easy.



Action during the game from a rain-soaked Fr. Tierney Park.



Oh! The pain of it, Manus! Manager, Manus O'Donnell, grits his teeth as Sligo keep Donegal under pressure in the first half — even the subs look sad — little did they know that the second half performance would be enough to lift Donegal its first All-Ireland hurling title.

TRANSITION YEAR FOR THE SENIOR TEAM

By Connie Duffy

Whatever may be said of the wisdom or visions of the Donegal selectors' decision to reconstruct a new county team in 1987 it has certainly provided the Donegal G.A.A. public, with a topic for animated debate over the last 12 months or so.

It is said that hope springs eternal and that old adage has done much to sustain the supporters through the years, in bad times and in good and certainly in the current 1987-'88 league campaign for the majority among the Donegal supporters who follow the team Sunday after Sunday, hope will be very much a strong emotion.

While one does not seek to dismiss a team's potential or talent on the evidence of a year's campaign one must realise the side are going through a transitory period with new players arriving and familiar faces leaving and therefore the basis for success, the solid foundation is being laid.

Perhaps to set the scene one should look at last year's statistics: We won three of our games beating this year defeated All-Ireland finalists Cork by 0-8 to 0-5; Longford 2-7 to 1-4 and Ulster

champions and beaten All-Ireland semi-finalists, Derry by 1-9 to 0-7.

We opened and closed the campaign with defeats from Kildare, 2-11 to 1-10 and by Laois 2-9 to 0-5. We also drew two games, the only team in the division to do so. Both games were played at MacCumhaill Park and the sides who escaped with a point were Tyrone with their 0-9 to our 1-6 and Cavan who matched our scores as we finished 1-8 apiece.

It was a campaign of mixed opportunities. We scored exactly the same as we conceded, 6-53 (71), a remarkable coincidence by any standards. The team itself changed for almost every match with only goalkeeper, Noel McCole and corner-forward Manus Boyle holding on to their jerseys. Many combinations and amalgamations were tried, but injuries, downright bad performances, lack of commitment, loyalty, dedication threw a spanner or twenty in the works.

A total of twentyfive players were used: Noel McCole, Sean Bonner, Martin Griffin, Tommy McDermott, Donal Reid, Corney Carr, Myles

Sweeney, Declan Bonner, Barry Cunningham, Marty Carlin, Charlie Mulgrew, Joyce McMullan, Leslie McGettigan, Michael Lafferty, Manus Boyle, Paul Carr, Eunan Gallagher, Matt Gallagher, Martin Shovlin, Sylvester Maguire, Des Newton, Brendan Dunleavy, Martin McHugh, Anthony Molloy and John Cunningham.

The youngest player on the panel proved to be the top scorer. Manus Boyle of Killybegs was the only player to score in every game. The scoring chart for the seven league matches ended as follows:

Manus Boyle	4-11
Marty Carlin	0-15
Martin McHugh	0-10
Sylvester Maguire	1-4
Leslie McGettigan	1-2
Joyce McMullan	0-3
Declan Bonner	0-2
Michael Lafferty	0-2
Barry Cunningham	0-1
Charlie Mulgrew	0-1

At times it must have been a frustrating campaign for manager, players and supporters. Those of us who have held a watching brief on the side's progress,



The Donegal team which was knocked out of the Ulster Championship by Armagh in the first round in Ballybofey. Back row, l. to r., Sylvester Maguire, Sean Bonner, Anthony Molloy, Corny Carr, Michael Kelly, Matt Gallagher, Des Newton. Front row, l. to r., Manus Boyle, Joyce McMullan, Martin McHugh, Declan Bonner, Brendan Dunleavy, Tommy McDermott, Eamonn Breslin, Kieran Keeney.

their style and their strategy have obviously different views and reasons why things went the way they did.

The campaign provided us with a realistic chance of making it to Division One for the first time, but in the end we did not achieve it. Many would argue we did not play to our strengths. There were those who deemed changes were necessary, even vital. Some would disagree and say key positions were not solid enough and the burden of responsibility fell on the shoulders of too few.

A "calculated risk" would probably be the official assessment in such circumstances.

There are times in the development of a team when it is absolutely essential to win, a time to discover if the achievements of the team were ever to match its ambition—or perhaps its supporters ambition. The league tried and tested many. Perhaps it was unrealistic to expect too much too soon. Remember the manager did ask supporters to be patient, to wait and if they stayed in Division Two he would be satisfied.

Tom Conaghan's no-nonsense reputation and his tough stand on certain issues such as discipline, commitment and loyalty did work—both ways. On the one hand he won respect and admiration for his stance while on the other his seemingly inflexible attitude in relation to players' loyalty, made life tough for himself and the team, in this, his first year as team manager.

The players too performed at times with a mixture of apprehension and docility that was stunning. Some spoke after games of feeling nervous before and during matches, yet there was a wealth of experience in last year's team.

Most damning of all for the supporters has been the confusion and incoherence of the team's game plan. Matches were there for the taking but somehow the side lacked the power, direction and will to win.

When the league ended with that disastrous defeat in Ballyshannon to Laois attention then turned to the McKenna Cup and our first round match against Tyrone at Healy Park, Omagh. Conaghan made no less than seven changes for this game: out went goalkeeper Noel McCole, defenders Sean Bonner and Matt Gallagher, the midfield partnership of Martin Griffin and Joyce McMullan and forwards Michael Lafferty and Manus Boyle. In came Michael Kelly, John Joe Travers, Corney Carr, Martin Gavigan, Eamonn Breslin, Patrick Gallagher and Anthony Molloy.

The side fell by two points 0-9 to 0-7 in a game they could have won. Tyrone exacted too much control and influence in the all-important sectors.

The championship ended a tough year for the senior team. Their unconvincing performance against Armagh in MacCumbhail Park, Ballybofey posed

many questions.

Armagh won 1-8 to 0-6 and went on to reach the Ulster final only to be beaten by Derry.

Many saw that match as our worst performance for years and wondered how there could be a future for all concerned

this year. Too many things went wrong. Hopefully it will not happen again.

The current league campaign sees us at home to Kildare, Clare and Down and away to Cavan, Roscommon, Galway and Laois. Are there better things around the corner with this new panel. Let's hope so.

MINORS HAD INDIFFERENT YEAR

Minor team manager, Jimmy White, had a realistic expectation of taking his charges to the Ulster final in 1987 — he didn't expect to repeat his 1985 achievement of lifting the provincial title — Down had too good a team this year. Jimmy's expectations were not achieved but as usual his realism was not far out as events have shown. Armagh was the opposition in the first round of the championship in Ballybofey. After taking a time to settle we were leading at the interval by 1-3 to 0-5 thanks to a Tony Boyle/Donal Breslin manoeuvred goal. The second half was very even — Armagh were proving stiff and skilful opponents. A spectacular T. McCreesh goal midway through the second half nearly put paid to Donegal's hopes but their great determination kept them in the game. However, we had to depend on substitute Stephen McKelvey to save the day for us when he clearly created the opportunity for another substitute, Luke Brennan, to reduce the difference to a point with a fisted goal two minutes from time. Then McKelvey became the darling of Donegal when he equalised in the last minute to earn us a draw and a second chance. Final score, Donegal 2-5, Armagh 1-8. Donegal man of the match, Donal Breslin. Donegal scorers: Donal Breslin (1-2), Luke Brennan (1-0), Tony Boyle (0-1), Noel Hegarty (0-1), Stephen McKelvey (0-1).

REPLAY

It was to the Athletic Grounds,

Armagh the following Sunday for the replay. In a game of incredible fluctuation in fortunes Donegal were eventually caught in the 59th minute by a dubious penalty award and Armagh sealed victory four minutes into injury time with the last point of the game. Final score, Armagh 2-10, Donegal 3-5.

Donegal team and scorers: Ian Cunningham; Michael Doherty, Paul Carberry, Declan Gallagher; Paddy McLaughlin, Maurice McBride, Declan O'Donnell; Rory Muldoon, Mark McShane; Tony Boyle, Frank Ward, Noel Hegarty; Stephen McKelvey (2-1), John Duffy (1-3), Donal Breslin (0-1). Subs., Luke Brennan, Sean Furey, Peter Dillon.

ULSTER MINOR LEAGUE

In their five-county division of the Ulster Minor League the team had mixed results. They won two games, lost two and consequently failed to qualify from their section. The results were: Donegal 0-9, Fermanagh 1-5; Donegal 2-9, Monaghan 1-8; Derry 3-8, Donegal 2-8 and Cavan 1-13, Donegal 0-65. Their victory over Monaghan saw them give their best performance. The team that day was: D. Nolan; E. O'Donnell, L. O'Neill, A. Gallagher; P. McLaughlin, R. Muldoon, M. Doherty; M. McBride, P. Dillon; P. McGinty, T. Boyle, D. Breslin; J. Duffy, F. Ward, L. Brennan. Subs., P. Carberry, D. Gallagher and J. Higgins.



The Donegal Minor team and subs pictured prior to their defeat by Armagh in the Minor Championship replay at the Athletic Grounds, Armagh.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS

All-Ireland finalists

By Connie Duffy

It's at this time of the year, inevitably, that all Gaelic enthusiasts pick out the highlights of the year just gone. There can be no doubting the fact that for many the exploits of the Donegal Vocational School team will feature prominently. Sadly they just narrowly failed to pick up the title but nevertheless they did the county proud and showed there was plenty of young talent in the schools.

The Vocational Schools campaign was also the beginning of a hectic year for manager, P. J. McGowan from Ballybofey. Remember, he led the victorious U-21 side to honours this year too.

Donegal had by far the hardest route to this year's final. They fought off the challenge of Cavan in the first round, then breezed through a disappointing Antrim team in the Ulster semi-final. The Ulster final proved quite a different affair. They met Tyrone at Healy Park, Omagh and were lucky to get through the game with a draw. Now this was the second successive meeting of these sides in the Ulster decider so there was a little pride at stake too.

The replay in Ballybofey a week later saw a fresh approach from our players. They trounced the O'Neill County and qualified for their fourth successive All-Ireland semi-final and a meeting with Mayo.

Who can ever forget that 2-11 to 0-5 victory in Ballymote? Certainly the handful who travelled that Friday evening will vouch for this. It was a brilliant performance of no-nonsense attacking football. Donegal outplayed, outclassed and outshone the opposition in every department.

Dungloe's Tony Boyle scored **what I could only describe as the best goal of the year**. Two minutes from half-time, he blasted a free kick on the left some 45 metres from Mayo's goal. Boyle's shot, assisted by the wind and a ragged Mayo defence, saw the ball sail into the net for an incredible score.

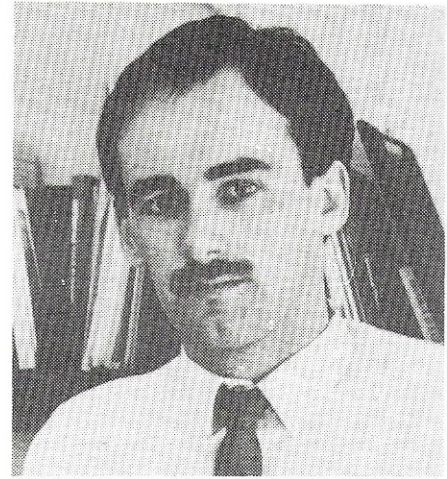
So another All-Ireland final beckoned, the third in four years. Not a bad record and one any other Donegal side will find hard to beat. It was more than that, however. It was a chance to get revenge on the side that knocked us out of the competition in the semi-final last year, the famous Kerry. It was a chance too, for nine of the 1986 panel to get even, namely: Paul Carbery, Luke Aston, Enda Martin, Rory Muldoon, Tony Boyle,

Damien Gallagher, Brian McBride, Frank Ward and Daniel 'Rua' Gallagher.

As we all know, Kerry were just that little bit sharper in Croke Park on Sunday, April 26th. One might say they were fortunate but on reflection it would be fair to say they just about deserved to win. The scoreline speaks for itself: Donegal 3-9, Kerry 2-13. With a little luck and just one more score the result could have gone the other way.

Controversy raged prior to the start and nearly led to the cancellation of the game. An argument whether Donegal or Kerry should wear the 'green and gold' coloured jerseys was the sticking point. Donegal had informed the organisers that they were playing in county colours almost two weeks before the final and they had received assurances that everything was in order. On the day, however, a somewhat stubborn Kerry side would not agree to play in their provincial colours of 'Munster blue'. In last year's semi-final Donegal conceded colours so it was felt Kerry should concede this time.

A deputation headed by Croke Park Youth Officer, Pat Daly, entered the dressing room and warned the game



Connie Duffy

would be called off if the matter was not resolved. The Donegal mentors stuck to their guns however, and said they did not feel obliged to accommodate the Kerry side just because they forgot to bring a second strip with them.

The debate raged on until two minutes from throw-in when Donegal reluctantly agreed to a toss which they won. They wore the green and gold and loaned Kerry their second strip, which incidentally was the Sean MacCumhaill strip. The Kerry jerseys were left in the Donegal dressing room as 'security'.

In the match itself Donegal raced into a seven-point lead by the 16th minute but a cruel deflection off full-back Paul



Donegal V.S. captain, Frank Ward, pictured with his opposite number, Mick O'Dwyer, of Kerry, and referee, Mattie Carolan.

Carbery ended up in the net. This proved to be a turning point in this half as Kerry added two more points while the Donegal defence remained unsettled. Donegal deserved to be at least five points up at half-time but the concession of a second goal five minutes from the break meant it was not to be.

Donegal, to their credit, came back in style, and dominated the third quarter. Matters improved with a number of positional changes on the Donegal side and a great goal from super-sub Aidan Burke five minutes from time brought them right back into the game on level terms.

Kerry broke away but Donegal equalised. Time was running out and it seemed whoever would get the next score would win. Sure enough that's the way it happened. The Kerry captain, Michael Dwyer pointed from a 14 yard free in the final minute to seal the victory.

Naturally, the Donegal players, mentors and supporters were very disappointed with the result. However, after such a fine display with such sporting and attractive football they did the county proud. They were a credit to the county, the Vocational schools football scene and to the G.A.A. in

general.

The Donegal team that day was: Pat Bonner (Rosses C.S.); Tommy Diver (Carndonagh C.S.); Paul Carbery (Killybegs V.S.); Luke Aston (Carrick V.S.); Mark McShane (Carrick V.S.), Enda Martin (Loreto, Milford), Rory Brady (Abbey V.S.); Rory Muldoon (Abbey V.S.); John Farren (Carndonagh V.S.); Stephen McKelvey (1-1), (Glenties C.S.), Tony Boyle (Rosses C.S.), Damien Gillespie (St. Columba's); Frank Ward (capt., 0-4), (St. Columba's), Sean Furey (0-3) (Abbey V.S.), Daniel 'Rua' Gallagher (1-1) (P.S. Gaoth Dobhair).

Sub: Aidan Burke (1-0) (Carrick V.S.) for Damien Gillespie. Other subs not used: Hugh Diver (P.S. Gaoth Dobhair), Damien Bradley (St. Columba's), Brendan Bradley (St. Columba's), Brian McBride (P.S. Gaoth Dobhair), Stephen Cunningham (Killybegs V.S.), James Sweeney (Rosses C.S.) and the late Gerald Gallagher (Abbey V.S.).

The Vocational Schools competition has been synonymous with success in recent years in this county. Perhaps the time has now come to upgrade its importance at County Board level and help maintain this exciting and vibrant

facet of Gaelic football alive for years to come. Its young footballers have over the past few years gone on to other county levels and done well. Surely such an important stable must get the greatest care and attention possible if Donegal is to enjoy success at senior level.

Undoubtedly, tradition will play a part in this success but as critics will be quick to point out tradition does not win matches and each team has to establish itself as a force. This year's Vocational Schools team did just that and hopefully in the not-too-distant future the players from this often ignored footballing' nursery will take their places at higher levels.

A word of praise too, for the Vocational Schools Board. They put in a lot of time and effort to get where they are today. Apart from team manager P. J. McGowan they have workers in Barry Campbell (Carrick V.S.), Danny O'Brien (Buncrana), Anthony Harkin (Loreto, Milford), John Joe O'Shea (Killybegs), Dessie Griffin (Raphoe), Eamonn Griffin (Abbey V.S.) and Sean Kelly (St. Columba's).

Here's looking forward to another good campaign in '88!



Aidan Burke (who had come on as a sub.) turns away in delight after scoring Donegal's third goal in the All-Ireland final and is congratulated by Stephen McKelvey.

CO. BOARD OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 1987



UACHTARÁN: An tEaspog Seamus Ó hEigheartaigh



LEAS UACHTARÁN: Pádraig S. Mac a'Ghoill, Árd a Rátha



CATHAOIRLEACH: Cathal Ó Fachtna, MacCumhailis



LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH: Séamus Mac Cealbhuí, Baile na Finne



RUNAÍ: Parthalan Ó Faolainn, Árd a Rátha



LEAS RÚNAÍ: Noirin Ní Dhochartaigh, MacCumhailis



CISTEOIR: Proinsias Mac Cuinneagáin, Naomh Columba



LEAS CHISTEOIR: Ciaran Mac Fhloinn, Gleann Fhinne



OIFIGEACH CAIDREAMH POIBLÍ: Seán Ó Baoill, Leitir Ceanainn



OIFIGEACH NA GAEILGE: Seamus De Faoite, Leitir Ceanainn



OIFIGEACH FORBARTHA: Conaill Mac Uidhir, Leitir Ceanainn.



OIFIGEACH ÓGRA: Seán Mac Conaill, Ard a Ratha



IONADAÍ AN ARD COMHAIRLE: Breandan Ó Neill, Na gCeithre Maistrí.



CATHAOIRLEACH BÓRD NA RÉITEOIRÍ: Seán Ó Fuairí, Naomh Ultan.



IONADAÍ AN COMHAIRLE ULADH (2):

Pádraig Ó Canaigh, Leifearr.

P. S. Mac Gabhain, MacCumhailis



CATHAOIRLEACH BÓRD NA MIONÚR: Pádraig Ó Connachan, Na Cealla Beaga.

Milford Bakery All-County Football League, 1987

FORMAT AND FIRST ROUND RESULTS ON COMMENCEMENT DAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 5th
AND LEAGUE TABLES AS AT 2nd NOVEMBER, 1987

Division One North:

Urris 1-5, St. Eunans 1-10
Cloughaneely 1-5, Red Hughs 0-7
Downings 1-5, MacCumhalls 2-8
Glenfin 1-9, Gweedore 1-7

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
* Cloughaneely	14	11	1	2	23
* Glenfin	14	11	1	2	23
St. Eunans	14	10	2	2	22
MacCumhalls	14	6	2	6	14
Gweedore	14	4	2	8	10
Red Hughs	14	3	3	8	9
§ Downings	14	2	2	10	6
§ Urris	14	2	1	11	5

* Through to Div. 1 semi-finals

§ Relegated.

Cloughaneely 0-7, Glenfin 0-6 in play-off.

Division 1 South:

Ardara 2-10, Naomh Ultan 1-4
Aodh Ruadh 0-10, Kilcar 1-7 (draw)
Four Masters 1-5, Bundoran 0-8 (draw)
Naomh Columba 0-9, Killybegs 1-12

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
* Kilcar	14	12	1	2	25
* Aodh Ruadh	12	9	1	2	19
Killybegs	14	8	1	5	17
Ardara	13	7	2	4	16
N. Columba	14	7	1	6	15
Four Masters	14	5	1	8	11
§ Bundoran	14	1	2	11	4
§ Naomh Ultan	13	0	1	12	1

* Through to Div. 1 semi-finals

§ Relegated

Division 2 North:

Robert Emmets 1-9, Naomh Mhuire 0-6
St. Eunans 0-10, Carndonagh 0-6
Convoy 1-6, Termon 0-7
St. Michael's 0-9, Buncrana 1-8

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
* Robert Emmets	14	13	1	0	27
* Naomh Mhuire	14	10	1	3	21
Buncrana	14	8	1	5	17
Termon	14	6	1	7	13
Carndonagh	14	5	2	7	12
Convoy	14	6	0	8	12
§ St. Eunans	14	3	1	10	7
§ St. Michael's	14	1	1	12	3

* Promoted to Div. 1 and through to Div.

2 semi-finals

§ Relegated.

Division 2 South:

Kilcar 1-3, Na Rossa 2-14
Naomh Conaill 4-16, Aodh Ruadh 0-2.
Dungloe 1-7, St. Naul's 1-6
Naomh Brid 2-16, Naomh Columba 0-4

DIVISION 2 SOUTH

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
* Naomh Brid	14	13	0	1	26
* Dungloe	14	10	1	3	21
Na Rossa	14	10	1	3	21
St. Nauls	14	8	1	5	17
N. Conaill	14	5	1	8	11
Kilcar	14	4	0	10	8
§ Aodh Ruadh	14	3	0	11	6
§ N. Columba	14	1	0	13	2

* Promoted to Div. 1 and through to Div.

2 semi-finals

Dungloe 2-2, Na Rossa 1-4

in promotional play-off

§ Relegated.

Division 3 North:

Cloughaneely 2-6, St. Michael's 0-4
Burt 0-5, Gweedore 1-7
Fanad Gaels 0-6, Lifford 0-2
Milford 3-7, Robert Emmets 0-3
Malin 2-8, Red Hughs 0-11
Naomh Baithin 1-3, Glenswilly 0-8

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
* Milford	22	21	0	1	42
* Gweedore	21	19	0	2	38
Malin	21	18	0	3	36
Glenswilly	17	10	0	7	20
Fanad Gaels	19	10	0	9	20
Cloughaneely	19	10	0	9	20
Burt	19	9	0	10	18
Lifford	22	7	0	15	14
R. Emmets	20	6	0	14	12
Red Hughs	16	6	0	10	12
N. Baithin	22	0	1	21	1
St. Michaels	22	0	1	21	1

* Promoted to Div. 2 and through to Div.

3 semi-finals

Division 3 South:

MacCumhalls 0-2, Four Masters 1-12
Dungloe 1-6, St. Naul's 1-7
Ardara 1-12, Naomh Conaill 0-4
Glenfin 1-8, Fintown 3-9
Kilcar 0-7, Pettigo 1-4 (draw)

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
* Four Masters	18	13	2	3	28
* Ardara	15	13	0	2	26
Dungloe	17	12	0	5	24
St. Nauls	17	8	3	6	19
N. Conaill	17	8	1	8	17
Pettigo	17	6	2	9	14
Fintown	18	6	2	10	14
Glenfin	17	6	1	10	13
MacCumhalls	16	5	0	11	10
Kilcar	18	4	1	13	9

* Promoted to Div. 2 and through to Div.

3 semi-finals.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UNDER-16 HURLING AND UNDER-21 FOOTBALL
ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS AND THEIR TEAM MANAGEMENT

from

LIAM MULLIN

GROCERY, HARDWARE, STATIONERY, FANCY GOODS

TIRCONAILL STREET, DONEGAL TOWN

ALL 1987 CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AND RESULTS

CO. SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Preliminary Round:

1st leg: Naomh Ultan 1-7, Killybegs 4-9
2nd leg: Killybegs 3-8, Naomh Ultan 1-3

First round:

1st leg: Four Masters 0-8, Glenfin 1-8.
2nd leg: Glenfin 1-6, Four Masters 2-6
1st leg: Gweedore 0-4, Ardara 0-8
2nd leg: Ardara 0-7, Gweedore 1-4 (draw)
1st leg: Na Rossa 1-10, Downings 2-8
2nd leg: Downings 0-8, Na Rossa 0-10
1st leg: Killybegs 0-14, St. Eunans 2-8 (draw)
2nd leg: St. Eunans 3-6, Killybegs 0-6
1st leg: Naomh Columba 0-8, Dungloe 0-8 (draw).
2nd leg: Dungloe 1-5, Naomh Columba 1-6
1st leg: Kilcar 4-14, Cloughaneely 2-4
2nd leg: Cloughaneely 1-6, Kilcar 3-11
1st leg: Bundoran 0-8, Red Hughs 0-10
2nd leg: Red Hughs 0-8, Bundoran 0-8 (draw)
1st leg: Aodh Ruadh (holders) 2-10, MacCumhails 1-7
2nd leg: MacCumhails 0-7, Aodh Ruadh 4-13

First round play-offs:

Glenfin 2-9, Four Masters 0-7
Na Rossa 1-14, Downings 0-5

Quarter-finals:

Aodh Ruadh 0-10, Naomh Columba 0-8
Red Hughs 2-4, Na Rossa 0-9
Ardara 3-8, St. Eunans 2-4
Kilcar 4-7, Glenfin 0-8

Semi-finals:

Kilcar 2-7, Ardara 0-9
Aodh Ruadh 3-9, Red Hughs 2-8

Final:

Aodh Ruadh 2-10, Kilcar 1-7

CO. INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Preliminary Round:

1st leg: St. Michaels 2-3, St. Nauls 2-4
2nd leg: St. Nauls 0-12, St. Michaels 0-1
1st leg: Aodh Ruadh 1-9, Naomh Conaill 1-11
2nd leg: Naomh Conaill 0-9, Aodh Ruadh 0-5

Semi-finals:

1st leg: St. Nauls 1-12, Urris 0-3
2nd leg: Urris 2-6, St. Nauls 4-4*
1st leg: Naomh Brid 0-9, Naomh Conaill 0-6,
2nd leg: Naomh Conaill 0-3, Naomh Brid 0-7

Final:

St. Nauls 1-7, Naomh Brid 0-10 (draw)
Replay: Naomh Brid 0-6, St. Nauls 0-5

CO. JUNIOR 'A' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Preliminary Round:

1st leg: Kilcar 4-8, Carndonagh 2-3
2nd leg: Carndonagh 1-5, Kilcar 0-9
1st leg: St. Eunans 2-9, Termon 1-7
2nd leg: Termon 0-5, St. Eunans 2-4
1st leg: Gweedore 0-6, Robert Emmets 0-7*
2nd leg: Robert Emmets 2-10, Gweedore 0-4
1st leg: Milford 2-8, Naomh Columba 2-6
2nd leg: Naomh Columba 0-8, Milford 1-5 (draw)
*Gweedore won protest and play-off necessary:
Robert Emmets 3-9, Gweedore 0-3

First Round:

1st leg: St. Eunans 0-1, Buncrana 2-9
2nd leg: Buncrana 1-10, St. Eunans 2-6
1st leg: Convoy 1-11, Four Masters 1-11 (draw)
2nd leg: Four Masters 1-10, Convoy 0-7
1st leg: Naomh Mhuire 1-3, Kilcar 0-2
2nd leg: Kilcar 4-5, Naomh Mhuire 0-4
1st leg: Milford 0-7, Robert Emmets 2-12
2nd leg: Robert Emmets 4-18, Milford 1-4

First Round play-off

Kilcar 1-5, Naomh Mhuire 0-6

Semi-finals:

Robert Emmets 2-5, Kilcar 1-5
Four Masters 0-5, Buncrana 0-3

Final:

Robert Emmets 1-9, Four Masters 1-3

CO. JUNIOR 'B' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Preliminary Round:

1st leg: St. Nauls 0-7, Fanad Gaels 0-9
2nd leg: Fanad Gaels 0-7, St. Nauls 0-4
1st leg: Downings scr., Fintown w.o.
1st leg: Ardara 1-6, Killybegs 0-3
2nd leg: Killybegs 1-3, Ardara 2-13
1st leg: MacCumhails 0-6, Dungloe 2-6
2nd leg: Dungloe 1-12, MacCumhails 1-4
1st leg: Kilcar 2-8, Red Hughs 0-8
2nd leg: Red Hughs 1-7, Kilcar 0-2
1st leg: St. Michaels 0-4, Malin 7-13
2nd leg: Malin 5-15, St. Michaels 0-2

Preliminary Round play-off:

Red Hughs 0-7, Kilcar 0-4

First Round:

1st leg: Naomh Baithin 3-4, Pettigo 1-2
2nd leg: Pettigo 2-3, Naomh Baithin 3-5
1st leg: Buncrana 0-6, Lifford 0-6 (draw)
2nd leg: Lifford 3-6, Buncrana 0-5
1st leg: Fintown 1-6, Glenswilly 1-7
2nd leg: Glenswilly 0-7, Fintown 1-4 (draw)
1st leg: Ardara 0-10, Malin 2-4 (draw)
2nd leg: Malin 0-7, Ardara 0-7 (draw)
1st leg: Glenfin 0-9, Naomh Conaill 2-7
2nd leg: Naomh Conaill 1-5, Glenfin 1-4
1st leg: Burt 2-7, Robert Emmets 1-2
2nd leg: Robert Emmets 1-7, Burt 1-6
1st leg: Red Hughs 0-4, Fanad Gaels 4-12
2nd leg: Fanad Gaels 3-9, Red Hughs 1-4
1st leg: Dungloe 1-12, Cloughaneely 0-5
2nd leg: Cloughaneely 0-10, Dungloe 0-5

First Round play-offs:

Burt 2-9, Robert Emmets 1-9
Dungloe 2-7, Cloughaneely 1-9
Ardara 2-10, Malin 2-6.

Quarter-finals:

Fanad Gaels 1-12, Dungloe 3-0
Ardara 4-5, Glenswilly 1-5
Lifford 3-6, Burt 0-4
Naomh Baithin 1-12, Naomh Conaill 1-5

Semi-finals:

Naomh Baithin 0-7, Lifford 1-4 (draw)
Replay: Lifford 1-9, Naomh Baithin 1-7 (after extra time)
Ardara 1-8, Fanad Gaels 0-2

Final:

Ardara 0-6, Lifford 0-2

CO. UNDER-21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter-finals:

Ardara 3-5, Kilcar 1-5.
St. Eunans 2-4, Red Hughs 0-7
*Killybegs v St. Nauls
Naomh Columba 5-15, Buncrana 2-2
*St. Nauls withdrew due to Gerald Gallagher's fatal accident during quarter final.

Semi-finals:

Naomh Columba 5-7, Ardara 1-7
Killybegs 2-10, St. Eunans 0-10

Final:

Naomh Columba 1-11, Killybegs 0-7

WHERE THE HONOURS WENT IN 1987

FOOTBALL

Co. Senior Football Championship
Co. Intermediate Football Championship

Co. Junior 'A' Football Championship
Co. Junior 'B' Football Championship
Co. Under-21 Football Championship
Co. Minor Football Championship
Co. Juvenile Football Championship

Co. Under-14 'A' Football Championship
Co. Under-14 'B' Football Championship

Co. Under-13 Football Championship
Co. Under-12 'A' Football Championship
Co. Under-12 'B' Football Championship
Óg Sport Gael Under-15 Football C'ship
Minor Football League
Divisional Minor Football Super League
Divisional Juvenile Football Super League
Community Games U-13 Football
Community Games (Girls)
Senior Football League
Football League Division Two
Football League Division Three
Senior Football Shield
Football Shield Division Two
Football Shield Division Three

Ulster Club Football Championship

Winners

Aodh Ruadh 2-10,
St. Nauls 1-7
Naomh Brid 0-6
Robert Emmets 1-9
Ardara 0-6
Naomh Columba 1-11
Gweedore 1-9
Killybegs 0-7
MacCumhailis 1-5
Killybegs 6-17
Urris 2-6
Lifford 0-6
Killybegs 5-8
Bundoran 3-9
Aodh Ruadh 9-8
Gweedore 9-13
Gweedore 1-9
South-West 2-10
East 1-9
Ballyshannon 6-9
Milford 2-0
Kilcar 1-10
Naomh Brid 0-8
Ardara 2-4
Glenfin 3-6
Dungloe 1-7
Four Masters 2-9
Aodh Ruadh (Donegal) 0-12
Burren 2-7

Runners-up

Kilcar 1-7
Naomh Brid 0-10 (draw)
St. Nauls 0-5 (replay)
Four Masters 1-3
Lifford 0-2
Killybegs (holders) 0-7
St. Eunans 0-7
MacCumhailis 1-4 (draw)
Killybegs 1-2 (replay)
Burt 2-1
Lifford 2-6 (draw)
Urris 0-3 (replay)
Aodh Ruadh 3-3
Cloughaneely 0-1
St. Eunans 1-0
Aodh Ruadh 4-11
Dungloe 0-11
East 0-6
South 1-7
Letterkenny 1-5
Castlefin 0-1
Aodh Ruadh 1-9
Robert Emmets 0-6
Milford 0-9
Cloughaneely 0-7
Naomh Mhuire 0-2
Gweedore 2-6
Burren (Down) 1-9 (draw)
Aodh Ruadh 1-7 (replay)

HURLING

Co. Senior Hurling Championship
Co. Minor Hurling Championship
Co. Juvenile Hurling Championship
Co. Under-14 Hurling Championship
Co. Under-12 Hurling Championship
U-12 Hurling League
1987 Feile na nGael
Feile na nGael Special Category
Feile na nGael Skills and Poc Fada
U-14 Community Games Hurling
Co. Hurling Senior League finalists
Ulster Club Hurling Championship

Winners

Setanta(holders) 5-7
Burt (holders) 3-11
Naomh Mura 1-13
Naomh Mura (holders) 12-7
Naomh Mura (holders) 3-0
MacCumhailis 6-1
Winners, Naomh Mura
Pettigo
Ronan McLaughlin, Burt
Ballyshannon 8-1
Burt and Setanta
Keady (Armagh) 3-10

Runners-Up

Burt 2-9
MacCumhailis 2-3
MacCumhailis 1-1
MacCumhailis 0-3
MacCumhailis 2-1
Naomh Mura 5-1
Runners-up, Burt
Setanta 1-0
Setanta (Donegal) 2-4

CAMOGIE

Senior Camogie League
Intermediate Camogie League
Under-16 Camogie League
Under-14 Camogie League
Under-12 Camogie League

Winners

Letterkenny 3-1
Moville 2-1
St. Eunans 4-0
Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon 1-1
Glenfin 2-0

Runners-Up

Carndonagh 0-2
Naomh Mura (Fahan) 0-2
Newtowncunningham 2-0
St. Eunans 1-0
Killygordon 0-0

INTERMEDIATE COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



NAOMH BRÍD — INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONS, 1987

JUNIOR 'A' COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



ROBERT EMMETS — JUNIOR 'A' CHAMPIONS, 1987

JUNIOR 'B' COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



ARDARA — JUNIOR 'B' CHAMPIONS, 1987

MINOR COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



GAOTH DOBHAIR — MINOR CHAMPIONS, 1987

UNDER-16 COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



MacCUMHAILLS — U-16 CHAMPIONS, 1987

UNDER-14 'A' COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



KILLYBEGS — U-14 'A' CHAMPIONS, 1987

UNDER-14 'B' COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



LIFFORD — U-14 'B' CHAMPIONS, 1987

UNDER-13 COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



KILLYBEGS — U-13 CHAMPIONS, 1987

UNDER-12 'A' COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



BUNDORAN — U-12 'A' CHAMPIONS, 1987

UNDER-12 'B' COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



AODH RUADH, BALLYSHANNON — U-12 'B' CHAMPIONS, 1987

CO. U-16 CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS



St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, Donegal U-16 Camogie champions.

CO. U-14 CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS



Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, Donegal U-14 Camogie champions.

CO. U-12 CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS



Glenfin, Donegal U-12 Camogie champions.

U-16 CAMOGIE FINAL

St. Eunan's (Letterkenny) 4-0
Newtowncunningham 2-0

This Donegal U-16 Camogie final was a game that had the spectators excited from start to finish.

Newtown has the better start and were very sharp in the opening twenty minutes. They took the lead with a Karen Duncan goal. Tracey Callaghan added another. But this setback seemed to spark the St. Eunan's girls and Emma O'Carroll countered with a goal.

This left the half-time score Newtowncunningham 2-0, Letterkenny 1-0

With three minutes left Joan Barron lobbed a Letterkenny '30' into the square and Joanne Henry goaled to bring the game into extra-time.

In extra-time, Letterkenny made the breakthrough with a Sonya McFadden goal. Joan Barron got another to seal the victory.

St. Eunans: M. Gallagher; M. Bradley, S. Kelly, S. Tourish, F. O'Donnell, J. Henry (1-0), S. McFadden (1-0), C. Doherty, J. Barron (1-0), D. Tinney, E. O'Carroll (1-0), C. Murphy. Subs., P. Gallagher, J. Crawford and M. McDermott.

Newtowncunningham: C. McMenamin, S. Gillespie, M. McGlinchey, S. Gillespie, M. McGlinchey, M. Devenney, T. Cullen, E. Boyle, Y. Clarke, K. Duncan (1-0), A. Boyce, T. Callaghan (1-0), E. Doherty, M. Clarke. Subs., A. Doran, S. Doran, C. Callaghan.

U-14 FINAL

Aodh Ruadh (Ballyshannon) 1-1
St. Eunan's (Letterkenny) 1-0

Aodh Ruadh U-14 Camogie team made history by winning their first ever Donegal Championship. Aodh Ruadh dominated midfield and led at half time by a Frances Kane point. They added to their lead when Catherine Gallagher scored a splendid goal just after the break. St. Eunans fought bravely and were rewarded with a Joan Barron goal from a '30'.

Aodh Ruadh: D. O'Reilly; G. Shannon, A. Kennedy, C. Flood, E. Hogan, F. Kane (0-1), M. Maguire, G. Buggy, C. Gallagher (1-0), A. Barrett, A. Hannigan, N. McNelis. Sub., S. Lynch, S. Donagher, G. Donagher, N. Flood.

St. Eunan's: M. Fingleton; C. Murphy, T. Kavanagh, S. Diver, P. Gallagher, A. Hegarty, J. Barron (1-0), P. Boyle, M. McDermott, E. O'Carroll, M. Callaghan, U. McShane. Subs., S. Lennon, M. James, J. Crawford, S. Crerand, C. Meehan and I O'Sullivan.

U-12 FINAL

Glenfin 2-0
Markiewicz (Killygordon) 0-0

Glenfin won the U-12 title in a most entertaining match against Killygordon. It was closely contested and Margaret McConnell and Collette Callaghan of the Killygordon side were the most skilful players on view.

Glenfin had all the qualities of a champion camogie team, a solid defence, a ball-winning midfield and a nippy forward line. Elaine Harkin got the goals for the winners, one on either side of half-time.

Glenfin: M. Coyle; E. McGlinchey, B. McGinty, J. McGinty, C. McGinty, C. Duffy, K. Harkin, R. McDonnell, P. Ward, F. Marley, C. Campbell, E. Harkin (2-0). Subs., D. McGinty, B. Bonar and T. Houston.

Markiewicz: J. O'Meara; T. Alexander, W. McGlinchey, T. Byrne, K. Kelly, M. McConnell, E. Kee, T. Kee, C. Sweeney, T. Kelly, C. Callaghan, S. Martin. Subs., T. Scanlon, L. Alexander, A. Gleeson, C. Gallagher.

NAME THESE TEAMS, GIRLS

These are a selection of County Camogie team photographs taken in late '30s to mid '40s. Some names are known but not all of them. Perhaps some people can help name the girls of yesterday. Simply state the No. of the photo, and the row and name the girls from left to right. There are eight photos and we'll announce the names of the girls and those who supplied them in the next Donegal Yearbook. And a free copy of the Yearbook to the person who names the most correctly.



SYNOPSIS OF 1987 COUNTY FOOTBALL FINALS

SENIOR FINAL

Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, became the first team in over a decade to retain the Donegal Senior Football Championship when they beat a spirited Kilcar in MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey, on Sunday, 30th August. Two goals by Sean Boyle in the second half paved the way for Aodh Ruadh's second title in as many years. The scores were level at five points each at the interval — Sean Boyle having had a goal disallowed in this first half which, if allowed, would have given him a hat-trick. In the second half Aodh Ruadh opened the play up a lot more and Kilcar just simply could not cope with the overall power of the Ernesiders who ended convincing and well deserved winners by 2-10 to 1-7 of the best county senior final in years.

Aodh Ruadh team and scorers: Gary Walsh; Joe Curran, Tommy McDermott, Pauric Daly; Kieran Tinney, Diarmaid Keon, Conor Carney; Sylvester Maguire (0-1), Brian Tuohy (0-1), capt.; Gerry Curran (0-3), Brian Murray (0-3), Eunan Doyle; Brendan Martin, Joe Doherty, Sean Boyle (2-1). Subs., Seamus Flynn (0-1) for Eunan Doyle; Eunan Walsh for Joe Curran.

Team manager: P. J. Buggy.

Kilcar team and scorers: Michael McFadden; John Doogan, James Carr, Cornelius Diver; John Carr, Neilly Byrne (capt.), Seamus Gallagher; Mark McShane, Danny Gillespie (0-1); Neilly Cannon (0-1), Martin McHugh (0-4), Sean McGinley; Michael Carr (1-0), James McHugh (0-1), Aodh Cannon. Subs., Gerard McBrearty for Cornelius Diver.

Team manager: Martin McHugh.

Man of the match: Kieran Tinney (Aodh Ruadh).

Referee: An tAth. Seán Ó Gallchoir.

Final score: Aodh Ruadh 2-10, Kilcar 1-7.

INTERMEDIATE FINAL

It took a replay to decide the destination of the Intermediate title. On Sunday, the 6th September in MacCumhaill Park, Naomh Brid beat St. Naul's at the second attempt by just a single point to lift the Intermediate Championship and Cathal McLaughlin Memorial Trophy for the first time in their history. In a low scoring game St. Naul's led by 0-3 to 0-2 at the interval. It was obvious by this stage that the defences on both sides were in control of rather inept forwards. With a minute of normal time left the sides were level and extra time seemed inevitable. Then Naomh Brid's centre-half-back, Michael Molloy, became his side's hero — he collected a quick short free kick and solo-ran to within striking distance to blast over the bar for the winning point.

Naomh Brid team and scorers: Sean McCormack; Dermot Gallagher, John Joe Travers, Michael Gallagher; Eamonn Timoney, Michael Molloy (0-1), John McCafferty; Matt Gallagher (0-1), Conal Haughey (capt.); Eamon McNulty (0-1), Eddie McCaffrey, Peter Doherty; Dessie McNulty, Pdraig Gallagher (0-2), Joe Griffin (0-1).

Manager: Danny McNamee.

St. Naul's team and scorers: Tony Byrne; Paul Griffin, John Meehan, Joe O'Neill; Cathal Campbell, Eamon Breslin (0-1), capt., Cathal McGroarty; John Murray, John 'Cookie' Meehan; John McGroarty, John

Kerrs, Rory Brady; Patrick McGroarty (0-3), Sean O'Driscoll, Rory O'Neill (0-1). Sub., John Gerard Griffin for Sean O'Driscoll.

Manager: John Breslin.

Referee: Jack Furey (Naomh Ultan).

Final score: Naomh Brid 0-6, St. Naul's 0-5.

JUNIOR 'A' FINAL

The more experienced Robert Emmets had little difficulty in the end beating a young Four Masters side in MacCumhaill Park on Sunday, 30th August, to win the Junior 'A' County Football Championship. In the opening minutes it looked as if the fitness and speed of the Donegal Town side might over-run the older Castlefin side but the vast experience of Emmets gradually wore down their opponents with some skilful and accurately taken scores. The half-time score was Robert Emmets, Castlefin 0-5, Four Masters, Donegal Town 0-1. After the break Four Masters started well again with Brendan Gurrin pointing to reduce the deficit. When Ken McBride got the next score — winners only goal to take out the insurance — the title was on its way down the Finn Valley to Castlefin where the bonfires and a band greeted the new champions as they brought the first adult title to the town since 1961. To their credit Four Masters never gave up, trying in a sporting final always controlled by the winners.

Robert Emmets team and scorers: Ignatius Catterson; Colman McGee, Andy Curran, Tony Elliott; Barney McCarron, Johnny Curran, Michael Lafferty; Eugene McMenamin (0-2), capt., Hugh McGurrin (0-1); Ken McBride (1-1), Michael Murphy, Gary Friel (0-2); Terence McLaughlin, Barry Foley (0-2), Eamon Friel. Sub., Damien Brolly.

Team manager: Seamus Kane.

Four Masters team and scorers: P. J. McBarron; Donal McMullin, Niall Muldoon, John Sinclair; Stephen Boyle, Martin Gillen (capt.), Peter Smith; John Monaghan, Rory Muldoon; Paddy Muldoon, Pauric McGinty (0-1), Raymond Boyle (0-1); Marty Kelly (1-0), Paul Duncan, Brendan Gurrin (0-1). Sub., Hugh Gerard Colhoun.

Team manager: Gerry Molloy.

Final score: Robert Emmets 1-9, Four Masters 1-3.

Referee: Ciaran McGlynn (Glenfin).

JUNIOR "B" FINAL

Ardara emerged from a low-scoring affair to lift their first title in this category. That only eight points were scored during the hour is sufficient indication in itself to imagine the lack of the finer skills of the game. It was a very hard and robust game where both defences completely dominated. Ardara always reigned supreme at midfield and showed whatever Gaelic football talent there was evident during the game. Ardara led at the interval 0-4 to 0-1. Lifford started the second half with a new burst of life and their man of the match, Robert Campbell, tried everything he knew to get his side settled into a rhythm but all to no avail. Ardara had enough class to see them through despite a determined and strong finish by the losers. Lifford simply appeared to be overawed by the occasion. Final score: Ardara 0-6, Lifford 0-2.

Ardara team and scorers: Eugene Bennett; Stephen Darnell, Pauric Brennan, Peter

Breslin; Paul McNelis (capt.), Leo Breslin, Dermot Maguire; Joseph Brennan (0-1), Sean McGuinness; Seamus McGuinness (0-1), Luke Brennan (0-1), Leonard Molloy; Adrian Brennan, Stephen Keeney, John McConnell (0-2). Subs., Frank McGee, Brian O'Donnell, Ian Melly, Patsy Gildea, Francis O'Donnell, Paddy McGill, Vincent Cassidy.

Team manager; James McBrearty.

Lifford team and scorers: Pauric McCrory; Eamon McLaughlin, Willie Crossan, Paddy Melaugh; Liam Crossan, Eunan O'Brien, Robert Campbell; Donal Coyle (0-1), Paul Gallen; Ray White, Tom Devenney, Seamus Lynch; Mark Kelly, Austin Daly (capt.), Danny McLaughlin (0-1). Subs., Raymond McGinley, Liam Harte, John Murphy, Paul Hegarty and John Campbell.

Team manager: Packie Keeney.

Referee: John Harkin (Naomh Columba).

UNDER-21 FOOTBALL

Naomh Columba lifted their second title in this grade when they beat a somewhat understrength Killybegs in Kilcar. The winners led throughout but their position was a little precarious at the interval when they had only three points to spare, 0-5 to 0-2, having being aided by a strong breeze. However, when super sub. Damien Gillespie fisted a Paddy Hegarty cross to the net it knocked the confidence out of Killybegs and Naomh Columba never looked like losing thereafter to end deserving and comfortable winners, 1-11 to 0-7.

Man of the match, Paddy Hegarty (Naomh Columba).

Naomh Columba team and scorers: Colm McGinley; Conal Gavigan, John Paul Curran, Cathal Haughey; Dessie Cunningham (0-2), Paul Carr (capt.), Donal Ó Donnabháin; John Joe Doherty, Noel Hegarty (0-3); Noel Carr, Martin Gillespie, Eugene Doherty (0-1); Paddy Hegarty (0-5), Danny Cunningham, Eunan McIntyre (0-1). Sub., Damien Gillespie (1-0) for Danny Cunningham, inj.

Killybegs team and scorers: David Meehan; John Murray, Paul Carberry, Denis Carberry; Declan McMenamin, Francis Murray, Stephen Burke; John Gallagher (0-1), Ian Cunningham; Stephen Cunningham (0-1), Conor White (0-3), Barry McGowan (0-1); John McGuinness, Conal Gallagher (0-1), Martin Murchan. Subs., Arthur Meehan for Stephen Burke.

Referee: John McGlanaghy (Four Masters).

MINOR FOOTBALL FINAL

Probably one of the worst first-half displays ever by a St. Eunan's team in a county final guaranteed Gweedore an easy minor title. Gweedore showed great individual skill, commitment, heart and determination — qualities which St. Eunans lacked in too many vital sectors. Gweedore led at the break by 1-8 to 0-3. A 'new' St. Eunans inspired by Paddy McLaughlin at midfield were seen in the second half — proof of this was the holding of the champions to a solitary point. But Eunans had not the forwards to put enough scores up to rescue the title and this exceptionally good Gweedore side never panicked, to comfortably win the championship, 1-9 to 0-7.

Gweedore team and scorers: Hugo Diver; Gerry Gallagher, Brian McBride, Seamus Ferris; Paul Roarty, Donal McAteer, Declan Barry; Ciaran McFadden, Donal Breslin (0-3); Donal (Rua) Gallagher (0-4), Patrick Gallagher, Ferdia Doherty; Stephen Anthony (1-0), Hugh Boyle

SYNOPSIS OF 1987 COUNTY FOOTBALL FINALS

(1-2), Stephen McFadden.

Team manager: Owenie McBride.

St. Eunan's team and scorers: Dessie Larkin (0-1); Ian Duffy, Enda O'Donnell, Brian McCrossan; James Dillon, Peter McGeehin, Mark Doherty; Paddy McLaughlin (capt.)
Declan O'Donnell (0-3); Mark Kelly, Paul McGovern (0-3), Mark Crossan; Paul Harvey, David O'Dowd, Mark Hannigan. Subs., Joe Hughs for Mark Crossan; Barry Tinney for Paul Harvey.

Team manager: Peadar McGeehan.

Referee: Eugene Quinn (Red Hughs).

Man of the match: Paddy McLaughlin (St. Eunan).

UNDER-16 FOOTBALL

The first county final replay of 1987 — MacCumhail's powered their way to an impressive three point victory over Killybegs at the second attempt. The large attendance in Donegal saw the best under-age performance of 1987. At half-time the scores were level at 0-2 apiece. The crucial score that changed the course of the game came in the 11th minute of the second half when Oisín McGlinchey rattled the Killybegs net for a spectacular goal after receiving from Andrew Quinn. Killybegs were never in the game but their goal — which came unassisted of normal time — was too late in being registered. It was a lovely executed score, Declan took to a perfect ball to Ronan Boyle who spectacularly obliged, but it did not prevent the under-16 round MacCumhail's from taking their second title in this age group by 1-5 to 1-2.

MacCumhail's team and scorers: Martin McKenna; Gerard Quinn, Damien Bradley, David Gallagher; Brendan Dunnion, Cahar O'Donnell (0-1), Niall McGonigle; Sean McGinty (0-1), David McGonigle; John Gallagher, Colin McAuley, Kevin McCormack; Martin Foy, Andrew Quinn, Oisín McGlinchey (1-3). Subs., Owen Thompson for Sean McGinty; Noel O'Donnell, Shane McGlinchey, Emmet McCormack, Thomas McMenamin (capt.), James Mullen, Anthony Quinn, Conal Thompson (not used).

Killybegs: Marcus Mooney; Andrew McKenna; Stephen Burke, James P. Cunningham; Peter McGinley, Damien Mooney, John O'Donnell, Donal Haughey (0-1), Darren Cunningham (0-1); Mark Boyle, Michael Gallagher, Ronan Boyle (1-0); Declan Boyle, Sean Cunningham, Sean Dorrian. Sub., Stephen McCrossan for Michael Callaghan (inj.).
Referee: Liam Brown (Four Masters).

UNDER-14 'A' FOOTBALL

St. Eunan created a wee bit of history by their appearance in an under-age county football final for the first time ever. As expected they were overawed on the big occasion but the margin achieved should not detract in any way, shape or form from either side's performance. Killybegs were the experience, tradition and above all a significantly talented side for this age group. They deservedly won with plenty to spare but they made the history that September evening at MacCumhail Park.

Killybegs: James Lowney; Martin McKenna; Peter McGinley, Gareth Murphy; David McGovern, David McBrearty, Nigel McKenna; Mark Boyle (0-4), Andrew McKenna (0-2); Paul Rowan (0-1), Kevin Huggins (0-1), Aidan McCallig (0-2); Declan Haughey (0-2), Declan Boyle (0-2), Barry Mullan (0-1), Sub., Barry McBrearty (1-4) for Kevin

Byrne; Brian Conaghan (0-3) for Aidan McCallig; Gillen McGuinness for Andrew McMenamin.

Burt: Kieran Toner; Damien Dowds, Donal Walker, Martin Downey; Bernard Hegarty, John McDermott, Eamonn Porter; Ronan McLaughlin (2-0), Seamus Doherty; Garvan Downey, Benny Greene, Gary Grant; Stephen O'Hara, Mickey Doherty, Kevin Grant (0-1). Subs., Eunan Boyle for Eamon Porter; Pearse Callaghan for Martin Downey.

Referee: Ownie McBride (Gweedore).

UNDER-14 'B' FOOTBALL

It was Lifford who really left an indelible mark on the record books in underage football in 1987 when they won their first ever county football title in any age group or grade. An equally talented and determined Urris took them to a second outing before submitting. In the replay Lifford just about deserved their hard earned victory if only as a reward for shrewd position switches from the drawn final and a calm, calculated performance from the team. The scores were level at 0-2 each at the interval and a couple of long range points by Thomas Hegarty and Michael Shields for Lifford in the final ten minutes ensured the title was on its way to the capital town for the first time ever at 0-6 to 0-2.

Lifford: Shay Given; Raymond Gallagher, Marcus Given, Mel McKinney; Mark McGhee, Declan Keeney, Garret McDermott; Thomas Hegarty (capt.) (0-2), Michael Shields (0-2); Berry Porter (0-1), Richie White (0-1), Pearse Campbell; Michael O'Brien, Pearse McLaughlin, Brendan O'Donnell. Subs., Shane Brennan for Pearse McLaughlin; Dermot Shiels for Brendan O'Donnell; Paul Hannigan, Niall McGhee, Anthony Porter, John McMenamin, Dillon White (not used).

Urris: Jimmy Conaghan; Pat Doherty, John J. Doherty, Mark McLaughlin; Joseph McCarron, John McGilloway, Darren Kerr; Kevin Walsh (0-1), Peter Doherty (0-1); Pat Doherty, Mark McGilloway, Kevin Donaghey (0-1); Charlie Doherty, Paul Devlin, Noel Harkin. Subs., Kieran Kerr for Charlie Doherty; Michael Doherty for Paul Devlin; Brian Harkin, Phil Doherty, Daniel Gilloway (not used).

Referee: Kieran McGlynn (Glenfin).

UNDER-13 FOOTBALL

Declan Boyle and Peter McGinley, both members of the Killybegs u-14 winning side, along with Paul Callaghan, Declan Haughey and David McSharry, produced the goods in the second half to swing this title safely and deservedly Killybegs way. At half time Killybegs had only a point to spare at 1-6 to 2-2, but their key players produced the scores in the second half to leave no doubt about the title destination in 1987 — final score, Killybegs 5-8, Aodh Ruadh 3-3.

Killybegs: Gareth Cunningham; Nigel Rawdon, Garth Murphy, Gillan McGuinness; Martin McGuinness, Brian Conaghan, Barry McBrearty; Paul Callaghan (0-3), Peter McGinley (capt.) (1-2); Aiden Callaghan, Declan Haughey (1-1), Andrew Mullan (1-0); David McSharry (2-0), Declan Boyle (0-2), Donal Cunningham. Sub., Sean Moore for D. Cunningham.

Aodh Ruadh: John Downey; Christy Dolan, Kieran McClean, Niall McCready; Barry Ward, Eamonn O'Donnell (0-1), Anthony McGrath; Brian Roper (1-1), Donal Buggy (capt., 1-0);

John Muldoon, Gary Brennan, Christy Kane; Liam Bagnell, Keith Doherty (1-1), Martin O'Donnell. Subs., Joseph Duffy for Martin O'Donnell; Keith Brennan for Gary Brennan.
Referee: Sean Masterson (Buncrana).

UNDER-12 'A' FOOTBALL

It was left to the minnows of Bundoran to bring the first county football title of the eighties back to the seaside resort. Cloughaneely started well and opened the score with what turned out to be their total. Spectacular goalkeeping by Adrian Flanagan for Bundoran added immensely to Cloughaneely's problems. The half-time score was Bundoran 1-3, Cloughaneely 0-1. Bundoran's Dessie McNamara dominated midfield so much in the second half that the title was well and truly destined for through the Gap before the final whistle.

Bundoran: Adrian Flanagan; James Cassidy, Martin Gillen (0-1), Mark Warnock (0-1); Brendan Madden, David Clarke (capt.), Kevin Gillespie; Dessie McNamara (2-4), Patrick Daly (0-2); Raymond Daly, Brian Gavigan (1-0), Stephen Loughlin; Shane Rooney (0-1), Mark Geagan, Ollie Flaherty. Subs., Stephen Kelly for Ollie Flaherty; Conor Breslin, David O'Connell, Owen Meehan, Paul Campbell, Kevin O'Hara, Paul McGee, Eamon Gavigan, Patrick Meehan (not used).

Cloughaneely: Cathal McGinley; John Ferry, Noel Doogan, Anthony McFadden; Joe Mangan, Neil Collins, James Ban Gallagher; Cathal Ban Gallagher, Sean McGee; Christopher Smyth (0-1), Stephen Cassidy, Brian Cannon; Owen Coyle, Brendan Kelly, Kieran Meehan. Subs., Sean McGeady for Brian Cannon; Daragh Doohan for Owen Coyle; Paul Coyle, Cathal Dubh Gallagher, John Martin Mulligan, John McGeady, Joseph O'Donnell, Mark Boylan, John McGinley, Stephen McFadden (not used).

Referee: Brendan McShane.

UNDER-12 'B' FOOTBALL

Aodh Ruadh were simply far too good and experienced for St. Eunan's who had too many 11-years-olds on their side. The champions led at half-time by 3-4 to no score and that about sums up the difference in class of the two sides. There is no doubt that with most of the team under-age next year again, St. Eunan's day is coming. This was the first U-12 'B' title for Aodh Ruadh.

Aodh Ruadh: Pauric Lynch; David Downey, Kieran McClean (0-1), Kieran Barron; Cormac O'Donnell, Niall McCready, Seamus Kilgallon; David Neilan, Barry Ward (2-2); K. J. Graham (1-1), Paul Roper, David O'Donnell (0-2); John Connolly (3-1), Derek Doyle (2-0), Herman McNelis. Subs., Kenneth McGurran (1-0) for H. McNelis; Liam McCadden for D. Downey; Declan McGrath for D. O'Donnell; David McLoone, Keith Mannion, Kenneth Neilan, Patrick McGrath (not used).

St. Eunan's: Kieran McNally; Karl Campbell, Seamus Nallen, Darren Crossan; Paul Lynch, Columba Barron, Packie Gibbons; John Scanlon, Gary Gibson; Kevin Winston, Damien Daly, Sammy Brogan (1-0); Anthony Ramsay, Philip Nicholson, Patrick Gildea. Subs., Shane O'Donnell for P. Gildea; Brian McMonagle for P. Gibbons; Michael Lynch for P. Lynch.

Referee: Kieran McGlynn (Glenfin).

DONEGAL FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR, 1985



Brendan Dunleavy, MacCumhails, was a very popular recipient of "Donegal Footballer of the Year 1985". A long serving member of the county team, Brendan is presently Donegal senior team captain and is having one of his best seasons ever at full-back.

DONEGAL FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR, 1986



Martin Shovlin, Dunkineely, the present Donegal left half-back, was unanimously selected Donegal Footballer of the Year for 1986 for his commitment, dedication and consistency. And he certainly has not lost any of those virtues in 1987.

DONEGAL FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR, 1987



Noel McCole, St. Eunan's, was deservedly selected Donegal Footballer of the Year for 1987. Noel has had one of the most successful and distinguished goalkeeping careers ever for club and county. He commenced his county career in 1974 when first selected for a McKenna Cup match in Ballybofey. He held the No. 1 spot for ten years until an injury late in 1984 forced him out for a period. He was back as No. 1 again

in the 1986/'87 league seasons under new team manager, Tom Conaghan. He transferred from Letterkenny to Dublin during 1987 on promotion with Northern Bank but is still continuing to play his club football with St. Eunans. His greatest achievements were Ulster Senior Championship medals in 1974 and 1983 and Dr. McKenna Cup medal in 1975. His biggest disappointment was losing the All-Ireland semi-final to Galway by a single point in 1983.



Donegal members of the Ulster team who played the Australian Selection in the Compromise Rules game at Healy Park, Omagh, on Wednesday, 21st October, '87. From left, Martin McHugh, Martin Griffin, Brian McEniff (team manager), Michael Lafferty and Joyce McMullan.

LATE NEWS . . .

"WE CAN WIN PROMOTION"

Late news but good news is that our Donegal senior football team have made a wonderful start to the N.F.L. After four games played out of the seven we are still undefeated. Donegal are clear leaders of Division 2 with seven points; the only one we dropped was that draw with Galway in Tuam. Team manager, Tom Conaghan is very happy and rightly so. The players have given the manager full commitment, their determination and will to win has already become a hallmark of the team.

With only three games left viz. against Laois, Cavan and Down, hopes are rising that we can win promotion to Division I for the first time ever.

RESULTS TO DATE

Donegal 1-10, Kildare 1-3 in Ballybofey

Donegal 1-6, Roscommon 0-8 in Roscommon

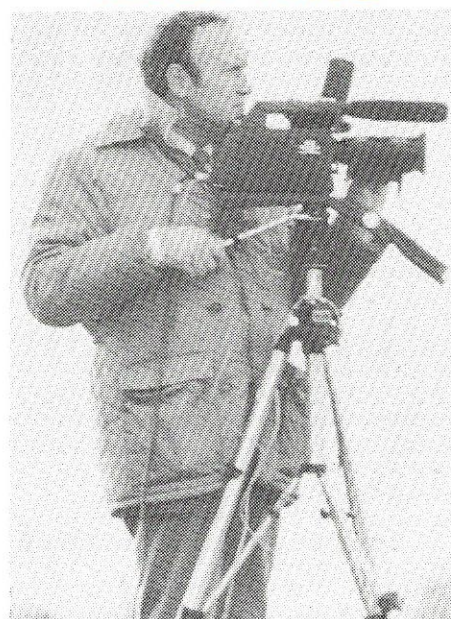
Donegal 0-11, Galway 2-5 in Tuam

Donegal 1-7, Clare 0-9 in Ballyshannon

N.F.L. DIVISION 2 LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Donegal	4	3	1	0	3-34	3-25	7
Down	4	3	0	1	7-31	0-35	6
Galway	4	1	3	0	4-27	0-37	5
Roscommon	4	2	0	2	2-35	2-31	4
Cavan	3	1	1	1	0-33	3-27	4
Kildare	4	1	1	2	3-28	5-35	3
Laois	3	0	1	2	1-21	5-21	1
Clare	4	0	1	3	2-35	4-33	1

"VIDEO KING"



Packie Keeney has been synonymous with the G.A.A. in Donegal since returning from College in Dublin in the late sixties. A county player, a county selector, club officer, county's representative on the Ulster Council, Packie has had a varied and successful role in the activities of the GAA over the past 20 years. However, it is in the past eight years that he has earned the unique tag of "Video King". When video was a strange word, Packie persuaded the Donegal G.A.A. Co. Board to purchase a video machine and camera — he offered to use it free of charge for the benefit and entertainment of the G.A.A. people in the county. As it has turned out it was one of the best investments made because to-day we have eight of the most successful years ever in the history of the county on high quality tape. Two All-Ireland football titles, an Ulster football title, a Dr. McKenna Cup title; all the county finals, etc., are but examples of the large varied amount of history captured by Packie and his extremely talented broadcaster, An t-Ath. Seán Ó Gallchoir. I have only to listen to Fr. Seán's commentary of the 1982 All-Ireland final to make me feel great at anytime. It has been Packie's exceptional skill and talent that has made these years of video recording so extraordinary. He is reputed to be the best video camera operator in the business and couple this with Fr. Seán's exceptional talent as a commentator and we certainly have a great video team. If practice and time involvement makes perfect it is no wonder Packie Keeney has earned the title "Video King" because there is seldom a week-end that passes or a G.A.A. event of note but Packie is there with his video machine. How can he maintain such effort and continue to give so much time, one has to wonder about the "Video King".

IT'S PÓL ON THE RAIDIO

One of the most frequent and helpful callers to the Co. P.R.O. every Sunday is Pól Ó Gallchoir, boss of Raidio Na Gaeltachta, at their Middletown Station. Even getting married this year to Gillian (nee Ní Chuireain of Gortahork) did not interfere with Pól's extensive G.A.A. coverage. Such is his dedication to the G.A.A. and his work, Pól postponed his honeymoon for a couple of days to give a full live commentary on the Co. Senior football final on 30th August this year — a tall and exhausting order for a man less than 24 hours married. It was then off to Japan for the honeymoon and meet his brother out there, Fr. Cathal. And since his return it's as usual — two, three and maybe four times every Sunday evening to the Co. P.R.O. results service — "Pól on the Raidio here, a . . ." But sure nobody expects anything less in the G.A.A. nowadays from one of the O'Gallchoir's from Derrybeg.



JOHN FOY, amateur photographer, Stranorlar, who has been a great help down the years in covering most of the G.A.A. events in MacCumhail Park.



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ODYSSEY

An tAth. Seán Ó Gallchoir

FEBRUARY 20

West Donegal Scór Sinsear in Leitir Mac a' Bhaird hall. Na Rossa, An Clochán Liath, Naomh Muire, Gaoth Dobhair and Cloich Cheannfhaola to send their club winners. We had no club competition in Cloich Cheannfhaola. Notices in the local papers and from pulpit had brought no response. I commandeered Éamonn Mac Ruairí a magad is a tógadh i dToraigh agus atá ina choinn ar an tSeanbhaile anois for the Amhránaíocht Aonair; John Keegan from the Bank of Ireland and Frankie Doherty from PCC for Tráth na gCeist; Sister Stephen from the Franciscan Convent and four students — Kathleen Doohan, Anne Keyes, Angela Boyle and Terri McManagle — for the Baileád Ghrúpa. During winter nights I had written a Recitation for Scór on the subject of the first tour to Australia, pretentiously calling it "The Australian Odyssey."

I had an awful dose of the cold on February 20. I struggled through seven evicting Mass in Gort a' Chóirce, went to Neil Rua's for a supply of Zubes and Luamade and headed for the Upper Rosses looking like Nikita Khrushchev with my hat of fur (furtively bought in Strabane by The Chief), muffler and overburden of coats.

Na Rossa tackled their first hosting of a Divisional Scór with gusto. The hall was packed, stewards abounded, everyone was fed. Only one of the four Cloich Cheannfhaola entries was successful. Duirt Éamonn Mac Ruairí leagan Gaeilge de Sciobairín ach bhí an t-ádh air. Ní Fhearraí, an fonnadóir leas na n-Árainn. I was deeply disappointed that the Grúpa failed to make it, named by Na Rossa who went on to win the county title. Keegan, Doherty and myself displayed great ignorance on a variety of topics and lost ignominiously. The Odyssey got through — a very narrow victory, the fear a' tí said, over Máire Ní Niallais who said 'Slán', a woman by Seamus Ó NEILL, the same Máire who went on to win the National Slógadh Ceannfhaola Beirte competition sa Bhaileán gCeist, along with Marina Ní Gaila Bhríde, to whom I am deeply indebted on several scores, with an epigram that I composed on the subject of the Leaving Certificate and if you say this sentence with a Benedict Kiely drawl it will not sound half as bad, although perhaps equally self-glorifying.

The trap-door in Dungloe was closed on our way home.



MARCH 1

The county semi-final clashed with Féile Scoldrámaíochta Ghaoth Dobhair in which PCC, where I teach, produced 'Mairimid leis na Mistéirí', a newfangled mysterious type of play dressed up and garnished by Cathal Ó Searcaigh.

I headed for Ard a' Rátha through the mazy corners of Gaoth Beara. I was the question-setter and quiz-master in Tráth na gCeist — those that can answer, those that can't ask — and having stunned Paddy Beag with the opening question as to the ownership of the controversial townland of Crobh saw the same Paddy Beag having the last word as Craxi's leadership of Italy put Naomh Columba into the county final.

Ard a' Rátha's new Community Centre is a fine building, indeed, a witness to the vision, drive and initiative of a people who showed the same kind of efficiency and organisation in their staging of Scór. The Odyssey got through although I was not to know that until Monday as I had to leave early to go to Amharclann Gaoth Dobhair where we got the all-important ainmiúchán to Féile Uladh in which we lost to the Abbey, Newry, a result that we reversed in the All-Ireland final. The ainmiúchán resulted in an

exodus to Sea View. Carol Kelly was stranded. I left her in Craosloch.

MARCH 15

Seán Kelly won the Paris-Nice. I went back to Ard a' Rátha for the county final. A full house — testimony to Scór's great strides of progress in the county. I did Tráth na gCeist, presiding over a narrow Gaeil Fhánada victory over An Clochán Liath. The Odyssey got through again after another night of perpetual recitation in the car, of deep breaths, of palpitation, of sips of Seven-Up, of moments of panic, amnesia, despair, of squalls of self-confidence, of anxious waiting, of ultimate relief — relief rather than an onrush of uninhibited joy, happy that the composition and its delivery were deemed worthy, sobered by the thought that this Odyssey is peripheral to the Real Odyssey of Life, is a teamless solo run, an absurdity.

Christine was there, a face from the past. And Karen from D!

MARCH 22

The Ulster semi-final in the Butt Hall, Ballybofey. Dún na nGall, Doire agus Tír Eoghain. The Odyssey survived despite running overtime. Accompanied to-night by the Cathaoirleach of the club, Josie Doohan.

APRIL 12

History was made, I am sure, on the Banks of Mullach Dearg to-day. The Division 2 League game between Naomh Muire and Bunrana started before the appointed time! I was in a hurry, pressurised two co-operative teams and threw in the ball at 3.27. Bunrana were easy victors of a trouble-free match.

Off then to the Ulster final of Scór in Oileán a' Ghuail. Picked up the Butcher in Falcarragh. In the car park of St. Patrick's Community Centre, Coalisland, at 7.25. Ate Teresa's sandwiches. Awestruck again at the facilities in the North. A tremendous crowd, a tremendous night's entertainment.

I thought the verdict would go to Jean Dunne, an Indian lady representing the Muintir Connacht club from Cavan, who recited one of Pearse's monologues. But the Odyssey was 'adjudged Dún na

nGall's only winner of the Scór Sinsear Uladh 1987.

HOLY THURSDAY

The Ulster victory brings about a most unenviable clash of fixtures. The All-Ireland final will be held in Limerick on Saturday, April 25, 1987. On that same day in Arranmore one of my dearest friends is getting married and I agreed long ago to perform the ceremony. A clash of loyalties! If I can manage to attend both all will be well. If that does not prove possible the wedding will take precedence. Cróna and I have shared too many moments.

And now, on this Holy Thursday morning, with school closed, let us probe the possibilities. The island wedding is at 12. Limerick's Scór begins at 6.00. It will not be possible to make it to Limerick by car after the ceremony. Preliminary investigations indicate that to hire a helicopter would be financially prohibitive. A phone-call to Croke Park confirms that the sacrosanct order of the Scór clár — the Aithriseoireacht coming second — is unalterable.

I phone Séamus de Faoite, Oifigeach Gaeilge Dhún na nGall. I tell him I had better withdraw. Later in the day my brother Pól rings me. Shannon Aviation would fly me from Carrickfinn to Shannon in a private plane for £200. I ring Séamus again. Séamus has already contacted Seán McGettigan, Rúnaí Uladh, who has contacted the Cabhán Rúnaí, who has contacted Jean Dunne but Séamus insists that if I could make it I must represent Dún na nGall/Uladh. Not that I had ever taken the honour of representing club, county and province lightly. So Séamus rings Seán who rings the Cavan people who are quite understandably upset and annoyed at this carry-on. Pól books the flight.

APRIL 25

Early in the morning I arrive in Falcarragh in a deliriously happy student bus. We went to An Slógadh Náisiúnta sa Mhuileann gCearr and returned home with three Gradam, the Slógadh award for excellence. One Gradam would have been wonderful, three was magnificent. I sleep contentedly.

Packie Doohan comes at 10 a.m. to give me a lift to Burtonport. We pick up Ciara and Gigi, two Arranmore girls who were on the Mullingar trip, on the way. It is a glorious, although hazy, morning. The Misneach — the Arranmore ferry — is overcrowded with wedding folk from Kílcar and other parts and with set dancers going to Arranmore for a two-day seminar. Renewal of acquaintances as we pass Inis Mhic a' Doirn.

A lovely walk from Léab Garbh to Chapel Strand. Fr. Joe Bradley is most welcoming. Cróna is late but reasonably so. Readings from Gibran . . . love one another but make not a bond of love. Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls . . . singing from the Cunninghams . . . fiddling from the South-West . . . Deus Meus, adiuvá me from Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin . . . Cróna and Peter so happy . . . reminiscences as their love story is traced from dingy pubs in the City of the Tribes to the Banks of the Okavengo . . .

To the Glen Hotel they go as I face my first crisis. In the pre-nuptial rush the boat that was to take me to Burtonport had not been ordered! I didn't panic . . . boats in Arranmore . . . coals in Newcastle, thought I . . . Wrongly? Most men were in the bog. Seán Bonnar drove to and knocked on doors, darted down laneways, ran up paths, eventually took me to Aphort Strand. Micí Eddie was out in his half-decker, a hundred yards from shore. Seán shouted. Micí went into his punt and came to the Pier. He agreed to leave me in Burtonport in a spontaneous gesture of great generosity. And racontoured the whole way out . . . pointing out the exact spot of the 1936 drowning . . . it was **not** a rock . . . As the pier appeared I saw Pól there and we were only slighted behind schedule. Pól would drive me to Carrickfinn Airstrip (ten minutes from the Port) and all would be well. The plane was to be there at three.

Pól broke the news with a certain aplomb. The haze was the problem! The pilot had rung and said he couldn't make it because of the haze. Could you make Knock? reasoned Pól. Yes, said the pilot, even Strandhill in Sligo. Donegal Bay was the major problem. So Strandhill it would be at 4.15. The Volkswagen Golf is a superb car. But she was never built to tackle the winding roads of Gaoth Beara at remorseless speed. And so I was a shaken figure boarding the little forlorn plane on the dunes of Strandhill at 4.30.

The air journey was not a happy one, no fault to the boyish-looking pilot. The frighteningly small tinny nature of the aircraft, the wondering whether I would make it in time to Shannon becoming a wondering whether I would make it at all as the pilot seemed to scan the countryside looking for landmarks through cloud and mist, the impossibility of communicating through noise and pilot ear-phones and ignorance of the etiquette of flying in a small two-seater plane, the shrug of my left-hand man with the unforgettable four words 'One of those days!' And the words of the poet past whose mortal remains we had flown with disrespect in our Volkswagen Golf echoing in my ears . . .

Nor law nor duty bade me fight
Nor public men nor cheering crowds
A lonely impulse of delight

Drove to this tumult in the clouds . . .
O to be in Arranmore making an inane post-prandial oration! But eventually we made it into Shannon soon after 6 and there to greet me were my four PCC colleagues who had stayed in Mullingar on Friday night and drove to Shannon to pick me up. Pól had rung and Robert had been paged and they whisked me out like a pop-star making a quiet exit through a back door. And we were at the Savoy at 6.30 sharp! I leapt out. They would join me when they would get a parking space.

I had got tickets from Croke Park for my four colleagues but no one gave me a ticket and since I had no ticket the man at the door said I couldn't get in. The first comórtas was already in progress. I told him that I was representing Ulster, that I had just flown in to Shannon, that I was a priest in civvies and every other grovelling sentiment I could think of but he was adamant as the most casuistic of moral theologians. No ticket, no entry! The grace of God (or sheer frustration) led me to another door where a man who used to visit the E.S.B. hydro-electric station in Gaoth Dobhair relented and let me in.

I was drawn first in the Aithriseoireacht. The ever-recurring problem of the Scór audience and adjudicators being a cultural wing of the G.A.A. and perhaps not overly familiar with the exploits of Seán Ó Drisceoil re-emerged. Rinne mé mo dhícheall agus bhí mé sásta go leor. My relief was such that I went to the nearest exit and crossed the street for a cup of coffee and a doughnut thus missing the performance of the Man from Clare who won the Aithriseoireacht! I returned for the rest of the Coirm Ceoil, cheered for Úna McKearney of Aghaloo from Scotstown, Middletown, Glenullin, Omagh St. Enda's and Munterconnaught, was captivated by the magic of the sets, was disappointed at my own failure. It was a dreadful journey back to Mullingar as a fearsome fog descended upon the Midlands.

And in Arranmore they sang and danced till dawn.

Editor's note: *Father Sean just narrowly failed to win his second All-Ireland Scór title — but O what a man — a priest, a composer, a poet, a G.A.A. administrator and official, a referee, a commentator, a team manager, a teacher, a writer, a historian — the list is endless. Such dedication, enthusiasm and zeal, but above all, such talent leaves me at a complete loss to adequately describe this unique great Gael and great man.*

The Australian Odyssey

le Seán Ó Gallchoir

The delegates assembled in Dublin's grand Ceannárus
From Dingle and from Derry, from Carlow and Claremorris;
And Gaeldom holds its breath in a state of awesome wonder,
Awaiting the decision upon the tour down under.
The pros and cons were argued in eloquence profound —
To take the All-Stars west or be Australia-bound;
And when the day was over Mick Loftus told the Press
"We're going to Australia, may God our efforts bless."

And now the men with power laced
A thorny problem faced —
Who will lead us
To the Antipodes?
A solid voice from Kerry
Was firm sure and certain:
"It must be Mick O'Dwyer
He won seven Sam Maguire!"
Consent was almost reached
When a dissident did squeak:
"These Aussies are a ruthless lot —
As tough as tough can be!
And if we are to master them
As ruthless we must be."

What was the roughest football match you ever yet did see?
"Twas the All-Ireland final of 1983!
And who was he that coached the Champs of 1983?
It was the man they call the Heffo, the King of Hill 16.

So Heffo was appointed and he scoured the fields of Erin
In search of brawn and muscle the green would be wearin';
And when he picked his panel the nation was astounded
At the men who'd fly to Sydney and the men who would
stay grounded.

I thought Magilligan was a prison camp
Across the Foyle from Carn!
The only Fagan I did know
Was Patsy in the song.
I never heard of Cahalane
Or of yer' man from Clare,
And the boy from Baile an Ghaorthaigh
Is a minor, not yet hairy.
And where is Willie Padden
And Liam Hayes who writes so well?
Barney's absence does me sadden
And Máirtín Beag as well.
There are only 3 from Kerry
And there's 2 from County Derry!
And a team without the Bomber
Does sure deserve the hammer.

Airport terminal, emblazered in ambassadorial green,
Nation's memory printing out its long listing of Antipodaeen
journeys.
Do-chaigh na Conerys thar na farraigibh go dtís na New
South Wales.
And thousands more uprooted from plain and bog to sail
against the wind and sit around the Boree log —
Memory — fortified for our enterprise,
Let us reach for the skies!

The WACA ground at Perth staged the first test that was
played
And Jacko and his men were well and truly flayed.
The Irish they were walloped and the headlines loudly cried
That the savagery was awful; 'twas lucky no one died.
Oh, come back home to Erin and keep intact your pride;
This jennet has no future, it's thuggery legalised.

Then Heffo spoke:

"You will waltz no more matildas
Nor dance with Jilly Stewart.
You will not return to Eden,
You'll scrap the fancy feedin'.
You will see no kangaroo
Not visit Tangmalangmaloo;
You will stay away from Krona
Touch Foster's and I'll bone you.
We'll sit and talk of tactics
And then go out to practice
And return to talk of tactics —
No more will Aussies axe us!"



In the second test at Melbourne the preparations told
And Heffo's flying squadron caught the Aussies cold.

Then Todd did speak:

"We weren't really trying
We were only toying!
We merely took a dive
To keep the tour alive.
But when the chips are down
We'll stuff those bloody wimps —
We'll send those keening crying wallies
Right home to their mummies."

But at Adelaide the Heffo's army won the mighty war
With bravery and brilliance that left Australians sore.
They leapt and jumped and ran and scored
Like men inspired, and entered Ireland's lore.

Brian McGilligan was one of Ulster's five —
McNicholl too came from the Sperrins' side.
Greg Blaney for the Mournemen stood his ground
O'Hagan and Ciaran Murray were safe and sound.
In goal O'Leary played with broken hand
McNally and Ger Hargan completed Dublin's band.
Mick Lyons from Summerhill the Meathmen sent
Spike Fagan and Pat O'Byrne did the minnows represent.
The side was led by Jack O'Shea
The greatest of the day.
Clare's Noel Roche
Was beyond reproach.
From Leeside came Ó Ciaragáin
And also Niall Ó Cathaláin.
O'Driscoll's now a household name
McCarthy, too, of hurling fame;
The west had only two —
Val Daly and McHugh —
They too did play their part
In a game that warmed the heart.
We salute you one and all
You made us feel so tall
As we watched transfixed
In October eighty six.
And when I'm old and grey
I'll still mind the day
When a prison camp with goggles on
Left Australian faces long.

COUNTY MINOR BOARD ALMOST 20 YEARS OLD

On 29th May, 1967, at the County Board meeting in the Butt Hall, Ballybofey, Paddy Hoey, Convoy, first suggested about the formation of a Minor Board when he said it was time a County Minor Board was appointed in the county. A lengthy discussion took place and at the reconvened County Convention in Jacksons Hotel, Ballybofey, on February 19th, 1968, a motion from the Naomh Mhuire club, Convoy, was passed, "That this Convention consider the setting up of a Minor Board to take charge of all under-age competitions at county and inter-county level."

A special meeting was held in the C.Y.M.S. Rooms, Letterkenny, on Friday, April 5th, 1968, under the county chairman, Danny McGlinchey, M.R.C.V.S., Letterkenny, for the purpose of implementing the decision of County Convention and form a County Minor Board. Also present at this inaugural meeting were Hugh Daly, Paddy Flanagan, Bro. Ciaran, De La Salle, Michael Cooney, Tom Walsh, Michael McFadden, Eddie McDevitt, Michael Cullen, Rodger McRory, Donal Breslin, Paddy Murray, Francis Cunningham, Liam McClafferty, Sean Slevin and Paddy Hoey. Apologies were received from John Joe Brennan, Naul McCole, Eamonn McLaughlin and P. J. Ryan. It was decided that the above mentioned as well as Danny Cullen, Jimmy McKelvey, Columba McDyer and Fr. Dan McDyer would form the new Minor Board and the following officers were then elected to the first County Minor Board:

Chairman, Paddy Hoey, Convoy; vice-chairman, Tom Walsh, Cloughaneely; secretary, Naul McCole, Dungloe; assistant secretary, Francis Cunningham, Carrick; treasurer, Rodger McRory, Letterkenny; registrar, Sean Slevin, Ballyshannon.

Selectors: Eamonn McLaughlin, Carndonagh; Michael Cooney, Donegal Town; Michael McFadden, Dunfanaghy; Eddie McDevitt, Stranorlar; Francis Cunningham, Carrick, and Michael Cullen, St. Eunan's College.

At the next meeting of the new Board on April 24th, 1968, Naul McCole was unanimously appointed

as Minor County team manager and Paddy Flanagan, assistant co. secretary, and Naul McCole, Minor Board secretary were appointed to act as a Fixtures Committee to arrange dates, venues and referees for the various games. Also at this meeting Hugh Daly, county secretary, on handing over duties to the Minor Board, stated: "Although the Minor Board has had its teething troubles, one could not but feel impressed at the amount of work already done." He also went on to state that he regarded the activities of the Board as the most important in the county since in their hands, to a large extent, lay the future of the Association in the county. Tributes were paid to Hugh Daly at this meeting for the amount of work he had done towards the proper establishment of the Minor Board.

From this meeting in 1968 the Minor Board organised under age competitions at county level and looked after our underage county teams. A significant step in football within the county came in 1972 when a St. Eunan's motion to County Minor and County Conventions asking for an u-12 competition to be run within the county was passed with St. Eunan's going on themselves to win the inaugural county u-12 championship in 1972. Since the formation of the Minor Board many new competitions were inaugurated and indeed some did not last too long. In 1971 an u-15 championship was played where St. Eunan's defeated Rosses Rovers in a county final which is remembered for the wrong reasons with the disciplinary committee of Minor Board having to dish out harsh penalties.

An u-17 competition was also run in 1971 in order to help the following year's county minor team. Sean MacCumhailles were the county winners of this championship with officials at the time obviously changing their minds on the value of the competition as it was dropped after one year. In 1979 under the auspices of the County Youth Officer, a 7-a-side u-15 competition was run in the county with the winners at the time going through to an All-Ireland competition in Gormanston, Co. Meath. Aodh

Ruadh, Ballyshannon, were the first winners in 1979 and since then this competition has been run successfully in the county. Unfortunately in 1985 sponsorship ceased and the county winners now play-off in a section with other Ulster winners.

In 1980 a call was made that our minor club footballers were idle once their teams were knocked out of the championship. It was decided to run a Minor County League as well as the Minor Championship. Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, again pioneered the way by becoming the first holders of this County League title. This competition now is played as a 13-a-side game and the county winners receive the Colm Murray Shield which commemorates Colm Murray, who was an officer of the Minor Board (PRO) and indeed wrote many articles in the local press under the non-deplume, "Tine Si". Another competition that was introduced in 1984 was the U-13 Championship. The reasoning behind the U-13s was that a competition was introduced at national level for u-14 club teams which was usually played in June. In order that Donegal would be represented strongly in this competition, which was known as Feile na nÓg, it was decided to run off an u-13 competition in the autumn of the year with the county winners representing the county the following June at u-14 level. Killybegs were the first winners of the u-13 championship in 1984 and they travelled to Cork for the Feile na nÓg national finals in 1985. Killybegs, in fact, again represented the county at the national finals of Feile na nÓg in Kildare in 1987 and won Section C of their grade to bring a national title back to the county.

In 1973 a unique competition was run by the Minor Board when on Easter Monday of that year a club minor 13-a-side 'blitz' was run off in the MacCumhail pitches in Ballybofey.

Probably one of the most competitive and top quality football played in the county took place that day when in the end of a long day Sean MacCumhailles powered by Brendan Dunleavy edged out a star studded St. Eunan's team that

included Paul McGettigan.

Arguments can be made for and against the amount of different competitions that the Minor Board run during the year but the fact remains that clubs and players want to partake. In later years some clubs have got stronger than others, mainly due to population differences. Try as they might the smaller populated clubs are unable to give the larger populated clubs any competition. At the moment a committee is looking into this and their findings will be put before Minor Convention. The idea of setting up a 'B' competition at u-12 and u-14 levels has not been successful. An idea being mooted around the county is that the divisional structure is too tight and that some of the stronger clubs, e.g., Bundoran, Aodh Ruadh, N. Brid, Four Waters, Killybegs, N. Columba, Ardara, Dungloe, Gweedore, Cloughaneely, St. Eunan's and Sean MacCumhailis should play in an 'A' competition of their own with the remaining clubs partaking in the 'B' competition.

History will show that since the formation of the Minor Board in 1968 the fortunes of Donegal football (in particular) have risen. While we may not have had the success we hoped for at inter-county minor level, winning a Ulster minor championship in 1985 and three Ulster Leagues in 1982, 1984 and 1985, followers of the game will point to the fact that the playing of the Ulster Minor Championship during the Leaving Certificate examinations is a real boost to any team's preparations.

However, even though our success at inter-county level is limited and likely to remain so, it is worth looking towards the positive attributes of the Minor Board. Our first success at Ulster senior level took place four years after the formation of this Board. It is indeed heartening to see so many of our young players going through the ranks and becoming the top players in the province. Our county senior team has become one of the strong teams in the province and our successes at u-21 level in 1982 and 1987 has to a certain extent all been made possible by the workings of the Minor Board.

Winning our first Ulster Senior Championship in 1972, followed by our first u-21 All-Ireland success in 1982, what chance our first senior All-Ireland in 1982. No doubt it will be the underage players now at present being organised by minor officials whether it be at club, divisional or County Board level throughout the county.

MINOR BOARD COUNTY WINNERS (FOOTBALL) FROM START TO PRESENT

	Minor	Minor League	U-17	Juvenile	Óg Spóirt (7-a-side)	U-15	U-14	U-14B	U-13	U-12	U-12B
1968	Dungloe			Genties			N. Columba				
1969	Ardara/Genties			Drumbar			Convoy				
1970	Ardara/Genties			Castlefin			Convoy				
1971	MacCumhailis		MacCumhailis	Genties		St. Eunan's	MacCumhailis				
1972	St. Eunan's		Minor Blitz	St. Eunan's			Aodh Ruadh			St. Eunan's	
1973	St. Eunan's		MacCumhailis	MacCumhailis			St. Eunan's			Aodh Ruadh	
1974	St. Eunan's			Aodh Ruadh			St. Eunan's			Aodh Ruadh	
1975	N. Columba			St. Eunan's			Castlefin			Cloughaneely	
1976	Gweedore			St. Eunan's			Ardara			Aodh Ruadh	
1977	R. Casements			St. Eunan's			Cloughaneely			Rosses Rovers	
1978	St. Eunan's			Aodh Ruadh			Rosses Rovers			Glenfin	
1979	Aodh Ruadh			Aodh Ruadh			Rosses Rovers			Killybegs	
1980	Aodh Ruadh	Aodh Ruadh		Rosses Rovers	Aodh Ruadh		Rosses Rovers			Rosses Rovers	
1981	Aodh Ruadh	Rosses Rovers		Dungloe	Rosses Rovers		Killybegs			R. Emmets	
1982	Aodh Ruadh	Aodh Ruadh		Glenfin	Glenfin		N. Columba			St. Eunan's	
1983	Ardara	Killybegs		Killybegs	MacCumhailis		St. Eunan's			Killybegs	
1984	Killybegs	Killybegs		N. Columba	Dungloe		St. Eunan's		Killybegs	St. Eunan's	
1985	Killybegs	Killybegs		MacCumhailis	St. Eunan's		Killybegs		Gweedore	Gweedore	
1986	N. Columba	Aodh Ruadh		Aodh Ruadh	Killybegs		Gweedore		Killybegs	Killybegs	N. Columba
1987	Gweedore	Gweedore		MacCumhailis	Gweedore		Killybegs	Lifford	Killybegs	Bundoran	Aodh Ruadh

INTER-DIVISIONAL (SUPER LEAGUE) FOOTBALL WINNERS

	Minor	U-16
1982	South	
1983	South-West	
1984	South-West	
1985	South-West	
1986	North	
1987	South-West	East

CO. MINOR BOARD OFFICERS 1987

Chairman: Pat Connaghan, Killybegs.
 Vice-Chairman; Sean Ward, Dungloe.
 Secretary/Treasurer: Eugene Boyle,
 Ballybofey.
 Asst. Secretary: Kevin Sharkey, Rannafast
 Registrar: Donal Gallagher, Donegal Town.
 P.R.O.: Seamus Sheerin, Mountcharles.
 U-18 County Manager: Jimmy White,
 Killybegs.
 U-16 County Manager: John Joe O'Shea,
 Killybegs.

OFFICERS OF MINOR BOARD DOWN THE YEARS

Year	Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Registrar	Minor Team Manager
1968	P. Hoey	N. McCole	R. McRory	S. Slevin	N. McCole
1969	P. Hoey	P. S. Mac a' Ghoill	R. McRory	S. Slevin	B. McEniff
1970	P. Hoey	P. S. Mac a' Ghoill	R. McRory	S. Slevin	B. McEniff & P. Murray
1971	P. Hoey	P. S. Mac a' Ghoill P. J. Spillane Fr. Cunningham	R. McRory	S. Slevin	D. Harkin
1972	K. Dunlop	P. Connaghan		S. Slevin	B. McEniff
1973	G. McGinley	P. Connaghan		S. McGarvey	P. Connaghan
1974	G. McGinley	P. Connaghan		P. Connaghan	A. Gallagher
1975	G. McGinley	P. Connaghan		C. Doherty	A. Coughlan
1976	L. Mullin	E. McDonnell		S. Harpur	D. Kelly
1977	L. Mullin	E. Boyle	P. Connaghan	D. Kelly	S. O'Donnell
1978	N. McCole	E. Boyle	P. Connaghan	D. Kelly	S. O'Donnell
1979	N. McCole	E. Boyle	L. Mullin		J. Reilly
1980	N. McCole	E. Boyle	L. Mullin		J. McDermott
1981	Fr. E. Crossan	E. Boyle	L. Mullin	E. Boyle	L. Reilly
1982	Fr. E. Crossan	C. Toland	L. Mullin	Ml. McInaw	L. Reilly
1983	G. Gordon	C. Toland	E. Boyle	Ml. McInaw	L. Reilly
1984	G. Gordon	C. Toland	E. Boyle	Ml. McInaw	P. Connaghan
1985	G. Gordon	P. J. Buggy	E. Boyle	Ml. McInaw	J. White
1986	G. Gordon	P. J. Buggy	E. Boyle	Ml. McInaw	J. White
1987	P. Connaghan	E. Boyle	E. Boyle	D. Gallagher	J. White



The Donegal Minor G.A.A. Board, 1987. Back row (from left): Jimmy White (minor team manager), Sean Ward (vice-chairman), Seamus Sheerin (PRO), Eugene Sharkey (assistant secretary). Front row (from left): Donal Gallagher (registrar), Eugene Boyle (secretary/treasurer), Pat Conaghan (chairman), John Joe O'Shea (u-16 team manager).

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A G.A.A. JOURNALIST

SEAMUS McKINNEY

When Sean Boyle asked me to write an article for this year's G.A.A. yearbook I tried to think about something witty, original or amusing to write about. I was unable to so I will write about me, or to be more precise and importantly my job as a journalist must be a 'jack of all trades'. He must work on sport, must cover news 'markings' or assignments, and must be able to generate his own stories.

Sport is one of the most important sections in any newspaper. In Donegal in particular, sport is very important with the large population of young people.

It is too large and diverse a subject for any one reporter and must be split up among several people. My main concern is the G.A.A.

The job is different from any other job I work. It is amusing, interesting, often frustrating, and never boring. No two weeks are the same, and with the added interest of the G.A.A. in the unemployment and emigration problems facing their members, the job is expanding out into a wider coverage.

Over the last year, the job has taken me through almost every aspect of emotion, from the elation of Donegal's second All-Ireland under 21 victory, to sadness at the funeral of Gerard Gallagher R.I.P., of Mountcharles. In all instances I try to cover each assignment with as much energy as I can, showing especially at all times.

SUNDAY START

The week starts for me on a Sunday. There is usually some game to be covered. I leave home giving myself enough time to reach a venue with fifteen minutes at least to spare to collect team line-outs and any other information necessary. On reaching a ground, I make sure that I have a clean note book, a good coat and enough pens and pencils. The pencils are for the wet days when the ink runs on the book.

Covering a game can be very tiring. It requires a lot of concentration. As well as getting an overall perception of the game, I must be sure that I have each move documented and timed. To miss a score would be disastrous. I normally forget about names in a game and run a mental commentary, numbering each player who handles the ball, in my mind.

If the game is important enough, I must gather relevant quotations about it. This can be difficult if a manager is annoyed

at losing or just does not like the Press. On some occasions National Papers contact the local press before an important game and ask for a short report. This system applies in all news and is called "corring" a story. All members of the N.U.J. help each other in this way and contribute to the daily papers.

If I have been requested to "corr" a match report, I must have it ready to be phoned through to Dublin as early as possible. My working Sunday usually ends at approximately 7 p.m. when I have my short match report typed up and 'filed' with the Daily papers.

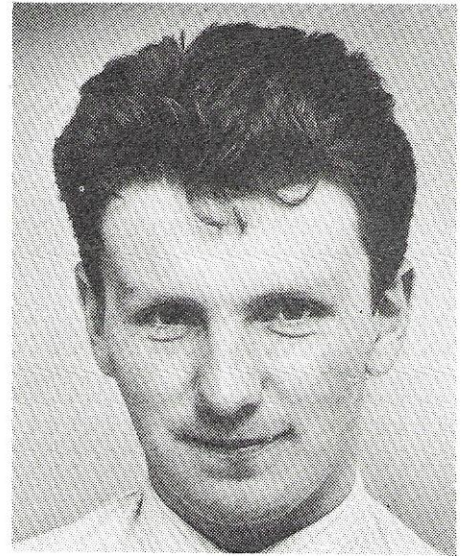
On a Monday morning I usually return to write a more detailed account of the game for that week's edition. This normally takes about 1½ hours.

I then move onto the sidelines. Most P.R.O.'s in the county send in their club news and all these notes must be edited and rewritten if necessary. This often causes great consternation among the various contributors and I sometimes receive complaints when I change a 'sideline'. Once again this is not uncommon to the GAA and I must put up with complaints from contributors in all fields.

There is a very particular way of writing for a newspaper and it is important that a standard is maintained. The story must be easy to read. Readers do not wish to have to reread a note. It must be perfectly clear and understandable on the first reading. When we change Sidelines it is not because someone cannot write as many of the offended often believe. It is to maintain a uniform standard of writing throughout the paper.

The editing of sidelines and other notes continues right through the week. It is important that I receive the notes early in the week as I move onto the court work and news work early on a Tuesday as possible. After Tuesday teatime, the editing of Sidelines becomes an interruption on my other work. For my own benefit, I prefer to have the sidelines and all the G.A.A. finished as early on a Tuesday as possible.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings I phone around the county to check out certain stories, and write the story up as it comes in. That is my normal G.A.A. week's work. The rest of the week is spent on news. But journalism is never/seldom defined with such



regularity. If I have a day time marking on a Monday or a Tuesday, I change my schedule and work on the G.A.A. much longer into the week. But whatever happens the absolute deadline for the G.A.A. work is 5.30 on a Wednesday. My editor will not accept any sport after this time.

The job is satisfying. I enjoy watching a good game and being privy to the workings of the Association in Donegal. At times it can become irksome. It is never pleasant to watch two bad teams playing for an unimportant trophy on a wet Sunday. But the job must be attacked with the same energy as I would bring to an All-Ireland final. The trophy is important to the thirty players on the field. It can also be very wearying to have to trek 150 miles on a cold December morning, leaving home when it is still dark, to watch Donegal play in some National League fixture in the South of the country.

The job has provided some very amusing incidents. I have been assaulted by a small fat County Tyrone woman, been accused of deliberately boosting a team's morals so that they do not treat a game with the seriousness that it deserves and been berated for picking the wrong team as favourites to win a competition.

The assault came at a Sandy Harper tournament final. Before the game started I was standing on the side line, blocking the view of some Aghyaran supporters when I was asked to move. I told them that I would sit down when the game started but apparently one wished to watch the parade of the teams before the game.

She punched me on the back of the head and informed me that she had paid her pound to watch the game and I was not going to stop her. I agreed with her and moved away — quickly.

The variety of the job, the character of the people and the genuine commitment and kindness of all involved in the G.A.A. make all the hassle worth while.

THE ROLE OF A COUNTY COACH: WHY COACHING IS NECESSARY

By P. J. McGowan

The emphasis in the past was on catching and kicking. Both these skills, and especially catching was probably better employed than today and remember also that the ball was a of a different type and more difficult to handle. The game was more static—by that I mean there was less movement by individual players—and the ball was kicked on much more so than today. Because of its nature, the game tended to be more physical than it is today and the skills of the shoulder tackle and “ability to hit” were more in evidence.

Today’s game is faster and much more tactical. This has come about because of a number of factors. (a) Improved standards of fitness and better training techniques; (b) The influence of other sports mainly through the media; (c) Youngsters are exposed to a wide range of sports and the natural behaviour to play Gaelic games is not the automatic thing it used to be.

In view of these facts, the need for coaching, not just at under-age level, but also with our star county players, becomes obvious.

Definition of a Coach:

Someone who works with and talks to a team with a view to getting the best out of the team, as a unit on the field of play.

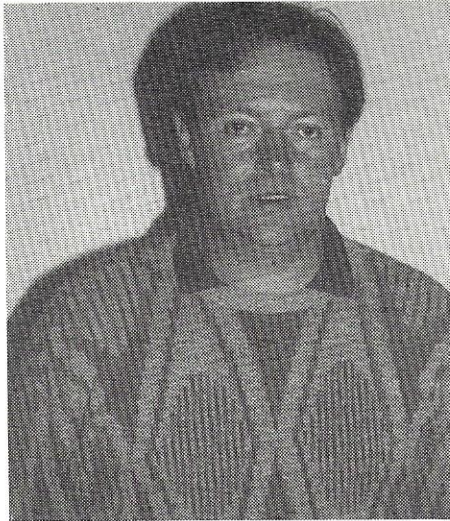
The County Coach

This varies according to the county and the individual involved. In some counties the manager may also be the coach. Other counties might have a manager and a coach and others may have a manager and a trainee coach. In some counties the manager does it all. No matter what the set-up the role of the coach should remain the same.

Before Coaching Begins

Before coaching can be fruitful, a reasonably good standard of physical fitness must be attained. Only players who are fit can reach a high standard in the performance of the basic skills.

Before coaching begins the coach must **definitely** know what he wants from each individual player and then know how to integrate the performance of 15 individuals into the best unit possible. If the coaching is to be successful, the players must be made realize that the coach is pointing them in the right direction and that success will come by following his instructions. The merits of the coach can be judged by the success



or failure of these instructions, provided that they are rigidly followed by the players. If instructions are not followed then the coach can not be held responsible.

Coaching can not be successful if continuously done on a group basis. It must incorporate the majority of the work done with individual players and then applying this work in the group format. It is therefore of paramount importance to intimately know each individual player—their personality, character, upbringing and education, family background, social life, friends, interests, strengths and weaknesses. He must be able to communicate with each player, discuss personal problems, show understanding, be fair and be firm. He must be aware not to embarrass the player for showing incompetence in the performance of any of the skills of the game either mental skills or physical skills.

The Work of the Coach

It is important at this stage to distinguish between training for fitness and coaching. The purpose of fitness training is to develop the physical capacity of the body to meet the physical demands of a particular game, whereas the purpose of coaching is to develop the capacity of the individual or team to perform the various skills of the game in a match situation. However, the coaching of basic skills very often incorporates a certain amount of drills very beneficial to the development of physical fitness as well as improving the individual skill. For example, various techniques may be used to improve a player’s ability to run with the ball and the best results will not

materialise unless these techniques are coached in pressure situations, e.g. at full speed and with opposition, thus being of benefit to the physical fitness of the individuals involved. This is often referred to as “training with the ball”. The coach should strive to encourage such training exercises, as, in addition to its obvious merits, it increases the player’s enjoyment of training. The coach should strive to make each session enjoyable and attractive to players.

There is always a need for the coach to be concerned with the basic skills of the game, even at county level. Unless players are competent in the basic skills, progression to more intricate methods of coaching cannot take place. The coach should be particularly concerned with the weaknesses of the individual player, e.g. his weak left foot, his inability to punch pass with either hand, his inability to pick up with either feet.

Repetition is a word which should be very prominent in the mind of the coach. Two conflicting lines of thought are very prominent here. One is that “if it is repetitive then it becomes boring”, and the other is that “practice makes perfect”. Obviously, the more a player practices a certain skill the more competent they become in the adaptation of that skill, but there are hundreds of different practices that can be devised which coach the same skill, but eliminate the thought of repetition.

A common problem in coaching at inter-county level is that tactics and aspects of play tend to become over-complicated. This occurs when teams rather than individuals come under the emphasis of coaching. The county coach must be concerned with aspects beyond the execution of the basic skills of the game. The secret to good coaching at this stage, lies in keeping things as simple as possible. Good coaching for one team may involve strong emphasis on support play and running off the ball, while for another team good coaching might involve longer delivery of the ball to a strong and big target man. It is very important that the coach should ensure that a team should **play to its strengths**. It would be very wrong for a coach to try and make an attacking unit play the way that the great Kerry attack of recent years did, simply because there would be different individuals with different attributes involved and a similar style of play could not be achieved. There are no magic formulas nor handbooks which prescribe how to coach team play.

How often do we see inter-county footballers with space available and possession not to kick a long high ball in the general direction of the forwards, but to see a defender who has all the advantages on his side in such situations, come out with the ball. Note the trajectory of a Brian Mullins' delivery to his forwards and decide whether the attacker or defender has the advantage. It is part of the role of the coach to ensure that the most advantageous use is made of possession. In so doing it is with an individual that the coach must concern himself.

The Sensitivity of the Coach

It is important that the coach sees and understands the moods and pressures of players. This becomes more relevant near to important games. The media and supporters can add to the tension and nervousness of players. Part of the coach's role is to relax his players so that the correct coached are not forgotten in the pressure of the occasion. It is also important that instructions are carried out for the entire duration of the game and that frustration and panic do not creep in.

Offaly would not have beaten Kerry in the 1982 All-Ireland had they not followed instructions for the entire duration of the game. The manner in which the play led up to their very late goal bears testimony to this when with very little time remaining they did not panic.

Discipline of Players

The conduct of players on the field of play is also the responsibility of the coach. He must ensure that the highest possible standards of behaviour are expressed by his players.

Co-Operation

The coach is one important ingredient in a county set-up. But equally important is the trainer, manager, and selectors. It is very important that all involved work in unison and that equal importance be afforded to each role.

Need For Reassessment

Frequently, the coach must assess the progress his methods are having on the team. This should be carried out often and viewed in the long term context of the aims of the team. While the general

aspects of play should not come into question perhaps the methods used by the coach to achieve these aspects might have to be altered. Just as the players are continually learning, so also is the coach. New players may come into the panel and the coach must continually seek new information on them. The speed of development may be dependant on the time of year. At certain times progress may be rapid, while at other times little or no development may be visible. It is important to be patient and have conviction in your own ideas. Players must also be made to see the value of patience and belief in the ideas of the coach. Then when it arrives "nothing succeeds like success". When players begin to see an improvement in their performance your job as coach becomes much easier.

Finally, no coach knows it all or even half of it. There is always a lot more to learn. Even though you may think you know your players very well, and probably do, you can learn more and not from rumour. It's very easy to be a good listener and the best place to learn is from talking to other coaches and even coaches in other sports.



S.W. Divisional Minor Team who won the 1987 County Super League.

An Ghaeilge agus an C.L.G.

Séamus de Faoite (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

Mar a duirt me go minic cheana féin ar go leor ccáidí thig linn níos mo a dhéanamh na an cluiche no na cluichí féin a imirt, gidh go bhfuil se seo tabhachtach ann féin, agus muid ag cur leis an aidhm a bhí ag bunaitheoirí an Chumann breis is céad bliain o shin. Ta ar gceol, rince agus stair fein an tábhachtach dár ar n-aitheanntas Naisiúnta. Deanaim comhghairdeachais le eagraíochtaí mar Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Eireann, Cumann na Rincí Gaelach agus gach dream eile ata ag saothrú ar mhaithe leis an cheol agus na Rincí Gaelach agus gach gné eile den chultúr.

Caitheann tús aite i gconai a thabhairt don teanga. Is í an teanga an charraig agus an dubhsraith ar a bhfuil gach rud eile a bhaineann lenar nduchás toghtha. Gan an teanga a bheith beo ní fiú tracht ar na rudaí eile. Da dtiocfadh meadú faoi chéad ar staid eacnamaíochta na tíre nó, dá mbeadh ór agus ola le fáil go fluirseach i ngach gairdín ar fud na tíre níor bhíú faic dúinn é da mba rud e gur chaill muid an seod luachmhar sin, ar dteanga dhucháis féin agus bheadh na haidhmeanna a bhí ag bunaitheoirí an Chumann Lúthchleas Gael treighthe againn. Más féidir le dhá fhoireann anseo i dTír Chonaill cluiche peile no iomanaíochta a imirt tre mhéan na Gaeilge, ta níos mó a dhéanamh acu ar son an chultúir nó dá mbeadh siad páirteach i gCraobh Ceannais na hEireann.

San am i láthair ta an Ghaeilge faoi ionsaí ón taobh amuigh agus ón taobh istigh den Chumann Lúthchleas Gael. Ar an taobh amuigh ta daoine ann a mheasann go bhfuil siad ar chéim níos aoirde nó an ghnáth dhuine agus a amharcann ar a bheith ag plé le gné ar bith den chultúr mar am amu. Da bhféadfadh duine feachaint go géar isteach i gcúlra na ndaoine ainbhiosach seo, ní bheadh de thuairim agat san deire thiar thall, ach, nach bhfuil aon ní acu le cur leis an chomhlúadar agus go bhfuil siad ar an bheagan oideachais o thaobh an chultúir de. Is abhár iontais e nuair a thagann an ionsaí ón taobh istigh, gidh nach dtarlaíonn sé rom mhínic ach is leor uair amhain. Aon duine ata in aghaidh na Gaeilge taobh istigh den Chumann féin bhfearr ná ch mbeadh sé ann mar níl aon ait ann do a léithid de dhuine. Caithefidh an dílseacht agus an diogras a bheith le feiceáil ag gach leibheál san eagrais ar mhaithe le leas na teanga agus sar-iarracht a bheith a dhéanamh ón club aitiúil go dtí an Ard Chomhairle. Caitheann béim a chur ar labhairt na Gaeilge agus í a usaid ag cruinnithe an oiread agus is féidir. Ba chóir don Chathaoirleach i gconai ag cruinnithe,

spregadh agus misneach a thabhairt do na baill an Ghaeilge a labhairt, agus ar ndoighe an dea shompla a thabhairt tré í a labhairt é féin.

Is féidir leis an Ard Chomhairle féin dea shompla a thabhairt agus a chinntiú go mbeadh an gnó iomlán a dhéanamh tré Ghaeilge san Ard Oifig, go mbeadh cruinnithe atá díreach faoine smacht féin, mar shampla, na fo-choistí eagsúla srl, a reachtáil tré mhéan na Gaeilge. Ba chóir daofa a chinntiú comh maith go mbeadh an fhograíocht mhór a bhíonn ar táspeantas i bPáirc an Chrocaigh agus ins na hionaid imeartha eile, ar a laghad dhá theangach.

Ta dualgas trom ar na Boird Contae comh maith i leith na teanga. Anseo i dTír Chonaill ta roinnt mhaith Gaeilge le cluinstitín agus tugann Oifigeach Bhord an Chontae uchtach mhaith i gconai don té gur mian leis í a labhairt, agus tugann siad an dea shompla go minic tré í a lathair iad féin.

Ta dualgas ar na clubanna Gaeltachta gnó a dhéanamh i nGaeilge ar gach ócaid, agus ba mhaith liomsa go mbainfeadh saidsan níos mo usáid as an teanga ag na cruinnithe de Bhord an Chontae. Fosta iad sin eile a bhfuil an Ghaeilge ar a dtoil acu ba chóir daofa í a labhairt ag na cruinnithe seo comh maith. Ta seasamh láidir ag na clubanna aitiúla taobh istigh den Chumann Lúthchleas Gael má na bhíonn cursaí na teanga slaintiúil ansin ní baol dithe. Ar an lámh eile muna bhfuil na clubanna Gaeltachta ag déanamh a ndícheall ar mhaithe leis an teanga ar an pháirc imeartha ag cruinnithe srl, ní amháin gur cailliúint don Chumann e ach ta siad fosta ag treigint an Naisiúin sin ar maith linn uilig a mhaíomh go bhfuil grá againn dithe agus brod orainn aisti. Mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge anseo i dTír Chonaill ta athás orm a chur in úil gur tré Ghaeilge ar fad bhí cruinnithe agam san Ghaeltacht. Ins na clubanna taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht ar thug me cuairt orthu chonaic me abhair docháis ar mhaithe le athbheochan na teanga comh maith.

Ta run amháin a chuireann as domh agus is cursaí teangan de shaghas eile ata i gceist agam anois, se sin, an focal cheithre no sé litreach sin atá in usáid ag cluichí ní amhain anseo i dTír Chonaill ach ar fud na tíre. Deirtear go dtáinig an focal gránna seo isteach le linn an chéad chogadh domhanda agus bíonn sé a usaid go forleathan ag an lucht féachana ag cluichí. Ba chóir do na clubanna treoir a thabhairt da guaid baill in usaid teangan den sort seo, mar ní aon bhuntaiste no abhár mórtais don Chumann an focal seo a bheith le cluinstitín ag aon imeacht dá guaid.

Ta iarrtha agamsa ar gach club a bheith páirteach i gcomórtas Scór. Ta abhár docháis mór do fhás agus forbairt na teanga san Chumann tré an Chomórtas seo. Na clubanna sin ata taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht ba chóir daofa iarracht a dhéanamh ar leath a guaid iarratáisí don chomórtas a bheith tré mhéan na Gaeilge acu. Ta me ag tagairt do na comórtaisí don Amhránaíocht Aonair, Nuachleas, Aithriseoracht agus Bailead Ghrúpa.

Is cúis broid dúinn gur éirigh le iarrthóir as Tír Chonaill páirt a ghlacadh i gCraobh na hEireann in Aithriseoracht. Deanaim comhghairdeachas leis an t-Athar Seán Ó Gallchóir.

Is cuid an-mhóir d'ár noidhrecht an Ghaeilge, gan í bheith againn ní bheidh againn ach "Tír gan teanga tír gan anam."

THE FIRST LADY



Noreen Doherty was elected Assistant County Secretary in 1985. This convention made history as she was the first lady county officer. Has been secretary of the Sean MacCumhalls Club for the past five years. Married to Aiden Doherty, who is PRO of the club. She comes from a strong GAA family as her brother, Noel, is senior player with MacCumhalls club and another brother, P. J., was manager of the successful All-Ireland winning Co. under-21 team. Also, her twin sister, Mary, is married to Declan Collum, vice-chairman of the local club.

Her hobbies include squash and ceili dancing. Her hopes for future: To see the return of our footballing emigrants.

Cultur i gClub Naomh Adhamhnain, Leitir Ceanainn

MAR A BHÍ SÉ I 1983

Thig le Club Naomh Adhamhnáin níos fearr nó aon chlub eile i dTír Chonaill maíomh a dhéanamh agus brod a bheith orthu as an dul dhun cinn ata déanta acu sa chultúr. Ceapadh mise mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge, le comheagrú agus comhnascadh níos fearr a dhéanamh ar na sceimeanna eagsúla cultúir a bhí sa chlub cheana fein — téann sin ar gcúl tamall fada. Seo an club a chur Ranganna Ceilí amuigh faoin spéir ar siúl dena chuid baill i rith na ndaicheadaí agus na gacaoidí. Ní raibh ionamsa ach gasúr ach is maith mo chuimhne ar na tráthnónta pléisiúrtha a chaith mé i bPáirc Uí Domhnaill ag éisteacht le cuid ceoil Liam Mhic Manuis, Conall Uí Chairbre agus Tomás Uí Ghallachóir. B'iad Ailís Cairbre agus Dughlas Mac Fhionnlaoid, B.L., muinteoirí rince na linne sin.

Ta tradisiún an-mhaith ag an Chlub ón t-am a bunaíodh é agus leoga mhair an traidisiún seo ariamh anall. Ta seanfhocal sa chlub, "Gráimid an aimsear chaite, mairimid sa n-aimsear láithreach." Mar seo a oibríonn an club clúiteach seo.

Cuid peileadóirí Naomh Adhamhnáin atá ag cosaint Craobh Sinsear na Contae faoi láthair agus tá craobhanna i gcéimeanna eile acu chomh maith. Dhéanfaimid dearmad den onóir atá tuillte ag an chlub ar feadh tamaill agus cuirfidh muid eolas níos fearr ar shaol chultúra an chlub — a bhfuil an-mheas agam fhéin air. Thig le duine siúil isteach ag aon chruinniú agus fáilte a fháil i nGaeilge ón Chathaoirleach Seamus Mac Dabhéid. Spreagann an Doctúr seo a rugadh sa Ghaeltacht a chomh-bhaill coiste, an Ghaeilge a chleachtú agus a h-úsáid ag ár gcruinnithe. Ag amanna áirithe i rith na bliana ach go speisialta ag Lá Fhéile Pádraig — indiaidh an mhórshúil, cruinníonn na baill uilig le chéile le seisiún Gaeilge a bheith acu. Dhéanann Runaí an Chlub Cathal Mac a'tSaoir, Muinteoir sa Ghairm Scoil i Rathbhoth cinnte go mbíonn teideil litreacha an Chlub uilig i nGaeilge. Nuair a scairteann se cruinniú le chéile, thig leat a bheith cinnte gur i nGaeilge a bhíonn an teachtaireacht. Dhéanann an tOifigeach Cairdeamh Poiblí, Seán O Baoill, fear ata an-ghíomhach in athbheochan an teanga a dhíchéall na cuairteoirí a chealgadh le bhearsa nó dhó de "Bhuachaill ó'n Eirne" nó "Mo Shean Dún-na-nGall" san Chlub-teach úr.

Oifigigh eile a ghríosann agus a



Páirt do Rang Gaeilge sa Chlub Teach Úr nach bhfuil críochnaithe go foill les an Mhúinteoir, Séamus de Faioite.

thugann tacaíocht an-mhór do Chlub Naomh Adhamhnáin i ndul chun cinn an chultúra — 'siad Anna Nic Gaoithín, an Leas-Chathaoirleach agus an t-Uachtarán Reggie Mac Amhalaí.

Mar a lua me cheana, bheirim-sa cuidiú don chlub tri na Ranganna Ceilí gach oíche Luan agus na Ranganna Gaeilge gach Ceadóin. Is féidir leis an chlub brod a bheith orthu as na ranganna seo. Nil an coiste ag déanamh ach an rud a mbeadh bunaitheoirí an chlub ag dréim leis.

Ni dhéantar dearmad den Cheol ach oiread. Tig na baill le chéile sa Chlub-teach gach oíche Mháirt, chomh maith leis an bhrairse aitiúil de Chomhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann agus baineann ach an nduine sult mór as an scléip agus an chuideachta. Labhartar an Ghaeilge comh minic leis an Bhéarla agus is iomaí uair a dheanann cuid de fheidhmeannaigh an chlub, mar shampla Donnchadh O Dughail, Oifigeach Reigiunach Bhord Failte cornphiopa no ríl, no a sheinnfeadh Aodh Mac Samhráin dreas ceoil ar an fhidil "Blind Mary".

Bhí se ina onóir mhor agamsa an Seimineár Gaeilge a eagrú i mí Iúil seo caite le cuidiú le baill an chlub. Ta mé ag smaoineamh ar a mhacasamhail a rith

aris i mbliana — Ár gCuimhneacháin Céad Bliain.

Ag deireadh na bliana 1983, bhroinn mé An Fainne Nua ar aon duine déag do bhaill an chlub a raibh se tuillte acu tré freastal a dhéanamh ar na Ranganna Gaeilge.

Focal beag "Scór" ach ta miniú mór leis i gClub Naomh Adhamhnáin. Achan bhliain indiaidh comórtas an chlub fhéin téann foireainn sinsireach agus sóisearach san iomaíocht chuig cluichí ceannuis na gContae agus na Reigiúin. Riteadh Cluichí Ceannuis na gContae sa Chlub-teach dhá bhliain as a cheile. Dheanfaidh an club ionadaíocht i mbliana i ngach roinn de "Scór" sinsear. 'Siad mná an chlub cnámh droma na gComhórtaid seo agus cuireann siad bia ar fáil am ar bith a bhfuil gá leis.

Ni thig linn morán níos mó a dheanamh leis an chultúr a thabhairt chun cinn, ach is rud cinnte e, ma smaoiníonn an coiste ar aon rud eile a dhéanamh go dtabharfaidh Club Naomh Adhamhnáin chun críche é.

SEAMUS DE FAOITHE
Club Oifigeach na Gaeilge,
Club Naomh Adhamhnain,
Leitir Ceanainn.

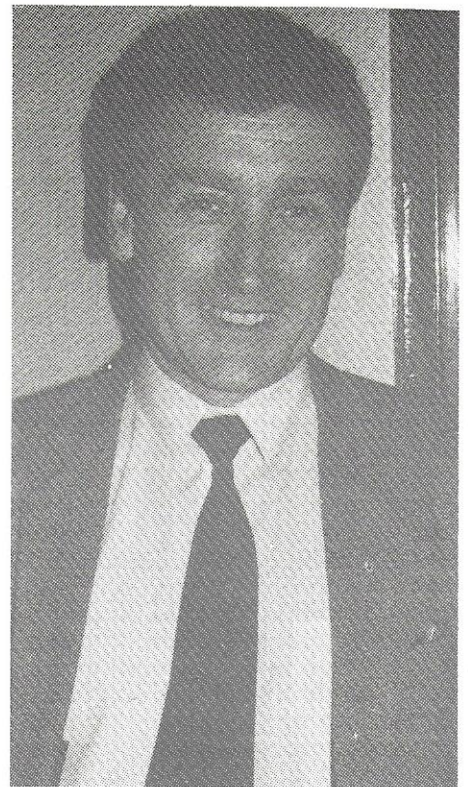
SCÓR

Scór is without doubt an integral part of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. The fact is that C.L.G. is more than a games organisation is confirmed by Scór. The excellent presentation of various aspects of Irish culture give positive proof of this fact. Standards are good and they continue to improve. As always, you are assured of special entertainment. The competitors are particularly welcomed. They have spent many hours, for many months, perfecting these performances. They represent the club, the county, the province and the Association. It is an honour for them and indeed an honour

for us in Scór to be associated with them. Tá cultúir saibhir againn agus tré Scór is feidir linn féachaint chuige go mbeidh seans níos mó ag na clubanna an saibhreas sin a bhlaiseadh.

SCÓR OFFICERS, 1987

Cathaoirleach: Seamus de Faoite
Leas-Cath.: Seamus MacChormac
Runai: Somhairle O Gallchoir
Cisteoir: Anton O Dochartaigh
O.C.P.: Seamus Mac Giolla Bui.
Toscaire do
Comhairle Uladh: Seosamh MacCeallbui



Somhairle Ó Gallchoir, Scór Runaí, 1987

SCÓR ROLE OF HONOUR 1986

SCÓR SINNSEAR

Rince Foirne:	MacCumhalls
Recitation	Colm Toland, Urris.
Solo Singing:	Aoife Ní Fhearraigh, Gaoth Dobhair
Novelty Act:	Robert Emmets
Quiz:	St. Eunan's: Denis Doyle, Sean Boyle, Seamus Herron
Instrumental Music:	Buncrana
Ballad Group:	Na Cealla Beaga
Set Dancing	Robert Emmets

SCÓR NA na nÓG

Rince Foirne:	MacCumhalls
Recitation	Carmel Hegarty, Kilcar
Solo Singing:	Kathleen Noctor, Aodh Ruadh
Novelty Act:	Gaoth Dobhair
Quiz:	Naomh Mhuire
Instrumental Music:	Naomh Brid
Ballad Group:	Gaoth Dobhair
Set Dancing	Aodh Ruadh

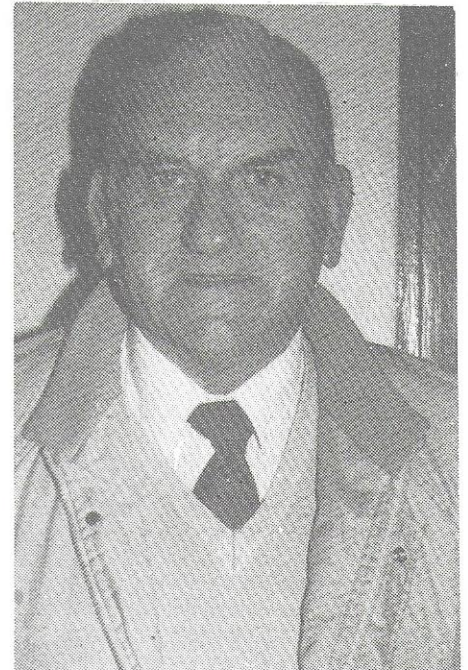
SCÓR ROLE OF HONOUR 1987

SCÓR SINNSEAR

Rince Foirne:	Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon
Recitation	Fr. Sean O Gallchoir, Cloughaneely
Solo Singing:	Margaret Timoney, Naomh Brid
Novelty Act:	Naomh Columba
Quiz:	Fanad Gaels
Instrumental Music:	Killybegs
Ballad Group:	Na Rossa
Set Dancing	Baile Na Finne

SCÓR NA na nÓG

Rince Foirne:	MacCumhalls
Recitation	Enda Gillespie, Naomh Columba
Solo Singing:	Deirdre Ni Chnaimhsigh, Cloughaneely
Novelty Act:	Naomh Baithin
Quiz:	Naomh Naille
Instrumental Music:	Ardara
Ballad Group:	Milford
Set Dancing	Naomh Colmcille



Seamus De Faoite, Scór Cathaoirleach, 1987



Scór Sinnsear 1986 Trath na gCeist champions, Naomh Adhamhnain, Leitir Ceanainn. L. to r., Sean Boyle, Denis Doyle and Seamus Herron.

THEY COMPETED IN SCÓR NA nÓG IN 1987



Bailead Ghrupa, Milford: County champions.



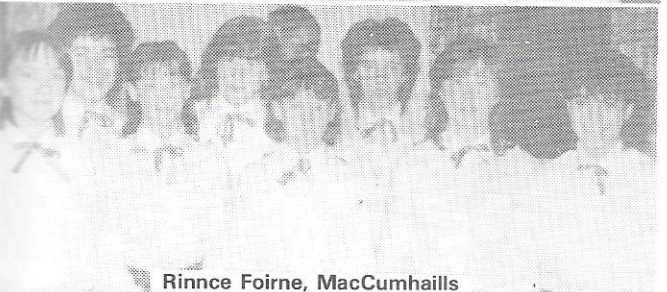
Nuachleas: Naomh Baithin, County champions.



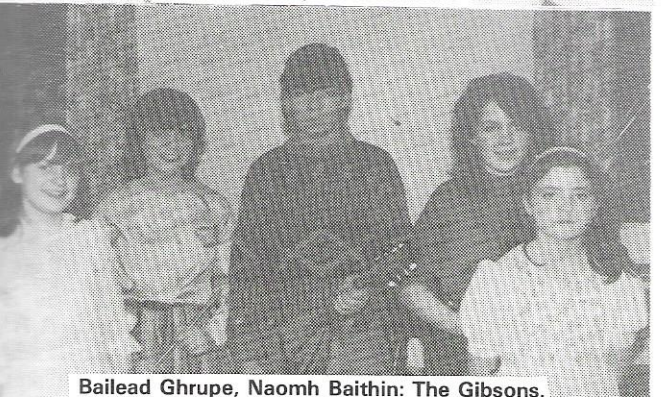
Aithriseoireacht, Naomi McDaid, Carndonagh, and Diarmuid Ó Longain, Naomh Adhamhnain.



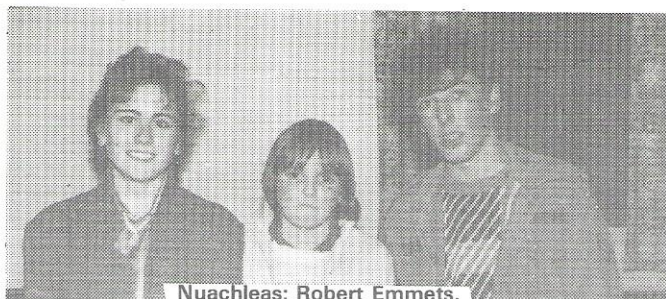
Ceol Uirlise: Naomh Adhamhnain.



Rinne Foirne, MacCumhailis



Bailead Ghrupe, Naomh Baithin: The Gibsons.



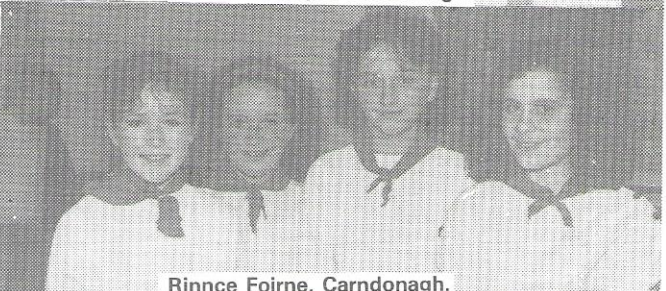
Nuachleas: Robert Emmets.



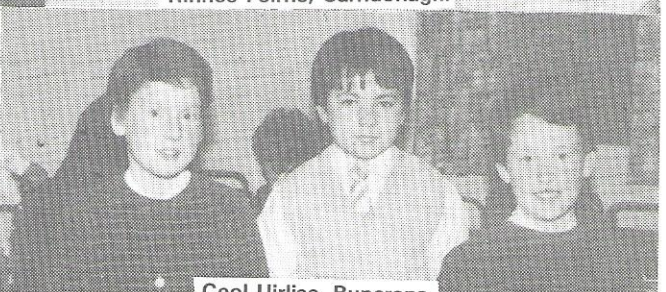
Tráth na gCeisteanna, Naomh Adhamhnain, Hugh Boyle, Eoghan O'Sullivan, Darragh Boyle, Cian Murphy.



Bailead Ghrupa, Carndonagh.



Rinne Foirne, Carndonagh.



Ceol Uirlise, Bunrana.



Amhránaíocht Aonair, Declan Grant, Urris, and Sinead Gillespie, MacCumhailis.

“I remember”

By Padraig O h-Eochaidh

To remember everything that happened during one's lifetime would, I am sure, be impossible, but in my case I am only going to concentrate on the G.A.A., as I saw it, and as I have been closely involved with this great Association since boyhood, my task should be fairly simple, aided as I am by the gift of a wonderful memory.

In the village of Convoy, where I grew up, the G.A.A. was unheard of, cricket and soccer football (both pitches supplied by Convoy Woollen Co.) were the only games played. As a matter of fact there were two cricket teams, one in the village and one formed by the Mill workers. The first tiny steps to form a G.A.A. Club took place in 1928. Our first meeting (we had no hall available to us) was held behind the high wall at the old Chapel Gate. Later we used the A.O.H. Bandroom, kindly given to us by Toal and Mary and Jane Shiels (sound Gaels from the old School). We held a weekly Whist Drive there too. This was the first Whist Drive in the parish. Of the people who formed the first St. Mary's G.A.A., most of the names can still be found around Convoy, McNamee, Harkin, Sweeney, McCarrick, McPeake, O'Donnell, Toner, McGlinchey, O'Keefe, Gallagher. First Secretary was Tommy McNamee and after 6 months Paddy Hoey took over the job as Secretary-Treasurer. The new Club succeeded after a very shaky start.

I remember my first Gaelic football match, played in Killygordon, between the local Red Hughs and Letterkenny Rovers. I can only recall one player's name, the late Joe Maxwell playing in goals for Killygordon. I don't remember who won, this was some years before the start of the G.A.A. in Convoy.

Then there was that day in Letterkenny, the field was up Glencar (Parks were unknown in those days). It was, I think, the first round of the Championship, Donegal were playing Tyrone or Monaghan. Donegal were short one player, but that player was the great John O'Donnell, so they started with 14 men. When O'Donnell did arrive he togged out in a car (there was no dressing rooms or showers in those days either), and when O'Donnell did take the field, the cheer must have been heard in Letterkenny almost a mile away. John O'Donnell was the darling of the Donegal G.A.A. followers. I recall seeing O'Donnell score a penalty against Derry in the Brandywell. Tricksie Leach, a Galway tailor, then working in Dungloe, controlled midfield for Donegal, on a beautiful June day.

Willie Sweeney, Bobby McCarrick, Seamus McElhinney and myself cycled to Bundoran to see Donegal and Cavan play in the Championship. Big Tom O'Reilly was a star that day. The late Paddy Gill, then stationed in Letterkenny, had a good game for Donegal.

In 1934 Donegal played Fermanagh in the first round of the Championship, the game was played in Straleel near Carrick. The McDonald brothers were prominent for Fermanagh, Donegal were well served by John and Eddie Brady of Killygordon. Fermanagh won that day, they had their own transport,



Paddy Hoey

McGuire Buses, Enniskillen. We, that is Seamus McElhinney and myself, cycled from Convoy, 54 miles each way. We were home around midnight. On our way to the match we passed a cyclist at Fintra. We asked him if he was going to the game and he said no, that it was too far. Playing that day for Fermanagh was Billy McGuire who was a Garda in Raphoe; he also played for Convoy. As a matter of fact he was the main reason for McElhinney and myself going to the match.

During the war years Donegal played a lot of their games in Derry's Celtic Park. Derry was central and saved

travelling. One of these matches was against Antrim or Down. Antrim had perfected the hand-pass and were very hard to contain. In the first half of one of these games Hudie Beag Gallagher of Gweedore, playing in the Donegal forward line, sustained a broken nose and was taken to hospital where he had his nose strapped up. He joined the game after half-time and played to the end. That, of course, was before the days of **hamstring and other fancy injuries**.

There was always great rivalry between Dungloe and Gweedore when they were both members of the old Western Division. I think the last time they played in the Co. Championship in Western Division, Gweedore had won in Magheragallon and Dungloe had won at home. The play-off was fixed for McCool Park, on a Sunday. It would have been almost impossible to park a bicycle within a mile of the Park that Sunday evening. At the end of an hour the result was a draw, that was a game to remember.

Two other games that come to mind, the Championship final between St. Joseph's (Ballyshannon-Bundoran) and St. Eunan's, Letterkenny. After an hour of outstanding football the game ended in a draw. The replay was the following Sunday, both these games were played in McCool Park. Outstanding for St. Joseph's was Mickey McLoone. On the St. Eunan's side was that great all-rounder and outstanding sportsman — John Hannigan. I can see him step-up to a side line kick over 40 yards out and sending it straight as an arrow over the bar. This kick was taken from the left touch-line into the town goals, and not to be outdone shortly afterwards Packie O'Donnell, also of St. Eunan's, performed the same feat from the right touch-line. St. Eunan's won that replay — it must have been in 1972.

On a very wet Sunday in Mark Byrne's Holm (it is now McCool Park), I remember Donegal playing Derry. Derry in those days were a soft touch. The team was entirely from the City. Charlie McDyre, Glenties was full back for Donegal and Donegal were defending the river goal with a half gale behind them. He spent the most of the half sheltering under a spectator's coat, the ball never came up. It was a different story when later on the G.A.A. spread to Co. Derry; then we had some of the best teams to come out of Ulster

come from Derry.

We now have an abundance of Parks in the County, but the first of these was the O'Donnell Park, opened in 1937. This was and is a living tribute to that outstanding Cork man, John Hourhane. The County has provided some great and outstanding administrators. I suppose it could be said to be unfair to single out anyone in particular. I could mention at least a dozen, some of them still alive (thank God), so I'll only mention two. Both of these are deceased; they, to my mind, gave a long and faithful service to the G.A.A. in Donegal. One was Sean Cassidy, Ardara, who acted as Treasurer for a long number of years and he was, I think, one of the most efficient men to fill this very demanding position. The other served the County long and faithfully as County Secretary. I refer, of course, to the late Hugh Daly of Ballyshannon. Another Ballyshannon man who, after his playing days, gave outstanding service to Club and County, I refer to the late John 'Dodger' McDermott. He was a

doughty opponent at County Board meetings. He could always be counted on to give a good account of himself in any debate that arose.

In the early days it was an adventure to go to an All-Ireland final on the last Sunday in September. For those of us in East Donegal or the West for that matter, we had to be in Strabane to catch the 6.30 a.m. train to Dublin. The fare was 9 shillings return. We arrived in time for 12 o'clock Mass in the Pro-Cathedral in Dublin; lunch was 2 shillings or 2 shillings and 6 pence for a four course lunch; a meat tea was the same. Admission to Croke Park was 2 shillings, and if you went to the side line it cost 2 shillings and 6 pence extra. If you had thirty shillings in your pocket you would have money back, thirty shillings = £1.50 in today's money.

Money was hard to get; workers employed by Donegal County Council had 25 shillings per week. Adult workers in Convoy Woollen Mills had 35 shillings. On Sundays players going to matches went by car and paid their

own way. Six players to each car to Ballybofey, Castlefin and Killygordon, cost 1 shilling each. To Letterkenny it cost 1 shilling and 6 pence each. Admission to most club matches — 6 pence and to County matches — 1 shilling. Convoy v. Gweedore played in Convoy and admission was 6 pence, £10.00 on gate.

My opinion about the removal of the ban: the G.A.A. gained nothing. In any game you must have total commitment.

Editors Note:

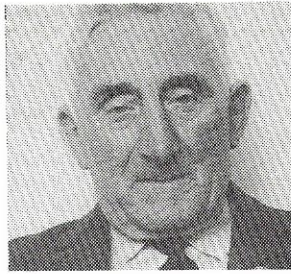
Paddy Hoey is one of the longest serving and respected Gaels in Donegal. He held many important positions in the G.A.A. He is a former Secretary and Chairman of the then Eastern Divisional Board. He also held the high office of Chairman of the Donegal County Board. This editor did not always appreciate Paddy Hoey's sincerity and dedication to the G.A.A. — Paddy knows this joke — but the editor was too young then to recognise a great Gael and a true gentleman in those tender years — hope I have not disappointed the gentleman's foresight and aspirations.



60 YEARS AGO: Donegal G.A.A. County team which played Tyrone in the Dr. McKenna Cup semi-final in 1926. They drew with Tyrone in their first meeting and beat them in the replay by 4-4 to 2-3 at the Christian Brothers Park, Omagh on 13th March to reach the final of the Dr. McKenna Cup for the first time ever.

THE G.A.A.: TOMORROW'S CHALLENGE

Pádraig S. Mac a Ghoill



The history of the G.A.A. has been adequately recorded at national and local level and reveals that wonderful progress has been made in preserving propagating and popularising its games, cultural and national activities over the last hundred years. During that century the Association has solved the many problems it encountered and survived more than one threat to its very existence. It has adapted itself to many far-reaching changes in the political, cultural, social and economic environment. However, the ever-increasing rate of change in that multi-faceted environment which manifested itself over the last three decades at national and international level, requires a corresponding ability on the part of the Association to adjust ever more quickly and adequately to the complex needs of our ever-changing society. Consequently the GAA in these early years of its second century is faced with difficult and complex, but surmountable, challenges — presenting corresponding and exciting opportunities.

Of the many developments in recent decades, in the area of sport, in general, one of the most significant has been the rapidly increasing use of the television medium. The advent of satellite T.V., the increasing access to British T.V. in this country and the greatly increased sports coverage by RTE itself, has combined to introduce into our homes, a very wide range of sports of many kinds — indoor and outdoor, field, court and table. The introduction of so many sports to an increased Irish audience, than heretofore, has presented the GAA with a number of diverse problems, some of which are with us for some time and still increasing.

The most obvious and most serious problem is concerned with the competition in which the GAA is involved with out outdoor games for places in the popular ratings and personal appeal. The place of our games in these ratings must inevitably effect the playing strength of our teams and thus the strength of the Association in future years; and its standing as a national movement. Indeed there is evidence to suggest an increase in popularity of at least two other field games with which we are in competition for players. The TV presentation of these games, at national and international level, plus the featuring of the stars of these games have helped to increase the popularity of same. TV presentation has come to stay and the featuring of sports events is not likely to wane — probably increase.

This means that we must tackle this aspect of the media in a positive manner, recognise and accept its powerful

influence, harness and utilise it as effectively and extensively as possible to project the best image of our games to this large TV audience so that we can retain and increase our popularity rating.

The second popularity problem which affects the GAA is the position of our games in the second level schools, some of which do not accord their students the opportunity to play our games or worse still, purport to cater for them but accord them second class status. In 1971 the GAA rescinded the so called "Ban". We cannot but be disappointed at the outcome and lack of impact it has had to date. At that time we saw a wonderful opportunity for a substantial development of our games in the schools which had so far not participated. There has been virtually no move on the part of those schools to encourage the playing of our games. Indeed, in some cases where our games were popular other field games have gained a foothold. The Association must tackle this problem; it must plan and embark on a campaign to solve the situation, which, on existing evidence will get worse rather than better.

Referring back to TV coverage I must hark back to another problem which presently (indeed perennially) faces the Association, namely the problem of players discipline or indiscipline. We are well aware that the proportion of "incidents" (as they are euphemistically called) is very small compared with the thousands of games played. But it should be smaller — ideally zero — and it should not under any circumstances be tolerated, at any level and should be dealt with firmly and severely.

I do not doubt the sincere desire of the GAA officers to deal with this problem at all levels but they cannot succeed by soft pedalling; by glossing over matters; by accepting the imposition of what can only be described as laughable penalties for shameful misconduct on the field by senior players before the eyes of TV audiences, while at the same time upholding the imposition of quite severe penalties on very junior players for comparative peccadillos. The root cause of this type of misconduct springs from numerous causes, but two come to mind: (1) the general trend of indiscipline in the

population as a whole, and (2) the "psyching" up of players by the so-called mentors. The organisation must insist on a stringent code of discipline and behaviour at all levels for all its members. If this is not done then any attempt to present a good image of our games through T.V. or at club level, parents will not encourage their offspring to be party to such activities.

A further problem for the G.A.A. is the deterioration in the behaviour of certain small sections of spectators at our games. Unfortunately, this group of people insist on the less desirable antics of the now traditional lunatic fringe spectators and so our players find themselves subjected to cat-calls, jeers, whistles, not to mention the mindless chants and virtually wordless songs. The Association is already grappling with this problem and happily meeting with considerable success.

The TV age has brought with it a further, undesirable development and that is what I call "spectatorship". I have the unhappy feeling that one of the unanticipated and undesirable negative effects of this TV coverage is an increasing tendency for our young people to play the role of spectator rather than that of participant. It is and will be the policy role of the GAA to encourage our young people to become active participants. Opportunities are being provided so that all our members, having watched a game on TV, can then proceed to play matches afterwards on Sunday evenings or indeed at other times.

Leaving the problems associated with our field games in particular, I should like to refer to a more general aspect of the Association's activities. Half a century ago clubs in the Association in Donegal had no physical base or they had the most rudimentary and spartan accommodation, which in nearly all cases did not include ownership of a playing field. In recent years we have seen a phenomenal development of substantial multi-purpose club premises and facilities as well as the acquisition of one or more playing pitches. Today in Donegal there are over twenty vested grounds and dressing rooms where all clubs have playing facilities. Since 1977 over half a million pounds have been spent on improving playing facilities and these clubs have got social centres. Nothing but good can come of all this and it is a wonderful assurance of the continuing strength of the GAA and the improvement of community life.

These achievements throughout the whole organisation is very laudable but

it behoves the GAA — especially at club level — to keep continually before their minds the original aims of the Association, namely the preservation and promotion of Gaelic games and other national objectives at local level. The GAA accepts and recognises the active participation in five outdoor games: Hurling, football, handball, camogie and rounders. The first two named have been vigorously promoted since the founding of the Association. In recent years great strides have been made in promoting the other three and indeed in the case of all these games ladies are now active participants. It behoves the GAA to intensify its efforts in the promotion of handball, which has been abysmally neglected so far. Every possible assistance must be given to clubs engaged in new or extension building programmes to incorporate the erection of at least one handball court in their plans.

With regard to our language and its use I know that many of those who have been prominent and worked hard for the language movement, have also played a substantial role in GAA affairs, but the GAA as an organisation has not made as much progress as we would like in promoting and strengthening the more widespread use of Irish in the day-to-day activities of its many units. Officials make use of the language whenever possible but at club level the language is weak. The Association has appointed an Oifigeach na Gaeilge in each county to try and encourage the use of the language. At club and county level this development is meeting with a certain amount of success in many counties.

The standards of our games is continually changing and many improvements have been initiated in recent years by rule change, coaching, administration and these have improved spectator appreciation of fitness skills and teamwork of our players. Some aspects of our games, particularly, call for further improvement especially the tackle and the over elaboration of the toe-to-hand skill — its use and mis-use. These two skills, laudable in themselves, are still far from perfect and may have to be refined. Some of the skills which made Gaelic football more spectacular in the past is seldom now witnessed, such as the drop kick, the overhead fisted ball, the chip-up. On the other hand the high fetch and block is again becoming an enjoyable facet of the game.

Considerable progress has been made in the provision of competitions for all our under-age players, our schools at all levels, the Gaeltacht, firms and services, etc. Credit must be given to the Association for providing the administrative machinery to operate the various competitions. While the GAA can continue to attract such dedicated officers and willing and enthusiastic players of all ages, the future of the Association is secure.

GWEEDORE WIN ÓG SPÓRT GAEL

The county final stages of Óg Spórt Gael (under-15, 7-a-side competition) took place in Lifford on Thursday, 26th June last on a night when very wet conditions were not ideal for football, but nevertheless the teams served up some fine entertainment with patches of excellent football being played. Gweedore were the eventual winners of the competition with a strong team that should do well in the Ulster finals in July. Eugene Quinn and Dessie McDermott were the referees. Lifford Club are to be praised for having the field in excellent condition.

Gaoth Dobhair 9-5
Red Hughs 3-6

In this quarter-final Gaoth Dobhair were too strong for a determined Red Hughs side. Only a goal between the sides at half time, they pulled away in the second half with good performances from Noel McBride, George Doherty and Eugene McBride. For Red Hughs, Brendan Quinn, Paul Bradley, Stephen Doherty and Gerard Kelly were most impressive.

Gaoth Dobhair: Pdraig O Gallachoir, Eoghan Mac Giolla Bhríde, Cathal Mac Suibhne, Noel Mac Giolla Bhríde, Sean O Duibhir, Donal O Gallachoir, Seoirse O Dochartaigh, Adrian Mac Fhionnghaile, Pol Mac Fhionnghaile, Eamonn O Baoill.

Red Hughs: Stephen Doherty, Eunan Callaghan, Paul Bradley, Brendan Quinn, Gerard Kelly, Martin Callaghan, Paul McKelvey, Nigel Connolly, Martin Callaghan (S).

Aodh Ruadh 4-7
Killybegs 2-8

Aodh Ruadh produced the shock of the night when they eliminated a fancied Killybegs side in the semi-final. This was a close game with Aodh Ruadh getting the vital scores in the closing minutes. Goalie Rory Bourke kept Killybegs at bay on many occasions with some fine saves. Forwards Charles O'Donnell and Donal Buggy took chances when they came their way. Killybegs will rue some missed chances which cost them dearly in the end.

Best for Aodh Ruadh were Rory Bourke, Gavan Bourke, Donal Buggy and P. J. Daly. For Killybegs: Peter McGinley, Marcus Mooney, Declan Boyle and Paul Rowan were their best.

Aodh Ruadh: Rory Bourke, Gavan Bourke, Liam Travers, Barry Rodgers, P. J. Daly, Michael McLoone, Donal Buggy, Anthony Reilly, Charles O'Donnell, Barry Sweeney.

Killybegs: Marcus Mooney, Peter McGinley, Nigel McMenamin, Paul

Rowan, Ronan Boyle, Stephen McGuinness, Deaglan Boyle, Mark Boyle, Barry Mullen, Declan Haughey.

Gaoth Dobhair 10-7
Buncrana 8-5

In the other semi-final Gweedore had to fight all the way to beat a tough Buncrana team who took advantage of Gweedore having the extra game and were leading at half time 3-3 to 2-3. In the second half, though, Gweedore used their panel well and caught the Inishowen men off guard switching positions on numerous occasions. Impressive for Buncrana were Denis Carey, Liam McGonagle and Michael Sheridan. Noel McBride, Patrick Gallagher and Eugene McBride were Gweedore's best.

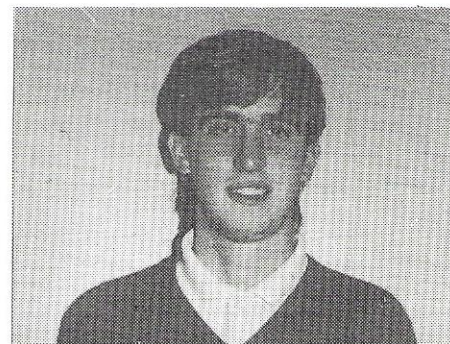
Buncrana: Liam McGonagle, Denis Kennedy, Leo Sheehy, Don McGee, Denis Carey, Adrian Gill, Michael Sheridan, John Murphy, Paddy Doherty.

FINAL:

Gaoth Dobhair 9-13
Aodh Ruadh 4-11

Gweedore clinched the title with a surprisingly convincing win over Aodh Ruadh in the final. Surprising because Gweedore had just got over a tough semi-final and had played an extra game. The Ballyshannon men were expected to have the extra stamina to pull them through. But the Gweedore men gave a display of open football with some excellent finishing, Noel McBride giving a great display of forward play and goalie Eugene McBride denying Ballyshannon on numerous occasions from point blank range. Donal Buggy was their best player and took some lovely scores when given possession, but Gweedore's strength in depth proved vital in the last ten minutes. Best for Gweedore were Eugene McBride, Noel McBride, Patrick Gallagher and Georgie Doherty. For Aodh Ruadh: Gavan Bourke, Donal Buggy, Barry Sweeney and Michael McLoone.

After the game GAA Youth Officer, John McConnell made the presentations.



John McConnell
Co. Youth Officer

Cathal Buí Mac Giolla Ghunna

Ní ar an talamh is fearr a bhíonn na bláthanna is áille — nach san phortach ocrach nó ar thaobh mhalaí sléibhe a fhásann an ceannbhán sciámhach. Is é a dhálta sin ag an fhilíocht é; ní h-íad na táilte méithe ná na machairí féarmhara a spreagann na filí móra de ghnáth agus tá a chruthú seo le fáil dar liom i stair na litríochta i mBreifne.

Ariamh anall bhí sé de chlú ar Bhreifne go raibh sí lom garbh. Sa tSean-Ghaeilge fhéin deirtí “Trí gairbhchríocha Éireann, Bréifne, Baireann agus Béara” agus “Ye rough third of Connacht” a tugadh uirthí in Annála Cluain Mhic Nois, agus ba é an ceantar a ba loime is ba ghairbhe den dúiche ar fad a ba mhó cáil sa litríocht ó tosaíodh ar an Ghaeilge a scríobh i dtús go bhfuair an cainteoir dúchais deireannach bás ann fiche éigin bliain ó shin, an bharúntach a dtugtaí Teallach Eachach uirthi fadó. Ba as an cheantar seo fosta a fáisceadh agus a fuineadh duine de fhilí móra na nua-Ghaeilge i gCúige Uladh, Cathal Buí Mac Giolla Ghunna. Sa limistéar thart fán dá Loch Mac nÉan a bhí an chlann sin, Mac Giolla Ghunna, lonnaithe ag deireadh na seachtú h-aoise déag agus is cosúil gur annsin a rugadh an file thart fá 1680. Níl fhios againn go cruinn anois cá h-áit go díreach a rugadh é ach tá tagairt do Loch Mac nÉan i leagan amháin de “An Bonnán Buí”; bhí na Gaeil beagbeann ar chontaethe san am agus ní féidir a rá anois cia acu i gCo. an Chabháin, i gCo. Liatroma nó i gCo. Fhear Manach a dtáinig sé chun an tsaoil.

Is beag eolas cinnte atá againn ar shaol an fhile seo; níl againn ach scéalta sa bhéaloideas is tagairtí fánacha i láimhscríbhínní a bhreacadh síos tamall maith indiaidh a bháis. Seo go díreach a bhfuil ar eolas againn faoi. Ba de na daoine coitianta é is cosúil; fuair sé oideachas áit éigin agus bhféidir go bhfuil sé fíor go raibh sé in a ábhar sagairt i gcoláiste éigin ar an mhór-roinn ar feadh tamaill. Má bhí, tháinig sé abhaile, thréig sé “a chreideamh mar gheall ar mhnáibh” agus chaith sé an chuid eile dá shaol ag imeacht leis fríd an chuid is mó de Chúige Uladh, in a mhangaire—mangaire súgach cinnte—agus bhféidir uaireanta in a mhúinteoir. Dálta Villon na Fraince bhí clú is cáil air mar gheall ar a chumas i gcúrsaí ban, agus i gcúrsaí óil agus bhíodh sé ag maoidheamh as an dá bhua seo; de réir cosúlachta bhí bréagadh na mban ann agus b’aoibhinn leis — agus b’fhuras dó — a mealladh. Chaith sé cuid mhaith ama thart fá dheisceart Cho. Mhuineacháin agus is ansin a fuair sé bás de réir an tseanchais i 1756; más fíor an seanchas céanna tá sé curtha i seanreilig Dhomhnach Maighean.

Ainneoin a dhrochthréithe uilig is ainneoin rabhadh na sagart bhí dúil mhór ag na daoine ann agus is ioma scéal a insítear go fóill fiú amháin a léiríonn an dáimh a bhí ag an phobal leis.

Tá a chuid filíochta éagothrom go maith ach chum sé amhráin a mhairfeas fhad is a bhéas meas ar fhilíocht ná ar an Ghaeilge sa tír. Tá dantaí dá chuid mar An Bonnán Buí, Marbhna Chathail Bhuí, Aitreachas Chathail Bhuí agus Mailí Mhómhar inchurtha le saothar mórfhilí eile na Cúige, Mac Cuarta, Ó Doirín agus Mac Cumhaigh.

— Séamus de Faoite
Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Fas C.L.G. i nDún na nGall

Pádraig S. Mac a'Ghoill

Bíonn achán tosnú lag agus ba é a dhalta sin é ag Cumann Lúithchleas Gael i nDún na nGall. Ní amháin go rabh ré amháin lag ach bhí ré mall fádalach ag tosnú. Bhí C.L.G. bunaithe scór go léith blian sula ar smaoitigh na Conallaigh ar eagar éiginteacht a chur ag a gcuid cluichí. Leis na céadta bliain roimhe sin bhí "Camán" a imirt go leathdach sa chondae agus is cosúil ó'n tseanachas nach dtáinig athrú ar bith ar an dóigh ar ghnáthach é imirt ariamh, b'é sin "Cumann Tíne", le camann éadrom, bos chaol le ciumhas ar a bhun, agus ar ghráthach buaileadh ó thaobh amháin ionannas "hacaí" agus an cluiche a imirt treasna na gcuibhneán leis an liathróid a thabhairt abhaile—liathróid de phreamh driseóige le cumhdach leathair uirthi. Comh fada as bhain sé le h-imirt péile nó "liathróid coise" mar tugadh ar san am, bhí sé a imirt in áiteacha sa chondae le cuidiú ó dhaoine a chaith seal da saol i ndeiscirt na tíre.

Tháinig an chead bhorradh faoi C.L.G. in nDún na nGall sa bhliain 1905 nuair a tháinig baicle le chéile i dteach Shéamus Mhic Maghnusa i d'Tamhnach an tSalann agus bhunaigh Coisde Condae. I measc na ndaoine ansin bhí An Doctúir Mac Guidhir as Inbhear, Proinsias Ó Gallchóir, dlíadóir as Dún na nGall, Alastair Mac Duibhir, O.S. as Cill Riadhain, a tógadh ina rúnaí, Éamonn Ó Dálaigh as Bun Dobhráin, Séamus Mac Eithearain as Dún na nGall agus Domhnall Ó Baoill as Gaoth Dobhair. Toghadh an Doctúir Ó Domhnaill, Easbóg Ratha Bhotha as Cill Riadhain ina Uachtaráin agus ina dhiaidh bhronn sé corn do Chraobh Iománaíochta na Condae.

De bharr na h-oibre a rinne an coisde seo ar feadh céithre bliana bunaíodh faoi-chumann agus rachtaladh comórtaisí, go mór mhór san iománaíocht ar fud na condae agus an bhliain ina dhiaidh sin bhí foirne péile agus iománaíochta idir-chondae i gCraobh Uladh. Acht cha rabh an chondae comh cheangailte le Comhairle Uladh agus cha rabh go 1917. I ndhiaidh 1908 thit an Coisde Condae as a chéile agus tháinig deireadh leis na comórtaisí agus fiú amháin tháinig deireadh le h-imirt iománaíochta i mórán áiteacha ar fad ach amháin in Oirthear na Condae agus Inis Eoin.

Le aithbheochaint an spioraid náisiúnta le hEirí Amach 1916 agus Toghachán 1918 tháinig brí agus borradh ins na gluaiseachtaí náisiúnta go léir agus níor tháise é do C.L.G. i nDún na nGall. De bharr brú agus cuidiú ó Chomhairle Uladh bunaíodh Coisde Condae agus de thairbhe seo thoisigh borradh agus fás ag teacht ins na paróiste go léir sa chondae do réir a chéile agus char laighdigh ar sin

ó shoin.

Ins na ficéidí cá dtáinig an spréidheadh ar spiorad C.L.G. a mbeadh súil leis san am. Fiú amháin i gcionn deich mbliana cá rabh faoi chumann i leath na condae agus fiú amháin sin cá rabh comórtaisí ar bith a reachtáil ach sinsear. Sa bhliain 1931 rachtaladh Craobh Péile na Condae sa ghrád Mionúr agus an bliain ina dhiaidh sin tóisíodh ar an chomórtas Péile Soisear agus de bharr seo tháinig méadú ar an uimhir faoi chumann agus foireann sa chondae comh maith le Comórtaisí eile seachas an chraobh chomórtas.

Cuireadh tús le craobh chomórtaisí do bhuaicailí faoi 16 le h-imritheoirí a ullmhú do chomórtaisí na Mionúr sa bhliain 1948, agus sa bhliain 1962 bunaíodh Bord na mBunscoil agus sa bhliain 1968 bunaíodh Bord na Mionúr le bhéith freagrach as na comórtaisí faoi ocht mbliana déag. Cuireadh comórtas úr ar bun i 1971—sé sin faoi 21 blian agus comórtas eile—faoi 14 bliain sa bhliain i 1972 agus bhí siad seo go léir a riaradh agus a dtreorú ag Bord na Mionúr comh maith le comórtas craobh do bhuaicailí faoi 12 blian i 1972. Tugadh cúram comórtas péile faoi 21 don Bhord Sinsear agus sa bhliain 1984 tugadh isteach craobh chomórtas faoi 13 bliain.

Sa bhliain 1926 bhronn Comhlucht an "Democrat" corn don tsraith agus leanadh le himirt dó ag foirne sinsear go 1964 bhronn siad Corn an Democrat do Roinn I arís in 1984. Tháinig an fhás ar uimhir na bhfoireann ar mhian leofa bheith páirteach sa tsraith agus cuireadh tús le Roinn II i 1952; Roinn III sa bhliain 1978 agus Roinn IV sa bhliain 1980 agus cuireadh comórtas úr ar obair i 1978-79, sé sin an Sciath. Comórtaisí singil, iad seo le céithre Roinn an ceann ach i mbliana cuireadh deireadh leis An Sciath agus rinneadh comórtas dúbailte de'n tsraith. Sa bhliain 1979 cuireadh tús le comórtas Ógspórt Gael agus Sraith na Mionúr 1980.

Cúpla blian ó shoin bunaíodh Bord na mBunscoil agus tá ag eirí go han-mhaith leis na comórtaisí atá a reachtáil aige do scoltacha na condae, agus iad éagraithe ar uimhir na múinteoirí sna scoileanna.

Sa bhliain 1933 roinneadh an chondae i gcúig Ceanntar agus ba ghráthach leis na Coisdí ceantair na comórtaisí a reachtáil go dtí gur cuireadh deireadh leofa i 1971. Ach sa bhliain 1980 éagraíodh na ceantair arís le freagracht do na comórtaisí faoi aois agus comórtaisí idir-cheantair péile an uile bhliain le cuidiú le roghnóirí foirne idir-chondae a chur i gcionn a chéile.

Le cúpla blian anuas tá an spéis i gcomórtas Scór agus tá an chuid is mó de na faoi-chumainn ag glacadh páirt ann i gceann éigin de na h-ocht ceanntar ina

ranntar an chondae do Scór na n-Og agus Scór Sinsear. Tá coisde fá léith i mbun na gcomórtais seo. Comh maith leofa seo go léir tá Coisde na Réiteoirí, Coisde Liathróid Láimhe, Coisde na bPáirc i gcionn oibre sa chondae le blianta agus anuraidh bhunaigh Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Coisde na Gaeilge sa chondae leis an chultúr Ghaelach a chur chun cinn.

Is follasach go dtáinig fás sundasach ar obair C.L.G. i nDún na nGall le ceithre scór blian agus go mba fada buan éifeacht agus toradh a chuid oibre.

The "Alcorn Floristry" Inter-Firms Championship

Nearly twenty years ago a young man named Eamon Farrell (more renowned down the years for his hurling skills and promotion) and yours truly organised an Inter-Firms and Services Donegal football competition. If memory serves me right it was either St. Conal's Hospital or Convoy Woollen Mills who were first winners. The competition grew in interest throughout the county and in 1970 Alcorn's Floristry, Letterkenny, stepped in to sponsor a Perpetual Cup. For years after the Alcorn Inter-Firms and Services League was one of the most coveted and fiercely contested county competitions. Many memorable games were contested by such firms/services as P. & T., Boatyard, Gweedore Industrial Estate, Kilcar Gaeltachta Eireann Industrial Estate, Magees of Donegal Town, Donegal County Council, Customs & Excise, Gardai, E.S.B., St. Conal's Hospital, C.I.E., Convoy Woollen Mills, Dept. of Agriculture, Business Houses — to mention just those who come to mind instantly. However, sadly and to the loss of the Association, this once great competition seems to have lost its way through lack of organisation and publicity in the past few years. This is a great pity because it had so much appeal and interest for well over a decade. Is there any firms or individuals around to put it back on the rails in 1988?

JOHN CALLAGHAN

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BURT G.A.A. CLUB 1987

Le Donal Campbell, Burt

When you look back at 1987 it was a pretty good year for Burt, both on the playing fields and in the running of social activities for the people of the area. Indeed, many new gateways were opened and successes achieved.

In January this year we held our annual general meeting in St. Mary's Hall, Burt, and on looking back we decided that we should make renewed efforts for the incoming year as our success rate was just moderate. So, we elected our committee for 1987 with the following results, President, Hughie Whoriskey; Chairman, P. J. O'Brien; Vice-Chairman, Jude Campbell; Secretary, Patrick Carlin; Asst. Secretary, Darren McDermott; Treasurer, Danny Dowds; Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Colm Davis; PRO, Donal Campbell.

Our senior hurlers looked as if they were going to take the county title this year as they were in great form in the Inishowen League, notching up wins against Naomh Mura, Carn and even the much fancied Derry side, Na Magha. So, to the championship and with great excitement in Newtown, Burt, overcame old rivals Carndonagh in a fast and furious match of hurling, and so proceeded to the final for the second year running against arch rivals and champions, Setanta.

In a game which Burt put up a great spirited fight in the second half, they just left it too late to take the crown from the Killygordon men, despite overwhelming Burt support. Unfortunately, Burt must

blame training attendance and match practice, but with such a young side the future looks good.

The junior football team had a good run in the championship this year, their best in recent years as they reached the quarter-final against Lifford, having accounted for Robert Emmets on the way. Unfortunately, they did not live up to form and were beaten by Lifford. In the league, although not on the top of the table, Burt, which includes several promising minors, are holding their own and are not suffering heavy defeats. Indeed, with training, next year Burt could be a team to be reckoned with.

On the under-age hurling front, I'm afraid we have little silverware but we competed as hard as ever. Our U-12s went out to neighbours Naomh Mura but it must be said that most of these youngsters are eligible for U-12 next year.

The U-14 hurlers, many of whom are again underage next year, represented Donegal in the special section in Clare and although beaten by Kilkee, enjoyed themselves immensely and had a great time.

The U-16 hurlers were defeated by Naomh Mura but again many are eligible for next year. Some of the older members of this team had the privilege of winning an All-Ireland medal with Donegal in the U-16 competition. Seamus Grant, Kevin Barr, Peter Doyle, Ronan McLaughlin, Andrew Wallace and Gary Grant were the Burt representatives on the team. Well done, lads.

On the football scene Burt has just

added a notable feat when they won the Inishowen U-17 football championship. This achievement must put Burt aloft of all other clubs in the county as far as winning divisional championships this year.

County Minor Hurling title: It is said the good wine should be left to the last and so it was this year as far as Burt is concerned. Our minor hurling team done us proud by lifting the championship at the expense of MacCumhaills in Ballybofey on the 1st November. The final score was Burt 3-11, MacCumhaills 2-3. This was a great victory over a gallant but less experienced Mac Cumhaills. It was a great way to end the year and guarantees that it is only a matter of time until these young hurlers from the home of Donegal hurling take over the senior title again.

The under-age football teams have had a victorious run in the Inishowen competitions and have achieved a major breakthrough. In all, three Burt teams have won divisional honours, a rare feat indeed. The U-14 team had a great run in the Inishowen competition, coming through undefeated in the league-championship basis on which the competition is run. They went on to defeat Aodh Ruadh in the semi-final but were outclassed by Killybegs in the county final.

However, they have the honour of being the first Burt football team to take part in a county final since 1931 when, believe it or not, **Burt footballers were crowned Derry senior champions!!**

The U-16s and minors also won



Burt U-14 footballers, county finalists, 1987. Back, l. to r., Paul McDaid, Damian Dowds, Benny Green, Bernard Hegarty, John McDermott, Ciaran Toner, Seamus Doherty, Donal Walker, Ronan McLaughlin, Cathal Wilson, Mickey Doherty. Front, l. to r., John M. Wallace, Emmanuel Boyle, Martin Downey, Stephen O'Hara, Garvan Downey, Jonathan Crawford, Kevin Grant, Eamon Porter Pearse Callaghan, Gary Grant and James Campbell.

divisional honours in the highly competitive Inishowen competitions. The U-16s were beaten in the county semi-final by Killybegs by just two points. The minors losing out to eventual finalists, St. Eunan's in the quarter-final.

On the U-12 front, there was no silverware but that was made up for by the sheer interest of the youngsters and parents alike. There were so many new faces we had to introduce an U-10 team who had a few outings—great stuff,—keep it up boys.

Well done to all the teams, young and not so young and good luck next year.

Some work has been done on the new pitch but alas it is not completed although

posts have been purchased and it has been verti-drained.

In previous Yearbooks, Josie Dowds was always thanked for the loan of this field, well sadly Josie passed away in June, but the G.A.A. will always remember his generosity down through the years. May he rest in peace.

On the social front, we ran bazaars, Scórs, Irish nights and sports. We also did something new for us, we ran Bingo in St. Mary's Hall, Burt, which is proving a success, which in turn reminds me to thank all who have helped us during the year and who continue to support us. Thanks also to the ladies committee who helped a lot.

BURT—1906 ULSTER SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS



Burt Hibernians — County Senior Hurling champions, represented Doengal and won the Ulster Senior Hurling Championships, defeating Co. Antrim by a runaway victory, 5-21 to 0-1 in 1906. A commentator at the time wrote — “although it was a good spirited game, it would not be a bad thing if Burt played with their camans instead of their tongues; some of them talk too much.” Burt must have used their camans at intervals, noting the scoreline.

Unfortunately, the Burt men could not afford to travel to Dublin for the All-Ireland semi-final against Tipperary and had to concede the match, a shame as

they were then hot favourites. Incidentally, Tipperary beat Dublin in the 1906 All-Ireland Hurling final 3-16 to 3-8.

This is a list of most of the people in the photograph: Henry Coyle, Johnie Dowds, Rev. McGoldrick, Johnie Whoriskey, Tom Coyle, C. Campbell, USA; Johnie Moody, Dinny Coyle, Willie Kennedy, Josie McCallion, Johnie Burns, Jimmy Whoriskey, Matthew McKay, Willie Gallagher, James Gallagher, James Gallagher, Hughie Gallagher, Peter McLafferty, John Gallagher, Jamie McLaughlin, Hughie Doherty, Manus Coyle, Charlie Dowds,

And here is a poem by Mr. Noel Campbell, now resident in Clydebank, Scotland, recalling the glory days of 1906 and the Burt Hibs.

Ode to the Hibernians, 1906

*Let me recall to memories, that team of days
gone by,
Who played this game with deep acclaim, now
all dead and gone for aye,
That gallant hurling team of men, we proudly
did support,
Hailed one and all from Donegal, their own
dear native Burt.*

*Their claim to fame and glory, in these lines
I do relate,
When they won the Ulster title, twas the great
Antrim men they beat,
Won all the local honours, we're the Donegal
champions too,
This stupendous feat, I here down date as
nineteen hundred and six.*

*The lifetime of this whole team, spanned
twenty years or more,
Their greatest feat of ne'r being beat it was
a theme they proudly bore.
But health and skills, like crime, time kills,
turns fame and glory dirt,
So fell nightbeams on the life playing schemes
of these hurling men from Burt.*

*Fled all the years, the time appears that makes
both old and grey,
Each and everyone of these hurling sons, to
the graveyard faded they
There they be wound in their native ground,
in sorrow we are hurt,
In their last dreams, lives that old team of the
hurling men from Burt.*

*When shades o'er evenings fall again, our
days of work are done,
We'll gather round our kitchen fires and tell
our new day sons,
Fond gleanings got from memories, their
tremendous feats of sport,
Great tales of the Hibernians, old hurling
team from Burt.*

George Dowds, with trophy, big Willie Gallagher.

The picture was taken on the steps of St. Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny, in 1907.

● *Editor's note: Jamie McLaughlin, 3rd from right, front row, and George Dowds, the player with the trophy, are the great grandfathers of Donal Campbell, the Burt Club PRO, who supplied this photo and information. Thanks ever so much Donal — as efficient and interested as ever. More club PROs like Donal and the Association would be so much healthier.*

AODH RUADH RETAIN SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Aodh Ruadh GAA Club, Ballyshannon, enjoyed another year of success in terms of football, development and operation through every strata of the club. The administration of the club and the ability to get things done, such as the procurement of new grounds at Munday's Field, have been matched by remarkable success at all levels on the playing fields of Donegal and indeed elsewhere.

Footballers throughout the county will agree that the club's senior team are regarded as 'the team to beat'. That regard is reflected most obviously by the retention of the premier crown in the county — the Dr. Maguire Cup — on August 30th. Football records show how



Brian Tuohy, Aodh Ruadh captain, holds aloft the Maguire Cup after Aodh Ruadh retained the Senior Championship.

difficult it is to win one championship, never mind a second the following year, but a measure of the strength of the senior team is their bid for a three-in-a-row which will start next May.

On examination, the winning of this year's championship was a 'greater' achievement than in 1986. 'Greater' because of the immense pressure that fielding a team was due to the loss through emigration of five players who played in the 1-8 to 0-6 '86 championship final against Red Hughs. 'Greater' because every team they played in the '87 championship wanted to beat the champions and thereby indicate their potential. 'Greater' because the Aodh Ruadh team with new additions and many, many positional changes was only beginning to 'discover' itself.

That discovery began on May 22nd at home to Ballybofey where Ballyshannon won 2-10 to 1-7. Eunan Doyle played his best game this year on that occasion but gradually lost his touch in following games. Scoring 1-4, he was in good company, with Gerry Curran hitting 1-1.

A week later, in the first round second leg, Ballyshannon were more impressive winning by 18 points, 4-13 to 0-7. An inkling of how much discovery was yet to be made can be taken from the fact that on the same day Conor Carney, Ciaran Tinney, Val Murray and Gerry McManus played in Glenties with the Intermediate team. Indeed Tinney only came on as a sub for the second string and was replaced because of injury.

What manager P. J. Buggy described as "a big problem" in comments to the 'Democrat' then set in — a 57 day gap until the next championship game, played on July 26th.

By virtue of a bye, Aodh Ruadh had to sit out the second round of the championship as big name teams such as Killybegs and Donegal Town were turfed out by Letterkenny and Glenfin.

There were three players out of the first team that played against Ballybofey in the second leg, Thomas Gallagher, Dermot Slevin and Alan Murray. Ciaran Tinney, who had got fit during the lay-off, got his place for the first time; Joe Doherty, recovered from injury, was also included, and Sean Boyle regained his place. Only Gary Walsh (goals), Sylvester Maguire (midfield) and Gerry Curran (right half forward) retained their same positions from the last outing.

In view of this and the very strong

wind, it was now in retrospect, unsurprising that their opposition, Naomh Columba, gave Aodh Ruadh their sternest test of the entire championship. Aodh Ruadh eventually won 0-10 to 0-8, but not before an action packed last six minutes in which they went from two points down to win by a similar margin, captain Brian Tuohy levelling in the 57th minute and Brendan Martin putting them ahead a minute later. Conor Carney, drafted up from the Intermediate ranks, and John Duffy, were brought on in that game and both were to play important parts in later games.

On August 16th they met Red Hughs in the semi-final and with a competent display won by 3-9 to 2-8. The loss of Brian Tuohy after 12 minutes was to create much heartache for the mentors in their preparation for the final. Similarly, a troublesome knee injury left doubts about Ciaran Tinney, whose ability to mark Martin McHugh in the final would prove to be a vital component in the outcome of that game.

From the semi-final line-out there was only one change, Conor Carney in for Conor Boyle. Kilcar were anxious to avenge their defeat in the '86 semi-final. Aodh Ruadh, however, proved too strong and had six points, 2-10 to 1-7, to spare at the final whistle.

The Senior team and panel who won the Championship this year was: Gary Walsh; Joe Curran, Tommy McDermott, Pauric Daly; Diarmaid Keon, Ciaran Tinney, Conor Carney; Brian Tuohy, Sylvester Maguire; Gerry Curran, Brian Murray, Eunan Doyle; Brendan Martin, Joe Doherty, Sean Boyle, John Duffy, Seamus Flynn, Dermot Slevin, Conor Boyle, Thomas Gallagher, Peter Gallagher, Val Murray, Gerry McManus. Manager: P. J. Buggy.

The final was the climax to what had been a magnificent achievement under circumstances few outside the management were aware of. The pressures of winning a second championship cannot be understated and perhaps will be appreciated more in years to come when other clubs are in that position. The chance of a second meeting with Co. Down champions, Burren, in the Ulster Club Championship was a big incentive, with many players feeling they could do much better a second time around, having been beaten well by Burren in '86.

The interest in doing well made it

possible for the training momentum to be kept up and Ballyshannon were in very good shape when they played Burren on October 11th. They forced a replay, and indeed a late, late point from Burren's kingpin, John Treanor, was required to level the tie.

The replay in Ballyshannon, however, went Burren's way, 1-7 to 2-7, Tony McArdle unhinging the Ernesiders' hope of Ulster glory.

That brief resume has concentrated on the blue riband contest, but a barometer of the senior club's ability may be measured by their performance in the Shield and League.

The Shield ('86-'87) was won back in March. Having topped their section Aodh Ruadh defeated Glenfin in the 'semi' and Kilcar in the final. This was the club's first time to win this particular competition which started in 1978.

The 1987 League is nearing completion as we go to press, but Ballyshannon are confident of getting to the final. They were runners-up in Division One South and meet Cloughaneely in the semi-final, while Kilcar meet Glenfin. Aodh Ruadh hope to reach the final for the first time since 1955 when they defeated Letterkenny 2-3 to 0-6. Ballyshannon have won the league on only six occasions, 1930, '41, '44, '45, '47, '55.

So, outright victory in this competition would underline the arrival of Aodh Ruadh as a potent force in Donegal football.

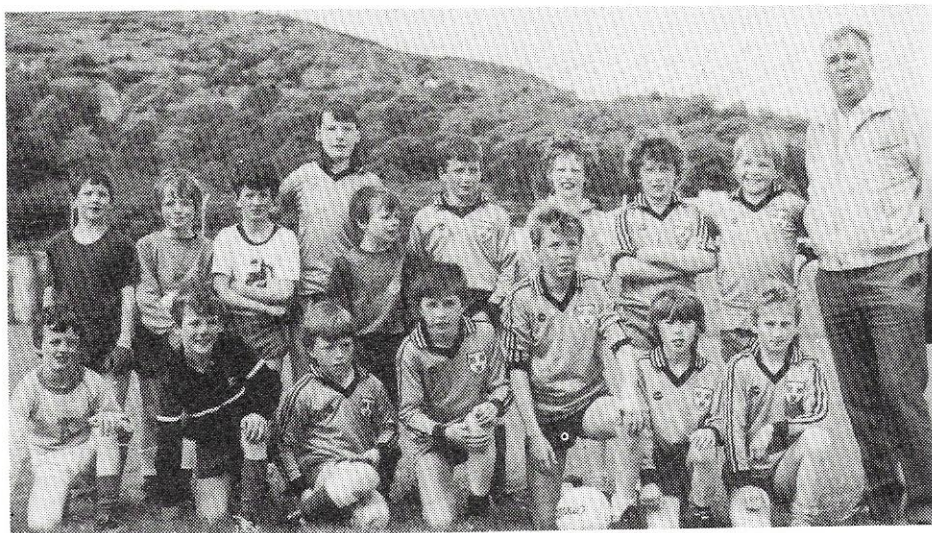
INTERMEDIATE TEAM

The fortunes of the second team were mixed in the past year. In 1986 they played in Division 4 of the League and won promotion. They also reached the Junior B county final, being defeated by Gaoth Dobhair after extra-time in the final replay.

With a view to upping the standard of football it was decided early in the year to enter the second team in the Intermediate Championship in 1987. In a tough championship draw against Glenties' main team, Aodh Ruadh battled well in both home and away first round games, losing in each case by a few points with victory within their grasp. In the League the picture was different. An administrative change made by the Co. Board in the structure of the League forced the second team to compete in Division 2, rather than Division 3 to which it had won promotion. Life in Division Two with senior championship sides like Dungloe and Na Rossa was difficult. However, despite being in a 'no win' situation from the outset, the players and management of Jackie McDermott and P. J. Ferguson, showed tremendous loyalty and commitment, fulfilling all fixtures and giving a good account against some of the big guns of that division. Inevitably relegation came at

UNDER-AGE TEAMS STATISTICS FOR 1987

	Manager	Captain	Position
U-10 Football	Jim Kane	Niall Rogers	Div. title
U-12 Football	P. J. Buggy	Barry Ward	Div. & Co. 'B' titles
U-13 Football	Willie Rogers	Donal Buggy	Div. winners & Co. runners-up
U-13 (C. Games)	P. J. Buggy	Brian Roper	Co. & Ulster winners, All-Ireland runners-up
U-14 Football	Willie Rogers	Gerard Gallagher	Div. winners, Co. semi-finalists
U-15 (Óg Sport)	Josie Boyle	Gavin Bourke	Div. winners; Co. runners-up
U-16 Football	Michael McLoone	Barry Rafferty	Div. runners-up in League and C'ship
U-18 Football	Josie Boyle	Donagh Keon	Div. winners and Co. s-finalists in League and Championship
U-14 Hurling (inc. C. Games)	B. Finn, P. Butler, M. McCafferty	Barry Sweeney	Competed in Div. C'ship, C. Games Co. champions.
U-16 Hurling	B. Finn, O.R. O'Neill	Alan Sweeney	Competed in Div. C'ship
U-18 Hurling	I. Myles, E. McNulty	Ivor Myles	Competed in Div. C'ship.
U-14 Camogie	Maura Logue, Alan Kane	Frances Kane	Divisional and Co. Champions



Rockfield N.S., winners of the two-teacher National Schools county title. Back row (from left): James McCauley, Gavin Rogers, Frank McGloin, Marita Maguire, Matthew Hughes, Paul Roohan, Keith McCauley, Niall Rogers, Colm McCauley, Frank O'Donnell (manager). Front (from left) Patrick McGloin, Ryan McGloin, Sean Perry, Ciaran Roohan, James Ruane (capt.), Brendan Boyle, Dara McGrath.

the end of the season with the team back in its rightful place in Division Three for 1988, and the experience of many tough games behind them, the players are looking forward to the new season.

The team fielded in the Intermediate Championship was: Seamus Gallagher; Joe Drummond, Teddy Kane, Michael Dolan; Tom Daly, Eamon Maguire, Terry McShea; Mark Cleary, Conor Carney; John Forkin, Justin Coughlan, Frank Sheerin; Michael Daly, Noel Hoey, Val Murray. Also used were Paul Bannon, Malachy Cullen, Gerry McManus, Ciaran Tinney and Andrew Duffy.

UNDER AGE ACTIVITIES

In its fourth year of existence, under new chairman, Phonsie Travers, Bórd na nÓg continued its progress with quite

a lot of success on the field and further expansion of activities.

The coaching of young players, set up ten years ago, continued, and Saturday afternoons in Munday's Field is where the young players of the area get their first introduction to Gaelic football. The success of this year's under-10 team in regaining the Southern Divisional title again proved the worth of the club's coaching structure.

The major successes of 1987 on the field were the winning of the Co. and Ulster U-13 Community Games competition and the reaching of the All-Ireland final in that competition; the success of the U-14 Camogie team in winning a county title at their first attempt; the success of local National Schools, Creevy and Rockfield; the winning of the U-12B county football

title, and the U-14 Community Games Hurling competition; places in the finals of the U-13 and U-15 Óg Sport Championships.

As seen in the chart there was considerable success at Divisional level also. However, the most pleasing aspect of our involvement in under-age activities is that we fulfilled all our fixtures with well prepared teams.

The club hosted Ballymun Kickhams U-12 and U-13 teams earlier in the year and this is an aspect of the club that could be expanded with more help from parents and further contact with clubs.

Bórd na nÓg officers for 1987 were: Chairman, Phonsie Travers; secretary, Peter Conlon; registrar, Mark Cleary; treasurer, Jim Kane; vice-chairman, Seamus O'Donnell; PRO, P. J. Buggy.

HURLING

1987 was a very active year for the Hurling Club. A new Hurling Committee was appointed in March and the officers were as follows: Chairman, Pat Butler; secretary Billy Finn; Committee members, Jimmy Carter, Michael McCafferty, Seamus Grimes, Gerry Cullen, Owen Roe O'Neill, Jimmy O'Connell, Mark Sheerin, Ivor Myles, John Larkin and Tom Daly.

The senior team entered the Fermanagh League, the Donegal League and the Donegal Championship. In all they played thirteen competitive hurling games, winning half of them. In the Championship Aodh Ruadh had two tight games with champions, Setanta, before going down narrowly. The second game in Killygordon was a particularly good game and fine performances from Sylvester Maguire, Gary Walsh and Micky Dolan almost won the day for Ballyshannon.

We were unlucky not to reach the final of the Fermanagh League, having twice defeated Belleek and in the Donegal League we played the best of three games against Ballybofey before qualifying to meet Setanta once again in the area final. The Ballybofey games were outstanding and the Martin Griffin-Pat Butler duel was one of the highlights. Great performances from Tommy Brennan, Micky Dunne and Gerry Cullen helped in the defeat of MacCumhailis. The senior hurlers also organised two hurling blitzes and ran two social functions to raise money for the club.

The following senior and minor hurlers lined out this year: Mick Coyne, Tom Daly, Sean O'Rourke, Micky McCafferty, Gerry Cullen, Micky Dolan, Eamon Maguire, Sylvester Maguire, Seamus Gallagher, Martin Pryal, Willie O'Donnell, Micky Dunne, Jim McCullough, Edward McNulty, Pat Hartigan, Finbar Burke, Seamus Grimes, Kevin Quinn, Sean Dowling, Shane O'Neill, Owen Roe O'Neill, Gerry McGurran, John Larkin, Jimmy

O'Connell, Pat Butler, Billy Finn, Teddy Kane, Joe Flannery, Gary Hurst, Ivor Myles, Kerry Ryan, Gerry Sheerin, Patrick Begley, Eunan Doyle, Donal McGowan, Jimmy Carter, Gerry McDermott, Josie Boyle, Eoin O'Donnell, Barry Sweeney, Frank Sheerin, Peter Gallagher, John Melany, Gerry Curran, Sean Og Kane, Martin McLoughlin, Fintan Hughes, Damien Hughes, Gary Walsh, Mark Sheerin, Darren Rooney, Rory McNamee, Kevin Barron, Brendan Barron, Hughie McGowan, Damien Conlan, Tommy Brennan, Michael McGee, Anton McGloin, Davy Smith, Alan Sweeney, Gerard Egan, Denis Daly, Joe Fitzgerald, Ciaran Gallagher, Willie Slevin, Ciaran O'Rourke, Seamus McNulty, Malachy Cullen, Sean Butler.

Senior team managers were Jimmy Carter and Micky McCafferty and Micky McCafferty was captain. The following players played on the Donegal minor team: Ivor Myles, Mark Sheerin, Kevin Quinn.

Hurling referees for the year were Pat Butler, Micky McCafferty, Alan Kane and John Larkin. Under Seamus Grimes, our most successful team was the under-14 team which won the Co. Community Games final against Setanta of Killygordon. To qualify for this final Aodh Ruadh defeated Pettigo narrowly. The final was played in Fr. Tierney Park, Ballyshannon, and Aodh Ruadh won on a score of 8-2 to 1-0. In the Divisional Championship after a great tussle, Pettigo gained their revenge in Pettigo. During the year an under-14 hurling league was

organised by Pat Butler and Billy Finn and four teams played over seven games before Barry O'Neill's team defeated K.

J. Graham's team.

The under-14 team did well in the North West Hurling League Blitz, defeating Craobh Rua of Sligo and put up good performances against MacCumhailis and Enniskillen. An u-12 league was organised in November to cater for the younger players.

The following u-14 and u-12 players lined out during the year: James Grimes, Niall McCready, Christy Kane, David Downey, Ken Neilan, Eunan McGrath, Seamus O'Donnell, Gerard Gallagher, Liam Bagnell, Donal Buggy, Barry O'Neill, K. J. Graham, Eugene Kelly, Cathal Burns, Dessie Burns, Keith Brennan, Al Travers, Raphael McGee, Ciaran O'Rourke, Cormac O'Connell, Barry Sweeney, Kerry Ryan, Robert Sheerin, Anthony Sheerin, Mark Killilea, Nigel Coughlin, Michael Begley, Patrick Gallagher, Martin Gilmore, Joseph Berrigan, Edward Grimes, Jason O'Mahony, Brendan Casey, Thomas Gallagher, Des Downey, Joe Duffy, Paul O'Mahony, David Greene, Niall Ryan, Chris McKeen, Darren McGuinness, Michael Daly and Mark Hughes.

So it would seem that hurling has a bright future in Ballyshannon if the young players keep at it and the older hurlers continue to put in the effort. Great credit is due to the car drivers who unselfishly drove hurlers of all grades around the county at their own expense.

Ballyshannon was proud to be involved in the great All-Ireland U-16 hurling success and our players on the panel were Donal McGowan, Owen Roe O'Neill, Shane O'Neill and Gerry Sheerin. Thanks also to Martin Pryal, Mick Coyne, Tom Daly and Jim Kane who put up trophies for the various hurling leagues.



The Creevy National School team which won the Roinn B Cumann na mBunscoil county title. Back row, l. to r., Liam McCadden, Martin O'Donnell, Anthony McGrath, Christy Dolan, Pauric Lynch, James Margey, Keith Brennan, Kieran Barron, Paul Roper, David O'Donnell, Gary Brennan. Second row (from left) Declan McGrath, Derek Doyle, Seamus O'Donnell, Fabian Ward, Brian Roper, Eamonn O'Donnell (capt.), Bernard Doherty, Ciaran McLean, Seamus Kilgallon, David McLoone. Front (from left) Charlie Kane, Michael Ward, Patrick McGrath, John Gillespie, Oliver McCambridge.



Ballyshannon Rounders team at the Community Games Ulster finals in Omagh. Back row (from left) Samantha Granaghan, Celine Flood, Catherine Gallagher, Marita Maguire, Caroline Downey, Frances Crowe (coach). Front (from left) Nuala Flood, Gemma O'Connell, Breege McWeeney, Edel Sheerin.

The Aodh Ruadh minor hurling team, managed by Ivor Myles, Edward McNulty and Mark Sheerin put up great performances against Donegal Town and especially against MacCumhailles before bowing out of the championship. Josie Boyle spent many a wet evening coaching the minors. The Aodh Ruadh u-16 team were unfortunate to lose narrowly to

Pettigo and Donegal in the South Divisional Championship. The game against Pettigo was a great contest with Ballyshannon looking likely winners at half-time 1-1 to 0-0. In the second half over confidence led to narrow defeat. Our best players were Ciaran Gallagher, Owen Roe O'Neill, Gary Hurst, Alan Sweeney, Donal Buggy, Ciaran

O'Rourke, Barry Sweeney, Donal McGowan, Eoin O'Donnell and Shane O'Neill. Team managers were Eoin Roe O'Neill and Jimmy O'Connell.

CAMOGIE

Aodh Ruadh U-14 Camogie team made history this year when they won the first ever Donegal Championship, defeating Letterkenny by 1-1 to 1-0, on June 27th. Camogie training began at junior level in 1985. Many enthusiastic 11 and 12 year olds braved the rain and wind to learn the skills and techniques of the game. Most of those juniors, including Frances Kane, Sorcha Begley, Amanda Gillen, Andrea Barrett, Eimear Keon were rewarded for their dedication by becoming players on the first junior Aodh Ruadh Camogie team in 40 years. Others joined the club and skilled players like Catherine Gallagher, Grainne Buggy, Marita Maguire, Eimear Hogan, Aisling Hannigan, Nollaig McNelis, Denise O'Reilly, Celine Flood, Gemma Shannon and Ann Kennedy deservedly earned their place on the history making side.

Under the guidance of Maura Logue, Alan Kane and Mick Shannon they showed their worth, winning the U-14 Camogie Championship in 1987.

Next year it is hoped to have an U-16, U-14 and perhaps U-12 team in the Donegal Championship.

COMMUNITY GAMES SUCCESS



Ballyshannon Community Games Boys U-13 Gaelic football team had a most successful year in 1987. They retained their county title, making it three-in-a-row, won the Ulster title and went on to reach the All-Ireland final, where they gave an excellent performance before going down to a strong Athy side. While silver medals at Mosney was their lot, the team and

their mentors can be very proud of their many fine victories. On their way to the All-Ireland final they defeated Bundoran, Ballybofey, Cloughaneely, Letterkenny, Cavan Parish, Monaghan Town, Silverbridge (Co. Armagh) and Crossmolina (Co. Mayo).

● Pictured above is the team and their mentors, P. J. Buggy, Willie Rogers and

P. J. Roper at the All-Ireland finals. Back (l-r): P. J. Buggy, Eunan McGrath, Eamonn O'Donnell, Christy Dolan, John Muldoon, Barry Ward, Anthony McGrath, Gary Brennan, Keith Doherty, Derek Doyle, Kieran Barron, Willie Rogers. Front (l-r): David Neilon, K. J. Graham, James Grimes, Joseph Duffy, Brian Roper, Ciaran McLean, Declan McGonigle, Niall McCready, Paul Roper, Martin O'Donnell, P. J. Roper.

AODH RUADH RETAINS ITS ALMA MATER

In one of the most significant developments in the club's history, "Munday's Field", consisting of six acres of parkland across the road from the Fr. Tierney Park, was acquired by the club during the year. Acquisition of the property, owned by Donegal County Council for many years, was made extremely difficult because plans were drawn for a housing scheme on the property.

After months of negotiations spearheaded by the Club's Park Committee, the County Council eventually agreed, at its meeting in July, to accept a proposal from the club which would see "Munday's Field" transferred into the ownership of Aodh Ruadh. In turn the club undertook to provide an alternative site for the housing scheme on land to be purchased from an adjoining landowner. Several other conditions relating to securing an access for the new housing scheme, the costs of re-drawing the housing plans, etc., were attached to the 'swap'.

Since 1981 Aodh Ruadh has held the field on a rental basis with one full-sized and 2 junior playing pitches laid out there.

Outright ownership of the property by the club was always an aspiration of those closely involved in the development of club facilities in recent years. The club's aspirations in this regard have become a reality in 1987 through the assertive action of its Park Committee and the magnificent support received for the proposal from the two local Co. Cllrs., Sean McEniff and Frank O'Kelly. The support received at Co. Council level reflects well on the club's standing in the local community and throughout the county as the other four Co. Cllrs. from the electoral area — Mary Coughlan,

T.D., Colm Gallagher, James McBrearty and Peter Kennedy — as well as many other Clr. Councillors throughout Donegal, threw their weight behind the club's proposal.

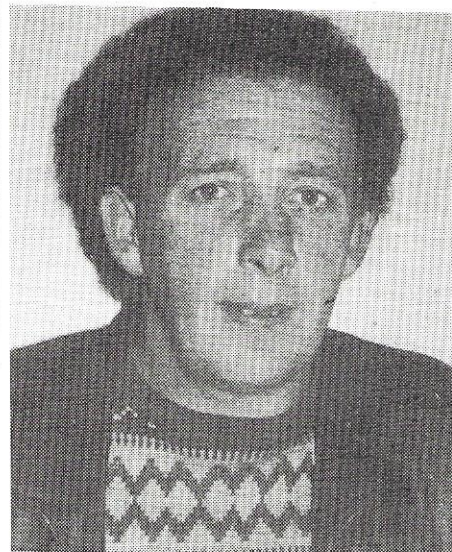
So, almost 80 years after the first recorded games of the newly founded Aodh Ruadh Club took place in the 'Workhouse Meadow' in October 1909, the club has, one could say, returned to its alma mater. And while this bit of history is important, what really counts is that adequate playing space for the promotion of all our Gaelic field games is now guaranteed in Ballyshannon.

On other fronts the Park Committee also made considerable progress in 1987. Bank debts arising from development work were cleared in April; two, and at one stage, three, men were employed on maintenance and development works and work was started on the extension and grading of the spectator embankment on the school side of the grounds and on the provision there of new press facilities. It is hoped to complete this work during 1988.

As 1987 draws to a close the pre-occupation of the committee is to acquire funds to meet the costs of the land purchase and to support a substantial employment scheme approved for 1988 which will see important improvements at both the Fr. Tierney Park and the newly acquired playing fields. The objective was to raise one third of the £60,000 needed by the end of '87 and at the time of going to press this target looks like being met. Any emigrant member of the club wishing to assist with fund-raising abroad during 1988 might contact Tom Daly, secretary of the Club's Park Committee.



Liam Mullin, chairman of the Donegal Minor Hurling Board. Liam is a member of the Four Masters G.A.A. Club, Donegal Town, and has always been a great administrator and promoter of under-age competition in both hurling and football. One of the most respected officers in the county, it was most fitting that Liam was chairman of the Minor Hurling Board this year when Donegal won its first ever All-Ireland Hurling title.



Mr. "Fixture" it — Joe Winston, the long-serving non-executive member of the three-person Fixture Committee. Joe — or "Dodo" as he is so affectionately known — has had an exceptionally busy year with re-arrangements, cancellations and postponements, so much so that it became a weekly task re-fixing virtually all games. In such circumstances it is a credit to him that most competitions were finished on time. Joe, one of Donegal's greatest forwards in his playing days, has been also very instrumental in the promotion of under-age competitions at both club and county level. With Jimmy White, Killybegs, he was mentor for this year's County Under-21 team that won the All-Ireland. He has just recently been appointed County Minor team manager for 1988. Let us hope it won't prevent him from continuing as a member of the Fixtures Committee in 1988.



Verti-draining of the club's main playing field, at the Fr. Tierney Park.

Foireann Sinsear

Gaoth Dobhair 1987

Toghadh P. J. Dooley agus Pádraig Mac Fhionnghaile mar bhainisteoirí foirne ag tús na bliana agus thainig Proinsias Ó Maonaigh isteach leo i mí Béaltaine.

Thus siad isteach seisiúr óganaí sa phainéil ag tús na bliana: Dónal Rua Ó Gallchoir (17), mac Padraig Ó Gallchoir; Piaras Mac G/Bhríde (18), mac Phádraig Phaidigh Jimmy; Brian Mac G/Bhríde (17), mac Ownie Bharnie Jimmy; Micheal Ó Dochartaigh (17), mac Micheal Eoghan Eoin; Dónal Ó Breslín (16), mac Donal Chormaic; Aodh Ó Duibhir (16), mac Eamonn Mhicí Mor.

Piocadh 23 imreoir uilig ar an phainéil sinsear ach sul a raibh mí luil amuigh bhí seisiúr acu seo imithe thar saile. Brian Ó Gallchoir, Colm agus Brendan Ó Baoill, agus Seán Ó Currain, go Meiricea. Pól Mac Aoidh agus Tomás Mac G/Easbuic go Londain.

Ansin tugadh isteach Dónal Mac Aoidh, Seán Ó Duibhir, Ciaran Ó Roartai agus Brian Mac G/Choill leis an phainéil a laidriú.

Gortú Padraig Mac G/Bhríde i dtús an seisiúir agus níor imir sé o shoin.

San am i lathair ta bún an tábla mar seo: Gaoth Dobhair, 11 cluiche, 7 bpointe; Dunaibh, 12 cluiche, 5 phointe; Urris, 13 cluiche, 5 phointe.

Tá ar Ghaoth Dobhair buachaint ar Urris ar shiúl as baile agus Na Dunaibh sa bhaile le fanacht i Roinn I.

Béidh sé dhá bhliain ar a laghad sul a mbeidh foireann Ghaoth Dobhair laidir go leor le iarracht maith a thabhairt ar craobh sinsear na Contae a bhuachaint.

Tá ceist mhor os comhair duine de na bainisteoirí Pádraig Mac Fhionnghaile, ta 4½ bliain caithe aige mar bhainisteoir ar an fhoireann sinsear. Ins an amh sin bhuaigh siad Scaith Roinn III, airdiú ceime o Roinn III go Roinn II, bhuaigh siad an chraobh-21 agus an chraobh idir mhéanach ach theip air dhá uair dul thar an chead bhabhta den chraobh sinsear.

B'fhuil se in n-am daoine úra na foireann a ghlacadh anonn no an b'fhuil bliain eile tuillte aige leis an foireann óg seo, tar eis cupla bliain le painéil lag.

Fáilte aris roimh Eamonn MacNiallías tar eis bliain staidear sa Ghearmain.

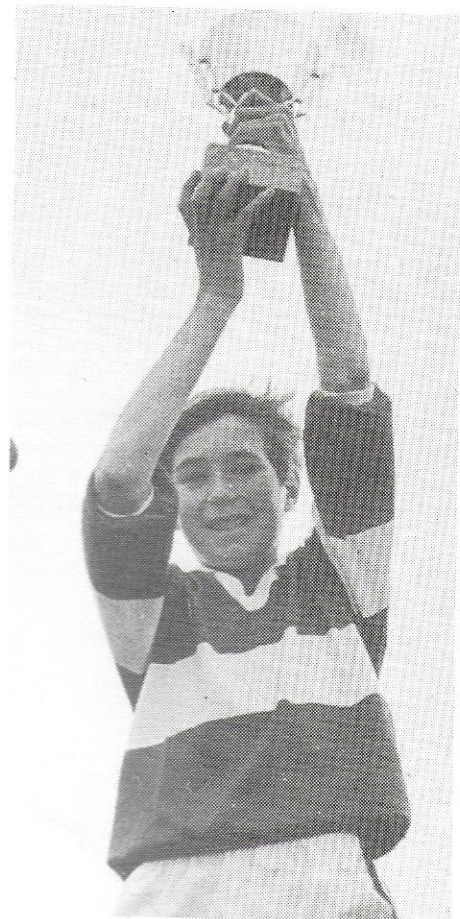
Thosaigh tus rabharta i 1984 agus béidh se barr lán i 1989.

PAINÉIL SINSEAR GHAOTH DOBHAIR, 1987

Aodh O Duibhir, Sean O Currain, Seamus O Gallchoir, caipiteán, Brian Mac G/Bhríde, Piaras Mac G/Bhríde, Seamus Mac Gairbheith, Brendan Ó Baoill, Colm Ó Baoill, Padraig Ó Dubhlaoch, Ciaran Ó Roartai, Brian Mac G/Choill, Micheal Ó Roartai, Pól Mac Cumhaill, Donnchadh Mac Niallais, Dónal Ó Gallchoir, Dónal Ó Breisleáin, Micheal Ó Dochartaigh, Seán Ó Maolagáin, Proinsias Ó Cearbhaill, Dónal Mac Aoidh, Tomás Mac G/Easbuic, Eamonn Mac Niallais, Brian Ó Gallchoir, Pádraig Mac G/Bhríde agus Pól Mac Aoidh.



The Gaoth Dobhair senior team 1987. Back row, Packie McGinley, team manager; Donal Breslín, Daniel Gallagher, Brendan Boyle, Pat McGee, Michael Roarty, Seamus McGarvey, Pat McCool, Francie Carroll, Francie Mooney, team adviser. Front row: Tom Gillespie, Brian McBride, P. J. Dooley, player manager, Sean Curran, Seamus Gallagher, captain, Donal McGee, Sean Mulligan, Donnchadh MacNiallais, Piaras McBride.



Owen McBride, Gwedore, captain u-14 county championship winners, 1986.

Gweedore man wins All-Ireland Senior Football medal in 1987

By COLM MAC GIOLLA BHRIDE

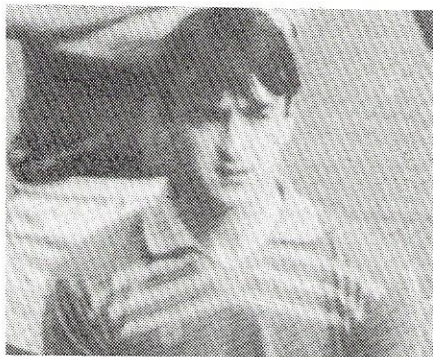
ANOTHER chapter was written into the sporting history of Gweedore when Colm Coyle, a son of (Padraig) Paddy Coyle from Lunnagh played for the all-Ireland champions Meath against Cork on Sunday, 2nd September last. Colm, who emigrated to the United States in March last was taken home by the Meath G.A.A. Board to strengthen their panel on final day. Colm was a regular on the Meath side before his departure to Chicago where he played for Wolfe Tone. His footballing skills also won him provincial selection honours with Leinster in 1986. Colm came on as a substitute fourteen minutes from the end of this year's all-Ireland final and immediately he made an impact when with his first touch of the ball he initiated a score for Dave Beggy to increase Meath's lead to nine points. It was a nice gesture for the Meath mentors to introduce the young Gweedore player to give him a taste of the joy of winning an all-Ireland final. Had the game been closer or Meath losing the Gweedore man's entry would have been called for much earlier.

The 24-year-old Gweedore man was an established player on the Meath side, prior to his departure to the States and wisely the Meath mentors took him back to be present on their own glorious day and so Colm played and won an All-Ireland medal, an ambition of every Gaelic player.

It was a proud day for Gweedore and a proud day for me personally to be present at the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association on all-Ireland day. One might say, the happy return of the prodigal son. It was my fourth visit to Croke in 1987 and my first visit to an all-Ireland final for twenty years. In 1967 Meath also confronted Cork when Peter Darby scored a cracking goal in a thrilling final. How little I thought twenty years later I would see a Gweedore man playing on a winning Meath side.

It was a nostalgic moment for me. Twenty years earlier, I travelled in a mini-car from Castleblaney to Dublin accompanied by the famous Cavan full back, Phil 'Gunner' Brady. When the Cavan team of '47 marched proudly on to the famous arena with their Kerry counterparts, the famous familiar figure of the 'Gunner' was missing. A close friend, who died prematurely four years ago would have revelled on this occasion. 'Go ndéana Dia Trocaire ar a anam.'

It was a moment of joy for every Gweedore man, regardless of sporting allegiance to witness one of their famous



Colm Coyle

sons winning the ultimate prize in Gaelic football. Colm is second to Columba McDyer of Glenties (who was also present with the Cavan all-Ireland winning side of 1947 that afternoon), to win the most prized medal in Gaelic football — an all-Ireland senior medal.

For the Coyle family of Lunnagh, it was a joyous and emotional occasion. Colm's father, Paddy, now teaching in Seneschalstown, near Navan, described it as a tremendous feeling, "emotionally watching Micheal O Hehir, and then experiencing the joy of watching my son, who travelled four thousand miles to play and win an All-Ireland medal. I thought of my brother, Bernard (Barney) who died four years ago. He would have been proud as well." It was a great but tearful.

Colm's father, Paddy Coyle, was an outstanding footballer for three decades. A star on the great Gweedore team of 1953-54-55 championship winning side. He captained Donegal in the fifties and won an Ulster Junior championship medal with Donegal in 1954. He also won Lagan cup medals with his county in 1951-52. He was better known as 'Goal-a-game Paddy'. He scored goals for club and county with monotonous regularity. He is the only player to win three championship senior medals in three successive years in two different counties. In Meath he won with Navan O'Mahony in 1959 and the following two years helped Seneschalstown to win the Royal County championship medal. Paddy also has the distinction of winning a Dublin league championship medal with Erin's Hope, Warwick junior league and championship medal with Four Masters of Coventry, and of course in his College days in Ballyvourney won a senior Munster medal with the College and played for the Munster Representative College sides. The blonde curly haired Lunnagh man was a popular sportsman, respected by friend and foe.

He even won a minor medal with Dungloe in 1949 — Gweedore's greatest rivals of the time — such was his nature.

Colm Coyle inherited all the qualities from his father, skill, application, vision, determination, and above all a positive attitude to sport. Although small in stature but big in ability the mercurial Gweedore Meath man despite his tender age of twenty four has been around for a considerable time. He has represented Meath at minor, under 21 and senior, making his debut in his late teens in the latter grade. He won a Railway Cup medal with Leinster in 1986. He also won minor and senior Leinster championship medals with Meath as well and now a proud holder of an all-Ireland medal which eluded great players such as Jim McKeever, (Derry), Gerry O'Malley (Roscommon), Mickey Kearins (Sligo), Sean O'Connell (Derry) and of course 'Hudie Beag' Gallagher, Hughie Tim Boyle, Neilly Gallagher and Antoin Rodgers, all of Gweedore. For me personally, it was a pleasureable moment of joy and satisfaction as I waited patiently outside Croke Park dressing room to congratulate Colm Coyle's achievement on that famous day. Colm appeared happily from the crowded dressing room and after exchanging greetings and congratulations he asked about his own cousins — the Coyle's from Brinaleck — how they were doing. He resembled his father in many ways.

My first memory of a Gaelic match was between Gweedore and St. Eunan's at O'Donnell Park. My outstanding memory was watching Michael James Gallagher soaring into the sky and cleanly collecting the ball and the back up from Hughie Tim Boyle, Bernard and Paddy Coyle, now father of Colm. I'm delighted to see Colm taking over from where his father and Myles left off.

Colm Coyle is now back in Chicago — a proud holder of an All-Ireland medal. A proud memory for Paddy Coyle which could be the beginning of a splendid era, with 19-year-old Padraig also following in the footsteps of Colm. Padraig, since he was seventeen, has been in the Meath panel of thirty players and has already won a Leinster minor medal with his county. He recently made his debut for Meath in the senior ranks. Padraig, a delightful footballer is a real jewel and a great admirer of Gweedore and Donegal football. Who knows what is in store for the new generation of the sporting Coyle family.

RED HUGHES, KILLYGORDON

After the huge success of the club in the 1986 season when the senior team reached the Co. Senior Football Championship final and were winners of Division 2 Football League, the utmost thought on all minds was could the club consolidate on its success in the 1987 season at the start of the year.

The first business of the new season was the election of club officers for the year. Those elected were: Presidents, Paddy Hannigan and Paddy McColgan; chairman, John Kelly vice-chairman, Sean Maguire; secretary, Bernard Devine; asst. secretary, Seamus Gallen; joint treasurers, Stanley Ewing and Seamus Callaghan; senior team manager, Tommy Kelly; junior team manager, Damien Gamble; registrar, Eugene Quinn.

With the new League played on a home and away basis it soon became clear that due to several lengthy injuries and emigration of several players, that the senior team could not seriously compete for First Division honours and that a mid table position was the best that could be hoped for. However, all was not gloom for the Senior Championship was about to start and who could forget what happened in 1986. Our first game was away to Bundoran and a close, evenly fought game saw us finally finish ahead at the end by a two point margin, 0-10 to 0-8. Two interesting points in this game were that fathers and sons competed on both teams, i.e., the Gillespies and the McEniffs and that the former county football manager, Brian McEniff, was marked by the ex county Hurling manager, Stanley Ewing.

The return game at the Crossroads was an even closer contest with Bundoran being determined not to be knocked out without a fight and the game finally ended in a draw, 0-8 each, with Red Hughes going through.

The quarter final saw us matched against our old rivals of several years, Na Rossa. After a very bright opening twenty minutes, which saw us lead 2-3 to 0-2, we suddenly lost all form and had to hang on for a 2-4 to 0-9 victory. Very few of us could have complained if we had been held to a draw on the day.

In the semi-final we met Ballyshannon, our conquerors in the 1986 senior final, which gave us an ideal opportunity to exact revenge. However, this was not to be and in a game that saw us twice come back from large deficits, we were finally defeated by 3-9 to 2-8. Our team on the day was: Brendan Brady; Michael Bradley, Stanley Ewing, Kieran Bradley; Lyndon Gillespie, Anthony McDaid, Martin McAnaney; Marty Carlin, Joseph Carlin; Chris Gillespie, Hugh Gillespie, Sean Irwin; Donal Reid, Eugene Carlin, Joey Browne.

And so it was back to the League again and after two good results in Gweedore and Downings, we maintained our First Division status.

In the Junior B Championship our second team were drawn against Kilcar. The first game in Kilcar saw them fighting back from a disastrous first half to finally lose by 2-8 to 0-8.

In the return game our Juniors turned the tables on their opponents and had a convincing 1-7 to 0-2 victory. And so to the play-off in Glenties and in a game that saw both teams dominate play on different occasions we finally overcame them by 0-7 to 0-4. The team on this occasion was: Don Browne; Danny Sweeney, Gerald Gallen, Gerry Doherty; Gerald Kelly, Michael Bradley, Cathal Doherty; Charlie McConnell, Sean Kelly; Eunan Hannigan, Mark Campbell, Eddie McHugh; Olly Reid, Louis Browne, John O'Meara.

However, this was to be the end of their success and they were defeated in the next round by Fanad Gaels. One thing seems obvious from these games this season — over twenty League games are too many for any junior team and is a huge stress on club finances and manpower.

We cannot let the adult scene be concluded without a special mention on the great honour the club had on Donal Reid being elected county team captain. It was unfortunate that injury severely curtailed his playing this season but, hopefully, he will be back to his usual top form soon.

At under-age level pride of place must go to our under-15 Óg Spóirt team which won the Eastern section of this competition, and to their mentors, Patsy Bradley and Fano Doherty. This was the first under-age victory for the club in the Eastern Division since re-forming. Those history making players were Paul McKelvey, Brendan Quinn, Stephen

Doherty, Paul Bradley, Gerald Kelly, Nigel Connolly, Eunan Scanlon, Ryan Scanlon and the two Martin Callaghans.

All our other under-age teams competed in the various Eastern Board competitions, and although they failed to gain any prizes they acquitted themselves admirably on all occasions and continued to make an impression within the Division.

This season one of the highlights within the club was the running of the Bradley Cup for National Schools within the Donaghmore Parish. After several very competitive games final day arrived with Dromore N.S. meeting Glencovitt N.S. on the day of the local Parish Sports. After a closely contested game, Dromore N.S. led 1-4 to 0-3 at the final whistle. The joy and happiness on the winners' faces was as obvious as on any All-Ireland winning team. The victorious team was Cronan Scanlon, Jason Ewing, Tony Browne, Kieran Coyle, Anthony O'Brien, Martin Browne, Michael Browne, P. J. Gallagher, Ryan Scanlon, Kieran Sweeney, Alan McNulty, Barry Gallagher and Rodney Dullaghan. Great credit and thanks is due to their mentors, Joe Sweeney and Mickey O'Brien for their work with underage players throughout the year. May their good work continue and with the help of all the club our young players should reap the rewards in the future. After all, today's under-12 could be the scorer of the winning point in the Senior Championship final in six years time.

At the time of going to press plans are well under way for the running of our second Liam O'Meara Memorial Tournament for u-16s.

And so as the year draws to an end we can sit and think of past victories and defeats and plan for the new season when once again the club should be competing for trophies at all levels.



Red Hughes, Co. finalists, 1986

BUNCRANA G.A.A. CLUB

1969 — A Buncrana minor team contested the Donegal minor final in Ballybofey. The opposition was an Ardara/Glenties amalgamation. Quotations were asked, surprise was expressed. Was it a flash in the pan or an indication of things to come.

The Buncrana team on that day was trained and managed by Garda P. J. Hallinan, assisted by Sean Masterson and Gda. John Durcan. Two of those pioneers are still active today in Buncrana. Sean Masterson is secretary of the Buncrana Club and also of the Inishowen Minor Board, P. J. Hallinan is vice-chairman of the Buncrana Club.

Football in the seventies was mainly confined to underage. The continuous appearance of Danny O'Brien, Principal of the Buncrana Vocational School; P. J. Hallinan and McGonagle's minibus was Buncrana GAA in action. A junior team would be entered in the Junior Championship. No honours were achieved but a lot of promise was shown. In fact the Inishowen Minor Board was long in progress before the county decided to re-establish the Divisional Boards, backed by P. J. Hallinan, chairman; Danny O'Brien, secretary; Tom McBrearty, treasurer. Their main objective was to keep the youth involved in hopes that better days would come. Buncrana officials were spreading the "gospel" of G.A.A.

Danny O'Brien and P. J. Hallinan, after much discussion and many promises, decided that the time had come when steps would have to be taken to put the club on a more firmer footing and enter a junior team in the League, Championship and Shield.

The success of Urris was an inspiration in itself, the relationship between the two camps were good since the days that P. J. Hallinan and Danny O'Brien lined out with them. In 1981 an AGM of a difference was called in the Youth Club, Castle Ave., Buncrana, where the GAA had been catered for since the 1960s. A total of twenty two persons turned out, encouraging to say the least. Appointed secretary on that occasion was Sean Masterson. Dreams were becoming realities for Danny O'Brien and P. J. Hallinan.

A junior team was soon in action taking part in the League, Championship and Shield. The Junior team was a team with a difference. It consisted of a majority of locals who had come through from the efforts of the previous years' hard work. Buncrana could count themselves very unlucky not to have gained county honours at under-16 and 18 during those years. 1985 saw Buncrana enter two junior teams in the Championship. The same was repeated in '86 and '87. These teams were managed by Danny O'Brien,

John McFadden, Sean Masterson and P. J. Hallinan.

1987 saw the effects of emigration at junior level. One team has disappeared and the second team, despite the fact that it is doing reasonably well in Division II, is suffering from the scourge.

Underage is extremely active. With Sean Masterson, John McFadden, Kevin McGeough, Shane Toolan, Danny O'Brien and P. J. Hallinan catering for the needs of under-12 (two teams), under-13, u-14, u-16, u-18 and u-21.

Buncrana received a major breakthrough in 1987 when Leo Gill, a member of the county under-16 team, made history when he captained the county team against Leitrim. Stephen McFadden was a member of the victorious and historic Donegal under-16 hurling team that won the All-Ireland title for the first time.

The future holds a lot of promise for Buncrana underage is well catered for and with a bit more concentration a county title could be on the cards. The efforts of Michael McNelis, N.T., Cockhill, is already having the desired effect of getting the country boys involved at an early stage. The success of the Vocational School in recent years is having a major impact for both Burt and Buncrana. So also is the effect of Scoil Mhuire.

The big hope is the success of McCarter's Factory — if its full employment potential materialises and there is every reason to believe that it will, the male unemployment of Buncrana should at least be partially solved and put the brakes on emigration in the area. Success for McCarters means success for Buncrana and Donegal. We wish them every success. Willie Grant and his team at Clubman/Omega have a significant role to play. We wish them every success.

Work is still going on at the Youth Club, Sports Centre, where the GAA has its headquarters. When work is competed on the Gaelic pitch, Buncrana will have a maximum size playing field with covered-in spectator accommodation.

The future is bright; the talent is there; the financial support of the people of Buncrana has never been found wanting. In the past six years alone, ¼ of a million pounds has been subscribed by the people of Buncrana and surrounding area. The want lies with the members. "Ask and you shall be given."

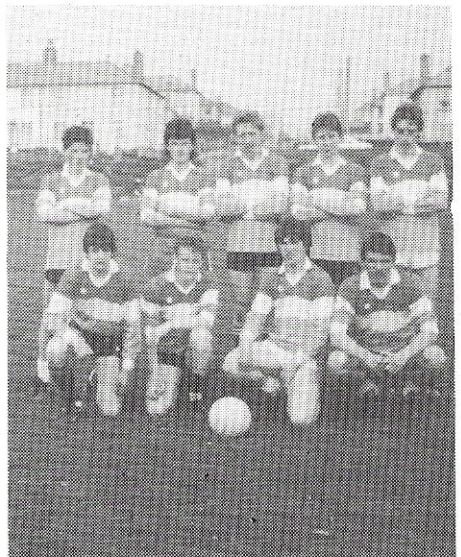
Thanks to Inishowen Minor Board and County Board for their assistance over the year.

The highlight of 1987 must be the League tie between Carndonagh and Buncrana in Carndonagh. After leaving Seamus Doherty (Walls), Mickey

Downey and Brendan McDaid at the airport, the panel of players was a low ebb. Looking around the changing room one could not help saying, "No hope to day boys". Jerseys were handed out to Danny O'Brien, Joe Hegarty of Inch fame and P. J. Hallinan with Sean Masterson, John McFadden and John Doherty (Walls) summoned to the subs bench. The first ten minutes was all Carndonagh; then a long ball from midfield slipped through to Joe Hegarty who neatly tucked it away into the back of the net. Things were beginning to happen. Age and experience were getting the act together. Sons were having faith in their fathers. The final score, Buncrana 3-8, Carndonagh 1-5. A Buncrana mentor when later asked what sort of a team did you have out today, replied: "Some over 50, some under 50. Some over 16, and some under 16." Which was true.

P. J. Hallinan's expression: "Never underestimate a good old fellow" was very true, on the day.

Officers of Buncrana GAA Club, 1987: Chairman, Pauric O Fleabhartaigh; vice-chairman, P. J. Hallinan; secretary, Sean Masterson; asst. secretary, John McHugh; treasurer, Shane Toolan; asst. treasurer, Danny O'Brien; PRO, Danny O'Brien; youth officer, P. J. Hallinan; Oifigeach Gaeilge, Pauric O Fleabhartaigh; Primary School, Michael McNelis, N.T., Cockhill; Cathal Harvey, N.T., St. Columba's; team managers, Sean Masterson, John McFadden, Danny O'Brien.



Buncrana Óg Sport Gael team which won the Inishowen Division in both 1986 and 1987. Back row, L. Harkin, S. McFadden, M. McNamee, B. Friel, J. Porter. Front row, D. McGee, D. Kennedy, L. Gill (capt.), L. Henderson.

ST. EUNAN'S – DIVISION 1 & 4 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS, 1986

1986 proved to be a great year for the two adult teams in Letterkenny. The seniors were League champions and also picked up three tournaments on their way. The junior team also hit the winning

trail that year under the masterful guidance of Frankie Campbell. They showed great heart all through and were successful in the '85 Shield, semi-finalists in the 1986 Championship and County

Div. 4 League champions. With a blend of youth and experience, they showed what could be done with a little bit of hard work.



St. Eunan's Junior team which won the All-County Football League Division 4 in 1986. Back, l. to r., Benny Carr (R.I.P.), Paddy McLaughlin, Enda O'Donnell, Martin Rafferty, Eddie McAuley, Brian McGeehan, Patch Curran, Joe Blake. Front, l. to r., Dean Doherty, James McDaid, Dodie Grieve, Raymond Blake, Peter Kelly, Joe McFadden, Martin Anderson, Tony Murray.



St. Eunan's Seniors – Division 1 League champions, 1986

ST. EUNAN'S U-12B 1987

By Raymond Blake

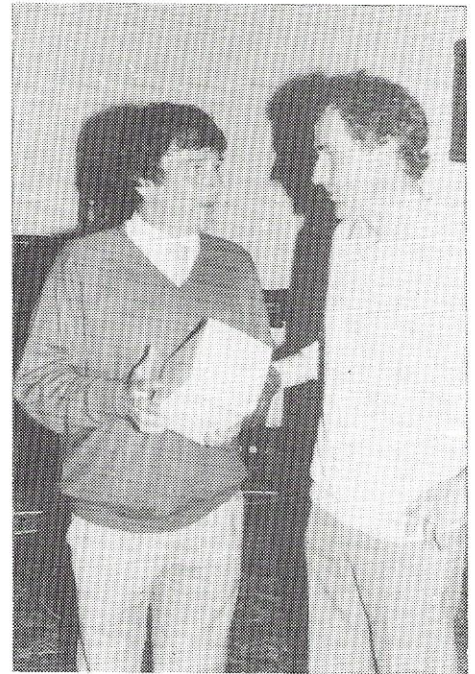
While success was not exactly forthcoming in Letterkenny GAA this year, we can look back with pride to the exploits of the underage teams. The minors reached the county final only to fall victim to old rivals, Gweedore, in a thrilling game. They did not play to their full potential but having said that Gweedore were deserving winners on the day.

However, while they did not win county titles, the two u-12 teams, A and B, served up some great football played with passion and skill. The two teams were A and B champions of the Eastern Division with the B team going one step further by reaching the county final. In this last game they were totally outplayed by Aodh Ruadh, but still showed great heart and determination. What makes the B teams' exploits more surprising lies in the fact that all but three players were in fact U-11.

At the start of the year about 50 u-12s assembled at O'Donnell Park for training

and challenge games. After much deliberation the top twenty were drafted into the A panel and this writer was left with the thirty odd players for the B panel. In all honesty I could not imagine their depth of skill, pride, heart and determination that they were to show me through the year. We qualified for the Divisional semi-finals and it was in this semi-final that the team showed their worth. The team was practically left to pick themselves, as the 'manager' was suffering from self-inflicted injuries received in Tuam the previous day and Tommy McGroarty's, Donegal Town, that morning, after the All-Ireland U-21 final against Kerry.

They went on to win the Division and the county semi-final with wholehearted performances and so qualify for the county final with Aodh Ruadh. May I just take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the panel for their effort, commitment, behaviour and the enjoyment they gave me throughout the year.



Mr. Frankie Doherty, St. Eunan's club referee, being presented with a piece of Donegal Parian China by Seamus Temple on behalf of the club's sevens committee for his refereeing during St. Eunan's Easter Sevens Tournament in O'Donnell Park on Easter Sunday, 1987.



St. Eunan's U-12 'B' team, county finalists. Back, l. to r., Brian McMonagle, Shane O'Donnell, Gary Gibson, Stephen McGlynn, Paul Lynch, Ollly Duffy, "manager", Paul Doyle, Patrick Gildea, Philip Nicholson, Darren Crossan, Karl Campbell, Leonard Roarty, Tommy Creevy, Martin Devine. Front, l. to r., Anthony Ramsey, Sean McFadden, Columba Barron, Michael Lynch, Kevin Winston, Sammy Bogan, Damian Daly (capt.), Jonathan Scanlon, Brian McDermott, Paschal Gibbons, Seamus Nallen, Ciaran McNulty.

ST. EUNAN'S EASTER 'SEVENS'

There was the usual high entertainment value this year again as St. Eunan's continued with their Easter National 7-a-side invitation tournament at O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny.

This year's tournament brought teams

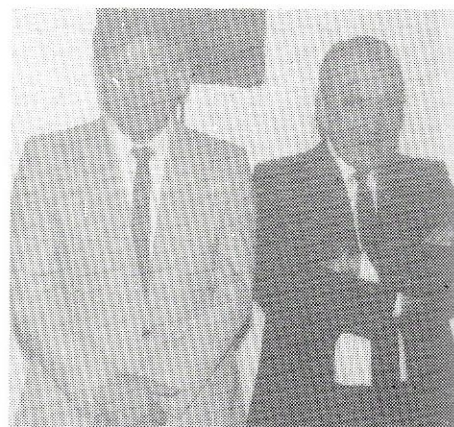
from all of the four provinces with the eventual winners being Corofin, Co. Galway, captained by former St. Eunan's and Donegal star, Paul McGettigan.

Donegal Parian China, based in Ballyshannon and under manager Danny

Breslin, formerly of Letterkenny, were the chief sponsors of this competition. The club are indebted to Danny and Donegal Parian China for such generous sponsorship and hope to run the Tournament this year again.



St. Eunan's 1987 Minor team, championship runners-up.



Mr. Danny Breslin, managing director of Donegal Parian China, Ballyshannon, with Mr. James McGettigan, chairman of St. Eunan's GAA Club, on Easter Sunday night when Donegal Parian China sponsored the main prizes for the Easter Sevens run by the Letterkenny Club.



50 YEARS AGO — St. Columba's, Letterkenny, 17th November, 1937. Back: P. Gill, W. Austin, B. Crampsie, E. Crerand, P. J. Mulcahey, P. Ewing, Mijo Peoples. Front: F. Larkin, J. Deeney, H. McGovern, L. McConigley, J. Callaghan, J. O'Rourke. Spectators: L. Gildea, E. Sweeney, J. McGlynn, J. McMonagle, Fr. McDermott (President), S. McGinley (chairman), E. McCaul (secretary), B. Crampsie, J. Selvin, J. Hanlon, F. Vaughan and J. McKeever.

1927 COUNTY CHAMPIONS LETTERKENNY ROVERS



Letterkenny Rovers, 1927 Co. Senior Football Championship winners. Standing, l. to r., J. Callaghan, E. O'Donnell, J. Hegarty, J. Molloy, E. Coyle, M. Dawson, P. McGlynn, J. Vaughan, J. Tinney, T. McGuinness, P. Carberry, P. Vaughan, R. Hegarty, D. Crampsie. Seated, centre (l. to r.), B. O'Donnell, P. Sweeney (still alive), J. Harvey and F. Larkin. Second row, kneeling and seated (l. to r.), J. Crearand, A. Gallagher, P. Doherty, Mijo Peoples, 'Darkie' McManus, J. McGranaghan, M. Harkin. Front row, seated (l. to r.), J. Larkin, B. Strain, T. Doherty, W. Roarty, J. Doherty.

NOEL O'DONNELL R.I.P.

Sadly also this year the club lost yet another of its great members. Noel O'Donnell, a truly great footballer, was also called early at the age of 49. Noel was truly one of the greatest footballers Letterkenny ever produced and indeed one of its greatest gentlemen, both on and off the field. Perhaps when one looks for a likeness in a man one looks to his sons. In this case we can look to Paul, Enda and Declan and find three young gentlemen and three fine footballers — exactly in Noel's mould. Noel was one of the 'great' half backs in the county and won three county championship medals in '56, '60 and '69 — testimony to his fitness and skill is that his last medal was won 13 years after his first. That team in 1956 was regarded by many throughout the whole county as being the greatest team ever to wear the colours of St. Eunan's and the respect with which they were held is evident even now. Noel was a most important member of the team and could always be relied on to turn in sterling performances in every game. Noel married team mate, John Hannigan's sister, Brid, and was

a great husband and father. He is sadly missed by his loving family and all of us who were so privileged to know him.

ROGER McRORY, R.I.P.

St. Eunan's personnel losses this year have not been confined to its younger members. Roger McRory, one of the club's longest serving and most respected members, died suddenly in September. Roger came to Letterkenny in the late 30s and joined the club in a playing capacity. When his playing days were finished he threw himself wholeheartedly into the running of the club. In the years that followed he proved himself a very capable administrator, holding every office from selector to President. He was chairman of the O'Donnell Park Committee for many years and was also Donegal's delegate to the Ulster Council. Roger was very well known throughout the county. He advised many clubs on financial matters and audited their books yearly free of charge. May he rest in peace.

A particularly tough and sad year for St. Eunan's Club.

BENNY CARR & PETER McGETTIGAN R.I.P.

How sad it is this year that one has to recall the early passing of two young 'boys' at the early age of 16 and 17 years. For Peter McGettigan and Benny Carr, the great 'call' came early and they were not to be allowed to reach their prime. They had barely sown their boots. But to those of us who had the good fortune to know them, to see them play, to enjoy their companionship — we knew that had they been given the right to mature we would not only have true friends, but great sportsmen.

Their characters from my knowledge of them would go something like this:

Peter was the younger, a wild, fun-loving young boy who couldn't do enough for his family, friends and neighbours. For his age he had the physique, the ability and the determination of one destined to greatness on the sportsfields of our club and county.

Benny was just 17. Of the two of them I knew Benny the better, as he had played with the minors, the u-21s and the junior team. He even played on the present senior team. I would describe Benny as the quiet, silent, strong type, a boy who loved his parents, his football and his disco-dancing. He was the most popular young player on the team. He was a half-back by nature; wasn't tall or physical but rarely did the man or the ball get the better of him. He had a pair of hands that seemed to be magnetised to leather. Who of us will ever forget his 'man of the match' display against Aodh Ruadh in the Div. 4 League final in Ballyshannon last year. We will never forget him as a friend you could rely on. Yes Benny, we are all grateful for the many great times we spent in your company. You are sadly missed by us all but we know you are happier where you are now.

But life goes on. To their families we offer our sympathy once again at this time of year. They were both taken early from this life — their playing fields were not to be of this world. In far greener fields elsewhere I am sure they are still together — playing.

Ar dheis Dia go raibh a anam.

Dr. James McDaid.

To the brink and back.... with Naomh Mhuire — 1987

By KEVIN SHARKEY

Around about this time last year the big question being asked among many people was "What ever happened to Naomh Mhuire". The Shield competition was in progress and we were not involved. To many it may have looked as though the club had folded in the face of crippling emigration. To those involved with the club it was a case of breaking from competition to concentrate on rebuilding the club in preparation for the new season. Our decision to skip the Shield competition was not arrived at easily and was certainly not taken lightly. How could it be — given that whatever decision we would take could quite possibly explode in our face. Yes, we were confronted with a dilemma which had such potential that it could easily have made Hobson's Choice look attractive.

A NEED TO REBUILD

The junior team had just rounded-off their league programme and, with a last-ditch effort, shrugged off the threat of relegation. Emigration had taken its toll once more on our pool of players. With the winter months beckoning, it was all too obvious that the numbers would be further reduced. Our student players were going back to college and with even more of our players having decided to head for the streets of London in search

of employment and that little bit of hope. The rebuilding programme was to prove to be every bit as difficult as we expected — perhaps even tougher than we thought. The weeks and months ahead would demand a great deal of effort and commitment — but more than that, an abundance of perseverance. However, our determination to re-establish the club at a time when so many people doubted our ability to get back on our feet, helped carry us through and our plans were beginning to take shape — slowly, meticulously, but nevertheless effectively. Then, unwittingly, a new development: enter "the boundaries saga".

LIKE A STAB IN THE BACK

The Boundaries Commission, set up to define club boundaries throughout the county, made a recommendation in relation to our club area which, despite not being totally satisfied with, we were willing and prepared to accept. We gave this undertaking at an earlier meeting to the members of the Commission. And so we thought the thorny issue of club boundaries had at last been grasped and dealt with. "Not so", said the Executive Committee of the County Board and soon the Boundary Commission's findings in relation to our club were thrown out and

replaced by an arrangement which, if it were allowed to stand, would considerably reduce our base, limit our resources and as a consequence push us over the brink — just when we were at our weakest.

We set our sights towards the grand tables of the Ulster Council, travelling to Monaghan that March night through heavy snow and treacherous roads. We might well have been forgiven for thinking quietly to ourselves that fate was not on our side. On the way home in the early hours, who cared about snow or treacherous roads — the Ulster Council acted swiftly in directing the Dongeal Co. Board to bring the case back to the County, reverse their decision and give our club a hearing which they acknowledged we had not received. The decision of the County Board reversed the Executive decision and accepted the first proposals made by the Boundary Commission

BACK TO THE FUTURE

We called a special meeting to discuss our future. It was with some trepidation and admittedly, a little doubt, that the meeting was arranged and why not — the outcome of this meeting would determine the direction which the club would take in the year ahead.

Naomh Mhuire was now firmly back on the road.



Naomh Mhuire promotion winning team, 1987. Back row, l. to r., James Gallagher, Edward Gillespie, Cathal Gallagher, John Gerard Gorman, John Martin Gallagher, James Duffy, John 'The Hall' Gallagher, Michael McGlinchey, Jim Sharkey, Eamonn McGee, Michael McGlinchey, Jimmy Doherty (team manager). Front row, l. to r., Hugh McCafferty, Gerald Boyle, Neil McBride, Eamonn Rodgers, Donal Sharkey, Cormac McGarvey, Timmy McBride, Frankie Gallagher, John Gallagher, Shaun Boyle. Missing from the team photo is full-back, Charlie Boyle.

THE JUNIOR TEAM

Following the shake-up in the format of the County leagues at the beginning of last season, our junior team who had just about avoided the drop to the Fourth Division at the end of the previous season, now found themselves in League Division Two North. This would be a tougher League and new team boss, Jimmy Doherty, was not going to have it easy in his first season in charge, having been appointed only a couple of weeks before the League campaign got underway. The new manager had little time to assess what talent was available to him. After our first few league matches however, the manager was left in little doubt with the side having lost heavily in three of their first four matches. Yet in spite of this poor start, it was obvious to the manager that he had talent at his disposal but that there were a few vital cogs missing. With this in mind the manager immediately set about strengthening his squad of players. The signing of Eamonn McGee added strength and much-needed experience to the side — his calming influence on the young players around him was to prove crucial in many matches as the season progressed. Micheal McGlinchey, who hadn't played since being involved with the U-16's three years earlier was surely the "find of the season", while wee John Gallagher's elevation from the underage ranks saw him add credence to the age-old saying that good things very often do come in small packages.

The side's championship hopes nose-dived after a poor display in the second leg of their first round tie with Kilcar forced them into a play-off which they never looked like winning. Surprisingly this defeat was to act as a spur to the team and they continued to regain the ground which they had lost in their opening league matches. In fact the only point dropped in their remaining league matches, following their defeat in Carndonagh in their fourth league match of the season, was against high-flying Robert Emmets, when we became the first team to take a point from the Castlefin side — 0-7 to 1-4 — with this year's county champions scoring a penalty in the dying minutes. Victories at home and away over Termon, St. Eunans, Convoy and St. Michaels, along with an away win in Bunrana, that draw with Robert Emmets and a memorable victory over Carndonagh in our final league match of the season marked a remarkable recovery from a disastrous start to the season and secured for the team promotion to League Division One.

We can now look forward to having names such as Dunleavy, Griffin, Lafferty, McCole, Carlin, Mulgrew, Reid and the likes, playing in the Banks next season — it is great to have the big names back at the famous Mullagherg venue once again. In looking forward to

going into the First Division we know that it won't be easy in the top flight. Yet with the team comprised of players with an average age of twenty-one we certainly have youth and time on our side. Our biggest concern as the new season approaches will be that emigration will, as it has all too often in the past, snatch our young footballers from our grasp and deny this young side which brought us into the big time from fulfilling the potential which they have shown over the past twelve months. However we, like all rural clubs throughout the country, must face the harsh and cruel reality that this once great country of ours no longer holds a future for all of its youth. This very fact was brought home to our club in the week following our historic promotion to Division One when the euphoric mood within the club was tempered with the news that three of the promotion-winning team were to emigrate — goalkeeper Eamonn Rodgers and midfield man Jamie Gallagher were off to London while fullback Charlie Boyle was to cross the Atlantic to New York.

THE BOYS AWAY FROM HOME

As we prepare to do battle in the top flight next season we cast our eyes to foreign lands where so many of our former players are now based. We do wonder if what has now been achieved might have come our way much sooner had so many of them not been forced to leave.

UNDERAGE

All in all there was little to cheer about on the underage scene in the last year. There remains an enormous amount of work to be done at all underage levels and the need for this development to begin immediately goes without saying. There

was a start made this past year with the U-12's where the hard work and astute management of Charlie Boyle, backed-up by Jackie Hughes and Pdraig McCafferty, saw the team win eight of their twelve matches before being narrowly beaten by Ardara in a thrilling divisional "B" semi-final. While all of the U-12 players will have their own memories about the different matches they played, they will all have fond memories of a special day trip to Dublin at the end of their season. Thirty-eight boys and eight adults went on the trip which included visits to Dublin Zoo, Dublin Airport and of course, Croke Park itself. The boys will have had good reason to cherish their visit to headquarters as they were allowed to play a twenty minute match on the hallowed ground. No wonder there was no sleep on the way home that night after a long and tiring day. There was too much to be talked about and most of the talk was of GAA games and players — Dr. Mick Loftus, Martin McHugh, "Dr. Hyde

Park is in Sligo". "No! it's in Roscommon" came the quick reply. It was a day when the U-12's became healthy members of the GAA. Long may it continue.

SECOND ALL-IRELAND FOR CORMAC

Cormac McGarvey added to his All-Ireland Vocational School medal which he won with the county side in 1984 when he collected an U-21 medal with the victorious U-21 team earlier this year. However this particular campaign will probably arouse mixed feelings for Cormac as he looks back at how it was to turn sour for him after the first match. Lining out at left half back in their first round victory over Fermanagh, Cormac's usual sound, reliable and workmanlike performance augured well for the campaign. He was, not surprisingly, retained at left half-back for the Derry match in the next round. However, a breakdown in communications in the days leading up to the match was to result in Cormac missing the team coach travelling to the match. In the event we headed for Magherafelt by car but an accident on the way saw Cormac miss the match and his place on the team. With the team winning this and all subsequent matches he was never to retain his place on the first fifteen. Yes, he was unlucky — indeed very unlucky — but in football as is the case in all walks of life, we must all depend on getting "The Breaks", no matter what talent or ability we do or do not possess. Cormac most certainly did not get a break on this occasion, but knowing his dedication and commitment he will bounce back from this great disappointment which he concealed throughout the campaign as he played a full and active part as an important member of the winning squad.

The progress which we've made during this past year does leave room for optimism as we look to and plan for the future. Rowing against the ever-rising tide of emigration in our area will be very much a part of that future. With a wealth of talent to be tapped in the Lower Rosses there is a clear and definite need to continue the work of building a sound and successful G.A.A. club for our young people whose future can still be in this country and in the hope that one day our exiled sons may return home to be part of a bright future.



Officials of N. Mhuire club, l. to r., C. Boyle, Jackie Hughes, P. McCafferty and Kevin Sharkey.

COMÓRTAISÍ PÉILE NA GAELTACHTA 1987

Leis an Maide Briste

Ní raibh aon difríocht mór idir Comórtaisí na Gaeltachta i 1987 thar blian ar bith eile ach amháin gur bhuaidh Cill Chartha Craobh sinnsear na h-Éireann agus go raibh na babhtáí deiridh i mBéal an Mhuirthead i gCo. Mhuigheo don chéad uair.

Thosaigh an comórtas sa chonndae do Chill Chartha ar Marta 15 nuair a bhí buaidh againn ar na Dúnaibh 1-11 go 1-6. Cuireadh na cluichí leathceannais agus cluichí ceannais sa chonndae siar ó Bhealtaine 2 agus 3 go dtí an deire seachtaine ina dhiaidh mar go raibh cluiche faoi-21 idir Dún na nGall agus Muineachán. Bá ar an Fálcarrach a b'éigin an fód a sheasamh agus is beag nár fágadh ar an bhealach muid nuair a briseadh ár mbus agus bhí an t-ádh orainn go bhfuair an tiomanaí dhá bhus eile. Choinnigh sin ár n-intinn den obair agus bhí an buaidh againn ar Naomh Columba an tráthnóna Sathairn sin 1-6 go 0-5. Arais linn na bhaile mar go raibh faoi-21 Dhún na nGall san athimirt in éadan Muineachán agus ar tráthnóna Domhnaigh ba curaidh Gaeltachta na conndae muid nuair a bhí an buaidh againn ar Árd a' Rátha 0-8 go 0-3.

Ní raibh muid ag an leibhéal seo den chomórtas ó 1975 nuair a d'imir muid i nGaothdobhair agus ba mhór an onóir don pharóiste beag seo, tuairim 1500 duine, bheith ag fágáil na conndae don chéad uair mar churaidh. Mar sin féin tógadh rudaí go socmaide—rinne ár Rúnaí Pádraig Mac Suibhne gach socrú le Seán Ó Gallchóir, Rúnaí na Comórtaise. D'imigh na mná céile leis na fir, cuid acu ar an Aoine agus cuid eile ar maidin Shathairn, chuaigh muid go dtí an Oifig Eolais agus cuireadh ag fanacht muid i dtíthe i mBéal an Mhuirthead agus in Eachléim.

Bhuail muid le chéile i dtí Uí Mhainín an oíche sin. Ar maidin lá arnach mhárach chuaigh muid agus daoine eile a tháinig anuas ón baile chuig tórramh Bean Lavelle, mathair Ellen, bean Chathail Ó Dónaill atá beirt ina gcónaí i gCill Chartha.

Tháinig 3.30. Bhí muid ar an bpáirc in éadan Corca Dhuibhne as Ciarraí, foireann nach bhfaca muid go fóill ach go raibh ardmheas orthu sna comórtaisí seo. Bhí an ghaoth linn sa chéad leath agus muid 0-8 go 0-3 chun tosaigh. Ní raibh fhios againn an leor é ach chríochnaigh muid 2-13 go 0-4 ag deire

ama.

Bhain na h-imreoirí sult as an oíche. Ar maidin Dómhnaigh chuaigh muid go títhe pobail éagsúla mar go raibh muid scaipthe ar fud na háite. D'amharc muid ar an cluiche idir an Fhairche agus Béa an Mhuirthead agus bhí buaidh furast go leor ag an Fhairche. Chuir na fir láidre, sgafanta a bhí ag an Fhairche iontas orainn agus lena chois sin bá é Stiophán Seoige peileadóir conndae na Gaillimhe an fear bá lú orthu.

Fuair muid cupán tae i dtí Uí Choistealbha—bhí tuilleadh as Cill Chartha ag teacht. Bá iad Naomh Columba, ár gcomharsain béal dorais féin, curaidh na bliana seo caite a bhí ós ár gcoinne ar pháirc na h-imeartha ag 6.30. Bhí an ghaoth linn sa chéad leath agus muid chun tosaigh 0-5 go 0-3 ach níor shíl muid gurbh leor é mar go raibh sár-chluiche a imirt dúinn ag Ruaidhrí Mac Seáin ag lár na páirce agus ba eisean a fuair an 0-5 sin. Mar sin féin choinnigh muid leis i gcoinne na gaoithe sa dara leath agus d'éirí linn an buaidh a fháil. Cill Chartha 0-7, Naomh Columba 0-4. Shíl mórán againn nach mbeadh seans in éadan An Fhairche sa chluiche ceannais ar an Luain.



Foireann Chill Chartha, Curaidh na h-Eireann, 1987.

Bíodh sin mar tá. Bhí muid i dtí Uí Mháinín an oíche sin. D'amharc muid ar an Dún agus Doire san Sunday Game. Bhí dreas ceoil againn le Máire Nic Aoidh, cailín Gaelach na condae as Ard a' Rátha agus d'imigh muid go dtí ár dtithe agus ár leapacha ar a haon a chlog nó an chuid ba mhó againn cibe.

Maidin Luain—i dtí Lavelle—tuilleadh as Cill Chartha ag teacht—mórán d'fhoireann Naomh Columba ansin ag cuideadh linn. Bhuail na Bainisteoirí foirne agus daoine eile le Uachtarán C.L.G. Mícheál Loftus, le Aire Stát Roinn na Gaeltachta. Donnchadh Ó Gallchóir agus leis an teachta dála Donnchadh Mac Fhionghaile san ostán. Bhí Antoine Ó Raghallaigh, atá anois ina chonaí i gCill Chartha arais ina áit dúchais ag imirt ins na comórtaisí laithróid láimhe.

D'amharc muid ar an cluiche ceannais Seoisear idir Ghaothdobhair agus Leitir Mór i gCo. na Gaillimhe. Bhí siad ar chomhscór agus mí-adh ar Ghaothdobhair an cluiche a ligint uathu in am breise.

Níor imir Mairtín Mac Aoidh. Bainisteoir Chill Chartha sa chomórtas go fóill—gualainn gortaithe aige—Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh sa seomra feisteis—é ag fágail den bharúil go mbeadh Mairtín ag dul isteach—tuilleadh ag teacht ó Chill Chartha—iad nach raibh ann ag éisteacht le Radio na Gaeltachta sa bhaile—fiú scéal faoi fhear ag athrú clocha ar barra roth agus radio aige ar bharr na gcloch—gach duine ag éisteacht.

Ní raibh ag éirí go maith linn sa chéad leath i gcoinne An Fhairche. Bhí ár gcuid tosaithe beag agus lag agus bhí cluiche cruaidh i Lár na Páirce. Bhí é donas an scéil é gur gortaíodh Seán Mac Giolla Chearra sa chéad leath. D'órdaigh Seán Ó Gallchóir, Rúnaí na Comórtais eithreach agus tógadh go ospideal Bhéal an Mhuirthead é agus as sin go ospideal Shligigh.

I rith an ama bhí Liam Ó Raghallaigh, an Clochán Liath agus ó Béal an Mhuirthead ó dhúchas, ag gríosadh Mhairtín Mac Aoidh dul chun imeartha—bhí muid 0-8 go 0-6 chun deiridh agus 10 mbomaite le dul—isteach le Mairtín—fuair sé cúpla saor chic agus bhí sé 0-8 an taobh ag lán-ama.

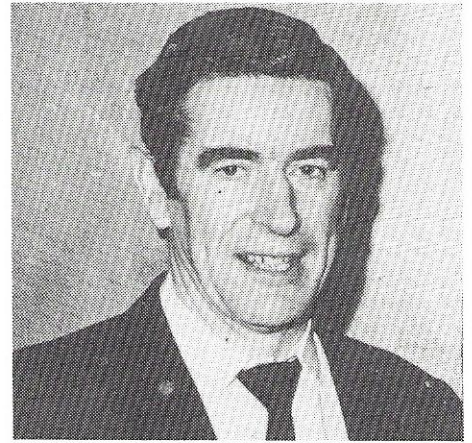
San am breise bhí muid thíos 0-10 go 0-8. Ag deire an dara cuddy bhí an scór 0-10 go 0-11. Fuair Mairtín Mac Aoidh trí phoinnte eile. Bhí an lá linn. Ní thiocfadh le Cill Chartha an toradh a chreidbheál.

Labhair Liam Mac a'Mhaoir, Cathaoirleach an Chomórtais, bhronn Donnchadh Ó Gallchóir, Corn Aire na Gaeltachta, bhronn Seán Ó Gallchóir, Rúnaí an Chomórtais na plaiceanna marmar agus bronnadh imreoir na deire seachtaine ar Ruaidhrí Mhic Seáin.

Bhí tae agus ceapairí arís i dtí Uí Choistealbha. Rinneadh dearmad díol ar a son ach rinneadh ó shoin é. D'imigh muid na bhaile go glórach. Bhí béile in

Ostán na Mamistreach i nDún na nGall agus gidh nach raibh aon línte telefóna go Béal an Mhuirthead an tráthnóna sin bhí tinnte cnámh (ruibéir) le féiceal ar ár mbealach go Cill Chartha, buíon pháobairí Chill Chartha inár n-airicís agus cuireadh fáilte mór romhainn ar son muintir Chill Chartha uilig ó Mhícheál Ó Domhnaill, Cathaoirleach, Coiste na Paróiste agus ón t-Athair Mac Seáin, an sagart paróiste.

Caithfidh muidinne ár mbuíochas ó chroí a ghabhail le Seán Ó Gallchóir, An Rúnaí a d'eagraigh gach rud, and club i mBéal an Mhuirthead, na mná tí lena raibh muid ag fanacht, muintir Bhéal an Mhuirthead agus lucht leanúna Chill Chartha. Bhain muid an-sult go deo as an deire seachtaine.



Micheal Mac Giolla Easbuic, former Cathaoirleach na Conndae and Cill Chartha's delegate to the County Board in 1987.

OUR TWO 1987 RAILWAY CUP PLAYERS



ABOVE: *Martin McHugh, former All-Star and one of Donegal's greatest ever forwards, was honoured again by being selected on the Ulster Railway Cup team in 1987.*

BELOW: *Anthony Molloy, the powerful Donegal midfielder and full-forward, was our second Donegal player to be selected on the Ulster Railway Cup panel in 1987.*



AN HISTORIC FIRST FOR TOM CONAGHAN IN 1987



A very happy Donegal Senior team manager, Tom Conaghan, being congratulated by Kerry team manager, Mick O'Dwyer, in MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey, after Donegal had their historic first ever senior victory over Kerry, the then reigning All-Ireland champions.



Donegal senior team mentors, 1986/'87, Sean Ferriter and Donal Monaghan.

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St. Naul's — a dark chapter

GERALD GALLAGHER, R.I.P.

In normal circumstances if you were reviewing 1987 from a St. Naul's point of view you could feel reasonably contented with another busy and moderately successful year on most fronts.

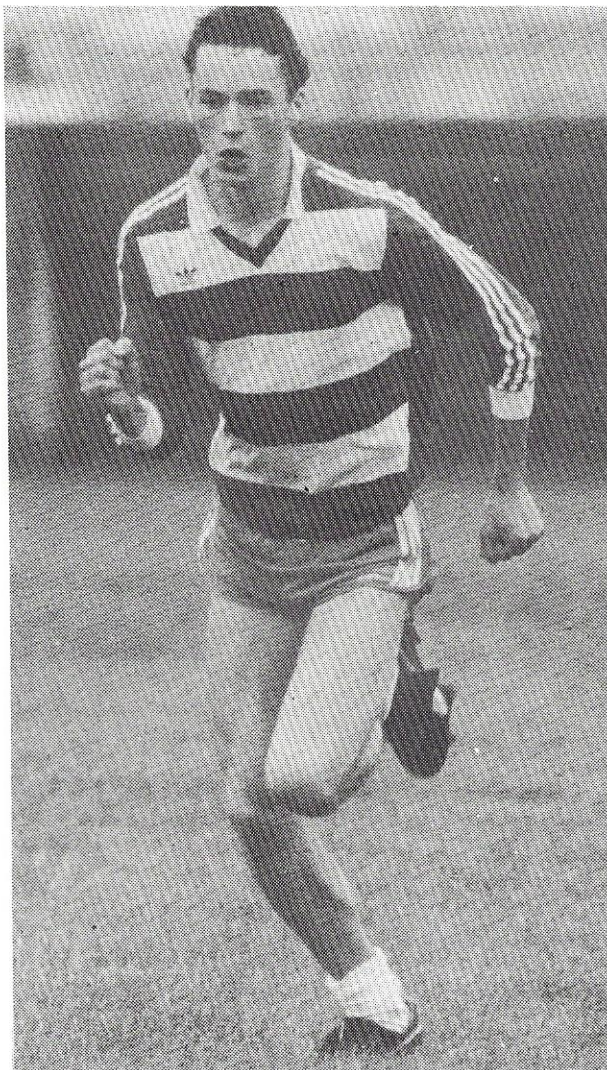
But of course, 1987 was not a normal year and everything else that happened was overshadowed by that awful tragedy that occurred on Sunday, August 2nd, in Glenties during the re-convened U-21 championship quarter-final between St. Naul's and Killybegs. There were only ten minutes left in this closely fought encounter when young Gerald Gallagher struck the concrete wall by the sideline with his head and sustained what were ultimately fatal injuries. Thanks to help from many people especially Dr. Bogle from Glenties — since moved to Dublin — Nurse Maeve Murray from Killybegs and Joseph Kelly from Mountcharles who rushed to the scene with his helicopter. Gerald was quickly rushed to Letterkenny Hospital and later to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. However, his injuries were too serious and on Monday, August 3rd, young Gerald, just seventeen years old and with everything that a strong, handsome, athletic young person could possibly look forward to still ahead of him, went to his eternal reward.

The first reaction to run through the club was one of disbelief which quickly gave way to uncontrollable grief as the reality dawned that Gerald would never play among us again. That Monday evening was a sombre one as club members converged on Fr. Crossan's Parochial House in Ardaghey to comfort one another and to simply talk. It proved difficult to talk and everybody unashamedly shed tears throughout that evening. Slowly we began to piece together a few arrangements to honour Gerald at his funeral and before we drifted away Fr. Crossan led us as we recited the Rosary.

Many went up to Belfast to join on the long journey home. A massive crowd gathered at Beefpark, the Gallaghers home, to comfort and commiserate with Gerald's grief-stricken parents, Danny and Dympna; his brother, Daniel, and three sisters, Marion, Sharon and Niamh, as well as his grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. There were representatives from every club in Co. Donegal as well as from the County Board, Ulster Council and Central Council plus Gerald's young friends and teachers from the Abbey Vocational School, Donegal Town, who formed a guard of honour as his remains passed by the school.

Club members formed a guard of honour for the funeral on Wednesday. Around thirty, dressed in white shirts and black armbands, walked alongside the hearse from the house to the chapel where all the rest of his teammates, similarly attired, joined with representatives from almost every other club in the county in forming a special guard of honour into the church. Bishop Edward Daly of Derry, Gerald's uncle, was chief concelebrant along with Fr. Eamon Crossan, Fr. Michael McGrane, Mountcharles; Fr. Michael Martin, Drimarone, and a number of other priests at a very moving Requiem Mass. Members of the club assisted Gerald's brother, Daniel, in carrying the coffin from the chapel to his final resting place on this earth. As the coffin was emerging from the chapel there started a torrential downpour of rain that lasted until the huge crowd was leaving after the funeral was over. A few hundred yards away on the outside of Mountcharles not a drop fell. Happy the corpse the rain falls on, the old saying goes.

Now, months later, it is still hard to believe he is gone. That is always the case with someone who during their lifetime makes a big impression on those around them. Gerald certainly impressed anyone who knew him in many ways. He was an extremely cheerful individual who always radiated happiness. He was a genuinely nice person who never had a bad word to say about anybody. On the field of play he never would shout



The way we will always want to remember him, Gerald Gallagher, R.I.P., who went to his eternal rest playing the game he loved.

or ridicule a team mate and preferred to let his skill to his talking for him. At only seventeen he had enormous potential in Gaelic football. He was on the County Vocational panel this year and he achieved a great ambition of his by toying out in Croke Park for this year's All-Ireland Vocational final against Kerry. He had been promoted to the St. Naul's Intermediate team and had scored a few scorching goals — one against Na Rossa in Dooey and one against Urris up in Urris — to show us that he had a great knack of getting into good scoring positions — in other words an intelligent reader of the game. He seemed destined to follow in his uncle's, Eddie Gallagher, footsteps by becoming a county player of great note — but God had more rewarding plans for him.

A person of Gerald's calibre, so full of vitality, kindness, fun and who so loved other people's company, will be sadly missed by his loving parents, brother, sisters and relations as well as by the entire community in which he was so active. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

ST. NAUL'S REVIEW OF '87 — A BUSY YEAR

Le Seamus Sheerin, PRO

1987 was another hectic and moderately successful year for the St. Naul's G.A.A. Club. While we didn't set the world on fire our Intermediate team got to the county final where after a tough drawn game we were unfortunate to be pipped by a single point in the replay by Naomh Brid from Ballintra. The same team was also pipped for one of the promotion places to Division One and also got to the final of the Mary From Dungloe Tournament after defeating old rivals Gweedore and Naomh Conaill, Glenties, only to throw away the final against St. Eunan's by some disastrous shooting — the old story.

The second team also did reasonably well in Division Three South and while not in contention for promotion at the end will, hopefully, win a place in the top four and thus qualify for the Shield which is an indication that there is plenty of talent in the Parish of Inver.

The year began on an extremely good note when in Scór na nÓg our quiz team of Margaret Campbell, Kevin Harvey and Paul Kelly won the county final having come successfully through stiff competition in the club final, the divisional final, and the county semi-final. However, their luck ran out when

they were pipped in the Ulster semi-final in Magherafelt when they became the victims of what we felt were peculiarly balanced questions. Nonetheless, they did very well and we congratulate them on their achievements.

The club's 1986 AGM was held in Frosses Community Hall on Sunday, November 9th. The officers elected for the year were as follows: President, Dan Sheerin; chairman, Dermot Foy; vice-chairman, Joey Meehan; secretary, Kathleen Campbell; asst. secretary, John Breslin; treasurer, Anne Marie Sheerin; asst. treasurer, Charlie Breslin; registrar, Michael Campbell; first team manager, John Breslin; club captain, Eamon Breslin; PRO, Seamus Sheerin; U-21 manager, S. Sheerin, but this was later changed and Fr. Eamonn Crossan took over as all U-21 games were being played on Saturday afternoons for which S. Sheerin would be unable to get off work. Paul Griffin was elected U-21 captain.

The Club's Bórd na nÓg had recently held its first AGM and elected were: Chairman, Dermot Foy; vice-chairman, Joey Meehan; secretary, Margaret Campbell; asst. secretary, Kathleen Campbell; treasurers, Micky Mullen and Thomas McHugh. Fr. Eamonn Crossan,

who was recently appointed as curate in Ardaghay, was welcomed to the club. Fr. Crossan is well known in Donegal as a tireless worker for the GAA and youth in general and the club is very fortunate to be able to call on his undoubted organisational talents.

Denis McDaid was appointed U-10 manager and Willie O'Driscoll U-18 manager and Fr. Crossan would take charge of the U-12, U-13, U-14 and U-16 teams.

His first introduction to his future charges was in the Kevin Conaghan Memorial U-14 Tournament which is organised by the Four Masters Club, Donegal Town, and they reached the final after winning an exciting tussle against the home side. However, they were beaten in the final by Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, by 4-6 to 2-4 but they battled gallantly and but for a couple of soft goals which knocked the heart out of them they could have caused a surprise. The panel was: Frankie Connaghan, Brendan Brady, Danny McNulty, Kevin Boyle, Paul Quinn, Rory Leahy, Paul McHugh, Dermot Meehan, Michael John Moogan, Alan McGroary, Patrick Burke, Michael McHugh, Martin Meehan, Dermot Brady, Billy Rose,



The St. Nauls team which contested the 1987 Intermediate County Final. Back row, l. to r., John Murray, Patrick McGroarty, Cathal McGroarty, John Meehan (Doorin), Michael Campbell, John Cookie Meehan, Tony Byrne, Paul Griffin, John Kerrs, John Gerard Griffin, Cathal McNeely, John Breslin (manager). Front row, l. to r., Maurice Campbell, Tony Meehan, Rory Brady, Thomas Cormack, Cathal Campbell, Eamon Breslin (captain), Joseph O'Neill, John McGroary, Rory O'Neill, Sean O'Driscoll, and Tom Dunleavy.

Brian Byrne, Enda Connaghan, James Boyle and Fergus Meehan.

After the final the entire panel was treated to a meal in Drumbeg Hotel, Inver, courtesy of genial proprietor, Charlie Keeney for which the club would like to thank him.

Our annual dinner dance in the Abbey Hotel on Saturday, January 17th, was, as usual, very enjoyable with awards for 1986 going to Anne Marie Sheerin for Club Person of the Year; John Meehan, Doorin, for First Team Player of the Year; Patsy Breslin, Frosses, for Second Team Player of the Year, and an award for supporters of the year went jointly to Jack Jordan, Seamus Kelly and Eamonn Kelly. Our Scór na nÓg county champions also got a special award and our guest of honour was our former chairman, Fr. Martin Collum, who was shortly to head off on the Missions to Peru.

The ill-fated U-21 Championship got under way on Saturday, March 7th, with a fine victory over Gweedore in Townawilly. (This was our home game but as the park in Mountcharles is undergoing major renovations we have had to play all our games at alternative venues). Cookie Meehan was man of the match — he was marking county u-21 star, Brian Mor Galalgher. Also outstanding were Rory Brady, Cathal McGroarty, Francie Brogan, Tom Dunleavy and Gerald Gallagher, who had to retire injured at half time.

The return in Magheragallon was a disaster as they had to line out without Cookie, Paul Griffin, Cathal McGroarty through suspension and Francie Brogan, Brendan Kelly and Gerald Gallagher through injury and work commitments.



St. Naul's Scór Na nÓg county champions (from left) Paul Kelly, Margaret Campbell and Kevin Harvey who received special mementos from Fr. Michael McGrane, C.C., Mountcharles. Also in picture is Fr. M. Martin, C.C., Drimarone.

Played in gale force winds we failed to score at all whereas Gweedore notched 2-5.

They met again in Dooley, Lettermacaward, to sort out who would advance and after a terrific match we came away victorious by 0-5 to 0-3. This time it was a battling team performance, especially by the defence in the second half, who faced a ferocious barrage from Gweedore who were assisted by the wind.

The next round, the quarter final, didn't take place until July. Our opponents were county champions, Killybegs, and we were looking forward

to a tough tussle and we even fancied our chances of causing an upset. But on the day of the match a member of the club was surprised to hear on the local radio that the match was off. He got in touch with a member of the County Board who dealt with fixtures and was told that no notification had been received of this cancellation and the position was that if we didn't field we would be liable to a fine for non-fulfilment of the fixture and eliminated from the competition. So we took the field, in the neutral venue of Dunkineely, and as Killybegs didn't arrive the referee threw in the ball and



25 YEARS AGO — The St. Naul's team who won the County Junior Championship in 1962. Back row, l. to r., Brian Campbell, Donough Barry, Conal Maguire, Tommy Quinn, John McHugh, Eddie Gallagher, Peter Sweeney and Seoirse Williamson. Front, l. to r., Seamus Sarsfield, Packie McGroarty, Patsy Meehan, Paddy Conaghan, Brian Harvey, Clement Coughlan (R.I.P.) and John Barry.

Patsy Breslin, Charlie Breslin, Tom Burke, Cathal McNeely, Roy Coughlan, Raphael Meehan, Francie Brogan, Pauric Gillespie, Brendan O'Neill to the forefront, they will finish high up in the table and perhaps make the top four play-offs. Of course we shouldn't forget men like Dermot Foy who made his debut for the 'B' team in goals against Glenties and we frown on the opposition who had the cheek to score a very fast goal before he could settle and put his fag out. Also prominent that day was our manager, Fr. Eamonn Crossan, who had a hand in getting the equalising goal which shared the points that day. You would get people who would say he picked the ball of the ground but they would all be from Glenties!!

Also prominent for the second squad were Liam Burke, P. J. Kelly, Sean Campbell, Michael Connaghan, Brendan Kelly, Kevin Meehan, Johnny Ward, Gabriel Meehan, P. J. Gallagher, Gary Prenderville and James Griffin.

1987 will be remembered as the year when we began the major overhaul of our playing field, hopefully, to bring it up to the standard of the best in the county. We applied for, and got, two men to work on this development as part of a National Manpower Scheme and were aided by voluntary work from club members, especially Michael Boyle, who put in a lot of time and effort to get it underway; Fr. Crossan, who is tireless in his efforts to get it completed, and many more like Dermot Foy, 'Cookie' Meehan — before he left us for the USA with John Murray — Robbie O'Driscoll, Patsy Quinn, Dinny Furey, William Kirk, Patsy Breslin, Cathal McNeely, Gary Sheerin, Michael Campbell, Michael Connaghan, Sean Campbell, Paul Griffin, Cathal Campbell and especially the Murray family who have given their lorries on numerous occasions for drawing chips and stones, etc. The club would like to thank all the above and anyone who has been inadvertently omitted for all their work.

There is a long way yet to go but if everyone gives a hand it would speed the process up and give us a top class pitch in time for our debut as a senior club in the season after next! In the meantime the money has got to be kept flowing in and for that reason the club appeals to all club members to sell a card at least and to continue for another year. Nobody likes approaching people to buy tickets, etc., but by the same token you'll find that comparatively few people will refuse a draw for a good cause. Another successful year is vital. We would like to thank all who supported the draw as well.

We would like to thank the Ardara Club who very kindly allowed us to use Sandfield for all our home games during the year. They didn't hesitate in saying yes when we asked and were always most co-operative at all times.

ALL-IRELAND GLORY

The build-up — and final hours

*St. Jarleth's our destination, in the little town of Tuam,
Football our occupation, no more will we be gloom.
The lads from Donegal, have worked hard to get this far,
There's no way they'll turn back now, not even to Razda's bar.*

*P.J. is in the board-room, they are not all ready yet.
"We'll put Maguire at full back, and that ball he better get."
Razda is our captain, he's a fine young man, the two Barry's, Conor and
Manus and of course John Bán.
They come from Killybegs, way down in the South-West, once it was known
for fishing, now footballers of the best.*

*Danny Gallagher for between the posts, he's the best I've ever seen,
Doherty, Maguire and Carr, that back line side looks mean.
On either side of Razda, we've John Connors and little Keon.
You can depend on them to make that ball their own.*

*Big Barry is at midfield, to be helped by John Bán,
If anyone is to catch that ball, these boys they sure can
Our forwards in the past against Kerry, have sometimes let us down,
But I know on them we can depend to help us lift this crown.*

*Hegarty, Ryan and MacGowan, in the past their skill have shown.
While Ward, Boyle and Luke up front will get scores by the book.
Ryan and Hegarty got to feeling rather low,
So McDermott and White came on and had a go.*

*The boys are going to give their all
And there's no way they're going to fall
So we say farewell to "Dear Old Kerry" for to-night Donegal will be
merry
And while they will wish they had Jack, P. J. will celebrate with the pack.*

*Looking back now I say in distress, that day Donegal were not at their
best.
To Roscommon we had to go, and once again put on a good show.
The replay was fixed for Sunday, the 28th of June
Doengal support with flags and horns, once again were to sing in tune.*

*Under the direction of Rory, we sang as if it were a story,
Donegal were doomed for glory, Kerry were losing, but slowly
P.J. had made a few changes, but the faces to us were not new
The cup it had to be lifted, the boys knew what they had to do.*

*Danny was to stay in goals, but the back line took on a new look
With Doherty, Connors and Maguire, Kerry scores will be few in the ref's
book.
Paul Carr is now a half back, with Razda still in the centre
Little Diarmuid still to his right side, these backs will make any forwards
canter.*

*Barry and old team-made John Bán were to be in control of mid-field
With our forwards the same as before, mighty scores this pack were to
yield.
Donegal were excellent that day, Seamus Ward even got a go.
When John Bán was felling weary, we let Seamus take over the show.*

*In the end up were won by five points,
And we sang on the whole journey home.
That glorious, memorable victory,
We'll take with us, wherever we roam.*

*Written by Margaret Campbell,
Secretary of St. Naul's Bord Na nÓg*

NAOMH MURA C.L.G.

FATHAIN - OILEAN NA hOISE

1987 has been a very successful year for the Naomh Mura GAA and Camogie Clubs. In hurling the club competed in under 12, under 14, under 16 and minor. The club also entered a senior team in the Hurling Championship. Due to lack of manpower the club did not enter teams in the Inishowen Gaelic football competitions. The club entered two under-12 teams, an under-14 and Intermediate team in the Donegal Camogie Championships.

At under-12 level the club won its third hurling championship in a row, defeating Sean MacCumhaills with a last minute goal, scored by Joseph Doherty. The final score was Naomh Mura 3-0, Sean MacCumhaills 2-1. Naomh Mura under-12 hurling panel: Joe Craig, Donal Doherty, Patrick Boyle, Oliver Green, Paul Brown, Ray Doherty, Patrick Porter, David Robb, Sean Boyle, Joe Doherty, Sean Craig, Eunan Green, Simon McGrory, John Long, Barry Boyle, Declan McDermott, Patrick Stewart, Philip McGrory, Drew O'Gorman, Shea O'Gorman, Shaun Murphy, Martin Long, James Hegarty, Lorraine Hegarty, Annette Hegarty and Joanne Griffin.

The under-14 hurling team also took their three in a row county titles, beating MacCumhaills in the County Championship final by 12-7 to 0-3. The under-14 s also won their second County Feile na nGael title beating Burt in the county final and won two of their three games at the national finals of Feile na

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The under-16 hurling team won its first ever County Championship title beating MacCumhaills in the final by 1-13 to 1-1. Under-16 hurling panel: Seamus Craig, Sean Hegarty, Peter McGonagle, Dermot Doherty, James Boyle, Noel McDermott, Paul Craig, Matthew Green, John Towey, Gary Craig, Ciaran Toner, Seamus Doherty, Bernard Hegarty, Michael Doherty, Cathal Doherty, Paul McGrath, Oliver Green, Joe Craig, Jason Doherty, Donal Doherty, Donal Walker, Stephen McFadden, Benny Green, Simon Robinson, John Boyle and Brian McIvor.

The club was honoured to have six members on the County u-16 hurling team which won Donegal's first ever Hurling All-Ireland title. Seamus Craig,



J. McKelvey, Co. vice-chairman, presents the County Championship Under-16 Hurling trophy to St. Mura's captain, Peter McGonagle.

who captained the team; Peter McGonagle, Sean Hegarty, Stephen McFadden, Paul Craig and Seamus Doherty. Donal Walker, Dermot Doherty and Ciaran Toner were members of that history making All-Ireland winning panel.

At minor level, the club reached the semi-final of the Championship. Club members who represented the county at minor level in 1987, were John McDermott, Ciaran Doherty, Kevin McGrath, Seamus Craig, Liam Bradley and Andrew McGrath. The senior team were beaten by Burt in the Senior Hurling Championship. The club also took part in the under-10 hurling blitz hosted by



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Under-10 A panel: Joe Doherty, Eunan Green, Simon McGrory, Philip McGrory, Barry Boyle, Donal Doherty, Declan McDermott, Sean Craig, James Hegarty, Patrick Stewart and Shea O'Gorman.

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The A team beat Sean MacCumhaills in the final 6-4 to 4-1.

The under-12 and 14 Camogie teams took part in the County Championships and were knocked out at the early stages

of the competitions. The Intermediate Camogie team were beaten in the county final by Moville, the score was Moville 2-1, Naomh Mura 0-2. Intermediate Camogie panel: Teresa McGrory, Marie Boyle, Sinead Craig, Carmel Lynch, Caroline Craig, Tina Hegarty, Lorna Hegarty, Ann Boyle, Donna Craig, Maeve Doherty, Lisa O'Connor, Marie Long, Martina Doherty, Geraldine McDermott, Arlene Robinson, Annette Hegarty, Brid Boyle and Tracey Lynch.

The club was represented by Caroline Craig and Maeve Doherty on the Donegal Minor Camogie team and Ann Boyle and Tina Hegarty were members of the panel. Caroline Craig captained the team. Caroline is a near neighbour of

Seamus Craig, who captained the under-16 hurling team.

Two members of the club qualified as minor hurling coaches, Kevin McGrath and Brendan Doherty. The club committee and members would like to wish Brendan Doherty a speedy recovery and hope that he will soon be back home.

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1987 was indeed the most successful year for Naomh Mura. The club was only formed in 1982. Hopefully the good work of the past few years will be continued in the years to come.

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Saturday, 15th August, 1987, will go down in Donegal GAA history as the most important day ever for under-age hurling in the county. The winning of the Under-16 All-Ireland Special Hurling Championship was the big breakthrough for our under-age hurling. Hopefully, this success will lead to more clubs in the county promoting hurling at under-age.

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In the Under-14 Championship final a very strong Naomh Mura team defeated Sean MacCumhaills by 12-7 to 0-3. Indeed Naomh Mura completed a successful season by winning the Mick Burke Trophy at the North-West 9-a-side Hurling Blitz in Ballyshannon in September.

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Four Masters, MacCumhaills, Naomh Mura and Burt qualified for the Minor semi-finals with Burt, the defending champions, retaining their title, beating MacCumhaills in a close final, 3-11 to 2-3.

The Co. Minor hurling team, managed by James McLaughlin of Burt, competed in both the Ulster Special Minor Hurling League and the Special All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship. They were very unlucky to be beaten by a strong Cavan team in the quarter-final of the Special All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship.

The Under-16 team, managed by Manus O'Donnell of Naomh Mura, and selectors, James McLaughlin, Paddy McClure and Justin Brady, made 1987 a very special year for our under-age hurlers. The following were the officers of the Minor Hurling Board in this historic year — Cathaoirleach, Liam Ó Maoleain (Na gCeithre Maistir); Leas Cathaoirleach agus Leas Runai, Seamus Mac Cormaic (Sean MacCumhaills); Runai, Manus Ó Donaill (Naomh Mura); Clarlaitheoir, Donal Ó Gallachair (Na gCeithre Maistir). Finally, on behalf of the Donegal Minor Hurling Board, I would like to thank the County Board, the Minor Board and all the clubs who provided pitches for our inter-county games and for our county finals.

Is mise, le mo meas
Manus Ó Donaill, Rúnaí.

O'DONNELL PARK CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

On the 2nd of May, 1937, the present O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, was officially opened. The official programme for that day read:

- 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'Keefe, President of the G.A.A.
Reply by Mr. Pa O'Donnell, solicitor, Dungloe.
- 4.10 p.m.: Football — Donegal v Armagh.

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

The price of the Park was £300 and it consisted of 7.024 acres.

Two nationally known present-day G.A.A. personalities, Mr. Paddy McGill, Ardara, and Mr. Alf Murray, Armagh, former G.A.A. President, played against each other on that historic day fifty years ago.

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Four Masters, MacCumhaills, Naomh Mura and Burt qualified for the Minor semi-finals with Burt, the defending champions, retaining their title, beating MacCumhaills in a close final, 3-11 to 2-3.

The Co. Minor hurling team, managed by James McLaughlin of Burt, competed in both the Ulster Special Minor Hurling League and the Special All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship. They were very unlucky to be beaten by a strong Cavan team in the quarter-final of the Special All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship.

The Under-16 team, managed by Manus O'Donnell of Naomh Mura, and selectors, James McLaughlin, Paddy McClure and Justin Brady, made 1987 a very special year for our under-age hurlers. The following were the officers of the Minor Hurling Board in this historic year — Cathaoirleach, Liam Ó Maoleain (Na gCeithre Maistir); Leas Cathaoirleach agus Leas Runai, Seamus Cath Cormaic (Sean MacCumhaills); Runai, Manus Ó Dónaill (Naomh Mura); Claráitheoir, Donal Ó Gallachair (Na gCeithre Maistir). Finally, on behalf of the Donegal Minor Hurling Board, I would like to thank the County Board, the Minor Board and all the clubs who provided pitches for our inter-county games and for our county finals.

Is mise, le mor meas
Manus Ó Dónaill, Rúnaí.

O'DONNELL PARK CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

On the 2nd of May, 1937, the present O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, was officially opened. The official programme for that day read:

- 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'Keefe, President of the G.A.A.
Reply by Mr. Pa O'Donnell, solicitor, Dungloe.
- 4.10 p.m.: Football — Donegal v Armagh.

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

The price of the Park was £300 and it consisted of 7.024 acres.

Two nationally known present-day G.A.A. personalities, Mr. Paddy McGill, Ardara, and Mr. Alf Murray, Armagh, former G.A.A. President, played against each other on that historic day fifty years ago.

SHORT HISTORY OF G.A.A. IN KILLYBEGS

A G.A.A. club was first established in the parish in 1924. In these early years three players, namely Joseph Cunningham, Harry Kyles and Thomas McBrearty were the first players from Killybegs to play for the county when they played against Cavan in a county game in Bundoran.

The G.A.A. club lapsed in the late '20's and in the early 1930's a meeting was held in Fintra School to re-organise the club. The main thrust of members at this meeting came from the Fintra Ballyara area and they got a playing field in Island which was known as Maguire's Field. To help get funds to run the club ceilis were held most Sunday nights again in Fintra school. During this period the club was very strong and in fact in 1933 Brian Brady from Killybegs was county chairman. With the G.A.A. so strong in the parish a cup (in honour of St. Catherine, patron saint of Killybegs) "The St. Catherine's Cup" was presented to the club for a parish league. Teams that took part in this parish league were The Commons, Fintra, Bruckless, Dunkineely, St. John's Point and Croagh. The late Joe Brennan, T.D. and Government Minister and Ceann Comhairle of the Dail, was a regular participant in this competition as a player and referee.

Dinny Callaghan, now living in Clonmany, was probably the first Killybegs player to win All-Ireland honours when he played for the Leinster

Colleges team that won the Inter-Provincial Colleges title in 1936. Indeed Dinny played on the Donegal minor team that won the Ulster minor title in 1935 and again on the Donegal junior team that won the Ulster title in 1939.

With the Second World War raging from 1939-1945 the Army was stationed in Killybegs and a team known as the 17th Battalion played many games throughout the county. Top class footballers John Forde, Mayo, Sean Gallagher, Antrim, and many more graced the local G.A.A. fields while they were stationed in Killybegs. When the army left the club went into a period of decline and around this time players usually played with neighbouring clubs. In the early 1950's Killybegs won the county league and in 1952 the greatest achievement up to this present day was attained when Killybegs won the Dr. Maguire Cup to become Donegal senior football champions. This team quickly broke up and again the club struggled with players playing for Kilcar and Dunkineely.

In 1962 a meeting was held in Fintra School again with the aims to promote Gaelic games in Killybegs. It would be correct to say that the club survived through good times and bad since 1962 up to this present day. Shortly after 1962 the club acquired grounds at Fintra and in 1967 the dreams of many Gaels in and around Killybegs were fulfilled when Fintra G.A.A. Park was opened (in 1967)



Andrew McMenamin, Killybegs, receiving the winners trophy for the All-Ireland Long Kick competition at Feile na Gael in Kildare in 1987.

when Donegal played Mayo in a senior county game.

The club concentrated on youth during the 1970s as well as fielding a junior team. Fielding an adult team was a big problem due to the fact that most of our players were fishermen and might not be available on Sundays. But a few dedicated officials always ensured that teams were put on the field and their perseverance was rewarded in 1976 when Killybegs won the Dr. McCloskey Cup and became county junior champions. They had two years in the senior championship and in 1979 success was again attained when now at Intermediate



KILLYBEGS U-21 TEAM which won the club's first county under-21 title in 1986: Front row (l. to r.): Ian Cunningham, Conal Gallagher, Willie McCallig, Declan McMenamin, John Murray, John McGuinness, Denis Byrne, Tony Hegarty, Francis Murray, Martin Murchan, Manus Boyle. Back row (l. to r.): Fintan Gallagher, Steven Cunningham, Denis Carberry, John Cunningham, Barry Cunningham, John Gallagher, Barry McGowan, David Meehan, Conor White, Arthur Meehan, Paul Carberry and John Boyle.

level we won the Cathal McLaughlin Trophy to become county champions again.

Since 1980 the club has taken part in the senior championship and junior championship. The team of 1976 and 1979 has practically broke up and our senior team is now made up mostly of players who have come through the under-age teams. In 1986 Killybegs reached the senior county semi-final only to go down by the narrowest of margins

to Red Hughs, and also our junior 'B' team were defeated by 2 points by Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, again in the county semi-final.

Officers of the club at present (1987) are: President: Frankie Cunningham, Ballyara; chairman: Patsy McGowan; secretary: Jimmy White; treasurer: Pat McGinley; P.R.O.: John Joe O'Shea. Clubman Pat Connaghan is County Minor Board chairman at present.

Killybegs At The Crossroads

—A CRITICAL LOOK

For the past nine years Killybegs have been the most successful club in the county by winning 17 under-age titles, 2 County Shield titles, 2 Ulster Club Minor titles, and 1 Intermediate County title. This run of successes is remarkable for the fact that since the under-12 victory in 1979 the club has contested 16 under-age county final and has been successful in every final. Surely a national record! All good things must come to an end, and to the Sean MacCumhaill club came the honour of lowering our colours in a county final for the first time in over ten years when they defeated us in this year's replayed juvenile final. Ironically we again fell in a county final for the second time this year when a better prepared Naomh Columba outfit beat a depleted Killybegs under-21 team in the county final. (Manus Boyle, John Cunningham, Barry Cunningham and Willie McCallig were missing for various reasons in the final).

Our under-age record for the past nine years: County winners: Under-12: 1979, 1983, 1986; Under-13: 1984, 1986, 1987; Under-14: 1981, 1985, 1987; Under-15 (Og Sport): 1982, 1986; Juvenile: 1983; Minor Championship: 1984, 1985; Minor League: 1983, 1984, 1985; Under-21: 1986; Ulster Minor Championship (Club): 1984, 1985.

With this great run of under-age success supporters would be correct in assuming that we should be making the inevitable breakthrough at senior level. But football fortunes do not exactly run that way. To achieve success at the highest level commitment, maturity, hard work, pride (in oneself and one's club), loyalty, discipline, teamwork, humility, honesty, integrity, fair play coupled with football skill should be some of the ingredients that a manager might look for in order to be successful.

That Killybegs failed so miserably in 1987 must be cause for concern for loyal supporters. The promise of 1985 when defeated by Four Masters in the county quarter-final in what was the club game of that particular year followed by great performances in 1986 when again we took part in the game of the year against Naomh Columba only to fail in the county semi-final against a Marty Carlin inspired Red Hugh's by the narrowest of margins left us relishing the coming of 1987. Struggling to overcome Naomh Ultan in the preliminary we reached an all-time low when succumbing to a mediocre St. Eunan's team in the first round proper and in fact being defeated by three goals in O'Donnell Park. This Letterkenny debacle left followers in the county puzzled especially since it came



Mr. Fintan Tierney, chairman, Coiste na nOg, Pairc An Chrocaigh, presents Peter McGinley with his runners-up medal in the penalty kick competition held at Feile na nOg in Kildare.

within a fortnight of the county under-21 success in Roscommon.

The question immediately were being asked both in Killybegs and in the county at large was Killybegs just another under-age club with their players lacking the necessary "gut" to make the transformation to a good senior team? Only time will tell the answer to that question but looking back on our senior championship shambles of 1987 the argument could be made that: (1) Most of the players had just gone through a hard under-21 campaign and perhaps All-Ireland winning celebrations are not the best preparation for a tough club senior championship game; (2) Maybe the proper blend of youth and experience was too loaded on the youth side.

Perhaps the experience painfully gained this year will be of benefit for the future with all concerned whether it be players, supporters, mentors and officials realising that the club is the integral part of the Association and that the ultimate prize after an All-Ireland senior victory is the winning of the club senior county championship.



KILLYBEGS U-12 1986 COUNTY CHAMPIONS: Back row (l. to r.): David McSharry, Brendan Connaghan, Barry McBrearty, Declan Boyle, Brian Connaghan, Gareth Cunningham, Martin McGuinness, Gareth Murphy, Sean Moore, Declan Haughey, Peter McGinley, Andrew Mullen. Front row (l. to r.): Leonard Meehan, Marcus Munnelly, Adrian Callaghan, Declan McGettigan, Kevin Rodden, Nigel Rodden, Gillian McGuinness, Donal Cunningham, Paul Callaghan, Brendan McGuinness, Gary McGing, Derek McNulty.

COUNTY TITLE FOR THE COMMONS N.S.



Back row (l. to r.): Leonard Meehan, John Connaghan, Martin Meehan, Sean McGinley, Rory McHugh, Michael Cannon, Ronan Connaghan, Brendan Connaghan. Front row (l. to r.): Michael Byrne, Gary Rodden, Declan McGettigan, Gareth Murphy, Nigel Rodden, Derek Vial, Martin Dorrian.

After six years of trying Commons National School, Killybegs, eventually became county champions when they went one better than in 1986 and beat Tiernasligo N.S., Clonmany, in the 3-Teacher Cumann na Bunscoil county final in O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, in June. With the capturing of this county title the Commons had at last come away from the shadow of the town school Niall Mhór (in G.A.A. achievement) and showed that hard work, determination and pride in their school got the success it deserved. The boys of 1987 were continuing a great tradition of sporting achievement in the Commons area. In the G.A.A. context it was a Commons team that were the last winners of the St. Catherine's Cup in 1952 and a special link with this present team and the 1952 team was that Jackie Meehan played in 1952 while his son, Martin, played in this year's winning team.

With the 1987 success in our minds it must be remembered that for six years we worked hard and tried unsuccessfully. For four years we failed to win a game with teams like Cashel N.S., Carrick N.S., Brackey N.S. and Fintra N.S. always coming out on top but the spirit of players and mentors never diminished. In 1986 Cumann na mBunscoil in an effort to standardise competitions drew up an extra section for 2/3 teacher schools. This section at last gave us a

realistic chance in competition. Training and coaching continued in the school field and a series of challenge games against Bruckless, Dunkineely, Carrick and Meenaneary gave the team confidence. The 1986 campaign saw us get our first competitive victory against Meenaneary. We then accounted for Fintown and defeated Belcruit to win the divisional title. We went on to defeat Cummeen N.S., Glenfin, and Keelogs N.S., Inver in two close exciting games. This left us in the county final, but we were to meet our masters when Tiernasligo N.S., Clonmany, proved too big and too good for us in Glenfin.

Our team for the 1986 final was: Leonard Meehan, Brendan Connaghan, David McSharry, Martin Meehan, Barry McBrearty, Peter McGinley, Nigel Rodden, Declan McGettigan, Damien McIntyre, Gareth Murphy, Nicholas O'Neill.

During the campaign of 1986 players from the Commons area were coming to the notice of the Killybegs teams mentors and it is worth noting that on the successful Killybegs under-12 team that won the county championship the following Commons players were on the panel: David McSharry, Brendan Connaghan, Barry McBrearty, Gareth Murphy, Peter McGinley, Nigel Rodden, Declan McGettigan and Leonard Meehan.

For the 1986/87 campaign David McSharry, Barry McBrearty, Peter McGinley and Damien McIntyre had left school and our hopes of going one better were not great. We had easy victories over Fintown, Rannafast, Kilclooney, Belcruit and Brackey to reach the divisional final and face Keadue. This was a great game and after Mark O'Neill had scored a goal we were very fortunate indeed to be ahead by two points at the final whistle. An easy semi-final victory over Alt N.S., Castlefin, left us again in the county final with our conquerors of 1986 once again facing us at the last minute. Like ourselves Tiernasligo had lost a lot of players from the previous year and indeed our team looked the bigger. A great fifty minutes football took place in O'Donnell Park with our fortunes like a see-saw, up and down. We led for most of the first half after Ronan Connaghan opened the scoring, but a Tiernasligo goal before half-time left us a point behind at the break. We were stunned when the Clonmany boys got a goal early in the second half and indeed we had to call on all the never say die spirit which is so synonymous with Killybegs teams. Leonard Meehan proved our matchwinner when he scored two second half goals which left us two points ahead when James Gallagher, St. Eunan's, blew the final whistle. The final score: Commons 2-5, Tiernasligo 2-3.

The team for this historic occasion was: Sean McGinley, Michael Byrne, Gareth Murphy, Martin Meehan, Nigel Rodden, Brendan Connaghan, Ronan Connaghan, Declan McGettigan, Leonard Meehan, Martin Dorrian, Gareth Rodden. Subs.: John Connaghan, Gerard O'Neill, Michael Cannon, Nicholas O'Neill, Rory McHugh, Mark O'Neill, Damien Connaghan.

While the panel above did us proud on the field the following mentors did the work behind the scene in making transport available for games throughout the county and training in Fintra, for coaching and training, encouraging and supporting at the games and our sincere thanks go to Tom Rodden, Jim Murphy, Pat Connaghan, John "Baker" Boyle, Michael McGettigan, Jackie Meehan, Pat McIntyre and Killybegs G.A.A. club. Thanks are also due to the teachers, Master Cunningham, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Cunningham, Miss Ward and Miss Boyle for their support and encouragement. For 1988 we will be competing in the 4-teacher section.

ULSTER I.N.T.O. SKILLS WINNER

While the boys from the Commons were winning on the field at county level it was left to a girl pupil, Mairead Gallagher, to represent the school, county and province in Croke Park when she competed in the All-Ireland final of Cíc Fadá (long kick) for girls during the

Kerry v. Meath All-Ireland semi-final in August 1986.

The Cíc Fadá was a competition that the I.N.T.O. sponsored at National School level and was organised by Cumann na mBunscoil. Clubs were asked to run their own heats and have winners to go forward to divisional finals where a winner would then go forward to county finals and from county finals to Ulster finals, and eventually to All-Ireland finals in Croke Park.

Mairead's story goes like this: Due to Fintra pitch being closed during 1986 for major renovations and re-seeding the Killybegs area Cíc Fadá competition was run at Emerald Park. Mairead won the club competition at Conlin Road and then won divisional honours at Towney, Kilcar. From Towney she went to Glenfin and was again successful here when she was crowned county champion for Cíc Fadá. Next was a trip to the Ulster final in Clones and while we returned the Ulster Minor Football cup that was won the previous year by Donegal we did not come back empty-handed as Mairead (the smallest girl from the nine competing counties) produced the longest and most accurate kick to win the Ulster title and qualify for the last four in the country.

Croke Park on All-Ireland semi-final day was Mairead's next stop and at half-time during the Kerry and Meath game the All-Ireland final took place. For the three kicks the lead changed hands but at the end the young Commons girl had to settle for runners-up position and finish just a few feet behind the All-Ireland winner, a Ramsbottom girl from Laois — a surname synonymous with Laois G.A.A.

For the Killybegs girl this was a great feat to finish second in Ireland and indeed Mairead Gallagher can feel proud that she represented her school, Commons N.S., her county, and her province at the highest level.

ALL-IRELAND MEDAL WINNER

During 1986 a past pupil of the

Commons School, Gerard Boyle, Conlin Road, won an All-Ireland junior medal with London when the British champions defeated Cork in the All-Ireland junior final. Gerard was in goals for the London team and before he emigrated Gerard had proven himself one of the best goalies in the county, and many observers felt that he should have been on the under-21 panel that won the All-Ireland in 1982.



Killybegs O'g Sport team, 1986 — County champions and Ulster Plate winners: Front (l. to r.): Barry Cunningham, Sean Dorrian, Damien Mooney, Declan Boyle, James Cunningham and Andrew McMenamin. Back row: Timmy Bray, Steven Burke, Mark Boyle, John O'Donnell and John Joe O'Shea.

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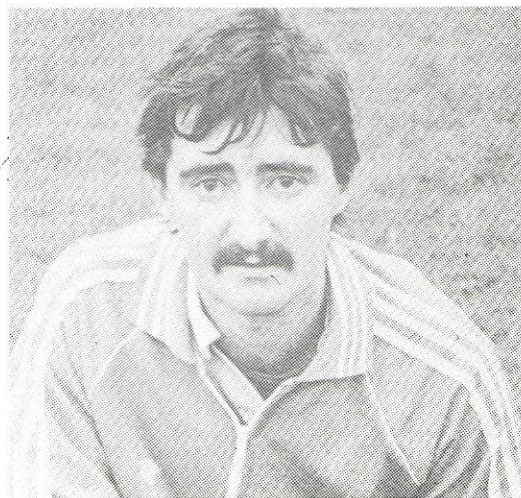
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HAPPY OCCASIONS FOR FOUR MASTERS CLUB

The Four Masters Club had many happy occasions in the past year apart from our dinner dance in January and other various social functions. Two of them will always stick out in the memory of this club. They are the homecoming of the Donegal Football Club, New York, and the hosting of the reception for the All-Ireland U-21 team in Donegal Town.

At the dinner dance in honour of the New York footballers, Co. chairman, Charlie Faulkner paid tribute to fellow Donegal men, Anthony Timoney, Mike Meehan and Donal Gallagher from Killybegs for the great work that they were doing to promote Gaelic games in New York. Also present were Pat Cope Gallagher, T.D., county officers and a large circle of friends and supporters.

P. J. McGowan had promised he would produce the silver on All-Ireland night and how proud we all were as he and the team marched down Quay Brae behind the Ardagh Pipe Band onto a packed Diamond. All the Gaels in the county were there to greet them. The celebrations went on for a week.

JUNIORS DO WELL

The Four Masters Junior team had a most successful 1987 season, even allowing for the fact that they lost their Junior 'A' final to Robert Emmets. The team started the competitive season with

a League match against MacCumhalls in Ballybofey which brought them their first League win. They remained unbeaten in the League until their thirteenth match against Dungloe, which they lost by a late goal. Despite this defeat they gained promotion to Div. 2 for the 1988 season. The first round of the Championship brought them to Convoy and they emerged from this match with a draw. The return game in Townawilly resulted in a six point win. Buncrana provided the opposition in the semi-final and after a hard hour's football they emerged with a two point win. They went into the final quietly confident after a hard month's training. But they came up against a very strong Robert Emmets team and were beaten by six points. It was a big disappointment for the players and management, but we should not lose sight of the fact that they were beaten by a club's first team, which will be playing Div. 1 League next season. The team was dealt a severe blow in the week's leading up to the final with the loss of three players through injury — Manus Brennan with a heel injury, and Kevin Munday and Vincent McGroary who suffered broken fingers and their injuries seemed to affect the players. The team was managed by Gerry Molloy who joined the club in 1979 from Glenties. He played for the Junior team until a back injury forced him to stop playing. He was

assisted by Frank O'Donnell, a former Ardara player, and they both worked very hard with the players since April. The team won the AIB Cup in Ballyshannon in September. They defeated Aodh Ruadh by six points. Hopefully, this will not be the last trophy they will win. We can look back on a year of joy and sadness for the team and, hopefully, they will stay together and work even harder in 1988 for the Championship which slipped out of their grasp this year.

HURLING: Manager: Donal Gallagher

The under-16 team won the Southern Division Championship for the third year in a row. They defeated Pettigo in the final. In the Co. semi-final they were defeated by MacCumhalls.

The minor team reached the Co. semi-final against reigning co. champions, Burt, but after a fine display had to bow out to the eventual winners again.

This year the coaching of senior county hurler, Thomas Brennan, has been a tremendous help. Co. Minor Board Hurling chairman, Liam Mullin, has worked extremely hard with the promotion of hurling and camogie in the Four Masters Club. It was encouraging this year to have Ciaran Twomey as sub-keeper on the victorious u-16 Co. hurling team that defeated Sligo in the All-Ireland special hurling final.



Four Masters, Junior 'A' runners-up. Front, l. to r., Dan McBrearty, Paddy Brogan, Paucic Kennedy, Brendan Guerin, Emmet McCauley, Martin Caldwell, Hugh Gerard Colhoun. Middle, l. to r., Vinny McGroary, Paucic McGinty, Paddy Muldoon, Marty Kelly, Martin Gillen, Raymond Boyle, Peter Smith, Donal McMullin, Brian McGroarty, Hughie Sweeney, Des Daly. Back, l. to r., Gerry Molloy (manager), Stephen Boyle, Kevin Sinclair, P. J. McBarron, Niall Muldoon, John Sinclair, John Monaghan, Paul Duncan, Stephen O'Donnell, Denis Nolan, Rory Muldoon.

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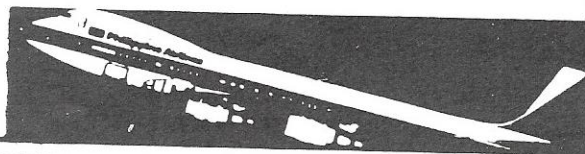
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CAMOGIE: Manager: Mary Walsh

In the Intermediate League Four Masters girls finished runners-up to Merville, the county champions. They were defeated in the semi-final of the Championship by Fahan.

The under-14s were beaten in the Divisional final by Aodh Ruadh.

The U-14s were also involved in the Southern League. They beat Pettigo but lost to their old bogey team, Aodh Ruadh. Congratulations to all the girls involved and especially to Mary Walsh, their coach.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

Our senior team this year was badly hit through emigration and retirement but nevertheless put up a satisfactory display throughout the year. They were beaten in a play-off against Glenfin in the Co. Championship but in the League they played some good football and remain at the half way mark in Div. 1 South. They entered a team in the George McGee Cup in the Irvinestown Festival. They were easy winners of the semi-final against the home team, but had to fight all the way to beat Trillick in an exciting final to lift the trophy.

UNDERAGE TEAMS

Our minors were beaten in both the League and the Championship at an early stage. Our U-21s were beaten in the first round by Kilcar.

Our u-16 footballers had a good year under team manager, Walter Espey. They beat a good Aodh Ruadh team in the Divisional final. They were unfortunate in having to play Milford two days later in the quarter final of the Co. Championship and the Milford boys came out on top. They were successful again against Aodh Ruadh in the League Divisional final. Charlie Sheridan and Dermot Gildea were honoured by being

selected on the Co. U-16 team.

Both our u-14 and u-13 footballers played some very good football to reach the Divisional final but alas the big one evaded them — better luck next year boys.

Our u-12 team were beaten by a very good Naomh Brid team in the Divisional semi-final. As most of them are u-12 next year the experience gained will stand to them.

Our u-10 team has shown great promise. They were unlucky to meet a very good Aodh Ruadh team in the Divisional final as they had beaten every team in the Division up until then.

M. SINCLAIR, R.I.P.

With all the bereavements the club had in the past year, none was as sad as the untimely death of Michael Sinclair. Not alone a great loss to the club, but to the community at large. May he rest in

peace.

SCÓR

Off the field the club was involved in both senior and junior Scór with a group of junior dancers representing the club in the county final. Hopefully, they will go one better next year.

The club also had an input to the running of GAA affairs at county level — Donal Gallagher, Minor Board Registrar; Liam Mullin, Hurling Board Chairman; Brendan O'Neill, Central Council delegate.

So we say goodbye to 1987 with a few trophies on the sideboard and the club in a healthy state. We look forward to the challenge of the New Year.

Officers for 1987: President, John Joe Mulhern; Chairman, Jim Gorrell; Secretary, Cathal McGonigle; PRO, Donal Gallagher; Treasurer, Gerry Timoney.



Four Masters Junior team, 1973. Back, l. to r., Brian McGlinchey, Paul Duncan, Enda Mullin, Brendan Martin, Jackie McGroarty, Pearse Mullin, Danny Dunnion, Brian McGinty, Peter Coulter, Walter Espey. Front, l. to r., Hugh Devaney, John McGlanaghy, Martin Kelly, Eugene Fox, John McCafferty, Connie Keeney, Pat Heaney, Noel Slevin.



Clanna Gael, 1972: Back, l. to r., Walter Espey (team manager), Clement Coughlan (dec.), Steve McCormack, Brendan Needham, Brendan Martin, P. J. McGarrigle, Hughie Travers, P. J. Flood, Gerry McCauley (chairman). Front, l. to r., Tommy Caldwell, Paddy Woods, George McInaw, Paddy Brogan, Charlie McGinty, John Williamson, Kevin Faulkner (dec.), Francie Monaghan.

Cloughaneely — a most wonderful 1987

Our youngsters must receive most of the plaudits this year for having won the County Championship for National Schools (Roinn I); in reaching the county final of the u-12s and winning the Divisional u-13 they have repaid some of the hard work of people like Seosamh Kelly and John Byrne.

Not all our successes were confined to those who do not shave. In fact our seniors qualified for the semi-final of the Senior League.

Our juniors are proving it's possible to have two viable adult teams, though we've been known to lose the odd game here and there.

Fr. Seán Ó Gallachóir won the Ulster Scór competition in the Aithriseoireacht section and lost narrowly in the All-Ireland final after a hectic weekend that saw him attend Mullingar with P.C.C. in the Slogadh finals on the Friday, return to Falcarragh and Arranmore on the Saturday to wed a couple there, rush to Sligo with chairman, Joe Doohan to catch a plane to Limerick for his Scór final, drive to Mullingar the same night to the Schools Slogadh concert and home the same night — a really wonderful man.

Comortas Peile na Gaeltachta was run successfully for the second time, while the annual Charles Greene Cup, won by our own lads this time, was climaxed by the best final seen in this competition against the Bonner-powered Na Rossa.

In our efforts in making our grounds intercounty class we have re-fenced the pitch — (not, as was suggested, in an effort to keep our junior team from escaping, ha! ha!) — and hope to have seating in our new stand soon.

Dr. Mick Loftus graced us with his presence at the annual dinner dance, through the good offices of John Harkin, Sroughan, a neighbour of the President's in Crossmolina.

At the dance Danny Rua Gallagher, still threatening to tog out for the juniors, made a fine job of fear-a-tí, and scrolls were presented to our ex-county players. Martin Coyle, another good player lost to London, designed the club crest which featured as a backdrop to the top table.

Handball affairs are well under control and we are proud that our senior small-ball players have retained the county title.

Our sponsors must be thanked — A.I.B., Falcarragh, for their set of jerseys and financial help during the year; the Bank of Ireland for their magnificent scoreboard; Alfie Greene for his trackuits and jerseys, prizes for the Charles Greene Cup; Dr. McGill, his contribution to under-age football and all our sponsors, large and small.



Cloughaneely Senior team 1987.



President of the G.A.A., Dr. Mick Loftus (extreme left, front row) photographed with members of Cloughaneely GAA at the club's annual dinner dance. Dr. Loftus presented these members with their special scrolls to commemorate their selection for their county in their playing days. On extreme right, standing, is club chairman, Josie Doohan.

Finally, thank you, all our old and new members of Ciste Gael, who have increased and multiplied from 100 to 700.

We are now established in senior football — no small thanks to P. J.

McGarrigle, also known around the Dungloe area as Padraig Seosamh — and are having our most successful year ever.

Le Padraig Mac Meanman
(Rúnaí)

"Two Divisional Championships a good foundation for future of Cloughaneely underage football"

1987 will go down as one of the best years for underage football in the club. North West Division championships for the u-12 and u-13 teams respectively were the main highlight of 1987.

THE U-12 SUCCESS

The U-12's kicked off the season by

playing a friendly against Glenswilly. Who was to know that day that the team would be transformed to be such a great success by the hard work and dedication of the panel of players under the guidance of Seorse Kelly and John Byrne, joint team managers. Two victories over Gweedore and one victory out of two

against St. Michael's meant a play-off with St. Michael's to establish section winners and section runners up. After a thrilling game, the Cloughaneely men were to come out on top by two points.

Next port of call was Milford where the team overcame Fanad Gaels in the divisional semi-final.

The N.W. Divisional final against Milford was held in Dunfanaghy on a damp, cold, wet Friday evening. Milford played with the wind in the first half. At half time the score read: Milford 1-6, Cloughaneely 0-0. The second half belonged to Cloughaneely as they attacked from the whistle.

Three goals and five points were scored by the Cloughaneely forwards while Milford were held scoreless in the second half. Considering the terrible weather conditions it was a great game of football. The team had many stars that day. In particular Neil Collins, Sean McGee, Owen McGee, Christopher Smyth, Noel Duggan and Stephen Cassidy were outstanding.

Every player gave 100%. A great success and the club's first underage trophy of the season.

The next stage was the county semi-final against St. Eunan's. After two marvellous games of football, the first had ended in a draw, Cloughaneely were to emerge winners in a tightly contested replay by two points. Cloughaneely 2-4, St. Eunan's 1-5. The entire team played well especially in the second half when St. Eunan's had the wind and were on the attack continuously for most of it.

The penultimate stage was the county final against Bundoran in Ballybofey. Alas there was to be no success. Despite scoring first and playing well in the first half the team were well and truly beaten at the end by a superb Bundoran side. Final score Bundoran 3-9, Cloughaneely 0-1.

It is worth noting that nine of this year's panel are underage next year. The experience gained in 1987 will be of great benefit to the team in 1988. It was dedication and belief in the team by players and selectors that brought this

team so far. Congratulations to Sean McGee, team captain and players.

THE U-13 SUCCESS

The U-13 team backboned by some of our U-12's got off to a bad start in the U-13 championship. Gweedore beat Cloughaneely quite comfortably in Falcarragh. This necessitated Cloughaneely beating St. Michael's in Dunfanaghy. This they did and the stage was set for the Divisional semi-final to be played in Downings against Milford. Having remembered the fright that Milford gave us in the U-12 Divisional final the team went all out to gain victory from the start. This they did on a scoreline of Cloughaneely 5 goals 8 points to Downings 1 goal and 2 points.

So the Club was through to its second divisional final of 1987. Downings, having beaten Gweedore, were to be Cloughaneely's opponents. After a tightly fought first half Cloughaneely were to turn on the pressure and to win by 6-5 to 1-3.

U-13 COUNTY SEMI v. KILLYBEGS.

The U-13 semi-final was played in MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey against Killybegs. Cloughaneely scored first thanks to a great goal by Alan McFadden. Numerous missed chances early on in the first half let Killybegs off the hook. Killybegs were leading by six points at half time and despite the best efforts of Cloughaneely Killybegs were to emerge victors on a 4-9 to 1-5 scoreline.

This was a great game of football. The result was in doubt up to the last few minutes when Killybegs scored two goals. The team played very well and Seorse Kelly and John Byrne can be very proud of them. A point of interest is the fact that 13 of the panel are underage for next year's competition.

A great effort by Sean Boyce, team captain and the team.

THE U-14, U-16 AND MINORS

None of these teams were to set the world alight this year. However it is worth noting that this takes time and effort. Both the U-14 and U-16 went out at the Divisional semi-final stage to Downings and Milford respectively. The Minors ran a very good Gweedore county championship winning team to a close game in their division.

THE INVOLVEMENT OF CLUB na nOG IN UNDERAGE DEVELOPMENT

Looking back, 1987, we hope, is just the start of the long road to future glory for underage football in Cloughaneely. The success was partly due to the club having its own Club na nOg which was formed with the interest of underage football development in mind.

Its members for 1987 were: Seorse Kelly, chairman, U-12. U-13 and U-14 joint team manager with John Byrne; Tom Leahy, Secretary; John McFadden, Treasurer and U-10 team mentor; Jim Barrett, U-10 team mentor; Joe McGarvey, Joint Minor team manager; Packie Doohan, Joint Minor team manager; Paul Anthony McFadden, U-16 team selector; Roddy Heaney, U-16 team selector; Gregory McCafferty, U-16 team selector. Ivan McPhillips, Club na nOg P.R.O.

SENIORS

And the Cloughaneely seniors did not let their club down in 1987 either. They have just won the All-County Senior Football League Division 1 North title. This is a little bit of history in itself as Cloughaneely will always be remembered as the first ever winners of this division because it was only introduced in 1987 as part of the new leagues format. The club were also recently honoured when County Team manager, Mr. Tom Conaghan, included Denis Doohan and Joe McGarvey in the Donegal County Senior team panel — Seosamh K. is happy now.



Cloughaneely under-12 team who were defeated by Bundoran in the county final.

CLUB OF THE YEAR:

Years 1986 and 1987 great for Naomh Brid

Naomh Brid, the Ballintra/Laghey and area based club will never forget the 1986 and 1987 seasons.

In 1986 the club won the Junior 'A' Football Championship and Division 3 of the All-County League. They made such quick and remarkable achievements in their short history that they were awarded the Donegal G.A.A. Club of the Year coveted crown.

This most prestigious award did not go to their heads in 1987 competitions. They took over where they left off and in a remarkable follow-on won the County Intermediate Football Championship and Division 2 South of the All-County Football League. These two titles places them for the first time ever in the County Senior Football Championship and the All-County Football Premier Division of the League in 1988 respectively. They had two players on the county senior panel in 1987 — John Joe Travers and Matt Gallagher. Really Naomh Brid's is a fairytale success story.



The hard-working Naomh Brid Club Committee for 1987 at their annual dinner dance. Back row, Sean McGee (senior team trainer), Martin Quinn (Ex. Committee), William Walls (Ex. Comm.), Pat Molloy (treasurer), Jim McGrory (Ex. Comm.), Joe Griffin (Ex. Comm.), Gerry McGee (asst. Chairman), Conal Haughey (PRO), Joseph Griffin (Registrar). Front row: Bart Whelan (Co. Secretary), Danny McNamee (Chairman), Mrs. Sean McGee (Secretary), Tommy McGarrigle (Ex. Comm.), Fr. A. McCauley (Club President).

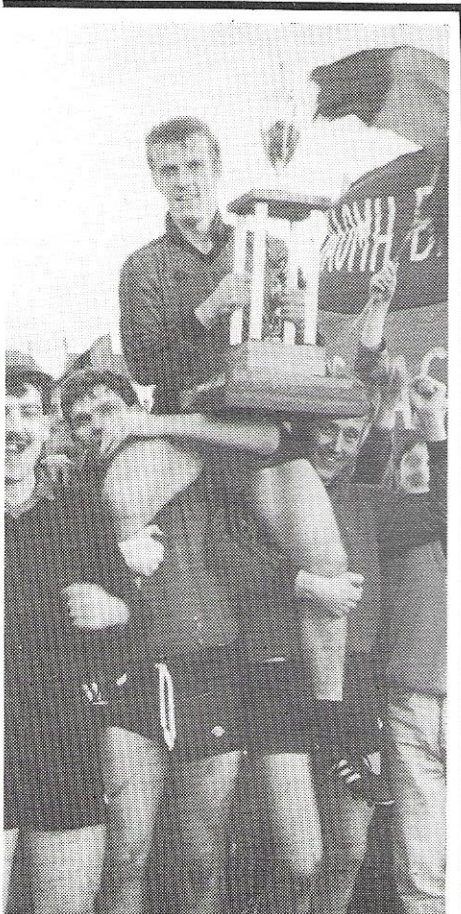


County Club of the Year, 1986, Naomh Brid, Ballintra, with a number of its officials at the Presentation Dance in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal.

Pettigo on the way forward



The Pettigo U-14 hurling team who won the Southern Division Hurling Championship in 1986/1987.



Naomh Brid team captain, Conal Haughey, is held aloft by brothers, Matt and Pauric Gallagher after he had captained his side to victory in the Intermediate Football final.

With a population of less than seven hundred in the entire community, it has always been very difficult for the little border town of Pettigo to promote all GAA activities on a continuous and progressive manner. However, thanks to a few dedicated and tireless GAA workers in the parish the GAA flag has always been kept flying and the Association's objectives to the fore. As a result 1987 was the year when the club had a number of "firsts" and it would certainly seem Pettigo are on the way forward like they never were before.

In 1987 the Pettigo club fielded a National School team, an under-12 team and a minor team in the Championship for the first time ever. The Pettigo under-14 hurling team represented Donegal in Féile na nGael for the first time. In 1986 a Pettigo footballer — Michael Gallagher — won an All-Ireland junior medal while playing at full-forward with London. London beat Cork in the All-Ireland final and Michael scored three points for his adopted side in the final. This was the first All-Ireland medal to come to Pettigo by a native son.

The adult football team played in the Junior 'B' County Championship but were eliminated by Naomh Baithin. They also competed in the All-County Football League in Division 3 South. After a poor start to the League, taking just one point in the first round game on Sunday, 5th April against Kilcar, followed by nine defeats, some of which were not even contested — things looked bad.

However, this turned out to be a blessing in disguise as it eventually made the way clear for the younger footballers to take over and the new-look team has won their last five League games on the trot. With this new-look young team, Pettigo can now look forward to the new season with confidence.

Drainage and re-seeding was also carried out on the Pettigo pitch during the year and it is hoped to be back in playing shape for next season.

PETTIGO HURLING & CAMOGIE

Pettigo fielded two hurling teams and a camogie team in 1987. In hurling they fielded an under-14 team and an under-16 team in the County Hurling Championship. The under-14 team won the Divisional title, defeating Ballyshannon in a thrilling final. The under-16 team reached the Divisional final only to lose narrowly to Four Masters, Donegal Town — Liam Mullin's boys. The under-14s also spent a week-end in Belfast on a coaching course in April and subsequently participated in Féile na nGael in Co. Clare. Both of these ventures were a tremendous success and helped in a big way to improve the standards and interest. It has been very encouraging to see the increased interest that is being shown by the younger players in 1987 and the interest the girls of the Pettigo area have shown in their participating in the Camogie Championship and club activity.

Ardara back on the glory trail

The shouts of joy, the screams of delight that came from the Ardara supporters at the final whistle of the junior "B" championship final against Lifford showed their relief that they had at last won another championship title. Sept. 13th 1987 is a date they will remember as the day the trophy famine that had lasted six years ended in style. It is true they won under 21 in '82; minor in '83 and senior gaeltacht in centenary year but the major adult titles had always eluded their club teams.

Oh how they rejoiced as a bunch of youngsters belied their tender age with a display of commitment, and courage to gain an historic victory. It was without doubt the toughest and hardest county final for a long time but that didn't deter players who kept their composure and coolness with a display that would earn respect for any club.

Edward Molloy, Ardara P.R.O. continues: On the way to the final we won home and away preliminary round legs against a strong Killybegs side. Next came the first round which proved unusual as both leg games ended in draws, but we saw off a very good Malin team in a play-off. In the quarter finals Glenswilly provided us with a hard contest until a great second half effort by Ardara saved the day and gained a semi-final spot. Here we met hot favourites for the title, Fanad Gaels, who disappointed on the day but nevertheless another brilliant second half performance gained

our first ever junior 'B' final appearance. Then that glorious final victory over Lifford to take the title.

The person who can take greatest credit for this success is team manager James McBrearty. Guiding this outfit for a number of years through many lean times he never lost heart and has now reaped the rewards for his dedication with this marvellous win.

We had another few notable achievements during the year which deserve special mention. In May, Scoil Mhuire gan Smal won their first every county schools championship when they scored an impressive victory over Laghey N.S. in a thrilling encounter. A dramatic finish brought a welter of excitement as the Hillhead School came storming back to snatch victory and gain sweet revenge for previous year's defeat. Our next success was winning the S.W. under 12 divisional 'B' championship against Kilcar. While opinions on the merits of this competition are divided it was nice for those hopeful young stars of tomorrow to sample their own piece of glory.

The next big moment for the club was away from the playing fields when the culture side of the club took over and we had the great honour of hosting the county semi-final and then the final of Scor Sinsear. For many years this competition didn't receive much attention in the club but having elected an excellent committee to organise the events it took

off with a bang and exploded to give nights of joy, happiness and many pleasing hours of entertainment for many people. Firstly the committee organised what could be described as the most outstanding club Scor na nOg in the county when one hundred and twenty five competitors competed. Scor Sinsear club final went along the same lines but the final feather in the cap was when the county finals proved to be the most successful Scor events ever staged in the county.

We have, many feel, some of the best players in the county at present so its only natural that our supporters are saddened to think that a possible championship within our grasp wasn't fully availed of. We had tough games against a very good Gweedore team having an away victory and a home draw in first round leg games. St. Eunan's provided the opposition next in Ballybofey and what an anti-climax this match turned out to be. Playing brilliant football we destroyed the Letterkenny side in the first half to lead by six points. The second half was closer but we still ran out easy winners. And so it was on to play arch rivals Kilcar at lovely Fintra Park. Having lost the county Gaeltacht final earlier in the year to this team we were in no mood for another defeat in a fixture that was to last 115½ minutes. The first clash was a great battle of the giants until the untimely death of a great Kilcar supporter, Frank Byrne, brought a



Ardara senior team, 1987

premature end to proceedings, with just 3 minutes of normal time to play.

We all felt sad at such an occasion arising for a second time at a football match this summer but all the gloom was lifted in the refixture as we witnessed probably the best game in the county championship this year. Never did we come across the high pitch fever of excitement that the second half exchanges brought about. We had cancelled out a half time deficit of a goal when the tension began. Point for point, jump for jump, shots blocked and every ball fought hard for as the concluding stages became almost unbearable. With minutes left we missed an opportunity to gain victory which let Kilcar off the hook who broke upfield to get the decisive scores to become worthy winners of a great clash. Once again we were left to wonder what we must do to bring back the Dr. Maguire Cup to our parish again.

Our under 21 side made great strides to reach the county semi-final. Playing our first games of the competition back in March many months went by until we found ourselves playing Kilcar in the quarter final on a Tuesday and four days

later having to field against a star studded Naomh Columba outfit — eventually the outright winners. Carrying many injuries from the previous outing our team put up a brave performance but in the end it wasn't enough to stop the Glen men running out comfortable winners. At under age level we had a fairly successful year to the point of contesting divisional finals. We lost the under 10 final to Dungloe in a replay, we failed in the under 14 decider to Killybegs and brought about the unwanted hat-trick when Naomh Columba defeated the minor team in the divisional championship final. All the other age group teams performed with pride but failed to reach the play-off stages. After a few lean years when our teams didn't even reach a final we are slowly making progress. This is due to the excellent minor board we have, and also due to people who manage all the teams. We hope in the coming year to build on the foundations laid with the many hours of coaching these young hopefuls got and start winning divisional titles again.

At county level we were again to the forefront supplying a number of players

to the various county teams. Highlight of this was the glorious All-Ireland under 21 title win and the no small part which Thomas Maguire and Luke Gavigan played in the tremendous victory. It was a great honour for these players to reach the pinnacle of success so young and an achievement for the club who have had playing members on each of Donegal's four winning All-Ireland football teams. Not to be outdone Luke Brennan grabbed his share of fame as well when a member of the St. MacCartan's team of Monaghan he won an All-Ireland Colleges "B" medal. Luke and Declan Gallagher represented the club on the county minor panel while we had three on the county national schools team, Once again Anthony Molloy and Kieran Keeney did their share on the county senior team with Anthony's displays earning him an Ulster Railway Cup panel spot.

As the year draws to a close we still have high hopes that both our senior and junior teams can gain a league title success to put the icing on the cake for what has been a glorious year for the club.



At the Bank of Ireland G.A.A. All-Stars Banquet in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, were (from left): Sean Ferriter, Deirdre Keyes, Mary Ferriter, Tom Conaghan, Celine Conaghan and Eamonn Keyes (Manager, Bank of Ireland, Donegal).

ST. MARY'S N.S., ARDARA, COUNTY CHAMPIONS – PROMISE FULFILLED

The last ten years have been filled with glory for the young footballers of St. Mary's N.S., Ardara. The crowning glory came in the last week of June when St. Mary's won the Co. Schools Gaelic Football Championship for the first time ever. That historic victory in Fintra was greeted with scenes of rapturous emotion which we would all dearly love to see repeated in 1988 and the years ahead.

The whole fairytale story began with the Ardara Schools Parish League. There was always a tradition of Schools Leagues in Ardara. The League was revived in 1977. Early promise was shown when St. Mary's won the League in 1977. The feat was repeated in 1978 and the hat-trick was achieved in 1979. As a result of that victory in 1979 Ardara GAA Club paid the school a great honour in allowing us to keep the cup. The hat-trick of success was given just recognition. The cup will always provide tangible evidence of a wonderful three-year campaign. It will always bring back fond memories whenever those great games of the late seventies are recalled.

St. Mary's entered the Schools Co.

Championship when it was inaugurated. Despite the success at local level, St. Mary's always found it difficult to make an impression at Co. level. There were always very fine young footballers on the team but not enough of them to ensure a co. championship. The strength in depth simply was not there and those deserving of a co. championship medal were denied.

In 1983, in an effort to give under-age football in Ardara a much-needed boost, the Parish Schools League was reintroduced. However, on this occasion it was to be on a much grander scale. Ardara G.A.A. Club found a donor — Fr. Luke Boyle! Fr. Luke donated a magnificent cup, one which every school in the Parish would strive earnestly to win. The scene was set. The League section of the competition would be played off on Saturday mornings with the top two teams to contest the final. The two largest schools dominated. Then it was their turn to clash themselves. On a miserable Saturday morning Brackey dished out a footballing lesson to a very depleted St. Mary's side. So the League

finished with Brackey on top and St. Mary's second. Present 'Referee of the Year' Peter McKelvey of Glenties took charge of the final. Brackey might have been lulled into a false sense of security after beating St. Mary's decisively in the League section of the competition. They certainly did not press home their advantage as they allowed the Town boys to come back at them, not once, but twice. Ardara could have stolen it but, in the final analysis, to have forced a draw was quite satisfactory in the circumstances. Inter-county referee, Fr. Sean Gallagher, took charge of the replay. Brackey again forced the issue, finding the net straight from the throw-in. However, as in the draw game, Ardara came back. This time St. Mary's managed to forge ahead and, more importantly, stay ahead. Thady Breslin was the first winning captain. A great Sunday in Ardara always to be savoured and never to be forgotten.

The following is the team which won the Fr. Luke Boyle Cup in its inaugural year, 1983: Anthony Sweeney; Declan Devenney, Anthony O'Donnell, Damian



St. Mary's N.S., Ardara, Gaelic Football team, Co. Primary School champions, 1987. Back row, l. to r., Francis Diver, Francis Dorrian, Eamonn Doherty, Hugh Byrne, Niall O'Donnell, Shaun Whyte and Bernard Gallagher. Middle row, David Diver, Cathal Gallagher, Francis Gallagher, Jackie McHugh, Shane McBrearty, Jonathan Boyle and Patrick Breslin. Front row, Mark Whyte, Eamonn Diver, Matthew Whyte, Conal Gildea, Cathal Doherty and Conal Doherty. Also included at back: James A. Boyle, N.T., and Very Rev. Liam McCaul, P.P., V.F. Trophies, l. to r., Ardara Parish Primary Schools League 1977, 1978, 1979; Fr. Luke Boyle Cup, Ardara Parish Primary Schools League 1983, 1985, 1986; Co. Donegal Primary Schools Championship Trophy, 1987.

Diver; Thady Breslin (capt.), Paul Gallagher; John Earley, Shaun McCole, Aidan McHugh. Subs., Joseph Doherty, Michael Doherty, Naoise Molloy.

Despite the fact that Meentinadea did not reach the Fr. Luke Boyle Cup final in 1983 the school did reach the final of the Co. Championship; Defeat was Meentinadea's lot on final day but their appearance in the final gave them the impetus to press ahead and qualify for two Fr. Luke finals in 1985 and 1986. Their county exploits in 1983 made the other schools sit up and take notice.

Brackey brushed St. Mary's aside in the divisional final of the co. championship in 1984, thus gaining sweet revenge for the defeat inflicted on them in the Fr. Luke final of '83. After that Brackey also reached the county final but once again failed to make it count.

There was no Fr. Luke competition in 1984, Centenary Year of the G.A.A. The G.A.A. in Ardara can in no way be blamed for that as there were so many extra things happening in that particular year. All the schoolboys got a well-deserved rest.

St. Mary's regained the Fr. Luke Boyle cup in 1985 after a terrific battle with Meentinadea. In 1986 it was decided that St. Mary's should enter two teams, one from each side of the river. Both teams stayed apart in the semi-finals and the prospect of an all-St. Mary's final was on the cards. However, the northern side was very wasteful in front of goal and had to succumb to Meentinadea by the narrowest of margins. The southern side avenged that defeat in the final with Meentinadea once again on the receiving end.

John McConnell departed for the United States in 1987. His departure meant that there was no one to organise the Fr. Luke competition. Perhaps the rest suited St. Mary's. Having won that particular cup so many times we decided to fix our sights firmly on the county championship. We had been improving all the time in the county championship. Laghey N.S. prevented us from winning county championships in '85 and '86. Could we possibly turn the tables on them in 1987?

Two of our players had no less than three Fr. Luke medals in their collection. In fact, had the Fr. Luke competition been played for in '84 and '87, it is quite conceivable that Dohn Earley and Damian Diver could have amassed a grand total of five Fr. Luke medals in their time in Primary School. We were to build our hopes around these two very fine players. But we would not be depending on these two alone. We had eleven other good footballers and more knocking on the door. It looked as if we really had the right balance at last — a good all-round team with strength and skill throughout the field.

The first winners of the brand new

county trophy were Downings. We played them in the county semi-final in Sean Mac Cumhail Park, Ballybofey. It was a case of total defence. We simply didn't have the firepower to challenge seriously.

Laghey put paid to our chances in Fintra in '85. Charlie Molloy had a big influence on that game. Nevertheless, we played some solid stuff but always had too much of a leeway to make up. We had a close encounter of the third kind against Fintra N.S. in the divisional final in Sandfield in '86. Only a goal separated the sides at the finish in a game totally dominated by the wind. For one reason or another Fintra N.S. failed to field against us in the divisional final of 1987. So we had a clear passage to the co. semi-final.

We travelled to Townawilly where we overcame the challenge of Sessiaghoneill N.S., Ballybofey. They had come through the Eastern Division after a two-leg divisional final v Illistrin N.S.

So we were in the final for the first time ever. And there was only one team in the county that we wanted to meet and beat — St. Eunan's N.S., Laghey. We had had some stirring encounters in the past against such as Keadue N.S. and Cashel N.S., Glen. But the new enemy was Laghey. This would be their fourth final on the trot, having been successful in the previous two. It was a case of David v Goliath. This was our first final and their fourth-in-a-row. They were seeking their hat-trick of success. We were hoping that it would be third time lucky for an Ardara school.

The ball was thrown in and the game was on. As usual we were jittery at the beginning conceding score after score to confident, cock-a-hoop Laghey during the first ten minutes. The ball was in the back of our net after only two minutes. John O'Donnell in goal did well to get down to parry the initial attempt and simply could not recover in time to prevent the rebound going in. However, John kept a clean sheet for 58 minutes after that.

Niall O'Donnell, John's brother, and Shaun Whyte, were both rock solid in the full-back line, showing good understanding and clearing their lines time and time again during the course of the game. Incidentally, the O'Donnell brothers' father, Garda Pat O'Donnell, will have a second cause for celebration later in the year. He was a member of the Dungloe minor team which won the county championship twenty-one years ago. That victory was the middle one of a 3-in-a-row for Dungloe minors at that time. The Dungloe club intends to honour those heroes at a special function later in the year.

Back to Fintra again and the pivot of the defence was Damien Diver. He had a superlative game, thwarting Laghey time and time again. As well as seeing

to his defensive duties he also found ample time to move forward and attack. In the end he proved to be the scourge of the Laghey defence, notching up a personal tally of 1-5. It was Damian who kept Ardara in touch in the first half, scoring a wonderful goal and adding two great points for good measure.

Damian's two flankers, brother David and Jonathan Boyle both gave away inches to their opposite numbers but that was all.

We had two midfielders who were reminiscent of Pat Donnellan in his heyday. Brendan Gallagher and Eamonn Doherty lorded it in the middle of the field.

Another member of the Doherty clan, Conal, was left half-forward. Johnny D's son, Dohn, was on the other wing while Bernard Gallagher was on the '40'. Dohn Earley gained a lot of possession on the right wing and constantly harried and tortured the Laghey defence. He went on some great jinking solo runs, as is his wont.

Another of the Diver clan, Francis, cousin of Tom's two and son of club chairman, Columba, occupied the right corner berth. I think it is fair to say that all the Divers are chips off the old blocks. Francis is showing a lot of promise and, no doubt, one day will go on to emulate the feats of his father. Patrick Breslin, Thady's brother, was in the other corner. He scored a crucial goal and point, the goal actually clinching the title for St. Mary's.

Young Francis Gallagher was only in second class. This surely is one to watch in the future as is Hugh Byrne, who plays a very direct type of game, expertly coached by his very keen father, James.

When the final whistle blew the tears of joy began to flow. St. Mary's had won at the first attempt and had beaten the Kerry of the championship in the process. Fintra belonged to Ardara as the supporters swarmed onto the pitch.

Of the fifteen players who played in both the semi-final and final of 1987, no less than eleven are still attending the school.

St. Mary's N.S. team v Sessiaghoneill N.S., Ballybofey in semi-final in Townawilly, 1987: Patrick Breslin; Niall O'Donnell, Shaun Whyte, David Diver, Damian Diver, Jonathan Boyle, Eamonn Doherty, Brendan Gallagher, Dohn Earley, Bernard Gallagher, Conal Doherty, Francis Diver, Francis Gallagher. Sub., Hugh Byrne.

St. Mary's N.S. team v St. Eunan's N.S., Laghey in final at Fintra Park, 1987: John O'Donnell; Niall O'Donnell, Shaun Whyte; David Diver, Damian Diver (1-5), Jonathan Boyle; Eamonn Doherty, Brendan Gallagher (1-0); Dohn Earley (capt.), Bernard Gallagher (0-1), Conal Diver; Francis Diver, Patrick Breslin (1-1). Sub., Francis Gallagher.

Lifford's very special day

Sept. 13th, 1987

SINCE the foundation of the Lifford G.A.A. club in the early twenties — then known as Tirconaill Harps — right through to the present day one thing that had not been achieved was the winning of a county championship at any level.

So this year began as any other — we had learned to be more hopeful than confident from past experience but deep down we all knew that a championship was badly needed to keep our national game alive in the parish.

Our under 12 team got the ball rolling in the right direction when they reached the divisional semi-final before going down to MacCumhail's in Glenfin.

It was the opinion of many that the under 16 team could go a long way but this was not to be their year and it was not to be the year for the minors to make a breakthrough either.

Therefore our hopes for success lay firmly with our under 14s and juniors. The under 14 team under the guidance of Barry Toland and Sylvester McGhee got off to the worst possible start losing their first two games. So little did we know that it was to prove a blessing in disguise — we would end up as one of the four bottom teams and qualify for the (B) section.

Packie Keeney had got the results he required with the juniors in the early rounds of the championship, a draw away and a home win in the Roughan Park, had ended Buncrana's hopes for '87.

Burt became their next victims in Ballybofey, a game that saw Lifford play their best football in a long time.

It was back to MacCumhail Park for the under 14 Divisional final on July 29th. Glenfin were the opposition on that wet Wednesday evening but the boys stood firm for the hour and Gabriel Gordon was a welcome guest as he presented the jubilant Lifford team with their first ever under-age trophy.

Back with the juniors and a semi-final pairing with Naomh Baithin. Here it took two games and extra time before we overcame our near neighbours on a score line of 0-9 to 0-7.

Now the under 14s had something to aim at — victory over Killybegs and Termon would see them gain a final spot.

Their display against Killybegs in Townawilly was something special and against Termon they had to call on their greatest strength — their will to win — along with a score line of 2-5 to 0-3 to see them enter their first ever final with Urris.

That final was on September 6th in MacCumhail Park and here their will to win was really put to the test. Six points down at half time, they came through with flying colours (almost) to snatch a draw and set the wheels in motion for Sunday 13th September the day that will live forever in our memory.

Two teams from the capital town — Lifford, contesting two county finals — could this be true? Had the papers got it wrong? Had there been misprints? Who are on these teams? Who is running the teams? These were the questions being asked as the flags and banners were got ready for the invasion of — yes, you guessed — MacCumhail Park, by the Lifford supporters.

In that same Park at 3.14 p.m. Kieran McGlynn's whistle signalled the end of a long, long, hard road and the magic words of County Champions would from now on be associated with Lifford as our U-14 team won that replay on a scoreline of Lifford 0-6, Urris 0-3. It was fitting that so many people who had served the club down the years with distinction was there to witness the great event.

County P.R.O., Sean Boyle, a native of Lifford and former player and club officer had taken over the video recording of the game to allow Club



Lifford team on final day in Junior 'B' Championship.

Chairman Packie Keeney to watch from the side line and share with his son Declan this very special day. Club President, Barney McDermott, saw two of his grand-sons make history.

Club officers in our history making year were as follows: President, Barney McDermott; Chairman, Packie Keeney; Secretary, Sylvester McGhee; Treasurer, Brendan Needham; P.R.O., Sylvester McGhee; Offigeach na Gaeilge, Packie Keeney; Delegate to County Board, Sylvester McGhee.



Packie Keeney, Lifford junior team manager and club chairman.

Dessie McDermott who had put many of these players through the under 12 and 13 stages of their career did the commentary on the game, his son Gareth had played his part as well. Marcus and Shay Givens, Mark McGhee, Pearce McLoughlin, Micheal O'Brien, Richie White, Barry Porter, Raymond Gallagher, Thomas Hegarty, Mel McKinney, the Shields brothers, Pearce Campbell, Brendan O'Donnell, are names that enter the history books as will that of Shane and Micheal Brenann, Niall McGhee, Paul Hannigan, Anthony and Kevin Porter, John McMenamin, Dillan and Garry White, Barry Patton.



Members of the Lifford G.A.A. team receiving their prizes won at the Lifford/Clonleigh Festival from the Lord Mayor of Lifford, Mr. Patsy Ward, and club secretary/PRO, Sylvester McGhee,

The excitement of winning a county title had not died down as the juniors took the field against Ardara. But as was the case in Fintra in '85 their day had not yet arrived. No doubt Packie Keeney and this team will bounce back in a renewed effort to follow the footsteps of our under 14s and lift the club's first ever adult football championship.



The Dunkineely team that won the National Schools Co. G.A.A. Quiz in Centenary Year, 1984, sponsored by the Milford Bakery and Flour Mills. The Dunkineely team, l. to r., Seamus Murphy, Pat Ellison, Kirl O'Donnell, Liam McGaughey, with County Chairman, Micheal Mac Giolla Easbuic (Kilcar), Gabriel Gordon, Minor Board chairman, and Sean McCormack, Milford Bakery & Flour Mills, who presented the magnificent trophies. Milford Bakery and Flour Mills has been one of the main sponsors of G.A.A. activities in the county over a number of years for which the Association is most grateful.

Glenfin '87

BY TERRY O'REILLY

It was way back in February 1987 as the snow lay on the banks of the River Finn that over forty players went through a vigorous training session under the watchful eyes of team trainer Patsy McGonagle. Things looked good for the months ahead, with a high spirit among all players and management. It was generally thought that Glenfin would do well on the football field throughout league and championship.

The senior team got off to a good start to the league with a win over Gweedore and a draw with St. Eunan's but lost to McCools in a match we should have won, and one that could have cost us dearly before the end of the league.

The first match in the championship was away to Four Masters and a great win was achieved that day. The team was Danny McGlynn, D. Martin, Ger McCool, T. Marley, Seamus Herron, M. McDermott, F.P. Marley, T. O'Reilly, J. McDermott, L. Ward, D. Ward, Seamus McCrudden, Frank Ward, Francie Martin, M. Houston. Sub used was Eoin Gallagher. The return match in Glenfin was played on a windy day. It was a scrappy game. Donegal won by 3 points — the same total that Glenfin had won by in the first game. The play-off in Ballybofey was a very exciting game, Glenfin fitter and more eager to win went on to win easily in the end to clinch a place in the quarter finals v. Kilcar. The run up the Kilcar match was built around very stiff training and matches in the Sandy Harpur tournament. This tournament always brought out the best in Glenfin and after three games against Downings we went to meet Cloughaneely in the semi finals. We won this game but only at a very large expense. We lost Seamus Marley and Joey McDermott

when they were sent off by the referee Noel Kane. These sendings off not alone cost us the Sandy Harper final which we lost to Aghyaran but also a place in the senior championship semi-finals.

The quarter final of the senior championship was in Fintra on a very windy day. Playing against the wind in the first half Kilcar led at half time by 15 points. Early scores in the second half brought Glenfin back into the game but when Kilcar scored a goal from the penalty spot with 10 minutes to go the curtain came down on Glenfin's championship prospects.

It was disappointing but still the team held together to go on and defeat Red Hughs twice, Urris, Downings twice, Cloughaneely and St. Eunan's to qualify us for the league semi-finals against County champions Aodh Ruadh.

It was a great honour for the club to have three members of the club on the County U-21 team that won the All-Ireland — the Ward brothers, Seamus and Dermot and Joey McDermott — congratulations to all. Indeed it was unfortunate that another member of the Ward family failed to get an all-Ireland medal when Frank captained the Vocational School team that were beaten in the final. He also played on the County minor team.

The junior team went out to Glenties in the first round of the championship but have fielded a team in all league matches throughout the year and they have enjoyed a few successes. Congrats to all the players that made an effort to keep the second team going — this is what club involvement and football participation is all about.

The club fielded teams in all under age games and even though we did not win

anything it is the taking part that counts, and with plenty of practise and games the outlook for 88 looks bright on the playing field for the club. Comeen N.S. went a long way in the National School competition and were unlucky not to win it out, better luck next time lads.

CAMOGIE

The U-12 team went on to win the County championship and with a foundation such as this, the future for camogie for the club is very bright indeed. Congratulations to the team and manager. The Adult team fielded in the championship without success but again prospects looks good for '88.

Overall it was a year of mixed fortunes for the club, the expectations at the beginning of a year may not have been reached but yet we have got a good, hardworking committee and officials, we have in the players a blend of youth and experience, and if only that word "emigration" that every club in the County dreads would not set in, then surely the great following of supporters will soon have something to shout about.

We thank everybody that helped the club over the year — to all managers and selectors of the various teams and a special word of thanks to Ballybofey man Patsy McGonagle for training all club players throughout the year, to Kieran McGlynn for representing us at the highest level at refereeing throughout the year. At the time of this publication we are in the All-County senior football league semi-final — hopefully it will be another success chapter in the club's history for the 1988 Donegal G.A.A. Yearbook.



Glenfin senior team — Senior Shield champions, 1987.

Tír Chonaill mar a ba chóir do a bheith

Séamus de Faoite,
(Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

Tá deire bliana eile chóir a bheith sroiste againn i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael. Mar sin de ba chóir do gach duine againn anois ceist a chur air féin an bhfuil muid ag comhlíonadh ár ndualgaisí agus ag tacú leis na haidhmeanna a bhí ag bunathóirí an Chumainn agus céad bliain ó shin.

Tá Oifigeach na Gaeilge ag feidhmiú i mbeagnach gach Club sa chontae anois. Post tabhachtach é san Chlub. Bá chóir go mbeadh an té sin atá ceapaithe, dólís i gconaí dár n-oidhreacht náisiúnta. Tá beagán díoma orm mar sin fhéin go bhfuil roinnt clubanna ann nach bhfuil aon duine acu san phost seo go fóill. Béidh mé ag súil leo an ceapuchán seo a bheith mar sprioc tabhachtach acu i 1988.

Dualgaisí:—

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

(1) Treoir a thabhairt do Oifigigh an Chlub fá chúrsaí Gaeilge.

(2) Tacaíocht a thabhairt do na baill an teanga a úsáid ag cruinnithe.

(3) An Ghaeilge a úsáid i bhfograíocht agus i bhfoillseachain an Chlub.

(4) Cuidiú Ranganna Gaeilge agus Ranganna Céilí a eagrú.

(5) Cuidiú le Scór a eagrú san Chlub.

(6) Cuidiú le eagrú Ceilithe, Scóraíochta, Coirneacha Ceoil, Tráth na gCeist, Diospóireachtaí agus an Fáinne Nua.

(7) Tuairiscí rialta a chur chuig Oifigeach Gaeilge an Chontae.

Ba cheart d'Oifigigh na Gaeilge sna clubanna a bheith ag obair ar phlean forbartha san am i láthair. Lena club go simplí 'siad na neithe 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 na baill na tréithe atá acu ó thaobh ceoil, etc. de a fhorbairt agus a léiriú.

I rith na bliana thug mé cuairt ar chuid de na clubanna sa chontae. Chuir mé spéis mhór san obair a bhí ar siúl acu agus rinne mé na deacrachtaí a bhí ag na clubanna eagsúla a phlé leo. Glac siad go fonnmhar liom agus leis an mhéid a bhí le rá agam leo. Bhí gach club sásta rud éigin a dhéanamh ar mhaithe le forbairt ar chúrsaí cultúra agus teanga sa club. Mhol mé daofa i gconaí an Ghaeilge a úsáid an oiread agus is féidir leo é ag cruinnithe agus i ngach gné dá gcuid obire.

Tá sé ar intinn, agam iarracht a dhéanamh ar na rincí ag na "Crois-Bhealaigh" a chur ar siúl i rith an tSamhraidh seo againn. Béidh mé i dteangmhail leis na clubanna fá seo gan mhoill.

GLENFIN HANDBALL ALLEY

Le Eamonn MacDonnell

Visiting teams and individuals coming to this small parish have expressed surprise to find a handball alley with dressing rooms and showers, and especially an alley built to international standards and specifications. Why is there one here and not one to be found in our bigger towns?

The answer lies with one man of boundless energy and enthusiasm, namely Thomas Herron, garage proprietor, Welchtown. Tommy was urged on and supported by a few individuals, and especially by Paddy Breen, R.I.P. The GAA Club was, at that time, the newly crowned junior champions. Euphoria was high, so newer and expanding horizons were expected. The Government supplied the launching pad for the new centre by offering a youth employment grant of £5,000. This was sought and obtained, and work began in the late autumn of 1978. But before a sod could be dug or a block laid, Tommy traversed Ulster, visiting many other centres and alleys, and considered and discussed in great detail every facet and every material to be used in the building. Problems and shortcomings in other centres were noted and carefully logged. His main considerations were making the centre fire-proof, storm-proof and vandal proof.

Next, he obtained the dimensions of the modern indoor alley and incorporated it into a viewing area that would seat about a hundred spectators. The natural brae in the field, although difficult to build on, was utilised in making gradient seating. This eliminated the costly need of pre-stressed concrete steps.

The plans were now submitted to the Council for approval. To the dismay of everyone, planning permission was refused on the grounds that the building was not in keeping with the environment; but, Tommy argued that it was fire-proof and storm-proof, and a new Planning Officer to the county saw the light, and gave his approval.

Another stroke of luck was the rejection by the trustees of installing a bar. Many clubs now find that it ties down too many club personnel, and financially can be a millstone around their necks.

The alley itself consists of a cavity wall with a 4" block on its flat on the inside and a 4" block on its edge on the outside. The roof consists of 24 foot long concrete slabs, which were supplied by Bretons & Co., Fivemilehouse, Co. Tyrone, and over these was laid one large sheet of one inch butyl rubber. This, in turn, was



covered by a few tons of stone chips. The inside of the alley was plastered with white cement to give a smooth strong finish. The lighting is excellent and consists of eight double fluorescent lights, which eliminates all shadows. These lights are countersunk into the roof and are covered by perspex.

After many experiments — dampening the maple boards, Tommy calculated that the 40 foot by 20 foot maple floor would expand by 7 inches if it ever got damp. In order to counteract this, expansion joints were left between the boards. The laying of the maple floor was supervised by Paddy Houston, Lettershambo.

Annexed to the alley and viewing area are two large dressing rooms, with showers and toilets en suite. Also a referee's room and a kitchenette. Urinals were also installed as it was envisaged that camogie teams would be using the facilities; this is now the case.

Time valves were fitted to the showers as in many centres showers are left running, and precious hot water is wasted. Instead of tiles, which can be easily damaged, a terrazo finish was used in the showers. A small electric shower room is also provided, which is used when small numbers are present.

Many voluntary workers helped in this project. Others who worked under the Youth Employment Scheme were Jimmy Byrne, Letterhillue; Patrick Brown, Lettershambo; Liam Martin, Cloghanbeg; J. Campbell, Edeninfagh; James Quinn, Welchtown; Michael McGinty, Cloghanbeg; Michael Tourish, Corlecky, and Paddy McNamee, Tonduff. A special word of thanks to Mrs. Mary Herron, who did all the accounting, and paid all the bills and wages and made all the tax returns. Thanks also to Neil Herron, Sligo, who donated £500 and to Joe Dorrian, who gave £100.

Any club which is intending to build an alley in the near future, should first contact any member of the Donegal Handball Committee. Plans of alleys, with showers and dressing rooms, are available on request at all monthly GAA meetings. Furthermore, if they wish to seek the advice of Tommy Herron, he will gladly give them advice and point out the many problems and pitfalls.

CLUB AN CHLOCHAIN LIATH

(DUNGLOE G.A.A. CLUB)



Dungloe's 1986 successful team, pictured at the club's annual dinner dance with Micheal Gillespie and Willie Joe Padden. They won the County Intermediate Football Championship in 1986.

In 1986 Dungloe G.A.A. Club had one of the most successful, if not the most successful, year in the club's history. Dungloe won the Co. Junior Gaeltacht title, the All-Ireland Junior Gaeltacht title, the Co. Intermediate championship, promotion from 3rd division and the 1986 Shield.

After such a successful year, what was ahead for 1987? The Dungloe Club feel that they have taken another step forward, as this year the club was back in Senior Championship football, and gave a very good account of themselves, drawing the first leg with Naomh Columba in Glencolumbkille, and being defeated by one point in Dungloe. This was no mean achievement when one looks back two years ago when Dungloe were in Division Four. The Sunday that Naomh Columba played in Dungloe saw the biggest crowd at a football match in Dungloe for many years. It would have been nice to have gone through to the next round of the championship for the sake of the players, the manager, Liam Reilly, and the trainers, Fr. Declan Nee and Tom Comack, all of whom had put so much time and effort into the preparation for the championship, but it wasn't to be.

Great heart should be taken from the fact that the team who played Naomh Columba had no fewer than ten players who were 21 years or under. If these players can be kept together and with the

fine young players that are coming through from the under-age teams, the club should have a bright future. However, there is one black spot that can ruin the future of our fine young team and that is emigration. The club area has been hit very hard over the last year.

From the team that won the All-Ireland Gaeltacht, the club have lost Noel Bonner, Charlie Gallagher, Barry Conroy and Thomas McDonagh, as well as about ten other lads who played either with the first or second team. At present it looks like we will only be able to field one adult team next year, and that would

be a shame as the second team have done so well this year, reaching the quarter-final of the Junior B Championship and, at the time of writing, are well placed in Division 3 League.

When we look back at the success of the club in 1987, the one aspect of the club's achievement that outshines everything else must be the fact that the club had the great honour of supplying three players — John Connors, Danny Gallagher and John Sweeney — to the County U-21 panel that won the All-Ireland. They did the club proud.

At under-age level the club were very



Dungloe's GAA Committee taken with Micheal Gillespie and Willie Joe Padden at their 1986 annual dinner dance.

active again in 1987. They entered every grade from U-10 to U-18, winning the Divisional U-10 and U-12 Championship and reaching the final stages in nearly all the other grades within the Division. The Minors reached the County Minor League final only to lose to Gweedore by one point.

The Local League was run for U-10s and U-12s this year again, but with the bad weather in spring, it got harder to get time to run off all the games.

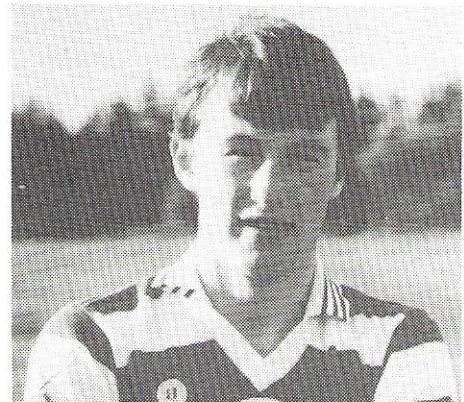
It was decided this year to try and carry out some improvements to the football field. Parts of the playing area were drained and with the grateful help of the Co. Board, a verti drainer was brought in for two days. This, coupled with the advice given by a soil expert, again courtesy of the County Board, the end result is there for everyone to see, the playing surface has never been in better shape. It is hoped that further improvements will be carried out in the coming year to the surrounding area of the field and the main entrance.

The club, in conjunction with the County draw, are running a very successful monthly draw. Great credit for this must go to club treasurer, Rose Doherty, and to Bernard Neely, for all their hard work. The club would like to say a big 'thank you' to all the people in the club area who support the draw each month.

DUNGLOE'S COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES



Myles Sweeney – senior



John Connors – U-21 and senior



Danny Gallagher – U-21



John Sweeney – U-21



Dungloe's G.A.A. team, 1986/87.

Fanad Gaels were never stronger

Once again, Fanad Gaels G.A.A. Club was deeply involved in G.A.A. activity in Co. Donegal during 1987. This year the Club fielded five teams, under 10, 12, 14, 16 and adult. Unfortunately none of these teams were successful this year. The adult team reached the semi-final of the Junior B. Championship where they were beaten by the eventual winners Ardara.

The cost of running these teams place a heavy financial burden on the club. Our geographical location means that travelling costs are a major factor for our club. That cost coupled with insurance and registration fees to County and Minor Boards, means that the annual cost is approximately £5000. In order to raise funds, the club organise a Christmas draw each year, the July Gala Weekend, dances and various other functions, with a nice bonus of £1000 won on the County Draw in July. Yet each year the club has to rely on sponsorship to survive, and we owe a great debt to our many kind sponsors who always come to our rescue, when the need arises.

The club area has recently been extended to include Kerrykeel and Glencar. Meetings are being held in these regions at the moment with the view to setting up a Bord na nOg to look after under-age development, and to unearth some new talent.

St. Patrick's U-12 team from Co. Armagh paid a weekend visit to the peninsula in August as hosts of the Gaels. One match was played with the Traigh-a-locha lads and the game ended all

square after some exciting and skilful playing.

Culture interest in the Scor competitions is on the increase in Fanad due to the efforts of the GAA club. Traigh-a-Locha Community Centre was the venue for hosting the North West Regional section finals and four clubs took part in the competitions — recitations, ceili dancing and quiz. Josephine McGroarty won the recitations, Fanad Club team won the Ceili dancing and the Quiz was won by Lawrence Sweeney, John Dorrian and Manus McElwaine. The Ceili group was defeated in the County semi-finals in Doneyloop but the quiz team and Mrs. McGroarty went forward to the Co. finals in Ardara. The high standard in competitions was having its toll at this stage and only the quiz team who were getting stronger each time went forward to the Ulster semi-finals in Ballybofey before a packed crowd. Once again the team came out strong winners and indeed favourites for the Ulster finals in Coalisland. At this stage the Quiz team were showing the strains of taking part at such a high level and despite a very fine performance were defeated — but all in all a great show by the Fanad Gaels quiz team.

As we go to press efforts are being made to set up Gaelic classes for those who want to learn or to improve on the Gaelic language Má tá Gaelic agat, labhair é.

Since Barry Lang landed by parachute

at Traigh-a-Locha interest is high in the club about parachuting. So high that five members of the club decided to take up the sport and will be parachuting in Dublin shortly, all in aid of the Little Angels School in Letterkenny. A very worthwhile effort and a good cause.

John McAteer, Mulroy Studios, and Journalist with the Derry People and Donegal News videod the GAA weekend last July and showed the entertaining weekend in the Community Centre for everyone who wanted a good night's viewing and laugh, for just £1.00. But this was all in aid of little Stephen Quinn, a worthwhile effort by the club and John, which left the fund £100 richer.

The fourth annual GAA Weekend, organised by the club, proved to be a success beyond the wildest dreams of the organisers, who had spent months in planning and organising the event. The sixteen members of the organising committee were the recipients of praise and congratulations from the Donegal County Board and the public, who attended the many events over the weekend.

The weekend was officially opened during the club's annual dinner dance in the Atlantic Hotel by County Chairman, Mr. Charlie Faulkner. He was accompanied by Inter-County footballer, Brendan Dunleavy and Seamus De Faoite, Oifigeach na Gaeilge. All three guests spoke in tribute of the club for their enterprise and initiative in



Corby G.A.A. team on their visit to Fanad.

organising such an event, for their promotion of sport and Gaelic games, and Mr. De Faoite congratulated the club's promotion of the Irish language. John Friel, the most senior member was selected as "Clubman of the Year" for his successful involvement in bringing the fifty strong party from O'Rahilly GAA club, Corby to the parish last year. Senior

Player of the Year went to Hughie Shiels, while Aiden Sweeney received the Young Player of the Year trophy. A crowd of over 2,000 people assembled for the Novelty Sports and to see RTE 2 Hotline presenter Barry Lang arrive by parachute. At exactly 3.00 p.m. the aircraft piloted by Hugh McClean, better known for his musical talents, flew over the sports field and climbed to 2000 feet into the cloud. Eunan Carroll was quickly followed out of the plane by the ever popular Barry Lang and they parachuted to exact precision onto the GAA pitch carrying with them a flag bearing the name of Fanad Gaels. Both parachutists were swamped by hundreds of young autograph hunters. Barry Lang spent four hours as guests of the club and made many friends during his short stay in Fanad.

The successful weekend was brought to a close in the Atlantic House Hotel on Sunday night by John Kerr with an Irish Night. John Dorrian N.T. paid tribute to the public for their participation and help from various organisations. He paid special tribute to the many sponsors for their financial help.

The club made a very successful trip overseas in August at the invitation of O'Rahilly's club, Corby, who paid a visit to the parish last year. The group, totalling fifty people travelled by coach and on arrival were greeted by 200 Donegal folk based in the area. Following a very warm reception from the assembled crowd the Fanad party were taken to the homes of the O'Rahilly club members where they stayed throughout the visit.

The O'Rahilly club has strong Fanad connections and their secretary, Julia McNally, hails from Doaghmore. The club chairman, Aiden Flynn visited Fanad last year. Fanad players in Corby include Eamon McGrenaghan and Jimmy Carr.

Over the weekend various functions were held for the group, including two Gaelic matches. The first game on Saturday was won by the Gaels. On Sunday afternoon the two sides met again for the Gallagher Cup and the home side won easily on this occasion. The Cup was donated by the Gallagher family, formerly from Ballyshannon. A feature of this game was the presence of

hundreds of Irish people living in the British midlands who travelled to meet and greet the Fanad contingent. The McGrorys, the Johnny Antons, the Charlie Wee Dens, Danny Donie, Hughie Ned, John Patrick Fady, you just name them, they were there, believe it or not, shouting for the Fanad Gaels team. The Gaels were impressed with the skills and enthusiasm — and their dedication to Gaelic games.

The highlight of the weekend was the Sunday night presentation danced in the Irish Centre, where more than 600 people packed into the function room, to dance and sing the night away. Among the attendance was 85 years old Hughie Ned Carr from Fanad who spent fifty years in Corby. Another long time resident in Corby, Paddy Carr was a special guest. He helped to organise the whole weekend.

John Shiels, chairman of Fanad Gaels presented the Cup to Mark Davis, O'Rahilly's captain and James Friel captain of the Gaels presented Mark with an inscribed piece of Fanad Granite. The biggest cheer of the night went to Johnny Fealty who had formerly worked in

Corby in the fifties before returning to Fanad. He was presented with a Shield by Aiden Flynn, chairman of O'Rahilly's. Johnny had the honour of throwing in the ball earlier in the day at the match. The club's visit to Corby was more than worthwhile, meeting many Donegal people, many yearning to return home. For them our visit was a very emotional contact with home and our departure was a tearful scene among the two hundred people who had gathered to say goodbye at the Irish Centre on the Monday morning.



Fanad Gaels team at their annual dinner dance in the Atlantic House Hotel, with the chairman of the Donegal County Board, Mr. Charlie Faulkner.



Barry Lang presenting the Fanad Gaels secretary, Brid Sweeney, with the flag he carried with him, parachuting into the GAA pitch at Triagh-a-Locha at the Gala Weekend in July. Left to right, John Dorrian, Barry Lang, R.T.E., John McConigley, Bernard Gallagher, Charlie McAteer, Neil Sweeney, John Shiels (chairman), Brid Sweeney (secretary) and Kathleen Coyle.

NAOMH CONAILL GAA CLUB

GLENTIES, 1987

By Brendan O'Donnell

1987 wasn't a very successful year for Naomh Conaill GAA Club, Glenties. Our Intermediate team reached the county semi-finals, only to be beaten by Naomh Brid, the eventual champions. We failed, therefore, to repeat the great achievement of 1986 when we reached the Intermediate final only to be so narrowly beaten by Dungloe. Out of the 1986 panel only ten were available for this year's campaign. Kevin McGill, Michael Gallagher, Vincent Furey, James O'Donnell and Daniel Ward have all left the club in the last three years. They, unfortunately, had to emigrate to seek employment. Daniel Ward played in all levels at underage for both club and county and also played a few games for the county senior team. Vincent and Michael also played underage for the county. So one can imagine what a loss to the Glenties Club players of their calibre were. Glenties are currently rebuilding their teams at both Junior and Intermediate level. The average age of the first team last year was 26 and the average age this year is only 20.

On to our junior team, who this year reached the Junior B Championship quarter final only to lose to a more determined Naomh Baithin side. The experience gained this year by these young junior team players will stand them in good stead for next year's championship. This team is also being rebuilt. This junior team is young and will, hopefully, contribute greatly to the senior teams of the future. The panels for 1987 were:

Intermediate: James Cunningham, Joe Gallagher, John Molloy, John (Pat) Molloy, Connie Doherty, John O'Donnell, Dinny McGill, Patrick O'Donnell, Kevin Keeney (capt.), Pat Ward, Phil McGinnity, Dessie O'Donnell, Conor Boyle, Hughie Molloy, Kieran Boyce, John McGlinchey, Eunan Boyle, Columba McDwyer, Shaun Gallagher, James McDwyer, Joe Craig.

Junior team: John McDwyer, Mickey Doherty, Gerard O'Donnell, Frank Sweeney, Gerard McDyer, Gerry Doherty, Dave Moore, Patsy Gallagher (capt.), Francis Mannering, Joe Griffin, Martin Doherty, Brendan O'Donnell, Paul Duffy, John Gildea, Kieran Ward, Michael Furey, Kevin O'Donnell, Connie O'Donnell, John McBride, Sean Walsh, John P. O'Donnell and Paddy McDwyer.



The chairman of Naomh Conaill and Tirconail Gaels exchange plaques in London.

LONDON TRIP

On Friday, 17th April, 1987, 48 members of the club went to London for the Easter weekend and played a challenge game against Tirconail Gaels. The game was played at Ealing Rugby Grounds. There was a large crowd present, with people from all around Donegal and England and other emigrants from Ireland. The game was rather exciting but Glenties were hit by injury problems and had to call on the services of Glenties emigrants, Michael Boyle, Frankie Craig, Pat Craig and Jimmy Caffrey from Ardara. Glenties started off the brighter but couldn't turn the possession into scores and the Gaels punished them for this and led 0-6 to 0-1 at half time. It was much the same story for the second half and the final score was Gaels 0-10, Glenties 1-2.

Teams: Tirconail Gaels: Gerard Boyle; Frank Glynn, Sean Boylan, Pat McGill; John Wynne, Seamus Carr, Maurice Carr; Stephen Campbell, Jimmy Brennan; Conal Keeney, Paul Brennan, Danny Tully; Tommy McFadden, Tom McDonnell, Declan Gallagher.

Glenties: Joe Craig; Frank Sweeney, Connie Doherty, Brendan O'Donnell; Patsy Gallagher, Dinny McGill, Kevin Keeney; Pat Ward, Dessie O'Donnell; Pat Craig, Jimmy Caffrey, Michael

Boyle; John McDwyer, Kieran Boyce, Frankie Craig.

After the game there was a function in the Tudor Rooms and the two chairmen exchanged plaques to commemorate the visit.

CELBRIDGE VISIT

Also this year we had members of Celbridge G.A.A. Club (of which Gerry McDermott from Glenties is coach) down to visit us. There was a little tournament held and the final was between Celbridge and Glenties first team. This was a very competitive game played before a very large crowd. The pitch was in excellent condition. Celbridge scored a goal after two minutes and quickly followed with a goal and two points to put them into an eight point lead after fifteen minutes. But once Glenties found their feet they came right back into it and there was only three points separating the sides at half-time. The second half was just as close with Glenties running out winners by the narrowest of margins. The final score was N. Conaill 2-8, Celbride 2-7. After the game there was a presentation to the winning captain, Patrick O'Donnell, who accepted the "Paddy's Bar" trophy on behalf of the vociferous Glenties team. The Celbridge team were presented with plaques to commemorate their visit to

Glenties. We would hope to make this an annual affair. In 1988 we hope to go to Celbridge to mark the opening of their new football grounds.

HANDBALL

In our club we have a very good handball team which won the all-county League in 1985. 1985 will always be remembered by the members of the club because that was our first victory at senior level in any competition. The team on that historic occasion was Liam Ward, Kieran Ward, Dave Mulhern and John McDyer.

MINOR BOARD

In 1986 a Minor Board was set up for the first time under the guidance of Charles Deacy and Sean Sweeney. The Board caters for underage players up to 18 years of age. At underage level this year we fielded teams at every level except u-21.

The competitions we entered were U-10, U-12, U-13, U-14, U-15 Óg Spórt, U-16 and U-18 plus a camogie team. At U-10 level we reached the Divisional final in 1986 (our first year in the competition), and this year we played three games but unfortunately we got beaten in all three games. At U-12 level we played ten games and we won six and lost four, which meant we qualified for the Divisional semi-final only to lose to Killybegs. We scored 29.58 and conceded 31.38 during this u-12 campaign.

This was a very young team as eleven of this year's side plus seven of the subs are underage for next year's competition. We have some fine footballers on this team such as Neil Boyle who was top

score this year scoring 9-15; John Brennan, who scored 9-7; Brian Campbell, Anton Mannering, Patrick Campbell and Kieran Gallagher. At U-13 level we played in the Community Games and we beat Glenfin and in the quarter-final we were beaten by Cloughaneely. In the U-14 competition we played five, won one and lost five. This was a very young squad with only three of the team overage for next year's competition. We also competed at Óg Spórt Gael but we weren't successful as we met the eventual winners, Killybegs. At U-16 level we qualified for the Divisional semi-final. We played seven, won 2, drew 1 and lost four matches here. This is also a young team with only five overage next year. At minor level we only played two games against Ardara and Naomh Columba. Because of exams and injuries we couldn't fulfil all the fixtures. In the Championship we couldn't play Ardara because we had eight players out injured and because of exams. Out of this team there is only one player overage for next year. A lot of this team is gaining a lot of experience by playing with the junior team.

We would like to thank Charles Deacy and Sean Sweeney for all the hard work they have done at underage. Unfortunately, Sean left us this year, but he has laid a great foundation, and I'm sure this hard work will pay off in the very near future.

CAMOGIE

This year there was a camogie team formed under the guidance of Fr. Con Cunningham, P.P. This was the girls first year playing competitive Camogie. Their first match was against Ballyshannon in

Glenties. This was a very exciting game and there was a big crowd out to support the girls in blue and white. The final score was Ballyshannon 3-0, Glenties 1-0. The Glenties scorer in this historic game was Veronica McLoone. This team looks to have a bright future. for Glenties in Camogie as they also qualified for the Community Games county semi-final. This was a very close game with Letterkenny scoring a goal in the last few minutes to clinch the game but that goal. The score was Letterkenny 4-0, Glenties 3-1. The Glenties team was: Christine Sweeney, Maria McLoone, Sara Molloy, Tara Bonner, Elaine Campbell, Caroline Hegarty, Helen McNelis, Michelle Ward, Annette Byrne, Nuala Ward, Mary Doherty, Veronica McLoone.

COUNTY PLAYERS

This year we had two players on the County U-16 panel, namely Conal McLoone and John Gildea. We look forward in earnest to the coming season and hopefully by this time next year we will have some silverware on the mantelpiece. The last time we contested a Divisional final in underage was in 1984 when our U-14s won the Divisional final and reached the county final. We have a very small selection to pick from since we lost the Fintown part of the club.

Also this year we got our dressing rooms finished. We installed showers, toilets, wash-hand basins and the electricity fitted. The dressing rooms are a great asset to the club and they are being carefully looked after by John Gallagher.

1987 Officer Board: Chairman, Peter McKelvey; president, Danny Boyle; secretary, Terence Craig; treasurer, Patsy Furey; PRO, Brendan O'Donnell.



Tirconaill Gaels, London, and Naomh Conaill, Glenties, in Ealing, London, Easter weekend, 1987.

A Review of Club Activities for 87

As I write this review of the club's activities for 1987 the season for us is almost over — one game left to play against Robert Emmets. This follows the titanic and exciting game up at the "Banks" in Annagry on Sunday, 27th September, a historic day for Naomh Mhuire. We gave them a good game and a fright, and we wish them well and continued success in Division I.

It's only when you start to think of the activities the club were involved in, that running a G.A.A. club in the 1980s puts a lot of demands on a lot of people, especially the officers, team managers and selectors, school teachers, parents, sponsors, ticket sellers and buyers, coach and mini-bus drivers, park committee members, finance committee members, wives and girl friends of club members for their understanding in providing early lunch or a late dinner and lastly to all the boys and girls who play our games of hurling, football and camogie a big thank you, for without them we would have no club. To all the adults who played for us in our county competitors in hurling, football, camogie, thank you all also. It was a lean year as far as success on the field was concerned, but hopefully next year will see us make a breakthrough in one or all of our adult games. Thanks also to all those who took part in the parish football and hurling leagues. There were some memorable games and encounters. One such event concerned club referee and former chairman, J. P. Bradley who, whilst playing in the hurling parish league stuck his head where the sliothar should have been and current chairman Paddy McClure clipped him above the eyebrow. J. P. now has a permanent reminder of that close encounter and chairman

McClure has got himself the tag "The Hitman". The finals of the parish league: Football: Anthony Bourke's team, winners; runners-up: Cormac Skinnader's team. Hurling: Danny McDermott's team, winners; runners-up: John Hirrell's team.

The Carndonagh club took part in the following competitions during 1987: u-12, u-14, u-16, u-18, u-21, junior football, Division 2 North League Championship, also Primary Schools competitions, u-14, u-16, senior hurling league and championship, Feile na nGael, under-14 hurling championship.

HURLING

Our u-16 hurlers benefitted from a coaching course along with other Donegal clubs. Held at various Co. Antrim clubs our club were hosted by Glenarriff hurling club, North Antrim, and we thank the Glenarriff club and their officials, also Dessie Donnelly and Niall Wheeler, hurling All-Stars who gave their time to coach our boys. This self-help scheme owes much to Seamus McGratton and John Hegarty of Antrim and hopefully more and more Donegal clubs will avail of the opportunity to improve their skill and standard.

UNDER-AGE HONOURS

Our under-12 football team was the only team to win any divisional honours this year and we congratulate them and their mentors — Tommy McBreaty, Maurice McEniry and Gerry O'Kane.

During 1987 we hosted and entertained the following clubs and hopefully we will expand this form of activity in 1988: (1)

The Drumsurn Gaelic football and hurling teams, Co. Derry; (2) The Donegal New York football team; (3) The O'Gonnelloe u-14 hurling club, Co. Clare; (4) the Foreglens u-14 and u-16 Gaelic football teams, Co. Derry.

I would like to conclude by thanking all my fellow officers in the Carndonagh club for all their help, and hopefully with their help we will have the history of the Carndonagh G.A.A. club ready for publication at our annual dinner dance in January '88.

Thanks to the County Board officers, both senior and minor, for all their help in 1987, not forgetting our own Inishowen Board who put in a lot of hard work with under-age games in '87. Thanks also to club president and P.R.O., Tom Farren, who continues to be very actively involved with the club, and does a great job reporting our games, and to the following boys who were members of the county under-16 All-Ireland hurling team who beat Sligo 2-7 to 2-3 at the Fr. Tierney Park, Ballyshannon, on August 15th, 1987: Christopher Nelson, Eamonn McLaughlin-Harkin, Conor Kelly, Shaun Kelly, Alan Doherty, Sean Bradley. They did themselves proud, as well as their club, their families and their county. Thanks also to the people of Carndonagh who turned out in such large numbers to welcome home the boys with their All-Ireland medals, the first ever in Carndonagh. I was delighted and equally proud to be associated with the team all through the whole campaign. It augurs well for the future.

Go raibh maith agaibh,
PADDY MCCLURE,
Chairman, Carndonagh G.A.A. Club.



Carndonagh U-14 team who reached the County final in 1986.

Historic Visit Of New York Team To Carndonagh

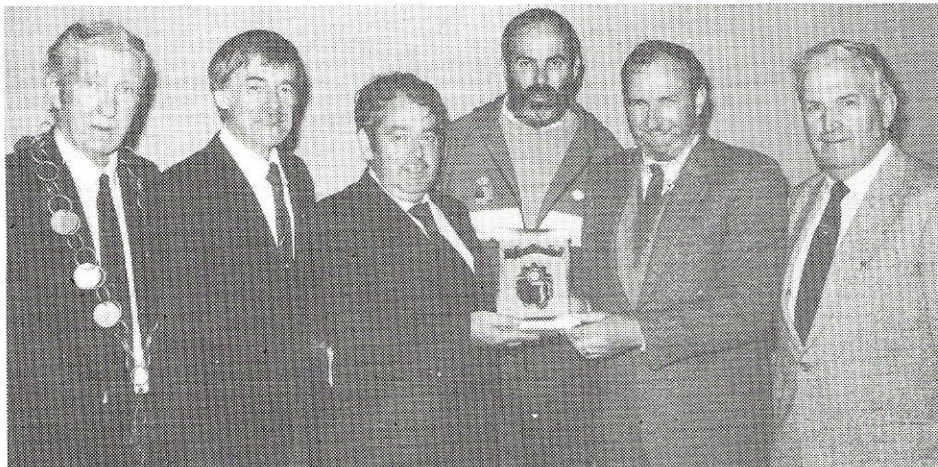
Whatever the success or achievements that the future may bring, the Carndonagh G.A.A. club will have reason to recall with pride, Wednesday, 13th May, 1987. The visit of the Donegal New York Gaelic football team on that date was a great occasion and despite the fact that the miserable wet evening was not conducive to overall enjoyment, the football game provided first-class entertainment.

The Donegal New York team was comprised of players from different Irish counties, including such notables as Larry Tompkins, the Kildare All-Star of 1985 at 21 years of age, and Pdraig Dunne, who starred for Offaly in their All-Ireland victory over Kerry in 1982. The Carn selection did well to muster the opposition and bring out the best in this great team to provide excellent entertainment for a good attendance.

The teams were led on to O'Doherty Park behind their captains, Larry Tompkins, Donegal New York, and Patrick Farren, Carndonagh, by the Muff Accordion Band under their bandmaster, Mr. Heaney, with the Carndonagh Boy Scouts and Brigini and members of the Order of Malta taking part in the parade. The ball was thrown in by the Mayor, Mr. Laurence Mooney, deputising for Fr. O'Neill, P.P., who had to leave on an urgent call just before the start. The final score was: Donegal New York 1-20, Carn Selection 2-7.

Accompanying the Donegal New York team were Anthony Timoney, president, Mike Meehan, tour chairman, and Donal Gallagher, manager. The chairman of the Donegal County Board, Inishowen-born Charlie Faulkner, was also in attendance.

The social aspect of the occasion was fittingly observed by a most enjoyable



Donegal New York Gaelic football team visit to Carndonagh, Wednesday 13th May, 1987. Carn chairman, Paddy McClure, presenting Anthony Timoney with an inscribed scroll to commemorate their visit. Also included (left to right) Laurence Mooney, Lord Mayor of Carn, Mike Meehan, N.Y., Donal Gallagher, N.Y., and C. Faulkner, county chairman.

presentation function and dance in the Malin Hotel, attended by both teams and a large number of supporters. After a delectable meal, a warm welcome was extended to the visitors by Paddy McClure, chairman of the Carndonagh club, who said it was an honour for the club to host such a wonderful team of footballers and their officials. He thanked the county chairman for supporting Carndonagh's invitation to the Donegal New York party to include Inishowen in its itinerary. On behalf of the visitors, Anthony Timoney thanked the Carndonagh club for their hospitality and the warmth of their welcome. He said this was the highlight of their tour and as a member of the party that visited the area in Centenary Year, 1984, Carndonagh and Inishowen will forever hold fond memories for him. Mr. Timoney then

presented mementos of their visit to Paddy McClure, chairman, Elizabeth Doherty, secretary, Carndonagh club, and to Tony Foley and Cormac Skinnader, team managers. Presentations were then made to the visiting officials and a set of medals was accepted by Larry Tompkins on behalf of his team members. On making the presentations Paddy McClure revealed that the prospects of a tour of the New York-Boston area in 1988 was already being considered and if it materialised he knew they could look forward to a wonderful welcome.

The dance and sing-song that followed was a fitting climax to a memorable occasion with the management of the Malin Hotel playing its part in its great success.



Donegal New York and Carndonagh Selection in O'Doherty Park, Carndonagh, on Wednesday 13th May, 1987.

—Photo: Alo Tully.

Clare Hurlers Visit Carn

The O'Gonnolloe Hurling Club officials from Co. Clare accompanied by twenty under-14 hurlers on their trip to Carndonagh thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

They were delighted with the reception they received and were enthralled by the scenic beauty of the Inishowen peninsula which they toured on the Friday and Saturday accompanied by local club officials.

At a pleasant function in the youth club premises they presented a Clarenbridge crystal bowl to each of the families which hosted them over the week-end and in addition donated twenty hurleys to the club to encourage continued support for the premier national game.

On behalf of the Carn club the chairman, Paddy McClure, presented an inscribed scroll to the visitors and in the course of an address thanked them for their generosity and for their sense of co-operation and comradeship in coming to Carndonagh. He also thanked the local families who hosted the visitors which contributed to a strengthening of the ties of friendship between the two clubs and made the visit a happy memory for the boys.



O'Gonnolloe under-14 hurling team, Co. Clare, winners of Div. 4 Feile na nGael, on their visit to Carndonagh, 20th August, 1987.

The officials of the O'Gonnolloe club who accompanied the boys were Damien Heaney and his wife, Geraldine, and Michael Dinan and his wife, Kathleen.

The trip North was inspired by the happy relations established between the

O'Gonnolloe club in Clare and Carndonagh club during the Feile na nGael hurling tournament in Ennis in 1986. The Carn club members received every consideration and hospitality from their Clare hosts and are anxious to repay that kindness this week-end.

100 Players Take Part In Carndonagh G.A.A. Club Parish Football League Competition

The resumption of the parish football league proved an outstanding success for the Carn club in 1987 as well as a lot of enjoyment for all those who took part in the competition. All age groups, plus a lot of odd-shaped footballers, or perhaps that should be long lost footballers, played their part in the quest of the prestigious Inishowen Co-Op Society Ltd. Shield and sets of medals and plaques. The final was played between Anthony Bourke's team and Cormac Skinnader's team, with Anthony Bourke's team winning after a strong and determined fight from Skinnader's men.

Some outstanding performances were witnessed by the large crowd from John Gibbons, Jim Coyle, John Joe Doherty (O.), and John Joe Doherty (N.), Albert Doherty and M. McClure in goals, and A. Bourke. For the losers, C. Skinnader, R. McCool, Neil Doherty, Pearse Doherty, Gerry Doherty, Michael Doherty (B.), and John Dan McMenamín all tried hard and gave their best.

Sean Masterson of Buncrana refereed the final.

The parish league hurling final was

won by Danny McDermott's team. Four teams took part, among them being a lot of 15 and 16-year-olds plus the six boys who played such a great part in the county under-16 All-Ireland winning team. The trophy at stake for the hurling league was the Leonard Harkin Cup. Leonard, who has lived in Melbourne, Australia, for many years, was a former player with the Carn club and played for both club and State of Victoria with the Patrick Pearse club in Melbourne.

The presentation of all trophies, medals and shield took place at a very enjoyable function in the Strand Hotel, Ballyliffin.



Carndonagh G.A.A. Club Parish Football League winners 1987

— Anthony Bourke's team.



Parish League football finalists 1987 — Cormac Skinnader's team.

Carndonagh's Year Book

As the history of the Carndonagh G.A.A. Club is being compiled at present any detailed report of its activities and achievements would tend to be repetitive.

Suffice to say that 1987 was a year that the club is entitled to recall with satisfaction despite the fact that no county honours had been won.

In the matter of participation in hurling and football in the several grades Carn can boast of a record in 1987 that few clubs can equal. Furthermore, our players can be congratulated on their sportsmanship and it is a pleasure to state that in their many games played throughout the year that sense of sportsmanship was generally reciprocated by their opponents.

However, despite this gratifying experience of seeing our national games played in an admirable spirit, the Carn club is convinced that the Association is failing to keep trust with the aspirations of its founders by its indifference to the problems confronting the youth of the nation in the matter of unemployment.

It was this conviction that prompted our club to put forward a motion to the 1987 National Congress emphasising the responsibility resting on the Gaelic Athletic Association to address itself to the matter. The motion was as follows: "As an organisation that rightly claims to be truly national in outlook it is incumbent on the Gaelic Athletic Association to immediately address itself to the paralysing problem of unemployment and emigration facing our young people. As an earnest of its concern we propose that a substantial sum of money be set aside annually over a five-year period towards the creation of employment".

The action of the Congress chairman in pressing for a withdrawal of the motion underlined his lack of appreciation of the prestige that would rebound to the Association nationwide by spearheading a national campaign to mitigate the problem.

Our concern is not of recent origin and I quote from an article which I contributed to the "Donegal Democrat" dated 2nd October, 1970, at the request of the late Hugh Daly, who was then county secretary: "The decline of population in rural Ireland and its effect on the G.A.A. is being posed from all angles at present. The effect on the G.A.A. will be considerable but the effect on the nation is tragic. The G.A.A. claims that it is not merely a sporting organisation. I feel therefore that we must, in conjunction with the I.D.A., play a positive part in arresting the decline of the West and to accentuate the siting of industry in rural areas so that our youth can grown up with opportunities to earn a living in a congenial environment. As the problem

affects Donegal to a great degree, I feel we should spearhead a scheme for the financing of such an activity. This would be work of real national importance".

That was written seventeen years ago. At this stage can Donegal, as an active

unit of the Association, initiate a movement embracing the entire community to consider the matter.

T. O'FEARÁIN,
President and P.R.O.,
Carndonagh G.A.A. Club.



Carndonagh G.A.A. team v. Donegal New York, 13/5/87, O'Doherty Park, Carndonagh: Front row (l. to r.): Tommy Diver, Tony Cornyn, Michael Doherty, Patrick Farren, John Farren, Gabriel McLaughlin, Louis Walsh. Back row (l. to r.): P. J. McGarry, Tony Foley, John Farren, Michael McClure, Cormac Skinnader, Anthony Bourke, Shayne Bryne, Des Newton.

Emigration is destroying St. Michael's

By EDMUND McFADDEN

The story of St. Michael's football exploits in 1987 makes dismal reading — our first team relegated to Division 2 of the County League, the second team withdrawn from competition in early August. Part of the problem was emigration — about ten regular players left the area — but we should not deceive ourselves into believing that it was the whole problem. Quite simply, the spirit of 'Knocknagon' is missing, and until it surfaces no competitions will be won. I have just read Paddy Tunney's ballad in the 1984 Yearbook in which he mentions, among others, a man who hailed from our area...

"Sean Ferriter the fierce

Whose grit and drive and energy would armour plating pierce."

There is a message there somewhere for the St. Michael's of today.

And perhaps that message is being heard at underage level. In 1987 our under 12 side beat Gweedore on the double, the under 14s also accounted for the Gaeltacht side. For a small catchment area, that achievement should not be underestimated, and nobody knows that better than Brian McGinley. Many hours and weeks and years were spent preparing the youngsters and Brian assured the doubting ones among them that eventually our greatest bogey at under-age level could be laid.

There were three entries at local level for the National School's Quiz: St. Mary's Creeslough, Holy Cross Dunafanaghy and Murroe N.S. It was close for most of the way but in the 6-mark GAA questions Creeslough came out on top. And what worthy representatives they proved to be — going on to win that never-to-be-forgotten county final. The members of St. Mary's team were Patrick Lafferty, Kieran McFadden, Joan Sheridan, Edmund Carr and Gary Carey. Perhaps there is a Junior Scór winning team on the way.

On the morning of the 30th July last the whole community was stunned by the news that John McGinley had died in a Dublin Hospital. In his early 40s, John played for St. Michael's in two county finals 1969-1971 and later served the club in the roles of treasurer and youth officer. He was dedicated to the GAA, Ceili dancing and all things Irish. We sorely miss you, John, and pray that you are at peace. To his wife Ellen, daughter Deirdre, parents and brothers our deepest sympathy is extended.

Bundoran U-12 County Champions for first time in history

It is now six years since Bundoran G.A.A. club made a decision to place more emphasis on the development of the skills and interest in Gaelic games among the youth of the town.

With this in mind and with the co-operation of the local primary school, as first step, the club decided to hold two leagues on Saturday morning during the winter months for children of primary school age.

The growth in interest and the improvement in skills of the young players didn't take long to manifest itself. Bundoran under-age teams started to take pride in themselves and their club once more and for the first time in a number of years began to provide serious opposition for the other teams in the Southern Division.

The first real reward for the work put in with the younger players came in 1985 when the Bundoran U-12 team won the (B) Divisional championship title when they defeated St. Naul's in the final. At the time this was a real breakthrough for the team and certainly gave a great boost to the youngsters' confidence.

St. Naul's were the opponents again the following year when once again the team won the (B) Divisional title and were unlucky not to progress further at county level where they were beaten by a point in the county semi-final by the team which eventually won county honours.

Fifteen of that panel were still available this year and under the guidance of Billy Gavigan and Fintan Lynch — his assistant, they developed into an exceptionally good team. Dedication, discipline, sportsmanship and skill were the hallmarks of this team and these qualities were nurtured and developed by the men in charge.

In this year's campaign there were many close games with other teams in the Southern division — teams like Aodh Ruadh, Naomh Naille and Naomh Brid. These highly competitive encounters stood the team in good stead when they eventually won the divisional championship with a win over Naomh Brid and entered the County A campaign for the first time in the club's recent history.

Their first game at county level was in the quarter final against a strong and sporting Dungloe side at Fintra. This proved to be one of the best games in the campaign with Bundoran winning by 7-5 to 2-4. The county semi-final defeat of Carndonagh in Ballybofey indicated that this team had indeed the potential to capture the county championship.

County final day was set for July 18th

in Ballybofey and Cloughaneely provided the opposition. Falcarragh N.S. had already accounted for Bundoran N.S. in the county semi-final of the Primary Schools competition so the team and its mentors were under no illusions as to the strength of the opposition on this occasion.

The training and hard work had been done however and on the day the Bundoran lads never allowed Cloughaneely to settle into their normal pattern of play while they themselves took control of proceedings early on in the game. Their dominance is reflected in the final scoreline of 3-9 to 0-1.

There were great celebrations among the large crowd of supporters who had travelled from Bundoran for the occasion. All agreed that the victory was just reward for the work put in by the team and their manager and coach.

During this year's campaign every member of the team and panel made very important contributions to the eventual success.

Adrian Flanagan in goals was always very safe. M. Warnock, M. Gillen and J. Cassidy in the backline were a very solid line of defence with Gillen's long-range free taking and many fine clearances under pressure a feature of many games. The half-back line of Brendan Madden, David Clarke (capt) and Kevin Gillespie were the perfect springboard for many attacks, while at midfield Dessie McNamara and Patrick Daly outshone the opposition on many occasions. McNamara in fact scored a large proportion of the sides total in the final. The forwards, Stephen Loughlin, Raymond Daly, Brian Gavigan, Oliver Flaherty, Shane Rooney, Mark Geagan and on many occasions Stephen Kelly were a very well organised unit and provided very attractive football all through the year. The rest of the panel, David O'Connell, Paul Campbell, Eoin Meehan, Patrick Meehan, Conor Breslin, Kevin O'Hara, Paul Magee and Eamonn Gavigan all contributed handsomely to the success of the side playing exceptionally well when called upon.

The success was the result of many years work by people like B. McHugh, J. Daly, M. McNulty, J. Campbell, J. Golden, F. O'Dowd among others.

Particular mention must be made of the work done in recent times by Billy Gavigan and Fintan Lynch and the support they received from the members and executive of the club's Bord na n-Og which was set up for this year. The future of under-age football in Bundoran looks bright under the guidance of these dedicated people.

SNIPPETS

Pádraig S. Mac a' Ghoill
Cumann na gCleas-Lúith-nGaedhealacha
Na Gleanntaí
Dún na nGall
Iú Meitheamh 1928

A chara,

As you are aware a movement is on foot throughout Ireland to further the very worthy object of amalgamating "The Gaelic League" and "The G.A.A." and other Irish organisations having the "Gaelicism" of the country at heart. You will agree, I am sure, that we in Donegal should assist in the movement and maintain our reputation for enthusiasm in every cause which is likely to advance her interests.

For this purpose it has been decided by the County Board G.A.A. to call a representative meeting of the clergy, T.D.s and other prominent laymen and delegates from Societies and Organisations in the county to meet in the Rock Hall, Ballyshannon, at 7 p.m. (S.T.) 10th June, 1928.

Probably the most important matter that will come up at the meeting will be the discussion of ways and means of helping in the collection of 24,000 half-crowns called for to assist in the production of a new weekly Bilingual Paper. Without a good public spirit nothing can be done to advance the cause and for this purpose the most powerful help is a virile energetic press propaganda.

It is to be hoped that you will find it convenient to be present on that day.

Le mór mheas agam ort.

Cathal Mac Duibhir (Rúnaí)

The following item is from the book "The Last of the Name" by Charles McGlinchey and refers to the playing of hurley at Straid, near Clonmany, two hundred years ago.

"When Fr. Carr came here as parish priest in the year 1784 the persecutions must have been past for at that time Mass was said for the whole parish at a place above Andy Porter's called "The Scallan". Near it is a height called Árd na h-Eaglaise — the Chapel Height. The corner stones of "The Scallan" are there yet. It was a kind of a shelter for I always heard there was a big sheet of cloth put up on whatever side the wind was coming from, to give shelter to the altar. People came to "The Scallan" from all ends of the parish. All the men took their *camans* (hurley sticks) and when Mass was over someone threw out the *cnag* (ball) and one side of the parish played the other, — the Isle of Doagh side against the Urris side. Each side tried to take the *cnag* home. They played through fields, countryside and everything and the side that took home the *cnag* had the game won. There was no prize or anything and *Caman* was the whole game then. It was the common game 'til forty or fifty years ago" (around 1900).

BORD INIS EOGHAIN

Clubs from the rural areas won most of the Inishowen Divisional titles in 1987. While these results may not be very satisfying for clubs like Carndonagh and Bunrana, I believe it is a very healthy sign of the games in the division. These results are contrary to the national trend where larger centres of population tend to dominate competitions.

In hurling Naomh Mura were the outstanding club in all competitions. While again working with a small panel, Manus O'Donnell proved that nothing can beat hard work and endeavour. Naomh Mura won divisional and county titles at u-12, u-14, u-16 in '87. Their main rivals for divisional honours were Burt with good improvement in the performances of Carndonagh and Urris. Once again Bunrana failed to enter a team in under-age hurling, but there are strong signs this is the last year this will happen.

The most satisfactory achievement for the Board was the entry of an under-12 football team from the Muff area for the first time. Guided by Sean Lynch, brother of Kerry star, Ger, they took part in the u-12 B competition. It was a proud evening for them in Carndonagh when they beat Bunrana B to win the divisional title. We hope their very heavy defeat in the County semi-final by Aodh Ruadh, will not undo all the good work done by Sean Lynch and company. They should not feel discouraged as Aodh Ruadh are one of the strongest u-12 teams in the county. Good performances were given by our other divisional winners, notably Burt and Urris, in reaching county finals. Urris were only beaten in a replay for u-14B honours.

While all the previous mentioned performances were noteworthy, all were overshadowed by the display of the Co. u-16 hurling team in the All-Ireland final, with 13 players from the Division taking the field against Sligo. The large following from Inishowen identified with this team like no other county side they had supported. With weather conditions not suiting a more skilful Donegal side, we had to endure a nail biting first half until the lads finally got going and midway through the second half began to play the style of hurling they are capable of. Hopefully these players can be saved from the curse of emigration and sights can be set on an u-18 All-Ireland title in 1989, and an Ulster senior title in the early nineties. Our congratulations go to the players and mentors of this great team.

Another first for the Division was the selection of Leo Gill, Bunrana, as

captain of the Co. under-16 football team in the Connacht League. He was joined on the team by Seamus Craig, Inch, who also captained the under-16 hurling team. Also on the football team panel was Brendan Porter, Burt.

Also at u-16 level the Divisional football team created a surprise when they travelled to Glenfin and defeated the South West in the Super League competition. But for a lack of commitment by some players Inishowen should have won this competition. Thankfully, the day when Inishowen teams took the field in co. semi-finals hoping to put up a good show are gone. Teams now take the field with the intention of winning county titles.

A great debt is owed to the few dedicated officials in each club area who prepare the numerous underage teams during the year. It is a great pity that more club players and ex players would not give a part of their time preparing teams for competitions. This year it is good to see players like Des Newton and John Farren become

involved with underage teams. Perhaps more players will follow in their footsteps in the future.

A very successful Scor na nOg final was held in Moville. All clubs in the section competed. The senior finals in Clonmany were poorly supported. Urris and Bunrana competed in most events and Carndonagh in the question time. Scor will not progress in this area unless it becomes a labour of love rather than another event to get over.

I think we can look back on the past year with satisfaction; while there may have been some problems the overall picture is bright. Perhaps if some of our critics lend a helping hand we can look forward to a successful 1988.

Le Sean Masterson

OFFICERS FOR 1987

Chairman, Vincent Lynn, Carndonagh; vice-chairman, James McLaughlin, Burt; secretary, Sean Masterson, Bunrana; asst. secretary, Neil Reid, Urris; treasurer, Thomas McBrearty, Carndonagh; PRO, Colm Toland, Urris.

DIVISION WINNERS 1987

Under-12 Hurling	Naomh Mura
Under-12 A Football	Carndonagh
Under-12 B Football	Muff
Under-13 Football	Urris
Under-14 Hurling	Naomh Mura
Under-14 A Football	Burt
Under-14 B Football	Urris
Under-15 Football	Bunrana
Under-16 Hurling	Naomh Mura
Under-16 Football	Burt
Under-17 Football	Burt
Under-18 Football	Burt
Under-18 Hurling	Burt



Burt U-16 footballers, Inishowen champions 1987

DOWNINGS 1986-'87

Downings got an indifferent League campaign underway on 23rd March, 1986, with a 1-10 to 0-5 win over St. Eunan's and then beat Glenties 3-7 to 0-4 in the first round of the Gaeltacht Championship. League wins over Na Rossa and Gweedore were followed by defeats by Glenties and Red Hughs.

As Downings were hosting the All-Ireland Gaeltacht and county finals that year, we defeated Ardara by 2-8 to 0-8 in the county semi-final on Saturday, 3rd May, and defeated Glencolmcille by 2-10 to 0-8 in the Co. Gaeltacht final the following day. However, a determined Naomh Columba turned the tables in the first round of the All-Ireland Gaeltacht finals on the 1st June by 1-8 to 1-3 and so ended our interest in the Gaeltacht competition for 1986.

A fortnight later, when we were eight points up and having then missed a penalty, we allowed Ardara to get off the hook and draw with us in the first round of the Senior Championship in Ardara. A fortnight later they came to Downings and put us out of the Championship by the narrowest of margins.

Poor League form found us languishing near the bottom of the table by September and on the 7th of September we were involved in a relegation play-off with Glenfin in Ballybofey and in a hard-fought match we doomed them to relegation by a single point, 1-11 to 1-10.

Fortunately, the under-age teams did not emulate the example of the seniors, with the u-13 team winning the N.W. final and the U-12 team going to the County final, defeating Cloughaneely in

the N.W. final, and Urris in the county semi-final before succumbing to a fine Killybegs side in the final.

Emigration started taking its toll half-way through the 1986 League campaign and the situation deteriorated during 1987 reflecting the deep recession that the country was experiencing and consequently a poor campaign followed this year. The culmination of it all saw Downings relegated to Division Two for the first time in five years.

Our fate in the Gaeltacht was no better, going out in the first round against Kilcar. Our Championship campaign was controversial with our first away game against Na Rossa only lasting eighteen minutes and though we won the return game, Na Rossa had a comprehensive victory in the play-off.

Once again it was left to the youngsters to carry the torch for Rosgoill, with the u-13 team winning the N.W. final and the u-14s going to the county semi-final where they were again beaten by Killybegs. The u-14 panel consisted of the following players: Kevin Gallagher, John Connor, Michael Bradley, Michael Gallagher, John McBride, John J. McGettigan, Peter Cullen, Eamon McClafferty, Andrew Coyle, Patrick McTeague, Shane McClafferty, David Ladley, Vincent Shiels, Liam Doherty, Danny Doherty, Mark Sweeney, Kevin Brogan, Kieran McBride, Donagh McClafferty, Brian Kelly.

Off the field of play, the story is more cheerful as we are entering the final phase of the development of our new G.A.A. centre. At the moment the dressing rooms and handball courts are functional

and the main hall is about to be opened for all types of indoor activities. However, club members are reminded that one last big fund-raising effort is needed in order to properly conclude a job of which we and future generations may be proud.

Editor's Note: *Downings club at the time of writing did not know that the Co. Executive had chosen them as Donegal's "Club of the Year for 1987". They received their award at the annual County Awards Banquet in the Highlands Hotel, Glenties, on Friday night, 27th November, 1987.*

DOWNINGS MINORS '86

The pool of players available for the 1986 Minor Championship was a very limited one, and as the campaign progressed it was further reduced through injury and need one say it — emigration, but nevertheless, there was a sprinkling of very skilful players left in that team. There may have been a very definite imbalance but there were some admirable performances from all of them at various stages throughout the championship. What they lacked in areas of skill was compensated for in their physical fitness, determination and 'heart' on the field. A great team spirit developed in their twice weekly training sessions which resulted in the players never allowing themselves to be overawed on the field of play by players or teams whose reputations had preceded them.

County minor corner-back and captain of the side, M. Gallagher, was the only county player we sported and in each match he inspired his team mates with magnificent performances, culminating in his nomination as 'man of the match' in the county final.

As training commenced in mid-June sights were set on the winning of the North-West Division. Termon were considered to be the biggest threat to our ambition as they had won the U-16 Championships two years previously, but as the Championship unfolded it was obvious that Gweedore were also on the same ambitious course.

After Milford had been defeated in the opening round by a margin of seven points, the long awaited battle with Termon in Downings was next.

Downings emerged victorious, having four points to spare at the end.

The Divisional final between Downings and Gweedore will long be remembered by those present, not for the quality of its football, but rather for the harsh wintry conditions — gale force winds and driving rain. Gweedore elected to play against the wind in the first half and retired at half-time only seven points in arrears.

Because of the gale force winds this



The Downings Minors, 1986 — the first minor team from Downings to reach the county final: P. McGeever, J. Gallagher, S. Shovlin, M. Wilhare, A. McGinley, Mick McBride, P. McLaughlin, Manus McBride, Mick Gallagher, Greg McGee, S. Sweeney, M. McClafferty, S. McFadden, A. McBride, S. Wilhare, E. McClafferty, M. Logue, B. Logue, D. McGroddy.

lead seemed hardly adequate for Downings. The second half revealed the true mettle of the side because within ten minutes Gweedore had cut the lead to three points, but they were not allowed raise another flag for the remainder of the half. One will never forget the memorable performances of M. Gallagher, G. McGee, P. McLaughlin, M. McBride, M. Wilhare, S. Sweeney and M. McClafferty.

After accounting for Urris in the semi-

final in muddy, waterlogged O'Donnell Park, the scene was set for the county final.

Naomh Columba, our opponents, was a team laden with talent, comprising of members of county minor and Vocational school teams. The Downings team was under no illusion as to the task it faced. It was certainly a case of David v Goliath.

Downings were behind at half-time by

only the narrowest of margins and had also missed a golden opportunity of a goal midway through the half. Midway through the second half the sides were level, and with time running out and Glen a point ahead, Downings missed their second golden opportunity of a goal. Glen went upfield and scored two further points. In the end the day belonged to a talented Glen side, but great credit is due to all our players for their commitment, dedication and sportsmanship.

CUMANN NA mBUNSCOILEANNA

The promotion of Gaelic games in our National schools is now firmly established, with over a hundred schools in the county competing in the various competitions. Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, rounders and handball competitions were organised by Cumann na mBunscoileanna in 1987. Another very important development was the inter-area games. Camogie, hurling, Gaelic football, rounders and handball teams representing Dún na nGall competed against teams from Doire at Templemore Sports Complex on Friday, 5th June. The Bishop of Derry, Dr. Edward Daly, threw in the sliotar for the first game of hurling. Dún na nGall also competed against Liatroim in Gaelic football and hurling, on Thursday, 18th June. All of the children who represented Dún na nGall received a memento of the occasion. Indeed, nearly two hundred primary school children had the honour of representing their county in 1987. The teams for the inter-area games against Doire came from the East and Inishowen and the teams for the games against Liatroim came from the South and South-West.

Dún na nGall was also represented in the I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Skills Awards. The Dún na nGall winners were — Boys Gaelic football, Kieran Barron, Creevy, Ballyshannon; Girls Gaelic football, Fionnuala Marley, Glenfin; Hurling, Karl Lafferty, MacCumhail; Camogie, Eithne Doherty, Naomh Mura.

The future indeed looks bright for the promotion and development of Gaelic games in our National Schools. The Coisde of Cumann na mBunscoileanna was congratulated by the National Executive for the way in which the inter-area games were organised, giving so many children the chance to represent their county.

RESULTS OF CUMANN NA mBUNSCOILEANNA COMPETITIONS

PEIL — BUACHAILLI

	Winners	Runners-Up
Roinn 1	Fallcarragh	Scoil Cholmille
Roinn 2	Creevy, Ballyshannon	Cashel, Glencolmille
Roinn 3	Ardara	Laghey
Roinn 4	Commons, Killybegs	Tiernasligo
Roinn 5	Rockfield, Ballyshannon	Commeen

IOMANAIOCHTA:

Roinn 1	Naomh Mura	Naomh Aengus
Roinn 2	Srath an Urlair	Droim Mór

CAMOGAIOCHT:

Craobh	Naomh Mura	Droim Mór
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CLUICHE CORR — CAILINI

Craobh	Naomh Mura	Beal Atha Seanaidh
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LIATHROID LAIMHE:

The Handball competition is not as yet completed and there has been a great increase in the number of teams competing. This is due mainly to the promotional work of the Donegal Handball Board.

On behalf of the coisde of Cumann na mBunscoileanna, I would like to thank the County Board, Minor Board, Divisional Boards, referees, local clubs and mentors, parents and children for helping to make 1987 a very enjoyable and busy year for all concerned.

Le buíochas

Manus Ó Dónaill
(Cathaoirleach)

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SEAN MacCUMHAILLS

By Aidan Doherty, P.R.O.

Our under-16 team won the county Championship and were our pride and joy. This is a good team and it augurs well for the club's future at adult level. The team and its mentors, Brian Muldoon and Peter McCormack, deserve the highest accolades for their hard work and sportsmanship.

CLUMAN OF THE YEAR

Joe Doherty richly deserved the title of Clubman of the Year in Co. Donegal. The immaculate condition of MacCumhaill Park is a testimony to his hard work.

CULTURE AWARD

The club was honoured and proud to have been chosen by the County Board for the award of doing most for cultural events. In the winter Irish and Ceilidhe classes are held.

Two All-Ireland titles came to Donegal this year and in both the MacCumhaills Club was very much involved. P. J. McGowan managed the successful U-21 football team. In the U-16 hurling Justin Brady played a big part as mentor of the successful hurling team. Three of our youths collected All-Ireland hurling medals and they will treasure these through life. They were Alan McMenamin, Samus Duffy and Aiden Thompson.

CHAMPIONS AT LAST

After three years of hard-training MacCumhaills are champions at last. Back in '85 when they lost their first final to Na gCealla Beaga, anyone could have been forgiven for saying "well they did their best, it's all over now". Not a bit of it! This year the same panel came together again with one purpose in mind, the County Championship, and that's just what they did.

After a slightly shaky start to the campaign, MacCumhaills settled to their task and eventually won their way to a Divisional final against a strong team from Caislean na Finne. In a keenly fought contest, played in dreadful conditions, MacCumhaills came out eventual winners, and so booked a semi-final place against Baile na nGalloglach. This game produced some of the best football of the campaign (from both teams) with MacCumhaills coming out on top and so continued their march to a county final place against old adversaries, Na Cealla Beaga.

The teams met in Ballyshannon and despite driving rain and a gale force wind, they served up some fine, attractive football. This time the weather proved to be the only winner as both teams battled to a draw. The stage was now set for a



Pictured receiving his award as Donegal Clubman of the Year from Dr. Mick Loftus, President of the GAA, is Joe Doherty of Sean MacCumhaills. Included in photo is Dick Hickey, Managing Director Ciba Geigy Ireland Ltd.

classic replay in Glenties. This time in a robust encounter MacCumhaills proved to be the stronger side, despite the gallant efforts of the young, determined Killybegs team. Their combination of skill, fitness and determination saw them through in the end, and so for the second time in three years the cup returned to Pairc MacCumhaill, a fitting reward for the work put in by players and mentors alike.

Just a note: I doubt that the MacCumhaills-Na Cealla Beaga saga has ended yet, and I wonder what will happen in '88 and '89 should these two fine teams meet during the minor campaigns to come.

JOE DOHERTY — DONEGAL CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR

The club was very honoured this year when one of its longest serving members, Mr. Joseph Doherty, President of the Club, received the accolade of Donegal G.A.A. Clubman of the Year. When one considers that this year alone ten county championship finals were played in MacCumhaill Park, along with a myriad of league, championship play-offs, colleges and vocational schools matches, one is made aware of the continuous trojan work that is being done by Joe and other club members.

Most people recognise that MacCumhaill Park is the premier field in the county and is always in immaculate condition, and the club owes a deep debt of gratitude to Joe for this.

The club was also honoured this year when it received the Cultural Award for clubs outside the Gaeltacht area. The

vice-chairman, Mr. Declan Collum, accepted the award on behalf of the club at a very enjoyable function in Donegal Town. One of the main factors in obtaining this award was the very successful Irish class conducted by Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Mrs. Maura Holland. Other cultural activities were question time, partly through Irish, Ceili classes and adult social functions.

Not only at club level do our members give their input — Charlie Faulkner, county chairman; Noreen Doherty, assistant county secretary; P. J. McGowan, executive member, U-21 member (well-done P.J.), Vocational School manager and chairman of the Ulster Coaching Council; S. McCormack, Scor and Hurling Executive; Eugene Boyle, treasurer and secretary of Minor Board; secretary of Divisional Board; Justin Brady, trainer and selector of successful u-16 All-Ireland Special Hurling Championship team. Where do they get the time?

While the Social Club is a very important nerve centre of the club, an annual charge of £900 for rates for a centre that is run on a voluntary basis is excessive.

Visiting teams made welcome by MacCumhaills Club during 1986-'87 season — Donegal New York, Kerry seniors; Monaghan, 1987 Post Office champions; Armagh seniors; Armagh minors; Cavan seniors; Tyrone seniors; Tyrone Vocational team; Fermanagh, hurling.

BORD NA nÓG

On Tuesday, April 14th, 1987, a Bord

na nOg was officially set up in the club. The guest speaker that night was Tom Comack from the Dungloe Club.

The main point that Tom stressed was that people should not take up positions unless they were prepared to do the work.

Brendan Dunnion was elected chairman and Aiden Doherty was elected secretary.

The Bord na nOg is mainly concerned with football and handball. Roll of honour: U-16 team were county football champions. Under-12, under-13, Divisional finalists; National Schools A competition winners, Stranorlar A; runners-up, Dooish. National Schools B competition winners, Glencovitt; runners-up, Stranorlar B.

This year the club ran, at local level, an under-12 local football league. It also runs yearly a local National Schools A and B competition.

Preceding both these games were the local under-10 finals. There was tremendous excitement on the club's big football day when the finals were played. Upwards of 200 people witnessed some great football.

Under-10 National School League — This was the first year that the club started an under-10 National School league. This will now be an annual event. The schools competing were Dooish, Sessiaghoneill, Glencovitt and four teams from Stranorlar. Each Tuesday up to 100 young footballers converge on MacCumhaill Park.

Under-12 Finn Valley League: The club likes to widen its horizons and this year decided to run a Finn Valley under-12 A and B competition. This tournament was very generously sponsored by the Allied Irish Bank,



Glencovitt N.S., winners of MacCumhails B National Schools competition.

Ballybofey. We would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous help: AIB, McBride Fireplaces, Peter Dunnion, Charles Bonner & Sons, Griffin Brothers, John Campbell, Theresa McHugh.

Handball: A big effort is being put into getting handball set up at local level, starting with the National Schools. All of the local schools are taking part and the MacCumhails Club will run a local handball league to stimulate interest. Frank Walshe and Brendan Temple deserve great credit for their work and interest.

Footnote: At under-age level our club is very healthy. This is thanks to the very many people who so generously give their free time to help the youth of the area.

The MacCumhails club at youth level derives its strength from the Twin Towns of Ballybofey and Stranorlar and from the strong hinterlands of the Dooish and Glencovitt areas. Its strength is its blend of the urban and rural.

And finally thanks to all who helped us in anyway in 1987 and all our good wishes to our emigrants throughout the world.

HURLING

Under-12s runners-up in County final in both League and Championship.

U-14s runners-up in county final in the League and Championship.

U-16s runners-up in county final.

U-18s runners-up in Divisional final.

MacCumhails also took part in the Senior League.



MacCumhails U-14 hurling team, County Championship runners-up: Sean Walsh, Brendan McGeehan, Pol Brady, Fabian Mullin, Steven Brady, Peter Campbell, Alan Oliver, Brendan Bradley, Raymond Laverty, Carl Laverty, Billy Quigley, Derek Thompson, Alan Duffy, Brendan Duffy, Emmet McCormack, Liam McGuire, Glynn Thompson, Pol Houson, Donal Bonner, Rory McNulty, Steven Hughes.

Stranorlar N.S. were winners of the Roinn 3 Division in hurling.

Karl Lafferty represented the county in the National Schools skills competition.

In 1986 the club organised a hurling blitz which was sponsored by Brian McDermott.

Justin Brady, Seamus McCormack and Jack Barrett are owed great thanks for the work they do for hurling.

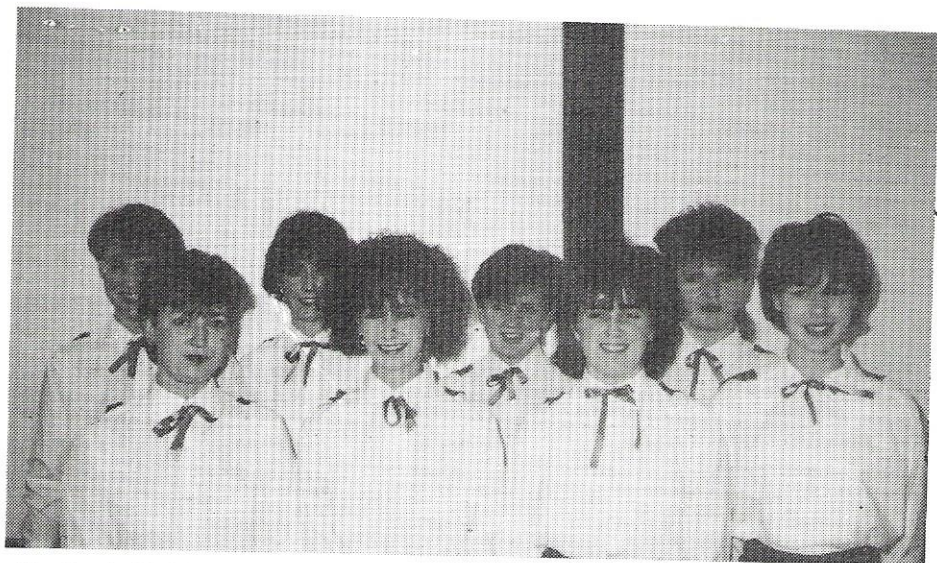
SCÓR

In 1986 we were both Scór Sinnsear agus Scór na nÓg county winners in ceili dancing.

In 1987 we won the Scór na nÓg in ceili dancing.

The club hosted the Scór na nÓg county final and the Ulster semi-final in the Butt Hall.

The organisation here was highly praised with great credit going to Seamus McCormack and Terry Lafferty.



MacCumhails Scór Sinnsear ceili dancers, 1986. Front row, from left: Deirdre Heaney, Elaine Duffy, Marie Griffin, Deirdre Gallagher. Back, l. to r., Rosemary Brown, Geraldine Marley, Pauline Doherty, Geraldine Duffy.



MacCumhails U-13 Divisional finalists.



Co. chairman, Mr. Charles Faulkner presents 'Clubman of the Year '87' to Joe Doherty, MacCumhails, on County final day.



MacCumhails Co. u-12 hurling league champions:

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TERMON UNDER-AGE FOOTBALL

Although the Termon Club played some under-age football since the club's foundation, it was not until the late seventies that any real effort was channelled into the younger players. It was at this time that Tony O'Reilly arrived in Kilmacrennan as a Garda and to the Termon Club as one of the greatest assets as regards the youth of the area. Tony was ably assisted by Benny Trearty to put Termon to the fore in football at under-age level. In 1982 with the introduction of the North Western Minor Board, Termon really put the wheels in motion and in that year they reached the final of both the under 14 and under 18 football divisional championships. The under 18s, under the guidance of Christy McCafferty and Denis McGrenra, beat Gweedore in one of the best games of the season. Although the under-14s did not have the same success that year, they went on to bring glory to Termon in the years to come. Since 1982 Termon have won three under-18, two under-16 and two under-15 North Western Divisional football titles. Their greatest success of all was in 1984 when they won both the Under-16 and Under-18 competitions. But, sadly to say, the height of emigration being what it is today, means only four players of these teams are playing with the club in Termon presently.

In 1984 Termon joined the Letterkenny and District Boys League at the invitation of St. Eunan's, to whom the club is extremely grateful. To date they have won the under-10s in 1984, under-12s in 1986, and in 1987 they have won under-10s, under-14s and runners-up in under-16 competitions. Again Benny Trearty, assisted by Patrick Helferty, Charlie Cullen, Margaret Alcorn, Carmel Brady, Nettie Gibson and a host of parents and members, too many to mention, have worked tirelessly in bringing the young boys to and from the games on Sunday mornings. With an effort like this it must only be a matter of time until Termon win a county championship. We have in this year's under-10 team our best prospects to date

— they have this year won four North West blitz. If these boys can be properly groomed and continue to be dedicated, they can bring Termon the glory that has eluded them to date.

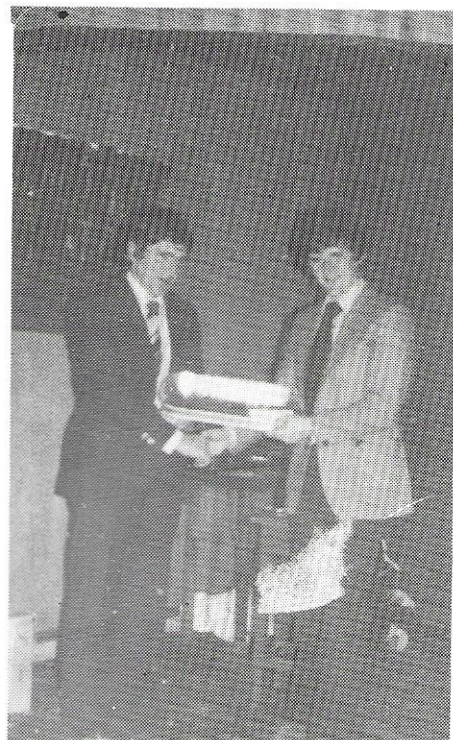
In 1986 Termon set up a special Minor Board within the Club and this has proved to be one of Termon's best ventures to date. Nettie Gibson is the present chairperson, Carmel Brady is the secretary and Margaret Alcorn is the Treasurer. In this Minor Board we have more parents taking an active part in transporting players to training and games in a greater awareness of club finance and the cost of arranging under-age teams.

Termon's proudest moment this year was when one of its players — Tommy Ryan — won an All-Ireland U-21 medal playing at centre-half forward for the Donegal U-21 All-Ireland winning side. Others players to play with the county at under-age level in recent years were: Benny Russell, Charlie and Eddie McGinley, Sean, Gerard and Maurice McBride, Christy Ryan and Johnny Gallagher. Termon had six players on the North West minor side that won the Super League in 1986. They were: Charlie McGinley, Gerard and Maurice McBride, Benny Russell, James Brady and Brendan Gallagher, who was the Termon junior team's top scorer this year.

If the people of Termon can keep up this effort success must be just around the corner. The club is indebted to all the people who worked so hard over the years.



Termon's All-Ireland U-21 player, Tommy Ryan with his sister and friend after winning the U-21 All-Ireland title.



Benny Trearty making a presentation to Tony Reilly on his departure from the club in 1982.



Christy McCafferty, Johnny Gallagher, minor captain, with N.W. Shield; James Brady with U-16 Shield, and Denis McGrenra.



Termon U-10 team of 1987 after winning the North-West Blitz in Fanad with team managers, Patrick Helferty and Charles Cullen.



Termon players and officials with Sean O'Donnell, former Donegal senior team manager, at their annual dinner dance with 3rd Division League Cup in Centenary Year (1984).

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Naomh Columba Still To The Fore

Le John James McLaughlin,
P.R.O., Naomh Columba

Once again, the Naomh Columba Club was to the forefront of G.A.A. activities in the county during 1987. Throughout the year the club endeavoured to participate in all competitions, including football, Scór na nÓg, Scór Sinsear and Handball. On the playing front our supporters had great expectations for the Senior side but such was not to be as they were knocked out of the Senior Championship in the quarter-final in Fintra by the eventual winners, Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, after an exciting and close encounter. This was disappointing as the seniors had won the All-Ireland Gaeltacht in 1986, doing club and county proud.

Our Junior side failed to get past the first hurdle of the Championship when they were defeated by Milford.

Neither the Senior nor the Junior side featured in the final stages of the League, although the seniors were in with a chance up to the third last round of matches. The junior side were relegated to Div. 3—a division they will certainly feel more at home with, rather than Div. 2 which included teams of the calibre of St. Nauls, Naomh Brid, Dungloe and Na Rossa.

The senior team won the Donncadh Mac Niallghuis Cup when they gained revenge on county champions, Aodh Ruadh, at Páirc na nGael. This cup is played for each year on the Sunday following the county final between the local side and the new county champions. It was acknowledged by many supporters leaving the field after the match as being one of the best games witnessed for years. The final score was 2-9 to 1-9.

This year was very successful as far as the club under-age teams were concerned and the future looks very bright. Three

of these players—Paul Carr, Meenadreen, Paddy Hegarty, Malinmore and John Joe Doherty, Carrick, played a prominent part in the winning of the All-Ireland U-21 Championship.

Pride of place this year must go to our U-21 team who won the county championship in September by defeating neighbours, Killybegs. In the first we were drawn against the winners of Glenfin v. Termon but were awarded the game without kicking a ball. Our opponents in the quarter-final were Buncrana and after a misunderstanding about fixture times the game was refixed for Letterkenny where Naomh Columba ran out easy winners.

Our semi-final opponents were our South-West neighbours, Ardara. The game was played at Fintra. The match was evenly contested until the last quarter when Naomh Columba began to dominate and marched into the county final. In the final in Towney our



The captain of the Naomh Columba U-21 side, Paul Carr, receives the trophy from Co. Senior team manager, Tom Conaghan, following his side's victory of Killybegs in Kilcar.

opponents were early favourites, Killybegs, who had in their squad six members of the successful All-Ireland U-21 county side but were missing the services of John and Barry Cunningham and Manus Boyle on final day.

Naomh Columba played with the aid of a strong breeze in the first half and even though they dominated throughout this half they only led by 3 points. They were badly hit after only five minutes when full forward Danny Cunningham had to retire through injury, being replaced by Damien Gillespie "Mac Paddy Beag".

Many supporters believed that the three points lead was not sufficient and that Killybegs' Barry McGowan, who was very prominent in the first half, would cause havoc in the second. Dessie Cunningham retired injured at half-time and John Joe Doherty was moved from midfield to defence to curb dangerous McGowan. Aidan Burke replaced Dessie Cunningham at left half forward—a player who injected new life into the forward line with his strong runs against the breeze. Things did not go well for Killybegs in the early stages of the second half as their efforts were blotted by good defensive work by captain Paul Carr, John Joe Doherty, Donal O'Donnabhain, John Paul Curran, Cathal Haughey, Conal Gavigan and not forgetting Colm Martin McGinley in goals with his long kick outs against the breeze which landed past midfield.

Naomh Columba laid the foundation for victory in the 10th minute when Damien Gillespie got his fingers to a high cross, landing the ball in the back of the net. This score injected new life into the side; even though Killybegs hit back with three quick points they were prevented from getting the goal they badly needed through Conal Gavigan and Cathal Haughey coming to the rescue.

With the Hegarty brothers, Paddy especially and Noel covering every blade of grass in Towney, defending and attacking, Naomh Columba could not be beaten. Noel Carr was switched to centre half-forward where he found a new lease of life, and the "Wee Man" in the side—Eugene Doherty—caused many problems to the Killybegs defence. Corner forwards Eunan McIntyre and Martin Gillespie had their great moments, and big Damien was a handful at full forward.

In the last five minutes the team was firing on all cylinders and ran out worthy winners with a final score of 1-11 to 0-7.

The team: Colm McGinley; Conal Gavigan, John Paul Curran, Cathal Haughey; Dessie Cunningham, Paul Carr, Donal O'Donnabhain; Noel Hegarty, John Joe Doherty; Martin Gillespie, Paddy Hegarty, Eugene Doherty; Noel Carr, Danny Cunningham, Eunan McIntyre. Subs. used were Damien Gillespie and Aidan Burke.

After the match, senior team manager

Tom Conaghan presented the cup to team captain, Paul Carr amid scenes of great joy. In return, Paul thanked the entire team for their dedication and congratulated Killybegs on the fine sporting game. He handed out a warning saying that they will go one further next year and capture the Dr. Maguire Cup. Finally, he paid great tributes to no other than team manager, Paddy Gavigan, and his selectors, Sean Burke and Conal Gillespie for their trojan work.

Having won the Minor Championship in 1986 much was not expected of the 1987 team who lost the services of John Joe Doherty, Damien Gillespie, Danny Cunningham, Donal O'Donnabhain and Aidan McIntyre. Nevertheless Dungloe, who were favoured by many to win the Divisional honours and tipped to go all the way, were beaten twice by Naomh Columba. In the first match in Dungloe they went down four points with only ten minutes remaining and showed great character and determination by coming back to win. On the day Noel Hegarty, Dessie Cunningham and Padraig O'Donnabhain were the stars.

In the return match at Páirc na nGael, Naomh Columba built up a good lead with the aid of the breeze to win by 2-6 to 0-3.

In the semi-final in Glenties, St. Eunan's were our opponents. They were hot favourites as they fielded four of their senior side. We held the lead for fifty minutes and it was a last minute goal that



Naomh Columba Minors of 1986 — Donegal County Minor champions.

left us out of contention for 1987 honours.

Our U-16 team had not the same measure of success having been defeated by Dungloe in the early stages.

At U-14 level a disallowed goal probably deprived us of the Divisional B final. Most of this side are under age again next year, the remnants of the U-12B championship-winning side of 1986, and should be a great force in 1988.

Comórtaisí Scór Naomh Columba

D'éirí go han-mhaith le Fó-Chumann Naomh Cholumba i gcomórtaisí Scór 1986-1987. B'fhurast a aithint go raibh an reamh-obair go maith mar bhaineadar cuid de na Comórtaisí Contae.

I Scór Sinnsear bhí iarrathoirí onár gClub i dtírí Chomórtas Contae agus bhaineadar Comórtas na Nuachleas. Ag glacadh páirt san bhíodar seo leanas: Seán Ó Ailís, Máire Bn. Mhic Chuinneagáin, Máirtín Ó Cuinneagáin, Janet Nic Nearn agus Proinsias Ní Chuinneagáin.

I gcomórtas Trath na gCeist Ghlac Pádraig Mac Giolla Easpuig, Brian Ó Baoill agus Seán Mac Giolla Easpuig páirt.

I gcomórtas na Ranna bhí Aisling Nic hAodha san iománaíocht.

Rinneadar uilig go maith ach thug lucht an Nuachleas an-leiriú agus chuaigh siad ar aghaidh chun páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtaisí Craobh Uladh. D'éirí go maith leo siud a ghlac páirt i Scór na nÓg. D'éirí le Eanna Mac Giolla Easpuig craobh leath-cheannais Uladh a sroisteal. Ghlac Annette Nic Fhionnlaoiach páirt in mbabhtáí ceannais an chontae.

Ó thosaigh Scór níor aire chomh maith aroimhe i mbliain ar bith le iomaitheoirí Naomh Cholumba agus tá muid ag súil go mbeidh an toradh chomh maith sa bhliain 1987-'88. Ba iad seo leanas an dream a d'eagraigh nó Comórtaisí Scór sa bhfó-chumann: Eibhlín Bn. Mhic Daibhid, O.S., Ide Bn. Uí Bhrollachan, Cristín Bn. Uí Chuirín, Pádraig Mac Giolla Easpuig, Seán Ó Ailís, Seamus Mac Fhionnlaoiach agus Gearóid Mac Giolla Easpuig.

Ghlacadar seo leanas páirt i Roinn an Iar-Dheisceart Scór na nÓg: (1), Damhsoirí—Seacinta Ní Ghallchóir, ón Charraig. (2): Aithriseoireacht: Eanna Mac Giolla Easpuig, as an Gleann Mhalainn; (3), Ceol Aonair: Annette Nic Fhionnlaoiach, as an Mhalainn Bhig; (4), Trath na gCeist: Pól Ó Domhnaill. Seán Ó Astuin, Mícheál Mac Giolla Easpuig; (5): Ceol Uirlíse: Marcus Mac Nearn and Mícheál Oilíbhéar Mac Nialluis.

HANDBALL IN GLENCOLMCILLE

It is gratifying to see Handball, which is one of the oldest games, being played enthusiastically in the club. Great credit is due to the Handball Committee, spearheaded by the energetic Francis Walsh who incidentally is Co. Handball P.R.O. Handball in the club has expanded in all directions in the past season from the A.G.M. September last year which set four aims: to increase membership; a wider participation in competitions; to upgrade the facilities in the court and lastly (in order to achieve the above) to improve the club financial standing.

By mid-November membership had reached last year's levels, the ceiling had been painted and the court had been newly marked out. When a number of juveniles expressed an interest in the game, it was decided to commence a juvenile coaching session once a week. Within a fortnight, due to the large number coming, this was split into two groups and limited to 20. In the meantime, the senior club team was taking part in the league and reached the semi-finals for the first time in the four years of that competition.

On to February and the County Championship became the main object of attention. Of the seniors, only Donald

Gillespie and Francis Walshe reached the second round. In the under-age competitions, it was a different story. For years Falcarragh have had a strong hold on all competition at this level. Naomh Columba surprised everyone including ourselves by reaching the final in nine of the twelve events. Chief opponents in the final held in Glenfin were Falcarragh. Afterwards the honours list speaks for itself:—

Naomh Columba:
 U-12 Singles Title: Michael Byrne.
 U-13 Singles: Patk. Cunningham
 U-15 Singles: Paul Hegarty
 U-15 Doubles: Michael Cunningham
 & Sean Cannon
 U-16 Singles: John Byrne
 Minor Singles: John Cunningham
 Minor Doubles: Tom Kelly
 & Gerard O'Byrne

These went on to represent the county in the Ulster Championship. After reaching the Ulster semi-finals in five events, the highlight of the season was just around the corner. It was Patrick Cunningham's winning the Ulster U-13 Handball title, the first in the history of the club.

This year's coaching is being extended to three groups and from these to extend the base of the club across the full parish.

FOOTBALL HONOURS IN NAOMH COLUMBA

Club Honours	Year	No. Titles
Senior Championship	1978	1
Senior League	1976 1978 1980 1985	4
Senior Shield	1980/81	1
Senior Donegal Gaeltacht C'ship	1976 1981 1986	3
All-Ireland Gaeltacht	1978 1986	2
Junior Championship	1974	1
Junior League	1974	1
Junior B Championship	1985	1
Junior B League	1985	1
U-21 Championship	1978 1987	2
U-18 Championship	1977 1986	2
U-16 Championship	1984	1
U-14 Championship	1965 1968 1982	3
U-12 B Championship	1985	1



Some of Naomh Columba's young handballers. Back row, L-R: Gerard O'Byrne, Kevin McGinley, Martin O'Byrne, Brian O'Byrne, Pauric Gillespie. Middle row, L-R: Ciaran Cannon, Conal Gillespie, Michael Byrne, Michael O'Byrne. Front row: L-R: Columba McGarvey, Conal Cunningham, James Maloney, John Byrne and John Heekin.

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ROBERT EMMETS '87 – COUNTY JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

I will not start by delving into history, because in this year, 1987, we as a club made history. This bit of history did not come by winning the Junior Championship alone but also by the virtue that we purchased our own playing field. This piece of land was kindly sold to us by Mr. Stephen McPhilemy, formerly of Castlefin, and now running a business in Ballybofey. The field is situated about ¼ mile from Castlefin on the main Lifford Road. The land came to the notice of the then Officer Board, Brendan McGlinchey, Samuel Gallagher and Noel O'Kane, who wasted no time in deciding to buy the field and with the help of club members raised the money to pay for it.

This year a lot of development work has been done and the actual playing surface is finished with the grass sowed. There is also provision for dressing rooms and showers along with a spacious car park. It is hoped in the not too distant future that work on these will commence and we will have one of the premier playing pitches in Donegal.

On the football front it has been one of our most successful years yet, culminating in the winning of the Junior 'A' Championship. After last year's disappointment of losing to Nairn Bred, all the players were determined, to a man, to go on this year and win it outright. After the final on the 30th August, 1987, to see the joy and tears of emotion from players, officials, team

management and indeed from players who won it last 26 years ago. I personally can tell you it was all worth every ounce of sweat we lost in achieving it. For players like Johnny Curran, Tony Elliott, Colman McGee, Barney McCarron and Terence McLaughlin, who have been playing together for Robert Emmets for the last sixteen years and more, have finally got something in return. And for the youngsters players like Gary Friel, Kevin McBride and Barry Foley it will make them try harder to add more medals to their tally.

We have also at the time of going to press won Division 2 North of the All-County Football League and with it promotion into Division 1 for next year. Eugene McMenamin, our big talented

midfielder, has been selected at full-forward on the county senior team to bring another great honour to our club. What a great feeling it is to be back in the top bracket of Gaelic football again in Donegal — yet that is what Division One league status is all about. Our legendary Andy Curran may now be forced into his fourth decade of Senior club football.

I would like to finish by thanking everybody connected with the club, whether it be players, officials, management or supporters, for making this the most successful year yet for Robert Emmets and I believe this is only the beginning.

IGNEAD MAC CAITIR (Runai)



Kieran McGlynn (2nd from right), who refereed the Junior 'A' final pictured with, from left, Eugene Quinn (linesman), Charlie Faulkner, county chairman, and Brendan O'Neill, after receiving medals to mark occasion.

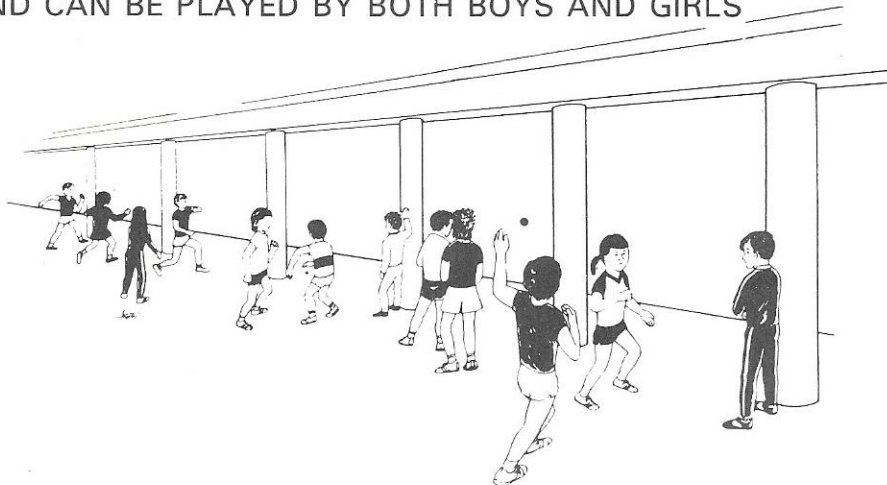


Robert Emmets captain, Eugene McMenamin, receiving the trophy from County Chairman, Charlie Faulkner, after defeating Four Masters, Donegal Town, to win the County Junior 'A' Football Championship at MacCumhail Park, Ballybofey. The team is seen here surrounded by jubilant supporters.

MINI-HANDBALL

PARENTS AND TEACHERS

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LITERATURE & PRACTICE:

Balls are available from the County Handball Board.

Contact:

Dave Mulhern, Secretary,
Kilrairie P.O.,
Glenties.
Tel. 075 51303.

or

John Kelly, Chairman,
Falcarragh.
Tel. 074 35400.

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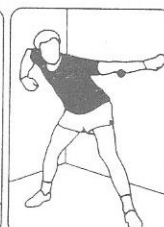
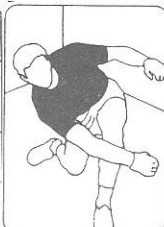
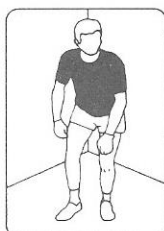


HANDBALL

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HANDBALL — a memoir

When recording the origin and history of Donegal's modern day handball with its 40' x 20' indoor courts, one must go back to the late fifties and the traditional 60' x 30' open alleys.

Handball in the county at that time was organised out of Letterkenny, where two alleys existed one at St. Conal's Hospital and the other at the Literary Institute. The alleys in St. Eunan's College were also used extensively. Brian O'Grady, a Cavan man, who has since returned to his native county, was one of the driving forces behind the game. Another outstanding player and official was Jim Foody of Roscommon, who still runs a drapery business in Letterkenny.

It was in the early sixties with the building of an open 60' x 30' court in Falcarragh, that the focus moved away from Letterkenny and concentrated around the Falcarragh club. The outstanding exponent of the game was a Garda stationed in the town at the time. A native of Co. Louth, Noel Confrey, like his late brother, Fintan, an All-Ireland title holder, was a stylish player. Very soon players sprang up in the area who were willing to challenge Confrey.

The Gael Linn Tournament was one of the most popular competitions of the early days, highly competitive, with games often lasting right through the day from Sunday morning. In those days sixty-four players would have taken part, in eight groups of eight players each, allowing with seeding, the best in the area to reach the last eight. The ultimate winner would then go forward to the regional final which was played on Ulster Convention day at a venue in mid-Ulster. The reputation of Falcarragh became so great that the 1970 All-Ireland finals of the Gael Linn tournament were held at the club. The title was won that year by Dick Lyng of Wexford.

COLLEGES CONTRIBUTION

During the late sixties the club with its new indoor 60' x 30' court (the only one in the county) became the nursery of juvenile handball. Names like McCallion, Butler, Boyle, Gallagher, Carr, Kelly, Sharkey and McQuaid were appearing year after year in the records of the Ulster Council.

Worth mentioning at this stage is the contribution to handball by the two colleges in Letterkenny and Falcarragh. There exists in almost every GAA club

in the county a handballer (active or otherwise) who came up through the ranks of one of these two institutions. For this reason the demise and demolition of the St. Eunan's alley is to be regretted. Outside of Falcarragh there existed strong pockets of handball scattered throughout the county from Ballybofey (where names such as McGlinchey, Murray, Temple, Gowan and Lafferty are actively involved to the present day) right down to Malinmore, in Glencolumbkille, where on any week evening and on Sunday until darkness fell, crowds would gather round the gable wall of the local National School in the hope of getting a game.

As we moved into the 70s Falcarragh once again was the mainstay of inter-county competitive handball. The juveniles of the late sixties were becoming the seniors of mid to late seventies and the mention of the Ardoyne tournament bring great games to mind. This annual tournament played over a weekend between the Falcarragh Club and the Ardoyne Club of Belfast, were fiercely competitive, neither club wishing to give up the trophy. Eventually all this competition led to a Falcarragh win in the Ulster Club Championship. The team consisted of Bernie McCallion, Sean Garvey, Pat Sharkey and Denis McBride, who also won a number of Garda Championship medals.

THE 40' X 20' COURTS

The seventies also saw the emphasis in court construction change away from the traditional 60' x 30' court to the modern 40' x 20'. Donegal's first 40' x 20' was built in Gweedore, and was followed by Glencolumbkille in 1980, Glenfin shortly afterwards, Falcarragh in 1984 and the most recent, Downings in 1986. Outside of these areas a number of players in Glenties, Ballyshannon and Ballybofey also made the conversion to the 40' x 20' game using neighbouring courts for practice. Such was the case in Glenties in 1984 when the present club was established. Handball had been played there from the early twenties, where a large room in McDevitt's Warehouse is the earliest recorded indoor court in the county. When the premises was vacated in 1926, the game was played against the gable wall of the local Garda Barracks. In July 1927 a committee was appointed to build a handball alley and the outdoor court (still in existence) located opposite the present market hall was completed in 1937, giving the game a fresh lease of life throughout the forties.

THE LEAGUE CUP

1984 is an important landmark in history of handball in the county, for it was in that year that the Donegal Handball Board was reorganised leading



The indoor 40' x 20' court in Glenfin is the most central in the county. The photo shows a warm-up session before a recent Ulster Championship match.



The 1986 League winners, Glenties, with the runners-up, Falcarragh — who came back to win the cup earlier this year. Back row, l. to r., Peadar Curran, Falcarragh; Bernie McCallion, do.; Jimmy McLoughlin, do.; Francis Boyle, do.; Noel Confrey, Glenties. Front row, l. to r., Anthony Reilly, Glenties, Pat Buckley, do.

to the present up-swing in the game. With the aid of John McMyler, a Galwayman, residing and working in Ballyshannon, the Board introduced an inter-club league which has proved to be very successful not only as a competition but also in attracting clubs and groups of individuals into the association. Patrick McGinley, of the Harbour Bar, Killybegs, sponsored a trophy to be known as the McGinley Cup. The winner that year was the Aodh Ruadh club team of John McMyler and Kevin Byrne, two very accomplished players, ably assisted by Gerry McLoughlin and Francis Gallagher. In 1985 Glenties (who had emerged from obscurity the previous year to reach the league final in which they were narrowly defeated by the powerful Ballyshannon side) were not to be denied a victory this time. Having defeated Falcarragh in the semi-final, Liam Ward, Kieran Ward, John McDyre and Dave Mulhern confronted their victors of 1984 in the final. A power-packed display, particularly by the doubles partners of Liam and Kieran Ward, made the 1985 league cup theirs. The tremendous delight of the Glenties supporters was matched by the celebration that ensued. In 1986 Glenties again came to the fore, having two teams entered, both reached the semi-finals. However, it was their B team consisting of Corkman Pat Buckley, a Bord Telecom employee, who was an All-Ireland finalist the previous year; Sean Sweeney, a Garda stationed in Glenties; Garda Noel Confrey (who had been transferred from Falcarragh and was, 20 years later, still playing top class handball) and led by Anthony Reilly, a shrewd and calculating player who reached the final against firm favourites, Falcarragh. When Sean Sweeney became indisposed due to a family bereavement, Glenties had to concede two points. Reilly, as competitive as ever, inspired and marshalled Pat Buckley and Noel

Confrey to take the three doubles points. Requiring to win just one of the two remaining singles games, Reilly himself secured victory by taking the first game with some of the finest handball seen in a Donegal final. The 1987 league was marked by the demise of the Ballyshannon team and the entry for the first time of Downings. Having failed to grasp the cup in the previous three seasons, Falcarragh were determined to take it this time. Such was their strength that opponents were often defeated in all seven games in a match. In the final, this time against the MacCumhailis Club, they took no chances. Bernie McCallion, team captain, won his games against

Anthony Reilly (playing this year with the Ballybofey side) 21-4, 21-3. Francis Boyle and partner, Jimmy McLoughlin, won their doubles games 21-10, 21-11, 21-11, with Peadar Curran sharing the final singles with Paddy Murray 21-13,



Some of the competitors at the first ever Juvenile Handball final held in Glenfin: Back row, l. to r., Fergal Marley, Glenfin; James O'Connor, Falcarragh; Pat McClafferty, do.; John Cunningham, N. Columba; Thomas Kelly, do.; Gerard O'Byrne, do. Middle row, l. to r., Paul Hegarty, N. Columba; Michael Doohan, Falcarragh; Eugene Mulligan, do.; Michael Byrne, N. Columba; Declan McGlynn, Glenfin; Thomas Walsh, Falcarragh. Front row, l. to r., Donal Slevin, Falcarragh; Plunkett Byrne, do.; John Martin Mulligan, do.; John Heekin, N. Columba; Patrick Cunningham, do.

15-21. So on the fourth attempt the McGinley Cup went to Falcarragh and it shall require a tough team to take it from them in the coming season.

JUVENILE AND LADIES HANDBALL

County championship winners in recent times have mainly come from Glenties, Ballyshannon, Falcarragh and Ballybofey. In particular, Noel Confrey, who for the past number of years has been the undisputed Golden Masters Singles champion. The introduction this year of the juvenile championship saw the end of the Falcarragh monopoly of this age group. Chief culprit in this was the N. Columba Club, with the assistance of Glenfin, two of the weakest clubs at senior level. Proving that this was no fluke result, ten out of the twelve Co. champions reached the Ulster semi-finals and fittingly one, a N. Columba player, Patrick Cunningham, brought back an Ulster title, thus following in the footsteps of John McMyler, who won the Ulster Junior 60' x 30' championship the year earlier. John, who has since emigrated to England, revived handball in Ballyshannon with his love and his commitment to the game. His organisational and administration skills helped immensely in the running of the Co. Board.

That same year Margaret McFadden, Falcarragh, won her All-Ireland title, achieving a distinction that has eluded her male colleagues in recent years. It was also a fitting tribute for her club, which had commenced a girls juvenile section when the Irish Handball Council introduced the game amongst the ladies. To date they are the only club in the county with women members. A number of Juvenile titles were won by the club, among the best known of which are Margaret, Pauline Colum, Maureen Ferry, Aine and Maire Kelly, Margaret

Gallagher and Noreen Kelly. The name Kelly featured strongly, not surprisingly as John Kelly can be described as the father of Falcarragh Handball.

THE NEW LOOK COUNTY BOARD

The Co. Handball Board which (as has been mentioned earlier) was reorganised in 1984, consisted in the early days as a group of three or four meeting on and off to arrange fixtures. It is today a regular sub-committee of approx. 10, meeting regularly once a month in Ballybofey. Last year the Board took the step of initiating a fixtures committee whose function is not only to organise fixtures but to develop a programme for the full year and to implement rules and recommend changes in present competitions.

Administration, as in competition, has its heroes and champions such as Falcarragh's John Kelly. But most noticeable amongst all is Tom Walsh of the same town. A former GAA Co. Board chairman, as well as a former chairman of the Irish Handball Council and presently the Handball Development Officer and the current Ulster Handball chairman, his knowledge of the game and its administration as well as his willing and good humoured way of giving advice when asked, is welcome on any organisation.

It was Dave Mulhern from Glenties, the long suffering Co. Handball secretary, who built up and maintained communication with clubs in the early days, with Eamonn McDonald acting as treasurer and PRO. These three along with chairman, John Kelly, have been the corner stones of the Co. Handball Board.

PATRICK CUNNINGHAM — AN ULSTER TITLE



Ciaran Corr, Ulster secretary, presenting the All-Ireland bronze medal to Ulster champion, Patrick Cunningham.

The mark of a champion is said to be a mixture of skill, dedication, experience, practice, confidence and a strong will to win. In Donegal at the beginning of this season, it was possible to pick out players with many of the above qualities, but when you considered the level of handball in the Ulster counties of Monaghan, Tyrone, Cavan, Armagh and Antrim, it seemed that 1987 was not going to present this county with much

by way of inter-county honours. Meanwhile the N. Columba club decided to introduce training sessions for juveniles and a squad of juveniles were gathered in the local alley each weekend. On the introduction of the Co. Juvenile Championships, players were selected to represent the club and it was from this group there emerged a young lad with a burning question. "What would happen when he reached the All-Ireland semi-

finals?" He certainly had the confidence and Patrick soon began to demonstrate his skill by defeating players in the older age groups.

He won the Co. U-13 singles title with a fair degree of ease and was then faced with the prospect of representing the county in the Ulster Championships. His first round game against Derry was a coach's nightmare, as he proceeded to win his game by breaking virtually every coaching rule in the book. Tyrone, who were providing most of the opposition in the semi-finals, were favourites to take the majority of the Ulster titles and were expected to provide a tougher opposition than the eventual finalists. If he was to get to the final then he would have to gain a lot of experience over a short space of time. For the following couple of weeks, Patrick was to be found practising in the alley every morning, after school and for eight to ten hours each Saturday and Sunday. Older and on occasions senior players were drafted in to provide opposition and by the end of the fortnight Patrick had played more handball than most players in a season.

Stephen Conway, who was Tyrone's representative in the match, had the advantage of playing in Loughmacrory, his home club. Right from the start of the match the Donegal lad played fast and furious if not downright ruthless handball, as he hammered in kill after kill (low, hard shots to the bottom of the front wall) to go seven-nil up without reply. The first game was over in twelve minutes with the score 15-4 in Patrick's favour. The second game was a more even affair. Having won the first game he relaxed slightly, but went on to win the second game 15-12 and the match. The bus on the way home was almost silent (with twenty-two juveniles nothing is perfect) in anticipation of a possible Ulster title, which was now only one step and a week away.

Sunday, April 4th and Tydavnet, Monaghan, was the venue for the 1987 Ulster juvenile finals. Even though Monaghan's Declan Connolly had home advantage this time, Patrick, having defeated Stephen Conway a week earlier, was the slight favourite. A very slippery floor which caused him to lose serve at the start of the match, appeared to upset his game and he went seven-nil down. The game was 9 to 3 against him before he began to settle and fight back to level the game at 11-all, eventually winning it 15-12. The second game was much closer with just a few points separating them, until Patrick pulled away in the end to win 15-11 and take the Ulster title.

To answer his own question of a few months earlier, Patrick was defeated in the All-Ireland semi-final by Kilkenny's Donn timer Fitzgerald. Along the way not only did he show the marks of a true champion, he proved that what may look impossible at the start is achievable if one but makes the effort.

HANDBALL HONOURS LIST 1987

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Under-12 Singles

Michael Byrne, N. Columba

Under-12 Doubles

Donal Slevin/Tom Walsh,
Falcarragh

Under-13 Singles

Patrick Cunningham, N. Columba

Under-13 Doubles

Eugene Mulligan/Michael Doohan,
Falcarragh

Under-14 Singles

Fergal Marley, Glenfin

Under-14 Doubles

Fergal Marley/Shane McGlinchey,
MacCumhails

Under-15 Singles

Paul Hegarty, N. Columba

Under-15 Doubles

Michael Cunningham/Sean Cannon,
N. Columba

Under-16 Singles

John Byrne, N. Columba

Under-16 Doubles

Oisín McGlinchey/Sean McGinty,
MacCumhails

Minor Singles

John Cunningham, N. Columba

Minor Doubles

Tom Kelly/Gerard O'Byrne,
N. Columba

Novice Singles

Paddy Murray, MacCumhails

Novice Doubles

Paddy Murray/Anthony Reilly,
MacCumhails

Masters Singles

Brendan Temple, MacCumhails

Masters Doubles

Brendan Temple, John McGlinchey,
MacCumhails

Golden Masters Singles

Noel Confrey, Glenties

COUNTY CLUB LEAGUE

Winners: Falcarragh

Runners-up: MacCumhails

OPEN SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner: Francis Boyle, Falcarragh

Runner-up: Ciaran Corr, Brandywell

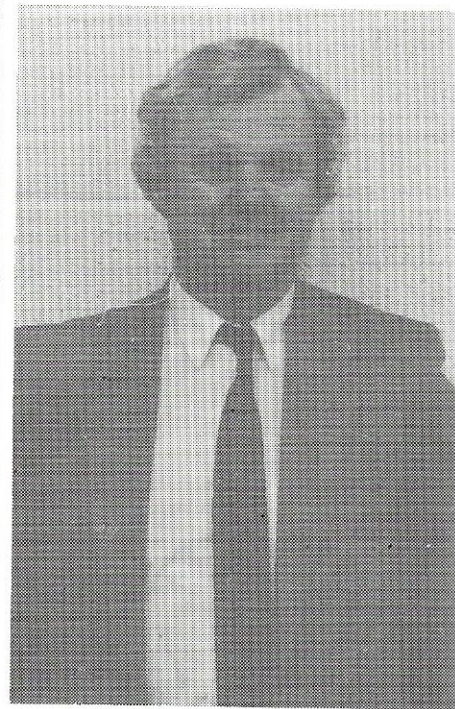
ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

U-13 Singles Title: Patrick Cunningham, N. Columba.

McGEE INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

5th Division winner: Anthony Reilly, MacCumhails.

Focal o Chathaoirleach Comhairle Uladh



Tom Walsh, Ulster Handball Chairman.

*A Chairde,
Donegal in recent times has gone from having one to having five covered handball courts. This increase in facilities is in line with the pattern nationwide. However, in the same period the number of people playing has not increased apace.*

At a time when there is a need for more recreation in people's lives, a greater effort must be made by clubs to get over the problems of under usage. Unemployed people should be offered the courts. Ladies should be encouraged to use the courts in off peak times. Using the courts to prepare players for competitions alone is a short sighted philosophy. We should adopt a policy of getting people using our courts; how should we do this? We must adopt a positive image of our game, advertise it, invite people to try out our courts and generally by word of mouth spread the good name of handball. There are many people getting involved in sport now, but there are so many who still adopt a sitting position for entertainment. By advertising make people aware of our courts. That is my earnest wish for all our clubs.

*Mise le meas,
Tómas Breathnach*

DONEGAL HANDBALL

— A FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

For handball, the County of Donegal poses a number of major problems — its geographical spread, its lack of handball facilities and the dearth of people involved in playing the game. Were handball a more vibrant part of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, the geographical spread would be the least problematical. Competitions could be played on a regional basis, as indeed some of our present competitions are, with the emerging finalists competing at a central venue or some new handball facility which needed an injection of publicity

and attention. The first area with twin handball courts will be a prime location for County and Ulster Championship matches.

Donegal's geography will always be with us; it is not something we can change but certainly something which we can adapt to suit the needs of our organisation. The fundamental problem facing Donegal handball is the lack of people playing the game. If we had more people playing the game, then the demand for facilities would increase and more would be provided. Handball is at



Dave Mulhern, Co. Handball Board secretary.

MARGARET McFADDEN — Donegal's first lady of Handball

It was in 1975 that a tall, athletic-looking ten year old began to impress handball enthusiasts in Falcarragh. Since then Margaret McFadden has moved through the ranks of juvenile grades winning both singles and doubles titles on the way and culminating in an All-Ireland Novice Championship title in 1986.

There is no doubting her greatest day was that day in Falcarragh, when she defeated her Antrim opponent in front of a packed gallery to take the title. Those present marvelled at the skills mastered by Margaret and one could easily imagine many of her male colleagues being unable to compete with her in a handball court.



Margaret McFadden — All-Ireland Novice champion.

JUVENILE TITLES

Margaret herself admits that her very first medal was won in 1977 when she was called in to substitute for Ann Frances McFadden (no relation) in the All-Ireland Tailteann (juvenile) competition. Although defeated, she went on to win the gold medal in the All-Ireland final the following year. In 1979 she collected two gold, one in the singles competition and the other in the doubles with partner Noreen Kelly. Margaret made it three in a row, by taking the singles title again in 1980 and contributed in no small way in Falcarragh being chosen as "All-Ireland Club of the Year" that season.

It was in that year, too, that a sports star award was awarded jointly to a handball doubles team in the persons of Margaret and Noreen Kelly. As a crowning glory that year, she was also awarded "The Super Sports Star of Donegal."

Since her All-Ireland victory Margaret has taken a rest from competition as she

has found it difficult to get competition when there are no other girls' clubs in the county and only a handful in Ulster. It means that all the best competition is in Dublin. Although she still enjoys a game, that same tall, athletic juvenile of twelve years ago now finds herself coaching juveniles in the Falcarragh club.

She does, however, hope to get back into the centre of the action again and perhaps try for a trip to the United States to play in the American Nationals. By the same token, it would be great to see Margaret together with her inseparable handball friends, Maureen Ferry and Noreen Kelly, grace our courts once again to lead a revival among the ladies.

a crossroads. Unless we increase the numbers participating in the game we may well call it a day and allow a traditional Irish game to head for oblivion.

But the Irish Handball Council has decided to face our problems head-on and has developed an ingeniously simple form of handball for absolute beginners. This form of handball is known as Mini-Handball. The Irish Handball Council is embarking on a national campaign to change its existing situation by committing itself to introducing Mini-Handball to all its affiliated clubs and to as many National Schools as possible. Its a programme which should take approximately five years and should cause a radical change in the face of Irish handball.

How will Mini-Handball effect such a change? Quite simply, Mini-Handball allows children from three years of age onward to play various simple games with a ball. The ball is hit with the hand and does not cause any pain or discomfort as it is light and soft to play with. It can be played by hitting the ball with either hand against any wall — the basis of the formal game. Mini-Handball games are flexible and can be adapted to any situation. There are no set dimensions for the walls of the court; it will all depend on the suitability of the walls around the school or at home.

Many National Schools have shelters which can be divided up to form one-walled handball courts as can be seen in the diagram. These can keep an entire class active for its P.E. period and the children can play at break-times. Lines can be drawn on the walls or the cement floor to section off each court. Any reasonably smooth wall with a smooth flooring will do. Some more advanced play has taken place against a pebble-dashed wall — certainly a variation on the original theme!

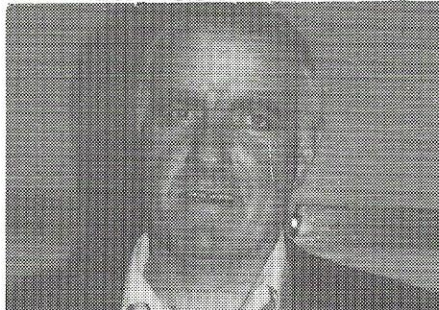


John Kelly, Co. Handball Board chairman.

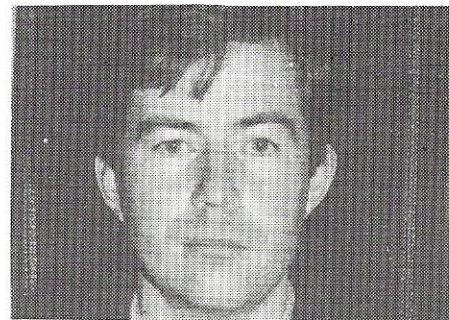
Any small wind ball will do but the official "Practice Ball" is recommended as it is the right size, is light and soft and will not break windows or hurt the players' hands. It is a slow ball which allows players to develop skills in both hands. It is available from the Handball Administrator, Croke Park (£3.00 per dozen).

Mini-Handball literature — two posters and the introductory leaflet — and the

actual practice handballs are available through the County Donegal Handball Board. In the near future we hope to get all our handball clubs to distribute the above to their local National Schools and to introduce the variations in the games to local schoolchildren. You don't have to be near a handball club or court to ask for the material. Please contact the Co. Handball Board directly and we'll only



Seoirse Kelly, Cloughanely, a dedicated promoter of handball in the area down the years.



Francis Walsh, Glencolmcille, the efficient and hard-working Handball PRO.

be too delighted to pass on whatever we can.

Re-introducing handball on a widespread basis is not all that far from reality. With such a saleable commodity as Mini-Handball, local handball clubs and local National School teachers can introduce it very easily. Once introduced, Mini-Handball and all its variations will sell itself. It is that good.

WHERE THE HONOURS WENT IN 1986

FOOTBALL

Co. Senior Football Championship
Co. Intermediate Football Championship
Co. Junior 'A' Football Championship
Co. Junior 'B' Football Championship
Co. Under-21 Football Championship
Co. Minor Football Championship
Co. Juvenile Football Championship
Co. Under-14 Football Championship
Co. Under-13 Football Championship
Co. Under-12 'A' Football Championship
Co. Under-12 'B' Football Championship
Óg Sport Gael Under-15 Football C'ship
Minor Football League
Divisional Minor Football Super League
Community Games U-13 Football

Winners

Aodh Ruadh (Ballyshannon)
Dungloe
Naomh Brid
Gweedore (after replay)
Killybegs
Naomh Columba
Aodh Ruadh
Gweedore
Killybegs
Killybegs
Naomh Columba
Killybegs
Aodh Ruadh
North
Ballyshannon

Runners-Up

Red Hughs (Killygordon)
Naomh Conaill (Glenties)
Robert Emmets
Aodh Ruadh
Aodh Ruadh
Downings
Gweedore
Carndonagh
Gweedore
Downings
Carndonagh
Cloughaneely
Dungloe
South-West
Cloughaneely

HURLING

Co. Senior Hurling Championship
Co. Minor Hurling Championship
Co. Juvenile Hurling Championship
Co. Under-14 Hurling Championship
Co. Under-12 Hurling Championship
U-12 Hurling League
Feile na nGael Roinn I
Feile na nGael Roinn II
U-14 Community Games Hurling

Winners

Setanta
Burt
Burt
Naomh Mura
Naomh Mura
Naomh Mura
Naomh Mura
Carndonagh
Ballyshannon

Runners-Up

Burt
Naomh Mura
MacCumhail's
Pettigo
MacCumhail's
MacCumhail's
Burt
MacCumhail's
Meevagh, Downings

FOOTBALL LEAGUES

Division	Winners
Division 1	St. Eunans
Division 2	Red Hughs
Division 3	Naomh Brid
Division 4	St. Eunans

Winners

Runners-Up

Gweedore
Dungloe
Aodh Ruadh

FOOTBALL SHIELDS

Division	Winners
Division 1	Aodh Ruadh
Division 2	Dungloe
Division 3	Gweedore

Winners

Aodh Ruadh
Dungloe
Gweedore

Runners-Up

Kilcar
Naomh Brid
Urris

CAMOGIE

Senior Camogie League
Intermediate Camogie League
Under-16 Camogie League
Under-14 Camogie League
Under-12 Camogie League

Winners

Letterkenny
Moville
Newtowncunningham
St. Eunans
Naomh Mura (Fahan)

Runners-up

Newtowncunningham
Donegal Town
St. Eunans
Carndonagh
Glenfin

Setanta retain hurling title for third time



SETANTA, DONEGAL SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS, 1987

Setanta won the Co. Senior Hurling Championship for the fourth time in a row when they beat arch rivals, Burt, in the County final in MacCannail Park. Burt showed they had the skill, but lack of match practice and to some lesser degree, fitness, let them down. Setanta were conscious of Burt's ability and took no chances by starting an attack from the start. For the first 20 minutes Setanta were really rampant and Burt were left reeling as the champions watched score after score. Burt eventually got to grips with the situation nearing half-time but by that stage Setanta had built up a big lead to be ahead at the interval by 13 points. Burt started the second half in fine style, displaying great skill and craft. Taking their points well they had reduced the deficit to just four points by the three quarter stage. It was then that the lack of match practice and proper fitness let them down. Setanta, realising danger, made a few positional switches which broke the Burt momentum and in the closing ten minutes the champions eventually gained control again as the challengers faded. A great goal by Setanta midfielder, Joe Carlin, in the dying minutes put paid to any slim hope Burt had of overpowering the champions. Burt had man of the match in centre half back, Darren McDermott, who combined very well with on-form Eugene Sherry. However, they could not withstand the continued power and super fitness of Setanta who had stars in Mickey Doherty, Anthony McDaid, Sean Irwin and Joe Carlin. Burt had played a hard, tenacious game but could not reverse last year's final defeat of just a single point by their old arch rivals, Setanta. The final score was Setanta 5-8, Burt 2-4.

Setanta: Gerard McCaughey, Andrew Doherty, Mickey Doherty, Brendan Brady, Terence McDaid, Anthony McDaid, Sean Irwin, Joe Carlin, Seamus Callaghan, Mark Campbell, Stanley Ewing, Chris Gillespie, Paddy Kelly, Kieran Doherty, Eamonn Farrell, Sean Doherty (capt.)

Burt: Paul Downey, Sean Farrell, Gary McLaughlin, Paul

Callaghan; Donal Campbell, Darren McDermott, Fergal Grant; Eugene Sherry, Liam Burns; John Friel, Ivor Dowds, P. J. O'Brien; Anthony McGrath, James Burns, Roger Doyle. Subs, Henry Doyle, John Sweeney.

MINOR HURLING TITLE FOR BURT

Although disappointed at losing the senior final, Burt had a good measure of consolation when their minors overcame a skilful and determined MacCumhailles in the minor final to take the county's second most coveted hurling prize. The vastly more experienced Inishowen side led at the break by 2-5 to 1-1 and despite a gallant MacCumhailles effort to curtail them in the second half Burt went on to win by 3-11 to 2-3.

Burt: Francis Downey; L. McKinney, H. Doyle, B. Harrigan; G. McDaid, P. Callaghan, S. Grant; A. McDermott, F. Grant; D. Doyle, G. McLoughlin, B. O'Neill, Aongus Downey, Kevin Grant, Ronan McLaughlin.

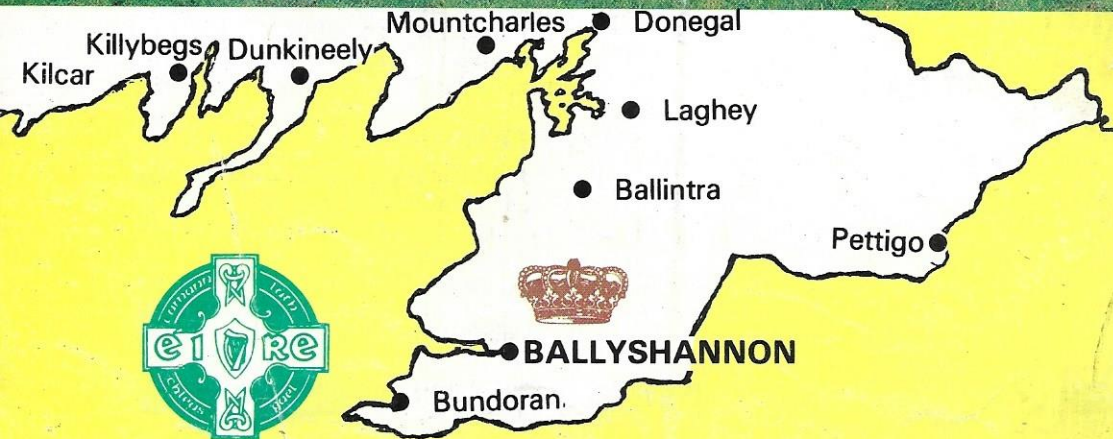
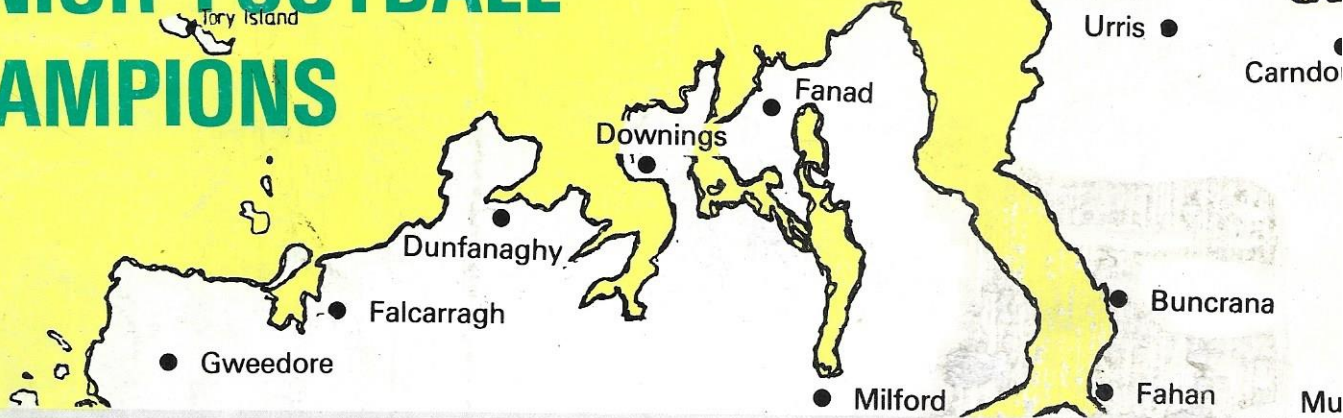
MacCumhailles: Alan McMenamin; Rory Saunders, Liam Kelly, Damien Laverty; Damien Bradley, Brendan Bradley, Seamus Duffy (capt.); Dominic McGuire, Jonathan Brady; Michael McNulty, Dermot Foy, Michael Walsh; Oisín McGlinchey, S. Henderson, Aidan Thompson.

NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE

Donegal opened their N.H.L. campaign with a good victory over Fermanagh by 4-6 to 3-8. They then fell heavily to Leitrim by 3-13 to 1-2 and although giving a much improved performance against Sligo were beaten again by 3-12 to 1-7. Leitrim won the section but miraculously a play-off for second place was necessary between the other three to decide runner-up spot and a chance of promotion. After beating Sligo in the first play-off game by 5-6 to 5-3, they were comprehensively beaten by Fermanagh 4-15 to 1-5 — the only team they had already beaten — and so ended their league aspirations.

Donegal GAA Yearbook, 1987

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



Aodh Ruadh