



# ***"Our Field of Dreams"***

MY RECOLLECTIONS OF KILCAR G.A.A.  
1989 - 2000



By Sean Campbell

# THE BLUE HAVEN

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## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the memory of my late father,  
John (Mark) Campbell, Meenboy, Kilcar.

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### *A note on the author*

Sean Campbell was born in Meenboy, Kilcar in 1961. He has been a supporter of the CLG Cill Chartha club his whole life. He has served the club in a variety of capacities, most notably as the Manager of the Junior Championship winning team in 1996. Though he spent time away from the area, working in London and Indianapolis, he now lives in his native Meenboy. He continues in his favourite role in the club - that of the dedicated supporter.

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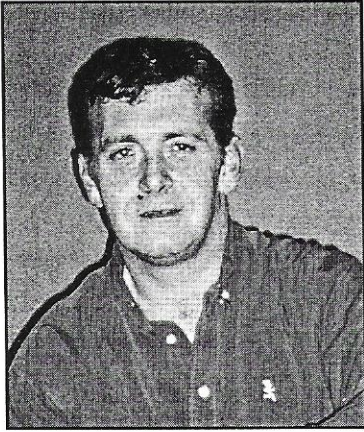
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The County Library, Letterkenny

My entire family, and

Most importantly all players who ever wore a Kilcar Jersey!!

# INTRODUCTION



Like so many others I have always followed the highs and lows of my local club, celebrating the great achievements (and they were great achievements!) and enduring the set backs as best we could.

Two years ago, as I browsed through a shop in Donegal Town, I leafed through the pages of a football magazine. Reflecting on the contents of this magazine I became acutely aware of the lack of such a record with respect to the recent history of my own club.

I have never thought of myself as an author, but when I saw the need to record these years for posterity, I couldn't do what many are inclined to do in such circumstances - just leave it for someone else to do. If we all did this, nothing would get done! Though I feel I may not

be the best equipped person to fulfil this task (there are many I can think of who might bring other qualities to the job), still, I am happy to do it, as it has been a labour of love for me.

It has always been a great hobby and pastime for me to support CLG Cill Chartha teams, and, tied in with that, the Donegal County teams. I also have had a strong association over the years with my mother's home county of Offaly.

This book, while primarily a personal record of the Kilcar club from 1989 to the present, also reflects in its content my own personal GAA interests and associations. "Our Field of Dreams" is a personal account, and I could not dissociate (even if I wanted to), my strong bonds to County football and to County Offaly, from my primary interest in the local club.

All genuine GAA supporters have similar ranges of loyalties. It is precisely these strong bonds, I suspect, which have made our games so popular and enduring. These are "Our Fields Of Dreams" - where the roller-coaster ride of victories and defeats are played out each Sunday, all over Ireland. The defeats may be hard to endure, but there is no feeling which can take the place of having your day in the sun, after a great victory.

For me, I have committed my loyalties (primarily) to CLG Cill Chartha, to others, it will be some other club. "Our Field of Dreams" is a metaphor for all those supporters who, like me, have their own personal "field of dreams" where their team's aspirations are pursued.

I did not want to merely set down a cold listing of statistical information, though this would have made my job much easier! It seemed important to me that the ideas, reflections and opinions of the players who took part in these events would add greater understanding of them - who better to be informed by, than those who took part.

The "Player Profile" sections in the book serve to lend "meat to the bones" of the story, or at least, that is my intention. I do suspect, however, that some of the responses given (in a few instances) were somewhat tongue-in-cheek!

I hope that everyone who buys the book will derive some pleasure from it. It may jog some memories, or be the inspiration for your own personal reflection on these events. It is important to remember, however, that this book represents my personal account of events, if you disagree with certain opinions, or are dissatisfied with any of the content, I can only suggest one course of action: write your own book!

But to be serious I do intend that as many of you as possible will find some matters of interest in the pages that follow. Our Field Of Dreams may be different ones, but their source, in the love of Gaelic games, remains the same.

*Sean Campbell  
Mleenboy, Kilcar*

# THE EARLY EIGHTY'S

## - A BRIEF LOOK BACK -



The Donegal County Senior Championship final in 1980 was an outstanding victory for our seniors. This eight point win, though well deserved was difficult, confounded their critics and surprised even their most ardent supporters. Ardara who started as favourites were excellent finalists but failed to capture the flair and enthusiasm that was abundant in the Kilcar ranks. This county final was in terms of skill and player's ability one of the best in a very long time. Men like Martin McHugh, Kilcar's centre-forward, gave a memorable account scoring no less than ten points for his side. Michael Carr, centre-half-back, midfielder, Aodh Cannon, also performed well leaving nothing for the opposition.

Ardara began this final as favourites. They were edged slowly out of this game as time went on. Time and time again Kilcar were controlling the play and dictating the pace. This left Ardara with a very difficult job to do throughout the match, for once Kilcar had the lead, it was going to be an uphill struggle for them to get on even terms. The opportunism that was so evident in the Kilcar game left them a step ahead. They may have lacked confidence before the final but as soon as the game began they need not have worried as they were in full command.

Ardara kept pace with them and on occasions threatened to defy the Kilcar rule. Players such as Keeney, Harkin, Molloy and McNelis to name a few were constant dangers to Kilcar. Conditions of play in this year were ideal and a large crowd packed into McCool Park made the final more memorable. There were several noticeable changes from previous county finals, the most notable being the absence of the National Anthem and the playing of pop music during the intervals.

The reasons why Ardara failed to find the form they showed against Mac Cumhaill's in the semi-finals or the form that has won them the Gaeltacht League, the Senior Shield and placed them on top of Division 1 with Glen of the same year are puzzling. They had no shortage of talented players on their panel, nor was it inexperienced administrators that were at fault. But just they were simply overpowered by a side that had an even greater appetite for this title.

It was an all-out team effort that won this Kilcar match. Holding the defence Maurice Carr, John Carr, Dinny McBrearty and John Quinn have never served their club as well. Charlie McGroarty, Michael Carr and Tommy McFadden were outstanding aided by Danny Gillespie and Aodh Cannon who scored the only goal of the game.

Martin McHugh has earned much praise and deservedly so for his fine place kicking in this game. His contribution to this game was first class. Francis Cannon and Sean McGinley contributed to the side's stability in their own ways. Front men Francie Gallagher, Charlie O'Donnell and Peter Conroy remained a threat that loomed over the Ardara defence for the duration of this game. Every player capitalised on the youthful enthusiasm that materialised after Kilcar went ahead. When the vital scores were found they remained on top without having their domination threatened. This Kilcar victory was sweet revenge for their defeat by Ardara in the League in July of that year. It also ended a long 55 year wait for us as the last time we won a County Championship was back in 1925.

This match began with Kilcar arriving on the field late. Kieran Keeney opened the scoring after twenty-nine seconds from a run on the right hand side of the field. Martin McHugh soon levelled after beating several defenders to lob a high ball over the bar for Kilcar's first point of the game. Keeney again on attack was brought down and Connie Molloy knocked over their second point from the resulting free-in. Two minutes later the exact same thing happened and Molloy pointed from a 25 yard shot. John Quinn came up from the back line to shoot at the Ardara goals but his attempt went wide. At the same time an attack from this defender went to prove that Ardara were not expecting the Kilcar team to play at these tactics. Michael Carr lead another attack into the Ardara defence only to bite the dust again. But, McHugh soon made up for it as he sank the ball over the Ardara posts to reduce the lead. The midfield became tighter as both sides struggled for a foothold. This struggle was to last for the rest of the match. Ardara were not weak in this position but the fault lay with the way they did not use this part of the field to their advantage, as Kilcar did.

Again the partnership between Carr and McHugh produced more scores with Carr moving forward from mid-field and McHugh taking the frees. This point brought the scores level at 0-3 each. Charlie O'Donnell, brother of Ardara player at the time, Frank, following up a high cross from the left that rebounded blasted the returned ball back in and over for a Kilcar point. Ardara by this time began to realise that this match was going to be no push over. They began to push men forward in numbers. Anthony Harkin and Patsy Gildea forged forward. A foul on Lanty Molloy in the twenty-first minute left Connie Molloy in to put in Ardara's fourth point. Martin McHugh put the Kilcar team on the road to their win with another point from a 35 yard free in the twenty third minute. Charlie O'Donnell added number six with an overhead kick that gave the Ardara defense no chance whatsoever. At this stage Ardara made a few positional changes bringing Connie Molloy to full forward and Patsy Gildea to the back line. Kieran Keeney moved down to the mid-field, a run-up that gave Martin McHugh the opportunity he needed to point and that he did. The Ardara forwards went on the attack again and reached the Kilcar area but failed to get past the sturdy defenders. Martin Sweeney for Ardara picked up on the kick-out pushed over a badly needed point for Ardara who were beginning to feel the pinch of the Kilcar forwards.

The most notable thing about this game was the player's determination from both sides. The Kilcar domination of the middle of the park left Ardara open on several occasions. McHugh was the star of the first half action. His kicking prowess served him well but Ardara's Gerard McNelis was also moving dangerously near the Kilcar area and turned out to be one of the most tricky players of the second half. The first half ended Ardara 0-5 Kilcar 0-7. Josie Gallagher attempted to get the side back on track in the opening minutes of the second period but his 50 went too wide and Ardara had to wait until Gerard McNelis broke through the Kilcar defence to lob over a final point. Martin McHugh again showed that Kilcar were very much in this game with a point from a free and after only three minutes captain Sean McGinley narrowly missed pointing his shot but Michael Carr intercepted the kick-out and crossed to McHugh who in turn returned the ball and Carr had a great overhead kick right over the top of the Ardara defence for a well taken point for Kilcar. Three minutes later McHugh kicked a point after making his way up from the mid-field. A foul on Michael Carr lead to a goal mouth scramble where Charlie O'Donnell picked up the loose ball but the short kick went wide and the Ardara defenders would begin to put more pressure on the Kilcar breaks. Kilcar did not have it all their own way as several of the Ardara



breaks resulted in points like Seamus Gallagher's run up-field and across to Aidan Gildea who was fouled. Connie Molloy took the free and pointed leaving three points between the sides.

Ardara were losing pace at this stage. They found that Kilcar were controlling the midfield and using it as a base for their attacks. Gerard McNelis moved forward once again and pointed. What was needed at this stage was a goal. If Ardara scored then the outcome of this match might have been slightly different. Kilcar missed their best opportunity as no less than five of their players faced only two Ardara defenders. Kilcar went on the attack and a Danny Gillespie shot hit only the side netting. Finally, a shot by Michael Carr to Aodh Cannon to Francie Gallagher who put the ball into the net seemed to indicate that Kilcar were well and truly on their way, but referee Jack Furey disallowed the shot. Martin McHugh pointed Kilcar's level point of the game and number twelve a minute later. Then came the magic moment for Kilcar on the 28th minute, Dinny McBrearty lobbed in a high ball and Aodh Cannon facing the ball laid back and fisted it over the stunned Ardara defenders and straight into the back of the net. This was a brilliant goal taken in great style. There was no stopping the Kilcar team now. They ploughed into the attack and gave the still shocked Ardara team no chance to get back at all. It was the Carr - McHugh partnership that wrapped this game up as McHugh pointed for his side in the dying minutes.

Overall Kilcar deserved this victory. They went into this game with a will to win. Even though the odds were against them the team as a whole played well. Manager Ian Hegarty deserves praise for the way he drilled his players up until the final few days. No doubt his focus helped a lot as well and provided all the encouragement from the line. Ardara also deserve a word of praise for the way they fought hard throughout this game. With their true sportsmanship of both sides reflected in the play which was at all times tough, but never dirty.

From a spectators point of view this was an exciting game to watch. Clearly both sides merit their strong positions in the league of that year. The team of 1980 County Final were: Maurice Carr, John Carr, Dinny McBrearty, John Quinn, Charlie McGroarty, Michael Carr, Tommy McFadden, Danny Gillespie, Aodh Cannon, Martin McHugh, Francie Cannon, Sean McGinley, Francie Gallagher, Charlie O'Donnell, Peter Conroy. Subs: John Doogan, Michael Doherty, Charles Byrne, John O'Donnell, Michael McFadden, Timmy Driscoll. Scorers for Kilcar that day Martin McHugh 0-10, Aodh Cannon 1-0, Charlie O'Donnell 0-2, Michael Carr 0-1.



*Michael Carr*

# PLAYER PROFILE - PAUL McNULTY

**Age:** 21

**Height:** 6ft 0"

**Occupation:** Plastering

**Favourite group or singer:**  
Christy Moore and U2

**Marital status:** Single

**Toughest opponent:** The Dooley Bros, Offaly

**Favourite position:** Midfield

**Honours:** Broderick Cup 1992

**Favourite other sports:** Hurling, soccer

**Biggest influence on your career:** The A Team

**Favourite player:** Graham Geraghty (Meath)

**Most memorable game played:**  
Kilcar vs St Eunans Under-21s 1996;  
Junior Championship 1996



**Favourite grounds:** Tir Conaill Park and Towney

**Most influential manager, club:** Paddy Sweeney and Sean Campbell (Junior)

**Favourite manager, county:** Father P. Lee, PP, Glengooley

**Person you would most like to meet:** J. R. Hartley

**Person you most admire:** Johnny Giles

**What changes would you make to the game:**

To allow five subs per game and allow the players to rest

**Your hopes for the future:**

To win Under-21s Championship 2000 and to meet Boyzone with back stage passes.

# PLAYER PROFILE - ROGER McSHANE

**Height:** 5ft 10"

**Occupation:** Legend

**Toughest opponent:**  
Sean O'Driscoll

**Favourite position:**  
Midfield

**County or Club Honours:**

**Club:** 3 Senior Championships,  
2 Leagues, 4 All Ireland  
Gaeltachts

**County:** 1 Ulster Minor Championship, 1  
Minor League

**Biggest influence on career:**  
My father and Barry Campbell

**Favourite players:**  
Matt Connor, Peter Canavan



**Favourite ground:** Towney

**Most memorable games played in:** 1987 All Ireland Gaeltacht Final, 1993 Championship Final

**Person you would most like to meet:** Muhamed Ali and Jennifer Lopez.

**What changes would you make to the game:** 13 a side, 4 quarters of 20 minutes each.

**Your hopes for the future:** To be healthy, happy and not be crippled at 40.

**Favourite group or singer:**  
R.E.M. and Christy Moore.

Congratulations and every success to  
Sean Campbell on his book

**“Our Field of Dreams”**

from John and Stephanie

and staff at

**Ó GARAS BAR**

Main Street, Kilcar.

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to Sean on his book

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Sean Campbell  
best wishes and  
every success

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EMMET STREET,  
BIRR, Co. OFFALY.

# CHRISTY GILLESPIE



**HONOURS:** Shared in all the Championship, League, Shield and All-Ireland Gaeltacht wins from 1980 onwards, as well as winning the Championship in Dublin with Erin's Hope in 1981.

**FAVOURITE POSITION:** Anywhere from the half back-line up, especially Midfield, centre half back, or centre half forward.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:** The fellow players that I played with, especially those players who I grew up with. Because I worked in 'Barney's' shop, Michael would have been an early influence. Also, Ian Hegarty who gave me my first start in Senior football in 1980. In Dublin, Gerry Murphy and Cyril Farrell would have left their impression.

**FAVOURITE FOOTBALERS:** Without a doubt, Matt Connor was the greatest of them all. I remember being at an All-Ireland Sevens tournament with Martin McHugh, Maurice Carr and Nixon in the early eighties, and we arrived along

when Walshe Island, his club, were playing. Although he looked like he wasn't trying he took scores and did things with the ball that day that I don't think any other player would have been capable of. Because I was in Dublin from 80 - 83 I was lucky enough to see him playing a number of times for Offaly. It was such a pity that his career was cut so short. I also got a chance to see the great Kerry teams of that period, in the flesh, and when they were going in top gear they were a joy to behold. I was also at the Ulster final when Frank McGuigan scored 11 points against Armagh. From a Kilcar point of view - I played with many great players. Many of them underrated. But a player with a mix of Martin McHugh's skill and Michael Carr's power and pace would be hard to mark.

**MOST MEMORABLE GAME:** We were lucky, for such a small parish to have played in so many memorable games from 1980 on. The ones that would stand out most in my memory would be the 1987 League Final against Ballyshannon; 1989 All-Ireland Gaeltacht Final against Glen; 1990 All-Ireland Gaeltacht Final against West Kerry; 1993 Championship Final against Killybegs. All of the above stand out because, for different reasons, they were games we were not supposed to win, but we did! Of them all I think the best performance was the 1990 Gaeltacht Final against West Kerry, where Kilcar annihilated the West Kerry side on their home patch. Sadly, many Kilcar people did not get a chance to see this performance, but to put it into context West Kerry won the Kerry Championship that year and were a composite side made-up of nine clubs. At the same time I often look at this game with mixed emotions in that I feel that this game marked the beginning of the end of the great Kilcar spirit and attitude, - the wheels coming off the wagon shortly afterwards. Although we would go on to win the 1993 Championship, and nearly won the Ulster Club the same year, sadly, this was now an aberration rather than the norm. In Dublin, beating a Ballymun Kickhams team in a County Quarter Final containing such players as Barney Rock, Coim Eustace, John Kearns and Anton McCaul holds fond memories for me.

**LEAST MEMORABLE GAMES:** For obvious reasons, against Donegal Town in 1982; Killybegs in 88; and Glen in the semi final in 90 - these were three games that we threw away. The Ulster Club semi-final replay in 93 against Errigal Ciaran in hindsight, was a glorious opportunity spurned given that Errigal Ciaran won the final by 14 points. But the catalogue of disasters and tragedies in the week before the replay left us playing the game in a sort of surreal vacuum. I remember Martin McHugh saying before the game "lets get this over and done with" - that fairly summed up the attitude at the time.

**THOUGHTS ON PRESENT DAY KILCAR TEAM:** Over the past couple of years, after a tough period, at the end of the day there is no substitute for having a good talented bunch of players. But unless the organisation, aptitude, application and attitude are right the chances of success are minimal. Years ago the teams of the South-West, in particular, as well as having very good panels also were very fit and had great attitudes. These teams playing against each other, at a high level, producing players of a high calibre, and I feel that these games played a large part in the winning of All-Irelands in 82, 87 and 92. Nowadays, to my mind, there are too many clubs, the fitness levels have dropped, attitude and self-discipline have taken a turn for the worse. It's all too easy and consequently standards have dropped quite alarmingly. Performances in the Ulster Club by the Donegal representatives over the past number of years would be proof of these falling standards. Only areas in the county like Letterkenny and Ballyshannon who have the benefit of population rises are a short step above the mediocre standard. The only way I can see the rural clubs competing in the future is to improve their standards of fitness and dedication or to amalgamate. For a benefit to the county team they should bring back the 'area' championship, that was played in the 1980s - something similar to what they have in Kerry.

**IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GAME:** All that needs to be done is to reduce the game to a 13 a side. At present there are too many players on the pitch which results in a lot of pulling and dragging. Often the more negative and destructive team will win out. Changing to 13 a side would put more of an emphasis back on skill. I would leave everything else as it is.

# PLAYER PROFILE - RONAN SHOVLIN

**Age:** 17 Years

**Height:** 5ft 9"

**Occupation:** Student

**Toughest opponent:** Gerard Gallagher (St. Michaels)

**Favourite position:** Centre Half  
Forward

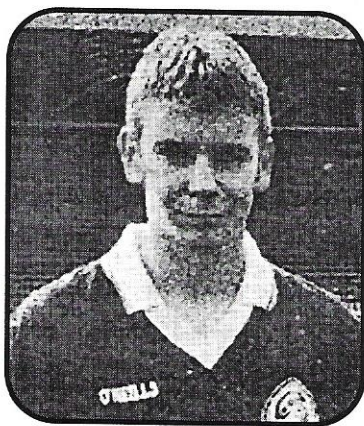
**County or Club Honours:**

1 County U-13, 2 Co. U-16, 1 Ted Webb

**Biggest influence on career:** My father

**Favourite players:** Michael Hegarty,  
Graham Geraghty (Meath)

**Favourite ground:** Towney, Kilcar



**Favourite group or singer:**  
Stereophonics

**Favourite sports:** Gaelic  
football

**Favourite manager (Club):**  
Ian Hegarty

**Most admired manager  
(County):** Sean Boylan, Meath

**Person you would most like to meet:**  
Jennifer Lopez.

**Person you most admire:** Martin & James  
McHugh

**Your hopes for the future:** That Gaelic  
football will become professional

# PLAYER PROFILE - DAVID McSHANE

**Age:** 23

**Height:** 6ft 2"

**Occupation:** Singer Songwriter,  
Chef

**Toughest opponent:** Donal  
Bonner

**Favourite position:** Well out at  
the side line at midfield

**Honours:**

U-10 '86, U-12 '87 '88, U-14 '89 '90

U-16 '92 U-18 '93-'94 U-21 runner up '96 Senior  
Champion 2000

**Biggest influence on your career:** Donal  
Bonner, Stephen McShane

**Favourite player:** Donal Bonner, Tommy Deane,  
Paul McNulty

**Favourite grounds:** Towney, Kilcar

**Most memorable game played:** Kilcar v St



Eunans Under-21s 1996

**Most memorable game played in:**  
The 1997 crazy football game in  
Towney.

**Most influential manager, club:**  
Mickey O'Donnell

**Favourite manager, county:**  
Martin McHugh

**Person you would most like to  
meet:**

Isabella, I love You (Majorca Model),  
Mohammed Ali

**What changes would you make to the game:**  
An extra set of goal posts so our forwards may  
actually score (Tommy Deane)

**Your hopes for the future:** To change our style  
of football

**Favourite group or singer:**  
Stereophonics

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 1988

<b>Patron:</b>	Bishop Seamus Hegarty, Fr. McShane	<b>Club Co-ordinator:</b>	Paddy Sweeney
<b>President:</b>	Michael O'Donnell P.O.	<b>Registrar:</b>	Ian Hegarty
<b>Chairman:</b>	Sean McGinley	<b>P.R.O.:</b>	Seamus Doogan
<b>Secretary:</b>	Danny Gillespie	<b>Senior Team Manager:</b>	Martin McHugh
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Carr	<b>Reserve Manager:</b>	Michael A. O'Donnell

Kilcar made history at senior level when they beat Ballyshannon in the county final. They were awarded a team of the eighties. This was some achievement for a small parish with one school and one chapel, a few shops and public houses. Even though they would win again in 1993, with no disrespect to the 1993 team, I think this was the team that really deserved more credit than others and the reasons why?

**COUNTY GAELTACHT** - On Saturday, May 6th 1989 a historic weekend began for the Kilcar club as they hosted the County final of the Gaeltacht Competitions for the first time. Eight teams took part between senior and junior competitions. It turned out to be a memorable competition for the local club when they emerged victorious at both levels.

The reserve team (under the management of Michael A. O'Donnell) defeated Gweedore in the semi final and Naomh Michaels in the final. It was, indeed, a remarkable achievement as it was this side's first trophy.

The senior team defeated Downings in the semi final, and Glenfin in the final, thus qualifying for their third All Ireland Gaeltacht Championship in successive years.

**ALL-IRELAND GAELTACHT** - These Championships were held in our own County in 1989; in Glencolumbkille. In one of the most fiercely contested finals in memory Kilcar won the All-Ireland Senior Gaeltacht Championship Title, defeating arch-rivals N. Columba.

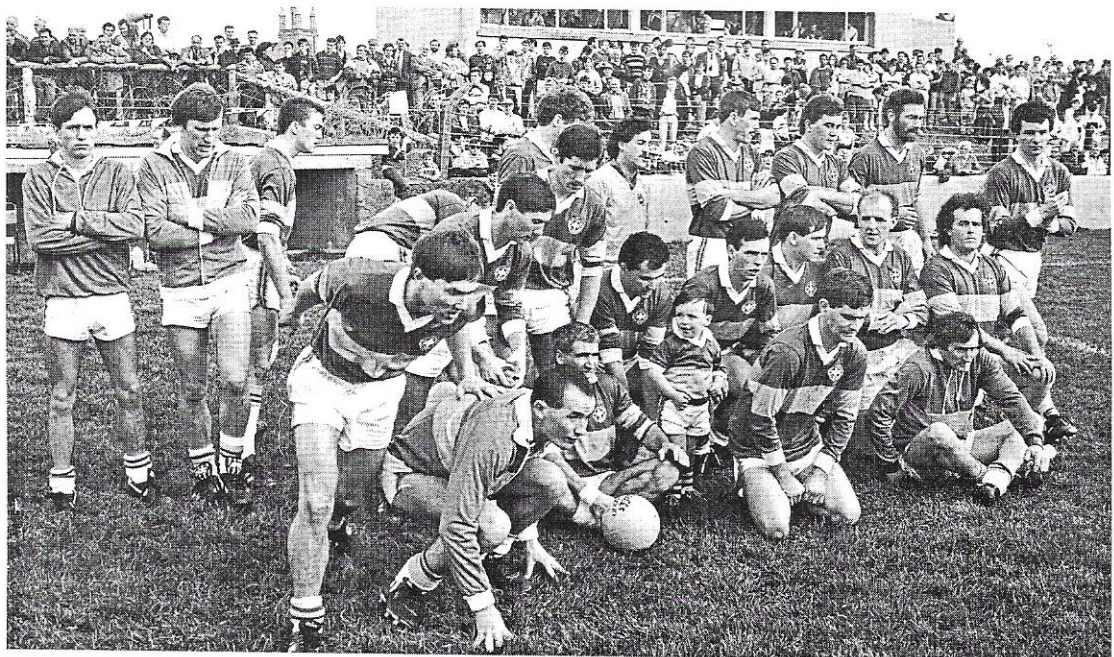
Kilcar 1-9 - N.Columba 0-9

Any game between local, rival clubs is usually marked by a healthy and determined competitiveness. But an All-Ireland Final played between two such proud clubs can only add a particular edge to the proceedings and this proved to be the case on the Bank Holiday Monday in Glencolumbkille.

The game was played at a ferocious pace and the hour's football kept the huge crowd enthralled for its entire duration. This was Kilcar's second success in this competition in three years. For Kilcar supporters victory was made even sweeter as it came at the hands of their most arduous rivals!

The historic Senior team that day was: Mickey McFadden; John Carr; Neilly Byrne; Enda McHugh; John Doogan; Maurice Carr; Christy Gillespie; James McHugh; Martin McHugh; Mark McShane; Neilly Cannon; Seamus Gallagher; Sean McGinley. Scorers (for Kilcar): Martin McHugh 0-4; Mark McShane 1-2; Christy Gillespie, Seamus Gallagher and John Doogan 0-1. Subs. James Carr for Sean McGinley. The Man of the Match award went to Seamus Gallagher.

The Gaeltacht Championship proved of even more historic note for the club as it was the first time, in the history of the competitions, that the same club won both Senior and Junior All-Ireland competitions - a feat which has never been repeated.



# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 1989

Both seniors and juniors got past the first round hurdle when they beat Cloughaneely in Towney. The final scores in both matches mirrored one another as they both ended Kilcar 1-11 to Cloughaneely 1-6.

Kilcar seniors brushed aside a demoralised Naomh Columba in the quarter final romping home to a 5-11 to 0-9 victory.

In the semi final Four Masters were unceremoniously dispensed with in a comfortable 5-9 to 1-4 victory for our men. The team on that semi final day was as follows: Mickey McFadden, Seamus Gallagher, Neilly Byrne, Enda McHugh, John Carr, Michael Carr, Maurice Carr, Christy Gillespie, Mark McShane, John O'Donnell, Roger McShane, James McHugh, Martin McHugh, James Carr, Michael Molloy. Subs: Bill Vaughan for John Carr (injured), Sean McGinley for John O'Donnell, John Doogan for Michael Molloy.

## COUNTY FINAL

After losing two County finals in succession, we were not going to lose a third! 5,000 supporters crammed into McCumhaill Park in this eagerly awaited county final.

But the game turned out to be a tense affair, with neither side producing the quality, flowing football of which they were capable. Having lost the final in both previous years our men went out with one primary objective, to win and this may have inhibited our squad in their approach to the game. Coming off resounding victories in the quarter and semi finals, and playing some of the most exciting football ever witnessed in the county, the final did not provide the showpiece which was expected. But the final outcome remains a tribute to the determination of the team to "get the job done". Some of the comments from the players, recorded after the game, lends a flavour of the feelings at the time.

**MICKEY McFADDEN** - "This is the nicest feeling of my playing career. I have won medals before but this is the sweetest victory of them all, because it means we can go down as the team of the '80s. They also said we proved a point today".

**CHRISTY GILLESPIE** - "We were under a lot of pressure after losing the first two games if we lost this one it would have been very hard to come back again. I felt we were getting on top in the second half but Ballyshannon kept it very tight and never let us get too far ahead. I felt we did not play well in the first half and we were struggling to get the ball out of defence, but we started to motor after the turnover having said that I must say, Aodh Ruah were a good team and very dangerous. They had players to turn the game at any stage."

**JAMES McHUGH** - "The loss of John Carr before the game was a psychological blow, but I think we were on top for most of the game and I could never see us losing. I have no doubt either that Aodh Ruah will be back they are a good side, I am glad for the younger players on our side and I think Mark McShane proved that he is the best player at his age in the county. I hope the people watching took note of him. And what about the free James, was it a miss-kick? Maybe, OK I was going for a point.

**ROGER McSHANE** - "I never scored with a flick-on in my life."

**MARTIN McHUGH (MANAGER)** - "It was tough, the pitch was in good shape but a bit heavy, probably because this was the first game on it. We won because we wanted to win. There was no great football from either side but we kept plugging away and we were more eager to win after losing two finals in a row. Now we are a team of the 80s and that is because of the amount of work we put into it. We tried to be professional in our approach and next year you can rest assured that we will do our utmost to defend our crown. We have lots of young players coming through, players like Mark McShane. Regarding the game, Aodh Ruah tackled very well and gave us no room, the final whistle was sweet music to our ears. We were in the dumps at half-time because we were facing the wind in the second half and only one point up, but I said to the lads that last year Killybegs were down five points at that stage and came back to win and the year before Aodh Ruah were level with us. I think one of the most important parts of the game was when Gerry Curran missed two frees, he doesn't usually do that and the second time the ball broke for us we won a 50 which I scored, that was a big help at the time."

When he was asked will he continue on as manager?

"I don't know yet, I have a lot of thinking to do before I decide."

**SEAMUS GALLAGHER** - "I definitely wanted to win this one for the Parish and supporters for myself and particularly for Martin McHugh. The amount of time, effort and discipline he put into the club was unbelievable and he is greatly respected. What he says goes with the players. I would love to see him continuing on as manager because he takes the job in his stride and he is capable of doing it."

So what's the future for Seamus Gallagher at the time, the Press asked?

"I think Seamus Gallagher will finish the league in Ulster Club Championship and then I would say that I will retire. I want to finish on a winning note though. About the game, I thought the referee Thomas McBrearty had an excellent game and I think that if all referees took a leaf from his book we would be on the way up in the game - he let it flow.

# PLAYER PROFILE - PADDY O'DONNELL

**Age:** 36

**Height:** 6ft 2"

**Occupation:** Employee, Errigal Fish

**Marital Status:** Single

**Toughest opponent:** John Farren (Urris)

**Favourite position:** Midfield

**County or Club Honours:**  
Reserve Championship/League,  
Donegal Gaeltacht Junior, Junior Champion Voc.  
School

**Biggest influence on your career:**  
Francis Barry Campbell (First Manager)

**Favourite Player:**  
John Carr

**Most memorable Game played in:** 1996 Junior Final



**Favourite Ground:** Towney, Kilcar

**Most influential Manager (Club):**  
Sean Campbell Junior

**Favourite Manager (County):** Tom Cribben (Laois)

**Person you would most like to meet:** Charles J. Haughey

**What changes would you make to the game:** I hope the game's administration committee stop meddling with the rules of the game.

More consistent refereeing with same rules applying for county and club players.

**Your hopes for the future:**

A successful third millennium for Kilcar GAA  
I hope this book sells!

**Fav. Group/Singer:**

Larry Cunningham, Civil Divilís

**Fav. other sports:** Soccer and tennis

# PLAYER PROFILE - DENIS McBREARTY

**Honours Won:** 3 U-21 titles

6 Senior league medals

2 Donegal Senior Gaeltacht titles

1 Junior Gaeltacht title

1 All-Ireland Junior Gaeltacht

2 Shield titles

County Senior Championship

**Year made senior debut:**  
1974.

**Toughest opponent:** Tom Moyna (Scotstown).

**Favourite ground:** Old pitch in Towney.

**Biggest influence on career:** Seamus Gillespie.

**Most memorable game:** 1980, County Final against Ardara.



**Biggest disappointment:**  
Losing county final in 1982.

**Favourite player:** Matt Connor, Offaly.

**Position in U-21 three in a row:**  
'79 and '73, corner-back, '74 full-back.

**No. of county finals played in:**  
2.

**Which county final victory gave most satisfaction:** 1980, against Ardara.

**Represented the county at what levels:**  
Under 21.

**Year of retirement from playing football:**  
1989.

**How has the game changed:** It has got quicker and players have to be much fitter.



**Cllr. Declan McHugh**

wishes

Sean Campbell

every success with

**“Our Field Of Dreams”**

Best of luck to Sean on

**“OUR FIELD OF DREAMS”**

*from . . .*

**Thomas Gildea T.D.**

The Diamond, Ardara, Co. Donegal.

Office - Tel: (075) 41847 Home - Tel: (075) 51757

Fax: (075) 41869



*Kilcar - Senior County Champions 1989*

## **KILCAR - 1990**

A goal in the dying minutes by mid-fielder Mark McShane and some marvellous play by the McHugh brothers Martin and James paved the way for Kilcar of that year to secure a place in the Senior League Final when they beat Red Hughes at Fr. Tierney Park, Ballyshannon.

As a spectacle, the game was thoroughly entertaining and kept a moderate crowd enthralled for its duration. Donal Reid took his place on the Red Hugh team and Michael Gillespie, Mark Campbell and Michael Breslin and Ollie Reid all returned from England to assist their club. It was the inability of the Finn Valley men to turn large amounts of possession into scores that eventually cost them dearly. They did conjure up some fine moments particularly a spell towards the end of the first half when they came within a point of the reigning County Senior Champions.

Time after time, however, they squandered vital possession especially coming out of defence, this gave Kilcar simple opportunities which they rarely missed. County star Martin McHugh at the time was in devastating form contributing a total of 6 points to his side's tally. His brother James with his darting runs at the reduced defence created havoc. The Killygordon side tried in vain to curb his efforts but to no avail. James Carr got the goal on the same day. The half-time score in that game was 0-9 to Kilcar 0-5 Red Hughes.

Kilcar started the second half in great fashion with a marvellous individual effort by Martin McHugh as he sent a 45 straight between the posts against the wind. James Carr got a point and Roger McShane put through a lovely pass to the in-rushing brother Mark who drove the ball low and hard into the net. The team that day was: Michael McFadden, Seamus Gallagher, Neilly Byrne, Enda McHugh, John Carr, Christy Gillespie, John Doogan, Maurice Carr, Mark McShane, Roger McShane, Martin McHugh, Gerard McBrearty, John O'Donnell, James Carr and Seamus McHugh. Subs: Sean McGinley for John Carr.

They went on to meet Ardara in the Senior Football League Title. With Ardara having a strong team they beat Kilcar on a scoreline of 1-10 to 1-7. The Kilcar team in the League Final of 1990 was: Michael McFadden, Seamus Gallagher, Neilly Byrne, Enda McHugh, John Doogan, Maurice Carr, John O'Donnell, Martin McShane, Christy Gillespie, Sean McGinley, Roger McShane, Stephen Byrne, Martin McHugh, James Carr, James McHugh. Subs: Gerard McBrearty for Stephen Byrne and Manus Brady not used.

Our U-21s were beaten by Red Hughes on a scoreline of Red Hughes 3-3, Kilcar 1-5. Martin McHugh was named as a Bank of Ireland Allstar in 1990.

In the Reserve Senior Championship preliminary round second leg, Downings 2-9, Kilcar 2-9.

In the Senior Championships first rounds, Kilcar beat Four Masters in Towney on a score line of 2-8 to Four Masters 1-6.

In the Intermediate Championship second leg, Kilcar were pipped at the post by Naomh Brid on a scoreline of Naomh Brid 0-16, Kilcar 3-6.

In the Senior Championship first round play-off Kilcar had a victory over Four Masters on a scoreline of 0-8 to Four Masters 0-8.

In the Senior County Championship quarter final Kilcar beat St. Eunan's on a scoreline of 1-11 to 1-7. The reigning County Champions who beat St. Eunan's in the quarter final were: Mickey McFadden, Seamus Gallagher, Neilly Byrne, Enda McHugh, John O'Donnell, Michael Carr, Maurice Carr, James McHugh (0-4), Christy Gillespie, Gerard McBrearty, John Doogan, Vernon Hegarty (0-1), Martin McHugh (1-6), James Carr, Roger McShane.

So Kilcar Seniors set up a semi-final meeting with our local rivals Naomh Columba. The reigning County Champions our seniors, Kilcar were beaten by Naomh Columba on a scoreline of 2-10 to 1-11. The prophecy of the wise and the astute came to pass on that Sunday afternoon when Naomh Columba went through to the final of the Donegal Senior Championship. The Men of the Glen had been tipped that year by many as the best outside bet to reach the final.

They lived up to that expectation with style and flourish in a marvellously entertaining game they kept the pressure on Kilcar who were forced into unfamiliar defence formations to secure their goal line. The fact that Kilcar had left their shooting boots at home on the same day had some bearing on the final result. But, Glen in full flight were a sight to behold and totally deserved victory against a team that fought back 3 times. If Glencolumcille were superb, then Paddy Hegarty was a star. He scored a total of 1-1 for Glen and tortured Kilcar throughout the game. His fielding that day was excellent and he was joined by his brother Noel whose counter-attacking was a constant threat to Kilcar at times.

Glen's pressure was such that Martin McHugh and Christy Gillespie had to retreat to their half-back line in search of possession and in hope of starting some constructive moves but on the occasions they did threaten to find some rhythm they met staunch resistance from John Joe Doherty. Christy Gillespie fought a lonely battle at mid-field for Kilcar and failed to thrive due to a lack of support. The suspended Mark McShane was badly missed the same year at full forward because the same year Martin McHugh was less than 100% fit. Paddy Hegarty started as he meant to continue when he pointed for Glen in the third minute. McHugh equalised but by the ninth minute Glen were 4 points ahead with points from Michael Oliver McIntyre, Noel Hegarty, Paddy Gavigan and Michael McNelis. But Kilcar were far from being down and hit back through Roger McShane, Vernon Hegarty and Martin McHugh to level once again. After exchanging points Naomh Columba got their first crucial score when they hit a goal on the stroke of half-time. Paddy Hegarty was the scorer winning possession after the 35 yards out. Darting goalwards and ruffling a bullet-like shot past the head of Mickey McFadden for the goal of the game. They could have gone further ahead but for a brilliant stop by the Kilcar keeper.

After that the sides exchanged scores leaving a gap of 4 points. The game turned in the Champions favour for a short spell in the forty-seventh minute; the referee overruled a linesman's decision awarding the line ball to Kilcar. From this Michael Carr floated a long ball into the Naomh Columba goal mouth which was met by McShane who hammered the ball to the back of the net. A point from Martin McHugh a minute later brought the teams level for the third time this was the only time in the game that Kilcar looked like they might win but Naomh Columba refused to lie down and scored a deserved second goal in the fifty-third minute. Kilcar's corner back Enda McHugh lost possession to Michael McNelis after spotting the Kilcar keeper off the line. McNelis lobbed the ball over his head for what proved to be the decisive score.

Vernon Hegarty cut the deficit to 2 points with three minutes remaining but that was the last score of the game. Christy Gillespie, James McHugh both had wides in the dying minutes. Final score was Naomh Columba 2-10 Kilcar 1-11. Kilcar team: Mickey McFadden, Seamus Gallagher, Neilly Byrne, Enda McHugh, John O'Donnell, Michael Carr, Maurice Carr, Christy Gillespie, James McHugh, Vernon Hegarty, Roger McShane, Gerard McBrearty, Martin McHugh, James Carr and Michael Molloy. Scorers: Martin McHugh 0-8, Vernon Hegarty 0-2, Roger McShane 1-1. Particularly good games that day from Roger McShane, Vernon Hegarty, Martin McHugh and John O'Donnell. This ended Kilcar's reign as County Champions in 1990. The championship ended but overall it was a fairly successful year. Naomh Columba went on to win the County Final and end a twelve year jinx beating Killybegs on a scoreline of Naomh Columba 0-10, Killybegs 0-9.

# **KILCAR - 1991**

In the Under 21 Championship of 1991 Kilcar drew to play Glenfin. They beat Glenfin on a scoreline of Kilcar 1-8, Glenfin 1-5.

Our Seniors and Reserves were drawn against Aodh Rua, Ballyshannon. In the Junior Championship our team drew against Naomh Baithin.

John O'Donnell and Mark McShane were drafted into the Under-21 County Panel.

The results of the Under 21 championship this same year, second round was that Aodh Rua beat Kilcar on a scoreline of 3-13 to Kilcar's 1-5.

Our seniors beat Aodh Rua in the first round of the first leg final score Aodh Rua 0-11, Kilcar 1-13. Our reserves also beat Aodh Rua on a scoreline of Kilcar 1-9, Aodh Rua 0-8. Our third team weren't so lucky as they got beat on a scoreline of Kilcar 1-4, Naomh Baithin 3-14. Kilcar in the first round of the second leg drew with Ballyshannon.

The result of the C. Reserve Championship first round - second leg was Kilcar 3-9, Aodh Rua 1-6. Our juniors again got beaten by Naomh Baithin on a scoreline of 1-14 to Kilcar 1-8. So, our seniors got through to the Senior Football Quarter Final when they beat Aodh Rua, Ballyshannon to go on to meet Red Hughes. Our Reserves went onto the Quarter Final also when they set up to meet Carndonagh. So, the Reserves beat Carndonagh on a score-line of Kilcar 2-15 Carndonagh 0-3 and put them into the County Semi-Final. Our Seniors got beat by Red Hughes at the Quarter Final Replay on a scoreline of Red Hughes 1-9, Kilcar 1-7.

Our Senior Reserves went in favourites for the Reserves Semi-Final. The Reserves who disposed of Carndonagh on a scoreline of 2-15 to 0-3 were: Paddy Sweeney, Danny Gillespie, Anthony Diver, Raymond Carr, Finlay McIvor, Paddy Carr, Noel McDevitt, Joseph O'Donnell, Peter Hegarty, Dermot Cannon, Declan Cannon, Martin O'Donnell, Kieran O'Donnell, Paddy O'Donnell, Cornelius Diver, James Hegarty, Conal Lyons, Charlie O'Donnell, Steven O'Donnell, Gerry Carr, Sean McGinley and Michael McShane. So they went on and disposed of St. Eunans on a scoreline of Kilcar 0-14 St. Eunan's 0-3.

The Senior Reserve Championship Final was between Killybegs and Kilcar. Pint-sized Gerry Carr who was not even started among the Kilcar substitutes for Sunday's Reserve Championship Final was the author of a fairy tale ending when he scored the winning goal in injury time for his side against Killybegs as the curtain raiser to the Senior Match in 1991.

The then eighteen year old, who came on with fifteen minutes left, conjured up some brilliance and scored a goal and a point for a side who up until that point had struggled in front of goal. When Killybegs goalkeeper James Lowney produced a fantastic reflex save, denied Cannon a goal in the fifty-third minute it looked as if the proverbial writing was on the wall for the Kilcar men. Somewhat against the run of play in the second half they struggled to hold on to a 3 point lead. However, Kilcar always looked like getting a goal and richly deserved the winner.

At half time following a disappointing first half Kilcar led 0-4, to 1-0. Kilcar raced into a 3 point lead inside the first six minutes with points from Anthony Diver, Peter Hegarty and Mark O'Donnell who was later stretchered off with what was detected as torn knee ligaments. Up until this point O'Donnell was a key player in the ranks of the Kilcar forward line with his lightening speed and skill. Killybegs scored a goal against the run of play in the eighteenth minute. Paul Ronan had a blistering shot blocked down which was picked up by Barry Mullen. He hoisted the ball goalwards and Eamonn McGuinness rose to fist the ball home despite the Kilcar protests of him being in the square. A point from Sean McGinley nine minutes before the half-time whistle gave the side a 0-4 to 1-0 lead at half-time.

Killybegs took the initiative in the early moments of the second half with a well executed point by the evergreen Baker Boyle, centre-half back and probably their best player on that day. Peter McGinley put Killybegs a point ahead for the first time in the match five minutes after resumption, after a good solo run. A minute later Killybegs got a goal from absolutely nothing - when opportunists flew forward John Murrin lobbed the Kilcar goalkeeper Paddy Sweeney from about 25 metres to leave his side 2-2 to 0-4 ahead. But Kilcar struck back immediately with a point from Sean McGinley - his second - and we were desperately unlucky not to have had a goal when Kieran O'Donnell shot wide from an excellent opportunity.

Super-sub Gerry Carr was introduced in a master stroke by the Kilcar mentors. Acknowledging their lack of fire-power up front matters got worse for Kilcar when Carr put Dermot Cannon through a shot which looked destined for the top corner was brilliantly tipped over by Lowney in the Killybegs goal for a point. Boyle extended the Killybegs lead to a 3 point margin with his second point of the game but Kilcar, showing a great amount of character, replied with a point from Gerry Carr from a 21 metre free. When Ian Cunningham scored a point for Killybegs it gave his side a 3 point lead it appeared as if the game was over with only two minutes remaining. However, in injury time as they trailed by 2 points that old fox McGinley was involved in a move which was to prove the match winner. Half-back Noel McDevitt burst up the field and gave the ball to his manager McGinley showing all the experience he has gained over all those years, Kilcar broke through and the youngster gleefully put the ball in the top corner of the net for a dramatic winner. Kilcar 1-8, Killybegs 2-4.

The sense of disappointment and disbelief in the Killybegs dug-out was indescribable.

## ***KILCAR - 1992***

<b>Chairman:</b>	Sean McGinley	<b>Secretary:</b>	Danny Gillespie
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Phillip Garvey	<b>PRO:</b>	Mary Bourne
<b>Registrar:</b>	Ian Hegarty	<b>Senior Team Manager:</b>	John Carr
<b>Reserve Manager:</b>	Sean McGinley	<b>Third Team Manager:</b>	Michael A. O'Donnell

Our Senior Team went out of the Championship to Aodh Rua, in the quarter final, having beaten Glenties in the first round. The success which was to be achieved in this year at County level was not reflected in our club, sadly.

The reserve side went to the County Final where they were beaten by St. Eunans by a score of 1-10 to 0-8.

## ***THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY CONQUERED!***



**Donegal -All-Ireland Senior Football Champions 1992**

Back Row / L to R: Matt Gallagher, John Joe Doherty, Noel Hegarty, Gary Walsh, Brian Murray, Barry McGowan, Declan Bonner, Donal Reid.  
Front Row / L to R: Martin McHugh, Joyce McMullan, Manus Boyle, Tony Boyle, Anthony Molloy (Capt), Martin Gavigan, James McHugh.

# PLAYER PROFILE - KEITH CUNNINGHAM

**Age:** 20

**Height:** 5ft 4"

**Occupation:** Stripper!

**Fav. Group/Singer:** Big Tom & The Mainliners, Margo

**Favourite position:** Full forward

**County or Club Honours:**  
Junior Championship 1996,  
South West Divisional Medals

**Biggest influence on your career:** James & Martin McHugh

**Favourite players:** Mickey Hegarty & Martin McKenna.

**Favourite ground:** Pettigoe



**Most memorable game:** Junior Championship Final 1996

**Most influential manager:** Martin McHugh, Sean Campbell (Meenboy), Ian Hegarty

**Favourite Manager (county):** Martin McHugh

**Person you would most like to meet:** Bibi Baskin & Queen Mother

**Your hopes for the future:** get married & play football with a big blonde Swedish woman

**What changes would you make to the game:** I think for sideline kicks to be kicked off the ground again.

# PLAYER PROFILE - MICHAEL McSHANE

**Age:** 29

**Occupation:** Trucker

**Favourite group:** Bon Jovi

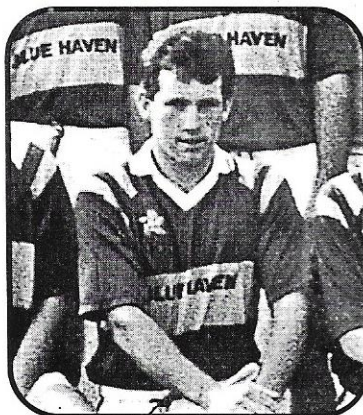
**Favourite position:** Center Half Back

**Club or County Honours:**  
Senior Championship, 2  
Reserve Championships, 3  
Reserve league, County Gaeltacht

**Favourite other sports:** Ladies Beach Volleyball

**Played in:** Underage game in Ardara where Raymond Carr scored 3 own goals

**Biggest disappointment:** there were two in 1999 which are better not to mention



**Biggest influence in your career:** Watching Peter Conroy & Charlie McGroarty playing their tactical game

**Favourite ground:** Fintra

**Favourite players:** Jamsie O'Connor & Peter Canavan

**Toughest opponent:** Have not played against him yet

**Person you would most like to meet:** Monica Lewinsky

**Most influential Manager (Club):** Martin McHugh, **(County):** Pete McGrath

**What changes would you make to the game:** No changes

**Hopes for the future:** The referee's would get to like me



## KILCAR - 1993

FEBRUARY 6TH 1993 AT THE AGM

Honorary present:	Fr John Gallagher, Rev. Seamus Hegarty	President of the club:	Francis Carr
Chairman:	Sean McGinley	Vice Chairman:	Alan Erskine
Secretary:	Peter Hegarty	Ass. Secretary:	Danhy Gillespie
Treasurer:	Philip Garvey	PRO:	Mary Bourne
Field Committee Chairman:	Charlie O'Donnell	Club Co-ordinator:	Paddy Sweeney
Registrar	Ian Hegarty	Senior Team Manager:	Seamus Gallagher
Reserve Team Manager:	Sean McGinley	U21 Team Manager:	Declan Cannon, Mark O'Donnell
Junior Team Manager:	Danny Gillespie	Minor Board Chairman:	Alan Erskine
Finance Committee:	Seamus Gallagher, Sean Byrne, Anne McGinley and Mary Bourne		

## CHAMPIONSHIP

Even without the services of Martin McHugh the seniors clinched a place in the quarter final of the senior football championship at the expense of St. Eunans.

This was a disappointing match and it was the fourth meeting of the sides, to decide who went forward to the quarter finals. It was probably the most disappointing of their meetings, but in the end the seniors had just the extra scoring power to go through. James McHugh was back from suspension and he operated in the corner forward-position for most of the game until the latter stages when he came out onto the forty.

The turning point of this match came in the ninth minute when James Carr scored the game's only goal when he hammered home a rebound after his initial effort on goal had been blocked on the goal line by St. Eunan's corner back, Dennis Faulkner. This gave Kilcar a four point lead to no score and St. Eunans could not get closer than a three point margin for the duration of this game. However, Tony Blake made a notable contribution of six points - but he had plenty of chances as well of scoring a goal. Blake burst through a static Kilcar defence en route to goal with only goalkeeper Paddy Sweeney to beat he chipped the shot over the bar to the frustration of the St. Eunan's supporters.

In the final analysis of this game St. Eunans would agree that they squandered too much possession to really trouble an experienced Kilcar side who played with much more cohesion. Charlie Mulgrew that day and Blake were the pick of the forward line for St Eunans. Mickey Kelly was introduced after forty seven minutes. Both teams fluffed early chances before David Cannon opened the scoring after six minutes for Kilcar. Sweeney in the Kilcar goal pulled off a fine save from Tony Blake to deny St. Eunans an early goal. James Carr got the goal which effectively won the game in the ninth minute. Two minutes later Blake

opened the St. Eunans account. Converted free kicks from Pauric Howley and Christie Gillespie put Kilcar 1-3 to 0-1 ahead after nineteen minutes as Kilcar showed that even without their star player that day they still had enough influential figures to see them through. Damien Daly of St. Eunans was introduced for Eamonn Haran after twenty one minutes and he played a part in two scores from Tony Blake. This brought St. Eunans within a goal. James McHugh restored Kilcar's four point lead just before the interval. The seniors that day really should have went further ahead early in the second half when shots from mid-fielder Mark McShane and Michael Molloy both hit the post. After eighteen minutes of the second half Kilcar led 1-5 to 0-5 before McHugh and Blake exchanged points from free kicks. Blake hit St Eunans point just before the end but before that David Cannon had four points between the sides with his second point of the game. On the day the best team won. The seniors went on to meet Naomh Conal of Glenties in the Championship Quarter Final.

The team that day: Paddy Sweeney, Noel McDevitt, Neilly Byrne, John O'Donnell, Michael Carr 0-1, Enda McHugh, Kevin Lyons, Christie Gillespie 0-1, Mark McShane, Michael Molloy, Bill Vaughan, David Cannon 0-2, James McHugh 0-2, James Carr 1-0 goal, Pauric Howley 0-1. Sub: Kieran O'Donnell for McShane. Final score Kilcar 1-7 St Eunans 0-7.

Our Seniors booked their place in the semi final of the Senior Football Championship after a five point win over Glenties. This game was played in Fintra. Kilcar opened very strongly and led 1-5 to 0-3 at the end of the first quarter and this combined with a late three point rally saw them edge out a young Glenties side after a thrilling match. Kilcar's Martin McHugh and James along with mid-fielder Mark McShane, were in top form and started exceptionally well. A goal after five minutes from the Galway import Pauric Howley and chief free taker was followed up by several frees from the same player and a number of points from play to give Kilcar a formidable 1-5 to 0-3 advantage after just fifteen minutes.

With McHugh at the hub of every move, McShane dominated mid-field and fed the ball through to the Kilcar forwards who gave the Glenties defenders all sorts of problems. Eventually it was a tactical change that helped Glenties edge back into contention. John Gildea, their best player that season, was moved from full-forward back to mid-field and along with Jim McGuinness they began to find the measure of our Seniors, but only for a brief period. With a further two points before the interval Glenties moved to within striking distance. At the start of the second half Gildea again started at full-forward but was recalled once more to mid-field as it became apparent that Kilcar were picking up where they had left off in the opening quarter. Glenties began to dominate and had much the better second half moving to within three points of Kilcar at 1-9 to 0-9 with less than ten minutes to go.

It was at this stage that the match reached a turning point with Naomh Conal looking increasingly confident. A 16 year old called Neil McBride made a powerful goal attempt that blasted back off the Kilcar cross bar and was scrambled to safety. Seemingly jolted by the let-off James and Martin McHugh began to carry the ball up field and away from danger area and along with Michael Carr they added three late scores to book their side a date in the championship semi final.

Overall in the end the experience of a Kilcar side made the difference and with two McHughs really hitting form this Senior team was going to take some beating.

## **COUNTY SEMI FINAL**

Our seniors qualified for the final of the Donegal Senior football championship on September 26th, where they would meet reigning champions and our closest rivals Killybegs.

This was a deserved victory over Glenfin. Two goals in a two minute spell were the vital scores of this championship semi final for our Seniors. We finished the much stronger team despite the fact that they were reduced to fourteen men seven minutes after the restart when they had Enda McHugh sent off.

After a bright start that left them in a 1-1 to 0-1 lead after 12 minutes Kilcar trailed by a goal at half time 2-4 to 1-4 following a strong second quarter by the Glenfin side which yielded goals from the impressive Joe McCallig and Aidan Marley. Three points after seven minutes of the restart had Kilcar level and despite the sending off of their talented defender they finished too strong and two goals from John O'Donnell, a penalty and a Pauric Howley strike two minutes later put the game beyond the reach of the Glenfin men.

Kilcar's first goal came from James Carr. It came as a result of a well measured forty yard pass from Martin McHugh and two points shortly afterwards from Pauric Howley put the Kilcar men 1-3 to 0-1 in the lead. Kilcar allowed Glenfin to take control for the second quarter. Glenfin's tactics were certainly effective



especially around the middle of the field and after seventeen minutes Joey McDermott finished off a three man move with the low drive that took the deflection off a Kilcar defender before ending up in the back of the net. Three minutes later Glenfin scored their second goal. The Kilcar goalkeeper failed to hold onto a shot from Johnny McGinty and Adrian Marley was the first to react and he nipped in to slide the ball into the Kilcar net. Indeed such was their superiority at that stage in the match that Glenfin should have had a third goal at the stroke of half time when Aidan Marley was put in the clear by Liam Breen, but the shots hit the crossbar and went over a point. That brought the first half action to an end and Glenfin were 2-4 to 1-4 for Kilcar.

Within seven minutes of the restart Kilcar were back on level terms after two points from Martin McHugh and another from Mark McShane. The turning point in the game came in the thirty-seventh minute when Enda McHugh was sent off. Glenfin were awarded a free kick thirty metres out and McHugh was cautioned but whatever was said after that Enda was ordered off by referee Peter Hughes. The sending off inspired the Seniors and they dug deep into their reserves.

They hit a purple patch midway through the second half and goals from O'Donnell after Pauric Howley was hauled to the ground and a goal from Howley himself two minutes later put Kilcar into a 3-8 to 2-5 lead. Glenfin that day lacked the necessary strengths and penetration to overcome this Kilcar side. Kilcar 3-10, Glenfin 2-5.

The team that day for Kilcar: Paddy Sweeney, Michael Carr, Declan McShane, John O'Donnell (1-0 from a penalty), Kevin Lyons, Enda McHugh, Christie Gillespie, James McHugh 0-1, Mark McShane 0-2, David Cannon 0-1, Martin McHugh 0-3, Michael Molloy, Roger McShane, James Carr 1-0 and Pauric Howley 1-3. Referee on the day: Peter Hughes (Milford).

It was on to beat Killybegs in an eagerly awaited County Final.

Our Reserves were defeated by Gweedore in the semi final of the Reserve Championship in 1993. Kilcar Reserves in the semi final that day were: Kenneth Kennedy, Charlie O'Donnell, Raymond Carr, Gerard McBrearty, James Hegarty, Stephen Byrne, Dermot Cannon, Joseph O'Donnell, Cornelius Diver, Stephen O'Donnell, Finlay McIvor, Kieran O'Donnell, Anthony Diver, Peter Hegarty, Paddy Carr, Declan McDevitt, Gerry Carr, Declan Cannon, Brendan Byrne, Tommy Deane, Seamus Cunningham and Sean McGinley. Final score: Kilcar 1-6, Gweedore 1-10.

The headline in the Derry People in 1993 after the County Final was: "Superb Kilcar foil Killybegs Triple Title Bid."

Our seniors defeated parish rivals and reigning County Champions Killybegs to win the Senior Football Championship after a thrilling final played before a crowd of approximately 4,000 at Ballybofey. Inspired by the magic of the Man of the Match, James McHugh, Kilcar richly deserved their eventual two point win to deny Killybegs hopes of a third championship on the trot. Even with the services of Declan Boyle, Killybegs could do little to stop our Seniors who displayed a much greater hunger and determination throughout this game. Seamus Gallagher, captain of the side back in 1988 when the sides last met in the final, but manager of this team said immediately after the game that he had his homework done on Killybegs. He went on to say, "I picked the team specifically to play against Killybegs and I thought my tactics paid off throughout the game. I did not know that Declan Boyle would be playing but I made a switch before the game started to cope with that. The lads were really hungry to win", he said.

Kilcar got off to a great start and led by 0-3 to 0-1 after just seven minutes, their scores coming from Michael Molloy and Pauric Howley. Both sides changed their starting line ups considerably before the throw-in, the most noticeable switch being the transition of James McHugh from mid-field to full forward for Kilcar and Killybegs player manager Jimmy White moving from the edge of the square from the half-back line to accommodate Declan Boyle.

After some early confusion in the camps a thrilling match ensued which kept the crowd enthralled for its entire duration. The sides were level on four occasions during the first half and at the interval Killybegs held a one point lead 0-6 to 0-5. Kilcar were left to reflect on two goal opportunities they missed but in fairness to Killybegs keeper David Meehan made two terrific saves to deny Pauric Howley in the third minute and Martin McHugh in injury time. The highlights of this first half were 2 extra points from play by Manus Boyle and the place kicking of Pauric Howley who was a former Galway minor who finished the game with a perfect tally of 5 points.

James McHugh's ability to get in behind the Killybegs defence and win frees was a feature of this game and he thoroughly deserved the Man of the Match accolade. Kilcar also switched James Carr from full-

forward to centre-half back and he had a fine match throughout gaining vital possession and relieving pressure on more than one occasion during the hour. Kilcar won the mid-field battle where Mark McShane and Christie Gillespie outplayed John Ban Gallagher and Barry McGowan, respectively, for the hour.

At half time it was difficult to choose between the sides although Kilcar had the better opportunities and were it not for Meehan they could have had two goals on the scoreboard. In the second half there was never more than 2 points between the sides. Roger McShane, who was one of the heroes of the second half for Kilcar, brought the side on level terms 0-6 a piece two minutes after resumption. Three minutes later Pauric Howley gave Kilcar the lead for the first time in the match when he converted a twenty-five metre free.

Man of the Match James McHugh put 2 point between the sides with a fine point in the thirty-seventh minute and while Killybegs came to within a point on two occasions in the final twenty minutes they could not get the game back on level terms. Two excellent points by Roger McShane in the fortieth and forty-fourth minute were instrumental in Kilcar's win.

Killybegs applied all the pressure for the final ten minutes and points from Manus Boyle and Peter McGinley in the forty-third minute had them within a point. As they pressed forward they came up against a resolute Kilcar defence with superb performances by Enda McHugh, John O'Donnell and Kevin Lyons ably marshalled by the tireless Christie Gillespie at midfield.

At vital stages during the match Martin McHugh oozed with class and his excellent point in the forty-ninth minute followed by the Roger McShane free three minutes from time secured the Kilcar win. While every Kilcar player was a hero on that day the McHugh brothers, Enda, James and Martin, the McShane brothers Roger and Mark, James Carr, Christie Gillespie, Pauric Howley and John O'Donnell deserve special praise. Kilcar 0-12, Killybegs 0-10.

For Killybegs it was a disappointing day. What difference (if any!) would the suspended Barry Cunningham have made for Killybegs is mere speculation, this Kilcar team was not going to lose and Jimmy White paid tribute to Kilcar after the game. He said, "they played with much more hunger and passion than I cannot put my finger on exactly why we did not perform I thought only David Meehan our goal keeper played well they wanted to win the championship more than us and thoroughly deserved their win."

However tribute must be paid to this Kilcar senior side for producing what was widely regarded as one of the best championship finals in recent years and tribute must be paid to Killybegs also.

So, under the management of Seamus Gallagher in 1993 Kilcar had a superb year. The team that day Paddy Sweeney, Michael Carr, Enda McHugh, John O'Donnell, Declan McShane, Christie Gillespie, Kevin Lyons, James McHugh 0-1, Mark McShane, David Cannon, Martin McHugh 0-1, Michael Molloy 0-1, Roger McShane 0-4, James Carr and Pauric Howley 0-5. Subs on the day: Neillie Byrne for Declan McShane and Noel McDevitt for Michael Carr. Referee: Liam Brown (Four Masters).

Our senior's bowed out of the Ulster Club Championship as well in 1993 when Errigal Ciaran beat them on a final scoreline of 0-5 to 0-3.

## **U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP**

In the Under-21 Championship Kilcar overcame Cloughaneely on a scoreline of 1-9 to Cloughaneely 0-9.

In the first round of the league Gweedore beat Kilcar Seniors 0-12 to 0-7 and likewise the Reserves Kilcar 1-2 Gweedore 2-6.

In the Under 21 Championship Final Kilcar were beaten by Dungloe Kilcar 3-3 Dungloe 2-9.

In the Donegal Vocational Schools Mark McShane had been called up into the County panel in 1993. He scored a goal and 2 points from play against Roscommon afterwards Brian McEniff described McShane's general play as outstanding and had no hesitation in calling him into the squad for the first round Ulster Championship match against Antrim. McShane of course is no stranger to county football - he had been a member of the Under-21 squad for a number of seasons and played a number of National Football League games for the county during the 1991/92 season. He played in the right-half forward position along with club colleague Martin McHugh. His brother Roger also played Minor Vocational Schools football for Donegal.

In the Junior Championship Kilcar played Pettigo in Towney. Winning on a scoreline of 1-15 to Pettigo to 11.

In the semi-final of the Junior Football Championship, Kilcar beat Glenswilly on a scoreline of 1-12 to 1-10.

Kilcar produced an excellent second half performance inspired by Michael Molloy and Francis B. Byrne. Playing against the breeze, Kilcar could not contain Glenswilly in the first half but they took control in the second half with Paddy O'Donnell and Joseph Diver gaining control at centre-field. The experienced Sean McGinley came into the game with twenty minutes left and scored a fine point. Francis B. Byrne was Kilcar's top scorer with 5 points Michael Molloy scored 4 points and Michael Oliver Cannon and Sean McGinley scored a point each. Dermot Sweeney scored a goal and a point. The Kilcar Junior team that day was: Kenneth Kennedy, Charlie McGroarty, Sean McGinley, Tommy Diver, Paddy Bourne, Charlie O'Donnell, Paddy O'Donnell, Ross Brady, Joseph Diver, Seamus Cunningham, Dermot Sweeney, John Byrne, Peter Conroy, Michael Oliver Cannon, Conal Lyons, Michael Molloy, Danny Gillespie, Tommy Deane, Francis B. Byrne, Sean Campbell, Martin McShane, Lewis McIvor, Cornelius Campbell, John McNulty, Paul O'Donnell, Aidan Gallagher, David McShane, Martin Hegarty.

They went on to meet Fanad Gaels in the final of the Junior Football Championship.

In the Senior Championship Kilcar played St. Eunan's in Towney in the first round, first leg of the Senior Championship. St. Eunan's put up a fine performance in the first half and trailed by just two points at the interval, 0-7 to 0-5. A point from Mark McShane after just ten seconds of the second half started a Kilcar roll that put the game beyond the reach of the Cathedral Town Men.

Considering the blustery conditions both sides served up a fine match. Kilcar went into a two point lead within the first eight minutes of the first half after scores from Martin McHugh from a free and Kevin Lyons. Two points in as many minutes from former County player Charlie Mulgrew and Peter McIntyre brought St. Eunan's on level terms. Indeed of the twelve points served at the interval nine came from play. Michael Molloy and James Carr added points for Kilcar in the thirteenth and fourteenth minutes, but Charlie Mulgrew scored a fine point for St. Eunan's to bring them to within a point 0-5 to 0-4. Roger McShane restored the home side's two point lead before St. Eunan's full-forward Eugene McMenamin - who had a good game on the edge of the square - scored a point. Two free kicks by James McHugh put Kilcar into a 0-6 to 0-4 lead, but again St. Eunan's hit back with a point from mid-fielder Paul Cramsey. In the twenty-sixth minute Martin McHugh should have scored a goal for Kilcar when he raced through the St. Eunan's defence but he blazed his shot across the face of the goals. His brother James completed the scoring of the first half with a point from a free in the twenty-eighth minute to leave the half-time score 0-7 to 0-5.

Mark McShane, senior mid-fielder, opened the scoring of the second half with a point after just ten seconds. Three minutes after the resumption however, Charlie Mulgrew who had a fine match sieved through the Kilcar defence but a shot for a goal was blocked by Kilcar's corner-back John O'Donnell. Roger McShane scored a point for Kilcar after five minutes to leave the home team in a 0-9 to 0-5 lead. A minute later Kilcar dealt the killer blow to St. Eunan's when Martin McHugh latched onto a pass by his brother James and slid the ball under Vincent McGlynn for a goal. Tony Blake, David Cannon and Charlie Mulgrew exchanged points midway through the second half to leave the score at 1-10 to 0-7 in favour of the home team. Indeed Mulgrew's point from play fourteen minutes after the resumption was his side's last score of the game. The game was killed off as a contest in the fifteenth minute of the second half when James McHugh finished off a fine five-man move by Kilcar to put them 2-10 to 0-7 in front. Further points from Martin McHugh in the sixteenth minute and two points by Roger McShane in the twentieth and twenty-fifth minutes completed the scoring.

Kilcar had a fine performance from all of their defenders but Enda McHugh, John O'Donnell and Kevin Lyons were outstanding in this game, while Mark McShane and Martin McHugh were the pick of the forwards. Kilcar senior team that day: Declan McShane, Noel McDevitt, Enda McHugh, John O'Donnell, Bill Vaughan, Christy Gillespie, Kevin Lyons, James McHugh, Mark McShane, David Cannon 0-1, Roger McShane 0-4, Michael Molloy 0-1, Martin McHugh 1-2, James Carr 1-1 and Pauric Howley.

In the Senior Reserve Championship Kilcar Reserves 1-7, St. Eunan's 1-4.

## THE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Managed by the very capable hands of Michael A. O'Donnell, Kilcar got off to a dream start and were 1-2 to 0-0 ahead after just six minutes of play. Their opening point came from lively corner forward Kieran O'Donnell who went onto record a personal tally of 1-3. Their goal in the fifth minute came via centre-half-forward Dermot Sweeney who was first to react when Michael O. Cannon palmed back a long range free kick. Sweeney gave goalkeeper Hughie Shiels no chance from close range with a blistering shot.

However, Fanad, inspired by their lively full forward John Gerard McEnteer, clawed their way back into the game. Coleman Carr, Colm McGonigle and Sean Dorrian weaved some magic and after fifteen minutes following points from Sean Dorrian, Hugh Blaney, two frees from Coleman Carr and a Harry Devlin point Fanad Gaels were on level terms 1-2 to 0-5. Full forward John Gerard McEnteer displayed a lovely bit of footwork turning Kilcar defenders before striking a ball over the bar on his weak foot to put Fanad ahead for the first time in the match after sixteen minutes. Kilcar's mid-fielder Joseph Diver brought the sides level when his shot from a full 45 metres hopped in front of Fanad's goalkeeper Hughie Shiels before going over the bar. Fanad continued to apply pressure but unfortunately could not pull ahead and wides from Coleman, Carr and Sean Dorrian allowed Kilcar to stay in touch.

Kieran O'Donnell put Kilcar back in front 1-4 to 0-6 a minute after the resumption and this was Kilcar's first point for 18 minutes. Sean Dorrian fired over a side-line free kick to put the sides level again five minutes after the break and it was nip and tuck right through the second half with Fanad enjoying the greater amount of possession but failing to capitalise on their superiority. One of the highlights of the second half was a perfectly placed 40 metres pass by Finn Harps player Colm McGonigle to Sean Dorian in the thirty-sixth minute when his fifth pass to William McEnteer was intercepted superbly by Seamus Cunningham. Kilcar had a chance for a goal themselves in the fiftieth minute when Sean McGinley put Tommy Deane through but Fanad's goal keeper Hughie Shiels produced a fine save from Deane's shot for a forty-five. A minute later Fanad substitute Brian Shiels brought the sides level for the fourth time in the match but in the fifty-third minute Francis B. Byrne put Kilcar back in front 1-7 to 0-9 with a point from 25 metres. A minute from time Kilcar clinched their victory when Sean McGinley set up Kieran O'Donnell for a fine goal. Fanad pressed forward and John Gerard McEnteer hit the post and Martin Conroy hit the crossbar in the dying seconds as Kilcar held on for victory.

Under the superb management of Michael O'Donnell the Kilcar team that day was: Kenneth Kennedy, John McNulty, Paddy Bourne, Seamus Cunningham, Conal Lyons, Danny Gillespie, Lewis McIvor, Paddy O'Donnell 0-1, Joseph Diver, Tommy Deane, Dermot Sweeney 1-1, Francis B. Byrne 0-1, Michael O. Cannon 0-1, Charlie O'Donnell and Kieran O'Donnell 1-3. Subs: Sean McGinley for Charlie O'Donnell. The final score in the Junior Championship Fanad Gaels 0-9, Kilcar 2-7.

In the Senior Championship, Kilcar played St. Eunan's but St. Eunan's beat Kilcar. A goal from former County Player Charlie Mulgrew and the sendings off of James McHugh and Peter McIntyre were the main talking points in 1993 in this game.

Mark McShane was captain in 1993.



# PLAYER PROFILE - DECLAN McSHANE

**Age:** 32  
**Height:** 6ft 0"  
**Occupation:** Carpenter  
**Toughest opponent:** Kevin Lyons in training  
**Favourite position:** Midfield  
**County or Club Honors:** 93 Semi-finál  
**Biggest influence on your career:** Larry Tompkins  
**Favourite players:** Martin McHugh & Matt Connor  
**Most memorable game played in:** Ulster Voc. School Final 1985



**Person you would most like to meet:** Nelson Mandela

**What changes would you make to the game:**

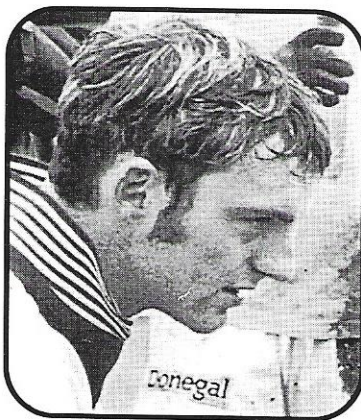
1. Allow the ball to be picked cleanly off ground
2. Abolish small square
3. Allow full body tackle as in compromise rules

**Your hopes for the future:** That it will be half as good as the past

**Favourite Group/Singer:** Bryan Adams

# PLAYER PROFILE - DECLAN GALLAGHER

**Age:** 22  
**Height:** 5ft 7"  
**Occupation:** Office Employee  
**Favourite Group/Singer:** The Eagles  
**Toughest opponent:** James McHugh  
**Favourite position:** Wing half forward  
**County or Club Honors:** 1996 All Ireland Voc. School Championship  
**Biggest influence on your career:** My father Michael



**Favourite player:** Trevor Giles

**Favourite ground:** Croke Park

**Most memorable game:** 1996 Voc. School's Final

**Most influential manager:** (Club) Michael Carr, (County) John Joe O'Shea

**Person you would most like to meet:** Pele

**Your hopes for the future:** To keep enjoying playing for the future

**What changes would you make to the game:** 13 a side and better referees



## **KILCAR - 1994**

### **SENIORS**

The seniors had a fairly disappointing year. Having defeated Four Masters at home and away in the first round of the championship, they went down to neighbours Naomh Columba at Fintra in the quarter final. Our seniors won only six games out of fourteen in the league but did a lot better in the Sandy Harper Tournament by defeating Devenish and Glenfin and reaching the Final where they were defeated by Red Hughes.

Tiredness perhaps, after twelve years at the top probably produced a lack of commitment and the squad was plagued by injury throughout the year and also at the time employment difficulties prevented some players being available for games as emigration took its toll. Senior Manager in 1994 was Michael Carr.

### **RESERVES**

The reserves had an excellent year under the guidance of Sean McGinley.

They had a great run in the championship defeating Four Masters home and away in the first round and Naomh Columba in the quarter-final. They beat Ardara in the semi-final and dispatched Killybegs in the county final by a score line of 1-13 to Killybegs 1-5.

They put up a good league performance as well and placed them in a respectable position, which qualified them for the Shield semi-final. The reserve Manager was Sean McGinley and because of a leg-break in June of the same year he would have been playing.

But nevertheless he made all the right decisions from the bench and ensured another title for the parish. The last reserve team to do so. The gallant reserve champions of 1994 were Kenneth Kennedy, Declan McDevitt, Finlay Mac Ivor (Capt.), Joseph O'Donnell, Michael McShane, Noel McDevitt, James Hegarty, Anthony Diver 0-1, Stephen O'Donnell 0-1, Peter Hegarty 0-1, Stephen O'Donnell 0-2, Tommy Deane 0-1, Gerard McBrearty 1-3, Peter Kennedy 0-2 Subs: John Boyle, John Carr, Seamus Cunningham, Seamus Gallagher, Michael Cannon, Paul O'Donnell, Declan Cannon, a game which Declan Cannon thoroughly enjoyed!

### **JUNIOR 1994**

Kilcar completed the clean sweep of Divisional B titles when they narrowly beat Naomh Mhuire in Glenties. Kilcar were expected to win this match easily but came up against a determined Naomh Mhuire side. Brendan Byrne missed this game through injury. Fifteen year old Michael Hegarty scored 1-4 from play. This was Kilcar's first B title in any grade. Best for Kilcar on the day were: Declan Gallagher, Michael

Hegarty, Tommy Deane, Sean Campbell, David McShane and Aidan Gallagher.

Team and scorers: Kenneth Kennedy, Paul McNulty, Sean Campbell, Stephen Gallagher, David McShane, Aidan Gallagher, Francis Byrne, Phelim O'Donnell, Eunan Haughey, Michael Hegarty 1-4, Tommy Deane 0-1, Seanie Boyle, Declan Gallagher 0-2, John McNulty and Cornelius Campbell 0-1.

Final Score Kilcar 1-8, Naoimh Mhuire 0-8.

The junior team managed by the capable hands of Danny Gillespie had a very good year in the league, Qualifying for the Shield semi-final which they lost to Naomh Mhuire, after a replay, who themselves went on to win the Shield that year. And do remember that this junior team had to play in the intermediate championship in 1994 having won the junior in the previous year. They lost to Robert Emmet's in the first round of the Championship. Junior Manager Danny Gillespie.

## **UNDER AGE 1994**

1994 was also an excellent year for under age activities in the club and a very successful one at that. The wholehearted efforts of both the children themselves and their mentors over the last few years definitely came to fruition in 1994 with all of the under age achieving success, and most notably our U-14 team who won the county U-14 B championship. The highlight of that year was surely winning the B title in the McCumhaill Park Ballybofey in September. Who will ever forget those last few nail-biting minutes, the jubilation when Richard Rafferty goaled and the sheer relief as the final whistle blew. What ever happened to young Richard?

It was also great to see such a large turnout at this U-14 B final and what a great homecoming these youngsters got in Kilcar that night. The ecstasy on their faces said it all. Well done to the U-14 team and mentors.

Well done to the U-14 Panel of 1994. They proved that with the work, dedication and team spirit anything is possible. Much of the credit for this victory must go to trainers Paddy Sweeney, Dennis McBrearty and Neilly Byrne, Take a bow lads!

## **U-16'S**

Our U-16 team were victorious in the divisional "B" final when they defeated Naomh Mhuire. The U-16 played in a league format where "A" and "B" teams were all involved in the early stages and they acquitted themselves very well, even against much stronger opposition. Michael Hegarty and Declan Gallagher represented the south-west in the U-16 super league with Declan making the County U-16 team for the Ted Webb competition. Charlie O'Donnell was coach to the 1994 U-16 team.

## **MINOR TEAM 1994**

One would have to describe this minor team as the most unfortunate minor team of all. Having beaten Naomh Mhuire in the divisional final they went all the way to the final overcoming Bunrana and a very good St Naulis team on the way. The final - against a much fancied Sean McCumhaill's side - ended in a draw, Kilcar dominating for much of the game, but then coming from behind to level the game. The replay was also a nail-biting affair with both teams having dominant spells, In the end however McCumhaill's ran out narrow winners. This team must be commended for their dedication, spirit, and commitment on a really long campaign. Most of these players have already now broken through to senior rank and will be the backbone of future Kilcar senior teams.

Alan Erskine and Dermot Cannon were in charge of the 1994 U-18 and must be commended for doing such a great job.

Our U-10's participated in all the blitz competitions organised by the various clubs in the division, with the "B" team winning the clubs own competition in August '94 great credit must go to Michael Doherty for organising and coaching the U-10 boys and U-10 girls. The U-12 team won the divisional "B" title when they defeated N. Conail, Glenties in Fintra, it was said to be one of the most exciting games of that year. Although they didn't progress further in the competition there were many future stars of that year, as some are already senior players of today.

## **LADIES FOOTBALL**

The newly formed ladies team attracted a lot of attention in 1994. They managed to set up a large panel of players who were very dedicated to training. After having drawn with Carndonagh in the championship and defeating them at Towney Park, they lost to St Eunanís "B". In their seven games in the league they won three, beating Bundoran, Malin and Carndonagh and were awarded a walkover against Pettigo. They lost to St Michaelís, Downings and St Eunans.

## **KILCAR - 1995**

### **RESERVES**

Peter Hegarty was the Reserve Manager. They had a mediocre League campaign; winning nine games, losing four and the final game against Naomh Columba ended in a draw. They also qualified for the Shield. In the Championship they had an easy victory over Termon in the first round. They were then narrowly beaten by Aodh Ruadh in the quarter final at 0-8 to 0-7. Peter's assistant was Neilly Byrne.

The Juniors had a fairly successful year as they fulfilled all their fixtures. They won seven of their 18 games in Division 4 which was made up of six first teams and four third teams. They did beat Naomh Padraig in both League games. They came up against a much stronger team in the Championship. Great credit must go to Danny Gillespie as he was the Team Manager. Danny always managed to field a team despite losing some players to the reserve team on occasions at short notice.

### **UNDER-21S**

Our Under-21s were managed by Declan Cannon. They did reach the quarter final where they were defeated by a strong Naomh Columba side. They had earlier beaten Termon.

### **LADIES TEAM**

The club made history in 1995 as they fielded an Under-14 team for the first time ever. They had a great start with their first win at home against Ballyshannon. They had two more victories and three defeats. Most of these girls participated in the Broderick Memorial Cup, which was very successful. Unfortunately, the Senior Team wasn't as lucky as they had a quick exit in the preliminary round of the Championship at the hands of Cardonagh. In the League the Senior Ladies had five victories and three defeats which left them 3rd place in the League table. The Club Lotto was initiated by Finance Officer Seamus Doogan.

In the same year Bavin-Man Manager, Martin McHugh, had a very successful year as Cavan Senior Manager. Both in the League and Championship his team topped Division Three, thus qualifying for the National Football League Quarter Final where they were defeated by the eventual winners Derry in the Championship. Cavan had good victories over Antrim and Monaghan, unfortunately, were defeated in the Ulster final by Tyrone.

### **UNDER AGE**

Our Under-10s boys and girls competed in the various Under-10s blitzes organised by the clubs in the SW Division. Under the guidance of coaches Michael Doherty -Gortalia; Hugh Shovlin - Bavin and Alan Erskine - Towney. The Under-10s spent a long summer learning and practising the fundamentals of the game.

### **UNDER-12s**

Under-12s Managers Dermot Cannon and Patrick McShane were pleased with the players as they reached the county stages of the Divisional Championship.

### **UNDER-13s**

The Under-13s reached the County Final Division 2 under Coach Neilly Byrne.

### **UNDER-14S**

The Under-14s were managed by Neilly Byrne and Declan Cannon. They qualified as the top team in the Divisional League, thus qualifying as a Division 1 team. They lost out in the divisional decider but went all the way to the County Quarter Final where they were eventually beaten by Cloughanveely.

### **UNDER-16s**

The Under-16s were graded Division 1 and showed why when they won the Divisional Final beating Naomh Columba in a very exciting and tense match. The two teams met again later in the competition



with the Kilcar boys again coming out tops in another thriller. But like the Under-14s, however, they succumbed to Cloughaneely in the County Semi-final. They were expertly coached by Denis McBrearty and Paddy Sweeney. Maybe someday those two could come together and manage at adult level.

## UNDER-18s

Our Under-18s reached the County Division 2 Final. This was their second year in a row to reach the Final, but again they finished second best.

Kilcar were beaten by Naomh Conaill of Glenties in the Division 2 minor Final. The final score does not reflect the closeness of the game and it wasn't until the last ten minutes that Naomh Conaill pulled away from a determined Kilcar side. Kilcar started well and has points from Michael Hegarty and two from Stephen Gallagher a point from Paul McNulty left the half time score N. Conaill 1-4, Kilcar 0-4.

Naomh Conaill started the second half with a good point from Cara Meehan a string of good saves from the Kilcar keeper Kenneth Kennedy kept them in the game and they hit back with a goal from Paul O'Donnell to leave just a point between the sides Glenties increased the lead by 3 points. Kilcar attacked relentlessly, but could only manage another point from Stephen Gallagher. Two more late points sealed the game for Naomh Conaill. Final score: Naomh Conaill 1-10, Kilcar 1-5. Best for Kilcar in this game were: Kenneth Kennedy, Sean Campbell, Francis Byrne, Stephen Gallagher, Michael Hegarty and Paul McNulty.

Team and scorers: Keneth Kennedy, Gavin O'Donnell, Sean Campbell, Ian Campbell, Martin Hegarty, Francis Byrne, Paul O'Donnell 1-0, Stephen Gallagher 0-3, Michael Hegarty 0-1, Martin Gallagher, Keith Cunningham, Seamus Boyle, Declan Gallagher, Paul McNulty 0-1 Sub: Martin Carr

Like some of our other teams they struggled earlier in the campaign but came strong in the end. Much credit has to go to the management team of Michael Gallagher, Ian Hegarty and Phelim O'Donnell. Well done lads!

Michael Molloy, Ronan Shovlin and Damien O'Donnell represented the club in the County Final of the Club Orange Skills Competition.

## SENIORS

During this year the club was represented at county level by James McHugh and Mark McShane. Both played in the National League and went on to the League Final only to lose to Derry. Also, both participated in the Ulster Championship games.

Our Seniors were managed by James McHugh, Michael A. O'Donnell and Alan Erskine. Having only dropped two points throughout the League, these were the results of draws against Bundoran and Cloughaneely. They needed to win against Naomh Columba to force a play off, but this was not to be as they fell heavily to a younger and fitter Glen side. They did, however, qualify for the Shield Semi Final in the Championship. They made their exit at the Quarter at the hands of Aodh Ruadh. They beat Termon in the first round but the preparations for this Quarter Final were disrupted by the uncertainty surrounding this fixture and as a result the team didn't perform to their true potential. This team was in very good shape and that was thanks to the rigorous good training of Mickey A. O'Donnell and Alan Erskine.

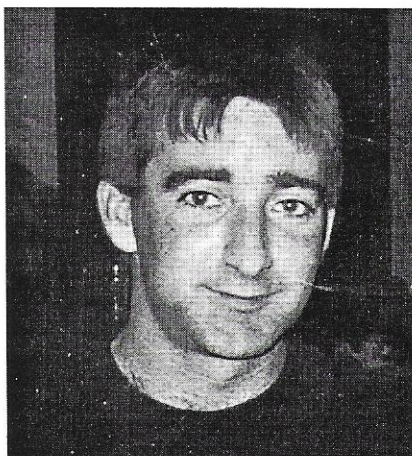


*The Kilcar team and subs prior to their Championship Quarter Final defeat by Aodh Ruadh were:*

*Front: Brendan Byrne, Gerry Carr, Paddy Carr, Tommy Deane, Mark McShane, James McHugh, Michael McShane, Roger McShane, Kevin Lyons, David Cannon.*

*Back Row: Paul O'Donnell, Seamus Cunningham, Shaun Campbell, Michael Carr, Dermot Cannon, Stephen Byrne, Declan McShane, Kenneth Kennedy, James Carr and Enda McHugh.*

# VERNON HEGARTY



**Age:** 36    **Height:** 5ft 9"

**OCCUPATION:** Gaelic Football Coach, Trade union Official, Fish Handler

**TOUGHEST OPPONENT:** Eunan McIntyre (St. Eunan's), Carlos Vanagas (Ecuador and Indianapolis)

**FAVOURITE POSITION:** Anywhere but in a corner!

**COUNTY OR CLUB HONOURS:** Championship, League, Shield, Gaeltacht Winners etc.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER:** Pablo Aranz (a soccer coach, played left back for Spain)

**FAVOURITE PLAYERS:** Martin mcHugh, Ogie Moran, John Egan and entire Kilcar defence of the early 80's

**FAVOURITE GROUND:** Towney, Memorial Stadium, Seattle, Pan American Stadium, Indianapolis

**MOST MEMORABLE GAME:** League Final in '82, against Trinidad and Tobago in '87, beating the Camen Islands national team the same year, beating Louisville 6-0.

**MOST INFLUENTIAL MANAGER, CLUB WISE:** The next one!

**PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET:** The author Russell Hoban

**WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE TO THE GAME:** Make it 13-A-Side, open up the play on the pitch, Clearly define the tackling laws - too much pulling and dragging in the modern game. The game is not as free-moving or as fluid as it could be

**YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE:** That the pride of 'playing for the jersey' will be restored in the club, regardless of perceived 'factions', real or imagined.

**FAVOURITE GROUP/SINGER:** Bealtes, Bowie, Modern Jazz Quartet, Cannonball Adderley Quintet

**HOW DO YOU RATE THE PLAYERS TO TODAY TO THE PLAYERS OF THE 80'S:** The same. The only difference is that standards have dropped, generally. In Gaelic or Soccer I have always found that a player's potential is only realised if they are playing with good players against good opposition, on a fairly regular basis. If the standard is low, progress as a player is stunted - the player gets stuck at a certain level, and doesn't progress and mature as a player

**DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE MUCH MORE TO OFFER THE CLUB OR WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD:**  
I don't know - on both counts

**WHY IS THE PRESENT JOB AS SENIOR MANAGER AND THAT OF THE PAST FEW YEARS SO HARD TO FILL:**  
I would imagine that it is because it is a difficult, time-consuming, and often thankless job - it's a big commitment to take on

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE IN THE CLUB AT THE MOMENT:** We really should chat about that some time! (Cheeky question)

**THE PRESENT VOTING SYSTEM AT THE AGM. DO YOU AGREE WITH IT OR DO YOU AGREE WITH A PLAYERS CHOICE AS A MANAGER:** Leave the present system as it is - the club belongs to everyone, not just the players, even though they are the most important group

**HIGH POINTS OF THE 80'S AND 90'S:** Winning all those Leagues, Championships, Shields, Gaeltacht, etc., U.S. National trial call-up

**LOW POINTS OF THE 80'S AND 90'S:** Losing all those Leagues, Championships, Shields, Gaeltachts etc.

**DO YOU THINK THERE IS TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE U21'S:** Not to my knowledge

**HOW DO YOU RATE THE MINOR TEAM OF '98 AGAINST OTHER MINOR TEAMS PREVIOUSLY:** I thought they were a very fine side, who even managed to win the championship while not playing to their full potential - a lot of talented footballers there

**HOW LONG DID YOU HOLD A POST:** Never in this club

**WHAT OTHER TEAMS DID YOU MANAGE:** British American Soccer Team, Indianapolis, Flames, Underage soccer

# COMÓRTAISÍ PÉILE NA GAELTACHTA 1987

Ní raibh aon difríocht mór idir Comórtaisí na Gaeltachta i 1987 thar bil ian ar bith eile ach amháin gur bhuaidh Cill Chartha Craobh sinnsear na hEireann 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 1-1 i go 1-6. Cuireadh na cluichí ieachceannais 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-éadh orainn go bhuiuir an tiomanáí dhá bhus eile. Choinnigh sin ár n-intinn den obair agus bhí an buaidh againn ar Naomh Colu mba an tráthnóna Sathairn sin 1-6 go 0-5. Arís linn na bhaile mar go raibh faoi-2 1 Dhún na nGall san athimirt in éadan Muineachán agus ar tráthnóna Domhnaigh ba curaidh Gaeltachta na condae muid nuair a bhí an buaidh againn ar Ard 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 ha mhór an onóir don pharóiste beag seo, tuairim 1500 duine, bheith ag fágáil na condae don chéad uair mar churaidh. Mar sin féin tógadh rudaí go socmaide-rinne ár Rúnaí Pádraig Mac Suibhne gach socrú le Seán O Gallchóir, Rúnaí na Comórtaise. D'imigh na mná céile leis na fir, cuid acu ar an Aoine agus cuid eile ar maidin Shatnairn, chuaigh muid go dtí an Oifig Eolais agus cuireadh ag fanacht muid i dtithe 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 ófl baile chuig tórramh Bean Layelle, mathair Ellen, bean Chathail O 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 lhios againn an leor é ach chríochnaith muid 2-13 go 04 ag deireama.

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

Fuair muid cupán tae i dtí Uí Choistealbha-bhí tuil leadh as C ill Chartha ag teacht. Bá iad Naomn 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 shfl muid gurbh leor é mar go raibh sár-chluiche a imirt dúinn ag Ruaidhrí Mac Seáin ag lár na páirce agus ha 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, Naomli Columba 04. Shil mórán againn nach mbeadh seans in éadan An Fhairche sa chluiche ceannais ar an Luain.

## *Wishing every success*



## *to Sean Campbell*

*with his book*

# "OUR FIELD OF DREAMS"

## Mary Coughlan T.D.

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E-mail: [marycoughlan@irishmarine.com](mailto:marycoughlan@irishmarine.com) Website: [www.irishmarine.com/mary](http://www.irishmarine.com/mary)

# PLAYER PROFILE - CHRISTOPHER CARR

**Age:** 19

**Height:** 5ft 11"

**Occupation:** Student

**Favourite Group/Singer:** Robbie Williams

**Favourite Position:** Midfield

**County Honors:** Co. Minor - voc. U14  
Divisional Medals, Senior Gaeltacht, Junior  
Medal 1996

**Biggest influence on your career:** Barry  
Campbell, Dinny McBrearty, Paddy Sweeney

**Favourite Players:** Peter Canavan & John  
McDermott

**Favourite ground:** Towney, Kilcar

**Most memorable game:** Minor County Final

**Most influential managers:** (Club) Ian  
Hegarty & Sean Campbell (Junior), (County)

Sean Boylan

**Person you would most like to meet:** Bill  
Clinton, David O'Leary

**What changes would you make to the  
game:** Second Referee

**Toughest opponent:** Mark McGinty

**Favourite other  
sports:** Soccer and  
swimming

**Your hopes for the  
future:** Good job,  
stay healthy and fit  
and become a good  
singer like Robbie  
Williams



# PLAYER PROFILE - CORNELIUS CAMPBELL

**Age:** 23

**Occupation:** Factory Worker

**Toughest opponent:** Brian  
Roper, Ballyshannon

**Favourite position:** Corner  
Back

**County or Club Honours:** 1  
County Gaeltacht, 1 Junior  
Championship

**Favourite Group/Singer:** Marilyn Manson &  
The Corrs

**Biggest influence on your career:** Hugh  
Shovlin & Brian McShane

**Favourite players:** Rory Gallagher  
(Fermanagh), Paul Curran (Dublin)



**Most memorable game:** U12  
County Semi-Final, against St.  
Nauls

**Most influential manager:** Alan  
Erskine

**Favourite county manager:**  
Larry Tompkins

**Person you would most like  
to meet:** David McShane's  
future wife "God help her"

**Hopes for the future:** To win a County  
Championship

**What changes would you make to the  
game:** Change the number of players on a  
team

# BRIAN WHELEHAN, OFFALY



You will find hurlers who stand out as a match winners supreme. High on this list is Brian Whelehan whose sterling qualities have been demonstrated in exciting fashion time and time again over recent years. This Birr clubman has been a giant in the county colours. One man does not make a team, but it is true to say that Brian Whelehan has been a mighty influence in the success story that is Offaly in modern day hurling. His dependability in the halfback line, forceful and stylish play, and above all his never-say-die qualities have boosted the Faithful County in game after game. He is a true giant of the sport in every way, and a man who is greatly admired by his teammates, and indeed by hurling followers everywhere. Brian probably played the best hurling of a glittering career in 1998, earning him an all star award.

He has also turned his long and accurate striking to good effect, not only in turning defence into attack with well placed clearances, but expertly sending over the bar in consistent fashion from free's and 65's. He is one of Offaly's leading scorers - a wonderful achievement that, surely, for a defender. Brian graduated to the senior intercounty ranks after a successful underage career in 1987. He was right full back in the

Offaly side that won the Leinster Minor hurling title and went on to beat Tipperary in the final. A year later he captained Offaly in their successful defence of the National Under-18 Crown and he made his first appearance with the county senior side as a substitute in the unsuccessful All Ireland semi-final of 1989 against Antrim. Brian has never looked back since. He was also a commanding figure when Offaly captured the Liam McCarthy Cup in 1994 and in 1998 he won his second AIB All Ireland club senior hurling medal with Birr.

I suppose it is hardly surprising that Brian Whelehan has made such a strong impact in this ancient game. He comes from a sporting family; his father P.J. played hurling with Offaly for thirteen years and in most recent times has been a most successful manager with the Birr club side. Brian's brothers, Simon and Barry, have also won All Ireland club medals with Birr and wear the Offaly colours as well. Both appeared in the 1998, 1999 squad and are on the current senior squad. The Whelehan family contribution to hurling in Offaly to date has been immense because they are part of Offaly Folklore. Who will ever forget the 1998 final when they beat Kilkenny, and when Michael Bond, (the Offaly manager at the time), started Brian at right half back. He moved to right half forward and finished up at full forward, scoring a superb one goal and six points and was awarded Man of the Match - don't forget he had to get up off his sick bed on All Ireland week.

Offaly's success that day meant they were the first team to lose a championship game (they were beaten by Kilkenny in the Leinster final), and go on to win the biggest prize in hurling, and they deserved that honour that day. Brian Whelehan caused all sorts of problems for the best full back in the country, Pat O'Neill, when Bond instructed Brian to go full forward and mark him - earlier O'Neill had caused problems for Offaly. I know Brian does not like playing in the forward line but what a game he had that day! At 28 years of age he had already packed a lot of hurling into his successful career. He still has time on his side and much more to offer and that is pleasing for all supporters of the game as it is always a delight to watch a master like Whelehan in action.

He has already assured himself a place amongst hurling's greats. In years to come he will be spoken of with the same reverence and awe accorded to the Rings, Mackeys, Kehers, Doyles, and Rackards to name but a few. He has won practically every honour in the game; 2 All Ireland S.H. and Minor H.N.H.L., Leinster U-21, Offaly, Leinster and All Ireland club championships as well as All star awards in 93, 95 and 98 Texaco Hurler of the year 94, captained Birr in 1991 and Offaly Minors in 1989.

He has a pub in Connaught Street in Birr, County Offaly which he runs with his brothers Barry and Simon. With its luxurious surroundings and a great pint, do call to Whelehans, with their friendly personalities you will be assured of a Cead Mile Fáilte.

# PLAYER PROFILE - DAVID CANNON

**Age:** 26

**Height:** 5ft 11"

**Occupation:** Art Teacher

**Favourite Group/Singer:**  
Chocolate Frosted Sugar Bombs

**Person you would most like to meet:** Natalie Inbrugilia

**Favourite other sport:** Cow Tossing, Basketball & Karate

**Toughest opponent:** Paddy Hegarty

**Favourite player:** Martin McHugh, Patrick Daniel Cunningham, R.I.P.

**Biggest influence on your career:**  
Supporters of Kilcar, because they always want to push you to the limit!

**Pet Hates:** Self indulgence amongst higher



authority's

**Favourite ground:** McCumhail Park, Ballybofey

**Most memorable game:** 93 County Final against Killybegs

**Most influential manager:**  
(Club) James McHugh, (County) Martin McHugh

**Biggest disappointment:**  
Losing to Errigal Ciarain in 1993

**Your hopes for the future:** To win a Championship Medal for Kilcar, and maybe lead to All-Ireland Club success

**What changes would you make to the game:** Referee's having more understanding towards players who are in hot blooded situations

# PLAYER PROFILE - PATRICK GALLAGHER

**Age:** 18

**Height:** 5ft 11"

**Occupation:** Student

**Favourite Group/Singer:**  
Stereophonics

**Toughest opponent:** Kevin McGlynn (Glenfin)

**Favourite position:** Centre Half Back

**County or Club Honours:** U14B, U16B, U18A Championships, Senior Gaeltacht, Ulster Minor Runner-up

**Biggest influence on your career:** Stephen McShane



**Favourite Players:** Seamus Moynihan & Trevor Giles

**Favourite ground:** Towney, Kilcar

**Most memorable game:** Ulster Minor Final

**Most influential manager:**  
(Club) Ian Hegarty, (County) James McHugh

**Person you would most like to meet:** Jennifer Lopez

**What changes would you make to the game:** Better Referee's

**Your hopes for the future:** To keep winning and to stay injury free

# DOWN MEMORY LANE 1963

The Derry People and Tirconail News Saturday September 14th 1963 report in the Glen, Kilcar and Carrick notes:

"Congratulations are being extended to the following members of the Kilcar club who have captured the honours at a seven-a-side tournament competition at Clar in Donegal on Sunday last. Ian Hegarty, Michael Cannon, Donal McHugh, Seamus McNulty, Charles Brady, Joseph O'Boyle and Packie Haughey. They defeated Killymard in the first round and Ballygun in the final".

Kilcar beat Inishowen to qualify for the Senior Football Championship final. Kilcar seemed to have things well in hand. Facing Inishowen in the semi final they led, facing the breeze, by 7 points to 3 at the interval. Then in the second half the rain came down and Inishowen fought back into the game but had not sufficient incisiveness to win and ended down 0-14 to 1-5. Best for Kilcar on that day were: Ian Hegarty, Seamus McNulty, Aodh O'Donnell, Josie Gillespie and Patsy O'Donnell. Team and scorers: Kevin McDonald, Seamus McNulty, Charlie Brady, Aodh O'Donnell, Packie Haughey 0-1, Paddy O'Donnell, Jimmy Cunningham, Josey Gillespie 0-2, Patsy O'Donnell 0-4, Joseph O'Boyle 0-2, Des Houlihan 0-2, Cathal McLaughlin 0-1, Ian Heagerty, Tom Purcell 0-1, Prionnsias Carr 0-1, Subs used Sean Burke for Cunningham, Cunninham for Purcell.

Referee P.J. Ryan, Letterkenny

Donegal Senior Football Final McCumhails 1-6 Kilcar 0-4

Reigning Donegal Senior County Football Champions ousted Kilcar by 1-6 to 0-4 in the county final played before a large attendance in Fr. Tierney Park, Ballyshannon on Sunday. It was not until the second half had been on for some time that McCumhails convinced their large following that they were going to take the cup home again. Joe Leeper of McCumhails who had taken over on the 40 from the opening minutes of the game due to an unfortunate injury sustained by Liam Kelly as a result of a clash with one of his team mates, fielded from a Frankie McFeely pass, adroitly dummied past two Kilcar backs and gave a perfect pass to the top of the left Tom McMenamin who promptly planted the ball in the Kilcar net. One could hardly say that with more forward accuracy Kilcar could have won for they had a total of twelve wides. McCumhails had a total of fourteen wides. Half time score: Kilcar 0-3, McCumhails 0-4. The scores were level twice in the first half in the second half Kilcar could only manage to score a point thus leaving the final score: Kilcar 0-4, McCumhails 1-6. Kilcar's team in the final was: Michael Haughey, Seamus McNulty, Charlie Brady, Jimmy Cunningham, Packie Haughey, Paddy O'Donnell, Sean McGuinness, Josie Gillespie, Patsy O'Donnell, Joseph O'Boyle, Des Houlihane, Cathal

McLaughlin, Ian Hegarty, Aodh O'Donnell, Kevin McDonald, Sub: Patsy McGowan for McDonald.



County Junior Champions 1971

# DOWN MEMORY LANE

At the GAA convention in Gweedore Michael Gillespie was elected delegate to the central council, the first Donegal man to do so. Gerald Shovlin was elected reserve manager with Charlie McDevitt as assistant. Martin McHugh took on the senior manager. Mark McShane was drafted into the county minor panel and brother Roger was selected onto the county U-21 panel. Also on Sunday March 1st Donegal seniors played their way into the history books by becoming the first Donegal team ever to be promoted to division one of the National League when they beat Laois by five points under the management of Tom Conaghan.

Kilcar seniors played Glenties in the Gaelteacht Competition. They beat them on a score line of 2-8 to 2-4. Kilcar went on to win the County Gaelteacht of the same year so they went on to carry the flag for Donegal in Carraroe in Co. Galway and got to the National Final of Comortas Peile na Gaelteachta. But they went down to a divisional team from Cork who were captained by John O'Driscoll. Martin McHugh was not allowed to play for his club as Tom Conaghan and his team were due to play in the first round of the Ulster Championship the following week. We will never know if he had been playing would the Kilcar seniors retain the Gaelteacht title.

At the start of the same year the Juniors travelled to Glenfin to play Naomh Colmcille in the Junior Gaelteacht only to be informed on arrival that the game had been postponed.

In the opening league game of the same season Ardara held our seniors to a draw at Sandfield. Ardara opened the scoring with Conal A Gildea. But Martin McHugh levelled soon afterwards. Points followed from Leo Waters and Martin Gavigan and from Martin McHugh and Roger McShane and that left it 3 apiece after 15 mins. The second quarter of the first half belonged to Kilcar - Martin McHugh added 0-3 and Seán McGinley 0-1 to leave a half time score of Kilcar 0-7 Ardara 0-3. Kilcar depended a lot on Martin McHugh's accuracy in the second half. But also fine performances coming from Seamus Gallagher, John Carr, Mark McShane and Roger McShane left the final score 11 points a piece. The club reserves defeated Ardara in their league game.

The club Under-12s beat Naomh Mhuire in their Under-12s final. The Final score was 3-7 to 3-4.

The club juniors got to the quarter final of the Junior A Championship when they overcame Ardara on a scoreline of 1-3 to 0-4 the team that day were: Sean Brady, Paddy Bourne, Gerald Shovlin, James McGinley, Conal Lyons, Anthony Diver, Paddy Carr, Charlie O'Donnell, Cornelius Diver, Timothy O'Driscoll, Seamus McBrearty, Francie Gallagher, Declan Cannon, Manus Brady, Mark O'Donnell, Subs: Peter Hegarty for O'Driscoll.

The club U-12 B were beaten against Termon in the "B" final. The headline in the Derry People at the time was "Fourteen Lads and a Lassie, Beat Kilcar". Team that day: Kenneth Kennedy, Eunan Haughey, Sean Campbell, Francis Byrne, David McShane, Tommy Deane, John McNulty, Brendan Byrne, Martin O'Donnell, Martin Boyle, Corny Campbell, Paul O'Donnell, Brian McShane, Phelim O'Donnell, Declan Gallagher. Subs: Michael Hegarty for David McShane 15 mins, Lewis McIvor for Brian McShane. Final score Termon 1-3 Kilcar 0-2.



*Martin McHugh, Bridie Arnold, Sean Campbell,  
Brendan Hegarty, Frankie O'Donnell,*



# PLAYER PROFILE - DERMOTT CANNON

Age: 30

Height: 5ft 10"

Occupation: Factory worker

Favourite Group/Singer: Paul Brady

Favourite position: Corner Back

Club or County Honours: Two Teacher Camps 1980, 1991 Senior Co. Gaeltacht, 1991 Gaeltacht Reserve League

Favourite other sports: Soccer, Golf and Formula 1

Most memorable game: 1997 Killybegs Quarter Final, 1991 Reserve Co. Final

Biggest disappointment: Breaking my leg in 1980 & 1997

Biggest influence on your career: John Carr,



Michael Molloy

Favourite ground: Tirconnail Park

Favourite player: Michael Carr

Toughest opponent: Seamus Carr (Glen)

Person you would most like to meet: Kenny Daglish

Most influential Manager: (Club) James McHugh & Michael Molloy, (County) Martin McHugh & Sean

Boylan

What changes would you make to the game: Play 40 minutes a side

Your hopes for the future: That Kilcar Club keep on being successful and win Co. Senior Championship, and keep playing as long as Sean McGinley

# PLAYER PROFILE - CORNELIOUS DIVER

Age: 45

Height: 5ft 3"

Occupation: Factory worker

Toughest opponent: Trevor Giles

Favourite position: Goals

County or Club Honours: Senior League, All-Ireland Senior & Junior Gaeltacht, Reserve Championship, League Junior Championship

Biggest influence on your career: Barry Campbell & Mickey O'Donnell

Favourite players: Martin McHugh, Matt Connor & Darren Fay

Favourite ground: Pettigoe



Most memorable game: All Ireland Gaeltacht Final 1989, in glen

Most influential manager: (Club) Martin McHugh, (County) Tom Conaghan

Person you would most like to meet: Bill Clinton

What changes would you make to the game: Change to 13 a side, all games to last 70 mins

Your hopes for the future: Donegal to win All-Ireland, Kilcar to win Championship

Favourite Group/Singer: Margo, Big Tom & The Mainliners



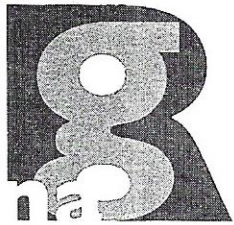
Comhghairdeactias ar gcroi le  
Seán Ó Coilin  
leis an leabhair seo

## Clr. Pádraig O Dochartaigh

Ball de Chomhairle, Chontae Dhún na nGall

*Maith ú h-ein a Sean*

Ard na gCeapairí, Doire Beaga



RnaG

Doirí Beaga

Raidió na Gaeltachta

Comhghairdeachas  
ar gcroi le Sean Ó Coilin  
leis an leabhair seo

Éist leis an Saol Gaelach  
ar

## Raidió na Gaeltachta

7 lá na seachtaine  
ó mhoch maidne go ham luí

NUAIGHT, CEOL, CAINT agus CRAIC

Bígí linn!

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Co. Dhún na nGall, Éire.  
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RTÉ

# MATT CONNOR - PLAYER OF THE MILLENNIUM



I would like to pay a special tribute to one of my greatest idols of all time: the great Matt Connor of Walsh Island Co. Offaly. Even though this book is entirely based on the history and facts of my own club Kilcar, with strong family and Offaly connections, and being an avid fan of both Hurling and Football in County Offaly, I could not pass without comment on this great genius.

Matt's career came to an abrupt end in December of 1984 due to an untimely accident coming home for his Christmas holidays after his days work in Tullamore. I was both shocked and saddened at the time when I heard the news of this serious accident but breathed a sigh of relief that he was still with us and is in great health today.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to write about this man's achievement on the playing fields of the late 70s and early 80s. Matt's father Jim and his brothers all played for the Offaly Senior team. He wore the County Jersey for the first time when he played in goals for the U-

14s. Matt began to establish himself at the age of seventeen with his beloved green and white hoops of Walsh Island senior football team. He is the third of a family of eight. He has five brothers Murt, Willie (Richie cpt in '82) and Seamus, two sisters and younger brother Sean. He joined the ranks of the Garda Sochana on the 5th December 1979.

His first competitive success came in 1970 as a member of the combined Walsh Island - Bracknagh School team which won the Offaly Bord na Scoil U-12 championship. Many other stars however fail to achieve their full potential. To reach the top in any sport requires more than an innate physical ability. Matt had other characteristics; determination, perseverance, and dedication. He possessed an ability seldom seen in a ten-year-old boy - according to Vincent Ryan, his National School teacher in 1972, he said "Most young players require thorough coaching in the basic skills of Gaelic Football, but Matt was an exception. He was endowed with an abundance of natural talent, real football artistry, good positional sense, instinctive body swerve and amazing ball control". His pin point accuracy with both feet indicated that he had all the attributes necessary to become a prolific scoring forward.

Words and pictures can recall his career but they cannot attempt to give Matt Connor the credit that his brilliance deserves. Matt Connor's senior career began on 26th March 1978, when he lined out for Offaly in a National Football League division 2A south meeting in Tullamore. Offaly won the match by 1-10 to 1-8. Matt marked his debut with one point and the most prolific scoring record the game will ever see was under way. A look back at the history of the game will confirm that all successful teams have had a top class kicker and in recent times the names of Charlie Redmond, Dublin, Trevor Giles, Meath, Padraig Joyce, Galway spring quickly to mind.

Matt Connor made difficult things look childishly easy. He was unflappable under pressure and when he judged the wind and the distance to a nicety and sent the ball curling over the bar at the Canal End from under the shadow of the Cusack Stand or over the Hill 16 goal from under the Hogan, the cheering from the packed terraces had started long before the ball passed the posts. When Matt squared up to one of these kicks umpires were inclined to reach for the white flag even before the ball was kicked. It was great to witness this as I was in Croke Park at the Canal End on that never to be forgotten day in 1982 when Offaly beat Kerry in the final.

I think Matt's contribution to the victory over Kerry in 1982 has never been given enough emphasis. It should always be remembered that it was two frees from Matt which pulled Offaly back into that game. A lesser man might have cracked or lost his concentration, but in far from ideal conditions Matt's nerves of steel held firm, the head stayed down, the balance was perfect, the strike was clean, the follow through never wavered. Young players of today who would like to emulate his achievements would do well to study them up close.

I was glad for Offaly in 1982, but particularly for Matt Connor. I was delighted he got his just reward in an All Ireland Medal. Also on that day in 1982 I can reflect on his inspiring play in the Offaly attack. Razor sharp reflexes also to snap the half chance and the kind of coolness under pressure that saw him send over in almost nonchalant fashion the frees into the Hill 16 goal that opened the way for Seamus Darby's

goal - as they say, the rest is history.

I think the finest tribute of all was when Jack O'Shea said "We in the kingdom invariably respected Matt Connor as a forward, because he could really turn it on against us - cultured class".

Matt represented Laois at both soccer and rugby as well, where his place kicking skills were much in demand also. I recall John O'Keefe making a statement in 1985 where he said I have no hesitation in saying that Matt was the most complete footballer he had ever marked, "He had perfect balance and could shoot equally well with both feet. He had perfect composure and vision on the ball and was always totally unselfish when his team mates were in better positions. As a result, trying to mark Matt when in possession was practically impossible. As far as I was concerned there was only one way to mark Matt and that was to deny him possession. That demanded very close man-to-man marking with more than usual attention given to the ball. All Matt needed was a slight opening and he would most certainly score (Words of John O'Keefe 1985).

Matt came onto the Offaly team in the middle of the 1977/1978 season and for that campaign and the next Sean Lowry was Offaly's free taker. Matt took over that role at the beginning of the 1979/80 season and over the next five campaigns he amassed an aggregate of 23 goals and 304 points. In those five seasons ten players - Mike Sheehy (Kerry) Joe McGrath (Mayo), Michael Finnegan (Roscommon), Gay McManus (Galway), Dennis Allen (Cork), Pat Baker (Wicklow), Martin McHugh (Donegal), Larry Tompkins (who was playing for Kildare at the time), Barney Rock (Dublin) and John McCormick (Longford) - made it into the top ten on two occasions but Matt not only gained inclusion in each chart - he took the number one position in every one.

1979/1980 (Matt's initial season as Offaly's free taker) coincided with the first Leinster title success of the county since 1973 and saw the creation of a new championship scoring record. Prior to the 1980 series the record for a championship campaign had been the 1-38 achieved by Dublin's Jimmy Keavane in five matches in 1975, but Matt in only four outings, raised this to 4-31 thanks to a brilliant 2-9 in Offaly's losing All Ireland semi final with Kerry. He finished the season with a total of 6-51 from only ten competitive outings and finished six points ahead of Roscommon's Michael Finneran who recorded his 8-39 from two games more.

#### **1980/81**

Offaly went one stage further in 1981 reaching the all Ireland Final before falling to a Kerry side who were going for a second championship four-in-a-row and Matt finished the championship with a total of 1-30. Scoring 2-28 in the National League and 0-5 in Leinster's Railway Cup Semi-final defeat by Munster, Matt finished the competitive season with an aggregate of 3-36, 11 points better than Kerryman Mike Sheehy, with Cavan's Donal Donohue a further eight points back in third place.

#### **1981/82**

The season of Seamus Darby's goal and Offaly's third All Ireland title. Offaly qualified for the semi-final of the league before losing to Cork, and Matt finished the winter competition with a total of 3-46. Despite failing to score in a Railway Cup Semi-final against Connacht, the one and only time he failed to raise a flag since becoming a free taker, he nevertheless finished a full 40 points ahead of his nearest rivals in the competitive scoring table. Kildare's Larry Tompkins and Down's Brendan McGovern.

Matt topped the championship scoring chart for the third consecutive year. This time with 0-34, and his Offaly colleague Brendan Lowry took fourth place in the seasons competitive table

#### **1982/83**

Although Offaly failed to make the knockout stages of the National League and surrendered their championship to Dublin, Matt did achieve one personal breakthrough - he played in his first Railway Cup decider. His haul of 1-10 from his two outings in the interprovincial series helped him to a competitive total of 6-55 and a 14 point advantage over Armagh's John Corvan and Dublin's Barney Rock. The latter incidentally, got within two points of Matt's championship record of 5-31. But Barney's tally of 6-26 was compiled in seven games, three more than Matt played two years earlier, which merely underlines just how remarkable that record is.

#### **1983/1984**

Despite Offaly's relegation from division one of the National League and Defeat by Dublin at the semi-final stage of the Leinster Championship, Matt topped the competitive scoring chart for an unprecedented fifth successive season. His aggregate of 5-55 leaving him eight points clear of Galway's Stephen Joyce, with Dubliner Barney Rock one point further back in third place.

In the course of his career Matt Connor established three all time scoring records and I doubt this will be equalled. In 1980/81 he scored a total of 19-160 (217) in 36 games the best aggregate ever recorded in a single season.

In that campaign, incidentally, he finished 106 points ahead of the number two Marksman in the list, Cavan's Donal Donohoe. In 1980, he scored a total of 5-31 (46) in the championship and he did all this in only four matches, "what an achievement".

In the same year he established an O'Byrne Cup record of 6-16 (34) in four games. The late Raymond Smith wrote an article in 1985 saying, "when in the year 2000 GAA historians look back and assess the great players of the present century, I have no doubt that Matt Connor will find a proud place among the sharpshooters supreme" and he went on to say, "he goes into my book as one of the finest sportsmen I have ever seen in my time writing about Gaelic football and I am talking about a period ranging back to the first All-Ireland Football final I saw in 1952".

Well, sad to say, he has not yet found official recognition as a "sharpshooters supreme" the GAA historians who assessed the team of the century and left Matt Connor out cannot be forgiven. A point also that Martin McHugh referred to in an article he wrote for The Star newspaper not so very long ago.

I had the great pleasure of seeing Matt playing in the flesh on several occasions, but the saddest point for me was when I went to O'Connor Park, Tullamore in April of 1985. Martin McHugh himself played left full forward for the "Rest of Ireland" against "Bank of Ireland All Stars" for the Matt Connor benefit games and Matt was wheeled out in his wheelchair by his cousin Tomas O'Connor. That was when I realised that I would never ever see his good positional sense, instinctive body swerve and amazing ball control and his pin point accuracy with right hand clenched fist salute after he scored a point or goal. The imprint Matt Connor left as a player - the beacon light of his sportsmanship above all else - goes way beyond the flags he raised in his career and the scoring records that stand to his name. Thanks for the memories Matt.

#### **THE LANDMARKS OF HIS CAREER WERE:**

All Ireland Medal 1982, Leinster senior Medals 1980, 1981 and 1982, Leinster U-21 medal 1979 Offaly senior Medals 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984.

RTE goal of the year 1980.

All Ireland 7-a-side 1981

Highest scorer ever in one championship 1980 5-31 (in 4 games)

Highest individual score ever in an All Ireland Semi final or final 1980 (2-9 vs. Kerry)

Bank of Ireland All Star 1980, 81 and 83.

B+I Award 1980

Leinster Club Medals 78-79

Leading scorer in Ireland 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984. Yet he could not make the Millennium Team. So after a successful career in football Matt Connor's last game was against Mayo on 2nd December 1984.

A person of quiet unassuming disposition who has always displayed the highest qualities of sportsmanship. Matt is an excellent ambassador of the Garda Siochana.

Matt works in Tullamore Garda Station and is in great health. He tells me he is not involved with any team at either club or county level. But no doubt Walsh Island or County Offaly would welcome Matt back in some capacity or another.

I will leave with a quote from the late Raymond Smith, "The Matt Connors, Jimmy Keaveney's, Mike Sheahys and Barney Rocks are special and it's only when they depart the playing fields that you can really see what each one meant to his county".

**SEAN CAMPBELL**

# PLAYER PROFILE - BRENDAN BYRNE

**Age:** 23

**Height:** 6ft 0"

**Occupation:** Plumber

**Toughest Opponent:** James McHugh

**Favourite position:** Centre Half Back

**Club Honours:** 2 Reserve League Medals, 1 County Gaeltacht, 1 U-12B County Runner-up, 1 U-18 B County Runner-up, Underage Divisional Medals (Carrick Voc. School Underage)

**Biggest influence on your career:** My family & friends

**Favourite players:** McHugh Brothers, John McDermott, Tommy Dowd



**Favourite ground:** Breffni Park, Cavan

**Most memorable game:** 1994 All-Ireland Voc. School's Final, Croke Park

**Most influential manager:** (Club) Alan Erskine, (County) Paudie O'Shea

**Person you would most like to meet:** Mike Tyson

**Your hopes for the future:** To see the standard of refereeing increased

**What changes would you make to the game:** 2 Referee's

# PLAYER PROFILE - GERARD McBREARTY

**Age:** 38

**Height:** 5ft 11"

**Occupation:** Factory worker

**Toughest opponent:** Edward Molloy

**Favourite Group/Singer:** Abba

**Favourite position:** Full Forward

**County or Club Honours:** 3 Co. Championship's, 4 All-Ireland Gaeltacht, 2 League, 2 Shield

**Favourite other sports:** Soccer & Volleyball

**Most memorable game:** Vs Glenfinn in county Quarter Final 1988

**Biggest disappointment:** 1988 County Final



**Biggest influence on your career:** All the managers of the club

**Favourite ground:** Ballyshannon

**Favourite players:** Matt Connor, Paddy Cannon

**Person you would most like to meet:** Mohammed Ali

**Most influential manager:** (Club) Neilly Byrne, (County) Brian McEniff

**What changes would you make to the game:** Use 5 subs

**Your hopes for the future:** Good

# KILCAR - 1996

Chairman:	Charlie O'Donnell
Secretary:	Aidan Gallagher
Treasurer:	Philip Garvey
Registrar:	Peter Hegarty
PRO:	Danny Gillespie
Senior Team Management:	Charlie O'Donnell, John Carr, Neilly Byrne
Reserve Team Management:	Michael O'Donnell and Alan Erskine
Third Team Manager:	Sean Campbell

In this year Michael Hegarty won an All-Ireland Vocational School medal for Donegal, but the club's fortunes were mixed.

## Junior Champions 1996

In 1996 Kilcar Club had the special pleasure of celebrating a Junior Championship victory. Kilcar defeated a strong Ardara side on the day, and achieved the most recent (adult) Championship victory for the club in modern times.

One of the most striking qualities of this side was the blend of older and younger players. Players of the like of Danny Gillespie, Seamus Gallagher and Sean McGinley (Players who enjoyed Under 21 and minor successes in the early 70s and 60s!) were there to bring young footballing talent along. This blend of experience and youth was pivotal to the success of the 1996 side.

Indeed, the success of this side stands as a fixed standard by which all that is best within our club can be appreciated. The notion that older, more experienced players can assist in helping younger athletes to become better players is central to the future of our club. This mix was particularly evident in the 1996 side - and their success was grounded in that blend of young and older players.

Of equal benefit and value in this side, was the contribution of the great young panel of players who participated. With all of the clout and credibility which the older players could legitimately claim, it was refreshing to note that younger Kilcar men took their chances in Championship Football to make their own mark. They did themselves great credit, and achieved a much deserved victory.

Too numerous to mention though they are the most recent adult Championship victorious team can not go unheralded - Sean McGinley, Seanie Boyle, Paul McNulty, Keith Cunningham, Eamonn Carr, John Byrne, John Curran, Vernon Hegarty, Paddy O'Donnell, Gavin O'Donnell, Charlie O'Donnell, James Hegarty, Paddy McCloskey, Eunan Haughey, Christopher Carr, Gerard McBrearty, Seamus Gallagher, Martin McKenna, Martin McShane, Niall O'Donnell, Paddy Bourne, Danny Gillespie, Conal Lyons, Cornelius Diver, Martin Hegarty, Martin Gallagher, Joe Diver, Ian Campbell, David Rafferty, Ross Brady, Stephen McShane, Stephen Gallagher, Aidan Gallagher, and those who may have been omitted - they are to be commended.

As part of the management in '96 along with Danny Gillespie it was a great achievement within the club and was of great significance to manage a side which had such a mix of young and old and blend them together in a cohesive unit - and to win a championship is no small achievement!

### SENIORS

In the Championship, after beating Glenties, our Seniors were narrowly beaten by Killybegs in Donegal Town. Levels of fitness were called into question by some, at the time.

### RESERVES

Our reserves went out to Ballyshannon in the semi-final, again by a narrow margin.



# TEAMS OF THE DECADE

To pick just fifteen from the countless number of outstanding hurlers who have adorned the game over the past 25 years or so that in effect was the intimidating task which I was faced with. Initially I felt I might well enjoy the exercise as it's always pleasurable to reflect on the great games, great teams and great players from the past, but it didn't take long before I realised the enormity of this assignment. I was a fairly frustrated man by the time I completed the 15 best hurlers and footballers and 15 best Kilcar Club players - in truth I felt I could have picked three, four or even five teams of equal merit and I wasn't at all convinced that my eventual first choice fifteen comprised the most accomplished from the last two and a half decades. Anyway I will start with the best first 15 hurlers that I have seen.

Ger Cunningham	Cork
Diarmuid O'Sullivan	Cork
Pat O'Neill	Kilkenny
Aiden Fogarty	Offaly
Brian Whelahan	Offaly
Brian Corcoran	Cork
Iggy Clarke	Galway
John Fenton	Cork
John Connolly	Galway
Johnny Dooley	Offaly
OisinMcFettridge	Antrim
D.J. Carey	Kilkenny
Nicky English	Tipperary
Jimmy Barry Murphy	Cork
Joe Dooley	Offaly

As I said earlier this was the most intimidating task, but the team I've chosen represents the best 15 people I have seen in the last 25 years.

I thought it would be appropriate to have a go at selecting my top Gaelic football team stretching from the late seventies to the year 2000.

Let me preface by saying straight out that Gaelic Football is a physical game and I, like most fans, enjoy the tough no-nonsense approach. It is thrilling watching from the sidelines that is to savour the crunching sound of hard men cracking shoulders off shoulder in search of possession. But though the tough physical encounter makes the adrenaline flow I have always enjoyed much more the sight of a man forsaking the physical approach and trying, like a Maestro, to orchestrate movements using the football not just as a piece of leather or plastic but as a delicate instrument. Working on this premise I must immediately exclude many great players who, over the years, have given great value. My guidelines are not intended to denigrate their performances but if I am to be true to my own values I must base my choices on the artist rather than the artisan. So here goes at All Ireland County Heroes and Kilcar Club Players.

## COUNTY FOOTBALLERS

John O'Leary	Dublin
Paudi O'Shea	Kerry
John O'Keefe	Kerry
Martin O'Connell	Meath
Tommy Doyle	Kerry
Kevin Moran	Dublin
Tomas Tierney	Galway
Jack O'Shea	Kerry
Anthony Tohill	Derry
Larry Tompkins	Cork
Martin McHugh	Donegal
Pat Spillane	Meath
Trevor Gilles	Meath
Matt Connor	Offaly
John Egan	Kerry

## MY CLUB TEAM OF THE DECADES 70s, 80s, 90s

John Hegarty	Largymore
Dinny McBrearty	Towney
James Carr	Largymore
Tommy McFadden	Towney
Michael Carr	Kilcar
Roger McShane	Derrylaghan
Danny Gillespie	Muckross
Christy Gillespie	Kilcar
Martin McHugh	Bavin
Seamus Gallagher	Cronroad
Michael Hegarty	Crowkeeragh
Fr. Charles Byrne	Cruckarra
John O'Donnell	Stranakirka
James McHugh	Bavin

"Seeing Sweeney, You're the only one who is listening, here is how you play the ball".  
Declan Gallagher giving his team talk at half time.  
"But refreshments must come first".



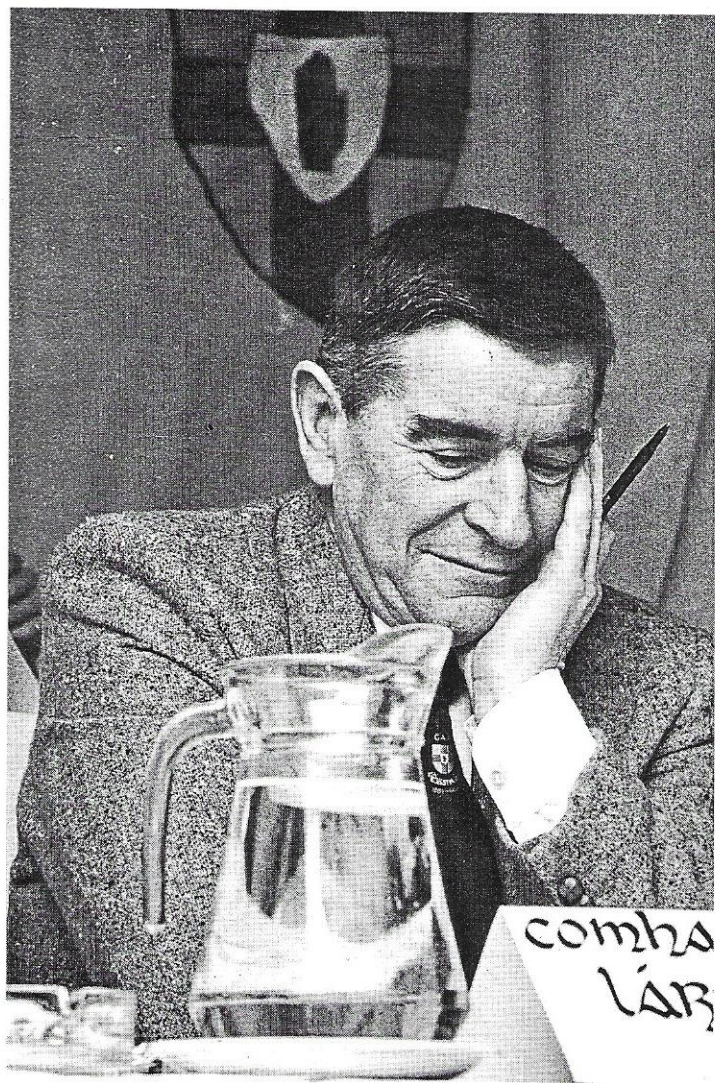
# SNIPPETS FROM 1965

In the Donegal Senior Championships which was played in Cashel, Glencolmcille in July of 1965 Glencolmcille had a one point win in an exciting finish over Kilcar. The winners turned over leading by 2-2 to 0-4 and seemed set to coast home when they turned into the home stretch with 10 points to spare. But then Kilcar came back into the game and in a thrilling rally they hammered home 3 shock goals that changed the game.

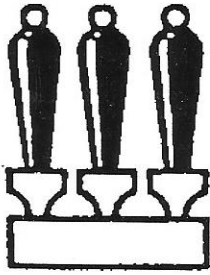
Monopolising the exchanges Kilcar seemed set to overtake the Glen fifteen in the final minutes when the side-line was caught in a whirl of excitement but Glencolmcille held on and edged through with a final win by the narrowest of margins. At the final whistle, after an hour of interesting football when both sides contributed to the general enjoyment of the day, the home side had won by 3-7 to Kilcar's 3-6. Present at the game were visitors from across channel as well as others from the USA and two large groups of young people from Germany camping in the area as well as some continental holiday makers.

It was the final rally by Kilcar that brought spectators to their toes and what excitement it roused. At that stage Glencolmcille had shot their full 3 goals and 7 points and in reply all Kilcar had marked up was 6 points and then they broke through with complete dominance and Connie Hegarty, Ian Hegarty and Michael Gillespie rattled through goals in quick succession as the home defence rocked. It seemed inevitable that Glencolmcille would sweep through for certain victory but then the Glencolmcille defence regained some of its former composure and managed to weather the storm until the relief of referee Sean Doogan's whistle signalled their victory.

Scores for the winners came from Cathal McLoughlin 1-5 to underline his return to sharp shooting form. Others were Thomas O'Donnell 1-1, Connie Cunningham 1-0, John Cunningham 0-1. Former defender and now outstanding in mid-field Seamus McNulty proved one of Kilcar's best and had 5 points to his name in addition to the 3 goals scored by Connie and Ian Hegarty and Michael Gillespie. The losers other point was by Michael Byrne under Mr. Sean Doogan the Kilcar team that day was: C. Kennedy, A. O'Donnell, Jimmy Doogan, C. Hegarty, P. Haughey, P. O'Donnell, Seamus Gillespie, E. Browne, Seamus McNulty, M. Byrne, Eunan Murray, J. J. Cunningham, Ian Hegarty, Michael Gillespie and Michael Cannon. M. Cunningham came on as a sub for M. Cannon.



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## **KILCAR - 1997**

<b>Chairman:</b>	Charlie O'Donnell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Aidan Gallagher
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Neilly Byrne
<b>PRO:</b>	Danny Gillespie
<b>Registrar:</b>	James McGinley
<b>Senior Team Manager:</b>	Michael Molloy
<b>Reserve Manager:</b>	Sean Campbell
<b>Third Team Manager:</b>	Sean McGinley
<b>Minor Manager:</b>	Ian Hegarty, Neilly Byrne and Alan Erskine

Our seniors had a mixed season in 1997. After struggling in the league in 1997 and losing players of the calibre of James Carr (transferred) Christy Gillespie (injured) Declan McShane (injured) and playing without the McHughs they beat the Four Masters in their opening rounds of the championship and beat Killybegs in the quarter final. Although they put up a titanic struggle against St. Eunans in the semi final and should have beaten them, in the last few minutes a fitter St Eunans took over probably because the Kilcar Seniors of 1997 were struggling from injuries and match fitness. Under the capable management of Michael Molloy, they stayed well up in the league table on points.

Reserve manager under Sean Campbell had a mediocre season. In the Gaeltacht they beat Glenfin well in Glenfin. They got to the county semi final Gaeltacht completion only to be denied by a senior Downings team when they were beaten by a point. In the championships first round they beat the Four Masters convincingly in Donegal Town and did likewise in the second round in Towney. But they were well beaten by Killybegs in the quarter final. Won seven league games.

Our Juniors under the management of Sean McGinley got to the Junior Final and were beaten by 4 points by St. Eunans.

### **UNDER 16**

Our Under 16 side won the Divisional Final when they beat N. Micheal 1-12 to 0-12. This was just reward for the ongoing efforts being made within the club at all levels in under-age competition.

## **KILCAR - 1998**

<b>Senior Manager:</b>	Michael Molloy
<b>Reserve Manager:</b>	Neilly Byrne
<b>Third Team Manager:</b>	Sean McGinley
<b>U-21 Manager:</b>	Enda McHugh
<b>Minor Manager:</b>	Ian Hegarty, Alan Erskine, Neilly Byrne
<b>Chairman:</b>	Charlie O'Donnell
<b>Secretary:</b>	Martin McLaughlin
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Monica O'Donnell
<b>PRO:</b>	Danny Gillespie
<b>Club Registrar:</b>	James McGinley
<b>Oifig na Gaeilge:</b>	Caroline Brady

Our seniors had a reasonably good year under Michael Molloy - in the league they were placed mid way on the league table. They got past the first round of the championship when they overcame Glenties and made it to the quarter final where they met Ballyshannon in Ballintra. Only for the last ten minutes of this game Aodh Ruah of Ballyshannon got on top and eventually came out winners with two late goals.

Our reserves had a mediocre year where they lost ten of their league games, made it to the quarter final of the championship but bowed out tamely to Ballyshannon. Likewise our U-21s had an early exit in the Championship. 1998 belonged to our minors when they won the Minor Championship in Fintra when they beat Four Masters of Donegal, captained by Dara Byrne.

There was emotional scenes after the final whistle under the stewardship of Ian Hegarty, Neilly Byrne and Alan Erskine this team won with a lot of commitment, dedication and pride. Well done lads!

# THE 1998 MINORS

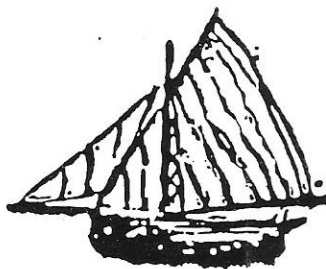
The 1998 Minor panel were: Paul Hegarty, Dara Byrne, Christopher Carr, Gary Reilly, Aaron Hegarty, James Cunningham, Stephen O'Donnell, Gerard McBrearty, Kieran Cunningham, Patrick Gallagher, Gareth O'Donnell, Gabriel Gillespie, Derek McDowell, Ronan Bonner, Kieran Bonner, Mark McShane, Michael Molloy, Declan McCloskey, Daniel Gillespie, Cormac Hughes, Barry Doherty, Michael Doherty, Glen McBrearty, Oran McLaughlin, Ronan Shovlin, Jason Shovlin, Declan McBrearty.

For the second year in a row our Under 16s won the Divisional Final, beating Bundoran 1-10 to 1-7.

Chairman	Charlie O'Donnell
Secretary	Martin McLaughlin
Treasurer	Neilly Byrne
Register	James McGinley
PRO	Danny Gillespie
Senior Team Management	Michael Molloy
Reserve Team Management	Neilly Byrne
Third Team Manager	Sean McGinley
U-21	Enda McHugh
Minor Manager	Ian Hegarty, Alan Erskine, Neilly Byrne

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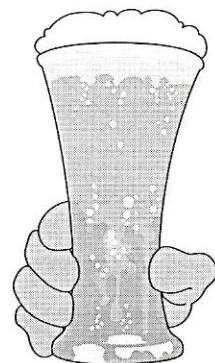
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# THE McHUGH BROTHERS

## JAMES McHUGH



James made his debut for Kilcar seniors in 1981 since then he has won three senior championship medals for his native club '85, '89, '93. James was captain of the 1984 side and the successful 1985 side and captain again in the 1999 side and not to mention the various under-age medals he has won.

Added to James collection are one All Ireland, one All Star, 2 Railway Cups, 5 League Medals, 6 Senior Gaeltacht, 2 Senior Shield, quite a collection for this gentleman! Despite being hampered by injuries he always produced inspirational performances for both club and county. Who will ever forget the All Ireland of '92 against Dublin where James and Martin lined out for Donegal. James' position that day was wearing the number 10 shirt where he marked Paul Curran. The game was hardly underway when a long kick from Declan Bonner was picked up by wee

James after a scramble in the Dublin goal and the man that he is, opted for goal. Unfortunately his wholehearted effort smashed against the cross bar. However Martin picked up the rebound and floated over for Donegal's first score. How ironic that those two Bavin brothers were involved in this historic moment.

There was another great roar from the Canal End when James with his right foot shot sent the ball over the Dublin crossbar to level the score at 0-2 a piece. James scored a total of 1-9 in the 1992 All Ireland Championship campaign. He actually scored in every match he played in. He scored the goal against Fermanagh.

James was one of nine Donegal players in the Sunday Independent's Smithwicks team of the year in 1992. The others were brother Martin, Gary Walsh, Matt Gallagher, Noel Hegarty, Martin Gavigan, Martin Shovlin, Anthony Molloy and Manus Boyle.

Donegal scored three goals in the 1993 Championship campaign, Martin and James one each, Tommy Ryan scored the other against Fermanagh and Martin scored his against Cavan. James is still playing for Kilcar Seniors. But going back to the middle '80s and early '90s when he was at his best, if any team in Ireland could produce a man to out play James McHugh then the Kilcar scoring rate and the Donegal scoring rate would certainly drop to very manageable proportions. Along with being gifted and intelligent on the field of play James has a very fine attitude to life and to people, and success had never affected him in any way.

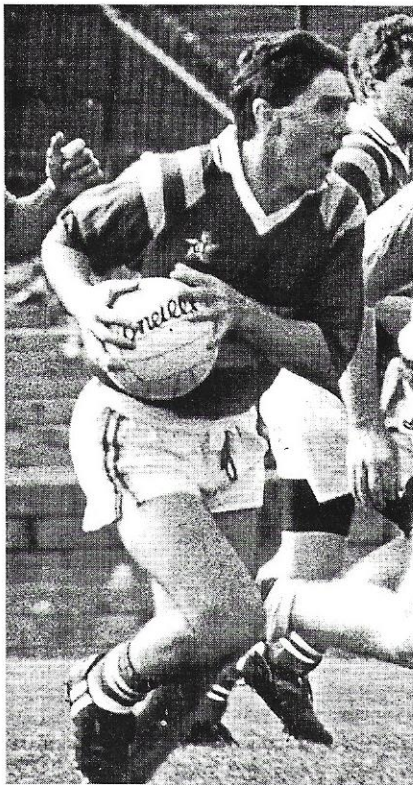
Young players can learn a lot from his inspirations. In the school yard in the back garden or on the local playing field imaginations run riot. Those with an interest in horses will want to ride the winner of the Grand National, the boys with a golf club in their hands think that they are Tiger Woods, Colin Montgomerie or Mark O'Meara. If they've hurleys they'll be Brian Whelahan, Frank Loghan or DJ Carey. It has always been the same, youngsters winning at imaginary Olympic Games, Wimbledon, Wembley or the Curragh and then there are those who dream about Croke Park On All Ireland Final Day in the county jersey, 'playing a blinder' winning an All Ireland Medal.

Well this dream became a reality for James McHugh. Some of the youngsters of today who are interested in Gaelic Football imagine themselves like James - that they too will win an All Ireland Medal with style and panache.

His field is in Towney, his club is Kilcar. At present we have only Michael Hegarty to represent the club to the same high standard as James had previously done. Towney and others like it - Kentucky, Sandfield, Fintra, Glencolmcille, Donegal Town, McCumhaill Park, - the fields where the work that won Sam Maguire in 1992 was started. The Fields of Dreams.

James is married to Noreen and they have two children. He works with the ESB alongside another GAA dual medalist winner Liam Currans from Offaly and also Michael Doherty - another County and Club GAA stalwart. His most memorable game is naturally the 1992 All Ireland Final and the most memorable club game was against Killybegs in 1993.

# MARTIN McHUGH



Martin McHugh is the only player from Donegal to win two All Star awards and when the second one was awarded in December 1992 he earned a special place in the annals of Donegal Football. He earned another niche in Donegal Football when he was awarded the Texaco trophy for Footballer of 1992. He became the first Donegal player to collect such an honour in the annals of a promotion that stretches back to 1958. Amazingly enough he is also the first Ulster man to find favour since 1968 when Sean O'Neill who played a major role in bringing the Sam Maguire Cup to Down, won the selection. Few could really have been surprised at Martin's selection for 1992.

Donegal's memorable break-through to the Sam Maguire Cup triumph was by no means a one-man affair. The county had more stars in their run-in to the final, and again the Decider, than any side that I can remember in years. Nevertheless, there was no doubting the huge part the long-serving forward played in Donegal's history making match.

Everyone can recall vividly his amazing long distance point in injury time against Cavan that almost gave the county a win at Breffini Park in the opening round of the Ulster Championship. Donegal won a free 60 yards from the Cavan goal. With the scores tied, up stepped Martin to take the kick against the breeze. The odds appeared to be against him sending the ball over the bar but with a cool and unflurried approach, and with great accuracy he expertly lofted the ball across the lath to give Donegal

what looked like certain victory. However, Cavan powered down the field, and Damien O'Reilly hit a brilliant point to send the game to a replay. Even so the McHugh point was still something extra special.

Then there was the Ulster Final when Donegal played a man short for the entire second half, a defender having been sent to the line by the referee just before the interval.

The Donegal team turned in a truly majestic display in the second half against Derry at Clones in 1992 orchestrated in a big way by McHugh. He had an outstanding game, scored 4 points and his last came after he outwitted four Derry defenders before sending over a magnificent score from an acute angle.

A Senior final debut that players dream of, but so seldom achieved, his play in the All Ireland final of '92 was of a high standard as he took the much vaunted Dublin defence with his incisive runs and clever play. He made scores for his colleagues took scores himself, never selfish and generally proved a real thorn in the metropolitan rearguard. At the end of that memorable game many rated McHugh, who finished with 3 points, as the Man-of-the-Match. Certainly it was a rating that he made a very very strong claim for. This genius can look back with more delight than most Donegal men in 1992. The quality of his football right through his championship of 1992 was of a standard to cause many to speak in terms of McHugh as Donegal's greatest ever footballer.

I wouldn't be one to compare footballers of one era with the giants of a past one. The games evolve and change all the time, so do tactics and the styles of players. As a result I think it is virtually impossible to effectively select the greatest player of all time in any county. But Martin McHugh must rate as one of Donegal's all time greats.

Since winning his place as a teenager in the Donegal Senior team in 1980 he has been prominently to the fore and in 1992 produced the best football of his career in my opinion. Martin did not play minor football with Donegal but stepped up to the top grade in a national league game in October of 1980 against Tipperary. In 1982 he made history for the first time as a member of a gifted Under-21 side that beat Roscommon at Carrick-on-Shannon to bring an All Ireland Football title to the north-west county for the first time. He scored 0-5 in that game, early evidence of the finishing technique that made him one of the leading scorers of the game in the 80s and early 90s.

Martin was a teenager when he helped Kilcar in 1980 to their first County Senior Football title in 55 years. Since then he has also won County Championship Medals in 1985, 1989 and 1993. His first national award as a senior came early in his career. He helped Ulster into the Railway Cup title in 1983 and that was to prove the first part of a fine treble for McHugh in the same year of 1983 he helped Donegal to

regain the provincial title after nine years and the following December of 1983 he found favour with the Bank of Ireland All Stars.

Who would then have believed that he would have to wait until 1992 for his second such award, or that by then he would be the proud holder of an All Ireland Senior Medal. Martin won three more Railway Cup medals the last in March of 1992 and two Ulster senior souvenirs. A National League medal is the only major medal missing from his collection.

Martin went on to manage Cavan in August of 1994 and successfully guided them out of Ulster in 1997 only to get beaten by Kerry in the All Ireland semi final. He has since become the Manager of the Donegal U-16s and has been very successful with them. Although he never officially retired from inter county football his last game for the county was in 1994. He retired from senior football a matter of weeks ago, his last game against Naomh Mhuire registering another victory for his club.

He is analyst for the BBC of championship games and writes for The Star newspaper. He is married to Patrice, and they have two boys and a girl. No doubt he still has a lot to offer the clubs and county in some capacity or another. It is interesting to note he was the leading scorer for Donegal in 1992 along with Declan Bonner total tally was 1-16 as well as being joint top scorer he was the only Donegal player to score in every match of the Donegal 1992 championship.

## JOHNNY PILKINGTON



**AGE:** 29  
**HEIGHT:** 5' 10"  
**WEIGHT:** 11st 5lbs

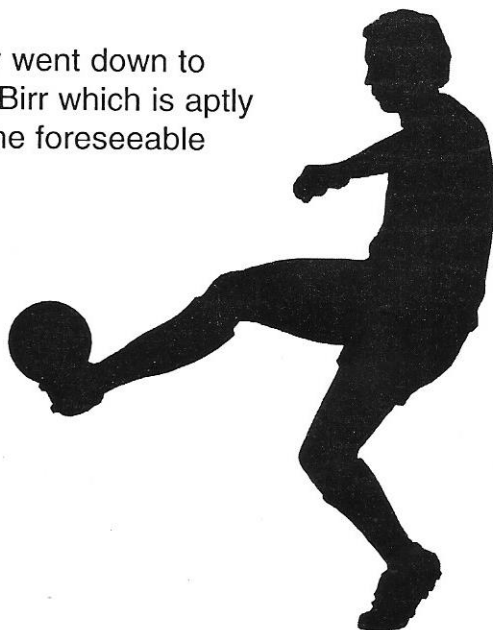
Captained Birr to All Ireland success in 1995. He is the holder of 1 All Ireland and 1 Leinster Minor Hurling Medal, 2 All Ireland and 4 Leinster Senior Hurling Medals and 2 Leinster U-21 Medals, 1 National Hurling League Medals, 4 Offaly, 3 Leinster and 2 All Ireland Club Medals.

**FAVOURITE POSITION:** Midfield

One of his best displays in an Offaly shirt was in the 1998 All Ireland Final when they beat Kilkenny - he played at midfield.

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single, but available

Johnny was captain of the Offaly hurlers in 1995 when they went down to Clare in the All Ireland Hurling Final. He now runs a pub in Birr which is aptly called Pilkingtons and intends to go on playing hurling for the foreseeable future



# PLAYER PROFILE - KIERAN O'DONNELL

**Age:** 24

**Height:** 5ft 11"

**Occupation:** Surveyor, Dublin

**Toughest opponent:** Sean McKewon (St. Eunan's)

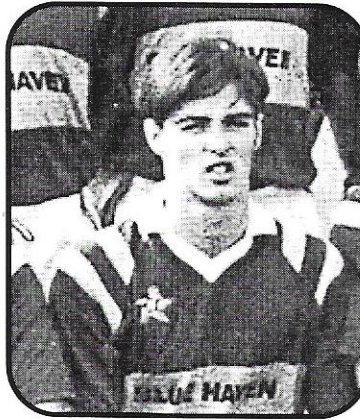
**Favourite position:** Full Forward

**County Honours:** 91 Ted Webb Cup, County Minor 1993, 1990 ulster Voc. School Medal

**Club Honours:** Reserve Championship '91, Reserve League '91, Junior Championship '93, St. Colman's College '97/98

**Biggest influence on your career:** My father Aodh O'Donnell, Packie Haughey and Hugh Shovlin

**Favourite player:** Maurice Fitzgerald, D.J.



Kane, Raymond Gallagher

**Favourite ground:** Towney, Kilcar

**Last game at senior level for Kilcar:** 1995 league

**Most memorable game:** 1993 County Final against Killybegs

**Most influential manager:** (Club) Michael O'Donnell, Billy McFadden, (County) John Joe

O'Shea

**Person you would most like to meet:** Jennifer Lopez

**Your hopes for the future:** To be part of a winning Championship Kilcar Team

**What changes would you make to the game:** Bring in a few aussie rules

# PLAYER PROFILE - GARY REILLY

**Age:** 19

**Height:** 5ft 11"

**Occupation:** Student

**Toughest opponent:** Conor O'Donnell (Ardara)

**Favourite position:** Corner Forward

**County Honours:** U-14 7 U-18 County Championships

**Club Honours:** Senior Gaeltacht Winner

**Biggest influence on your career:** Neilly Joe Doogan

**Favourite ground:** Fintra



**Most memorable game:** 1998 U-18 Divisional Final v Ardara

**Most influential manager:** (Club) Ian Hegarty, (County) John Maughan

**Person you would most like to meet:** Roy Keane

**What changes you would make to the game:** None

**Your hopes for the future:** To win Senior Championships with Kilcar

**Favourite Group/Singer:** Rory Gallagher (Kilcar)



# SEAMUS GALLAGHER



He played with many teams throughout his successful football career, from Kilcar to Ardara and from Tir Conaill Gaels to Laois in the States. Seamus also played County Minor, Under-21 and Senior Football.

Seamus crowned a successful year in 1971 by winning a County Junior Championship medal with Kilcar after they had defeated St. Michael's. This was Kilcar's first success for over 10 years and it paved the way for their entry into Senior status. In 1973 when in London, Seamus lined out with Tir Conaill Gaels and the side reached the semi-final of the London Championship that same year. He also toured with the side playing Four Masters, Kilcar and at the time St. Joseph's. He then went to America where he played with Laois at Gaelic Park. When he returned to Donegal in 1974 he rejoined his native club Kilcar and began training for the County

side. With that team he played in 3 consecutive senior semi-finals in 1973, 1974 and 1975 as well as winning a League medal in 1975 under the guidance of the Chairman of that year Michael Gillespie.

In 1976 disaster struck on the way to a county match in Omagh along with Michael Carr and Kieran Keeney he was involved in an accident which resulted in a broken leg. This put him out of action for that year. The following year he signed with Ardara after going to live there a year earlier. He was appointed team manager in 1977/78. The Ardara team won their first trophy since 1928 that year when they won the shield. To add to this success the side won the Donegal Gaelteacht Championship that year too.

Seamus reached a high point in 1980 when he was manager of the successful Ardara Under-21 side that won the county title for the first time ever. It was a hard victory though as his side had to beat Kilcar in the final. To make matters more difficult his brother Francis was Captain of the Kilcar side.

Ardara and Seamus went on to win the shield in 1980 and appeared in the County Senior final in the same year only to lose to Kilcar. Ardara were back the following year though to take the senior crown themselves with Seamus as their Captain. He was also Captain of the side in 1982 but the Ardara men bowed out to Killybegs in the 1st round. They had to be content with finishing high up in both league and Gaelteacht. The shield was a disappointment.

Earlier that same year Seamus was transferred back to his native Kilcar and he already had a league medal to his credit. Seamus resumed his County career in 1981 during the National League and lined out in Ballybofey in 1982 against Armagh in the championship. He decided to drop out of the side in November 1982 because of pressure of work. However, as he predicted exclusively to the Derry People at the time he acted as Assistant Manager of the 1983 County Under-21 side. His term was short-lived and he decided to let Manager Jackie McDermott from Ballyshannon steer the boat because of his experience with the County Minor Team.

Seamus managed the Kilcar senior team, on various occasions with great distinction. His achievements for success, both as a player and as a manager speaks for itself, having won Championships, League Titles and Shields too numerous to mention (in both capacities!).

# KILCAR - 1999

Chairman	Charlie O'Donnell
Secretary	Martin McLaughlin
Treasurer	Monica O'Donnell
PRO	Sean Campbell
Finance Officers	Seamus Doogan, Sean Byrne
Club Registrar	James McGinley
Senior team Manager	Roger McShane
Reserve Management	Peter Hegarty, Paddy Carr, James McGinley
Junior Management	Cornelius Diver, Neilly Byrne
U-21 Management	Michael Carr, Neilly Byrne, Sean Campbell
Minor Management	Aodh Hegarty, Neilly Byrne
U-16 Management	Gearard McBrearty and Paul Hegarty
U-14 Management	Martin McLaughlin and John Carr
U-13 Management	Paddy Sweeney and John Carr
U-12 Management	Paddy Sweeney, Stephen O'Donnell and Dermot Cannon
U-10 Management	Keith Cunningham, Declan Gallagher, Decian Cannon, Timmy Driscoll and Martin McHugh
Ladies Team Management	Andy Doherty and Caroline Brady
U-16 Ladies	Caroline Brady, Ann McGinley, Andy Doherty

## SENIOR TEAM

Under the management of Roger McShane the seniors had a very good league performance. They played thirteen games winning nine and losing only four games. They won the Donegal Peile na Gaeltachta and went on to Waterford to represent Donegal in the All Ireland Peil na Gaeltachta only to be beaten by a south Kerry team who eventually went on to win it.

The championship commenced with a good win over St Nauls in the first leg in Towney. Having lost the second leg in Mountcharles they advanced by defeating them in Fintra in a play off game. In the county quarter final played in Glenties against Gweedore they were fortunate to get another chance when Declan Gallagher fisted a "45" over the bar in the sixty-sixth minute. Gweedore were incensed with the equaliser at the death and players/officials directed their anger towards match official Liam Brown who played six minutes of injury time.

However considering Gweedore's territorial advantage in many key departments Gweedore had only themselves to blame if they had to loose this game and in saying that, after a mix up in the Gweedore defence Roger McShane's "45" almost landed in the back of the net. Kilcar would have won the game, but it wasn't to be.

Kilcar's James McHugh, Declan Gallagher, Brendan Byrne and Kevin Lyons played superbly that day. The scores were level three times during this titanic struggle. It was then on to McCumhaill Park for the second replay. Gweedore eventually won the third game on a score line of 2-11 to Kilcars 1-10. Injuries played a major part in Kilcar's exit from the championship of 1999.

## SENIOR RESERVE 1999

The senior reserve management continued their good work of preparing young players for the senior team and very nearly ended up winning the championship as they went on to the county semi final in Tir Conaill Park and were only beaten by 5 points by Ballyshannon. Aodh Ruah got a flukey goal, thus ending the reserves run. But well done to this young squad!

## THE JUNIOR TEAM 1999

Managed by Neilly Byrne and Corneilius Diver they had a fairly successful year, being runners up in the Division B League. They also were denied championship honours by St. Eunan's. There is very little between those two sides and with a bit of luck and commitment they will not be too far away this year or next.

## U-21S

The U-21 team advanced to the County semi-final having defeated Naomh Columba on a scoreline of 1:10 to 0:9 in Fintra.

This game reminded supporters alike of the 80s with controlled possession football. They lost out in the County Semi Final to eventual winners St. Naulfs by 0:9 to 1:10. Being part of the U-21 management I thoroughly enjoyed the year with those young players and I would hope to have the pleasure of managing them again at some stage in the future because they are so easy to work with. I can testify this after managing a lot of them as well in the 1996 Junior team.

The U-21 panel of that year was: Conor McShane, Gavin O'Donnell, Kieran Cunningham, Keith Cunningham, Dara Byrne, Paul McNulty, Michael Hegarty, Declan Gallagher (cpt), Christopher Carr, Stephen O'Donnell, Barry Doherty, Gabriel Gillespie, Gary Reilly, Paul Hegarty, Daniel Gillespie, Sean O'Donnell, Cormac Hughes, Kieran Bonner, Jason Shovlin, Ronan Bonner, James Cunningham, Patrick Gallagher, Gerard McBrearty, Aaron Hegarty, Ian Campbell, Gareth O'Donnell, Mark McShane.

## U-21 MANAGEMENT:

Michael Carr, Neilly Byrne and Sean Campbell

## KILCAR - 2000

Chairman:	Charlie O'Donnell
Secretary:	Martin McLoughlin
Treasurer:	Monica O'Donnell
Youth Officer:	Paddy Sweeney
Oifig na Gaelige:	Caroline Ní Bradaigh
County Board Delegate:	Sean McGinley
Sub Delegate:	Martin McLoughlin
Senior Team Manager:	Kevin Lyons
Reserve Team Manager:	Paddy Carr and James McGinley
Under-21 Manager:	Neilly Byrne and Ian Hegarty
Minor Board Chairman:	Patrick McShane
Secretary:	Aidan Gallagher
PRO:	Paddy Sweeney
Managers U-10	Declan Gallagher and Michael Doherty Dermot Cannon, Tommy Driscoll, Keith Cunningham
Managers U-12	Paddy Sweeney and Declan Cannon
Managers U-14	Paddy Sweeney, John Carr, Gerard McBrearty
Managers U-16	Michael Molloy and Vernon Hegarty
Managers U-18	Neilly Byrne and Ian Hegarty

Our Kilcar Seniors had won the Club Gaelteacht competition so they went on to Mayo to represent the club in the Senior Peile na Gaelteachta. They lost out in the All Ireland Final after a second half comeback that was just "too little, too late".

It was a great dissapointment that our Senior team was knocked out by Gweedore in the first round of the Championship the rebuilding process will have to continue!

Our reserves were similarly knocked out at the first hurdle albeit, after a third game. In the decider in Glenties not even the illustrious presence of such club stalwarts as Christy Gillespie, Martin McHugh and Declan Cannon could hold back the tide.

It is hoped that next year will bring a better story, with the possible "full participation" of Declan Cannon on the park!

# PLAYER PROFILE - MICHAEL HEGARTY

**Age:** 20

**Height:** 5ft 11"

**Occupation:** Sport 7 Recreation

**Favourite position:** Centre Half  
Forward

**Honours:** Ulster Minor  
Championship, minoe League,  
All-Ireland Vocational School,  
Hastings Cup, Leinster College, School  
Championship, County Gaeltacht, U12, U18,  
Divisional Medals

**Biggest influence on your career:** Parents  
and Barry Campbell

**Favourite players:** The McHughs and Mick  
Lyons

**Favourite ground:** Towney



**Most influential manager:**  
(Club) Michael Molloy (Senior),  
Sean Campbell (Junior)

**Most memorable game:** All  
Ireland Vocational Final

**Person you would most like  
to meet:** John Barnes and  
Janet Jackson

**What changes would you make  
to the game:** No league football, all  
championship to turn professional

**Pet Hates:** Winter football

**Your hopes for the future:** To be healthy,  
wealthy and wise, when I retire

**Favourite Group/Singer:** U2 and Bernard  
McHugh

# PLAYER PROFILE - STEPHEN O'DONNELL

**Age:** 27

**Height:** 5ft 8"

**Occupation:** Cable Hand

**Toughest Opponent:** Michael  
Gillespie (Glen)

**Favourite position:** Centre Half  
Back

**County and Club Honours:** 3  
Reserve League, 2 Reserve  
Championship, 1 County Gaeltacht, 1 All  
Ireland Gaeltacht, Minor Handball Runner-up  
U18

**Biggest influence on your career:** Paddy  
Cannon Straleel

**Favourite other sports:** Soccer and drafts

**Favourite players:** Seamus Moyihan,  
James McCartan



**Favourite ground:** Towney,  
Kilcar

**Most memorable game:** 1st  
Year Final Voc. School 1985

**Most influential manager:**  
(Club) Michael Doherty,  
(County) Michael Bond, Mick  
O'Dwyer

**Person you would most like  
to meet:** Diego Maradona

**What changes would you make to the  
game:** Neutral Linesmen and umpires at  
club games

**Your hopes for the future:** To stay injury  
free

# NATIONAL AWARDS

## KILCAR PLAYERS WHO PLAYED ON ULSTER VOC. SCHOOL WINNING TEAMS

1985	Roger McShane, All Ireland
1987	Mark McShane
1994	Brendan Byrne
1996	Michael Hegarty and Declan Gallagher

## KILCAR PLAYERS ON TED WEB CUP WINNING TEAMS

1991	Ciaran O'Donnell, Largymore
1999	James Hegarty, Largymore Ronan Shovlin, Castlecarn

## KILCAR PLAYERS WITH ALL STAR AWARDS

1983	Martin McHugh, right corner forward
1992	Martin McHugh, centre half forward, James McHugh, left half forward.

## KILCAR PLAYERS WHO WON RAILWAY CUP MEDALS

1983-84, '89, '92, '93	Martin McHugh
1984	Michael Carr
1994	James McHugh

## TEXACO AWARDS

1992	Martin McHugh
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## HASTINGS CUP UNDER-21S FOOTBALL

1998	Michael Hegarty
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## KILCAR PLAYERS ON ULSTER UNDER-21s WINNING TEAMS

1963	P. O'Donnell, Kilcar
1982	Martin McHugh, Maurice Carr (All Ireland)
1991	Mark McShane, John O'Donnell
1998/99	Michael Hegarty

NOTE: Keith Cunningham, Dara Byrne on present U-21 Panel

## KILCAR PLAYERS ON ULSTER MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP

1956	S. O'Donnell
1963	P. O'Donnell, Kilcar
1996	Michael Hegarty
1999	Patrick Gallagher

NOTE: Kieran Cunningham is on present minor team

## KILCAR PLAYERS ON Dr. McKENNA CUP WINNING TEAMS

1963	Des Houlihan
1975	Michael Carr
1985	Martin McHugh

## KILCAR PLAYERS ON Dr. LAGAN CUP WINNING TEAMS

1936	Eamonn Cannon, John Brown
1937	Eamonn Cannon
1965	Des Houlihan
1966	Des Houlihan
1967	Des Houlihan

## KILCAR PLAYERS WHO PLAYED IN ULSTER MINOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE WINNING TEAMS

1982	James McHugh
1985	Roger McShane
1996	Michael Hegarty

## KILCAR PLAYERS WHO REPRESENTED THE CLUB AT SENIOR COUNTY LEVEL

1925	D. Byrne
1934	James Patrick McGinley, John Brown, Carrick
1935	James Patrick McGinley, John Brown, Carrick
1936	James Patrick McGinley, Eamonn Cannon, John Brown, Carrick
1937	Eamonn Cannon, John Brown
1938	Eamonn Cannon, James Patrick McGinley
1939	Eamonn Cannon
1940	Eamonn Cannon
1946	A. McShane <i>James McHugh</i>
1948	A. McShane
1954	Frank O'Donnell
1960	S. McGuinness
1963	Des Houlihan
1965	Des Houlihan
1966	Des Houlihan
1967	Des Houlihan
1974	Michael Carr
1975	Michael Carr, Sean McGinley
1978	Michael Carr
1979	Michael Carr
1980	Michael Carr
1981	Michael Carr, Martin McHugh
1982	Michael Carr, Martin McHugh, Seamus Gallagher
1983	Michael Carr, Martin McHugh
1984	Michael Carr
1985	Michael Carr, Martin McHugh
1986	Martin McHugh, Michael Carr
1987	Martin McHugh
1988	Martin McHugh
1989	Martin McHugh
1990	Martin and James McHugh
1991	Martin & James McHugh,

NOTE: Mark McShane, Donal Bonner were on the panel of 1991

1992	Martin and James McHugh (All Ireland)
1993	Martin and James McHugh, Mark McShane
1994	Martin McHugh, James McHugh
1995	James McHugh, Mark McShane
1999	Michael Hegarty

## KILCAR PLAYERS ON ULSTER WINNING TEAMS (SENIOR)

1974	Michael Carr
1983	Martin McHugh
1990	Martin McHugh, James McHugh
1992	Martin McHugh, James McHugh

## KILCAR PLAYERS ON ULSTER WINNING TEAMS (JUNIOR)

1933	James Patrick McGinley
1954	Frank O'Donnell

Other players who represented the club were Seamus Shovlin,

John Quinn, Danny Gillespie, Christy Gillespie, James Carr, Michael Doherty, Dennis McBrearty, Aodh Cannon, Michael A. O'Donnell, John Carr, Hugh Shovlin, Tommy McFadden, David Cannon, Michael O'Donnell (Largymore), Enda McHugh, Roger McShane, Neilly Cannon, John O'Donnell.

**NOTE:** *Anyone who was omitted sincere apologies. As I have carried out this research on my own, it is possible that I overlooked names, again sincere apologies.*

## KILCAR STATISTICS

*For forty years The Democrat Cup was the second most prestigious trophy in Donegal football. Listed here under the results of the Democrat Cup in which Kilcar took part:*

- 1933 Kilcar 4-2, Gweedore 2-4
- 1935 Kilcar 3-4, Donegal 0-1
- 1940 Rockhill 4-6, Kilcar 4-4
- 1959 Kilcar 1-11, Dungloe 7-0
- 1962 Dungloe 2-6, Kilcar 0-7

**1963-64** *Sean McCumhails were the last winners of the Democrat Cup/Senior League. It was decided at that stage that future Senior League winners would receive Corn an Phiarsaigh (or the Golden Grill Cup).*

1969 League resumes - St. Josephs 0-16, St. Eunans 0-4

- 1975 Kilcar
- 1979 Kilcar
- 1981 Kilcar
- 1982 Kilcar
- 1983 Kilcar
- 1984 Kilcar
- 1987 Kilcar

*The new Democrat Cup was presented to the 1984 Kilcar team. Kilcar won the Junior and Intermediate League in 1961 and 1962, 1967 and 1968. Sraith na Bhfoirne Tacaiochta Roinn A1.*

- 1991 Cill Chartha
- 1992 Cill Chartha
- 1993 Cill Chartha

### SHIELD DIVISION 1

- 1981-82 Kilcar
- 1983-84 Kilcar
- 1985-86 Kilcar

**Comortas Peile na Gaeltachta Foirne as D'n na nGall abhain an Comortas Nasuinta Sinsir.**

- 1987 Cill Chartha
- 1989 Cill Chartha
- 1990 Cill Chartha
- 1991 Cill Chartha
- 1989 Cill Chartha

**Bí Comortas Peile na Gaeltachta Dhun na nGall**

- 1970 Na Piorsaigh (Cill Chartha)
- Cill Chartha
- Cill Chartha
- Cill Chartha
- Cill Chartha
- Cill Chartha
- 1989 Cill Chartha B
- 1990 Cill Chartha B

## KILCAR FACTS

### COUNTY FOOTBALL FINALS

#### CRAOBH NA SINSEAR

- 1925 Kilcar, Na Curaidh (no recollection of the final score)
- 1959 Sean McCumhail 2-7, Kilcar 1-6
- 1963 Sean McCumhail 1-6, Kilcar 0-4
- 1980 Kilcar 1-13, Ardara 0-8
- 1982 Four Masters 1-4, Kilcar 0-6
- 1985 Kilcar 0-9, Four Masters 0-7
- 1987 Aodh Ruadh 2-10, Kilcar 1-7
- 1988 Killybegs 2-10, Kilcar 2-8
- 1989 Kilcar 1-9, Aodh Ruadh 0-9
- 1993 Kilcar 0-12, Killybegs 0-10

#### SENIOR RESERVE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1991 Kilcar 1-8, Killybegs 2-4
- 1992 St. Eunans 1-10, Kilcar 0-8
- 1994 Kilcar 1-13 Killybegs 1-4

#### AN CHRAOBH IDIRMHE-NACH

- 1984 Dunkineely 1-5, Kilcar 0-5

#### CRAOBH NA SOISÈAR

- 1948 Na D'naibh 3-5, Cill Chartha 1-3
- 1971 Cill Chartha 2-6, N Mìche-I 0-7
- 1981 Aodh Rua 2-14, Cill Chartha 0-4
- 1989 Cill Chartha B 1-6, Iorras 3-7
- 1993 Cill Chartha 2-7, Gael Fh-nada 0-9
- 1996 Cill Chartha 2-11, Ardara 1-5
- 1997 Cill Chartha 2-7, Naomh Adhamhnan 1-14

#### COUNTY UNDER-21s CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1972 Kilcar 6-16, Conmhaigh 0-5
- 1973 Kilcar 2-5, Four Masters 0-5
- 1974 Kilcar 2-8, Glenties 0-4
- 1980 Ardara 1-9, Kilcar 1-4

**NOTE:** *Kilcar last won the Championship in 1974.*

#### UNDER-18s CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1964 Kilcar 2-7, Four Masters 2-4

#### UNDER-18s B

- 1994 Sean McCumhail 2-9, Kilcar 3-5
- 1995 Glenties 1-10, Kilcar 10-5

#### UNDER-14s B

- 1994 Kilcar 3-3, Carndonagh 1-8

#### UNDER-13s DIVISION 2

- 1995 Burt 5-11, Kilcar 3-7

#### UNDER-12s B

- 1988 Termon 1-4, Kilcar 0-2



*Congratulations to Sean Campbell on the publication  
of his new book, wishing him every success*

From

**Cllr. John J. Boyle**

Member of Donegal County Council

St. Catherine's Road, killybegs. Office: 073-31648

Corkermore, Dunkineely. Home: 073-37182

Fax: 073-32037

Congratulations  
and  
every success  
to Sean Campbell

*from:*

**Cllr. Enda Bonner**

- ARDARA -

# CILL CHARTHA

## Ó Ghallarus go Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh

le Mícheál Mac Giolla Easbuic

At teacht amach geata na pairce i nGallarus ar Luan Cincise 1990 bhí lúchair ar gach duine i gclub Chill Chartha mar go raibh Comórtaisí Peile na Gaeltachta buaite don tríodh uair acu agus don dara uair as a chéile. ile.

Tá Gallarus suite cois na farraige sa taobh thiar de Chorca Dhuibhne i gcondae Chiarraí. Thaisteal muintir Chill Chartha ar an Aoine agus shroich siad an halla pobail, míle 6 Bhaile an Fhirteirigh ag dul o sholas do. Thóg na mná ti leo muid agus bhí muid scaipthe i gcúig n6 sé do thithe mar go raibh foireann seoisear agus foireann sinsear ag an club ann.

B'éigean don foireann seoisear imirt ar maidin Déile. Satharn agus nuair a bhuaidh siad an cluiche sin bhí siad amuigh sa tráthnóna arís agus ní raibh fuinneamh go leor ins na feitheoga indiaidh cluiche ar maidin agus lá fada taisteal ar an lá roimh ré. Bhí cluiche maith ag na sinnsear leis an Chlochán Liath sna cluichí leathceannais ar an Domhnach. D'imir Cill Chartha cluiche, chomh maith is a chonaic mé aríamh sa chéad leath sa chluiche ceannais In éadan Corca Dhuibhne ar an Luain. Bhí gach rud mo maith agus bhuaidh siad a cluiche go héascoidh sa dara leat.

Tugtar cuireadh do na buaiteoirí sa comórtas sinnsear beith pairteach sna babhtáí deireannach don bhlian dar gcionn fad a chuidigh go mór do Chill Chartha mar gur bhuaíl An Clochan Liath lad sa chonndae i 1990 agus bhuaidh Naomh Nál comórtas sinnsear na condae i 1991.

I mBeal Átha an Ghaorthaidh i gCorcaigh a bhí an comórtas i mbliana. Bhí Gaotbdohair ag glacadh páirt sa chomórtas seoisear agus bhí Naomh Nál páirteach sa chomórtas sinnsear don chéad uair. D'imir Cill Chartha, Corca Dhuibhne ar an Satharn. Ba iad sin a bhí sa chluiche ceannais le Cill Chartha an bhlian roimhe sin. Shíl bunadh Chill Chartha go mbeadh siad Imithe as an comórtas ar an Satharn mar de bharr Craobh Uladh sa pheil bheith ar siúl idir Dún na nGall agus an Chabhán I mBealach Bó Feich ní thioctadh le Mairtin nó le Seámus Mac Aoidh taisteal agus nior thaisteal Criostóir Mac Giolla Easbuic nó Vernon O h-

Eigheartaigh do na céad cluichí. Is cosúil gur bhuaidh duine de mhunitir

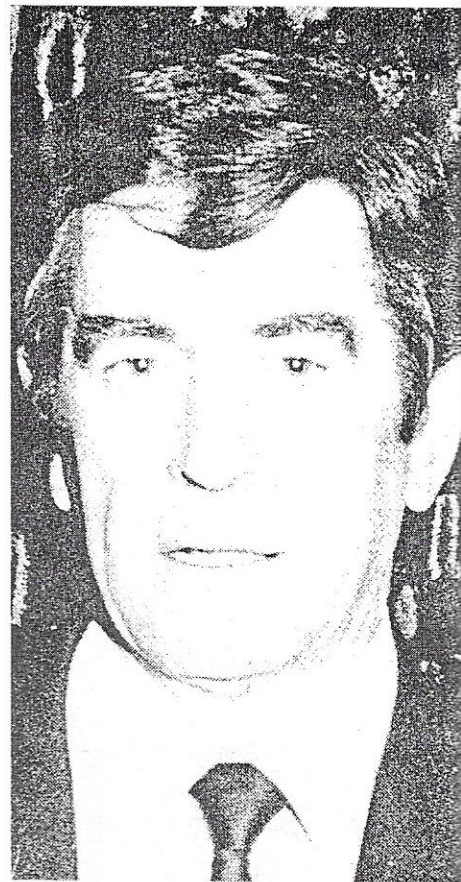
Chorca-Dhuibhne na Lotto agus nach raibh m6rán fonn peile orthu rud a dhág go raibh buaidh gan coinne ag Cill Chartha.

Ach bhí praghas le diol - bhris Marc Mac Seáin a ghaosan agus ní raibh sé abalta páirt ar bith eile a ghlacadh sa chomórtas.

Bhal, bhí sinne sa bhaile ag rá gur gidh to raibh an lámh in uachtar ag Cill Chartha a Chorca Dhuibhne ar an Satharn go mbeadh 5é doiligh go leor Baile Mhuirne a bhuaileadh ar an Domhnach. Bhí cluas go gach duine le Radio na Gaeltachta ar thráthnóna Domhnaigh agus chuir sé lontan agus lúchair ar gach duine nuair a bhí an lá le Cill Chartha. Sacraíodh go gosta go rachadh tuilleadh imreoirí síos le cuideadh leis an mhuintir a bhí thíos sa chluiche ceannais in éadan foireann Dandy O Ceallaigh.

D'imigh Mairtin Mac Aoidh agus Criostóir Mac Glolla Easbuic le Bobby Mac Cuinneagain. Ní thioctadh le Seámus Mac Aoidh taisteal mar go raibh páiste óg leis féin a bhean Noirin an-tinn. Bhí an t-adh orm féin slab a fháil ar maidin. Luain le Seámus O Gallchóir, cathaoirleach an chlub. Bhí Seán Mac Fhionaile agus Vernon O hEigheartaigh linn fosta. Shroich muid Beál Átha Ghaorthaidh roimh a haon a chlog. Bhuaíl mé le Tadg O Geallabháin, fear an-mhaith ón club aitiúil, Micheal Mac Donnchadha, Rúnaí na Chomórtais, Seán O Liatháin as Baile Mhic Ire, Mícheál O Súilleabháin as Corca Dhuibhne agus m6rán eile.

Bhí an buaidh ag an fhoireann baile ins an comórtas seoisear. Bhí imreoirí maithe elle acu taobh amuigh de Sheán O Drisceoil atá ar fhoireann Chorcaigh. Thosaigh an cluiche sin nsear agus ní raibh cosúlacht ar bith ar Chill Chartha go raibh siad ag dul ag imirt ar chorr ar bith. Scóráil Daibhid O Canainn an-chúl agus bheadh Cill Chartha go mór ar gcúl ag leath ama ach sin. Scóráil muid cúl maith eile sa dara leath agus fuair Seámus Mac Giolla Chearra cuil íontach ina na bomaiti deirneach, rud a dhág an buaidh ag Cill Chartha don tríodh blian indiaidh a chéile ins an comórtas seo. Ach bhí praghas le diol arís - bhris Vernon Ó h-



Eigheartaigh dhá chnámh ina chos agus tugadh go Ospideal

Chorcaigh é. B'éigean do Niall O'Belm, bainisteoir na foirne agus lánchúlaí fanachtai gCorcaigh leis.

Bhain na gortaithe seo, do Mharc Mac Seáin agus do Vernon an gus as bunadh Chill Chartha agus gidh go raibh scaifte mór ag an Blue Haven an oiche sin bhí bac le rudaí chomh maith.

I 1990 d'imir Deaglan Mac Daibhid mar chúl báire i nGallarus I gCorca Dhuibhne i gCiarraí agus rinne 5é anéacht in áit Mhíchíl Mhic Phaidin nach raibh ag taisteal. I 1991 bá é Daibhid O Canainn a raibh an scéal amuigh air de bharr na scórranna breatha a fuair 5é agus is cinnte go mbeidh sé ina abhar do fhoireann mionúr na condae i 1992.

Má bhíonn tú aríamh ag smaoinneadh ar dhul ó dheas ar laethe saoire ní thioctadh leat bheith in áiteacha nios fearr ná taobh thiar den Daingean i gCorca Dhuibhne, áit a raibh muid i 1990 nó i mBeal Átha an Ghaorthaidh i gCorcaigh, áit a raibh muid i 1991. Tá na daoine go deas sa dá áit agus tá na ceantracha thart go hálainn.

Caide faoi 1992. Beidh an comórtas ag deire seachtaine an Cincise a reachtail ag club Mícheál Breathnach in Indreabhán taobh thiar den Spideal i gConamara. Teifidh mé ansin thú le cuideadh Dé.



# PLAYER PROFILE - DECLAN CANNON

**Age:** Pass

**Height:** 5ft 8"

**Occupation:** Panel Beater

**Toughest opponent:** Charlie McGroarty in training and Ross Brady

**Favourite position:** Left Half Back

**County Honours:** None, so far

**Club Honours:** 1 National Schools (Derrylaghan), 1 Ulster Voc. School (Carrick V.S.), 1 Junior County Gaeltacht, 1 Senior All Ireland Gaeltacht, 1 All Ireland Gaeltacht, 2 Reserve Championship, 3 Reserve League

**Biggest influence on your career:** Having one bad knee and Micky A. O'Donnell



**Favourite player:** Martin McHugh

**Most memorable game:** 1993 Reserve Semi-final

**Favourite county manager:** Sean Boylan

**Person you would most like to meet:** The man who hands out the lotto cheque

**Hopes for the future:** Kilcar to win more championships, as for my self to play a full game

**What changes would you make to the game:** No square ball. Make all games 35mins

**Favourite other sports:** Following Man Utd.

# PLAYER PROFILE - KEVIN LYONS

**Age:** 30

**Height:** 5ft 9"

**Occupation:** Restaurant Proprietor

**Marital Status:** Married with two children, Daniel and Aoife

**Favourite Group/Singer:** Elton John, Britney Spears, Maria Carey

**Toughest opponent:** Seamus Carr, Crove, Kilcar

**Favourite position:** Wing Back or Centre Back

**County Honours:** N.S. Championship County & All Ireland Gaeltacht Medals, County Championship Medals

**Biggest influence on your career:** Michael O'Donnell, James McHugh, John Doogan

**Favourite players:** Ger Power, Tony Scullion, James Carr



**Favourite ground:** Gaelic Park, New York

**Most memorable game:** 1993 County Final (New York Championship)

**Most influential manager:** (Club) Mickey O'Donnell, (County) Mick O'Dwyer

**Person you would most like to meet:** Bill Gates, Keith Woods, Posh Spice

**What changes would you make to the game:** Independant time keepers at games

**Your hopes for the future:** That the club would ensure that those who have gone to college would be looked after at training sessions, and after the match. To win a Senior Championship medal with kilcar as a manager

# BRENDAN KEESHAM

## ALL IRELAND MEDALIST WINNER

**AGE:** 42, retired at club level in November 1999

**FAVOURITE POSITION:** Half Back

**DEBUT:** 75-76 league

**COUNTY HONOURS:**

2 All Ireland Medals

5 Leinster Seniors

1 Leinster U-21

2 Walsh Cup

1 Keheo Cup

2 Div 1 B League

Nominated 4 times All Star

Scored 3-37 between league and championship in 1987 from right half back



**CLUB HONOURS:**

Played at every age level

Back to back championships in 77-78

**FAVOURITE HURLER OF YOUR TIME:**

Joe Hennessy, Kilkenny

**FAVOURITE HURLER OF TODAY:**

Brian Whelehan, Birr

**FUTURE IN OFFALY HURLING:**

Not too optimistic because we are not producing minor teams

**PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE:**

Michael Cordial Shinrone, 18 yrs

**MOST MEMORABLE GAME:**

Winning the 1978 Leinster U-21 championship because Offaly hadn't won it since 1954 also the 1980 Leinster final when nobody gave us a chance also beating Kilkenny in 1981 to beat Kilkenny was good, but to win the All Ireland was even better.

**WHAT COUNTY WOULD YOU GIVE TO BE ALL IRELAND IN 2000:**

Although I would dearly love to see Offaly win it, I would have to go with Cork

Brendan has now taken up refereeing full time and coaches the Shinrone Hurling team. He retired from the county scene after the 1988 All Ireland semi-final against Galway. His wife Betty comes from Tipperary he has three sons Brendan, Martin and Joe and no doubt Brendan (Jnr.) and Joe are following in their father's footsteps as they are playing senior hurling for Shinrone. Brendan is employed by Eircom.

## PLAYER PROFILE - KIERAN CUNNINGHAM

**Age:** 17

**Height:** 6ft 0"

**Occupation:** Student

**Favourite Group/Singer:**  
Stereophonics

**Favourite position:** Corner  
Back

**County or Club:** County Minor  
Championship

**Biggest influence on your career:** James  
McHugh

**Favourite player:** Michael Hegarty

**Favourite ground:** Towney, Kilcar



**Most memorable game:**  
County Minor Final

**Most influential manager:**  
Neilly Byrne

**Favourite county manager:**  
Martin McHugh

**Person you would most like  
to meet:** Maurice Fitzgerald

**Your hopes for the future:** Play for any  
Donegal Team

**What changes would you make to the  
game:** Better Officials

## PLAYER PROFILE - EAMON CARR

**Age:** Pass

**Height:** 5ft 9"

**Occupation:** Bar Proprietor

**Toughest opponent:** Training

**Favourite position:** Wing Half  
Forward

**Club Honours:** Junior 1996  
Championship and Underage  
Medals

**Biggest influence on your career:** My  
father Prionnseas

**Favourite players:** Anthony Tohill, John  
McDermott

**Favourite ground:** Towney, Kilcar



**Most memorable game:** Junior  
Final 1996 in Fintra

**Most influential manager:**  
(Club) Martin McHugh, Michael  
O'Donnell

**Person you would most like  
to meet:** Michael Jordan

**What changes you would  
make to the game:** 2 referee's,  
4 quarters like Aussie rules, so you

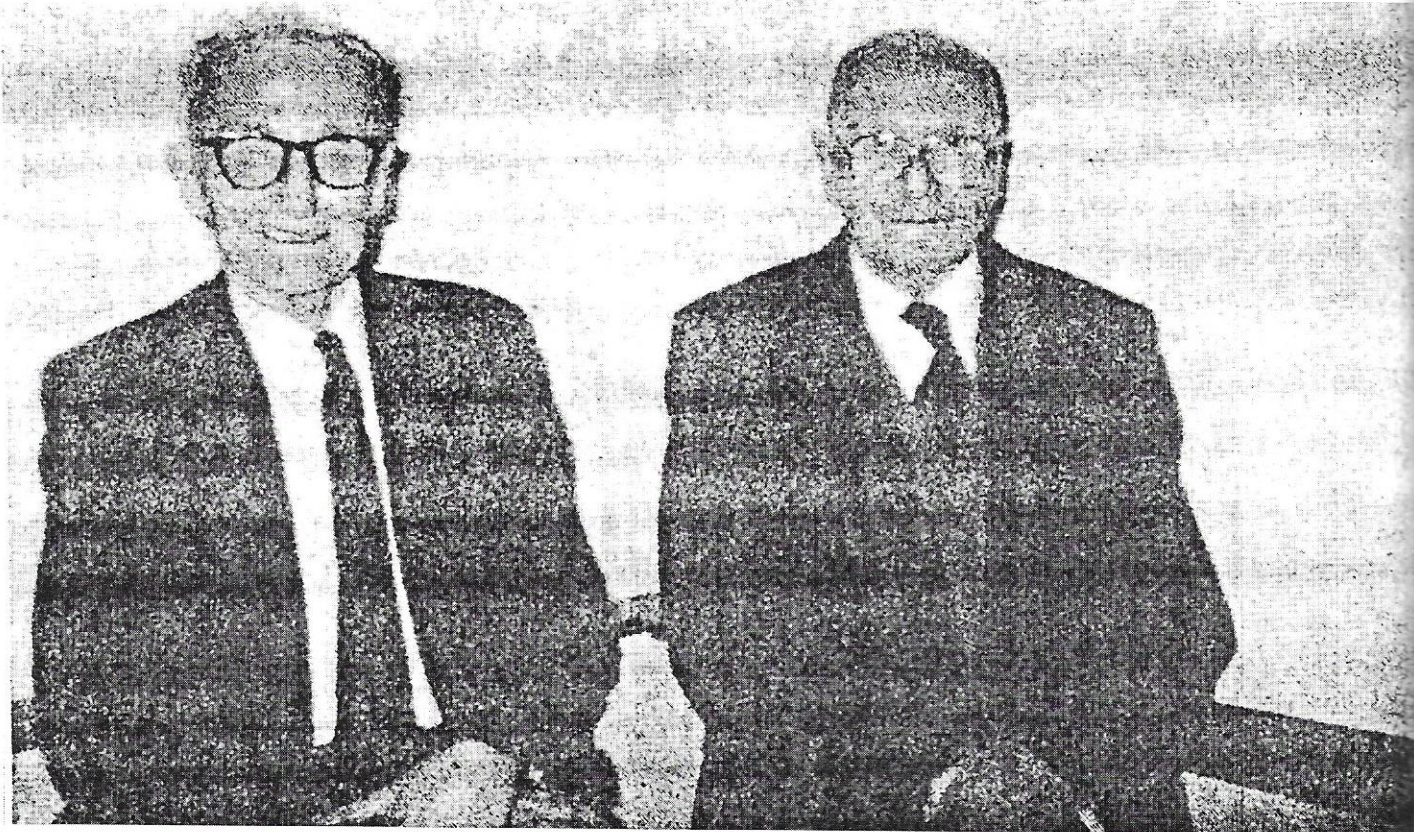
can use as many substitutes as required  
that otherwise they would get a game if it  
was left the way it is

**Your hopes for the future:** To win trophies  
at Underage and Overage

**Favourite Group/Singer:** R.E.M.

# THE STARS OF YESTER-YEAR!

JAMES P. MCGINLEY and JOHN BROWNE



Two football stalwarts from the area, James P. McGinley of Umiskin, Kilcar and John Browne, Carrick, who had been the idols of young and old three score years ago. Even to the present day older people speak of the football skills of both when they played for Club and County.

John Browne played for Carrick before coming a defender in the Kilcar side and like James P. got much of his football baptism in the hard local Slieve League games played at Towney and Straleel Park.

One day they never forgot was the game played at Straleel against Fermanagh in 1935 when the pitch was flooded and a drain had to be cut across the field to allow the water drain to the local river.

James P. had his first County game against Cavan in Bundoran in 1933 when Big Tom O'Reilly, while still minor, played as a Cavan Junior.

James McGinley and John Browne played their first County game in Croke Park in 1933 and Sadly only one other from that team now lives, this being Niall McGee.

John usually played at half-back and is remembered for his high fielding and long kicking. James was a player who could be comfortable in any position on the field, a master of the solo run he was a deadly forward. He was also a safe-back or centre-field player.

James had great admiration for John Browne and another Kilcar man Tommy McHugh, also for Vinny McHugh, Tom Gallagher, Ardara and for John O'Donnell of Dungloe.

John Browne admired players like James P. McGinley, John O'Donnell, Dungloe and he rated Jackie Carney of Mayo as the best player he ever played against.

Both James P. and John had many stories to relate about their football days and glad to say they are both in good health.

Congratulations  
and  
every success  
to Sean

from

**McLAUGHLINS BAR**

- DUNKINEELY -

**Errigal Fish Co. Ltd.**

- Earagail Eisc Teo -

Telephone: (073) 39029 Telex 40399 Fax: (073) 39114

Gach rath ar Sean Ó Coilin

Cill Chartha

leis an leabhair seo.

Comhghairdeachas ar gcroí

# C.L.G. CILL CHARTHA

Thosnaigh na h-imeachtaí ag an cruinniú ceann bhliana í Mi Éanair agus toghfadh Micheal Mac Giolla Easpog O.S. mar bhall den Ard Comhairle i gcóir Ríarachan na gCluichí i bPáirc an Chrocáigh agus toghfadh Séan Mac Fhiongháile ar choiste Ríarachan na gCluichí do cheanntar iar-dheisceart Dún na nGall.

Go luath i Mi Mhártha thosnaigh Comortaisí Peile na Gaeitachta agus bhí na Cluichí Ceannais ar súil ar Pháirc Machaire Gathlann - ach theip ar foireann. Sinsearach Cill Chartha ar corn a thogáil leo nuair a bhuaí Gaoth Oobhair iad go h-éifeactach agus fuair Naomh Náílle an lámh in uachtar san cluiche ceannais ar foireann Gaoth Dobhair.

Da bhrí sin - mar gheall gur curaídh na hÉireann 1990 iad Cill Chartha, bhí cead acu dul chuig Béile Ath'n Gaoraidh in éinde la Naomh Náille i gcóir Comortaisí Peile na Gaeltachta 1991.

Nior éirigh go hiontach le Naomh Náille ach bhí sár chomortas ag Cill Chartha cé nach raibh acu ach leath den fhoireann sinsearach mar nach raibh fuid de na h-imreoirí abálta taisteal ar an turas fhada.

D'imir cuid de na h'imreoirí óga go h-áiríthe Daithi Ó Canainn iontach mhaith go luath san chomortas agus d'éirigh leo dul ar aghaidh chuig an cluiche ceannais in aghaidh Magh Chuilinn na Gaillime.

Chun cuidiú leis an Cluiche seo a bhaínt tháinig cúpla imreoir eile ó Chill Charthaigh ar Luan Cincise - Mairtín beag MacAoidh ina measc agus bhí an bua acu an tá sin don tríú bliain as a cheile - eacht stairiúil do

C.L.G. Cill Chartha. Tá ard mholadh ag dul don fhoireann agus m dó cainisteoir an fhoireann Niall Ó Beirne agus bhí fáilte mhór don fhoireann nuair a shroich siad Óstan na Blue Haven.

Bíonn costaisí airithe le h-éacht mar seo - tharla cúpla mí-adh le tinn an chomortas go hairithe dha gortú - sé sin do Marc Mac Seán agus Vernon ó hÉigheartaigh - fosta bhí tuirse ar na h-imreoirí agus nior éirigh ró mhaith leo ag tús an tSreath Sinsearach agus na cluichí craoibhe. Criochnaigh siad go maith san tSreath le bheith san tríú áit.

Buaílfadh ar an foireann soisearach i gComortaisí Peile na Gaeltachta; Machaire Gathlann - dhá bhrí sin ní raibh orthú dul ar an turas fada go iarthar Corcaigh. Nior cha ill an foireann soisearach seo clúiche ar bith eile go dtí gur bhual Naomh Colu mba orthú sa sreath ar Páirc na nGael. Chuidigh seo leis na spiorad a mhuscaítt agus bhain eadar an cluiche ceannais craoibhe in aghaidh na Cealla Beaga le cúl bréa ó Gearoid Mac Giolla Cearra sna bomaí deireannach den cluiche ar pháirc Sheain Mhic Cumhaill. Nior cháil an fhoireann tacaíochta cluiche ar bith eile, rith na bliana agus chriochnaigh siad ar bharr an tsraith le 34 pointín as 36 d'iomlán moladh mhór ag dut don fhoireann agus don bainisteoir foirne Sean Mac Fhíonn áille.

Ar foireann sinsearach an chondae i rith na bliana bhí deartharach Mairtín Beag agus Seamus MacAoidh ach chaill siad cluiche Ceannais Uladh in aghaidh an Dún á an béirt céanna agus Donál Ó

Caimhsí agus Marc Mac Seá in a panéil Dún na nGall a gcoir ansreath. D'imir Marc Mac Seá agus Seán Ó Domhnaill do fhoireann faoi 21 agus bhí Ciarán Ó Domhnaill ar an foireann faoi 16 a bhuaidh Craobh Connachta 1991.

Ní bhíonn mórán rath le comortas na nÓg i gCill Chartha do gnath ac mbliaí dh.éirigh go maith leis na foirne faoi 12 agus faoi 14.

Bhain an dhá fhoireann na cluichí craoibhe sna Comortaisí peile do don rannóg Iar Dheisceart.

Chuaigh an fhoireann faoi 12 a aghaidh go dtí gur bualadh orthú sa cluiche leath ceannais ar tráthnóir an fhtuich ar Pháirc Seán Mhic Cumhaill in aghaidh Bun Crannach.

Bé an scéal céanna don fhoireann faoi 14 agus buataidh orthú le poínte amháin in aghaidh Aodh Rua Cill Mhic gCoirridín.

Ar an 30ú lá de mhí Deireadh Fomhar bhí oíche mhór ag na buachaillí óga seo - nua Ir a bhron an laoch Mairtín MacAoidh na búr orthú i rith béile agus damhsa a einéacht leis na tuismitheoirí i dteach Seán Ó Beirne. Tá sár imreoirí measc na buachaillí óga seo choinne na blianta atá romhainn.

Rinne Coiste na páirc sár obair i rith na bliana agus bhí fir ag obair lá chuile seachtán ag deanam dheisiuchán ar dhá pháirc peile ag ar an club teach.

Thug an pobail beag sa pharóis tacaíocht maith do na h-imeachtaí bhí ar siubhal i rith na bliana go háirithe Comortas Scór, Bingo na Domhaigh agus na Crann chur agus a bhí ag dul ar aghaidh.



The Kilcar Team which won the Reserves Championship, 1991.

## PLAYER PROFILE - MARK McSHANE

**Age:** 29

**Height:** 6ft 0"

**Occupation:** Welder Fabricator

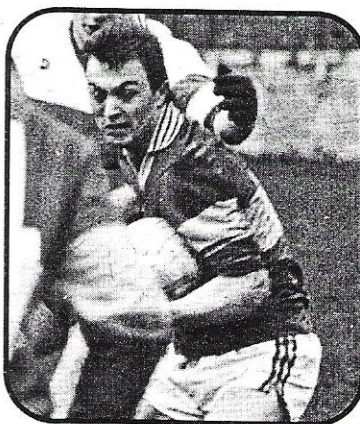
**Toughest opponent:** Anthony Tohill

**Favourite position:** Midfield or Left Half Forward

**County or Club Honours:** National School Two Teacher Title 1997, 2 U16, 1 Senior and 1 Ulster Medal 1985, '86, '87, (All with Carrick Voc. School), 1 Ulster Medal, at County Voc. School Level 1987, 2 County and 4 All Ireland Gaeltacht Medals, Senior League 1987, Senior Championship 1989 & 1993 (Captain in '93), played County U16, U18, U21 & Senior for Donegal.

**Biggest influence on your career:** My father and Francis Barry Campbell

**Favourite players:** Seamus Moynihan and John O'Donnell



**Favourite ground:** Breffni Park, Co. Cavan

**Most memorable game:** 1993 Championship v Killybegs

**Most influential manager:** (Club) Martin McHugh

**Person you would most like to meet:** Jennifer Lopez (for obvious reasons), Pele (because he has the world's greatest soccer player)

**What changes you would most like to make to the game:** 1. Get rid of any unfit referee's. 2. Let goalkeepers kick the ball out from their hands. 3. Bring the number of players down to 13 a side. In league to begin with and eventually championship

**Your hopes for the future:** To win an All Ireland Club Medal with Kilcar or at least another County Championship

**Favourite Group/Singer:** Roxette

## PLAYER PROFILE - PADDY SWEENEY

**Age:** 41

**Height:** 5ft 11"

**Occupation:** Factory Worker

**Toughest opponent:** My Self

**Favourite Group/Singer:** Eagles

**Favourite position:** Midfield or Goalkeeper

**County or Club Honours:** Senior Championship, League & Gaeltacht Medals, Reserve Championship & League Medals, All Ireland Junior Gaeltacht & County Medals

**Biggest influence on your career:** Sean Brady, Michael O'Donnell & Martin McHugh

**Favourite players:** Martin McHugh, Michael Carr & Michael Sheely



**Favourite ground:** Towney, Kilcar

**Most memorable game:** 1993 County Final

**Most influential manager:** (Club) Martin McHugh, (County) Sean Boylan

**Person you would most like to meet:** Bill Clinton

**What changes would you make to the game:** Change to 13-A-Side, with two touches, and leave the rest of the rules alone. More emphasis on coaching at school level

**Your hopes for the future:** That the GAA will come to a situation where players will have a continuous fixture programme without postponements during the football season

# *In Memoriam of Charles Cannon, Kilcar.*

There are many dear friends who, sadly, did not see-in the new Millennium with us, as they had already departed this life. They are all sadly missed by the community and their friends and family members feel their loss.

An especial friend of mine who passed away prematurely was Charlie Cannon. From our school days together at the old National School and later at the Vocational School in Carrick, we enjoyed an abiding friendship.

Everyone who knew Charlie knew of his sense of fun and good nature. Memories in recollecting these happy days together are now Charlie's gift to us. On the football field as a youngster playing under age competitions for the club and for the Tech, Charlie never took the situation too seriously. Charlie's playing career was, possibly, as short as my own - but he was the most dedicated supporter and an avid 'Kilcar man'.

All those who administer and help to keep GAA clubs going should be cognisant of the fact that participation should be 'fun'. Charlie approached football as well as most aspects of living, with a rich sense of fun. I will never forget playing for the Vocational School at Fintra when, in the midst of a hail-stone shower, Charlie and Sean McHugh went missing from their positions - they were sheltering behind a ditch! Barry was distraught when a goal went in, and two of his defenders were not to be seen! Sean and Charlie were not going to get wet, regardless of the threat to the goal!

But it is these bonds of friendship and camaraderie which bind a club, or any community. It has been my privilege to have enjoyed Charlie's friendship, shared all of those happy days and funny episodes, and have those memories to carry with me all my days. There are many more friends of Charlie's who have shared in the same bounty of his friendship.

Charlie's family have lost a dear member, and I have lost a valued friend. Our best memorial to Charlie would be to carry with us - as he certainly would! - the good humour and good nature with which he lived. A club must have a head, a heart and a soul. Its people like Charlie who provide that 'soul'.

**SEAN CAMPBELL**

## **NOSTALGIC MEMORIES**

Derry People and Tirconail News Saturday June 29th 1946. Glencolmchille, Kilcar and Carrick Notes.

On Sunday night Saint John's eve June the 22nd bonfire night the old custom of lighting bonfires was duly observed in the Glencolmchille district where from early evening until bedtime fires burned brightly in every home. Under the auspices of the Glencolmchille GAA Club there was a large attendance at a seven-a-side tournament on the Glen Strand on Sunday. Only three teams took part Meenacross, Glencolmchille and the Malins. Glencolmchille defeated Meenacross and the Malins defeated Glencolmchille in the final by a scoreline of 0-4 to 1-0. Mr John O'Gara refereed the game.

There was a large attendance at the Gaelic Park, Teelin on Sunday when the Teelin GAA team met the Glencolmchille B team in a friendly challenge encounter. After a thrilling tussle the visitors Glen were declared winners by a scoreline of 2 gls 3 pts to 3 points. Thomas McGinley, Faugher, Glencolmchille was an impartial referee.

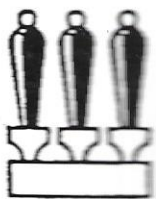


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# SPECIAL MOMENTS

During the course of my short management career, the most notable event was when I was involved with the third team, when we played Pettigo. During the second half of this league game I summoned to the dugout and instructed one of my subs to warm up. After five minutes he went on, he was only on the field when he got possession of the ball. But he started to play for Pettigo. I will not name this young player, but he knows himself to whom I refer.

I remember Paddy O'Donnell from Stranakirrka shouting to me and to tell this player that he was playing for Kilcar and not Pettigo. After awhile we got it sorted out but it's memories like these that always stick in your mind, good memories and funny moments.

The day we picked David Molloy to partner Paddy O'Donnell at midfield, David was Man of the Match after this game against St. Nauls. Also in that same year I can recall this funny episode when a player that came to Towney left his football boots at home. The referee at the time came to his aid only to find that his boots were too small for this big midfielder. Eventually he played in his socks and turned out an awesome performance as he got Man of the Match and we excused him from training for a week as his feet suffered as a result of this performance.

I also recall in the early 80s when our senior team were coming out of the Towney dressing room when one unfortunate player accidentally tripped on his shoe lace, luckily he only bruised his knees, but its escapades like these that stick out in ones mind.

One of the most memorable moments for me was winning the Junior Championship in 1996 captained by Vernon Hegarty. This panel of players were the most dedicated bunch ever. They were training two nights a week, sometimes three and it was no surprise that they won the Junior Title in 1996 when they beat Ardara in Fintra.

The hardest decision I had to make was to pick the team. But maybe the most difficult task I had to endure was to drop two of the most consistent players at that time Eamonn Carr and Gavin O'Donnell. But they were introduced in at half time and went out and played in the second half and put in a heroic performance. John Byrne and Paul McNulty in the same final played one of the best games you are ever likely to see. But this Junior Team and panel of subs deserved their medal in 1996. Martin McKenna had an outstanding season as the Junior Goalie, Paddy Bourne at full back had a great season particularly in the final against Ardara where he caught everything that cam his way. Seamus Gallagher had a fine game in the final, it being his last game for the Kilcar club. Paddy O'Donnell, Paul McNulty, Keith Cunningham, John Byrne, Gavin O'Donnell, Christopher Carr and Cornelius Diver all had great games at the back line all season - so had Martin McShane, Ross Brady, Conal Lyons. Danny Gillespie could play anywhere and always came out in top same can be said about James Hegarty in the forward line. Such greats as Vernon Hegarty and Sean McGinley always kept the ship steady and could point from any angle. Seanie Boyle another who had an outstanding season in the forward line. David Molloy, Stephen McShane and the great free taker John Curran who had a great season after a long break. Kenneth Dolan, John McNulty, Stephen Gallagher, Paddy McCloskey, Eunan Haughey all these players had one great season in 1996. Lads, thank you for giving me all these memories in 1996.

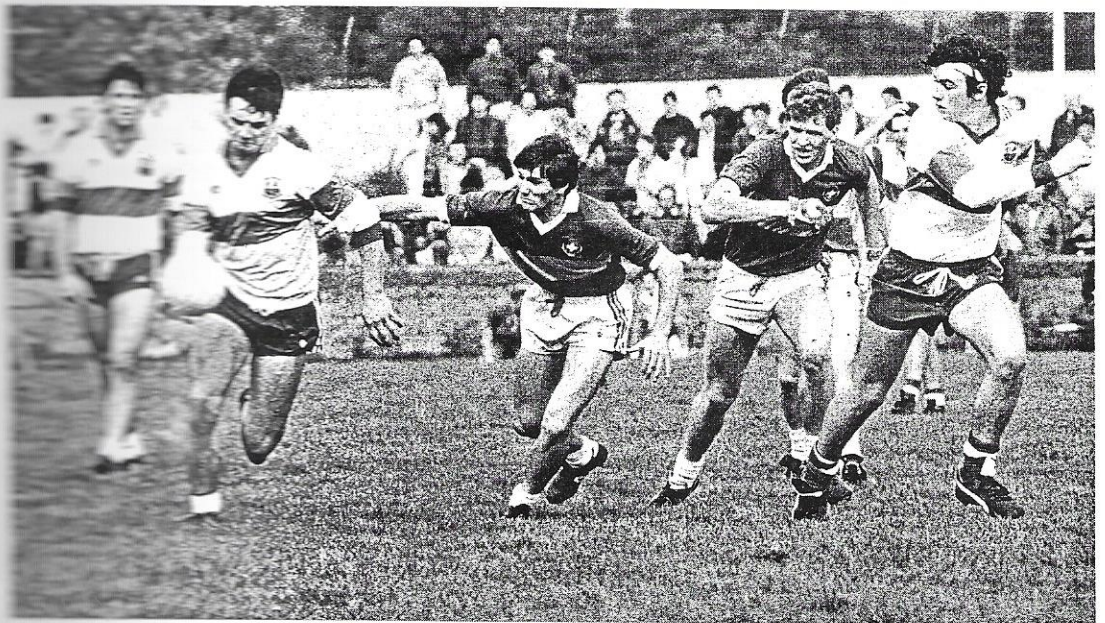




*Junior Champions 1993*



*All-Ireland Final 1981*



*County Final. 1988 against Killybegs*

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*Kevin Sharkey is now best known as a reporter and newscaster with the country's top local radio newsroom, at Highland Radio. However, before he took to the airwaves, he was a G.A.A. correspondent with the "Donegal Peoples Press". His time at that sportdesk also coincided with Kilcar's championship Triumph at the end of the glorious eighties. Here are the memories at that time.*

## TEAM OF THE DECADE

"We have now won three county titles in the 80's and no one can deny that we are entitled to be regarding the team of the 80's". The words of player/manager Martin McHugh to me in the winners dressing room after his side clinched the County Senior Football Championship on Sunday 24th September 1989.

The parish football team comprised a mixed bag of players. There were the seasoned campaigners like Seamus Gallagher and Neilly Byrne. Young pretenders like Mark McShane and John O'Donnell. Footballers like Christy Gillespie, Maurice Carr and James McHugh. All of whom could have graced any top class side at that time. Then there was Martin McHugh!

The '89 campaign began when the eventual champions struggled to overcome a determined Cloughaneely side, but, the key to championship success is not to peak at the beginning and with the first round out of the way, the barwaggon rolled on towards Four Masters and Naomh Columba.

In the quarter final, played at Fintra, the rival neighbours from Glen and Carrick, were simply no match for Kilcar. Once powerhouse James Carr rattled the net in the opening minutes at the end of a breathtaking performance, the 5.11 to 0.3 scoreline must have sent a shudder through the players of Four Masters who were next in line.

And well it might! When the Donegal town players came head to head with Kilcar, at the same venue, two weeks later they were simply blown away. A final score-line of 5.9 to 1.4 included a two goal blast from the team's ace goal-getter of that time Michael Molloy.

And so, to the final against Aohu Rua. Well, this was always going to be tougher and so it proved until a most timely intervention from Roger McShane. With under ten minutes to go and the match still there for any side's taking, McShane delivered the decisive goal. The match ended on a scoreline of 1.9 to 0.9.

But, if Roger got the vital score, it was his 19 year-old brother Mark who stole the show with an outstanding performance for a kid of his age in a county senior final.

A week later, the Kilcar roadshow had moved on to the Abbey grounds in Armagh for a tussle with Armagh Harps in the Ulster Club Championship.

The Gaeltacht side eventually lost out by a single point, 1.9 to 2.5, but it was a match Kilcar could and possibly should have won. The correct mix and quality of players certainly seemed to be there. In the final analysis, the defeat meant that a very good club side never got the chance to make an impression in Ulster and cross to the side of greatness.

That team was - Michael McFadden, Enda McHugh, Neilly Byrne, Seamus Gallagher, John Doogan, Michael Carr, Christy Gillespie, James Carr, Michael Molloy, Martin McHugh, John O'Donnell, James McHugh, Roger McShane and Mark McShane.

For the record, Kilcar's bid for the league and championship double in Donegal that year was thwarted by Ardara, winning the league title for that parish for the first time since Downstrands won it 46 years earlier. But, as the Ardara players of this year will tell you, the championship is the one and even more so, when it secures your status as the your county's club team of the decade!

**By Kevin Sharkey**

# PLAYER PROFILE - JAMES HEGARTY

**Age:** 15

**Occupation:** Student

**Favourite Group/Singer:**  
Thin Lizzy

**Toughest Opponent:**  
Galway corner forward  
(under 16)

**Favourite position:** Wing  
Half Back

**Honours:** County U13B, U 16B, Ted  
Webb Winner 1999

**Favourite other sport:** Soccer,  
Basketball

**Biggest influence on your career:**



**My Father**

**Favourite players:** Claudio  
Lopez, Roy Keane

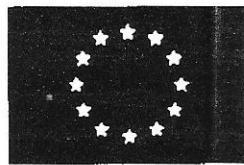
**Favourite ground:** Pairc Uí  
Riain, Newport, Co.  
Tipperary

**Favourite manager,  
County:** Had only the one

**Person you would most like to  
meet:** Eamon Dunphy

**Person you most admire:** Billy  
Connelly

**Hopes for the future:** None, right  
now




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# KILCAR ALIVE AND WELL IN THE SOUTH-WEST

by SEAMUS DOOGAN



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We reached the final where we defeated Convoys by 6-15 to 0-5 in what the Donegal Democrat described as the best display ever seen by an under-age team in Donegal.

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

We successfully defended our under 21 crown in 1973 against Four

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

It is interesting to note that the fifteen who lined out for Kilcar in that final five of them lined out in this year's Co. Final: Dinny McBrearty, Danny Gillespie, Aodh Cannon, Micheal Carr and Tommy McFadden. John Carr would have been a sixth but injury prevented him from playing. From the Four Masters lineout in 1973 Brendan Martin, Enda Mullin and Jackie McGroarty lined out in this year's final.

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

Our first taste of success at senior level came in 1975 when (contrary to local press reports earlier this year) we won the Donegal Gaeltacht



Championship and although beaten by the Kerry champions at the All-Ireland finals in Gweedore we went on to win the Junior All-Ireland title.

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

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

In the same year the club reached the Co semi-final against the mighty St. Joseph's in Donegal Town, to be narrowly beaten by two points. 'Red Jackie's son' destroyed us that day. We had no answer.

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

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

round); 1979, beaten by MacCumhalla again (quarter final).

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

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

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

Ian Hegarty took charge of the senior team and having defeated Ballyshannon and Rosses Rovers the way was clear for a local derby semifinal clash with Naomh Columba in Fintona. What a match it turned out to be. We were seven points down at half time and all seemed lost. I remember Ian Hegarty coming back to the sideline after half time, shaking

his head saying 'If they come back from this it'll be a miracle'. But slowly we clawed our way back and a goal each from Francie Gallagher and Peter Conroy put us a point ahead with two minutes to go.

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

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

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

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

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



The Kilcar team which WON the Junior championship in 1971 being presented by Tom Walsh: Front Row-Paddy Cannon, Donie O'Byrne, Michael O'Donnell (Kilcar), Sean McGinley, Francis B. Campbell, Seamus Shovelin, Danny Gillespie, Seamus Campbell, Mickey O'Donnell (Bogagh), Connie Hegarty (capt.), Donie Doherty, Joseph Boyle, Packie Haughey, Seamus Gillespie and Promissar cent.



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