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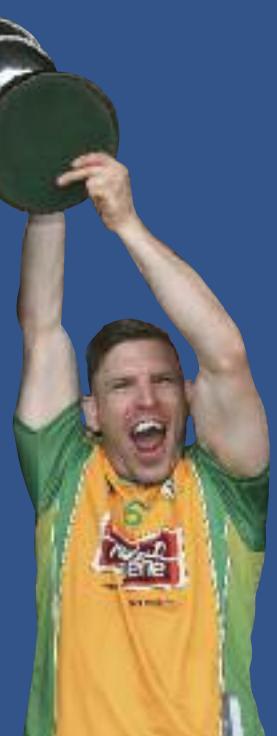
Into the West

The bi-monthly magazine of the Connacht GAA Council

Club glory



County championships conclude
as provincial race intensifies



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President's Note

A Chairde Gael,

AT this time of the year we are all engrossed in the build up to the provincial club championships, while we all have a great bank of memories to call upon from the various inter-county games all year. Those competitions have been parked for now until the dawn of 2017 – this time of the year is all about the clubs.



All of the county club championships have been concluded at this stage and there was some excellent finals and semi-finals played in all of the counties. Congratulations to all of the winner over the senior, intermediate and junior championships, and we wish them all the best in the provincial championships as they go on to represent their clubs and counties at a higher level.

While I am reluctant to list all of the winners, special mention must go to Roscommon club Oran, who competed in both their county's senior hurling and intermediate football finals and managed to work their way past stern opposition and replays to emerge as hurling champions. It was an incredible effort from all of the players and mentors and it just goes to show that the dual club is not a thing of the past.

While the inter-county season has been consigned to the history books Mayo senior footballers should be congratulated for their brave run again this year. It was tough to see them fall short after a replay in the All-Ireland final, but I'm sure it was a lot tougher for everyone involved in the set-up there. No doubt that defeat to Dublin – an excellent team – will drive them on through the winter and we'll see plenty of them back in the green and red shirt come spring time.

Congratulations also to the Mayo players who picked up All Stars recently. First time winners David Clarke and Brendan Harrison had fine seasons, while Lee Keegan and Colm Boyle continue to set the standards for all players from this province.

Special congratulations to Lee Keegan too on being named as the footballer of the year. He had an incredible campaign, and the fact that the award is voted by his peers will give him genuine satisfaction.

On the hurling front Galway's David and Daithi Burke were honoured with All Star awards, while Leitrim's Colm Moreton and Zac Moradi were named in the Lory Meagher champions 15, and Roscommon's Michéal Kelly was named in the Christy Ring 15. Well done to all of the winners.

Before too long we'll know the identity of the provincial winners and I wish them the best of luck as they go on to fly the Connacht flag in the New Year.

Is mise, le meas

Mick Rock

Secretary's Note

A Chairde Gael,

THE Connacht club football championship has never been so competitive, and it looks to go right down to the wire with some more intriguing pairings on the way.

Reigning champions Castlebar Mitchels, 2015 All-Ireland winners Corofin and 2013 All-Ireland champions St Brigid's are all still in the senior race this time around.

Leitrim's Aughawillan will provide the intrigue as the 11-time Leitrim title holders, are the dark horses left in the competition and they will to create an upset.

In the hurling St Thomas' are once again, the kingpins of Galway, following a dominant display against Gort in the final at Pearse Stadium. Thomas' won the All-Ireland title in 2013, and they are heavily fancied to go on and have a big say in the All-Ireland again, this time around.

Unfortunately for Mayo their wait for the Sam Maguire Cup goes on, after they came unstuck against Dublin in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park on October 1. It had been a tremendous campaign for Stephen Rochford's men, who kept their cool after they lost the Connacht semi-final against Galway at MacHale Park.

Many people thought it was the end of this great Mayo team, but they re-grouped and got themselves back to Croke Park once again.

On the opposite side of the draw Dublin had been rampant all season. They were outstanding in their semi-final against Kerry, but Mayo nearly piped them in the drawn final. They almost did likewise in the replayed final. 2016 Player of the Year, Lee Keegan, scored a fantastic goal and Mayo came so close to getting the game to extra-time.

But I know that team will return to headquarters again next season, and backed by Rochford, they will be a fearsome outfit again.

The Galway minors came so close to upsetting Kerry, in their hunt for a three-in-a-row. But that is a great Kerry team, and Galway can hold their heads high, with a great future ahead of them.

Outside of the inter-county sphere, the various underage competitions have continued to capture the imagination in the province recently, and we here in Connacht continue to produce the very best talent that can compete with any corner of the GAA.

And as the many Connacht club titles get decided in the coming weeks, we will see some great teams that will no doubt go on and fly the flag proudly in Croke Park later this year, and beyond.

Is mise, le meas

John Prenty

Runai, CLG Cuige Connachta



'Into the West'



Keep yourself in the loop. Sign up today for your free electronic copy of the magazine – emailed directly to your Inbox. To sign up, email magazine@connachtgaa.ie

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COVER PICTURES – Main picture: Patrick Skehill captain of St Thomas' lifts the cup on behalf of his team.

Photo: David Maher/Sportsfile

Inset, top: Tourlestrane captain James Leonard is presented the Owen B Hunt Cup by Sligo GAA chairman, Joe Taaffe.

Photo: Eamonn McMunn

Inset, bottom right: Corofin's Alan Burke, left, and Ciaran McGrath of Corofin lift the cup following their victory over Salthill-Knocknacarra at Pearse Stadium.

Photo: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

Inset, bottom centre: Castlebar Mitchels captain Rory Byrne lifts the Moclair Cup after the club's latest win.

Photo: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Contents



Mayo fall just short in replay



O'Connor breathes life into Mayo challenge



Goals the key as Kerry cruise to victory



Leonard on fire as Corofin reign supreme once more

Mayo fall just short in replay	3
O'Connor breathes life into Mayo challenge	5
Goals the key as Kerry cruise to victory.....	11
Leonard on fire as Corofin reign supreme once more.....	12
St Thomas' back on top after tense Galway final	14
County title resides in the south as Kelly goals for Tourlestrane	16
Six of the best for Calry in Sligo senior decider	18
Cluainin take Leitrim senior hurling title.....	19
Plunkett seals late win for Aughawilian	20
Oran claim replay victory after extra-time triumph	21
Brigid's stave off late comeback	22
Mighty Mitchels reign again	24
Higgins the hero once more	26
Burke goes for candidacy	27
Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Conference discusses Ireland's relationship with alcohol.....	28
GAA Youth Forum 2016	30
O Fearghail commends new sponsorship deal	31
Successful Green & Red Golfing Society outing	32
Ballinasloe triumph.....	33
GAA President visits Sligo Schools.....	36
Molaise Gaels Back where they belong	42
St Michael's ease to victory to claim junior title	44
Focus on Galway	46
Focus on Roscommon	52
Focus on Leitrim	56
Mark Rooney - an Appreciation	57
Louisburgh edge a thriller	62
Westport step up to senior after convincing win	63
Focus on Ladies GAA	65
Focus on Camogie	67
Handball - Ní Churraoin wins again.....	72



St Thomas' back on top after tense Galway final



Mighty Mitchels reign again



Brigid's stave off late comeback



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Mayo fall just short in replay

Dublin1-15
Mayo1-14

By **MIKE FINNERTY**
The Mayo News

MAYO'S dreams of winning the county's first All-Ireland senior title in 65 years were dashed in the dramatic replay at Croke Park.

Defending champions Dublin put back-to-back championships together for the first time since 1977 as they edged out Mayo by single point after another breathless encounter.

On a day when Mayo lost both Lee Keegan and Rob Hennelly to black cards, and a second-half penalty from Diarmuid Connolly proved to be a decisive moment, this group of players once more spared nothing in pursuit of victory.



DRIVE: Mayo forward Diarmuid O'Connor bursts through the tackle of Dublin's Diarmuid Connolly in their All-Ireland final replay at Croke Park. Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE.

The defence was heroic for the second time in thirteen days, holding four of Dublin's starting six forward scoreless from play. All over the field

Mayo players worked, harried, chased and turned ball over time and again, and they pushed Dublin to the brink yet again.

But in the end it came down to

scores on the board, and the contribution of impact sub Cormac Costello for the champions ultimately tipped the scales in Dublin's favour.

His points in the 58th, 59th and 71st minutes did huge damage to Mayo, keeping Dublin in the lead and holding the chasing pack at arm's length.

In contrast, Mayo's only scores in the last 20 minutes were three frees from captain Cillian O'Connor as Dublin

manned the barricades and defended Mayo's runners en bloc.

Mayo did have one late chance to grab an equaliser and force the game to extra-time, but O'Connor, who scored nine points from frees in total, saw his 35-yard kick into Hill 16 tail left and wide.

The final whistle brought stunned silence from the thousands of Mayo fans in the stadium while Dublin and their supporters celebrated a famous and deserved victory.

A frenetic match got off to a sensational start with the news that Mayo had dropped goalkeeper David Clarke and recalled Rob Hennelly for his first start since the defeat to Galway back in June.

The game itself began in a welter of excitement as Dublin came flying out of the blocks and were four points to no



POWER: Mayo midfielder Seamie O'Shea holds off the tackle of Dublin's Paul Flynn in their replayed All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

Photo: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE.



score up after six minutes with three points from Dean Rock and one from Kevin McManamon giving the favourites a dream start.

But Mayo drew level within six minutes as Paddy Durcan and Andy Moran landed superb points either side of two Cillian O'Connor frees.

From there to the finish it was helter-skelter, neck and neck, with enough big hits and off-the-ball skirmishes to keep all the officials on their toes.

Dublin were running hard at the Mayo backline and won a couple of frees that were converted by Dean Rock to leave it 0-6 to 0-4 after 16 minutes.

By that stage the game was taking shape, and it was every bit as fast and furious as we had expected.

The ground erupted on 18 minutes when Lee Keegan came flying through the Dublin defence to take a pass from Aidan O'Shea before smacking the ball low and hard past Stephen Cluxton for the first goal of the game.

Mayo were ahead for the first time, and their thousands of fans in the crowd of 82,249 were in full voice.

Shortly afterwards Dublin had Jonny Cooper black carded for a trip on Donie Vaughan, and from there to half-time the intensity was ratcheted up even further.

Dublin outscored Mayo in the second quarter by 0-4 to 0-2 as Kevin McManamon's direct style continued to draw frees and Dean Rock knocked over three points at his leisure.

One of these came in the 36th minute after Lee Keegan was shown a black card by referee Maurice Deegan for what was deemed a deliberate pulldown of Dublin's Diarmuid Connolly — following a short kick-out from Rob Hennelly that hadn't found his man.

When the half-time whistle sounded, Dublin led by 0-10 to 1-6 and it was anybody's game.

Just like the drawn game, Mayo started the second half like they meant business and a fifth free of the day from Cillian O'Connor was quickly followed by a brilliant point from his brother, Diarmuid, to ease Mayo ahead for the second time.

The lead lasted less than sixty seconds as Dean Rock replied with a free, and we settled in for another nail-biting episode.

On 41 minutes came another watershed moment as Rob Hennelly came from his goal to claim a diagonal delivery from Paul Flynn, but he spilled the ball and ended up taking down Paddy Andrews as a consequence.

Cue a black card for the Mayo keeper and a penalty from Dublin — which Diarmuid Connolly buried into the bottom corner past David Clarke.

Dublin led 1-11 to 1-8 and it was a very different ball game.

As always, Mayo responded in a positive fashion with a free from Cillian O'Connor and a neat score from Kevin

McLoughlin to close the gap to the minimum.

Dublin sub' Bernard Brogan and Mayo's Paddy Durcan then traded points to maintain the status quo with 21 minutes remaining.

Mayo were a point behind and chasing hard.

Remarkably, for all the chances and near misses at either end, the teams shared six points evenly between them during that time.

Cormac Costello arrived in off the bench to land three crucial points from play for Dublin, and Cillian O'Connor potted three frees.

But try as they might, Mayo couldn't dig out the equaliser they so badly wanted and needed.

The likes of Brendan Harrison and Paddy Durcan delivered their finest performances of the summer, while Seamie O'Shea had possibly his most impressive game ever in a Mayo shirt.

And all around the field everybody did their best and gave their all.

So another memorable summer ends for Mayo in desperate disappointment, after nine matches and a performance that underlined the team's resilience and courage in the face of adversity.

It wasn't meant to be, but Mayo can be proud of their efforts.

DUBLIN: S Cluxton; P McMahon, J Cooper, M Fitzsimons; J McCarthy, C O'Sullivan, J Small; B Fenton, P Flynn; D Connolly (1-1, 1-Open), K McManamon (0-1), D Kilkenney; P Mannion, D Rock (0-9, 7fs), P Andrews.

Subs: D Byrne for Cooper (20 b/c), B Brogan (0-1) for Andrews (47), MD Macauley for Mannion (52), C Costello (0-3) for McManamon (56), E Lowndes for Small (60), D Daly for O'Sullivan (72).

MAYO: R Hennelly, B Harrison, D Vaughan, K Higgins; L Keegan (1-0), C Boyle, P Durcan (0-2); S O Shea, T Parsons; K McLoughlin (0-1), A O'Shea, D O'Connor (0-1); J Doherty, A Moran

(0-1), C O'Connor (0-9, 9fs).

Subs: S Coen for Keegan (35 b/c), C O'Shea for Vaughan (ht), D Clarke for Hennelly (41b/c), B Moran for A Moran (55), A Dillon for Doherty (60), C Barrett for Boyle (71).

REFEREE: M Deegan (Laois).



HIGH-BALL: Cillian O'Connor claims the ball ahead of David Byrne in their All-Ireland final replay defeat to Dublin in Croke Park.

Photo: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE.



Rochford speaks of pride fol

By EDWIN MCGREAL
The Mayo News

THE door into the press auditorium is opened for Stephen Rochford by Croke Park communications executive Cian Murphy. The Mayo manager walks in, looking ashen-faced, followed by Mayo PRO Paul Cunnane and the Horan brothers, Maurice and Liam.

Liam is the Mayo media liaison officer and a regular at these gigs. Maurice, the team's lead video analyst, has not been in here all year. It looks like a show of support for the manager as he faces questions over his team selection.

Three bottles of River Rock water are on the table in front of him. There were six a few minutes before, but three have already been pilfered by thirsty (and thrifty) journalists before the conference begins. Rochford drinks from a small bottle he has brought in himself.

Over 20 phones and dictaphones litter the table in front of the Crossmolina man and the first question is straightforward – what is his initial reaction?

“Extremely proud of all the Mayo players,” are the first words out of the Mayo manager's mouth. “I thought they left absolutely every sinew of energy out there and obviously, that's matched with a huge amount of disappointment.”

With instant publication online now a factor in such media conferences, there are Croke Park media guidelines to ensure the newspapers can maintain some ‘fresh quotes’ for their Monday editions.

The answers to the first five questions are available to everyone for instant use, everything else is under embargo. Those looking

for an instant line cut straight to the chase and the second question focuses in on the big talking point of the game – the dropping of David Clarke for Rob Hennelly. Rochford is asked to explain the rationale behind it.

“When we did our analysis on Dublin they had pushed with a formation in the first game, pushing four guys inside. They were trying to cut off our short kick-out, and as the game developed in the drawn game, they were getting more comfort or more reward out of that ... It was probably something they were going to try to maximise further and that Robbie's kick-out gave us a bit more length, gave us a bit more option and that was the reason behind it,” said Rochford.

The next question was probably not the best-phrased question. Rochford is asked ‘Did it work?’ We all know the answer to that. He visibly recoils and for the only time in the press conference looks ruffled, angered almost, and lets out a long sigh.

“In some cases maybe it did but I'm not thinking through every kick-out now at this moment in time to wonder about that.”

Later on, after the five questions have passed, he's asked about the refereeing and if Maurice Deegan's performance meant the game could have got out of control. Rochford refused to blame the referee.

“I'm not going to be hypocritical and get into a conversation about referees. I've said all year that they are in a very tough position. The margins were tight, it showed on the scoreboard, it showed the last day. Every ball was as if it was the last ball in the game, there was nothing easy for any of the officials in that. We had a greasy surface to start with and, in fairness to Maurice, he did as good a job as anyone could have.”

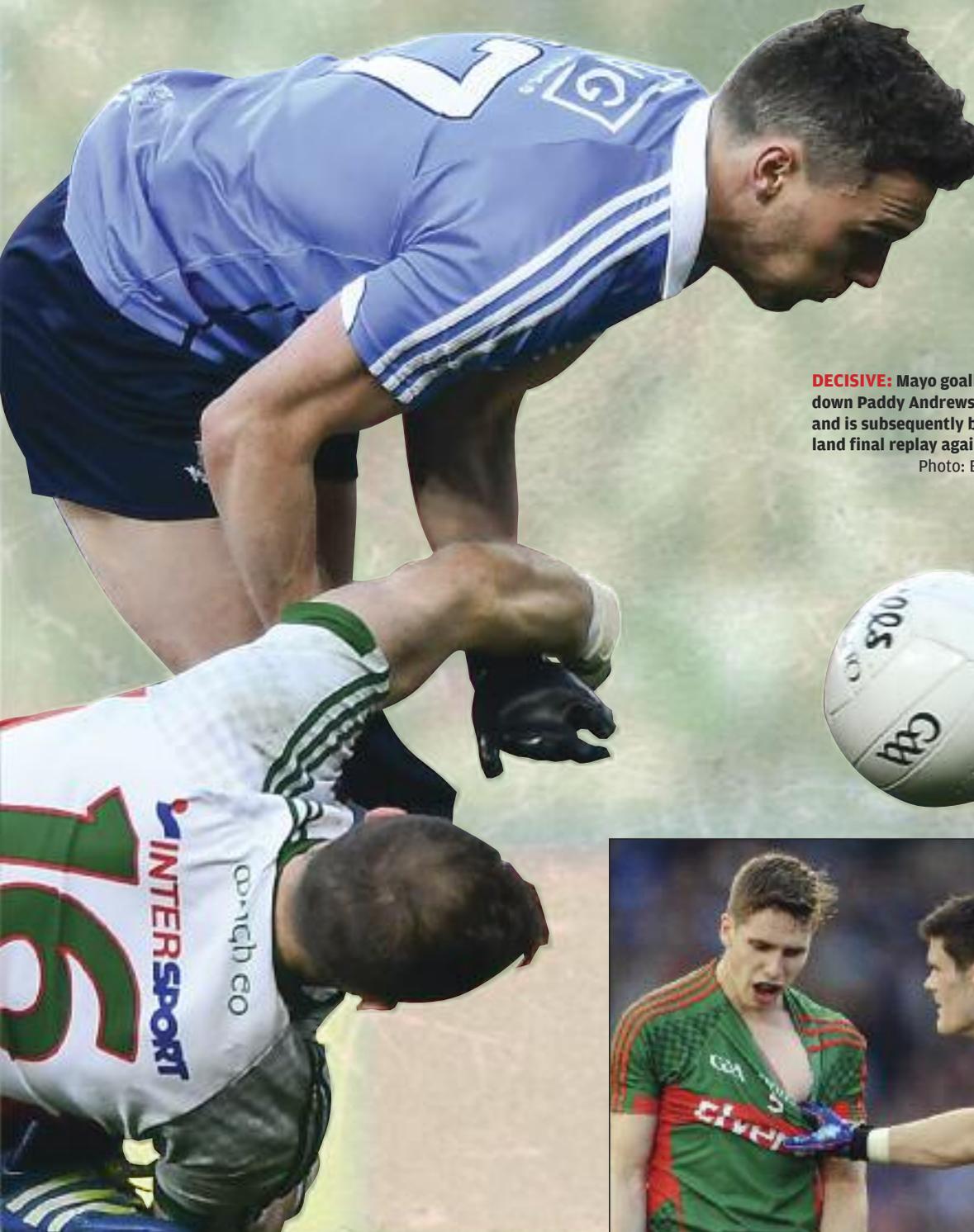
He feels the two black cards Mayo got and Donie Vaughan's injury ‘forced our hand’ in terms of how Mayo used their bench.

“Seamie O'Shea was carrying an injury into the last couple of minutes of the first-half, and it was incredible just the way he carried on into that second-half, because with our bench running so tight, he probably should have been pulled ten or 15 minutes to go,” he said. “But we were down to the bare bones and we couldn't afford another black card or injury. That just goes to illustrate the pride I have in them in them. Brendan Harrison was starting to struggle as well and still they went in, made blocks and tracked men.”





lowing heartbreaking defeat



DECISIVE: Mayo goalkeeper Rob Hennelly hauls down Paddy Andrews in the Mayo penalty area and is subsequently black carded in the All-Ireland final replay against Dublin at Croke Park.

Photo: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE.



CLASH: Lee Keegan and Diarmuid Connolly renew rivalries during the All-Ireland final replay at Croke Park. Photo: Piaras O Midheach / SPORTSFILE.



O'Connor breathes life

Mayo0-15
Dublin2-9

By **EDWIN MCGREAL**
The Mayo News



ment for both teams.

Mayo started well with points from Tom Parsons and Cillian O'Connor before Dublin struck their first goal. David Clarke saved well from the marauding Brian Fenton, Brendan Harrison foiled Bernard Brogan's effort on the rebound, but the loose ball was inadvertently diverted into the net by Kevin McLoughlin's right foot.

Mayo struck next with a point from Donie Vaughan but then Mayo were dealt another sucker punch. A wondrous pass from Diarmuid Connolly found Dean Rock, but when he spilled the ball, it cannoned off the re-treating

Colm Boyle and past a helpless Clarke. Incredibly, a free after 30 minutes from Rock was the first time a Dublin player scored.

It was difficult to know whether Mayo let a chance slip here to go for the kill, or if their display was the start of the deconstruction of the Dubs.

We do, however, have yet more evidence for the creaking file on the sheer bloody-mindedness and will of this group of Mayo players. Were they to exit stage left without an All-Ireland, it would be a travesty.

Ultimately it was a Cillian O'Connor gem after 77 minutes which levelled the game and sent the vociferous Mayo supporters into raptures.

Few people would have predicted anything but a Dublin win in advance had you said Dublin would score two goals to Mayo's zero. In fact few people predicted anything but a Dublin win, full stop.

Clearly undeterred, Stephen Rochford's team came out with a sense of purpose and controlled aggression that told you they were men on a mission.

And despite several setbacks – the concession of two ridiculously unfortunate first-half own goals; trailing by three coming into second-half injury-time – Mayo kept at it.

Dublin may not be as bad again (some of their shooting was very poor), but it would be churlish to dismiss Mayo's role in that. Their defensive performance was exceptional with big displays in particular from Brendan Harrison and Paddy Durcan. A Dublin team who scored 22 points against Kerry could only point nine times here.

And, truth be told, Mayo never danced with perfection on the front foot either. Some of their approach play was poor, some of their decision-making was worse, and there is plenty of room for improve-



ACE: Mayo forward Cillian O'Connor celebrates after he scores the equalising point in their All-Ireland final draw with Dublin at Croke Park. Photo: David Maher / SPORTSFILE.



into Mayo challenge

Dublin took a 2-4 to 0-5 lead in at the break and there were fears Mayo might be wilting, especially given the nature of the goals. But they regained their composure and came roaring back into the game on the resumption. Andy Moran set things in motion with a sweet score from the right wing. A Paddy Durcan point and three from Cillian O'Connor (two frees) had Mayo level after 46 minutes.

Mayo never led in the second half or were able to drive on, which might be a concern, but they refused to buckle either. Points from the



HAND-OFF: Mayo target-man Aidan O'Shea shrugs off the challenge of James McCarthy from Dublin in the drawn All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE.



excellent Brian Fenton and the erratic Dean Rock had them two up. Andy Moran (with a goal chance) and Alan Dillon replied at the other end.

However, points from the superb John Small, Rock (free) and Diarmuid Connolly (his only point of the day) had Dublin three clear after 69 minutes.

O'Connor replied swiftly with a free. Donie Vaughan kicked his second on 71 minutes. Mayo's chance appeared to have went after a wild shot from Aidan O'Shea went wide, but after Diarmuid Connolly fired a sideline kick wide at the other end in the 77th minute, a quick David Clarke kick-out set in train the move which led to an incredibly courageous and brilliant equaliser from Cillian O'Connor.

So much drama, and there could have been more had referee Conor Lane given a free in from the kick-out for what ap-

peared to be a pick up off the ground by Denis Bastick. Instead, Dublin retained possession, happy with the draw.

Whether Mayo are is a question which would be answered the following week.

MAYO: D Clarke; B Harrison, K Higgins, P Durcan (0-1); C Boyle, L Keegan, D Vaughan (0-2); S O'Shea, T Parsons (0-1); D O'Connor, J Doherty (0-1), K McLoughlin; A Moran (0-2), A O'Shea, C O'Connor (0-7, 5f).

Subs: A Dillon (0-1) for S O'Shea (55 mins); C Barrett for Boyle (58 mins); B Moran for Dillon (67 mins, inj); S Coen for D O'Connor (67 mins); E Regan for Moran (71 mins); C Loftus for Regan (78 mins, inj).

DUBLIN: S Cluxton; D Byrne, P McMahon, J Cooper; J McCarthy, C O'Sullivan, J Small (0-1); B Fenton (0-1), MD MacAuley; P Flynn, D Connolly (0-1), C Kilkenny; K McManamon, D Rock (0-4, 3fs), B Brogan.

Subs: P Andrews (0-2) for McCarthy (24 mins, black card); P Mannion for McManamon (45 mins); M Fitzsimons for MacAuley (52 mins); E O'Gara for Brogan (61 mins); D Daly for Byrne (66 mins); D Bastick for Flynn (74 mins).

STRENGTH: Mayo veteran Andy Moran battles for possession with Dublin's Cian O'Sullivan (left) and Jonny Cooper (right) during their drawn All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE.

REFEREE: C Lane (Cork).



Rochford admits Mayo need a goal to beat Dubs

By DANIEL CAREY
The Mayo News

IN the dressing-room after the All-Ireland final finished in a draw, Stephen Rochford said to his players: "Put up your hand if you thought you had your best game".

Nobody raised their hand. "Guys genuinely didn't feel that they had delivered their 'A' game," he said when asked about the incident at the subsequent press event in Breaffy House Hotel.

"And that's what's required to beat Dublin ... I suppose what it comes back to is that guys have set a high standard for themselves. Every day you go out, you're looking to improve, and there's certainly scope for improvement."

The Mayo manager won All-Ireland club titles as both a player (with Crossmolina) and manager (Corofin) in Croke Park, and was a selector with the Mayo minor team that lost the 2005 decider to Down. Still, donning the bainisteoir's bib for the big gig is obviously a different kettle of fish. We wonder how he found the whole All-Ireland day experience.

"I'd recommend it!" he says, smiling. "I'd hope to have another one or two of them along the way! ... I

wasn't lucky enough – or good enough – to be there as a player. It's the day you want to get to, and to be involved with Mayo, and being able to do that was certainly an aim of mine.

"But part of that as well is to get a win, and get performances in there, and we haven't quite achieved that yet. So we won't be getting too sentimental about the occasion."

When we met two days after the draw, he'd watched the

game back once, and the squad was gathering for training the following evening. Sipping occasionally from a glass of water placed between his feet, Rochford says his focus will not be on doing something different, but on what Mayo can do better.

"The thing that pleased me most was our level of consistency," he says. "I think we worked hard throughout the 70-plus minutes. We challenged well, we brought a level of intensity and discipline to the game ... But there's a lot more that I'm not happy about."

He reels off some of the specifics of his 'must do better' list. Mayo will be looking to 'cut out' Dublin goal chances (he's not prepared to write off the two OGs as 'freakish' – after all, Dublin 'had created an opportunity').

The high number of turnovers last was a concern – "I wouldn't be happy with our use of the possession". And he's looking for an improved execution rate on goal chances (which he tallies at one and a half – Andy Moran's second-half shot which went over the bar, and Paddy Durcan's blocked effort in the opening period).

"I think you need a big score to be able to beat Dublin, and in that, you need to score a goal," he reckons.

The 37-year-old deals smoothly with any potential fires. Rumours that Jim McGuinness addressed the Mayo players at a training camp in Limerick are scotched (I've never spoken to ... or met the man"). Joe Broly's description of Mayo as 'celebrity losers' was not 'fair language' but 'certainly didn't keep me awake last night'. Referee Conor Lane 'did a good job' in 'difficult conditions'.

After being widely praised for matching up the Mayo backs expertly with the Dublin forwards, Rochford is philosophical about the possibility of changes in the champions' attack, saying: "We won't be over-focusing on it being Player A versus Player B". As for his own team, the way Mayo battled back late on means there are reasons to be cheerful.

"I think it illustrates what we have been saying all year – we can get to a level of consistency in our performance. But the quality of it is now the challenge that we need to rise to."



BATTLE: Mayo midfielder Tom Parsons wrestles possession from Dublin's Brian Fenton in their All-Ireland final draw at Croke Park.

Photo: Ramsey Cardy / SPORTSFILE.



Goals the key as Kerry cruise to victory

Kerry3-7
Galway0-9

By BILL KIELY
Media West Ireland

KERRY ace David Clifford delivered the telling blow with a magnificent goal as the Kingdom brushed Galway aside to claim their 14th All-Ireland minor title with a comprehensive victory at Croke Park.

He slalomed through Galway defence and rocketed to the top corner of Cormac Haslam's net seven minutes from time, and Kerry staved off any potential comeback from the challengers.

Kerry came into the All-Ireland final as red hot favourites and they were looking for their third title in a row, with the Connaught champions in their way.

Galway were just two points behind heading into the final minutes of the game, before Clifford struck and after that they lost all hope against the more experienced Kerry outfit.

Kerry were 2-2 to 0-2 ahead at half-time after first-half goals from David Shaw and Diarmuid O'Connor – Galway had been dominant in their brilliant semi-final victory over Donegal but they had no answer here.

This Kerry side



CHALLENGE: Galway forward Desmond Conneely holds onto possession ahead of Kerry's Graham O'Sullivan in their All-Ireland minor final clash at Croke Park. Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE.

were touted as the best ever side at the age-grade – their victory was just the fourth time in history that a minor team managed to string three successes in a row.

And as Galway began to launch a comeback in the second-half, spear-headed by star forwards Rob Finnerty and Dessie Conneely, Kerry had the perfect response.

Clifford claimed possession in mid-field, burst through the heart of the Galway defence, and rifled an unstoppable shot to the top-corner of the net to seal the win.

SCORERS - Kerry: D Shaw (1-1); D Clifford, D O'Connor (1-0 each); S O'Shea (0-2 frees), D Moynihan (0-2 each); N Collins, C Linnane (0-1 each).

Galway: R Finnerty (0-3, 0-2 frees); D Conneely (0-2, 0-3 frees); A Quirke, C D'Arcy, R Forde, R Cunningham (0-1 each).

KERRY: B Courtney; D Naughten, N Collins, G O'Sullivan; M Potts, D O'Brien, M Foley; M Breen, M Ryan; D O'Connor, S O'Shea, D Moynihan; B Friel, D Clifford, D Shaw. **Subs:** C Linnane for Friel (48); C Teehan for Collins (53); B Sweeney for Shaw (57); K Dwyer for; S Okunbor for O'Connor (65).

GALWAY: C Haslam; E McFadden, S Mulkerrin, L Boyle; A Quirke, E McDonagh, F Garvey; C D'Arcy, J Maher; F Ó Laoi, E Murphy, R Forde; R

Finnerty, S Raftery, D Conneely **Subs:** B Goldrick for Murphy (38 mins); R Murphy for Raftery (49); R Cunningham for Finnerty (55); E Deely for Garvey (56).

REFEREE: C Branagan (Down).



POSSESSION: Galway's Ryan Forde challenges Kerry's Niall Collins in their All-Ireland minor final at Croke Park.

Photo: Seb Daly / SPORTSFILE.

HIT: Galway's Fionan Garvey is tackled by Diarmuid O'Connor as Kerry claim another All-Ireland minor title at Croke Park.

Photo: Seb Daly / SPORTSFILE.



Leonard on fire as Corofin reign supreme once more



Corofin ..0-16 :: Salthill-Knocknacarra ..0-11

The Corofin squad ahead of the Galway county final.

By **DECLAN ROONEY**
Media West Ireland

FOUR Galway senior football titles in a row for the first time in their history is the reward for Corofin, who were dominant from the first to last minute thanks to their slick attack, led by Jason Leonard and his nine points.

Two clubs in the county – Tuam Stars and Ballinasloe – have managed to win seven titles back to back, but this run of dominance now has Corofin just six wins behind the Stars, who have 24 Frank Fox Cups to their name.

Even without the hamstrung Gary Sice, you always got the impression that Corofin had plenty in reserve had they been really tested by Salthill-Knocknacarra, but in the end their classy pack of forwards found space too easily and often to be denied on the day.

It will be a few weeks before we find out of the winners of the Mayo and Sligo champions will test them in the provincial semi-final, but once again Corofin cut a swathe through all in front of them in the county title race.

Kevin O'Brien has taken over the reins from current Mayo boss Stephen Rochford, but it was like looking at his All-Ireland champions at stages of the opening quarter as they tore

Salthill-Knocknacarra to shreds, made room to score up front and took every chance that came their way.

"That's a super win, great to win a county title. It's four in a row, it's the first time we have talked about it. I am absolutely thrilled for the guys they are a great group of players," said O'Brien.

"We've a lot of young guys coming in there, a lot of the experienced guys as well and they all put the shoulder to the wheel today and delighted with the success. Fair play to Salthill they gave us a really hard game and we kept saying that all of the time.

"It's great to have this milestone, great to have this behind us now and the whole four in a row thing. We look forward to that, we haven't thought about it but it's a great opportunity for us, once we have the county final behind us. I am really delighted for the boys."

At the heart of all that dominance early on was Micheal Lundy, who was making his first start of the season for his club following a stint in America. He got them up and running in the early seconds, and when Ian Burke and Micheal Farragher similarly followed suit the plan for the day was clear.

Sean Armstrong was very impres-



Jason Leonard of Corofin is tackled by Gavin Duffy of Salthill-Knocknacarra.

Photo: Ramsey Cardy/
Sportsfile

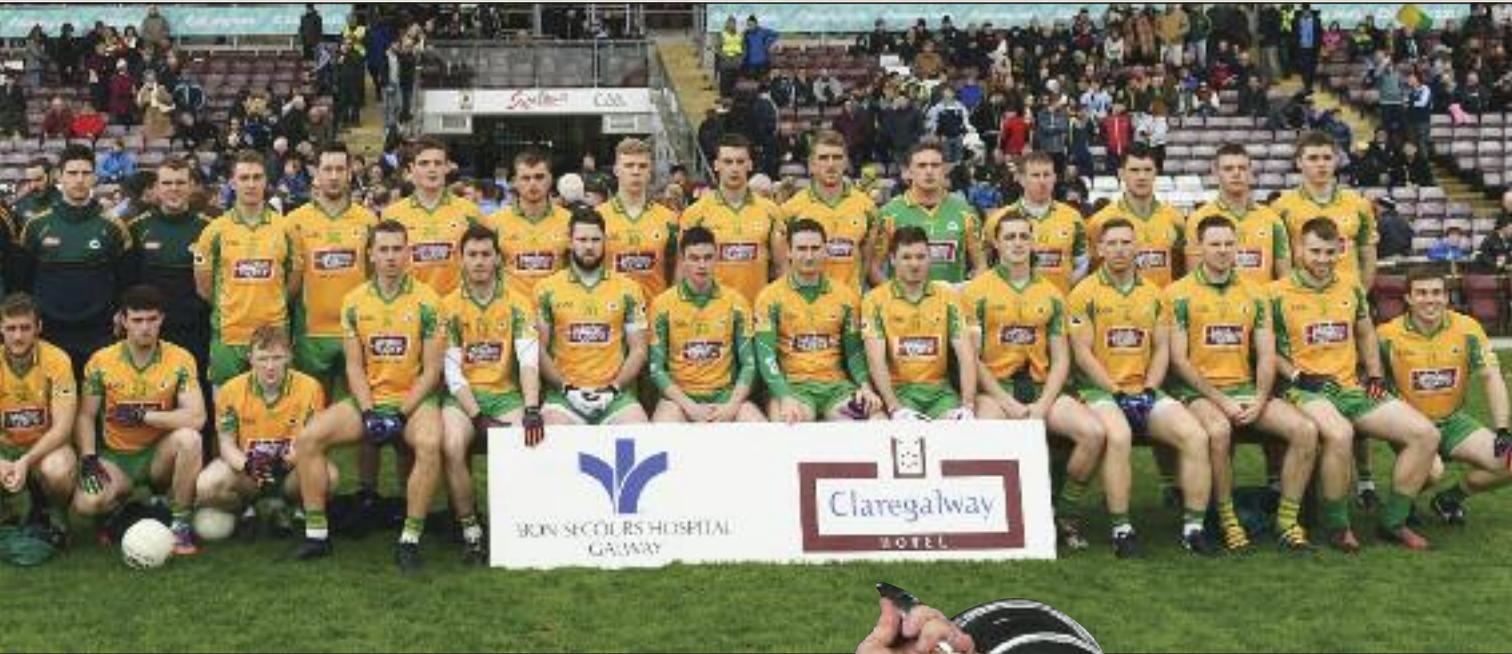


Photo: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

sive for Salthill-Knocknacarra though and his four first-half points kept his side in touch, while his super 40th minute effort showed he still has the ability to play at the highest level.

Alongside him county minor Robert Finnerty chipped in with four scores and the duo hauled Corofin's lead back to three points with 13 minutes remaining, but another three Leonard scores ensured that Frank Fox Cup headed north along the N17 once again.

Late on Salthill-Knocknacarra sub Peter Killeen was sent off for a second yellow card in the space of the four minutes he spent on the pitch, but this was a canter for Corofin, who could have a goal late on through Ian Burke, but Evan Duffy denied him with a great save.

SCORERS: Corofin: J Leonard 0-9 (4f), M Lundy, M Farragher, I Burke 0-2 each, K Molloy 0-1.

Salthill-Knocknacarra: S Armstrong 0-6 (2f), R Finnerty 0-4 (3f), T Haran 0-1 (1f).

COROFIN: B Power; C Cunningham, L Silke, C Silke; K Figerald, C McGrath, K Molloy; D Burke, R Steede; B O'Donovan, D Wall, J Leonard; M Lundy, M Farragher, I Burke.

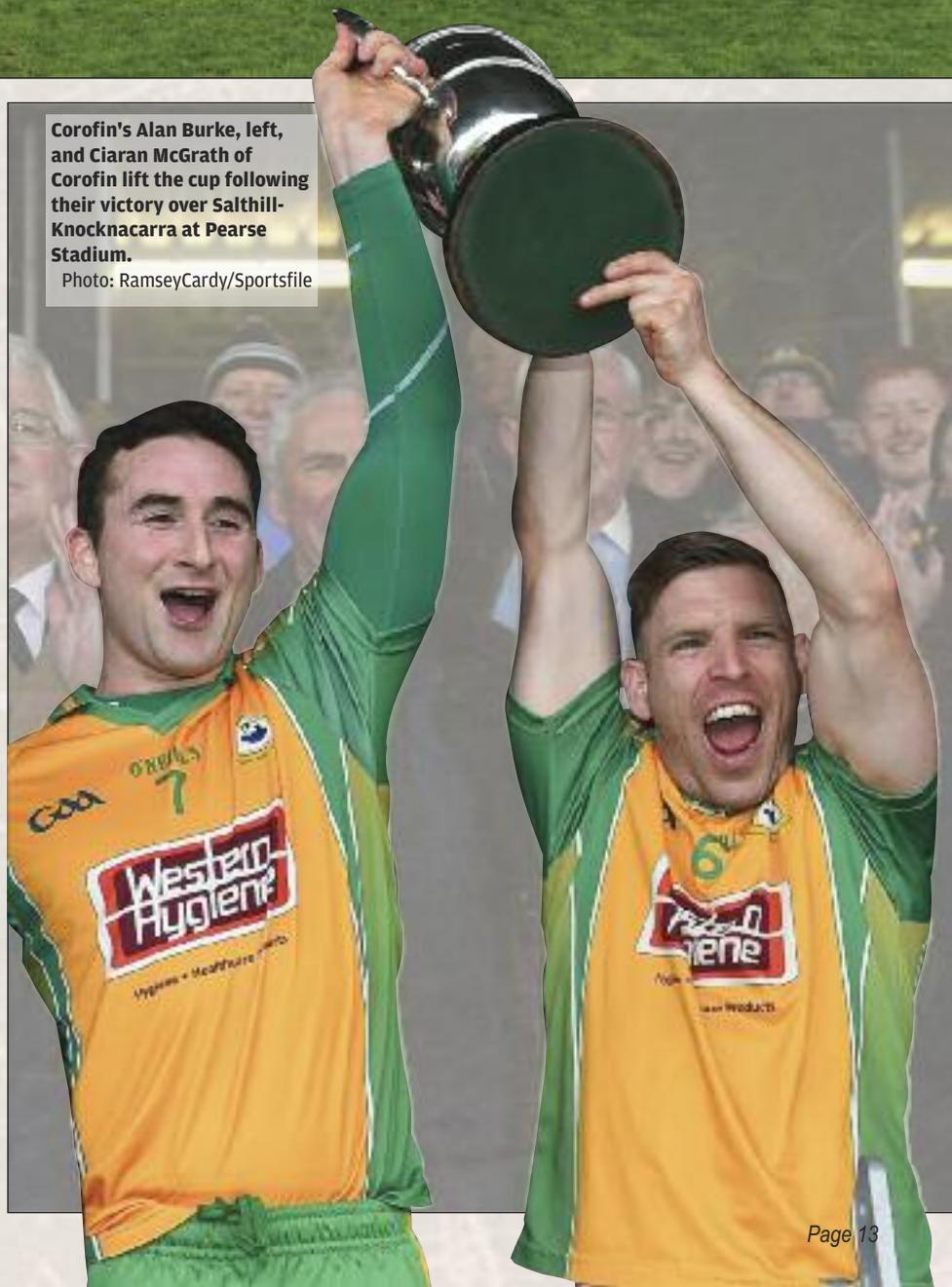
Subs: A Burke for O'Donovan (32-39, blood and 44), C Brady for Wall (56), K Murphy for Leonard (61), D Canney for Lundy (64), C Brady for Fitzgerald (65).

SALTHILL-KNOCKNACARRA: E Duffy; E Wynne, F Hanley, C Halloran; R McTiernan, W Finnerty, G Duffy; C Healy, B Kelly; J Maher, R Butler, T Haran; R Finnerty, M MacDonnacha, S Armstrong. **Subs:** B Conlon for Armstrong (32-37, blood), G Cox for Butler (42), J Killeen for W Finnerty (52), P Killeen for Maher (58), S Kelly for MacDonnacha (60).

REFEREE: Tomás Ó Fátharta (Galway).

Corofin's Alan Burke, left, and Ciaran McGrath of Corofin lift the cup following their victory over Salthill-Knocknacarra at Pearse Stadium.

Photo: RamseyCardy/Sportsfile





St Thomas' back on top

St Thomas'1-11
Gort0-10

By DECLAN ROONEY
Media West Ireland

ST Thomas' manager John Burke insisted that his side have what it takes to go all the way to All-Ireland glory for the second time, after they were deserving winners of the Galway SHC title.

In a game that was never likely to reach its potential due to the inclement weather conditions at a sodden Pearse Stadium, Sean Skehill's goal 14 minutes from time proved crucial as St Thomas fi-

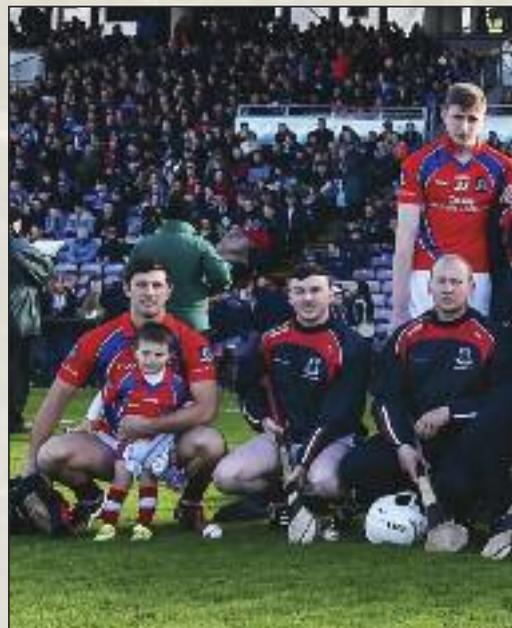
nally claimed the lead their dominance deserved.

The 2012 winners were the better side before the interval, but still trailed by a point as Aidan Helebert led the Gort charge, but Conor Cooney edged him after the restart and his crucial frees and Skehill's goal won the day.

History suggests that the Galway champions will have a big role to play in the eventual identity of the All-Ireland champions, with six of the last 11 titles going to clubs from the county, and Burke is keen to add a second to his club's side-board.

"We can go further but we will take it one step at a time. We will enjoy this and that's important," said the St Thomas manager.

"A local derby like that is going to be a



The St Thomas squad that won the Galway senior club hurling final against Gort at Pearse Stadium. Photo: David Maher/Sportsfile

Fintan Burke and Bernard Burke of St Thomas celebrate at the end of the county final.

Photo: David Maher/Sportsfile



hard one and Gort are a super team. They won two in the last four years, it could have gone any way we just hurled a little bit better on the day.

"It's a great win, absolutely unbelievable. That bunch of players, I knew it was in them to come again. It was our first day today to have a full panel of players to pick from. I knew if we got a performance out of them they were good enough to win it.

"They are so passionate, it's like one big family, and that's the way they are. They are all like brothers out there. They are wonderful young lads and I am delighted for them, absolutely thrilled for them."

Skehill was the goal scoring hero, but the match winner could well have come from the other side, had Michael Mullins' goal not have been ruled out less than 60 seconds earlier due to a square ball.

Eventually, the umpires crossed their flags to indicate the score was ruled out, and seconds later David Burke picked out Skehill, who flicked past Gavin Lally to the net.

Lally had earlier denied Skehill midway through the first-half with a super save, but the first-half was all about the free takers, as Conor Cooney and Aiden Helebert kept the scoreboard ticking over.

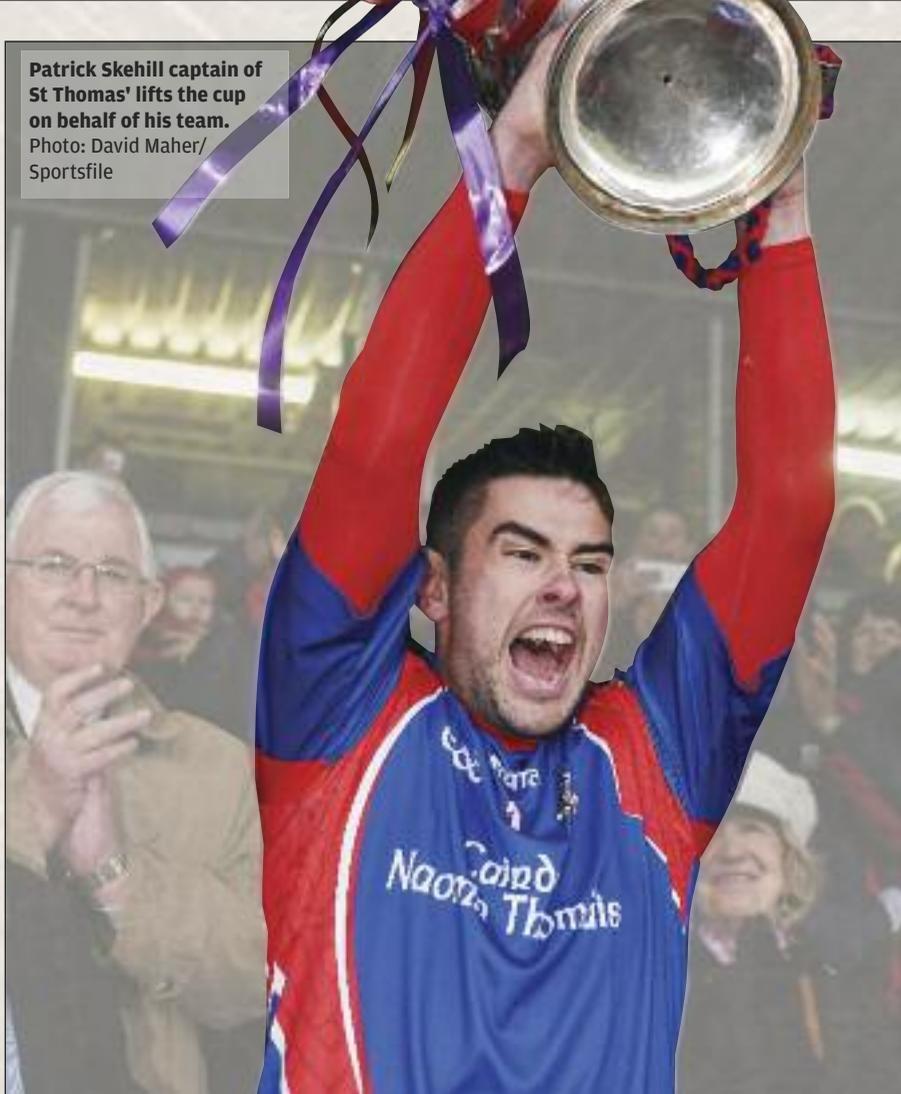
James Regan and Bernard Burke pointed well from play for Thomas' in the



after tense Galway final



Patrick Skehill captain of St Thomas' lifts the cup on behalf of his team.
Photo: David Maher/Sportsfile



first-half, while a couple of Paul Killilea scores just before the interval meant Gort led 0-7 to 0-6.

A Conor Cooney free from his own 65, wide on the right, got St Thomas level early in the second-half and after he gave them the lead a couple of minutes later with another tough free Thomas' never trailed again.

Helebert missed three crucial frees for Gort around that time as he struggled playing into the teeth of the wind, but once Bernard Burke landed his second after a good interception, and Skehill followed it up with the goal there was no way back.

Helebert managed to find his range with three late frees for Gort, but St Thomas held out easily for an historic win.

SCORERS - St Thomas: C Cooney 0-6 (6f), S Skehill 1-0, B Burke 0-2, Darragh Burke 0-1, J Regan 0-1, B Farrell 0-1.

Gort: A Helebert 0-8 (6f), P Killilea 0-2

ST THOMAS': P Skehill; F Burke, C Burke, E Burke; J Regan, S Cooney, D Cooney; B Burke, David Burke; C Cooney, Darragh Burke, D Sherry; B Farrell, S Skehill, K Burke.

Subs: G Kelly for Darragh Burke (52); Darragh Burke for Sherry (54); A Kelly for S Skehill (58); C Fallon for K Burke (64).

GORT: Gavin Lally; T Linnane, M McMahon, M Cummins; P Lally, G Lally, A Harte; S Og Linnane, Jack Grealish; P Killilea, A Mullins, A Helebert; R Cummins, M Mullins, Jason Grealish. **Subs:** G O'Donoghue for A Mullins (36); W Walsh for G Lally (48).

REFEREE: Leonard Fay (Athenry).



County title resides in the south

Tourlestrane1-14
St Mary's1-7

By JESSICA FARRY
Sligo Champion

TOURLESTRANE are the champions of the Belfry Senior Football Championship for the first time since 2013 following a 1-14 to 1-7 victory over St Mary's at Markievicz Park.

Super substitute John Kelly netted in the 43rd minute to confirm a hard fought title for Tourlestrane, the favourites to win from the outset.

Following a very tight opening half, Tourlestrane, under the reign of Eamonn O'Hara and Gerry McGowan, were leading by two points.

But, a dominant second-half performance saw them deservedly earn champions status, confirming the South Sligo side as the best in the county this year.

Brian Egan's six points also proved

vital to Tourlestrane's victory, as Mary's fought to the bitter end, almost literally, as the game saw four red cards dished out by referee John Gilmartin.

Pat Harte hit over the first score of the game with two minutes played, as captain James Leonard doubled that lead seconds later.

Glenn Young's St Mary's responded well, however, with both Kyle Cawley and Nathan Rooney sending the ball between the posts to level the score.

Brian Egan got his day up and running after five minutes as he scored directly from a free-kick, with Mark Breheny mirroring that with his score from a free shortly afterwards.

It was certainly going to take something special to separate these two sides, and Kyle Cawley's ninth minute goal lit up the early stages of the first-half.

Cawley's goal-scoring prowess has received plaudits from pundits and fans across the county since his emergence onto the scene, and he showed just why he is so highly rated as he collected a Rooney ball, coolly striking past Padraic McVeigh in the Tourlestrane goal.

Now trailing 1-3 to 0-3, Tourlestrane would need to bring their A game in order to overcome their opponents, but they knew there was no need to panic.

Alan Dunne brought the sides to

within two points of one another, with an excellent score from Liam Gaughan taking the deficit to one, before Brian Egan brought the sides level once again.

But Tourlestrane were determined, and Noel Gaughan dispossessed Nathan Rooney after 20 minutes, and after patient build-up play his brother Liam set-up Cathal Henry whose score put Tourlestrane ahead by one point with 21 played.

Rory Guinan's 23rd minute point allowed Tourlestrane a small bit of breathing room, as they now held a two point lead. But just minutes later, a nasty looking injury to Gerard O'Kelly Lynch delayed play by minutes, but that break didn't appear to interrupt the game's momentum.



Brian Egan's six-point haul helped Tourlestrane to the county title.

Photo: Piaras Ó Midheach / SPORTSFILE



His replacement Cian Breheny, almost made an immediate impact, instead his shot from distance was well wide of the mark.

Brian Egan's score made it 0-9 to 1-4 at the break, the last action of the first-half.

Both sides knew they needed a lot more in the second-half, and it was the South Sligo side who looked hungriest following the break.

Brian Egan and Cathal Henry were first off the mark after the re-start, with Rory Guinan responding to some extent by sending his free-kick between the posts of McVeigh.

Stephen Henry could well have put the game to bed on 36 minutes, but his shot at goal was wide of the target, although it certainly should have served as a warning signal to the Sligo town side.

Brian Egan forced a brilliant save from goalkeeper Ruddy as he went for goal, the

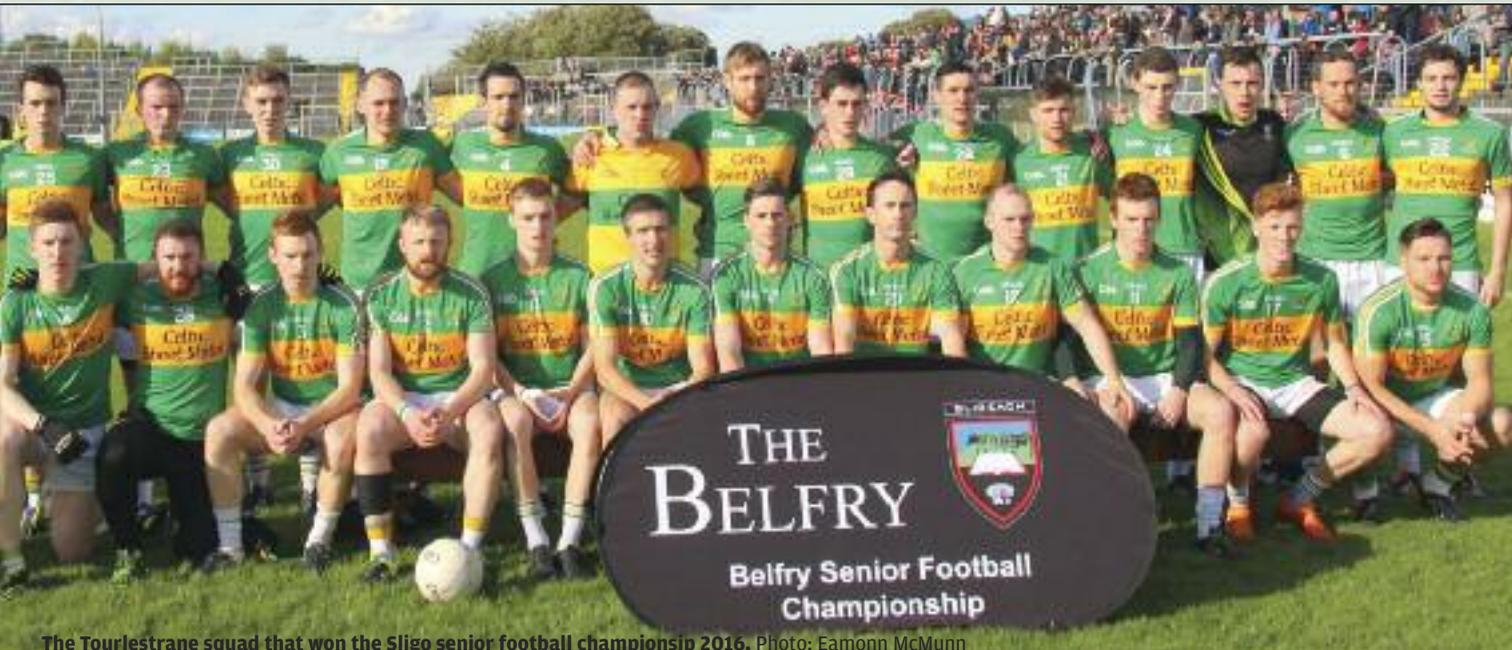


Liam Gaughan in mid-air as he shakes off a St Mary's defender.

Photo: Eamonn McMunn



as Kelly goals for Tourlestrane



The Tourlestrane squad that won the Sligo senior football championship 2016. Photo: Eamonn McMunn

Tourlestrane man almost making amends with his point three minutes later to make it 0-11 to 1-5.

But the best from Tourlestrane was yet to come. On the pitch mere seconds, John Kelly (who spent the summer in America), surged forward covering a distance of almost 30 metres, and struck past the imposing Ruddy in goal to give Tourlestrane a comfortable lead of 1-12 to 1-5.

Both sides exchanged wides, before Mark Breheny hit two points from frees. Again, Tourlestrane were not deterred by their opponents' late burst of energy, and sub John Quinn restored a six point lead for his side as the game neared its conclusion.

There was drama yet to come, however, as the referee brandished four red cards in the dying minutes, following some

ugly and unnecessary scenes as emotions boiled over.

Fintan Ruddy and Pat Harte were both sent for an early shower following a coming together on the hour mark.

John Quinn hit over in added time, to confirm Tourlestrane as champions. That was before, however, the handbags came out and a mass melee involving a number of players from each club threatened to dampen the spirits at this late stage.

Noel Gaughan was next to receive his marching orders with seven minutes of extra-time played, before youngster Kyle Cawley also saw red at the final whistle.

The scoreline may suggest a comfortable victory for Tourlestrane, but St Mary's were more than worth opponents on the day.

SCORERS - Tourlestrane: B Egan 0-6 (4fs), J Kelly 1-0, C Henry, J Quinn (1f) 0-2, L Gaughan, A Dunne, P Harte, James Leonard 0-1 each.
St Mary's: K Cawley 1-1, M Breheny 0-3 (3fs), R Guinan 0-2 (1f), N Rooney 0-1.

TOURLESTRANE: P McVeigh, C Neary, N Gaughan, B Kennedy, JF Carr, S Dunne, J Leonard (c), S Henry, A McIntyre; P Harte, G Gaughan, A Dunne, L Gaughan, C Henry, B Egan. **Subs:** J Kelly for L Gaughan (43), J Quinn for Dunne (46), N Egan for B Egan (55).

ST MARY'S: F Ruddy, K Coen, L Nicholson, L Henry, C O'Grady, J Davey, J Lynch (c), P Kilcoyne, N McManus; R Guinan, M Breheny, G O'Kelly-Lynch, K Cawley, M McGoldrick, N Rooney. **Subs:** C Breheny for O'Kelly-Lynch (26), S Henry for O'Grady (32), C Kelly for Guinan (36), D Kilgallon for M McGoldrick (42), D Corcoran for Lynch (52).

REFEREE: J Gilmartin (Curry).



Tourlestrane captain James Leonard is presented the Owen B Hunt Cup by Sligo GAA chairman, Joe Taaffe. Photo: Eamonn McMunn



Six of the best for Calry in Sligo senior decider



Calry/St Joseph's Sligo senior hurling champions

Calry/St Joseph's2-18
Coolera/Strandhill0-4

By JESSICA FARRY
Sligo Champion

CALRY/ST JOSEPH'S are the Sligo senior hurling champions for the sixth consecutive year following a comfortable 20-point win over Coolera/Strandhill at Markievicz Park Calry, who would have been heavy favourites for the title, failed to hit the ground running, but with a 1-5 to 0-4 lead at half-time, they would have felt the game was in their hands.

It appeared as though Henry Cox's men were not going to need to leave third gear, but excellent defending from Coolera in the first-half meant that they were forced to up their game somewhat after the re-start.

Coolera had registered four points after 19 minutes, but the failed to score a single point after the 20 minute mark, and were second best throughout the second-half.

Tom Brennan's side did take the lead with seconds on the clock, and were defending well, particularly when a crucial block from Niall Cadden prevented Calry from hitting the back of the net. But they could only withstand the pressure for so long and Calry hit the back of the net after five minutes through Michael Gilmartin.

Cormac Behan's wide started a series of poor kicking from both sides, with Kevin Banks' effort suffering the same fate before Keith Raymond and Eoin Comerford were guilty of similar.

Raymond made amends for his earlier miss by hitting over on 12 minutes, his first in a busy day for the county hurler.

Coolera did continue to plug away, and while they would regret the large number of wides, they did make some use of their early possession.

Comerford hit over Coolera's second point of the day after 12 minutes, but Calry were quick to respond each time, with David Collery responding minutes later to restore his side's three point lead.

Captain Niall Cadden reduced Coolera's deficit to make it 1-2 to 0-3, with their fourth point of the day coming from Niall Murphy.

But that was all that Coolera could muster for the afternoon, but they defended well to their credit, although it was always going to be a challenge facing a Calry side who have been utterly dominant throughout the year.

Raymond's 20th minute point gave Calry a two point lead, and wides from Murphy and Conor Gillen were punished with Collery hitting over.

Again, Coolera were just struggling to send efforts between the posts with further wides following for Cadden and Banks.

Kevin Gilmartin was first to receive a booking from referee Ciaran O'Donnell, while Conor Gillen was booked just minutes later for Coolera.

Collery's wide before half-time would certainly have been rued by Coolera, as Calry hit over just before the interval, now with a lead of 1-5 to 0-4.



Calry captain Liam Reidy receiving the cup .



Michael O'Callaghan, who was enjoying a splendid display in the middle of the field for Calry, got their scoring up and running after the interval with his first point of the afternoon.

Henry Cox's side hit two wides early on, but it had no real impact on the outcome as Keith Raymond's free kick meant that they held a 1-7 to 0-4 lead before they put the game to bed.

Michael Gilmartin did excellent down the left hand side and almost scored Calry's second goal of the evening, only to see it blocked by Coolera's Adam Kerrigan. However, O'Callaghan was alert and he pounced on the clearance, smashing it into the back of the net meaning there was going to be no way back for Coolera.

Raymond hit two further points, which were added to by Kevin Gilmartin and O'Callaghan before they were reduced to 14 in somewhat farcical circumstances.

Kevin Gilmartin was adjudged to have committed a foul by referee O'Donnell and was handed a second yellow card, the Calry man had his head in his hands having realised he was off.

But, the referee did not initially realise he had already booked Gilmartin, and continued play. It was only when Gilmartin left the field himself, that O'Donnell was prompted to his error three minutes later, before he eventually brandished the red.

In reality, a red card had very little impact on the game, and Coolera were not going to be able to make use of the extra man heading into the last ten minutes/

Calry's stopper Chris Madden pulled off an excellent save on 50 minutes, when a free-kick from Cadden was almost sent into the net by Troy Hickey.

But Madden was on hand to stretch to keep the ball out.

Keith Raymond continued his point scoring, with a tally of 0-7 for the day. Substitute Darragh Cox got his name on the scoresheet shortly after his introduction, before Collery and Danny Keown rounded off a wonderful day for the club, winning 2-18 to 0-4.

This was Calry's third win of the day, with the club's U-16 girls winning the championship and the U-14 boys who won the Feile final.

CALRY/ST JOSEPH'S: Chris Madden, Thomas Kelly, Cormac Behan, James Kerwin, Fiachra Coyne, Liam Reidy, Niall McDermott, Keith Raymond, Michael O'Callaghan (Jamie Kenny, 58), Kevin Gilmartin, David Collery, Michael Larkin (Darragh Cox, 25), Eolan McCarthy (Eamon Kelly, 40), Michael Gilmartin (Daithi Hand, 56), Danny Keown.

COOLERA/STRANDHILL: Colm Scanlon, Thomas Moran, Niall Cadden, Adam Kerrigan, Eoin Comerford, Donal Tobin, Diarmuid Mulcahy, Conor Gillen, Kevin Banks, Fionn Morrissey (Sean Kelly, 44), Niall Murphy, Marc Comerford, Sean Callaghan (Adam Murphy, 44), Brian Tobin, Troy Hickey.

REFEREE: Ciaran O'Donnell

Cluainin take Leitrim senior hurling title

Cluainin Iomaint0-14

Carrick-on-Shannon1-6

By JOHN CONNOLLY
Leitrim Observer

CLUAININ Iomaint are top of the pile once more after they shocked favourites Carrick-on-Shannon to win the 2016 Leitrim Senior Hurling Championship title.

The Manorhamilton team defeated Carrick on a 0-14 to 1-6 scoreline with Man of the Match Gavin O'Hagan leading the way with ten points in Pairc Sean Mac Diarmada.

There were poignant scenes as Cluainin captain Niall McLoughlin paid tribute to the late Mick Galvin who had led the Manor men to their first title.

A delighted Terry McManus praised not only his Cluainin team who won the title, but opponents Carrick-on-Shannon.

Cluainin regained the Stephen Dorrigan Memorial Cup last Sunday when they upset favourites Carrick-on-Shannon 0-14 to 1-6 and went on to represent Leitrim in the Connacht hurling junior club championship.

Terry was quick to praise his players and had a word for the losing camp too - "The players are just a fantastic group of lads. I just have to mention Carrick as well, I just thought it was a fantastic game, I couldn't say anything else.

"It was just two teams throwing everything at each other. Both sides

are a credit to our clubs but I'm very happy for our men to win it."

Terry also highlighted the role of keeper Karl McDermott in Cluainin's victory after he saved a penalty - "One of the things we tried to do is build our team strong from the back. Karl McDermott would be known as a very strong forward so we made a decision to put him in goals and it paid off.

"He saved a penalty and it was the turning point in the game, it gave us a foot in the game. If the penalty had gone in, it would have been a very tense finish."



Cluainin captain Niall McLoughlin led his side to victory over Carrick in the Leitrim decider. Photo: Oliver McVeigh / SPORTSFILE



Plunkett seals late win for Aughawilian

Aughawilan1-10
Glencar/Manorhamilton0-12

By JOHN CONNOLLY
Leitrim Observer

AUGHAWILAN are the Connacht Gold Leitrim senior champions once more, but only after a dramatic injury time winner from a monster Mark Plunkett 45 saw them pip a valiant Glencar/Manorhamilton.

After one of the best finals in recent years in Pairc Sean Mac Diarmada, Plunkett's pressure kick over a minute into added time saw Aughawilan go back in front after a one-time six point lead had been wiped out by Glencar/Manorhamilton.

Led by the outstanding free-taking of Conor Dolan who scored six frees and two more from play, the north Leitrim men had recovered from a six point deficit seven minutes into the second-half to draw level with five minutes of normal time left.

But despite having the momentum behind them, Glencar/Manorhamilton crucially were unable to get in front with Dolan missing a free before Aughawilan

surged forward once more, Plunkett pointing the 45 after Rory McTague was denied a scoring chance by a brilliant block from Brian McDonald.

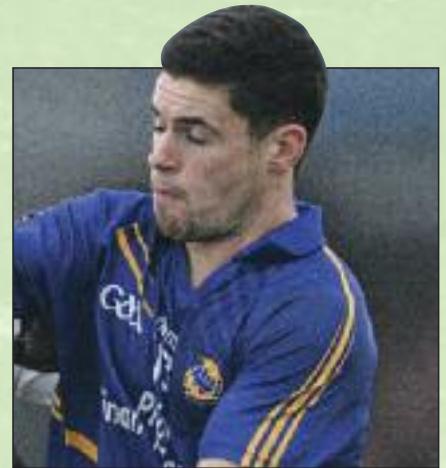
Glencar/Manorhamilton incredibly almost won the game with one late chance but James Glancy's fisted effort flew just wide of the post as Aughawilan celebrated with wild abandon when the final whistle finally sounded.

Aughawilan's victory was, however, forged in the first two minutes of an exciting Final as they hit a stunned Glencar/Manorhamilton for 1-2 and it was this blast that ensured the Fenagh Cup went back to Aughawilan.

Sean Flanagan fired over a long range point after just 20 seconds and less than a minute later, Pearse Dolan found an unmarked Sean Quinn uncommonly far forward, his pass finding Morgan Quinn for an expertly taken goal.

To compound matters, Mark Plunkett then fired over a massive long range point and despite a wide for Evan Sweeney, Aughawilan continued to dominate but had a few costly wides.

Conor Dolan did open Glencar/Manor's account with a seventh



Ciaran Gilheany was on form for Aughawilan.
Photo: David Maher / SPORTSFILE



Mark Plunkett was Aughawilian's hero with his late 45 to clinch the win over Glencar/Manorhamilton.

Photo: Seb Daly / SPORTSFILE

minute free after a foul on James Glancy but he saw a free hit the post while Pearse Dolan and Mark Plunkett missed chances for Aughawilan.

Gary Hickey also did well to palm away a high ball under pressure before Dolan put over a second Manor free but the score was negated by a lovely long range Sean Quinn point, quickly followed by a Ciaran Gilheany free on 19 minutes.

James Glancy scored a super point from the corner but Gilheany took a long range pass to fire over a lovely point before the Dolans swapped points, Conor for Manor and Pearse for Aughawilan. The half ended with another Dolan free as Aughawilan led 1-6 to 0-5 at the break.

The second half started slowly with both sides making changes while the game was held up for an injury to Gerard McGovern and his replacement, Stephen Gilheany, immediately tapped over a point after a fifty dropped short and was worked to him.

Subs Adrian Croal also scored a superb effort with his first score while Morgan Quinn pointed after good work from Gary Plunkett who then got on the score-sheet himself to stretch the lead to 1-9 to



Morgan Quinn celebrates Aughawilian's 2014 Connacht championship win over Tubbercurry with his father Tyrone and sister Maeve.

Photo: David Maher / SPORTSFILE



0-6 after just seven minutes of the second half.

Manor brought on Darren Sweeney and Paddy Maguire's strong run set up Conor Dolan for a fisted point before Sweeney showed good experience, running across the field before turning to fire over with his good foot on 11 minutes.

Another Dolan free left the gap at three points but time was Manor's enemy, the score coming on 18 minutes but Aughawilan were hitting poor wides as Glencar/Manorhamilton were now gathering speed, Conor Dolan pointing after a long ball found Ronan Flynn and the youngster kicked a great point.

Dolan left a point in it after a foul on Flynn and after two poor misses for Aughawilan, James Glancy scored a wonder point from the left corner to tie the scores.

Glencar/Manorhamilton had all the momentum but crucially, they never got in front as Conor Dolan's accuracy deserted him from long range with a free going wide.

With the game up for grabs, Aughawilan did the grabbing - Rory McTague surged forward and saw his shot blocked. From the resulting fifty, Mark Plunkett thumped a monster effort over the bar to regain the lead.

Glencar/Manorhamilton had one last chance to earn a draw but James Glancy's fisted effort from a huge Aaron Hickey ball flew inches wide as Aughawilan held on for victory.

SCORERS - Aughawilan: Morgan Quinn 1-1; Mark Plunkett & Ciaran Gilheany 0-2 each; Stephen Gilheany, Sean Flanagan, Sean Quinn, Gary Plunkett & Pearse Dolan 0-1 each.

Glencar/Manorhamilton: Conor Dolan 0-8; James Glancy 0-2; Adrian Croal & Darren Sweeney 0-1 each

AUGHAWILAN: Colin Maguire, Declan McGovern, Noel Plunkett, Michael Quinn, Rory McTague, Barry Prior, Sean Quinn, Pierce Dolan, Sean Flanagan, Mark Plunkett, Niall Beirne, Gary Plunkett, Gerard McGovern, Morgan Quinn, Ciaran Gilheany. **Subs:** Stephen Gilheany for G. McGovern (32), Sean Fox for G. Plunkett (60).

GLENCAR/MANORHAMILTON: Gary Hickey, Thomas McDonald, Pat Gilmartin, Ferghal Rooney, Shane Loughlin, Paddy Maguire, Killian McGriskin, Aaron Hickey, Thomas Coyle, Evan Sweeney, Conor Dolan, James Rooney, Brian McDonald, James Glancy, Anthony McDonald. **Subs:** Gary Hickey for McGriskin (23), Adrian Croal & Ronan Flynn for A. McDonald and E. Sweeney (32), Darren Sweeney for Coyle (37)

REFEREE: Eamon O'Grady.

Oran claim replay victory after mammoth extra-time triumph

Oran2-15
Four Roads1-12

AFTER EXTRA-TIME

By Michael O'Brien
Roscommon Herald

IT was almost a foregone conclusion that when Oran would end their wait for a sixth county title, there would be a Kelly involved.

For the previous five wins — 1989, 1990, 1992, 1998 and 2004 — Michael Kelly was manager. His sons Colm and Adrian were on all five teams.

On Saturday, it was the turn of Colm to manage Oran to a county title. Captain Mike Dwyer remarked in his speech after the game that Colm "mustn't have slept a wink for the last two weeks." Plotting and planning. True to form.

After the game, the handshakes and pats on the back for the players and management were endless. After the cup was presented, Oran's manager reflected on what was a great victory.

"The club had four finals in the month of October, and they weren't going to die. It's just fantastic," remarked Colm.

"I had a feeling Jerry (Fallon) would get the free late on because he was playing brilliantly. If anyone was going to hit it, it was going to be Jerry," he added.

The notion that Oran had blown their chance didn't enter the heads of the management after the drawn game. They simply worked hard on ensuring that the players' belief was spot on for the replay.

"We tried to work on things mentally since the draw. What we said to the players was that Four Roads win replays but they had never played Oran in a replayed county final.

"After the first final, we knew that we needed the game and it was going to bring us along. We did improve, and that game did stand to us.

"Everybody played their part. Francie (Quine) and Harry (Crowley) gave a speech in the dressing room. We told the players at half time that we'd do better than them. I'm 44, Harry is 60, but I think when Harry told them he'd put a jersey on and would do better, it put the fear of God

into them!," he smiled.

Jerry Fallon delivered a huge display for Oran, which included a wonderful late equalising free. He was overjoyed after the game.

"We fought and fought until the last minute. We got the score in the last minute of full-time and drove on from there.

"There was no one surprised I put it (the late free) over the bar, I'm doing it since I was U-16. It doesn't matter if it's on the 13 or the 100-yard line, they all have to go over. Another day it wouldn't go over and we'd be at home looking at a pint glass," said Jerry.

The ace free-taker felt his side were in a brotherly position once they got back on level terms.

"We thought that going into extra-time that we were in the better position. Four Roads were two points up with a few minutes to go but we just kept battling and battling. We sprung a few lads off the bench and they did absolutely mighty," felt the Man of the Match.

The wait for Oran has been longer than expected. Few would have guessed after their 2004 victory that they wouldn't win another until this year.

"The first year I toggled out for Oran we got to a county final and I was sure we'd be there every year but this is our first in 12 years and hopefully it won't be the last one for a while," he concluded.

SCORERS - Oran: Jerry Fallon 1-9, Thomas Fetherston 1-1, Cathal Kenny 0-2, Michael Dwyer, Enda Morris, Colm Mahon 0-1 each.

Four Roads: Johnni Coyne 1-4, David Dolan 0-4, Shane Curley 0-4.



Jerry Fallon was the scoring hero for Oran as they end a 12-year wait for glory.

Photo: Oliver McVeigh / SPORTSFILE



St Brigid's players celebrate following their victory. Photo: Seb Daly/Sportsfile

Brigid's stave off late comeback

St Brigid's2-14
Padraig Pearses2-7

By BILL KIELY
Media West Ireland

IAN Kilbride and Darragh Donnelly were the heroes for 2013 All-Ireland champions St Brigid's as they claimed another Roscommon SFC title at Kiltoom.

It was a sensational finish as Padraig Pearses fought back to the tie the game up late on but two late strikes from Kilbride and Donnelly saved the day and a 15th Fahey Cup for St Brigid's.

St Brigid's took a 0-8 to 1-2 half-time lead but that was cancelled out by the 47th minute when Hubert Darcy scored the goal to the tie the game up, only for St

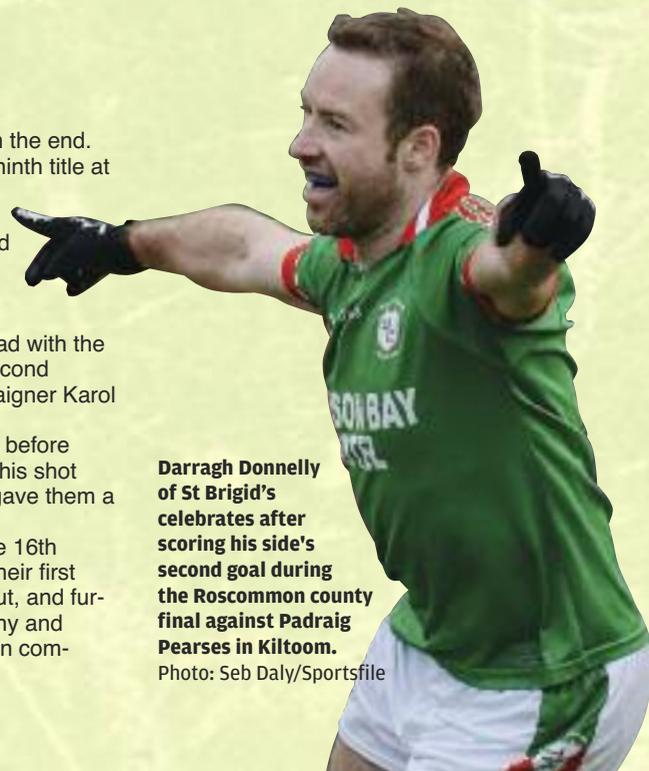
Brigid's experience to tell out in the end.

The victory was St Brigid's ninth title at the level since 2005, and they began the game well but they should have been further ahead at half-time had they not shot eight wides in the opening 30 minutes.

Darren Dolan put them ahead with the first point of the game in the second minute and experienced campaigner Karol Mannion slotted the second.

Conor Murray added a third before Brian Stack nearly goaled, but his shot went over, and Garvan Dolan gave them a comfortable five-point lead.

Pearses had to wait until the 16th minute before Sean Fahy got their first score but that was cancelled out, and further points from Darragh Sheehy and Karol Mannion had St Brigid's in command.



Darragh Donnelly of St Brigid's celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the Roscommon county final against Padraig Pearses in Kiltoom.

Photo: Seb Daly/Sportsfile



Captains Darragh Donnelly, left, and Cathal McHugh of St Brigid's lift the cup.

Photo: Seb Daly/Sportsfile

... tied the game up.

Darren Dolan, Garvan Dolan and Brian Stack gave St Brigid's a cushion, but then Darcy found the net for Pearses before St Brigid's saw it out with their two late strikes.

But then a quick-fire point and a goal from Fahy ensured that Pearses were right in touch, however Darren Dolan's point gave St Brigid's the three point interval lead.

Pearses needed a fast start to the second-half and they got it – Cathal McHugh extended St Brigid's lead. But scores from Tom Butler, Darcy (two) and Shane Dolan

ST BRIGID'S: S Mannion; D Donnelly (1-0), N McInerney, D Sheehy (0-1); R Stack, I Kilbride (1-0), E Sheehy; G Dolan (0-2), M Daly; B Stack (0-2), D Dolan (0-3), C Murray (0-1); C McHugh (0-1), S Kilbride, K Mannion (0-3, two frees, 1 pen). **Subs:** P Kelly for Daly (40), F Dolan for McHugh (58), D Cuniffe (0-1) for D Dolan (59), N Grehan for E Sheehy (59), J McDonnell for Mannion (60).

PADRIAG PEARSE: A McManus; N Carty, A Butler, D Murray; C Óg Sullivan, C Daly, M Richardson; T Butler (0-1), E Donoghue; N Daly, S Carty, S Dolan (0-1); H Darcy (1-2, 2 f), R Daly, S Fahy (1-3, two frees)

Subs: A Mannion for Donoghue (49, black card), C Payne for S Dolan (49), D Glynn for C. Óg Sullivan (58), P Kelly for Carty (59).

REFEREE: P Daly.

Lohan: We deserved to win it

By Ian Cooney
Roscommon Herald

EDDIE Lohan knows all about savouring the sweetest of victories on county final day. Back in 2000, Kilbride defied all the odds to upset St. Brigid's and capture the Fahey Cup for the first time. This year, Brigid's called on Lohan's expertise to join forces with Frankie Dolan in an effort to prove that Brigid's demise was way off the mark. As a result, the celebrations that greeted the club's ninth senior championship success since 2005 were as vociferous as a maiden triumph.

"I think that we deserved it in the end," felt Lohan. We should have been more up at half time. Pearses came at us very strongly in the second half. It wasn't looking hectic with five minutes remaining but, thankfully, our more experienced players stood up and we got there in the end.

"Pearses were filtering players back in the first half but we were taking the wrong shot selection. We just rushed things a bit. We played that bit better against the breeze.

"We didn't deal with those high balls in on top of our full-back line and, as a result,

Pearses had the run on us for 20 minutes or so. But thankfully Ian (Kilbride) and Darragh (Donnelly) came up with those two killer goals," he reflected.

While Pearses must wait for a first senior success, Brigid's understandably greeted its 15th triumph at this level with great gusto.

"This is probably the sweetest one for the club. It's huge for Brigid's. Everyone was writing them off after the Clann na nGael match last year but the scenes here at the moment is like the club has just won a Connacht or All-Ireland title.

"Pearses are a serious team and their day will come. They probably should have won it last year. It could have gone either way when the teams were level today but we just managed to pull through," he felt.

Lohan's partner in crime Frankie Dolan felt that his side should have put the match to bed in the first half but the efforts from everyone in the club ensured that Brigid's were back at the top of the pile.

"It was a great win but it should have been over at half time. We probably should have hit 1-12 or 1-13 in that first half. We have away a sloppy 1-2 that we weren't happy with. It kept them in the game.

"We missed chance after chance again in the second half. Our composure wasn't the best. Fair dues to Pearses, they kept fighting and fighting. They came back to draw the game, and even had a chance to go one up but Ronan Daly pulled it wide.

"We steadied the ship in the end. We were disappointed with our defence during the mid-section of the second half. We were very loose. In fairness to Ian (Kilbride) and Darragh Donnelly, they injected that bit of pace we were looking for to break the Pearses line.

"I'm just delighted. I suppose I'm more delighted for the like of Mike McDonnell and Tomás Beades, people behind the scenes like Pat Regan. I suppose I better mention the father-in-law. He's been trying to get balls out of the hedges since last January. I'm delighted for them – Ger Tiernan, James Murray and Anthony Jinks, all those lads in the backroom team. People don't probably realise that they're here every night when we're training.

"More, importantly, I'm delighted for the players. We were very low last year when we were deservedly beaten by Clann na nGael. The effort everyone has put in – you hear people talk about effort, what the lads have put in has been incredible," he remarked.



Mighty Mitchels reign

Castlebar Mitchels3-13

Knockmore0-10

By **JOHN FALLON**
Media West Ireland

MAYO teams are no strangers to having to bounce back from All-Ireland final defeats and Castlebar Mitchels put their St Patrick's Day disappointment behind them to claim their 30th county title under the lights at MacHale Park.

Their 13-point loss to Ballyboden St Enda's last March came two years after also losing the All-Ireland final to St Vincent's, but Castlebar regrouped and ran out easy winners against a Knockmore side looking for their first title since 1997.

Their victory, which takes them to six short of the haul achieved by Ballina Stephenites, was achieved despite ten changes to the panel since last season.

And joint manager Declan O'Reilly said it is their intention to stay on top in Mayo, having now won three of the last four and been runners-up in three other deciders in the past seven seasons.

"We were all disappointed after the All-Ireland final, but we said the only way we could come back from that was to see if we could go on, learn from the experience, and win the Moclair Cup again.

"We looked around Connacht and we saw the likes of Corofin in Galway and St Brigid's in Roscommon. They dominate the championship in their counties and we asked ourselves whether we could we start to do that in Mayo, even though the competition is fierce here. So it is a good achievement to win it again and we are absolutely delighted with that.

"We lost ten players from last season for one reason or another but the injection of new blood has been great," said O'Reilly.

Two players dominated this final. Neil Douglas, on and off Mayo squads over the years, was superb in landing 1-6, while the sheer class of Paddy Durcan was evident when the game was still in the balance in the opening half.

He was given the job of marking his county teammate Kevin McLoughlin but, continuing the form which saw him emerge as such a key figure for Mayo this year, he achieved that while still going forward to shoot 1-3.

However, he faces a race to be fit for

next Saturday's Connacht club SFC quarter-final against Sligo champions Tourlestrane.

"He has a hamstring twinge so we will have to assess that and see how he is fixed but we took him off as a precaution," added O'Reilly.

Tourlestrane manager Eamonn O'Hara was an interested spectator in the crowd of 5,375 as Castlebar Mitchels lived up to their tag as favourites, leading by 0-6 to 0-4 at the interval, having played against the wind.

Knockmore, looking for their ninth Mayo title, started encouragingly with the wind and points from Sean Rutledge, Peter Naughton and Colm Reape pushed them 0-3 to 0-1 after just nine minutes. But Durcan and Douglas punctured their hopes with five points and a speculative effort from distance from the impressive Aidan Walsh bounced over the bar before McLoughlin gave Knockmore some hope with a point before the interval.

But that was as close as they got. Durcan combined twice with Niall Lydon to shoot a superb 36th minute goal and



The Castlebar Mitchels squad who were crowned Mayo senior club football champions by beating Knockmore at Elverys MacHale Park.

Photo: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



again

Mitchels pulled away from there with the win being crowned in the closing stages when Douglas and then Barry Moran found the net, with Knockmore only managing one point from play in the second-half.

CASTLEBAR MITCHELS: R Byrne; S Irwin, G McDonagh, D Newcombe; R O'Malley, E O'Reilly, P Durcan (1-03); A Walsh (0-02), B Moran (1-00); F Durkan, C Costello, J Durcan; N Lydon, N Douglas (1-06, 0-04f), S Hopkins.

Subs: D Stenson (0-02, 0-01f) for J Durcan (44), R Burke for P Durcan (47), D Kirby for Lydon (51), J Gannon for Costello (53), C Kyne for Douglas (53), J Maughan for Newcombe (53).

KNOCKMORE: A Kilcoyne; M Park, S McHale, D Walsh; J Rice, A Keane, N Hardy; T Clarke, K McLoughlin (0-01); D McHale, C Reape, K Rutledge (0-02, 0-01f); S Rutledge (0-01), K Langan, P Naughton (0-05, 0-04f).

Subs: B Gibbons for Clarke (38), F O'Neill for S Rutledge (50), J Brogan for Park (55), A Loftus for Reape (57), C Canning for Walsh (58).

REFEREE: J Glavey (Aghamore).

Castlebar Mitchels captain Rory Byrne lifts the Moclair Cup after the club's latest win.
Photo: Piaras Ó Mícheach/Sportsfile

Mayo's Moran hasn't had time to dwell on All-Ireland because of hectic club schedule

By JOHN FALLON
Media West Ireland

MAYO midfielder Barry Moran says that he hasn't had time to dwell on their All-Ireland final defeat to Dublin because he has been so busy playing club football.

The backlog in the Mayo SFC title meant that Stephen Rochford's men were straight back into club action following the All-Ireland final replay.

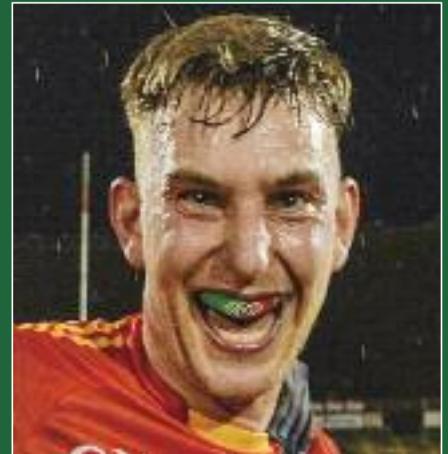
"We have had four games in four weeks straight after the All-Ireland final defeat to Dublin and it has been tough enough," said Moran after playing a key role as Castlebar Mitchels won their 30th Mayo SFC title. But every other footballer in Mayo would be delighted to be in our shoes at this stage."

The 3-13 to 0-10 win over Knockmore ensured a third county medal in four years for Moran and he crowned the victory by scoring their third goal.

The loss to Dublin in September was the second All-Ireland final disappointment for Moran this year after Castlebar Mitchels were defeated by Ballyboden St Enda's in the club decider back in March.

But they regrouped and the infusion of underage talent saw them retain their county title for the first time since 1970.

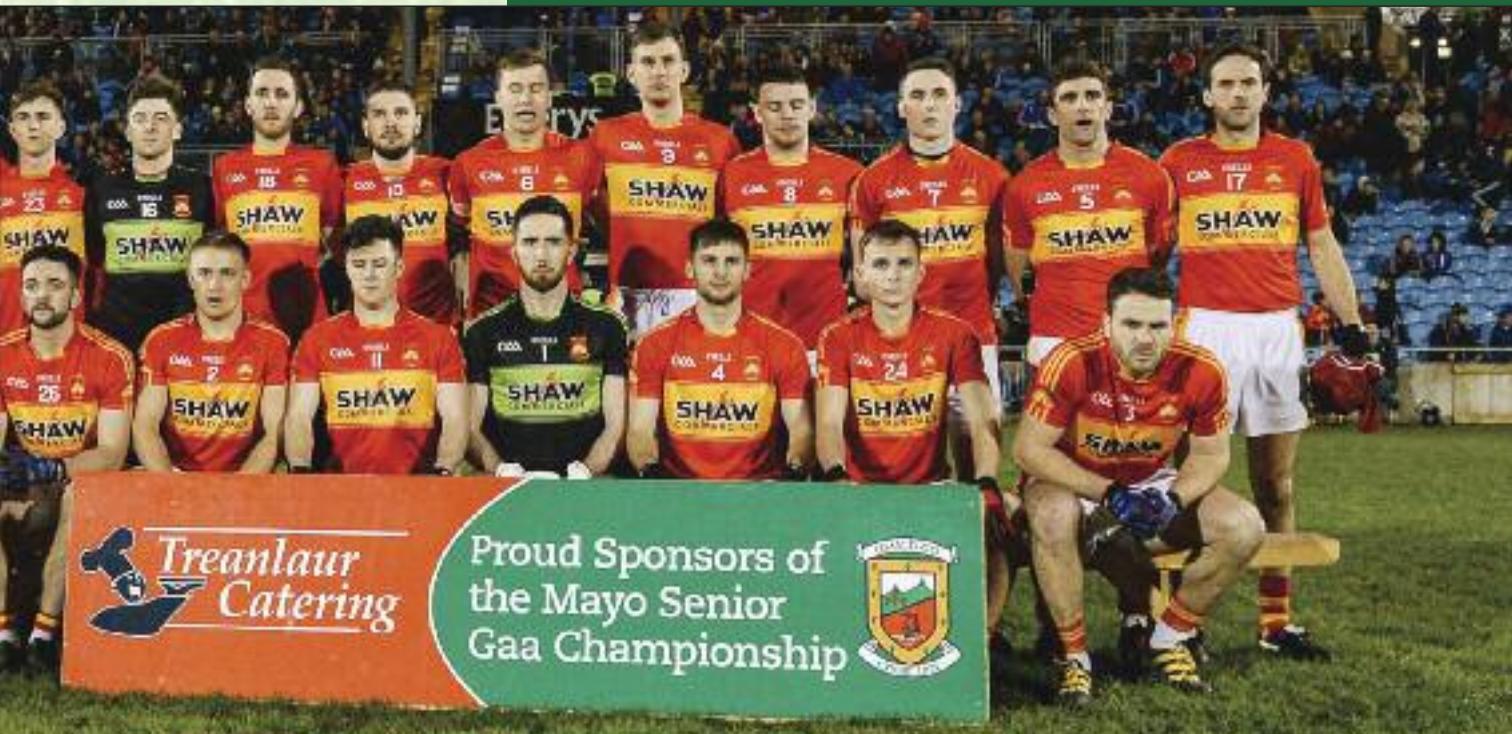
"We had a turnover after the All-Ireland defeat with the club and we lost three or four key lads but it shows the great work that's going on in the club here we have minors and U-21s.



"The minors won a county title this year as well so the future is good. They joined into the panel, the team there, and they really added something different which is important. So we are just delighted, we just went out there today and back-to-back it's the first time since the 1970s that Castlebar have done."

Moran said they would now turn their attention to the Connacht club quarter-final against Sligo champions Tourlestrane next Saturday.

"We know Eamonn O'Hara is over them and they have been going well. It's going to be a tough battle and it's in Sligo as well. We will have a good look at Tourlestrane and see what we have," added Moran.





Higgins the hero once more



The Ballyhaunis squad.

Ballyhaunis2-13
Tooreen1-13

By RONAN O'NEILL
Media West Ireland

DUAL-STAR Keith Higgins was the main man for Ballyhaunis once again as he shot an incredible 1-9 and they got the better of Tooreen in the Mayo SHC final replay at Ballyhaunis.

Higgins, who starred in the first game where it was his late

scores that forced a replay, came good late on for Ballyhaunis and shot the crucial goal that separated the sides at full-time here.

It was Ballyhaunis' third consecutive Mayo SHC title and their third final victory in a row against Tooreen.

The hosts led 1-7 to 0-8 at half-time, the first-half goal came from Ballyhaunis and Stephen Hoban after 14 minutes, when he pounced on a mistake from the Tooreen goalkeeper.

But it was all about Higgins and Kenny Feeney in the first-half, and both players scored four frees each as neither side gave an inch before the interval.

But the tide was gradually turning in Tooreen's favour after half-time and the momentum swung completely in an instance.

Tooreen missed two penalties in the space of a minute early in the second-half but when the ball was worked back into the danger area, David Harrison pounced to find the net.

That helped them into a 1-12 to 1-9 lead as they looked set to cruise to victory with



Ballyhaunis hurling captain Donall O'Brien receiving the Tyrell Cup from hurling chairman John Hopkins

Ballyhaunis finding it difficult to gain a foothold.

However just as Tooreen had put themselves in the ascendancy, Ballyhaunis used all of their experience and kept their composure to ease their way back into the game with Higgins to the fore once again.

He scored his goal in the 50th minute and he followed that up with three further points as Ballyhaunis secured their third TJ Tyrell Cup in as many years, against their greatest rivals.

BALLYHAUNIS: D O'Brien; A Brennan, A Lyons, B Hunt; K Kiely, D Keadin, F Lyons; K Higgins (1-9), E Collin; A Phillips (0-2), K McDermott (0-2), P Kiely; P Higgins, T Buckley, S Hoban (1-0). **Subs:** J Lyons, J Coyne, L Cribben.

TOOREEN: D Freyne; D Huane, S Morley, A Henry; G Nolan (0-2), S Lenehan, J Freyne; C Freeman, D Kenny (0-1); F Boland (0-2), D Harrison (1-0), S Boland; K Feeney (0-5), S Regan (0-2), S Kenny (0-1).

Subs: C Charlton, J Henry, S Hunt.

REFEREE: C Collins (Lacken).



Man of the match from the Mayo senior hurling final replay Keith Higgins receiving his award from sponsor Jim Hogan

Burke goes for candidacy

By **JOHN FALLON**
Media West Ireland

GALWAY GAA's Frank Burke has confirmed his candidacy for the position of President of the GAA

A native of Ardrahan, Burke has a distinguished record of service to the GAA at Club, County, Provincial and National levels.

A press release issued by Galway GAA reads: "Having served as Secretary of CLG Ardrahan, Frank Burke was elected as Secretary of Coiste Iomána na nÓg and Féile na nGael before taking up the position of Secretary and then Chairman of the Galway County Board. At Provincial

level, Frank was elected President of Connacht Council (2012-2015) during which time he represented Connacht on the GAA National Management Committee.

"Frank Burke's achievements at National level include Chairman of the National Referee's Committee, Chair-

man of the Central Review Committee, a Member of the National Finance Committee, Chairman of the Hurling Development Committee and he currently holds the office of Chairman of the National Coaching and Games Development Committee.

"In addition to all of these positions Frank Burke's leadership and drive was instrumental in the fundraising for, and the successful redevelopment, of Pearse Stadium."

The President of the Association will be formally elected at the GAA Annual Congress on 24th/25th February 2017 in Croke Park.

The last Galway man to hold the highest office in the association was the late Joe McDonagh who served as president from 1997 to 1999.



Pictured is Frank Burke whose name has been put forward for the President of the GAA.

Photo: Barry Cregg / SPORTSFILE.

Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force discusses Ireland's relationship with



Pictured from (L to R): T Daly, Chairperson SRDATF, M Durcan, Co-ordinator WRDATF, T Dunne, Chairperson ECRDATF, J Mullery, Chairperson NERDATF, S O'Connor, Co-ordinator NWRDATF, P McEvoy, Chairperson MRDATF, G Prendergast, Co-ordinator, MWRDATF, C Purnell, Co-ordinator SERDATF, R O'Grady, Chairperson NWRDATF, A Kinsella, Co-ordinator MRDATF, L Baggott, Co-ordinator SWRDATF, B Walsh, Co-ordinator, NDRDATF, D Hurney, Chairperson WRDATF



Pictured from (L to R): A Ogle, Co-ordinator, NERDATF, Dr S Butler, Associate Professor at School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, Dr A Winstock, Consultant Psychiatrist & Addiction Medicine Specialist, G Prendergast, Co-ordinator MWRDATF, M Corcoran Kennedy, T.D., Minister for Health Promotion, B Walsh, Co-ordinator, NDRDATF, L Baggott, Co-ordinator SWRDATF, P McEvoy, Chairperson MRDATF, S O'Connor, Co-ordinator NWRDATF, Professor J Barry, Chair of Population Health Medicine, Trinity College Dublin, A Kinsella, Co-ordinator MRDATF



Pictured from (L to R): Professor J Barry, Chair of Population Health Medicine, Trinity College Dublin, Ms S Costello, Acting HSE Alcohol Programme Lead, Dr S Butler, Associate Professor at School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, Dr A Winstock, Consultant Psychiatrist & Addiction Medicine Specialist, Mr J O'Shea, Director of Nurse Education (Mental Health), Dr S Lyons, Senior Researcher, Health Research Board, Ms S Scally, Principal, Drugs Policy Unit, Department of Health.

Conference alcohol

By **BILL KIELY**
Media West Ireland

MINISTER for Health Promotion Marcella Corcoran Kennedy said the government will do all in their power to end the culture of excess alcohol consumption in Ireland.

Service providers, community stakeholders and staff from the 10 Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Forces met today in Co Laois to discuss Ireland's relationship with alcohol on October 6.

The aim of the event was to create awareness and to build the capacity of Drug and Alcohol Task Forces to meaningfully respond to alcohol misuse in their communities.

Organised by the combined Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Forces, and funded by POBAL, the conference was officially opened by Minister Corcoran Kennedy.

She said that the government are at the advanced stages of dealing with the problem, which affects a huge amount of general public in this country.

"The Government is committed to tackling alcohol misuse in Ireland and the widespread harm and pain it causes," said Minister Corcoran Kennedy.

"The Public Health (Alcohol) Bill is a measured and evidence based response to deal with the very real harms caused by alcohol. The Bill completed Second Stage in the Seanad on 17 December 2015 and I expect that it will commence Committee Stage shortly."

The Minister acknowledged the central role that Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces play in coordinating the response to substance misuse at a local level and encouraged individuals to engage in the new National Drugs Strategy Public Consultation which ended on October 18.

The event was chaired by Professor Joe Barry, Head of Population Health at Trinity College Dublin who said alcohol misuse is massive problem and needs to be treated accordingly.

"Alcohol treatment responses have lagged very much behind responses for illicit drugs and this conference has been organised to highlight the extent of the problem and to discuss treatment options," said Professor Barry.

"A report from the Health Research Board in 2013 estimated that there were between 150,000 and 200,000 people with alcohol dependence in Ireland. Addressing this must be a priority for the new National Drugs Strategy."



Pictured from (L to R): J Ryan, S Canning, C Mooney, C Harley, A McGreal of Padraig Pearses, Roscommon who won the Connacht Skillstar Challenge.



Pictured are from (L to R): L Gormley, S Hansberry, D Loftus, M Ryan from Skehana in Galway who were runners-up at the event.

GAA Youth Forum 2016



Pictured are some of the youngsters listening to a discussion on 'Respect and Sportsmanship' led by senior inter-county football referee David Gough, during the GAA Youth Forum 2016 at Croke Park.

Photo: Cody Glenn / Sportsfile.

THERE were over 600 applicants, but just 200 lucky GAA youngster were picked to travel to Croke Park on October 29 for the annual youth forum at the GAA headquarters.

The #GAAyouth Forum was organised by the National Youth Committee in partnership with An Cumann Camógaíochta, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and the Department of Children & Youth Affairs.

The Medical, Scientific & Welfare Committee and the Games Development Committee also played a key role in ensuring

that all of the activities and information provided at the Forum reflected GAA Policy and best practice.

It was a fabulous day out for all involved, and encompassed young members of the organisation aged between 12-21 and from all four corners of the island.

The youth forum educated and informed the youngsters on the GAA and the welfare side of things, along with some inspirational speeches from a number of high profile speakers associated with the game.

David Gough, Oisín McConville, Justin Campbell, Rory O'Connor, Alan O'Mara, Julie Davis and Joey Boland were just some of the big names on show that day, and they received a great reception from the youth forum attendees.

They spoke about a range of issues from respect and sportsmanship to injury prevention and recovery.

There was also a free-taking master-class where Conor Cooney, Cora Staunton, Kate Kelly and Diarmuid Murtagh imparted their advice and wisdom.



Pictured from (L to R) are Galway hurler Conor Cooney as he talks about free-taking along with Mayo footballer Cora Staunton, Wexford camogie player Kate Kelly and Roscommon footballer Diarmuid Murtagh at the GAA Youth Forum 2016 at Croke Park in Dublin.

Photo: Cody Glenn / Sportsfile.

O Fearghail commends new sponsorship deal



Pictured from (L to R) are Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail and Jim Dollard, Director of Electric Ireland at the launch of GAA Purchase Power at Croke Park, Dublin. Photo: Sam Barnes / Sportsfile

UACHTARÁN Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail is delighted with the new initiative that sees GAA clubs nationwide set to make huge savings.

Electric Ireland have created a new GAA Purchase Power deal that enable clubs to get more value for their money.

Ireland's leading energy supplier and sponsor of the GAA All-Ireland Minor Championships, Electric Ireland will put more money in pockets and free up which will allow clubs to invest in other areas by offering competitive energy rates for the next 3 years that will provide annual savings of nine percent or more on electricity bills.

"We are delighted Electric Ireland will be a part of this GAA initiative as a nominated supplier and in doing so will help bring new and improved rates for the provision of en-

ergy to our 1,600 strong club network," said O Fearghail.

"Our relationship with Electric Ireland is a strong and long one and this is part of our new Purchase Power programme which has been established to assist our clubs in their efforts to find the most competitive rates across a number of different categories and we wish all concerned every success with its roll-out."

The Purchase Power deal will allow for competitive rates, for an extensive range of products and services for the GAA and all of its units including clubs and County Boards. It uses the buying power of the entire GAA to secure bulk discounts on common products and services from nominated suppliers.

Electric Ireland were chosen as the nominated supplier. The clubs can now

source all of their electricity needs from Electric Ireland and make savings over the next three years.

Electric Ireland services many clubs and are now offering this deal to all 1,600 clubs right across the 32 counties.

"We are very pleased to be appointed as the nominated Energy Supplier for this Purchase Power initiative," said Dollard.

"ESB and Electric Ireland have a long standing partnership with the GAA through a number of innovative sponsorships over the last 12 years including title sponsor of the GAA Minor Championships and it is great to expand the partnership through this fantastic programme.

"We want to help clubs in any way possible and we really hope that the savings made through this deal will go back into growing the game at grassroots."

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Successful Green & Red Golfing Society outing

THE reconvened Green & Red Golfing Society's tournament took place at Ballina Golf Club, on Saturday, 15th October, in ideal conditions. It was originally scheduled for the week before the All-Ireland Final replay against Dublin but because of inclement weather conditions the tournament had to be postponed.

Johnny Carey, Secretary, was the master of ceremonies on this occasion, and got proceedings underway. Johnny continued by welcoming all to the Captain's Prize, delayed a little bit, but eventually we got the weather right! He thought the Sam Maguire Cup would be present and opined that we got very close. He concluded by thanking P. J. King for his tremendous contribution and leadership as Captain of the society, and said the society had a great year on the whole. Apologies were received for Willie McGee and Johnny Farragher who couldn't be present.

P. J. King, Captain, Green & Red Golding Society, welcomed all present to Ballina Golf Club on this wonderful day and occasion despite all the postponements. He especially thanked Noel Dee, Captain, Ballina Golf Club, and his staff for being very patient with them and having the golf course in such a splendid condition. P. J. thanked Archers of Ballina and especially Liam Casey, who represented Archers, for their sponsorship. He also thanked John Finn who was instrumental in getting the sponsorship on both occasions in Claremorris and Bal-

lina. P. J. then said he would like to echo all the words of Johnny Carey and Noel Dee on behalf of the Green & Red Golding Society and said they were all disappointed in losing an All-Ireland, but we had a tremendous run and hopefully, someday, in the very near future, we would get over that line. He said he would also like to thank Johnny Carey and Jim Fleming, great workers for the society, and commented that because of them, the society will continue to go from strength-to-strength. The next outing is in Mullranny on Saturday, 19th November.

P. J. then called on the Captain of Ballina Golf Club, Noel Dee, to say a few words. Noel went on to welcome everyone and especially all the heroes of the Green & Red, past and present, and in his estimation they were all ten foot tall and heroes to the last one. He remembered the first football match he listened to, that was in 1969, All-Ireland semi-final, when Joe Corcoran played in it. For some reason that semi-final against Kerry, sticks out in his mind. He went on to say he hoped all enjoyed the course and he was delighted to welcome everyone to Ballina, and especially thanked P. J. King.

Results: Visitor, Nicky McLoughlin, 40 pts, last 9; Tommy Cronin, 40s pts; Pat Armstrong, 39 pts; Pat Guiry, 36 pts., back 9.

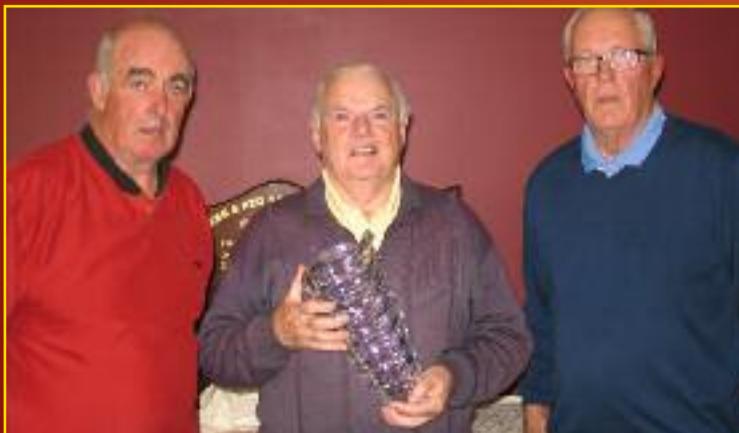
Red & Green: 1, Ger Conroy, 43 pts; 2, Gerry Connor, 36 pts; Bart Crowley, 35 pts; John Finn, 34 pts; Seán Smyth, 33 pts; Seán Connolly, 32 pts; Jim Fleming, 31 pts.



P. J. King, Captain, Green & Red Golfing Society, pictured presenting Ger Conroy, competition winner on 42 pts., with his prize, a replica of the Sam Maguire Cup, at Ballina Golf Club, on Saturday, 15th October. Also pictured on right is Johnny Carey, Secretary, Green & Red Golfing Society.



Pictured at the Green & Red Golfing Society's golf outing in Ballina Golf Club, were, left to right: Joe Clarke, Joe Corcoran, P. J. King, Captain, Green & Red Golfing Society and Pat Armstrong



P. J. King, Captain, Green & Red Golfing Society (left) pictured with Bart Crowley (centre) third place winner on 35 pts., with his prize at Ballina Golf Club, and Johnny Carey, Secretary, Green & Red Golfing Society.



P. J. King, Captain, Green & Red Golfing Society (left) pictured presenting Jim Fleming, Treasurer, Green & Red Golfing Society (centre) with his prize on 31 pts.; and Johnny Carey, Secretary, Green & Red Golfing Society (right).



Ballinasloe triumph

Top: Ballinasloe team who defeated Dunmore in Coiste Peil na nÓg U-15 Div. 2 'A' League Final Cup, back: Tom Fitzpatrick, Adam O'Connor, Oisín Duffy, Odhrán Dooley, Oisín McCormack, Stuart Madden, Conor Coleman, Fintan Donnellan, Mark Poland, Phelim O'Reilly, Shane Jennings. Front: Andy Naessans, Craig Potter, Niall Kelly, Cian Poland, Matthew Devine, Jack Mitchell, Shane Carrig, Josh Hanney, Naoise Murphy, Cian Reynolds (Capt.). Ballinasloe trainers and managers – Aidan Dooley, Des Jennings, Pat Potter, Cathal Coleman & John Mitchell

Centre: Peter Bane (Coiste Peil na nÓg) presenting the U-15 Div. 2A League Final Cup to Cian Reynolds, Captain of Ballinasloe.

Bottom: Dunmore, back: Michael Gildea, Jack Burke, Seán Glynn, Shane McGrath, Declan Forde, Jamie Bowens, Jack Neenan, Thomas Kilgarrif, Seán Murray (Capt.), Darragh Mannion, Colin Comer, Seán Ryan, Shane Davis, Brendan Carr, Sam Glynn, Shane Brady. Front: Brendan Gildea, Alex Donnellan, Aryn Kenny, Conor Mitchell, Thomas Cronin, Jake Slattery, Seán Walkin, Conor Naughton, Darragh Keely, J.J. Glynn, Timmy Forde, Dylan Brady. Trainers and managers: Aidan Dooley, Des Jennings, Pat Potter, Cathal Coleman & John Mitchell



Photographs By Joan Madden



Easkey/Enniscrone/Kilglass Minor 'A' Champions.



Mikey Gordon receiving Cup from Gerry O'Connor.



Fergal Kelly receiving Cup from Joe Taafe.



St Johns - Sligo Junior 'B' champions 2016.



'Winning the County championship with your club is special'



Tourlestrane – Sligo Senior County Champions 2016.

By **EMMA GALLAGHER**
Sligo Champion

TOURLESTRANE'S co-manager Eamonn O'Hara said their Belfry Senior Football Championship victory over St Mary's was 'special'.

Tourlestrane were favourites for the title from the very start of the Championship, and O'Hara and his co-manager Gerry McGowan have demanded the best from their players throughout the competition.

Impressive victories over Coolaney Mullinabreena in the quarter-final, and Eastern Harps in the semi-final would have prepared the South Sligo side well for a plucky Mary's side.

But ultimately, Tourlestrane had too much for their opponents on the day.

O'Hara, who was visibly emotional during periods of the game, said it can be difficult to adjust to being on the other side.

"It's so hard to describe. When you're managing your club it's different.

"I was managing Ballaghaderreen last year but there's a different feeling when you're managing your own club. We won county finals with Tourlestrane down the years and it's a different perspective and you can take control of what's happening when you're on the field.

"When you're the manager you feel so far away from it and you're kicking every ball. All year myself and Gerry were trying to train ourselves into being a little more calm but the county final takes a life of its own and you get caught up in small things but at the same time

to be winning and in control of the game it's a very good feeling.

"Winning one for your club is just special," he added.

Capping off a good year for the club, the Senior Championship title is the pinnacle for clubs in the county.

And O'Hara knows that it is hugely important to the club.

"For the club to be successful, that's what we all strive for. The club this year has been going very well. We've won a lot of underage stuff. It's just rewards for all the hard work."

Tourlestrane did trail at one point following a Kyle Cawley goal in the early stages of the game, but that wasn't a surprise to O'Hara and McGowan's side, who patiently fought to take control of the scoring once again.

"Credit to Mary's, we knew they had it in them. We said if we could keep them to 2-05 that was our plan, and we felt we could score more than that.

"We made it hard for them and they probably didn't take advantage of the wind in the first-half. It was a great goal from Kyle Cawley, we wouldn't expect anything less. Our lads weren't rattled by it. It was the way the lads responded, I was very pleased. We went in at half-time and we knew there was a few things we needed to tweak and we put the two men in the edge of the square," he said.

Substitute Johnny Kelly has had to make do with a spot on the bench since his return from America, but what a wonderful sub to bring on.

O'Hara accepts that he is fortunate enough to have a strong bench.

"Johnny's chomping at the bit, he wants to be playing. Since he's come home from America he's been really good. John Quinn has been

so unfortunate.

"He's been an impact sub for us and he's scored 1-04, 1-03 respectively in games.

"I don't want to give him that label. We're lucky we have that type of player to come on," he said.

Two red cards in the final mean that changes will be required for Sunday's league final against St Molaise Gaels.

"We have two red cards we have to deal with so that's going to open up spots for two other fellas," said O'Hara.

Many have argued that Mary's would not have the same hunger to win it this year considering the fact they were champions last year.

And O'Hara says that hunger, or a lack of, can certainly have an impact on a game.

"We won it eight times as a player and I can put it down to when you're going for that 50/50 ball it (the hunger) just wasn't there the following year. Just missing. All the things you're trying to do, that bit of hunger is just so hard to get back. Mary's played very well. The 50/50 balls we were excellent."

Tourlestrane will give Connacht a good go of it, although they will have to make do without two of their better players following Sunday's red cards.

Noel Gaughan and Pat Harte were both sent off during the game, and O'Hara knows those two are not replaceable.

"Noel Gaughan is a top class footballer, Pat Harte is a top class footballer. You don't have replacements. They would get on to any team in Mayo or Sligo. Not to have them is a huge loss. We've got players who can come on though, they may have less experience but we have to deal with that."



GAA PRESIDENT VISITS SLIGO SCHOOLS





The Gaeil Scoil pupils with GAA President Aogan O Fearghail and teachers



Schools and Scarden: a President's visit

UACHTARÁN Cumann Luthchleas Gael, Aogain Ó Fearghail, was in Sligo recently to help Scoil Ursula celebrate their 50th anniversary and St. Mary's GAA Club their 40th. He also made time to visit Summerhill College where he paid tribute to the Connacht final winning team. The invitation to the President was extended by his neighbour Tony Gallagher, Principal of Scoil Ursula, and the schedule also included calls to Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré and the Centre of Excellence at Scarden . . . photography Eamon McMunn.

Starting his tour in Kent Park the President met the principal of St. John's National school, Bernard Mulhern and his school team. Young hurlers

and footballers were going through their paces and were delighted to meet the distinguished visitor who took time to speak with everyone present.

The Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré pupils were attired in a variety of County jerseys with a Cavan top in particular taking an tUachtarán's attention. In Scoil Ursula, Kyle Cawley, a past pupil, was also a guest at their celebrations and there was no doubt that he was the 'main man' for the present crop of pupils. Again a variety of tops were on display but it was Eli Rooney's new 'hair do' that stole the show.

In the Centre of excellence An tUas Ó Fearghail made a presentation to Tom Rodgers, who recently retired from his



A special presentation was made to President of the G.A.A., Aogain Ó Fearghail, by Marian Moore, Scoil Ursula, on the occasion of his visit to the school.

position as Rúnai Cumann na Meanscoil. The guests were joined for a meal in Teach Scardán by members of the Executive, GAA Coaching Staff and Ciarán Hayes; CEO Sligo County Council as well as Cathaoirleach Hubert Keaney and Cllr. Paul Taylor. Tom explained that there had been big changes since he started out as secretary; the biggest being the fact that, today, all Post Primary schools participate in the same competition. Rules and regulations have also tightened up considerably as some teams in the past had one or two players who had a

vague sense of their surroundings even in buildings where they were supposed to be 'studying' every day. While rules regarding age grades did exist there was a certain amount of flexibility regarding their Implementation.

Addressing a group of Summerhill students, which included some of the Connacht final winning team, the GAA President pointed out that the more successful GAA Counties had strong ties with their local colleges. He noted that two Sligo teams, St. Attracta's and Summerhill, had competed in the Connacht final of the Post Primary competition with Summerhill coming agonisingly close to an All-Ireland final. An tUas Ó Fearghail thanked Principal Paul Keogh for facilitating his visit to the college. He paid tribute to one of the teachers 'Mr Breheny' who is one of the longest serving GAA inter-County players on the scene at the moment. He wished the boys well for the future and was full of admiration for their modern school building.

In the St. Mary's club house Cathal O'Donnell outlined the club's history in which the names of Kent and Eames loomed large. An tUachtarán emphasised the value to the community of a well-run GAA Club. He stressed that the more successful clubs had as many people as possible in-



From left to right: Liam Óg Gormley, Joe Taaffe, President of the G.A.A., Aogain Ó Fearghail; Paul Kehoe, and Gearoid Ó Conchubhair, Rúnai, Shligigh.



FOCUS ON SLIGO

Back to school

involved in them as they provided an outlet for all codes in the association including scor and ladies football. Mothers to a great extent influence where children receive their recreation from age nine onwards and the Club that is well-run and caters for children in a safe environment is what these parents are looking for.

While An tUachtarán addressed a variety of audiences in what was a very busy schedule there was a constant emphasis in his addresses, to young and old, of the large percentage of the population that are engaged in GAA activities.

Uachtarán Ó Fearghail was accompanied throughout the day by Seosamh Ó Taift, Cathaoirleach Coiste Chontae Shligigh agus Gearoid Ó Conchubhair Rúnai.



Left to right: Michael Hall, Principal, Sligo Grammar School; Paraic Duffy, Jimmy Staunton, Vice-Principal, Sligo Grammar School and Rev. Noel Regan, Chairman of the Board of Management of Sligo Grammar School.

THE former principal of St. Macartan's College, Monaghan, was the guest of honour recently at the Sligo Grammar School prize-giving celebrations. Páraic Duffy is, of course, better-known today as the Director General of the GAA. Telling his young audience that their po-

tential was limitless he advised them never to stop striving to be better at whatever it is they are passionate about. Ard Stiúrthóir Ó Dufaigh also spoke of the importance of fostering "spirit" in all groups including teams and indeed schools.



President of the GAA, Aogain Ó Fearghail, pictured with Naomh Eoin hurlers and coaches on the occasion of his visit to Sligo.



President of the GAA, Aogain Ó Fearghail, pictured with young ladies from Scoil Ursula (above) and bottom Our Lady of Mercy Primary School.





GAA PRESIDENT VISITS SLIGO SCHOOLS



Pictured is everyone involved at the Sligo GAA Centre of Excellence.



Pictured are the St Mary's Feile winning team with GAA President Aogan O Fearghail.



Pictured is GAA President Aogan O Fearghail addressing Summerhill College students.



Barry Convey and Keelan Watters speaking with GAA President Aogan O Fearghail at Summerhill College.



Seamus Cronin, Chairman of St Mary's makes the presentation to GAA President Aogan O Fearghail.



Pictured is GAA President Aogan O Fearghail with Sligo's Mark Breheny.



Some of the action from Super Games Centre at Summerhill College.



Back where they belong



St Molaise Gaels – Sligo Intermediate champions 2016.

**St Molaise Gaels ..0-24
Geevagh1-04**

By JESSICA FARRY
Sligo Champion

ST MOLAISE GAELS will be playing senior football in 2017 thanks to their 0-24 to 1-04 victory over Geevagh in the Kennedy's Intermediate Championship final at Markievicz Park.

Just 49 weeks and one day after they were relegated to Intermediate football, Jimmy Langan's side saw the fruits of their hard work since that dark day in 2015, cruising to victory over their opponents.

Leading by a mere two points at half-time, the North Sligo side went on the rampage after the interval, only allowing Peter Bolger's side to record one score in the second-half, while they hit over 16

points in the same period.

Molaise took control of proceedings early on, and despite Kenneth Sweeney hitting the back of the net from a penalty, they never looked like they were going to back off.

Few would disagree with the opinion that Molaise were too good to suffer relegation to Intermediate football last year, but they have not once felt sorry for themselves, and their swift return to senior football was well deserved.

Early points from Gerard Brady and Peter Wilson took Molaise into the lead, with Pat Cawley mustering up one point in response for Geevagh.

Molaise then hit three unanswered points courtesy of man of the match Brady, Alan McLoughlin and Conor Waters.

Geevagh were struggling to keep hold of the ball in the middle of the field, and perhaps nerves played a part as they hit three wides in three minutes with Pat

Hughes, Cawley and Kevin Henry all missing the target.

Molaise's Keelan Waters looked through on goal after 19 minutes as he muscled his way down the field, but a wonderful block from Geevagh's Arthur Wall, staying true to his name, prevented him from extending the lead.

Geevagh soon pulled themselves back level with Molaise, although it was to be short lived.

Kenneth Sweeney's point from play brought them within three points of their opponents, and referee Barry Judge handed them a golden opportunity to level matters on 24 minutes.

Sweeney was taken down in the area as he approached John Gilsenan's goal, and he knocked the penalty past the Molaise stopper to make it 1-02 to 0-05 points.

It would take more than that to put Molaise off their game, however, and Alan McLoughlin put his side in the lead once



Mark Quinn receiving Cup from Joe Taaffe



again as he hit over on 26 minutes.

Sweeney again levelled the score-line, but Darren Gilsenan and Cathal Herron hit over to give Molaise a point lead at the break, although the latter will be disappointed his shot smacked the crossbar and went over, instead of just slipping in underneath.

Molaise went on the attack from the off, and capitalised on every single error of Geevagh's from the very start.

Darren Kearns' kick-out fell straight into the hands of Molaise's Darren Gilsenan, and following a lovely spell of build up play from the North Sligo outfit, Conor Watters hit over, before Keelan Waters, Cathal Burns, Alan McLoughlin and Niall McLoughlin gave Molaise a seven point lead with 25 minutes left on the clock.

Molaise were not done yet, and they added four further scores with two from Alan McLoughlin and one each from Brady and Niall McLoughlin.

Geevagh's only successful attack of the second half came on 48 minutes when Jodie O'Reilly hit over, but that was the only opportunity the Molaise defence gave their opponents.

Captain Mark Quinn and James Brennan extended the lead to 0-19 to 1-04, before Alan McLaughlin's score from a free marked their 20th point of the day.

Sweeney endured a busy minutes as the full-time whistle approached.

Receiving a booking on 52 minutes, he then hit a wide on 54 before being handed a second yellow card on 56 minutes with Molaise's Jason Brennan also getting in the referee's book following a coming together.

Molaise did miss a glorious opportunity to score a goal, as two stunning saves from Darren Kearns in the Geevagh goal prevented both Brady and Niall McLoughlin hitting the back of the net.

McLoughlin hit over his side's 23rd point of the day, with Daragh Fallon getting on the scoresheet for the day with Molaise's 24th point on 64 minutes.

A tough day for Geevagh against a very strong intermediate side, but Molaise will feel that promotion was just rewards for a year full of hard work.

GEEVAGH: Darren Kearns, Shane Hargadon, George Wall, Barry Sweeney, David O'Reilly, Enda McManus (Shane Tighe, 31), Arthur Wall, Pat Hughes, Kevin Henry, Thomas O'Reilly, Pat Cawley, Dominic Kearns, Jimmy O'Reilly, Kenneth Sweeney, Jodie O'Reilly.

ST MOLAISE GAELS: John Gilsenan (Diarmuid Feeney, 60), Jason Brennan (Daniel Keane, 60), Gavin Gilsenan, Liam Kennedy, Conor Watters (James Brennan, 47), Mark Quinn, Daragh Fallon, Cathal Burns, Peter Wilson, Keelan Waters (Colm Clancy, 61), Gerard Brady, Alan McLoughlin, Niall McLoughlin, Darren Gilsenan, Cathal Herron.

REFEREE: Barry Judge.

Sligo trio help Ireland masters to victory over Australia

THE Irish Masters International Rules side enjoyed a 2-0 series win over the touring Australian Wombats side with three Sligo stars at the heart of it. It was the first time the sides had met since Australia won the series in Australia in 2009.

Tourlestrane's Eamonn O'Hara (vice-captain) and David Durkin, and Coolera-Strandhill's Con O'Meara all played big parts in the Irish win. O'Hara, Ireland's vice-captain, operated in the full-forward line and was a perfect target man.

His 1-02 (12 points in international rules) early in the first test in Kilkerrin/Clonberne set the tone for the series and he was voted Player of the Series. Durkin, playing in the half-forward line was a constant menace with his incisive running and he landed 13 points in the second test. O'Meara's winning of marks in mid-field saw him win Man-of-the-Match in the second test in Cavan.

The side, containing many inter-county stars of the past like Declan Meehan (Galway), Roy Malone and John Kenny (Offaly), and Cavan's Jason Reilly, were captained by Tyrone's Damian Gormley. The management team of Jimmy Galligan (Cavan), Joe Leonard and Eugene Bradley (Tyrone), and Galway's John Davin, had their side well-prepared for the Australian challenge.

Ireland won back the Paddy Gaffney Cup, a trophy named after the Denn clubman, Cavan, who represented Ireland Masters in International Rules. A tour to Australia is now in the pipeline.

Eamonn, who along with Declan Meehan and John Kenny, became one of three who has represented Ireland in International Rules at Senior and

Masters level, said afterwards "Obviously it's an honour to represent your country at any stage. We're delighted with the win and it's great to have a strong Sligo presence in an Irish side. The Australians brought great physicality, especially to the second test. While their problems with the round ball made it difficult for them, they competed fiercely throughout.

It's huge to have an outlet for guys who still love to compete. The Masters provides that and to have an international dimension to that is fantastic too.'

Sligo competed in the Masters All-Ireland series this year for the first time in over a decade. They will have learnt a lot from the experience and with players of the calibre of Michael Moyles and Gerry McGowan qualifying to

play
look
cor



David Durkin starred in the recent Irish Masters International Rules side as they beat the Australian Wombats.

Photo: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE.



Pictured is Sligo's Eamonn O'Hara who was one of the stars for Ireland when they clashed with Australia in the 2001 International Rules Series.

Photo: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE.



St Michael's ease to victory to claim junior title



St Michael's – Sligo Junior 'A' champions 2016.

St Michael's4-12
Tourlestrane2-5

By JESSICA FARRY
Sligo Champion

ST MICHAEL'S are Sligo Junior A Championship winners following a comprehensive 4-12 to 2-5 victory over Tourlestrane at Markievicz Park.

St Michael's were 1-4 to 0-0 ahead after 14 minutes, but Tourlestrane managed to fight back, with the scoreline at 2-9 to 2-3 in favour of the East Sligo side at the half-time mark.

Eamonn O'Hara, co manager of the Tourlestrane senior side, hit 2-1 for his side in the first-half, but the South Sligo side were struggling to keep up with their opponents, although Jack Haran's side hit five wides in the early stages, which could well have seen them storm into a further lead at that stage.

Dwayne Kelly's 1-1, Peter Murray's three points and Alan Taaffe's goal allowed St Michael's to ease off slightly, with Gavin Walsh, Brian Taaffe, Gavin McGowan and



Brian Taaffe and Paul McTiernan receiving Cup from Joe Taaffe.



Ross McLoughlin all getting on the scoresheet in the first half.

Michael's, who would have been favourites heading into this game, extended their lead further five minutes into the second half, with Dwayne Kelly once again hitting the back of the net.

Alan Taaffe scored a fourth goal of the afternoon for Michael's on 40 minutes to give Haran's side a 4-9 to 2-3 lead with twenty minutes left on the clock, a rather steep hill for the South Sligo side, whose senior side had earlier claimed the Furey's Coaches Senior Division 1 title.

Tourlestrane did plug away, with Barry Kirrane hitting over on 44, before Alan Taaffe hit over Fintan Kennedy's posts to restore their twelve point lead.

Eamonn O'Hara, who was one of Tourlestrane's brighter sparks on the day, played in Enda Kelly who was handed a wonderful opportunity to hit the back of the net, but he could only hit his low effort straight at Enda McLoughlin in the Michael's goals.

O'Hara pointed on 53, but Michael's had an answer with Peter Murray responding with a point of his own.

Substitute James Mackey rounded off a good day for Michael's with his 58th minute point. Enda Kelly again looked through on goal deep into injury time, but Brian Taaffe got his body in the way to prevent a third goal for the South Sligo side.

ST MICHAEL'S: Enda McLoughlin, Gavin Walsh (Jason Boles, 43), Colm McTiernan, Paul Flanagan, Jack Haran, Gavin McGowan, Paddy Kelly (James Mackey, 53), Paul McTiernan, Brian Taaffe, Ross McLoughlin (Mark Kelly, 58), Dwayne Kelly (Niall Clancy, 53), Stephen Clerkin (Kyle Carty, 31), Oisín Gilmartin, Peter Murray, Alan Taaffe.

TOURLESTRANE: Fintan Kennedy, Shane Neary, Colm McVeigh, Niall Durkin, John Paul Lang, Barry Kirrane, Richie Lang, James Curley (Ruairi Brennan, 48), Kenny Gavigan, Darren O'Hara, Gerry McGowan, Ciaran Walsh, Enda Kelly, Eamonn O'Hara, David Durkin.

St Joseph's School trip to Croke Park

THE St Joseph's School boys and girls from Ballytvinnan, Sligo headed to Croke Park on Monday, October 26, at 7am, to play in the inaugural Martin Donnelly 'GAA Football for All-In-terprovincial tournament, led and directed by School Principal Carmel Wynne.

The St Joseph's players represented Connacht and wore the Connacht jerseys with distinction and pride. This was a historic occasion as the GAA opened its magnificent stadium to the children from special schools from across Ireland to play in the hallowed and revered grounds where dreams are realised for many inter-county players.

The pupils arrived in Croke Park at 10.30am and were greeted by Croke Park volunteers who directed them to their dressing rooms to prepare for their games. The boys were in dressing room No 3 and the girls were in dressing room No 4 and were briefed on the game schedule by National Chairperson of Irish Special Schools Sports Council (ISSSC), Richie Doran.

The boys and girls team took the field and played their first game at 11.30am against Munster and narrowly lost, but it was not about winning, it was about participation, enjoying the moment, meeting new friends and above all representing their families, school, county and province.

The second game was against Leinster and the girls won their game and the boys drew their game as they played with more composure and team work after the excitement of the first game.

After the game all the players were addressed by GAA President Aogán Ó Fearghail who compli-

mented the players on their tremendous achievements in representing their schools and provinces by playing Gaelic football in Croke Park.

He thanked the teachers and club coaches who made this historic occasion happen and it will only improve in the future. All players said they would be watching the All-Ireland football replay between Mayo and Dublin as they are now familiar with the pitch. There were many photographs taken as everyone marvelled at this magnificent stadium.

This was the culmination of a coaching programme delivered by members of Calry St Joseph's GAA Club to have players prepared in the skills of Gaelic Games.

Sincere thanks to the pupils and their parents for their wholehearted cooperation and enthusiasm in the preparation for this momentous occasion. Also thanks to School Principal Carmel Wynne who coordinated this trip and the teachers who travelled to Croke Park and managed the girls' team.

Thanks to Gerry Tuohy the Calry St Joseph's GAA Clubs 'Inclusion / Games for All' Officer and coaches Brian Maguire and Tim Hynes who managed the boys' team in Croke Park.

Finally, thanks to Denis O Boyle from Ballyhaunis the Connacht 'Inclusion / Games for All' chairman who assisted the team in every way to make the occasion more enjoyable.

Lastly, thanks to Feehily Bus hire and driver who took them to Croke Park and back to Sligo safely. This is a great initiative in reaching out to people with a disability and including them in GAA games at school, club and in Croke Park.

Flying the Sligo flag in Belgium

By **EMMA GALLAGHER**
Sligo Champion

SLIGO hurling is well and truly alive in Belgium, as three Sligo natives helped Belgium GAA to the European Hurling Championship title.

Brothers Darragh and Pádraic Burke (Coolera/Strandhill) and Tomás Baynes (Naomh Eoin) were all part of the Belgium side who claimed the Championship recently.

Hurling manager and Cork native Dave Barrett said: "It's been a ground-breaking year for hurling in Europe. A lot of that credit goes to the county board who made some brave decisions in the winter to grow the game.

"Having so many teams in Dresden at the weekend endorses those moves. For Belgium, it's been a breakthrough year, fielding two teams at every tournament for

the first time.

"Winning the championship after such a close final against Luxembourg was the perfect ending for us."

The championship was run over five tournaments in Luxembourg, Darmstadt, Brussels, the Hague, and lastly Dresden on Saturday.

Belgium GAA won four of the five tournaments including the last and the European Championship as a result.

Established in 2003, Belgium GAA has teams in all four codes, hurling, camogie, gaelic football and ladies football and is growing rapidly with players hailing from Dublin, Limerick, Kilkenny, Antrim, Sligo, Tipperary, Cork, Carlow, Westmeath, Clare, Waterford, Wicklow, Wexford, Galway, France, Serbia, Estonia, Spain, Colombia, Belgium and many more among its ranks.

Belgium's camogie team was also crowned European champions last weekend.



AHASCRAUGH CALTRA U-14 GIRLS. Back row, from left: A O'Brien, S Keane, N Mocklair, A Glynn, E Keane, S McDonnell, L Buchan, M Madden, C Murray, L Kirwan, M Higgins. Front row, from left: E Bartle, E McGrath, E Glynn, J Higgins, E Finnerty, K Fitzgerald, E Mockler, R Kelly.



CALTRA U-12 LADIES FOOTBALL COUNTY CHAMPIONS who won the club's first-ever title at age grade. They beat Ballygar 1-5 to 1-4 in the final. The team were: S Glynn, A Kelly, K Delaney, E Fleming, M A Jordan, J Higgins, K Adamajtyts, M Mulryan, K Kilgannon, L Kelly, H Lawlor, K Mockler, A Higgins, A Glynn, A Donoghue, M Murray, E Glynn, O Keane, L Noone, S Lawlor, R Murray, M Kilgannon with their mentors S O'Reilly-Mulryan and manager Niall Kelly.



Athenry U-13 girls win Féile Rounders title



Pictured back row, from left: C Kelly, S Healey, K Moran, E Coffey, S Rabbitte, C Mullen. Front row, from left: M Fitzgerald, A Treacy, C Quirke, K Collins, C Joyce, K MacCullagh.

THERE were 13 teams from all over Ireland in the U-13 Girls Feile on June 26, the competition was hosted by the Heath GAA Club, in County Laois.

Athenry were drawn in Group A along with Easkey of Sligo and Limekiln, Dublin. Athenry claimed a clean sweep of wins in the group stages to progress into the next phase of group matches

Athenry were again drawn in Group A along with Limekiln and Carlow's Cúchulainn. Again Athenry claimed a clean sweep of wins in the group and qualified as winners of Group A to play the runners-up in Group B, Bagenalstown from Carlow.

In the semi-final Athenry ran out clear winners with an innings to spare over

Bagenalstown to qualify for their first U-13 Feile final against The Heath.

The Feile final was fixed for Saturday September 3 in Kilbeggan Shamrocks GAA Grounds in Westmeath. Athenry were informed the day before the final that The Heath had withdrawn from the competition, and Athenry were declared 2016 Feile Champions.

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JOHN FALLON
Managing Editor



MONIVEA-ABBEY INTERMEDIATE COUNTY CHAMPIONS. Back row, from left: D Mullins, D Finnerty, P Flaherty, T Mullins, D Reilly, D Farragher, B McDonagh, M Cosgrove, S King, J Flaherty, P Cooley, S Joyce, K Divilly, E Blade, C Kennedy. Front row: D Moran, J Mannion, C Mulry, C Maher, B O'Donnell, C Treacy, B Flaherty, B McDonagh, S Walsh, F Garvey, L Kenny, E Lally, L Laheen, E Roche, C Coleman, L Coleman. Inset: P Mullins and C McDaid.



Pictured is Seamus O'Grady, Galway Football Secretary, as he presents the intermediate cup to Monivea-Abbeey captain, Brian Flaherty.



Craigh Kennedy of Monivea-Abbeey presented with the man of the match award from Tadhg Ó Conghaile, Galway Football Chairman.



KILKERRIN-CLONBERNE INTERMEDIATE FINALISTS. Back row, from left: D Murphy, B Walsh, B Walsh, C Fahy, S Walsh, T Brennan, F McEntee, O McGann, T McDermott, C Rabbitte, D Dunleavy, M Shaughnessy, E Daly, S Brennan. Front row: F Heverin, D Ryan, B Miskell, J Miskell, T Rabbitte, K West, J Ryan, S Collins, C Moran, M Costello, A Ward, C Heverin, C Glynn, J King.



ORANMORE-MAREE WEST JUNIOR CHAMPIONS. Back row, from left: E Stenson, D Conway, C Allen, S Geoghan, P Fitzgerald (Children Edward and Patrick), S Finn, A O'Connell, P Munnely, S Stenson, C Noone, D Greaney, P Pende, K Hanley, T Hamilton, C Greaney, E Whelan, E Neary, D Carney, J Kelleher, C Crowley, N Sheehan, N Qualter, D Quinn, B Rudden. Front row: P Stenson, B Tarpey, J Fearon, N Geoghan, S McInerney, A Barrett, E Walsh, S Flanagan, J Costello, S Dunne, D Devlin, M Black, R Heffernan, C Tarpey, C Reddington, M Farrell.



Mairtain Ó Curraoin West GPC Chairman presents the Sean Lawless Memorial Cup to Oranmore captain Enda Walsh.



Liam Challoner presents the man of the match award to Gerard Donnellan St Gabriel's.



Pictured is Andrea O'Neill as she presents the Michael O'Neill Memorial Cup to St Gabriel's captain Eoin Quinn.



ST GABRIELS NORTH GPC JUNIOR CHAMPIONS. Back row, from left: R Malone, K McDonagh, S Larkin, E Leonard, L O'Connor, B Quinn, R Garvey, D Finn, E Quinn, R Barrett, J Egan, M Loughnane, B Shea, M Costello, D Kenny, C Donnellan, D Malone. Front row: E Ward, E Malone, I Goode, L Brogan, B Coughlan, J Kenny, M O'Rourke, G Conneely, R Kelly, E Quinn, N Coughlan, G Donnellan, P Egan, G Lohan, S Creaven.



CLAREGALWAY NORTH MINOR A CHAMPIONS. Back row, from left: J Keating (Coach), E McKenna, A Moran, D Buckley, L Roche, S Moylan, M Cullina, T Coyle, B Connolly, C Campbell, E Gallagher, D Connell, D Loftus, M Kilgannon, S Moylan (Manager). Front row: S Kilmartin, S Lyons, P Commins, B Callanan, B Goldrick, M Fahy, O Connolly, J Hansberry, M King, A Molly, I Keating, J Reilly, J Glynn.

Pictured is Padraic Kelly North GPC Secretary who presents the Minor A Jackie Coyle Memorial Cup to Thomas Coyle and Barry Goldrick of Claregalway.



Pictured is Barry Goldrick of Claregalway who is presented with the Man of the Match award by Austin Boyle, GPC Vice-Chairman.



CAHERLISTRANE NORTH MINOR A FINALISTS. Back row, from left: J Reynolds, D McNicholas, C Darcy, B Walsh, G O'Neill, L Donnellan, D O'Shaughnessy, A Fahy, P McCabe, L Judge, K Nally. Front row: D Quinn, J Monaghan, B O'Neill, M Kavanagh, J Glynn, P Monaghan, L Judge, C Hanley, C O'Shaughnessy, J Walsh.



(Above) **WEST MINOR A CHAMPIONS SALTHILL-KNOCKNACARRA.** Back row, from left: J Tinney, S Kelly, A Halloran, E Deely, R Finnerty, E McFadden, E Hernan, D Connaughton, J Maher, F Lally, D Patton, C Heapes, D Knight, E Bennett, C Hartnett, E Heapes, A Finnerty, JJ Burke. Front row: R Walzer, J Cullinane-Quinn, D Ward, K Cahalan, T Morris, E Kelly, R Gaffney, K Gleeson, C Crowe, R Heaney, J Dwyer.



(Right) Pictured is John Connolly as he presents the Minor A Cup to Salthill-Knocknacarra captain, John Maher.

BORD GÁIS ENERGY ALL-IRELAND GAA HURLING U-21 TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

By **DARAGH SMALL** Media West Ireland

TEN-TIME All-Ireland U-21 hurling champions, Galway, made it to another decider in 2016 but were comprehensively beaten Waterford in Semple Stadium, Thurles.

However it was another impressive campaign at the age-grade for Galway as they continue to produce some of the highest quality youngsters in the game.

Galway won titles in 2005, 2007 and 2011 and coupled with their recent successes at minor level the future looks bright for hurling in the county.

But Waterford were unstoppable this term, with a 5-15 to 0-14 victory over Galway in the final, by a team backboned by many of Waterford's senior stars.

They had eight players picked in the 2016 Bord Gáis Energy Team of the Year, while Dublin had two, with Eoghan O'Donnell and Shane Barrett selected.

Limerick, Tipperary and Westmeath all had one each while Galway had two selected.

Dan Nevin from Cappataggle and Brian Molloy of Kilnadeema/Leitrim both made the final 15 after stellar campaigns.



Brian Molloy, with his parents Kevin and Ann Molloy after he is presented with the Bord Gáis Energy All Ireland GAA Hurling U-21 Team of the Year Award by Ger Cunningham at the Mansion House.

Photo: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE.

Pictured is Dan Nevin with Tony and Carmel Nevin after he gets his Bord Gáis Energy All-Ireland GAA Hurling U-21 Team of the Year Award from Ger Cunningham in the Mansion House, Dublin.

Photo: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE.





Roscommon hurling captain wins a Christy Ring Champions 15

ROSCOMMON GAA are delighted that the captain of the Roscommon hurling team Michéal Kelly has been named as one of the 15 recipients of a Champions 15 for the Christy Ring Cup for the 2016 season.

The awards winners were presented with their awards at the recent gala in the Convention Centre in Dublin on the occasion of the GAA GPA All-Stars sponsored by Opel.

Christy McDermott, Chairman of the Roscommon Hurling Committee said that Micheal was selected on the back of his performances during the year and is fully deserving of the award.

“I suppose we were unlucky not to have maybe one or two more recipients however Micheal’s class has been apparent for quite a while. The Four Roads Club man was previously recognised last year and also in 2009 and 2006.”

Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail said: “I congratulate all recipients of these awards following their stellar performances during the summer.

“These players and the teams they play for do not always attract the attention or the credit their skills and contribution to hurling deserve and these awards are a tacit recognition of the standards they have set for themselves.

“I laud the displays and the efforts of all of those named and hope this acknowledgement will further bolster their desire for future honours.”



Pictured is Roscommon hurler Micheal Kelly as he receives his Nicky Rackard Champions 15 Award from Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail (left), in the company of Dermot Earley, GPA President (right), at the GAA GPA All-Star Awards last year.

Photo: Piaras O Midheach / SPORTSFILE.

McStay names backroom team

ROSCOMMON GAA is aware there is considerable interest in the status of the Roscommon senior football panel for the season 2017. You will be aware Kevin McStay was recently appointed senior team manager and is joined by Liam McHale, who will coach the team. Roscommon GAA can now confirm that Ger Dowd of the Creggs GAA Club is the third member of the management team.



Kevin McStay

for 2017. Management has spoken to all 38 members of the 2016 panel and all players contacted indicated a desire to play for Roscommon in 2017. Subsequently, each member of the 2017 FBD panel has confirmed



Ciaran Murtagh

panel (Junior) is currently available to the county squad. This situation will be reviewed on completion of their respective club campaign.

A Development Panel, made up of players in the 19 – 23 years’ age group, has been established. It is also anticipated that other club players will partake in in house games during December and FBD Connacht League games during January with a view to making the NFL panel.

A complete panel list will be made available in the coming

weeks once management has fully briefed officers of Roscommon County Board and has met with all members of the various panel/ back room teams and discussed the 2016 season just past and look forward to the 2017 season ahead

they intend to play with Roscommon for the complete league and championship season.

Due to representing Roscommon in the club championships, no member of the St Brigid’s panel (Senior) or Creggs

weeks once management has fully briefed officers of Roscommon County Board and has met with all members of the various panel/ back room teams and discussed the 2016 season just past and look forward to the 2017 season ahead



Club Rossie honours bus drivers

CLUB Rossie recently held an event to publicly thank their Club Rossie Bus drivers. The host for the evening was John Doorly (bus caretaker) and also in attendance was bus coordinator, Nuala Diffley, bus transport manager, Paul Gillespie, and other bus drivers Enda Beirne, Tom O Connor, Mal Keogh, Tim Nolan, Damian Regan, Tom Corcoran and Tommy Beirne.

Club Rossie were also delighted to have present two of the travel partners involved in the bus project, Tomas and Seamus Carthy.

Sean Mannion represented the Social Initiative group at the event. Roscommon County Board was represented on the night by Frank Egan, minor football board chair-

CLUB ROSSIE would like to thank the following travel partners:

- Dermot Hughes Cars**
- Seamus Carthy REA Auctioneers**
- Scania Westward O'Neills**
- Roscommon Herald Ballymore**
- Leydon Bros London**
- BNP Paribas**
- Hodson Bay Hotel**

Without the financial support of the travel partners and the volunteer services of the drivers the Club Rossie bus would not be viable. Club Rossie and Roscommon GAA would like to sincerely thank all involved with the project.

Thanks to Sean in The Peppermill for providing the food on the night and to Tom Carthy who sponsored the event.

man, and Seamus Sweeney the chairman of the county board.

On the night Seamus thanked all the drivers for their time and co-operation, doing so on a voluntary basis to support Roscommon GAA.

The drivers on the night spoke of how teams, schools, social initiative trips, and other clubs that travelled on the bus did so with pride. They also commented on the fact that no matter where the bus goes, Roscommon people come up and take photos of it with their families.

The bus has been used by all codes over the past three years and continues to be a fantastic marketing tool for Club Rossie and Roscommon GAA to promote all teams, when they travel outside the County.





Kilmore delve deep into reservoir of admirable traits

By IAN COONEY
Roscommon Herald

WHEN a club is relegated from senior football, it can sometimes point to some barren years ahead. But Kilmore weren't reading the script, and their manager Stephen Coy highlighted the importance of the North Roscommon club making an immediate return to the top flight after being relegated 12 months ago.

"It's a big thing, and the players probably won't realise the enormity of what they've achieved until further down the line. If they didn't win it this year, they could be at intermediate level for a long time," he opined.

Despite a poor start, Coy felt that his

side never deviated from their gameplan and delved deep into their reservoir of admirable traits that have served Kilmore well down through the years.

"It's crazy the way it went. We talked about getting a good start during the week but it didn't happen. But one thing about Kilmore is that they'll never die, and they showed that today. They stuck at it. They never lost patience and they drove on.

"We tried to isolate Derek (Connellan) inside. We knew we'd kick frees. It looked as if that was the only way we'd get scores for long periods. But we came up trumps," he explained.

The Longford native had words of consolation for Oran and predicted that they would make the breakthrough sooner rather than later.

"Oran are a very young team. They've had a few tough weeks with hurling and

everything, and that has to be taken into account alongside extra time today. Our lads were a little bit fresher and probably had a little bit more experience. But Oran will be playing senior level very soon," he assured.

Joint-captain Jack Sharkey felt that his side's never-say-die attitude nourished Kilmore's ambitions.

"I'm just ecstatic at the moment. All the hard effort we put in all year counted for something at the end. We dug deep. We had a bad start but we showed our true character. We're never beaten and that will always stand to us.

"Our experience also stood to us. We have a good range from 19 all the way through to 38 years of age. We knew that we could win it if we kept at it.

"It's a remarkable achievement for the club. We're a proud club. We felt at the start of the year that we were a senior club and that's where we wanted to be," he enthused.

Faced with a Connaught Club Championship match a day later, Sharkey indicated that Kilmore wouldn't be postponing their celebrations and were ready to take the ridiculous demands of playing two championship games within the space of 20 hours in their stride.

"We're going to enjoy tonight. We'll worry about tomorrow in the morning," he concluded.



Kilmore joint-captain Jack Sharkey in action for Roscommon against Mayo's Andy Moran in their FBD League clash at Ballinlough, Co Roscommon in 2012.

Photo: Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE.



Creggs – Roscommon Junior Football Champions, 2016

Creggs finally deliver on the big day

By NOEL FALLON
Roscommon Herald

Everybody in Creggs seems to be joining in the celebrations. In the middle of the Strokestown pitch, family and friends have swarmed around the players. Mere metres away the Kilglass Gaels players gather with club officials and supporters. Theirs is a quieter gathering as they await the presentation with a dignified demeanour, Kilglass have time to dwell on the bane of any sportsperson's career, the 'might-have-beens'. Their regrets will more likely focus on the drawn match than the game just finished but they will be part of the post-match conversation around Roosky. Referring to their last junior triumph somebody remarks that "it's a long time since 1983" and Ger Dowd agrees readily. Dowd, joint-manager with Jonathan Conroy of the Creggs team who have bridged the long gap, is sought out by everyone. Among those offering congratulations are teammates of Ger and his brother Kieran when they last won the junior title. Ger handles the attention with his customary calm. Dowd has deftly juggled managerial duties with Creggs and St. Brigid's this year and this was the weekend when all that work bore fruit. He knows that his team have done what every manager dreams of —

they have delivered on the big day. "We played well today. We are a good footballing team and having played well all year we would have been disappointed if we hadn't won the county title," Ger said. "I am delighted, this is a great day for Creggs football. We showed more workrate and more intensity that we did the last day. We learned a lot from the drawn match and I thought we got our match-ups right today. We gave a much better team display than we did in the drawn game. Kilglass Gaels started well but we showed good application and good workrate," he noted.

The joint-manager felt that the success would have a very positive impact on the players, management and the Creggs club area in general.

"People had to stand up today and they did. All the young lads stood up, a player like Conor Gore was outstanding. David Brandon and Colin Canny were excellent, you couldn't fault anyone. The influence of James McKeague and Colin Canny, two players who have All-Ireland minor medals, was important. This is a great boost for our area and a reward for a lot of hard work. The St. Ciaran's underage teams have benefitted both Creggs and Fuerty. These players have competed at a high level at minor and U-21. That experience helped to get us over the line today,"



Creggs captain, James McKeague.

Dowd outlined. "We knew we had a team good enough to win the junior title. We had a good team for the last couple of years but this year we had good young lads coming through. I suppose the younger guys like Shane (Dowd) are used to winning underage titles and being part of county development squads. That has given us an impetus and helped good players like Enda O'Rourke and Tom Fleming who hadn't experienced underage success," he maintained. "We tired near the end but Strokestown is a big pitch. Kilglass showed great courage. They have resilience and steel, and great commitment. To beat a team as good as Kilglass makes this victory all the sweeter for us," Dowd concluded.



Dominant Aughavas storm to Junior 'A' crown

Aughavas0-12
Ballinamore Sean O'Heslins0-4

By JOHN CONNOLLY
Leitrim Observer

AUGHAVAS claimed the last Adult championship title of 2016 when they proved far

too strong for Ballinamore Sean O'Heslin's second string in the Pyramid Bookmakers Junior A Championship Final in Pairc Sean Mac Diarmada.

As the only first string team in the grade, Aughavas

were heavy favourites going into the game and they lived up to the billing as they led 0-6 to 0-2 at the halftime break. And they replicated that scoreline in the second half, again scoring six points to Ballinamore's two.

Aughavas appeared to have hit a stumbling block when Adrian Charles was red carded for a striking offence

12 minutes into the second half along with the loss of the influential David Charles but the Ray McBrien coached team had just too much hunger and experience for a disjointed and lacklustre Ballinamore side.

Captain Kieran Moran lifted the Cup with midfielder Michael Fitzpatrick taking the man of the match honours.



Aughavas GAA, Leitrim Junior A champions 2016. Photo: Aughavas GAA Facebook

Leitrim duo honoured on Lory Meagher 15

By JOHN CONNOLLY
Leitrim Observer

LEITRIM duo Colm Moreton and Zac Moradi have been selected on the GAA Lory's Meagher Champions 15 after impressing with the County Hurlers during the past year.

Leitrim Gaels and Carrick-on-Shannon Hurling clubman Colm Moreton and Thomas Davis and former St. Mary's clubman Zac Moradi are Leitrim's two selections on a team that are selected on the back of their performances during the Lory Meagher Cup.

The awards winners were presented with their awards in the Convention Centre in Dublin on the occasion of the GAA GPA All-Stars along with the award winners in the

Christy Ring & Nicky Rackard Champion 15. A Player of the Year will also be selected on the evening for each competition.

GAA President Aogán Ó Fearghail said "I congratulate all recipients of these awards following their stellar performances during the summer. These players and the teams they play for do not always attract the attention or the credit their skills and contribution to hurling deserve and these awards are a tacit recognition of the standards they have set for themselves.

"I laud the displays and the efforts of all of those named and hope this acknowledgement will further bolster their desire for future honours."

LORY MEAGHER CHAMPION 15: Andrew Mackin (Louth), Diarmuid Murphy (Louth), Andrew McCrave (Louth), Shane Callan (Louth), Mark Wallace (Louth), Brian O'Loughlin (Sligo), Liam Reidy (Sligo), Cormac Behan (Sligo), Keith Raymond (Sligo),

Colm Moreton (Leitrim), Zak Moradi (Leitrim), Shane Morrissey (Warwickshire), Padraic Crehan (Warwickshire), Seamus Richardson, David Cahillane (Lancashire).

NICKY RACKARD CHAMPION 15: Brian Hunt (Mayo), Kenny Feeney (Mayo), Cathal Freeman (Mayo), Joseph McManus (Mayo), Cahal Carvill (Armagh), Ciaran Clifford (Armagh), Declan Coulter (Armagh), Patrick Sheridan (Fingal) Killian O'Flynn (Fingal), Danny Cullen (Donegal), Pádraig Doherty (Donegal), Damian Casey (Tyrone), Ryan Bogue (Fermanagh), Patrick Farrington (Longford), Connor McKenna (Monaghan).

CHRISTY RING CHAMPION 15: Damien Healy (Meath), Adam Gannon (Meath), James Toher (Meath), Shane McGann (Meath), Simon McCrory (Antrim), Eoghan Campbell (Antrim), Ciaran Clarke (Antrim), John Doran (Kildare), Gerry Keegan (Kildare), John McManus (Down), Caolan Taggart (Down), Oisín McCloskey (Derry), Luke Maloney (Wicklow), Tomás Lawrence (London), Micheál Kelly (Roscommon).



Mark Rooney

GLENCAR/MANORHAMILTON

A P P R E C I A T I O N

that won the county's second ever Connacht Senior Championship in 1975, with Micheál also being a GAA All-Star, a constant on the Connacht Railway Cup teams and national top scorer on numerous occasions.

Mark, of course, also developed his footballing talents while practising and playing impromptu games around his home in Glencar with his older brother, Aidan, who was the sharpshooter on the Leitrim Connacht Championship team of 1994, as well as participating to the full in the training sessions with his club. It was little wonder that Mark showed complete loyalty to the saffron and royal blue, as his late father, Frank, was one of the bed-rocks of Glencar/Manorhamilton, serving as Chairman for a number of years, as well as team selector, a role he also held with the Leitrim Minor team that won the Connacht Championship title in 1998.

Mark made his own impression on club affairs, not only as a dedicated and loyal member, but also in his example of team spirit and loyalty and was immensely proud to have won the Leitrim U-21 Championship with Glenmanor Gaels, the Leitrim Senior Championship in 2009 as a player and selector, but pride of place for Mark was winning the County Championship of 1999, playing in the for-

ward line, alongside his brother Aidan, who, incidentally is the current Manager of the Glencar/Manorhamilton team.

Gaelic football was just one of Mark's sporting abilities, as he was a very skilled soccer player and spent time with Sligo Rovers, another team very close to his heart.

As a golfer, Mark again displayed his remarkable prowess, as a member of the Rosses Point Golf Club, holding a very low handicap and being a constant on the club's side in inter-club, provincial and national competitions.

His sporting life was but one reason that Mark was held in such high esteem. He was most of all a family man, a loving husband and father, a devoted son and brother, extremely highly regarded and much loved by his very wide family circle and many friends.

His warm, affectionate and bubbly personality endeared him to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He has touched many lives, not least in the dignified and brave manner in which he coped with his serious illness.

The club and community has lost somebody really, really special.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal, dílis.

MARK ROONEY was one of those people who made a lasting impression on everyone he met.

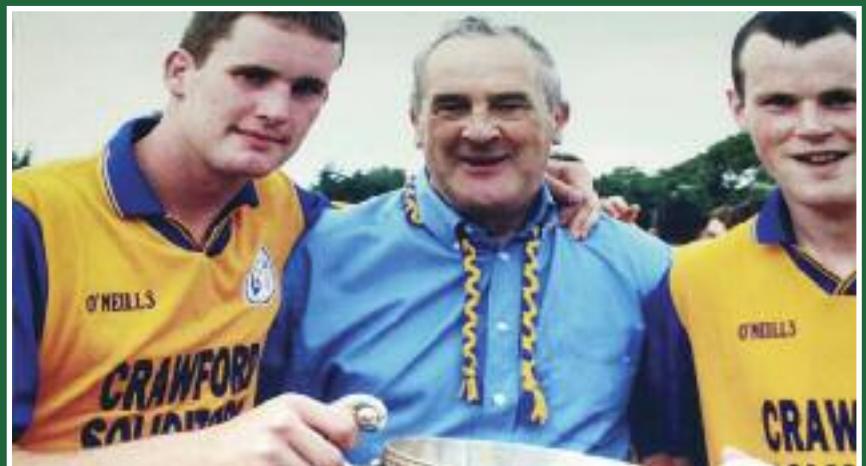
The officers, players and members of the Glencar/Manorhamilton Club join with the wider GAA family in expressed their sincere and heartfelt sympathy to his heartbroken family; wife Natalie, sons Zach and Oscar, mother Dympna, brother Aidan, sister Rosaleen, brother in law Camillus, sister in law Denise, father and mother in law Tony and Patricia, nephews and nieces Nathan, Eden and Eli, his uncles, aunts, cousins, extended family and many friends.

Hopefully their grief and pain will be lessened in some way in the knowledge that Mark has certainly left his footprints in the sands of time.

As a very young boy, Mark was already noted for his prowess in sport, being one of the stars of Glencar/Manorhamilton teams all through his juvenile years and then going on to represent the club with great distinction at adult level.

His footballing ability was recognised at county level also and he represented Leitrim with great pride at U-16, minor and U-21 levels, always giving of his best in training, team preparation and on the field of play.

His skills were very much honed on the same style as those of his uncles, Micheál and James Kearins, both of whom were on the Sligo team



Mark Rooney (left), his father, Francie Rooney, and brother, Aidan Rooney, taken in 1999, when Glencar/Manorhamilton won the Leitrim Senior Football Championship for the second time bridging a 22-year gap from its previous and first-ever title recorded in 1977.



Pictured are the Glencar/Manorhamilton U-12 girls team, who won the Leitrím final on September 4th with a 2-9 to 0-4 win over Allen Gaels. It was an historic six-in-a-row for them at that age group.



The Glencar/Manorhamilton U-12 team captain Bronwyn Kirwan is presented with the cup by Evelyn Moyles of the Leitrím Ladies Board.



Pictured are the Glencar/Manorhamilton minor girls team, who became the first ladies' team from the club to win a Leitrim minor 15-a-side championship. They defeated Fenagh/Kiltubrid in the final played in Kiltubrid by 8-10 to 3-6.



The Glencar/Manorhamilton minor captain Rebecca Rooney with the cup.



Pictured is the Leitrím Junior Championship Cup being presented to Glencar/Manorhamilton joint captains Aoife Feeney and Aisling Faulkner by Eugene Cox, Competition Sponsor - Cox's Steakhouse Dromod.



The Glencar/Manorhamilton ladies team, who bridged a nine-year gap when crowned Leitrím Ladies Junior Champions on September 4th in Leitrím Village. They defeated Annaduff in the final on a 5-10 to 4-6 scoreline.



Manorhamilton Area Community Games U-14s claim All-Ireland title

By **RONAN O'BRIEN**
Media West Ireland

THE second and final weekend of the National Community Games finals were held in Athlone AIT in August where over 7000 athletes from all over Ireland competed in a myriad of sports and in doing so followed in the footsteps of many famous sports stars such as Sonia O'Sullivan, Tommy Bowe and Ronan O'Gara who competed in Community Games in the past.

There were high hopes for the Manorhamilton Area U-14 girls they were previous gold medal winners at the national finals two years ago at U-12 level and had graduated from the Connacht finals with relative ease beating St Brigid's, 3-8 to 0-2, in the semi-final and Breaffy, 10-5 to 2-4, in July's Connacht final.

The All Ireland semi-final against the Ulster champions Sheelin of Cavan was no place for the faint-hearted as this was a bruising affair where a battle had to be fought before any football could be played. Muireann Devaney led the team and was in excellent form notching up six first-quarter points in addition to a goal and a point from Leah Fox to Sheelin's two points.

Sheelin however started the second quarter very strong and scored a goal and four points to just three points to the North-Leitrim girls. The game was in the mix but the resilience shown by the four backs Hannah Gallagher, Hannah Johnston, Emma McMorrow, Clodagh McGee and sweeper Sarah McGloin provided the platform which limited the Cavan girls to only four further scores in the remaining two quarters.

In contrast from the accuracy of goalkeepers Aine McCann's and Kelly Gallagher's kick-outs, the Leitrim girls were keeping possession better and scores duly came from Rachel Conlon, Muireann Devaney, Leah Fox and an excellent interplay between the latter two resulted in a goal at the end of the third-quarter that had the Leitrim girls ahead by eight points.

The Cavan team's cause was not helped with a sin-binning of a Sheelin player for dangerous play preventing a certain goal. The Leitrim girls held out in



Pictured is Leah Fox of the Manorhamilton Area U-14 girls' team, who captained the Leitrim/Connacht champions in the Community Games Finals in Athlone in August when the team were crowned All-Ireland Champions. Leah (left) is with the referee and the Knocklyon (Dublin/Leinster) captain before the throw in.

the final quarter as the Cavan girls went for long balls in search of further goals that did not come leaving the final scoreline of Leitrim 2-17 to 2-8 for Cavan.

The final against Dublin and Leinster champions Knocklyon of Dublin was a purists free-flowing and quick game where both sides were intent on playing football and moving the ball fast.

Knocklyon encompassed some of the Ballyboden St Enda's club and had the Leitrim girls on the back foot from the beginning scoring a lightening quick goal and point in the first two scores.

The Leitrim girls regrouped and composed themselves with their opening score coming from the boot of Muireann Devaney followed by an excellent Amy Fowley point. The Leitrim team were now starting to settle and Muireann Devaney and Emily Conlon steadied the ship with two excellent team goals followed by a well-taken Rachel Conlon point.

This left the Manorhamilton Area girls with a 2-3 to 1-2 first-quarter lead. In the

second-quarter forwards Sarah Brady and Shona Sheridan began to stretch the Dublin girls backline and with Mairead Clancy always an outlet in midfield both sides began to search for opportunities for critical scores but these were few and far between with two points for Leitrim's Muireann Devaney to one point for Knocklyon the only scores in the second-quarter.

Scores were hard come by for both teams again in the third-quarter with Leah Fox netting for the Leitrim girls and the Dublin champions adding a point to their tally.

The deciding moments came in the last quarter with two quick fire goals from Captain Leah Fox leaving the Dublin girls trailing 5-5 to 1-4. The back line was holding firm and further points from Emily Conlon, Muireann Devaney, Leah Fox and an outstanding goal from Roisin Kelly left the final scoreline of 6-8 to 1-6 in favour of Manorhamilton.



Pictured is the Manorhamilton Area Community Games U-14 girls' football team who won gold at the national finals in Athlone in August.



Pictured are the Manorhamilton Area U-12 girls football team after the national finals in Athlone in August. They got off to a bad start on the Saturday morning against Monaghan, but played some fantastic football in the last 20 minutes and showed real heart and determination throughout the match but just fell short. It was a very early start on the Sunday against Tipperary and the result didn't go their way either. Although the results didn't go their way over the weekend these girls played great football and gave their all on the pitch. It was a great experience for such a young team and they came fourth at the All-Ireland festival.



Louisburgh edge a thriller



Louisburgh - Mayo county junior champions 2016.

Louisburgh0-10
Balla0-9

By MIKE FINNERTY Mayo News

IN so many ways this was a different world to Croke Park but, ultimately, it still came down to the same thing. Fine margins. One point either way.

Louisburgh were the first to admit afterwards that they snatched this County Junior title from the jaws of defeat, as two points in injury-time from their captain Kevin Gibbons left Balla broken-hearted and empty-handed.

The winner from Gibbons will go down in Louisburgh GAA folklore, struck like an arrow from long-range three minutes into injury-time to deliver a first adult county title since 2003. The final whistle triggered emotional scenes among the Louisburgh contingent as supporters and families shared in the moment with their team.

Balla, meanwhile, were trying to make sense of how they lost a game they seemed destined to win for the majority of the second half. A string of late wides let Louisburgh off the hook, and Balla were made to pay a heavy price in the end.

Pat Fallon's team of young tyros and turks took the lead twice in the last ten minutes, but each time they were reeled back in by Louisburgh. Then, with the seconds ticking down, Kevin Gibbons took a pass from towering midfielder Padraic Prendergast in the shadow of the stand and proceeded to land the winning score with the outside of his right boot from 45 yards.

And that was all she wrote.

This wasn't a classic County Junior

Final, but it had enough drama, intensity and tactical intrigue to keep us all interested and guessing.

Balla set up in a remarkably similar fashion to Tyrone, but Louisburgh were ahead at half-time by 0-7 to 0-4 as three late scores from Kevin Gibbons, Stephen Corrigan and Alan Moran saw them short-circuit Balla's defensive system.

Balla flooded their own half with bodies in that first period, trying to play on the counter-attack, with Mattie Flanagan often asked to lead the line up front on his own.

The Mayo under 21 goalkeeper did well in the 'lone ranger' role and hit three of his team's first half points, including a '45 and a huge free from 50 yards, to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

His brother, Ger, also landed a monster score from centre-back although it took the intervention of the linesman to overrule the umpire and get it chalked down.

Heading into the second half Louisburgh looked to be in control, but Balla tweaked things at the break and held them scoreless for almost 25 minutes.

The introduction of midfielder Shane Conway at the break proved to be a masterstroke, as Balla built a platform in the middle third and got some support up and around Mattie Flanagan.

The nett result was three points without reply during the third quarter from Conway and Eoin O'Neill (two frees) to level the game for the third time.

Now it was all Balla, and with Louisburgh missing chances to beat the band, they surged forward time and again before veteran sub' Declan Sweeney drove through to fire over the lead score on 51 minutes.

Louisburgh were struggling to make inroads against Balla's organised and heavy defence, and they seemed to have lost

their way completely.

Then Michael Gibbons popped up with Louisburgh's first score in an age for the equaliser, and it was game on again.

An outrageous 50 yard free from Mattie Flanagan then edged Balla ahead once more with the finish line in sight, and 55 minutes on the watch.

But there was still plenty of time for more drama as a tug on the arm of Alan Moran resulted in a debatable free for Louisburgh two minutes into added time.

Kevin Gibbons duly did the needful, and it was deadlock once more with a replay on the cards.

A draw looked nailed-on at that stage, and it probably would have been the fair result, but Louisburgh stuck to their game-plan and Kevin Gibbons showed his quality and his composure to settle the issue there and then.

Balla tried one last time to dig out an equaliser but were unable to find a way, and so Louisburgh hung on for their fourth County Junior title and a ticket back to Intermediate football.

LOUISBURGH: D O'Malley; E O'Malley, M O'Malley, P O'Grady; S Corrigan (0-1), P O'Malley, A Moran (0-1); P Prendergast, T Dawson; J Gibbons (0-1), K Gibbons (0-5, 3fs), P McDonnell (0-1); J Dowd, A O'Malley, M Gibbons (0-1).

Subs: O Lally for Dowd; P Prendergast for O'Grady; E Ball for McDonnell, S O'Grady for Dawson; J Gibbons for E O'Malley.

BALLA: M O'Connor; G Holian, J Dempsey, S Burke; B Freyne, G Flanagan (0-1), E O'Neill (0-2, 2fs); B Duffy, C Walsh; D Giblin, G McHale, V Roughneen; C Connor, M Flanagan (0-4, '45, 2fs), E Earley. **Subs:** S Conway (0-1) for Connor, D Sweeney (0-1) for Earley, O Earley for Walsh, C Murphy for Giblin; C Kilkenny for Duffy.

REFEREE: J Walker (Cill Chomáin)



Westport step up to senior after convincing win

Westport0-10
Kiltimagh0-4

By GER FLANAGAN
Mayo News

THE biggest question that was lingering over this Westport team heading into last Saturday's Mayo Intermediate Championship final was how much of an effect that gruelling three-day turnaround would have on their performance. And they answered it. Emphatically.

This young Westport side displayed no signs of a team that were playing in their third championship game in only seven days. They dictated terms for the vast majority of the game, and in reality, never really looked in danger of losing.

Indeed, the margin could have been greater had they not kicked 13 wides. No doubt it's something manager Damien Loftus will be hoping to improve on for next weekend's provincial semi-final, but for now, it can be forgiven.

Kiltimagh, meanwhile, will be wondering why they never really got going to the pace we expected them to bring. They struggled to break down Westport's finely organised defensive system, which only conceded a single point from play.

Much of this was down to a number of key match-ups across the field. Mayo's resident man-marker, Lee Keegan, nullified the attacking threat of Ciaran Charlton, whilst his county team-mate Kevin Keane put in an impressive performance, dominating a physical battle with Mayo U-21 panellist TJ Byrne. Kiltimagh captain Ronan Malee battled hard, but was very well marshalled by the Westport full-back line.

In the end, Westport's su-

perior firepower was the difference. A man-of-the-match display from wing forward Fionn McDonagh – which included four second-half points – was pivotal in ensuring his side a ticket back up to the senior ranks of Mayo football.

It wasn't a final to remember, but it was one that showcased plenty of talent nonetheless.

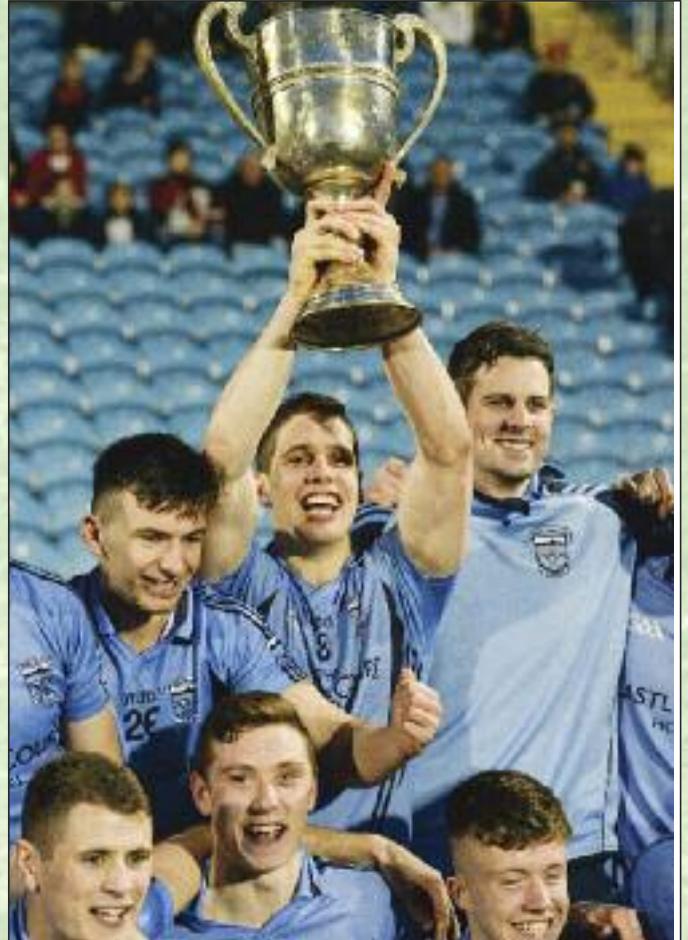
Donovan Cosgrove, the Mayo minor captain in 2016, was kept busy trying to keep tabs on his county team-mate Paul Lambert early on, but the Kiltimagh defender turned attacker to register the game's first score after four minutes, putting an impressive end to a penetrating run. Malee added a free three minutes later, but that would be it for Kiltimagh in the first half.

It took nearly 15 minutes for Westport's first score, but four in just over five minutes – three (including two frees) from Lewis Cawley and another from McDonagh – gave them a commanding lead they would never relinquish.

A goal looked inevitable for the impressive Cawley after some good work on the wing, but the tricky forward looked caught between two minds as he fired wide after 24 minutes. Colm Moran, another Mayo minor, added a superb point on the stroke of injury time to leave his side with a 5-2 lead at the break, a scoreline that both sides would match in the second.

A minute after the restart, the extremely hard-working McDonagh started as he meant to go on, landing a difficult free. Westport goalkeeper Patrick O'Malley added a monster free from all of 50 yards soon after, with Ronan Malee replying with a brace of dead-balls for Kiltimagh.

The East Mayo side battled heroically and contested



Pictured is Mayo star Lee Keegan as he lifts the intermediate cup following Westport's victory over Kiltimagh at MacHale Park in Castlebar. Photo: Piaras O Midheach / SPORTSFILE.

everything up until the last kick of the game, even when all hope looked to be lost. They produced a couple of openings, but just couldn't orchestrate that killer strike that they needed so desperately. However, youth is on their side and they are certainly a team to watch.

That man McDonagh added three more points to his tally (two frees) before the final whistle sounded, and jubilant scenes soon followed.

WESTPORT: P O'Malley (0-1, 1f); N McManamon, K Keane, L Ketterick; K Dever, L Keegan, J Walsh; B McDermott, S Scott; F McDonagh (0-5, 3f), P Keegan, L

Staunton; C Moran (0-1), P Lambert, L Cawley (0-3, 2f).

Subs: C Higgins for Staunton (49 mins); O McLaughlin for Lambert (51 mins); D Horan for Moran (59 mins).

KILTIMAGH: D Gallagher; M Cummins, K Mulderrig, D Cosgrove (0-1); J Forkan, S Moran, C Heneghan; P Kelly, S Walsh; B Gallagher, C Charlton, S McDonnell; D Lydon, TJ Byrne, R Malee (0-3, 3f). **Subs:** S Forkan for Moran (38 mins); J Carroll for Cosgrove (38 mins); L Lydon for McDonnell (41 mins); J Mulhern for Heneghan (53 mins); C Finn for Mulhern (55 mins, temp); P McDonnell for Byrne (58 mins, black card).

REFEREE: E McAndrew (Claremorris)



Pictured are the Tooreen U-21 hurling team who claimed the Mayo GAA U-21 Championship title recently with a hard fought 1-14 to 1-11 win over Castlebar Mitchels. Back row from left: N Boles, J Henry, A Boyle, D Cunnane, S Crinnegan, N Robinson, D Harrison, F Boland, B Douglas, D Huane. Front row, from left: S Freyne, J Cassidy, D Freyne, D Kenny, J Judge, A Henry, S Kenny, D Freeman, M Freyne.

Tooreen win Mayo GAA U-21 Hurling Cup



Pictured is Mayo GAA Hurling Secretary Eugene Connolly as he presents the Mayo GAA U-21 Hurling Cup to John Judge, from Tooreen, after his sides 1-14 to 1-11 win over Castlebar Mitchels in Tooreen recently.



Rice College (Westport) first year colleges hurling team, with the Nicky Rackard Cup, at the Connacht Supertouch Blitz in Began recently.



Carnacon prove too strong for Kiltubrid in final



Pictured are Carnacon's Michelle McGing (centre) and Cora Staunton (right) after their victory over Donaghmoynne from Monaghan in the 2013 All-Ireland club final.

Photo: David Maher / SPORTSFILE.

CONNACHT LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL SENIOR CLUB FINAL

Carnacon (Mayo)8-20

Kiltubrid (Leitrim)1-9

By JOHN CONNOLLY
Leitrim Observer

KILTUBRID Ladies represented Leitrim for the second year in a row when they competed in the Connacht Ladies Gaelic Football Association Club Championship Final in Charelstown. Unfortunately for the Leitrim champions they found Mayo's Carnacon to be in fine form as they triumphed on a scoreline of 8-20 to 1-9.

Cora Staunton shone for Carnacon with a personal haul on 2-11 but she was assisted by a number of excellent perform-

ances from the likes of Martha Carter, Fiona McHale, Amy Dowling and Michelle McGing.

Although they spent much of the game defending there were impressive performances from Kiltubrid's Michelle Guckian, Aoife McWeeney, Miranda Foley and Emma Guckian. Kiltubrid captain Aine Tighe was influential in midfield but was always well marshalled when she ventured forward, the Carnacon players well aware of the need to contain her threat.

Annaghadowan crush outclassed Fenagh

CONNACHT LADIES CLUB INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Annaghadowan8-23
Fenagh0-1

FENAGH Ladies endured a chastening afternoon in the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence as they were outclassed by Galway's Annaghadowan in the Connacht Ladies club intermediate championship semi-finals.

Leitrim clubs have been badly outclassed when they have come up against teams from Galway, Mayo and Roscommon in recent years and unfortunately the trend continued when Fenagh came up against a very strong and very motivated Annaghadowan.



Annaghadowan's Nicola Burke in league action for Galway against Dublin at Parnell Park in Dublin. Photo: Sam Barnes / SPORTSFILE.

Led by the outstanding Niamh Duggan, Grainne Barrett and Nicola Burke, Annaghadowan were simply in a different class to the Leitrim champions as they set out their stall early, scoring 4-10 in the first-half as they camped at times in the Fenagh half.

The Leitrim team put up strong resistance early on and the Galway team didn't really start to pull away until the Galway team struck for a second goal ten minutes in. Fenagh's cause was not helped by a harsh sin-binning for captain Kathy Reynolds in the ten minutes before half-time as they led 4-10 to 0-1 at the break.

Annaghadowan never let up and were it not for a series of good saves from Fenagh keeper Elizabeth Honeyman in the second half, the fearful scoreline would have looked a hell of a lot worse.



Milltown Ladies to take part in Club2Gether Pilot

EARLIER this year the Ladies Gaelic Football Association announced a pilot programme that was set to help clubs put together the structures to secure their future and in some cases avoid being wound up. The initial pilot of the programme will get underway in November and will continue throughout 2017.

The ten clubs that will take part in the programme have now been confirmed. All 4 provinces will be represented amongst the 10 participants coming from Cavan, Tyrone, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Cork, Dublin, Kildare and Meath.

The 10 clubs that will take part in the new programme are; Butlerstown (Cavan), Craobh Chiarain (Dublin), Kerins O'Rahilly's (Kerry), St. Kevin's (Kildare), Granagh Ballingarry (Limerick), Milltown (Galway), St. Mary's Donore/Rosnaree (Meath), Clonmel Commercials (Tipperary), An Charraig Naomh Padraig (Tyrone) and St. Colman's (Cork)

All 10 clubs will now have the opportunity to take part in the LGFA club development initiative aimed at strengthening club structures. This initiative focuses on developing



Pictured are the Milltown ladies after they finished runners-up in the intermediate shield cup in the 2012 Tesco All-Ireland Ladies Football Club Sevens at the Naomh Mearnóg GAA Club in Dublin.

Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE.

areas such as volunteer recruitment and retention, governance & officer training, sponsorship and fundraising, games development as well as planning for the future to ensure sustainable structures are in place going forward.

The club will now avail of free training for their club officers and coaches, resources will also be provided to the club to assist with building sus-

tainable structures, a basic 2 year plan will be put in place with the aim of increasing the retention rates of volunteers with the overall effect being that clubs can become a more vibrant and active part of the local community.

Speaking at the announcement LGFA National Development Manager, Paula Prunty said 'this is a great opportunity for clubs to develop their struc-

tures both on the field and off it. It will assist struggling clubs or clubs that want to build solid foundations for the future by providing high quality role specific training for role administrators and coaches in the clubs. We are very excited about piloting this programme and we believe that all 10 of the participating clubs will benefit hugely from being part of this initiative.'



Pictured are the Caltra Cuans U-14 girls who won the B2 Shield final in Caltra. They defeated Menlough/Skehana 6-7 to 1-7, and they also won the Division 2 Feile in May. They are managed by Mike Mockler, Mary Flaherty, Rebecca Jacob, Mary Kilcommins and the first aid was done by Ann Fleming and Mary Keane. Back row, from left. A Jacob, L Kenny, M McDonnell, S Gilmore, E McGrath, T Kilgannon, S McDonnell, F Fleming, K Flaherty, A Kelly, K Delaney, K Kilgannon, N Moclair and MA Jordan. Front row: K O Connor, S Keane, A Kenny, E Mockler, J Higgins, M Higgins, L Kirwan, C Murray, E Keane, M Mulryan and K Mockler.

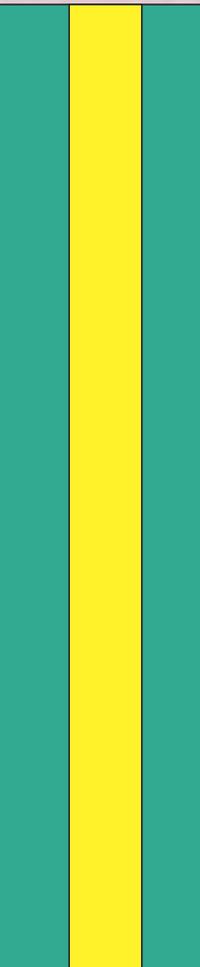
Sligo Cumman na mBunscol Camogie Blitz



Sligo Camogie Blitz



Pictured are first class in Boyle Primary School who enjoyed a Camogie and hurling session in their fancy dress costume.





MAYO SECONDARY SCHOOLS SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL



Ballyhaunis captain Grainne Delaney holds the cup a loft and celebrates with her teammates after their victory in the final.



Wesport lost to Ballyhaunis in the final which was played on October 26 at the Connacht Centre of Excellence.



Pictured are the Scared Heart, Westport who came second in the Mayo Junior Secondary School Competition on October 26.



Ballyhaunis Community School won the competition at Connacht Centre of Excellence after the beat Wesport in the final.



Louisburg Secondary School took part in the Mayo Junior Secondary School Competition at the Connacht Centre of Excellence on October 26.

Ní Churraoin wins again

This year's 60x30 inter-varsity tournament kicked off what is sure to be an exciting year of third level handball. The tournament saw 8 colleges, both far and near, being represented as 49 competitors travelled to compete in alleys throughout Kilkenny. The courts in question included Talbots Inch, Mullinavat, Garryhill, Clogh, Kilfane, and Kilmysshall and the ICHA would like to thank those in question for providing their facilities and helping this weekend run smoothly.

Given the absence of high profile players like defending inter-varsities champion, Martin Mulkerrins, it was left to the women to fly the Connacht flag.

The women's open final saw a repeat of last year's encounter with TCD's Ciara Mahon and UL's Ciana Ní Churraoin battling it out for the title. It was Ní Churraoin who claimed the spoils in last year's final but Mahon was determined to recapture the tittle she won in 2014 and 2013. Both players reached the final in flying form as Ní Churraoin saw off DCU's Aishling O'Keeffe and Mahon saw off the challenge of UL's Niamh Dunne.

Last year's champion, Ní Churraoin, took an early 6-2 lead but Mahon then took entire control of the game and completely outplayed her UL opponent, managing to take the first game 21-7. Mahon had one hand on the proverbial cup at this stage and carried her momentum into the second game in taking an early lead. Ní Churraoin battled on in an effort to force a tiebreaker but in the end it was too little, too late, as the TCD woman won her Third 60x30 inter-varsity tittle on a score line of 21-7, 21-14.



Ciana Ní Churraoin wins the women's final

Heffernan steals the show

GALWAY star Niamh Heffernan was the leading light from Connacht at the 2016 60x30 Juvenile Championship Finals which were held in Ulster venues in October.

The 2016 Myclubshop.ie All Ireland finals were in the softball code and involved 13 counties in all with Wexford the highest achievers as they took home four titles over the weekend.

Kilkenny and Tyrone won two each while Galway were among the group of five along with Cork, Kildare, Tipperary and Waterford who claimed a title each.

Heffernan won her crown in the girls U-16 division, where she got the better of Kilkenny's Dearbhail O'Keeffe by 21-9 and 21-6 in the decider at Loughmacrory, Tyrone on October 16.

Elsewhere there were a number of Connacht youngster who went close with Galway's Enda Collins and James Cummins Kilkenny losing their U-14 doubles clash with Kilkenny's Padhraic Foley and Jack Doyle also at Loughmacrory.

Paul Conneely and Fiachra Mulkerins, from Galway, also lost their match

in Tyrone against Cork duo Conor Walsh and Cian O'Driscoll in the U-16 division.

In Kingscourt, Cavan, Mayo's Claire Reynolds lost against Clíodhna O'Connell. Mayo double's team Heather Burke and Cuileann Bourke lost against Ciara Parnell and Leanne Boland.

While Roscommon's Khalid Yakhyaev was beaten by Kavan O'Keeffe. And Roscommon pair Fionn Cusack and Oisín Cusack lost to Aidan Barry and Cathal Barry.