



Vol 4. Issue 9
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Into the West

The bi-monthly magazine of the Connacht GAA Council

GLORY FOR MAYO MINORS



**Tourlestrane tops
in Sligo final**



**St Brigid's triumph
again in Roscommon**



**All-Ireland camogie
joy for Galway girls**



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President's Note

A CHAIRDE GAEL,

LOOKING back on a summer of such enjoyable football and hurling action, it is only fit that we pay tribute to some of the teams that honoured us.

Congratulations to the Mayo minor footballers for their success in winning the All-Ireland minor title for the first time in 28 years.

They had some real difficult games in Connacht and in the All-Ireland Series. Galway and Roscommon both challenged them, but I saw a huge improvement in their displays the further they went on in the competition.

Congratulations to their manager Enda Gilvarry and his team, and I'm sure that we'll see plenty more of this Mayo team in the future. Unfortunately the Mayo senior team were not able to make it a double celebration, but they just fell a bit short on the day against a fine Dublin side.

In the end Dublin got the crucial scores and emerged as victors. Mayo injuries may have played their part in the outcome but having listened to James Horan and members of the team since, no one should doubt their commitment to go on to pick up the pieces and go on from here and take that ultimate step.

Surely one of the most glorious days for the GAA in Connacht in Croke Park for many years was the occasion of the All-Ireland Camogie final, when the Galway senior and intermediate teams captured both titles.

Tremendous credit is due to Tony Ward that he has led the county to both titles - he also managed Galway to their only previous success at senior level.

I am also delighted for Therese Maher. After all her years as an outstanding player for the county, she has finally secured that illusive All-Ireland medal.

Congratulations to all the county champi-



onship winners in the province across all grades and I'm looking forward to exciting encounters in the weeks ahead.

Having the All-Ireland championships in both codes in the province at senior level I'm sure that our clubs are contemplating on progressing further.

The International Rules series has just concluded and that there is an overall consensus

that the games were disappointing. Having watched both games one could not but be hugely proud of the level of skill and the sheer class and calibre of the Irish players. On this occasion the Australians fielded far from their strongest 15. The Series provides and opportunity for our best players to represent their country, and they do cherish it. Yet, unless Australia commit their best players to the game in the future, it is difficult to see it continuing.

In recent times the association's members have suffered many bereavements. I wish to acknowledge the contribution of the former Uachtaran Pádraig Mac Fhloinn, who passed away recently. He had special ties with Galway presenting the McCarthy Cup in 1980 and also being with us for the Feile competitions.

All GAA folk in the west were hugely shocked and saddened at the death of Galway football committee vice chairman Paddy Sweeney of Killanin. He was a terrific GAA man and will be sadly missed.

The tragic death of Galway hurler Nail Donohue has shocked the nation. He was a lovely personality, a terrific sportsman and he will be a huge loss to his family, his club Kilbeacanty, to Galway and to hurling.

I will forever cherish his outstanding display against Limerick in the 2012 All-Ireland U-21 semi-final. May he rest in peace.

Is mise,

FRANK BURKE,
President, Connacht Council GAA

Secretary's Note

IN my previous opening note for Into the West, I looked forward to the month of September with a great belief that Connacht GAA would be grace by an All-Ireland title again.

And while the Mayo seniors fell narrowly short once again, we did receive that All-Ireland title - in fact we got two with the Mayo minors and Galway Camogie teams both taking victory on the biggest stage.

Firstly, I would like to pass on my congratulations to Tony Ward and his Galway Camogie team for the wonderful display they put on in Croke Park. There's was a long wait to claim a second All-Ireland final victory and the road to that win was paved with a lot of setbacks. Their determination to continue the fight should be taken as inspiration by so many others.

It brought me great pleasure to see the Mayo minors win their first All-Ireland crown since 1985, but the style and determination they shown en route to the final and the way they finished the job is a credit to them.

Enda Gilvarry and his management team, and the parents of the players should be applauded for the manner in which their lads conducted themselves. It was a pleasure to see.

For the Mayo seniors, and in fact all of the other Connacht counties, the battle to win Sam Maguire starts again very soon. Mayo carried themselves brilliantly as Connacht champions and I'm sure they will be back at the top again very soon.

But in the mean time all our focus turns to the provincial club scene. In both the men's and Ladies game the next month will see some terrific action take place across the province.

I would encourage you to go out and support your county champions in the competition and hopefully like St Brigid's and St Thomas' in March, we will have two more All-Ireland winners from the province.

Is mise, le mae

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 Photos - Main Picture: **Mayo's Michael Hall celebrates at the final whistle.** Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

Inset: **Shane Dunne, Tourlestrane, lifts the Sligo Senior Championship Cup; Niall Grehan, St Brigid's captain, lifts the JJ Fahey Cup, and Galway captain Lorraine Ryan lifts the O'Duffy Cup.** Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE



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James Horan confirms he will remain Mayo boss.



Corofin defeat reigning champions.



Castlebar are Mayo County Senior football champions.



Brigid's retain Roscommon crown



Long wait goes on

Dublin2-12

Mayo1-14

By MIKE FINNERTY Mayo News

As the ticker-tape fell from the rafters of the Hogan Stand and the fireworks flew into the sky, the Mayo players and management watched on from their vantage point in the middle of the field. Heartbroken. Crest-fallen. Broken.

For the second time in 12 months, Mayo's best had not been good enough and they were relegated to the role of spectators as Stephen Cluxton climbed those famous steps, lifted the Sam Maguire Cup, and addressed the natives.

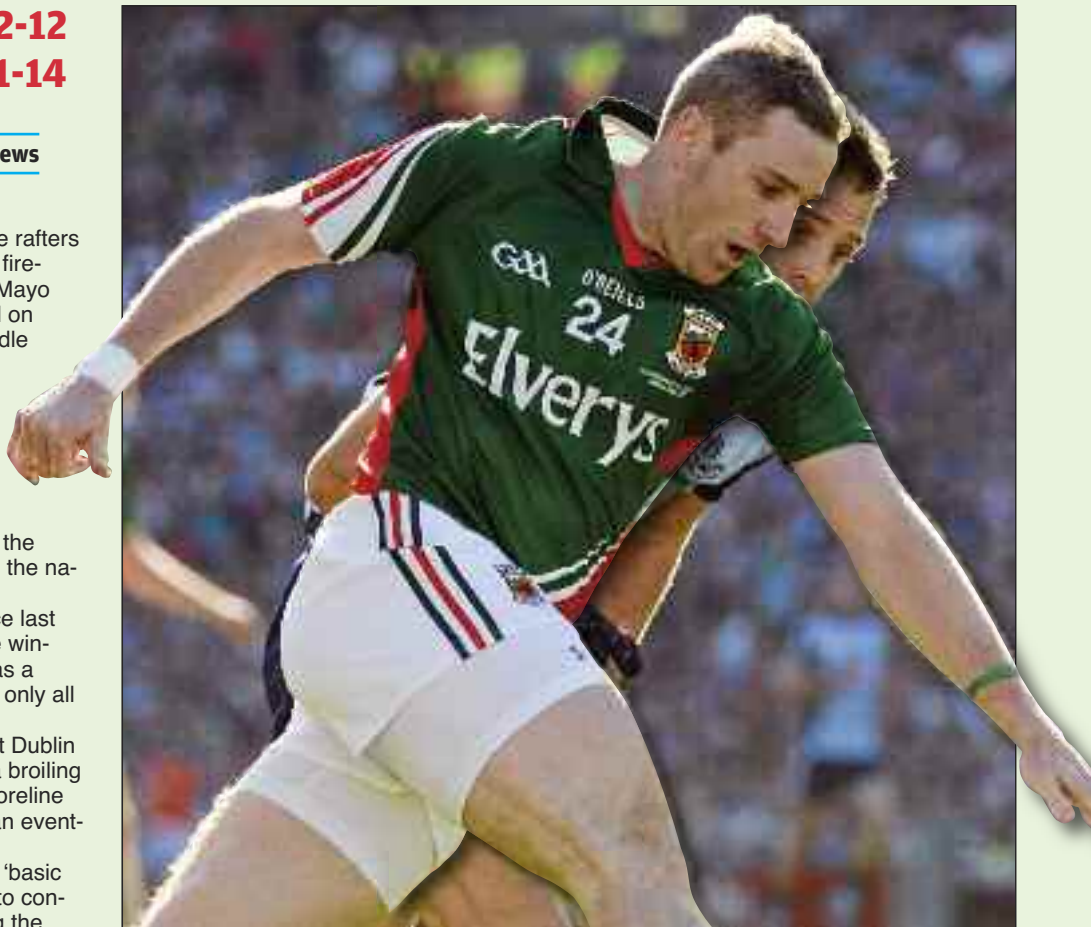
All that had really changed since last September were the colours of the winner's jerseys. Apart from that, it was a scene that the Mayo players knew only all too well.

The record books will show that Dublin carved out a one point victory on a broiling day at Croke Park, but the final scoreline conceals most of the narrative of an eventful afternoon.

Afterwards, James Horan cited 'basic errors', 'composure' and 'a failure to convert scoring opportunities' as being the main reasons that his team came up short.

Alan Dillon in action during the All-Ireland senior football final.

Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE



Michael Conroy is tackled by Jonny Cooper of Dublin.

Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

There areas were certainly a factor, but there were many other issues too that proved costly in such a game of inches.

The better team on the day certainly won; Dublin's tactical approach and defensive set-up kept Mayo's forward line to just 1-2 from play, while Stephen Cluxton's ability to pick out team-mates from restarts, and the brilliant scoring economy of Bernard Brogan left Mayo chasing the game for long spells.

Brogan, who was well-marshalled for the most part by Mayo's All Star full-back Ger Cafferkey, still ended the game with 2-2 from play; his goals, one in each half, doing huge damage to Mayo's hopes of ending the long wait.

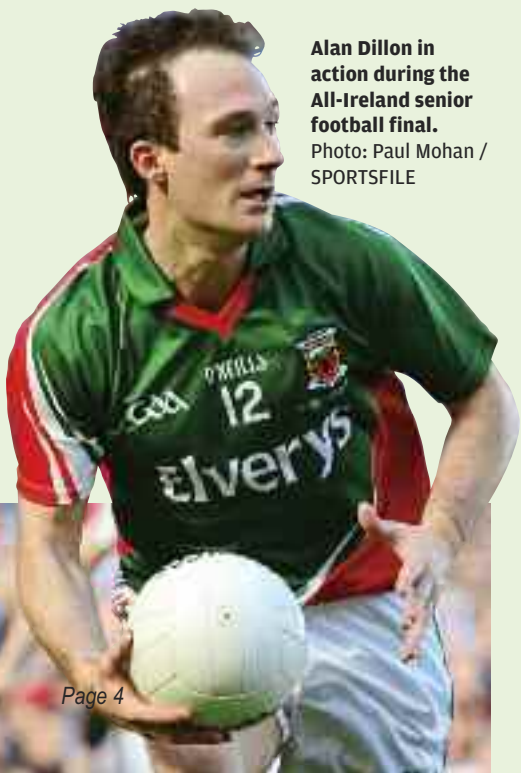
On a day of small margins, they made a huge difference.

At the other end, Mayo had major problems when it came to penetrating Dublin's defensive shield and converting possession into scores.

Too often the ball failed to stick with the inside forwards, and despite plenty of honest endeavour and perspiration, Mayo were unable to engineer the type and frequency of scores that had been flowing all summer.

And yet, a few minutes into injury-time at the end of a frenetic match that didn't live up to its lofty expectations, Mayo only trailed by two points.

We may never know what exactly was said to Cillian O'Connor by referee Joe McQuillan almost four minutes into stoppage-time, just before O'Connor elected to slot a close-range free over the bar, and





as Mayo fall short



Mayo, All-Ireland football finalists 2013.

Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

leave just the minimum between the sides.

Unfortunately, the Cavan official blew for full-time on the kick-out, and the rest is history.

On a day when Mayo's performance fell well short of the high standards they have set themselves, they played their best football in the first half.

However, they only led by a point at half-time, 0-8 to 1-4, and there was a real concern at that juncture that Dublin were poised to make their move.

James Horan's side had taken the initiative early on and they led by 0-4 to 0-1 after 12 minutes with Andy Moran, Lee Keegan, Keith Higgins and Cillian O'Connor (free) all posting scores into the Railway goal.

Memories of previous poor starts in All-Ireland Finals were fading fast, but Mayo were rocked back on their heels minutes later when a long high ball into the Dublin full-forward line saw Bernard Brogan beat Robbie Hennelly to the punch, and the net bulged in front of Hill 16.

The sides were level: game on.

Mayo's responded in a positive fashion, reeling off three points in a row from Seamie O'Shea, Cillian O'Connor (free) and the marauding Lee Keegan to go 0-7 to 1-1 ahead again.

However, for all their territory and possession they weren't able to open up enough daylight and a string of scores from Brogan, Cluxton ('45) and Eoghan O'Gara left the bare minimum in it at the break.

Dublin had played in fits and starts, but were within striking distance. Mayo seemed out-of-sorts.



Mayo's Andy Moran, left, speaks with Jason Doherty during a second half substitution.

Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE



The second half went by in a blur, as the game lost its shape, became scrappy, very physical, and the two teams chased around the field in search of possession and scores.

Dublin took the lead for the first time three minutes after the restart, and crucially they were never behind again.

Jim Gavin's side were 1-9 to 0-9 up after 50 minutes, and keeping Mayo at arm's length, when sub' Mickey Conroy played in Andy Moran and the Mayo captain, who led the line superbly, fired in a brilliant goal.

Stalemate again, and the huge crowd of Mayo fans erupted in an effort to try and inspire their team to greater heights.

Unfortunately, the renaissance never got going as Dublin hassled and harried them out of their stride, continued to blot Mayo's key players out of the game, and

struck for the all-important second goal on 53 minutes. It came when Dublin sub' Denis Bastic broke through the centre, unmarked, and delivered a pass which Bernard Brogan palmed to the net.

The stadium shook, the damage had been done. Dublin added just three further points in the last 25 minutes as Mayo gave chase, but all they could muster were five points from frees from Cillian O'Connor.

Scores from play were conspicuous by their absence as Mayo failed to make any inroads against Dublin's take-no-prisoners style of defence.

It was the story of the half in microcosm; Dublin dictating the terms and Mayo trying manfully to match them.

This wasn't the way it was supposed to end, and who knows when the story will be continued.

That is a question for another day.

DUBLIN: S Cluxton (0-2, 1'45 1f); P McMahon, R O'Carroll, J Cooper; J McCarthy, G Brennan (0-1), J McCaffrey; C O'Sullivan (0-1), MD Macauley; P Flynn (0-1), P Andrews (0-1), D Connolly (0-1); P Mannion, C Kilkenny, B Brogan (2-3, 1f). Subs: E O'Gara (0-2) for Mannion (16 mins), D Daly for McCaffrey (half-time), D Rock for Kilkenny (42 mins), K McManamon for Andrews (49 mins), D Bastick for Cooper (53 mins).

MAYO: R Hennelly; G Cafferkey, T Cunniffe, C Barrett; L Keegan (0-2), C Boyle, D Vaughan; S O'Shea (0-1), A O'Shea; K McLoughlin, K Higgins (0-1), A Dillon; C O'Connor (0-8, 8f), A Freeman, A Moran (1-2). Subs: M Conroy for Freeman (27 mins), C Carolan for Cunniffe (half-time), E Varley for Dillon (56 mins), B Moran for S O'Shea (60 mins), J Doherty for A Moran (68 mins).

REF: Joe McQuillan (Cavan).

Moran urges Mayo to stand tall and stand proud

By MIKE FINNERTY Mayo News

AROUND seven hours after leading Mayo out on to the field at Croke Park, Andy Moran took to the stage at the team's post-match banquet at the Citywest Hotel and vowed "we'll be back".

Addressing the large crowd, which included An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, the Mayo captain tried to look on the bright side after his first start in an All-Ireland Final had ended in disappointment.

"The way I look at it, football is a funny game. How are we feeling tonight? When I look down here at the guys, we're devastated. The dressing-room was a lonely place.

"But if we look at it in real terms, we're closer than we've ever been.

"If we believe in the process, and we put it together, and I believe in the process to be honest, there's no doubt in my mind [that] setbacks happen in every way to get to your final goal. Today is a setback, and we'll keep fighting, and we'll be back.

"We stand tall, we stand proud, we're Mayo men, and women. We're very proud of our minors here today.

"What we're going to do is we're going to go away, we're going to build on 2013, and we're going to move forward to 2014."

Like his manager, the Ballaghaderreen native also thanked the members of the Mayo backroom team, singling out Noel Howley, Liam Ludden, Jimmy Nallen, Tom Prendergast, Donie Buckley, Ed Coughlan and Kieran Shannon, and especially James Moran.

"For the work they've done over the last 12 months, it's been absolutely extraordinary," he said.

Moran (29) finished his upbeat address by paying tribute to the county's minor footballers who were also feted at the post-match function.

"Don't, in any way, let our... I suppose you could call it a failure, but let our loss, hinder yer night.

"It's a massive, massive achievement to win an All-Ireland Final. So lads, enjoy it, we'll enjoy it with ye, and we'll have a great night."



The Mayo team line up before the national anthem.
Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE



Dejected Mayo players, from left, Shane McHale, Brendan Harrison, Kevin McLoughlin and Barry Moran at the end of the game. Photo: Barry Cregg / SPORTSFILE

Horan urges Mayo to ‘go at it again’

By **DANIEL CAREY** Mayo News

DESPITE uncertainty over his own future plans, Mayo senior football manager James Horan has called on the players to ‘go at it again next year’ in the wake of their All-Ireland Final defeat to Dublin.

“We tried as hard as we could, but we just didn’t get there,” Horan told Midwest Radio after arriving back to their homecoming at MacHale Park.

“The guys are extremely disappointed. Everyone associated with it is. We were very close, but just didn’t get there. Look it, there’s absolutely nothing you can do but take it on the chin and dust yourself down again and see what needs to be done and go at it again next year.”

Horan paid tribute to the ‘exemplary’ players, whom he described as ‘fantastic ambassadors’ for the county and ‘a privilege to work with’. Their diet, sleeping patterns and ‘what they do on a day-to-day basis’ are ‘all about how they can max-

imise their football’, he said.

Horan was granted a two-year extension last October which should see him remain at the helm until 2015. Asked about his own plans for the coming year, the Ballintubber man said: “I haven’t even thought of that to be honest. Everything was tied up in the final and trying to get as good a performance as we could and work with the

players, so I haven’t thought any further ahead than that.”

Approximately 5,000 people turned up to welcome home the Mayo senior and minor teams to Castlebar on Monday evening. Minor captain

Stephen Coen admitted their All-Ireland final victory was ‘a bittersweet feeling’ given the seniors’ defeat, but James Horan insisted it was ‘very important’ that the minors’ ‘fantastic’ victory is celebrated.



A dejected Cillian O'Connor, Mayo, after the final whistle.

Photo: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE



Mayo **bring** Markham **home** for the **first** time **since** '85

Mayo2-13
Tyrone1-13

By COLM GANNON
Mayo Advertiser

THE future's bright, the future's Mayo. Despite what happened in the senior final afterwards, the achievements of this current crop of Mayo minors should warm the hearts of the county over the winter months.

Enda Gilvarry's team, have been a joy to watch this summer, playing with free-flowing abandon and ruthless streak. In the six minutes either side of half time, they kicked 2-4 to set up Mayo's first win the All-Ireland minor championship since 1985.

There were young heroes all over the field, with David Kenny, Eddie Doran, Michael Hall and Stephen Coen all leading from the back. While you couldn't ask for much more from the full-forward line, who

Tommy Conroy in full flight.

Photo:
Ray McManus /
SPORTSFILE



contributed 2-8 between them, with Tommy Conroy and Darragh Doherty grabbing 1-2 each, with Liam Irwin kicking four points from frees.

Mayo were the better team from the word go and while Tyrone doggedly stuck with them in the early stages it had much to do with Mayo moves breaking down as they tried to work out how to get around Tyrone's defensive set up.

Ronan Nugent opened the scoring with a fine point after he barrelled down through the heart of the Mayo defence after a minute of play. The game was levelled up by Liam Irwin who pointed a free after Darragh Doherty was hauled to the ground out near the Cusack Stand. Lee Brennan put the Red Hand men back into the lead a couple of minutes later as both sides tried to get to grips with each other.

Irwin brought the sides level for the second time after a quick free from Diarmuid O'Connor saw Doherty fouled again as he tried to work a scoring chance close in. Ronan Nugent and Irwin traded points as the game passed the ten minute mark as both sides continued to try and figure each other out.

The Ulster men hit a little purple patch of form and pushed themselves into a two-point lead with 23 minutes on the clock thanks to points from David Mulgrew and Ruairí McGlone. Irwin cut the gap back to a point, shortly afterwards and just before the break Mayo struck gold for the first time from the boot of the young man who goes by the name 'goals', Tommy Conroy.

The Kiltane attacker won the ball from a break he worked hard to create, then cut a gap for himself before driving the ball into the top corner of net despite the best efforts of Seán Fox in the Tyrone goal.

Conroy's goal sent the huge Mayo crowd into raptures. Tyrone did respond with a Conor McKenna point before the break, but the tide was firmly behind Enda



Darragh Doherty heads for goal during the All-Ireland minor football final.

Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Gilvarry's men at the turn around.

Conor Loftus who was a ball of energy all day, kick started the second-half with a fine effort which was quickly followed by a Darragh Doherty point after Michael Plunkett and Liam Irwin forced a turn over of the ball close to goal. Tommy Conroy kicked a close range point after Mayo won the kick-out from the previous score and Doherty finished sharply after Liam Irwin won back possession of the ball close in.



The Mayo team celebrate after the game in Croke Park.

Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Five minutes into the half Mayo hit their second goal that all but sealed the win, Stephen Coen won the ball in his own back-line passed it off to Diarmuid O'Connor who returned the ball to Coen who had continued his run, before he played in Doherty who drove the ball home to the back of the net.

That goal, shook some life into Tyrone who replied by rolling off four points on the bounce with Lee Brennan kicking two, Philip Donnelly and Daire Gallagher getting the scores to leave Mayo leading 2-8 to 0-10.

MAYO: M Mulligan, E Doran, S Cunniffe, D Kenny, M Hall, S Coen, S Conlon, V Roughneen, D O'Connor, C Loftus (0-3, 1f), M Plunkett, P Prendergast, D Doherty (1-2), L Irwin (0-4, 4f), T Conroy (1-2).
Subs: C Byrne for Doherty, H Cafferty for Plunkett

TYRONE: S Fox, C Byrne, R Quinn, C McCann, S Hamill, C Morris, P McGirr, R Nugent (0-2), F Burns, D Mulgrew (0-1), C McKenna (1-2), R McGlone (0-1), L Brennan (0-4, 3f), D Gallagher (0-1, f), S McGrath.
Subs: C McShane (0-1) for McGlone, P Donnelly (0-1) for McGrath, M Lynn for McGirr, C O'Donnell for Gallagher.

REF: C Lane (Cork).

Conor Loftus steadied the ship finishing off a move started by Coen and ended up with Doherty laying the ball off to the Crossmolina man to apply the finish. Tyrone responded with two points from in short succession with McShane and Brennan getting the scores, to cut the gap back to only three points and set Mayo nerves jangling as the game entered its final stretch.

But Mayo pressed on again and they won a free wide on the right close to the sideline. Liam Irwin took on the shot and saw his effort come back off the post. But Tommy Conroy reacted quickest and scooped the ball over the bar.

Conor Loftus kicked a point three minutes from time after Michael Hall had made a surging run from his wing-back station to keep Tyrone at arms length as the clock ticked down towards the end. Conor McKenna kicked Tyrone's last point not long after Loftus' effort, but Mayo were not for

turning. Conor Byrne and Tommy Conroy landed scores, with Byrne's in particular a sublime effort from under the Hogan Stand to put Mayo six clear.

There was one final kick in Tyrone when Conor McKenna got a paw on a long ball to put it past Mark Mulligan. But it was too little too late and the final whistle sounded shortly after to seal Mayo's first minor championship win in 28 years.

Michael Plunkett in action against Shea Hamill and Conor McKenna.

Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE





Padraic Prendergast: bringing the cup back to Louisburgh

By Tommy Morahan

PADRAIC Prendergast walked alongside his mates carrying the Tom Markham Cup with his mum and dad John and Beatrice flanking the side of the entourage. They abandoned the cars as they entered the town. A fitting way to end the journey home to Louisburgh for the All Ireland Champion after months of hard graft.

A crowd of over 700 packed the square.

As a backdrop to bonfires, haze, cheers, music, banter and a warm evening in the western town of Louisburgh, former Mayo and Louisburgh footballer John Gibbons said, "This is what it's all about. What an inspiration for the youth of the community. What a night." John was quick to add that there were seven who tried for the Mayo team from Louisburgh; Padraic (Dan) O'Malley, Eamon O'Malley, Christian Pender, Craig Gavin, James Gibbons and James Dowd who all added to the success of the club and now the county.

An emotional John Prendergast paid tribute to the Louisburgh GAA club as a whole, and said "Thanks very much to you all. It's great to see so many people out." On such a boisterous occasion you could hear a pin drop as he added, "He's a great bit of stuff and when he got a chance he took it. You have to admire him for it. And fair play to Beatrice and the family at home... they put up with us for the duration." He also thanked John Gibbons for being a confidant and mentor through thick and thin, all the way and he also acknowledged the other six players who participated in the trials. "You are all a part of what we have achieved. Fair play to ye all."

Padraic congratulated the ladies on winning their Junior title to loud applause and encouraged the community to support the GAA club, and for the younger members of the community to keep up the interest. "To represent Mayo and Louisburgh GAA on the field at Croke Park was brilliant. I was nervous, a bit, but it was great. And to see the signs on the road-side as I left on Saturday morning... well, they meant a lot. Thanks to the schools and the club and my family. All of this is my inspiration."

Sharon O'Reilly congratulated Padraic on behalf of the Ladies GAA and Jim Power did the honours for Bord na nÓg. Councillor Austin Francis O'Malley congratulated the Prendergast family and Padraic saying, "You are an inspiration to young and old of the parish with the way you have conducted yourself on and off the field."

Chairman of Louisburgh GAA, James Morrison thanked everyone who organised the evening at short notice and congratulated Padraic and his family and mentors. He mentioned that it was Padraic's father, John, who was on the podium as a footballer the last time that Mayo won the Minor All-Ireland in 1985.

Another Louisburgh stalwart and outgoing Mayor of Louisburgh, Andy Durkan, recalled a night in 1970 when John Gibbons was a member of the Mayo National League Champions team that came to the square in Louisburgh. "That's what this reminds me of now. There was a great crowd that night too, and a great feeling of carnival and atmosphere. It's mighty stuff, powerful."

As Padraic Prendergast lifted the Tom Markham Cup, it seemed that the whole week of events hadn't sunk in yet. As many a day before, he took direction from his dad and climbed down off the podium to mingle with the crowd and enjoy seeing younger hands than his own reach forward to touch the accolade that defines All-Ireland Champions at minor level.

His nature and that of his heritage shone through as he smiled and worked the crowd like a true champion. Relying on his instinct, humbly holding the cup aloft to please those looking for photographs, no showmanship here. A mentor in the making

Mayo minor captain Stephen Coen lifts the cup after victory over Tyrone.

Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTS-

FILE



Enda the long wait

By **DANIEL CAREY** Mayo News

Alex Ferguson reckons that for a player – for any human being – there is nothing better than hearing ‘well done’. Those, the former Manchester United manager reckons, are the two best words ever invented.

In 1985, the Scot was winning the Scottish League title with Aberdeen, statues allegedly moved in Ballinspittle, Live Aid took place in London and Philadelphia ... and Mayo won the Tom Markham Cup.

Enda Gilvarry was full-back on the last Mayo minor team to win an All-Ireland title. How does managing them to na-

tional success 28 years later compare? The Ballina man sports a broad grin. “Ah, this is much better!” he told the press after the game. “And the next one will be even better!”

If Gilvarry felt the hand of history on his shoulder, he didn’t say so. The trials and tribulations of near misses past didn’t concern him. Asked about the importance of getting a ‘bogey off the shoulder’ given Mayo’s trials and tribulations in All-Ireland finals, he brought the focus back, as he has all year, to the team under his charge.

“All I can speak about is ... the minor team,” he began. “We didn’t feel anything, any kind of bogey from ’85, 28 years. This group of young men have been spectacular all season, and they’ve really stood up to the plate – all year. Eighty-five is a long time, unfortunately, a long time before they were born. The few of us that have been around since ’85 have been waiting and waiting and waiting for someone to take our throne. Now my claim to fame is gone!”

In reality, of course, he has a new claim to fame, as the first manager since the legendary Mick Burke to oversee an All-Ireland minor title. Asked if intended to stay on next year, when eight members of the 2013

squad will be eligible again, Gilvarry allows himself another smile.

“You can quote me on this – I’m going to sit on my couch for the next few weeks and I’m not going to stir or think about football! We’ll see then!” he says.

It is easier to do your homework when you have the answers, and the Road Safety Authority employee says that winning such a prestigious title ‘has to be a huge boost’ for underage football in Mayo.

“There’s a huge amount of work being done in underage football in Mayo that maybe hasn’t got the rewards over the last number of years, but there is also a number of issues and a lot of hard work that has to be done in underage football to make sure that this doesn’t happen once every 28 years,” he explained. Like

what? “More work!” he replies. The serious analysis can come later.

The minor game was, of course, the start of a double feature, so Mayo fans ended up with a wedding and a wake. Speaking in advance of the senior match, Gilvarry said James Horan’s side ‘have been a brilliant role model to follow’ all summer and reiterated that the focus on the seniors in recent weeks had meant there was ‘never too much hype’ about his own charges. And unlike their adult counterparts, they ended up in the winners’ enclosure.

“I suppose all year ... we’ve started well in the second-half and we’ve got a run of scores, and when we’ve got one score, we’ve tended to get two or three,” said Gilvarry, who rejected suggestions that Mayo had lost the run of themselves when they went eight points up.

“I would give credit to Tyrone for coming back,” he said. “For most of the first-half, Tyrone were dominant. We were stuttering and stuttering and stuttering, they were the more fluent team.”

But on what turned out to be a chalk and cheddar day for the county in Croke, Mayo didn’t blow it. Gilvarry has earned those few weeks on the couch.



Mayo manager Enda Gilvarry

Galway Camogie star honoured by GAA sports writers



Therese Maher in action for Galway during last year's All-Ireland senior Camogie championship.

Photo: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

2013 proved a year to remember for Galway Camogie, with Tony Ward's sides bringing back the senior and intermediate All-Ireland titles across the Shannon again in one fell swoop.

The Tribesgirls' last senior crown arrived under Ward's stewardship in 1996 – the year before their longest serving player, Therese Maher, joined up with the squad for the first time.

Therefore, after being on the losing side in the 1997, 1998, 2008, 2010 and 2011 All-Ireland finals, it came as some relief for Maher to finally earn that coveted Celtic Cross.

And now, to add to her 2013 glory, she has been named as the Connacht GAA Writers Personality of the Month for September.

Therese will be presented with their awards at the Connacht GAA Banquet at the end of the season. They will be joined by previous winners Wayne McKeon (January), Darragh McCormack (February), Frankie Dolan (March), Michael Gordon (April), Mark Gottsche (May), Lorcan Mulvey (June), Aidan O'Shea (July) and Cillian O'Connor (August).



Glory days again



The Galway senior camogie team celebrates with the O'Duffy Cup after their win over Kilkenny.

Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Galway1-9
Kilkenny0-7

By **FRANK KEARNEY**
Media West Ireland

GALWAY ended years of heart-break when they captured the Sean O'Duffy cup for only the second time ever when they defeated Kilkenny at Croke Park. The cup named after the Mayo native only once before had crossed the Shannon and after a terrific display by the Tribesgirls it booked its passage to the west once again.

The game might not have been the prettiest spectacle but for Galway followers they won't mind as they have often lost great games. It is all about winning and Galway did it with confidence and control.

It wasn't always easy and the nervous early stages of the game saw low scoring and poor patches of play. By the 20th minute Galway led by three points to two but two successive points from Shelley Farrell and Aisling Dunphy put Kilkenny ahead with five minutes left to the break.



Galway captain Lorraine Ryan lifts the O'Duffy Cup.

Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Indeed few would ever have anticipated what would happen next as Kilkenny took the lead in the game for the first and only time.

Within a minute Galway's most dangerous forward Ailish O'Reilly broke through and crashed the ball to the back of the Kilkenny net and substitute Noreen Coen punished Kilkenny with two well taken points to leave Galway 1-5 to 0-4 ahead at the break.

Kilkenny needed to get a good start to the second-half but after Ann Dalton pointed a free Niamh McGrath replied with a Galway free and veteran Therese Maher set up Emma Kilkelly for another Galway point.

A brace of frees from Michelle Quilty left Kilkenny just a goal adrift, but Galway half back line worked like demons to prevent Kilkenny getting back into the game. There was still ten minutes left and when a Niamh McGrath free came back off the post and another went wide, it left Galway in a dangerous position in a low scoring game.

However when the Oranmore dynamo Ailish O'Reilly won a close range free McGrath made no mistake this time and as the game raced into injury time McGrath added another free that pushed Galway five points clear. After that the Galway de-



Therese Manton charges past Michelle Quilty of Kilkenny during the All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

fence stood solid and the O'Duffy cup was heading west.

GALWAY: S Earner; T Manton, S Dervan, H Cooney; S Cahalan, T Maher, L Ryan; N Kilkenny, M Dunne; E Haverty, N McGrath (0-5, 4f), E Kilkelly (0-1); B Hanney, A M Hayes, A O'Reilly (1-0). Subs: N Coen (0-2) for Dunne (22), O McGrath for Hanney (60), A M Starr for Haverty (61).

KILKENNY: E Kavanagh; M Power, K McDonald, J Frisby; L Fennelly, E Keane, E Aylward; C Phelan, A Dalton (0-2, 1f); G Walsh, A Dunphy (0-1), K Power; S Farrell (0-2), D Gaule, A Neary. Subs: C Dormer for Phelan (20), K Hamilton for Walsh (40), M Quilty (0-2f) for Neary (46), M Walsh for Gaule (54).

REF: D Ryan (Dublin).

Galway take intermediate title to set up day to remember

Galway0-12 Limerick0-10

GALWAY manager Tony Ward had a day to remember in Croke Park as he guided his senior and intermediate teams to glory, with a win in the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Final getting the Tribesgirls off to a flying start.

The Westerners made up for their loss in the 2012 final and produced an excellent second 30 minutes to beat Limerick by two points to take the title.

Joe Quaid's Limerick side looked primed for victory after five first-half points from the outstanding Niamh Mulcahy, which left the sides all square at six points each at the break, despite the fact that Limerick had played into a strong breeze.

Galway improved remarkably in the second-half though with aerial superiority and a brilliant defensive display, but three good points from Orlaith McGrath proved crucial.

Galway led by 0-11 to 0-10 racing into injury time which looked like leaving a roller-coaster finish, but after she was fouled herself, Rebecca Hennelly showed great courage to land the crucial free for Galway.

Limerick still refused to lie down and went in search of a winning goal but Galway held on for victory, to get Ward's day off to a fine start.

GALWAY: R Callanan; T Kenny, S Healy, C Gill; P Kenny, S Noone, S Keane; A Callanan, C Cormican (0-1); K O'Dwyer, R Hennelly (0-4, 2f), M Cooney (0-1); F Keely, O McGrath (0-4), A Donoghue (0-2). Subs: D Burke for A Callanan (HT); K Kennedy for Donoghue (52); A Lynskey for Keely (56); L Mitchell for O'Dwyer (62).

LIMERICK: S Moynihan; F Hickey, S Carey, J Mulcahy; M Ryan, M Casey, R Delee; D Fitzpatrick, K Campbell; C Costello (0-1), N Mulcahy (0-8, 7f), D Murphy; M Keating, M O'Callaghan (0-1), D O'Brien. Subs: A Wilson for Keating (HT); K O'Leary for Campbell (43); J Garvey for O'Callaghan (53); J Wilson for Ryan (58).

REF: Aidan O'Brien (Wexford).

Maher relieved at final whistle

By **FRANK KEARNEY**
Media West Ireland

IT was back in 1997 when Therese Maher first played for Galway in the All-Ireland senior championship and ever since then, the Athenry player has lit up camogie fields around the country.

However an All-Ireland senior medal has eluded the star player of most of the last two decades. Four All-Stars, Irish international captain, a National League medal, two Senior Gael Linn medals, two All-Ireland

Minor medals and a Galway camogie player of the year are all to be found in the proud possession of Maher, but no All-Ireland senior medals. That has now changed and to add to that Therese has also added the player of the match in an All-Ireland senior final.

When the final whistle sounded Therese Maher fell to her knees on the hallowed turf in Croke Park.

"I didn't know how I felt, I was just relieved, ecstatic, excited, there was a lot of emotion out there at the time and I am just absolutely

thrilled to finally get that elusive medal," she said.

Later that night, the player that is called 'The Queen' by her colleagues was presented with the RTE Player of the match. It was a fitting tribute to a player that is arguably the greatest Galway camogie player of all time.

One thing is certain that unlike the great players like Peggy Morris, Celia Mulholland, Nono McHugh, Josie Kelly and others, Therese Maher is now the holder of that deserved All-Ireland senior medal with Galway.



Galway outclassed by Deise

Waterford1-21
Galway0-16

By **FRANK KEARNEY**
Media West Ireland

GALWAY'S bid for a tenth All-Ireland minor hurling title ended in heart-break for Mattie Murphy's charges as Waterford produced a quality final quarter to capture the Irish Press Cup for the first time in 65 years.

Galway can have few excuses as they were totally outclassed by this young Waterford side. In fairness to the young Tribesmen, they fought back in the third quarter to have the game all square at the three quarter stage, but that was as good as it got as Waterford ploughed on at the finish to win with relative ease.

In truth Waterford dominated this game from start to finish and apart from a brief period when Galway recovered, this game belonged to the Munster side. Galway were well beaten in most parts of the field and apart from Cathal Touhy in goal, Darragh O'Donoghue at full-back and Shane Cooney at centre-back: most of the rest of the Galway team played second fiddle to the Waterford side.

The men from the sunny south east led from the start and by the sixth minute led by 0-3 to 0-1. However three unanswered points from Darragh Dolan, Conor Whelan and a sublime sideline cut from Adrian Morrissey pushed Galway ahead approaching the end of the opening quarter.

However Waterford replied with six unanswered points, but Galway with three Ronan O'Meara scores were back in contention by half time as the Tribesmen trailed by 0-12 to 0-9.

Galway went a further two points behind at the start of the second period but then hit a purple patch when they outscored Waterford by six points to one. Brian Molloy pointed a brace of frees and then Ronan O'Meara and Brian Burke added two more before Michael Kearney pulled one back for Waterford. Brian Molloy added another two points from a free and play and entering the final quarter the sides were deadlocked at 0-15 apiece.



DOMINATED: Galway minor Eamonn Brannigan in action against Sane Bennett of Waterford during Sunday's Electric Ireland All-Ireland minor hurling final. Photo: Barry Cregg / SPORTSFILE

That was as good as it got for Galway as Waterford replied with four unanswered points. When Patrick Curran rifled home a Waterford goal, it ended the game as a contest and although Shane Cooney replied with a pointed free Waterford had the Irish Press Cup firmly in their grasp having outscored Galway by 1-6 to 0-1 in the final quarter.

WATERFORD: G Power; W Hahessy, K Daly, C Leamy; M Harney, A Gleeson (0-1), Shane Bennett; M O'Brien, T Devine (0-1); Stephen Bennett (0-4), D J Foran (0-1), M Kearney (0-4); A Farrell, P Curran (1-7, 0-2frs, 0-2'65), C Roche (0-3). Subs: C Curran for Foran (37), C Gleeson for Farrell (44), P O'Connor for Roche (57), S O'Neill for Hahessy (60), B Whelan for Shane Bennett (60).

GALWAY: C Touhy; M Ó Conghaile, D O'Donoghue, M Conneely; E Burke, S Cooney (0-1f), R Doyle; S Linnane, D



A dejected Darragh Dolan, Galway, makes his way from the pitch after the game.

Photo: Barry Cregg / SPORTSFILE

Dolan (0-3); C Whelan (0-1), R O'Meara (0-4), A Morrissey (0-1s/l); B Molloy (0-5, 0-4f), J Hastings, C Shaughnessy. Subs: V Doyle for Doyle (26), E Brannigan for Linnane (h-t), B Burke (0-1) for Whelan (37), R Bellew for Hastings (52), S Burke for E Burke (57).

REF: C McAllister (Cork).

Murphy: No excuses, the better team won

By **FRANK KEARNEY**
Media West Ireland

MATTIE Murphy admitted his Galway minors were outclassed by Waterford in the All-Ireland final last Sunday.

Despite pulling level midway through the second half, Galway had no answer to Waterford's storming finish, which stumped Murphy.

"I'd love to know. We looked at it and we thought we had plugged a few holes, but once they went a couple of points up and smelled victory they really drove on and the goal was the real nail in the coffin.

"With 15 minutes to go and you are level, you are really in the game. But we never went ahead, the best was level with them.

"Had we gone a couple of points up, it might have put doubt in their minds and dented their confidence, but we didn't and that was it.

"No excuses, the better team won," said Murphy, who was hoping to take a seventh All-Ireland minor title as Galway manager.



Farney girls end Galway's dreams

Monaghan0-16
Galway0-11

By **JACKIE CAHILL** Media South Ireland

GALWAY Ladies fell agonisingly short of a first All-Ireland final since 2005 after a more powerful Monaghan outfit took victory in front of a bumper crowd at Kingspan Breffni Park.

Both sides paid each other a huge amount of respect by adopting defensive systems and that led to an intriguing war of attrition.

But there were moments of real quality throughout as Monaghan had a match-winning scoring contribution from Cathriona McConnell, who scored six of her seven points from frees.

Defensively, Monaghan were excellent too as corner-back Grainne McNally denied Galway a certain goal with a brilliant save to keep out Gillian O'Connor in the 25th minute.

Earlier, goalkeeper Linda Martin had diverted O'Connor's shot wide for a '45' as Galway created the better goalmouth chances in the first half.

The sides were level twice in the early exchanges before Ulster champions Monaghan hit four unanswered points, including three from the boot of McConnell, to open up a 0-6 to 0-2 lead.

Galway responded with points from Ger Conneally and corner-back Barbara Hannon to remain in touch at half-time, trailing by 0-6 to 0-4.

In the battle between last year's beaten semi-finalists, Galway were dogged in the second half without getting close enough to trouble defiant Monaghan.

The Farney girls kicked the opening two points of the second half and could have had a goal in the 34th minute as Galway goalkeeper Johanna Connolly did well to divert McConnell's shot wide with an out-stretched leg.

The second half saw three players sin-binned as Monaghan lost Cora Courtney with 16 minutes remaining, before Galway's Cathriona Cormican was yellow-carded with 10 minutes to go.



SO CLOSE: Galway Ladies footballer Nora Ward in action against Yvonne Connell of Monaghan in Galway's defeat in the All-Ireland semi-final last weekend at Breffni Park.

Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Tracey Leonard tapped over the resultant free and Olivia Divilly added a brilliant point from play to reduce the deficit to two points with six minutes remaining on the time clock, 0-13 to 0-11.

Twice, Galway got to within two points of the winners but Monaghan, who had scored 4-21 in their previous outing against Laois, kept calm to stay in control in the closing stages.

Monaghan did not suffer because of their numerical disadvantage and a late flurry of scores was enough to send them through to a final meeting at Croke Park on September 29 with Cork or Kerry.

SCORERS – Monaghan: **C McConnell** 0-7 (6fs), **T McNally**, **C Mahon** 0-2 each, **C Reilly**, **E McCarron**, **E McKenna**, **C Courtney**, **C McAnespie** 0-1 each.

Galway: **T Leonard** 0-3fs, **R Leonard** 0-2 (1f), **B Hannon**, **G Conneally**, **C Cormican**, **G O'Connor**, **A Daly**, **O Divilly** 0-1 each.

GALWAY: **J Connolly**; **N Ward**, **M Coyne**, **B Hannon**; **R McPhilbin**, **E Flaherty**, **S Burke**; **A Clarke**, **G Conneally**; **C Cormican**, **A Daly**, **T Leonard**; **R Leonard**, **G O'Connor**, **E Concannon**.
Subs: **T Hession** for Concannon (39), **O Divilly** for O'Connor (48), **N Ward** for Hannon (54), **A Rohan** for Daly (56).



BATTLE IT OUT: Ciara McAnespie holds off Galway's Rebecca McPhilbin.

Photo: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

Hagan named new Leitrim senior manager

By JOHN CONNOLLY Leitrim Observer

FORMER Kiltubrid and Dromard manager Sean Hagan was ratified as the new Leitrim Senior Team football manager at a special meeting of the Leitrim GAA County Board.

Hagan, who led Kiltubrid to an historic Senior Championship title in 2005 and the last Leitrim team to register a win in the Connacht Club Championship, was unanimously selected to succeed joint managers Brian Breen and George Dugdale who were also among the seven candidates interviewed.

The 45-year-old Longford native has been appointed for a one-year term and will be allowed to pick his own selectors while it was also revealed that one of the targets set for the new manager was promotion from Division 4 of the Allianz National League.

County Board Chairman Joe Flynn appealed to delegates at the specially convened meeting for a unified approach after what he termed a difficult year.

"We had a difficult year and some issues and it took us a long time to finalise this appointment and the Executive unanimously agreed to nominate Sean Hagan for the role of Leitrim Senior team manager.

"We now need a unified approach for the coming year, starting with the Executive and I would ask the clubs to unify behind the new manager and get Leitrim back to where we believe we can be.

"We interviewed seven candidates who showed enthusiasm, a willingness and a capability to manager Leitrim which augers very well for the future of Leitrim football and a number of the candidates may yet be a benefit to us at Under 21 and Minor Level."

Mr Flynn also said that it was important that the new manager be allowed find his feet in the job.

"It is important that we give the new manager some breathing space

to have an in-depth look at Leitrim and come back to us and we are sure that there will be a professional back-room team in place."

The Chairman also paid tribute to the work of George Dugdale and Brian Breen over the last two years.

"Out of respect for the outgoing management, I rang them first with our decision and I want to thank them and express out gratitude for what they have done for Leitrim football and the



New Leitrim manager Sean Hagan during his time as Dromard manager.

Photo: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

advances we have made.

"There were other areas that we may not be happy about about none of us go through life without mistakes," said Mr Flynn.

Delegate Paschal Mooney also said that the outgoing management should be thanked for their contribution. "It was no secret that I believed they should have been given another year and it should not be forgotten that they did make an immense contribution to Leitrim football. They came in after a very difficult situation when Mickey Moran was forced to retire and they should be thanked for the work they did."

Other delegates asked for commitments that the timing of club games would not be affected while Board Vice-Chairman Hubie Reynolds said: "The managers of County teams have to treat the clubs with respect and tonight we start from scratch."

There was also praise from delegates for Board Chairman Joe Flynn for his leadership.

Sean Hagan is a former Dromard and Longford player, having won an O'Byrne Cup with the Leinster County. The 45-year-old managed Kiltubrid to Senior Championship and Senior League titles as well as Senior League and Championship titles with Dromard and three U-21 Championships. Hagan also coached Abbeylara for a year and served as a selector under Denis Connerton for the Longford team who won promotion to Division One

Play and Stay day a huge hit again

CONNACHT GAA hosted its annual Play and Stay Activity Days programme in Croke Park earlier this summer with Connacht clubs well represented on the day.

The Connacht GAA Activity days provide selected clubs from all over Connacht with the Croke Park experience. The players involved will get to play in Croke Park and also get a trip to the Croke Park Museum.

This initiative, which was spearheaded by Connacht Games Manager, John Tobin, first took place six years ago and it has been an outstanding success. To date over 150 hurling and Gaelic football clubs in the province have had the opportunity to play in a series of Go Games Blitzes. These players and their mentors also get the opportunity of a tour of the Croke Park Museum.

The unforgettable experience includes preparing for the games in the dressing rooms and concludes with each team lifting a cup at the presentation area in the Hogan Stand afterwards.

Connacht GAA would like to thank the County Coaching Committees, the Games Managers and Coaching staff and the various clubs for their cooperation to date. The clubs that travelled to Croke Park this year were:

GALWAY: Claregalway, Dunmore McHales, Monivea-Abbey, Kilconly, Oranmore-Maree, Rahoon/Newcastle, Renvyle, Salthill HC Skehana, St. Gabriels, St. James, Tuam HC

MAYO: Ardagh, Ardnaree Sarsfields, Balla, Ballaghaderreen, Ballinrobe, Burrishoole, Eastern Gaels, Kilmeena, Kilmovee Shamrocks, Lahardane McHales, Louisburgh, Mayo Gaels, The Neale

ROSCOMMON: Eire Og, Michael Glaveys

SLIGO: Easkey, Eastern Harps, St. Molaise Gaels,

For more information on this contact Connacht Games Manager, John Tobin: john.tobin.connacht@gaa.ie

Horan confirms he will remain as Mayo boss

By **DECLAN ROONEY**
Media West Ireland

JAMES Horan has confirmed he is to stay on to manage the Mayo footballers again next year after thrashing out the details at a meeting with the Mayo County Board.

At that meeting Horan confirmed that he will be staying on as manager and is 100 percent committed and looking forward to 2014.

According to a statement released by Mayo GAA, Horan is "convinced his team will win an All-Ireland" and described the speculation on his future as "pure nonsense".

After guiding the county to three Connacht titles and two All-Ireland finals during his three-year term, the Ballintubber native will enter his fourth season



at the helm intent on ending Mayo's 63-year wait for Sam Maguire.

"Nothing has changed, the ambition of this squad is to win an All-Ireland and that is an ambition that drives us all," he said.

Both the management team and players already have their heads down and really relishing the challenge ahead and next year cannot come quick enough.

Horan also confirmed that James Nallen will not be part of next year's back room team. The Crossmolina man, who has been part every Mayo squad since 1995, has had to step back due to family and work commitments.

"It'll be a real shame not to have James with us next year, he's been an inspirational figure to the players and, having played 132 competitive games for Mayo, his experience was something we could always turn to. Replacing a real legend in Mayo football won't be easy. I've met a few people but it's too early to announce anything," said Horan.



The Mayo minor hurlers who claimed the All-Ireland Minor C Hurling title with a 1-15 to 0-8 win over Monaghan in Ballinamore. The team was managed by Brian Finn (Tooreen) with John Regan (Ballina) and Adrian Brennan (Ballyhaunis) as selectors. Back (L to R): Abbi Abbassi (Castlebar), Robert Comer (Ballyvary), James Murphy (Moytura), Stephen Coughlan (Westport), Morgan Lyons (Ballyhaunis), Daniel Cunnane (Tooreen), John Judge (Tooreen), Davog Freyne (Tooreen), Shane Nugent (Castlebar), Mark Phillips (Ballyhaunis), Rob Lee (Westport), David Kenny (Tooreen), David Harrison (Tooreen), Brian Murphy (Castlebar), Tomas Grimes (Westport). Front (L to R): James Gallagher (Castlebar), Jack Forde (Moytura), Corey Scahill (Castlebar), Shane Healy (Castlebar), John Morley (Tooreen), Fergal Boland (Tooreen), James Lyons (Ballyhaunis), Sean Mulroy (Ballyvary), Zack O'Toole (Westport), Naoise Kenny (Castlebar), Jason Coyne (Ballyhaunis), Ronan Byrne (Castlebar), Conor Canty (Shrulle-Glencorrib), Ryan Kelly (Caiseal Gaels).

Thousands attend inaugural International Hurling Festival



At the Aer Lingus Hurling Gathering at Ballinasloe were Paul Bellew and Tom O'Grady (Pearse's GAA) Mattie Kilroy (Caltra GAA), Mary Wade (Aer Lingus and a native of Caltra), and Martin Raftery, Mountbellew G.A.A. Club.

CLOSE to 10,000 people attended the International Hurling Festival, which ran over four days throughout Galway City and County.

The inaugural festival brought towns, Ballinalsoe, Gort, Loughrea and Galway City together in order to host the travelling 16 international teams.

The first ever International Hurling Festival, which was run in partnership with Aer Lingus and Etihad Airways, is expected to generate €750,000 for the local economy. With over 1,000 international visitors participating and supporting the festival and with close to 9,000 domestic travellers in Galway over the four day festival, the economic benefit will be substantial for both Galway City and County.

Sixteen overseas teams participated in the competition including teams from New York, San Francisco, Canada, the UK, Continental Europe, the Middle East and Australia. The tournament also served as an opportunity to promote the game of hurling in developing regions by including teams such as Buenos Aires, Milwaukee, Indianapolis and a European team made up of non-Irish nationals.

The qualifying games took place in regional towns, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Gort with the finals held in Pearse Stadium on Saturday 21 September. This unique festival saw five and a half thousand people attend the finals day which also brought together a 'Best of Irish' festival

with a full food, craft and entertainment schedule of events that ran throughout the day.

London's Kilburn Gaels were declared the best hurling team in the world after winning the Division 1 final on Saturday afternoon, whilst Middle East won out Division 2 and a combination team of Denver and Indianapolis claiming the Division 3 Title.

For all the festival photos or more information visit www.hurlingfestival.com, Like www.facebook.com/aerlingushurling or Follow www.twitter.com/AerLingusFest.



Pictured at the Aer Lingus/Etihad International hurling festival were former Head of Sport at NUI Galway, Tony Regan, plus 2010 Fitzgibbon Cup winners Gerry Kelly from Tommy Larkins now New York, Kevin Keehan, Beagh and Monica Kelly, Tommy Larkins.



Players and officials pictured at the launch of first Connacht GAA Wheelchair hurling event.

First Connacht GAA Wheelchair hurling event

By **DENIS O'BOYLE**
Connacht GAA Inclusion
and Ingegration Officer



THE launch of the first Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Event took place in Barnacarroll Hall, Claremorris, Co. Mayo to great acclaim.

John Hopkins, Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Co-ordinator and Adrian Hession, Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Coach, were responsible for organising this inaugural event and providing a great foundation for the future development of Wheelchair Hurling in Connacht.

National GAA Inclusion Officer, Tony Watene and John Landers, (Munster GAA Inclusion and Integration Officer) and members of the Connacht Inclusion and Integration Committee were in attendance at this launch.

Also attending were members of the Treaty Warriors Wheelchair Hurling/Camogie Club from Limerick. David Fitzgearld, Coach of the Treaty Warriors Wheelchair Hurling/Camogie Club provided the coaching session on this occasion, with the assistance of this club participants, Ellie and Stephen and Adrian Hession, Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Coach.

The Connacht Inclusion and Integration Committee greatly appreciate their help in providing us with their expertise, knowledge and encouragement.

Thanks also to Margaret O'Connell, Sligo GAA Inclusion and Inte-

gration Officer, for providing First Aid back up on the day and Neil Sheridan, Mayo County Council for providing extra wheelchairs to use from Co. Mayo Sports Partnership.

All those who actively took part and their enjoyed the day and have since held another session with Adrian Hession. It is intended to hold a National GAA Wheelchair Hurling Event in Athlone in early November and the Connacht GAA Inclusion and Integration Committee aims to have representatives from Connacht taking part on this occasion.

John Hopkins, Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Co-ordinator and Adrian Hession Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Coach, continue to organise coaching session and for further information you can contact Adrian at HYPERLINK "mailto:adrian.hession.gpo.mayo@gaa.ie"adrian.hession.gpo.mayo@gaa.ie



Pictured are the Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Team who are in preparation for the upcoming national wheelchair hurling blitz day in Athlone. The side hold monthly practice sessions in Barnacarroll Hall near Claremorris and have been coming together throughout the summer. (L to R): Peter Egan (Mayo), Adrian Hession (Connacht GAA Coaching Tutor), Sarah Cregg (Roscommon), Aiden Hynes (Sligo), Shane Curran (Galway), Ray McNamara (Mayo Sports Partnership), Fergal Mahon (Roscommon). Missing: Stephen Melvin (Sligo) and David Tarpey (Galway).g and games under the guidance of Adrian Hession (Connacht GAA Coaching Tutor) and Ray McNamara (Mayo Sports Partnership).



Action from the recent Wheelchair Hurling session in Barnacarroll Hall near Claremorris. The side meet monthly for coaching and games under the guidance of Adrian Hession (Connacht GAA Coaching Tutor) and Ray McNamara (Mayo Sports Partnership).



Corofin defeat reigning champs



Corofin players celebrate victory after the final whistle is blown during the 2013 FBD 7s final at Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club. Photo: Barry Cregg / SPORTSFILE

**Corofin2-13
Salthill-
Knocknacarra ...0-7**

By **JOHN FALLON**
Media West Ireland

COROFIN returned to the summit in Galway with an emphatic win over reigning champions Salthill-Knocknacarra, who never got moving at Tuam Stadium yesterday.

The holders just had no answer to the power of a Corofin side who were on top from the outset and from an early stage they were well on their way to lifting the Frank Fox Cup for the 15th time, seven of them coming in the past 13 years.

Crucially Kieran Comer stepped forward to score when Corofin were awarded a second penalty after 18 minutes when they had built up an impressive five points lead against a Salthill side who just could not win enough possession.

Eleven minutes earlier Gary Delaney blasted the first penalty to the left and wide, but Comer made no mistake and it hit the net.

That put Corofin 1-7 to 0-2 in front and there was no way back for the reigning champions.

Corofin were on the front foot from the outset and picked off points from angles with county player Gary Sice a key figure.

He was fouled for both penalties as he tormented the Salthill defence.

Salthill, bidding for their fourth Galway title, hit back before the break and points from Sean Armstrong, Seamie Crowe and sub Derek O'Flaherty.

But they still trailed by double scores — 1-7 to 0-5 — at the interval and any

hopes of retaining their crown were blown away within 90 seconds of the restart.

Midfielder Ronan Steede points in just 13 seconds of the restart and then Sice race through to blast to the net.

Salthill managed just two points in the entire second-half despite the good playing conditions, but they were beaten in too many positions to mount a serious challenge.

They never looked like getting in for a goal which might have inspired a comeback.

Instead, Corofin added points at will with Comer going forward to hit a brace, while subs Michael Lundy and Pdraig Hanly also got in on the act.

Corofin, who have now won seven of the last 13 Galway finals, lost corner-forward Delaney to a shoulder injury in the closing stages which looks set to rule him out of their Connacht club campaign which will start against either Castlebar or Breaffy, who meet in the Mayo final.

SCORERS — Corofin: **G Sice 1-4 (0-4f), K Comer 1-2 (1-0pen), M Farragher 0-2, G Higgins, B O'Donovan, R Steede, G Delaney and P Hanly 0-1 each.**

Salthill-Knocknacarra: **S Armstrong 0-3 (1f), S Crowe (1f) and D O'Flaherty 0-2 each.**

COROFIN: T Healy; M Comer, K Fitzgerald (P Kelly 55), A Lawless (C Silke 55); B O'Donovan (P Hanly 43), G Higgins, L Silke; R Steede (A Burke 55), K Comer; G Sice, D Burke (M Lundy 35), M Farragher; I Burke, J Canney, G Delaney.

SALTHILL-KNOCKNACARRA: S Nallen; A Callanan, F Hanley, C Begley (C Treacy 20); C Halloran, G Canavan (D O'Flaherty 16), S Gavin (K Conlon 54); D Tierney (R Butler 50), J Boylan; C Healy, S Armstrong, B Conlon (G O'Leidhinn 39); G Cox, S Crowe, A Kerins.

REF: M O'Flaithearta.

Comer takes eighth title

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

ONE man who has been through all of Corofin's recent glory is midfielder Kieran Comer and the 32-year old used all his experience to guide Corofin home again.

He was just 16 when he helped Corofin become the first Connacht club to win the All-Ireland club title in 1998 and on Sunday he collected his eighth county medal.

Comer stepped forward when Corofin were awarded a second penalty after 18 minutes when they had built up an impressive five points lead against a Salthill side who just could not win enough possession.

Comer said that they believed that it was vital to get an edge on the champions from the outset.

"We good a very good start, we felt we really needed that against Salthill. We knew we couldn't give them an inch.

"They had a good period towards the end of the first-half but we got a good start to the second-half and thankfully that carried us through," he said.

Sice revels in glorious win

IN the end, Corofin proved far too strong for a Salthill-Knocknacarra side who never looked like retaining the title they won a year ago and Corofin ran out easy winners in front of a big crowd.

They won most of the 50-50 battles and had key figures all over the pitch, none more so than county player Gary Sice who scored 1-4 and won two first-half penalties.

"We felt we didn't do ourselves justice last year and that has driven us on all year so it is great to win the Galway championship again. It's the reward for a lot of hard work," said Sice.

"We worked very hard out the field and that created a lot of chances for us up front. It was easy to pick off scores when so many openings were created out the field.

"We will celebrate this win and then turn our attentions to the Connacht club championship. That's our next target and we will be working hard towards that.

"There is a lot of competition for places and that keeps everyone driving on," added Sice.



Corofin ease into the final

Corofin1-12
Milltown1-9

By **DECLAN ROONEY**
Media West Ireland

COROFIN played all of the second-half with 14 men but still proved too strong for Milltown in the Galway SFC semi-final at Tuam Stadium.

Alan O'Donovan was sent-off just before half-time, but three consecutive points after the restart and Gary Sice's goal midway through the second-half ensured Corofin's search for four titles in six years remains on course.

Bidding to reach their first Galway football final since 2007, Milltown displayed plenty of hunger in the opening stages and by the sixth minute they had opened out a 0-3 to 0-1 lead.

At that stage former Kildare forward James Kavanagh was controlling the game, but Corofin reacted by handing Ronan Steede the job of man-marking the playmaker, which immediately dampened his influence.



ON THE RUN: St James' Sean Donnellan will be hoping to knock Salthill/Knocknacarra off their perch on Sunday in the Galway SFC semi-final at Pearse Stadium.

Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

By the 12th minute the 14-time champions had pulled level with their rivals when Kieran Comer and O'Donovan pointed, but when Martin's goal attempt went over the bar via the crossbar Milltown were in the

lead once more.

But the second quarter belonged to Corofin and Ian Burke and Gary Sice points saw them take the lead for the first time, only for their title aspirations to take a nosedive when O'Donovan was shown a straight red card on the verge of half-time.

The 2011 champions led by 0-6 to 0-5 at half-time and they took a huge step into the final with three points in a row after the restart, with two from Galway U-21 star Ian Burke setting them on their way.

Milltown looked to be making their extra man pay as they reeled of consecutive scores, but once Sice linked up with Burke in the 46th minute to hit the net via the post, the winner was never in doubt.

Martin gave Milltown slim hopes of a comeback a boost with a penalty six minutes from time but Kieran Comer's late free sealed a spot in the decider for Corofin.

SCORERS: Corofin: **G Sice 1-2 (2f), I Burke and K Comer (2f) 0-3 each, A O'Donovan 0-2 (2f), M Farragher and G Delaney 0-1 each.**

Milltown: **M Martin 1-5 (1-Open, 3f), M Hehir 0-2 (2f), D Brennan and J Kavanagh 0-1 each.**

Champions into the decider

Salthill-Knocknacarra ...0-13
St James'0-11

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

THE hard championship experience accumulated from years on the road stood to Galway champions Salthill-Knocknacarra as they finally saw off the challenge of their city rivals St James'.

St James' were bidding to reach their first ever Galway final and looked poised to oust the reigning champions when they raced into a 0-6 to 0-2 lead after 24 minutes despite playing into the teeth of a strong wind at Pearse Stadium.

Full-forward Eoin Concannon caused huge trouble for the Salthill defence and with Paul Conroy and Johnny Duane dominant out the field, the holders were in big trouble.

But, not for the first time, Sean Armstrong rescued them. He won a lot of hard ball and with Seamie Crowe, starved of possession for the opening 25 minutes, suddenly bursting on the scene at full-forward before the break, Salthill rallied to move 0-7 to 0-6 in front at the break.

Salthill, who won their third county title



BACK IN BLUE: Alan Kerins returned for Salthill-Knocknacarra as they overcame St James to reach another Galway SFC final.

Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

last year, never looked back and never trailed again. They perfected a strong running handpass game into the wind and wore down the St James' challenge.

Crowe pointed two minutes after the restart and Armstrong kicked two more in the next three minutes to lead by 0-10 to 0-6.

Concannon and Tommy Walsh reduced the margin going into the final quarter but the hard-working Gary Cox responded for Salthill when the former Roscommon cap-

tain pointed after taking a pass from ex-Galway hurler Alan Kerins.

Two more Concannon points either side of an effort from Salthill wing-back Conor Halloran kept St James' hopes alive but they never looked like getting the goal they required as the 2006 All-Ireland club champions drew on all their experience to book a place in the Galway final for the seventh time.

SALTHILL-KNOCKNACARRA: **S Nallen; R McTiernan, F Hanley, C Begley; C Halloran (0-1), C Treacy, G Canavan; D Tierney, J Boylan; C Healy, S Armstrong (0-6, 2f), B Conlon (0-1); G Cox (0-1), S Crowe (0-4), A Kerins.**

Subs: **S Gavin for Begley, 28 mins; D O'Flaherty for Treacy, 28 mins; R Butler for Tierney, 30 mins; A Callanan for Kerins, 54 mins.**

ST JAMES': **D Curran; S Coughlan, A Deacy, C Glynn; J Burke, J Duane, T Walsh (0-1); M Kelly (0-1), P Conroy (0-1f); A Connolly, D O'Connell (0-1), S Donnellan; R O'Connell, E Concannon (0-7, 5f), A O'Donnell.**

Subs: **E Teagle for Kelly, 36 mins; S Rabbitt for Donnellan, 42 mins; E O'Regan for R O'Connell, 50 mins; S Glynn for O'Donnell, 54 mins; A Lee for C Glynn, 56 mins.**

REF: **G Kinneavy.**



Hurling community rallies around Kilbeacanty as hurler is laid to rest

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

A HEARTBROKEN community heard at the funeral of a GAA star that people with issues need to speak out and let others know that they are experiencing difficulties.

Hundreds of people braved horrendous wind and rain to pay their respects to Galway hurler Niall Donohue who died tragically on October 23, just two days before his 23rd birthday.

A cousin of the star hurler urged people to share their problems with others and told the packed congregation at the funeral Mass at St Columba's Church in Kilbeacanty in south Co Galway that Niall himself would be the first to urged others to talk to people.

Neil McDonagh said that one of his cousin's greatest attributes was his honesty and that the manner of his death was at odds with his life.

"Niall's death was not a decision, it was a struggle. The truth is that Niall's life ended in a way that leaves us confused and hurt.

"Today as you stand next to the people you love remember Niall and be brave enough to talk," he said.

Kilbeacanty parish priest Fr Pat Callinan echoed his words as he described the difficulties the community had in trying to come to terms with the death of a local hero.

"We must as a community look out for each other and look out for the signs of difficulty in a person's life."

He said that messages of sympathy had poured in from all over the world and the mourners heard that Niall's faith was epitomised by the that he played with a miraculous medal sewed into his shorts.

Among the items placed on his coffin were a hurley and helmet and a Galway jersey with his No.5 on it, along with a Kilbeacanty No.6 jersey, and a Bible.

Fr Callinan praised the local community for the way they had rallied to support the Donohue family and he said he knew they would continue to do that to his father Francie, brother Shane, sister Orla and girlfriend Ciara Reilly.

Another cousin of the hurler, Ciaran Donohue, said that the GAA and the local community had been there for the family when it was most needed.

"At times like this you really get to see what community spirit and above all what the GAA means. To the Kilbeacanty people and in particular the Kilbeacanty hurling club the work has been 24-7 since last Wednesday night. They really have shown what Niall meant to them 100 times over. Words cannot begin to describe how humbled we are by the support that they and all the rest of the hurling club not alone in Co Galway but all over Ireland have given us," he said.

Another cousin among the mourners was Clare All-Ireland final hero Shane O'Donnell, along with GAA players from all over the country who had called to Donohue house on Sunday or attended the funeral mass yesterday.

GAA President Liam O'Neill visited the Dono-

hue family and among the mourners was former president Joe McDonagh, former Galway All-Ireland winning captain Joe Connolly, Ulster council president Aodhán O Fearghail and Connacht council president Frank Burke.

Others in attendance included the Mayor of Galway county Cllr Liam Carroll, the Mayor of Galway city Cllr Padraig Conneely, Minister of State for Training and Skills Ciaran Cannon and former Fianna Fáil minister Frank Fahey, who is from Kilbeacanty.

Members of the Galway senior hurling squad carried Niall's coffin from the house through Kilbeacanty village to the church and then his Kilbeacanty teammates carried it after the funeral mass from the church to Rakerin cemetery where he was laid to rest beside his mother Mary, who died in 1996.

The chairman of Kilbeacanty GAA club, Justin Fahey, spoke at the graveside of Niall's many achievements.

He said that he had played his first All-Ireland on the lawn at his house at Ballyturin but went on from there to grace all of the great GAA grounds such as Croke Park and Semple Stadium, while he was always to the forefront for his club and never forgot where he came from.

He recalled the glorious day last year when he had taken the Bob O'Keeffe Cup to the two schools in the parish after Galway had won the Leinster senior hurling championship for the first time.

"The children idolised him," he said.

Tributes paid to Niall Donohue at hurling final

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

THERE were poignant scenes at the Galway SHC final at Pearse Stadium in Salthill as tributes were paid to Galway hurler Niall Donohue.

A minute's silence was observed prior to the start of the match between Portumna and Loughrea, with the final having been put back by a day to accommodate the funeral of the young hurler, who died in tragic circumstances on October 23, two days before his 23rd birthday.

Hurling board chairman Joe Byrne paid tribute to the late hurler prior to the presentation of the cup after the game, and there was a sustained round of applause from the crowd of over 9,000.

The chairman paid tribute to the GAA community for the way they rallied to support the Dono-



Galway's Niall Donohue celebrates after helping his side to the win in the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final against Cork last year.

Photo: Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE

hue family in Kilbeacanty.

And Andy Smith, who played on the Galway team with Niall Donohue, spoke of the shock when he heard the news of the death of his colleague. Portumna team manager Frankie Canning called the three county players with the club – Joe Canning and Damien Hayes are the others – aside and broke the dreadful news.

"We were training and had just came in off the park and Frankie called myself Joe and Damien over. He said it to us that Niall had passed away. I just didn't believe it at the start.

"I went in and toggled in and it didn't sink in until the next morning I was driving to work and I heard a tribute on the radio and it just hit me like that. I just couldn't believe it.

"Whatever about it being sad for us, it is so devastating for the whole Kilbeacanty community looking over the last few days. They are left numb and trying to pick up the pieces.

"Niall was just a great, great fellow. He was a massive man and he is going to be a massive loss. My sympathies to Francie his father, Orla and Shane. It is going to be a hard time for them over the next few months. He was just such a great fellow and had great attributes. And I'm just so sorry for him," said man of the match Andy Smith.

Portumna captain and former All-Star Ollie Canning said the death had sent shockwaves through the county.

"It is very, very sad. No words can describe how everyday was feeling in Galway for his family, for the club in Kilbeacanty and for the county of Galway as a whole. Niall was a special talent. He was a great player, he wore his heart on his sleeve every day he went out. For the short time he was here he left some great memories. He had some great games in the Galway jersey and the Kilbeacanty jersey and he'll never be forgotten," he said.



St Mary's crowned Leitrim champions

**St Mary's2-14
Mohill2-8**

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

ST MARY'S from Carrick-on-Shannon never trailed during an exciting Leitrim SFC final as they deservedly captured their fifth title and first since 2007.

Midfield dominance from Clement Cuniffe and Daniel Lowe laid the foundation for their success at Pairc Seán MacDiarmada in Carrick-on-Shannon.

They raced into a three points lead with points from Michael McWeeney, Robert Lowe and Alan Doherty and while Mohill hauled them back, St Mary's finished the half strongly with four unanswered points leaving them ahead by 0-8 to 0-4.

St Mary's also started the second-half with a flourish with Robert Lowe, Conor Farrell and Alan Doherty finding the target to lead by 0-11 to 0-4.

Mohill, bidding for the seventh title and first since 2006, hit back and corner-forward Alan McLoughlin drilled a goal into the bottom right corner and then added a point.

St Mary's, who lost a five points lead in the closing 12 minutes of that '06 final to Mohill, must have feared another collapse but Alan Doherty fired home a goal from close range going into the final quarter.

St Mary's previous four wins were achieved without scoring a goal in any of the finals but they were not to be denied this time and Michael McWeeney sealed the deal three minutes from time with a goal.

Mohill never gave up and Ronan Kennedy got a goal in the dying moments but St Mary's held on for a deserved success in an entertaining encounter.

ST MARY'S: B Flynn; J Glancy, R Kennedy, J Cassidy; J de Lacey, C Farrell (0-1), N McWeeney; C McWeeney, D Lowe; C Cuniffe, M McWeeney (1-2), R Mulvey (0-1); A Doherty (1-2, 0-1 free), R Lowe (0-4, 0-3 frees), B O'Donnell (0-1).

Subs: J Guckian for Mulvey (43 mins), C O'Reilly (0-1) for Doherty (53 mins), J O'Rourke (0-1) for M McWeeney (57 mins), N Commer-ton (0-1 free) for N McWeeney (62 mins), J Flynn for O'Donnell (59 mins).

MOHILL: P McLoughlin; A Armstrong, E Madden (0-1), C Kennedy; D Beck, M McGuinness, C Canning; R Gallagher (0-1), S Quinn (0-2); P Tighe (0-2 frees), J McGuinness, C Beirne; A McLoughlin (1-1, 0-1 free), D Flynn (0-1), J Mulligan.

Subs: R Kennedy (1-0) for Beirne (40 mins), G Kelly for Tighe (47 mins), S Conaty for Flynn (53 mins), P Bannon for Beck (59 mins).

REF: Ray McBrien (Aughavas).

Farrell lost for words

By **JOHN CONNOLLY** Leitrim Observer

FOR a man who delivered a performance beyond his years, it was strange to see Conor Farrell lost for words.

The 20-year-old was rock solid at centre-back but found it hard to put into words what the victory meant to him.

"It is unbelievable, I don't know how to describe it. Everyone has put in so much work the last six or seven months going down to Mullingar. I don't think it has sunk in yet, it might sink in tomorrow morning."

The St Mary's man paid tribute to the influence of his older team-mates: "I'm delighted with the year I've had. I had a tough year last year, I suppose I wasn't committed last year as I am this year. I decided I'd put my head down this year and go hard at it."

"James Glancy, Jonathan Cassidy, you feel safe with those guys around you, it gives you a bit of freedom, they are always talking to you, you feel you can attack a ball, you know you're safe."

Conor also highlighted St Mary's midfield dominance as key to their victory but he admitted he was worried when Mohill closed the gap to a point. "I think that was a strong point of our game all year, we're strong around the middle all year and that is one of our main qualities, our ball winning ability and it gives us a foothold, possession is the most important thing and once you have that, you can kick on from that."

"When the goal went in, I felt we were going to collapse but fair play to the lads, they steadied themselves, we kicked another point and we drove on from there."

Asked if he would be interested in a call-up to the County Senior panel after his displays this year, Conor said: "Absolutely, that is the pinnacle of what you aim for, it would an honour to play. It would be unbelievable if I was but I'm not thinking about that right now."

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JOHN FALLON
Managing Editor



Mitchels end Breaffy dreams with strong display

**Castlebar Mitchels1-11
Breaffy0-8**

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

CASTLEBAR Mitchels midfielder Barry Moran said that victory in the Mayo SFC final helped ease the pain of the All-Ireland final defeat.

The Mayo star produced a stunning display against his county colleagues Aidan and Saeamie O'Shea around the middle of the field at a wet and windy MacHale Park.

Castlebar Mitchells, the second most prolific winners of the Mayo title but without a success since 1993, always had an edge on their neighbours Breaffy who were appearing in their first final.

The novel final pitted brothers Eoghan and Tommy O'Reilly against each other and at the end it was Mitchels full-back Eoghan who was celebrating his club's 28th county title.

Moran said that getting back into club action was a distraction after the All-Ireland final loss to Dublin and yesterday's win was special as they had lost two of the three previous finals.

"We didn't have time to think about the All-Ireland because when we came back we were into a quarter-final, then semi-final and now final with the club.

We were obviously very disappointed losing to Dublin in an All-Ireland but to come back with the club and go on a run like this which has ended with a county title is. It is nice to end the year with a cup. It just gives you something to keep your head up with at the end of the year," said Moran, who kicked two superb points in the opening half.

Castlebar had the strong wind in the opening half but blew a glorious chances after six minutes when Neil Douglas chipped a penalty high and wide after he was fouled by Kevin Scahill.

But there was no let-off for Breaffy three minutes later when Danny Kirby pounced in a goalmouth scramble to find the net.

Breaffy did not panic and a couple of pointed frees from Alan

Castlebar Mitchels midfielder, Barry Moran, celebrates after his side's win.

Photo: David Maher / SPORTSFILE



Castlebar Mitchels captain Donal Newcombe lifts the Moclair Cup.

Photo: David Maher / SPORTSFILE





Durcan and efforts from Liam Irwin and Seanie O'Shea kept them in touch, but Castlebar finished the half strongly to lead by 1-6 to 0-4 at the break.

Irwin lifted Breaffy's hopes with a superb point three minutes after the restart but Castlebar, with Tom King — who had endured a penalty shootout loss with Mervue United against Longford Town on Friday night in the First Division play-off — and Richie Feeney outstanding had the measure of anything Breaffy could throw at them.

Further points from Durcan and Irwin saw Breaffy reduce the margin to a goal with three minutes left but Castlebar finished strongly to claim the crown with three more points, leaving Moran delighted that they had seen off the challenge of their close neighbours.

"Some of my best mates play for Breaffy, it's two clubs in the same parish, so that made this one all the more difficult but I'm just delighted we won it after losing two recent finals. This was our third final in four years and we lost the other two.

"And that's what I would say to

the Breaffy lads. We lost one before winning the title and their day will come, especially as they have so many young players coming through. They have to stick at it," he added.

SCORERS – Castlebar Mitchels: T King 0-4 (0-2f), D Kirby 1-0, N Lydon 0-2, B Moran 0-2, J Durcan 0-1, N Douglas 0-1, S Hopkins 0-1. Breaffy: A Durcan 0-4 (4f), L Irwin 0-3 (1f), S O'Shea 0-1.

CASTLEBAR MITCHELS: C Naughton; A Feeney (R O'Malley 60), T Cunniffe, E O'Reilly; D Newcombe (D Joyce 55), P Durcan, R Feeney; A Walsh, B Moran; N Douglas, G McDonagh, T King; D Kirby, N Lydon (K Filan 60), J Durcan (F Durcan 53).

BREAFFY: R Hennelly; K Scahill, C Kelly (B Jordan 38), D Gavin; M Hall, M Jennings, B Howley (P Collins 53); A O'Shea, S O'Shea; G Jennings, T O'Reilly (C O'Shea 42), R Martyn (S Hopkins 37); L Irwin, A Durcan, M McNicholas (E Conroy 49).

REF: L Devenney (Ballina).

Mitchels too good for Knockmore

Castlebar Mitchels3-7
Knockmore0-9

By DECLAN ROONEY
Media West Ireland

their game was up.

CASTLEBAR MITCHELS: C Naughton; T Cunniffe, E O'Reilly, A Feeney; D Newcombe, P Durcan, R O'Malley; D Kirby (1-0), A Roache; N Lydon (0-1), G McDonagh, R Feeney; J Durcan (1-2, 1f), N Douglas (1-2), S Hopkins.

Subs: F Durcan for Walsh 15, D Joyce for O'Malley 44, T King (0-2f) for J Durcan 49, E Tiernan for Newcombe 60, K Filan for Lydon 63.

KNOCKMORE: A Higgins; J Brogan, B Gibbons, J Clarke; K Langan (0-2, 1f), S McHale, J Ruddy (0-1); A Keane, A Staedler; D McHale, K Rutledge, D McHale; A Loftus (0-1), D Sweeney, K McLoughlin (0-5, 4f). Subs: S Sweeney for D McHale 23, T Clarke for Loftus 40, F O'Neill for D McHale 42, G Higgins for Sweeney 56, C Donnellon for Rutledge 59.

REF: Ronan Gurren.

FIRST-HALF goals from Neil Douglas and James Durcan meant Castlebar Mitchels eased their way into the Mayo senior final past a poor Knockmore.

Kevin McLoughlin seemed to be the sole bright light up front for Knockmore, but a total of 11 wides crippled them, many of them arriving with the game in the balance early in the second-half.

After their first-half domination Mitchels seemed to retreat back into their shells after the restart and it wasn't until Danny Kirby goaled in the 48th minute that they registered their first score of the half.

Castlebar's first goal arrived in the ninth minute when Durcan punched Richie Feeney's pass into the net. And five minutes later they hit the crucial second when a long ball into the square caused havoc and Douglas finished well from close range.

Knockmore recovered to trail by just two points thanks to scores from McLoughlin, Kieran Langan and James Ruddy, but Mitchels hit four of the next five points to lead by 2-5 to 0-6 at the break.

Just when Knockmore needed some scores after the restart their shooting deserted them and once Kirby raced through the heart of their defence to score



Castlebar skipper Donal Newcombe was in fire form in their semi-final win over Knockmore.

Photo: David Maher / SPORTSFILÉ



O'Sheas instrumental to Breaffy first final appearance

Breaffy1-15
Charlestown1-6

By **DECLAN ROONEY**
 Media West Ireland

BREAFFY eased into their first ever Mayo SFC final where they will meet Castlebar Mitchels thanks to a storming display from Aidan O'Shea and his teammates.

O'Shea goaled for Breaffy in the 41st minute to put his side in total control, but three points from Liam Irwin also caught the eye, although he was shown a second yellow card in injury time to spoil his day.

Charlestown hit the net ten minutes from time when Brendan Quinn scored from close range, but by that stage it was an irrelevance as Breaffy had ground them into submission.

Last year's intermediate champions had gotten off to a great start and led by 0-3 to 0-1 after six minutes when Richard Haran hit a fine point on the turn.

But from then on Breaffy began to gain



Aidan O'Shea was instrumental in Breaffy reaching their first county final

the upper-hand as Aidan and Seamus O'Shea began to dominate Tom Parsons and Sean Morris at midfield.

A 0-9 to 0-5 lead at half-time was turned into a six point advantage before Aidan O'Shea fired low past John Marren to seal Breaffy's first ever county final appearance.

BREAFFY: R Hennelly (0-1 '45); K Sc-ahill, C Kelly, D Gavin; M Hall, M Jennings, B Howley (0-1); A O'Shea (1-1), S O'Shea (0-1); G Jennings (0-1), T O'Reilly (0-1), R Martyn; L Irwin (0-3), A Durcan (0-5, 2f), M McNicholas.
 Subs: E Conroy for O'Reilly 48, T Canavan (0-1) for McNicholas 55.

CHARLESTOWN: J Marren; G McLoughlin, S Lenehan, E McLoughlin; A Higgins, D Caffrey, E Casey; T Parsons, S Morris; G O'Donnell (0-1), M Caffrey (0-1), C Maye (0-2f); P Mulligan (0-1), R Haran (0-1), M Mulvaney.
 Subs: A Mulligan for Maye 41, K Diegan for Haran 45, B Quinn (1-0) for Mulvaney 48, S Walsh for Higgins 53, A Woods for O'Donnell 56.

REF: Kevin Connelly.

Mayo great passes away

By **SEAN RICE**
 Mayo News

THE death has taken place of former Mayo and Ballina Stephenites star Tom Acton. A talented forward, he won county senior medals with Ballina in the 1940s, and commenced his county career as half-back on the minor team of 1940.

They reached the All-Ireland final that year but were beaten by Louth after losing three members of their team, including Seán Flanagan, who were refused permission to play by the

college authorities where they were clerical students.

Tom made his senior debut for the county in 1943, scoring a goal in his first outing in the Con-nacht championship, a match which Mayo lost to Galway.

The Ballina man retained his county place throughout the 1940s, and in the renaissance of Mayo football in 1948, Tom scored two goals in the All-Ireland final which Mayo lost by a point controversially to Cavan.



The late
 Tom Acton

In the league semi-final of 1949, Tom's great positional sense earned him a goal and two points against Wexford and he was on the mark again in the final with another goal, against Louth. Perhaps because of injury, he did not figure on the championship side of 1949.

He was, however, at corner-forward on the championship team of 1950 when Mayo beat Roscommon in the final.

That was his last ap-

pearance for Mayo, for while the county went on to win All-Irelands in the following two years, Tom's career had come to an end.

He will be remembered as a player who contributed hugely to the progress of the Mayo team in those years when they confronted the apathy of the County Board and went on to win two All-Ireland titles in a row, the likes of which has not been emulated 62 years later.

Tom, of Marian Crescent, Ballina, died peacefully at St Augustine's Nursing Home, Ballina.

Peace to his gentle soul.



St Brigid's crowned Roscommon champs again

**St Brigid's1-13
Western Gaels0-9**

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

AGE seems to be irrelevant in Roscommon. 42-year old goalkeeper Shane Curran did a cartwheel when 35-year old corner forward Frankie Dolan blasted home the clinching score three minutes from the end of an entertaining county final at Hyde Park.

It was St Brigid's fourth county title in a row but it is far from a record in Roscommon. Indeed, they will need to win another four before they match the run achieved by Clann na nGael in the 1980s.

But, unlike their neighbours back then who lost five All-Ireland finals, St Brigid's have climbed to the summit to become the first Roscommon side to win the national title.

They used the experience of that success in March to good affect against a spirited Western Gaels side seeking their first county.

Dolan struck the winning point in that All-Ireland success six months ago and he



James McDonnell, Western Gaels, in action against Eoin Sheehy and Karol Mannion, left, St Brigid's.

Photo: Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE



Mark O'Carroll, St Brigid's, battles against Kevin Higgins of Western Gaels during the Roscommon senior club football championship final. Photo: Pat Murphy / SPORTSFILE

hit 1-4 in difficult conditions to guide St Brigid's to their 13th title and their seventh in nine glorious years.

Western Gaels, who appeared in their only other final four years ago, made a match of it and the sides were level four times with Kevin Higgins, Cathal Cregg and Derek Moran doing most to lead the Frenchpark side.

Higgins and hard-working skipper Sean McDermott hit good points before the break for Western Gaels and their supporters were given great hope when Oisín Ward levelled just after half-time after the teams turned round with Brigid's leading by 0-7 to 0-6.

Cathal McHugh, Gearoid Cuniffe, Senan Kilbride, Niall McNerney and Adrian Gleeson hit the target for Brigid's to lead by 0-12 to 0-7 after 50 minutes before Stephen Ryan and Ward reduced the margin to a goal with three minutes remaining.

But that was as close as they got as Dolan, top scorer in the Roscommon final for the fourth year in a row, blasted to the net after a surging run from Senan Kilbride.

Cue a fist in the air from one veteran

Dolan and a cartwheel at the other end by the goalkeeper seven years older than him.

SCORERS – St Brigid's: **F Dolan 1-4 (0-3f, 0-1 '45)**, **K Mannion and G Cuniffe 0-2 each**, **E Sheehy, C McHugh, A Gleeson, N McNerney and S Kilbride (f) 0-1 each**.

Western Gaels: **K Higgins & D Moran (1f) 0-2 each**, **S McDermott, F Cregg, O Ward, E Ryan and S Ryan (f) 0-1 each**.

ST BRIGID'S: **S Curran; R Stack, D Donnelly, N Grehan; E Sheehy (E Egan 60), G Aherne (A Gleeson 38), N McNerney; K Mannion, M O'Carroll; P Kelly, G Dolan, G Cuniffe; F Dolan, S Kilbride, C McHugh (J Murray 58).**

WESTERN GAELS: **E Queenan; A Freyne, D Ward, T Mahon; B Creighton, C Cafferky, S McDermott; D McGarry, K Higgins; O Ward, D Moran (U Mulleady 38), J McDonnell (E Ryan 49); S Ryan (N Murray 30, Ryan 49), C Cregg, F Cregg.**

REF: Paddy Neilan (St Faithleach's).



Tourlestrane revel in another county final win

Tourlestrane0-13
Tubbercurry0-10

By **LEO GRAY** Sligo Champion

As a spectacle, it's not one that will live long in the memory but that doesn't diminish the sense of satisfaction for Tourlestrane.

On a day when the occasion seemed to stifle the efforts of both sides, Tourlestrane did just enough to edge out South Sligo rivals, Tubbercurry in the Belfry Senior Championship final at Markievicz Park.

Tubbercurry, bidding to win the coveted Owen B Hunt Cup for the first time, will be entitled to feel this was one that got away.

They hit 13 wides over the hour, many of them from scoreable positions, and in the final analysis it was their failure to convert good possession into tangible reward on the scoreboard which came back to haunt them.

Against that, Tourlestrane could point to two squandered goal chances in the second half. If any of those had been converted, it would have put a totally different complexion on the game. There was little between the sides in the general run of play with the teams level on five occasions over the hour.

But it looked as if Tubber might just pull away when they edged in front eight minutes into the second half, courtesy of a fine score from Stephen Gilmartin.

But they just could find that extra bit of momentum to push on, missing some good chances from frees and from play.

David Kelly looked capable of inflicting damage every time he got on the ball but the problem for Tubber was that they just couldn't get sufficient supply up to him.

With the game finely balanced, Tourlestrane made a few switches which ultimately proved



Dermot Walsh of Tubbercurry is tracked by Eamonn O'Hara. Photo: John Doyle.

crucial in a tight and tense last quarter.

Alan Dunne was sprung from the bench to add pace and power and he seemed to have the ability to find room amidst all the congestion.

John Quinn, an influential figure throughout, was pulled out to centre-forward and suddenly there was a bit of flow and movement to Tourlestrane's game, with young John Kelly particularly prominent in the last quarter.

The steadying influence of Eamonn O'Hara, kept Tourlestrane calm and composed in those crucial closing stages and they also got their other veterans, David Durkin and Gerry McGowan, on the pitch near the end. That sort of experience is invaluable in games of this nature. It certainly helped Tourlestrane get over the line on this occasion.

In the end it was tough on Tubber, especially when they were the authors of their own misfortune in some respects.

But Tourlestrane were down this road many times before. They know how to win tight games and while they never really hit their best form, they were undoubtedly worthy champions.

With O'Hara dropping deep in the early stages, Tubber found it hard to open up Tourlestrane's defence in the opening exchanges.

At the other end, Tourlestrane made the most of their chances, racing into a two point lead with good scores from play by Shane Dunne and Quinn.

Tubber gradually settled into the contest and Brian Curran's great pass gave David Kelly the chance to open their account in the 8th minute. Kelly was on the mark again minutes later, this time firing over at the end of a penetrating run.

Tourlestrane regained the upper hand to move 0-5 to 0-3 clear by the 25th minute before McGee, who had earlier missed two easier chances, found the range with a great free from way out on the left wing.

Tourlestrane finished the half strongly, however, with James Leonard rounding off a sweeping move with a great point just before the break to give his side a 0-6 to 0-4 lead at the interval.

The tempo increased considerably in the second half with Gary and Brian Curran involved in all that mattered for Tubber.

The sides were level on three occasions as the game flowed from end to end.

Then, Quinn cleverly made room to pick off a great score to edge Tourlestrane 9-8 in front in the 49th minute.

Brian Egan stretched the advantage a minute later, after a mistake in the Tubber defence. But still Tubber hung in there as Gilmartin reduced the deficit following good work by Kelly. It was then that Tourlestrane's experience began to tell.

They found an extra gear when it was needed most and moved two points clear when Shane and Alan Dunne combined to set up Egan for a great score.

Alan Dunne was in the thick of the action again minutes later, creating a chance for Gary Gaughan to slot over.

Although McGee pointed a free get the gap down to two again, there was no sense of panic for Tourlestrane.

They kept taking the right options when in possession and put the issue beyond all doubt when a clinical four man move was finished in style by Kelly

TUBBERCURRY: Daniel McDonagh, Stephen Matthews, Brian Murphy, Daniel Maye, Cathal Surlis, Brian Curran, James Kelly, Aidan Brennan, Stephen Gilmartin (0-2), Gary Curran, Cian Killoran, Fabio Cretaro (0-1), Dermot Walsh, Colm McGee (0-3, 3f), David Kelly (0-3)

Subs: Fergal McDonagh (0-1, 1f) for Stephen Matthews, 23; Mark Burke for Aidan Brennan, 42; Conor Evans for Fabio Cretaro, 43; Stephen Kilcoyne for Fergal McDonagh, 48; Cian Gilmartin for Dermot Walsh, 57

TOURLESTRANE: Seamus Gildea, Barry Walsh, Brian Kennedy, Diarmuid Dunne, Shane Dunne (0-1), Noel Gaughan, James Leonard (0-1), Eamonn O'Hara, Adrian McIntyre, Cathal Henry, Stephen Henry, John Kelly (0-1), John Marren, John Quinn (0-5, 2f), Brian Egan (0-4)

Subs: Gary Gaughan (0-1) for Cathal Henry, 26; Alan Dunne for Stephen Henry, 42; David Durkin for Shane Dunne, 56; Gerry McGowan for John Marren, 59; Barry Kirrane for John Quinn, 60.

REF: Gus Chapman.



Stephen Henry and Carhal Surlis battle for possession.



Young U-15 footballers from Connacht counties pictured at the Dermot Earley Academy Day at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence. Included from left to right are: John Tobin, Connacht Coaching & Games Development secretary; John Prenty, Secretary Connacht Council; Ann Marie Earley, (daughter of Dermot Earley); An Taoiseach Enda Kenny; Mary Earley (wife of the late Dermot Earley) and Brendan Colleran, Chairman Connacht Coaching and Development Committee.

Photos: Michael Donnelly

Connacht GAA Dermot Earley Academy Day

THIS year the Connacht GAA U15 Development programme culminated with the Dermot Earley Academy day in the Connacht GAA centre at the start of September. Throughout the last number of years this day has been evolving and has become the highlight of the year for all our County U-15 players in Connacht.

This year Connacht Council were delighted to make this day and its programme synonymous with one of the greatest players of all time and particularly when he is one of our own.

The Provincial Talent Academy days are blitzes involving County Academy panels at U-14, U-15 and U-16 age groups. These blitzes are organised by the Connacht GAA Coaching & Games Committee. The Connacht GAA Dermot Earley Academy Blitz Day Gaelic involved a total of 11 teams representing the five provincial counties and the London team, who participated in their first academy day.

According to John Tobin, Provincial Games Manager the aim of the academy day is to nurture the talent in the province.

"I was most fortunate to have played with and against Dermot on many occa-

sions and through his influence appreciated the wonderful values the game is meant to nurture. There is no cup for this event because the programme is about the process- development, rather than the outcome-winning.

"As a consequence of this programme, all players and teams should be winners. Eleven squads participated and all play-

ers got meaningful playing time.

"During your career you will have many moments of ecstasy and agony but all of you will have endearing memories of your Dermot Earley day. The nature of this competition would sit easily with Dermot as it promotes integrity, respect and above all passion for the game," said Mr Tobin.



Enda Kenny, John Prenty, Mary Earley, Ann Marie Earley and Eugene Lavin, Mayo GPO, pictured at the Dermot Earley Academy Day at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence.



Murray rescues 'Thomas'

Portumna0-22
St Thomas'1-19

By DECLAN ROONEY
Media West Ireland

RICHIE Murray rescued the All-Ireland club hurling champions, St Thomas', with a goal in the last minute to clinch a replay against a Damien Hayes-inspired Portumna.

Murray was left out of the starting line-up because of a knee injury, but after being introduced 13 minutes from time, he flicked a kick ball to the net and Conor Cooney followed up with a late free to sent their Galway SHC semi-final to a replay.

Joe Canning played the entire match at midfield for Portumna and looked to have wrapped up their spot in the final against Loughrea when he hit his 13th point three minutes from time, but the champions' late comeback foiled his efforts.

Portumna looked back to their brilliant best and dominated the clash for long periods hitting some magnificent points along the way.

In the first-half Damien Hayes played the hurling of his life and hit four points



GOAL POACHER: St Thomas' had Richie Murray to thanks after his late goal forced a replay of their SHC semi-final against Portumna.

Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTSFIL

from play as St Thomas' were left reeling by the movement of the three-time All-Ireland champions.

At the break Portumna had opened out a 0-14 to 0-8 advantage as Canning tagged on fee after free to punish St Thomas' reckless defending and their eight wides before half-time.

Conor Cooney and Eanna Burke closed the gap to four points after the

restart as Thomas' – who won the title for the first time last year – began to show some of the form that saw them dominate last season.

But Portumna defended stoutly and silenced St Thomas' half-forward division easily, and when Canning hit a fourth point in a row from play late on, the defence of their title looked over.

However Richie Murray goaled in the 59th minute, and when Gareth Heagney was harshly penalised for over-carrying deep in injury-time, Conor Cooney forced the replay after an epic encounter.

PORTUMNA: J Keane; G Heagney, E McEntee, O Treacy; C O'Hare, M Dolphin, E Lynch; L Smith, J Canning (0-13, 8f); K Hayes, D Hayes (0-5), A Smith (0-1); R O'Meara (0-2), O Canning (0-1), N Hayes.

Sub: M Ryan for O'Hare 55.

ST THOMAS': P Skehill; C Burke, Robert Murray, S Burke; D Cooney, Darragh Burke (0-1), E Tannion; K Burke, David Burke (0-1); J Regan, C Cooney (0-11, 8f), B Burke (0-1); E Burke (0-3), S Cooney, A Kelly (0-2).

Subs: Richie Murray (1-0) for Regan 47, D Sherry for Tannion 53.

REF: Alan Kelly.

Portumna edge exciting replay

Portumna0-18
St Thomas'2-11

By BILL KIELY Media West Ireland

TEN points from Portumna's Joe Canning sent All-Ireland club champions St Thomas' out of the Galway SHC after this exciting semi-final replay at Athenry.

Portumna now go on to meet Loughrea in the final in two weeks time – a repeat of tempestuous decisions between the two teams in '03, '05, '06 and '09.

Once again Canning started at midfield for the side managed by his father, Frank, while the super form of Damien Hayes was also a feature as the dynamo hit three points from play.

St Thomas' bossed the first half and led by 1-6 to 0-7 at the break, but controversy surrounded a disallowed David Burke goal, which was chalked out because he was fouled on his way to goal, which would have given the champions a five-point lead.



RENEWED RIVALRY: Emmet Mahony is chased by Damien Hayes of Portumna.

Photo: Ray Ryan / SPORTSFIL

Hayes hit two terrific points for Portumna in the opening half and he landed another after the restart in a dominated third quarter for Portumna.

Last week's hero Richie Murray was unable to start again with a knee injury, but after his introduction he was unable to

turn the game on its head again.

This time round, Conor Cooney struck a late goal from a 20-metre free – his second of the game – to put just a point between the sides, but an enormous Canning free from deep in his own half extended that lead out to two again for the three times All-Ireland champions.

Cooney cut their lead to one with a free of his own but the clock beat St Thomas' to end their first reign as Galway champions.

PORTUMNA: J Keane; G Heagney, E McEntee, P Smith; C O'Hare, M Dolphin, E Lynch; L Smith (0-1), J Canning (0-10, 9f, 1'65); K Hayes (0-1), D Hayes (0-3), A Smith; R O'Meara (0-2), O Canning, N Hayes (0-1). Subs: O Royston for P Smith 45, O Treacy for R O'Meara 60.

ST THOMAS: P Skehill; C Burke, Robert Murray, S Burke; D Cooney, Darragh Burke, E Tannion; K Burke (0-1), David Burke (0-2); J Regan (0-2), C Cooney (2-6f), B Burke; E Burke, S Cooney, A Kelly. Subs: D Sherry for C Burke 2, Richie Murray for Kelly 44, G Muray for Tannion 51.

REF: Leonard Fay.



Loughrea sail into county final

Loughrea2-18
Beagh1-11

By DECLAN ROONEY
Media West Ireland

BEAGH'S maiden Galway SHC semi-final appearance ended with a whimper as goals from Johnny Coen and Johnny O'Loughlin sent Loughrea in their fourth final in five years.

Stage fright seemed to take hold of Beagh, who never came close to the two-times champions, who led by ten points by half-time.

Kevin Keehan goaled from a free late on for Beagh, but they could not survive with Loughrea's inspirational forwards, especially Neil Keary, who hit nine points.

Beagh looked very nervous from the outset, and by the time they managed to

gain any foothold in the tie, an experienced Loughrea had opened out a 0-4 to 0-0 lead.

Beagh got their first score in the 12th minute through a Kevin Keehan free, but the dead ball accuracy of Keary kept Loughrea clocking up the scores. He landed his fourth to make it 0-6 to 0-2 in the 19th minute and two minutes later they struck for the crucial goal when Johnny O'Loughlin beat Kevin O'Grady with a crisp low shot.

The goal seemed to rise the Beagh challenge and Pat Divney and Adrian Tuohey both landed points from play to close the gap to six points two minutes from the break.

But just on the verge of half-time Loughrea put the result beyond doubt when Coen gathered a break and goaled after a long delivery into the square, which the Beagh full-back line failed to deal with.

Beagh managed to raise an improved challenge after the restart and they hit four

of the next six points, as Tuohey hit a great score from play to compliment Keehan's good striking from dead balls.

But the closest the got to Loughrea was eight points, as Coen and Keary both cut loose in the last ten minutes, to send their side into the decider.

LOUGHREA: N Murray; T Regan, D McClearn, E Mahony; V Maher, B Mahony (0-1), S Sweeney (0-1); E Mahony, G Keary; N Keary (0-9, 4f, 1'65), J Coen (1-2), P Hoban (0-1); J O'Loughlin (1-2), J Maher (0-2), J Ryan.

Subs: T Hoban for Ryan 42, J Dooley for Regan 55, S McCormack for Keary 58.

BEAGH: K O'Grady; E Tuohey, J Morris, B McGuane; PJ McAllen (0-1), R Gantley, M Geaghan; D Landers, J Divney (0-1); J Gantley, K Keehan (1-6fs), A Tuohey (0-2); P Landers, K Divney, P Divney (0-1).

Sub: T McKeown for McAllen 56.

REF: John Keane.

Hayes hit winner for Portumna

Portumna1-15
Ardrahan1-14

By DECLAN ROONEY
Media West Ireland

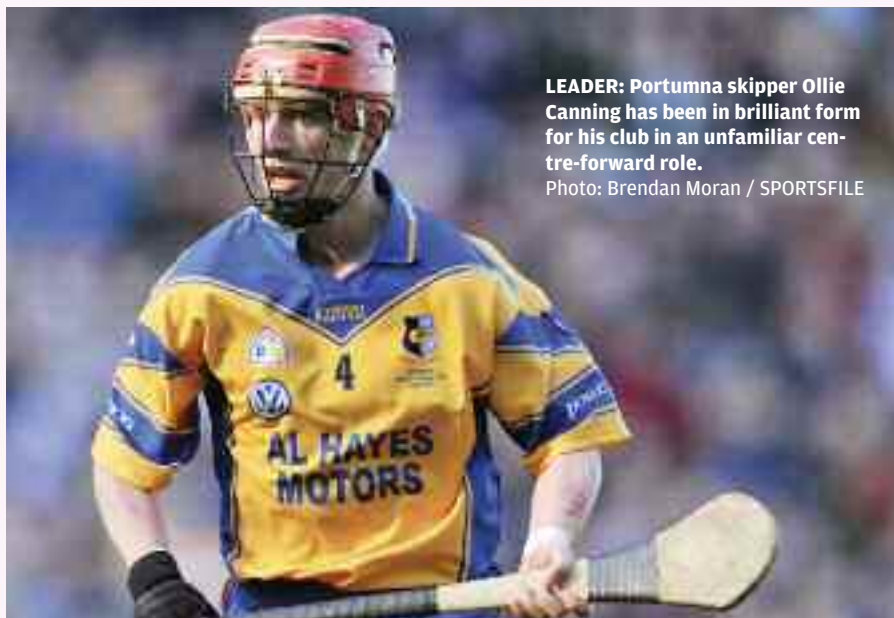
DAMIEN Hayes hit an injury-time winner for Portumna to send them into the Galway SHC semi-final after an epic tussle with Ardrahan at Loughrea.

A replay looked certain when Cormac Divney hit the equaliser for Ardrahan deep into added time, but Hayes stepped forward to hit his first score of the game to send the three-time All-Ireland champions into the last four, where they will now meet defending champions St Thomas.

After a dour opening half, Portumna led by 0-7 to 0-5, with Joe Canning uncharacteristically missing four frees and seeing a penalty saved, but both sides failed to find their groove and hit seven wides each in perfect conditions.

Six minutes after the restart Ardrahan took control when Brian Murtagh's shot bounced past Joe Keane, but with veteran Ollie Canning in super form at centre-forward Portumna recovered.

Six minutes from time Ronan O'Meara hit a critical goal for Portumna, and late points from Oisín Royston – from wide on



LEADER: Portumna skipper Ollie Canning has been in brilliant form for his club in an unfamiliar centre-forward role.

Photo: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

the left moments after his introduction – and Hayes gave them the victory.

PORTUMNA: J Keane; G Heagney, E Lynch, O Treacy; C O'Hara, E McEntee, M Dolphin; L Smith, D Hayes (0-1), K Hayes, O Canning (0-2), A Smith (0-3, 2f); J Canning (0-7, 4f), R O'Meara (1-0), N Hayes (0-1).

Subs: M Ryan for Lynch h-t, O Royston

(0-1) for N Hayes 55.

ARDRAHAN: C Callanan; C Whiskey, P Holland, C Divney (0-1); D O'Shaughnessy, I Tannian, G Forde; D Kennedy (0-1), J O'Leary; B Murtagh (1-0), J Greene, J Kennedy (0-3); M Callanan (0-9, 7f, 1'65), J Glynn, G Bond.

Sub: C Walsh for Bond 38.

REF: John Keane.



Thomas' survive Cashel charge

St Thomas2-19
Castlegar0-21

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

All-Ireland champions St Thomas had to withstand a spirited challenge from the most prolific winners of the Galway SHC before booking their place in the semi-finals.

Ger Farragher did most to inspire a Castlegar side trying to end a famine that has gone on since they won their 17th Galway title back in 1984.

The former All-Star hit 0-13 from frees in a flawless performance, scoring three in succession to haul the champions back in the closing five minutes after Conor Cooney had blasted a penalty to the net.

The sides were level eight times, with Castlegar leading by 0-10 to 0-9 at the interval and Farragher's accuracy saw them pull 0-14 to 0-11 in front five minutes after the restart.

All-Star David Burke and his younger brother Eanna did most to get St Thomas' moving, picking off 0-7 from play between them in the second-half for a side who had never reached the Galway final until last year.

David Burke edged St Thomas in front going into the final quarter before Farragher and Darragh Burke exchanged frees and then Kevin Brady's fourth point for Castlegar levelled the match with 11 minutes remaining.

Conor Cooney then pointed before blasting a penalty to the net and while Enda Concannon reduced the margin to a goal and then Farragher hit three more



Ger Farragher was back to his best for Castlegar this year.

Photo: Stephen McCarthy / SPORTSFILE

frees to draw level, St Thomas finished strongly with Eanna Burke edging them in front in stoppage time before his Galway minor teammate Shane Cooney wrapped it up with a fine goal.

ST THOMAS: P Skehill; C Burke, Robert Murray, D Cooney (0-1); E Tannion, Darragh Burke (0-2f), S Burke; K Burke (0-1), David Burke (0-4); E Burke (0-4), C Cooney (1-6, 1-2f), B Burke; S Cooney (1-0), Richard Murray, A Kelly (0-1).

Subs: D Sherry for D Cooney, 36; J Regan for Robert Murray, 44.

CASTLEGAR: J Connor; O Teagle, P O'Connell, P O'Flynn; T Mannion (0-1), K Keane, D McGreal; G Farragher (0-13f), B Harnett; D Higgins (0-1, E Concannon (0-2), D O'Gorman; J O'Gorman, R O'Flynn, K Brady (0-4). Sub: S Connolly for Harnett, 39.

REF: A Kelly.

Keary heroics see Loughrea edge it

Loughrea0-14
Padraig Pearses ..1-10

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

Loughrea, who won only one of the six county finals they played in over the past ten years, struck two points in stoppage time to advance to the Galway SHC semi-finals.

Neil Keary was the hero for last year's runners-up as he landed two late pressure frees at Athenry just when it seemed that Tomas Flannery's fifth free was going to

secure a surprise win for the Gurteen-Ballymacward outfit.

The sides were level nine times, turning round at 0-6 each, with Cormac Ward getting the only goal ten minutes from time to level the match.

Ronan Bellew then edged Pearses in front with a good point before Keary struck two frees to put Loughrea ahead.

Flannery equalised before Loughrea full-forward Johnny Maher was sent off for a second yellow card, but while Flannery put Pearses in front, Keary saved a Loughrea side who have lost three of the last four finals.

LOUGHREA: N Murray; T Regan, D Mc-

Cleary, E Mahony; V Maher, B Mahony, S Sweeney (0-1f); E Mahony, G Keary; N Keary (0-6f), J Coen (0-2), P Hoban (0-1); J O'Loughlin (0-1), J Maher (0-3, 1f), J Ryan.

Sub: T Hoban for Ryan, 35.

PADRAIG PEARSE: F Flannery (0-2f); A Kenny, T Kenny, P Raftery; S Raftery, C Donnellan, K Hardiman; R Bellew (0-1), J Gelston; S Hardiman, C Ward (1-2), C Raftery; G Lally, E Ward, T Flannery (0-5f).

Subs: R Lally for G Lally, 30; A Kilkenny for C Raftery, 44.

REF: L Fay.



Champions again

Canning leads Portumna to fourth county title as captain

Portumna3-12
Loughrea0-14

By **JOHN FALLON** Media West Ireland

OLLIE Canning was the captain when Portumna made the breakthrough and won their first county title in 2003 and he was just as sprightly on Monday at 37 years of age when he again led them home.

Portumna never trailed against a Loughrea side who have now lost six finals in seven appearances in the same period since 2003 when Canning's men have lifted the Tom Callanan Cup six times.

Canning has now skippered them to victory on four occasions and, having reverted to attack where he used play when he was young, says he is enjoying it now as much as ever.

"It's tough going every year, but from a personal point of view I am lucky enough to be injury free and I enjoyed the training this year. It wasn't too taxing, it was quality more than quantity.

"It was tough going out there, the underfoot conditions were very heavy but everyone toed the line. We had great performances from the youngest to the oldest in the team and everyone did their bit today and we were delighted to take the victory."

Canning said that having not been in the final since 2009 — they contested seven in a row prior to that — was a great motivating factor all year and their return to the summit was celebrated as if it was their first.

"This victory is up there. It's very very sweet," added Canning. "The last couple of years people were maybe writing us off. We didn't get past the quarter-final for the last couple of years.

"There is no better way to bounce back when people are writing you off to come back and maybe answer your critics. We were just so happy, we knew we had the quality in the team, maybe we got a couple of breaks.

"We had a few tough games in the quarter and semi-final to get here, but you need them breaks to get here. But it's great when you bounce back. People out there maybe think you are gone over the hill so it is very, very sweet one this year," he said.

It was also a special day for the Can-



HARD HITTING: Loughrea's Paul Hoban squares up to Eoin Lynch during the Galway senior hurling final.

Photo: Diarmuid Greene / SPORTSFILE

ning family as older brother Frank took over as manager this year and has led them to glory in his maiden voyage.

Kid brother Joe laid down an earlier marker when he blasted a 20-metre free to the net after eight minutes.

Loughrea, playing with the wind, rallied with points from Johnny O'Loughlin, Jamie Ryan and Neil Keary, but they were rocked eight minutes from the break when Ollie Canning and Damien Hayes sent Andy Smith through for an excellent goal from a tight angle.

Ollie Canning was superb at centre-for-

ward as he led them to glory for the fourth time as captain.

Neil Keary hit five points in the opening half for Loughrea and Johnn Maher became their sixth forward to score before the break and they went in level at 0-11 to 2-5 at the interval.

But Portumna took over after the restart and two points from Joe Canning frees and one apiece from Andy Smith and Ollie Canning pushed them ahead.

Jamie Ryan and Damien Hayes swapped points but Portumna never looked back once Niall Hayes set up brother Damien for their third goal 12 minutes from the end of a good contest excellently refereed by John Keane.

The memory of Galway hurler Niall Donohue, who died in tragic circumstances on Wednesday night two days before his 23rd birthday, was not far from people's minds and there was a minute's silence before the match and sustained applause at the presentation of the cup in his honour.

Andy Smith, who played on the Galway team with him, said he could not believe the news when he was told after training on Wednesday night.

"Whatever about it being sad for us, it is so devastating for the whole Kilbecanty community looking over the last few days. They are left numb and trying to pick up the pieces.

"Niall was just a great, great fellow. He was a massive man and he is going to be a massive loss. He was just such a great fellow and had great attributes. And I'm just so sorry for him," said man of the match Smith.

SCORERS — Portumna: **A Smith 1-5, J Canning 1-5 (1-3f), D Hayes 1-1, O Canning 0-1.**

Loughrea: **N Keary 0-5 (4f), J O'Loughlin, J Ryan & J Coen (0-1pen) 0-2 each, G Keary, P Hoban & J Maher 0-1 each.**

PORTUMNA: J Keane; M Ryan, E McEntee, G Heagney; C O'Hare, M Dolphin, E Lynch; L Smith, J Canning; K Hayes, D Hayes, O Canning; A Smith, R O'Meara, N Hayes. Subs: P Smith for L Smith h-t, O Royston for O'Meara 62, O Treacy for Ryan 62.

LOUGHREA: N Murray; E Mahony, D McClearn, T Regan; S Sweeney, B Mahony, V Maher; E Mahony, G Keary; N Keary, P Hoban, J Coen; J O'Loughlin, J Maher, J Ryan.

Sub: T Hoban for E Mahony 42.

REF: John Keane (Rahoon).



SKIPPER: Portumna captain Ollie Canning lifts the Tom Callanan cup after victory over Loughrea.

Photo: Diarmuid Greene / SPORTSFILE

INJURY: Part and parcel of what we do?



Benny Rock

How often have we seen it? Important championship game on the pitch, star player on the sidelines looking in. For any of us involved in Gaelic games, we accept injury as part and parcel of what we do. Knocks, cuts and bruises happen as result of contact, so there is relatively little we can do to avoid these, without removing the fervour of physical interaction from our games



Dermot Rock

supination are normal motions. Problems can arise when the timing, velocity, or amounts of pronation or supination, are off.

Various inherited foot types and leg shapes are common problems for these motions. Examples are flat feet, high arches, bow legs, knock knees and leg length differences. Each of these imbalances can cause abnormal pronation or supination. These factors contribute to excessive wear and tear and overuse injury problems. Arches and heel pain, shin splints, Achilles tendonitis, and knee and back problems are examples.

It is important to note that these foot imbalances are more common than uncommon. National health statistics and surveys state that up to 75 percent of us exhibit some minor to major foot or leg mal-alignment syndrome. It's not surprising then with so many people active with walking, running and playing sports that overuse-type injuries have risen dramatically. Persistent recurring problems are often warning signs that these foot mechanics imbalances should be examined. Many athletes will ask, "Do I need orthotics?" Here are some better questions: Would I benefit from them? Will I be less susceptible to injury? Will they help my performance? My experience says the answer is yes to all those questions.

Once it's understood what the role of the orthotics are — to capture the optimum alignment and dysfunctional position of the feet and lower legs, and to enhance normal motion and position of the foot and ankle — then athletes, parents and coaches can look at orthotics with better understanding.

Connacht GAA have recently partnered with Athleet, a company founded by brothers Dermot and Benny Rock from Elphin, Co. Roscommon. Athleet provide expert gait analysis and biomechanical assessment twice a month from the Connacht GAA Centre at Bekan, Ballyhaunis, leading to orthotic prescription where necessary.

A typical appointment with Athleet goes like this- Patients are asked about their injuries past and present, to explore possible patterns or predispositions. A thorough clinical assessment is then carried out to establish range of motion, joint function and integrity as well as tightness or pain. The patient is then asked to stand on, and next walk across a pressure scanning mat to show foot pressure mapping data. Put simply this reveals which parts of your foot contact the ground, how forcefully they



HOWEVER, the vast majority of injuries happen from no more than running, turning and jumping, actions which should be basic to the performance of sport in general. It is important to understand the role our biomechanics play in predisposing us to specific injury types. Foot type and posture have a direct relationship to a myriad of common problems, ranging from the foot and ankle right the way up to our lower back, and the most effective way to resolve issues of this nature are through assessment for prescription foot orthotics.

Prescription in-shoe orthotics have proven to be a major aid in the treatment and prevention of foot-related ankle and leg problems, as well as enhancing performance.

Orthotics, which are prescribed from digitally captured data of the feet in static and dynamic positions, have various uses and indications. Examples could be to redistribute weight to different areas of the feet to control abnormal motion or position

of the foot or ankle, to enhance alignment of the lower leg and to help dissipate shock forces generated through the foot, leg and spine. Proper orthotic prescriptions should include an extensive case history and clinical examination.

A common misconception is that orthotics are arch supports. Actually, orthotics do much more than support the arch. Their major role involves controlling positioning of the feet and lower extremity during the different phases of gait.

The foot has three jobs in the walking or running athlete: Shock absorption when the heel hits the ground, shaping to the ground surface in stance, and pushing off or propulsion. Each of these actions demands particular motions of the foot and rotational motions of the lower and upper legs, pelvis and spine. The terms used to describe these foot motions are "pronation" and "supination."

These are complex motions taking place in the joints of the foot and lower ankle, three motions in three directions taking place simultaneously. Pronation and



Pronated



Neutral



Supinated

contact it and at what speed. This information assists in putting together the eventual prescription for orthotics.

The orthotics supplied by Athleet are different to many other brands available on the market at present in that they are constructed from a memory blend thermo plastic. This means that they are guaranteed for life to never crack, break or bottom out. They also have the capacity to flex under stress such as landing from a jump, but always return to their original shape.



Occasionally players are concerned about adding additional bulk to footwear, particularly football boots, but the orthotics are

only 2-3 mm thick so the slip into the boots easily so that after a day or so of getting used to them, you wouldn't even know they're there.

If you have experienced arch, foot, ankle, knee, hip or back pain and believe you might benefit from a gait analysis just contact benny@athleet.ie or ring Benny 086-0587687 for more information or to make an appointment. Alternatively find us on facebook for latest information about clinic dates.

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Cystic Fibrosis real winners from Legends charity match



Former Mayo legend, Padraig Brogan, limbers up ahead of his comeback in Knockmore at the fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis which amounted to over €11,000.

Knockmore hosts legends in historic charity game

Frank Mulvihill was coaching the Knockmore girls' U-14 team last Thursday night when he happened to glance towards the back pitch at St Joseph's Park and glimpsed a ghost from his club's illustrious past. Thinking it was the evening sunlight playing tricks, Frank went to investigate. But this was no twilight apparition. The 'ghost' was real and larger than life. The Bomber was back.

Fifteen years after he hung up his boots and reinvented himself as a successful musician, the legendary Padraig Brogan was standing in the back pitch in Knockmore, 50 yards from goal with eight footballs at his feet. It says everything about the inimitable Bomber that when he finally made his comeback he didn't waste time trying a few handy shots from the 21-yard line. No, that wouldn't be the Brogan style. Instead the man who scored Goal of the Year in 1985 stood between the 50 and 60-yard lines and sent long, booming shots towards the posts. Six of the eight balls went over the bar, prompting the now pony-tailed Brogan to turn to the

watching Mulvihill and mischievously proclaim:

"I never lost it, you know."

Brogan was one of a plethora of GAA Legends who were persuaded to don their football boots one last time for a charity match in aid of Cystic Fibrosis recently. The Mayo team of 1988-89, captained by the great Jimmy Browne, was pitted against a Rest of Ireland selection that included stellar

names like Kieran McGeeney, Dessie Farrell, Kevin Walsh, Justin McNulty, Senan Connell, Bernard Flynn, Joe Brolly and Jim Sheridan, a former Leitrim player who is now aged 69. Mayo footballers of a more recent vintage, including Kevin O'Neill, Ciaran McDonald, David Heaney and Colm McManamon also took to the field at a packed St Joseph's Park. It's estimated that close to 2,000 people came out for this match in aid of Foxford woman Katie Moore who is currently fundraising for Cystic Fibrosis ahead of her participation in the New York City Marathon in November. The final figure from Saturday night's entertainment was over €11,000.

In her wildest dreams, Katie could not have predicted such a large crowd or a more entertaining evening. The weather also obliged with the rain thankfully holding off, which was just as well because the last thing some of these legends needed was a greasy surface; they had trouble enough keeping their feet as it was.

It was an evening when the sense of community that is at the heart of rural GAA clubs like Knockmore shone through.



Former Mayo great, John Casey, steadys before he launches a 'haymaker' which resulted in a point, with colleague, Liam McHale looking on.

Sligo-based Eddie McHale, who played for Knockmore for many years, and the aforementioned Frank Mulvihill were instrumental in organising the charity match. But everyone else rowed in behind them and the club pulled out all the stops to welcome the visiting players and spectators. Refreshments were provided afterwards courtesy of Michael Carr, Ballina.

Football fans travelled from all over the county, country even spoke to spectators who hailed from Belfast.

Everything was done to perfection. The Balla Pipe Band led the pre-match parade and local singer Niamh Langan, daughter of Dessie and Geraldine, delivered a flawless rendition of Amhrán na bhFiann.

The result of the match is almost academic but, for the record, the Mayo Legends won on a scoreline of 4-14 to 3-11. It might be stretching

things to suggest that the Mayo men raced into the lead (it was more a case of staggering into the lead) but they were three points up in the opening minutes.

Anthony 'Larry' Finnerty rolled back the years in corner-forward while Colm

McManamon looked as lean as he did in the Mayo jersey all those years ago.

Colm's wife Caroline explained at half-time that their young son Kyle has been recently diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis, so the fundraising match had a personal significance for Colm. There are 50 families in the West of Ireland coping with Cystic Fibrosis and a new CF Unit at Mayo General Hospital is badly needed. Saturday night's game will have helped CF Ireland reach its fundraising target of over €1m for this vital new facility.

The Mayo Legends led at half-time by 1-7 to 0-6 but the Bomber Brogan



Joe Brolly pictured with Foxford women, Katie Moore, ahead of the big game in Knockmore between the legends of Mayo GAA

was struggling. He pulled a hamstring taking a 30-yard free midway through the half and limped wearily to the sideline, clutching his stricken left leg.

"I'm too old for this oul craic," he was heard to mutter to the bench.

But the crowd was having none of it. 'Bring Back Brogan' came the chant from the stand as the second-half wore on. Ray Dempsey, who was managing affairs on the line, went to inquire if the Bomber might perform an encore.

"Tell him he has the rest of his life to recover," declared one wag.

In the end, local woman Laurita Blewitt, who was acting as MC, encouraged the crowd to raise the decibel level and demand the return of Brogan and another

Mayo legend Willie Joe Padden. There was a rumour circulating that the two aging superstars had been availing of oxygen tanks, a la Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, while resting on the bench.

They re-entered the

fray to the most deafening cheer of the evening and Brogan, wearing the No 2 jersey, obliged his adoring fans by setting up Frank Noone for a tap-in goal before sending the place into raptures by kicking the final Mayo point, whereupon he collapsed to the ground from the sheer exhaustion of it all. Or maybe he was just bowled over by the sight of John Maughan donning a Knockmore jersey (of all things!) for his late introduction. The former Mayo boss looked as fit as ever and was more tanned than a farmer who had spent the July heatwave abroad in Shraheen bog.

Former Derry great and controversial television pundit Joe Brolly slotted home a late penalty and was afforded a warm Mayo welcome befitting such an evening of generosity. The spirit of the occasion was best summed up by the fantastic gesture of the local O'Hara's Bakery who sent everyone home with a loaf of delicious bread, suitably covered in green and red packaging.

"It's the only time I ever left Knockmore with anything," joked one Hollymount man, recalling the clubs' intense rivalry of the 1980s.

The banter continued long into the night in the Knockmore Clubhouse where the former GAA greats pondered Mayo's chances of securing a minor and senior double on September 22nd, sadly the senior team went down to Dublin by 1 point but the minors secured the All-Ireland title.

We're not sure if Mayo boss James Horan had a scout at the game but the cries of 'Bring Back Brogan' will surely echo in his ears over the next three weeks.

As the great man would say himself: 'I never lost it, you know.'



Former Mayo greats, Eugene Lavín, Liam McHale and Peter Butler



Tom Reilly, Chairman of Cavan County Board, and Anthony Finnerty



Seán Lowry (Offaly) Eugene McHale and Meath's Bernard Flynn

KINVARA'S hurling fraternity is in mourning after the death of the club's long-serving President, a man who was an integral part of the club for more than six decades.



Kinvara mourns the passing of Joe Mitchell

BUT Joe Mitchell leaves behind a lasting legacy that will not be forgotten, said the current chairman of the Galway Hurling Board – and former Kinvara hurler – Joe Byrne in a tribute recently.

On Friday, members of the club formed a guard of honour and carried the coffin containing his remains to St Colman's Church and next day, following Requiem Mass to Mount Cross Cemetery. Very Rev. Fr Frank Larkin, PP, officiated at the obsequies. And the Hurling Board Chairman encapsulated the mood of sympathy in the parish, saying: "In our Kinvara GAA community, nobody did more for our club than Joe Mitchell. Since the mid-'50s he was part and parcel of everything that went on, always there at the front leading and if not leading pushing those who should be leading".

"Over the next few days, we will lament his loss, but in the years to come we will never forget all he did. That will be his lasting legacy, *ni bheidh a leitheid ann arís*", to Bina and family, to celebrate his life," he added.

Joe Mitchell, from Loughcurra, was there through the club's highs and lows – he was, for example, the Club Chairman when

Japan's Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko called in to Kinvara hurling pitch at the start of their visit to Kinvara on a wet and windy day in 1985.

From an early age Joe Mitchell loved to play hurling—and, to a lesser extent because of the geographic situation of Kinvara, football. He won numerous medals and honours in both codes.

In 1959, he was member of the Kinvara hurling team which defeated Skehana, 3-9 to 2-4, to win the County Junior Hurling Championship for the first time. In 1962, he played with Kinvara against Gort in the South Board Senior Hurling League Final.

In 1966, he played in the South Board Junior Football final against Ballindereen.

In 1966, Joe was member of the Kinvara hurling team and scored a goal at Athenry when Kinvara defeated Oranmore, 1-9 to 2-0, to win the County Intermediate Championship.

In 1983, on the occasion of the opening of the club's new dressing rooms at Kinvara pitch, he played with Kinvara in the 'Golden Oldies' rematch of the 1966 Intermediate Hurling



The Kinvara 1957 South Board Juvenile Champions, managed by Joe Mitchell (far right).

Championship Final.

Joe's skill at training hurlers became evident in 1957 when he managed the club's victorious juvenile team. In 1991, he was trainer of the club's hurlers who won the County Under-21 B Championship.

In 1959, the year work commenced on the development of Kinvara Pitch, Joe Mitchell served as Kinvara Club delegate on Galway Hurling Board. In that year at Winkle's Hotel, Kinvara, the South Galway Board GAA held its Annual Convention.

Joe Mitchell's administrative skills singled him out and Kinvara GAA Club benefitted from his quiet and unassuming manner in getting things done. He served as Secretary in 1976; Delegate to the County Galway Hurling Board, 1978 and 1979; Chairman, 1985 and 1986; Vice-Chairman, 1994; Chairman, 1997 and 1998; Chairman, 2002; Vice-President, 2006; President, 2013.

Joe Mitchell is survived by his wife, Bina; by his sons, Adrian, Damien, Shane, Martin and Cathal; by his daughter Ruth; by his brother Frank; by son-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren nephews, nieces, other family relatives and a wide circle of friends.



Flashback...Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko of Japan get their first hurling lesson on their Kinvara visit in 1985.

Kinvara GAA's King and Queen of the Castle

LAST November, Kinvara GAA and Camogie Clubs held a hugely successful auction to help raise funds for the purchase of five acres adjacent to our current pitch.

This auction raised enough money that went a substantial amount towards us buying the new land without having to get any loan, with the shortfall being funded from both our GAA, Juvenile and Camogie clubs.

This new five acres is now registered in our club name and we are now the official owners of our new field.

In April of this year, we filed a planning application to Galway Co Co, for a proposed development of a fully sized natural grass GAA playing field with associated floodlighting, goals and netting, hurling wall ball, synthetic grass training area, walking track, boundary walls and other ancillary services.

Galway Co Co came back to us looking for further information. This further information has now been forwarded to them and we now await their favourable response.

Our next step after this is to start development. Our plan is to start in the new year. Obviously this will be a massive undertaking financially. We are currently reviewing all grant options and will pursue all these options available to us.

We do know that we will have to fundraise a considerable amount ourselves, and as a result we have embarked on our principal 2013 fundraiser – King and Queen of the Castle.

This fundraiser will involve many events during the months of October and November, with a target that the winner being announced on Saturday 7th December.

The King and Queen of the Castle will operate with our three clubs (Senior, Juvenile & Camogie) each having two candidates – one for the King, other for the



The launch for the Kinvara GAA and Camogie Clubs "King and Queen of the Castle" Fundraiser, pictured at Dunguaire Castle looking over to Kinvara village. From left: The Duchess of Nogra – Anne O'Hara, The Knocknacullen Prince – David Huban, Lady Moy – Mary Cullen-Ward, Lord Funchion – Johnny Donohue, The Earl of Northampton – Paul Dalton, The Currenrue Princess – Emma Kilkelly.

Queen. Each club will hold events during the coming two months, and basically the club that raises the most money will be crowned as the winner.

The candidates are:

Juvenile Club: Lady Moy (Mary Cullen-Ward) and The Knockacullen Prince (David Huban)
Camogie Club: The Currenrue Princess (Emma Kilkelly) and The Earl of Northampton (Paul Dalton)
Senior Club: The Duchess of Nogra (Anne O'Hara) and Lord Funchion (Johnny Donohue).

It is important to note that all monies raised by this will go entirely to our new pitch development fund. This new development will be a huge asset to our community, as not only will it benefit our combined over 400 active playing members, but will also be of benefit to our three national schools, and our ever

growing secondary school. Alongside that we have an active club membership who engage in walking and jogging, and our new proposed walkway will provide a safe and scenic environment for them.

We have many events being organised by our Kings and Queens in the coming two months. We hope there will be an event that will entice you to attend and enjoy. We do not expect or wish for our community to attend all, but we do ask for your help and perhaps you may attend and support one or two events each. All events we hope will be of a fun and entertaining nature and give value for money. Already we have held a hugely successful and entertaining table quiz, with upcoming events including Mock Wedding, Fashion Show, Road Hurling, Road Footballing, Cards, Ted Fest, Soccer Tournament, Golf Am-Am, and much more.

Updates and dates can be got on our club website or club facebook.



Castlefrench National School in the parish of Caltra winners of the Connacht GAA Jersey Day and Club Project competition. Back-row: Oisín Geraghty, Keelan Murphy, Ryan Murphy, Emma Finnerty, Latisha McGuire, Amy O'Connor, Jack Shaughnessy, Torin Bradley, Aoife Gordon, Shane Murray, Ruth O'Connor, Joseph Crehan, Maeve Murray, Sean Gordon, Rachael O'Connor, James Donoghue, Paul Mannion, Haillie Mitchell, Anna Donoghue, Josh McGuire, Jean O'Connor and Daniel Hannon. Centre-row: Alan Bannerton, Katie Donoghue, Maeve Pender, Rachel Donoghue, Sean Larkin, Rebecca Devine, Aisling Murray, Alicia Lawless, Anna Mai Dolan, Shannon Smith and Grace Shaughnessy. Front-row: Liam Gordon, Caitlin Murphy, Zoe Hannon, Maeve Larkin, Sasha Devin, Alan Murray, Leanne Egan, Eoin Meehan and Kian O'Halloran.



Menlough Intermediate Final Winners. Front Row (L to R): Brendan Costello, Derwin Costello, Mark Costello, David Reilly, James Craughwell, Con Lucey, Jason O'Neill, Hugh Keeley, Kevin Reilly, Back Row (L to R): Shane Lawless, Tomás Mannion, Robert Hughes (Capt), Barry Laheen, Joey Glynn, Colm O'Brien.



Intermediate Man of the Match, Kevin Reilly, Menlough, presented with his award by Milo Costello football committee treasurer (right) and Tadhg O Conghaile, football committee chairman.



Galway great still casting huge shadow

THE statue of Enda Colleran in the town of Moylough in east Galway is easy to find. Coming in from the Mountbellew side on the N63, it is on the right hand side of the main street, in a little square area, with a post office directly across from it.

It is strikingly impressive. Standing on a large concrete plinth over seven feet high, a bronze Gaelic footballer is about to strike a ball off the ground with his right foot. He is in full technical pose; arms outstretched appropriately, left foot in front, anchored on the ground, right foot about to strike.

For those who can remember the great Galway three-in-a-row team of 1964-66, the pose is one which was once a very real and potent living image. The sculpture is based on a real photograph of Colleran, pumping a kick-out off the ground during his heyday, something he was famous for throughout his career.

While the statue itself is relatively easy to describe, it's much harder to know where to begin with the man. Enda Colleran was born in 1942 in Moylough. He won his first All-Ireland medals in 1960. He was on the St. Jarlath's College side that won the Hogan Cup that year and also on the Galway side that won the All-Ireland Minor Football Championship the same season.

Inevitably though, he will be remembered as perhaps the best player from the Galway team which won three All-Ireland titles in row in 1964, 1965 and 1966. Lining out at right-corner-back on all three teams, those games made Colleran a legend. He captained Galway in the 1965 and 1966 finals and is one of a select number of players to have captained their county to All-Ireland glory on more than one occasion.



On the side of the statue is a plaque with a list of all the medals and accolades Enda Colleran received. It makes for astonishing reading. He literally won ever major honour he possibly could have. His career pre-dated the All-Ireland U21 Championship and All-Ire-

land Club Championship, and every other conceivable top honour is on his list.

As well as all his team honours, Colleran has been marked out as one of the greatest footballers of all time in his own right. He was named on the GAA Team of

the Century in 1984 and on the GAA Team of the Millennium in 1999, one of just two Galway men along with Seán Purcell to be named on both teams. Enda Colleran was the only member of the three-in-a-row generation to be honoured in this way.

Away from the football fields, Enda Colleran worked as a teacher in St. Enda's College in Salthill, and also worked as a pundit on RTÉ's The Sunday Game programme. After his playing career ended, he managed the Galway senior football team.

He died very suddenly at the age of 61 in 2004. His tragic death was met with great shock throughout Galway and Ireland as a whole. There were many profound and heartfelt tributes paid to him when he died. The then Galway chairman Frank Burke said: "Enda Colleran was one of the greatest Galway people I have ever known. Apart from his distinguished service to Gaelic football, he was also a wonderfully genuine and sincere person, who took a positive view of everything."

Pat Donnellan, one of his teammates from the great Galway team said: "He regularly went to the gym and kept himself in great shape at all times. He didn't smoke and it was rare that he took a drink. He carried himself very well, we saw that from his days on the television when he commanded widespread respect."

Just two years after his death, the Enda Colleran Weekend was organised in his honour. Attended by former teammates, opponents, family and friends, it was at this event that the life-size bronze statue of the Moylough man was unveiled in his native town by then GAA President Nicky Brennan.

The statue was sculpted by a former pupil of Enda Colleran's, John Coll.



Pictured are the Ballinasloe U-10 hurlers after their victory in the Craughwell U-10 Hurling Tournament.



Pictured are the Clarinbridge U-10 hurlers after reaching the final of the Craughwell U-10 Hurling Tournament.



Pictured are the Turroughmore U-10 hurlers after their victory in shield final at the Craughwell U-10 Hurling Tournament.



Tuam Stars, Senior Team who won the John Dunne Cup Final beating Kilconly by 3-15 to 1-7. Back Row (L-R): Darren McDonnell, John Lawless, David Connern, Brian O'Donnell, Johnny Trayers, Aonghus Tierney, Cian McNamara, Paul Collins, Donal Marley, Eanna Donnellan and Tony Costello. Front Row (L-R): Declan Byrne, Jamie Murphy (Capt), Darragh O'Rourke, Alan O'Connell, John Ross Bodkin, Shane Gaffney, Jason Kearns, Ger Cunniffe and Rory O'Connor.



Tuam Stars captain Jamie Murphy being presented with the John Dunne Cup by football committee chairman Tadgh O'Conghaile



St Michael County Minor B champions. Back Row (L to R): Aidan Ryan, Shane Moloney, Eamonn Brannigan, Eanna Thompson, Chris Sherlock, Stephen Daly, Colin Heffernan, Shane Connaughton, Chris Scally, Jack Griffen, Owen Walsh. Front Row (L to R): Rory Laffey, Des Costello, Mark Brown, Liam Rafferty, Cian Morley, Dylan Thornton (Captain), Andy Dunne, Darren Sinton, Aaron Collins, MacDara Day.



Dylan Thornton St Michael's captain accepting the minor B cup from Galway City mayor Padraig Conneely (centre) and



St Michaels Man of the Match Eamon Barannigan accepting his award from Padraic Kelly North GPC Secretary



The Tuam Stars Junior A team won the Galway North Board Division 3A League Final, defeating Milltown by 0-16 to 1-4. Back Row (L to R): David Trayers, Jason Kearns, Cian McNamara, Darren McDonnell, John Donnellan, Conor Clarke, Denis Murray. Front Row (L to R): Ger Cunniffe, Rory O'Connor, Alan O'Connell, Brian O'Donnell (Capt), Mark Shallow, Colin Quinn, Conor Rhatigan, Declan Byrne.



Brendan Devaney, Tuam Stars' captain, is presented with the cup by JP Kelly, North GPC Chairman



Man of the Match, Tuam Stars' Edward Canavan, is presented with his award by Padraic Kelly, North GPC Secretary.



Annaghdown Junior B North Champions 2013.



Annaghdown captain, Thomas Murphy, is presented with the North Junior 'B' Cup by JP Kelly, North PC Chairman.



Sarsfields delight after winning the Junior C North Championship.



Sarsfields Captain Eamon Cleary presented with the cup by JP Kelly North GPC Chairman.



Man of the Match Noel Kelly receives the Man of the Match award from Padraic Kelly North PC Secretary.



The Pearse's U-16 team which lost out in the U-16B hurling championship final to St Thomas' on a scoreline of 2-11 to 1-6, just the side's second defeat in nine championship games this year. Back row (L to R): Paul Lally, Matthew Walsh, Brian Sweeney, Lee Murphy, Dermot Byrnes, Seán Murray, Ronan O'Neill, Keith Connell, Matthew Ruane. Front row (L to R): Seán Flaherty, Oisín Flannery, Darren Lally, Conor O'Neill, Ronan Carr, Ronan Flannery, Daniel Masterson, Emmet Costello, Eoghan Burke, Tomás Carr.



Winners of the Pa Jordan memorial tournament in Monivea recently were the St Gabriels U-10 team. Back row (L to R): Liam Collins, John Cosgrove, Liam Hession, Oisin Finn, Adam Mullry, Jack Finn, Jamie Malone, Cian Connolly, Ricky Martin. Front row (L to R): Dean Finnerty, Lewis Coughlan, Michael Hanlon, Evan Clancy, Cormac Kenny, Darragh Hession, Darragh Donaghue, Tom Cafferty. Also pictured are trainers Mike Finn, Pat Cafferty.



JERSEY RUN: Tom Sheridans sponsored the Ragoon Newcastle Intermediate Jersey for the 2013 season. Pictured is Ragoon Newcastle and Galway hurler Tony Og Regan, Martin Meehan General Manager Tom Sheridans and John Hanbury Ragoon Newcastle and Galway Hurler.



Former Galway Football Board chairman, Pat Egan from Corofin, being presented to the crowd as he receives the annual personality award on county final day. The accolade was introduced by former chairman Jack Mahon in 1985 and Pat, who is one of the current Galway Central Council Delegates, is the latest recipient of the award. Pat served as Football Board chairman for 18 years during which time Galway won nine All-Irelands – two senior, three U-21, one minor and three All-Ireland club championship success, for Caltra and Salthill/Knacarra, while Corofin 1998 win must be one of his proudest moments in the game.



Corofin take Kilmacud 7s title



CHAMPS: Corofin warmed up nicely for the county final as their 7s team picked up the 2013 FBD 7s final at Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club last weekend.

Photo: Barry Cregg / SPORTSFILE

Corofin (Galway) ..2-6
St Gall's (Antrim) ..1-8

By Daragh Ó Conchuir

COROFIN gained revenge for their penalty shootout defeat by St Gall's in last year's final, coming out on top in another humdinger to win the 41st Kilmacud Crokes FBD All-Ireland football sevens title at Glenalbryn.

Ironically, given how last year's decider concluded, penalties were to play a big part in this game as well.

Corofin led by 1-3 to 0-4 at half time, after Padraic Kelly goalied for Steven Rochford's side.

St Gall's edge ahead at the three-quarter mark when CJ McGourty converted from the penalty spot but Corofin were not to be denied and when Pat Fox adjudged that Gary Sice had been fouled in the square, Dave Morris sent an unstoppable shot beyond McGourty.

The Antrim men, who had won three of the previous five renewals of the tournament, kept fighting hard and a Kevin Niblock point left the minimum between the sides. Carl McCabe's crew lost Sean Burke and Kieran McGourty to red cards however, and Corofin held on.

The tournament got under way at 11am in brilliant sunshine and the unseasonable heat was a factor as the games progressed.

There were indications that the northern domination might be under threat with the make-up of the quarter-finals.

With the club championships in Kildare more advanced than for many years at this time of the year, there were three Lily-white clubs into the last eight (Carbury, Celbridge and Leixlip), while Corofin were joined by Roscommon representatives, Padraig Pearses from Connacht. The Ulster contingent were completed by Castlewellan (Down) and Naomh Conaill (Donegal).

St Gall's were extremely fortunate to overcome Carbury in their semi-final, needing a point from CJ McGourty with the last kick of the ball to bring the tie to a

penalty shootout with the teams deadlocked on 0-9 apiece.

McGourty was amongst the successful kickers and then saved Eoghan O'Flaherty's attempt, before Michael Pollock slammed the winning effort to the roof of the net.

Corofin returned to the final by virtue of a 3-11 to 1-8 win over Castlewellan. All the goals came in an open second half, with Jason Leonard, Daithi Burke and Alan Burke netting for the Galwegians.

SCORERS – Corofin: J Leonard 0-3(1f); D Morris(pen), P Kelly 1-0 each; S Monaghan, G Sice(f), M Lundy 0-1 each. St Gall's: C McGourty 1-3(1-0 pen); K Niblock 0-4; K McGourty 0-1.

ST GALL'S: K McGourty, B Bardley, S Burke, A Gallagher, A Healy, S Kelly, CJ McGourty, K Niblock, T O'Neill, M Pollock.

COROFIN: D Morris, B O'Donovan, A Burke, M Lundy, S Monaghan, K Murphy, G Sice, J Leonard, D Burke, P Kelly.

REF: P Fox (Westmeath).



Under 14 Division 3A West Shield final winners Clonbur.



Under 14 Division 2A North Shield finalists Claregalway. Back row (L to R): Noel Grealish and Mike Field (management), Dylan Buckley, Daniel Grealish, Keith Field, Kevin Keane, Dylan Walsh, Thoma Cogley, Daniel Prior, Sean Coakley, Gerry O'Sullivan (management). Front row (L to R): Niall McDermot, Jason Reilly, Cian Daly, Dara Whelan, Conor Finnerty, Ryan O'Sullivan, Ruairi Gallagher, Owen McDonagh.



Under 14 Division 2A North Shield Final winners Headford. Back row (L to R): Paul Monaghan (Management), Cillian Costello, Cathal Roddy, Ciaran Flaherty, Darren Higgins, Conor Walsh, Robert Forde, Finnan Guy, Michael O'Brien, Colin O'Reilly, Colm Joyce, Cian Doherty, Niall Egan, Shane Walsh and Ger Holleran (management). Front row (L to R): William Moggan, James Walsh, Thomas Newell, Sean Monaghan, James Lee, Eoghan Holleran, Gavin Lee, Thomas Doyle, Alan Togher, Kacper Poniatowski



Under 16 Division 1 County League Final winners Craughwell. Back row (L to R): Liam Fode, Shane Cosgove, Edward Martyn, Conor Hamill, Mark Buckley, Eoin Lally, Darragh Gilligan, Eric Calanan, Cillian McDaid, Adam Morrissey, Aaron Brereton, Andrew Greaney, Nial Horan, Cillian Dolan. Front row (L to R): Conor Duggan, Sean Garmin, Josh McFarlan, Adam Flynn, Dylan Morgan, Conor Sheehan, Ian Connolly, Darragh Hynes, Conor Dolan, Gavin O'Toole, Ian Fox, Brian Concannon.



Under 16 Division 1 County League finalists, Salthill/Knocknacarra. Back row (L to R): Conor Durkin, Kevin Callanan, Peter Crotty, Eoin Deely, John Maher, Paul Butler, Kevin Horgan, Conor Treacy, William Finnerty, Eamonn Conroy, Micheal Prendergast, Conall Fallon, Ronan Murphy, Gerry Kelly. Front row (L to R): John Joe Burke, Joe Tinney, Robert Finnerty, James Hill, Greg Kirwin, Niall King, Ruari Gaffney, Fiachra O'Griofa, Marcus Mac Donnchadha, Shane Kelly.



Larry Lohan (Coiste Peil na nOg) presenting the Under 14 Division 3A West Shield to Michael O'Donnell (Captain, Clonbur).



Michael O'Brien (Captain, Headford) accepting the Under 14 Division 2A North Shield from Tommy Kelly (Coiste Peil na nOg).



Larry Lohan and Tommy Kelly (Coiste Peil na nOg) presenting the Under 16 Division 1 County League Cup to Edward Martyn (Captain, Craughwell).



Pat Quill, President, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, and Lynn Moynihan, from TESCO Ireland, presents Eilish Gannon, Glenamaddy Williamstown Ladies G.A.A. Club, Co. Galway, team captain with the cup after winning the Intermediate final, during the 2013 TESCO Ladies Football 7s, Intermediate final win over Naomh Mearnóg GAA Club, Portmarnock.

Photo: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILÉ

Ardrahan take Galway Camogie honours

Ardrahan3-8
Mullagh1-7

By **FRANK KEARNEY**
Media West Ireland

A STUNNING goal from Denise Diviney four minutes from the end catapulted Ardrahan into the top league of Galway Camogie as they captured their first ever county senior title in front of a huge crowd at St Brendan's Park, Loughrea leaving Mullagh shattered at the end of an absorbing encounter.

There is an old adage that goals win matches and Ardrahan struck three, two of them in the closing stages. However Mullagh will rue the fact that they missed some glorious chances and needless frees that would eventually cost them dearly.

Ardrahan displayed little respect for the

favourites and Rebecca Hennelly from a free and play had the south Galway side quickly in front. Although Cathy Bowes replied with a point for Mullagh, Denise Diviney struck the first hammer blow with an Ardrahan goal that was quickly followed by a Rebecca Hennelly point. Mullagh were missing chances and by half time Ardrahan had commanded a 1-4 to 0-3 advantage.

Rachael Monaghan crashed an early Mullagh goal and although Rebecca Hennelly replied with an Ardrahan point, Mullagh struck two successive points from Aoife Donoghue and Cathy Bowes to bring the game to parity at the three quarter stage.

Just when it looked as if Mullagh were about to take control, Ardrahan stepped up a gear with veteran Aoife Lynskey commanding the defence and Keelin O'Shaughnessy hit back with a wonderful Ardrahan point.

O'Shaughnessy hit back set up

Clíodhna Walsh for an Ardrahan goal but the whistle had sounded and Ardrahan had to settle for a pointed free. But another Rachael Monaghan free left Mullagh a point adrift with six minutes left on the clock as the game was in the melting pot.

Keelin O'Shaughnessy struck another Ardrahan point and then Rebecca Hennelly and captain Rachael O'Toole won possession and set up Denise Diviney who soled from 35 meters and struck a wonderful shot on the run from distance that rifled into the top corner of the Mullagh net. It was a goal worthy of winning any county final but within two minutes Clíodhna Walsh struck a third Ardrahan goal and the title was on its way to South Galway for the first time ever.

SCORERS – Ardrahan: **D Diviney (2-0); R Hennelly (0-6, 0-5frs); C Walsh (1-0); K O'Shaughnessy (0-2).**

Mullagh: **R Monaghan (1-2, 0-2frs); C Bowes (0-2, 0-1fr); A Donoghue (0-2); S Dervan (0-1fr).**



Pictured are the Athenry U-21 side, who were recently crowned U-21 B County Champions after their win over An Cheathru Rua.



Athenry captain Mark Hannon being presented with the cup by Galway football committee chairman, Tadhg O Conghaile, after his side's 3-11 to 0-11 win.



Tómas Flynn U-21 'Man of the Match' presented with his award by Galway football committee chairman, Tadhg O Conghaile.



Sarsfields, the County Junior 'C' Champions for 2013



Man of the Match from the Junior B final, Darach O'Breanain from Oileáin Arainn, picking up his award from football committee chairman, Tadhg O Conghaile.



Sarsfields captain Eamon Cleary with the County Junior C Cup and from football committee chairman, Tadhg O Conghaile who made the presentation.



Rooney goal proves a winner

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

**Glencar/
Manorhamilton ..1-11
Eslin2-6**

By **JOHN CONNOLLY**
Leitrim Observer

DEPLOYED as an extra defender in front of Conor Beirne, James Rooney proved a match winner at the other end with a dramatic last gasp goal.

This GWP Intermediate Championship final took quite a while to get up to speed but once it did, it caught the imagination as a dominant Glencar/Manorhamilton were put to the pin of their collars to see off a Conor Beirne inspired Eslin.

That Rooney's goal came in the last seconds of normal time and it took a block from full-forward Aaron Hickey on his own goal-line early two minutes into added time to stop Beirne from grabbing his hat-trick from a ferocious free-kick only highlights the drama.

Eslin didn't turn up in the first half as Glencar/Manor's patient play in attack and dominant defence where Adrian O'Flynn and Rooney shackled Beirne and 39-year-old Shane Devaney controlled the tempo of the game proved too much of an obstacle.

Leading 0-7 to 0-2, Manor could and should have been out of sight as Conor Dolan walloped a shot off the crossbar and they missed a lot of good chances but once Conor Beirne held off three men to bury the ball in the Manor net just a minute into the second half, the game was back in the melting pot.

The reliance on Beirne was both Eslin's greatest strength and their greatest weakness as the former county man carried the scoring burden entirely on his own. Manor could and did devote three players to stopping the full-forward, play-

ing men in front, behind and beside of him throughout the second half to stop far from ideal long balls from finding him.

That Beirne was able to win possession speaks of his strength, determination and skill as the Eslin man was almost like a force of nature in one of the great one-man performances ever seen in a county final.

But there were times when his teammates dependency on Conor became a liability, one incident where a team-mate was inside the Manor backline but passed back to a marked Conor rather than advance and try the shot himself.

Glencar/Manor knew what was coming from the Beirne brothers and coped as well as one could hope with Adrian O'Flynn, Shane Devaney and James Rooney doing very well to restrict the younger Beirne while Manorhamilton tried to crowd out Tomas Beirne in the middle of the field

Tomas did make some fantastic catches but Eslin needed more from the talented midfielder as Manor's mobile pairing of the Poniard brothers dragged him around the field and meant he was back in the backline more than Eslin wanted.

Glencar/Manor's approach was far more deliberate, using the pace and team-work of Aaron Hickey, Conor Dolan and Alan Hickey to carve open the Eslin rearguard time and time again, their only fault being that they didn't drive home their advantage.

Manor's Senior veterans made a big impact too in attack - Dominic Kelly, Colin Ryan and sub Alan Sweeney used their experience to great effect, linking play between defence and attack and working back to restrict Eslin's long ball deliveries.

Cian McManus and Mark Fox also did well for the Manor men who displayed all the confidence, slick team work and potential of their Senior side and with so many young players on the team, the future certainly looks bright for the north Leitrim men.

An Intermediate title may seem like

small potatoes to anyone looking in from the outside but Glencar/Manor's breakthrough at Senior level came first in the B Championship and perhaps an Intermediate title may be the spring board for some of these young Manor players.

Of course, an Intermediate title would have meant altogether more to Eslin but they do go forward to the Connacht Club Championship where they meet the Roscommon representatives in the semifinals on November 3.

Picking themselves up won't be easy, particularly after coming so close to a famous victory despite playing so poorly in the first half.

Conor Beirne was the shining light but a few of the Eslin men wilted in the closing stages of the game as the pace seemed to get to them just as Glencar/Manor were ratcheting up the pressure.

Eslin's own 39 year old Padraig McNulty defied the years with a display full of energy and Ronan Reynolds put in a very solid performance against Aaron Hickey, more than holding his own. Eamon Stenson, Paul Kilcrann and Barry Bohan also did very well for Eslin.

GLENCAR/MANORHAMILTON: Gary Hickey, Mark Fox, Adrian O'Flynn, Cian McManus, Patrick Loughlin, Shane Devaney, Daniel Maguire, Michael Poniard, David Poniard, Dominic Kelly, Colin Ryan (0-1), James Rooney (1-0), Alan Hickey (0-2), Aaron Hickey (0-5), Conor Dolan (0-1). Subs: Alan Sweeney (0-2) for P. Loughlin (26 mins), Ronan Flynn for Dolan (57 mins).

ESLIN: Enda Turbitt, Padraig McNulty, Ronan Reynolds, Barry Bohan, Eamon Stenson, Paul Kilcrann, Declan Ward, Tomas Beirne, Brian Higgins, Emmet Higgins, John O'Flynn, Joseph Stenson, Shane Beirne, Conor Beirne (2-6), Barry McLoughlin. Subs: Niall Beirne for E. Higgins (HT).

REF: Seamus Mulhern.

Mohill GAA club log terrific season

TO date 2013 has been a good year for Mohill GAA Club and they can be very proud of their achievements.

In September, Mohill contested the Leitrim senior final, but Carrick St Mary's came out on top. Nevertheless the parish enjoyed the experience with Mohill town and surrounding areas bedecked in green and white.

The club went on to capture the minor league and championship double and then went on to gain some small revenge over Carrick winning the Junior A Championship.

The club continued to vie for Division 1 and 3 League honours and are expecting much from the upcoming U-21 championship.

The Mohill Bórd na Óg are a tireless bunch. As well as the minor's victories, the U-16s have won the league and are unbeaten in the championship, their U-14s won the league, but just missed out in the championship, and the Bórd held many large blitzes and coaching sessions from U-6 up.

The ladies club is flourishing also with the minor ladies winning the championship, they

have a team and coaching for all age groups.

On the social side of things there was a Gathering event in June when a Manchester team visited the club and were highly entertained.

The Philly McGuinness Park, named after the great young player who died tragically some years ago, is a joy to behold and we would like to thank all the clubs in Connacht and all over Ireland who helped out in out fundraising in 2012.

Looking forward to an equally successful and enjoyable 2014 with Mohill.



Ladies replay goes to the wire

LADIES SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Aughawillan2-4
St Joseph's1-6

AFTER a titanic battle with fierce rivals St Joseph's, Aughawillan can once again be called the dominant force in Leitrim ladies football.

This senior championship final replay proved to be a tense, dogged affair with little to separate the sides.

The fact that Aughawillan got their first score from play eight minutes from the end gives an indication of what type of hard fought battle this was.

With so much at stake it perhaps wasn't a huge surprise that there was once again very little to separate the sides.

It was only in the closing stages and the eight minutes of injury time that the game really opened up as both teams pushed for a score that would secure victory for their side.

Those dramatic final minutes were in stark contrast to the tense beginning to the replay.

Playing with the benefit of a strong wind, St Joseph's looked to build up an early lead but with space at a premium while Aughawillan and in particular Catherine Holohan and Grainne McGlade defended doggedly and in a disciplined manner.

Deirdre Moran opened the scoring for St Joseph's with a fourth minute free but with both sides obviously eager not to relinquish possession or territory easily, the game became quite congested in the middle third of the pitch. The fact that the game may not have been riveting as a spectacle would have been of little concern to either set of players who were giving their all.

Eimear McGlade, Mary McKeon and Maeve Quinn were incredibly busy for Aughawillan in

midfield but their efforts were matched by Ciara Gray and in particular Clare Owens who was certainly a candidate for player of the match.

Twelve minutes before the break their lead was doubled when Michelle Heslin pointed after Bronagh O'Rourke's free initially came back of the crossbar and just two minutes later they further extended their lead.

Some quick thinking saw Deirdre Moran take a quick 45 to Clare Owens who in turn found Ciara Maguire. Showing plenty of composure Maguire pointed to put three points between the sides.

With five minutes of the half remaining Aughawillan struck for their first point when Aileen Maguire converted a free but it was to be St Joseph's who would have the final say on first half proceedings as Bronagh O'Rourke converted a free to give her side a 0-4 to 0-1 half time advantage.

With a strong wind at the backs of the Aughawillan players in the second half it was evident the contest was far from over but despite the elements it was St Joseph's who made the better start to the second half and the lead was extended when Clare Owens pointed.

The second half was 12 minutes old before Aughawillan registered their second point of the game but it was evident that Aughawillan were increasing the tempo in their play.

Aileen Maguire converted a free after a foul on Grainne McGlade who was beginning to have a big say on proceedings and with 15 minutes left Aughawillan were awarded a penalty after a Sharon Kerrigan's foul on Eimhin Quinn.

However, before they had an opportunity to take the resulting penalty they were reduced to 14 players as Caoimhe Quinn was given her marching orders for retaliating on Kerrigan.

Showing no signs of nerves Aileen Maguire dispatched the penalty low and hard into the St Josephs goal.

With eight minutes remaining Aughawillan

took the lead for the first time, with their first score from play when Mary McKeon pointed after a strong run.

With the momentum and wind behind them it looked as though Aughawillan were on course for victory but there still plenty of twists to come.

In the first minute of injury time Michelle Heslin showed nerves of steel to level matters but five minutes later Aughawillan regained the lead when Carla LeGuen scored an excellent point from a very tight angle.

Victory appeared to be secured in the seventh minute of injury time when Carla LeGuen's shot deceived Shannon O'Rourke and ended up in the St Josephs goal.

There was still more time to be played and St Josephs immediately launched an attack that resulted in a penalty being awarded following a foul on Carmel McCartin.

Bronagh O'Rourke took responsibility for the penalty and reduced the deficit to a solitary point but that was as close as they would come and Aughawillan held on to claim victory.

AUGHAWILLAN: Shauna Plunkett, Sarah Quinn, Catherine Holohan, Marion Mulligan, Mary McKeon (0-1), Grainne McGlade, Ciara Gaffney, Maeve Quinn, Eimear McGlade, Caoimhe Quinn, Carla LeGuen (1-1), Josephine Maguire, Michelle Kellegher, Aileen Maguire (1-2), Karen McGovern. Subs: Eimhin Quinn for Kellegher (40 mins), Ciana Stringer for J. Maguire (60).

ST JOSEPH'S: Shannon O'Rourke, Fionnuala Bohan, Vanessa Gallogly, Marina Gray, Sharon Kerrigan, Siobhan McCartin, Alanna Bohan, Clare Owens (0-1), Ciara Gray, Aine Heslin, Deirdre Moran (0-1), Ciara Maguire (0-1), Michelle Heslin (0-2), Catherine Dolan, Bronagh O'Rourke (1-1). Subs: Carmel McGovern for M. Heslin (45 mins), Michelle Heslin for Maguire (48 mins), Carmel McCartin for Moran (48 mins).

REF: Vincent McMorrow.

Leitrim's U-12 clubs that took part in a recent Blitz day



MELVIN GAELS

CONTINUED ON
NEXT PAGE



Leitrim's footballing future looks bright

GLENFARNE



ST MARY'S

LEITRIM GAELS



**FENAGH
ST CAILLIN'S**



as U-12 clubs show their talents

**SEAN
O' HEISLIN'S**



MOHILL

**GLENCAR/
MANORHAMILTON**



DROMAHAIR



Leitrim's U-12 clubs that took part in a recent Blitz day

**GARADICE
GAELS**



ALLEN GAELS



AUGHAVAS



GORTLETTERAGH





Junior 'B' final fails to light up

JUNIOR 'B' FINAL

Kiltubrid1-4
Aughavas0-5

It may have been under lights but the Leitrim GWP Junior B Championship Final failed to really light up as Kiltubrid held out for the win.

Dara McKiernan's goal just five minutes into the game seemed to promise a high scoring encounter but instead we got a game where both teams displayed plenty of endeavour but lacked the killer instinct.

Both teams wasted a host of good chances to take their scores in a game that failed to fully take hold.

Kiltubrid looked the more accomplished side in the first half and should have been fair further ahead at the break but their profligacy in front of the posts almost cost them.

Aughavas came far more into the game in the second half, boosted after a bizarre episode of a sending off for Kiltubrid that didn't happen for almost ten minutes.

Kiltubrid's Brendan McCormack received a second yellow card eight minutes into the second half but was not shown a red card by referee Frank Niblock. McCormack continued to play

before Kiltubrid took him off under the blood sub rule and then tried to substitute him later before he was eventually put off the field of play.

Whether McCormack's presence on the field for nine extra minutes made an appreciable difference is hard to know but with an extra body, Aughavas launched attack after attack and came close on a couple of occasions to snatching the goal they so desperately needed.

After both sides had wides, Dara McKiernan got the game off to a blistering start when he beat his man to a high ball and advanced to place a smart shot in the Aughavas net.

Kiltubrid threatened to take over completely but they missed a good few chances and Aughavas slowly got themselves back into contention with points from Pdraig McLoughlin and Colin McKiernan.

David McCormack scored from long range on 15 minutes but Aughavas hit three bad wides while Seamus Colreavy made a timely block on McKiernan, the former County man pointing on 25 minutes.

With both sides hitting poor wides, the halftime score stood at 1-2 to 0-2 at the break but Pdraig McLoughlin soon pointed a free. Kiltubrid keeper Kieran Murray made a vital save to deny Keith Conefrey a goal on three minutes.

Dara McKiernan replied with a free before McCormack got his second yellow card but did not depart the action.

Kiltubrid had a few bad wides of their own before Ross Williams made a good save to deny McKiernan a second goal, McKiernan adding a free on 45 minutes.

That was Kiltubrid's last score but Colin McKiernan scored a massive long range effort to keep the pressure on just a minute later.

With the extra man, Aughavas went looking for a goal but could only manage an amazing effort from Colin McKiernan score that seemed to curl in from an impossible angle.

KILTUBRID: Kieran Murray, Barra McKiernan, John McGovern, Donal McNulty, Alan Crossan, Kevin Keaney, Alan McGovern, Kevin Prior, Karol Scollan, Brendan McCormack, Conor Doherty, David McCormack (0-1), Michael McKiernan, Dara McKiernan (1-3), Shane Meehan. Subs: Adrian Lee for Scollan (25 mins), Shane Whitlow for M. McKiernan (HT), M. McKiernan for Doherty (49 mins).

AUGHAVAS: Ross Williams, Francis Bohan, Martin Bohan, Seans Colreavy, Eugene O'Rourke, Fintan Shortt, Michael Moran, Colin McKiernan (0-3), Niall Gallogly, Keith Conefrey, Conor McKiernan, David Charles, Ciaran McCabe, Willie Casey, Pdraig McLoughlin (0-2). Subs: Eamon Heslin for McCabe (22 mins), Sean McKiernan for Casey (HT).

REF: Frank Niblock.

High scoring St Manchan's take minor crown

MINOR FINAL

St Manchans'4-12
Ballinamore
Sean O'Heslin ...2-07

It proved a pulsating encounter, but after a total of six goals and 19 points, St Manchan's claimed the Leitrim minor championship 15-a-side final.

Ballinamore got off to a good start and were quicker to settle with Peter Reynolds registering the game's opening score with a lovely point.

It got even better for Ballinamore in the fifth minute when Conor Moran got the games opening goal having avoided a challenge from Jason Farry.

With great character and determination St Manchan's began to turn things around getting them right back into contention with Keith Keegan starting the scoring with an excellent point.

But it wasn't until the final three minutes of the half that St Manchan's really began to get into the game with two excellent points from Jamie Stenson and Keith Beirne, and with a minute of the half remaining Keith Keegan struck for a decisive goal.

St Manchan's finished the first half the strongest with an excellent point by Keith Beirne and he then went on to score another point from a free deep into injury time ending the half St Manchans 1-6 Ballinamore 1-3.

Ballinamore came out fighting in the second-half and started the scoring within five minutes with points from Kevin Mullen, Luke Murphy and Peter Reynolds which put the teams level.

Ronan Gordon scored for St Manchans from a very tight angle to regain the lead and then St Manchans hit their second goal from Fiachra McGuinness, giving them a four point lead.

Within a minute St Manchan's scored their third goal when Oisín Madded scored, but Ballinamore refused to give up and with 18 minutes remaining Oisín McCaffrey goaled from a close range.

But St Manchans pulled away with four

unanswered points and in injury time Keith Beirne claimed the team's fourth goal to put the gloss on a memorable win.

ST MANCHAN'S: Jason Farry, James Mitchell (0-1), Paul Foy, Jack McGarry, Darren Keegan, Oisín Madden (1-0), Michael Bohan, Keith Keegan (1-1), Daragh Gordon, Alan Tuthill, Jamie Stenson (0-2), Shane McGowan (0-1), Keith Beirne (1-3), Fiachra McGuinness (1-1), Ronan Gordon (0-2). Subs: Kevin Flynn for Bohan (3 mins), Jamie Cosgrove for Tuthill (50 mins), Darragh Higgins for McGuinness (60mins), Sean McGuinness for McGowan (60 mins).

BALLINAMORE SEAN O'HESLINS: Cian McCaffrey, James Hamill, Donal Feely, Anthony Magurie, Paddy Connaughton, Keelan McHugh, Brian Leyden, Dean McGovern, Peter Reynolds, (0-3), Conor Moran (1-0), Luke Murphy (0-1), Oisín McCaffrey (1-1), Adam Goldrick, Niall McGovern, Kevin Mullen (0-2). Subs: Damien Craven for Hamill (20 mins), Daire Murphy for Craven (42 mins), Mark O'Reilly for Keelan McHugh (58 mins)

REF: Gareth Foley.



Tooreen back on top

Tooreen4-10
Ballyhaunis.....1-6

By Michael Commins Mayo News

TEN years in the doldrums were wiped away as Tooreen finally got the wind in their sails and coasted home to a glorious victory in Ballyhaunis. The old heartland of hurling found a new pulse, new heroes and new dreams as they overcame five-in-a-row champions Ballyhaunis with a pulsating display that swept away a decade wandering in the wilderness. Emotions ran wild at the end of the game, tears of delight and tears of memories mingling together in an extraordinary cauldron of Tooreen pride and joy.

No era lasts forever and Ballyhaunis, winners of eight of the previous nine finals, bowed out in gracious manner. They have carried the flag for Mayo with honour and pride over the last decade. Now, Tooreen don that mantle again, new kings of an old tradition.

Only a point separated the teams at the 20-minute stage after Ballyhaunis responded to a Tooreen goal from Ray Larkin, after a superb long-range clear-ance by Stephen Coyne, with points from Brian Hunt and Keith Higgins.

Cathal Freeman set the pace from the outset. Freeman turned in a superb performance, one of his best for some years. When he edged them two clear with a magnificent strike from the halfway line, the big Tooreen crowd responded with passion.

Then, in the space of six minutes, Tooreen rocked the Mayo hurling scene. Kenny Feeney netted a hat-trick and, in the years to come when Tooreen folk recall turning points in their history, Feeney's exploits will command a place of honour in the hurling hall of fame.

Young Fergal Boland provided the pass that led to Feeney's first goal. A minute later, he flashed over a point from play. David Kenny's long range effort for a point dropped short and was batted out by goalie Donal O'Brien only for Feeney to manoeuvre his way inside for a second goal. Tooreen fans were ecstatic a minute later when Paul Hunt tapped the ball into the path of Feeney to blast home his third goal. When Charlie Collins sounded the half-time whistle, Tooreen left the field to a rousing reception and with a commanding lead of 4-4 to 0-4.

All over the field, Tooreen were in command. They came into the game as underdogs, yet, they were like rulers of the kingdom. Cathal Freeman was like a man



Tooreen's hat-trick hero, Kenny Feeney, in action for Mayo.

Photo: Ray Ryan / SPORTSFILE

possessed. Ciaran Charlton from Kiltimagh worked well alongside him. Up front, Kenny Feeney yet again showed what quality is all about when the call is at its height. Ray Larkin has added something extra to the attack. Young lads like David Kenny and Fergal Boland along with Joey Ganley and veteran Paul Hunt blended delightfully on a memorable day.

In defence, Stephen Coyne turned in his best performance for some years and was a central player in stemming the Ballyhaunis threat. The old war horse Brian Delaney was powerful in the corner while Shane Morley was splendid at full-back. Gary Nolan was again superb in defence while Ciaran Finn in the corner and Michael Morley at centre half-back did very well from start to finish. Goalie Stephen Leneghan, back from Melbourne, had little to contend with, such was the dominance of his defence.

Ballyhaunis had a mini revival ten minutes into the second half with a goal from Stephen Hoban and a point from John Brady. A goal-line stop by Shane Morley from another Hoban effort a minute later proved crucial and the rally petered out as Tooreen sailed for home.

It was fitting that Cathal Freeman should score their last point, a magnificent strike from out the field. Feeney and Fergal Boland had tagged on points a little earlier.

Ballyhaunis sorely missed the services of Niall Murphy and Christy McCrudden and a number of other players out through injury and retirement. Apart from a few impressive bursts, Keith Higgins was never allowed the leeway to drag his side back into contention. In defence, Fergal and

Austin Lyons battled bravely while Adrian Brennan made a number of good clear-ances and Ciaran Kiely toiled hard in the vineyard. Pierce Higgins had his moments, as had Hughie McKermitt, while Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt and Eoghan Collins battled bravely to the end.

Tooreen team captain Shane Morley, who received the TJ Tyrell Cup from Johnny Hopkins, dedicated the victory to the memory of star player Adrian Freeman, who died in a road accident in Australia three ago. His brother Cathal Freeman was presented with the man of the match award by sponsor Jim Hogan from Westport. It was such a special moment.

Lacken referee Charlie Collins handled the game well. Tooreen will now travel to Athleague to play Four Roads of Roscommon in the Connacht Intermediate semi-final with a place against the Galway champions, Kilmadeema-Leitrim awaiting the winners.

TOOREEN: S Leneghan; C Finn, S Morley, B Delaney; S Coyne, M Morley, G Nolan; C Freeman (0-3), C Charlton; D Kenny, R Larkin (1-0), J Ganley; K Feeney (3-6 (3f), P Hunt, F Boland (0-1). Subs: C English for B Delaney; S Boland for P Hunt.

BALLYHAUNIS: D O'Brien; A Brennan, C Kiely, D Keadin; F Lyons, H McKermitt, A Lyons; P Higgins, L Cribbin; S Hoban (1-0), T Buckley, E Collins; B Hunt (0-3), L Lyons, K Higgins (0-3, 2f). Subs: K McDermott for L Cribbin; J Brady for T Buckley.

REF: C Collins (Lacken).



Cill Chomáin reclaim county junior crown

Cill Chomáin2-12
Ardnaree1-7

By Willie McHugh Mayo News

CILL Chomáin footballers added another barb to Ardnaree's crown of thorns in this Mayo Junior Football Championship Final.

Now it's four defeats in the last five county finals for the men beyond the bridge in Ballina. This time the Moysiders were on a mission of unfinished business. A mission impossible as it turned out, because Cill Chomáin inflicted a compressive defeat on them. Far more emphatic than the eight points separation suggests.

Truth is this game was over long before half-time, affording anyone with milking chores or evening devotions to attend to the luxury of an early departure.

The second half was about Ardnaree making the patient comfortable at the scene of the accident because Cill Chomáin did all the damage in the first half.

They were generous at the off, even gifting Ardnaree an early goal. Their defence was hesitant, and even a tad negligent, in dealing with a ball in the danger zone.

Kevin Newell took advantage of their dalliance before picking out Chris Walsh on the edge of the square and the corner forward did the rest by shooting to the Cill Chomáin net. It was the start they needed and they even hinted they were going to build on it.

Walsh then posted a lovely point and wing back Shane Timlin was given licence to push forward. He rambled far enough to fist over a point after arriving on the end of a Darragh McCormack and Noel Beattie lacing.

It looked like the gods were about to finally smile on Ardnaree, but instead they woke the sleeping giants from the coastline of North Mayo.

Derek Moran put his deposit on the man-of-the-match award and set his side on the way, hitting a mighty long-range effort and followed up with another from beyond the scoring radar.

On 20 minutes his midfield partner Brendan Moran ran through the heart of the Ardnaree defence before off-loading to Martin Geraghty. 'The Gooch' turned and his ferocious shot gave Blaine Ginty in the Ardnaree goal no chance whatsoever.

Terence Moran added a free and then did a 'Colm Coyle' on it when his long delivery hopped over the Ardnaree crossbar. Then Moran from afar, and an over the shoulder kick from Kevin Ginty, stretched the Cill Chomáin lead and Ardnaree were reaching for the flares.

They might have made it to the safe harbour of the dressing room, but just before half-time they were marooned.

"Jaysus, but that's some kick-out" a woman in front of us quipped as we watched Fintan Ruddy's airborne missile from the bacon factory goal gain altitude and longitude. It bypassed midfield on autopilot before dipping earthwards again about 30 yards from the Ardnaree goal. It landed at the feet of James McAndrew and he drove it to the net.

The main artery was severed now and when McAndrew chipped over a cheeky point the Kilcommon roar of delight could be heard as far as Paddy McGrath's Pub in Pullathomas.

Referee Mark Tuffy sounded the half-time whistle. He may as well have blown the full-time while he was at it. Even the most optimistic of Ardnaree supporters knew they were facing an impossible task.

Act two was only about adhering to time regulations. To make things more unbearable someone turned off the mains and the scoring flow trickled to the drip of a leaking tap pressure.

A brace of points was all Cill Chomáin could manage and even that was ample to see them safely home. Martin Geraghty hoofed a Fintan Ruddy free over the bar

and the former Mayo custodian added a '45 to put the icing on the cake.

Ardnaree kept plugging away but their plight was that of men trying to drain a spring well with a strainer.

Their challenge petered out long before the finish. It ended as a meaningful contest the minute Fintan Ruddy's scud landed.

Come hell or high water Pete McDonnell just won't cross the grand old river Moy. It's dancing in Healy's Hall in Glenamoy, or stepping out around Inver and Glengad. He'll spend the winter there, for the first time in eight years.


CILL CHOMÁIN: F Ruddy (0-1, '45); J Coyle, M Burke. D Fahy; J Healy, D Coyle, A Murphy; B Moran, D Moran (0-2); R Ginty (0-1), J McAndrew (1-1), M Irwin; G Ruddy, M Geraghty (1-1), T Moran (0-6, 5f).

Subs: J Cox for T Moran; D Sweeney for Irwin; Darragh Murphy for G Ruddy; Declan Murphy for Geraghty; A Doherty for J Coyle.

ARDNAREE: B Ginty; G O'Donnell, P Lacken, E O'Donnell; M Walsh, M McCormack, S Timlin (0-1); S Tighe, I Clarke; M Rafter, R Doherty (0-3, 2f), N Beattie; K Newell, D McCormack, C Walsh (1-2).

Subs: J McHale for G O'Donnell; E McCormack (0-1) for Beattie; R O'Malley for Clarke; R Clarke for D McCormack; A Kelly for E McCormack.

REF: M Tuffy (Shrule/Glencorrib).



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Pictured are the Ballyhaunis Community School 1st/2nd Year Colleges Hurling team who were in action in the Connacht GAA Supertouch Development Blitz at the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Beken recently.



The Rice College (Westport) Supertouch Hurling side who were at the Connacht GAA Post Primary Schools Supertouch Hurling Blitz in the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence in Beken recently. Many of the players on the side hurl with the local St Patricks GAA Club in Westport.



The Ballyhaunis Community School Supertouch Hurling side who were at the Connacht GAA Post Primary Schools Supertouch Hurling Blitz in the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence in Beken recently. Many of the players represent their clubs in hurling for Ballyhaunis GAA and Tooreen Hurling Club.



Pictured are the Connacht GAA U-16 Hurling Development Academy who were in action against their Ulster counterparts in Armagh City recently. Back (L to R): Benny Kenny (Coach), Kevin Banks (Coolera - Sligo), Gearoid Keenan (Oran - Roscommon), Adam Keady (Moytura - Mayo), James Walker (Roscommon Gaels - Roscommon), Shane Geraghty (Westport - Mayo), Sam Forde (Moytura - Mayo), Darren Williams (Caiseal Gaels - Mayo), Shane Fleming (Caiseal Gaels - Mayo), Noel Watson (St Doms - Roscommon), Daniel Glynn (Pearses - Roscommon), Pearse Dolan (Ballinamore - Leitrim), Proinsias Killion (Coach). Front (L to R): Eoghan Costelloe (Pearses - Roscommon), Michael Kellehan (Athleague - Roscommon), Tomas Fahy (Moytura - Mayo), Ryan Kilbane (Ballyhaunis - Mayo), Conor Murray (Castlebar - Mayo), Patrick Burke (Tourlestrane - Sligo), Paul Howley (Castlebar - Mayo), Damon Beatty (Manorhamilton - Leitrim), Chris Ferguson (Manorhamilton - Leitrim), Eamon Foy (Castlebar - Mayo).



Pictured are the Mayo GAA U14 Hurling Development Panel after a recent development challenge game against Sligo in Charlestown GAA Pitch. The Mayo side put in a strong display on the evening coming out on top on a 6-14 to 2-7 scoreline over the Yeats County. The Mayo side are currently in preparation for the All-Ireland U14B Championship. Mayo have been grouped with Down, Meath and Armagh in Newry, in what will be the first time Down GAA have hosted the national event. Back (L to R): Michael Raleigh (Coach), Sean Freyne (Tooreen), Kaylem Connolly (Westport), Mark Cusack (Ballyvary), Shane Kennedy (James Stephens), Shane Hegarty (Castlebar), Bobby Douglas (Tooreen), Cormac Phillips (Ballyhaunis), David Gannon (Tooreen), Conor Hunt (Tooreen), Aiden Morrisroe (Caiseal Gaels), Thomas Duffy (Caiseal Gaels), Hugh O'Sullivan (James Stephens), David O'Sullivan (Coach). Front (L to R): Ciaran Doherty (Tooreen), Michael Freyne (Tooreen), John Geraghty (Westport), Kevin Grogan (Westport), Luke Hurley (James Stephens), Finnian Burke (Ballyvary), Billy McVann (James Stephens), Tomas Dillon (Caiseal Gaels), John Heraty (Moytura), Michael Raleigh (Caiseal Gaels), Eoin Delaney (Tooreen), Paddy Lyons (Tooreen), Liam Moffett (Caiseal Gaels).



Eastern Gaels enjoy day in Croke Park



The first Eastern Gaels team to play in Croke Park. Well done to all the lads.



Eastern Gaels U-6 after their final match this year, well done to all the team from Shirley and Sinead. See you all back next year.



Saoirse Waldron Eastern Gaels, member of the winning Flanagan cup team 2013.



Huge thank you to these men from all at Eastern Gaels GAA Club for a great day in Croke Park. Denis Carr, (GPO, Galway) and Billy McNicholas, (Games Manger, Mayo) deserve a big thanks for their efforts.



Shirley Mooney and Kate Concannon enjoy their Croke Park day with Connacht GAA, Shirley and Kate play a big part on the Eastern Gaels Bord n'Og.



The Tooreen Minor Hurling panel and mentors after their side's 2-19 to 1-12 win over Castlebar in the Mayo GAA Minora Hurling final in Ballyvary. Back (LtoR): Brian Finn (Manager), Adrian Boyle, Brian Morley, Ross Egan, John Judge, John Morley, Davog Freyne, Liam Conboy, Kieran Harrison, Domníc Flannery, Austin Kenny (Mentor). Front (LtoR): Fergal Boland, Stephen Murphy, John Cassidy, Aiden Henry, Sean Kenny, Daniel Cunnane, Daniel Huane, David Kenny, David Harrison, Nathan Boles.



David Kenny (Tooreen) receives the Man of the Match Award at the Mayo GAA Minora Hurling final from Christy Phillips (Mayo GAA Coiste Iomana na nOg Chairman). Kenny was in exceptional form at centre back for the blues as they powered to a 2-19 to 1-12 win over Castlebar Mitchels in Ballyvary. Just 24 hours earlier Kenny helped the Mayo GAA Minor Football side defeat Monaghan in Croke Park.



Tooreen minor captain Daniel Cunnane receives the Mayo GAA Minor A Hurling Cup from Brendan Geraghty (Mayo GAA Hurling PRO) after his side's impressive 2-19 to 1-12 win over Castlebar Mitchels in Ballyvary.

David Kenny (Tooreen) in full flight during a recent U-21 championship match against Ballyhaunis. Kenny gave a Man of the Match performance and won an All-Ireland minor football title with Mayo after defeating Tyrone in Croke Park. It has been an incredible year for Kenny, after already helping the Mayo minor hurlers to All-Ireland C success after their recent win over Monaghan in Ballinamore. It has been a busy season for the Tooreen star who has recently taken up a place in college in the University of Limerick. Kenny plays his club football with Aghamore GAA Club, while he was also a member of the Mayo senior and U-21 sides in this year's respective campaigns this season.





Roscommon remember



Tony Conboy (Organising Committee), Michael Fahey (Chairman of Roscommon GAA County Board), Mayor Martin Connaughton, Liam Gilmartin and Brendan Lynch both players on the 1943-44 Co. Roscommon All-Ireland winning Team.
Photos: www.hursonphotography.com

Roscommon GAA and Roscommon County Council marked the 70th anniversary of Roscommon's first All-Ireland senior football title win.

The event, which took place in the Roscommon County Library, began by the unveiling of a commemorative Plaque by Liam Gilmartin and Brendan Lynch - members of the victorious team. They were later joined by John Joe Nerney who starred on the team of '44.

Among the guests were representatives of all the 1943 and 44 panellists, the Roscommon Under 21 All-Ireland winning team of 1978 and Mayor of Roscommon Martin Connaughton.

The idea for the occasion grew out of a conversation last spring between Michael Fahey, Roscommon GAA Chairperson, and GAA historian Tony Conboy. Both the timing of the event (which occurred be-

tween the anniversaries of 1943 draw and replay dates), and the location, in a building which was used as a training base for the victorious teams, were an important part of the project.

The next step was to make contact with the guests and it was the responses to these invitations which brought home the significance of the occasion to both men. Speaking at the unveiling Mr Fahey said: "The sense of pride that all recipients of our invitation, whether directly involved or representing deceased members of the team or officials, brought home to me the extent to which this event means to them. It also shows the depth of bond that exists between the men of that team and their families and one can clearly understand that the teams of 1943 and 1944 were really special teams," he said.

The chairperson's comments on the

significance of the event were echoed by Liam Gilmartin, who also spoke at length about the life changing experience of winning an All-Ireland title.

Another anniversary which was marked on the day was the 35th anniversary Roscommon's All-Ireland U-21 win of 1978. That final was played in Dr Hyde Park and the team hold the unique feat of being the only Roscommon football team to win a national title on home soil. Their victory was part of the second glorious period in the history of Roscommon GAA - when the county's only National Football League title win, a "four-in-a-row" of Connacht Senior titles and an All-Ireland Final appearance was achieved.

Mr Fahey concluded by thanking those who made the event possible; Tony Conboy whose "encyclopaedic knowledge of the 1940s were the main reason why we

GAA historian tells of Roscommon heroes

Tony Conboy, noted GAA historian and member of the organising committee, was one of the speakers at Sunday's event.

He spoke of the background to the success that Roscommon achieved during the 1940s noting the factors that led to the historic achievement "great clubs teams such as Tarmon, St Patrick's, Roscommon Town and others; success with underage teams (including the All-Ireland Minor win in 1939) and the arrival of Roscommon CBS as the dominant force in Connacht colleges laid the groundwork for the senior teams of 1943 and '44. Then you had the leadership of the County Board with Dan O'Rourke and J.J. Fahey providing the facilities necessary to achieve suc-

cess."

Continuing, Tony outlined how the group of talented players were able to blend as a team and noted the importance that Sunday's venue (which was used as a training base) played in the successes.

The team played great, attractive football and as a result their games drew huge crowds with attendance records being shattered on a number of occasions. Paying tribute to the players present at the event he described Liam Gilmartin as "a majestic fielder"; Brendan Lynch as "a man of great strength" and John Joe Nerney as a "terrier like forward".

"It was a team of all talents who were successful off the field as well as on the field.

They were more a band of brothers who 70 years later still have a bond that is evident by the attendance of all you here this morning," said Mr Conboy.

Like Michael Fahey, Tony also spoke of the impact that the All-Ireland wins had on the people of the county, which could be best described with the following quote "Roscommon people walked taller and felt better because of the team's success."

Concluding, Tony thanked Roscommon GAA for organising the event and the County Library and Roscommon County Council for their permission to erect the commemorative plaque in the Library building - a fitting place to honour this great team.



1943 greats



Family members of the 1943 and '44 panelists along with surviving Players Liam Gilmartin, Brendan Lynch and John Joe Nerney pictured at the launch of the Roscommon GAA Memorabilia to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Roscommon's first senior All-Ireland Football final win on Sunday at the Roscommon County Library.

were able to organise this event"; Roscommon County Council Director of Services Kathleen Martin who allowed the commemorative plaque to be displayed in the Library Building and the County Library Services Staff under the leadership of Mary Butler who were instrumental in ensuring that everything possible was done to make this occasion and exhibition a success. He also reserved special praise for Finbar and staff at Feelystone, Boyle who designed and produced the plaque.

In this, the year of The Gathering, he acknowledged all those who travelled long distances to attend: "Your presence is proof of the bonds you have with Roscommon and I hope that you enjoy today and that you are aware of the esteem that you and the members of both teams will always be held by Roscommon people at home and abroad".

As well as the unveiling of the plaque, the event marked the opening of a GAA exhibition featuring photographs, pro-

grammes and other memorabilia; including the Ball used in the '43 final, the Sam Maguire Cup (on loan from the Croke Park Museum for the day) and the Andy Merri-gan Cup - a symbol of what can be achieved by Roscommon footballers in the modern era.

Commenting on the exhibition Mr Fahey said that he hoped it would help give "a feeling of the excitement and good-will that existed in the county during the war years. It shows the role that the 1943 team played in making life that little bit more bearable during what were difficult times. This is a role that the GAA continues to play in Irish society and one only has to recall the wonderful summer of games in both hurling and football which raised our spirits nationally to highlights what a contribution our games can still make to Irish society".

The exhibition went on view for two weeks after the launch and attracted large numbers from throughout the county and beyond.

Liam Gilmartin reflects on the All-Ireland wins

Liam Gilmartin who was midfield on the 1943 and '44 winning team spoke about what it meant to be a member of that successful team. Liam emphasised the spirit and the determination of the team to be the best.

Referring to the Connacht Final against Mayo in 1943 he said that "we won that game but we did not play well. The All Ireland semi-final against Louth was different. That was the best game of football I ever played in. Louth were a good team-fast, skilful and manly. We were better and we won. In the drawn final against Cavan we played poorly especially in the first half. In the second half we got back into it and managed a draw. The replay was ours. We played well and won it."

After the '43 win we were determined to do back to back wins. We won Connacht easily and overcame Cavan in the semi-final. We were now facing Kerry. We were good that day. I was marking Paddy Kennedy and we had a great struggle. Our lads' played well and we deserved to win that final."

Describing the scenes of after the '44 final Liam said "It was great to be among your own. Your neighbours, your friends, players against whom you had played club football. Roscommon supporters were great. They followed us everywhere and gave great support to us"

Concluding Liam thanked all concerned with the event and said he was delighted to be able to be present among team mates and families of deceased players.



Liam Gilmartin, Brendan Lynch and John Joe Nerney players on the 1943-44 Co. Roscommon All-Ireland winning Team pictured at the launch of the Roscommon GAA Memorabilia to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Roscommon's first senior All-Ireland Football final win on Sunday at the Roscommon County Library.



Strokestown delighted by Roscommon title

**By Michael O'Brien
Roscommon Herald**

STROKESTOWN senior ladies' manager Trevor Lyttle has been involved with the team for four years but he took the manager's job this year, insisting it would be for one year only. And what a year it has been, with the club winning its first senior title ever.

"It's incredible. They're a serious team. The commitment they've put in is unbelievable. We've had 78 training sessions and this was our 19th match. We came across St. Brigid's a few times before and it's a credit to the team tonight that they won it.

"Brigid's never gave up the first day and they showed why they are champions. We went in at half time under pressure but the players showed the training and the effort they've made in the second half. They're a super bunch," said a delighted Trevor Lyttle after the game.

The manager went on to shower his players with plaudits.

"It's just a class bunch of players. The talent is there. It's not really much to do

with the management or anything. It's a well-balanced team from 1 to 15 and there are great subs too. There are subs there that could come in and do a job at any time," he added.

St. Brigid's got on top leading up to half time. Being a young team, questions marks were hanging over Strokestown's mental strength. However, they provided the answers in emphatic fashion.

"Brigid's would obviously be more mature team than us. They have the years on us, and as you get older you get stronger. In fairness to Brigid's, they're a great outfit and I couldn't say enough good things about them. But like every good team, the day comes when things change. There's a great Strokestown team if they stay together. I'm four years involved with the team and it's a lot of commitment. We just hope they stay together," he remarked.

Ronan Shiel and Shane Flaherty were in charge five years ago when the team won the Junior B crown. Trevor joined the management the following year. Then Strokestown won the Junior A championship and league, followed by the intermediate championship and league before finishing runners-up to Brigid's in last

year's final after winning the senior league. This is Trevor's first year as manager where he is joined by Fergal McGinley and David Brudell.

"It was a hard year at times and there would be occasions when you'd have your differences with people but the county board is trying its best with what it has and the money it has," Trevor acknowledged.

The Connacht championship is just around the corner and the team's manager hopes that the county final and replay will stand to the team. He went on to point out that, perhaps, Brigid's often got things too easy in Roscommon in the past before facing the Mayo champions.

"The standard of the two games was amazing. People think ladies' football isn't physical but it is. There were big hits going in there. For the weaker clubs to get better they have to be playing Strokestown and Brigid's to improve their intensity. Those two games will stand to us.

"I felt sorry for Brigid's in the past where they'd go out in the Connacht championship having received no test in Roscommon. You need a few strong teams in Roscommon and at least there are two now," Trevor concluded.

Four Roads make it six-in-a-row

Four Roads..... 2-15
Oran2-9

**By Michael O'Brien
Roscommon Herald**

IT'S a rare achievement for a club to complete a six-in-a-row. And for Four Roads manager Kieran Coyle it was something he said that would forever be recorded in history.

"It means everything. For a small rural parish and club, it's history. They'll always go down in history as the six-in-a-row team. In our lifetime we may never see it again so it's great to be part of that.

"You could say our experience stood to us and the bit of luck too. With a few minutes to go there were three points in it. They got a penalty and if that had gone in, it could have gone either way. But on days like this you need a bit of luck as well and the bit of experience, and it just pulled us through," explained Coyle afterwards.

Oran have a healthy record against Four Roads in county finals. The Four

Roads manager noted that the strong challenge that Oran presented was just what his team were expecting.

"It was exactly what we were expecting. We played Oran a number of times this year and we know exactly what to expect of them. It wasn't against a team we didn't know about. It's the same story against Oran. They will put it up to you and it's up to you to respond.

"It's hard to judge a game when you're in my position and situation on the sideline. Over the next few days I'll sit back and look at it. It was good and tight. It was tit for tat and there were never more than a couple of points in it until the last few minutes. It was just down to the break and the bit of luck," added Coyle.

Oran joint manager John Murray was disappointed but he expected his side to bounce back for next year.

"It could have been a different story if the penalty had gone in. We gave it everything. We're very proud of what the lads gave. It just wasn't enough unfortunately but hopefully we'll be back next year to have another crack at it."

Those sentiments were shared by joint manager Enda Hoban.

"We couldn't fault anybody today.

Some days you get the penalties, other days you don't. We've a very young squad so we're going to regroup and come back next year. We'll have the bit between our teeth next year and we'll want it that bit more I believe," felt Hoban.

And no doubt, with such a young panel, Oran will be back in 2014 and will be challengers for a number of years.

FOUR ROADS: N Fallon; C Coyle, J Lawlor, B Donnelly; J Rogerson, P Kelly, S Curley; M Kelly (0-5), J Moran; B Kelly, M McLoughlin, C Dolan (0-1); D Dolan (0-7, 6f), J Coyne (2-1), A Lawlor. Subs: R Kelly for A Lawlor, S Byrne for B Kelly, D Fallon (0-1) for McLoughlin, B Mannion for R Kelly, D Lohan for Coyne.

ORAN: P McInerney; MT McCormack, P Crehan, S Keane; J Crehan, D Leonard, S Moylett; M Dwyer, G Fallon (0-2, 1f); T Featherston (0-1), H Rooney (0-1), E Kenny (0-1); S McDermott, C Kenny (0-4, 3f), P Kenny (2-0). Subs: M Gunning for McCormack, K McDermott for S McDermott, C Kelly for Rooney, I Connelly for E Kenny.

REF: C Browne.



Drumcliffe/Rosses Point finally take the title

**Drumcliffe/
Rosses Point1-8
Calry/St. Joseph's .1-6**

By LEO GRAY Sligo Champion

THE pain and despair of three losing finals were swept away in a tide of emotion as Drumcliffe/Rosses Point finally got their hands on the Intermediate Championship trophy.

The decider at Markievicz Park wasn't a classic but that hardly mattered to Drumcliffe as they held off a spirited late revival by their North Sligo neighbours, Calry/St. Joseph's, to claim the coveted piece of silverware.

Six points up early in the second half, Drumcliffe looked to be coasting but with the winning line in sight they began to falter, allowing Calry to take control in the last quarter.

It was if their defeats in the 2010, 2011 and 2012 deciders were coming back to haunt them.

They weren't exactly at panic stations but the momentum was certainly with Calry in the closing stages and a draw was a real possibility when the gap was cut to two points as the game ticked into injury time.

However, Drumcliffe held their nerve sufficiently to get across the line, with a magnificent point from a 50 yard free by the ever-reliable Paul Logan putting the seal on a memorable victory.

It was no more than Drumcliffe deserved - not just because of the character

they showed in coming back for a fourth try at winning the title.

Over the hour they were the better side, displaying greater fluency and composure, and generally playing the better football. But they didn't have things their own way. True, they dominated the early exchanges and should have built up a commanding lead in the first half.

But Calry, despite a slow start, displayed tremendous battling qualities and it says much for their tenacity that they went in at the break on level terms, despite playing second fiddle to Drumcliffe for long stretches of the opening period.

The fact that they were on equal terms at half-time owed much to a 25th minute penalty, hammered to the net in emphatic style by Brian McGovern.

The spot-kick was awarded for a foot-block tackle after Damien O'Boyle's defence-splitting pass had put Eoin Doherty in on a one-to-one situation with Drumcliffe 'keeper, Brian Holland.

At that point, Drumcliffe were leading 0-4 to 0-1, courtesy of scores from Logan (2 frees), John Hester and Mark Horkan to Keith Farragher's excellent point for Calry.

McGovern's goal put the sides level and almost immediately Eoin Doherty put over a free to edge Calry clear for the first time in the match.

Logan replied with a pointed free at the other end to square things up at half-time.

With the game finely balanced, Drumcliffe increased the tempo in the early stages of the second half and their endeavours were rewarded when they earned a penalty of their own.

Philip Gallagher was tumbled to the ground at the end of a slick move and

Logan stepped up to rifle the ball high to the roof of the net to give his side a three point advantage.

Logan followed up with a superb point from a 35 yard free and suddenly the game began to drift away from Calry.

Gallagher and Hester picked off well-worked points to stretch Drumcliffe's lead to six, 1-8 to 1-2, but Calry were far from finished.

With the lion-hearted, Cormac Coyne, leading by example, they pushed forward with renewed conviction. Doherty had their first score of the second period from a free in the 45th minute and when he converted another free shortly afterwards, an unlikely comeback looked on the cards.

Calry's growing pressure earned another free which was curled over by Doherty and the same player was on the mark again two minutes from time to cut the deficit to just two points.

It was now all down to a frantic finish.

While several of Drumcliffe's young stars made huge contributions early on, it was now the cool heads and experience of Philip Gallagher and the unsparing Neil Ewing which helped them to weather the storm. And then their top scorer, Logan, came up with a terrific injury-time point to put the issue beyond all doubt.

It was a particularly sweet victory for Drumcliffe who proved that perseverance and dedication to the cause can reap rewards.

For Calry, it was a disappointing end to an eventful campaign. But they have a young, emerging team who are certainly good enough to figure prominently in the hunt for Championship honours again next year.

Double victory for Coolaney/ Mullinabreena

**Coolaney/Mullinabreena .1-10
Shamrock Gaels 2-5**

COOLANEY/MULLINABREENA U-14's completed the League and championship double with victory over a well drilled Shamrock Gaels team in Markievicz Park

A game where both teams had periods of dominance eventually swayed the way of the South Sligo club with two points from Barry Gorman and Paul Connolly in the closing minutes

Coolaney/Mullinabreena had the perfect start when Paul Connolly found the back of the net with a great effort. This was followed up with a point from Tony Healy. Shamrock Gaels

found their feet and picked off good points.

They were rewarded with a goal when the referee pointed to the penalty spot. Barry Gorman kicked the final point of the half to give Coolaney/Mullinabreena a one-point lead at half time, 1-4 to 1-3.

Well struck frees from Gavin Gorman, and a point from play by wing back Niall Connolly were all cancelled out with a great team goal from Shamrock Gaels leaving the game level going into the last 10 minutes. Both sides had chances to win it, no more so when Shamrock Gaels hit the butt of the post. But Coolaney/Mullinabreena hung in, and eventually scored the winning points from the excellent Barry Gorman and Paul Connolly.

Afterwards, captain Barry Gorman was presented with the trophy by county board mem-

ber Padraig Clancy.

This was a year to remember for the young Coolaney/Mullinabreena players, remaining unbeaten throughout the league and championship campaigns, with special credit due to their management team of Gerry Mullen, Frank Gilmartin, Stephen Barrett, Darren Coleman and Colin Marren.

COOLANEY/MULLINABREENA: Lorcan Callaghan, Eoin Wims, David Barrett, Niall Connolly(0-1), Conor Feely, Michael O'Dowd, Shane Gormalley, Barry Gorman(0-4 2f), John Gilmartin, Paul Connolly(1-2), Gavin Gorman(0-2), Tony Healy, David Mullen. Subs: Eamonn Thorntorn, Sean McGuinness, Darragh McDonagh, Gerard Mullen, Kieran Gorman, Kevin O'Kennedy.



Castleconnor take minor honours

Castleconnor1-18
Coolaney/Mullinabreena1-9

CASTLECONNOR had the final say in this year's minor championships as they eased to victory over Coolaney/Mullinabreena in the A2 decider at Markievicz Park.

County senior panel member, Kevin McDonnell, drove Castleconnor on impressively throughout the match while county minor, Stephen Curley and Matthew Cullen were also key players.

There was only a point between the sides at the interval with the West Sligo side leading 1-8 to 1-7.

But it was a different story after the break as Castleconnor took complete control to overwhelm a gallant South Sligo outfit.

Castleconnor got off to a great start with a goal and three points in the opening quarter.

The goal came in the 12th minute as Matthew Cullen flicked the ball to the net after a clever pass from Curley created the chance.

However, Coolaney/Mullinabreena replied in stunning fashion, clocking up a goal and six points without reply.

The impressive Conor Doyle got a number of vital scores while Nathan Mullen grabbed the goal which turned the game on its head.

Castleconnor hadn't scored in 18 minutes at that stage but they regrouped in the latter stages of the half to register four unanswered points.

That gave them a one point advantage at the interval.

Curley and Eoin McDonagh exchanged points at the start of the second period but the West division side gradually took over, with McDonnell a prominent figure.

McDonnell and Curley were the main scorers as they pulled away to record a well-deserved win.

CASTLECONNOR: S Durkin, C Judge, C Gallagher, C Barrins, E HYPERLINK "http://searchtopics.independent.ie/topic/Kent_State_University" Kent, J O'Hara, C Kicullen, K McDonnell (0-5), S Wright (0-2), J Earlis, K Foody (0-1), S Curley (0-6), M Cullen (1-3). Subs: S Carrabine (0-2) for Kicullen, J Flynn for O'Hara.

COOLANEY/MULLINABREENA: C Finan, P Gorman, K Gannon, K Kirrane, E Burke, B Duddy, E McDonagh (0-2), S Connolly (0-2), B Connolly, C Doyle (0-5), N Mullen (1-0), S Middleton, N O'Dowd. Subs: G Feely for S Middleton, E Gorman for Mullen, J Gormley for B Connolly.

REF: R Dillon.

Calry/St Joseph's the Sligo hurling

CLUB PROFILE

HURLING in Calry / St Joseph's GAA Club owes its origins to two men, Joe Keane and Henry Cox, both men were actively involved with Craobh Rua Hurling Club, Joe as manager and Henry as a player.

They both lived in the Calry/St Joseph's parish and wanted to start an underage program which would benefit the senior hurling club, Craobh Rua who at this stage were sharing Davey's field alongside Calry football club for matches.

In the depths of winter 1994, winter indoor hurling training and leagues were started by the both Henry and Joe in Sligo Tennis Club. The talent was there to be developed and nurtured which they did, winning the first of many underage county titles in 1995 at U-10, U-12 and U-14 age groups. This was the start of the golden era of underage hurling for Calry/St Joseph's winning titles consistently up until the turn of the century.

In the winter of 2000, saw the start of the first of those 1990's successful underage team players now playing with Craobh Rua. Henry was now Chairman of Craobh Rua and Stephen Whelan was secretary, a proposal was put to the Committee and members of Craobh Rua to amalgamate the club with Calry/St Joseph's hurling underage Club therefore providing a senior hurling team within Calry/ St Joseph's GAA Club.

In 2001 Calry/ St Joseph's GAA club fielded its first senior team in the Dermott Molloy senior league with Henry captaining the club and playing in goals. The Club won the league in its inaugural season and have won this competition a further eight times. The club won its first senior title in 2005 when finally overcoming Tubbercurry coached by Stephen Whelan and Henry Cox with Shane Boyd becoming the first Calry player to lift the County title.

The Club completed a further three senior county championship titles in a row, 2007, 2008 and 2009 under the management of former player Tony Gallagher with Fiachra Coyne, Damian Burke and David Colliery captaining the winning teams.

The club became the first Sligo senior hurling team to reach a Connacht hurling final when playing Skehana in the 2008 Connacht junior hurling final where Skehana, Galway were our opponents in Markievicz Park. The team were unlucky on the day losing to Skehana in the end by four points 2-11 to 3-12 with the game in the balance right up to the final whistle.

Having retained the Sligo senior title in 2009, the club overcame St Mary's, Leitrim in the semi-final of the Connacht junior hurling championship, this win set up a rematch with Skehana, Galway in the final.



Keith Raymond from the Calry/St Joseph's Club in Sligo in action during the Poc Fada na hÉireann on the Annaverna Mountains.

Photo: Ray Lohan / SPORTSFILE

November 15th 2009 in Kiltoom will long be remembered as a historical day for Calry/ St Joseph's GAA Club as the senior hurlers became the first club in Sligo and from outside Galway to win the Connacht Club Junior Hurling Championship with David Colliery the first Sligo man to lift a Connacht Hurling title. A proud day for everybody within the club especially for the hurling fraternity and it was destiny that the club would win its first Connacht title in Club Hurling Chairman Henry Cox's home county of Roscommon.

Shane Martyn scored the all-important goal that put the team one point ahead and another point from play by Keith Raymond put to an end the Skehana challenge as the team won by two points, 1-9 to 0-10 in a tight final.

The club got back to winning ways again in 2011 by regaining the senior county title having lost at the semi-final stage in 2010 in what were controversial circumstances. The 2011 county final was unusual, as it was the first final that Calry had won as underdogs when beating Tubbercurry by a point and was a triumph over adversity. The club was hit by immigration with the loss of a number of players, great leadership was shown by both Daragh Cox and captain Keith Raymond when they took on the coaching role for training the team with Henry and Stephen taking on the management role during matches. This partnership proved successful and led to Keith lifting the county title for the club's fifth time.

The club qualified for the Connacht junior hurling final having overcome Gortletteragh, Leitrim in the semi-final before losing out to a very strong Ballygar team from Galway in Ballynasloe. The year ended on a high for club captain Keith Raymond, having won the Sligo and Connacht Puc Fada, he was awarded a second Nicky Rackard all-star award.



hurling club carrying torch



Calry/St Joseph's – Senior Hurling Champions, 2013

Calry/ St Joseph players have back-boned the Sligo senior hurling team over the last decade with Michael Galvin managing Sligo to a triumphant Nicky Rackard win in Croke Park. The club provided ten players to the county panel with seven in the starting line-up for the final v Louth and Damian Burke becoming the first Sligo player to lift a Senior hurling title in Croke Park.

Michael Galvin also won two national hurling league titles with Sligo in 2004 and 2009 making him the most successful Sligo hurling manager ever. Keith Raymond won Hurler of the year in the Nicky Rackard section for 2008 and went onto become the first man outside of Galway to captain Connacht Hurlers in the 2009 Railway cup final v Leinster.



Calry/St Joseph's captain Keith Raymond (left) and vice-captain Jamie Kenny (right) lift the Sligo senior hurling title after their win this year. Also pictured are Sligo County Board chairman, Cyril Feehily and Sligo Hurling Board chairman and Sligo County Board secretary, Gerry O'Connor. Also included in the celebrations is Evie Kenny, Jamie's daughter.

CLUB HONOURS

County Senior Hurling Champions:

2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013

Dermott Molloy Senior League Winners:

2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013

Connacht Junior Championship Winners:

2009, 2012

Connacht Junior Championship Runners-up:

2008, 2011

Sligo Junior Hurling League: 2005

North West Senior League Winners: 2002/3

Sean Grimes Ballyshannon Tournament

Winners: 2003

SLIGO SENIOR COUNTY HURLING TITLES

National League Division 3 League 2009:

Captain Fiachra Coyne,

Manager Michael Galvin

Nicky Rackard Cup Winners 2008:

Captain Damian Burke (2008),

Manager Michael Galvin

National League Division 3 A Winners 2004:

Manager Michael Galvin

Nicky Rackard All Stars:

Keith Raymond (2008, 2009, 2011) Player of the Year 2008

Liam Reidy (2008)

Ronan Cox (2009)

UNDERAGE HURLING HONOURS:

U-10: County Champions: 1995, 1996

U-12: County Champions and League

Winners: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001

U-14: County Champions and Feile winners:

1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001

County League Winners: 1995, 1996, 1997,

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004

U-16: County Champions and League

winners: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003

CRAOBH RUA SENIOR HURLING HONOURS:

County Champions 23 times (1994)

Dermott Molloy Senior League Winners: 14 times

SENIOR FOOTBALL:

County Champions: 1944, 1952, 1953, 1954

Minor County Champions: 1946, 1948, 1952

PLAYERS WHO PLAYED FOR SLIGO SENIOR HURLING TEAM:

Henry Cox (Roscommon & Sligo), Dara Cox, Ronan Cox, Ciaran McGuire, Michael Galvin, Peter Galvin, Damian Burke, David Coltery, Michael Shelly, Keith Raymond, Fiachra Coyne, Liam Reidy, Michael Gilmartin, Ronan Watters, Kevin Fox, Fabian Downes, Finbarr Filan, Liam Filan, John Hunt, Eamonn Lonergan, Stephen Whelan, Arthur Kinsella (Wexford & Sligo), Cian Hackett, Conor Griffin, Tony Gallagher (Cavan & Sligo), Michael McDermott, Patrick Scanlon, Jamie Kenny (Kerry & Sligo), Larry Hannon (Galway & Sligo), Ger Reilly (Westmeath & Calry), Paul Conlon (Offaly & Sligo), Matt Gilsenan, Eamon Bellew (Galway & Sligo), Martin Ruane, Pat Tierney, Pat Burke, Tom Brennan, Sean Glennon, Paul O'Connell, Tony Quigley (Dublin & Sligo), Shane Ryan (Dublin & Sligo), Gerry Forde, Padraig Felle, Declan Burke, Frank Browne (Wexford & Sligo), Niall McDermott, Kevin Gilmartin,



St Mary's end of season party

UNDER glorious sunshine in Kent Park the John Kent sponsored Saturday Morning Coaching came to an end for this season recently.

The Saturday morning coaching which was launched in 2000 by TJ Kilgallon has grown from strength to strength over the past number of years and acts as an introduction to Gaelic Games for children in our community in a safe and fun environment.

Over 140 children attended and were treated to a medal presentation and party afterwards in the company of DJ Scruffy Duffy.

Gerry Connolly, Saturday Morning Coaching Co ordinator commented: "We have had on average 100 children attend the coaching every Saturday since we started on Saturday 23rd March in freezing conditions. Great credit is due to all the coaches for giving up of their time to attend every Saturday morning. We also want to thank John Kent for his continued sponsorship of the coaching initiative".

Peadar Niland Coaching officer for St. Marys GAA club was delighted with the coaching this year. "Last winter we had 16 coaches complete the GAA foundation coaching course and all those parents are getting involved with coaching underage teams.

"As you can imagine with over 300 children playing Gaelic games in our club we need to have lot of coaches and parental involvement. We intend running another GAA foundation course this November and again we would encourage any parents interested in helping out to make contact with us and get involved," he said.

Here's to an even better 2014!



SLIGO SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



The Sligo U-21 hurling panel.

Photos:



Sean Regan Mayo gets his strike away under the challenge of Gary Cadden Sligo



Sligo team receive their last minute instructions from their manager Declan Loughnane.



Sligo Keeper Eoin McDonagh looks back helplessly as the sliotar hits the net for Mayo scored by Robert Comer.



Brilliant underage year



Easkey GAA Club Feile hurling winners 2013

CLOSING the curtain on the GAA season it has been an incredible year for the youngsters at Easkey GAA Club in Co Sligo with plenty of silverware to grace their campaigns.

This year, the hardworking young hurlers have captured all of the county

league and championship honours at U-12, U-14, and U-16 level, while the club's minors narrowly lost out in their final.

At the Feile 2013, Easkey hurlers won their three group games versus hosts Hospital/Herbertstown, Shamrock Gaels (Limerick) and Warrenpoint (Down). In the semi-final they went on to take the

win against Eoghan Ruadh, Dungannon Co. Tyrone.

Their award was a spot in the final against Buncrana, Donegal, a very good team who had gotten the better of Easkey in a previous tournament. Buncrana signalled their intent from the start, and after 10 minutes the Sligo lads



Easkey GAA Club U-16 County title winners.



for Easkey GAA



Easkey GAA Club U-12 winners, being presented with their cup by Gerry O'Connor, Sligo Hurling Board.

trailed by six points. But the lads steadied themselves, and all of the hard work and training that got them to this day, came through as they pulled ahead by a point at half-time

The huge number of supporters from Sligo and our wonderful hosts Hospital, were in awe as our lads worked so hard,

and in the dying minutes, a 65 for Bun-crana could have killed the game when we were 2 points up, but it was to be Easkey's day.

Every one of the players stepped up to the mark, and the great teamwork brought the richly deserved success to west Sligo on a final score of Easkey 1-

10 to Buncrana 3-2.

The Dr. Birch trophy, made of solid silver, mounted on Kilkenny marble, which has never before been won by a Sligo team was presented tot the team afterwards. Indeed no team has ever before won division 5 one year, and followed it up with the division 4 title the next year.



Easkey GAA Club U-14 County title winners



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Cian Harte 'Man of the Match' County Junior B Final, picking up his award from Tadhg O Conghaile, football committee chairman.

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Connacht well represented in Ladies Football All Star nominees

DESPITE the title heading south again, eight Connacht players have been nominated for inclusion in the 2013 TG4 Ladies Football All Star Awards team.

Connacht finalists Mayo have been handed five nominations, goalkeeper Yvonne Byrne, defender Noelle Tierney, and forwards Aileen Gilroy, Fiona McHale and Cora Staunton.

Galway, who defeated the Green and Red in the Connacht final, have received three nominations with defenders Sinead Burke and Emer Flaherty joining midfielder Annette Clarke on the list.

Helen O'Rourke, CEO of the LGFA said: "This is the 40th year of the Ladies Football Championship and what a year it has been.

"We had three dramatic and high quality finals in Croke Park and there were plenty of twists and turns throughout the championship since we got underway last June.

"We have had a most memorable season and the players that have been nominated have been responsible for some remarkable moments throughout the year."

The Awards night will take place at the Citywest Hotel on 9 November.

2013 TG4 Ladies Football All Star Award Nominees

GOALKEEPERS: Yvonne Byrne (Mayo), Caron Fay (Cavan), Linda Martin (Monaghan)

DEFENDERS: Rena Buckley (Cork), Sinéad Burke (Galway), Briege Corkery (Cork), Sharon Courtney (Monaghan), Emer Flaherty (Galway), Sinéad Goldrick (Dublin), Laura McEnaney (Monaghan), Caroline Kelly (Kerry), Cáit Lynch (Kerry), Aoife Lyons (Kerry), Aoife McAnespie (Monaghan), Gráinne McNally (Monaghan), Geraldine O'Flynn (Cork), Deirdre O'Reilly (Cork), Christina Reilly (Monaghan), Bríd Stack (Cork), Noelle Tierney (Mayo), Anne Marie Walsh (Cork)

MIDFIELDERS: Bernie Breen (Kerry), Amanda Casey (Monaghan), Annette Clarke (Galway), Juliet Murphy (Cork), Caroline O'Hanlon (Armagh), Angela Walsh (Cork)

FORWARDS: Sinéad Aherne (Dublin), Nollaig Cleary (Cork), Cora Courtney (Monaghan), Aisling Doonan (Cavan), Aileen Gilroy (Mayo), Noelle Healy (Dublin), Sarah Houlihan (Kerry), Caroline Little (Fermanagh), Ciara McAnespie (Monaghan), Cathriona McConnell (Monaghan), Fiona McHale (Mayo), Caoimhe Mohan (Monaghan), Mairéad Morrissey (Tipperary), Valerie Mulcahy (Cork), Louise Ní Muircheartaigh (Kerry), Doireann O'Sullivan (Cork), Bronagh Sheridan (Cavan), Cora Staunton (Mayo).

Claregalway Ladies promoted to senior ranks for first time

CLAREGALWAY ladies secured a place in the pages of its club history when they became the first Ladies team to gain promotion to the senior ranks after a comprehensive win over Clonbur in the replayed Intermediate championship final played in Monivea.

The opening half was a close affair like the drawn game with Claregalway holding a narrow lead at half-time by 2-3 to 2-6. Aided by a strengthening breeze in the second half Claregalway took control of the game and scored 2-13 while a stout defensive effort limited Clonbur's scoring chances.

In the end up Claregalway emerged victorious on a 4-19 to 2-4 scoreline and afterwards County Board Chairman Con Moynihan presented winning captain Fabienne Cooney with the Cup.

This is a fantastic achieve-

ment for Ladies football in the club as its just ten years since the first underage Team at U-14 level was entered into the Feile. Its only seven years since the First Adult Team took to the Field in the Junior C League in Glinsk on the 22nd April 2006.

Their recent achievement in Monivea is very much down to all the great people that have got involved at both underage and adult level in the club over the past ten years.

CLAREGALWAY LADIES SQUAD: H Coen, F Cooney, E Gavin, E Glynn, K Dowd, A Rohan, M Glynn, S Gavin, O Dixon, C Cooney, C Newell, T Hession, C Burke, D Brennan, L Brennan, M Dunleavy, H Moran, M Moran, G Healy, E Joyce, O Murphy, N Fahy, A Newell, S Leonard, A Goldrick, D Cullina, E Gilmore, R Horkan, C Casserly, C Campbell, C Moran.

Glory for St Farnan's U-12s

A YEAR which looked likely to end without any silverware for St Farnan's Ladies footballers was rescued at the eleventh hour by Ray Lang and Don McCloat's U-12 side when they overcame the challenge of Calry/St. Joseph's to capture the 'B' championship in Bunninaden.

An exciting clash, played over four quarters, was always much closer than the 4-10 to 1-6 final scoreline might suggest and it was the Farnan's girls ability to turn possession into scores which proved to be the decisive factor, in contrast to their opponents whose scoring boots seemed to go missing at crucial moments.

Also the old adage that goals win games was never more true as any team that finds the net four times in a final seldom loses and the win will go some way towards erasing the memory of last years defeat at the same stage of the competition.

Well done to all concerned and thanks to all who made the journey to support the side. Thanks especially to Don and Ray and their assistants for their continued work with this age group – this victory is no more than their efforts deserve. Thanks as always to Vanessa and staff in the Coffee Shop for their usual hospitality after the game.

The game brings the curtain down on what has been one of the more difficult years for our club as we struggled with numbers in many grades. Thanks to all who have once again given so freely of their time in helping to keep the club and its teams afloat for another year.

ST FARNAN'S TEAM: C McCloat, A Colleary, C Connolly, K Hallinan, E McGowan, L Devaney, N Muldowney, C Dunne, Siobhain Lang, S McNamara, R O'Brien, R McHugh, A Hallinan, K Golden, Shona Lang, S Devaney, C Ginty, C Hynes, A McAndrew, C McGee, C Evans, E Dunne.

Mairéad Meehan minor 'A' shield final



Maigh Cuilinn Minor A Team, winners of the shield competition. Back row (L to R): Aine Gallagher, Aoife Donovan, Jean Hynes, Ciara Higgins, Aine McDonagh, Shannon Keady, Roisín Buckley, Vanessa Smyth, Kate Law. **Front row (L to R):** Emily Molloy, Saoirse Curtin, Ana Ní Chuarta, Roisín Ní Chonghaile, Katie Carter, Evvie Lowndes, Ailbhe Davoren, Meghan Davoren, Maria Burke. Missing from photo: Rhian Kenny.

MAIRÉAD Meehan, a young girl who died from cancer at an early age in 2008, was involved in county football and is a sister to the Galway footballers Michael and Declan from Caltra club.

In 2009 the Meehan family and Caltra club started up a minor championship in her memory, involving both a cup and a shield.

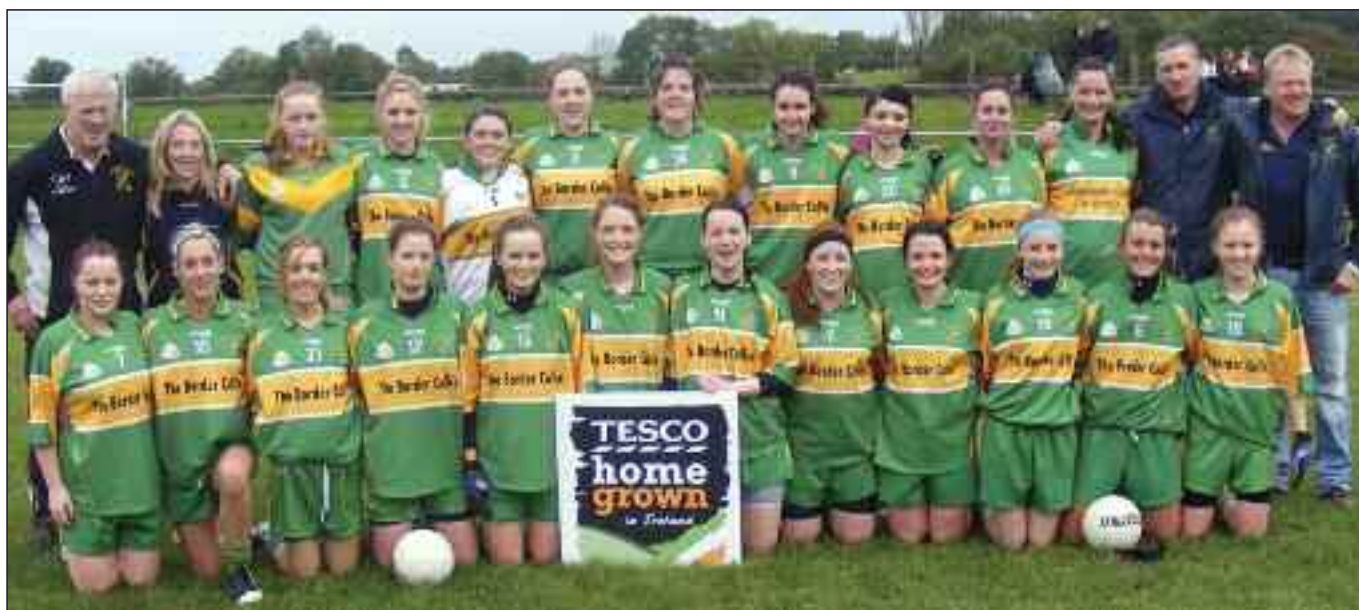
This year, Claregalway and Kilkerrin/Clon-

berne contested the final. Claregalway won by a single point and now go on to represent the county in Connacht, with the first round against the Mayo champions.

In the shield final, Maigh Cuilinn played Naomh Mhuire in Caltra at 3pm on the 12th of October. It was a great entertaining and high scoring match, which Maigh Cuilinn won by a few points. Katie Carter picked up Player of the Match for her skilful game of football.

Mairéad's father presented both teams with their medals. As captain, Roisín Ní Chonghaile accepted the shield on behalf of the Maigh Cuilinn team. After the match, a lovely spread of refreshments was laid out for both teams.

Overall, it was a lovely day for all involved. A special thanks to the Meehan family and Caltra club for such an enjoyable day in memory of Mairéad



The Tourlestrane intermediate girls team who defeated St Michael's in the Sligo County final played under lights recently. They played Claregalway in the Connacht final after wins over Moy Davitts of Mayo and Kilbride of Roscommon. Back row (L to R): Paddy Henry, Maureen Walsh, Sarah Brennan, Edel Meers, Laura McIntyre, Laura Walsh, Katie Walsh, Anna Corcoran, Danielle Gallagher, Ann-Marie Kelly, Nikki Brennan, Colm Corcoran, Dermot Mooney. **Front row (L to R):** Siobhan Carty, Niamh Kelly, Laura Durkin, Claire McIntyre, Grainne Carty, Tracy O'Hara, Shauna Henry, Jenny Lundy, Laura Neary, Sinead Mooney, Claire Collieran, Sophie Leonard.

Coleman wins three Police & Fire games world medals

Gerry Coleman

By Michael McGee

CURRY'S Gerry Coleman is Sligo's latest handball star having come home from the 2013 World Police & Fire games in Belfast laden down with three handball medals (five in total). Coleman who works as a Nursing Officer in Loughlin House in Cavan is a member of the St. Mary's & Collooney handball club. He also plays his one-wall with the Cully club.

Coleman faced stiff competition with players from Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Northern Ireland, USA, and Ireland all taking part in a strong international field.

Coleman won a bronze medal in the Over 40's One-Wall, bronze in the 40 X 20 Four-Wall event, silver in the Over 40's doubles with LAPD officer Oscan DeSilva. Not content with the handball medals Coleman also won a bronze with the Fire Service GAA Over-35 team and also a silver medal in the dragon boat team of 10.



GALWAY HANDBALL JERSEY – Galway Handball were presented with a new set of jerseys from the Galway County Board over the Summer. Pictured is Galway GAA Chairperson Noel Treacy with Frances Curran, Galway Handball Board Chairperson, GAA Handball President Willie O'Connor and representatives of Galway Handball clubs.



LADIES MINOR FINAL – As the 60x30 season draws to a close, Galway players have won a number of All-Ireland titles. In Ladies Ciana Ni Churraoin (right) won the Minor title which adds to her 40x20 Minor title she won earlier in year. She overcame Clare's Natasha Coughlan (left) in the final 21-3, 21-6. Galway's Jimmy Connaughton captured the Emerald Masters B Singles defeating Jerry Foley from Tipperary, 21-6, 21-12. Jimmy made it a double All-Ireland when he joined with Martin Ward to win the Emerald

Masters B Doubles defeating Tipperary again, Jerry Foley/Eamonn Spillane 21-14, 14-21, 21-5. At juvenile level, Cian Ó Conghaile and Oisín Ó Culaín won the 60x30 Connacht U-14 doubles title. The Galway Adult 40x20 league has resumed again, following its successful run in the Spring. The Winter league has over 70 players competing in 4 divisions and it runs up to mid-December. Over 250 games will be played in venues all over the county. The new juvenile league is due to start in November.

Walsh weaves his magic

By Michael McGee



Paddy Walsh All-Ireland handball champion 2013

SLIGO handball legend Paddy Walsh captured his 29th All-Ireland handball title with a thrilling victory over Cork's Pat O'Brien in Tuamgraney, Clare.

O'Brien defeated Walsh in the 40x 20 singles final last April in the same venue. This time Walsh was ready and prepared well going into the final.

Walsh had a whirlwind start racing into an 18-1 lead. The St. Mary's club player was simply outstanding in the opening game. With excellent serving and finishing he took a commanding lead. O'Brien got a brace of points but Walsh finished the opening game in fine style with a kill into the left corner taking it by 21-6.

The second was a rip roaring contest with O'Brien trying to get to grips with Walsh's mesmerizing onslaught. At 13-13 in the second O'Brien looked to be gaining control but Walsh's worked his magic yet again and left the leg weary O'Brien in his wake. Walsh, at 73 years of age, covered every inch of the Clare court like a young Usain Bolt, and with superior finishing O'Brien simply had no answer. The Clare venue was captivated by Walsh's spellbinding performance.

Walsh took a vice-like grip on proceedings. O'Brien could not add to his overall tally. The Sligo handball star scintillating display led to an impressive victory in the end by 21-13. It was Walsh's 29 All-Ireland handball title in a glorious career. It was a long journey to Clare but the return journey will have been one of the shortest and the sweetest ever for the Sligo handball legend.

It was Sligo's solitary All-Ireland handball title in 2013

Martin Donnelly sponsored All-Ireland handball 60 x 30 championships finals: Over 70's: Paddy Walsh (Sligo) dft Pat O'Brien (Cork) 21-6, 21-13

Civic reception for



Shane Bruen, Lord Mayor Marcella McGarry, Paddy Walsh and Cyril Feehily Chairman Sligo G.A.A Board.

By Michael McGee

LEGENDARY Sligo handball player Paddy Walsh was honoured with a Civic Reception from Sligo Lord Mayor Marcella McGarry.

Present at the Civic Reception were former Lord Mayor's Matt Lyons and Rosaleen O'Grady. Cyril Feehily Sligo GAA Board Chairman, Peter Heaney Chairman Connacht Handball Council, Shane Bruen Chairman Sligo Handball Board, Hugh McGarry Chairman Collooney Handball Club, members of Paddy Walsh's family and Sligo Handball Board Officials and personnel.

Lord Mayor Marcella McGarry welcomed everyone to the "Mayor's Parlour" for this special occasion to honour Paddy Walsh. In a very professionally delivered speech she described Paddy Walsh as our local sporting hero.

"He is one of the most outstanding sportsmen of our generation. What Paddy Walsh has achieved is never to be equalled. His characteristic no nonsense determined approach stood out, he wanted to win every game," said the mayor.

"He is the complete dedicated player who has reached legendary status. His achievements at the highest level, both nationally and locally is amazing. He gained his first All-Ireland success in 1974 and just a couple of weeks ago in Clare he gained his 29th National title.

"At 73, it is an incredible achievement and absolutely brilliant. Paddy is an excellent ambassador at the pinnacle winning

27 more All-Ireland titles including four in one year alone.

He is coaching in the Collooney club and passing on his vast experience to the next generation of handball players. He is immensely proud of his young player's achievements and happy that they are aspiring to follow in his footsteps.

He was the first to suggest the provision of better playing facilities in the Collooney handball club as far back as 2007. Paddy also received a lifetime sporting achievement award from G.A.A Handball in 2009. The sporting icon is also involved in numerous community organisations to many to mention."

The Lord Mayor ended by saying "Every sport needs a Paddy Walsh with his energy, inspiration and motivation".

Shane Bruen Chairman of the Sligo handball Board thanked the Lord Mayor for her great speech. He warmly praised Walsh for all he has achieved in handball spanning 6 decades and for also giving his time to coaching the young players in the Collooney handball club. "Nobody deserves this award more than Paddy Walsh," said Bruen. The County Chairman evoked special memories of Walsh's early sports career.

After the reception the handball fraternity gathered outside on the steps of the Sligo Borough Council Offices in the warm evening sunshine. All the Sligo handball members shared in Paddy Walsh's special day.

It was "Paddy's Day" in Sligo. The quiet man in the midst of his fellow handball friends stood tallest his unquenchable sporting spirit beaming, burning brightly as warm and radiant as the autumnal sun's rays.

handball legend



Sligo Handball friends celebrating with Paddy

It was a very historic occasion for Sligo handball. Walsh will go down in the annals of Sligo GAA as the County's greatest ever handball player. Walsh has achieved everything in the sport and to receive the distinguished Civic Reception from the

Sligo Lord Mayor Marcella McGarry capped off a special year for the Sligo sports legend.

We can all look back with huge pride and affection at his achievements, his unquestionable talent and the super human

efforts to win games has dazzled and amazed us all for many years. And also to look forward to see our herculean handball hero winning even more handball titles in the years to come.



Members of Paddy Walsh's family

Connacht GAA Senior Football Championship Draw 2014

Preliminary Round:

New York v Mayo

Quarter Finals:

London v Galway
Roscommon v Leitrim

Semi-Finals:

London/Galway v Sligo
Roscommon/Leitrim v New York/Mayo

AIB Club Senior Football Championship 2014

Preliminary Round:

'A': Sligo v Leitrim

Semi-finals:

Mayo v Roscommon
'A' v Galway

Extra Time in all games

Final:

Mayo/Roscommon v Galway/Sligo/Leitrim

AIB Club Intermediate Football Championship 2014

Preliminary Round

'A': Leitrim v Mayo

Semi-Finals:

Galway v Sligo
'A' v Roscommon

Extra Time in all games

Final:

Galway/Sligo v Leitrim/Mayo/Roscommon

Under-21 Football Championship

Quarter-Final:

'A': Mayo v Roscommon

Semi-Final:

1: **'A' v Sligo**
2: **Galway v Leitrim**

Final:

1 v 2

Connacht GAA Fixtures 2014



AIB Club Intermediate Hurling Championship 2014

Semi-Final: Athleague

'A': Mayo v Roscommon

Extra Time in all games.

Final:

'A' v Galway

Minor Football Championship

Quarter-Final:

'A': Sligo v Galway

Semi-Final:

1: **'A' v Mayo**
2: **Roscommon v Leitrim**

Final:

1 v 2

AIB Club Junior Hurling Championship 2014

Semi-Final:

'A': Sligo v Leitrim

Final:

'A' v Galway

Extra Time in all games

Under-21 'B' Hurling Championship

Quarter-Final: Sligo venue

'A': Leitrim v Sligo

Semi-Final: Mayo venue

'B': Mayo v 'A'

Extra time in all games.

Final:

'B' v Roscommon Athleague

AIB Club Junior Football Championship 2014

Preliminary Round:

'A': Sligo v Galway

Semi-Finals: 3rd November

'A' v Leitrim
Mayo v Roscommon

Extra Time in all games.

Final:

Sligo/Galway/Leitrim v Mayo/Roscommon

Michael Stephens Cup

Semi-Finals:

Roscommon v Mayo
Sligo v Leitrim

**Please support
your team!**