

Co. Tipperary Senior Football Final
Match Programme
2016

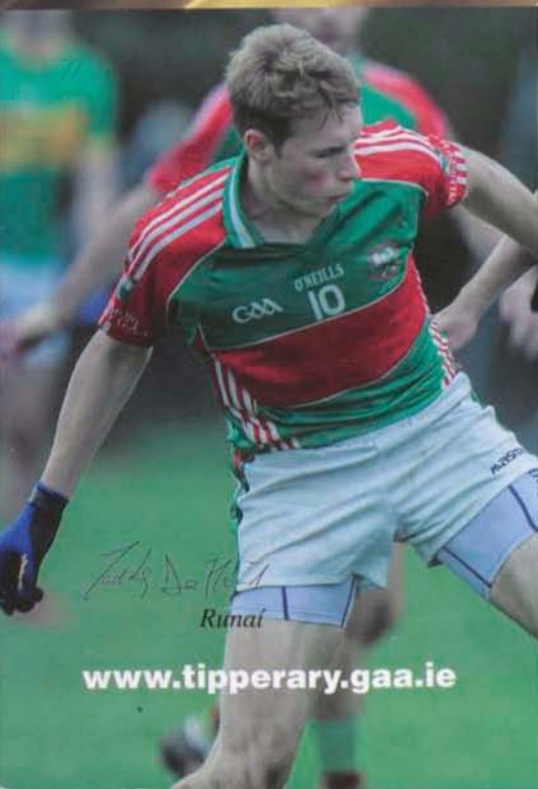
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael
Tiobraid Árann



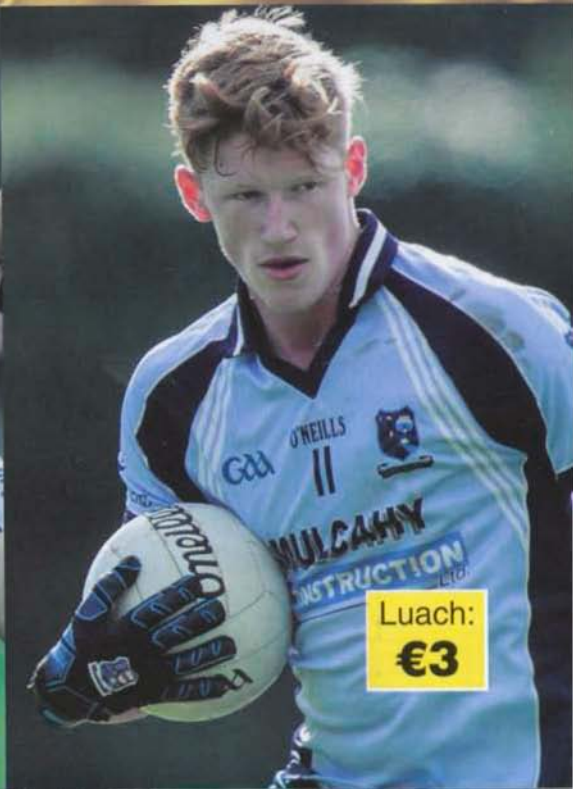
Tipperary Senior Football Championship FINAL

Leahy Park, Cashel

Sunday, 30th October 2016



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Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach



ON behalf of Tipperary County Board it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Leahy Park Cashel today for our County Senior Football Final between Loughmore-Castleiney and Moyle Rovers.

Both teams have come to battle for county honours. We look forward to a thrilling contest and wish each team well in their quest for the O'Dwyer Cup. Moyle Rovers are back in the final hoping to make amends for the one point defeat they suffered at the hands of Clonmel Commercials last year while Loughmore-Castleiney will be trying to add to their 2014 title.

We welcome the representatives of Tipperary Spring Water who have joined us here today and thank them for their sponsorship of our championships. We look forward to a successful partnership with them in the future.

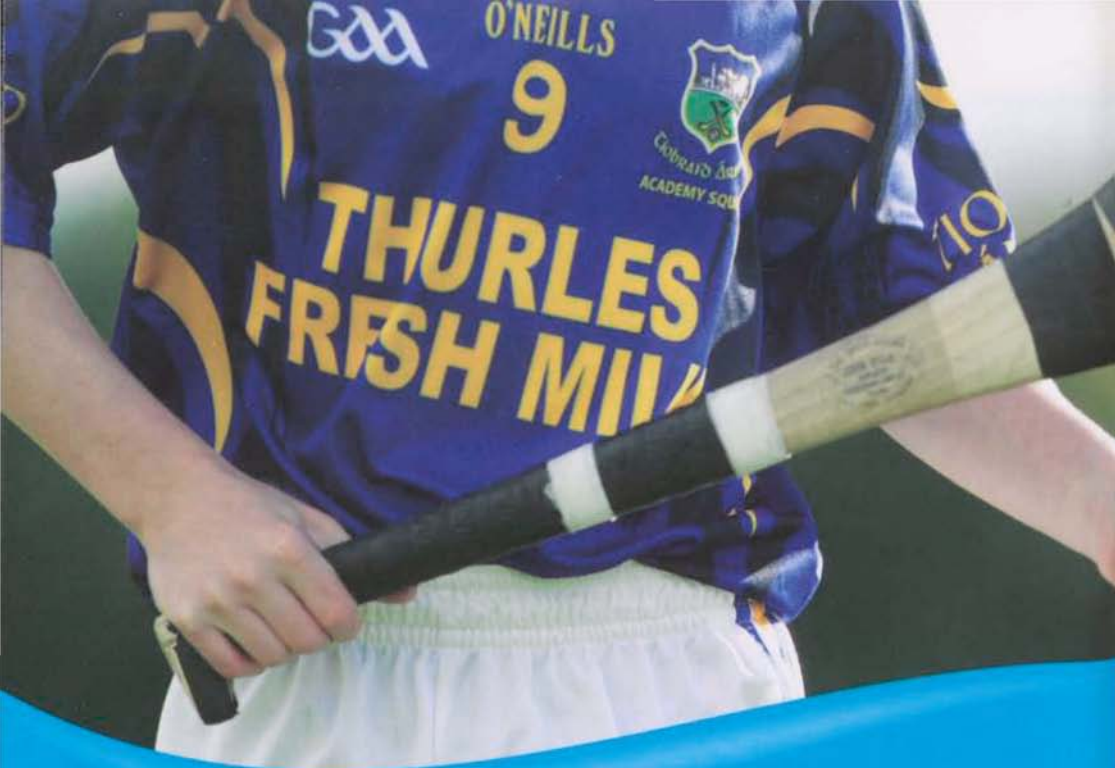
Later this evening the Fethard Jubilee team of 1988 and 1991 will be guests of honour of Tipperary County Board and the Tipperary Star at a reception in The Park Hotel, Clonmel.

It has been a great year for Tipperary Football, the highlight which has been the magnificent performance of our senior footballers in getting to the All-Ireland Senior Football Semi-final. I want to congratulate them on their achievement and their management team and I hope their victories inspire more county success in the future.

I would like to thank all the supporters who have come to the games throughout the season and thank the Cashel King Cormacs club for hosting the game. My best wishes to the referee and his officials for today's game.

Mícheál de Búrca

Cathaoirleach Coiste Chontae Thiobraid Árann



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Tipperary GAA Academy



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~ Clár an Lae ~

TIPPERARY WATER COUNTY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Loughmore-Castleiney *v* Moyle Rovers

2.07pm	LOUGHMORE-CASTLEINEY amach ar an páirc
2.10pm	MOYLE ROVERS amach an an páirc
2.25pm	Pre-Match Parade led by the Dr. O'Hurley Pipe Band, Cashel
2.29pm	Amhrán an bhFiann
2.30pm	Tús an cluiche
3.03pm	Leath-am
3.13pm	Tús an dara leath
3.45pm	Críoch an chluiche
3.55pm	Presentation of the Corn Uí Dhubhuir (O'Dwyer Cup) to the winning captain by Seosamh Ó hAnnagáin, Cathaoirleach Coiste Péil Tiobraid Árann, followed by the presentation of the "Man of the Match" award (sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir)

Match Officials

<i>Referee:</i>	DAVID GROGAN (Aherlow)
<i>Stand-by Referee:</i>	Paddy Russell (Lattin-Cullen)
<i>Linesman:</i>	Phil Ryan (Knockavilla)
<i>Umpires:</i>	Tom Leonard, James Ryan, Martin Peters, Damien Peters



Buíochas

We hope you enjoy reading today's programme. It has been produced with the assistance of Tom Maher (Assistant County Secretary), Pat Healy, Tom McGrath (Loughmore-Castleiney), Jean O'Connor (Moyle Rovers). Many thanks to Jeddy Walsh, Jackie Cahill, Seamus J. King, Mary Godfrey, Eoghan Cormican and Hugh Coghlan for contributing articles. A special word of thanks to John D. Kelly for his photographs.

GER CORBETT, *Programme Editor*

A message from Tipperary Club Championship sponsors



THIS is our first year sponsoring both the Tipperary Hurling and Football Championships, and no better way to demonstrate our pride in our heritage. The very essence of Tipperary Pure Irish Water is excellence and togetherness, two qualities which are testament to these championships and everyone involved. From the minor to the senior teams, all the friends, families, communities and supporters, we are delighted to share these experiences and the success of GAA here in Tipperary.

A special congratulations to all participants, both on and off the field which made every match possible throughout this championship, including today's event. In a year in which Tipperary senior footballers lit up the All-Ireland championship like no other county, Tipperary Water joins you in eager anticipation of today's exciting game prospect.

County Final Day in Tipperary is a special occasion for football fans across the Premier County and much further afield but, for a variety of reasons, today has a lot at stake for both clubs. There's the intrigue of Loughmore-Castleiney's ability to be strong contenders for County titles in either code any year or both codes as when they achieved that unique double in 2014. Having beaten the County and Provincial title holders Clonmel Commercials in the semi-final they must be strong favourites. Then there's Moyle Rovers who dominated the 90's with five titles in six years and were runners-up in last year's County Final, only losing to Clonmel Commercials by one point. Are they about to return as the kingpins of Tipperary football once again?

Above all there's a feast of football to look forward to as some of the best players, not alone in Tipperary but the entire country, take to the field in search of coveted county honours. County final day is, indeed, a special one in Tipperary and "Tipperary Water" is proud and privileged to be associated with it.

A word of congratulations also must go to all involved in staging today's event. Tipperary Water's success is very much built on logistics and we understand the effort required to ensure everything goes off smoothly today and on time, so well done to all concerned.

Tipperary Water is proud to begin our journey with Tipperary GAA. Together we hope to continue the success of the hurling and football Championships in the Premier County.

TOM McCUSKER

Managing Director, C&C Ireland



Friends of TIPPERARY FOOTBALL

By: HUGH COGHLAN, Secretary Friends of Tipperary Football

FRIENDS of Tipperary Football enjoyed a very successful year of fundraising activities and this was due to Tipperary's success on the playing field which created a greater awareness of our need to fundraise.

We began with a Race Night on 20th February 2016 in South Tipperary Sports Complex in Clonmel. This event was organised by Aidan McNamara and Pete Savage who succeeded in bringing in a substantial sum of money to start the year on a sound footing.

With the Senior Footballers reaching a Munster final against Kerry and an unbelievable run in the Qualifiers to reach All-Ireland semi-final against Mayo, it put further pressure on our finances. Once again the feel good factor within the County enabled us to run our Annual Golf Classic at the later time of August. This two day event was once again generously sponsored by Mr Mister Menswear, Cashel, Cahir and Mitchelstown. Premier fans as always showed their support and with 120 teams it was a wonderful fundraising event. Tee boxes were greatly increased from last year. Martin O'Dwyer (Moycarkey-Borris) was chief organiser of the Golf Classic and together with Friends Committee left no stone unturned to ensure its success. Winners on 107 pts were Gerry Stapleton, David Coleman, Ned Cummins and Anna Stapleton. They each received a €150 voucher from Mr Mister Menswear.

Friends Chairperson Michael Power (Moycarkey-Borris) expressed his gratitude to all who supported

the Golf Classic including many commercial business and individuals who provided generous sponsorship, to Thurles Golf Club for providing excellent facilities and to everyone who helped out over the two days of golf.

Friends of Tipperary Football are as always appreciative of the support of Tipperary GAA Board, Divisional Boards and also the financial support from Clubs, Sponsors and general public. With success on the playing fields comes extra demands on expenditure in terms of team preparation for participation in League and Championship. We are extremely proud of the achievements of Tipperary Footballers in 2016 and hope to continue this success into the future.

BELOW: Mayo's Kevin McLoughlin and Tipperary's Kevin O'Halloran tussle for possession of the ball during the All-Ireland semi-final.

(Photos: John D. Kelly)



Hoping that an outstanding year for Tip

By: JEDDY WALSH
'The Nationalist', Clonmel



TODAY'S FINAL BETWEEN LOUGHMORE-Castleiney and Moyle Rovers may not have been the pairing that most football followers in the county would have predicted throughout the year, but there is no doubt that both sides in opposition today in Cashel, are fully deserving of their place in this year's decider.

Having brought the Munster Club Senior Football title back to Tipperary for the first time last November, many expected Clonmel Commercials to be present today to defend both county and provincial crowns, but Loughmore put paid to that at Boherlahan last Sunday when edging out the champions by a single point after a tremendous battle.

The other semi-final at Cahir saw Moyle Rovers, beaten finalists twelve months ago, prove too good on the day for a Kilsheelan/Kilcash side competing in their first senior semi-final in 33 years.

This past year has been an outstanding one for the football fraternity in Tipperary with the county's seniors making it to an All-Ireland semi-final for the first time since 1935. All in attendance here today at Leahy Park will be hoping that a champagne year for football in the Premier County can be polished off in style with a great showpiece.

Loughmore will justifiably start as favourites having gone through the year unbeaten in both their County League Group and in winning the Mid final. In the county quarter-final they easily accounted for Galtee Rovers and then in a titanic battle on Sunday last held off Commercials.

Moyle Rovers on the other hand having lost their opening County League Group game against Aherlow Gaels then overcame



Loughmore-Castleiney's Brian McGrath and John McGrath close in on Clonmel Commercials Jack Kennedy during the semi-final.

Ardfinnan and Drom/Inch to book their place in the quarter-finals. In the South semi-final they once again lost out to Commercials by a single point. In the county quarter-final they gained a measure of revenge against Aherlow Gaels before easily accounting for Kilsheelan in the semi-final.

The destination of the O'Dwyer Cup for the past four years has been a little bit of a "Lanigan's Ball" between Loughmore and Commercials, both with two wins apiece – when one steps out the other steps in, it seems. Loughmore will be hoping to capture their third title in four years today and this incredible 'Band of Brothers and their Cousins' will take some stopping.

The vastly experienced Mid champions are strong in every line of the field. John Meagher and Ciaran McGrath are rock solid in the centre of defence, brothers Noel and John McGrath are a formidable midfield partnership while in the forward division team captain Liam McGrath, long-serving Evan Sweeney and Cian Hennessy are all excellent scorers.

Favourites they may be but they don't do complacency ever in Loughmore, and as clubman and top referee Tom McGrath pointed out during the week "we certainly won't be taking anything for granted against

Top football can be polished off in style

Moyle Rovers. Realistically, they had last year's county final won not once but twice before Commercials caught them. They led by six points twice but failed to finish the game. They are a young mobile team and well able to play football. The club has a good underage structure in place and you can see the fine players that have come through. The likes of Ross Mulcahy, Danny Owens and others are top class players," added Tom.

Rovers will be seeking a first county title since 2009, and will hope that the disappointment of their loss to their near-neighbours a year ago will drive them on. However the side today is much changed from last season with team captain Peter Acheson, Sean Keating, Jack Lonergan and Conor Conneally unavailable this time round. As if that wasn't enough the Powerstown/Lisronagh side have others ruled out through injury such as goalkeeper Ciaran Kenrick, Morgan Irwin, Darragh Dwyer, Philip Quirke and Dominic Walsh, while Martin Dunne missed both quarter-final and semi-final due to holidays.

Robbie Boland, a selector with the Moyle Rovers, knows a thing or two about county senior football finals. Along with All-Star Declan Browne, James Williams and current team manager Liam Cronin, he is the proud holder of seven senior county medals.

According to Robbie "We were happy with our performance against Aherlow last week in Ballyporeen when not many gave us a chance. But we got a good performance out of the lads that night and we got a solid team performance again on Sunday last against what was a seriously depleted Kilsheelan side.

"We gave a good account of ourselves considering that we too are fairly depleted, nursing seven or eight injuries and players missing for whatever reasons. We have been

working hard in training since August and while we have been struggling to deal with injuries we are still doing well."

"But next Sunday will be an entirely different proposition for us. Loughmore are a serious outfit and have been at the top of Tipperary football for the past five years or so. Remember they are going for their third title in four years and beat Commercials on Sunday last. Loughmore are going a long long time now as a force," added Robbie.



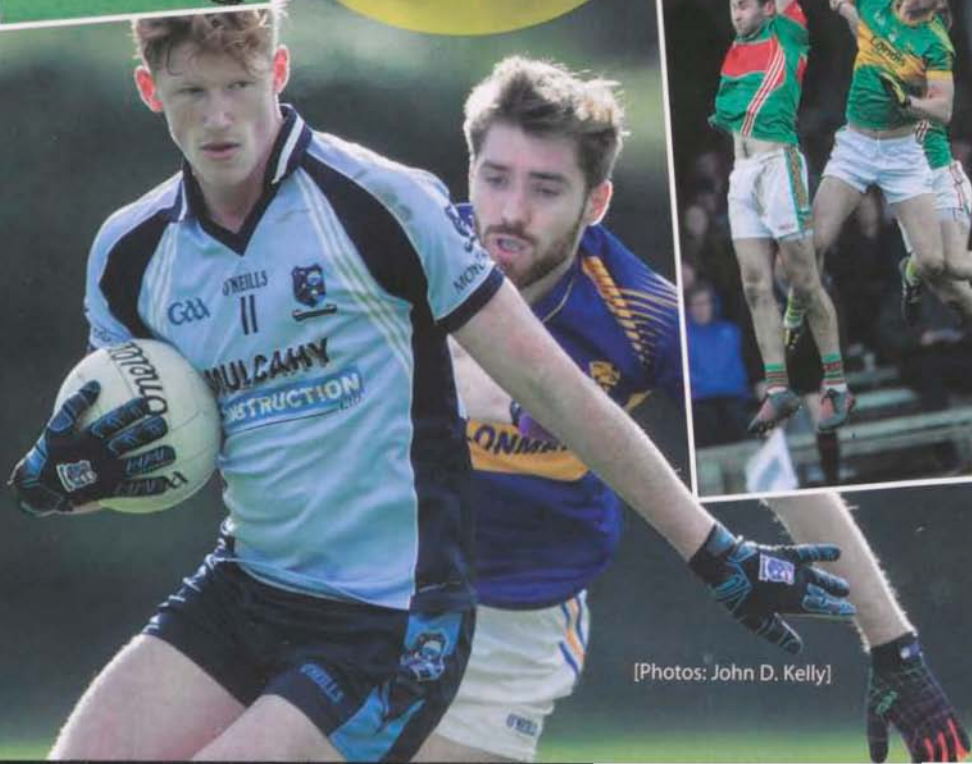
Moyle Rovers Ross Mulcahy fends off the challenge of Kilsheelan's Adrian McGuire during the semi-final.

"We are still delighted to have this task in hand now. We are a young squad and we have plenty of talent in our team also. But we are under no illusions as to what we are facing on Sunday. We will tell our boys to go and enjoy the occasion and to play with as much freedom as they can. We are underdogs for sure but it is a final and one never knows. We are up against it, they are the hot favourites in everyone's books.

"We will give it our best on the day and try and get a performance and if we manage that we will see where it takes us. We will go and give it our best shot, there is no pressure, no expectations on this young side," concluded Robbie.



**Action
from the
semi-finals**



[Photos: John D. Kelly]

Danny LYNE

MOYLE ROVERS

Age: 29

Occupation: Chemical Engineer

What is your earliest memory of playing Gaelic football? In the back garden with my brother John

Who has been the biggest influence in your career? My father Donal

How important is your club in your life? Club is everything – playing with all the lads you grew up with cannot be beaten! Not too many of the old crew left now however.

Describe a typical club training week once you get into the business end of the championship?

Week of championship is a Wednesday and Friday night, with no championship it's Wednesday night and Saturday and Sunday mornings

Who is the joker on the panel? Chuckie Condon (took over from Dave Conway) – although they were mostly the butt of all the jokes.

Who is the most difficult opponent you ever came up against at any level? Paul Kerrigan, Cork

What Gaelic footballer do you most admire and why? Lee Keegan, Mayo – gets forward at the correct times without neglecting his defensive duties

Greatest club achievement(s) to date? 2007 and 2009 County Senior Football championships, 2007 Munster Junior Hurling championship

If there was one thing you could change in the game, what would that be? Club fixtures – it's amazing that after a full year's work, the senior football championship can be decided in 11 days!



Away from Gaelic football, how do you relax? Spending time with my wife Lisa and daughter Grace

What famous person would you most like to meet and why? Donald Trump – to figure out exactly how mad he is!

What other sportsperson do you most admire? Paul O'Connell before his retirement

What was your childhood ambition? To play for Man Utd

What would your dream car be? Aston Martin DB9

Favourite film? Shawshank Redemption

Favourite music? Indie Rock

One thing I am good at that you may not know..... Cutting timber

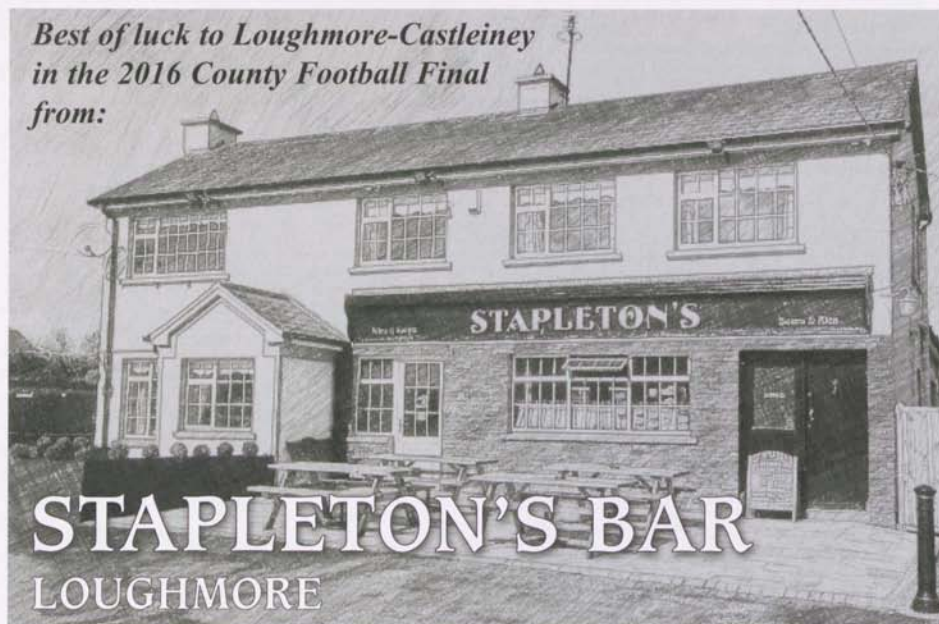
In ten years time I hope to Be debt free.



Tears of joy for the Dunne and Campbell families as they celebrate Tipperary's win over Galway in the 2016 All-Ireland Senior Football Championship quarter-final in Croke Park.

(Photo: John D. Kelly)

*Best of luck to Loughmore-Castleiney
in the 2016 County Football Final
from:*



John RYAN

LOUGHMORE-
CASTLEINEY



What is your earliest memory of playing Gaelic football? In primary school I suppose

Who has been the biggest influence in your career? My father

How important is your club in your life?
Very important, we have great friendship and camaraderie in the club

Describe a typical club training week once you get into the business end of the championship? We'd usually have pitch sessions Tuesday and Friday nights and go

for a swim Wednesday with a game then on Sundays

Who is the joker on the panel? Cian or Mossy

Who is the most difficult opponent you ever came up against at any level? Henry Maher

What Gaelic footballer do you most admire and why? Lee Keegan, great defender and scores in most games too

Greatest club achievement(s) to date?
Winning two senior football county titles and one senior hurling county title

If there was one thing you could change in the game, what would that be? Take away the Black Card

Away from Gaelic football, how do you relax? I enjoy a pint or two in the off season

What famous person would you most like to meet and why? Rory McIlory, to get a few tips off him

What other sportsperson do you most admire? Willie 'Horse' Flynn

What was your childhood ambition? To win as many county finals as I could

What would your dream car be? Ferrari

Favourite Film? Braveheart

Favourite Music? Derek Bourke's "Wheatus – Teenage Dirtbag"

One thing I am good at that you may not know Golf

In ten years time I hope to Be finishing up playing with a few more county titles under my belt.



Back row (l-r.): Anthony Ryan, Martin Meagher, Alan O'Connor (Trainer), Derek Bourke, Shane Hennessy, Tommy Maher, John Ryan, Richie Maher, Padraig Egan, Eamon Connolly, Lorcan Egan, Tomás McGrath, Liam Treacy, Mark Butler, Bill O'Connell, Peter Nyland, Brian McGrath, Pat McGrath (Selector), Declan Laffan (Manager). Front row (l-r.): Liam McGrath (Capt), Willie Eviston, Ciaran McGrath, Brian McGrath, John McGrath, Dominic Brennan, John Meagher, Aidan McGrath, Joseph Hennessy, Noel McGrath, Evan Sweeney, Cian Hennessy, David Kennedy, Diarmuid Brennan. Missing from photo: Henry Maher, Cathy Doran (Physio).

BOTH Loughmore and Castleiney parishes have been steeped in GAA tradition from the foundation of the association. Both were separate clubs for many years. In the 30s and 40s the clubs amalgamated and had huge success. They separated again in the early 50s and had some top class encounters at senior football level. In 1961 the clubs reunited and the rest is history for the Loughmore-Castleiney GAA club.

2013 will long be re-

CLUB OFFICERS

Chairman: Eugene Stapleton
Vice-Chairman: Brendan Meagher
Secretary: Tom McGrath
Assistant Secretaries: Pat Healy, Fiona McGrath
Treasurer: Jim Nolan
P.R.O.: Pat Healy
ASAP Officer: Peggy Eviston
Cultural Officer: Marie Maher
Registrar: Derek Bourke
IT Officer: Diarmuid Brennan

membered in the parishes of Loughmore-Castleiney as the club gained immortality by winning both football and hurling Senior titles – thus becoming the first club to do so in the county. The hurlers were captained by Ciaran McGrath with Derek Bourke lifting the O'Dwyer Cup to make history.

Excellent performances were also displayed in the Munster club championship – defeated by Na Piarsaigh, Limerick (hurling) and Dr. Crokes, Kerry in football.

In 2014 the club won its 13th football title and put County titles back-to-back for the first time ever in the club's history.

Over the last few years our club rooms at Cuguilla have been redeveloped with new dressing rooms and kitchen, toilets, referees room etc. A major fund

raiser by many helping hands cleared the financial debt shortly after completion.

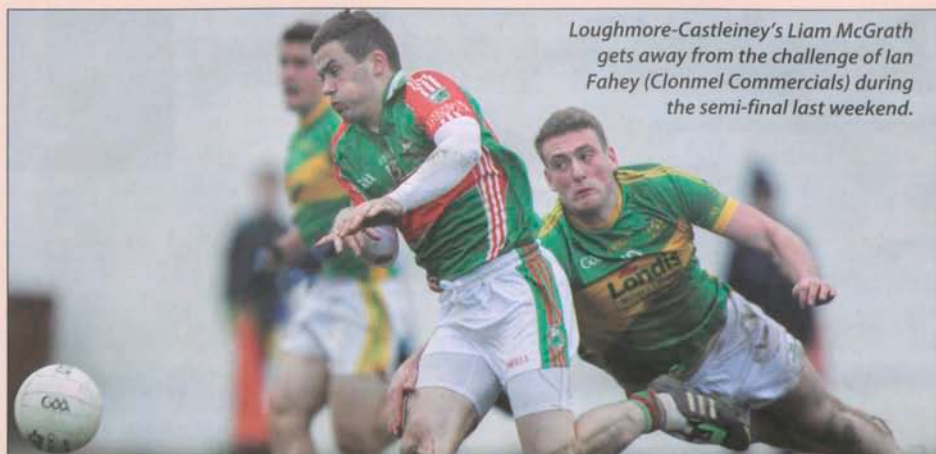
Finally we would like to thank all our sponsors who subscribe so generously to the club and help the training fund. Also to our excellent supporters who never fail to turn out in the many different climates that prevail for our games.

– Pat Healy, PRO

CLUB HONOURS

Mid Senior Football	60
County senior football	11
Mid Senior hurling	11
County senior hurling	3
Munster Club Hurling	1
Intermediate Hurling	1
County Junior B	1
U/21 County Football	9
U/21 A Hurling County	2
Minor A Football County	5
Minor A Hurling	4

Also on the Loughmore-Castleiney panel: Padraig Egan, Anthony Ryan



Loughmore-Castleiney's Liam McGrath gets away from the challenge of Ian Fahey (Clonmel Commercials) during the semi-final last weekend.

PATH TO FINAL

Sunday 17th April

Group 1st Round:

Loughmore-Castleiney 0-07

Galtee Rovers 0-06

Saturday 30th April:

Group 2nd Round:

Loughmore-Castleiney W/O

Thomas McDonaghs

Sunday 24th July

Mid Championship:

Loughmore-Castleiney 2-08

Drom & Inch 0-05

Wednesday 14th September

Group 3rd Round:

Loughmore-Castleiney 1-16

Éire Óg Annacarty 0-07

Sunday 18th September

Mid Final:

Loughmore-Castleiney 1-11

Upperchurch-Drombane 1-08

Saturday 15th October

Quarter-Final:

Loughmore-Castleiney 3-15

Galtee Rovers 0-11

Sunday 29th October

Semi-Final:

Loughmore-Castleiney 0-09

Clonmel Commercials 0-08



Loughmore-Castleiney Management Team: Alan O'Connor, Declan Laffin and Pat McGrath.

Best of luck to
Loughmore-Castleiney from:

NOLAN'S BAR
CASTLEINEY

Proprietors:
JIM & MARY NOLAN
0504-31058

Loughmore-Castleiney

Dathanna: Glas agus Dearg



16. RICHIE MAHER R. Ó Meachair	19. DAVID KENNEDY D. Ó Cinneide	22. BILL O'CONNELL B. Ó Conaill	25. DIARMUID BRENNAN D. Ó Braonáin	28. MARTIN MEAGHER M. Ó Meachair
17. WILLIE EVISTON L. Eviston	20. DEREK BOURKE D. de Búrca	23. PETER NYLAND P. Ó Nialláin	26. HENRY MAHER A. Ó Meachair	29. BRIAN McGRATH B. Mac Craith
18. EAMON CONNOLLY E. Ó Conghaile	21. SHANE HENNESSY S. Ó hAonasa	24. TOMMY MAHER T. Ó Meachair	27. DINNY BRERETON D. Bréartún	30. MARK BUTLER M. de Buitléir

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Management Team: Declan Laffan, Pat McGrath
Trainer: Alan O'Connor Physio: Cathy Doran



Moyle Rovers

Dathanna: Gorm agus Dubhgorm



16. TOMMY MORRISSEY T. Ó Muireasa	19. BRIAN GLEESON B. Ó Glasáin	22. PETER ACHESON P. Acheson	25. MORGAN IRWIN M. Ó hEireamhóin	28. CIARAN KENRICK C. Mac Eanáic
17. DARRAGH DWYER D. Ó Dubhuir (Capt.)	20. DARA RYAN D. Ó Riain	23. MARTIN DUNNE M. Ó Doinn	26. DOMINIC WALSH D. Breathnach	
18. RIAN CLANCY R. Mac Lannchaidh	21. SHANE LONERGAN S. Ó Longargáin	24. LUKE PERRY L. de Poire	27. PHILIP QUIRKE P. Ó Coirc	

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Management Team: Liam Cronin, Robbie Boland, Mark Murray
Physio: Neil Burke Maor Uisce: Tommy Brett



MOYLE Rovers GAA Club was founded in 1928. In the early years the club depended on local farmers for the use of fields for training. The club mostly used the facilities of St Joseph's school Ferryhouse and are very appreciative to them for their assistance over the years.

Since the 1980's major developments have taken place – such as purchasing of the fields, erection of sports hall, floodlights erected on training field, erection of new entrance and car parking facilities, refurbishment of gym. At present there are five clubs running from Moyle Park – Moyle Rovers Senior Club, Moyle Rovers Juvenile Club, Moyle Rovers Ladies Football Club, Moyle Rovers Tennis Club, Moyle Rovers Camogie. The Monroe Sports Centre is also running all year round.

The Club won its first South Senior Football title in 1991, and from 1995 to 2000 we enjoyed the most successful years ever – winning five South and County titles – winning our last County title in 2009.

2007 was an extremely momentous year for our club. Our Junior hurlers won our first ever Munster title and continued all the way to the All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. Unfortunately on the day the Kilkenny side of Conahy Shamrocks were the better side but

it was a proud day for our club to see the Sky Blue & Navy of Moyle Rovers in Croke Park.

In 2011 our U14's made history, winning the All-Ireland Féile Peil Tournament. Five-players from this panel are on today's panel. These players continue to make history for our club. In 2014 they won the Club's first County Minor 'A' hurling title and a lot of these players continued on their winning ways with the U21 hurling panel, who went on to win the clubs first County U21 'B' hurling title.

In 2015 our club had the great unique honour of Tipperary Minor captains of both the Hurling and Football teams. Stephen Quirke captained the Minor hurlers and Danny Owens captained the Football team, both players are on today's panel.

2016 was also a fantastic years with Peter Acheson Captain of the Senior Football team, leading them to the first All-Ireland Football semi-final in 81 years, along with club team mates Alan Campbell, Martin Dunne and Ciaran Kenrick. With Declan Browne the only Tipperary Footballer to receive an All-Star, it was fantastic news to see club mate Peter Acheson nominated for an All-Star Award along with four of his team mates.

Our club suffered a great loss earlier this

PATH TO THE FINAL

South Championship – Quarter-Final:

31/08/16	Moyle Rovers	1-9	Ardfinnan	2-1
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South Championship – Semi-Final:

17/09/16	Moyle Rovers	1-13	Clonmel Commercials.....	1-14
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County Championship – Round 1:

16/04/16	Moyle Rovers	0-09	Aherlow Gael.....	0-10
30/04/16	Moyle Rovers	2-11	Ardfinnan	1-5
24/08/16	Moyle Rovers	0-15	Drom & Inch	0-10

County Championship – Quarter-Final:

19/10/16	Moyle Rovers	2-11	Aherlow Gaels.....	0-13
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County Championships – Semi-Final:

23/10/16	Moyle Rovers	4-14	Kilsheelan/Kilcash	0-6
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year, with the death of our previous Club President Mick Morrissey. Mick was known to everyone young and old in our club. Mick was always there for training session, matches, meeting, and social events and was always on hand to help in any way. Mick was always there with a bit of advice for players, mentors and officer alike. Mick Morrissey always had the club's best interest at heart and would have been very proud of this panel of players reaching the County final again this year, having been defeated in last year final.

Mick will be sadly missed on our sidelines today.

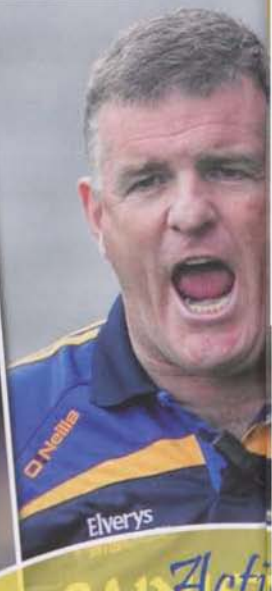
The Club would like to thank all the people who give of their time voluntarily to help out in so many ways in the day-to-day running of the club. Thanks also to all the people who support the club throughout the year. We are grateful to our loyal supporters who attend our games with pride in our community. Finally, thank you to our club sponsor Mulcahy Construction. The support from Joe and his family is greatly appreciated.

CLUB OFFICERS

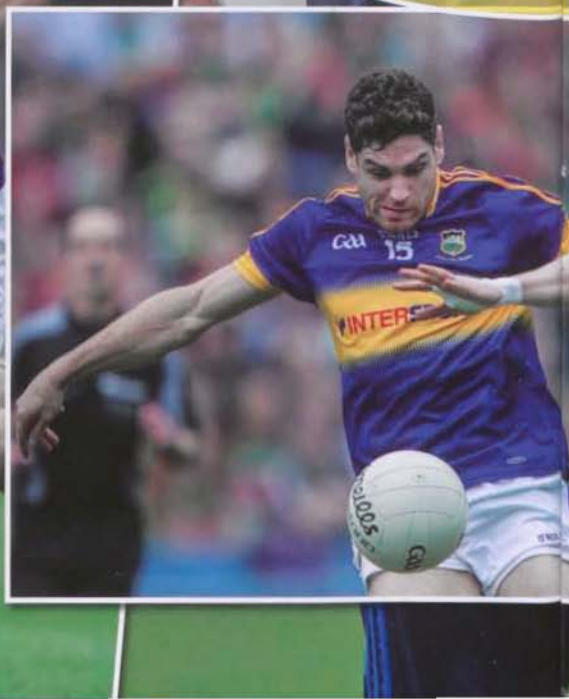
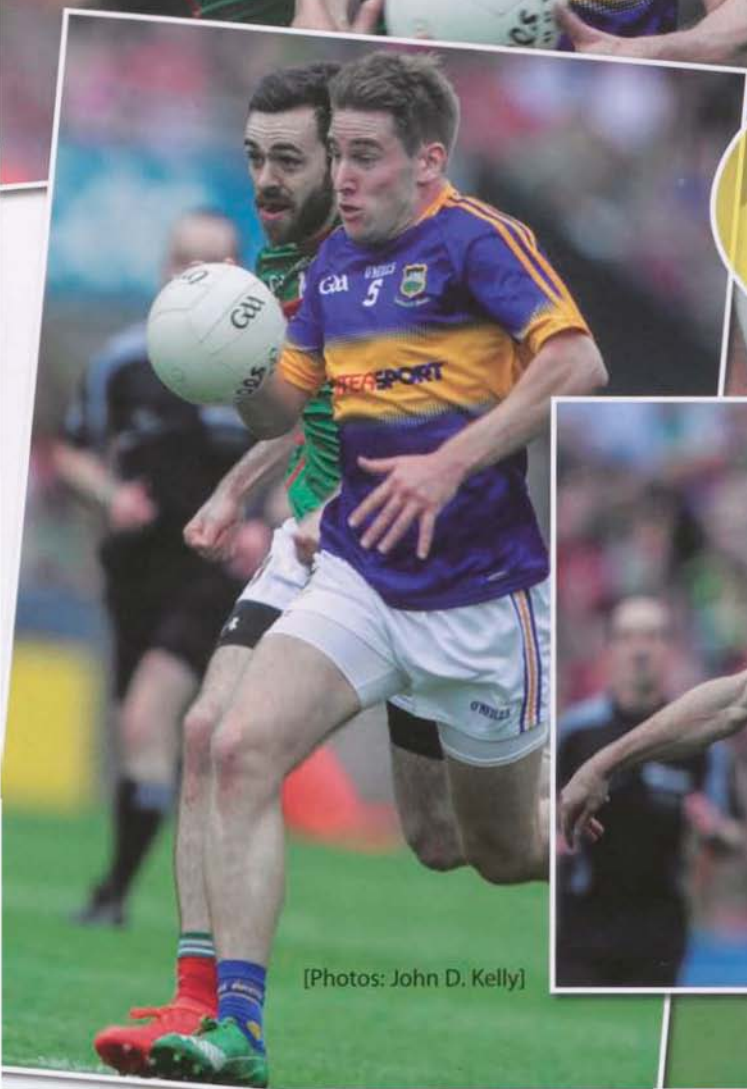
Chairman:	Declan McGrath
Secretary:	Jean O'Connor
Treasurer:	Frank Burke



Moyle Rovers Management Team: Mark Ryan, Mark Murray, Liam Cronin, Robbie Boland.



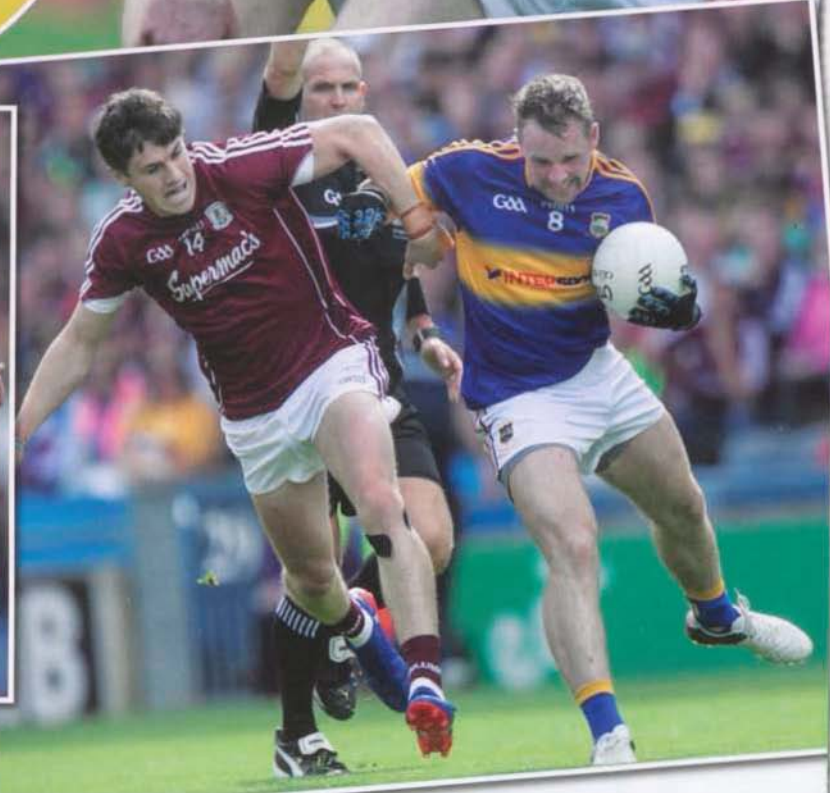
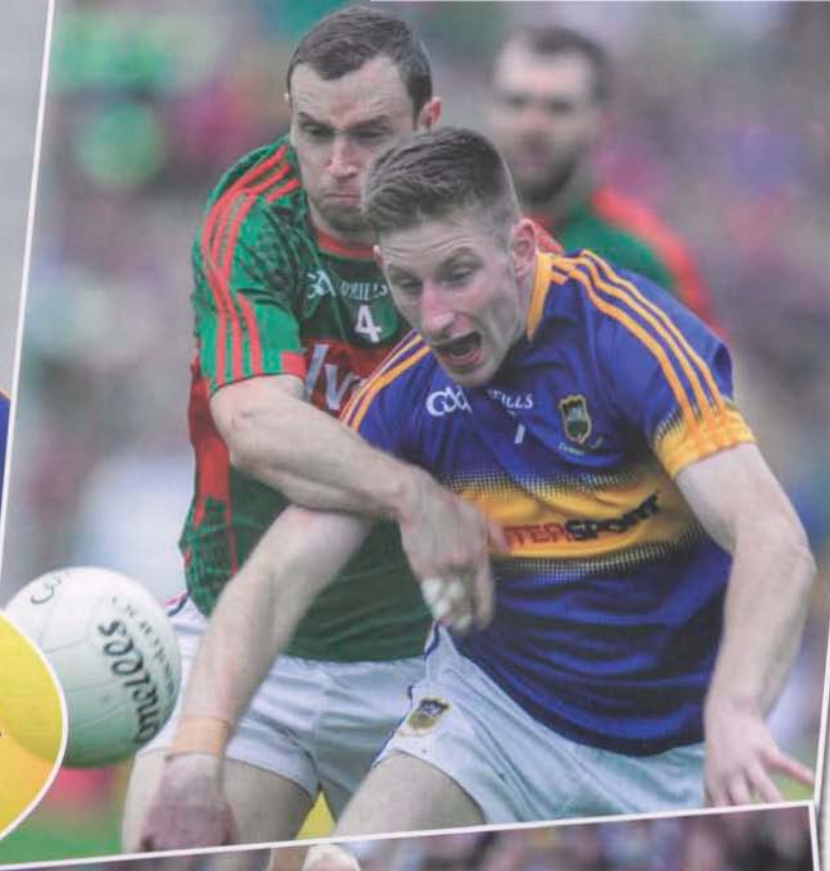
Action
BAINIS
replay from
- Summer



[Photos: John D. Kelly]



on
LOIR
Croke Park
er 2016



Liam KEARNS

By: JACKIE CAHILL



It was a superb year for Tipperary's senior footballers, who reached a first All-Ireland semi-final in 81 years.

But manager **Liam Kearns** admits to some mixed emotions as he reflects on a monumental 2016 campaign.

Failing to gain promotion from Division 3 of the Allianz League was the only big goal the team failed to achieve as they finally took out one of Munster's 'big two', before contesting a provincial decider and progressing to the last four of the All-Ireland series.

Kearns has poured over the video of the Mayo semi-final on a number of occasions and believes it's one that got away.

After starting well, Tipp were stung by a Mayo purple patch in the first half and couldn't catch up, as the winners claimed a couple of fortuitous goals in either half.

"Mixed emotions, in so far as I still feel, having looked at the Mayo game a number of times, that we had a great opportunity of getting to a final and didn't make the most of it," says Kerry native Kearns.

"But where we came from, from Division 3 into a championship where a lot of people were questioning whether we would beat Waterford at Fraher Field, to end up in a semi-final when the likes of (Tyrone manager) Mickey Harte and others feel you can't do well in the All-Ireland series without Division 1 football."

It was certainly the stuff of dreams for Tipp, who produced some stirring performances along the way.

There was that landmark victory over Cork at Semple Stadium in the Munster semi-final, the first

time the Rebels were defeated in championship football for 72 years, before Kerry proved too good in the provincial final.

But Tipp regrouped to see off Derry in an enthralling qualifier at Kingspan Breffni Park and took to Croke Park like the proverbial ducks to water, playing some sparkling football to send Connacht champions Galway packing at the All-Ireland quarter-final stage.

"Our attacking performance against Cork was a personal highlight," Kearns reflects.

"3-10 from play, we took all of our frees and chances, had no wide in the first half and only three in total.

"That was our best attacking performance all year, exceptional really and also the fact that they showed character having blown a lead in the last ten minutes to win it a second time.

“We’re in a way better position now. We know where we need to strengthen and what we need to do.”

"Derry, in similar circumstances, to show character again when we found ourselves behind in injury-time of that game, having had to go up to Cavan to play them and so on.

"That was a recovery from the Munster final defeat too, so they showed that they were made of good stuff in both of those games."

The display against Galway at GAA HQ made the rest of the country sit up and take notice of Kearns and his players, something he takes great pride in.

"The performance in the All-Ireland quarter-final was excellent but we missed a lot of scores," he says.

"If we had taken our chances, it could have been something else. But the thing about Croke Park was the fact that it was a quarter-final and to beat a traditional county like Galway brought our players into the national consciousness.

"That game brought home the type of football

we were playing, how we were going about it and how good the players were. It was a big statement and gave us the chance to show what we were all about, young and improving all the time.

"We didn't expect to beat Galway the way we beat them but I wasn't shocked that we played well in Croke Park."

Unfortunately, Mayo proved a bridge too far for Tipp but thoughts have already turned towards 2017 and the opportunity to potentially do it all over again.

But Kearns knows that extra percentage points need to be eked out along the way and he's already planning to add a significant number of his players to his panel.

Kearns has also strengthened his management team with the addition of highly-rated coach Jerome Stack, who also hails from Kerry.

And Kearns revealed: "I wanted to bring him in last year but he had gone to Limerick when I was completing my set-up.

"He had worked with Laois for two years previous to that so he's been involved in inter-county football for the last three years.

"He's managed and coached at club level, managing Feale Rangers to a county championship in Kerry (2007), likewise with Dromcollogher-Broadford in Limerick (2012).

"He has a huge amount of experience in coaching and is a huge addition to our set-up."

Kearns also confirmed: "We're going to have a lot of new players added to our panel and I expect to find more improvement in the squad.

"The players there this year will improve also, on the proviso that I'm worried about the fact that we've lost a number of marquee players in recent times like Colin O'Riordan, Steven O'Brien, Seamus Kennedy, and Peter Acheson's in Dubai at the moment.

"They're big players and you can't afford to keep losing marquee players, the likes of Achey don't grow on trees.

"Hopefully we'll have him back but with the panel we already have, if we had all of those players we'd have a really strong squad.

"We've set the bar very high for ourselves but we'll take it game by game, starting in Division 3

and targeting promotion as a goal.

"It's the only goal we didn't achieve this year but we'll set new goals for the players.

"And we have to get back to Croke Park and a Munster final, and try to beat one of the big two in Munster again. There isn't a lot of wriggle room, it's a big challenge for us."

But Kearns believes he's starting 2017 in a strong position,

having inherited a squad shorn of a number of players due to

defections and injuries.

The former Limerick and Laois manager acknowledged: "We're stronger in every department – our panel of players, our management set-up, the knowledge we have of the team, and the work we've done from a tactical point of view.

"It's about refreshing them as opposed to trying to get to know the players and getting them to play the way we want them to play.

"We're in a way better position now. We know where we need to strengthen and what we need to do."



Tipperary are on the

Where Tipperary football is concerned, 2017 carries such intrigue.

Can Liam Kearns' charges secure back-to-back Munster final appearances?

1994 remains the last occasion said feat was achieved by a team wearing the blue and gold.

Or what about back-to-back All-Ireland semi-final appearances?

No Tipperary team has ever managed this.

CAN they again ensure their presence in Croke Park when the All-Ireland championship reaches its knock-out stages? Can promotion to Division 2 be achieved? Most importantly, can they handle the expectation that will follow them into next season?

So many questions hang in the air but it'll be next March, at the earliest, before the county's football diehards, and the thousands more who jumped on the Premier juggernaut over the past number of months, get the answers they're seeking.

So much to look forward too, but also, so much to reflect upon. What is certain is that 2016 was a season like no other for Tipperary football.

It shouldn't, perhaps, have come as a surprise that Kearns' troops recorded a first Munster SFC victory over Cork since 1944 or that a first All-Ireland semi-final berth since 1935 was reached given the steps forward taken during the 2015 season. Lest we forget that Dublin were conquered en-route to a maiden All-Ireland U21 final showing and that Kerry were given a fair examination when they landed into Thurles for the Munster SFC semi-final.

Why we were then taken aback at their journey through the championship just concluded is because of the players lost, for a variety of reasons, in the weeks after the manager's appointment. Colin O'Riordan gone. Steven O'Brien gone. Seamus Kennedy gone. Paddy Codd gone. Barry Grogan gone.

It was widely perceived that the gaps left by these lieutenants would prove too big to fill.

Not long after the conclusion of the League, one where Tipperary were handed a fair thumping at home to Kildare towards the business end of the spring and where promotion proved beyond their reach, Liam Casey, Jason Loneragan and Kevin Fahey headed for foreign shores, further depleting

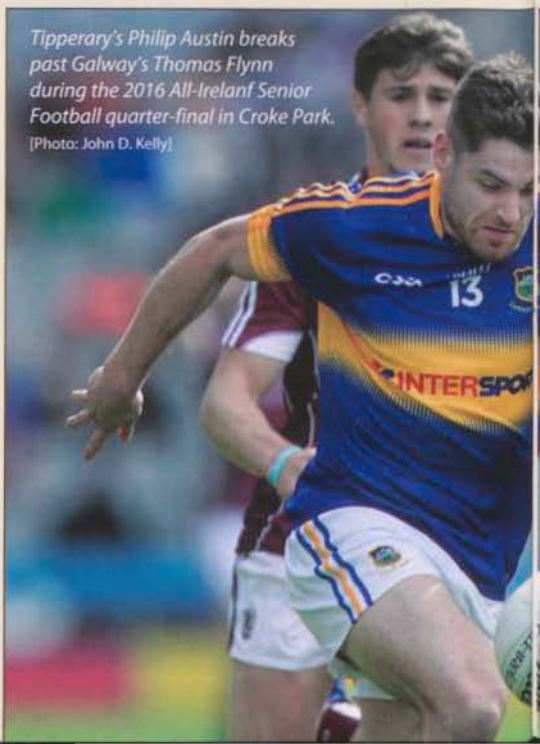
the squad. And still, they were able to absorb everything Cork threw at them in their second championship outing.

In the *Irish Examiner* on the Monday after Dublin and Mayo had drawn in the All-Ireland final, five writers gave their championship highlight. That three opted for games involving Tipperary was hardly surprising.

The following was filed by yours truly from the seventh floor of the Hogan Stand long after the Dublin and Mayo supporters had flooded back out onto Jones Road: As the clock entered the red in Thurles on the Sunday afternoon of June 12, one sensed the Tipperary footballers had blown their chance. The men of 1944 would have to wait at least 12 more months to be replaced as the last Tipperary side to overcome Cork in the football

Tipperary's Philip Austin breaks past Galway's Thomas Flynn during the 2016 All-Ireland Senior Football quarter-final in Croke Park.

[Photo: John D. Kelly]



right track

By: EOGHAN CORMICAN

championship. Liam Kearns' side had built up a 3-13 to 1-10 lead by the 61st minute. By the 70th minute, it was level – Cork kicking 1-6 without reply in nine minutes to roar back into proceedings. This contest was heading in only one direction; a Cork victory. That it didn't materialise would become the opening chapter in a glorious summer for Tipperary. Kevin O'Halloran kicked two injury-time points to seal a famous Tipp victory and the only pity is that there wasn't more present to witness it than the paltry crowd of 2,734 who paid in.

Of almost greater significance than the victories over the Rebels, Derry and Galway, was the rise to prominence of Colm O'Shaughnessy, Bill Maher, Kevin O'Halloran Jimmy Feehan and Josh Keane. The young footballer of the year nominations for the latter pair is fitting recognition of their contributions.

And, of course, there are those five All-Star nominations, one more than garnered by Kerry. Evan Comerford is holding fair company alongside David Clarke and Stephen Cluxton. Robbie Kiely is listed among the nominated defenders, Peter Acheson

has a real shot at picking up the second midfield gong after Brian Fenton. Conor Sweeney enjoyed a fine summer in the corner after injury had plagued him during the earlier part of the campaign.

Then there is Michael Quinlivan. The man who is a racing certainty to become Tipperary's first All-Star recipient since Declan Brown was named at left-half forward in 2003. The Clonmel Commercials full-forward finished the championship with 2-27, outdone only by Dublin's Dean Rock and Mayo's Cillian O'Connor. Again, good company to be in.

Looking beyond the All-Stars, it is imperative that the squad is strengthened during the winter lay-off by the return of some of the players who were missing this year. Kearns said as much at the championship draws in Montrose a fortnight ago.

"We would hope to have a lot more players available to us than was the case this year. If we can get Acheson and one or two more to come back from foreign shores, we'll be strong, and hopefully, stronger than this year."

On the same evening, Joe Brolly was fulsome in his praise of their style: "They are starting a movement towards real football. They play with their heads up. They move the ball quickly. They play football where the players are allowed express themselves. The ethos was that if the players were enjoying it then everyone else will enjoy it. Tipperary are absolutely on the right track. If that trend continues, you'd expect another Tipperary-Kerry Munster final."

Conor Sweeney, chatting to journalists in the Anner House Hotel a fortnight before the clash with Mayo, identified a second successive Munster final appearance as their primary target next summer. That's a pretty attainable goal.

Keeping true to the methods which delivered such progression will be paramount in this regard. Blanket defences weren't what they did and shouldn't become what they do, even if there is increasing pressure to match their 2016 results.

Consistency has never been much of a friend to Tipperary football. That has to change. The Premier men have earned their place at football's top table. They must now work twice as hard to keep their seat.



FETHARD



By: SEAMUS J. KING



1988 and 1991

FETHARD senior football teams wrote new chapters in their distinguished history when they won the county championships of 1988 and 1991. Their achievements will be honoured later today at a reception when they will be guests of the County Board and the Nationalist at dinner in the Clonmel Park Hotel.



Photographed at the launch of the event were – Back row (l.-r.): Pat Carey (Organising Committee), Paddy Kenrick (Fethard), Maciek Szczepaniec (Manager of Park Hotel), Michael Power (County Board Treasurer), Willie Morrissey (Fethard), Mary Godfrey (Fethard), Michael Heverin (Editor 'The Nationalist'). Front (l.-r.): Laura Jones (Marketing Manager of the Park Hotel), Jimmy O'Shea (Fethard).

County Senior Football Champions of 1988 and 1991 celebrated

IN the 1988 county final Fethard upset the odds, when they defeated the favourites, Commercials, in the final at Kilsheelan by 1-11 to 1-10 on September 25. Fethard were regarded as a young and largely inexperienced side. Playing with the breeze in the first half, they appeared to be in trouble as they were only level, 0-6 to 1-3, at the break. But, in a close encounter, they surprised everyone and were a point in front, 1-11 to 1-10, at the final whistle.

Team and scores: Paddy Kenrick, John Hackett, Michael (Buddy) Fitzgerald, Michael Ryan, Willie Morrissey, Willie O'Meara, Shay Ryan (0-1), Brian Burke (capt.) (0-1), Liam Connolly, Tommy Sheehan (0-1), Michael Downes (1-1), Eoin Cummins, Joe Keane

PATH TO FINAL

1st Round:

Fethard 2-11 Kilsheelan 0-01

South Semi-Final:

Fethard 1-08 Cahir 1-05

South Final:

Awarded to Fethard

County Quarter-Final:

Fethard 1-08 Emly 1-04

County Semi-Final:

Fethard 1-11 Templemore 1-05

County Final:

Fethard 1-11 Commercials 1-10

(0-5), Michael O'Riordan (Jnr), Michael O'Riordan (Snr) (0-1), Liam Ryan, John Hurley, Michael Broderick (0-1) for Eoin Cummins,



**Fethard Senior Football team, South and County Champions 1988
photographed with Jimmy O'Shea (trainer) in Barrack Field**

Back row (l.-r.): John Hurley, Tommy Sheehan, Kevin Burke, Liam Connolly, Jim Butler, Michael Healy, Paddy Kenrick, Michael Downes, Shay Ryan, Michael Ryan, Tom McCarthy, Liam Ryan, Michael Broderick, Jimmy O'Shea (Trainer). Front row (l.-r.): Paddy Ryan, Michael O'Riordan (Kerry Street), John Hackett, Owen Cummins, Willie O'Meara, Willie Morrissey, Brian Burke (Capt.), Michael Fitzgerald, Michael O'Riordan (Barrack Street), Gerry Murphy and Joe Keane.

Kevin Burke, Liam Ryan for Liam Connolly, Paddy Ryan, Jim Butler, Jerry Murphy, Michael Healy for Michael O'Riordan (Jnr), Tomas McCarthy.

Selectors: Jimmy O'Shea, Liam Connolly, Danny Kane, Davy Morrissey

Fethard and Commercials had qualified for the South final earlier in the year, but it never took place. It had been scheduled for July 31, but Commercials informed the board that they would be unable to field a team. The title was eventually awarded to Fethard and the Commercials Club were fined £500.

MUNSTER CLUB

Fethard played the first round of the Munster Club championship against Claughaun at home on October 29. The Limerick champions got two fortuitous goals in the first half and the scores kept them in touch with Fethard, who were in many cases a team of greater talent. The hope side led by 0-7 to 2-0 at the interval, could never really shake off the opposition, and survived by a point in the end on a scoreline of 0-9 to 2-2.

Fethard were defeated at home in the semi-final on November 13. Their opponents were the Waterford champions, Kilrossanty.

An inability to kick points from relatively easy positions and an uncharacteristic defensive slackness led to Fethard's defeat by 3-6 to 1-7 in a game they were expected to win.

Brian Burke captained the Tipperary senior footballers the following year, when they won the McGrath Cup, beating Limerick in the home final at Fermoy on May 28, and London in the final proper at Ruislip on October 28. It was the county's first success in an official football competition since winning Division 2 of the league in 1971

THE 1991 CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS

The County Senior Football Championship of 1991 was run on an open draw system, with eight teams qualifying for the quarter-finals. Fethard defeated Thurles comfortably in the quarter-final at Cashel. They drew with St. Patrick's, 0-11 to 1-8, in the semi-final at Kilsheelan on September 22. In the replay at the same final a week later Fethard secured a hard-earned victory by 2-8 to 0-12, after leading by four points at the interval.

They continued their winning ways when they shocked a fancied Commercials side in the final at Kilsheelan on October 6.



FETHARD – County Senior Football Champions 1991

Back row (l.-r.): John Hurley, Michael Ryan, Shay Ryan, Eoin Cummins, Liam Connolly, Tomás McCarthy, Shay Coen, Micheál Spillane, Robert Broderick, Liam Ryan, Joe Keane. Front row (l.-r.): Chris Coen, Willie O'Meara, Dermot Hackett, Michel (Buddy) Fitzgerald, Willie Morrissey, Tommy Sheehan, Martin Coen, Martin Ryan, Philly Blake, Michael O'Riordan. Missing from photo: Michael Quinlan.

PATH TO FINAL

1st Round

South Semi-Final:

Fethard beat Cahir

South Final:

Fethard beat Moyle Rovers

This was played after the County Final

County Quarter-Final:

Fethard Lattin-Cullen

County Semi-Final:

Fethard 0-11, St. Pats/Grangemockler 1-8

County Semi-Final Replay:

Fethard 2-8, St. Pats/Grangemockler 1-12

County Final:

Fethard 1-12, Commercial 0-13

Throughout the game they were first to the ball and never allowed their opponents to settle. Commercial led by 0-8 to 0-5 at the interval but a goal by Fethard half-way through the second half put them in a commanding position, which they never relinquished. In the end they had two points to spare, taking their 18th title by 1-12 to 0-13.

Team and scores: Tomás McCarthy, Dermot Hackett, Michael (Buddy) Fitzgerald, Michael Ryan, Willie Morrissey, Willie O'Meara, Liam Connolly, Martin Ryan, Shay Ryan, Tommy Sheehan (0-3). Shay Coen (0-2), Eoin Cum-

mins (0-2), Martin Coen (0-4), John Hurley (1-0), Michael Spillane (0-1).

16 Robert Broderick, 17 Liam Ryan, 18 Philly Blake, 19 Joe Keane, 20 Michael O'Riordan, 21 Chris Coen.

Selectors: Jimmy O'Shea, Liam Connolly, Danny Kane, Dinny Burke.

MUNSTER CLUB

Fethard had a bye into the Munster Club semi-final, in which they played Dr. Croke's, Killarney at Killarney on November 3. They acquitted themselves well before going down by 1-16 to 3-7.

Brian Burke captained the Tipperary senior team in the Munster championship. They defeated Waterford in the first round of the championship at Clonmel by 2-13 to 0-13 on May 17. It was the first victory over Waterford for a number of years. The game was also historic in that it was the first time a Tipperary football team was sponsored, and the first time they featured on 'The Sunday Game' on television.

Tipperary were beaten by Clare in the semi-final at Limerick by 2-11 to 2-7, having trailed by 1-7 to 1-3 at the interval. The only consolation for Tipperary was that Clare went on to win the Munster championship.

FETHARD PLAYER PROFILES

1988-1991

MICHAEL O'RIORDAN

A Garda from Cork and father of Colin, he was a player of excellent quality. Played initially at midfield but later at full-back.



BRIAN BURKE

(Capt. 1988). Probably the best all-round footballer ever to play with Fethard, he represented the club and county for many years. He won five county senior football titles.

PADDY KENDRICK

Between the posts for 1988 having won a senior title in 1978. In 1984 playing wing back where he excelled.

JOE KEANE (RIP)

The late Joe won his third county medal in 1988 back at corner forward top scorer that day with five points, and his fourth as a sub in 1991.

JOHN HACKETT

On the 1984 Tipperary county minor team, he was a tenacious hard working no nonsense corner back in 1988.

DERMOT HACKETT

Made corner back his own with his an approach that looked so easily to command that position his ability was uncanny and always effective.

TOMMY SHEEHAN

On the 1984 Tipperary county minor team beaten in All Ireland final. Represented the club on all county teams with distinction and played wing forward in 1988, & 1991

LIAM CONNOLLY

Fame played half back a position he made his own in 1988 and 1991

MICHAEL BUDDY FITZGERALD

(Capt. 1991). His playing career spanned from 1978 to 2001. Made his senior debut at 16 in goal and was a stalwart at full back for many years for Fethard. He also played for many years with the county.

OWEN CUMMINS

A noted hurler and footballer, his achievements were notable in both. He played wing forward on the two county winning sides in 1988 and 1991.

WILLIE MORRISSEY

One of the best players to ever wear a Fethard jersey with one of his highlights winning Munster and All Ireland junior football medals. He also won five senior county medals.

MICHAEL RYAN

A very solid committed player who made right corner back his own in 1988 and 1991 was equally as effective in hurling

WILLIE O'MEARA

The pivot and back bone in 1988 and 1991 commanding the centre back position, an all round footballer one of the best that ever played for Fethard, he was very intelligent with every ball.

SHAY RYAN

A player of great attacking ability from right half back in 1988 and 1991 with his scoring ability second to none on his runs forward into attacking positions.

MICHAEL O'RIORDAN

In 1988 and 1991 he played at full forward had a style of his own that was very effective in winning a ball, combined very well with his fellow players

LIAM RYAN

A brother of Michael was a very solid player who on several occasions came off the bench during 1988 and 1991 to add strength and commitment to the game.

JOHN HURLEY

Our present club chairman played a pivotal role in both 1988 and 1999 coming off the bench and will be most remembered for his goal in the County Final of 1991 against Clonmel Commercials.

MICHEÁL BRODERICK

On the bench for 1988 added youth and exuberance to any team he was with, coming on as a sub in the 1988 final and scoring a vital point

RUBAIRD BRODERICK

Brother of Micheál came on the scene in 1991 as a sub keeper however he was later known as an outfield player particularly up front as a forward.

KEVIN BURKE

A younger brother of Brian was on the 1988 panel and showed great agility when always introduced as a corner forward with his scoring prowess a feat to watch.

LIAM RYAN

Better known as Liam Ryan from Darcys Cross was lighter in build than the other Liam was very speedy and known probably better by the use of the camán .

JIM BUTLER

A great servant of the club was always available and played a stalwart role on many occasions during his playing career was rewarded when selected on the 1988 team.

PADDY RYAN

For a long-time goalie on all football teams in the club holding probably a record for medals won in the 1980s, was rewarded as sub-keeper on the 1988 team.

JERRY MURPHY

A sub on the 1988 team a player that gave great service to the club over the years always, playing on the forward line.

MICHAEL HEALY

A true veteran of the 1988 panel who played some excellent games over his career and was one of our best players in Centenary Year 1984 when winning the county

THOMAS MCCARTHY

In 1988 had just come on the scene and by 1990 had made the position between the posts his own. Noted for his kickouts.

MICHAEL DOWNES

He added flair and guile to the Fethard forward line when the family moved to the town in the seventies. Was centreforward in the 1988 success.

CHRIS COEN

Started his football career in winning a county minor medal in 1985 and played with the county in all grades winning his first county senior medal in 1991 in the midfield position

SHAY COEN

Came on the scene in 1991 at centre forward as a noted footballer that went straight instead of around his opponent and was a good goal getter

MARTIN COEN

Came on the scene with the 1989 county minor success, he proved over the year 1991 to be a huge find when he ended the year top scorer on 21 points.

MICHEÁL SPILLANE

A player who wore the county Jersey with pride and distinction, he contributed significantly to the club's success in 1991 with his never say die attitude.

PHILLY BLAKE

Was in his playing career a very hard corner back, who used his speed and ability to win most balls and then became an effective attacking forward.



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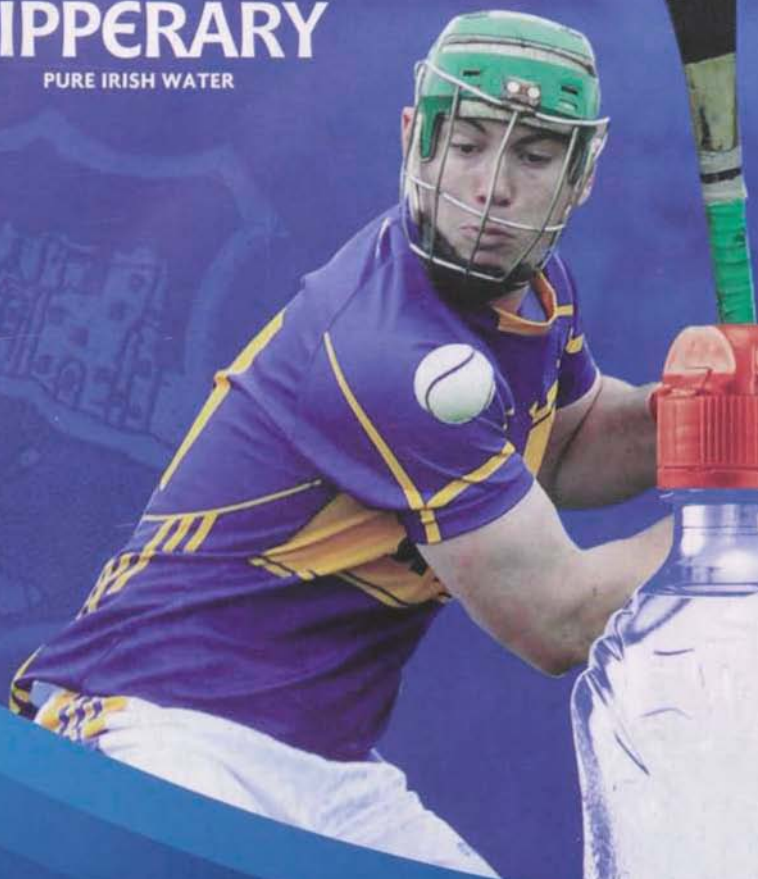
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