

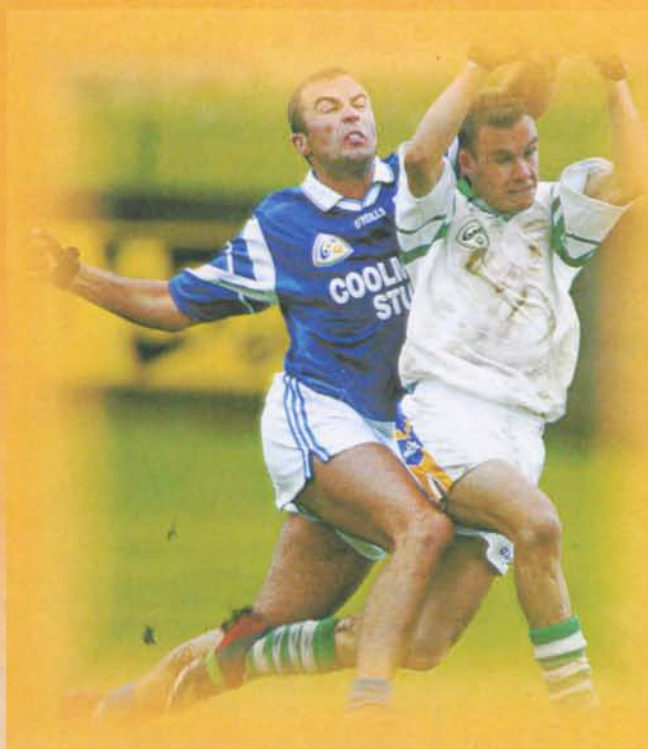
Co. Tipperary Senior Football Final  
Match Programme  
2003

# Coiste Chontae Thiobraid Árann Theas



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**CREDIT UNIONS' TIPPERARY**

## COUNTY SENIOR FOOTBALL FINAL



**Cluain Meala**  
**19ú Deire Fomhair**  
**2003**

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Welcome to Clonmel today as we look forward to the Finals of the Credit Unions Tipperary Senior Football and Minor Football "B" Championships. I would like to welcome the teams involved and I hope that the games are well contested and bring out the best in each team.

Today's final throws up a unique pairing. Ardfinnan with no title since 1974 will play Cahir who have never won the Senior Football title. Both clubs have done well at underage level in recent years and it is good to see that work being rewarded in both teams involvement here today.

In the Minor "B" Final, North Champions Borrisokane will play Carrick Swan. Once again this is a unique pairing and I hope the game lives up to expectation.

The Credit Unions of Tipperary sponsor all our county championships and we appreciate their generous support. I thank them for their commitment to Gaelic Games in Tipperary.

Finally, best wishes to our referees and officials in today's games.

*Dónal Ó Seanacháin*  
Cathaoirleach  
Coiste Thiobraid Arann

## CLÁR AN LAE

1.45pm Credit Unions Tipperary County Minor Football "B." Final  
Carrick Swans -v- Borrisokane [extra time if necessary]  
Réiteoir : Richard O Connor - Arravale Rovers

3.30pm Credit Unions Tipperary County Senior Football Final.  
Ardfinnan -v- Cahir  
Réiteoir : Brian Tyrell - St Marys Clonmel

Ceoltóirí an Lae : Sean Treacy Pipe Band - Moycarkey



A word of thanks to all associated with the production of this programme, in particular to the clubs involved in today's games to the Co P.R.O. Ed Donnelly and to all our advertisers.



## FÁILTIÚ AN CHATHAOIRLIGH CHOISTE PÉIL

Mar Chataoirleach an Choiste Péil chuirim fíor chion failte romhaibh uilig go Páirc na n-gael Cluain Meala inniu. Lá stairiúil is é agus chuirim failte agus comgairdeachas don na ceathair fhoireann Árd Fhionáin, Cathair Dún Iascaigh, Buireas Uí Cheim agus Na hEalái ata ag imirt ins na cluichi ceannais Sinsir agus Mionúr.

Gabhaim buiochas don na reiteori, na h-oifigeach agus don na reiteori agus na h-oifigeach éile a chabraig linn l rith na bhliain. Ta súil agam go mbeidh lá iontach taitneamhach ag gach uile dhuine.

Today we reach the culmination of this years senior and minor football [B] championship programme. We are also witnessing history being made this afternoon, as it's the very first occasion that to-days teams have met at the final stage of their respective finals. At senior level in particular this is surprising since not alone are Cahir and Ardfinnan near neighbours but both clubs have a long tradition of playing gaelic football at senior level.

Indeed much more difficult to understand is the fact that Cahir are contesting their first ever county senior final. The year 1887 is described in the Annals of the Association as an eventful and exciting period. The "Celtic Times" [Michael Cusack's paper] named Tipperary as the strongest Gaelic County in Ireland, with a network of teams [130 in all] from one end of the County to the other. In that list are included two teams in the Cahir area Poulmucha and Cahir. The correct title for the Cahir team was the Irish version. "The Faugh An Ballagh", which when translated reads, "Clear the Way."

Ardfinnan, whose contribution to football in the County has been enormous, have a total of seven senior County titles, their first success coming in 1935. However, its all of twenty nine years 1974, since the O' Dwyer cup found a resting place in the parishes of Ardfinnan, Grange and Ballybacon.

Today we look forward to a great final in the truest sense of the word. A final worthy of Tipperarys unique football history, but above all a final that will produce players of skill, commitment and leadership qualities that will lead a Tipperary Senior team to the pinnacle it deserves.

The minor final between Borrisokane and Carrick Swans promises to be an excellent curtain raiser. Borris, more noted for their hurling achievements have produced many great footballers down through the years from club to All- Ireland level. They have also given us some great administrators at various levels, with a deep commitment to and love for Gaelic Football.

The Swans are undoubtedly in full flight at present. Sunday last their minor hurlers were part of a great drawn Co minor hurling final. Undoubtedly their footballers of this very same age group will be endeavouring to add another title to their name.

In January of 2004 a week-end residential coaching course for clubs will take place. The purpose of the course is to provide a minimum of three coaches in each Club all up to level one standard. Also last Friday night saw the launch in the Tipperary Institute in Thurles of a special coaching scheme for players in the 19 to 22 age bracket. We express our thanks to the County Chairman Donal Shanahan as this was his initiative, and his co-operation has been unlimited.

To the many people who made the night the great success it was, we express our sincere appreciation. In return we ask the clubs for their own sake, their future survival and enjoyment, to give both of these undertakings their full and unstinting support.

Finally, my thanks to all who are responsible for staging to-days County final. The South Board, Clonmel Commercials club, Sean Nugent and Ed Donnelly together with their team for the production of this programme.

Our thanks to our ever loyal supporters, the media at all levels. My wish for all of you in return is an afternoon of good football and enjoyment.



Michéal Ó Freaghaile  
Cathaoirleach Choiste Péil





*The Tipperary Credit Unions have once again sponsored the County Tipperary Hurling and Football Championships for 2003. See below the presentation of the cheque from the Tipperary Credit Unions to the Tipperary GAA County Board*

*Tim Floyd, Donal Shanahan, Brendan Wright (Chairman of Tipperary Credit Unions County Committee), Kathleen Halpin (Treasurer of the Sponsorship Committee), Michael O'Brien*

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## TODAYS REFEREES

Brian Tyrell from the St Marys Club referees his first Co Senior Football final today. Brian who is a former secretary of his club is currently secretary of the referees committee in South Tipperary. He has been refereeing for over seven years and is one of the County's most experienced football referees. Brian has taken charge of numerous finals at County and Divisional level and refereed last years Munster Club senior football final. We wish him well in today's final.



*Linesman/stand by ref: Paddy Russell (Emly), Linesman: Ger Riordan (Solohead)*



Richard O Connor from the Arravale Rovers Club referees the Minor B Football final. Richard is also a former secretary of his Club and is currently Chairman of Bord Na nOg in West Tipperary. Richard has given a lot of his time to coaching at juvenile level and has been refereeing for the last three years. He has refereed this years Co under 21 C Hurling final. We wish him well in today's final and hope that it will be a stepping-stone to the bigger stage in the refereeing world

*Linesman/stand by ref: Sean Bradshaw (Kickhams), Linesman: Phil Ryan (Kickhams)*

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## CARRICK SWANS

The meeting of our footballers with Borrisokane today in the minor final is a novel pairing. This is the first time we have played Borrisokane in any competition. Borrisokane and Carrick Swan both have long traditions in Tipperary Gaa and its fitting the first encounter will be a county final.

Carrick Swan are more renowned in hurling circles although we have had our fair share of success in football championships. Since winning our first county football title in 1944 a junior combination of Carrick Swan and Faugheen we have proudly competed in all grades of football from juvenile to senior in both South and county.

This year alone our club has fielded football teams in Senior, Junior, Under 21, minor and all juvenile competitions. Carrick Swan is one of the few clubs throughout the county that fields teams in all competitions both hurling and football. Since winning the county Intermediate football championship in 1999 we have proudly competed in the senior ranks and we hope many of today's young minors will progress to senior ranks in the coming year.

Carrick Swan have been successful twice before in the minor B football championship. We hope today our minor players can claim this title for the third time. It is also a noteworthy achievement to be competing in a second minor final inside one week, our minor hurlers drew with Moycarkey Borris in the county A hurling final in Semple Stadium last Sunday. Many of the same players will be playing today and with constant coaching and development of our young players we can look forward to a bright future in both hurling and football.

We wish our team and mentors the best of luck today and we offer thanks to our supporters, sponsors and all those who have helped our club in any way throughout the year.

Sean McDonnell PRO  
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*The Carrick Swans Minor 'B' Football side who won the South Title defeating Ballyporeen on the score, Carrick Swan 4-9 Ballyporeen 1-8*





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*Wishing Carrick Swan  
the best of Luck in the Final*



*Best wishes to the Swan  
on Sunday*



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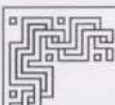
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*Best of luck to the Swan  
on Sunday*



*Wishing the Swan  
every success from  
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## Borrisokane

Borrisokane founded in 1885 has a proud tradition in hurling and football. Our club grounds Páirc Uí Gairnéir named after Seamus Gardiner President of the G.A.A. 1943-1946 has been transformed in recent years due to the hard work of our committees and the support of all the people in Borrisokane. Having won a senior county league and contested the All-Ireland seven a side final the club lost a relegation play off. However Co. Final victories at U/16 and minor soon lifted the spirits in the parish. The victory of our U/16 last weekend and the minor footballers keeps the Borris colours to the fore. Today we are seeking to win our fifth county football title against the might of Carrick Swans a club steeped in tradition. We are proud to be part of such a great occasion.

### **CLUB OFFICERS:**

**Club Buirios Uí Chéin**

**Officers:**

**Cathaoirleach:** *Finbarr Daly*

**Rúnaí:** *Viv Dooley*

**Cisteoir:** *Joe Murphy*

**P.R.O.:** *Nicola McKenna*

### **Juvenile Club**

*Tom Moriarty*

*Tom Kennedy*

*Paul Dooley*

*Michael Larkin*

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **Hurling-**

North S.H. 1933

J.H. 1940, 1952, 1958, 1973, 1982, 1995, 1996.

J.H. 1963, 1965, 1981.

J.H.B 1982, 1990

U/21 1960, 1989, 1991 U/21B 1996

Minor 1957, 1990 Minor B 1983 Minor C 2001

U/16 2001 U/15 1954 U/14 1986, 1999

County-Hurling Championships:

J.H. 1982

J.H.A 1981

U/21B 1996

Minor A 1990

U/14A 1986

U/14 C 1999

U/16 B 2001

Minor C 2001

Senior County League 1999

#### **Football**

North Titles:

I.F. 1981, 1982, 1986, 1987, 1992, 1994.

U/21 1980, 1981, 1982.

Minor "A" 1979, 1982, 1997

Minor "B" 1999, 2001, 2003

U/16 1981

U/14 1974, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1999

U/12 1977

County Intermediate 1994

U/21 1980, 1981. (Erin's Hope)

U/14 C 1999.

### Borrisokane Minor Team



Back Row Left to Right : Paul Egan, James McMahon, Eamonn Gregg, Ronan Gleeson, Tyrone Power, William Daly, Joe Gleeson, Gordon Harding, Brendan Reddan, Philip Austin, Mark Comerford, Seamus Kennedy, Raymond Harding, Kevin McKenna and Seosamh Cleary.

Front Row: Colm Larkin, Dwaine Power, Thomas Tully, Conor Forde, Padraig Moriarty (Capt.) Paul Donnelly, John Tully, Thomas Kennedy, Robert Davis.

Missing from photo: Kevin Gleeson and Cathal Dooley. Missing from photo - Padraig Ryan.



## A Novel Pairing on County Final Day

By Ed Donnelly  
(P.R.O. Tipperary G.A.A. Board)

Today sees the final of the County Senior Football Final. While Ardfinnan and Cahir deserve their places in the final today, I wonder what odds you would have got on these 2 teams contesting today's decider. Going back to 1993, only Commercials, Fethard and Moyle Rovers have won the Senior Football Final. All 3 South teams have been very strong in recent years but now 2 other teams from the division have won the right to play for the O'Dwyer Cup. Ardfinnan and Cahir both made the County semi-finals in 2001 so they have been promising to reach this stage in recent years.



Ardfinnan have been County Senior Football champions on 7 occasions, the last in 1974. The most memorable period for the Ardfinnan club came from 1961 to 1974 when they contested 11 out of 13 Senior Football finals, winning five including "3 in a row" from 1962 to 1964. Few would have predicted the 29-year drought for Ardfinnan that followed. Sport is funny like that sometimes and it is important to avail of any opportunities that come your way. Ardfinnan will be looking to Alan Lonergan, Shane Sweeney, Sean Maher, Michael Phelan, Tristin Browne and Albert Keating to lead them to victory in today's final.

Cahir on the other hand have never won a County Senior Football title. The Cahir Slashers won a South final in 1959 before this current batch of players won the 2001 South Senior Football Final captained by Paul Frazer, a feat repeated this year when they defeated Moyle Rovers in the South final. That win put them in to a County Semi-Final and after 2 tough matches, they beat the 2001 Champions Fethard. They will be looking to Benny Hickey, Robbie Costigan, Michael Tarrant and James Hyland to lead them to victory.

The new County Senior Football champions, whoever they may be will have the honour of leading Tipperary forward in to the 2004 inter-county campaign. While we wait for the confirmation of a Senior Football manager, there is plenty of work going on behind the scenes. The launch of a Football Development programme for the 19 - 22 age group last Friday night in Thurles is a very positive development. We need to look to the future and those involved in bringing this idea to fruition are to be complimented. I have no doubt the players involved will benefit greatly from this programme and the fact that this will run for at least 5 years shows that this is a serious initiative.

Back to matters here today and in the Minor "B" Final, Carrick Swan will try and emulate Carrick Davins achievement in winning this title 12 months ago when they take on the North Champions Borrisokane. The Carrick Swan club were involved in the drawn Minor "A" Hurling Final last Sunday and one wonders if they will have their eye on the replay. Borrisokane on the other hand have been preparing well for this final after a good semi-final win over Moycarkey-Borris recently. I hope for a good match.

Finally, it would be remiss of me on County Football Final day if I failed to mention Declan Browne. I would like to wish him well with the Ireland team in Australia and I am sure he will do us all proud in the coming weeks. Enjoy the day.



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## **Tipperary 19 to 22 year old Football Development Programme**

**By Peter Creedon**

Tipperary football is presently working at different strategies that we hope will lead to serious success for the county in intercounty football in years to come. Under the guidance of County Chairman Donal Shanahan and the Coaching and Games Development Chairman Denis Floyd the above 19 to 22 age group was identified as a priority.

It is felt that this age group are at an age where they can go long periods without competitive football and as a result are losing interest in our game or are not ready to compete at intercounty level.

Thus the following programme has been put in place and a meeting of all the players involved was held in the Tipperary Institute on Friday last, October 17<sup>th</sup>. The County Chairman Donal Shanahan officially launched the programme, while the guest speaker on the night was the former Tipperary and Dublin footballer, Tommy Carr.

The players were selected by four selected co-ordinators. These are Tom Collum (Mid), Liam Molloy (North), Michael Power (South) and Sean McManus (West).

The Aims of the Programme are as follows: -

- Produce fitter footballers for 2004 season.
- Improve and foster the self-confidence of these players in regard their ability to compete at inter-county level.
- Ensure all third level students are playing colleges football.
- Increasing the pace at which we play football.
- Emphasise the importance of video and statistics in player development.

Starting on November 1<sup>st</sup> in Dr. Morris Park Thurles, the players will gather most Saturday's until December 20<sup>th</sup> and in January, eight football / skill and tactical awareness sessions with high profile coaches will be held. It is also hoped to arrange a number of challenge games with Sigerson Cup teams over the duration of this programme.

When the programme is completed in January/February 2004, it is anticipated that all players will either form part of the Senior, Junior or Under 21 panels. Unlike other years the junior panel in particular will be made up of players who in the future may have the potential to play Senior. The Senior and other county management teams will be mentors of this programme. This programme will be held annually and will continue for a minimum of 5 years with a yearly review and evaluation with an assessment of each player.

This programme is very much modelled on that of other counties who have been successful in the last number of years. It will be the commitment of the players and the goodwill of all Gaels in the premier county that will ultimately determine the success or failure of this new initiative.

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# COUNTY SENIOR

## ARDFINNAN

D-1

	(1) EAMONN RYAN	
(2) THOMAS MAHER	(3) ALAN JOHN LONERGAN	(4) P. J. LONERGAN
(5) MICHAEL ENGLISH	(6) GERRY RYAN	(7) KIERAN O'BRIEN
	(8) SEAN MAHER	(9) ALBERT KEATING
(10) MICHAEL PHELAN	(11) TRISTAN BROWNE	(12) PA NORTON
(13) ALAN O'GORMAN	(14) TREVOR O'LEARY	(15) JOHNNY ENGLISH

N Carrigan

16. Pa Ryan, 17. Nigel Carrigan, 18. Noel Browne, 19. Shane Sweeney,  
20. Brian Lonergan, 21. Peter Halley, 22. Paul Kennedy, 23. Martin Ryan,  
24. James Maher, 25. John R. Murphy, 26. Aidan Quinn, 27. Thomas Ryan,  
28. Jonathon Browne, 29. Colm Quinn, 30. Peter Lambert.

Declan Carr (Manager), Selectors: Ger Condon, Seamus Butler, First Aid: Glenda Myles



# COUNTY MINOR (I)

## BORRISOKANE

2-7

	(1) GORDON HARDING	
(2) THOMAS KENNEDY	(3) BRENDAN REDDAN	(4) WILLIAM DALY
(5) KEVIN McKENNA	(6) COLM LARKIN	(7) JOHN TULLY
	(8) PHILIP AUSTIN	(9) MARK COMERFORD
(10) JOE GLEESON	(11) PADRAIG MORIARTY Cpt.	(12) SEAMUS KENNEDY
(13) RAYMOND HARDING	(14) PAUL DONNELLY	(15) SEOSAMH CLEARY

16. James McMahon, 17. Thomas Tully, 18. Robert Davis, 19. Dwaine Power, 20. Cathal Dooley,  
21. Kevin Gleeson, 22. Eamonn Gregg, 23. Ronan Gleeson, 24. Paul Egan, 25. Tyrone Power,  
26. Conor Forde, 27. Padraig Ryan.

Selectors: Tom Moriarty (Manager), Vincent McKenna, Eddie Lillis, Padraic Hogan, Adrian Hogan.

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# FOOTBALL FINAL



## CATHAIR

	(1) <i>Anthony Burke</i>	<i>D-5</i>
	<del>BRIAN ENRIGHT</del>	
(2)	(3)	(4)
DAMIEN LONERGAN	DAVID O'GORMAN	PADRAIG HYLAND
(5)	(6)	(7)
ROBBIE COSTIGAN	PAUL FRAZER	PADDY O'FLAHERTY
	(8)	(9)
	MICHAEL TARRANT Cpt.	JAMES HYLAND
<i>Bobby Halley</i>	(10)	(11)
<del>GAVIN BERRY</del>	GARY MORRISON	JAMES McGRATH
(13)	(14)	(15)
PADRAIG WHELAN	BENNY HICKEY	<del>LIAM KIELY</del> <i>Ger Leahy</i>

16. Anthony Burke, 17. Ger Leahy, 18. Daniel Maguire, 19. Diarmuid Tarrant, 20. Gerald O'Gorman, 21. Noel O'Gorman, 22. Mark Costigan, 23. Ciaran O'Flaherty, 24. Robbie Halley, 25. Eamon Hally, 26. Sean O'Carroll, 27. Paul Loneran, 28. Edgar McGrath, 29. Tom O'Gorman, 30. Liam O'Gorman, 31. John Devereaux, 32. Colm Loneran,

Selectors: Pat O'Brien (Manager), Colm O'Flaherty (Coach), Alan O'Connor, Jerry Tarrant.  
Physios: Sarah Divakaran, Ciara O'Malley.

# 3) FOOTBALL FINAL



## CARRICKSWANS

*2-13*

	(1)	
	JOHN WHITE	
(2)	(3)	(4)
STEPHEN HAHESY	PAT LANIGAN	JAMES HAWKINS
(5)	(6)	(7)
DARREN FAHEY	KEVIN LANIGAN	PETER WHITE
	(8)	(9)
	ALAN ROCKETT Cpt.	PAUL DIFFILY
(10)	(11)	(12)
STEPHEN WALSH	KIERAN READE	DARYL KAVANAGH
(13)	(14)	(15)
DAVID SMITH	WAYNE MURPHY	DEREK READE

16. Danny O'Hanlon, 17. Alan White, 18. Andrew Walsh, 19. David Drohan, 20. Mathew Power, 21. Barry Walsh, 22. Colin O'Sullivan, 23. David Walsh, 24. David Kelly, 25. Wayne O'Neill, 26. Thomas Croke, 27. David O'Dwyer

Manager: Michael Walsh  
Selectors: Seamus Walsh, Johnny Smith



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## ARDFINNAN G.A.A. CLUB

The Ardfinnan G.A.A Club dates back to 1910 but it wasn't till 1927 when they reached their first South Senior Football final where they were defeated by Carrick On Suir. In 1934 Ardfinnan won their First South and County title at Junior level and followed with County senior Titles in 1935 and 1939, John Condon played in goals on those teams and coincidentally his son Ger is part of the Ardfinnan management for today's County Final.

Ardfinnan were regraded back to junior and in 1954 won the County Junior title, a title that has not been won by the club since. The year after in 1955 Ardfinnan participated in the senior championship and has done so since that year.

The 1960s will always be remembered in history as Ardfinnan's golden era, during this period Ardfinnan won the county senior title three times 62,63,64, the South senior title 5 times including the famous four in a row from 61 to 64 and 1968. People still talk about the sixties and players like the great Babs Keating, the Savages Patsy and Pete, the Keating brothers Dick and John, Stephen McCormack, Alfie McDermott, John James Lonergan, Patsy Myles and later in the sixty's his brother Liam Myles, John Cummins, Patsy Ryan, Jim Healy and Pat Carroll.

The Club went on to win the County Title in 1970 and 1974, which is our last County Title, in all the club have won 7 County titles 35,39,62,63,64,70,74 and 9 South Senior Titles.

Throughout the years the club have gone from strength to strength with the opening of our own G.A.A Grounds in May 1988 and is now noted as one of the finest Club grounds in Tipperary.

In 2000 as we moved to a new millennium Ardfinnan were honoured by past players, Pakie Brennan was honoured by being selected on the Munster Millennium team and the Michael Babs Keating being selected as Tipperary Footballer of the Millennium.

The last time Ardfinnan contested a County Senior Football Final was back in 1998 when we were defeated by the then reigning South Champions Moyle Rovers.

A Victory today over Cahir would Bridge a gap of 29 years since we last took home the County Cup. A win today would be just reward for everyone associated with the club, the management, the players and most of all the loyal supporters who traveled the county in search of success all those years, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all the lads involved the best of luck today, hopefully today is our day to witness the cup crossing the bridge one more time.

"Come on the Village"

*Derek O' Mahoney P.R.O*



***Ardfinnan South Senior Football Champions 1961***

*Back L-R:* Eamie Ryan, Tom O Mahoney, John Walsh, Steven McCormack, Luke Hally, Tony Finn, Micky Moore, Dick Keating(R.I.P), Babs Keating, John J. Lonergan.

*Middle L-R:* Dick Moloney, Billy Moloney, Benny Keating (capt), Michael Byrnes, Alfie McDermott, Paty Myles, Paddy Quinn (R.I.P).

*Front L-R:* Tom Ryan, Patsy Savage, Pete Savage, John Byrnes.



## MICHAEL [BABS] KEATING



The story of Michael [Babs] Keating of Ardfinnan has been well documented and his feats both on and off the field are now the stuff of legend. Described by the former secretary of Tipperary Co Board Tomás Ó Baróid as the finest dual player ever produced by the County, the great Mick O Dwyer has also been quoted as saying that Babs was the finest player he ever played with, a reference to the partnership they had on Munster Railway Cup teams of the sixties. He was of course a tower of strength to his club Ardfinnan and his inspirational displays during the sixties and seventies were a major factor in the success story of the club during that period. He holds the distinction of holding five of the seven County senior football medals won by the club during their history. In 1994 when he had completed his managerial role with the Tipperary hurling team the former secretary of the South Board Miceál O Meára penned the following lines in verse form in a tribute to 'Babs'

From Tipperarys football garden, in Grange outside Clonmel  
Came a mighty dual performer who served the G.A.A so well  
His name is Michael Keating, as 'Babs' he is best known.  
And he became a legend, his records stand alone.

In Clonmel's famed High School, his talent first shone through,  
With Ballybacon and Ardfinnan, his skill was matched by few.  
The blue and gold soon beckoned, he wore the colours with great pride,  
And as every honour followed, his fame spread nationwide.

All-Ireland, League, Oireachtas and Munster medals came his way,  
At home in South Tipperary, at local level he held sway,  
A gifted footballer, he gave his all and his team he did inspire  
But here success eluded him, he failed to grasp the Sam Maguire.

The great success of 71 will forever be retold,  
But then there came a famine and dark days for the blue and gold,  
Until in 86 the great 'Babs' once again took command  
And thrilled a new generation as we regained the promised land

And now in 94 we pay tribute to his deeds,  
We thank you 'Babs' for all your work in many fields,  
Your skills and your achievements forever will endure  
As long as Gaelic Games are played down by the gentle Suir  
[M.O.M]

### THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

Less than a minute remains on the clock  
As I tighten my lace and turn down the sock.  
One last chance and it's all down to me,  
It must be a goal, for we need all three.

I step up to the ball and look towards the posts  
Is that the crowd I hear, or is it the ghosts  
Of men who before me have faced the same test  
And never once failed to give of their best.

My father he gave me the love of it all,  
When he guided my arms to strike that first ball.  
A hurley or football, it's the same thing to me,  
It's playing the game that matters you see.

From boys in a field to the big crowd roar,  
There's never been anything to excite me more.  
From the day I could run, till the day I can't walk  
And even then, about the game I'll talk.

A few steps to the ball now seems like a mile,  
But a well placed shot and I'll be carried in style  
On the shoulders of team mates expressing their joy,  
It's a dream that's consumed me since I was a boy.

My feet pound the ground, my foot sends the ball  
It sails through the air over men who are tall,  
Then dipping and curling it finds the goal,  
And just for a moment I'm in touch with my soul.

Brendan Kane [source Tipperary G.A.A ballads]



# STARS OF THE PAST

## PAKIE BRENNAN (ARDFINNAN)

Pakie Brennan is widely regarded as one of the best footballers who ever graced the blue and gold.

He first came to prominence as a minor with his native Ardfinnan and he was a member of the 1945 County minor team. Domiciled in Dublin he played with Trinity College and made a significant contribution to the Geraldines club for whom he played from 1946 to 1958, before returning to play for Ardfinnan in 1959.



He first played in the Inter County S.F. Championship in 1947, lining out at wing forward on the team beaten by four points at the hands of Cork in the Munster semi final. From 1947 up to and including 1953, he was an ever present on the Tipperary County team, holding positions at wing forward and corner forward as well as midfield.

Despite some valiant performances, Tipperary failed to advance to a Munster Final, but individual displays, notably from Mick Cahill, Sean Cleary, Pakie Brennan and Tom Keane caught the eyes of the Munster selectors. Pakie Brennan was honoured with a Munster jersey for four successive years, 1949 to 1952, winning a coveted Railway Cup medal in 1949.

A player of great skill and style his play was admired by friend and foe alike, whilst his outstanding sporting qualities won him further renown.

His elevation to South Tipperary Board's Hall of Fame in 1998 and his subsequent selection on the Munster Team of the Millennium were widely welcomed.

## PADDY SAUNDERS (CAHIR)

Perhaps one of Cahir's most famous footballers of the past was Paddy Saunders. Paddy was a native of Abbeyleix, Co. Laois and at 6' 3" had the physique and agility to play Gaelic football at the highest level.

He started playing football locally with Ballyporeen and later Ballylooby. But from 1946 he became a leading member of Cahir Junior and Senior football teams. He captained Cahir Junior footballers to 3 county titles, 1953, 1955 and 1958 (Although he did not actually play in the 1958 final). The following year, 1959, he captained the Cahir senior football team, when they won the South Championship, for the first time. However, Cahir controversially lost the replay of the County semi-final to Loughmore/Castleiney.

Paddy was a regular on the Tipperary Senior Football team from 1948 to 1956. In fact Paddy was chosen to play with Munster, but because of suspension did not get the opportunity to play. Paddy continued to play with Cahir well into the 1960's.

Once he retired, he became actively involved with Ballylooby club and was a selector for many years with the club's football teams.

Up to the time of his death Paddy was an ardent follower of all Tipperary teams and enjoyed nothing more than discussing matches and players with anyone.

Paddy Saunders always played a wholehearted game of football, even when he togged-out for the veterans team in the Centenary year 1984. His spirit carried Cahir to many victories and hopefully Cahir's young players will achieve what Paddy would dearly love to have achieved i.e. a County Senior Football Title.



# CAHIR HURLING & FOOTBALL CLUB

**Chairman:** Patrick Hyland  
**Secretary:** Eddie Lonergan

**Treasurer:** Tadgh Howard  
**P. R. O.:** Ted Linehan

This is indeed an historic day for Cahir G. A. A. club as we contest our first ever County senior final. All through the last 106 years since Gaelic games were first played in an organised way the people who kept the club going and indeed revived it in 1936 after it had ceased to exist for the most of a decade dreamt of winning a County senior title so to be here today just one step away from that dream becoming a reality means everything to the members of the club men like Club Life-President John F. O'Donnell who first started playing in the 1930's and has been involved with the club ever since and Eddie Lonergan who has been club secretary since 1982 and County Football secretary since 1987.

In 1887 two G. A. A. clubs were registered in Cahir parish, one in Poulmucka and the other in the town which was called the Faugh An Ballaghs (Clear the way). Both clubs initially played football but the one in Poulmucka later became known as the Wild Rovers and became more renowned as a hurling club. The club in the town really became successful in the 1950's winning 3 Junior and 2 Minor County football titles as well 3 County Under 15 football Rural titles. This club was known as the Cahir Slashers, the name is said to come from Tim Looney who worked in the Post Office and came from Longford where the football club is called the Slashers. Eventually the Wild Rovers and Cahir Slashers amalgamated to form Cahir Hurling & Football club as we know it to-day.

Cahir have supplied players for Tipperary County teams from 1920 when Tommy Ryan and Jimmy McNamara played in the infamous Bloody Sunday match and indeed won All-Ireland Senior Football Championship medals that year. Two others, Gus O'Dwyer and William Burke, won All-Ireland Junior Football medals around that time. In the 1950's Tom Walsh played for Munster as well as for Tipperary. In the early 1970's today's coach, Colm O'Flaherty, won a Fitzgibbon Cup medal with U. C. G. and played Football for Tipperary for many years. Frank Howlin captained the Tipperary Minor Football team beaten in the All-Ireland Final in 1984 and also on the team were Ger Enright and Richie Quirke. In 1998 today's No. 11 Gary Morrison won an All-Ireland Junior Football medal with Tipperary. John Costello played with Munster and Tipperary in the 1980's and 1990's and also won a Sigerson cup medal with U. C. C. Ger Enright was also selected on the Munster panel during the 1990's.

Games were played in several different fields around the parish until 1954 when part of the old Cahir Park Estate was purchased and thus gave Cahir G. A. A. one of the best located pitches any town could have as it is only 100 yards from the Square. Much voluntary work has gone into developing the field down the years and we are forever indebted to these unsung heroes who gave and continue to give their time to develop and maintain the field and look after the teams.

There are currently over twenty teams being catered for by the Senior, Juvenile, Ladies Football and Camogie clubs and the pitch never gets a rest which is why the club is currently developing a second field within the new Duneske Complex which is a very exciting venture for the club. With the population of the town growing as it is the club must grow with it in order to cater for the growing numbers and the success of our flagship teams, I. E. the Senior Footballers and Intermediate hurlers is vital to the development of the club. We wish the team and management the best of luck today and hope they can bring home this coveted County title.

Ted Linehan  
P. R. O.

**Cahir Hurling & Football club** wish to thank all our associate sponsors for their contributions towards the team training fund. Without your support we would not be here today.

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1919-FETHARD	1994-COMMERCIALS
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1937-CLONMEL SHAMROCKS	
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1954-FETHARD	
1956-CLONMEL COMMERCIALS	
1957-FETHARD	
1962-ARDFINNAN	
1963-ARDFINNAN	
1964-ARDFINNAN	
1965-COMMERCIALS	
1966-COMMERCIALS	
1967-COMMERCIALS	
1968-KILSHEELAN	
1969-COMMERCIALS	
1970-ARDFINNAN	
1971-COMMERCIALS	
1972-KILSHEELAN	
1974-ARDFINNAN	
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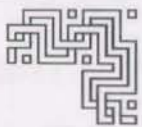
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