

Co. Tipperary Senior Football Final  
Match Programme  
2012

GAA Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Thiobraid Árann



# County Tipperary Senior Football Championship FINAL

*Stáid Semple, Dúrlas Éile*  
*4ú Samhain 2012*



[www.tipperary.gaa.ie](http://www.tipperary.gaa.ie)

*Paddy De Mont*  
Runaí

Luach:  
**€2**

## Clár an Lae

- 2.12** Clonmel Commercials amach ar an bpáirc
- 2.25** Pre-Match Parade
- 2.28** Amhrán na Bhfiann
- 2.30** Tus an chluiche
- 3.02\*** Leath-am
- 3.03\*** Presentation of the Ardfinnan 1970 and 1974 County Senior Football Champions
- 3.17\*** Tús an dara leath
- 3.50\*** Críoch an chluiche
- 3.55\*** Presentation of the O'Dwyer Cup to the winning captain by Nollaig Ó Muiris, Cathaoirleach Bórd Péil an Chontae, followed by presentation of 'Man of the Match' Award (Sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers Cahir)

\* Depending on 'added time'

## TOM McGRATH (LOUGHMORE-CASTLEINEY)

THE REFEREE for today's senior football final between Clonmel Commercials and Thomas MacDonaghs is **TOM McGRATH** from the Loughmore-Castleiney club. Tom is a member of that well known Loughmore dynasty of McGraths. He is father to Liam McGrath, who captained the Tipperary minor footballers to Munster and All-Ireland success in 2011. Tom first took to the field as a referee in 1978, when he refereed mainly at juvenile level. However, his commitment to his club, where he played both hurling and football, meant that Tom could not devote the time necessary to referee on a continuous basis. Since returning to refereeing a number of years ago, Tom has officiated in a number of finals in this and other divisions in both hurling and football and in 2010 Tom refereed the Mid senior hurling final between Thurles Sarsfields and Drom & Inch. Today he referees his first Senior Football final. We wish Tom and all his officials the best of luck in today's game.

**Standby Ref:** David Grogan (Aherlow)

**Linesman:** Paddy Russell (Emly)

**Fourth Official:** Richard O'Connor (Arravale Rovers)



## Tipperary Sports Stars of the Year – Annerville Awards 2012

EACH YEAR the Tipperary United Sports Panel presents its annual Annerville Awards, sponsored by Bulmers, to the county's top amateur sports stars of the year. The Panel members, who are now meeting to choose the stars for 2012, welcome nominations from the public, clubs and sporting organisations. Persons who wish to nominate any sporting achievement by a team or individual since the beginning of the year, may do so by contacting any member as soon as possible.

The Panel includes:

Seamus McCarthy (Bansha) Chairman; Secretary, Seamus King, Cashel, Treasurer; Ken Conway, Clonmel. Committee: Liam Ó Donnchú, Thurles; Jimmy Cooney, Johnny O'Loughlin, Eamonn Wynne, David Clancy, Richie Blanche, Muiris Walsh and Davy Hallinan (all Clonmel).





## Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach Coiste Chontae



**B**A MHAITH LIOM fáilte a chur roimh gach éinne inniu go Stáid Semple i gcóir craobh peile sinsear Tiobrad Árann idir Na Tráctalai agus Tomás Mac Dhonnchadha. Ta súil agam go mbeidh cluiche den scoth again agus go mbeidh an bua ag an bhfoireann is fear.

On behalf of Tipperary County Board it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you all to Semple Stadium today for our County Senior Football Final. Today's final brings to a conclusion a well contested championship in which nineteen teams took to the field at the start of the season. The prize on offer is of course to be crowned County champions but also to bring home that cherished silverware, the O'Dwyer Cup, which perpetuates the memory of Willie O'Dwyer, a native of Knockavilla, who gave unbroken service from 1930 to 1959 as treasurer of the West Tipperary Board.

I especially welcome all the players who will grace the famed sod of Semple Stadium today. It is a special day for them, they have worked hard and prepared well for today's final and the honour of being crowned champions is but an hour's football away. Likewise, I welcome the team managements and Club officers on both sides.

Today's final is an intriguing one, Thomas MacDonaghs hold the mantle of champions. They were the surprise packet of 2011, winning their first title in style while Commercials have a long and honourable tradition of winning Divisional and County titles and have fourteen to their credit. MacDonaghs have shown that they are no flash in the pan and will fight tooth and nail to hold onto the coveted title, while Commercials who last won in 2002 will want to put an end to that ten year famine period.

Today we welcome to Semple Stadium those great Ardfinnan sides of 1970 and 1974 who were County champions in those years and had within their ranks some outstanding football talent. It's a day for them to remember with pride when they were kingpins of Tipperary football. I thank the organising committee and the Clonmel Nationalist and the Park Hotel Clonmel for their support and organisation of this event.

Best wishes to referee Tom McGrath who referees his first senior final and to his officials for today's game. Thanks to Ger Corbett and his contributors for an excellent programme and to Semple Stadium and the County C.C.C for the arrangements for today's game.

I hope you the spectators enjoy the day and that the game reflects all that is best in Tipperary football.

**SEÁN Ó NUINSEAIN**

Cathaoirleach Coiste Chontae Thiobraid Árann

# Exciting times for Tipperary Football

By: Michael Dundon



THESE ARE exciting times for Tipperary football. A Minor All-Ireland last year, back-to-back Munster Minor titles, and a Munster Under-21 crown, all in the space of a few years, is an emphatic endorsement of all the County Football Board is doing in terms of investment in coaching and developing young talent. It suggests also that Tipperary always had the players – it was simply a matter of putting structures in place to identify and nurture that talent, and given the successes being enjoyed at under 15-17 level also, the outlook is certainly bright for the game in the county.

Against such a backdrop today's county Senior final between holders, Thomas MacDonaghs, the North selection, and traditionalists, Clonmel Commercials, takes on added significance. No doubt Tipperary manager Peter Creedon and his back-room team will be keeping a close eye on proceedings with a view to putting together a county panel that can raise the profile of the Premier County at senior level, promotion from Division Four of the National Football League being an immediate priority.

MacDonaghs are the title-holders, surprising many by their triumph last year. Drawn from seven clubs in the North division, they have a formidable array of talent, and they will be hoping to emulate the feat of a previous North selection, St. Flannan's which won back-to-back county titles in '58 and '59, and came again in 1961.

MacDonaghs were initially at a disadvantage of not having enough games to blend them together, but having cleared the North final, their cause has been helped by two searching encounters with Éire Óg Anacarty, in the county quarter-final and last week, a victory over Killenaule in the semi-final. Those games, all in the space of a few weeks, will have done much to develop team-work in a squad which is rich in the skills of the game.

Commercials have a great tradition in this championship and before ever they kick a ball today, they are guaranteed Munster Club action, as combination teams such as MacDonaghs, are not eligible for the Provincial club championships.

However, the Clonmel lads will want to go forward as Tipperary champions and they will be hoping that a win today will kick-start a golden era for the club like that in the sixties when they won three titles in a row, '65-'67, and added further successes in '69 and '71.

They had a great win over Loughmore-Castleiney in the semi-final, which went to extra time. Although they will have concerns at how they conceded three goals from free-kick situations, they scored four themselves, and had the character to recover from the shock of the two late Loughmore goals which sent the game to extra time. Earlier, they disposed of a fancied Arravale Rovers in the quarter-final.

A minor title last year showed the healthy state of the club and several of those players will be wearing the colours today and for many days to come.

Both sides have lots of talent. The champions have Philip Austin and George Hannigan featuring regularly on the county side while Liam England is another with a proud record in the Blue and Gold. Niall O'Meara's injury is a big loss to them, but they have plenty of experience in the side with such as Seamus Hennessy, going strongly again after being sidelined with a long-term injury, David Young, Ruairi Gleeson and Joe Gallagher, all knowing what it is to perform on the big stage.

Clonmel Commercials too are rich in talent. Michael Quinlivan, Ian Fahey, Ian Barnes, and Aldo Mattassa have regularly worn the county jersey, Team captain, Fergal Condon, Kevin and Johnny Harney and Seamus Kennedy are other big game players on whom Commercials will rely for inspiration.

So the stage is set for what promises to be a cracking final. The county management will be monitoring the progress of many of the younger players on view to determine if they are ready for elevation to the top flight at inter-county level. Hopefully they will have a productive evening.

Our hope also, is that the sides do themselves and the final, justice. After that, let the best horse jump the ditch!





# Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach Bard Peil



Fáilte sibhshe go léir go dtí Stáid Semple inniu. Fáilte speisealta don dhá foireann, an réiteoir agus na h-oifigí. Tá suil agam go mbeidh cluichí brea sportúil againn.

County football final day has arrived once more and in this historic stadium which provides excellent facilities for players and patrons alike, we are looking forward to a game which has all the ingredients for a memorable occasion.

Today's contestants – Thomas MacDonaghs, first time County champions of 2011, representing six clubs from North Tipperary and Clonmel Commercials from the capital town of the County, should provide an exciting climax to this year's championship. Both sides have a blend of youth and experience and include players who have represented their County in various grades. Both sides have worked hard to make the final spot. Commercials, while not making their divisional final, had hard earned victories over Arravale Rovers and Loughmore Castleiney, while MacDonaghs win after a replay versus Éire Óg Annacarty and just days later putting South champions Killenaule to the sword, will have them fine-tuned to meet the Commercials challenge. We look forward to a game of high quality and entertainment.

I want to extend a welcome to the Ardfinnan sides of 1970 and 1974 that are being honoured here today. It's a special day for them to relive the great days of the past when they brought honour and glory to Club and Parish.

Best wishes to the referee Tom McGrath and his officials for today's game and sincere thanks to the Semple Stadium management for the excellent facilities and arrangements for today's game.

Finally thanks to all our football supporters and all those who are working so hard to raise the standard of football throughout the County.

## NOLLAIG Ó MUIRIS

Cathaoirleach Bord Peil

## Buiochas

The production of this programme would not be possible without the assistance of Tom Maher (Assistant County Secretary), Ned Brophy (Clonmel Commercials) and Shane Brophy (Thomas MacDonaghs). Thanks to Bridget Delaney, Odhran Ducie and Ned Brophy for their photographs. Finally a word of thanks to Seamus J. King and Aidan McNamara who compiled the tribute to Ardfinnan. GER CORBETT (Programme Editor)



Clonmel Commercials panel that played Killenale in the South semi-final. Back row (l.-r.): Richie Carroll, Niall Kelly, Ciarán O'Connell, Michael Quinlivan, Colm Nolan, Evan Comerford, Eamon Hanrahan, Stephen Buckley, Seamus Kennedy, Fergal Condon, Brian O'Hara, Shane Power. Front row (l.-r.): Jamie Peters, Jason Lonergan, Aldo Mattassa, Luke Moore, Danny Madigan, Donal Lynch, Shane Taylor, Paul Nolan, John Harney.

## A brief history of

# Clonmel Commercials



**A**LTHOUGH registered as a club in 1932, it was not until two years later that Clonmel Commercials lined out on the field of play.

By 1940 Commercials had won three county minor titles and a county junior. It would take just another four years before the club claimed the first of our 14 county senior titles. In existence just 12 years and already Clonmel Commercials were among the leading clubs in the county. Although it would take until 1955 for the club to win a fourth minor crown, the club's seniors won a 2nd county in 1948.

The early inspiration on the field for the club was the wonderful Sean Cleary, who captained the club to win the first junior crown in 1940 and their first three senior titles in 1944, '48 and 1956. A player of few peers in his era, Sean is residing in Galway for many years now but is still very much in touch with his beloved Clonmel Commercials.

At senior level, the club would wait until 1965 for their fourth County title. But with it came the dawn of the club's golden era. Five county crowns in just seven years marked a remarkable dominance by the club in senior football in the county. Among the five wins was an incredible three in-a-row in 1965, '66 and '67. Led by the outstanding Brian O'Callaghan, the club boasted such names as Tom Pollard, Mick Egan, Mick O'Connell, Liam Boland, Paddy O'Connell, John McNamara, Johnny

Ryan and many others who brought such glory to the club.

Further titles were won in '69 and '71. However, as many of the afore mentioned began to leave the scene and a seven year spell without a minor title, the club would wait until 1982 before reclaiming the county crown. The team in 1982 was captained by one Paudie O'Neill who was recently appointed as selector /coach on the Tipperary senior hurling team.

The club won five titles between 1982 and 1994 as players like Gene McGrath, Franny Kelly, Joe McNamara, Donal O'Keeffe, Mark O'Connell, Philly Ryan, Ben Keane and a host of others graduated to the ranks from the juveniles set up.

In recent years, a huge amount of work has gone into the juveniles with the club and this work has produced unprecedented success. In 2012, the club won an historic fourth Under-16 'A' title in-a-row and on Saturday next the club's minor team bid to become the first to win three county titles in-a-row.

The club was represented on the victorious county minor side of 2011 by no fewer than seven panel members with six club men on the field for the final 12 minutes of the game. Many of these young men will line out in today's county senior final as the club attempt to land a 15th County senior crown.



## PLAYER PROFILES

Name	Age	Occupation
Ian Barnes	27	Fitter
Stephen Buckley	22	Teacher
Richie Carroll	27	Teacher
Evan Comerford	18	Student
Fergal Condon	32	Clerical Officer South Tipp County Council
Ian Fahey	18	Operative at Abbot Vascular
Kevin Fahey	17	Student
Eamon Hannrahan	34	Civil Servant
John Harney	30	Financial Consultant
Kevin Harney	27	Operative at AIBP
Niall Kelly	29	Casino Manager
Colman Kennedy	18	Student
Seamus Kennedy	19	Student
Alan Lonergan	23	Student
Jason Lonergan	18	Student
Donal Lynch	22	Finance Advisor
Danny Madigan	27	Accountant
Aldo Mattassa	22	Student
Luke Moore	23	Financial Consultant
Colm Nolan	24	Student
Paul Nolan	20	Student
Fergal O'Callaghan	38	Garda
Ciarán O'Connell	27	Accountant
Brian O'Hara	22	Sales Assistant
Noel O'Mahoney	33	Draughtsman
Jamie Peters	20	Student
Shane Power	20	Student
Michael Quinlivan	19	Student
Shane Taylor	20	Student
Brian Walsh	18	Student
Conor Walsh	24	Finance Analyst

## Club Officers

<b>Chairman:</b>	Ned Brophy
<b>Secretary:</b>	Derek Williams
<b>Treasurer:</b>	George Barry
<b>Juvenile Chairman:</b>	Brian White
<b>Juvenile Secretary:</b>	Brian Tyrrell
<b>Development Officer:</b>	Tomás O Ceallaigh

## Roll Of Honour

### SENIOR FOOTBALL

County Titles (14): 1944, 1948, 1956, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1982, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1994, 2002.

South Titles (22): 1944, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1994, 2004, 2011.

### JUNIOR 'A' FOOTBALL

County Titles (2): 1940, 2007.

South Titles (8): 1937, 1940, 1978, 1988, 1992, 1993, 2004, 2007

### JUNIOR LADIES FOOTBALL

County League Titles (1): 2011.

### JUNIOR 'B' FOOTBALL

County Titles (0):

South Titles (4): 2001, 2003, 2007, 2011

### UNDER-21 FOOTBALL

County Titles (7): 1969, 1971, 1977, 1983, 1984, 1998, 2010

South Titles (12): 1969, 1971, 1976, 1977, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1990, 1992, 1998, 2006, 2010.

### MINOR FOOTBALL

County Titles (15): 1935, 1936, 1938, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1975, 1978, 1981, 1992, 1993, 2010, 2011.

South Titles (28): 1935, 1936, 1938, 1940, 1944, 1945, 1947, 1954, 1955, 1959, 1960, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1992, 1993, 2002, 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012.

County League Titles (3): 2004, 2010, 2011.

## PATHS TO THE FINAL

### Round 1:

Clonmel Commercials 1-11, Aherlow 1-08

### Round 2:

Clonmel Commercials 0-14, Cahir 1-09

### Quarter-Final:

Clonmel Commercials 0-14, Arravale Rovers 0-08

### Semi-Final:

Clonmel Commercials 4-11, Loughmore/Castleisney 4-09 (aet)



Clonmel Commercials team management (l.-r.): Dave Kenneally (Trainer), Martin Quinlivan (Selector), Philly Ryan (Manager), David Lavin (Selector), Anthony Shelley (Selector).



**FIR IONAD**

- (16) P. Ó Nualláin  
**Paul Nolan**
- (17) S. Táilliúir  
**Shane Taylor**
- (18) C. Ó Conaill  
**Ciarán O'Connell**
- (19) B. Ó hEára  
**Brian O'Hara**
- (20) A. Ó Longargáin  
**Alan Lonergan**
- (21) C. Ó Cinnéide  
**Coleman Kennedy**
- (22) S. Ó Buachalla  
**Stephen Buckley**
- (23) S. Ó Longargáin  
**Jason Lonergan**
- (24) R. Ó Cearúill  
**Richy Carroll**
- (25) C. Ó Nualláin  
**Colm Nolan**
- (26) N. Ó Mathúna  
**Noel O'Mahoney**
- (27) S. de Paor  
**Shane Power**
- (28) B. Breathnach  
**Brian Walsh**
- (29) C. Ó Fathaigh  
**Kevin Fahy**
- (30) C. Breathnach  
**Conor Walsh**
- (31) N. Ó Ceallaigh  
**Niall Kelly**

# Clonmel Commercials

Dathanna: Glas agus Ór

(1)

E. Mac Cumasaigh

**Evan Comerford**

(2)

F. Condún

**Fergal Condon (Capt.)**

(3)

D. Ó Loingsigh

**Donal Lynch**

(4)

D. Ó Madagáin

**Danny Madigan**

(5)

C. Ó hAithirne

**Kevin Harney**

(6)

S. Ó Cinnéide

**Seamus Kennedy**

(7)

S. Mac Pheadair

**Jamie Peters**

(8)

E. Ó hAnracháin

**Eamonn Hanrahan**

(9)

A. Matassa

**Aldo Matassa**

(10)

L. Ó Móra

**Luke Moore**

(11)

F. Ó Ceallacháin

**Fergal O'Callaghan**

(12)

I. Ó Fathaigh

**Ian Fahy**

(13)

I. Ó Bearáin

**Ian Barnes**

(14)

M. Ó Caoinealbháin

**Michael Quinlivan**

(15)

S. Ó hAithirne

**John Harney**

**MANAGEMENT TEAM:** Philly Ryan (*Manager*), David Kenneally (*Trainer*), David Lavin (*Selector*), Anthony Shelley (*Selector*), Martin Quinlivan (*Selector*).  
*Backroom Team:* Hugh Daly, Davey Fitzgerald. *Kit:* Eddie Hanrahan

CLONMEL COMMERCIALS	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adھ leath					
2adھ leath					
IOMLÁN					

# Thomas MacDonaghs

Dathanna: Buí agus Glas



## FIR IONAIÐ

- (1) C. Mac Mathúna  
**Keith McMahon**  
(Inane Rovers)
- (17) A. Ó Riain  
**Aaron Ryan**  
(Inane Rovers)
- (18) A. Ó hAnnagáin  
**Alan Hannigan**  
(Shannon Rovers)
- (19) T. Ó Conchúir  
**Tommy Connors**  
(Kildangan)
- (20) S. Ó Dúlaoidh  
**Shane Dooley**  
(Borrisokane)
- (21) R. Ó Faoláin  
**Rory Whelan**  
(Kildangan)
- (22) D. Ó Cathail  
**Diarmuid Cahill**  
(Kilruane MacDonaghs)
- (23) P. Mac Searraigh  
**Peter McSherry**  
(Borrisokane)
- (24) D. Ó Baróid  
**Declan Barrett**  
(Kilruane MacDonaghs)
- (25) S. Ó Lachtnáin  
**Jack Loughnane**  
(Kildangan)
- (26) T. Ó Gallchoir  
**Tadhg Gallagher**  
(Kildangan)

(1)

S. Mac Dónaill (Joint Capt.)

**Jim McDonnell**

(Inane Rovers)

(2)

M. Ó Mionacháin

**Martin Minehan**

(Kildangan)

(3)

D. Ó Buachalla

**David Buckley**

(Inane Rovers)

(4)

R. Ó Glasáin

**Ruairí Gleeson**

(Kildangan)

(5)

F. Ó hAodha

**Fergal Hayes**

(Kildangan)

(6)

N. Ó Meára

**Niall O'Meara**

(Kilruane MacDonaghs)

(7)

S. Ó Cearúill

**Joe Carroll**

(Inane Rovers)

(8)

L. Aingleont (Joint Capt.)

**Liam England**

(Inane Rovers)

(9)

G. Ó hAnnagáin

**George Hannigan**

(Shannon Rovers)

(10)

S. Ó Gallchoir

**Joe Gallagher**

(Kildangan)

(11)

P. Mac Aibhistín

**Philip Austin**

(Borrisokane)

(12)

P. Ó Meára

**Padraic O'Meara**

(Shannon Rovers)

(13)

D. de Siún

**David Young**

(Toomevara)

(14)

S. Ó hAonasa

**Seamus Hennessy**

(Kilruane MacDonaghs)

(15)

A. Mac Aibhistín

**Andrew Austin**

(Borrisokane)

**MANAGEMENT TEAM:** Chris Conway, Kevin Mulryan, Paddy O'Flaherty, Pat Murphy, Ollie Hennelly, Joe Hannigan. **PHYSIO:** Jimmy Cunningham.  
**BACKROOM:** Viv Dooley, Declan Russell, Paddy Heenan, Shane Brophy.

THOMAS MACDONAGHS	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Ciceanna
Tadh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLÁN					



# Thomas MacDonaghs

**F**OR THE last six years, Thomas MacDonaghs and Fr. John Kenyon's have competed as divisional teams from North Tipperary in the county senior football championship.

In late 2006, following representations from the division, including Joe Hannigan and Noel Morris, the Tipperary County Board granted permission for the North division to enter two teams in the county championship as no individual club had appeared in the county senior championship since 1998 and the signs were that wasn't going to



change soon either.

In early 2007, the North Board divided the 18 football clubs in the division into two regions of nine with Thomas MacDonaghs being based in the Lower Ormond area, made up of Lorrha, Shannon Rovers, Borrisokane, Knockshewan, Kildangan, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Toomevara, Moneygall and Inane Rovers.

The push to enter teams from the division in the county senior championship came primarily after George Hannigan and Philip Austin forced their way into the Tipperary senior panel in 2006 but playing their club football with junior clubs, and some not at all, they needed to perform at a higher grade at club level from where they could improve their prospects of furthering themselves on the inter-county scene.

Based on a similar concept in both Kerry and Cork, where junior and intermediate clubs in a division come together to form a senior team, the same occurred in North Tipperary with the creation of Thomas MacDonaghs and Fr. John Kenyon's (Burgess, Nenagh Éire Óg, Portroe, Ballina, Ballinahinch, Newport, Silvermines, Templederry Kenyons and Borris-Ileigh).

In their debut year, J.K. Brackens and Loughmore/Castleiney were defeated en route to the county semi-finals where they fell to Fethard. A year later, MacDonaghs lost narrowly to Ardfinnan in the county championship and following a North final victory which saw them re-enter the county championship at the quarter final stage, MacDonaghs lost by one-point to Galtee Rovers who went on to win the final.

For the divisional concept to succeed, it needs a bit of fortune in terms of

## PLAYER PROFILES

Name	Age	Occupation
Andrew Austin	21	Student at UL
Philip Austin	25	Teacher
Declan Barrett	23	Electrician
David Buckley	24	Student at IT
Diarmuid Cahill	27	DJ
Joe Carroll	21	Student at IT Carlow
Tommy Connors	32	Plumber
Shane Dooley	19	Student at NUIG
Liam England	33	Account Manager with SCA Hygiene
Joe Gallagher	22	Student at UL
Tadhg Gallagher	18	Student at Nenagh CBS
Ruairi Gleeson	21	Apprentice Carpenter
Alan Hannigan	22	Accountant
George Hannigan	25	Teacher
Fergal Hayes	21	Student at UL
Seamus Hennessy	23	Student at DCU
Jack Loughnane	18	Student at Nenagh CBS
Jim McDonnell	30	Sales Rep
Keith McMahon	23	Shop Manager
Peter McSherry	19	Student at UL
Martin Minehan	23	Apprentice Electrician
Niall O'Meara	19	Student at Mary I, Limerick
Padraic O'Meara	20	Labourer
Aaron Ryan	29	Teacher
Rory Whelan	22	Student at UL
David Young	27	Teacher



Thomas MacDonagh's photographed following the North Final win over Fr John Kenyon's. Back row: Liam England, David Buckley, Joe Carroll, Declan Barrett, Niall O'Meara, Keith McMahon, Padraic O'Meara, Philip Austin, Alan Hannigan, Andrew Austin, George Hannigan. Front row: Rory Whelan, Joe Gallagher, Jim McDonnell, Ruairi Gleeson, Fergal Hayes, Aaron Ryan, Shane Dooley, Martin Minehan, Peter McSherry.

player availability and of club hurling fixtures and in 2009 this saw MacDonagh's fail to field in the county series but re-entering through the North final, they lost a county quarter final to Aherlow who went on to lose a classic final to Moyle Rovers.

Moyle Rovers knocked MacDonagh's out of the county series in 2010, with Aherlow again proving to be the road-block in the quarter-finals, although MacDonagh's did bridge the gap considerably in terms of performance with the West Tipp side going onto win their first ever county title later in the year.

Then came the pinnacle last year when JK Brackens, today's opponents Clonmel Commercials and Moyle Rovers were defeated on route to a first county title for MacDonagh's, and the first time since Kilruane MacDonagh's in 1975, that a club from the North division won the O'Dwyer Cup.

The success of last year saw three

clubs in the MacDonagh's region, Lorrha, Kilruane MacDonagh's and Borrisokane all resurrecting their football teams at junior level with Borrisokane now just one game away from winning the county junior 'A' title.

Added to the players mentioned already, David Buckley, Padraic O'Meara, Niall O'Meara, joint-captain Liam England and many others have also worn the blue and gold of Tipperary with great distinction, which only goes to prove that there are plenty of good footballers in the North division and they will be aiming to prove last year wasn't a once off by successfully defending the title here today.

*THOMAS MACDONAGHS would like to thank the following people for their support – Kildangan, Kilruane MacDonagh's, Inane Rovers, Shannon Rovers, Borrisokane, Toomevara, Lorrha, Moneygall and Knockshegowna GAA clubs*

*Dergside Marquees; Andy's Bar, Nenagh; Jeans Factory, Nenagh.*

## PATH TO THE FINAL

ROUND	DATE	VENUE	RESULT
Co Prelim Round	June 13	Templemore	Loughmore/Castleiney 1-10 Thomas MacDonagh's 0-5
North Final	Oct 7	Dolla	Thomas MacDonagh's 0-15 Fr John Kenyon's 0-10
Co Quarter-Final	Oct 20	The Ragg	Thomas MacDonagh's 1-12 Éire Óg Annacarty 2-9 (aet)
Replay	Oct 25	Templetuohy	Thomas MacDonagh's 0-10 Éire Óg Annacarty 0-7
Co Semi-Final	Oct 29	Templemore	Thomas MacDonagh's 1-5 Killenaule 0-6



# ARDFINNAN

By SEAMUS J. KING

**W**HEN Ardfinnan took the field against Clonmel Commercials in the 1970 county final at Clonmel they had been beaten in three finals since they were last successful in 1964. In contrast, their opponents, who were also the holders, were seeking their fifth title in six years.

The county championship was played on an Open Draw system and the four teams to emerge for the semi-finals were all from the south. Both games were played at Clonmel on October 25th. Commercials defeated Moyle Rovers by 1-10 to 0-7 in a game that was marred by some over-robust tackling and fisticuffs and three players were sent off. In the second game Ardfinnan defeated Fethard by 2-12 to 2-7. This game was close in the first half and Ardfinnan led by a point at the interval but they inched their way in front in the second half and had five points to spare at the final whistle.

The final was played on November 8 and Ardfinnan won by 1-11 to 2-2. They took the lead in the third minute and led by 1-8 to 1-0 at the interval after playing with the wind. The highlight of the game was a goal by Babs Keating in the 16th minute. The game was marred by unseemly conduct on the sidelines. Referee, John Moloney, had a difficult task and sent two players off in the second half. It was an important victory for Ardfinnan, their fourth final to contest in four years and it was great to beat Commercials, who had beaten them in two of these finals.

The winning team was: Richie Boyle, Jim Moran, Patsy Ryan (capt.), J. J. Lonergan, Pat Carroll, John Cummins, Mick Hynes, Jim Healy, Liam Myles, Pete Savage, Babs

Keating, Tommy Ryan, Patsy Savage, T. J. Walsh, Mick Norris

In the separate south championship a fancied Ardfinnan side was defeated by Kilsheelan in the semi-final. The winners went on to defeat Commercials in the final.

The first All-Ireland club championship was played in 1970 and East Kerry became the first holders of the title. They defeated Ardfinnan in the first round of the Munster championship by 1-6 to 2-1 at Kilarney on January 24, 1971.

## FOOTBALL TEAM OF THE YEAR

Ardfinnan proved themselves the football team of the year when they won both south and county titles in 1974. They beat their great rivals, Clonmel Commercials, by 2-6 to 0-9 to clinch the south title.

The county championship was still played on an Open Draw system. Twenty-three teams affiliated and the semi-finalists were Ardfinnan, Lattin-Cullen, Fethard and Silvermines. Ardfinnan qualified for their seventh successive county final by defeating Lattin-Cullen by 2-6 to 1-6 in the semi-final and faced Fethard, who received a walkover from Silvermines, in the final.

The decider was staged at Cashel on October 20 and Ardfinnan made the better use of their scoring chances to take the title by 1-6 to 1-4, having led by 1-2 to 0-4 at half-time. Babs Keating, who had been injured in the earlier games, was back for the final and contributed a goal and four points of the total. Few would begrudge the winners their success as they had lost the previous three finals.

The team was: Richie Boyle, Joe Browne, Pat Carroll, Eddie Prendergast, Aidan O'Mahoney, Eamon O'Gorman (capt.), Paddy

# County Senior Football Champions 1970 & 1974



*Ardfinnan – 1970 County Champions. Standing (l.-r.): John Savage, Dr. Marsh, Patrick 'Butcher' O'Brien, John Cummins, David O'Halloran, Pat Carroll, Ritchie Boyle, Davy McCormack, Michael Hynes, Eamie Ryan, Tommy Ryan, John Lambert, Patsy Myles. Kneeling (l.-r.): Patsy Savage, James Moran, John D. Condon, Jim Healy, Patsy Ryan, Liam Myles, Michael Norris, John James Lonergan. Sitting (l.-r.): Michael 'Babs' Keating, Pete Savage, Tommy Byrnes, T.J. Walsh.*

O'Brien, Patsy Ryan, T. J. Walsh, Pete Savage, John Cummins, Liam Myles, Christy Browne, Patsy Savage, Babs Keating.

Ardfinnan were beaten in the first

round of the Munster club championship. They lost by 0-10 to 0-7 to Clare champions, Doonbeg, at Clonmel on November 24.

## 1970 Panel

*(Those marked \*\* were also on the 1974 panel)*

**Pat Carroll**, St Anne's Tce, Ardfinnan.\*\* Pat played right half back on 70 team and was at his brilliant best at full back in 1974 winning team

**Ritchie Boyle**, Munroe, Ardfinnan.\*\* Ritchie was an outstanding goalkeeper in both 70 & 74 teams. Ritchie was also an umpire in 1994 & 2000 All Ireland SH Final

**Patsy Ryan**, Carrigatha, Cahir.\*\* Patsy was full back and captain in 1970 played at midfield in 74 and was also a member of the 64 winning team had a long and successful career with club

**T.J. Walsh** (RIP).\*\* Susan Walsh, Rathurd, Donoughmore, Co Limerick. The late T.J. was full forward in 70 and played in his favourite position as a stylish midfielder in 74 team.

**Liam Myles**, 57 Hermitage Drive, Dublin.\*\* Liam played midfield in 70 and wing forward in 74 winning teams. Liam had a long association with

club being selector in 2005 when club won last county senior championship. He also had a lengthy career with Tipperary footballers.

**Pete Savage**, St. Anne's, Ardfinnan.\*\* Pete played right half forward in 70 & 74 finals. He also had the distinction of wearing No 10 jersey on 3 in a row 62-64 title winning teams. Pete has had a long involvement with Tipperary football serving as Chairman from 2005-08.

**Patsy Savage**, St. Finnian's, Ardfinnan.\*\* Patsy played at corner forward in 70 & 74 winning teams. He also played in the same position on the 3 in a row 62-64 title winning teams

**John D. Condon**, Lodge, Ardfinnan.\*\* John D. played in goal during 70 campaign and was also a member of 74 panel. John D was also an accomplished hurler with Ballybacon-Grange.

**Jim Moran**, Crougha, Ardfinnan. Jim played



corner back in 70 and was goalkeeper in 63 & 64 winning teams. Jim was also an outstanding hurler with Ballybacon-Grange.

**Jim Healy**, Kilsheelan. Jim was midfield on winning team of 1970. He played full back in 68 South championship success and was also an accomplished hurler with Ballybacon-Grange

**Mick Hynes**, Greenhills, Co. Donegal. Michael will always be remembered as an outstanding player who gave an exceptional performance at wing back in the 1970 county final.

**Tommy Ryan**, Rockview, Ardfinnan. Tommy was wing forward on 70 team and also wore the blue & gold of Tipperary in football. Tommy played corner forward on the 68 South championship winning team.

**Michael Norris**, Shortcastle, Ardfinnan. Michael played at corner forward on 70 winning team but will be remembered as an outstanding wing back during the 60s and early 70s for the club.

**John James Lonergan**, Park, Grange. John James played corner back in 70 and also played at wing back in 62 & 63 whilst he played corner back in 64 winning teams. John James had a long and illustrious career and is regarded as one of Ardfinnan's greatest players.

**Fr. Eddie Prendergast**, Florida, USA. Fr Eddie was a prominent wing back for the club during the late 60s early 70s and played wing back during the 70 campaign. He was ordained in June 1973.

**David O'Halloran**, 186 Larchfield, Waterford City. David was a member of the panel in 1970 and was a prominent underage player for the club.

**Waltie Doheny**, Marlhill, Ardfinnan. Waltie was a member of 1970 panel and was goalkeeper on Ardfinnan team that won county minor title in 1961.

**Davy McCormack**, 95 Sonesta, Malahide, Co Dublin. Davy was a stylish player who played at midfield or wing forward and was a member of the 1970 panel. Davy played wing forward in Ardfinnan's South championship success of 1968.

**John Cummins**, Gortnalour, Ardfinnan.\*\* John was an outstanding versatile player who played centre back in 70 and centre forward in 74 his best position. John had a long and distinguished career with club and was also a prominent player with Tipperary footballers. John is the father of Tipperary hurling goalkeeper Brendan.

**Michael 'Babs' Keating**, 100 Castleknock Park, Dublin.\*\* Babs won every honour in the game including 5 county senior football medals with Ardfinnan 62-64 70 & 74. He also won 3 All Ireland Senior hurling medals with Tipperary as well as managing Tipperary to All Ireland Success in 1989 & 91. He is regarded as one of the greatest dual stars of all time.

**Christy Browne**, 8 Mountain View, Marlfield, Clonmel.\*\* Christy was corner forward in 74 team and played at wing back during 70 campaign. Christy gave long service to the club as wing back in 68 South Championship success.

**Tommy Byrnes**, Maughera, Ardfinnan.\*\* Tommy was a member of the 70 & 74 panels and played at corner forward during the 74 campaign.

**Edmond Ryan**, St. Finnan's Ave, Ardfinnan.\*\* Edmond was a member of the 70 & 74 panels and played at corner back in both years championship successes. He also won medals as a member of 3 in a row 62-64 teams.

**Patsy Byrnes**, Main Street, Emly.\*\* Patsy was a member of the 70 & 74 panels and played at wing forward during 74 campaign. During the 68 South Championship success Patsy played in goal in the first round against Commercial.

#### SELECTORS:

Dr Marsh (RIP), represented by his nephew Stephen Marsh.

John Lambert (RIP), represented by his wife Mary B. Lambert.

Patsy Myles, Rochestown, Ardfinnan.

Patrick 'Butcher' O'Brien (RIP), represented by his son Teddy O'Brien.

John Savage (RIP), no relatives.

## 1974 Panel

**Joe Browne**, Balgreen, Coventry. Joe was corner back on the '74 winning team and continued to play for the club throughout the 70s.

**Eamon O'Gorman**, Carrow, Ardfinnan. Eamon was captain of the '74 winning team and had a long and distinguished career both at full and centre back. He also played with Tipperary footballers captaining them in '75 Munster championship and was an outstanding hurler with Ballybacon-Grange.

**Michael Prendergast**, Kilbeg, Clogheen. Michael was a tight marking corner back throughout 74 championship and had an outstanding game in final. Michael also enjoyed a successful hurling career with Ballybacon-Grange.

**Philip O'Brien**, Naas, Co. Kildare. Philip was wingback in 74 final county final and was the youngest player on the team. He captained Tipperary Minor footballers for their 1972 Munster Minor Championship campaign.



*Ardfinnan – 1974 County Champions. Standing (l.-r.): Patsy Ryan, Michael Prendergast, Philip O'Brien, Ritchie Boyle, John Cummins, T.J. Walsh, Pat Carroll, Michael 'Babs' Keating. Kneeling (l.-r.): Patsy Savage, Joe Browne, Eamon O'Gorman (Capt.), Christy Browne, Pete Savage, Liam Myles, Aidan O'Mahoney.*

**Aidan O'Mahoney**, Castle Quarter, Ardfinnan. Aidan was a stylish player who won a county medal at right half back in '74. Aidan played throughout the 70s and 80s and also had a lengthy career with Tipperary senior footballers.

**Mickie O'Mahoney** (RIP), wife Nuala O'Mahoney, St. Finnan's, Ardfinnan. The late Mickie was corner back during the '74 championship and was a long serving player throughout the 70s and 80s. Mickie did umpire for the 1994 & 2000 All Ireland SH Finals.

**Pat Quinn**, Castlevew, Ardfinnan. Pat played in the full forward line during the '74 championship and nearly always got on the score sheet. Pat was also a member of the 1971 Ardfinnan team that won the county Minor title.

**Pat Quirke**, 7 Mount Carmel, Ardfinnan. Pat played in the full forward during the '74 championship. Pat continued to play for the club throughout the 70s and also managed a number of Ardfinnan underage teams to South and County championship success.

**Anthony Dillon**, Derrygrath, Cahir. Anthony was a member of the '74 panel and was also an accomplished hurler with Ballybacon-Grange. He has held the position of club secretary with Ballybacon-Grange for a long number of years.

**Paddy Noonan**, Clougharden, Ardfinnan. Paddy was a member of '74 panel and was goal-

keeper on team that won County Minor title in '71. He has given long service to club as an administrator and is currently club Treasurer.

**Denny Whelan**, Birchdale, Cahir. Denny was a member of '74 panel and played for club throughout the 70s. Denny is currently a member of the Cahir Senior Football Management team and was umpire in All Ireland SH Finals of 1994 & 2000.

**John Phelan**, Monksgrange, Grange. John was a member of '74 panel. He has also coached Ardfinnan teams to success and is currently Coach to The Nire Senior Football team where he has enjoyed tremendous success. John also had a distinguished career in athletics.

**Jimmy Duggan**, Stamford, USA. Jimmy was a member of '74 panel playing at corner forward during our championship success. He continued to play for the club during the 70s and played in goal during the 80s. He had a long and successful career as goalkeeper with Ballybacon-Grange hurling team.

#### SELECTORS

John O'Gorman (RIP), represented by his son Eamon O Gorman.

Dr Marsh (RIP), represented by his nephew Stephen Marsh.

Luke Hally, Main Street, Ardfinnan.

Freddie Quinn, Gortnalour, Ardfinnan.

Fr. Finbarr Lucey, Ardmore, Youghal, Co. Cork.



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