

Mid-Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
2011

MacLochlainn Roadmarkings

MID TIPPERARY GAA

SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 2011



Seán Ó Cuileain
Runaí

Luach €3



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St. Patrick's College, Cathedral Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
Tel: +353 504 21201 Email: office@stpats.ie www.stpats.ie



Clár an Lae

Venue : Templetuohy

Sunday July 24th, 2011

5pm

Roadstone Provinces

Mid Tipperary Intermediate Hurling Championship Rd 4

Clonakenny v. Gortnahoe-Glengoole

Referee : John Kelly (Thurles Gaels)

6.20 - 6.35 pm

Entertainment by Jim O' the Mills & Friends

6.37 pm

Arrival of Loughmore-Castleiney team on to field

6.40 pm

Arrival of Drom-Inch team on to field

6.55 pm

Parade of teams led by Sean Treacy Pipe Band

6.59 pm

Amhrán na bhFiann (sung by Stacey Taylor)

7pm

MacLochlainn Roadmarkings Mid Senior Hurling Final

Drom-Inch v. Loughmore-Castleiney

Referee: Johnny Ryan (Boherlahan-Dualla)

7.30pm

Half-time of Mid Senior Hurling Final

7.35pm

Crossbar Challenge

7.45 pm

Second half of Mid Senior Hurling Final commences

8.15 pm

End of Mid Senior Hurling Final

8.20pm

Presentation of Johnny Leahy Cup to winning Captain followed by presentation of the Tom O'Hara Perpetual Trophy Man of the Match Award.

Buíochas



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this publication. To all the clubs for providing information about their club, to those who contributed articles or photographs, and to all who helped in any way with this publication.

ANDY FOGARTY – PRO Mid Tipperary GAA Board



Fáilte An Cathaoirleach

Fearaim fáilte speisialta do gach éinne i láthair chuig cluiche ceannais iomáint Tiobraid Árann Meánach anseo i Teampall na Tuaithe. Fáilte faoi leith roimh na fóirne agus an lucht bainistíochta ó Luach Maich-Caisleáin Ingh agus Druim-Inse. Tá siúl agam go mbeidh sár cluiche againn agus go bainfidh sibh go léir taitheamh as.

Maitiú Ó Riain

Today's final in Templetuohy makes history on two fronts. This is the first time that a Mid Senior Hurling Final will be hosted by the Moyne-Templetuohy GAA Club and it gives the club a unique opportunity to display their outstanding facility to what will hopefully be a large attendance. It will also be the first time that Drom-Inch and Loughmore-Castleiney meet in a Mid Senior Hurling Final. While both clubs have been successful in recent years, up until today they have never faced each other in a final.

Drom-Inch's season got off to a bad start in the opening match of the championship when they were defeated by J.K Brackens. They staged a fine recovery by beating Thurles Sarsfields and were impressive when recording victories over Boherlahan and J.K Brackens in the quarter and semi-finals respectively. Loughmore-Castleiney remain the only unbeaten team in this year's championship and they have been winning their matches by wide margins and will present Drom-Inch with a formidable challenge. With a liberal sprinkling of players who have represented the county at Senior, Under-21 and Minor level on both teams, this has the makings of being an outstanding final.

I would like to wish the best of luck to today's referee, Johnny Ryan, and his officials. The Board is especially grateful to our championship sponsors, MacLochlainn Roadmarkings Ltd. for their longstanding, generous sponsorship of the Mid Senior Hurling Championship.

We are grateful to the Moyne-Templetuohy club for agreeing to host today's final. The club have been very generous in making their excellent facilities available to the Board on many occasions in recent years and the staging of the final in Templetuohy is an acknowledgement of the great development work undertaken by the club.

Finally, a word of thanks to our PRO Andy Fogarty for the high quality programmes he has produced for this year's championship.



Amhrán na bhFiann
sung by
Stacey Taylor

Stacey Taylor is currently entering second year in University College Cork where she is studying Occupational Therapy. As a pupil of the Presentation Secondary School she played leading roles in many of their musical productions. In 2008 she was fortunate enough to win the role of Cosette in the Watergate Theatre's production of "Les Miserable". As a member of Phoenix Productions and the local folk group she is actively involved in music in Thurles. Most recently she recorded a cd with Thurles band 'The Little Shirley Beans'. Coming from a strong G.A.A. background with her grandad Dan Taylor and recently deceased grandad "Rocky" McElgunn.

Preview of Mid Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship Final

By Noel Dundon (Tipperary Star)

History on the Double in Divisional Showcase

So, it's history on the double this afternoon in Templetuohy with the MacLochlainn Roadmarkings Mid Senior Hurling Championship extending to the periphery of the division to host the 2011 decider.

Few could argue with the decision to bring the game to this excellent venue - it's only a few short years ago when visiting teams were forced to tog out in the old shed and then face the hill against local opposition. But, thankfully, all that has changed and the Moyne Templetuohy GAA Club deserve enormous credit for the huge strides they have made in such a short space of time. Their development programme was ambitious and costly but they met their goals having shown enormous enthusiasm and innovation - they are now the envy of everyone in Mid Tipperary and further beyond and the fact that they have been rewarded with the divisional showcase speaks volumes for their achievements.

Of course another first is the meeting of two of the division's finest exponents of the ancient game: Drom-Inch and Loughmore-Castleiney. A visit to either club grounds at any time of the year gives an indication of the kind of pride-of-place there is in both parishes and that transcends to the younger generations who are consumed with the desire to wear the club colours.

Both clubs have had many great men down through the years, on and off the field of play. And, while they met with a lot of success in their time too, it is now, in many cases, their sons, nephews and cousins who are donning the jerseys and bidding to bring silverware to their parish.

Drom-Inch are the favourites for the title, presumably on the basis of their recent record in the final - they are going for their fourth in six years. But, their side has changed considerably over the last six years or so and they have managed to bring a more balanced approach to their play. Responsibility has been spread across the shoulders of many more players in this current format than heretofore, and in an attacking sense, they have many scoring sources now, as opposed to being rather one dimensional in the past.

Of course the big thing about Drom-Inch, apart from their fine stock of players, is the fact that they have gained a lot of experience. And, they have learned from it. Two bad County Finals left them scratching their heads and resulted in a lot of soul searching. But, it is very often the case that such experiences can actually be the making of a team - Tipperary found that out in Páirc Uí Chaoimh last year en-route to the All-Ireland title.

Drom-Inch have certainly been impressive so far this season and will take some beating. But, the one team which can upset their ambitions is Loughmore-Castleiney. This is most certainly a team in transition and Gaels have been very impressed with the manner in which they have gone about their business. The young guns have aged before our eyes and they too have a host of attacking options with scores coming from many sectors including midfield and half back - very similar to Drom-Inch.

The mixture of experience coupled with youth has resulted in this outfit growing as the season progressed. They stumbled over Moycarkey Borris in the first round but have since improved with every outing. Holycross Ballycahill - often a bogey team for them - were primed to give them a right rattle in the semi-final. But, Loughmore-Castleiney did their business, blew them out of the water from the start, and cantered to a comfortable victory.

The underdog tag will sit very easily with Loughmore-Castleiney and one thing is certain - when it comes to winning finals, there are few better in the division to eek out silverware. Drom-Inch beware.

This has the makings of a rip roaring final - let's hope it lives up to the billing.



Enjoy the game.

Intermediate Hurling Championship R4 Clonakenny v Gortnahoe-Glengoole

Today's Intermediate Hurling Championship Round 4 game is a repeat of the 2010 final. That game was also played here in Templetuohy and was most entertaining with Clonakenny emerging as victors at full time on a scoreline of Clonakenny 0-19, Gortnahoe-Glengoole 1-13. With the effort that both these clubs are putting in to this competition, today's game has the potential to be one of the best games in the Intermediate Championship of 2011. Gortnahoe-Glengoole will want to avenge last year's final defeat while Clonakenny will want to re-assert their intentions of retaining the title.

Johnny Ryan Boherlahan-Dualla

Club: Boherlahan-Dualla

Age: 41

Years Refereeing: 14

Number Of Mid Senior Hurling Finals Previously Refereed: 1

List other Divisional Finals which you have Refereed:

In Senior 2 South & 1 North and all other Hurling Finals in Mid Tipperary, I have also refereed all County Finals in Hurling with the exception of Senior Hurling Final

List Provincial / National Finals you have refereed:

Munster Senior Final. 1 Leinster Senior Final, All Ireland and Munster Senior Club Finals, All Ireland and Munster U 21 Finals, Munster Minor Final.

List your Umpires for this year's Mid Senior Hurling Final:

Tony Lacey, Willie Cross, JC Ryan, Seamus Manton.

List any titles you may have won as a player: Nil

What does it mean to you to be the referee for this year's Mid Senior Hurling Final:

It's a great honour to be appointed to referee the most important game in the division. I look forward to it as much as both teams do. I hope it goes well for all.



The Experts View

Without doubt, this year's Mid Senior Hurling final has brought together the two form Teams. Drom & Inch and Loughmore-Castleiney deserve to be in the final. I suppose Drom after a poor start, losing to Brackens, have really hit form with Seamus Callanan leading the way with some superb displays; that said they are much more than a one man team with the likes of Eamonn Buckley, James Woodlock, Johnny Ryan also to the fore. Loughmore-Castleiney have a great blend of youth and experience with old hands David Kennedy and Tom King backed up by the younger brigade the McGraths, Liam Treacy and a very impressive John Meagher they will take beating. Drom & Inch will be slight favourites going into the final but when they will be finished with Loughmore they will know about it. I think this is too tight to call, it will go right down to the wire.

Michael Doyle - Former Tipperary Senior Hurling Manager

The arrival of the Mid Senior Hurling Final brings a huge buzz, not just within the parishes of Drom-Inch and Loughmore-Castleiney, but throughout the entire county and beyond. It is an exciting time for Tipperary hurling. We have the greatest supporters and followers of the game of any county in Ireland. Both clubs go into this clash with players of the highest profile and calibre in the country and the hurling public will travel in great numbers to savour and acknowledge these two fine teams. The advancement and success of both these clubs is directly linked to the emphasis and work invested at underage level. The stalwarts at primary school level, U10's, U12's, U14's and upwards in both parishes, have laid the foundation stones for today's clash with patience and diligence over the years. Loughmore-Castleiney have some serious young players, along with tried and tested enthusiasts who are no strangers to occasions such as this. Their legendary will to win, teamwork and general style of play is going to be hugely in their favour. However, Drom-Inch right now are very much an in-form team. This outfit seems to have got the blend right and are installed by many as the team to watch this year. Any attempt at a forecast would be naive and unwise. Any mistake; a ball coming off a player's fingers, a wrong hop, could tilt it either way. The backroom outfit and side-line men with both teams are very astute. They know their strengths and if there is any weakness to be found on the other side, rest assured that it will be exploited.

I am, like all in the division, looking forward to this game with expectations of a thriller. Moyne Templetuohy's outstanding new development is a most appropriate venue and will enhance this marvellous occasion. The club deserves all our best wishes on hosting this 2011 Mid final. I wish both clubs well and whoever takes the spoils, their victory can be truly relished by their loyal and genuine supporters.

Eamonn Corcoran - Former Tipperary All-Ireland Winning wing back



Moyne-Templetuohy GAA Club by PRO Teresa Everard



Moyne-Templetuohy GAA Club is privileged and honoured to host this year's Mid Senior Hurling Final between Loughmore-Castleiney and Drom-Inch. This is a first time in the history of our club to host a Mid Senior Hurling Final and it seems right and fitting as it's forty years ago this year that we won the County Senior Hurling Final.

As a result of years of dedicated work by the club's development committees we now have one of the finest club grounds in the county. This comprises of two floodlit pitches, a well designed clubhouse, electronic score board, forty metre hurling wall, seven hundred seated covered stand and of course a fully enclosed drained pitch which can hold games all year round. Going forward it is envisaged that further development will take place which will include two extra dressing rooms with showers, first aid, physio room, gym, club shop, meeting room and store.

These facilities will give everyone in our community the opportunity to participate in our games and culture, to grow and develop and to be inspired to keep a lifelong engagement with their club and association and perhaps one day soon we will be contesting another Senior Hurling Title.



***Dominic Everard, Chairman; Willie Cullen, Treasurer;
Teresa Everard, PRO; Tom Hassett, Secretary and
Willie Fogarty, Mid Board Delegate.***

Today's Captains

Tommy Long Loughmore-Castleiney

Age: 29

Occupation: Intel Employee



Tommy captains the side this year having captained the senior footballers to Mid title honours in 2008. He is one of the most dedicated players to training you could find and it is a deserved honour to lead his team in today's final.

As a dual player like most of his team mates he has achieved many honours with the club including County finals in senior hurling and football, a Munster club title in 2007, numerous Mid senior football and hurling honours along with Mid minor B hurling and football, Mid U/21 B hurling and Mid junior football. His big wish would be to lift the Leahy Cup this evening and become the 10th man from the club to do so since Richard Stapleton first lifted it in 1983.

Seamus Callanan Drom-Inch

Age: 22

Occupation: Student



Seamus is currently a business student at Limerick IT. A widely popular figure at both club and county, many will agree that Seamus has come of age recently and it has been reflected with his mature displays for Drom-Inch and Tipperary. At club level, Seamus has won 3 senior mid titles at senior level as well as 1 county minor B hurling final. Meanwhile at county level Seamus has enjoyed a more successful time picking up 2 senior Munster medals and All-Ireland medals at minor and senior. Seamus played an integral part in Tipperary's All-Ireland victory in 2010, coming off the bench to score 2 points on the way to the historic victory. Seamus names Eoin Kelly and Lar Corbett as two players that he admires and it is fitting that he is now playing alongside them for Tipperary. Seamus is the captain of Drom-Inch's senior team for 2011 and it seems to be a role that he is enjoying as his performances to date have been immense. In recent times Seamus has been doing fantastic work within his club as he has been coaching several teams and is currently a coach at this year's VHI Cul Camps across Tipperary.

Drom-Inch GAA Club

Drom-Inch GAA club was founded in 1887. Two men who were credited with a great amount of work done in the club at that time were John Laffan of Drom and John Brolan of Inch. In the early days of the association, Drom and Inch fielded separate teams. Inch hurlers would train and play in Ryan's field adjacent to the present-day community centre. In 1934 a field at Maheragh was acquired from the Land Commission. This was part of a nationwide drive by the GAA at that time to provide 'a field in every parish'. The Gaels of Drom and Barnane trained at two locations; one near Sheppard's Cross in Barnane and the other a short distance east of Drom village. By the time the current pitch in Drom was obtained in the mid-1960s, the two sides of the parish were united on the playing fields. As efforts continued to grow and develop the club in the 1980s, the need for new facilities was recognised. Following much debate, a club meeting in November 1986 voted to purchase seven acres from John Egan of Inch House. Extensive work was required to develop the site, and a massive fund-raising drive by an army of club members raised the necessary finance. Dressing rooms, sideline seating and a stand were constructed. By the time of the official opening in May 1990, the club had a modern ground of which it could be proud. The old pitch was purchased by the County Camogie Board and it too has been extensively redeveloped in recent years.



Drom-Inch, captained by John Dwyer, won their first Mid Senior Hurling Championship beating Thurles Sarsfields in the Mid Final. 1975 saw the first success in football with a Mid & County Junior Championship. Little did they know that they would have to wait 10 years after the first senior mid title before a Drom-Inch side repeated the success in 1984, captained by Martin Fahey, when they defeated Moycarkey in a replay on a scoreline of 1-9 to 1-8. On 13th May 1990 the newly developed grounds in the Ragg were officially opened when Tipperary hosted Galway in a challenge game. This new field was to see some fantastic hurlers develop in the coming years.

However, it was at underage level that the club was really making great strides forward under the watchful eye of Paudie Butler who was coaching many of the underage teams. In 1995 Drom-Inch shared the Féile na nGael trophy with Sixmilebridge and from here juvenile success through the 90s worked its way through to 2 County U21 titles in 2000 and 2001. A landmark achievement came in 2008 when 4 of Tipperary's 15 players that won the National Hurling League and Munster Championship, came from the parish: they were Séamus Butler, Séamus Callanan, Éamonn Buckley and James Woodlock. In 2005 Drom & Inch reached the county senior hurling final for the first time. Although unsuccessful against Thurles Sarsfields in Semple Stadium that day, the following year Paul Ryan lifted the cup for a Mid Senior title and Éamonn Buckley did likewise in 2008 while James Woodlock repeated the feat in 2009 when Drom-Inch defeated Upperchurch Drombane. In Junior hurling, a County Junior A title in 2005 and 3 Mid Junior B titles from 2003 to 2005 promoted the teams to Intermediate and Junior A level respectively. This year sees the club entering a Junior B team for the first time in a number of years due to the big number of players looking to play the game and represent their club. For a club that draws on a relatively small population to be able to field four adult teams is a remarkable achievement but is a great reflection of the work and dedication of the people of Drom, Inch and Barnane to bring the club, its facilities and standards to where they are today.

Management Team

Drom-Inch's management for 2011 is made up of Teddy Kennedy (manager), Martin Butler and Andy Bourke. The role of coach for the year has been placed with Sean Prendergast of Lismore, Waterford. Teddy has been involved in club duties for many years now and up until last year held the role as chairman of the juvenile club. Martin Butler has also been an active member of the club and was part of the 1984 Mid final winning team alongside brothers Paudie, Tommy, Eamonn and Micheal. Andy follows in his late father Donal's footsteps as being a selector of the senior team. Donal was a selector on the victorious 1984 mid final winning team. Andy hurled for several years with the junior A team. Andy was also a selector with the intermediate team in the past.

Honours won by Drom-Inch:

5 Mid Senior Hurling Titles

Winning Mid Senior Hurling Captains:

1974 John O'Dwyer

1984 Martin Fahey

2006 Paul Ryan

2008 Eamonn Buckley

2009 James Woodlock

Clonakenny

(1)

Walter
Byrne

(2)

Tom
Carroll

(3)

Martin Joe
Murray

(4)

Donal
Greed

(5)

William
Ryan

(6)

Ger
Byrne

(7)

John
Costigan

(8)

Michael John
Carroll

(9)

Jonathon
Cody

(10)

Bobby
Bergin

(11)

Nicky
Ryan

(12)

Prionsios
Matthews

(13)

Conor
Ryan

(14)

Donnacha
Murray (Captain)

(15)

David
Crampton

(16) Stephen Russell

(17) Michael Burke

(18) Liam Mullally

(19) Brian Mullally

(20) Joe Shelly

(21) Jim Costigan

(22) Niall Matthews

(23) Mark Ryan

(24) Allan Abbott

(25) Eoin Ryan

(26) David Cody

(27) Stephen Carroll

(28) Noel O'Meara

(29) Pa Ryan

(30) Mark Talbot

(31) Mark Mullally

(32) Andrew Crampton

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Trainer: Aidan Franks **Selectors:** Maxi Crampton, Gerry O'Hara, Frances Casey, Mick Smith.

Physio: Claire Hassett **Water and Hurleys:** Willie Crampton, Jim Treacy, Brendan Abbott, Leo Crampton

Clonakenny	Cúil	Cúilini	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1 adh leath					
2 adh leath					
IOMLÁN					

Gortnahoe-Glengoole

(16) Darren Coady

(17) Ian Dwyer

(18) Aiden Guilfoyle

(19) Colm Guilfoyle

(20) Johnny Guilfoyle

(21) Keith Holohan

(22) Paul Horan

(23) Enda McCarthy

(24) Vincent Ryan

(25) Kevin Slattery

(26) Eddie Stokes

(27) James Stokes

(28) Kieran Tobin

(1)

Micheal
Holohan

(2)

Patrick
Skehan

(3)

Brendan
Hogan

(4)

Joe
Hogan (capt)

(5)

Adrian
Maher

(6)

Ronan
Stanley

(7)

Dermot
Lahert

(8)

Sean
Lahert

(9)

Nial
Teehan

(10)

John
Coleman

(11)

Kevin
Kenny

(12)

Keith
Corbett

(13)

Shay
Butler

(14)

John
Teehan

(15)

William
Brennan

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Trainer: Brian Horgan**Selectors:** Kevin Moriarty, Christopher Dunne**Physio:** Maggie Holohan

Gortnahoe-Glengoole	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1 adh leath					
2 adh leath					
IOMLÁN					

Drom-Inch



(1)
Damien
Young

(2)
Martin
Butler

(3)
Michael
Costello

(4)
James
Ryan

(5)
Liam
Ryan

(6)
Eamonn
Buckley

(7)
Paul
Stapleton

(8)
James
Woodlock

(9)
Johnny
Ryan

(10)
Micheal
Butler

(11)
Seamus
Callanan
(Captain)

(12)
David
Collins

(13)
Seamus
Butler

(14)
Paddy
Kennedy

(15)
David
Butler

(16) Shane Hassett
(17) Donncha Kennedy
(18) Pat Lupton
(19) Joe Lupton
(20) Matthew Ryan
(21) Macdara Butler
(22) Edward Costello
(23) Declan Ryan
(24) Kevin Butler
(25) Paul Collins
(26) Matthew Buckley
(27) John Kennedy
(28) Philip Looby
(29) Eric Woodlock
(30) Enda Walsh
(31) Paul Connors
(32) Shane Delaney
(33) Paul Ryan
(34) Martin McGrath
(35) Michael Everard
(36) Jamie Maloney
(37) Michael Purcell
(38) Oisín Jordan
(39) Padraig Stapleton
(40) Jerome Ryan

MANAGEMENT TEAM

MAOR FÓIRNE: Teddy Kennedy. **SELECTORS:** Martin Butler & Andy Bourke

BAINISTEÓIR: Sean Prendergast. **TEAM MASSEUSES/ FIRST AID:** Helen Ryan & Karina Daly

Drom-Inch	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1 adh leath					
2 adh leath					
IOMLÁN					

Loughmore-Castleiney

(16) Martin Gleeson

(17) Johnny Campion

(18) James Connolly

(19) Darren Danagher

(20) Lorcan Egan

(21) Cian Hennessy

(22) Shane Hennessy

(23) Tom King

(24) Paddy Moynihan

(25) Tomas McGrath

(26) John McGrath

(27) David McGrath

(28) Henry Maher

(29) Shane Nolan

(30) Eoin Ryan

(31) Garry Sweeney



(1)
John
Scully

(2)
Willie
Eviston

(3)
Derek
Bourke

(4)
Tommy
Long
(Captain)

(5)
Aidan
McGrath

(6)
Eddie
Connolly

(7)
John
Meagher

(8)
Noel
McGrath

(9)
Liam
Treacy

(10)
Evan
Sweeney

(11)
Ciaran
McGrath

(12)
David
Kennedy

(13)
Liam
McGrath

(14)
Micheál
Webster

(15)
James
Egan

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Declan Laffan, Noel Morris, Ned Ryan. Physio and First Aid: Cathy Doran

Loughmore-Castleiney	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	65m	Saor Pocanna
1 adh leath					
2 adh leath					
IOMLÁN					

Drom-Inch

Path to the Final

Rd 1	Drom-Inch	0.15
	JK Brackens	1.14
Rd 2	Drom-Inch	1.17
	Thurles Sarsfields	2.9
Rd 3	Drom-Inch	3.17
	Holycross-Ballycahill	1.4
QF	Drom-Inch	3.21
	Boherlahan-Dualla	0.14
SF	Drom-Inch	3.25
	JK Brackens	1.14

Total Scored	10.95
Total Conceded	5.55

Top Scorers

Seamus Callanan	4.31
Johnny Ryan	0.17
Seamus Butler	2.10



Manager: Teddy Kennedy,
Chairman: Austin Broderick



Drom-Inch panel that defeated JK Brackens in the Mid Senior Hurling semi-final

Loughmore-Castleiney

Path to the Final

Rd 1	Loughmore-Castleiney Moycarkey-Borris	2-18 1.15
Rd 2	Loughmore-Castleiney Upperchurch-Drombane	1.25 0.11
Rd 3	Loughmore-Castleiney Boherlahan-Dualla	5.16 2.9
SF	Loughmore-Castleiney Holycross-Ballycahill	2.21 1.15

Total Scored	10.80
Total Conceded	4.50

Top Scorers

Noel McGrath	2.21
Ciaran McGrath	2.10
James Egan	1.12



*Loughmore-Castleiney
management team:
Declan Laffan, Ned Ryan and
Noel Morris*



*Loughmore-Castleiney panel that defeated Holycross /Ballycahill in the
Mid Senior Hurling semi-final*

Reminiscence of Tipperary's All Ireland Win in 2001

By David Kennedy, Loughmore-Castleiney



2001 was my third year on the Tipperary hurling panel having played my first championship match against Kerry in 1999. It was also the third year of the then management team of English, Hogan and Bergin and the pressure to put silverware on the table was there from the start. The management put a very simple target for the panel to aim at: win every match, be it a challenge, tournament, league or championship. Jim Kiely, better known as an athletics coach, joined the coaching staff and he brought a very new and different approach to training. Around this time, inter-county teams seemed to be trying to outdo each other in who could train the hardest, an element that was introduced by Ger Loughnane in Clare. Kiely's approach emphasised speed, agility and quickness (SAQ).

We entered the 2001 Championship in fine form. By that time we had claimed the Waterford Crystal Tournament and the National League. We also remained undefeated. Unfortunately for me, in the league fixture against Cork, I tore the cartilage in my right knee and underwent surgery in Waterford. It would mean that I would miss the remainder of the league and be under pressure to be fit in time for the championship opener against Clare. To add to my problems I suffered a very bad bout of tonsillitis after the operation and subsequently lost nearly a stone in weight.

The Tipperary - Clare rivalry was still very much alive and well in 2001. A full house turned up in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on the 3rd June to witness what was a real roller coaster match. I just about managed to make the match day panel, having passed a fitness test the week of the game. The match itself is probably best remembered for all types of reasons: John Leahy's high profile entry as a second half substitute which was cruelly ended by a cruciate injury only moments after coming on; Eoin Kelly's super human strength in riding out a series of tough tackles from Ollie Baker and Colin Lynch, and of course 'smiling' Dickie Murphy's late decision to award a free against Colin Lynch for over-carrying right at the death, which effectively dragged us over the line to win 0-15 to 0-14. I came on as a sub for Conor Gleeson with about 10 minutes to go and slotted in at No 6. Eamon Corcoran went wing back and Paul Kelly moved to mid-field. All I remember was that I could hardly lift my legs I was so tired. I just about lasted the few moments I was on and only then realised how much injury and illness had drained me of energy. There was a great sense of achievement and unity of purpose after that victory and we were well focused on making up for the previous year's Munster Final loss.

The final was again played in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on the 1st July. This time the opposition was Limerick who were having a really magnificent campaign. They had defeated both Cork and Waterford and had good momentum behind them. Ollie Moran especially was having a fine season at No 11. Yours truly was given the job of trying to keep him quiet. The day itself was unbelievably hot, the warmest of the year so far. Later, I heard how supporters on the terraces suffered bad sunburn, sunstroke and dehydration. The heat also took its toll on the players. In the first 20 minutes or so, both teams shared 16 scores from play, which was played at break neck speed and intensity. However, the game lost its flow and turned into a war of attrition in the second half. Little things stick out in my memory about that day. Coming in at half time, I saw my father chatting to a neighbour in the tunnel outside the players' dressing rooms. My father seemed to forget about the day that was in it and casually asked me how was I getting on! The big red head on me would have told him I was under serious pressure. We eventually managed to get the better of Limerick that day, but only after an unbelievable battle. The only small regret I had about that day was that the crowd were not allowed to come onto the field after the final whistle. I suppose every player dreams of climbing the steps on Munster Final day and seeing a sea of his county supporters on the field. However, I very nearly had something to really worry about after the match. When I came back to the changing rooms, I discovered that all my clothes, money, personal belongings were missing! As it happened, there was another David Kennedy who was on the Tipperary minor panel that same day. When they were finished their game, all their gear was packed onto their team bus. That also included my own gear. I managed to borrow a pair of clean socks, a t-shirt, runners and a tracksuit and set about celebrating a Munster

Senior Championship Final victory. The semi-final was against Wexford. They surprisingly defeated Limerick in their quarter final. There was huge expectation that Tipperary would win this match without too much trouble. As a player, its hard to avoid all the loose talk about 10 point victories etc, but there was absolutely no complacency in our approach. I was due to mark Larry Murphy, an experienced campaigner who had led the line for Wexford many times. He was left handed and very strong in the air and on his day was impossible to mark. I always liked playing against Wexford - their direct approach suited me just fine. The match turned out to be as dramatic as it could get - Larry O'Gorman scored 2 late goals to secure a draw. Right at the death, Rory McCarthy had a really good chance of sneaking a winner. I was sitting on my backside looking perfectly in line as he struck what I thought was surely the winner, only for it to tail right of the post and wide at the final moment. The replay was the following Saturday. It was a strange day in every sense. The weather was really terrible and the atmosphere just wasn't there. All week the talk was of Wexford's fighting spirit and very little credit was handed our way. I felt much more confident about this fixture and as it transpired I was right. Tipp played with all the hunger and we put in a very good performance. Wexford were very ill disciplined on the day. Their rough house tactics actually cost Brian O'Meara his rightful place in an All Ireland Final for standing his ground against Liam Dunne. The weeks and days leading to the All-Ireland Final are now a bit of a blur. We were set to face Galway, who had a magnificent victory over the All-Ireland champions, Kilkenny. We were immediately installed as favourites, but you could sense that the hurling neutrals were gunning for Galway. The talk was that the Tipperary public had enjoyed enough All-Irelands and wouldn't it be good for hurling if Galway were to win one. I was lucky enough to have been working as a student Garda in Dublin at the time, so it was easy enough to escape the hype. Saying that, I lived very close to Croke Park, so I was always reminded of the game.

I remember the small things about the day quite well. Jim Burke, the hurley maker from Upperchurch arrived at The Burlington Hotel the morning of the match with a brand new hurley for me. That hurley only ever played one match and that was that All Ireland Final, although I later stopped my brother going to a junior club match with it! I had a good omen when we arrived at Croke Park. The match programme had a picture of myself and Alan Kearns taken from the year before as its cover page. For some reason I remember thinking that any time I was on the front of a match programme, we always seemed to win. The day itself was ideal for hurling, warm, dry with only a light breeze. We went into that game confident that if we played to our potential, then Galway would have to play exceptionally well to beat us. We had travelled the hard road to Croke Park and we were determined to finish the journey on a winning note. The match itself was as tough a game as I've ever played in. The pitch was very heavy and sapped the energy from the legs. The Galway forwards and midfield played a high intensity running game which never allowed you to get a moment to catch your breath. But, saying that, it was Tipperary who were the far more polished hurling outfit and we found scores easier to come by. Tipperary were prepared to work that bit harder and we were able to use the ball a lot more economically than the Tribesmen. Galway stayed in touch in the first half through frees and a well taken goal from Eugene Cloonan. By half time, I felt that I had played two games already, such was the off the ball running of the Galway forwards, much of it down blind alleys. The second half continued in the same vein. I remember myself and Eamon Corcoran chasing David Tierney for about 40 yards down one side line, only for Kevin Broderick to then get the ball and run another 40 yards in almost the opposite direction, with the two of us in tow. It felt like that type of game - no hurling but all running. I think I had the ball in hand about 2 or 3 times and every one of them was under pressure. My season ended as it started - on the side line!! I had given absolutely everything I had but my legs were just gone and I now know that my concentration was affected by fatigue. Conor Gleeson came on at No 6. I remember spending those last few agonising moments stretched on the ground beside my friend Paul Kelly, willing the final whistle to sound.

You cannot know what it feels like to win an All-Ireland Final unless you're actually there. Tired, sore and fully concentrating on the ball which is then followed by a moment of doubt - is that the actual final whistle? Is the game over? Are we still winning? When you know the answer is 'yes' to all of them, there is an incredible release of what can only be described as pure undiluted joy. Not many things in life can compare to a moment like that.

Loughmore-Castleiney GAA Club

Both Loughmore and Castleiney parishes have been steeped in G.A.A. 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 of the highest order for the Loughmore-Castleiney Club.



Loughmore-Castleiney only gained senior status in 1981 following their 1980 Intermediate county final success captained by Tom McGrath. Since then, the Mid roll of honour list with 10 titles, 2 county titles won in 1988 and in 2007 and 1 Munster club title also won in 2007.

The last Mid title won by Loughmore-Castleiney was in 2004 when the club completed the three in a row. The year 2007 was a year to remember for the club, winning the County Senior Hurling title and being crowned Munster Hurling Champions for the first time in the club's history.

Noel McGrath brought the first ever All-Star award to the club in 2009 and followed this with a second All-Star award last year along with a GPA player award.

Management Team

The management team of Noel Morris, Declan Laffan and Ned Ryan are laden with honours both for club and county in both codes. Noel played all grades of hurling for Tipperary, holding an All-Ireland senior medal in 2001. Ned Ryan played all grades of football for the County and holds an All-Ireland senior hurling medal from 1991 and has been an outstanding dual player for the club. Declan Laffan has also played all grades of football for the County and again was an excellent dual player for the club until a serious back injury ended his career early.

Honours won by Loughmore-Castleiney

Senior titles won are Mid Senior Football 58

County senior football titles 11

10 Mid Senior hurling titles

County senior hurling titles 2

Munster club titles 1

Winning Mid Senior Hurling Captains

1983 Richard Stapleton.

1986 Jim Maher.

1987 John Treacy.

1988 Eamonn Sweeney.

1992 John Cormack.

1994 Seamus Bohan.

1998 John Kennedy.

2002 & 2003, Noel Morris.

2004 Declan Laffan.

Chairman v Secretary

by John Devane, Vice-Chairman Mid Tipperary GAA Board

The 2011 Mid final clash between Drom-Inch and Loughmore-Castleiney has pitted Mid Chairman, Mattie Ryan against Mid Secretary, Jonathan Cullen. This is a most unusual occurrence. In fact, the last occasion this happened was in 1995 when Mid Secretary, Matty Connolly saw his club, Boherlahan-Dualla defeat Mid Chairman, Sean Mockler's Loughmore-Castleiney, 1-13 to 1-8 in the final in Semple Stadium.



While not directly involved with either Thurles club, Fr Phil Fogarty, Mid Chairman from 1929-1948, was a curate in Thurles during many epic Mid final clashes between Moycarkey-Borris and Sarsfields, with Moycarkey winning in 1940-43 and Sarsfields successful in 1939-44. There was also a famous draw and replay between Moycarkey and Thurles Kickhams in 1937 with Moycarkey again victorious. Secretary at that time was the famed Phil Purcell, Moycarkey-Borris

Fr Fogarty, a native of Rathcannon in Holycross was of course the author of 'The Tipperary GAA story', the Bible on the early years of the GAA. He had served as club chairman while a curate in Moycarkey, prior to moving to Thurles.

So, while watching the game tonight, keep an eye on the Chairman and Secretary to see which of them has the biggest smile at the end of the game!

Apology

In the 2010 edition of The Mid Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship programme an article in the Loughmore-Castleiney section entitled 'Recent record' was published. In this article, reference was made to "the more modern training methods and professionalism that surrounds the team" under the current management. These comments have offended and upset a number of individuals from the Loughmore-Castleiney club, who feel that the comments were directed at them. The Mid Tipperary GAA Board wishes to apologise unreservedly to any member of the Loughmore-Castleiney GAA Club who may have been offended by these comments. Furthermore, the Secretary of The Mid Tipperary GAA Board, who acted as editor of the programme, has no hesitation in apologising for not proof reading the programme, thus allowing the article which contained the offending comments to be published.

The Mid Tipperary GAA Board wishes to acknowledge the huge role that the Loughmore-Castleiney GAA Club has made and continues to make to Gaelic Games in the Mid Division, in Tipperary and further afield over many years. The Board would like to take this opportunity to wish the Loughmore-Castleiney club well and it looks forward to continuing to work closely with the club in the years ahead.

Paudie Butler - National Director of Hurling

- 5 Years on the Road by Trevor Hasset PRO of Drom-Inch

Paudie's official 5 year term as National Director of Hurling has now elapsed but for those who know Paudie he will never be finished promoting the game of hurling. Whether you are talking to a man from Beagh in Galway, Ballyduff in Kerry or Sarsfields in Kildare, once you mention the name Paudie Butler you will immediately have caught their attention.



In the past five years, Paudie has gone from being one of the best kept secrets among hurling circles in Munster to becoming a hurling coach that many see as the messiah of hurling, especially in so called 'weaker' hurling counties. Paudie is one of a kind, an evangelist of hurling. Having retired from his principal's job of 21 years in Inch National School on June 28th 2006, one would have expected him to take a well-deserved break as he was not due to commence his new role as National Director of Hurling until the beginning of September 2006. Paudie is different though, the very next day after retiring he was on the way up to Maghereagh in Derry to present medals to the team that had just won the All Ireland B Colleges title for the first time.

It is fair to say that Paudie has been on the road since that day, coaching players and teaching coaches about the fundamental basics of hurling.

Paudie is a supporter of the GAA's 'Go Games' structure for children Under-12 which takes out the competitive pressures associated with under age competitions. The upcoming 'Premier Games' finals will take place in Semple Stadium the first week of September and somewhere between 400 and 500 children will get a chance to play on the hallowed turf of Semple Stadium just like their current day Tipperary heroes Seamus Callanan, Noel McGrath and James Woodlock. In the past there was just one divisional final played at each grade, and many children never got to play at all as they couldn't make the first 15. With the arrival of the 'Premier Games' every player gets at least half a match and through this will develop a taste for the game and hopefully keep at it through the teenage years and on to adult level. The key benefit for children is fun and enjoyment in a safe and appropriate environment.

Paudie's contribution can be seen in so many of the feel good hurling stories that are starting to come out of traditional football counties in the last 3 years. Dublin minors won another Leinster Hurling Final last month defeating Kilkenny, while their senior team won a National Hurling League Final for the first time in decades, also defeating the Cats. They are now seen as one of the hurling strongholds in the country. Hurling is also thriving in Armagh where this year they contested their first Ulster Hurling Final since 1937. Kerry Colleges are now competing in the Dr Harty Cup, while Causeway CBS are regularly winning Munster A Vocational Schools titles. Paudie has put in a lot of ground-work in all of these counties, educating coaches and improving coaching methods. Some of his work will not come to fruition for a few more years as most of his development work is done with coaches of child and youth teams.

Paudie has also helped the GAA to put in place the right structures for the progression of inter-county teams around the country. Development squads for hurling are now in place in every county in Ireland at under 14 and under 16 hurling level and many also have an under 15 squad also. This has proven to be the most effective method to develop inter-county players as is proven by the current success of Tipperary's county team, and Kilkenny's before that.

As the much coined phrase goes – "seeing is believing". It is a necessity to see Paudie taking a coaching session to believe the enthusiasm and sheer encouragement he gives each player from the strongest to the least skilful, every player receives the same amount of praise and encouragement. As can be seen in several videos on the internet, Paudie encourages the coaches to get their players to practise everything at a high tempo and under pressure in order to prepare them for similar conditions in matches when there is no time or space. The reasoning behind this approach is that many players train within their 'comfort zone' and as a result are not prepared for the intensity of match day when their skills can let them down under pressure.

The construction of Hurling Walls is one of Paudie's biggest achievements during his tenure. Over 400 hurling walls have been constructed throughout Ireland since Paudie began his term. The Hurling Wall is an invaluable tool for coaching the technical skills to players and also facilitates individuals to practice effectively on their own time and improve their striking and first touch and reaction times. Paudie sees it as imperative that in a training session a player must make 200 contacts with the sliotar in order to make an improvement in speed, accuracy or power.

So where now for Paudie? After five years of trawling every corner of the country spreading his words of wisdom, it would be easy for an individual to say that they have had enough and take up a pastime a little less time consuming and energy sapping. Paudie though wants to continue to commit the rest of his life to supporting clubs and coaches who want to develop hurling throughout the four provinces. He will hopefully return and take some sessions with his home club in the coming years and ensure the on-going success and development of our hurling club.

On the future development of the game nationally, Paudie believes that 'twinning' could be the next step for teams from developing counties, for example each club in Mid Tipperary would be twinned with a hurling club in Armagh. Twinning would bring benefits such as shared coaching, challenge games, training sessions, expertise and team visits in both directions. This would grow the hurling culture and the community while also improving the level of hurling skills across the board. This socially cohesive programme would be something that the founder of the GAA Michael Cusack would have envisaged in his vision for the GAA as an organisation.



Challenging Times Ahead

by John Costigan, Central Council GAA

There is no doubt but the next five years present huge challenges for all of us involved in the GAA at this point and time. Due to the economic climate currently prevailing in our county and country, many highly qualified young people are being forced to emigrate in order to obtain employment. In these difficult situations, clubs are losing talent they can badly afford with the result that the potency of their teams is seriously diminished. This situation affects rural clubs with a limited number of players more than their urban counterparts. I believe that the GAA should endeavour to leave no stone unturned in order to come up with some plan to secure employment for its members.



Finance is becoming a very important item on all club agendas currently. The most startling thing facing all clubs in January as they set out to affiliate teams for the year is the current cost. Most clubs incur costs of six to seven thousand euro before a ball is struck in anger which is a huge imposition but a very necessary one as it covers the insuring of their players. Due to increasing costs of affiliation I believe some clubs are forced to limit their number of affiliations thus denying some of their lower grade players a chance to participate in competitions. That in itself militates against club spirit which is vital for the welfare of any club. Nowadays, there is a feeling for a club to be successful the securing of an outside coach or manager is a prime requisite. It is well known that such personnel can cost a few euro and it can be a serious imposition on the club finances depending on their duration in the championship. I believe that with the current availability of coaching courses for club personnel, units should be able to get people from within the club to manage their respective teams. From my observations within the divisions and county the most successful clubs are those that are self-sufficient.

As a very successful amateur organisation, the GAA has been very fortunate that the volunteer philosophy has been the bedrock of its success. I believe over the next number of years that volunteerism will be more important than ever before. This successful tradition and ethos of volunteering should not be taken for granted and I believe for a club to be successful a strong active campaign of recruitment should be embarked upon. I think that in a club the involvement of parents is very important. I believe that encouraging the family 'as a whole' to become involved should be the evolving strategy. I am aware that certain challenges such as the busyness of modern families militate against people getting involved and with that in mind I think that the key to success is to make the club attractive to all members of the family going forward.

As we descend here on Templetuohy this evening for the 2011 Mid Senior Hurling Final one could not but be impressed with the magnificent development that has taken place here over the past number of years. The Moyne Templetuohy Club is to be complimented for its vision and hard work in providing such a modern facility for its own players especially and for the GAA in general. There is no doubt but the hardworking committee has used much energy in raising the necessary finance to bring the project to a successful conclusion.

Similar developments have been undertaken by other clubs throughout the county and each and every one of them deserve great credit. Going forward, I believe that clubs should invest more in people than in

physical development. Due to the economic climate that currently exists, finance is not as readily available as heretofore and what's available should be used for the development of our games and improving the standard of hurling, football and refereeing.

There is no doubt but one of the greatest challenges facing the GAA at the moment is the declining population trends in rural areas. Emigration and the movement of people to towns and cities has resulted in some clubs finding it difficult to field teams. The rural clubs in certain areas are unable to field underage teams and for the future development of the games in those areas a solution has to be found. The parish rule has served the GAA well over the years and created the type of bond within teams that has given that extra competitive edge that has made our games such a spectacle. We may have reached a stage in the GAA when we will have to adjust it a little in order to keep the association alive in certain rural areas. These are the types of challenges that are currently confronting our great Association.

Since the Association was founded in Hayes Hotel on November 1st 1884 it has encountered many challenges and its ability to confront such obstacles in a balanced intelligent manner has enabled it to grow into being the greatest amateur organisation in the world. I have no doubt current challenges will be addressed and it will continue to play a huge roll in the Ireland of tomorrow.

Did You Know

- By Andy Fogarty, PRO Mid Board

- Drom-Inch and Loughmore-Castleiney have never met in a Mid Senior Hurling Divisional Final.
- The Moyne-Templetuohy GAA Club are hosting this evening's Mid Senior Hurling Final for the first time in their history.
- Seamus Callanan, Drom-Inch captain, is the leading scorer in the championship with 4 goals and 31 points, followed by in second place Loughmore's Noel McGrath who has scored 2 goals and 21 points.
- Tom Hassett, Secretary of the Moyne-Templetuohy GAA Club, served as Chairman of Laois GAA County Board for ten years.
- Loughmore-Castleiney won their last Mid Senior final in 2004 and the captain was Declan Laffan who is part of Loughmore's Management this year.
- Forty years ago this year Moyne-Templetuohy won their first and only County Senior Hurling title when they defeated Roscrea in the final.
- James Egan, who is Loughmore-Castleiney's third highest scorer in the championship, is nephew of Fr Joe Egan PP Boherlahan-Dualla who was a member of the Moyne-Templetuohy panel than won the county final in 1971. James is also a first cousin of Pat Egan who is secretary of Drom-Inch.
- Austin Broderick, Chairman of Drom-Inch GAA Club, is also President of Thurles Chamber of Commerce.



The GAA, as Gaeilge! by Liz Flanagan, Oifig Cultúr

When I was asked to write a page for today's programme, I must admit that I was wracking my brain for inspiration! That inspiration was soon found when watching a match on TG4. My own grasp of Irish would be rudimentary and I know that many would have a love/hate relationship with their native tongue, having learned it through the trials of Peig Sayers, but, in my opinion, having the commentary 'as Gaeilge' adds to the passion and excitement of the game, while highlighting the uniqueness of our native sports. With that thought in mind, here are a few phrases below that might inspire you with your own commentary, a la Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh:



- Thig linn seo a thabhairt linn!— We can win this!
- Imeartha go maith!— Well played!
- Coinnigh íseal e!— Keep it low!
- Glac an cuil! — Go for the goal!
- Chuaigh sí ar faraoil! — It went wide!
- D'imir tú cluiche iontach! — You played a great game!
- Bigi faichilleach!— Be on your guard!
- Blocáil e! — Block it!
- Glac an cuilín! — Go for the point!
- Gabh ar an bhfear sin! — Mark that man!
- Maith an cuilín! — Good point!
- Bhí muid mi-adhuil — We were unfortunate

I hope that everyone enjoys today's Mid Final and Slán Abhaile.

The Last Word

We leave the last word on this evening's big game to Patricia McGrath of Loughmore-Castleiney, who is sister of Noel McGrath, and to Carol Hassett who is sister of Trevor, PRO of Drom-Inch.

Patricia McGrath

I have recently completed a degree in Nutritional Science in University College Cork. Previous to this I attended Loughmore N.S and Ursuline Convent Thurles where I played camogie and football. I represented Loughmore-Castleiney at under age level in both hurling and football, winning two U12 mid football finals. I play camogie with Drom-Inch and have won county titles in all grades, including County senior and Munster Club titles in 2008. The current Loughmore-Castleiney team is a blend of youth and experience which is a great combination for success. I admire all the players for their commitment to both hurling and football, and their 'never say die' attitude. I think today will be a very close game between ourselves and our neighbours but I believe that Loughmore-Castleiney have shown in the past that they have the ability to produce a big performance when the stakes are high. I would like to wish the team and management the very best of luck today! Loughmore-Castleiney Abú!



Carol Hassett

I am 19 years old and currently a second year Arts Student in Mary Immaculate College Limerick. I play junior camogie for Drom-Inch in the forwards. My favourite Drom-Inch players are Seamus Callanan and Johnny Ryan. I think that Drom-Inch will be successful on Sunday as they have a very tightly knit backs unit and have greater fire power in the forwards with players like Callanan, Collins and the Butlers all in great form at the moment. I think that these players have put in an enormous effort to date and a huge level of commitment which should be enough to see them over the finish line and reclaim the Mid title.





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