

South Tipperary Senior Football Final
Match Programme
2000



Coiste Chontae Thiobrad Árann Theas
1907-2000

MILLENNIUM
S.F.C. FINAL
4th February 2001
at 3.00PM

ÁRD FHIONÁIN
V

FANAITHE NA MAOILIGH

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South Champions 1907 - 1999

1907 Grangemockler	1957 Fethard
1908 Cloneen	1958 Commercials
1909 Grangemockler	1959 Cahir Slashers
1910 O'Leary's (Tipp.)	1960 Commercials
1911 O'Leary's (Tipp.)	1961 Ardfinnan
1912 Bansha	1962 Ardfinnan
1913 Mullinahone	1963 Ardfinnan
1914 Fethard	1964 Ardfinnan
1915 Bansha	1965 Commercials
1916 Mullinahone	1966 Commercials
1917 Fethard	1967 Commercials
1918 Fethard	1968 Ardfinnan
1919 Mullinahone	1969 Fethard
1920 none	1970 Kilsheelan
1921 none	1971 Commercials
1922 none	1972 Commercials
1923 Fethard	1973 Ardfinnan
1924 Fethard	1974 Ardfinnan
1925 Fethard	1975 Commercials
1926 Mullinahone	1976 Fethard
1927 Fethard	1977 Commercials
1928 Fethard	
1929 Mullinahone	1978 Fethard
1930 Kilsheelan	1979 Fethard
1931 Grangemockler	1980 Fethard
1932 Shamrocks	1981 Commercials
1933 Kilsheelan	1982 Commercials
1934 Shamrocks	1983 Kilsheelan
1935 Ardfinnan	1984 Fethard
1936 Arravale Rovers	1985 Fethard
1937 Shamrocks	1986 Commercials
1938 Fethard	1987 Commercials
1939 Ardfinnan	1988 Fethard
1940 Shamrocks	1989 Commercials
1941 Arravale Rovers	1990 St. Patricks/Grangemockler
1942 Fethard	1991 Moyle Rovers
1943 Fethard	1992 Fethard
1944 Commercials	1993 Fethard
1945 Mullinahone	1994 Commercials
1946 Commercials	1995 Moyle Rovers
1947 St. Patrick's	1996 Moyle Rovers
1948 Commercials	1997 Fethard
1949 Commercials	1998 Moyle Rovers
1950 Fethard	1999 Moyle Rovers
1951 Ballingarry	
1952 Old Bridge	
1953 St. Patrick's	
1954 Fethard	
1955 Fethard	
1956 Commercials	

Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach

Is é mo phribhléid ar son choiste chontae Thiobrad Árann Theas, fáilte a chur róimh go léir don chluiche cheannais Iománaíocht sinnsear inniu.

Gachaim buíochas leis na fóirne agus le na daoine a chabhraigh linn.

Tá súil agam go mbeidh cluiche breá spórtiúl againn agus go mbainfidh gach éinne taithneamh as an lá.

It is a privilege for me as South Board Chairman to welcome the Gaels of the Division to our Millennium Senior Football Championship decider. I look forward to a great final in keeping with the tradition of the competition.

Best of luck to both clubs and to referee Tommy Lonergan and his officials. Sincere thanks to our ever generous sponsors Clonmel Oil

Liam Ó Bairéad.



An Réiteoir

Tommy Lonergan of Kilsheelan who referees today's final is an outstanding hand highly experienced referee who has served the South Division with great commitment over a long number of years. He has also refereed Co. Finals at all levels and officiated at Munster Championship and National League ties.



Buíochas

Today's match programme has been produced by C.L.C.G. Coiste Co. Thiobrad Árann Theas who wish to thank everyone who contributed. Special thanks to Ger Meagher, (Ardfinnan), Jimmy McCarthy (Moyle Rovers) and to our Advertisers. Please support them.

Micéal ÓMeára
Programme Editor





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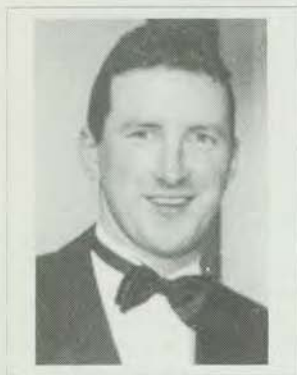
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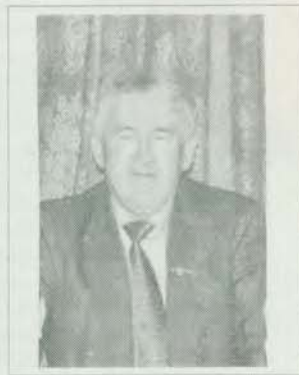
Adrfinnan Are Back

Ardfinnan are back in the 2000 South Senior Football Final for the fourth time since our last success in 1974. In 1994 we were defeated by Commercials at Kilsheelan. Three years later Fethard beat us in Clonmel and the following year, today's opponents, Moyle Rovers defeated us, also at Clonmel. The same year Moyle Rovers beat us in the County Final. Here we are today playing the final of the 2000 Championship that started last April. After finishing level on points with Cahir and Swan, we came through the play-offs to earn a place in the Semi-Final against our great rivals Commercials. Our two point win in the Semi-Final means we are now in the final against the reigning County and South Champions. We are well aware of the task we face in trying to bring the South title back to the village. Moyle Rovers have been the Premier County's top team in recent years and they will have every intention of holding on to the title. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since Eamon O'Gorman last took a Senior Championship over it.

Hopefully later this evening Albert Keating can bridge that gap. Senior Manager Pete Savage played on that team and today he manages this team hoping to end our long run without success. Whatever today's outcome the future of our club looks secure with some fine young players in our panel and more coming along from successful juvenile, minor & U-21 teams. The experienced players on our team, many of whom have played for Tipperary give a good mixture of experience to our younger players. Finally our sincere thanks to Breda Longeran and Breda Hally for their expertise all year, dealing with injuries and always being available.



*Brendan Cummins
South Tipperary's
latest All-Star*



*Pete Savage
Ardfinnan
Team Manager*

Dates for your 2001 Diary

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|---------------|
| * March 3rd (Sat) 21 F | Clare | V | Tipperary | at Limerick |
| * April 25th (Wed) M.H. | Tipperary | V | Kerry | at Tipp Venue |
| * May 13th (Sun) JF/SF | Tipperary | V | Kerry | at Clonmel |
| * June 3rd (Sun) JH/SH | Tipperary | V | Clare | at Cork |

MOYLE ROVERS JUVENILES

The sudden passing of Mick McCarthy R.I.P. cast a long shadow over proceedings at Monroe just as serious training was getting under way for all age groups. It was soon realised, however, that what this great man would expect would be that all concerned would get on with the work to which he had dedicated so much of his own life. And so all Moyle Rovers teams, inspired by Mick's memory, resolved to do well in 2000 and unprecedented success on the fields of play was the happy outcome.

To win a South Football Championship in the A grade in one age group is immensely satisfying for any club, but to do so at U-12, U-14 and U-16 as achieved by Moyle Rovers Juveniles this year is indeed the stuff of dreams. Add in a County Championship for the aforementioned U-14s you will understand why Millennium year will be remembered as a very special one for the club.

U-12s

The U-12s, having lost the South Final last year, were determined to make amends this year and this they did, beating a gallant Fethard team at Marfield. A win against Burgess in the county semi-final meant a trip to Semple Stadium for the county final where our opponents Arravale Rovers proved just too strong on the day. The U-12 'B' team did well to reach the south semi-final of the 'C' Championship where they lost out to Clonmel Óg at Marfield. Nonetheless, this fine panel of young players and their hard-working

mentors can be well pleased with their achievements.

U14s

Our U-14 'A' team were reigning county champions and it was always going to be difficult for them to retain their title, losing as they did many of their stronger players to the U-16 panel. This, however, they managed to do, using skill and determination to compensate for the physical advantage they had to concede to many of their opponents.

They beat Cahir with relative ease at a rain-sodden Goatenbridge in the south final before progressing to the county semi-final against Borrisoleigh. This turned out to be a very close encounter and it took a dramatic last minute goal by Daniel Lyne to defeat our talented opponents.

Cashel was the venue for a keenly contested county final where the elusive two-in-a-row was achieved against a sporting Moycarkey-Borris.

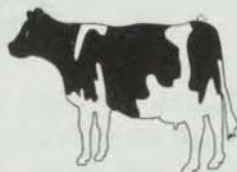
The U-14 'B' team eventually lost out to a strong Newcastle in the south semi-final. Following their success at club level, four members of the U-14 panel – Tommy Barry, Alan McCormack, Martin Dunne and Brian Mulvihill were honoured with selection on the county team.

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2000 - ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS

U-16s

And so to the U-16s who must have been feeling a little pressure to try and emulate their younger clubmates. They managed to do so with some considerable style, overcoming Ardfinnan at Marlfield to take the U-16 'A' South Championship. Though they battled hard in the county semi-final at Littleton, they came out second best against a physically stronger Nenagh Éire Óg.

Two members of this team, Kieran Lyons and Shane Dolan, were selected to represent their county at U-15 level, Kieran again having the distinction of captaining another successful underage Tipperary team. Another member of the team, Paul Shanahan, was called up to the Tipperary U-16 county panel.

While underage hurling titles proved beyond our reach this year, nonetheless much good hurling was played and progress was made. The U-12 'A' team reached the south final, put on a great display but eventually lost to St. Mary's. The U-14s also reached the south final at 'A' level but were defeated by Carrick Swans at Kilsheelin. Mullinahone ended our interest in the U-16 'B' competition at the south semi-final stage at Ned Hall Park in Clonmel.

If all the above wasn't enough to keep players and mentors alike busy,

there were also the Peil na nÓg and Féile na nGael competitions for U-14 football and hurling respectively. Martin Dunne did his club proud, winning the hurling skills competition in the south and county and representing Tipp with great distinction in the Féile skills competition in Belfast.

Meanwhile the seeds of success have to be sown in a fresh crop and so the U-10s had a busy year too. They participated in Football and hurling competitions run by the South Board and actually won out the football competition. From little acorns . . .
!!!

Success at sport does not happen by magic or fluke. It is actually the result of extraordinary dedication and commitment on the part of players and mentors alike. A review of the year's achievements at Juvenile level such as this must take special mention of all those who in their roles as trainers, selectors, secretaries, administrators and supporters, help to make Moyle Rovers what it is - a very special club.

Mick - rest easy! The work continues . . .

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ÁRD FHIONÁIN

1.

Eamon Ryan

2.

Michael English

3.

Niall Kelly

4.

Kieran O'Brien

5.

Albert Keating (Capt)

6.

Alan John Lonergan

7.

Michael Phelan

8.

Sean Maher

9.

Gerry Ryan

10.

Kieran Walsh

11.

James Hackett

12.

Alan O'Gorman

13.

Peter Lambert

14.

Brendan Cummins

15.

Johnny English

Subs:

16. Trevor O'Leary,

19. Pa Norton,

22. Colin White,

25. Eugene O'Mahoney,

17. Brian Lonergan,

20. Noel Brown,

23. Barry Mullane,

26. Thomas Maher.

18. Colm Quinn,

21. Joe Lambert,

24. Tristan Brown,

**Selectors: Pete Savage - Manager, John Phelan - Trainer,
Ger Meagher - Selector.**

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1.

Seamus Delahunty

2.

Noel Wall

3.

Liam Cronin (*Capt*)

4.

Ger McCarthy

5.

Kevin O'Connor

6.

Mick McGrath

7.

Robbie Boland

8.

John Owens

9.

Niall Fitzgerald

10.

John McGrath

11.

Donal Foley

12.

John Shonahan

13.

T.J. Wall

14.

Padraig Foley

15.

James Willams

Subs:

16. Paul Boland,

19. Derry Foley,

22. Billy Hunt,

25. Keith Delahunty,

17. Kevin Morrissey,

20. Garry Moore,

23. M.J. Browne,

26. Kevin Condon.

18. Paul Norris,

21. Conal Crosse,

24. Thomas Conway,

Selectors: Jim Cahill - Manager, John Keating, Dick Looby.

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ARDFINNAN HONOURS BABS

In November Ardfinnan G.A.A. club hosted a gala night in honour of Michael 'Babs' Keating. The following is the citation delivered by Mícheál Ó Meara on the occasion.

Muintir Ard Fhionáin agus a chairde Gael. Tá sé mar phriobhléid agam bheith anseo libh ar an ocaid speisialta seo chun an maolaíse a ceiliuradh agus go mór mhor chun omós a thabhairt don fear sár cháiliúil sin Mícheál (Babs) Cétinn a bhain amach clú agus cáil ar a snon féin ar son Ard Fhionain agus Baile Beagan Graineach agus ar son ar chontae – treasna na blianta.

Tá sé fíor nach mbeidh a leithéid arís ann ar pháirceanna na h-imeartha as seo amach.

Tonight the Ardfinnan club is honouring its most famous son – 'Babs' – in recognition of his selection as Tipperary Footballer of the Millennium. All will agree that there was only one 'Babs' and tonight the club has given us the opportunity to say – 'Babs', thanks for the memories.

Memories that began for me and for others here tonight back in the High School field in Clonmel in the late fifties when the future star first burst upon the Tipperary G.A.A. scene. It soon became apparent that we were witnessing something special and before his minor days had ended 'Babs' had played in three All-Ireland minor hurling finals without success and had also figured prominently on the county minor football side. He became one of the first and the best of the dual players who have caused such headaches for fixture planners down the years. Again 'Babs' was different, he thought nothing of playing three games on the one day and to his eternal credit he continued throughout his entire career to give on hundred per cent to both codes.

Long serving Co. Board secretary Tommy Barrett has described him as the best dual player ever in Tipperary whilst the Kerry and Kildare supremo Mick O'Dwyer said that he was one of the best he ever played with. Suffice to say that his achievements as a footballer, as a hurler and as a manager were unique and made him a legend in his own time.

'Babs' won his first All-Ireland medal with the intermediate team in 1963 and the following year he began an illustrious senior hurling career with a brilliant performance in the All-Ireland final success over Kilkenny. A few weeks

later an Under-21 medal followed in the inaugural final in the grade.

He had to sit out the '65 All-Ireland final due to injury and he then went on to figure prominently on defeated final teams in '67 and '68.

1971 has been described as Keating's year and not surprisingly as his influence in League and Championship proved remarkable.

Who will ever forget that marvellous Munster Final against Limerick in the rain of Killarney and the controversy surrounding the famous dry ball or that "barefoot in the park" display in Croke Park in September when 'Babs' knocked over seven points as Kilkenny were toppled.

To crown that wonderful year 'Babs' was awarded the No. 11 spot on the inaugural Carrolls All-Star team and he went on to capture the Texaco Award as the Hurler of 1971.

The following years brought little joy to Tipperary hurling followers as the famine set in and 'Babs' played his last inter county hurling championship game against Limerick in the Munster Semi-final replay of '74.

Coaching and team management beckoned and he went on to coach the Galway teams beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final of '77 and the final of '79.

As the lean years continued for the Premier County and the public grew ever more restless for success Michael Lowry phoned a friend in 1986. That friend was 'Babs' and the rest is history as 'Babs' not alone brought an end to the famine, he gave a whole new dimension to team preparation and management including the formation of the Tipperary Supporters Club.

In his eight years at the helm the county won five Munster titles, two All-Irelands; two National Leagues and an Oireachtas. A rich reward indeed for a county that had been in the doldrums since 1971.

At club level the 'Babs' inspired Ballybacon-Grange had taken the South under-21 hurling title in 1961 and this heralded a golden era in which junior was won in 1962, intermediate in 1966 culminating in a never-to-be-forgotten senior success in 1968.

That very briefly was the hurling life of 'Babs' Keating but it is only half of the whole story. From the time of his first appearance with the county minor footballers, 'Babs' continued to revel in the



Babs Keating

big ball game and he himself has stated that despite his status as a hurler many South Tipperary people were only interested in him as a footballer.

Few would contradict this view as football was on an all-time high in Tipperary in the sixties with the clashes of Ardfinnan and Commercial in particular attracting huge attendances including many from outside counties.

Following the county minor football debut as a sixteen year old in 1960 when he scored three goals and five points 'Babs' graduated to the senior team the following year and thus began a senior inter-county career that spanned twenty years up to and including 1980. The fact that he soldiered away for so many years with a team that invariably struggled to put a few good performances back to back speaks volumes for 'Babs' commitment to Tipperary football. The rewards were few but there were some encouraging performances and some near misses. In particular the NFL Division 2 success in 1971 when 'Babs' was captain was sweet as were the Bloody Sunday successes over Dublin whilst the biggest disappointment was possibly the defeat at the hands of Cork in Clonmel in 1970 when 'Babs' scored three goals and a point but Cork triumphed by scoring three points in the last two minutes.

Club level however did reap rich dividends for 'Babs' and his Ardfinnan team-mates. In what could be termed the golden age of Ardfinnan football South and County minor titles were won in 1961 and 62, four in-a-row under-21 crowns were annexed from '62 to '65 as well as county under-21 in '63. The senior county title was the one that mattered in Ardfinnan however as a small famine had set in since their last victory back in 1939. The breakthrough was achieved in 1961 when Commercial was defeated in the South Final but disappointingly the county semi-final was lost against St. Flannan's. The following years however provided adequate compensation as Ardfinnan took three in-a-row South and County crowns – a magnificent achievement by any standard. The years 1970 and 1974 yielded further county senior titles and it can be truly said that in all those successes 'Babs' invariably played a leading rôle.

The rivalry between Ardfinnan and Commercial is part of the folklore of the game at that time. The pity of it was that we did not live then in the age of video but then again if we did matters may have been different. The late Willie Boland did however capture much of the excitement with his candid camera and many famous pictures come to

mind not least a few beauties involving 'Babs' and Tom Pollard. There were many great games, there were tough games, sendings-off, pitch invasions and even abandonments but there was never a lack of excitement and the crowds loved it. Whilst the exchanges could often be bitter there existed however a deep seated respect for each other among the players and officials and they were able to look back in enjoyment and laugh off the incidents.

Apart from 'Babs' many other Ardfinnan footballers became household names at that time. However, Ardfinnan's golden era and in particular 'Babs' contribution to their impressive run of successes is best reflected in the United Sports panels choice of Tipperary's Footballer of the Year – as the unprecedented number of six Cidona Awards have been bestowed on him in 1961, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1970 and 1971. In addition he was also named 'Hurler of the Year' in 1971 – a truly unique honour.

The footballing exploits of 'Babs' Keating did not go unnoticed outside the Premier County and he became a regular on the Munster Railway Cup teams from as early as 1963. In March 1972 he achieved a personal ambition when together with Cork's Ray Cummins he joined Des Foley and Pat Dunny as the only players to have won Railway Cup medals in both codes.

All that I have said briefly sketches the career of 'Babs' Keating – Footballer, Hurler and Manager. But he was much more than that and I like Tommy Barrett's description of 'Babs' as a judge of horses and donkeys, always wearing a smile.

It would be remiss of me to conclude without acknowledging the huge support and contribution made to 'Babs' career by the family behind the man – Nancy, Michael and Orla – all deserve our sincere thanks and admiration.

Finally, 'Babs', in a foreword to your book, you said that you never felt comfortable with the name – 'Babs'.

I think that after all the years you may be about to lose it, as should a certain young man continue to chalk up Derby winners and Group 1 successes in the racing world you are in serious danger of becoming more popularly known simply as Johnny Murtagh's father-in-law.

Ladies and Gentlemen I ask you to please rise and salute Ardfinnan Football Club's 'Man of the Millennium' Michael (Babs) Keating.



ABSENT FRIENDS



*New South Board President Dick Cummins
shares a joke with Co. Chairman
Con Hogan.*

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Back (l. to r.): Michael Boland, Pat Fahey, Brendan Furby, Jimmy McCarthy, John Phelan, Matty Boyle, Liam Phelan, Joe Boyle, Pat Looby, John Boland, Thomas Dillon.



Eamonn O'Gorman receives the Intermediate Hurling Trophy from Mick McCarthy R.I.P. after Ballybacon Grange won the Final in 1976.



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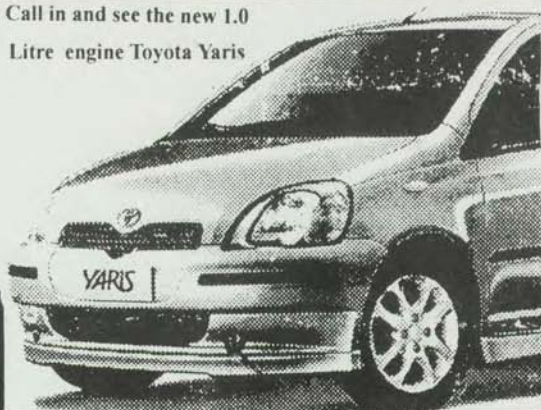
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